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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
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INDEX

Essay Paper

1. Pay for News a necessity in India too.....04

GS 2

1. Journey of the Citizenship Amendment Act.....05
2. Sri Lanka seeking a debt restructure with China.....07

GS 3

1. Significance of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to India.....09



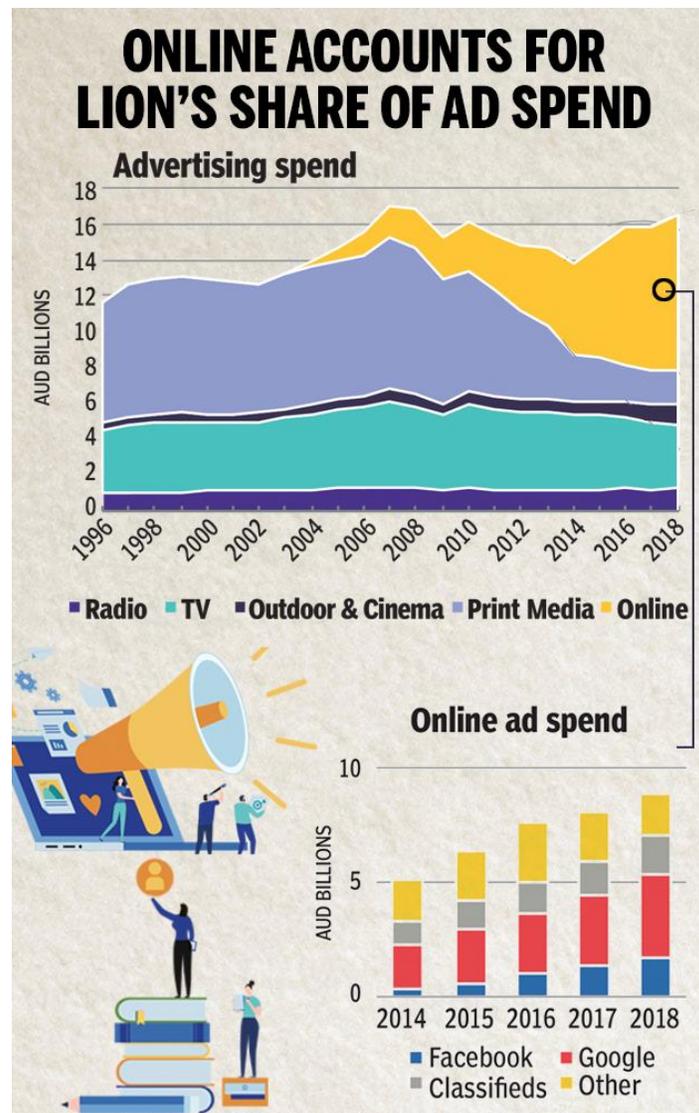
ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Explain why legislations regarding 'Pay for News' are a necessity in India too?

INTRODUCTION = Finally, Indian authorities have moved – the Competition Commission of India has ordered a probe against Google for its 'alleged' abuse of dominant position in news aggregation.

1. This follows, much later than it should have, in the footsteps of actions in **Australia, which last year passed a law that required tech platforms like Google and Facebook to fairly pay local media outlets for linking their content in news feeds or search results.**



2. France has implemented the EU's updated copyright rules that require digital platforms to compensate news publishers for previews of news content. This forced Facebook last October to sign a deal with a French lobby group that represents 300 French publishers.

Application to India -

- The world's second-largest online market and biggest democracy needs equally strong action against tech giants.
- The health of Indian democracy depends on a financially viable, independent news media.
- As online news consumption increases, the current system becomes more and more unfair to news publishers.
- Google and Facebook dominate internet traffic, and they take away as much as 70-80% of advertising revenue that comes from digital consumption of news.
- This, in turn, makes mainstream news publishing, which involves gatekeeping and fact-checking and therefore has to employ trained professionals, increasingly financially unviable.
- Without responsibly produced news, we are left with the social media jungle of half-truths, lies, fake content, superstition, manipulation and hate-mongering.
- The world has already seen the chaos this can wreak. Tech giants falsely argue that they bring substantial traffic to news publishers. It works both ways. Around 40% of trending queries on Google are news-related, bringing considerable traffic to it.
- So, tech giants basically get a near free ride. It is logical and fair that online platforms equitably share online ad revenues with news publishers. Hopefully, CCI's action will lead quickly to necessary rules that ensure this.

