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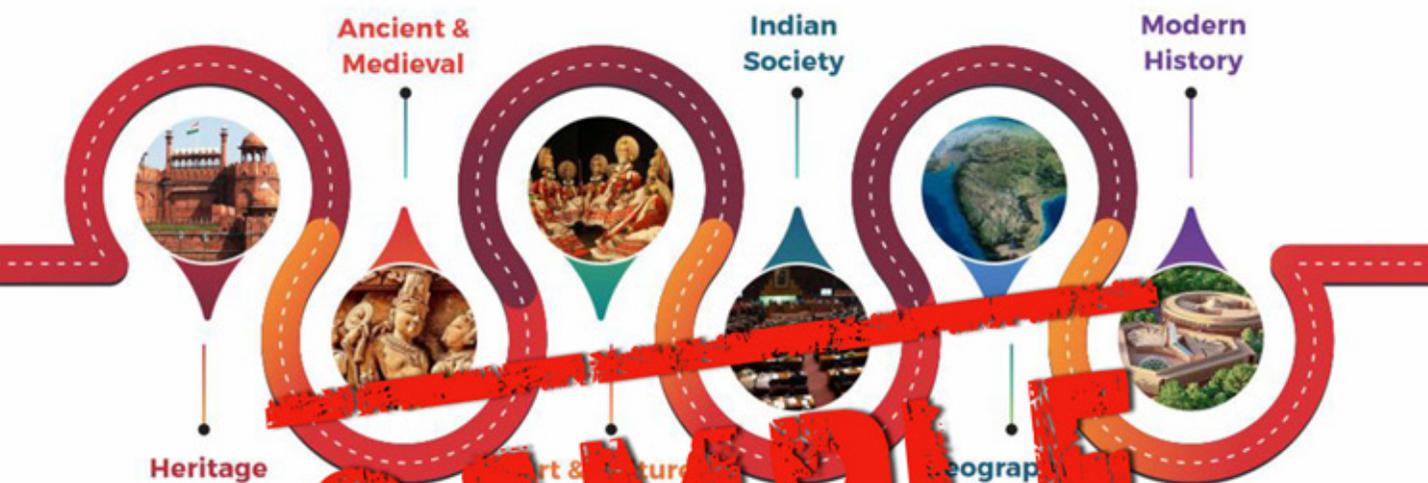


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3rd Edition



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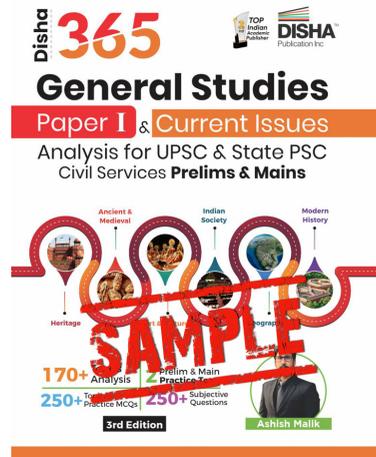


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CONTENTS OF FREE SAMPLE BOOK

Unit-1 : Geography	1.1-50
1.32 Atlantic Ocean Current System (AMOC) (P&M).....	46
Unit-2 : History	2.1-50
2.8 Kushinagar, a Buddhist Pilgrimage Town	12
2.20 Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule	30
Unit-3 : Social Issues	3.1-60
3.1 Raising Legal Age of Marriage for Women.....	1
3.17 India's Declining Total Fertility Rate	33

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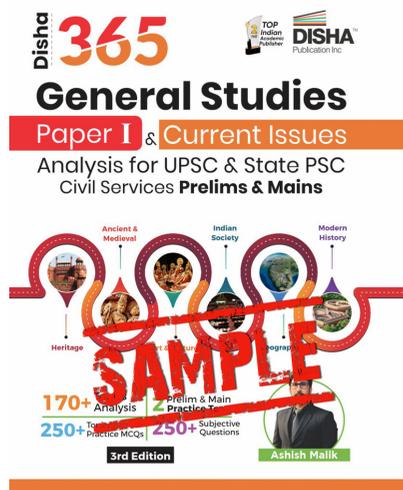
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CONTENTS OF COMPLETE BOOK



Unit-1 : Geography 1.1-50

1.1	Polar Vortex	1
1.2	Domestic Vanadium Deposits	2
1.3	Western Disturbance	4
1.4	Semeru Volcano of Indonesia	5
1.5	Thar Desert	7
1.6	NDMA Guidelines to Tackle Glacial Bursts	9
1.7	Mapping Seismic Hazard of Eastern Himalaya	10
1.8	Major Volcanoes in News	11
1.9	Detoxification of Lukha River: Meghalaya	13
1.10	International Mountain Day 2021	14
1.11	Changing Rainfall Pattern in North East India	15
1.12	Lake Tanganyika Getting Deeper	17
1.13	Himalayan Frontal Thrust	19
1.14	Impact of Climate Change on El Nino and La Nina	20
1.15	Crops Grown in India	22
1.16	Sudden Stratospheric Warming (SSM)	23
1.17	La-palma Island, Spain	24
1.18	Daylight Saving Time	26
1.19	Cold Waves in India	28

1.20	Pacific Ring of Fire	29
1.21	Cyclones in India	31
1.22	Mangrove Forests	34
1.23	Retreat of Glaciers in Ladakh	35
1.24	Moon's Wobble Effect	37
1.25	Heat Dome	38
1.26	A-76: World's Largest Iceberg	39
1.27	Belarus-Poland Border Crisis	41
1.28	Barbados: World's Newest Republic	42
1.29	Chillai-Kalan (P).....	43
1.30	Double-Dip La Nina (P&M).....	44
1.31	International Quiet Ocean Experiment (IQOE)	45
1.32	Atlantic Ocean Current System (AMOC) (P&M).....	46
1.33	Coral Restoration (P&M).....	48
	Answers.....	49-50

