

HISTORY

Advent of the Europeans:

- George William Forrest can rightly be called as the "Father of National Archives of India".
- In 1690, Fort St. David was built by the British in Cuddalore.
- Danish called Tranquebar as Danesborg. The king of Denmark sent Ziegenbalg to India.
 - Ziegenbalg set up a printing press at Tranquebar (Tarangambadi).
- The Swedish
 - The Swedish East India Company was founded in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 1731 for the purpose of conducting trade with the Far East.
 - The venture was inspired by the success of the Dutch East India Company and the British East India Company.

From Trade to Territory:

- Satyendranath Tagore, the elder brother of poet Rabindranath Tagore, was the first Indian to pass the I.C.S. Examination in 1863.
- Sir Elijah Impey was the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at Fort William in Bengal.
- Sir Thiruvarur Muthusamy was the first Indian Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

Educational Development in India:

- Taxila was an ancient Indian city, which is now in northwestern Pakistan. It is an important archaeological site and UNESCO declared it as a world heritage site in 1980. Its fame rested on the university where Chanakya is said to have composed his Arthashastra. Archaeologist Alexander Cunningham discovered its ruins in the mid-19th century.
- The ancient Nalanda University was a centre of learning from the 5th century AD (CE) to 12th century AD (CE). Located in present-day Rajgir, Bihar. Nalanda was one of the oldest universities of the world and UNESCO declared the ruins of Nalanda Mahavihara a world heritage site. The new Nalanda University is envisaged as a centre of inter-civilizational dialogue.
- The medieval period saw the founding of many religious mutt or monasteries which also took up the cause of education. The Ahobila mutt in Srirangam was one among them where Sri Ramanuja has made distinctive contribution to the cause of education. Besides mutts, Jain pallis and Buddhist vihars played a vital role in educating people where ever they existed. They had large libraries of books in all branches of learning.
- In 1813, the East India Company was compelled to assert the responsibility for the education of the Indians. Charter of Act of 1813 made a provision for an annual grant of a sum of 1 lakh rupees for the promotion of education in India.
- The Wood's Despatch (1854) is called the 'Magna Carta' of English education in India because it was the first declaration of British education policy for educating the masses at all levels. But it resulted in the complete control on state education, divorcing it from Indian ideals and culture.
- Wardha Scheme of Education (1937): In 1937, Gandhiji evolved a scheme popularly known as the Wardha Scheme of Basic National Education. The principle of nonviolence was the basis of Gandhiji scheme of Basic Education. Through this scheme he wanted to develop those qualities in future citizens of India which he considered necessary for building a non-violent society. His system of Education wanted to root out exploitation and centralization in society and create a non-violent social order.
- Education remained a state subject till December 1976. But now the education is in the concurrent list.

Development of Industries in India:

- The muslin of Dacca Mummies in Egyptian tombs dating from 2000 BC(BCE) were found wrapped in Indian muslins of the finest quality. A 50metres of this thin fabric could be squeezed into a match box.
- The Drain Theory of Dadabai Naoroji: Dadabai Naoroji was the first to acknowledge that the poverty of the Indian people was due to the British exploitation of India's resources and the drain of India's wealth to Britain
- Classification of Industries On the basis of raw materials used, industries can be classified into agro-based and mineral-based. According to their role it can be classified into basic and key industries. On the basis of ownership it can be classified into public sector, private sector, joint sector and co-operative sector.

Urban changes during the British period:

- An urban area is one that has a high population density engaged in occupations other than food production, living in a highly built environment.
- Presently Fort St. George is the power centre of Tamil Nadu State Government, extending across 172 sq. KM (66 sq. miles)
- The first building to be seen on entering the Fort through the Sea Gate is the seat of the Government of Tamil Nadu. These impressive buildings built between 1694 and 1732 are said to be among the oldest surviving British Construction in India.
- Dalhousie Square in Calcutta and Fort St. George in Madras were close to the central commercial area and had massive buildings which were British variants of Roman styles.

