

27 Dec 2019: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

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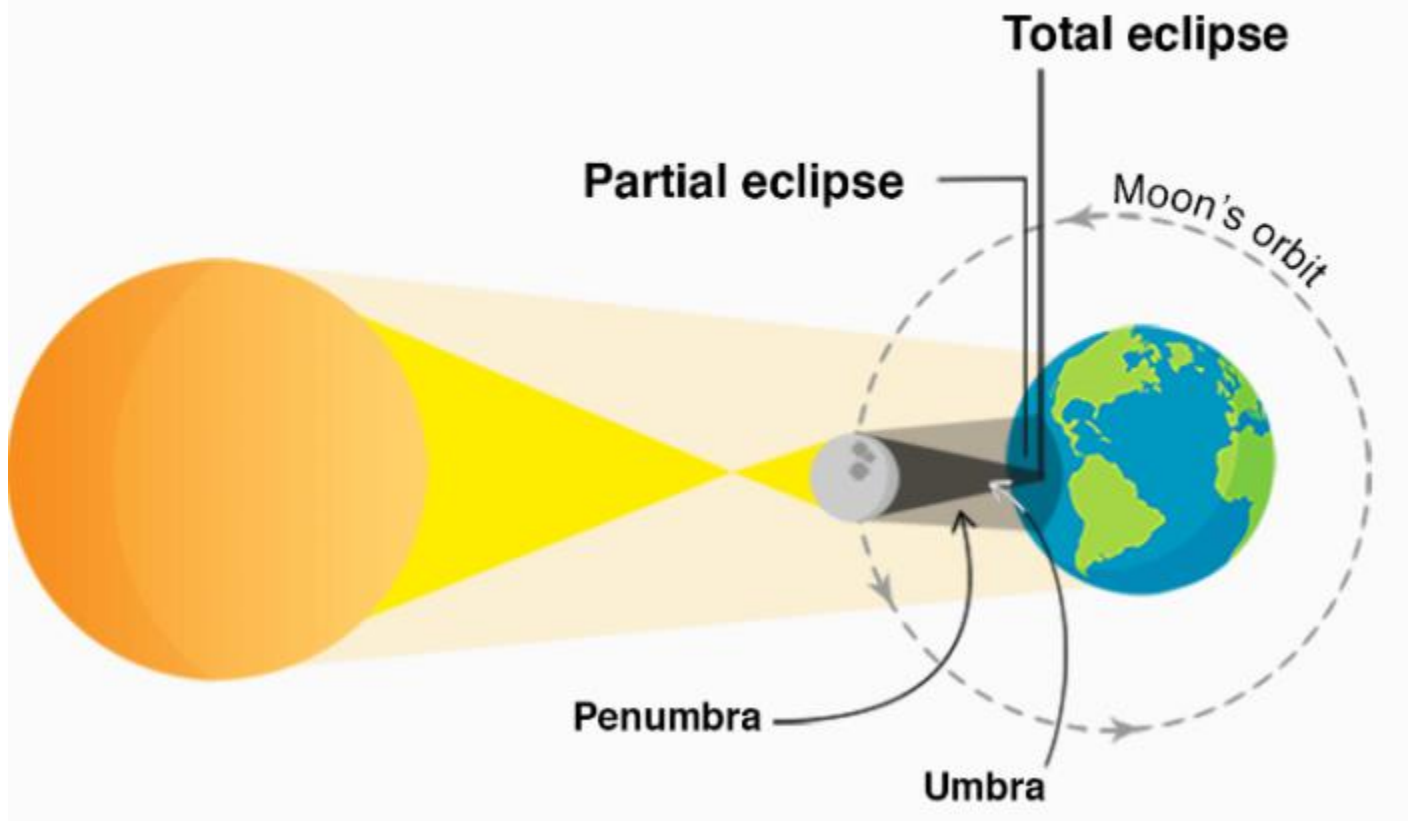
A. GS1 Related

Category: GEOGRAPHY

1. Annular Solar Eclipse

What is an Eclipse?

- An eclipse happens when the **moon while orbiting the Earth, comes in between the sun and the Earth**, due to which the moon blocks the sun's light from reaching the Earth, causing an eclipse of the sun or a solar eclipse.



Three types of eclipses

- **Total Solar Eclipse**-Moon completely covers the Sun.
 - It is visible only from a small area on Earth.
 - A total solar eclipse happens when the Sun, Moon and Earth are in a direct line.
- The second type of a solar eclipse is a **partial solar eclipse**, in which the shadow of the Moon appears on a small part of the Sun.
- The third kind is an **Annular Solar Eclipse**, which happens when the **Moon is farthest from the Earth**, which is why it seems smaller.
 - The Moon covers the centre of the Sun, giving the appearance of a bright ring.
 - The key difference between Annular and Total is that the Moon is further away from the Earth during an **Annular** as compared to a **Total Eclipse**.
 - There are no annular lunar eclipses because Earth is much bigger than the Moon, and its shadow will never be small enough to leave a ring.



