



CURRENT AFFAIRS 'QUICK REVISION'

PRELIMS BOOSTER

Compilation of major prelims related news, concept, keywords, scheme, terminologies from daily newspaper The Hindu & The Indian Express.

DECEMBER 2021



Prelims Booster: 01.12.21

1. Kyhytysuka Sachicarum: An international team of researchers has discovered a new marine reptile in central Colombia. The specimen, a metre-long skull, has been named Kyhytysuka sachicarum which translates to 'the one that cuts with something sharp' in an indigenous language of Columbia.

2. Unemployment Rate: The unemployment rate is the most frequent measure of unemployment. The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed divided by the working population or people working under labour force. Unemployment rate = (Unemployed Workers / Total labour force) × 100

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation measures India's unemployment.

3. 'Panchamrita' COP26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a five-fold strategy for India to play its part in helping the world get closer to 1.5 degrees Celsius at the global climate meet in Glasgow. Modi's 'Panchamrita' promises include:

- India will get its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030
- India will meet 50 per cent of its energy requirements till 2030 with renewable energy
- India will reduce its projected carbon emission by one billion tonnes by 2030
- India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45 per cent by 2030
- India will achieve net zero by 2070

4. Non-Fungible tokens: is a unique and non-interchangeable unit of data stored on a digital ledger. NFTs can be associated with easily-reproducible items such as photos, videos, audio, and other types of digital files as unique items, and use blockchain technology to give the NFT a public proof of ownership.

5. V-shaped recovery: In this, incomes and jobs are not permanently lost, and the economic growth recovers sharply and returns to the path it was following before the disruption. It is the next-best scenario after Z-shaped recovery in which the economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line.



Prelims Booster: 02.12.21

1.Assisted Reproductive Technology: is used to treat infertility. It includes fertility treatments that handle both a woman's egg and a man's sperm. It works by removing eggs from a woman's body. The eggs are then mixed with sperm to make embryos. The embryos are then put back in the woman's body. In vitro fertilization (IVF) is the most common and effective type of ART.

2.G20 Troika: The G20 Presidency rotates annually according to a system that ensures a regional balance over time. Every year when a new country takes on the presidency, it works hand in hand with the previous presidency and the next presidency and this is collectively known as TROIKA. This ensures continuity and consistency of the group's agenda. India has today joined the G20 Troika, which consists of Indonesia, Italy, and India - the current, previous and incoming G20 Presidencies, respectively. India will assume the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023.

3.EU's Global Gateway Plan: The European Commission announced on Wednesday a plan to mobilise €300 billion (\$340 billion) in public and private infrastructure investment around the world, it's going to be a roadmap for major investment in infrastructure development around the world a move seen as a response to China's Belt and Road strategy.

4.Debt-to-GDP ratio: is the metric comparing a country's public debt to its gross domestic product (GDP). By comparing what a country owes with what it produces, the debt-to-GDP ratio reliably indicates that particular country's ability to pay back its debts. Often expressed as a percentage, this ratio can also be interpreted as the number of years needed to pay back debt if GDP is dedicated entirely to debt repayment.

5.NJAC: National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) is a body responsible for the appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary in India. NJAC Bill sought to replace the collegium system of appointing the judges of Supreme Court and High Courts with judicial appointments commission wherein the executive will have a say in appointing the judges.



Prelims Booster: 03.12.21

1.Paikas: were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war while taking up cultivation during times of peace. Paikas under the leadership of Baxi Jagabandhu, the hereditary chief of the militia army of the Gajapati King of Khurda, rose in rebellion in March 1817, taking support of tribals and other sections of society. The Paikas attacked British symbols of power, setting ablaze police stations, administrative offices and the treasury during their march towards Khurda.

2.White Revolution: in India was the brainchild of Dr Verghese Kurein. Under him many important institutions were established like the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). The White Revolution was started by the NDDB in the 1970s and the bedrock of the revolution has been the village milk producers' cooperatives.

3.Green Revolution: In India, the Green Revolution was mainly led by M.S. Swaminathan. The Green Revolution resulted in a great increase in production of food grains (especially wheat and rice) due to the introduction into developing countries of new, high-yielding variety seeds, beginning in the mid-20th century. Spreading over the period from 1967-68 to 1977-78, changed India's status from a food-deficient country to one of the world's leading agricultural nations.

4.Agreement on Agriculture: is an international treaty of the World Trade Organization. It was negotiated during the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and entered into force with the establishment of the WTO on January 1, 1995. The Agreement has been criticised by civil society groups for reducing tariff protections for small farmers, a key source of income in developing countries, while simultaneously allowing rich countries to continue subsidizing agriculture at home.

5.Monocropping: monocropping is the practice of growing a single crop year after year on the same land. Maize, soybeans, and wheat are three common crops often grown using monocropping techniques. Monocropping is also referred to as continuous cropping, as in "continuous corn."



Prelims Booster: 04.12.21

1.Lesser florican: *Sypheotides indicus*, is a small and slender bird species belonging to the bustard group, found in tall grasslands, for which Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has launched a recovery programme. The endangered bird is observed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and some other regions during the monsoon season, when it breeds and later disappears with its chicks to unknown places. The bird is listed as “critically endangered” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species and its population has been identified as “decreasing”.