Unit-2 : History	2.1-50
-------------------------	---------------

2.1	New Anubhava Mantapa	1
2.2	Four Indigenous Martial art Forms Included in Khelo India Youth Games	2
2.3	Netaji's Birth Anniversary to be Celebrated as 'Parakram Divas'	3
2.4	Patharughat Uprising of Assam	5
2.5	Chauri Chaura Incident.....	7
2.6	Ramappa Temple	8
2.7	Who are Nihangs?.....	10
2.8	Kushinagar, a Buddhist Pilgrimage Town	12
2.9	Thamirabarani Civilisation	15
2.10	Swami Vivekanada	16
2.11	Sardar Udham Singh.....	17
2.12	Paika Rebellion	19
2.13	Gupta Period Temple Remains Found in UP	21
2.14	Birsa Munda& Munda Rebellion	23
2.15	Durga Puja	24
2.16	Salar Masud-Raja Suhalddev Battle	25
2.17	Dandi March 1930	27

2.18	Pal-Dadhvav Massacre	28
2.19	Rampa Rebellion of 1922	29
2.20	Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule	30
2.21	Theyyam	32
2.22	Jainism.....	33
2.23	Buddhism	36
2.24	Kathak	39
2.25	Jharkhand's Separate Religious Code for Sarna Tribals	41
2.26	Narsinh Mehta	42
2.27	Sant Ravidas	44
2.28	Onake Obavva	46
2.29	Hindu Seer Akharas	47
	Answers.....	49-50

Unit-3 : Social Issues	3.1-60
-------------------------------	---------------

3.1	Raising Legal Age of Marriage for Women.....	1
3.2	Wages for Housework	3
3.3	Protecting the Sentinelese	5
3.4	Severe Stress Among Army Personnel	7
3.5	Longitudinal Ageing Study of India	8
3.6	Fighting Drug Addiction	10
3.7	Mental Health in India	12
3.8	Bonded Labour in India	14
3.9	Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.....	17
3.10	Growing Digital Divide	20
3.11	Rising Complaints of Crimes Against Women.....	22
3.12	Communal Content in Media	24
3.13	Permanent Commission for Women Officers	25
3.14	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme-BBBP	27
3.15	Legalizing prostitution in India	29
3.16	Criminalising Marital Rape	31
3.17	India's Declining Total Fertility Rate	33
3.18	Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India Report 2020 : NCRB	35
3.19	Women Transforming India Awards	38

3.20	Marginalisation of Sexual Minorities	39
3.21	Severe Acute Malnutrition in India	40
3.22	'Good' Urbanisation in India (M)	42
3.23	Maternal Mortality in India (P&M).....	45
3.24	Jharkhand Launched 'SAAMAR Campaign' to Fight Malnutrition	48
3.25	PM-CARES for Children Scheme	49
3.26	Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission	52
3.27	World Happiness Report 2021	54
3.28	World unprepared for future pandemics: Global Health Security Index 2021	55
Answers.....		59-60

Unit-4 : Prelims Snippets.....4.1-12

Mock Tests

Mock Test - 1 Prelims.....	MT-1-26
Mock Test - 2 Prelims.....	MT-27-46
Mock Test - 1 Mains.....	MT-47-55
Mock Test - 2 Mains.....	MT-56-64

Additional Topics - Pdf Files

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1.32 Atlantic Ocean Current System (AMOC)

Prelims & Mains

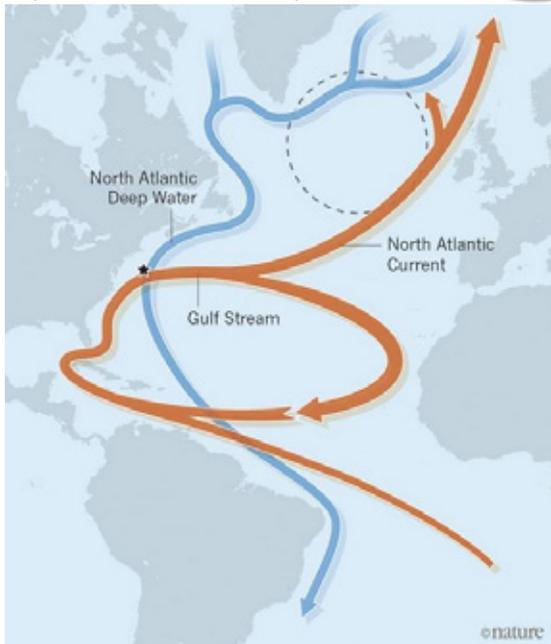
Why in news?

- ⊙ According to the recently released IPCC's Report, Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is losing its stability and is very likely to decline over the 21st century.
- ⊙ The ocean has an interconnected current, or circulation, system powered by wind, tides, the Earth's rotation (Coriolis effect), the sun (solar energy), and water density differences.

What is AMOC?

- ⊙ The AMOC is a large system of ocean currents.
- ⊙ It is the Atlantic branch of the ocean conveyor belt or Thermohaline circulation (THC), and distributes heat and nutrients throughout the world's ocean basins.
- ⊙ AMOC carries warm surface waters from the tropics towards the Northern Hemisphere, where it cools and sinks.
- ⊙ It then returns to the tropics and then to the South Atlantic as a bottom current.
- ⊙ From there it is distributed to all ocean basins via the Antarctic circumpolar current.

