

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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INDEX

GS 2

1. Political inclusion of the persons with disability.....04
2. Mission Indradhanush.....08

GS 3

1. State government measures to deal with the 'Podu' cultivation.....06
2. Capex in the long-term economy growth of India.....07

- ✚ Prelims Practice Questions.....09

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GS 2

❖ SOCIAL JUSTICE

Q) Explain the significance of the political inclusion of the persons with disability. What is the four-pronged approach suggested by the recently released draft of the national policy for persons with disabilities.

Context:

The Department of Empowerment of Person with Disabilities (DoEPwD) recently released the draft of the national policy for persons with disabilities.

New policy:

- Signing of UN convention: The necessity for a new policy which replaces the 2006 policy was felt because of multiple factors such as India's signing of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Increased number of disabilities: Enactment of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, which increased the number of disabilities from seven conditions to 21 necessitated the change.
- Incheon Strategy: Being a party to the Incheon Strategy for Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 ("Incheon commitment").
- Changed discourse from medical model to human right: These commitments have changed the discourse around disability by shifting the focus from the individual to society, i.e., from a medical model of disability to a social or human rights model of disability.
- The principle of the draft policy is to showcase the Government's commitment to the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities by providing a mechanism that ensures their full participation in society.

Absence of commitment to political uplift:

- Article 29 of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities mandates that state parties should "ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives...."
- The Incheon goals also promote participation in political processes and in decision making.
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 embodies these principles within its fold.
- India does not have any policy commitment that is aimed at enhancing the political participation of disabled people.
- The exclusion of disabled people from the political space happens at all levels of the political process in the country, and in different ways.
- Section 11 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act prescribes that "The Election Commission of India and the State Election Commissions shall ensure that all polling stations are accessible to persons with disabilities and all materials related to the electoral process are easily understandable by and accessible to them".

- Although this mandate has been in existence for a few years, the disabled people still report accessibility issues before and on election day. There is often a lack of accessible polling booths in many locations.
- Lack of aggregate data: The lack of live aggregate data on the exact number of the disabled people in every constituency only furthers their marginalisation.

Lack of representation:

- Representation plays an imperative role in furthering the interests of the marginalised community.
- Disabled people are not represented enough at all three levels of governance.
- However, few States have begun the initiative at local levels to increase participation.
- For instance, Chhattisgarh started the initiative of nominating at least one disabled person in each panchayat.
- If a disabled person is not elected then they are nominated as a panchayat member as per changes in the law concerned.
- This is a step that has increased the participation of the disabled in the political space at local level.
- The goal of the policy document — of inclusiveness and empowerment — cannot be achieved without political inclusion.

Four-pronged approach:

The policy can follow a four-pronged approach:

1. Capacity building: Building the capacity of disabled people's organisations and 'empowering their members through training in the electoral system, government structure, and basic organisational and advocacy skills'.
2. Legal and regulatory framework: The creation, amendment or removal of legal and regulatory frameworks by lawmakers and election bodies to encourage the political participation of the disabled.
3. Participation of civil society: Inclusion of civil societies to 'conduct domestic election observation or voter education campaigns.
4. Framework for outreach by political parties: A framework for political parties to 'conduct a meaningful outreach to persons with disabilities when creating election campaign strategies and developing policy positions.

Conclusion:

The document lays emphasis on the point that central and State governments must work together with other stakeholders to "make the right real". This right can be made real only when it includes political rights/political participation within it.

Source: The Hindu

GS 3

❖ ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

Q) Explain the State government measures to deal with the 'Podu' cultivation and land issue.

Context:

Activists have taken up the issue of Podu cultivation of adivasis and tribals in forest areas in Telangana.

Podu:

- Podu is a traditional system of cultivation used by tribes in India, whereby different areas of jungle forest are cleared by burning each year to provide land for crops.
- It is a form of shifting agriculture using slash-and-burn methods. The word comes from the Telugu language.
- Traditionally used on the hill-slopes of Andhra Pradesh, it is similar to the jhum method found in north-east India and the bewar system of Madhya Pradesh.

'Podu' Land Issue:

- The Telangana government had decided in 2021 to move landless, non-tribal farmers engaged in shifting cultivation inside forests to peripheral areas in an effort to combat deforestation.
- It ensured that all steps would be taken to ensure that forest land was not encroached upon.
- It is observed that podu progressively degrades large areas of the forest.

