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Daily News Discussion (DND)

22nd June 2021

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Note -

- The Newspaper clippings pasted in PDF are important from Mains point of view as it contains the fodder material for Mains Answer Writing.
- Also watch DND video lectures everyday @ 4 PM on Sleepy’s YouTube channel in order to understand how to get the most out of everyday’s Newspaper .

Click [here](#) to watch the following topics on YouTube

1. Environment

1.1.NGT hikes compensation to Achankulam victims

- The National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, has awarded higher compensation of ₹20 lakh to the families of each of those who died in the fire that broke out at the Sree Mariyammal Fireworks at Achankulam in Virudhunagar district
- Twenty seven persons were killed and 26 were injured in the fire.

THE HINDU
— Paper —

A charter for safety

The National Green Tribunal has suggested several steps to be implemented by specific departments or agencies to ensure safety at firecracker units



Blown to smithereens: This is what remained after a fire at Sree Mariyammal Fireworks at Achankulam in Virudhunagar district on February 12. ■ G. MOORTHY

WHAT THE LICENSING AUTHORITY* SHOULD DO:

- Drone surveillance of sheds where firecrackers are manufactured
- Close the sheds permanently if there was violation of norms
- Levy punitive fines of not less than ₹50 lakh for violations of license conditions
- Increase the compensation amount under group insurance from ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh

WHAT THE OTHER AUTHORITIES OR DEPARTMENTS SHOULD DO:

- Strict vigilance by PESO* and the Industrial Safety Department to ensure conformity to safety norms in sheds
- The District Collector should make it compulsory for all factories to take public liability insurance
- The Central and State governments should give more powers to regulatory authorities to enable periodical monitoring and ensure better compliance
- Entrepreneurs and the Department of Industries and Commerce should encourage more automation to avoid physical handling of dangerous chemicals and substances
- Legislature should provide for stringent punishment for certain offences under Section 9B of The Explosives Act, 1884
- Licencees and employers should engage only certified workers in hazardous operations in fireworks units

(*Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) and District Revenue Officer are licensing authorities)

What is NGT?

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialized body that was formed under the **NGT Act, 2010** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases that are related to the protection and conservation of the environment, forests, and other natural resources

Structure of NGT

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) comprises three major bodies namely:
 - ✓ The Chairperson
 - ✓ The Judicial Members, and
 - ✓ The Expert Members.
- Also, there should be a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 fulltime Judicial as well as Expert members in the NGT.

Term of NGT Members

- All these members are required to hold the office for **five years and are not eligible for reappointment.**

Who appoints NGT Chairman?

- The Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is appointed **by the Central Government of India** in accordance with the Chief Justice of India.
- Chairperson qualification-Judge of Supreme court or Chief justice of High court

Who appoints NGT members?

- A **Selection Committee is formed by the central government** of India for the appointment of Judicial Members and Expert Members.
- Judicial member- Judge of High court

Who may submit cases to the Tribunal and what sort of cases are heard?

- Any person seeking relief and compensation for environmental damage involving subjects in the legislations mentioned in Schedule I of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 may approach the Tribunal.
- The statutes in Schedule I are:
 - ✓ The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
 - ✓ The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;
 - ✓ The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
 - ✓ The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
 - ✓ The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
 - ✓ The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991;
 - ✓ The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Yes, decisions of the Tribunal **are binding.** The Tribunal's orders are enforceable as the powers vested are the same as in a civil court **under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.**

Are decisions of the Tribunal final?

- The Tribunal has powers to review its own decisions. If this fails, the decision can be challenged before the **Supreme Court** within ninety days.

Full year current affairs revision through MCQ

Env and Ecology Day - 5

1. Which among the following is/are primary pollutant

1. Carbon monoxide
2. Ozone
3. Carbon dioxide

Select the correct answer code:

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

2. Photochemical smog is resultant of reaction among :

- A. NO_2 , O_3 and Peroxyacetyl nitrate in the presence of sunlight.
- B. CO , O_2 and Peroxyacetyl nitrate in the presence of sunlight.
- C. CO , CO_2 and NO_2 at low temp.
- D. High concentration of NO_2 , O_3 and CO in the evening.

