

# 12 June 2021: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### A. GS 1 Related

### B. GS 2 Related

#### *POLITY AND GOVERNANCE*

1. [Online module to map out-of-school kids](#)

#### *INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*

1. [China-Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital opened](#)
2. [Italy has paid ₹10 crore, Centre tells SC](#)

### C. GS 3 Related

#### *SECURITY*

1. [Bru refugee rehabilitation in Tripura hits green panel hurdle](#)
2. [Centre unlikely to allow return of four Kerala women, who joined IS](#)

### D. GS 4 Related

### E. Editorials

#### *DISASTER MANAGEMENT*

1. [Counting the dead](#)

#### *INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*

1. [Persecuted in Pakistan, ignored in India](#)

### F. Prelims Facts

1. [Tributes paid to freedom fighter Ram Prasad Bismil](#)

### G. Tidbits

### H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

### I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

## A. GS 1 Related

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## B. GS 2 Related

**Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

## 1. Online module to map out-of-school kids

### Context:

Centre's efforts to connect school dropouts to mainstream education.

### Details:

- The centre has taken note of disruptions caused by COVID-19.
- With **high levels of dropouts in the backdrop of the pandemic**, the Centre has set up a module to **map out-of-school children and connect them to mainstream education through special training centres**.
- The state governments **have been directed to upload data** about all **out-of-school children at the block level** for monitoring purposes.
- To **facilitate age-appropriate admission** of out-of-school children in the age group of 6-14 years, financial provisions are made in the Samagra Shiksha scheme.
- In addition, **special training has been arranged to bridge their learning gaps and mainstreaming them in school**.
- For children belonging to the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Group, financial assistance has been made available for the first time from the year 2021-22 to **continue their education through Open/Distance Learning mode**.
- Earlier, the education ministry had directed States to **prepare an action plan to prevent increased dropouts, lower enrolments, loss of learning and deterioration in the gains made** in providing universal access, quality and equity in recent years.
- Schools were also asked to relax detention norms in order to prevent dropouts.

### **Samagra Shiksha scheme:**

- Samagra Shiksha Scheme is an integrated scheme for school education extending support to States from pre-school to senior secondary level.
- The Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan was formed by subsuming the following three schemes to ensure an integrated and holistic school education:
  - (RMSA) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
  - (SSA) Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan
  - (TE) Teacher Education

Read more [Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan – Integrated Scheme for School Education](#)

## **Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### 1. China-Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital opened

### Context:

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa inaugurated the China-Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital in Polonnaruwa.

### China's Assistance to Sri Lanka:

- Former President Maithripala Sirisena had requested China for the grant and the facility was built within 30 months.
- The hospital is built with a **Chinese grant of \$60 million** and is said to be one of the largest in South Asia for nephrology care.
- China's earlier grant projects in Sri Lanka are also built as large public spaces. Eg. Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo, Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre.
- In addition to sanctioning loans and a **currency swap facility worth more than \$2 billion since the pandemic struck**, China also announced a **\$90 million grant to Sri Lanka in October 2020**.

#### India's Concerns:

- India's grant assistance to Sri Lanka totals about \$570 million.
- While the Polonnaruwa hospital has been inaugurated, the **Jaffna Cultural Centre, built with Indian assistance** of \$11.5 million, whose construction was completed a year ago, awaits inauguration.
- China's **rapidly growing presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** and **specifically in Sri Lanka** is a cause of concern for India.
- While **India is not a part of China's Belt and Road Initiative**, China considers Sri Lanka to be a **critical link** in its global infrastructure-building initiative.
- India is concerned as Sri Lanka slips into deeper dependence and loan debt on China.
- Much of the world sees **China-funded mega projects in Sri Lanka as debt traps** for the island nation.
  - In 2017, **Sri Lanka leased out a Chinese-built port** (Hambantota) located near busy shipping routes to a Chinese company **for 99 years to recover from the heavy burden of repaying the Chinese loan** the country received to build it.

#### **2. Italy has paid ₹10 crore, Centre tells SC**

##### Context:

The Central government informed the Supreme Court that **Italy had paid ₹10 crore compensation** for disbursement among the families of fishermen shot dead by two Italian marines on Enrica Lexie.

##### Background:

- Earlier, **the government approached the court for closure of the pending trial** against the marines, following a **United Nations tribunal decision that the duo would be tried in Italy**.
- Following that, the **court said it would consider passing an order to quash the criminal proceedings only after Italy deposited ₹10 crore as compensation** for the bereaved families of the fishermen.

