

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE for



U.P.S.C. - C.S.E.

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Success is born of action...

Topic 1:LOKAYUKTA

Importance for Prelims: Polity

Nearly seven months once the previous Lokayukta retired from his post, retired metropolis high court justice Ambadas Joshi took charge because the new province Lokayukta.

- The Lokayukta is an anti-corruption authority grooved at the state level.
- It investigates allegations of corruption and mal-administration against publicservants and is tasked with speedy redressal of public grievances.
- The origin of the Lokayukta will be copied to the Ombudsmen in Scandinaviancountries.
- The body Reforms Commission, (1966-70), had counseled thecreation of the Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta within the states.
- The Lokayukta is formed as a statutory authority underneath Lokpal and Lokayukta Act,2013to modify it to discharge its functions severally and impartially.
- The lokayukta and upalokayukta are appointed by the governor of the state. Whileappointing, the governor in most of the states consults (a) the chief justice of thestate high court, and (b) the leader of Opposition within the state assembly.
- Judicial qualifications are prescribed for the lokayukta within the States of UttarPradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Karnataka and Assam.
- But no specific qualifications are prescribed within the states of Bihar,Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- In most of the states, the term of workplace fastened for lokayukta is of five years period or65 years getting on, whichever is earlier. he's not eligible for reappointment for asecond term.
- The recommendations created by the lokayukta are only consultatory and

not binding on the regime.

Topic 2. SOVEREIGN CREDIT RATINGS

Importance for Prelims: Economics

S&P	Fitch	Moody's	Grade
AAA	AAA	Aaa	Investment grade: <i>Prime</i>
AA+	AA+	Aa1	<i>High Grade</i>
AA	AA	Aa2	
AA-	AA-	Aa3	
A+	A+	A1	<i>Upper Medium Grade</i>
A	A	A2	
A-	A-	A3	
BBB+	BBB+	Baa1	<i>Lower Medium Grade</i>
BBB	BBB	Baa2	
BBB- (India)*	BBB- (India)*	Baa3 (India)*	
BB+	BB+	Ba1	Non-Investment Grade: <i>Speculative</i>
BB	BB	Ba2	
BB-	BB-	Ba3	
B+	B+	B1	<i>Highly Speculative</i>
B	B	B2	
B-	B-	B3	
CCC+	CCC+	Caa1	<i>Substantial Risk</i>
CCC	CCC	Caa2	
CCC-	CCC-	Caa3	
CC	CC	Ca	<i>Extremely speculative</i>
C	C	C	

S & P Global Ratings on Friday said India's credit rating would be retained at the current level for the next two years, and the country will see a slightly faster pace of growth in the next couple of years that will support its sovereign rating. S & P had last year retained India's rating at the lowest investment grade 'BBB-', with a stable outlook for the 13th year in a row.

- A credit rating is a quantified assessment of the creditworthiness of a

borrower in general terms or with respect to a particular debt or financial obligation.

- A credit rating can be assigned to any entity that seeks to borrow money—an individual, corporation, state or provincial authority, or sovereign government.
- A sovereign credit rating is an independent assessment of the creditworthiness of a country or sovereign entity.
- **Sovereign credit ratings** can give investors insights into the level of risk associated with investing in the debt of a particular country, including any political risk.
- Investors use sovereign credit ratings as a way to assess the riskiness of a particular country's bonds.
- Obtaining good sovereign credit rating is usually essential for developing countries in order to access funding in international bond markets.

Rating Agencies

- A rating agency is a company that assesses the financial strength of companies and government entities, especially their ability to meet principal and interest payments on their debts.
- The rating assigned to a given debt shows an agency's level of confidence that the borrower will honour its debt obligations as agreed.
- The Big Three Credit Rating Agencies: Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's (S&P) are the big three international credit rating agencies controlling approximately 95% of global ratings business.
- In India, there are six credit rating agencies registered under SEBI namely, CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, SMERA, Fitch India and Brickwork Ratings.

Role of Rating Agencies in Capital Markets

- Rating agencies assess the credit risk of specific debt securities and the

borrowing entities. In the bond market, a rating agency provides an independent evaluation of the creditworthiness of debt securities issued by governments and corporations.

- Rating agencies also give ratings to sovereign borrowers, who are the largest borrowers in most financial markets.
- Sovereign borrowers include national governments, state governments, municipalities, and other sovereign-supported institutions. The sovereign ratings given by a rating agency shows a sovereign's ability to repay its debt.
- The ratings help governments from emerging and developing countries to issue bonds to domestic and international investors.
- Governments sell bonds to obtain financing from other governments and Bretton Woods institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Topic 3. STATE OF WORKING INDIA REPORT 2021

Importance for Prelims: Important Reports

A report titled 'State of Working India 2021: One Year of Covid 19' brought out annually by Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment, Bengaluru has been released.

- The report covers the period March 2020 to December 2020, dwells on the impact of one year of Covid -19 on employment, incomes, inequality and poverty.

Impact on Employment:

- 100 million jobs were lost during the April-May 2020 lockdown.
- Though most of these workers had found employment by June 2020, about 15 million remained out of work.

Impact on Income:

- For an average household of four members, the monthly per capita income in October 2020 (Rs. 4,979) was still below its level in January 2020 (Rs. 5,989).
- Monthly earnings of workers fell on an average by 17% during the pandemic, with self-employed and informal salaried workers facing the highest loss of earnings.

Informalisation:

- Post-lockdown, nearly half of salaried workers had moved into informal work, either as self-employed (30%), casual wage (10%) or informal salaried (9%).

Regressive Nature of Economic Impact:

- The bottom 20% of households earned nothing in the months of April and May 2020.
- On the other hand, the top 10% suffered the least during the lockdown, and only lost about 20% of their February income during the lockdown.

months.

Disproportionate Impact on Women:

- During the lockdown and in the post lockdown months, 61% of working men remained employed while 7% lost their job and did not return to work.
- But in the case of women, only 19% remained employed while 47% suffered a permanent job loss, “not returning to work even by the end of 2020”.

Increase in Poverty Rate:

- The job loss and fall in earnings caused a large increase in poverty.
- Households coped with the loss of income by decreasing their food intake, selling assets and borrowing informally from friends, relatives and money lenders.
- With 230 million falling below the national minimum wage threshold of Rs. 375 per day during the pandemic, poverty rate has “increased by 15 percentage points in rural and nearly 20 percentage points in urban areas”.

Topic 4. GAVI

Importance for Prelims: International Organisations



India To Get Between 190 To 250 Million Subsidised Covid Vaccines: Gavi

GAVI

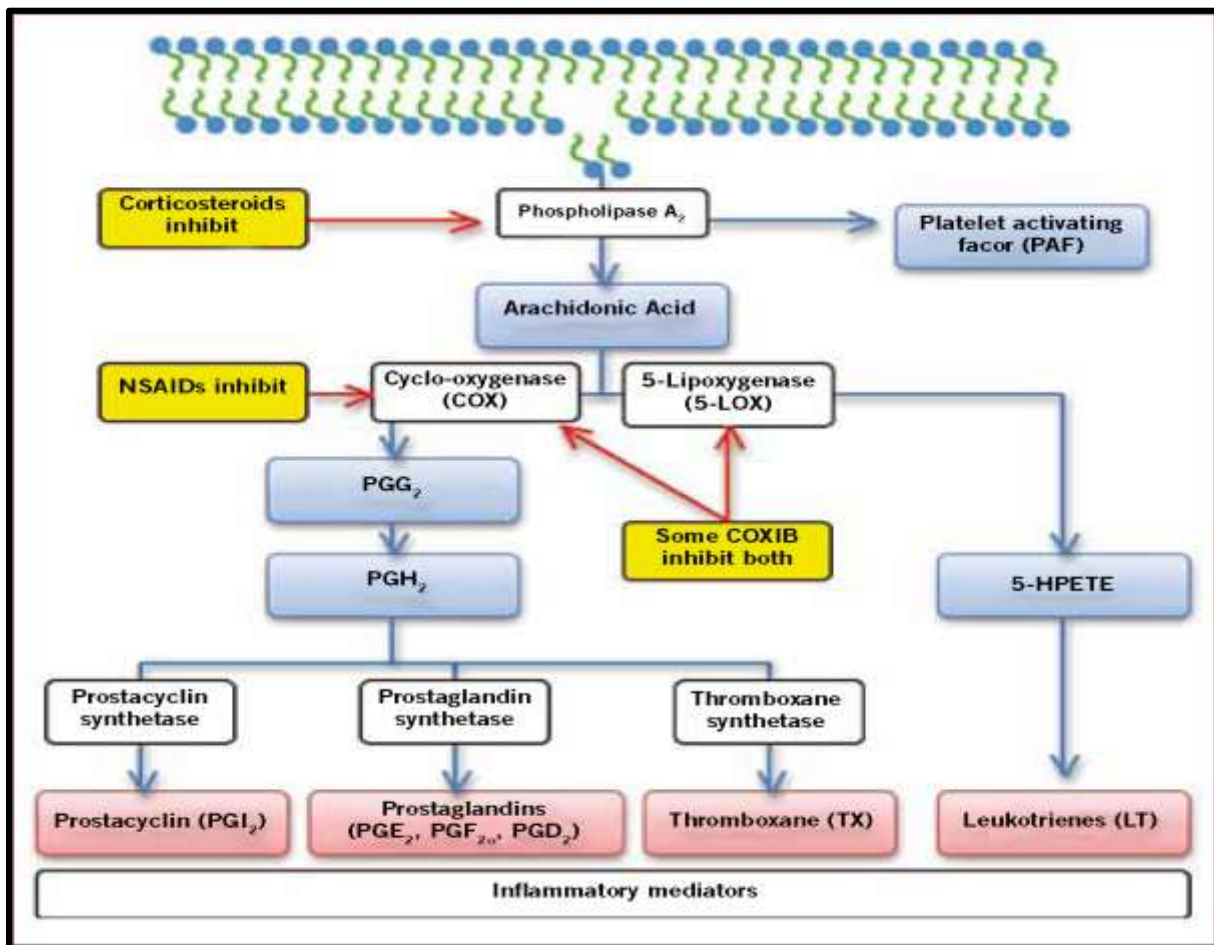
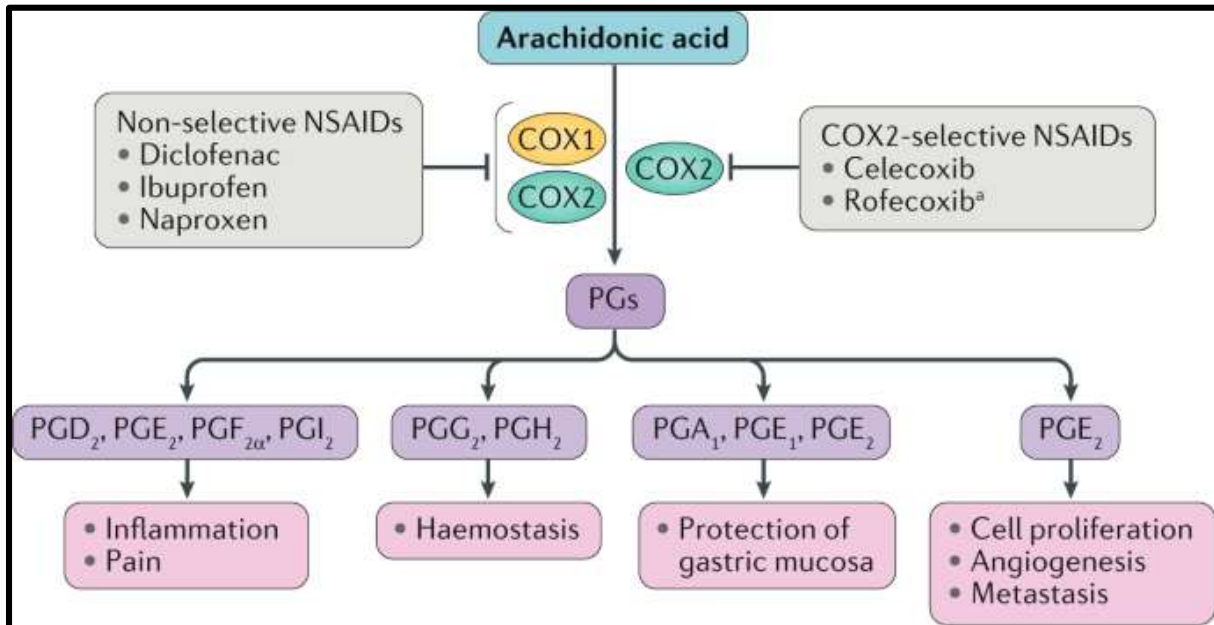
- Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization is a public-private global healthpartnership committed to increasing access to immunization in poor countries.
- It is a global Vaccine Alliance with the goal of creating equal access to new andunderused vaccines for children living in the world’s poorest countries.
- It does this by bringing together all the stakeholders – donor

governments, developing countries, World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, international finance and development organizations, and pharmaceutical industry –in one decision making body Gavi was launched in 2000.

- It is based in Geneva, Switzerland India started receiving support for its immunization programme from GAVI in 2002.
- Apart from that, India is the largest supplier of vaccines to GAVI.

Topic 5. NSAIDS

Importance for Prelims: Science & tech



The use of non-steroidal drugs medicine (NSAIDs), like ibuprofen, doesn't cause higher rates of death or severe illness in patients WHO square measure hospitalised with Covid-19, per a replacement data-based study of over seventy two,000 individuals within the United Kingdom revealed within the Lancet medicine journal.

- NSAIDs or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicine are those medications used forreducing pain (analgesic), decreasing fever (anti-pyretic), preventing blood clots(anti-thrombotic) and decreasing inflammation (anti-inflammatory).
- NSAIDs also are accustomed treat non-inflammatory conditions like headache, periodpain and surgical pain, and to scale back fever.
- Some normally used NSAIDs include: analgesic (such as Disprin), ibuprofen (suchas Nurofen) , Naprosyn (such as Naprosyn), diclofenac (such as Voltaren),celecoxib (such as Celebrex).

Concerns regarding NSAID Use

- Certain unwell effects are related to long run or serious use of NSAIDs. Itincreases the danger of urinary organ injury, longer prevalence of infections, longer timespan within which the virus is shed, etc.
- While it reduces the fever, it doesn't tackle the particular infection. The lowered fevermay short the immune system's defence against the infection.

