



Sleepy Classes

Free. Regular. Quality.

.....

Daily News Discussion (DND)

24th - 26th July 2021

Visit our website 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

1. Environment.....	1
1.1.Microplastic pollution in river Ganga	1
1.2.EV100 drive	5
1.3.Renewables Integration in India 2021 (PIB)	6
2. Economy	8
2.1.Production-linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel (PIB)	8
2.2.Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)	9
2.3.The curious case of India's falling unemployment rate (IE)	9
3. Polity	11
3.1.Gatekeeper model	11
3.2.Meat ban matter of fundamental right	12
3.3.Dying declaration (IE)	13
3.4.Right to be Forgotten	13
4. International Relation.....	15
4.1.Nord Stream 2 pipeline (IE)	15
Current affairs Worksheet (24th - 26th July 2021)	16

Note -

- The Newspaper clippings pasted in PDF are important from Mains point of view as it contains the fodder material for Mains Answer Writing.
- Also watch DND video lectures everyday @ 4 PM on Sleepy's YouTube channel in order to understand how to get the most out of everyday's Newspaper.

Click [here](#) to watch the following topics on YouTube

1. Environment

1.1. Microplastic pollution in river Ganga

- Delhi-based NGO Toxics Link released a study recently titled, “Quantitative analysis of Microplastics along River Ganga”, which has found that the river – which flows through five states covering about 2,500 km before flowing into the Bay of Bengal – is heavily polluted with microplastics.

What are microplastics?

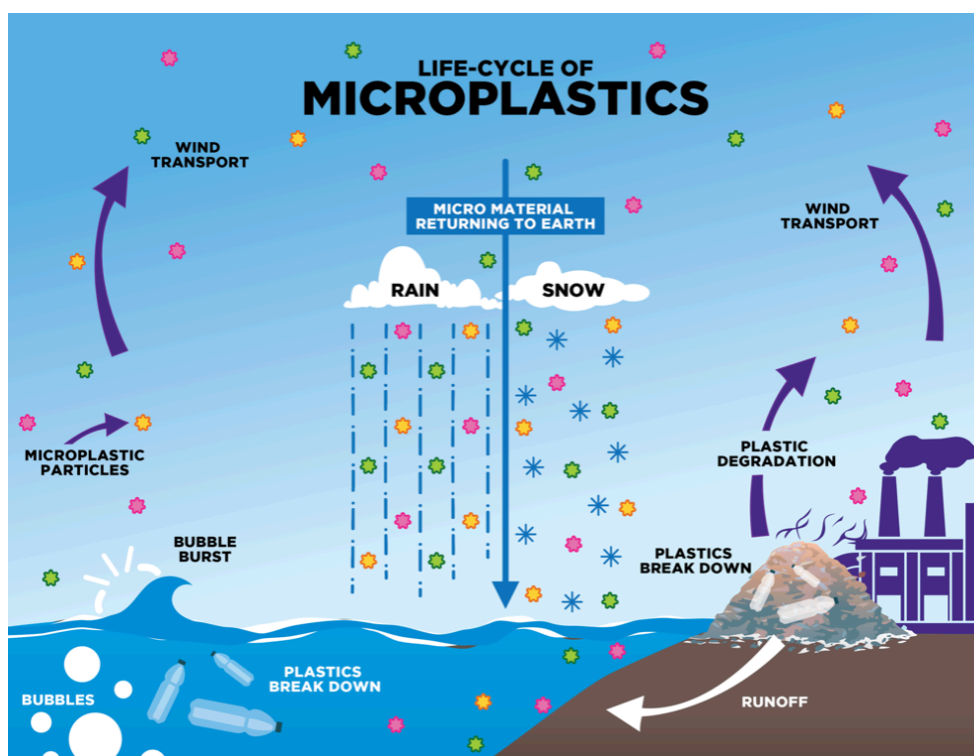
- Plastic debris can come in all shapes and sizes, but those that are **less than five millimeters in length** (or about the size of a sesame seed) are called microplastics.

