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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

13.11.2021

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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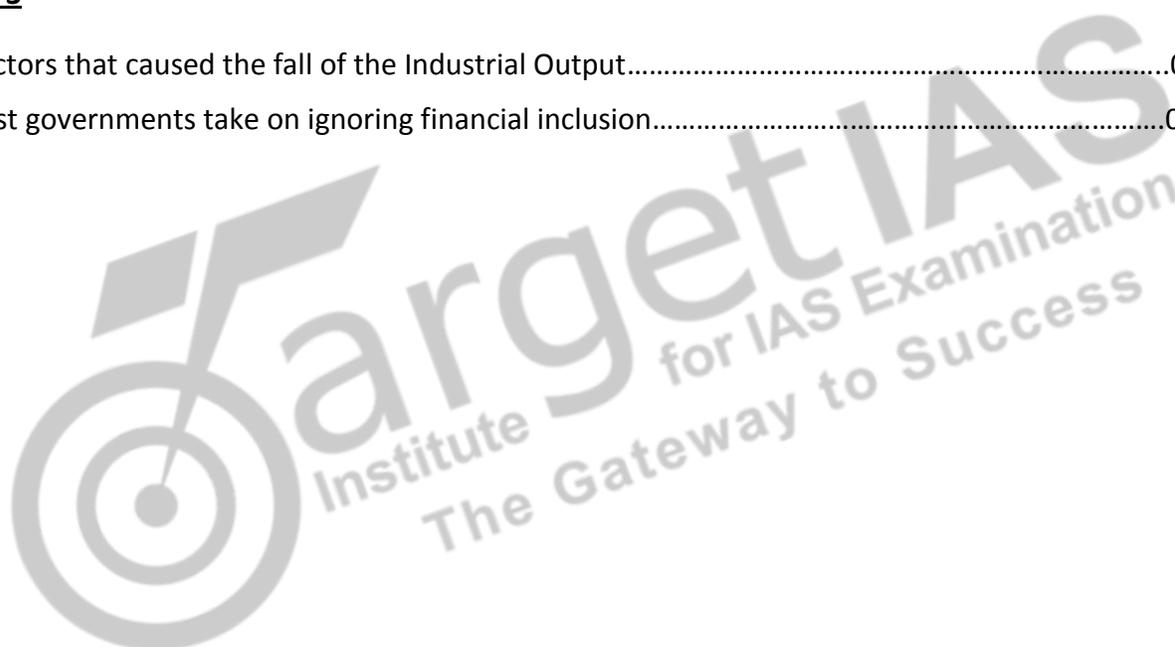
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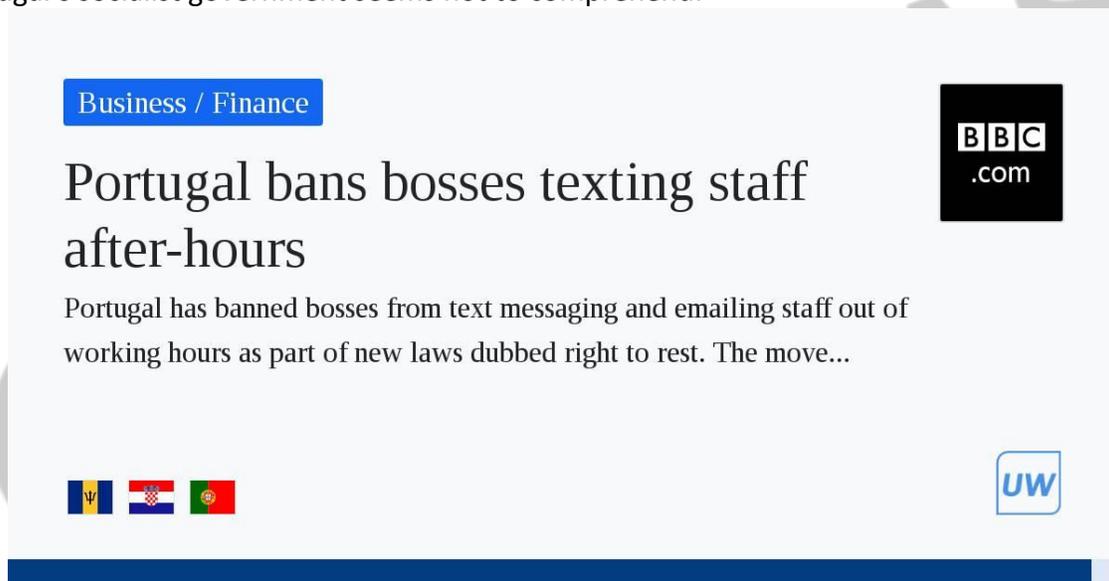


ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Explain why Portugal's new law ensuring a healthier work-life balance is making it an attractive destination for "digital nomads"?

INTRODUCTION = Spare a thought for your good ole boss. After all, no less a rebel than Bob Dylan said, "everybody's gotta serve somebody". It's not like supervisors don't have people to report to, and targets of their own to meet. When they call, text, mail after hours, it is likely not for the pleasure of conversing. And, given the blurring of lines between office and home, the work-day and personal time, after the pandemic struck, it is that much more difficult to know when "office hours" end. It is the complexity of this "new normal" that the well-meaning law passed by Portugal's socialist government seems not to comprehend.



The new law is meant to ensure a healthier work-life balance by disallowing supervisors from contacting employees after "work hours". It aims to make Portugal an attractive destination for "digital nomads": If you have to work-from-home, why not do it from Portugal, where labour laws favour you?

The problem with trying to provide such benefits to "digital nomads" is -

1. That they do not really function in a traditional 9-5 setup.
2. A coder for an Indian company living in Lisbon may well want working hours that are very different from "office hours" in both countries.
3. In fact, one of the few advantages for many people working from home during the pandemic has been the flexibility it affords: Make a meal, spend time with the kids, and work around a schedule you set for yourself.
4. Digital nomads move temporally, not just spatially.

With all this flexibility and freedom, the notion of “work hours” all but disappears. And, if you can work any time, so can your boss.

GS 1

❖ Art & Culture

Q- What is the significance of the “Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor” for Indian Culture?

BACKGROUND = Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project. According to senior sources in the BJP, at least 400 families were asked to vacate the area and many of the encroachments around the historic temple cleared to make way for the project that encapsulates the vision of the Holkar queen of Indore, Ahalya Bai Holkar, who created a series of temples and vistas leading up to the Ganga ghat.

The project connects the temple with the ghats, with a paved walkway around 320 metres long and 20 metres wide. It will have a museum, a library, a pilgrim facilitation centre and a salvation house.

FOR AN EASY ACCESS TO KVT

UTTAR PRADESH

Marnikarnika ghat

Kashi Vishwanath Temple

GANGA

Lalita Ghat

► Pilgrims will get direct access to KVT from Manikarnika, Jalasen and Lalita Ghats through this corridor

► Entry of VIP vehicles, physically challenged persons will become possible through Chhattadwar point

COST FACTOR

₹600cr sanctioned by the state government so far for the project	₹190cr allocated to the KVT administration
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Rehabilitation of tenants, including shopkeepers of the buildings being purchased for the corridor, is proposed in the project

