

1. Centre retracts caution on Aadhaar photocopies (Page no.- 1)

GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity & Governance)

The Bengaluru Regional Office of the UIDAI, on May 27, published a notification asking people not to share photocopies of their Aadhaar card as it could be “misused”.

In its withdrawal statement on Sunday, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the parent body of the UIDAI, said the authority had advised Aadhaar card holders only to exercise “normal prudence” in using and sharing their Aadhaar numbers and that its Bangalore subsidiary’s advisory — now withdrawn — was in the context of an attempt to misuse an Aadhaar card using a photocopy.

“Aadhaar identity authentication ecosystem has provided adequate features for protecting and safeguarding the identity and privacy of the Aadhaar holder,” the statement added.

2. The return of the great power rivalries (Page no.- 6)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

There are similarities between events in Europe today and what happened in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. What triggered the great power security competition in the run-up to the First World War was the phenomenal rise of Wilhelmine Germany as a military and industrial power and the regional hegemon’s response to it. When Otto von Bismarck became the Minister-President of Prussia in September 1862, there was no unified German state. Prussia was part of the loose, ineffective German Confederation. Bismarck adopted an aggressive foreign policy, fought and won three wars — with Denmark, Austria and France — destroyed the confederation, established a stronger and larger German Reich that replaced Prussia.

3. Building peace and prosperity with strong BRICS (Page no.- 6)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

As an old Chinese saying goes, nothing can separate people with common goals and ideals; not even mountains and seas. Sixteen years after its creation, BRICS has become an important platform for win-win cooperation among China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa, and a significant force for the evolution of international order, the improvement of global governance and the promotion of common development.

4. Absolution BRICS (Page no.- 6)

GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity)

Shoddy investigation is one thing, but a malicious and motivated probe is quite another. The probe conducted by former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) official Sameer Wankhede into a purported tip-off about consumption of drugs on board a cruise ship, in October 2021, seems to fall in the latter category. The raid on the vessel resulted in seizure of narcotic substances and the arrest of several people, including Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan.

5. China’s ‘inevitable’ global dominance (Page no.- 7)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

India and China were roughly at the same economic level in 1978, with similar GDP and per capita income. Though China began to grow much faster thereafter, the gap between the two countries was not very significant even a decade later, when the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi paid a historic visit to Beijing in December 1988. It was then possible for Deng Xiaoping to declare that there could not be an Asian Century without India and China growing together and playing a resurgent role. The surge in India’s GDP growth as a result of its own economic

reforms and liberalisation policies adopted in the early 1990s expanded India's political and economic profile. At the turn of the century, India was behind China but was seen as shrinking the gap. In the period 2003–2007, India's growth rate accelerated while China's began to slow down. This was the brief period when India's diplomatic options multiplied. It was able to leverage the advance of its relations with one major power to promote its relations with other major powers, thereby expanding its strategic space.

6. Deepening strategic commitment (Page no.- 7)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

The Quad (the U.S., India, Japan and Australia) held its second in-person leaders' summit in Tokyo on May 24. It has emerged stronger and clearer in its strategy and goals for the security and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific. The efforts by the Quad countries should be viewed not only from the prism of the summits, but also from the wider context of international developments and the continuing process of consolidation of the bilateral relations within, especially U.S.-India ties.

7. Reservation in public employment (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity & Governance)

The jurisprudence of reservation relies on the symbiotic coexistence of constitutionally guaranteed equality of opportunity in public employment under Article 16 (1) of the Constitution of India.

It is a settled law that there is no fundamental right to reservation or promotion under Article 16(4) or Article 16(4 A) of the Constitution, rather they are enabling provisions for providing reservation, if the circumstances so warrant.

Sensitivity of the welfare state towards the weaker sections over decades resulted in the gradual expansion of canopy of reservation in the form of increasing classifications under Article 16.

8. The Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh Enclave(Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

During the First World War, the Ottomans, aided by Azeris, attacked the south Caucasus. As the Ottomans retreated at the end of the war, Azerbaijan and Armenia descended into a full-blown war in 1920.

A ceasefire signed in 1994 could not prevent multiple flare-ups between the Nagorno-Karabakh rebel armed forces backed by the Armenian military, and the Azerbaijani military.

Both countries have now agreed to formulate border security and delimitation commissions and start talks for a peace deal.

9. 5G: Under the hood (Page no.- 9)

GS Paper- 3 (Science & Tech.)

