

SosinClasses

INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION

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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

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Explain the constitutional provisions for remission and the new norms issued by the Union Home Ministry.

Context:

The Union Home Ministry issued a set of guidelines to the States and the Union Territories on the grant of special remission to prisoners to commemorate the 75th year of Independence.

The decision comes as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The special remission would be granted to a certain category of prisoners, and they would be released in three phases.

Remission:

- The suspension is the stay or postponement of the execution of the sentence.
- In remission, the duration of the sentence is reduced, without changing the nature of the sentence.
- In remission, the nature of the sentence is remained untouched, while the duration is reduced i.e. the rest of the sentence need not be undergone.
- The effect of the remission is that the prisoner is given a certain date on which he shall be released and the eyes of the law he would be a free man.
- However, in case of breach of any of the condition of remission, it will be cancelled and the offender has to serve the entire term for which he was originally sentenced.

Constitutional provisions for Remission:

- 'Prisons' is a State subject under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- Indian laws provide pardoning power sourcing from statutory and constitutional authorities.
- By virtue of Article 72 and 161 of the Constitution of India, the President and Governor can grant pardon, to suspend, remit or commute a sentence passed by the courts.

New norms:

The prisoners who would qualify for premature release under the scheme are:

1. Women and transgender convicts of ages 50 and above.
2. Male convicts of 60 and above who have completed 50% of their total sentence period without counting the period of general remission earned.
3. Physically challenged or disabled convicts with 70% disability and more who have completed 50% of their total sentence period.
4. Terminally ill convicts.
5. Convicted prisoners who have completed two-thirds (66%) of their total sentence.

6. Poor or indigent prisoners who have completed their sentence but are still in jail due to non-payment of fine imposed on them by waiving off the fine.
7. Persons who committed an offence at a young age (18-21) and with no other criminal involvement or case against them and who have completed 50% of their sentence period would also be eligible for the remission.

Exceptions to these norms:

Following persons would not be eligible for the grant of special remission:

- Persons convicted with death sentence or where death sentence has been commuted to life imprisonment or persons convicted for an offence for which punishment of death has been specified as one of the punishments.
- Persons convicted with sentence of life imprisonment.
- Convicts involved in terrorist activities or persons convicted under the Terrorist and Disruptive (Prevention) Act, 1985, Prevention of Terrorist Act, 2002, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Explosives Act, 1908, National Security Act, 1982, Official Secrets Act, 1923, and Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016.

Source: The Hindu

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) Explain the increasing capacity of India's nuclear warheads and its impact on India's commitment for de-nuclearization.

Context:

India had 160 nuclear warheads as on January 2022 and it appears to be expanding its nuclear arsenal, said the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a defense think tank. India's nuclear stockpile increased from 156 in January 2021 to 160 in January 2022.

Nukes in thy neighbor

- Pakistan's nuclear stockpile has remained at 165, SIPRI claimed.
- China is in the middle of a substantial expansion of its nuclear weapon arsenal, which satellite images indicate includes the construction of over 300 new missile silos.
- China had 350 nuclear warheads in January 2021 and 2022.

Why do countries proliferate nuclear weapons?

- Proliferation models centred on security concerns or dilemmas dominate nuclear literature.
- Nuclear weapons provide an overwhelmingly destructive force that increases a state's relative power in comparison to its neighbours.
- It provides a powerful tool in an anarchic system where superpowers dominate other nation-states sovereignty.
- Hence weaponizing helps establish a deterrence to prevent war.

Deterrence Theory:

- Deterrence is widely defined as any use of threats (implicit or explicit) or limited force intended to dissuade an actor from taking an action (i.e. maintain the status quo).
- The topic gained increased prominence as a military strategy during the Cold War with regard to the use of nuclear weapons.
- It is related to but distinct from the concept of mutual assured destruction, which models the preventative nature of full-scale nuclear attack that would devastate both parties in a nuclear war.
- The central problem of deterrence revolves around how to credibly threaten military action or nuclear punishment on the adversary despite its costs to the deterrer.

Issues in Nuclear Disarmament:

- ✓ Notion of Nuclear 'Haves' and 'Have-Nots': The proponents of disarmaments are themselves nuclear armed countries thus creating a nuclear monopoly.
- ✓ Concept of Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE): conducted for non-military purposes such as mining.

India's commitment for de-nuclearization:

1. India has always batted for a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework.
2. It has outlined a working paper on Nuclear Disarmament submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2006.
3. India participated in the Nuclear Security Summit process and has regularly participated in the International Conferences on Nuclear Security organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
4. India is also a member of the Nuclear Security Contact Group (but has signed off the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)).
5. India has expressed its readiness to support the commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).
6. India couldn't join the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) due to several concerns raised by India.
7. India has piloted an annual UNGA Resolution on "Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction" since 2002, which is adopted by consensus.

