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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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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q) “Demographic dividend can be reaped to achieve incredible economic growth.” Explain.

Context:

Countries like Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea have already shown us how demographic dividend can be reaped to achieve incredible economic growth by adopting forward-looking policies and programmes.

Demographic opportunity:

- With falling fertility (currently 2.0), rising median age (from 24 years in 2011, 29 years now and expected to be 36 years by 2036), a falling dependency ratio (expected to decrease from 65% to 54% in the coming decade taking 15-59 years as the working age population), India is in the middle of a demographic transition.
- This provides a window of opportunity towards faster economic growth. India has already begun to get the dividend.
- As fertility declines, the share of the young population falls and that of the older, dependent population rises.
- If the fertility decline is rapid, the increase in the population of working ages is substantial yielding the ‘demographic dividend’.
- The smaller share of children in the population enables higher investment per child.
- Therefore, the future entrants in the labour force can have better productivity and thus boost income.
- With the passage of time, the share of the older population rises and that of the working age population begins to fall and hence the dividend is available for a period of time, ‘the window of demographic opportunity’.

Need for forward-looking policies:

- ✓ Without proper policies, the increase in the working-age population may lead to rising unemployment, fueling economic and social risks.
- ✓ This calls for forward-looking policies incorporating population dynamics, education and skills, healthcare, gender sensitivity, and providing rights and choices to the younger generation.

Lessons for India:

Countries like Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea have already shown us how demographic dividend can be reaped. There are important lessons from these countries for India.

- 1) **NTA data:** The first is to undertake an updated National Transfer Accounts (NTA) assessment. Using NTA methodologies, we find that India’s per capita consumption pattern is way lower

than that of other Asian countries. A child in India consumes around 60% of the consumption by an adult aged between 20 and 64, while a child in China consumes about 85% of a prime-age adult's consumption. The NTA data for India needs to be updated to capture the progress made on such investments since 2011-12.

- 2) **Invest more in children and adolescents:** India ranks poorly in Asia in terms of private and public human capital spending. It needs to invest more in children and adolescents, particularly in nutrition and learning during early childhood.
- 3) **Make health investments:** Health spending has not kept pace with India's economic growth. The public spending on health has remained flat at around 1% of GDP. Evidence suggests that better health facilitates improved economic production. Hence, it is important to draft policies to promote health during the demographic dividend.
- 4) **Make reproductive healthcare services accessible on a rights-based approach:** We need to provide universal access to high-quality primary education and basic healthcare. The unmet need for family planning in India at 9.4% as per the latest National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) is high as compared to 3.3% in China and 6.6% in South Korea, which needs to be bridged.
- 5) **Bridge gender differentials in education:** The gender inequality of education is a concern. In India, boys are more likely to be enrolled in secondary and tertiary school than girls. This needs to be reversed.
- 6) **Increase female workforce participation:** As of 2019, 20.3% of women were working or looking for work, down from 34.1% in 2003-04. New skills and opportunities for women and girls befitting their participation in a \$3 trillion economy is urgently needed. It is predicted that if all women engaged in domestic duties in India who are willing to work had a job, female labour force participation would increase by about 20%.
- 7) **Address the diversity between States:** While India is a young country, the status and pace of population ageing vary among States. Southern States, which are advanced in demographic transition, already have a higher percentage of older people. These differences in age structure reflect differences in economic development and health – and remind us of States' very different starting points at the outset of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. But this also offers boundless opportunities for States to work together, especially on demographic transition, with the north-central region as the reservoir of India's workforce.
- 8) **Governance reform:** A new federal approach to governance reforms for demographic dividend will need to be put in place for policy coordination between States on various emerging population issues such as migration, ageing, skilling, female workforce participation and urbanisation.

Conclusion

In India, the benefit to the GDP from demographic transition has been lower than its peers in Asia and is already tapering. Hence, there is an urgency to take appropriate policy measures.

