



CURRENT AFFAIRS 'QUICK REVISION'

PRELIMS BOOSTER

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

NOVEMBER 2021



Prelims Booster: 01.11.21

1. Gross Value Added: is defined as the value of output minus the value of intermediate consumption and is a measure of the contribution to growth made by an individual producer, industry or sector. It provides the rupee value for the number of goods and services produced in an economy after deducting the cost of inputs and raw materials that have gone into the production of those goods and services.

2. Project 15A & 15B: The Kolkata class (Project 15A) are a class of stealth guided missile destroyers. The class comprises three ships – Kolkata, Kochi and Chennai – built by Mazagon Dock Limited. The Visakhapatnam class (Project 15B) is a class of stealth guided missile destroyers currently being built for the Indian Navy. Based on the Kolkata-class design, the Visakhapatnam class will be an extensively improved version. 1st ship of Project 15B, a Guided Missile Destroyer Visakhapatnam- largest missile destroyer commissioned in India till now.

3. Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI): is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions. It aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.

4. Infrastructure for Resilient Island states (IRIS): is aimed at creating a coalition for putting in place infrastructure that can withstand disasters and lessen economic losses in island nations. Under this initiative, Australia, India and the UK have committed an initial funding of \$10 million. More countries including Japan are expected to contribute to the initiative.

5. Indus River dolphin: Indus River dolphins are one of only four river dolphin species and subspecies in the world that spend all of their lives in freshwater. The Indus River dolphin is the second most endangered freshwater river dolphin. At present, there are only around 1,800 of these in the Indus in Pakistan. IUCN status: Endangered. They are functionally blind and rely on echolocation to navigate, communicate and hunt prey including prawns, catfish and carp.



Prelims Booster: 02.11.21

1. Purchasing Manager's Index: It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed. The PMI is a number from 0 to 100.

PMI above 50 represents an expansion when compared to the previous month; PMI under 50 represents a contraction, and A reading at 50 indicates no change.

2. Ganges dolphin: live in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh. It can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind. They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds, which bounces off of fish and other prey, enabling them to "see" an image in their mind. They are also called 'susu'. IUCN status: Endangered. Ganges river dolphins are protected under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act (1972).

3. BASIC: The BASIC group was formed as the result of an agreement signed by the four countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) on 28th November, 2009. BASIC is one of several groups of nations working together to fight climate change and carry out negotiations within the UNFCCC.

4. CITES: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily. Aim: Ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws.

5. Turtle Surveillance Alliance: was formed in 2001 as an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) partnership for sustainable captive management of freshwater turtles and tortoises, and initially designated a Task Force of the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group.



Prelims Booster: 03.11.21

1. Ocean Acidification: is the ongoing decrease in the pH of the Earth's oceans, caused by the uptake of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. An estimated 30–40% of the carbon dioxide from human activity released into the atmosphere dissolves into oceans, rivers, and lakes. It has been called the “evil twin of global warming” and “the other CO₂ problem”.

2. Global Forest Watch: is released by World Resources Institute (WRI) which reveals that India has lost over 1.6 million hectare of tree cover between 2001 and 2018, about four times the geographical area of Goa. GFW is an open-source web application to monitor global forests in near real time.

3. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism: is meant to discourage consumers from buying carbon-intensive products and encourage producers to invest in cleaner technologies. It is meant to level the playing field between domestic and imported products. CBAM will require foreign producers to pay for the carbon emitted while manufacturing their products.

4. Green Grid Initiative: aims to interconnect solar energy infrastructure. That is, under the initiative trans national electricity grids will be developed to deliver solar power. The grid built under the initiative is called One Sun One World Grid or Green Grids Initiative One Sun One World Grid. The initiative was launched jointly by India and UK.

5. Net-zero outlook:

'Need 5,600 GW solar capacity, 99% fall in coal usage for net-zero'

To reach net-zero emissions by 2070, India's solar power capacity needs to rise to over 5,600 GW, coal use will have to drop by 99% by 2060, research body CEEW India said



Economic cost of India's net-zero 2070 transition (would be) over \$13,000 billion between 2030 and 2100

Coal-based generation must peak by 2040 and reduce by 99% between 2040 and 2060

Solar-based generation capacity must rise to 1,689 GW by 2050 & 5,630 GW by 2070

Share of EVs in car sales must reach 84% by 2070

Source: CEEW/India/PTI



Prelims Booster: 06.11.21

1. Advaita (Monism): propounded by Shankaracharya (Adi Shankara), the basic theme of Advaita is that the one unchanging entity (Brahman) alone is real while changing entities do not have absolute existence. The world is Maya or illusion and only the Self is real. A person who realises this attains moksha (liberation of the soul).

