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Daily News Discussion (DND)

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Table of Contents

1. Mains Value Addition.....	1
2. Environment.....	3
2.1. Leaded petrol eradicated, says UNEP (TH)	3
2.2. Latham's Snipe (DTE)	3
3. Science & Technology	5
3.1. West Nile Virus	5
4. Geography	6
4.1. Chitkul Village.....	6
5. Economy	7
5.1. Vande Bharat trains (TH).....	7
5.2. On tap licensing - Small finance banks.....	7
6. Polity	9
6.1. Fundamental right to reside and to move about freely (IE)	9
7. International Relation.....	11
7.1. UNSC Resolution 2593 (TH)	11
7.2. China opens first road-rail transport link to Indian Ocean (TH).....	11
8. History.....	13
8.1. Renovated Jallianwala Bagh	13

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

Helping Online education (PI/II)

- The **Kerala High Court** on Tuesday directed the State government to look into the **prospect of setting up a website, with the assistance of the Kerala State IT Mission**, where needy school students can register so that individuals/companies/Non-Resident Indians/non- governmental organisations could contribute to the purchase of **mobiles and digital gadgets or supply them**.

Rights (PII)

Democracy (Political parties)

- In 2004, 24% of the Members of Parliament had criminal cases pending against them. This figure rose to an **alarming 43% after the 2019 general elections**
- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) **fined 8 political parties** for being in contempt of the Court's decisions to inform citizens about criminal antecedents of their candidates.
- In **Union of India vs ADR (2002)**: Court directed all candidates to file an affidavit declaring their educational, financial and criminal backgrounds
- In various judgements, the SC directed political parties to inform the electorates about:
 - ✓ The criminal antecedents of candidates.
 - ✓ Why the party found these candidates more suitable than those without criminal Background
 - ✓ Party should give reasons for selections with reference to qualifications, achievements and other merits.

Rights (PII)

Women rights

- Recently, the **High Court of Chhattisgarh** decided a criminal revision petition. The charges were framed against the husband based on the allegations of his wife. The High Court upheld charges under Sections 498A (cruelty towards wife by husband or relatives) and Section 377(unnatural sex) but **discharged the husband under Section 376 (rape)**.
- Section 375 (the definition of rape). As this section provides that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife (provided that wife is over the age of 18) would not amount to the offence of rape. This is based on the premise that all sex within marriage is consensual.
- **Independent Thought vs Union of India (2017) case**, the government defended these provisions by stating that making marital rape a crime would destroy the institution of marriage.

- **Independent Thought vs Union of India (2017)** where SC had read down the exception and laid emphasis on the significance of consent in any sexual relationship. Thus, this protection should also be afforded to women against their husbands.

Rights (P-II/III)

Financial inclusion

Jan dhan accounts

- It has also helped in social empowerment as **no. of women account holders in total JDY accounts is 55.47%**.
- In fact, **66.69% of Jan Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas**

Rights (P-III)

Cryptocurrency

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that adoption of crypto assets such as Bitcoin as national currency can impact a country's macroeconomic stability.

2. Environment

2.1. Leaded petrol eradicated, says UNEP (TH)

- As per UNEP the use of leaded petrol has been eradicated from the globe

Key points

- Eradication helps to prevent more than 1.2 million premature deaths and save world economies over USD 2.4 trillion annually. It is a huge milestone for global health and environment.

Leaded petrol

- Tetraethyllead was first added to petrol in 1922, to improve engine performance
- It enabled engines to use higher compression ratios, which made cars more powerful.
- UNEP launched its campaign named Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) against leaded petrol in 2002
- In July 2021, it was eradicated from Algeria - the last country using leaded petrol.

Impact (Source WHO)

- Soon after production began in Bayway, New Jersey, **USA**, an **outbreak of acute neuropsychiatric disease** appeared among workers, 80% of whom developed convulsions and five died
- Lead is toxic to multiple organ systems
- The nervous system of the **fetus and infant** is especially susceptible to lead, which can cross the placenta and penetrate the blood-brain barrier
- Loss of intelligence and disruption of behaviour. Because the brain has little capacity for repair, these effects are permanent and untreatable
- Lead can damage the **catalytic converters of cars**

2.2. Latham's Snipe (DTE)

- Habitat of bird that flies non-stop for 5 days from Japan to Australia under threat

Latham's Snipe

- Latham's Snipe, formerly known as the Japanese Snipe, was once a popular game bird.
- **Hunting and wetland loss** during the 20th century have contributed to a decline in Latham's Snipe in south-eastern Australia.
- The **signing of the Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement in 1981** has stopped snipe hunting in both countries.

