

SosinClasses

INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION

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

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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) Elucidate the legal procedure to destruct the seized narcotics drugs.

Context:

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has destroyed 30,000 kg of seized drugs at four locations – Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi and Guwahati — in the virtual presence of Union Home Minister.

Destruction of Seized Narcotic Drugs:

- Section 52-A of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 allows probe agencies to destroy seized substances after collecting required samples.
- Officials concerned must make a detailed inventory of the substance to be destroyed.
- A five-member committee comprising the area SSP, director/superintendent or the representative of the area NCB, a local magistrate and two others linked to law enforcement and legal fraternity is constituted.
- The substance is then destroyed in an incinerator or burnt completely leaving behind not any trace of the substance.

Procedure:

1. The agency first obtains permission from a local court to dispose of the seized narcotic substances.
2. These substances are then taken to the designated place of destruction under a strict vigil.
3. The presiding officer tallies the inventory made at the storeroom with that material brought to the spot.
4. The entire process is videographed and photographed.
5. Then one by one, all the packets/gunny bags of the substance/s are put in the incinerator.
6. As per rules, committee members cannot leave the place until the seized drugs have been completely destroyed.

Which agency is authorized to carry out such an exercise?

Every law enforcement agency competent to seize drugs is authorized to destroy them after taking prior permission of the area magistrate. These include state police forces, the CBI and the NCB among others.

Why destroy seized drugs?

- ✓ The hazardous nature of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, their vulnerability to theft, substitution, and constraints of proper storage space are among the reasons that make agencies destroy them.
- ✓ There have been instances when seized narcotics were pilfered from the storeroom.
- ✓ To prevent such instances, authorities try to destroy seized drugs immediately after collecting the required samples out of the seized substances.

Source: Indian Express

Q) Analyse the necessity to safeguard children against corporal punishments. What are the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NPCR) guidelines to eliminate corporal punishments?

Context:

Three private school teachers in Pune have been booked under the Juvenile Justice Act over allegedly thrashing three Class 10 students, and threatening to grade them poorly in internal assessments

Corporal Punishment:

- By definition, corporal punishment means punishment that is physical in nature.
- There is NO statutory definition of 'corporal punishment' targeting children in the Indian law.
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 prohibits 'physical punishment' and 'mental harassment' under Section 17(1) and makes it a punishable offence under Section 17(2).

Identifying corporal punishments:

- According to the Guidelines for Eliminating Corporal Punishment in Schools issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), physical punishment is understood as any action that causes pain, hurt/injury and discomfort to a child, however light.
- Examples include hitting, kicking, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling the hair, boxing ears, smacking, slapping, spanking, hitting with any implement (cane, stick, shoe, chalk, dusters, belt, whip), giving electric shock and so on.
- It includes making children assume an uncomfortable position (standing on bench, standing against the wall in a chair-like position, standing with school bag on head, holding ears through legs, kneeling, forced ingestion of anything, detention in the classroom, library, toilet or any closed space in the school.
- Mental harassment is understood as any non-physical treatment that is detrimental to the academic and psychological well-being of a child.
- This includes sarcasm, calling names and scolding using humiliating adjectives, intimidation, using derogatory remarks for the child, ridiculing or belittling a child, shaming the child and more.

Safeguards against corporal punishment:

1. Section 17 of the Right to Education Act, 2009, imposes an absolute bar on corporal punishment.
2. Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act prescribes punishment for cruelty to children.
3. Violation would invite punishment of rigorous imprisonment upto five years and fine up to Rs 5 lakh.
4. If the child is physically incapacitated or develops a mental illness or is rendered mentally unfit to perform regular tasks or has risk to life or limb, then imprisonment may extend upto ten years.

Exceptions:

- ✓ The RTE Act does not preclude the application of other legislation that relates to the violations of the rights of the child.
- ✓ For example, booking the offenses under the IPC and the SC and ST Prevention of Atrocities Act of 1989.
- ✓ In theory, corporal punishment is covered by all the provisions under Indian law that punish perpetrators of physical harm.

NCPCR guidelines say about eliminating corporal punishment:

- The NCPCR guidelines for eliminating corporal punishment against children require every school to develop a mechanism and frame clear-cut protocols to address the grievances of students.
- Drop boxes are to be placed where the aggrieved person may drop his complaint and anonymity is to be maintained to protect privacy.
- Every school has to constitute a 'Corporal Punishment Monitoring Cell' consisting of two teachers, two parents, one doctor, and one lawyer (nominated by DLSA).

Who is entrusted with the responsibility to ensure children are protected?

- ✓ There are relevant authorities earmarked to ensure the protection of children in schools.
- ✓ Under Section 31 of the RTE Act, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) have been entrusted with the task of monitoring children's right to education.
- ✓ The state governments under their RTE rules have also notified block/district level grievance redressal agencies under the RTE Act.

