

# SosinClasses

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## DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**01.08.2022**

## 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 3

### ❖ ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

**Q) Critically analyse the impact of e-waste regulation in India. Explain the menace of E-waste in India.**

**Context:**

A proposed framework by the Centre for regulating e-waste in India has upset a key link of India's electronic waste collection system and threatens the livelihood of thousands of people.

**Menace of E-Waste in India:**

- Electronic waste, or electronic goods that are past their productive life and old parts, is largely handled by India's vast informal sector.
- Spent goods are dismantled and viable working parts refurbished, with the rest making their way into chemical dismantling units.
- Many of these units are run out of unregulated sweatshops that employ child labour and hazardous extraction techniques.

**Extended Producer Responsibility:**

- To address all of this, the Environment Ministry brought the E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016.
- This introduced a system of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) compelling makers of electronic goods to ensure a proportion of the goods they sold every year was recycled.
- They are expected to maintain records annually demonstrating this.
- Most companies however did not maintain an in-house unit in charge of recycling and this gave rise to a network of government-registered companies, called Producer Responsibility Organisations (PRO).

**How PROs work?**

- PROs act as an intermediary between manufacturers and formal recycling
- They are (expected to be) technologically equipped to recycle end-of-life electronic goods safely and efficiently.
- The PROs typically bid for contracts from companies and arrange for specified quantities of goods to be recycled.
- They provide companies certified proof of recycling that they then maintain as part of their records. Several PROs work on consumer awareness and enable a supply chain for recycled goods.

**Functional PROs in India:**

As of March 2022, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has registered 74 PROs and 468 authorised dismantlers. They have a collective recycling capacity of about 1.3 million tonnes.

**Extent of E-Waste production in India:**

1. The Ministry estimated 7.7 lakh tonnes of e-waste to have been generated in 2018-19.

2. Around one million tonnes in 2019-20 of which only a fifth (about 22% in both years) has been confirmed to be “dismantled and recycled”.

**Contention:**

- This May, the Ministry issued a draft notification that does away with the PROs and dismantlers and vests all responsibility of recycling with authorised recyclers.
- Only a handful of authorised recyclers exist in India.
- Recyclers will source a quantity of waste, recycle them and generate electronic certificates.
- Companies can buy these certificates equivalent to their annual committed target and thus do not have to be involved with engaging the PROs and dismantlers.
- Dismantling a fledgling system was detrimental to the future of e-waste management in India.

**Source: The Hindu**

**❖ ECONOMY**

**Q) Assess the ongoing inflation challenge in the Indian economy. What is the significance of the India’s Consumer price Index (CPI) basket?**

**Context:**

The higher the weight of food in the overall CPI, the more difficult it is for the monetary policy squeeze alone to contain inflation.

**Inflation challenge in Indian economy:**

- Under the FRBM Act, The RBI has the unenviable task of keeping inflation within the 4+/- 2 per cent range.
- But lately, despite its best efforts, inflation has remained defiant and above its tolerance band.
- The RBI’s major policy tool, the repo rate has already been hiked by 90 basis points, raising it to 4.9 per cent in June.
- It is likely to rise to at least 5.5 per cent, if not more, over the course of this financial year.
- But this will not be enough to tame inflation due to the nature and structure of inflation in India.

**India’s CPI basket:**

- The CPI basket in India comprises of 299 commodities grouped into six major categories. The food and beverages group has a weight of 45.86 per cent (with food at 39.06 per cent, prepared meals at 5.55 per cent and non-alcoholic beverages at 1.26 per cent).
- High weight of food in overall CPI: It is this overwhelmingly high weight of food in overall CPI, based on the consumer expenditure survey (CES) data of 2011-12, that distinguishes Indian inflation from many other developed countries where the food weight is much smaller.
- It is much lower in Germany (8.5 per cent), the UK (9.3 per cent), the US (13.42 per cent), Canada (15.94 per cent), France (16.49 per cent), Australia (16.8 per cent), China (19.9 per cent), and Japan (26.3 per cent). Even developing nations like South Africa (17.24 per

cent), Brazil (25.5 per cent), and Pakistan (34.83 per cent) have lesser weightage of food in overall CPI than India.

- The higher the weight of food in the overall CPI, the more difficult it is for the monetary policy squeeze alone to contain inflation.

#### **Tomato inflation:**

- Interestingly, of the 299 commodities that comprise CPI, the highest contributor to overall inflation was tomatoes at 8.9 per cent. Inflation in tomatoes was stupendously high at 158.8 per cent (year-on-year).
- One of the prime reasons was the low base effect as inflation in June 2021 was minus 14.4 per cent. Due to low price realisation last year, this year tomato farmers shifted acreage to other crops.
- On top of that, some tomato growing areas got flooded, while many others faced heat waves that further depressed tomato supplies.
- It is for this reason a scheme called TOP (Tomatoes, Onions, and Potatoes) and allocated Rs 500 crore to streamline their value chains.
- But the scheme went to the Ministry of Food Processing, and was expanded to TOTAL by including several other vegetables.
- Without having a champion, like Verghese Kurien was for milk, this scheme (from TOP to TOTAL) got diffused in focus and has not shown any visible impact in improving the value chains of vegetables.
- Way forward: The real solution to tomato inflation may lie beyond the ambit of the RBI.
- Processing: It requires linking tomato value chains to processing of at least 10 per cent of tomato production into tomato paste and puree during bumper years and using them when fresh tomato prices spike.
- Reduce GST: Further, to enhance the affordability of processed tomatoes, its GST rates need to be reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent.
- This would also help farmers to stabilise their incomes and avoid the typical cobweb problem they face in case of perishables.