166 buildings identified to be removed for creating the corridor

58 buildings purchased so far while process for other 60 is in progress

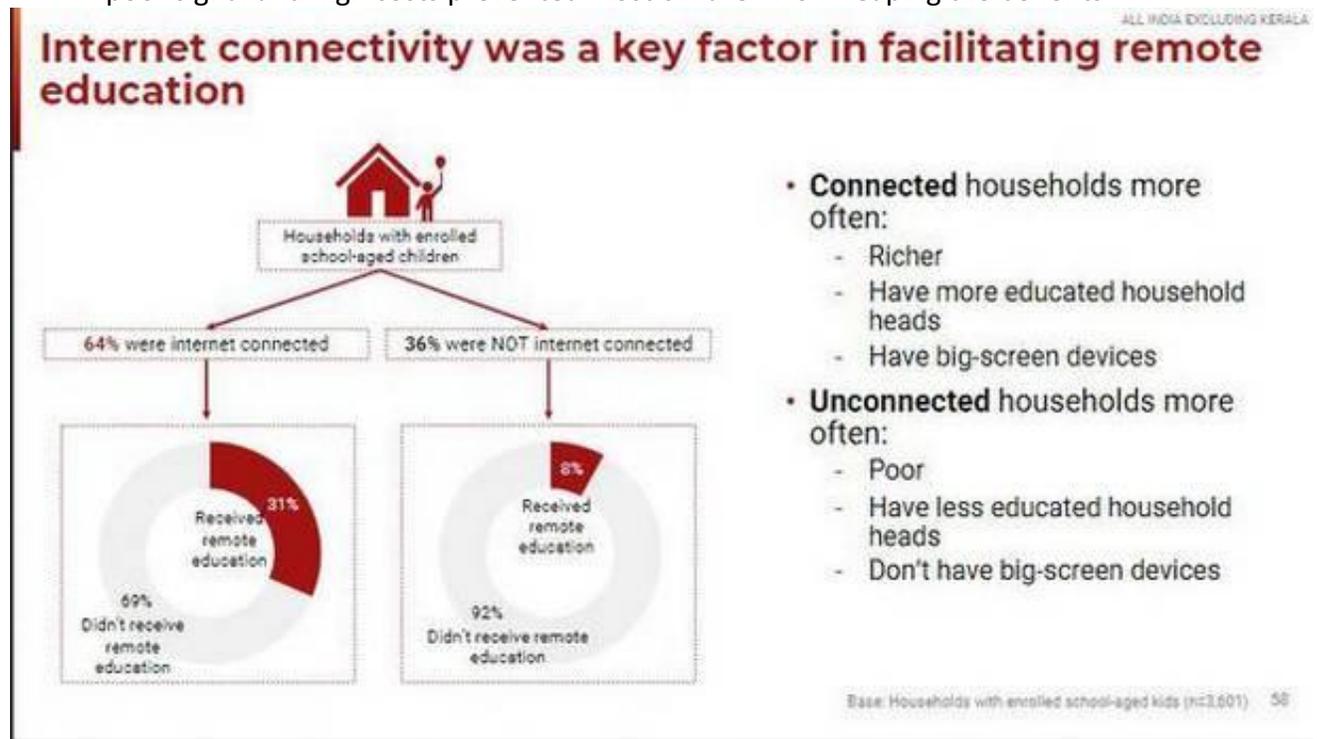
46 ancient temples, library and buildings of architectural importance to be preserved in corridor area

This function would see the presence of the main archakas of the 12 Jyotirlingas (of which Kashi is one), with water from all major rivers of the country being brought in for the abhishek of the main deity Baba Vishwanath (Lord Shiva). An estimated ₹300 crore was spent on purchasing land and buildings, and for resettlement compensation.

GS 2**❖ Indian Society****Q- Remote access to education was inaccessible to most children. Comment?**

BACKGROUND = Only 20% of school-age children in India had access to remote education during the pandemic, of whom only half participated in live online lessons, according to a new national sample survey by ICRIER and LIRNEAsia, a think tank focused on digital policy.

