

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

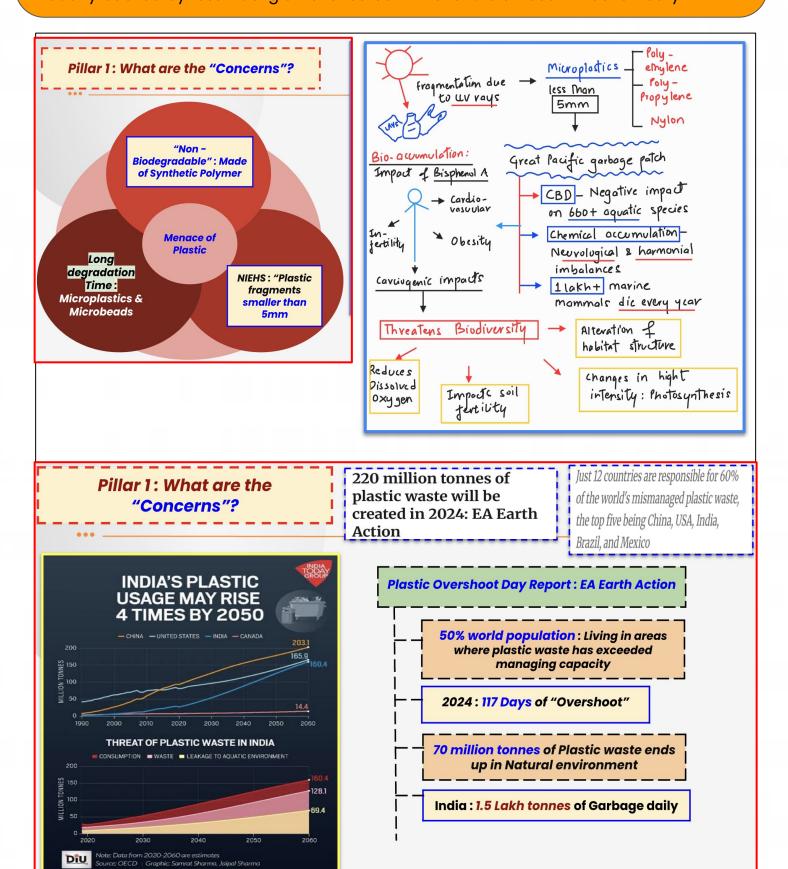
24th July 2025



Plastic Industry influencing Green Policies



CONTEXT: The article highlights the pollution concern being spread by the plastic industry backed by fossil fuel giants reflected in the failure of recent Plastic treaty



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Pillar 2: Plastic Industry mirrors "Tobacco Industry":

| Issues | Tobacco Industry | Plastic Industry |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Shifting Responsibility | Advertisement "Smoking is injurious to health" v. promotion of products due to weak policy | Focus on "Recycling" & "Consumer use" v. corporate accountability |
| Funding Misleading PR & Science | "Nicotine has positive effect on Cognitive functions & confer neuroprotection" | NPR & PBS Report: Economic & Technical impracticality of "Recycling of Waste" |
| Greenwashing | Absence of clear enforceable standards : Marketing "Light" & "Mild" products | "Biodegradable" & "Compostable" Plastics |



Pillar 3: Steps Taken by India:

Plastic Waste Management Rules 2021:

- Banning 19 Categories of SUPs
- Directive to Petrochemical Industries Not supply raw material
- SPCB & PCC Revoke "Consent of Operation"
- CPCB: Certification for Biodegradable Plastic
- National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem: Integrate waste pickers into formal waste collection systems

ITEMS THAT COME UNDER SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN Plastic carry bags Polystyrene (thermocol) for (less than 75 micron in thickness) Disposable crockery plates, cups, glasses, Earbuds with cutlery such as forks, plastic sticks spoons, knives, straws, trays Plastic sticks for balloons Wrapping or packing films (around sweet boxes Plastic flags Invitation cards and cigarette packets Candy sticks Plastic or PVC banners less than Ice-cream sticks 100 micron, stirrers

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CONTEXT: The article highlights the pollution concern being spread by the plastic industry backed by fossil fuel giants reflected in the failure of recent Plastic treaty

