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Daily News Discussion (DND)

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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. Mains value Addition

Rights (PII)

Bodies

- The **Supreme Court recently stated** that the investigation agencies (CBI, ED) should not keep the “sword hanging” over the accused and there must be **time-bound completion of investigations**.

Rights (PII) Aadhaar issues

- Inaccessible UIDAI system leaves Aadhaar users in lurch
- The IT systems of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) have been down over the past week, sending Aadhaar holders into a tizzy as deadlines loom to link their UIDAI identity details with their Employees’ Provident Fund accounts and the Income Tax Department’s Permanent Account Number (PAN).
- By August 31, all EPFO members are required to link their Aadhaar cards to continue to get their monthly PF contributions deposited.

Rights (P-II/IV)

Privacy invasion

- The **Delhi High Court has** observed that ‘**right to privacy**’ includes the **right to be forgotten** and the **right to be left alone** while directing various online platforms, including YouTube, to take down certain objectionable video clips of a Bengali actor.
- Justice Asha Menon was of the opinion that “the right to privacy of the plaintiff (woman) is to be protected, especially when it is her person that is being exhibited, and against her will

Rights (PII)

Local bodies

- The **Delhi High Court** on Thursday took **North Delhi Municipal Corporation** to task for delay in **payment of salaries and pensions** to staffers and warned it of ordering attachment of its assets and sale of properties.
- The court also noted that the issue of whether the **hospitals of North body** have to be handed over for management to the Centre or the Delhi government, as it is facing financial issues, has still not been considered by the civic body.

Rights (PIII)

Pollution

- In an effort to check stubble burning menace during the paddy season, the Punjab government has decided to permit certain categories of industries to install paddy-straw-fired boilers to claim fiscal incentives.

2. Environment

2.1.Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)-DTE

- Climate crisis putting a billion children at 'extremely high risk,' warns new UN report

Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)

- Launched by UNICEF along with 'Fridays for Future'

Friday for future

- FFF is a **dynamic global student movement** pushing for **immediate action on climate change** through active campaigning and advocacy.
- The movement was **inspired by Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg**, who sat in protest in front of the Swedish parliament for three weeks in 2018 to draw attention to the climate emergency.
- 33 extremely high-risk countries for children-Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea and Guinea- Bissau (Emit 9% global carbon dioxide)
- Half the world's child population- live in countries that are at an "**extremely high risk**" from climate impacts
- children are "**highly exposed**" to Water scarcity, climate change etc
- Almost every single child on the planet has been exposed to at least one climate or environmental stressor, such as air pollution, flooding, heat waves, tropical storms, flooding or drought.

2.2.Sambhar Lake needs faster restoration (TH)

- Sambhar Lake needs faster restoration, says expert study

About

- The world famous Sambhar Salt Lake in Rajasthan, which is **constantly shrinking with the degradation of soil and water quality** and **a decline in the population of migratory birds**, needs a faster restoration for conservation of its wetland and salt brine worth \$300 million, an expert study on the lake's ecology has said.

Sambar lake

- The lake, situated **80 km south-west of Jaipur**, is the **country's largest inland saline water body** which attracts thousands of migratory birds every year.
- The **death of more than 20,000 birds belonging** to about 10 species which migrate annually to the lake had made international headlines in 2019.
- The birds foraging in the Sambhar marshlands had **died due to avian botulism**.

- **30% of the Sambhar Lake's area** had been **lost to mining** and other activities, including the illegal salt pan encroachments.
- It has also **threatened the livelihoods of local people** who have always lived in harmony with the lake and its ecology.

2.3. Forum for Decarbonizing Transport

- Recently, Forum for Decarbonizing Transport was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India.

Forum for Decarbonizing Transport

- It is a **part of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)- Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA)** project
- The focus is to adopt an integrated approach for greening the transport sector in India.
- It aims to **Bring down the peak level of GreenHouse Gas emissions (transport sector) in Asia**

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA)

- It is a joint programme of 7 organisations that **will engage China, India, and Vietnam** in promoting a comprehensive approach to decarbonising transport in their respective countries.
- The project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

International Climate Initiative (IKI)

- It is a **key element of Germany's climate financing** and the funding commitments in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

World Resources Institute (WRI)

- It is an independent charity legally **registered as the India Resources Trust** which provides objective information and practical proposals to foster environmentally sound and socially equitable development.

3. Science & Technology

3.1. Havana Syndrome (IE)

- US Vice-President **Kamala Harris's trip to Hanoi in Vietnam** was delayed on Tuesday due to a possible case of the "Havana Syndrome"
- Harris's trip was delayed after reports suggested someone in **Hanoi had come down with 'Havana Syndrome'**

What is Havana syndrome?