3. Consider the following statements

1. Normal rain has PH above 7 whereas acidic rain has below 7
2. Acidic rain replaces the nutrient element in the soil.

Select the correct answer code:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

4. Consider the following statements

- 1. In Biostimulation nutrients are added to soil in order to increase growth of microorganism already present in soil.**
- 2. In Bioaugmentation microorganism themselves cultured offsite-are added to soil**

Select the correct answer code:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

5. Kabartal wetland, recently seen in news, located in

- A. Bihar
- B. Nagaland
- C. Manipur
- D. Maharashtra

2. Science & Technology

2.1. Biotech-KISAN

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has issued a Special Call for North East Region as a part of its Mission Programme “Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)

Biotech-KISAN	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer-centric scheme for farmers under Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the problems of water, soil, seed and market faced by the farmers and provide simple solutions to them. • Pan-India program, following a hub-and-spoke model and stimulates entrepreneurship and innovation in farmers and empowers women farmers. • The programme links available science and technology to the farm by first understanding the problem of the local farmer and then providing scientific solutions to those problems
Significance	For Farmers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solution of farmers problem • connect farmers to best global practices • Encourage grass root innovation in the young as well as women farmers.
	For Women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme includes the Mahila Biotech- KISAN fellowships, for training and education in farm practices, for women farmers
	Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far 146 Biotech-KISAN Hubs have been established covering all 15 agroclimatic zones and 110 Aspirational Districts in the country
Present call for NER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As it is predominantly agrarian with 70% of its workforce engaged in agriculture and allied sector for livelihood • The region produces merely 1.5 per cent of country’s food grain and continues to be a net importer of food grains • The Hubs in NER will collaborate with the top scientific institutions across the country as well as State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) / Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) etc

3. History

3.1. Yoga a “ray of hope”

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently termed **yoga a “ray of hope”** and a source of strength in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.
- He was addressing a programme to mark the 7th International Yoga Day where he also spoke of the **M-Yoga application**, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO)

About Yoga

- The international community observes **June 21 as International Yoga Day**, recognising the many benefits of the ancient Indian practice of yoga.
- The year 2021 marks the 7th annual International Yoga Day.
- The UN proclaimed June 21 as International Day of Yoga by **passing a resolution** on December 11, 2014 during the 69th session of the General Assembly.
- The United Nations theme for this year is **“Yoga for well-being”**

History

- Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that **originated in India**.
- Maharishi Patanjali, rightly called **“The Father of Yoga”** compiled and refined various aspects of Yoga systematically in his **“Yoga Sutras”**
- The word ‘yoga’ is derived from Sanskrit and means **to join or to unite, symbolising the union of a person’s body and consciousness**

Common Yoga Protocol’ from 2019 (Ministry of AYUSH)- Logo

Folding hands

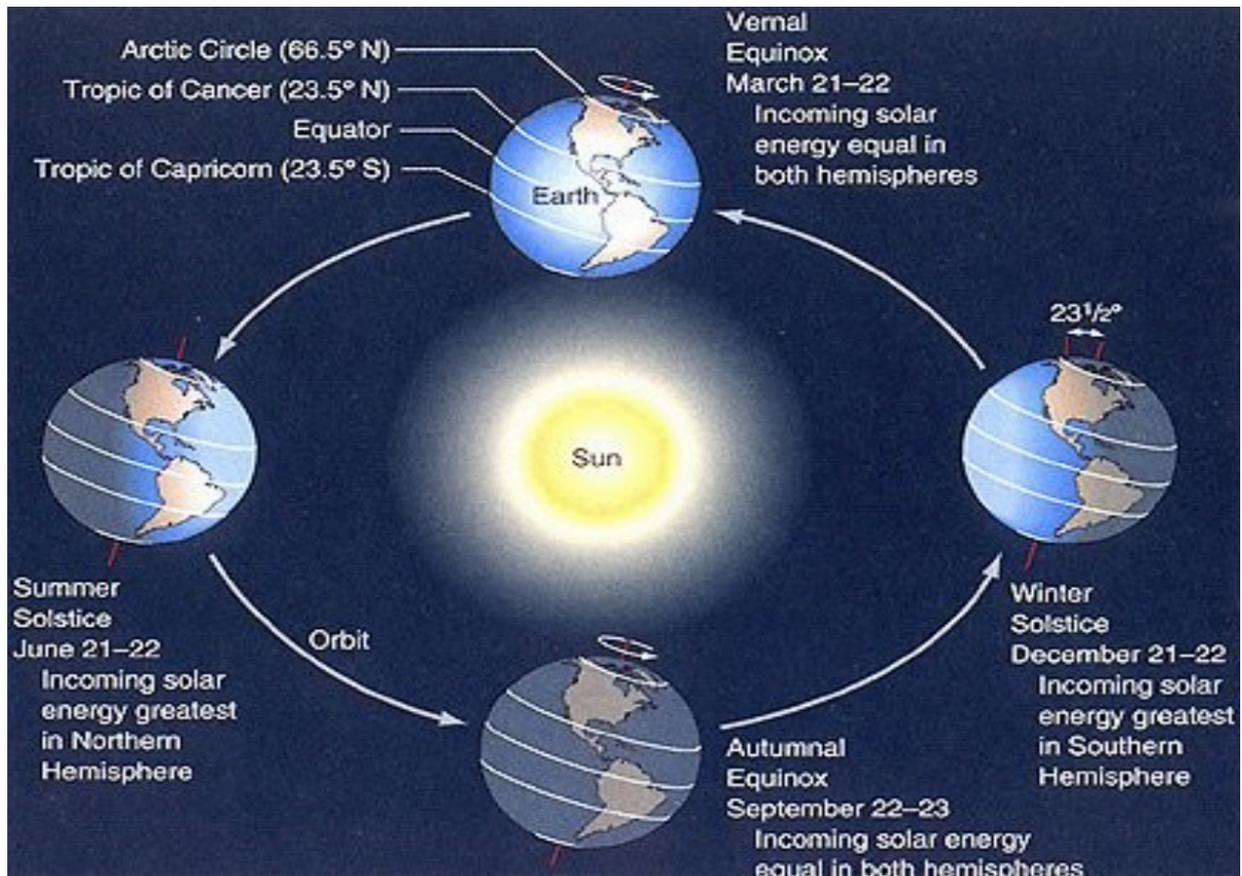
- The **union of individual consciousness** with that of **universal consciousness**, a **perfect harmony** between mind and body, man and nature, the holistic approach to health and well being.