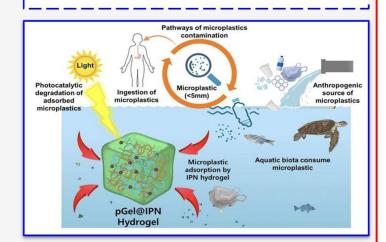
Pillar 3: Steps Taken by India:



Steps Taken:

- Environment Damage Compensation under EPA 1986
- Extended Producer Responsibility under PWM Rules 2024
- Micro & Nano Plastic Removal Project by FSSAI
- Advertising Standards Council of India: Substantial evidence for "Eco-Friendly" Claims
- Consumer Protection Act 2019: Prohibits deceptive claims & outlines penalties

IISc researchers design novel hydrogel to remove microplastics from water



Pillar 4: UN Plastic Treaty:



"Shifting burden to Global South"

International Legally Binding Instrument to end Plastic pollution

INC under UNEP: Phase out Plastic

SA + Russia + China + Iran = "Phase down" Plastic production

36% lobbyists from Chemical Sectors : out of scope of mandate of UNEA"

Global Plastic Outlook Report by OECD: Plastic consumption = Triple in Asia by 2060 v. 15% in Europe

Plastic treaty talks fail over disagreement on production cuts

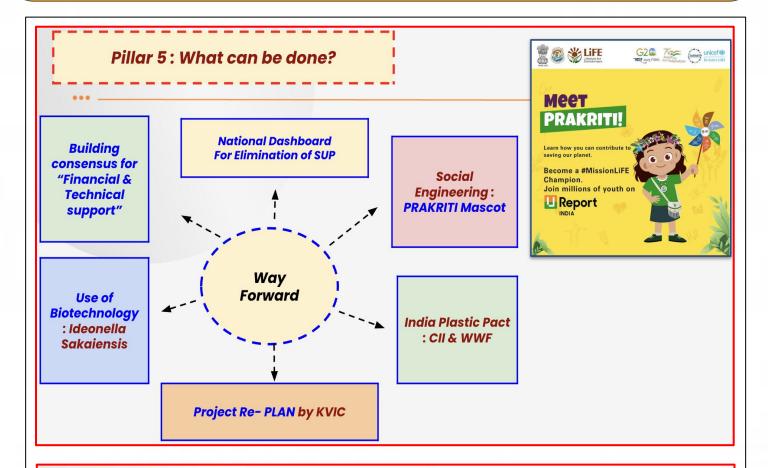
However, countries have decided to resume negotiations, likely sometime next year under talks tentatively called the INC-5.2; a long-standing sticking point has been the push to have countries set targets to cut virgin plastic polymer production, which has been vehemently opposed by countries such as Saudi Arabia



Plastic Industry influencing Green Policies



CONTEXT: The article highlights the pollution concern being spread by the plastic industry backed by fossil fuel giants reflected in the failure of recent Plastic treaty



Mains Practise Question

Question: What are the concerns related to "Plastic Pollution"? How far India has fared in this direction? What are the challenges that hinders implementation of "Global Plastic Treaty"? Provide suggestive measures.

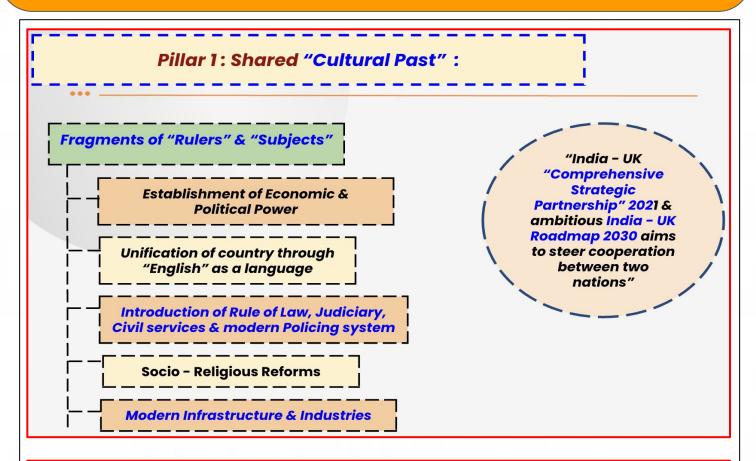
(15 Marks, 250 words)

