



# PRELIMS BOOSTER

**MAY  
2021**

Exhaustive Compilation of  
Prelims Related Concepts &  
Terminologies



### May 1:

**1. Maitri vaccine:** It is the official vaccine diplomacy program of India under its neighborhood first policy.

It is based on India's foreign policy ideology of "Vasudaiva Kutumbakam"- The World is one Family. Under this, India decided to supply COVID-19 vaccines to India's partner countries- Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Seychelles and Mauritius.

**2. Vaccine diplomacy:** Today it's harder to get the vaccines than nuclear weapons. In this background, using vaccines as a tool to strengthen or improve a country's diplomatic relationship with other countries is called Vaccine diplomacy.

### May 3:

**1. USAID:** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent agency of the US federal government in charge of civilian foreign aid and developmental assistance.

**2. P-8I Patrol Aircraft:** P-8I is a long-range, multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft manufactured by Boeing. India was first international customer of P-8I aircraft from US. It is a variant of the P-8A Poseidon operated by the US Navy. It can conduct anti-submarine warfare, intelligence, maritime patrol, and surveillance & reconnaissance missions.

**3. COMCASA:** Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate interoperability between militaries and sale of high-end technology.

### May 4 & 5:

**1. SUTRA:** Susceptible, Undetected, Tested (positive), and Removed Approach. A government-backed model, to forecast the rise and ebb of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2. G7:** The Group of 7 is a group of the seven most advanced economies as per the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The seven countries are Canada, the USA, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy.

**3. UNHCR:** The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a UN agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

**4. OPEC:** is an intergovernmental organization of 13 countries which accounts for an estimated 44 percent of global oil production and 81.5 percent of the world's "proven" oil reserves. The current OPEC members are the following: Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. Former OPEC members are Ecuador, Indonesia and Qatar.

**5. Sheikh Zayed Book Award:** is a literary award begun in the UAE. The award is named after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first president of the UAE when the federation of seven sheikhdoms became a country in 1971.

6. **Oxygen Concentrator:** An oxygen concentrator is a medical device that concentrates oxygen from ambient air. Atmospheric air has about 78 per cent nitrogen and 21 per cent oxygen, with other gases making up the remaining 1 per cent. The oxygen concentrator takes in this air, filters it through a sieve, releases the nitrogen back into the air. The oxygen obtained is 90-95 percent pure which is compressed and dispensed through a cannula.

**May 6:**

1. **SEBC Act:** Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018 granted 13 percent reservation to the Maratha community in public education and employment.
2. **Small Financial Banks (SFBs):** They are registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013; providing banking service to unserved and unbanked locations of the country.
3. **Resolution Framework 1.0:** Resolution Framework – 1.0 had provided a window to enable lenders to implement a resolution plan in respect of eligible corporate exposures without change in ownership, and personal loans, while classifying such exposures as Standard, subject to specified conditions. It is to help retail borrowers struggling with loan repayments.
4. **Long Term Repo Operations:** It's a tool under which the RBI provides 1-3 years of loan to banks at the prevailing repo rate. Banks need to provide government securities as collateral with a clause of repurchasing back the government securities.

**May 7:**

1. **Anamalai Tiger Reserve:** is a protected area located in the Anaimalai Hills in Tamil Nadu. This tiger reserve is home to many endemic wildlife such as leopards, tigers, lion-tailed macaques, peacocks, langurs, spotted deer, elephants and crocodiles.
2. **Vairapattan:** local deity of the Kattupatti and Kuzhipatti settlements of Pulayar community of South India.

**May 10:**

1. **FCRA:** Foreign Contribution Regulation Act seeks to regulate and prohibit acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions or donations and hospitality (air travel, hotel accommodation etc) to Indian organizations and individuals and to stop such contributions which might damage the national interest.
2. **Giant Leatherback turtle:** Giant Leatherback turtles are the largest of the seven species of sea turtles on the planet. They are listed in Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, according to the highest legal protection.
3. **EIA:** Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.



