

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

PIB
FORTNIGHTLY
COMPILATION

16th - 29th FEBRUARY, 2020

www.iasscore.in

IAS MOCK INTERVIEW

India's Most Experienced Interview Panel is Here!

R.P. Aggarwal

IAS (Retd.)

Amb. Anil Trigunayat

Former Ambassadors & Secretary,
Association of Indian Diplomats (Former Ambassadors)

S.B. Singh

Well known IAS Interview Mentor

G.S. Patnaik

IAS, Former Vice Chairman - DDA,
Former Adviser to Governor of Arunachal Pradesh

R.P. Sinha

IAS, Former Secretary - Govt of India

B.K. Pandey

IES, Former Adviser - NITI Aayog

K.D. Singh

IFoS,
Former Principal Conservator of Forests - Arunachal Pradesh

Dr. N.K. Sahu

IES, Former Joint Secretary - HRD Ministry

Devi Prasad

IES, Celebrated Budget and Economic Survey Expert

S.B.S Tyagi







IPS (Retd.)

H. Bhusan

Serving Bureaucrat, Government of India

- and many other Senior Civil Servants and Academicians who will part of the board...

HIGHLIGHTS

-  Question on Debatable Topic for Self-paced Preparation
-  Analysis of Controversial Topics & Tips to handle
-  DAF Analysis
-  1 Mock Interview
-  Mock Feedback
-  Video Recording

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

Registration Open
www.iasscore.in

☎ 8448496262

🌐 iasscore.in

CONTENTS

PIB (16th to 29th February, 2020)

S. No.	Area	Topics	Page No.
1.	SECURITY	Exercise Sampriti-IX	04
2.	ECONOMY	GulFood 2020	04
3.	ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY	13 th Conference of Parties on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at Gandhinagar	04
4.	POLITY & GOVERNANCE	Soil health card Scheme	05
5.		Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)	06
6.	GEOGRAPHY	KALA KUMBH – Handicrafts Exhibitions for promotion of GI Crafts	06
7.	POLITY & GOVERNANCE	Cabinet approves the Constitution of an empowered “Technology Group”	07
8.		22 nd Law Commission of India	07
9.	SCIENCE & TECH	5G Hackathon	08
10.	ECONOMY	PM-KISAN Scheme	08
11.	POLITY & GOVERNANCE	‘Har Kaam Desh Ke Naam’: Corporates joins Ganga Rejuvenation	09
12.	ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY	Badrinath Bathing Ghat and Gangotri Bathing Ghat	10
13.	SECURITY	Offshore Patrol Vessel-6 “VAJRA” launched	10
14.		Exercise Ajeya Warrior-2020	10
15.		EX Indradhanush - V 2020	11
16.	ECONOMY	Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) Portal for Monitoring prices of TOP Crops (Tomato, Onion and Potato)	11
17.	SCIENCE & TECH	National Science Day 2020	12

1 EXERCISE SAMPRITI-IX

- Armies of India and Bangladesh participated in joint military exercise SAMPRITI-IX at Umroi, Meghalaya.
- As the 9th edition of the joint Exercise SAMPRITI reached its culmination day, the Head of Observer Delegations from both sides conveyed their appreciation for both the participating contingents for successfully achieving the objectives of the Exercise.
- The exercise was aimed at strengthening the military relations between the two countries, which allowed the two armies to understand each other's tactical drills and operating techniques.
- The exercise provided an ideal platform for the personnel of the two countries to share their experiences on counter insurgency, counter terrorism operations and providing aid to civil authorities for disaster management especially in jungle and semi-urban terrain.
- SAMPRITI series of joint exercise is a very important military & diplomatic initiative between both the nations and the edifice of the trust and friendship between India & Bangladesh which has been nurtured with the sweat and toil of Officers and soldiers of contingents participating in each edition.

