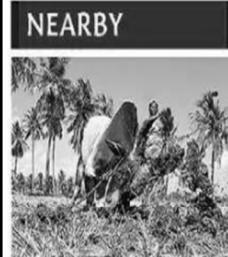




11-JANUARY-2022

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NEARBY

Govt. allows Jallikattu subject to conditions

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday allowed the conduct of Jallikattu, Manjvirattu and Vadamadu subject to COVID-19 norms. Only 150 spectators will be allowed at an event.

TAMIL NADU ▶ PAGE 2

COVID ANALYSIS

5-10%, situation evolving: govt.

Over 9 lakh 'precaution' doses of vaccine administered on first day



BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI

Union Health Secretary Rakesh Bhushan has urged States to keep a watch on the active COVID-19 caseload with the country currently witnessing a hospitalisation rate of 5-10%.

Also on Monday, India

continued presence of VoC Delta across the country.

On the first day of the "precaution doses" for the identified categories of beneficiaries, more than nine lakh doses were administered till 7 p.m., the Ministry said in a release.

Earlier in the day, Union

Halt inquiries by Punjab, Centre, says court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

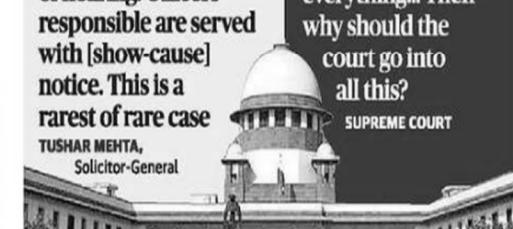
The Supreme Court on Monday said it would form a committee headed by a retired judge of the court to conduct a time-bound and independent inquiry into

When there is a complete breach, there is no question of hearing. Officers responsible are served with [show-cause] notice. This is a rarest of rare case

TUSHAR MEHTA,
Solicitor-General

The impression you give is that you have presumed everything... Then why should the court go into all this?

SUPREME COURT



The Hindu News Analysis – 11th January 2022 – Shankar IAS Academy

S. No.	News Articles	Page Number*				
		C	B	D	H	T
1	Jumbo shower (Picture)	-	-	5	5	5
2	'No one should interfere in China-Lanka ties'	11	11	11	11	11
3	The sail that Indian diplomacy, statecraft need (Editorial)	6	6	6	6	6
4	Indian IT firms to log 20-30% growth in 2022: analysts	12	12	12	12	12
5	Kathakali festival (Picture)	-	-	-	-	2
6	Prelims Practice Questions	@ end of the video				
7	Mains Practice Questions					

*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram

Jumbo shower



Clean and fresh: Ahead of the temple festival season in Kerala, elephant owners are particular about keeping the tuskers ready. An elephant getting a shower in a stream at Thirunallayi near Palakkad on Monday. ■K.K. MUSTFAH

Pg: 11 – D, H, T

Elephant

- Elephantidae family - largest living land animal.
- Long trunk, columnar legs, & huge head with temporal glands and wide flat ears.
- Long trunk is elongated upper lip and nose & the nostrils located at the tip.
- Trunk large and powerful - 130 kg (290 pounds) in an adult male.
- Trunk capable of lifting a load of about 250 kg.
- Trunk innervated by two proboscidean nerves - extremely sensitive.
- End of the trunk flaplike projections - delicate functions.

- Grayish to brown in colour.
- Body hair is sparse and coarse.
- Breathing, drinking, and eating.
- Most breathing.
- Drink water by sucking - 10 litres (2.6 gallons) through trunk.
- Squirting it into the mouth.
- Eating
- Collect dust or grass for spraying onto themselves - protection against insect bites and sun.
- If danger - raise and swivel the trunk - an olfactory periscope.

Tusks

- Enlarged incisor teeth made of ivory.
- African elephant both the male and the female possess tusks.
- Asian elephant - mainly male has tusks.
- In female Asian elephant tusks are small, thin.
- Some male Asian elephants are tuskless and are known as muknas.
- Size and shape are inherited.
- Used for defense, offense, digging, lifting objects, gathering food, and stripping bark to eat from trees.

- Protect the sensitive trunk.
- Dig water holes in dry riverbeds by using their tusks, feet, and trunks.

Reproduction and life cycle

- Small family groups led by old females.
- Most males live in bachelor herds.
- Males elephants become uncontrollable during their Musth period - time for establishing their reproductive hierarchy.
- Assess the reproductive status using their keen sense of smell.

- Gestation period - longest of any mammal - 18 to 22 months.
- Newborn elephant's height a metre (3.3 feet) & weight about 100 kg (220 pounds).
- Newborn suckles by using the mouth, not the trunk, at mammary glands.
- Females, remain with their natal herd for their whole lives.
- Adult male and female elephants form short-lived mating or feeding associations.
- Live to 80 years of age or more in captivity & only for 60 years in the wild.

Vocalization

- Two types by modifying the size of the nostrils
- Low sounds - the growl & high sounds - trumpet, pulsated trumpet, gruff cry, etc.
- Low-frequency (5–24 hertz) sounds for calls responded by other elephants up to 4 km (2.5 miles) away.

Migration

- Seasonal migration - availability of food and water.
- Memory - remember locations of water supplies along migration routes.
- Intelligence - observed in conjunction with memory.
- Top speed of 40 km (25 miles) per hour
- Feet well adapted to carrying their great weight.

