



# PRECURE COMPILATION FOR 2020

**1<sup>st</sup> Week of May  
(4<sup>th</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> May)**

---

Visit our website [www.sleepyclasses.com](http://www.sleepyclasses.com) or

our [YouTube channel](#) for entire GS Course **FREE** of cost

Also Available: Prelims Crash Course || Prelims Test Series

## Table of Contents

### **POLITY**

<https://youtu.be/TD8B2UvPb5Y>

1. India's Permanent Mission to United Nations
2. Garud Portal
3. Samudra Setu
4. Online Summit of NAM Contact Group
5. The Saras Collection on the Govt. e – Marketplace Portal

### **ECONOMY**

[https://youtu.be/3FX\\_83YttoQ](https://youtu.be/3FX_83YttoQ)

1. Risk & Organisations
2. CKP COOP Bank
3. Fuel Prices & Taxes

4. Urbanisation & the Crisis

5. India & World Pharma

### **ENVIRONMENT**

<https://youtu.be/sF61TXWETcM>

1. Energy Efficiency Report
2. Sariska Tiger Reserve
3. Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)

### **IR + SCI & TECH**

<https://youtu.be/21pX9f1MmiU>

1. African Swine Fever
2. Lehman 16A
3. NSafe

## POLITY

### 1. India's Permanent Mission to United Nations

- India has appointed diplomat T S Tirumurti, currently serving as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, as its Permanent Representative to the United Nations. The Permanent Mission is the **diplomatic mission that every member state deputs to the United Nations**, and is headed by a Permanent Representative, who is also referred to as the "UN ambassador".
- According to **Article 1 (7) of the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character**, a "Permanent Mission" is a: "... mission of permanent character, representing the State, sent by a State member of an international organization to the Organization".
  - UN Permanent Representatives are assigned to the UN headquarters in New York City, and can also be appointed to other UN offices in Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi.
  - According to the website of the Permanent Mission of India in New York, there are currently eight Indians in senior leadership positions at the United Nations at the levels of Under Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.
- The first Indian delegates at the United Nations included statesman Arcot Ramasamy Mudaliar, and freedom fighters Hansa Mehta, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, and Lakshmi Menon. Mehta and Pandit were among the 15 women members of the Indian Constituent Assembly.
- India was among the select members of the United Nations that **signed the United Nations Declaration at Washington on January 1, 1942**. India also participated in the historic UN Conference of International Organization at San Francisco from April 25 to June 26, 1945.

### 2. GARUD Portal

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have launched the GARUD portal for providing fast track conditional exemptions to government agencies for COVID-19 related RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft System)/ drone operations. GARUD is an acronym for 'Government Authorisation for Relief Using Drones'.
- Various officials at MoCA, DGCA, AAI and NIC were involved in the process. The rules and regulations related to operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft ("RPA") are covered under Rule 15A of Aircraft Rules, 1937 and Civil Aviation Requirements ("CAR") Section 3 Series X Part I dated 27.8.2018 issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

### 3. Samudra Setu

- Indian Navy has launched Operation "Samudra Setu" - meaning "Sea Bridge", as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas. Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Magar are presently enroute to the port of Malè, Republic of Maldives to commence evacuation operations from 08 May 2020 as part of Phase-1.
- The Government has been closely monitoring the situation with respect to effect of COVID-19 pandemic on our citizens abroad.
  - The Indian Navy has been directed to make suitable preparations for their evacuation by sea. The ships have been suitably provisioned for the evacuation operation.
  - The evacuated personnel would be provided the basic amenities and medical facilities during the sea-passage. In view of the unique challenges associated with COVID-19 stringent protocols have also been stipulated.
- The evacuated personnel will be disembarked at Kochi, Kerala and entrusted to the care of State authorities. This operation is being progressed in close coordination with Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Health and various other agencies of the Government of India and State governments.

### 4. Online Summit of NAM Contact Group

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the online Summit of Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group held on the evening of May 4, 2020 to discuss response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
- The online NAM Contact Group Summit on the theme of "United against COVID-19" was hosted by the current

Chairman of NAM, President of Republic of Azerbaijan HE Ilham Aliyev.