2 GULFOOD 2020

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries inaugurated the India Pavilion at 25th Edition of the GulFood 2020, Dubai.
- FPI Minister took a tour of the fair and interacted with the Indian exhibitors and urged them to make use of the platform of GulFood 2020 for facilitating tie ups between foreign investors and accelerate the pace of export of food products from India to the western market.
- The Minister, while interacting with the exhibitors, discussed the potential of business opportunities available to them in India, UAE and other countries.
- Based on the discussions it was proposed to explore the possibility of setting up a fund for providing marketing support to launch Indian products in the UAE super markets.
- India and UAE have been amongst each other's largest trading partners for the last several years.
- Currently UAE is the third largest trading partner with bilateral trade reaching US\$ 59.909 in 2018-19.
- Food Processing Sector in India being a sunrise sector is poised for exponential growth and has emerged as a high growth sector due to its immense potential for value addition, ability to control inflation and ensure remunerative prices to farmers.
- Food items are one of the major Indian exports to UAE. While India is rich in production of food grains, fruits, vegetables & milk but lacks in processing infrastructure, UAE has surplus funds and technology available to create such facilities but lacks in availability of raw material. Thus a partnership between India and UAE can ensure Food Security for the Gulf nation in the times to come.

3 13th CONFERENCE OF PARTIES ON CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS AT GANDHINAGAR

- Prime Minister inaugurated the 13th Conference of Parties on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at Gandhinagar through video conferencing.

- Prime Minister asserted that India is one of the most diverse countries of the world.
- He added that with 2.4% of the world's land area, India contributes about 8% of the known global biodiversity.
- The Prime Minister stressed that for ages, conservation of wildlife and habitats has been part of the cultural ethos of India, which encourages compassion and co-existence. "Inspired by Gandhi ji, the ethos of non-violence and protection of animals and nature have been suitably enshrined in the Constitution of India and is reflected in several laws & legislations,"
- The Prime Minister spoke of the increase in India's forest cover, which currently stands at 21.67% of the total geographical area of the country.
- He mentioned how India has been championing the cause of "climate action" through conservation, sustainable lifestyle and green development model.
- Push towards Electric Vehicles, Smart Cities, and Conservation of Water.
- He said India is one of the few countries whose actions are compliant with the Paris Agreement goal of keeping rise in temperature to below 2 degree Celsius.
- India has achieved its target of doubling the number of tigers from 1411 in 2010 to 2967, two years before the committed date of 2022.
- He called upon Tiger Range Countries present at the Conference, and also others, to come together to strengthen tiger conservation through sharing of benchmarking practices.
- He spoke of initiatives taken by India for conservation of Asian elephants.
- He also spoke at length of efforts to protect the Snow Leopard, the Asiatic Lion, the one-horned rhinoceros, and the Great Indian Bustard.
- He also noted that the mascot 'GIBI - The Great' is a tribute to the Great Indian Bustard.
- He also observed that the CMS COP 13 Logo is inspired by the traditional 'KOLAM' from southern India, which has a profound significance in the context of living in harmony with nature.
- Single use plastics have been a challenge for environment protection and we in India have been on a mission mode to reduce its usage.

4

SOIL HEALTH CARD SCHEME

- Soil Health Card (SHC) is a Government of India's scheme promoted by the Department of Agriculture & Co-operation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- It is being implemented through the Department of Agriculture of all the State and Union Territory Governments. A SHC is meant to give each farmer soil nutrient status of his/her holding and advice him/her on the dosage of fertilizers and also the needed soil amendments, that s/he should apply to maintain soil health in the long run.
- SHC is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings.
- It will contain the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely N,P,K (Macro-nutrients); S (Secondary- nutrient); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro - nutrients); and pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters).
- Based on this, the SHC will also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm.
- The card will contain an advisory based on the soil nutrient status of a farmer's holding.
- It will show recommendations on dosage of different nutrients needed. Further, it will advise the farmer on the fertilizers and their quantities he should apply, and also the soil amendments that he should undertake, so as to realize optimal yields.

5 ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA (ABHY)

- Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is an initiative for ensuring long term sustainability of ground water resources in the country.
- The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti is adopting a mix of 'top down' and 'bottom up' approaches in identified ground water stressed blocks in seven states, representing a range of geomorphic, climatic and hydrogeologic and cultural settings.
- ATAL JAL has been designed with the principal objective of strengthening the institutional framework for participatory ground water management and bringing about behavioral changes at the community level for sustainable ground water resource management.
- The scheme envisages undertaking this through various interventions, including awareness programmes, capacity building, convergence of ongoing/new schemes and improved agricultural practices etc.
- The scheme aims to improve ground water management through community participation in identified priority areas in seven States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Implementation of the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts in these States.
- ATAL JAL has two major components:
 - Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Component for strengthening institutional arrangements for sustainable ground water management in the States including improving monitoring networks, capacity building, strengthening of Water User Associations, etc.
 - Incentive Component for incentivising the States for achievements in improved groundwater management practices namely, data dissemination, preparation of water security plans, implementation of management interventions through convergence of ongoing schemes, adopting demand side management practices etc.

