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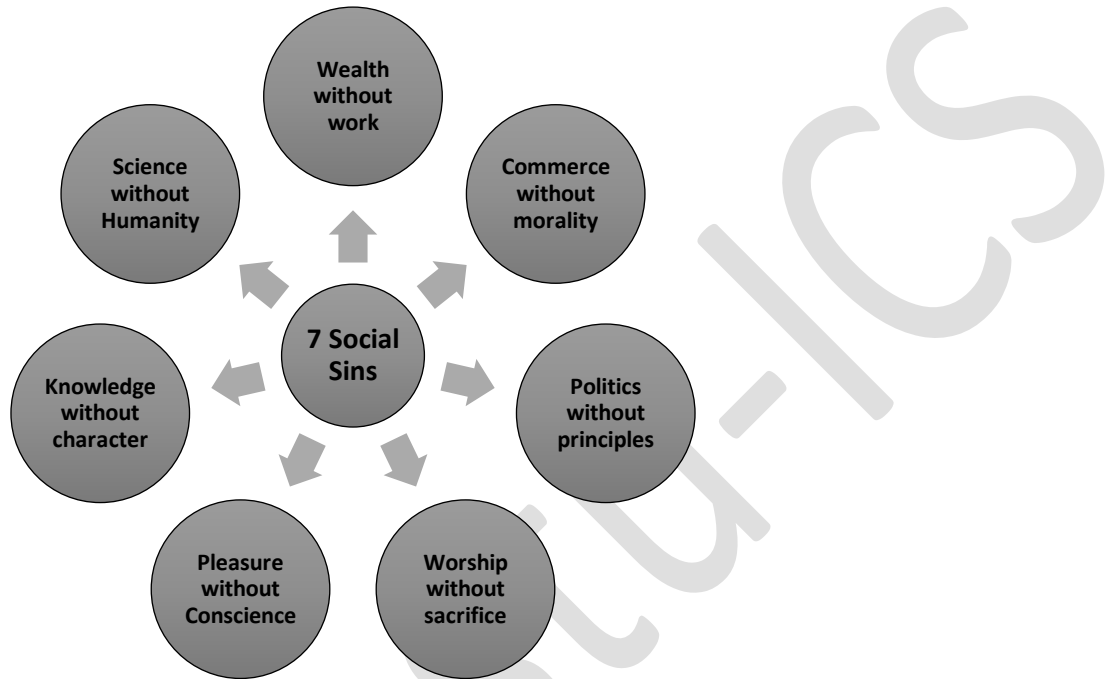
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Mahatma Gandhi's concept of 7 Sins

Background:

- Mahatma Gandhi published a list of **Seven Social Sins** in his weekly newspaper **Young India** on October 22, 1925. The same list was given to his grandson, Arun Gandhi, written on a piece of paper on their final day together shortly before his assassination.

What are the 7 social sins?



1. Politics without Principles

- Engaging in politics **without considering the principles** that guide your actions. When politicians give up the pursuit of truth, they are sure to be doomed. For example, Partisan politics, lobbying, corruption and any other form of malpractice.

2. Wealth without work

- This idea originates from ancient Indian practice of tenant farmers (Zamindari)
- It refers to **making wealth by unfair means**, by taking shortcuts. For example, tax evasion, scams, insider trading, black money etc.
- Gandhi says as capitalism and materialism are spreading so rapidly, the grey area between an honest day's hard work and sitting back and profiting from other people's labour is increasing widely.

3. Pleasure without Conscience

- Gandhi believed that **pleasure must come from within the soul and excitement from serving the needy, from caring for the family, and children.**
- Today, people resort to drugs to crave their inner satisfaction but that comes at a cost to your health and cost to the society in more ways than one. Thus, Gandhi refers to pleasure without conscience as a social sin.

4. Knowledge without character

- When **education emphasizes on career-building and not character-building** it is incomplete. When one is not able to understand one's own self, how will one understand the philosophy of life?
- Even Bruce Lee said, "Knowledge will give you power, but character respect."

5. Commerce without morality

- Conducting business **without considering the moral implications** of your actions.
- Price gouging, selling off inferior products, making false claims are few ways in which we indulge in commerce without morality.

6. Science without humanity

- If science becomes all technique and technology, it quickly degenerates into man against humanity. Technologies come from the paradigms of science. And if there's very little understanding of the higher human purposes that the technology is striving to serve, we become victims of our own technocracy.

