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Daily News Discussion (DND)

17th-19th July 2021

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Table of Contents

1. Environment.....	1
1.1.Re-wilding	1
1.2.Right to Privacy to tigers.....	2
1.3.New gecko species	3
2. Economy	4
2.1.Kisan Sarathi	4
2.2.Curbs on foreign card firms	5
2.3.FASTER scheme	7
3. Polity.....	10
3.1.Midday meals leave a long-lasting impact: study	10
3.2.School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP).....	11
3.3.UMANG App	12
3.4.Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered grievance management application.....	14
4. History.....	15
4.1.Rudraksh in Varanasi.....	15
5. International Relation.....	16
5.1.India's project in Afghanistan.....	16
Current affairs Worksheet (17th - 19th July 2021)	17

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.Re-wilding

- The recent attempt of **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)** to reintroduce into the wild an abandoned nine-month-old cub named **Mangala** after rearing it in 'captive' for two years has once again brought the controversial concept of 're-wilding' of abandoned or injured animals under the lens

Re-wilding Concept

- As per the Standard Operating Procedures/Guidelines laid down by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** under **Section 38(O) of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, there are three ways to deal with orphaned or abandoned tiger cubs.

Re-wilding

- The first is to make an effort to reunite the abandoned cubs with their mother.
- Second, if a reunion of the cub with its mother is **not possible**, then shift the cub to a suitable zoo.
- Third, reintroduction of the cub **into the wild after a certain time** when it appears that the **cub is capable of surviving** in the wild independently. This is what is known as 're-wilding'.

How have attempts at re-wilding of carnivores gone in India?

Dudhwa forest

- Re-introduction of **three leopards** – a male named **Prince** and two females, **Harriet** and **Juliette** – and a Siberian tigress cub named **Tara** in Dudhwa forest area in the 1970s.
- The re-wilding attempt, however, ran into controversy after several **incidents of killing of humans were reported in Dudhwa**.
- These incidents of man-eating were blamed on the tigress **Tara**, who was reportedly **shot dead in 1980**.

Panna tiger reserve

- The re-wilding in **Panna Tiger Reserve** of two abandoned tigress cubs, named **T4** and **T5**, that were brought up at **Kanha Tiger Reserve**, is considered to be a success in tiger conservation.
- Both **T4** and **T5** produced offspring before dying.
- **T4** died reportedly due to illness, while **T5** perished in a territorial fight.

Pench tiger reserve

- In March 2021, a **three-year-old tigress, PTRF-84**, the daughter of the 'man-eater' tigress **T1**, was released in the Pench Tiger Reserve after two years of a re-wilding programme.
- **T1**, famous by the name of **Avni**, was shot dead in the Pandharkawada forests of Yavatmal in Maharashtra.
- One of her two cubs, **PTRF-84**, was captured.

- The experiment of releasing PTRF-84 into the wild after the re-wilding programme, however, **ended badly.**
- Just eight days after being released, PTRF-84 **died of injuries sustained during a territorial clash in the jungle.**
- Success rate
- There are **50-50 chances of success and failure** of re-wilding of hand reared carnivores in the wild.
- Independent conservationists, however, maintain that the chances of **success are far less than that – less than even 1 per cent.**
- Tigers in India are **already occurring at naturally attainable densities.**
- **Almost all translocations of captive-raised tigers have failed so far, with only rare successes such as in Panna** after a tiger extinction, and some re-introductions in Russia into empty habitats with plenty of prey

1.2.Right to Privacy to tigers

- The Uttarakhand government has decided to **keep the Jim Corbett National Park and the Rajaji Tiger Reserve open all year round to boost tourism.**

✓ This raises an important question, has the time come to grant the **right to privacy to animals**

Right to privacy for animals

- This right has not been recognised anywhere in any Constitution or any law in the world

Animal Welfare Board of India vs A Nagaraja & Ors

- The court held that animals too have the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Further, it held that, **Animal has also honour and dignity which it cannot be arbitrarily deprived of and its rights and privacy** have to be respected and protected from unlawful attacks.
- The **issue** is whether by recognising the existence of right to life for animals under Article 21, it **implicitly held that this includes the right to privacy as well.**

Constitutional provisions

Article 48A

- **Directs the State to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife of the country.**
- It was held that **all living creatures have inherent dignity and a right to live peacefully and a right to protect their wellbeing.**

Article 51(g)

- Casts a **fundamental duty on every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment** including wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.

