

SosinClasses

INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION

(IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS, IRMS, IFoS & Other Civil Services)

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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.

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GS 1

❖ CLIMATE CHANGE

Q) Explain the prospects of India's vulnerability to drought. Elucidate key observations of COP15 regarding the impact of drought on India.

Context:

A United Nations report 'Drought in Numbers' has revealed that many parts of India fall under the list of regions that are vulnerable to drought globally.

Drought in Numbers report:

- The Drought in Numbers report is a collection of data on the effects of droughts on our ecosystem and how they can be mitigated through efficient planning for the future.
- The report also helps inform negotiations surrounding key decisions by the UNCCD's 197 member parties at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15), currently underway in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Drought, land restoration, and related aspects such as land rights, gender equality and youth empowerment are among the top considerations at COP15.

COP15:

- The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP15 focuses on desertification, land degradation, and drought.
- The theme for the conference is "Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity."
- The conference has brought together government representatives, private sector members, and civil society stakeholders to ensure that land continues to benefit present and future generations.

Observations of the report:

- The number and duration of droughts around the world has increased by an alarming 29% since 2000.
- Globally, droughts in the same period caused economic losses of approximately \$124 billion.
- Drought conditions can force up to 216 million people to migrate by 2050.
- Other factors at play along with drought could be water scarcity, declining crop productivity, rise in sea levels, and overpopulation.
- The report also stated that India's GDP reduced by 2 to 5% between 1998 and 2017 due to severe droughts in the country.

Gendered impacts of drought:

1. Research shows that women and girls in emerging and developing countries suffer more in terms of education levels, nutrition, health, sanitation, and safety as a result of droughts.
2. The burden of water collection also disproportionately falls on women (72%) and girls (9%).

3. The report notes that they may spend up to 40% of their caloric intake fetching water.
4. What are the environmental aspects?
5. The largest increase in drought losses is projected in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic regions of Europe.
6. Australia's megadrought in 2019-2020 contributed to "megafires" resulting in one of the most extensive losses of habitat for threatened species.
7. About three billion animals were killed or displaced in the Australian wildfires.
8. Around 12 million hectares of land are lost each year due to drought and desertification.

Source: The Hindu

GS 3

❖ ENVIRONMENT & BIO DIVERSITY

Q) Ethanol blend in petrol to be raised to 20%". Discuss.

Context:

The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, to advance the date by which fuel companies have to increase the percentage of ethanol in petrol to 20%, from 2030 to 2025. The policy to introduce 20% ethanol in petrol will take effect from April 1, 2023.

Necessity for such move:

A 2021 report by the NITI Aayog said that 20% ethanol blending by 2025 could accrue immense benefits such as:

- Saving ₹30,000 crore of foreign exchange per year
- Increased energy security
- Lowered carbon emissions
- Better air quality
- Self-reliance
- Better use of damaged foodgrains
- Increase farmers' incomes and investment opportunities

Present status of ethanol blending in India:

1. India achieved 9.45% ethanol blending as on March 13, 2022, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
2. The Centre projects that this will reach 10% by the end of financial year 2022.
3. The government first announced its plans of advancing the 20% blending target in December 2020.
4. Why is it so difficult to raise the blending?

5. A 10% blending of petrol does not require major changes to engines.
6. But a 20% blend could require some changes and may even drive up the prices of vehicles.
7. A greater percentage of blending could also mean more land being diverted for water-intensive crops such as sugar cane, which the government currently subsidises.

Source: The Hindu

❖ ECONOMICS

Q) Assess the significance of the Sela Tunnel Project.

Context:

The strategically-significant Sela Tunnel project in Arunachal Pradesh is nearing completion well before the deadline.

Sela Tunnel Project:

- The Sela Tunnel is the longest bi-lane road tunnel in the world.
- The total length of the project, including the tunnels, the approach and the link roads, will be around 12 km.
- The tunnel is being constructed by the Border Roads Organisation at an altitude of 13,800ft near the Indo-China border.
- It is being built on the 317km long Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road which connects West Kameng, East Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh to the rest of the country.



Importance of the project:

- All-weather connectivity to Tawang and other forward areas in the sector will be the most important advantage that the project promises.

- At the moment, Sela pass stays closed for a few winter months.
- The project will provide a new alignment on the axis towards the LAC, and allow movement of military and civil vehicles all through the year.

Significance of the tunnel:

- China is undertaking massive infrastructure development and troop build-up in the Rest of Arunachal Pradesh (RALP) area.
- In military parlance, the RALP is an area in Arunachal Pradesh other than the Kameng area.
- Other than the Kameng area consisting of East and West Kameng districts, the rest of the State is referred to by the Army as the RALP.

Source: The Hindu

SNIPPETS**❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****Q) Explain the severity and prevalence of the sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).****Context:**

A team of scientists from Australia have found that babies at risk of the mysterious sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS, generally have low levels of an enzyme called butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) in their blood.

SIDS:

- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome refers to the sudden and unexpected death of an otherwise healthy infant under the age of one, generally while they are sleeping.
- Most SIDS-related deaths occur in infants between the age of 1-4 months.
- According to the NHS website, parents can reduce the risk of SIDS by not smoking while pregnant or after the baby is born and ensuring that the baby is placed on their back when they sleep.
- Some health experts have said that it is associated with issues in the part of an infant's brain that controls breathing and waking up.

Prevalence of SIDS:

- SIDS, also known as 'cot death', has claimed the lives of thousands of children across the West.
- US estimates that about 3,400 babies die suddenly and unexpectedly every year.
- Meanwhile, the United Kingdom reports about 200 such deaths annually.

What does the new study say?

1. The study assessed whether there was something inherently different in babies that succumbed to SIDS.

2. The researchers compared dried blood samples from 655 healthy babies, 26 babies who died due to SIDS and 41 babies who died of other causes.
3. The team found that around nine of ten babies who died from SIDS had lower levels of BChE enzymes than the babies in the other two groups.

What is the BChE (Butyrylcholinesterase) enzyme responsible for?

- These enzymes are responsible for sending out signals that make a baby wake up, turn her head, or gasp for breath.
- It is part of the autonomic system, and controls function like blood pressure and breathing.

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Q) Which of the following statements with regard to the “Italian Open” is correct?

- a) It is a professional tennis tournament played on indoor courts.
- b) The Italian Open is also known as the “Rome Masters”.
- c) This tournament is played by only men.
- d) Italian Open 2022 was the 2nd edition of the Italian Open.

▪ **Hey from Yesterday –**

Q) Who among the following was responsible for the reclamation of forest lands for farming to add prosperity to the Tamil people in ancient history?

- Karikala
- Cheran Senguttuvan
- Nediyan
- Mudathiruman

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Three dynasties ruled during the Sangam Age – the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas.
- King Karikala was a prominent king of the Sangam Chola dynasty. Trade and commerce prospered during his rule.
 - He was responsible for the reclamation of forest lands and brought them under cultivation thus adding prosperity to the people.
 - He also constructed Kallanai and irrigation tanks across the river Kaveri to make available water for reclaimed land from the forest for farming.

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- POLITY + GEOGRAPHY MODULE FROM 2nd May to 9th May 2022
- SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MODULE FROM 10th May to 12th May 2022
- HISTORY MODULE FROM 10th May to 20th May 2022
- CURRENT AFFAIRS MODULE FROM 13th May to 19th May 2022

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- ANTHROENHANCE TEST SERIES FROM 2nd JULY 2022 (OFFLINE/ONLINE)