2.Chocolate bordered flitter: The new species of butterfly, now named the Chocolate-bordered Flitter, also carries the scientific name *Zographetus dzonguensis*, after Dzongu in north Sikkim, the place where it was discovered. It is a golden yellow butterfly with brown borders and spots. The physical appearance of the species differ slightly and the internal structures of the males also differ slightly.

3.Project Elephant: It is a centrally sponsored scheme and was launched in February 1992 for the protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides the financial and technical support to major elephant range states in the country through the project.

4.COP27 Egypt: Egypt will host the conference in Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. This decision was taken after Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi showed in September Egypt’s interest in hosting COP27 on behalf of the African continent. Apart from that, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was selected to host COP28 international climate conference in the year 2023.

5.World Food Programme: is the food assistance branch of the United Nations and the world’s largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security. The WFP strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, with the ultimate goal in mind of eliminating the need for food aid itself. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its Executive Committee. The WFP operations are funded by voluntary donations from world governments, corporations and private donors. WFP food aid is also directed to fight micronutrient deficiencies, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat disease, including HIV and AIDS.



Prelims Booster: 06.12.21

1.FATF: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. FATF Secretariat is housed administratively at the OECD.

2.Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems: CCTNS is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its objectives are Make the Police functioning citizen friendly and more transparent by automating the functioning of Police Stations. Improve delivery of citizen-centric services through effective usage of ICT. Provide the Investigating Officers of the Civil Police with tools, technology and information to facilitate investigation of crime and detection of criminals.

3.Early Childhood Care and Education Programme: is education for children at early age especially between the ages of three and six. It is commonly referred to as preschool, nursery school or simply early education. During this period, children learn the social, emotional, physical and cognitive abilities which are important for child development in future. Unfortunately, in India early childhood education is not much focused.

4. Assisted reproductive technology (ART): ART is used to treat infertility. It includes fertility treatments that handle both a woman's egg and a man's sperm. It works by removing eggs from a woman's body. The eggs are then mixed with sperm to make embryos. The embryos are then put back in the woman's body. In vitro fertilization (IVF) is the most common and effective type of ART.

5.In-vitro fertilization: The procedure is used in treating infertility and also in carrying out surrogacy (where a woman agrees to carry pregnancy for another). It involves ovarian stimulation as the first step to stimulate egg production in the female. The egg is then retrieved and mixed with sperm. The resulting zygote is cultured and then implanted into the uterus.

6.AK-203: The AK-203 assault rifles will be manufactured by an Indo-Russian joint venture company called – Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited based at Amethi, India. It is going to replace Indian Military's INSAS rifles.



Prelims Booster: 07.12.21

1.RBI Financial Stability Report: is published biannually reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC - headed by the Governor of RBI) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system. The Report also discusses issues relating to development and regulation of the financial sector.

2.CAMPA Funds: The CAF Act was enacted to manage the funds collected for compensatory afforestation which till then was managed by ad hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre. The funds can be used for treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural generation, forest management, wildlife protection and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation, supply of wood saving devices and allied activities.

3.Armed Forces Special Powers Act: It gives powers to the army, state and central police forces to shoot to kill, search houses and destroy any property that is "likely" to be used by insurgents in areas declared as "disturbed" by the home ministry. AFSPA is invoked when a case of militancy or insurgency takes place and the territorial integrity of India is at risk. Security forces can "arrest a person without warrant", who has committed or even "about to commit a cognizable offence" even based on "reasonable suspicion". It also provides security forces with legal immunity for their actions in disturbed areas.

4.Konyak Naga Community: Konyak is one of the 16 Naga tribes and people of this community live mainly in the Mon district of Nagaland. Some of their unique traditional practices that set the Konyaks apart are: gunsmithing, iron-smelting, brass-works, and gunpowder-making. They are also adept in making 'janglaü' (machetes) and wooden sculptures.

5.2+2 Meeting: 2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries. It is a format of dialogue where the defence/foreign ministers or secretaries meet with their counterparts from another country. India holds such talks with Australia, Japan, Russia and the USA.

6.Physella Acuta: *Physella acuta* is a species of small snail notorious for its high invasive potential. It was once native to North America but now it has spread to all the continents except Antarctica through aquarium trade. Average height 16mm and width 9 mm.



Prelims Booster: 08.12.21

1. Antiretroviral therapy (ART): is treatment of people infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) using anti-HIV drugs. The standard treatment consists of a combination of at least three drugs that suppress HIV replication. Three drugs are used in order to reduce the likelihood of the virus developing resistance.

2. National Socialist Council of Nagaland: is a Naga nationalist Christian paramilitary group with the objective of having a free Naga society away from India. The NSCN has been declared as a terrorist organisation in India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

3. HIV: HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that leads to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS, if not treated. Unlike some other viruses, the human body can't get rid of HIV completely, even with treatment. So once a person gets HIV, currently, there is no cure for it.

4. Ceasefire agreement: is a temporary stoppage of a war in which each side agrees with the other to suspend aggressive actions. Ceasefires may be declared as part of a formal treaty, but they have also been called as part of an informal understanding between opposing forces.

5. Shrestha Yojana: Launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on 66th death Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. It aims to aid Socio Economic development and overall upliftment of the scheduled caste students by quality residential education in private schools.



Prelims Booster: 09.12.21

1. CDS: Chief of the Defence Staff wears several hats, which include Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the Defence Ministry, permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, and the Principal Adviser to the defence minister. After the appointment of the CDS, the armed forces were brought within the ambit of the DMA, which also deals with works relating to the three Services, and with procurement exclusive to the Services, except capital acquisitions which remains with the Department of Defence. The broad mandate of the CDS includes bringing about “jointness” in “operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance of the three Services, within three years of the first CDS assuming office”.

