



Topics



- ASER 2023

- TONGA
- PACIFIC ISLAND FORUM
- Songkran
- National Investigation Agency
- Essay topic



By saurabh pandey sir



Target Mains 2024/25- Essay

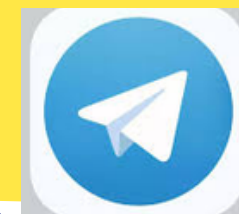


Q" In changing world order , india's foreign policy is outdated" (1100 words)

Q" बदलती विश्व व्यवस्था में भारत की विदेश नीति पुरानी हो गई है" (1100 शब्द)

send your answer - Saurabh pandey

upsc telegram channel



Answer review



UPSC
Vaishnavi Kulkarni
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis. (Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Q What is ONE HEALTH APPROACH? Explain the challenges in implementing one health in India. [10]

Ans According to Centers for Disease Control & Prevention - One Health Approach, is that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

GOALS - are to develop strategies for integrated disease surveillance, joint outbreak response, coordinated research and development and ensure seamless information sharing for better control of routine disease as well as those of pandemic nature.

'NATIONAL ONE HEALTH MISSION' - set up by government in 2022.

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

① Health care infrastructure & Resources -

- Disparities between rural & urban areas hinder effective one health implementation.
- Insufficient veterinary health care facilities & trained personnel.

② Interdisciplinary Collaborations - Communication barriers between medical, veterinary

UPSC
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis. (Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

and environmental professionals hinder information sharing.

③ Surveillance and Research - Insufficient funding for multidisciplinary research.

- Close contact with animals, both domestic and wild, can heighten disease transmission risk.

④ Environmental factors - Rapid urbanization encroaches upon wildlife habitats, increases disease spillover from animals to humans.

- Environmental degradation, pollution, & climate change influences disease transmission and complicate control efforts.

Under One Health Approach government is influencing protection and schemes, with an aim to implement one health approach with SDGs - Good Health & well being, climate action, life on land, life below water etc.

Need for pathogen laboratories to address the disease outbreak in all 3 sectors and application of AI for disease modelling and capacity building in epidemiology across sectors.





Data for better education, a brighter future for students

As it has almost been a tradition since 2005, except during the COVID-19 years, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 was released in mid-January this year. And, as it has also become customary, the report has got much attention. Amidst a surfeit of insights that the report has offered, what has grabbed the headlines is the foundational skills of 14-18 year olds. As much as the learning outcomes data is concerning, practitioners and policymakers must dig deeper into the data to glean actionable insights for improving education and overall outcomes for India's adolescents and youth.

On foundational learning trajectories

First, the ASER 2023 Beyond Basics survey was carried out in 28 rural districts across 26 States of the country. While the sample is not nationally representative, it is still representative of the district level and indicative of broader trends of the activities, abilities (including digital abilities), and aspirations of 14-18 year olds. The report shows that, overall, 26% of 14-18 year olds cannot read a standard two level text in their regional language.

This is concerning but the die was cast years ago. An 18-year-old in 2023 would have been a 13-year-old in 2018, and most probably a standard seven or eight student. In 2018, around 32% of standard seven and 27% of standard eight children could not read a standard two level text. Foundational learning trajectories are typically flat and become flatter in the upper grades, which means that unless children acquire foundational skills in the primary grades, they are extremely unlikely to acquire them in later grades, in the absence of focused interventions. Should we really be surprised then that one in four 14-18-year olds cannot read fluently?

But how do we correct the collective failures of the past when it comes to these millions of children? ASER provides data on the distribution of 14-18 year olds as well as the percentage of children with basic reading skills, by where they are enrolled. Basic calculations using these numbers suggest that 57% of the 14-18 year olds surveyed who do not possess basic reading skills are enrolled in standard 10 or below, while another 28% of these children are not enrolled in school, college or a vocational institution.

Though ASER does not capture school attendance in secondary grades, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 75th round did so in 2017-18, recording that in the secondary grades (standards nine and 10) attendance in rural India was as low as 60%. Thus, among the 14-18 year olds who are unable to read fluently, even those who are enrolled in school may not be attending school. Focusing on school-based reading



Neeraj Trivedi

heads Organisational Effectiveness at the Pratham Education Foundation



Shweta Bhutada

co-leads the Survey Unit at Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Centre

Learning outcomes data in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 is, unarguably, cause for concern, but rather than lament, ASER, complemented by other data, must be used for corrective action

improvement programmes without investing in encouraging and empowering these children to return to school and to reading may not yield transformative results.

ASER 2022 provides further insights into where these children are on the ladder in terms of acquiring abilities to read with fluency and comprehension. Of the children in standard eight who could not read standard two level text fluently in 2022, almost half could read a standard one level text (i.e., a simple paragraph). Recognising letters or decoding simple words is not the major challenge most face. They need guidance, practice, and lots of encouragement and motivation to read. Unfortunately, exposed to ridicule and embarrassment, many of these children may have given up and begun to hate reading now.