#### **Way forward:**

- ✓ So, monetary policy alone may not be as effective in the Indian case.
- ✓ India desperately needs to revise its CPI with the latest consumption survey weights.
- ✓ Our parliamentarians must recognise the limitations that the RBI faces in taming inflation.
- ✓ The upshot of all this is that the nature and structure of inflation in India is different than in developed countries.

**Source: Indian Express**

## ❖ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Q) “A Chinese booster rocket made an uncontrolled return to earth”. Explain its impact and the provisions to deal with the space junk.**

### **Context:**

A Chinese booster rocket made an uncontrolled return to earth, leading to US furore against Beijing for not sharing information about the potentially hazardous object’s descent.

### **Yet another Chinese irresponsibility:**

- Ending over a week of global anxiety and alarm, the debris from a large Chinese rocket – the Long March 5B – crashed to earth over the Pacific and the Indian oceans.
- It fell into the Sulu Sea near Malaysia.
- The 22-tonne core stage of the rocket hurtled uncontrollably back to earth. There were fears that it might hit a populated area.
- China, however, had dismissed these fears despite widespread criticism for rocket re-entry risks imposed by it on the world.

### **Uncontrolled Re-entry:**

- Generally, the core or first stage of a rocket is made up of heavy pieces that usually don’t reach orbit after lift-off, and fall back safely along a near-precise projected trajectory.
- If they do enter an orbit, then a costly de-orbit manoeuvre is required for a steered, controlled return using engine burn.
- Without a de-orbit manoeuvre, the orbital core stage makes an uncontrolled fall.

### **Why did it fell back?**

- Gigantic remnants from China’s Long March 5B rockets’ core stage are known to make such fiery, out-of-control descents back to earth.
- Most nations’ rockets, separate the launcher from the payload before leaving the atmosphere.
- An extra engine then gives the payload a final boost.
- But China’s 5B series does NOT use a second engine and pushes right into orbit, the report points out.

### **Why is it difficult to track uncontrolled descents?**

- i. The variables involved make it difficult to precisely track the re-entry time and drop zone of rocket debris in uncontrolled descents.
- ii. The factors that make this prediction extremely challenging include atmospheric drag, variations in solar activity, angle and rotational variation of the object among others.
- iii. A miscalculation of even a minute in re-entry time could result in the final resting place of the debris changing by hundreds of kilometres.
- iv. It’s important to understand that among the 10 tough things that we do in space, debris re-entry is probably one of the toughest ones to predict.

### **Laws regulating space junk:**

- The Space Liability Convention of 1972.
- It defines responsibility in case a space object causes harm.

- The treaty says that a launching State shall be absolutely liable to pay compensation for damage caused by its space objects on the surface of the earth or to aircraft, and liable for damage due to its faults in space.
- The Convention also provides for procedures for the settlement of claims for damages.
- However, there is no law against space junk crashing back to earth.
- In April this year, suspected debris from a Chinese rocket was found in two Maharashtra villages.

#### Cases of settlements:

- ✓ In 1979, the re-entry of NASA's 76-ton Skylab had scattered debris over uninhabited parts of Australia, and the space agency was fined \$400 for littering by a local government.
- ✓ The only settlement using the Liability Convention was between the erstwhile Soviet Union and Canada over the debris of Soviet Cosmos 954 falling in a barren region.
- ✓ Canada was paid CAD 3 million in accordance with international law for cleaning up the mess.

**Source: Indian Express**

## **SNIPPETS**

### **GS-2**

#### ❖ **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

##### **Q) What is the exercise AL NAJAH-IV?**

##### **Context:**

India and Oman will carry out a 13-day military exercise with a focus on counter-terror cooperation.

##### **Exercise AL NAJAH-IV:**

- This is the fourth edition of India-Oman joint military exercise 'AL NAJAH-IV'.
- It is held between contingents of Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman is scheduled to take place at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges.
- The previous edition of the exercise was organised in Muscat in March 2019.
- The scope of the exercise includes "professional interaction, mutual understanding of drills and procedures, the establishment of joint command and control structures and elimination of terrorist threats".

**Source: The Hindu**

**Q) Which of the following statement is incorrect with respect to the Loktak Lake?**

- a) It is the largest freshwater lake in Kerala.
- b) It is famous for the Phumdis floating over it.
- c) Keibul Lamjao National Park is also situated in the same lake.
- d) The lake comes under both Ramsar Site and under Montreux record.

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

**Q) Which of the following are the initiatives for the welfare and upliftment of the minority Communities?**

- a) Hamari Darohar
- b) Nai Manzil
- c) Nai Udaan
- d) Naya Savera
- e) USTAAD

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- USTAAD: The Scheme aims at upgrading Skills and Training in preservation of traditional Ancestral Arts/Crafts of minorities.
- Hamari Dharohar: The Scheme aims to preserve the rich heritage of minority communities in the context of Indian culture.
- Nai Manzil: A bridge course to bridge the academic and skill development gaps of the deeni Madrasa passouts with their mainstream counterparts.
- Nai Udaan: Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), State Public Service Commission (PSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), etc
- Naya Savera: The Scheme aims to provide free coaching to students/candidates belonging to minority communities for qualifying in entrance examinations of technical/medical professional courses and various competitive examinations

**UPSC - CSE****OUR PROGRAMS TARGETING 2022 – 23****OFFLINE / ONLINE****COURSES OFFERED****ANTHROPOLOGY OPTIONAL COURSES**

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