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Theri Desert

Why in Newspapers?

There are some debated theories regarding the formation of the Theri desert, the most reliable of which is the role of southwest monsoon winds.

Quick Issue?

- It is a small desert located in the state of Tamil Nadu. It consists of red sand dunes and is confined to Thoothukudi district.
- The red mounds are called 'Theri' in Tamil. These include sediments from the Quaternary era (beginning 2.6 million years ago) and are composed of marine deposits.
- It has very little water and nutrient holding capacity. Dunes are susceptible to aerodynamic bulges. It is the pressure that allows something to go up. It is the force which is opposite to the load.

Historical Background?

- Petrographic study (petrography is the study of the structure and properties of rocks) and X-ray diffraction analysis of red sand dunes (a method used to determine the crystallographic composition of a material) of the presence of heavy and light minerals It shows.
- These include: ilmenite, magnetite, rutile, garnet, zircon, diopside, tourmaline, hematite, goethite, kyanite, quartz, feldspar and biotite.
- Iron-rich heavy minerals present in the soil such as ilmenite, magnetite, garnet, hypersthene and rutile were leached from surface waters and then oxidized due to favorable semi-arid climatic conditions.
- It was due to these processes that the mounds near Tiruchendur, a coastal town in Thoothukudi district, are red in colour.
- Theri appears as a soft, wavy area. Lithology (the study of the general physical characteristics of rocks) suggests that this area may have been a paleo (ancient) coast in the past. Presence of limestone at many places indicates marine encroachment.
- Present-day Theris may have been formed by locally delimitation of beach sand, following the regression of the ocean. When high velocity winds from the Western Ghats moved east, they induced the accumulation of sand grains and dunes.

Other Key Facts?

Mineral composition of Theris

- Analysis of red sand dunes reveals the presence of heavy and light minerals.
- These include ilmenite, magnetite, rutile, garnet, zircon, diopside, tourmaline, hematite, goethite, kyanite, quartz, feldspar, biotite.
- Iron-rich heavy minerals present in the soil such as ilmenite, magnetite, garnet, hypersthene and rutile were leached from the surface water.
- They then got oxidised due to favourable semi-arid climatic conditions.



- Another view is that these are geological formations that appeared over a period of a few hundred years.
- A lot of red sand is spread over these theris. The red sand is brought by the southwest monsoon winds during May-September from the surface of a wide belt of red loam in the plains of Nanguneri region (about 57 km from this area of Tirunelveli district).
- Deforestation and absence of vegetative cover are considered to be the main causes of wind erosion.
- When the dry monsoon wind blows at high velocity, the red loam is carried eastwards along the huge pillars of red sand until they meet with the sea air near the coastal tract of Tiruchendur. Go.
- This process of erosion, transport and deposition of sediments caused by wind on or near the Earth's surface is called 'Aeolian' process.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Consider the following statements about Theri Desert:

1. These include: ilmenite, magnetite, rutile, garnet, zircon, diopside, tourmaline, hematite, goethite, kyanite, quartz, feldspar and biotite.
2. Heavy iron-rich minerals present in the soil such as ilmenite, magnetite, garnet, hypersthene and rutile were leached from surface waters and then oxidized due to favorable semi-arid climatic conditions.
3. It was because of these processes that the mounds near Tiruchendur, a coastal town in Thoothukudi district, turn red in colour.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) 1, 2 and 3 are all true | (d) all are false |

Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3 are all true

INDORE

International Yoga Day

Why in Newspapers?

International Yoga Day is celebrated every year on 21st June across the world, its purpose is to spread awareness about the benefits of yoga and to make people aware of their health.

Quick Issue?

- International Yoga Day was first celebrated in the year 2015. The purpose of celebrating this day is to raise global awareness about the benefits of practicing yoga.
- Theme : Yoga For Humanity - This year's theme focuses on the importance of yoga in the time of global pandemic.
- With most of the countries around the world adhering to the norms of lockdown and social distancing, many economic activities have come to a halt, which negatively impacts both mental and physical health of individuals as a result of stress due to job insecurity, financially etc. Huh.
- As a means of improving health in this time of uncertainty, yoga has benefits that can help a person cope with stress by increasing mental peace, flexibility and fitness. Yoga can be learned and practiced from home through various online resources available on the internet.

Other Key Facts?

Other efforts of India in this regard

- The Ministry of AYUSH in its 'General Yoga Protocol' has listed Yamas, Niyama, Asanas etc. in the popular Yoga 'Sadhana'.
- The Beauty and Wellness Sector Skill Council (B&WSSC) includes vocational education curriculum in Yoga for CBSE schools.
- B&WSSC has been set up as a non-profit organization under the aegis of National Skill Development Corporation, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- Thousands of candidates have been trained as Yoga Instructors through various skilling initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- PMKVY is an ambitious scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- Yoga is also a part of 'Fit India Movement'.
- The Fit India Movement is a nationwide campaign aimed at encouraging people to include physical activities and sports in their daily lives.

Historical Background?

- On December 11, 2014, during the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly, a resolution was passed to celebrate 21 June as International Day of Yoga/World Yoga Day.
- Addressing this session of the United Nations General Assembly, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a proposal related to the declaration of World Yoga Day in this session of the United Nations General Assembly, informing the world about the importance of yoga and recognizing yoga in the world. Gone.
- After this appeal of the Prime Minister, in this meeting of 123 members of the United Nations General Assembly, the proposal for International Day of Yoga was placed in which representatives of 177 countries signed this proposal and this proposal was approved.



- International Yoga Day was first organized globally in the year 2015. This year it is the sixth time that International Yoga Day has been organized all over the world.
- According to Indian culture and tradition, after the summer solstice, the sun turns south, after which June 21 is considered the longest day of the year.
- On June 21, the sun rises a little early and sets late.
- In Indian tradition, the time of Dakshinayana is considered to be a very favourable time for attaining spiritual learning.
- On December 11, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly also recognized 21 June as International Day of Yoga / World Yoga Day.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. When was the first International Yoga Day celebrated in India?

- (A) 21 June 2014 (B) 21 June 2015
(C) 21st June 2016 (D) None of the above

Ans. (B) 21 June 2015

Que. Why is International Yoga Day celebrated only on 21st June?

- (A) June 21 is the day of summer solstice
(B) June 21 is the longest day in the entire calendar year
(C) Both A and B
(D) None of the above

Ans. (C) Both A and B

Que. Who is known as the father of Yoga?

- (A) Patanjali (B) Shiva
(C) Brahma (D) Tirumalai Krishnamacharya

Ans. (B) Shiva

Que. Which Veda mentions about Yoga?

- (A) Atharvaveda (B) Rigveda
(C) Samaveda (D) Yajurveda

Ans. (B) Rigveda

Que. Which International Yoga Day event set a Guinness World Record?

- (A) 21st June, 2015 (B) 21st June, 2014
(C) 21st June, 2016 (D) None of the above

Ans. (A) June 21, 2015

Que. Which ministry organizes the International Festival of Yoga in India?

- (A) Ministry of AYUSH
(B) Ministry of Civil Aviation
(C) Ministry of Communications



(D) Ministry of Human Resource and Development

Ans. (A) Ministry of AYUSH

Que. What do you understand by the word Doga?

(A) Doga is not a form of Yoga

(B) Doga is a type of yoga using dogs as props

(C) Doga is related to dogs

(D) All the options given above are wrong

Ans. (B) Doga is a type of yoga using dogs as props

