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# Daily News Discussion (DND)

30th September - 1st October 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

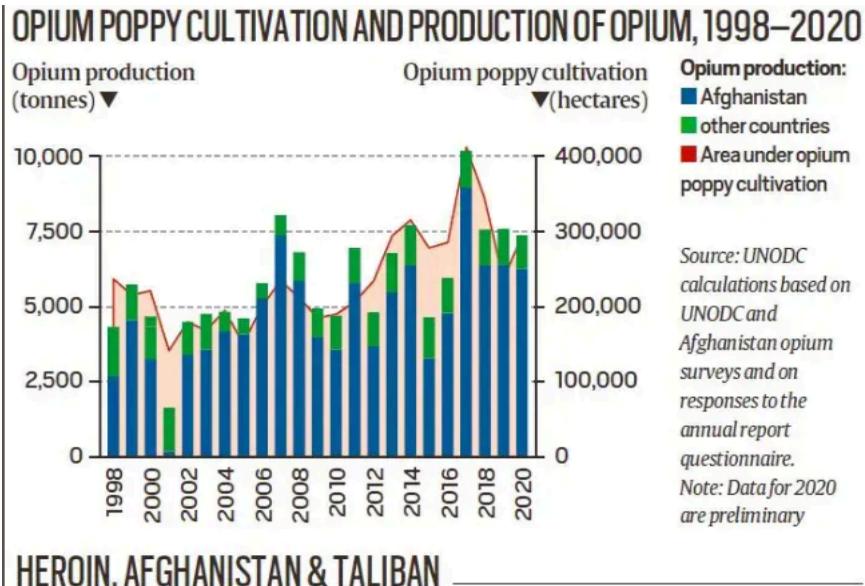
## 1. Mains value addition

### Drug resistance (P-III)

- In recent years there is increasing evidence for the failure of artemisinin-based combination therapy for falciparum malaria either alone or with partner drugs.
- In 2010, artesunate plus sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (AS+SP) was introduced universally, but in 2013, in view of resistance to the partner drug SP in the seven North Eastern States,
- In 2019, a report from Eastern India indicated the presence of two mutations in *P. falciparum* cases treated with artemisinin that linked to its presence of resistance.
- Again in 2021, artemisinin-based combination therapy failure was reported from Central India where the partner drug SP showed triple mutations with artemisinin wild type.

### Drug trafficking (Paper I/II/III)

- 3,000 kg heroin was recently seized from Mundra port in a shipment originating from Kandahar.
- Such seizures from vessels in the Arabian Sea have risen in the months leading to the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, and since
- Poppy cultivation is controlled by the Taliban and was one of their main sources of revenue when fighting the Americans.
- Recent seizures may indicate syndicates are trying to clear out large quantities. It remains unclear what place poppy cultivation will have in the Taliban regime.



### Defence procurement (Paper II/III)

- Army Chief General M M Naravane recently said the danger that our **long-drawn procurement processes and bureaucratic speed-breakers** would prevent us from acquiring cutting edge technology is a real one". He also called the system of L1, where the cheapest bidder gets a contract, a legacy of the colonial era.
- The **L1 system** is one such legacy of the colonial era that has lost its relevance in a system that is pushing for indigenisation. It is time we looked at quality and transited to a **T1 system**.

