



+91-9989966744 / 9000066690

Email:targetiasweb@gmail.com

H.No. 1-10-196 (New No.177)

Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyderabad

Telangana 500020.

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## DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**22.07.2021**

## 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  
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ECONOMIC TIMES - ET  
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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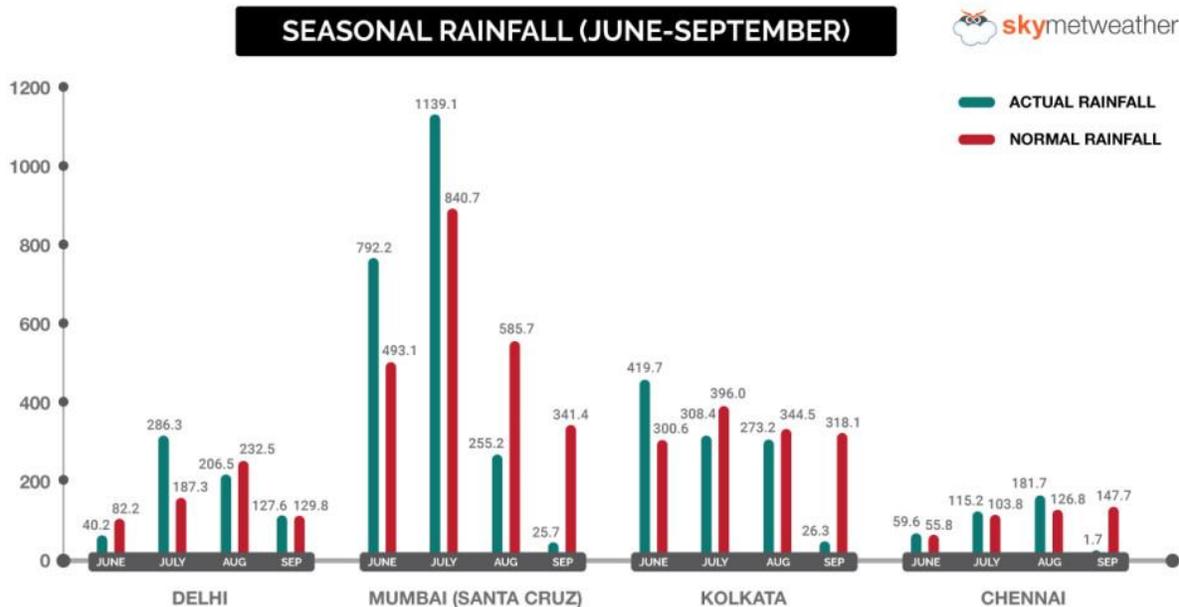
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## ESSAY PAPER

### Editorial

**Q- The colonial mistake urban centres are doing every monsoon and even in 2021 leads to the repetitive flooding issue. Comment?**

**INTRODUCTION** = The revival of the monsoon has overwhelmed Mumbai and its suburbs once again, paralysing life, disrupting drinking water supplies, and exposing the parlous state of its infrastructure. It is clear that the volume and duration of monsoonal rain are turning unpredictable, and intermittent torrents, with crippling impacts on cities will become more frequent, influenced by a warming climate.



Strengthening that theory, three weather stations in Mumbai recorded a staggering level of rainfall in one week from July 13, ranging from 628 mm in Mahalaxmi to 958.5 mm in Santa Cruz, the latter experiencing a peak of 234.9 mm on July 18.

### Affects -

1. The inundation has taken a toll of at least 32 lives, and the majority of victims died in landslides that crushed their slum houses at Mahul in Chembur.
2. In the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the monsoon malady poses a double jeopardy, adding to the economic misery of the vulnerable who live in hovels in suburban landslide-prone locations.
3. The limitations in its infrastructure to accommodate intense monsoons, and its notorious inability to provide affordable inner city housing to the less affluent and even the middle class, are making other cities look more attractive.

