

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – M

Women in Armed Forces: New Strides, Miles to go

Why in News?

The Indian Navy announced selection of two women officers as Observers in the helicopter stream, making them first women airborne combatants who would be operating from warships. In another significant development in March this year, the Supreme Court had upheld that the women Short Service Commission officers in the Navy were eligible for Permanent Commission. The Navy had also inducted the first woman pilot in December last year. A look at what these developments mean for women in the Navy, how the situation has evolved and the road ahead.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Paper I: Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on Women Empowerment, Crimes against women, Constitutional and the legal rights of women and the issues related to it.

General Studies I:

- The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.

General Studies II:

- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.

General Studies III:

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- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; moneylaundering and its prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

General Studies IV:

Ethics and Human Interface:

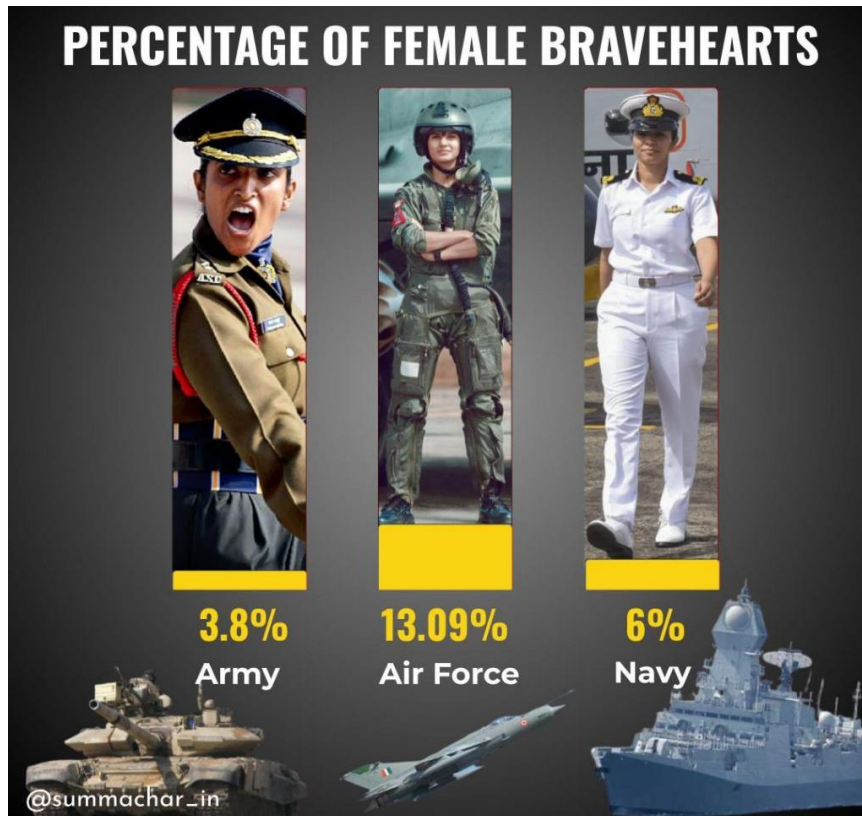
- Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
- Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.

Maps and Figures:

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<https://www.summachar.in/tag/indian-army/> (Under progressive Step-Crux of the matter)

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<https://thelogicalindian.com/news/lt-gen-madhuri-kanitkar-indian-army-19944>

Article Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-the-role-of-women-in-the-indian-navy-6606065/>

<https://www.defenceaviationpost.com/2020/09/women-in-armed-forces-new-strides-miles-to-go/>

Video Links:

India times: - Women of The Indian Armed Forces: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jciDif-jVog>

DD News: All-women contingent march down Rajpath on R-Day (Salute to the brave hearts): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51Jh6VIR88M>

India's Economic Growth: GDP Contraction

Why in News?

India's economy shrank 7.5 per cent in the fiscal second quarter, after seeing a record contraction of 23.9 per cent in Q1. With the contraction in two successive quarters, India has entered into a technical recession in the first half of the current fiscal. However, the

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economy substantially narrowed contraction to a single digit in Q2. The manufacturing and construction sectors made a jump in the July-September quarter. While the fall in construction sector narrowed from 50.3 per cent in Q1 to 8.6 per cent in Q2, the manufacturing sector registered a 0.6 per cent growth in Q2, against a contraction of 39.3 per cent in Q1. The mining sector also improved by reducing the contraction of 23.3 per cent in Q1 to 9.1 per cent in Q2. On the other hand, the agriculture sector once again registered a growth of 3.4 per cent in Q2. Meanwhile, the output of core industries shrank more in October, than in September. It shrank 2.5 per cent in October, against a fall of 0.8 per cent in the previous month.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Paper I: Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on Economic Development of the Backward States, Unequal Development of the Nation, Happiness Index vs Economic Parameters, Debate around Development vs Growth, etc.

General Studies I:

- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

General Studies II:

- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.
- India and its neighbourhood- relations.

