

# 25 Sep 2020: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

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*Nothing here for today!!!*

## B. GS 2 Related

### Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### 1. China cautious on G4 push for UNSC reforms

##### **Context:**

China has said that there are enormous divisions and a lack of consensus on taking forward the stalled reforms of the [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\)](#).

##### **Background:**

- India begins a two-year term as one of the 10 non-permanent UNSC members in January 2021 and has said it will continue pushing for reforms.
- Recently, India, Brazil, Japan and Germany (Collectively known as G-4) called for an early push for text-based negotiations for comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council.

This topic has been covered in the [24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Comprehensive News Analysis](#).

### China's take on UNSC Reforms:

- Chinese analysts have long been dismissive of the G4 that has been seeking permanent membership of the UNSC.
- China has in the past indicated that it would not favour the inclusion of at least three of its members for differing reasons
  - India and Japan considering their historically difficult relations with China.
  - Germany because it is not a developing country.

## 2. Gilgit-Baltistan polls have no legal basis; says India

### Context:

India said Pakistan's proposed election in Gilgit-Baltistan has no legal ground.

This topic has been covered in the [5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Comprehensive News Analysis](#).

### Issue:

- Pakistan has moved to give full provincial status to the Gilgit-Baltistan region through an election. The region earlier was known as the "Northern Areas" and Pakistan dealt with it through a special administrative arrangement.
- India considers Gilgit and Baltistan as part of the undivided Jammu and Kashmir.
- India's new political map published in November 2019 depicts the UTs of J&K and Ladakh consisting of Gilgit-Baltistan.

## C. GS 3 Related

### Category: ECONOMY

## 1. Govt. extends IBC pause by 3 months

### Context:

Corporates in India have got three more months of relief from the invocation of insolvency and bankruptcy (IBC) proceedings by lenders.

### Details:

- The government has extended the suspension of relevant provisions of IBC against firms defaulting on their loans since March 25, 2020.

Read more about **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill** in [22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 CNA](#).

## 2. Five States can borrow more on reform

### Context:

The Centre has permitted five states to borrow an additional ₹9,913 crore through open market borrowings to meet expenditure requirements amid falling revenues due to the COVID-19 crisis.

### Details:

- The permission was accorded after the five states met the reform condition of implementation of ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ system.
- These states are A.P., Telangana, Goa, Karnataka and Tripura.
- The Centre had, in May 2020, allowed additional borrowing limit of up to 2% of Gross State Domestic Product to states for FY21 with certain conditions.
  - Half of this could be raised subject to the implementation of the four specific state-level reforms, where the weighting of each reform is 0.25 per cent of gross state domestic product (GSDP).
  - These reforms were the implementation of ‘one nation, one ration card’ system; ease of doing business reform; urban local body and utility reforms, and power sector reforms.
- The remaining additional borrowing limit of 1 per cent was to be released in two instalments of 0.50 per cent each — first immediately to all the states, and the second on the undertaking of at least three out of the above-mentioned reforms.

### Note:

- Normally, states can borrow to the point that their fiscal deficit does not cross 3 per cent of their GSDP.
- Due to the effect on economic activities because of coronavirus-induced lockdowns, states' finances have been dull.

## 3. RBI releases document on UCBs’ cybersecurity

### Context:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought out a document titled the ‘Technology Vision for Cyber Security for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) 2020-2023’.

### Objective:

- It has been drafted to enhance the cybersecurity of urban co-operative banks (UCBs).
- It aspires to:
  - Involve more board oversight over cybersecurity.
  - Enable UCBs to better manage and secure IT assets.
  - Implement an offsite supervisory mechanism framework for UCBs on cybersecurity-related controls.

- Develop a forum for UCBs so that they can share best practices and discuss practical issues and challenges.
- Implement a framework for providing awareness/training for all UCBs.

**Details:**

- It has 12 specific action points and plans to achieve its objective through a five-pillared strategic approach GUARD:
  - Governance Oversight
  - Utile Technology Investment
  - Appropriate Regulation and Supervision
  - Robust Collaboration
  - Developing necessary IT, cybersecurity skill sets.
- With wider adoption of digital banking channels, the cybersecurity landscape will continue to evolve.
  - It would necessitate the UCBs to manage the associated risks effectively.
  - Active collaboration within UCBs and stakeholders would be necessary for sharing and coordinating various measures taken on cybersecurity aspects.

