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<td>‘Two-thirds of Indians have antibodies’</td>
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<td>Pegasus is India’s Watergate moment (Editorial)</td>
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<td>Spy in hand (Editorial)</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

* C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Q. In the context of which one of the following are the terms pyrolysis and plasma gasification mentioned?

a) Extraction of earth element
b) Natural gas extractions technologies
c) Hydrogen fuel based automobiles
d) Waste to energy technologies
Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance—Consitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I : Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

UCC

- The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) calls for the formulation of one law for India, which would be applicable to all religious communities in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption.
- India — a variety of cultures.
- Different code of laws govern different cultures.
- Art. 44 of DPSP sanctions DPSP.
• UCC - can be detrimental to cultural harmony.
• U.S.-based Pew Research Center survey – Finding on religious tolerance in India.
  ✓ Indians of all faiths support both religious tolerance and religious segregation.
  ✓ Almost all - Respecting all religions is very important to them.
  ✓ Considerable number of them also said they preferred to have religious groups segregated and live and marry within their own community.
• BBC Asia – India’s cultural set up to a “thali”.

*Thali* - Indian meal comprising separate dishes on a platter where they are combined in specific ways.
*India is committed to religious diversity, it is “exclusionary and segmented in toleration”.*
• Ashish Nandy (Sociologist) views.
• Asian cosmopolitanism
  ✓ Developed in regions which have to accommodate “radical diversities” – developed where it might be dangerous if different cultures are brought together.
  ✓ Developed as a mechanism of coping – differences are adjusted without pressuring members of one community to be like the other.
  ✓ “Unheroic form of tolerance” – allows interaction without forcing one to adopt the other community’s practices.

• Existing model of culture in India – stable balance.
• Trying to force one culture to follow a alien culture practice based on “universal brotherhood” can prove disastrous in a country like ours.

Practice Question – Mains
GS – II
Q. India’s cultural models have stayed in harmony for centuries. In that context UCC can do more harm than good. Discuss
(150 Words, 10 Marks)
**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

**Paper I - (200 marks)**

- Current events of national and international importance.
- General Science.

**Part B—Main Examination**

**PAPER-IV**


- Science and Technology - developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

## Antibodies

- A protein produced by the body's immune system when it detects harmful substances - antigens.
- Examples of antigens: microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses) and chemicals.
- Each antibody can bind to only one specific antigen - antibodies are disease-specific.

### Table: COVID-19 Prevalence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0-9</td>
<td>32.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-17</td>
<td>61.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-60</td>
<td>73.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;60</td>
<td>79.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

67.6% of the general population had SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in June and July 2021.

- **Gender**
  - Male: 65.8%
  - Female: 69.2%

- **Region**
  - Rural: 66.7%
  - Urban: 69.6%

It was conducted in the 70 districts across 21 States where the three earlier rounds were done. This national serosurvey is not a substitute for local (State/District) variations. State heterogeneity indicates the possibility of future waves of infection. We strongly suggest that social, public, religious and political congregations be avoided, non-essential travel be discouraged and travel should be undertaken only if fully vaccinated," the ICMR chief said.

He added that the country had to work towards ensuring full vaccination of all healthcare workers while accelerating vaccination coverage among vulnerable population groups. To a question on opening of schools, Dr. Bhargava said it would be better if primary schools were opened first as children showed better tolerance against the virus. However, he added that it should be done only after ensuring that all the staff members were fully vaccinated.

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**Two-thirds of Indians have antibodies: ICMR**

"Two-thirds of Indians have antibodies’

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**NEW DELHI**

Two-thirds of the population aged above six have antibodies against SARS-CoV2, according to data released on Tuesday from a serosurvey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in June and July.

Nearly 40 crore people, or a third of the population, are still vulnerable to the COVID-19 infection, the study showed.

Presenting the results of the fourth national COVID-19 serosurvey, ICMR Director-General Balram Bhargava said though the survey offered a ray of hope, there was no room for complacency.