- Back in 2016, reports first emerged of **US diplomats and other employees of the government falling ill in Havana, the capital of Cuba.**
- The patients said they **heard strange sounds** and experienced odd physical sensations in their hotel rooms or homes.
- They said they had **symptoms of nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems and hearing loss.**
- This mysterious illness came to be called the "Havana Syndrome"

How the US has responded to Havana Syndrome

- The US has come to believe there is a "very strong possibility" the syndrome is **intentionally caused.**
- In December 2020, a report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) found "directed energy beams" as a "plausible" cause of the Havana Syndrome.
- The report concluded that "**directed pulsed radio frequency (RF) energy** appears to be the most plausible mechanism in explaining these cases
- By calling it "directed" and "pulsed" energy, the report left no room for confusion that the victims' exposure was targeted and not due to common sources of microwave energy, such as, a mobile phone.

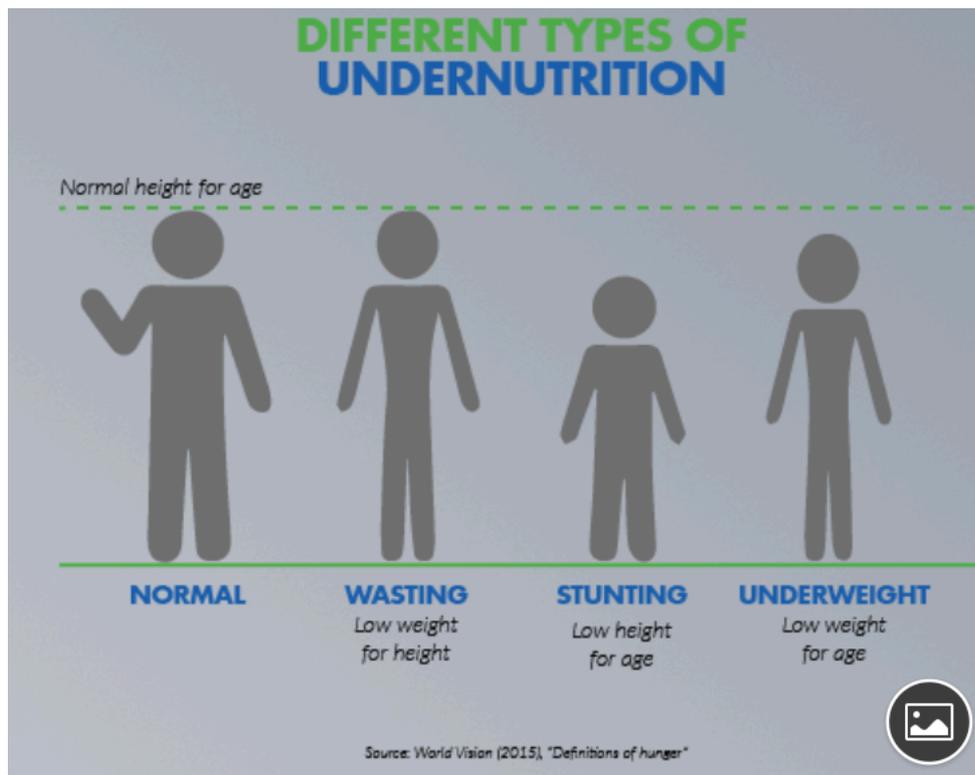
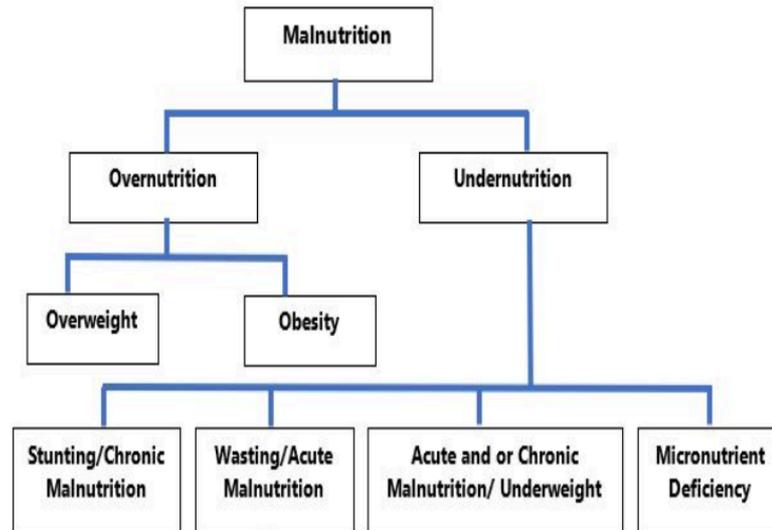
3.2. Project Bachpan (PIB)

- Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), Ministry of Coal initiates Massive Campaign against Malnutrition as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations

Project Bachpan

- An MoU has been signed between NCL and District Administration, **Singrauli**, to initiate and run Project "**Bachpan**"
- It aims to eradicate the menace of **child malnutrition** in and around the surrounding areas of NCL.