Topic 6. MOUNT SINABUNG

Importance for Prelims: Geography



Recently, the Mount Sinabung has erupted once more and belching a massive column of volcanic ash and smoke 3,000 metres (3 km) into the sky.

Mount Sinabung

- It may be a Pleistocene-to-Holocene stratovolcano of igneous rock and dacite.
- It is found within the Karo highland of Karo Regency, North island, Indonesia.
- It is found on the seismically active zone referred to as the “Ring of Fire” i.e. an arc of volcanoes and fault lines peripheral the Pacific Ocean.

Why discharge is common in Indonesia?

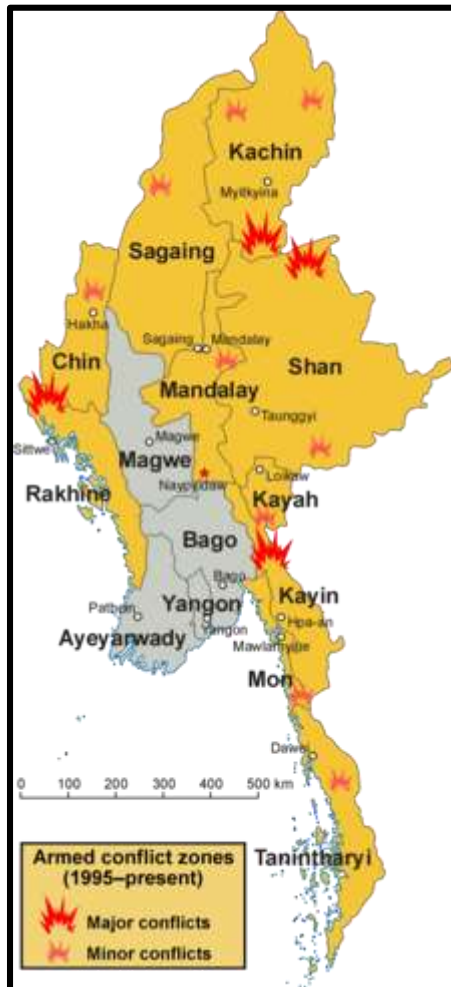
- Indonesia is home to several active volcanoes because of its position on the “Ring of Fire” or the Circum-Pacific Belt.
- The Circum Pacific Belt is a locality on the Pacific Ocean defined by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- The Ring of fire side is home to concerning 75 per cent of the world’s

volcanoes and concerning 90per cent of its earthquakes.

- It may be a horseshoe-shaped seismically active belt of earthquake epicentres, volcanoes, and tectonic plate boundaries that fringes the Pacific basin.
- It follows chains of island arcs like Tonga and new hebrides, the Indonesianarchipelago, the Philippines, Japan, the Kuril Islands, and therefore the Aleutians, further asother arc-shaped geomorphic options, like the western coast of North Americaand the andes Mountains.

Topic 7. KAREN CONFLICT

Importance for Prelims: International Relations



Guerrilla soldiers from Myanmar's Karen ethnic minority burned down government military outpost on Friday after capturing it without a fight when its garrison fled, a senior Karen officer said.

Karen Conflict

- Marginalised in then Burma's post-independence political process, the KNU started a rebellion in 1949, which it waged for nearly 70 years.
- One of its key grievances was the majority Bamar community's dominance of Myanmar's state and military.
- The conflict has been described as one of the world's "longest running civil wars".

- Karen insurgents have been fighting for an independent state known as Kawthoole since 1949.

Karen National Union

- The KNU is the dominant political organisation representing ethnic minority Karen communities in Karen, or Kayin, State, bordering Thailand.
- Its aim is self-determination for the Karen people in a region of about 1.6 million people, roughly the size of Belgium, where they are the ethnic majority in the state.

Topic 8 DEOXY-D-GLUCOSE (2-DG)

Importance for Prelims: Science & tech

Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved anti-COVID drug developed by DRDO for emergency use of this drug as adjunct therapy in moderate to severe covid cases.

- An anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) has been developed by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad.
- Clinical trial results have shown that this molecule helps in faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence.
- Higher proportion of patients treated with 2-DG showed RT-PCR negative conversion in COVID patients. The drug will be of immense benefit to the people suffering from COVID-19.
- The drug comes in powder form in sachet, which is taken orally by dissolving it in water. It accumulates in the virus infected cells and prevents virus growth by stopping viral synthesis and energy production.
- Its selective accumulation in virally infected cells makes this drug unique.

Adjunct Therapy

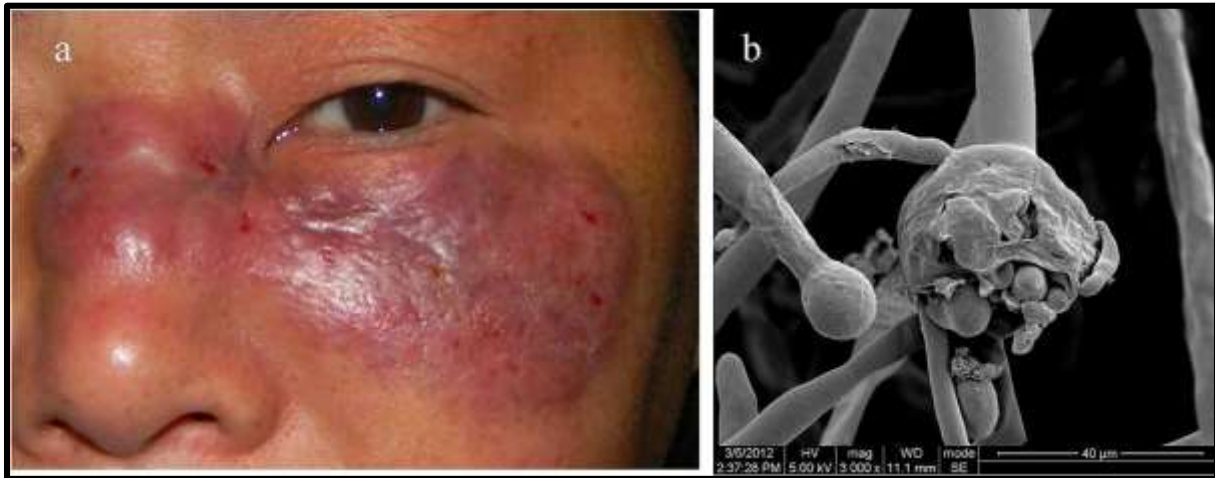
- Adjuvant therapy, also known as adjunct therapy, and adjuvant care, is therapy that is given in addition to the primary or initial therapy to maximize its effectiveness.
- The surgeries and complex treatment regimens used in cancer therapy have led the term to be used mainly to describe adjuvant cancer treatments.
- An example of such adjuvant therapy is the additional treatment [1]

usually given after surgery where all detectable disease has been removed, but where there remains a statistical risk of relapse due to the presence of undetected disease.

- If known disease is left behind following surgery, then further treatment is not technically adjuvant.
- An adjuvant used on its own specifically refers to an agent that improves the effect of a vaccine. Medications used to help primary medications are known as add-ons

Topic 9. MUCORMYCOSIS

Importance for Prelims: Science & tech



Niti Aayog member Dr VK Paul has said that mucormycosis called black plant affects those those that ar plagued by diabetes. Reacting to reports of mucormycosis or black plant among Covid-19 patients, he said, the infection affects solely those that have a high blood glucose level.

- Mucormycosis could be a terribly rare infection.
- It is caused by exposure to mould mould that is often found in soil, plants,manure, and decaying fruits and vegetables.
- It is ubiquitous and located in soil and air and even within the nose and secretion of healthypeople.
- It affects the sinuses, the brain ubiquitous lungs and might be grievous in diabetisor severely upset people, like cancer patients or peoplewith HIV/AIDS.
- Doctor believe mucormycosis, that has Associate in Nursing overall morbidity of 50, might bebeing triggered by the employment of steroids, a life-saving treatment for severe andcritically unwell Covid-19 patients.
- Steroids cut back inflammation within the lungs for Covid-19 and seem to assist stopsome of the harm that may happen once the body's system goes intooverdrive to fight coronavirus. however they also cut back

immunity and push up bloodsugar levels in each diabetics and non-diabetic Covid-19 patients.

- It's thought that this call in immunity can be triggering these cases of mucormycosis.

Topic 10. NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO STREAMLINE OXYGEN ALLOCATION

Importance for Prelims: Governance

The Supreme Court constituted a 12-member task force to assess availability and distribution of medical oxygen – on scientific, rational and equitable basis – across the country.

- The tenure of the task force shall be six months initially.
- The 12-member task force comprises Dr Bhabatosh Biswas, Dr Devender Singh Rana, Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, Dr Gagandeep Kang, Dr JV Peter; Dr Naresh Trehan, Dr Rahul Pandit, Dr Saumitra Rawat, Dr Shiv Kumar Sarin, Dr Zarir F Udawadia, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (ex officio member).
- Cabinet Secretary to the Union Government shall be the Convenor of the national task force.
- The task force will also make recommendations on augmenting the available supplies of oxygen, facilitate audits to determine whether the supplies allocated by the Union Government reach the State/UT concerned.
- It will also review and suggest measures necessary for ensuring the availability of essential drugs and medicines; plan and adopt remedial measures for ensuring preparedness to meet present and future emergencies which may arise during the pandemic.
- To promote evidence based research to enhance effective responses to the pandemic and facilitate the sharing of best practices across the nation to promote knowledge about the management of the pandemic and treatment of cases.
- The SC also asked the Union and state governments, ministries, agencies and departments to “provide complete and real time

data for facilitating the work of the task force “.

Topic 11. ARCTIC SCIENCE MINISTERIAL (ASM3)

Importance for Prelims: International Relations



India is participating in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) – the global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic region (8-9 May, 2021).

- The first two meetings—ASM1 and ASM2—were held in the USA in 2016 and Germany in 2018, respectively. ASM3, jointly organised by Iceland and Japan, is the first Ministerial meeting being held in Asia.
- The meeting is designed to provide opportunities to various stakeholders to enhance collective understanding of the Arctic region, emphasize and engage in constant monitoring, and strengthen observations.
- The theme for this year is ‘Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic’.

India and Arctic

- India’s engagement with the Arctic dates back to 1920 with the signing of the Svalbard Treaty in Paris. Since July 2008, India has a permanent research station in the Arctic called Himadri at Ny Alesund, Svalbard Area in Norway.

- Since 2013, India enjoys ‘Observer’ status in the Arctic Council with twelve other countries (Japan, China, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Spain, Netherlands, Singapore, and South Korea).
- It has also deployed a multi-sensor moored observatory called IndARC in the Kongsfjorden fjord since July 2014.
- The research in the Arctic region from India is coordinated, conducted, and promoted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.
- The launch of NISER (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite mission by India, in collaboration with the USA, is underway. NISER aims to conduct global measurements of the cause and consequences of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging.
- India’s contributions to the Sustained Arctic Observational Network (SAON) would continue.

Topic 12. CBIC

Importance for Prelims: National organisations



The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on Saturday allowed businesses to import and export goods without furnishing bonds to the customs authorities until June-end, a move aimed at ensuring no delay or disruption in EXIM trade due to COVID-19.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC):

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), formerly known as the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), is a one of the **Statutory Boards** constituted under the statute the Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963 (54 of 1963).
- It is subordinate to the **Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**
- It deals mainly with the tasks of formulation and implementation of policy concerning to the levy and collection of Customs duties, Central Excise duties and Goods & Services tax, prevention of smuggling and

administration of matters relating to Customs, Central Excise, Central Goods and Service Tax (CGST) and Narcotics to the extent under CBIC's purview.

- The Board is the administrative authority for its subordinate organizations, including Custom Houses, Central Goods and Services Commissionerates and the Central Revenues Control Laboratory.
- The CBIC is headed by a Chairman and has 6 members in addition to the Chairman. In the performance of its administrative and executive functions, the CBIC is assisted by Principal Chief Commissioners/Chief Commissioners and Principal Director Generals/Director Generals.
- The Principal Commissioners/ Commissioners working under the Principal Chief Commissioner/ Chief Commissioner's supervision also discharge executive functions.

Topic 13. JAIPUR ATRAULI GHARANA

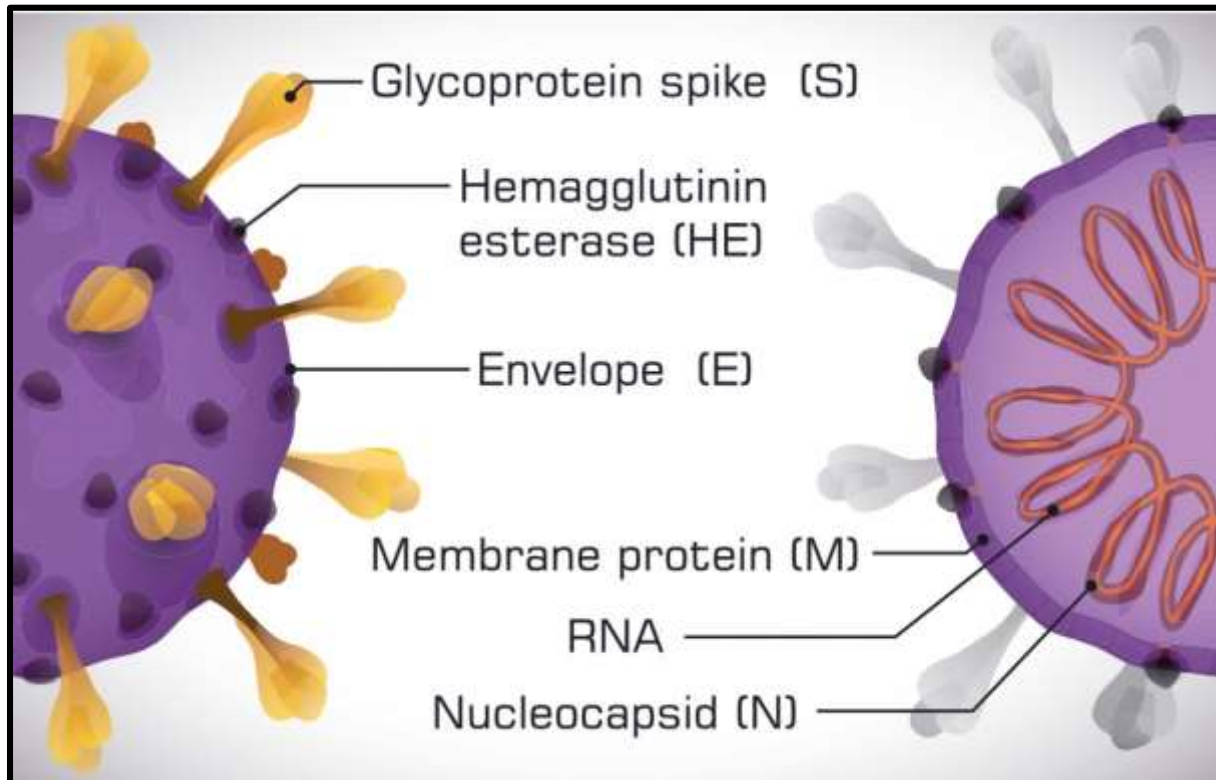
Importance for Prelims: Culture

Chaitanya Tamhane's film *The Disciple* opens with Pt Vinayak Pradhan (essayed deftly by Jaipur-Atrauli gharana classical singer Pt Arun Dravid) on the stage.

