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Daily News Discussion (DND)

16th - 18th 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

Equality of opportunity (P-I/II/III)

- The government of India cleared the way for making NEET a common entrance examination for all medical colleges across India. This was opposed by many states including Tamil Nadu
- The government of Tamil Nadu appointed a **committee under Justice AK Rajan**. The committee found that NEET is **biased towards the pattern of the CBSE syllabus**.
- Based on the recommendations, the government of **Tamil Nadu passed a law that provided that NEET is not the only means through which admission can be secured in medical colleges in Tamil Nadu**. The bill, however, has not yet received the President's assent

Informal sector (Paper I/ III)

- The informal/unorganised sector in India accounts for roughly half of the total value added in the economy (**52.4 per cent in 2017-18**).
- It employs around **90 per cent of the labour force**.

Benefits of data (Paper I/II/III)

Example

Odisha

- **Odisha** is able to manage cyclones much more effectively with almost zero loss of lives. This is possible because of precise monitoring of the cyclone path by IMD.
- It provides **information of accurate forecasts of the place and time of landfall**, wind speed and other parameters, which helps to understand the situation better.

2. Science & Technology

2.1. One Health consortium (PIB)

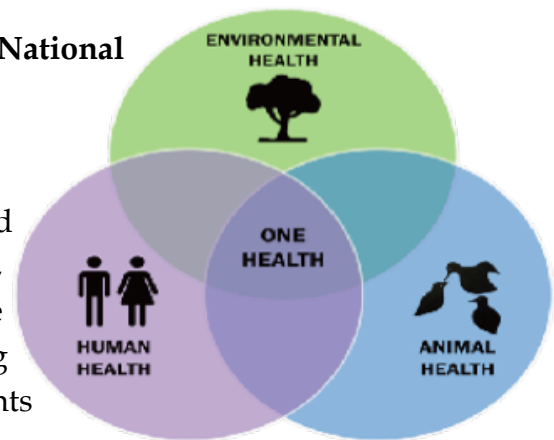
- The **Department of Biotechnology** launched a 'One Health' consortium on October 14, 2021 in virtual mode.

One Health Consortium

- One Health Consortium has been empowered to carry out surveillance of important **viral, bacterial, & parasitic infections of zoonotic and transboundary pathogens in India.**
- This project will also look into use of existing diagnostic tests and development of additional methodologies to conduct surveillance and understand the spread of emerging diseases
- It comprises of **27 organisations, led by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad.**

One Health Concept

- One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and trans-disciplinary approach - working at local, regional, national, and global levels - to achieve optimal health and well-being outcomes recognizing the interconnections between people, animals, plants and their shared environment



2.2. Global TB report

- The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of global progress in tackling tuberculosis and for the first time in over a decade, TB deaths have increased, according to the 2021 Global TB report released recently by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Key findings

- From 2016-2019, the number of new cases rose continuously, but **fell to 20% in 2020**. This was due to cases going undetected because of lack of access during the pandemic.
- **India** contributed the biggest drop in detection of new cases. Some **41%** of the total number of cases that dropped in 2020, as compared to 2019, came from India
- TB was ranked the 13th leading cause of death till 2019. Because of the huge setbacks, it is now estimated to be the second leading cause, only after COVID-19.
- Number of people provided with treatment for drug-resistant TB went down by 15 per cent in 2020, as compared to the previous year. However, the burden of multi-drug resistant TB (**MDR-TB**) and **extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB)** remained stable.

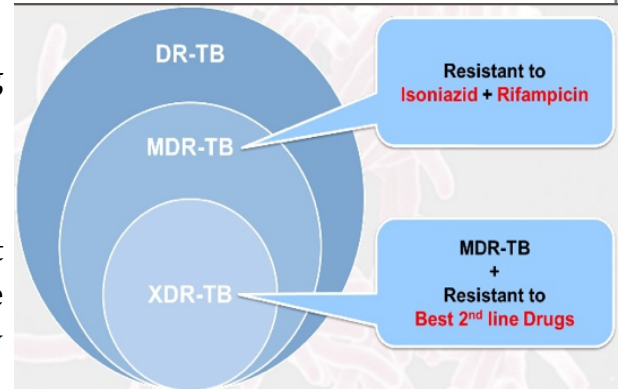
Tuberculosis -- or TB

- is a contagious infection that usually attacks the lungs.

