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**RAPID REVISION SERIES (RRS)**

**500 HIGH PROBABLE  
TOPICS FOR UPSC  
PRELIMS 2020**



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**Session 1**

**Rapid Revision Series  
of  
500 HIGH PROBABLE TOPICS  
for  
PRELIMS 2020**



# TOPICS TO REVISE

1. Anti-Defection Law
2. Whip
3. Disqualification vs Resignation
4. Anti-Defection, Judicial Review and Article 212
5. Malabar Rebellion or Moplah Riots of 1921
6. Bhima-Koregaon battle of 1818
7. Hagia Sophia
8. Operation Twist
9. LTRO-TLTRO
10. Banks Board Bureau (BBB)
11. FATF's Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade report
12. QUAD
13. MALABAR Exercise
14. Places in news - Golan Heights, West Bank, and Gaza Strip
15. Oslo Accords – Israel Issue – Abraham Accords



# Topic 1: Anti-Defection

## Key points:

1. 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule
2. 1985 - 52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment
3. Deciding authority - presiding officer
4. 1993 Kihoto Hollohan case
5. Functions as a Tribunal (subject to Judicial Review)



## Topic 2: Whip

### Key points:

1. Written order
2. All parties can issue Whip
3. Senior member is appointed as Whip
4. Office of Whip - based on the conventions of the parliamentary government
5. Functions - assistant floor leader; attendance; securing support; regulates and monitors behaviour
6. Disciplinary action



## Topic 3: Disqualification vs Resignation

Sl. No.	Disqualification	Resignation
	Disqualified member cannot become a Minister without getting elected again	Resigned member can be inducted into an alternative Cabinet without being a member.
	Accepting a resignation – simple and voluntary function	Disqualification is decided on evidence and inquiry
	Article 164 (1B)	Article 190 (3)(b)



## Topic 4: Anti-Defection, Judicial Review and Article 212

### Key points:

1. Article 212
2. Kihoto Hollohan case



## Topic 5: Malabar Rebellion or Moplah Riots of 1921

### Key points:

1. Muslim peasants (known as Moplahs) rose against their landlords, the Namboodris and Nairs.
2. Resistance against feudal system (later ended in communal violence)
3. Extended version of the Khilafat Movement

The main leaders of this rebellion were:

1. Variyankunnath Kunjahammed Haji
2. Sithi Koya Thangal
3. Ali Musliyar



## Topic 6: Bhima-Koregaon battle of 1818

### Key points:

1. 202nd Anniversary
2. Fought between EIC and Peshwa faction of the Maratha Confederacy
3. Mahar soldiers of the EIC defeated Peshwa Army led by Peshwa Bajirao II
4. Vijay Sthamb (victory pillar)



# Topic 7: Hagia Sophia

## Key points:

1. Turkey converts Hagia Sophia from a museum into a mosque
2. 1,500 year-old and UNESCO World Heritage site
3. Byzantine empire; Sultan Mehmet II; Mustafa Kemal Ataturk





## Topic 8: Operation Twist

### Key points:

1. RBI's monetary policy tool
2. RBI to conduct purchase and sale of government securities
3. RBI influences market interest rate



# Topic 9: Long Term Repo Operations (LTROs)

## Key points:

1. RBI's monetary policy tool
2. RBI provides one-year to three-year money to banks
3. Difference between LTRO and (LAF or MSF)
4. Difference between TLTROs and LTROs



# Topic 10: Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

## Key points:

1. Autonomous recommendatory body
2. Recommends appointment of directors and non-executive chairpersons
3. P. J. Nayak committee
4. Final decision by Ministry of Finance (with PMO's consultation)
5. It is a public authority defined in RTI Act



# Topic 11: FATF's Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade report

## Key points:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> report on Illegal Wildlife Trade
2. About FATF
3. India and FATF
4. FATF keeps Pakistan in 'greylist'



# Topic 12: QUAD

## Key points:

1. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
2. Grouping of four democracies –India, Australia, the US, and Japan
3. Objective



# Topic 13: MALABAR Exercise

## Key points:

1. Military exercise by US, Japan and India
2. Indian and Pacific Oceans
3. Started in 1992; Japan was included in 2015
4. Inclusion of Australia?



## Topic 14: Places in news: Golan Heights; West Bank





## Topic 15: Oslo Accords; two-state solution and Abraham Accord

### Key points:

1. Israel and the Palestinians peace agreement
2. Two-state solution - To resolve the conflict
3. UAE-Israel peace agreement



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**Session 2**

**Rapid Revision Series  
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# TOPICS TO REVISE

16. Biorock or Mineral Accretion Technology
17. Corals and Coral Reefs
18. Band-tail scorpionfish
19. Lonar Lake
20. Blockchain
21. ISRO's NSIL
22. IN-SPACE
23. Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
24. Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme and Credit Guarantee Fund Trust
25. Credit Guarantee Fund
26. Mudra Shishu loan and Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA)
27. PM SVANidhi
28. Axone and Sumi tribe
29. Pollutants in news
30. Oussudu Bird Sanctuary



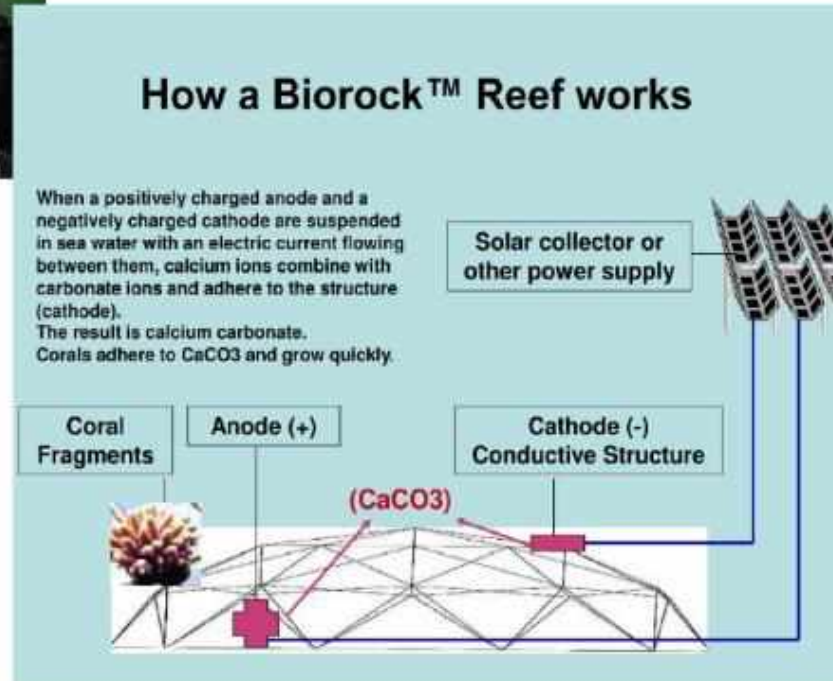
# Topic 16: Biorock or Mineral Accretion Technology

## Key points:

1. Coral restoration in Gulf of Kachchh
2. Produce natural building materials in the sea
3. Electro accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater on steel structures
4. Make artificial reefs - restore coral reefs
5. Wolf Hilbertz; Tom Goreau; Global Coral Reef Alliance



# Topic 16: Biorock or Mineral Accretion Technology





# Topic 17: Coral reefs

## Key points:

1. Schedule I Wildlife Protection Act
2. Corals - invertebrate animals
3. Polyps and zooxanthellae
4. Cover less than 1 percent of the ocean floor, home to about a third of all marine life
5. Rainforests of the sea
6. Conditions for its survival – Sunlight; Clear and Clean water; Warm water temperature; Saltwater
7. Distribution



## Topic 17: Coral reefs

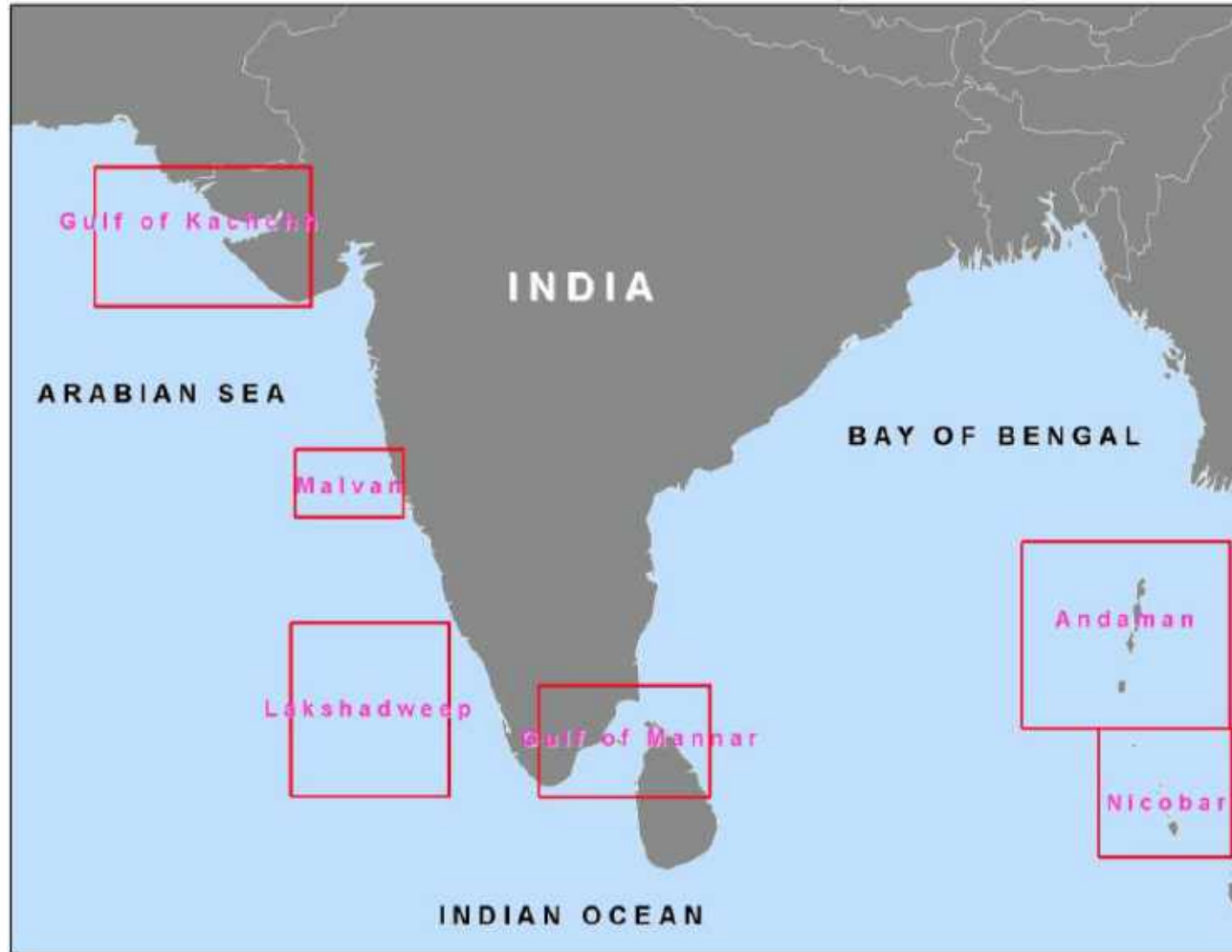


Figure: Distrubution of Corals along the Indian Coast.



# Topic 18: Band-tail scorpionfish

## Key points:

1. Sethukarai coast in the Gulf of Mannar
2. Commonly found in the Indo-West Pacific region
3. Unique features
4. Scientific name: *Scorpaenospsis neglecta*
5. Deposited in National Marine Biodiversity Museum of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)





# Topic 19: Lonar Lake

## Key points:

1. Located in Maharashtra
2. 56,000-year-old Lonar crater sanctuary lake
3. Pink colour due to salinity and presence of salinity and salt-loving 'Haloarchaea' microbes
4. Created during Pleistocene Epoch
5. Only known hyper velocity meteorite crater in basaltic rock anywhere on Earth
6. Notified as National Geo-heritage Monument in 1979





# Topic 20: Blockchain

## Key points:

1. Series of data linked together
2. Uses cryptographic principles and unique identifier codes
3. Applications
4. Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Blockchain Technology
5. NITI Aayog recommendations



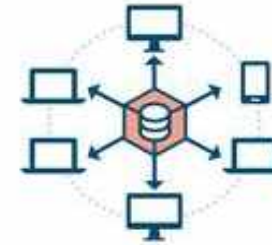
# HOW DOES **BLOCKCHAIN** WORK



**1** A wants to send money to B

**2** The transaction is represented online as a block

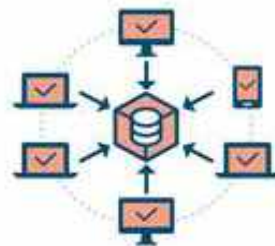
**3** The block is broadcasted to every party in the network



**4** The network approves the transaction

**5** The block is added to the existing blockchain in a transparent and unalterable way

**6** The transaction is complete





# Topic 21: ISRO's NSIL

## Key points:

1. About New Space India Ltd.
2. PSE announced in Budget 2019
3. Objective – technology transfer and private manufacturing
4. Difference between NSIL and Antrix



## Topic 22: IN-SPACe

### Key points:

1. About Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)
2. Objective - Promote private industries in space sector
3. Difference between IN-SPACe and ISRO
4. Difference between IN-SPACe and NSIL



## Topic 23: Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

### Key points:

1. Special economic package worth ₹20 lakh crore
2. Aim - make India self- reliant
3. Total allocation = 10% of GDP

### Five Pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

1. Economy,
2. Infrastructure
3. Systems
4. Demography and
5. Demand





# Topic 24: Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme and Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises

## Key points:

1. Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGS)
2. Collateral-free credit
3. Coverage – Both existing and new enterprises
4. Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)
5. Estd. By MoMSMEs and SIDBI



# Topic 25: New definition of MSMEs

## Key points:

1. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006
2. 2 classifications -
  - 1) investment in plant and machinery for enterprises engaged in manufacturing or production of goods
  - 2) investment in equipment for enterprises providing services

## New definition

1. Micro enterprise :: investment < 1 cr and turnover < 5 cr
2. Small enterprise :: investment < 10 cr and turnover < 50 cr
3. Medium enterprise :: investment < 50 cr and turnover < 250 cr



# Topic 26: Mudra Shishu loan and Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA)

## Key points: Mudra Shishu loan

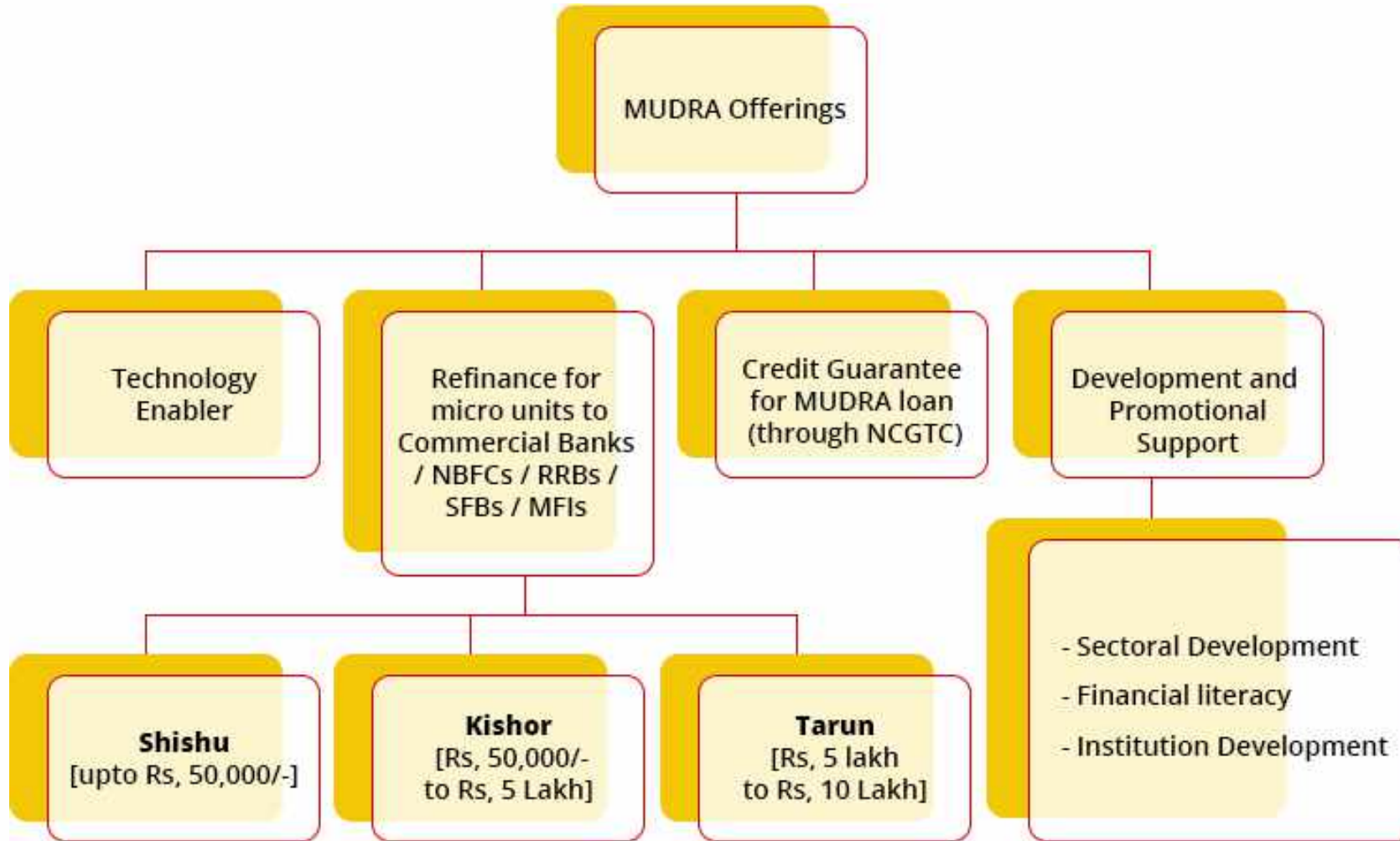
1. For small businesses and cottage industries
2. 1500 crore interest subvention
3. 2% interest rate subvention for a period of 12 months
4. Benefits small borrowers (loans up to ₹50,000)

## Key points: Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency

1. Non-Banking Financial Company
2. Provides refinance support to Banks / MFIs (Loans upto 10 lakh)
3. Provides refinance to micro business under the Scheme of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana



MUDRA offers incentives through these interventions:





## Topic 27: PM SVANidhi

### Key points:

1. PM SVANidhi - PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi
2. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
3. Special Micro-Credit Facility Scheme
4. Features -
  - 1) capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000
  - 2) repayable in monthly instalments (1 year tenure)
  - 3) interest subsidy at 7% per annum
  - 4) no penalty on early repayment
  - 5) Beneficiaries - Street vendors from peri- urban/ rural areas
  - 6) MFIs/ NBFCs/ SHG Banks



## Topic 28: Axone and Sumi tribe

### Key points:

1. Axone is fermented soya bean of Nagaland
2. It is used to make pickles and chutneys, or curries of pork, fish, chicken, beef etc.
3. It is particularly popular among the Sumi (also Sema) tribe.



## Topic 29: Pollutants in news

### Key points:

1. Dioxins, Furans, Mercury and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (BCPs) : : Toxic Pollutants from Plastic Waste
2. Dicofol, Phorate, HBCD, PFOA : : COP 9 to Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
3. Malathion, parathion, diazinon, fenthion, dichlorvos, chlorpyrifos, ethion : : organophosphate chemicals to tackle Locust Attack



## Topic 30: Oussudu Bird Sanctuary

### Key points:

1. Man-made lake (located in TN and Puducherry) - Coromandal Coast
2. It is a wetland and Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ)
3. Asian wetland Bureau declared Oussudu as one of significant wetlands in Asia
4. Lake is identified as a wetland of National importance
5. Designated as Important Bird Area (IBA) of India
6. Identified as a heritage sites by IUCN



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

31. SC Judgments dealing with FRs
32. Laws dealing with foreigners and illegal non-citizens
33. Foreigners Tribunals and recent Amendment
34. National Population Register (NPR)
35. “Regulatory sandbox”
36. Currency devaluation
37. PM Ujjwala Yojana
38. Mahuwa (Madhuca indica) flowers and Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram
39. GI Items in 2019
40. Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS)
41. Global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (GCDRI)
42. 2019 UN Climate Action Summit
43. Drought Toolbox
44. COP 14 – UNCCD
45. 10 New Ramsar Sites in India



# Topic 31: Recent SC Judgments dealing with FRs

## Key judgments:

1. Right to Internet : : FR (Article 19(1)(a))
2. Right to Live-in Relationships : : FR (Article 21)
3. Right to information/ Right to Know : : FR (Article 19 and 21)
4. Right to Vote : : FR (Article 19(1)(a))
5. Right to own private property is human right
6. Right to reservation is not a fundamental right
7. Right to Health (yet to be declared as fundamental right)



## Topic 32: Laws dealing with foreigners and illegal non-citizens

### Key laws and points:

1. Foreigners Act, 1864 – 1st to deal with Foreigners
2. Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920
3. Foreigners Act, 1940 and 1946
4. Concept of “burden of proof”
5. Citizenship Act (1955) - defines illegal migrants



# Topic 33: Foreigners Tribunals and recent Amendment

## Key laws and points:

1. Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964
2. Foreigners Tribunals
3. Authority to decide who is a foreigner

## Amendments

- District Magistrates to set up Foreign Tribunals



## Topic 34: National Population Register (NPR)

### Key points:

1. Create identity database of every usual resident
2. Definition of Usual resident
3. Database will contain demographic as well as biometric particulars
4. Mandatory for every usual resident of India to register
5. Difference between NPR and NRC
6. Conducted by Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI)



## Topic 35: Regulatory sandbox

### Key points:

1. Live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment
2. Objective of the sandbox



# Topic 36: Currency devaluation

## Key points:

1. Concept of “currency manipulator” and “devaluing currency”
2. To strategically lower the purchasing power of a nation's own currency
3. Why countries devalue their currency?
  - 1) to gain a competitive edge in global trade
  - 2) reduce sovereign debt burdens
  - 3) Makes exports more competitive and imports more expensive
  - 4) Lowers CAD
  - 5) Higher Employment
  - 6) Faster GDP growth



## Topic 37: PM Ujjwala Yojana

### Key points:

1. Target of eight crore LPG connections is met
2. PMUY scheme closed but only 3 States have become kerosene-free
3. Scheme extended to poor households in urban and semi-urban slum areas

### About

1. scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
2. provides LPG connections to women from BPL households
3. identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)
4. BPL women are provided with deposit-free LPG connection with financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre



## Topic 38: Mahuwa (*Madhuca indica*) flowers and Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram

### Key points:

1. Government to launch Mahua-based Alcoholic Drink under VDVK
2. About Mahuwa (*Madhuca indica*)
3. Used as Country Beer

### Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram

1. Nation-wide programme for training tribal clusters
2. Implementing Agency: TRIFED
3. Launched on April 2018



## Topic 39: 31 GI Items in 2019

Goods Category	Count
Agriculture	16
Textiles	06
Handicrafts	02
Food Stuffs	04
Natural Goods	01
Manufacturing Goods	01
Wines and Spirits	01



## Topic 39: 31 GI Items in 2019

### Agriculture:

1. Himachali Kala Zeera : : Himachal Pradesh
2. Himachali Chulli Oil : : Himachal Pradesh
3. Kandhamal Haldi : : Odisha
4. Jeeraphool Rice : : Chhattisgarh
5. Kholā Chilli : : Goa
6. Gulbarga Tur Dal : : Karnataka
7. Sirsi Supari (arecanut) : : Karnataka
8. Kodaikanal Malai Poondū (Garlic) : : Tamil Nadu
9. Erode Manjal (Erode Turmeric) : : Tamil Nadu
10. Tirur Betel Leaf (Tirur Vettīla) : : Kerala
11. Kaji Nemu (Lemon) : : Assam

### 5 types of coffee -

1. Araku Valley Arabica Coffee : : Andhra Pradesh
2. Coorg Arabica Coffee : : Karnataka
3. Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee : : Karnataka
4. Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee : : Karnataka
5. Wayanaad Robusta Coffee : : Kerala

### Textiles and Handicrafts:

1. Hmaram, Ngotekherh, Tawlhlohpuan, Pawndum and Mizo Puanchei : : Mizoram
2. Idu Mishmi Textiles : : Arunachal Pradesh
3. Thirubuvanā Silk Sarees : : Tamil Nadu
4. Kandangi Sarees : : Tamil Nadu

### Food-stuffs:

1. Odisha Rasagola : : Odisha
2. Palani Panchamirtham : : Tamil Nadu
3. Srivilliputtur Palkova : : Tamil Nadu
4. Marayoor Jaggery : : Kerala

**Natural Goods:** Chunar Balua Patthar (Sand Stone) : : UP

**Manufacturing Goods:** Dindigul Locks : : Tamil Nadu

**Wines and Spirits:** Ireland



# Topic 40: Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS)

## Key points:

1. Process of certifying organic products
2. It is a quality assurance initiative
3. Operates outside the framework of third-party certification
4. International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the Bonn-based global umbrella organisation for the organic agriculture movement,

## Four pillars of PGS :

- 1) participatory approach,
- 2) a shared vision,
- 3) transparency and
- 4) trust



# Topic 41: Global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (GCDRI)

## Key points:

1. Launched during 2019 UN Climate Action Summit
2. Reduction in infrastructure losses from disasters
3. Objective - Universal access to basic services and to enable prosperity
4. Works at intersection of Sendai Framework and Paris Climate Change Agreement
5. To conduct country specific and global activities
6. To achieve Universal Inclusion



# Topic 42: 2019 UN Climate Action Summit

## Major decisions and outcomes

1. GCDRI was launched
2. India to increase share of non-fossil fuels to 175 GW by 2022 and further take it to 450 GW.
3. New leadership group was announced
4. Roadmap for Decarbonization



# Topic 43: Drought Toolbox

## Key points:

1. Launched during COP 14 – UNCCD (Delhi Declaration)
2. About - provide easy access to tools, case studies and other resources
3. Objectives
4. Currently being developed as part of the Drought Initiative



## Topic 44: COP 14 – UNCCD (Delhi Declaration)

### Key points:

1. India raised its commitment - to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
2. India pledges to restore 50 lakh hectares of degraded land by 2030.
3. Land Degradation Neutrality
4. Global Water Action Agenda
5. Drought Toolbox was launched



# Topic 45: 10 New Ramsar Sites

## New Ramsar Sites in India

**Punjab**  
Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary, Keshopur Wetland (Gurdaspur Bird Sanctuary), Beas Wetland Site

**Uttar Pradesh**  
Sarsai Nawar Jheel, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Samaspur Bird Sanctuary, Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary, Saman Bird Sanctuary

**Maharashtra**  
Nandur Madhyameshwar Bird Sanctuary

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## NANDUR MADHAMESHWAR

State	Maharashtra
District	Nashik

- Located at the confluence of Godavari and Kadawa Rivers
- A mosaic of marshes, intermittent pools and riparian forests
- Supports 536 floral species, eight species of mammals, 265 avian species, including 148 migratory, 24 species of freshwater fishes and 41 species of butterflies
- Species Highlights:
  - \* Indian Sandalwood Tree and Leopard (Vulnerable)
  - \* White-rumped Vulture, Indian Vulture, Deolali Minnow (Critically Endangered)
  - \* Egyptian Vulture (Endangered)



## KESHOPUR MIANI COMMUNITY RESERVE

State	Punjab
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District	Gurdaspur
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- First Community Reserve notified in the country
- Jointly managed by the Forest Department and the people of Dalla, Miani, Matwa, Dhalla and Magarmudhian villages
- A mosaic of natural marshes, aquaculture ponds and agricultural fields
- The only habitat of Sarus Cranes and Common Cranes in Punjab
- Lies on the Central Asian Flyway and supports several resident and migratory birds like Common Pochard (*Aythya farina*), Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) and Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*).



## BEAS CONSERVATION RESERVE

State	Punjab
River Stretch	185 km

- Hosts the only known population of Indus River Dolphins (*Platanista gangetica minor*) in India
- Site for the Gharial re-introduction programme
- Provides vital habitats for more than 500 species of birds and is a particularly important staging area for both summer and winter migratory waterbirds
- Species Highlights: Smooth-coated Otter, Hog Deer, Blue Bull, Indian Softshell Turtle, Indian Flapshell Turtle, Narrow-headed Softshell Turtle, Spotted Pond Turtle, Crowned River Turtle and Brown-roofed Turtle.



## NANGAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

State	Punjab
District	Rupnagar

- Important and strategic refueling base for the long-distance route migratory birds
- Located in the highly eco-sensitive Shiwalik foothills
- Species Highlights: Indian Hog Deer, Indian Pangolin, Leopard, Indian Python
- Avian Species : Black-bellied Tern, Common Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Woolly-necked Stork, Painted Stork, Greater Spotted Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, Pallas's Fish Eagle
- Fish Species:
  - \**Ompok pabda*
  - \**Chitala chitala*
  - \**Tor putitora*



## SANDI BIRD SANCTUARY

State	Uttar Pradesh
District	Hardoi
Area	308.54 hectares

- Freshwater swamp rich in aquatic plants and home to a resident flock of around 200 sarus cranes
- Sustains several species including over 150 species of resident and migratory birds, around 13 species of fish, 3 species of amphibians, 15 species of reptiles, 4 species of mollusks, several species of butterflies and higher vertebrates such as the blue bull
- Receives thousands of waterfowl in winter, primarily Brahminy Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler and Cotton Teal.



## SAMASPUR BIRD SANCTUARY

State	Uttar Pradesh
District	Raebareli
Area	800 hectares

- S - shaped wetland complex of 6 connected lakes, namely, Samaspur, Mamani, Gorwa, Hasanpur, Hakganj and Rohnia and a seventh lake situated nearby named Bissaiya
- Perennial low land marsh, hosts a population of 149 higher plant species, 46 species of fish, over 250 species of resident and migratory birds, several invertebrates such as molluscs, butterflies, both terrestrial and water snakes, turtles, frogs and higher vertebrates such as the blue bull.
- An important site of migratory bird species such as Great Crested Grebe, Spoonbill, Gadwall



## NAWABGANJ BIRD SANCTUARY

State	Uttar Pradesh
District	Unnao
Area	225 hectares

- Shallow marsh surrounded by plantations and fields and fed by monsoon runoff and Sharda Canal
- A mosaic of habitats helps the wetland sustain a diverse group of species, including, over 200 plants, 220 resident and migratory birds, 20 fish, several molluscs, butterflies, terrestrial and water snakes, turtles, frogs and higher vertebrates such as the blue bull
- An important wintering site for several migratory bird species of the Central Asian flyway and several rare and threatened species like Egyptian Vulture, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Woolly-necked Stork.



## SAMAN BIRD SANCTUARY

State	Uttar Pradesh
District	Mainpuri
Area	525 hectares

- A representative wetland of the Indo-Gangetic floodplain region
- Provides habitat to 187 species of birds, belonging to 42 families, including, Northern Pintail, Whistling Duck, Great White Pelican, Black-crowned Night Heron and Common Teal and several rare and threatened species such as Greater Spotted Eagle and Sarus Crane
- Also hosts faunal species like other species like Blue Bull, Jackal and Monitor Lizard and hydrophytic flora, including, plants like Nelumbo, Cyperus, Typha and Phragmites



## PARVATI ARGA BIRD SANCTUARY

State	Uttar Pradesh
District	Gonda
Area	722.8 hectares

- One of the largest natural floodplain wetlands in the state
- Comprises of two horseshoe-shaped ox-bow lakes
- Harbours a rich floral and faunal diversity and provides roosting and breeding site to many rare avifauna such as Greater Spotted Eagle, Sarus Crane, Asian Woolly-neck, Ferruginous Duck, River Tern and Oriental Darter
- An important wintering site for several migratory bird species of the Central Asian flyway, notably Northern Shoveler, Common Teal, Gadwall, Common Pochard and Ferruginous Duck



## SARSAI NAWAR JHEEL

State	Uttar Pradesh
District	Etawah
Area	161.27 hectares

- Permanent marsh, located in the Indo-Gangetic floodplain, derives its name from the Sarus Crane and is considered to be the roosting area of the largest flock of Sarus Crane in the region
- Three resident species of storks, namely Painted Stork, Asian Woolly-necked Stork and Black-necked Stork feed in the wetland round the year
- An important wintering site for several migratory bird species of Central Asian flyway notably Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) and Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*).





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# TOPICS TO REVISE

46. MOSAiC Mission
47. UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)
48. Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement
49. Blue Dot network
50. Okavango Delta, Botswana
51. Tulu and Schedule VIII of Indian Constitution
52. One Nation One Language
53. Article 344(1) and Article 351
54. International Year of Indigenous Languages and Yuelu Proclamation
55. National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage and UNESCO List of ICH
56. Indo-Bangla Baul Music Festival
57. South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
58. Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT)
59. National Green Corps programme and the Ecoclubs
60. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)



## Topic 46: MOSAiC Mission

### Key points:

1. 300 scientists from across the world
2. Aim of the expedition – study Arctic
3. Largest ever Arctic expedition
4. German research vessel Polarstern
5. Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany



# Topic 47: UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

## Key points:

1. Hyderabad and Mumbai - UNESCO Creative Cities
2. Aims at achieving Sustainable Development Goals

## About UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

1. Created in 2004
2. Sustainable urban development
3. Currently 180 cities



# Topic 48: Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement

## Key points:

1. Agreement between India and France
2. About the agreement -
  - 1) major milestone in enhancing relations
  - 2) testimony to India's rapidly expanding multi-faceted relationship
  - 3) initially valid for a period of seven years
  - 4) incorporates provision for automatic renewal



## Topic 49: Blue Dot network

### Key points:

1. Jointly launched by the US; Japan and Australia
2. Launched in November 2019 - 35th ASEAN Summit
3. Multi-stakeholder initiative
4. It is a “ratings mechanism”
5. To counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative
6. Unlike BRI, BDN would not offer public funds or loans for the project





# Topic 51: Tulu and Schedule VIII of Indian Constitution

## Key points: About Tulu

1. Dravidian language
2. Coastal districts of Karnataka and Kerala
3. Sapta bhasha Samgama Bhumi

## Key points: About 8th Schedule

1. The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of India.
2. Currently, the Eight Schedule consists of the 22 languages
3. Language included to 8th schedule: Advantages



## Topic 52: One Nation One Language

### Key points:

1. Article-343 – Hindi is official language of the Union
2. Article-351 - encourage the spread of the Hindi language
3. Hindi language is one of the 22 languages of 8th schedule

### Constitutional Safeguards:

1. Article 29 - right to conserve and protect distinct language, script or culture
2. No National Language
3. Article 350B: Appointment of Special Officer for linguistic minority



## Topic 53: Article 344(1) and Article 351

### Article 344(1)

1. Provides for establishment of a Commission by the President
2. Commission should have members representing various languages specified in the 8th Schedule
3. Makes recommendation to President for the dynamic use of Hindi

### Article 351

1. Provides for the spread of the Hindi language
2. Provides for the spread of the Hindi language



# Topic 54: International Year of Indigenous Languages and Yuelu Proclamation

## Key points about IYIL:

1. UN proclaimed 2019 as IYIL
2. Based on a recommendation by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
3. Hosted by UNESCO in collaboration with the Permanent Forum

## Key points about Yuelu Proclamation

1. By UNESCO at Changsha
2. 1st UNESCO document - protection of linguistic diversity
3. Important supporting document for the UN IYIL



# Topic 55: National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage and UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

## National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

1. Ministry of Culture
2. Attempt to recognize the diversity of Indian culture
3. Part of the Vision 2024

## UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

1. Published by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage
2. Established in 2008 (2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage)

## Indian ICH traditions recognized by UNESCO

1. Tradition of Vedic chanting
2. Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana
3. Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre
4. Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas.
5. Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
6. Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
7. Chhau dance
8. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh
9. Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur
10. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
11. Yoga
12. Nawrouz
13. Kumbh Mela



## Topic 56: Indo-Bangla Baul Music Festival

### Key points:

1. Indo-Bangla Baul Music Festival
2. 129th death anniversary of Baul saint Fakir Lalon Shah
3. Form of folk music, unique to Bangladesh and West Bengal
4. Comparable to the genre of Sufi music
5. Baul is included in the list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO



# Topic 57: South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

## Key points:

1. 15th meeting of SACEP
2. About SACEP
3. Member Countries
4. Objective
5. Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region



# Topic 58: Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT)

## Key points:

1. Central sector scheme started in 1983-84
2. Aims to promote environmental awareness and mobilize student's participation
3. National Green Corps (NGC) 'Ecoclub' programme



# Topic 59: National Green Corps programme and the Ecoclubs

## Key points:

1. One of the components of Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT)
2. 1 lakh fifty thousand Ecoclubs estd.
3. Number of Ecoclubs to be enhanced from about 1.5 lakh at present to 2 lakh in the ensuing year 2020-21



# Topic 60: National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

## Key points:

1. Launched in 2019
2. Five-year action plan
3. **NCAP goals:**
  - 1) To achieve 20 % to 30 % reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year
  - 2) 102 non-attainment cities mostly in Indo-Gangetic Plains have been identified
  - 3) The city specific Action Plans have been approved for all 102 non-attainment cities



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

61. 102nd Constitution Amendment Act
62. 103rd Constitution Amendment Act
63. 104th Constitution Amendment Act
64. Tussle for power: Delhi versus Centre
65. 69th Amendment Act , Article 239 AA and 239AB
66. Tussle for power: L-G Powers in Puducherry
67. Difference: Delhi and Puducherry
68. Project Blue Flag Beach programme
69. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)
70. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
71. Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)
72. Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)
73. Utkarsh 2022
74. Translocation of wild buffaloes
75. Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS)



# Topic 61: 102nd Constitution Amendment Act

## Key points:

1. Constitutional status to NCBC
2. About NCBC
3. Previously NCBC was a statutory body (under MoSJE)
4. Indra Sawhney case of 1992
5. Structure of NCBC

## Constitutional Provisions

1. Article 340 - identify socially and educationally backward classes; understand and remove difficulties
2. 102nd Constitution Amendment Act inserted new Articles 338 B and 342 A
3. Article 338 B - provides authority to NCBC
4. Article 342 A - empowers President to specify socially and educationally BCs
5. To amend list of BCs - Law enacted by Parliament is required



# Topic 62: 103rd Constitution Amendment Act

## Key points:

1. 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for EWS
2. Act amended Article 15 and 16
3. EWS to be notified by the State from time to time

## New clauses

1. New clause (6) to Article 15
2. new clause (6) to Article 16
3. Indra Sawhney case (1992)
4. Article 46



## Topic 63: 104th Constitution Amendment Act

### Key points:

1. Amended article 334
2. Extend the reservation of seats for SCs and STs
3. Removed the reserved seats for the Anglo-Indian community

About Article 334 - Reservation of seats and special representation to cease after 70 yrs

About Article 341 (2) - power to make changes in the SC list – only with Parliament



# Topic 64: Tussle for power - Delhi versus Centre

## Key points:

1. Supreme Court verdict – on exclusive jurisdiction over public services
2. 2018 five-judge Constitution Bench verdict – on matters relating to Land, Home, and Public Order

## Other important areas:

- ACB has no jurisdiction over officers of Central government
- No power to set up an inquiry commission to probe corruption cases
- Lieutenant Governor to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers



# Topic 65: 69th Amendment Act , Article 239 AA and 239AB

## Key points:

1. 69th Amendment Act, 1992 – added Articles 239AA and 239AB
2. Art. 239AA – UT of Delhi to be called NCT of Delhi (with Lt. Governor)
3. Article 239AB – President may by order suspend the operation of any provision of Article 239AA
4. Provides for CoM for Delhi (not more than 10% of the total number of members)



# Topic 66: Tussle for power - L-G Powers in Puducherry

## Key points:

1. Territory belongs to the President (run by L-G as Administrator)
2. Section 44 of the Union Territories Act, 1963 – L-G should act on the ‘aid and advice’ of CoM
3. Any difference of opinion – Matter is referred to President
4. Meantime, Administrator’s action prevails on any urgent matter
5. Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 - discretionary powers for L-G office



## Topic 67: Difference - Delhi and Puducherry

Puducherry	Delhi
Article 239A	Article 239AA
No restrictions imposed by Art 239A	239AA imposes several restrictions
LG mostly guided by Government of Union Territories Act, 1963	LG of Delhi guided by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, and the Transaction of Business of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993
LG of Puducherry enjoys lesser powers than the LG of Delhi	LG of Delhi enjoys greater powers than the LG of Puducherry
No Executive functions related to matters dealing with public order, police and land	LG of Delhi has “Executive Functions” over public order, police and land
Puducherry Assembly can legislate on any issue under the Concurrent and State Lists	



# Topic 68: Project Blue Flag Beach programme

## Key points:

1. Provides stringent standards
2. Accorded by the Denmark-based Foundation
3. 'Eco-tourism model'
4. Main objective - promote sustainable development in coastal regions

## 33 stringent criteria under four major heads

1. Environmental Education and Information
2. Bathing Water Quality standards
3. Environment Management and Conservation and
4. Safety and Services



# Topic 69: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

## Key points

1. World Bank assisted project
2. Implemented by Dept of Forests and Environment
3. National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)
4. Objectives:
  - 1) improve livelihood of coastal communities
  - 2) conserve the coastal ecosystem
  - 3) identification of infrastructure requirements
  - 4) conservation of mangroves
  - 5) mapping of the country's coastline and demarcation of the hazard line



# Topic 70: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

## Key points

1. MoEFCC had recently unveiled a draft ESMF
2. Part of World Bank funded project
3. Framework for clearance of infrastructural projects
4. Prepared by SICOM
5. Objective



# Topic 71: Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)

## Key points:

1. SICOM is under MoEFCC
2. It is the National Project Management Unit for ICZMP and ENCORE Programs
3. Vision - vibrant, healthy and resilient Coastal and Marine Environment
4. Objectives and functions
  - 1) To support implementation of ICZM and ENCORE activities
  - 2) To promote R&D in coastal management areas
  - 3) Check violations of CRZ
  - 4) Support Pilot Project Blue Flag Beach programme



## Topic 72: Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)

### Key points:

1. Was launched in 2019
2. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
3. Aims to add solar and other renewable capacity
4. Helps to achieve 100 GW solar target by 2022

### The PM KUSUM scheme had three components –

1. 10,000 MW of de-centralised ground-mounted grid-connected renewable power plants.
2. Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone solar powered agricultural pumps.
3. Solarisation of 10 lakh grid-connected solar-powered agricultural pumps



## Topic 73: 'Utkarsh 2022'

### Key points:

1. 3 year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank
2. In line with the global central banks' plan



## Topic 74: Translocation of wild buffaloes

### Key points:

1. Translocation from Manas National Park in Assam to Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh
2. Chhattisgarh's State animal - wild buffaloes (*Bubalus arnee*)
3. Schedule 1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
4. IUCN Endangered
5. Habitat: tracts of tall grasslands and riverine forests in India and Nepal; Central India



# Topic 75: Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS)

## Key points:

1. Sultanganj to Kahalganj on the Ganga (Bihar)
2. VGDS is the only dolphin sanctuary in the country
3. IUCN: Endangered Category
4. Also known as susu and India's National Aquatic animal
5. Inhabits the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