- The Atrauli-Jaipur Gharana (also known as the Atrauli Gharana, Jaipur Gharana, Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana, Alladiya Gharana and Alladiyakhani Gayaki) is a Hindustani music apprenticeship fraternity (gharana), founded by Alladiya Khan (1855–1946) in the late-19th century.
- Evolved from the dhrupad tradition, the Jaipur Gharana acquired its name and status in the early half of the 20th century as a result of the growing popularity of khayal singers such as Surashri Kesarbai Kerkar, Gaanatapaswini Mogubai Kurdikar, and Pt. Mallikarjun Mansur.
- With the immense popularity of musicians like Surashri Kesarbai Kerkar, the Gharana earned a reputation as a leading representative of Hindustani classical music.
- The gharana is known for its distinctive vocal aesthetics, raga repertoire, and technical aptitude.

Topic 14. N PROTEIN

Importance for Prelims: Science & tech



Studies of the coronavirus have mostly centered on its ‘spike’ macromolecule. a new study from IISER Bhopal has found that alternative proteins, specifically, the nucleocapsid or ‘N’ macromolecule may additionally be to blame for the infectivity of the virus. Nucleocapsid protein

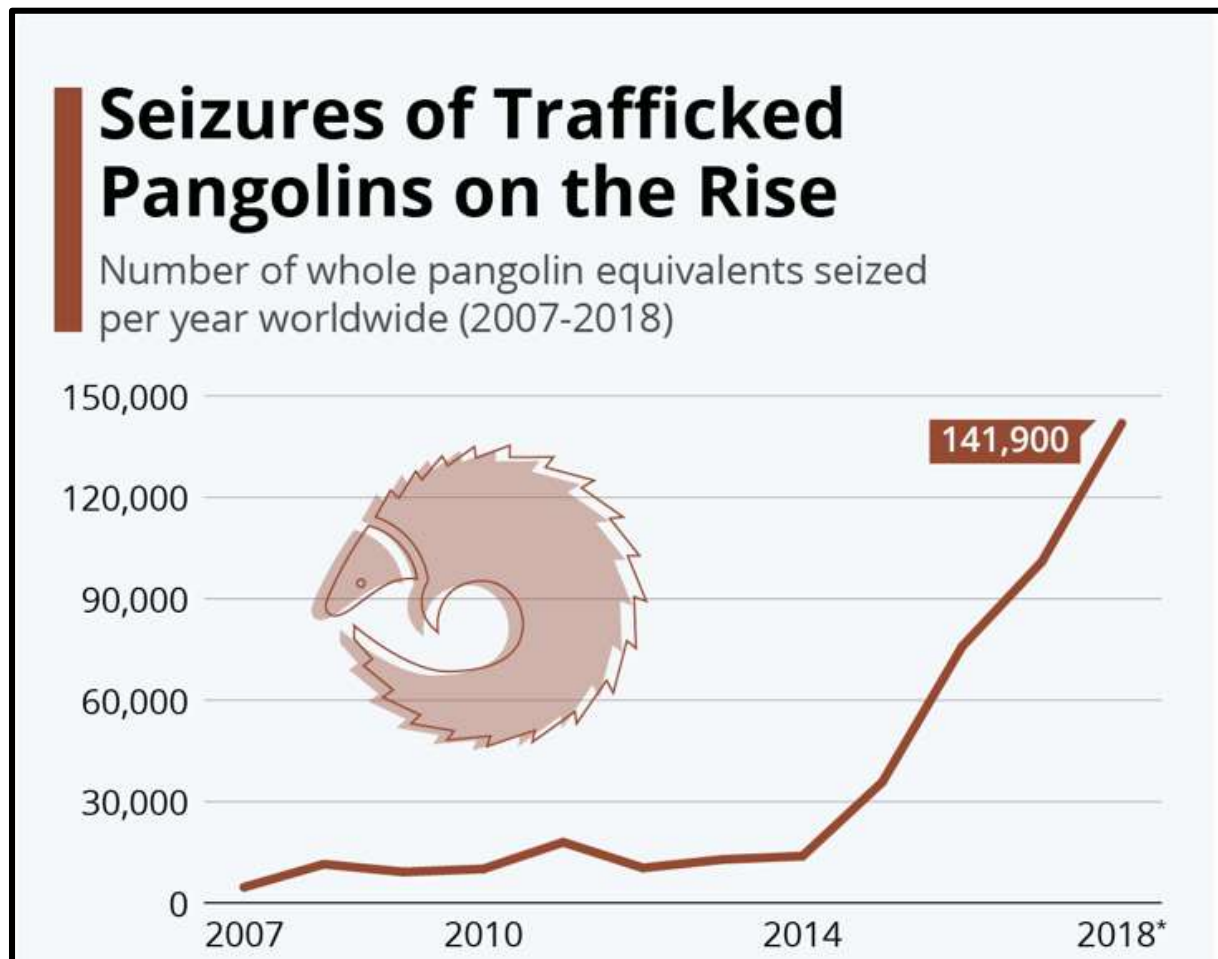
- The nucleocapsid macromolecule (N-protein) is that the most lush protein in coronavirus.
- The N-protein could be a highly immunogenic protein, and it's usually very conserved.
- The N macromolecule of coronavirus is commonly used as a marker in diagnostic assays.
- During particle assembly, N macromolecule binds to microorganism ribonucleic acid and ends up in formation of the helical nucleocapsid.
- The abundance and high hydrophilicity of N protein are imagined to

contribute to potent immunity when coronavirus infection.

- The N macromolecule constitutes the sole macromolecule gift within the nucleocapsid.
- It is composed of 2 separate domains, an N-terminal domain (NTD) and a C-terminal domain (CTD), each capable of binding ribonucleic acid in vitro, however every domain uses different mechanisms to bind RNA.

Topic 15. PANGOLINS

Importance for Prelims: Environment



Researchers of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata, have now developed tools to tell apart the scales of Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*).

- It characterises the morphological features and investigated genetic variations between the two species by sequencing 624 scales of pangolins and comparing these sequences with all eight pangolin species.
- Based on the size, shape, weight and ridge counts on the scales, the team was able to categorise the two species.

Pangolins in India

- Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are found in

India.

- Indian Pangolin is a large anteater covered by 11-13 rows of scales on the back. A terminal scale is also present on the lower side of the tail of the Indian Pangolin, which is absent in the Chinese Pangolin.

Habitat :

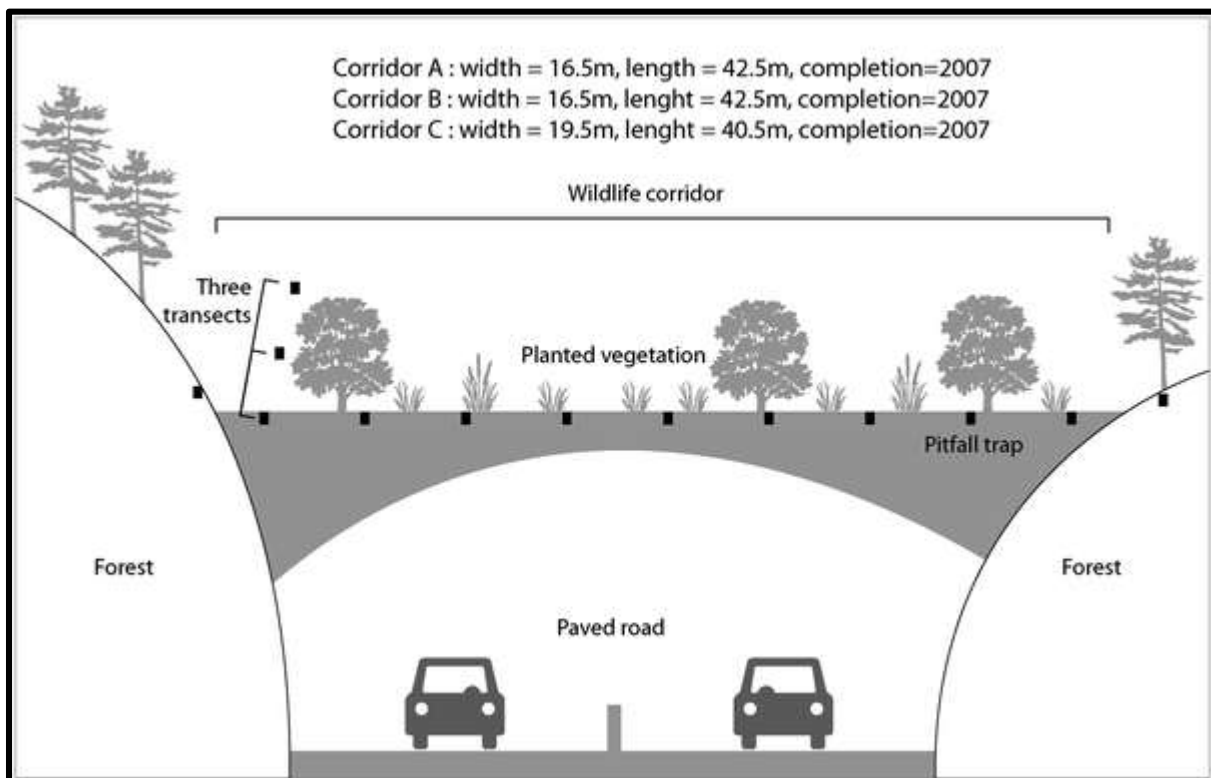
- Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East. The species is also found in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- Chinese Pangolin is found in the Himalayan foothills in Eastern Nepal, Bhutan, Northern India, North-East Bangladesh and through Southern China.
- **Threats to Pangolins in India:** Hunting and poaching for local consumptive use (e.g. as a protein source and traditional medicine) and international trade for its meat and scales in East and South East Asian countries, particularly China and Vietnam.

IUCN Red List

- Indian Pangolin: Endangered
- Chinese Pangolin: Critically Endangered
- Both these species are listed under Schedule I, Part I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Topic 16. WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Importance for Prelims: Environment



While the Maharashtra government has already begun work to shield its tiger passageway as counseled by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the state government has been caught off his guard on the front.

Wildlife corridors

- A life corridor may be a method of connecting fragmented habitats. The passageway allows movement between isolated patches of environs while not alternative disturbances, such as traffic or development.
- Wildlife corridors also are referred to as environs corridors or green corridors.
- These inexperienced corridors also are designed to stay animals out of danger of highways, busy roads, and alternative areas wherever their ancient migratory patterns intersect with potential dangerous manmade places.

National Tiger Conservation Authority

- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) may be a statutory body under the Ministry of surroundings, Forests and climate change.
- It was established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- It was entrenched under sanctionative provisions of the life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions appointed to that.

Topic 17. FCRA

Importance for Prelims: National Legislations



Indian entities, as well as hospitals and charitable trusts, hoping to receive COVID-19 relief material from overseas individual donors or donor agencies, is in trouble, unless they are registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) with a specific objective involving provision of treatment.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010:

- Under the Act, organisations need to register themselves every five years.
- As per the amended FCRA rules, all NGOs registered or granted previous permission under FCRA are presently required to transfer details of foreign contributions received and utilized by them every 3 months on their web site or the FCRA web site.
- NGOs presently ought to file their annual returns on-line, with the textual matter version dispensed with.

Who cannot accept Foreign Contribution?

- Election candidate
- Member of any legislature (MP and MLAs)

- Political party or office bearer thereof Organization of a political nature Correspondent, columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner, printer or publishers of a registered Newspaper.
- Judge, government servant or employee of any corporation or the opposite body controlled or closely-held by the government.
- Association or company engaged at intervals in the assembly or broadcast of audio news, audio visual news or current affairs programmes through any electronic mode
- Any totally different individuals or associations who are specifically prohibited by the Central Government

What is the eligibility criteria for grant of registration?

- The Association: must be registered (under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or Indian Trusts Act 1882 or section eight of corporations Act, 2013 etc.) normally be in existence for a minimum of 3 years. has undertaken reasonable activity in its field for the advantage of the society.
- Has spent a minimum of Rs.10,00,000/- (Rs. 10 lakh) over the last 3 years on its activities.

Topic 18. INDIA-EU LEADERS MEETING

Importance for Prelims: International Relations

At the invite of the President of the European Council Mr. Charles Michel, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated within the India-EU Leaders' Meeting.

- The meeting was held in a very hybrid format with the participation of leaders of all the 27 EU Member States still because the President of the EU Council and the European Commission.
- This is the 1st time that the EU hosted a gathering with India within the EU+27 format.
- The EU+27 have met during this format only once before, with the US President in March this year.
- It may be an important political milestone and can depend upon the momentum witnessed within the relationship since the fifteenth India-EU Summit in July 2020.
- The meeting was the initiative of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- During the meeting, the leaders changed views on 3 key thematic areas: i) foreign policy and security; ii) COVID-19, climate and environment; and iii) trade, connectivity and technology.
- The leaders welcome the choice to resume negotiations on each the Trade and Investment Agreements which can change the 2 sides to understand the complete potential of the economic partnership.
- India and therefore the EU launched an bold and comprehensive 'Connectivity Partnership' that is targeted on enhancing digital, energy, transport and people-to-people property.
- India welcome the EU's call to join CDRI.
- India conjointly the EU also united to boost bilateral cooperation on

digital and emerging technologies like 5G, AI, Quantum and superior Computing including through the first operationalization of the Joint Task Force on AI and the Digital Investment Forum. A finance contract of 150 one hundred fifty million for the Pune subway Rail Project was signed by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and European Investment Bank.

