

Topics - MINDS MAPS included (Daily current affairs)-- 20th september 2024

- Harappa civilisation
- White Revolution
- What is PAM?
- Ukraine and Russia
- Simultaneous election
- Adjusted Gross revenue
- Zinc Consumption in india
- Mains





Target Mains -2024/25 -

Q 'Human civilisation is shaped by human needs which may change with change in temporal and spatial context' Discuss

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Harappan civilisation: enigma remains even after 100 years of exploration

Exactly 100 years ago, on September 20, 1924, The Il-lustrated London News published an article contain-ing explosive news which has reverberated down the decades and continues to cast a long shadow in South Asia even a century later. Headlined "First Light on a Long-forgotten Civilisation: New Discoveries of an Unknown Prehis-toric Past", the article authored by John Marshal then Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), announced

Two ASI archaeologists the discovery of what he called the "civilisation of the Indus Valley* A century later, this Bronze Age civilisation is called the Harappan civili-sation, named after Harap-pa, now in Pakistan, which the past 100 years, the Ha-rappan civilisation has mesmerised and baffled town planners, epigra-phists, metallurgists, hyso located in modern-day drologists, specialists in ce-Pakistan, and found seals, ramics, mathematicians,

ners, and others At the apogee of its prosical powerhouse* that exharvesting water, buildin reservoirs, stadia, ware houses, underground sul fication walls and building seafaring boots, fabricatin facts, and in making beads exquisite painted potters and terracotta products Its craftsman made seals of steatite and carved then animal motifs and a script

were instrumental in the cle Dava Ram Sahni firs 22, finding seals, painted pottery, and beads. Known rate and modest" man Sahni later became the General. The other key player was Rakhal Das Racavating Mohenio-daro, al

pottery, copper products, and employees at that site In June 1924, Marshall summoned Sahni and Banerii to meet him in his offinds. He was struck by the



and Mohenjo-daro, though the two sites were 640 km apart. He interpreted the dus Valley" in the London

similarities and an-nounced the discovery of the "civilisation of the In-and Dholavira, both in India, are the five of the big-gest Harappan sites out of newspaper. The Harappan civilisanearly 2,000 in the civilisation can be divided into an early phase (3200 BC to tional area, which is spread over 1.5 million sq.km in 2600 BC), the mature pe-India, Pakistan, and Afriod (2600 BC to 1900 BC). ghanistan, There are 1.500

BC to 1500 BC), when it de-cayed and collapsed. Modia, including in Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashhenio-daro, Harappa, and mir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh the banks of the Godavari river in Maharashtra is the the Harappan civilisation. finely carved stamp seals There are about 500 sites with writing and/or an ani-in Pakistan, and a few in Afghanistan. The civilisation

sation of binary and decisystems...; vilisation in Asia, beside large-scale use of burnt brick, standardised in size, with the ratio 1:2:4, the most effective for bonding; exquisite lapidary art, featuring highly developed micro-drilling of very long beads made of hard carne-lian, decorated with chemically stained motifs." (From Parpola's The Roots of Hinduism. The Early Arwans and the Indus Civil nation, 2015, Oxford University Press). Filling the gap

cubic weights made of chert carefully cut and pol-

Vasant Shinde, who has evcavated several Harappan sites in India, noted that the civilisation's discovery counts. First, most historians were of the opinion. that settled life in this part of the world first occurred BCE, leaving a gap in South Asian history, Historian dia jumped from the Stone Age to the [Buddhist] stu-pas. "The discovery of the Harappan civilisation filled the so-called gap and pushed back in one stroke

the Egyptian and the Meso potamian, and unravelled the Harappan civilisation's Iravatham Mahadevar decipher the Indus scrip had asserted that the civil sation was both pre-Aryan and non-Aryan. Mehrgarh in Balochistan, is where all began around 7000 BC. "The roots of the Harap pan civilisation lie in Mehr garh, around eight millen nium BC," asserted R.S Right, who excavated Dhe

Second, the discover

India's zinc

consumption

expected to

rise to over 2

Press Trust of India

UDAIPUR

tion

Thursday.