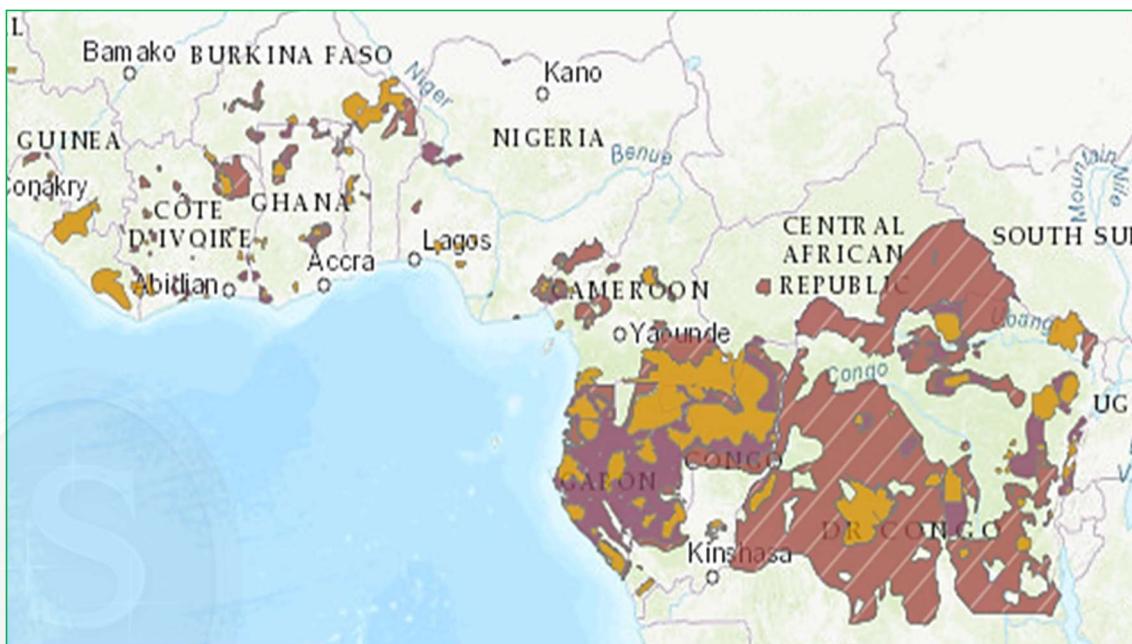
- Found - savannas, grasslands, and forests.
- Occupy a wide range of habitats - deserts, swamps & highlands in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and Asia.
- African elephant species
 - ✓ African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*).
 - ✓ African savanna elephant (*Loxodonta africana*).
- Asian elephant species (*Elephas maximus*).
- African forest elephant recognized as a separate species in 2000.

African Forest elephants

- Smaller, darker, straight & downward pointing tusks, oval-shaped ears.
- Elusive cousin of the African savanna elephant.
- Inhabit the dense rainforests of west and central Africa & adapted to the dense forest habitat of the Congo Basin.
- Dense forest habitat prohibits traditional counting methods – visual identification.
- Population estimation through “dung counts” – an analysis on the ground of the density and distribution of the feces.



- Much slower reproductive rate than savanna elephants
- Cannot bounce back from population declines quickly
- IUCN status - Critically Endangered.
- Live in family groups of up to 20 individuals.



- Forage on leaves, grasses, seeds, fruit, and tree bark.
- Mega-gardener of the forest - diet dominated by fruit
- Play a crucial role in dispersing many tree species - seeds of large trees - high carbon content.
- Gather at mineral-rich waterholes and mineral licks to supplement their diet with minerals

African Savanna Elephants

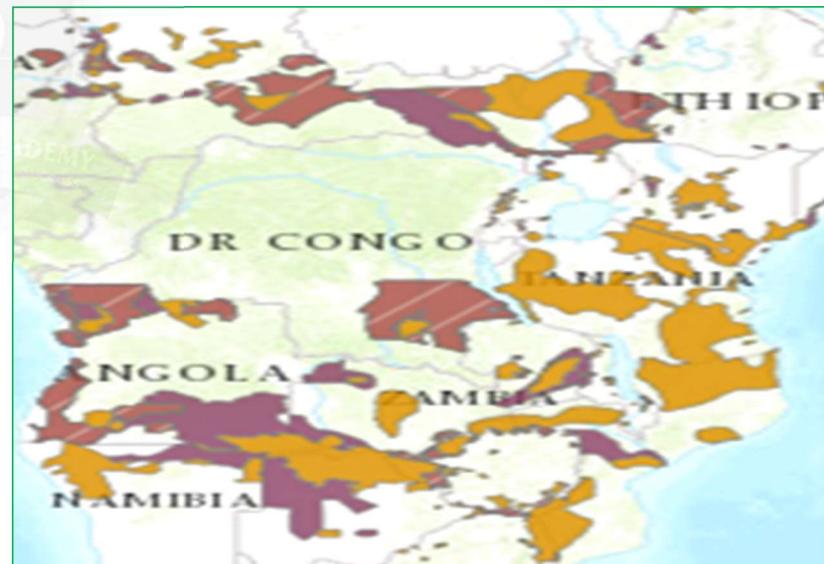
- Larger than forest elephants, outward curving tusks.