Article 51-A(h)

- Says that it shall be the **duty of every citizen to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.**
- These articles **read with the principles** developed in Animal Welfare Board of India vs A Nagaraja & Ors, lead to the inference that animal species too have the **right to privacy.**

1.3. New gecko species

- Odisha's forest department rolls out conservation plan for new gecko species discovered in Ganjam

About

- The species, which grows up to 6 centimetres in length, was **first spotted within the premises of a temple at Humma in Ganjam district in 2014.**
- **It belongs** to genus *Hemiphyllodactylus*
- This species is found **only in mango trees surrounding the temple**
- In very few of the sightings, the species was **found on the ground, either forging or moving to another tree.**
- The species was **never found on concrete walls** or below rock boulders unlike other members of the genus
- The new species is the **seventh Indian species of the genus, the second from the northern Eastern Ghats and 41st globally.**
- It is the **first non-island species of the genus** which is distributed in lowland habitats, he described.

Geckos

- Geckos are **reptiles and are found on all the continents except Antarctica.**
- These **colorful lizards** have adapted to habitats from rainforests, to deserts, to cold mountain slopes.

2. Economy

2.1.Kisan Sarathi

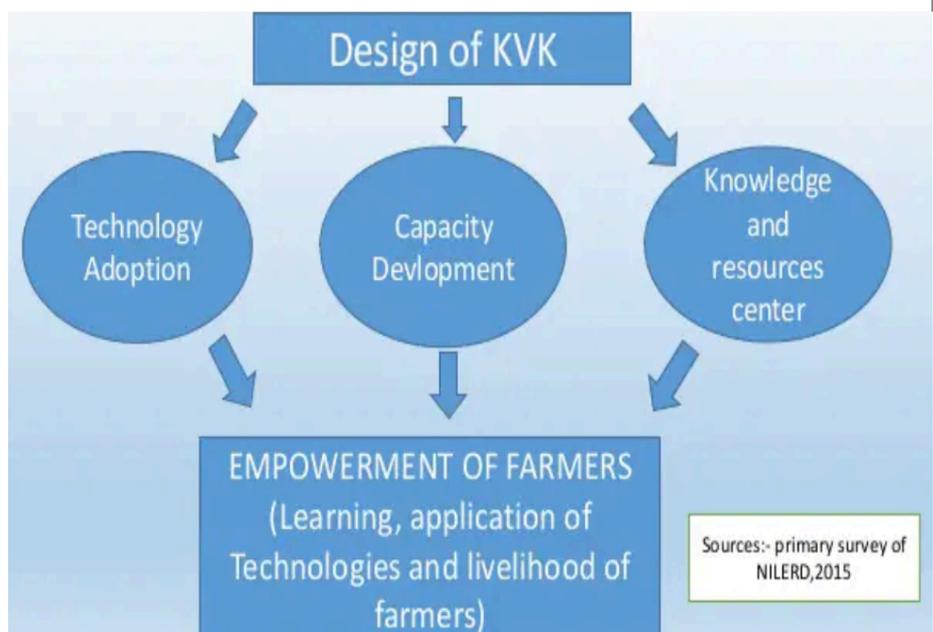
- Recently Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology launched KISAN SARATHI platform
- Also, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) celebrate its 93rd foundation day and on the occasion, the Kisan Sarathi platform was launched.