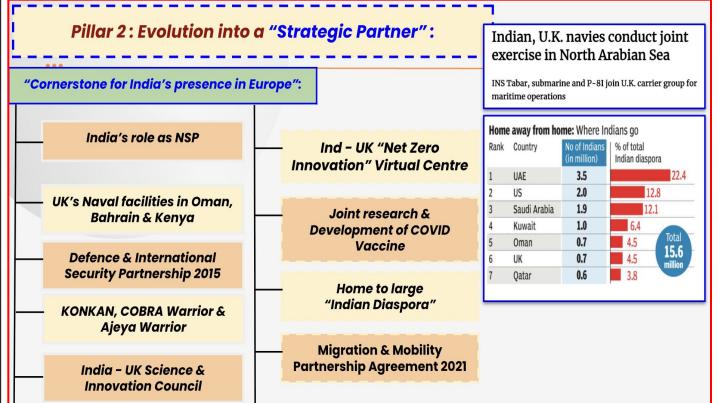


India - UK CETA



CONTEXT: India and the U.K. will sign a free trade agreement today in London that will allow export of labour intensive products thus boosting the idea of "Make in India"

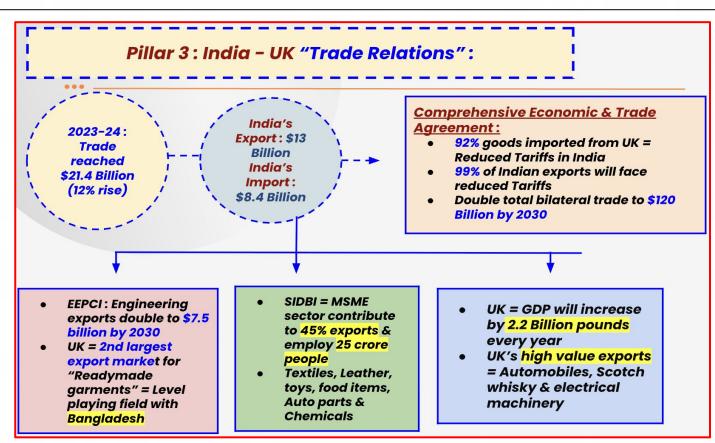


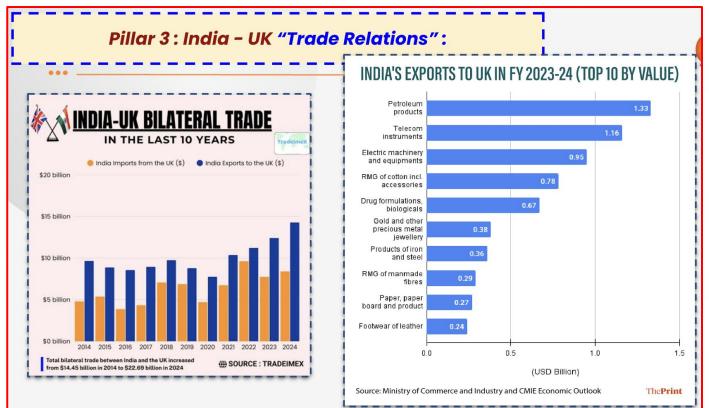


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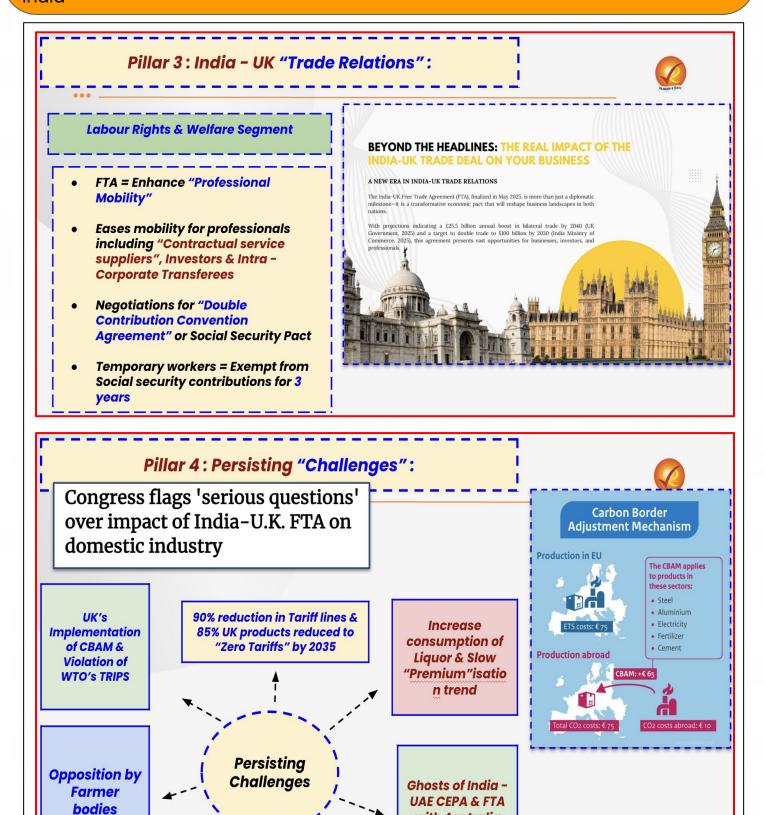