2. Compressed Bio-Gas: is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential. With calorific value (~52,000 KJ/kg) and other properties similar to CNG, Compressed Bio-Gas can be used as an alternative, renewable automotive fuel.

3. SATAT: Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme has following four objectives: Utilising more than 62 million metric tonnes of waste generated every year in India, Cutting down import dependence, Supplementing job creation in the country, and reducing vehicular emissions and pollution from burning of agricultural / organic waste.

4. Ken-Betwa Link project: The project involves transferring of water from the Ken river to the Betwa river through the construction of Daudhan dam and a canal linking the two rivers, the Lower Orr Project, Kotha Barrage and the Bina Complex Multipurpose Project. The project will be of immense benefit to the waterstarved Bundelkhand region, spread across Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

5. Ujjwala scheme: is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. The target under the scheme was to release 8 Crore LPG Connections to the deprived households by March 2020. Under the Union Budget for FY 21-22, provision for release of additional 1 Crore LPG connections under the PMUY scheme has been made. In this phase, special facility has been given to migrant families.



Prelims Booster: 10.12.21

- 1. USAID:** The United States Agency for International Development is an independent agency of the United States federal government that is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance. USAID's decentralized network of resident field missions is drawn on to manage U.S. Government (USG) programs in low-income countries for a range of purposes. Disaster relief, Poverty relief, technical cooperation on global issues, including the environment, U.S. bilateral interests, Socioeconomic development.
- 2. Open Govt Partnership:** is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from national and sub-national governments to promote open government, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. In the spirit of multi-stakeholder collaboration, OGP is overseen by a steering committee including representatives of governments and civil society organizations. India is not a member of this group.
- 3. World Inequality report:** released by the World Inequality Lab, which aims to promote research on global inequality dynamics. This report presents the most up-to-date synthesis of international research efforts to track global inequalities. India is now among the most unequal countries in the world.
- 4. Surrogacy Bill:** relates to surrogacy, an infertility treatment, where a third person, a woman, is the surrogate mother. In ART, treatments can be availed by the commissioning couple themselves and it is not always necessary that a third person is involved. Surrogacy is allowed for only Indian married couples. ART procedures are open to married couples, live-in partners, single women, and also foreigners.
- 5. Universal Periodic Review:** is a state-driven process under UNHRC's auspices and provides opportunities to member states to declare what actions they have taken to improve human rights and to fulfil their obligations. A review cycle lasts four-and-half years, during which records of member states are reviewed.



Prelims Booster: 11.12.21

- 1. Bio fuel:** Any hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from an organic matter (living or once living material) in a short period of time (days, weeks, or even months) is considered a biofuel. Biofuels may be solid, liquid or gaseous in nature- Solid: Wood, dried plant material, and manure; Liquid: Bioethanol and Biodiesel; Gaseous: Biogas.
- 2. ISA:** International Solar Alliance is an intergovernmental treaty-based organisation with a global mandate to catalyse solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology. ISA is the nodal agency for implementing One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG), which seeks to transfer solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of others. It is an Indian initiative that was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris, France on the side-lines of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP-21), with 121 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and tropic of Capricorn as prospective members.
- 3. BBBP:** "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" is a very significant initiative launched by the Government of India in 2015. It is launched to serve the purpose of creating general awareness and to promote girl education in the country. It aims to achieve the goal of gender equality where girls will get proper education and they will also get equal opportunities as boys.
- 4. Demands for Grants:** Demand for Grants is the form in which estimates of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund, included in the annual financial statement and required to be voted upon in the Lok Sabha, are submitted in pursuance of Article 113 of the Constitution.
- 5. Special Purpose Vehicle:** is a legal object formed for a specifically-defined singular purpose. Its formation is done usually to fulfil aims as stated by its creators such as isolating a company's assets and/or projects. The SPV basically helps in mitigating risks and freeing up capital. Thus, the SPV and the company it is created by are protected against the risk of bankruptcy. SPV's are also used to provide security for loans or any other receivable. SPV's other uses include working around specific legal limitations, protecting the confidentiality of intellectual property, helping in investments in countries with different forms of taxation and varying degrees of tax rates for property sale and capital gains.



Prelims Booster: 13.12.21

1.Kashi Vishwanath Corridor: The project is spread across 5 lakh square feet area, comprising of more than 40 ancient temples restored and beautified. Under the project, 23 new buildings were constructed for providing diverse facilities to the devotees. The Kashi corridor also spread the message of environmental protection. the corridor has been adorned by Rudraksh, Parijat, Bael, Amla and Ashok trees. Special arrangements have been made to plant trees across the temple premises and mandir chowk.

2.Sri Lanka's 13th Amendment: It is an outcome of the Indo-Lanka Accord of July 1987, signed by the then PM Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayawardene, in an attempt to resolve the ethnic conflict and civil war. The 13th Amendment, which led to the creation of Provincial Councils, assured a power-sharing arrangement to enable all nine provinces in the country, including Sinhala majority areas, to self-govern. Subjects such as education, health, agriculture, housing, land and police are devolved to the provincial administrations.