- It can also spread to other parts of the body, like the brain and spine. A type of bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis causes it.
- Eliminating TB by 2025
- India is committed to **eliminating tuberculosis from the country by 2025**, five years ahead of the global target by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** i.e. 2030.

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)

- Form of TB caused by bacteria that **do not respond to isoniazid and rifampicin, the 2 most powerful, first-line anti-TB drugs.**
- MDR-TB is treatable and **curable by using second-line drugs**



Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB)

- Serious form of MDR-TB caused by bacteria that **do not respond to the most effective second-line anti-TB drugs**, often leaving patients without any further treatment options.

Pretomanid

- is the third new drug developed for the treatment of people with Extensively Drug-Resistant TB (XDR-TB) or Multi Drug-Resistant TB (MDR-TB) affecting the lungs.
- It is a part of three-drug, six-month, all-oral regimen treatment along with the other two drugs namely, Bedaquiline, Linezolid.

Initiatives

The Nikshay Ecosystem

- It is the National TB information system which is a **one-stop solution to manage information of patients** and monitor program activity and performance throughout the country.

Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)

- This scheme is aimed at providing financial support to TB patients for their nutrition.

TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign

- **Launched In September 2019** it is showcasing the highest level of **commitment** for the elimination of TB.

The Saksham Project

- It is a project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) that has been providing **psycho-social counselling to DR-TB patients.**

3. Geography

3.1. Endosulfan (TH)

- Disposal of endosulfan stocks faces a new hurdle, with a popular movement taking out a protest march to Plantation Corporation godowns in Kasaragod district.
- The protesters have called for the pesticide stocks to be returned to the company for safe disposal.

Background

- the endosulfan stored in the Plantation Corporation godowns at various places in Kasaragod district posed a threat to public safety.
- In 2012, when there was threat of endosulfan leaks from old godowns, they were transferred to new godowns through a scheme called Operation Blossom Spring. Authorities at the time announced that endosulfan in the reservoirs would be deactivated soon, but no action was taken

The Stockholm Convention

- It is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs.

APRIL 29, 2011

- Global consensus reached on adding endosulfan to list of banned substances and phasing it out as an agrichemical
- Use of endosulfan banned by Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Under pressure from pesticide firms, India sought remission on the ban for 10 years

MAY 13, 2011

Supreme Court of India issues temporary ban on production, storage and sale of endosulfan

WHAT IS ENDOSULFAN ?
It is a widely-banned pesticide with hazardous effects on human genetic and endocrine systems.

HAZARDOUS EFFECTS

- Delayed reproductive development (late sexual maturity)
- Sensory Loss
- Neurotoxicity
- Long-range contamination
- Endocrine disruption (stunting of hormones)
- Bioaccumulation (substance does not leave body)
- Autism

NEUROTOXIC
"Endosulfan blocks the inhibitory receptors of the CNS, disrupts the ionic channels and destroys the integrity of the nerve cells. - report of fact-finding mission"

USES
Sprayed on crops like cotton, cashew, fruits, tea, paddy, tobacco etc. for control of pests in agriculture such as whiteflies, aphids, beetles, worms etc.

KASARGOD DISASTER
From the mid-70s, Kerala villages used aerial spraying of endosulfan on 4,600-ha. cashew nut plantation. Locals reportedly experienced illnesses, palsies and deformities

Persistent Organic Pollutants

- Are chemical substances that are characterised by

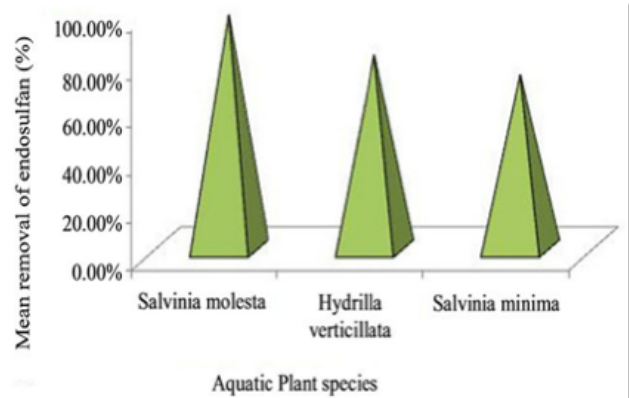
- Persistence in the environment.
- Lipophilic & Hydrophobic
- The property of long-range environmental transport

Endosulfan

- **Endosulfan** is a persistent, toxic broad-spectrum organochlorine insecticide and acaricide used on food and non-food crops. To overcome the problem of hydrophobicity of endosulfan, surfactants play a major role in soil remediation.

