

SosinClasses

INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION

(IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS, IRMS, IFoS & Other Civil Services)

Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyderabad

+91-90000 36699 / 9000066690

DAILY NEWS DIARY

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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.

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GS 2

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) Explain the growing significance of Indo-German partnership in enhancing India's global interests.

Context:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Berlin for the biennial Inter-Governmental Consultations. The IGC invitation was initiated by Germany during the Ukraine crisis, indicating the importance of India as a global partner.

Mutual interests of India and Germany:

- India and Germany are strategic partners. The partnership mostly deals with climate and sustainability issues. There are no traditional strategic elements like space, nuclear, or defence partnerships.
- Nevertheless, there is a strategic aspect to the revival amid the Ukraine crisis and the reordering it brings.
- Germany and India are supporters of globalisation. Unilateral sanctions ruin the gains that have occurred. It's in mutual interest to preserve these.
- Germany is the most reluctant in Europe to impose sanctions on Russia and on curbing engagement. It will suffer immense pain with the reduction in Russian energy supplies.
- Germany and India agree that Russia cannot be isolated, remain engaged with it and insist it must play within the rules.
- The need to preserve the sanctity of the G20, which India will host in 2023, is paramount. Germany would be happy to have India's voice at the next G7 summit in June.

Common concerns regarding China:

- With the Russian policy in tatters, the China-cautious partners seek to deal with Beijing as a systemic rival. The action against Russia could continue towards China.
- India does not want Russian action in Ukraine to distract from Chinese transgressions. A commonality of view on the threat from China to the international order is another aspect of the Indo-German strategic understanding.
- The elements in Germany who are anxious about China are also deeply green. They should be happy with India because over the last decade, the Indo-German partnership has deepened its climate friendly agenda.
- More than €1 billion annually is committed by Germany for various green ideas, including solar power, electric mobility, smart cities and Namami Gange. An enhanced partnership on climate, green infrastructure, sustainability and development for the next decade will be the mainstay of the Indo-German strategic partnership.

Trade and investment objectives:

1. Germany needs to enhance its trade and investment with India, which its Indo-Pacific policy guidelines advocate. The recent visit of the German state secretary for economic

cooperation and the brighter prospects for the India-EU FTA and investment agreements are encouraging.

2. German companies are moving from their individual production approach to supply chain production lines. By establishing regional or global manufacturing hubs in India, they may utilise India's FTA with ASEAN and access to Africa to enhance exports from India and attain the goals of the Indo-Pacific guidelines.
3. This could well be a type of China +1 policy. If this can be embedded in the German thinking, and used to wean Germany incrementally away from China, it will be a strategic boost to the Indo-German partnership.

Source: Times of India

Q) Explain the significance of Chittagong Port to India.

Context:

In a major development in India-Bangladesh ties, India has now gained access to the crucial Chittagong Port after it was offered by Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina.



Chittagong Port:

- The Chittagong/Chattogram Port is the main seaport of Bangladesh.
- It is located in the port city of Chittagong and on the banks of the Karnaphuli River,
- The port handles eighty percent of Bangladesh's export-import trade, and has been used by India, Nepal and Bhutan for transshipment.
- According to Lloyd's, it ranked as the 58th busiest container port in the world in 2019. The port is one of the oldest in the world.
- Chittagong Port is now being developed and modernized with Chinese investment and help.
- It was widely believed that China will retain the right to use this port according to its plans and needs.

Significance of the port:

- The use of Chattogram port was made possible under an agreement that allows the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports as transshipment hubs.
- The port is significance for north-eastern states for enhancing connectivity between the neighboring countries.
- This will reduce the distance, time and cost of logistics for transporting goods.

- Currently, the road route between West Bengal to the northeast covers a distance of over 1,200 km.

