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INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION

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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.

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INDEX

GS 2

1. BRICS Business Forum.....04
2. G7 relevance to India.....05
3. Anti-defection law.....07

GS 3

1. Four new corals from the waters of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.....08
2. Faunas at Keibul Lamjao National Park.....09

-  Prelims practice questions.....10

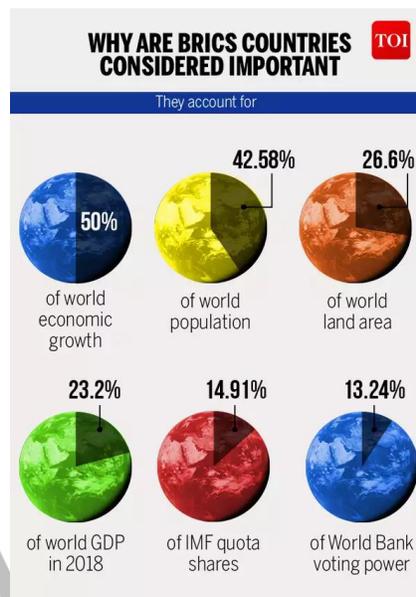
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GS 2**❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Q) Assess the role of the BRICS Business Forum in facilitating transformative changes based on innovation in the emerging “New India”.

Context:

India attended the BRICS Business Forum, one of the key events organized by the BRICS Business Council traditionally on the eve of the BRICS Summit. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, for the first time the BRICS Business Forum was held virtually.

**India's Digital transformation – Investment prospects**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the BRICS Business Forum stated that, India's digital economy and the infrastructure sector has a total potential for \$2.5 trillion.
- There are more than 100 unicorns in over 70,000 start-ups in India, and their number continues to grow.
- There are investment opportunities of \$1.5 trillion under India's National Infrastructure Pipeline. The value of the Indian digital economy will reach \$1 trillion by 2025 as stated by PM Narendra Modi.
- Addressing the BRICS Business Forum, the Prime Minister said, “This year, we are expecting 7.5% growth, which makes us the fastest growing major economy. Transformative changes are taking place in every sector in the emerging ‘New India’.”

Impact of digital growth on women:

- The key pillar of India's current economic recovery is technology-led growth. With innovation-friendly policies in many areas like space, blue economy, green hydrogen, clean energy, drones, geo-spatial data, innovation is supported in every sector of India.

- There are approximately 36 % women out of 4.4 million professionals working in our IT sector.
- The maximum benefit from Technology-based financial inclusion has also been gone to the women in our rural areas.
- BRICS Women Business Alliance can undertake study in this transformative change in India.

Innovation led economic recovery:

1. PM Modi suggested a useful dialogue on innovation-led economic recovery, that facilitates the BRICS Business Forum to develop a platform for regular exchanges between the start-ups.
2. Today when the whole world is focusing on post-Covid recovery, then the role of BRICS countries will continue to remain very important again.
3. In order to deal with the economic problems arising out of the pandemic, India adopted the mantra of 'reform, perform and transform' which can be a model to other developing countries.

Source: Indian Express & The Hindu

Q) Elucidate the evolution of G7 and its relevance to India.

Context:

PM Modi will fly to the Germany as a special invitee to the meeting of G-7 countries.



Group of 7

- The G-7 or 'Group of Seven' includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975 by the top economies of the time as an informal forum to discuss pressing world issues.
- Initially, it was formed as an effort by the US and its allies to discuss economic issues.
- The G-7 forum now discusses several challenges such as oil prices and many pressing issues such as financial crises, terrorism, arms control, and drug trafficking.

- It does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.
- Canada joined the group in 1976, and the European Union began attending in 1977.

Evolution of the G-7:

1. When it started in 1975—with six members, Canada joining a year later—it represented about 70% of the world economy.
2. And it was a cosy club for tackling issues such as the response to oil shocks.
3. Now it accounts for about 40% of global GDP.
4. Since the global financial crisis of 2007-09 it has sometimes been overshadowed by the broader G20.
5. The G-7 became the G-8 in 1997 when Russia was invited to join.