- India-EU Leaders Meeting has set a big milestone by providing a new direction to the Strategic Partnership and giving a contemporary impetus for implementing the ambitious India-EU Roadmap 2025 adopted at the fifteenth India-EU Summit in July 2020.

Topic 19. KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Importance for Prelims: Environment



The authorities in Assam's Golaghat and Nagaon districts have begun probing cases of clearance of forest land, excavation and construction activities on a minimum of three animal corridors among the eco-sensitive zone of the Kaziranga national park and Tiger Reserve.

- It is found within the State of province and covers 42,996 hectare (ha). it's the single largest undisturbed and representative area within the brahmaputra depression flood plain.

Status of the National park:

- It was declared as a park in 1974. It has been declared a tiger reserve since 2007. it's a complete tiger reserve area of 1,030 sq click with a core area of 430 sq. km.
- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage web site in 1985.
- It is recognized as a crucial Bird space by Bird Life International

Important Species Found:

- It is that the home of the world's most one-horned rhinos. Pobitora life

Sanctuary has the best density of one-horned rhinos within the world and second highest number of Rhinos in province when Kaziranga park.

- Much of the main focus of conservation efforts in Kaziranga are targeted on the 'big four' species— perissodactyl, Elephant, Royal bengal tiger and Asiatic buffalo.
- Kaziranga is additionally home to nine of the 14 species of primates found within the Indian subcontinent.

Rivers and Highways:

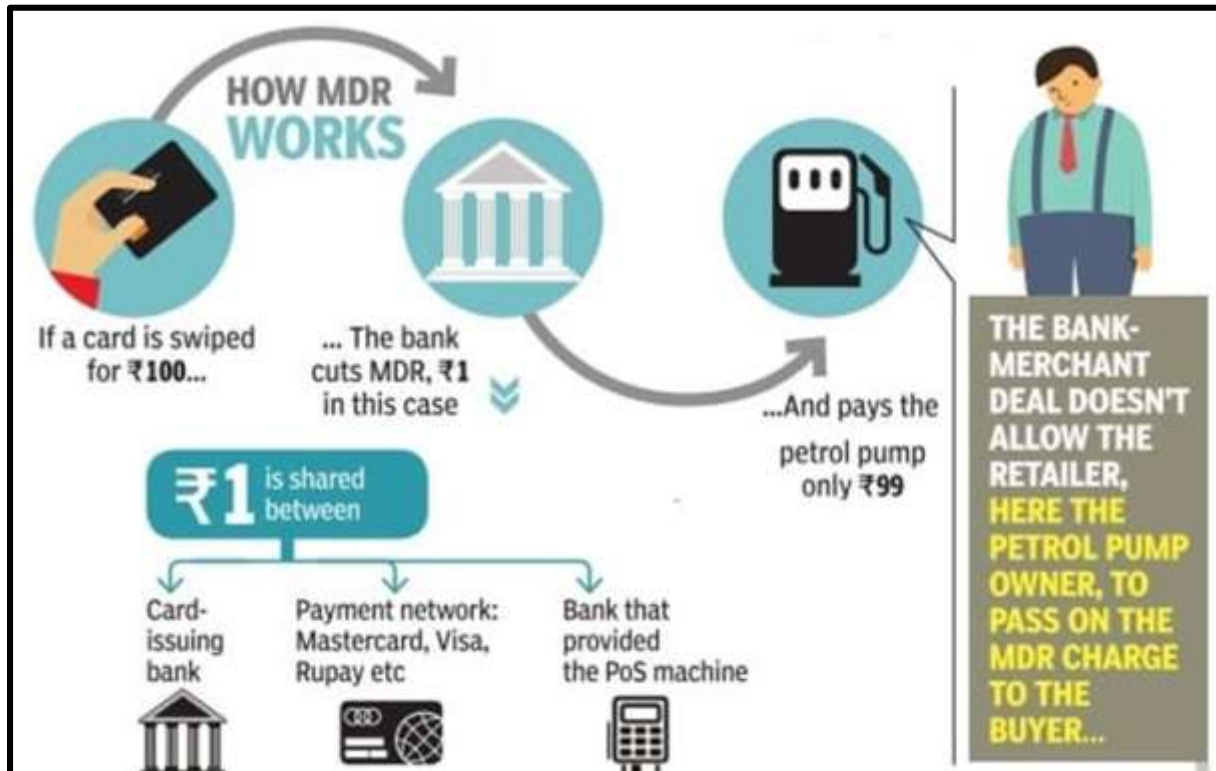
- The National road 37 passes through the park area. The park additionally has over 250 seasonal water bodies, besides the Diphlu River running through it.

Other national parks in province are:

- Dibru-Saikhowa national park,
- Manas national park,
- Nameri national park,
- Rajiv Gandhi orang national park.

Topic 20. MERCHANT DISCOUNT RATE

Importance for Prelims: Economics



In a push to expand their merchant networks, fintech intermediaries have come back up with an innovative settlement theme by that they waive the merchant discount rate (MDR) on offline card transactions.

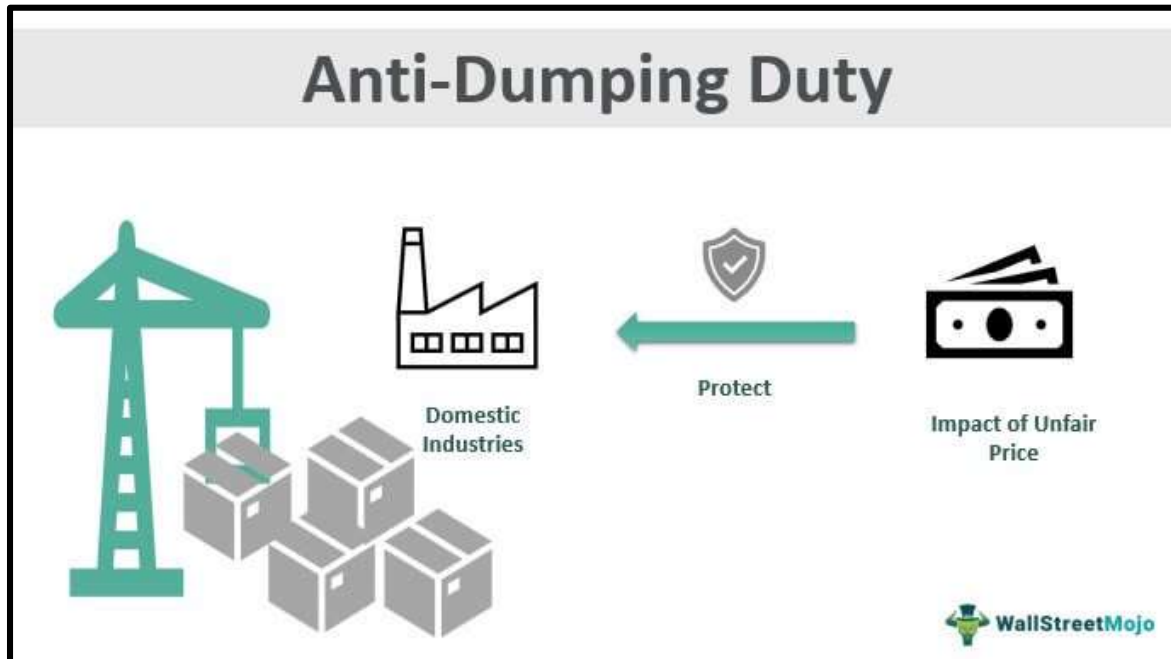
- This permits offline merchants to prefer a delayed settlement of a dealing by not shelling out the MDR instead of subsidence it on a next-day basis. The payment intermediary has access to the merchant's float till the dealing is settled.
- To be sure, merchants would prefer a discharge of the MDR, generally 2-3% on the worth of the acquisition, providing they're severely strapped for money. Else, it might not be for them to give up the float.
- Merchant Discount Rate MDR is that the price paid by a bourgeois to a bank for acceptive payment from their customers via digital means that. The bourgeois discount rate is expressed in share of the dealing quantity.
- Presently, it's applicable for online transactions and QR-based

transactions.

- The quantity that the bourgeois pays for each dealing gets distributed among 3 stakeholders—the bank that permits the dealing, merchandiser that installs the point of sale (PoS) machine and the card network supplier like Visa, MasterCard.
- MDR charges won't be applicable on transactions through native RuPay and UPI platforms starting January 1, 2020.

Topic 21. ANTI DUMPING DUTY

Importance for Prelims: Economics



The Finance Ministry has extended the validity of anti-dumping duty on sure seamless tubes and pipes foreign from China until October 31

- An anti-dumping duty could be a advocate tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes ar priced below truthful market price.
- Dumping could be a method wherever a corporation exports a product at a worth under the worth it usually charges in its own residence market.
- The duty is aimed toward ensuring truthful commerce practices and making a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.
- The duty is obligatory only when an intensive investigation by a quasi-judicial body, like directorate General of Trade Remedies, in India.
- The imposition of anti-dumping duty is permissible below the planet TradeOrganization (WTO) regime.

Topic 22. MAHARANA PRATAP

Importance for Prelims: History

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Maharana Pratap on his birth anniversary.

- Pratap Singh popularly known as Maharana Pratap, was a king of Mewar, a region in the present day state of Rajasthan.
- He was the eldest son of Udai Singh II (founder of city of Udaipur).
- Battle of Haldighati: It was fought on 18 June 1576 between the forces of Maharana Pratap; and the Mughal emperor Akbar's forces, led by Man Singh I of Amber. The Mughals were the victors but failed to capture Pratap, who escaped.
- **Resurgence:** Mughal pressure on Mewar relaxed after 1579 following rebellions in Bengal and Bihar. Taking advantage of the situation, Pratap recovered Western Mewar including Kumbhalgarh, Udaipur and Gogunda. During this period, he also built a new capital, Chavand, near modern Dungarpur.
- **Chetak:** Chetak is the name given in traditional literature to the horse ridden by Maharana Pratap at the Battle of Haldighati. However, some historians debate it.
- According to tradition, Chetak, although wounded, carried Pratap safely away from the battle, but then died of his wounds. The story is recounted in court poems of Mewar from the 17th century onwards.
- Pratap Gaurav Kendra: It is a tourist spot at Tiger Hill in Udaipur city, Rajasthan. It aims at providing information about Maharana Pratap and the historical heritage of the area with the help of modern technology.

Topic 23. GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE

Importance for Prelims: History

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Freedom Fighter and social reformer Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary.

- Gopal Krishna Gokhale was born on May 9th, 1866 in Kothluk in Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra.
- In 1884, after his graduation in arts at the Elphinstone College, Bombay, Gokhale moved to Poona to take up a teaching job at a school.
- He also joined as professor of history and political economy at the Fergusson College, Poona.
- He supported Mahadev Govinda Ranade in the working of Poona Sarvajanik Sabha.
- He regarded Mahadev Govinda Ranade as his “Guru” and MG Ranade helped Gokhale in establishing the “Servants of India Society” in 1905.
- The main objective of this society was to train Indians to raise their voice against social evils and serve their country.
- Gokhale also worked with Ranade in a quarterly Journal, called “Sarvajanik” which wrote about the public questions of the day in a frank and fearless manner.
- He launched the English weekly newspaper named The Hitavada (The people’s paper) in 1911.
- He became the president of Indian National Congress (INC) during the Benaras Session of 1905.
- In 1908, he founded the ‘Ranade Institute of Economics’.

Topic 24. HAKKI PIKKI TRIBAL COMMUNITY

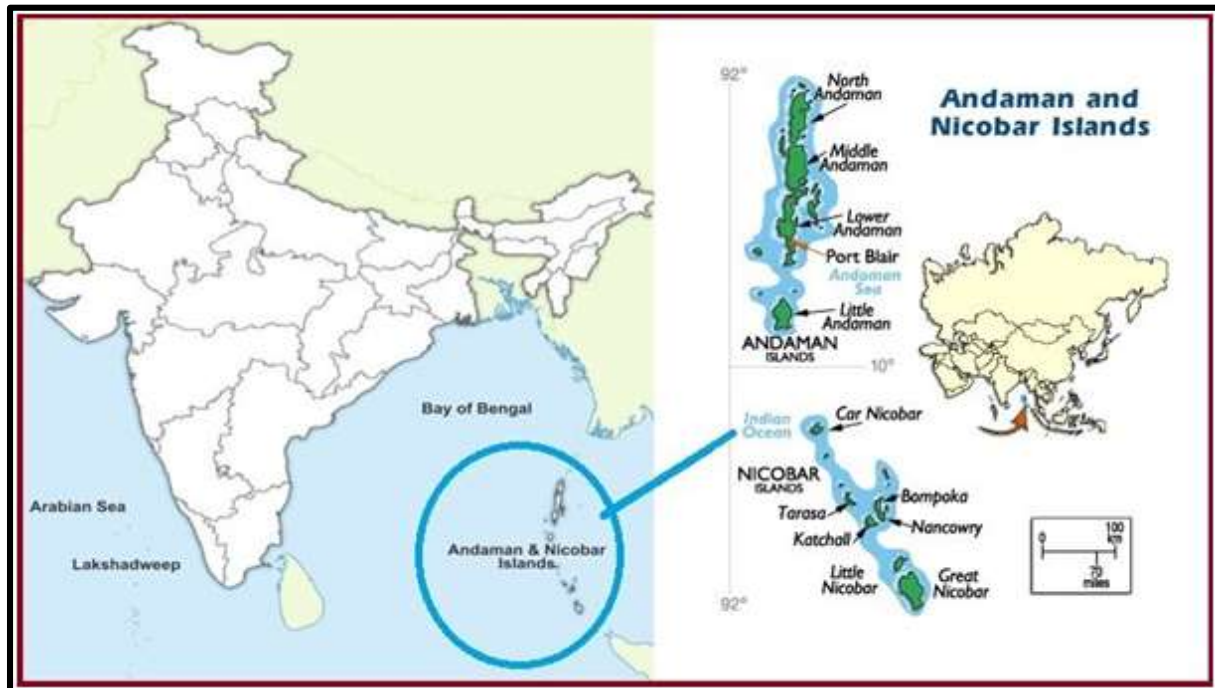
Importance for Prelims: Society

Hakki-Pikki tribal from Karnataka wins battle against the virus

- The HakkiPikki are a semi-nomadic tribe of karnatakawho have traveled andlived in varied elements of the country over the past few decades.
- As a part of a ‘rehabilitation drive’ by the government of Karnataka within the 1950s and ’60s, they were forced out of their forest dwellings and brought into the sides of cities like Bengaluru, Mysuru, Hassan etc. the particular rehabilitation tho', remained on paper only.
- Also known as the Shikaris or the hunters, they accustomed historically build a livingthrough searching and tack birds within the forest and selling them at the side of lucky charms and trinkets within the villages and cities that they knowledgeable.
- Many created a living by begging that was to them how of life, not an emblem of degradation and misery. but their ways that of life and livelihoods revolving around searching and solicitation was gradually criminalised.
- The forests ceased to be a home they may walk into and out from and therefore the cities did not give any secure alternatives.

