

# SMART ABHYAS

CURRENT AFFAIRS MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2019

## NON-MILITARY PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE

Indian Air Force in an unprecedented move bombed terrorists on foreign soil, sending out a clear message that terrorism and sponsors of terror will not be tolerated by the world's new emerging superpower.



INCLUDES

Daily Quiz Compilation of  
February 2019

Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha  
TV compilations

All India Radio Spotlight  
Analysis

# Dear aspirants

A note from Smart Abhyas



Smart Abhyas

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## TELL A FRIEND

It would mean the world to us if you think that the content we are providing is worthwhile and spread the word to fellow aspirants out there.

## Polity and Social Issues

1. Government clears Rs 40,000 crore project to construct six submarines
2. Vision 2030 for India
3. Sardar Patel - Iron Man of India
4. National Film Development Corporation of India
5. Border Area Development Programme (BADP)
6. The Dard Aryans of Ladakh
7. International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2018
8. Haj Pilgrimage
9. Constitutional and Legislative measures to Protect and Safeguard Land Rights of Scheduled Tribes
10. Key Bills not passed as 16th Lok Sabha wraps up
11. Supreme Court ruling on Lieutenant Governor-Delhi Government power tussle
12. Vande Bharat Express rolls out
13. India withdraws Most Favoured Nation status from Pakistan
14. Substance abuse in India
15. Infrastructure in islands to be improved
16. National Company Law Tribunal
17. National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions
18. Prisoners of War: What you need to know
4. False Daisy can be used to combat lead pollution
5. A third of Hindu Kush Himalaya glaciers will melt by 2100
6. Urbanisation and how it is linked to pollution levels
7. Surface ocean colours to change by 2100 courtesy climate change
8. Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals(CMS)
9. Asiatic Lion Conservation Project launched
10. India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative
11. India and China are global greening leaders says study
12. Groundwater in parts of Maharashtra contaminated
13. Crying snake discovered in Arunachal Pradesh
14. Climate change claims its first victim
15. Pangolin : The most trafficked mammal in the world
16. Great Indian Hornbills are capable of adapting to modified habitats
17. Crust, mantle, core and much more
18. Blackbuck in the spotlight
19. Rainfed agriculture suffering
20. Urea as a fertiliser: More harmful than useful?
21. Tortoise feared extinct found in Galapagos Islands
22. The future of food under severe threat: FAO
23. Ganga basin states in trouble

## Geography, Ecology and Biodiversity

1. Gigantic cavity in Antarctic glacier: NASA
2. Global sea level may be rising faster than previously thought: Scientists
3. Effectiveness of Green India Mission
24. National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAF-CC)
25. Clouds and climate change
26. El Nino unlikely to affect monsoon this year

## Economy

1. Interim Budget 2019-20 : All you need to know
2. Centre sets up a panel to look into angel tax
3. Monetary Policy Report
4. Single regulator for all International Financial Services Centres on the cards
5. Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP)
6. Shot in the arm for the Indian shipbuilding industry
7. Second edition of Startup Ranking for 2019
8. Pre-paid Payment Instruments (PPIs)
9. Prompt Corrective Action of the Reserve Bank of India
10. 42 non-scheduled cancer drugs brought under price control
11. Umbrella programme for the development of Scheduled Tribes
12. Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme
13. Slew of initiatives focused on women's safety launched
14. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM- SYM) : All you need to know
15. Portal for real-time information on available depth on stretches of National Waterways launched
16. Swadesh Darshan Scheme
17. Reforms in Exploration and Licensing Policy for enhancing domestic exploration and production of oil and gas
18. Cabinet approves launch of Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)
19. Cabinet approves the proposal of National Policy on Electronics 2019
20. Operation Digital Board
21. SATAT initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative, green transport fuel

## Government Schemes and Initiatives

1. Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
3. National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE)
4. Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog
5. Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF)
6. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan : All you need to know
7. National Mission for Preservation of Manuscripts
8. LaQshya programme
9. Copernicus programme
10. Swachh Shakti 2019
11. Schemes that have been launched to improve Research Ecosystem in India

## Science and Technology

1. E-cigarettes flavouring causes harm
2. Biotechnology and its applications
3. New method can restore fertility of oil-soaked soil
4. India set to manufacture key components for largest ground-based observatory
5. ISRO set to launch communication satellite GSAT-31
6. Dwarf galaxy discovered by Hubble Telescope
7. Magnetic north pole drifting fast towards Russia
8. Anti-tank missile Helina test fired
9. Chinook helicopters arrival a shot in the arm for Indian Air Force

