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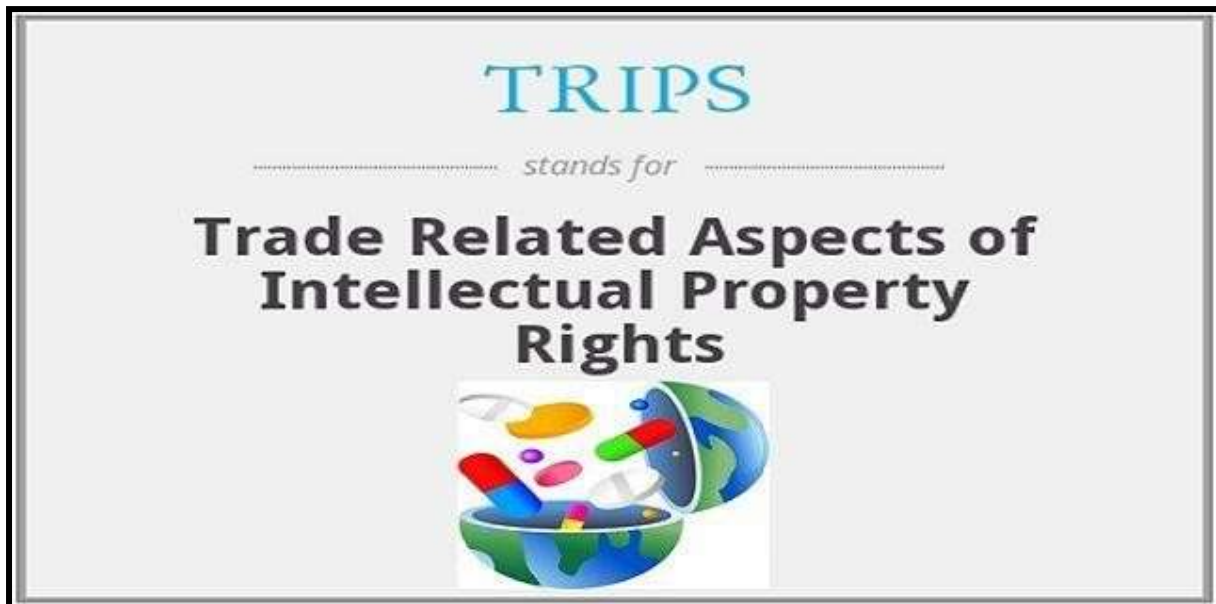
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Success is born of action...

Topic1.TRIPSAGREEMENT

ImportanceforPrelims:InternationalAgreements



- India, others push for TRIPS waiver scope on the far side Covid vaccine at World Trade Organization
- India is among sixty two World Trade Organization (WTO) members that are pushing this draft, that limits the waiver period to three years, with a provision to review the period.
- However, the proposal continues to push for a waiver on a wider phase of merchandise as opposed to just Covid-19 vaccines — products that the USA and therefore the EU have agreed to think about for an intellectual property rights waiver throughout the continuing pandemic.

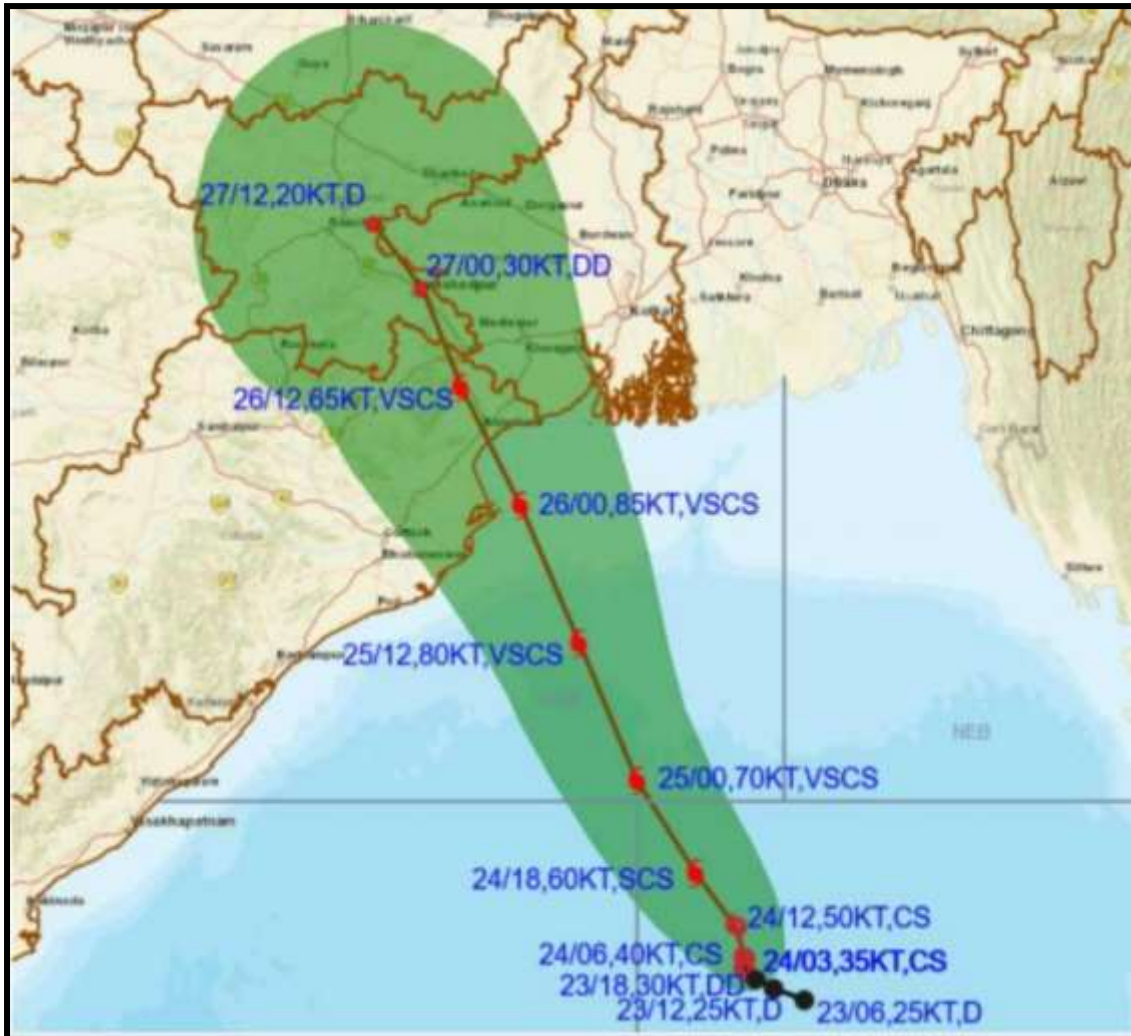
TRIPS

- TRIPS is an international agreement administered by the world Trade Organization (WTO), that sets down minimum standards forms of sorts of intellectual property (IP) regulations as applied to the nationals of other World Trade Organization Members.
- It had been negotiated at the end of the Uruguay round of the general Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1994.

- TRIPS needs World Trade Organization members to provide copyright rights, covering content producers including performers, producers of sound recordings and broadcasting organizations; geographical indications, including appellations of origin; industrial designs; integrated
- The agreement also specifies enforcement procedures, remedies, and dispute resolution procedures.

Topic 2.CYCLONEYAAS

ImportanceforPrelims:Geography



Cyclone Yaas is likely to accentuate into a “very severe cyclonic storm” and cross the Odisha and West Bengal coasts on May twenty six, the India meteorological Department (IMD) said. a low pressure area formed over the eastern Bay of bengal and also the adjoining north Andaman Sea.

- Yaas, the cyclonic storm that's expected to hit the coasts of Odisha and West Bengal next week, has been named by Oman. Yaas refers to a tree that has a good fragrance and in English, the word is similar to jasmine.
- Cyclone Tauktae, which was named by Myanmar, means that “gecko” — a extremely vocal lizard — in Burmese dialect.

- The criteria below have been formulated by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), which classifies the low pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea on the basis of capacity to damage, that is adopted by the WMO.

How are the cyclones named?

- In 2000, a group of nations called WMO/ESCAP (World meteorological Organisation /United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), which comprised Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, decided to start naming cyclones in the Indian Ocean region.
- After each country sent in suggestions, the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) finalised the list .
- The list of 169 cyclone names released by IMD in April 2020 were provided by these countries — thirteen suggestions from every of the thirteen countries.
- The WMO/ESCAP expanded to include five more countries in 2018 — Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Topic3.BLACKFUNGUS

ImportanceforPrelims: Science&tech

Blackfungusmedicinecrisisboostscheapalternative

- Mucormycosis—arareformoffungalinfectionwhichcouldaffectvision,and threatens life, if people do not get treated immediately after spottingits symptoms.
- Mucormycosis has to be suspected in COVID-19 patients, diabetics andimmune-suppressed individuals when they have sinusitis – nasal blockadeor congestion, nasal discharge (blackish/bloody), local pain on the cheekbone.

Symptoms:

- One-sidedfacialpain,numbnessorswelling.Blackish discolouration over bridge of nose or surface.
- Toothache,looseningofteeth,jawinvolvement.
- Blurred or double vision with the pain; fever, skin lesion; thrombosis & necrosis (eschar).
- Chestpain,pleuraleffusion,haemoptysis,worseningofrespiratorysymptoms

Treatment:

- Treatmentincludesaggressivesurgeryorradicaldebridementandexenteration of effected or blind eye, long term follow-up along with anti-fungal medications.
- Apart from surgery, prolonged anti-fungal treatment plays a significant role in curing the patient.

WHITEFUNGUS

- WhiteFungusorCandidiasisisafungalinfectioncausedbyayeast(atypeoffungus) calledCandida.
- Candidanormallylivesontheskinandinsidethebody,inplacessuchasthemouth,throat,gut,andvagina,withoutcausing any problems.

- Candida can cause infections if it grows out of control or if it enters deep into the body (for example, the bloodstream or internal organs like the kidney, heart, or brain).
- The foremost common species that causes infection is candida albicans

Cause:

- This infection can be caused due to low immunity, or if people come in contact with things that contain these moulds like water, etc.
- Children and women are more at risk of contracting the fungal infection.
- Just like the black fungus, white fungus is additionally more likely to afflict people with compromised immune systems, pre-existing medical conditions, AIDS, a recent kidney transplant or diabetes.

Symptoms:

- People experience symptoms just like Covid if it reaches the lungs like chest infection, despite testing negative for the virus.
- White fungus affects the lungs as well as other parts of the body including the nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, private parts and mouth.

Diagnosis and Treatment:

- CT scan or X-Rays can reveal the condition.
- Patients with the white fungus are presently being treated with known anti-fungal medication.

Topic4.EWAY BILL

ImportanceforPrelims:Economy

GST authorities will currently be able to track real-time data of commercial vehicle (CV) movement on highways by integration of the e-way bill (EWB) system with FASTag and RFID.

- The E-way bill, short form for electronic way bill, could be a document to be generated on-line under the GST system, once merchandise of the value of more than ₹50,000 is shipped inter-State or intra-State.
- The E-way bill should be raised before the products are shipped and should embrace details of the products, their consignor, recipient and transporter.
- The transporter has got to carry the invoice and also the copy of E-way bill as support documents for the movement of products.
- Though check-posts have been abolished under GST, a consignment can be intercepted at any point for the verification of its E-way bill, for all inter-State and intra-State movement of goods.
- If a consignment is found while not an E-way bill, a penalty of ₹10,000 or tax sought-after to be evaded, whichever is larger, may be levied.
- An e-way bill is valid for 1 day for distance less than 100 Kms and additional 1 day for every additional 100 Kms or part thereof.

Topic5.YUANLONGPING

ImportanceforPrelims:ImportantPersonalities

Yuan Longping, a Chinese agricultural scientist whose breakthroughs in hybrid rice brought food security to China and transformed agriculture worldwide, died aged ninety one.

- Yuan is well known in China because the “father of hybrid rice” for his contributions to agriculture.
- In 1970s, he developed “the first hybrid rice combination called Nan-youNo. 2 which, because of heterosis — a phenomenon during which the progeny of 2 distinctly totally different parents grow faster, yield more, and resist stress higher than either parent.
- Farmers round the world have benefitted from his techniques as hybrid rice spread throughout Asia, Africa and also the Americas.
- In2004,hewashonouredwiththe**WorldFoodPrize“forhisbreakthrough achievement in developing the genetic materials andtechnologiesessentialfor breedinghigh-yieldinghybridricevarieties”**.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation acknowledged him with a prize in 2001.

WorldFoodPrize

- The World Food Prize is that the foremost international honor recognizing the achievements of people who have advanced human development by improving the standard, amount or convenience of food in theworld.
- Itisanannualawardthatrecognizescontributionsinanyfieldinvolvedinthe worldfood supply including plant, animal and soil science; foodscienceand technology;nutrition,ruraldevelopment,etc.
- It is open for any individual without regard to race, religion, nationality orpolitical beliefs.

- In addition to the money award of \$2,50,000, the laureate receives a sculpture designed by the noted artist and designer, Saul Bass.

Presentation of the Award:

- The Prize is presented every Oct on or around United Nations World Food Day (16th October).
- It is presented by the World Food Prize Foundation which has over 80 companies, individuals, etc. as donors.
- The World Food Prize Foundation is located in Des Moines, USA.

Topic 6.BAWG

Importance for Prelims: International Organisations

7th BRICS astronomy working group Meeting recommends networking of existing telescopes.

About BRICS Astronomy Working Group:

- It provides a platform for BRICS member countries to collaborate within the field of astronomy, recommending that the focal points in every country should present the scientific results of the work being carried out in every country.
- This will help seek funding support to realize the flagship project whenever funding opportunities are announced by BRICS funding agencies.
- At the meeting, the members indicated future directions of research in this area such as building network of intelligent telescope and data network, study of transient astronomical phenomena in universe, big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning application to process the voluminous data generated nowadays due to enhance multi-wavelength telescope observatory.

BRICS:

- BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- In 2001, the British Economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- The grouping was formalised during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers' in 2006.
- South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- India has assumed the BRICS Presidency from January 2021.

- BRICS doesn't exist within the form of organization, however it's an annual summit between the supreme leaders of 5 nations.
- The chairmanship of the forum is revolved annually among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S.

Cooperation Mechanism:

- Cooperation among members is achieved through:
- Track I: Formal diplomatic engagement between the national governments.
- Track II: Engagement through government-affiliated institutions, e.g. state-owned enterprises and business councils.
- Track III: Civil society and People-to-People engagement.

Topic 7. NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

Importance for Prelims: Environment



The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Union environment ministry to re-examine environmental clearance (EC) given to the Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board for developing a 'Modern Poultry and Egg Market' at Ghaziipur.