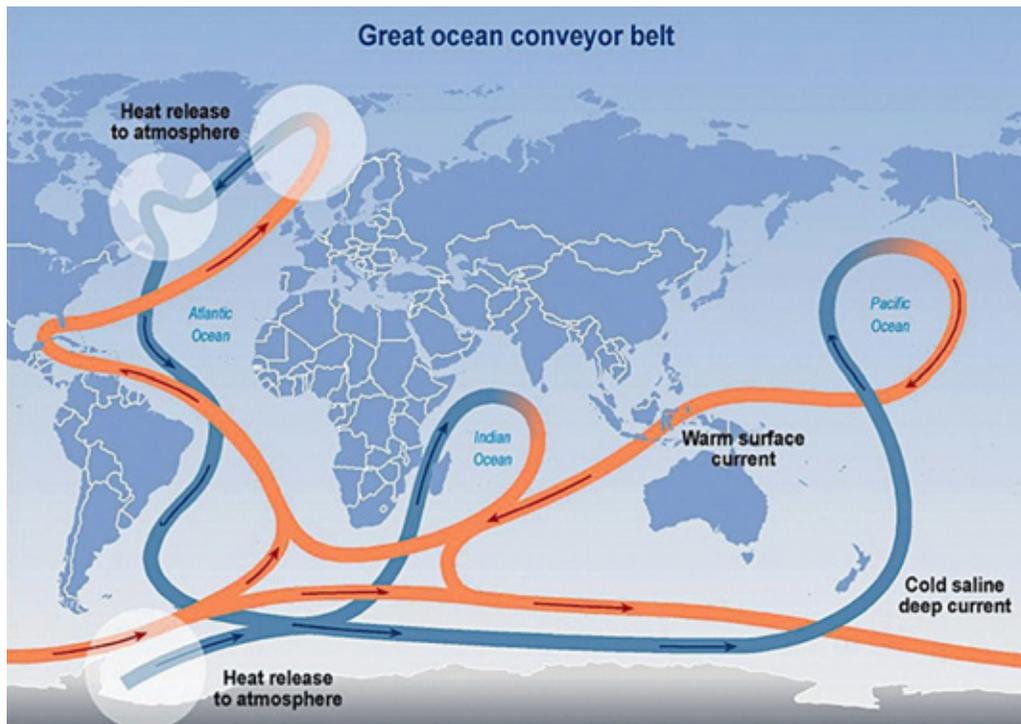
Implications of AMOC collapse:



- ⊙ Gulf Stream, a part of the AMOC, is a warm current responsible for mild climate at the Eastern coast of North America as well as Europe. Without a proper AMOC and Gulf Stream, Europe will be very cold.
- ⊙ AMOC shutdown would cool the northern hemisphere and decrease rainfall over Europe.
- ⊙ It can also have an effect on the El Nino.
- ⊙ AMOC collapse brings about large, markedly different climate responses: a prominent cooling over the northern North Atlantic and neighbouring areas, sea ice increases over the Greenland-Iceland-Norwegian seas and to the south of Greenland, and a significant southward rain-belt migration over the tropical Atlantic.
- ⊙ Freshwater from melting Greenland ice sheets and the Arctic region can make circulation weaker as it is not as dense as saltwater and doesn't sink to the bottom.

History of AMOC:

- ⊙ AMOC and THC strength has always been fluctuating, mainly if you look at the late Pleistocene time period (last 1 million years).
- ⊙ The extreme glacial stages have seen weaker circulation and slowdown in AMOC, while the glacial terminations have shown a stronger AMOC and circulation
- ⊙ We know about these past fluctuations by studying paleoclimate proxies such as sea surface temperatures (SST), salinity, and isotope signatures from single-celled organisms called foraminifera.
- ⊙ But the changes we experience in the last 100-200 years are anthropogenic, and these abrupt changes are destabilising the AMOC, which could collapse the system.
- ⊙ In February, researchers noted that AMOC is at its weakest in over a millennium. The team studied the evolution of AMOC over the past 1600 years.
- ⊙ The study results suggest that it [AMOC] has been relatively stable until the late 19th century.
- ⊙ With the end of the little ice age in about 1850, the ocean currents began to decline, with a second, more drastic decline following since the mid-20th century.



Why is the AMOC slowing down?

- ⊙ Climate models have long predicted that global warming can cause a weakening of the major ocean systems of the world.
- ⊙ Arctic's ice called "Last Ice Area" has also melted. The freshwater from the melting ice reduces the salinity and density of the water.
- ⊙ Now, the water is unable to sink as it used to and weakens the AMOC flow.
- ⊙ Indian Ocean may also be helping the slowing down of AMOC as the Indian Ocean warms faster and faster, it generates additional precipitation. With so much precipitation in the Indian Ocean, there will be less precipitation in the Atlantic Ocean, leading to higher salinity in the waters of the tropical portion of the Atlantic.

- ⊙ This saltier water in the Atlantic, as it comes north via AMOC, will get cold much quicker than usual and sink faster. This would act as a jump start for AMOC, intensifying the circulation
- ⊙ If other tropical oceans' warming, especially the Pacific, catches up with the Indian Ocean, the advantage for AMOC will stop

Conclusion:

- ⊙ If we continue to drive global warming, the Gulf Stream System will weaken further – by 34 to 45 percent by 2100 and this could bring us dangerously close to the tipping point at which the flow becomes unstable.
- ⊙ We urgently need to reconcile our models with the presented observational evidence to assess how far or how close the AMOC really is to its critical threshold

Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statement w.r.t Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC):
 1. It is the Atlantic branch of the ocean conveyor belt or Thermohaline circulation (THC), and distributes heat and nutrients throughout the world's ocean basins.
 2. AMOC shutdown would warm the northern hemisphere and increase rainfall over Europe

3. Freshwater from melting Greenland ice sheets and the Arctic region can make AMOC circulation weaker as it is not as dense as saltwater and doesn't sink to the bottom.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following statements regarding relation of Indian Ocean and Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC):

1. Indian Ocean may also be helping the slowing down of AMOC as the Indian Ocean warms faster and faster, it generates additional precipitation.

