

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS ARTICLES

## THIRD WEEK OF AUGUST 2022

### GS 2 - International Relation

## DRUG TRAFFICKING

### Why in the News?

- The Taliban, cash-strapped and still looking to establish a semblance of order in the country

### 1. Background

- The Taliban, cash-strapped and still looking to establish a semblance of order in the country they captured in August 2021, could indeed be looking to generate revenue from the **illegal cash crop, as cases of smuggling and seizures of large consignments of drugs in India** have started increasing, indicating a turn towards this trend.
- **Major Hub of Illicit Drug Trade:** According to a report by the **United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, India is one of the **major victims** of illicit drug trade ranging from age-old cannabis to newer prescription drugs like tramadol, and designer drugs like methamphetamine.

### 2. India's Geopolitical Stand

- India is in the middle of two major illicit opium production regions in the world, the **Golden Crescent (Iran - Afghanistan - Pakistan)** in the west and the **Golden Triangle (South - East Asia)** in the east.
- For the past several decades, Afghan opiates have entered India through circuitous routes, sea as well as air, involving **Pakistan, Sri Lanka, African countries such as Mozambique and South Africa, and Qatar.**
- Carriers of drugs, individuals arrested in various airports in the country with small quantities, as well as the massive recoveries made in various States of western India, have only been the **proverbial tip of the iceberg.**
- The huge recoveries of **heroin in Gujarat alone** — 3,000 kilograms in September and 120 kilograms in October Bear testament to the fact that the fall of Kabul and its capture by the Taliban may have initiated free - for - all

Narcotic smuggling waves, which unless checked, have the potential of destabilising India's security.

- According to **United Nations** officials, the terror outfits over golden crescent likely earned **more than \$400 million between 2018 - 19** from the drug trade.
- **United States Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)** estimated that the Taliban derive up to **60% of their annual revenue** from illicit narcotics.
- A failed state in the neighbourhood combined with narco-terrorism cannot be ignored and will have **serious consequences for India's security in the days to come.**

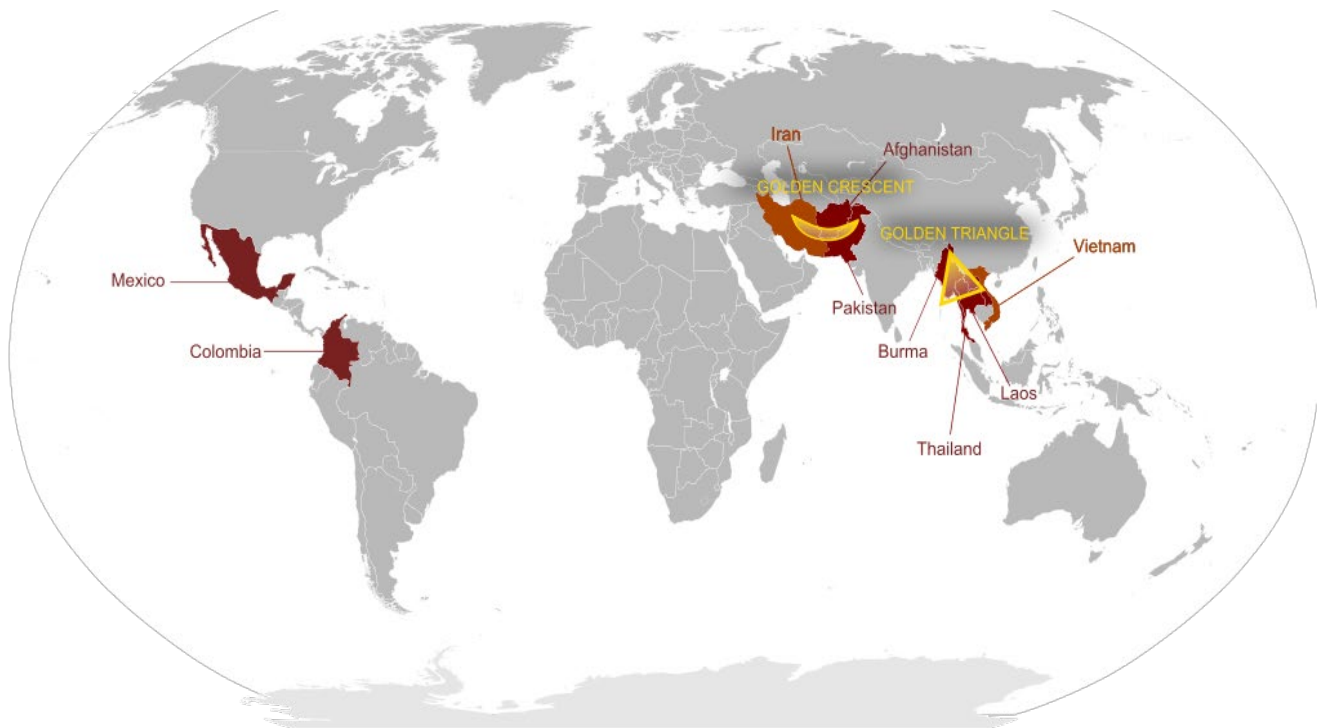
- It represents the region coinciding with the rural mountains of **Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand**
- It is Southeast Asia's main opium - producing region and one of the oldest narcotics supply routes to Europe and North America.

## 2.2 Golden Crescent

- This region of South Asia is a principal global site for opium production and distribution.
- It comprises **Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.**

## 3. Associated Challenges

- **Easy Borders:** The borders are porous and difficult to control in the lower Mekong region so cross - border -



## 2.1. Golden Triangle

Movements in many places are not significantly hindered by Covid - 19 measures.