10. New weapons and more for the Indian Armed Forces
11. NASA's Opportunity rover is now gone
12. New NASA telescope 'SPHEREx' to study the origin of the universe
13. BrahMos to get faster, sleeker and smaller India to have its own DNS
14. Bharat Stage VI fuel
15. Aerial surveillance opted for by IAF

### International Relations, Summits and Meetings

1. Germany, France, Britain to launch mechanism for trade with Iran
2. The United States of America pulls out of arms treaty with Russia
3. Macedonia signs accord to join NATO
4. World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2019
5. 4th India-ASEAN Expo Summit
6. Financial Action Task Force decides to keep Pakistan on its grey list for now
7. Uighurs and their troubled life in China
8. India to be 'Guest of Honour' at Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
9. International Court of Justice opines that Chagos islands should be handed over to Mauritius
10. 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit

### Point Blank (Facts for prelims)

1. Government renames DIPP as Department for promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
2. Unemployment rate at 6.1% in 2017-18, highest in over 4 decades: NSSO survey
3. The International Year of the Periodic Table: 2019
4. Kerala State sets up Price Monitoring and Research Unit
5. NFDC Declared Winner by MSME For Promotion of SC/ST Entrepreneurs
6. 2018 Was the 4th Hottest Year
7. India ranked 36th in the US Chamber's global IP index
8. Multinational Training Exercise 'CUTLASS EXPRESS'
9. Helicopter-launched anti-tank missile 'Helina'
10. PETROTECH - 2019
11. 1st Aqua Mega Food Park
12. Sushil Chandra appointed as Election Commissioner
13. Saudi Arabia joins the International Solar Alliance
14. Tagore Cultural Harmony Award
15. Digital India Awards
16. Cobra Gold military exercise
17. National War Memorial unveiled

### Polity and Social Issues

1. Extradition: All you need to know
2. International Mother Language Day
3. National War Memorial
4. Protection of Girl Child

### Geography, Ecology and Biodiversity

1. Conservation of Asiatic Lions
1. Energy and Environment conference
2. Melting of Himalayan Glaciers

### International Relations, Summits and Meetings

1. INF Treaty
2. Diplomatic relations between India and Saudi Arabia
3. International Court of Justice
4. Relations between India and South Korea

### Science and Technology

1. Periodic table
2. Human Space flight centre
3. New tomato variety
4. Communication Satellites
5. One health India Conference
6. Astronomical society India
7. Heinrich Hertz
8. Bedin 1
9. ISRO's 40th Communication satellite
10. Eclipta Prostrata
11. Geological Survey of India
12. Gigantic cavity at Thwaites Glacier

# POLITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES

## Government clears Rs 40,000 crore project to construct six submarines

### What is the issue?

- In a major decision, the Defence Ministry has approved the indigenous construction of six submarines under Project 75 (I) for the Indian Navy at a cost of over Rs 40,000 crore.

### More on the issue:

- The decision was made at a meeting of the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, the ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement which is presided over by the Defence Minister.
- The DAC also approved the acquisition of approximately 5,000 **Milan anti-tank guided missiles for the Army**. The French-origin anti-tank guided missiles are meant for the Indian infantry to destroy Main battle tanks which are fitted with Explosive Reactive Armour.
- The project to construct the six submarines will be implemented under the **strategic partnership model** which provides for roping in private firm to build select military platforms in India in partnership with foreign defence manufacturers.
- It will be the second project to be implemented under the strategic partnership model.
- The first project to get the government's nod for implementation under the new model was the acquisition of 111 utility helicopters for the Navy at a cost of over Rs 21,000 crore.

## Vision 2030 for India

### What is the issue ?

- Presenting the Interim Budget, the Finance Minister laid out the government's vision for India in 2030, highlighting "10 most important dimensions."

