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**INDIA AS MOST POPULOUS CAN BE MORE BOON THAN BANE**

**Context**

* **By mid-2023**, India is expected to **surpass China as the most populous country.**
* As this can be a great **demographic advantage than a serious concern**, India must focus on exploiting benefits from the available demographic dividend.

**When will India surpass China?**

* United Nation reports suggest that **India will have a population of 142.86 crore by mid-2023, which is 2.9 million higher than China’s population of 142.57 crore.**
* Considering the limited information for both China and India, especially in the absence of the Census 2021**, it is difficult to predict the exact date** on which India will surpass China and become the most populous nation.

**Is the change in demographic order a Boon or Bane?**

Whether this change in demographic order will prove to be a burden or resource largely depends on the following points:

**The Nature of Population Growth**

* Population is a **resource**as long as the country’s **carrying capacity is intact.**
* **Carrying capacity**does not refer to only per capita availability of natural resources. It is dynamic and changes with changing technology, the efficiency of production and consumption systems of a country.

**Population size**

* India is **already at replacement leve**l fertility with the **total fertility rate (TFR) at 2.0 in 2023.** This means two children are replacing their parents.
* This is an **indication of the stabilisation of the population.**However, it continues to experience positive growth, but in a **decelerated mode until 2064**, from which point it will become **negative growth.**
* The peak of India’s population size will be around **169**.**6 crore in 2063.**

**The age** **composition of the population**:

* It tells us about:
	+ **Available support ratios** in the form of the number of the **working-age population (15-64 years).**
	+ And, the **dependent population (0-14 years and 65 years and above).**
* With **68% of the working age population in 2023**, the country continues to have a demographic window of opportunity for the next 35 years to reap an economic dividend.
* However, the availability of a demographic window of opportunity **in itself will not automatically turn into economic dividend.**

**India's opportunities from its demographic advantage**

* **Potential to become a worldwide market**
	+ With lower manufacturing costs due **to a relatively cheaper workforce, India can become a worldwide market**for both **production and consumption.**This is evident in India’s IT sector.
	+ India’s opportunity must be looked at in comparison to the consequences of population **decline and ageing across countries like Japan, China, the United States** and other major economies.
* **Opportunity to boost per capita GDP:**Available demographic opportunity in the form of a greater share of the working-age population has the **potential to boost per capita GDP by an additional 43% by 2061.**

**Conclusion**

As the country with the largest population in the world, there are advantages and disadvantages. India's younger population, however, results in higher support ratios because there are fewer diseases, disabilities, and caregiving responsibilities.

**100 Food Streets in 100 districts**

**Recently, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has requested states/UTs to develop 100 food streets in 100 districts across the country.**



**About 100 Food Streets in 100 districts:**

* This project aims to **encourage safe and healthy food practices** among food businesses and community members, thus, reducing foodborne illnesses and improving overall health outcomes.
* **Implementation:** It will be implemented through **National Health Mission** (NHM) in convergence with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs & with technical support from **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**.
* The financial assistance for the initiative to States/UTs in the **form of Rs.1 crore per food street/district** will be given to fill up critical gaps.
* This assistance will be provided under National Health Mission (NHM) in the ratio of 60:40 or 90: 10 with the condition that standard branding of these food streets will be done as per FSSAI guidelines.

**Key Facts about the** **National Health Mission**

* It was launched by the government of India in 2013 by **subsuming the National Rural Health Mission and National Urban Health Mission.**
* It was designed with the **aim of providing accessible, affordable, effective** and reliable **healthcare facilities** in the rural and urban areas of the country, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population.

**UDAN 5.0 SCHEME**

**Recently, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the UDAN 5.0 to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country.**



**About** **UDAN 5.0 scheme:**

* This round of the scheme focuses on **Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats**).
* The earlier **stage length cap of 600 km is waived off** and there is no restriction on the distance between the origin and destination of the flight.
* **Viability gap funding** (VGF) to be provided will be **capped at 600 km stage** length for both Priority and Non-Priority areas which was earlier capped at 500 km.
* Airlines would be required to **commence operations within 4 months** of the award of the route. Earlier this deadline was 6 months.

**Key facts about UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNaagrik)**

* It is a regional airport development and **"Regional Connectivity Scheme" (**RCS) of the Union Government of India.
* The scheme envisages **providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports** of the country through the revival of existing airstrips and airports.
* **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Civil Aviation

**What are the Components of UDAN?**

* **Airports:** The first component is to **develop new airports and enhance the existing regional airports**to increase the number of operational airports for scheduled civilian flights.
* **Flight routes:** The second component is to add several hundred financially viable, capped airfare, and new regional flight routes to connect more than 100 under-served and un-served airports in smaller towns by **using "Viability Gap Funding" (VGF)**where needed.