"The survey found that more than half of the children (6-17 years) were seropositive while seroprevalence was similar in rural and urban areas. Eighty-five per cent of healthcare workers had antibodies, while one-tenth of them were unvaccinated," he said.

The survey covered 28,975 adults and children aged 6-17 years, and 7,252 healthcare workers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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**Antibodies**

- A protein produced by the body’s immune system when it detects harmful substances - antigens.
- Examples of antigens: microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses) and chemicals.
- Each antibody can bind to only one specific antigen - antibodies are disease-specific.
Active immunity

- When exposure to a disease organism triggers the immune system to produce antibodies.
- Exposure can be through,
  - infection with the actual disease - natural immunity.
  - introduction of a killed/weakened form of the disease organism through vaccination - vaccine-induced immunity.
- Active immunity is long-lasting, and sometimes life-long.

Passive immunity

- When antibodies to a disease is given rather than producing them through own immune system.
- Also developed through antibody-containing blood products - immune globulin.
- Given when immediate protection from a specific disease is needed.
- Examples:
  - Yellowish fluid colostrum secreted by mother during the initial days of lactation - abundant antibodies (IgA) to protect the infant.
  - Foetus receives some antibodies from mother through the placenta during pregnancy.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Antibodies are the protective proteins produced by the immune system in response to the presence of an antigen.
2. Active immunity ensures immediate protection and it lasts long compared to Passive immunity.

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
Spy in hand

The Govt. must come clean on the issues raised by revelations of phone surveillance

At least 1,000 Indian phone numbers are in a list of potential targets of surveillance using the Pegasus software. This was revealed by Amnesty International and peer reviewed by University of Toronto’s Citizen Lab. Of these, 10 were clearly established as being targeted by Pegasus; eight of the 12 yielded inconclusive results. The evidence is strong, and the credibility of these revelations is extremely high. Indian citizens were indeed targets of a vicious, abominable and uncivil surveillance campaign by a government entity, Indian or foreign. The buck stops with the Government of India. Instead of coming clean and explaining what it intends to do to protect citizens, the Govt has fallen back on a diagnostically clear claim that no illegal surveillance is possible in India. There are legal provisions for intercepting communications and accessing legally stored information in the interests of national security and public safety. The capture of a handheld machine by Pegasus turns that into a real-time spy on the target who can be watched over and followed every step. This surveillance is total, into their private and intimate lives, which have no bearing on any public interest.

The cohort of people who were potential targets - journalists, politicians, probably a Supreme Court judge and a former Election Commissioner - does not indicate that the surveillance was necessitated by national security or public safety concerns. It is safe to assume that no information regarding terrorism or Chinese intrusion can be obtained by spying on a woman who complained of sexual harassment by a former CJ. On the contrary, the composition suggests that private snooping, turpitude and even voyeurism motivated the perpetrators. This violation is about privacy and much more. Information obtained illegally may have been used to compromise institutions, to steal elections, sabotage opposition campaigns, and even dislodge an opposition government. That the accused in the Thimphu и Камбоджа case had their computers breached by unknown entities to plant evidence that the prosecution is now using against them is notable in this context. That state agencies can trample upon the lives of citizens in such manner while elected representatives plead ignorance is unsettling for a democracy. This is antithetical to the basic creed of democracy. The truth about these revelations must be unearthed through an investigation by an IPC or by the Supreme Court or any other credible mechanism. A starting point for the Government must be in clearing the air on the foremost question it is skirting around - has any Indian agency bought Pegasus?
Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance—Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability. e-governance— applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

PAPER-IV

- Science and Technology - developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

Pegasus

- Software developed by an Israeli security company
- Spyware - Infiltrates your phone or any other device using a vector.
- Installed - beaming out all the data, activity, behaviour and all that to the attacker.
- Target - important people around the world.
- NSO - sold only to sovereign players.
- Traditional spyware - internal spying is also happening.
- Governments - to keep a tab on their own citizens.
- Issue - Indian phone numbers in the list of potential targets of surveillance.

