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+91-90000 36699 / 90000 66690

Email: info@sosinclasses.com

H.No. 1-10-196

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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Essay Paper

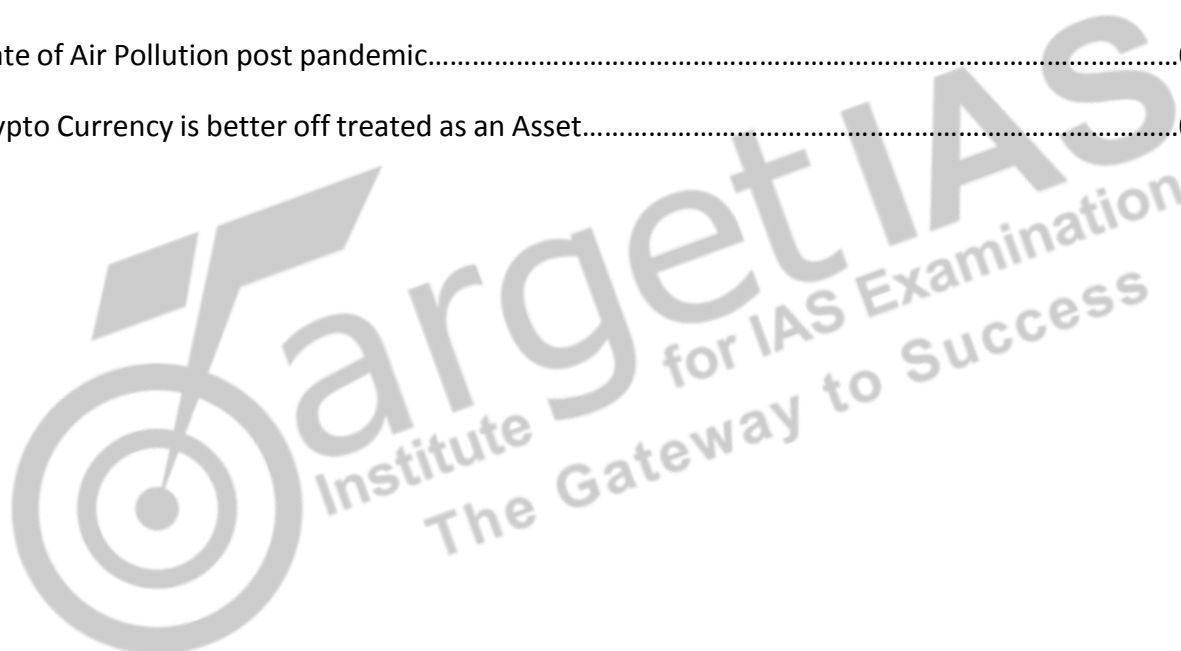
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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Comment on the need for a Tribunal setup with the Central Armed Police Forces?

INTRODUCTION = Over the years, there have been numerous cases of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officers overstaying leave. This prompted the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to issue orders to the CRPF headquarters on August 23, 2021, to **“include the provisions of Security Force Court (SFC) as available in the Acts and Rules of other CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces), for initiating disciplinary action against the delinquent officers, so that such cases are finalised within minimum time.”**



Process of Inquiry – Security Force Court

CRPF rules lay down the procedure for the conduct of departmental enquiries against non-gazetted ranks, and the officers are generally well versed with the procedure.

- As a result, most of the cases that are challenged in the High Courts are upheld.
- In normal circumstances, the departmental enquiries are completed within three to six months.
- I. But when **gazetted officers are charge-sheeted**, the time taken to order the enquiries is longer as other institutions like the Union Public Service Commission, the Central Vigilance Commission, the Department of Personnel and Training, and the MHA are also roped in for their views and legal opinion.
 - a. When personnel overstay their leave for long durations, the delinquent officers must be directed to appear before the inquiring authority along with the presenting officer and the defence assistant of the charged official. Even if one of them fails to appear for the hearing, the conduct of enquiry must be postponed.

- b. Often, the enquiry is conducted ex parte (without the presence of the charged official). In such cases, the recorded statements and other documents must be sent to the charged official. Postal delays further aggravate the matter. Since most officers are busy in operational matters, which gain priority over everything else, the enquiries take a backseat.
 - c. It is not just the inquiring authority who has to take time off his busy schedule to conduct the enquiry, but also the charged official and the presenting officer and defence assistant, if any. Quite often, delays occur in providing certain prosecution documents to the charged official who may demand them for preparing his own defence. There can be no gainsaying that such delays occur in all ministries and departments.
- II. **While in the case of non-gazetted ranks**, the enquiries are completed within a matter of few months, there can be no reason for undue delay in the case of officers. The monitoring system must be very stringent. Since most serving officers who are appointed as inquiring authorities are tasked to conduct enquiries in addition to their usual responsibilities, the enquiries are not given due priority.