- 4. Mucormycosis:** previously called zygomycosis is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes. These molds live throughout the environment. Mucormycosis mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.
- 5. Long March 5B rocket:** Long March 5, also known as Chang Zheng 5, is a Chinese heavy-lift launch vehicle developed by China. It is the first Chinese launch vehicle designed to use exclusively non-hypergolic liquid propellants. It was launched to put into orbit a core module of the new Tianhe space station, which is expected to become operational in 2022.

**May 11:**

- 1. BRSR:** Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report is a reporting framework to better reflect the intent and scope of reporting on non-financial parameters. It would be integrated with the MCA 21 portal.
- 2. OPPI: Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India** represents research-based pharmaceutical companies in India. OPPI remains committed to supporting the nation's healthcare objectives and collaborating with all stakeholders to find sustainable solutions.
- 3. Social Impact Assessment:** A Social Impact Assessment is a process of research, planning and the

management of social change or consequences (positive and negative, intended and unintended) arising from policies, plans, developments and projects.

- 4. 1967 Six-Day War:** The Six-Day war was the third in the long line of Arab-Israeli wars that started in 1948, around the time of the creation of the Israeli state. Beginning on June 5, 1967, the war spanned only six days during which Israel almost decimated Egypt's air force and captured new territory. Israel fought against a combined force of Egypt, Jordan, Syria. The war ended on June 10, 1967.

**May 12:**

- 1. One Child Policy:** China's one-child policy came into force in 1979 under then leader Deng Xiaoping. It was adopted out of the Malthusian fears that unchecked population growth would lead to economic and environmental catastrophe. It was also a response to concerns about food shortages.
- 2. B.1.617:** Viruses mutate all the time, producing different versions or variants of themselves. Most of these mutations are insignificant - and some may even make the virus less dangerous - but others can make it more contagious and harder to vaccinate against. This variant of the virus was detected in Maharashtra. It has been now spotted in at least 21 countries.
- 3. UK Variant- B.1.1.7:** The UK or Kent variant is prevalent in Britain - with more than 200,000 cases identified - and has spread to more than 50





countries and appears to be mutating again.

- 4. South Africa Variant- B.1.351:** has been identified in at least 20 other countries, including the UK.
- 5. Brazil Variant- P2:** has spread to more than 10 other countries, including the UK.
- 6. P614R:** The B.1.617 variant has several mutations, including two specific mutations in the spike protein (or S protein)- these are E484Q and L425R (hence called "double mutant"). P614R is the third mutation of the B.1.617 variant that adds to the effect of the other two mutations.

#### May 13:

- 1. Mashelkar committee:** The Committee is to examine the regulatory infrastructure and the extent and problem of spurious / substandard drugs in the country.
- 2. Iron Dome defence:** It is a short-range, ground-to-air, Israel air defence system that includes a radar, a control unit and Tamir interceptor missiles that track and neutralise rockets aimed at Israel.
- 3. Hamas:** Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), is a militant Palestinian nationalist and Islamist movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that is dedicated to the establishment of an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine.
- 4. Ivermectin:** Ivermectin is FDA approved antiparasitic drug that is used

to treat several neglected tropical diseases, including onchocerciasis, helminthiasis, and scabies. It is also being evaluated for its potential to reduce the rate of malaria transmission. WHO has recommended against the general use of Ivermectin for treatment of Covid-19 (caused due to virus).

- 5. Section 436A of Cr.Pc.:** Under this section, the undertrials who have completed half of the maximum prison term prescribed for the offence may be released on personal bond.

#### May 15:

- 1. CENTCOM:** is one of the eleven unified combatant commands of the U.S. Department of Defence. Its Area of Responsibility (AOR) includes the Middle East, including Egypt in Africa, and Central Asia and parts of South Asia.
- 2. The metro :** A network of HAMAS tunnels that it dubbed "the metro", are the smuggling tunnels that have been dug along the border between Gaza Strip and Egypt.
- 3. Sheikh Jarrah:** It is a predominantly Palestinian neighbourhood in East Jerusalem. After 1967 Six-Day War, it was occupied by Israel. It is currently the centre of a number of property disputes between Palestinians and Israelis. Israeli nationalists have been working to replace the Palestinian population in the area since 1967.
- 4. SSHP:** The Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform is a programme of work focusing on the social dimensions of emergency responses. It works on emergencies



that relate to health, conflict or the environment.

