

SosinClasses

INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION

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

Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyderabad

+91-90000 36699 / 90000 66690

www.sosinclasses.com / info@sosinclasses.com

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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INDEX

GS 2

1. Risks under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.....08
2. Origin of Monkey pox in India.....08

GS 3

1. Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats.....04
2. Contemporary trends of current account deficit.....06
3. Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies scheme.....10

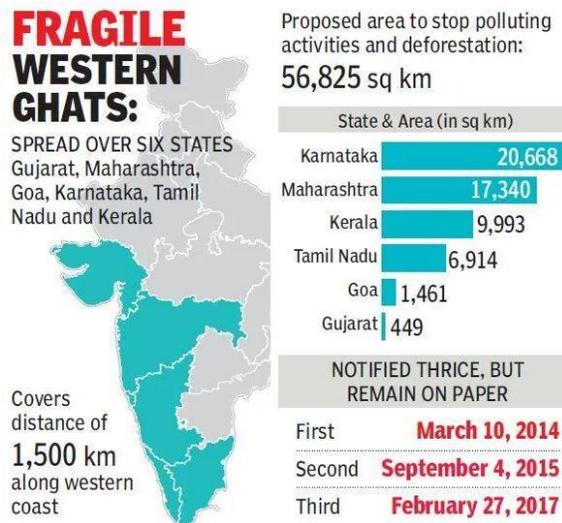
- ✚ Prelims Practice Questions.....11

GS 3**❖ ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY**

Q) What are the activities permitted and prohibited in the Western Ghats? In the context of the new draft notification on Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats, explain the curbs that should be implemented by the state.

Context:

The Union Environment Ministry's latest draft notification on Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats is facing stiff opposition in Karnataka.

**Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs):**

- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas notified by the MoEFCC around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of “shock absorbers” to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

Demarcation:

- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does NOT mention the word “Eco-Sensitive Zones”.
- However, Section 3(2)(v) of the Act, says that Central Government can restrict areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall be carried out or shall not, subject to certain safeguards.
- Besides Rule 5(1) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 states that central government can prohibit or restrict the location of industries and carrying on certain operations or processes on the basis of certain considerations.
- The same criteria have been used by the government to declare No Development Zones (NDZs).

Defining its boundaries:

- An ESZ could go up to 10 kilometres around a protected area as provided in the Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 2002.
- Moreover, in the case where sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, crucial for landscape linkage, are beyond 10 km width, these should be included in the ESZs.
- Further, even in the context of a particular Protected Area, the distribution of an area of ESZ and the extent of regulation may not be uniform all around and it could be of variable width and extent.

Activities Permitted and Prohibited:

- Permitted: Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, and adoption of green technology for all activities.
- Prohibited: Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc.), the establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood, Tourism activities like hot-air balloons over the National Park, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances.
- Under regulation: Felling of trees, the establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g. adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc, widening of roads.

New draft notification for the Western Ghats:

- The draft notification demarcates 46,832 sq km in the five states Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa and Tamil Nadu as ESA in the Western Ghats.
- Kerala is excluded from the draft notification and it had earlier undertaken the exercise of demarcating ESA in the state by physical verification.
- Among the five states, 20,668 sq km of the ESA lies in Karnataka, 1,461 sq km in Goa, 17,340 sq km in Maharashtra, 6,914 sq km in Tamil Nadu and 449 sq km in Gujarat.
- According to the notification, the concerned state governments are responsible for monitoring and enforcing the provisions of the notification.

What are the curbs that the state governments will have to implement?

- ✓ The draft notification states there shall be a complete ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining in the ESA.
- ✓ All existing mines are to be phased out within five years from the date of issue of the final notification or on the expiry of the existing mining lease.
- ✓ It also bars setting up of new thermal power projects and expansion of existing plants in the sensitive area, and the banning of all new 'Red' category industries.
- ✓ The construction of new townships and area development projects will also be prohibited in the areas.
- ✓ 'Orange' category industries, with a pollution index score of 41-59, such as jute processing and 'White' industries that are considered non-polluting will also be allowed with strict compliance.

Kasturirangan panel:

- The panel, formed in 2012, was tasked with the mandate of taking a “holistic view of the issue, and to bring synergy”.
- It aimed to protecting the environment and biodiversity, while maintaining the needs and aspirations of the local and indigenous people, of sustainable development and environmental integrity of the region.
- The report had recommended a blanket ban on mining, quarrying, red category industries and thermal power projects.
- It also stated that the impact study of infrastructural projects on the forest and wildlife should be conducted before permission is given.

Karnataka’s stance:

- ✓ The Karnataka government has been firm in rejecting the implementation of the guidelines.
- ✓ It has staunchly opposed to the Kasturirangan committee report on Western Ghats.
- ✓ It urged that declaring Western Ghats as ESA would adversely affect the livelihood of people in the region.
- ✓ Environmental experts consider the state government’s decision to be disastrous for the biodiversity of the Western Ghats.