- It is a specialized body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the third country in the world to set up a specialized environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand, and the first developing country to do so.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.

Structure of NGT

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

- The Tribunal comprises of the Chairperson, the Judicial Members and Expert Members.
- They shall hold office for term of 5 years and aren't eligible for reappointment.
- The chairman is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with chief justice of India (CJI)

Powers&Jurisdiction

- The Tribunal has jurisdiction over all civil cases involving substantial question relating to environment.
- The tribunal isn't bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, however shall be guided by principles of 'natural justice'.

The NGT deals with civil cases under these seven laws related to the environment, these include:

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 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977,
 - The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,
 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981,
 - The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
 - The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
 - The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Two important acts –
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction.

Topic8.CONSTITUTIONALPROTECTIONTOGOVERNOR&PRESIDENT

ImportanceforPrelims:Polity

Governor Jagdeep Dhankharon Sunday said he was left “stunned” after Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Kalyan Banerjee told reporters that he had urged party workers to file police complaints against the governor so that action can be taken against him after he leaves office.

Protection of President and Governors – Article 361

- Article 361 of the Indian Constitution is an exception to the fundamental Right to Equality enshrined in Article fourteen.
- It essentially grants immunity to the country’s president and governors from prosecution whereas in workplace.
- The article says: The President or Governor are not personally answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of their powers, while in office.
- But it does not mean that conduct of these two office holders cannot be checked.
- The Article 361 makes it clear that conduct of the President could also be brought under review by any court, tribunal or body appointed or designated by either House of Parliament for the investigation of a charge under article sixty one.
- No criminal proceedings can be started or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office.
- No court can issue arrest warrants for President as well as Governor.
- Civil proceedings against a Governor or President against things done by him in his personal capacity is done only with a prior two months’ notice.

Topic9.SEMICONDUCTOR

ImportanceforPrelims:Science&technology



What is a Semiconductor?

Neutral n-region Neutral p-region

N_D (Donor) N_A (Acceptor)

D_N D_P D

Electrical 4 U

Aprotractedshortageofinputs,especiallysemiconductorchips,hasmadeIndia-based car manufactures and premium bike makers curtail production acrosscategories.

- Semiconductors are the materials that have a conductivity between conductors (generally metals) and non-conductors or insulators (such as ceramics).
- Semiconductors can be compounds such as gallium arsenide or pure elements, such as germanium or silicon.
- Semiconductors like gallium arsenide, germanium, and the silicon are some of the foremost commonly used semiconductors.
- Silicon is used in electronic circuit fabrication and gallium arsenide is used in solar cells, laser diodes, etc.

Properties of Semiconductors:

- Semiconductor acts like an insulator at Zero Kelvin. On increasing the temperature, it works as a conductor.
- Due to their exceptional electrical properties, semiconductors can be modified by doping to make semiconductor devices suitable for energy conversion, switches, and amplifiers.
- Lesser power losses.
- Semiconductors are the smaller in size and possess less weight.
- Their electrical resistance is higher than conductors however lesser than insulators.
- The resistance of semiconductor materials decreases with the increase in temperature and vice-versa.

Uses of Semiconductors

- Temperature sensors are made with semiconductor devices.
- They're utilized in 3D printing machines utilized in microchips and self-driving cars utilized in calculators, solar plates, computers and alternative electronic devices.
- Electronic transistor and MOSFET used as a switch in Electrical Circuits are manufactured utilizing the semiconductors.

- The physical and chemical properties of semiconductors make them capable of designing technological wonders like microchips, transistors, LEDs, solar cells, etc.
- The microprocessor used for controlling the operation of space vehicles, trains, robots, etc is made up of transistors and other controlling devices which are manufactured by semiconductor materials.

Topic10.VIRGINGALACTICROCKET

ImportanceforPrelims:Science&technology

Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo crashes

SpaceShipTwo – designed to take tourists to the edge of space – broke up during a test flight over America's Mojave Desert.
It was the first test flight using a new polyamide-based rocket fuel

White Knight Two
Four-engined mothership carries **SpaceShipTwo** to launch altitude of 15,200m

SpaceShipTwo
Length 18.3m
Wingspan 8.2m
Pilots 2
Passengers 6

1 After separation from mothership, **SpaceShipTwo** fires its hybrid fueled rocket motor. Fuel should burn for 70 seconds to accelerate craft to 4,000km/h

Rocket motor

This was 55th flight for **SpaceShipTwo** but only fourth time craft had actually fired its on-board rocket

2 Engine appears to burn for two seconds after ignition and then stops

3 Engine restarts and explodes

Source: Wire agency reports
Pictures: Associated Press
© GRAPHIC NEWS

Virgin Galactic on Sat made its 1st rocket-powered flight from New Mexico to the fringe of space in a very manned shuttle, because the company forges toward providing traveller flights to the edge of the Earth's atmosphere.

- Virgin Galactic announced that its VSS Unity with pilots Dave Mackay and CJ Sturckow at the controls, accelerated to three times the speed of sound and reached an altitude of just over 55 miles (89 kilometers) above sea level before making its gliding return through the atmosphere.
- The crew enjoyed extraordinary views of Earth from the black skies of space and, throughout several minutes of weightlessness, floated free to complete a number of cabin analysis test points.
- The human validation of information previously collected via sensors, and therefore the live testing of different physical parts of the cabin interior, are fundamental to a secure, safe but enjoyable customer experience, Virgin Galactic said in a statement.

Topic11.HAVANASYNDROME

ImportanceforPrelims:Science&technology

The Biden administration is facing new pressure to resolve a mystery that has vexed its predecessors: Is an opponent using a microwave or electromagnetic wave weapon to attack the brains of US diplomats, spies and military personnel?

HavanaSyndrome:

- In late 2016, USA diplomats and other employees stationed in Havana(capital ofCuba) reported feeling ill after hearing strange sounds andexperiencingodd physicalsensations.
- The symptoms embrace nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep issues, and hearing loss, that have since come back to be known as the Havana Syndrome.
- The a lot of chronic issues suffered by Havana personnel enclosed mainly vestibular process and cognitive issues likewise as sleep disorder and headache.
- Whereas the symptoms have resolved for a few of the affected workers, for others, the effects have lingered and posed a major obstacle to their work and affected the normal functioningof lives.

MicrowaveWeapons

- These are supposed to be a sort of direct energy weapons, that aim extremely focused energy within the sort of sonic, laser, or microwaves, at a target.
- Thehigh-frequencyelectromagneticradiationsheatthewaterinthehumanbody and cause discomfort and pain.
- It works the same approach because the kitchen appliance.
- Inamicrowaveoven,anelectrontubecalledamagnetronproduceselectromagneticwaves(microwaves)thatbouncearoundthemetallinteriorofthe appliance,andare absorbedbythefood.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

- Themicrowavesagitatethewatermoleculesinthefood,andtheirvibrationproduces heat that cooks the food. Foods with a high water content cookfasterina microwaveoftenthandrier foods.

CountrieswithMicrowaveWeapons:

- A number of countries are thought to have developed these weapons totargetbothhumans andelectronicsystems.
- Chinahadfirstputondisplayitsmicrowaveweapon,calledPolyWB-1,atan air showin2014
- The USA has also developed a example microwave-style weapon, that it calls the “Active Denial System”, which is the 1st non-lethal, directed-energy, counter personnel system with an extended range greater thancurrently fieldednon-lethalweapons.

Topic12.AUROVILLE

ImportanceforPrelims:CurrentEvents

Aurovillian Christoph Pohl's documentary EverSlowGreen has been formally selected for screening at the distinguished ChangeNow summit in Paris.

- EverSlowGreen tells the story of Auroville's unique afforestation project that took root on an eroded desert plateau at Villupuram district in TamilNadu.
- The project was supported by Auroville and funded by the fiftieth anniversary celebrations in 2018.
- The documentary premiered at the Auroville Film Festival 2020.
- Auroville is an experimental township in Viluppuram district mostly in the state of TamilNadu with some parts in the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- It was founded in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa (known as "the Mother") a French spiritual guru and a collaborator of Sri Aurobindo, who is considered her to be of equal yogic stature to him and called her by the name "The Mother".

Topic13.MOUNTNYIRAGONGO

ImportanceforPrelims:Geography



As the active volcano in Congo, Mount Nyaragongo, erupted again, the Indian Army contingent under the United Nations peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO) assisted in protecting civilians and U.N. officials as well as assets throughout the evacuation.

- Mount Nyiragongo is an energetic stratovolcano with an elevation of 3,470 m within the Virunga Mountains associated with the Albertine Rift.

- It's located inside Virunga national park, within the Democratic Republic of the Congo, regarding twelve km north of the city of Goma and Lake Kivu.
- The main crater is about two kilometers (1 mi) wide and usually contains a lake. Nyiragongo's lake has at times been the most voluminous known lake in recent history.
- Nyiragongo and nearby Nyamuragira are together responsible for 40 percent of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions.

Lavalakes

- Lavalakes are large volumes of molten lava, usually basaltic, contained in a volcanic vent, crater, or broad depression.

Topic14.CHINA–CEEC

ImportanceforPrelims:InternationalRelations



Lithuania said it was quitting China’s 17+1 cooperation forum with central and eastern European states that includes other EU members, calling it “divisive”.

- Cooperation between China and Central and eastern European Countries (China- CEE, China-CEEC, a) is an initiative by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs boost business and investment relations between China and sixteen countries of CEE (CEEC) – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the czech republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- The format was founded in 2012 in Warsaw.
- Earlier it was known as 17+1, but after Lithuania quits it in May 2021 it is known as 16+1.
- Central and eastern Europe could be a term encompassing the countries in Central Europe, the Baltic’s, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Europe (the Balkans), sometimes that means former communist states from the Eastern Bloc and Warsaw Pact in Europe.
- Lithuania is a country in the Baltic region of Europe. Its Capital is Vilnius.

Topic15.INTERNATIONALATOMICENERGYAGENCY(IAEA)

ImportanceforPrelims:InternationalOrganisations



Iran said that a three-month observation deal between Teheran and IAEA has expired which its access to photographs from within some Iranian nuclear sites would cease.

The announcement raised additional questions on the longer term of indirect talks under way between the US and Iran on renewing the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

AboutIAEA:

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an UN agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field.
- It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributive to international peace and security and also the United Nations' sustainable Development Goals.
- It had been formed in 1957 as a result of Conference on the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency held at the United Nations headquarters. At first it had been known as 'Atoms for peace'.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- It's 171 members (Saint Lucia being most recent member).
- Though it is an independent international agency, yet, it reports annually to UNGA.
- It along with its Director General won Nobel Peace prize in 2005.

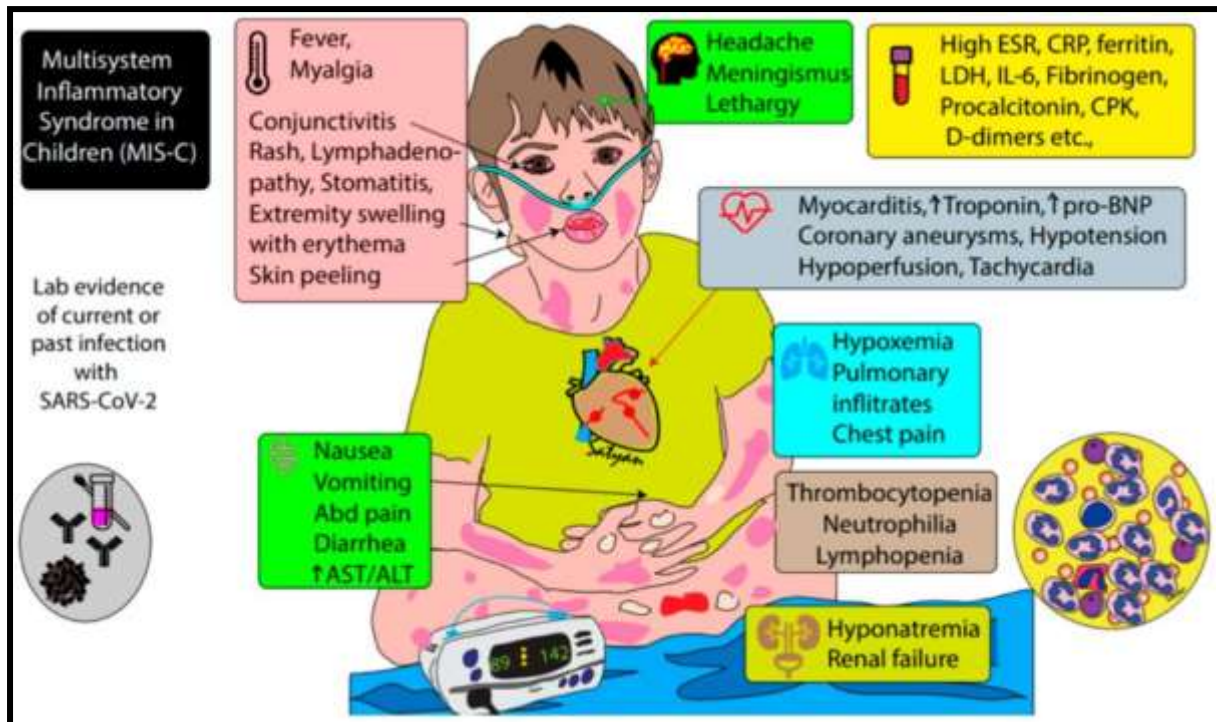
- The IAEA's policy-making bodies decide on the Agency's programmes and budgets.
- They comprise the General Conference of all Member States and the 35-member Board of Governors.
- The IAEA's three main areas of work are: Safety and security, Science and technology, Safeguards and verification.

Funding of IAEA:

- The IAEA carries out its work in two main areas: the regular programme and the Technical Cooperation programme. These two programmes are financed from separate funds.
- They are additionally supported by extra-budgetary contributions from Member States and non-member states donors. The IAEA's budget is approved annually by the IAEA General Conference.

Topic16.MIS-C

ImportanceforPrelims: Science&tech



Anticipating the likelihood of an increase in cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), the Pune paediatricCovid task force has urged parents to induce vaccinated on a prioritybasisagainstSARS-COV2 infection.

- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a condition wherever totally different body parts will become inflamed, as well as the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.
- Children with MIS-C could have a fever and various symptoms, as well as abdominal (gut) pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes, or feeling additional tired.
- Still the causes of MIS-C aren't known.
- However,manychildrenwithMIS-ChadthevirusthatcausesCOVID-19,orhadbeenaroundsomeone with COVID-19.
- Since June 2020, many case reports and series have reported the same multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults (MIS-A).

