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# Daily News Discussion (DND)

3rd 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. Global warming related deaths (1991-2018)-Study

### Global warming related deaths (1991-2018)- Study

- **More than a third of heat-related deaths** (37 per cent) across the world between 1991 and 2018 were caused by the warming of the planet due to anthropogenic activities, a new study has found.
- The **highest percentage of heat-related deaths** caused by **human-induced climate change** (more than 50%) were in Iran, Kuwait, the Philippines, Thailand,

## 2. Science & Technology

### 2.1. Satellite Internet

- Following the successful launch of 36 satellites on May 28, OneWeb's Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellation reached 218 in-orbit satellites
- The company only has one more launch to complete before it obtains the capacity to enable its 'Five to 50' service of offering internet connectivity to all regions north of 50 degrees latitude.

#### What is OneWeb?

- OneWeb is a global communications company that aims to deliver **broadband satellite Internet** around the world through its fleet of LEO satellites

| Low Earth Orbit technology |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Distance</b>            | Around <b>500km-2000km</b> from earth   |
| <b>Advantages</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide <b>stronger signals and faster speeds</b> than traditional fixed-satellite systems</li> <li>• <b>Signals travel faster</b> through space than through <b>fibre-optic cables</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Issues</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satellites travel at a speed of 27,000 kph and complete a full circuit of the planet in <b>90-120 minutes</b></li> <li>• Individual satellites can only make direct contact with a land transmitter for a <b>short period of time</b> thus requiring massive LEO satellite fleets</li> <li>• Huge <b>capital investment</b></li> </ul> |

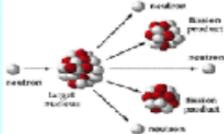
| Internet through satellite |  |  |  |                   |  |               |  |                 |   |                 |   |                   |                         |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|--|---------------|--|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                | Three mediums of Internet - fibre, spectrum and satellite - the latter is the most expensive   |  |  |                   |  |               |  |                 |   |                 |   |                   |                         |
| <b>Competitors</b>         | <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>OneWeb</b></td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Five to 50' service</b> of offering internet connectivity to all regions north of 50 degrees latitude</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Starlink</b></td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• currently has 1,385 satellites in orbit and has already started beta testing in <b>North America</b> and initiating pre-orders in countries like India</li> <li>• fly <b>closer to the earth</b> and therefore, the company requires a larger fleet to provide global connectivity than OneWeb.</li> <li>• Advantage over its competitors due to the ability of SpaceX to produce its <b>own satellites and reusable rockets</b></li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Amazon</b></td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project Kuiper</b> initiative announced in 2019.</li> <li>• has its own rocket production capability, its Blue Origin rocket is far less developed than SpaceX's Falcon 9</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other companies</td> <td> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• <b>Google</b></td> <td>• <b>Loon Project</b> (2013), abandoned in 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <b>Facebook</b></td> <td>• Internet using drones</td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> </table> | <b>OneWeb</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Five to 50' service</b> of offering internet connectivity to all regions north of 50 degrees latitude</li> </ul> | <b>Starlink</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• currently has 1,385 satellites in orbit and has already started beta testing in <b>North America</b> and initiating pre-orders in countries like India</li> <li>• fly <b>closer to the earth</b> and therefore, the company requires a larger fleet to provide global connectivity than OneWeb.</li> <li>• Advantage over its competitors due to the ability of SpaceX to produce its <b>own satellites and reusable rockets</b></li> </ul> | <b>Amazon</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project Kuiper</b> initiative announced in 2019.</li> <li>• has its own rocket production capability, its Blue Origin rocket is far less developed than SpaceX's Falcon 9</li> </ul> | Other companies | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• <b>Google</b></td> <td>• <b>Loon Project</b> (2013), abandoned in 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <b>Facebook</b></td> <td>• Internet using drones</td> </tr> </table> | • <b>Google</b> | • <b>Loon Project</b> (2013), abandoned in 2021 | • <b>Facebook</b> | • Internet using drones |
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| • <b>Facebook</b>          | • Internet using drones  |  |  |                   |  |               |  |                 |   |                 |   |                   |                         |

