

9pm

Compilation

January, 2020 (First Week)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of January (First week), 2021

General Studies - 1

1. What are the implications of Emigration of India's brightest youth?
2. Proposal on Louis Kahn's IIMA building is an act of cultural vandalism

General Studies - 2

1. Examining the Strategies involved in Distributing Vaccines
2. Essentiality of Dry run for COVID vaccines
3. State of our prisons today
4. India should be ready for a two-front challenge
5. Need for Gated globalisation in India
6. Opportunities for India in Anglosphere
7. India's system of bail and personal liberty
8. Policymakers must promote research under NEP
9. Importance of creating Resilient supply chains
10. Approach of India and China on Nepal's political crisis
11. Analysis of India's Foreign policy in 2020
12. Implication of warming in Arctic region
13. India's foreign policy: Lessons from 2020 and challenges/opportunities in 2021

General Studies - 3

1. Vital notes from the year 2020
2. Lack of fiscal support could stoke inequality
3. Possibility of China's 5G warfare and India
4. Striking balance between interest of different section of farmers
5. Inequality of emission targets among developed and developing world
6. Impact of Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) on the rights of people
7. More genome sequencing to study the spread of the variants
8. Path to economic recovery of India
9. Farmer welfare in Kerala, in the absence of Mandi system

General Studies Paper -1

General Studies – 1

1. What are the implications of Emigration of India's brightest youth?

Source: [Indian Express](#)

GS-1: Issues associated with population

Synopsis: recent trends that suggests increasing emigration of brightest youth from India, have implications for India.

Background

- Even after the renewed calls from the PM Narendra Modi for an **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, emigration of India's best and brightest has not stopped.
- Recent findings by Indian Express have shown that, during the two decades of 1996-2015 the toppers (i.e., first rankers in Class 10 and Class 12 examinations from CBSE and ISC) had migrated and were studying or employed overseas, mostly in the US.
- Also, according to most recent data collected from high-profile private schools in New Delhi, has shown that post-2015, that the trend of out-migration of Indian talent (around 70% of their students) and wealth has accelerated.
- Apart from the CBSE and ISC students, there is now a growing number of **International Baccalaureate (IB)** students (who, study and prepare only to pursue their higher education abroad).

What are the implications of rising Emigration from India?

- **First**, there is a **flight of financial capital to overseas**. The Reserve Bank of India's **liberalised remittances scheme (LRS)** for "studies abroad" has increased more than threefold, from US\$ 1.54 billion in 2016-17 to US\$ 4.99 billion in 2019-20.
- **Second**, it leads to the "**secession of the successful**" when wealthy families from big cities send their children to schools that in fact equip them only for further studies and life overseas
- **Third**, with flight of human capital, as the data suggests that an increasing number of non-resident Indians (NRIs) have become "**not-returning**" **Indians**, and are contributing more to their host countries than to their home country the PM's belief that "**brain drain**" could help create a "**brain bank**" for India's development is not going to happen.
- **Fourth**, there is now an emerging category of Indians migrating out and opting to stay out of India because they feel the sense of **alienation in their motherland** and this perception has grown especially among minorities which disturbs the very **cultural fabric of India**.
- **Fifth**, an equally worrying trend is the increasing number of India's super rich is opting for the dual status of owning and managing business in India while living overseas.

It is high time that instead of attracting foreign nationals to work here, India focus on retaining its brightest minds, who are assisting other countries in achieving technological and economical breakthroughs.

2. The proposal to demolish the Louis Kahn's IIMA building is an act of cultural vandalism

Source- [The Indian Express](#)

Syllabus- GS 1

Synopsis- IIMA decision to demolish historic dormitories designed by architect Louis Khan, this would constitute an act of cultural vandalism.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of January (First week), 2021

Background-

- Louis Kahn, a world-famous architect, called in 1960s to Ahmedabad to design various buildings, and the IIMA was one of the iconic structures built by him.
- Works of this excellence belong to both national and universal heritage.
- However, the administration of the Indian Institute of Management decided to demolish 14 dormitories on the IIMA campus as they turn unsafe.
- It led to the protests in the campus and reconsideration of the decision.

