



C.A Dated On 18th June 2018

General Studies-1

Monsoon in india:

What is the status?

In the fortnight since the start of the monsoon, India has recorded nearly 55 mm of rain, or 16% more than what's usual for this time of the year.

The bulk of it has been over south and central India, with the northeastern States so far registering a 24% deficit.

After an early onset and quick advance, the monsoon has stalled and will remain so for at least a week, say meteorologists.

Because the southern branch of the monsoon has stalled, it is causing heavy rain in Goa, coastal Karnataka and Kerala. The latter has seen 44 cm, nearly 49% more than what it gets in the first fortnight of June. This has led to widespread havoc.

Has lightning activity been high?

Lightning, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), is the leading cause of accidental deaths in India attributable to the forces of nature.

The NCRB's most updated report, from 2015, says that of the 10,510 accidental deaths attributable to natural causes, 25.1% were due to lightning, 18.2% due to heat/sun stroke and 10.9% due to exposure to cold.

Therefore, in any given year lightning is a serious killer.

This year, however, May — which is not a monsoon month — saw nearly 300 deaths due to lightning in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Because of unusual convective activity, Even pre-monsoon rain can contribute to massive cloudbuildups and trigger widespread lightning strikes.

Can lightning forecasts be improved?



C.A Dated On 18th June 2018

Lightning and thunderstorms are an extremely 'local' phenomenon with impact spreading no more than a few kilometres.

Also they tend to occur rather suddenly and are therefore beyond the range of the weather radars.

It is possible for the meteorological department to warn of the likelihood of thunderstorms and lightning over a district or a city about a day in advance but street-level or area-wise accuracy remains a stretch.

While the build-up of clouds is known to be a factor, much more improved weather modelling is required to give accurate warnings about an impending strike in, say, a small town or village.

The best way around this is precaution.

What's in store?

The IMD said in May that India would get 97% of the 89 cm it gets during the monsoon months.

Rainfall is expected to be normal in July at 101% of the historical average and 94% in August.

However, this does not quite capture the extreme variability of the monsoon. Like most years, some parts of the country are going to see dangerous floods and some regions a crippling drought. T

hough the monsoon has stalled for a while, experts have said that because there is no threat from major climate factors — like an El Nino — there are no large-scale deficiencies expected.

Biggest petroglyph site in Andhra Pradesh Discovered:

Kandanathi, a tiny village located about 5-km south of Yemmiganur mandal headquarters in the district, is the biggest petroglyph site in Andhra Pradesh, an exploration by an archaeology researcher of Yogi Vemana University has revealed.

The petroglyphs had attracted the attention of scholars in 2015-16.



C.A Dated On 18th June 2018

About the Site:

The site discovered has rock art with engravings, and peckings and bruising, predominantly of humped bulls and also of human figures, at Kandanathi dating back to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and pre-historic periods.

Kandanathi has the first biggest explored petroglyph site in the State with the detection of nearly 200 engravings, peckings and bruising,

Maximum depictions are outlined. A few are flat wash, and the depicted figures are that of a tiger, streak of tigers, leopards, camels, bulls, elephants and horses, scenes of riders on bulls, camels and horses, hunting scenes with bow and arrow, sword and dagger etc.

Carnival scene

There was a carnival scene with humans playing musical instruments such as 'dolu' and 'kommu'.

There were several depictions of bulls with various sizes of horns and humps, and in association with riders.

In addition, there were plenty of figures of animals and humans drawn on boulders such as goats, monkeys, dogs etc.

About Kandanathi:

"Kandanathi is located at the foot of a hillock, locally called Nalla Kondalu, having hummocky masses varying from large blocks to boulders on which petroglyphs were depicted, and most of them are facing east.

The peak of the hillock has remains of a mutilated "buruju," possibly dating to the Vijayanagara period (1336-1670 AD).

The earliest discovery of petroglyphs (bruising) was on the Kupgallu Hill in Bellary district of Karnataka by Fawcett in the year 1892.



C.A Dated On 18th June 2018

Later, Bruce Foote had discovered some more bruising and engravings at the Kupgallu Hill site, he said.

Kurnool district is one of the richest zones of the prehistoric centres in the world for early human activities, and throws valuable insight into the past culture and cultural continuity to the archaeologist.

The petroglyphs at Kandanthi reveal the presence of the Boya community divided into many exogamous groups such as Mandla (herdsmen) and Yenubothula (buffalomen)..

What is a Petroglyph:

Petroglyphs are images created by removing part of a [rock](#) surface by incising, picking, carving, or [abrading](#), as a form of [rock art](#).

Petroglyphs are found worldwide, and are often associated with [prehistoric](#) peoples.

The word comes from the [Greek](#) word *petro-*, theme of the word "petra" meaning "stone", and *glyphein* meaning "to carve", and was originally coined in French as *pétroglphe*.

General studies-2

Governing Council of NITI Aayog

Why in News?

The fourth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhavan today.



C.A Dated On 18th June 2018

The First Meeting was held on 8 February 2015, at which the Prime Minister laid down the key mandates of NITI Aayog such as fostering cooperative federalism and addressing national issues through active participation of the States.

