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DAILY NEWS DIARY

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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

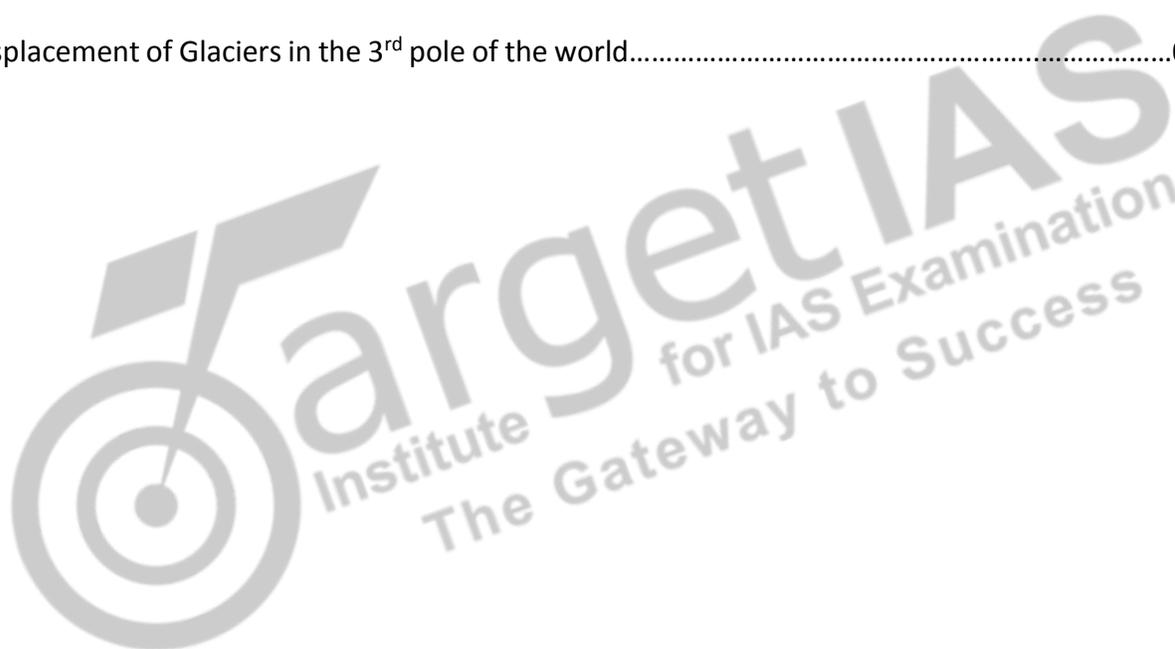
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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Discuss in detail the aim and ambition of NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission?

INTRODUCTION = Long before the impending AI apocalypse, a la Black Mirror, there was Armageddon and Deep Impact (1998). In the late 1990s, with the prospect of a nuclear holocaust receding after the Cold War, the greatest challenge to life as we know it was to come from outer space. Along with evil imperialist aliens, an asteroid — like the one which knocked out the dinosaurs — was the amoral villain in multiple movies. And astronauts, nuclear weapons and even a rough-and-ready oil-drilling team were employed to take out the threat. Now, it turns out, there was a bit of fact in all that fiction.

NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission will take 10 months to fly an unmanned spacecraft — about the size of a golf cart — and crash it into an asteroid the size of a pyramid.

- The destructive ride serves a purpose: It is a test to see whether the impact can alter the course of the celestial wanderer, even if slightly.
- If successful, the mission will confirm the ability to protect earth from asteroids that could level the planet, or on a smaller scale, large cities and regions.

Infographic | Gary Schroeder

DART | Double Asteroid Redirection Test

NASA is preparing the first space mission designed to test technologies that could deflect a hazardous asteroid away from Earth.

The experiment will take place at Didymos, a binary near-Earth asteroid. Didymos measures 780 meters across. DART also will target its smaller companion, Dimorphos, which is only about 160 meters wide—more typical of the size of asteroids considered to pose the greatest threat to our planet.

In October 2022, DART will attempt to change the path of Dimorphos using the “kinetic impactor technique”: It will fly into the asteroid like a battering ram. The impact of the 500-kilogram spacecraft should reduce Dimorphos’s velocity by about one half of one percent, enough of a reduction to measure easily from Earth.