GS 2

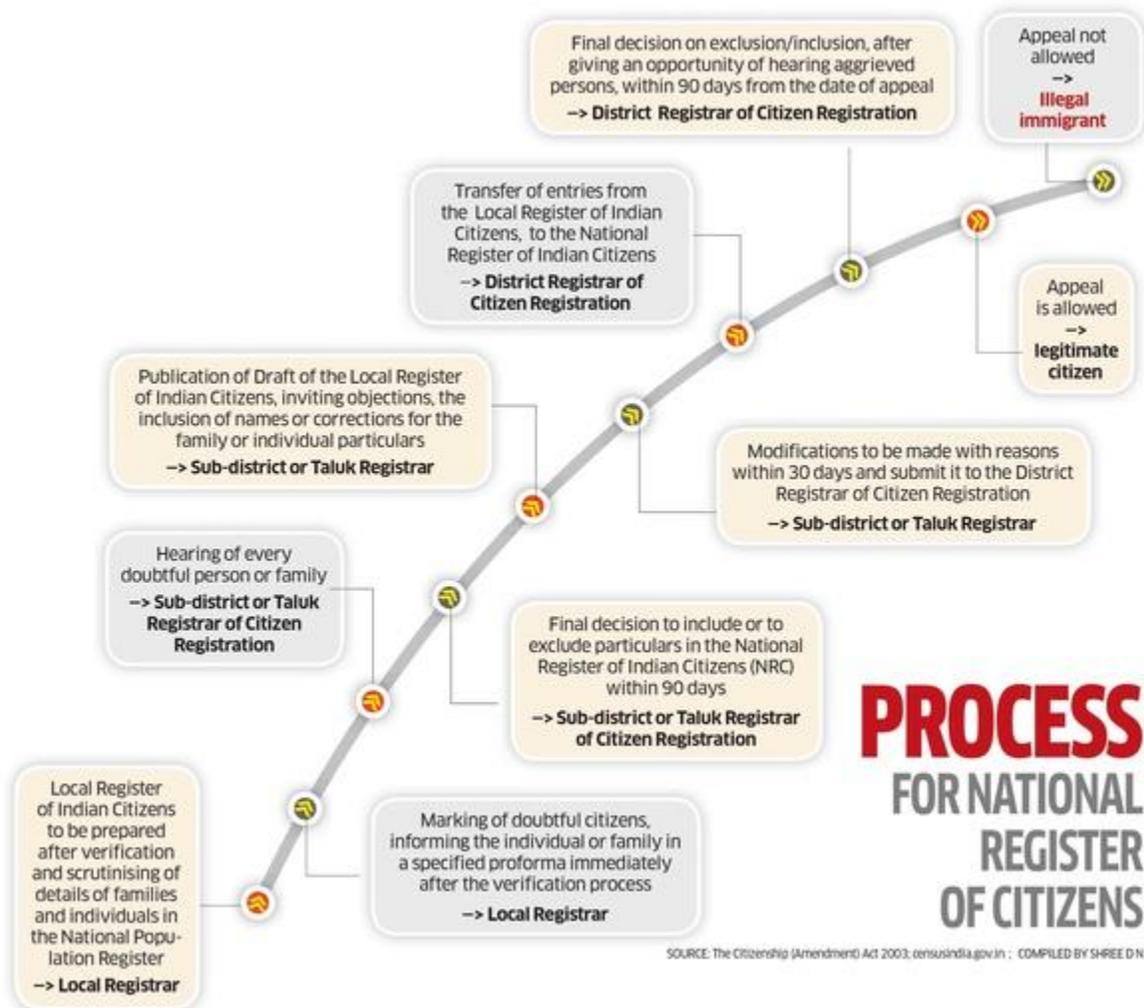
❖ Governance

Q- Briefly describing the journey of the Citizenship Amendment Act, justify its multiple extensions till date?

BACKGROUND = The CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019 and the Act was notified within 24 hours on December 12. In January 2020, the Ministry notified that the Act will come into force from January 10, 2020.

The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014. It exempts the members of the six communities from any criminal case

under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport Act, 1920. The two Acts specify punishment for entering the country illegally and staying here on expired visas and permits.



Challenges –

As many as 83 persons were killed in protests and riots from December 2019-March 2020 in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya and Delhi after the CAA was passed.