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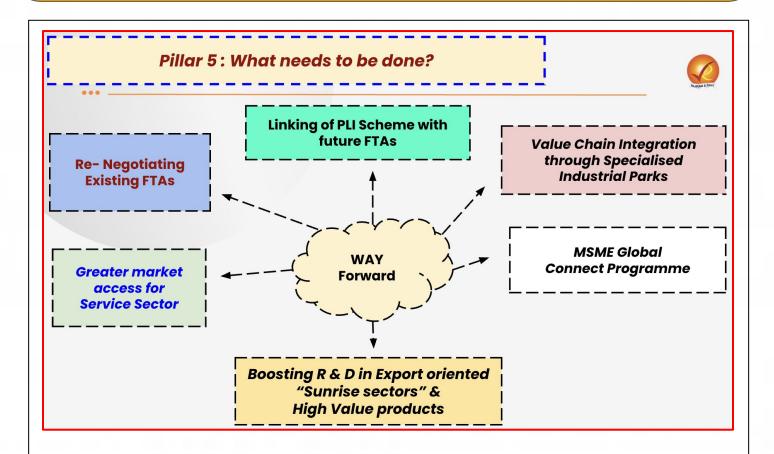
with Australia



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Mains Practise Question

Question: What do you understand by India - UK CETA recently seen in the news? Analyse whether the trade pact is going to be beneficial for India or not? (10 Marks, 150 words)