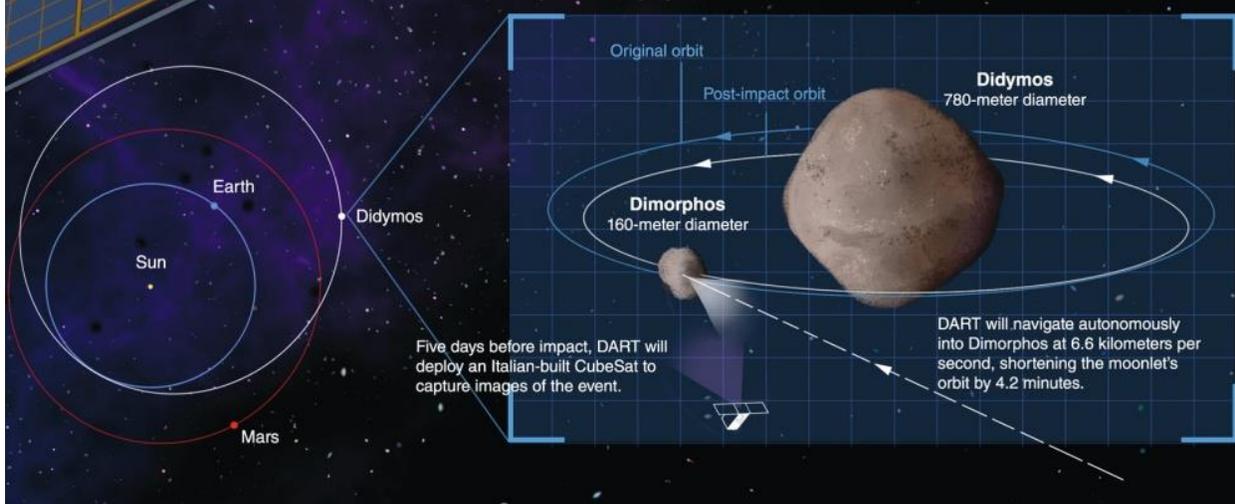
Imaging Camera
(on hidden side of DART in this view)
Didymos Reconnaissance and Asteroid Camera for Optical navigation (DRACO) is DART’s only science instrument; it will study the structure of Dimorphos and will guide targeting.

Roll Out Solar Array (ROSA)
This new design stows in spools during launch, then unfurls into 8.6-meter-long electricity-generating wings.

Flat Antenna
In place of a typical radio dish, DART uses a compact, low-cost Radial Line Slot Array antenna.

Ion Propulsion Engine
The NASA Evolutionary Xenon Thruster, Commercial (NEXT-C) is a high-efficiency thruster that accelerates the spacecraft by electrostatically expelling xenon ions.

Didymos Binary System: 11 million kilometers from Earth at time of impact



It turns out that it is very unlikely that world governments can be “surprised” by a large asteroid — they have been watching the skies and tracking them for a while now. And there is no need for nuclear weapons or Bruce Willis to stop a large rock — a glorified, space-faring drone will do. The simplest explanations and solutions are clearly the ones scientists go for. That might not make for a blockbuster hit, but given how much there is to worry about on terra firma, the lack of drama is welcome.

GS 2

❖ International Relations

Q- Comment on the global actions taken to ease soaring fuel prices with special focus on India?

BACKGROUND = India will release 5 million barrels of crude oil from its emergency stockpile in tandem with the U.S., China, Japan, and other major economies to cool oil prices. As President Joe Biden announced he has ordered the release of 50 million barrels of oil from the U.S. strategic reserves in a coordinated attempt with other countries to tamp down soaring fuel prices.

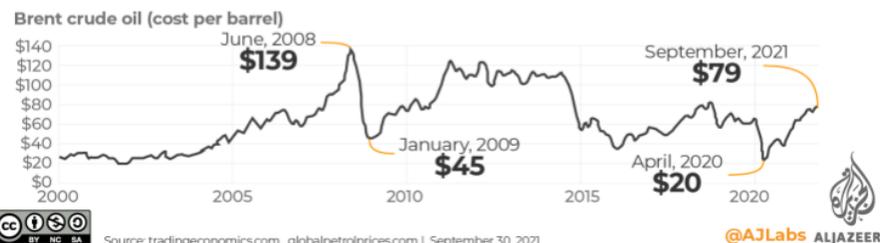
OIL

How the price of petrol has changed

The global average price of petrol has **doubled over the past 20 years**. In 2001, petrol cost around \$0.60 per litre - today is \$1.20.