Topic17.NATIONALMISSIONONUSEOFBIOMASSINTHERMALPOWER PLANTS

ImportanceforPrelims:Economy/Governance

MinistryofPowerhasdecidedtosetupaNationalMissiononuseofBiomassincoal basedthermalpowerplants.

Missionobjectives:

- To increase the level of co-firing from present Five Percent to higher levels to have a bigger share of carbon neutral power generation from the thermal power plants.
- To take up R&D activity in boiler design to handle the higher amount of silica,alkalisinthebiomasspellets.
- Tofacilitateovercomingtheconstraintsinsupplychainofbiomasspelletsandagro-residueanditstransportupto tothepowerplants.
- Toconsiderregulatoryissuesinbiomassco-firing.

Features:

- TheMissionwouldhaveaSteeringCommitteeheadedbySecretary(Power) comprising of all stakeholders including representatives fromMinistry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), Ministry of New &RenewableEnergy(MNRE) etc.
- TheCCCommitteewouldbeheadedbyMember(Thermal),CEA.
- ThedurationofproposedNationalMissionwouldbeaminimum5years.

SignificanceoftheProposedMission

- It would address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble burning andto reducecarbonfootprintsof thermalpower generation.
- Thiswouldfurtherstheenergytransitioninthecountryandourtargetstomovetowardscleanerenergysources.
- ItwillalsocontributeintheNationalCleanAirProgramme(NCAP).

Topic18.EXPERTCOMMITTEEONINVESTMENTFUNDS

ImportanceforPrelims:Economy

The International financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has constituted an expert Committee on investment funds to recommend to IFSCA on the road map for the funds industry within the International FinancialServiceCentres(IFSCs)in India.

- TheCommitteehasbeenconstitutedundertheChairmanshipofMrNilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra asset Management Co. Ltd.
- The Committee includes of leaders from the whole Fund Management ecosystem together with from areas such as technology, distribution, legal, compliance, and operations.

Termsof referenceof theExpertCommittee:

- To suggest IFSCA on long run vision for operations of investment funds in IFSC.
- To make recommendations with respect to structure of Investment Fundsin IFSC.
- To identify problems that may be critical for development of the investment funds industry at IFSCs together with inter-regulatory problems.
- The other relevant item on building the ecosystem inter-alia on asset managers, hedge funds, PE, VC, sovereign funds, family offices, and also the accompanying professional services.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

Topic 19. NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE ACADEMY (NDRFA)

2

Importance for Prelims: Disaster Management



The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for creation of one post of Director in Senior Administrative Grade (SAG), at National Disaster Response Force Academy, Nagpur.

- National Disaster Response Force Academy was established in the year 2018 at Nagpur by merging with it National Civil Defence college (NCDC).
- The main campus field of the Academy is under construction, until then it's functioning from the existing campus of National Climatic Data Center.
- The Academy presently imparts training to National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)/ State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)/ Civil Defence volunteers and alternative stakeholders and is envisaged to grow into a premier training institution of international repute.

- It'll also give specialised training to disaster response personnel of SAARC and other countries.
- With the creation of the post of Director, NDRF Academy, the command and control of the organisation will be entrusted to a senior and knowledgeable officer, who can steer the institution as per the intended objectives.

Topic20.BUDDHAPURNIMA

ImportanceforPrelims:Culture

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver a key-note address at the international event organised to mark Buddha Purnima Diwas. The event is being organised by the Ministry of Culture and The International Buddhist Confederation.

- Vesak is the most sacred day for Buddhists around the world.
- It's also called Buddha Purnima and Buddha Day.
- The day commemorates birth, enlightenment and Death (or Parinirvana) of Lord Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, all of that is said to have taken place on the same day.
- Vesak, falls on the full moon day (Purnima) of the month Vaishakha (May), hence the occasion is referred to as Buddha Purnima in India.
- **Recognition by United Nations (UN):** The general Assembly, by its resolution in 1999, recognized internationally the Day of Vesak.
- It was done to acknowledge the contribution that Buddhism made to humanity.

Topic21.ECLGS

ImportanceforPrelims:GovernmentSchemes

Federation of Indian little and Medium Enterprises FISME has currently called for ECLGS 3.0 with “inbuilt flexibility” to be made available to a lot of companies to cope with the current crisis.

- ECLGS was rolled out as part of the Centre’s Aatmanirbhar package in responsetotheCovid-19crisis.
- The objective was to support small businesses struggling to satisfy their operational liabilities due to the imposition of a nationwide lockdown.
- The ECLGS is provides for the guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility.
- The GECL is a loan that 100 percent guarantee is provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) to Member lending institutions (MLIs) – banks, financial institutions andNon-BankingFinancial Companies(NBFCs).
- Theloansareextendedintheformofadditionalworkingcapitaltermloanfacility incaseofbanksandadditionaltermloanfacilityincaseofNBFCstoeligibleMS MEenterprisesandinterestedPradhanMantriMudraYojana(PMMY)borrowers.
- First-time borrowers and Non-Performing Asset (NPA) accounts cannotraisefundunderthescheme.
- ThetenorofloansprovidedundertheGECLfacilityisfouryears fromthedateofdisbursement.
- Amoratoriumperiodofoneyearontheprincipalamountisprovided.
- Interestratesofbanksandfinancialinstitutionshavebeencappedat9.25%per annum,whileNBFCscanlend atamaximumof14% per annum.

Topic22.SAFEHARBORPROVISIONS

ImportanceforPrelims:CurrentEvents/Governance

What Is a Safe Harbor 401(k)? A way to structure a plan that automatically passes the non-discrimination test or avoids it altogether

According to SafeHarbor401k.org, plans can allocate contributions in one of three ways:

1) BASIC	2) ENHANCED	3) NON-ELECTIVE
Employer matches 100% of the first 3% of compensation, and 50% of the next 2% of compensation	Employer matches 100% on the first 4% of compensation	Employer contributes 3% to all eligible employees
		
the balance		

New rules have come into effect, taking away the protection granted to social media intermediaries under Section seventy nine of the IT Act if they fail to comply.

- The safe harbour provisions have been defined under Section seventy nine of the IT Act, and protect social media intermediaries by giving them immunity from legal prosecution for any content posted on their platforms.
- This protection, the Act says, shall be applicable if the said intermediary doesn't in any way, initiate the transmission of the message in question, choose the receiver of the transmitted message and doesn't modify any info contained in the transmission.
- This means that as long as a platform acts just as the messenger carrying a message from point A to point B, without interfering in any manner, it will

be safe from any legal prosecution brought upon due to the message being transmitted.

- The protection accorded under Section seventy nine, however, isn't granted if the intermediary, despite being informed or notified by the govt or its agencies, doesn't immediately disable access to the material under question.
- The intermediary must not tamper with any evidence of these messages or content present on its platform, failing which it loses its protection under the Act.

Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code

- In February 2021, the guidelines had asked all social media platforms to set up a grievance redressal and compliance mechanism.
- It included the appointing a resident grievance officer, chief compliance officer and a nodal contact person.
- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology had also asked these platforms to submit monthly reports on complaints received from users and action taken.
- A third requirement was for instant messaging apps to make provisions for tracking the first originator of a message.
- The failure to comply with any of these requirements would take away the indemnity provided to social media intermediaries under Section seventy nine of the Information Technology Act.

Topic23. ICAO

Importance for Prelims: International Organisations



International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will hold an urgent meeting in Montreal, Canada, on May twenty seven to discuss the forcible diversion of the Ryanair plane, which was flying from Greece to Republic of Lithuania, to land in Republic of Belarus on May twenty three after Western powers called for the UN civil aviation agency to analyze the incident.

International Civil Aviation Organisation

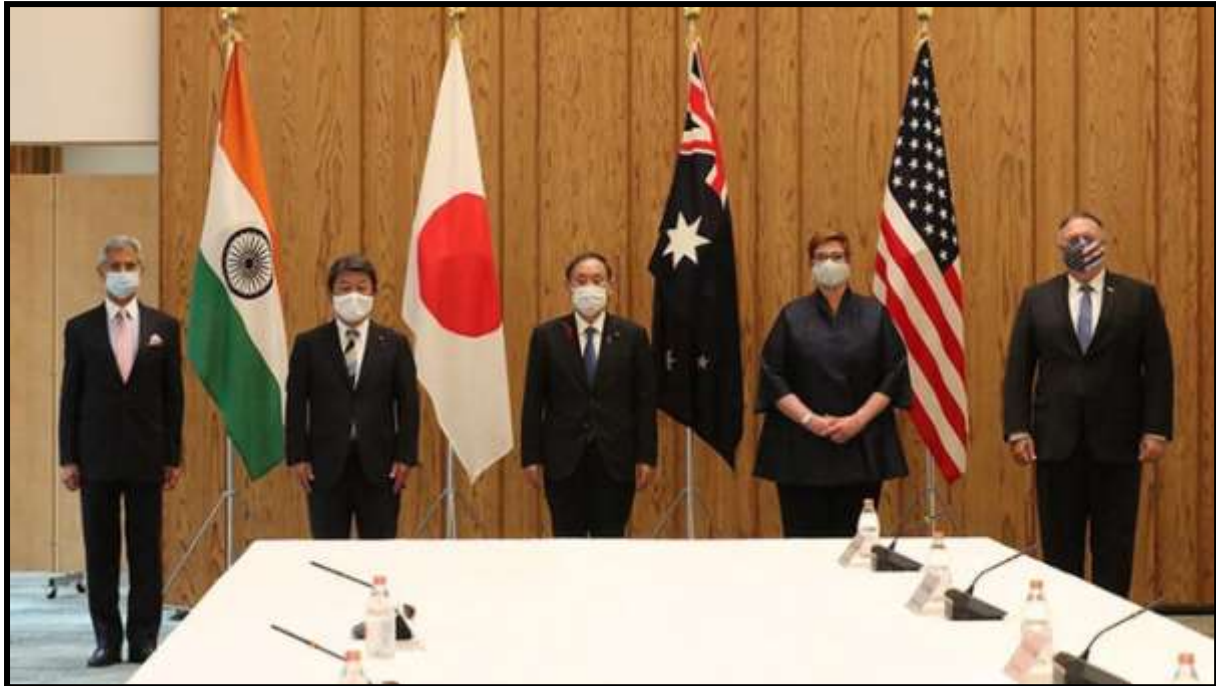
- International Civil Aviation Organization is a United Nations (UN) specialised agency, established in 1944, which laid the foundation for the standards and procedures for peaceful global air navigation.
- The Convention on International Civil Aviation was signed on 7th December 1944 in Chicago.
- It established the core principles allowing international transport by air, and also led to the creation of the International Civil Aviation Organization.
- It's one of the objectives is to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world.

India is among its 193 members.

- It is headquartered in Montreal, Canada.

Topic24.QUAD

ImportanceforPrelims:InternationalRelations



Quad‘targeting’China,saysConsul General.

- It is a four-nation alliance of India, Australia, USA and Japan that was established in 2007.
- It is often dubbed as an “Asian” or “mini” NATO, and is viewed as a counterbalance to China’s military and economic clout in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The 2020 US-China Economic and security review Commission shows China’s growing power projection along the Indian Ocean rim with military or economic activities in countries like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- Interestingly, the QUAD, which used to be known as the quadrilateral security dialogue, is now known as the quadrilateral framework to indicate it has gone beyond a narrow security dialogue.
- In Nov 2017, India, the USA, Australia and Japan gave shape to the long pending “QUAD” Coalition to develop a brand new strategy to keep the the

critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence (especially China).

- Since then, QUAD has taken several steps to bolster military and strategic ties with a series of working-level and ministerial-level meetings.

Participation in Malabar Exercise:

- In 2020, all four QUAD Countries – Japan, India, Australia and therefore the USA took part in the Malabar exercise.
- Malabar exercise is an annual trilateral naval exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the USA which is held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Topic25.ACCRPORTAL&AYUSHSANJIVANIAPP

ImportanceforPrelims:Governance

Recently, the Ministry of AYUSH has launched the Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal and the AyushSanjivani App.

AyushClinicalCaseRepository(ACCR)Portal

- It is the dedicated section for reporting and publishing details of Covid 19cases treatedthroughAyushSystems.
- It's conceptualized and developed by the Ministry of Ayush as a platform to support both Ayush practitioners and also the public.
- ItwelcomesAyushpractitionersfromallovertheworldtoenrollandshareinformationabout successfullytreated cases forthebenefit ofall.
- It covers all the seven systems of Ayush viz. Ayurveda, Yoga, naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, homeopathy and Sowa Rigpa.
- SignificanceofAyushClinicalCaseRepository(ACCR)Portal
- ItaimstoaggregateinformationaboutclinicaloutcomesachievedbyAyushpractitioneronalargescale.
- It'll facilitate not simply dissemination of information but also more analysis and analysis.
- ItisexpectedtodocumentthestrengthsofAyushsystemsfortreatmentofvarious disease conditions.

AboutAyushSanjivaniApp

- It facilitates a significant study/ documentation regarding the efficacy ofselected Ayush interventions, including Ayush 64 and KabasuraKudineermedicines.
- It'll help to generate the data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID nineteen.

- It is developed by Ministry of AYUSH and MEITY and shall reach out to a target of 50 lakh people.

Topic26.PFRDA

ImportanceforPrelims:NationalOrganisations



The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) crossed the milestone of Rs 6 lakh crore (Rs 6 trillion) of Assets Under Management (AUM) under the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), after thirteen years.

- PFRDA is a statutory body established by an Act of the Parliament to promote old age income security by the establishing, developing and regulating pension funds, to guard the interests of subscribers to the schemes of pension funds and for matters connected there with or incidental to that.
- PFRDA performs the function of appointing various intermediate agencies like Pension Fund Managers, Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) etc.
- It develops, promotes and regulates the pension industry under National Pension System and also administers the Atal Pension Yojana.

Atal Pension Yojana

- The scheme was launched on 9th may, 2015, with the target of creating a universal Social Security system for all Indians, particularly the poor, the underprivileged and also the employees in the unorganised sector.
- **Administered By:** Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority through National Pension System (NPS).
- Any citizen of India can join the APY scheme.
- The age of the subscriber should be between 18-40 years.
- The contribution levels would vary and would be low if a subscriber joins early and increases if she joins late.

