



Why is National Youth Day celebrated on Swami Vivekananda Jayanti?

Context:

- To honour the contributions of Swami Vivekananda, the government of India, in the year 1984, declared his birthday as National Youth Day. Since then, the day is celebrated as National Youth Day every year.
- It aims to propagate the concept of national integration, spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood, courage and adventure amongst the youth.



About Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902):

- He was born Narendra Nath Datta, on 12th January, 1863 in Calcutta.
- He was a disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.
- He died in 1902 in Belur Math in West Bengal.

Core Values Of Swami Vivekananda's Philosophy:

Ethics:

- His theory of ethics and principle of morality are based on the intrinsic purity and oneness of our true divine Self or Atman.
- According to Vivekananda, ethics was nothing but a code of conduct that helps a man to be a good citizen.

- He wanted the people to embrace the spirit of equality and free-thinking.

Religion:

- One of the most significant contributions of Swami Vivekananda to the modern world is his interpretation of religion as a universal experience of transcendent Reality, common to all humanity.
- He believed that every religion offered a pathway to the eternal supreme – supreme freedom, supreme knowledge, supreme happiness.

Education:

- Swami Vivekananda laid the greatest emphasis on education among the masses for the regeneration of our motherland.
- He advocated a man-making character-building education.
- He said that education must make the students self-reliant and help them face the challenges of life.

Nationalism:

- Though growth of Nationalism is attributed to the Western influence, Swami Vivekananda's nationalism is deeply rooted in Indian spirituality and morality.
- The four pillars of nationalism according to Swami Vivekananda are:
 - Consciousness and pride in the ancient glory of India.
 - Development of moral and physical strength.
 - Awakening of the masses.
 - Spiritual integration of the world on the basis of universal brotherhood.

Youth:

- Swamiji believed that if our youth is determined, there can be nothing impossible for them to achieve in the world.

- Hence Swamiji called upon the youth to not only build up their mental energies, but their physical ones as well.
- He wanted 'muscles of iron' as well as 'nerves of steel'.

Contributions:

- He was very instrumental in reviving Hinduism in India.
- He enlightened western world about Hinduism through his famous speech in the first Parliament of Religion held in Chicago (U.S.) in 1893.
- He introduced Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. His interpretation of Vedanta is called neo-Vedanta.
- His teachings opened up interfaith debates and interfaith awareness during the late 19th century.
- He established Ramakrishna Mission in 1897, which is engaged in educational and philanthropic work in India.
- He motivated people to fight against colonial exploitation and join the freedom struggle, do social service and work for the people in unity.
- He also worked against superstitions and advocated the upliftment of women's position in society.
- He championed the cause of service of people through charitable works. He believed the service of people is the best form of worship.
- According to him, the best form of worship was the service of the people.

Though Swami Vivekananda belonged to the 19th century, his message and his life are even more relevant today.

Reforming the Mining Sector

Context:

- The Union cabinet is most likely to consider the proposal of mining sector reform for enhancing private investment.
- Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 regulates the overall mining sector in India.
- Many sectors had to bear the brunt of the pandemic-induced lockdown.

Current Scenario:

- The government declared mining as an 'essential service' and allowed the production and transportation of minerals during the country-wide lockdown.
- India has registered in iron ore some of the best export numbers in the last seven-eight months as compared to previous years.

Key Focus of proposed amendments :

- To bolster overall mineral output by opening up a large number of mining blocks.
- Further exploration of deep-seated minerals like gold, diamond, platinum, copper, zinc and lead.
- Greater participation of the private sector.

Key proposals:

- A comprehensive license as opposed to separate licenses for exploration and then for production.
- Doing away with the distinction between captive and non-captive mining. This will do away the old policy of giving preference to 'captive' users. As a result, all mines will be available for anyone, including commercial miners.
- Consideration of the concept of joint auctioning of bauxite and coal mines for the aluminium sector.
- Amend the relevant provision of the Act and rules to make the National Mineral Exploration Trust functioning fully as an autonomous body.
- Amend rules to clarify the definition of illegal mining. At present, there is no distinction between illegal mining done outside the leasehold area and mining done in violation of various clearances and approvals inside a mining lease area.
- Developing a comprehensive and broad-based mineral index for determination of levies and taxes on the lines of the recently launched National Coal Index.

National Mineral Index:


- A committee will be set up to develop the National Mineral Index in which representatives of the state government will also be inducted.
- The National Mineral Index will determine the value of the mineral that will form the basis for calculation of royalty and other such levies of selected minerals.

The reforms will pave the way for auctioning of at least 500 mineral blocks. This will speed up the process of implementation of projects, ease of doing business, simplification of procedure and benefit all the parties in areas where minerals are located.

