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KEYWORD	MEANING
Commodity fetishism	A condition under capitalism under which social relations become expressed as relations between things.
Social constructionism	Social constructionism is a theory that states that people develop knowledge of the world in a social context, not individually. It emphasises that many things we take for granted and believe are objective reality are actually socially constructed, and thus, can change as society changes.
Syncretism	A cultural phenomenon characterised by the inter-mingling or mixing of different religions or traditions. A hybrid of two distinct religious or cultural traditions.
Amalgamation	The biological as well as cultural assimilation (merging) of racial or ethnic groups.
Anomie theory	State of normlessness, disorder, or confusion in a society when the standard norms and values are weak or unclear. This lack of social or ethical standards can lead to disconnection, deviance, and social instability among individuals.
Anticipatory socialization	The process of taking on the attitudes, values and behaviors of a status or role one expects to occupy in the future.
Baby boom	The people who were born in the United States between 1946 and 1965. This group represented a sharp increase in birth rates and in the absolute number of births compared to pre-1946 levels. This term is generally attributed to the population arising out of a period of high birth rates.
Bicultural	Having or combining the cultural attitudes and customs of two nations, peoples, or ethnic groups.
Caste system	A closed system of social stratification in which prestige and social relationships are based on hereditary position assigned/accustomed at birth.
Civil religion	The interweaving of religious and political symbols in public life.
Class consciousness	The set of beliefs that a person holds regarding their social class or economic rank in society, the structure of their class, and their class interests.
Comparable worth	A policy of equal pay for men and women doing similar work, even if the jobs are labeled differently by sex.
Complementary marriages	Marriages in which husband and wife take distinctly separate family roles. It is a relationship model where partners assume different but mutually supportive roles based on their strengths, skills, or preferences.
Conjugal family	A form of family organization centered around the husband-wife relationship rather than around blood relationships.
Content of socialization	The ideas, beliefs, values, knowledge, and so forth that are presented to people who are being socialized.
Context of socialization	The setting or arena within which socialization occurs.
Convergence theory	A theory suggesting that modernizing nations come to resemble one another over time. In collective behavior, a theory suggesting that certain crowds attract particular types of people, who may behave irrationally.
Cooptation	A social process by which people who might otherwise threaten the stability or existence of an organization are brought into the leadership or policy-making structure of that organization.

<b>KEYWORD</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
Counterculture	A subculture whose norms and values sharply contradict the dominant norms and values of the society in which it occurs.
Cultural capital	Symbolic wealth socially defined as worthy of being sought and possessed.
Cultural determinism	It is the belief that an individual's culture influences their actions and behaviours, and decisions.
Cultural division of labor	A situation in which a person's place in the occupational world is determined by his or her cultural factors like ethnicity, gender or social class.
Cultural universals	Cultural universals are patterns or traits that are globally common to all societies.
Culture of poverty	A distinctive culture thought to develop among poor people and characterized by failure to delay gratification, fatalism, and weak family and community ties.
Diffusion	The spread of inventions and discoveries from one group or culture to another on a voluntary basis; a source of cultural change.
Fertility Squeeze	It suggests increasing proportions of male birth following female births.
Silver Divorce	It refers to the trends of older adults who are above 50-60s getting a divorce due to the long-standing marital problems.
Cultural relativism	The attitude that in order to understand the traits of another culture, one must view them within the context of that culture.
Ethnocentrism	The tendency to judge another culture by the standards of one's own culture.