The availability of reading materials and books is a crucial factor in developing reading habits and abilities. ASER 2022, and later the State of Elementary Education in Rural India Report, brought out by Sambodhi and the Development Intelligence Unit, clearly indicate that only a small fraction of rural households has reading materials, other than school textbooks. Community libraries can create rich, vibrant spaces that foster reading, creativity and critical thinking. But just setting up libraries is not the solution. They need to be managed right, led by committed and enterprising individuals who can rekindle an interest in reading, drawing children, youth and adults to these libraries and nurturing an environment in homes and neighbourhoods that guides, supports and motivates readers of all ages, genders and abilities.

Children and careers

ASER 2023 provides a peek into the aspirations and thought processes of the 14-18 year olds regarding their future. In addition to quantitative questions around educational and work aspirations and role models, the ASER team conducted focus group discussions with children of the target age group in three districts. More than 60% of the surveyed children want to obtain at least a college education, with a higher percentage of girls aspiring for a college education (65%) when compared to boys (59%). When asked about their work aspirations, one in five said they had really not thought about it. Among those who had, joining the police or the defence forces was the most prominent among career options for boys, while becoming a teacher or doctor emerged as the most prominent career option for girls. Developing aspirations is important but youth need the support, mentorship and inspiration to evaluate these aspirations, identifying alternative better-suited prospects if available, and

undertaking preparations and measures needed to fulfil the aspirations. ASER points out that almost half of the surveyed 14-18 year olds who have work aspirations do not know anyone else working in that profession, whether at home, community, school or even a public figure.

Further, focus group discussions conducted in three districts, as part of the ASER 2023 survey, discussed perceptions of 14-18 year olds around vocational education. In Sitapur and Dhamtari (in Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, respectively) vocational education was marred by negative perceptions of being the route that people choose when they are unable to bag white collar jobs. However, discussions in Solan (Himachal Pradesh) offered a refreshing perspective. Here, context-driven vocational courses such as tourism and hotel management were introduced in schools as early as standard nine and the result was seen in the perspectives of students towards these trades, which gained aspirational value. On-the-job training, certification at the end of the course and readily available information on career prospects encouraged students to aspire for related professions.

Technology use

In this backdrop, the increasing ubiquity and access of youth to smartphones, as highlighted by ASER 2023, and, earlier, the State of Elementary Education in Rural India Report, must be leveraged. Both surveys also confirm what we all know from our personal experiences – that teens use smartphones primarily for entertainment and social media and less for educational purposes. Youth will use smartphones for what they find interesting and what aligns with their motivations. Tapping into the incentives that youth may have to prepare and learn more about what they want to become, digital technology can equip youth with the foundations of their aspired professions and also bridge connections with relevant professionals. For example, while in school or college, youth who wish to become nurses can undertake online foundational courses on nursing and related subjects, or even relevant short modules such as administering first aid. All this requires committed collaborations among ed-tech agencies, industries and professional groups. But schools and colleges must take the lead and do more to understand and cultivate youth's aspirations and guide them to the right platforms and avenues.

Data, and not just ASER data, when designed and collected with rigour and the right intent, highlight problems but also have crucial pointers for action. What is needed is to move beyond the immediate instinct to lament over the problem and dig deeper to discern where to act, how to act and who must act.



ASER 2023



.About the ASER 2023 Survey

- The survey focuses on four key aspects: educational and career pathways, the application of foundational skills in daily life, digital access, and future skills and aspirations.
- The ‘Beyond Basics’ survey for the year 2023 by ASER was carried out in 28 districts across 26 states.
-

The Hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir



ASER 2023 'Beyond Basics' explored four key domains

ABILITY

Proficiency in comprehending simple text and performing basic arithmetic tasks. Capable of executing basic calculations needed for everyday situations, such as calculating interest for repayment and applying discounts. Further, it focuses on youth's ability to read and comprehend simple instructions, such as those found on a medicine packet.

AWARENESS AND DIGITAL APTITUDE

Do they have smartphones? Are they financially aware? Do they have knowledge of digital technologies and platforms? How do they utilize smartphones, and can they execute fundamental digital tasks on these devices?

ACTIVITY

What activities currently occupy the youth of India? Are they attending school or college, seeking additional tuition, undergoing vocational training, preparing for exams, or engaged in employment?

ASPIRATIONS

What are their ambitions for the future? How extensive is their desire for further education? Who do they look up to as their role models?



- **Enrollment: 86.8% of individuals aged 14 to 18 are currently enrolled in an educational institution.**
- **Enrolled Streams: The majority of youth within this age range are enrolled in the Arts/Humanities stream**
- **Vocational Training: Just 5.6% of the surveyed young individuals are engaged in vocational training or related courses.**
- **Employment: A greater proportion of males (40.3%) engage in non-household work for at least 15 days in the previous month compared to females (28%)**

The Hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir





- **Foundational reading Ability:** Approximately 25% of individuals in this age bracket 14-18 are still unable to ~~fluently~~ read a text at the Standard II level in their regional language.
- **Foundational Arithmetic Ability:** In general, nearly half of the youth population demonstrates proficiency in common calculations, such as time measurement, weight addition, and application of the unitary method.