Benefits:

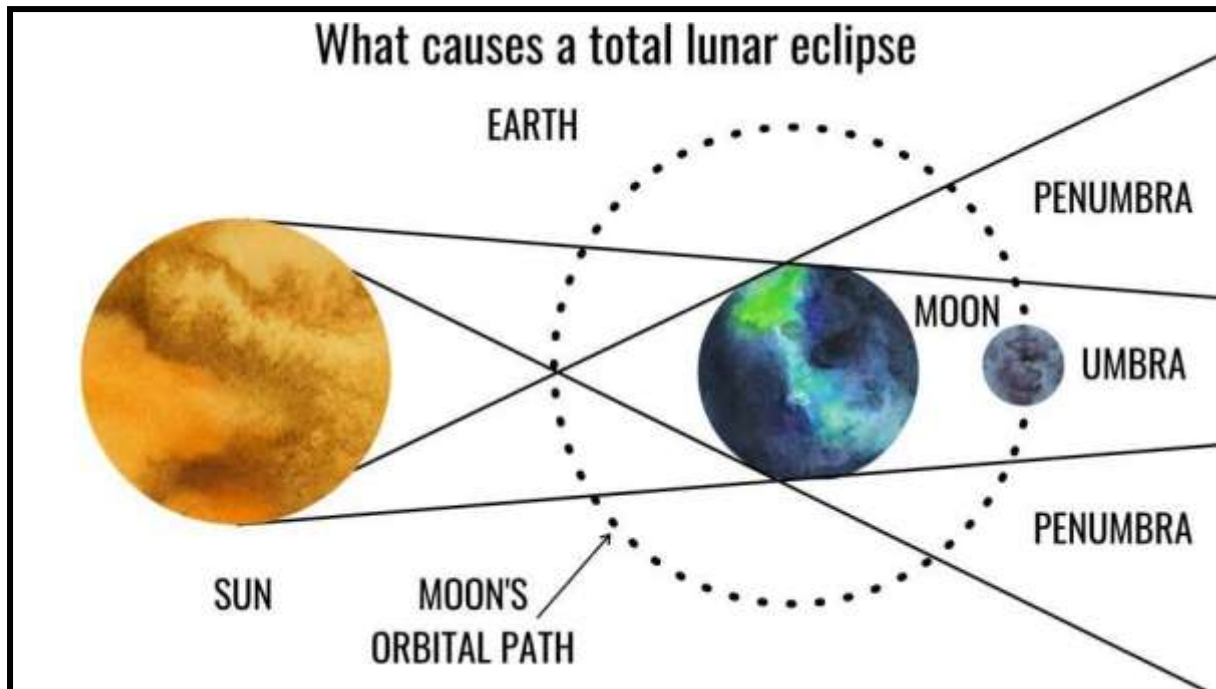
- It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.
- The amount of pension is guaranteed for lifetime to the spouse on death of the subscriber.
- Within the event of death of both the subscriber and also the spouse, the whole pension corpus is paid to the nominee.
- Contributions to the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) are eligible for tax benefits similar to the National Pension System (NPS).

National Pension System

- NPS is a government-sponsored pension scheme.
- It was launched in 2004 for government staff.
- Now, any individual citizen of India (both resident and non-resident) in the age group of 18-65 can join NPS.

Topic 27. TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE & SUPERMOON

Importance for Prelims: Geography



Recently, a super-celestial event took place because the 1st lunar eclipse of 2021 took place. The event was more special as it coincided with a supermoon, a total lunar eclipse and a red blood moon all at once.

Supermoon

- NASA notes that a supermoon occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest to the Earth at the same time that the Moon is full.
- As the Moon orbits the Earth, there is a point of time when the distance between the two is the least (called the perigee) and a point of time when the distance is the most (called the apogee).
- When a full moon appears at the point once the gap between the planet and therefore the Moon is that the least, not only does it appear to be brighter however it's also larger than a regular full moon.
- According to NASA, the term supermoon was coined by astrologer Richard Nolle in 1979.

- In a typical year, there may be two of four full supermoons and two of four new Super moons in a row.

What is a Lunar Eclipse?

- It's a phenomenon which occurs once the Moon and Sun square measure on opposite sides of the earth.
- The phenomenon occurs during the full moon.
- A full moon happens when the Moon and the Sun are on opposite sides of the Earth which allows the person to see the entire lit-upside, which looks like a round disc in the night sky.
- The moon will also appear to be red because of the total lunar eclipse.

Why does the moon look red?

- It's because the earth will block some of the sunshine from the Sun from reaching the moon and because the Earth's atmosphere filters the sunshine, it'll soften "the edge of our planet's shadow" "giving the Moon a deep, rosy glow".
- Sunlight has all colours and whereas passing through the atmosphere of the earth, the blue light weight is filtered whereas the red part passes through it.
- It is because of this the sky looks blue and redness prevails at sunrise and sunset.
- Within the case of a lunar eclipse, the red light weight passes through the earth's atmosphere and it turns towards the moon while the blue light weight remains out of it which makes the moon look completely red.

Topic 28. MEKEDATU MULTI-PURPOSE PROJECT

Importance for Prelims: Economy/Geography

DRAWING LINES Kerala, Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh have started building check dams on rivers which they share with TN

TN VS ANDHRA PRADESH
Check dams across river Palar

- > Twenty-three check dams have been constructed between 1990 and 2005 across Palar river in Andhra Pradesh
- > The Andhra Pradesh govt has raised heights of at least six check dams over the last one year to double their water storage level
- > A new check dam has been built across Palar near Giggegaanipenta in Chittoor district

HOW WILL IT AFFECT TN?

- > TN contends that Andhra is aggressively raising the heights of its check dams to curtail water flow into Tamil Nadu

TN VS KARNATAKA
Dam at Mekedatu across Cauvery

- > Karnataka wants to build a reservoir across river Cauvery near Mekedatu in Kanakapura taluk
- > State claims the dam will meet the drinking needs of Bengaluru besides generating 400MW power

HOW WILL IT AFFECT TN?

- > TN govt, farmers, opposition parties and Tamil outfits have opposed the project
- > They say the dam would reduce flow of water from Cauvery to TN, hitting hard the livelihood of farmers in delta districts
- > But Karnataka says it would only tap surplus water and not draw from Tamil Nadu's share

FOR A RAINY DAY: A recently raised check dam on river Palar in Andhra Pradesh

TN VS KERALA
Check dams across river Bhavani

- > Kerala plans to construct six check dams across interstate river Bhavani
- > Two have been completed – one at Thekkuvattai, near Attapady in Palakkad district, 30km from Coimbatore border and other at Manjakandi
- > Kerala says check dams will utilise 6 TMC water awarded from the Bhavani basin by the Cauvery Tribunal 10 years ago; the Supreme Court had ratified the verdict

HOW WILL IT AFFECT TN?

- > Farmers in Coimbatore, Erode and Tirupur fear the water flow would go down in Bhavani flowing into TN once the check dams are built on the Kerala side

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has appointed a joint committee to look into allegations of unauthorised construction activity taking place in Mekedatu, where the Karnataka government had proposed to construct a dam across the Cauvery River.

- Acting suo motu based on a media report, the NGT has directed the panel to submit a report on or before July 5.
- The Mekedatu multi-purpose project involves building a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery River near Kanakapura in Ramanagaram district.
- It envisages supplying drinking water to Bengaluru and Ramanagaram districts, besides generation of power.

- The project was conceived in 2013 and in 2017, the Karnataka state cabinet decided to implement it.
- The project, however, ran into an issue after Tamil Nadu opposed it on the grounds that the project violates the Cauvery Water Disputes tribunal award.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

Topic29.UNHRC

ImportanceforPrelims:InternationalOrganisations



IndiaskipstheUNHRCresolutiontoprobehumanrightsviolationinGaza;Netanyahu condemnsUNbodyprobeorder.

- The United Nations Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the UN system accountable for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world.
- The Council was created by the UN General Assembly in 2006.
- It replaced the previous United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- The workplace of the high commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) serves as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council.
- OHCHR is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Members:

- It is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

- The UNGA takes into account the candidate States' contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard.
- The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. Seats are distributed as follows:
 - African States: 13 seats
 - Asia-Pacific States: 13 seats
 - Latin American and Caribbean States: 8 seats
 - Western European and other States: 7 seats
 - Eastern European States: 6 seats
 - Members of the Council serve for a period of 3 years and aren't eligible for immediate re-election once serving 2 consecutive terms.

Procedures and Mechanisms:

- Universal Periodic Review: UPR serves to assess the human rights situations altogether UN Member States.
- Advisory Committee: It serves as the Council's "think tank" providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues.
- Complaint Procedure: It allows individuals and organizations to bring human rights violations to the attention of the Council.

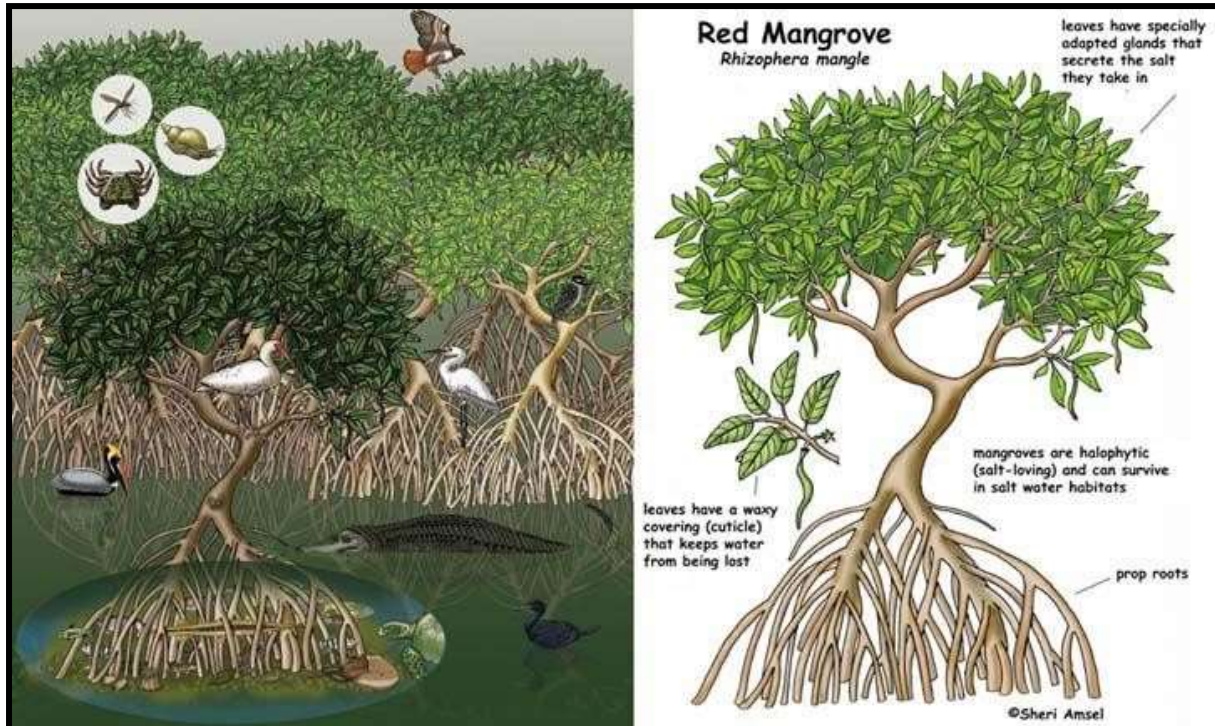
United Nations Special Procedures: These are created from special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working teams that monitor, examine, advise and in public report on thematic problems or human rights situations in specific countries.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

human rights situations in specific countries.

Topic30.MANGROVES

ImportanceforPrelims:Environment



Environmentalists warn that erosion by seawater will be a recurrent phenomenon in the area if forests and mangroves are not given importance over commercial developments around coasts.

- Mangroves are the plant communities occurring in to inter-tidal zones along the coasts of tropical and subtropical countries.
- Mangrove forests perform multiple ecological functions such as production of woody trees; provision of habitat, food, and spawning grounds for fin-fish and shellfish; provision of habitat for birds and other valuable fauna; protection of coastlines and accretion of sediment to create new land.
- Mangrove plants have several unique adaptations that allow them to survive in harsh environment.
- Mangroves are extraordinarily necessary to the coastal ecosystems they inhabit.
- Physically, they serve as a buffer between marine and terrestrial communities.
- They defend coastlines from damaging winds, waves, and floods.

- Mangrove has an important role in improving water quality by filtering pollutants and trapping sediments from the land. They reduce coastal erosion.
- Ecologically, they provide habitat for a diverse array of terrestrial and marine organisms.
- The area of mangroves has greater species diversity as it is the junction of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
- They have very high salt tolerance and so some species which require this ambience also thrive upon mangroves.
- According to one of its oft-quoted definition, “Mangroves represent a characteristic littoral (near the sea shore) forest ecosystem and they are mostly evergreen forests that grow in sheltered low lying coasts, estuaries, mudflats, tidal creeks backwaters (coastal waters held back on land), marshes and lagoons of tropical and subtropical regions”.
- Mangrove Forests trees project different types of roots: Prop – They are down into the water Air – They are vertically configured up from the mud Stilt – These roots emerge from the main trunk of the tree; also known as adventitious roots.
- According to the Forest Survey of India, 2019, Mangroves’ cover in the country increased by 54 sq km (91.10 percent) in comparison to the 2017 assessment.
- mangrove cover in Republic of India is 4975 sq km (0.15 p.c of the entire geographical area.) mangrove cover is divided as:
 - Very Dense – 1476 sq km (29.66 percent)
 - Moderately Dense – 1479 sq km (29.73 percent)
 - Open Mangroves – 2020 sq km (40.61 percent)
 - There are three important types of mangroves:

Red mangroves:

- They grow along coastlines and are the hardiest of the three major mangrove plant types.

Black mangroves:

- They are named so because of their dark bark. They usually grow at slightly higher elevations than red mangroves. They have access to more oxygen because the roots are more exposed.

White mangroves:

- They grow at higher elevations than red and black mangroves.
- Generally they do not have aerial roots. But sometimes there is unique **growth** of peg roots when oxygen is depleted due to flood.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

Topic31.INITIALPUBLICOFFERING

ImportanceforPrelims:Economics



Recently, 5 firms filed their draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) for an initial public offering (IPO) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). In 2020-21, as several as sixty nine firms raised close to Rs 75,000 crore through public problems, as well as IPOs.

InitialPublicOffering

- IPO is the selling of securities to the public in the primary market.
- Primary market deals with new securities being issued for the primary time.
- It is different from secondary market where existing securities are bought and sold.
- It is also known as the stock market or stock exchange.
- It's when an unlisted company makes either a fresh issue of securities or a proposal purchasable of its existing securities or both for the first time to the public.

- Unlisted companies are companies that are not listed on the stock exchange.
- It is generally used by new and medium-sized firms that are looking for funds to grow and expand their business.

Topic32.INDIANBROADCASTINGFOUNDATION(IBF)

ImportanceforPrelims:Governance



The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), the apex body of broadcasters, is increasing its purview to cover digital streaming platforms and can be renamed the Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).