Shadows

During a solar eclipse, the Moon casts two shadows on the Earth:

- The first one is called the umbra, which gets smaller as it reaches the Earth.
- The second one is called the penumbra, which gets larger as it reaches the Earth.

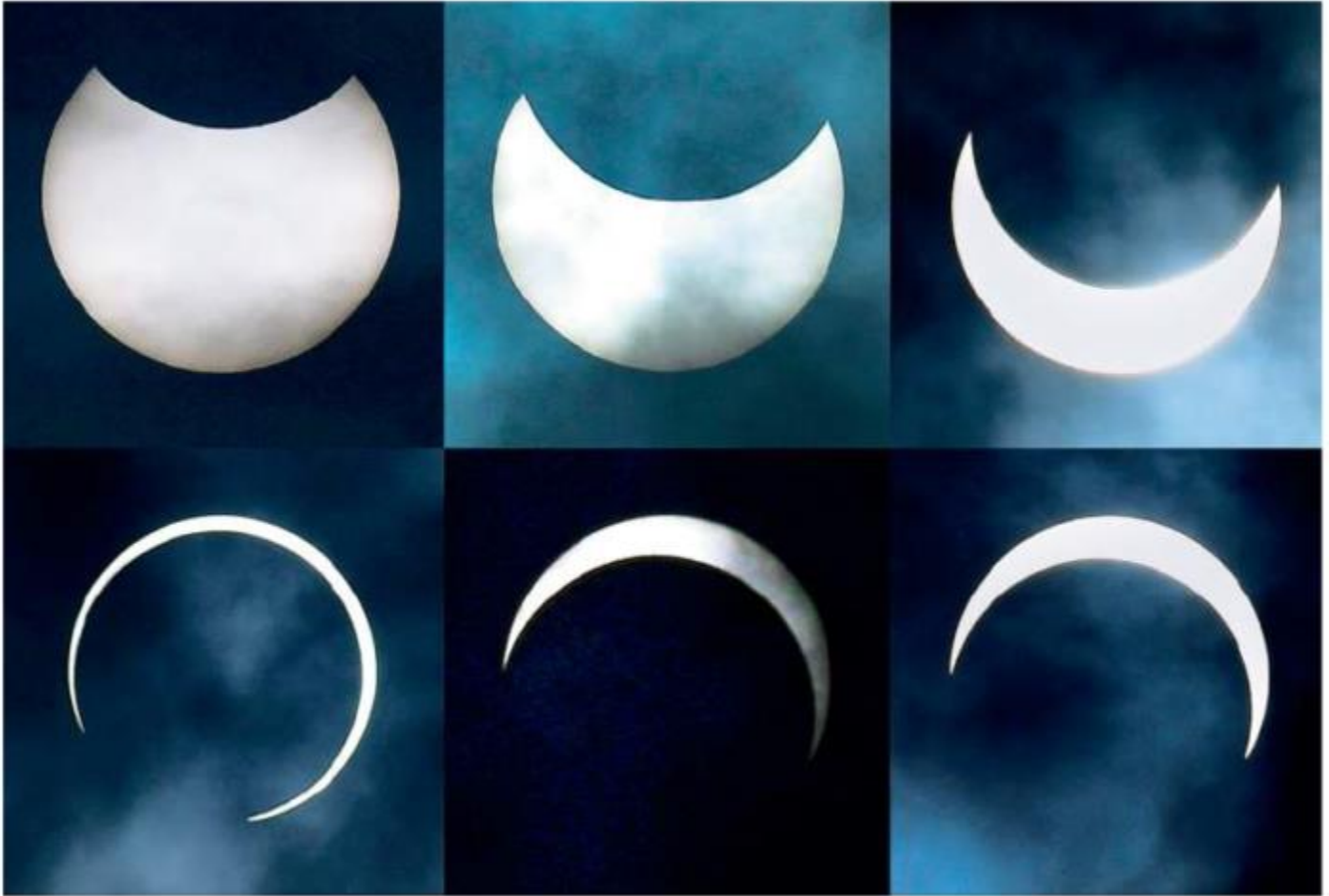
Is it safe to view solar eclipses?

- NASA maintains that the Sun can be viewed safely using the naked eye **only during a total eclipse**, while **during partial and annular solar eclipses**, the Sun should not be viewed without proper equipment and techniques.
- Not using proper methods and equipment for viewing can cause permanent eye damage or severe visual loss, it says.
- Safety equipment includes eclipse glasses and using appropriate solar filters for covering binoculars, telescopes and cameras.