7. Religion without Sacrifice

- Without sacrifice we may become active in a church but remain inactive in its gospel. In other words, we go for the social facade of religion and the piety of religious practices. There is no real walking with people or going the second mile or trying to deal with our social problems that may eventually undo our economic system.
- It takes sacrifice to serve the needs of other people - the sacrifice of our own pride and prejudice, among other things.

Lymphatic Filariasis

News: Climate change, a major threat to global health, has had the most vulnerable effects on lymphatic filariasis (LF).

What is LF?

- LF is a **mosquito-borne disease** that causes chronic swelling of the limbs, known as elephantiasis. It is a major cause of disability and disfigurement, and can also lead to social exclusion.
- LF is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in India, affecting about **670 million people in 336 districts**.

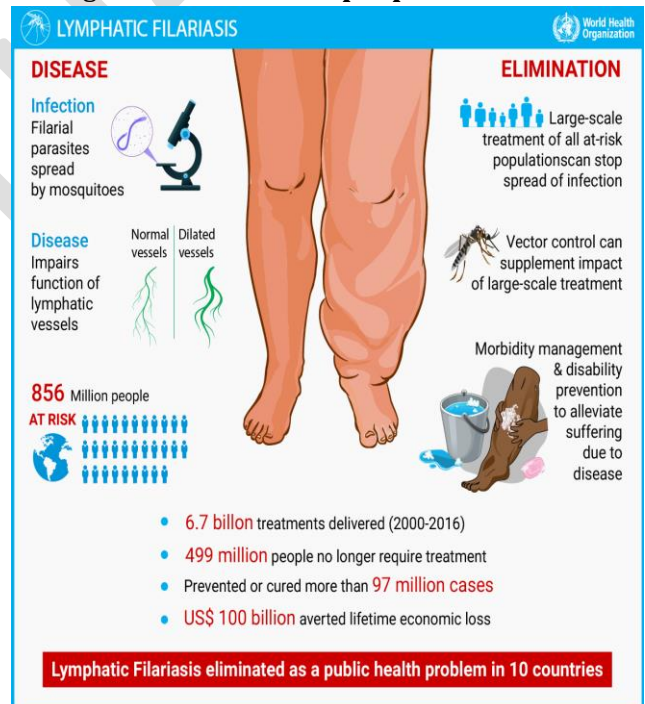
How does Climate change affect LF?

- Rising temperatures will allow mosquitoes to expand their range to higher altitudes and latitudes. This will put more people at risk of infection, as well as increase the transmission season in some areas.
- Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts. These events can damage mosquito breeding sites and disrupt vector control efforts, leading to outbreaks of LF.
- Climate change is also expected to lead to changes in rainfall patterns, which could affect the availability of breeding sites for mosquitoes. This could make it more difficult to control LF transmission in some areas.

Where is it prevalent most in India? What steps have been taken to prevent LF?

- Lymphatic filariasis is endemic in India and is seen most commonly in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- The Indian government has taken several steps to control the disease. The **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme** under the Ministry of Health is running an elimination programme for lymphatic filariasis with the World Health Organization, Gates Foundation and other partner NGOs.
- Mass drug administration campaigns provide an annual dose of anti-filarial drugs to those in endemic zones. The treatment is a few pills taken once a year for five years.
- The **triple drug therapy** that administers a single dose of three anti-filarial drugs: **Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine and Albendazole** (IDA), is a radical step towards intensifying LF prevention efforts and the Government of India is committed to scale-up these efforts across the country in 21 of 37 endemic states and UTs.

Source – India Today



UNODC World Drug Report 2023

News: The UNODC World Drug Report 2023 (a yearly report) highlights the expanding illicit drug markets and the challenges they pose to health services and law enforcement.

Key Findings:

- **Over 296 million people** worldwide used drugs in 2021, a 23% increase over the past decade.
- The number of people who suffer from drug use disorders has reached **39.5 million**, a **45 per cent increase over 10 years**.
- **Only one in five people** suffering from drug-related disorders were in treatment for drug use in 2021 with widening disparities in access to treatment across regions.
- Youth populations are the most vulnerable to using drugs and are also more severely affected by substance use disorder in several regions.
- Large inequalities in access and availability of controlled drugs for medical use persist, particularly for pain management. The disparity is particularly prevalent between the global North and South, and across urban and rural areas.
- Drug trafficking is **accelerating environmental devastation**, particularly in the **Amazon Basin**. The production of illicit drugs contributes to **deforestation, pollution, and the use of harmful chemicals**, leading to ecological harm and the loss of biodiversity.

