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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

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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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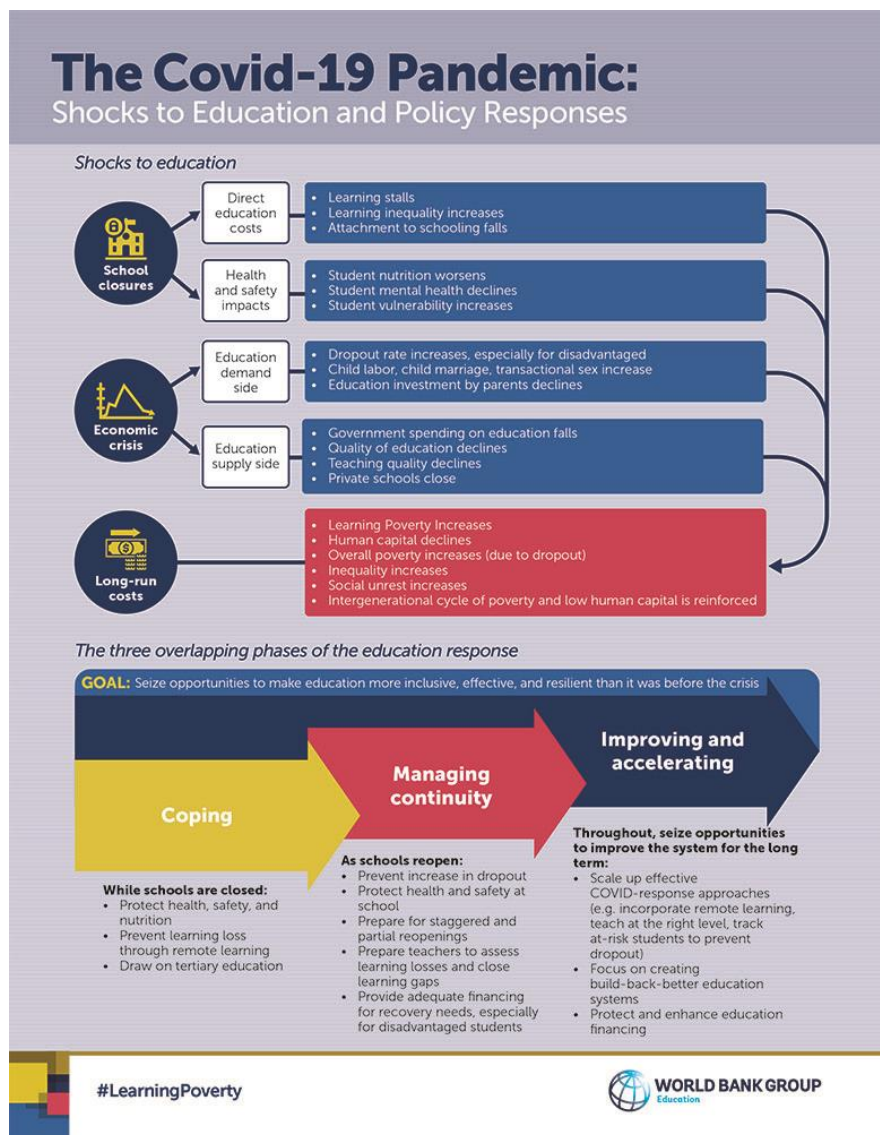


ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q – A rotational policy for students in classrooms may be a better fit for pandemic times. Comment?

INTRODUCTION = Almost two years after the Covid pandemic forced schools to shut down and learning went online, schools are slowly reopening across the country. Authorities are right to err on the side of caution and the phased reopening of schools – on since September – was a sensible idea. However, the hybrid model combining offline and online classes is challenging. If purely online classes threw up issues such as poor learning outcomes, unreliable internet connectivity and the digital divide between rich and poor students, the hybrid model does little to mitigate them.



On the contrary, hybrid models could lead to confusion. After all, teaching online and offline classes are totally different. If half the students are coming to school and the other half logging on from home, addressing both sets will require teachers to smoothly transition from offline to online teaching modes in real time. This in turn is bound to see a dip in teaching quality. Perhaps a better approach would be to adopt a rotational policy where 50% of students attend physical classes on certain days of the week, while the other 50% come to school on the remaining days.

