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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

01.01.2022

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

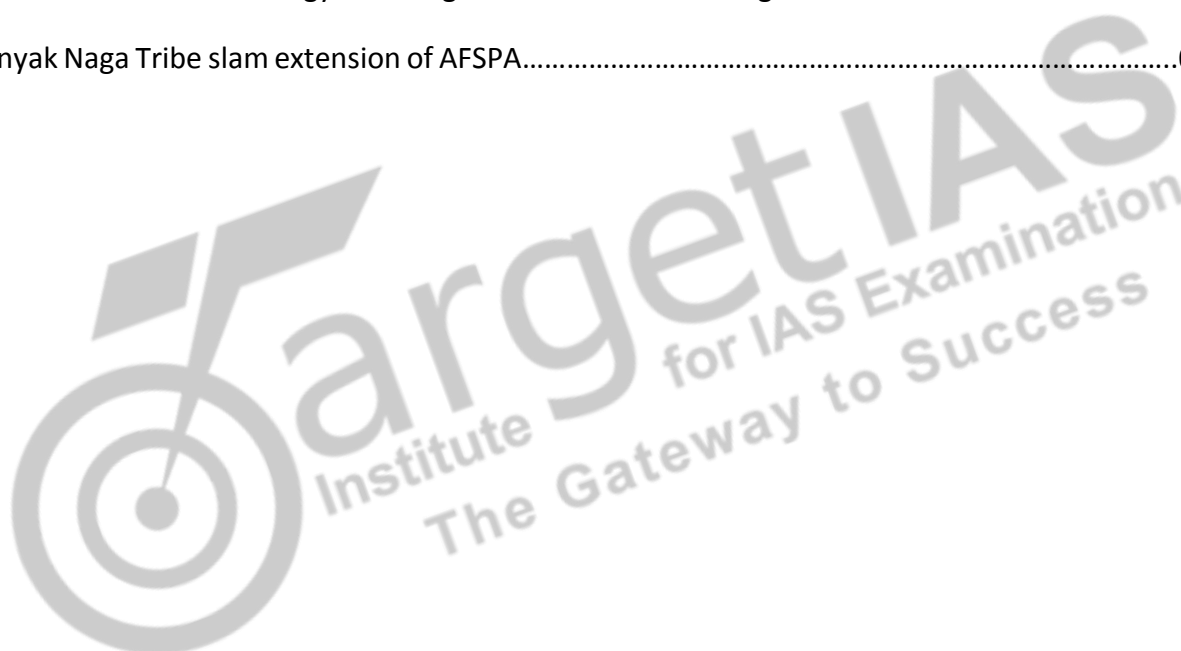
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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial


Q- 2021 pushed us online. Do we want to live there?

INTRODUCTION = As we bid goodbye to a Covid-hit 2021, there is one side-effect that may stay with us long after this pandemic is over. **There's no denying that Covid is reshaping social behaviour in multiple ways**, the full extent of which will only be known decades down the line.

1. But a clear visible trend is the self-isolation-induced networked lives we have begun to live.
2. From work-from-home to Zoom parties, the pandemic has ensured that a huge chunk of our daily lives is now lived online.
3. But trust big tech to push the envelope even further.


'Metaverse' is the new buzzword with the concept entailing the creation of shared, immersive virtual reality spaces. So one can sit in the comfort of one's home, put on a VR headset that will generate an avatar, and attend meetings with similarly connected colleagues, or take a stroll down the beaches of Goa with friends, or go on that romantic date with your significant other in Milan – all virtually!

WHAT IS THE METAVERSE AND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW




What is Metaverse?


A shared virtual space with immersive digital experiences. Games, movies, meetings all will be possible in a 3D environment.



How to access the Metaverse?

Devices such as Oculus VR, owned by Facebook are examples of a portal for entry into the Metaverse. However, the devices and equipment present today are less portable and difficult to access.





Benefits of Metaverse?

Reduced carbon footprints due to the virtual work environment, more job opportunities, better educational possibilities and enhanced virtual experience such as gaming, shopping, social media, augmented reality, etc.

Essentially, metaverse promises to truly blur the lines between reality and virtual reality, erasing the constraints of space and distance.

Way Forward

But the multibillion dollar question is whether metaverse will one day become the dominant mode of social interactions. Is virtually walking into the world's best restaurant the same as going there in person? Or has sci-fi-inspired big tech found a new gimmick to further enrich themselves and undercut the real world? But tech's bets have gone wrong before. We sure hope this one does, too.

GS 2

❖ Governance

Q- Central Government's renewed vigour to support the farmers. Comment?

BACKGROUND = Prime Minister Narendra Modi released over ₹20,900 crore to more than 10.09 crore farmers across India as the 10th instalment of financial aid under the PM-KISAN scheme. The economic indicators are in a better position than in the pre-COVID era. Foreign direct investment and GST collections are high. The growth rate is more than 8%, applauding the 42 unicorn firms that came into existence during the pandemic.

Under **the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme**, a financial benefit of ₹6,000 a year is provided to the eligible farmer families, payable in three equal instalments of ₹2,000. The money is transferred directly to the bank account of the beneficiaries.