MT in 10 years

India's zinc consumption is

estimated to increase to ov-

er 2 million tonnes in the

next 10 years from the cur-

rent 1.1 million tonnes, In-

ternational Zinc Associa-

Speaking on the side-

lines of Zinc College, 2024

event here, Andrew Green,

Executive Director of IZA,

said: "The zinc consump-

1.1 million tonnes (MT),

which is higher than the

current production in In-

dia. ...this is likely to go ov-

er 2 MT in the next 10

years. That's the forecast."

Zinc College is organised

every two years by the In-

ternational Zinc Associa-

tion in partnership with a

member company. Hin-

dustan Zinc Ltd is the

partner of Zinc College

He further said that the

global zinc market is

around 13.5 million tonnes

per annum in terms of

primary production. And

one of the big differences is

that if one looks at the per

capita use of zinc, on the

global average it's about

four to five times higher

than what's happening in

So there are a number of

areas where the use of zinc

needs to be increased to

meet the global standards,

been working in India on

getting a standard in place

for galvanized rebar.

IZA, he said, has also

India.

he explained

tion and demand in India is

(IZA) said on

lavira in Gujarat from 1989 90 to 2004-05. The book The Wonde that was Harappan Civili-sation, brought out by The Hindu, has reproduces Marshall's story, first pu blished in The Illustrate London News On January used a full page to publish the original report by John Marchall (This article is based narth

on extracts from The Won-der that was Harappan Ci the antiquity of the settled

White Revolution 2.0 to empower women, fight malnutrition: Amit Shah

rivers, the latter of which is believed to have dried up

According to Indus civil-sation scholar Asko Parpo-

la, "its most characteristic

features" were "the fully

graphic motif...: standar-

around 1900 BC.

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Union Home and Coopera tion Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched the standard operating procedure for 'White Revolution 2.0' stating that milk dairies will aid empowerment. of women and the fight against malnutrition.

Mr. Shah said that according to the western concept, a woman is considered unemployed even though she does all the work at home, but he disagreed with it. He said White Revolution 2.0 will help the inclusion of women engaged in procurement of milk in formal employment as the money will be deposited in their bank accounts. The

scheme aims at increasing



procurement led by cooperatives from the present 660 lakh litres per day to 1,000 lakh litres, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Panchayati Raj, Rajiv Ranjan Singh was also present at the launch.

Mr. Shah said that in the past 70 years, necessary changes in cooperatives were not made due to which the bodies became very successful in some

States and were left to the mercy of State governments in others. He said the government has prepared a joint proposal of two lakh primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS), dairy and fishery cooperatives, and sent it across the country, and all the States have accepted it. He said that once these PACS are registered, there will not be a single panchayat without a PACS, dairy or fisheries cooperative society.

The Minister said once this happens, co-operatives will be able to reach the whole country, which will lead to the creation of cooperative institutions at tehsil and district levels, and State institutions will strength

momentum

Wrong notion

is inherently anti-federal

otwithstanding the opposition from political parties and many in civil society to the idea of simultaneous elections, the Union government has decided to accept the recommendations of a high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to go ahead with the scheme. The committee envisaged simultaneous Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections as the first step, followed by municipal and panchavat polls within 100 days of the general election. In order to do so, the government would need to get constitutional amendments to be passed, in Parliament and in the State Assemblies. Two key reasons have been evinced for the proposal - first, the costs of conducting these elections would be significantly reduced if held together, and, second, not having simultaneous elections has kept political parties in prolonged campaign mode, impacting governance and legislative work. There has been little to no empirical data to support the first reason. Already, general elections take an inordinately long time, with some State polls being held in phases. Simultaneous elections could prolong this process. One of the committee's recommendations is that if a State Assembly gets dissolved before five years of its term, after the "appointed date" - the date for synchronising Lok Sabha and Assembly elections - fresh "midterm" elections will be held but the new Assembly's will not have a full five-year tenure. Its tenure will end five years from the "appointed date". This provision militates against the original idea of cost cutting

In a multi-tiered governance system, people choose their representatives based on their perception of who is best suited. The power being demarcated for different levels of government al lows for distinct roles for each representative and suggests varied voter choices that could be based on party affiliation, candidate strength, ideologiconstituency-specific. Each tier has its exclusive second reason, that representatives are in peren nial campaign mode and, therefore, polls to every tier should all be held during the same period, is problematic. For one, that national representatives of parties are forever in camtendencies of parties that are in power today and is not a reflection of the extant electoral demo cratic system. Second, subsuming multi-tier elections into simultaneous mode has the potential to reduce the importance of each tier, especially the Assembly and municipal/panchayat levels, and is anti-federal. Lastly, to effect this proposal, the tenures of quite a few State governments will have committed to federalism must squarely reject this proposal by the Union government.

federal idea.

