



The Gateway to Success

+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

12.01.2022

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



INDEX

GS 2

1. India's concerns with respect to China and Sri Lanka bilateral relations.....04
2. CEPA between India and South Korea.....05
3. Academic Bank of Credit.....07

GS 3

1. Appeal was filed by India in the WTO's Appellate Body.....08



GS-2

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) Analyse India's concerns with respect to China and Sri Lanka bilateral relations.

Context:

Recently, the Chinese Foreign Minister (CFM) visited Sri Lanka. At a meeting, CFM proposed a forum for Indian Ocean Island nations and also asserted that no "third party" should interfere in China-Sri Lanka ties. While the name of the third party was not revealed, it was a clear reference to India.

Highlights of CFM Visit to Sri Lanka

- The CFM visit envisaged launching celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the historic Rubber-Rice Pact 1952 and the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Sri Lanka.
- Under the Rubber-Rice Pact, China needed to import rubber and other supplies and Sri Lanka, for whom rubber was a key export, was facing a rise in the price of rice and a slump in the price of rubber.
- CFM asserted that the two sides should make good use of "the two engines", referring to the Colombo Port City in Colombo and the Hambantota Port (also in Sri Lanka).
- He urged Sri Lanka to consider the prospects of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and restart talks on a free-trade agreement.
- A "forum on the development of Indian Ocean Island countries" to build consensus and synergy and promote common development, was also proposed.

India's Concerns:

- Opposition to SAGAR Initiative: The proposed Indian Ocean Island countries forum sounded in opposition to Prime Minister of India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative. SAGAR is India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Issues Emanating from Two Engines of Growth: China has formal control over Sri Lanka's Hambantota port as a part of a 99-year lease.



- Sri Lanka has decided to establish a Special Economic Zone around the Colombo port city and a new economic commission, to be funded by China. The Colombo port handles 60% of India's trans-shipment cargo.
- Leasing of Hambantota and the Colombo Port City project makes it almost certain for the Chinese navy to have a permanent presence in the Indian Ocean which will be worrisome for India's national security. This Chinese strategy to encircle India is referred to as the Strings of Pearls Strategy.
- Other South Asian nations like Bangladesh, Nepal and the Maldives have also been turning to China to finance large-scale infrastructure projects.

Way Forward

- ✓ Preserving Strategic Interests: Nurturing the Neighbourhood First policy with Sri Lanka is important for India to preserve its strategic interests in the Indian Ocean region.
- ✓ Taking Advantage of Regional Platforms: Platforms like the BIMSTEC, SAARC, SAGAR and the IORA could be leveraged to foster cooperation in fields like technology-driven agriculture, marine sector development, IT & communication infrastructure etc.
- ✓ Restraining Chinese Expansion: India will need to continue to work on the Kankasanturai port in Jaffna and the oil tank farm project in Trincomalee to ensure that China does not make any further inroads in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Both countries can also cooperate on enhancing private sector investments to create economic resilience.
- ✓ In the technology sector, India can create job opportunities in Sri Lanka by expanding the presence of its IT companies. These organizations can create thousands of direct and indirect jobs and boost the island nation's service economy.

SNIPPETS

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) Explain the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and South Korea.

Context:

Recently, the Trade Minister of South Korea held discussions with the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles.

**CEPA Up-gradation:**

Both countries agreed to impart fresh momentum to the discussions on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) up-gradation negotiations and also promote extensive B2B (business-to-business) interactions on trade and investment between the industry leaders of the two countries.

Bilateral Trade Target:

- India and South Korea set a bilateral trade target of USD50 billion before 2030, which was agreed at the summit meeting in 2018.
- These regular negotiations shall be a forum to discuss the difficulties of the business community from both countries and emerging trade-related issues including supply chain resilience.
- Agreed to boost bilateral trade between India and Korea to achieve growth in a fair and balanced manner to the mutual advantage of both sides.
- Indian players have been facing difficulties in exporting their products in Korea in sectors such as steel, engineering, and agri products due to stringent regulatory issues in Korea.
- The trade deficit has increased from USD5 billion in 2008-09 to USD8 billion in 2020-21.

❖ POLITY

Q) What is the significance of Academic Bank of Credit?

Context:

The government has brought the IITs, IIMs and other Institutions of National Importance (INIs) under the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) framework, which allows students to pursue up to 50 per cent of a course from institutions other than the one with which they are enrolled. Academic

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES IS NOW MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

FOR SCHOOLS
From 10+2 to 5+3+3+4: Current 10+2 structure in which policy covered schooling from Class 1 to 10 (age 6-16) and then Class 11-12 (age 16-18) gives way to 5 years of foundational education, 3 of preparatory, 3 of middle & 4 years of secondary schooling

Multi-Stream: Flexibility to choose subjects across streams; all subjects to be offered at two levels of proficiency

Diluted Board: Board exams to test only core competencies; could become modular (object and subjective) and will be offered twice a year

Multilingual: 3-language policy to continue with preference for local language medium of instruction till class 8

Bag-Less Days: School students to have 10 bag-less days in a year during which they are exposed to a vocation of choice (i.e. Informal internship)

FOR COLLEGES
SAT-Like College Test: National Testing Agency to conduct common college entrance exam twice a year

4-Year Bachelor: 4-year multi-disciplinary bachelor's programme to be preferred; mid-term dropouts to be given credit with option to complete degree after a break

No Affiliation: Over next 15 years colleges will be given graded autonomy to give degrees, affiliation with universities to end, so would deemed university status

Fee Cap: Proposal to cap fee charged by private institutions of higher learning

Going Global: Top-rated global universities to be facilitated to come to India, top Indian institutions to be encouraged to go global

TOI FOR MORE INFOGRAPHICS DOWNLOAD **TIMES OF INDIA APP**

Bank of Credit (ABC) is proposed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Significance of ABC:

- Under the ABC, students will be given multiple entry and exit options.
- This enables students to leave a degree or course and get a corresponding certification and rejoin studies after a certain time and be able to start from where they had left.
- It will also provide students with the flexibility to move between institutes while pursuing one degree or leave a course.
- ABC will keep records of the academic credits of a student. It will not accept any credit course document directly from the students for any course they might be pursuing, but only from higher education institutes, who will have to make deposits in students' accounts.
- ABC will help in credit verification, credit accumulation, credit transfer and redemption of students, and promotion of the students.