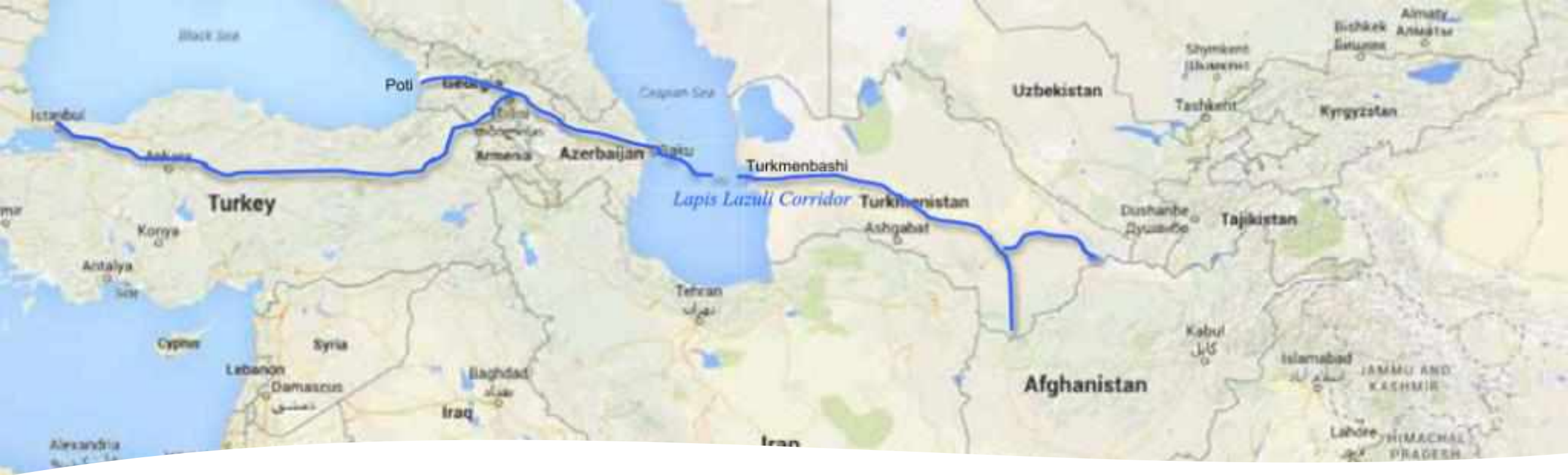
- 76. Ashgabat Agreement
- 77. Lapis Lazuli Corridor
- 78. International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
- 79. Map activity: Persian Gulf and important ports of Iran
- 80. Inner Line Permit (ILP)
- 81. Protected Area Permit (PAP)/Restricted Area Permit (RAP)
- 82. Bonn Challenge
- 83. COP 13 – CMS
- 84. Great Indian Bustard
- 85. Humpback Whales
- 86. Marine Turtles
- 87. Leatherback Turtle
- 88. Olive ridley
- 89. Arribada - Unique mass nesting behavior
- 90. Amur falcons

# Topic 76: Ashgabat Agreement



## Key points:

1. Multimodal transport agreement
2. Agreement between Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and India
3. International transport and transit corridor
4. Turkmenistan is the depository State and Ashgabat is Capital and the largest city of Turkmenistan
5. Founding Members



## Topic 77: Lapis Lazuli Corridor

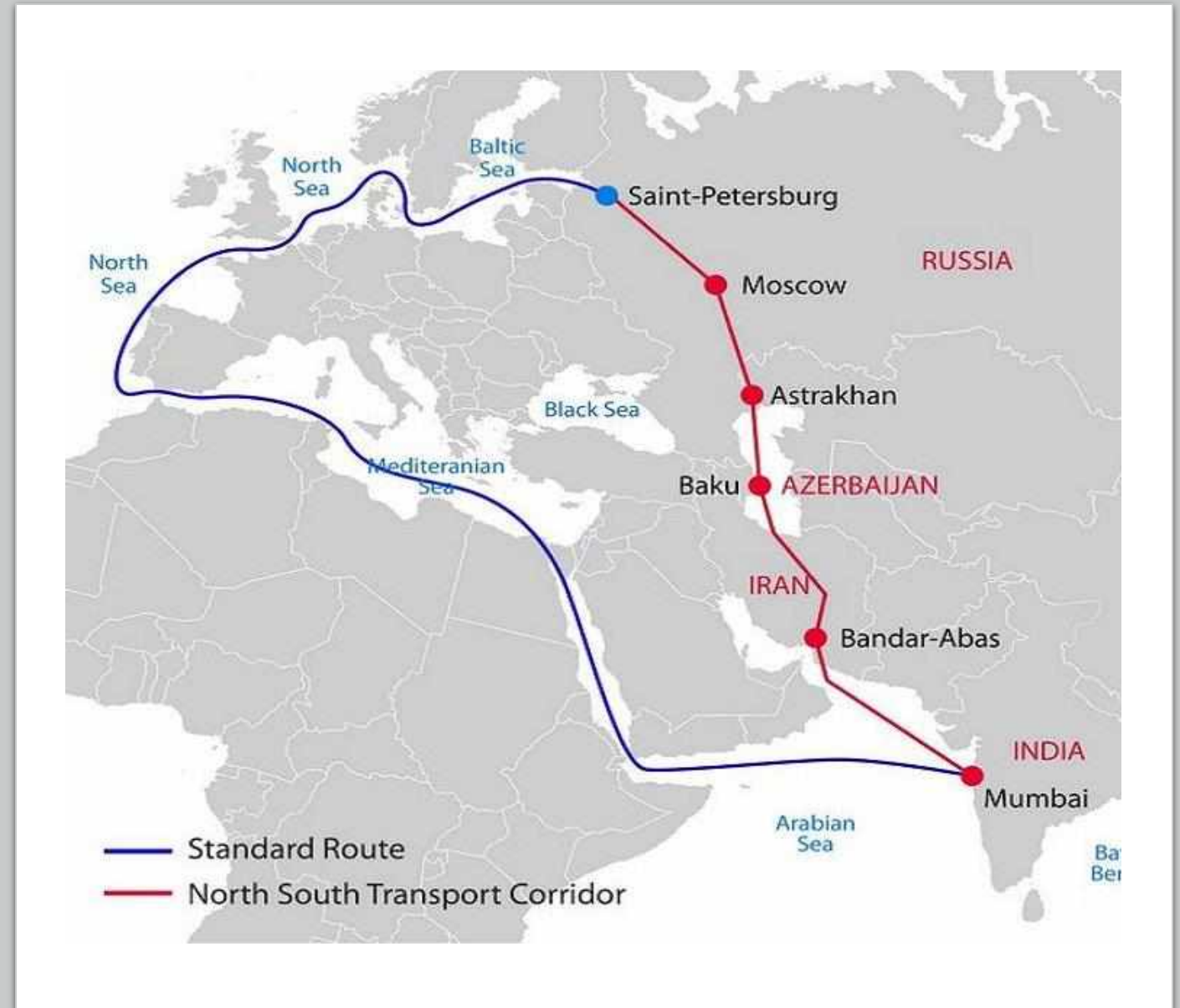
### Key points:

1. It is created toward transit and trade cooperation among Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey
2. Develops Custom Procedure Integration and reduces barriers facing transit trade
3. Lapis Lazuli begins from Afghanistan and ends in Europe
4. “Lapis Lazuli” is derived from the historic (semiprecious stones) export route

## Topic 78: International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

### Key points:

1. 7,200-km-long multi-mode network
2. Countries - India, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe
3. Connects India Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea
4. Member states
5. Observer member



# Topic 79: Persian Gulf and important ports

## Location:

1. Iran's Caspian Sea ports of Astara, Bandar Anzali and Amirabad
2. Baku
3. Russian port of Astarakhan
4. Farzad B Gas Field
5. Lands around Persian Gulf - 8 Countries
6. Strait of Hormuz
7. Gulf of Oman
8. Shatt-al Arab





## Topic 80: Inner Line Permit (ILP)

### Key points:

1. Official travel document issued by concerned State
2. Grants inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area
3. Obligatory for Indians residing outside certain states to obtain permission to enter the protected areas
4. Operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland (Manipur was recently added in 2020)
5. ILP is issued under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 and for travel purposes solely



# Topic 81: Protected Area Permit (PAP)/Restricted Area Permit (RAP)

## Key points: (Restricted Areas)

1. Declared under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963
2. Earlier entire Andaman & Nicobar Islands and part of Sikkim
3. Recently, Union Home Ministry decided to lift restrictions to boost Tourism
4. Foreigners no longer need a Restricted Areas Permit

## Key points: Protected Areas

1. Also declared under Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958
2. All areas falling between the 'Inner line' and the International Border of the State

## Protected Areas are located in following states:

1. Whole of Arunachal Pradesh
2. Parts of Himachal Pradesh
3. Parts of Jammu & Kashmir
4. Whole of Manipur
5. Whole of Mizoram
6. Whole of Nagaland
7. Parts of Rajasthan
8. Whole of Sikkim (partly in Protected Area and partly in Restricted Area)
9. Parts of Uttarakhand



## Topic 82: Bonn Challenge

### Key points:

1. 150 million hectares by 2020
2. 350 million hectares by 2030
3. Launched in 2011 by Germany and IUCN
4. Later endorsed and extended by the New York Declaration on Forests
5. Forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach
6. India joined voluntary Bonn Challenge pledge (Revised target is 26mh by 2030)



## Topic 83: COP 13 – CMS

### Key Points:

1. It was held in Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
2. Theme - “Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home”



# Topic 84: Great Indian Bustard

## Basic information:

1. Status: IUCN– Critically Endangered; Species in Appendix I of CMS; Under Section I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
2. Found only in India and Pakistan (exhibits transboundary movements)
3. In India – Gobi are found in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.



# Topic 85: Humpback Whales



## Basic information:

1. IUCN status – Least Concern
2. Found – Around the world
3. One of the four species of baleen whales occurring in Indian waters



## Topic 86: Marine Turtles

Marine turtles along the Indian coast

There are seven species of marine turtle –

1. Hawksbill
2. Leatherback
3. Kemp's ridley
4. Green turtle
5. Loggerhead
6. Olive ridley
7. Flatback turtle

1.Olive Ridley

2.Green

3.Hawksbill

4.Loggerhead

5.Leatherback

Note: Except the Loggerhead, the remaining four species nest along the Indian coast.

In India, above sea turtles are protected under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, under the Schedule I Part II.



### Kemp's ridley

*Lepidochelys kempii*

2 Feet



### Olive ridley

*Lepidochelys olivacea*

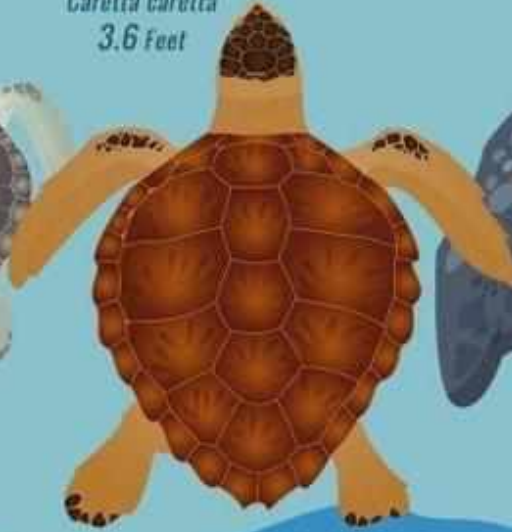
2.5 Feet



### Loggerhead

*Caretta caretta*

3.6 Feet



### Leatherback

*Dermochelys coriacea*

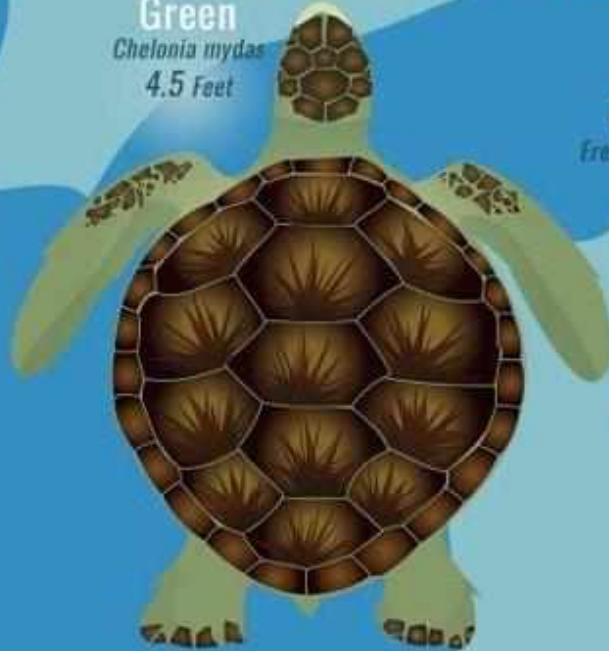
6 Feet



### Green

*Chelonia mydas*

4.5 Feet



### Hawksbill

*Eretmochelys imbricata*

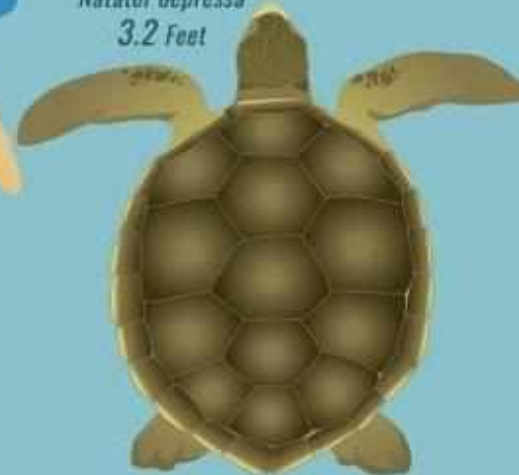
3 feet



### Flatback

*Natator depressa*

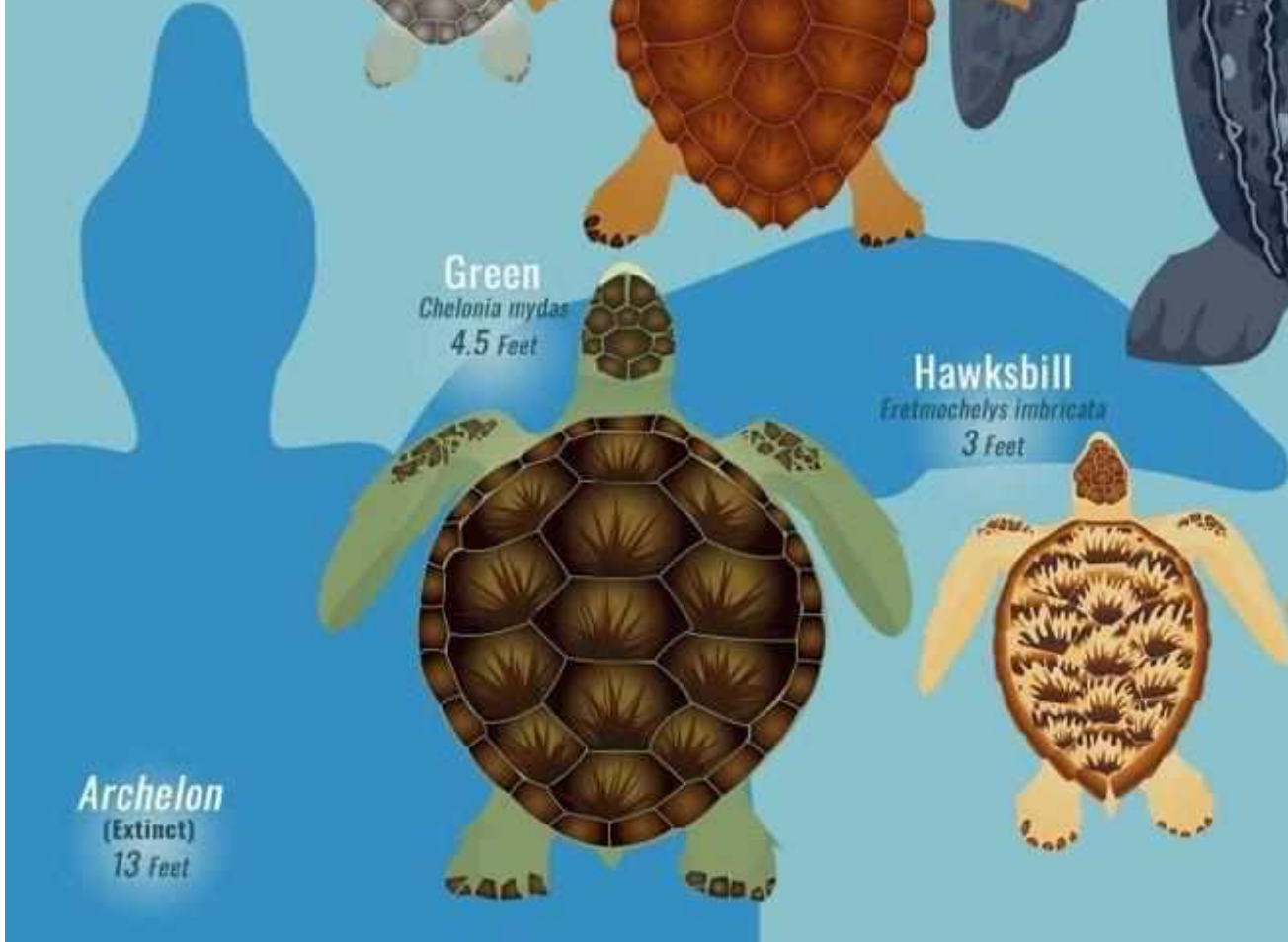
3.2 Feet



### Archelon

(Extinct)

13 feet



## Topic 87: Leatherback Turtle

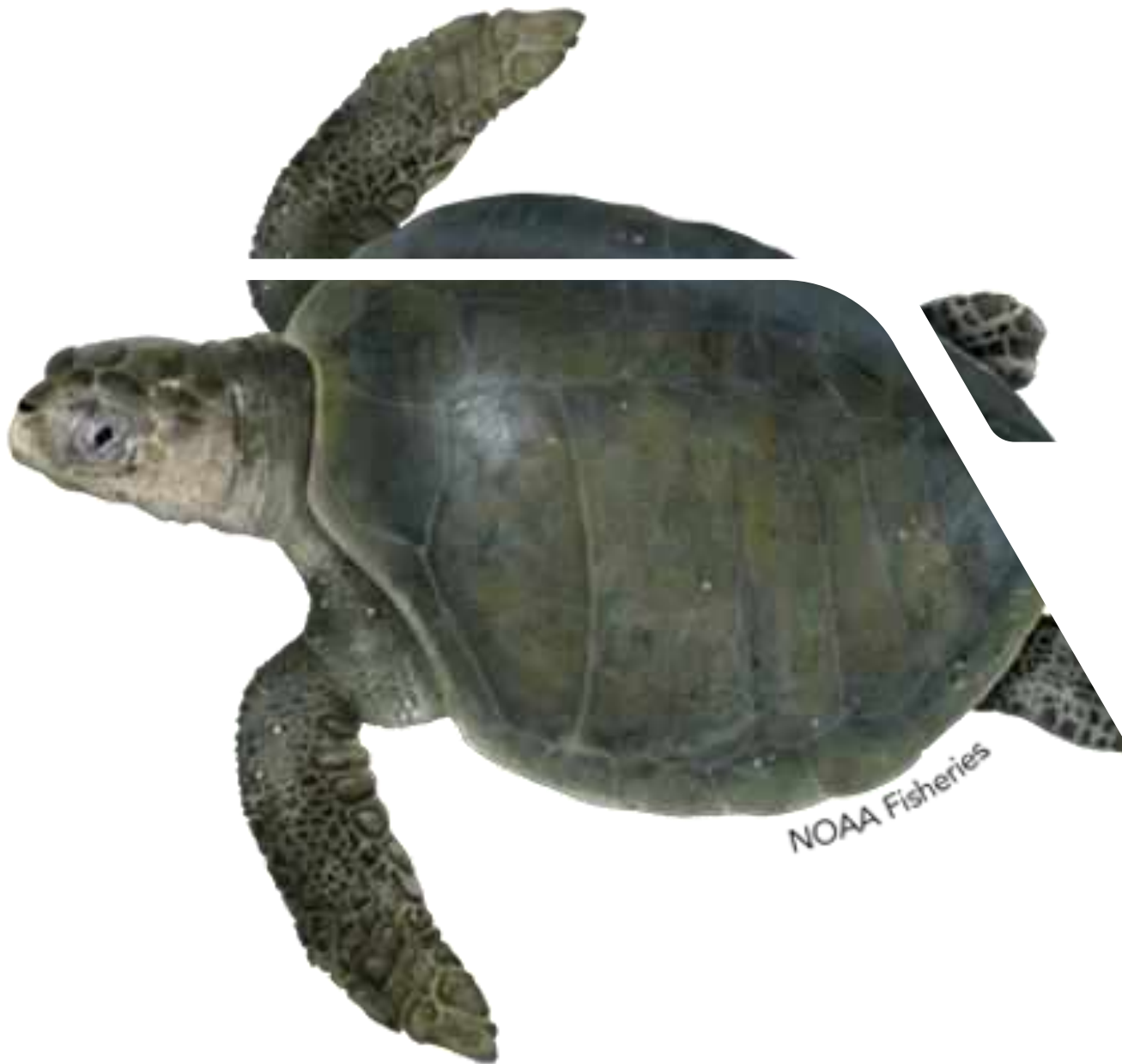
### Basic information:

1. IUCN Status – Vulnerable
2. Schedule I of Indian Wildlife protection Act, 1972
3. Habitation - tropical and temperate waters from Pacific to North Atlantic and throughout the Indian Ocean
4. It follows the longest migratory route known for turtles

## Topic 88: Olive ridley

### Basic information:

1. IUCN Status – Vulnerable
2. Endemic to the Pacific coasts of Mexico, Central America, and India
3. Known to be a nocturnal nester
4. Smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles
5. Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans





## Topic 89: Arribada

### Key points:

1. Unique mass nesting behavior
2. Only two species of marine turtles display this behaviour
3. Olive ridley and the Kemp's ridley sea turtle
4. Olive ridley is endemic to the Pacific coasts of Mexico, Central America, and India (nocturnal nester)
5. Kemp's ridley is endemic to the Gulf of Mexico. It ranges from Galveston, Texas to Tampico, Mexico.
6. Kemp's ridley turtles display unique diurnal arribadas.



## Topic 90: Amur falcons

### Key points:

1. IUCN status – Least Concern
2. Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
3. It is a small raptor of the falcon family.
4. Habitat type - Grassland, Savanna, Forest, Wetlands
5. Every year Amur falcons take a long journey covering many countries including China, Mongolia, Russia and India to reach Somalia.
6. Doyang Lake or Doyang reservoir in Nagaland



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

91. Loggerhead Turtles
92. Hawksbill marine turtle
93. Green marine turtle
94. CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN
95. Recovery Programmes for Critically Endangered Species
96. Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (IDWH)
97. Parliamentary Budget Office
98. Role of the Governor during Hung Assembly
99. Delimitation
100. Presidential Pardoning Powers
101. State rooftop solar attractiveness Index (SARAL)
102. NISHTHA
103. Sabka Vishwas Scheme
104. Vivekananda Rock Memorial: Golden Jubilee and Ek Bharat, Vijayi Bharat
105. Chilika lake and Ansupa Lake



# Correction and Clarifications

**Session 3:** Topic 31 – Right to Vote

**Session 6:** Topic 80 – Inner Line Permit

**Session 6:** Topic 82 – Bonn Challenge

**Session 6:** Topic 86 – Marine Turtles



# Topic 91: Loggerhead Turtles

## Key points:

1. IUCN Status Vulnerable and Schedule I WPA, 1972
2. Habitat: distributed throughout the world (found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, as well as the Mediterranean Sea)
3. Nesting beaches are under threat due to Tourism
4. Low reproductive rate
5. Loggerheads don't lay eggs on Indian coast



## Topic 92: Hawksbill marine turtle

### Key points:

1. 'Critically Endangered' and Schedule 1 WPA, 1972
2. Worldwide distribution -- Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans
3. Found mostly in warm tropical waters
4. Unique characteristic - biofluorescent



## Topic 93: Green marine turtle

### Key points:

1. 'Endangered' by the IUCN and CITES
2. Widely distributed in tropical and subtropical waters
3. Atlantic, Pacific Oceans and also Indian Oceans

### Do you know?

- World Turtle Day was observed on 23rd May 2020
- Theme: 'Adopt, Don't Shop'



# Topic 94: CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN

## Key Points:

1. India assumed presidency of UN body on Migratory Species for 3 years
2. India prepared National Action Plan to achieve CAFAP
3. India home to several migratory species
4. 7 species were identified for Conservation and Recovery Action Plan.

## CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN

1. States should promote conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats
2. Build and compliments action plans of Centre
3. Build and compliments action plans of international conventions

## Implementation of CAF Action Plan

1. Species which are included in Appendix I of CMS
2. Species which are listed as threatened in Threatened Birds of the World (by BirdLife International)
3. Populations, which number less than around 10,000 individuals



# Topic 95: Recovery Programmes for Critically Endangered Species

## Key points:

1. Currently has 21 critically endangered species
2. Part of IDWH
3. 4 species were recently added -
  - 1) Northern River Terrapin
  - 2) Clouded Leopard
  - 3) Arabian Sea Humpback Whale
  - 4) Red Panda
4. National Board for Wildlife adds the critically endangered species

## 17 other species

1. Snow Leopard
2. Bustard (including Floricans)
3. Dolphin
4. Hangul
5. Nilgiri Tahr
6. Marine Turtles
7. Dugongs
8. Edible Nest Swiftlet
9. Asian Wild Buffalo
10. Nicobar Megapode
11. Manipur Brow-antlered Deer
12. Vultures
13. Malabar Civet
14. Indian Rhinoceros
15. Asiatic Lion
16. Swamp Deer
17. Jerdon's Courser



# Topic 96: Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (IDWH)

## Key points:

1. Centrally sponsored scheme
2. Provides technical and financial assistance to States/UTs for protection of wildlife habitat
3. 3 important components -
  - 1) Support to Protected Areas
  - 2) Protection of Wildlife outside Protected Areas
  - 3) Recovery Program for critically endangered habitats and species



# Topic 97: Parliamentary Budget Office

## Key points:

1. Independent and impartial body
2. Provides technical and objective analysis of Budgets and public finance
3. Helps to generate quality public debate on Budget policy and public finance
4. Executive-led budgetary governance has not been successful in India
5. PBO and AG - Auditor general provide retrospective audits and analysis of the financial accounts and performance of government operations



# Topic 98: Role of the Governor during Hung Assembly

## Key points:

1. Article 163 - Governor should act on the aid and advice of CoM
2. Discretionary power - When no party gets a clear majority, the governor has discretion to choose a candidate for chief minister who will put together a majority coalition as soon as possible.
3. Preferred order?
4. Sarkaria Commission
5. Article 174 - Governor summons the House only on the advice of the Council of Ministers



# Topic 99: Delimitation

## Key points:

1. Act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats
2. Objective - equal representation to equal segments of a population
3. Delimitation is carried out by an independent Delimitation Commission
4. Constitution mandates that its orders are final
5. Article 82 – Parliament enacts Delimitation Act after every Census
6. Union Govt sets up the Delimitation Commission
7. Last delimitation exercise — started in July 2002 and completed on May 31, 2008 — was based on the 2001 Census



# Topic 100: Presidential Pardoning Powers

## Key points:

1. Article 72
2. Commutation : : reducing the punishment by changing the nature of punishment
3. Pardon : : removes both the sentence and the conviction
4. Remission : : reducing the period of sentence without changing its character
5. Respite : : awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact
6. Reprieve : : stay of the execution of a sentence for a temporary period



# Topic 101: SARAL

## Key points:

1. State rooftop solar attractiveness Index (SARAL)
2. Designed collaboratively by MNRE, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation; ASSOCHAM and Ernst & Young

SARAL currently captures five key aspects –

- 1) Robustness of policy framework
- 2) Implementation environment
- 3) Investment climate
- 4) Consumer experience
- 5) Business ecosystem



## Topic 102: NISHTHA

### Key points:

1. National Mission to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level (NISHTHA)
2. Launched by HRD Ministry
3. To build capacities of 42 Lakh government teachers
4. Objectives



## Topic 103: Sabka Vishwas Scheme

### Key points:

1. Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme
2. Announced in 2019-20 budget and operationalised from Sept 1 till Dec 31, 2019
3. 2 main components - dispute resolution and amnesty
4. Aimed at liquidating the legacy cases of central excise and service tax, now subsumed under GST
5. Provides substantial relief in the tax dues and reduce tax litigation



# Topic 104: Golden Jubilee Celebration of Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Ek Bharat, Vijayi Bharat

## Key points:

1. 50th foundation year
2. Vivekananda Rock Memorial is a monument in Kanyakumari
3. Built in 1970 in honour of Swami Vivekananda
4. Ek Bharat, Vijayi Bharat - to spread the messages of Swami Vivekananda



# Topic 105: Chilika lake and Ansupa Lake

## Key points:

### 1. About Chilika lake

- It is a brackish water lagoon
- East coast of Odisha, at the mouth of the Daya River
- It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds
- First Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
- The Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) is the flagship species

### 2. Ansupa Lake -

- Odisha's largest freshwater lake
- Famous for sweet water fish and 32 species of migratory birds



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

106. Flamingo festival held at Pulicat lake
107. Senna Spectabilis
108. Marakkar and Kunjali Marakkar
109. Hojagiri and Bru(Reang) people
110. Mamallapuram
111. Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS)
112. GAGANYAAN
113. VYOMMITRA
114. ADITYA-1 & ADITYA-L1
115. Good Governance Index
116. National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)
117. Green Growth Equity Fund
118. Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules
119. Basel Convention
120. Rotterdam Convention



## Topic 106: Flamingo festival held at Pulicat lake

### Key points:

1. Flamingo Festival was held at Pulicat lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh
2. It is held every year
3. Pulicat lake is the second largest brackish water ecosystem
4. The lake encompasses Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary



# Topic 107: Senna Spectabilis

## Key points:

1. Senna Spectabilis : : Invasive alien plants
2. Found in Nilgiri Biosphere Region
3. 1992 Rio de Janeiro Convention on Biodiversity
4. Niligir Tahr (enadangered species)



## Topic 108: Marakkar

### Key points:

1. South Asian Muslim community
2. They were a powerful maritime spice trading community in the medieval South Asia
3. Traded with South Asia and S-E-Asian countries
4. Kunjali Marakkars - Muslim naval chief of the Zamorin of Calicut
5. Marakkars are credited with organizing the first naval defense of the Indian coast



## Topic 109: Hojagiri and Bru(Reang) people

### Key Points:

1. Brus, aka Reangs, are spread across Tripura, Mizoram and southern Assam
2. Ethnic violence between Brus and Mizos
3. The Bru are the second most populous tribe of Tripura
4. Hojagiri is a folk dance, performed in the state of Tripura by the Bru



## Topic 110: Mamallapuram

### Key points:

1. Also known as Seven Pagodas or Mahabalipuram
2. Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal
3. Associated with Pallava kingdom  
(also Narasimhavarman I)
4. UNESCO World Heritage site
5. Some important structures include: Thirukadalmallai, Descent of the Ganges or Arjuna's Penance, Shore Temple, Varaha Cave Temple and Pancha Rathas



# Topic 111: Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS)

## Key points:

1. Tracks and maintains continuous communication link with India's remote sensing/earth observation satellites
2. Particularly low-earth orbits which have limited coverage of earth and GSLV Mk III
3. Under IDRSS, 2 satellites will be launched in geostationary orbit
4. They would be covering the same area on earth
5. Reduces the dependence on the ground stations in tracking satellites



# Topic 112: GAGANYAAN

## Key points:

1. India's 1st Human spaceflight programme
2. To be launched in 2022 (includes two unmanned flights to be launched in 2020 and 2021)
3. It will carry 3 astronauts to a low earth orbit
4. It will make India the 4th country (after the Russia, USA and China)
5. Rocket: GSLV Mk-III
6. Pad Abort Test - Crew Escape System

## 2022: India's space odyssey

What is the Human Space Flight Project all about?

- In 2022, 3 Indian astronauts, mostly flight test pilots from the IAF, will circle earth for seven days from a distance of 300-400 km

- They will travel in a 7,000-kg crew capsule. A GSLV-MkIII launch vehicle will lift them to their orbit

- The flight will take off from a refurbished launchpad at Sriharikota

- The entire project could cost roughly between ₹7,000 to 9,000 crore



### ALSO PROPOSED

- Food, suits and other life systems for crew

- Astronaut selection & training

- Two unmanned trials, the first in two years

- A new command & tracking centre at ISTRAC, Bengaluru

- Improved launchpad at SDSC, Sriharikota



## Topic 113: VYOMMITRA

### Key points:

1. ISRO's humanoid robot that will test-flight Ganganyaan in December 2020.
2. It is a Gynoid (female humanoid).
3. Built by ISRO's Inertial Systems Unit, Thiruvananthapuram.
4. Objective



## Topic 114: ADITYA-1 & ADITYA-L1

### Key points:

1. India's 1st mission to study the Sun
2. Objective - study the solar corona
3. About Corona
  - 1) It is the outermost region of the Sun's atmosphere
  - 2) It has high temperatures of more than 1 million degree Kelvin
  - 3) Corona ejects millions of tonnes of high-speed solar wind
4. Aditya 1 – corona and Aditya L1 – corona, chromosphere and photosphere
5. It is called L1 because it is placed in L1 orbit (Lagrange point)



# Topic 115: Good Governance Index

## Key points:

1. Was launched on 'Good Governance Day'
2. 25th December - birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee
3. GGI is a nation-wide comparative study of States on governance
4. GGI is a nation-wide comparative study of States on governance

## GGI takes into consideration ten sectors:

1. Agriculture and Allied Sectors,
2. Commerce & Industries,
3. Human Resource Development,
4. Public Health,
5. Public Infrastructure & Utilities,
6. Economic Governance,
7. Social Welfare & Development,
8. Judicial & Public Security,
9. Environment and
10. Citizen-Centric Governance



# Topic 116: National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)

## Key points:

1. Investment plan for enhancing infrastructure (includes economic and social infrastructure projects)
2. Period of five years from 2020-25
3. Helps India to become \$5 trillion economy by 2025
4. \$1.4 trillion have been allotted to NIP
5. Funding = 39:39:22 ratio



# Topic 117: Green Growth Equity Fund

## Key points:

1. Promoted jointly by India and the UK
2. Private sectors investment to finance green infrastructure
3. Specifically designed to promote sustainable energy projects
4. To raise up to £500 million from institutional investors
5. It is a sub-fund of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund of India (NIIF)



# Topic 118: Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules

## Key points:

1. MoEFCC amended Hazardous and Other Wastes Rules
2. Solid plastic waste has been prohibited from import (including SEZs and EOUs)
3. Exporters of silk waste gets exemption from requiring permission from the Ministry
4. Electrical and electronic assemblies and components manufactured in and exported from India, if found defective can now be imported back into the country, within a year of export, without obtaining permission.
5. Industries which do not require consent under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, are now exempted from requiring authorization also from the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016



# Topic 119 and 120: Basel Convention and Rotterdam Convention

## Basel Convention

1. International treaty to reduce the movements of hazardous waste
2. Esp. prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries
3. It does not address the movement of radioactive waste
4. Aims to minimize the amount and toxicity of wastes generated
5. US and Haiti are not party to the treaty

## Rotterdam Convention

1. Multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibilities in relation to importation of hazardous chemicals
2. Calls on exporters of hazardous chemicals to use proper labeling
3. Includes directions on safe handling, and inform purchasers of any known restrictions or bans
4. US – Non member state



# Topic 119 and 120: Basel Convention and Rotterdam Convention

**Basel Convention** : : Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

**Rotterdam Convention** : : Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

In 2019, outcome of COP Basel and COP Rotterdam Convention

1. technical guidelines on e-waste - Basel Convention (COP 14)
2. inclusion of plastic waste in the PIC procedure - Rotterdam Convention (COP 9)
3. Further Basel Convention has also adopted partnership on plastic

These steps will help prevent the illegal dumping of plastic wastes in developing countries.



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 121. Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI)
- 122. Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)
- 123. New Umbrella Entity (NUE)
- 124. Equalisation Levy
- 125. The Once-Only Principle (TOOP)
- 126. Eastern Economic Forum and Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)
- 127. Guru Ravidas
- 128. Parivara, Talwara and the Siddi community
- 129. Biomethanation
- 130. Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol
- 131. 2019 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol
- 132. India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)
- 133. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
- 134. Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)
- 135. Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2019



# **Topic 121: Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI)**

## **Key points:**

1. India has ratified the Multilateral Instrument (MLI)
2. Outcome of the OECD / G20 Project (the “BEPS Project”)
3. Tackle Base Erosion and Profit Shifting
4. Curb revenue loss and combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises (MNEs)



# Topic 122: Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)

## Key points:

1. Tax planning strategies to "shift" profits from higher-tax jurisdictions to lower-tax jurisdictions
2. Tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules
3. OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)
4. BEPS measures: Four "minimum standards"
  - 1) harmful tax practices,
  - 2) treaty abuse,
  - 3) country-by-country reporting and
  - 4) dispute resolution mechanisms



## Topic 123: New Umbrella Entity (NUE)

### Key points:

1. RBI has proposed to set up new umbrella entity (NUE) or entities focusing on retail payment systems with a minimum paid-up capital of Rs 500 crore.
2. The proposed entity will set up, manage and operate new payment systems
3. Eligibility - Entity eligible to apply as promoter or the promoter group for the NUE should be
  - 1) 'owned and controlled by residents' with 3 years' experience in the payments ecosystem
  - 2) Worked as Payment System Operator (PSO) or Payment Service Provider (PSP) or Technology Service Provider (TSP)
  - 3) Any entity holding more than 25 per cent of the paid-up capital of the NUE will be deemed to be a promoter
  - 4) NUE should conform to the norms of corporate governance along with 'fit and proper' criteria for persons to be appointed on its board
  - 5) RBI retains the right to approve the appointment of directors as also to nominate a member on the board of the NUE



# Topic 124: Equalisation Levy

## Key Points:

1. Introduced in India in 2016
2. To tax the digital transactions
3. Levy on revenue earned by non-residents from online advertising and related services
4. It is aimed at taxing business to business transactions.
5. It is also referred to as 'Google Tax'.

## Equalisation Levy 2.0

1. Equalisation Levy introduced by the Finance Act 2016, was charged at 6%
2. The Finance Act 2020 amended the Finance Act 2016 – introduced new Equalisation Levy at 2%



# Topic 125: The Once-Only Principle (TOOP)

## Key points:

1. European Union countries to enact TOOP
2. Part of the 2017 Tallinn Declaration on e-Government
3. Objective of TOOP
  - 1) remove unnecessary administrative burdens on citizens
  - 2) citizens are not required to provide the same information more than once to govt
  - 3) public administration is allowed to re-use and exchange the data with each other
  - 4) incorporates data protection regulations and explicit consent of the users
4. EU's Single Digital Gateway Regulation

## Other topics:

- Digital Single Market
- General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR)



## Topic 126: Eastern Economic Forum

### Key points:

1. International forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia
2. Encourage foreign investment in the Russian Far East
3. It serves as a platform for the discussion of key issues
4. Russian Far East – comprises territory between Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia and the Pacific Ocean
5. Mineral sources - diamonds, borax materials, gold, tungsten, fish and seafood

### Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)

- Military logistics support agreement between India and Russia
- Facilitates access to each other's' military facilities



## Topic 127: Guru Ravidas

### Key points:

1. He was a poet-saint, social reformer and a spiritual figure
2. Ravidas' devotional songs – had lasting impact upon the bhakti movement and are included in the Sikh scriptures, Guru Granth Sahib
3. Considered as the founder of 21st-century Ravidassia religion
4. Adi Granth of Sikhs and Panch Vani text of the Dadupanthi tradition within Hinduism
5. Songs of Ravidas discuss Nirguna-Saguna themes and foundation of Nath Yoga philosophy of Hinduism
6. He frequently mentions the term Sahaj (a mystical state where there is a union of the truths of the many and the one)



# Topic 128: Parivara, Talwara and the Siddi community

## Key points:

1. Tribes from Karnataka
2. Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950
3. Currently, the Siddi tribe of Uttar Kannada alone is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes

## Siddi Community:

1. Also known as Sidi, Siddhi, Sheedi or Habshi
2. Ethnic group inhabiting India and Pakistan
3. Descended from the Bantu peoples of the East African region
4. Siddis are primarily Muslims
5. Siddis of Karnataka are an ethnic group of mainly Bantu descent (made Karnataka their home for the last 400 years)
6. The first Siddis are thought to have arrived in India in 628 AD at the Bharuch port.



# Topic 129: Methanogenesis or Biomethanation

## Key points:

1. Formation of methane by microbes
2. Archaea: Only organisms capable of producing methane
3. The production of methane is an important and widespread form of microbial metabolism
4. Concept of Methanogenesis



# Topic 130: Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

## Key points:

1. 2019 - three decades of Montreal Protocol
2. Montreal Protocol has led to the phase-out of 99 per cent of ozone-depleting chemicals

## Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

- It is a multilateral environmental agreement signed in 1985
- Reductions in the production of chlorofluorocarbons

## Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

- It is a protocol to the Vienna Convention
- International treaty designed to protect the ozone layer
- Phasing out the production of numerous ozone-depleting substances



# Topic 131: 2019 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol

## Key points:

Under the Kigali Amendment -

1. Countries promised to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
2. Goal: Reduce HFCs by more than 80% over the next 30 years

## About HFCs

- Produced mostly in developed countries
- HFCs replaced CFCs and HCFCs
- HFCs pose no harm to the ozone layer
- They are GHG - with a high global warming potential (GWP)

Kigali amendment to the legally-binding Montreal Protocol – reduce HFC production and consumption by

- at least 85 per cent by 2040 (average 2011-2013 values) by industrialized countries
- at least 85 per cent by 2045 (average 2020-22 values) by developing countries
- at least 85 per cent by 2047 (average 2024-26 values) by other developing countries (India)



# Topic 132: India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)

## Key points:

1. India is one of the first countries in the world to develop ICAP
2. World Ozone Day - 16 September
3. Long term vision is to address the cooling requirement across sectors

## India Cooling Action seeks to

1. reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38,
2. reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38,
3. Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38,
4. recognize “cooling and related areas” as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme
5. training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission.



## Topic 133: Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

### Key points:

1. Launched in 2015
2. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
3. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
4. Aim - mobilize youth to take up skill training - as per National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)
5. PMKVY 1.0 - 19 lakhs students against the target of 24 lakh were trained
6. PMKVY 2.0 (2016-2020) - 12000 Crores budget allocation - aims to train 10 million youth by the year 2020



# Topic 134: Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)

## Key points:

Under the Montreal Protocol,

1. 2013 as the time to freeze HCFCs for developing countries
2. For developed countries, HCFCs reduction began in 2004 and 2010 (with 100% reduction set for 2020)
3. Developing countries agreed to start reducing its consumption and production of HCFCs by 2015, with 100% reduction set for 2030.

## About HCFCs

1. Group of man-made compounds containing hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine and carbon
2. They are not found anywhere in nature
3. It is a chemical used by foam manufacturing enterprises
4. Most potent ozone depleting chemical after CFCs
5. Used mainly as a blowing agent in the production of rigid polyurethane (PU) foams



# Topic 135: Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2019

## Key points:

1. Complete phase out of HCFCs – on 31 Dec 2010, MOEFCC notified above Rules
2. As per the Rules, issuance of import license for HCFC-141b is prohibited from 1st January, 2020
3. India achieved complete phase out of HCFC – 141b
4. Nearly, 50 % of the consumption of ozone depleting chemicals, attributable to HCFC-141 b in the foam sector
5. HCFC Phase out Management Plan (HPMP) used baseline level of 2009 and 2010 of the country



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 136. National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)
- 137. Quantum Technology
- 138. SYCAMORE
- 139. IndiGen initiative
- 140. McrBC and Phages
- 141. Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)
- 142. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
- 143. CoP18 of CITES
- 144. Smooth-coated otter and Small-clawed otters
- 145. Indian star tortoise
- 146. Tokay gecko (Gekko gecko)
- 147. Wedgefish
- 148. Indian Rosewood
- 149. China's Nine-dash line and Kra Canal
- 150. Reunion Island



# Topic 136: National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)

## Key points:

1. Mission to oversee the development of quantum technologies
2. Announced in Budget 2020
3. Period: Five years (2020-25)
4. Total Funds: Rs 8000 crores
5. Implementing Body: Department of Science & Technology (DST)



केन्द्रीय बजट  
UNION BUDGET 2020

Budget 2020 announced Rs 8,000 crore over the next 5-yr in the National Mission on Quantum technology and its applications

- The areas of focus for the NM-QTA Mission will be in fundamental science, translation, technology development and towards addressing issues concerning national priorities
- The mission can help prepare next generation skilled manpower, boost translational research and also encourage entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem development.
- Quantum principles will be used for engineering solutions to extremely complex problems in computing, communications, sensing, chemistry, cryptography, imaging and mechanics



- Their applications which will be boosted include those in aero-space engineering, numerical weather predictions, simulations, securing the communications & financial transactions, cyber security, advanced manufacturing, health, agriculture, education
- It can bring India in the list of few countries with an edge in this emerging field will have a greater advantage in garnering multifold economic growth and dominant leadership role





# Topic 137: Quantum Technology

## Key points:

1. Uses principles of quantum mechanics (physics of sub-atomic particles)
2. Developed in early 20th century - to describe nature in the small — at the scale of atoms and elementary particles
3. Helped to understand - physical world, interaction of light and matter and on subjects such as gravity and black holes
4. Led to inventions such as lasers and semiconductor transistors



## Topic 138: SYCAMORE

**In news:** Google announced its quantum computer – Sycamore

### What is quantum supremacy?

- It describes the point where quantum computers can do things that classical computers cannot.
- In Google's case, researchers claimed to have developed a processor that took 200 seconds to do a calculation that would have taken a classical computer 10,000 years.