The idea of simultaneous elections

through simultaneous elections. It is also an anti-

cal positions or socio-economic reasons that are importance and so does the related election. The paign mode is a consequence of the centralising to be cut short. Parties and civil society actors

India's place in Russia-Ukraine peace-making



Zelemikyy will be sweking a further escalation: western permissions for the long range Storm Shadow missiles, and Army Tactical Missile Systems (XDAZM) for aintribes deep inside

weaponry from Iran and North Korea. Mr. Putin has said in no uncertain terms that if the West clears the request, it would be a declaration of direct war between the North Adantic Treaty Ukraine and Europe, while a win for U.S. Vice-President Karnala Harris will indicate continuity in the U.S's support.

dia's role, the full picture

Security Advisor Aji Doval and Emercual Affairs Miratars E, Johandar all point in this direction. The fact that Mr. Modil "levisided" United States President people fidels in a phase on all piet the Unitarie visit, and Mr. Doval bold Mr. Praint that the analyses and the condition of the Mr. Praint that the work when the med time in N. Presidenty last work when the med time in N. Presidenty last work developing in their war miterial cases. The question then is low for does the Modil' plan to plan peacembag crawford And when can have been approximated to the control of the plan to plan peacembag crawford And when can have been supported to the control of the plan to plan peacembag crawford And when can have been supported to the control of the plan to plan peacembag crawford And when can have been supported to the control of the plan to plan peacembag crawford And when can have been supported to the plan to plan to the plan the plan to the the plan to the plan to the the plan to the plan to the the plan to the

rage as an "honest broker" or mediator. India is an important voice for the Global term, Mr. Modi would no doubt like

In his third term, Mr. Mock would no doubt his be balld a global logacy, much his tends when Prime Minister Javoharlal Nohrus was able to do by mediating between the USER and Austria for the withdrawal of Soviet troops in exchange for a policy of neumality, or by hadas leading international efforts and Us commissions on annemational enters and its commissions of wars in Keess, Vietnam and Cambodia. If it does easily such a role, the government would need a thorough assessment of the situation, beginning with a study of the state of war in Ukraine. Russian thoops remain strenched in about a sixth of territory of the suntry for more than two years now, while

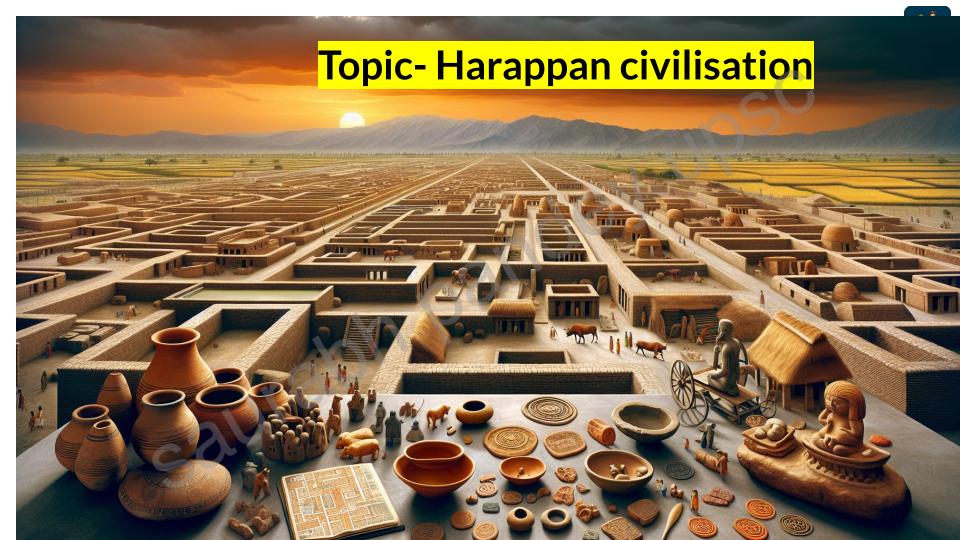
An offering that would have to stand out Section, while their within freed to other its own proposal for conflict resolution or de-escalation taking into account that there are already a number of proposals in the arena, all of which have been rejected by one side or the other. Mr. Putin and Mr. Zelenskov have rejected each on the state of th

more comprehensive vision of its path to peace The next step would be to study what India's

ZEMENTS YOUR DR. STORM THE REPORT OF THE STORM TO SHE SEE THE STORM TO SHE SEE THE STORM THE STO

Consistency would be the key word

At a time when the government is dealing with
internal conflicts including Manipur, reving u



Topic - Harappan Civilisation



Overview

Definition: The (Harappan) civilisation, also known as the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Location: Spread across present-day Pakistan, northwest India, and parts of Afghanistan.