- **Access to digital devices: Nearly 90% of young individuals have a smartphone in their households and are proficient in its usage.**
- **Among smartphone users, males (43.7%) are more than twice as likely to own a smartphone compared to females (19.8%).**
- **In contrast, the presence of a computer or laptop in households is significantly lower, with only 9% having one at home.**





- **Key Takeaways**

- **Smartphone ownership in rural households has increased from 36% in 2018 to 74% in 2022**
- **Two decades ago it was believed that computers and the internet would revolutionize education. A decade later mobile technology led to the belief that education anytime anywhere is possible. From one laptop per child we started thinking mobile devices will replace books. Now we are about to reach a situation of having a mobile phone in every home.**
- **89% of youth have stated that they have a smart phone at home, 92% stated they know how to use a smartphone.**

The Hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir





- According to self-declared information in ASER 2023, almost half the population has used mobile phones for their studies, significant but much less than those who use Youtube on smartphones.
- Agriculture employs over 50% of India's workforce, only 0.7% of the surveyed youth are enrolled in agriculture courses beyond Std X
- Half of the students start working part-time after completing Std X
-



NUKU'ALOFA

China defends security offer to Tonga for Pacific islands summit



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

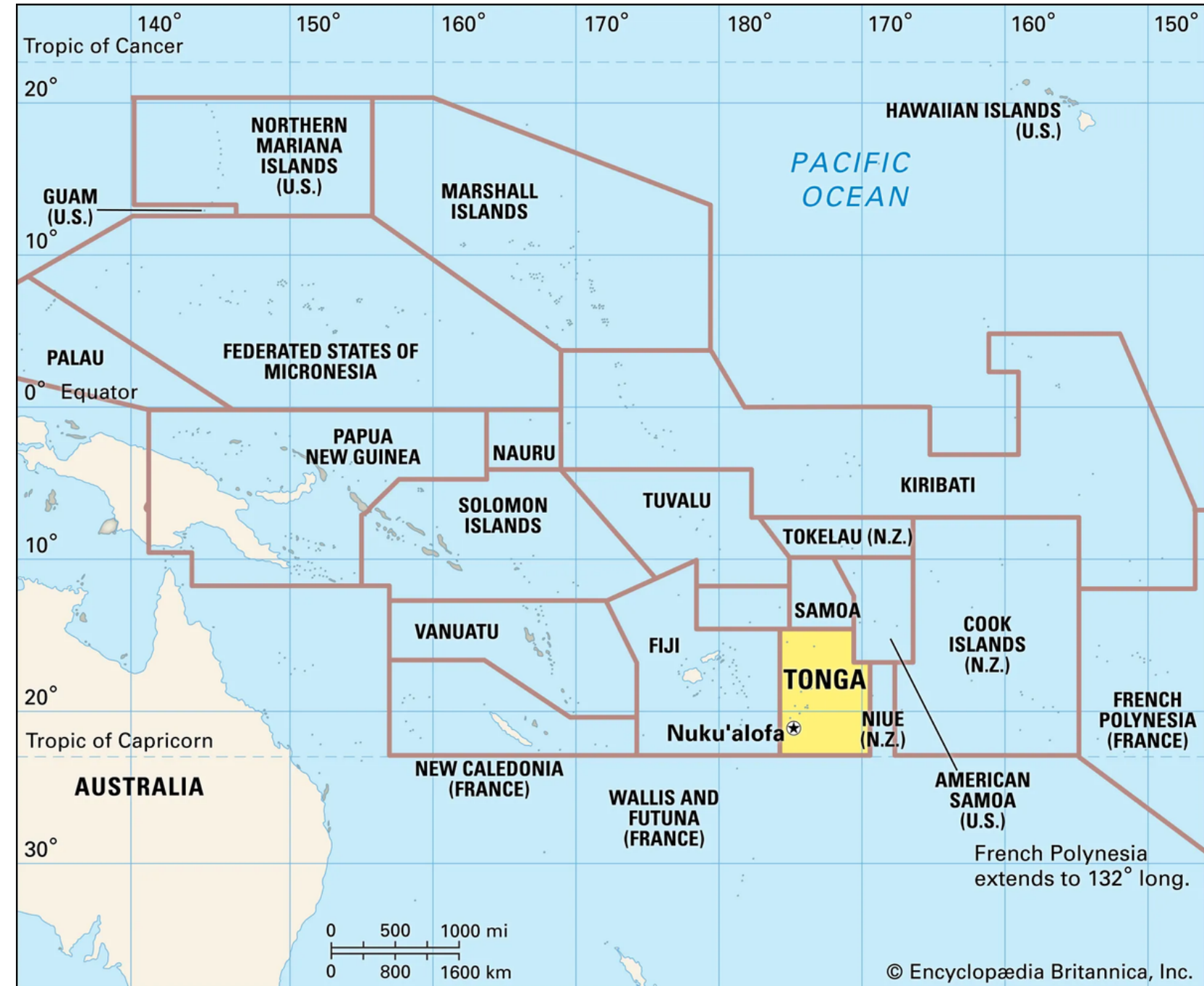
China said on Friday it is offering security assistance to Tonga for a Pacific islands summit, but swatted away concerns about its ambitions in the hotly contested region. Tonga, a Pacific kingdom of fewer than 1,10,000 people, says it needs help to host the August 26 annual meeting of the 26-member Pacific Island Forum. AFP



TONGA



- China said on it is offering security assistance to Tonga for a Pacific islands summit.



The Hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir

The Pacific Islands Forum

- The Pacific Islands Forum brings the region together to address pressing issues and challenges, and foster collaboration and cooperation in the pursuit of shared goals.
- Founded in 1971, it comprises 18 members: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
- Our vision is for a resilient Pacific region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives
-



Must courses for upsc prelims 2023

For any query msg-

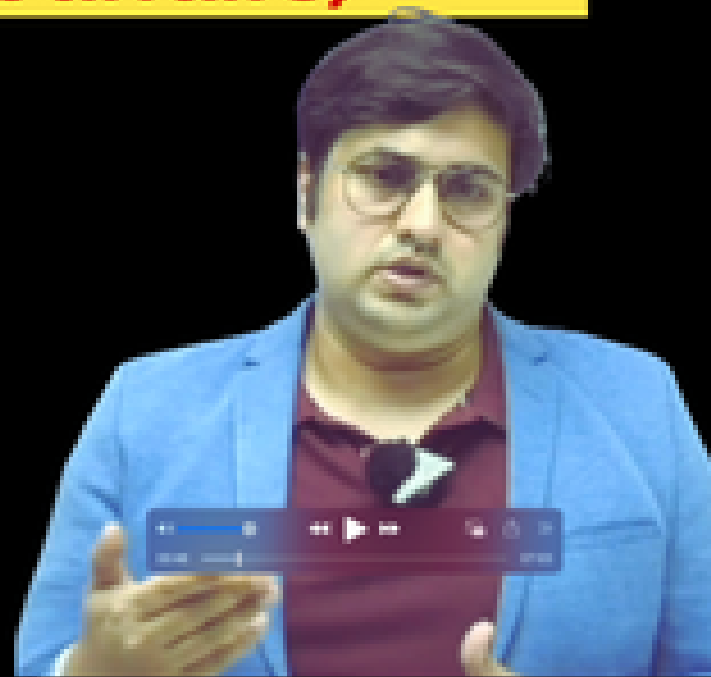
9057921649

Prelims Vijay Series

10 full length Tests (Static + Advance current affairs)



- As per recent UPSC trend
- Video Solution
- Revision pdf
- PYQs coverage



BY SAURABH
PANDEY SIR

"PT 730" PANDEY JI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Crash course on 2 yrs Current affairs
(PT 730)

Course will cover-

- THE HINDU/INDIAN EXPRESS
- PIB
- DOWN TOEARTH
- PHYSICS.ORG
- Prelims pointer pdf