2. With so much precipitation in the Indian Ocean, there will be less precipitation in the Atlantic Ocean, leading to lower salinity in the waters of the tropical portion of the Atlantic.

Choose the correct statements from above:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both (d) None

3. What do you understand by Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)? Why is it slowing down now? Explain its likely impacts too. (250 words)

2.8 “Kushinagar, a Buddhist Pilgrimage Town”

Prelims & Mains

Why in news?

- ⊙ Prime Minister inaugurated the Kushinagar international airport recently in the presence of ministerial colleagues and representatives from 12 countries including a special Sri Lankan delegation led by minister Namal Rajapaksa, a son of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.
- ⊙ The airport in eastern UP, the third international airport in the election-bound state, will mainly service the Buddhist tourism circuit.
- ⊙ The Sri Lankan Airlines flight carrying monks and dignitaries was the first to land at the airport.

Kushinagar's Rich History:

- ⊙ Among the most important of Buddhist pilgrimages, Kushinagar was where The Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana (ultimate salvation) in c. 483 BC.

- ⊙ Today's Kushinagar is identified with Kushinara, capital of the ancient Malla republic, which was one of the 16 mahajanapadas of the 6th-4th centuries BC.
- ⊙ The area went on to be part of the kingdoms of the Mauryas, Shungas, Kushanas, Guptas, Harshavardhana, and the Palas. Kushinara is believed to have been inhabited until at least the 12th century.
- ⊙ The first excavations in Kushinagar were carried out by Alexander Cunningham and ACL Carlleyle, who unearthed the main stupa and the 6-metre-long statue of the Reclining Buddha in 1876. Kushinagar is among the very few places in India where The Buddha is depicted in reclining form.

KUSHINAGAR VITALS

PILGRIMAGE CENTRE, VERY FEW BUDDHISTS:

In 2011 Census, of Kushinagar district's 35.64 lakh population, only 4,619 (0.12%) were Buddhist.

AMONG THE POOREST IN UP:

Per capita District Domestic Product (DDP) in Kushinagar was Rs. 27,229.23 in 2019-20 (constant prices), far less than Up's per capita GSDP (Rs. 44,618.26) and India's per capita GDP (Rs. 94,566). In per capita DDP. (Kushinagar was 61st out of Up's 75 districts.



DOMINATED BY THE BJP :

5 of 7 Assembly seats are with BJP (including minister Swami Prasad Maurya): 1 with Cong (UPCC chief Ajay Kumar Lallu); 1 with SBSP.

Significance of the move:

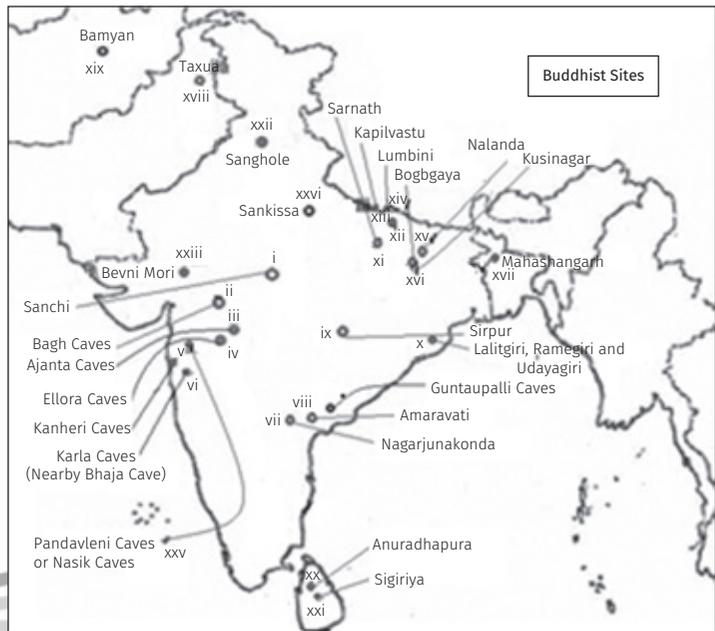
- ⊙ While Buddhism originated in India and seven of the eight main Buddhist pilgrimage sites are in India, our country gets not even 1 percent of Buddhist pilgrims in the world.
- ⊙ There is an awareness in the government that the absence of tourist infrastructure is a major reason why India loses out to Southeast Asian nations such as Indonesia and Thailand.
- ⊙ The hope is that world-class facilities will be able to attract Buddhist tourists to India, and boost revenues and employment generation.
- ⊙ Therefore, the latest move helps India promote important Buddhist pilgrimage sites in the country

Buddha tourism circuit:

- ⊙ In 2016, the Ministry of Tourism announced the Buddhist Circuit as the country's first transnational tourism circuit, covering sites in Nepal and Sri Lanka alongside those in India.
- ⊙ The ministry's map of the Buddhist Circuit includes Bodh Gaya, Vaishali, and Rajgir in Bihar, Kushinagar, Sarnath, and Shravasti in UP, and Lumbini in Nepal.
- ⊙ The Buddha was born as the prince Siddhartha Gautama in c. 563 BC in Lumbini, and he lived until the age of 29 with his parents in the Shakya capital of Kapilavastu.
- ⊙ The Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gaya, and gave his first sermon at Sarnath near Varanasi.
- ⊙ The Buddha taught in the area around Rajgir, where he was built a forest monastery by king Bimbisara of Magadha, and he lived the largest part of his life as The Buddha in Shravasti. He delivered his last sermon in Vaishali.