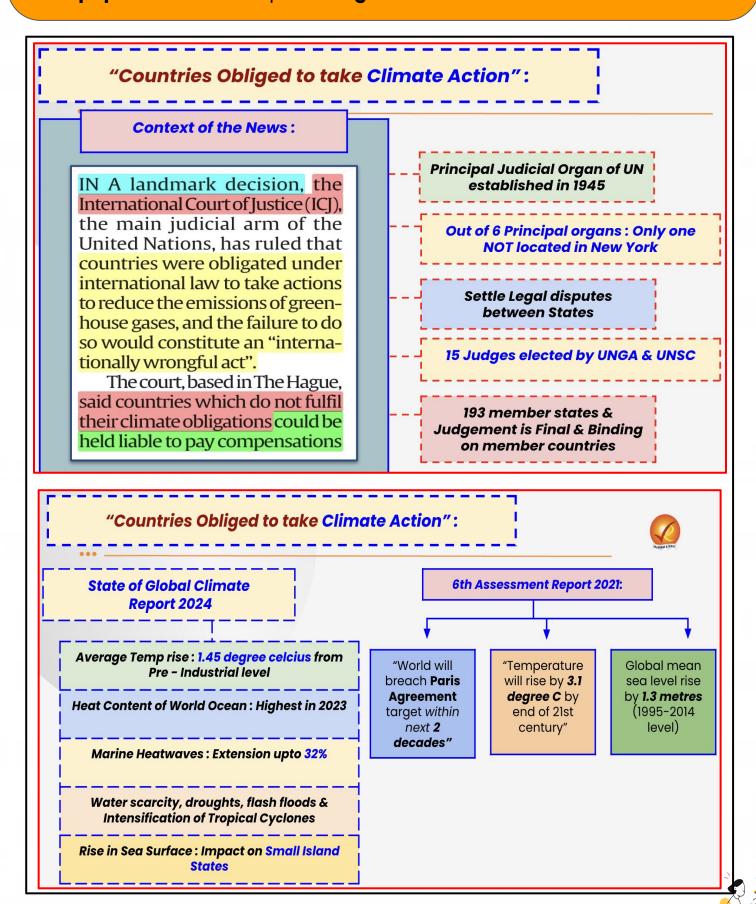


"Countries obliged to take Climate Action"



SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Issues related to Climate Change

Newspaper: The Indian Express Page No: 14

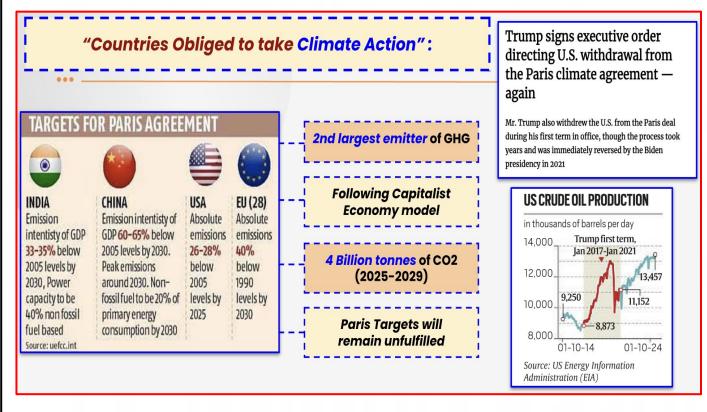


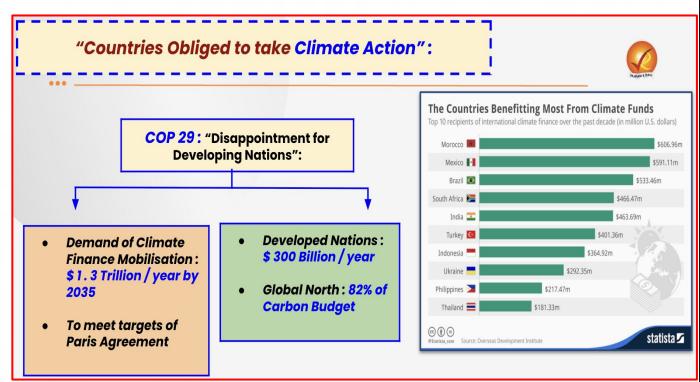
"Countries obliged to take Climate Action"



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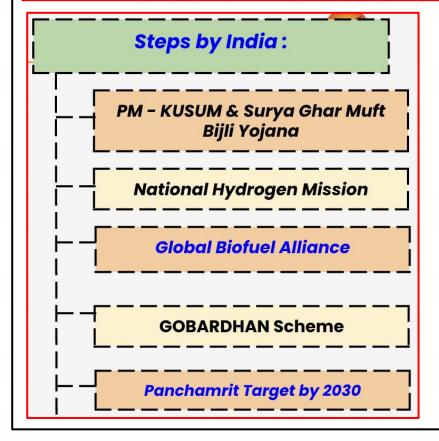
"Countries obliged to take Climate Action"



SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Issues related to Climate Change

Newspaper: The Indian Express Page No: 14

"Countries Obliged to take Climate Action": Steps taken in COP 28: Periodic review mechanism for Paris Global Stocktake **Agreement** Tripling Renewable Energy by 2030 **Text** Transitioning | Adhering to Intentionally National from Fossil **Determined Contributions Fuels** Achieving "Net Zero" by 2050 **Global Goal Doubling Adaptation Finance for Developing & Small Island countries Adaptation** Climate UNCTAD: To achieve New CQG: \$500 **Finance** Billion by 2050 Compensating countries affected from **Damage Climate Change Fund**



Ethics of Animal Testing



SYLLABUS: GS 4: Ethical issues

Newspaper: The Hindu Page No: 6

Ethics of "Animal Testing":

Context of the News:

s human beings are superior to animals, and as animals instinctively rely on the benevolence, goodwill, and protective nature of man, we must fulfil our obligation to treat our fellow non-human beings with love, kindness, and respect.