For Any Query Msg
9057921649



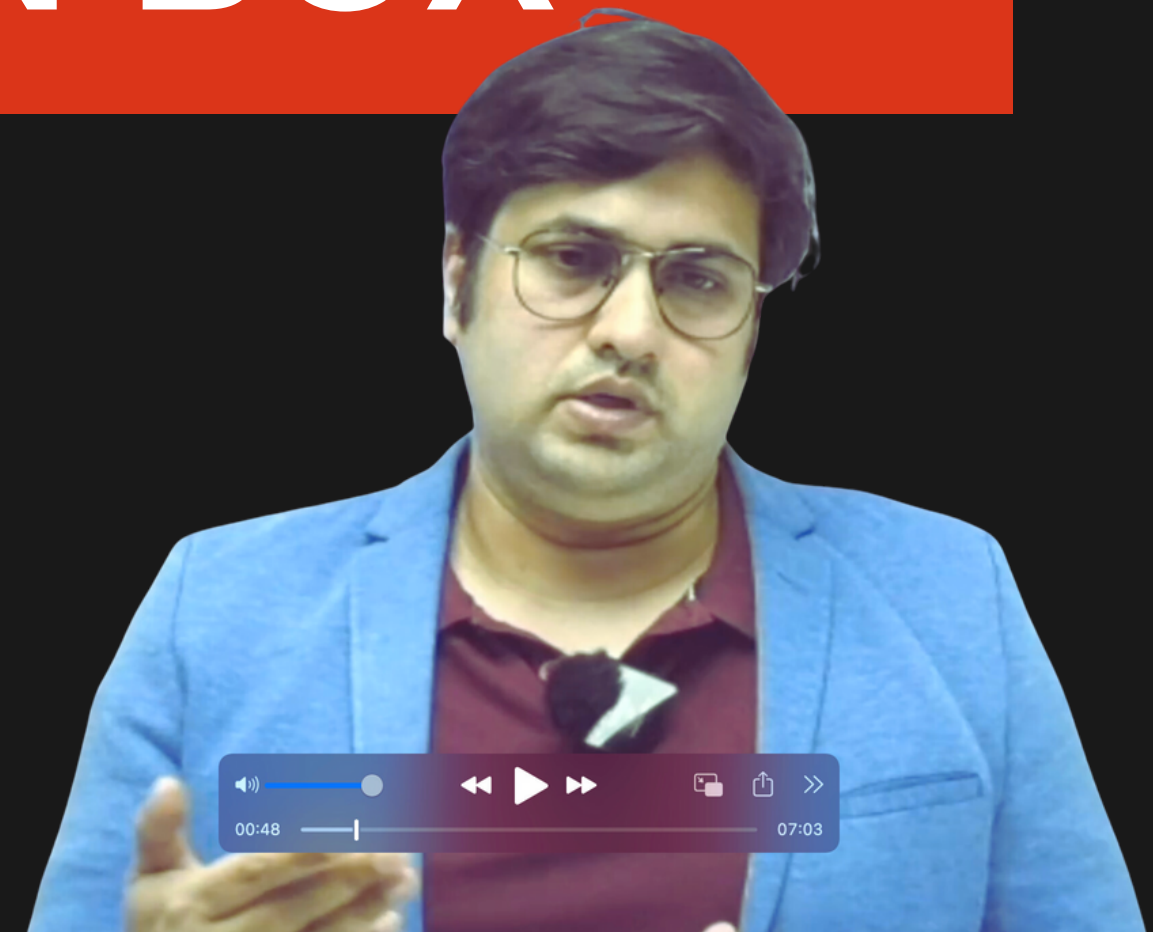
Link in description

The Hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir



**50 PER OFF IN “COURSE ON
INTERNETIONAL RELATIONS”
COURSE
LINK IN DESCRIPTION BOX**

**For any query msg-
9057921649**



Saurabh Pandey CSE

Saurabh Pandey CSE

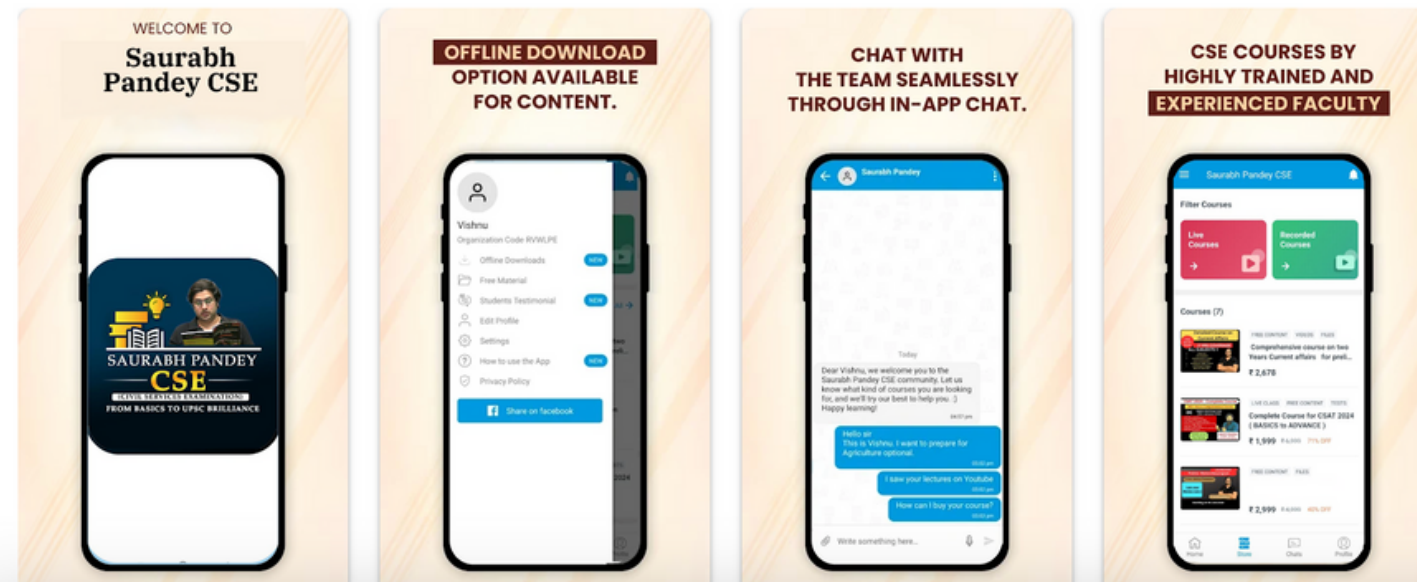
4.8★
73 reviews

1K+
Downloads

E
Everyone

Share Add to wishlist

You don't have any devices



App support

**For any query msg-
9057921649**

**FOR COURSE JOINING - Visit
saurabhpandeyupsc.com /.OR
click on link in description**

New beginnings



Making merry: Revellers take part in a mass water fight on the eve of Songkran, or Thai New Year, on Khao San Road in Bangkok. AFP