Historical Significance: First discovered site at Harappa; known for technological advancements and urban planning.

Key Features-

Technological Powerhouse:





Construction: Massive fortifications and seafaring vessels.

Craftsmanship: Bronze and copper artefacts, pottery, and bead-making.

Cultural Aspects:

Seals: Made from steatite featuring human and animal motifs, inscribed scripts.

Artifacts: Exquisite painted pottery and terracotta products.



Historical Timeline

Early Phase (3200 BC - 2600 BC)

Mature Phase (2600 BC - 1900 BC)

Late Phase (1900 BC - 1500 BC): Decline and collapse.

Key Sites:

🗰 Mohenjo-daro

m Harappa

🗰 Ganweriwala

m Rakhigarhi

m Dholavira



Archaeological Findings

Discovery:

1924 by Marshall, connecting Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.

Research Challenges:

Ongoing intrigue among various academic disciplines (e.g., epigraphists, metallurgists).

Geographic Distribution

Civilisational Area: Approximately 1.5 million sq.km. Notable Regions:

Northwestern India: Gujarat, Haryana, J&K, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh.

Southernmost Outpost: Daimabad (Maharashtra).

Sites in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Harappan civilization remains a subject of fascination for historians and archaeologists, providing insights into early urban planning and societal organization.



Topic→ White Revolution in India



Overview

The White Revolution refers to the rapid expansion of milk production in India.

Initiated in the 1970s, this program aimed at making India one of the largest milk producers in the world.

The recent launch of White Revolution 2.0 aims to further enhance the dairy sector.

Key Highlights:

Government announced the new phase of the White Revolution.

Focus on women empowerment and combating malnutrition.

Full budgetary support promised for the initiative.

Key Outcomes:



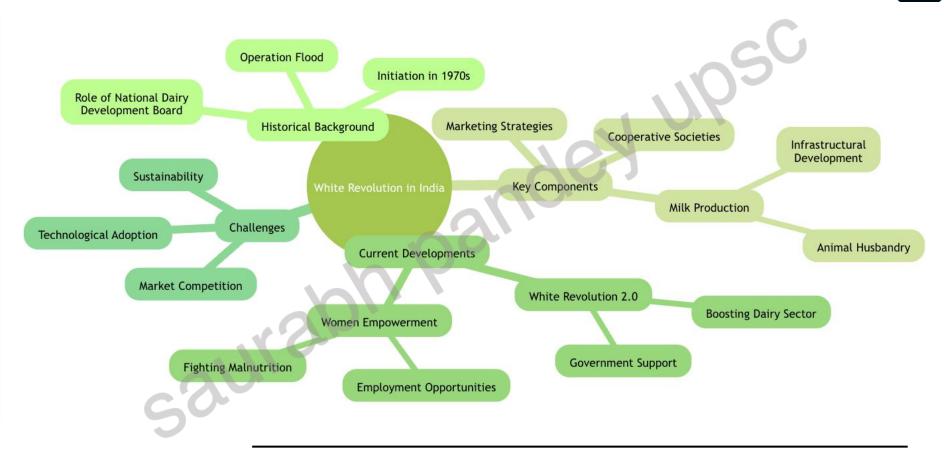
Increased milk production //
Improved farmer incomes

