



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS II

1. Special Category question

Source: IE, Page 14

Prelims: Special Category Status (SCS)

Mains: Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure

Context: The article discusses what Special Category Status (SCS) is, why Andhra Pradesh is advocating for it, and the benefits that SCS provides.

Special Category Status (SCS):

- **Introduction:**

- Introduced by the Fifth Finance Commission in 1969 to aid states with economic or geographical disadvantages.
- Factors considered include difficult terrain, low population density, tribal population, border location, and economic backwardness.
- Scrapped by the 14th Finance Commission, suggesting increased tax devolution from 32% to 42% to fill resource gaps.

- **Beneficiary States:**

- Presently, 11 states, including the entire Northeast, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Telangana have been given SCS.
- Post-bifurcation, Andhra Pradesh has been seeking SCS to address financial imbalances.



Andhra Pradesh's Demand for SCS:

- **Historical Context:**

- Post-bifurcation through the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, the UPA government promised SCS to compensate for the loss of revenue from Hyderabad and other developed regions.
- Both former CM Chandrababu Naidu and current CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy have advocated for SCS due to the state's financial distress.

- **Financial Challenges:**

- The 14th Finance Commission estimated a post-devolution revenue deficit of Rs 22,113 crore for 2015-20, but it actually was Rs 66,362 crore.
- The state's debt reached Rs 2,58,928 crore by 2018-19 and exceeds Rs 3.5 lakh crore now.
- Post-bifurcation, AP inherited 59% of the population and debt but only 47% of the revenues.



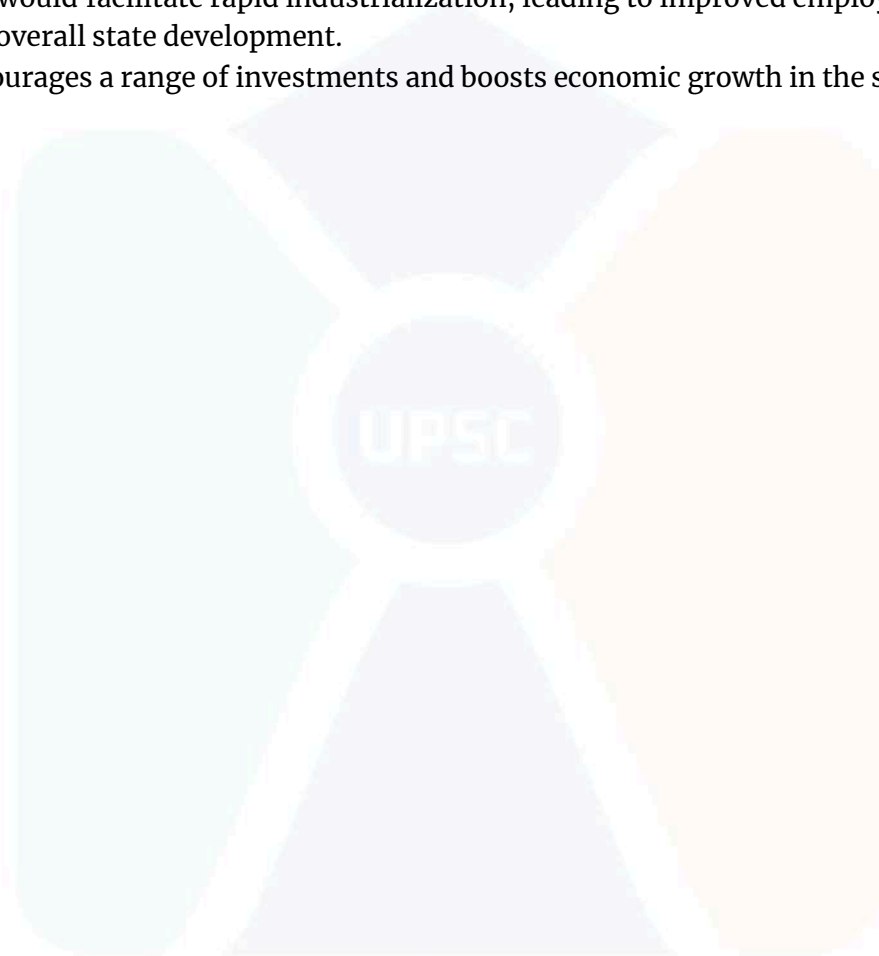
Benefits of Special Category Status:

- **Fiscal and Industrial Incentives:**

- Annual per capita grants to SCS states are Rs 5,573 crore, while AP receives Rs 3,428 crore.
- SCS states enjoy industrial incentives like income tax exemptions, custom duty waivers, reduced excise duty, corporate tax exemptions, and GST concessions.
- The Centre funds up to 90% of central schemes in SCS states, compared to 70% in non-SCS states.