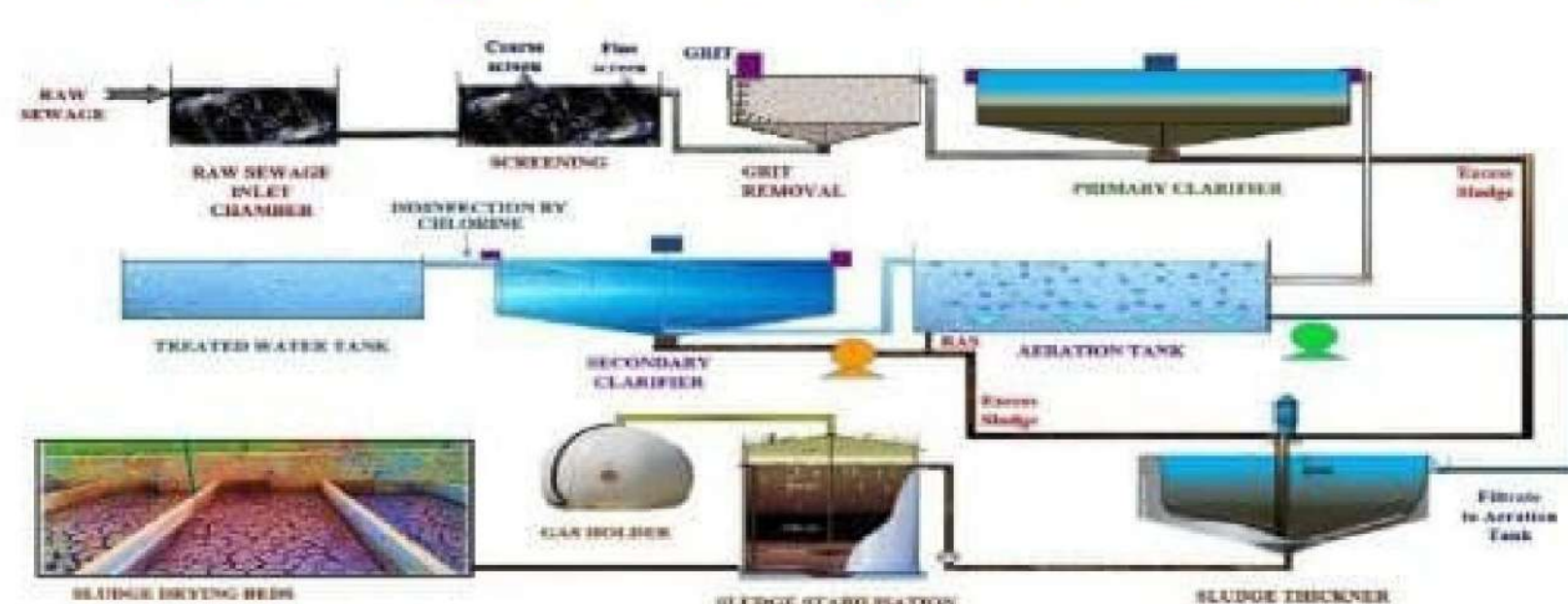
2. Biological Oxygen Demand: is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water. It is expressed in milligrams of oxygen per litre of water. The higher value of BOD indicates low DO content of water.

3. MC12: The Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body of the WTO. It is attended by trade ministers and other senior officials from the organization's 164 members. Under the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO, the conference is held once every two years. The first Ministerial Conference (MC1) was held in Singapore in 1996. The last conference i.e. MC11 was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2017. The 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) will take place from 30 November to 3 December 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.

4. TRIPS: Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Right (TRIPS) is an agreement on international IP rights. TRIPS came into force as part of the agreement that established the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It establishes minimum standards for the availability, scope, and use of seven forms of intellectual property namely, trademarks, copyrights, geographical indications, patents, industrial designs, layout designs for integrated circuits, and undisclosed information or trade secrets.

5. Sewage Treatment Plant: operates by circulating air to encourage the growth of bacteria to break down sewage. The goal is to deliver much cleaner, more environmentally friendly effluent. It involves a similar process to a typical septic tank but has some key differences. Sewage treatment plants, depending on their size, can treat the waste of commercial properties or a number of domestic dwellings.

Sewage Treatment Process (complete explanation)





Prelims Booster: 08.11.21

1. Molnupiravir: is an experimental antiviral drug which is orally active and was developed for the treatment of influenza. It is a drug of the synthetic nucleoside derivative N4-hydroxycytidine, and exerts its antiviral action through introduction of copying errors during viral RNA replication. Recently, it is claimed that Molnupiravir can cut the risk of hospitalisation in Covid-19 patients by half, in phase 3 trials.

2. Paxlovid: It is an investigational SARS-CoV-2 “protease inhibitor antiviral therapy”. It inhibits viral replication at proteolysis, a stage that occurs before viral replication. It is “designed to be administered orally so that it can be prescribed at the first sign of infection or at first awareness of an exposure, potentially helping patients avoid severe illness.”

3. Food Price Index: The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) records the monthly fluctuations in the international food prices for a basket of five commodities:

- Cereals
- Vegetable oil
- Dairy products
- Meat
- Sugar

These five broad categories of commodities are chosen to calculate FFPI because it has high and strategic importance in the world's food security and trade. It is calculated by taking an average of these five commodity group price indices weighted by the average export shares of each of the groups over the period 2014-16.

4. Talisman Sabre: is a biennial, multinational military exercise led by Australia and the United States. Leadership of the exercise switches between Australia and the US every 2 years. The exercise focuses on crisis-action planning and contingency response, enhancing both nations' military capabilities to deal with regional contingencies and the War on Terrorism.

5. RIMPAC Exercise: Rim of Pacific (RIMPAC) is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise. It is a biennial exercise which is hosted and administered by the United States Navy's Indo-Pacific Command. It seeks to provide unique training opportunity to participants in order foster cooperative relationships to ensure the safety of sea lanes and security.