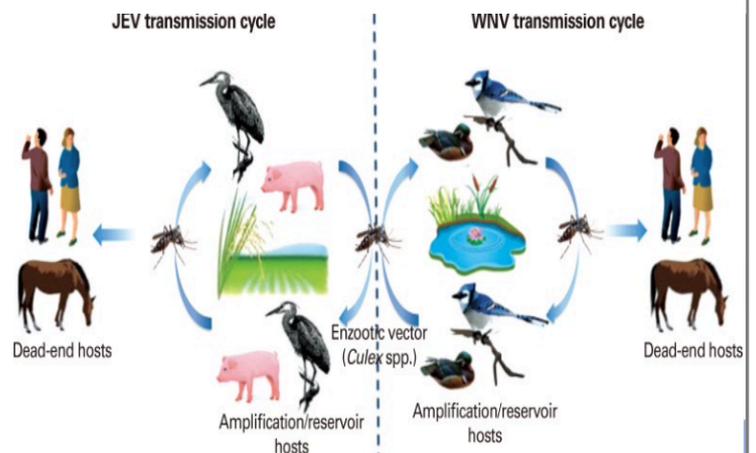
- However, their **wetland habitat continues to be lost** due to land development and drying of wetlands.
- **Urban development** continues to threaten Latham's Snipe habitats. Several snipe sites in eastern Australia are at risk from housing developments and large infrastructure projects
- Latham's Snipe **breeds in northern Japan and parts of eastern Russia** during May-July and spends its non-breeding season (September to March) along Australia's eastern coast.
- Latham's Snipe is the ultimate sun-seeker.
- It **breeds in the northern hemisphere** when the snows have melted and the weather is warm, then returns to the southern hemisphere to take advantage of spring rains, warmer weather and food-rich wetlands.
- **IUCN- Least concern**



3. Science & Technology

3.1. West Nile Virus

- Recently, **Russia warned of a possible increase in West Nile Virus (WNV) Infections** this autumn as mild temperatures and heavy precipitation create favourable conditions for the mosquitos that carry it.
- first isolated in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda in 1937.
- Mosquito
- Contact with infected animal
- through organ transplant, blood transfusions and breast milk
- fever, headache, tiredness, and body aches, nausea, vomiting
- severe-neurological, Paralysis, death
- Vector-mosquito (genus-culex)
- Reservoir host-Birds
- Dead end host-Human, horses
- No vaccine
- Kerala (Previous-West Bengal)
- No specific treatment



4. Geography

4.1. Chitkul Village

- Plastic waste is making its way to even remote location in mountainous region such as “Chitkul (in Himachal Pradesh)” affecting the ecology of the region

Chitkul Village

- Chitkul is basically the **last inhabited village** located on the Indo- Tibet border
- It is also an important religious site as the resident deity of the village, Goddess *Mathi Devi*, is revered across Sangla valley.
- The village is difficult to reach, yet, in 2018, the hamlet received most of the district’s 250,000 tourists, who bring with **plastic waste of every kind.**



5. Economy

5.1. Vande Bharat trains (TH)

- The Railways plans to operate 102 Vande Bharat trains by March 2024.

Vande Bharat trains

- The Train18, later named Vande Bharat Express, was rolled out by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.
- It was showcased as India's **first semi high-speed train** with an operational efficiency of 160 kmph and a game-changer.
- It provide facilities like **European-style seats, diffused LED lighting, GPS- based infotainment systems**, modular bio-toilets, fully sealed gangways for dust-free environment, centrally controlled entry/exit doors with sliding footsteps, divyang friendly toilet and automatic sliding cabin doors.
- Though the Vande Bharat train was celebrated as one of the most successful products of the "**Make in India**" mission, it ran into a controversy over allegations of **compromises on safety** bringing production of more rakes to a grinding halt
- Vande Bharat trains are self-propelled "engineless" train sets.
- **As of Aug 2021**, the Indian Railways operates two Vande Bharat trains, one **from Delhi to Varanasi** and the other from **Delhi to Katra**.

5.2. On tap licensing - Small finance banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has received applications from two more entities – Cosmea Financial Holdings Private Ltd. and Tally Solutions Private Ltd. – seeking licences to operate small finance banks (SFBs).

About Small finance banks

- are the financial institutions which provide financial services to the unserved and unbanked region of the country.
- They are registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013
- RBI would consider granting it a licence for the commencement of banking business under **Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as an SFB**.
- An 'on-tap' facility would mean the RBI will accept applications and grant license for banks throughout the year.

