



+91-9989966744 / 9000066690

Email:targetiasweb@gmail.com

H.No. 1-10-196 (New No.177)

Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyderabad

Telangana 500020.

DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

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FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
 - To have a bank of mains questions.
 - And interesting to read.
 - Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI

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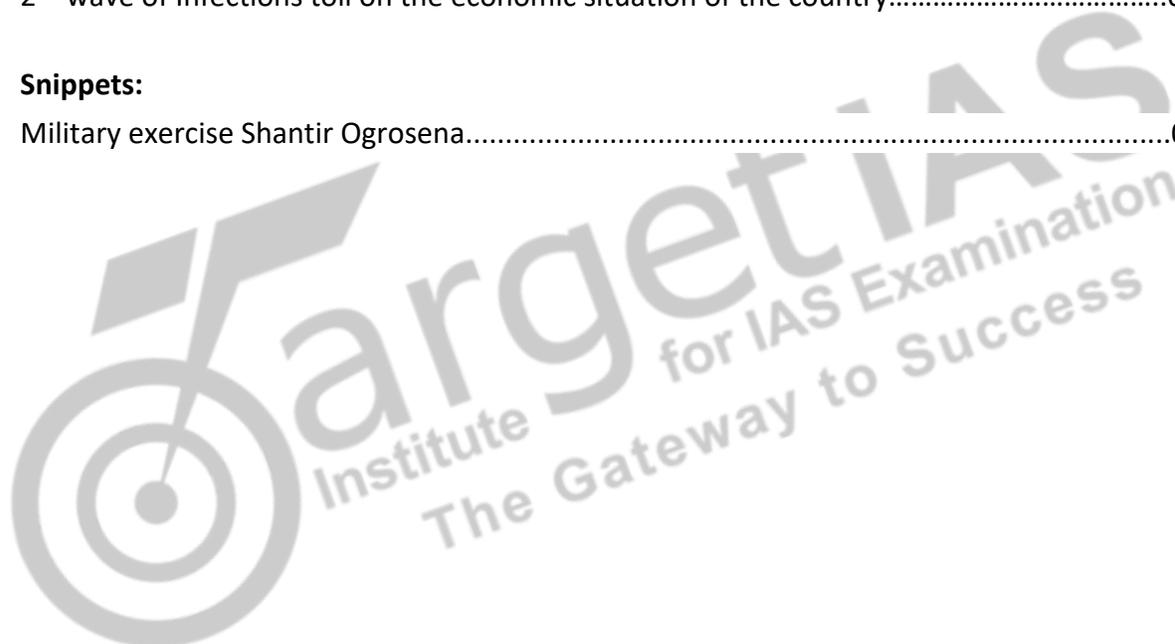
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ESSAY PAPER

EDITORIAL

Q- Explain how Peace with Pakistan is not just a bilateral matter, but is essential for India to transform South Asia?

INTRODUCTION = “Our only dispute is Kashmir and it can only be resolved through dialogue.” This perspective is a facade and a change of perception is needed where rather, it is best to focus on resolving issues that blight the entire subcontinent — poverty, malnutrition and an unconscionable neglect of the young. It is a realisation that the India-Pakistan animosity hurts regionalism and South Asian growth.

A fair peace between India and Pakistan is not just good for the two states but for all the nations constituting the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Reports such as the World Bank publication titled ‘A Glass Half Full’ and others from the Asian Development Bank and the European Union conclude that there is explosive value to be derived from South Asian economic integration.

While SAARC has facilitated limited collaborations among its members, **it has remained a victim of India-Pakistan posturing.**

- Now, given that the two countries have agreed to maintain ceasefire, it is time for India to seize the moment and become more South Asia-concerned and much less Pakistan-obsessed.

India’s overwhelming ‘size imbalance’ in South Asia: “The shares of India in the total land area, population, and real GDP of South Asia in 2016 are 62%, 75%, and 83%, respectively. The two other big countries in South Asia are Pakistan and Bangladesh with shares in regional GDP of only 7.6% and 5.6%, respectively.”