Why was Russia expelled?

- The G-7 was known as the 'G-8' for several years after the original seven were joined by Russia in 1997.
- The Group returned to being called G-7 after Russia was expelled as a member in 2014 following the latter's annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine.
- Since his election in 2016, President Trump has suggested on several occasions that Russia be added again, given what he described as Moscow's global strategic importance.

Present scenario:

- New Delhi is preparing for more pressure from the G-7 countries.
- These countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, the US and the EU) have unitedly imposed sanctions on Russia since it invaded Ukraine.
- They want India to cooperate in restricting its purchase of Russian oil, not circumvent the sanctions by using a rupee-rouble mechanism.
- It also wants India to lift the ban on the export of wheat.

Relevance of G7 for India:

- India will get more voice, more influence and more power by entering the G7.
- After UN Security Council (UNSC), this is the most influential grouping.
- If the group is expanded it will collectively address certain humongous issues in the global order.
- Diplomatically, a seat at the high table could help New Delhi further its security and foreign policy interests, especially at the nuclear club and UNSC reforms.
- It will further protect its interests in the Indian Ocean.

Challenges for India's entry:

- ✓ The decision to expand the grouping cannot be taken by the US alone.
- ✓ There needs to be a consensus.
- ✓ However, a special invitation to India is no mean achievement.

Source: The Hindu

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Explain the relevance of the anti-defection law in the unfolding political crisis in Maharashtra.

Context:

The unfolding political crisis in Maharashtra has thrown the spotlight on the anti-defection law, and the roles of the Deputy Speaker and the Governor.

Some legislators have aligned themselves with the party's rebel leader and are camping in Guwahati. The party has warned its MLAs that their absence from the meeting would lead to the presumption they wanted to leave the political party. And this would therefore lead to action against them under the anti-defection law.

Anti-Defection Law:

- The anti-defection law provides for the disqualification of MLAs who, after being elected on the ticket of a political party, "voluntarily give up their party membership".
- The Supreme Court has interpreted the term broadly and ruled an MLA's conduct can indicate whether they have left their party.
- The law is also applicable to independent MLAs.
- But the anti-defection law does not apply if the number of MLAs who leave a political party constitute two-thirds of the party's strength in the legislature.
- These MLAs can merge with another party or become a separate group in the legislature.

How does the two-thirds rule work in the current situation in Maharashtra?

- ✓ Reports indicate that 30 MLAs are with rebel leader.
- ✓ Taking this number at face value means it does not reach the two-thirds (37) mark of the 55 MLAs the party has in the Maharashtra Assembly.
- ✓ Therefore, the protection under the anti-defection law would not be available to the rebel group.

Speaker of Maharashtra's Assembly:

- It is the Assembly Speaker who decides whether an MLA has left a party or a group that constitutes two-thirds of a party.
- The position of the Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly is, however, currently vacant.
- Article 180(1) of the Constitution states that the Deputy Speaker performs the Speaker's duties when the office is vacant.
- Since then, the Deputy Speaker has been acting as the Speaker.

Application of anti-defection law:

Under the current circumstances, two ways would lead to adjudication under the law.

- Approaching the acting Speaker to file defection petition:
 - First, any MLA of the Assembly can petition that certain MLAs have defected from their political party.
 - Such a petition has to be accompanied by documentary evidence.
 - The Deputy Speaker would then forward the petition to the MLAs against whom their colleagues are making the charge of defection.

- The MLAs would have seven days or such time that the Deputy Speaker decides is sufficient to enable them to put across their side of the story.
- Proving of two-third majority:
 - Rebel leader and MLAs supporting too can write to the Deputy Speaker with evidence claiming that they represent two-thirds of the strength and claim protection under the anti-defection law.
 - In either case, Speakers will decide the matter after hearing all parties, which could take time.

How much time does it usually take?