## Indian satellite internet market

- The acquisition of OneWeb by Bharati Limited could arguably give it a distinct advantage in India and parts of Africa in which another Bharati company, Airtel, already has a significant presence.
- Currently, Starlink and OneWeb aim to launch in India by 2022, with Amazon's Project Kuiper also in talks to receive regulatory approval to operate in the country.
- Over 70% of rural Indians do not have access to the Internet, a problem that is particularly worrisome given the increasing need for digital integration in the fields of education and banking in light of the pandemic.
- However, while companies like OneWeb and Starlink have marketed themselves to **rural Indian** consumers, given their price points (and expected price points in the case of OneWeb,) it is unlikely that most rural Indians will be able to afford their services.
- According to the ADB report referenced earlier, “telecom operators are already challenging the expected market entry of NGSO (LEO) satellites,” fearing that they could cut into their profits.
- Barriers to entry and elevated prices will make it difficult for satellite broadband companies to operate in India in the short term but according to several estimates they will eventually become a major player in the industry.

| Criticisms of LEO satellites |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Increasing Private control   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance of power has shifted from countries to <b>companies</b></li> <li>• Euroconsult, a leading satellite consultancy firm, estimates that 1,250 satellites will be launched annually this decade, with 70% of them for commercial purposes.</li> </ul> |
| Regulation                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government entities like the US Department of Defence have turned to private providers like spaceX</li> <li>• SpaceX-no Earth-based government has authority or sovereignty over Martian activities</li> </ul>  |
| Logistic                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates difficulties for astronomers as the <b>satellites reflect sunlight to earth,</b></li> <li>• Satellites travelling at a lower orbit can also interrupt the frequency of those orbiting above them</li> </ul>                                       |
| Space Junk                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are already almost 1 million objects larger than 1cm in diameter in orbit, a byproduct of decades of space activities.</li> </ul>   |

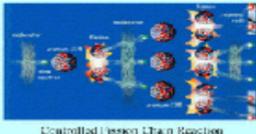
## NUCLEAR FISSION



**Fission is the release of energy by splitting heavy nuclei such as Uranium-235 and Plutonium-239**

**How does a nuclear plant work?**

- Each fission releases 2 or 3 neutrons
- These neutrons are slowed down with a moderator to initiate more fission events
- Control rods absorb neutrons to keep the chain reaction in check



Controlled Fission Chain Reaction



Nuclear Power Plant

The energy from the reaction drives a steam cycle to produce electricity

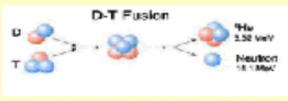
Nuclear Power produces **no greenhouse gas emissions**; each year U.S. nuclear plants prevent atmospheric emissions totaling:

- 5.1 million tons of sulfur dioxide
- 2.4 million tons of nitrogen oxide
- 164 million tons of carbon

Nuclear power in 1999 was the cheapest source of electricity costing 1.83 ¢/kWh compared to 2.04 ¢/kWh from coal

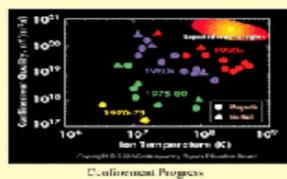


## NUCLEAR FUSION



**Fusion is the release of energy by combining two light nuclei such as deuterium and tritium**

- The goal of fusion research is to confine fusion ions at high enough temperatures and pressures, and for a long enough time to fuse
- This graph shows the exponential rate of progress over the decades

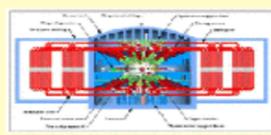


Confinement Progress

**There are two main confinement approaches:**



- Magnetic Confinement uses strong magnetic fields to confine the plasma
- This is a cross-section of the proposed International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)



- Inertial Confinement uses powerful lasers or ion beams to compress a pellet of fusion fuel to the right temperatures and pressures
- This is a schematic of the National Ignition Facility (NIF) being built at Lawrence Livermore National Lab

## 2.2. Artificial sun

- China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), which mimics the energy generation process of the sun, set a new record after it ran at 216 million degrees Fahrenheit (120 million degrees Celsius) for 101 seconds
- For another 20 seconds, the "artificial sun" also achieved a peak temperature of 288 million degrees Fahrenheit (160 million degrees Celsius), which is over ten times hotter than the sun

### Artificial sun - Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)

- It is an advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device located at the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP) in Hefei, China
- The purpose of the artificial sun is to replicate the process of nuclear fusion, which is the same reaction that powers the sun.
- EAST project is part of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) facility

### Other Tokamak in China

- HL-2A reactor as well as J-TEXT.
- In December 2020, HL-2M Tokamak, China's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device, was successfully powered up for the first time

### Artificial sun ( EAST)- working

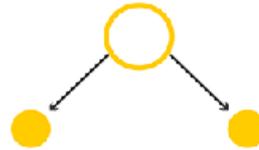
- Designed to replicate the nuclear fusion process
- Nuclear fusion is a process through which high levels of energy are produced without generating large quantities of waste.

