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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

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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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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

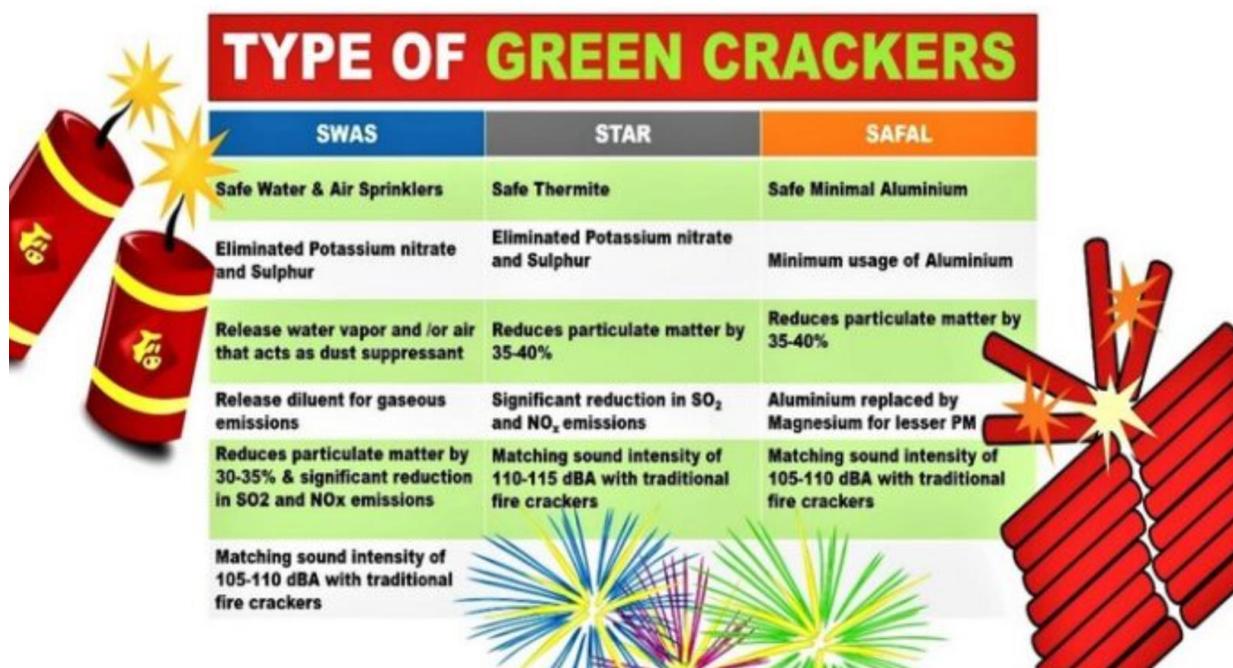
Q- Three different decisions on firecracker bans. But still in the need cleverer ideas about crackers Comment?

INTRODUCTION = A cracker of a confusion, this is –

1. On October 26, the Bengal Pollution Control Board banned the sale of all firecrackers except green crackers, and allowed their use from 8 pm to 10 pm on Diwali day.
2. On November 1, the Calcutta high court ordered a complete ban on all firecrackers, noting the practical difficulty of distinguishing between “green” ones and others.

By Monday, Supreme Court had set aside the HC order, asserting there can be no complete ban, and that SC and NGT have allowed green crackers if air quality isn't poor.

TYPE OF GREEN CRACKERS		
SWAS	STAR	SAFAL
Safe Water & Air Sprinklers	Safe Thermite	Safe Minimal Aluminium
Eliminated Potassium nitrate and Sulphur	Eliminated Potassium nitrate and Sulphur	Minimum usage of Aluminium
Release water vapor and /or air that acts as dust suppressant	Reduces particulate matter by 35-40%	Reduces particulate matter by 35-40%
Release diluent for gaseous emissions	Significant reduction in SO ₂ and NO _x emissions	Aluminium replaced by Magnesium for lesser PM
Reduces particulate matter by 30-35% & significant reduction in SO ₂ and NO _x emissions	Matching sound intensity of 110-115 dBA with traditional fire crackers	Matching sound intensity of 105-110 dBA with traditional fire crackers
Matching sound intensity of 105-110 dBA with traditional fire crackers		



All decisions fail the simple common sense test - Two-hour window for cracker bursting is practically non-enforceable in any Indian city or town or village.