**Category: SECURITY**

**1. China refused plea for help from northeast insurgents**

**Context:**

The Assam Government has informed a [UAPA](#) tribunal that major extremist outfits of the northeast had contacted Chinese authorities for assistance in their fight against India, but the Chinese had refused to provide assistance.

- The tribunal was constituted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) after the Union Home Ministry extended the ban on the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) in November 2019 for five years.
- The tribunal upheld the ban and declared NDFB an unlawful association for a period of five years.

**Issue:**

- The affidavit, filed by the government before the tribunal said the United National Liberation Front of West of South East Asia (UNLFWSEA), had taken a resolution “to take assistance from a third nation” to achieve their goal.
  - UNLFWSEA is a Myanmar-based conglomerate of banned outfits such as the NSCN-K, ULFA-I, NDFB-S and KLO.
  - The conglomerate was formed in 2015.
- UNLFW first preferred China to seek for assistance.
- Upon China’s refusal, as an alternative, UNLFWSEA looked for establishing nexus with Pakistan.
- It was learnt that Pakistan (ISI) was providing all sorts of assistance to outfit groups fighting against India. However, their plan could not be executed.

**D. GS 4 Related**

*Nothing here for today!!!*

### Category: HEALTH

#### 1. Health worker safety deserves a second look

##### World Patient Safety Day:

- The World Health Organization observes World Patient Safety Day on September 17<sup>th</sup> every year.
- The day is celebrated to highlight the issue of harm in health-care settings.
- The theme for 2020 was 'Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety' with a call to action to 'Speak up for health worker safety'

##### Harm in health-care settings:

- The world over, one in 10 patients experiences or is subject to harm in health-care settings.
- Studies in India have shown that:
  - More than 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of injections are given in an unsafe manner.
  - Over 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of injections in primary care are unnecessary in the first place.
- Much harm done to patients is because of unsafe health-care practice and unsafe health-care communication.
  - Unsafe health-care practice refers to unsafe or unnecessary procedures, wrong medications, medications given in a wrong dosage, etc.
  - Unsafe health-care communication refers to mistakes made in health-care settings due to miscommunication between health professionals.

##### Why is health worker safety important for patient safety?

- The quality of both practice and communication is dependent on the safety and well-being of health workers.
- For example, health workers who have been on duty for more than 24 hours at a stretch, have a higher risk of making mistakes.
- During the current pandemic situation, health workers' physical and mental health are being affected due to long work hours under increasingly difficult circumstances.
- The mental health of health workers is linked to workplace culture.

##### COVID-19 and reporting cases:

- At instances of patient harm, whether health workers report them or not depend on the organisation's culture and leadership.
- Reporting helps prevent similar future occurrences.
- Power differences can further prevent reporting and cooperative organisational learning and may increase chances of verbal, physical, emotional and sexual abuse.
  - In India, many health-care organisations observe strict hierarchies between specialties, between designations.

##### Overcrowding:

- India simply does not have enough health facilities to cater to all its population, even without a pandemic.

- Additionally, there is a lack of adequate social care, such as care homes, community health services and community-based rehabilitative and palliative services.
- Lack of health facilities and overcrowding unduly increase the burden on health-care facilities.

Numerous persons find healing and restoration in health care, but some are harmed as well. In crises such as COVID-19, quality of care can be compromised further.

### **Way ahead:**

- Organisational learning is more important than individual learning because instances of patient harm are often an end result of a chain of organisational failures.
- Moreover, good systems can mitigate the effects of individual mistakes.
- Creating sustainability would involve taking a systems approach to make sure all parts of the system, both of health care and of supportive social care are well functioning.
- There is a need for a systems approach with the involvement of all stakeholders.
  - Patients themselves need to be aware of patient safety and be empowered to demand safe health care, resist unnecessary medications and procedures.
  - Systems of reporting, monitoring and organisational learning need to be created.
- Policymakers must prioritise staffing, co-designing functional and safe workplaces, and ethics in health care.
- There is a need for the promotion of a culture of health worker safety and well-being to ensure patient safety.

## **Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

### **1. The foreign hand**

#### **Context:**

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 has been passed in both the houses of the Parliament.
- The Bill amends the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010.
- FCRA regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution by individuals, associations and companies.

#### **Details:**

- New regulations put onerous conditions on civil society organisations, and educational and research institutions that have partnerships, including those of financial nature, with foreign entities.

This topic has been covered in the [21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 Comprehensive News Analysis](#).