- For nuclear fusion to occur, tremendous heat and pressure are applied on hydrogen atoms so that they fuse together.
- The nuclei of **deuterium and tritium** – both found in hydrogen – are made to fuse together to create a helium nucleus, a neutron along with a whole lot of energy
- Fuel is heated to temperatures of over 150 million degrees C so that it forms a **hot plasma** “soup” of subatomic particles.
- With the help of a strong magnetic field, the plasma is kept away from the walls of the reactor to ensure it does not cool down and lose its potential to generate large amounts of energy.
- The plasma is confined for long durations for fusion to take place.

## NUCLEAR VS. THERMONUCLEAR WEAPONS

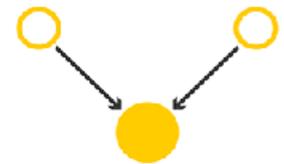
### NUCLEAR (ATOMIC BOMBS)

Atomic bombs use fission – the splitting of a large atom into two smaller ones.



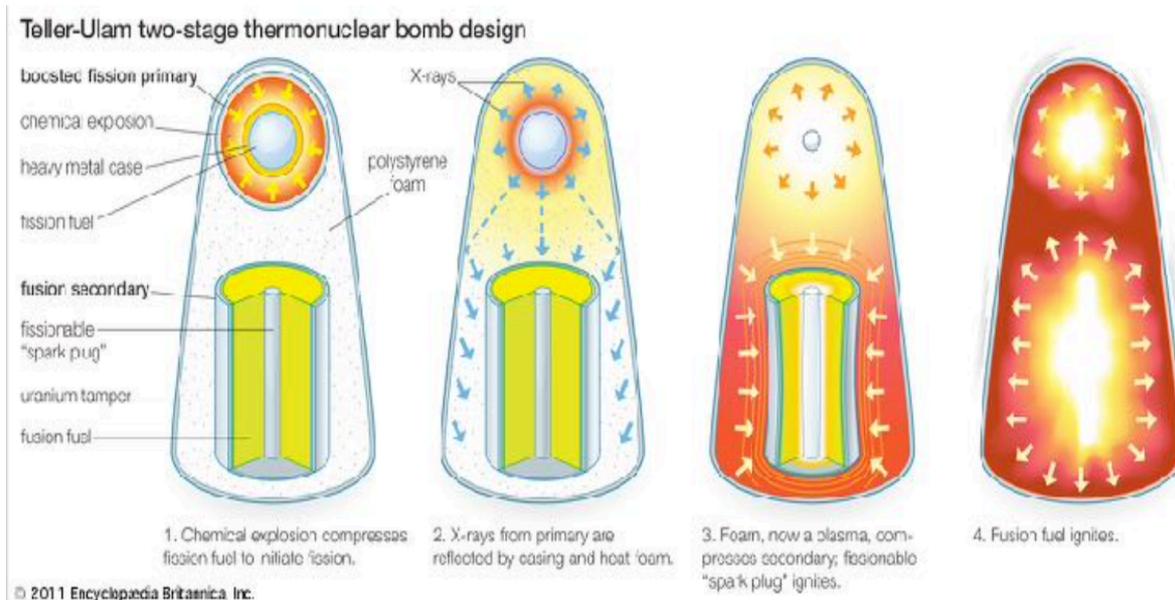
### THERMONUCLEAR (HYDROGEN BOMBS)

More powerful hydrogen bombs use fusion – the fusing of two or more atoms into a larger one.