- **Evolving Ways of Trafficking:** The methods of containerised trafficking, couriers and body-packing have reduced due to shutting down of borders and trade. However, dealers might come up with other ways limiting the impact of reduced trade.
- **Limited Control:** There is limited government control in the Golden Triangle, trafficking would continue at high volumes.
- **Unaffected Supply:** The supply of precursor chemicals is not likely to be disrupted because major organised crime groups source chemicals through direct diversion from industry and not diversion from illicit overseas trade channels.

### GS 3 - Environment

## MAN - ANIMAL CONFLICT

### Why in the News?

- A whopping 1,160 elephants were killed in the country for reasons other than natural causes in the 10 years up to 2020, according to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

### 1. Background

- Human - wildlife conflict is when encounters

Between humans and wildlife lead to **negative results, such as loss of property, livelihoods, and even life.**

- **Defensive and retaliatory killing** may eventually drive these species to extinction.
- These encounters not only result in suffering for both people and wildlife immediately impacted by the conflict; they can also have a global reach, with groups such as **sustainable development agencies and businesses feeling its residual effects.**
- The scope of the issue is significant and **truly global**, but we are nowhere near being able to address it at the scale needed.

### 3. Rise in Man Animal Conflict

#### 3.1 Delay in justice

- As human populations and demand for space continue to grow, people and wildlife are increasingly interacting and competing for resources, which **can lead to increased human - wildlife conflict.**
- Along with other threats, human - wildlife conflict has driven the decline of once abundant species and is pushing others to the **brink of extinction.**
- **Decreased prey base** caused by poaching of herbivores has resulted in carnivores moving out of forest in search of prey
- But the **human - wildlife conflict issue has far - reaching impacts beyond the wildlife and communities immediately affected by it.**
- Habitat disturbance in the wild due to **human intervention.**

- Habitat destruction through development projects, deforestation overgrazing by livestock and **expansion of human settlements and agriculture.**
- If **not effectively managed**, human-wildlife conflict has the potential to negatively affect these activities and conservation much more broadly

### 3. Consequences of Human - Animal Conflict

- Loss of life, injury to humans and/or animals
- Crop damage
- Loss of livestock
- Damage to human property
- Disruption to daily life

### 4. Steps taken to reduce Human - Wildlife Conflict

- **Rubble Wall** demarcation of the protected area
- Solar and minor voltage electric fences across the habitats.
- **Hanging fences**
- Elephant proof trenches
- Involvement of the local community or the stakeholder is most important for effectiveness of barriers
- **Beehive and Chilli fences**
- Forest Departments are adopting **bio fences** as a biological elephant barricade which is made of thorny plant varieties.

- **Radio collaring** of elephants is used for tracking of movement patterns of tagged elephant and is often the best method used in wide ranging species like elephants
- Alignment of elephant corridor
- Community guarding is a quite successful aspect in Odisha

## GS 2 - Indian Polity

## SESSIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT

### Why in the News?

Monsoon session of the parliament lacks productive discussions .

### 1. Background

- The Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary form of government, both at the Centre and in the states.
- **Articles 74 and 75** deal with the parliamentary system at the Centre and Articles 163 and 164 in the states.
- Modern democratic governments are classified into **parliamentary and presidential** on the basis of the nature of relations between the executive and the legislative organs of the government.
- The parliamentary system of government is the one in which the executive is responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts.
- In the presidential system of government, the executive is not responsible to the legislature, and is constitutionally independent.

## 2. Sessions of the Parliament

### 2.1 SUMMONING

- The president from time to time summons each House of Parliament to meet.
- Parliament should meet at least twice a year.
- **There are usually three sessions in a year**
  - The Budget Session (February to May).
  - The Monsoon Session (July to September)
  - The Winter Session (November to December).
- A 'session' of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation (or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha).
- During a session, the House meets every day to transact business.
- The period spanning between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called 'recesses'.

### 2.2 ADJOURNMENT

- A session of Parliament consists of many meetings. Each meeting of a day consists of two sittings.
- A sitting of Parliament can be terminated by adjournment or adjournment sine die or prorogation or dissolution (in the case of the Lok Sabha).
- An adjournment suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks.

### 2.3 ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

- Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period.

### 2.4 PROROGATION

- The presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) declares the House adjourned sine die, when the business of a session is completed.
- Within the next few days, the President issues a notification for prorogation of the session.
- However, the President can also prorogue the House while in session.
- As adjournment terminates sitting of the house whereas prorogation not only terminates a sitting but also a session of the House.

### 2.5 DISSOLUTION

- Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution.
- Only the Lok Sabha is subject to dissolution.
- Unlike a prorogation, a dissolution ends the very life of the existing House, and a new House is constituted after general elections are held.

### 2.6 QUORUM

- Quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present in the House before it can transact any business.
- It is one-tenth of the total number of members in each House including the presiding officer.

## GS 1- Society

# SEXUAL HARRASMENT AT WORKPLACE

### Why in the News?

Rise in Red Tapism associated with cases of Sexual harassment at workplace has become the major cause of concern .

### 1. Background

- The elimination of gender-based discrimination has been one of the fundamentals of the **Constitutional edifice** of India
- The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Constitution, in its **Preamble, fundamental rights, fundamental duties and Directive Principles.**
- However, workplace sexual harassment in India, was for the very first time recognized by the Supreme Court of India ("**Supreme Court**") in its landmark judgment of **Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan("Vishaka Judgment")**, wherein the Supreme Court framed certain guidelines and issued directions to the Union of India to enact an appropriate law for combating workplace sexual harassment.
- Nothing less of an irony, the **POSH Act and the POSH Rules were enacted 16 years after the Vishaka Judgement.**
- In the absence of a specific law in India, the Supreme Court, in the Vishaka Judgement, laid down certain

guidelines making it mandatory for every employer to provide a mechanism to redress grievances pertaining to workplace sexual harassment ("**Vishaka Guidelines**") which were being followed by **employers until the enactment of the POSH Act.**