African Savanna Elephants



- Largest elephant species & biggest terrestrial animal on Earth.
- Very large ears allow them to radiate excess heat.

- Front legs longer than the hind legs.
- Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Namibia, Zambia & South Africa.
- Well studied & easily estimated - visibility within the open areas.
- Each family unit - around 10 females and their calves.
- Male associate - only during mating.
- Family units join together to form a “clan” - led by a female matriarch.
- Graze on grasses & wide variety of plants and fruits.



African elephants

- Weight up to 8,000 kg (9 tons) & height - 3 to 4 metres (10 to 13 feet) at the shoulder.
- Larger ears used to dissipate body heat.

Asian elephant

- 3 subspecies
 - ✓ Indian, or mainland (*E. maximus indicus*)
 - ✓ Sumatran (*E. maximus sumatranus*)
 - ✓ Sri Lankan (*E. maximus maximus*)

- Inhabit dry to wet forest and grassland habitats - South and Southeast Asia.
- Preferred forage plants



- Extremely sociable, forming groups of 6 to 7 related females led by the oldest female - matriarchal.



- Associations are relatively short-lived.
- Herd size smaller than savannah elephants in Africa.



- Weight - 5,500 kg & shoulder height - up to 3.5 m.
- Favorite foods - cultivated crops - bananas, rice & sugarcane.



- Close to a source of fresh water because they need to drink at least once a day.
- National Heritage Animal of India is Elephant



African elephants	Asian elephants
Two trunk extremities	One trunk extremity
Pinch	Grasp
Trunk more extendable	More dexterous
Sexually mature sooner	Sexually maturity takes time

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With reference to Elephant species

1. It has good memory power.
2. Asian elephants weigh more than its cousin African elephants.
3. Both male & female African Elephants possess tusk.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) All the above

'No one should interfere in China-Lanka ties'

Chinese Foreign Minister proposes a 'forum on the development of Indian Ocean island countries'

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

No "third party" should interfere in China-Sri Lanka ties, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said, during his recent visit to Colombo, while also proposing a forum for Indian Ocean island nations.

During his nearly 24-hour visit to Colombo, where he met the Sri Lankan leadership, Mr. Wang spoke of the "friendly relationship" between China and Sri Lanka that "benefits the development of both countries and serves the fundamental interest" of both peoples, a statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Monday. "It does not target any third party and should not be interfered with by any third party. The all-round cooperation and strategic mutual trust between the two countries have injected positive energy into regional peace and stability," according to the readout from Beijing.

In December 2021, the Co-

lombo-based Chinese Embassy tweeted about a Chinese company shifting its solar energy project from northern Sri Lanka to the Maldives, in the wake of "security concerns from a third party". While the Embassy did not name the party, it was clearly alluding to India that objected to the Chinese project in three islands off Jaffna peninsula.

Rubber-rice pact

Mr. Wang was on a brief official visit to Sri Lanka – as part of a five-nation tour in the New Year – to launch celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the historic Rubber-Rice Pact, and the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and China.

His visit came at a time when Sri Lanka is battling a severe economic crisis of a persisting dollar crunch, soaring living costs and a shortage of essentials in the import-reliant island nation. Sri Lankan President Gota-



Wang Yi with Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Colombo on Monday. •TWITTER

baya Rajapaksa urged China to restructure Sri Lanka's debt, and help the country cope with the economic strain.

FTA talks

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Mr. Wang said the two sides should make good use of "the two engines", referring to the \$1.4 billion China-backed Colombo Port City in Colombo, and the Hambantota Port in the island's Southern Province. He urged Sri Lanka to "tap the opportunities" of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

and China's "vast market", and restart talks on a free trade agreement between China and Sri Lanka "to send more positive signals to the world and contribute to Sri Lanka's economic recovery and development", the Ministry's statement on his meeting with Mr. Gotabaya said.

The resident Chinese envoy also conveyed the same to a select group of Sri Lankan journalists following the visit, although official statements from the Sri Lankan side made no mention of either "third party" interference, or resuming FTA talks. During Mr. Wang's visit, China and agreed to extend Yuan 800 million for partnerships in the health sector, for technical cooperation, besides supporting construction of low-cost housing in capital Colombo.

Another aspect of Mr. Wang's bilateral discussions in Colombo, which was not captured in local statements or media, was his proposal for a "forum on the develop-

ment of Indian Ocean island countries" to build consensus and synergy, and promote common development.

Mr. Wang, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, told the Sri Lankan leadership: "During my visit to several Indian Ocean island countries this time, I feel that all island countries share similar experiences and common needs, with similar natural endowment and development goals, and have favorable conditions and full potential for strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation," while proposing the forum that sounded similar to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative.

New Delhi would watch any regional forum with interest, amid its own efforts. Last year, a Secretariat for Trilateral National Security Advisers (NSA) on Maritime Security Cooperation among India, Maldives and Sri Lanka was set up in Colombo.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- India and its neighborhood - relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

Chinese Foreign Minister's visit to Sri Lanka

- Part of his five-nation tour in the New Year.
- 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Established in 1957.
- 70th anniversary of Rubber-Rice Pact.
- ✓ Signed in 1952 between China-Lanka.
- ✓ Reason
 - Sri Lanka faced rice shortage - price rise in rice driven by global rice shortage.
 - Slumping in rubber's world price - Sri Lanka is key exporter of rubber.

