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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

01.07.2021

FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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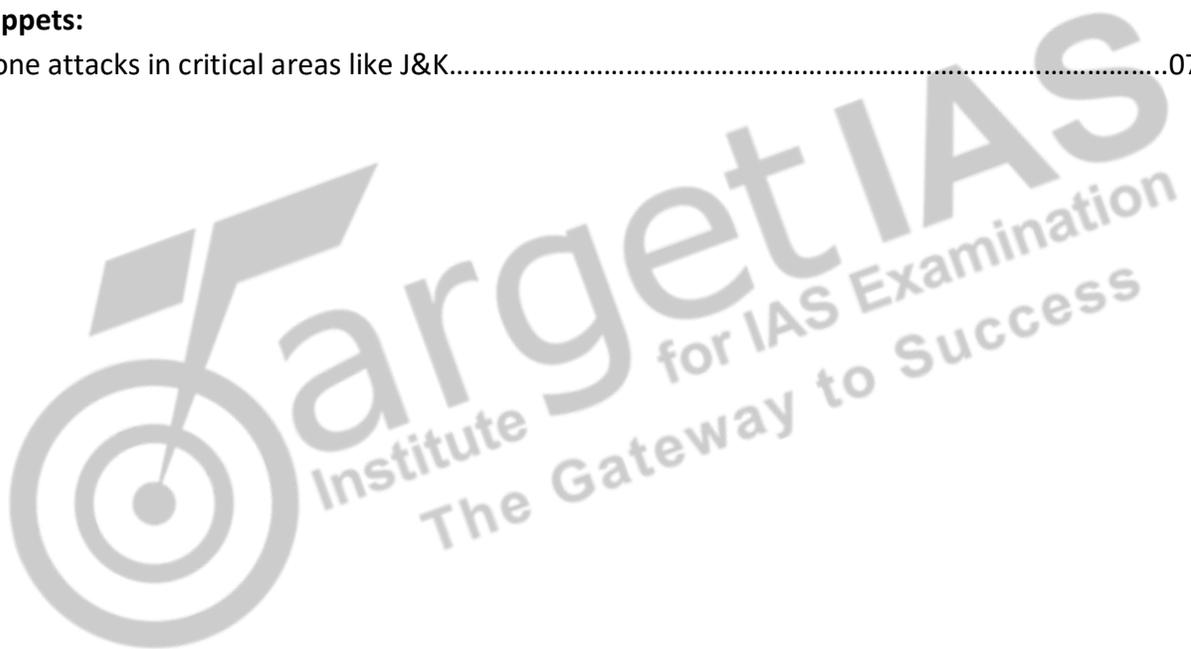
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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- A study finds that people who are able to bluff their way are smarter. How far is this applicable for UPSC – share your opinion?

INTRODUCTION = Fake it till you make it”, it turns out, is more than just an empty aphorism. And while honesty may be the best policy, a little bit of lying is actually a sign that you’re of above-average intelligence.

- A recent study published in the Journal of Evolutionary Psychology has found that “blaggers” — those with the ability to bluff their way through conversations and concepts they don’t understand — are actually smarter than people who have the humility to say “I don’t know”.

Example - Lying — even the harmless kind where you’re faking an understanding of RBI policy at a sinfully boring party with economists; or pretending to be an expert at plating and gnocchi on a date with a Masterchef enthusiast — is a creative process.

Unlike telling the truth, it requires what the researchers in the study call “**synaptic plasticity**”, and people who don’t need to justify a PhD call thinking on their feet. Lying about theories and concepts requires an even greater ability to spin yarns, beginning with bits of what you know and filling in the blanks.

It is commentators and columnists, politicians and public figures who are the greatest blaggers — they pronounce the premature end of epidemics, confidently declare election results before voting is done and promise Olympic medals. And when it turns out they were just faking it, they are far from contrite, pretending that the facts were at fault. Yes, it does take smarts to fake it. But it would be a lot better if people just said “I don’t know”.

