

**SosinClasses**

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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 2

### ❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

**Q) Discuss the provisions of the ban of the single-use plastic in India.**

**Context:**

The Centre has banned the use of 'single-use plastic' from July 1.

The Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change had issued a gazette notification last year announcing the ban, and has now defined a list of items that will be banned from next month.

The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of sup plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022.

**Single-Use Plastic:**

- As the name suggests, it refers to plastic items that are used once and discarded.
- Single-use plastic (SUP) has among the highest shares of plastic manufactured and used — from packaging of items, to bottles (shampoo, detergents, cosmetics), polythene bags, face masks, coffee cups, cling film, trash bags, food packaging etc.
- It accounts for a third of all plastic produced globally, with 98% manufactured from fossil fuels.
- SUP also accounts for the majority of plastic discarded – 130 million metric tonnes globally in 2019 all of which is burned, buried in landfills or discarded directly into the environment.
- On the current trajectory of production, it has been projected that single-use plastic could account for 5-10% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

**SUPs in India:**

- ✓ India features in the top 100 countries of single-use plastic waste generation – at rank 94 (the top three being Singapore, Australia and Oman).
- ✓ With domestic production of 11.8 million metric tonnes annually, and import of 2.9 MMT, India's net generation of single-use plastic waste is 5.6 MMT, and per capita generation is 4 kg.

**What are the items being banned?**

1. According to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, there is also a complete ban on sachets using plastic material for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala.
2. The items on which the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have announced a ban are earbuds; balloon sticks; candy and ice-cream sticks; cutlery items including plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, PVC banners measuring under 100 microns among others.
3. The Ministry had already banned polythene bags under 75 microns in September 2021, expanding the limit from the earlier 50 microns.

4. From December, the ban will be extended to polythene bags under 120 microns.
5. The ban is being introduced in phases to give manufacturers time to shift to thicker polythene bags that are easier to recycle.
6. While manufacturers can use the same machine for 50- and 75-micron bags, the machinery will need to be upgraded for 120 microns.

#### **Why these items?**

- ✓ The choice for the first set of SUPs items for the ban was based on difficulty of collection, and therefore recycling.
- ✓ The enemy is not that plastic exists per se, but that plastic exists forever in the environment.
- ✓ When plastic remains in the environment for long periods of time and does not decay, it turns into microplastics – first entering our food sources and then the human body, and this is extremely harmful.
- ✓ These items are difficult to collect, especially since most are either small, or discarded directly into the environment – like ice-cream sticks.
- ✓ It then becomes difficult to collect for recycling, unlike the much larger items.
- ✓ The largest share of SUP is that of packaging – with as much as 95% of single use belong to this category – from toothpaste to shaving cream to frozen foods.
- ✓ The items chosen are of low value and of low turnover and are unlikely to have a big economic impact, which could be a contributing reason.

#### **How will the ban be enforced?**

- The ban will be monitored by the CPCB from the Centre, and by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) that will report to the Centre regularly.
- Directions have been issued at national, state and local levels – for example, to all petrochemical industries – to not supply raw materials to industries engaged in the banned items.
- Directions have also been issued to SPCBs and Pollution Control Committees to modify or revoke consent to operate issued under the Air/Water Act to industries engaged in SUP items.
- Last week, the CPCB issued one-time certificates to 200 manufacturers of compostable plastic and the BIS passed standards for biodegradable plastic.

#### **What if violation occurs?**

Those found violating the ban can be penalised under the Environment Protection Act 1986 – which allows for imprisonment up to 5 years, or a penalty up to Rs 1 lakh, or both. Violators can also be asked to pay Environmental Damage Compensation by the SPCB. In addition, there are municipal laws on plastic waste, with their own penal codes.

#### **How are other countries dealing with single-use plastic?**

- Bangladesh became the first country to ban thin plastic bags in 2002.
- New Zealand became the latest country to ban plastic bags in July 2019.

- China issued a ban on plastic bags in 2020 with phased implementation.
- As of July 2019, 68 countries have plastic bag bans with varying degrees of enforcement.
- Vanuatu and Seychelles have banned plastic straws outright.

**Source: Indian Express**

## **GS 3**

### **❖ ECONOMY**

#### **Q) Explain the phenomenon of the Black Swan.**

##### **Context:**

A study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has spoken about the possibility of capital outflows to the tune of \$100 billion (around Rs 7,80,000 crore) from India in case of a major global risk scenario or a “black swan” event.

##### **Black Swan:**

A black swan is a rare, unpredictable event that comes as a surprise and has a significant impact on society or the world. These events are said to have three distinguishing characteristics:

- They are extremely rare and outside the realm of regular expectations
- They have a severe impact after they hit and
- They seem probable in hindsight when plausible explanations appear

##### **When did the term originate?**

- The black swan theory was put forward by author and investor Nassim Nicholas Taleb in 2001, and later popularised in his 2007 book – The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable.
- It is described as one of the 12 most influential books since World War II.
- In his book, Taleb does not try to lay out a method to predict such events, but instead stresses on building “robustness” in systems and strategies to deal with black swan occurrences and withstand their impact.

##### **Behind the metaphorical name:**

- ✓ The term itself is linked to the discovery of black swans.
- ✓ Europeans believed all swans to be white until 1697, when a Dutch explorer spotted the first black swan in Australia.
- ✓ The metaphor ‘black swan event’ is derived from this unprecedented spotting from the 17th century, and how it upended the West’s understanding of swans.