True, this is still not without risks as vaccination for children is yet to begin. That's why regulators need to keep speed in mind. Millions of children in countries across the world have already received vaccines. The list includes Denmark, Spain, France, Britain, Germany, US, Canada and China. There's no reason Indian children should wait for months. A survey of around 1,400 underprivileged schoolchildren across 15 states has shown that pandemic-related school closures have created a four-year learning deficit. We are potentially looking at a partially lost generation here unless schooling is normalised as fast as possible.

GS 3

❖ Environment

Q- India will achieve net zero emissions by 2070. Elucidate?

BACKGROUND = India will achieve net zero emissions latest by 2070, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the COP26 summit in Glasgow. Until now, India was the only major emitter that had not committed to a timeline to achieve net zero, or a year by which it would ensure its net carbon dioxide emissions would be zero.

- By 2030, India will ensure 50% of its energy will be sourced from renewable sources. India also committed to reduce its carbon emissions until 2030 by a billion tonnes.
- India will also reduce its emissions intensity per unit of GDP by less than 45%.
- India would also install systems to generate 500 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030, a 50 GW increase from its existing target.
- In the spirit of climate justice, rich developed countries ought to be providing at least \$1 trillion in climate finance to assist developing countries and those most vulnerable.


BT Explains

What is COP26?

COP26 refers to the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); parties have met annually since 1995 (COP1) to assess progress in dealing with climate change.

COP26, originally due to be held in November 2020 but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be held in Glasgow, UK; some 25,000 people are expected to attend from Oct 31 to Nov 12.

BY MICHELLE QUAH



WHY IT MATTERS:
COP26 has taken on a particular urgency, with the effects of climate change – such as floods and forest fires – intensifying.

COP26 builds on the Paris Agreement that came out of COP21 (2015); 196 parties agreed to limit global warming to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels, by cutting their greenhouse gas emissions until they reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

But, such plans – known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – have not been effective in keeping the world on track towards achieving its goal. A number have updated their plans with more aggressive action, just ahead of COP26 – and the conference will likely see others following suit. Changes include:

- Quicker coal/fossil-fuel phase-out
- Reducing deforestation even further
- Speeding up the switch to electric vehicles (EVs)

Any commitments made could affect the way organisations operate and the way people live.




PHOTO: REUTERS




PHOTO: AFP

HOW CLIMATE FINANCE & THE INVESTING COMMUNITY CAN PLAY A PART:
The road to net-zero will be costly and require substantial financial commitment on the part of governments and financial institutions around the world.

- The OECD estimates US\$78.9bn of climate finance was mobilised in 2018
- Developed countries must now deliver on promises to raise at least US\$100 billion every year in climate finance to support developing countries
- Jurisdictions have to work towards releasing the estimated trillions of dollars in private and public sector finance that are needed

Regulators, corporations and investors have to align their actions with net-zero goals.

- Companies have to be transparent about the risks and opportunities that climate change and the shift to a net-zero economy pose to their business
- Banks, insurers and investors need to ensure their investments and lending is aligned with net-zero goals
- Central banks and regulators have to support the transition and ensure their financial systems are able to withstand the impacts of climate change
- They can signal their commitment through alliances such as "Race To Zero", which is the world's largest net zero alliance, with over 3,800 members - representing over 15 per cent of the global economy, 1 billion people, and 21 per cent of the world's biggest companies - committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR:

- How countries balance their Covid-19 recovery plans and their green commitments
- China and India's commitments to phase out coal, cut emissions
- Efforts made by developed nations to support developing nations and those most vulnerable to climate change
- Developments on carbon markets and climate finance

BT Graphics

The principles of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) and, recognition of the very different national circumstances of countries be respected. Taking on net zero targets, requires a sharp shift to clean energy sources that several experts have opined, will impose a steep cost.