Why the proposal to demolish the dorms of IIMA represent as a cultural vandalism?

Having supported the restoration of the entire campus for years, the administration claimed that as this work was **not 'satisfactory'** the whole lot should be pulled down, which is an act of **cultural vandalism** against an architectural masterpiece which is not only of great importance to India but to the world.

- Current laws in India provide national heritage **protection only to buildings and sites more than 100 years old**. This leaves Kahn's IIM- Ahmedabad in extremely vulnerable positions.
- capitalism, political corruption and land speculation pose threats to ancient and modern works of quality.

Fortunately, many organizations and individuals both within the country and abroad have written to the institute, urging the management to reconsider the decision.

What is the significance of Louis Kahn Architecture?

Kahn built two projects on the Indian subcontinent, **the Assembly Complex in Dhaka, Bangladesh** and the **Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad (IIMA)**. Both reflect his response to the cultures, climates and traditions of their respective places.

Significance of IIMA building-

- The complex is built mainly in brick, with some interventions of concrete for lateral bracing and tie bars.
- With its interweaving of space and form, light and shade, orthogonal and diagonal geometries, the dormitory complex is a virtuoso demonstration of Kahn's immense skill as a designer.
- A citadel of learning, replete with cylindrical towers, shaded streets and squares, it is not unlike a tight-knit Indian fortified town.

Way forward-

- **First**, there is need to reshape national heritage laws to protect 20th century buildings.
- Heritage should be assessed on the basis of long-term quality rather than the cut-off date of a hundred years.
- **Second**, IIMA Director and Board need to live up to their responsibilities by restoring and protecting Kahn's work in its totality, so that the future generations may be inspired by it.

Thus, the leaders of IIMA should be persuaded to complete the restoration of Kahn's buildings at the highest possible level, and perhaps attain the same World Heritage status

General Studies Paper – 2

4. Striking balance between interest of different section of farmers

Source- [The Indian Express](#)

Syllabus- GS 3- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

Synopsis - present market structure is not favorable for marginal farmers, government should adopt a balanced approach to reach a solution on farm bills.

Background

- A set of three laws passed in September aims to deregulate India's enormous agriculture sector aimed at "liberating" farmers from the tyranny of middlemen.
- But many farmers fear that they stand to lose more than they could gain from the new regulations and these are the following concerns of farmers-
- **End of MSP-** Their main worry is about a possible withdrawal of the MSP and a dismantling of the public procurement of grains.
- **Promote corporate control-** The farmers contend the federal government is making ready to withdraw from the procurement of food grain and hand it over to the company gamers.

Although all of the concerns of farmers are not misplaced, but these concerns have definitely been blown out of proportion for political reasons.

What are the issues in present Agri. Market structure?

Present Agri. Market structure which suffers from the lacunas of MSP system, restrictive Mandi system and APMC market structures, is doing more harm than benefits to the marginalized farmers.

- **First, CRIER-OECD study on agricultural policies** showed that over the period 2000-01 to 2016-17, Indian agriculture was implicitly taxed to the tune of almost 14 per cent of its value.
- What this implies is that Indian farmers have been implicitly taxed heavily through restrictive marketing and trade policies [export controls, stocking limits and restrictive mandi system]
- **Second, the procurement system and MSP mechanism** are beneficial particularly for the rich farmers of Punjab and Haryana
- The NSSO's Situation Assessment Survey [2012-13] revealed that Only 6 per cent of the farmers in India are fully covered and benefitted by the MSP, and 84 per cent are located in the states of Punjab and Haryana.
- The MSP and APMC system primarily helps those who have large surpluses, mainly the large farmers.