Topic 25. GREAT NICOBAR PLAN

Importance for Prelims: Environment



Green panel permits nice Nicobar plan to advance

- Great Nicobar Development plan Firstly, the nice Nicobar Development set up envisages the employment of concerning 244 sq. km. region for development functions.
- Secondly, section one of the set up can cover: 22 sq. km. airport complex, Transshipment port (TSP) at South Bay Parallel-to-the-coast mass fast transport system and Free trade zone and warehousing complicated on the southwestern coast.
- Thirdly, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) are going to be the nodal agency for the implementation of the great Nicobar Development set up.
- Great Nicobar Island Great Nicobar is that the south and largest of the Nicobar Islands of India. The island of Sumatra has settled 180 klick to the south of nice Nicobar. it's a locality of concerning 1045 sq. km.
- According to the 2011 census, it's a population of concerning 8,069. The

island is home to 1 of the foremost primitive tribes of India — the Shompens.

- The island includes the great Nicobar biosphere Reserve (GNBR) comprising the Galathea parkland and also the Joseph Campbell Bay parkland. Indira purpose within the nice Nicobar Island is that the southernmost point of India's territory.

Topic 26. AL AQSA MOSQUE

Importance for Prelims: International Relations



Israeli police, Palestinians clash at Al-Aqsa mosque.

- More than 160 individuals were wounded once Israeli riot police clashed with
- Palestinians at Jerusalem’s flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound late on Friday, capping every week of violence within the Celestial City and therefore the occupied west bank.
- Al-Aqsa mosque • Al-Aqsa mosque, settled within the old Jerusalem of

national capital, is that the third holiest web site in Islam.

- The mosque was designed on prime of the Temple Mount, referred to as the Al Aqsa Compound or Haram esh-Sharif in Islam.
- Muslims believe that Muhammad was transported from the nice mosque of Mecca to al-Aqsa throughout the Night Journey.
- Islamic tradition holds that Muhammad crystal rectifier prayers towards this web site till the 16th or 17th month once his migration from Mecca to Medina, once Supreme Being directed him to show towards the Kaaba in Mecca.
- **How Jerusalem become a heatedly contested territory?**
- The city of national capital is holy to Christians, Muslims and Jews.
- “The Temple Mount” within the town is that the holiest site in jewish religion and Jews from across the world come back to hope Western Wall of the Biblical temple.
- “Al-Aqsa mosque”, that is Islam’s third holiest web site once Mecca and Medina is additionally settled inside the city.
- “Church of the Holy Sepulchre” in Jerusalem is assumed to be the location of JesusChrist’s Resurrection, thereby creating it holy for Christians too.

Topic 27. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

Importance for Prelims: Food Security

13 states distributing free grains under PMGKAY

- The PMGKAY was first announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the government's Rs 1.70 lakh crore relief package under "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against coronavirus" on March 26, 2020.
- Initially, the scheme was for three months — May, June and July – but later it was extended till November 2020. However, in April 2021, the government had announced its decision to restart the PMGKAY.
- The program is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- The scheme aims to feed the **poorest citizens** of India by providing grain through the **Public Distribution System**, to all the priority households (ration card holders and those identified by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme).
- Under PMGKAY, around **80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries** covered under both categories of **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**, namely **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** and **Priority Householders (PHH)**, will be provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost food grains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5 Kg rice or wheat (according to regional dietary preferences) per person per month, and 1 kg of dal to each family holding a ration card over and above their regular monthly entitlements under NFSA.
- Government of India will bear all expenditure of over ₹26,000 Crore on account of food subsidy and Central assistance to states/UTs on account of intrastate transportation etc.

- The scale of this welfare scheme makes it the largest food security program in the world.
- A key issue is that **the beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act are based on the last census (2011)**. The number of food-insecure people has increased since then and they remain uncovered.

Topic 28. Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report

Importance for Prelims: Economy

Regulator SEBI on Monday came out with disclosure requirements under business responsibility and sustainability reporting, covering environmental, social and governance perspectives, which will be applicable on the top 1,000 listed entities by market capitalisation.

- The new report — Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)— will replace the existing Business Responsibility Report (BRR).
- The move is expected to bring in greater transparency and enable market participants to identify and assess sustainability-related risks and opportunities.
- Under BRSR, listed entities need to disclose about an overview of the entity's material ESG (environmental, social and governance) risks and approach to mitigate or adapt to the risks along with financial implications of the same.
- In addition, sustainability related goals and targets and performance against the same need to be mentioned in the report.
- Environment related disclosures cover aspects such as resource usage (energy and water), air pollutant emissions, green-house (GHG) emissions, transitioning to circular economy, waste generated and waste management practices, bio-diversity.
- Social related disclosures would cover the workforce, value chain, communities and consumers.
- In the social related disclosure, SEBI said entities need to disclose about gender and social diversity including measures for differently abled employees and workers, turnover rates, median wages, welfare benefits to permanent and contractual employees / workers, occupational health and safety, trainings.

- At communities' level, listed entities will have to make disclosures on Social Impact Assessments (SIA), Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Corporate Social Responsibility, among others.
- In the case of consumers, the regulator said listed entities need to disclose on product labelling, product recall, consumer complaints in respect of data privacy, cyber security among others.
- The BRSR will be applicable on the top 1,000 listed entities by market capitalization.
- In order to give time to companies to adapt to the new requirements, SEBI said there reporting would be on voluntary basis for financial year 2021-22 and on a mandatory basis from 2022-23.
- The filing of the BRR containing ESG disclosures was first introduced for listed entities in 2012 and since then, a number of developments have taken place.
- Overall, higher standards of ESG disclosures and transparency, will help in attracting more capital and investment.

Topic 29. FATF – Financial Action Task Force

Importance for Prelims: Money Laundering



Pakistan government to line new rules to meet FATF necessities.

- The monetary Action Task Force (FATF) is AN inter-governmental body established in 1989 throughout the G7 Summit in Paris.
- The objectives of the FATF are to line standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulative and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist finance and different connected threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- Its Secretariat is found at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- Member Countries: it consists of cardinal member jurisdictions. India is one of the members.

FATF has 2 lists:

- **Grey List:** Countries that are thought of shelter for supporting terror funding and hiding are place within the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it should enter the

blacklist.

- **Black List:** Countries called Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are placed within the blacklist.
- These countries support terror funding and money washing activities. The FATF revises the blacklist often, adding or deleting entries.
- The FATF plenary is the decision-making body of the FATF. It meets 3 times per year.

Composition:

- The FATF currently contains 37 member jurisdictions and a pair of regional organisations, representing most major monetary centres all told components of the world.
- It additionally has observers and associate members.

Topic 30. Operation Samudra Setu II

Importance for Prelims: Science & Technology

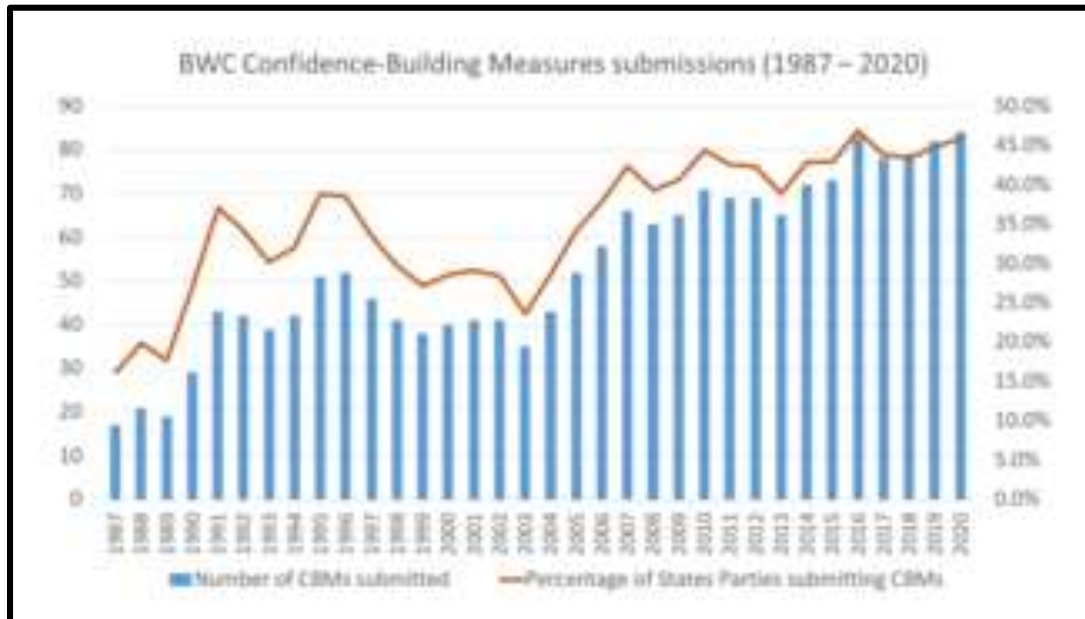


Three service ships bring medical provides from Singapore, West Asia.

- Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu-II for cargo of Oxygen-filled containers to India.
- Operation Samudra Setu was launched in may 2020 as a part of the national effort to repatriate Indian voters from overseas throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Operation Samudra Setu was launched beside Vande India Mission (VBM).
- VBM is that the biggest civilian evacuation exercise to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus-induced travel restrictions.
- Indian Navy has antecedently undertaken similar evacuation operations as part of Operation Sukoon in 2006 (Beirut) and Operation Rahat in 2015 (Yemen).

Topic 31. UN Bioweapons Convention (UNBWC)

Importance for Prelims:IR



A report in The Australian claims US state department has accessed a document that shows the Chinese military was discussing weaponising coronaviruses in 2015.

- The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons. It was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).
- The BWC is a key element in the international community's efforts to address WMD proliferation and it has established a strong norm against biological weapons. The Convention has reached almost universal membership with 183 States Parties and four Biological Weapons Convention. Formally known as "The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction", the Convention was negotiated by the Conference of the Committee

on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland. It opened for signature on 10 April 1972 and entered into force on 26 March 1975. The BWC supplements the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which had prohibited only the use of biological weapons.

- States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention undertook “never in any circumstances to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain:
 1. microbial or other biological agents, or toxins whatever their origin or method of production, of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes;
 2. Weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.”

Topic 32. NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA

Importance for Prelims: Governance

National Mission for Clean Ganga directs to stop dumping of dead bodies in river

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- NMCG is the implementation wing of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council)
- It was established in the year 2011 as a registered society under Societies Registration Act, 1860
- It has a two tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee Both of the tiers are headed by the Director General (DG), NMCG.
- Executive Committee is authorized to approve projects under mission up to Rs 1000 crore Similar to structure at national level, State Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) acts as implementing arm of State Ganga Committees.
- This structure attempts to bring all stakeholders on one platform to take a holistic approach towards the task of Ganga cleaning and rejuvenation.
- In October 2016, National Ganga Council has replaced National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.

Topic 33. NCC

Importance for Prelims: Current Events /Defence



University Grants Commission (UGC) has forwarded for consideration to all vice-chancellors of universities across India a proposal of the Directorate General, National Cadet Corps (NCC), aimed at including NCC as an elective subject in curricula.

- The NCC was formed in 1948 (on the recommendation of H. N. Kunzru Committee-1946), and has its roots to British era uniformed youth entities like University Corps or University Officer Training Corps.
- Currently it has a strength of around 14 lakh cadets from Army, Navy and Air Force wings.

- The NCC falls under the purview of the Ministry of Defence and is headed by a Director General of three-star military rank.
- It enrolls cadets at high school and college level and also awards certificates on completion of various phases.
- The NCC cadets receive basic military training at various levels and also have an academic curriculum basics related to Armed forces and their functioning.
- Various training camps, adventure activities and military training camps are an important aspect of NCC training.

Significance

- NCC cadets have played an important role over the years in relief efforts during various emergency situations.
- During the ongoing pandemic, over 60,000 NCC cadets have been deployed for voluntary relief work in coordination with district and state authorities across the country.

Topic 34. CLOUD BURST

Importance for Prelims: Geography

Cloudburst hits Devprayag in Uttarakhand, no one injured

- The cloudburst is a localised weather phenomena representing highly concentrated rainfall over a small area lasting for few hours. This leads to flash floods/ landslides, house collapse, dislocation of traffic and human casualties on large scale.
- Meteorologists say the rain from a cloudburst is usually of the shower type with a fall rate equal to or greater than 100 mm (4.94 inches) per hour.

How does it form?

- Generally cloudbursts are associated with thunderstorms. The air currents rushing upwards in a rainstorm hold up a large amount of water.
- If these currents suddenly cease, the entire amount of water descends on to a small area with catastrophic force all of a sudden and causes mass destruction.
- This is due to a rapid condensation of the clouds. They occur most often in desert and mountainous regions, and in interior regions of continental landmasses.

Prone areas

- They occur most often in desert and mountainous regions, and in interior regions of continental landmasses.
- The topographical conditions like steep hills favour the formation of these clouds in the mountainous regions. And also the devastations, as water flowing down the steep slopes bring debris, boulders and uprooted trees with great velocity damaging any structure that comes in their way.
- The Chhotanagpur plateau spread across north Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand is the world's most vulnerable spot for formation of

severest

thunderstorms.

- Cloudburst can occur not only in the monsoon seasons but also during March to May which is known for severe convective weather activities.