Associated Challenges –

1. **The problem with this brilliance, though, is that it has a short shelf life.**
2. Homer Simpson, the idiotic everyman of our time, once remarked that the sweetest moment is the “time between when I lie and I get caught out”. That moment ends, though. **And there you stand, exposed in your inadequacy.** For ordinary people, this means being smirked at by the bores at the party or having to hurriedly learn how to cook before a third date.

Application in UPSC –

The UPSC board know very well that it is humanly impossible to know everything about everything. It is perfectly fine if you don’t know the answers to a few questions. You will not lose marks for that single reason.

However, what matters more in such questions is how you handle those. If you try to bluff or confuse the board, you will definitely lose marks! UPSC values integrity more than everything else.

Face all questions with the same smile and confidence. Here is an example of a smart reply to an unsure question: “Sorry Sir, I don’t know the right answer to this question. However, given an opportunity, I shall make an intelligent guess.”

UPSC interview board will surely appreciate your honesty. Your willingness to accept your ignorance will be valued by the UPSC board. “I don’t know, Sir” is also an acceptable answer in the personality test. Remember, UPSC is not looking for walking encyclopedias!

GS 2

❖ **International Relations**

Q- What is India’s issue with European Union’s Green Pass and what measures are taken to pass over?

BACKGROUND = India took issue with the European Union's plans to institute a "green pass" from July 1, with government sources warning that India will introduce a "reciprocal policy" only allowing ease of travel for those European countries that recognise Indian vaccines Covishield and Covaxin.

No-Go Zone	
EU 'Green Pass' recognises only 4 EMA-okayed vaccines	Covishield is approved by WHO, not EMA
AZ vaccine is approved by EMA under brand name Vaxzevria	
People who have received Covishield via Covax will not be eligible for EU 'Green Pass'	

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), includes the European-made AstraZeneca vaccine but not the Indian-made Covishield by the Serum Institute of India (SII) or Covaxin by Bharat Biotech.

The EU had also explained that SII had not applied for the requisite permissions with the EMA, and had promised to consider its case as soon as it applied.

Measures taken -

1. India has also conveyed to EU Member States that India will institute a reciprocal policy for recognition of the EU Digital Covid Certificate.
2. In return for accepting the vaccination certificate issued through the CoWIN portal, making it clear that only citizens of those countries in the 27-member grouping who make exemptions for travellers inoculated with the Indian vaccines would be given an exemption from mandatory quarantine on arrival in India.

The African Union had also issued a letter of protest over the EU proposal saying that it promoted "inequality" for those from India and "lower-income" countries for whom the Covishield vaccine was the "backbone" of the international COVAX alliance programme.

The government's stand is especially significant since while Covishield has received World Health Organization authorisation, Covaxin is yet to be cleared by the global health body.

GS 3

❖ **Economic Development**

Q- Briefly analyse the Tourism Sector its collapse due to the pandemic and suggest measures to revive it?

BACKGROUND = The collapse of international tourism due to COVID-19 could cost the world at least \$4 trillion in terms of global GDP for 2020 and 2021.



India experienced a 54% drop in tourist arrivals in 2020, according to COVID-19 and Tourism: An Update, a joint report released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN World Tourist Organisation (UNWTO).

- Tourism is not expected to return to pre-COVID levels until 2023 or later, costing the world somewhere between \$1.7 trillion and \$2.4 trillion in 2021, **based on three scenarios (optimistic, pessimistic, and a third scenario in which the uneven roll-out of vaccines is considered).**
- On average, in the absence of any economic stimulus, a drop in tourist sales leads to a 2.5-fold loss in real GDP due to linkages with upstream sectors such as agriculture.
- Developing countries could account for 60% of these losses owing to asymmetric vaccine roll-out globally the report said. Tourism is likely to pick up faster this summer in North America and Europe where vaccination rates are higher.
- The impact of travel restrictions could be felt particularly by women and young people who are employed in significant proportions by the tourism sector, where barriers to entry are low. Some 100 - 120 million tourism jobs are at stake.