1. In recent years, one of the fastest decisions in a defection proceeding was delivered by Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu.
2. However, in state legislatures, defection petitions have taken much longer.
3. For example, in 2020, the Supreme Court used its extraordinary power to remove a Manipur Minister from his position.
4. But whether the Speaker decides quickly or takes time, the Speaker is usually challenged in court, which further delays the decision.
5. Both Venkaiah Naidu and the Supreme Court have recommended that Speakers decide on defection cases in three months.

Conclusion:

- The spectacle of rival political parties whisking away their MLAs to safe destinations does little credit to the state of our democratic politics.
- It is an unfortunate reflection on the confidence which political parties hold in their own constituents and a reflection of what happens in the real world of politics.
- Political bargaining, or horse-trading, as we noticed, is now an oft repeated usage in legal precedents.

Source: Indian Express

SNIPPETS

GS 3

❖ ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

Q) Explain the significance of the discovery of four new corals from the waters of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Context:

Scientists have recorded four species of corals for the first time from Indian waters. These new species of azooxanthellate corals were found from the waters off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Azooxanthellate Corals:

- The azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae and derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of planktons.
- They are deep-sea representatives with the majority of species being reported from depths between 200 metres and 1,000 metres.
- They are also reported from shallow waters unlike zooxanthellate corals that are restricted to shallow waters.

New species:

1. Truncatoflabellum crassum, T. incrustatum, T. aculeatum, and T. irregulare under the family Flabellidae were previously found in Japan, the Philippines and Australian waters.
2. Only T. crassum was reported with the range of Indo-West Pacific distribution.

Significance of the discovery:

Most studies of hard corals in India have been concentrated on reef-building corals while much is not known about non-reef-building corals. These new species enhance our knowledge about non-reef-building solitary corals.

Source: The Hindu

Q) What are the distinguished faunas at Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP)?**Context:**

Activists surrounding the Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP) in Manipur have now taken up the cudgels to ensure that the government does not shift the proposed heritage park from the approved site.

Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP):

- The KLNP is a national park in the Bishnupur district of the state of Manipur in India.
- It is 40 km² in area, the only floating park in the world, located in North East India, and an integral part of Loktak Lake.
- The national park is characterized by floating decomposed plant material locally called Phumdi at the south-eastern side of the Loktak Lake, which has been declared a Ramsar site.
- It was created in 1966 as a wildlife sanctuary to preserve the natural habitat of the endangered Eld's deer.
- In 1977, it was gazetted as national park.

Key faunas:

- a. KLNP is home to the last of the brow-antlered deer (*Rucervus eldii eldii*), one of the most endangered deer in the world.
- b. It is locally called as Sangai.
- c. The animal is, in fact, in danger of losing its home—most of the phumdis, or floating swamps, are unable to sustain its weight.
- d. In 1951, it was reported extinct, but British tea planter and naturalist Edward Pritchard Gee rediscovered it in 1953.

Source: The Hindu

Q) Which of the following statements with respect to Ol Chiki script is incorrect?

- a) It is the official writing script of Santhal community.
- b) It is recognised as the official regional language in India.
- c) Droupadi Murmu developed the script.
- d) It is one of the scheduled languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

Q) Which of the following statements with respect to National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman Workers (NIPUN) is incorrect?

- a) NIPUN aims to train construction workers.
- b) It is an initiative of the National Skill Development Corporation.
- c) NSDC is responsible for the overall execution of the program.
- d) NIPUN is creating a future labour force for the construction industry.

Answer: b

Explanation:

- An innovative project for skill training of construction workers called 'NIPUN' i.e. National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman Workers was launched.
- NIPUN is creating a future labour force for the construction industry which will propel innovation and large-scale development in the country.
- The construction sector is on track to become the largest employer by 2022, and it will require 45 million more qualified workers over the next ten years.
- The basic motive of the project is to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes.
- The project NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- This project is running under the flagship programme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- The transformational impact of the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) has reduced the vulnerability of urban poor households by providing upskilling and employment opportunities to urban dwellers, especially the youth.

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