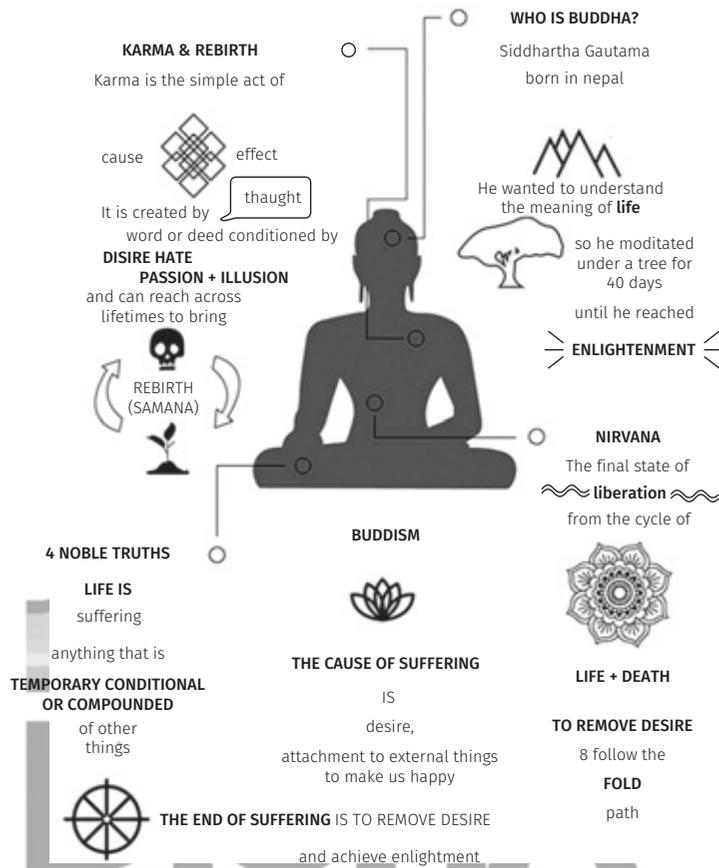
Buddhist circuit diplomacy:

- ⊙ There is an awareness in the government that the absence of tourist infrastructure is a major reason why India loses out to Southeast Asian nations such as Indonesia and Thailand.
- ⊙ The hope is that world-class facilities will be able to attract Buddhist tourists to India, and boost revenues and employment generation.
- ⊙ A Buddhist Circuit tourist train covers all destinations in 14 days, and helicopter services and more airports are in the pipeline.
- ⊙ The push is intended to assert and consolidate India's position as the original centre of Buddhism, against the claims from China.



Buddhism History

- ⊙ When Gautama passed away around 483 B.C., his followers began to organize a religious movement. Buddha's teachings became the foundation for what would develop into Buddhism.
- ⊙ In the 3rd century B.C., Ashoka the Great, the Mauryan Indian emperor, made Buddhism the state religion of India. Buddhist monasteries were built, and missionary work was encouraged.
- ⊙ Over the next few centuries, Buddhism began to spread beyond India.
- ⊙ In the sixth century, the Huns invaded India and destroyed hundreds of Buddhist monasteries, but the intruders were eventually driven out of the country.



Practice Questions

- Consider the following statements about Kushinagar, a town recently in news:
 - Kushinagar is identified with Kushinara, capital of the ancient Malla republic, which was one of the 16 mahajanapadas of the 6th-4th centuries BC.
 - Kushinagar is among the very few places in India where the Buddha is depicted in reclining form
 - It is identified as the place where the Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining knowledge
 Which of the above is/are correct?
 - 1 and 2
 - 2 and 3
 - 1 and 3
 - 1, 2 and 3
- Consider the following statements:
 - When Gautama passed away around 483 B.C., his followers began to organize a religious movement and Buddha's teachings became the foundation for what would develop into Buddhism.
 - In the 3rd century B.C., Ashoka the Great, the Mauryan Indian emperor, made Buddhism the state religion of India
 Choose the correct statements from above:
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both
 - None
- Discuss India's Buddhist circuit diplomacy. Why Buddhism has declined from the land of its origin over a period of time? Briefly discuss its global presence today also. (250 words)

2.20 Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule Prelims & Mains

Why in news?

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari has recently received flak for his remarks on the social reformist couple Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule

Background

- ⊙ Mahatma Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule stand out as an extraordinary couple in the social and educational history of India.
- ⊙ They spearheaded path-breaking work towards female education and empowerment, and towards ending caste- and gender-based discrimination.
- ⊙ In 1840, at a time when child marriages were common, Savitri at the age of ten was married to Jyotirao, who was thirteen years old at the time. Jyotirao started to educate his wife at home and trained her to become a teacher.
- ⊙ The couple later in life strove to oppose child marriage and also organised widow remarriages.
- ⊙ Jyotirao and Savitri did not have biological children, and adopted the child of a widow

Legacy of Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule

- ⊙ In 1848, the Phules started a school for girls, Shudras and Ati-Shudras in Poona.
- ⊙ In 1853, Jyotirao-Savitribai opened a care centre for pregnant widows to have safe deliveries and to end the practice of infanticide owing to social norms.
- ⊙ The Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (Home for the Prevention of Infanticide) started in their own house in Pune.
- ⊙ The Satyashodhak Samaj (The Truth-Seeker's Society) was established on September 24, 1873 by Jyotirao-Savitribai.
- ⊙ The Samaj advocated for social changes, including economical weddings, inter-caste marriages, eradication of child marriages, and widow remarriage.