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KEYWORD	MEANING
Adaptive Governance	Adaptive governance is a concept from institutional theory that deals with the evolution of institutions for the management of shared assets, particularly common pool resources and other forms of natural capital.
Civic Boosterism	Attempts by local governments to develop their local economies by attracting inward investment and through partnerships with private sector sources of capital. Also termed civic entrepreneurialism.
Collaborative Governance	The move to share bureaucratic decision-making power with citizens and personnel in the lower reaches of organisational hierarchies, to embrace public-private collaborative partnerships, and to reform rule structures and hierarchy for efficiency.
Enabling State	A key element of the new mode of governance and urban entrepreneurialism in which the direct role of the state is reduced and replaced by greater partnership between government and business interests.
Global Governance	Global governance is a purposeful order that emerges from institutions, processes, norms, formal agreements, and informal mechanisms that regulate action for a common good.
Hollowing Out	The transfer of powers from the nation state to political units at other levels such as the supranational or subnational level. May also refer to the transfer of powers at the local government level to private sector organisations rather than other political jurisdictions.
Local Economic Development (LED)	LEDs mean more than just economic growth. It includes promoting participation and local dialogue, connecting people and their resources for better employment, and a higher quality of life for both men and women. The ILO's goal of Decent Work for All is reflected in LED strategies through its focus on growth, poverty reduction, and social inclusion.
Multilevel Governance	Multilevel governance is a term used to describe the way power is spread vertically between the various levels of the government and horizontally across multiple quasi-government and non-governmental organisations, cooperatives, and business groups
Neo-Liberal Paradigm	The term "Neo-liberalism" refers to a set of economic and political ideologies that advocate for free-market capitalism, limited government intervention in the economy, privatization of state-owned enterprises, deregulation, and reductions in government spending and social welfare programs. The term "neo" implies a revival or a new form of liberalism that emerged particularly in the late 20th century, contrasting with the more interventionist policies associated with classical liberalism of the 19th and early 20th centuries.
Polycentricity	A governance system in which there are multiple interacting governing bodies with autonomy to make and enforce rules within a specific policy arena and geography.
Land Restitution	Land restitution is the process of restoring land or other property to its former owners. In cases where property cannot be returned, restitution may involve compensation for its loss.
Social Safety Nets	Social welfare services provided by a community of individuals at the state and local levels. They are geared toward eliminating poverty in a specific area. These services may include housing re-assignment, job placement, subsidies for household bills, and other cash equivalents for food. Social safety nets work in conjunction with a number of other poverty reduction programmes with the primary goal of reducing/preventing poverty.
WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	"WASH" stands for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. It represents a comprehensive approach to improving public health by ensuring access to clean water, adequate sanitation facilities, and promoting good hygiene practices.

KEYWORDS	MEANING
Anthropocentrism	A worldview associated with the belief that humans are custodians of the Earth's resources. Anthropocentrism emphasises the elevated status of humans within the animal kingdom.
Bandwagoning	A situation in which a state is aligned with a more powerful or dominant country or coalition, often for the purpose of security or gaining benefits. Bandwagoning occurs when the weaker state decides that the cost of opposing the stronger power exceeds the benefits.
Billiard Ball Model	A realist conception in which the state is analogous to an independent and unitary billiard-ball. According to this state-centric assumption, domestic politics ends at the water's edge and engagements with other states may be
Buck Passing	A situation in which a state assumes that another state (or group of states) will deal with an emerging threat.
Chain Ganging	A term used to describe how, in a balance of power scenario, alliance partners must follow the lead when another goes to war. If a partner does not participate, it endangers the security of its allies.
Clash of Civilisations	A term associated with the American political scientist Samuel Huntington. He predicted that conflict in the twenty-first century would be characterised via tensions between rival cultures. Having said this, most contemporary warfare occurs between members of the same civilisation.
Classical Realism	A theoretical perspective which offers an explanation of International Relations based upon assumptions concerning human nature. Classical realists adopt a pessimistic view of human behaviour and the primordial forces that shape us. Classical realism gained in popularity during the post-Second World War era, but has been eclipsed by the emergence of Structural (Neo)Realism.
Cobweb Model	A liberal notion that claims global politics can be understood on the basis of complex interdependence. The cobweb model explicitly rejects the realist contention of the Billiard Ball model. Liberals claim that relations between states and non-state actors reflect a system of mutual dependence.
Complex Interdependence	A liberal notion which claims that states and non-state actors are interconnected via commerce and global norms, such as human rights. Whilst states remain the most significant institutions, intergovernmental and supranational bodies also play a role. Decisions are therefore reached via a process of interaction between various officials shaped by a shared space and a habit of cooperation.
Constructivism	A theoretical perspective built upon the assumption that elements of International Relations are historically and socially constructed. According to Alexander Wendt (1992), even the realist concept of power politics is a social construct. In other words, anarchy is itself a social construct of the state system and can therefore be transformed. Constructivism has emerged as a major school of thought within International Relations with a number of different strands.
Cosmocracy	A world government characterised by the three branches of governance (legislature, executive and judiciary). The term Cosmocracy may be contrasted with global governance in which a quasi-system of governance operates.
Cultural Flattening	The process in which information, commodities and images produced in one part of the world enter into a global village. Cultural flattening is associated with a homogenising monocultural set of Western values that tends to undermine cultural differences.