About the Governing Council of NITI Aayog

The Governing Council of NITI Aayog comprises the Prime Minister of India, Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with Legislatures and Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and four Union Ministers as ex-officio members and three Union Ministers as Special Invitees.

It is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States in shaping the development narrative.

The NITI Aayog has been mandated with fostering cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.

It seeks to design and assist the implementation of strategic, long-term policy frameworks and programme initiatives, and also monitor their progress and efficacy.

The Governing Council, which embodies these objectives of cooperative federalism, presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the national development agenda, in the spirit of *Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat*.

India-UK Visa issue:

Britain's efforts to reform the visa application process for international students from a number of countries will not extend to India — a development that highlights recent strains in the bilateral relations between the two countries since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to London earlier this year.

What is the Issue?



C.A Dated On 18th June 2018

Announcing a wider overhaul of the U.K. [immigration](#) regime, the British government said it would be expanding the list of countries from which students would be able to provide reduced documentation when applying for Tier 4 student visas to include China and other countries, including Bahrain, Indonesia, and the Maldives. However, India was not on the list.

What does it mean for Indians?

While India remains the third largest country for whom student visas were granted in 2017 — an increase of 27% on the year before — the numbers remain sharply down on a longer term perspective.

In 2010, over 60,000 visas were granted to students from India.

What is Tier-4 Visa?

The UK operates a points-based immigration system underpinned by the principle of **visa** sponsorship.

A **Tier 4 visa** is issued to study in the UK. The sponsor for **Tier 4** purposes is the educational institution where the student will study. The **visa** is issued for a particular course at the institution.

What Might be the Reason?

The exclusion of Indian students from the reforms had to be seen in the context of the recent heightening of tensions and India's decision — at Sushma Swaraj's behest — not to sign an MoU on the return of illegal migrants that Britain had sought, during Mr. Modi's April trip.

During her visit to India in 2016, British Prime Minister Theresa May said the U.K. would consider an improved visa deal, "if, at the same time, we can step up the speed and volume of returns of Indians with no right to remain in the U.K."

General Studies-3

GST leads to Formalization of Economy and Widening of Tax Base



C.A Dated On 18th June 2018

Historic tax reform, the Goods and Service Tax (GST), has resulted in formalization of economy and consequently information flow would eventually augment not only the Indirect Tax collections but also Direct Tax collections.

How did GST helped?

In the past, the Centre had little data on small manufacturers and consumption because the excise was imposed only at the manufacturing stage while the States had little data on the activities of local firms outside their borders.

Under the GST, there will be now seamless flow of availability of common set of data to both the Centre and the States making Direct and Indirect Tax collections more effective.

There are early signs of tax base expansion. Between June and July 2017, 6.6 lakh new agents, previously outside the tax net, sought GST registration.

This is expected to rise consistently as the incentives for formalization increase.

Further, a segment of land and real estate transactions has also been brought into tax net.

This in turn would allow for greater transparency and formalization of cement, steel and other sales which earlier tended to be outside the tax net.

The formalization will occur because builder will need documentation of these input purchases to claim tax credit.

Objectives of GST:

The introduction of GST, a common Indirect Tax for both the States as well as the Central Government with its end to end digitization of all processes, is the biggest reform measure which is already creating more jobs in formal sector



C.A Dated On 18th June 2018

and eliminating transactions which are not recorded earlier in the books of accounts and thus, were outside the tax net so far.

GST is designed to bring about better tax compliance and transparency in tax system.

It is putting a premium on honesty. It would make increasingly difficult for those (who are liable to pay tax) to remain outside the tax net.

Trial of Dhanush Completed:

The indigenously upgraded artillery gun Dhanush has successfully completed final user trials and is ready for induction into the Army.

Dhanush is an upgraded version of the Swedish Bofors gun procured by India in the mid-1980s.

This was the third and final phase of user exploitation firings in which six Dhanush guns were fired in battery formation from May 31 to June 7, 2018 at the Pokhran field firing range.

The first phase of trials were conducted between July and September 2016 at the Pokhran and Babina ranges and the second phase was conducted between October and December 2016 at the Siachen base camp with three guns.

Tested in all terrains

During the trials, the guns travelled extensively in towed/ self-propelled mode in desert and high-altitude terrains with each gun clocking over 1,000 km demonstrating their mobility.

About Dhanush:



C.A Dated On 18th June 2018

Indigenous firepower

A look at Dhanush, an upgraded version of the Swedish Bofors gun which was procured by India in the mid-1980s



It is a 155-mm, 45-calibre gun with a range of 36 km, and has demonstrated a range of 38 km with specialised ammunition. It is also compatible with all North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) 155 mm ammunition systems

SPECIFICATIONS

Length 45 caliber

Crew 6-8

Caliber* 155 mm

Breech: Screw type

Recoll: Electro-rheological/
Magneto-rheological

Elevation: -3 to 70 degree

RATE OF FIRE

Burst: 3 rounds in 15 seconds

Intense: 15 rounds in 3 minutes

Sustained: 60 rounds in 60 min

Maximum firing range 38 km

* (DIAMETER OF THE PROJECTILE
IT SHOOTS)

As of now, the gun has over 80% indigenous content.

The imported systems include the power pack, parts of the electronic suite, and some seals and bearings.