Key Findings

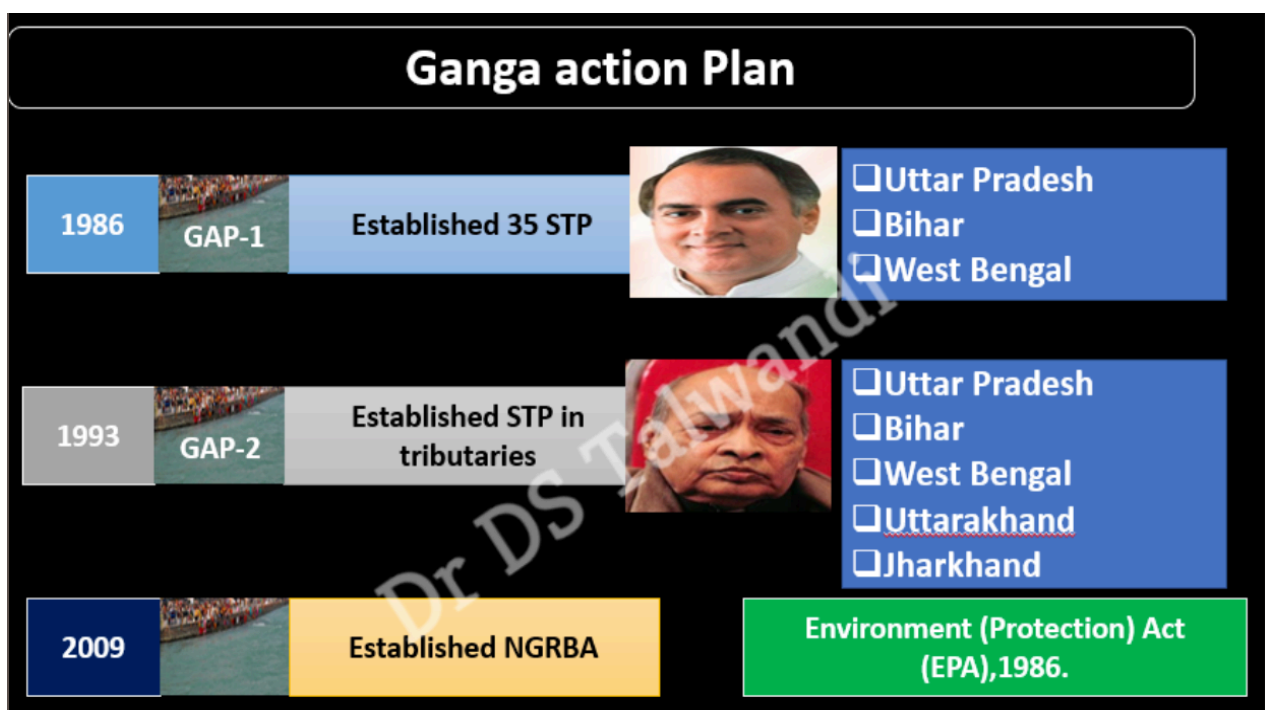
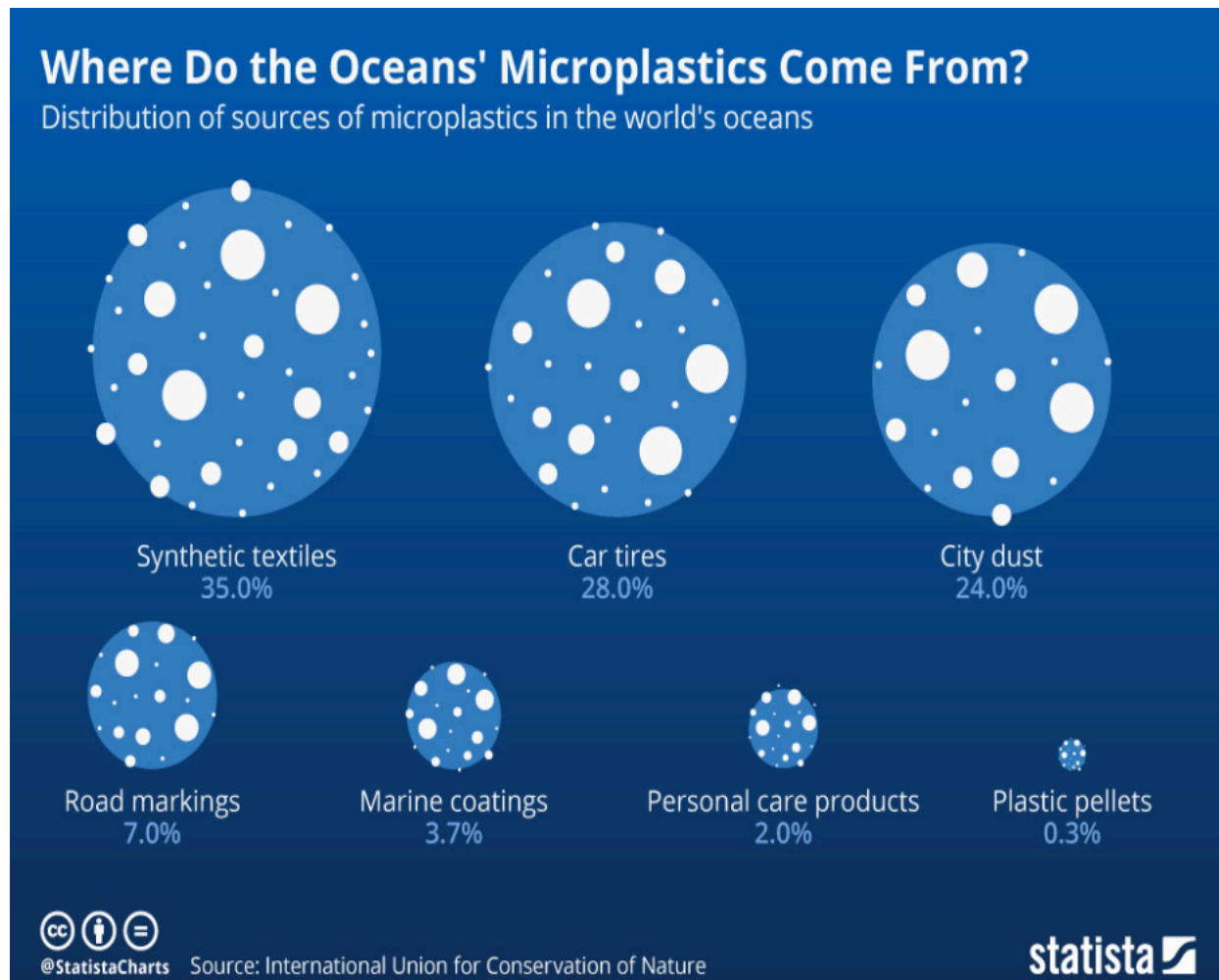
- More than 663 marine species are affected by marine debris and **11 percent of them are said to be related to microplastic ingestion**, the study says.
- In the **case of humans**, most of the **microplastics can be found in food, water and food containers** and their ingestion can cause health problems.
- For the study, samples of **Ganga’s water were collected from Haridwar, Kanpur and Varanasi** and **microplastics were found in all of them**.
- Of the samples, those taken at **Varanasi had the highest concentration of plastic pollution**.
- As the river flows, these waste and plastic materials break down further and are eventually carried into the Bay of Bengal and then into the ocean which is the “**ultimate sink**” of all plastics that are used by humans.