### 1.1. The Background of Vishaka Guidelines

- In 1992, Bhanwari Devi, a dalit woman employed with the rural development programme of the Government of Rajasthan, was brutally gang raped on account of her efforts to curb the then prevalent practice of **Mass child marriage.**
- This incident revealed the hazards that working women were exposed to on a day to day basis and **highlighted the urgency for safeguards to be implemented in this regard.**
- Championing the cause of working women in the country, women's rights activists and lawyers filed a **public interest litigation in the Supreme Court under the banner of Vishaka.**

### 2. The cutting edge provisions under Sexual Harassment at workplace Act

- The Act defines sexual harassment at the workplace.
- The Act creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints. It also **provides safeguards against false or malicious charges.**

- The person who can file a complaint has to be a woman, the POSH Act is **not gender neutral**.
- Any workplace with over **10 employees should have an Internal Committee** (formerly known as the Internal Complaints Committee), which will deal with sexual harassment complaint.
- These Internal Complaints Committees have the **powers of civil courts** for gathering evidence.
- Repetition of violations can lead to higher penalties and cancellation of licence or registration to conduct business.
- When a complaint is filed, the Internal Committee (IC) will conduct an inquiry and **forward their recommendations to the employer with respect to their finding of guilt or innocence, and the consequences of the same.**

### 3. The stand of Supreme Court

- The Court said that such incidents ( Vishakha Case) of sexual harassment lead to a violation of the elemental rights envisioned in '**Gender Equality**' and the '**Right of Life and Liberty**'.
- It is a complete violation of the rights given under Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution.
- Thus, the Court issued a writ of mandamus and gave the following directions for prevention from such acts:

- It will be the duty of the employer and other responsible people in workplaces or other such institutions to stop harassment and to devise the resolution and settlement mechanism for the same.
- The court defined what constitutes harassment. For this purpose, it guided that sexual harassment includes any unwelcome sexually determined behaviour (whether direct or implicated).

### 3. Associated committees and other recommendations

- Justice J.S. Verma Committee had recommended setting up of an employment tribunal instead of an internal complaints committee (ICC) in the **Sexual Harassment at the Workplace Act**.

### 4. Criticism of the Act

- The act is not gender neutral and **doesn't cover LGBTQ+ Communities**
- **Noncompliance** of companies in formation of internal complaints committee
- The Act doesn't cover women working in the **agricultural workers and armed forces**.

### *GS 3 - Internal Security*

## **INTERNET SHUTDOWN**

### **Why in the News?**

- Assam CM calls for internet Shutdown to curb Malpractices during State Examination

## 1. Background

- India saw more instances of Internet shutdown than the year preceding it.
- India's Internet restrictions also accounted for **more than 70% of the total loss to the global economy in 2020**, and India remains infamous as the Internet shutdown capital of the world.
- It was justified by the State Government of Nagaland and that **the restrictions were based on the state's volatile history**, threat of an uprising, law and order, national security and possible misuse of the internet for propagation of terror activities and incitement of the general public.
- However, the people have argued that such **blanket restrictions violate the fundamental right and are unconstitutional**.
- Also, restrictions of such a wide scale for a period spanning over three months can be invoked only by declaring an **emergency under Article 352 of the Constitution**.
- Such restrictions cannot be imposed through **Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure**.

- A declaration of emergency under **Article 352** can curb the internet facilities which will be subjected to periodic review of the Parliament, and that way possibilities of abuse could be checked.

## 2. Court Observation

- Anuradha Basin vs. Union of India, where the top court also ruled that any restriction on Internet access by the Government must **be temporary, limited in scope, lawful, necessary and proportionate**.
- On Internet shutdown the Supreme Court opined that Freedom of speech and expression through the medium of internet is a fundamental right under **Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution**.
- Freedom of trade and commerce through the internet is also a constitutionally protected right under **Article 19(1) (g)**.
- Suspension of internet for indefinite period not permissible.
- It can only be for a reasonable duration and **periodic review should be done**.
- Kerala high court's judgment in **Faheema Shirin v/s State of Kerala**, where the right to internet access was recognised as a fundamental right forming a part of the right to privacy and the right to education under **Article 21 of the constitution**.

- Considering these issues, it is not surprising that the **Supreme Court**, in Anuradha Bhasin, permitted the Government to restrict Internet access only in limited circumstances.
- The **Kerala High Court in a monumental decision** has held 'Right to Internet Access' as a fundamental right.
- The Court declared that the right to have access to the Internet becomes part of the right to education as well as right to privacy under **Article 21 of the Constitution of India**.

### 3. The state of Internet Shutdown

- India tops the list of Internet shutdowns globally.
- According to Software Freedom Law Centre's tracker, there have been **381 shutdowns since 2012, 106 of which were in 2019**.
- The shutdown in Kashmir after **Article 370** was the **longest** ever in any democratic country.
- Legislative provisions on suspension of Internet services are dealt with under the **Information Technology Act, 2000, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973 and the Telegraph Act, 1885**
- India lost over **\$1.3 billion in internet shutdowns** across the country in 2019 — making it the **third - most economically affected country after Iraq and Sudan**.
- The shutdown is based on analysis of intelligence inputs.

- This is a preventive measure used by the **law & order** administration as a last resort to address mass protests, civil unrest, so as to ensure peace.
- In certain extreme situations where rumours through social media start playing a disruptive role, it may become necessary to have internet shutdowns.

### 4. International protocols on internet shutdown

- In 2016, the **United Nations Human Rights Council** released a **non - binding** resolution condemning intentional disruption of internet access by governments.
- The UN resolution on internet shutdown reaffirmed that **"the same rights people have offline must also be protected online"**.