The solution

1. The solution lies in appointing retired officers as inquiring authorities, who can afford to devote their time to the conduct of enquiries as is being done in most departments of the government.
2. The difference between the SFC and the departmental enquiry is that while the former is a purely judicial process where the guilt must be proved beyond reasonable doubt and the charged official is at liberty to engage a legal practitioner to defend him, the latter is a quasi-judicial proceeding where the mere element of preponderance of probability is enough to determine guilt.
3. Though the Central Reserve Police Force Act of 1949 provides for conducting judicial trial by a Commandant in his capacity as a Magistrate, seldom is it exercised as it gets into the realm of judicial process. Hence, the conduct of a departmental enquiry is the better option.

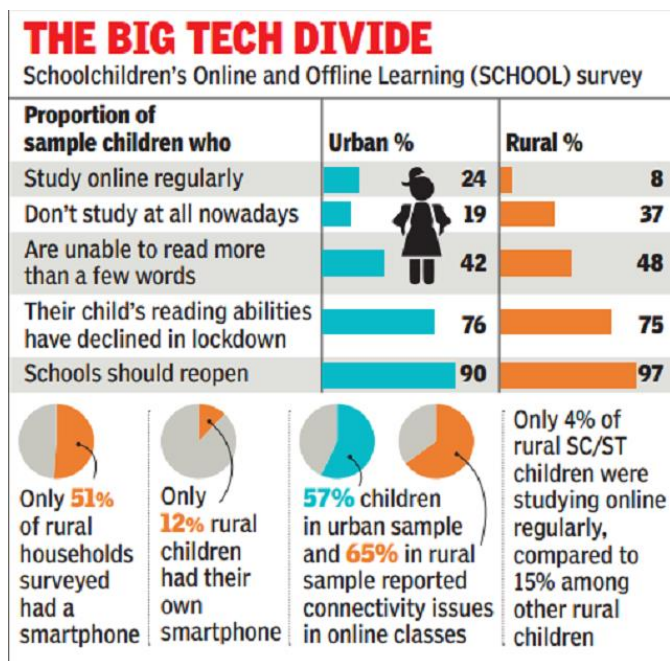
With increasing cases being filed in the High Courts across the country in service matters, it is high time the government considered the **setting up of tribunals for the CAPFs on the lines of the Armed Forces Tribunal for defence services**. Retired officers of the rank of Inspectors General and Additional Directors General from the CAPFs could be part of these tribunals along with retired judges of High Courts. This would ensure speedy delivery of justice.

GS 2

❖ Social Justice

Q- Analyse in detail the ‘catastrophic’ impact of school closure since the onset of the Pandemic?

BACKGROUND = Based on the School Children’s Online and Offline Learning (SCHOOL) survey conducted by researchers, who worked in coordination with eminent economist Jean Dreze, the ‘Emergency Report on School Education’ says that only 8% of school students in rural India have been able to access online education, while at least 37% have stopped studying altogether.



The SCHOOL survey makes it clear that the reach of online education is very limited: the proportion of schoolchildren who were studying online “regularly” was just 24% and 8% in urban and rural areas respectively.

The report covered 1,362 sample households spread across 15 States, including Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

The survey also found that the Dalit and Adivasi children were at a greater disadvantage as a mere 5% of the children from these groups had access to online classes.

Reasons –

- One reason for this is that many sample households (about half in rural areas) have no smartphone.

According to the findings, access to online education among students in those houses with smartphones is also handicapped by the fact that the smartphones are mainly used by the working adults who are not always able to share the gadgets with the children at home.

- **No access to teachers**

Another casualty of the prolonged closure of schools has been the relation between the teachers and students in both urban and rural sectors, with 51% of the respondents in the urban areas and 58% in rural India saying that they had not met teachers during the month preceding the survey. Researchers also found that there have been many teachers who went out of their comfort zones to help students during the 17-month-long closure of schools.

- In addition to education, the closure affected the level of nutrition among the children in rural schools where the midday meals have been stopped.

“Midday meals have been discontinued in all the sample States with the closure of schools. Among parents with a child enrolled in a government school, about 80% reported receiving some food (mainly rice or wheat) during the preceding 3 months as a substitute for their child’s midday meals,” stated the report.

Results -

Most parents surveyed have supported reopening of the schools at the earliest. Ten percent of the parents in urban areas had some hesitation in sending their children to school but, overall, 97% of parents supported reopening of schools.

The report said the prolonged school lockdown, one of the longest in the world, has led to a “colossal disaster”.

- It will take years of patient work to repair this damage. Reopening schools is just the first step, still being debated. In fact, even preparations for that first step (such as repairing school buildings, issuing safety guidelines, training teachers, enrolment drives) are virtually invisible in many States.

GS 3

- ❖ **Economic Development**

Q- Emphasise on why it is high time for the inclusion of the Special Economic Zones and Export Oriented Zones in the Remission of Taxes and Duties on Export Products (RoDTEP) Scheme?