How FPOs can be helpful for small and marginal farmers?

In India, 86 per cent of farmers are small and marginal (less than 2 ha), who do not get the benefit of MSP system.

- Farmer's Producer's organizations (FPOs) at village level, consisting of small farmers, supplemented by the mechanism of new farm laws will benefit them.
- The creation of an additional 10,000 FPOs and the promised Agri-infra Fund of Rs.1,00,000 Crore will aid this process.

How government can eliminate the fears of agitating farmers?

- **First, MSP to be continued-** The government need to assure farmers in writing that the new laws discontinue APMC and MSP system.
- **Second,** Government needs to **clarify about the contract farming** that that the contract will be for the produce, not the farmers land.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of January (First week), 2021

- **Third, farmers can take disputes to district courts.**
- Forth, Government can also approve **Rs.25,000 Crore alternate fund under the Price Stabilization Scheme** to support market prices in case when prices fall below 10 percent the MSP

However, The Food Corporation of India is already overloaded with grain stocks that are more than 2.5 times the buffer stock norms.

- To deal with such situation, Government can either limit the quantity of procurement or go for Price deficiency Payment system for those who buy “put options” at MSP to address the gaps in MSP based procurement of crops.
- An expert committee will have to be set up to look into its operational guidelines and further announcement of a diversification package for the Punjab-Haryana region can be done.

Conclusion

- On the one hand, repealing of new farmer’s law would be unfair for small and marginal farmers as they never got any benefit from the MSP system. On another hand, High price to farmers also mean high food prices for consumer.
- Thus, there is a requirement to strike a balance between the interest of various stakeholders of Indian farming system and its consumers.

5. Inequality of emission targets among developed and developing world

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Gs3: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation,

Synopsis: The current Climate change policy is designed to favour the interest of developed world over the interest of countries in the process of development, like India.

Background:

- India, during the **Climate Action Summit in Paris** avoided the commitments to **cap emissions** but agreed on **intended nationally determined contribution** to reduce global temperature below 1.5degree Celsius.
- Currently, with India’s **per capita emissions** at one-third of the global average, India is set to meet its Paris Agreement target for 2030.
- Whereas the western and EU countries which are responsible for majority of the resources use, and have achieved well-being of their people, are not committed in the proportion of their contribution to climate change.

Why India’s stand on not committing to cap emissions is justifiable?

Main problem doesn’t lie with the Indian model of development but with the colonial model of Industrialisation and urbanisation i.e., overly resource-intensive and defining progress as material abundance. This model has created the inequality, which western countries are not acknowledging.

- **Firstly**, Inequity is built into the climate treaty, which considers total emissions, size, and population, making **India the fourth largest emitter**, not the per capita emission.
- For example, China, with four times the population of the U.S., accounts for 12% of cumulative emissions while India, with a population close to that of China’s accounts for just 3% of cumulative emissions, have almost same commitments.
- According to the United Nations, the richest 1% of the global population emits more than two times the emissions of the bottom 50%.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of January (First week), 2021

- **Second**, North America and Europe were responsible for half of the global construction material use before 1970s, the share declined after the development started in Asia
- Reconstruction in the West after World War II led to acceleration of material use, resulting emissions and sharp rise in global temperature around 1970, before growth commenced in Asia.
- **Third**, Targets of 'carbon neutrality' are not justified for the countries like India, which are already on the path of less energy-intensive development and is on the pathway to reach comparable levels of well-being of the west.
- **Fourth**, India is already performing better than the West in certain sustainability benchmark like housing size and density, public bicycle transport and eliminating food waste.
- For example, the meat industry, especially beef, contributes to one-third of global emissions. Indians eat just 4 kg of meat a year compared to those in the European Union who eat about 65 kg and Americans who eat about 100 kg.
- Also, it is to be noted that the average American household wastes nearly one-third of its food.
- **Fifth**, While the Transport emissions which is one of the fastest-growing emissions worldwide and regarded as the **symbol of Western civilisation** account for a quarter of global emissions they are not on the global agenda.
- **Sixth**, India is under pressure to stop using coal, which powered colonialism, even though India's per capita coal use for electricity generation is one-tenth that of the U.S.. Also, India's measures to shift to electric vehicles and eliminate oil has not been recognised.

