

Addenda for CC June July.

This addenda provides supplementary notes, clarifications, and updates to previously covered topics in the Current Connect edition. The following additions are to be read along with the original publication.

1. [Gwada Negative]

- Reference: [page 57]
- Correction :

Gwada Negative – newly classified EMM-negative blood group system

Pre-Shots: Why in News?

"Gwada negative" is the informal name for the newly classified EMM-negative blood group system, officially registered as [ISBT042](#), and is defined by the rare absence of the EMM antigen on red blood cells, a high-incidence antigen normally found in nearly all people. In June 2025, French scientists announced the discovery of the 48th human blood group system, named "Gwada Negative", after identifying it in a 68-year-old woman from Guadeloupe (Caribbean). She is the only known person in the world with this blood type.

What is "Gwada Negative"?

- Discovered during routine pre-surgical tests in 2011, later confirmed through high-throughput DNA sequencing in 2019.
- Recognized by the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) as the 48th blood group system.
- Caused by a mutation in the PIGZ gene, affecting proteins on red blood cells.
- Named "Gwada" after the Creole nickname for Guadeloupe.

Key Features

1. Ultra-Rare → Only one carrier identified globally.
2. Compatibility → The woman is compatible only with her own blood; no donor exists.
3. Health Implications → Linked to mild intellectual disability and pregnancy complications (two stillbirths).
4. Scientific Value → Provides new insights into transfusion medicine and human genetics.

Significance

- Medical → Advances understanding of transfusion safety and rare blood management.
- Genetic Research → Reveals how rare mutations shape human diversity.
- Global Health → Highlights the need for international rare blood donor registries.

India Relevance

- India has its own history of rare blood types, e.g., Bombay Blood Group discovered in Mumbai (1952).
- Strengthens the case for rare blood registries under NACO & NBTC.
- Supports Genome India Project and genomics-based personalized medicine.

Ethics & Society Angle

- Raises questions on bioethics, data protection, and genetic privacy.
- Reflects the uniqueness of human biology → philosophical parallel to India's "Unity in Diversity."

Way Forward

1. Strengthen rare blood registries in India.
2. Boost genomic research and AI-based medical diagnostics.
3. Promote international cooperation via WHO & ISBT on transfusion safety.

Prelims MCQ

Q. The term "Gwada Negative," recently in the news, refers to:

- (a) A rare earth mineral
- (b) A newly discovered blood group
- (c) A WTO trade policy exception
- (d) A genetic disorder in plants

Answer: (b) A newly discovered blood group

Mains Question (GS-3, Science & Tech)

Discuss the significance of the discovery of the “Gwada Negative” blood type in advancing transfusion medicine and genomic research. Compare with India’s experience with the Bombay Blood Group.

2. International Day of Yoga 2025 – Global Reach and India’s Soft Power

- Reference: [page - 56]
- Correction :

Pre-Shots: Why in News?

On 21st June millions of people around the world came together to celebrate the 11th United Nations’ International Day of Yoga, embracing the theme “Yoga for One Earth, One Health.”

Mains Connect

- GS I – Indian Culture (Yoga as Intangible Heritage)
- GS II – India’s Soft Power and Diplomacy
- GS IV – Values in Public Life (Mindfulness, Self-discipline)

What Makes Yoga a Tool of Soft Power?

1. Civilizational Ethos: Yoga as a philosophical, spiritual, and physical tradition rooted in Patanjali’s Yoga Sutras and Bhagavad Gita.
2. UN Recognition: Adopted by 177 countries as a global day.
3. Global Acceptance: Yoga is practiced by ~300 million people worldwide.
4. Economic Soft Power: Yoga tourism, ayurveda markets, and wellness exports.

Government Initiatives in 2025

- AYUSH Ministry & ICCR Coordination for global outreach.
- Launch of Y-Break App 2.0: Micro yoga sessions for working professionals.
- MyLife App for virtual yoga practice in rural/remote areas.
- Fit India + Yoga Day Convergence campaign in 400+ districts.
- Special yoga drills in schools under NEP 2020 Health Curriculum.

Ethical Angle: Yoga as a Lifestyle Philosophy

Yoga promotes:

- Self-discipline (Yama and Niyama)
- Balance between material and spiritual growth
- Stress reduction and collective harmony

“Yoga is the journey of the self, through the self, to the self.”

— Bhagavad Gita

Challenges Ahead

- Commercialisation vs Authenticity: Yoga branded as fitness trend, losing spiritual depth.
- Lack of Global Standards: Fragmented training protocols.
- Access Gaps: Rural and tribal areas have limited awareness or practice.

Mains Practice Question : How has Yoga emerged as a tool of India’s soft power diplomacy? Examine the challenges in globalising its practice while retaining its cultural authenticity. (10M, 150 words)

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements about the International Day of Yoga (IDY):

1. It was first proposed by India in the United Nations General Assembly.
2. It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Patanjali.
3. The first International Day of Yoga was observed in 2015.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (B)

3. NAVYA Initiative – Empowering Adolescent Girls Through Skills

- Reference: [page 59]

- Correction :

Pre-Shots: Why in News?

In June 2025, the Government of India launched the NAVYA Initiative in Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme seeks to equip adolescent girls (16–18 years, Class 10 pass and above) with vocational and life-skills training, supporting India's long-term vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

About the Initiative

- Full Form: Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls.
- Launched by: Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD).
- Coverage: Pilot in 27 aspirational districts across 19 states, including the North-East.
- Framework: Implemented under PMKVY 4.0 (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana).
- Target Group: Adolescent girls, 16–18 years, minimum education up to Class 10.

Key Features

1. Vocational Training in Emerging Sectors:
 - AI, cyber security, digital marketing, green jobs.
 - Drone assembly, smartphone repair, CCTV installation, graphic design.
 - Beauty & wellness, tailoring, handicrafts.
2. Holistic Capacity-Building (Supplementary 7-hour module):
 - Health, hygiene, and nutrition.
 - POSH & POCSO awareness.
 - Digital literacy, financial awareness.
 - Communication and confidence building.
3. Forward Linkages: Internships, apprenticeships, employment pathways, and entrepreneurship support.

Significance

- Bridging Gender Gaps → Addresses India's low female labour force participation (~25%, PLFS 2024).
- Harnessing Demographic Dividend → Targets India's 253 million adolescents, the world's largest cohort.
- Inclusive Growth → Focus on aspirational districts ensures benefits for underserved regions.
- Global Commitments → Aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education) & SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

Way Forward

- Expand the scheme beyond pilot districts in a phased manner.
- Forge industry partnerships to ensure job placements.
- Strengthen monitoring & evaluation systems for measurable outcomes (employment, income rise, skill certification).

Prelims MCQ

Q. The NAVYA Initiative, recently launched by the Government of India, primarily aims to:

- (a) Provide nutrition supplements to adolescent girls
- (b) Offer vocational and life-skills training to adolescent girls
- (c) Promote higher education for women in STEM
- (d) Establish residential schools for rural girls

Answer: (b) Offer vocational and life-skills training to adolescent girls

Mains Question : **Discuss the significance of the NAVYA Initiative in bridging gender gaps in employability and human capital development. How does it support India's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047?**