Songkran

- In Thailand, Songkran refers to the sun's annual passing into the Aries constellation, the first sign of the Zodiac, which marks the traditional start of the new year.
- Occurring in mid-April after the rice harvest, it is a time when people reunite with their families and pay their respects to older adults, ancestors and sacred Buddha images. Pouring water is a significant act during Songkran, symbolizing cleansing, reverence and good fortune.
- Other activities include bathing important Buddha images, splashing water on family and friends, folk plays, games, music and feasting





New wave: For two decades, Taiwan's top export market has been China. ISTOCKPHOTO

U.S. becomes Taiwan's largest export market amid chips, AI surge

Agence France-Presse

TAIPEI

The United States has topped long-time leader China as Taiwan's main export market for four consecutive months due to a surge in demand for microchip products and AI technology, Taipei's Finance Ministry said Friday.

Self-ruled Taiwan is a microchip-manufacturing powerhouse, churning out the world's most advanced silicon wafers necessary to power everything from e-vehicles and satellites to fighter jets and increasingly to power AI technology.

For two decades, its top export market has been China – which claims Taiwan as part of its territory – but December data from the Finance Ministry shows the United States topping the list for the first time since August 2003.

In December, Taiwan exported \$8.49 billion in products to the United States, compared with \$8.28 billion to mainland China. The trend continued through March, when the U.S. exports increased by 65% to \$9.11 billion, a six per cent jump, while mainland China received \$7.99 billion. Those figures exclude Hong Kong, which holds its own status as a customs territory. When combined with mainland tallies, China remains the top destination for Taiwanese goods.

A Finance Ministry official in the trade division attributed the recent U.S. tilt to the global "reorganisation of electronics and ICT (information and communication technology) supply chains, and the popularity of the AI industry".