Kisan Sarathi platform

- The app will **enable farmers to get access to the right information at the right time** and in their desired language.
- With this digital platform, the **farmers can interact and avail personalized advisories on agriculture and allied areas directly from the respective scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs).**
- Further Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Minister **urged ICAR to create a similar app for animal husbandry and fisheries industry based on the model of Kisan Sarathi**

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

- These are the **centres for agriculture extensions created by Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and its affiliated institutions at the district level.
- KVKs are an **integral part of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS)** and serve as the link between the NARS and the farmers.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras commonly known as KVKs are the agricultural science centres established as innovative institutions for imparting **vocational training to the practising farmers, school dropouts and field level extension functionaries.**
- The **first Krishi Vigyan Kendra**, on a pilot basis, was established in 1974 at Puducherry (Pondicherry) under the administrative control of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
- These Krishi Vigyan Kendra are **100% financed by the Government of India** and are crucial to fulfilling the target of doubling farmer's income in near future.



2.2. Curbs on foreign card firms

- The Reserve Bank of India has so far **barred three foreign card payment network companies – Master-card, American Express and Diners Club** – from taking new customers on board over the issue of storing data in India.

Reasons

- **Non-compliance with guidelines** for storage of data in India.
- The RBI said it had **given almost three years for Master-card** to comply with the regulatory directions, but it was unable to complete the process.

What do the RBI guidelines stipulate?

- RBI circular on **Storage of Payment System Data dated April 6, 2018-**
 - ✓ All system providers were directed to **ensure that within six months the entire data** (full end-to-end transaction details, information collected or carried or processed as part of the message or payment instruction) **relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India**
 - ✓ They were also **required to report compliance to the RBI** and submit a board-approved system audit report conducted by a CERT-In empanelled auditor within the timelines specified.

Credit card firms's concern

- The credit and card firms with global operations have been **resisting the move, citing costs, security risk, lack of clarity, timeline**, and the possibility of data localisation demand from other countries.
- Payment firms like **Visa and Mastercard, which currently store and process Indian transactions outside the country**, have said their systems are centralised and expressed the fear that transferring the data storage to India will **cost them millions of dollars**.
- Besides, once it happens in India, there could be **similar demands from other countries, upsetting their plans**.

Way forward

- Experts agree that it is necessary for **all entities to comply with the RBI's localisation mandate**.
- At the same time, however, it's true that **hard localisation may impact** India's payments ecosystem
- To have a **more effective mechanism for law enforcement**, we need to **move beyond MLAT (Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty)**, which is slow and ineffective, to a system based on bilateral treaties on data transfers with the EU, UK and the US.

What's the role of card networks?

- Firms such as **Master-card, Visa and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)** are **Payment System Operators authorised** to operate a card network in India **under the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007**.
- Under the Act, the **RBI is the authority for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India**.

- Funds transferred using debit or credit cards are routed through platforms such as Master-card, Visa and NPCI.
- The RBI has decided to allow non-bank entities – Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuers, card networks, White Label ATM (WLA) operators, Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platforms – to become members of the centralised payment system (CPS) and effect fund transfer through RTGS and NEFT.

How big is India’s card business?

- According to RBI data, there were 90.23 crore debit cards and 6.23 crore **credit cards** in India as of May 2021.
- There were 57,841.30 lakh debit and credit card transactions valued at Rs 12.93 lakh crore during 2020-21