About Satya Shodhak Samaj:

- ⊙ In 1873, Jyotirao Phule formed the Satya Shodhak Samaj (Society of Seekers of Truth).
- ⊙ He undertook a systematic deconstruction of existing beliefs and history, only to reconstruct an equality promoting version.
- ⊙ Jyotirao vehemently condemned the Vedas, the ancient holy scriptures of the Hindus.
- ⊙ He traced the history of Brahmanism through several other ancient texts and held the Brahmins responsible for framing the exploitative and inhuman laws in order to maintain their social superiority by suppressing the "shudras" and "atishudras" in the society.
- ⊙ The purpose of the Satya Shodhak Samaj was to decontaminate the society from caste discrimination and liberate the oppressed lower-caste people from the stigmas inflicted by the Brahmins.
- ⊙ Jyotirao Phule was the first person to coin the term 'Dalits' to apply to all people considered lower caste and untouchables by the Brahmins.
- ⊙ Membership to the Samaj was open to all irrespective of caste and class.
- ⊙ In 1868, Jyotirao decided to construct a common bathing tank outside his house to exhibit his embracing attitude towards all human beings and wished to dine with everyone, regardless of their caste.

About Savitribai Phule:

- ⊙ Savitribai Phule (3 January 1831 – 10 March 1897) was an Indian social reformer, educationalist, and poet from Maharashtra.
- ⊙ She is regarded as the first female teacher of India.
- ⊙ Savitribai Jyotirao Phule was a prominent Indian social reformer, educationist and poet who played an instrumental role in women education and empowerment during the nineteenth century.
- ⊙ Counted among few literate women of those times, Savitribai is credited for founding the first girl's school in Pune in Bhide Wada with her husband Jyotirao Phule.

About Jyotirao Govindrao Phule:

- ⊙ Jyotirao Govindrao Phule (11 April 1827 – 28 November 1890) was an Indian social activist, thinker, anti-caste social reformer and writer from Maharashtra.
- ⊙ His work extended to many fields, including eradication of untouchability and the caste system and for his efforts in educating women and exploited caste people.
- ⊙ He and his wife, Savitribai Phule, were pioneers of women's education in India.
- ⊙ Phule started his first school for girls in 1848 in Pune at Tatyasaheb Bhide's residence or Bhidewada.
- ⊙ He, along with his followers, formed the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers) to attain equal rights for people from exploited castes.
- ⊙ People from all religions and castes could become a part of this association which worked for the upliftment of the oppressed classes.
- ⊙ Phule is regarded as an important figure in the social reform movement in Maharashtra.

- ⊙ He was bestowed with honorific *महात्मा* title by Maharashtrian social activist Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar in 1888

Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements about Satya Shodhak Samaj:
 1. Standing as Society of Seekers of Truth, it was established by Jyotiba Phule in 1873
 2. The purpose of the Satya Shodhak Samaj was to decontaminate the society from caste discrimination and liberate the oppressed lower-caste people from the stigmas inflicted by the Brahmins.
 3. Membership to the Samaj was open to all irrespective of caste and class.
 Choose the correct statements:
 (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. Consider the following statements:
 1. Savitribai Phule is regarded as the first female teacher of India
 2. She was a prominent Indian social reformer, educationist and poet who played an instrumental role in women education and empowerment during the nineteenth century.
 3. Savitribai is credited for founding the First University at Bombay with her husband Jyotirao Phule.
 Choose the correct statements from above:
 (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3
3. "Mahatma Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule stand out as an extraordinary couple in the social and educational history of India" Discuss their contributions and social reforms (250 words)

3.1 Raising Legal Age of Marriage for Women

Why in news?

The Cabinet's decision to raise the legal age of marriage for women is based on the recommendation of a panel led by Jaya Jaitly.

Objective:

- ⦿ The task force was set up by the WCD Ministry to re-examine age of marriage and its correlation to health and social indices such as infant mortality, maternal mortality, and nutrition levels among mothers and children.
- ⦿ Jaitly has said the recommendation is not based on the rationale of population control (India's total fertility rate is already declining) but more with women's empowerment and gender parity.
- ⦿ The committee has said access to education and livelihood must be enhanced simultaneously for the law to be effective.

Jaya Jaitly committee Recommendations

- ⦿ Increase the age of marriage to 21 years
- ⦿ Government has to look into increasing access to schools and colleges for girls, including their transportation
- ⦿ Skill and business training to girls
- ⦿ Sex education in schools
- ⦿ Awareness campaign to be undertaken on a massive scale to encourage social acceptance of the new legislation



What do the current laws mandate?

- ⦿ In 2006, the Prevention of Child Marriage Act was brought in to prescribe a minimum age of marriage, replacing the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, also known as the Sharda Act.
- ⦿ Section 5(iii) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, stipulates 18 years as the minimum age for women and 21 for men.
- ⦿ The government is expected to first amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, after which amendments to the Special Marriage Act and personal laws such as the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, will be brought in.

- ⦿ All of these legislations prescribe 18 as the minimum age of marriage.