Calcutta HC's order doubted the state's capacity to test whether only green crackers regulated by agencies like CSIR-NEERI and PESO are used. This is a good argument. But it also ends up penalising the genuine green cracker trade for official inadequacies. SC's verdict centered around air quality begs the question which states have the capacity to enforce complicated conditional cracker bans.

In Delhi, for example, the city heads into Diwali with poor air quality. But those who violate the cracker ban every year will continue to do so.

International status -

In many East Asian and some Western countries, occasions celebrated with fireworks are often community events, some of which have local government participation. Such events are altogether more orderly and apparently no less fun, with far fewer negative externalities. But India's many citizens, who often follow collective diktats when individual choices should prevail, may be reluctant to surrender individual cracker utility maximisation. Perhaps technology is the answer. Electronic crackers producing light and sound mimicking real crackers are already there. **E-crackers should get government incentives. They may do what courts still haven't been able to.**

GS 2

❖ Governance

Q- What is the role of the recently recommended "Police Complaint Authorities" in furthering Police Reforms in Indian Society?

BACKGROUND = Fifteen years after the Supreme Court issued directions for police reforms, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the Union Home Ministry and the State Governments to set up police complaints authorities as per the judgment in the Prakash Singh vs Union of India, 2006, case.

Features -

- The status of compliance should be displayed on the websites of the Ministry and the State Home Departments.
- The NHRC group also said the MHA and the Law Ministry should consider implementing the recommendations of the 113th report of the Law Commission to add Section 114 B to the Indian Evidence Act. This would ensure that if a person sustains injuries in custody, it is presumed that the injuries were inflicted by the police.
- The burden of proof to explain the injury lies on the authority concerned.
- Recommended making the legal framework technology-friendly to speed up the criminal justice system.
- The Supreme Court's December 2020 order to install CCTV cameras with night vision in all police stations should be "implemented immediately" to ensure accountability.
- Among the recommendations were the involvement of trained social workers and law students with police stations as part of community policing and incorporating community policing in police manuals, laws and advisories.
- According to data provided by the Home Ministry to the Lok Sabha in March, 16 States and UTs had implemented police complaints boards.

❖ Indian Society

Q- Why has the centre scrapped Caste-based payment system of MGNREGA?

BACKGROUND = The Centre has decided to scrap the system of caste-based wage payments in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme after **complaints from State Governments of rising social tensions.**

The Finance Ministry directed the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to “revert to the previous system of generating single muster, single FTO [or Fund Transfer Order] and transferring money into a single NeFMS [or National Electronic Fund Management System] account”.

Issues -

1. However, a revised accounting procedure will now be implemented to allow expenditure to be captured under three Minor Heads for Scheduled Castes and Tribes and others, through a single FTO.
2. This has not only multiplied the work at all levels but also resulted in payments going at different times to different communities,” In many villages, there were social frictions among communities who got paid as much as two months later than others from the same muster roll.
 - A study by LibTech India analysing 18 lakh FTOs over the last six months in 10 States found that SC and ST workers were getting paid significantly faster than those from other communities. Several State governments, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, raised the issue with the Central government.

GS 3

❖ Environment

Q- Discuss the significance of the launch of Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)?

BACKGROUND = India launched an ambitious initiative for developing the infrastructure of small island nations, saying it will give a new hope, a new confidence and satisfaction of doing something for the most vulnerable countries facing the biggest threat from climate change.

- The last few decades have proved that no one is untouched by the wrath of climate change. Whether they are developed countries or countries rich in natural resources, this is a big threat to everyone.
- The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face the biggest threat from climate change, it was a matter of life and death for them, it was a challenge to their existence.
- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) started the initiative, and for India the CDRI or IRIS is not just about infrastructure thing but it is part of a very sensitive responsibility of human welfare.
- India’s space agency ISRO will build a special data window for them to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring through satellite.