- **Impact on Development:**

- SCS would facilitate rapid industrialization, leading to improved employment opportunities and overall state development.
- Encourages a range of investments and boosts economic growth in the state.



InBrief

2. HRW says Israel used white phosphorous in Lebanon

Source: The Hindu, Page 13

Context: The Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused Israel of using white phosphorus incendiary shells on residential buildings in conflict-hit southern Lebanon.

White Phosphorous

- White phosphorus is a waxy chemical that ranges from yellowish to clear and has a strong, garlic-like smell.
- It is highly flammable and ignites rapidly when exposed to air, producing a bright, intense flame.
- Militaries use it in incendiary weapons for purposes such as lighting up targets at night or causing damage to enemies.
- Burning at 800°C and spontaneously igniting at temperatures up to 1,300°C in the presence of oxygen, it generates dense white smoke, which is used to create smokescreens in sensitive areas.
- White phosphorus can cause fast-spreading fires and is very difficult to extinguish once ignited, as it adheres to various surfaces, including skin and clothing.

3. Palau President confirms 'major' cyberattack, points finger at China

Source: The Hindu, Page 12

Context: Palau's President said the tiny country, one of Taiwan's few diplomatic allies, had suffered a major cyberattack, pointing a finger at China. Ransomware group DragonForce claimed responsibility for the hack.

Palau

- Palau is an archipelago of over 500 islands, part of the Micronesia region in the western Pacific Ocean.
- Babelthuap, its largest island is volcanic, mainly composed of andesite, and is bounded by thick mangrove forests broken occasionally by sandy beaches on the east coast.
- Palau has a population of around 18,000 people largely concentrated in Koror, which is the former capital and the economic center of the nation.



4. World's richest have never been so wealthy, says Capgemini in study

Source: The Hindu, 11

Context: The number of “high net worth individuals” (HNWI) rose by 5.1% last year to 22.8 million, according to consulting firm Capgemini.

High Net Worth Individual (HNWI)

- A high-net-worth individual (HNWI) is an individual who generally has liquid assets of at least \$1 million after accounting for their liabilities.
- Their total wealth reached \$86.8 trillion in 2023, a 4.7% increase from the previous year, according to the annual World Wealth Report.
- The number of HNWIs and their total wealth are the highest since Capgemini began the annual study in 1997.

Types of High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs)



**High-Net-Worth
Individuals**
Individuals With Liquid
Assets of \$1M to \$5M



**Very-High-Net-Worth
Individuals**
Individuals With Liquid
Assets of \$5M to \$30M



**Ultra-High-Net-Worth
Individuals**
Individuals With Liquid
Assets of More Than \$30M

5. With bad news from Cassini, is dark matter's main rival theory dead?

Source: The Hindu, Page 9

Context: The article discusses MOND, a rival idea from that of dark matter, explains why galaxies are prevented from flying apart.

Milgromian dynamics (MOND)

- Proposed by Israeli physicist Mordehai Milgrom in 1983 as an alternative to Newtonian dynamics and general relativity.
- The main postulate of MOND is that gravity starts behaving differently to what Newton expected when it becomes very weak, as at the edges of galaxies.
- MOND is an alternative to the idea of dark matter, which is invisible matter scientists think exists to explain why galaxies spin so fast.
- But MOND is still being debated by scientists, and it's not yet widely accepted.



6. PMI signals services growth receded to a 5-month low in May

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

Context: Activity in India's services sectors slumped to a five month low in May, according to latest PMI data.