6 KALA KUMBH – HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITIONS FOR PROMOTION OF GI CRAFTS

- With an objective to promote Geographical Indication (GI) crafts and heritage of India the Ministry of Textiles is organising Kala Kumbh - Handicrafts Thematic Exhibition in various parts of the country through the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).
- The exhibitions are planned in various major cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.
- The GI tag is used on handicrafts which correspond to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g., a town, region, or country).
- 178 GI handicraft products were registered from all over India.
- The artisans are the backbone of Indian handicraft sector and possess inherent skill, technical and traditional craftsmanship.
- In Bengaluru exhibition, GI crafts like Mysore rosewood inlay, Channapatna lacquerware, Dharwad kasuti embroidery, Kolhapur chappal, Bidriware, Molakalmur handblock printing, Ananthapur leather puppet, Thrissur screw pine, Vishakapatna lacquerware, Sandur lambani embroidery, Jodhpur terracota, Jaipur handprinted textile, bronze casting, Medinipur mat weaving, Birbhum artistic leather and Khurdah palm leaf engraving are being displayed.

- In Mumbai exhibition GI crafts like Chittoor kalamkari painting, Thrissur screwpine crafts, Pokharan terracotta crafts, Kutch embroidery & crochet crafts, Pingla patachitra, Birbhum kantha embroidery, Jajpur photachitra painting, Madhubani Mithila painting, Kolhapur chappal, Palghar Worli painting, Kondagaon wrought iron craft, Agate stone crafts and Krishna handblock printing are being displayed.

7

CABINET APPROVES THE CONSTITUTION OF AN EMPOWERED “TECHNOLOGY GROUP”

- Cabinet has approved constitution of a 12-Member Technology Group with the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India as its Chair.
- This Group is mandated to render timely policy advice on latest technologies; mapping of technology and technology products; commercialisation of dual use technologies developed in national laboratories and government R&D organisations; developing an indigenisation road map for selected key technologies; and selection of appropriate R&D programs leading to technology development.
- The Technology Group intends to ensure :-
 - That India has appropriate policies and strategies for effective, secure and context-sensitive exploitation of the latest technologies for economic growth and sustainable development of Indian Industry, in all sectors;
 - To advise the Government on priorities and strategies for research on emerging technologies across sectors;
 - To maintain an updated map of technology and technology products available, and being developed, across India;
 - To develop indigenization roadmap for selected key technologies;
 - To advise the Government on its technology supplier and procurement strategy;
 - To encourage all Ministries and Departments as well as State Governments to develop in-house expertise in policy and use aspects of emerging technologies such as data science and artificial intelligence, and to this end develop an approach to training and capacity building
 - To formulate policies for sustainability of public sector technology at PSUs/Labs while encouraging cross-sector collaborations and research alliances with Universities and Private Companies; and
 - To formulate standards and common vocabulary to apply in vetting of proposals for R&D.

8

22nd LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA

- The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- The Commission was originally constituted in 1955 and is re-constituted every three years. The tenure of twenty-first Law Commission of India was upto 31st August, 2018.
- The various Law Commission have been able to make important contribution towards the progressive development and codification of Law of the country.
- The Law Commission of India shall:
 - identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed;

- examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and suggest ways of improvement and reform and also suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution;
- consider and convey to the Government its views on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs);
- Consider the requests for providing research to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs);
- take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor;
- Revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

9**5G HACKATHON**

- 5G technology provides quantum leap over 4G in terms of speed, peak data rate, latency, spectrum efficiency and connection density.
- Most distinct feature is applications in different economic verticals.
- 5G Hackathon will convert innovating ideas in to products and solutions in different verticals and develop India specific Use cases around 5G.
- Various phases of the Hackathon broadly include preliminary submission of ideas, selection of 100 best ideas, mentorship and support from the Hackathon partners, development of solutions/ products, selection and testing of 30 best solutions/ products on 5G trial network followed by felicitation of the 3 best ideas during India Mobile Congress (IMC), 2020.
- Participants can develop 5G solutions from across 10 categories including Healthcare, Education & Governance, AgriTech & Livestock, Environment, Public Safety & Disaster Management Enterprise, Smart Cities & Infrastructure, Cyber Security, Banking, Finance & Insurance, Logistics & Transportation, Multimedia & Broadcast, among others.
- The 5G Hackathon is open to developers, students, start-ups, SMEs, academic institutions & registered companies in India & NRIs.
- Stakeholders can participate as individuals or as a team to present use cases for the 5G network in the Indian context.