### 5. Challenges Associated

- In 2020, the Indian economy suffered losses to the tune of \$2.8 billion due to 129 separate instances of Internet suspension, which **affected 10.3 million individuals**.
- The Internet is a source of information, entertainment, health care, education, livelihood and a platform for the members of Indian society to interact with each other and The world at large.
- Internet activists, law experts, and human rights agencies suggest that there is **no real evidence of Internet shutdown actually helping in preventing mass protests or civil unrest**. Crashing d eveloping and

### Emerging economies.

- The most vulnerable individuals are being hit the hardest.
- Many of the young saw their careers permanently damaged by the internet shutdown.
- Internet shutdowns make human rights a hostage to the whims of the executive: The fundamental rights to speech, conduct business, access healthcare, express dissent, and movement of the people in a state, are compromised.
- Shutting the internet results in an information blackout that can also create hysteria, panic and can result in even more discord and mob violence.
- Internet shutdown is also causing digital divide and disparity in education especially in the instances of COVID 19 pandemic

### GS 3 - Internal Security

## ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT

### Why in the News?

- AFSPA to be re moved after thorough investigation - Ministry Home Affairs

### 1. Background

- Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 had its roots in the Lord Linlithgow Ordinance 1942 which was enacted to curtail the Quit India movement and Nagaland was one of the first for mer states to demand the withdrawal of itself from India.

- After independence violence became the major security concern in North - Eastern States of India.
- State administration became incapable of maintaining its internal disturbance.
- Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Ordinance was promulgated by The Hon. President of India in 1958.
- In which some special powers have been given to the members of the armed forces in disturbed areas.
- Later the Ordinance was replaced by the Armed Forces Special Powers Bill.

### 2. About

- The Act which came into force in the context of insurgency in the Northeastern States decades ago provides "special power" to the Armed Forces and applies to the Army, the Air Force and the Central Paramilitary forces, etc.
- Gives a rmed forces the power to maintain public order in "disturbed areas."
- AFSPA gives armed forces the authority to use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- The Act further provides that if "rea sonable suspicion exists", the armed forces can also arrest a person without warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.

- Section 6 mandates that "no prosecution, suit or any other legal proceeding can be instituted, except with the previous sanction of the Central Government, against anything done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by the Act."

### 3. Supreme court stance on AFSPA

- In Extra Judicial Execution Victim Families Association v Union of India, the court noted that if any death was unjustified, there is no blanket immunity available to the perpetrator(s) of the offence.
- The Court further noted- "If an offence is committed even by Army personnel, there is no concept of absolute immunity from trial by the criminal court constituted under the Cr.P.C."
- In 1998 Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v Union of India, the Supreme Court by way of a unanimous decision upheld the constitutionality of AFSPA by holding that the Act does not confer arbitrary powers to declare an area as a 'disturbed area'.
- The Court viewed the law primarily through the lens of legislative competence and held that the Parliament had power to enact the law.

### 4. Recommendations to repeal AFSPA

- The Committee to Review the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 recommended that AFSPA be repealed and replaced by Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 instead.
- The Administrative Reforms Commission in its 5th Report on 'Public Order' had also recommended that AFSPA be repealed.
- Despite demands by civil society groups and human rights activities, none of the recommendations have not been implemented till date.

### 5. View of United Nations

- When India presented its second periodic report to the United Nations Human Rights Committee in 1991, members of the UNHRC asked numerous questions about the validity of the AFSPA.
- UNHRC questioned the constitutionality of the AFSPA under Indian Constitution and asked how it could be justified in light of Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ICCPR.
- In 2009, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights asked India to repeal the AFSPA.
- The UN Commissioner for Human Rights termed the law as "dated and colonial-era law that breach contemporary international human rights standards."
- The UN asked India to revoke AFSPA saying it had no place in Indian democracy.

- Many opined that “Killing an 'enemy' is not the only available solution and that is what the Geneva Conventions and the principles of international humanitarian law tell us.”

## 6. Constitutional Rights which are derived under AFSPA

- When the AFSPA was in force, the people were deprived of their following Fundamental Rights.
  - Article 21 which say that no person must be underprivileged of his rights of life and personal free will except the directions created by law.
  - Article 22 which states the steps necessary to be followed which was passed by the legislature.

## 7. Need of AFSPA

- It's absolutely necessary to combat insurgencies in the area of turbulence.
- It upholds territorial integrity and the unity of the Nation.
- In a virulent insurgency, security forces cannot operate without the cover of the AFSPA.
- Without it, there would be hesitation which would work to the advantage of insurgents.

## NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTING

### Why in the News?

- Number of National Health Accounts needs close Scrutiny and there is a dire need of improvement in health care facilities.

## 1. Background

- National Health Accounts is a tool to describe health expenditures and the flow of funds in both Government and private sector in the country.
- These estimates are derived within the framework of National Health Accounts Guidelines for India, 2016 and adhere to System of Health Accounts 2011, a global standard framework for producing health accounts provided by WHO.
- It answers important policy questions such as what are the sources of healthcare expenditures, who manages these, who provides health care services, and which services are utilised

## 2. Key Highlights of the National Health Accounts

### 2.1 Total Health Expenditure (THE) as a percent of GDP

- For 2017-18, there had been an increase in the share of Government health expenditure in the total GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of the country.
  - It has increased from 1.15% in 2013-14 to 1.35% in 2017-18
- ### 2.2 Total Health Expenditure (THE) as Per-Capita:

- In per capita terms, the Government health expenditure has increased from Rs 1,042 to Rs 1,753 between 2013-14 to 2017-18.
- Primary and secondary care accounts for more than 80% of the current Government health expenditure.

### **2.3 Social Security Expenditure on Health:**

- Also the share of social security expenditure on health, which includes the social health insurance programme, Government financed health insurance schemes, and medical reimbursements made to Government employees, has increased.
- Especially the government schemes such as Ayushman Bharath.

### **2.4 AYUSH as % of the percentage of healthcare expenditure**

- AYUSH stands for Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy. .
- It includes all the expenditure on non-allopathic care that comprises a range of long-standing and still evolving practices based on diverse beliefs and theories.