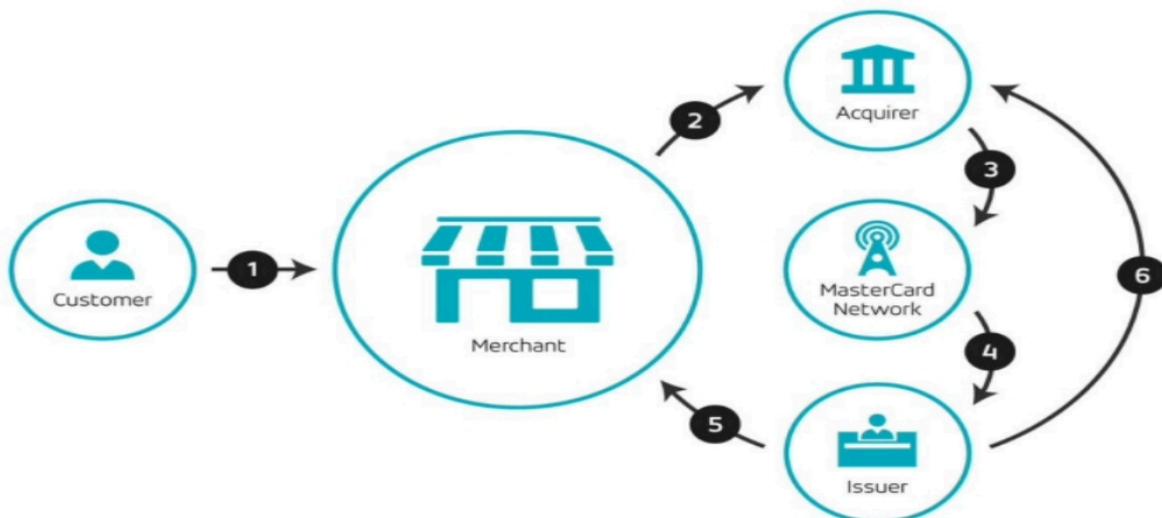
‘MASTER’ OF CREDIT

Share of payment providers in banks’ credit card schemes (%)



	VISA	RuPay	Mastercard
RBL Bank	0	0	100
YES Bank	0	0	100
Bajaj Finserv	0	0	100
HDFC Bank	38	2	45
IndusInd Bank	47	0	40
ICICI Bank	64	0	36
Axis Bank	65	0	35
SBI Cards	86	4	10

*Note: HDFC Bank's 15% cards are with Diners Club & IndusInd Banks' 13% cards are with American Express
Source: Nomura Research



- **Step 1: The customer pays with Mastercard**
 - ✓ The customer purchases goods/services from a merchant.
- **Step 2: The payment is authenticated**
 - ✓ The merchant point-of-sale system captures the customer's account information and securely sends it to the acquirer.
- **Step 3: The transaction is submitted**
 - ✓ The merchant acquirer asks Mastercard to get an authorisation from the customer's issuing bank.
- **Step 4: Authorisation is requested**
 - ✓ Mastercard submits the transaction to the issuer for authorisation.
- **Step 5: Authorisation response**
 - ✓ The issuing bank authorises the transaction and routes the response back to the merchant.
- **Step 6: Merchant payment**
 - ✓ The issuing bank routes the payment to the merchant's acquirer who deposits the payment into the merchant's account.

2.3.FASTER scheme

- Recently Chief Justice of India (CJI) announced the rollout of a new scheme called FASTER to ensure the **timely release of prisoners from jail and uphold their dignity.**

FASTER (Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records)

- It would enable the Supreme Court (SC) to instantly, directly, securely, and electronically transmit bail and other orders to jail authorities, district courts, and High Courts.

Reasons

- Recently, **13 prisoners in Agra Jail were granted bail** by the Supreme Court on July 8 but were released by the prison authorities after a delay of four days
- People given bail have to **wait for days before prison authorities release them**
- The prison authorities insist on **receiving the "authentic" hard copy of the bail order**, regardless of the fact that personal liberty and dignity are jeopardized due to delays.

Related topic

- SUPACE Portal

Full year Current Affairs Revision through MCQs

Economy – Day 8

1. Consider the following statements in context to helicopter money and quantitative easing:

1. Both aim to boost consumer spending.
2. There is no repayment liability in case helicopter money
3. Quantitative easing boosts spending and economic growth more effectively than helicopter money

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

2. Which among the following is/are part of tax revenue of the government?

1. Income tax
2. Interest on loans
3. Receipt through toll plaza
4. Fee receipt by UPSC for exams

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

3. Which among the following is/are related to WTO ruling ?

1. Peace clause
2. National security exception
3. Multi fibre agreement
4. TRIPS

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 4 only

- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

4. Consider the following statements in context to off-budget borrowings:

- 1. These are financial liabilities raised by Public Sector Undertakings.
- 2. These are excluded from the fiscal deficit calculations
- 3. Such borrowings can't be used to fulfil the government's expenditure needs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