Given its size and heft, only India can take the lead in transforming a grossly under-performing region like South Asia. Collectively with a population of slightly over 1.9 billion, South Asia has a GDP (PPP) of \$12 trillion. Contrast this with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Numbering nearly 700 million, ASEAN has a GDP (PPP) of around \$9 trillion and a per capita income which, at \$14,000 (PPP), is closing in on China, with member states like Vietnam starting to grow spectacularly.

India can act upon -

1. An economically transformed and integrated South Asian region could advantageously link up with China’s Belt and Road Initiative and even join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world’s largest trading bloc of 15 countries, accounting for 30% of its GDP, as a much valued partner.

India’s moment

This is the moment for India to think big and act big by ambitiously aiming to engineer a South Asian economic miracle in half the time China did. If this sounds impossible, so did China’s rise in 1972. But for that to happen, India needs to view a peace with Pakistan not as a bilateral matter, to be arrived at leisurely, if at all, but as essential and urgent, all the while viewing it as a chance of a lifetime, to dramatically transform South Asia for the better, no less.

For Prelims -



BID TO REVIVE SAARC?

Nepal has indicated that it is keen to revive the regional forum

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation or **SAARC is dormant since India**, citing terror networks operating from Pak soil, has distance itself

The last SAARC Summit was held in 2014 in Kathmandu. It was attended by PM Modi

Nepal is holding chairmanship of SAARC since 2014

The 2016 SAARC summit in Islamabad was called off after India pulled out following the terror attack in Uri; Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan also declined to participate

SAARC summits are usually held biennially; the host nation assumes the chair



Afghanistan became the eight member in 2007

The first summit was **held on Dec 8, 1985 in Dhaka** with seven member countries: India, the Maldives, Bhutan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

BOUNDARY 'DISPUTE'	DEMARCATIION
Following the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, India in November released fresh map. Nepal claimed that Limpyadhura, Lipulek and Kalapani areas, shown under India's territory, lie within the Nepalese territory	Nepal's current boundary was demarcated by the Sugauli Treaty of 1816 and the consecutive complementary treaties of December 1816, 1860 and 1875

GS 2❖ **Social Justice**

Q- Who was Ibn Abdur Rahman and what are his contributions towards India-Pakistan Peace?

BACKGROUND = Mr. Rehman was born in Haryana, and studied at Aligarh Muslim University before moving with his family to Pakistan in the wake of violence during Partition. He considered himself a protégé of the poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz, and then took to journalism, writing for an Urdu paper, and later becoming the Chief Editor of Pakistan Times in 1989. He often visited India to pursue India-Pakistan dialogue during period of tensions between the two countries, and was awarded the Ramon Magasaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding in 2004.



Pakistani Human rights crusader and former journalist Ibn Abdur Rehman, passed away in Lahore on Monday aged 90. I.A. Rehman, as he was called, had several run-ins with the Pakistani establishment as he took a bold stand against atrocities by Pakistani forces in East Pakistan (later Bangladesh) in 1971, marital law under General Zia ul Haq and later the emergency imposed by General Pervez Musharraf, and fought for several causes, including minority rights and excesses by security forces.

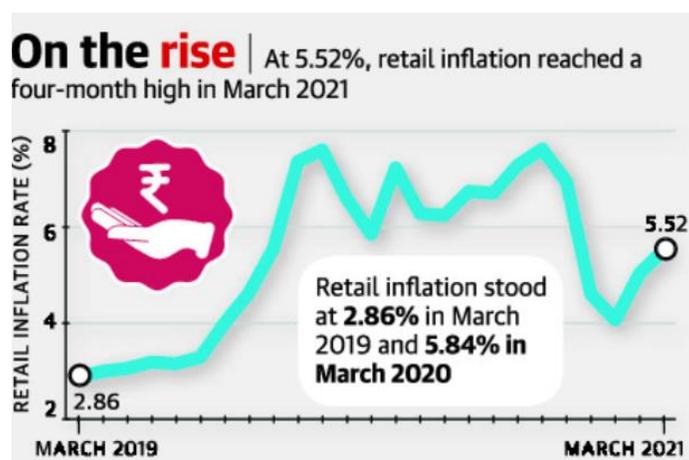
Announcing his death, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, where he served as Director from 1990-2008, and Secretary General from 2008-2016 called him a “titan of human rights” adding that “his integrity, conscience and compassion were unparalleled.” During that time he often raised the issue of freeing Indian fishermen and prisoners with the Pakistani government. He was always available, and was always ready to help any Indian in need of assistance in Pakistan, and unafraid to be vocal about their problems.