**LOCKBIT RANSOMWARE**

**Recent reports emerged that for the first time, the LockBit Ransomware was found to be targeting Mac devices.**



**About** **LockBit Ransomware:**

* It is malicious software designed to **block user access to computer systems** in exchange for a ransom payment.
* It was **formerly known as “ABCD” ransomware**, but it has since grown into a unique threat within the scope of extortion tools.
* It is a subclass of ransomware known **as a ‘crypto virus’** due to forming its ransom requests around financial payment in exchange for decryption.
* It focuses mostly on enterprises and government organizations rather than individuals.
* It functions **as ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS).** Willing parties put a deposit down for the use of custom for-hire attacks, and profit under an affiliate framework.

**How does LockBit ransomware work?**

* It works as a **self-spreading malware**, not requiring additional instructions once it has successfully infiltrated a single device with access to an organisational intranet.
* It is also known **to hide executable encryption files** by disguising them in the . PNG format, thereby avoiding detection by system defences.
* Attackers use **phishing tactics** and other social engineering methods to impersonate trusted personnel or authorities to lure victims into sharing credentials.
* Once it has gained access, the ransomware prepares the system to release its encryption payload across as many devices as possible.
* It then disables security programs and other infrastructures that could permit system data recovery.

**KESAVANANDA BHARATI CASE**

**Why in News?**

* Fifty years ago, on April 24, 1973, the Supreme Court delivered its judgment in Kesavananda Bharati and Ors vs State of Kerala.
* The landmark case redefined the relationship between Parliament and the Constitution.

**Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973):**

* Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala, also known as the Kesavananda Bharati judgement, was a landmark decision of the Supreme Court that outlined the basic structure doctrine of the Indian Constitution.
	+ The case is also known as the **Fundamental Rights Case**.
* A **13-Judge Bench** of the Supreme Court, with a **7-6 majority**, upheld the validity of the **24th Constitutional Amendment Act**(**1971**) and stated that Parliament is empowered to abridge or take away any of the Fundamental Rights.
	+ As per 24thA.A., Constitutional Amendments were not considered laws under **Article 13**.
	+ This amendment gave unlimited power to the Parliament to amend or repeal any part of the Constitution of India.
* However, the **Court laid down a new doctrine of the ‘Basic Structure’ (or ‘basic features’) of the Constitution**.

**What is the Basic Structure Doctrine?**

* In the Kesavananda Bharati case, the Court ruled that the constituent power of Parliament under **Article 368** does not enable it to alter the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution.
* This means that the **Parliament cannot abridge or take away a Fundamental Right that forms a part of the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution**.
* It gives extra power to court to review and strike down any constitutional amendments and act enacted by the Parliament.

**Evolution of the Basic Structure Doctrine:**

* The Parliament reacted to this judicially innovated doctrine of ‘basic structure’ by enacting the **42nd Amendment Act** (1976).
* Through the 42ndA.A., the Parliament amended **Article 368** and declared that **there is no limitation on the constituent power of Parliament and no amendment can be questioned in any court on any ground including that of the contravention of any of the Fundamental Rights**.
* However, the Supreme Court in the **Minerva Mills case** (1980) invalidated this provision as it excluded judicial review which is a ‘basic feature’ of the Constitution.
* Again in the **Waman Rao case** (1981), the Supreme Court adhered to the doctrine of the ‘basic structure’ and further clarified that it would apply to constitutional amendments enacted after **April 24, 1973**.
	+ It is the date of the judgement in the Kesavananda Bharati case.

**What Constitutes Basic Structure of the Constitution?**

* The Supreme Court is yet to define or clarify as to what constitutes the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution.
* At present, from the various judgements, the **following have emerged as some of the ‘basic features’ of the Constitution or elements of the ‘basic structure’ of the constitution –**
	+ Supremacy of the Constitution
	+ Sovereign, democratic and republican nature of the Indian polity
	+ Separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary
	+ Judicial review
	+ Parliamentary system
	+ Rule of law
	+ Principle of equality
	+ Free and fair elections
	+ Independence of Judiciary
	+ Limited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution

**Conclusion:**

* One certainty that emerged out of this tussle between Parliament and the Judiciary is that **all legislations and constitutional amendments are now subject to judicial review**, and laws that violate the fundamental framework are likely to be overturned by the Supreme Court.
* In essence, Parliament’s ability to alter the Constitution is limited, and **all constitutional amendments are ultimately decided upon, scrutinised and interpreted by the Supreme Court**.