## 2. Environment

### 2.1. Renewable energy installations in India (TH)

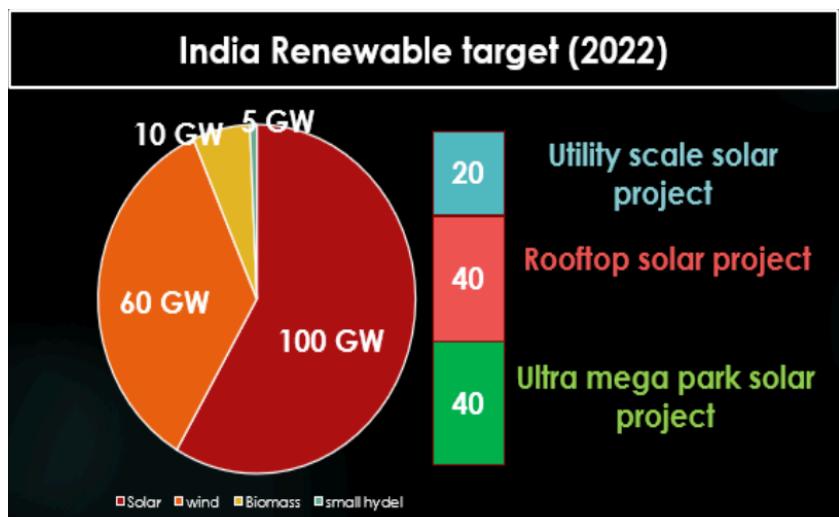
- The lockdowns slowed renewable energy installations in the country and the pace of such installation is lagging India's 2022 target, according to a report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

#### Achievements

- India has said that it would install 175 gigawatts (GW) of green energy by 2022 and 450GW by 2030 but only 7 GW of such capacity was added in FY 2020/21
- Data from the Central Electricity Authority independently shows that India was to have installed 100 GW of solar energy capacity by March 2023 – 40 GW rooftop solar and 60 GW ground-mounted utility scale. The country has managed to install only 43.94 GW till July 31, 2021.
- India stands at 4th position in the world in terms of **installed Renewable Energy capacity, 5th in solar and 4th in wind**
- the amount of power traded increased by 20% over 2020, by 37% compared to 2019 and by 30% over 2018. This led to prices on average increasing by 38% compared to 2020, by 8% compared to 2019 and by 11% over 2018.

#### Economic growth revives

- The amount of power traded increased by 20% over 2020, by 37% compared to 2019 and by 30% over 2018.
- This led to prices on average increasing by 38% compared to 2020, by 8% compared to 2019 and by 11% over 2018.
- coal stocks hit a new record high of 1,320 lakh tonnes (Mt) at the end of FY2020/21 and exceeded the monthly averages of the previous five years



### 3. Science & Technology

#### 3.1. Landsat 9 (IE)

- NASA has launched Landsat 9 satellite recently.

##### Landsat

- The **earth monitoring satellite, Landsat 9**, is a joint mission of NASA and the US Geological Survey (USGS).
- The first Landsat satellite was launched in 1972 and since then, Landsat satellites have collected images of our planet and helped understand how land usage has changed over the decades.
- Landsat images have been used to study the health of forests, coral reefs, monitor water quality and melting glaciers.
- The Landsat 9 joins Landsat 8 that was launched in 2013 and the satellites together will collect images of Earth's surface. It takes 8 days to capture the whole Earth.
- it is the most technologically advanced satellite of its generation. It can see more colour shades with greater depths than the previous satellites, helping scientists capture more details about our ever-changing planet.

##### How will the satellite help monitor climate change?

- If a forest is affected by drought, it will be seen in Landsat images and can help the researchers decode the areas at risk. Similarly during a wildfire, the Landsat images will capture the plumes of smoke and help study the extent of a burning. The satellite images can also help recovery experts plan sites for replanting.
- Landsat images can also help identify water bodies affected by potentially harmful algal blooms. According to NASA, scientists are now developing computer programs that would use Landsat and other satellite data to automatically warn lake recreation managers when blooms pop up.
- Landsat images have helped glaciologists study the melting ice sheets of the Antarctic and Arctic regions. The images can help track cracks in the glaciers, movement of glaciers, and decode how further global warming will impact them.
- Urban expansion: the Landsat record helps us visualize the impact of humankind's convergence on urban centers and to understand the environmental consequences
- Natural and man-made disasters: Landsat data are regularly used as part of the International Disaster Charter, mapping disaster impacts to save lives



## 3.2. Airspace map of India (IE)

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched an airspace map of India for drone operations

### About

- The airspace map shows red, yellow and green zones across India, allowing civilian drone operators to check the demarcated no-fly zones or where they need to undergo certain formalities before flying one
- This map has been developed by MapMyIndia and IT services firm Happiest Minds and is put up on the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) digital sky platform.
- Categories of drone
  - ✓ Nano : Less than or equal to 250 grams.
  - ✓ Micro : From 250 grams to 2kg.
  - ✓ Small : From 2 kg to 25kg.
  - ✓ Medium : From 25kg to 150kg.
  - ✓ Large : Greater than 150kg