There are apprehensions that the CAA, followed by a country-wide compilation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), will benefit non-Muslims excluded from the proposed citizens' register, while excluded Muslims will have to prove their citizenship.

Recent Developments -

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) did not notify the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 rules, the third extended deadline after the Act was passed.

- January 9 was the last day of an extension it sought from the two parliamentary committees in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to frame the rules.
- It was not imminently clear if the Ministry had sought more time from the committee on subordinate legislation in the two Houses of Parliament to notify rules that will govern the CAA. Without rules, the Act cannot be implemented. Earlier, it had sought time till

April 9, 2021 and then July 9, 2021 from the committees to notify the rules which are to be published in the Gazette of India.

- The MHA did not respond if an extension has been sought from the committees.

“The persons covered under the CAA may apply for citizenship after the rules are notified under the CAA.”

“Eligible person covered by this Amendment Act may submit applications for grant of citizenship after appropriate rules are notified by the Central government.”

As per the Manual on Parliamentary Work, in case the ministries/departments are not able to frame the rules within the prescribed period of six months after legislation is passed, “they should seek extension of time from the committee stating reasons” which cannot be more than for a period of three months at a time.

❖ International Relations

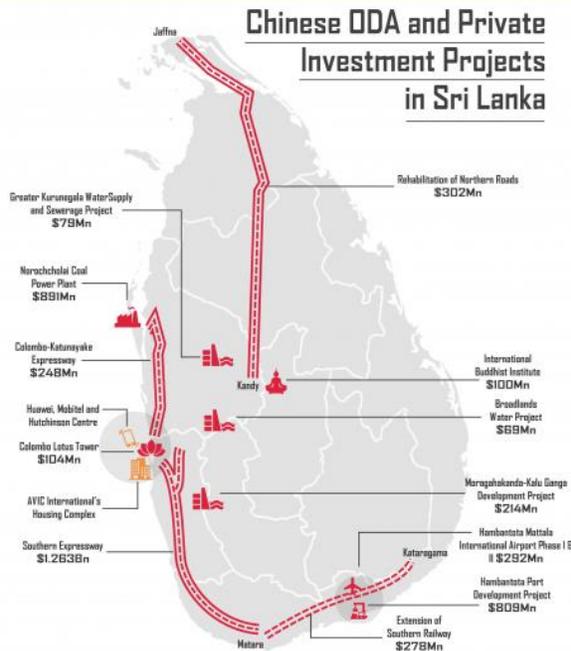
Q- Why is Sri Lanka seeking a debt restructure with China?

BACKGROUND = Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa sought Chinese assistance to restructure the debt owed by the island nation to the Asian giant.

The President pointed out that it would be a great relief to the country if the attention could be paid on restructuring the debt repayments as a solution to the economic crisis that has arisen in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Sri Lanka owes China over \$5 billion, amounting to about 10 % of the country’s total foreign debt.
2. The country’s foreign reserves rapidly declining following the devastating impact of the pandemic on its crucial export and tourism sectors over the last two years.

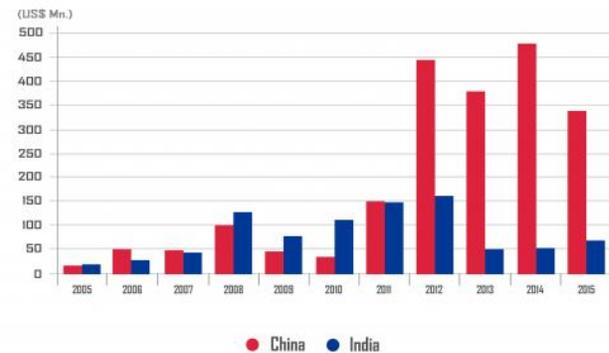
CHINESE INVESTMENTS IN SRI LANKA (2005-15)



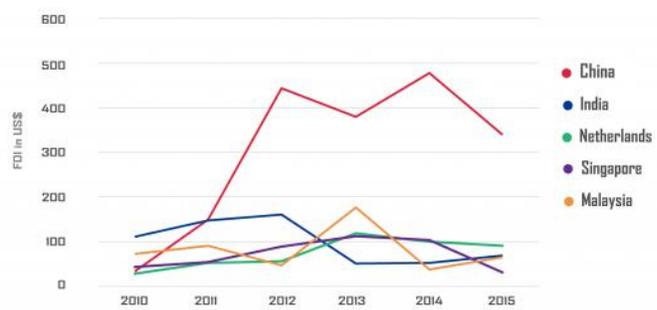
Investment in various Sectors



FDI from China and India



Top Five FDI Sources (2010 -15)



3. In November, Sri Lanka's foreign reserves stood at \$1.6 billion, triggering widespread concern about how Colombo might pay its high imports bill, especially when the Sri Lankan rupee has considerably weakened.