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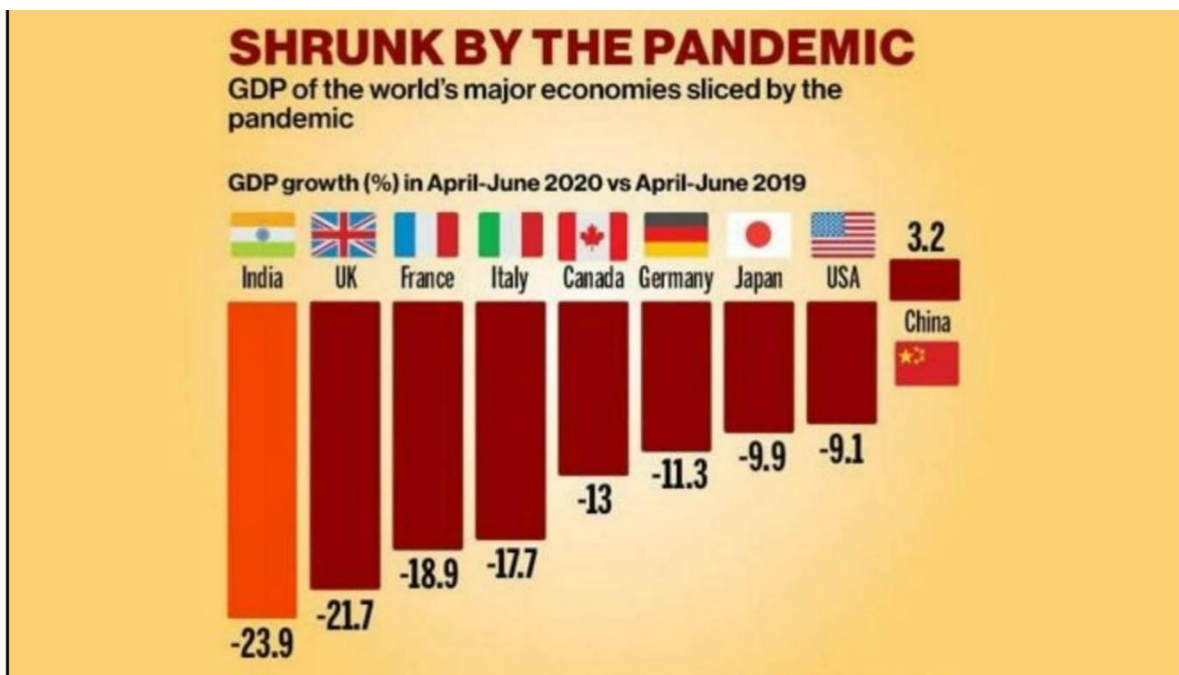
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- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

General Studies III:

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- Government Budgeting.
- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- Land reforms in India.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.

Maps and Figures:



<https://factly.in/data-is-indias-gdp-growth-rate-the-worst-among-major-economies-for-april-june-2020/>

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Article Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/india-q2-july-september-gdp-takeaways-economy-7073526/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/economists-upgrade-gdp-forecasts-after-q2-surprise/articleshow/79482597.cms>

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/india-q2-gdp-data-how-does-india-compare-with-other-major-economies-in-july-september-quarter-2331471>

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-gdp-q2-2020-economic-contraction-narrows-to-7-5-from-23-9-in-q1-120112700855_1.html

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/q2-gdp-live-economy-growth-slowdown-recession-recovery-manufacturing-services-trade-forex-industrial-output-core-sector-july-september-2020/2137913/>

Video Links:

ET NOW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17M4U22geVE>

IndianExpressOnline: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wURYaSIHycA>

CNBC International: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tboPF8w-554>

The Wire: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnWqkidgLgE>

IndianExpressOnline: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWu8WKZSxqE>

Trade Potential of North East India

Why in News?

France expressed its willingness to invest in the Northeastern states and Jammu & Kashmir. France Ambassador to India, Emmanuel Lenain called on Union DoNER Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and conveyed the same. "The Ambassador conveyed to the Union Minister, the desire of the Government of France to explore the avenues and opportunities of collaboration in different sectors in the North Eastern States as well as tourism and other potentials in Jammu & Kashmir," official sources said. During the meeting with the DoNER Minister, Ambassador Lenain discussed potential projects in the Northeastern states.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Paper I: Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the unequal development of the nation, Trading activities with the ASEAN, Development process in the North East and the issues related to it.

General Studies I:

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

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- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

General Studies II:

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
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- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

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- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- Land reforms in India.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.

Maps and Figures:



<https://thegeopolitics.com/the-origins-and-causes-of-insurgency-in-northeast-india/>

Article Links:

<https://nenow.in/north-east-news/france-ambassador-emmanuel-lenain-meets-doner-minister-to-invest-in-northeastern-states.html>

<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/india-news-france-shows-interest-in-collaboration-for-projects-in-kashmir-and-northeast-india/364878>

<https://ideas.repec.org/a/jge/journal/516.html>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338621572_Harnessing_the_Potential_for_Cross-border_Trade_between_North_East_India_and_its_Neighbouring_Countries_Harnessing_the_Potential_for_Cross-border_Trade_between_North_East_India_and_its_Neighbouring_Co

https://mdoner.gov.in/contentimages/files/RIS_Border_Trade_Report_final.pdf

<https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/pdf/2015/11/KPMG-FICCI-North-East-India-2015.pdf>

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Video Links:

Rajya Sabha TV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojanMSFMGwc>

The Economic Times: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y78V2unliCQ>