GS-3

❖ ECONOMY

Q) "The WTO dispute settlement panel has found India's domestic support and export subsidy measures in the sugar sector to be in violation of international trade rules." Discuss.

Context:

India has appealed against a ruling of the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) trade dispute settlement panel on domestic sugar subsidies, stating that the panel has committed "certain errors of law" in its report. The appeal was filed by India in the WTO's Appellate Body, which is the final authority on such trade disputes.

Complaint against India:

- Australia, Brazil, and Guatemala said India's domestic support and export subsidy measures appeared to be inconsistent with various articles of the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM), and Article XVI (which concerns subsidies) of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).
- All three countries complained that India provides domestic support to sugarcane producers that exceeds the de minimis level of 10% of the total value of sugarcane production, which they said was inconsistent with the Agreement on Agriculture.
- They also raised the issue of India's alleged export subsidies, subsidies under the production assistance and buffer stock schemes, and the marketing and transportation scheme.
- Australia accused India of "failing" to notify its annual domestic support for sugarcane and sugar subsequent to 1995-96, and its export subsidies since 2009-10, which it said were inconsistent with the provisions of the SCM Agreement.
- A panel was set up by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO to look into the case and come up with its report.

India's appeal:

- The appeal was filed by India in the WTO's Appellate Body, which is the final authority on such trade disputes.
- India has appealed and requested the body to "reverse, modify, or declare moot and of no legal effect, the findings, conclusions, rulings and recommendations of the Panel", with respect to certain "errors of law or legal interpretation contained in the panel report.

- India has sought review of the panel's finding that the scheme for providing assistance to sugar mills for expenses on marketing costs, including handling, upgrading and other processing costs and costs of international and internal transport and freight charges on the export of sugar for the 2019-20 sugar season (Maximum Admissible Export Quantity (MAEQ) Scheme), is within its terms of reference.

Panel's Findings:

- The dispute settlement panel has found India's domestic support and export subsidy measures in the sugar sector to be in violation of international trade rules.
- It found that for five consecutive sugar seasons from 2014-15 to 2018-19, India provided non-exempt product-specific domestic support to sugarcane producers in excess of the permitted level of 10% of the total value of sugarcane production.
- India argued that its "mandatory minimum prices are not paid by the central or state governments but by sugar mills, and hence do not constitute market price support", the panel rejected this argument — saying "market price support does not require governments to purchase or procure the relevant agricultural product".

Panel's Recommendation:

- ✓ India brings its WTO-inconsistent measures into conformity with its obligations under the Agreement on Agriculture and the SCM Agreement.
- ✓ India should withdraw its alleged prohibited subsidies under the Production Assistance, Buffer Stock, and Marketing and Transportation Schemes within 120 days.



Q) Which of the following is the India's first indigenous server?

- a) Param Shivay
- b) Shakti
- c) Param Brahma
- d) Rudra



Q) Consider the following statements:

- A. The first World Hindi Conference was held in Delhi on January 10, 1975.
- B. The earliest form of old Hindi was Apabhramsa.
- C. On the World Hindi Day, the Director of the World Heritage Centre has agreed to publish Hindi descriptions of India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the WHC's website.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) A and B
- b) B and C
- c) A and C
- d) A, B and C

EXPLANATION:

World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on January 10 to promote the Hindi language all around the world. It was first celebrated in 2006 to commemorate the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference which was held in Nagpur on January 10, 1975.

- Hindi got its name from the Persian word Hind, meaning 'land of the Indus River'. Turk invaders in the early 11th century named the language of the region Hindi, 'language of the land of the Indus River'.
- It is the official language of India, English being the other official language.
- Hindi is also spoken in some countries outside India, such as in Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and Nepal.
- Hindi in its present form emerged through different stages, during which it was known by other names. The earliest form of old Hindi was Apabhramsa. In 400 AD Kalidas wrote a romantic play in Apabhramsa called Vikramorvashyam.

UPSC - CSE**COMPREHENSIVE & FOUNDATION COURSE**

OFFLINE From: 22.12.2021

ONLINE From: 27.12.2021

COURSE INCLUDES:

- NCERT
- Prelims & Mains
- GS Foundation
- CSAT
- Daily Tests & Writing Practice
- Optional (ANTHROPOLOGY / TELUGU LIT.)
- Nine Months Course
- Mentoring with Individual Focus
- SAVVY Sessions
- IAO Certification of Quality

OPTIONALS

NEW OFFLINE COURSES

ANTHROPOLOGY by Mrs. SOSIN REVELLAFrom: 22nd of December 2021**OPTIONALS**

NEW ONLINE COURSES

GENERAL STUDIES

From: 24/01/2021

OPTIONALS

NEW OFFLINE COURSES

TELUGU LITERATURE by DR. GARIKIPATI SUBRAMANYAM

From 18/11/2021