Way forward

India should push for an alternate 2050 goal in the UN for the countries with below average per capita emission by utilising its credibility based on its civilisational and long-standing alternate values for the transition to sustainability.

The goals should be aimed at **well-being of people within ecological limits, Sustainable Development Goals** and multilateral technological knowledge cooperation around electric vehicles.

6. Impact of Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) on the rights of people

Source- [The Hindu](#)

Syllabus- **GS 3** - Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Synopsis- The rapid use of Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) by law enforcement without proper guidelines and regulation, will have many negative impacts on people.

Introduction-

- In recent times the facial recognition tracking (FRT) systems has seen rapid development. **Central and State governments across India are using 16 different facial recognition tracking (FRT) systems** for surveillance, security or authentication of identity.
- FRT uses algorithms to **extract data points from a face** to create its digital signature. This **signature is compared with an existing database** to find possible matches.
- Still there are no specific laws or guidelines to regulate the use of this potentially invasive technology.
- As facial recognition technology use grows, so do privacy fears.

As a result, the FRT system poses a huge threat to the fundamental rights to privacy and freedom of speech and expression.

How FRT invades the fundamental rights to privacy and freedom of speech and expression?

The rapid growth of this technology has triggered a much-needed debate. These systems need a huge amount of sensitive personal data and biometric information, and their existence is at odds with user's privacy. Here are some concerning points why people should worry about the use of facial recognition technology in public spaces.

1. **The FRT system violates right to privacy-** As per the Puttaswamy judgment, Privacy is a fundamental right, even on public spaces.
 - Large-scale recordings, storing and analyzing of images undermines this right because it means it won't be possible to anything in public without the state knowing about it.
2. **It operates without a clear legal or regulatory framework-** There is a lack of detailed and specific information as to how facial recognition is actually used.
 - The system has no legal backing, claims Internet Freedom Foundation [IFF], which has recently issued notices to the Union home ministry and NCRB over the legality of the system.
 - If the police has detained or arrested any person with the use of the FRT system, then there is not proper guidelines/set of SOP of what to do.
3. **Function creep surveillance-** Function creep" occurs when information is used for a purpose that is not the original intended.
 - Use of facial recognition software in India began benevolently for identify missing children. Now it is being used for all kinds of surveillance. This shift from locating missing children to identifying rioters happened without any legal sanction or due planning and procedure which it a function creep.
4. **It has a chilling effect on our democratic rights**
 - Blanket surveillance can deter individuals from attending public protests. It can stifle participation in political protests and campaigns for change. And it can discourage nonconformist behavior.
 - This chilling effect is a serious infringement on the **right to freedom of assembly, association, and expression.**
5. **It is often inaccurate-** It is not 100% accurate and there can be "misidentification (false positive) and failure to identify (false negative).
 - In case of a false positive- the algorithm said photos of two different people showed the same person
 - In case of a false negative- the algorithm failed to correctly detect that two photos showed the same person.

What is the International experience on FRTs?

US has taken steps to prevent The Facial Recognition Technology's weaponization by law enforcement against a section of people.

1. Many US cities and states have **banned public agencies** from using facial recognition and passed legislation to demand more transparency on how police use surveillance tools.
2. Microsoft followed **Amazon and IBM**, have decided to limit the use of its facial-recognition systems and **not to sell it to police departments** until there is a federal law regulating it.

What is the way forward?