5. 'Specified Financial transactions' often in news, is related to:

- A. Foreign fund received by NGOs
- B. Money received from India's neighbouring countries
- C. High-value transactions undertaken by citizens
- D. Transactions through bitcoins

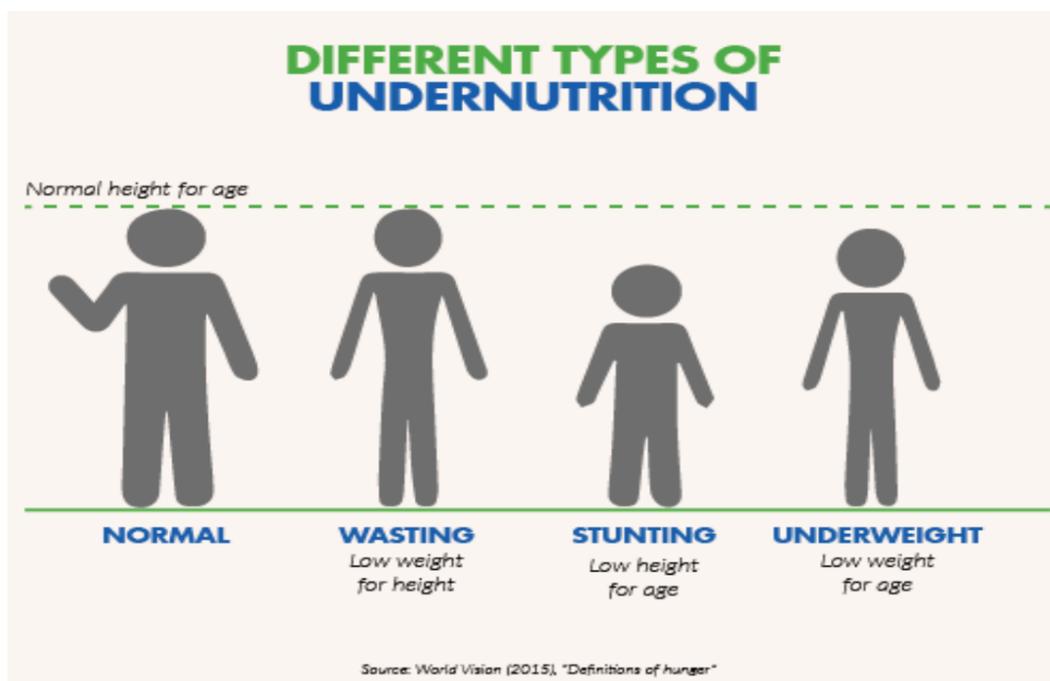
3. Polity

3.1. Midday meals leave a long-lasting impact: study

- Recently **new study on the inter-generational benefits** of the midday meal scheme, published in Nature Communications this week.

Key points

- Girls who had **access to free lunches** provided at government schools
- had children with a higher height-to-age ratio than those who did not
- Using nationally representative data on cohorts of mothers and their children spanning 23 years, the paper showed that by 2016, the **prevalence of stunting was significantly lower in areas where the scheme was implemented in 2005.**
- **More than one in three Indian children are stunted**, or too short for their age, which reflects chronic under nutrition.
- The **fight against stunting** has often focussed on **boosting nutrition** for young children, but **nutritionists have long argued that maternal health and well-being is the key to reducing stunting** in their offspring.
- **Interventions to improve maternal height and education must be implemented years before those girls and young women become mothers**
- It found that the **midday meal scheme was associated with 13-32% of the improvement in the height-for-age scores** in India between 2006 and 2016.
- The **linkages between midday meals and lower stunting in the next generation were stronger in the lower socio-economic strata** and likely work through women's education, fertility, and the use of health services, the paper said



3.2.School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP)