- ✓ Under agreement China provided rice at lower prices and imported rubber from Sri Lanka at higher prices.
- ✓ Strengthened diplomatic relation.

Sri Lanka's severe economic crisis

- Requested help from China.
- Reasons:
 - ✓ High government spending and tax cuts - eroded state revenues.
 - ✓ Forex reserves to a decade low.

- ✓ Debt repayments owed to countries - owes more than \$5 billion to China.
- ✓ Tourism sector affected by pandemic.
 - Tourism contributes to 10% of Sri Lanka's GDP.
 - Affected exchange rate.
 - Resulted in to dollar crunch.
 - Rise in inflation - Sri Lanka net importer of food and other commodities.

Measures to ease the economic stress

- Sri Lankan President urged to restructure its debt.
- China stressed on Colombo Port City project and Hambantota Port projects.

Hambantota port

- China gave loan to modernise the port.
- 2017 - agreement for debt-equity swap signed between China-Sri Lanka.
- ✓ China holds majority of stakes.
- ✓ Declared as a part China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- ✓ Debt-trap diplomacy of China's BRI.



Budget
US\$ 1.5 billion

Area
Total: 2.69 km²
(1.04 sq mi)

The Port City Project was ceremoniously launched in September 2014

Construction was suspended in March 2015 and resumed in March 2016

It will have Sri Lanka's first 100-storeyed skyscraper under Phase II of its work



Colombo Port City Project

- Also called Colombo International Financial city (CIFC).



- Concerns

- ✓ Environmental - reclamation of land from the sea.
- ✓ Maritime security - Chinese submarines and a warship docked in Port.
- ✓ Lack of transparency and corruption.
- Assurance of Sri Lanka:
 - ✓ All countries invited to invest.
 - ✓ Chinese warships to use its harbours - not allowed.

Concerned of India

- China's intentions in India's neighbourhood - increasing China's naval presence in the Indian Ocean.
- China taking control of the Sri Lanka's infrastructure.
- China increasing its influence in Sri Lanka.
- Affects India's economic and maritime security.

Practice Question – Mains

GS – III

Q. Chinese influence in Sri Lanka will have serious implications for the latter's relationship with India. Discuss.

(150 Words, 10 Marks)

The sail that Indian diplomacy, statecraft need

Striking the right balance between continental and maritime security will enable India's long-term security interests



D.B. VENKATESH VARMA

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosts the five Central Asia leaders at the Republic Day Parade on January 26, it will send a strong signal – of the new prominence of the Central Asian region in India's security calculations. In 2015, Mr. Modi visited all the five Central Asian states. Recently, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also hosted their Central Asian counterparts in Delhi. The collapse of American military power in Afghanistan, the subsequent takeover of Kabul by the Taliban and the consequent rise in the influence of Pakistan and China are developments of high concern for India's continental security interests.

While the Republic Day invitation is significant symbolically, in substance, however, hard work lies ahead. India's continental strategy, in which the Central Asian region is an indispensable link, has progressed intermittently over the past two decades – promoting connectivity, incipient defence and security cooperation, enhancing India's soft power and boosting trade and investment. It is laudable, but as is now apparent, it is insufficient to address the broader geopolitical challenges engulfing the region.

Focus on Eurasia

China's assertive rise, the precipitous withdrawal of forces of the United States/North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from Afghanistan, the rise of Islamic fundamentalist forces, the changing dynamics of the historic stabilising

role of Russia (most recently in Kazakhstan) and related multilateral mechanisms – the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, and the Eurasian Economic Union – have all set the stage for a sharpening of the geopolitical competition on the Eurasian landmass. This competition is marked by a weaponisation of resource and geographical access as a form of domination, practised by China and other big powers. To meet this challenge, evolving an effective continental strategy for India will be a complex and long-term exercise.

Some course correction

India's maritime vision and ambitions have grown dramatically during the past decade, symbolised by its National Maritime Strategy, the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative for the Indian Ocean Region and major initiatives relating to the Indo-Pacific and the Quad, in which maritime security figures prominently. This was perhaps an overdue correction to the historic neglect of India's maritime power. It was also a response to the dramatic rise of China as a military power. It may also be a by-product of the oversized influence over our think-tank community of Anglo-Saxon strategic thinking, which has tended to emphasise the maritime dimensions of China's military rise more than others.

The U.S. is a pre-eminent naval power, even more so in the Indo-Pacific region, and defines its strategic preferences in the light of its own strengths. That said, maritime security is important to keeping sea lanes open for trade, commerce and freedom of navigation, resisting Chinese territorial aggrandisement in the South China Sea and elsewhere, and helping littoral states resist Chinese bullying tactics in interstate relations. Ho-

wever, maritime security and associated dimensions of naval power are not sufficient instruments of statecraft as India seeks diplomatic and security constructs to strengthen deterrence against Chinese unilateral actions and the emergence of a unipolar Asia.