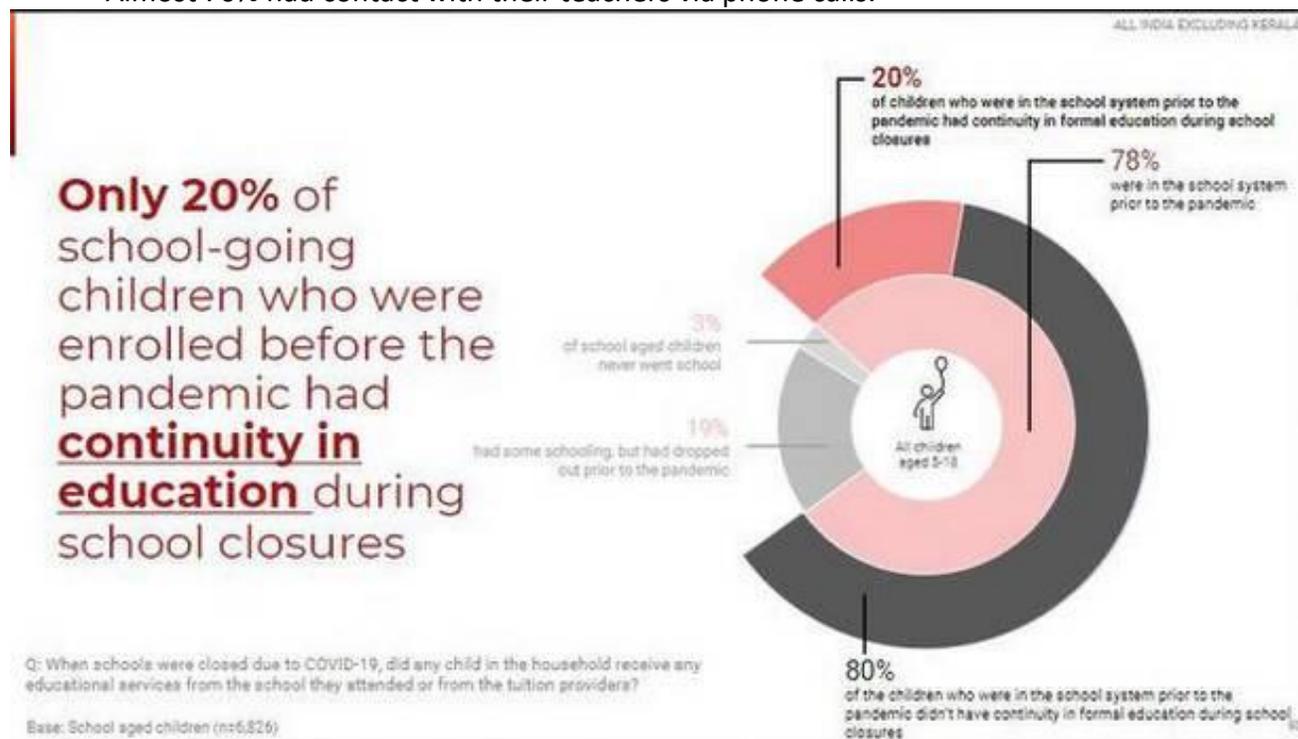
- In fact, 38% of households said at least one child had dropped out of school due to COVID-19.
- Although digital connectivity shot up 40% during the pandemic, low access to devices, poor signal and high costs prevented most children from reaping the benefits.



The face-to-face survey, conducted between March and August this year, covered a nationally representative sample of 7,000 households.

- Only Kerala was excluded, due to high COVID-19 cases.
- Among children aged 5-18, it found that 80% of those who were enrolled in schools prior to the pandemic did not receive any educational services at all during school closure.
- The situation was significantly worse among those from lower socio-economic classes, where the head of the household had lower education levels, and among rural households.
- Among the 20% who received education, only 55% had access to live online classes, while 68% had access to recorded audio or video lessons.

- Three-fourths of the students had work sent to them over a smartphone, usually via WhatsApp, and 61% via text messages.
- Almost 70% had contact with their teachers via phone calls.



GS 3

❖ Economic Development

Q- Write a brief account on the factors that caused the fall of the Industrial Output?