KEYWORDS	MEANING
Defensive Realism	The strand of realist thought which claims the anarchic structure of global politics encourages states to prioritise their own national security. Defensive realism is associated with theorists from the neorealist perspective such as Kenneth Waltz. Defensive realism emphasises the centrality of the security dilemma and that military expansionism undermines the primary objectives of the state.
Ecocentrism	A belief-system associated with the environmental movement that advocates an equal relationship between human beings and the environment. According to their outlook, humans are part of a wider whole with no particular elevated status. Ecocentrism is associated with deep green ecology.
Frozen Conflict	A conflict in which open and large-scale fighting has stopped but no political settlement or peace treaty exists to resolve the dispute. Kashmir and several territories of the former Soviet Union are examples of frozen conflicts.
Escalation Ladder	To the people who wrote rules of strategy for the nuclear age, escalation was the process which moved a limited war towards an unlimited one. The key was a conceptual ladder in which each rung both increased the level of the conflict and sent a signal to the other side. One such 44-rung escalation ladder, devised to analyse the phenomenon, saw the step from rung nine (“Dramatic military confrontations”) to ten (“Provocative Breaking Off of Diplomatic Relations”) as the one which marked the point at which nuclear war ceased to be unthinkable. Read our article on nuclear escalation.
Global Commons	Those parts of the planet to which all nations have access. The global commons lies outside the jurisdiction of any national government. There are several examples of the global commons such as the High Seas and Outer Space.
Golden Arches Theory	A modern variant upon the commerce (or capitalist) peace theory. Associated with Thomas Friedman, the golden arches theory claims that no two countries with a McDonalds would fight against one another. Friedman argued that when a country reaches a sufficient level of economic development it becomes a ‘McDonald’s country’. The golden arches theory is undermined by the 2006 war between Israel and Lebanon, Russia-Georgia (2008) and Russia-Ukraine (2014 and 2022).
Gridlock	An inability to take united and decisive action within an organisation. For instance, the UNSC has been gridlocked over the Syrian Civil War due to divisions amongst the P5.
One China Policy	The One China principle is the position held by the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) that there is only one sovereign state under the name China, with the PRC serving as the sole legitimate government of that China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.
Isolationism	The doctrine of isolating a state from international alliances and agreements. Isolationism is characterised by non-intervention and unilateralism. It seeks to place the national interest above those obligations derived from the broader international community.
Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)	An assumption that the devastation caused by nuclear weapons ensures that neither side has any incentive to launch a first-strike. Nuclear annihilation therefore provides a sufficient deterrent. There is no incentive to engage in a first-strike, which thereby ensures stability between two superpowers.
Neo-colonialism	The process by which the developed world exerts economic control over LEDCs via exploitation. Neocolonialism is upheld by governments, multinational companies and the Washington Consensus. The term is sometimes used interchangeably with neo imperialism.

KEYWORDS	MEANING
Resource Curse	An inverse relationship between a lack of economic development and an abundance of natural resources. It is also known as the paradox of plenty.
Security Dilemma	A situation in which actions by a state intended to strengthen its security, such as increasing their military arsenal, leads to further instability. It is sometimes referred to as the spiral of insecurity.
Two State Solution	The two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict proposes to resolve the conflict by establishing two nation states in former Mandatory Palestine. The implementation of a two-state solution would involve the establishment of an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel.
Track-1 Diplomacy	Track 1 diplomacy is the official engagement between the government officials of two or more nations or with multilateral organisations, international bodies etc. This is the most common form of diplomacy. You see Track 1 diplomacy all the time when our UN Representatives or Ambassadors or Ministers and even Prime Ministers carry out diplomatic dealings.
Track-2 Diplomacy (Backchannel Diplomacy)	In this case, diplomatic dealings are pursued through non-officials, e.g. NGOs, Businessmen, sportspersons etc. Sometimes you see the business leaders, religious gurus, Nobel laureates or other prominent personalities entering into discussion with another country’s unofficial representatives. Since it is unofficial, there are many advantages to holding such talks.
Track-3 Diplomacy	This relates to people-to-people contact. It is one of the most important confidence building measures. This generally happens at the low level and involves cultural programmes, border trades, etc. It is important to note that in Track 3 diplomacy there is no official intervention or guidance. For instance ‘Aman Ki Asha’ initiative to increase people-to-people contact between India and Pakistan in this regard.
Track-4 Diplomacy (Multi Track Diplomacy)	It is a holistic approach to diplomacy. It involves multiple channels and multiple stakeholders to pursue the diplomatic goal. This approach is particularly useful in long pending conflicts and unresolved issues between two countries.
Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled	This phrase emphasizes the principle that the peace process, governance, and future direction of Afghanistan should be determined by the Afghan people themselves without external interference.
Act East Policy	Focuses on enhancing India’s engagement with Southeast Asia and East Asia through economic, strategic, and cultural ties.
Neighborhood First Policy	India’s ‘Neighbourhood First policy’ guides its approach towards the management of relations with countries in its immediate neighbourhood, that is, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Neighbourhood First policy, inter alia, is aimed at enhancing physical, digital and people to people connectivity across the region, as well as augmenting trade and commerce.
SAGAR	The ‘Security and Growth for All in the Region’ (SAGAR) concept was first articulated by the Prime Minister in Mauritius in 2015. Under this concept, India envisages a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, one which is built on a rules-based international order, sustainable and transparent infrastructure investment, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, mutual respect for sovereignty, peaceful resolution of disputes, as well as equality of all nations.