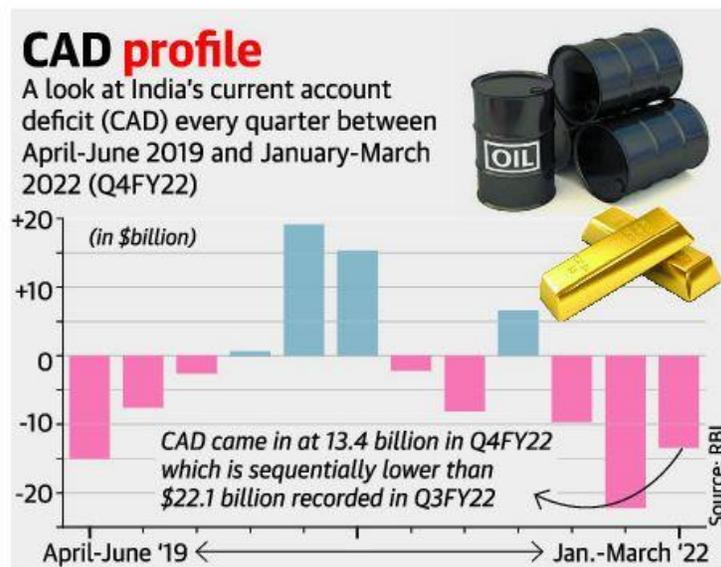
Source: Indian Express

❖ ECONOMY

Q) Analyse the contemporary trends of current account deficit and its impact on the Indian economy.

Context:

The Finance Ministry has asserted that the current account deficit (CAD) could, however, deteriorate this year mainly due to rising trade deficits.



Current Account Deficit (CAD):

- A current account is a key component of balance of payments, which is the account of transactions or exchanges made between entities in a country and the rest of the world.
- This includes a nation's net trade in products and services, its net earnings on cross border investments including interest and dividends, and its net transfer payments such as remittances and foreign aid.
- A CAD arises when the value of goods and services imported exceeds the value of exports, while the trade balance refers to the net balance of export and import of goods or merchandise trade.

Current Account Transaction:

While understanding the Current Account Deficit in detail, it is important to understand what the current account transactions are. Current account transactions are transactions that require foreign currency. Following transactions with from which component these transactions belong to:

1. Component 1: Payments connection with Foreign trade – Import & Export
2. Component 2: Interest on loans to other countries and Net income from investments in other countries
3. Component 3: Remittances for living expenses of parents, spouse and children residing abroad, and Expenses in connection with Foreign travel, Education and Medical care of parents, spouse and children

Recent trends:

- In Q4 FY 2021-22, CAD improved to 1.5% of GDP or \$13.4 billion from 2.6% of GDP in Q3 FY 2021-22 (\$22.2 billion).
- The difference between the value of goods imported and exported fell to \$54.48 million in Q4FY 2021-22 from \$59.75 million in Q3 FY2021-22.
- However, based on robust performance by computer and business services, net service receipts rose both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis.
- Remittances by Indians abroad also rose.

Reasons for the current account deficit:

- Intensifying geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions leading to crude oil and commodity prices soaring globally have been exerting upward pressure on the import bill.
- A rise in prices of coal, natural gas, fertilizers, and edible oils have added to the pressure on trade deficit.
- However, with global demand picking up, merchandise exports have also been rising.

How will a large CAD affect the economy?

- ✓ A large CAD will result in demand for foreign currency rising, thus leading to depreciation of the home currency.
- ✓ Nations balance CAD by attracting capital inflows and running a surplus in capital accounts through increased foreign direct investments (FDI).
- ✓ However, worsening CAD will put pressure on inflow under the capital account.
- ✓ Nevertheless, if an increase in the import bill is because of imports for technological upgradation it would help in long-term development.

Source: The Hindu

SNIPPETS

GS 2

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) What are the risks covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)?

Context:

Andhra Pradesh has decided to rejoin the crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from the ongoing kharif season.

PMFBY:

- The PMFBY was launched in February 2016. It is being administered by Ministry of Agriculture.
- It provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of the crop thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers.
- It is implemented by general insurance companies.

Risks covered under the scheme:

1. Comprehensive risk insurance is provided to cover yield losses due to non-preventable risks, such as Natural Fire and Lightning, Storm, Hailstorm, Cyclone, Typhoon, Tempest, Hurricane, Tornado.
2. Risks due to Flood, Inundation and Landslide, Drought, Dry spells, Pests/ Diseases also will be covered.
3. Post-harvest losses coverage will be available up to a maximum period of 14 days from harvesting for those crops which are kept in “cut & spread” condition to dry in the field.
4. For certain localized problems such as loss/damage resulting from the occurrence of identified localized risks like hailstorm, landslide, and Inundation affecting isolated farms in the notified area would also be covered.

