



**C.A Dated On 21-01-2019**

## **GS-1**

### **Kalahandi Excavation:**

#### **Why in News?**

Archaeologists have unearthed artefacts believed to be 2,300-year-old while carrying out excavation at the Asurgarh Fort in Odisha's Kalahandi district.

#### **About the Excavation:**

- The excavation unearthed the items dating from Mauryan to Kushan period.
- The present archaeological work reveals a number of brick structures. Wedge shaped bricks are also noticed in the circular structures.
- Most of the structures have terracotta tiles with grooves and hole for socketing.
- The Asurgarh people during that time probably used stone rubbles and tile fragments for flooring their houses and the streets.
- Besides, silver punch marked coins, silver and copper toe ring and ear rings, beads of carnelian, jasper, beryl, garnet, agate and coral have been found.
- Some of the artefacts were as old as 2,300 year.

#### **Glass bangles**

- Other discovered artefacts include, glass bangle pieces of different designs and colours, sling balls, pestle, iron equipment like small wheel, ring, and arrow head.
- The findings of coral beads and imperial variety of silver punch mark coins strongly indicates about long distant trade and association of hinterland people with seafaring people.

#### **Observation About Site:**

- It is believed that the fort is surrounded by moat on its northern, eastern and southern sides.



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- Close to the western rampart, the river Sandul flows to the north thereby forming a natural moat on the western side of the fort.
- On the eastern side of the fort there is an extensive lake.
- The fort had four wide gates in four cardinal directions and at each gate was installed one guardian deity.
- These guardian deities are named as Ganga at the eastern gate, Kalapat at the western, Vaishnavi at the northern and Dokri at the southern gate..

## **GS- 2**

### **National Mission for Clean Ganga:**

#### **Why in News?**

A very informative and interesting exhibition has been organised by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India at Prayagraj Kumbh Mela to make aware people visiting the mela on keeping River Ganga Clean and to inform them about the many projects and schemes being implemented by different agencies to achieve the target under Namami Gange Mission.

#### **About NMCG:**

- **National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG)** was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority(NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986.
- NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council) vide notification no. [S.O. 3187\(E\) dt. 7th October 2016 under EPA 1986](#).

The Act envisages five tier structure at national, state and district level to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in