Source: The Hindu

GS 3

❖ ECONOMY

Q) Analyse the causes for the crisis of rising global food prices and its impact on India. Elucidate the history of food crises since the adoption of Green Revolution.

Context:

This increase in global food prices which manifested itself in the three food price crises since the 1960s offers some pertinent lessons for global food systems and the international community.

Managing year-to-year volatility Vs. periodic spikes in food prices:

- Year-to-year volatility is easily managed by most countries through changes in their trade and domestic policies.
- But steep and severe periodic price shocks can lead to some sort of a crisis at the global and national levels.
- The crisis can emerge in the form of food shortages, trade disruptions, a rise and spread in hunger and poverty levels, depletion of foreign exchange reserves, a strain on a nation's fiscal resources, a threat to peace, and even social unrest in some places.

History of food crises after since adoption of Green Revolution:

1. Data from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank/International Monetary Fund show that since the onset and the adoption of Green Revolution technology in the early 1960s, the world has been struck thrice by food price crises.
2. First shock-1973-76: The first shock was experienced during 1973-76 when the food price index (based on prices in U.S. dollars) doubled in nominal terms.
3. Declining trend: For the next two decades, food prices in real terms followed a declining trend and were at their lowest around 2002. After this, nominal as well as the real prices of food began rising.
4. Second crisis-2008: This momentum built up to culminate in the next food price crisis of 2008, which was further intensified by 2011. While the price shock began softening after 2014, food prices did not move back to their pre-2006 level.
5. Third crisis-2020: This time the increase in the food price index happened very quickly and it turned out to be very big – it has taken the food price index to its historically highest level.
6. Cause outside agriculture: All the three food price crises were triggered by factors outside agriculture. They were not caused by any serious shortfall in agriculture production. The interval between crises is reducing: The interval between two consecutive price shocks has narrowed down considerably and the severity of shock is turning stronger.

Causes responsible for the recent food price crisis:

- I. Covid-19 and Ukraine crisis: It was triggered by supply disruptions due to COVID-19 and further aggravated by the Russia-Ukraine war. The current food price spike first began in vegetable oils and then expanded to cereals. Higher the global trade higher disruption: The effect of global trade disruption will be higher for commodities that are traded more and vice-versa.
- II. Diversion of food for biofuel: Another factor underlying the rising trend and spikes in food prices is the diversion of food for biofuel needs. When crude prices increase beyond a certain level it becomes economical to use oilseeds and grains for biodiesel and ethanol, respectively. The second reason for the use of food crops for biofuel is the mandates to increase the share of renewable energy resources.
- III. Increased cost of agrochemicals and fertilisers: Food prices are also expected to go up in the current and next harvest season because of an increase in the prices of fertilizer and other agrochemicals.

Way forward for India

Transmission of international prices to domestic prices can be prevented only if there is no trade.

- a. Trade policy changes: This transmission of global prices to the domestic market can be moderated through trade policy and other instruments. When international prices go too low, India has checks on cheap imports to protect the interests of producers; and when international prices go too high, the country liberalises imports and imposes checks on exports to ensure adequate availability and reasonable food prices for domestic consumers.
- b. Buffer stock: The policy of having a buffer stock of food staples has also been very helpful in maintaining price stability, especially in the wake of global food crises.
- c. Strategic liberalisation: India should continue with a policy of strategic liberalisation, as followed in the past, to balance the interests of producers and consumers.
- d. Maintain image as a reliable and credible exporter: The importance of agriculture exports to mop up food and agriculture surplus from the country is increasing. Ongoing trends in domestic demand and supply imply that India will be required to dispose of 15% of its domestic food output in the overseas market by 2030. This underscores the need to maintain India's image as a reliable and credible exporter. However, it is important to differentiate between the two situations: disturbing normal export and regulating exports exceeding the normal level.

Implications for India:

- A. Increased prices in India: Export and import in the agriculture sector constituted 13% of gross value added in agriculture during 2020-21. Therefore, some transmission of an increase in global prices on domestic prices is inevitable.
- B. Wheat export ban and implications: The recent ban on wheat exports and restrictions on the export of other food commodities by India need to be seen in the light of an abnormal situation created by spikes in international prices.