5G represents the allocation of new spectrum to increase capacity. Since most of the spectrum at lower frequencies is already being utilised — much of this new spectrum is being allocated at higher frequencies.

Since much of the 5G infrastructure is being built from ground up, there is a chance to redesign the technology to make it more suitable for the evolving communication needs of the future.

As 5G rolls out, over the next several years the volume of data is expected to exponentially increase. To ensure that there isn't a corresponding increase in the energy usage, 5G places a lot of importance on energy efficiency.

10. Myanmar Minister may not get ASEAN meet call (Page no.- 10)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

Caught between international pressure over how to engage with the Myanmar military junta regime and India's own ties with its neighbour, the Union government is likely to not include the Myanmar Foreign Minister at the India-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting to be hosted by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) in mid-June.

11. 'Projects worth ₹1.34 lakh cr. to boost northeast connectivity (Page no.- 10)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

nion Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the Centre is implementing various rail, road and air connectivity projects worth ₹1,34,200 crore in Northeast India. Addressing the "Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI)" conclave here, she said the Union government had been pumping in huge money to develop a number of infrastructure projects throughout the region.

"We are carrying out 20 railway projects worth ₹74,000 crore for 2,011 km, which are spread across the northeast," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The Centre is also developing 4,000 km of roads in the region at a total cost of ₹58,000 crore.

12. Monsoon sets in over Kerala (Page no.- 12)

GS Paper- 1 (Indian Geography)

The monsoon has reached Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday. While this is three days before the usual onset date of June 1, it is two days later than what the IMD forecast on May 13.

Rainfall is not the only criterion that the IMD relies on to declare the monsoon's onset. Windspeeds of a minimum strength and depth in the atmosphere, the outgoing longwave radiation, which is a measure of cloudiness, and rainfall appearing to be consistent and well distributed over Kerala, are important criteria.

Until Saturday, most of these parameters — except sufficient rainfall over Kerala — were fulfilled.

13. U.S. becomes India's biggest trading partner at \$119 billion (Page no.- 12)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

The U.S. surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

According to data with the Commerce Ministry, the bilateral trade between the U.S. and India stood at \$119.42 billion in 2021-22 as against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21. Exports to the U.S. increased to \$76.11 billion in 2021-22 from \$51.62 billion in the previous fiscal year, while imports rose to \$43.31 billion from about \$29 billion.

During 2021-22, India's two-way commerce with China aggregated at \$115.42 billion as compared to \$86.4 billion in 2020-21, the data showed. Exports to China marginally increased to \$21.25 billion last fiscal year from \$21.18 billion in 2020-21, while imports jumped to \$94.16 billion from about \$65.21 billion in 2020-21. Trade gap rose to \$72.91 billion in 2021-22 from \$44 billion in the previous fiscal year.

14. Triangle of Sadnesswins Palme d'Or (Page no.- 13)

Prelims GS Paper- 1 (Current Affairs – Award & Prize)

A viciously sharp satire about class conflict, with an already-infamous vomiting and pooping scene, won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, the second time Swedish director Ruben Ostlund has won the prize.

Triangle of Sadness puts Ostlund among a select group of two-time winners of the top prize at Cannes. He first scooped the Palme in 2017 for The Square.

Now firmly established as cinema's king of cringe, Ostlund, 48, takes a scalpel to bourgeois niceties. This time he turned his gaze on fashion models and the ultra-rich, who find their status suddenly undermined when disaster strikes a cruise ship.

15. Hardik-inspired Titans cap a remarkable campaign with title (Page no.- 15)

Prelims GS Paper- 1 (Current Affairs – Sports)

In front of a raucous home crowd, Gujarat Titans outclassed Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets to claim the Indian Premier League title here on Sunday.

The packed house at the Narendra Modi Stadium, which housed a little over 1,00,000 spectators on the night, brought the roof down when Shubman Gill hit the winning runs.

16. It's inevitable, Real Madrid marches on to European glory (Page no.- 16)

Prelims GS Paper- 1 (Current Affairs – Sports)

Vinicius Junior scored the only goal of the game as Real Madrid beat Liverpool 1-0 in Saturday's Champions League final in Paris to become kings of Europe for a record-extending 14th time after a night marred by problems outside the ground that led to the kick-off being delayed by over half an hour.

Brazilian winger Vinicius turned in Fede Valverde's enticing low cross in the 59th minute at the Stade de France and Liverpool could not find an equaliser as Jurgen Klopp's side lost to the Spanish giant in a Champions League final for the second time in five seasons.