### What is a quantum computer?

- Traditional computers work on the basis of the laws of classical physics, specifically by utilising the flow of electricity.
- A quantum computer, on the other hand, seeks to exploit the laws that govern the behaviour of atoms and subatomic particles.
- A classical computer processes information. Bits of information are stored as either 0 or 1.
- In a quantum computer, information is stored in quantum bits, or qubits. And a qubit can be both 0 and 1 at the same time.



# Topic 139: IndiGen initiative

## Key Points:

1. By CSIR in April 2019
2. CSIR had conducted Whole Genome Sequencing of 1,008 Indians
3. Whole genome sequencing - Major driver for biomedical science
4. Faster and efficient diagnosis of rare genetic diseases

## What is Gene Sequencing?

- Sequencing a genome means deciphering the exact order of base pairs in an individual.



# Topic 140: McrBC and Phages

## Key points:

1. It is a complex bacterial protein
2. It helps prevent viral infections in a bacterial cell
3. It functions as a molecular scissor
4. Benefits of determining McrBC's structure
  - 1) Long term implications in phage therapy
  - 2) Combat drug-resistant infections

## Phages:

- They are groups of viruses that infect and kill bacterial cells
- Phage therapy - therapeutic use of bacteriophages to treat bacterial infections
- Phage therapy could be used as an alternative to antibiotics
- Helps combat drug-resistant



# Topic 141: Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)

## Key points:

1. 2019-24 = Spotlight is on water
2. Ministry of Jal Shakti was launched in 2019
3. Within a month of announcing the Ministry of Jal Shakti, JSA was launched

Phase I: 1st July to 15th September 2019 (all States)

Phase II: 1st October to 30th November 2019 (States with retreating monsoon)

## Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- Intensive water conservation campaign
- Built on citizen participation
- Time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign
- Officers, groundwater experts and scientists from Gol work to ramp up rainwater harvesting and conservation efforts in 225 water stressed districts
- Jan Andolan



## Topic 142: Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

### Key points:

1. Aim - to ensure piped water supply to all rural households by 2024
2. Was also launched in 2019
3. 'Nal Se Jal' scheme - provide potable water at service level of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd) to every rural household by 2024
4. JJM stresses on service delivery, rather than infrastructure creation
5. Women are empowered and are trained



## Topic 143: CoP18 of CITES

### Key points:

1. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
2. Also known as the Washington Convention
3. It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN
4. Ensures that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild

Appendix I	Appendix II	Appendix III
Includes species that are the most endangered or “threatened with extinction”	Includes species which at current are not threatened with extinction but that may become so, unless trade is closely controlled	Species are included to this list at the request of a Party that already regulates trade in the species and that needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation
Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.	Trade should not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.	Provides a lower level of protection.
Trade may take place, provided it is authorized by the granting of both an import permit and an export permit	Export permit is required Import permit is not required	International trade is allowed only on presentation of the appropriate permits or certificates

5. India sought boost to protection status of 5 species at CITES (CoP 18)



# Topic 144: Smooth-coated otter and Small-clawed otters

## Key info: Smooth-coated otter

- IUCN Vulnerable
- CITES Appendix I
- Found in India and S.Asia; S-E-Asia
- Habitat: Artificial/Aquatic & Marine, Wetlands (inland), Forest, Grassland, Marine Coastal/Supratidal, Marine Intertidal, Shrubland



## Key info: Small-clawed otters

- IUCN Vulnerable
- CITES Appendix I
- Found in Freshwater wetlands and forests of Himalayas, Western Ghats and Southeast Asia.





# Topic 145: Indian Star Tortoise

## Key info:

- IUCN Vulnerable
- CITES Appendix I
- Found in India (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa)
- Artificial/Terrestrial, Forest, Shrubland, Grassland
- Loss of habitat to agriculture and illegal harvesting





## Topic 146: Tokay gecko (Gekko gekko)

### Key info:

- IUCN Least Concern
- CITES Appendix II
- Schedule III of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Found in N E India, China and S-E Asia part
- Habitat: Artificial/Terrestrial, Rain Forests



## Topic 147: Wedgefish

### Key info:

- IUCN Critically Endangered
- CITES Appendix II
- Found in coastal India and Indo-Pacific ocean
- Shallow water coastal species



## Topic 148: Indian Rosewood

### Key info:

- Deciduous rosewood tree
- IUCN Vulnerable and CITES Appendix II
- Native to the Indian subcontinent, also grown in Nigeria, Kenya, Vietnam, the Philippines, and other parts of tropical Africa.
- India has proposed to remove rosewood from Appendix II of CITES.





# Topic 149: China's Nine-dash line

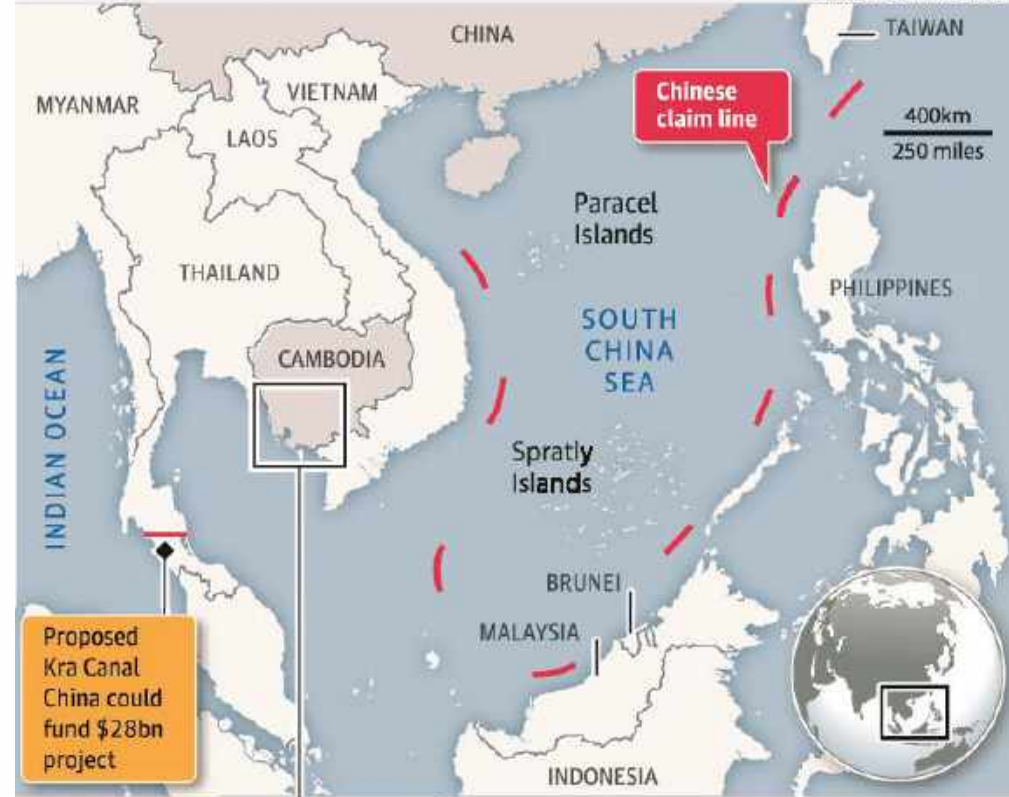
## CHINA'S NINE DASH LINE



## Spreading **influence**

China and Cambodia have signed a secret agreement that allows Beijing exclusive use of the Ream naval base on the Gulf of Thailand, according to a report

SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS



1 China will get rights to part of the Ream facility, not far from the **Dara Sakor** international airport being built by a Chinese company, according to a *Wall Street Journal* report. Both China and Cambodia have denied the report.

2 China will use the base for 30 years,

with automatic renewals every 10 years after that. China could station military personnel, store weapons and berth warships at the facility

3 Of the 190 acres, 62 acres will be dedicated to China's use

4 This will be China's first dedicated naval staging facility in Southeast Asia

**The Ream** installation covers about 190 acres, including two facilities built with U.S. funding and used by the Cambodian navy, and a single pier



## Topic 150: Réunion Island

### Key points:

1. India and France conducted joint patrols from the Réunion Island for the first time
2. Patrol was conducted by a P-8I aircraft with French Navy personnel on board
3. Réunion Island is a French department in the Indian Ocean
4. It is known for its volcanic, rainforested interior, coral reefs and beaches



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**Session 11**

**Rapid Revision Series  
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PRELIMS 2020**



# TOPICS TO REVISE

151. Chagos Archipelago and Diego Garcia
152. Mediterranean Sea
153. International Court of Justice (ICJ)
154. International Criminal Court (ICC) and Crimes against humanity (CAH)
155. Permanent Court of Arbitration and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
156. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
157. PROJECT NETRA
158. LOx METHANE ENGINE
159. Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS)
160. LIGO-INDIA
161. Global E-Mobility Programme and National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020
162. BreatheLife campaign
163. India joined CCAC
164. Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation
165. CoP 15 UN-CBD



# Topic 151: Chagos Archipelago and Diego Garcia

## Key points: Chagos Islands

1. Located in Indian Ocean (south of south of the Maldives archipelago)
2. Group of seven atolls comprising more than 60 individual tropical islands
3. Part of Chagos-Laccadive Ridge - a long submarine mountain range
4. Dispute between UK and Mauritius
5. Major islands: Diego Garcia, Peros Banhos, Salomon Islands, Egmont Islands

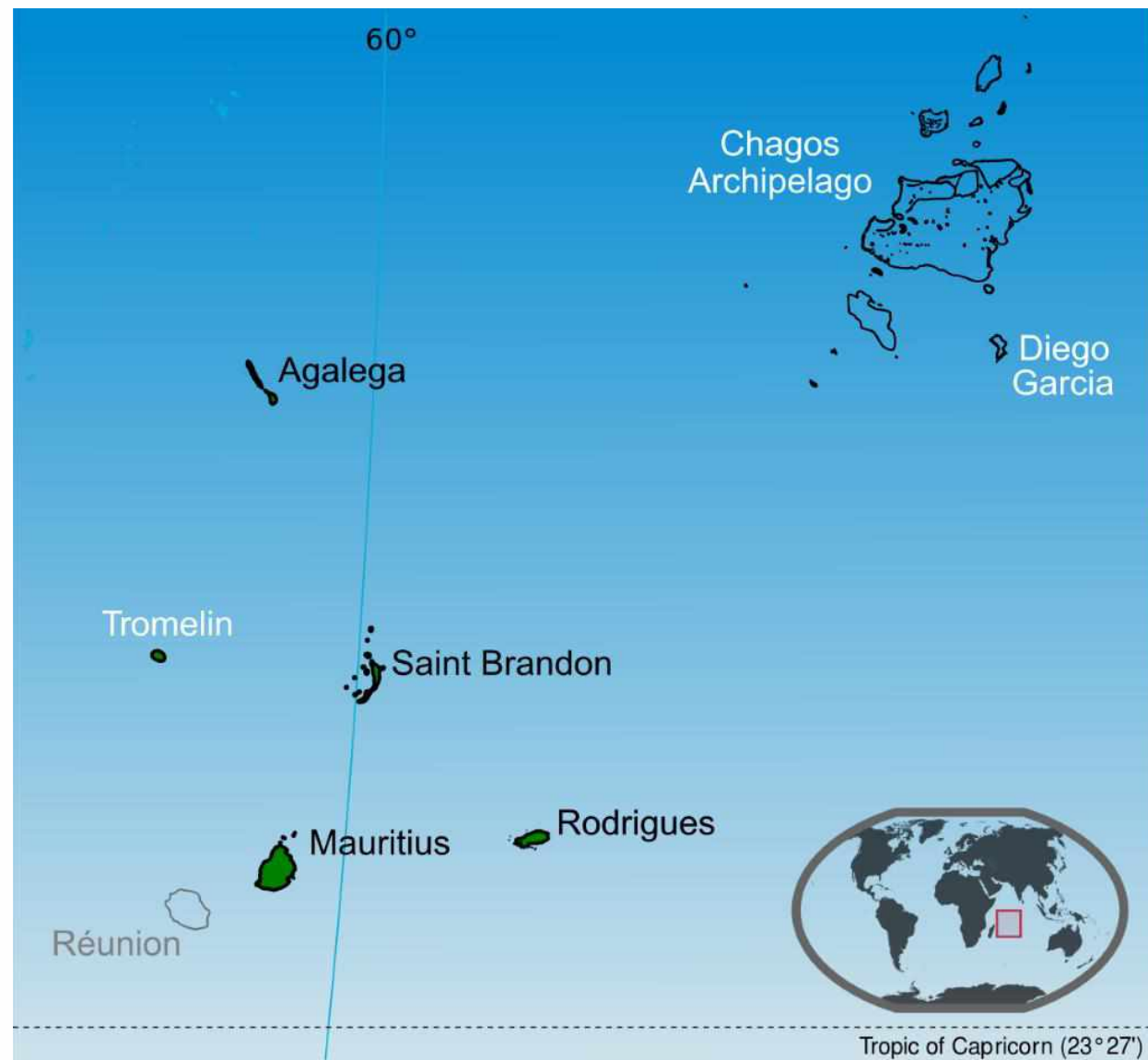




# Topic 151: Chagos Archipelago and Diego Garcia

## Key points: Diego Garcia

1. Island of the British Indian Ocean Territory
2. Militarised atoll just south of the equator
3. US set up a foreign military base
4. US and the UK operate a large military base





## Topic 152: Mediterranean Sea

### Key points:

1. Sea connected to Atlantic Ocean
2. Almost completely enclosed by land
  - North by Southern Europe and Anatolia
  - South by North Africa
  - East by the Levant
3. Countries surrounding the Mediterranean
4. Gaza Strip, British Overseas Territories of Gibraltar and Akrotiri and Dhekelia have coastlines on the sea





# Topic 153: International Court of Justice (ICJ)

## Key Points:

1. It is principal judicial organ of the United Nations
2. Estd. In 1945 under the Statute of the International Court of Justice
3. Seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands)
4. Court is composed of 15 judges
5. Term: 9 yrs
6. Function: resolve disputes between sovereign states



# Topic 154: International Criminal Court (ICC)

## Key Points:

1. Intergovernmental organization and international tribunal
2. Hague, Netherlands
3. Rome Statute - serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document
4. India - Non-state party, non-signatory
5. ICC's jurisdiction

## Crimes Against Humanity (CAH)

- Internationally, CAH are dealt with Rome Statute of ICC
- India is not a party to the Rome Statute, so no obligation to enact separate legislation dealing with CAH
- India has ratified Genocide Convention (1948) but has not enacted it in domestic legislation.



# Topic 155: Permanent Court of Arbitration and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

## Key points: PCA

1. Estd. In 1899 (Hague, Netherlands)
2. Intergovernmental organization – to serve the international community in the field of dispute resolution and to facilitate arbitration
3. PCA is not a court in the traditional sense
4. Not a United Nations agency (PCA is an official UN Observer)

## International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

1. Independent judicial body
2. Estd. By UNCLOS
3. Both PCA and ITLOS have agreed to cooperate to matters related to disputes under Annex VII of UNCLOS



# Topic 156: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

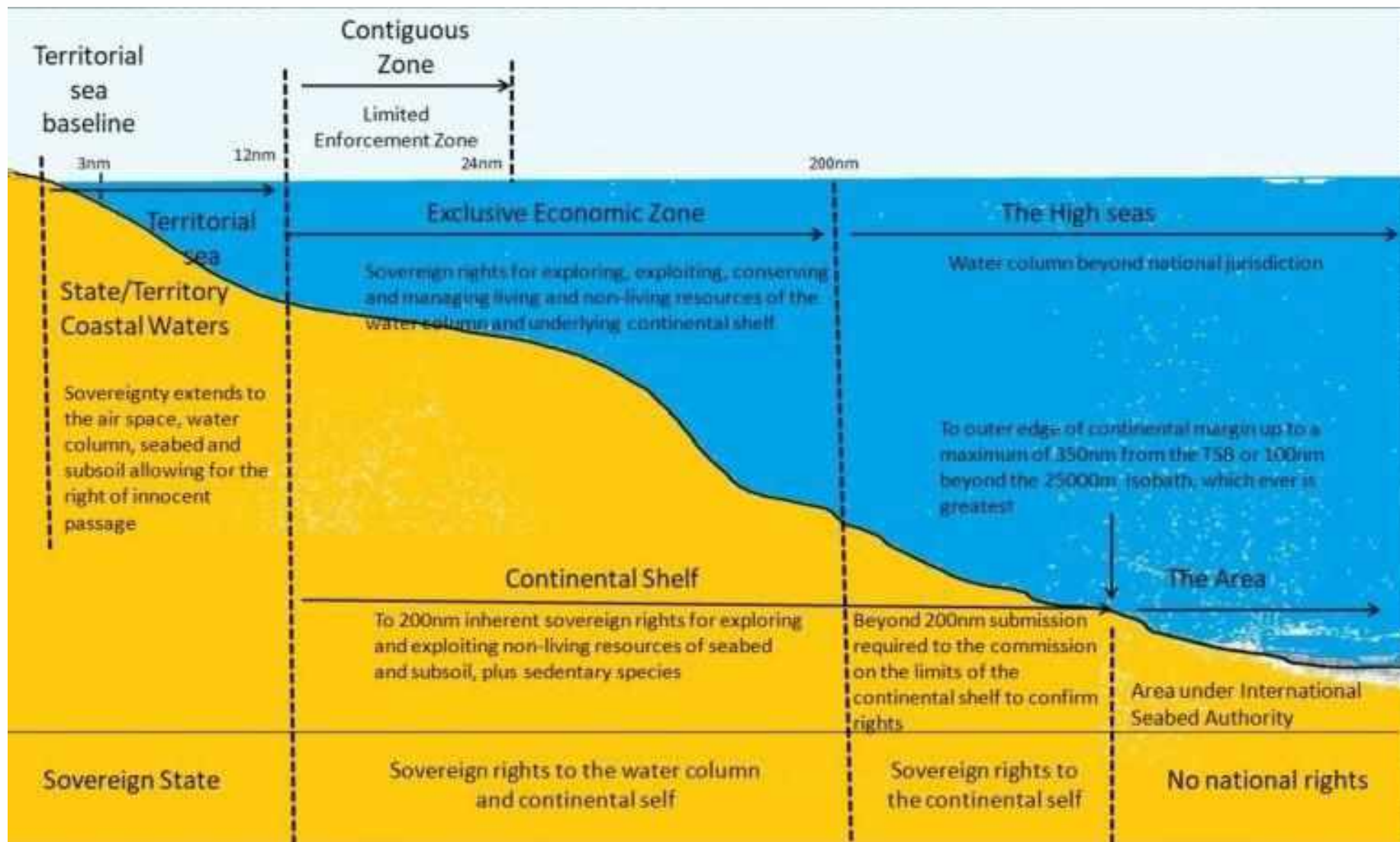
## Key points:

1. International agreement resulted from the third UN Conference on Law of Seas
2. Defines rights and responsibilities of nations wrt use of world's oceans and management of marine resources
3. UN has no direct operational role in its implementation
4. Major roles played by IMO, IWC and ISA





# Topic 156: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)





## Topic 157: PROJECT NETRA

### Key points:

1. NETRA - NETWORK FOR SPACE OBJECT TRACKING AND ANALYSIS
2. ISRO's early warning system (includes network of observational facilities)
3. Predict threats to Indian satellites from space debris, space attacks etc.

The telescopes and radars under the network would be set up at -

1. Ponmudi in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
2. Mount Abu (Rajasthan)
3. One in Deep North (Leh)
4. One in the Northeast region
5. Multi Object Tracking Radar at Nellore

The telescope network will be set up under the Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management at Bengaluru.

ISRO currently depends on NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command) for tracking of space debris and protect its satellites



# Topic 158: LOx METHANE ENGINE

## Key points:

1. LOx - Liquid oxygen oxidiser and methane fuel
2. Developed by Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre of ISRO
3. Benefits:
  - 1) Can be synthesized in space
  - 2) It is non-toxic
  - 3) Easy to store
  - 4) Less bulky
  - 5) Does not leave a residue upon combustion



# Topic 159: Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS)

## Key points:

1. Earth observation satellite
2. Orbiting at 636 km above the surface of the earth
3. Observes earth's surface in 3 different ranges -
  - 1) visible,
  - 2) near infrared and
  - 3) shortwave infrared
4. In short HysIS enables us to do a 'CATSCAN' equivalent of Earth from space.
5. Hyperspectral imaging combines digital imaging and spectroscopy. It uses critical chip called as 'optical imaging detector array'



# Topic 160: LIGO-INDIA

## Key points:

1. IndIGO (Indian Initiative in Gravitational-wave Observations) - to set up advanced experimental gravitational-wave observatory facilities
2. Piloted by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Department of Science and Technology (DST)
3. Located near Aundha Nagnath, Hingoli District, Maharashtra
4. LIGO-India is planned as a collaborative project between a consortium of Indian research institutions and the LIGO Laboratory in the USA
5. International partners Australia, Germany and the UK

## About LIGO

- It is a massive observatory for detecting cosmic gravitational waves and for carrying out experiments.
- The objective is to use gravitational-wave observations in astronomical studies.



# Topic 161: Global E-Mobility Programme and National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020

## Key points: Global E-Mobility Programme

1. It was launched at UNFCCC COP 25
2. UNRP will implement this programme, in partnership with the International Energy Agency (IEA)
3. Supports developing and transitional countries shift from fossil fuel to electric vehicles

## Key points: NEMMP 2020

1. Achieve 6-7 million sales of electric and hybrid vehicles by 2020
2. Under NEMMP 2020, Govt has launched FAME India Scheme
3. GST rates on electric vehicles have been slashed from the earlier 28% with cess to 12% with no cess.



## Topic 162: BreatheLife campaign

### Key points:

1. Global campaign associated with tackling air pollution
2. Joint campaign led by WHO, UN Environment and Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

### Three core strategic goals:

- 1) Achieve WHO Air Quality Guidelines by 2030
- 2) Halve the number of air pollution related deaths by 2030
- 3) Slow the pace of climate change by 0.5 degrees Celsius by 2050

It also aims to build awareness to reduce air pollution and short-lived climate pollutants to meet health and development priorities by 2020, and the SDGs by 2030.



# Topic 163: India joined CCAC

## Key points:

1. In 2019, India formally joined CCAC
2. India also launched NCAP
3. CCAC is voluntary global partnership
4. CCAC aims to reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, including methane, black carbon and many hydrofluorocarbons.

### INITIATIVES





# Topic 164: Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation

## Key points:

1. UNEP, IUCN to launch new €20m programme on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)
2. Period: 2020 to 2024
3. It was announced in UNFCCC COP 25 Madrid
4. Programme is funded by Germany and jointly implemented by IUCN and UNEP.
5. Provides targeted and rapid support mechanisms through seed capital for innovative approaches to EbA



# Topic 165: CoP 15 UN-CBD

## Key points:

1. Rio Conventions
2. CBD CoP 15 to review CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be taken in CBD CoP 15
4. 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature"

## Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

- It is an international agreement
- Safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)

## Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing

- It is an international agreement
- Sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 166. National Human Rights Commission
- 167. The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) ACT, 2019
- 168. The Right to information (Amendment) Act, 2019
- 169. New RTI RULES
- 170. Private member's bill
- 171. CBI appointment process
- 172. Post retirement jobs for judges
- 173. Pattachitra
- 174. Madhubani painting
- 175. Global Basava Jayanthi
- 176. Adi Shankaracharya
- 177. 550th birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji
- 178. Kartarpur corridor
- 179. South Asian Nitrogen Hub (SANH)
- 180. State of World Population 2020 report by UNFPA



# Topic 166: National Human Rights Commission

## Key Points:

1. It is a statutory body
2. Estd. In 1993 - Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
3. Composition = 1 + 4 + 4 ex-officio members

Chairman and members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee -

1. The Prime Minister (Chairperson)
2. The Home Minister
3. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (Lower House)
4. The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House)
5. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House)
6. The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House)



## Topic 167: The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) ACT, 2019

Sl. No.	Provisions under earlier Act (PHRA, 1993)	Amendments made under PHRA, 2019
1.	NHRC Chairperson was a person who has been a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.	A person who has been Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or a Judge of the Supreme Court will be the chairperson of the NHRC
2.	2 members (persons who have knowledge of human rights)	3 members (of which at least one will be a woman)
3.	Chairpersons of various commissions such as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), and National Commission for Women (NCW) were members of the NHRC.	Includes chairpersons of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as members of the NHRC.
4.	Term of office: 5yrs or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.	Term of office: 3yrs or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
5.	Secretary-General of the NHRC and a Secretary of a SHRC exercised powers as may be delegated to them	Secretary-General and Secretary to exercise all administrative and financial powers (except judicial functions), subject to the respective chairperson's control.
	PHRA 1993 sought establishment of human rights commissions in states and union territories (UTs).	Central government may confer on a SHRC human rights functions being discharged by Union Territories. Functions relating to human rights in the case of Delhi will be dealt with by the NHRC



## Topic 168: The Right to information (Amendment) Act, 2019

Section	RTI Act, 2005	RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019
Section 13(1)	CIC shall hold office “for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office” and shall not be eligible for reappointment	CIC shall hold office “for such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government” and shall not be eligible for reappointment.
Section 16 (1)	Section 16 (1) = State CIC	Section 16 (1) = State CIC
Section 13(2)	ICs shall hold office “for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office” or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for reappointment	ICs shall hold office “for such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government” or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for reappointment
Section 16 (2)	State CIC	State CIC
Section 13(5)	Salaries and allowances, terms and conditions of service of CIC same as CEC	Shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government



# Topic 169: New RTI RULES

## Key Points:

1. Right to Information (Term of Office, Salaries, Allowances and Other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners and State Information Commissioners) Rules, 2019
  - Tenure of IC = reduced from 5yrs to 3yrs
  - CIC salary fixed at Rs2.5 lakh and ICs salary at Rs2.25 lakh
  - It gives the government the discretion to decide on “conditions of service”
2. The Information Commissioner is eligible for appointment as Chief Information Commissioner but cannot hold office for more than a total of five years including his term as Information Commissioner.
3. Salary of State Chief Information Commissioners and State Information Commissioners same (Rs2.25 lakh)



# Topic 170: Private member's bill

## Key points:

1. A bill introduced by a legislator who is not a part of executive
2. Only 14 private members bill have been passed by both House and became law
3. Procedure for introducing private member bill in parliament
  - Admissibility of a private member's Bill is decided by presiding officer of respective House
  - Member must give at least a month's notice before the Bill can be listed for introduction
  - House secretariat examines it
  - Number of private member's Bills capped to three per session
  - Govt Bills can be introduced and discussed on any day (but Pvt member bills only on Friday)
  - Bill is put to vote and if it gets support of the House, it is passed

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT			
Title	MP's Name	House	Date of Assent
1 The Muslim Wakfs Bill, 1952	Syed Mohammed Ahmed Kasmi	Lok Sabha	21.05.1954
2 The Indian Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1955	S C Samanta	Lok Sabha	06.04.1956
3 The Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Bill, 1956	Feroze Gandhi	Lok Sabha	26.05.1956
4 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1953	Raghunath Singh	Lok Sabha	01.09.1956
5 The Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Bill, 1954	Kamledu Mati Shah	Lok Sabha	30.12.1956
6 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1957	Subhadra Joshi	Lok Sabha	26.12.1960
7 The Salary and Allowances of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1964	Raghunath Singh	Lok Sabha	29.09.1964
8 The Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1963	Diwan Chand Sharma	Lok Sabha	20.12.1964
9 The Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968	Anand Narian Mullah	Lok Sabha	09.08.1970
10 The Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Bill, 1954	Dr Raghbir Singh	Rajya Sabha	15.12.1956
11 The Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1956	Dr Seeta Parmanand	Rajya Sabha	20.12.1956
12 The Orphanages and Other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Bill, 1960	Kailash Bihari Lall	Rajya Sabha	09.04.1960
13 The Marine Insurance Bill, 1959	MP Bhargava	Rajya Sabha	18.04.1963
14 The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1963	Diwan Chaman Lall	Rajya Sabha	07.09.1969



# Topic 171: CBI appointment process

## Key Points:

1. 1946-Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DSPE)
2. CBI director was appointed by the DSPE Act
3. Now, Lokpal Act governs the appointment of the CBI director
4. Search committee comprises –
  - PM
  - CJI
  - Leader of Opposition



## Topic 172: Post retirement jobs for judges

### Key Points:

1. Constitution does not bar judges from taking up any post-retirement assignment.
2. Most of the post-retirement posts are generally constitutional or of quasi-judicial bodies.
3. Statutes of some tribunals and quasi-judicial bodies, some laws mandate that only retired judges can occupy them.

\* CAG and UPSC Chairman - ineligible for further employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State



## Topic 173: Pattachitra

### Key points:

1. Traditional, cloth-based scroll painting
2. Eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal
3. Known for its intricate details; mythological narratives and folktales inscribed in it
4. Theme: centres round the Jagannath and the Vaishnava sect
5. Odisha already has three handicrafts that have earned the GI tag - Stone Carving of Konark, Applique work of Pipili and Pattachitra (scroll painting) of Raghurajpur



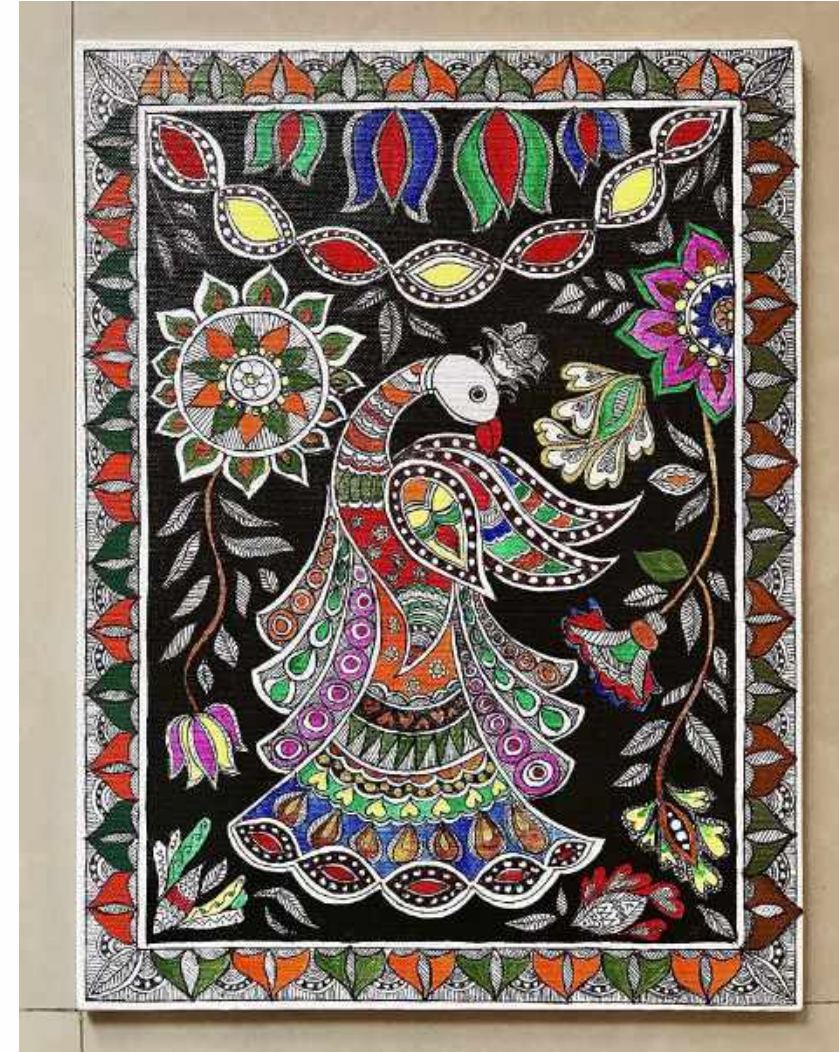
Paintings on cloth : : 'Patta Chitra'  
Paintings on walls : : 'Bhitti Chitra'  
On palm leaf : : 'Tala Patra Chitra'



## Topic 174: Madhubani painting

### Key points:

1. Madhu – Honey and Van – Forest
2. Traditional Indian painting - belongs to Mithila region (Bihar and Indo-Nepal border)
3. Theme: mythology and natural objects
4. Natural art : cotton wrapped around bamboo stick is used as brush; freshly plastered mud walls; colours are obtained in natural ways
5. GI tag





## Topic 175: Global Basava Jayanthi

### Key Points:

1. Celebrated on April 26
2. Born in Bagevadi (of undivided Bijapur district in Karnataka) during 1131 AD
3. 12th century philosopher and social reformer; founding saint of the Lingayat sect
4. His spiritual discipline was based on the principles of:
  - Arivu (true knowledge)
  - Achara (right conduct)
  - Anubhava (divine experience)
5. Famous works: 'Kalyana Rajya' (Welfare state); Anubhava Mantapa (FIRST PARLIAMENT CONCEPT OF THE WORLD); Basava-Tatva





## Topic 176: Adi Shankaracharya

### Key Points:

1. Hinduism's Greatest Thinker - early 8th century Indian philosopher
2. Consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta
3. His works in Sanskrit discuss the unity of the ātman and Nirguna Brahman "brahman without attributes".
4. He explained the key difference between Hinduism and Buddhism, stating that Hinduism asserts "Atman (Soul, Self) exists", while Buddhism asserts that there is "no Soul, no Self"
5. Famous work: Saundarya Lahari





## Topic 177: 550th birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji

### Key Points:

1. November 2019 marks 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev
2. First of the 10 Sikh Gurus and the founder of Sikhism
3. He advocated *nirguna bhakti*
4. He took the god as formless which has no gender and proposed a simple way to connect to him by just remembering and repeating his name
5. He set up rules for congregational worship (sangat)
6. He appointed *Angad* to succeed him as the Guru

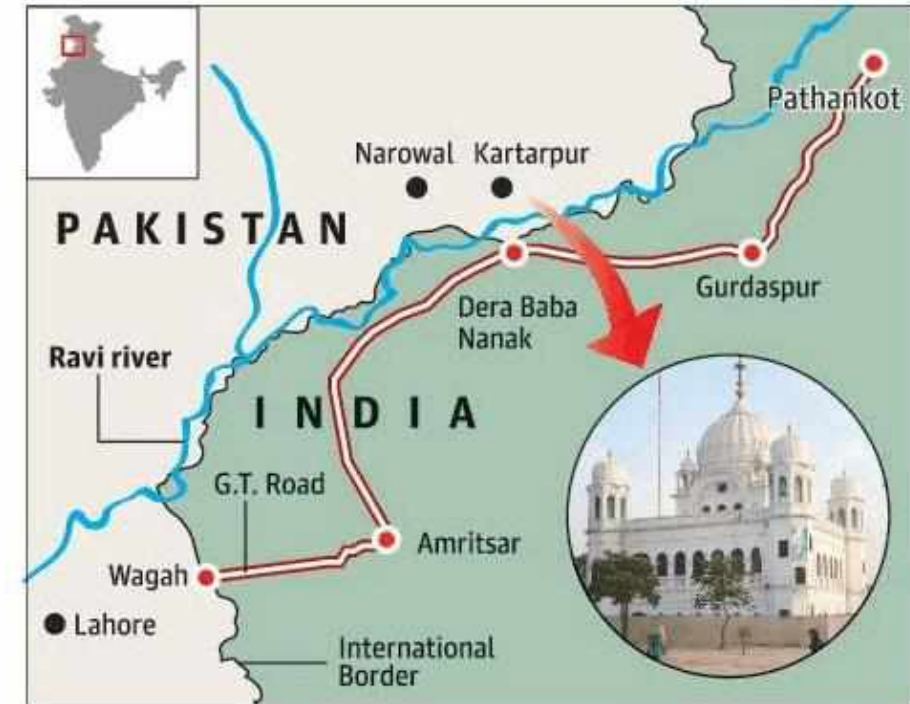




## Topic 178: Kartarpur corridor

### Key Points:

1. India and Pakistan signed an agreement to operationalise the Kartarpur corridor
2. Connects Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur
3. The gurdwara in Kartarpur is located on the bank of river Ravi in Pakistan
4. India had first proposed the Kartarpur Sahib corridor in 1999 when the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee took a bus ride to Lahore. The travel will be Visa Free; Pilgrims need to carry only a valid passport





# Topic 179: South Asian Nitrogen Hub (SANH)

## Key points:

1. 18 Indian institutions to study nitrogen pollution
2. SANH = Group of 50 research institutions from United Kingdom and South Asia
3. SANH project has secured £20 million (about ₹200 crore) from the U.K. government

## Scare in the air

Nitrogen, when released as part of compounds from agriculture, sewage and biological waste, is considered 'reactive' and may be polluting and causing greenhouse gas (heat trapping) effect



### Some causes of nitrogen pollution

- Emission from chemical fertilisers
- Burning of fossil fuels
- Emission from livestock manure

### Key threats due to nitrogen pollution

- Biodiversity loss
- Pollution of rivers and seas
- Ozone depletion
- Health, economy and livelihoods

**India's nitrogen emissions grew at 52% from 1991 to 2001 and 69% from 2001 to 2011**



# Topic 180: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

## Key points:

1. State of World Population 2020 report
2. About UNPA
  - Subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly
  - UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes its mandate
  - Established as a trust fund in 1967 and began operations in 1969
  - \*UNFPA is not supported by the UN budget
  - UNFPA works directly to tackle Sustainable Development Goal on health(SDG3), Education (SDG4) and gender equality (SDG5)



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 181. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- 182. Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)
- 183. Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- 184. Asian Development Bank
- 185. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)
- 186. Akali movement
- 187. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak – 100th Punya Tithi
- 188. 1919 Rowlatt Act
- 189. Centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (100 years)
- 190. Srebrenica massacre
- 191. Kalimantan
- 192. China Study Group (CSG)
- 193. Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- 194. Sakteng wildlife sanctuary
- 195. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park



# Topic 181: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

## Key points:

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
2. It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation created in 2001
3. The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.
4. Represents 42% of the world's population; 20% of the global GDP
5. SCO is seen as counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.
6. India and SCO

## Regional power play

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) annual Heads of Government Council meeting will be hosted by India later this year. Here is a brief look at the organisation

■ **Current SCO members:** India, China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

■ **Founded on** June 15, 2001

■ **Observer states:** Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia

■ **SCO dialogue partners:** Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey, Sri Lanka

■ **SCO permanent bodies:** Secretariat - Beijing; and Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) - Tashkent

■ **8-9 June 2017:** India and Pakistan became full SCO members at the Astana summit



# Topic 182: Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

## Key points:

1. Economic union of states located primarily in northern Eurasia
2. Signed on 29 May 2014 by Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia
3. Came into force on 1 January 2015
4. Member states – Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan and Russia
5. EAEU encourages the free movement of goods and services



# Topic 183: Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

## Key points:

1. World's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest intergovernmental organisation after the UN founded in 1969
2. 57 member states
3. Collective voice of Muslim world
4. Protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony
5. Official languages: Arabic, English, and French
6. OIC has permanent delegations to the UN and EU



# Topic 184: Asian Development Bank (ADB)

## Key points:

1. It is a regional development bank
2. Estd. in 1966 - headquartered in Manila, Philippines
3. Aim - promote social and economic development in Asia
4. Bank admits the members of UNESCAP and non-regional developed countries
5. ADB was modeled closely on WB and has a similar weighted voting system
6. 31 members -----> Now 68 members
7. Region served - Asia-Pacific (India : : Founding Member and 4th Largest Stakeholder)
8. ADB is an official United Nations Observer



## Topic 185: PMGKAY and Atmanirbhar Bharat Package

### Key points: PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

1. Food security welfare scheme (announced in 2020)
2. Operated by the Dept of Food and Public Distribution and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
3. Aim - feed the poorest citizens holding ration cards
4. 5 kg of rice or wheat per person and 1 kg of dal to each family
5. Beneficiaries – AAY and PHH cardholders (through PDS)

### Key points: Atmanirbhar Bharat Package

1. 5 kg of free food grains per person and 1 kg of free whole gram per family
2. Beneficiaries - migrant labourers, stranded and needy families, who are not covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) or State scheme PDS cards



## Topic 186: Akali movement

### Key points:

1. Also called the Gurdwara Reform Movement
2. Movement led to the introduction of the Sikh Gurdwara Bill in 1925
3. Control of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)
4. Akalis also participated in the Indian independence movement against the British Government, and supported the non-cooperation movement against them



# Topic 187: Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak

## Key Points:

1. Father of Indian Unrest; joined INC in 1890
2. Popularly known as Lokmanya, and dedicated his life for the cause of “Purna Swaraj”
3. One of the founders of the Fergusson College in Pune and Deccan Educational Society
4. One of the founders of the All India Home Rule League
5. Newspapers : : ‘Kesari’ in Marathi and ‘Mahratta’ in English
6. One of the first advocates of Swaraj or self-rule
7. In 1903, he wrote book - The Arctic Home in the Vedas



## Topic 188: 1919 Rowlatt Act

### Key Points:

1. Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919
2. Intended to give British Government more power over the people
3. Rowlatt Act allowed the British to arrest and jail anyone without trial
4. Viceroy Government also had the power to silence the press
5. Rowlatt Act sparked a large amount of anger with the leaders and common people (called for a Hartal)
6. Renowned leaders Dr Satya Pal and Dr Saifuddin Kithlew were arrested on 10th April, 1919
7. In order to protest against the arrest, public had held meeting on 13th April at Jallianwala Bagh



# Topic 189: Centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (100 years)

## Key points:

1. Also known as Amritsar massacre (13 April 1919)
2. Acting Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer ordered troops to fire
3. Jallianwala Bagh houses a memorial of national importance, established in 1951 by the GoI (managed by Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust)
4. Trust was first set up by then Congress president Motilal Nehru in 1920
5. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Act, 2019 - replaced the Congress president as a member with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha or the leader of the single largest Opposition party in case there is no Leader of Opposition.
6. Hunter Commission



## Topic 190: Srebrenica massacre

### Key points:

1. In July 1995, approximately 8,000 Muslims were killed in Srebrenica
2. Killed by Bosnian Serb forces led by Commander Ratko Mladić
3. Killings were later classified as genocide by international tribunals
4. Srebrenica is a small town in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in Balkan peninsula)
5. Bosnian War displaced and ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats by the Bosnian Serb army





# Topic 191: KALIMANTAN

## Key points:

1. Indonesian President announced that capital will be moved from Jakarta (island of Java)
2. Yet-to-be-built city : : East Kalimantan on the island of Borneo





## Topic 192: China Study Group (CSG)

### Key points:

1. Government body - headed by NSA
2. CSG was set up in 1976 by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)
3. CSG was set up under K.R. Narayanan with a twin purpose -
  - 1) Review the situation on the Sino-Indian border
  - 2) Assist in preparations for negotiations with China on the border question



# Topic 193: Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs) and Border Roads Organisation

## Key points:

1. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) handles the bulk of the ICBR road construction work under the direction of the China Study Group (CSG)
2. BRO building the 61 strategic ICBRs (75% is done)
3. BRO is working on strategic Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DSDBO) road
4. DSDBO road runs almost parallel to the LAC at Aksai Chin
5. About BRO





## Topic 194: Sakteng wildlife sanctuary

### Key points:

1. Sakteng wildlife sanctuary in eastern Bhutan
2. Situated along the border with Arunachal Pradesh
3. India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty of 2007
4. Bhutan's north - Pasamlung and Jakarlung valleys
5. Bhutan's West: Doklam and other pasturelands that come up to the trijunction point with India





# Topic 195: Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

## Key points:

1. Baghjan oil blowout in Assam
2. Dibru-Saikhowa is a National Park as well as a Biosphere Reserve
3. South bank of the river Brahmaputra in the extreme east of Assam state
4. Bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and Dibru river in the south
5. Forest type : : semi-evergreen forests, deciduous forests, littoral and swamp forests and patches of wet evergreen forests
6. Renowned for natural regeneration of Salix trees
7. It is the largest salix swamp forest in north-eastern India



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

196. Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management
197. International Nitrogen Initiative (INI)
198. Nitrogen Cycle and 5 main processes
199. UNFCCC - COP 25
200. India and UNFCCC
201. Article 6 under the Paris Agreement
202. Key protocols dealing with UNFCCC
203. Deoxygenation of the oceans
204. UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration [2021-2030]
205. Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)
206. The Restoration Initiative (TRI)
207. Bioversity International
208. Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative
209. International Ecosystem Management Partnership
210. Global Environment Monitoring System for Air (GEMS)
211. Clean Seas campaign
212. Global Partnership on Marine Litter
213. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)
214. Wild for Life campaign
215. India State of the Forest Report 2019



# Topic 196: Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management

## Key points:

1. 2019 UNEP's Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management
2. Aim : : to halve nitrogen waste by 2030
3. Sustainable Nitrogen Management Resolution was adopted during the 2019 UNEA held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya
4. Technical support from International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) and the International Nitrogen Initiative



# Topic 197: International Nitrogen Initiative (INI)

## Key points:

1. It is an international program
2. It was set up in 2003, under SCOPE and IGBP
3. Key aims of the INI:
  - 1) optimize nitrogen's beneficial role in sustainable food production, and
  - 2) minimize nitrogen's negative effects on human health and the environment



# Topic 198: Nitrogen Cycle and 5 main processes

## Key points:

1. Nitrogen fixation → Nitrogen → Ammonia or Ammonium Ions
2. Nitrification → Ammonia or Ammonium Ions → Nitrite → Nitrate
3. Assimilation → nitrogen fixed by plants is converted into organic molecules such as proteins, DNA, RNA etc
4. Ammonification → Dead Matter + Animal Waste (Urea, Uric Acid) → Ammonia or Ammonium Ions
5. Denitrification → Nitrate → Nitrogen

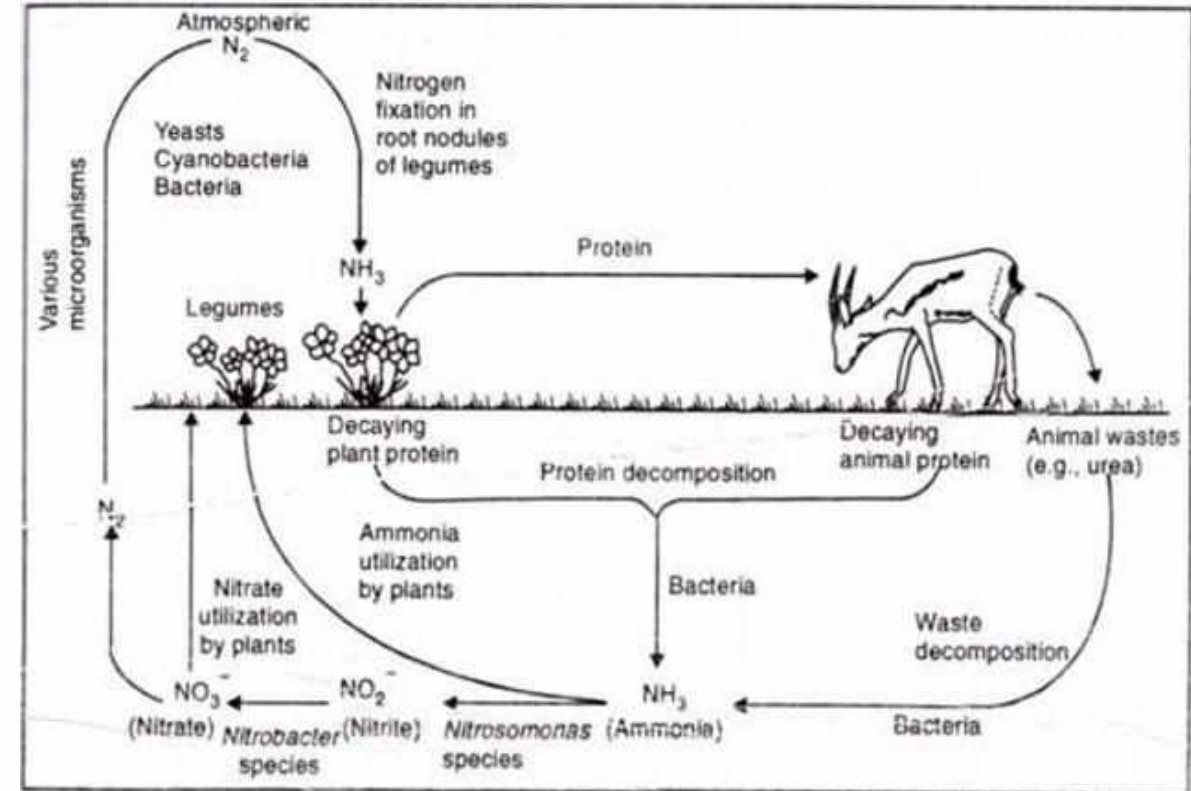


Fig. 5.8. The Nitrogen cycle (after I.E. Alcamo, Fundamentals of Microbiology, 1994). The amount of nitrogen in the atmosphere is maintained by a balance between the processes that withdraw nitrogen from it (nitrogen fixation) and those which add nitrogen to it (denitrification).