Such dire conditions stand in contrast to Maharashtra's keen desire to keep Mumbai as the country's pre-eminent financial metropolis.

### Initiatives in place to handle floods -

1. The catastrophic floods in Mumbai and Chennai in 2005 and 2015, respectively, resulted in the emergence of a **management plan drawn up by the National Disaster Management Authority**
2. And later, the first dedicated **storm water drainage manual by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**

**Challenges -**

But such initiatives can do little if States, which have both power and responsibility over city affairs, do not feel compelled to address the challenges posed by urbanisation.

**Way Forward -**

In fact, Mumbai's inability to manage recurrent floods and the needs of a massive slum population was highlighted by a fact-finding committee appointed by the Maharashtra government after the 2005 deluge, with calls to –

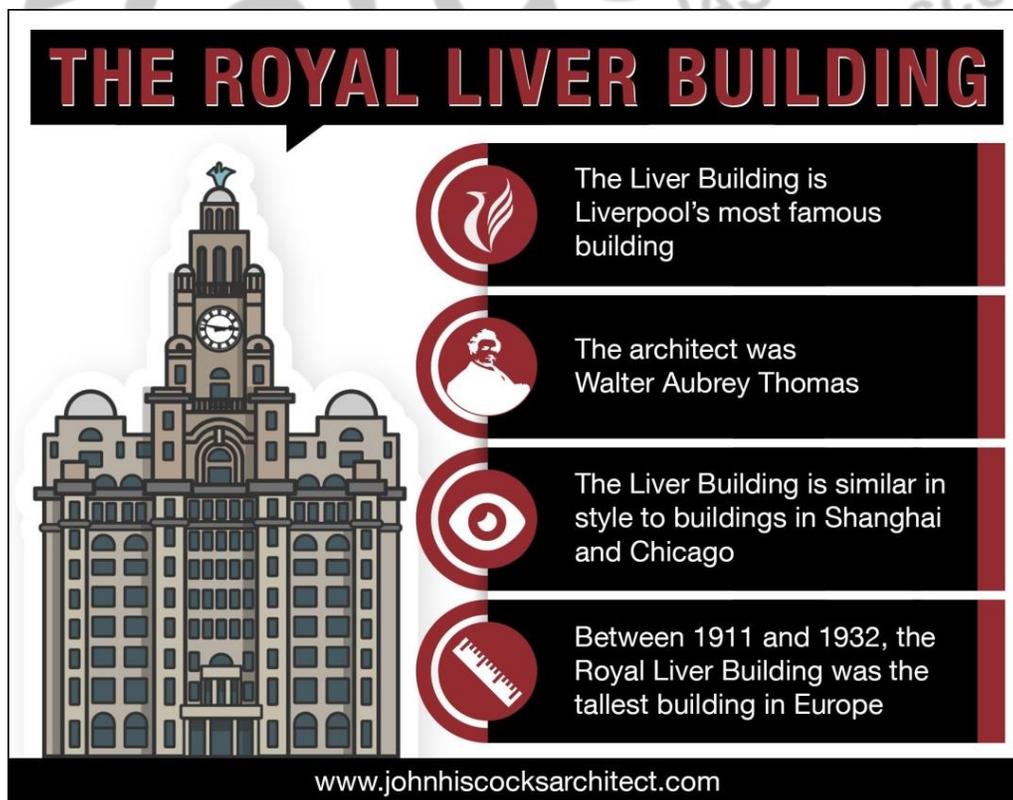
1. Liberate the city's rivers and lakes from various impediments,
2. Enable perennial flow in the Mithi river,
3. Create fresh holding lakes for excess waters,
4. And rehabilitate those who live in risky locations.
5. There is a need to clear the air on the follow-up to these and other expert recommendations, which the State can do through a white paper.

Mumbai's neglect is not unique, though, and most big cities are amorphyously expanding to the suburbs where basic infrastructure including drainage is absent, and lakes and rivers are heavily encroached, often with political support. Such unplanned growth, with no defences against weather disasters, is leaving cities a lot poorer.