3.FAME-2: Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) scheme Aims to boost electric mobility and increase the number of electric vehicles in commercial fleets. Target: The outlay of ₹10,000 crore has been made for three years till 2022 for FAME 2 scheme. The government will offer the incentives for electric buses, three-wheelers and four-wheelers to be used for commercial purposes. Plug-in hybrid vehicles and those with a sizeable lithium-ion battery and electric motor will also be included in the scheme and fiscal support offered depending on the size of the battery.

4.Buxa Tiger Reserve: Buxa Tiger Reserve lies in Alipurduar district of West Bengal. Its northern boundary runs along the international border with Bhutan. The Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary of Bhutan is contiguous to the north of BTR. The Sinchula hill range lies all along the northern side of BTR and the eastern boundary touches that of the Assam state.

5.Stand-Off Anti-Tank (Sant) Missile: The SANT missile has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in coordination with other DRDO labs and participation from industries. This is the third in the series of indigenous stand-off weapons to be tested in recent times after long range bomb and smart anti-airfield weapon for strengthening the arsenal of IAF. The missile is equipped with a state-of-the-art MMW seeker which provides high precision strike capability from a safe distance. The weapon can neutralise targets in a range up to 10 kms.



Prelims Booster: 14.12.21

- 1. CAQM:** Commission for Air Quality Management is a statutory mechanism to coordinate and oversee diverse efforts to improve air quality in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP, with the underlying remedial approach. This tool will help immensely in capturing the static and dynamic features of the emissions from various sources.
- 2. Co lending:** Co-lending occurs when two lender firms come together to disburse loans. The association allows firms to source clients, perform credit appraisals and disburse a small part of the loan amount. Simultaneously, the arrangement enables a bank to lend out more funds.
- 3. SAGAR:** Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) is an increasing recognition of the increasing importance of maritime security, maritime commons and cooperation. Through SAGAR, India seeks to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities. For this, India would cooperate on the exchange of information, coastal surveillance, building of infrastructure and strengthening their capabilities. Further, India seeks to safeguard its national interests and ensure Indian Ocean region to become inclusive, collaborative and respect international law.
- 4. UNCLOS:** United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982, also known as Law of the Sea divides marine areas into five main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas. UNCLOS is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces. It provides a different legal status to different maritime zones. It provides the backbone for offshore governance by coastal states and those navigating the oceans. It not only zones coastal states' offshore areas but also provides specific guidance for states' rights and responsibilities in the five concentric zones.
- 5. SAARC:** South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a regional inter-governmental organisation of South Asian countries namely, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan joined the bloc in 2007. SAARC also includes nine formally recognised observers including the European Union, the US, Iran and China. SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 3.8% (US\$2.9 trillion) of the global economy.



Prelims Booster: 15.12.21

1.UNSC: The UNs Charter established six main organs of the UN, including the UNSC. Article 23 of the UN Charter concerns the composition of the UNSC. It has been given primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security and may meet whenever peace is threatened. While other organs of the UN make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

2.National Monetisation Pipeline: The NMP estimates aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6 lakh crores through core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY 2022 to FY 2025. It aims to unlock value in brownfield projects by engaging the private sector, transferring to them revenue rights and not ownership in the projects, and using the funds generated for infrastructure creation across the country. The NMP has been announced to provide a clear framework for monetisation and give potential investors a ready list of assets to generate investment interest.

3.Index of Industrial production: is an index that indicates the performance of various industrial sectors of the Indian economy. It is calculated and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) every month. It is a composite indicator of the general level of industrial activity in the economy. The eight core industries of India represent about 40% of the weight of items that are included in the IIP. The Eight Core Sectors/Industries are: Electricity, Steel, Refinery products, Crude oil, Coal, Cement, Natural gas, Fertilizers. The new and current base year for IIP is 2011 – 12. The previous base year was 2004 – 05.

4. 6th Schedule of Indian Constitution: established Autonomous District Councils (ADC) in four northeastern states, namely Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. These ADCs envisage protecting and preserving tribal culture. The rationale behind the creation of ADCs is the belief that relationship to the land is the basis of tribal or indigenous identity. The culture and identity of indigenous people can be preserved by ensuring their control over land and natural resources, as these factors to a large extent determine the lifestyle and culture of the indigenous people.

5. Consumer Price Index CPI: It measures price changes from the perspective of a retail buyer. Base Year for CPI is 2012. It measures changes over time in the level of retail prices of selected goods and services on which consumers of a defined group spend their incomes. Four types of CPI are as follows:

- CPI for Industrial Workers (IW).
- CPI for Agricultural Labourer (AL).
- CPI for Rural Labourer (RL).
- CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined).

Of these, the first three are compiled by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Fourth is compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.



Prelims Booster: 16.12.21

1. **Capital to Risk asset weighted Ratio:** it is the ratio of a bank's capital to its risk-weighted assets and current liabilities. This ratio is utilized to secure depositors and boost the efficiency and stability of financial systems all over the world. It is computed by dividing the capital of the bank with aggregated risk-weighted assets for credit risk, operational risk, and market risk. This is calculated by summing a bank's tier 1 capital and tier 2 capitals and dividing the total by its total risk-weighted assets.

2. **FII:** Foreign Institutional Investor means an institution established or incorporated outside India which proposes to make investment in securities in India. They are registered as FIIs in accordance with Section 2 (f) of the SEBI (FII) Regulations 1995. FIIs are allowed to subscribe to new securities or trade in already issued securities. This is just one form of foreign investments in India.