# Topic 199: UNFCCC - COP 25

## Key points:

### 1. Key outcomes/decisions:

- 1) India calls for Speedier Expansion of International Solar Alliance
- 2) “SOLAR AND THE SIDS – Making the Sun Shine Brighter”
- 3) Complete the rule-book to the 2015 Paris Agreement
- 4) 1997 Kyoto Protocol comes to an end in 2020

### 2. Other key decisions:

- 1) Pre-2020 implementation and ambition gaps
- 2) Article 6 under the Paris Agreement – Carbon markets
- 3) Article 4 of the Paris Agreement – INDCs
- 4) Enhanced Transparency Framework (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification)
- 5) Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
- 6) Adaptation related matters (where in India has been stressing on parity between mitigation and adaptation) and
- 7) Technology development and transfer



# Topic 200: India and UNFCCC

## India's Role

1. On the question of Carbon markets – CDM credits earned under Kyoto Protocol should be transferred to Paris Agreement
2. Principle of Equity and Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR & RC)
3. India Pavilion at COP-25 - celebrated “150 Years the Mahatma”

## India's INDCs:

- ☐ to improve the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 below 2005 levels
- ☐ to increase the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40 per cent by 2030
- ☐ to enhance its forest cover which will absorb 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2030



# Topic 201: Article 6 under the Paris Agreement

## Key points:

1. To finalize the rules on how countries can reduce their emissions using international carbon markets.
2. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement deals with Carbon Pricing
- 3. How do international carbon markets work?**
  - 1) Countries which cant meet emissions-reduction targets under their NDCs can purchase emissions reductions from other nations
  - 2) Win-Win situation: Both countries meet their climate commitments
  - 3) Overachiever is financially rewarded



# Topic 202: Key protocols dealing with UNFCCC

## 1997 Kyoto Protocol:

- Protocol is based on the principle of CBDR
- Puts obligation on developed countries to reduce current emissions
- Protocol's first commitment period started in 2008 and ended in 2012
- The first major carbon offsetting scheme, the U.N.s Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), was set up under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol

## Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

- Defined in Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol
- Carbon offsetting - allows a country to help reach its own emissions reduction targets by funding emission reductions in another country
- Earn saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits

## Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol

- Second commitment period was agreed in 2012
- 137 states accepted (while entry into force requires the acceptances of 144 states)



# Topic 203: Deoxygenation of the oceans

## Key Points:

1. COP25 is called Blue COP
2. Levels of oxygen in oceans fell by around 2 per cent from 1960 to 2010
3. Impacts:
  - Affects the planetary cycling of elements such as nitrogen and phosphorous
  - Oceans become more acidic (osteoporosis of the sea)
  - Fishes dying in masses
  - Oceans have absorbed 93 per cent of the heat

Blue COP is a way to convey the close links between the health of the climate and the health of the ocean.

IPCC released Special Report on the Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate



# Topic 204: UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration [2021-2030]

## Key points:

1. UNGA declared 2021 – 2030 as decade of Ecosystem Restoration
2. During Bonn Challenge (2018), El Salvador announced plans to propose 2021–2030 as UNDER
3. United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 comes to an end
4. Aim of UNDER - United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 comes to an end.
5. Ecosystem restoration will increase Life Below Water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15)



## **Topic 205: Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)**

### **Key points:**

1. GPFLR goal - to restore the world's lost and degraded forests
2. GPFLR responds directly to the Bonn Challenge
3. Initiated in 2003 by a small consortium (spearheaded by IUCN and WWF)
4. Functions

## **Topic 206: The Restoration Initiative (TRI)**

### **Key points:**

1. Collaboration between UNEP, IUCN and FAO
2. Goal -  
overcome existing barriers to restoration
  - restore degraded landscapes
  - support Bonn Challenge
3. Restoration Initiative unites 10 Asian and African countries



## Topic 207: Bioversity International

### Key points:

1. Global R&D organisation
2. International status of Bioversity International is conferred under an **Establishment Agreement**
3. Signed by India also

## Topic 208: Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative

### Key points:

1. International collaborative effort
2. Action to support practice of integrated agricultural landscape approaches
3. Initiative is led by a coalition of leading agriculture and environment organizations (includes)
  - Bioversity International;
  - Conservation International;
  - FAO
  - International Fund for Agricultural Development



## Topic 209: International Ecosystem Management Partnership

### Key points:

1. First UN Environment Collaborating Centre in the South and for the South
2. Joint venture between UN Environment and the Chinese Academy of Sciences
3. Supported by the Government of China

## Topic 210: Global Environment Monitoring System for Air (GEMS)

### Key points:

1. It is initiative by UNEP
2. Arose from recommendations of UN Conference on the Human Environment (held in Stockholm in 1972)
3. GEMS Programme Activity Centre (PAC) to monitor Air quality

GEMS monitoring system consists of five closely interrelated programmes -

1. Climate-related monitoring;
2. Monitoring of long-range transport of pollutants;
3. Health-related monitoring (concerned with pollutional effects);
4. Ocean monitoring; and
5. Terrestrial renewable-resource monitoring.



## Topic 211: Clean Seas campaign

### Key points:

1. UN Environment launched Clean Seas campaign in 2017 - fight against marine plastic pollution
2. Targets the production and consumption of non-recoverable and single-use plastic
3. The campaign contributes to the goals of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter

## Topic 212: Global Partnership on Marine Litter

### Key points:

1. Launched at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 in June 2012
2. Manila Declaration
3. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)



## **Topic 213: Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)**

### **Key points:**

1. Unique intergovernmental mechanism to counter the issue of land-based pollution
2. Only global intergovernmental mechanism – directly addressing connectivity between terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems
3. Launched in 2015 by UNEP

## **Topic 214: Wild for Life campaign**

### **Key points:**

1. UN Environment's campaign against illegal trade in wildlife
2. Campaign aims to protect nine new marine species.

### **Nine Marine species –**

1. Mako shark
2. Penguin
3. Sea horse
4. Manta ray
5. Elkhorn and Staghorn coral
6. Dugong
7. Polar bear
8. Sperm whale
9. Thresher shark



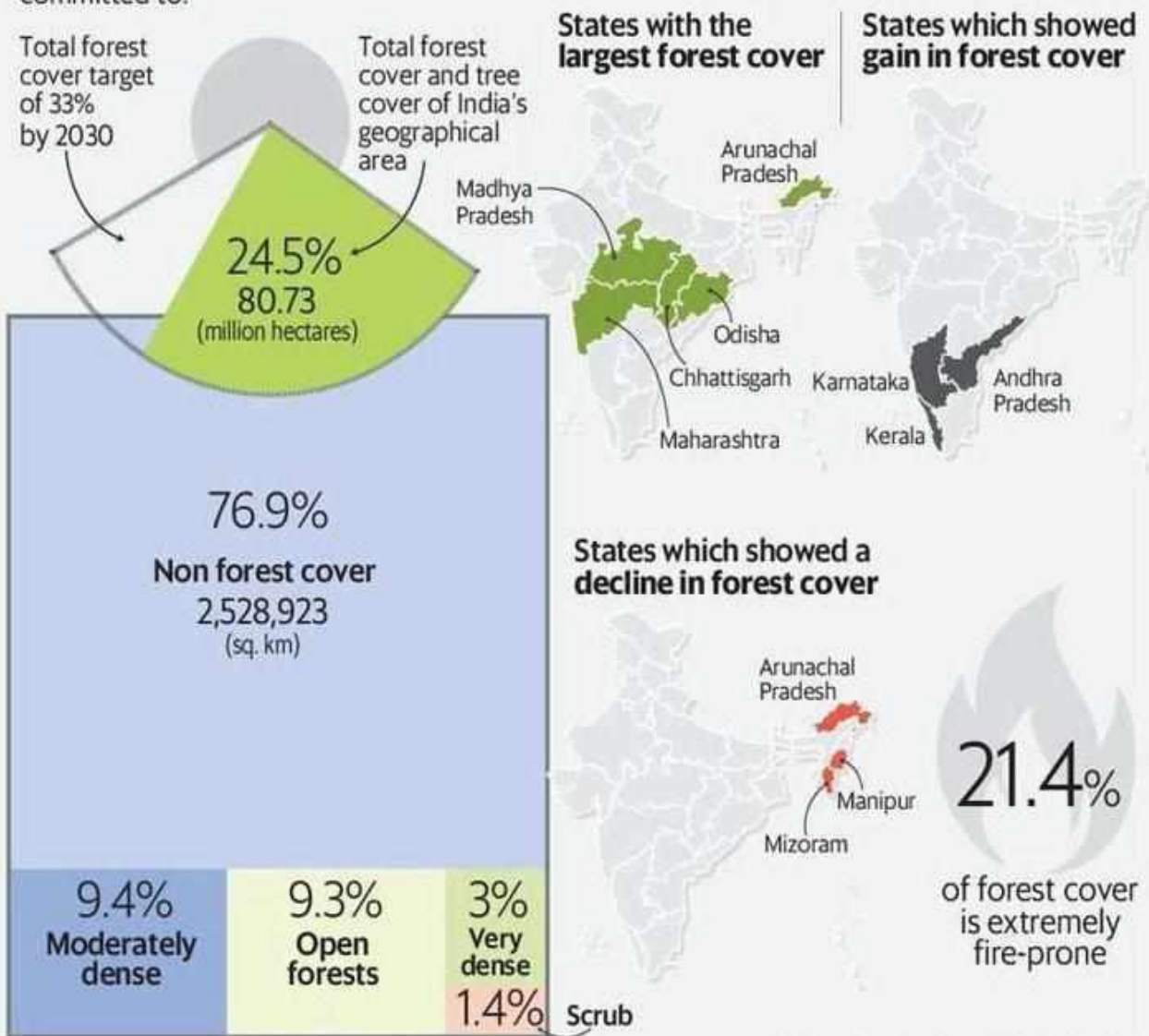
# Topic 215: India State of the Forest Report 2019

## About ISFR:

1. Biennial publication of FSI
2. Assesses the forest and tree cover, bamboo resources, carbon stock and forest fires
3. 2019 report – 1st time assessed the qualitative nature of forest cover
4. Created a national forest inventory for the first time on produce from forests

## Greening India

India's total forest and tree cover now stands at 80.73 million hectares—roughly 24.5% of its geographical area, but still far from the eventual 2030 target of 33% that India has committed to.





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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 216. Red Panda
- 217. Clouded leopard
- 218. Northern River Terrapin
- 219. Red-Crowned Roof Turtle
- 220. South Asian narrow-headed softshell turtle
- 221. Black Softshell Turtle
- 222. Asian Giant Softshell Turtle
- 223. Sovereign bonds
- 224. Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21
- 225. Government bonds for NRIs
- 226. Additional Tier-1 or AT1 Bonds
- 227. 7.75% RBI Savings Bonds, 2018
- 228. Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable)
- 229. Consol Bonds
- 230. Korvai & Sungudi
- 231. Mudi yettu and Theyyam
- 232. Chaukhandi Stupa
- 233. Ghumot
- 234. Nagardhan Excavations and Vakataka Dynasty
- 235. Queen Prabhavatigupta



# Topic 216: Red Panda

## Key points:

1. Status: IUCN – Endangered
2. Found in:
  - montane forests with dense bamboo-thicket
  - deciduous and coniferous forests of the eastern Himalayas
  - endemic to the temperate forests of the Himalayas
3. Unique characteristics:
  - They are arboreal
  - Feeds mainly on bamboo, but also eats eggs, birds, and insects
  - Solitary animal
  - Mainly active from dusk to dawn
  - Largely sedentary during the day





# Topic 217: Clouded leopard

## Key points:

1. Status:
  - IUCN status – Vulnerable
  - CITES Appendix I animal
2. Habitat
  - Forest, Shrubland
  - Found in 9 countries
  - Dampa tiger reserve in Mizoram
3. State animal of Meghalaya





# Five freshwater turtles

Turtles	Location	IUCN Status
1. Northern River Terrapin(Batagur baska)	Sunderbans	Critically Endangered
2. Red-Crowned Roof Turtle(Batagurkachuga)	National Chambal Sanctuary,spread across Uttar Pradesh,Rajasthan and MadhyaPradesh.	Critically endangered
3. South Asian Narrow-Headed Softshell Turtle(Chitra indica)	Gangetic river system	Endangered
4. Black Softshell Turtle(Nilssonianigricans)	Temple ponds in Assam and Bengal	Extinct in the wild
5. Asian Giant Softshell Turtle (Pelochelyscantorii)	In the eastern part of thecountry	Critically Endangered



## Topic 218: Northern River Terrapin

### Key points:

1. IUCN status – Critically Endangered
2. HABITAT – Marine Coastal/Supratidal, Marine Neritic, Wetlands (inland), Forest
3. Found in Bangladesh (in the Sundarbans), India (parts- West Bengal & Odisha), Myanmar (Extinct) and Thailand (Extinct)
4. Scientific name - Batagur baska





## Topic 219: Red-Crowned Roof Turtle



### Key points:

1. Found in Bangladesh, India, Nepal
2. IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
3. Found only within the National Chambal River Sanctuary
4. Breeding: Crocodile Bank Trust

## Topic 220: South Asian narrow-headed softshell turtle



### Key points:

1. Found in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan
2. IUCN Red List: Endangered



## Topic 221: Black Softshell Turtle



### Key points:

1. Found in Bangladesh and India
2. IUCN Red List: Extinct in the Wild
3. But a few temple ponds in Assam and Bangladesh are bringing these turtles back from the brink.
4. Hayagriva Madhab Temple at Hajo, Assam
5. Haduk Beel (wetland) of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary – a.k.a ‘Mini Kaziranga’

## Topic 222: Asian Giant Softshell Turtle



### Key points:

1. IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
2. China, South Asia, Southeast Asia



# Topic 223: Sovereign bonds

## Key points:

1. Govt debt securities issued in overseas markets in foreign currency denominations
2. Currently, the GoI only issues bonds in the domestic market in rupees
3. About Overseas Sovereign bonds:
  - Indian govt borrows from overseas markets
  - Floated type
  - Both the initial loan amount and the final payment will be in either US dollars or some other comparable currency

## Issue with Sovereign Bonds

### Case for sovereign bonds

- » Raise cheaper and very long-term funds overseas
- » Softer interest rates as some govt borrowing shifts overseas
- » More space in domestic market for local borrowers
- » Low external debt means risks are contained

### Case against

- » Not so cheap after considering hedging cost
- » Raises external risks for India
- » Can lead to greater currency fluctuation
- » Better option is raise FPI limit in govt bonds

The sovereign bonds issuance which is basically intended to ease the pressure on the domestic availability of resources, specially into the private sector, was a very well-considered decision. It has enormous benefits and the risks are much less

**Subhash Chandra Garg**  
Power Secretary



# Topic 224: Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21

## Key points:

1. They are G-secs denominated in grams of gold
2. Issued by RBI on behalf of the GoI
3. Eligibility for investment
4. Tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option in 5th, 6th year and 7th year.
5. Maximum limit (4 KG for the individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts/entities)
6. These Bonds can be used as collateral for loans
7. They are tradable on stock exchanges



## Topic 225: Government bonds for NRIs

### Key points:

1. RBI to issue certain series of G-secs under the “fully accessible route” for NRIs
2. How are these Bonds different?
  - No foreign portfolio investor (FPI) limits
  - Indian G-secs listed on global bond indices
  - Attract access cheap liquidity in the overseas markets
  - Facilitate the inflow of stable foreign investment in Indian bonds
3. Under FAR, eligible investors can invest in specified government securities without being subject to any investment ceilings.
4. This scheme shall operate along with the two existing routes, viz., the Medium Term Framework (MTF) and the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR).



## Topic 226: Additional Tier-1 or AT1 Bonds

### Key Points:

1. These bonds are a type of unsecured, perpetual bonds and carry no maturity date.
2. They are issued by banks to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms
3. According to Basel-III norms banks' regulatory capital is divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2, while Tier 1 is subdivided into Common Equity Tier-1 (CET-1) and Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) capital.
  - **Common Equity Tier 1 capital** includes equity instruments where returns are linked to the banks' performance and therefore the performance of the share price. They have no maturity.
  - **Additional Tier-1 capital** are perpetual bonds which carry a fixed coupon payable annually from past or present profits of the bank. They have no maturity, and their dividends can be cancelled at any time.
4. Banks issuing AT-1 bonds can skip interest payouts for a particular year or even reduce the bonds' face value



## Topic 227: 7.75% RBI Savings Bonds, 2018

### Key points:

1. These were issued in 2018.
2. These were available for subscription to resident citizens/Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) to invest in a taxable bond.
3. These bonds were first introduced in 2003 as 8% GOI Savings (Taxable) Bonds.
4. The interest rate was brought down to 7.75% in January 2018.
5. One bond was of Rs 1,000 each. The bonds had no maximum limit for investment.
6. The bonds had a 7-year lock-in period from the date of issue.
7. Premature encashment was permitted to individuals who were 60 years and above.
8. Interest on these bonds is taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961.



## Topic 228: Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable)

### Key points:

1. To be issued by RBI on behalf of GoI
2. The Bonds may be held by a person resident in India (NRIs cannot invest in these bonds)
3. There will be no maximum limit for investment in the bonds.
4. The minimum investment starts from Rs 1,000 and in multiples of Rs 1,000, thereof.
5. The interest on the bonds is payable half-yearly and the Bonds shall be repayable on the expiration of 7 (Seven) years from the date of issue.
6. The Bonds will be issued only in the form of Bond Ledger Account and may be held at the credit of the holder in an account called Bond Ledger Account (BLA).
7. Taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961



## Topic 229: Consol Bonds

### Key points:

1. It was used as early as the First World War.
2. Consols was a name given to certain government debt issues in the form of perpetual bonds, redeemable at the option of the government.
3. It is a fixed income security with no maturity date. This type of bond is often considered a type of equity, rather than debt.
4. They are not redeemable. However, the major benefit of them is that they pay a steady stream of interest payments forever.



## Topic 230: Korvai & Sungudi

### Key points: Korvai Kanjivaram

1. An ancient weaving technique of Tamil Nadu
2. Requires two weavers (labour-intensive)
3. The word 'korvai' in Tamil means 'in sync'.
4. In this technique the body of the sari is woven separately and the border separately on the same loom and the two interlocked by skilful weaving.

### Key points: Madurai Sungudi

1. cotton fabric of Madurai
2. traditionally produced using tie and dye (using natural dyes) method by the Saurashtrians who migrated to Madurai
3. King Thirumalai Naicker
4. The product has been given protection under the GI registration act.



# Topic 231: Mudi yettu and Theyyam

## Key points: Mudi yettu

1. It is a traditional ritual theatre and folk-dance drama from Kerala
2. Enacts the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika
3. The ritual is a part of the bhagavathi or bhadrakali cult.
4. Part of UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

## Key points: Theyyam

1. Popular ritual form of worship in Kerala
2. It is performed by mainly by males, except the Devakoothu theyyam (performed only by women).
3. Performed only on Thekkumbad Kulom temple



## Topic 232: Chaukhandi Stupa

### Key points:

1. It is an ancient Buddhist site (stupa) in Uttar Pradesh's Sarnath
2. ASI declared this monument as national importance in 2018
3. Originally was built as a terraced temple during the Gupta period
4. Later Govardhan, the son of a Raja Todarmal, modified the stupa to its present shape by building the octagonal tower



**Significance in Buddhism:** Chaukhandi Stupa was built to mark the place where Lord Buddha met his first disciples as he traveled from Bodh Gaya to Sarnath.



## Topic 233: Ghumot

### Key points:

1. It is an indigenous earthen drum, with the skin of the monitor lizard stretched across the pot's mouth
2. Percussion instrument
3. In recent years attempts were made to revive the heritage instrument of Goa by replacing monitor lizard skin with the skin of a she-goat
4. In recent years attempts were made to revive the heritage instrument of Goa by replacing monitor lizard skin with the skin of a she-goat.





# Topic 234 and 235: Nagardhan Excavations, Vakataka Dynasty and Queen Prabhavatigupta

## Key points:

1. Nagardhan Fort was constructed during the Gond Raja period and later re-used by the Bhosales
2. The excavations have provided evidence on the life, religious affiliations and trade practices of the Vakataka dynasty.
3. Vakatakas ruled parts of Central and South India between the third and fifth centuries
4. Nagardhan served as the capital of the Vakataka kingdom
5. Findings:
  - First time clay sealings have been excavated from Nagardhan.
  - Belonged to period when Prabhavatigupta was the queen of the Vakataka dynasty.
  - The sealing is 1500 years old and bears the queens name in Brahmi script, along with depiction of conch
  - The presence of the conch is regarded as a sign of the Vaishnava affiliation that the Guptas held.
  - An intact idol of Lord Ganesha, which had no ornaments adorned, too was found from the site.



## Key points: Queen Prabhavatigupta

1. She is the daughter of Chandragupta-II and granddaughter of Samudragupta.
2. Vakataka rulers of Central India forged several matrimonial alliances with Guptas of North India so as to maintain harmonious relations.
3. Prabhavatigupta was married to Vakataka king Rudrasena II and enjoyed the position of Chief Queen
4. After sudden death of the King, Queen Prabhavatigupta ruled for about 10 years until her son Pravarasena II succeeded
5. Vakataka rulers followed the Shaivism while the Guptas were staunch Vaishnavites.
6. She had a pivotal role in propagation of Vaishnava practices in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 236. Project Digital Poompuhar
- 237. Assam Bhaona
- 238. Sattriya
- 239. Srimanta Sankardev
- 240. 5 archaeological sites to be developed as iconic sites with onsite Museums
- 241. Sohrai Khovar painting
- 242. Telia Rumal
- 243. Nimmalakunta puppetry
- 244. Nirmal Paintings
- 245. Paramarsh
- 246. Sixth Replenishment Conference of the “Global Fund”
- 247. Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM)
- 248. Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)
- 249. Global Carbon Project Report
- 250. Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)
- 251. South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA)
- 252. Van Allen radiation belt
- 253. The Coral Triangle
- 254. Indian Ocean Commission
- 255. Vanilla Islands



# Topic 236: Project Digital Poompuhar

## Key points:

1. 'Project Digital Poompuhar' by DST – to recreate the Chola Dynasty port city (Poompuhar) in TN
2. Part of DST's Indian Digital Heritage (IDH) project.
3. Poompuhar is mentioned in works of Sangam Tamil literature
4. Flourished in inter-continental trade
5. Estd. initially in the Cauvery Delta



# Topic 237: Assam Bhaona

## Key points: Assam Bhaona

1. Bhaona — a mythology-based theatrical performance
2. Propagated by Vaishnavite saint and reformer Shankardeva
3. Unique features of Bhaona
  - Connect with his Assamese masses in common man's language
  - Written in the Assamese and Brajavali languages
  - Popularly known as Ankiya Nats
  - Involves songs, dialogues and dances by performers in costumes and ornaments
  - Usually involves 40-50 people, including those playing heavy drums and cymbals



## Topic 238: Sattariya

### Sattariya

1. Sattriya, one of the eight Indian Classical dance traditions, was introduced by Shankardev in Assam
2. Sattriya - primarily a monastery dance and later on evolved as a distinctive dance form
3. Sattras i.e. Vaishnava maths or monasteries

## Topic 239: Shankardeva

Shankardeva helped develop the following art forms:

1. Borgeet, a new form of spiritual music
2. Bhaona, a mythology-based theatrical performance
3. Monastic dances that evolved into the classical Sattriya.
4. The bhaonas are written in the Assamese and Brajvali languages
5. Brajvali- a literary language limited to theatrical usage, in which Sankardeva wrote his songs and plays



## Topic 239: Shankardeva

### Key points:

1. He was a 15th–16th century Assamese polymath
2. Widely credited with building on past cultural relics and devising new forms of music, theatrical performance and literary language
3. He started Bhagavatic religious movement and his Ekasarana Dharma also called Neo-Vaishnavite movement influenced two medieval kingdoms---Koch and the Ahom kingdoms
4. Sankardev inspired the Bhakti movement in Assam
5. He made much of Assam turn to Vaishnavism



# Topic 240: 5 iconic sites with onsite Museums

**5 archaeological sites to be developed as iconic sites with onsite Museums:**

1. Rakhigarhi, Haryana
2. Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh
3. Sivasagar in Assam
4. Dholavira in Gujarat
5. Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu



# Topic 241 and 242: Sohrai Khovar painting and Telia Rumal

## Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting

1. It is a traditional and ritualistic mural art.
2. It is practised by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons.
3. Local, naturally available soils of different colours are used.
4. It is mainly practiced in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.
5. Traditionally painted on the walls of mud houses, they are now seen on other surfaces, too.

## Telangana's Telia Rumal

1. This cloth involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours — red, black and white.
2. Patronised by rich Muslim families and the Nizam rulers
3. Officers working in the court of the Nizam would wear the Chituki Telia Rumal as a symbolic representation of status.
4. Telia Rumals are offered at the dargah of Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan.



## Topic 243: Nimmalakunta puppetry

### Key Points:

1. Leather puppetry or tholu bommalata (from Andhra Pradesh)
2. Introduced by Sri Krishnadevaraya during the 15th Century
3. Propagate mythological stories among the masses
4. This art form is declining and basic material has also changed from goatskin to synthetic leather and water-based chemical colours are used
5. Got GI Tag in 2008



## Topic 244: Nirmal Paintings

### Key Points:

1. Nirmal is a town in Telangana (famous for painting and toys)
2. Practised by art and craft community – Nagash
3. Depicts the traditional art scenes related to the Hindu epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata
4. Influenced by the Indian Schools of Art like Kangra, Ajanta as well as Mughal miniatures
5. Evolved during Kakatiya dynasty and were patronized by Mughal rulers



## Topic 245: Paramarsh

### Key Points:

1. Launched by Ministry of Education
2. UGC scheme for mentoring NAAC Accreditation Aspirant Institutions
3. Promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education
4. Fellowship amount of Rs. 31,000 per month
5. Scheme will lead to enhancement of the mentee institutions' quality



# Topic 246: Sixth Replenishment Conference of the “Global Fund”

## Key points:

1. India hosted Sixth Replenishment Conference of the “Global Fund”
2. Aimed at raising funds to fight the diseases and build stronger systems for health for the next three years.
3. To achieve SDG 3 and end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics
4. Government of India and the Global Fund partnership



# Topic 247: Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM)

## Key points:

1. International financing and partnership organization
2. Aim: to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and to achieve SDG goals
3. Global Fund was created in 2002
4. G8 formally endorsed the call for the creation of the Global Fund



# Topic 248: Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)

## Key points:

1. Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) is brought out by FAO
2. India ranked 3rd among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade
3. Top 10 countries that recorded max avg annual net gains in forest area during 2010-2020 are China, Australia, India, Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the US, France, Italy and Romania
4. India accounts for two per cent of total global forest area.
5. Asian continent reported the highest net gain in forest area in 2010-2020



# Topic 249: Global Carbon Project Report

## Key points:

1. GCP was estd. In 2001
2. GCP seeks to quantify global carbon emissions and their causes
3. Objective - to fully understand the carbon cycle; predict GHG emissions
4. Works collaboratively with the -
  - International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme,
  - the World Climate Programme,
  - the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change and Diversitas, under the Earth System Science Partnership.



# Topic 250: Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

## Key points:

1. India joined Global Partnership on AI (as a founding member)
2. GPAI is an international and multi-stakeholder initiative
3. Objective
  - To guide the responsible development and use of AI
  - Better understanding of the challenges and opportunities around AI
  - Bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI
4. GPAI will be supported by a Secretariat, to be hosted by OECD in Paris
5. It will also be supported by two Centers of Expertise- one each in Montreal and Paris.



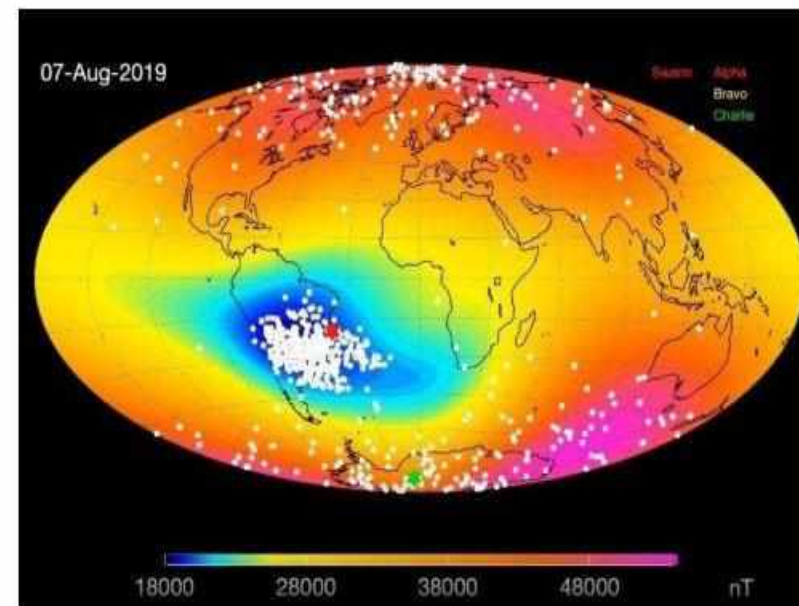
# Topic 251 and 252: South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA) and Van Allen radiation belt

## Key points:

1. SAA is a stretch between Africa and South America.
2. It is an area where the Earth's inner Van Allen radiation belt comes closest to the Earth's surface
3. Near-Earth region where the Earth's magnetic field is weakest
4. Impacts:
  - Weak spot lets harmful particle radiation from Sun come near to the surface
  - Affects satellites that pass through the area (tampers the navigation)

## Van Allen radiation belt

1. Zone of energetic charged particles that are captured and held around a planet by that planet's magnetic field.
2. Earth has two such belts and sometimes others may be temporarily created.





# Topic 253: The Coral Triangle

## Key points:

1. Triangular area of the tropical marine waters
2. The triangle encompasses the seas of 6 countries (CT6 countries) in the Asia-Pacific region:
  - 1) Indonesia
  - 2) Malaysia
  - 3) Papua New Guinea
  - 4) Philippines
  - 5) Solomon Islands
  - 6) Timor Leste
3. The Coral Triangle is the world's epicentre of marine biodiversity.





## Topic 254: Indian Ocean Commission



### Key points:

1. IOC is an intergovernmental organization
2. It was institutionalized in 1984
3. It is a five nation grouping in the Western Indian Ocean, which includes Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and French Reunion.
4. Aim/Objective
5. India was admitted as fifth observer
6. The other four observers China, Malta, European Union and International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF).



## Topic 255: Vanilla Islands

### Key points:

1. Affiliation of small islands in Indian Ocean – Seychelles, Madagascar, Réunion (France), Mauritius, Comoros and Mayotte (France)
2. Aim: pool forces and jointly market the region





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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 256. National Technical Textiles Mission
- 257. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
- 258. Atal Bhujal Yojana
- 259. ICoSDiTAUS-2020
- 260. SPICe+
- 261. 100 Springs Initiative
- 262. RAISE 2020
- 263. 22nd Law Commission
- 264. Gram Nyayalayas
- 265. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010
- 266. Randomized controlled trial (RCT)
- 267. Himalayan Butterfly a.k.a Golden Birdwing
- 268. Mahadayi Water Row and Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project
- 269. Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary
- 270. Hampi and Vittala Temple



# Topic 256: National Technical Textiles Mission

## Key points:

1. Aim - To increase the size of the technical textiles in the domestic market to \$40 billion
2. Requires an average growth of at least 10 % per annum
3. Technical Textiles products are divided into 12 broad categories
4. It will be implemented for four years starting from 2020-2021
5. It will have four components -
  - 1) R&D and innovation with an outlay of ₹1,000 crores
  - 2) Promotion and development of the market for technical textiles
  - 3) Export promotion
  - 4) Promoting technical education at higher engineering and technology levels related to technical textiles.
6. A separate Mission Directorate will be operational in the Ministry of Textiles.



# Topic 257: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

## Key points:

1. Central Sector Scheme (launched in 2019)
2. Aim:
  - To provide income support to all landholding farmers' families (at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year)
  - To supplement their financial needs for procuring various inputs related to agriculture and allied activities and domestic needs
  - DBT - three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 each
  - Expenditure : Rs 75000 crore for the scheme will borne by the Gol
3. Initially benefits were admissible only to Small & Marginal Farmers' (SMF) families, with combined landholding upto 2 hectare.
4. Now, extended to all farmer families irrespective of the size of their landholdings.



# Topic 258: Atal Bhujal Yojana

## Key points:

1. Central sector scheme (worth Rs.6,000 crore for sustainable management of groundwater)
2. Period of five years (2020-21 to 2024-25)
3. Envisages people participation - Water User Associations; water budgeting, preparation & implementation of Gram-panchayat-wise water security plans etc
4. Implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti
5. Funding – GoI : : WB (50:50)



# Topic 259: ICoSDiTAUS-2020

## Key points:

1. International Conference on Standardisation of AYUSH Terminologies
2. Was held in Delhi (jointly organized by the Ministry of AYUSH and the WHO)
3. Adopted the “New Delhi Declaration on Collection and Classification of Traditional Medicine (TM) Diagnostic Data”
4. International Classification of Diseases (ICD) - published by WHO is the standard diagnostic tool for health management across the world



# Topic 260: SPICe+

## Key points:

1. Simplified Proforma for Incorporating a Company Electronically
2. Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) launched SPICe+ --> which will replace the existing SPICe form
3. SPICe was launched in 2016 and is a single form for multiple services for incorporation of a company.
4. SPICe+ would offer 10 services by 3 central government ministries & departments
  1. Ministry of Corporate Affairs,
  2. Ministry of Labour
  3. Ministry of Financeand one State Government (Maharashtra)



## Topic 261: 100 Springs Initiative

### Key points:

1. Aim – To improve access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities
2. Initiative will help in harnessing the potential of perennial springs' water
3. Launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs

## Topic 262: RAISE 2020

### Key points:

1. RESPONSIBLE AI FOR SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT 2020
2. India's first Artificial Intelligence summit (in New Delhi)
3. Organised by Ministry of Electronics & IT



# Topic 263: 22nd Law Commission

## Key points:

1. Union Cabinet gave its approval to set up the 22nd Law Commission for a period of three years
2. Non-statutory body constituted by the Gol
3. Originally constituted in 1955 and is re-constituted every three years
4. Composition

## Law Commission

- Advises the government on complex legal issues.
- The term of the previous law panel ended last August.
- Previous Law Commission, under Justice B.S. Chauhan (retd.)
- The Commission is established for a fixed tenure and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.



# Topic 264: Gram Nyayalayas

## Key points:

1. Estd. for speedy and easy access to the justice system in the rural areas
2. Gram Nyayalayas Act came into force from 2009
3. State Governments to establish Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with HCs
4. Jurisdiction – as notified by the state govt in consultation with HCs
5. Presided over by a Nyayadhikari - enjoy same power, salary and benefits of a Judicial Magistrate of First Class
6. Nyayadhikari appointed by State govt in consultation with HCs
7. Gram Nyayalayas deals with both civil and criminal cases



# Topic 265: Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

## Key Points:

1. Implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
3. Under the Act, organisations require to register themselves every five years.
4. All NGOs are required to be registered under the Act to receive foreign funding.



# Topic 266: Randomized controlled trial

## Key Points:

1. It is a type of scientific experiment that aims to reduce certain sources of bias when testing the effectiveness of new treatments.
2. This is accomplished by randomly allocating subjects to two or more groups, treating them differently, and then comparing them with respect to a measured response.
3. Experimental group and Control group
4. Winners of 2019 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences - Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer



# Topic 267: Himalayan Butterfly a.k.a Golden Birdwing

## Key Points:

1. It is now India's largest after 88 years
2. Earlier, Southern Birdwing was considered to be the largest
3. Females (Golden Birdwing) are larger than the males
4. Female Golden Birdwing was recorded from Didihat in Uttarakhand
5. Largest male was from the Wankhar Butterfly Museum in Meghalaya capital Shillong





## Topic 268: Mahadayi Water Row

### Key points:

1. Mahadayi or Mhadei or Mandovi - west-flowing river
2. Originates in Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (Western Ghats)
3. Dispute between Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra
4. Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project





# Topic 269: Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary

## Key points:

1. Located in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka
2. Sanctuary is part of a contiguous tiger habitat - located very close to the tri-junction of the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu
  - Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka) to its North and East
  - Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) to its South and
  - Biligirirangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) to its West
3. About Project Tiger and NTCA



## Topic 270: Hampi and Vittala Temple

### Key points:

1. UNESCO world heritage site.
2. Part of the Mauryan Empire 3rd century BC.
3. The capital city during the four different dynasties in the Vijayanagar city
4. It is located near the Tungabhadra river.
5. Hampi-Vijayanagara was the world's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing,
6. Described by UNESCO as an “austere, grandiose site” of more than 1,600 surviving remains of the last great Hindu kingdom in South India.





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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 271. Lokpal
- 272. Original Jurisdiction and Exclusive Jurisdiction
- 273. Neutrality and security of tenure of Speaker
- 274. Judge's Recusal
- 275. Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT)
- 276. Countervailing duty (CVD)
- 277. Tariff Rate Quota Scheme
- 278. Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020
- 279. NITI Aayog's SDG Index
- 280. Digital Quality of Life Index 2020
- 281. National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE)
- 282. Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)
- 283. Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing
- 284. International Comparison Program (ICP)
- 285. Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)
- 286. Cooperative banks to come under RBI supervision
- 287. Map Activity: Black Sea
- 288. Baltic Countries & Travel Bubbles
- 289. Influenza Viruses – A, B, C, D
- 290. Kyasanur Forest Disease



# Topic 271: Lokpal

## Key points:

1. Lokpal (and Lokayuktas at State level) are statutory bodies – estd. under Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013
2. Perform function of an ombudsman and inquire into allegations of corruption
3. Jurisdiction of Lokpal
4. Mandatory - all public officials should furnish the assets and liabilities
5. It has the powers to superintendence over, and to give direction to CBI
6. It has been vested with the powers of a civil court (Lokpal has powers of confiscation)
7. It is empowered under the law to set up its own inquiry wing
8. Lokpal has the power to recommend transfer or suspension of public servant



# Topic 272: Original Jurisdiction and Exclusive Jurisdiction

## Key points:

1. Article 131 of the Constitution - gives SC the power to resolve disputes (b/w C-S or S-S or C+S-S)
2. Article 32 gives the Supreme court original jurisdiction but not exclusive jurisdiction (because HC also have such jurisdiction according to Article 226)
3. It is only Article 131 that gives the court original and an exclusive jurisdiction
4. With regard to matters dealing with fundamental rights, Supreme Court has original jurisdiction. However, the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is not exclusive.
5. When the Fundamental Rights of a citizen are violated, the aggrieved party has the option of moving either the high court or the Supreme Court directly.