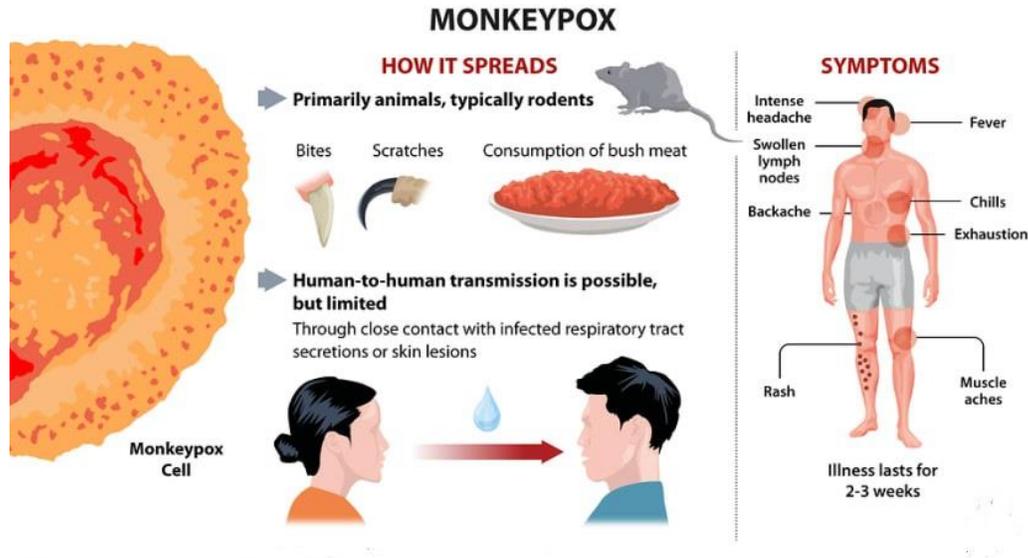
Source: Indian Express

❖ SOCIAL ISSUE

Q) Explain the origin of Monkey pox in India. What are its symptoms and treatment?

Context:

The first known lab-confirmed case of monkeypox in India has been reported in a 35-year-old man in Kerala.



Monkeypox:

- The monkeypox virus is an orthopoxvirus, which is a genus of viruses that also includes the variola virus, which causes smallpox, and vaccinia virus, which was used in the smallpox vaccine.
- It causes symptoms similar to smallpox, although they are less severe.
- While vaccination eradicated smallpox worldwide in 1980, monkeypox continues to occur in a swathe of countries in Central and West Africa, and has on occasion showed up elsewhere.
- According to the WHO, two distinct clade are identified: the West African clade and the Congo Basin clade, also known as the Central African clade.

Its origin:

- ✓ Monkeypox is a zoonosis, that is, a disease that is transmitted from infected animals to humans.
- ✓ Monkeypox virus infection has been detected in squirrels, Gambian poached rats, dormice, and some species of monkeys.
- ✓ According to the WHO, cases occur close to tropical rainforests inhabited by animals that carry the virus.

Symptoms and treatment:

1. Monkeypox begins with a fever, headache, muscle aches, back ache, and exhaustion.
2. It also causes the lymph nodes to swell (lymphadenopathy), which smallpox does not.
3. The WHO underlines that it is important to not confuse monkeypox with chickenpox, measles, bacterial skin infections, scabies, syphilis and medication-associated allergies.
4. The incubation period (time from infection to symptoms) for monkeypox is usually 7-14 days but can range from 5-21 days.
5. There is no safe, proven treatment for monkeypox yet.

Source: The Hindu

GS 3

❖ ECONOMY

Q) Explain the significance of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme.

Context:

The RoSCTL scheme will continue for export of garments/apparels, and made-ups till March 31, 2024, according to a press release from the Union Ministry of Textiles.

RoSCTL Scheme:

- RoSCTL stands for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL).
- It is an export incentive in the form of transferable and sellable duty credit scrips (certificate) offered on the basis of the value of the export.
- It replaces the Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) scheme, a monetary incentive scheme under which Customs would deposit the rebate directly into the exporter's bank account.
- This scheme was seen as India's reaction to the increasing international pressure on export incentives provided by the Indian government.

Why was this scheme introduced?

- ✓ The US, in particular, has been very vocal, urging the discontinuation of export incentive schemes like the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).
- ✓ It held that they flouted the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.
- ✓ Why was this scheme extended to textile sector?
- ✓ With a view to boost exports and job creation in the textile sector, the government has approved the continuation of the scheme.
- ✓ The scheme aims to help them cut high logistics and other costs and enable them to compete globally.

Source: The Hindu

Q) Which of the following best describes “Lavender Scare”?

- a) Marginalization of the LGBTQ employees.
- b) Fertilizer flying squad to check black marketing of fertilizers.
- c) A higher tax rate on sudden big profits levied on a particular company or industry.
- d) Refugees rescue team.

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

Q) Which of the following statements with regards to the bail rule in India is incorrect?

- 1. Non-bailable offences are cognisable, which enables the police officer to arrest without a warrant.
- 2. The CrPC empowers magistrates to grant bail for bailable offences as a matter of right.

Options:

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The CrPC does not define the word bail but only categorises offences under the Indian Penal Code as ‘bailable’ and ‘non-bailable’.
- The CrPC empowers magistrates to grant bail for bailable offences as a matter of right.
- In the case of non-bailable offences, two authorities are empowered to consider the question of bail, namely (1) a court and (2) an officer-in-charge of the police station who has arrested or detained without warrant a person accused or suspected of the commission of a non-bailable offence.
- In the case of non-bailable offences, the police officer can arrest without a warrant.

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