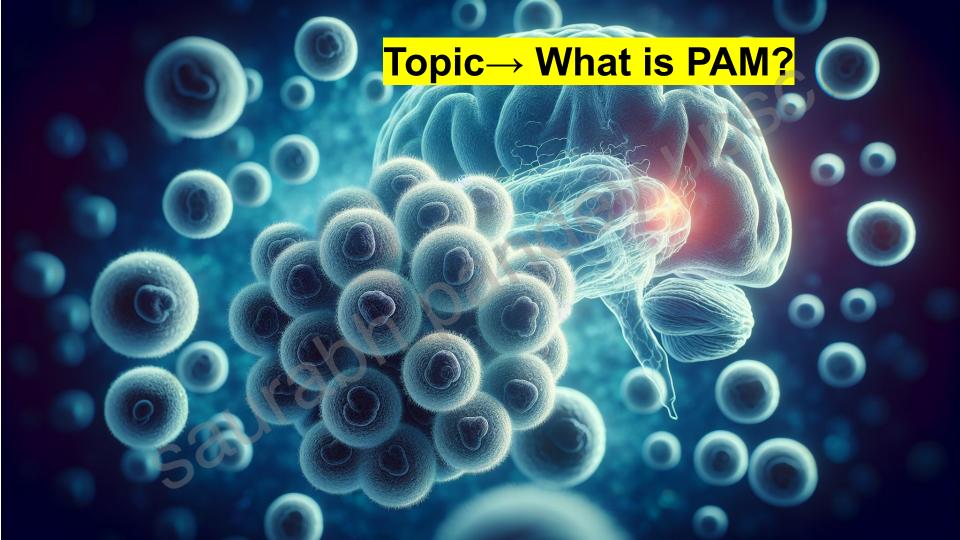
Development of rural infrastructure

Current Developments

Launch of White Revolution 2.0 aimed at further enhancing the dairy sector ...







Topic→ What is PAM? (Primary Amoebic –



Meningoencephalitis)

Overview

Definition: PAM is a rare and severe disease caused by the infection with *Naegleria fowleri*, known as the "brain-eating amoeba".

Symptoms: Causes brain tissue destruction, leading to severe swelling and often death.

Demographics: Primarily affects healthy children, teens, and young adults.

Fatality Rate: High due to rapid onset and delayed diagnosis.

Key Facts

Survivors: Only 11 confirmed survivors reported in medical literature.

Geographical Instances: Cases reported in Kerala, India, involving *Naegleria fowleri*, *Vermamoeba vermiformis*, and *Acanthamoeba*.

Genomic Sequencing: Lack of comprehensive genomic data on all cases.



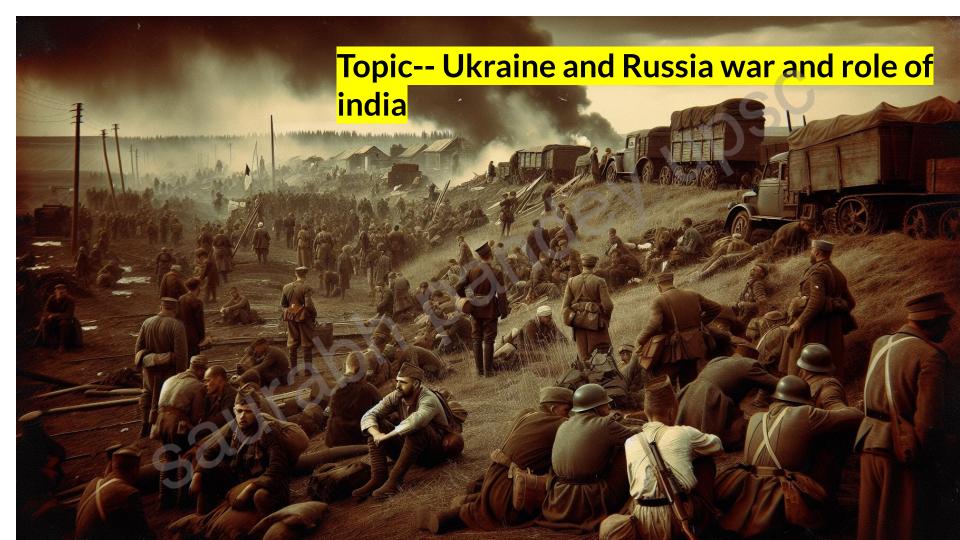
Treatment and Research

Current Treatments: Limited; primarily supportive care. Research: Ongoing studies for vaccines and better treatment options, including mRNA-based vaccines.

Prevention

Awareness: Understanding the risks associated with warm freshwater environments.

Guidance: CDC guidelines for public water systems to minimize contamination risks.