With so many concerns about facial recognition technology and desperately need a more prominent conversation on its impact on people's rights and civil liberties. Without proper regulation such systems of mass surveillance will erode democratic liberties and threaten the rights of lakhs of Indians

7. More genome sequencing to study the spread of the variants

Source- [The Hindu](#)

Syllabus- GS 3 - Science and Technology – developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Synopsis- There is need for more genome sequencing from samples from all over the world in order to come up with effective approaches to control and prevent COVID-19 infections.

Background-

- A new variant of the pandemic SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus is spreading rapidly in Britain and prompting high levels of concern.
- Six samples of the recent U.K. returnees have been found to be positive with a variant of SARS- CoV-2 virus.
- From 25 Nov-23 Dec, about 33,000 passengers landed at various Indian airports from the U.K. So far, only 114 have been found positive and samples have been sent to 10 INSACOG (Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium) labs for genome sequencing.

Thus, only through detailed epidemiological studies combined with genome sequencing data can we confirm the presence and spread of the variant in India.

What are the findings with related to new stain of coronavirus and will it cause concern in India?

The genomic analysis undertaken by the COVID-19 Genomics U.K. Consortium found that-

- **First. The new variant of coronavirus is named "VUI 202012/01"** and is defined by a set of 23 changes or mutations. Among the 23 mutations, the two of which are particularly worrisome and specifically N501Y makes it more transmissible.
 - It includes a genetic mutation in the "spike" protein that can lead to easy and immediate spread of the virus, making it deadlier. This new variant has 17 mutations that affect the shape of the virus.
- **Second, It is about 70% more transmissible-**The variant has the potential to increase the number of people a person can infect by over 0.4

However, it might not be able to spread wildly in India as a sizeable percentage of people are already infected.

Read more – [Mutation in Coronavirus](#)

Why it is important to undertake more genome sequencing of the virus?

The genome sequencing study would determine if the COVID patients are carrying the existing strain of SARS-CoV-2 or the mutant strain.

- **First, to understand the evolving nature of the virus-** So far, we are doing very less frequent genomic sequencing compared to western nations. For instance, in England, around 10 per cent of the infected virus samples are sequenced to study the nature of the virus.
- **Second, to find an immune escape variant** of the SARS-CoV-2, [which means a mutation in the virus that allows it to evade the immune system]
 - One of the immune escape variants found in genomes from India, **known as N440K variant** — was found to be in 2.1 per cent of the gene sequences in India.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of January (First week), 2021

- **Third, The N501Y mutation** can arise independently here in India. Hence more genome sequencing and genomic epidemiology is needed.

Steps taken by Indian Government regarding this-

- The **genomic surveillance consortium (INSACOG)** has been recommended for laboratory and epidemiological surveillance of circulating strains of the SARS-CoV-2 in India.
- Under this initiative, **5 percent of the positive cases** will be tested for Whole Genome Sequencing, from all the States and UT.

What is the way forward?

Genome sequencing is very much important of the higher percentage of the samples to understand the evolving nature of the virus.

8. Path to economic recovery of India

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Gs3: Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

Synopsis: Government should adopt a fiscal stimulus Path **for the economic recovery of India**, to make our economy grow at 9% GDP in the coming years.

Background

- The impact of the **pandemic** has pushed India to impose stringent lockdown measures to save millions of lives of Indian citizens but it's after effect has caused massive **economic disruption**.
- This has resulted in fall of GDP by around 7.5 per cent for this full year which has dented our aspiration to become a **\$5 trillion economy by 2024**.
- Though nothing much can be done for what has happened, in the coming years India needs to get back to the trend line of growth (pre-COVID years) to sustain the aspiration of our young population.

How different sectors are performing currently?

- The sectors which have shown positive sign of recovery are
 - Pharmaceuticals and chemicals, the FMCG sector, the two-wheeler sector, Construction equipment's driven by rural demand from sales to individuals, Capital goods.
- In contrast, Sectors which are still struggling for a full recovery are
 - Mainly, the travel and tourism sector, real-estate and construction sector, and retail which are significantly high employment sectors.