1. The government also released an equity grant of more than ₹14 crore to about 351 farmer producer organisations (FPOs), benefiting 1.24 lakh farmers.
2. Stressing on the effectiveness of the FPOs, as they have helped in bringing down the input cost. The FPOs, also give a better bargaining power to the farmers.
3. The virtual event was attended by nine Chief Ministers, several Ministers from various States, and representatives of agricultural institutions.
4. On the occasion, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on the first day of the New Year 2022, around ₹20,900 crore is being transferred to about 10.09 crore beneficiaries. The PM-KISAN programme was launched as part of the government's effort to help double the income of farmers.
5. The ninth instalment of PM-KISAN was released in August 2021.
6. With the released latest tranche, the total amount provided under the scheme has touched about ₹1.8 lakh crore.

PM-KISAN scheme was announced in the February 2019 Budget. The first instalment was for the period December 2018 to March 2019.

Snippets

❖ International Relations

Q- What is the state of contention between the U.S and Russia on Security grounds?

- Russia stands by its demands for written security guarantees. Moscow wants it codified that any future expansion of NATO must exclude Ukraine and other former Soviet bloc countries and demands that the bloc remove offensive weaponry from countries in the Russian neighborhood.
- The Biden administration and NATO allies have made clear that the Russian demands are non-starters.
 - U.S has been Calling on Mr. Biden to immediately, and publicly, lay out the penalties Russia would face if Mr. Putin were to move forward with military action.
 - The Russians for their part continue to make the case that they are facing an existential threat with Ukraine.



GS 3

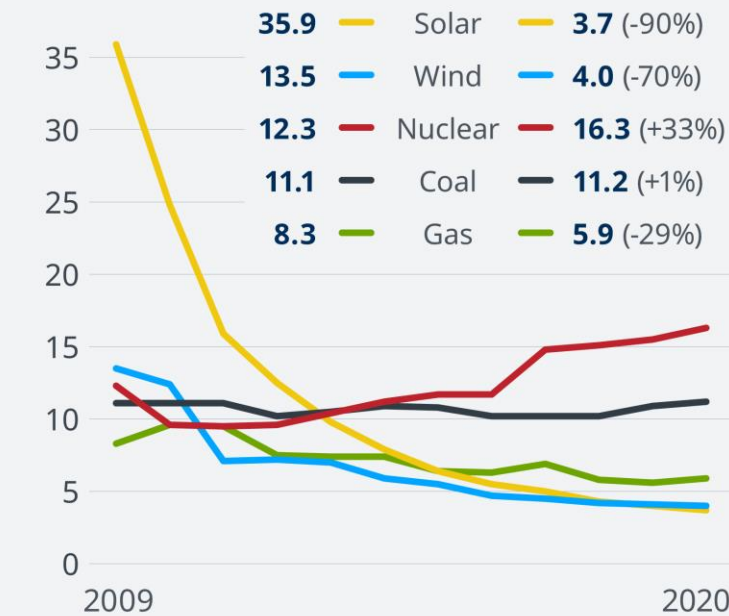
❖ Environment

Q- Discuss the likelihood of Nuclear Energy receiving the status of 'Green Tag'?

BACKGROUND = The EU is planning to label energy from nuclear power and natural gas as "green" sources for investment despite internal disagreement over whether they truly qualify as sustainable options.

Worldwide energy prices over the last decade

Generation costs in cents (US\$)



Source: WNISR, Lazard

- The proposal, aims to support the 27-nation bloc's shift towards a carbon-neutral future and gild its credentials as a global standard-setter for fighting climate change.
- If a majority of member states back it, it will become EU law, coming into effect from 2023.
- **Opposing views**
 1. France has led the charge for nuclear power — its main energy source — to be included, despite robust opposition from Austria and scepticism from Germany, which is in the process of shutting all its nuclear plants.
 2. Fossil-reliant countries in the EU's east and south have also defended the use of natural gas, at least as a transitional source, even though it still produces significant greenhouse emissions.

Snippets

❖ Security

Q- State reasons as to why the Konyak Naga Tribe slam extension of AFSPA?

- Konyak Naga organisations have termed the extension of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland less than a month after the Mon massacre as “adding salt to wound”.



- Soldiers of an elite Army unit on December 4 gunned down 13 civilians in Mon district's Oting village during a botched operation purportedly against extremists. The district is dominated by the Konyaks, one of the largest Naga tribes.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs had issued a notification extending the contentious AFSPA for six months from December 30, 2021, by saying the whole of Nagaland was in a “disturbed and dangerous condition” requiring the use of armed forces in the aid of civilians.
- Other organisations such as the Konyak Nyupuh Sheko Khong and Konyak Students' Union slammed the tagging of the State as “disturbed” when its people have totally denounced any form of violence and were yearning for peace.



Q- Which of the following statements are true regarding Lord Ripon?

- 1) He commenced industrial legislation by passing the first Factories Act.
 - 2) He passed the Local Self Government act in 1882.
 - 3) He raised the age for the entry in civil services to 23 years.
- a) Only 2 b) 1 and 2
c) 2 and 3 d) None of the above



Q- What do you mean by "Fiscal Federalism"?

- a) It refers to the devolution of power and responsibilities of national, subnational, and governments.
- b) It refers to the financial relations between units of governments in a federal government system.
- c) It is the amount of money that households have available for spending and saving after income taxes have been accounted for.
- d) It states that when per capita income increases above the minimum specific level, population tends to increase.

Answer - b

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