BACKGROUND = India's industrial output fell 2.6% month-on-month in September, even as retail inflation inched up marginally to 4.48% in October with a sharper rise in urban price trends, as per data from the National Statistical Office.

Compared to September 2020, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 3.1% in September 2021, the pace of growth dipping sharply from the 12% recorded in August.

1. Industry blamed the moderation in industrial output to supply side constraints.
2. High commodity prices and shortages of raw materials are impacting the production and overall growth of the IIP, adding that input prices might subside a bit due to the fuel tax cuts.
3. While the sharp deceleration in IIP growth is mainly because of the base effect, the sequential decline is a cause of concern. For sustainable economic momentum in 2022, the critical driver would be boost to consumer spending through demand stimulating government policies.

- Activity in the infrastructure and construction has come down, which may not bode well for rural demand and the externality effects associated with this sector.

❖ Economic Development

Q- How has the past governments take on ignoring financial inclusion in investments been undone?

BACKGROUND = The Indian Government kicked off two RBI initiatives to make it easier for small investors to directly invest in government securities and provide a simpler redressal mechanism for customers of regulated entities such as banks, finance companies and payment service providers.

“So far, in the government securities market, our small investors class, salaried class, small traders had to invest through banks and mutual funds in an indirect manner,” now, they can do it in a simple and safe manner with good returns.”

DIRECT ACCESS TO GOVT BONDS

<p>What are government securities G-Secs are low-risk, sovereign-guaranteed bonds with assured interest paid every six months. Trading makes them liquid</p>	<p>auction only through an NSE platform or through Gilt MFs</p>
<p>Compare with stocks, FDs Stocks are high-risk, volatile assets, in which returns can fluctuate. FDs have assured returns, but don't have guarantee over Rs 5 lakh</p>	<p>How to invest directly Open an account on RBI's Retail Direct platform online. Guidelines will be published soon</p>
<p>RBI initiative It enabled retail investors to directly invest and trade G-Secs. Currently, it is possible to invest in G-Sec</p>	<p>What could be the obstacles The current lot size is ₹5 crore (to be cut), lack of awareness</p>
	
<p>Global practice India is the first in Asia to allow retail investors in G-Secs. Other countries that allow include the US, the UK and Brazil</p>	

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- “Unproductive savings and informal lending was affecting the situation of common citizens and their participation in the country’s progress was virtually nil.
- Till six years ago, India’s banking, pension, insurance... was like an exclusive club. The ordinary citizen, the poor, farmers, small traders, women, Dalits, backward classes — for all of them, these facilities were too far,” he asserted, contrasting that with the current situation where the government and the RBI had kept the ordinary citizen at the centre of their attention.
- The ombudsman scheme will provide ‘cost-free redress of customer complaints involving deficiency in services’.
- Proactive resolution of citizen’s grievances was the very cornerstone of democracy, an integrated ombudsman would help resolve people’s grievances.



Q. Who among the following Mughal emperors issued a farman granting the East India Company the right to trade duty free?

- a. Jahangir b. Aurangzeb
c. Shah Jahan d. Farrukhsiyar



Q- What is that best defines the idea of 'equality/ in a liberal democratic society?

- a) Elimination of all forms of differences.
b) Opportunities enjoy by citizens must not be pre-determined by birth or socioeconomic contribution.
c) Unrestricted access to all public and private goods and services to all citizens.
d) None of the above

Answer: b

Explanation: The concept of equality implies that all people, as human beings, are entitled to the same rights and opportunities to develop their skills and talents, and to pursue their goals and ambitions. This means that in a society people may differ with regard to their choices and preferences. They may also have different talents and skills which results in some being more successful in their chosen careers than others. But, just because only some become cricketers or successful lawyers, it does not follow that the society should be considered unequal. In other words, it is not the lack of equality of status or wealth or privilege that is significant but the inequalities in people's access to such basic goods, as education, health care, safety housing, that make for an unequal and unjust society.

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