Prediction

- The largescale features, which are conducive for occurrence of severethunderstorms associated with cloudburst, are predictable two to three days in advance.
- However, the specific location and time of cloud burst can be predicted in NOWCAST mode only, i.e. a few hours in advance, when the genesis of thunderstorm has already commenced.
- To detect these sudden developments, a Doppler Weather Radar (DWR), a powerful tool for time and location specific prediction of cloudburst, can be deployed a few hours in advance. Coupled with satellite imagery this can prove to be useful inputs for extrapolation of cloudbursts anywhere in India.

Topic 35. THUNDERSTORM

Importance for Prelims: Geography



A thunderstorm in the course of serious rain hit urban center and also the different districts of south Bengal on weekday afternoon. In line with officials, 3 folks were killed in rain-related incidents.

- Thunderstorms and tornadoes are severe native storms. They're of short period, occurring over a little area however are violent.
- Thunderstorm may be a storm with thunder and lightning and usually additionally serious rain or hail.
- Thunderstorms largely occur on ground wherever the temperature is high.
- Thunderstorms are less frequent on water bodies because of low temperature.
- Worldwide, there are an calculable 16 million thunderstorms every year, and at any given moment, there are roughly 2,000 thunderstorms current.

Motion of a thunderstorm

- Path of a thunderstorm is erratic. Motion is primarily because of

interactions of its updrafts and downdrafts.

- The speed of isolated storms is often regarding 20 km (12 miles) per hour, however some storms move abundant quicker.
- In extreme circumstances, a supercell storm might move 65 to 80 km (about 40 to 50 miles) per hour.

Downbursts

- Downdrafts are remarked as macrobursts or microbursts.
- Macroburst is more than 4 km in diameter and might manufacture winds as high as 60 metres per second, or 215 km per hour.
- A microburst is smaller in dimension however produces winds as high as 75 metres per second, or 270 km per hour.
- They are seriously risky to aircrafts, particularly throughout takeoffs and landings.

Topic 36. ZERO RATED SUPPLIES

Importance for Prelims: Science & tech

Several states have called for removing taxation on Covid-related medicines and provides, together with a GST exemption on vaccines. In response, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that exemptions on domestic provides and commercial imports “would create these items costlier” for consumers.

- Zero rated supplies mean provide of products or services or each to SEZ or SEZ developer or Export of products or services or each.
- GST isn't applicable in India for exports. Hence, all export provides of a taxpayer registered under GST would be classified as zero rated provide.
- The tax payer will claim the input decrease or claim the refund of unutilized input tax credit.
- zero rated provide means that any of the following provides of goods or services. Export of goods or services or each; Supply of goods or services or each to a Special Economic Zone developer Supply of goods or services or both to a Special Economic Zone unit.

Topic 37. ORISIS – REx

Importance for Prelims: Science & tech

OSIRIS-REx THE MISSION

WHAT WILL THE OSIRIS-REx MISSION DO?

- Collect a sample from a near-Earth asteroid called Bennu, and return the sample to Earth for study.
- Help scientists better determine the orbit of the asteroid.
- Acquire knowledge about the asteroid's composition, which could give clues about how planets formed and how life began.

SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Collect a sample and return it to Earth
- Map the asteroid
- Determine Bennu's physical and chemical properties
- Measure the orbit deviation caused by sunlight (the Yarkovsky effect)
- Compare observations with data from telescopes

WHY ASTEROID BENNU?

- 1 PROXIMITY TO EARTH**
Every six years, Bennu's orbit brings it near Earth – less than 450,000 km away. Its orbit allows a spacecraft to travel there and back safely.
- 2 SIZE**
Asteroids less than 200 m wide spin very quickly, which makes it difficult for a spacecraft to safely interact with them. Bennu is nearly 500 m in size and revolves once every 4.3 hours, slowly enough to collect a sample.
- 3 COMPOSITION**
Scientists will be able to analyze the asteroid's chemistry and mineralogy to learn more about its composition and how it compares to other asteroids.

CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION

The OSIRIS-REx Laser Altimeter (OLA) is the Canadian contribution to the spacecraft. OLA will make a 3D map of Bennu and detect out the best sites for a sample.

MISSION TIMELINE

- 2016 LAUNCH**
- 2018 ENCOUNTER**
19 months collecting data and preparing for sample collection.
- 2020 SAMPLE COLLECTION JULY 2020 3 ATTEMPTS**
Bringing a sample to Earth will allow scientists to study Bennu for decades using highly sophisticated instruments and techniques.
- 2023 RETURN TO EARTH**

Canada

Recently, the NASA's OSIRIS-Rex spacecraft can depart asteroid Bennu, and start its biennial long journey back to Earth.

OSIRIS-Rex Mission

- It is NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Sample Return (OSIRIS-REx).
- In October 2020, the spacecraft in brief touched asteroid Bennu, from where it collected samples of dirt and pebbles.
- It is NASA's initial mission meant to come back a sample from the traditional asteroid.
- The mission is actually a seven-year-long voyage and can conclude once at least 60 grams of samples are delivered back to the earth.
- As per NASA, the mission guarantees to bring the biggest quantity of extraterrestrial material back to our planet since the Apollo era.

- The mission was launched in 2016, it reached its target in 2018 and since then, the spacecraft has been making an attempt to match the speed of the asteroid victimization tiny rocket thrusters.
- The craft contains 5 instruments meant to explore Benu including cameras, a spectrometer and an optical device altimeter.

About Asteroid Benu

- The Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, abundant smaller than planets.
- Benu is an S-type asteroid concerning as tall because the empire state Building, placed concerning 200 million miles off from the earth.
- The asteroid was discovered by a team from the NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid research team in 1999.
- It is believed to have been born within the Main belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- The asteroid is coming back nearer to Earth thanks to gravitational tugs from other celestial objects and therefore the slight push asteroids get after they release absorbed sunlight.

Topic 38. WORLD FOOD PRIZE 2021

Importance for Prelims: Current Events

World Food Prize 2021 Won by Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted of Indian Descent

- The World Food Prize is that the foremost international honor recognizing the achievements of people who have advanced human development by improving the quality, amount or accessibility of food within the world.
- It is an annual award that acknowledges contributions in any field concerned within the world food provide as well as plant, animal and soil science; food science and technology; nutrition, rural development, etc.
- It is open for any individual while not relevance race, religion, position or political beliefs.
- In addition to the money award of \$2,50,000, the laureate receives a sculpture designed by the noted creator and designer, Saul Bass

Presentation of the Award:

- The Prize is presented every October on or around UN World Food Day (16th October).
- It is bestowed by the World Food Prize Foundation that has over 80 firms, individuals, etc. as donors.
- The World Food Prize Foundation is found in state capital, USA.

Background:

- Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the Alfred Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his add global agriculture, formed the Prize. he's also referred to as the daddy of the Green Revolution.
- The World Food Prize was created in 1986 with support by General Foods Corporation.
- It is additionally referred to as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture".
- M.S. Swaminathan, the father of India's revolution, was the primary recipient of this award in 1987.

Topic 39. COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Importance for Prelims: National Organizations



Competition Commission of India

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered AN investigation against Tata Motors for alleged abuse of market dominance and anti-competitive practices.

- Competition Commission of India could be a statutory body answerable for imposing the objectives of the Competition Act, 2002.
- CCI has been established by the Central Government with impact from ordinal October 2003.
- **Composition:** A chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.

Duty of the Commission:

- To eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition.
- Promote and sustain competition.
- Protect the interests of shoppers.
- Ensure freedom of trade the markets of India.
- The Commission is also needed to relinquish opinion on competition problems on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition

support, produce public awareness and impart coaching on competition issues.

The Competition Act

- The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of contemporary competition laws.
- The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates mixtures (acquisition, acquiring of management and M&A), which causes or possible to cause an considerable adverse impact on competition within India.

Topic 40. SEBI PITCHES FOR 'PERSON IN CONTROL' OVER PROMOTER

Importance for Prelims: Economy

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed to rationalise the definition of 'promoter group' and move to the concept of 'person in control' as well as lower the minimum lock-in periods for promoters and other shareholders after an IPO.

- SEBI has suggested rationalising the definition of 'promoter group' as the current definition focusses on encompassing holdings by a common group of individuals or persons and often results in including unrelated companies with common financial investors.
- The regulator has proposed to do away with the current definition of promoter group as the deletion would rationalise the disclosure burden and bring it in line with the post listing disclosure requirement.
- Citing the changing investor landscape, SEBI said there was a need to revisit the concept of 'promoter' to a concept of 'person in control' and a period of three years has been proposed for such a shift over in a smooth and progressive manner without causing disruption.
- With regard to lock-in periods, SEBI has proposed that if the objective of the issue involves offer for sale or financing other than for capital expenditure for a project, then the minimum promoters' contribution of 20% should be locked-in for one year from the date of allotment in the Initial Public Offer (IPO). Currently, the lock-in period is three years.
- SEBI has sought comments from the public on the proposals, the window being open till June 10.

Topic 41. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)

Importance for Prelims: National Organizations



Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed the Acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) with effect from April 25, the commission said.

- NHRC was established in 1993. It is in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the protection of human rights held in Paris in 1991.
- It is a statutory organization established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Functions:

- The purpose of the NHRC is, suo moto or through the petition of a person, to investigate the violation of human rights or the failures of the state or other to prevent a human rights violation.
- The commissions may also take on research about human rights, create

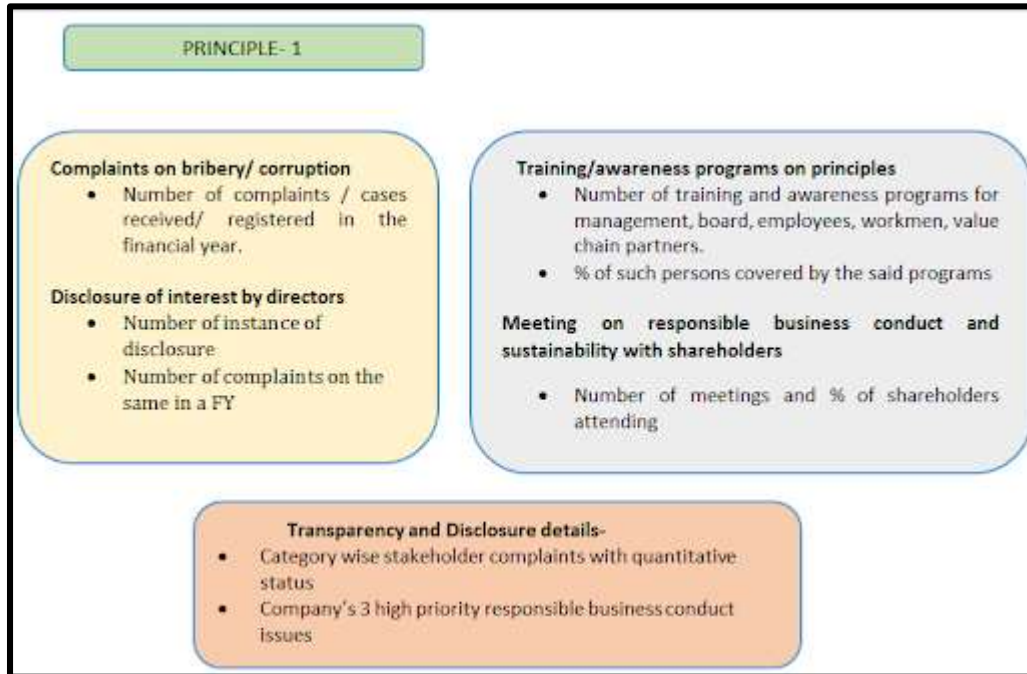
awareness campaigns through various mediums, and encourage the work of NGOs.

Composition:

- The Commission consists of a Chairperson, four full-time Members and four deemed Members.
- The statute lays down qualifications for the appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission. A Chairperson, should be retired Chief Justice of India.

Topic 42. BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORT (BRSR)

Importance for Prelims: Economy



Regulator SEBI came out with disclosure requirements under businessresponsibility and sustainability reporting, covering environmental, social and governanceperspectives, which will be applicable on the top 1,000 listed entities by marketcapitalisation.

- The new report — Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)— willreplace the existing Business Responsibility Report (BRR).
- The move is expected to bring in greater transparency and enable marketparticipants to identify and assess sustainability-related risks and opportunities.
- Under BRSR, listed entities need to disclose about an overview of the entity'smaterial ESG (environmental, social and governance) risks and opportunities,approach to mitigate or adapt to the risks along with financial implications of thesame.
- In addition, sustainability related goals and targets and performance

against the same need to mentioned in the report, it added.

- Environment related disclosures cover aspects such as resource usage (energy and water), air pollutant emissions, green-house (GHG) emissions, transitioning to circular economy, waste generated and waste management practices, bio-diversity.
- Social related disclosures would cover the workforce, value chain, communities and consumers.
- At community's level, listed entities will have to make disclosures on Social Impact Assessments (SIA), Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Corporate Social Responsibility, among others. The BRSR will be applicable on the top 1,000 listed entities by market capitalization.
- SEBI said the reporting would be on voluntary basis for financial year 2021-22 and on a mandatory basis from 2022-23.
- The filing of the BRR containing ESG disclosures was first introduced for listed entities in 2012 and since then, a number of developments have taken place.
- With the adoption of the Paris Agreement on climate change and UN sustainable development goals, adapting to and mitigating climate change impact and transitioning to sustainable economies have emerged as major issues globally.

Topic 43. SHEIKH ZAYED BOOK AWARD

Importance for Prelims: Current Events



Prominent German philosopher Juergen Habermas had turned down the Sheikh Zayed Book Award over its ties “with the present political system” within the UAE, a hereditarily dominated country long criticised for its suppression of dissent.