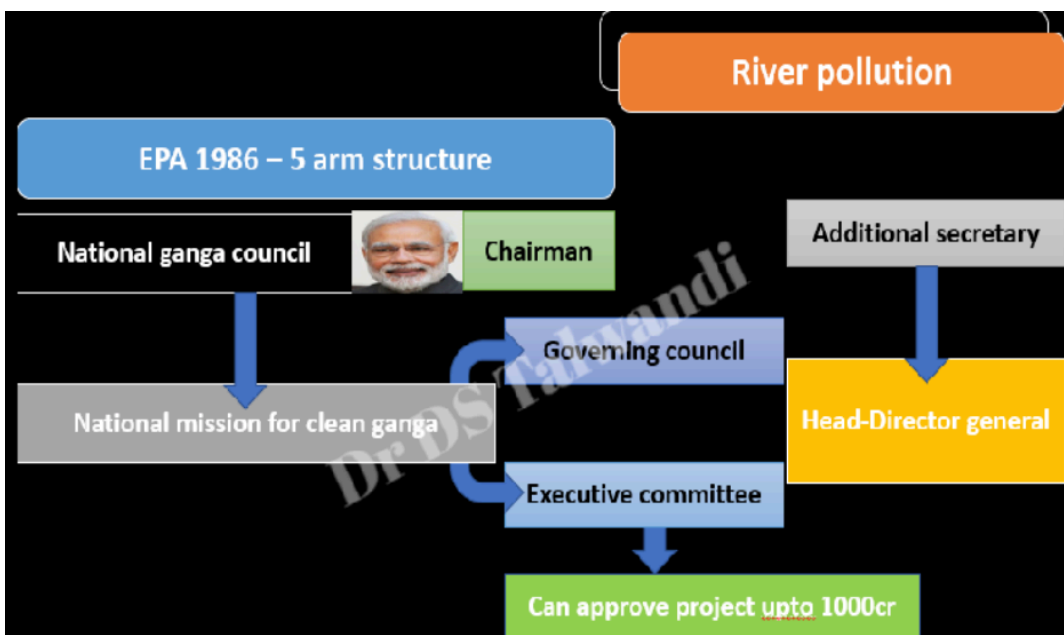
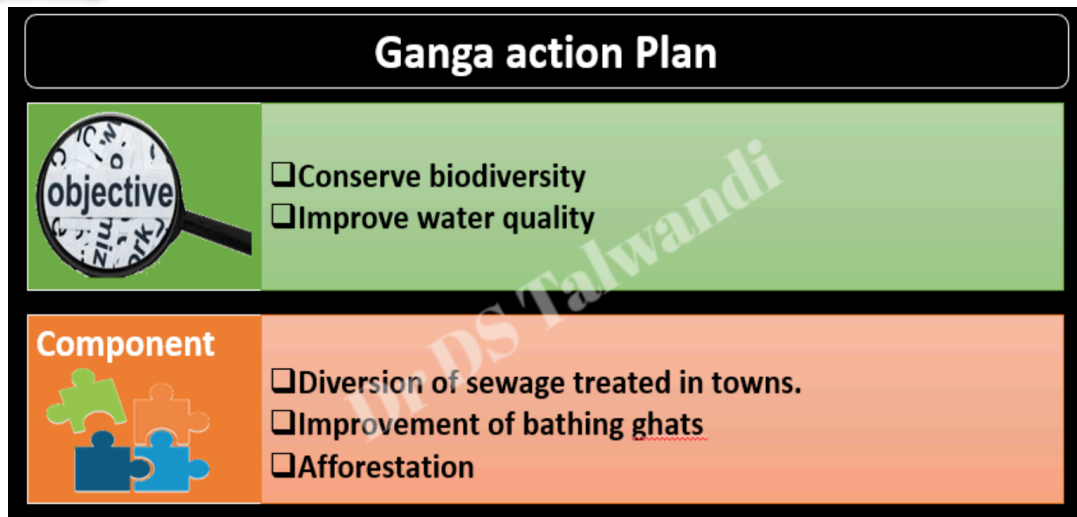
Efforts

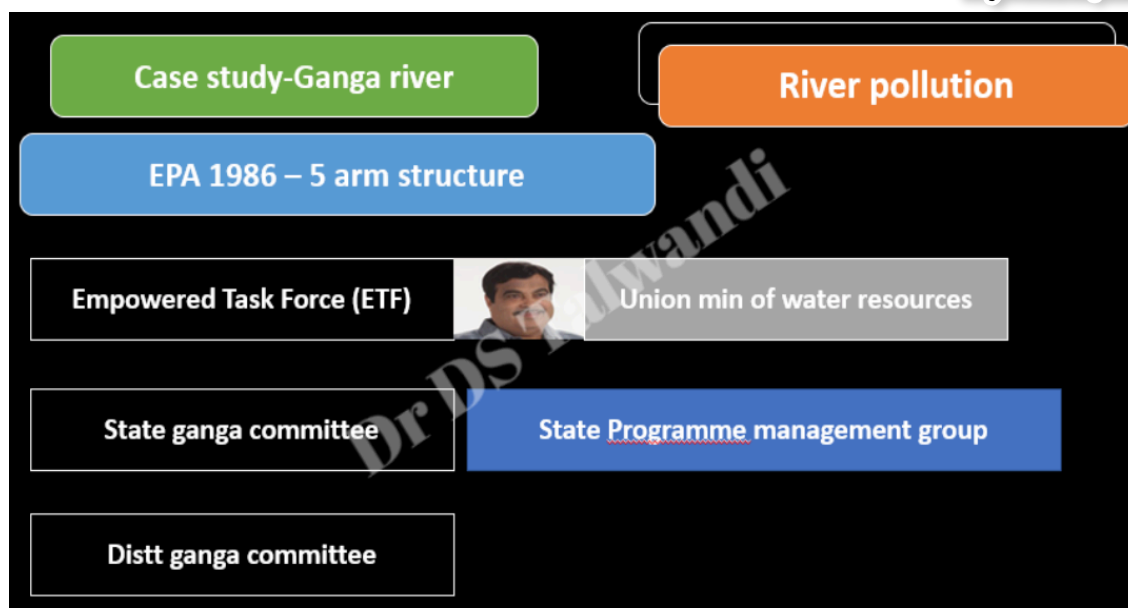
- In May 2015, the government approved the **Namami Gange** (which receives a 100 percent funding from the central government) programme to clean and protect the river.
- Programmes launched before this include the **Ganga Action Plan (GAP)** in 1985, the IIT Consortium (2011) for water diversion and effective treatment, and the National Mission for Clean Ganga in 2011.