### UAS (Unmanned aircraft system)rules 2021

- UAS categorised as airplane, rotorcraft and hybrid with further categorisation as remotely piloted aircraft, model remotely piloted aircraft and autonomous unmanned aircraft system.
- UAS classified as **nano, micro, small, medium and large** unmanned aircraft based on the maximum all up weight including its pay load ranging from <250gram to 150 kilograms.
- **Nano UAs can be classified in the next higher category** if it exceeds performance parameters of **flight speed and height**.
- Mandatory for individuals and companies to obtain **approval from the DGCA to import, manufacture, trade, own or operate drones**
- No Permission- No Take-off (NPNT) policy adopted for all UAS except for those in the **nano category**
- **Micro and small UAS are not permitted** from flying above 60m and 120 m, respectively.
- UAS prohibited from flying in strategic and sensitive location, including near airports, defence airports, border areas, military installations/facilities and areas earmarked as strategic locations/vital installations by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Nano, micro and small UAS operations limited to within the visual line** of sight and are prohibited from delivery of goods

### Eligibility

- Individuals have to be a **citizen of India and above 18 years of age**

- Companies & body corporates have to be registered in India and have their **principal place of business within India**
- Association of persons or body of individuals or a local authority or any legal entity must have their principal place of business within India.

## Unique identification number (UIN)

- Every drone that is **bigger than a 'Nano'** must obtain a **unique identification number (UIN)** from the aviation regulator (**similar to the registration number for a car**).
- **This number must be displayed on the remotely piloted aircraft.**
- A UIN will be issued once, against a fee of Rs 1,000, and will **not be issued to a foreign citizen or entity**.

## Unique Air Operator's Permit (UAOP)

- Users of bigger drones will be required to obtain a **Unique Air Operator's Permit (UAOP), similar to a driver's licence.**
- The **UIN and UAOP can be obtained from the online platform Digital Sky.**
- The permits will be issued in less than a week.

Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green zone is the airspace <b>up to 400 feet that has not been designated as a red or yellow zone</b>, and up to <b>200 feet above the area located between 8-12 km from the perimeter of an operational airport</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellow zone is the airspace <b>above 400 feet in a designated green zone, and above 200 feet in the area located between 8-12 km from the perimeter of an airport, and above ground in the area located between 5-8 km from the perimeter of an airport</b>.</li> <li>• The Yellow zone has been <b>reduced from 45 km earlier to 12 km from the airport's perimeter</b>.</li> </ul>	Red zone is the 'no-drone zone'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No permission is required for operating drones with an all-up weight of up to 500 kg</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require permission from the <b>concerned air traffic control authorities</b> — which could be either the Airports Authority of India, the Indian Air Force, the Indian Navy, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, etc as the case may be.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drones can be operated only after a permission from the <b>Central government</b>.</li> </ul>

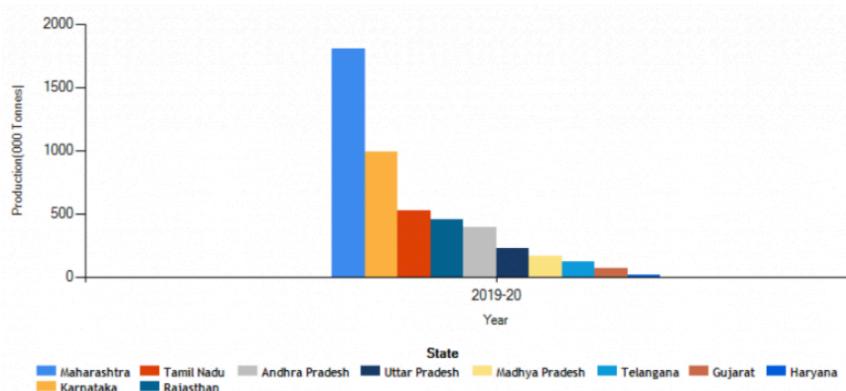
## 4. Geography

### 4.1. Genes that can increase the grain size of sorghum discovered (DTE)

- Genes that can increase the grain size of sorghum, a versatile grain crop used for human consumption, fodder and bioenergy generation, have been discovered, according to a new report.