Other

- The **brown leaves** in the logo symbolize the earth element
- The **green leaves** of nature
- **Blue** the fire element
- **Sun** symbolises the source of energy and inspiration.
- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has also asked its member states to practice Yoga and has included it in its **Global Action Plan for physical activity 2018-30**



Types of Yoga (Source: AYUSH Ministry)	
Japa Yoga	• To concentrate one's mind on divine name or holy syllable, mantra etc. like 'OM', 'Rama', 'Allah', 'God', 'Vahe Guru' etc. through repeated recitation or remembrance .
Karma Yoga	• Teaches us to perform all actions without having any desire for their fruit . In this sadhana, a Yogi considers his duty as divine action, perform it with whole-hearted dedication but shuns away all desires.
Gyana Yoga	• Teaches us to discriminate between self and non-self and to acquire the knowledge of one's spiritual entity through the study of scriptures, company of Saints and practices of meditation.
Bhakti Yoga	• System of intense devotion with emphasis on complete surrender to divine will . The true follower of Bhakti Yoga is free from egoism remains humble and unaffected by the dualities of the world.
Raja Yoga	• Popularly known as " Ashtanga Yoga " is for all-round development of human beings . These are Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana and Samadhi.
Swara Yoga	• Realization of cosmic consciousness , through the awareness/ observation then control/ manipulation of the flow of breath in the nostrils
Kundalini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of Tantric Tradition • The seat of Kundalini is a small gland at the base of the spinal cord • Awakening of Kundalini results in an explosion in the brain as the dormant or sleeping areas start blossoming like flowers.
Nadi	• Nadis are flow of energy which we can visualize at the psychic level as having distinct channels, light, colour, sound and other characteristics



4. Economy

4.1. Alternatives to RBI printing money for a fresh Covid relief package

- Recently Confederation of Indian Industry CII and others urged the government to spend an additional Rs 3 lakh crore.

Suggestions by CII

- To provide **direct cash transfers** to families with Jan Dhan bank accounts,
- To **increase MGNREGA allocation** and provide more job guarantees in rural India,
- To **cut the Goods and Services Tax** rates, and thus boosting demand,
- To **extend the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana**, under which the government subsidises the provident fund contributions by employees as well as employers for two years
- CII wants the government to simply ask the **RBI to print Rs 3 lakh crore** worth of new cash and give it to the government to spend.

Need

- The recovery is on the cards but in the absence of a fresh stimulus from the government the recovery could be quite slow.
- **CII 115th Business Outlook Survey**- significant majority of respondents reported infections among staff or their family and adverse impact on production and sale

Issues with additional spending

- Historically, corporate India has always viewed additional spending of this nature as fiscally irresponsible. **Such expenditures have been described as wasteful**

Borrowing from market

- when the government borrows money from the market to spend on such “doles” (providing cash transfers and/or subsidised foodgrains), it **raises the cost of borrowing for the companies**.

Supporting poor through MGNREGA

- Many in the industry have argued that such schemes disincentives the migration of cheap labour to cities and big industries

Subsidised food grain

- Providing cash transfers and/or subsidised foodgrains as “doles” that made **Indians “lazy” and kept them poor**.

Printing money

- If additional spending is funded via fresh money being printed, it will **keep the interest rates**, which the companies pay when they borrow money from the market, low
- Government expenditure using this new money boosts incomes and **raises private demand in the economy**. Thus, it fuels **inflation**.

- India already has high inflation and, as such, this suggestion is problematic. More so, because inflation hits the poor the hardest.