# Topic 273: Neutrality and security of tenure of Speaker

## Key points:

### Neutrality of the Speaker

1. Serves for a term of five years
2. Chosen from sitting members of the Lok Sabha (House of the People)
3. By convention a member of the ruling party or alliance

### Security of tenure

1. He is provided with a security of tenure.
2. Can be removed only by a resolution passed by the Lok Sabha by an Effective Majority.
3. His work and conduct cannot be discussed and criticised in the Lok Sabha except on a substantive motion.
4. Salary and allowance – fixed by Parliament and charged on the Consolidated Fund of India

### When can Speaker vacate his office earlier -

- if he ceases to be a member of the Lok Sabha
- if he resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker

Indian Convention and British Convention



# Topic 274: Judge's Recusal

## Key points:

1. Recusal is the withdrawal of a judge, prosecutor, or juror from a case
2. It usually takes place when a judge has conflict of interest or prior association with the parties in the case (which may lead to lack of impartiality)
3. Rules on recusals -
  - no written rules
  - left to the discretion of a judge
  - reasons for recusal are not disclosed in an order of the court
  - decision to convey the reasons rests on the conscience of the judge



# Topic 275: Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT)

## Key points:

1. DDT is a return given by a company to its shareholders out of the profits earned by the company.
2. Dividend should be subject to income tax, however, income tax laws provide for an exemption of the dividend income received from Indian companies.
3. Rather DDT is levied on the company paying the dividend. (at the rate of 15%)
4. DDT was also applicable on mutual funds.



# Topic 276: Countervailing duty (CVD)

## Key points:

1. Import tax imposed on certain goods to prevent dumping or counter export subsidies.
2. Preferential treatment wrt CVDs falls under US' Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme.
3. GSP --> bulk of preferential schemes granted by industrialized nations to developing countries.
4. Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) has taken off India from the list of developing and least-developed countries.



# Topic 277: Tariff Rate Quota Scheme

## Key points:

1. Centre notified norms for import of 5 lakh tonnes of maize under Tariff Rate Quota Scheme
  2. Under the scheme, the government allows import of four products
    - maize (corn),
    - milk and cream in powder, granules,
    - crude sunflower seed or safflower oil and fractions thereof; and
    - refined rape, colza or mustard oil and fractions thereof
- at concessional rates of customs duty

## Tariff Rate Quota Scheme

1. Allows a set quantity of specific products to be imported at a low or zero rate of duty
2. TRQ commitment does not apply any limits on the quantity of import of a product
3. Instead, it applies a higher rate of duty for that specific product once imports up to the TRQ commitment have been reached
4. Therefore, TRQ is a two-tiered tariff instrument



# Topic 278: Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020

## Key points:

1. NITI Aayog + Institute for Competitiveness
2. 1st report to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states

The structure of the EPI includes 4 pillars:

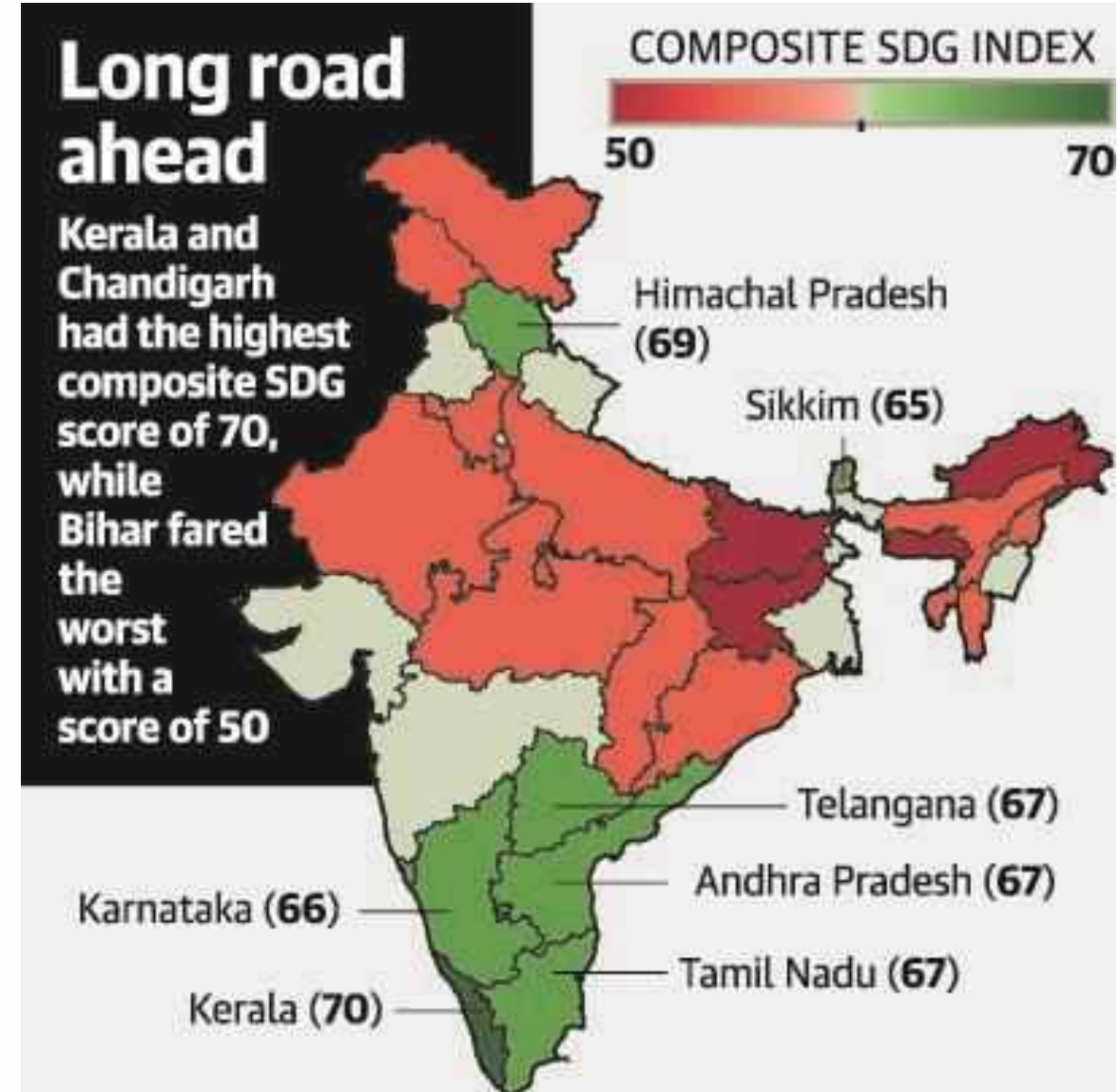
Policy	A comprehensive trade policy provides a strategic direction for exports and imports.
Business Ecosystem	An efficient business ecosystem can help states attract investments and create an enabling infrastructure for individuals to initiate start-ups.
Export Ecosystem	This pillar aims to assess the business environment, which is specific to exports
Export Performance	This is the only output-based pillar and examines the reach of export footprints of States and Union Territories.



## Topic 279: NITI Aayog's SDG Index

### Key points:

1. UN has developed 232 indicators; NITI Aayog has adapted 100 indicators of its own for the Index
2. NITI Aayog has constructed the SDG India Index spanning across 13 out of 17 SDGs
3. Provides a holistic view on the social, economic and environmental status of States and UTs
4. It aims to measure India and its States' progress towards the SDGs for 2030
5. Kerala tops the States in progress towards the UN SDG, while Bihar is at the bottom of the NITI Aayog's SDG Index





## Topic 280: Digital Quality of Life Index 2020

### Key Points:

1. Released by SurfShark
2. India ranks among the lowest in the world in terms of Internet quality.
3. In terms of e-infrastructure, India occupies 79th place
4. India stands at the overall rank of 57 out of the 85 countries.
5. India makes it into the top 10 in terms of Internet affordability.



# Topic 281: National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE)

## Key Points:

1. Prepared by the National Centre for Financial Education in consultation with RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA and Ministries + Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy (TGFIFL)
2. Focus : : Empower people - adequate knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour

## ‘5 C’ approach for dissemination of financial education -

- 1) Capacity-developing capacity among the intermediaries involved in providing financial services.
- 2) Content-development of relevant content in curriculum in schools, colleges and training establishments.
- 3) Communication- Use of technology, media and innovative ways of communication for financial education.
- 4) Community- community-led model for financial literacy through appropriate communication strategy
- 5) Collaboration-enhancing collaboration among various stakeholders.



# Topic 282: Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

## Key Points:

1. Apex regulatory body for regulating financial sector
2. It was established in 2010
3. Union Finance Minister is chairman of FSDC
4. Members includes the heads of the financial sector regulatory authorities
5. Objectives:
  - To strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability
  - Enhancing inter-regulatory coordination
  - Promoting financial sector development
  - Assess the functioning of the large financial conglomerates.



# Topic 283: Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing

## Key Points:

1. Launched by MeitY in 2020 -- Part of National Policy on Electronics (NPE 2019)
2. Scheme offers a production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments
3. Extends an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales
4. Period of five years
5. Scheme will be implemented through Nodal Agency which shall act as a Project Management Agency (PMA)
6. Eligibility - All electronic manufacturing companies which are Indian or have registered unit in India



# Topic 284: International Comparison Program (ICP)

## Key Points:

1. World Bank released new Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) for reference year 2017 under ICP
2. India is 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy accounted for 6.7 percent of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of PPPs (after China and USA)
3. India is also third largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in global Actual Individual Consumption and Global Gross Capital Formation.

## About ICP:

1. ICP is one of the largest statistical initiatives in the world
2. It is managed by the World Bank under UN Statistical Commission
3. Objective of ICP



# Topic 285: Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

## Key Points:

1. Facilitate incentivisation of investments in infrastructure for dairy and meat processing; establishment of animal feed plant in the private sector.
2. Size of the fund is 15000 crore
3. Eligible beneficiaries – MSMEs, FPOs, Section 8 Companies, Private Companies, Individual entrepreneurs
4. Minimum 10% margin money contribution by eligible beneficiaries (balance 90% loan)
5. Provision of 3% interest subvention and 2 years moratorium period



# Topic 286: Cooperative banks to come under RBI supervision

## Key Points:

1. Aim : : providing comfort to depositors and prevent repeat of PMC Bank-like scams.
2. RBI's powers, as they apply to scheduled banks, will apply for cooperative banks as well.
3. About Cooperative banks:
  - They are financial entities established on a co-operative basis and belonging to their members
  - Customers of a co-operative banks are also its share-holders
  - Provide regular banking and financial services
  - Registered under the Co-operative Societies Act of the State concerned or under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002
  - Governed by the Banking Regulations Act, 1949 and Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955



# Topic 287: Map Activity - Black Sea and Aegean Sea

## Key points:

1. Locate important seas
2. Countries surrounding the Black Sea
3. **Aegean Sea**
  - Elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea
  - In the north, the Aegean is connected to the Marmara Sea and the Black Sea by the straits of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus.





## Topic 288: Baltic Countries & Travel Bubbles

### Key points:

1. Baltic states - Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
2. Baltics launched Europe's first pandemic 'travel bubble'
3. The region has been part of the European Union since 2004 and since 2007 has been a member of the European Schengen Free Travel Area.





## Topic 289: Influenza Viruses – A, B, C, D

### Key points:

1. Flu, or influenza, is a contagious respiratory infection caused by a variety of flu viruses.
2. Symptoms of flu involve muscle aches and soreness, headache, and fever.
3. Human influenza A and B viruses cause seasonal epidemics of disease (known as the flu season)
4. Influenza type C infections generally cause mild illness and are not thought to cause human flu epidemics.
5. Influenza D viruses primarily affect cattle and are not known to infect or cause illness in people.



## Topic 290: Kyasanur Forest Disease

### Key points:

1. KFD is caused by Kyasanur Forest disease Virus (KFDV)
2. It was first identified in 1957 in a sick monkey in Kyasanur forest in Karnataka (Monkey Fever)
3. It is tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever endemic to South Asia
4. Endemic Regions of KFD in India are: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala
5. Rodents, shrews, and monkeys are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick. KFDV kills most primates it infects.
6. Larger animals such as cattle, goats or sheep may become infected with KFD but play a limited role in transmission of disease to humans
7. Transmission to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most importantly a sick or recently dead monkey. No person-to-person transmission has been described



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 291. Yield Curves
- 292. Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR)
- 293. Countercyclical Capital Buffer
- 294. External Benchmark-based Lending
- 295. Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FAL-LCR)
- 296. Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework
- 297. RBI's revised framework for the resolution of stressed assets
- 298. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
- 299. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)
- 300. Debts Recovery Tribunals
- 301. PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana
- 302. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
- 303. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund
- 304. Model Code of Conduct
- 305. Buddhist site at Phanigiri



# Corrections and Clarifications

1. Session 18 --> Topic 279 --> NITI Aayog's SDG Index
2. Session 17 --> Topic 261 --> 1000 Springs Initiative



# Topic 291: Yield Curves

## Key points:

1. What is yield curve?
  - graphical representation of yields over different time horizons
2. Why is yield curve important?
  - Tells the future health of the economy
  - Tells whether the markets expect interest rates to rise or fall in future
  - government's yield curve also sets the floor for all other borrowers
3. Upward sloping yield curve
4. Flat yield curve
5. Inverted yield curve



# Topic 292: Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR)

## Key points:

1. It is the ratio of a bank's capital to its risk-weighted assets and current liabilities
2. It is decided by central banks and bank regulators
3. It is measured as - Capital Adequacy Ratio =  $(\text{Tier I} + \text{Tier II} + \text{Tier III (Capital funds)}) / \text{Risk weighted assets}$
4. The risk weighted assets take into account credit risk, market risk and operational risk.
5. The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%.
6. Commercial Banks are mandated to maintain minimum 9% capital adequacy ratio (CAR) plus a capital conservation buffer of 2.5%. (PSB banks to maintain a CAR of 12%)



# Topic 293: Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCCB)

## Key points:

1. CCCB is the capital to be kept by a bank to meet business cycle related risks
2. Aim – to protect banking sector against losses
3. Regulations were set forth in Basel III regulatory reforms

## RBI's countercyclical capital buffer (CCCB) framework

1. Envisages credit-to-GDP gap as the main indicator
2. It requires banks to build up a buffer of capital in good times
3. Restricts indiscriminate lending in the periods of excess credit growth



# Topic 294: External Benchmark-based Lending

## Key points:

1. RBI made it mandatory for all banks to link all new floating rate loans to an external benchmark
2. External Benchmark-based Lending - with effect from 1st October 2019
3. Aim : : Faster transmission of monetary policy rates
4. The interest rate under the external benchmark shall be reset at least once every three months

Marginal Cost of Lending Rate	Repo-Linked Loan
Linked to banks' cost of funds	Linked to RBI's lending rate
Takes 4-6 months to move after RBI rate cut	Responds immediately to RBI rate cut
RBI rate cuts not fully passed on to borrowers	Rate cuts are automatically passed on
Resets annually for most banks	Reset every three months
Changes by 5-10 bps	Usually changes 25bps or more
Revised every month	Reviewed bi-monthly
Low volatility	Higher volatility
100bps=1%   Repo - RBI's lending rate to banks	



# Topic 295: Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FAL-LCR)

## Key points:

1. About LCR - short term liquidity ratio to be maintained by banks in form of HQLA
2. Why LCR? - to survive an acute stress scenario lasting for 30 days
3.  $LCR = HQLA / \text{Total net cash outflow over next 30 calendar days} = \text{should be } 100\%$
4. High quality liquid assets (HQLA), as per BASEL III, includes – assets easily and immediately convertible into cash (cash and G-secs)
5.  $LCR + SLR \rightarrow 2$  liquidity requirement for banks  $\rightarrow$  reduce the lending capacity of the banks
6. Therefore, RBI allowed limited portion of G-Secs used to meet the SLR to be recognised as HQLA Level 1 for calculating LCR
7. FALLCR is that part of the G-secs under SLR that can be pledged to raise liquid assets to meet LCR requirement under BASEL III



# Topic 296: Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework

## Key points:

1. Framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI
2. PCA framework deems banks as risky if they slip below certain norms – capital ratios, asset quality and profitability
3. It has three risk threshold levels



# Topic 297: RBI's revised framework for the resolution of stressed assets

**MINT GRAPHITI**

## WHAT HAS CHANGED

RBI has eased the provisions of its controversial 12 February 2018 circular on stressed assets.

### THEN

**BANKS** had to refer borrower to NCLT if it failed to resolve the account within 180 days

**THE** stressed asset norms were applicable only for banks

**DEFAULT** of even one day had to be reported and acted upon

**AGREEMENT** of all lenders was required on the resolution plan



### NOW

**LENDERS** given the choice to initiate legal proceedings for insolvency or recovery

**NORMS** applicable for banks, small finance banks as well as NBFCs

**LENDERS** given 30 days to start working on resolution plan from day of default

**AGREEMENT** of 75% lenders by debt value and 60% lenders by number is needed

## Key points:

RBI's Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets

- ☐ RBI released updated guideline about resolving stressed assets in June 2019.
- ☐ It replaced the previous stressed asset resolution guidelines published in February 2018.
- ☐ The main feature of the new Framework is that it relaxes several previous criteria related to stressed asset management under the 2018 version.



# Topic 298: Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

## Key points:

1. It provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency
2. IBC consolidates all laws related to insolvency and bankruptcy and to tackle NPAs
3. Shifts the responsibility to the creditor to initiate the insolvency resolution process against the corporate debtor
4. It covers all individuals, companies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and partnership firms
5. Adjudicating authority - National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)
6. Objectives of IBC



# Topic 299: National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

## Key points:

1. Companies Act, 2002 provides for the setting up of NCLAT and NCLT
2. It replace the existing Company Law Board (CLB) and Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)
3. NCLT is a quasi-judicial body that adjudicates issues relating to companies in India
4. Based on Justice Eradi Committee recommendations
5. NCLAT hears appeals against the orders of NCLT
6. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding
7. Decision of NCLT --> may be appealed to NCLAT --> further appealed to SC



# Topic 300: Debts Recovery Tribunals

## Key points:

1. Estd. to facilitate debt recovery involving banks and other financial institutions with their customers
2. Goal - recovery of loaned money from borrowers
3. Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act (RDBBFI), 1993 empowers the Central government to establish DRTs
4. Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act also provides access to DRTs
5. Appeals against orders passed by DRTs lie before Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT).
6. Powers



# Topic 301: PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

## Key Points:

1. Central-sector Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters
2. Allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore for the period 2016-20 --> coterminous with the 14th FC cycle
3. It was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in 2017
4. Implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)
5. Schemes implemented under PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana



# Topic 302: Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

## Key Points:

1. Flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector
2. Estimated investment --> Rs. 20,050 crores (period of 5 years 2020-21 to 2024-25)
3. Out of Rs 20,050cr --> Rs 12340 crores for beneficiary-oriented activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and about Rs 7710 crores investment for Fisheries Infrastructure
4. Part of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package
5. Aims:
  - To enhance fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25
  - To increase fisheries export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore by 2024-25
  - Doubling incomes of fishers and fish farmers
  - reducing post-harvest losses from 20-25% to about 10%
6. 'Cluster or Area based approaches' and creation of Fisheries clusters



## Topic 303: Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

### Key Points:

1. New Central Sector Scheme --> medium - long term debt financing facility --> AIF of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore
2. It will support farmers, PACS, FPOs, Agri-entrepreneurs, etc.
3. Focus - building community farming assets and post-harvest agriculture infrastructure
4. Duration --> FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years)
5. Provision of loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE scheme; Moratorium for repayment
6. Managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform



# Topic 304: Model Code of Conduct

## Key Points:

1. MCC --> powerful instrument --> set of norms laid down by the Election Commission of India
2. MCC is not statutory
3. It comes into force when the ECI announces election dates
4. It comprises directions to government functionaries, political parties and candidates
5. MCC comes into force on the announcement of the poll schedule and remains operational till the process is concluded
6. Article 324 of the Constitution
7. In case of any electoral offences, EC takes action against violators. Anyone can report the violations to the EC or approach the court.



## Topic 305: Buddhist site at Phanigiri

### Key points:

1. Life-sized stucco sculpture --> @Phanigiri (Telangana)
2. Biggest stucco sculpture found in the country so far
3. Represents one of Bhodhisattva in Jathaka Chakra
4. Mahastupa, apsidal chaitya grihas, votive stupas and pillared congregation halls were also found
5. Belong to Satavahana period from the first century BC
6. Mahastupa is considered as Paribhogika stupa which contains the personal belongings of Buddhist monks
7. About Bodhisattva



### OTHER FINDINGS THIS SEASON

➤ A moon-shaped stone called Chandrashila

30  
vihara  
cells

A six-  
pillared  
mandapa

50 lead coins with elephant symbol on the obverse and Ujjaini symbol on the reverse

➤ Six circular Potin coins with elephant symbol on the obverse and Ujjaini symbol on the reverse

➤ One Mahatalvara coin in square shape with Horse symbol on obverse and Ujjaini symbol on reverse

➤ Iron objects such as nails, terracotta beads, fragments of stucco floral figures associated with black ware

➤ Pottery of different shapes used for different purposes

### TREASURE TROVE

➤ The Buddhist site is located on a hillock, which is in the shape on a snake-hood called Phanigiri in Sanskrit

➤ Located 40 km away from Suryapet and 125 km from Hyderabad

➤ Phanigiri yields rich treasure of structures and antiquities and lies on the left bank of Aleru, a Musi river tributary

➤ The hill-top, with an extent of 10 acres, once flourished as a Buddhist site during Satvahana and Ikshuvaku periods



**IASbaba's**

**Session 20**

**Rapid Revision Series  
of  
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PRELIMS 2020**



# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 306. Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)
- 307. Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)
- 308. BHARAT-22
- 309. Alternative Investment Funds
- 310. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)
- 311. Angel Tax
- 312. Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)
- 313. Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE 3.0)
- 314. Shell Companies
- 315. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
- 316. International Charter "Space and Major Disasters"
- 317. Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies
- 318. Raman Spectroscopy and Raman Effect
- 319. SATYABHAMA Portal and NGO Darpan Portal
- 320. RNA and MicroRNA (miRNA)



# Topic 306: Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)

## Key points:

1. It is a marketable security that tracks an index, a commodity, bonds, or a basket of assets like an index fund.
2. ETFs and Mutual Funds – Difference
  - 1) Unlike mutual funds, an ETF trades like a common stock on a stock exchange.
  - 2) ETFs share prices fluctuate all day as it is bought and sold.
  - 3) MFs only trade once a day after the market closes.
  - 4) ETFs typically have higher daily liquidity and lower fees than MF shares.



# Topic 307: Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

## Key points:

1. First corporate Bond ETF in the country
2. It creates an additional source of funding for CPSEs and govt organizations
3. Tradable on exchange
4. It will have a fixed maturity date
5. Small unit size Rs 1,000
6. Transparent Portfolio (Daily disclosure on website)
7. Low cost (0.0005%)
8. Index will be constructed by an independent index provider – National Stock Exchange

## Benefits

1. Provides safety, liquidity and predictable tax efficient returns
2. Easy access to retail investors to invest in bonds
3. Bond ETF would offer CPSEs, CPSUs - additional source of funding



# Topic 308: BHARAT-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

## Key points:

1. Launched by Gol --> Managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund
2. Specially created Index S&P BSE BHARAT-22 INDEX
3. Unique blend of shares of key CPSEs, PSBs and Government owned shares in blue chip private companies
4. Part of government of India's overall disinvestment program
5. The weightage in the Bharat 22 Index given to basic materials is 4.4%, energy 17.5%, finance 20.3%, FMCG 15.2%, industrials 22.6%, and utilities 20%.



# Topic 309: Alternative Investment Funds

## Key points:

1. AIFs are defined in Regulation 2(1)(b) of SEBI (AIF) Regulations 2012
2. AIFs are any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle
3. In India, AIFs are private funds which are otherwise not coming under the jurisdiction of any regulatory agency in India.
4. Types of AIFs -
  - 1) Category I AIF
  - 2) Category II AIF
  - 3) Category III AIF



# Topic 310: National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

## Key points:

1. Aim – To provide long-term capital to the country's infrastructure sector
2. Was set up as an alternative investment fund (AIF) in 2016 (planned corpus of ₹40,000 crore)
3. NIIF is jointly-owned by the Government of India (49%) and certain domestic and international investors (51%)
4. NIIF is considered India's quasi sovereign wealth fund
5. NIIF currently manages three funds and funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the SEBI



# Topic 311: Angel Tax

## Key points:

1. It is a 30% tax that is levied on the funding received by startups.
2. It was introduced in 2012, with the purpose of keeping money laundering in check.

Centre notified new rules pertaining to angel tax:

- 1) Investments of up to ₹25 crore --> will be exempt from the angel tax and any scrutiny
- 2) Eligibility --> Start ups' registered with the govt; incorporated <10yrs; Turnover <100crores
- 3) Investments made by a listed company of a net worth of at least ₹100 crore or a turnover of at least ₹250 crore would also be exempt.
- 4) Investments made by non-residents will also be exempt.
- 5) However, Category II Alternate Investment Funds was not included in the exclusion list.



# Topic 312: Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)

## Key points:

1. Fee-sharing mechanism between govt and telecoms
2. AGR is the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the DoT
3. AGR comprises the regulatory fees that are broadly categorised into two areas -
  - 1) license fee --> 5% USOF + 3% license
  - 2) spectrum usage charges --> ranges from 3-5%
4. Dispute and how it is calculated?



# Topic 313: Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE 3.0)

## Key points:

1. Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE)
2. Finance Minister launched Ease 3.0 for tech-enabled banking.
3. Aim --> provide advanced solutions that will make the PSBs smart and technology-enabled
4. Achieve ease of banking for customers

EASE 3.0 reforms agenda include facilities like:

- Palm Banking for “End-to-end digital delivery of financial service”.
- “Banking on Go” via EASE banking outlets at frequently visited spots like malls, stations, complexes and campuses.



# Topic 314: Shell Companies

## Key points:

1. They are typically corporate entities which do not have any active business operations or significant assets in their possession
2. Multiple layers of companies --> created for the purpose of diverting money/money laundering
3. However, not all shell companies may be money laundering vehicles.

Laws targeting the activities of shell companies are

- Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Amendment Act 2016
- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002
- The Companies Act, 2013



## Topic 315: Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

### Key points:

1. RRBs were set up as a regional based rural lending institutions under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.
2. They ensure adequate credit for agriculture and other rural sectors.
3. Recommendations by Narsimham Committee working group
4. Equity --> 50:15:35
5. As per RBI, RRBs have to provide 75 per cent of their total credit under Priority Sector Lending and should maintain minimum Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9%
6. The recapitalisation process of RRBs was approved by the cabinet in 2011 based on the recommendations of a committee set up under the Chairmanship of K C Chakrabarty.



# Topic 316 and 317: International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" and Moon Agreement

## Key Points:

1. Worldwide collaboration --> satellite data are made available --> disaster mgt
2. It is a non-binding charter --> for the charitable and humanitarian tasks
3. Initiated by the European Space Agency and the French space agency CNES after the UNISPACE III conference held in Vienna, Austria in July 1999
4. Officially came into operation on November 1, 2000
5. ISRO is a charter member

## Key Points:

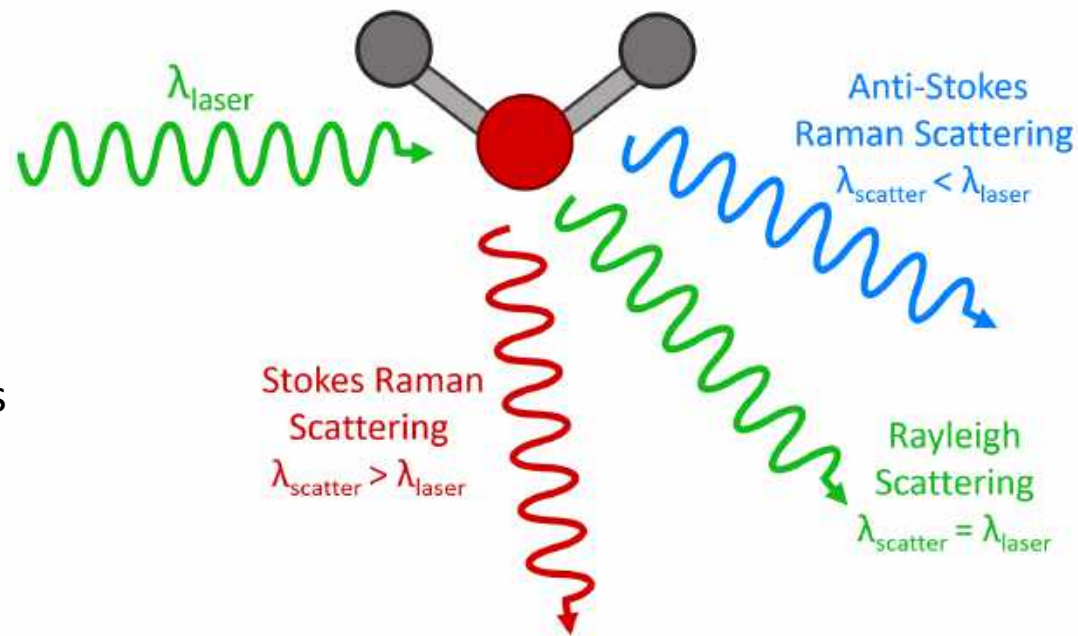
1. Multilateral treaty
2. All activities would conform to international law, including the United Nations Charter
3. India signed this 'Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, but never ratified it.
4. Seeks to “promote rule of law in this human endeavor”
5. Only 18 countries signed the agreement, including India and France, but not including the US, Russia and China.



# Topic 318: Raman Spectroscopy

## Key Points:

1. An analytical technique --> where scattered light is used to measure the vibrational energy modes of a sample.
2. In 1928, Raman discovered that when a stream of light passes through a liquid, a fraction of the light scattered by the liquid is of a different colour.
3. Raman was able to show that the blue colour of the water was due to the scattering of the sunlight by water molecules.
4. Raman Effect is when the change in the energy of the light is affected by the vibrations of the molecule or material under observation, leading to a change in its wavelength.
5. Applications





# Topic 319: SATYABHAMA Portal and NGO Darpan Portal

## Key Points:

1. Science and Technology Yojana for Atmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)
2. Ministry of Mines
3. Designed, developed and implemented by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Mines Informatics Division
4. The Portal is integrated with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog
5. NGO Darpan Portal --> provides interface between Voluntary Organizations (VO)/NGOs with government ministries and departments



## Topic 320: RNA and MicroRNA (miRNA)

### Key Points: RNA

1. Ribonucleic acid (RNA) --> nucleic acid which is directly involved in protein synthesis
2. RNA is an important nucleotide with long chains of nucleic acid present in all living cells
3. Main role --> to act as a messenger conveying instructions from DNA for controlling the proteins synthesis
4. Difference between RNA and DNA --> Single stranded and double stranded
5. RNA --> uracil as a nitrogenous base; DNA --> thymine

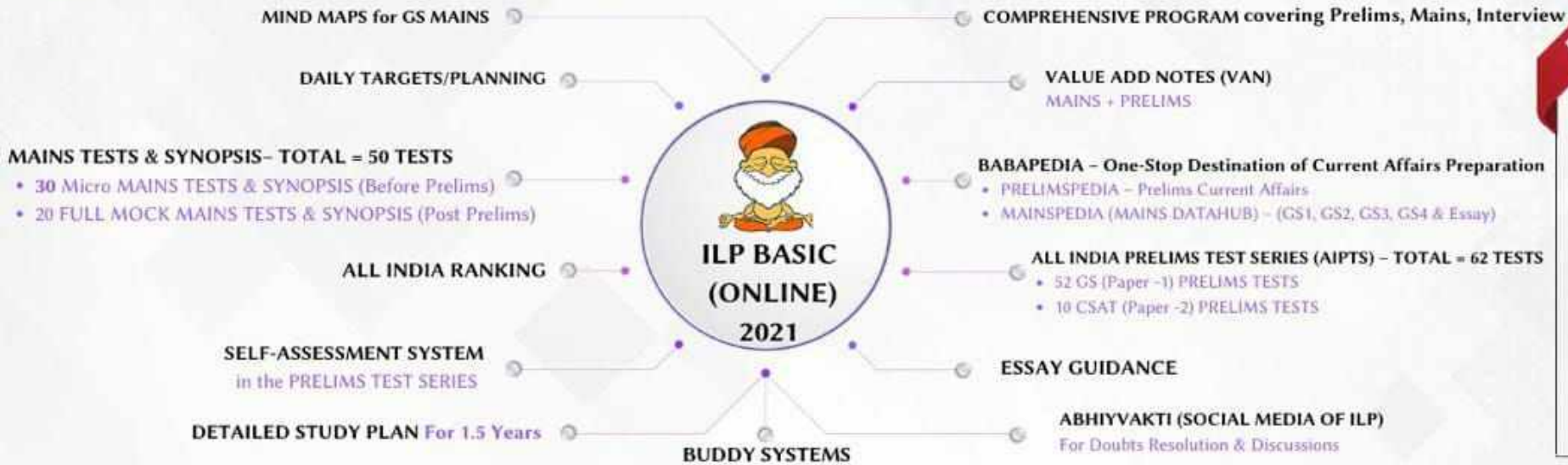
### Key Points: miRNA

1. They are small RNA
2. They are non-coding RNAs involved in the regulation of a variety of biological and pathological processes
3. Main function of miRNA is to silence the expression of the other genes
4. Oncogene --> gene that has the potential to cause cancer
5. miRNAs associated with cancer are called Oncomirs
6. Difference between miRNA inhibition therapy and miRNA inhibition therapy

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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 321. Snow Leopard
- 322. Bar-headed Geese
- 323. Black Necked Cranes
- 324. Whale Shark
- 325. Dugong
- 326. Red Kashmiri Stag
- 327. Sangai/Manipur Brow-antlered Deer
- 328. Cyclones of 2019 and 2020
- 329. Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) facility
- 330. Real time reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (real time RT–PCR)
- 331. First Indigenous Fuel Cell System was launched
- 332. Reverse Osmosis (RO)
- 333. Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub
- 334. 'UMMID' initiative and NIDAN kendras
- 335. TRUENAT and about TB
- 336. 'MERA India' initiative and about Malaria
- 337. Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize and Gandhi Solar Park
- 338. Five Eyes Countries and Emerging 7
- 339. 5G and D10 - 5G Club
- 340. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) 2019



# Topic 321: Snow Leopard

## Status:

- IUCN Vulnerable
- Listed in Schedule I under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972
- Appendix I of CITES
- Appendix I CMS

## Found in:

- Mountain ranges of Central and South Asia
- Inhabits alpine and subalpine zones at elevations from 3,000 to 4,500 m) - Hemis National Park
- Found in Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh

## Other important areas:

1. Global Snow Leopard Forum
2. SECURE Himalaya
3. Global Snow Leopard and Eco-system Protection Program (GSLEP)





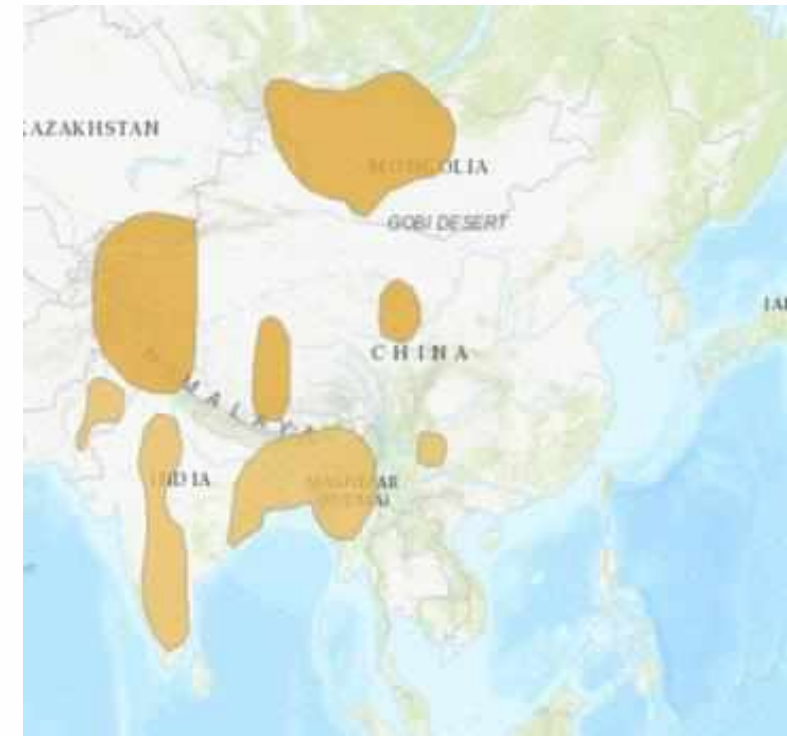
# Topic 322: Bar-headed Geese

## Basic info:

- IUCN: Least Concern
- Habitat: Wetlands (inland), Artificial/Aquatic & Marine, Artificial/Terrestrial, Rocky areas

## Key points:

- They are one of the birds which can fly even at very high altitude. They come to India and return to their homes by crossing the Himalayan ranges.
- Their migration has been a fascination for birders as they cross the Himalayas, on one of the most high-altitude migrations in the world.
- Their ability to sustain the high oxygen demands of flight in air that is exceedingly oxygen-thin is exceptional.





# Topic 323: Black Necked Cranes

## Basic info:

1. IUCN: Vulnerable
2. Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
3. Habitat: Wetlands (inland), Artificial/Terrestrial
4. Black-necked cranes also known as 'Trung-Trung Karmo' migrate every winter from Tibet and China's Xinjiang province to Arunachal Pradesh in India.

## Key points:

- Sangti Valley in West Kameng district and Zemithang of Arunachal Pradesh are the only wintering sites of the bird in India. The crane also breeds in Ladakh and Bhutan.
- The bird is revered by the 1 lakh-strong community of Monpas (major Buddhist ethnic group of Arunachal Pradesh) as an embodiment of the sixth Dalai Lama (Tsangyang Gyatso).





# Topic 324: Whale Shark

## Basic info:

1. IUCN: Endangered
2. Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
3. Appendix II CITES

## Key points:

- Whale sharks are the largest shark and they feed on plankton and travel large distances to find enough food to sustain their huge size, and to reproduce.





# Topic 325: Dugong

## Basic info:

1. IUCN: Vulnerable
2. Gulf of Mannar has the largest population of dugongs in India.
3. They are also found near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
4. The dugong is the only strictly herbivorous marine mammal.

## Key points:

- It is now on verge of extinction, because it has been hunted for meat and oil. In India also, its meat is considered to be aphrodisiac.





## Topic 326: Red Kashmiri Stag

### Status:

- IUCN Critically Endangered
- Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

### Found in:

- It is found in dense riverine forests in the high valleys and mountains of Kashmir Valley and northern Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.
- Dachigam National Park

### Important points:

- State animal of Jammu and Kashmir
- It is the only sub-species of red deer in India.





## Topic 327: Sangai/Manipur Brow-antlered Deer



### Status:

1. IUCN Endangered
2. Unique animal found only in Manipur in the whole world
3. Only deer which has adapted itself to the swampy habitat (Manipur's Loktak lake)
4. Keibul Lamjao NP

## Topic 328: Cyclones of 2019

1. Cyclonic Storm 'PABUK' : : Andaman
2. Cyclone 'FANI' : : BoB
3. Cyclonic Storm 'VAYU' : : NE and Arabian Sea
4. Cyclonic Storm 'HIKAA' : : NE and Arabian Sea
5. Cyclonic Storm 'BULBUL' : : over Bay of Bengal

## Cyclones of 2020

1. Amphan : : Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan
2. Nisarga : : West India



# Topic 329: Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)

## Key points:

1. About NGS Facility --> @Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad
2. About NGS Machines --> 'high genome sequencing' and 'diagnostic sequencing of clinical samples'
3. NGS can sequence 18,000 samples in 8 minutes
4. NGS would help prenatal genetic screening and counselling; find drugs for rare genetic diseases
5. NGS --> are mentioned as DNA microarrays, real-time PCR and DNA chips and reagents
6. Modern sequencing technologies --> Illumina (Solexa) sequencing, Roche 454 sequencing, Ion torrent: Proton / PGM sequencing, solid sequencing



# Topic 330: Real-Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)

## Key points:

1. Invented by Kary Mullis (Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1993)
2. Copies of a segment of DNA are created using an enzyme called Polymerase
3. Since, coronavirus is made of RNA (ribonucleic acid) --> RNA is converted into DNA
4. A 'reverse transcriptase' enzyme converts the RNA into DNA
5. Difference between NGS and RT-PCR test
  - 1) RTPCR --> identifies virus by exploring only specific sections; NGS --> Reads bigger chunk of virus)
  - 2) NGS test can also trace the evolutionary history of the virus and track mutations more reliably
  - 3) RT-PCR --> needs primers and probes; NGS --> only needs custom reagents



# Topic 331: Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System

## Key points:

1. 1st Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System --> was developed by CSIR
2. Part of “New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)”
3. Fuel cell system --> generates power in a green manner using methanol/bio-methane, with heat and water as bi-products
4. Fuel Cells developed are based on High Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (HTPEM) Technology
5. Replaces Diesel Generating (DG) sets and reduces dependence on crude oil
6. About Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology



## Topic 332: Reverse Osmosis (RO)

### Key Points:

1. NGT directions --> RO is permitted if condition of recovery of water to the extent of more than 60% is required
2. RO --> uses a partially permeable membrane to remove ions, unwanted molecules and larger particles
3. Difference between normal osmosis process and reverse osmosis
4. RO --> Solute is retained on the pressurized side of the membrane; pure solvent is allowed to pass to the other side
5. How RO differs from filtration
6. Applications



# Topic 333: Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub

## Key points:

1. India joined AMR-R&D Hub as a new member in Sept 2019
2. As of now 16 countries, European Commission, two philanthropic foundations and four international organizations (as observers)
3. It was launched in May 2018 --> 71st session of the World Health Assembly
4. Secretariat, established in Berlin
5. Funding - grants from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG).