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# ENVIRONMENT

KEYWORDS	MEANING
Aestivation	It is a state of animal dormancy, characterized by inactivity and a lowered metabolic rate that is entered in response to high temperatures and arid conditions.
Mull soil	It is one characterised by large soil animals (especially plentiful earthworms), incorporation of organic matter through the topsoil and active bacterial decomposition.
Mor soil	It is on the other hand characterised by smaller soil animals, the buildup of a litter layer on top and decomposition mainly led by fungi.
Ecotopes	They are the smallest ecologically-distinct landscape features in a landscape mapping and classification system.
Standing crop	It is the quantity or total weight or energy content of the organisms which are in a particular location at a particular time.
Ecozones	It delineates large areas of the Earth's surface within which organisms have been evolving in relative isolation over long periods of time, separated from one another by geographic features, such as oceans, broad deserts, or high mountain ranges, that constitute barriers to migration.
Biological pump	It is the sum of a suite of biologically-mediated processes that transport carbon from the surface euphotic zone to the ocean's interior.
Carrying capacity	Carrying Capacity of a biological species in an environment is the maximum population size of the species that the environment can sustain indefinitely, given the food, habitat, water and other necessities available in the environment.
Bioleaching	It is the extraction of specific metals from their ores through the use of living organisms.
Biopiracy	It is the theft of genetic materials especially plants and other biological materials by the patent process.
BioWeb	It is the connotation for a network of webenabled biological devices (e.g. trees, plants, and flowers) which extends an internet of things to the Internet of Living Things of natural sensory devices.
Carbon diet	It refers to reducing the impact on climate change by reducing greenhouse gas (principally CO <sub>2</sub> ) production, without lowering their standard of living.
Global hectare	It is a measurement of biocapacity of the entire earth - one global hectare is a measurement of the average biocapacity of all Hectares Measurements of any biologically productive areas on the planet.
Bioprospecting	It is an umbrella term describing the discovery of new and useful biological samples and mechanisms, typically in less-developed countries, either with or without the help of indigenous knowledge, and with or without compensation.
Biolink zones	They are a land use category developed for biodiversity conservation and landscape adaptation under changing climates.
Plasticulture	It refers to the practice of using plastic materials in agricultural applications.
Hot air	It refers to the concern that some governments will be able to meet their targets for greenhouse-gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol with minimal effort and could then flood the market with emissions credits, reducing the incentive for other countries to cut their own domestic emissions.
Land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF)	A greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use, land-use change and forestry activities.
Spillover effects (also referred to as "rebound effects" or "take-back effects")	Reverberations in developing countries caused by actions taken by developed countries to cut greenhouse-gas emissions.