#### About Sorghum

- Bigger grain size can improve the usage value of the crop
- About 80 per cent of the crop's grain size characteristics depend on genes, and can thus be inherited
- Larger grains make it more digestible for both people and animals and improves processing efficiency
- The quality of the yield can be improved without much alterations to environmental resources, such as water or nitrogen
- It is popular across the world because it has a low glycaemic index, is gluten-free and nutritious,
- The variety of the crop found in India is called *jowar*. It is said to have its origin in the country and is one of its most important food and fodder crops



### 4.2. Cyclone Gulab (ToI)

- Cyclone Gulab hit the land between Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam on the eastern coast. But despite losing moisture supply, the system kept moving on westwards and brought intense showers over Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and later Gujarat in the last three days
- The weather system received some moisture and it accelerated towards the Arabian Sea and it is expected to leave the land from Saurashtra region. With more moisture it would, get intensified from depression to deep depression to cyclone
- If it transforms into a new cyclone, it will be named 'Shaheen'

#### Cyclone occurrence

- India has a bi-annual cyclone season that occurs between March to May and October to December

- On rare occasions, cyclones do occur in **June and September months**.
- Cyclone Gulab became the third cyclone of the 21st century to make landfall over the east coast in September, after tropical cyclone Daye in 2018 and Pyarr in 2005.

**Note: Naming of cyclone (18 May DND)**

## 5. Economy

### 5.1. ₹50,000 for each COVID-19 death

- The Ministry of Home Affairs recently informed the Supreme Court that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has recommended the payment of ₹50,000 each as ex gratia assistance to the next kin of those who died of COVID-19, including those who succumbed to the virus while involved in relief operations and preparedness activities.
- The financial aid would be given, provided that the cause of death is certified as COVID-19.

#### Relief measure

A look at how the ex gratia of ₹50,000 will be paid as per the NDMA recommendation



**The funds:**  
The States will provide the ex gratia relief from States Disaster Response Fund. The District Disaster Management Authorities will make the disbursement



**The procedure:** After documents proving a COVID-19 death are submitted, the claim will be settled within 30 days. The amount will be deposited in Aadhaar-linked bank accounts



**Addressing grievances:**  
District-level committees will deal with grievances regarding certification of death and issue amended documents

**Note: Disaster Management act (2 June DND)**

## 6. Polity

### 6.1. Aapada Mitr (IE)

- The government is working on a programme to have disaster management volunteers in 350 districts of the country
- It also released documents for **Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)**

#### Aapada Mitr programme

- Aapada Mitr is a programme to **identify suitable individuals in disaster-prone regions** who can be trained to be first responders in times of disasters.
- It is **being implemented in 30 flood-prone districts of 25 states**. As many as 5,500 individuals in these areas have been appointed as Aapada Mitrs.

#### Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)

- It is a **general format for exchanging all-hazard emergency alerts** and public warnings over all kinds of networks.

#### Other efforts

#### Managing flood

- **Map the Brahmaputra flood plains** to create artificial lakes to mitigate annual Assam floods

#### NASEC (North Eastern Space Application Centre)

- With the help of NASEC government is mapping Brahmaputra floods using satellite imagery
- The topography is such that when the floods come, we can store excess water in artificial lakes of 1,000 hectare at different places.
- This **reduces the floods by 40%**. NASEC is working on finding such locations and 19 locations have already been identified.
- **No energy will be required to divert water as topography** will help the water flow there

### 6.2. Elder Line (THBL)

- India's first **pan-India toll-free helpline** - 14567 - called 'Elder Line' was officially launched recently by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

#### About

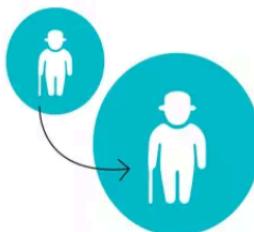
- It aims to provide information, guidance, emotional support, and in cases of abuse, immediate assistance too.
- **Senior citizens can call** in to seek clarity on pension issues, legal issues and even facilitate rescue of homeless elderly.