- These programs and schemes launched over the past decades on which millions of rupees have been spent so far, have yielded “**little success**”.







State Ganga Committee

Gazette Notifications:-

S.No	State	Subject	Document
1	Uttarakhand	State Ganga Committees (Uttarakhand) Gazette Notification,2017(Page No. 1 to 3)	PDF
2	Uttar Pradesh	State Ganga Committees (Uttar Pradesh) Gazette Notification,2017(Page No. 3 to 5)	PDF
3	Jharkhand	State Ganga Committees (Jharkhand) Gazette Notification,2017(Page No. 5 to 7)	PDF
4	Bihar	State Ganga Committees (Bihar) Gazette Notification,2017 Corrigendum(Page No. 9)	PDF
5	West Bengal	State Ganga Committees (West Bengal) Gazette Notification,2017	PDF
6	Chhattisgarh	State Ganga Committees (Chhattisgarh) Gazette Notification,2017(Page No. 1 to 3)	PDF
7	Himachal Pradesh	State Ganga Committees (Himachal Pradesh) Gazette Notification,2017(Page No. 3 to 5)	PDF
8	Madhya Pradesh	State Ganga Committees (Madhya Pradesh) Gazette Notification,2017(Page No. 5 to 7)	PDF
9	Rajasthan	State Ganga Committees (Rajasthan) Gazette Notification,2017(Page No. 7 to 9)	PDF



Mark the correct statement

- Basel convention deals with the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.
- Basel convention does not address the movement of radioactive waste
- Un-Plastic Collective (UPC) is a voluntary initiative launched by IUCN
- As per WHO Microplastic poses highest risk to human health
- thermohaline-driven circulations can control the distribution of microplastics by creating hotspots of accumulation

1.2.EV100 drive

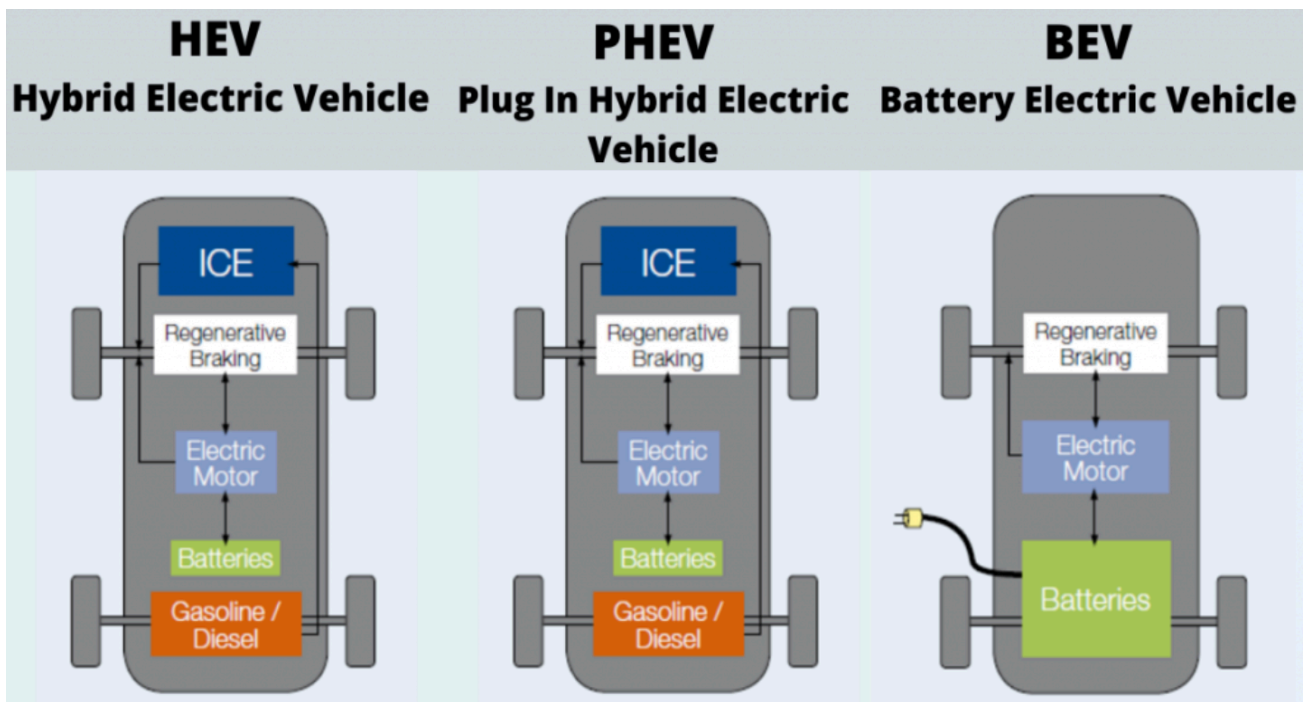
- Maharashtra government recently announced its decision **to become the first State in the country to join hands with Climate Group's EV100 campaign.**

EV100 campaign

- Initiative of Climate Group (NPO)
- Aims to **make electric transport the new normal by 2030** by encouraging companies to switch from vehicles running on fossil fuels to EVs and install charging infrastructure.