Purchasing Managers Index

- The Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) is an economic indicator derived from the monthly survey of the private sector companies.
- PMI aims to provide information regarding the current and future conditions of a business to the decision-makers, analysts and investors of the company.
- PMI data for India is released by S&P Global - a global major in financial information and analytics. Earlier PMI data for India was released by IHS Markit before its merger with S&P.
- The PMI is a weighted average of the following five indices: New Orders (30%), Output (25%), Employment (20%), Suppliers' Delivery Times (15%) and Stocks of Purchases (10%).

7. MeitY launch Air-Pravah App on World Environment Day

Source: PIB

Context: Secretary, MeitY has inaugurated Indigenous Air Quality Monitoring System (AQ-AIMS) and launched Air-Pravah App on the occasion of World Environment Day.

More in News

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Kolkata in collaboration with TeXMIN (ISM, Dhanbad) and industry partner J M Envirolab Pvt Ltd, under the 'National programme on Electronics and ICT applications in Agriculture and Environment (AgriEnIcs)', has developed an outdoor air quality monitoring system to monitor environmental pollutants which includes parameters like PM 1.0, PM 2.5, PM 10, SO₂, NO₂, O₃, CO, CO₂, Temperature, Humidity, etc, for continuous air quality monitoring.
- The AQ-AIMS comes with the mobile application named "Air-Pravah" for real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) monitoring.
- It offers quick setup, real-time data visualization, unit conversions, AQI comparison, multi-device support, data analysis tools, remote monitoring and automatic updates.
- It will be available on Android play stores, and the app is being activated by registering with the unique device ID of the AQ-AIMS device.



8. Health Ministry reworks protocol as country's TB elimination drive plateaus

Source: The Hindu, Page 8

Context: India's goal to eliminate TB in the country by 2025, has plateaued, according to the Health Ministry.

Tuberculosis Control Programmes in India

- The Government of India (GoI) launched the "National TB Programme (NTP)" in 1962 as District TB Centre model involved imparting BCG vaccination and TB treatment to fight tuberculosis.
- The "Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme" (RNTCP), based on the internationally recommended Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy, was launched in 1997 and expanded across the country by 2006.
- In the year 2007, GoI introduced the "Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB" (PMDT) to combat the threat of drug resistance and subsequently achieved full geographical coverage by the year 2013.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has developed the "National Strategic Plan" for Tuberculosis Elimination (2017–25) which encapsulates the bold and innovative steps required to eliminate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global targets.
- By 2020 it was clear that the NSP- 2017–25 will not be able to meet these objectives, so a new National Strategic Plan India 2020–2025 was launched in 2020.
- The MoHFW along with various development partners of the Health Ministry launched the Tuberculosis (TB) Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan in 2021.

TB CASES IN INDIA OVER THE YEARS

	India TB Report 2020	2023	2024
Estimated TB cases	26.9 lakh	27.4 lakh	27.8 lakh
Number of cases reported	24.04 lakh	24.2 lakh	25.5 lakh
Reporting from private sector	6.8 lakh	7.3 lakh	8.4 lakh
% cases from private sector	28.20%	30%	32.90%
Estimated mortality	4.36 lakh	3.2 lakh	3.2 lakh



Daily Quiz

1. Consider the following states:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Telangana
3. Arunachal Pradesh
4. Uttarakhand
5. Bihar
6. Assam

How many of the above states have been granted “Special Category Status (SCS)”?

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 3
- C. Only 4
- D. Only 5

2. White phosphorus is a chemical used in warfare that primarily causes damage through:

- A. The release of a toxic gas upon contact with air.
- B. The creation of a blinding smoke screen that hinders visibility.
- C. Its intense heat, causing severe burns upon contact with skin or objects.
- D. Its ability to disrupt nerve function and cause paralysis.

3. Recently seen in the news, ‘DragonForce’ is a

- A. Private Mercenaries Group
- B. Ransomware Group
- C. International Money Laundering Group
- D. State Funded Terrorist Group

4. Which of the following correctly describes the term ‘High Net Worth Individual (HNWI)’?

- A. Individual with liquid assets of at least \$1 million
- B. Individual with liquid assets of at least \$1 billion
- C. Individual with liquid assets of at least \$10 million
- D. Individual with liquid assets of at least \$10 billion

5. Milgromian Dynamics (MOND) is an alternative theory in astrophysics proposed to address discrepancies in the rotation curves of galaxies. Which of the following statements best describes MOND?