- Already 17 States have opened the Elder Line and others are in the pipeline.
- According to official estimates, in the **last four months alone**, in the States where the service is operational, over two lakh calls have been received, and the concerns of 30,000 seniors resolved.
- **Nearly 40 per cent of these calls pertained to guidance on vaccines;** around 23 per cent of the calls were related to pension.
- The National Elderly Policy **defines people in the 60+ age group as elderly.**

## 300M ELDERLY BY 2050

30 years from now, the elderly population in India is expected to triple from **104 million** in 2011 to **300 million** in 2050



Elderly population in **India (134m** in 2020) is fast reaching the current size of population of **Mexico (130m)** or **Russia (143m)**

The 2050 population of elderly will be close to the population of the US (**326m** in 2018) today

India's **12 million** population of 80+ is equal to the total population of countries such as Belgium, Greece, or Cuba

## **7. International Relations/Security**

## 7.1.Expansion of CPEC to Afghanistan

- Pakistan has discussed Taliban-led Afghanistan joining the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure project
  - China has proposed construction of the Peshawar-Kabul motorway as an extension of CPEC in Afghanistan.



## About CPEC

- It is a bilateral project between **Pakistan** and **China** and part of **Belt and road initiative**
  - It link the **Western part of China (Xinjiang province)** to the **Gwadar Port in Balochistan, Pakistan** via Khunjerab Pass in the Northern Parts of Pakistan.
  - it passes through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir**, which is a disputed territory between India and Pakistan.
  - It will pave the way for **China to access the Middle East and Africa from Gwadar Port**, enabling China to access the Indian Ocean.

The map illustrates the proposed Silk Road Economic Belt route. It shows the land route from China's Xinjiang province through the northern parts of Pakistan to the Gwadar Port in Balochistan. The port is situated on the Arabian Sea, near the city of Karachi. The map also labels Lahore in the north and the Indian state of India to the east. A green line on the map traces the proposed route across the northern deserts of both countries. The region of Balochistan is highlighted in yellow. The Arabian Sea is shown to the west of the port area.

## Belt and road initiative (2013)

- It consists of the land-based belt, 'Silk Road Economic Belt', and 'Maritime Silk Road', which aims to connect the East Asian economic region with the European economic circle and runs across the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa.
  - It covers about 65% of the world population, 60% of the world GDP and over 70 countries in six economic corridors.

The map illustrates the 'China's Belt & Road Initiative' with two main routes: the 'Silk Road economic belt' (red line) and the 'Maritime silk road' (purple line). The Silk Road economic belt connects China through Central Asia to Europe, passing through Kazakhstan, Russia, and several countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Key cities include Xi'an, Urumqi, Almaty, Bishkek, Dushanbe, Kashgar, Islamabad, Gwadar, Djibouti, Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna, Batticaloa, and Sri Lanka. The Maritime silk road extends from China through the South China Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Red Sea to Europe, passing through Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India. Key cities include Guangzhou, Fuzhou, Haikou, Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, and Singapore. A legend on the right side of the map identifies the routes and includes a red star indicating a 'Chinese overseas military base' in Djibouti.





## 7.2.Pakistan home to 12 foreign terrorist outfits (IE)

- Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM)
- was founded in 2000 by Kashmiri militant leader Masood Azhar and was designated as an FTO in 2001. Along with LET, it was responsible for the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament, among other attacks

### Harakat-ul Jihad Islami (HUJI)

- was formed in **1980 in Afghanistan to fight the Soviet army** and was designated as an FTO in 2010. After 1989, it redirected its efforts toward India, although it did supply fighters to the Afghan Taliban.

### Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HM)

- was formed in 1989 reportedly as the "**militant wing of Pakistan's largest Islamist political party**" and designated as an FTO in 2017. It is one of the largest and **oldest militant groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir**.