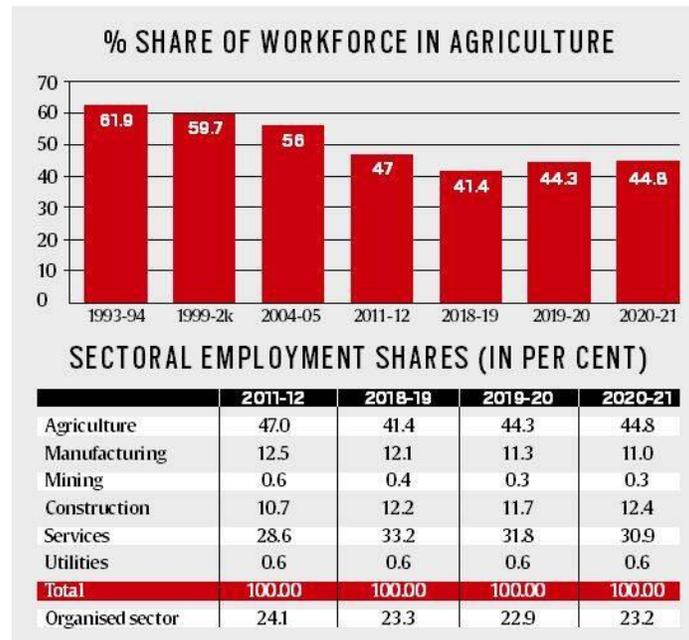
Source: Indian Express

GS 3**❖ ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY**

Q) Explain the relevance of the Kuznets' Hypothesis in India's employment crisis.

Context:

In India, there are fewer people employed in agriculture today, but the transformation has been weak. Those moving out of farms are working more in construction sites and the informal economy than in factories.



Present employment situation in India:

- India has too many people in agriculture and the inability to move surplus labour from farms constitutes a major policy failure of successive governments.
- In 1993-94, agriculture accounted for close to 62% of the country's employed labour force.
- Overall, between 1993-94 and 2018-19, agriculture's share in India's workforce came down from 61.9% to 41.4%.
- In other words, roughly a third in 25 years. That isn't insignificant.
- The declining trend continued, albeit at a slower pace, in the subsequent seven as well.

Understanding India's Job crisis:

- Even the movement of workforce from agriculture that India has witnessed over the past three decades or more does not qualify as what economists call "structural transformation".
- Such transformation would involve the transfer of labour from farming to others sectors – particularly manufacturing and modern services – where productivity, value-addition and average incomes are higher.
- The surplus labour pulled out from the farms is being largely absorbed in construction and services.
- The bulk of the jobs are in petty sectors such as retailing, small eateries, domestic help, sanitation, security staffing, transport and similar other informal economic activities.
- This is also evident from the low, if not declining, share of employment in organised enterprises, defined as those engaging 10 or more workers.

Significance:

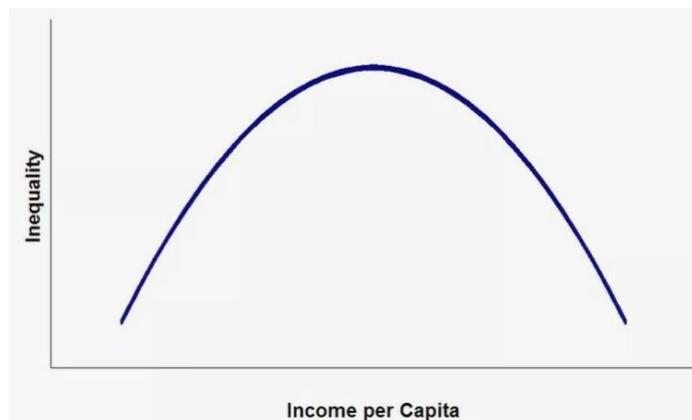
- Simply put, the structural transformation process in India has been weak and deficient.
- Yes, there is movement of labour taking place away from farms – even if stalled, possibly temporarily.

- But that surplus labour isn't moving to higher value-added non-farm activities, specifically manufacturing and modern services.
- This is familiar to the 'Kuznets Process' named after the American economist and 1971 Nobel Memorial Prize winner, Simon Kuznets.

Kuznets' Hypothesis:

1. In the 1950s and 1960s, Simon Kuznets hypothesized that as an economy develops, market forces first increase and then decrease the overall economic inequality of the society.
2. This is illustrated by the inverted U-shape of the Kuznets curve.
3. For instance, the hypothesis holds that in the early development of an economy, new investment opportunities increase for those who already have the capital to invest.
4. These new investment opportunities mean that those who already hold the wealth have the opportunity to increase that wealth.
5. Conversely, the influx of inexpensive rural labor to the cities keeps wages down for the working class thus widening the income gap and escalating economic inequality.