What TS has to offer as alternative to Podu?

- To stop this deforestation, the government wants to move out cultivators from deep inside forests to the periphery by allotting them land for cultivation.
- Tribal farmers who have been traditionally cultivating for decades would not be affected by this drive against illegal encroachers.
- The land ownership titles have been given to tribals and more than 3 lakh acres have been allocated to tribal farmers state-wide.

Non-tribal farmers:

These farmers can apply to the state government to allocate them land outside the forests. Those who are moved out of the forests would be given land ownership certificates, power and water supplies and Rythu Bandhu benefits.

Source: Indian Express

❖ ECONOMY

Q) Explain the significance of the Capex in the long-term economy growth of India.

Context:

Finance Minister said India's long-term growth prospects were embedded in public capital expenditure programs.

FM has raised capital expenditure (capex) by 35.4% for the financial year 2022-23 to ₹7.5 lakh crore to continue the public investment-led recovery of the pandemic-battered economy. The capex last year was ₹5.5 lakh crore.

Capital Expenditure (Capex):

The government's expenditure is categorized into two:

- The one which results in asset development or acquisition known as CAPEX,
- Another is utilized to cover operating costs and obligations but does not result in asset creation known as Revenue expenditure.
- Capex is defined as the money spent on the acquisition of assets such as land, buildings, machinery, and equipment, as well as stock investments.

Attributes to capex:

- a. The portion of government payments that goes toward the construction of assets such as schools, colleges, hospitals, roads, bridges, dams, railway lines, airports, and seaports amounts to capex.
- b. The acquisition of new weaponry and weapon systems, such as missiles, tanks, fighter planes, and submarines, necessitates a significant financial outlay.
- c. The defense sector receives over a third of the central government's capital spending, primarily for armament acquisitions.
- d. Despite the fact that defense spending is classified as a capital expenditure, it does not result in the development of infrastructure to support economic growth.
- e. Also includes investments that will produce earnings or dividends in the future.

Significance of Capex:

- **Economic recovery:** This action is crucial in light of the economic slowdown induced by the Covid-19 epidemic, as well as a dip in the employment ratio.
- **Value creation:** Capital asset formation provides future cash flows for the economy and contributes to value creation.
- **Multiplier Effect:** Capex is expected to have a Multiplier Effect (a change in rupee value of output with respect to a change in rupee value of expenditure).
- **Increased employment:** Capital spending creates jobs and improves labor productivity as a result of the multiplier effect.
- **Macroeconomic Stabilizer:** Capital Expenditure serves as a macroeconomic stabilizer and is an excellent instrument for countercyclical fiscal policy.

Source: The Hindu

SNIPPETS

GS 2

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) What is the importance of the Mission Indradhanush in implementing vaccination measures in India?

Context:

The number of children in India who were unvaccinated or missed their first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) combined vaccine doubled due to the pandemic, rising from 1.4 million in 2019 to 2.7 million in 2021, according to official data published by the WHO and UNICEF.

This data signifies that the world recorded the largest sustained decline in childhood vaccinations in approximately 30 years. There was an increase in zero dose. This is the first time ever there has been a decline in evaluated coverage in immunisation for India as a whole.

Vaccination measures in India:

- Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0: India started IMI 4.0 from February 2022, which is expected to further reduce the number of unvaccinated children.
- India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP): It provide free vaccines to all children across the country to protect them against Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus diarrhoea. (Rubella, JE and Rotavirus vaccine in select states and districts).

Intensified Mission Indhradhanush (IMI) 4.0:

- ✓ IMI 4.0 aims to fill gaps in the routine immunisation coverage of infants and pregnant women hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and also aims to make lasting gains towards Universal Immunization.
- ✓ It will have three rounds and will be conducted in 416 districts across 33 states.
- ✓ Unlike the past, each round under IMI 4.0 will be conducted for seven days, including Routine Immunization (RI) days, Sundays, and public holidays.

Source: The Hindu

Q) I2U2 recently seen in news is associated with_____.

- a) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- b) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- c) Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
- d) West Asian Quad

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

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.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The telescope was named after James Webb, who ran the US space agency from 1961 to 1968, and allegedly had a role to play in the “Lavender Scare” at NASA.
- The Lavender Scare was the marginalization of LGBTQ employees working in the US government’s offices during the 1950s and 1960s. It is often described as a “witch-hunt”, where those suspected of being from the LGBTQ community were fired from their jobs.

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