This issue has been covered in [UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis. July 4th, 2020.](#)

## **C. GS 3 Related**

### **Category: SECURITY**

## 1. Bru refugee rehabilitation in Tripura hits green panel hurdle

### Context:

The [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) has received a complaint that **Bru refugees from adjoining Mizoram were being resettled in a forest.**

### Background:

- More than **40,000 Brus (Reangs)** have been living in the Tripura relief camps since 1997.
  - They had **escaped ethnic violence in Mizoram.**
- About 7,000 refugees returned to Mizoram after nine phases of repatriation till November 2019. The rest stayed put citing security reasons.
- The stalemate on repatriation ended with the **signing of the quadripartite agreement in January 2020**, among **representatives of Brus, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Tripura and Mizoram governments.**
- Tripura began shifting Mizoram Bru refugees for permanent settlement at various places in April 2021.

Read more on this topic covered in [April 20th, 2021 CNA.](#)

### Details:

- The complainant pointed out that **construction was being carried out for resettling the Brus in a 250-hectare green belt.**
- It was pointed out that this would be in **violation of Section 2 of the [Forest Conservation Act of 1980.](#)**
- NGT has sought a report from the Forest Department and a district administration in Tripura on the rehabilitation of the Bru refugees.

## 2. Centre unlikely to allow return of four Kerala women, who joined IS

### Context:

The four Indian women who accompanied their husbands to **join the Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP), imprisoned in Afghanistan**, are **unlikely to be allowed to return** to the country.

### Details:

- The [National Investigation Agency \(NIA\)](#) had filed a chargesheet in 2017 after a group of 21 men and women from Kerala, left India in 2016 in batches to join the ISKP in Afghanistan. They crossed over to Afghanistan on foot from Iran.
- In April 2021, the **head of the National Directorate of Security** (the national intelligence and security service of Afghanistan) **reported 408 members of the Islamic State from 13 countries.**
- **These women** are among thousands of Islamic State fighters and affiliates that **surrendered before the Afghanistan authorities** in 2019.

### Way Forward:

- **Interpol** has issued red notices against the women on India's request.
  - INTERPOL Notices **are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.**
  - **Red Notice is issued to seek the location/arrest of a person** wanted by a judicial jurisdiction or an international tribunal with a view to his/her extradition. Read more on [INTERPOL](#).
- While India's initial line of thought was to allow them to come back and become approvers in the cases in India, their interview revealed that **they are highly radicalised.**
- Therefore, **France model** may be followed and the Afghanistan authorities can be requested to put them on trial there.
  - **France did not take back the French ISIS members captured in Iraq.**
- Radicalisation largely happens through social media groups.
  - In order to keep ISIS threat under check, the agencies are **closely monitoring local radical groups especially in Southern India**, who could be deriving support from ISIS.

**Note:**

- The **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)** recorded **77 attacks claimed by ISKP during the first four months of 2021.**
- The **Wilayat Khorasan of Islamic State in Afghanistan** came into existence in **2015.**
  - It mainly comprised defectors from Tehrik-i-Taliban (TTP).
- Senior government officials state that **ISKP is run by Pakistan's Inter-State Intelligence.**

## D. GS 4 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

## E. Editorials

### Category: DISASTER MANAGEMENT

#### 1. Counting the dead

An important characteristic of an infectious disease, particularly one caused by a novel pathogen like SARS-CoV-2, is its severity and its ability to cause death. In the backdrop of discrepancies recorded in reporting of COVID-19 related deaths, the article talks about excess death analysis as one of the best possible ways of estimating the count of COVID-19 deaths.

**Importance of fatality rate:**

- The real-time mortality impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is an **important statistical measure to guide policy responses.**
- Fatality rates help in **understanding the severity of a disease.**
- It **helps determine and identify at-risk populations.**
- It also acts as an **indicator in evaluation of quality of healthcare.**

### Issue:

- Measuring the real-time mortality **is not an easy task**.
- In January 2021, **based on excess deaths data in Europe and the American continents**, WHO had estimated that **actual deaths were at least 1.6 times over the official count**.
- The **problem of under-counting** is largely because **patients who die due to cardiovascular issues** among others even **after apparent recovery from COVID-19** are not tracked and registered as **COVID-19-related deaths**.
- Estimations of the actual count of the dead are difficult to obtain in States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where **public health systems are poor and neither the infections nor deaths have been effectively tracked**, especially in rural areas, where **many have died outside of hospitals**.

