

**SosinClasses**

**INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION**

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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**28.07.2022**

**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 factors that need to be considered in devising welfare policies.**

**Context:**

In a recent address, the prime minister shared his anguish on what he called the “revdi” or the freebies culture.

**Populist policies and its impact over the states’ finances:**

1. N K Singh defined freebies as “something that is given to you without having to pay for them, especially as a way of attracting your support for or interest in something.”
2. A recent report of the RBI on states’ finances highlighted the perilous condition of states’ finances and enhanced debt stress on account of flawed policies.
3. Nothing undercuts more irresponsibly India’s abiding international and national commitments than the perils of this reckless populism.

**Factors in devising welfare policies:**

- Quest for sustainable development: The initiatives undertaken at COP21 in Paris, the International Solar Alliance and subsequently at the COP26 in Glasgow represent India’s national consensus to forge a path of growth geared towards intergenerational equity and to exponentially increase development.

Our ability to adhere to this commitment depends on two other commitments.

- 1) An increase in the percentage of renewable energy in our energy consumption. While subsidies are being promised in one form or the other by way of free electricity, the deteriorating health of state distribution companies seriously undercuts their financial viability. Lowering the price for some consumers, offset through overcharging industrial and commercial contracts, reduces competitiveness, ushers’ slower growth both in incomes and employment.
- 2) The inability of discoms to actively encourage solar power is stymied by their financial condition and the inability to evolve tariff structures. Regulatory capture, a fixation on unrealistic tariffs and cross-subsidy in energy utilization prevent a credible coal plan, which is central to our energy planning.
- 3) Challenges in providing basic facilities: The government seeks to address the challenge of inequity by ensuring access to a wide range of basic facilities. These include banking, electricity, housing, insurance, water and clean cooking fuel, to mention a few. Removing this inequity to access helps boost the productivity of our population.
- 4) Issue of access: Benefits under various welfare schemes such as PM Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission have eliminated the biggest barrier for citizens — the exorbitant upfront cost of access. Moreover, they are leading to irreversible empowerment and self-reliance. For instance, a house built under the PM Awas Yojana is a lifelong asset for the beneficiary household that cannot be taken back by any government.

- 5) Use of technology in direct benefit transfer. Identification of beneficiaries through the SECC and prioritization based on deprivation criteria has enabled the government to assist those who need it the most. Governments that end up taking the shortcut of universal subsidies or freebies often end up ignoring the poor and transferring public resources to the affluent.
- 6) Expenditure prioritization: The next issue that needs to be considered is of expenditure prioritization being distorted away from growth-enhancing items, leading to intergenerational inequity. Investors, both domestic and foreign, and credit rating agencies look to macro stability in terms of sustainable levels of debt and fiscal deficit. After years of fiscal profligacy, we returned to the path of fiscal rectitude in 2014. The last time such an effort was made was by enacting the first FRBM Act on August 26, 2003.
- 7) Impact on future of manufacturing and employment. The next factor that needs to be considered is the debilitating effect of freebies on the future of manufacturing and employment. Freebies lower the quality and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector by detracting from efficient and competitive infrastructure. They stymie growth and, therefore, gainful employment because there is no substitute for growth if we wish to increase employment.

**Conclusion:** The poor state finance position should serve as a timely reminder to those promising fiscally imprudent and unsustainable subsidies.