Basics

- Phytoremediation is an emerging technology that promises effective and inexpensive cleanup of contaminated hazardous waste sites.
- Remediation of endosulfan in water using different aquatic plants showed that *Salvinia molesta* is more efficient in endosulfan removal.



4. Economy

4.1. Global Hunger Index 2021

- **India slips 7 spots to rank 101 among 116 countries on Global Hunger Index**
 - ✓ The government has challenged India's poor ranking and the methodology used, calling it "devoid of ground reality and facts"
 - ✓ The data used to come up with the Index this time was from 2016–2020.

Key findings

- It ranked India at **101st** position of 116 countries. India was ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) released last year.
- India's score on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) in the recent two decades has declined by 10 points. It slipped to **28.8** in 2021, from 38.8 in 2000.
- India ranked among the **worst in 'child wasting'**
- India was also behind most of the neighbouring countries. Pakistan was placed at 92, Nepal and Bangladesh at 76 and Sri Lanka at 65.

Global Hunger Index

- Jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
- It is calculated on the basis of four indicators-
- **Child Wasting:** Share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
- **Child Stunting:** Share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition
- **Undernourishment:** Share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
- **Child Mortality:** The mortality rate of children under the age of five.
- It determines hunger on a 100-point scale where **0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.**

Source of data

Indicators	Data sourced from
Undernourishment	FAO
Child Mortality	U.N. Inter- agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation
Child Wasting and Stunting	Joint database of UNICEF, WHO, World Ban

Allegations of Indian government against the report

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has criticised the report claiming that the **methodology used by FAO is unscientific.**
- The scientific measurement of undernourishment would require measurement of weight and Height, whereas the **methodology involved here is based on a Gallup poll, based on a pure telephonic estimate of the population**
- The report completely **disregards Government's massive effort** to ensure food security of the entire population during the Covid period such as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY) and Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme (ANBS).

4.2. Customs duty waiver on edible oil imports (IE)

- Recently Commerce Minister announced that the government has decided to waive customs duty on import of crude sunflower, palm and soyabean oil, a move aimed at controlling their prices.

Consumption & imports

- Of the 20-21 million tonnes of edible oil that India consumes annually, around `4-15 mt is imported.
- **India is second only to China (34-35 mt) in terms of consumption of edible oil.**
- **Palm oil (45%) is the largest consumed oil**, mainly used by the food industry for frying namkeen, mithai, etc, followed by **soyabean oil (20%)** and **mustard oil (10%)**, with the rest accounted for by sunflower oil, cottonseed oil, groundnut oil etc. Crude and food-grade refined oil is imported in large vessels, mainly **from Malaysia, Brazil, Argentina, Indonesia etc.**
- Prices of edible oil have been rising across the country In the last few months.

Effort

- The government has not only abolished the basic customs duty on crude palm, soyabean and sunflower oil, but also slashed the agri cess levied on these until March 31, 2022.
- This comes days after the Centre authorised the states to impose a stock limit on oilseeds and oil to control prices.

5. Polity & Governance

5.1. CRISP-M tool (PIB)

- Recently, the **Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M)** tool for **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** was launched.