### Details:

- Bihar is among the States in India with the lowest civil registration of deaths, with barely 34.1% of the dead being registered, according to the Civil Registration System (CRS) report of 2018.
- In Bihar, the **reported COVID related death toll suddenly increased by 72% following a Health Department review after the Patna High Court found discrepancies**.
- Following criticisms about the methodology to evaluate whether a death was related to COVID-19, the **Kerala health administration in the districts will now audit deaths** rather than a State-level audit committee.

### Way Forward – Excess deaths analysis:

- Excess deaths analyses in Gujarat, Chennai and Kolkata suggest that they were nearly 10, five and seven times higher, respectively, than reported fatalities during the second wave.
- **Measuring excess deaths** is the **best possible way to estimate the count of COVID-19 deaths**.
- It can be arrived at by calculating the excess deaths during the given period when the pandemic has raged, **compared to the baseline mortality occurring in similar time frames before the pandemic**.
- The exercise works best if death registrations are relatively high.
  - **Registration of deaths has improved to 76%** according to Civil Registration System (CRS) 2018.
- If the **CRS datasets**, maintained by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India besides State registrars and municipal officials **with a good quality of registration, are made available**, it would **enable better estimation of the actual mortality figures**.

### Conclusion:

Differences in mortality between groups of people and countries are important **proxy indicators of relative risk of death that guide policy decisions** regarding scarce medical resource allocation. Only **honest reporting of the deaths** will help provide better mitigation strategies.

## **Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### **1. Persecuted in Pakistan, ignored in India**



### Issue:

Hundreds of Pakistani Hindus having faced **persecution on the ground of their religious identity** in Pakistan have migrated to India in search of security and citizenship. But **ambiguous rules and regulations have left them stateless for years.**

### Three waves of migration of Hindus to India:

- The president of the Seemant Lok Sangathan (an organisation working for the welfare of migrants) points out that there have been **three waves of migration of Hindus to India from Pakistan.**
  1. The first was during and **after Partition.**
  2. **During the 1971 war**, about 90,000 persons migrated to India.
  3. The third wave started as a result of a **backlash against Hindus during the Ram temple movement and after the demolition of the Babri Masjid.**
- Migrants still continue to come to India.
- Also, the **Taliban's capture of power in Afghanistan in 1996 led to a change in atmosphere in Pakistan**, with the **minority communities in the Balochistan and Sindh provinces increasingly being targeted.**

### Issues:

- Since 2014, **most Hindu migrants have been entering India**, into western Rajasthan and northern Gujarat, **on a pilgrim visa.**
  - They leave their family members in Pakistan in the hope that they can travel later when they find employment in India. However, they are disappointed when they are left to fend for themselves.
- The migrants are **mostly Dalits** from the Meghwal, Koli, Bhil, Jatav, Kumawat and Mali communities.
  - **They are considered underprivileged on both sides of the international border.**
- The number of **Pakistani Hindu migrants** staying in 21 settlements in the **Jodhpur district** is estimated to be about **30,000.**
- They **live in inhumane conditions with no access to electricity, water, toilets and sanitation.**
- Due to the **red-tapism in the citizenship camps** organised by the Home Ministry, migrants from Pakistan have been wandering from one camp to another, but in vain.
- **Many have even failed to get a long-term visa** which would enable them to find a private job or take up self-employment.
- While they have failed to find any gainful employment, the pandemic-related lockdowns have only made matters worse.
- Besides, they are ostracised in India for being Pakistanis.
- While some migrants have **got citizenship after completing the mandatory 11 years of stay for eligibility under the Citizenship Act of 1955**, they struggle daily to get food, water, healthcare and education.
- The **children of these migrants are the worst affected.** Schools reluctantly give them admission and **do not provide them emotional support and counselling.**

- A new issue that the migrants are now facing is **inaccessibility to vaccines**.

#### Citizenship – Bone of contention:

- In May 2021, the **Union Home Ministry issued a notification inviting non-Muslim migrants residing in 13 districts of five States to apply for Indian citizenship**.
- It also **empowered the Collectors of these districts to grant citizenship certificates**.
- However, the **notification is applicable to migrants belonging to the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan**.
- The Home Ministry has made it clear that the latest notification is not related to the contentious **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)** of 2019.
  - The CAA will reduce the requirement of 11 years of aggregate stay in India to five years for citizenship, which would help fast-track the applications of migrants.
- Civil rights groups have called for taking measures to smoothen and hasten the process for grant of citizenship to migrants **irrespective of their religious identity**.