India- Sri Lanka -

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa made a similar request to New Delhi in February 2020 for a debt moratorium, but there has been no response since.

While it remains to be seen when and how much assistance comes Colombo's way in the coming weeks, the country must prepare to meet its daunting foreign debt obligations for 2022, totalling over \$7 billion, including bond repayments of \$500 million in January and \$1 billion in July.

Besides requesting China to help Sri Lanka attract Chinese tourists, President Gotabaya said that if a concessional trade credit scheme could be initiated for imports from China, it would enable industries to operate smoothly. China is Sri Lanka's largest partner for imports, with 22 % of the island nation's imports originating from China.

GS 3**❖ Economic Development**

Q- What is the significance of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to India and state some of the reasons why?

BACKGROUND = The AIIB, launched in Beijing in 2015, has approved more loans for India than any other member of the bank.

Global Financial Institutions Compared

WORLD BANK	IMF	ADB	AIIB
1944	1944	1966	2015
188 MEMBER COUNTRIES	188 MEMBER COUNTRIES	67 MEMBERS	57 FOUNDING MEMBERS
US LARGEST SHAREHOLDER	US LARGEST SHAREHOLDER	JAPAN LARGEST SHAREHOLDER	CHINA LARGEST SHAREHOLDER
REDUCE POVERTY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	PROMOTE MONETARY STABILITY GOAL	REDUCE POVERTY GOAL	ADDRESS ASIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE GAP GOAL
12,000 STAFF 130 NATIONS	2,600 STAFF 147 NATIONS	3,000 STAFF 60 NATIONS	IN PLANNING
\$223 BILLION SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	\$370 BILLION SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	\$165 BILLION SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	\$100 BILLION AND RISING SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL
US VETO POWER	US VETO POWER	NO VETO POWER	CHINA TO FORGO VETO
WASHINGTON	WASHINGTON	MANILA	BEIJING

- China is its biggest shareholder and India is the second-largest.
- The U.S. and Japan are not among its 104 members.
- The AIIB has funded 28 projects in India amounting to \$6.7 billion. The bank had “a very strong pipeline of projects” with regard to India and had transitioned away from mostly co-financing projects with the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Initially, 70-80% of the projects were co-financed but now that share of projects is standalone.
- It has recently emphasised green projects and supporting public health initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic, besides infrastructure.
- In October, India applied for loans from the AIIB and ADB to procure 667 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines with the ADB expected to lend \$1.5 billion and the AIIB around \$500 million, under the ADB’s Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) initiative.
- Last year, the AIIB also approved a \$356.67 million loan to the Indian government to support the expansion of the Chennai metro rail system.

- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed vice-president of the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Mr. Patel will serve a three-year term as one of the multilateral development bank's five vice-presidents, and will take the place of former Gujarat Chief Secretary D.J. Pandian who had been, as Vice-President, leading the AIIB's investment operations and all sovereign and non-sovereign lending in South and Southeast Asia. Mr. Patel had resigned as RBI Governor in December 2018 in a surprise decision, citing "personal reasons" after serving for two years.



Q- Planning Commission as well as the NITI Aayog were set up through

- a) Legislation
- b) Subordinate Legislation
- c) Cabinet Resolution
- d) Ordinance (as Parliament was not in Session).



Q- Which of the following Acts led to the separation of Burma from India?

- a) The Government of India Act, 1909
- b) The Government of India Act, 1919
- c) The Government of India Act, 1935
- d) The Indian Independence Act, 1947

Answer: c

One of the important provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935 was that Burma was separated from India with effect from April 1937. Hence, option (c) is correct. The Government of India Act 1935 provided a new Burma Office, in preparation for the establishment of Burma as a separate colony, but the same Secretary of State headed both Departments and was designated as the Secretary of State for India and Burma. The first secretary of state for India and Burma was Lord Dundas. The India Office of the Secretary of State for India and Burma came to an end in 1947. Viscount Ennismore was the first and last Secretary of Burma, as Burma got its independence in 1948.

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