### Ten dimensions of Vision for India of 2030

1. To build physical as well as social infrastructure and to provide ease of living
2. To create a Digital India, digitize government processes with leaders from youth
3. Making India pollution free by leading transport revolution with Electric Vehicles and focus on Renewables
4. Expanding rural industrialisation using modern digital technologies to generate massive employment
5. Clean Rivers, safe drinking water to all Indians and efficient use of water through micro-irrigation
6. Besides scaling up of Sagarmala, Coastline and Ocean waters powering India's development and growth
7. Aim at our space programme – Gaganyaan, India becoming the launch-pad of satellites for the World and placing an Indian astronaut into space by 2022
8. Making India self-sufficient in food, exporting to the world to meet their food needs and producing food in the most organic way
9. A healthy India via Ayushman Bharat with women having equal rights and concern for their safety and empowerment
10. Transforming India into a Minimum Government Maximum Governance nation with pro-active and responsible bureaucracy

## Sardar Patel - Iron Man of India

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man or Lauh Purush, is credited to shape up the territorial boundary of independent India, making it a formidable Union of states.
- The visionary statesman played a significant role in shaping the destiny of our nation. With his political wisdom and great administrative skill, Sardar Patel laid the foundation of modern India.

### Architect of Indian State

- He was one of the principal architects of Indian independence. When our country got independence in 1947, there were 565 princely states.
- Most of the Nawabs and Maharajas who ruled over these princely states dreamt of becoming independent rulers as British announced to quit India. In the midst of chaotic Independence, they demanded equal status from the Government of India.
- Some of them even declared themselves Independent and even planned to send their representatives to the United Nations. However, with his political acumen and foresight, Sardar Patel tackled the situation by consolidating the support of the subject of these princely states and making the rulers realize the impossibility of independence from the Indian republic.

### Junagadh

- A unique case was that of Junagadh, a princely state which was surrounded by India on all its sides, with an outlet onto the Arabian Sea.
- The Nawab of Junagarh, Muhammad Mahabat Khanji III, decided to become part of Pakistan. The decision was against the popular will of his subject, majority of which were Hindus. On September 15, 1947, Junagadh acceded to the Dominion of Pakistan.
- The grave situation was tactfully handled by Sardar Patel who offered Pakistan time to reverse its acceptance of the accession and to hold a plebiscite in Junagadh. He also ordered the annexation of three principalities of Junagadh.

- Eventually, the government of Junagadh invited India to take control. Subsequently, a plebiscite was conducted in which over 99 percent people chose India over Pakistan and the princely state became part of our nation.

### Hyderabad

- Likewise, he handled the merger of Hyderabad (Operation Polo) with carrot-and-stick approach which was backed up by swift army action.
- Entrusted with the intimidating and massive task of uniting independent India, Sardar Patel successfully integrated all princely states.
- The India that we see today was a result of the tireless and determined efforts put in by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who is rightly hailed as **'India's Bismarck'**.

### About the Iron man of India

- Born on October 31, 1875 in Nadiad village of modern day Gujarat, Vallabhbhai Patel was fourth of the six children of his father Zaverbhai and mother Ladbai. His father had served in the army of the Queen of Jhansi while his mother was a very spiritual woman. In 1891, he married to Jhaverba Patel.
- He completed his matriculation in 1897 at the age of 22 due to the poor financial condition of his family. He wanted to make a career in law. To pursue a degree in law Patel travelled to England in 1910. He completed his law degree in 1913 from Inns of Court.
- Like many of his generation of political leaders, he qualified as a barrister and came back to India to start his law practice. He returned to India around the same time as Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa, on the eve of the World War I. Soon he became one of the most successful lawyers of Ahmedabad.
- British Government offered him many lucrative posts for his legal proficiency but as a staunch opponent of the colonial rule in India, he rejected all.

### Vallabhai Patel and Mahatma Gandhi

- Sardar Patel came in contact of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji's words deeply affected Vallabhbhai and he adopted Gandhian principles to become his staunch supporter.