BACKGROUND = The government is considering a proposal to allow producers in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to sell their output to the domestic market without treating them as imports. It is also reviewing the exclusion of export-oriented units (EOUs) and SEZs from the recently notified tax refund scheme for exports.

The Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (EPCES) are assured of a resolution of the massive container shortages afflicting exports at a meeting.

The freight rates and input costs had risen, but SEZ and EOU units had not been given benefits under the Remission of Taxes and Duties on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme.

my GOV
मेरी सरकार

Big Boost to Export

Scheme of Remission of Duties & Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)

- Mechanism to be created for reimbursement of **taxes /duties/levies at central**, state & local level, currently not being refunded
- Will make Indian exports cost competitive in International Markets & **boost employment generation**
- Existing MEIS to be **shifted to RoDTEP with proper monitoring** & audit mechanism
- Scheme to be implemented with **end to end digitization**

CABINET DECISIONS: 13 MARCH 2020

Stressing that SEZs are governed by an Act of Parliament, not a scheme, and most benefits that were offered to units in these zones had expired, including the erstwhile export incentive schemes for merchandise and services (MEIS and SEIS), the EPCES has urged the Centre to bring them under the RoDTEP.

It will be absolutely harsh on industry when you start distinguishing the units producing the same thing approaching the same overseas customer, just because they're located in an SEZ or outside. For an export market, a 4%-5% difference in price matters. "With the MEIS gone, it is a double whammy for SEZs ... if SEZs are not given the scheme, it will be against the AatmaNirbhar Bharat programme, because then, SEZ units are incentivised to import rather than procure domestically.

❖ Environment

Q- What is the state of Air Pollution post pandemic and what are the efforts made to curtail it further?

BACKGROUND = The number of cities with "improved air quality" had increased to 104 in 2020 from 86 in 2018 due to the policies of the government. And mainly reduction in air pollution in 2020 was primarily due to the lockdown, due to closure of industries, fewer vehicles plying, drop in construction activities and absence of human activities.

Data from the Central Pollution Control Board that showed –

- 23 cities marking a "decreasing trend", 239 cities a "fluctuating trend" and 38 cities an "increasing trend" in PM 10 levels.
- In the case of PM2.5 levels, 11 cities showed decreasing trend, 79 cities a fluctuating trend and 9 cities an increasing trend when pollution levels from 2015-2019 were averaged. PM refers to particulate matter.

Measures taken -

A smog tower at Anand Vihar, Delhi would supplement the air quality improvement efforts.



A smog tower is designed as a large/medium scale air purifier to reduce pollution, usually by forcing the air through filters.

So far, ₹375.44 crore has been released to 114 cities during FY 2019-20 & 2020-21 under the city action plan. Further, ₹4,400 cores have been released to 42 cities with million-plus population.

Snippets❖ **Economic Development**

Q- Explain why Crypto Currency is better off treated as an Asset than as Currency?

- Former RBI deputy governor R. Gandhi made a case for treating and regulating crypto as a separate asset class with a view to enabling governments around the world to effectively deal with illegal activities associated with virtual currencies.

Crypto assets, the next hot asset class



Source: Etienne Brunet

- After quite a lot of debate over the years, people have fully understood that crypto cannot be a currency because the fundamental element of a currency — that it should be a legal tender — is missing in this case.
- One cannot compel a cryptocurrency to be accepted by another person as it is not a legal tender. The general consensus among many policymakers is that it should be deemed as an asset, not as a currency, not as a payment instrument and not as a financial instrument as there is no clear identified issuer

Crypto Assets Opportunities & Challenges For Institutional Investors



Q- Which if the following statements describes the objective of the newly launched “Vidyanjali 2.0” Portal by the central government?

- Education Portal for Mobile and Web Application in school management
- To coordinate private contributions for school development.
- Integrated platform for managing school schemes and funds allocated for the same
- None of the above



Q- Consider the following pairs of Indigenous Handicrafts along with states where they are predominantly prepared:

Indigenous Handicrafts	States
1. Patola	Gujarat
2. Bandanna	Rajasthan
3. Jamdani	West Bengal

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- 1, 2 and 3
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only

Answer: A

Bandanna patterns are mostly produced in Rajasthan. The word bandanna now refers to any brightly coloured and printed scarf for the neck or head. The term actually referred to a variety of brightly coloured cloth produced through a method of tying and dying. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched. Patola is mainly woven in Surat, Ahmedabad and Patan in Gujarat. The patola sari is one of the finest hand-woven sarees produced today. It is famous for extremely delicate patterns woven with great precision and clarity. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched. Jamdani is a fine muslin on which decorative motifs are woven on the loom, typically in grey and white. Often a mixture of cotton and gold thread was used, as in the cloth in this picture. The most important centres of jamdani weaving were Dacca in Bengal and Lucknow in the United Provinces. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

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