About

- CRISP-M was **co-developed** by **IIED** with **Madhya Pradesh Council of Science & Technology (MPCST)** for the ministry of rural development,
- With the launch of this CRISP-M tool, **the integration of climate information in GIS-based watershed planning** will be possible and that would further strengthen planning of climate resilient works under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGS).
- The implementation of CRISP-M will **open up new possibilities for rural communities** to deal with the issues of climate change.
- This tool will be used in **seven states** where in the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Government of UK and Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India are jointly working towards climate resilience.
- The states are **Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan.**

MGNREGA

- 2005
 - ✓ Parliament enacted MGNREGA Act.
- 2006
 - ✓ launched in 200 districts
- 2008
 - ✓ launched in the whole country as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
 - ✓ By Ministry of Rural Development
 - ✓ Centrally sponsored scheme (not 100% funded by the Union)
- It promises to **give minimum 100 days of unskilled manual labour** to rural household whose adult members volunteer for it.
- Households are eligible for unemployment allowances if employment not been provided within **15 days of demand.**

- MNREGA labourers are used for **creating durable assets as per local needs** e.g. ponds, wells, cattle sheds, granary, vermicompost plants, crematorium, renovation of Anganwadi centres, school buildings
- No contractors / machinery allowed.
- In any project, **60% of amount should go towards wages and 40% towards material.**
- **Union bears 100% wage cost and 75% of material cost.**
- Wages are linked to Consumer Price Index (Agriculture labour:AL).
- **Social audit by the gram sabha at least once in every 6 months**
- Funding:
 - ✓ Funding is shared between the centre and the states.
 - ✓ There are three major items of expenditure -
 - ❖ wages (for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour), -material and
 - ❖ administrative costs.
- The central government bears 100% of the cost of unskilled labour, 75% of the cost of semi-skilled and skilled labour,
- 75% of the cost of materials and 6% of the administrative costs.

MGNREGA: Use of JAM-DBT

- Aadhar linked Payments (ALP):Biometric data, ghost accounts removed.

NREGA Soft

- **Provides information to citizen in compliance** with the right to information Act (RTI Act).
- It makes available all the documents like **Muster Rolls, registration application register, job card/employment register/muster roll issue register, muster roll receipt register** which are hidden from public otherwise.

Geo-tagging

- is a process of adding latitude and longitude to a photo/video. In MNREGA, PM Awas Yojana, Gram Sadak Yojana etc.

JanMnREGA

- an asset tracking + feedback app for MGNREGA assets.



Share of the six high poverty states (HPS) in total employment generated under MGNREGA in April-July is much less when compared with their share in rural poverty (figures in %)

STATE	Share in 2014-15	Share in 2019-20	Share in 2020-21	Share in Poverty
Bihar	2.74	5.22	5.76	14.79
Chhattisgarh	6.05	5.66	5.37	4.10
Jharkhand	2.19	2.48	2.02	4.80
Madhya Pradesh	9.99	7.29	7.66	8.81
Odisha	2.51	2.42	4.30	5.82
Uttar Pradesh	4.36	7.44	11.76	22.12

6. Security

6.1. BSF powers and jurisdiction (IE)

- Recently Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has **extended the jurisdiction** of the Border Security Force (BSF)

Changes made

- **The jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF)** has extended up to 50 km inside the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam
- The Ministry has reduced BSF's area of operation in **Gujarat from 80 km from the border, to 50 km.**
- It **amends the schedule** of an earlier notification of July 3, 2014 in terms of the BSF's jurisdiction, which it outlines as: "the whole of the area comprised in the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya and Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and so much of the area comprised within a belt of fifty kilometres in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, running along the borders of India"
- The government said it was exercising the powers under the **Border Security Force Act of 1968.**
- **In its 2014 notification**, the MHA had outlined BSF's jurisdiction as "the whole of the area comprised in the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya and so much of the area comprised within a belt of eighty kilometres in the State of Gujarat, fifty kilometres in the State of Rajasthan and fifteen kilometres in the States of Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, running along the borders of India".

What kind of powers can the BSF exercise in this jurisdiction?

- Its jurisdiction has been **extended only in respect** of the powers it enjoys under Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Passport Act, 1967. BSF currently has powers to arrest and search under these laws.
- It also has powers to arrest, search and seize under the **NDPS Act, Arms Act, Customs Act and certain other laws.** Its jurisdiction under these laws has **not been changed**, meaning its powers under these will continue to be only up to 15 km inside the border in Punjab, Assam and West Bengal, and will remain as far as 80 km in Gujarat.