Context

- Different stages of the annular solar eclipse as seen from Dindigul in Tamil Nadu.

Ring of fire



Different stages of the annular solar eclipse as seen from Dindigul in Tamil Nadu

B. GS2 Related

Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. NPR: house to house verification planned

- The National Population Register (NPR) is a register of the **usual residents** of the country.
- It contains information collected at the local (village/sub-town), subdistrict, district, state and national level under provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- The process of updating NPR will be carried out under the aegis of the Registrar General and ex-Officio Census Commissioner, India.

Who is Usual Resident of India?

- A usual resident is defined, for the purposes of the NPR, as a person who has resided in a local area for the past six months or more, or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months.

What information will be collected under NPR?

The objective of the NPR is to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. The database would contain demographic particulars such as:

- Name
- Relationship to head of household
- Father’s name
- Mother’s name
- Spouse’s name (if married)
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Marital status
- Place of birth
- Nationality (as declared)
- Present address of usual residence
- Duration of stay at present address
- Permanent residential address
- Occupation
- Educational qualification

What type of questions could be asked?


Asking the right questions

The manual details how an enumerator should collect information from a citizen:

The person may be assisted to arrive at the correct year of birth by stimulating her/his memory with reference to any historical event, such as war, flood, earthquake or change in regime.

Examples:
First World War (1914-1918), Dandi March (1930), Quit India movement (1942), Independence (1947), war with China (1962), war with Pakistan (1965), liberation of Bangladesh (1971), Asian Games (1982), India's first win in the cricket world cup (1983), etc.

- The year of birth/age can also be ascertained with reference to the birth/age of another person in the same household or in the neighbouring household or that of a well-known person in the village
- If a woman is not aware of her age, you will have to further probe to estimate it. One way is to find the date of birth of her eldest living child and her age at the time she gave birth. Subtract her age at the time of birth of her child to get a fair estimate of her year of birth
- If a woman is not able to tell her age at the time when the first child was born, try to ascertain her age at the time of marriage and the interval between her marriage and the birth of her eldest child
- If a woman does not know her age at marriage, try to find out the difference between her age and that of her husband whose year of birth may be known. Use this to record the woman's year of birth
- If the respondent does not know the age of any member of the household and asking questions also does not help, you will have to estimate her/his age by using your best judgment



For more on this issue refer:

[CNA – 25th Dec 2019](#)

Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Violent protests rock Iraq over PM pick

For more on this issue refer:

[CNA 22nd Nov 2019](#)

C. GS3 Related

Category: ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

1. Gujarat battles locust swarms with pesticides

For more on this issue refer:

[CNA 26th Dec 2019](#)

Category: DEFENCE

1. Civil – Military Relations (CMR) in India

Introduction

- The Constitution of India lays down the framework within which the Union, i.e. the Government of India, and the States are required to carry out their respective responsibilities. **List 1 of the 7th Schedule** of the Constitution of India enumerates the subjects which are to be dealt with by the Government of India. In this list, the Government of India has been assigned responsibility for ensuring the “**Defence of India and every part thereof**”.
- The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces rests with the **President**.
- The responsibility for national defence rests with the **Cabinet**.
- This responsibility is discharged through the **Ministry of Defence**, which provides the policy framework and wherewithal to the Armed Forces to discharge their responsibilities in the context of the defence of the country.
 - The Raksha Mantri is the head of the Ministry of Defence.
 - The principal task of the Defence Ministry is to obtain policy directions of the Government on all defence- and security-related matters and see that these are implemented by the services headquarters, inter-service organisations, production establishments and research and development organisations.
- As provided by the Constitution, the various subjects in List 1 are distributed among the different departments in accordance with the **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961**. Under these Rules, the various matters relating to the Defence of India have been allocated to the Ministry of Defence, which comprises the Department of Defence, Department of Defence Production, Department of Defence Research and Development and the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare.

What is CMR?

- The term “Civil–Military Relations” refers broadly to the interaction between the armed force of a state as an institution, and the political class and its machinery.

How has it helped India?

As a young democracy that saw many surrounding nations succumb to military interventions, the initial political leadership was wary of the military and kept the armed forces at an arm's length in national affairs.

- The success of CMR in the Indian context is that we haven't had a military takeover.