- Some experts see it as a setback to India's image as a reliable exporter as this move is seen to disrupt (regular) export channels.
- A closer examination of data reveals that India's action to ban or restrict food exports is not disrupting its normal exports.
- India was a very small exporter of wheat, with its share in global wheat trade ranging between 0.1% to 1% during 2015-16 to 2020-21.
- The international market is looking for around 50 million tonnes of wheat to compensate for the disruption in wheat exports from Russia and Ukraine.
- If India had not imposed a ban on wheat export, it would have resulted in a severe shortage of wheat within the country.

Global impact and suggestions:

As the steam of Green Revolution technology slowed down with the start of the 21st century, food prices began increasing in real terms.

1. New breakthroughs required: The world requires new breakthroughs such as Green Revolution technology, for large-scale adoption in order to enable checks on food prices rising at a faster rate.
2. Increase spending on agri-research: This in turn requires increased spending on agriculture research and development (especially by the public sector and multilateral development agencies).
3. Strengthen global agri-research system: There is a need to strengthen and rejuvenate the global agri-research system under the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) which is heading towards disarray.
4. Rethink biofuel protocols: Biofuel protocols have contributed to the global food crisis for the second time in the last 15 years.
5. Diversion of land under food crops and food output for biofuel should be carefully calibrated with implications for food availability.

Conclusion:

The last three food price crises were primarily caused due to an increase in energy prices and disruptions in the movement of food across borders. Factors related to climate change are going to be an additional source of supply shocks in the years ahead. Therefore, the global community must plan to have a global buffer stock of food in order to ensure reasonable stability in food prices and supply.

Source: The Hindu

SNIPPETS

GS 3

❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q) How Web 5.0 is different from other versions of Web?

Context:

Former Twitter CEO recently announced his vision for a new decentralized web platform that is being called Web 5.0 and is being built with an aim to return “ownership of data and identity to individuals”.

Various versions of Web:

- Web 1.0 was the first generation of the global digital communications network. It is often referred to as the “read-only” Internet made of static web-pages that only allowed for passive engagement.
- Web 2.0 was the “read and write” Internet. Users were now able to communicate with servers and other users leading to the creation of the social web. This is the World Wide Web that we use today.
- Web 3.0 is an evolving term that is used to refer to the next generation of Internet – a “read-write-execute” web – with decentralization as its bedrock. It leverages the blockchain technology and will be driven by Artificial Intelligence and machine learning.
- Web 4.0 is not really a new version, but is an alternate version of what we already have. Web needed to adapt to its mobile surroundings. Web 4.0 connects all devices in the real and virtual world in real-time.

Web 5.0:

1. Web 5.0 is aimed at building an extra decentralized web that puts you in control of your data and identity.
2. Simply put, Web 5.0 is Web 2.0 plus Web 3.0 that will allow users to ‘own their identity’ on the Internet and ‘control their data’.
3. Both Web 3.0 and Web 5.0 envision an Internet without threat of censorship – from governments or big tech, and without fear of significant outages.

Cases for Web 5.0:

- ✓ There can be two use cases for how Web 5.0 will change things in the future.
- ✓ Control of identity: A digital wallet that securely manages user identity, data, and authorizations for external apps and connections.
- ✓ Control over own data: Say, we can grant any music app access to settings and preferences, enabling the app to take our personalized music experience across different music apps.

Source: Indian Express

Q) The term 'Peace clause' is used frequently with respect to which of the following international organizations?

- a. International Monetary Fund
- b. United Nations Security Council
- c. World Trade Organization
- d. International Atomic Energy Agency

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

Q) Which of the following statements with regard to the diabetes is incorrect?

1. Insulin is responsible for controlling the level of glucose in blood.
2. Type 1 diabetes is a condition where the pancreas completely stops producing insulin.

Options:

- a. Only 1
- b. Only 2
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d

Explanations:

- India is considered the diabetes capital of the world, and the pandemic disproportionately affected those living with the disease.
- Type 1 or childhood diabetes, however, is less talked about, although it can turn fatal without proper insulin therapy.
- Type 1 diabetes is rarer than type 2. Only 2% of all hospital cases of diabetes in the country are type 1.
- Diabetes is a chronic (long-lasting) health condition that affects how your body turns food into energy.
- Most of the food you eat is broken down into sugar (also called glucose) and released into your bloodstream.
- When your blood sugar goes up, it signals your pancreas to release insulin.
- Type 1 diabetes is a condition where the pancreas completely stops producing insulin.
- Insulin is the hormone responsible for controlling the level of glucose in blood by increasing or decreasing absorption to the liver, fat, and other cells of the body.
- This is unlike type 2 diabetes — which accounts for over 90% of all diabetes cases in the country — where the body's insulin production either goes down or the cells become resistant to the insulin.

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