10**PM-KISAN SCHEME**

- With a view to provide income support to all land holding eligible farmer families, the Government has launched PM-KISAN.
- The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.
- Prime Minister had launched the scheme on 24th February 2019 at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- To provide an assured income support to the small and marginal farmers, the Government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).
- The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.

- All land holding eligible farmer families (subject to the prevalent exclusion criteria) are to avail of the benefits under this scheme, as per the recent cabinet decision taken during May 2019.
- The revised Scheme is expected to cover around 2 crore more farmers, increasing the coverage of PM-KISAN to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries.
- Earlier, under the scheme, financial benefit has been provided to all Small and Marginal landholder farmer families with total cultivable holding upto 2 hectares with a benefit of Rs. 6000 per annum per family payable in three equal installments, every four months.
- The States shall prepare database of eligible beneficiary landholder farmer families in the villages capturing the Name, Age, Gender, Category(SC/ST), Aadhaar Number (in case Aadhaar Number has not been issued then Aadhaar Enrollment Number together with any other prescribed documents for purposes of the identification such as Driving Licence, Voters' ID Card, NREGA Job Card, or any other identification documents issued by Central/State/UT Governments or their authorities,etc.), Bank Account Number and the Mobile Number of the beneficiaries.
- In case of beneficiaries in States of Assam, Meghalaya, J&K where Aadhaar number has not been issued to most of the citizens, Aadhaar number shall be collected for those beneficiaries where it is available and for others alternate prescribed documents can be collected for identity verification purposes.
- Responsibility of identifying the landholder farmer family eligible for benefit under the scheme shall be of the State/UT Government.
- The Common Service Centres (CSCs) have also been authorized to do registration of the farmers for the Scheme upon payment of fees.

11

'HAR KAAM DESH KE NAAM': CORPORATES JOINS GANGA REJUVENATION

- Rivers in India have always been considered sacred and the Ganga river in particular, is the identity and lifeline of India.
- Pilgrim sites and urban centers have developed along the river. These centers have drawn sustenance from the river and have been thriving over time.
- Ghats and Crematoria are part of the lifestyle of people and pilgrimages to visit the holy river Ganga play a vital role in strengthening the People-River Connect.
- Gangotri and Badrinath being part of the Char Dham Yatra, are especially important.
- This MoU is a significant step for improving amenities and sanitation at these holy locations with the underlying spirit of partnership and of private corporates taking responsibility by contributing to the National Mission: Rejuvenation of the sacred river Ganga.
- The activities under the project include:
 - Construction of Bathing Ghats and Crematoria
 - Repair and modernization of existing Ghats and Crematoria
 - Providing public amenities on Ghats
 - Bank erosion protection works
 - Operation & Maintenance (O&M) for 5 years

12**BADRINATH BATHING GHAT AND GANGOTRI BATHING GHAT**

- Badrinath Bathing Ghat is situated along the bank of river Alaknanda.
- Development of BadrinathGhat includes the various components like Changing Room, Toilet with bio-digester and reed bed, water spout, chhatri, platform, signages, horticulture work, railing etc.
- GangotriGhat is situated along the bank of river Bhagirathi at Gangotri.
- One bathing ghat and one crematorium to be developed at Gangotri.
- Benefits:
 - Rejuvenated Ghats, along the river, would improve the people -river connect and would also become places that reflect local culture and history.
 - Project will significantly improve the visual aesthetics of the area. For Ganga Rejuvenation, improvement in aesthetics is also an important aspect.
 - River water quality improvement through reduction in disposal of untreated sewage, solid waste disposal, etc.
 - Increase in Tourism which will create opportunities for local employment.
 - Prevent the disposal of un-burnt / partially burnt bodies in the river and reduce the pollution due to cremation process.

13**OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL-6 "VAJRA" LAUNCHED**

- VAJRA is the 6th vessel in the series of seven Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) projects.
- It has been built by L&T Shipbuilding under the 'Make in India' policy.
- The vessel would be utilised for day and night surveillance along with anti-terrorist, anti-smuggling operations in the exclusive economic zone.
- It is empowered with two Navigation Radars along with ultra-modern technology, Sophisticated navigational and latest communication systems.