Unresolved issues

- In India, the military has been kept away from the national strategic decision-making process, which has been dominated by civil services.
- Using civilian control as a lever, the **bureaucracy has arrogated to itself a massive role** – one that is not practised around the globe. It has given a fillip to a bureaucratic system which seeks to exercise control over the military by isolating soldiers from their political masters through a layered tangle.
- This has harmed the national cause in two respects –
 - Creation of a military leadership insular in its thought process and
 - Consequently a nation deficit in a strategic planning process.
- The world over, **national security strategic planning is the domain of the military under political leadership** with the **civilian bureaucracies** participating and this can be recognized where the majority of people are with military background dominating the national security apparatus both in the west as well as in authoritarian regimes.

Conclusion

- The military men, especially the officer corps, which is the soul of any military, is specially selected by psychological profiling and trained by a lifetime of submitting to military discipline.
- Therefore senior military officers should be given exposure in government bureaucracies and be made a part of the strategic planning process.
- A certain amount of tension between the principal (the political class) and the agent (the military) is inevitable; creative tensions, as evident in civil-military disputes across the globe, may be helpful in refining existing structures and responses.

Context

- Army chief: leading crowds for arson is not leadership.

D. GS4 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

E. Editorials

Category: POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1. The Data Protection Bill only weakens user rights

For more on this issue refer:

[Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019](#)

Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Cracks in the relic: on U.S.-Turkey relations

Context

- There are growing tensions in U.S.-Turkey relations which have the possibility to upset the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) unity.
- Turkish President Erdoğan has threatened to shut down two U.S. bases in retaliation for the proposed American sanctions on Ankara over purchasing Russian weapons.

Background

- U.S.-Turkey ties began slumping in recent years after **Washington's refusal to extradite Fethullah Gülen**, a U.S.-based Turkish Islamic preacher who is accused by Ankara of orchestrating the failed 2016 coup against Mr. Erdoğan.
- Turkey's decision to purchase the Russian S-400 missile system despite U.S.-NATO opposition was the tipping point.
- The Trump administration has suspended Turkey from the F-35 programme, citing concerns over Russia spying on the fighter jet's capabilities using the S-400 system's radar.

But Turkey seems determined to go ahead with the S-400 deal and even buy advanced Russian aircraft if the U.S. does not deliver the F-35s.

America's presence in Turkey

- The U.S. and Turkey are the largest and second-largest standing armies of NATO, respectively.
- There are U.S. nuclear warheads in the **Incirlik airbase**, a critical facility for American operations in West Asia.
 - It is a Turkish airbase.
 - Constructed in 1955 with US assistance, the facility was NATO's most important "southeast wing" airbase during the Cold War.
 - Excluding Turkish forces, the US has the most troops deployed at the Incirlik airbase, with around 1,500 US military personnel on the ground, followed by the UK.
- **Kürecik Radar Station** is a military installation.
 - It was established in 2012 for use by NATO as an early-warning radar against ballistic missile attacks.

Now Turkey has threatened to shut down Incirlik and Kurecik bases.

Impact on US operations

- It would change U.S. projections in the region as the base is of vital geopolitical significance for the Middle East.

Conclusion

The question the Atlantic alliance faces in this hour of crisis is not just whether the U.S. and Turkey would manage to resolve their differences, but also whether **NATO, a Cold War relic, could stay relevant in a post-Cold War era where bilateral ties are fast-changing.**

F. Tidbits

1. China, Russia and Iran to hold naval drills in Gulf of Oman

Context

- China, Russia and Iran will hold joint naval drills in the Gulf of Oman.

Details

- Chinese navy would deploy its Xining guided-missile destroyer — nicknamed the “carrier killer” for its array of anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles — in the drills.
- For Iran, the drill’s purpose was to bolster “international commerce security in the region” and “fighting terrorism and piracy”.

Significance

- The military exercises aim to “deepen exchange and cooperation between the navies of the three countries.

G. Prelims Facts

Nothing here for today!!!

H. Practice Questions for UPSC Prelims Exam

Q 1: Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Global Competitiveness Index- World Economic Forum
2. Human Capital Index- World Bank
3. World Economic Outlook- IMF
4. Global Hunger Index- WHO
5. Gender Inequality Index- UNDP

Options:

- a. 1, 4 and 5 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

Answer

-

Q 2: Incirlik Air Base is in which country?

- a. Djibouti
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. Turkey
- d. Indonesia

Answer



Q 3: India is not a party to which of the following Pacts?

- 1. Rome Statute
- 2. Refugee Convention 1951
- 3. Australia Group
- 4. Wassenaar Arrangement

Options:

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

Answer

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Q 4: Which of the following is/are the protected areas within Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve?

1. Bandipur-Nagarhole Tiger Reserve
2. Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Options:

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

Answer

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I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. Does the Data protection bill strike a balance between Personal privacy and National Security? Critically Analyze.
2. The concentration of power in the hands of Civilian bureaucracy in defence should give way to power distribution with higher echelons in the military. Discuss.