Measures -

1. The report recommends quick roll-out of vaccines globally to bring back tourism, including in developing countries.
2. It has commended the European Union's (EU) digital COVID certificate and acknowledges the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) travel pass which includes a vaccine certificate and test results.
3. Agreed protocols for testing on departure could mean quarantine on arrival is not necessary.
4. The report also recommends socio-economic measures to protect livelihoods. "Workers should be protected rather than specific jobs in declining sectors, for example through training,".
5. Finally, some tourism-related businesses will not survive even after restrictions are removed, the report says, advising governments to decide which ones to support and for what duration.

Snippets

GS 3

❖ **Security**

Q- What are the steps taken to prevent further Drone attacks in critical areas like J&K?

- The Rajouri district administration banned the sale or possession of drones or flying objects after at least five sorties of drones around security installations in Jammu, including the IAF's technical airport, have the security agencies on the tenterhooks.
- The move comes two days after two explosions, apparently caused by two drones, rocked the technical airport of the IAF. Rajouri is close to the Line of Control (LoC).
- In exercise of powers under Section 144 of the CrPC, a ban is imposed on storage, sale, possession, use and transport of any drone or small flying objects, toys in the district.

- All those in the district who possessed such gadgets to deposit them with the local police station. Government agencies using drones for surveys and surveillance should inform the local police station incharge and the executive magistrate. It warned of action against those who violate the order.
- The Army said two separate drone activities were spotted over the Ratnuchak-Kaluchak Military area.
- In Kashmir, police sources said at least two drones were seized since 28/06/2021.

Other Measures -

Preventing drone attacks requires jamming of drone systems and shooting them down. Laser-based Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs) are being talked about as a defence system against drone attacks.

In India, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed two anti-drone DEW systems. They can use powerful 10-kilowatt laser to engage aerial targets at a distance of 2 km. However, mass production of these systems is yet to take place.





Consider the following statements –

1. India's current account deficit (CAD) widened in the 1st quarter of 2021 on the back of a higher trade deficit and lower net invisible receipts
2. Meanwhile India's Fiscal Deficit stood at 8.2% of the Budget target with revenue receipts rising even as spending contracted

Which of the above trends are INCORRECT regarding the Post-2nd Covid-19 wave In India?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. Neither



Assertion (A): Iltutmish introduced reforms in civil administration and army which was now centrally paid.

Reason (R): Iltutmish was the first Sultan to recognise the economic importance of Gangetic basin

- A. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A
- C. A is true but R is false
- D. Both A & R is true

Answer – D

NOTE: Iltutmish laid down the foundation of the Mamluk dynasty and the Delhi Sultanate as an independent hereditary kingdom, freeing it from a subordinate position to Ghazni. He introduced reforms in civil administration and army which was now centrally paid and also was the first Sultan to recognise the economic importance of Gangetic basin. Hence, D is the correct option.

- Iltutmish or Altamash, son-in-law of Aibak, is considered the real founder of the Slave dynasty. Iqta system (Land Grant System) was perfected by him. His other reforms included:
 1. Introduction of Currency System - Silver coins called Tankas and Copper coins called Jittals for the first time.
 2. First to construct rest houses called Sarai's in Delhi and give up converting india into islam. Abolished Hereditary Succession.
 3. Appointment of Sujan Roy Pandit to draft a text on administration. That took the form of Kulsath-ul-Tawarikh.
 4. An association of 40 nobles (Turkish Sardars = King Makers) called Chihalghani was by Iltutmish for the first time.
 5. He was also the first to introduce Land Assignment System called Iqtadari.
 6. Iltutmish was the first to introduce the principle of hereditary succession.
 7. It was during his time that the Mongols invaded India for the first time under the leadership of Chengiz Khan.

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