**5. Project Elephant:** It is a centrally sponsored scheme, launched 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.

**6. Slider turtle:** The red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) derives its name from red stripes around the part where its ears would be and from its ability to slide quickly off any surface into the water. It is native to the U.S. and northern Mexico and is popular as a pet. They have become an invasive species in many areas where they outcompete native species. The red-eared slider is included in the list of the world's 100 most invasive species published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

#### May 17:

**1. Cyclone:** A cyclone is a low-pressure system with winds spiralling inwards. Cyclones rotate anti-clockwise in Northern Hemisphere and rotate clockwise in Southern Hemisphere. The process of Cyclone formation and intensification is called Cyclogenesis.

**2. Cyclone Tauktae:** The tropical cyclone which formed over the Arabian Sea and has intensified into an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm. Cyclone Tauktae is forecast to keep a north-northwestward track and make landfall over the Gujarat coast with a wind speed of around 155-165 kmph.

**3. UNSC:** It was established by the UN Charter in 1945. It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Its primary responsibility is to work to maintain international peace and security. The council has 15 members: the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. The five permanent members are United States, Russian Federation, France, China and United Kingdom.

#### May 18:

**1. Al Jazeera:** Al Jazeera is a Qatar government-funded international Arabic news channel based in Doha, Qatar. The channel is a flagship of the media conglomerate and hence, is the only single offering to carry the name as simply "Al Jazeera" in its branding.

**2. WPI:** Wholesale Price Index measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses. The main objective of WPI helps in assessing macroeconomic as well as microeconomic conditions of an economy. It is published by the Office of Economic Advisor, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

**3. Section 124A IPC:** deals with sedition - "Whoever, words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India shall be punished" .

**4. Section 153-A:** Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence,



language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

- 5. Farzad B gas field:** It is located in Persian Gulf, Iran. The contract for exploration of the field was signed in 2002 by Indian consortium comprising ONGC Videsh, Indian Oil Corporation and Oil India. The contract expired in 2009 after declaration of commerciality of the field, based on the gas discovery. It has gas reserves of more than 19 trillion cubic feet. ONGC has invested approximately USD 100 million.

#### May 19:

- 1. Brain drain:** When high-skilled migrants leave, the results can be negative for the communities of source region, which is referred to as "brain drain."
- 2. Demographic Dividend:** According to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), demographic dividend means, "the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)".
- 3. Electoral bonds:** It's a bearer instrument like a promissory note. The scheme allows any Indian citizen or company to purchase the Electoral bond sold by SBI in denominations of

₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore (without any upper limit) and anonymously direct the proceed of the bond to political parties.

- 4. West Nile Virus:** It is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae. West Nile Virus (WNV) can cause neurological disease and death in people. WNV is common in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia. WNV is maintained in nature in a cycle involving transmission between birds and mosquitoes. Humans, horses and other mammals can be infected.
- 5. Cyclone Nisarga:** Severe Cyclonic Storm formed over East central Arabian Sea last year.

- 6. Patent Pools :** Patent Pools are agreements between two or more patent owners to license their patents to one another and/or to third parties. It is an effective way in aggregating, administering and licensing patents related to specific areas of technology. The patents which become part of the pool are readily made available for licensing.

#### May 20:

- 1. Crypto currency:** is a specific type of digital currency, which is decentralised and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques. Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple are a few notable examples of cryptocurrencies.





2. **Taiwan strait:** is a 180-kilometer wide strait separating the island of Taiwan and continental Asia. The strait is currently part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.

3. **UNESCO Heritage Sites:** It is the list of places prepared by UNESCO for its special cultural and physical significance. The list is maintained by the International 'World Heritage Programme', administered by the UNESCO. India has a total of 38 world heritage sites:

- 30 Cultural Sites,
- 7 Natural Sites and
- 1 Mixed Site till now (Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim).

4. **Cyclone Yaas:** The India Meteorological Department said that a low-pressure area (a precursor to cyclonic storm) is likely to form in the eastern Bay of Bengal and the Northern Andaman Sea. If the cyclone takes shape, it will be called Yaas, a name given by Oman.