**GS 1**❖ **Art & Culture**

**Q- Why has the city Liverpool been taken off the UNESCO's list of World heritage Sites?**

- The English city of Liverpool has been removed from UNESCO's list of world heritage sites after the United Nations' cultural agency found new buildings, including a football stadium, undermined the attractiveness of its Victorian docks.



- Liverpool was named a World Heritage Site in 2004, joining cultural landmarks such as the Great Wall of China and the Taj Mahal.
- After a vote in China by members of its World Heritage Committee, UNESCO announced that Liverpool should be removed from the international cultural organisation's list.
- Joanne Anderson, the Liverpool Mayor, said the decision was "incomprehensible". The only other sites stripped previously of the title are a wildlife sanctuary in Oman in 2007 after poaching and habitat loss, and the Dresden Elbe Valley in Germany in 2009 when a four-lane motorway bridge was built over the river.

## GS 2

### ❖ Social Justice

#### **Q- Discuss the steps taken by India to fight the growing Drug Menace on the country's soil?**

**BACKGROUND** =A large number of people in India use psychoactive substances, though there are wide variations in prevalence across different states. Apart from tobacco (which was not the focus of the survey), Alcohol is the most common substance used in India. After alcohol, the two next commonly used substances in India are Cannabis and Opioids. A sizeable number of people use other categories of substances like Sedatives and Inhalants. Cocaine, Amphetamine Type Stimulants and Hallucinogens are used by a small proportion of the country's population.

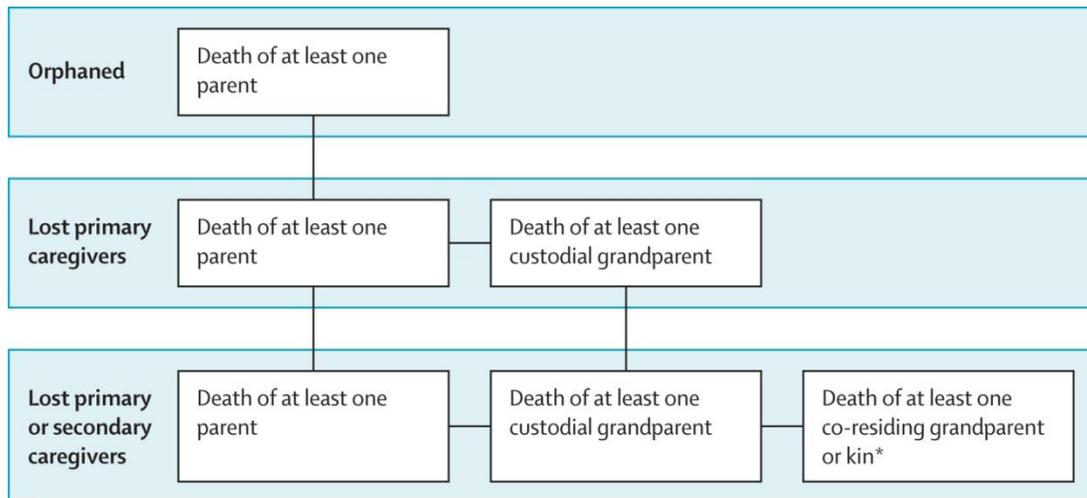
**As a step to remedy this thus far** India has signed 26 bilateral pacts, 15 memoranda of understanding and two agreements on security cooperation with different countries for combating illicit trafficking of narcotic, drugs and psychotropic substances, besides chemical precursors.