Price of petrol per litre
1 litre = 0.26 gallons

	2001 average	2011 average	2021 September
Australia	\$0.57	\$1.23	\$1.13
Brazil	\$0.90	\$1.60	\$1.13
China	\$0.40	\$1.10	\$1.17
India	\$0.60	\$1.16	\$1.38
Iran	\$0.22	\$0.18	\$0.06
Malaysia	\$0.28	\$0.58	\$0.48
Nigeria	\$0.28	\$0.41	\$0.40
Russia	\$0.35	\$0.82	\$0.68
Saudi Arabia	\$0.22	\$0.18	\$0.62
South Africa	\$0.50	\$1.19	\$1.20
UK	\$1.10	\$1.90	\$1.87
US	\$0.38	\$0.82	\$0.93



This is the first time ever that India, which stores 5.33 million tonne or about 38 million barrels of crude oil in underground caverns at three locations on the east and west coast, is releasing stocks for such purposes.

- India strongly believes that the pricing of liquid hydrocarbons should be reasonable, responsible and be determined by market forces.
- “India has repeatedly expressed concern at the supply of oil being artificially adjusted below demand levels by oil-producing countries, leading to rising prices and negative attendant consequences.” While the government specified no date, an official said the stock could be released as early as 7-10 days.

The U.S. had last week made an unusual request to some of the largest oil-consuming nations, including China, India and Japan, to consider releasing crude stocks in a coordinated effort to pare global energy prices.

This after the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies rebuffed repeated requests to speed up production increases.

India has been the most forceful about flexing its muscles as a major oil consumer, cutting shipments from Saudi Arabia by about a quarter after OPEC+ extended production cuts.

Snippets

❖ International Relations

Q- How fragile are the nation's food systems according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)?

- Countries must prepare for future “shocks” to their agricultural and food systems from droughts, floods or diseases following the fallout from the pandemic.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has left the fragilities of national agri-food systems widely exposed,” the Food and Agriculture Organization said in an annual report. An obvious reason to address these fragilities is, of course, the unwelcome increase in food insecurity and malnutrition. Agri-food systems include production, food supply chains, transport networks and consumption.
- Three billion people around the world cannot afford a healthy diet to protect themselves against malnutrition. An additional one billion people are at risk as they would not be able to afford a healthy diet if a shock were to reduce their incomes by one-third.
- In July, the FAO said that between 720 million and 811 million people faced hunger in 2020 — some 161 million more than in 2019, largely due to the pandemic.
- Risk management strategies for shocks such as droughts, floods and pests — including multi-risk assessments, timely forecasts, early warning systems and early action plans — are key to help all agri-food systems... prevent and anticipate major disruptions.

GS 3

❖ Economic Development

Q- Reflect on the Key Sectors that are the centre of the Indo-US Trade Policy Forum?

BACKGROUND = The United States and India committed to integrating their economies across sectors to harness the untapped potential of the bilateral relationship, at the Trade Policy Forum convened after a gap of four years.

- The Forum resolved to take economic ties between the two countries to the 'next high level' and exchanged views on '**potential targeted tariff reductions**'.
- The two sides decided to activate working groups of the **Trade Policy Forum (TPF) on agriculture, non-agriculture goods, services, investment, and intellectual property** to meet frequently and address issues of mutual concern in a mutually beneficial manner.
- The idea is to deliver tangible benefits to farmers and businesses of both countries by **resolving outstanding market access issues**.