The issue of the suffering animals undergo in animal testing laboratories is known and so it is rational that humans must respond by finding solutions which can end the suffering of animals and bring peace to human hearts.

Earlier tests on Humans for Toxicity in Food supply

Test of Preservatives : Benzoate, Borax & Formaldehyde

"Don't always die when they are supposed to & don't always recover when they should"

"Rationalisation of culture of Moral Indifferentism": Easily be directed at Humans

Ethics of "Animal Testing":

PETA India exposes alleged animal cruelty at Telangana lab

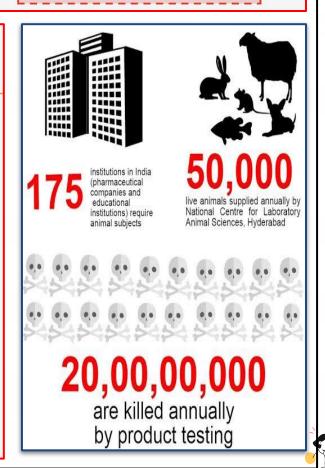
PETA India exposed alleged animal cruelty at a Mahabubnagar laboratory, citing a whistleblower's account of overcrowded cages, painful injections, and infections in dogs. Complaints have been filed, marking India's first major exposé of animal testing abuses.

Pain & Suffering : Skin irritation, Illness & deaths

Stressful & Unnatural conditions impacting wellbeing

Species differences : Unreliable data for Human Applications

Lack of Awareness among Public

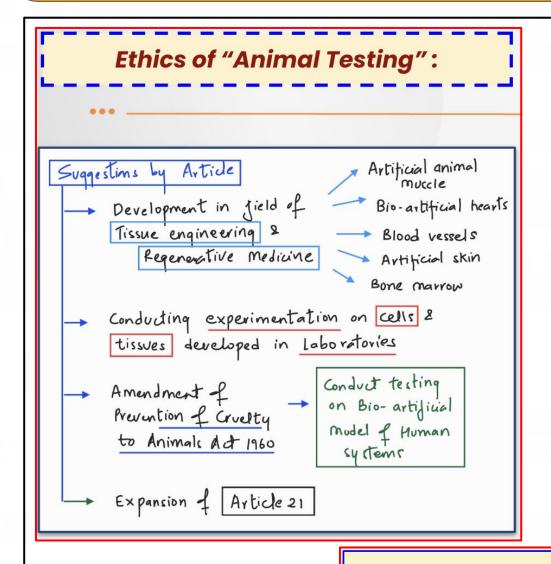


Ethics of Animal Testing



SYLLABUS: GS 4: Ethical issues

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Existing Law & Framework:



- Breeding & Experiments on Animals Rules 1998: Ethical use of Animals in Research
- Animal Welfare Board of India under PCA 1960: addresses cruelty cases
- Ban on Cosmetic testing on Animals
 = First country in Asia
- Illegal to use Captive Dolphins for Public entertainment
- AWBI v. A. Nagaraj: Animals have right to live with dignity & without unnecessary pain
- "The greatness of a nation is judged on the basis of way its animals are treated": Gandhiji