1. The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** coordinated with various international organisations for sharing information and intelligence to combat transnational drug trafficking.
2. They included the –
  - a. SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk; Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa;
  - b. Colombo Plan;
  - c. Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
  - d. ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters;
  - e. Bay of Bengal Initiative For Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-Operation;
  - f. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,
  - g. And the International Narcotics Control Board.Sharp vigil, effective surveillance, public cooperation, source-based intelligence, sensitisation of field officials and associated measures had resulted in a gradual increase in the registration of a number of drug trafficking related cases in the country.
3. For coordination among various Central and State agencies, the **Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism** was set up by the MHA in year 2016 for effective drug law enforcement. This NCORD system has been restructured into a four-tier scheme up to district level on July 29, 2019, for better coordination.
4. **A Joint Coordination Committee** with the NCB Director General as its chairman was set up on July 19, 2019, to monitor the investigation into cases involving large seizures.
5. For digitisation of pan-India drug seizure data, the MHA has launched an e-portal called '**SIMS**' (**Seizure Information Management System**) in 2019 for all the drug law enforcement agencies under the mandate of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS).

**Snippets****GS 2****❖ Social Justice**

**Q- Give a global account of the Covid Orphans to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave of the pandemic?**

- As many as 1.19 lakh children in India lost their primary caregivers (one or both parents or one or both custodial grandparents) to COVID-19.



- Placing the country after Mexico (1.4 lakh) and Brazil (1.3 lakh) in this figure, says a new study published in The Lancet.
- Globally, this figure stood at 11.34 lakh between March 1, 2020, and April 30, 2021.
- Children who lost either a mother or a father totalled 10.42 lakh, with 1.16 lakh of them in India.
- The study developed estimates of pandemic-associated orphanhood and caregiver deaths using excess mortality and deaths for 21 countries that accounted for 76.4% of the global deaths during the period. It then used these findings to develop global extrapolations.
- More than 15 lakh children around the world lost at least one primary or secondary caregiver (co-residing grandparent). This figure stood at 1.86 lakh for India.
- Though India ranks third in absolute numbers, its figure of 0.3 per 1,000 children was much lower than those of countries such as South Africa (5.1), Mexico (3.5), Brazil (2.4), Colombia (2.3), Iran (1.7), the U.S. (1.5), Argentina (1.1) and Russia (1). There were up to five times more children with deceased fathers than mothers.

The study underlines that such children are at greater risk of family separation and institutionalisation and recommends investments towards strengthening family based care.



Consider the following statements regarding the new variant of the Akash missile (Akash-NG)?

1. It is an indigenously developed low weight man-portable anti-tank guided missile
2. And can strike targets at a maximum distance of around 25 km.

Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT?

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



The China-South Asian Countries Emergency Supplies Reserve, for COVID-19 vaccines and poverty alleviation launched in July 2021 consisted which of the following countries as members?

1. India
  2. China
  3. Nepal
  4. Afghanistan
  5. Pakistan
  6. Sri Lanka
  7. Bangladesh
- a. 1, 2, 4 and 5      b. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7      c. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6      d. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Answer – B

**NOTE:** India can join the China-led South Asian initiative for COVID-19 vaccines and poverty alleviation too if it so desires, said Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen, denying that a six-nation grouping launched earlier this month was meant to exclude India. The creation of the China-South Asian Countries Emergency Supplies Reserve, and a Poverty Alleviation and Cooperative Development Centre set up in China on July 8, the outcome of a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in April, had raised eyebrows in New Delhi, as it appeared to leave out only India, Bhutan and the Maldives.

China reached out to the member countries as India's decision to suspend vaccine exports, including to Bangladesh, who had contracted and made advance payments for 5 million doses of Covishield per month, had become a "big issue" in the country, particularly as many had taken the first dose of the vaccine and had no access to the second.

However, given continuing tensions over Chinese aggression at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, and New Delhi's firm stand that other bilateral relations cannot move ahead without a resolution of the boundary stand-off, it is understood that India would be unlikely to consider a new grouping involving China, especially one that could be seen to dilute its role in the SAARC region. The absence of India from the grouping as well as from a series of consultations on COVID relief between the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister and different combinations of all SAARC member countries (other than India and Bhutan) led some experts to suggest this was meant to be a "Minus India" initiative. India is the only country of all eight SAARC nations that has not requested or accepted Chinese COVID vaccines.

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