National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP)	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To achieve 6-7 million sales of electric and hybrid vehicles in India by 2020.
FAME (Min of heavy Industries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage electric and Hybrid Vehicle Setup charging infra Covers Hybrid & Electric technologies like Mild Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, Plug in Hybrid & Battery Electric Vehicles.
Phase I	2015-19
Phase II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019-22 Support, through subsidies, approximately 7000 e-Buses, 5 lakh e-3 Wheelers, 55000 e-4 Wheeler Passenger Cars and 10 lakh e-2 Wheelers. In 3-Wheel (W) and 4-Wheel (W) segment incentives will be applicable mainly to vehicles used for public transport or registered for commercial purposes. In the 2-Wheel (W) segment, the focus will be on the private vehicles. At least one charging station in a grid of 3 km x 3 km

- Maharashtra's EV policy aims to achieve 25% electrification of last-mile delivery vehicles by 2025



1.3. Renewables Integration in India 2021 (PIB)

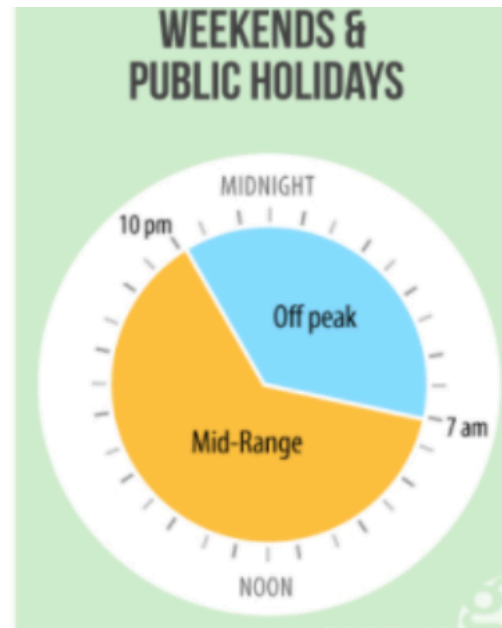
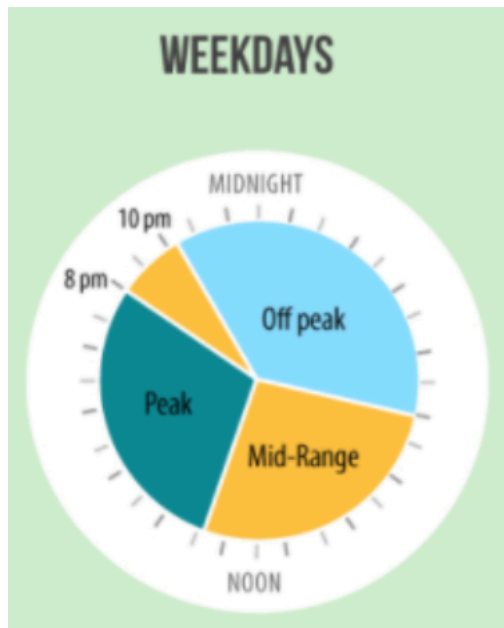
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) in association with NITI Aayog has released a report titled "Renewables Integration in India 2021".
- The report is based on the outcome of three states workshops held with the Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat to understand the specific energy transition challenges faced by these renewable-rich states.

Key points

- The report highlights that India's power system can efficiently integrate renewables (175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030), but it would require identification of resources and proper planning, regulatory, policy and institutional support, energy storage and advance technology initiatives.
- Larger shares of renewables can be better managed by shifting time of use in agriculture.
- Time of Use (ToU) tariffs will be an effective tool to incentivise demand side management and encourage flexible consumption.

Facts

- The share of solar and wind in India's ten renewables-rich states (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, and Kerala) is significantly higher than the national average of 8.2%.
- Solar and wind account for around 29% of annual electricity generation in Karnataka, 20% in Rajasthan, 18% in Tamil Nadu, and 14% in Gujarat.



International Energy Agency

Establish	autonomous Intergovernmental Organisation established in 1974 in Paris, France.
Objective	Focuses on its energy policies which include economic development, energy security and environmental protection.
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD Crude oil and/or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports A demand restraint programme to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10%; Legislation and measures to ensure that all oil companies under its jurisdiction report information upon request
India	India became an Associate member of IEA in March 2017
Reports	Global Energy & CO2 Status Report. World Energy Outlook. World Energy Statistics. World Energy Balances. Energy Technology Perspectives.

2. Economy

2.1. Production-linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel (PIB)

- Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel

About

- The duration of the scheme will be five years, from **2023-24 to 2027-28**
- **Speciality steel** has been chosen as the target segment because **out of the production of 102 million tonnes steel in India in 2020-21, only 18 million tonnes** value added steel/speciality steel was produced in the country.
- The benefit of this scheme will accrue to **both big players i.e. integrated steel plants and to the smaller players**
- There are **3 slabs of PLI incentives**, the lowest being 4 % and highest being 12% which has been provided for electrical steel

Specialty steel

- is **value added steel wherein normal finished steel** is worked upon by way of coating, plating, heat treatment, etc to **convert it into high value added steel** which can be used in various strategic applications like Defence, Space, Power, apart from automobile sector, specialized capital goods etc.
- The five categories of specialty steel which have been chosen in the PLI Scheme are:
 - ✓ Coated/Plated Steel Products
 - ✓ High Strength/Wear resistant Steel
 - ✓ Specialty Rails
 - ✓ Alloy Steel Products and Steel wires
 - ✓ Electrical Steel

Additional Information

National Steel Policy 2017: (Ferrous)

- Aims to develop a globally competitive steel industry by creating 300 Million TPA Steel production capacity by 2030

Steel Scrap Recycling Policy. (2019)