14**EXERCISE AJEYA WARRIOR-2020**

- Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR - 2020, a joint military training exercise between India & United Kingdom (UK) culminated at West down Camp, Salisbury Plains Training Area, UK.
- The fifth edition of the exercise included joint training in urban and semi urban areas.
- As part of the exercise, important lectures, demonstrations and drills related to counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations were rehearsed and executed jointly.
- The highlight of the exercise was the Bonhomie and Camaraderie displayed by the troops, thereby ensuring integration and achievement of interoperability at all levels.
- The joint training was undoubtedly, an unprecedented success.
- Besides promoting understanding and interoperability between the two armies, it further helped in cementing ties between both the nations.

15 EX INDRADHANUSH - V 2020

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force (RAF) jointly commenced the fifth edition of Ex Indradhanush at Air Force Station Hindan.
- The focus of this edition of the exercise is 'Base Defence and Force Protection'.
- This theme is of significance considering the recent threats to military establishments from terror elements.
- Ex Indradhanush provides a platform for the IAF and RAF to share and jointly validate strategies and tactics to counter terror threats to their installations.
- The RAF team comprises of 36 specialised combatants of the RAF Regiment while the IAF will comprise of 42 combatants of the GARUD Force.
- Both sides would also exercise specialised weapons, equipment and vehicles and validate joint employability.
- Special missions would encompass Airfield Seizure, Base Defence and anti-terror operations in Urban built up zones. These exercises would include para drops from C-130J aircraft, tactical insertions by Mi-17 V5 helicopters and use of various airborne sensors.
- The IAF as well as the RAF would gain significantly from each other's operational experience, training philosophies, contemporary technologies and best practices followed.

16

MARKET INTELLIGENCE AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (MIEWS) PORTAL FOR MONITORING PRICES OF TOP CROPS (TOMATO, ONION AND POTATO)

- MIEWS Dashboard and Portal is a 'first-of-its-kind' platform for 'real time monitoring' of prices of tomato, onion and potato (TOP) and for simultaneously generating alerts for intervention under the terms of the Operation Greens(OG) scheme.
- The portal would disseminate all relevant information related to TOP crops such as Prices and Arrivals, Area, Yield and Production, Imports and Exports, Crop Calendars, Crop Agronomy, etc in an easy to use visual format.
- The salient features of the MIEWS portal include:
 - A dashboard that would indicate low price and high price alerts as well as price forecasts for 3 month forward
 - Prices and arrivals of TOP crops across the country including interactive charts and comparisons with previous seasons
 - Area, Yield and Production of TOP crops
 - Crop Agronomy and Trade Profile of each of the TOP crops
 - Regular and special reports on the market situation of the TOP crops. The portal will have public and private sections into which the aforementioned features would be divided. Sections like Prices and arrivals, Area, yield and production, Crop Agronomy and Trade Profile would be accessible to the public while the regular and special market intelligence reports and price forecasts would be accessible only to the policy makers.

17 NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY 2020

- The Raman Effect won scientist Sir CV Raman the Nobel Prize for physics in 1930.
- It was also designated as an International Historic Chemical Landmark jointly by the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS).
- The theme of this year's science day is "Women in Science".
- National Science Day is an occasion to salute the talent and tenacity of our scientists. Their innovative zeal and pioneering research has helped India and the world.
- In 1928, Raman discovered that when a stream of light passes through a liquid, a fraction of the light scattered by the liquid is of a different colour.
- Raman conducted his Nobel-prize winning research at IACS, Calcutta.
- While he was educated entirely in India, Raman travelled to London for the first time in 1921, where his reputation in the study of optics and acoustics was known to physicists such as JJ Thomson and Lord Rutherford.
- A commemorative booklet prepared jointly by IACS and ACS on Raman mentions that his speciality was the study of vibrations and sounds of stringed instruments such as the Indian veena and tambura, and Indian percussion instruments such as the tabla and mridangam.
- Significantly, it notes that the Raman Effect is "very weak" — this is because when the object in question is small (smaller than a few nanometres), the light will pass through it undisturbed.
- But a few times in a billion, light waves may interact with the particle. This could also explain why it was not discovered before.
- In general, when light interacts with an object, it can be reflected, refracted or transmitted.
- One of the things that scientists look at when light is scattered is if the particle it interacts with is able to change its energy.
- The Raman Effect is when the change in the energy of the light is affected by the vibrations of the molecule or material under observation, leading to a change in its wavelength.