- In 1917, Sardar Patel was elected as the Secretary of the Gujarat Sabha, the Gujarat wing of the Indian National Congress. He joined Gandhiji in representing the weavers in the dispute with mill-owners in Ahmedabad in 1918.
- **He was Gandhiji's chief lieutenant in his second satyagraha movement in Kheda.** The peasants of Kheda were unable to pay high taxes because of crop failure and plague epidemic. Sardar Patel and his colleagues organised a major tax revolt. The revolt was astounding in terms of discipline and unity. Even when all their personal property, land and livelihood were seized, a vast majority of Kheda's farmers remained firmly united in the support of Patel. The peaceful movement forced the British Government to seek to foster an honourable agreement for both parties. The tax for the year in question, and the next would be suspended, and the increase in rate reduced, while all confiscated property would be returned. Attributing the success of Kheda to Sardar Patel, Gandhiji wrote in his autobiography, "I will say that without the help of Vallabhbhai Patel, we should not have won the campaign."
- In 1920, Sardar Patel was nominated and elected as the President of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee. He served in the post till 1945.
- He actively supported the non-cooperation Movement launched by Gandhiji. Sardar Patel toured the nation with him, recruited over three lakh members and helped collect over Rs. 1.5 million in funds. He worked against alcoholism, Untouchability and caste discrimination in Gujarat.
- He was elected as the municipal president of Ahmedabad in 1922, 1924 and 1927.
- In 1923, when Mahatma Gandhi was in prison, he successfully led a satyagraha in Nagpur against a law banning the raising of the Indian flag. This movement gave him a countrywide recognition.
- **Sardar Patel was elected as the President of Indian National Congress in 1931.** The Karachi session presided by Patel was an important event in India's struggle for independence. The Gandhi-Irwin pact was endorsed in this session and Gandhiji was nominated to represent Congress in the Second Round Table Conference. A resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy was also adopted which represented the Party's Social, Economic and Political programme. It was later known as Karachi Resolution. The resolution, for the first time, tried to define what would be the meaning of Swaraj for common people. The 45th Congress session at Karachi also spelt out the feeling of the Congress about the affairs in the states. As the President of the Congress Session, he indicated that the princes would not take all uncompromising attitude and join the proposed federation, and it would be possible to seek direct representation of the states' people in the federal legislature.

### Involvement in the making of the Constitution

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a decisive role in the Constituent Assembly and remained the moving spirit behind some of the landmark provisions of Indian principles.
  - He played an important role in the selection of members of the drafting committee. He made recommendations for the appointment of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar. He was also instrumental for the entry of eminent jurists like B N Rau, K M Munshi, Aaladi Krishnaswami Aiyar and Gopalaswami Ayyangar into the Assembly.
  - Some of the basic tenets of the Constitution, particularly the balancing of fundamental rights with the maintenance of law and order in the state, and the reservation of a whole set of citizens rights as non-justiciable directives of the state were evolved by Patel.
  - After adopting the 'Objectives Resolution', moved by Nehru, the Constituent Assembly appointed an advisory committee under Patel on January 24, 1947. The committee dealt with the rights of citizens, minorities, tribal and excluded areas. Patel presented the committee's recommendations on political safeguards for minorities sans separate electorates on August 27. The recommendations were accepted in the Assembly the following day.
- 'Sardar' Vallabhai Patel**
- In 1928, the farmers of Bardoli again faced a problem of "tax-hike". After prolonged summons, when the farmers refused to pay the extra tax, the government seized their lands in retaliation. The agitation took on for more than six months. After several rounds of negotiations by Patel, the lands were returned to farmers after a deal was struck between the government and farmers' representatives. It was here that he earned the title 'Sardar'.



- On October 10, 1949, Patel defended the inclusion of Article 283-A (incorporated in the Constitution as Article 314) which gave constitutional guarantee to the terms and privileges granted to ICS officers opting for service in Independent India.
- It was Sardar Patel's vision that the Civil Service should fortify solidly and national unity and the values of integrity, impartiality and merit became the guiding principles of Indian civil services.

### Politics

- In May 1946, it was clear that the next Congress president would end up as independent India's first prime minister. The provincial committees of the Congress favoured Patel. However, Gandhiji pressed for Pt Jawaharlal Nehru.
- As a loyal party leader Sardar Patel fell in line and the personal disappointment did not come in the way of higher duty.
- Sardar Patel became the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. He was given vital portfolios of Home and States, signifying his stature in the Nehru Cabinet
- It is also a known fact that Patel had many differences with Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. After successfully handling the issue of Junagadh and Hyderabad, the realist Patel advised Nehru against going to the UN. It is often argued that had Patel handled the Kashmir issue, the story would have been different.
- He had written to Nehru early on cautioning him about China's policy.
- On the economy, while Nehru was a socialist with a firm belief in state-led industrialization, Patel believed in Gandhian self-sufficiency and was an advocate of private capital. Patel argued against nationalization of industries. He played a significant role in the liberal industrial policy resolution of 1948.

### Conclusion :

- Sardar Patel, by integrating more than 560 princely states, prevented Balkanization of India and gave it a geographical coherence.
- He had a vision to make India a strong nation of the world and he relentlessly strived till last breath to make it prosperous and united.