3. **Liquid Medical Oxygen:** It is high purity oxygen suitable for use in the human body. So, it is used for medical treatments. This oxygen provides a basis for virtually all modern anaesthetic techniques, restores tissue oxygen tension by increasing the oxygen availability, aids cardiovascular stability, etc. The World Health Organisation includes this on their List of Essential Medicines.

4. **Autonomous District Councils:** As per the Sixth Schedule, the four states viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram contain the Tribal Areas which are technically different from the Scheduled Areas. Though these areas fall within the executive authority of the state, provision has been made for the creation of the District Councils and regional councils for the exercise of the certain legislative and judicial powers. Each district is an autonomous district and Governor can modify / divide the boundaries of the said Tribal areas by notification.

5. **Gulf of Aden:** It is a gulf amidst Yemen to the north, the Arabian Sea and Guardafui Channel to the east, Somalia to the south, and Djibouti to the west. It shares its name with the port city of Aden in Yemen. The Bab-el-Mandeb strait connects the Gulf of Aden with the Red Sea. The Guardafui Channel connects it with the Indian Ocean.



Prelims Booster: 17.12.21

1.Zero Budget farming: is a method of chemical-free agriculture drawing from traditional Indian practices. It was originally promoted by agriculturist Subhash Palekar, who developed it in the mid-1990s as an alternative to the Green Revolution's methods that are driven by chemical fertilizers and pesticides and intensive irrigation. It is a unique model that relies on Agro-ecology. It aims to bring down the cost of production to nearly zero and return to a pre-green revolution style of farming. It claims that there is no need for expensive inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides and intensive irrigation.

2.Right to be forgotten: is the right to have publicly available personal information removed from the internet, search, databases, websites or any other public platforms, once the personal information in question is no longer necessary, or relevant. In India, there is no law that specifically provides for the right to be forgotten. However, the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 recognised this right.

3.Super Typhoon Rai: hit southern Philippines on Dec 16, locally named Odette, the storm is one of the strongest recorded on Earth this year and the 6th to reach category 5. The storm is the 15th typhoon to pass through or close to the Philippines this year. The archipelago typically sees more landfalling storms annually than any other place on Earth.

4.Intangible Cultural Heritage: This coveted list is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage and raise awareness about its importance. The list was established in 2008 when the Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect. India has had a proud moment as UNESCO has added Kolkata's Durga Puja to the World List of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2021 (14th entry).

5.Uighur Muslims: are a predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group, whose origins can be traced to Central and East Asia. The Uighurs speak their own language, similar to Turkish, and see themselves as culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations. The Uighurs are considered to be one of the 55 officially recognized ethnic minority communities in China. However, China recognises the community only as a regional minority and rejects that they are an indigenous group. Currently, the largest population of the Uighur ethnic community lives in Xinjiang region of China.



Prelims Booster: 18.12.21

1.Semiconductor: Semiconductors are the materials which have a conductivity between conductors (generally metals) and non-conductors or insulators (such as ceramics). Semiconductors can be compounds such as gallium arsenide or pure elements, such as germanium or silicon. Physics explains the theories, properties and mathematical approach governing semiconductors. A specialised and independent 'India Semiconductor Mission' will be set up. It will act as the nodal agency for efficient and smooth implementation of the schemes on semiconductors and display ecosystem.

2.Subsidy and Countervailing Measures: addresses two separate but closely related topics: multilateral disciplines regulating the provision of subsidies, and the use of countervailing measures to offset the injury caused by subsidized imports.

3.Green Box: subsidies that do not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion. They are government-funded and must not involve price support. They also include environmental protection and regional development programmes. "Green box" subsidies are therefore allowed without limits, provided they comply with the policy-specific criteria.

4.Amber Box: All domestic support measures considered to distort production and trade (with some exceptions) fall into the amber box as all domestic supports except those in the blue and green boxes. These include measures to support prices, or subsidies directly related to production quantities.

5.Blue Box: This is the "amber box with conditions". Such conditions are designed to reduce distortion. Any support that would normally be in the amber box is placed in the blue box if the support also requires farmers to limit production. At present, there are no limits on spending on blue box subsidies.

6.Habeas Corpus: It literally means "you may have the body." The writ is issued to produce a person who has been detained, whether in prison or in private custody, before a court and to release him if such detention is found illegal. It literally means "you may have the body." The writ is issued to produce a person who has been detained, whether in prison or in private custody, before a court and to release him if such detention is found illegal.



Prelims Booster: 20.12.21

1.UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is a United Nations convention aimed at addressing desertification and droughts. It is a legally binding convention linking development and environment to sustainable land management. The UNCCD addresses particularly the arid, semi-arid & dry sub-humid areas, called drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples are found.

2.Pegasus: is malicious software that is designed to enter a device, gather your data, and then forward it to a third party without the consent of the user. Pegasus spyware is able to read the victim's SMS messages and emails, listen to calls, take screenshots, record keystrokes, and access contacts and browser history. Hackers can hijack the phone's microphone and camera, turning it into a real-time surveillance device. Pegasus can send back to the hacker the target's private data, including, contact lists, calendar events, passwords, text messages, and live voice calls from popular mobile messaging apps". Latest Update: The Pegasus snooping controversy led to multiple disruptions in the Lok Sabha in the monsoon session 2021 of the parliament.