Way forward

- Compressing “pay ratios” in the corporate world
 - ✓ One simple way to alleviate stress would be to **leave its own staff with more money.**
 - ✓ This can be done by compressing the pay ratio in every firm.
 - ✓ The **pay ratio** of a firm is the **ratio of the salary of the top-paid manager** in the firm to the median salary in the firm.
 - ✓ **Challenge**-It is for the companies to decide and the government cannot do anything.

Wealth Tax

- **Global Wealth Migration Review (2019)** that found that the total net worth of **private individuals in India in 2018 was Rs 570 lakh crore.**
- Of this amount, the **top 1% owns 58%** or around Rs 330 lakh crore.
- A **2% tax on the wealth of just the top 1% would fetch Rs 6.6 lakh crore.**
- **Challenge**- administration of a wealth tax is utterly cumbersome. That's because the **valuation of wealth tends to be highly contested**

Inheritance Tax

- If we assume that **every year 5% of the total wealth of this top startup gets transferred to their children, or other legatees, as inheritance, then even a modest taxation of one-third of such inheritance would fetch Rs 5.5 lakh crore”.**
- An inheritance tax is far more feasible

Way forward

- If the additional **stimulus being demanded is just Rs 3 lakh crore** then India **does not need to get into the debate about printing money.** This is not such a big amount. This much money can be borrowed from the market
- The best thing to do for the government is to **prioritise capital expenditure.**
- Such expenditure has the **highest multiplier effect** – the **addition to GDP for every Rs 100 spent by the government** – as it creates new jobs and productive asset

5. Defence

5.1.CDS to chair meet on theatre commands

- Extensive studies have been undertaken and discussed over the last two years before arriving at a broad plan to **create four integrated triservice commands**

Integrated Theatre Command	
About	envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander commander of such a force will be able to bear all resources at his disposal – from the Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Navy – with seamless efficacy.
Current situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total 17 commands (Army (7)+ Air force (7)+ Navy (3)) • Each command is headed by a 4-star rank military officer. • Tri-Service theatre command at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India. Shekatkar committee (2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended the creation of 3 integrated theatre commands – northern for the China border, western for the Pakistan border, and southern for the maritime role.
Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate all air assets of the armed forces while the Maritime Theatre Command plans to bring in all assets of Navy, Coast Guard as well as coastal formations of Army and Air Force under one umbrella. • On land, the Army's Northern command and Western Command would be converted into 2-5 theatre commands.
Argument in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will avoid duplication of resources • Integrated theatre commander will be able to train, equip and exercise his command to make it a cohesive fighting force • Better coordination and more security
Argument against	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With increased communication networks we can increase coordination, so no need of new organization • Domain knowledge of the integrated force commander is likely to be limited in respect of the other two Services • The IAF insecurity that it will lose control over its assets and operations

Chief of Defence Staff

- The CDS function as the **principal adviser to the government of India** and will also **coordinate the working of the three armed forces** – the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.
- The CDS is also be a **member of the defence acquisition council chaired by the defence minister** and **defence planning committee chaired by the National Security Agent (NSA)**

What was the need to create such a position?

- **Incoherency in defence policy formulation and its execution**, due to the two being in different hands, was a major concern. With a CDS, India **seeks to establish an organisational structure of “theatre command”** that controls all the three armed forces, as prevalent in the US.

Is there any eligibility criteria for becoming the CDS?

- The **senior-most among the chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force** will be appointed as the CDS.
- The CDS will **not be eligible to hold any government office** after demitting the office of CDS and **will not be allowed to take up any private employment, without prior approval, for a period of five years after demitting the office of CDS.**

What will be the role of the CDS?

- Apart from advising the government of India on defence issues, the CDS will enable **“jointness” in planning, procurement, training and logistics among the three services.**
- It will ensure the **integration of land-air-sea operations** and also administer modern warfare domains like cyber and space.

Is CDS a new concept?

- India has had a **Chief of Staff Committee (CoSC)**, headed by a chairman, who would be the **senior-most** among the three service chiefs.
- The creation of the post of the CDS was **first suggested by the Kargil Review Committee (KRC) in 1999.**
- **In 2001, a group of ministers had recommended the creation of the post of the CDS** as a mandatory reform in India’s national security.
- In 2012, the **Naresh Chandra task force** reiterated the need for a chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- The creation of CDS was one of the **99 recommendations made by the Lt. General D.B. Shekatkar committee in 2016.**

Current affairs Worksheet (22nd June 2021)

Factual sheet for Quick revision

Topic	Description	Update
Env	NGT	
SnT	Biotech-KISAN	
History	Yoga	
Economy	Issues related to additional spending of government	
Security	CDS integrated triservice commands	