Need for surveillance

- Concern - Done only on limited terms.
- Dilutes the essence of our democracy.
- Prevents from enjoying the liberty.
- Potential - risk the privacy and freedom of thought and speech.
- Infringes the rule of law - constitutional liberal democracy.
• Violation - Information obtained illegally used.
  ✓ To compromise institutions.
  ✓ To steal elections.
  ✓ Sabotage Opposition campaigns.
  ✓ To dislodge an Opposition government.

Missuse of surveillance powers
• Government claims - Surveillance is authorized and justified.
• Instances - Misuse of surveillance powers for personal and political gain and to harass opponents.
  ✓ Himachal Pradesh - Raided police agencies and recovered over a lakh phone conversation.
  ✓ Non state actors
• Only a few people being held legally accountable for unlawful surveillance.

Legal backing
• Laws - Interception and monitoring of communications at present.
  ✓ Section 92 - Code of Criminal Procedure.
  ✓ Rule 419A - Telegraph Rules.
  ✓ Rules under Sections 69 & 69B - IT Act.
    ➢ Applicability - certainly not clear.
• Only a limited number of agencies are provided powers to intercept and monitor.
  ✓ No lack of clarity.

K.S. Puttaswamy judgment - 2017
• Supreme Court - Invasion of privacy could only be justified if it satisfied three tests.
  ✓ The restriction must be by law.
  ✓ It must be necessary and proportionate.
  ✓ It must promote a legitimate state interest.
• Bring in - intelligence agencies, into a legal framework, were not successful.
• Srikrishna Committee (2018) - India's intelligence agencies are “potentially unconstitutional”.
Need of the hour:

• Government – More transparent on the issues of surveillance.

• Necessity – Truth about these revelations must be unearthed through an investigation.
  ✓ Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Conclusion

• Importance – Way ahead
  ✓ To professionalize intelligence gathering.
  ✓ To bring the intelligence agencies under parliamentary oversight.
  ✓ To make them non-partisan.
  ✓ To ensure that civil liberties and rule of law are protected.

Practice Question – Mains

GS – II/III

Q. India’s intelligence paradigm lacks coordination resulting in blind spots in the evolving cyber security dimensions. Discuss

(150 Words, 10 Marks)
Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- History of India and Indian National Movement.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I : Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

Lingayats

- Religious community - Worship of Siva.
- Lingawants, Lingangs, Sivabhakas and Virasaivas (Veershaivas).
• Profess a non-caste religion:
  ✓ Four-fold caste division of Manu - Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Sudra - not applicable to Lingayats.
  • Acknowledges the supremacy of Vedas, but dissent from the performances of sacrifices and Yagas.
  • Predominant in the present-day Karnataka.

• Origin:
  ✓ Founded in the 12th century - spread rapidly to the south India, mainly to Kanarese/Kannada region.
  ✓ Veerasaiva movement - movement in favour of a special form of Siva worship - started in the later half of 12th Century by the great Lingayat saint Basava.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basava or Basavanna or Basaveshwara</th>
<th>Established the Anubhava Mantapa or Spiritual Parliament.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Born in a Brahman family but refused to accept wearing of 'sacred thread'.</td>
<td>✓ Hundreds of sharanas, men and women took part in the spiritual discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Declared himself a devotee of Siva and proclaimed that he has come to destroy the distinctions of caste.</td>
<td>✓ Castes, sub-castes and its various connotations including 'untouchability'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Some historians - aim of Basava - abolition of caste.</td>
<td>✓ Gave wisdom through Vachana writings and established a Kalyana Rajya or Welfare state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• One of the prominent social reformers.</td>
<td>• Established the Anubhava Mantapa or Spiritual Parliament.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Egalitarian views - enlightenment and welfare of all including the so-called low-castes and outcastes.</td>
<td>✓ Hundreds of sharanas, men and women took part in the spiritual discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Advocated remarriage of widows.</td>
<td>✓ Castes, sub-castes and its various connotations including 'untouchability'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Gave wisdom through Vachana writings and established a Kalyana Rajya or Welfare state.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Channabasava - his nephew - both preached the new doctrines.