- Now it will be easy for SIDS to mobilise technology, finance necessary information faster. “Promotion of quality infrastructure in Small Island States will benefit both lives and livelihoods there.”



Significance -

- “Last year, 600 billion tonnes of ice melted away in Greenland. It’s incredibly cruel that these incredibly small island states are right in the frontline of the loss and damage that is caused by global warming.”
- “The small island nations have done virtually nothing to cause the problem, they didn’t produce the huge volumes of CO2 to be pumped into the atmosphere.”
- The new initiative is the result of cooperation between India, the U.K. and Australia and included the participation of leaders of small island nations such as Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius.
- India’s Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) welcomed the launch of IRIS as a recognition of the severity of climate risks which can unravel decades of development, especially for the most vulnerable countries and communities.

❖ Security

Q- What are the Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM) and why is it in recent news?

BACKGROUND = The Defence Acquisition Council, cancelled a tender for procurement of naval guns from the U.S. and added the quantity to an existing upgraded Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM) being manufactured by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) to promote ‘Make in India’. This measure will result in a saving of ₹3,000 crore.



These SRGMs provide niche capabilities of engaging fast manoeuvring targets using guided munitions and range extensions and are to be fitted on the warships of the Navy.

Key approvals of procurement from domestic sources include –

1. 12 light utility helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL),
2. Lynx U2 fire control system from the Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL), which will enhance the detection, tracking and engagement capabilities of warships and mid-life upgradation of the Dornier aircraft from HAL to increase the naval capacity of coastal surveillance
3. In November 2019, the U.S. had approved the sale of 13 MK-45 127 mm naval guns built by BAE Systems estimated at around \$1 billion. These bigger guns with larger range and firepower over the current main gun on warships were to become the mainstay of frontline ships under construction at various shipyards in India.

The deal for which the contract negotiations were under way has been cancelled because “the cost has gone by over 50% from the estimated price and there is also limited technology transfer. All of these proposals are under ‘Make in India’ with focus on design, development and manufacturing in India.”

❖ Economic Development

Q- What are the recommendations made by RBI’s panel for ARC smooth functioning?

- To streamline the functioning of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs), a Reserve Bank panel has come out with a host of suggestions including the creation of an online platform for the sale of stressed assets and allowing ARCs to act as resolution applicants during the IBC process.
- **The committee, headed by former RBI Executive Director Sudarshan Sen – suggested that the scope of Section 5 of the SARFAESI Act be expanded to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from all regulated entities, including AIFs, FPIs, AMCs making investment on behalf of MFs and all NBFCs including HFCs.**

- The performance of the ARCs has so far remained lacklustre, both in ensuring recovery and in revival of businesses. Lenders could recover only about 14.29% of the amount owed by borrowers in respect of stressed assets sold to ARCs in the 2004-2013 period.
- For accounts above ₹500 crore, two bank-approved external valuers should carry out a valuation to determine liquidation value and fair market value.
- “Also, the final approval of the reserve price should be given by a high-level committee that has the power to approve the corresponding write-off of the loan.”





Q- Choose which of the following global Initiatives are being Pioneered by India?

1. International Solar Alliance (ISA)
 2. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
 3. Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)
 4. Third World Network (TWN)
-
- a. 1 only
 - b. 1 and 2
 - c. 1, 2 and 3
 - d. All of the above



Q – Special Courts in India are established through which of the following actions?

- a. Statutory
- b. Executive
- c. Judicial
- d. Legislative

Ans – a

NOTE: A three-judge committee of the Madras High Court has questioned the constitutional validity of setting up special courts to exclusively try MPs and MLAs for various crimes.

It said the special courts should be “offence-centric” and not “offender-centric.”

An MP/MLA, who commits an offence under the POCSO Act [or other Special Acts like Prevention of Corruption Act, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act] can only be tried by a Special Court created under the POCSO Act [PC Act, NDPS Act] and there cannot be another Special Court exclusively for trial of an MP/MLA, who commits POCSO offence. **And Special courts can only be constituted by a statute and not by executive or judicial fiats**

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