	PAYMENTS BANKS	SMALL BANKS
WHO CAN PROMOTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Prepaid card issuers, telecom companies, NBFCs, business correspondents, supermarket chains, corporates, realty sector co-ops & PSUs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Individuals/professionals with 10 years experience in finance, NBFCs, microfinance cos, local area banks
WHAT THEY MUST DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Have a minimum capital of Rs 100cr > Maintain 75% of deposits in govt bonds > Maintain 25% of deposits in other banks > Have at least 26% investment by Indians > Get listed if net worth crosses Rs 500cr > Have 25% of branches in unbanked areas > Be fully networked and technology driven > Have Rs 1 lakh cap for deposits in one a/c 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Have a minimum capital of Rs 200cr > Extend 75% of loans to priority sector > Have 25% of branches in unbanked areas > Maintain reserve requirements > Cap loans to individuals and groups at 10% and 15% of net worth > Have a business correspondent network
WHAT THEY CAN DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Offer internet banking > Sell mutual funds, insurance, pensions > Offer bill payment service for customers > Have ATMs and business correspondents (BC) > Can function as BC of another bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sell forex to customers > Sell mutual funds, insurance, pensions > Can convert into a full-fledged bank > Expand across the country
WHAT THEY CAN'T DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Offer credit cards > Extend loans > Handle cross-border remittances > Accept NRI Deposits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Extend large loans > Float subsidiaries > Cannot deal in sophisticated financial products



6. Polity

6.1. Fundamental right to reside and to move about freely (IE)

- A person cannot be denied on flimsy grounds his fundamental right to reside or move freely anywhere in the country, the Supreme Court has said.

About

- The **Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone-1, Amravati City**, had passed the externment order under Section 56(1)(a)(b) of the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951, directing journalist Rahmat Khan not to enter or return to Amravati City or Amravati Rural District for one year from the date on which he leaves or is taken out.
- Khan had been filing applications under the Right to Information Act, seeking information from authorities on alleged illegalities in the disbursement of funds to various madrasahs
- According to the **SC, the drastic action of externment should only be taken in exceptional cases**, to maintain law and order in a locality and/ or prevent a breach of public tranquility and peace

Article 19(1)(d)

- This freedom entitles every citizen to **move freely throughout the territory of the country**.
- He can move freely from one state to another or from one place to another within a state
- The **grounds of imposing reasonable restrictions** on this freedom are two, namely, the **interests of general public and the protection of interests of any scheduled tribe**.
- The **entry of outsiders in tribal areas is restricted to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs and manners of scheduled tribes** and to safeguard their traditional vocation and properties against exploitation
- The Supreme Court held that the **freedom of movement of prostitutes can be restricted on the ground of public health** and in the interest of public morals.
- The **Bombay High Court** validated the restrictions on the movement of persons affected by **AIDS**.
- The freedom of movement has **two dimensions, viz, internal (right to move inside the country) and external (right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country)**.
- Article 19 protects only the first dimension.
- The **second dimension** is dealt by Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty).

Freedom of Residence - 19(1)(e)

- Every citizen has the right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of the country.
- This right **has two parts**: (a) **the right to reside in any part** of the country, which means to stay at any place **temporarily**, and (b) **the right to settle in any part of the country**, which means to set up a home or **domicile** at any place permanently.
- The State can impose reasonable restrictions on the exercise of this right on two grounds, namely, the interest of general public and the protection of interests of any scheduled tribes.
- The right of outsiders to reside and settle in tribal areas is restricted to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs and manners of scheduled tribes and to safeguard their traditional vocation and properties against exploitation.

7. International Relation

7.1. UNSC Resolution 2593 (TH)

- UNSC resolution addresses 'key concerns' on Afghanistan: India

About

- Despite the abstention of two "P5" countries – Russia and China – from the India-led United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2593, the Government of India said it was a "matter of satisfaction" that the resolution addressed India's "key concerns" on Afghanistan.
- The resolution, which called on the Taliban to keep their commitments on preventing terror groups in Afghanistan and urged them to assist the safe evacuations of all Afghan nationals wishing to leave the country,
- The resolution demands that **Afghan territory should not be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter and train terrorists and plan or finance terrorist attacks.**
- It mentions individuals designated by **Resolution 1267**, (which includes the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad)

Russia and china

- Russia and China said they wanted all the groups, especially the **Islamic State and the Uighur East Turkestan Islamic Movement** to be named specifically in the document, and listed a number of objections to the drafting of the resolution.
- They accused the U.S., the U.K. and France, the sponsors of the resolution, of having rushed it through on a "tight schedule" while seeking to absolve the U.S. of responsibility, and **distinguishing between "their and our terrorists"**.