PRELIMS BOOSTER: 09.11.2021

1.Serious Acute Malnutrition: Severe acute malnutrition is defined by a very low weight for height (below -3z scores of the median WHO growth standards), by visible severe wasting, or by the presence of nutritional oedema. Decreasing child mortality and improving maternal health depend heavily on reducing malnutrition, which is responsible, directly or indirectly, for 35% of deaths among children under five. Children suffering from SAM are nine times more likely to die in case of diseases due to their weakened immune system.

2.National Rural Livelihood Mission: is a poverty alleviation project implemented by Ministry of Rural Development. This plan is focused on promoting self-employment and organization of rural poor. The basic idea behind this program is to organize the poor into SHG (Self Help Groups) groups and make them capable for self-employment.

3.Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram: is one of its kind programs to improve the overall quality of life of children enabling all children achieve their full potential; and also provide comprehensive care to all the children in the community. This program involves screening of children from birth to 18 years of age for 4 Ds- Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies and Development delays, spanning 32 common health conditions for early detection and free treatment and management, including surgeries at tertiary level.

4. MFN: Most Favoured Nation is a treatment accorded to a trade partner to ensure non-discriminatory trade between two countries vis-a-vis other trade partners. The importance of MFN is shown in the fact that it is the first clause in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Under WTO rules, a member country cannot discriminate between its trade partners. If a special status is granted to a trade partner, it must be extended to all members of the WTO.

5.UN Refugee Convention: It is a United Nations multilateral treaty that defines who is a refugee, and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum. It is the main legal document that governs the working of the UNHCR. It is also called the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951. It also talks about the responsibilities and legal obligations of countries that grant asylum status to people. Apart from that, the Convention also defines those who are not eligible for asylum status, such as war criminals.



Prelim Booster: 10.11.21

1.Immunization Agenda 2030: is based on learnings from Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). It aims to address the unmet targets of the GVAP that were initially to be fulfilled as part of the global immunisation strategy of the 'Decade of vaccines' (2011–2020). It is based on a conceptual framework of seven strategic priorities, to ensure that immunization fully contributes to stronger primary health care and attainment of universal health coverage. It is underpinned by four core principles: it puts people in the centre, is led by countries, implemented through broad partnerships, and driven by data.

2.Climate Change Performance Index: Published by: Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Network annually since 2005. Scope: It is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 57 countries and the European Union. Aim: It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries. Criteria: The CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (40% of the overall score), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%), and Climate Policy (20%).

3.Pashmina: is known world over as cashmere wool, it comes from a special goat (Capra hircus) living at an altitude of 12000 to 14000 ft.

4.Issi Saanek: The two-legged Issi saaneq lived about 214 million years ago in what is now Greenland. It was a medium-sized, long necked herbivore and a predecessor of the sauropods, the largest land animal's ever to live. The name of the new dinosaur pays tribute to Greenland's Inuit Bra language and means "cold bone".

5.Troika plus: Troika-plus-Pakistan meeting involves consultations between the US, Russia, China, Pakistan along with the representatives of the Afghanistan government, Taliban, and other senior Afghan leaders. Purpose: The meeting is expected to discuss ways to assist in advancing the intra-Afghan talks in Doha. It aims to reduce the level of violence and to end the armed conflict in Afghanistan.



Prelim Booster: 11.11.21

1.DSRV: A deep-submergence rescue vehicle (DSRV) is a type of deep-submergence vehicle used for rescue of downed submarines and clandestine missions. While DSRV is the term most often used by the United States Navy, other nations have different designations for their vehicles.

2.CCEA: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is one of the standing committees of cabinet constituted by government of India. The major function of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is to review economic trends on a continuous basis, as also the problems and prospects, with a view to evolving a consistent and integrated economic policy framework for the country.

3.CCI: Cotton Corporation of India was established on 31st July 1970 under the administrative control of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India as a Public Sector Undertaking under the Companies Act 1956. CCI is tasked to safeguard the economic interest of cotton farmers in all the cotton growing regions and to ensure smooth supply of good quality cotton to the textile industry in India. The major role of the CCI is to undertake price support operations, whenever the market prices of cotton fall below the minimum support prices (MSP).

4.DTTI: The Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) is a major strategy to facilitate the development of defence technology by reducing bureaucratic processes and legal requirements in all possible ways. The prospect and value placed in the DTTI are shown in the seniority of its leadership. The DTTI between USA and India was launched in 2012. Ever since then, 9 group meetings have occurred between the two parties.

5.Fishing cat: Scientific Name: *Prionailurus viverrinus*. Habitat: In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra River valleys and in the Western Ghats. Protection Status:
IUCN Red List: Vulnerable. Despite multiple threats, the Fishing Cat was recently downlisted to "Vulnerable" from "Endangered" in the IUCN Red List species assessment.

CITES: Appendix II

Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I



Prelims Booster: 12.11.21

1.Net Zero: Net zero is when a country's carbon emissions are offset by taking out equivalent carbon from the atmosphere, so that emissions in balance are zero. However, achieving net zero by a specific date means specifying a year, also called a peaking year, following which emissions will begin to fall.