- The objective of the Summit was to promote international solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and to mobilise efforts of States and international organisations to address the pandemic.
- The event also commemorated the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.
- PM Modi was joined by over 30 other Heads of State and Government and other leaders, including from member States in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. Overall, NAM Leaders assessed the impact of COVID-19, identified needs and requirements for possible remedies and urged action-oriented follow-up measures.
- Following the Summit, leaders adopted a Declaration underlining the importance of international solidarity in the fight against COVID-19. Leaders also announced the creation of a 'Task Force' to identify needs and requirements of member States through the establishment of a common database reflecting their basic medical, social and humanitarian needs in the fight against COVID-19.

## 5. "The Saras Collection" on the Government e-Marketplace Portal

- The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, launched "**The Saras Collection**" on the **Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal**.
  - A unique initiative of GeM and the **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, Ministry of Rural Development, the Saras Collection showcases daily utility products made by rural self-help groups (SHGs) and aims to provide SHGs in rural areas with market access to Central and State Government buyers.
- Under this initiative, the SHG sellers will be able to list their products in 5 product categories, namely
  - (i) Handicrafts,
  - (ii) Handloom and textiles,
  - (iii) Office accessories,
  - (iv) Grocery and pantry, and
  - (v) Personal care and hygiene.

By providing SHGs with direct access to Government buyers, the Saras Collection will do away with intermediaries in the supply chain, thus ensuring better prices for SHGs and spurring employment opportunities at the local level. This is just the beginning and GeM is delighted at this opportunity to partner the SHGs in their growth story.

- **About DAY-NRLM:** DAY-NLRM aims to reduce poverty through promotion of diversified and gainful self-employment while creating skilled wage employment opportunities.
  - The scheme supports building social capital and ensuring financial linkages to alleviate poverty and enhance the quality of the life of rural poor women. It has ambitious plans on innovations for alternate channels of financial inclusion like digital finance, creating value chains around rural products and improving market access, rural enterprise and strengthening community institutions.
- **About GeM:** Government e Marketplace (GeM) is a 100 percent **Government owned Section 8 Company set up as the National Public Procurement Portal for procurement of goods and services required by Central and State Government organizations**.
  - GeM provides an online, end to end solution for procurement of goods and services for all Central Government and State Government Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), local bodies and autonomous organisations.
  - The platform reduces human interventions in procurement and enables transparency, cost savings, inclusiveness and efficiency of faceless standardized public procurement.

## ECONOMY

### 1. Risk & Organisations

Risks are essentially of two types: External and Internal.

#### External Risks

External risks are usually related to:

- The overall global trends
- Domestic Economy, Interest rates
- Political-Legal Factors
- Socio-Cultural Factors
- Technology
- Shocks like the one we are witnessing now.
- Some external risks can be identified while others arrive unannounced.

#### Internal Risks

- Financial Stability
- Management stability
- Branding stability
- Organisational structure : job positions, hierarchy, and lines of communication
- Internal company politics, particularly in family businesses
- Resources – Having enough financial and human resources
- Innovation – whether it relates to product development, marketing and promotion or staff welfare
- Incentives

#### A new emerging risk

- Health Risk
- Implications if some worker or staff member is affected by the virus.
- It can greatly impact business continuity.
- It would impact the going concern of the business and lead to impairment of assets, primarily the human assets.

#### What could be done for this risk

- Companies should be mandated to invest at least 10 per cent of profits to reserves in bonds issued by the RBI/Central Government with the condition that this can be redeemed only to use in a crisis such as this.
- Future cash flows, liquidity position and some rough projections of business for the next 12 months is the yardstick to be followed.
- Manageable growth
- Prudent accounting policies
- Robust risk matrix systems can greatly help mitigate the risks.

### 2. CKP Co-operative Bank

#### What is the News

- The bank's license has been cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The bank which has been under RBI's administration since 2014.