Status of Women in India through the ages:

- Jauhar refers to the practice of collective voluntary immolation by wives and daughters of defeated Rajput warriors, in order to avoid capture and dishonour.
- Akbar prohibited child marriage and made it obligatory for the parents to obtain the approval of both the bride and the bridegroom before the marriage. He prescribed 14 years as the age of constant for girls and 16 years for boys.
- The Madras Devadasi Act was a law that was enacted on 9th October 1947. The law was passed in the Madras presidency and gave Devadasis the legal right to marry and made it illegal to dedicated girls to Indian temples.

GEOGRAPHY**Rocks and Soils :**

- Petrology is a branch of geology which deals with the study of rocks. 'Petrology' is derived from the Greek word "Petrus" refers to rock and "Logos" refers to study
- The word Igneous is derived from the Latin word 'Ignis' means 'fire'
- Some major Active Volcanoes: Mount Vesuvius, Mt. Stromboli and Mt. Etna in Italy and Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea in Hawaii Islands.
- Sedimentary rocks are the important source of natural resources like coal, oil and natural gas.
- Oldest sedimentary rocks of the world has been identified in Greenland and estimated as 3.9 billion years old.
- One of the world wonders Taj Mahal in India was built with White Marbles a metamorphic rock.

- Quartzite and Marble are the rocks commonly used for construction and sculpture works. Marbles are widely used for making beautiful statues and decorative items such as vase, tiny gift articles and grinded marble is used to produce plastics, paper etc.,
- World Soil Day is observed on 5th December, every year.

Weather and Climate:

- Earth's atmosphere is a layer of gases surrounding the planet earth and retained by the earth's gravity. It contains about 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 0.97% argon, 0.03% carbon dioxide and 0.04% trace amounts of other gases and water vapour.
- The word Climate is derived from the ancient Greek word "Klimo" which means "Inclination".
- Scientific study of weather is called Meteorology and the scientific study of climate is called climatology.
- Distribution of weather elements are shown by means of Isolines on maps. Isolines are those which join the places of equal values. Isolines are given different names based on the weather element they represent.
 - Isotherm Equal temperature Isocryme
 - Equal lowest mean temperature for a specified period
 - Isohel Equal sunshine
 - Isolobar Equal pressure tendency showing similar changes over a given time
 - Isobar Equal atmospheric pressure
 - Isohyet Equal amount of rainfall
- Temperature varies both horizontally and vertically. Temperature decreases with increasing height is known as Lapse rate which is 6.5 degree celsius per 1000 meters in troposphere
- The highest temperature ever recorded on the earth is 56.7°C (134°F). It was recorded on 10th July 1913 at Greenland Ranch of Death Valley, California, USA.
- The lowest temperature ever recorded on the earth is -89.2 °C (-128.6 °F; 184.0 K). It was recorded on 21st July, 1983 at Soviet Vostok Station in Antarctica.
- The highest ever air pressure at sea level was recorded at Agata, Russia on 31st December, 1968. The pressure was 1083.8mb
- The lowest pressure of 870mb was recorded at Typhoon Tip, near Guam, Mariana Island in Pacific Ocean on 12th October, 1979.
- Why Do Your Ears Pop in Airplanes? As you go up in an airplane, the atmospheric pressure becomes lower than the pressure of the air inside your ears. Your ears pop because they are trying to equalize or match the pressure. The same thing happens when the plane is on the way down and your ears have to adjust to a higher atmospheric pressure.
- With decreasing air pressure, the availability of oxygen to breath also decreases. At very high altitudes, atmospheric pressure and available oxygen get so low that people can become sick and even die. Mountain climbers use bottled oxygen when they ascend very high peaks. They also take time to get used to the altitude as the quick move from high pressure to low pressure can cause decompression sickness. Aircraft create artificial pressure in the cabin which makes the passengers remain comfortable while flying.
- Brazil has a large area where the average wind speed is low. Gabon, Congo and DR Congo in Africa, Sumatra, Indonesia and Malaysia are the least windy places on earth.
- Al-Balakh, an Arab Geographer collected climatic data from the Arab travellers and prepared the First climatic Atlas of the world.