**WHAT IS INSULIN SHOCK?**

**A team of scientists at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine recently identified a key player that helps prevent "insulin shock".**



**About Insulin Shock:**

* **What is it?** Insulin shock occurs when you have **too much insulin in your blood**. This can **lead to hypoglycemia, also called low blood sugar.**
* If left untreated for too long, **it can lead to loss of consciousness and even death**.
* It can **occur in people with type 1 or type 2 diabetes**if they are using certain medications.
* **Warning Signs**: **Dizziness**, **shaking**, **clamminess**, a rapid pulse, and other symptoms.

**What is Diabetes?**

* It is a **chronic disease**that occurs when the **pancreas can no longer make insulin** or the **body cannot make good use of the insulin it produces**.
* **What is Insulin**? It is a **hormone that regulates blood glucose.**
* **Not being able to produce** or use **insulin** effectively **leads to raised glucose levels**in the blood, **known as hyperglycaemia**.

**Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes:**

* **Type 1 diabetes:**
	+ It is a condition in which **your immune system destroys insulin-making cells in your pancreas.**These are **called** **beta cells.**
	+ When you have type 1 diabetes, **your body produces very little or no insulin.**
	+ It **requires daily administration of insulin**to maintain blood glucose levels under control.
	+ It is **usually diagnosed in children** and young people, so it used to be called juvenile diabetes.
	+ Symptoms: **Excessive excretion of urine**(polyuria), **thirst** (polydipsia), constant hunger, **weight loss**, vision changes, and **fatigue**.
* **Type 2 diabetes:**
	+ It results from the **body’s ineffective use of insulin that it produces**.
	+ More than **95% of people with diabetes have type 2 diabetes.**
	+ This type of diabetes is **largely theresult of excess body weight and physical inactivity.**
	+ **Symptoms may be similar to those of type 1 diabetes**but are **often less marked**. As a result, the disease may be diagnosed several years after onset.

**BUREAU OF CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY (BCAS)**

**The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) recently cited the security advisory issued on the basis of the threat perception, to the opposition raised by the passengers about the double metal-detector based checking at the airports.**



**About Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS):**

* It was **initially set up as a Cell in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation** in January **1978** on the **recommendation of the Pande Committee**.
* It was **reorganized into an independent department** **under** the Ministry of Civil Aviation**on 1st April 1987.**
* The main responsibilities of BCAS include **laying down standards and measures with respect to the security of civil flights** **at** international and domestic **airports in India**.
* **Headquarters: New Delhi**
* It has got **four Regional Offices** located at International airports i.e. **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.**
* **Functions**:
	+ **Laying down Aviation Security Standards** in accordance with Annex 17 to the Chicago Convention of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for airport operators, airline operators, and their security agencies responsible for implementing AVSEC measures.
	+ **Monitoring the implementation of security rules** and regulations and **carrying out survey of security needs.**
	+ **Ensure** that the **persons implementing security controls are appropriately trained** and possess all competencies required to perform their duties.
	+ Planning and **coordination of Aviation security matters**.
	+ **Surprise/Dummy checks** to test the professional efficiency and alertness of security staff.
	+ **Mock exercise** to test the efficacy of Contingency Plans and operational preparedness of the various agencies.

**Key Facts about Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA):**

* It is the **regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation**, primarily dealing with safety issues.
* It is **responsible for regulation of air transport services** **to/from/within India** and for **enforcement of civil air regulations**, **air safety, and airworthiness standards**.
* The DGCA also **coordinates all regulatory functions** **with** the International Civil Aviation Organisation (**ICAO**).
* The **headquarters** are located **in** **New Delhi** with regional offices in the various parts of India.

**What is the Chicago Convention?**

* The Chicago Convention (also known as the **Convention on International Civil Aviation**), **established the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO),** a **specialized agency of the United Nations** charged with coordinating and regulating international air travel.
* The Convention was **signed by 52 states on 7 December 1944**in Chicago, U.S., and came into effect on 4 April 1947.
* It **establishes rules of airspace, aircraft registration and safety** **and details the rights of the signatories** in relation to air travel.
* The Convention also **exempts air fuels from tax**.
* The Convention **provided for the sovereignty of airspace above the territory of each state, together with five freedoms (later expanded to nine by the addition of four unofficial freedoms**) which govern the freedom of states to operate air transport flights (including the carriage of passengers, cargo and mail) across, into and within the airspace of other states.