2.Revenue Neutral rate: It is a structure of different rates established in order to match the current revenue generation with revenue under GST. RNR calculation has to include the cascading effect on certain goods having no excise or sales tax implications.

3.Blue Dot Network: It was formally announced in 2019 at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. It will be led by the US along with Japan and Australia. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development. It is expected to serve as a globally recognised evaluation and certification system for roads, ports and bridges with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region.

4.Rule of Law index: released by the World Justice Project- an independent organisation. It is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice. The index covers 128 countries. It measures countries' rule of law performance across eight factors: (1) Constraints on Government Powers, (2) Absence of Corruption, (3) Open Government, (4) Fundamental Rights, (5) Order and Security, (6) Regulatory Enforcement, (7) Civil Justice, and (8) Criminal Justice.

5.Singhum region: A study by researchers from India, Australia and the US has challenged the widely accepted view that the continents rose from the oceans about 2.5 billion years ago. It suggests this happened 700 million years earlier — about 3.2 billion years ago — and that the earliest continental landmass to emerge may have been Jharkhand's Singhbhum region. Scientists have found sandstones in Singhbhum with geological signatures of ancient river channels, tidal plains and beaches over 3.2 billion years old, representing the earliest crust exposed to air.



Prelims Booster: 13.11.21

1. Hyperinflation: is a term to describe rapid, excessive, and out-of-control general price increases in an economy. At that rate, a loaf of bread could cost one amount in the morning and a higher one in the afternoon. Hyperinflation has two main causes: an increase in the money supply and demand-pull inflation.

2. Core inflation: It is the change in the costs of goods and services but does not include those from the food and energy sectors. This measure of inflation excludes these items because their prices are much more volatile. Core inflation = Headline inflation – (Food and Fuel) inflation.

3. Tight monetary policy: Also known as contractionary monetary policy, is focused on contracting (decreasing) the money supply in an economy. A contractionary monetary policy is implemented by increasing key interest rates thus reducing market liquidity (money supply). Low market liquidity usually negatively affects production and consumption. This may also have a negative effect on economic growth.

4. IIP: The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a fixed period of time. It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under: Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity. Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods. Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.

5. Consumer goods: is any good purchased for consumption and not used later for the production of another consumer good. For e.g., Finished goods are also consumer goods.



Prelims Booster: 15.11.21

1.Chenchu Tribe: are Scheduled Tribe in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Odisha. Many Chenchus live in the dense Nallamala forest of Andhra Pradesh. They are an aboriginal tribe whose traditional way of life has been based on hunting and gathering. They speak the Chenchu language, a member of the Dravidian language family. Their relationship with non-tribal people has been largely symbiotic.

2.Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: On November 10, 2021, Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved declaration of November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. It will be observed to commemorate tribal freedom fighters. It will make the coming generations aware of sacrifices made by tribal freedom fighters during India's independence movement. The day will be celebrated every year to recognize the efforts made by tribals in preserving cultural heritage and promoting Indian values of national pride & hospitality.

3.Rani Kamlapati Station: The name of Bhopal's Habibganj railway station has been changed to Rani Kamlapati station. Rani Kamlapati was the widow of Nizam Shah, whose Gond dynasty ruled the then Ginnorgarh, 55 km from Bhopal, in the 18th century. the Indian Railway Works Manual— a 260-odd-page document that codifies everything related to civil engineering construction works, states that Railways should obtain approval of the state government concerned on the spelling of the names (in all three languages) before putting them on its signboards.

4.RuTAG: Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) was established in January 2009. It is located in eight IITs. RuTAG is a synergizing and catalysing mechanism to identify technologies ongoing in the villages or have potential to reach the rural areas, to help to provide higher income and employment or reduce drudgery of the people in rural areas.

5.Nallamali Hills: are situated in Andhra Pradesh. They are made up of Proterozoic sedimentary rocks. Their average elevation is in the range of 600-850m. It is home to It is India's second-largest tiger reserve, next only to Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana). It has a large presence of the Chenchu tribe.



Prelims Booster: 16.11.21

1. Bank for International Settlement: BIS is an international financial institution that aims to promote global monetary and financial stability through the coordination of global central banks and their monetary policy efforts. It is owned by 60-member central banks, representing countries from around the world including India. It fosters international monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a bank for central banks.

2. Bomrr clan: a clan of the Longfuri Yimchungii sub-tribe in Nagaland. For the last seven generations, the Bomrr have held a bat-harvesting festival every October, where they smoke out entire caves in which the bats roost. The hunters are often scratched and bitten by the bats, exposing them to viruses.

3. National Centre for Biological Sciences: is a research center specializing in biological research. It is a part of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research under the Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India. The mandate of NCBS is basic and interdisciplinary research in the frontier areas of biology. The research interests of the faculty are in four broad areas ranging from the study of single molecules to systems biology.

4. LCH helicopters: Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) is a 5.5-tonne class combat helicopter designed and developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** – a Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU). It is powered by two **Shakti engines** and inherits many technical features of the Advanced Light Helicopter. LCH has the distinction of being the first attack helicopter to land in Forward Bases at Siachen, 4,700 mts above sea level with 500kg load.