Hydrologic Cycle:

- **The rate of evaporation increases with**
 - Increase in wind speed
 - Increase in temperature
 - Decrease in humidity and
 - Increase in areal extent of surface water bodies.
- **Condensation occurs when the air gets saturated.**
 - Warm air can hold more water vapour than the cool air.
 - Saturation occurs when the temperature drops down.
- **Units of the Measurement pertaining to Hydrology**
 - Evaporation /interception - inches (or) cm
 - Infiltration - inches (or) cm / hour
 - Precipitation - inches (or) mm (or) cm
 - Run off - inches (or) mm (or) cm
 - Run off rate - cubic feet per second
 - Run off volume - acre feet (or) cubic feet
 - Storage - cubic feet (or) acre feet

Migration and Urbanisation:

- Female migrants outnumber male migrants in Europe, Northern America, Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean, while in Africa and Asia, particularly Western Asia, migrants are predominantly men. (International Migration Report, 2017).
- In 2017, India was the largest country of origin of international migrants (17 million), followed by Mexico (13 million). (International Migration Report, 2017).
- The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow rapidly in recent years, reaching 258 million in 2017, up from 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000 (International Migration Report, 2017).
- In 2007, for the first time in history, the global urban population exceeded the global rural population and the world population has remained predominantly urban thereafter. (World Urbanisation Prospects, 2014 Revision, Highlights).
- India, China and Nigeria – together are expected to account for 35 % of the growth in the world's urban population between 2018 and 2050. India is projected to add 416 million urban dwellers, China 255 million and Nigeria 189 million (World Urbanisation Prospects, 2018, Key facts).
- In 1950, 30% of the world's population was urban, and by 2050, 68 % of the world's population is projected to be urban (World Urbanisation Prospects, 2018, Key facts).

Hazards:

- A natural hazard is a natural process and event that is a potential threat to human life and property. The process and events themselves are not a hazard but become so because of human use of the land.
- A disaster is a hazardous event that occurs over a limited time span in a defined area and causes great damage to property/ loss of life, also needs assistance from others.
- A catastrophe is a massive disaster that requires significant expenditure of money and a long time for recovery.
- The word 'Tsunami' is derived from Japanese word 'tsu' meaning harbour and 'nami' meaning wave (Harbour wave).

- **Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004:**

- On December 26, 2004, at 7:59 a.m. local time, an undersea earthquake with a magnitude of 9.1 struck off the coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra.
- The tsunami killed at least 2,25,000 people across a dozen countries, with Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Somalia and Maldives, sustaining massive damage.

- **Chernobyl nuclear disaster site (near Pripyat) to become an official tourist spot:**

Before:

- Chernobyl (then Soviet Union) nuclear accident was happened on **26th April, 1986**.
- The radiation emitted was more than 400 times than that released by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima (Japan) in 1945.
- This accident remains the largest nuclear accident in history.
- More than 3,50,000 people were evacuated from the area and severe restrictions on permanent human settlement are still in that place.

Now:

- 33 years after the accident, the Exclusion Zone, which covers an area now in Ukraine and Belarus is inhabited by numerous animals and more than 200 bird species.
- In 2016, the Ukraine part of this zone was declared as a radiological and environmental biosphere reserve by the government.

Industries:

- Services sector is the one of the largest sectors of India. Currently this sector is the backbone of the Indian economy and contributing around 53% of the Indian Gross Domestic Product.
- Detroit of India: Detroit city in Michigan State, USA is known as the world's traditional automotive centre. In India Chennai is known as 'Detroit of India'. It has the world famous automobile industries such as GM, Ford, Hyundai and Mahindra. The city accounts for 60% of the country's automotive exports.

Exploring Continents Africa, Australia and Antarctica:

- Africa is called a Dark Continent. In the beginning the interior of Africa was largely unknown to them. The European explorer Henry M. Stanley was the first to use the term the "Dark Continent" (1878).
- The north-western African countries of Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia are collectively called 'Maghreb' which means west in Arabic language.
- The glaciers on the top of Kilimanjaro have been disappearing since the 20th centuries. If this trend continues, the Kilimanjaro summit will be ice-free by 2025.
- Sheep rearing in semi-arid region of South Africa is called 'Karoos'.
- The country Egypt is called the "Gift of the Nile" as it is the lifeline of Egypt. Without the Nile, Egypt would have been a desert.
- A hot and dry dusty local wind blowing from the Sahara desert to the Guinea coast is called 'Harmattan'.
- A hot local wind blowing from the Sahara to the Mediterranean Sea is called 'Sirocco'.
- Tropical rain forest is called the 'Jewel of the earth' and the World's largest pharmacy.
- The major tribes of the world are called the first indigenous people. These people have a strong sense of their own identity as unique with their own lands, languages and cultures. Afar, Fatwa, Bushmen, Dinka, Masai, Pygmies, Zulu, Tswana, and Efe are the major tribes of Africa.
- Australia was discovered by Captain James Cook, an English Seaman in 1770.
- Bourke is the place in Australia where the highest temperature is recorded (53°C). It is located in the central low lands. The lowest temperature of the country is recorded in Canberra, the capital of Australia (-22°C).

- The people who work in the sheep stations in Australia are known as Jackaroos. Aborigines are the indigenous people of the Australia.
- The sheep industry is well developed in Australia. The wool is described as the 'Cash Crop' of Australia.
- The temperate grass land of Australia is known as 'Downs'.
- Scientists of any country are free to conduct experiments and collect data from Antarctica. Hence it is called 'continent of Science'.
- Antarctica is the largest piece of ice on the surface of Earth. About 70% of Earth's fresh water is in the Antarctic ice cap.
- Vinson Massif (5140m) is the highest peak in Antarctica. It is located in the southern part of Sentinel Range. Lambert glacier of this continent is the largest glacier in the world.
- Mcurdo is the largest research station in Antarctica. It was set up by the United States of America.
- Dakshin Gangotri was the first Indian Scientific research base station in Antarctica.

Map Reading:

- The study and practice of many facets of maps and map making is called Cartography. It can be described as the art and science of map making.
- The term 'Cadastral' is derived from the French word "Cadastre" meaning, 'Register of Territorial property'

CIVICS:

How the State Government Works:

- While appointing the Governor, the President acts as per the advice of the Union Cabinet. The State Government is also consulted when the appointment is to be made. Generally, a person is not appointed Governor in his own State.
- At present, only six states in India have a Legislative Council in their legislature. They are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The State legislature follows the same procedure for passing an ordinary or a money bill like that of the Parliament. In State legislatures also, the Legislative Assembly which is the lower house is more powerful than the Legislative Council which is the upper house.

Citizens and Citizenship:

- **Indian Citizenship Act, 1955:** This act is to provide for the acquisition and termination of Indian citizenship.
- **Nationality and citizenship:** Nationality is the status of belonging to a particular nation by origin, birth basically, it's an ethnic and racial concept. Nationality of a person cannot be changed. Citizenship is granted to an individual by the government of the country when he/she complies with the legal formalities. Citizenship can be changed.
- As per the order precedence, the **President** is the **first citizen** of our country.
- **'Overseas Indians' Day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** Sponsored by the **Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India** is celebrated once in every two years, to **"mark the contributions of Overseas Indian Community in the development of India"**. The day (**January 9**) commemorates the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi in India from South Africa.

Understanding Secularism:

- The term secularism is derived from the Latin word 'saeculum' meaning 'an age' or 'the spirit of an age'.
- George Jacob Holyoake, a British newspaper editor coined the term secularism.

- Atheism - is a lack of belief in god and gods.
- Secularism - is non - interference of the state in religious affairs and vice-versa.
- **Emperor Ashoka** was the first great emperor to announce as early as **3rd century BC** (BCE) that the state would not prosecute any religious sect. In his **12th Rock Edict**, Ashoka made an appeal not only for the tolerance of all religious sects but also to develop a spirit of great respect towards them.
- A 19th century Hindu temple in Khajuraho, India incorporates a Hindu spire, a Jain cupola, a Buddhist stupa and Muslim style dome in place of usual shikara.
- Akbar's tomb at Sikandara near Agra, India

Human Rights and UNO:

- Preamble of UDHR All men are born free and all are equal in status and rights. They are endowed with intelligence and conscience and obliged to promote the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all men.
- Human Rights Day is celebrated annually on 10th December every year. It is to honour the United Nations General Assembly for declaring human rights universally.
- UNO has declared 1978 as International year of women. 1979 as the International year of children.
- 1098 Child Line This is India's first 24 hours' free emergency phone service for children in need of assistance. Special care is given for vulnerable children those affected by child labour, child marriage and children affected by any abuse.
- Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act 2007 This Act makes it legal obligation for children and heirs to provide maintenance to senior citizens and parents. Protection and support during old age are envisaged as human rights.