## Significance

- The EAST reactor set a new record when it achieved a plasma temperature of 216 million degrees Fahrenheit and also managed to run for 20 seconds at 288 million degrees Fahrenheit.
- To put this in perspective, the sun’s core only reaches about 15 million degrees Celsius, which means the reactor was able to touch **temperatures that are 10 times hotter than that**
- In 2020, **South Korea’s KSTAR** reactor set a new record by maintaining a plasma temperature of over 100 million degrees Celsius for 20 seconds
- Produce clean and limitless energy, with minimal waste products



## 2.3.H10N3 bird flu

- A 41-year-old man in China's eastern province of Jiangsu has been confirmed as the first human case of infection with a rare strain of bird flu known as H10N3

### About H10N3

- Appears to be rare in birds, and **does not cause severe disease.**
- As per WHO source of the patient's exposure to the H10N3 virus **was not known** and no other cases were found among the local population, there was no indication of human-to-human transmission yet.

### H7N9 strain

- killed almost 300 people in China during the winter of 2016-2017.
- The WHO has said there had been only **rare instances of person-to-person spread** of the H7N9 virus.

### RISKS

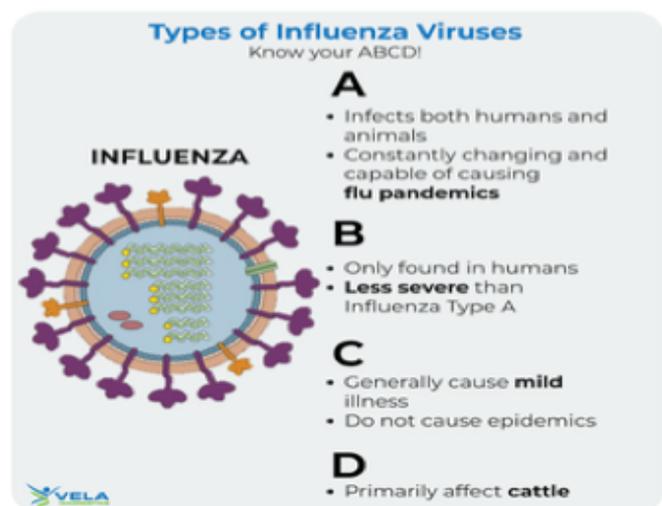
- The risk of further infection with H10N3 is currently believed to be very low, with experts describing the case as "sporadic".
- Such cases occur occasionally in China which has huge populations of both farmed and wild birds of many species.
- In February, Russia reported the **first human infection with the H5N8 virus** that caused huge damage on poultry farms across Europe, Russia and East Asia last winter.

### What Do We Still Need To Know?

- The genetic sequence of the virus that infected the patient has not yet been published, and will be needed to fully assess its risk.
- Scientists will want to know how easily H10N3 can infect human cells to determine if it could become a greater risk.
- For example, the H5N1 variant that first infected people in 1997 has been the most deadly, killing 455 people globally so far.
- It would only take a few mutations before the H5N1 variant gains the ability to spread easily from person to person

### Influenza viruses

- Influenza type A viruses are classified into subtypes according to the combinations of **different virus surface proteins, hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA)**
- For example, a virus that has an HA 7 protein and NA 9 protein is designated as subtype H7N9.
- **Human infections are primarily acquired through direct contact with infected animals or contaminated environments.**