- Recently **Union Education Minister and Union Tribal Affairs Minister** jointly launch School Innovation Ambassador Training Program

SIATP

- It is **based on** the Education Ministry's model of **Innovation Ambassador Training Program for Higher Educational Institution's faculty members.**
- It is jointly **designed by Innovation Cell of Education Ministry and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).**
- It aims at **training 50,000 school teachers.**
- The training areas will include **Innovation, Entrepreneurship, IPR, Design Thinking, Product Development, Idea Generation, and many more.**

Five modules

- Design Thinking & Innovation;
- Idea generation & Ideal hand-holding;
- Intellectual Property Rights;
- Product / Prototype development; and
- Finance, HR and Sales

Role of the Innovation Ambassadors

- **Mentor the teachers and students** of their respective schools and nearby schools;
- Act as an evaluator for **Idea Competitions** conducted at national level; and
- Act as a Mentor for the **national level program on Innovation** and related activities.

Significance

- Help in the **skill development** of the teachers, which will in turn help in providing a better and innovative education sector in the country.
- **Equip teachers with new developments** in the education sector and make them technically equipped as well.

Benefit to tribal children

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched an **Adi-Prashikshan portal** which is also a repository of training inputs.
- The 'SIATP' will give **wings to the children's creativity** and provide a platform so that they can give something new to the world with their ideas.
- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** for tribal children is another ambitious programme of PM Modi under which 740 EMRS will be established in tribal-dominated areas over the next three years
- The **students of EMRS will greatly benefit from SIATP** since it is also the endeavour of the Tribal Affairs Ministry to give the best possible education to the tribal children.

Innovation Cell

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Education** to foster the culture of **Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions(HEIs)** across the country.
- It has been established at All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) premises.

Related topics for revision	
STARS Project	
Swachh Vidyalaya abhiyan	
SPARC Project	
PARAKH	
AICTE-SPICES	
UBA	
SARTHAQ	
KAPILA	
DIKSHA	
NISHTHA	

3.3.UMANG App

- **Ministry of Electronics & IT** enables map services in “UMANG App”; Signs MoU with MapmyIndia

UMANG App

- UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is developed by **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to drive Mobile Governance in India.
- UMANG provides a **single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Gov services** ranging from Central to Local Government bodies.

Integration of UMANG with Mapmy India

- As a result of integration of UMANG with Mapmy India Maps, **citizens will be able to find government facilities nearest to their location**, such as mandis, blood banks and much more, at the click of a button.
- They will also be able to see these on the most detailed and interactive street and village level maps of India, built by Mapmy India.
- Citizens will also be able to **view the driving distance, get directions and turn by turn voice** and visual guidance to locations, including traffic and road safety alerts during navigation, through the linkage between UMANG App and Mapmy India”.

- UMANG app has already started to provide map functionality through Mapmy India in the following services:
 - ✓ **Mera Ration** - Through UMANG, users can identify and navigate to the 'Nearest Fair Price Shops' as shops are visible in the form of pointers on Mapmy India integrated map.
 - ✓ **eNAM** - Through UMANG, 'Mandi Near Me' service will help users to identify and navigate to the nearby mandis pointed on the map.
 - ✓ **Damini** - 'Damini Lightning Alerts' service is to provide lightning alerts to users by giving a visual of nearby areas where lightning has struck in the last few minutes. This alert mechanism provides the possibility of lightning strikes on map view.
 - ✓ To further increase usefulness to citizens, the map functionality will be shortly enabled in many more services such as:
 - ✓ **ESIC** - Users can view ESIC centers such as hospitals/dispensaries on map view and navigate to them.
- **Indian Oil** - Service is to locate nearby retail and distributors of Gas stations as well as fuel filling stations.
- **NHAI**: Users can view the toll plazas and toll rates information while travelling.

Major services available Department wise across the country:



- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** provides information corresponding to nearby police stations on the map.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (Meri Sadak)** will help users to raise complaints of damaged roads (under PMGSY) by selecting the road on Mapmy India platform.