- The move would bring broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms, which have seen a substantial jump in their viewership base after the pandemic, under one roof.
- For this, the IBDF was in the process of forming a brand new wholly-owned subsidiary to handle all matters of digital media.
- The IBDF would also type a self-regulatory body, the Digital Media Content regulative Council (DMCRC), for digital OTT platforms.

AboutIBF

- The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) was founded in the year 1999.
- The IBF is the parent organisation of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) which was set up in the year 2011.

- The BCCC examines content-related complaints relating to all non-news general entertainment channels in Republic of India.

Topic33.VD SAVARKAR

ImportanceforPrelims:History

On twenty eighth May, India pays tribute to the freedom fighter,

VinayakDamodarSavarkar (Veer Savarkar) on his birth anniversary.

- VDSavarkarwasbornon28thMay,1883inBhagur,avillagenearNashikinMaharashtra.

RelatedOrganisationsandWork:

- Founded a secret society referred to as Abhinavbharat Society.
- Went to the UK and was involved with organizations like India House and also the Free India Society.
- InvolvedintheformationofHinduMahasabha.
- HewasthepresidentofHinduMahasabhafrom1937to1943.
- Savarkar wrote a book titled 'The History of the War of Indian Independence' in which he wrote about the guerilla warfare tricks utilized in 1857 sepoy mutiny.
- Healsowrotethebook'Hindutva:whoishindu?'
- Trial and Sentences: arrested in 1909 on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the Morley-Minto reform (Indian Councils Act 1909).
- Arrested in 1910 for his connections with the revolutionary group India House.
- one of the charges on Savarkar was abetment to murder of Nashik Collector Jackson and also the second was waging a conspiracy below Indian penal code 121-A against the King emperor.
- Following the 2 trials, Savarkar was convicted and sentenced to 50-years imprisonment also called Kala Pani and transported in 1911 to the Cellular Jail within the Andaman andNicobarIslands.
- HewasnotconsideredbytheBritishgovernmentasapoliticalprisoner.
- Hediedon26thFebruary1966dueto fastingonhisownwishofdeath.

AbhinavBharatSociety(YoungIndiaSociety)

- It absolutely was a secret society founded by VinayakDamodarSavarkar and his brother Ganesh DamodarSavarkar in 1904.
- Initially founded at Nasik as MitraMela, the society was associated withseveralrevolutionariesandpoliticalactivistswithbranchesinvariouspart sofIndia andLondon.

IndiaHouse

- ItwasfoundedbyShyamjiKishanVermain1905inLondon.
- It absolutely was opened to promote nationalist views among Indian students in London.

FreeIndia Society

- ItwasapoliticalorganizationofIndianstudentsinEngland,committedtoobtain ingtheindependence ofIndia fromBritish rule.
- Initially an intellectual group, it became a revolutionary outfit under itsfoundingleader,Madam BhikajiCama.

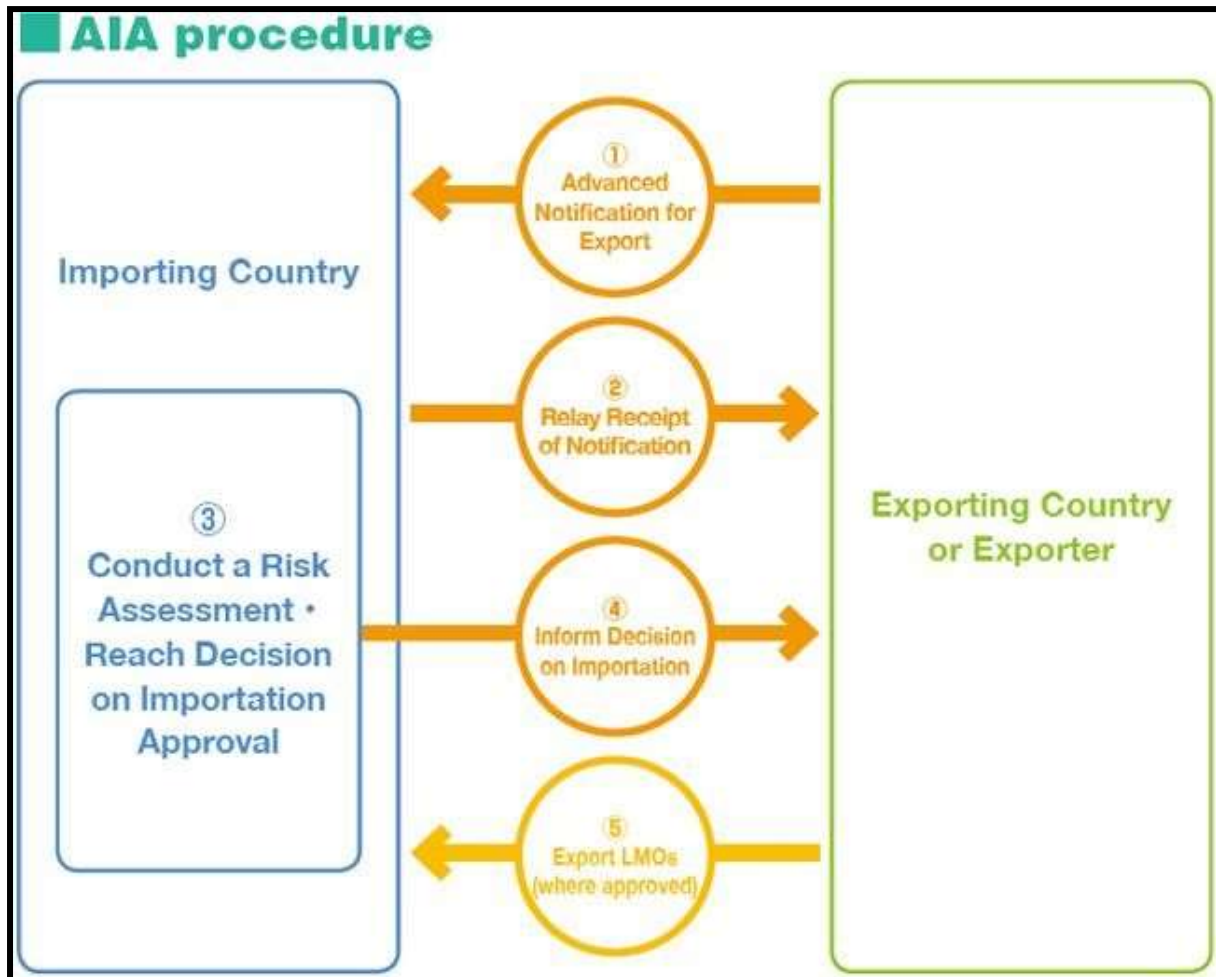
HinduMahasabha

- Itwasapoliticalparty formedin1933.
- ItwasfoundedbyVeerDamodarSavarkar,LalaLajpatRai,MadanMohanMalv iya.
- The organisation was formed to protect the rights of the Hindu community, after the formation of the All India Muslim League in 1906 and therefore the British India government's creation of separate Muslim voters below the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

Topic34.CARTEGENAPROTOCOL

ImportanceforPrelims:Environment



There is a multilateral template in the place for clean bio research — the 1992 UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992, and the 2000 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

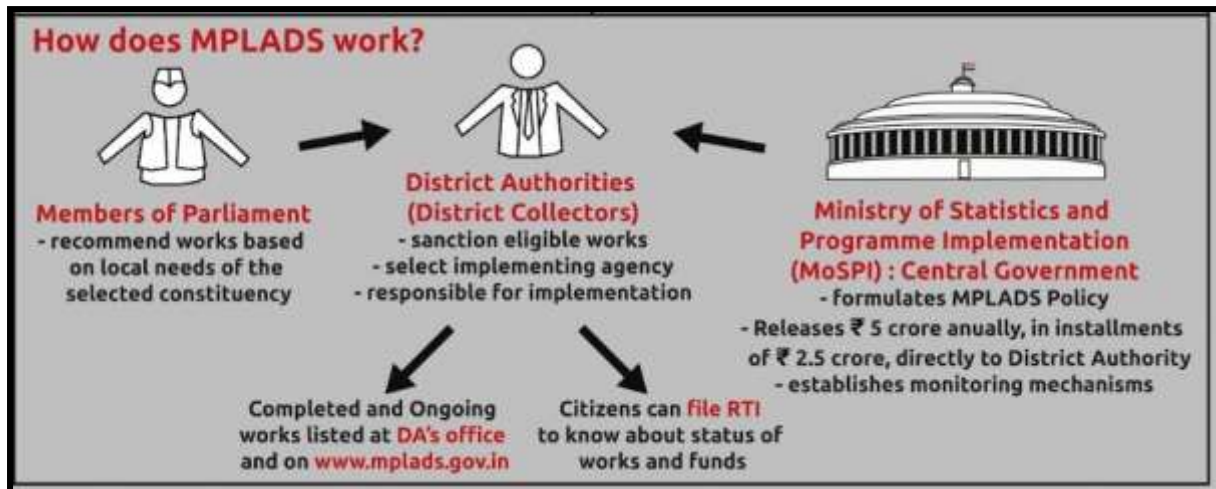
- On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP5) adopted a supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the Cartagena Protocol on the Biosafety. It came into the force on 11 September 2003.
- CBD covers the rapidly expanding field of biotechnology through its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- It addresses technology development and the transfer, benefit-sharing, and biosafety issues.

- The Biosafety Protocol seeks is to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.
- It's create an advanced informed agreement (AIA) procedure that requires exporters to seek consent from importing countries before the first shipment of LMOs meant to be introduced into the environment (e.g. seeds for the planting, fish for release, and microorganisms for bioremediation)
- It establishes an internet-based “Biosafety Clearing-House” to help the countries exchange scientific, technical, environmental, and legal information about LMOs.
- The Protocol gives a precautionary approach to the issue of the transfer of LMOs from one country to another Country.
- The Protocol includes a clause that makes clear the Parties’ intent that the agreement does not alter the rights and the obligations of governments under the World Trade Organization (WTO) or other existing international agreements.

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Topic35.MPLADS

ImportanceforPrelims:GovernmentSchemes



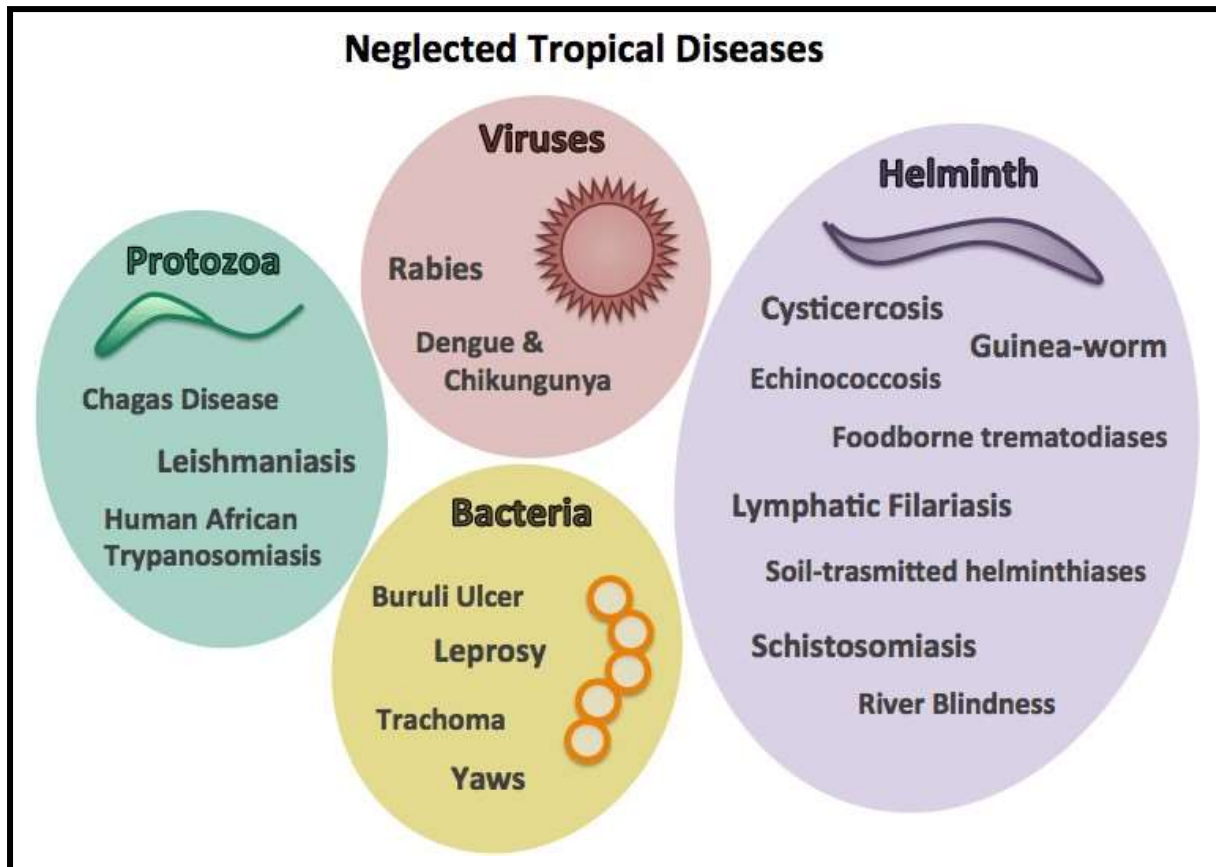
Restore MPLADS funds to help Covid and cyclone victims: AdhirRanjan Chowdhury to PM Modi

- The MPLAD scheme was developed in 1993 to enable Members of Parliament (MPs) to suggest development works in their constituencies with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the regionally felt need. durable assets of national priorities and community desires viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and the roads, etc.
- Initially, the Scheme was under the control of the Ministry of RuralDevelopment andPlanning.
- In October, 1994, the scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics&Programme Implementation.
- Underthisscheme, everyMPisentitled to spendRs5croreannually.
- Almost like MPLADS, many states have enacted schemes known as Member of legislative assembly local area Development scheme (MLALADS) wherever funds are given to MLAs.
- MPLAD funds can even be used for implementation of the schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat

Abhiyan),conservationofwaterthroughrainwaterharvestingandSansadAadarsh GramYojana,etc.

Topic36.WORLDNEGLECTEDTROPICALDISEASES

ImportanceforPrelims: Science&tech



Delegates at the 74th World Health Assembly unanimously adopted a proposal by the UAE to declare January 30 as 'World NTDD Day'.

- Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of tropical infections which are common in low-income populations in developing regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
- They are caused by a variety of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasitic worms (helminths).
- They include dengue, rabies, blinding trachoma, Buruli ulcer, endemic treponematoses (yaws), leprosy (Hansen's disease) etc.
- These diseases are contrasted with the big 3 infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria), which generally receive greater treatment and research funding.

- 1 in 5 people around the world are affected by NTDs.
- India is home to the world's largest absolute burden of at least 11 of these major neglected tropical diseases.

Topic37.NATIONALINFRASTRUCTUREPIPELINE

ImportanceforPrelims:Economy



US-based realty firm wants to invest \$500bn in India's National Infrastructure Pipeline.

About NIP:

- NIP was announced in union budget in 2019-20 for an outlay of Rs 100 lakh Crore for infrastructure projects over the next 5 years.
- NIP is a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

- It'll improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic & foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for attaining the target of turning into a \$5 trillion economy by FY 2025.
- Covers both economic and social infrastructure projects.

Atanu Chakraborty Report:

- The task force headed by Atanu Chakraborty on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), in May 2020, submitted its final report to the Finance Minister.
- It's recommended the following , Investment needed: ₹111 lakh crore over the next 5 years (2020-2025) to build infrastructure projects and drive economic growth.
- Energy, roads, railways and urban projects are estimated to account for the bulk of projects (around 70%).
- The centre (39 percent) and state (40 percent) are expected to have an almost equal share in implementing the projects, while the private sector has 21 percent share.
- Aggressive push towards assets sales.
- Monetisation of infrastructure assets.
- Setting up of development finance institutions.
- Strengthening the municipal bond market.

Topic38.CITIZENSHIPAMENDMENTACT

ImportanceforPrelims:Legislations

WiththeCentreyettoframerulesundertheCitizenshipAmendmentAct(CAA)2019, it issued a gazette notification Friday granting powers under existing rulesto authorities in 13 districts of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana andPunjab to accept, verify and approve citizenship applications from members ofminoritycommunitieshailingfromPakistan,AfghanistanandBangladesh.

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 seeks to amend the CitizenshipAct,1955.
- TheCitizenshipAct,1955providesvariouswaysinwhichcitizenshipmaybe acquired.
- It is provides for citizenship by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and by incorporation of the territory into India.
- Inaddition,itregulatestheregistrationofOverseasCitizenofIndiaCardholders (OCIs) and their rights.
- An OCI is entitled to the some advantages like a multiple-entry, multipurpose lifelong visa to visit India.
- KeyFeatures ofCAA
- **Citizenshiponthebasisofreligion:**The Bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955, and for the primary time, will grant citizenship on the basis of religion to non-Muslim communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan,who enteredIndiaonorbeforeDecember31,2014.
- **Non – Muslim Communities Included:** Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain,Parsi,andChristian.
- This implies that migrants, who identify themselves with any group or community other than those mentioned here, from the above mentioned countries won't be eligible for citizenship.**Exceptions:** The provisions on citizenship for illegal migrants will notapply to two categories – states protected by the 'Inner Line', and areascovered underthe

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

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- theConstitution.

- the Constitution.
- **Inner Line Permit (ILP):** This is a special permit that citizens from other parts of India require to enter a state protected by the ILP regime. Without an ILP granted by the state government, an Indian from another state cannot visit a state that is under the ILP regime.
- **Sixth Schedule:** The Sixth Schedule relates to special provisions in administration of certain Northeastern states (Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura). It provides special powers for the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in these states.
- **Citizenship by Naturalization**
- under The Citizenship Act, 1955, one amongst the requirements for citizenship by naturalisation is that the applicant should have resided in India throughout the last twelve months, similarly as for eleven of the previous fourteen years.
- The modification relaxes the second demand from eleven years to five years as a specific condition for candidates belonging to the specified six religions, and the above mentioned 3 countries.
- The further Ground for Cancelling Overseas citizen of India (OCI) Registration i.e. the violation of any law notified by the central government.
- However, the Bill does not provide any guidance on the nature of laws which the central government may notify.

Topic39.NEWSPIDERCRICKET

ImportanceforPrelims:Environment

Recently, a team of zoologists headed by DrRanjanaJaiswara of the ZoologyDepartmentofPunjabUniversity,Chandigarhhasdiscoveredanewspidercricket from Chhattisgarh.

- It has been found in the Kurracaves of Chhattisgarh.
- The new subgenus was named Jayanti after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of the leading cave explorers in the country, who assisted the team.
- It has become the twelfth subgenus, or species, of cricket identified under the genus Arachnomimus Saussure, 1897.

Arachnomimus Saussure, 1897

- Arachnomimus is that the genus name given by Swiss entomologist Henri Louis Frédéric de Saussure in 1878 to crickets that resembled spiders.
- The word Arachnomimus is derived from two Ancient Greek words arakhnemeans “spider” and mimos, means “imitator, actor”.
- It is apt because crickets of this group are commonly called spider crickets because of their smaller body size and long legs.

Topic40.TREETRANSPLANTATION

ImportanceforPrelims:Environment

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) wants to transplant over 1,800trees which are inside what used to be the Indira Gandhi National Centre for theArts(IGNCA)complex,aspartoftheCentral Vistaredevelopmentproject.

- A tree cannot be transplanted by simply uprooting it and placing it in a pitdugelsewhere.
- The process involves multiple steps and requires important expertise.
- First,thesoilaroundthetreeisduguptoisolatetheroots.
- The big branches are lopped off, the leaving only small shoots for regeneration.
- Thiscan be done to make transportation of the tree to the new location easier..
- Therootsystemiscoveredwithwetgunnybagstoprotecttherootsandtokeep thetreehydrated.
- Thetreehastobefirstsenttoanurserytoacclimatiseoanewkindofsoil,andtoreg enerate.
- Once new shoots start germination, the tree is lowered into a pit created in its new spot.
- Experts say the transplantation of trees is a complex and delicate processwhoseoutcome cannotbe predicted.

Whatfactors determinethesuccessofa transplant?

- Evenafterallstepsaremeticulouslyfollowed,alotdependsonluck.
- Thesurvivalrateofatransplantedtreeisabout50%.
- If it survives, the tree might take up to ten years to grow a full canopy similar to what it originally had.
- Notalltreescanbetransplanted.Whilepeepal,ficus,semalandsheeshamaretol eranttotransplantation,treesuchasdak,palash,arjun,shahtootandjhilmil arenot.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

- Any tree that has a taproot system cannot be transplanted, as the root goes deep into the soil, and it is not possible to isolate it without damage.

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- Transplanting any tree with a trunk girth of more than 80-90 cm is not advisable as the tree cannot bear the shock, and it will eventually die.

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Topic 41. ANTIDUMPING DUTY & INERT GASES

Importance for Prelims: Economy

Anti-dumping duty on the inert gas R-134a imports from the China extended by six months.

- An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.
- Dumping is a process where a company exports a product at a price lower than the price it normally charges in its own home market.
- The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.
- The duty is imposed only after a thorough investigation by a quasi-judicial body, such as Directorate General of Trade Remedies, in India.
- The imposition of anti-dumping duty is permissible under the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime.

Inert Gases

- An inert gas could be a gas that doesn't undergo chemical reactions under a set of given conditions.
- The noble gases often do not react with many substances and were historically referred to as the inert gases.
- Inert gases are used usually to avoid unwanted chemical reactions degrading a sample.
- These undesirable chemical reactions are often oxidation and hydrolysis reactions with the oxygen and moisture in air.
- The term inert gas is context-dependent because several of the noble gases can be made to react under certain conditions.

- Purified argon and nitrogen gases are most commonly used as inert gases due to their high natural abundance (78.3% N₂, 1% Ar in air) and low relative cost.
- Unlike noble gases, an inert gas isn't necessarily elemental and is usually a compound gas.
- Just like the noble gases, the tendency for non-reactivity is because of the valence, the outermost electron shell, being complete in all the inert gases.
- This is a tendency, not a rule, as noble gases and other “inert” gases can react to form compounds.

Topic 42. GOOD TRADE BAROMETER

Importance for Prelims: International Relations

WTO Goods Trade Barometer indicates strong growth in first two quarters of 2021. Growth in trade fuelled by big gains in export orders, air freight, electronic components.

- The world organization goods trade barometer could be a composite of information, with indices on export orders and agricultural raw-material trade above medium-term trends, container shipping and automotive goods at trend and air freight and electronic component trade below.
- The barometer is designed to anticipate turning points and gauge momentum in global trade growth within a few months, although the WTO said uncertainty meant it may be less reliable.

Topic43.WORLDHEALTHASSEMBLY

ImportanceforPrelims:Internationalorganisations

India on May twenty eight pushed for further studies into the origins of the COVID-19 virus, because the World Health Organisation's decision-making body, the world Health Assembly, reviewed the findings of its specialteam.

WorldHealthAssembly(WHA):

- TheWorldHealthAssembly(WHA)istheforumthroughwhichtheWorldHealth Organization (WHO)is governedby its194 memberstates.
- It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed ofhealth ministersfrommember states.
- The members of the World Health Assembly generally meet every year inMayinGeneva,the locationofWHOHeadquarters.
- The main functions of the world Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, the supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.

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Topic44.MID DAYMEALSCHEME

ImportanceforPrelims:GovernmentSchemes



The Union Minister for Education has approved the proposal to provide monetary assistance to 11.8 Crore students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of the cooking cost component of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, to all the eligible children, as a special welfare measure.

With a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the National Programme of nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1995.

- In 2001 MDMS became a cooked Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- The Mid Day Meal Scheme comes under the HRD Ministry's Department of School Education and Literacy.
- The Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers children of classes I-VIII studying in government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madaras/maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- It is the largest school feeding programme in the world.

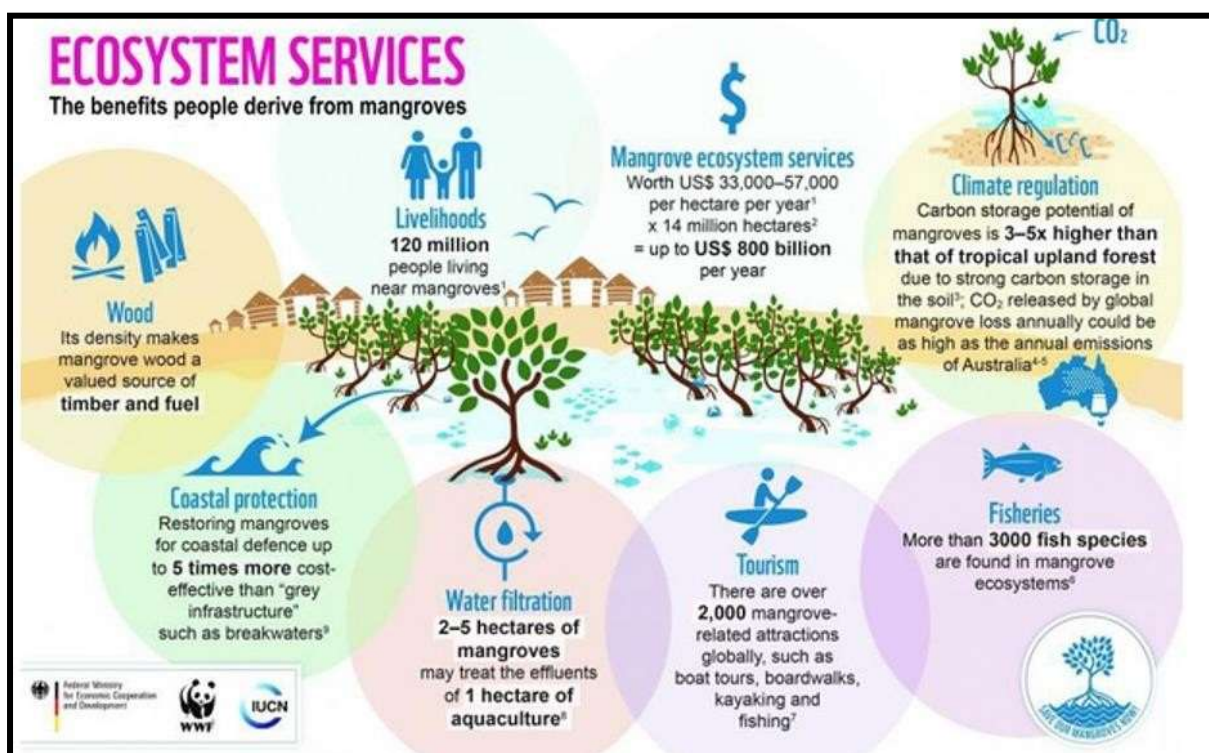
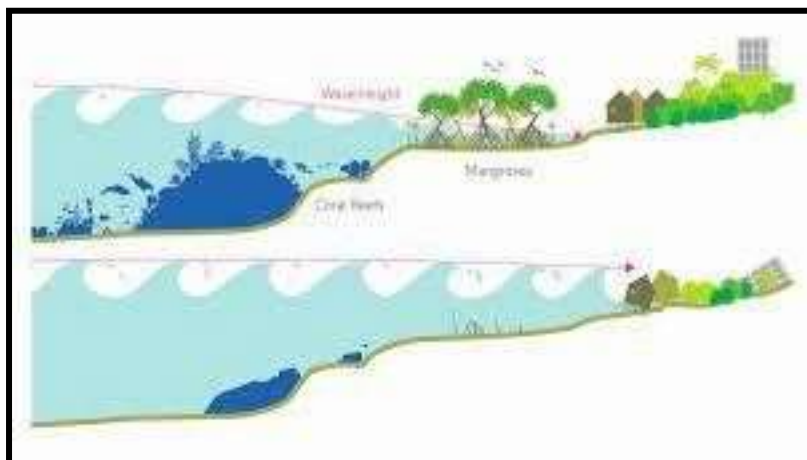
This scheme covers all government and government-aided schools and also Madarsa and Maqtab supported under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

- The Midday Meal Scheme is covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

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Topic45.ROLEOFMANGROVESINCOASTALPROTECTION

ImportanceforPrelims:Environment



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has inquired about the fifty million mangrove plants that her previous government had planted in 2020 after Cyclone Amphan and that couldn't protect the Sundarbans from Cyclone Yaas.

- Mangroves help in coping with floods by acting as a barrier through factors such as bottom friction, the cross-shore width of forests, tree density and shape, which can help in reducing the force of flood waves as they

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passthrough the mangroveforests.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

- The aerial roots of mangrove forests retain sediments and stabilize the soil within the areas between high tide and low tide (intertidal areas) by reducing erosion during storms and floods.
- The roots, trunk and canopy of the mangroves can dissipate storm surges and waves. Studies show that mangroves can reduce up to 66 percent of wave energy in the first 100 m of forest width.
- Mangroves can also deal with sea level rise through gradual vertical growth.
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Topic46.OIP

ImportanceforPrelims:Economics

Max Health net debt fell to ₹544 crore following a qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) from ₹2,102 crore recorded in previous year quarter, the company aforesaid in a statement.