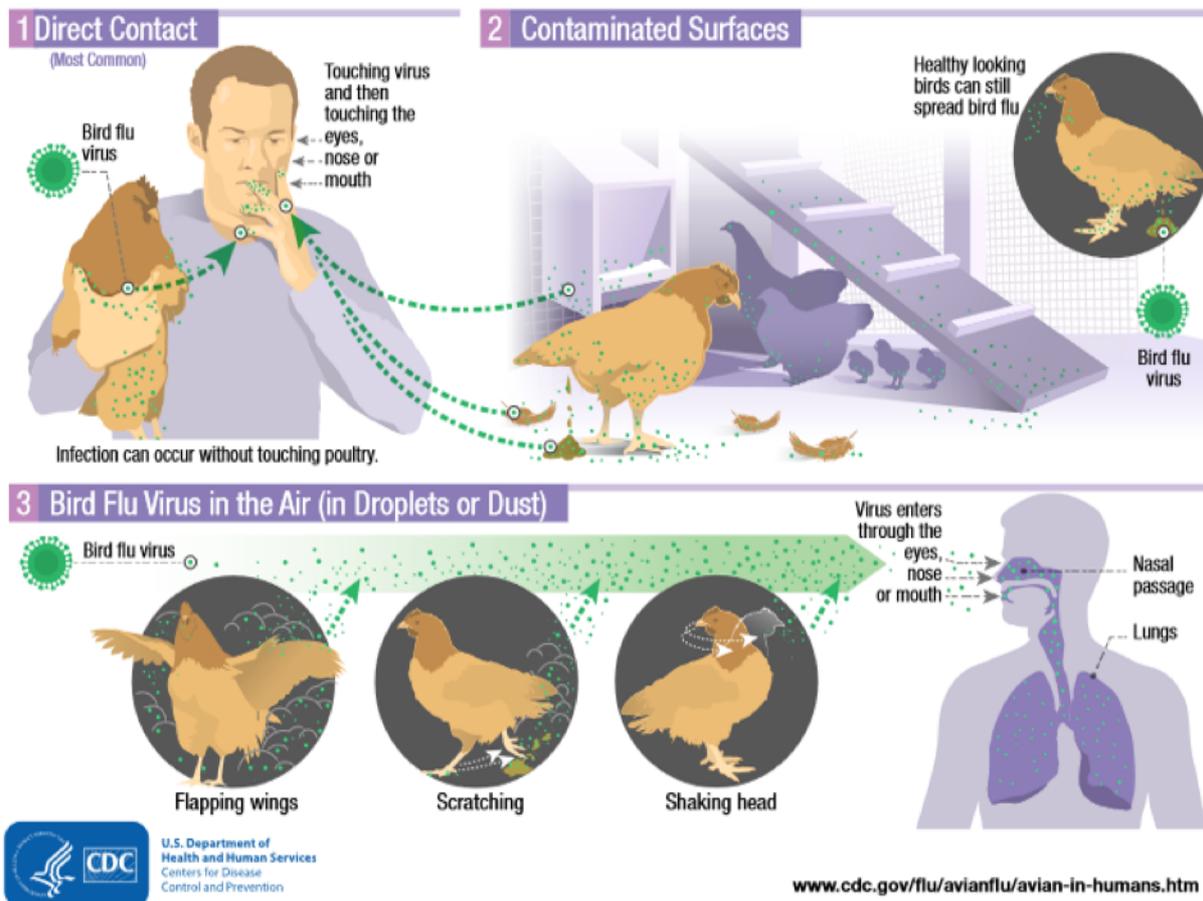
- influenza A viruses
- can be classified as
- Avian influenza (H5N1, H9N2 etc.)
- **Swine influenza**(H1N1 and H3N2), or other types of animal influenza viruses
- The most effective way to prevent the disease is **vaccination**
- G4 Virus(Strain of H1N1)
- It is recently emerged , infecting Chinese pigs
- G4 strain has the capability of binding to human-type receptors (like, the SARS-CoV-2 virus binds to ACE2 receptors in humans)

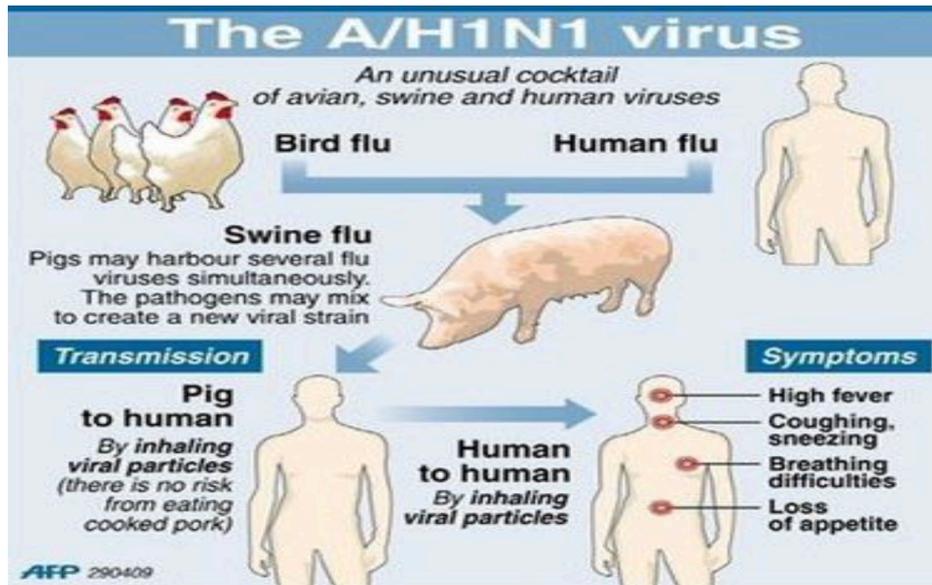
### Bird flu (avian influenza)