✓ Their acts and doctrines described in Basavapurana and Channabasavapurana.

• Some historians - Ekantada-Ramayya and Basava were mainly responsible for the rise of Lingayat doctrine.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Lingayats, often seen in news.

1. They are also called as Veeravaishnavas.
2. They are a sect that followed Brahmanical Hinduism and professed the four-fold caste division of Manu.
3. It was started by the social reformer Basavanna (Basaveshwara).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Zika virus

• Mosquito-borne flavivirus.
• First identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys.
• Later identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and Tanzania.
• In March 2015, Brazil reported a large outbreak of Zika virus infection.
• July 2015, it was found to be associated with Guillain-Barré syndrome.
• In October 2015, Brazil reported an association between Zika virus infection and microcephaly.
### Transmission patterns of Zika
- Primarily transmitted by the bite of an infected Aedes aegypti.
- From mother to fetus during pregnancy.
- Sexual contact.
- Transfusion of blood and blood products.
- Organ transplantation.

### Signs and symptoms
- Incubation period: 3-14 days
- Generally do not develop symptoms
- If symptoms:
  - Mild fever
  - Muscle and joint pain
  - Rash
  - Malaise
  - Conjunctivitis
  - Headache
  - Lasts for 2-7 days

### Complications of Zika
- Infection of the mother during pregnancy.
- Microcephaly in new born.
- Other congenital abnormalities.
- Pregnancy complications - fetal loss, stillbirth, and preterm birth.
- Trigger of Guillain-Barré syndrome.
- Neuropathy, myelitis.

### Treatment
- No treatment available for Zika virus infection or its associated diseases.
- Plenty of rest, drink fluids.
- Treat pain and fever with common medicines.
- Pregnant women should seek medical attention for laboratory testing and other clinical care.
Prevention

• Prevention of Mosquito bites.
• Using mosquito nets.
• Preventing water stagnation.
• Keeping the surrounding clean and measures like that.
• Pregnancy can be tried and prevented when there is a local outbreak of zika.

Practice Question – Mains

GS – III

Q. Zika is breaking out as epidemic within a pandemic posing a challenge to health systems. In this context, discuss about Zika.

(150 Words, 10 Marks)

Pedro Castillo declared Peru’s next President

He won by a margin of 44,000 votes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LIMA

Leftist school teacher Pedro Castillo was proclaimed Peru’s President-elect Monday, six weeks after a polarising vote of which the results were delayed by claims of electoral fraud from his right-wing rival, Keiko Fujimori. The 51-year-old trade unionist’s victory leaves Ms. Fujimori facing an imminent corruption trial.

“Dear compatriots, I bring here an open heart for each and every one of you,” Mr. Castillo declared from the balcony after Jorge Luis Salas, head of the JNE elections jury, announced his
defeat. Mr. Castillo’s victory in a virtual ceremony.

The JNE validated the vote count by the ONPE elections body, which had given Mr. Castillo 50.12% of the ballots cast, some 44,000 more than Ms. Fujimori – most of whose objections the jury dismissed.
Peru

- Western part of South America
- Capital - Lima.
- Border - Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile.
- Third largest country in South America.
- Territory - three main regions
  - Coast, Highlands and Jungle.
- Spanish is the official language of Peru.
- Peru - Tropical country
- Amazon - covers nearly half of Peru.

- Peruvian plant and animal life - Plenty and diverse.
  - Jaguar, Harpy Eagle, Sea lions, Humboldt penguins, llama and alpaca.
- Peru's constitution - freedom of religion
- Major part - Roman Catholics.
• Peru - Wealth of mineral resources:
  ✓ Gold and silver are found extensively.
  ✓ Petroleum fields.