5. Temperature Outlook:

Off target

A report by Climate Action Tracker said that the promises by nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 will still result in the Earth heating up by around 2.4° Celsius by 2100, compared with pre-industrial levels, far beyond the UN target. A lowdown:

Source: Climate Action Tracker





Prelims Booster: 17.11.21

1. Human Development Index: HDI is released by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) combines indicators of life expectancy, education or access to knowledge and income or standard of living, captures the level and changes to the quality of life. India ranks 131 out of 189 countries with a score of 0.645. Norway has topped the ranking while Switzerland is second in the standings. The 2020 Report has introduced planetary pressures-adjusted Human Development Index, which adjusts the standard Human Development Index (HDI) by a country's per capita carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint.

2. Renewable purchase Obligation: is the requirement mandated by Central/State Regulatory Commission and is relevant to Distribution Licensee: power distribution companies (DISCOMs); Open Access Consumer: ones acquiring power from power exchanges (IEX/PXIL), from traders, via bilateral agreements and so on. They exist to ensure all activities such as accounting, tracking, and assigning ownership to renewable electricity generation and use are carried out efficiently.

3. Nano carrier: is nanomaterial being used as a transport module for another substance, such as a drug. Commonly used nanocarriers include micelles, polymers, carbon-based materials, liposomes and other substances. Nanocarriers are currently being studied for their use in drug delivery and their unique characteristics demonstrate potential use in chemotherapy.

4. Ikat weaves and textures: Ikat fabric is a dyeing technique used to create a distinct style of textile patterns. Ikat is done by resist dyeing sections of the yarns prior to weaving the fabric (creating fabric with complex geometric designs and colours). Pochampally a village near Hyderabad famous for Ikat waving and textures has recently won best tourism village word by UN World Tourism Organisation.

5. The Tourism Villages: is a global initiative to highlight villages where tourism preserves cultures and traditions, celebrates diversity, provides opportunities and safeguards biodiversity, according to United Nations World Tourism Organisation (the world body for promoting sustainable tourism).

6. Community kitchens: have emerged as an empirical solution to feed those in need. The main idea behind community kitchen is to provide cheap and nutritious, and often free food to people who cannot afford it. After preparing food, pack them into small packages and send them to rural communities. These small packages also help lots of people who are under home quarantine to access nutritious food.



Prelims Booster: 18.11.21

1.Sabz Burz: located in Delhi the domed tomb lies to the west of Humayun's Tomb and serves as a gateway to the world heritage site. It demonstrates Timurid architectural style synonymous with Central Asia and is double-domed like Humayun's Tomb. The tomb's outer dome is dotted with glazed tiles and displays unique geometric and interlacing patterns in different colours, and forms a prominent part of the neighborhood's skyline. With the word "sabz" in its name means "green", the tomb is largely covered in turquoise blue tiles. The lotus finial atop the dome and the neck, however, consist of green tiles. The incised plasterwork also gives a hint of green colour in parts. Experts say that the name of the monument might have originated through local folklores.

2.AB-PMJAY-Ayushman bharat pradhan mantri jan arogya yojana: It offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care (which doesn't involve a super specialist) as well as tertiary care (which involves a super specialist). Under PMJAY, cashless and paperless access to services are provided to the beneficiaries at the point of service. Health Benefit Packages covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.

3.NDMIS-National Disaster Management Information System: is a comprehensive online application, being developed to capture disaster damages and the losses effectively and also for monitoring of funds disbursement under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to States for relief activities in case of disasters. The online System will track the impacts of hazards for the entire country upto district level.

4.ASER report: Annual State of Education Report (ASER) survey is a nationwide survey of rural education and learning outcomes in terms of reading and arithmetic skills. IT is the oldest survey of its kind in India. It has been conducted by the NGO Pratham for the last 15 years. It provides a glimpse into the levels of learning loss that students in rural India are suffering, with varying levels of access to technology, school and family resources, resulting in a digital divide in education.

5.GCRI: Global Climate Risk Index is released annually by the environmental think tank and sustainable development lobbyist Germanwatch. It analyses to what extent countries have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.). It pushes for the need to support developing countries in coping with the effects of climate change.

GCRI 2021: Mozambique, Zimbabwe as well as the Bahamas were the most affected countries. India has improved its rankings from last year. It is ranked 7th in the 2021 Index as compared to 5th in 2020 Index.



Prelims Booster: 19.11.21

1.e-Amrit: is a one-stop destination for all information on electric vehicles—busting myths around the adoption of EVs, their purchase, investment opportunities, policies, subsidies, etc. The portal has been developed and hosted by NITI Aayog under a collaborative knowledge exchange programme with the UK government. It intends to complement initiatives of the government on raising awareness about EVs. It aims to sensitize consumers on the benefits of switching to electric vehicles.

2.Hypersonic Cruise missile: These are cruise missiles that employ rocket or jet propellant to fly and are considered to be quicker versions of existing cruise missiles. Hypersonic speeds are five times or higher than the Mach, or sound speed. 3M22 Zircon – Hypersonic anti-ship cruise missile by Russia. Countries having Hypersonic Technology based missiles, Brazil, India, USA, China, Russia, UK, France.

3.Shale oil: is an unconventional oil produced from oil shale rock fragments by pyrolysis, hydrogenation, or thermal dissolution. These processes produce synthetic oil and gas which can be used as a fuel or upgraded refinery feedstock Shale oil also refers to crude oil produced from shales of very low permeability formations, called as “tight oil”. Shale oil is formed by accumulation of mud, silt and organic wastes and, heat & pressure being applied on these biological wastes for millions of years.