Basis of this hypothesis:



- i. The Kuznets curve implies that as a society industrializes, the center of the economy shifts from rural areas to the cities as rural laborers, such as farmers, begin to migrate seeking better-paying jobs.
- ii. This migration, however, results in a large rural-urban income gap and rural populations decrease as urban populations increase.
- iii. But according to Kuznets' hypothesis, that same economic inequality is expected to decrease when a certain level of average income is reached.
- iv. This process is triggered by the processes associated with industrialization, such as democratization and the development of a welfare state, take hold.
- v. It is at this point in economic development that society is meant to benefit from trickle-down effect and an increase in per-capita income that effectively decreases economic inequality.

Inverted Kuznets Curve:

The inverted U-shape of the Kuznets curve illustrates the basic elements of the Kuznets' hypothesis with income per capita graphed on the horizontal x-axis and economic inequality on the vertical y-axis. The graph shows income inequality following the curve, first increasing before

decreasing after hitting a peak as per-capita income increases over the course of economic development.

Criticism of the theory:

- ✓ Critics say that the Kuznets curve does not reflect an average progression of economic development for an individual country.
- ✓ Rather it is a representation of historical differences in economic development and inequality between countries in the dataset.
- ✓ It suits to the countries that have had histories of high levels of economic inequality as compared to their counterparts in terms of similar economic development.
- ✓ The critics hold that when controlling for this variable, the inverted U-shape of the Kuznets curve begins to diminish.

Source: Indian Express

SNIPPETS**GS 3****❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Q) Explain the significance of the AlphaFold development work to India.

Context:

DeepMind, a company based in London and owned by Google, announced that it had predicted the three-dimensional structures of more than 200 million proteins using AlphaFold. This is the entire protein universe known to scientists today.

AlphaFold:

- AlphaFold is an AI-based protein structure prediction tool.
- It is based on a computer system called deep neural network.
- Inspired by the human brain, neural networks use a large amount of input data and provide the desired output exactly like how a human brain would.
- The real work is done by the black box between the input and the output layers, called the hidden networks. AlphaFold is fed with protein sequences as input.
- When protein sequences enter through one end, the predicted three-dimensional structures come out through the other.
- It is like a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat.

How does AlphaFold work?

- i. It uses processes based on “training, learning, retraining and relearning.”
- ii. The first step uses the available structures of 1,70,000 proteins in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) to train the computer model.
- iii. Then, it uses the results of that training to learn the structural predictions of proteins not in the PDB.

- iv. Once that is done, it uses the high-accuracy predictions from the first step to retrain and relearn to gain higher accuracy of the earlier predictions.
- v. By using this method, AlphaFold has now predicted the structures of the entire 214 million unique protein sequences deposited in the Universal Protein Resource (UniProt)

Implications of this development:

- Proteins are the business ends of biology, meaning proteins carry out all the functions inside a living cell.
- Therefore, knowing protein structure and function is essential to understanding human diseases.
- Scientists predict protein structures using x-ray crystallography, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, or cryogenic electron microscopy.
- These techniques are not just time-consuming, they often take years and are based mainly on trial-and-error methods.
- The development of AlphaFold changes all of that.
- It is a watershed movement in science and structural biology in particular.

What does this development mean for India?

- Vaccine development: Understanding the accurate structures of COVID-19 virus proteins in days rather than years will accelerate vaccine and drug development against the virus.
- Structural biology: From the seminal contribution of G. N. Ramachandran in understanding protein structures to the present day, India is no stranger to the field and has produced some fine structural biologists.

Source: The Hindu

Q) Which of the following are the examples of Residual Mountains?

- 1) Aravalli
- 2) Girnar hills
- 3) Javadi hills
- 4) Nilgiri hills

Options:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

Q) Which of the following statement is incorrect with respect to the Loktak Lake?

- a) It is the largest freshwater lake in Kerala.
- b) It is famous for the Phumdis floating over it.
- c) Keibul Lamjao National Park is also situated in the same lake.
- d) The lake comes under both Ramsar Site and under Montreux record.

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Manipur government's Loktak Development Authority (LDA) issued a notice to remove/dismantle all 'athaphums' (circular fish culture ponds) and huts on 'phumdis' (floating organic mass) from the lake, in order to safeguard the environment and biodiversity of the lake.
- It is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India and is famous for the phumdis floating over it. Keibul Lamjao National Park is also situated in the same lake. The National Park is the only floating national park in the world and is the last natural refuge for endangered Sangai deer.
- The lake serves as a source of water for irrigation, drinking water supply and hydropower generation. The lake comes under both Ramsar Site and under Montreux record.

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