## Topic 334: 'UMMID' initiative and NIDAN kendras

### Key Points:

1. Government launched 'UMMID' initiative and NIDAN kendras
2. UMMID (Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders)
3. NIDAN (National Inherited Diseases Administration)
4. Aim --> to tackle inherited genetic diseases of new born babies
5. UMMID and NIDAN --> supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), M/o Science and Technology



# Topic 335: TRUENAT

## Key Points:

1. WHO has endorsed TrueNat --> an indigenous molecular diagnostic tool for TB
2. Widely followed diagnosis methods include --> Sputum smear microscopy (deals with phenotype)
3. Difference between molecular diagnostic tool and phenotype
4. Genexpert and TrueNat
5. About TrueNat --> polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based test
6. About tuberculosis (TB) --> Mycobacterium tuberculosis

## COMPARISON BETWEEN Genexpert AND TrueNat

PARAMETERS	GENEXPERT	TRUENAT
Sensitivity and Specificity	Same	Same
Time required	More time	Less Time
Airconditioning	Required	Not Required
Power	Continuous Electricity Supply	Battery operated
Cost advantage	Expensive as test for MDR TB and TB diagnostic is done simultaneously	Cheaper since second test for MDR TB is carried on only after positive TB test



## Topic 336: 'MERA India' initiative

### Key Points:

1. ICMR launched 'MERA India' initiative --> 'Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA) India'
2. Aim --> to plan and scale up research to eliminate Malaria from India by 2030
3. National Vector Borne Diseases Control Program (NVBDPC)
4. NVBDPC's National Strategic Plan recognises the critical role of research
5. About Malaria --> Plasmodium Parasites
6. E-2020 INITIATIVE



# Topic 337: Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize and Gandhi Solar Park

## Key Points:

1. Portuguese announced the setting up of a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize
2. Gandhi had said “the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

## Key Points:

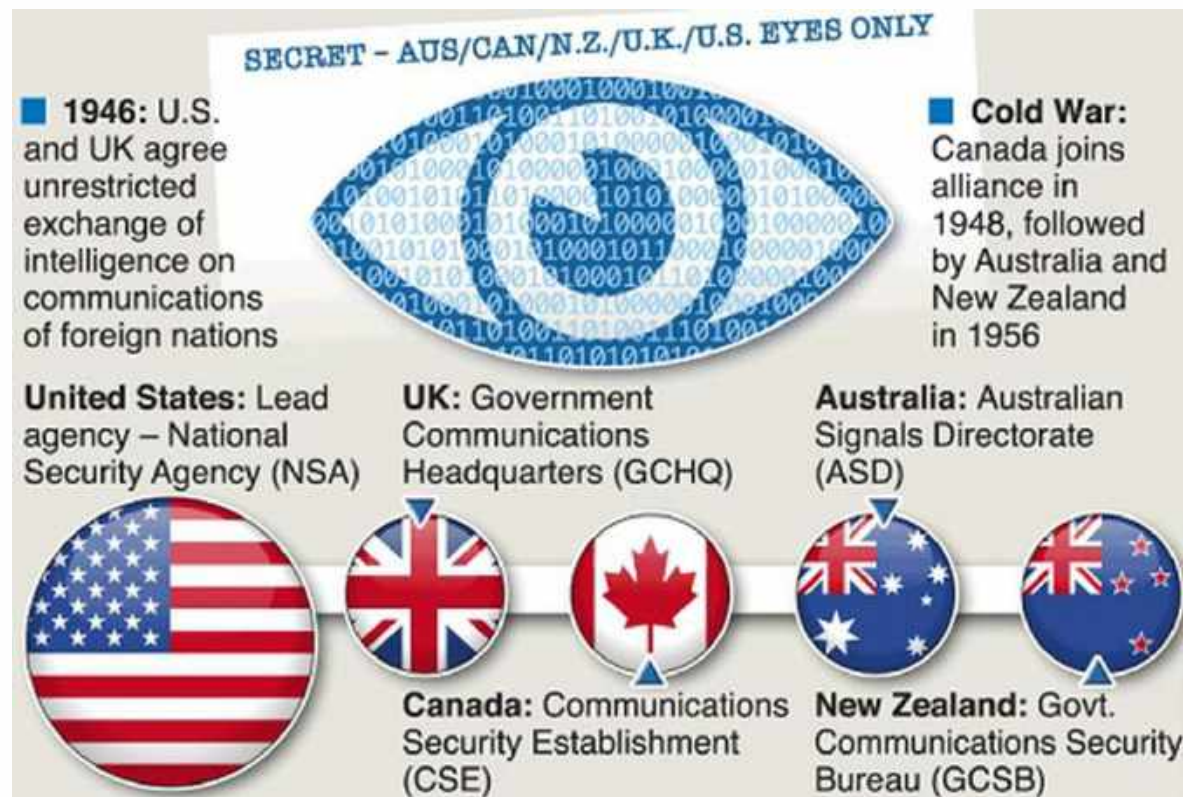
1. Gandhi Solar Park --> was inaugurated at the UN headquarters
2. 50 kWh roof-top solar park having 195 solar panels—each representing a member of the multilateral body – was built by India at a cost of US \$1 million
3. UN postage stamp of Mahatma Gandhi was launched at 'Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the Contemporary World' programme
4. India is the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, after China and the US
5. India has pledged for a 33-35% reduction in emission intensity



## Topic 338: Five Eyes Countries and Emerging 7

### Key Points:

1. Five Eyes (FVEY) is an intelligence alliance
2. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States
3. Multilateral UK-USA Agreement
4. Origins of the FVEY can be traced back to the post–World War II period



**Emerging 7 -->** China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Indonesia and Turkey



## Topic 339: 5G and D10 - 5G Club

### Key Points:

1. 5G wireless technology -->
  - meant to deliver higher multi-Gbps peak data speeds
  - ultra low latency
  - more reliability
  - massive network capacity
2. 5G is based on OFDM (Orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing)
3. 5G also uses wider bandwidth technologies such as sub-6 GHz and mmWave
4. Britain is pushing the U.S. to form a club of 10 nations
5. "D10" club of democratic partners, including G7 countries – UK, US, Italy, Germany, France, Japan and Canada – plus Australia, South Korea and India













# Topic 340: Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) 2019

## Key Points:

1. Stricter measures to fight air pollution
2. GRAP was formulated in 2016 and approved by the Supreme Court in same year.
3. It was notified in 2017 by the Centre.
4. It was planned after several meetings of EPCA.
5. It works only as an emergency measure.

## HOW THE GOVT **WILL WORK TO CURB BAD AIR**

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will be put in place from today and will be in force until February-end, 2018. People would be made aware about this through mass media

CATEGORY	ACTION PLAN
 <b>Moderate to Poor</b> PM2.5—61-120 µg/m3 PM10—101-350 µg/m3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Stop garbage burning, impose heavy fines</li><li>➤ Enforce pollution regulations in all industries</li><li>➤ Do periodic mechanised road sweeping</li><li>➤ Stop plying of visibly polluting vehicles</li><li>➤ Enforce SC order on diversion, ban on crackers</li><li>➤ Ensure fly ash ponds are watered every alternate day from Mar – May</li><li>➤ Use apps to inform people and register complaints</li></ul> 
 <b>Very Poor</b> PM2.5—121-250µg/m3 PM10—351-430 µg/m3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Stop use of diesel gensets</li><li>➤ Enhance parking fee by 3-4 times</li><li>➤ Increase bus and Metro services</li><li>➤ Stop use of coal/firewood in hotels and restaurants</li><li>➤ RWAs to provide electric heaters to security staff to stop bonfires</li><li>➤ Issue media alerts and advisories</li></ul>  
 <b>Severe</b> PM2.5—250 µg/m3 PM10—430µg/m3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Close hot mix plants, stone crushers</li><li>➤ Shut down Badarpur power plant and maximise generation from natural gas-based plants</li><li>➤ Intensify public transport</li><li>➤ Mechanised cleaning of road and sprinkling of water</li></ul> 
 <b>Emergency</b> PM2.5—300µg/m3 PM10—500 µg/m3 (persist for 48 hours or more)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Stop entry of trucks except those carrying essential commodities</li><li>➤ Stop construction</li><li>➤ Introduce odd-even scheme without exemptions</li><li>➤ Task Force to decide on additional steps</li></ul>  



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 341. New CRZ Rules
- 342. Basics - CRZ
- 343. CRZ 2019 Special cases and Prohibited activities
- 344. IPZ and CRZ
- 345. Island Protection Zone 2019 Notification
- 346. IPZ - ICRZ and IIMPs
- 347. National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management
- 348. Green Credit Scheme
- 349. 'Green Good Deeds' initiative
- 350. India's first emissions trading scheme
- 351. India largest SO<sub>2</sub> emitter
- 352. Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
- 353. Visionary perspective plan (2020-2030)
- 354. Forest Owlet --> Under extinction watch
- 355. Asian Wild Buffalo
- 356. Asiatic Lion and Conservation of Gir Lions
- 357. Plan to introduce African Cheetahs from Namibia
- 358. Bandhavgarh Forest: Gets its first Elephant Colony
- 359. Asian Elephant Alliance
- 360. WWF programme Tx2



## Topic 341: New CRZ Rules (CRZ 2019 Notification)

### Key points:

CRZ-III (Rural) areas --> 2 separate categories have been stipulated

1. CRZ-IIIA category --> densely populated rural areas (population density above 2,161 per sq km)
2. CRZ-IIIB category --> rural areas with population density below 2,161 per sq km

No Development Zone (NDZ)/Buffers of tidally influenced waterbodies (water bodies influenced by tidal effects from sea in the bays, estuaries, rivers, creeks, backwaters, lagoons, ponds that are connected to the sea)	50 meters or width of the creek, whichever is less.
NDZ for CRZ-IIIA areas (sea front)	50 m
NDZ for CRZ-IIIB areas (sea front)	200 m
NDZ for inland islands in the coastal backwaters and islands along the mainland coast	20 m



## Topic 342: Basics - CRZ

### Key points:

1. CRZ I --> Includes areas which are environmentally most critical
  - CRZ-I A --> includes ESAs and the geo-morphological features
  - CRZ-I B --> intertidal zone
2. CRZ II --> includes developed land areas up to or close to the shoreline (urban areas)
3. CRZ III --> Land areas that are relatively undisturbed (viz. rural areas, etc.)
4. CRZ IV: Water Area
  - CRZ IVA: water area and the sea bed area between the LTL up to twelve nautical miles on the seaward side
  - CRZ IVB: water area and the bed area between LTL at the bank of the tidal influenced water body to the LTL on the opposite side of the bank, extending from the mouth of the water body at the sea up to the influence of tide, i.e., salinity of five parts per thousand (ppt) during the driest season of the year.



# Topic 343: CRZ 2019 Special cases and Prohibited activities

## Key points:

CRZ 2019 included areas that require special consideration in the CRZ -

1. Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCA)
2. CRZ for inland Backwater islands and islands along the mainland coast
3. CRZ falling within municipal limits of Greater Mumbai

## Prohibited activities within CRZ

1. Setting up of new industries and expansion of existing industries, operations or processes.
2. Manufacture or handling of oil, storage or disposal of hazardous substances.
3. Setting up of new fish processing units.
4. Land reclamation, bunding or disturbing the natural course of seawater.
5. Discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries, cities or towns.
6. Dumping of city or town wastes including construction debris, industrial solid wastes, fly ash etc
7. Port and harbour projects in high eroding stretches of the coast.
8. Mining of sand, rocks and other sub-strata materials.
9. Dressing or altering of active sand dunes.
10. Disposal of plastic into the coastal waters shall be prohibited
11. Drawal of ground water.

# Diluted by design

Hotels, resorts and temporary tourism facilities can now be built closer to the shore; mangroves to make way for ports, harbours

## Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011

### Index

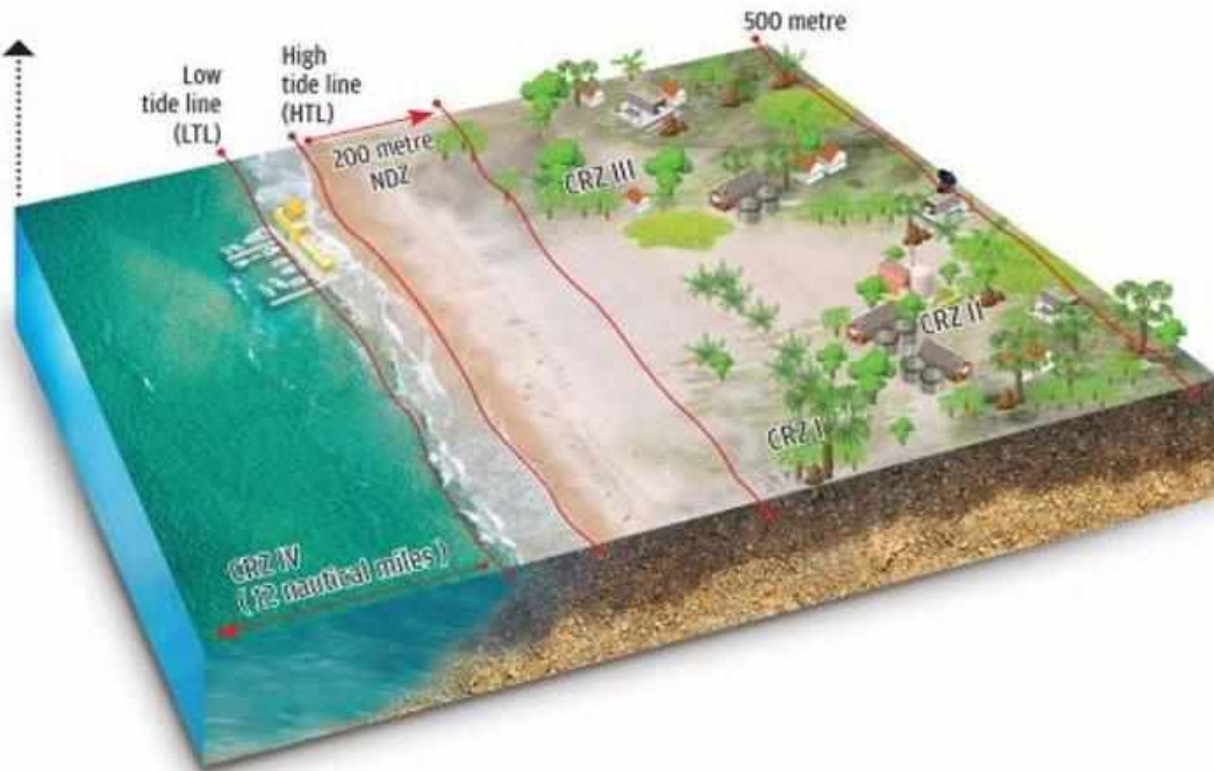
**CRZ I:** Eco-sensitive and intertidal areas

**CRZ II:** Areas which have been developed up to or close to the shore

**CRZ III:** Areas that are relatively undisturbed and do not fall under CRZ-I or CRZ-II

**CRZ IV:** Area between Low Tide Line and 12 nautical miles into the sea/ tidal influenced waterbodies

**NDZ:** No development zone that extends up to 200 m from High Tide Line towards land in CRZ-III area



## Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2018



### Index

**CRZ I A:** Eco-sensitive areas

**CRZ I B:** Inter-tidal areas

**CRZ II:** Areas which have been developed up to or close to the shore

**CRZ III A:** CRZ-III areas, where the population density is more than 2,161 per sq km as per 2011 Census

**CRZ III B:** Areas with population density of less than 2,161 per sq km, as per 2011 Census

**CRZ IV A:** 12 nautical miles from the Low Tide Line towards the sea

**CRZ IV B:** Tidal influenced waterbodies

**NDZ:** 50 metres from High Tide Line in CRZ III A areas, 200 m from HTL in CRZ-III B areas



## Topic 344: CRZ and IPZ

### Key points:

1. CRZ was enacted --> to regulate activities within 500 m of the High Tide line in coastal areas
2. Under EPA, 1986 --> CRZ regulates activities of specific areas along the entire coastline of India
3. In 2011 amendment --> IPZ and CRZ
4. Both the CRZ and the IPZ classify coastal areas into four Regulation Zones
5. IPZ notification additionally allows for smaller islands to be governed by a new framework i.e. island level management plans – IIMPs
6. Compared to the CRZ, the IPZ is more inclusive of traditional local human settlements and fishing activities, and also makes more provisions for tourism-related infrastructure development on the islands



# Topic 345: Island Protection Zone 2019 Notification

## Key points:

Island protection zone (IPZ) 2019 for Andaman and Nicobar -

1. allows eco-tourism projects 20 metres from the high tide line (HTL) in smaller islands
2. allows eco-tourism projects 50 metres from the high tide line (HTL) in larger ones
3. allows for eco-tourism activities like mangrove walks, tree huts and nature trails in island coastal regulation zone IA (classified as the most eco-sensitive region)
4. allows for construction of roads, roads on stilts by reclaiming land in exceptional cases for defence installations, public utilities or strategic purposes in eco-sensitive zones



# Topic 346: IPZ – ICRZ and IIMPs

## What are the management strategies included in the IPZ notification?

The management of the IPZ is categorised into two types, both of which have varying restrictions on the activities and industries that can be set up or operated.

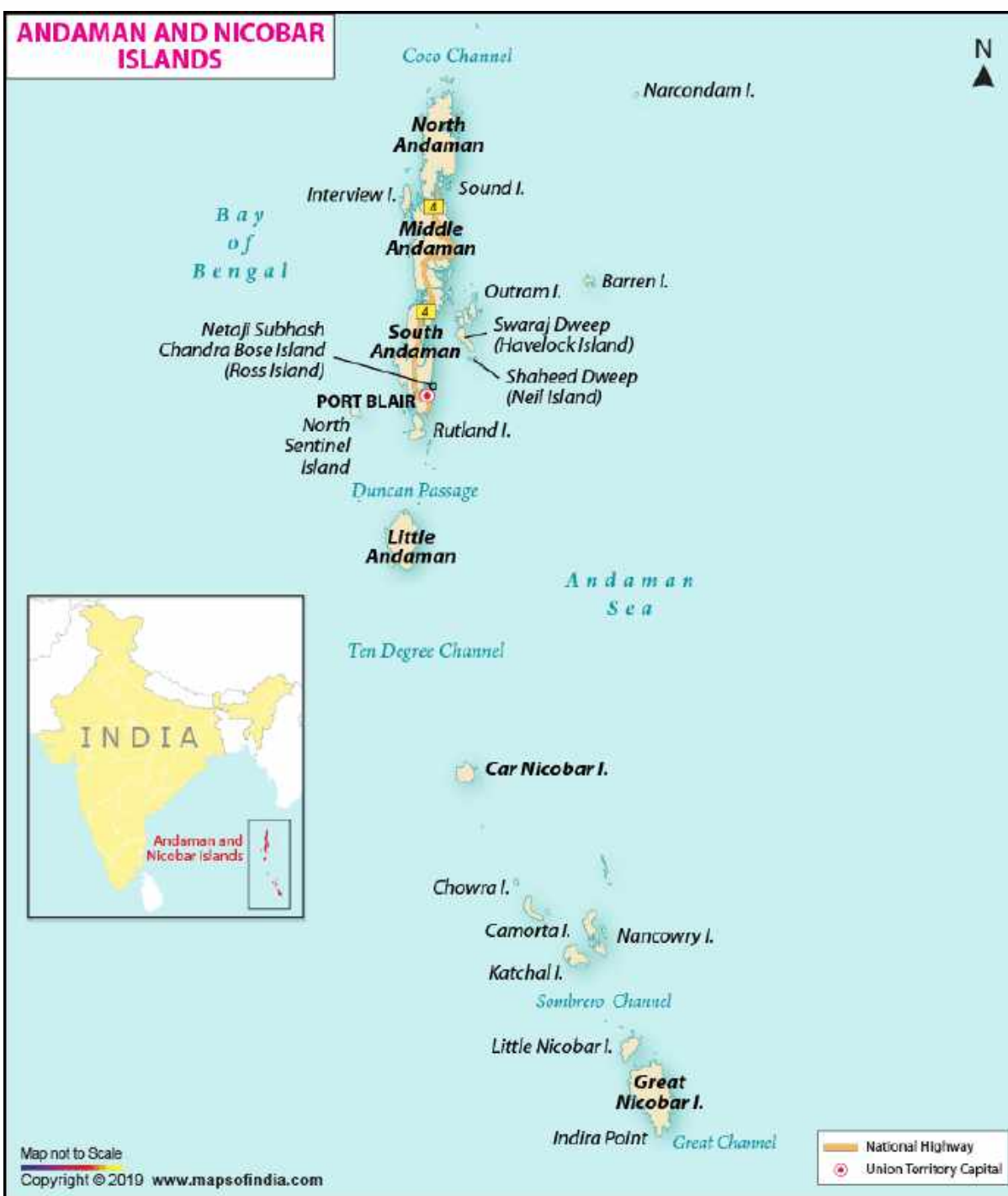
a.) Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ), comprising the coastal stretches of –

- Middle Andaman
- North Andaman
- South Andaman
- Little Andaman
- Greater Nicobar
- Car Nicobar
- Baratang
- Havelock
- Neil island
- Long island

b.) Integrated Islands Management Plans (IIMPs), applicable to –

- All other islands of Andaman and Nicobar
- All islands of Lakshadweep
- Territorial waters (12 nautical miles/22.2 km/13.8 mi from the coast) of all of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands

### ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS





# Topic 347: National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management

## Key points:

1. MoEFCC --> set up NCSCM --> to undertake studies and research in the area of Coastal Zone Management including coastal resources and environment
2. The aims and Objectives of the Center are:
  - Strive for being a World Class Knowledge Institution related to coastal zones, environment, resources and processes.
  - To promote integrated and sustainable management of the coastal and marine areas in India for the benefit and wellbeing of the traditional coastal and island communities, and
  - Advise the Union and State Governments and other associated stakeholder(s) on policy, and scientific matters related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).
3. Survey of India and NCSCM have mapped the Hazard Line for the entire coast of India
4. High Tide Line (HTL), Low Tide Line (LTL), Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs), and Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCAs) demarcated by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)
5. 'Hazard line' is demarcated by the Survey of India



## Topic 348: Green Credit Scheme

### Key points:

1. Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) --> approved Green Credit Scheme
2. Green Credit Scheme --> allows pvt agencies to identify land and grow plantations
3. Forests --> to be traded as a commodity
4. After 3yrs --> considered as compensatory forest land
5. When forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes --> Industries needing forest land can approach pvt agencies
6. Conditions set by Forest Conservation Act 1980

## Topic 349: Green Good Deeds initiative

### Key points:

1. Green Good Deeds --> societal movement --> launched by MoEFCC
2. Urges people to perform at least one Green Good Deed every day
3. BRICS Ministerial on Environment has agreed to include “Green Good Deeds” in its official agenda.



# Topic 350: India's first emissions trading scheme

## Key points:

1. Emission trading deals with making GHG emissions as a new commodity
2. Concept of cap-and-trade
3. Emissions trading (set out in Kyoto Protocol) allows countries that have emission units to spare to sell this excess capacity to countries that are over their targets. (as Carbon Credits)

## Do you know?

1. Recently, Gujarat unveiled India's first emissions trading scheme to curb air pollution.
2. Under the programme, the government sets a cap on emissions and allows industries to buy and sell permits to stay below the cap.
3. Globally, the cap-and-trade system has been used to reduce other forms of emissions such as sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) in the US.
4. But the Gujarat programme is the first in the world to regulate particulate air pollution, which is the single greatest threat to human health globally.



# Topic 351: India largest SO<sub>2</sub> emitter

## Key points:

1. Sulphur is one of the major pollutants emitted during the combustion of fossil fuels

2. India largest SO<sub>2</sub> emitter in world: Greenpeace

3. International Maritime Organisation (IMO) had set deadline that countries should launch 0.5% global sulphur cap on fuel for ships (till December 31, 2019 it allowed to use fuel oil with 3.5% sulphur)

4. Sulphur reduction will reduce Particulate Matter (PM) emissions

5. MARPOL - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships – in short maritime pollution

## Flue Gas Desulphurization (FDG)

### Sulphur cap on fuel

BS III fuel	sulphur content of 350 ppm
BS IV fuel	sulphur content of 50 ppm
BS VI fuel	sulphur content of 10 ppm



# Topic 352: Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

## Key points:

1. UNEP and WHO have established the joint initiative Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance)
2. Objective --> phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually eliminate the risks from such paint
3. Lead Paint Alliance was formed in 2011 --> set a target that by 2020 all countries should have in place national level regulatory framework
4. About Lead and sources of exposures of lead



# Topic 353: Visionary perspective plan (2020-2030)

## Key points:

1. Govt proposes 10-year comprehensive plan for conservation of birds, their habitats.
2. Multiple measures -
  - curbing illegal trade of birds
  - constant surveillance of avian disease
3. India is the third highest in bird trade
4. Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) --> focal institution
5. Main objective --> prepare a long-term perspective plan on priority areas for conservation of avian diversity, habitats, ecosystems and landscapes in the country

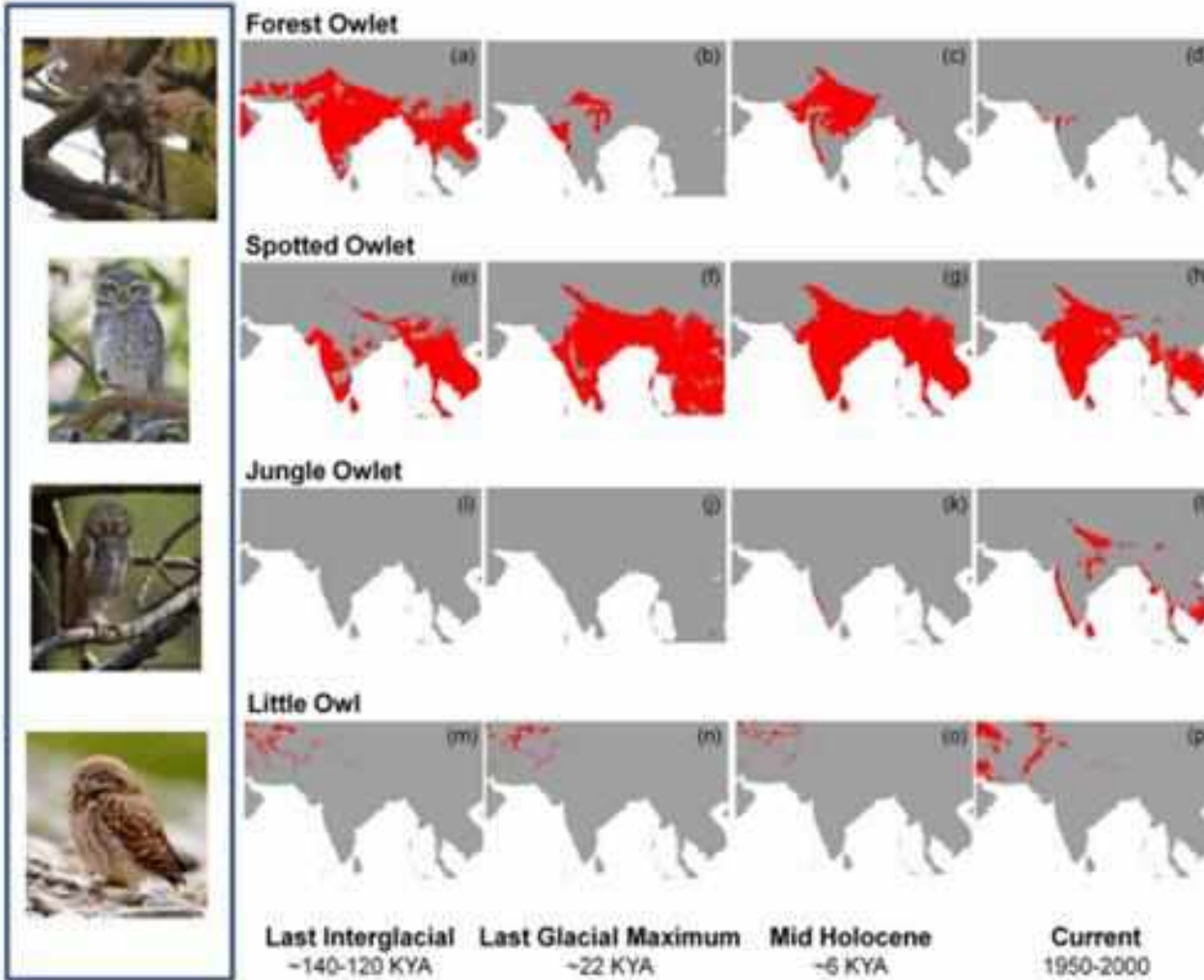


# Topic 354: Forest Owlet

## Key points:

1. Forest owl --> endemic and endangered owl of India
2. Forest Owllet --> narrowly distributed
3. Critically endangered species of Owllet is found in the shrinking forests of central India
4. Listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List since 2018, the population is estimated at less than 1,000 mature individuals.
5. The bird is diurnal (active during the day) and crepuscular (active during twilight hours).

Climatically Suitable Areas across Quaternary





# Topic 355: Asian Wild Buffalo

## Basic info:

1. Wild water buffaloes or Asiatic Wild Buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*)
2. IUCN Endangered
3. Tracts of tall grasslands and riverine forests in India and Nepal; Central India

## Important points:

1. Manas National Park in Assam
2. Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh
3. Chhattisgarh's State animal
4. CENTRAL INDIA WILD BUFFALO RECOVERY PROJECT
5. Indravati National Park, Pamed and Udanti Wildlife Sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh





# Topic 356: Asiatic Lion and Conservation of Gir Lions

## Basic info:

- IUCN Status: Endangered
- The lion is one of five pantherine cats inhabiting India, along with the Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard.
- It was also known as “Indian lion” and “Persian lion”.

## In news:

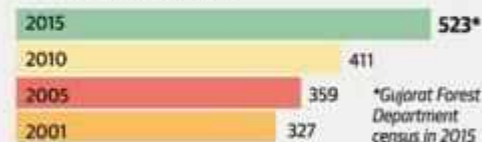
- Around 23 lions died in Gujarat’s Gir forest
- Centre and Gujarat announced ₹97.85 crore Asiatic Lion Conservation Project
- Gujarat government has envisaged a ‘Greater Gir’ that includes, other than the existing Gir National Park, sanctuaries in Girnar, Pania and Mitiyala.

Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was identified to be the most suitable for reintroducing the species.

## Saving the roar

The Centre and the Gujarat government have joined hands for the conservation of the Asiatic Lion. A look at the the present situation of lions in the State

### Total number of lions



### Key aspects of conservation project

- A dedicated veterinary institute
- More water sources
- Lion ambulances
- A GPS-based tracking system

An automated sensor grid with magnetic sensors, movement sensors and infra-red heat sensors

**Diseases they battle:** rabies, canine-distemper virus, canine parvovirus, feline immunodeficiency virus and feline leukemia virus

### Lion habitats in State

Gir Sanctuary: 1,153 sq km

Gir National Park: 258 sq km

Girnar Sanctuary: 178.80 sq km

Pania Sanctuary: 39.64 sq km

Mitiyala Sanctuary: 18.22 sq km

**Total: 1648.78 sq km**





## Topic 357: Plan to introduce African Cheetahs from Namibia

### Basic info:

1. In 2012, the plan to introduce African Cheetahs in Palpur Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was stalled by the Court.
2. Cheetah is the fastest land animal.
3. It has been classified as endangered by the IUCN; and listed under Appendix I of CITES
4. Habitat - mostly arid habitats like dry forests, scrub forests, and savannahs

## Topic 358: First Elephant Colony

1. Bandhavgarh National Park
2. Spread at Vindhya hills in Madhya Pradesh
3. It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers. (It is both NP and TR)
4. Density of the Tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India.
5. Mixed vegetation ranging from tall grasslands to thick Sal forest
6. In the 2019 census Madhya Pradesh state recorded the most number of estimated tigers at 526, thus earning the title “Tiger State”

There are six tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh — Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Satpura, Sanjay-Dubri and Pench.



## Topic 359: Asian Elephant Alliance

### Key Points:

1. Alliance to secure 96 out of the 101 existing corridors
2. Aims to raise £20 million (₹187.16 crore)
3. AEA --> umbrella of five NGOs
  - 1) Elephant Family,
  - 2) International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW),
  - 3) IUCN Netherlands,
  - 4) Wildlife Trust of India and
  - 5) World Land Trust

## Topic 360: WWF programme Tx2

### Key Points:

1. India along with 12 other tiger range countries had committed to doubling the population of tigers in their respective countries by 2022, as part of the WWF programme Tx2
2. India completed its Tx2 target 4 years earlier
3. India with 50 tiger reserves in 18 states has over 80% of the global tiger population which stands at 3,159
4. International Tiger Day is celebrated on 29 July annually to raise awareness about Tiger conservation



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 361. Mission Shakti (A-SAT missile)
- 362. Major international treaties relating to Outer Space
- 363. United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and UNISPACE+50
- 364. UN-SPIDER
- 365. Space Missions in news - NASA's Perseverance; Tianwen-1; Hope Mars Mission
- 366. Solar Orbiter Mission
- 367. SunRISE Mission
- 368. Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE) Mission
- 369. Sisir Kumar Mitra
- 370. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
- 371. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- 372. South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF)
- 373. BoBBLE: Bay of Bengal Boundary Layer Experiment
- 374. Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and CTBTO Preparatory Commission
- 375. New START Treaty and Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty
- 376. Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
- 377. Four foundational agreements
- 378. Avvaiyar
- 379. Thiruvalluvar
- 380. Dinanath Nadim



## Topic 361: Mission Shakti (A-SAT missile)

### Key points:

1. Mission Shakti --> anti-satellite missile test --> carried out by DRDO
2. A-SAT system --> successfully destroyed a live satellite in Low Earth Orbit
3. India joined exclusive group of space faring nations consisting of USA, Russia and China
4. India used the particular technology of Kinetic Kill
5. 5 known Indian satellites in LEO: India PiSat, Resourcesat 2, Radar Imaging Satellites 1 and 2 and SRMsat

### Dead wood

To India's 80, there were 4,091 pieces of debris left behind by the U.S., 4,025 by Russia and 3,524 by China

Country	Debris (in orbit)	Debris (out of orbit)
China	3,524	1,353
Russia	4,025	15,207
U.K.	1	15
U.S.	4,091	6,325
India	80	343
Japan	55	300
France	334	733



# Topic 362: Major international treaties relating to Outer Space

## Key points:

India is a party to all the major international treaties relating to Outer Space

1. 1967 Outer Space Treaty
2. Transparency and Confidence Building Measures(TCBMs); UN Space Mitigation Guidelines
3. Inter Agency Space Debris Coordination (IADC)
4. SOPA (Space Object Proximity Awareness) and COLA (Collision Avoidance)
5. UN affiliated Centre for Space and Science Technology Education in Asia and Pacific
6. UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
7. UNGA resolution 69/32 on No First Placement of Weapons on Outer Space
8. Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS)



## Topic 363: UNOOSA and UNISPACE+50

### Key points:

1. United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) --> to promote the peaceful use and exploration of space through international cooperation
2. UNOOSA --> part of the United Nations Secretariat (created in 1958)
3. Headquarters --> Vienna, Austria
4. UNISPACE+50 --> the first United Nations Global Space Summit of the 21 st Century
5. Shared goal --> to build, together with all stakeholders, a comprehensive Space2030 agenda

**Since 1968, the United Nations has held three conferences**

- ☐ UNISPACE I, Vienna, 1968
- ☐ UNISPACE II, Vienna, 1982
- ☐ UNISPACE III, Vienna, 1999



## Topic 364: UN-SPIDER

### Key points:

1. United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)
2. Estd. In 2006 under the UNOOSA
3. It develops solutions to address the limited access developing countries have to specialized technologies.
4. Mandate --> to enable developing countries to use all types of space-based information
5. UN-SPIDER created two global networks --> Regional Support Offices (RSOs) and National Focal Points (NFP).



## Topic 365: Space Missions in news

### NASA's Perseverance

- NASA launched Mars rover Perseverance to look for signs of ancient life.
- Atlas V rocket lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center with NASA's Perseverance rover on its way to Mars, on July 30, 2020.
- This is the world's third and final Mars launch during 2020 (UAE's Hope Probe and China's Tianwen-1)

Two other NASA landers are also operating on Mars — 2018's InSight and 2012's Curiosity rover.

### Tianwen-1

- China's first Mars probe
- Tianwen--> "Questions to Heaven"
- Mission --> aims to study the thickness and sub-layer distribution of the Martian soil (Martian topography and geology)
- launched on a Long March 5 rocket

### Hope Mars Mission

- The probe is also known as Al-Amal.
- It was launched on a Japanese Rocket.
- It will not land on the planet, but instead orbit it for a whole Martian year, or 687 days



# Topic 366 and 367: Solar Orbiter Mission and SunRISE Mission

## Key points: SOM

1. Sun-observing mission jointly organised by the NASA and ESA
2. 1st mission that will provide images of the sun's north and south poles
3. It can provide more insight about the sun's powerful magnetic field and how it affects Earth
4. Observations of the sun's corona (which is its atmosphere), the poles and the solar disk
5. Measures the sun's magnetic fields and solar wind

## Key points: SunRISE

1. NASA's new mission to study giant solar particle storms
2. Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SunRISE)
3. The mission will help in greater understanding of the solar system; impact of solar storms while astronauts travel to Mars or the Moon
4. SunRISE contains six CubeSats which will work together as a large radio telescope
5. Observes radio images of low-frequency emission from solar activity and create 3D maps
6. About NASA's Missions of Opportunity



## Topic 368: Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE) Mission

### Key points:

1. Japan (JAXA) and India (ISRO) will be launching this joint lunar mission
2. Aims to put a lander and rover on Moon's surface
3. Mission will be launched after 2023 --> from Japan, H3 rocket
4. Intends to obtain data on the quantity and forms of water resources present

## Topic 369: Sisir Kumar Mitra

### Key points:

1. Chandrayaan-2 took photos of various craters on the moon while it was flying over its north pole
2. Sisir Kumar Mitra --> noted Indian physicist
3. Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN), an arm of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) --> names one of the craters --> Mitra Crater
4. Mitra --> Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN), an arm of the International Astronomical Union (IAU)
5. Other Indian scientists who have their names etched on the moon is Dr Vikram Sarabhai.



# Topic 370: Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

## Key points:

1. They are a series of biennial meetings among the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region.
2. Regional forum of Indian Ocean littoral states --> represented by their Navy chiefs
3. Launched by India in February 2008
4. Objectives



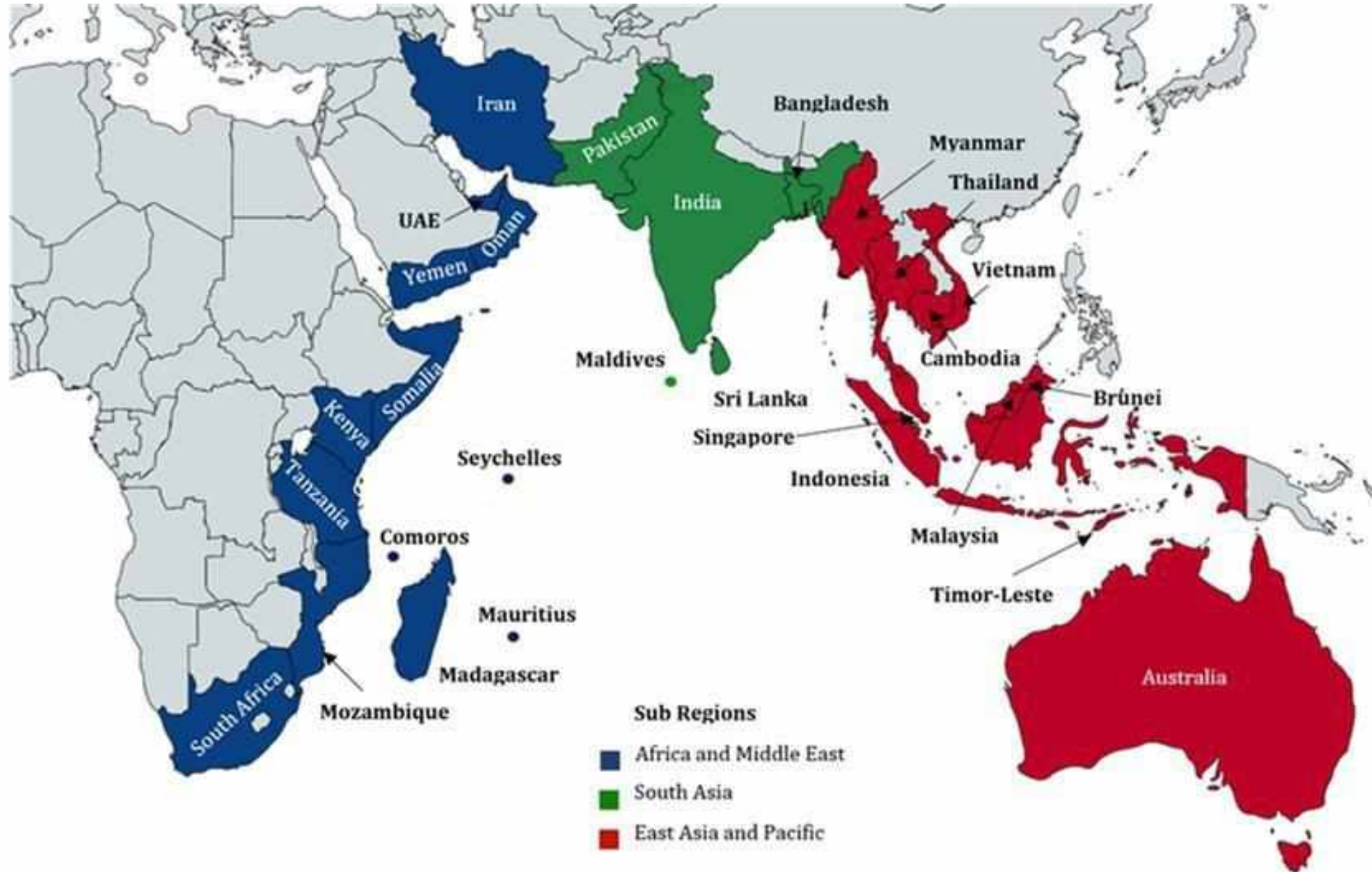


# Topic 371: Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

(19th IORA Council of Ministers meeting was held at Abu Dhabi)

## Key points:

1. Formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)
2. International organisation --> consisting of 22 coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean
3. IORA is a regional forum --> tripartite in nature
4. Based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation
5. Secretariat of IORA --> Ebene, Mauritius
6. Member States - Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, and Yemen.





# Topic 372: South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF)

## Key points:

1. It is a mechanism that allows for a more rapid response to disasters from natural and human-generated hazards.
2. Fund has been established by the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office and its 11 Member States
3. 11 member states --> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste

**The fund will be used for emergencies, whether natural or man-made, in which the following may occur:**

- Declaration of a state of emergency;
- Official request for external assistance by the national government; or
- Appointment of a humanitarian coordinator by the UN Secretary-General for that particular emergency.



## Topic 373: BoBBLE

### Key points:

1. Bay of Bengal Boundary Layer Experiment
2. Accurate prediction of monsoon, tropical cyclones and other weather related forecasts
3. Understand the role of thermodynamic surface and mixed layer processes in the monsoon
4. Understand the role of large-scale ocean structure, ocean dynamics and ocean biogeochemistry in the monsoon
5. It is a joint India-UK project



# Topic 374: Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and CTBTO Preparatory Commission

## Key points: CTBT

1. Multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions in all environments.
2. Adopted by UNGA on 10 September 1996 (but not entered into force)
3. Of the 44 listed countries, to date only 36 have ratified the treaty. China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the U.S. have signed but not ratified.
4. North Korea, India and Pakistan are the three who have not signed.
5. CTBT has therefore not entered into force and lacks legal authority.
6. The CTBT is a “zero-yield” treaty.

## Key points: CTBTO

1. International organization based in Vienna, Austria
2. Estd. by the States Signatories to the CTBT (in 1996)
3. Objective:
  - 1) to promote the entry into force of the CTBT
  - 2) to establish a global verification regime in preparation for the Treaty's entry into force

CTBTO is just an interim organization



## Topic 375: New START Treaty and INF Treaty

### Key points:

1. New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)
2. Between US and Russian Federation
3. Was signed in 2010 and set to expire in 2021
4. The treaty has no Constraints on Missile Defense and Conventional Strike

### Key points:

1. Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty
2. Between US and Russian Federation
3. Came into force on 1988
4. Crucial Cold War-era treaty --> bans development, testing and possession of short and medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles with a range of 500-5,000 km.



## Topic 376: Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)

### Key points:

1. It is a group of nuclear supplier countries --> seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons
2. NSG Guidelines contains “Non-Proliferation Principle” (which was adopted in 1994)
3. Transfer should not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons
4. However, adherence to the NPT or to a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty may not by itself be a guarantee
5. NSG Guidelines implemented by each Participating Government (PG) in accordance with its national laws and practices
6. Why NSG is important?



## Topic 377: Four foundational agreements

### Key points:

1. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
  - provides a legal basis for the U.S. to transfer secure communication equipment to India
  - Increase military equipment interoperability and real time data sharing
2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
  - allows Indian and US defence forces to use each other's facilities
  - establish procedures of easier access to supplies and services
3. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA)
  - will allow India to use US expertise on geospatial intelligence
  - enhance military accuracy of automated hardware systems and weapons
4. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)

# Topic 378: Avvaiyar

## Key points:

1. Avvaiyar translates to “Respected Woman”
2. Avvaiyar was a Tamil saint-poet --> best known for Athichudi
3. FM invoked Avvaiyar by saying “Bhoomi Thiruthi Un” (‘Tend to your land, do not be excessive and then reap your harvest’)."
4. FM quoted --> Aaathichoodi's verse 81 which translate to “first tend to till one's land and then eat. One must eat only after work.”
5. There's isn't much concrete evidence on her life; she's believed to have lived in the 3rd century BCE.