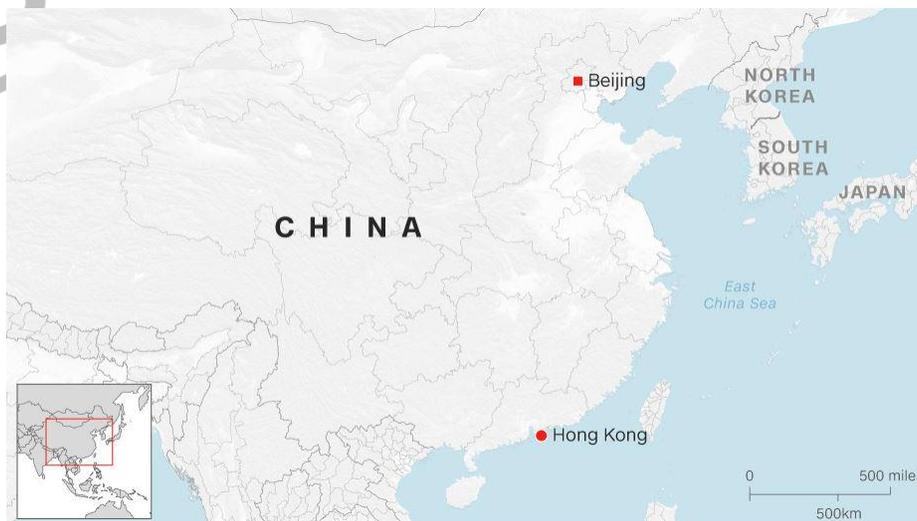
**Source:** *Indian Express*

## ❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Q) Critically analyse Hong Kong's security law. Discuss the provisions fall under the Hong Kong's security law.**

**Context:**

Hong Kong's controversial national security law should be repealed, experts on the UN Human Rights Committee said, amid concerns the legislation is being used to crack down on free speech and dissent in the former British colony.



**Present situation:**

- Chinese and Hong Kong officials have repeatedly used the NSL imposed by Beijing in 2020 to restore stability after the city was rocked for months by sometimes violent anti-government and anti-China protests in 2019.
- The committee, which monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by state parties, released its findings on Hong Kong following a periodic review.
- The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is a signatory to the ICCPR but China is not.

**Hong Kong:**

- A former British Colony and Autonomous Territory: Hong Kong is an autonomous territory, and a former British colony, in south-eastern China.
- It became a colony of the British Empire at the end of the First Opium War in 1842.
- Sovereignty over the territory was returned to China in 1997.
- Special Administrative Region (SAR): As a SAR, Hong Kong maintains governing power and economic systems that are separate from those of mainland China.
- The 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration guarantees the Basic Law for 50 years after the transfer of sovereignty.
- It does not specify how Hong Kong will be governed after 2047.
- Thus, the central government's role in determining the territory's future system of government is the subject of political debate and speculation in Hong Kong.

**What is this law all about?**

Hong Kong was always meant to have a security law, but could never pass one because it was so unpopular. So, this is about China stepping in to ensure the city has a legal framework to deal with what it sees as serious challenges to its authority.

The details of the law's 66 articles were kept secret until after it was passed. It criminalizes any act of:

- Secession – breaking away from the country
- Subversion – undermining the power or authority of the central government
- Terrorism – using violence or intimidation against people
- Collusion – with foreign or external forces

**Provisions of the law:**

The law came into effect at 23:00 local time on 30 June 2020, an hour before the 23rd anniversary of the city's handover to China from British rule. It gives Beijing power to shape life in Hong Kong it has never had before.

Its key provisions include:

1. Crimes of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces are punishable by a maximum sentence of life in prison
2. Damaging public transport facilities can be considered terrorism
3. Those found guilty will not be allowed to stand for public office
4. Companies can be fined if convicted under the law

5. This office can send some cases to be tried in mainland China – but Beijing has said it will only have that power over a “tiny number” of cases
6. In addition, Hong Kong will have to establish its own national security commission to enforce the laws, with a Beijing-appointed adviser
7. Hong Kong’s chief executive will have the power to appoint judges to hear national security cases, raising fears about judicial autonomy
8. Importantly, Beijing will have power over how the law should be interpreted, not any Hong Kong judicial or policy body. If the law conflicts with any Hong Kong law, the Beijing law takes priority
9. Some trials will be heard behind closed doors.
10. People suspected of breaking the law can be wire-tapped and put under surveillance
11. Management of foreign non-governmental organizations and news agencies will be strengthened
12. The law will also apply to non-permanent residents and people “from outside [Hong Kong]... who are not permanent residents of Hong Kong”.

### **What has changed in Hong Kong since the law was introduced?**

Hundreds of protestors, activists and former opposition lawmakers have been arrested since the law came into force. The arrests are an ominous sign that its crackdown on Hong Kong is only going to escalate. Beijing has said the law is needed to bring stability to the city, but critics say it is designed to squash dissent.