- Can spread from one bird to other birds and animals.
- Migratory birds have been assumed to be largely responsible for long- distance transmission of the virus into India.
- It also spreads through local movement of residential birds and poultry

### How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People

Human Infections with Bird Flu Viruses Rare But Possible





## Full year Current Affairs Revision through MCQs

### Science & technology - Day 4

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Currently there is no vaccine available for hepatitis C
2. Hepatitis C is mainly a blood borne illness whereas hepatitis A transmitted through food & water

Select the correct answer code:

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

2. Consider the following statements in context to Graphene:

1. It is one of the world's thinnest material and toughest material.
2. Till date there is no evidence of Graphene presence in extraterrestrial materials
3. It has higher thermal conductivity than carbon nanotubes.

Select the correct answer code:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**3. Consider the following matches :**

1. **Aware tool    Antibiotics**
2. **REPLACE    AIDS awareness**
3. **Nikshay portal    Tuberculosis**

**Select the correct answer code:**

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

**4. Consider the following matches in context to Disposal of biomedical waste :**

1. **Yellow    Contaminated plastic bags**
2. **Blue    Anatomical waste**
3. **Orange    Broken glassware**

**Select the correct answer code:**

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. None of the above

**5. Consider the following statements in context to TRIPS Agreement:**

1. **It covers Patents, copyright, trademarks and geographical indications.**
2. **It is binding on all members of WTO**
3. **It determine whether a new formulation deserve a patent or not.**

**Select the correct answer code:**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

### 3. Economy

#### 3.1.SDO Recognition scheme

- RDSO (Research Design & Standards Organisation) of Indian Railways has become the **FIRST** Institution to be declared SDO under "One Nation One Standard" mission on BIS ( Bureau of Indian Standards) which is Institution under Department of Consumer Affairs

#### Recognition of SDO Scheme

- By Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body
- Aims at aggregating and integrating the existing capabilities and dedicated domain specific expertise available with various organisations in the country engaged in **standards development in their specific sectors** and enable convergence of all standard development activities in the country resulting in "One National Standard for One Subject".
- BIS, after reviewing the Standard Making Procedures of RDSO, has granted recognition to RDSO
- The recognition is **valid for 3 years** and will require renewal after completion of the validity period.

| Bureau of Indian Standards |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Background                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>ISI mark</b> is a standards-compliance mark for industrial products in India since 1955.</li> <li>• The <b>ISI was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.</b></li> <li>• Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 which came into effect on 23 December 1986</li> </ul> |
| About                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 provides for the establishment of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the national standards body of India</li> </ul>   |
| President                  | Minister for Consumer Affairs (ex officio)  |
| Significance               | The Act allows the union government to make it <b>compulsory</b> for certain notified goods, processes, articles, etc. to carry the <b>standard mark</b> in the public interest, safety of the environment, national security or to prevent unfair trade practices.   |

#### Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO)

- It is the sole R&D Wing of **Ministry of Railways**, is one of India's leading Standard formulating Body undertaking standardisation work for railway sector.
- RDSO took the initiative to seek recognition as a Standard Developing Organisation (SDO) under the BIS SDO Recognition Scheme.
- In the process, RDSO reviewed its Standard Formulation procedures to realign them with the **Best Practices of Standardisation, encoded in the WTO-TBT "Code of Good Practice"** and also mandated by the Bureau (BIS) as essential criteria for recognition as SDO.

## 3.2. Rising Oil Prices

- Crude oil prices have hit a two-year high with Brent crude rising above the \$71 per barrel mark recently hitting the highest level since May 2019

### Reason

- The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries **extended supply cuts made in 2020** when crude oil prices had reached a low of under \$19 per barrel through the first five months of 2021
- Saudi Arabia notably made an **additional voluntary production** cut of 1 million barrels per day between February and April

### June -July

- Beside the **reversal of the voluntary** cut by Saudi Arabia, **OPEC+ is set to restore production**
- Experts have noted however that the gradual withdrawal of cuts is **unlikely to have any significant impact** on prices as demand for petroleum products increases **as demand increases** spurred by increasing economic activity
- A potential breakthrough in international efforts for a **new Iran nuclear** deal which would see international sanctions on Iranian oil removed would **also not have a major impact** on oil prices according to OPEC which expects that any increase in crude oil production from Iran **would happen gradually** and would not destabilise crude oil prices.