Reason

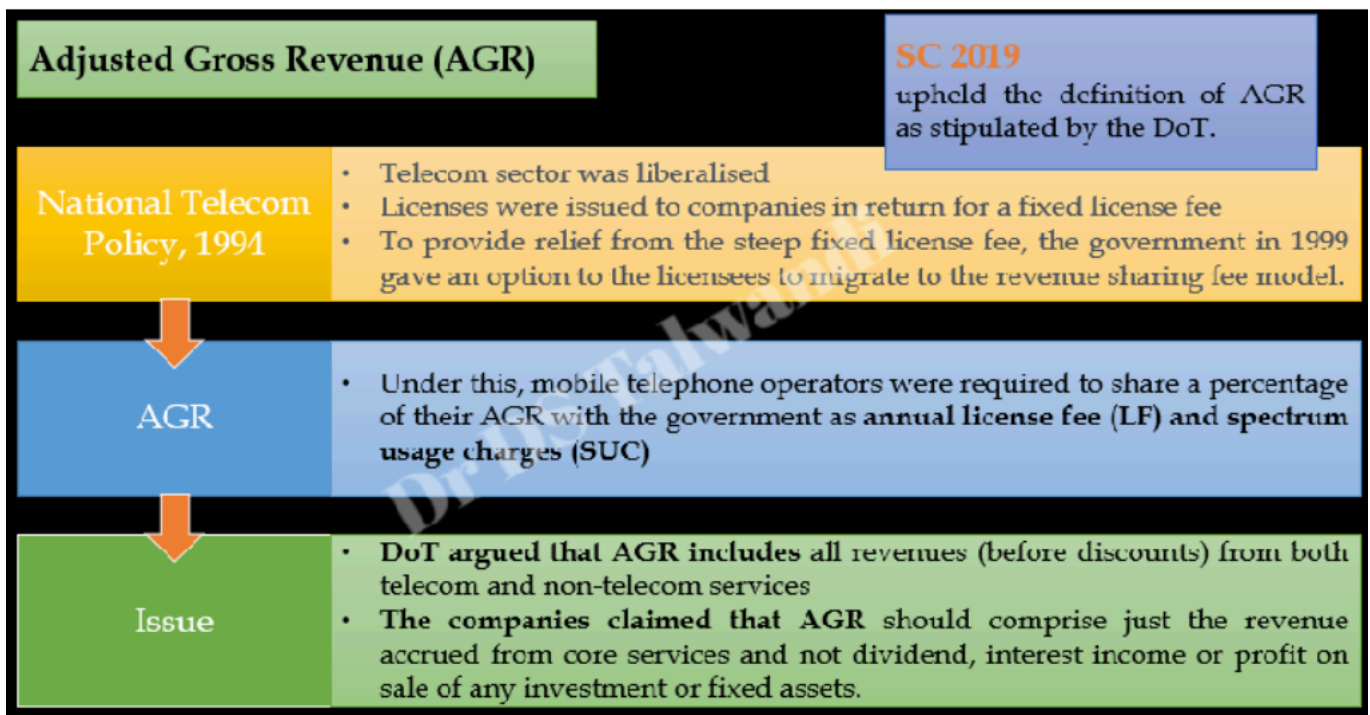
- The country's steel scrap imports were valued at Rs 24,500 crore in 2017-18, while the deficit was to the tune of 7 MT.
- The use of every tonne of scrap shall save 1.1 tonne of iron ore, 630 kg of coking coal and 55 kg of limestone. There shall be considerable saving in specific energy consumption also.

Steel Scrap Recycling Policy. (2019)-Min of Steel

- To reduce dependency on imports and decongest the Indian cities from End of Life Vehicles (ELVs)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- **Hub and Spoke** model-4 collection and dismantling centres will cater to 1 scrap processing centre.
- Principles of **6Rs**: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Redesign and Remanufacture.
- In compliance to Hazardous & Other Wastes (Management & Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2016 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

2.2.Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)

- Recently **Supreme court dismisses plea by Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea** seeking direction for correction of errors in Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) calculation.
- Bharti Airtel Ltd and Vodafone Idea Ltd had **moved the apex court seeking directions to the DoT to recalculate AGR dues**, citing “mathematical errors” in the calculation of the outstanding amount by the department



2.3.The curious case of India's falling unemployment rate (IE)

- The release of the latest annual report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) recently is shown important trends.

Reasons

- Increased labour force participation rate is happening because work **opportunities have shrunk and incomes have fallen**.
- People are being forced to take up **self-employment** – often of the kind designated as “helper in household enterprise” – even as the relative share of wage (or salaried) employment falls.

- The CWS method shows that **unemployment didn't really fall**.

PLFS	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
LFPR (in %)	36.9	37.5	40.1
Unemployment rate* (in %)	6.1	5.8	4.8

Source: PLFS 2019-20

*Usual Status

PLFS	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
US—Unemployment rate* (in %)*	6.1	5.8	4.8
CWS—Unemployment rate^ (in %)	8.9	8.8	8.8

Source: PLFS 2019-20

*Usual Status

^Current Weekly Status

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

- India's first computer-based survey launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017.

Objectives

- To estimate the key **employment and unemployment indicators (i.e Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate)** in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS).
- To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in **both usual status and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually**.

Labour Force	Work force + Unemployed	
Unemployment rate	$\frac{\text{No. of unemployed}}{\text{LF}} \times 100$	
LFPR	$\frac{\text{LF}}{\text{Total population}} \times 100$	
Usual activity Status activity status determined on the basis of the reference period of the last 365 days	Current Weekly Status If not employed even 1 hr work in a week	Current Daily Status If not employed even 1 hr work in a day in a given week