#### Why has the license been cancelled now

- The Reserve Bank cancelled the license of CKP Co-operative bank as even after six years its financial position is highly adverse and unsustainable.
- RBI said that there is no concrete revival plan or proposal for merger with another bank.
- RBI also said that credible commitment towards revival from the management is not visible.

#### Another important information

- The depositors of CKP Co-operative Bank will be among the first beneficiaries of higher deposit insurance cover

of Rs 5 lakh.

- The government had hiked the minimum deposit insurance cover from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh in its budget announcement in February 2020.

### Some Continuing Concerns of Co-op Banks

- Issue of frauds and irregularities prevalent in co-op banking system.
- Exposure to a few large borrowers in the real estate sector.
- Issue of the wilful defaulters
- Issue of dual regulation by the RBI and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
- Various measures taken by the govt. cover only about 1,544 urban co-operatives and not the 96,000-odd rural co-operatives that constitute about 65 per cent of the total assets of co-operatives.
- Among the rural co-operatives, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (about 95,000 in number as of March 2018) are outside the purview of the Banking Regulation Act.

### Steps taken and Way Out

- The RBI has mandated urban co-operative banks to report large exposures
- RBI has laid down guidelines for the constitution of the Board of Management (BoM).
- Governments this year amended the Banking Regulation Act and conferred more powers on the RBI to audit the books of urban co-operate banks and appoint CEOs.

### Regulations to curb:

- Extending finance to borrowers outside area of operations
- Exceeding exposure to housing and real estate
- Single party exposure limit
- Loans to directors
- Issuing bank guarantee to an entity not banking with them
- Non-filing of Suspicious Transaction Report (STR) report to Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)
- Exceeding individual limit of unsecured advances
- Sanctioning overdraft against third party fixed deposits to one of its directors.

## 3. Fuel Prices & Taxes

### News

The steepest ever hike in excise duty by Rs 13 per litre on diesel and Rs 10 per litre on petrol.

### Various Taxes and Duties on Petrol, Diesel

- Levied by Center
  - Custom Duty (includes Road and Infra Cess)
  - Excise Duty (additional excise duty)
- Levied by States
  - VAT
- Other Charges:
  - Dealer Commissions

### Road and Infrastructure Cess

- The Government of India introduced it under Finance Act, 2018.
- It is to be collected and levied on specified imported goods and on excisable goods like petrol and high-speed diesel oil.
- This cess was introduced in 1998-99 as a non-lapsable, dedicated fund to make roads.
- The non-lapsable pool of funds was subsequently adopted as a law under Central Road Fund (CRF) Act, 2000.
- The Funds to the CRFA were obtained from the cess imposed on petroleum products, diesel and petrol.
- An Additional Duty of Customs (import tax) and Additional Duty of Excise (tax on production) was also levied.
- In 2018, Road Cess was rechristened as “Road and Infrastructure cess”
- The funds can be used for various purposes such as national highways, rural roads, inter-State connectivities to other infrastructure projects etc.

## Some exemptions

- No Road and Infrastructure Cess are leviable on the following commodities
  - 5% ethanol blended petrol
  - 10% ethanol blended petrol
  - Bio-diesel, up to 20% by volume.

## Some Concerns

- Public sector OMCs and their investors are in bad shape at the moment and this hike will impact them adversely as they were hoping for higher margins because of slump in crude prices.
- This seriously undermines the Deregulation credentials of the government.
- Delayed payments from the Centre on regulated products are another drain on their finances.
- It will undermine the attempts to privatise or disinvest OMCs with lukewarm investor response.



## Way Out

- To bring petroleum products into the GST ambit
- To permit more transparent tax decisions
- Pricing, if they are deregulated, should be then market determined.

## 4. Urbansiation & the Crisis

### Crisis

- Most urban poor did not have the capital or the resources to survive even a week in the aftermath of the national lockdown.
- Exclusion of the urban poor from public transport, housing, drinking water, sanitation, access to healthcare causing them to flee the big cities when their jobs evaporated.