Economy
• Less-developed country - Dependent upon the export of raw materials to the more-developed countries.
• World's leading fishing countries.
• Largest producer of bismuth, silver & copper.
• Problems - Extensive destruction of transportation & agricultural systems by earthquakes, landslides, El Niño rains, and other natural disasters.

Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Which of the following country does not share its borders with Peru?
(a) Ecuador
(b) Paraguay
(c) Columbia
(d) Brazil

Irulas of Nariyamputhur get patta
Kancheepuram Collector issues documents; livelihood support, too, to be given

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI
It was a day that residents of Nariyamputhur, a Irulas settlement in Kancheepuram taluk, will not forget soon. As Kancheepuram Collector M. Aarthi presented them with patta in their names, they laughed and cried at the same time: this was how an official described their emotions.

Pandimi, who lives with her husband, said she had no idea as to what was happening:

“A group of officials suddenly descended upon our village and told us we will get homes. They spoke to each of us, asked about our families and put up a shanty and presented the patta documents,” she said.

Construction of houses
The residents here were moved to an adjacent plot so that the Shram克莱mance Board can construct individual homes for them. The foundation stone for the same has been laid.

Ms. Aarthi said the district administration would carry out a survey of all the Irulas families and issue documents and livelihood support.

Along with the houses, we will provide a cattle shed or pet pongal since they are earning goats. We have also told them that they can ask us for any assistance, including the education of their children,” she said.

IRDS Director P. Jayanadha said the funds for the houses would be released by the Shram克莱mance Board and construction would be carried out by the IRDA. The aim is to complete work before the monsoon, she added.

The Hindu had carried a story on their condition a week ago following which several persons came forward with donations of rice, provisions and vegetables. The patta for the villagers are under process.

Provision donated
Puducherry Resident, Shram克莱mance Board, India, was the first to provide them with provisions, said her NGO was willing to construct cement blocks for the villagers.

A group of old students from Karpagam Medical College have come forward to help the children with their education.

Unknown Karunagam gave the residents of Vanavasam vegetables and rice.

Similarly, a hotel owner, Karunagam, too, provided them with cooked food and rice and provisions.

T. Deepa, a member of the State Women’s Commission, said she would like to work along with the district administration to support the community.

Samuel Pradeep Raja, secretary of Care True, said it is the right time to help these people since they were separated from their families.

If each house is around 400 sq ft, it would be helpful, from socially, economically, health wise, he said. The government has announced the city that Shram克莱mance Board items would be double their usual size. “The same principle can be applied here,” he pointed out.
Irulas
• One of the primitive tribal groups in Tamil Nadu.
• Irulas - derived from the Tamil word “Irul” meaning dark.
• Speak the Irula language - member of the Dravidian family; most closely related to Tamil.
• Livelihood: original occupation was rat and snake catching.
  ✓ Cattle-breeding - main source of income now.
• Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) from TN: Irulas, Kattu Nayakans, Kotas, Kurumbas, Paniyans and Todas.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
• More vulnerable among the tribal groups.
• 1973: Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category.
• 1975: Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category.
• Present status: 75 PVTGs in India across 18 states and the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
• 2006: Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.

Criteria for identifying the PVTGs:
1. Pre-agricultural level of technology
2. Low level of literacy
3. Economic backwardness
4. A declining or stagnant population

Practice Question – Prelims
Q. With reference to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India, consider the following statements:
1. Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar islands are the only Union Territories with declared PVTGs.
2. The Siddis, an ethnic African community, is a PVTG from Karnataka.
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
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Which of the following country does not share its borders with Peru?
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GS – II/III
Q. India’s intelligence paradigm lacks coordination resulting in blind spots in the evolving cyber security dimensions. Discuss

(150 Words, 10 Marks)

Practice Question – Mains
GS – II
Q. India’s cultural models have stayed in harmony for centuries. In that context UCC can do more harm than good. Discuss

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Q. Zika is breaking out as epidemic within a pandemic posing a challenge to health systems. In this context, discuss about Zika.

(150 Words, 10 Marks)