### **2.4 Out of Pocket Expenditures (OOPE) as a percent of the healthcare expenditure.**

- The rise in government spending on healthcare via schemes such as Jan Aushadhi led to an increase in the share of government expenditure in the total health expenditure to 40.8% and a decline in out-of-pocket expenditure to 48.8% for 2017-18.
- 3. Challenges associated
- India spends less percentage of GDP on health, less than Nepal, Sri Lanka.
- According to WHO 70 percent of the overall household expenditure on health in the country is on medicines.
- WHO estimated 469 million people in India do not have regular access to essential medicines.
- Various studies (such as the first post) have shown the rising out-of-pocket expenditures on healthcare is pushing around 32-39 million Indians below the poverty line annually.
- According to the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) 55 million Indians were pushed into poverty in a single year due to unaffordable healthcare.

### **4. Government initiatives towards healthcare**

- Under the National Health Mission, the government has launched several schemes like:

- **Reproductive, Maternal, New born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)** programme essentially looks to address the major causes of mortality among women and children as well as the delays in accessing and utilizing health care and services.
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) is an important initiative aiming at early identification and early intervention for children from birth to 18 years to cover 4 'D's viz. Defects at birth, Deficiencies, Diseases, Development delays including disability.
- The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram which enables all adolescents in India to realize their full potential by making informed and responsible decisions related to their health and well-being and by accessing the services and support they need to do so.
- The government of India has launched Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram to motivate those who still choose to deliver at their homes to opt for institutional deliveries.
- The National AIDS Control Organisation was set up so that every person living with HIV has access to quality care and is treated with dignity.
- Revised National TB Control Programme is a state-run tuberculosis control initiative of Government of India with a vision of achieving a TB free India.
- National Leprosy Eradication Programme was initiated by the government for early detection through active surveillance by the trained health workers and to provide appropriate medical rehabilitation and leprosy ulcer care services.
- The Government of India has launched Mission Indradhanush with the aim of improving coverage of immunisation in the country.
- National Mental Health Program to ensure the availability and accessibility of minimum mental healthcare for all in the foreseeable future.
- Pulse Polio is an immunisation campaign established by the government of India to eliminate polio in India by vaccinating all children under the age of five years against the polio virus.
- The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was announced with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country by setting up of various institutions like AIIMS and upgrading government medical College institutions.

- Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi which provides financial assistance to the patients that are below poverty line and are suffering from life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any government run super specialty hospital/ institution.
- The National Tobacco Control Programme was launched with the objective to bring about greater awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and about the Tobacco Control Laws and to facilitate the effective implementation of the Tobacco Control Laws.
- Integrated Child Development Service was launched to improve the nutrition and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years, lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child, effective coordination and implementation of policy among the various departments and to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutrition needs through proper nutrition and health education.
- Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana is a government-run health insurance programme for the Indian poor.
- Ayushman Bharat for better coverage of primary healthcare services and insurance coverage of 5 lakh per family per year.

## MAINS QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. *Critically analyse the Validity of AFSPA in the context of internal security.?(10M)*
2. *Indian healthcare has emerged as successful player in dealing with pandemics.Highlight the government initiatives in this regard? (10M)*
3. *In Spite of various legislations, a safe work environment for women is a distant dream. Discuss (15M)?*

## PRELIMS CORNER

### SHe BOX

#### 1. About

- The Government of India (GoI) has enacted the Protection of Women from **Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (the SH Act)**, 2013 with the objective to create a safe and secure workplace for women free from sexual harassment.
- This Act caters to women working both in organised and unorganised sector and establishes a redressal mechanism for the disposal of their complaints.
- This Act is unique in its broad coverage which includes all women irrespective of their work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, public or private sectors, regardless of hierarchy.

- The domestic workers are also included within its ambit.
- It defines “sexual harassment at the workplace” in a comprehensive manner, to cover circumstances of implied or explicit promise or threat to a woman’s employment prospects or creation of hostile work environment or humiliating treatment, which can affect her health or safety.
- This Sexual Harassment electronic Box (SHe-Box) is an effort of GoI to provide a single window access to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector, to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment.
- Any woman facing sexual harassment at workplace can register their complaint through this portal.
- Once a complaint is submitted to the ‘SHe-Box’, it will be directly sent to the concerned authority having jurisdiction to take action into the matter.

## GREEN ENERGY COLLABORATION

### 1. About

- India and UK engaged in a scientific discussion of green energy collaboration involving the Ministers of Science and Technology from both countries.

- To increase cooperation between India and the UK in the areas of clean and green energies
- Promote the use of advanced batteries
- Use of carbon capture method to reduce air pollution and infusing better technology in this area
- Production of hydrogen-related fuels
- Encourage the affordability of biomaterials, improvement of livestock research

## RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION

### 1. About

- To develop and conserve the indigenous breeds.
- To initiate a breed improvement programme for improving the genetic makeup.
- To improve and increase milk production and productivity.
- Use of elite indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi for upgrading nondescript cattle.
- To distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service

## PAIKA UPRISING

### 1. About

- The Paikas were the traditional militia of Odisha.
- They served as warriors and were charged with policing functions during peacetime.

- The Paikas were organised into three ranks distinguished by their occupation and the weapons they wielded, who also performed different duties in Odisha armies.
- With the conquest of Odisha by the East India Company in 1803 and the dethronement of the Raja(king) of Khurda, the power and prestige of the Paikas began to decline.
- The origins of the Paika Rebellion lay in several social, economic and political causes.
- It was an armed rebellion against Company rule in India in 1817.
- The Paikas rose in rebellion under their leader Bakshi Jagabandhu and, projecting Lord Jagannath as the symbol of Odia unity, the rebellion quickly spread across most of Odisha before being put down by the Company's forces.
- It is now declared to be the first Indian armed movement to gain independence, replacing the prevailing view of the first one being the Indian Rebellion of 1857
- It was the first such popular anti-British armed uprising in Odisha, which had far reaching effect on the future of British administration in that part of the country.
- To merely call it a 'Paik Rebellion' will thus be an understatement.