- Under the Project, nutritional needs of more than 260 undernourished children will be taken care of.
- This will ensure the malnourished children's good health and wellbeing



4. Economy

4.1.e-Shram portal (TH)

- The Minister for Labour and Employment will launch an e-Shram portal. • Recently government also launched the logo of the e-Shram portal. **e-Shram portal**
- **It is** a database of unorganised sector workers
- It aims to **register 38 crore unorganised workers**, such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors and domestic workers, among others.
- The workers will be **issued an e-Shram card containing a 12 digit unique number**, which, going ahead, will help in including them in social security schemes
- The registration of workers on the portal will be **coordinated by the Labour Ministry, state governments, trade unions and CSCs**
- A worker can register on the portal **using his/her Aadhaar card number and bank account details**, apart from filling other necessary details like date of birth, home town, mobile number and social category.
- A national **toll free number – 14434 –** will also be launched to assist and address the queries of workers seeking registration on the portal.

4.2.Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021(IE)

- India pips US to rank second in list of most attractive manufacturing hub globally
 - ✓ **China** remains at number **one position**
 - ✓ The **US is at third position**, followed by Canada, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Lithuania, Thailand, Malaysia and Poland.
- Global Manufacturing Risk Index
 - ✓ Released by US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield
 - ✓ **It aims to assess** and rank the **most advantageous locations** for global manufacturing among 47 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia- Pacific (APAC).

Parameters

- Country's capability to restart manufacturing
- Business environment (availability of talent/labour, access to markets)
- Operating costs
- Risks (political, economic and environmental).

Reasons

- India's **operating conditions and cost competitiveness**

- **Plant relocations from China to other parts of Asia** due to an already established base in pharma, chemicals and engineering sectors, that continue to be at the centre of the **US-China trade tensions**

Challenges

- Despite being among the top-three countries in the baseline and cost scenario rankings, there is a **long road for India to traverse** when it comes to areas like **managing the geopolitical risks** involved in running business and its ability to restart its manufacturing business after a devastating second wave of the COVID-19 virus



4.3.EASE 4.0 (PIB)

- Finance Minister unveils **4th edition of Public Sector Bank Reforms Agenda - EASE 4.0 in Mumbai**
- **State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India** have won the awards for best performing banks for PSB Reforms EASE 3.0 based on the EASE index.

Enhanced Access and Service Excellence(EASE)	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a common reform agenda for Public Sector Banks (PSBs). • Launched in January 2018 jointly by the government and PSBs. • It was commissioned through Indian Banks' Association and authored by Boston Consulting Group • It is aimed at institutionalizing clean lending, better customer service, simplified and enhanced credit and robust governance and HR practices.
EASE 1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed at enabling banking from home, effective grievance redressal • Resolution of NPA in transparent manner
EASE 2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Financial Inclusion & Digitalisation , Responsible Banking, Customer Responsiveness, PSBs as UdyamiMitra etc
Ease 3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on technology-Credit@click , Tech-enabled agriculture lending, Dial-a-loan and PSBloansin59 minutes.com etc <p>Achievement-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Sector Banks(PSBs) have reported healthy profits in FY21 as compared to losses in FY20. This is the first year when PSBs have reported a profit after five years of losses • Reduction in NPA as compare to 2020
Ease 4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banks focus on North east, 24x7 banking with resilient technology , Bad bank , Institutionalising clean and smart banking etc

EASE 4.0: Key initiatives

Smart Lending

-  **Dial-a-loan** for doorstep facilitation
-  **Credit@click:** End-to-end digital retail and MSME lending for New to bank customers
-  Analytics-based credit offers

24*7 banking with resilient technology

-  Deeper penetration of Mobile & Internet banking
-  **Cloud-based IT systems** and improved cyber resilience
-  **Process automation**

Data-enabled agricultural financing

-  **Dial-a-loan for Agri loans**
-  **Partnerships with AgriTechs** for data exchange
-  Automated processing and sanctioning

Collaborating with financial ecosystem

-  Digital **payments in semi-urban** and rural areas
-  At scale delivery of **doorstep banking services**
-  **Co-lending** with NBFCs