The Chinese willingness and capacity for military intervention and power projection are growing far beyond its immediate region. Its rise is not merely in the maritime domain. It is expanding on the Eurasian continent – its Belt and Road Initiative projects in Central Asia up to Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, undercutting traditional Russian influence, its gaining access to energy and other natural resources, and its dependency-creating investments, cyber and digital penetration and expanding influence among political and economic elites across the continent. The American military footprint has shrunk dramatically on the core Eurasian landmass, though it has a substantial military presence on the continental peripheries. Bulwarks against Chinese maritime expansionist gains are relatively easier to build and its gains easier to reverse than the long-term strategic gains that China hopes to secure on continental Eurasia. Like Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) centrality is key to the Indo-Pacific, centrality of the Central Asian states should be key for Eurasia.

Border, connectivity issues

India's partition and the emergence over the past six decades of a persistent two-front threat from Pakistan and China set the stage for a tough continental dimension of our security. There is increased militarisation of the borders with Pakistan and China, with the Ladakh sector now increasingly looking like it will see permanent deployment on the Siachen Glacier.

India has been subject for over five decades to a land embargo by Pakistan that has few parallels in relations between two states that are technically not at war. Connectivity means nothing when access is denied through persistent neighbouring state hostility contrary to the canons of international law.

Difficulties have arisen in operationalising an alternative route – the International North-South Transport Corridor on account of the U.S.'s hostile attitude towards Iran. It may appear strange that while we join the U.S. and others in supporting the right of freedom of navigation in the maritime domain, we do not demand with the same force the right of India to conduct interstate trade, commerce, and transit along continental routes – be it through the lifting of Pakistan's blockade on transit or the lifting of U.S. sanctions against transit through Iran into Eurasia. With the recent Afghan developments, India's physical connectivity challenges with Eurasia have only become starker. The marginalisation of India on the Eurasian continent in terms of connectivity must be reversed.

Where the U.S. stands

The ongoing U.S.-Russia confrontation relating to Ukraine, Russian opposition to future NATO expansion and the broader questions of European security including on the issue of new deployment of intermediate-range missiles, following the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty will have profound consequences for Eurasian security. This comes against the background of an ongoing U.S. review of its global military commitments. While the U.S. had over 2,65,000 troops under its European command in 1992, it now has about 65,000. Even with the rise of China's military power, over the past decade, the U.S. which had

about 1,00,000 troops in the early 1990s under what is now called the Indo-Pacific Command, currently has about 90,000 troops mostly committed to the territorial defence of Japan and South Korea. The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) has undergone a major transformation during the last decade; it had about 1,70,000 troops a decade ago (related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan), but has less than 10,000 personnel now.

The bottom line is clear - the U.S. would be severely stretched if it wanted to simultaneously increase its force levels in Europe and the Indo-Pacific. Successive waves of post-Cold War NATO expansion only increased overall insecurity, with the potential to create for the U.S. the mother of all quagmires. A major conflict – if it erupts in Central Europe, pitting Russia, Ukraine and some European states – will stall any hopes of a substantial U.S. military pivot to the Indo-Pacific. Geopolitics may be fractured but always add up globally. Russia and China do not need to be alliance partners to allow for coordinated actions relating to Taiwan or Donbas, as such coordination would flow from the very logic of the strategic conundrum that the U.S. now finds itself in. In the same vein, European NATO powers dependent on the U.S. can do only so much for strengthening security in the Indo-Pacific. Their engagement with the Indo-Pacific is welcome but we should not only be cognisant of the limitations of geography, obvious gaps between strategic ambition and capacity but also the inherently different standpoints of how major maritime powers view critical questions of continental security. India is unique as no other peer country has the same severity of challenges on both the continental and maritime dimensions.

Be assertive about rights

Going forward, it is clear India will not have the luxury of choosing one over the other; we would need to acquire strategic vision and deploy the necessary resources to pursue our continental interests without ignoring our interests in the maritime domain. This will require a more assertive push for our continental rights – namely that of transit and access, working with our partners in Central Asia, with Iran and Russia (not that we have many other options), and a more proactive engagement with economic and security agendas ranging from the SCO, Eurasian Economic Union (EEAU) and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO). Stabilising Afghanistan is a necessity but not a sufficient condition.

Striking the right balance between continental and maritime security would be the best guarantor of our long-term security interests. But this will not be easy as we would need to work with different partners on different agendas even while their geopolitical contradictions play out in the open. India will need to define its own parameters of continental and maritime security consistent with its own interests. In doing so, at a time of major geopolitical change, maintaining our capacity for independent thought and action (namely strategic autonomy) will help our diplomacy and statecraft navigate the difficult landscape and the choppy waters that lie ahead.

D.B. Venkatesh Varma is a former Ambassador to Russia

Pg: 6 – C, B, D, H, T

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

- India and its neighborhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management.

- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

Strategy

- Highest level of national statecraft that establishes how states or other political units, prioritize and mobilize - military, diplomatic, political, economic, and other sources of power to ensure what they perceive as their interests.
- A careful plan determines how goals can be achieved with the resources.
- Goal - focus on Eurasia to achieve connectivity and economic interests
- Strategy - plan it formulates to make this goal come true.

- If the plan formulated to achieve border interests - continental strategy.
- If plan formulated to achieve maritime interests - maritime strategy.

Continental Issues

- India's partition & emergence of a persistent two-front threat from Pakistan and China - tough continental dimension of India's security.
- Increased militarisation of Pakistan and China borders.
- No connectivity when access is denied - hostile activities of the persistent neighbouring states - contrary to the provisions of international law.