## DEFAULT BAIL

### 1.About

- As per law, once the maximum period, that is, 60, 90 and 180 days from arrest, provided for an investigation in a case is over and no charge sheet is filed, the accused becomes entitled to be released on bail, which is called the 'default' bail.
- The right to default bail, Justice RF Nariman led bench said, is a fundamental right granted to an accused person to be released on bail once the conditions of the first provision to Section 167(2) are fulfilled.
- An accused has an indefeasible right to 'default bail' under proviso to section 167(2) Cr.P.C. if the charge sheet isn't filed within the stipulated time.

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### 1. About

- The Corporate Social Responsibility concept in India is governed by Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules made thereunder wherein the criteria has been provided for assessing the CSR eligibility of a company, Implementation and Reporting of their CSR Policies.

- Corporate Social Responsibility is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders.
- CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives (“Triple-Bottom-Line Approach”), while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders.
- In this sense it is important to draw a distinction between CSR, which can be a strategic business management concept, and charity, sponsorships or philanthropy.
- Even though the latter can also make a valuable contribution to poverty reduction, will directly enhance the reputation of a company and strengthen its brand, the concept of CSR clearly goes beyond that.

## 2. Applicability for companies with

- Net worth of Rs 500 Crore or more
- Turnover of Rs 1000 Crore or more
- Net profit of Rs 5 Crore or more.

# NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY

## 1. About

- The NIA was established in the backdrop of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, popularly known as the 26/11 incident.
- Several experts and Committees, including the Administrative Reforms commission in its Report, had made recommendations for establishing such an Agency.

## 2. Vision of NIA

- The National Investigation Agency aims to be a thoroughly professional Investigative agency Matching The best international standards.
- The NIA aims to set the standards of excellence in counter terrorism and other national security related investigations at the national level by developing into a highly trained, partnership oriented workforce.
- NIA aims at creating deterrence for existing and potential terrorist groups/individuals. It aims to develop as a storehouse of all terrorist related information

## 3. Functions of NIA

- To investigate and prosecute offences in respect of the Acts specified in the Schedule of the NIA Act.
- To provide assistance to, and seek assistance from, other intelligence and investigation agencies of the central government and state governments.

- To take other such measures which may be necessary for speedy and effective implementation of the provisions of the NIA Act?

#### 4. Jurisdiction of NIA

- The NIA has concurrent jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute the offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of state, friendly relations with foreign states and offences under various Acts enacted to implement International treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the UNO, its agencies and other international organisations.
- The NIA is empowered to probe terror attacks including bomb blasts, hijacking of aircrafts and ships, attacks on nuclear installations and use of weapons of mass destruction.
- In 2019, the jurisdiction of the NIA was extended via The **National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019**.
- Consequently, the NIA is also empowered to probe the offences relating to human trafficking, counterfeit currency or bank notes, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and explosive substances.

- Till 1965, India's borders with Pakistan were guarded by the State Armed Police Battalion.
- On 09 April 1965, Pakistan attacked Sardar Post, Char Bet and Baria Bet in Kutch.
- The attack revealed that the State Armed Police Battalion was insufficient to counter armed aggression, due to which the Government of India felt the need for a special Border Security Force under the Center which would be an armed and trained force and also the International Border along the Pakistan border.
- The Border Security Force continued to expand to prevent terrorism in the North East. At present, BSF guards the International Border of India-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh.
- Apart from this, the Border Security Force is deployed in infiltration in the Kashmir Valley, internal security in the Northeast region, anti-Naxal operations in Orissa and Chhattisgarh and integrated check posts on the **India - Pakistan** and **India - Bangladesh** international borders.

## 2. Role of BSF

### 2.1 In Peace Time

- To promote a sense of security among the people living in the border areas.

## BORDER SECURITY FORCE

### 1. About

- During the Kargil War in the year 1999, the Border Security Force was deployed in the security of the country in harmony with the Army on the mountain tops. Prevention of cross-border crimes and prohibiting unauthorised entry and exit into Indian Territory.
- Prevention of smuggling and other illegal activities.

### 2.1 During War Time

- Maintaining frontline in low-risk sectors until a sharp attack is launched in a particular sector, and it is felt that the Border Security Force is capable of dealing with the situation there. Protecting important institutions especially airports from enemy commandos/umbrellas or air attacks.
- Limited offensive action against enemy paramilitary forces or irregular troops within the overall plan of the armed forces.
- Execute special functions relating to intelligence including raids.
- Acting as a guide in an area of responsibility where the way is known.
- To maintain law and order in enemy territory under the control of the army.
- To protect the cages of prisoners of war.
- Assistance in the control of refugees.
- Anti-infiltration duty in specified area.

## MAKE IN NORTHEAST INITIATIVE

- The 'Make in Northeast' approach will not only generate revenue and livelihood opportunities in the region, but it can also reinforce the Government of India's "Act East" policy.
- Under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), a dedicated Northeast Desk has been set up within Invest India, which supports the North East States in their outreach activities to the investors as well as in facilitating and handholding select companies.
- The desk is working closely with One District One Product (ODOP), Startup and other sector desks of Invest India for their initiatives in the region.
- The Invest Northeast Portal, presenting investment opportunities in the region across sectors and States to Both domestic and foreign investors, has also been developed.