- A. MOND suggests that the force of gravity increases at large distances.
- B. MOND proposes the existence of an unseen, additional form of matter called dark matter.
- C. MOND modifies Newton's laws of motion at very low accelerations without invoking dark matter.
- D. MOND is a relativistic theory that unifies electromagnetism and gravity.



6. Which of the following statements correctly describe the Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)?

1. PMI is an economic indicator derived from monthly surveys of private sector companies.
2. A PMI value above 50 indicates contraction in economic activity.
3. The PMI is used to measure the performance of both manufacturing and services sectors.
4. The PMI considers factors such as new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries, and employment.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

- A. 1, 3, and 4 only
- B. 1, 2, and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

7. Recently, the Air-Pravah App, an outdoor air quality monitoring system application, was launched by which of the following ministries?

- A. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- B. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- C. Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- D. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

8. Which of the following statements about Tuberculosis (TB) programmes in India is correct?

- A. The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to achieve TB-free India by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- B. The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) introduced the DOTS strategy, which stands for Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course.
- C. Nikshay Poshan Yojana provides nutritional support exclusively to children diagnosed with TB.
- D. Under the Nikshay Mitra initiative, only healthcare professionals can adopt TB patients to provide additional support.



Solutions

Answer 1: C

Solution:

- Eleven states, including Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Telangana, have been designated as special category states.

Hence, Option C is correct.

Answer 2: C

Solution:

- White phosphorus (WP) is a pyrophoric substance, meaning it ignites spontaneously upon contact with air. This property makes it a dangerous weapon.
- Militaries use it in incendiary weapons for purposes such as lighting up targets at night or causing damage to enemies.

Hence, Option C is correct.

Answer 3: B

Solution:

- Palau's President said the tiny country, one of Taiwan's few diplomatic allies, had suffered a major cyberattack, pointing a finger at China. Ransomware group DragonForce claimed responsibility for the hack.

Hence, Option B is correct.

Answer 4: A

Solution:

- A high-net-worth individual (HNWI) is an individual who generally has liquid assets of at least \$1 million after accounting for their liabilities.

Hence, Option A is correct.

Answer 5: C

Solution:

- Milgromian dynamics (MOND) was proposed by Israeli physicist Mordehai Milgrom in 1983 as an alternative to Dark Matter theory.
- The main postulate of MOND is that gravity starts behaving differently to what Newton expected when it becomes very weak, as at the edges of galaxies.

Hence, Option C is correct.

Answer 6: A

Solution:

- Statement 1 is correct: The Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) is indeed an economic indicator derived from monthly surveys of private sector companies.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: A PMI value above 50 indicates expansion in economic activity, while a value below 50 indicates contraction.
- Statement 3 is correct: The PMI measures the performance of both the manufacturing and services sectors.
- Statement 4 is correct: The PMI considers various factors such as new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries, and employment to gauge the overall economic activity.

Hence, Option A is correct.

Answer 7: D

Solution:

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Kolkata in collaboration with TeXMIN (ISM, Dhanbad) and industry partner J M Envirolab Pvt Ltd, under the 'National programme on Electronics and ICT



applications in Agriculture and Environment (AgriEnIcs)', has developed an outdoor air quality monitoring system to monitor environmental pollutants.

- The AQ-AIMS comes with the mobile application named "Air-Pravah" for real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) monitoring.

Hence, Option D is correct.

Answer 8: B

Solution:

- Option A is incorrect. The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to achieve a TB-free India by 2025, which is five years ahead of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals target of 2030.
- Option B is correct. The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) introduced the DOTS strategy, which stands for Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course. This strategy is a key component of TB control efforts globally and in India.
- Option C is incorrect. The Nikshay Poshan Yojana provides nutritional support to all TB patients, not exclusively to children. It aims to address the nutritional needs of TB patients to aid in their recovery.
- Option D is incorrect. Under the Nikshay Mitra initiative, a variety of entities, including individuals, organizations, and public representatives, can adopt TB patients to provide additional support, not just healthcare professionals.

Hence, Option B is correct.





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