### About the claim of Poverty Reduction

- Recent times have witnessed official claims of a reduction in the absolute numbers of poor.
- They are made on the basis of expenditure patterns that do not take into account the current perceptions of consumption, living conditions, housing conditions, social environment and health access.
- For example: Having a mobile phone does not reduce the extreme vulnerabilities of urban poor.
- It needs to be re-looked.

### Other important concerns

- There are 53 cities of more than one million populations and the question about responding to their mobility needs has not been addressed.
- Concern of migrants' return in case of lockouts. There will be attempts to go for local workforce.
- In spite of many schemes, continued poor inhabiting slum clusters with limited access to sanitation, drinking water or healthcare facilities.

- Highly exclusionary nature of urban growth in India.

## 5. India & World Pharma

### Earlier

- 1969: Indian pharmaceuticals had a 5 per cent share of the Indian pharmaceutical market and global pharma had a 95 per cent share.
- 2020: It has reversed. Indian pharma has an almost 85 per cent share of the Indian pharmaceutical market and global, 15 per cent.
- India contributes over 20 per cent by value to the global generics market.
- Indian products contribute over 40 per cent (by volume) of US drugs.
- The industry in India is worth about \$37 billion, with exports accounting for about \$18 billion.
- India has the largest number of USFDA-approved plants in the world.

### Present COVID crisis and opportunity

- There is a potential opportunity for India to truly play the role of 'pharmacy of the world'.
- Indian pharma industry has been growing steadily for the past few years.
- The analysis of the Indian pharmaceutical industry reveals a highly competitive industry structure.
- Indian medicines have the lowest prices in the world, leading Indian firms have the capacity to not only serve the Indian market for essential drugs but also supply the world.

|  | Value growth (%) |      |      |      |      |      |
|--|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
|  | 2014             | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| <b>Indian pharma market</b>                        | 8                | 15   | 11   | 8    | 7    | 9    |
| <b>National list of essential medicines (NLEM)</b> | -9               | 10   | 5    | -6   | 3    | 6    |
| <b>Non NLEM</b>                                    | 11               | 16   | 12   | 10   | 7    | 10   |

Source: Value Growth of Indian Pharmaceutical Market (IPM), MAT July Ref (PwC API Paper)

### How to make the most of this opportunity

- Government needs to launch targeted financial incentives to promote the manufacturing of diagnostic kits and other medical devices.
- Opportunity to bring a much larger proportion of manufacturing of APIs back into India, so that the country is not dependent on imports of critical inputs.
- Setting up of bulk drug parks and production-linked incentives.
- Support to ancillary suppliers (eg packaging material, solvents) of pharmaceutical manufacturers.
- Consistency in quality that is enforced by the USFDA.
- Increased research for developing new molecules for treatment of various medical conditions at scale.
- Encouragement of R&D expenses and outcomes
- Increase in availability of funding for R&D
- Creation of a closer cooperation process between public institutions like CSIR laboratories and NIPERs with private R&D.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Energy Efficiency Report

- Recently the Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy released a report on the “Impact of energy efficiency measures for the year 2018-19”.
- India has pledged in COP-21 that we will bring down energy intensity of economy by 33 to 35% compared to 2005 levels by 2030.
- Various energy efficiency initiatives have reduced the energy intensity of economy by 20% compared to 2005 levels.
- This report was prepared by an Expert agency PWC Ltd, who was engaged by Bureau of Energy efficiency (BEE) for an independent verification to assess the resultant annual savings in energy as well as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through various initiatives in India.
- The findings of the report reflect that implementation of various energy efficiency schemes have led to total electricity savings to the tune of 113.16 Billion Units in 2018-19, which is 9.39% of the net electricity consumption.
- Energy savings (electrical + thermal), achieved in the energy consuming sectors (i.e. Demand Side sectors) is to the tune of 16.54 Mtoe, which is 2.84% of the net total energy consumption (approx..581.60 Mtoe) in 2018-19.
- These efforts have also contributed in reducing 151.74 Million Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, whereas last year this number was 108 Million Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- This year the study has identified following major programmes, viz. Perform, Achieve and Trade Scheme, Standards & Labelling Programme, UJALA Programme, Municipal Demand Side Management Programme, etc.