## SWACHH BHARATH 2.0

- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 aims to make cities waste-free

- SBM-U 2.0 aims to eliminate garbage from all cities except those covered by AMRUT, to make all urban local bodies ODF+ and those with a population of less than 1 lakh ODF++, and to achieve the vision of safe sanitation in urban areas.
- The Mission will concentrate on solid waste source segregation, leveraging the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), scientific processing of all Types of municipal solid waste, and remediation of legacy dumpsites for successful solid waste management.
- The cost of SBM-U 2.0 is estimated to be around 1.41 lakh crore.
- The Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 guidelines have an important dimension focused on solid waste management.

## NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

- The objective of the project is to improve the socio-economic condition of the rural populace, to generate sustainable Employment opportunities Among the village communities and unemployed youths through fishery-related activities.
- The basic aim is to promote modern scientific technologies for effective management and optimum utilisation.

## BIOFUEL

- Biofuels are transportation fuels such as ethanol and biomass-based diesel fuel that are made from biomass materials.
- These fuels are usually blended with petroleum fuels (gasoline and distillate/diesel fuel and heating oil), but they can also be used on their own.
- Using ethanol or biodiesel reduces the consumption of gasoline and diesel fuel made from crude oil, which can reduce the amount of crude oil imported from other countries.
- Ethanol and biodiesel are also cleaner-burning fuels than pure gasoline and diesel fuel.
- Ethanol is an alcohol fuel made from the sugars found in grains such as corn, sorghum, sugarcane, barley etc.

## PRELIMS QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**1. Clofazimine, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following diseases?**

- (a) Diabetes
- (b) Malaria
- (c) Dementia
- (d) Leprosy

**2. With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which statement is not correct?**

- (a) Its mandate is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage Employment in a financial year to Every rural household who Volunte ers.
- (b) The scheme works on Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions
- (c) One of the goals of MGNREGS is To rejuvenate the natural resource Base of rural areas.
- (d) States have the freedom to either Implement the scheme o r give 100 day employment through any Other scheme.

**3. Recently seen in news “ #KeepItOn campaign”, consider the following statements:**

1. This campaign is launched by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
2. It is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system.

**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

**4. Which organisation releases the "Financial Stability Report"?**

- (a) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (b) World Bank
- (c) United Nations
- (d) Reserve Bank of India

**5. Who releases the World Drug Report?**

- (a) World Health Organisation
- (b) UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- (c) Council for International Organisations of Medical Sciences
- (d) International Narcotics Control Board

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANSWER KEY

| QUESTION | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| ANSWER   | D | D | D | D | B |



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# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS ARTICLES

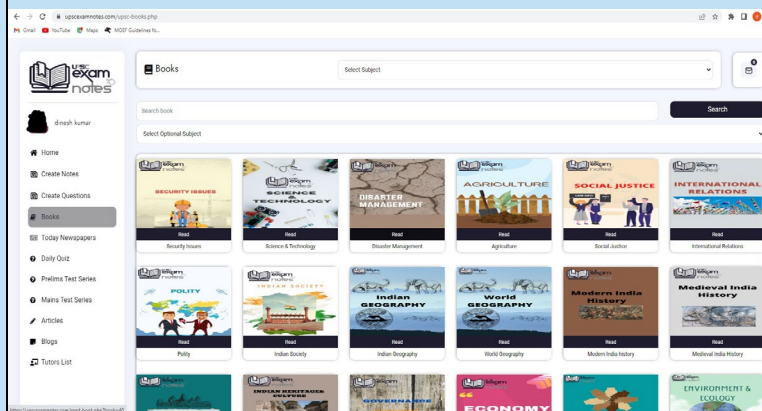
## THIRD WEEK OF AUGUST 2022

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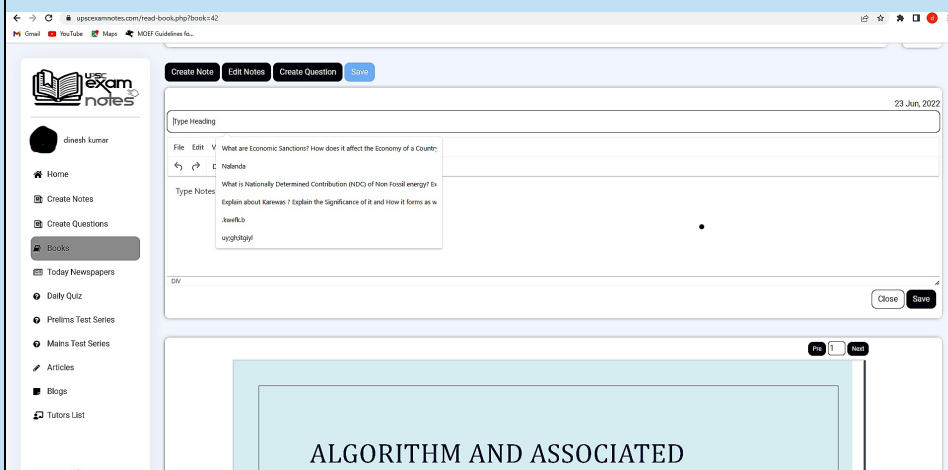
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Integrated Mains & Prelims Mentorship (IMPM)  
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## Create Notes