Recommendations:

- The report calls for increased monitoring of public health impacts as regulatory changes and clinical trials involving psychedelics progress.
- Prioritizing public health, prevention, and access to treatment services worldwide to ensure that drug challenges do not leave more people behind.

About UNODC:

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a United Nations office that was established in 1997 as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.
- It was created by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division in the United Nations Office at **Vienna**.
- UNODC works to make the world a place without the dangers of drug abuse and the crimes following it. It also works to improve crime prevention and to assist with criminal justice reform in a number of countries.

Financing the Green Transition

News: “Financing the Green Transition” is the cornerstone of the global shift towards sustainability. At the **Paris Finance Summit**, world leaders addressed the financial disparities impeding this transition, particularly for developing nations.

Background:

- The editorial is covered in context of recently concluded ‘**Global Financial Pact on Climate Change**’ in Paris.

What is Green Transition?

- The green transition is a general concept of moving from a carbon-based economy to a more sustainable economy. Many organizations, countries and businesses are pursuing a green transition in order to align with the global decarbonization goals of 2030 and 2050.
- The key elements of the green transition include – shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, sustainable agriculture and forestry, circular economy, and green infrastructure.

What is the need for Green Transition?

- It is key to **tackling Climate change** and **creating sustainable economies**.
- Renewable energy is now the **cheapest form of energy**, and capacity is set to rise significantly over the next few decades.

- The energy transition offers a great window of opportunity for **economic well-being, employment and social development**.
- The **finite nature of fossil fuels** and their impending depletion necessitate the shift towards renewable energy sources.
- **Air pollution**, primarily caused by burning fossil fuels, is causing a **public health crisis**, with millions of premature deaths each year.
- The **alarming rate of biodiversity loss**, as highlighted in the “Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”, demands an immediate shift towards more sustainable practices.

What steps have been taken by India in its quest for Green Transition?

- In 2019, India announced that it would take up its installed capacity of renewable energy to 450 GW by 2030.
- India, as a developing nation with growing energy demands, has set a goal of **achieving net-zero emissions by 2070**.
- In the Budget 2023-24, the government identified “**Green Growth**” as one of its Saptrishi priority.
- **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)** – which looks after financing infrastructure needs emphasizes on Sustainable and climate-resilient development.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has introduced guidelines for banks and Non-Bank Financial Companies (NBFCs) to accept “**green deposits**”. These funds are allocated towards **environmentally sustainable projects**, such as **energy efficiency, clean transportation, sustainable water and waste management** etc.
- The Indian government has authorized **100% annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** for **renewable power generation and distribution projects**.

What are initiatives taken at Global level?

- **Role of Multilateral Development Banks** – Announced for additional lending capacity of \$200 billion for emerging economies at the summit.
- **World Bank** – It supported pausing loan repayments for countries struggling with climate disasters.
- **The IMF** announced **Special Drawing Rights (SDR)** of \$ 100 billion to Global South.
- There was significant support for the **imposition of taxes on polluting industries** such as shipping.
- **The European Union** unveiled a call to action on ‘**Paris Aligned Carbon Markets**’ with a goal of covering at least 60% of global emissions with carbon pricing mechanisms and allocating a proportion of revenues to climate finance.

Way Forward

- As far as India is concerned, we must frame regulations that are friendly for private investors who are willing to invest in renewable energy projects.
- Tap the potential options through Green Climate Fund and Global Environment facility.
- Upgrading India’s technological capabilities is key to making the green transition cost-effective.

Climate Change Impact on Domestic Violence?

News: Domestic violence will rise as temperatures across the Indian subcontinent spike. In fact, such instances are already increasing, according to study published in the journal JAMA Psychiatry.

Background:

- An international team of researchers from China, Pakistan, Australia, Germany, Tanzania, the United Kingdom and the United States found epidemiological evidence that high ambient temperature may be associated with the risk of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against women.

Key Findings:

- They found **each 1 °C increase** in the annual mean temperature associated with a **mean increase in IPV prevalence of 4.49 per cent**.

- The prevalence of physical violence was highest (23.0 per cent), followed by emotional (12.5 per cent), and sexual violence (9.5 per cent). The annual temperature ranges were mostly between 20°C and 30°C.

How does increasing temperature increase IPV occurrence?

- Increasing temperature is squeezing working hours, directly impacting the income of daily wage earners.
- All members of the family are being forced to spend maximum time within the house, increasing the workload for women.
- Increasing temperature also generated requirements for comfort which low-income groups and economically weaker sections cannot afford.
- High temperature also has a direct impact on mental health. All of this is contributing to domestic violence.

Source - DowntoEarth