3. Polity

3.1. Gatekeeper model

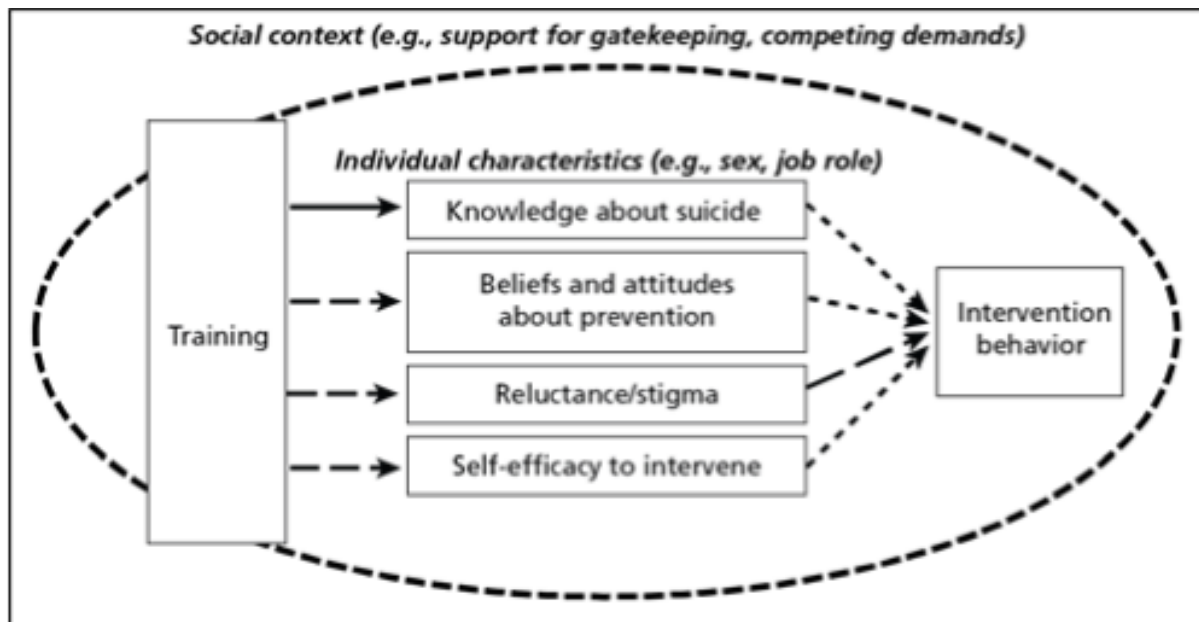
- The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) issues guidelines for dealing with mental health challenges and proposes gatekeeper model.

NIMHANS Guidelines

- Gatekeeper Model
 - ✓ Selected inmates, trained to identify prisoners at **risk of suicide**, would refer them to treatment or supportive services.

Gatekeeper

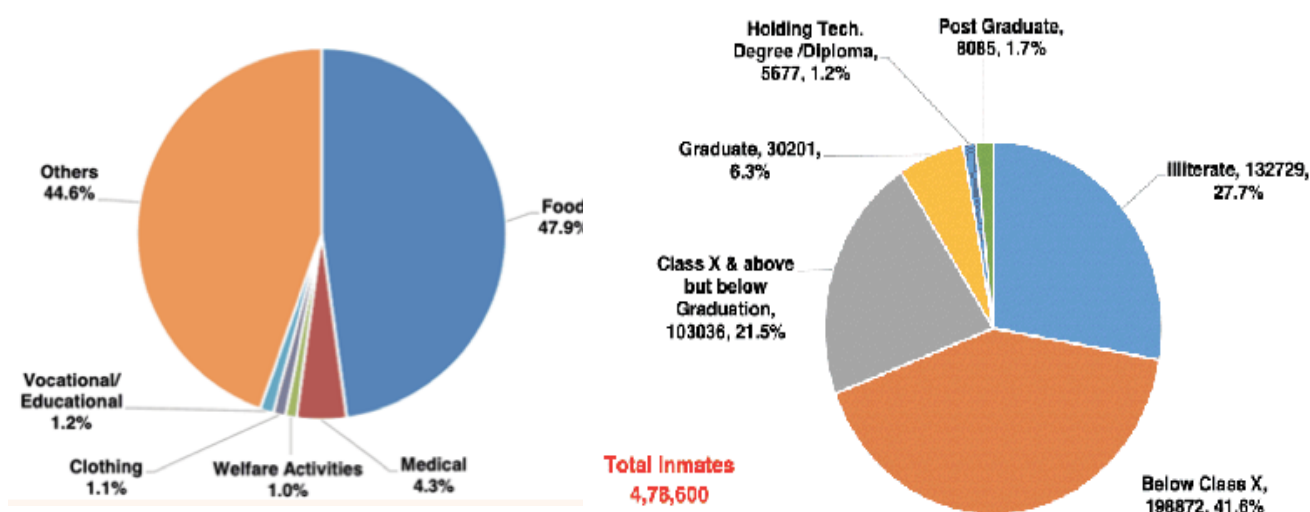
- refers to “individuals in a community who have face-to-face contact with large numbers of community members as part of their usual routine.”
- They may be trained to “identify persons at risk of suicide and refer them to treatment or supporting services as appropriate”



- Buddy System
 - ✓ social support through trained prisoners called “buddies” or “listeners” is provided to the prisoners.
- Periodic telephone conversations
 - ✓ e-Mulakat- online platform enabling relatives/friends/ advocates of prisoners to book prior appointments for interviewing prisoners through the National Prisons Information Portal.
- Facilities for medical treatment

Pre + Mains Value addition

Prison Statistics India 2016 (NCRB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68 % Undertrial (Highest Bihar in %)/ In Absolute no. UP India's prisons are overcrowded with an occupancy ratio of 14% more than the capacity.
Mental health professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/22k prisoners There is a prevalence of mental illness and substance use disorder in about 80% of the prison population as per a Bangalore Prison Mental Health Study
Sec 436 A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertrials to be released on a personal bond if they have undergone half of the maximum term of imprisonment they would have faced if convicted. No awareness



3.2. Meat ban matter of fundamental right

- Recently Uttarakhand HC observed that the matter of banning meat concerns the fundamental rights of citizens.