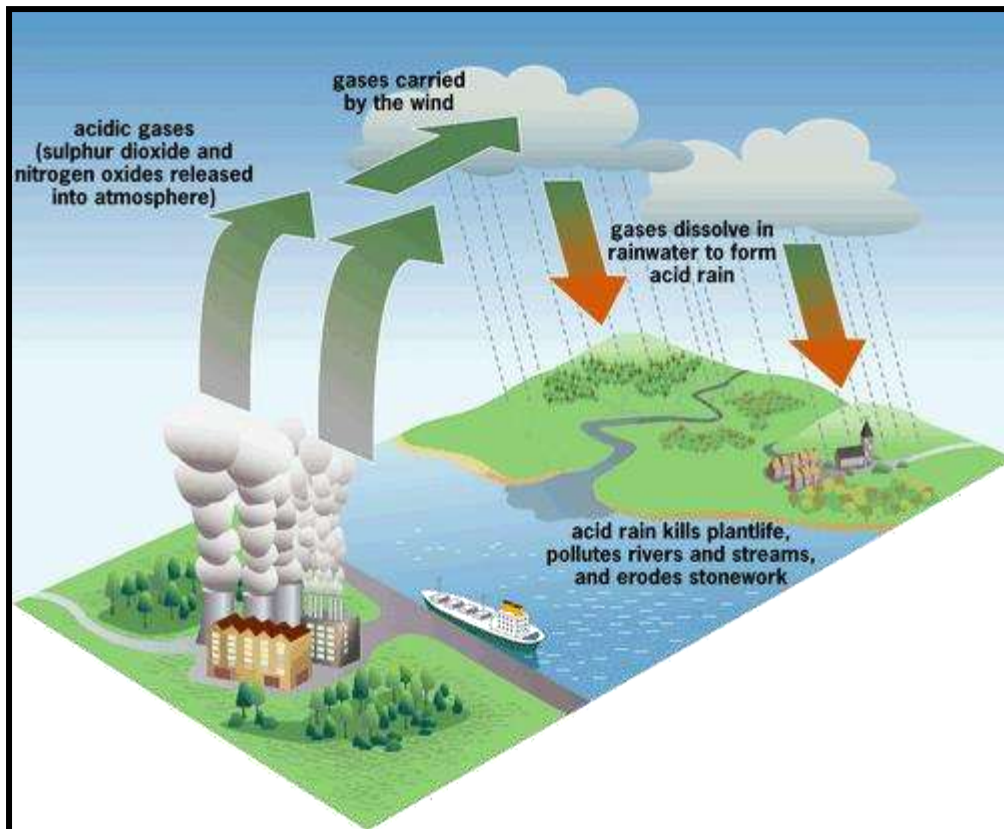
- Qualified institutional placements (QIPs) are a way to issue shares to the public without going through standard regulatory compliance.
- QIPs instead follow a looser set of regulations but where allottees are more highly regulated.
- The practice is mostly used in India and other Southeast Asian countries.
- QIPs were created to avoid the dependency on foreign resources for raising capital.
- Qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) are the only entities allowed to purchase QIPs.

QIB's

- An investor is dubbed a qualified institutional buyer (QIB) if they are thought to require less regulatory protection than unsophisticated investors.

Topic47.BURNINGVESSELSMAYLEAD TOACID RAIN

ImportanceforPrelims:CurrentEvents/Geography



Burning Ship MV X – PRESS PEARL with chemicals onboard may cause acidrain inSrilanka : Report

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships ‘Vaibhav’ and ‘Vajra’ continue to battlethefireonboardcontainershipMVX-PressPearloffColombo,SriLanka.
- The distressed vessel MV X-Press Pearl was carrying 1,486 containerswith nitric acid andother hazardous IMDG codechemicals.
- The extreme fire, damage to containers and prevailing inclement weatherhas caused the vessel to tilt to one side resulting in falling of containersoverboard.

AcidRain

- Acid rain is also termed as acid deposition (Primary being sulphuric acid and nitric Acid) to differentiate it from other types of acidic precipitation like snow.

- re the primary causes of acid rain.
- Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and ozone (O₃) are the first causes of acid rain.
- These chemicals interact with other chemicals and reactants present within the atmosphere and result into acid deposition.
- There are two types of deposition, Wet Deposition and the other Dry deposition.
- **Wet Deposition:** Wet deposition refers to depositions in form of rain, fog, snow or mist. When the acidic chemicals in the air are blown into areas where the weather is wet, the chemicals fall to the ground in the form of rain, snow, fog, or mist.
- As this acidic water flows over and through the ground, it affects various plants and animals.
- **Dry Deposition:** Dry deposition refers to depositions in form of dust or smoke.
- When the acidic chemicals in the air stick to buildings, homes, cars, trees or fall on ground.
- Dry deposited chemicals and gases are often washed from these surfaces by storms, leading to increased runoff.

Topic48. RIPPLES FROM YAAS & SURGING TIDES DEVASTATES UNDERBANS

Importance for Prelims: Environment

Ghormara Islands with a population of about 3500 people is entirely flooded.

About Ghoramara Island

- It is located 92km south of Kolkata in the Sundarbans Delta complex of the Bay of Bengal. In fact, every year, with houses and acres of land being swallowed by a hungry ocean, the topography of the island alters.
- The overall area of Ghoramara was 8.51 sq kilometre in 1975; it was reduced to 4.43 sq km in 2012.
- The rapid erosion of the island, situated at the mouth of the Bay of Bengal, has grabbed the attention of all those attempting to know how rising ocean levels and global climate change are impacting lives and migration patterns.

Topic 49. SURYAKIRAN AEROBATIC DISPLAY TEAM COMPLETES 25 YEARS

Importance for Prelims: Defence

The Suryakiran aerobatic display team of the Indian Air Force (IAF), which has enthralled crowds across the country with their hair-raising manoeuvres with their aircraft in red and white, has just completed 25 years.

- SuryaKiran(“RaysoftheSun”)isanaerobaticsdemonstrationteamoftheIndian Air Force.
- The Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) was formed in the year 1996 and are a part of the 52nd Squadron of the IAF.
- The squadron was composed of the HAL HJT-16 Kiran Mk.2 military trainer aircraft till 2011 and were based at the Bidar Air Force Station in Karnataka.
- It was revived in 2015 with Hawk trainers initially with four aircraft and grew to the nine aircraft formation.
- Since its inception, the SKAT team has carried out over 600 displays all around the country, it has also represented India across southeast Asia including China.

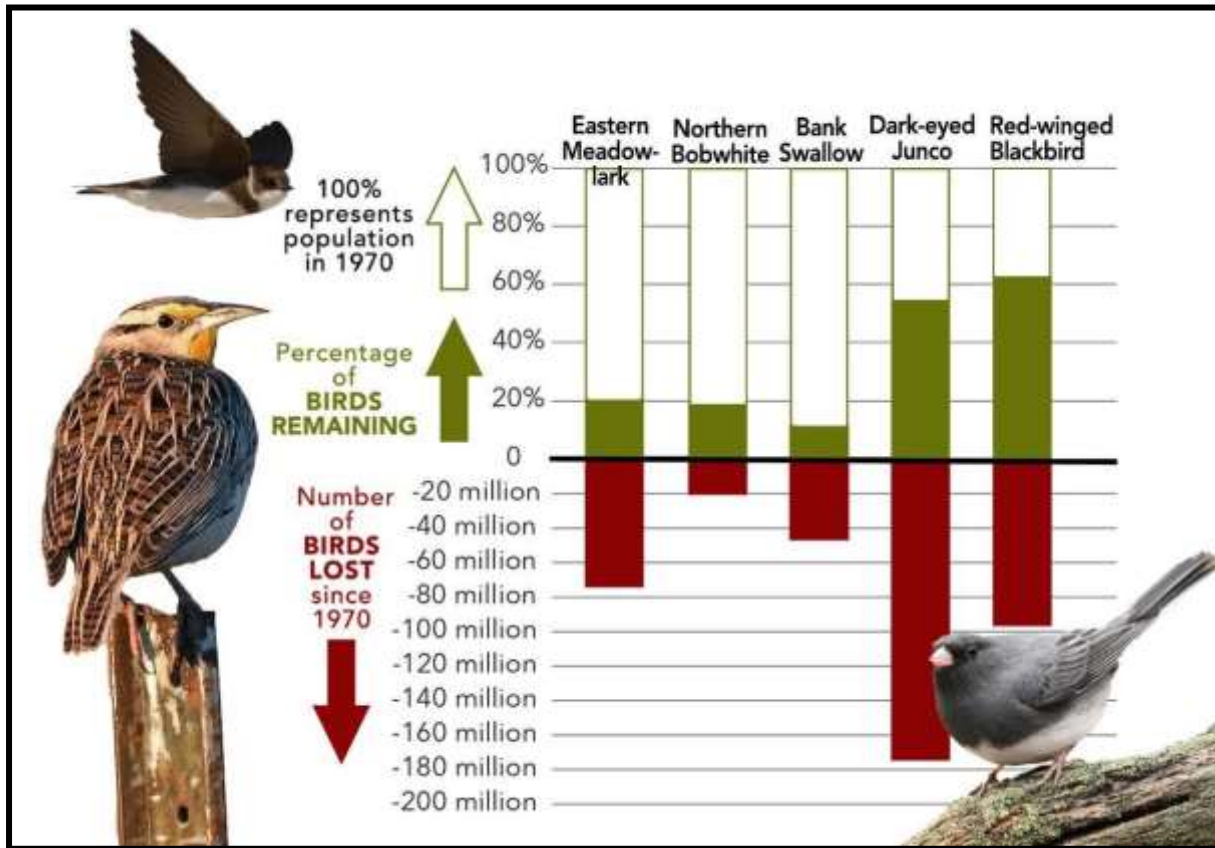
1971 Commemorations:

- Marking the golden jubilee year of the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh, the SKAT team has been flying completely different formations over landmarks across the country starting from Kanyakumari within the south.

Topic50.DECLININGFORESTBIRDSPECIESINWESTERNHIMALAYA

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ImportanceforPrelims:Environment



Researchers add that there is strong decline in some of the Habitat Guilds in the areas that have undergone land use changes.

- Habitat guilds are groups of bird species that have common habitat preferences.
- For instance, forest specialists include species that forage and breed only in dense protected oak forests at this altitude, while forest generalists can adapt to changed habitats like orchards and degraded forests.”

Avian Foraging

- Avian foraging refers to the range of activities and behaviours exhibited by birds in their quest for food.

- Additionally to their unique body adaptations, birds have a range of described behaviours that differ from the foraging behavior's of other animal groups.
- According to the foraging habitat, birds may be grouped into foraging guilds.
- Foraging includes a range of activities, starting with the search for food, making use of sensory abilities, and which may involve one or more birdseitherof asingleorevenof multiplespecies.
- This is followed by locomotion and the movements to obtain or capture the food, followed by the process or handling of the foods prior to ingestion.

Topic 51. PATENTED 'VILLAGE RICE' EXPORTED TO GHANA & YEMEN

Importance for Prelims: Economy

In a major boost to India's non-basmati rice export potential, two consignments of 4.5 MT of patented 'village rice' sourced from Kumbakonam, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu by a start-up Udaya Agro Farm was exported today to Ghana & Yemen via air & ocean routes.

- Enriched with protein, fibre, and a variety of minerals, 'village rice' is sourced directly from farmers of Thanjavur, also called rice bowl of Tamil Nadu.
- Earlier this month, a consignment of rice was exported from the Paradip International Cargo Terminal, Odisha to Vietnam. This was for the primary time in recent years, non-basmati rice was exported from Paradip Port.
- In March, 2021, the first consignment of 'red rice' from Assam was exported to the USA.
- Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer.
- The rice variety is referred to as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of the Assamese food.
- Non-basmati rice exports to African and Asian countries are undertaken from various ports of India like Kakinada, Vishakhapatnam, Chennai, Mundra and Krishnapatnam.
- Paradip will soon emerge as one of the major rice-exporting ports of the country.

Topic52.MINISTRYOFEDUCATIONLAUNCHEDSCHEME‘YUVA’

ImportanceforPrelims:GovernmentSchemes

The Ministry of Education, Department of higher Education launched YUVA Prime Minister's scheme For Mentoring Young Authors, an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors (below thirty years of age).

- The launch of YUVA (Young, coming and Versatile Authors) is in tune with PM's vision to encourage young writers to write about India's freedom struggle.
- YUVA is a part of the India@75 Project (AzadiKaAmritMahotsav) to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten the Places and their role in National Movement, and other related themes in an innovative and creative manner.
- The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education because the Implementing Agency will ensure the phase-wise execution of the scheme under well-defined stages of mentorship.
- The books prepared under this scheme will be published by National Book Trust, India; and will also be translated into other Indian languages guaranteeing the exchange of culture and literature, thereby promoting 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

HighlightsofYUVA(Young,UpcomingandVersatileAuthors):

- A total of 75 authors will be selected through an All India Contest to be conducted from 1 June– 31 July 2021.
- The winners will be announced on 15 August 2021.
- The young authors will be trained by eminent authors/mentors.
- Under the mentorship, the manuscripts will be readied by 15 Dec. 2021 for publication.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

- The published books are going to be launched on twelve January 2022 on the occasion of National Youth Day (YuvaDiwas).
- A consolidated scholarship of Rs.50,000 per month for a period of the six months per author are going to be paid under the Mentorship scheme

Topic53.MonsoononsetoverKerala delayed:IMD

ImportanceforPrelims:Geography

Monsoon is likely to hit India's southwestern coast around June 3 instead of the regular onset date of June 1, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

- The southwest monsoon was earlier expected to hit Kerala on May 31, however the IMD said that a cyclonic circulation on the Karnataka coast is halting its progress.

Onset of Monsoon

- The normal date of onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala i.e. the first place of entry in the mainland of India is first June.
- The monsoons advance quickly accompanied with a lot of thunder, lightning and the heavy downpour. This sudden onset of rain is termed as monsoon burst.
- Sometimes monsoons are delayed or they come much earlier than normal.
- Normally the onset occurs between 29th May and 7th June.
- The earliest onset was on 11th May in 1918 and 1955, while the most delayed onset was on 18th June in 1972.