4.Clyde Bank Agreement: The Clydebank Declaration was signed at the COP26 Climate summit held in Glasgow in November 2021. The signatories of the Clydebank Declaration will establish zero – emission maritime routes between two or more routes. These routes are called green shipping corridors. The objective is to establish six green corridors by the middle of the decade, that is by 2025. Under the declaration, more than two hundred businesses have committed to increase and commercialize zero emission fuels and vessels by 2030. Also, the buyers such as Ikea, Amazon, Patagonia, Michelin have already announced that they will buy only zero carbon freight from 2040.

5.Delhi Govt. Yamuna Plan:

THE HINDU

For a clean future

- Build new STPs, increase capacity of existing STPs and upgrade technology
 - Crackdown on industrial waste and zero tolerance for defaulters
 - JJ clusters will get proper sewer connections
 - Delhi Government to connect every household to the sewer network
 - In situ treatment of large drains of Delhi
 - Desilting of entire sewer network
- Deadline of the project:** February, 2025
- Four new STPs are being built in Delhi at Okhla with a capacity of **124 MGDs**, at Coronation Pillar site with a capacity of **70 MGDs**, at Rithala with a capacity of **40 MGDs** and at Kondli with a capacity of **45 MGDs**
 - The existing **19 STPs** in Delhi are being upgraded



Prelims Booster: 20.11.21

- 1. DRT:** Debt Recovery Tribunals are Tribunals which facilitate the debt recovery involving banks and other financial institutions with their customers. DRTs can now take cases from banks for disputed loans above Rs 20 Lakhs. They are established by the Central Government and consist of one person each referred to as the Presiding Officer of the Tribunal and the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal respectively. DRTs are empowered to go beyond the Civil Procedure Code and pass comprehensive orders. It can hear cross-suits, counterclaims and allow set-offs.
- 2.NCLAT:** National Company Law Appellate Tribunal was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). It is also the appellate tribunal for orders passed by the NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, and for orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under Sections 202 and 211 of the IBC. Any person aggrieved by any order of the NCLAT may file an appeal to the Supreme Court.
- 3.Interim Resolution Professional:** The adjudicating authority appoints a person on the commencement date of insolvency who will conduct the entire proceeding. This person is the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP). The IRP is responsible to conduct the proceedings of CIRP and also to ascertain the operations of the corporate debtor as a going concern. As the term suggests, the IRP's appointment is temporary until a Resolution Professional is appointed by the Committee of Creditors (COC).
- 4.SARFAESI ACT:** Banks utilize Sarfaesi Act as an effective tool for bad loans (Non-Performing Asset) recovery. The Sarfaesi Act is effective only against secured loans where banks can enforce the underlying security. Some of its objects are: Provides the legal framework for securitization activities in India. It gives the procedures for the transfer of NPAs to asset reconstruction companies for the reconstruction of the assets. Enforces the security interest without Court's intervention. Gives powers to banks and financial institutions to take over the immovable property that is pledged to enforce the recovery of debt.
- 5.National Digital Drugs Databank:** according to a pharmaceutical sector study conducted by the Competition Commission of India, A national digital drugs databank will help in addressing "information asymmetry" as well as provide key inputs in mapping the regulatory needs of different states. Information gaps on grant of licences, inspections and prosecutions for non-compliance, among others, could be bridged through real-time data that could be published on a central online portal.



Prelims Booster: 22.11.21

1.SMART policing: idea was envisioned, articulated and introduced by the Indian PM at the Conference of DGPs of State and Central Police Organizations, held at Guwahati, in the year 2014. It envisaged systemic changes to transform the Indian Police to be: Strict and Sensitive, Modern and Mobile, Alert and Accountable, Reliable and Responsive, Techno-savvy and Trained (SMART). The strategy combined the development of physical infrastructure, technology adoption, a focus on the critical soft skills and attitudes, as well as a deep commitment to the values of professional excellence and service to the people, considered essential to take the Indian Police to the next level.

2.No first Use policy: is a commitment to never use nuclear weapons first under any circumstances, whether as a preemptive attack or first strike, or in response to non-nuclear attack of any kind. China is the only nuclear-armed country to have an unconditional NFU policy. India maintains a policy of NFU with exceptions for a response to chemical or biological attacks.

3.Swachh Survekshan: launched by The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). It is meant to monitor the performance of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, it was also aimed at inculcating a spirit of healthy competition among cities towards becoming India's cleanest cities.

4.Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty: Negotiated between the United States and the Soviet Union as part of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, the now-defunct Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty was signed on May 26, 1972, and entered into force on October 3, 1972. The treaty, from which the United States withdrew on June 13, 2002, barred Washington and Moscow from deploying nationwide defenses against strategic ballistic missiles. In the treaty preamble, the two sides asserted that effective limits on anti-missile systems would be a "substantial factor in curbing the race in strategic offensive arms."

5.Monthly Household Consumer Expenditure: The MHCE provides the data base to compute the weightage assigned for commodities in the calculation of Inflation Index, the poverty line and poverty ratio, nutritional standards of people based on their consumption of various food items, and consumption expenditure in the national accounts system. The government also uses the poverty estimates to decide on the State-wise allocation of foodgrains to be sold at subsidised prices through the Public Distribution System. Hence, the MHCE is an important policy instrument despite the fact that the data provided through the MHCE surveys have been widely debated. Such debates have, however, led to refinement of the methods of data collection and made the data more robust.