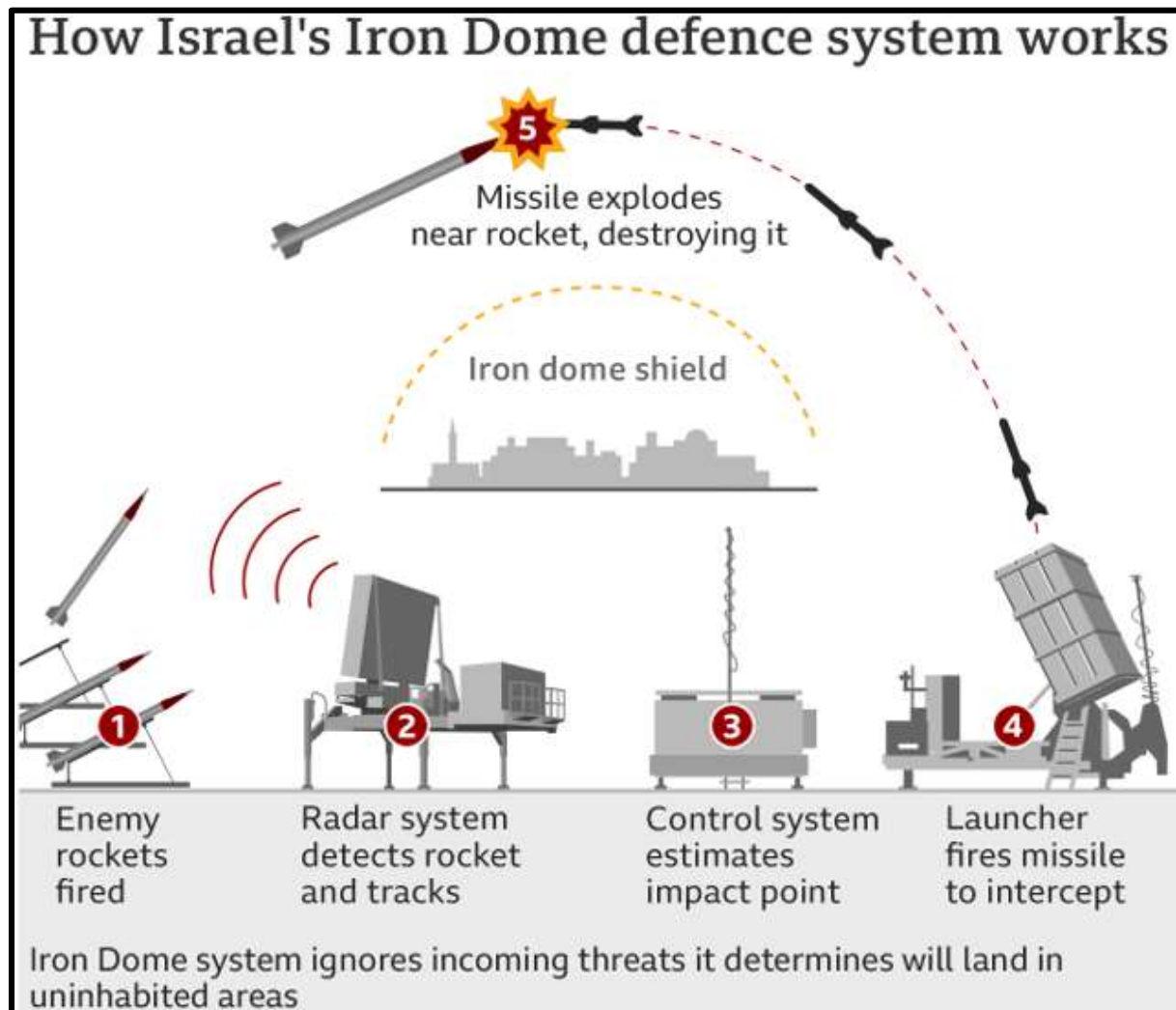
- The Sheikh Zayed Book Award may be a literary award begun within the UAE.
- The award is known as once Sheikh Zayed bin Grand Turk Al Nahyan, the primary president of the UAE once the federation of seven sheikhdoms became a rustic in 1971.
- While describing itself as an “independent” initiative, the prize is run by Abu Dhabi culture and tourism authorities.
- The “Cultural Person of the Year” is that the premier class, it includes a present of one million Dirhams (around \$300,000) whereas the other classes receive around \$200,000 each.

About Author

- Habermas was named the Cultural temperament of the Year, a distinction that carries a money prize of one million dirhams.
- Habermas' potent writings on human rights, morality and democracy, among other topics, have stirred dialogue in Germany and beyond.

Topic 44. IRON DOME

Importance for Prelims: Defence / IR



Videos on social media showed rockets fired from Gaza Strip being intercepted by the Israeli Iron Dome air defence system. It appeared that the rockets were touched by an invisible defence.

- In 2006, throughout the Israeli-Lebanon war, Hizbollah unemployed thousands of rockets in to Israel.
- Following this, Israel declared that the Rafael Advance System surpasses the Government of Israel can develop an air defence system to shield its individuals and cities. so Iron Dome was developed by Israel.

About Iron Dome

- It was deployed in 2011.
- According to Rafael Advance Systems, the Iron Dome has to this point created a lot of than two thousand interceptions. Its success rate is over 90th.
- It is capable of protective forward operative bases, urban areas, deployed and manoeuvring forces.
- It shall be used in all weather. Also, it may be operated throughout the day and at night.
- It could be a short-range ground air-to-air weapons system.
- It is employed to counter rockets, mortars, aircraft, helicopters, mortars artillery and unmanned vehicles.

Working of Iron Dome

- When the fighter device of the iron dome senses associate degree incoming rocket, it detonates its own rocket and sends out fragments. If the timing is correct, then the fragments of the detonated rocket can hit the rocket payload.
- However, the fighter approaches the rocket is essential. It intercepts missiles in all directions. That is, Front Approach, Rear Approach and aspect Approach.
- It has 3 main systems. All the 3 systems act along to produce a shield over a outlined area.
- The 3 systems are as follows: Detection and trailing radar to identify incoming threats Battle Management and Weapon management System Missile Firing Unit
- It establishes a operating relationship between fighter missile and radar.

Topic 45. ARTICLE 311

Importance for Prelims: Polity

Recently, the suspended police officer Sachin Waze was dismissed from service by Mumbai Police Commissioner under Article 311 (2) (b) without a departmental enquiry.

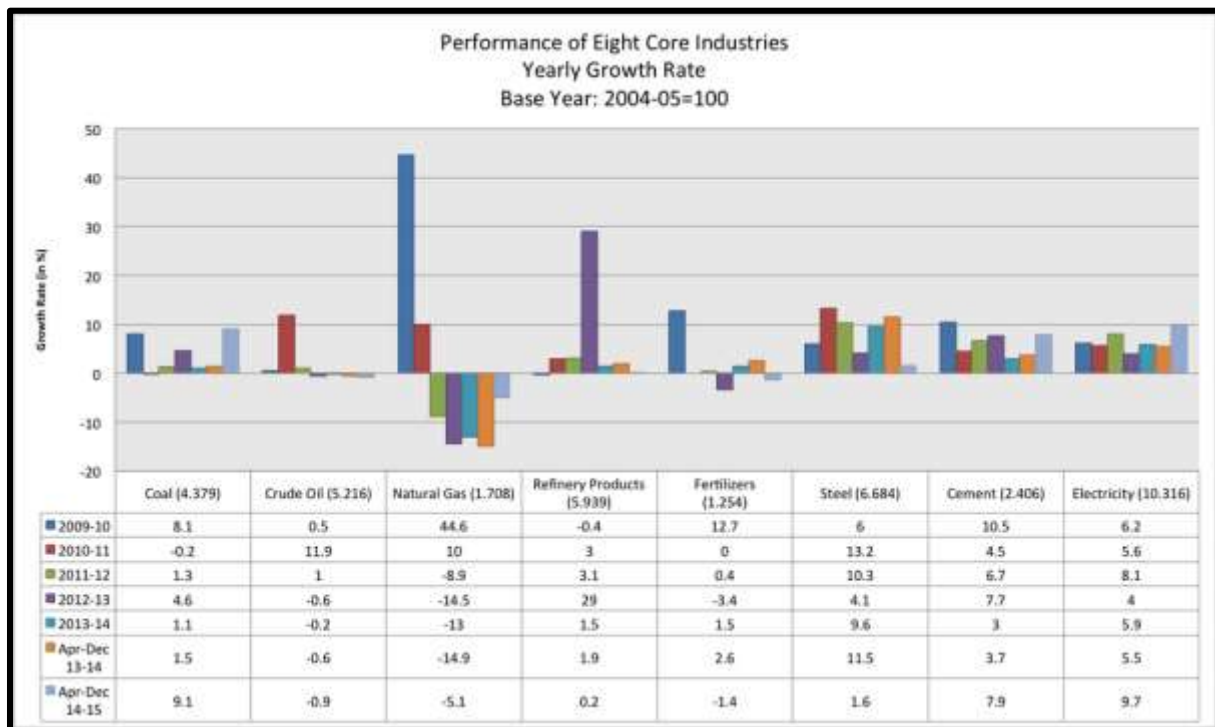
- Article 311 provides two safeguards to civil servants against any arbitrary dismissal from their posts.
- A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed.
- A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.
- The above two safeguards are available only to the members of the civil services of the Centre, the all-India services, the civil services of a state or to persons holding civil posts under the Centre or a state.
- It is not available to the members of defence services or persons holding military posts.
- The second safeguard of holding inquiry is not available in the following three cases:
 - Where a civil servant is dismissed or removed or reduced in rank on the ground of conduct which has led to his conviction on a criminal charge;
 - or Article 311 (2) (b) Where the authority empowered to dismiss or remove a civil servant or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for some reason (to be recorded in writing), it is not reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry;
 - or Where the president or the governor is satisfied that in the interest of the security of the state, it is not expedient to hold such inquiry.

What is the process of a departmental enquiry?

- In a departmental enquiry, after an enquiry officer is appointed, the civil servant is given a formal chargesheet of the charges.
- The civil servant can represent himself/herself or choose to have a lawyer.
- The witnesses can be called during the departmental enquiry following which the enquiry officer can prepare a report and submit it to the government for further action.
- The government employee dismissed under these provisions can approach either tribunals like the state administrative tribunal or Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) or the courts.

Topic 46. INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION & CPI

Importance for Prelims: Economy



The retail inflation, measured consumer price index (CPI) relieved to 4.29 % in April. Separately, the factory output, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew by 22.4 per cent in March.

Index of industrial Production

- The Index of commercial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the expansion rates indifferent industry teams of the economy during a mounted amount of time.
- It is compiled and revealed monthly by the Central statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- IIP could be a composite indicator that measures the expansion rate of industry groups classified under: Broad sectors, namely, Mining, manufacturing, and Electricity.
- Use-based sectors, particularly Basic product, Capital goods, and

Intermediate goods.

- Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.
- The eight core industries of India represent concerning 400th of the load of things that are enclosed within the IIP.

Consumer price index

- Consumer price index or CPI is that the live of changes within the indicator of a basket of commodity and services bought by households. CPI could be a numerical estimation calculated using the rates of a sample of representative objects the prices of that are gathered sporadically.
- The CPI captures changes in indicator at the buyer level.
- Changes in costs at the producer level are tracked by the Wholesale price Index (WPI).
- CPI will capture the modification within the costs of services that the WPI cannot.

Various Indices of CPI are:

- CPI – Industrial staff (CPI -IW): It tries to live the alterations over a time period on the costs of a set basket of products and services utilized by Industrial Workers.
- CPI – Agricultural Labourers (CPI -AL): This index measures the change within the price of artifact basket consumed by the agricultural labourers. It's this accustomed revision minimum wages for agricultural labour in numerous States.
- CPI – Rural Labourers: This index measures the modification within the worth of commodity basket consumed by the agricultural labourers.
- The higher than indices are revealed monthly by Labour Bureau under the Ministry of Labour and Employment for all India also as States and Union Territories.

- Since the higher than 3 indices coated only a phase of the population and not the overall nation, we have a tendency to Design 3 additional indices of CPI.
- CPI – Rural: This index measures the modification within the worth of artifact basket consumed by the rural population
- CPI – Urban: This index measures the modification within the worth of artifact basket consumed by urban population
- CPI – Combined: it's computed by combining CPI Rural and CPI Urban Index The base year for the above 3 indices is 2011-12 and area unit revealed monthly by the National applied mathematics office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Topic 47. PLI SCHEME FOR THE ADVANCED CHEMISTRY CELL (ACC) BATTERY STORAGE

Importance for Prelims: Government Schemes

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Department of Heavy Industry for implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage'.

- The move aims to achieve a manufacturing capacity of 50 GigaWatt Hour of ACC and five Giga Watt Hour of Niche ACC with an outlay of 18,100 crore.
- ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.
- It will also give a big push to electric mobility, benefiting three-wheelers, four-wheelers and heavy vehicles.
- India is currently importing Battery Storage Equipment worth 20 thousand crore rupees and the scheme will be helpful in making the country self-reliant (Atmanirbhar).

Topic 48. INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA (ICAI)

Importance for Prelims: National Organisations



The Union cupboard has approved signing of MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Qatar money Centre Authority (QFCA).