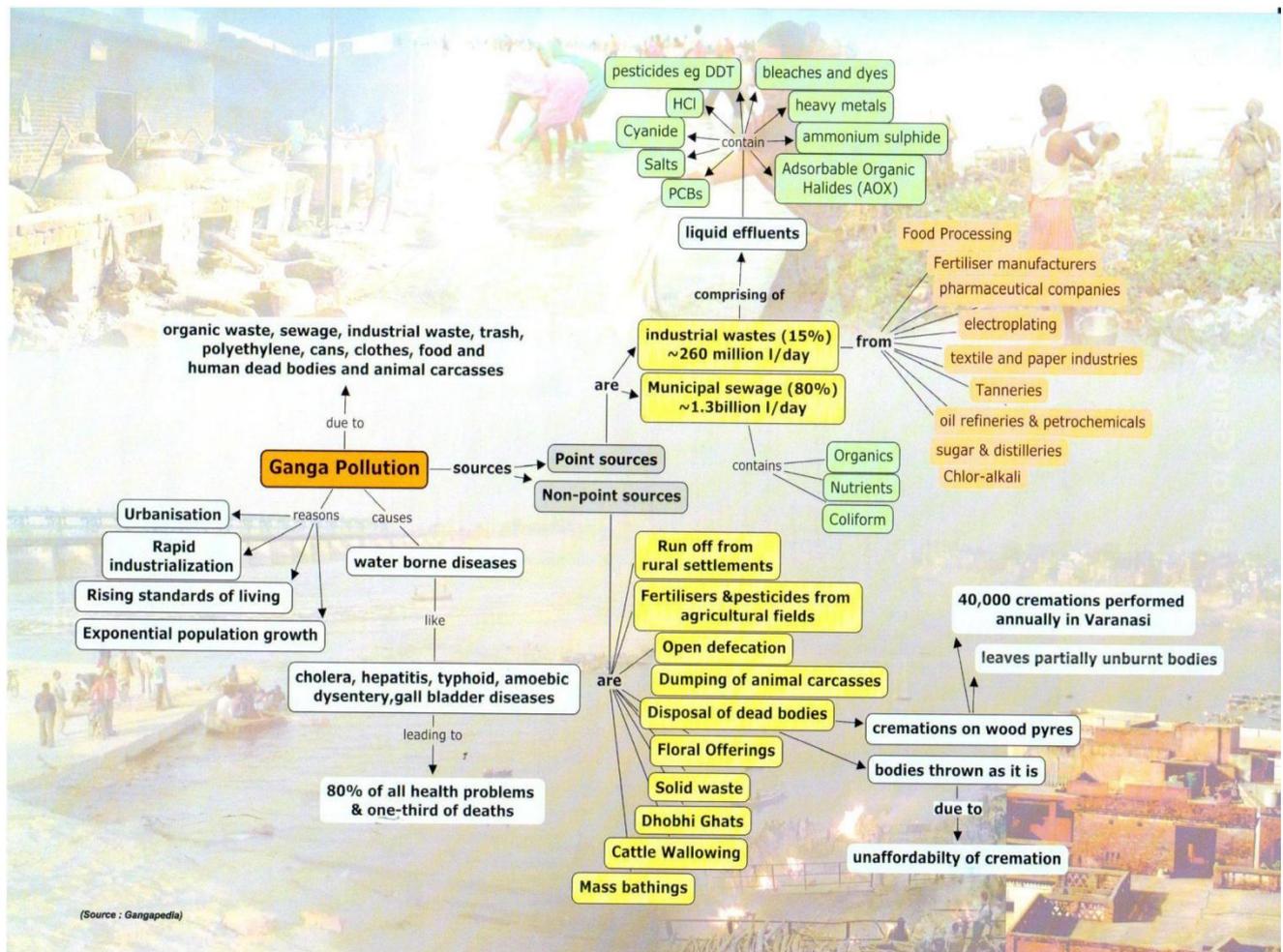


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river Ganga and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water so as to rejuvenate the river Ganga as below;

1. National Ganga Council under chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
2. Empowered Task Force (ETF) on river Ganga under chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
3. National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG).
4. State Ganga Committees and
5. District Ganga Committees in every specified district abutting river Ganga and its tributaries in the states.

### Sources of Pollution in Ganga:





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**Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas:**

The 15th Edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas got off to a grand start at Deendayal Hastakala Sankul in Varanasi today. External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas on day one of PBD-2019.

**About PBD:**

Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth is the Chief Guest on this occasion.

**Theme of PBD-2019** : Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India.

**GS-3**

**Inequality in India:**

**Why in News?**

Indian billionaires saw their fortunes swell by ₹ 2,200 crore a day last year, with the top 1 per cent of the country's richest getting richer by 39 per cent as against just 3 per cent increase in wealth for the bottom-half of the population, an Oxfam study said on Monday.

**Salient Observations of Report:**

- Oxfam further said that 13.6 crore Indians, who make up the poorest 10 per cent of the country, continued to remain in debt since 2004.



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- Noting that wealth is becoming even more concentrated, Oxfam said 26 people now own the same as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity, down from 44 people last year
- "India's top 10 per cent of the population holds 77.4 per cent of the total national wealth.
- The contrast is even sharper for the top 1 per cent that holds 51.53 per cent of the national wealth.
- "The bottom 60 per cent, the majority of the population, own merely 4.8 per cent of the national wealth.
- Wealth of top 9 billionaires is equivalent to the wealth of the bottom 50 per cent of the population.

### **Global Inequality:**

- Globally, billionaires' fortunes rose by 12 per cent or \$ 2.5 billion a day in 2018, whereas the poorest half of the world's population saw their wealth decline by 11 per cent, the international rights group said in its annual study released before the start of the five-day World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in this Swiss ski resort town.