#### May 21:

1. **Aerosols:** are defined as a combination of liquid or solid particles suspended in a gaseous medium. In the atmosphere, these particles are mainly situated in the lower layers of the atmosphere (< 1.5 km).
2. **A-76:** Iceberg A-76 is the largest iceberg, calved from the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica and is now floating on the Weddell Sea.

3. **Weddell Sea:** The Weddell Sea is part of the Southern Ocean and contains the Weddell Gyre. Its land boundaries are defined by the bay formed from the coasts of Coats Land and the Antarctic Peninsula.

4. **ESA:** The European Space Agency is an intergovernmental organization of 22 member states dedicated to the exploration of space.

5. **Colombo Port City:** A Chinese-funded tax-free enclave in Sri Lanka. It is the largest single foreign investment by China in Sri Lanka among the other massive infrastructure projects. All transactions within the Port City will be denominated in foreign currency and salaries earned by any worker will be tax-exempt.

#### May 22:

1. **INS Rajput:** INS Rajput is the first destroyer of the Indian Navy. INS Rajput, the lead ship of the Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR was commissioned on 04 May 1980.

2. **Chipko movement:** The Chipko movement was a non-violent agitation in 1973 that was aimed at the protection and conservation of trees in order to maintain ecological balance. The movement originated in Uttar Pradesh's Chamoli district (now Uttarakhand). The original Chipko Andolan dates back to the 18th century and was started by Rajasthan's Bishnoi community.

3. **Apiko movement:** Uttara Kannada and Shimoga districts of Karnataka, 1983, is the southern version of the Chipko





movement. The Appiko Movement was locally known as “Appiko Chaluvali”. The locals embraced the trees which were to be cut by contractors of the forest department. Aim: Against the felling and commercialization of natural forest and the ruin of ancient livelihood.

#### 4. DAP (Di-ammonium phosphate) :

Most concentrated phosphate-based fertilizer. It is perfect for any agriculture crop to provide full phosphorus nutrition throughout crop growth and development, as well as a starter dose of nitrogen and low sulphur.

#### May 24:

1. **Change Now summit:** will take place in Paris in May, 2021. It is about concrete actions and innovations: climate change, end of plastic pollution, new forms of agriculture, new models of education, solutions to the refugee crisis, clean energy, sustainable cities, and other solutions to our most urgent global issues.
2. **Mount Nyaragongo:** is an active strato-volcano with an elevation of 3,470 m in the Virunga Mountains associated with the Albertine Rift. It is located inside Virunga National Park, in Democratic Republic of the Congo.
3. **INS Jalashwa:** is an amphibious transport dock currently in service with the Indian Navy.
4. **NBFC:** Non-Banking Financial Company is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of

shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business but does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.

5. **FIDC:** Finance Industry Development Council is a Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) cum Representative Body of the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), registered with the Reserve Bank of India.
6. **Darwin Arch:** Darwin's Arch was a natural rock arch feature to the south-east of Darwin Island in the Galápagos Archipelago in the Pacific Ocean, and is now a pillar formation. The arch sat on an irregularly shaped, rocky, submerged plateau, nicknamed "the theatre".

#### May 25:

1. **PMGKAY: Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** is a food security welfare scheme launched during the COVID-19 pandemic in India. The program is operated by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Under this special scheme (PMGKAY), around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries covered under both categories of NFSA, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Householders (PHH), will be provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost



foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5 Kg per person per month along with 1 kg free whole chana to each family per month, over and above their regular monthly entitlements under NFSA.

2. **Right to Food campaign:** The Right to Food Campaign is an informal network of individuals and organisations committed to the realisation of the right to food in India. The campaign began in 2001 as an offshoot of Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court, and quickly grew into a country-wide movement.
3. **Metal Capital of India:** Gujarat is poised to become the "Metal Capital of India". It offers industries to localise supply chains and de-risk their operations, and also strengthen the local ecosystem that would help create cost-effective and sustainable solutions. Gujarat and its transformational model today is one of the key contributors towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

#### May 26:

1. **SEBI:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the regulatory body for securities and commodity market in India under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance.
2. **ICMR:** The Indian Council of Medical Research, the apex body for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world.
3. **Serosurvey:** It involves testing of blood serum of a group of individuals to determine the presence of "antibodies" against that infection.