### India

- State and central taxes account for about **58 per cent of the pump price of petrol** and 52 per cent of the pump price of diesel in the national capital.
- The central government had in 2020 **hiked central excise duties** on petrol by Rs 13 per litre and those on diesel by Rs 16 per litre to shore up revenues as economic activity fell due to the pandemic.

| PM-CARES for Children' Scheme: |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Eligibility                    | Children who lost both parents or their lone surviving parent or their legal guardian or adoptive parent due to Covid-19. |  |
| Features                       | Fund  | A corpus of <b>Rs. 10 lakh will be allocated to each of these children Used to give a monthly stipend from 18 years of their age, for the next five years on reaching the age of 23 years, he or she will get the corpus amount as one lump-sum</b> for personal and professional use. |
|                                | Health  | All under Ayushman Bharat scheme<br>Premium- By PM CARES (till 18 yrs)   |
|                                | Education   | Admission to KVs & pvt school (upto secondary level)<br>Higher education-scholarship or loan (PM CARES)  |

| State of Finance for Nature report |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| About                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jointly by UNEP, WEF &amp; economics of land degradation</li> <li>• Future investment needed to meet the climate change, biodiversity and land degradation targets (<b>Rio convention</b>)</li> </ul> |   |
| Nature-based solutions             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refers to <b>sustainable management and use of nature</b> to tackle socio-environmental challenges</li> </ul>   |   |
|                                    | Investment in NBS  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NBS-0.10%</b> of global gross domestic product</li> <li>• <b>Public (86%)&gt;Pvt (14%)</b></li> <li>• <b>Public (US,China major)</b></li> </ul> |

**State Development Loans**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>About</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dated securities issued by states for meeting their market borrowings requirements.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Features</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>collateral for meeting the SLR requirements of banks as well as collateral for availing liquidity under the RBI's LAF including the repo.</li> <li>Auctioned by the RBI through the e-Kuber</li> <li>investors in SDL are basically commercial banks, mutual funds, insurance companies</li> </ul> |

**Tulsa race massacre**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>News</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. President Joe Biden became the first sitting American head of state to officially recognise one of the worst incidents of violent racial hate in the country's modern history – the Tulsa Race Massacre of May-June 1921</li> </ul>   |
| <b>About</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Tulsa race massacre</b> took place on May 31 and June 1, 1921. Alternatively known as the <b>Black Wall Street massacre</b> or the <b>Tulsa race riot</b>, Mobs of White residents, many of them deputized and given weapons by city officials, attacked Black residents and burned businesses of the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma, US, in response to an alleged sexual assault against a 17-year-old white girl and killings of 10 white men.</li> </ul> |

**State Development Loans**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>About</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dated securities issued by states for meeting their market borrowings requirements.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Features</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>collateral for meeting the SLR requirements of banks as well as collateral for availing liquidity under the RBI's LAF including the repo.</li> <li>Auctioned by the RBI through the e-Kuber</li> <li>investors in SDL are basically commercial banks, mutual funds, insurance companies</li> </ul> |

**Tulsa race massacre**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>News</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. President Joe Biden became the first sitting American head of state to officially recognise one of the worst incidents of violent racial hate in the country's modern history – the Tulsa Race Massacre of May-June 1921</li> </ul>   |
| <b>About</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Tulsa race massacre</b> took place on May 31 and June 1, 1921. Alternatively known as the <b>Black Wall Street massacre</b> or the <b>Tulsa race riot</b>, Mobs of White residents, many of them deputized and given weapons by city officials, attacked Black residents and burned businesses of the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma, US, in response to an alleged sexual assault against a 17-year-old white girl and killings of 10 white men.</li> </ul> |

## Current affairs Worksheet ( 3rd June 2021)

Factual sheet for Quick revision

| Topic       | Description                        | Update |
|-------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Sc n T      | Satellite in LEO (Implications)    |        |
|             | Nuclear fission vs fusion          |        |
|             | Artificial sun                     |        |
|             | Avian influenza vs Swine influenza |        |
| Econom<br>y | Recognition of SDO Scheme          |        |
|             | Bureau of Indian Standards         |        |
|             | State Development Loans            |        |
| Polity      | PM-CARES for Children' Scheme:     |        |
|             | State of Finance for Nature report |        |
|             | Tulsa race massacre                |        |