### **Growing inequality**

- Between 2018 and 2022, India is estimated to produce 70 new dollar millionaires every day.
- The survey also shows that women and girls are hardest hit by rising economic inequality.
- According to the Oxfam report, India added 18 new billionaires last year, raising the total number of billionaires to 119, while their wealth crossed the \$ 400 billion (₹ 28 lakh crore) mark for the first time.
- It rose from \$ 325.5 billion in 2017 to \$ 440.1 billion in 2018, making it the single largest annual increase since the 2008 global financial crisis.
- Oxfam further said getting India's richest 1 per cent pay just 0.5 per cent extra tax on their wealth could raise enough money enough to increase the government spending on health by 50 per cent.



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- While billionaire wealth soars, public services are suffering from chronic underfunding or being outsourced to private companies that exclude the poorest people.
- Children from poor families in India are three times more likely to die before their first birthday than children from rich families.

### **Why it Matters?**

- Oxfam said this increasing inequality is undermining the fight against poverty, damaging economies and fuelling public anger across the globe.
- If this obscene inequality between the top 1 percent and the rest of India continues then it will lead to a complete collapse of the social and democratic structure of this country,.
- High level of wealth disparity subverts democracy.

### **Basis of Report:**

- Oxfam said its calculations are based on the latest comprehensive data sources available publicly, including from the Credit Suisse Wealth Databook and the annual Forbes Billionaires List.

### **Gender Inequality:**

#### **Why in News?**

Unpaid work done by women across the globe amounts to a staggering \$10 trillion a year, which is 43 times the annual turnover of the world's biggest company Apple, an [Oxfam study](#) said on Monday.



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**Situation in India:**

- In India, the unpaid work done by women looking after their homes and children is worth 3.1% of the country's GDP.
- Women spend 312 minutes per day in urban areas and 291 minutes per day in rural areas on such unpaid care work, it added.
- In comparison, men spend only 29 minutes in urban and 32 minutes in rural areas on unpaid care work.
- The report, released by the international rights group before the start of the [World Economic Forum](#) (WEF) Annual Meeting in this Swiss ski resort town, also said women and girls are hardest hit by rising economic inequality, including in India.
- Oxfam said inequality has a "female face" in India, where women are less likely to have paid work when compared to men, while even among the richest there are only nine women in the country's 119-member billionaires club.

**Other Observations:**

- The paid work women do bring them less earnings as compared to men due to the existing wage gap and therefore households that rely primarily on female earners tend to be poorer, it said, referring to the country's gender pay gap at 34%.
- It observed that various intersections of caste, class, religion, age and sexual orientation have further implications on women inequality as a process.
- The Oxfam study also referred to India's poor 108th ranking on the [WEF's Global Gender Gap Index of 2018](#), saying it was 10 notches less than in 2006 and far below the global average and behind its neighbours China and Bangladesh.

**About Oxfam:**

- Oxfam is part of the Fight Inequality Alliance -- a coalition of social movements, environmental groups, women's rights groups, trade unions and NGOs.



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- The alliance is organising events in over 30 countries from January 18-25, around the same time as the WEF meet in Davos

### Asteroid impact in India:

#### **Why in News?**

Was southern peninsular India hit by an asteroid larger than the one that wiped out dinosaurs? Is the land between present day Nilgiris and Kodaikanal located on a crater formed by the impact? Two earth scientists think so. They make this claim in a scientific paper and have named the area 'Kaveri Crater', possibly the fourth largest in the world.

#### **About the Investigation:**

- The investigations included megascopic (done with the unaided eye) and microscopic studies of rocks along with analyses of chemical signatures.
- Their findings were published in the *Journal of the Geological Society of India* and the study won the Radhakrishna Prize 2018 for best paper.
- The scientists told *The Hindu* that the Kaveri Crater is between Nilgiris and Kodaikanal.
- Both the Palghat Gap (a mountain pass) and Dhimbam Ghats are a part of the Kaveri Crater, with the geological evidence stretching up to Belakavadi and Shivanasamudra in Karnataka,.
- The study, which was funded by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, suggests that the crater has a diameter of 120 km.

#### **When did it Occur?**

- The asteroid hit may have taken place 800 million to 550 million years ago.
- Unlike the impact event that led to the extinction of the dinosaurs about 65 million years ago, this one took place when there were very primitive life forms.
- Based on crater size and impact angle, the geologists conclude that the extra-terrestrial object was at least five km in diameter.



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- Unlike smaller craters, Kaveri Crater can be visualised only through satellite images.