3.Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI): also known as Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI), is a worldwide programme of the World Health Organization and UNICEF. It aims at improving the care of pregnant women, mothers and new borns at health facilities that provide maternity services for protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding, in accordance with the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. It also aims to increase the numbers of babies who are exclusively breastfed worldwide, a goal which the WHO estimates could contribute to avoiding over a million child deaths each year, and potentially many premature maternal deaths as well.

4.OIC: Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states. It is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world. India is not a member of the OIC.

5.Indian Desert Cat: has been spotted for the first time in Madhya Pradesh's Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) As the name suggests, this cat is found in deserts and can survive without water. The toes of the species have cushion like hair which help it balance the fluctuating desert temperatures, the presence of the desert cat in the PTR indicates that the number of species of various wild animals is increasing in the reserve due to security being heightened in its forest areas.

Conservation status- Least Concern in the IUCN Red List & Schedule I, WPA 1972.



Prelims Booster: 21.12.21

1.BIMSTEC: The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation is a regional multilateral organisation. Its members lie in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. Out of the 7 members, five are from South Asia – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka. Two are from Southeast Asia – Myanmar, Thailand. BIMSTEC not only connects South and Southeast Asia, but also the ecologies of the Great Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal. It mainly aims to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development; accelerate social progress; and promote collaboration on matters of common interest in the region.

2.Global minimum tax rate: will only apply to overseas profits of multinational firms with 750 million euros sales across the world. It would allow the Government to set whatever tax rate they wish for. However, if any company pays lower rates in a country, the Governments there could top up their taxes to a minimum of 15% which would eliminate the advantage of shifting profits. The second track of the overhaul would allow the countries (where the revenues were earned) to tax 25% of the largest multinationals excess profit which is defined as profit in excess of 10% of revenue.

3.Multistate Cooperative Societies Act, 2002: An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies, with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State, to facilitate the voluntary formation and democratic functioning of co-operatives as people's institutions based on self-help and mutual aid and to enable them to promote their economic and social betterment and to provide functional autonomy, was being felt necessary by the various cooperative societies, and federation of various cooperative societies as well as by the Government.

4.Sinho Commission: EWS reservation was granted based on the recommendations of a commission headed by Major General (retd) S R Sinho. The commission had been constituted by the then UPA government in March 2005, and submitted its report in July 2010. The Sinho Commission recommended that all below poverty line (BPL) families within the general category as notified from time to time, and also all families whose annual family income from all sources is below the taxable limit, should be identified as EBCs (economically backward classes). The present income ceiling of Rs 8 lakh fixed for EWS is the same as that for OBCs for quotas for people outside of government. For the OBC quota in government, there is a different criterion based on the ranks of the parents of the candidate. Outside of government, there is an income criterion, which was raised from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh in 2017.

5.Supplementary Demand for grants: It is needed when the amount authorised by the Parliament through the appropriation act for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year. This grant is presented and passed by the Parliament before the end of the financial year. Constitutional Provisions: Article 115 pertains to supplementary, additional or excess grants.



Prelims Booster: 22.12.21

1.Chillai Kalan: The most severe part of the winter in Kashmir consists of three months. It is divided into three parts called the Chilas:- The Chillai Kalan, the Chillai Khurd, and the Challai Bache. Chillai-Kalan, is the 40-day period of harsh winter. Chillai-Kalan is followed by a 20-day long Chillai-Khurd and a 10-day long Chillai-Bachha (baby cold) 2. Chillai Kalan usually brings snowfall, sub-zero temperatures causing freezing of water bodies including the Dal lake, closure of highways, etc. The Chillai Kalan which concludes by January end has many interesting traditional aspects related to it.

2.Albino Indian Flapshell turtle: This turtle is also known as “Indian flap shell turtle”. This turtle is commonly found in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. It is omnivorous whose diet includes frogs, snails, and even some aquatic vegetation. The creature’s color is due to albinism. IUCN Red List: Vulnerable, CITES: Appendix II, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

3.Currency in circulation: It is the total value of the currency (coins and paper currency) that has ever been issued by the Reserve Bank of India minus the amount that has been withdrawn by it.

4.James Webb Space telescope: JWST is a joint venture between the US (Nasa), European (Esa) and Canadian space agencies (CSA). It is an orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope, with longer wavelength coverage and greatly improved sensitivity. It will look deeper into the cosmos – and thus further back in time – than is possible with Hubble. It will do this with a much bigger mirror (6.5m in diameter versus 2.4m) and instruments that are tuned to the infrared. Scientists hope this set-up can detect the light from the very first population of stars in the Universe to switch on more than 13.5 billion years ago.

5.Special Category Status: is a classification given by the Centre to assist development of states that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages. This classification was done on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission in 1969. It was based on the Gadgil formula. The parameters for SCS were: Hilly Terrain; Low Population Density And/Or Sizeable Share of Tribal Population; Strategic Location along Borders with Neighbouring Countries; Economic and Infrastructure Backwardness; and Nonviable Nature of State finances. SCS was first accorded in 1969 to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland. Since then eight more states have been included (Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand).



Prelims Booster: 23.12.21

1. Merchant Discount Rate: is the cost paid by a merchant to a bank for accepting payment from their customers via digital means. The merchant discount rate is expressed in percentage of the transaction amount. Presently, it is applicable for online transactions and QR-based transactions. This week the ventral government has announced no MDR would be charged from January 1, 2022 on small payments (up to INR2000) via QR scanning, UPI transaction and RuPay.