##### **When have such events occurred in the past?**

Interestingly, Taleb’s book predated the 2008 global financial crisis – a black swan event triggered by a sudden crash in the booming housing market in the US. The fall of the Soviet Union, the terrorist attack in the US on September 11, 2001, also fall in the same category.

**Covid-19 pandemic a black swan event:**

1. Taleb does not agree with those who believe it to be one.
2. Rather, he called it a “white swan”, arguing that it was predictable, and there was no excuse for companies and governments not to be prepared for something like this.
3. While the outbreak of any pandemic is difficult to individually predict, the possibility of one occurring and having a major impact on systems around the world was known and documented.

**Source: The Hindu**

**SNIPPETS****GS 3****❖ ECONOMY****Q) What are the functions of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB)?****Context:**

The Union Finance Ministry is working to expand and relaunch the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) by bringing in more representatives from the insurance sector.

**Banks Board Bureau (BBB):**

- Banks Board Bureau (BBB) is an autonomous body to Promote excellence in Corporate Governance in Public Sector Financial Institutions.
- The BBB works as step towards governance reforms in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as recommended by J. Nayak Committee.
- It was formed in 2016 to select executive directors, and managing directors and chief executives of state-run banks.
- It is tasked to search and select personages for Board of Public Sector Banks, Public Sector Financial Institutions and Public Sector Insurance Companies and recommend measures to improve Corporate Governance in these Institutions.
- It has been selecting directors and chairmen and managing directors of PSU general insurance companies since 2018.

**Functions of BBB:**

The mandate of the Bureau is to advise the Central Government on –

- Selection and appointment of Board of Directors in Nationalised Banks, Financial Institutions and Public Sector Insurance Companies (Whole Time Directors and Chairman)
- Matters relating to appointments, confirmation or extension of tenure and termination of services of the Directors of mandated institutions

- Desired management structure of mandated institutions, at the level of Board of Directors and senior management.
- Suitable performance appraisal system for mandated institutions.
- Formulation and enforcement of a code of conduct and ethics for managerial personnel in mandated institutions
- To build a data bank containing data relating to the performance of mandated institutions and its officers.
- Evolving suitable training and development programs for managerial personnel in mandated institutions.
- To help the banks in terms of developing business strategies and capital raising plan and the like; Any other work assigned by the Government in consultation with RBI.

**Significance:**

A revamp of the BBB will enable it to recommend full-time appointments at financial institutions where the current executives are given additional charge through interim arrangements.

**GS 1****❖ GEOGRAPHY**

**Q) Explain the formation of lightning and measures to mitigate the effects of lightning.**

**Context:**

At least 70 people died in lightning strikes across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

**Lightning:**

- Scientifically, lightning is a rapid and massive discharge of electricity in the atmosphere some of which is directed towards earth.
- The discharges are generated in giant moisture-bearing clouds that are 10-12 km tall.
- The base of these clouds typically lie within 1-2 km of the Earth's surface, while the top is 12-13 km away.
- Temperatures in the top of these clouds are in the range of  $-35^{\circ}$  to  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**Its formation:**

- As water vapour moves upward in the cloud, the falling temperature causes it to condense.
- As they move to temperatures below  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the water droplets change into small ice crystals.
- They continue to move up, gathering mass until they are so heavy that they start to fall to Earth.
- This leads to a system in which, simultaneously, smaller ice crystals are moving up and bigger crystals are coming down.

- Collisions follow and trigger the release of electrons, a process that is very similar to the generation of sparks of electricity.
- As the moving free electrons cause more collisions and more electrons, a chain reaction ensues.
- This process results in a situation in which the top layer of the cloud gets positively charged, while the middle layer is negatively charged.
- The electrical potential difference between the two layers is huge, of the order of a billion to 10 billion volts.
- In very little time, a massive current, of the order of 100,000 to a million amperes, starts to flow between the layers.

**Types of lightning:**

Broadly, there are three forms of lightning:

1. Inter-cloud
2. Intra-cloud
3. Cloud-to-ground

**Mitigating lightning incidents:**

- ✓ Lightning is not classified as a natural disaster in India.
- ✓ But recent efforts have resulted in the setting up of an early warning system that is already saving many lives.
- ✓ More than 96% of lightning deaths happen in rural areas.
- ✓ As such, most of the mitigation and public awareness programmes need to focus on these communities.
- ✓ Lightning protection devices are fairly unsophisticated and low-cost. Yet, their deployment in the rural areas, as of now, is extremely low.
- ✓ States are being encouraged to prepare and implement lightning action plans, on the lines of heat action plans.
- ✓ An international centre for excellence on lightning research to boost detection and early warning systems is also in the process of being set up.

**Source: PIB**

**Q) Which of the following statements with regard to the Central Vista is incorrect?**

1. Currently, Centra Vista houses Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, North and South Block.
2. Edwin Lutyens was solely responsible for the construction of Central Vista.

**Options:**

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

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

**Q) Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to the Abraham Accords?**

1. It refers to the normalization agreement between Russia and Israel.
2. It was initially agreed to in a joint statement by the US, Israel and UAE.

**Options:**

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Israel–UAE normalization agreement is officially called the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement.
- It was initially agreed to in a joint statement by the United States, Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on August 13, 2020.
- The UAE thus became the third Arab country, after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, to agree to formally normalize its relationship with Israel as well as the first Persian Gulf country to do so.
- Concurrently, Israel agreed to suspend plans for annexing parts of the West Bank. The agreement normalized what had long been informal but robust foreign relations between the two countries.

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