Reasons

- **Help** to bring in uniformity and also to increase operational efficiency
- It is necessitated due to increasing instances of drones dropping weapons and drugs in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab

Issues

- States argue that law and order is a **state subject** and enhancing BSF's jurisdiction infringes upon powers of the state government
- There has been no official explanation for **why BSF's jurisdiction has not been increased under the Arms Act, Customs Act and NDPS Act**, which cover most of the smuggling offences on the border and deal with far greater offences.
- **Public order**, which connotes public peace, safety and tranquility, is primarily the responsibility of a State Government (**Entry 1, State list**).
- However, when there is a serious public disorder which threatens the **security or defence of the State** or of the country itself (**entry 1 of Union list**), the situation becomes a matter of concern for the Union Government also.

BSF

- BSF was established as a response to the 1965 war with Pakistan when that country tried to expand its own borders at India's expense.
- The BSF is under the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India.
- Its mandate is to guard the country's land border during peacetime and also to prevent transnational crime.
- Its motto is "**Jeevan Paryant Kartavya**" meaning "Duty Unto Death".
- It is deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders
- BSF has been defending **Sir Creek in Arabian Sea and Sundarban delta** in the Bay of Bengal with its state of art fleet of Water Crafts.
- It contributes dedicated services to the **UN peacekeeping Mission** by sending a large contingent of its trained manpower every year.

Role: During peacetime

- Promoting a sense of security among the people living in the border areas.
- Preventing smuggling and other illegal activities along the border.
- Preventing trans-border crimes including unauthorized entry into or exit from India.
- Engaging in anti-infiltration.
- Collecting trans-border intelligence.

During wartime

- Defending the assigned sectors.
- Engaging in limited aggressive action against enemy forces.
- Maintaining law and order in enemy territory under army's control.

- Acting as guides to the army in border areas.
- Guarding POW camps.
- Controlling refugees.
- Providing escort.
- Performing special tasks related to intelligence including raids

7. International Relation

7.1.Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021 (PIB)

- As part of the ongoing Indo-US Defence Cooperation, the Joint Military Training Exercise “Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021” will be conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska (USA) from 15 to 29 October 2021.
- The previous version of this exercise was held at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner, Rajasthan in February 2021
- Other exercises with USA
 - ✓ **Vajra Prahar**
 - ✓ **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)**-Held in eastern Indian Ocean Region
 - ✓ **Exercise Yudh Abhyas** (Indian Army)
 - ✓ **Cope India** (Air Force)
 - ✓ **Red Flag** (USA’s multilateral air exercise)
- **Exercise Malabar:** It is a multilateral naval exercise that includes simulated war games and combat manoeuvres. It was started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the Indian and the US navies. Japan joined in 2015. In 2020, the Australian Navy has participated in the exercise for the first time since 2007.

8. Sports

8.1. World T20 format (IE)

- The five-day period until October 23 is actually an extended qualifier. The T20 World Cup is being played with 16 teams. They have been **divided into two groups and eight teams out of 16 will play Round Robin matches, with the top four going into the Super 12.**
- Groups were selected **on the basis of the ICC T20I rankings as on March 20, 2021.** Out of those eight teams, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are automatic qualifiers and the rest have booked their berths via the qualifying rounds.
- Eventually, the entire pool would be **contracted to 12** and once the Super 12 is settled, divided into Group 1 and Group 2, top four teams across the two groups would qualify for the semifinals. The two finalists would meet in Dubai on November 14.

How many teams are there in Super 12?

- Eight teams have directly entered to Super 12s – India, Australia, England, New Zealand, West Indies, South Africa, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Once again, this was done on the basis of the ICC T20I rankings.

How is the format different from the 2016 edition?

- The last edition of the ICC World T20 was played in a Super 10 format. The Super 10 had eight direct entrants, while Bangladesh and Afghanistan qualified from Group A and Group B respectively. The ICC this time has widened the pool.

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP GROUPS

Round 1

Group A

- Sri Lanka
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Namibia

Group B

- Bangladesh
- Scotland
- Papua New Guinea
- Oman

Super 12s

Group 1

- England
- Australia
- South Africa
- West Indies
- A1
- B2

Group 2

- India
- Pakistan
- New Zealand
- Afghanistan
- A2
- B1

Tournament from 17 October to 14 November, 2021

NISSAN | oppo | MRF TYRES | hotstar | Emirates | MoneyGram | pepsi

ESPNcricinfo