Issue

- In march Uttarakhand had declared all areas in **Haridwar "slaughterhouse-free"** and cancelled no objection certificates issued to slaughterhouses.
- Also **Section 237A** was inserted into the UP Municipalities Act to declare areas under municipal corporation, council or nagar panchayat a **"slaughter-free" zone**

Majority Vs Minority

- India is a country where **70% of the population eats non-vegetarian food**, and hence meat ban is not a majority versus minority issue.
- The bench cited **surveys on the food habits of Indians from 2018 and 2019**. It found out that **72.6% of the population in Uttarakhand and 70% population in India is non-vegetarian**
- The court has now asked the petitioners to amend their pleas in a week as none of them pleaded that such a ban violates **the right to privacy** of a citizen

Mains Value addition			
GS II	Democracy	Majority vs minority	UK HC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democracy does not only mean rule by majority but, most importantly democracy means the protection of the minority
GSII/ IV	Rights	Rt to food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution may be interpreted to include the right to live with human dignity, having right to food and other basic necessities
GSII/ IV	Rights	What to eat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supreme Court had said "nobody would like to be told what to eat or how to dress" while ruling that these activities come under the realm of the right to privacy.

3.3.Dying declaration (IE)

- Recently, a special **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** court awarded two policemen life sentences for the **custodial death** of a murder accused on the basis of the '**Dying Declaration**' made by the victim prior to his death.

Dying Declaration	
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section-32(1) of Indian Evidence Act, 1872 Statement written or verbal of relevant facts made by a person, who is dead.
Rules for admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim being generally the only principal eye-witness to the crime The sense of impending death
Record of DD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone can record the dying declaration
Corroboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DD can be sole basis of conviction, if court satisfied But the court has to scrutinise the dying declaration carefully and must ensure that the declaration is not the result of tutoring, prompting, or imagination.

3.4.Right to be Forgotten

- Ashutosh Kaushik who won reality shows Bigg Boss in 2008 and MTV Roadies 5.0 has approached the Delhi High Court with a plea saying that **his videos, photographs and articles etc. be removed from the internet** citing his "Right to be Forgotten"
- In the plea, Kaushik also maintains that the "Right to be Forgotten" goes in sync with the "Right to Privacy", which is an integral part of **Article 21** of the Constitution, which concerns the right to life.

What is the 'Right to be Forgotten' in the Indian context?

- The Right to be Forgotten falls under the purview of an individual's right to privacy, which is governed by the **Personal Data Protection Bill** that is yet to be passed by Parliament.
- In 2017, the Right to Privacy was declared a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in its landmark verdict.
- The court said at the time that, **"the right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21** and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution

What does the Personal Data Protection Bill say about this?

- Clause 20 under Chapter V of this draft bill titled “Rights of Data Principal” mentions the “Right to be Forgotten.”
- It states that the “data principal (the person to whom the data is related) shall have the right to restrict or prevent the continuing disclosure of his personal data by a data fiduciary”.
- Therefore, broadly, under the **Right to be forgotten, users can de-link, limit, delete or correct** the disclosure of their personal information held by data fiduciaries.
- A data **fiduciary means** any person, including the State, a company, any juristic entity or any individual who alone or in conjunction with others **determines the purpose and means of processing of personal data**

EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- In the European Union (EU), the right to be forgotten **empowers individuals to ask organisations to delete their personal data.**
- It is provided by the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a law passed by the 28-member bloc in 2018.
- In its landmark ruling, the EU’s highest court ruled in 2019 that the ‘right to be forgotten’ under European law would **not apply beyond the borders of EU member states.**

4. International Relation

4.1. Nord Stream 2 pipeline (IE)

- The US, which had previously imposed sanctions to prevent the completion of a major new gas pipeline between Russia and Germany, has **now signalled its approval for the project**.

What is the Nord Stream 2 pipeline?

- The 1,200-km pipeline will run from **Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in Germany through the Baltic Sea**, and will carry 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year.
- The pipeline falls in the territory of EU members Germany and Denmark, and is about 98% complete.

Why has the US & Ukraine opposed the Pipeline Project?

- The project would increase Europe's dependence on Russia for natural gas
- Currently, EU countries already rely on Russia for 40 per cent of their gas needs.
- **Ukraine**-There is an **existing land pipeline between Russia and Europe** that runs through Ukraine. The country feels that once Nord Storm 2 is completed, Russia could **bypass the Ukrainian pipeline**, and deprive it of lucrative **transit fees of around \$3 billion per year**

Why has the US position changed?

- Has decided not to kill the energy system with sanctions.
- It has instead **gone with the softer option** of threatening Russia with consequences should it use the pipeline to harm Ukraine or other countries in eastern Europe.
- The **US-Germany deal lays out that** if Russia attempts to "use energy as a weapon or commit further aggressive acts against Ukraine," **Germany will take steps on its own and push for actions at the EU**, including sanctions, "to limit Russian export capabilities to Europe in the energy sector,"
- The agreement also requires Germany to "utilise all available leverage" to extend by 10 years the current Russia-Ukraine gas transit agreement, which expires in 2024, and a contribution of at least \$175 million to a new \$1 billion **"Green Fund for Ukraine"** that aims at improving the country's energy independence





Current affairs Worksheet (24th - 26th July 2021)

Factual sheet for Quick revision

	Microplastics Vs Microbeads	
Env	Source of microplastic	
	Ganga action Plan	
	National ganga council	
	NMCG	
	State Ganga committee	
	Basel convention & amendment	
	EV100 campaign	
	FAME	
	HEV Vs PHEV Vs BEV	
	Renewables Integration in India	
	Time of Use (ToU) tariffs	
	International Energy Agency	

Economy	PLI for speciality steel	
	Speciality steel	
	Steel Scrap Recycling Policy. (2019)	
	Adjusted Gross Revenue	
	Periodic Labour Force Survey	
	Labour force/ Unemployment rate/LFPR/ WPR	

Polity	Gatekeeper Model	
	Buddy system	
	Exp on prisoners & education status	
	what to eat or how to dress/ Rt to food	
	Dying declaration	
	Right to be Forgotten	
	EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	
IR	Nord Stream 2 pipeline	