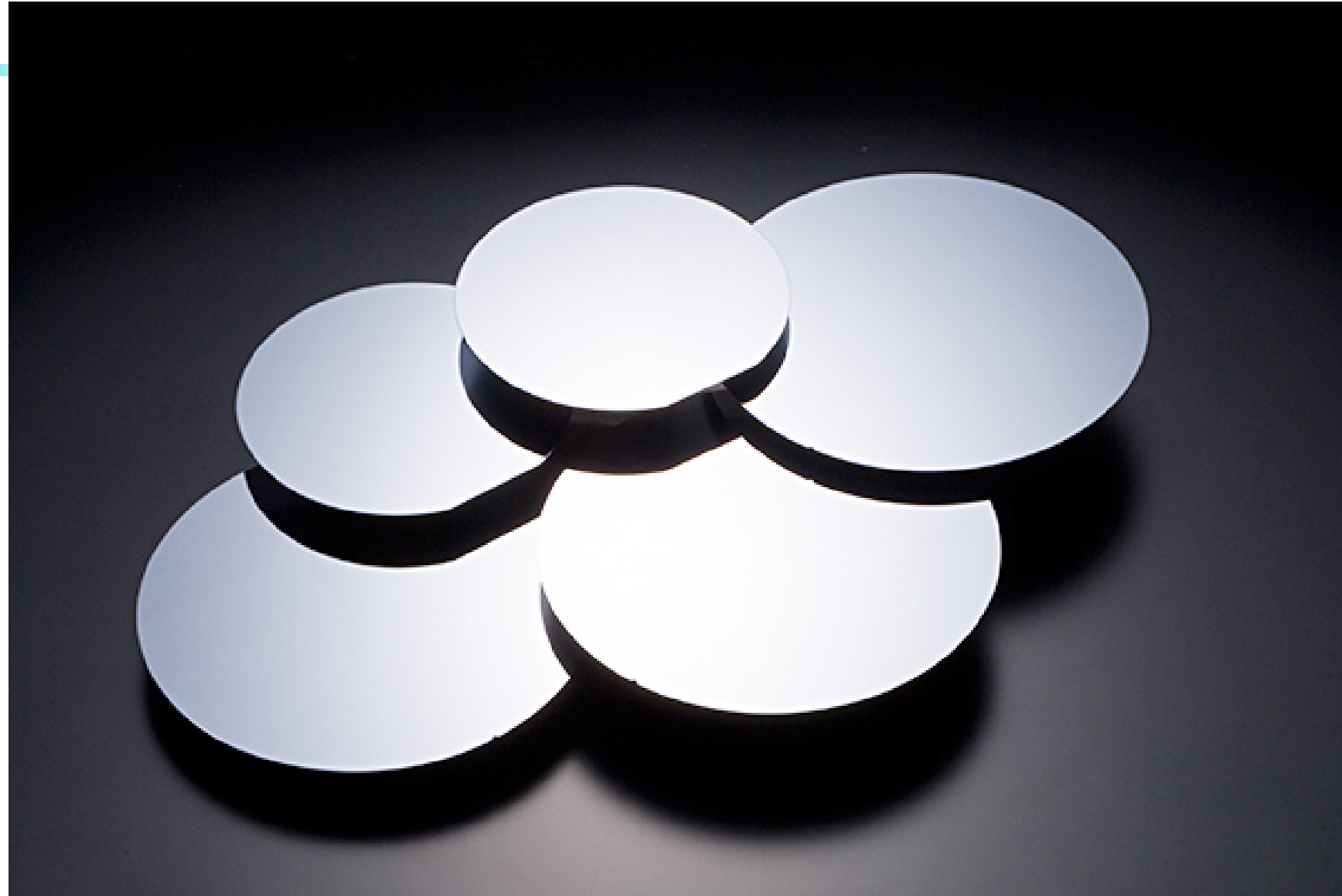


U.S. becomes Taiwan's largest export market



- **Self-ruled Taiwan is a microchip-manufacturing powerhouse, churning out the world's most advanced silicon wafers necessary to power everything from e-vehicles and satellites to fighter jets and increasingly to power AI technology.**
- **For two decades, its top export market has been China – which claims Taiwan as part of its territory – but December data from the Finance Ministry shows the United States topping the list for the first time since August 2003..**

Silicon WAFER



- **Silicon wafer is a material used for producing semiconductors, which can be found in all types of electronic devices that improve the lives of people.**
- **Silicon comes second as the most common element in the universe; it is mostly used as a semiconductor in the technology and electronic sector.**
- **There are various methods used in silicon fabrication counting the horizontal Bridgeman method, horizontal gradient freeze method, vertical gradient freeze, vertical Bridgeman method and the Czochralski pulling method.**



- **All through the growth process dopants can be included to modify the purity of the silicon wafer depending on its manufacturing purpose.**
- **Some of the silicon dopants that can be added throughout the growth process include aluminum, boron, nitrogen, indium and gallium.**

NIA arrests Bengaluru cafe bomber and chief conspirator in Bengal

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

In a significant breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested the alleged bomber and chief conspirator in Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast case from a hotel near Kolkata, West Bengal, early on Friday.

The arrested persons were identified as Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taahaa, 30, the alleged chief conspirator in the case, and Mussavir Hussain Shazib, 30, the alleged bomber.

The blast at the restaurant in Brookfield on March 1 had left nine injured. The NIA had announced a reward of ₹10 lakh for information leading to their arrest.

The duo came under the radar of security agencies in 2020, when they were accused in the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Al Hind module case busted in Bengaluru. The module wanted to allegedly start an IS-style insurgency from the jungles of south India and had spread its tentacles in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. While others in the case were arrested, the duo slipped away and had been on the run.

The two, both hailing



In the net: An accused in the Bengaluru cafe blast case being brought to a court by NIA officials, in Kolkata. PTI

Trinamool, BJP spar over arrests

KOLKATA
The arrest of two accused in the Bengaluru cafe blast case from West Bengal on Friday triggered a war of words between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP in the State ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. » [PAGE 7](#)

from Thirthahalli in Shivamogga, in southern Karnataka, allegedly put together a module of youth they radicalised in their hometown.

The "Thirthahalli module" was also allegedly involved in a pro-terror graffiti case in Mangaluru in 2020, an IED trial blast in Shivamogga and cooker

blast in Mangaluru in 2022.

"The kingpins of this module that had been active for four years now have now been arrested," a senior official said.

The NIA said they were traced to their hideout to a lodge near Kolkata, where they were staying under false identities. After the NIA sought their help, the West Bengal police apprehended the accused. The NIA said the month-long manhunt for the duo that ended on Friday morning was a coordinated effort of several Central agencies along with police forces of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal among other States.

With these arrests, the total number of arrests in the case has gone up to four.



National Investigation Agency



- **The Government after due consideration and examination of the issues involved, proposed to enact a legislation to make provisions for establishment of a National Investigation Agency in a concurrent jurisdiction framework, with provisions for taking up specific cases under specific Acts for investigation.**
- **Accordingly the NIA Act was enacted on 31-12-08 and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) was born. At present NIA is functioning as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in India.**

- **The National Investigation Agency aims to be a thoroughly professional investigative agency matching the best international standards.**
- **The NIA aims to set the standards of excellence in counter terrorism and other national security related investigations at the national level by developing into a highly trained, partnership oriented workforce.**
- **NIA aims at creating deterrence for existing and potential terrorist groups/individuals. It aims to develop as a storehouse of all terrorist related information**

**50 PER OFF IN “COURSE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS”**

COURSE

LINK IN DESCRIPTION BOX

**For any query msg-
9057921649**



DOWNLOAD APP

Google Play Games Apps Movies & TV Books Kids

Saurabh Pandey CSE

Saurabh Pandey CSE


4.8★
73 reviews

1K+
Downloads

E
Everyone

Share Add to wishlist

You don't have any devices



App support

WELCOME TO Saurabh Pandey CSE

OFFLINE DOWNLOAD OPTION AVAILABLE FOR CONTENT.