#### Rules and regulations:

- The Pakistani Hindu migrants are caught in a **vicious circle of poverty and vulnerability**. They face an **unresponsive government and uncertain legislation**.
- These migrants cannot expect to get the status of refugees because **India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, nor its 1967 Protocol**.
- All foreign nationals, including asylum-seekers, are governed by the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946; the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939; the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920; and the Citizenship Act, 1955, as well as the rules and orders framed under these laws.
- The **Union government possesses the power to detain and deport foreigners and restrict their movements**.
- The Indian government **has no international obligation to enact legislation for refugees**.
- For accessing legal entitlements and services, Indian citizenship is the only viable option for migrants.
- Most of the **migrants are illiterate and unable to decipher the rules and regulations**, which makes them **vulnerable to deceit and exploitation by government officials**.
- After getting citizenship, obtaining documents such as ration cards and caste certificates is not an easy task. They find it difficult to avail the benefits of healthcare, education and employment schemes.

#### Way Forward – Improving the lives of migrants:

- **Pakistan High Commission should be persuaded to withdraw the increased fee** for renunciation of Pakistani citizenship (mandatory before getting their Indian citizenship).
- They should be **provided with easy facilities for the renewal of passports and identity cards**.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should be approached **for incorporating the minority migrants in its regular programmes for refugees**.



- The **gaps in livelihood development and rehabilitation status should be identified** at the State level.
- A **robust policy for rehabilitation needs to be introduced at the Central level** for migrant families.

## F. Prelims Facts

### 1. Tributes paid to freedom fighter Ram Prasad Bismil

#### What's in News?

Birth anniversary of Ram Prasad Bismil.

- Ram Prasad Bismil was a **revolutionary freedom fighter**.
- He was born at Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh on 11 June 1897.
- Bismil is most remembered for the **Kakori Conspiracy Case**. He was the mastermind behind the plan which was to loot a train carrying government money.

Read more: [Ram Prasad Bismil](#)

## G. Tidbits

*Nothing here for today!!!*

## H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. With reference to Ram Prasad Bismil, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He was associated with the Arya Samaj from an early age.
2. In the initial phase of his life, he believed independence can be achieved by means of non-violence.
3. He had participated in Mainpuri Conspiracy and Lahore Conspiracy.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Ram Prasad Bismil was associated with the Arya Samaj from an early age. This had a profound influence on him.
- He believed that revolution only can bring independence to India. He did not believe in non-violent means to achieve independence.

- He had participated in the Mainpuri Conspiracy in 1918. However, he was not a part of the Lahore Conspiracy.
- Bismil is perhaps most remembered for the Kakori Conspiracy Case. He was the mastermind behind the plan which was to loot a train carrying government money. The incident occurred on 9th August 1925 at Kakori, near Lucknow.

**Q2. Consider the following statements with respect to National Green Tribunal (NGT):**

1. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise solely for the purpose of adjudicating environmental cases in the country.
2. It not only helps in the speedy disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests but also provides compensation for damages to persons and property for matters connected to the environment.
3. NGT will be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise solely for the purpose of adjudicating environmental cases in the country.
- It not only helps in the speedy disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests but also provides compensation for damages to persons and property for matters connected to the environment.
- NGT is guided by the principles of Natural Justice. It is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure.

**Q3. EnVision recently seen in news is a/an**

- a. European Space Agency's mission to Venus
- b. Air Quality and Weather Forecast System
- c. High-Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer project
- d. Gene silencing technology

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- EnVision is European Space Agency's next Venus orbiter mission.
- It will be launched in 2030.
- Its aim is to provide a holistic view of the planet from its inner core to the upper atmosphere to determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently.

**Q4. Which of the following are sources of Atmospheric Aerosols?**

1. Automobiles
2. Power Plants
3. Cigarettes
4. Volcanic Eruptions
5. Desert Storms

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Aerosols are minute particles that are suspended in the atmosphere.
- An aerosol is a suspension of fine solid particles or liquid droplets in air or another gas.
- Aerosols can be natural or anthropogenic.
- 90% of aerosols present in the atmosphere are natural.
- Automobiles, power plants, cigarettes, volcanic eruptions, desert storms are all sources of aerosols.

**Q5. Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements: (UPSC-2011)**

1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

**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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Indus Valley Civilization was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
- During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

## I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. ISIS returnees could pose a problem to India. Examine India's policy in this regard. (250 words; 15 marks) [GS-3, Security]
2. Hundreds of Pakistani minorities who have migrated to India in search of security and citizenship are caught in a maze of rules and regulations that have left them stateless for years. Discuss. (250 words; 15 marks) [GS-2, International Relations]