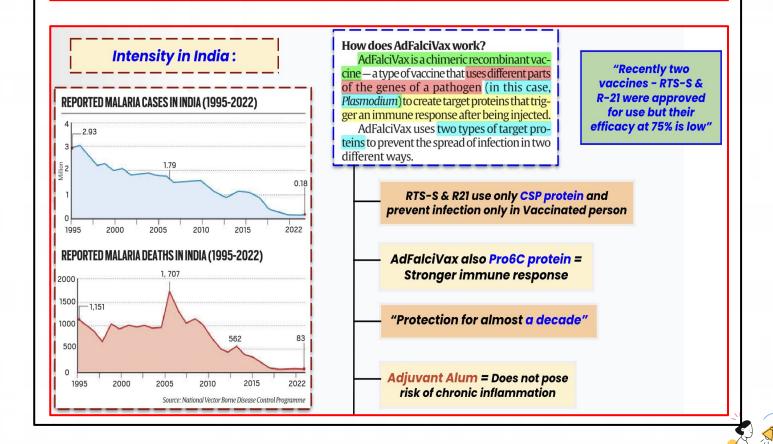
AdFalciVax



SYLLABUS: GS 2: Social Justice & Health Sector

Newspaper: The Indian Express Page No: Explained

Context of the News: AdFalciVax: New **Malaria: Parasitic infection** vaccine by ICMR transmitted by Mosquitoes THE INDIAN Council of Medical Research 'Only female Anopheles mosquitoes (ICMR) has announced a promising candican spread Malaria" date vaccine for malaria, which it will now further develop, test and manufacture for "Seizures, fluid in lungs, organ damage & death" commercial purposes in partnership with private companies. Known as AdFalciVax, the vaccine mainly WHO : "Kills 4 Lakh people annually" targets two parts of Plasmodium falciparum, a pathogen that is the most common source of malaria in humans. In India, however, the **Most endemic in Africa:** Nigeria, Congo, Tanzania, disease is caused by Plasmodium vivax Mozambique & Burkina Faso against which AdFalciVax is ineffective.



Vitamin D Deficiency



SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Science & Technology

Newspaper: The Hindu Page No: Science

Vitamin D Deficiency

Context of the News:

What the study found

Researchers at Aarhus University, in collaboration with the Statens Serum Institut in Copenhagen, used dried blood spot samples from 88,764 individuals born between 1981 and 2005 – part of a universal neonatal screening programme that stores nearly all newborns' blood in the Danish Neonatal Screening Biobank.

From these samples, the team measured levels of 25-hydroxyvitamin D, or 25(OH)D, which is the standard marker of vitamin D status, and vitamin D-binding protein, which carries vitamin D in the blood and prolongs its activity.

Findings of the Research:

- Babies with Higher Vitamin D Levels = Less likely to develop Schizophrenia, **ADHD or Autism**
- Neonatal Vitamin D = Central role in early Neuro - Developmental pathways
- Challenges =
 - Reverse Causation = Autism can lead to less absorption & use of Vitamin D
 - Confounding = Mother's diet or immune health influences Vitamin D levels
- Polygenic Risk Score = Baby with higher PRS Score for Vitamin D = more immunity towards Autism

Vitamin D Deficiency

India's Vitamin D Problem

Data about India's Vitamin **Deficiency**

- AIIMS (2017-2018) = 74% of Infants & 85% of mothers were deficient in Vitamin D
- Impact = Autoimmune diseases, TB, cardiovascular diseases & Cancer

"Biological Legacy"

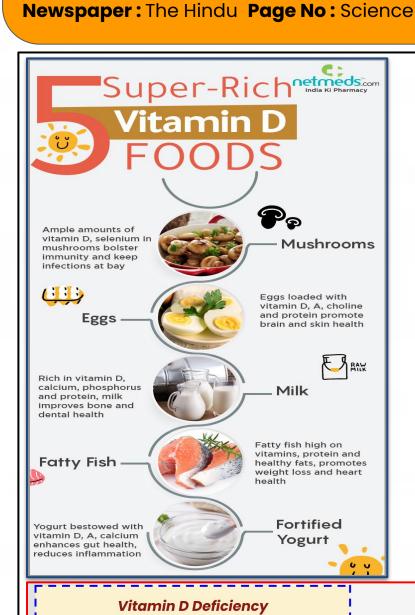
- Hormone & Metabolic changes during Pregnancy
- Levels of active Vitamin D rise to twice level of pre -**Pregnancy**
- Doesn't rise unless Sunlight exposure & dietary intake improves



Vitamin D Deficiency



SYLLABUS: G.S. 3: Science & Technology



Night Blindness & Egg Yolk, Fish Oil, Milk, Vitamin A **Retarded Growth** Carrots & Mango **Vitamin D** Rickets in Children & **UV Rays, Dairy products etc** Osteomalacia in Adults Vitamin E Reproductive failure Peanuts, Egg Yolk, Wheat, Cereals, Butter & Leafy vegetables Vitamin K **Faulty Blood Clotting** Leafy vegetables, Milk & Egg Yolk