- While Reading a Book, Aspirant can create their snippets or complete notes on any particular topic and can be saved, it will be saved in their profiles and can be edited and downloadable
- Aspirants can create notes on the Newspapers provided by upscexamnotes on daily basis, if an aspirant prepares notes for one month from a newspaper it will be their current affairs magazine. It can be saved and downloadable from their profiles
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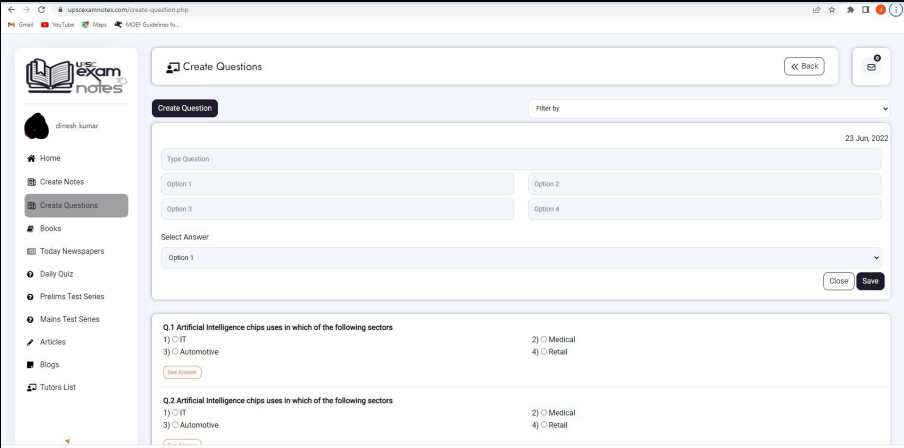
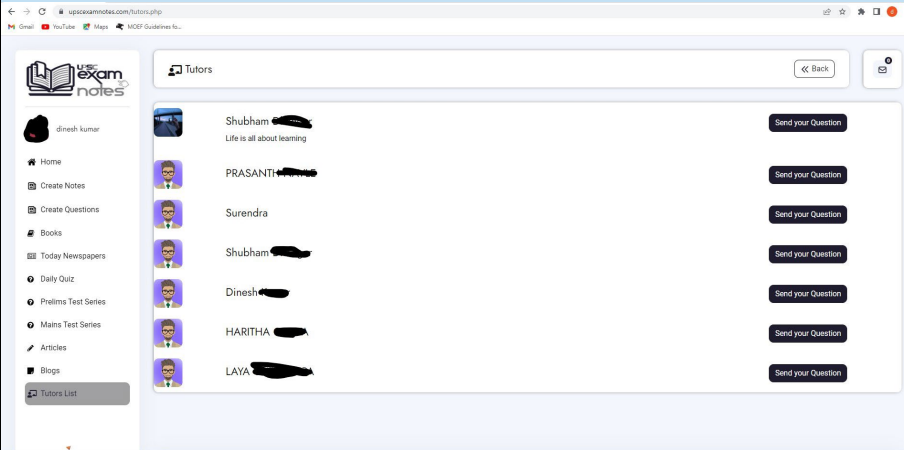


## Create Questions

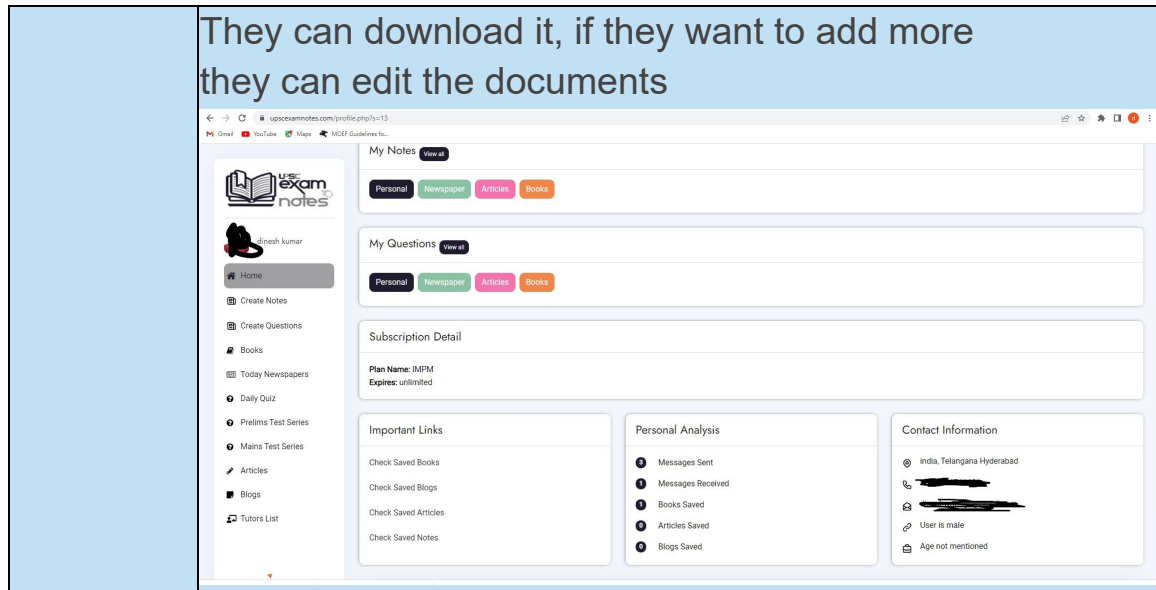
Aspirants can create Questions on any particular topic while they reading.

It gives a different view for the aspirants to think from an examiner's point of view

It gives an edge to answering the question in the exam

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Test Series | <p>upsceexamnotes will conduct Prelims&amp; Mains exam every Sunday (52Exams) for a year starting from August 2022</p> <p>The test series will be on the timetable displayed on the website for that particular month</p>                                                     |
| Tutor       | <p>Aspirants can ask doubts to tutors (Subject experts) from their profiles through chat</p> <p>Subject experts will reply in the meantime ASAP</p>                                       |
| Profile     | <p>Aspirants who subscribed to the <a href="#">Integrated Mains &amp; Prelims Mentorship (IMPM)</a> plan or <a href="#">Optional Subject Mentorship (OSM)</a> plan will have their own profiles</p> <p>In profiles, they will have their created notes, Created Questions</p> |

They can download it, if they want to add more they can edit the documents



## Our Paid Plans:

1. We are offering a plan called [Integrated Mains & Prelims Mentorship \(IMPM\)](#) which is only 1000 rupees per year starting from August 1st 2022
2. We also offer a plan called [Optional Subject Mentorship \(OSM\)](#) and it will start in October 2022

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