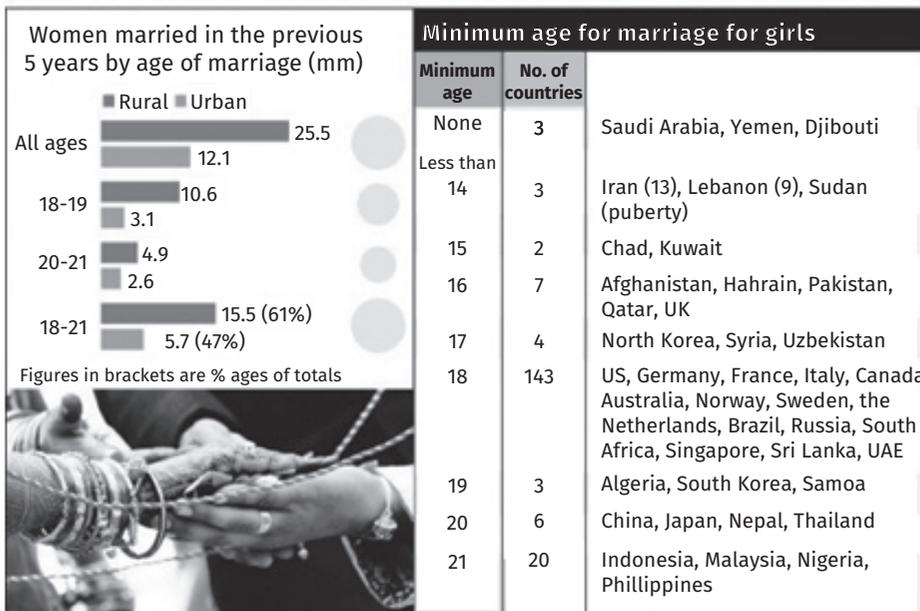
Benefits of Raising the age limit of marriage

1. Better Nutrition of Women and Child: An early age of marriage, and consequent early pregnancies, also have impacts on nutritional levels of mothers and their children, and their overall health and mental wellbeing.
2. Women as decision maker: The mother's age at childbearing affects educational level, living conditions, health conditions, decision-making power of women.
3. Tackling Child Marriage: India is home to the largest number of underage marriages in the world. The law will help to curb the menace of Child Marriage.

Criticism:

- ⦿ Making Law does not guarantee its desired effect: The law to prevent child marriages does not work. While child marriage has declined, it has been marginal: from 27% in 2015-16 to 23% in 2019-20, according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5. The decrease was, however, dramatic in NFHS 4, from 47% in NFHS 3. The marriage age at 18 was set in 1978, but child marriage started to decline only in the 1990s, when the government stressed primary education of the girl child and took measures to reduce poverty.
- ⦿ Lack of access to higher education: The experts said girls being taken out of school to be married off is a reasoning blown out of proportion; often the girl child drops out after primary school simply because she has no access to higher education, and is then married off.
- ⦿ Criminalisation of a large number of marriages that will take place once the law comes into effect. While 23% of marriages involve brides under age 18, far more marriages take place under age 21. The median age at first marriage for women aged 20-49 increased to 19 years in 2015-16 from 17.2 years in 2005-06, but remained under 21 years.

61% OF RURAL MARRIED WOMEN IN 18-21 BRACKET



Important Facts and Figures:

- ⊙ A study by the International Centre for Research on Women has found that girls out of school are 3.4 times more likely to be married or have their marriage already fixed than girls who are still in school.
- ⊙ According to the State of the World Report 2020 by UNFPA, in India, 51% of young women with no education and 47% of those with only a primary education had married by age 18, compared to 29% of young women with a secondary education and 4% with post-secondary education.

Way Forward

- ⊙ Access to education Activists say the answer to delaying child marriages lies in ensuring access to education since the practice is a social and economic issue. Skill & business training and sex education in schools, will also help.
- ⊙ Increasing Accessibility to Schools: The government needs to look into increasing access to schools and colleges for girls, including their transportation to these institutes from far-flung areas.
- ⊙ Mass Awareness Program: An awareness campaign is required on a massive scale on the

increase in age of marriage, and to encourage social acceptance of the new legislation, which they have said would be far more effective than coercive measures

Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements about Jaya Jaitly committee:
 1. The committee also asked the government to look into increasing access to schools and colleges for girls, including their transportation to these institutes from far-flung areas.
 2. Skill and business training has also been recommended, as has sex education in schools.
 3. The committee has recommended the age of marriage be increased to 21 years.

Which of the above is/are correct statements?

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. "The Cabinet has recently taken a decision to raise the legal age of marriage for women" Critically Analyse the decision and compare it with global practices. (250 words)

3.17 “India’s Declining Total Fertility Rate”

Why in news?

- ⦿ The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), whose findings were released last week, should put a lid on all the politically-charged talk on population explosion in India.
- ⦿ The fertility rate in India has been steadily coming down, with the 2019-21 survey putting it at an all-time low of 2 children per woman.

Key Details:

- ⦿ According to NFHS-5, for the first time in India, the birth rate has fallen below the replacement ratio of 2.1
- ⦿ The country’s fertility rate has come down to just 2 from 2.2 in the NFHS-4 (2015-2016) and 2.7 in the NFHS-3 (2005-2006).
- ⦿ The fertility rate is 1.6 in urban areas, while it is still 2.1 in rural areas which is equivalent to the replacement rate
- ⦿ Only five states of the country, Bihar (3.0), Meghalaya (2.9), Uttar Pradesh (2.7), Jharkhand (2.4), and Manipur (2.2) have recorded relatively high fertility rates and this is also above the replacement rate.

	NFHS-4	NFHS-5
Bihar	3	3.4
Meghalaya	2.9	3
Uttar Pradesh	2.4	2.7
Jharkhand	2.3	2.6
Manipur	2.2	2.6

What is Total Fertility Rate?