Road Safety Rules and Regulations:

- 304 A of the Indian Penal Code The police will file a criminal case under this section, which deals with offences relating to death due to rashness and negligence of the driver.
- Setu Bharatam - a program was launched in 2016 for building bridges for safe and seamless travel on National Highways. It aims to make all National Highways free of railway level crossing by 2019.
- Save LIFE Foundation is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental and public charitable trust that is working to improve road safety and emergency medical care across India.

Defence & Foreign Policy:

- The National War Memorial is a monument built by the Government of India to honour the Indian Armed Forces. The memorial is spread over 40 acres of land and is built around the existing chhatri (canopy) near India Gate, New Delhi. The names of armed forces personnel martyred during the conflicts are inscribed on the memorial walls.
- Field Marshal - is a Five Star General officer rank and the highest attainable rank in the Indian Army.
- Sam Manekshaw was the first Field Marshal of India and the second Field Marshal was K. M. Cariappa.
- Arjan Singh was the first and the only officer of the Indian Air Force to be promoted to Five Star Rank as Marshal.
- The Madras Regiment is one of the oldest infantry regiment of the Indian Army, originating in the year 1758. The Regimental Centre is at Wellington, Udhamandalam, Tamil Nadu.
- In 1962, after the Sino-Indian War, the need to expand the number of officers was felt. Two Officers Training Schools (OTS) were established in Pune and Chennai to train officers for Emergency Commission into the Army. On 1st January 1988, the school was renamed as the Officers Training Academy (OTA).

- In 1025 AD (CE), Rajendra Chola I, the Chola king from Tamil Nadu launched naval on the city-state of expedition Srivijaya in maritime Southeast Asia, and conquered Kadaram (modern Kedah). Rajendra's overseas expedition against Srivijaya was a unique event in India's history.
- National Cadet Corps (NCC) National Cadet Corps is a Tri-Services Organization, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force, engaged in grooming the youth of the country into disciplined and patriotic citizens. The National Cadet Corps in India is a voluntary organization which recruits cadets from high schools, colleges and universities all over India. The Cadets are given basic military training in small arms and parades.
- India shares a common land border with Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Burma. It also shares a common sea border with Sri Lanka.

The Judiciary:

- Smiritis In ancient India Smiritis defined the social duties for the individual. There are Manusmiriti, Naradasmiriti, Yajnavalkya smiriti etc.
- The Calcutta High Court is the oldest High court in the country, established in 1862, whereas the Allahabad High Court is the largest Court.
- The first political philosopher, who propounded the idea of an independent judiciary, was Montesquieu, the famous French philosopher. He believed in the theory of separation of powers of the three branches of the Government - Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.
- NALSA – The National Legal Service Authority has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organise Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
- Public Interest Litigation (PIL): PIL is a litigation filed in a court of law for the protection of “public interest”. The Supreme court introduced this system which allows a person to approach the court with his case. PIL can be filed for the following reasons such as violation of basic human rights, religious rights, pollution, and road safety. This could be done by a written letter stating the case. This concept is unique to the Indian Judiciary.

ECONOMICS

Money, Savings and Investments:

- Symbol of Rupee The Indian Rupee symbol designed by M r U d a y a k u m a r , Villupuram Dist Tamil Nadu. It was approved by the Government of India on 15 July 2010.
- Inflation and Deflation Inflation refers to the prices are rising, the value of money will fall. Deflation refers to the prices are falling, the value of money will rise.
- Demonetization In India, On 8-November-2016, the Government of India announced demonetization of all `500 and `1000 bank notes against Black Money

Public and Private Sectors:

- Mixed economy is the mixture of merits of both capitalism and socialism.
- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) • NITI Aayog replaced 65 years old planning commission. Planning commission has power to allocate funds to ministries and states, this function will be now at finance ministry. • NITI Aayog was formed on January 1st, 2015.
- The largest public sector employer in india is Indian Railways.