- Difficulty in operationalising an alternative route.
- North-South Transport Corridor not bearing fruits - U.S.'s hostile attitude towards Iran.
- Kaladan Multimodal project & Trilateral highways provides east connectivity.
- Geopolitical competition on Eurasian landmass
 - ✓ China's assertive rise.
 - ✓ Withdrawal of US forces & NATO from Afghanistan.
 - ✓ Rise of Islamic fundamentalist forces – Taliban.

- ✓ Changing historic role of Russia & related multilateral mechanisms.
- ✓ Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, and the Eurasian Economic Union.
- China's assertion
 - ✓ Growing Chinese military intervention and power projection.
 - ✓ Expanding BRI projects
 - ✓ Caucasus
 - ✓ Traditional Russian influence undermined.
 - ✓ Access to energy & other natural resources.

✓ Dependency-creating investments - debt-trap diplomacy.

✓ Cyber and digital penetration.

✓ American military footprint shrunk dramatically on the Eurasian landmass

• Marginalisation of India on the Eurasian continent in connectivity - reversed.

• 2 hostile neighbours - Pakistan & China difficult for India's connectivity to the world.

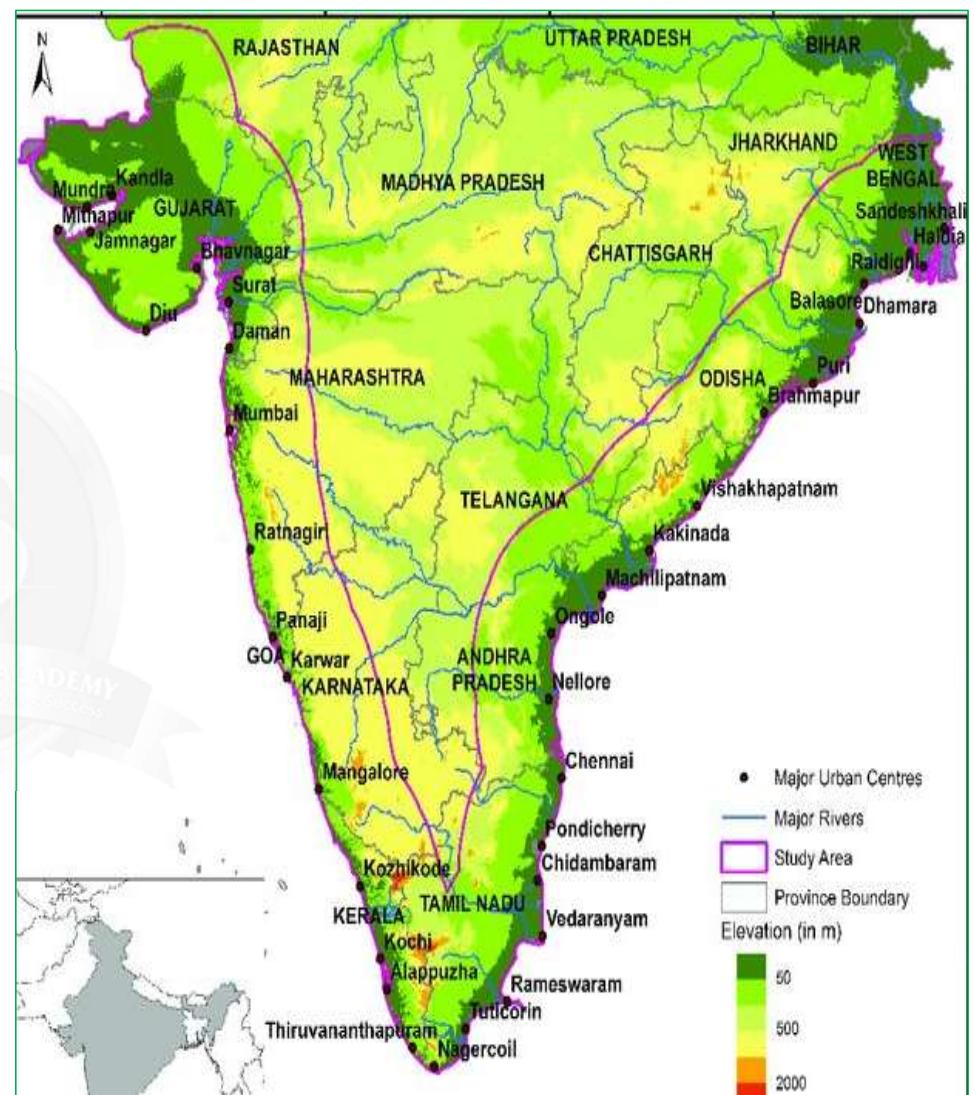
• ASEAN's centrality - Indo-Pacific

• Central Asian states - Eurasia.



Physiography

- India - 7,516.6 kilometre coastline - 5,422 kilometres mainland coastline & 2,094 kilometres islands coastline.
- Bay of Bengal - east, Indian Ocean - south & Arabian Sea - west
- Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal.
- 2 island groups: Lakshadweep and Minicoy in Arabia Sea, and the Andaman and Nicobar in Bay of Bengal.



