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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
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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Why is GITHUB at the centre of an online sexual harassment probe?

- **INTRODUCTION** = The online “sale” of 100-odd Muslim women on an app hosted on the Github platform is shocking and outrageous.
 - The government must take urgent, exemplary action against the perpetrators.
 - Simply taking down the app, without imposing costs on such criminal behaviour, is only an encouragement of impunity.

Indeed, this is not the first instance of targeted harassment of Muslim women, especially those with an assertive presence on social media. In June last year, a similar app had staged an “auction” of women from the community, with language that dehumanised them into “deals of the day”.



Challenges -

1. The police investigation into those who created that app has made little progress, apparently because of the lack of adequate response from Github, which does not have a presence in India. True, **the anonymity of the internet** makes it possible for criminals to mask their digital footprints and identity. But the government and its investigative agencies have the expertise and resources to track offenders

down, and the clout to make multinational social media companies comply when they wish to — as has been seen in the Centre’s dealings with Twitter, for instance.

2. **To frame this as a free speech issue would be wilful blindness.** From doctoring women’s photographs to lewd comments to communal dog-whistling, they cross over into criminality and sexual harassment in ways that call for cyber-crime cells to take urgent attention.
3. Across the world, women experience the internet as a place of hostility and abuse, one that punishes them for speaking their mind or telling their stories, that seeks to push them back into a corner by shaming and sexualising their bodies. But the “auction” of women from the minority community **is not just standard-issue misogyny.** In a climate of majoritarian excess, attacks on minorities and open unpunished calls for mass murder, the choreographed humiliation of Muslim women panders to the **worst communal tendencies and fantasies of violence.** It seeks to push out an already embattled community from the digital public square by attacking the dignity of its women.

Way Forward -

It is even more important, therefore, for the government to draw the red lines and send out a strong, clear message.

1. The Central government’s stated commitment to women’s empowerment has led it to design schemes such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.
2. It has often congratulated itself as a champion of the rights of Muslim women by holding up legislation against triple talaq.

It cannot now afford to be slow-footed in following through in a case of such flagrant violation. The Centre has often weaponised the IPC to go after dissenters and activists. This time, it must use push online platforms to assist with the investigation and identify the offenders. There must be firm, visible action against this criminal bigotry and misogyny.

GS 2

❖ International Relations

Q- Discuss the Purpose of the construction of a new bridge on Pangong Tso lake and its significance for India?

BACKGROUND = China is constructing a bridge in eastern Ladakh connecting the north and south banks of Pangong Tso (lake), which will significantly bring down the time for the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) to move troops and equipment between the two sectors.



New link: A satellite image of the region where the bridge appears to be constructed. Twitter/@detresfa_

Earlier, the PLA had to take a roundabout crossing the Rudok county. But now the bridge would provide a direct axis, adding that the biggest advantage with the new bridge was the inter-sector movement as the time would come down significantly.

1. On the north bank, there is a PLA garrison at Kurnak fort and on the south bank at Moldo, and the distance between the two is around 200 km. The new bridge between the closest points on two banks, which is around 500 m, will bring down the movement time between the two sectors from around 12 hours to three or four hours.
2. The bridge is located around 25 km ahead of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
3. The construction had been going on for some time and it would reduce the overall distance by 140-150 km.

Significance for India -

- India holds one-third of the 135-km-long boomerang-shaped lake located at an altitude of over 14,000 feet. The lake, a glacial melt, has mountain spurs of the Chang Chenmo range jutting down, referred to as fingers.
- The north bank, which has much higher differences in perception of the LAC than the south bank, was the initial site of the clashes in early May 2020, while tensions on the south bank flared up later in August.

- The Indian Army got tactical advantage over the PLA on the south bank in August-end by occupying several peaks lying vacant since 1962, gaining a dominating view of the Moldo area. On the north bank too, the Indian troops set up posts facing PLA positions on the ridges-lines of Finger 4.
- In February 2020, as part of the first phase of disengagement, both sides agreed for complete disengagement on the north and south banks. The Indian Army has a permanent position near Finger 3, the Dhan Singh Thapa post, while the PLA has a base east of Finger 8. The south bank leads to the Kailash range and to the Chushul sector.
- Since the August action, China has taken up construction of alternate roads away from our line of sight, a defence official stated. China had intensified construction work behind the main confrontation points in Aksai Chin.

GS 3

❖ Science & Technology

Q-Comment on how 2022 is going to rather be an eventful year for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

BACKGROUND = After a rather muted 2021 in terms of satellite launches, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for a number of missions in 2022 including –

1. The launch of the first unmanned mission of Gaganyaan.
2. Further the launch of the Earth Observation Satellites, EOS-4 and EOS-6 on board the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV),
3. And the EOS-02 on board the maiden flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).
4. [ISRO has] many test flights for Crew Escape System of Gaganyaan and launch of the first unmanned mission of Gaganyaan.
5. In addition, we also have Chandrayaan-03, Aditya L1, XpoSat, IRNSS and technology demonstration missions with indigenously developed advanced technologies
6. Design changes on Chandrayaan-3 and testing has seen huge progress.
7. The hardware in loop test of Aditya L1 spacecraft and accommodation studies for XpoSat in the SSLV have been completed and ISRO has delivered the S-band SAR payload to NASA for NISAR [NASA-ISRO SAR] mission.

Three new space science missions are also in the pipeline. These include a Venus mission, DISHA –a twin aeronomy satellite mission and TRISHNA, an ISRO-CNES [Centre national d'études spatiales] mission in 2024.



Q- Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Ocean Commission was created to protect the interests of countries of the entire Indian Ocean region.
2. India was among the founding members of the Indian Ocean Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2



Q- Consider the following:

- 1) Birds 2) Dust blowing
3) Rain 4) Wind blowing

Which of the above spread plant diseases?

- a) 1 and 3 only b) 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 2 and 4 only d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d

Extensive and severe epidemics of plant diseases are mostly the results of wind transmission of the pathogens. Splashing rain drops mostly transmit the foliar diseases from leaf to leaf, from shoot to shoot and even from plant to plant in case of closely spaced crops. Birds play a minor role in disease transmission in plants by way of dispersal of seeds of higher flowering parasite etc. Thus, plant disease can spread by all of the mentioned agents.

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