Prelims Booster: 23.11.21

1. Durand line: The Durand Line is a legacy of the 19th century Great Game between the Russian and British empires in which Afghanistan was used as a buffer by the British against feared Russian expansionism to its east. The agreement demarcating what became known as the Durand Line was signed on November 12, 1893, between the British civil servant Henry Mortimer Durand and Amir Abdur Rahman, then the Afghan ruler. The line stretches from the border with China to Afghanistan's border with Iran.

2. Joint Parliamentary Committee: is an ad-hoc body. It is set up for a specific object and duration. Joint committees are set up by a motion passed in one house of Parliament and agreed to by the other. The details regarding membership and subjects are also decided by Parliament.

3. Nutrient based subsidy: Under the NBS regime – fertilizers are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates based on the nutrients (N, P, K & S) contained in these fertilizers. Also, the fertilizers which are fortified with secondary and micronutrients such as molybdenum (Mo) and zinc are given additional subsidy. The subsidy on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers is announced by the Government on an annual basis for each nutrient on a per kg basis – which are determined taking into account the international and domestic prices of P&K fertilizers, exchange rate, inventory level in the country etc. NBS policy intends to increase the consumption of P&K fertilizers so that optimum balance (N:P:K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization is achieved.

4. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation: (AMRUT) is the new avatar of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). But, in a significant departure from the earlier mission, the Centre will not appraise individual projects. The Mission will focus on the following Thrust Areas: Water Supply, Sewerage and septage management, Storm Water Drainage to reduce flooding, Non-motorized Urban Transport, Green space/parks. AMRUT adopts a project approach to ensure basic infrastructure services relating to water supply, sewerage, storm-water drains, transportation and development of green spaces and parks with special provision for meeting the needs of children.

5. The Manual Scavenging survey: conducted by the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) at the behest of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The latest survey (2018) conducted in the statutory towns of 14 Indian states, has found that there are 87,913 manual scavengers in India.



Prelims Booster: 24.11.21

1.GSP: Generalised System of Preferences is a U.S. trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 4,800 products from 129 designated beneficiary countries and territories. The objective of GSP was to give development support to poor countries by promoting exports from them into the developed countries. GSP promotes sustainable development in beneficiary countries by helping these countries to increase and diversify their trade with the United States.

2.GSAT 7: is a multi-band military communications satellite developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation. The Indian Navy is the user of the multi-band communication spacecraft, which has been operational since September 2013. According to defense experts, the satellite will enable the navy to extend its blue water capabilities and stop relying on foreign satellites like Inmarsat, which provide communication services to its ships.

3.DAC: is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard. The Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council.

4.UN International law commission: is a body of experts responsible for helping develop and codify international law. It is composed of 34 individuals recognized for their expertise and qualifications in international law, who are elected by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) every five years.

5.Crypto currency: is a digital asset designed to work as a medium of exchange wherein individual coin ownership records are stored in a ledger existing in a form of a computerized database. It uses strong cryptography to secure transaction records, to control the creation of additional coins, and to verify the transfer of coin ownership. It typically does not exist in physical form (like paper money) and is typically not issued by a central authority. Cryptocurrencies typically use decentralized control as opposed to centralized digital currency and central banking systems.



Prelims Booster: 25.11.21

1.NFHS-5: The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. The NFHS-5 has captured the data during 2019-20 and has been conducted in around 6.1 lakh households.

2.PMGKAY: Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana, is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against Covid-19. Its nodal Ministry is the Ministry of Finance. The scheme aimed at providing each person who is covered under the National Food Security Act 2013 with an additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice) for free, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain already provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The new version of the PMGKAY lacks one of its important components which was there in 2020 PMGKAY i.e free-of-cost 1 kg pulses per month to each household covered under the NFSA.

3.Air Quality Index: Launched in 2014 with outline 'One Number – One Color -One Description' for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity. The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants, namely: Particulate Matter (PM10), Particulate Matter (PM2.5), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O3), Ammonia (NH3), and Lead (Pb). AQI has six categories of air quality. These are: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe.

4.Total Fertility Rate: is the average number of children born to a woman in her reproductive years (15-49 years). The recently released empirical data from the National Family Health Survey 2019-20 (NFHS-5) shows that States and UTs are experiencing a sharp decline in fertility rates.

5.K-Shaped recovery: occurs when, following a recession, different parts of the economy recover at different rates, times, or magnitudes. This is in contrast to an even, uniform recovery across sectors, industries, or groups of people. A K-shaped recovery leads to changes in the structure of the economy or the broader society as economic outcomes and relations are fundamentally changed before and after the recession. This type of recovery is called K-shaped because the path of different parts of the economy when charted together may diverge, resembling the two arms of the Roman letter "K."



Prelims Booster: 26.11.21

1.INS Vela (Project 75): Project 75 is a programme by the Indian Navy that entails building six Diesel-Electric Submarines, which will also feature Advanced Air-Independent Propulsion systems to enable them to stay submerged for longer duration and substantially increase their operational range.