4. **Dhamra port:** is a port in Bhadrak district, Odisha. It is one of the deep draft ports of India which can accommodate super cape-size vessels. It is an all-weather, multi-user, multi-cargo port poised to become the largest and most efficient port in the east coast of India. Situated between Haldia and Paradeep, Dhamra Port is in close proximity to the mineral belt of Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal offers deepened hinterland connectivity and operational efficiency.

#### May 27:

1. **Govind Pashu Vihar National Park & Van Gujjars:** The Van Gujjars, the nomadic pastoral community of the Uttarakhand Himalayas, secured a crucial victory May 25, 2021. The Uttarakhand High Court in Nainital passed an interim order upholding the right of a qafila (caravan) of Van Gujjars to migrate to their summer homesteads in the bugyals (Himalayan alpine meadows) located within the Govind Pashu Vihar National Park in Uttarkhand.
2. **Bhitarkanika National Park:** The Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha is India's second-largest mangrove forest. Bhitarkanika is home to a wide range of fauna, including spotted deer, hyenas, jungle cat, fishing cats, water monitor lizards, rhesus macaques, otters, mongooses, porcupine, Indian civet cat and hare.
3. **Sec 79 of IT Act:** It provides immunity to intermediaries (for example, websites like Facebook) for



any illegal content posted by third parties.

4. **Currency swap:** is a transaction in which two parties exchange an equivalent amount of money with each other but in different currencies. The parties are essentially loaning each other money and will repay the amounts at a specified date and exchange rate.

**May 28:**

1. **IBF:** Indian Broadcasting Foundation is a unified representative body of the television broadcasters in India.
2. **IPO:** An initial public offering (IPO) refers to the process of offering shares of a corporation to the public in a new stock issuance. Public share issuance allows a company to raise capital from public investors.
3. **Digital Border:** Britain is to announce plans for a fully “digital border” including the introduction of US style electronic travel authorisation to precheck travellers to the UK. It will provide the ability to count people in and out of the country giving a control over who comes to the UK.

**May 29:**

1. **Mid-day Meal Scheme:** It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Education which was launched in 1995. It is the world’s largest school meal programme aimed to enhance enrollment, retention and

attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children. Provides cooked meals to every child within the age group of six to fourteen years studying in classes I to VIII who enrolls and attends the school.

2. **Zoonotic Disease:** It is a disease that passes into the human population from an animal source directly or through an intermediary species. Zoonotic infections can be bacterial, viral, or parasitic in nature, with animals playing a vital role in maintaining such infections.

3. **World Health Assembly:** The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO member states and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The Health Assembly is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

**May 31:**

1. **Tianzhou-2 & 3:** These are Chinese automated cargo spacecraft developed from China's first prototype space station Tiangong-1.
2. **Shenzhou-12 & 13:** These are Chinese manned spaceflight. **Shenzhou-12** will mark the seventh crewed Chinese spaceflight and the seventh crewed flight of the Shenzhou programme. The spacecraft is scheduled to carry three CNSA taikonauts on the first





flight to Tianhe, the first module of the Tiangong space station.

3. **Banni grassland:** Banni grasslands is a belt of arid ecosystem on the edge of the desert of the marshy salt flats of Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. They are identified as a possible reintroduction site for the Cheetah in India. The grasslands are slowly vanishing due to overgrazing. Climate change has made the region arid due to erratic monsoons. NGT has ordered all encroachments to be removed from Banni grasslands.
4. **Maldhari:** Maldharis are the traditional residents of the Banni grasslands of kutch, Gujarat. They traditionally practice nomadic pastoralism. They have developed the local breed of Banni buffalo that is well known in India.
5. **17+1 :** 17+1 initiative is a China-led format, founded in 2012 in Budapest. The objective of the initiative is to expand cooperation between China and the Central and Eastern European countries (which are less developed), with investments and trade for their development. The platform is largely seen as an extension of China's flagship Belt and Road initiative (BRI).
6. **WHO BioHub:** WHO and Switzerland have launched a BioHub facility that will allow pathogens sharing between laboratories and facilitate "analysis and preparedness" against them.

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