CHAT WITH THE TEAM SEAMLESSLY THROUGH IN-APP CHAT.

CSE COURSES BY HIGHLY TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED FACULTY



Must courses for upsc prelims 2023

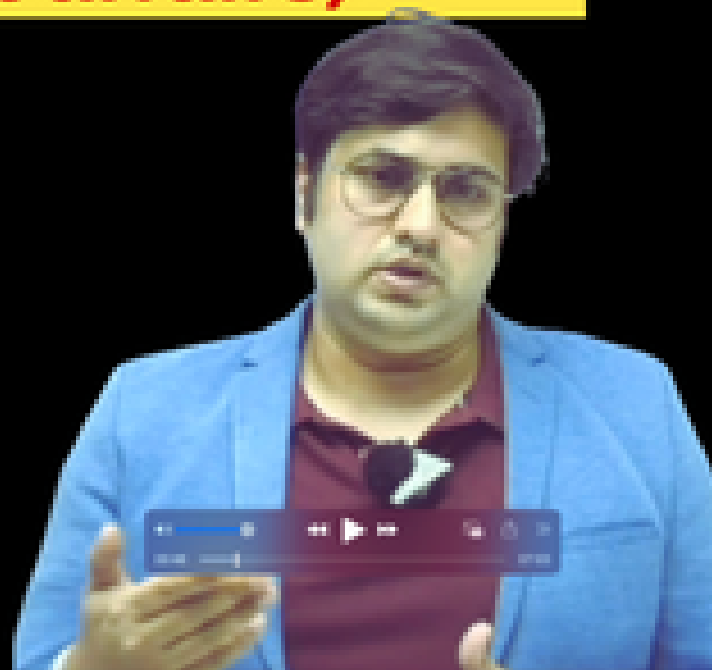
For any query msg-
9057921649

Prelims Vijay Series

10 full length Tests (Static +
Advance current affairs)



- As per recent UPSC trend
- Video Solution
- Revision pdf
- PYQs coverage

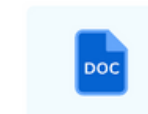


BY SAURABH
PANDEY SIR

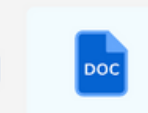
Contents



Test revision pdf



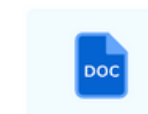
Study Material for test set 1



Study Material for Test - set 2



Study Material for Test - set 3



Study Material for Test - set 4



← Go Back

The Hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir





Must courses for upsc prelims 2023

For any query msg-

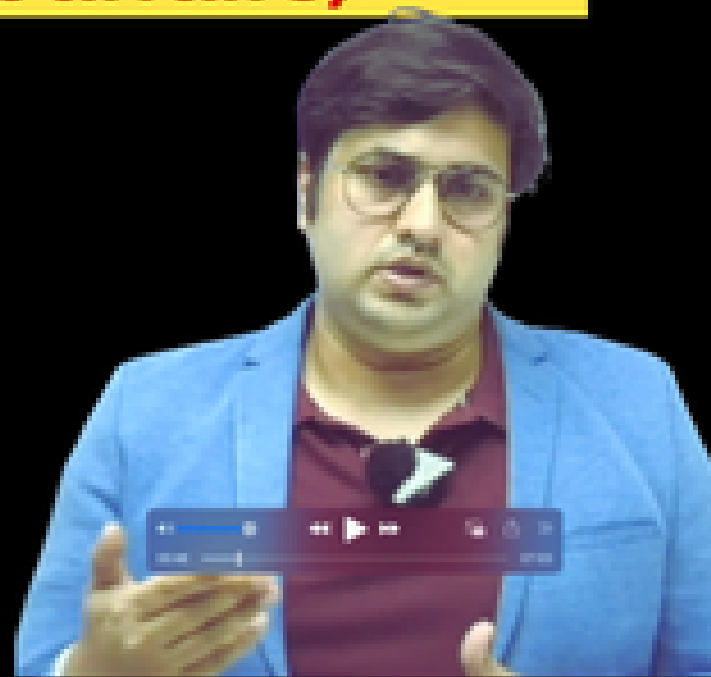
9057921649

Prelims Vijay Series

10 full length Tests (Static + Advance current affairs)



- As per recent UPSC trend
- Video Solution
- Revision pdf
- PYQs coverage



BY SAURABH
PANDEY SIR

"PT 730" PANDEY JI CURRENT AFFAIRS

Crash course on 2 yrs Current affairs
(PT 730)

Course will cover-

- THE HINDU/INDIAN EXPRESS
- PIB
- DOWN TOEARTH
- PHYSICS.ORG
- Prelims pointer pdf

For Any Query Msg
9057921649



Link in description

The Hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir



Target Mains 2024/25-essay



Q“ In changing world order , india’s foreign policy is outdated” (1100 words)

Q" बदलती विश्व व्यवस्था में भारत की विदेश नीति पुरानी हो गई है"
(1100 शब्द)

send your answer - Saurabh pandey
upsc telegram channel