Bolstering ties | The Indo-U.S. Trade Policy Forum decides to take economic ties to the 'next high level'

 <p>MARKET ACCESS India seeks easier market access for its mangoes, grapes and pomegranates; U.S. seeks quid pro quo for cherries, pork products and alfalfa hay</p>	 <p>HOPE FOR IT WORKERS India, U.S. to restart talks on agreement to help professionals in both countries move statutory social security contributions back home</p>	 <p>Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal with U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai in New Delhi. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT</p>
 <p>ACTION PLAN Working groups on agriculture, non-agriculture goods, services will meet frequently</p>	 <p>POST-COVID PLAN Both sides to work with allies to secure pharmaceutical manufacturing base</p>	

Mutual market access

1. Specifically, the Forum has decided to forge an agreement **to facilitate U.S. market access for mangoes, grapes, and pomegranates, pomegranate arils from India**, and reciprocate **with similar access in the Indian market to cherries, pork/pork products and alfalfa hay for animal feed from the United States**.
2. Discussions will also be held on enhancing market access for products such as distillers' dried grains with solubles from the U.S. and resolving market access concerns for water buffalo meat and wild caught shrimp from India.

'Restore GSP benefits'

1. The Indian side has sought **restoration of the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences)** benefits by the U.S. and said this would help industries from both sides in integrating their supply chain efficiently.
2. The Forum also agreed on the **significance of negotiating a Social Security Totalization Agreement** in the interest of workers from both sides, and pursuing further engagements for reaching such an agreement.
 - The agreement, being pursued for over a decade, would allow workers from both countries to move their retirement savings.
 - The absence of such an agreement particularly affects Indian IT workers in the U.S., who lose billions of dollars in U.S. social security contributions that they cannot repatriate home.
3. With the WTO ministerial meeting coming up next week, India and the U.S. also discussed **collaboration and constructive engagement in various multilateral trade bodies**, including the WTO and the G20 for achieving a shared vision of a transparent, rules-based global trading system among market economies and democracies.
4. The Forum also decided to find mutually agreed solutions on outstanding WTO disputes between the two countries.

Snippets**❖ Environment**

- Q- What are the contributing factors to the displacement of Glaciers in the 3rd pole of the world?**
- Nearly 20,000 years ago, a five-kilometre-long Himalayan glacier “abruptly” changed course and over time fused into an adjacent glacier in present-day Pittoragarh, Uttarakhand.
 - This is the first time, that such a turn in glacier’s course has been recorded in the Himalayas. Change in climate along with tectonic movement probably caused this to happen.



Risky heights: The study adds to evidence of the inherent instability of the Himalayan region.

- Based on remote sensing and an old survey map, the study, which appears in the Journal of Geosciences, assessed that the glacier had been affected by active fault and climate change.
- The glacier, which does not have a name and lies in an extremely inaccessible region, was large enough that it formed its own “valley” and the accumulated debris that accompanies the formation of glaciers probably caused it to turn from a north-eastern direction to a south-eastern course.
- The study adds to evidence of the inherent instability of the Himalayan region, among the youngest mountain ranges in the world due to which the underlying tectonic plates that support it are not stable but are jittery and frequently trigger earthquakes and landslides.
- The event had “similarities” to the February disaster in Rishiganga valley, Uttarakhand, in which a large mass of rock and debris detached from a glacier and hurtled down the Rishiganga river.
- “This event that we have described is a much larger event. However, that the Himalayan region is ecologically fragile and prone to events such as these is certain”.



Q- Consider the following statements regarding The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021 –

1. The bill's main agenda is to regulate cryptocurrency and ostensibly ban all private cryptocurrencies in India
2. However, the Central Bank Digital Currency is still on charts and it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses.

Choose the CORRECT answer using the code below-

- a. 1 only b. 2 only
c. Both d. Neither 1 nor 2



Q- Consider the following statements:

1. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the register containing names of Indian citizens, published only once in 1951.
2. Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), can represent his/her case to the Foreigners Tribunals.
3. The Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies meant to furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner within the meaning of the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 & 2 only b. 2 only
c. 2 & 3 only d. 1, 2 & 3 only

Answer: d

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the register containing names of Indian Citizens. The only time that a National Register of Citizens (NRC) was prepared was in 1951. Hence, statement 1 is correct. Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final NRC, can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority i.e. Foreigners Tribunals. The Foreigners Tribunals are quasijudicial bodies meant to "furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner within the meaning of the Foreigners Act, 1946". Hence, statement 2 and 3 are correct.

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