# ECONOMY

KEYWORDS	MEANING
Virtual Water	The virtual water trade is the hidden flow of water in food or other commodities that are traded from one place to another. It refers to the water used to produce the goods and services others need and enjoy.
Gender Wage Gap	The gender pay gap or gender wage gap is the average difference between the remuneration for men and women who are working. It is expressed as a percentage of what men earn compared to what women earn.
Expanding middle approach	It aims to bridge the gap between different socioeconomic groups and promote inclusive policies. It is a development strategy which aims to promote economic growth, reduce inequality and alleviate poverty by strengthening the middle class.
Giffen goods	Giffen goods are essential non luxury goods which violate basic law of demand. Demand for giffen goods rises when the price rises and falls when the price falls. Examples of giffen goods include bread, rice, wheat etc which are essential goods with few substitutes at the same price levels.
Swiss challenge model	The Swiss challenge model is a flexible method of giving contracts which can be used in PPP as well as non-PPP projects. In this, one bidder is asked by the government to submit the proposal for the project which is put in public domain. Afterwards, several other bidders submit their proposals aimed at improving and beating the original (first) bidder— finally an improved bid is selected (called a counter proposal). If the original bidder is not able to match the counter proposal, the project is awarded to the counter bidder.
FIRE economy	FIRE: financial, insurance, and real estate sectors. The FIRE economy comprises various businesses such as banks, credit unions, credit card companies, insurance agencies, mortgage brokers, investment brokerages, real estate agencies, hedge funds, and others.
Baltic Dry Index	The Baltic Dry Index (BDI) is an index of average prices paid for the transport of dry bulk materials across more than 20 routes. The BDI is often viewed as a leading indicator of economic activity because changes in the index reflect supply and demand for important materials used in manufacturing.
Middle Income Trap	The middle-income trap refers to a situation where a country's growth rate slows down after reaching middle-income levels, and it struggles to transition into the high-income bracket. This trap occurs when the factors that drove initial economic growth become less effective, and the country struggles to develop new growth drivers.
Gini Coefficient	The Gini coefficient, or Gini index, is a measure of statistical dispersion intended to represent the income or wealth inequality within a nation or a social group. It ranges between 0 and 1, where 0 indicates perfect equality (everyone has the same income) and 1 indicates perfect inequality (one person has all the income, and everyone else has none).
Tax Haven	A tax haven, also known as a tax shelter or offshore financial center, is a jurisdiction with favourable tax laws and regulations that attract individuals and businesses seeking to minimize their tax liability. These jurisdictions typically offer low or zero tax rates on income, capital gains, or wealth, along with strict financial secrecy and privacy laws.

KEYWORDS	MEANING
Tax Buoyancy	Tax buoyancy refers to the responsiveness or elasticity of tax revenue in relation to changes in the level of economic activity or GDP (Gross Domestic Product). When tax buoyancy is high, tax revenues increase at a faster rate than GDP during economic expansion, indicating robust tax collection efficiency. Conversely, low tax buoyancy suggests that tax revenues grow more slowly than GDP, indicating potential inefficiencies or structural issues in tax collection.
Base Erosion & Profit Shifting	Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) refers to tax planning strategies used by multinational companies to shift profits from higher-tax jurisdictions to lower-tax jurisdictions, thereby reducing their overall tax liability.

## AGRICULTURE

KEYWORDS	MEANING
Climate Smart Agriculture	Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is a set of farming practices that address the challenges of climate change and food security. CSA aims to make farms more resilient to climate change, improve farmer productivity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
<b>IRRIGATION SYSTEM</b>	
Watershed development	Watershed development refers to the comprehensive management and conservation of a specific geographical area or watershed to ensure sustainable use of land and water resources. The primary objective is to enhance water availability, improve soil health, prevent soil erosion, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.
From Land Productivity to Water Productivity	<p><b>Land Productivity:</b> The amount of agricultural output (e.g., crop yield) obtained per unit area of land over a specific period.</p> <p><b>Water Productivity:</b> The efficiency of water use in agricultural production, measuring the amount of crop yield or economic output achieved per unit of water applied or consumed.</p> <p>The Economic Survey 2018-19 suggested that “focus should shift from ‘land productivity’ to ‘irrigation water productivity’”.</p>
<b>AGRICULTURAL MARKETING</b>	
Hidden Hunger	Hidden hunger is a type of malnutrition that occurs when people don't get enough vitamins and minerals, also known as micronutrients, in their diet. These nutrients are essential for growth and development, but are needed in small amounts. Hidden hunger can affect a person's intellectual and physical development, and can limit their health, working capacity, and growth.
Network economies of scale	Network economies of scale (also known as “network effects”) refer to the phenomenon where the value of a product or service increases with the number of users of that product or services.

KEYWORDS	MEANING
<p>Missing Middle – problem of Dwarfism</p>	<p>The concept highlights the dominance of small businesses and large corporations in developing nations, with a lack of medium-sized enterprises.</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited job opportunities.</li> <li>• Concentration of economic power.</li> <li>• Difficulty in obtaining loans.</li> <li>• Hindrance to innovation and productivity.</li> <li>• Exacerbation of regional disparities.</li> <li>• Barriers to market access, technology, and skilled labour.</li> </ul> <p>Steps Taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro &amp; Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)</li> <li>• Micro &amp; Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE–CDP)</li> <li>• MSME – Innovative (Incubation, IPR, and Design)</li> <li>• Digital MSME</li> <li>• Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)</li> <li>• Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund</li> <li>• Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD)</li> </ul>