The design of the Kalvari class of submarines is based on the French Scorpene class of submarines. 'INS Vela' is the fourth Scorpene Submarine of Project P-75 (others are INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Kharanj, INS Vagir, INS Vagsheer).

2.B.1.1.529: It's the new Covid-19 variant which has 50 mutations overall, including more than 30 on the spike protein alone. The spike protein is the target of most current COVID-19 vaccines and is what the virus uses to access our body's cells.

3.EWS Quota: The 10% EWS quota was introduced under the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019 by amending Articles 15 and 16. It inserted Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6). It is for economic reservation in jobs and admissions in education institutes for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). It was enacted to promote the welfare of the poor not covered by the 50% reservation policy for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC). It enables both Centre and the states to provide reservation to the EWS of society.

4.Sex Ratio: 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.

According to the 2018 report on "vital statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System", Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio at birth in the country while Manipur recorded the worst sex ratio at birth.

5.Body Mass Index: is a person's weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters. A high BMI can be an indicator of high body fatness. BMI can be used to screen for weight categories that may lead to health problems but it is not diagnostic of the body fatness or health of an individual.



Prelims Booster: 27.11.21

1.Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative: is an economic research centre within the Oxford Department of International Development at the University of Oxford, England, that was established in 2007. In 2010, OPHI developed the Multidimensional Poverty Index for the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report. Since then, OPHI has published a Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) annually.

2.Omicron variant: The World Health Organization (WHO) classified a new variant of SARS-CoV-2, currently circulating in South Africa, as a 'variant of concern'. It also named it Omicron. The Network for Genomics Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA) had identified the variant. It had detected a group of related SARS-CoV-2 viruses, which belong to a lineage named B.1.1.529.

3.RIC nation: Russia-India-China (RIC) grouping is a strategic grouping that first took shape in the late 1990s under the leadership of Yevgeny Primakov, a Russian politician as "a counterbalance to the Western alliance." The group was founded on the basis of ending its subservient foreign policy guided by the USA and renewing old ties with India and fostering the newly discovered friendship with China. Together, the RIC countries occupy over 19% of the global landmass and contribute to over 33% of global GDP.

4.MPI: Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was launched by the UNDP and the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) in 2010. MPI is based on the idea that poverty is not unidimensional (not just depends on income and one individual may lack several basic needs like education, health etc.), rather it is multidimensional. The index shows the proportion of poor people and the average number of deprivations each poor person experiences at the same time. MPI is significant as it recognizes poverty from different dimensions compared to the conventional methodology that measures poverty only from the income or monetary terms.

5.UNDP: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a global network for development that advocates change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life for themselves. It provides expert advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with an increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries. It promotes technical and investment cooperation among nations.



Prelims Booster: 29.11.21

1.Symptomatic infection: Symptomatic can mean showing symptoms, or it may concern a specific symptom. Symptoms are signs of disease or injury. They are noticed by the person. When someone has the common symptoms associated with a disease or condition, they are considered symptomatic. When a disease exists without noticeable symptoms, the person is asymptomatic.

2.Variant of Concern: The term variant of concern for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 is a category used for variants of the virus where mutations in their spike protein receptor binding domain substantially increase binding affinity in RBD-hACE2 complex, while also being linked to rapid spread in human populations.

3.Gross National Income: is the total amount of money earned by a nation's people and businesses. It is used to measure and track a nation's wealth from year to year. The number includes the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) plus the income it receives from overseas sources.

4.Human Assets Index: is a socioeconomic indicator and provides information on nutrition, health, infant mortality, education structure and literacy rate of the population of a country. It is used, among others, to define the least developed countries.

5.FPTP system: The Indian constitution adopts the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system of elections, otherwise known as simple majority where a candidate with the greatest number of votes from a constituency wins the seat. It is also known as the simple majority system. This system is used in India in direct elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.



Prelims Booster: 30.11.21

1.The Central Bank Digital Currency: CBDC is a digital form of fiat currency which can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain and is regulated by the central bank. GOI has received a proposal from RBI for amendment of RBI Act 1934 to include currency in digital form to enhance the scope of the definition of 'bank note'.

2.Out of pocket (OOP) expenditure: Out-of-pocket payments are expenditures borne directly by a patient where insurance does not cover the full cost of the health good or service. They include cost-sharing, self-medication and other expenditure paid directly by private households. In India most of the medical expenditure is OOP.

3.Blue Hydrogen: It is mostly sourced from Natural Gas. Whereas grey hydrogen is extracted from hydrocarbons (fossil fuels, natural gas) and green hydrogen is generated from renewable energy (like Solar, Wind).

4.Parliamentary Standing Committees: their existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an annual basis. They are further divided into financial committees and departmentally-related standing committees (DRSCs).

5.International Labour Organization: It is the only tripartite U.N. agency. It brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. The basis of the ILO is the tripartite principle, i.e. the negotiations within the organization are held between the representatives of governments, trade unions, and member-states' employers.

6.Central Trade Unions: The firm or industry level trade unions are often affiliated to larger Federations. The largest Federations in the country represent labour at the National level and are known as Central Trade Union Organisations (CTUO). As of 2002, when the last Trade Union verification was carried out, there are 12 CTUOs recognised by the Ministry of Labour.