# Topic 379: Thiruvalluvar

## Key points:

1. He is fondly referred to as Valluvar by Tamils.
2. His 'Tirukkural', a collection of 1,330 couplets ('kurals' in Tamil), are an essential part of every Tamil household.
3. He is an essential anchor for Tamils in tracing their cultural roots
4. FM cited Thiruvalluvar's Tirukkural to explain the "five Jewels of a good country" that are health, wealth, good agriculture produce, happiness and national security.
5. "Pini Inmai Selvam Vilaivu Inbam Emam Ani Enba"





# Topic 380: Dinanath Nadim

## Key points:

1. Kashmiri nationalist poet Dinanath Nadim (1916-1988)
2. He inspired a powerful tradition of Kashmiri poetry
3. He was inspired by Lal Ded, or Lalla and was at the centre of Kashmir's progressive movement
4. Nadim received the Sahitya Akademi award in 1987 --> for his opera Shuhul Kull (The Shady Tree)
5. Well known works - Vitasta (Jhelum River), Safar Taa Shehjaar (The Journey And The Shade), Heemaal Taa Naaegrai (Heemaal and Naagraaj), and Bombur Taa Yamberzal (The Bumble Bee And The Narcissus Flower)
6. Myon Vatan (My Motherland) --> used in budget





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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 381. Kalidas
- 382. 150th Birth Anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore
- 383. Vikram Sarabhai (1919-1971)
- 384. Poona pact
- 385. The centenary of the Anglo-Kuki War was celebrated
- 386. 'AIM-iCREST'
- 387. STRIVE
- 388. SANKALP
- 389. SHREYAS
- 390. SAMADHAN
- 391. National Electronics Policy 2019
- 392. Ayushman Bharat Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
- 393. National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)
- 394. Asteroid Impact and Deflection Assessment (AIDA)
- 395. Ceres
- 396. Betelgeuse
- 397. Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT)
- 398. MODIS
- 399. ANtarctic Impulsive Transient Antenna or ANITA
- 400. Project Cosmic Microwave Background-Bharat

# Topic 381: Kalidas

## Key points:

1. He was a legendary Sanskrit scholar
2. He is believed to have lived during the middle of the 4th and early 5th centuries AD, during the reigns of Chandragupta II Vikramaditya and Kumaragupta
3. Raghuvamsa, from which FM quoted, is one of two long epic poems written by Kalidas

She mentioned the 18th verse: *“Surya, the Sun, collects vapour from little drops of water. So does the King. They give back copiously. They collect only for people’s wellbeing.”*

His plays and poetry are primarily based on the Vedas, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Puranas.





## Topic 382: 150th Birth Anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore

**Key points:** Abanindranath Tagore (1871-1951)

1. He was the principal artist and creator of the "Indian Society of Oriental Art"
2. He was also the first major exponent of Swadeshi values in Indian art
3. He is known to have founded the Bengal School of Art or Neo-Bengal School
4. He was also a noted writer, particularly for children.
5. Popularly known as 'Aban Thakur' --> his books Rajkahini, Budo Angla, Nalak, and Khirer Putul were landmarks in Bengali language children's literature and art.
6. He sought to modernise Mughal and Rajput styles to counter the influence of Western models of art
7. He was the nephew of Rabindranath Tagore



## Topic 383: 100th Birth Anniversary of Vikram Sarabhai

**Key points:** Vikram Sarabhai (1919-1971)

1. Dr. Sarabhai was considered as the Father of the Indian space program.
2. He was instrumental in establishing the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad.
3. He was also Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.
4. Establishment of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
5. Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) was launched during July 1975 - July 1976

**Some of the most well-known institutions established by Dr. Sarabhai are:**

1. Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad
2. Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad
3. Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad
4. Darpan Academy for Performing Arts, Ahmedabad (along with his wife)
5. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram
6. Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad (This institution came into existence after merging six institutions/centres established by Sarabhai)
7. Faster Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), Kalpakkam
8. Variable Energy Cyclotron Project, Calcutta
9. Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad
10. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jaduguda, Bihar



## Topic 384: Poona Pact

### Key points:

1. Poona Pact of 1932 is a landmark event in India's struggle for independence
2. Poona pact refers to an agreement between B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi (on the reservation of electoral seats for the depressed classes)
3. The background to the Poona Pact was the Communal Award of August 1932
4. In a settlement negotiated with Gandhi, Ambedkar agreed for depressed class candidates to be elected by a joint electorate.
5. Poona Pact was an emphatic acceptance by upper-class Hindus that the depressed classes constituted the most discriminated sections of Hindu society.
6. It was signed by Ambedkar and Madan Mohan Malviya



## Topic 385: 100 yrs of Anglo-Kuki War (1917-1919)

### Key points:

1. Before the British came in --> Kukis had been dominant tribes of hill areas surrounding Manipur (Kukis exercised full control over their territory)
2. Anglo-Kuki War was essentially a war for the independence and liberation of the Kukis from the imperialists
3. The war had unified the efforts of Kukis living in northeast India, Myanmar and Bangladesh
4. Anglo-Kuki War began when the Britishers asked the Kukis to get enrolled in their labour corps in France and the latter resisted



## Topic 386: 'AIM-iCREST'

### Key points:

1. Atal Innovation Mission launched 'AIM-iCREST'
2. AIM iCREST – an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focuses on creating high performing Startups
3. About AIM iCREST
  - Designed to enable incubation ecosystem
  - AIM's incubators are set to be upscaled and provided requisite support
  - providing training to entrepreneurs
4. About Atal Innovation Mission



# Topic 387 and 388: STRIVE Project and SANKALP

## Key points: STRIVE Project

1. Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation Project
2. Objective -
  - to improve access to quality and market-driven vocational training provided in ITIs and apprenticeships
3. World Bank has committed USD 125 million (around Rs 800 crore) loan to India for the STRIVE project for skill development
4. MSDE

## Key points: SANKALP

1. SANKALP: Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion
2. Objective
  - project to reform the skill development landscape,
  - strengthen institutions at Central and State levels,
  - enable greater decentralization of skill development governance, and
  - improve industry connect of skill development programs
3. World Bank committed USD 250 million loan to India for SANKALP (total \$500 million project)



## Topic 389: SHREYAS

### Key points:

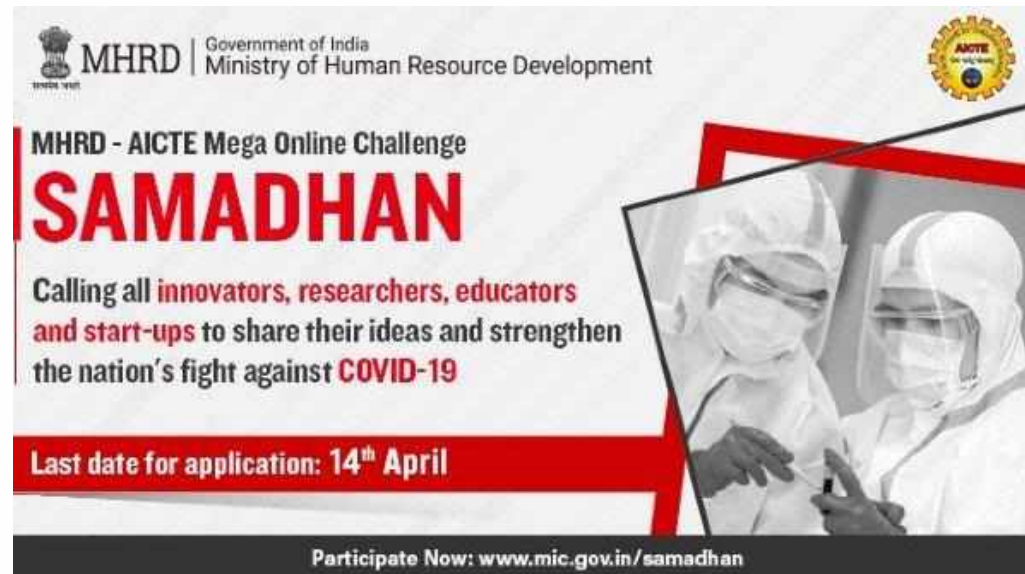
1. SHREYAS : : Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills
2. SHREYAS --> to provide industry apprenticeship opportunities through National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS) --> Target: Cover over 50 lakh students by 2022
3. It comprises of the initiatives of three Central Ministries --> MoE; MSDE and MoLE
4. The programme is conceived for students in degree courses --> primarily non-technical
5. About NAPS
  - provides for placing of apprentices upto 10% of the total work force
  - implemented by the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs)
  - Reimbursement of 25% of prescribed stipend
  - Reimbursement of cost of basic training



## Topic 390: SAMADHAN

### Key points:

1. Innovation Cell of the MoE has launched an online challenge 'Samadhan' to invite ideas and innovations that can help fight against the novel coronavirus.
2. Launched in collaboration MoE and AICTE with Forge and InnovatioCuris





# Topic 391: National Electronics Policy 2019

## Key points:

1. NEP 2019 --> aims to position India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing – (ESDM)
2. Salient Features of NPE 2019
  - Create eco-system for globally competitive ESDM sector
  - Provide incentives and support for manufacturing of core electronic components
  - Provide special package of incentives for mega projects which are extremely high-tech and entail huge investments
  - Formulate suitable schemes and incentive mechanisms to encourage new units and expansion of existing units.
  - Promote Industry-led R&D and innovation
  - Special thrust on Fabless Chip Design Industry, Medical Electronic Devices Industry, Automotive Electronics Industry and Power Electronics for Mobility and Strategic Electronics Industry
  - Create Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF) to promote the development and acquisition of IPs in ESDM sector.
  - Promote trusted electronics value chain initiatives to improve national cyber security profile



## Topic 392: Ayushman Bharat Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

### Key points:

- Ayushman Bharat has labelled as the largest health scheme in the world --> benefiting over 10 lakh patients
- PMJAY would be the world's largest government funded healthcare program --> targeting more than 50 crore beneficiaries
- PMJAY primarily targets the poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban workers' families as per the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data for both rural and urban areas.
- PMJAY will be an entitlement based scheme where it will be decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database.



# Topic 392: Ayushman Bharat Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

## Features:

1. Creates a network of health and wellness infrastructure network of health and wellness infrastructure (Government aims to open 5 lakh health and wellness centre by 2022)
2. Beneficiaries of health insurance --> to include 50 crore economically weak citizens (SECC 2011)
3. Covers both rural and urban
4. Ayushman Bharat Scheme --> subsumed both Rashtriya Sawasthya Bima Yojna and Senior Citizens Health Insurance Scheme
5. It will provide a benefit cover of Rs 5 lakh/year/family
6. Expenses incurred will be shared between Centre and States in 60:40 ratio
7. Ayushman Bharat will take care of secondary care and tertiary care procedures and also cover pre and post-hospitalisation expenses
8. Cashless benefits will be allowed from any public or private empanelled hospitals ('Ayushman Mitra')
9. Benefits can be availed from any place in India and no hospital can refuse treatment
10. Scheme is principle based rather than rule based
11. National Health Authority (NHA) has been set up



## Topic 393: National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)

### Key points:

1. PM announced NDHM on 74th Independence Day
2. NDHM has four key features — health ID, personal health records, Digi Doctor and health facility registry
3. Later to include e-pharmacy and telemedicine services
4. NDHM is implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
5. National health ID will be a repository of all health-related information of every Indian



# Topic 394: Asteroid Impact and Deflection Assessment (AIDA)

## Key points:

1. AIDA mission is a proposed pair of space probes --> it includes NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission and the European Space Agency's (ESA) Hera.
2. AIDA will study and demonstrate the kinetic effects of crashing an impactor spacecraft into an asteroid moon.
3. The mission's target is Didymos, a binary near-Earth asteroid, one of whose bodies is of the size that could pose the most likely significant threat to Earth.
4. NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object Study (CNEOS) determines the times and distances of these objects as and when their approach to the Earth is close
5. Know the difference between Asteroids and Comets



## Topic 395: CERES

### Key points:

1. It is a dwarf planet.
2. It lies in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and is also the largest object in that belt.
3. It is the first dwarf planet to be orbited by a spacecraft.
4. Ceres now has the status of an “ocean world”, after scientists analysed data collected by NASA’s Dawn spacecraft.
5. There are other dwarf planets and moons in our solar system where oceans exist, including the moons of Saturn and Jupiter.
6. There are officially five dwarf planets in our Solar System. The most famous is Pluto and others are Eris, Makemake, Haumea and Ceres.



## Topic 396: Betelgeuse

### Key points:

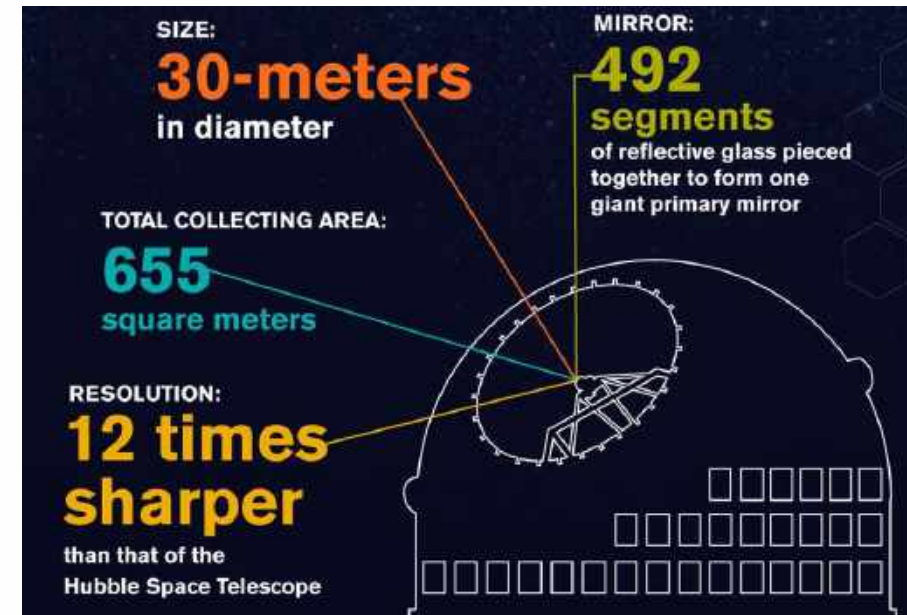
1. Mysterious dimming of Betelgeuse
2. Betelgeuse is one of the largest stars visible to the naked eye.
3. It is a red supergiant star (over 20 times bigger than the Sun) in the constellation Orion.
4. If it was at the center of our Solar System, its surface would lie beyond the asteroid belt and it would engulf the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, and possibly Jupiter.
5. Betelgeuse, which is about 725 light-years away, is an ageing, red supergiant star that has swelled in size due to complex, evolving changes in its nuclear fusion furnace at the core.



# Topic 397: Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT)

## Key points:

1. TMT is a new class of extremely large telescopes (EMT) --> see deeper into space and observe cosmic objects with unprecedented sensitivity
2. With its 30 m prime mirror diameter, TMT will be three times as wide, with nine times more area, than the largest currently existing visible-light telescope in the world.
3. This will provide unparalleled resolution with TMT images more than 12 times sharper than those from the Hubble Space Telescope.
4. It is an international project being funded by scientific organisations of Canada, China, India, Japan and USA.
5. The TMT is designed for near-ultraviolet to mid-infrared observations, featuring adaptive optics to assist in correcting image blur.
6. About TMT International Observatory LLC (TIO)





## Topic 398: MODIS

### Key points:

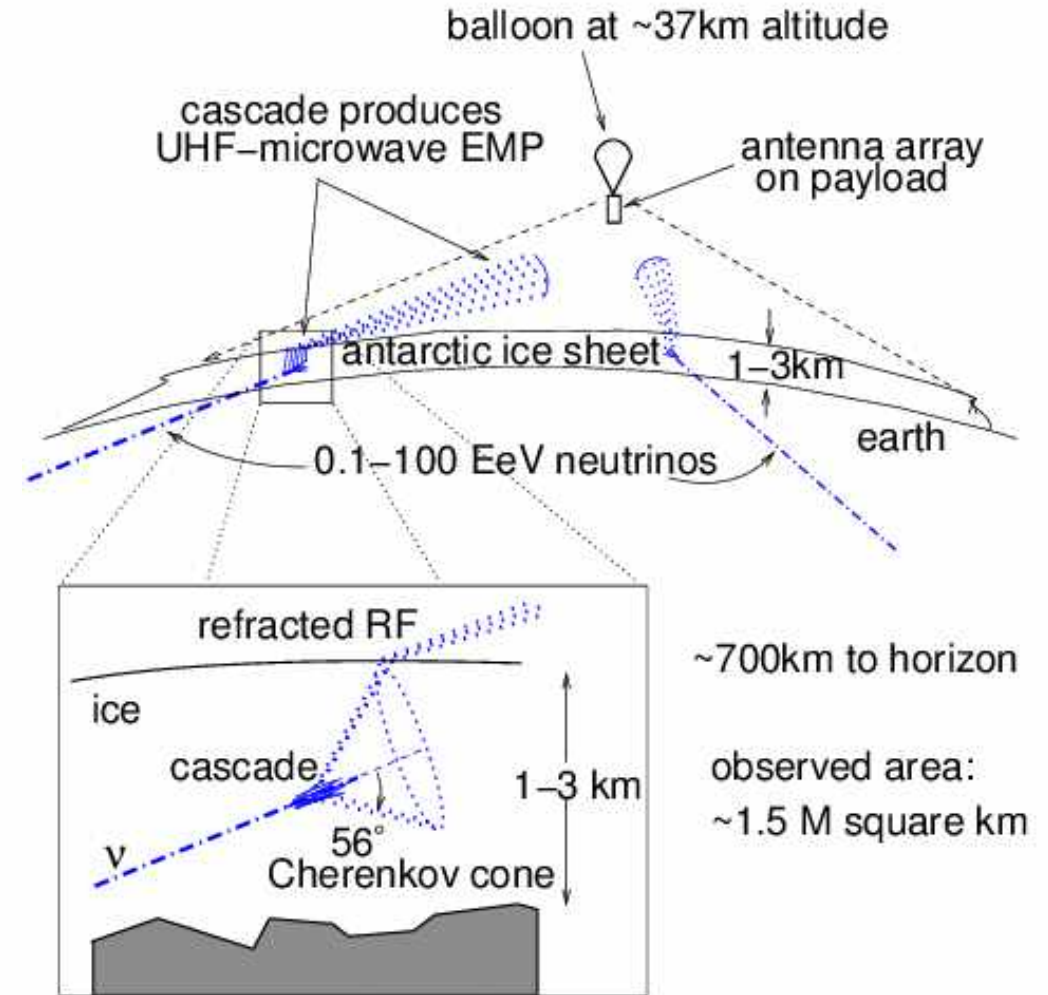
1. Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer --> key instrument aboard the Terra and Aqua
2. Terra --> passes from north to south across the equator in the morning
3. Aqua --> passes south to north over the equator in the afternoon
4. Terra MODIS and Aqua MODIS are viewing the entire Earth's surface every 1 to 2 days
5. Helps to understand global dynamics and processes occurring on the land, in the oceans, and in the lower atmosphere
6. It is managed by the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA)



# Topic 399: ANtarctic Impulsive Transient Antenna or ANITA

## Key points:

1. ANITA --> an experiment maintained by researchers at NASA
2. It is a stratospheric balloon payload flying over the Antarctic.
3. This balloon was designed to detect cosmic-ray air showers through radio-wave signals.
4. ANITA detects neutrinos pinging in from space and colliding with matter in the Antarctic ice sheet.
5. About Askaryan Effect





# Topic 400: Project Cosmic Microwave Background-Bharat

## Key points:

1. It is a proposal for comprehensive next generation Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) mission
2. It would help listen to the faintest murmurs of the early universe
3. It is proposed as an international collaboration mission with major Indian contribution
4. It proposes near-ultimate survey polarisation
5. It is a space-based mission to observe the anisotropies as well as the spectral distortions in the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)
6. Cosmic microwave background (CMB) is radiation leftover from the time the first atoms formed in the universe after the Big Bang
7. CMB is made up of electric and magnetic fields --> hence, other major feature of the CMB apart from its temperature is its polarisation.



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 401. 'Arogyapacha' or 'Miracle Plant'
- 402. *Jatropha curcas*
- 403. *Carissa kopilii*: A new Plant Species found in Assam
- 404. Bladderworts or *Utricularia kamarudeenii* and *Myristica* swamps
- 405. Important forests in news - *Salix* swamp forest; Gondwana Rainforests; Kelp forests; Miyawaki forest
- 406. Brazzaville Declaration and Global Peatlands Initiative
- 407. UNESCO Global Geopark Network status
- 408. Essential Commodities Act
- 409. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)
- 410. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)
- 411. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanrakshAn Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA)
- 412. Price Support Scheme (PSS)
- 413. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
- 414. Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)
- 415. Quant Funds
- 416. Ways and Means Advance (WMA)
- 417. National Mineral Policy 2019
- 418. Asiatic golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*)
- 419. Golden langur breeding project
- 420. Conservation efforts to revive gharial population



## Topic 401: 'Arogyapacha' or 'Miracle Plant'

### Key points:

1. Scientists decode genome of this 'miracle plant'
2. Endemic to the Agastya hills
3. Utility: Traditional use by the Kani tribal community (Medicinal properties)
4. Kani is a tribe living in the Western Ghats area of Kerala



## Topic 402: *Jatropha curcas*

### Key points:

1. Biofuel --> using blend of *Jatropha* oil
2. Bio-jet fuel technology --> was first developed by Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) under CSIR
3. *Jatropha curcas* is a plant of Latin American origin
4. Now widespread throughout arid and semi arid tropical regions of the world
5. *Jatropha* seeds contain about 35% of non-edible oil
6. Utility of *Jatropha*



## Topic 403: *Carissa kopilii*

### Key points:

1. *Carissa kopilii*: A new Plant Species found in Assam
2. Wilder variety of the more familiar *Carissa carandas*
3. Distributed sparsely along the Kopili riverbed at altitudes ranging from 85-600 metres above sea level
4. About Kopili River
5. *Carissa carandas*



# Topic 404: Bladderworts or *Utricularia kamarudeenii* and *Myristica* swamps

## Key points:

1. *Utricularia* --> carnivorous plants
2. New species of *Utricularia* --> *Utricularia kamarudeenii* a.k.a bladderworts
3. It was found in Kerala

## Biodiversity-rich *Myristica* swamps

1. They are a type of tropical freshwater swamp forest
2. About *Myristica* trees
3. Endemic to Western ghats



## Topic 405: Important forests in news

### Key points:

1. Salix swamp forest
2. Gondwana Rainforests
3. Kelp forests
4. Miyawaki forest



# Topic 406: Brazzaville Declaration and Global Peatlands Initiative

## Key points:

1. Brazzaville declaration --> to conserve world's largest tropical peatlands
2. Jointly signed by DRC, Congo and Indonesia

## About Global Peatlands Initiative

1. Tropical peatlands --> world's largest terrestrial organic carbon stock
2. Multipartner UNEP initiative --> launched at the Global Landscapes Forum in Marrakesh in 2016
3. About Peat and peatland ecosystem



# Topic 407: UNESCO Global Geopark Network status

## Key points:

1. About UNESCO Global Geoparks
2. Currently, there are 140 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 38 countries
3. As of now, no Geopark in India
4. Set of criteria
5. About Global Geoparks Network (GGN)
6. About Lunar Lake
7. About St. Mary's island and Malpe beach



## Topic 408: Essential Commodities Act

### Key points:

1. It was enacted by Parliament in 1955
2. Regulation and control of production, distribution and pricing
3. Aim --> Maintaining/increasing supplies/securing equitable distribution and availability of these commodities at fair prices; prevent hoarding; timely delivery
4. Centre is empowered to include items to the list
5. States are the implementing agencies
6. No specific definition of essential commodities



# Topic 409: Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

## Key points:

1. Price support mechanism --> implemented on the request of State Governments
2. Main focus -->
  - procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of a fall in market prices
  - protect the growers of these horticultural/agricultural commodities from making distress sale
3. Criteria --> at least 10% increase in production or 10% decrease in the ruling rates over the previous normal year
4. Difference between MIS and MSP based procurement mechanism
5. It is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
6. With MIS guidelines, a pre-determined quantity at a fixed Market Intervention Price (MIP) is procured by NAFED
7. The area of operation is restricted to the concerned state only



# Topic 410: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)

## Key points:

1. Apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce
2. Under Ministry of Agriculture
3. Founded on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 1958
4. It is registered under Multi State Co-operative Societies Act
5. NAFED is the nodal agency to implement price stabilization measures under "Operation Greens"
6. NAFED along with FCI with proactive role of state governments also physically procures oilseeds, pulses and copra under the Price Support Scheme (PSS)



## Topic 411: Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan” (PM-AASHA)

### Key points:

1. Umbrella Scheme “Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan’
2. It ensures that farmers growing oilseeds, pulses and copra actually get the minimum support price (MSP) they are promised for their crops every year.
3. Components of PM-AASHA
  - Price Support Scheme (PSS),
  - Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
  - Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)



## Topic 412: Price Support Scheme (PSS)

### Key points:

1. Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies with proactive role of State governments.
2. In addition to NAFED, FCI will also take up PSS operations in states /districts.
3. Procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement will be borne by Central Government as per norms.



## Topic 413: Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)

### Key points:

1. It is proposed to cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified
2. In this direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling/modal price will be made to pre-registered farmers
3. All payment will be done directly into registered bank account
4. This scheme does not involve any physical procurement of crops
5. The support of central government for PDPS will be given as per norms



## Topic 414: Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)

### Key points:

1. It has been decided that for oilseeds, states have the option to roll out Private Procurement Stockist Scheme (PPSS)
2. District or concerned APMCs will cover one or more crop of oilseeds for which MSP is notified
3. Involves physical procurement of the notified commodity



## Topic 415: Quant Funds

### Key points:

1. Investment decision or the stock selection is done according to predetermined rules based on a statistical or mathematical model
2. Quant funds rely on an automated program to make these decisions
3. Difference between quant fund and index fund manager
4. Example - DSP Mutual Fund; Reliance Quant fund



## Topic 416: Ways and Means Advance (WMA)

### Key points:

1. It is a facility for both the Centre and states to borrow from the RBI
2. Aim --> to meet temporary mismatches between revenue and expenditure
3. Section 17(5) of the RBI Act, 1934 authorises the central bank to lend to the Centre and state governments
4. The government has to pay an interest rate equal to the repo rate, while the tenure is three months
5. Limits for WMA are mutually decided by the RBI and the Gol
6. Types of Ways and Means Advance



# Topic 417: National Mineral Policy 2019

## Key points:

### Salient Features of NMP 2019

1. Introduction of Right of First Refusal for RP/PL holders, (There are three kinds of mineral concessions, viz Reconnaissance Permit (RP), Prospecting License (PL) and Mining Lease (ML))
2. Encouraging the private sector to take up exploration
3. Auctioning in virgin areas for composite RP cum PL cum ML on revenue share basis,
4. Encouragement of merger and acquisition of mining entities and transfer of mining leases and creation of dedicated mineral corridors to boost private sector mining areas.
5. The 2019 Policy proposes to grant status of industry to mining activity to boost financing of mining for private sector and for acquisitions of mineral assets in other countries by private sector
6. It also mentions that Long term import export policy for mineral will help private sector in better planning and stability in business



## Topic 418: Asiatic golden cat

### Key points:

1. Asiatic golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*)
2. IUCN --> Near threatened
3. Habitat --> It is found across eastern Nepal through north-eastern India to Indonesia
4. They are found at different habitats at different elevations — from wet tropical lowland forests to alpine scrubs

### Why in news?

- Indian scientists discovered six colour morphs of the golden cat in Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.

### Additional info:

1. About Dibang River
2. About Colour morphs and being melanistic
3. About polymorphism and alternative phenotypes
4. About sexual dimorphism



# Topic 419: Golden langur breeding project

## Key points:

1. Golden Langur Conservation Breeding Programme --> Assam
2. IUCN Status --> Endangered
3. It is endemic to western Assam and southern Bhutan
4. Chakrashila WLS in Assam



## Topic 420: Conservation efforts to revive gharial population

### Key points:

1. Five gharials, were bred at the Nandankanan Zoological Park, Odisha and released into the Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi — the southernmost limit of gharials' home range in India.
2. Odisha is the only State in India having all three species — gharial, mugger and saltwater crocodile
3. Critically endangered; CITES Appendix I
4. It is native to sandy freshwater river banks in the plains of the northern part of the Indian subcontinent.
5. Beas Conservation Reserve



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 421. Cobweb Phenomenon
- 422. Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh
- 423. POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission - NNM)
- 424. The Eat Right India movement and RUCO initiative
- 425. Krishi Megh
- 426. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Kisan Rail
- 427. New Agri Project- “Green Ag.”
- 428. Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)
- 429. Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana
- 430. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)
- 431. Feni river: MoU between India, Bangladesh
- 432. Mullaperiyar Dam and Tungabhadra River
- 433. Lipulekh Pass, Kalapani territory and Pancheshwar project
- 434. Araku Valley and Arakunomics
- 435. Electoral Bond
- 436. Rajya Sabha elections
- 437. RS Elections - Recent SC rulings and Concept of ‘open ballot’ system
- 438. Concept of ‘Cross Voting’ and Secret Ballot
- 439. Tendered vote and D Voter
- 440. Postal voting facility



# Topic 421: Cobweb Phenomenon

## Key points:

1. Deals with crashes in prices especially when there is abundance of production
2. About Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) --> already covered
3. Agricultural economists have traced the reasons for the glut and the resultant price crash to the “cobweb phenomenon”



## Topic 422: Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh

### Key points:

1. MoWCD + Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) --> announced the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK)
2. Main aim of the scheme --> tackle the problem of malnutrition in India
3. 2 components under Bhartiya Poshan Krishi Kosh"
4. About Agro-Food Atlas
5. BPKK --> provide insights on traditional crop varieties & encourage them in a particular region to promote dietary diversity
6. NITI Aayog --> to monitor and evaluate National Nutrition Mission



## Topic 423: POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission - NNM)

### Key points:

1. It was launched in 2018 --> to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight babies and improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers
2. Launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development
3. Targets fixed under NNM
  - 1) reduce stunting by 2% p.a.
  - 2) reduce under-nutrition by 2% p.a.
  - 3) reduce anemia by 3% p.a.
  - 4) reduce low birth weight by 2% p.a.
4. NNM also strives to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022)
5. Monitoring is done under POSHAN Abhiyaan through ICDS-CAS



# Topic 424: Eat Right India movement and RUCO initiative

## Key points: Eat Right India Movement

1. FSSAI launched the movement
2. To improve public health in India and combat negative nutritional trends to fight lifestyle diseases
3. Three major pillars
  - 1) Eat Safe
  - 2) Eat Health and
  - 3) Eat Sustainably for the programme

FSSAI prescribed limit for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) = 25% in cooking oil

## Key points: RUCO initiative

1. FSSAI launched the initiative in 2019
2. To collect and convert used cooking oil to bio-diesel
3. 64 companies in 101 locations across the country --> identified under RUCO
4. By 2020 --> recover about 220 crore litres



## Topic 425: Krishi Megh

### Key points:

1. Launched by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (Krishi Megh --> set up in Hyderabad)
2. Krishi Megh --> National Agricultural Research & Education System -Cloud Infrastructure and Services
3. Protects the precious data of the government's premier research body ICAR
4. Set up under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) --> funded by both govt + WB
5. About NAHEP



## Topic 426: Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Kisan Rail

### Key points: KVKs

1. KVK is an integral part of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS)
2. KVKs have been functioning as Knowledge and Resource Centre of agricultural technology
3. KVK is 100% funded by the Government of India
4. First KVK was established in 1974 at Puducherry

### Key points: Kisan Rail

1. 1st such train will run weekly between Devlali (Maharashtra) to Danapur (Bihar)
2. Helps transportation of perishable agricultural produce
3. Train with frozen containers is expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain
4. Goal of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022
5. Public-private-partnership (PPP) mode



## Topic 427: New Agri Project- “Green Ag.”

### Key points:

1. “Green Ag.” --> GEF assisted project in collaboration with FAO
2. It will help in transforming Indian Agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes
3. Aim of the project
4. Started in high-conservation-value landscapes of five States -
  - 1) Madhya Pradesh: Chambal Landscape,
  - 2) Mizoram: Dampa Landscape,
  - 3) Odisha: Similipal Landscape,
  - 4) Rajasthan: Desert National Park Landscape and
  - 5) Uttarakhand: Corbett



## Topic 428: Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)

### Key points:

1. It was launched by PM at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
2. PM-KMY is a Central Sector Scheme
3. Administered by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, MoAFW
4. LIC will be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out
5. PM-KMY --> assured monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- to all land holding Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) on their attaining the age of 60 years

**Eligibility:** All Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in all States and Union Territories of the country (between 18-60 years)

**Exclusion criteria** - SMFs covered under any others social security schemes



# Topic 429: Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana

## Key points:

1. Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing MKSP
2. Aim --> to empower women in agriculture
3. More than 80% of rural women are engaged in agriculture activities for their livelihoods
4. MKSP --> a sub component of the Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-NRLM (DAY-NRLM)
5. Objective of the mission --> strengthen smallholder agriculture through promotion of sustainable agriculture practices



# Topic 430: Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)

## Key points:

1. It is a method of chemical-free agriculture drawing from traditional Indian practices.
2. Focus --> To reduce input cost
3. Intercropping with leguminous crops is one of the components of ZBNF
4. It promotes soil aeration, minimal watering, intercropping, bunds and topsoil mulching and discourages intensive irrigation and deep ploughing.
5. It was developed by Subhash Palekar --> as an alternative to the Green Revolution's methods

## Components of ZBNF

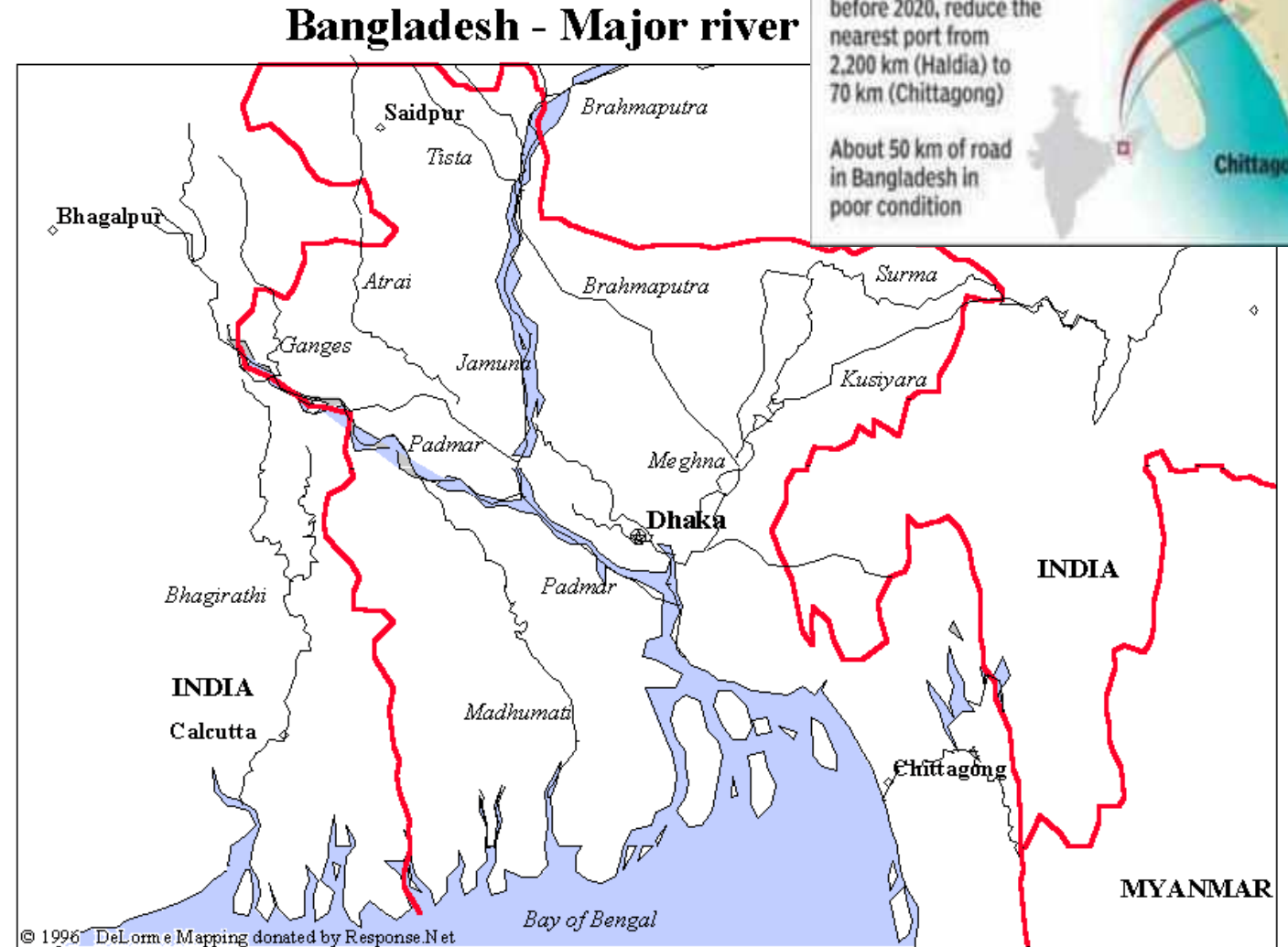
1. **Jeevamrutha:** It is a fermented microbial culture that uses urine and dung from an indigenous cow breed and paste of green gram to rejuvenate the soil to provide micro-nutrients to crops.
2. **Bijamrita:** It is a treatment used for seeds, seedlings or any planting material.
3. **Acchadana:** It promotes mulching and soil aeration for favourable soil conditions.
4. **Whapasa:** It provides moisture to the soil.



## Topic 431: Feni river

### Key points:

1. Feni river --> forms part of the India-Bangladesh border
2. Originates in the South Tripura district --> passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side --> and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh
3. Other rivers --> Teesta, Meghna



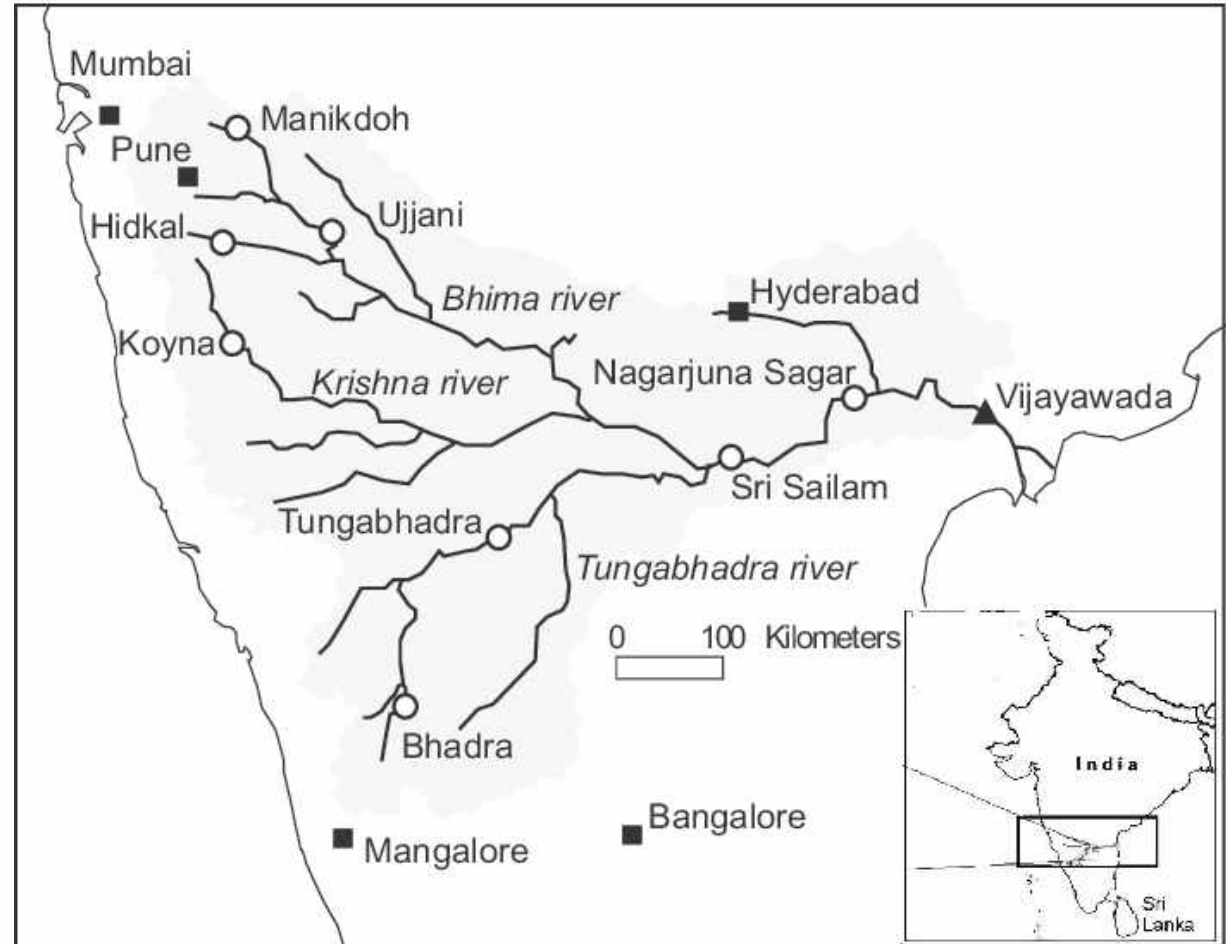
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations or ReliefWeb. These maps may be freely distributed. If more current information is available, please update the maps and return them to ReliefWeb for posting.



## Topic 432: Mullaperiyar Dam



## Tungabhadra River





# Topic 433: Lipulekh Pass, Kalapani territory and Pancheshwar project

## PROJECT TO HAVE 4,800MW CAPACITY

### PANCHESHWAR MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT:

THREE KEY BENEFITS FOR INDIA AND NEPAL:

**Hydropower, Irrigation, Flood control**

PROPOSED HEIGHT OF THE DAM:

**311 metre**  
from the deepest foundation level

Main dam will form a reservoir of around  
**11,600 hectare**

Dam to have two underground power houses (one on each bank of Mahakali in India and Nepal) With installed capacity of  
**4,800 MW**

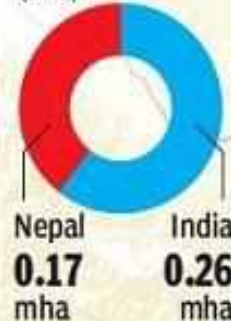
SUBMERGENCE AREA ON INDIAN SIDE: **7,600 hectare** covering Pithoragarh, Almora and Champawat districts in Uttarakhand

**P**ancheshwar main dam is proposed on river Mahakali (known as river Sarada in India)

**D**am site is around 2.5 km downstream of the confluence of river Sarju with river Mahakali (Site location is where the river forms international boundary between the Far Western Development Region of Nepal and Uttarakhand in India)

Project also aims to provide annual irrigation benefits:

**0.43 million hectares (mha)**



SUBMERGENCE AREA ON NEPAL SIDE: **4,000 hectare**



## THE TRIJUNCTION OF DISPUTE





## Topic 434: Araku Valley and Arakunomics

### Key points:

1. Hill station and valley region in Andhra Pradesh
2. Araku is located in the Eastern Ghats
3. Anantagiri and Sunkarimetta Reserved Forest --> are part of Araku Valley
4. Coffee was first introduced in Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh in 1898 by British in Pamuleru valley in East Godavari district
5. Araku Arabica Coffee (GI Tag) – Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
6. About Arakunomics



### Coffee cultivation is mainly done in the Southern States of India:

- Karnataka – 54%
- Kerala – 19%
- Tamil Nadu – 8%



## Topic 435: Electoral Bond

### Key points:

1. Electoral bond --> like a promissory note --> can be bought by any Indian citizen or company incorporated in India
2. Issued in multiple values of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore
3. These bonds can only be encashed by political parties, which had secured at least 1 per cent of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or state election.
4. It will not carry the name of payee.
5. Electoral Bonds would have a life of only 15 days
6. All the transactions shall be encashed by an eligible political party only through a designated bank account



## Topic 436: Rajya Sabha elections

### Key points:

1. Only elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies can vote in RS elections.
2. New members elected every 2yrs for a six-year term
3. A third of RS MPs retire once in two years
4. Vacancies are filled up through bypolls
5. Voting is by single transferable vote --> principle of proportional representation
6. Delhi and Puducherry Assemblies elect members to the RS
7. About voting process



# Topic 437: RS Elections - Recent SC rulings and Concept of 'open ballot' system

## Key points:

1. Concept of 'open ballot' system
2. Rule 39AA of the Conduct of Election Rules of 1961
3. Each party MLAs to show his or her marked ballots to the party's authorised agent
4. Any transgression --> will render the vote invalid
5. Can a legislator vote without taking oath as a member of the Assembly?