Sustainable modes of living being practised in certain traditional communities ought to be made part of school curricula and the lessons from India's efforts at adaptation in programmes such as Jal Jeevan mission, Swach Bharat mission and mission ujwala ought to be popularized globally.

❖ Security

Q- Write a note on the Parachute Unit practising Combat Manoeuvres?

BACKGROUND = As the Army prepares to remain deployed in large numbers in the high-altitude areas of eastern Ladakh with the stand-off with China still unresolved, **the 50th Parachute Brigade** is conducting an airborne exercise and combat manoeuvres along the northern borders in the region **to validate its rapid response capabilities.**



Use -

- Pre-acclimatised troops, along with specialist vehicles and missile detachments, were transported via C-130 and AN-32 aircraft from five different mounting bases to validate inter-theatre moves, precision stand-off drops, rapid grouping and capture of designated objectives with speed and surprise.
- The drop was particularly challenging due to the low temperatures of up to minus-20 degrees and rarefied atmosphere in super high-altitude terrain.
- The exercise involves use of oxygen systems during free fall jumps and integrated battle drills by airborne forces, mechanised columns and attack helicopters for seamless integration. The parachute brigade is known as the **Shatrujeet Brigade**.
- With winter approaching, the Army has mostly completed its stocking to support the troops for the next few months.

❖ Biodiversity

Q- Initiatives to take care of the Ganges Dolphin and Why?

BACKGROUND = The Jal Shakti Ministry released a –


- **Guide for the safe rescue and release of stranded Ganges river dolphins.**

The document has been prepared by the Turtle Survival Alliance and the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department (EFCCD) of the Uttar Pradesh Government. The guide has been drawn from years of experience of rescuing 25 Ganges river dolphins stranded in irrigation canals.

Save Dolphin to save Ganga

The Centre has declared the dolphin a national aquatic animal to save the rare freshwater species from disappearing from the country's aqua map

Know about **Platanista gangetica**

 **1.67m**

Males grow up to **2.12m** | Females grow up to **2.67m**

Females give birth to only one calf, once in **2-3 yrs**

Generally blind, they catch their prey by emitting ultrasonic sound to gauge distance, mass etc

Assam, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand & W Bengal in the rivers **Chambal, Sone, Kosi, Brahmaputra**

Prefer deep waters, in & around Indian river confluences

GANGETIC DOLPHIN:
A rare specie almost extinct


Lost cousin: The Yangtze dolphin, Baiji, of China

Grim Future

Once counted in 10's of 1000's, the amount has reduced in last century to **1,500**

Dwindling number due to killing, habitat fragmentation

"Endangered" & placed in **Schedule-I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**



Why -

- The Ganges river dolphin is the national aquatic animal of India and is listed as 'endangered' under the IUCN Red List Assessments, Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972), Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- The species, whose global population is estimated at 4,000, is mostly found in the Indian subcontinent.
- The dolphins often accidentally enter canals in northern India and are unable to swim up against the gradient. They are also vulnerable to harm by people.
- Best practices on crowd control, dolphin capture from canals and handling, transfer, transport and release are part of the guide.

- Found throughout the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India and Bangladesh, the Ganges river dolphin [Platanista gangetica gangetica] is a global priority and is also an indicator of healthy aquatic systems.

The guide was also simultaneously released via local fishermen at the Ghaghra river, a prime habitat where most of the rescued dolphins were released in the past few years.



Q- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent organ of?

- SCO
- BRICS
- IBSA
- ASEAN



Q. Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' is a military exercise between:

- India and Maldives
- India and Mongolia
- India and Japan
- India and Philippines

Answer: C

Exercise Dharma Guardian is a joint military

♣ Exercise between India and Japan that is held annually. Hence, option C is the correct answer. Exercise Dharma Guardian – 2019 The Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian 2019 between India and Japan will be conducted to share experience gained during various Counter-Terrorism Operations in respective countries. It is an annual training event which is being.

♣ Conducted in India since 2018. The scope of this exercise covers joint training.

♣ on counter-terrorism operations in the jungle and urban scenario. The joint military exercise will enhance.

♣ The level of defence co-operation as well as bilateral relations between the two nations.

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