2. Future Contracts: is an agreement between buyer and seller to buy or sell an asset at a certain time in the future at a certain price. The contract has to be honored by both parties on the due date. This is used by traders or speculators who are engaged in arbitrage. Arbitrage means that the trader shall buy the stock at a low price today as he wants to sell it on a future date at a high price.

3. Unicorn companies: A unicorn is a term used in the venture capital industry to describe a startup company with a value of over \$1 billion. India has added 33 unicorns in a single year. This helped India to displace UK to be the 3rd in the list of countries having most number of Unicorns. USA and China are the top two countries having most number of Unicorns.

4. International Maritime Boundary Line: A maritime boundary is a conceptual division of the Earth's water surface areas using physiographic or geopolitical criteria. As such, it usually bounds areas of exclusive national rights over mineral and biological resources, encompassing maritime features, limits and zones. Generally, a maritime boundary is delineated at a particular distance from a jurisdiction's coastline. Although in some countries the term maritime boundary represents borders of a maritime nation that are recognized by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The terminology does not encompass lake or river boundaries, which are considered within the context of land boundaries.

5. Forest Rights Act: enacted in 2006 recognises the rights of forest-dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other sociocultural needs. It recognizes and vest the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for generations. It strengthens the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the FDST and OTFD. The Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD.



Prelims Booster: 24.12.21

1. Shakti Bill: The Maharashtra Shakti Bill has been framed in lines with the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act that was passed in 2019. The Shakti Criminal Laws (Amendment) bill, 2020 bill seeks to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The bill recommends capital punishment in rape cases, a time limit of 30 days to complete the probe from the day of registering complaint and places onus on social media platforms and internet data providing companies to share data for the police investigation.

2. Olive Ridley Turtles: are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world. These turtles are carnivores and get their name from their olive colored carapace. They are found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. The Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is known as the world's largest rookery (colony of breeding animals) of sea turtles. Protection Status: Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Scheduled 1, IUCN Red List: Vulnerable, CITES: Appendix I. Scientists in Odisha have started to tag these turtles which would help them identify migration path and places visited for better conservation.

3. Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation: According to SAGE, moderately & severely immunocompromised persons should be given an additional dose of all WHO-approved vaccines. This recommendation was made because these individuals are less likely to respond to vaccination following a standard primary vaccine series. They are also at the high risk of severe COVID-19 disease. SAGE also recommends that, people aged 60 and older who are receiving Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines should get the third dose as well. However, use of other vaccines can also be considered on the basis of supply and access.

4. United Nations Population Fund: It is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly and works as a sexual and reproductive health agency. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes its mandate. UNFPA works directly to tackle Sustainable Development Goals on health (SDG3), education (SDG4) and gender equality (SDG5). UNFPA is not supported by the UN budget, instead, it is entirely supported by voluntary contributions of donor governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, foundations and individuals.

5. Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement: generally, covers negotiation on trade tariff and TRQ (Tariff Rate Quotas) rates only. It is not as comprehensive as CEPA. India has signed CECA with Malaysia.



Prelims Booster: 27.12.21

1.JCPOA: also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was the result of prolonged negotiations from 2013 and 2015 between Iran and P5+1+EU (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, or the EU). Under the deal, Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.

2.NSE Prime Index: launched by NSE, a new corporate governance initiative – ‘NSE Prime’, that NSE-listed companies can adopt voluntarily. NSE Prime is a framework that prescribes higher standards of corporate governance for listed Companies than those required by regulations.

3.Anti-dumping Duty: In international trade practise, dumping happens when a country or a firm exports an item at a price lower than the price of that product in its domestic market. Anti-dumping duty is imposed to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect.

4. National Programme for Health Care of Elderly: The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had launched the “National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly” (NPHCE) during 2010-11 to address various health related problems of elderly people. The National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE) is an articulation of the International and national commitments of the Government as envisaged under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The programme is State oriented and basic thrust of the programme is to provide dedicated health care facilities to the senior citizens (>60 year of age) at various level of primary, secondary and tertiary health care.

5.Golan Heights: is a rocky plateau with an area of 1,800km² on the border between Israel and Syria in south-western Syria. The Golan Heights were captured by Israel from Syria in the 1967 conflict and annexed in 1981 — a move not recognized internationally.



Prelims Booster: 28.12.21

1. Ways and Means Advances: scheme was introduced to meet mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government. The government can avail of immediate cash from the RBI, if required. But it has to return the amount within 90 days. Interest is charged at the existing repo rate. If the WMA exceeds 90 days, it would be treated as an overdraft (interest rate on overdrafts is 2 percentage points more than the repo rate).

2. Sex Ratio at Birth: is number of females born per thousand males. It is an important indicator to map the gender gap of a population.

3. Single Use plastic: Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items are things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging. According to Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021, manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the identified single-use plastic will be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022. The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the identified single-use plastic will be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022.

4. FCRA: Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010. Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under FCRA Act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Individuals are permitted to accept foreign contributions without permission of MHA. However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions shall be less than Rs. 25,000. The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained. Under the Act, organisations are required to register themselves every five years.