Maritime Issues

- India - rich maritime tradition.
- Colonial period & post-independence - security threats - land borders to North & West
- Land security issues - undermined India's maritime capacity.
- 2008 Mumbai terror attack - maritime security in India.
- Gujarat and the Sunderbans in West Bengal - vulnerable to criminal and anti-national activities.
- Northern Gujarat and southern West Bengal (the Sunderbans) - international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- Inter-connected by smaller water bodies.
- Porous border for infiltrators, smugglers and terrorists to sneak in and out of India.
- Others
 - ✓ Armed robbery in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh
 - ✓ Illegal fishing - Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat;

- ✓ Poaching of Sea Cucumbers from Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands and Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Drug trafficking - Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra;
- ✓ Smuggling of gold; red sandalwood; cigarettes; fuel; Tendu leaves; textiles; turmeric
- Physical proximity of India's coasts - Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan & Gulf countries adds to India's vulnerability.
- Geographical closeness of Sri Lanka





- Presence of the LTTE militants – smuggling essential items, diesel, arms, explosive, drugs to sustain their war in Sri Lanka.
- Extensive criminal network to smuggle Sri Lankan refugees from India – generate funds for their struggle.
- Eastern Indian seaboard – increase in illegal migration from Bangladesh.
- Push and pull factors – poverty, demographic pressure, religious persecution in Bangladesh.
- Unsettled maritime boundaries hinder offshore development.



- India's maritime boundaries with Pakistan are not delineated because of overlapping claims.

India's actions

- India's maritime vision & ambitions grown.
- National Maritime Strategy, SAGAR initiative for the Indian Ocean Region.
- Initiatives in Indo-Pacific and Quad
- Rise of China as a military power in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean Region.

- Important to keep sea lanes open for trade, commerce.
- Ensure freedom of navigation by resisting Chinese in the South China Sea & help littoral states resist Chinese bullying in interstate relations.
- India is against Chinese unilateral actions and the emergence of a unipolar Asia - China-centric Asia.

Conclusion

- No luxury of choosing between continental strategy and maritime strategy.
- Assertive push for the continental rights - transit and access.
- Working with Central Asia, Iran and Russia.
- Economic and security agendas - SCO, Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) & Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).
- Stabilising Afghanistan - necessary condition.
- Right balance - continental and maritime security - India's long-term security interests.

- Define continental and maritime security parameters.
- Major geopolitical change, maintaining the capacity for independent thought and action - strategic autonomy help India to navigate the difficult landscape of geopolitical order.

Practice Question – Mains

GS – II / III

Q. India cannot choose between continental and maritime strategy. In lights of this statement discuss extensively with examples about the continental and maritime issues of India

(250 Words, 15 Marks)

Indian IT firms to log 20-30% growth in 2022: analysts

'Digital transformation to power deals'

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

India's IT firms will benefit from an 'enormous wave of opportunities' in 2022 as the trends of increasing cloud adoption and digital transformation that dominated 2021 gather momentum and drive 20%-30% growth for the industry, forecast global tech analysts.

"The opportunity is far bigger than just the post-COVID recovery," said Peter Bendor-Samuel, CEO at the Dallas-based sourcing research firm Everest Group. "It is a mega wave driven by digital transformation at scale... this wave is enormous and big enough to drive double-digit growth in the range of 20%-30%, especially for firms that are equipped to meet the demand for talent," he added.

With global enterprises increasingly embracing cloud and rapidly moving to modernise their technology infrastructure 'like never before', Indian IT vendors had seen strong momentum on digital deals, according to Mr. Bendor-Samuel and Hansa Iyengar, principal analyst at Omdia, a technology advisory in London.

"Q3 won't be soft this time and the quarter will bring in momentum growth especially for digital services," said Ms. Iyengar. "The growth will accelerate in the fourth quarter as well. However, the third wave of COVID may bring some disruptions and these could lead to some hiccups as vendors re-calibrate," she cautioned.

India's top two technology services providers Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. and Infosys Ltd. are set to



announce fiscal third-quarter results on January 12. Traditionally, the three-month period ending in December sees a softening of momentum in the run-up to the year-end holidays especially at clients in North America and Europe.

"We expect a continuation of the 2021 growth surge as the race to tie up cloud and modernisation deals reached new heights," said Phil Fersht, CEO of London-based HFS Research.

Talent will be key'
However, the start of the 2022 would be a little slower-than-expected as the Omicron variant of the coronavirus had created some uncertainty and slowed down deal completions, Mr. Fersht said, adding, "but we expect it to pick up strongly by mid-quarter."

The key drivers of business demand for Indian IT in 2022 would be automation, artificial intelligence, cloud migration/modernisation, security, consulting and systems integration. Shifting focus from slow-growing initiatives and low-hanging opportunities to platform-based operations and effectively handling talent shortages would be extremely critical for Indian providers, the analysts said.