GS 3

❖ Economic Development

Q- Comment on the 2nd wave of Infections toll on the economic situation of the country?

BACKGROUND = The BSE Sensex tanked 1,708 points, or 3.44%, driven by the fear of fresh pandemic effects, taking the rupee past the ₹75 mark against the dollar for the economy, even as inflation surged further in March and industrial output collapsed sharply in February.



1. India's retail inflation accelerated to 5.52% in March 2021 from 5.03% in February, with urban areas recording a high 6.52% inflation.

2. The Consumer Food Price Index hardened to 4.94% from 3.87% in February, with urban India seeing a much higher surge of 6.64% in food inflation.
3. Industrial output, meanwhile, fell for the second successive month in February, contracting by 3.6%, suggesting that the recovery is still shaky.
4. Consumer non-durables output has shrunk in three of the last four months, suggesting that sentiment remains weak at the bottom of the pyramid.
5. **Higher fuel prices due to a combination of higher crude prices and elevated excise duties pushed transport and communication inflation to 12.5%**, the highest since the current inflation index series began.
6. Among services, household goods and services inflation hit a 10-month high while recreation and amusement services touched a 9-month high.
7. On a discouraging note, infrastructure and construction goods recorded a contraction of 4.7% in February, after having displayed an uninterrupted expansion since August 2020
8. While some relief is expected in April's inflation numbers, as base effects from last year's national lockdown kick in, the uptick in inflation is expected to resume thereafter.

Snippets

❖ Security

Q- Write a brief note on the military exercise Shantir Ogrosena?

- Military exercise Shantir Ogrosena is a multinational exercise under way in Bangladesh for the past 10 days.
 - The exercise, started on April 4 at Bangabandhu Senanibas, saw participation by four countries, along with observers from the U.S., the U.K., Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore.
 - And culminated with a validation phase and closing ceremony organised on the theme of robust peace keeping operations jointly undertaken by contingents of Indian Army, Royal Bhutanese Army, Sri Lankan Army and Bangladesh Army, preceded by an Army Chiefs Conclave.
- The aim of the exercise was to strengthen defence ties and enhance interoperability among neighbourhood countries to ensure effective peace keeping operations



Sputnik V vaccine that got emergency nod in India, is named after?

- a. The world's first satellite
- b. Russia's first Satellite
- c. Russia's first trial vaccine
- d. Russia's recent space rocket'



Recently in news, Helmet Top and Black Top are located in which from the following list of places?

- a. South Bank of Pangong Tso
- b. Tibetan Himalayas
- c. Deccan Plateau
- d Indo-Nepal Border

Answer –A

NOTE: The south bank of Pangong Tso (lake) — one of the two locations from where Indian and Chinese troops disengaged in February — has become a “no man’s land” for the cattle grazers of Chushul in Eastern Ladakh. The areas around the foothills of Helmet Top, Black Top and Gurung Hill were accessible to the grazers, but they were out of bounds now. There are nearly 180 households here and of them, some 60 depend on livestock rearing for a living. The animals need to be taken to these locations for winter grazing as this is also the breeding season. If they do not get good quality fodder, the livestock could die

Nevertheless, Non-delineation of LAC [Line of Actual Control] on ground leads to incorrect interpretation of alignment by civilians, which may result in own grazers inadvertently crossing over to the Chinese side. Moreover, due to the present operational situation in Ladakh, grazers have been asked to restrict their cattle movements.

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