5. Niti Aayog Health Index: The government think tank, NITI Aayog, has issued a health index of States and Union Territories taking 2019-2020 as the reference year. The report has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the World Bank. Among larger states, Kerala has emerged as the top performer while Uttar Pradesh is the worst performer in overall performance. However, the report added that Uttar Pradesh topped in terms of incremental performance while Karnataka is the worst performer. Mizoram emerged as the best performer in overall performance while Nagaland is the worst performer among the smaller states. Mizoram topped incremental performance while Goa is the worst performer. Chandigarh emerged as the best performer among Union Territories while Puducherry is the worst performer in overall performance. Delhi topped incremental performance while Chandigarh is the worst performer.



Prelims Booster: 29.12.21

- 1. Emergency Use Authorization:** In emergency situations, like the current pandemic, regulatory authorities around the world have developed mechanisms to grant interim approvals if there is sufficient evidence to suggest a medical product is safe and effective. In India, the regulatory authority is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). Recently CDSCO has approved two vaccines namely, Corbevax and Corovax for emergency usage.
- 2. Molnupiravir:** CDSCO has also approved Molnupiravir an oral drug for emergency usage to combat Covid. Molnupiravir It works by causing viruses to make errors when copying their own RNA, introducing mutations that inhibit replication. It was initially invented as a drug for the influenza virus.
- 3. Konark Sun Temple:** Konark Sun Temple, located in Puri, Odisha. Built in 13th century by King Narasimhadeva I (AD 1238-1264) of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty. It marks the highest point of achievement of Kalinga architecture. It was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984. Currently Archaeological Survey of India is working to remove sand from the interiors of the temple which was filled by the British 118 years ago to prevent it from collapsing.
- 4. Countervailing duties:** CVDs are trade import tariffs imposed (by importing country) to nullify the adverse effects of subsidies (given to producers in exporting country). They are imposed only under World Trade Organisation rules and are also called anti-subsidy duties. They are levied if a country investigates and finds out that a foreign country is subsidizing its imports to the home country thus harming domestic suppliers.
- 5. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC):** The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) was renamed as the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in 2018 after the roll out of Goods and Services Tax (GST). It deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of customs, central excise duties, Central Goods & Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated GST (IGST).



Prelims Booster: 30.12.21

- 1. Tholpavakkoothu:** It is a traditional temple art in Kerala having its roots in Palakkad and neighbouring regions. This art is confined largely to Pulavar families in this region. Among the ancient artforms of Kerala, tholpavakkoothu or shadow puppet play occupies a prominent place. It is a fine example of the integration of Aryan and Dravidian cultures. It is a ritual art performed during the annual festivals in the Kaali temples of Palakkad district. It is also known as Nizhalkkoothu and Olakkoothu. Recently for the first time a group of all women performers have performed to break the male domination in Tholpavakkoothu.
- 2. Positive Indigenization List:** It comprises complex systems, sensors, simulator, weapons and ammunitions like Helicopters, Next Generation Corvettes, Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) systems, Tank Engines, Medium Power Radar for Mountains, MRSAM (Medium Range Surface to Air Missile) Weapon Systems and many more such items to fulfil the requirements of Indian Armed Forces.
- 3. INSACOG:** The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) is jointly initiated by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) with Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). It is a consortium of 28 National Laboratories to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2. It carries out whole genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 virus across the nation, aiding in understanding the spread and evolution of the virus. INSACOG also aims to focus on sequencing of clinical samples to understand the disease dynamics and severity.
- 4. Fiscal Deficit:** the government describes fiscal deficit of India as “the excess of total disbursements from the Consolidated Fund of India, excluding repayment of the debt, over total receipts into the Fund (excluding the debt receipts) during a financial year”. In simple words, it is a shortfall in a government's income compared with its spending. The government that has a fiscal deficit is spending beyond its means. $\text{Fiscal Deficit} = \text{Total expenditure of the government (capital and revenue expenditure)} - \text{Total income of the government (Revenue receipts + recovery of loans + other receipts)}$
- 5. Overseas Citizens of India:** The Ministry of Home Affairs defines an OCI as a person who: Was a citizen of India on or after 26th January 1950; or Was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26th January 1950; or Is a child or grandchild of such a person, among other eligibility criteria. According to Section 7A of the OCI card rules, an applicant is not eligible for the OCI card if he, his parents or grandparents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh.



Prelims Booster: 31.12.21

1. Indian Pangolin: is a large anteater covered by 11-13 rows of scales on the back. A terminal scale is also present on the lower side of the tail of the Indian Pangolin, which is absent in the Chinese Pangolin. It is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East. The species is also found in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. IUCN Red List: Indian Pangolin: Endangered, it is also listed under Schedule I, Part I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

2. Radio-Tagging: involves attaching a transmitter to an animal to monitor its movements. Several wild animals — tigers, leopards and migratory birds — have been tagged over decades.

3. UNSC Resolution 2231: Terminates the restrictions imposed on Iran's nuclear programme. On 20 July 2015, the United Nation Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2231 (2015) endorsing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The full implementation of Resolution 2231 (2015) provides for the termination of the provisions of previous Security Council resolutions on the Iranian nuclear issue and establishes specific restrictions that apply to all States without exception.

4. SMILE Scheme: stands for Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise". Focus of the scheme is on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages etc. It includes sub scheme – 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'. The scheme would be implemented with the support of State/UT Governments/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) , institutions and others.

5. FTA: Free Trade Agreement It is a pact between two or more nations to reduce barriers to imports and exports among them. Under a free trade policy, goods and services can be bought and sold across international borders with little or no government tariffs, quotas, subsidies, or prohibitions to inhibit their exchange. The concept of free trade is the opposite of trade protectionism or economic isolationism.