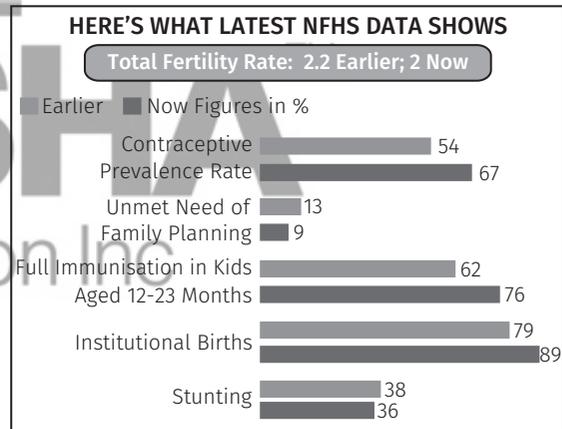
- ⦿ The World Health Organisation (WHO) describes the Total Fertility Rate as the average number of children born to a woman “at the end of her reproductive period”.
- ⦿ Replacement level fertility is the level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.
- ⦿ One couple replaces two children, if a couple has more than two children then it will lead to rapid population growth.
- ⦿ With less than two children, the population will certainly increase, but at a declining rate.
- ⦿ Why is the Replacement Level Fertility rate 2.1 and not 2?
- ⦿ The TFR of 2.1 ensures the replacement of the woman and her partner. Another 0.1 children per woman are included to counteract infant mortality.

What are the reasons for the fertility rates decline?

Many factors like education (mean school years for females), economy (Gross Domestic Product), religious beliefs, contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR), the strength of family planning programs, etc influence the fertility rates of a country.

These factors play an important role in the current decline in the fertility rate in India also, as listed below:

1. Higher level of education among females
2. Increased mobility
3. Late marriages
4. Financial independence
5. Better access to family planning methods/ high contraceptive prevalence rate
6. The declining infant mortality rate
7. The declining neonatal mortality rate



Significance of Declining TFR:

- ⦿ Population Stabilisation: A fall to 2 means India has achieved the goal of population stabilisation. It essentially means that India need not worry too much about a very large population being a challenge to our development.
- ⦿ Accelerated Economic Growth: The younger population profile for the next 2-3 decades will provide an opportunity for accelerated economic growth. However, in order to leverage this great opportunity for accelerated development, India should invest in public health and education with skills.

- ⊙ Delayed Peak Population: This also means we will possibly still become the most populous country in the world — it was expected somewhere between 2024-2028 — but it will now be delayed.

Challenges associated with Worrying Trends:

- ⊙ Increasing Female Sterilization: The survey reveals that the uptake of female sterilisation has gone up to 38% against 36% in 2015-16. The increase in female sterilisation shows that the onus of family planning remains with women, with men not participating in the process and “shrugging responsibility”.
- ⊙ Declining Sex Ratio: India needs to give huge stress on declining sex ratios and the discrimination towards girls so that people don't have a high number of children in the hope of having a boy.
- ⊙ Concerns of Lower TFR: TFR lower than 2.1 children per woman — indicates that a generation is not producing enough children to replace itself, eventually leading to an outright reduction in population. Thus, TFR lower than 2 (as it is the case in urban areas in India) has its own set of problems. For example, Declining population will lead to an increase in the population of old aged people, as is happening in China.

UN projection of Human Population

- ⊙ United Nations (UN) projects that the global human population may increase from 7.8 billion in 2020 to 10.9 billion by 2100.
- ⊙ A 40% population increase would have a strong impact on economies, food production, environment, and global climate.
- ⊙ Based on these observations and the ongoing global decline in TFR, the United Nations through its medium projection model has predicted that TFR in all countries will converge to near replacement level (2.1) during the decades up to 2100.

Way Forward:

- ⊙ The low Fertility Rates in India eventually will lead to a decline in population like in developed countries such as Japan, Germany, and Russia. Hence, the focus on limiting the family size can be reduced
- ⊙ The need of the hour now is to divert the attention to other matters like:
 1. Better employment opportunities so that the limited working population will be skilled in the future.
 2. Formulate policies to take care of higher medical costs as the population ages and productivity shrinks.
 3. Provide an affordable social security system that provides pensions to the elderly and takes care of their daily needs and medical expenses.
 4. States with higher fertility rates need to keep working on improving schooling, income levels, and reducing infant and neonatal mortality rates.

Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements:
 1. Replacement level fertility is the level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next
 2. According to NFHS-5, for the first time in India, the birth rate has fallen below the replacement ratio of 2.1
 3. The fertility rate in urban areas is still higher than rural areas and replacement ratio.
 Which of the above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2	(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3	(d) 1, 2 and 3
2. Which state in India has the highest fertility rate as per the latest NFHS-5 ?

(a) Jharkhand	(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Bihar	(d) Meghalaya
3. “Given India’s Declining Total Fertility Rate, there are opportunities as well as associated challenges too”. Critically Analyse. (250 words)

Answers for Prelims & Mains

1.32 Atlantic Ocean Current System (AMOC)

1. (c) AMOC shutdown would cool the northern hemisphere and decrease rainfall over Europe.
3. (a) With so much precipitation in the Indian Ocean, there will be less precipitation in the Atlantic Ocean, leading to HIGHER salinity in the waters of the tropical portion of the Atlantic

2.8 Kushinagar, a Buddhist Pilgrimage Town

1. (a) Among the most important of Buddhist pilgrimages, Kushinagar was where The Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana (ultimate salvation) in c. 483 BC.

2. (c)

2.20 Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule

1. (d)
2. (a) Counted among few literate women of those times, Savitribai is credited for founding the first girl's school in Pune in Bhide Wada with her husband Jyotirao Phule.

3.1. Raising legal Age of Marriage for Women

3. (d)

3.17 "India's Declining Total Fertility Rate"

2. (a) The fertility rate is 1.6 in urban areas, while it is still 2.1 in rural areas which is equivalent to the replacement rate
3. (c)