Topic→ India's Role in the Geopolitical Landscape

Overview

India's Geopolitical Position 🧸

Engaging both the West and Eurasian leadership

Long-held beliefs in non-alignment and strategic autonomy

Image as an "honest broker" or mediator

Global South Representation



Important voice for developing nations

G-20 presidency focused on energy and food security

Bilateral Trade Dynamics



Increased intake of Russian oil

Six-fold increase in trade with Russia



Legacy of Leadership m

- a. Modi's ambition to build a global legacy
- b. Historical context: Nehru's diplomatic efforts

Historical Context

Legacy of Nehru: Like Nehru's mediation efforts, Modi aims for a global legacy.

Past Mediation Roles: Historical efforts in Korea, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

Assessment of the Ukraine Situation

Current War Status: Russian troops control significant territory; Ukrainian forces maintain defense.

Escalation Risks: Potential for massive escalation if status quo changes.

Zelenskyy's Strategy: Seeking military support for offensive capabilities.

Global Implications

U.S. Election Influence: Outcome may affect U.S. support for Ukraine, impacting the geopolitical balance.

Putin's Stance: Direct war implications if Western support escalates.





Conflict Context: Rejection of Proposals: Mr. Putin and Mr. Zelenskyy have dismissed each other's proposals. Notable proposals include the Bürgenstock Communiqué and Brazil-China six-point plan. India's Stance:

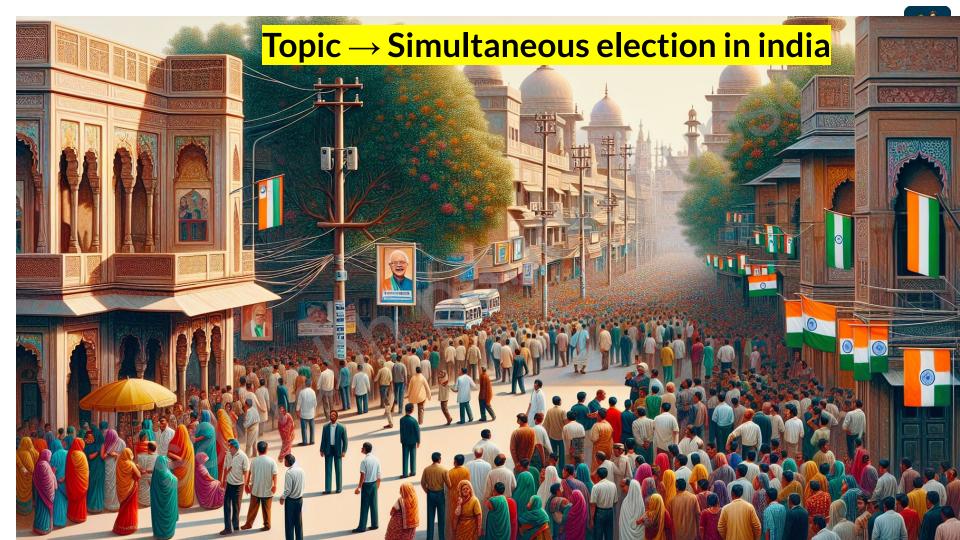
- i. Principles laid out by India's external affairs minister:
 - 2 No solutions on the bettlefield

This is not the era of war.

- 2. No solutions on the battlefield.
 - 3. Russia must be involved in talks.
 - 4. India is committed to finding a resolution.

Future Steps:

- i. India could act as a mediator or host for a summit.
- ii. Requires diplomatic goodwill and intensified government engagement.



Topic → **Simultaneous Elections in India**



Overview of Simultaneous Elections

Definition: Holding Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections at the same time.

Committee: Recommendations by a high-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

Key Reasons for Proposal

Cost Reduction: Significant savings in conducting elections. Improved Governance: Reducing prolonged campaigns affecting legislative work.

Empirical Evidence: Lack of data to support cost-saving claims.

Challenges and Considerations



Constitutional Amendments: Required to implement the proposal in Parliament and State Assemblies.

Prolonged Election Process: Potential delays in electoral timelines.

Midterm Elections: New Assemblies may not have full five-year tenures after early dissolutions.

Federalism Concerns: May undermine federal structure of governance.

Implementation Steps.

Phase 1: Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.

Phase 2: Municipal and Panchayat polls within 100 days post general elections.