Some of the benefits India hopes from this new and shorter route are:

1. An additional connectivity route that's economical and environment-friendly
2. States like Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya to get access to a port for transportation of goods
3. Lend a fillip to multi-modal connectivity between India and Bangladesh
4. Ease stress on supply chains that have been disrupted by the pandemic
5. Important bridge for India to reach Southeast Asia, East Asia and beyond

Benefits for Bangladesh:

- Fresh investment flow in the logistics sector
- New trade routes are expected to generate employment and give a fillip to transport, finance and insurance.
- Generate revenue by way of administrative and port-related fees
- Lead to economic transformation of cities such as Cumilla, Tamabil and Akhaura as well.

Conclusion:

India has settled the four-decade-old land boundary issue and also showing positive attitude towards Teesta water sharing issue. At this moment, it is normal that Bangladesh would show some liberality towards use of ports.

Source: The Economic Times

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Elucidate the dual governance dilemmas in the Nation's capital New Delhi.

Context:

New Delhi has been at the flashpoint of innumerable power struggles these days. In the absence of statehood for Delhi, there has been a prolonged confrontation on the relative powers of the territorial administration and the Union government.

Dilemmas of Dual Governance:

- Article 239AA of the Constitution of India granted Special Status to Delhi among Union Territories (UTs) in the year 1991 through the 69th constitutional amendment.
- It provided a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers responsible to such Assembly with appropriate powers.
- That's when Delhi was named as the National Capital Region (NCT) of Delhi.
- As per this article – Public Order, Police & Land in NCT of Delhi fall within the domain and control of Central Government which shall have the power to make laws on these matters.
- For remaining matters of State List or Concurrent List, in so far as any such matter is applicable to UTs, the Legislative Assembly shall have the power to make laws for NCT of Delhi.

Centre-State Dispute:

- Delhi was given a fully elected legislative assembly and a responsible government through an amendment in the constitution in 1991.
- Since 1991, Delhi had been made a UT with an assembly with “limited legislative powers”.
- Cordial relations have prevailed between the Central and Delhi governments since 1996 and all differences have been resolved through discussions – with a few exceptions.

Lt. Governor vs the CM:

- The Article 239AA while conferring on the assembly the power to legislate on all matters in the state list as well as the concurrent list except land, police and public order – contained one sore point.
- It said that in case of a difference between the L-G and the council of ministers, the matter shall be referred to the president by the LG for his decision and pending such decision the LG can take any action on the matter as he thinks fit.
- It is this issue that the constitution bench of the Supreme Court resolved in 2018, when it said that the government does not have to seek the concurrence of the L-G on its decisions.
- Any differences between them should be resolved to keep in view the constitutional primacy of representative government and co-operative federalism.
- It is after this judgement, the Centre brought up this Bill.

NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

- Among the major proposed amendments, one makes it explicitly clear that the term “government” in any law made by the Legislative Assembly shall mean the L-G.
- This, essentially, gives effect to the former L-G 2015 assertion that “Government means the Lieutenant Governor of the NCT of Delhi appointed by the President under Article 239 and designated as such under Article 239 AA of the Constitution”.
- The Bill adds that the L-G’s opinion shall be obtained before the government takes any executive action based on decisions taken by the Cabinet or any individual minister.

Source: The Hindu

GS 3**❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Q) Analyse the causes that triggers battery fires and safety measures to mitigate the battery fires.

Context:

The Union government has constituted an expert panel to probe the recent series of battery explosions in electric vehicles (EVs).

Why is the world poised to transition to electric vehicles?

- The growing concern over climate change has led to global efforts to electrify the transportation sector.
- In parallel, cost of Li-ion (Lithium-ion) battery technology has decreased by a staggering order of magnitude in the past decade.
- The convergence of these two factors has resulted in a unique time in our history where we are at the cusp of a dramatic transition in the transportation sector.
- There are multiple trade-offs in this complex ecosystem: engineering higher safety often results in higher costs and lower driving range.
- In this competitive landscape where companies are vying for market share, a race to the bottom can compromise safety.