GS-2

❖ POLITY

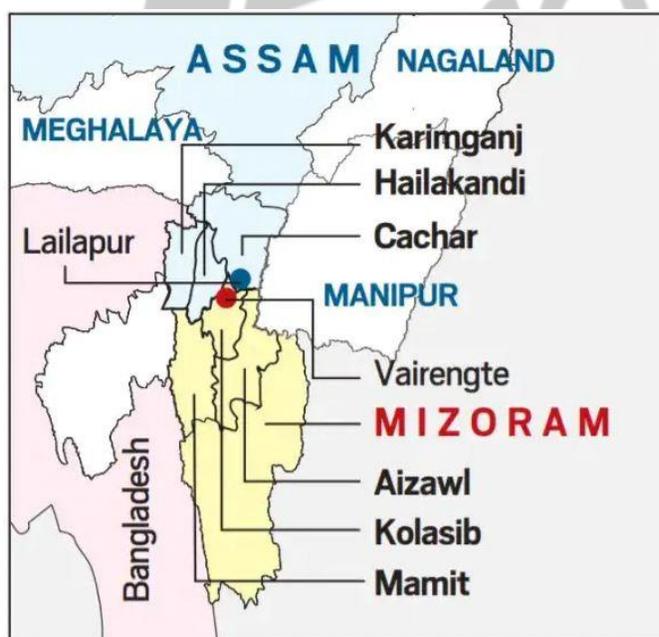
Q) Examine the boundary dispute between Assam and Meghalaya.

Context:

Union Home Minister is expected to seal the final agreement to end the dispute in six areas of the Assam-Meghalaya boundary ahead of Meghalaya's 50th Statehood Day celebration on January 21.

Assam-Meghalaya Boundary Dispute:

- Assam has had a boundary dispute with Mizoram for decades and several rounds of talks have been held since 1994-95 to solve the issue.
- Till 1972, Mizoram was a part of Assam and acquired full statehood in 1987.
- The 164.6 km-long border between the States runs along with Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj districts in Assam and Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl districts in Mizoram.
- There are several border areas where violence has been reported.

**Roots of the dispute:**

- In the Northeast's complex boundary equations, showdowns between Assam and Mizoram residents are less frequent than they are.
- The boundary between present-day Assam and Mizoram, 165 km long today, dates back to the colonial era when Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam.
- The dispute stems from a notification of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar, and another of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.
- Mizoram believes the boundary should be demarcated on the basis of the 1875 notification, which is derived from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act, 1873.
- Mizo leaders have argued in the past argued against the demarcation notified in 1933 because Mizo society was not consulted.

Other boundary disputes in North-East:

- ✓ The states of the Northeast were largely carved out of Assam, which has border disputes with several states.
- ✓ During British rule, Assam included present-day Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya besides Mizoram, which became separate state one by one. Today, Assam has boundary problems with each of them.
- ✓ Nagaland shares a 500-km boundary with Assam.
- ✓ In two major incidents of violence in 1979 and 1985, at least 100 persons were killed. The boundary dispute is now in the Supreme Court
- ✓ On the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary (over 800 km), clashes were first reported in 1992, according to the same research paper.

Since then, there have been several accusations of illegal encroachment from both sides, and intermittent clashes. This boundary issue is being heard by the Supreme Court. The 884-km Assam-Meghalaya boundary, too, witnesses flare-ups frequently. As per Meghalaya government statements, today there are 12 areas of dispute between the two states.

SNIPPETS**Q) What is Henley Passport Index 2022? Explain its significance.****Context:**

India has been ranked 83rd in the most powerful passport report 'Henley Passport Index 2022'. India's passport power has improved this quarter compared to 2021 climbing seven places from 90th rank last year. The current rankings are for the first quarter of 2022.

About the Index:

- The Henley Passport Index is the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- Originally created by Dr. Christian H. Kaelin (chairman of Henley & Partners), the ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information.
- It was launched in 2006 and includes 199 different passports.
- It is updated in real time throughout the year as and when visa policy changes come into effect.

Global Rankings:

- Japan and Singapore top the index.
- Germany and South Korea held onto the joint second spot on the latest ranking, while Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Spain shared third place.
- Afghanistan and Iraq continue to be in the 'worst passports to hold' category.

India's Performance:

- In 2020, India stood at 84 while in 2016, India was ranked 85th along with Mali and Uzbekistan.
- India (83rd in 2022) shares the position with Sao Tome and Principe in Central Africa, behind Rwanda and Uganda.
- India now has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide with Oman and Armenia being the latest additions. India has added 35 more destinations since 2006.