Recent Developments

Cabinet Approval: Recent approval for the scheme. Opposition: Concerns raised by political parties and citizens.

Definition: A governance framework where different levels



of government have distinct roles.

Importance: Each tier has its own significance in the electoral process and representation.

Factors Influencing Representation

Voter Choices:

Party affiliation

Candidate strength

Ideological positions

Socio-economic reasons

Challenges

Simultaneous Elections:

Perennial campaign mode for representatives Risk of diminishing the importance of local governance

Potential anti-federal implications

Recommendations

Rejection of Simultaneous Polls:

Civil society and political parties should oppose proposals affecting federalism.



Importance of Each Tier

Each governance tier holds its own significance.

Local elections (Assembly and municipal) are crucial for grassroots representation.

Political Dynamics

Centralizing tendencies in dominant parties affect election dynamics.

Shortening tenures of state governments could lead to instability.

Topic ---> Adjusted Gross Revenue in Telecom



Understanding Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)

Definition: The revenue used to calculate the license fees and spectrum usage charges for telecom companies.

Components:

Gross Revenue: Total revenue from all operations.

Deductions: Includes specific exclusions allowed by the government.

Recent Developments

Supreme Court Rulings:

Recent decisions rejecting pleas from telecom firms for recalculating AGR.

Impact on companies like Vodafone and Airtel due to ongoing disputes regarding dues.

Financial Implications:

Increased financial burdens on telecom companies. Market responses and share price fluctuations.



Importance of AGR

Regulatory Compliance: Ensures telecom companies adhere to government regulations.

Market Stability: Affects competition and pricing within the telecom sector.

Future Considerations

Policy Changes: Potential reforms in how AGR is calculated.

Industry Impact: How changes in AGR calculation may affect the telecom landscape



Topic → **Zinc Consumption in India**



Overview of Zinc Consumption

Current Trend: India's zinc consumption projected to exceed 2 million tonnes in the next decade

Future Demand: Significant rise in demand expected due to infrastructure and renewable energy needs

Health Aspect: Importance of zinc-rich foods in daily diets for health benefits

Key Drivers of Zinc Consumption

Infrastructure Development: Increased construction projects leading to higher demand for zinc in materials 📆

Renewable Energy: Anticipated surge in demand due to renewable energy technologies \neq

Automotive Industry: Growth in automotive sectors utilizing zinc for components



Market Dynamics



Domestic vs Global Consumption: India's demand outpacing global growth rates, with projections for doubling in 5-10 years

Health Recommendations: Awareness campaigns promoting zinc-rich diets among the population 6

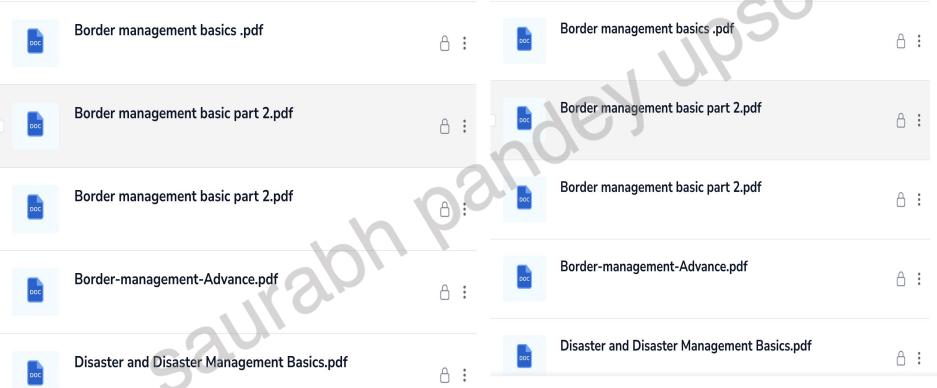
Challenges & Considerations

Market Fluctuations: Global economic conditions affecting zinc prices and availability 4

Sustainability: Need for sustainable practices in zinc extraction and consumption

Sources: Various industry reports and market analyses indicate a robust growth trajectory for zinc in India.

Content on cybersecurity, disaster management and border-management uploaded (BEFORE DEC MISSION)



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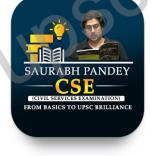
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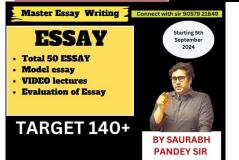
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