Citrus fruits, melons, raw cabbage

Scurvy = Bleeding of Gums

Vitamin C

Political slugfest on "Paikas



SYLLABUS: G.S. 1: Significant Events

Newspaper: Indian Express Page No: Explained

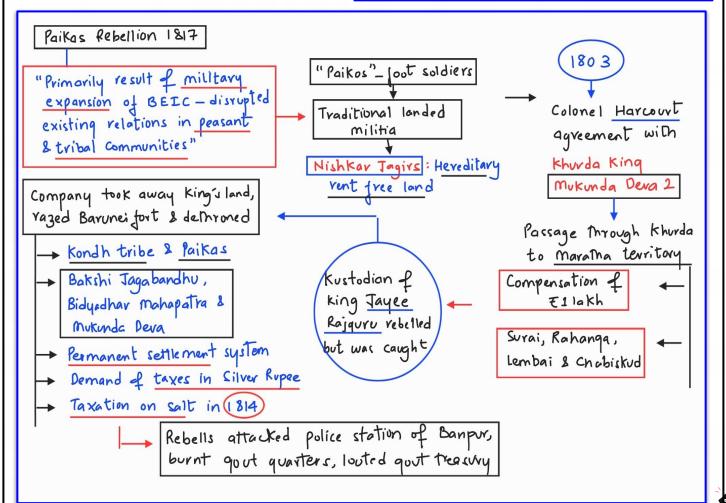
Context of the News:

FORMER ODISHA Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday expressed concern over the "omission" of the Paika Rebellion from NCERT's new Class 8 history textbook, calling it a "huge dishonour" to the brave Paikas.

NCERT has clarified that "regional resistances" like the Paika Rebellion will be part of the book's second volume, expected to be released later this year.



Commemoration of Paika Rebellion on Indian Postage Stamp (2018)



Political slugfest on "Paikas



SYLLABUS: G.S. 1: Significant Events

Newspaper: Indian Express Page No: Explained

| Chuar Uprising | 1760-1800 | Jungle Mahal : Midnapore to Ranchi | Durjan Singh : Zamindar of Raipur | Issue of Famine & Exploitative Land revenue |
|-------------------------|-----------|--|--|---|
| Ramosi Uprising | 1820s | Satara region of Western Ghat | Chittur Singh Umaji Naik Trimbakji Sawant | Discontinued "Chowkidari tax" "All inhabitants of Hindustan shall take up arm" |
| Kol Mutiny | 1830s | Chotanagpur region | Buddho Bhagat | Transfer of land to "Outsiders" |
| Khasi Uprising | 1840s | Garo & Jaintia Hills | Tirath Singh | Road between Brahmaputra valley to Sylhet = Influx of "Coolie" workers |
| Santhal "Hool" | 1855-56 | "Damin i Koh" Region | Sidhu & Kanhu brothers | Issue of forced labour and loss of land and cultivating rights to "Dikus" |
| Tana Bhagat Movement | 1914 | Munda & Oraon Tribes | Jatra Bhagat | Satyagraha against Zamindars, Banias & Christian Missionaries |

The Analyst Handout

Daily Quiz



24th July 2025

Q1. What does the term "greenwashing" refer to?

- a) Excluding environmental costs from a nation's annual financial reporting.
- b) Overlooking environmental damage while executing infrastructure projects.
- c) Conveying a false impression that a company's products are eco-friendly.
- Mandating the inclusion of ecological costs in public schemes or programmes.

Answer: c

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Animal Welfare Board of India:

- It is established under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It advises central and state governments on issues related to the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the International Court of Justice:

- 1. It was established under the UN Charter in 1945.
- It settles legal disputes between individuals and states.
- 3. Its judgments are advisory and non-binding.
- 4. It is the only principal UN organ not located in New York.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding AdFalciVax:

- It is being developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research.
- It is a multi-stage malaria vaccine that targets two parts of Plasmodium falciparum.
- 3. The vaccine is expected to be effective in treating malaria in India as well.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following pairs:

| Vitamins | Diseases caused by its deficiency | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Vitamin A | Faulty Blood Clotting | |
| Vitamin D | Rickets in Children | |
| Vitamin E | Reproductive failure | |
| Vitamin K | Bleeding of Gums | |

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: b





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