#### **Criticisms:**

- Amendments to the FCRA were drafted without consultation with stakeholders.
- The bill passed with limited discussion in Parliament, further clip the wings of India's battered civil society.
- In Parliament, the BJP alleged that foreign money was being used for religious conversions.
- In 2017, the government barred an American Christian charity, Compassion International, accusing it of supporting conversions.

- Some of the restrictions not only show up India to be overregulated but could also impact NGOs.
- As a growing economy, India has been proactive in seeking global capital and technology. The aversion appears to be towards select categories of global ideas and ideals — environmentalism, human rights and civil liberties.
- The International Commission of Jurists has said the new law was incompatible with international obligations and India's own constitutional provisions on rights.

### **Suggestions and way forward:**

- The pandemic has underscored the importance of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the whole earth is one family) as a framework for India's global engagement.
- Thousands of NGOs serve extremely disadvantaged sections, at times filling in for the state, at others, supplementing it.
- The question of foreign funding must be delinked from the debate on religious propagation and conversions as there are adequate laws against conversion by inducement.
- For a global community to function, there is a need for a seamless sharing of ideas and resources across national boundaries.
- It should not be discouraged unless there is reason to believe the funds are being used to aid illegal activities.

### **Category: ECONOMY**

#### **1. Will the farm bills benefit farmers?**

This topic has been covered in the [17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 PIB Summary and Analysis](#) and [17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Comprehensive News Analysis](#).

## **F. Prelims Facts**

### **1. India, Pak. trade charges at SAARC, CICA meets**

#### **What's in News?**

India and Pakistan clashed over terrorism and Jammu and Kashmir at the Foreign Ministers' meetings of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

#### **Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

- The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- It is a forum based on the recognition that there is a close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world.
- The key idea of the Conference is based on the priority of the indivisibility of security, joint initiative and mutually beneficial interaction of small and large states.
- It was established in 1999.
- It is headquartered at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

- For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
- India is a member of CICA since its inception.

Read more on the [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\)](#).

## G. Tidbits

### 1. 380 'detention camps' in Xinjiang: report

#### What's in News?

According to research presented by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) - an Australian think tank, China is running hundreds of detention centres in northwest Xinjiang.

#### Findings:

- The number of facilities is around 40% greater than previous estimates.
- It said it had identified more than 380 "suspected detention facilities" in the Xinjiang region.
- Xinjiang is where China is believed to have held more than one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic-speaking residents.

Beijing has denied the existence of detention sites stating that they are vocational training centres used to counter extremism.

## H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements with respect to the Innovate in India (I3) program:

1. It was launched under the National Health Mission.
2. It has received financial assistance from the World Health Organisation.
3. It has been launched to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- a. 3 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above

**CHECK ANSWERS:-**

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Innovate in India (I3) program is a flagship program of the Government of India and has received financial assistance from the World Bank.
- It was launched under the National Biopharma Mission.



- It has been launched to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector.

**Q2. Consider the following statements with respect to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA):**

1. It is headquartered in China.
2. India is a member of CICA since its inception.
3. For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?**

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above

**CHECK ANSWERS:-**

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- It is a forum based on the recognition that there is a close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world.
- The key idea of the Conference is based on the priority of the indivisibility of security, joint initiative and mutually beneficial interaction of small and large states.
- It was established in 1999.
- It is headquartered at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
- India is a member of CICA since its inception.

**Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to Lok Adalats:**

1. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), along with other Legal Services Institutions, conducts Lok Adalats.
2. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status.
3. The jurisdiction of the Permanent Lok Adalats is up to Rs. One Lakh.
4. The award of the Permanent Lok Adalat is final and binding on all the parties.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are INCORRECT?**

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 4 only
- c. 3 only
- d. 3 and 4 only

**CHECK ANSWERS:-**

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

The jurisdiction of the Permanent Lok Adalats is up to Rs. Ten Lakhs.

**Q4. Consider the following statements with respect to the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana:**

1. It is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
2. It is a placement linked skill development program.
3. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. 1 and 3 only

**CHECK ANSWERS:-**

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is the skilling and placement initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- It is tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.
- It is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.
- It is a placement linked skill development program which allows skilling in a PPP mode and assured placements in regular jobs in an organization not owned by the skilled person.

## I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. One of the few positive outcomes of COVID-19 is the creation of new alliances and coalitions among social sector organisations. Would the amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) adversely affect India's NGOs? Critically analyse. (15 Marks, 250 Words) (GS 2 Governance).
2. Discuss the reasons behind health care deficits in India and comment on the importance of health workers' safety and well-being in ensuring patient safety. (10 Marks, 150 Words) (GS 2 Health).