A race to nowhere

- The world has taken note of this moment with governments providing incentives to usher in the transition and private industry ramping up plans for capturing the market.
- There is a worldwide race emerging, with vehicle companies, battery manufacturers, and material suppliers vying with each other for market share.
- However, Li-ion batteries are complex devices requiring a level of sophistication that can take years to perfect.
- Hurrying the development of this complex technology without careful safeguards are leading to increasing safety incidents, as evidenced recently on Indian roads.

Li-ion battery:

Every Li-ion battery consists of three active components:

1. Anode: typically, graphite
2. Cathode: based on a nickel, cobalt, and manganese-based oxide; and
3. Electrolyte: A salt of lithium in an inorganic solvent

Battery cells are assembled into modules and then further assembled into packs. Li-ion batteries require tight control on the state of charge and the temperature of operation to enhance safety and increase usable life, achieved by adding multiple sensors. Packs are designed to ensure uniform temperature profile with minimal thermal variation during operation.

Causes of battery fires:

- Battery fires, like other fires, occur due to the convergence of three parts of the “fire triangle”: heat, oxygen, and fuel.
- If an adverse event such as a short circuit occurs in the battery, the internal temperature can raise as the anode and cathode release their energy through the short.
- This, in turn, can lead to a series of reactions from the battery materials, especially the cathode, that release heat in an uncontrolled manner, along with oxygen.
- Such events also rupture the sealed battery further exposing the components to outside air and the second part of the fire triangle, namely, oxygen.
- The final component of the triangle is the liquid electrolyte, which is highly flammable and serves as a fuel.
- The combination leads to a catastrophic failure of the battery resulting in smoke, heat, and fire, released instantaneously and explosively.

What triggers battery fire?

- The trigger for such events can be a result of internal shorts (like a manufacturing defect that results in sharp objects penetrating the separator).
- The external events may be accident leading to puncture of the cell and shorting of the electrodes, overcharging the battery.
- Any of these triggers may cascade into a significant safety incident.

Battery safety:

- ✓ Safety remains a concern for Li-ion manufacturers worldwide especially as cell sizes become larger for applications such as solar-connected storage.
- ✓ There is a need to remove the threat of battery fires as the roll out of mass electrification takes place.

Source: The Hindu

SNIPPETS**GS 2****❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE**

Q) "Introduction of Bhagwat Gita, Veda-Puran, and Upanishads in the school syllabus in school syllabus". Explain.

Context:

Uttarakhand education minister Dhan Singh Rawat on Sunday said the state government will include the study of religious texts like Bhagwat Gita, Veda-Puran, and Upanishads in the school syllabus.

Gita in school syllabus:

- The aim of introducing these texts in the curriculum is to acquaint school students with their culture and traditional Indian knowledge.
- Uttarakhand will become the first state to implement the NEP in upcoming academic session.
- The Gujarat government has already introduced the study of Bhagwat Gita in the school curriculum. Himachal Pradesh has done it too.

Source: Times of India

Q) Atal Innovation Mission is set up under which of the following ministries?

- a. Department of Science and Technology
- b. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- c. NITI Aayog
- d. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

Q) Recently, Google signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which of the following State government with an aim of supporting and accelerating the state's vision to leverage technology for the purpose of inclusive social development and sustainable economic development?

- a. Andhra Pradesh
- b. Telangana
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Karnataka

Answer: b

Explanation:

- On 28th April 2022, Google announced that it is collaborating with the state government of Telangana and signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the aim of supporting and accelerating the state's vision to leverage technology for the purpose of inclusive social development and sustainable economic development.
- Under this MoU, Google will be extending Google Career Certificate scholarships to the youngsters of the state to make them job-ready.
- Google will also be collaborating with the Telangana government to support the state's women entrepreneurs through business, digital, and financial skills training.
- Google will also be strengthening the government's school modernization efforts via learning and digital teaching tools and solutions.
- The organization will also be looking to support the government's efforts of using digital technologies in agriculture and improving public transportation.

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- HISTORY MODULE FROM 10th May to 20th May 2022
- CURRENT AFFAIRS MODULE FROM 13th May to 19th May 2022

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