**Source: The Hindu**

## **SNIPPETS**

### **GS 1**

#### **❖ INDIAN SOCIETY**

### **Q) What are the benefits of achieving Replacement Level Fertility?**

#### **Context:**

India has achieved replacement level fertility, with 31 States and UTs reaching a Total Fertility Rate (an average number of children per woman) of 2.1 or less, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has informed Parliament.

#### **Replacement Level Fertility:**

- Replacement level fertility is the level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.
- In simpler terms, it denotes the fertility number required to maintain the same population number of a country over a given period of time.
- In developed countries, replacement level fertility can be taken as requiring an average of 2.1 children per woman.

- In countries with high infant and child mortality rates, however, the average number of births may need to be much higher.
- RLF will lead to zero population growth only if mortality rates remain constant and migration has no effect.

**Benefits of achieving RLF:**

- RLF helps ensure greater food security.
- The reduced demand for food would in turn lessen agri- culture's impact on the environment.
- It would also likely lead to economic benefits through a "demographic dividend."
- Finally, achieving replacement level fertility would yield significant social benefits—especially for women.

**How did India achieve this?**

Between 2012 and 2020, the country added more than 1.5 crore additional users for modern contraceptives, thereby increasing their use substantially. India has witnessed a paradigm shift from the concept of population control to population stabilization to interventions being embedded toward ensuring harmony of continuum care.

**Way forward:**

- ✓ Although India has achieved replacement level fertility, there is still a significant population in the reproductive age group that must remain at the centre of our intervention efforts.
- ✓ India's focus has traditionally been on the supply side, the providers and delivery systems but now it's time to focus on the demand side which includes family, community and society.
- ✓ Significant change is possible with this focus, instead of an incremental change.

**Source: The Hindu**

**GS 3****❖ ECONOMY**

**Q) Explain the significance of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey.**

**Context:**

The Centre has kicked off the process for conducting the quinquennial Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) this month.

## Counting the spending | The All-India Households' Consumer Expenditure Survey will be conducted between July 2022 and June 2023

**What is it?** Usually carried out every five years, the survey helps assess poverty levels and consumption patterns across the country, and rebase GDP calculations

**What's the big deal?** The last survey whose findings were made public was conducted in 2011-12

**Why this long pause?** A survey was conducted in 2017-18 too, but its results were not released owing to 'quality' concerns. It reportedly reflected the first drop in monthly per capita household spending since 1972-73, with a rise in poverty incidence



### Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES):

- The HCES is traditionally a quinquennial (recurring every five years) survey conducted by the government's National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).
- It is designed to collect information on the consumer spending patterns of households across the country, both urban and rural.
- Typically, the Survey is conducted between July and June and this year's exercise is expected to be completed by June 2023.

### Why HCES?

- The HCES is used to arrive at estimates of poverty levels as well as review key economic indicators like Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- The results of the survey are also utilised for updating the consumption basket and for base revision of the Consumer Price Index.
- It helps generate estimates of household Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) as well as the distribution of households and persons over the MPCE classes.
- It is used to arrive at estimates of poverty levels in different parts of the country and to review economic indicators such as the GDP, since 2011-12.

### Need of this survey:

India has not had any official estimates on per capita household spending. It provides separate data sets for rural and urban parts, and also splice spending patterns for each State and Union Territory, as well as different socio-economic groups.

### What about the previous survey?

The survey was last held in 2017-2018. The government announced that it had data quality issues. Hence the results were not released.

**Source: The Hindu**

**Q) Consider the following statements about the International Space Station:**

1. It is jointly run by the space agencies of the U.S., Russia, Europe, Japan, China and Canada.
2. It is placed in high earth Orbit.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

**Q) With respect to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Children below the age of 14 years will be allowed to work in occupations except for 18 occupations and 65 processes.
2. Children below the age of 14 years will be allowed to work in Family Businesses/Enterprises only if they are non-hazardous.

**Options:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- 2016 Amendment prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 in all occupations and processes.
- In order to protect the health and ensure children's well-being, children could work in their family businesses only if it is safe for them. Earlier it was allowed for hazardous and non-hazardous work.

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