So, what steps must government take?

Though the recovery underway is solid, but we need measures to sustain and deepen it. The government can do three things.

- **First, the government should resort to fiscal stimulus** by paying long overdue government bills. Few examples are,
 - Distribute the **pending tax refunds**, pay the bills of all companies (large and small), pay off the many **arbitration awards** pending where the government has lost cases, and pay state governments their **pending GST dues**.
- **Second, invest in public health infrastructure** and centre should finance state government efforts to build an extensive public health network.
 - While this will equip as to handle a possible second wave of the virus, on the other, it will spread confidence.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of January (First week), 2021

- Also, it is essential for government to **work in partnership with private sector hospitals**.
- **Third, invest massively in infrastructures such as Roads, ports, logistics.** Areas where investment can be channelised are,
- By Providing decent, accessible housing to improve the living conditions in slums across our cities by providing right **public-private programme**.
- By providing cheap connectivity into our cities.
- Even, the **20 trillion infrastructure pipeline project** that requires massive funding can be considered.

How the funds for the above will be sourced?

- **To mobilise its resources** that are needed to finance the above measures, government can opt for a huge privatisation programme (**Disinvestment**)
- Under this program, government should intend to **reduce its share-holding to 26 per cent across** public-sector banks, steel companies, oil companies, and every manufacturing company and hotel it currently owns.
- This announcement might **trigger a big rally in the stock prices of PSUs**, increasing return.
- **To stem the protests due to big reforms**, we are witnessing currently, the government should **choose democratic methods for implementing** them such as use of **discussion papers for public comment, debate in Parliament**.

We need to act swiftly to regain from stunted recovery. We must use our **economic crisis as an opportunity** to set some bigger things right that we have ignored for too long.

9. Farmer welfare in Kerala, in the absence of Mandi system

Source: [click here](#)

Syllabus: GS 3 -

Synopsis: Absence of Madi system in Kerala has not impacted the farmer's welfare in the state.

Background:

Thousands of farmers have assembled to protest against the 3 farm bills and have established a new way of life at Singhu, Tikri, Ghazipur, Noida and Shahjahanpur borders.

- Farmers have made all necessary arrangements for food, shelter, clothing, and sanitation. They have been **gathering a country wide support**.
- **A tussle among various political parties is also ongoing** on the issue of support or opposition to farmer's demand.
- Meanwhile in all this debate, **example of Kerala was used** by some big politicians that the states with no Mandi system is also siding with the farmers.
- However, ground realities and facilities for farmers in Kerala suggest that the **same model can be applied at other places** too for the welfare of farmers.

How Farmer's Welfare in Kerala assured?

Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) and mandis although do not exist in Kerala, the needs and interests of farmers are taken care of in the state.

- The central government's rate for obtaining rice is ₹ 18 a kg whereas the government in Kerala has fixed the price of rice from cultivators at ₹27.48 a kg. **This increased basic price is also applicable on fruits and vegetables.**
- **Basic prices (per Kg) of 16 items are assured** by the government. Few examples are tapioca ₹12, banana ₹30, garlic ₹139, pineapple ₹15, tomato ₹8, string beans ₹34, ladies' fingers ₹20, cabbage ₹11 and potato ₹20.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of January (First week), 2021

- Dried coconut also has a much **higher procurement rate in Kerala** as compared to the rate announced by the central government.
- Apart from crop insurance, **paddy cultivators also get the royalty in Kerala** at the rate of ₹2,000 per hectare. They get pension as well, which is a very unique step in the country.
- **A debt relief commission** was introduced in 2006 by the left government when farmers' suicides were increasing, this initiative tried to help and save them.

Above facts prove that farmers in the Kerala are in a better condition compared to the state of farmers in other states after enacting Farm Laws. For ex; **40% of mandis in Madhya Pradesh have registered only zero transactions** after the passing of 3 bills.