Institution of Eminence

Context:

Recently the University Grant Commission has amended its regulation which is allowing the Institution of Eminence to set up its campus abroad.

 <p>ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये UGC University Grants Commission</p>	<h3>University Grant Commission-</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● It is a statutory body under the Government of India.● The body has to maintain higher standards of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">● It recognises the universities in India
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Institution of Eminence Scheme:

- It was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018.
- According to the scheme 20 institutions are selected, ten from public institutions and ten from private institutions.
- These institutions will enjoy complete academic and administrative autonomy.
- The aim is to project them as global recognition.

Recent Amendment:

UGC has decided that these institutions can now open their campuses in foreign countries also.

Objective of the Scheme:

- It was launched to empower Higher Education institutions and make them world class teaching institutes and research institutions.
- It will enhance affordable high quality education.
- It will develop the capacity of the students and researchers to compete in the global education market place through the acquisition and creation of advanced knowledge in those areas.

Incentives to Institutions of Eminence:

- The selected Institute will get the tag of Institute of Eminence.
- These institutions will enjoy greater autonomy and freedom in deciding their curriculum and administration.
- The public institutions selected under Institutions of Eminence scheme will receive a grant of Rs.1000 crore, while the private institutions will not get any funding.

Shri Jagannath Temple

Context:

Recently the administrative authority of Shree Jagannath Temple Orissa has relaxed its norms of COVID pandemic . The temple has said that now the people need not present their COVID negative report for getting entry into the shrine from January 21.

Background:

- The temple was constructed by king Anantvarman Chodanaga Deva of eastern Ganga Dynasty in the 12th century.
- The shrine is also known as Yamanika Tirtha because according to Hindu Mythology The God of Death i.e Yama has been nullified in the Puri because the Lord is present in this place itself.
- It is also known as white pagoda.

The sun Temple of Konark is known as **Black Pagoda**.

- The Temple is also a part of the Char Dham pilgrimage of Hindus.

Features of the Temple:

- There are four gates of the temple.
- Eastern side of the gate is called as Singhdwara which is the main gate.
- Two crouching lions have been depicted at the gate. Southern side of the gate is Ashwadwara, The western side gate is known as Vyaghra Dwara and the northern side gate is known as Hasti Dwara.
- The temple has been built in Nagara style.
- At the entrance of the temple there is an entrance stand i.e Aruna Stambha which is taken from Sun Temple.
- There is a pond inside the temple.
- Every year Rath Yatra has been organised where lakhs of devotees participate from India and abroad.

'THE LINE' city of Saudi Arabia

Context:

Saudi Arabia has announced a futuristic city, as a part of the grand Neom Project.

Historical Background:



- Saudi Arabia's economy depends on the oil and other petroleum products.
- As the source of energy is basically changing from carbon emission to green energy, there is a threat that Saudi may lose its basic source of income.
- Saudi Arabia proposed a grand project in the name **NEOM project**, in the North Western portion (Tabuk province) of the Saudi Arabia, in 2017.
- Total investment on the project will be **\$500bn**.
- NEOM will be a city where science and Technology and other Research related works will be conducted.
- Other sources of income for Saudi Arabia like the Service Sector and also the tourism sector. will flourish in NEOM

Recent Development:

- Due to the present pandemic of COVID 19, NEOM has lost its spark as an investment destination.
- In order to make it more attractive and regain investments from Global players, Saudi Arabia has proposed a dream project "**THE LINE**" city in the **NEOM** region.

About "THE LINE" city:

- It is an ambitious plan to construct a zero-carbon city.
- It will be constructed in a 170km straight line,
- It is the first major construction project for the futuristic megacity Neom.



- The Line will have no cars or roads and will be populated by one million residents from around the world.

Objective:

“zero cars, zero streets and zero carbon emissions” and that its one million inhabitants could fulfil all their daily requirements, including education and leisure, within a five-minute walk of home.

Indian Passport rank declines



Context:

As per the Henley Passport Index 2021 Indian passport's rank has declined continuously in the last few years and this year India's rank is 85.

About the Passport Index:

- The Henley Passport Index (HPI) is a global ranking of countries according to the travel freedom for their citizens, it started in **2006**.
- The rank of any country depends on how many other countries allow the individuals of that country to get the facility of VISA on arrival.
- Rankings are based on the exclusive data from the **International Air Transport Association**.
- India's rank is 85th, it has slipped from 84th rank.
- Total 58 countries provide 'VISA on arrival' to India.
- India stands with Tajikistan on 85th rank.
- **Japan** has scored the first position.
- Nepal and Pakistan are in the list of worst Passports to hold.
- Lowest rank has been scored by **Afghanistan**.