Related topics for prelims

UMANG International

- The international version is for **select countries** that include USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.
- It will help **Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad**, to avail Government of India services, anytime.

3.4. Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered grievance management application

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** launched an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered grievance management application in New Delhi** on July 15, 2021, developed by Ministry of Defence with the help of IIT-Kanpur .
- A tripartite MoU for the project was signed among Department of Defence, MoD, DARPG and IIT, Kanpur

About

- This is the **first AI based system developed to improve grievance redressal in the Government**
- Has **capability to understand the content of the complaint** based on the contents therein.
- It can **identify repeat complaints** or spam automatically.
- It can **categorise complaints of different categories** even when key words normally used for such search are not present in the complaint.
- It enables **geographical analysis of complaints** in a category including analysis of whether the complaint was adequately addressed or not by the concerned office.
- Given that **lakhs of complaints are received on CPGRAMS** portal of DARPG, this application will have **great use in understanding the nature of complaints**, geographies from where they emanate and policy changes which can be introduced to create systemic improvements to address these grievances.
- This project is **first of its kind initiative of the Government for using AI, data science and Machine Learning techniques** in grievance redressal.
- The **success of this project in MoD will pave the way for extension** of this application across other Ministries.

4. History

4.1. Rudraksh in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the **International Cooperation and Convention Centre - Rudraksh in Varanasi**, which has been constructed with **Japanese assistance**
- It will offer a glimpse of the cultural richness of Varanasi
- **Objective** - dedicate an ideal platform for **social and cultural interactions between people and strengthen the city's competitiveness** by developing the tourism sector.
- Ideal for **holding international conferences**, exhibitions and music concerts and other events.
- At the centre as many as **108 Rudraksha have been installed** at this convention centre and **its roof is shaped like a Shiva Linga**.

5. International Relation

5.1. India's project in Afghanistan

India's project in Afghanistan	
SALMA DAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the Hari River in Herat Province Renamed as Afghan-India Friendship Dam.
ZARANJ-DELARAM HIGHWAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 218-km Zaranj-Delaram highway built by the Border Roads Organisation. Zaranj is located close to Afghanistan's border with Iran Goes along the Khash Rud river to Delaram to the northeast of Zaranj It provides an alternative route into landlocked Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar port
PARLIAMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afghan Parliament in Kabul was built by India A block in the building is named after former PM AB Vajpayee.
STOR PALACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2016, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the restored Stor Palace in Kabul, originally built in the late 19th century, and which was the setting for the 1919 Rawalpindi Agreement by which Afghanistan became an independent country.
POWER INFRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuilding of power infrastructure such as the 220kV DC transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri, capital of Baghlan province to the north of Kabul
HEALTH INFRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has reconstructed a children's hospital it had helped build in Kabul in 1972 – named Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health in 1985
TRANSPORTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the MEA, India gifted 400 buses and 200 mini-buses for urban transportation, 105 utility vehicles for municipalities, 285 military vehicles for the Afghan National Army, and 10 ambulances for public hospitals in five cities. It also gave three Air India aircraft to Ariana, the Afghan national carrier, when it was restarting operations.

India's ongoing project in Afghanistan	
Shatoot Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Kabul district, which would provide safe drinking water to 2 million residents.
India pledged \$1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Aga Khan heritage project, restoration of the Bala Hissar Fort south of Kabul, whose origins go back to the 6th century. Bala Hissar went on to become a significant Mughal fort, parts of it were rebuilt by Jahangir, and it was used as a residence by Shah Jahan.

Current affairs Worksheet (17th - 19th July 2021)

Factual sheet for Quick revision

Topic	Description	Update
Env	Re-wilding Concept privacy for animals New gecko species	
Economy	Kisan Sarathi Krishi Vigyan Kendras RBI circular on Storage of Payment System Data dated April 6, 2018-	
Polity	FASTER scheme School Innovation Ambassador Training Program Innovation Cell UMANG App Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered grievance management application	
IR	India's project in Afghanistan	
History	Rudraksh in Varanasi	