7.2. China opens first road-rail transport link to Indian Ocean (TH)

- The first shipments on a newly-launched railway line from the Myanmar border to the key commercial hub of Chengdu in western China, that provides China a new road-rail transportation channel to the Indian Ocean, were delivered last week

About

- This passage connects the logistics lines of **Singapore, Myanmar and China**, and is currently the most convenient land and sea channel linking the Indian Ocean with southwest China



- The transport corridor involves a **sea-road-rail link**.
- Goods from **Singapore reached Yangon Port**, arriving by ship through the **Andaman Sea of the northeastern Indian Ocean**, and were then transported by road to Lincang on the Chinese side of the Myanmar-China border in Yunnan province.
- China also has plans to develop **another port in Kyaukphyu in the Rakhine state**, including a proposed railway line from Yunnan directly to the port, but the progress there has been stalled by unrest in Myanmar.
- Chinese planners have also looked at the **Gwadar port in Pakistan** as another key outlet to the Indian Ocean that will **bypass the Malacca Straits**

8. History

8.1. Renovated Jallianwala Bagh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the renovated Jallianwala Bagh complex in Amritsar on August 28, 2021.



Changes made

- The **newly renovated Jallianwala Bagh** has come under fire, with historians accusing the planners of ‘Disneyfying’ the monument and erasing the memories of that horrific day of April 13, 1919
- The constricted entrance made of **Nanakshahi bricks, through which Dyer’s soldiers marched into the Bagh**, continued to evoke the horrors of that day. Last year in July, it was rebuilt into a **gallery with murals**, leaving no trace of the old alley.
- The **narrow lane** – which was blocked by British soldiers making it impossible for anyone to escape from the Bagh on that horrific day – now has a **shiny new floor**.
- A **Salvation Ground** has been built for visitors to sit in silence to honour the martyrs.
- **Four new galleries have been created** through adaptive re-use of underutilised buildings in the complex. The galleries depict the history of Punjab, history of the freedom movement, and the Gadhar movement.
- It also has a sculpture of Guru Nanak Dev, Sikh warrior Banda Singh Bahadur, and a statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
- The famous ‘**Shahidi Khu’ or Martyrs Well**, into which people jumped to escape the hail of bullets, is now **enclosed in a glass shield** – the decision has been criticised since it is perceived to restrict the view.

Background

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre marked a turning point in India’s struggle for Independence.
- A **memorial was set up by the Government of India in 1951** at Jallianwala Bagh to commemorate the spirit of Indian revolutionaries and the people who lost their lives in the brutal massacre.
- It stands as a symbol of struggle and sacrifice and continues to instill patriotism amongst the youth.
- In March 2019, the *Yaad-e-Jallian* Museum was inaugurated showcasing an authentic account of the massacre

What Led To The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

- The Rowlatt Act (Black Act) was passed on **March 10, 1919**, authorizing the government to imprison or confine, without a trial, any person associated with seditious activities. This led to nationwide unrest.
- Gandhi initiated **Satyagraha** to protest against the Rowlatt Act.
- Sir Michael O' Dwyer, the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab (1912-1919), suggested that **Gandhi be deported to Burma** but this was opposed by his fellow officials as they felt it might instigate the public.
- Dr **Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal**, the two prominent leaders who were a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity, organised a peaceful protest against the Rowlatt Act in Amritsar.
- On **April 9, 1919**, Ram Naumi was being celebrated when O' Dwyer issued orders to the Deputy Commissioner, Mr Irving to **arrest Dr Satyapal and Dr Kitchlew**.
- On **April 10, 1919**, the infuriated protestors marched to the Deputy Commissioner's residence to demand the release of their two leaders
- On **April 13, 1919**, the public had gathered to celebrate Baisakhi.
- In spite of General Dyer's orders prohibiting **unlawful assembly**, people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh, where two resolutions were to be discussed, one condemning the firing on April 10 and the other requesting the authorities to release their leaders.
- When the news reached him **Brigadier-General Dyer**, headed to the Bagh with his troops.
- He entered the Bagh, deployed his troops and ordered them to open fire without giving any warning. People
- On **March 13 1940**, at Caxton Hall in London, Udham Singh, an Indian freedom fighter, killed Michael O'Dwyer who had approved Dyer's action and was believed to have been the main planner.