CLEAN Banking	SMART Banking
C lean credit	S peedy
L everaging data	M ulti-channel reach
E nsuring accountability	A ccessible & affordable
A ction against defaulters	R esponsive
N PA recovery	T echnologically enhanced

5. International Relations

5.1. UNAMA (TH)

- The **Taliban Sanctions Committee** to hold an important meeting to discuss the renewal of the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

- Established in 2002 by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1401 • Its **original mandate** was to support the implementation of the **Bonn Agreement** which altered over time as per needs
- It is a **UN Special Political Mission** established to assist the state and the people of Afghanistan in laying the foundations **for sustainable peace and development.**

Taliban sanction committee

- Also known as the 1988 Sanctions Committee.
- The committee oversees the sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council.
- The Committee comprises all 15 members of the Security Council and makes its decision by consensus.
- The current Chair of the Committee, for the **period ending 31st December 2021, is India.**

6. Polity

6.1.e-Emergency X-Misc visa (Livemint)

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently said all Afghan nationals will have travel to India only on e-Visa
- The Centre said it has streamlined the visa process by introduction of the e- Emergency X-Misc visa.

About

- India has been allowed to operate **two flights per day from Kabul** to evacuate its nationals stranded in Afghanistan.
- Previously **issued visas to all Afghan nationals**, not presently in India, **stand invalid** with immediate effect, the government declared.
- The decision was taken keeping in view reports that surfaced, indicating that **certain passports of Afghan nationals have been misplaced**

What is an e-Emergency X-Misc Visa?

- Then e-Emergency X-Misc Visa is granted to foreigners **who are not covered in the available categories of visa** but need to visit India urgently due to a family emergency.
- Such a single-entry visa is issued by Indian Missions/Posts for an appropriate period of time

What are the changes in the e-Emergency X-Misc Visa?

- According to the older document, Afghans were not covered under the category and had to physically present themselves at the Embassy to get the visa.
- However, given the current situation in Kabul, which has forced to shut down the embassy as well, all Afghans have been permitted to open e-visa with no religion-based priority.

How Can One Apply For the New e-Visa?

- Individuals seeking the e-Emergency X-Misc visa can apply online.
- The visa to such individuals seeking emergency rehabilitation in India will be granted for **six months initially**, during which the security review of the applicant will be done to verify the credentials. Details regarding documents required will be uploaded on the MHA website shortly.

E Visa

- The process has its roots in the 2010 **Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVOA)** scheme for Japan, Singapore, Finland, Luxembourg and New Zealand. This was also expanded later on.
- The change, however, came after the Modi government merged the TVOA with Electronic Travel Authorisation, thereby creating the e-visa
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry that issues visas to foreigners.

Eligibility

- An e-visa also called Electronic Visa is provided in **five categories** – tourist, business, conference, medical, and medical attendant.
- The eligibility criteria for obtaining the e-visa require the applicant to have **at least six-month passport validity at the time of applying.**
- However, the facility is **not available for the citizens of Pakistan** and they are expected to apply for regular visas from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. E-visas are, however, not valid for foreign diplomats which is dealt separately.

6.2. Delhi has most CCTV cameras (TH)

- As per a **report in Forbes India**, Chennai secured third place with 609.9 CCTV cameras while Mumbai came in 18th with 157.4 CCTV cameras per square mile

About

- The **national capital has surpassed the megacities such as New York, London and Shanghai** in having the most number of CCTV cameras installed per square mile.
- **Forbes India report on the most surveilled cities** of the world, which put **Delhi on the top with 1,826.6 CCTV** cameras per square mile, followed by London with 1,138
- **Chennai secured third place** with 609.9 CCTV cameras while Mumbai came in 18th with 157.4 CCTV cameras per square mile

The CCTV project

- It is part of the government's larger action plan on enhancing **women safety in the capital**
- In the first phase of the project, the government installed nearly 275,000 cameras across the city and is **currently working on the second phase of the project**, in which it aims to install 140,000 cameras
- As per government **all CCTV feeds are highly secure**, with hardware monitored by the community. Feeds are accessible only to authorised users, and the system itself is capable of automatic health checkups to detect disturbances and intrusions.

6.3. Mission Vatsalya (TH)

- Maharashtra government's Women and Child Development Department has launched **Mission Vatsalya**, aimed to serve around **18 benefits, schemes, and services to them under one roof.**

About

- The mission is aimed to serve around 18 benefits, schemes and services to such **widows under one roof."**
- The department staff, child development project officers, local unit officers and anganwadi sevika have been paying **door to door visits and providing services**