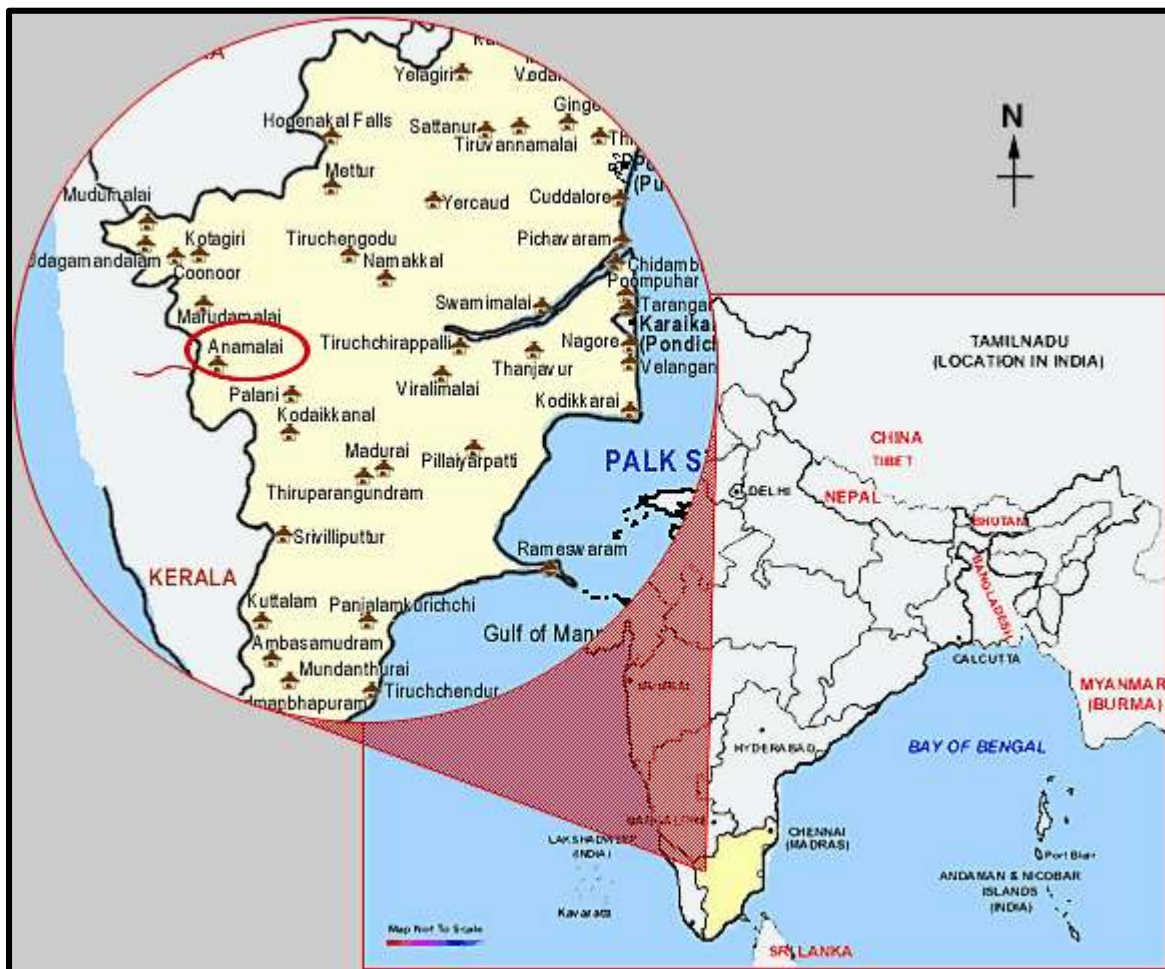
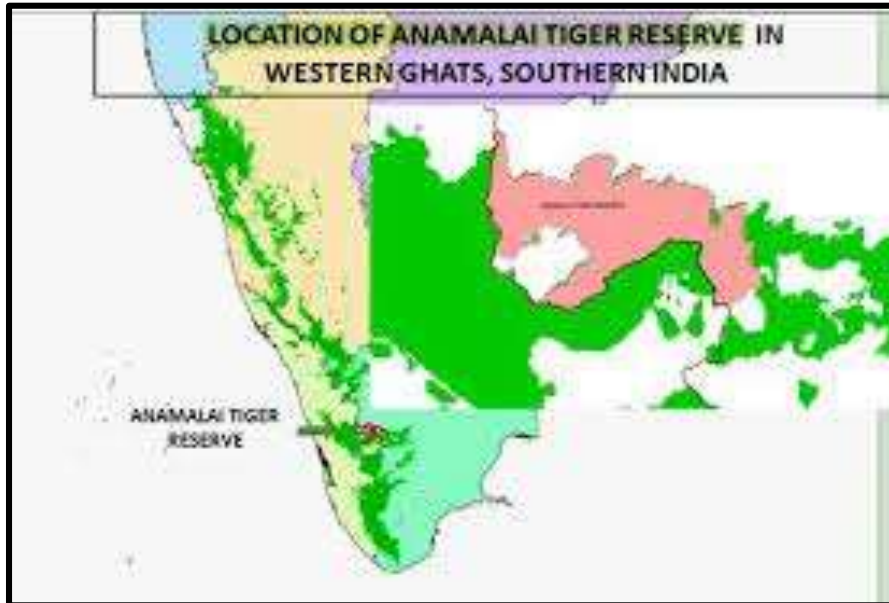
- The MoU would enhance cooperation between the Institutes to figure along to strengthen the Accounting profession and entrepreneurship base in Qatar.
- This MoU can profit Ministry of company Affairs, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Qatar money Centre Authority.
- ICAI has an active Chapter in Doha, Qatar that was established within the year 1981 and is that the oldest among the 36 overseas Chapters of the ICAI.
- Qatar (Doha) Chapter is amongst the foremost vibrant Chapters of ICAI.

About ICAI

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) may be a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament of India, The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, to regulate the profession of chartered accounting in India.
- Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA) an freelance legal entity established pursuant to Law No. (7) of 2005, is responsible for the event and promotion of the QFC as a foremost on-shore financial and business centre within the State of Qatar.

Topic 49. ANAMALAI TIGER RESERVE

Importance for Prelims: Environment



Recently, the residents of two tribal settlements within the limits of the Anamalai

Tiger Reserve (ATR), were gearing up for the annual festival of their local deity, Vairapattan. The Kattupatti and Kuzhipatti settlements of Pulayar community have barely heard of the acronym COVID-19.

Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)

- It is the 29th and one of the four Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu.
- It lies South of the Palakkad gap in the Southern Western Ghats.
- It was originally a territorial division known as Coimbatore South Forest division which was declared as wildlife sanctuary in 1976.
- It forms part of the Anamalai Parambikulam Elephant Reserve declared in 2003.
- The Wildlife sanctuary was declared as Tiger Reserve in April 2007 and declared as a critical Tiger habitat in December 2007.
- There are Six Tribal Communities (VIZ) Malasar, Malaimalasar, Kadar, Muduvar, Pulayar and Eravalar with the population of nearly 6000 living in 35 Settlements.
- It supports diverse habitat types viz. Wet evergreen forests, semi evergreen forests, moist deciduous, dry deciduous, dry thorn and shola forests.

About Pulayar community

- It is also known as Pulaya, or Pulayas or Holey or Cheramar.
- The Pulayas are a tribe spread out in the Kodaikanal hills.
- It is one of the main social groups found in Kerala, Karnataka and in historical Tamil Nadu or Tamilakam.
- The spiritual life of the Pulaya includes certain ancient magic rituals and practices that have a certain reputation.
- Pulayas are noted for their music, craftsmanship, and for certain dances

which include: Kōlam-thullal: A mask dance which is part of their exorcism rituals, and Mudi-āttam: A hair-dance which has its origins in a fertility ritual.

- The 1976 Government of India Gazette notifies Pulayan, Cheramar as Scheduled Caste (SC).
- The government of Tamil Nadu has not officially recognised them as a Scheduled Tribe.

Topic 50. SAMARAJIT JANA

Importance for Prelims: Important Personalities

A leader of the rights movement for sex workers in India and a public health expert better-known for his contribution to the bar of HIV within the country, Smarajit Jana, passed away because of COVID-19 connected complications in epidemiologist.

- An medical scientist, he was also a member of the National Task Force on COVID-19.
- Jana spearheaded the primary rights-based HIV intervention programmes in India by collectivising the sex workers of Sonagachi. He was also a member of the NACO's steering committee.
- Dr Smarajit Jana, who helped the children of sex staff an opportunity to fight discrimination through football, and was the founder of the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Samiti.
- Dr Jana was also the founder of durbar Sports Academy. The Samiti could be a collective of 65,000 sex workers in west bengal.
- Established in 1992 in Sonagachi, the most important red-light area in Kolkata, it's been working for the rights of ladies and sex workers, and causes like anti-human trafficking and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- The organisation also used football to fight discrimination against the children of sex workers.

Topic 51. COMPULSORY LICENSING

Importance for Prelims: Economy



COMPULSORY LICENSE

- **LICENSE:** A license is an official permission or permit to do, use, or own something.
- A compulsory license provides that the owner of a patent or copyright licenses the use of their rights against payment either set by law or determined through some form of adjudication or arbitration

Kerala high court seeks Centre's response to invoke required licensing of Covid vaccines.

- A compulsory licence could be a licence or authorisation issued by the government to an applicant for creating, using and marketing a proprietary product or using a patented process while not the consent of the discoverer.
- Chapter XVI of the Indian Patents Act 1970 and therefore the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights discuss required licensing.
- The application for required license will be created any time once three years from date of waterproofing of a patent.

- **The following conditions should be fulfilled by the applicant:**
Reasonable needs of the public with relation to the proprietary invention havenot been satisfied;Patented invention isn't obtainable to the public at a reasonably affordable worth.
- Patented invention isn't employed in India.
- Additionally, consistent with Section 92 of the Act, required licenses also can be issued suo motu by the Controller of Patents pursuant to a notification issued by the Central Government if there's either a “national emergency” or “extreme urgency” or in cases of “public non-commercial use”.

When was the primary license issued?

- India's initial ever required license was granted by the patent office on March 9, 2012, to Hyderabad-based Natco company for the assembly of generic version of Bayer's Nexavar, an anti-cancer agent employed in the treatment of liver and kidney cancer.

Topic52. SWAMIH

Importance for Prelims: Government Schemes

The residential project – ‘Rivali Park’, situated in suburban Mumbai, was the first housing project in the country to have received funding under the government’s SWAMIH Fund.

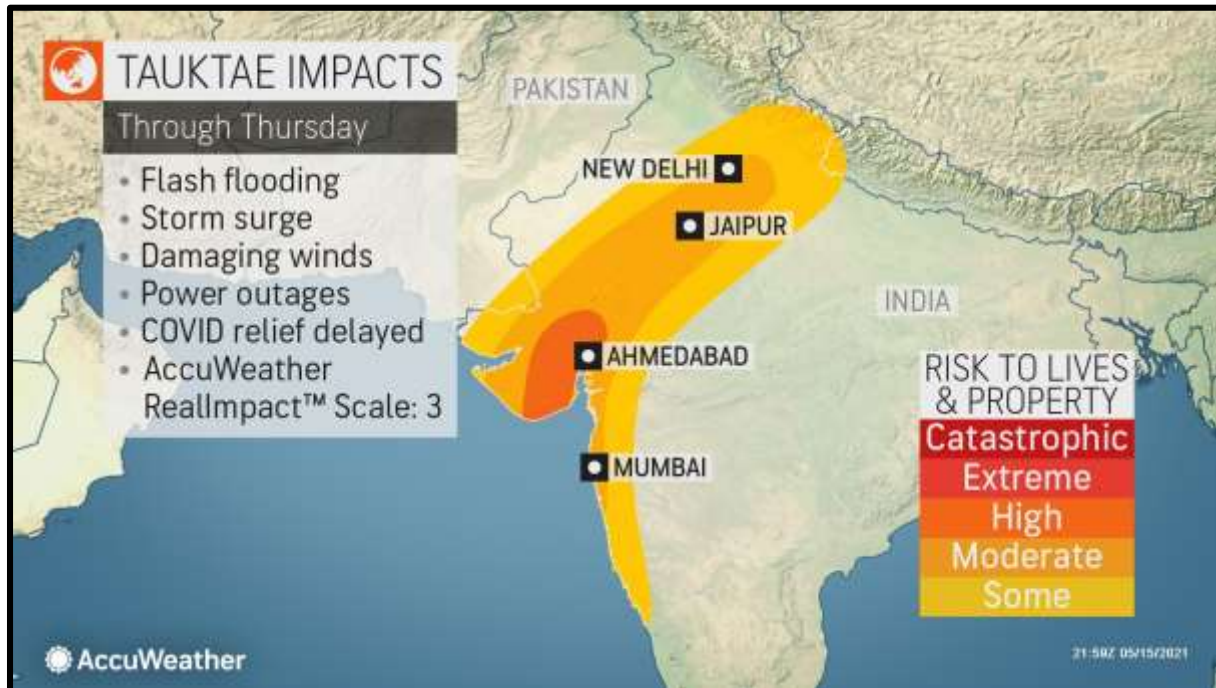
- SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Investment Fund has been formed to complete construction of stalled, RERA-registered affordable and mid-income category housing projects which are stuck due to paucity of funds.
- The fund was set up as a Category-II AIF (Alternate Investment Fund) debt fund registered with SEBI.
- The Investment Manager of the Fund is SBICAP Ventures, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI Capital Markets, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the State Bank of India.
- The Sponsor of the Fund is the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India on behalf of the Government of India.

Who will be the investors of the fund?

- AIFs created/funded under the Special Window would solicit investment into the fund from the Government and other private investors including cash-rich financial institutions, sovereign wealth funds, public and private banks, domestic pension and provident funds, global pension funds and other institutional investors.

Topic53. CYCLONE TAUKTAE

Importance for Prelims: Geography



Recently, the Indian meteorological Department (IMD) has warned against Cyclone Tauktae, strengthening and exacerbating into a ‘very severe’ cyclonic storm.

About Cyclone Tauktae

- It is made over Southeast Arabian Sea.
- It shall cause extraordinarily significant rainfall (more than 204 mm) over Lakshadweep, Kerala, ghats of province, coastal province.
- The word Tauktae has been prompt by Myanmar.
- It means that ‘gecko’, a distinctively vocal lizard, within the Burmese language.

Naming cyclones within the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea

- The World meteorological Organisation/United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and also the Pacific (WMO/UNESCAP) Panel on Tropical Cyclones agreed in theory to assign names to the tropical cyclones within the Bay of Bengal and the sea.

- It was determined to call cyclones in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea during WMO/ESCAP's 27th session held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, in 2000.
- The naming of the tropical cyclones over the north Indian Ocean commenced from September 2004, with names provided by eight members.
- The members are Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- In September 2018, it was determined to organize a contemporary list of names of tropical cyclones as well as illustration from 5 new member countries, viz., Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Topic 54. Black Fungus

Importance for Prelims: Science & Technology

At least 60 'Black Fungus' cases detected in Hyderabad

- **Mucormycosis**— a rare kind of fungal infection that might have an effect on vision, and threatens life, if individuals don't get treated forthwith once spotting its symptoms.
- Mucormycosis needs to be suspected in COVID-19 patients, diabetics and immunosuppressed people after they have redness – nasal blockade or congestion, nasal discharge (blackish/bloody), native pain on the cheek bone.

Symptoms:

- One-sided facial pain, numbness or swelling. achromatic discolouration over bridge of nose or surface.
- Toothache, loosening of teeth, jaw involvement. Blurred or vision defect with pain; fever, skin lesion; thrombosis & death (eschar). Chest pain, pleural effusion, symptom, worsening of metastasis symptoms

Treatment:

- Treatment includes aggressive surgery or radical operation and exenteration of settled or blind eye, future follow-up along side anti-fungal medications.
- Apart from surgery, prolonged anti-fungal treatment plays a serious role in curing the patient.