Pg: 12 - C, B, D, H, T

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

Classification Indian Economy

1. Basis of nature of activity
2. Basis of nature of work condition
3. Basis of nature of asset ownership

Basis of nature of work condition

- Organised Sector
- Unorganized Sector

Basis of nature of asset ownership

- Public Sector
- Private Sector

Basis of nature of activity

- Primary sector - agriculture, mining, dairy and fishing.
- Secondary sector - textiles mills, industries
- Tertiary sector - IT sector, banking and finance, transportation services, retail, hospitality

Figure 44: Share of Components of GVA



Image Source – Economic Survey

Importance of IT sector to Indian Economy

- India is the leading outsourcing destination in the world.
 - ✓ 55% of global market share of US\$ 200-250 billion.
- FDI inflows
 - ✓ Second highest FDI inflows.
 - ✓ Attracted around US\$ 71 Billion.
- IT sector contributed to 8% of GDP in 2020.
- Rs. 1.20 lakh crore (US\$ 16.29 billion) in exports in the first quarter of FY22.

- Contribution to employment
 - ✓ Largest contributor to the private organised employment.
 - ✓ 4 million in direct employment.
- Future contribution
 - ✓ India to have 900 million internet users by 2025.
 - ✓ Growing demand for cloud computing.
 - ✓ Increased need for digital foot print.

Steps taken by Indian government

- National Policy on Information Technology
2012.

- ✓ Develop India into global IT hub.
- ✓ Use cyberspace for rapid and inclusive growth.
- ✓ Transform India into a knowledge economy.

- Draft Data center Policy 2020.

- ✓ Global data centre.
- ✓ Infrastructure Status to the Data Centre Sector.



Practice Question – Mains

GS – III

Q. Write about the importance of service sector in Indian economy in the context of growth of IT firms.

(150 Words, 10 Marks)

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements about Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative:

1. It focuses on recognizing the need to strengthen the cyber security ecosystem in India.
2. It is launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

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

Kathakali festival



A Kathakali performance in progress at Kallukulangara in Palakkad on Monday as part of the National Women Kathakali Mahotsavom to coincide with the anniversary of the Kathakali gramam, Kallukulangara. The festival, which will conclude on Thursday, will feature kathakali performances, seminar and 'cholliyattom.' ■K. K. MUSTFAH

Pg: 2 – Thiruvananthapuram
Edition

Kallekulangara Kathakali Gramam

- A non-profit organization.
- Established in 2012.
- Works primarily in the domain of Art & Culture.

Kathakali

- Kerala temples - two forms of dance drama - Ramanattam and Krishnattam, evolved under the patronage of feudal lords.
- Narrating episodes from Ramayana & Mahabharata.
- Source of Kathakali
- 'Katha' - story & 'Kali' - drama.



- Closely related to Koodiyattam & other ancient martial-arts performance also.
- Breakdown of the feudal set up, Kathakali declined.
- Revived in 1930s by the famous Malayali poet V. N. Menon under the patronage of Mukunda Raja.

Features

- An all-male troupe performance.
- Minimal use of props in the Kathakali recital
- Very elaborate facial make up along with a head gear is used for different characters.

- Different colours – Different significance
 - ✓ Green – nobility, divinity and virtue.



- Red patches beside the nose - royalty.
- Black colour - evil and wickedness.



- Yellow colour – saints and women.



- Completely Red painted face - evil
- White beard - beings with higher consciousness and divinity.



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- Both dance and drama & cannot be clearly separated.
- Grand representation of the eternal conflict between good and evil.
- Themes from narrated stories in the epics and the puranas.
- 'Ballad of the east'.
- Language - Manipravalam - mixture of Malayalam and Sanskrit.
- Music - rightfully convey the entire drama to the viewers.
- Gestures - crown jewel of the entire dance drama.

- Representation of rasas through movements of eye and eye brows
- 'Navarasas' taught to convey the different emotions.
- Extensive hand gestures used.
- Requires strenuous training.
- Performed in open air theatres covered with coarse mats or temple premises with lush green trees of Kerala providing a backdrop.

- A brass lamp for lighting.
- Arrival of dawn accompanied with a continuous sound of drums, chhenda and maddala marks beginning and end of a Kathakali recital.
- Kathakali symbolises element of sky or ether.
- Famous proponents - Guru Kunchu Kurup, Gopi Nath, Kottakal Sivaraman, Rita Ganguly, etc.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Kathakali:

1. Kathakali is an all male form of dance and no female character is depicted.
2. The colour yellow indicates nobility, divinity and virtue and the colour black is used to indicate evil and wickedness.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION

Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. With reference to Elephant species, consider the following statements.

1. It has good memory power.
2. Asian elephants weigh more than its cousin African elephants.
3. Both male & female African Elephants possess tusk.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) All the above

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements about Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative:

1. It focuses on recognizing the need to strengthen the cyber security ecosystem in India.
2. It is launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

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

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to Kathakali:

1. Kathakali is an all male form of dance and no female character is depicted.
2. The colour yellow indicates nobility, divinity and virtue and the colour black is used to indicate evil and wickedness.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Practice Question – Prelims Answers

- Q1. Option (b) - 1 and 3 only
- Q2. Option (c) - Both 1 and 2
- Q3. Option (d) - Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Mains

GS – III

Q. Write about the importance of service sector in Indian economy in the context of growth of IT firms.

(150 Words, 10 Marks)

Practice Question – Mains

GS – III

Q. Chinese influence in Sri Lanka will have serious implications for the latter's relationship with India. Discuss.

(150 Words, 10 Marks)

Practice Question – Mains

GS – II / III

Q. India cannot choose between continental and maritime strategy. In lights of this statement discuss extensively with examples about the continental and maritime issues of India

(250 Words, 15 Marks)