### 2. Sariska Tiger Reserve

- The 13th session of Ministry of Tourism’s Dekho ApnaDesh webinar on 1st May 2020, titled, ‘Destination- Sariska Tiger reserve’ was a presentation and virtual tour of wildlife adventure, safari experience for the traveller within the Sariska Tiger Reserve’ in Alwar district, Rajasthan.
- The objective of Ministry of Tourism’s webinar series is to create awareness about and promote various tourism destinations of India – including the lesser known destinations and lesser known facets of popular destinations.
- Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in the Aravalli Hills, 35 km from Alwar, 250 km SW of Delhi and 110 km NE of Jaipur.
- The former hunting reserve of the Maharaja of Alwar, the Sariska valley is home to a variety of flora and fauna.
- The park has populations of tigers, leopards, Nilgai, Sambar, chital etc.
- The place is a paradise for bird lovers as it shelters a large population of Indian peafowl, crested serpent eagles, sand grouse, golden backed woodpeckers, great Indian horned owls, tree pies, vultures and many others.
- The sanctuary is strewn with ruins of ancient temples dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries.
- Some of the highlights are the ruins of the Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples

### 3. Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)

- Bengaluru’s Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) has come out with a programme during the lockdown period for those looking for an opportunity to conserve wildlife and adopt animals at the zoo.
- The BBP has released a list of animals that can be adopted.
- The animal adoption initiative is part of the BBPs outreach programme as people are not able to visit the zoo due to the lockdown.
- In 2004, BBP was carved out of the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) and brought under the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK).
- BNP which was declared a national park in 1974.



## IR + SCI & TECH

### 1. African Swine Fever

- Amid the coronavirus pandemic, African Swine fever is another disease outbreak which is affecting thousands of animals in Assam
- ASF does not affect humans but can be catastrophic for pigs
- This is the first time that an ASF outbreak is reported in India
- It is differentiated from Classical Swine Fever (CSF) whose signs may be similar to ASF but is caused by a different virus for which a vaccine exists
- While ASF is lethal, it is less infectious than other animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease

#### About ASF

- ASF is a severe viral disease that affects wild and domestic pigs typically resulting in an acute haemorrhagic fever
- The disease has a case fatality rate (CFR) of about 100 percent

#### Transmission

- Direct contact with an infected or wild pig (alive or dead)
- Indirect contact through ingestion of contaminated material such as food waste, feed or garbage or through biological vectors such as ticks

### 2. Lehman 16A

- Astrophysicists, using the Very Large Telescope at European Southern Observatory, Chile, have identified cloud bands on the surface of Lehman 16A, one of a pair of binary brown dwarfs in the Vela constellation
- Indian Astrophysicist Sujan Sengupta put forth an idea that the light emitted by a cloudy brown dwarf, or reflected off an extrasolar planet will be polarised and a polarimetric technique could serve as a potential tool to probe the environment of these objects
- So with this technique actual structure of the clouds have been found
  - They form bands over one of the pair of brown dwarfs

#### Significance

- Cloud system can shed light on the pressure, temperature and climate on the surface of the celestial body

#### About Luhman 16

- It is a binary star system which is the third closest system to the Sun after Alpha Centauri and Barnard's star
- This pair of brown dwarfs orbit each other, casting a dim light
- Brown dwarfs are called failed stars because their masses are intermediate to the largest planets and the smaller main sequence stars
  - Masses being too small, they are unable to sustain fusion of their hydrogen to produce energy
  - Some of the more massive brown stars fuse deuterium or lithium and glow faintly

### 3. NSafe

- IIT Delhi start-up 'Nano safe Solutions' has launched an antimicrobial and washable face mask "NSafe"
- It is reusable up to 50 launderings
- It is a highly engineered triple-layered product consisting of an inner hydrophilic layer for comfort, a middle layer having antimicrobial activity and the outermost layer that repels water and oil
- It has 99.2% bacterial filtration efficiency and complies with ASTM standards of breathability and splash resistance