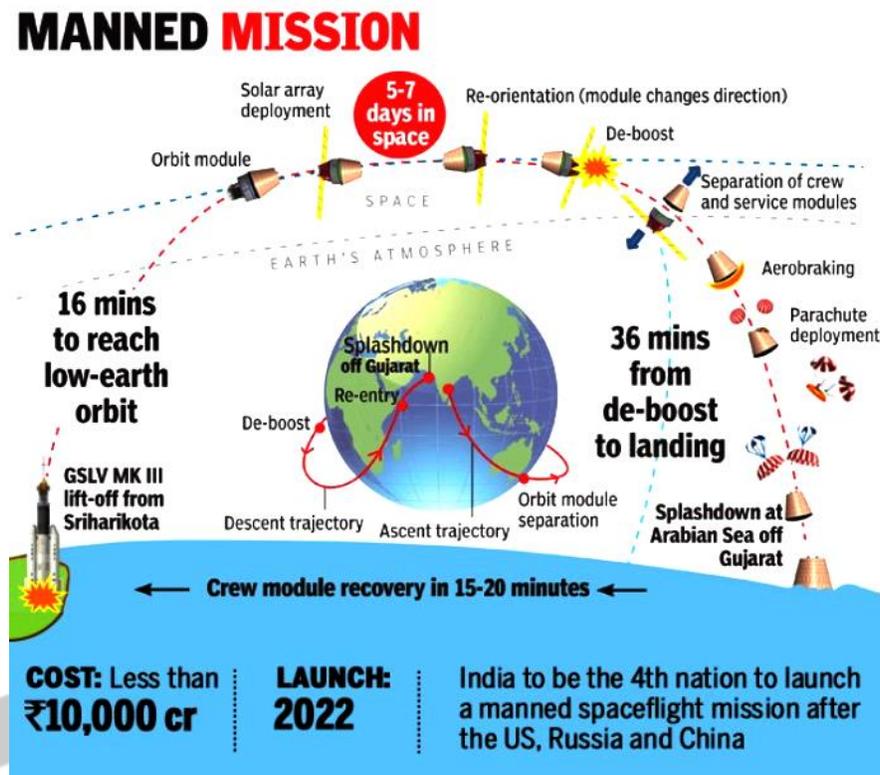
GS-3**❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****Q) Explain the significance of the Gaganyaan mission.****Context:**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently successfully conducted the qualification test of Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan programme for a duration of 720 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Tamil Nadu's Mahendragiri. The performance of the engine met the test objectives, and the engine parameters were closely matching with the predictions during the entire duration of the test.

Significance of the Gaganyaan Mission:

- This successful long-duration test is a major milestone for the Human Space Programme – Gaganyaan. It ensures the reliability and robustness of the cryogenic engine for induction into the human-rated launch vehicle for Gaganyaan.
- The objective of the Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to low earth orbit on board an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back to earth safely.
- Formal announcement of the Gaganyaan programme was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address on August 15, 2018. The initial target was to launch the human spaceflight before the 75th anniversary of India's independence on August 15, 2022.

- With this launch, India will become the fourth nation in the world to launch a Human Spaceflight Mission after the USA, Russia and China.



Manned Space Mission for India:

- **Boost to industries:** The Indian industry will find large opportunities through participation in the highly demanding Space missions. Gaganyaan Mission is expected to source nearly 60% of its equipment from the Indian private sector.
- **Employment:** According to the ISRO chief, the Gaganyaan mission would create 15,000 new employment opportunities, 13,000 of them in private industry and the space organisation would need an additional manpower of 900.
- **Spurs research and development:** It will thrust significant research in areas such as materials processing, astro-biology, resources mining, planetary chemistry, planetary orbital calculus and many other areas.
- **Motivation:** Human space flight will provide that inspiration to the youth and also the national public mainstream. It would inspire the young generation into notable achievements and enable them to play their legitimate role in challenging future activities.
- **Prestige:** India could potentially become the fourth country to launch a human space mission. The Gaganyaan will not only bring about prestige to the nation but also establish India's role as a key player in the space industry.



Q) Which of the following operates on “Fire and Forget” principle?

- a) INS Vishakapatnam
- b) BrahMos
- c) Dhanush
- d) Prithvi-III



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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The first supercomputer assembled indigenously, called Param Shivay, was installed in IIT (BHU).
- Similar systems Param Shakti and Param Brahma were installed at IIT-Kharagpur and IISER, Pune. They are equipped with applications from domains like Weather and Climate, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Bioinformatics, and Material science.
- The Minister of State (MoS) launched India’s first indigenous server Rudra. It was developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) supported by electronics ministry.

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