The criteria for Onset of monsoon are:

- Rain-bearing westerlies being at a minimum depth and speed.
- At least 60% of the available 14 stations in Kerala and coastal Karnataka reported rainfall of 2.5 mm or more for two consecutive days after May 10.
- A certain degree of clouding, indicated by a parameter called 'outgoing long wave radiation' (OLR), being below 200 W/square metre.
- Currently, IMD's own data indicated that except for the OLR, the other criteria were met.
- Thus, there's an element of subjectivity in arrival.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

Topic54.ECONOMYSHOWINGSYMPTOMSOFASTAGFLATION

ImportanceforPrelims: Economics

Expansionaryfiscalpolicy,especiallyincreasedgovtspending,isneededtoovercometh e pandemic-induceddisruptions.

Stagflation

- It is a seemingly contradictory condition described by slow economic growth and relatively high unemployment, or economic stagnation, which is at the same time accompanied by rising prices (i.e.inflation).
- Stagflation also can be alternatively defined as a period of inflation combined with a decline in gross domestic product (GDP).
- Usually, inflation rises when the economy is growing fast. That’s because people are earning more and more money and are capable of paying higher costs for a similar amount of products.
- When the economy stalls, inflation tends to dip as well – again because there's less money now chasing a similar amount of products.

When does stag flation occur?

- Stag flation is said to happen when an economy faces stagnant growth as well as per sistently high inflation.
- That’s because with stalled economic growth, unemployment tends to riseand existing incomes do not rise fast enough and yet, people have tocontend withrising inflation.
- So people find themselves pressurized from both sides as their purchasingpowerisreduced.

Topic55.ALLINDIADEMOCRATICWOMENASSOCIATION

ImportanceforPrelims:NationalOrganisations



Veteran CPI(M) leader Mythili Sivaraman, better-known for co-founding the All India Democratic Women's Association, passed away in Chennai while undergoing treatment for Covid-19.

All India Democratic Women's Association

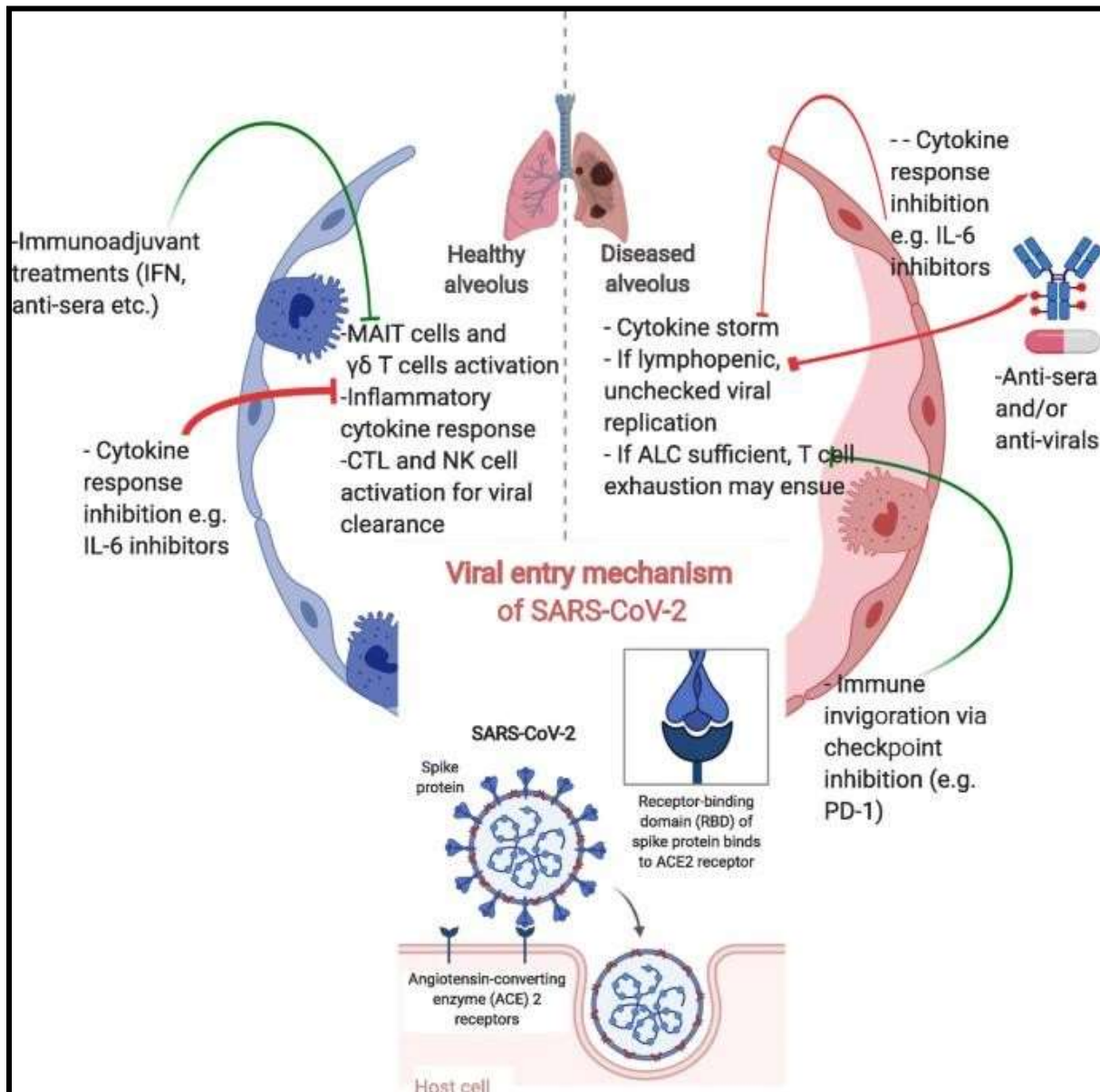
- It is an independent left oriented women's organization committed to achieving democracy, equality and women's emancipation.
- It had been founded in 1981 as a national level mass organisation of women.
- It is also the women's wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).
- Its members are from all strata in society, regardless of class, caste and community.
- About two-thirds of the organization's strength is derived from poor rural and urban women.
- It upholds secular values and challenges and resists cultural practices demeaning to women and believes that the emancipation of women in

India needs fundamental systemic changes.

Topic 56. ROLE OF T-

CELLS IN HELPING CANCER PATIENT AMIDST COVID-19

Importance for Prelims: Science & tech



Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, US, found that blood cancer patients with Covid-19 who had higher CD8 T cells, several of whom had depleted antibodies from cancer treatments, were more than three times more likely to survive than patients with lower levels of CD8 T cells.

- Antibodies aren't the only immune cells required to fight down Covid-19, T cells are equally important step up maximize to do the duty when antibodies

are depleted, suggests a new study of blood cancer patients with coronavirus.

T-Cells

- T Cells also called T lymphocyte, type of leukocyte (white blood cell) that is an essential part of the immune system.
- T cells are one in all 2 primary sorts of lymphocytes—B cells being the second type—that determine the specificity of the immune response to antigens (foreign substances) within the body.
- T cells originate in the bone marrow and mature in the thymus.

Why are they called memory cells?

- In the thymus, T cells multiply and differentiate into helper, regulatory, or cytotoxic T cells or become memory T cells.
- They are then sent to peripheral tissues or circulate within the blood or lymphatic system.
- Once stimulated by the appropriate antigen, helper T cells secrete chemical messengers called cytokines, which stimulate the differentiation of B cells into plasma cells (antibody-producing cells).

How do they control immunity?

- Regulatory T cells act to manage immune reactions, hence their name.
- Cytotoxic T cells, that are activated by various cytokines, bind to and kill infected cells and cancer cells.
- As a result of the body contains millions of T and B cells, several of that carry unique receptors, it will respond to virtually any antigen..

Topic 57. ESIC–EPFO–EDLI SCHEME

Importance for Prelims: Government Schemes

The Ministry of Labour and Employment on Sunday announced additional benefits for workers through social security's schemes run by the EPFO and the ESIC amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

- These benefits include pension for dependents of insured persons with Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) who died due to COVID-19 and hike in maximum sum assured under group insurance scheme Employees' Deposit linked Insurance scheme (EDLI), run by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), to Rs 7 lakh from Rs 6 lakh.

EDLI Scheme

- The EDLI scheme was launched in 1976 to provide insurance benefits to members of EPFO.
- the main objective of EPFO behind this scheme was to ensure that the family of members get financial help just in case of death of the member.
- There's no exclusion under this insurance scheme.
- The insurance cover depends on the salary drawn within the last twelve months of the employment before death.

Salient Features of EDLI

- The insurance benefits can be availed by the family members, legal heirs or nominees of the member.
- Members of EPFO are automatically enrolled for EDLI.
- An EPFO member is only covered by the EDLI scheme as long as he/she is an active member of the EPF. His family/heirs/nominees cannot claim it after he leaves service with an EPF registered company.
- There is no minimum service period for availing EDLI benefits

- The employer has to make the contribution for EDLI and no fee can be deducted from the employee's salary.
- The claim amount under ELDI is thirty five times the average monthly salary within the past 12 months subject to a maximum of seven lakh.
- The average monthly salary is calculated as the Basic+Dearness Allowance of the employee. A bonus of Rs. 1.75 Lakhs is also applicable under this scheme. The employer can opt out of the scheme in case he has a higher paying life insurance scheme for employees under Section 17(2A).

Topic58.WESTAFRICANLEADERSMEETTODISCUSSMALI

ImportanceforPrelims:InternationalRelations

West African leaders were due to meet in Ghana ahead of a extra ordinary of summit of ECOWAS , to discuss a response to Mali’s second coup in last 9 months.

- Since1960, when Mali gained independence from the France, there have been 5 coups — and only 1 peaceful transition from one democratically elected president to another.
- **Recent coup:** 9 months ago, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was overthrown within the wake of mass anti-government protests. Last week, the announcement of a new cabinet was made that excluded 2 key military leaders. Following this, the military has detained the President and also the Prime Minister.

AboutECOWAS:

- It is a regional political and economic union of fifteen countries located inWestAfrica.
- Established in 1975, with the signing of the written agreement of Lagos.
- The goal of ECOWAS is to achieve “collective self-sufficiency” for itsmember states by creating a single large trade bloc by building a fulleconomicandtradingunion.
- Italsoserves asapeacekeepingforceintheregion.
- Considered one of the pillar regional blocs of the continent-wide AfricanEconomic Community(AEC).
- ECOWASincludestwosub-regionalblocs:
- The West African Economic and Monetary Union is an organisation ofeight,mainlyFrench-speakingstates.
- TheWestAfricanMonetaryZone(WAMZ),establishedin2000,comprises six mainlyEnglish-speaking countries.

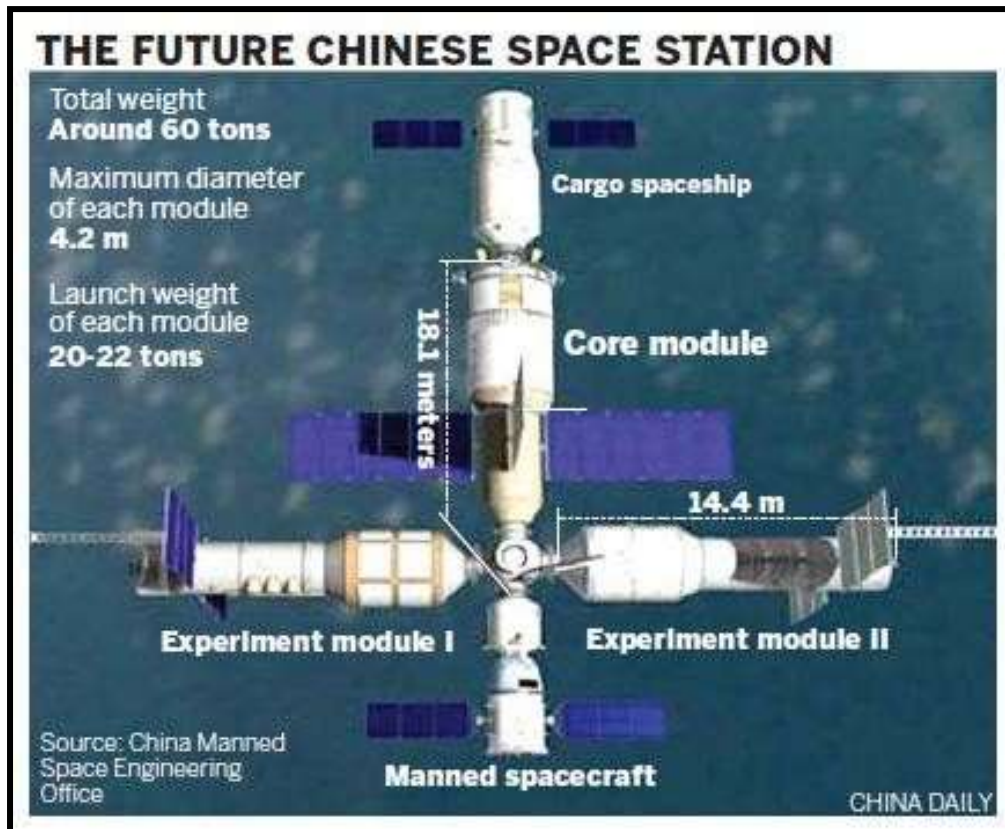
SahelregionofAfrica

- It is a semi-arid region of western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan.
- It forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara (desert) to the north and the belt of humid savanna to the south.
- The Sahel stretches from Senegal on the Atlantic Coast, through parts of Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Sudan to Eritrea on the sea coast.

(UPSC/MPSC/CDS/NDA)(ContactNo.-7506010635)

Topic59.CHINA'sSPACESTATIONPLANGATHERSPACE

ImportanceforPrelims: Science&tech



China took the another step towards completing the construction of its first space station by the end of next year following the launch and docking of a cargo spacecraft.

- The Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft, described by as “the delivery guy for China’s space station”, was launched on a long March-7 rocket from the island of Hainan, and docked eight hours later with the space station’s initial core module called Tianhe, or “heavenly harmony”.
- The Tianzhou-2 spacecraft carried a range of supplies, the China manned space Agency (CMSA) said, and will be followed by the launch of another cargo spacecraft, Tianzhou-3, and 2 manned missions, Shenzhou-12 and Shenzhou-13, this year, each carrying 3 astronauts who will spend many months in orbit.
- TheShenzhou-12launchisslatedformid-June.

China's Space Station:

- The new, 66-tonne, multi-module **Tiangong station** is set to be operational for at least 10 years.
- Tianhe is one of 3 main components of what would be China's first self-developed space station, rivalling the only other station in service – the ISS.
- It forms the main living quarters for 3 crew members in the Chinese space station.
- The Tianhe launch is the first of eleven missions required to complete the space station, which will orbit Earth at an altitude of 340 to 450 kilometers.
- In the later missions, China will launch the 2 other core modules, four manned spacecraft and 4 cargo spacecraft.