## Topic 438: Concept of 'Cross Voting' and Secret Ballot

### Key points:

1. Concept of 'crossing the floor' or 'Cross Voting'
2. Whether cross-voting attract disqualification?
3. Can political parties cannot issue any whip?
4. About Secret Ballot
5. Section 94 of the Representation of the People Act



## Topic 439: Tendered vote and D Voter

### Key points: Tendered vote

1. Section 49P of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 --> provides that if a voter realises that someone has already voted in his/her name, he/she can approach the presiding officer
2. Voter will be allowed to cast a tender vote --> cast on ballot papers and sealed and locked away
3. If the margin between the winning candidate and the runner-up is large, tender votes are not counted

### D Voter

1. D Voter a.k.a Dubious voter or Doubtful voter
2. Category of voters in Assam --> disenfranchised by the government
3. D voters are determined by special tribunals under the Foreigners Act
4. D voter is not given the elector's photo identity card



# Topic 440: Postal voting, Special voters and Absentee voters

## Key points:

1. About postal voting --> ballot papers are distributed to electors by post
2. Postal ballot voter --> back to the election officer before counting
3. Postal votes are counted first before the counting of votes from the EVMs
4. Who can avail postal ballot facility?
5. Who are Special voters?
6. Who are Absentee voters?



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 441. National Policy on Biofuels
- 442. PM JI-VAN Yojana
- 443. Ethanol Blended Programme (EBP)
- 444. SATAT Initiative
- 445. Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources-Dhan (GOBAR-Dhan)
- 446. “Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan”
- 447. National Policy on Software Products – 2019
- 448. Contempt of court
- 449. National Security Act
- 450. Article 22 - Preventive Detention
- 451. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Programme; “Housing for All” Mission and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)
- 452. Global Housing Technology Challenge
- 453. Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)
- 454. Accelerate Vigyan and Science and Engineering Research Board
- 455. AUM (Air Unique-quality Monitoring)
- 456. Clean Air Initiative
- 457. Echo Network
- 458. Dangerous Ground -- Johnson South Reef; Mischieff Reef; Cuarteron Reef
- 459. Tuna-1 field; Bohai Sea, Yellow Sea, East China Sea
- 460. Mount Sinabung and Pacific Ring of Fire



# Topic 441: National Policy on Biofuels

## Key points:

1. About Biofuels
2. Target
  - 1) 20% blending of ethanol in petrol by 2030
  - 2) 5% blending of bio-diesel in diesel by 2030
3. Salient features
  - 1) Classification of Basic biofuels and Advanced biofuels
  - 2) It expanded the scope of raw materials for ethanol production
  - 3) Now allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol
  - 4) Provision for viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol bio refineries
  - 5) Encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production



## Topic 442: PM JI-VAN Yojana

### Key points:

1. Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana
2. Objective of the scheme
  - 1) Create an ecosystem for setting up commercial projects
  - 2) Boost R&D in 2G Ethanol sector
  - 3) Financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects
3. Under this Yojana, 2G ethanol Projects will be provided a Viability Gap Funding (VGF)
4. Ethanol produced will be mandatorily supplied to OMCs --> under EBP Programme
5. Centre for High Technology (CHT) --> under MoP&NG --> implementation Agency
6. CHT --> tool to create 2G Ethanol capacity and attract investments



## Topic 443: Ethanol Blended Programme (EBP)

### Key points:

1. Government has set targets of 10% bioethanol blending of petrol by 2022 and to raise it to 20% by 2030
2. EBP was launched in line with NBP, 2018
3. Ethanol blending in petrol is being undertaken by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)
4. Covers whole country except island UT of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep



## Topic 444: SATAT Initiative

### Key points:

1. SATAT --> Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation
2. Launched by Petroleum Ministry --> to promote Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants
3. Launched in collaboration with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)
4. Steps taken by the government to promote this initiative
5. Other Initiatives linked to CBG



## Topic 445: GOBAR-Dhan

### Key points:

1. MoDW&S --> had launched GOBAR-Dhan (Now, Ministry of Jal Shakti)
2. The scheme is being implemented as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)
3. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) comprises two main components
4. GOBAR-Dhan --> to convert cattle dung and solid waste in farms to CBG and compost
5. Objective



## Topic 446: Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan

### Key points:

1. Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan --> Mass cleanliness-cum-awareness drive in 50 identified beaches of India
2. Covers 10 coastal States/UTs
3. Cleaning drives will be undertaken by students of Eco-clubs
4. MoEFCC and SICOM --> co-ordination
5. 2 organizations --> SICOM and NCSCM --> formed under MoEFCC --> as part of ICZM Project by WB



# Topic 447: National Policy on Software Products

## Key points:

1. Major aim --> To develop India as a Software Product Nation
2. To align with other Government initiatives such as Start-up India, Make in India and Digital India, Skill India etc so as to create Indian Software products Industry of USD \$70-80 billion with direct & indirect employment of \$3.5 million by 2025
3. Outlay of Rs.1500 crore --> over the period of 7 years
4. Rs.1500 crore is divided into Software Product Development Fund (SPDF) and Research & Innovation fund
5. The policy proposes to create a 5,000-crore fund with industry participation to promote emerging technology such as Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Big Data and robotics



## Topic 448: Contempt of court

### Key points:

1. About contempt of court
2. Contempt of Courts Act of 1971 categorises contempt of courts as Civil contempt and Criminal contempt
3. Punishments
4. Should SC take Attorney General's consent to initiate?
5. Constitutional Backing for Contempt power for Judiciary
  - 1) Article 129
  - 2) Article 142(2)
  - 3) Article 215
6. Vijay Kurle case



## Topic 449: National Security Act

### Key points:

1. It is a preventive detention law
2. It was introduced by Indira Gandhi in 1980
3. Allows preventive detention for months --> if threat to national security or law and order
4. On what grounds NSA empowers the Centre and a State Govt to detain a person?
5. Max period of detention --> 12 months
6. Order can also be made by the DM or a CP --> order can also be made by the District Magistrate or a Commissioner of Police



# Topic 450: Article 22 - Preventive Detention

## Key points:

1. About Preventive Detention
2. The grounds for Preventive detention are -->
  - 1) security of state,
  - 2) maintenance of public order,
  - 3) maintenance of supplies and essential services and defence,
  - 4) foreign affairs or security of India.
3. A detainee under preventive detention can have no right of personal liberty guaranteed by Article 19 or Article 21
4. About Article 22
5. Safeguards provided in the constitution; Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases



# Topic 451: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Programme

## Key points:

1. Launched by MoHUPA
2. It envisions provision of Housing for All by 2022
3. Beneficiaries include --> EWS + LIGs + MIGs
4. About “Housing for All” Mission --> 2015-2022
5. Mission will provide central assistance to implementing agencies
6. Mission will be implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)
7. About Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)



# Topic 452: Global Housing Technology Challenge

## Key points:

1. Launched by MoHUPA --> to make the construction cost effective as well as innovative
2. Goal of GHTC -->
  - to fast-track the construction of affordable housing
  - to meet the target of constructing 1.2 crore houses by 2022 (under PMAY)
3. PMAY-U Mission --> to provide all weather “pucca” houses to eligible beneficiaries
4. Aim of GHTC



# Topic 453: Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)

## Key points:

1. Indigenously developed technology system
2. eVIN supports Universal Immunization Programme
3. eVIN provides real-time information on vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone app
4. eVIN is implemented by UNDP



# Topic 454: Accelerate Vigyan

## Key points:

1. Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) --> launched an Inter-Ministerial Initiative Accelerate Vigyan Scheme
2. Provides big push to high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower
3. AV aims to expand the research base with three broad goals
  - 1) consolidation/aggregation of all scientific training programs,
  - 2) initiating high-end Orientation Workshops, and
  - 3) creating opportunities for Research Internships
4. Components of AV
  - 1) ABHYAAS --> 'KARYASHALA' and 'VRITIKA'
  - 2) SAMMOHAN --> 'SAYONJIKA' and 'SANGOSHTI'



# Topic 455: AUM (Air Unique-quality Monitoring)

## Key points:

1. Scientists in India have developed an indigenous photonic system - AUM (Air Unique-quality Monitoring) - for real-time remote monitoring of air quality parameters
2. AUM was developed with support from Department of Science and Technology's Clean Air Research Initiative
3. About Clean Air Research Initiative
4. About AUM System



# Topic 456: Clean Air Initiative

## Key points:

1. In 2019 --> UN, WHO, UNEP and CCAC --> announced Clean Air Initiative
2. Focus --> commit to achieving air quality that is safe for citizens, and to align climate change and air pollution policies by 2030
3. Governments at all levels can join the Clean Air Initiative by committing to specific actions
  - 1) Implementing air quality and climate change policies that will achieve the WHO Ambient Air Quality Guideline values
  - 2) Implementing e-mobility and sustainable mobility policies and actions (esp. on road transport emissions)
  - 3) Assessing the number of lives that are saved, the health gains in children and other vulnerable groups
  - 4) Tracking progress, sharing experiences and best practices --> supported by Breathelife Action Platform



# Topic 457: EChO Network

## Key points:

1. National program to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India
2. Focus --> increasing research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment
3. The initiative has drawn in partners from Government, industry and academia, with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India steering the program
4. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Hindustan Unilever Limited, RoundGlass, India Climate Collaborative, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) are the founding partners of the EChO Network.
5. EChO Network intends to create an international distributed institute comprising individuals housed within industry, government, private, and academic sectors, combining their expertise and resources collectively to tackle large scale problems

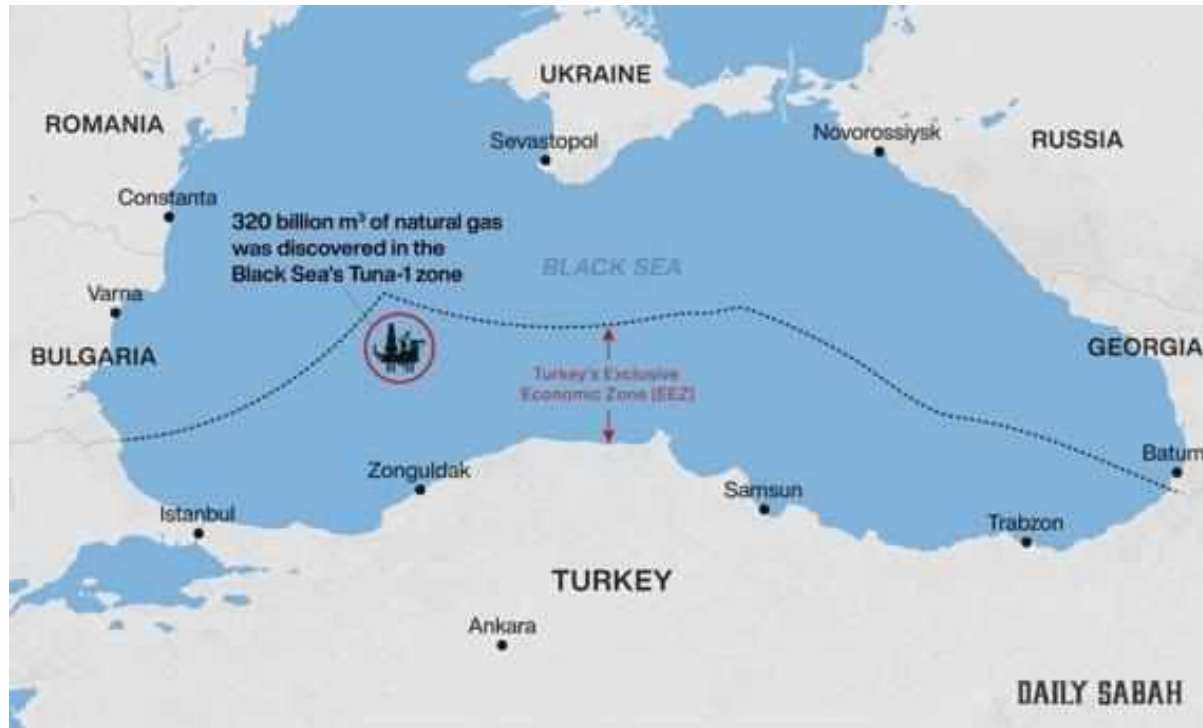


# Topic 458: Dangerous Ground -- Johnson South Reef; Mischief Reef; Cuarteron Reef





# Topic 459: Tuna-1 field; Bohai Sea, Yellow Sea, East China Sea





## Topic 460: Mount Sinabung and Ring of Fire

### Indonesia volcano





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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 461. COP 3- Minamata Convention on Mercury (2019)
- 462. Battery Waste Management Rules 2020
- 463. Types of Batteries and their uses
- 464. Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2020
- 465. Coal gasification and Hydrothermal liquefaction (HTL)
- 466. Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)
- 467. Shanon Wiener Index
- 468. Global Peace Index 2019
- 469. Locusts
- 470. Pangolins
- 471. Rhinos without borders
- 472. OPERATION CLEAN ART
- 473. Jerdon's Courser
- 474. Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
- 475. Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)



# Topic 461: COP 3 - Minamata Convention on Mercury

## Key points:

1. Global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.
2. Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP3) --> took place in 2019, International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland
3. Outcome --> manufacture, import and export of products containing mercury will be altogether prohibited by 2020, except where countries have requested an exemption for an initial 5-year period
4. Products containing mercury



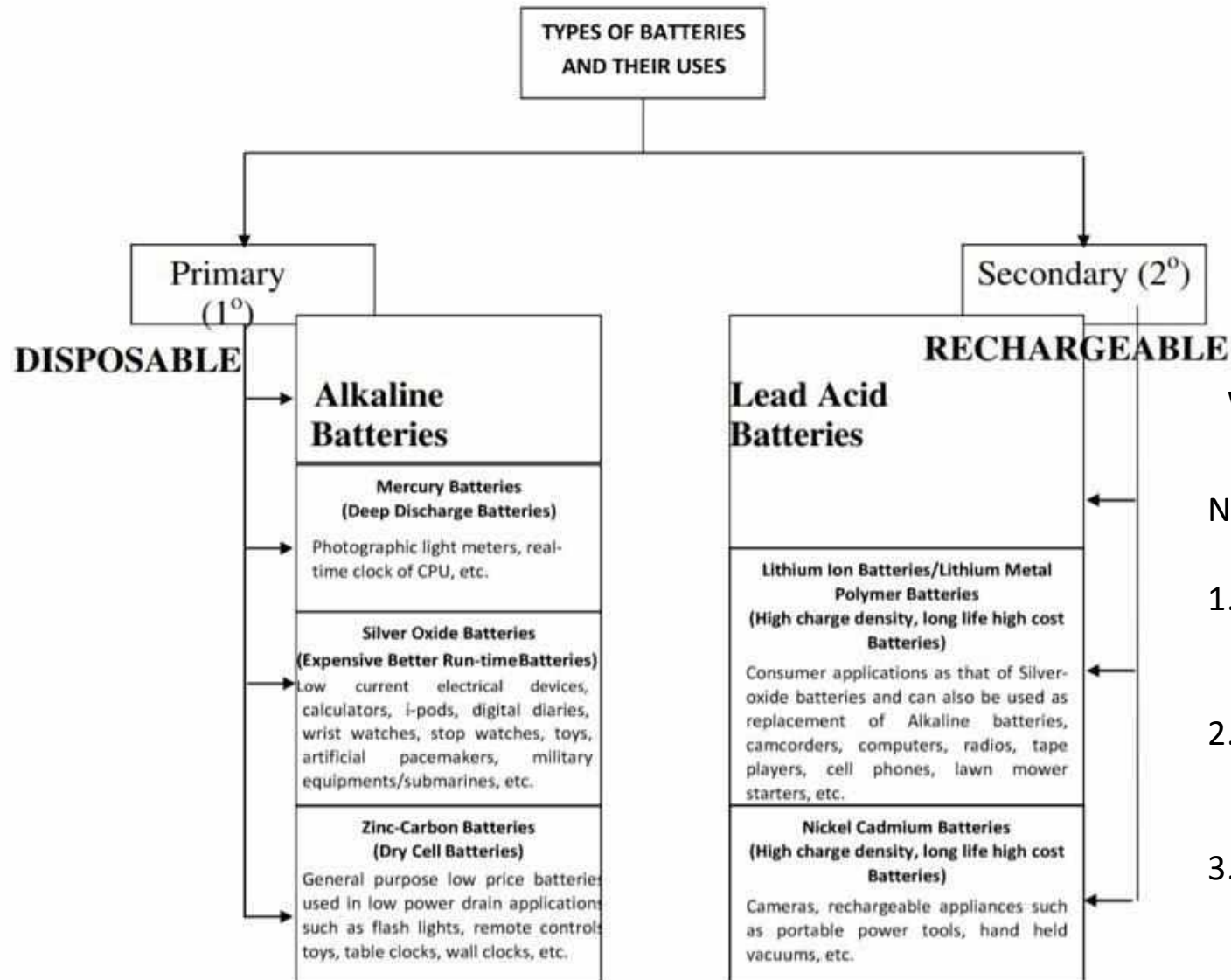
# Topic 462: Battery Waste Management Rules 2020

## Key points:

1. New rules do not apply to --
  - 1) Equipment connected with the protection of the essential security interests
  - 2) Equipment designed to be sent into space
  - 3) Emergency and alarm systems
  - 4) Emergency lighting; and
  - 5) Medical Equipment
2. According to new rules, regulations will apply to all types of batteries as listed in the Schedule-I
3. As per the proposed new rules -
  - 1) no one can sell a battery that contains more than 0.0005% (5 ppm) of mercury by weight or a portable battery that contains more than 0.002% of cadmium.
  - 2) Performance testing of batteries - mandatory registration with the Bureau of Indian Standards.
  - 3) No person can sell a battery or battery pack unless it is marked with the “crossed-out wheeled bin symbol.”
  - 4) The government has proposed that manufacturers will have to use the international recycling sign on the batteries.



# Topic 463: Types of batteries and WEEE Symbol



WEEE- Waste of electrical and electronic equipment

No person shall place on the market—

1. a **button cell** containing more than 0.0005% of mercury by weight unless it is marked with the chemical symbol “Hg”;
2. a **battery** containing more than 0.002% of cadmium by weight unless it is marked with the chemical symbol “Cd”;
3. a **battery** containing more than 0.004% of lead by weight unless it is marked with the chemical symbol “Pb”.



# Topic 464: Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2020

## Key points:

1. It is associated with water quality standards for coastal waters marine outfalls
2. Parameters used to measure water quality –
  - 1) Cadmium
  - 2) Copper
  - 3) Mercury
  - 4) Lead
  - 5) Arsenic
  - 6) Chromium
  - 7) Monochrotophos
3. Criteria used – based on Criteria Continuous Concentration (CCC)
4. CCC is an estimate of higher concentration of the material in ambient water



# Topic 465: Coal gasification and Hydrothermal liquefaction (HTL)

## Key points:

1. Coal gasification is the process of producing “syngas”
2. About Syngas  $\rightarrow \text{CO} + \text{H}_2 + \text{CO}_2 + \text{CH}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
3. Hydrogen obtained from coal gasification can be used for various purposes
4. Applications and significance of syngas

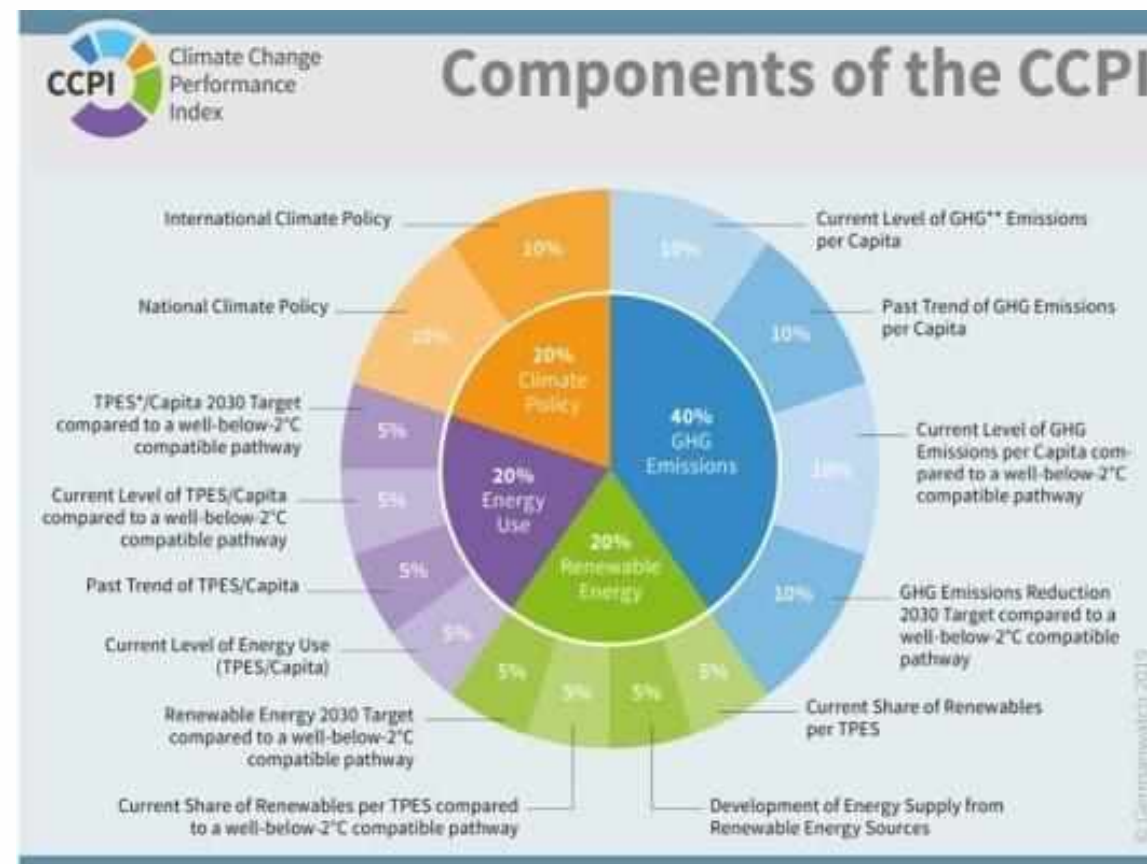
**About Hydrothermal liquefaction (HTL)**  $\rightarrow$  a thermal depolymerization process used to convert wet biomass into crude-like oil



# Topic 466 and 467: Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) and Shanon Wiener Index

## Key points:

1. Designed by the German environmental and development organisation Germanwatch
2. India for the first time ranking among the top ten countries (Rank 9 in 2020)
3. CCPI was first published in 2005
4. CCPI 2020 is released by three international NGOs – German watch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network.
5. It found the U.S. ranks last, followed by Saudi Arabia and Australia





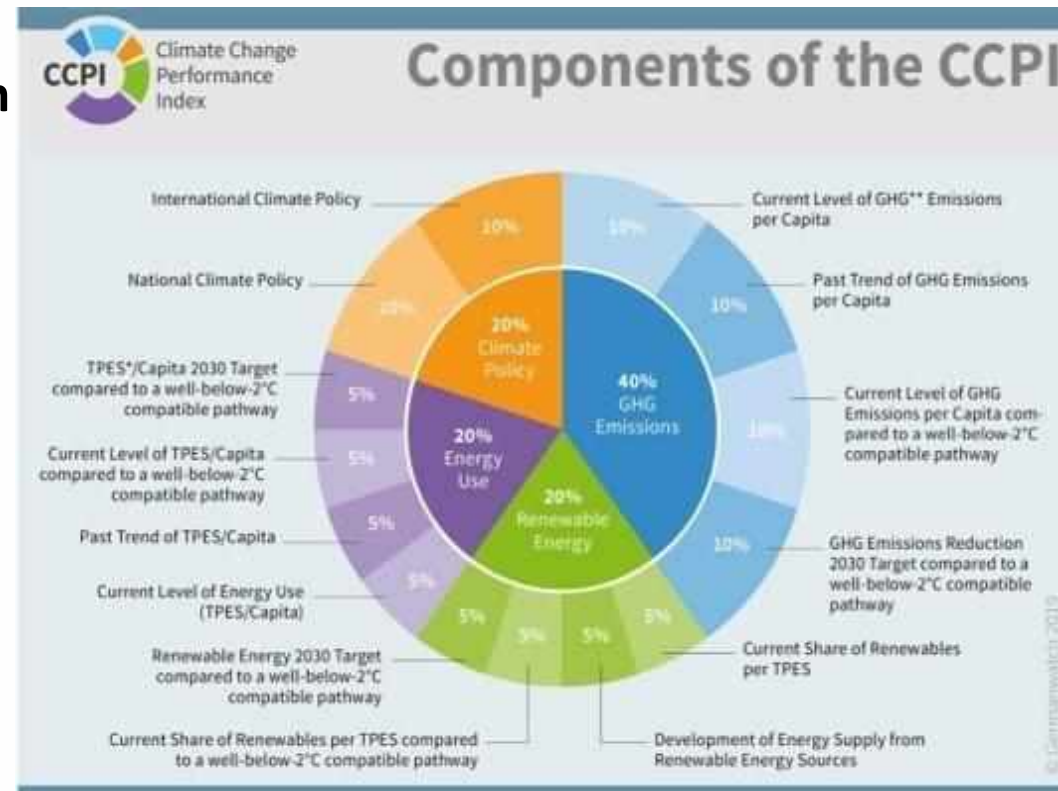
# Topic 466 and 467: Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) and Shanon Wiener Index

Under CCPI, the national performances are assessed based on 14 indicators in the following four categories:

1. GHG Emissions (weighting 40%).
2. Renewable Energy (weighting 20%).
3. Energy Use (weighting 20%).
4. Climate Policy (weighting 20%).

## Shanon Wiener Index

1. It is a measure of species richness and abundance.
2. It is used for comparing diversity of species between various habitats.
3. Several quantitative indices have been designed to provide information on different aspects of biodiversity viz, Margalef index, Menhinick index, Simpson index, Shannon-Weiner Index etc.





# Topic 468: Global Peace Index 2019

## Key points:

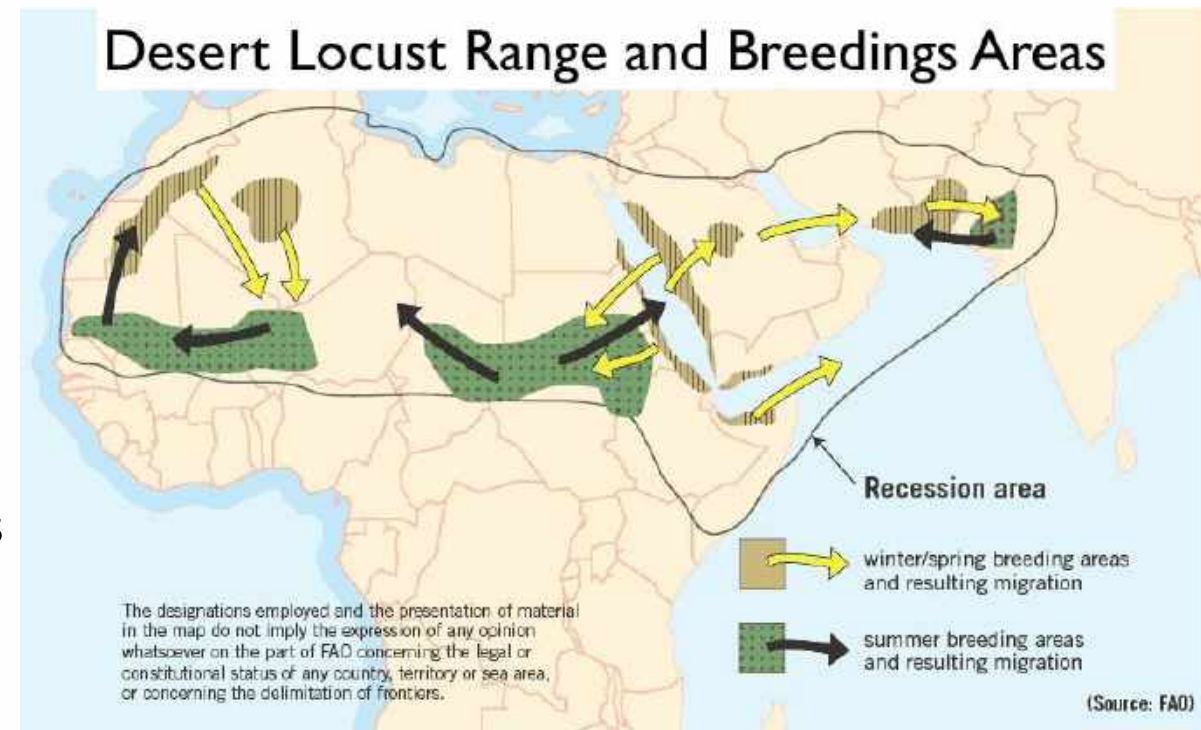
1. It is Published by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
2. It ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their levels of peacefulness.
3. It ranks countries and regions on three broad based themes:
  - Extent of conflict
  - Safety and Security
  - Level of militarisation
4. For the world as a whole, 2019 was the first time the peace score has improved in the last five years.
5. West Asia and North Africa is the least peaceful region followed by S.Asia (Europe is the most peaceful region)
6. Afghanistan was the least peaceful country of the world in 2019. Earlier it was Syria. While Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world.



## Topic 469: Locusts

**Key points:** (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

1. Desert locust is a short-horned grasshopper
2. Difference between ordinary grasshoppers and Locusts
3. Unique characteristics:
  - 1) Their breeding pattern
  - 2) Hopper development
  - 3) 'Solitary phase' --> 'gregarious phase' --> 'swarms'
4. Climate factor on their movement
  - 1) A pattern of warming in the Indian Ocean (Indian Ocean Dipole)
  - 2) Rainfall (especially torrential) in several parts of West Asia, Oman, Yemen and in the Horn of Africa — Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya
  - 3) Favourable local winds and mild summer over north and western India
5. Role of FAO and Locust Warning Organisation (LWO), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/focus/2004/51040/index.html>



# Topic 470: Pangolins

## Under threat

The pangolin is the most trafficked mammal in the world. A look at some of its characteristics

- A pangolin's tongue is longer than its body
- It can consume 70 million ants a year
- Pangolins have no teeth; they 'chew' with gravel and keratinous spines inside the stomach
- They close their ears and nostrils to keep insects out

- The animal marks its territories with urine, faeces and stinky secretion from a special gland

There are eight pangolin species – four each in Africa and Asia; two of them are in India



- Scales, made of keratin, like human nails and hair, comprise about 20% of a pangolin's body weight

- Baby pangolins are carried on their mother's back and tail

 **The Chinese Pangolin was officially categorised as critically endangered in 2014, but I think it is extinct today. The Indian Pangolin, marked endangered that year, is now critically endangered and disappearing fast**  
**RITESH SAROTHIYA**  
Officer-in-charge,  
Madhya Pradesh Forest Department's  
Special Task Force

## Key points:

1. Classified as a critically endangered species
2. It has thick scaly skin --> Demand due to "medicinal value" and the consumption of their meat (in China and Vietnam)
3. Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian and the Chinese pangolins are found in India.
4. Both these species are listed under Schedule I Part I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

## IUCN Red List

- ☐ Indian Pangolin: Endangered
- ☐ Chinese Pangolin: Critically Endangered



# Topic 471: Rhinos without borders

## Key points:

1. New Delhi Declaration was adopted during the second meeting of the Asian rhino range countries
2. Focus --> trans-boundary collaboration for the conservation and protection of the greater one-horned rhino
3. India to tie-up with 4 nations to save rhinos --> Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia
4. The five rhino range nations signed a declaration 'The Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019'

## Three species of Asian rhinos –

- 1) Greater one-horned rhinoceros (found in the Indian sub-continent)
- 2) Javan rhinos
- 3) Sumatran rhinos

**IUCN Status:** Javan and Sumatran Rhino are critically endangered but the greater one-horned (or Indian) rhino vulnerable.



# Topic 472: OPERATION CLEAN ART

## Key points:

1. It was recently conducted in India to ensure that the mongoose hair brush trade be closed down across the country.
2. It was conceived by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).
3. Mongoose hair is in high demand among artists worldwide. India is a major source for these brushes.
4. Mongoose is listed under Schedule II of the WPA, 1972
5. It is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List
6. Mongoose species are native to the Indian subcontinent and West Asia

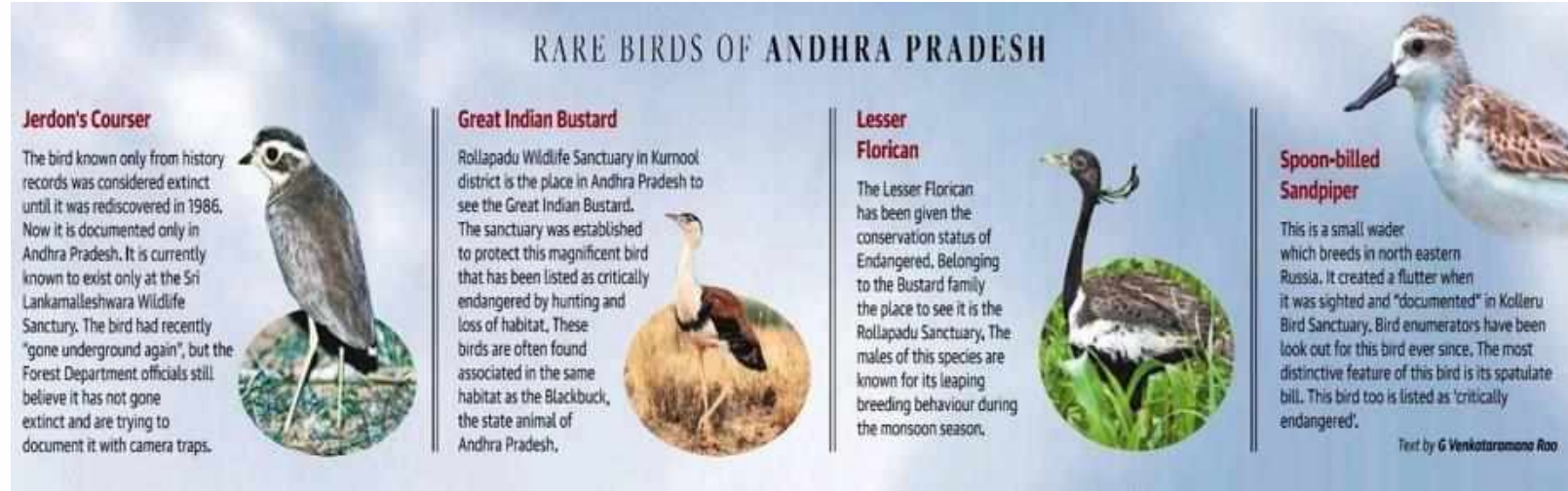




# Topic 473: Jerdon's Courser

## Key points:

1. IUCN: Critically Endangered
2. It is a nocturnal bird known only from Eastern Ghats.
3. It inhabits open patches within scrub-forest. This habitat is under tremendous pressure due to various anthropogenic activities.
4. Found only Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, India.
5. There might be around 25 birds of this species and are found only in the Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary (located in Kadapa district) in the world.





# Topic 474: Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)

## Key points:

1. Centre for information, education and research in ornithology and natural history
2. It was inspired by and named in honour of Salim Ali, the leading pioneer of ornithology in India.
3. It is an autonomous organisation established in 1990 as a public- NGO partnership between the MoEF&CC, and the BNHS under the Centre of Excellence Scheme and registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act.
4. Its headquarters are at Anaikatti, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

## SACON's mission is:

*"To help conserve India's biodiversity and its sustainable use through research, education and peoples' participation, with birds at the centre stage".*



# Topic 475: Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

## Key points:

1. IBA is an initiative by BirdLife International.
2. It is a programme which aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for conservation of the world's birds and associated biodiversity.
3. BirdLife's Important Bird and Biodiversity Area concept has been developed and applied for over 30 years.
4. Initially, IBAs were identified only for terrestrial and freshwater environments, but over the past decade, the IBA process and method has been adapted and applied in the marine realm.



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 476. Guru Padmasambhava
- 477. Festivals in news
- 478. Baobab Tree
- 479. National Animal Disease Control Programme & National Artificial Insemination Programme
- 480. Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign
- 481. Reserved Forests
- 482. Wildlife habitats
- 483. Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)
- 484. Conservation Reserves
- 485. Community Reserves
- 486. Biosphere reserves
- 487. Major Bird Sanctuaries in India
- 488. Protected Areas in news
- 489. Pollutants/Areas to focus
- 490. IUCN Red List India (2019)

# Topic 476: Guru Padmasambhava

## Key points:

Odisha unveiled a 19-foot-high statue of Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Tibetan Buddhism

1. Padmasambhava ("Lotus-Born") --> also known as Guru Rinpoche
2. He was an 8th-century Buddhist master from the Indian subcontinent
3. He helped construction of the first Buddhist monastery in Tibet
4. He is widely venerated as a "second Buddha" by adherents of Tibetan Buddhism in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, the Himalayan states of India, and elsewhere
5. Padmasambhava introduced the people of Tibet to the practice of Tantric Buddhism. He is regarded as the founder of the Nyingma tradition.





# Topic 477: Festivals in news

Name	Description
<b>Ambubachi Mela</b>	<p>Festival to mark the menstrual period of the goddess (Kamakhya temple, Assam)</p> <p>The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam is celebrated with a ritual called 'Tuloni Biya', meaning small wedding</p>
<b>Chaitra Jatra Festival</b>	<p>Odisha's Tara Tarini hill shrine</p> <p>Tara Tarini hill shrine on banks of the Rushikulya river, is a major centre of Shakti worship in Odisha</p>
<b>Nuakhai Juhar</b>	<p>Celebrated in: Western Odisha and adjoining areas of Simdega in Jharkhand.</p> <p>It is an agricultural festival.</p> <p>It is observed to welcome the new rice of the season.</p>
<b>Attukal Pongala</b>	<p>Attukal Pongala is a ten-day- long festival held in Attukal Temple, Thiruvananthapuram(Kerala) is the largest congregation of women for a festival in the world.</p> <p>The festival commences with the musical rendering of the story of the Goddess (Kannaki Charitam) that invokes the victory of Good over Evil, by the slaying of Pandyan King.</p> <p>Also known as "the Sabarimala of Women"</p>



## Topic 478: Baobab Tree

### Key points:

1. It is known in India as kalpavriksha or a wish-fulfilling tree
2. Numbers --> not more than 200 are found --> mostly in isolated pockets of Gujarat, Maharashtra and a few in Jharkhand
3. Baobab has high medicinal and nutritional value, much like the Neem tree
4. Baobab is native to Africa and of the nine species of genus Adansonia in the world
5. People in many African countries use the Baobab to treat malaria and infertility
6. Baobab has high levels of vitamin C, potassium, phosphorous and antioxidants



# Topic 479 and 480 : National Animal Disease Control Programme & National Artificial Insemination Programme; Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign

## Key points:

1. NADCP --> to control and eradicate the Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis amongst the livestock
2. Aim:
  - 1) To vaccinate over 600 million cattle
  - 2) Mitigate the two diseases namely, the Foot & Mouth Disease & brucellosis
  - 3) Vaccinating 36 million female bovine calves annually
  - 4) To control the livestock diseases by 2025, and eradicate them by 2030
  - 5) Includes cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, and pigs
3. The project will be fully funded by the Central Government.
4. About National Artificial Insemination Programme

## Key points: Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign

1. Programme on reducing the usage of single-use plastics in the country
2. Swachhta Hi Seva initiative aims at accelerating the momentum of Swachch Bharat Mission and converting it into a Jan-Andolan for realizing the vision of a Clean India



## Topic 481: Reserved Forests

### Key points:

1. Indian Forest Act 1927 gave the Government and Forest Department the power to create Reserved Forests, and the right to use Reserved Forests for Government use alone
2. Therefore, 'Reserved Forest' --> terms under the Indian Forest Act, 1927
3. Land rights to forests declared to be Reserved forests are typically acquired and owned by the Government
4. Unlike national parks of India or wildlife sanctuaries of India, reserved forests and protected forests are declared by the respective state governments
5. Reserved forests differ in that rights to all activities like hunting, grazing, etc. in reserved forests are banned unless specific orders are issued otherwise



## Topic 482: Wildlife habitats

### Key points:

1. Section 2b of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, defines 'Critical Wildlife Habitat'
2. 'Critical Wildlife Habitat' are such areas of National Parks and Sanctuaries that are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation
3. It is determined and notified by the MoEFCC, after open process of consultation by an Expert Committee



## Topic 483: Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)

### Key points:

1. ESZ are areas notified by the MoEFCC around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
2. Activities conducted in ESZ are regulated under the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986
3. No polluting industry or mine is allowed to come up in such areas
4. ESZ zone, in general, could go up to 10 km around a protected area (even area beyond 10 km width can also be included)
5. Activities regulated under ESZ guidelines
6. The rules for the ESZ are based on the Environment Protection Act, 1986. However, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word “Eco-Sensitive Zones”.
7. Rule 5(1) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 --> empowers Central Govt.



# Topic 484: Conservation Reserves

## Key points:

1. These protected area categories were first introduced in the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002
2. It can be declared by the State Governments in any area owned by the Government, particularly the areas adjacent to National Parks and Sanctuaries and those areas which link one Protected Area with another
3. Such a declaration should be made after having consultations with the local communities.
4. Conservation Reserves are declared for the purpose of protecting landscapes, seascapes, flora and fauna, and their habitat.
5. The rights of people living inside a Conservation Reserve are not affected.



# Topic 485: Community Reserves

## Key points:

1. These protected area categories were first introduced in the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002
2. It can be declared by the State Government in any private or community land, not comprised within a National Park, Sanctuary or a Conservation Reserve
3. Community Reserves are declared for the purpose of protecting fauna, flora and traditional or cultural conservation values and practices
4. As in the case of a Conservation Reserve, the rights of people living inside a Community Reserve are not affected



## Topic 486: Biosphere reserves

### Key points:

1. It is an international designation by UNESCO for representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over large areas of terrestrial or coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof.
2. BRs are designated to deal with economic and social development and maintenance of associated cultural values
3. BRs are thus special environments for both people and nature (co-existence)
4. These areas are internationally recognized within the framework of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme
5. The world's major ecosystem types and landscapes are represented in this network



## Topic 487: Major Bird Sanctuaries in India

West Coast	Bird Sanctuaries	East Coast	Bird Sanctuaries
<b>Gujarat</b>	Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary Porbandar Bird Sanctuary	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary

West Coast	Bird Sanctuaries	East Coast	Bird Sanctuaries
	Khijadia Bird Sanctuary Thol Bird Sanctuary Jamnagar salt pans		Kunthakulam Bird Sanctuary Point Calimere
<b>Maharashtra</b>	Jayakwadi Bird Sanctuary Aurangabad Karnala Bird Sanctuary Raigad Nandurmadhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary, Nashik Vengurla Rocks	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	Kolleru Bird Sanctuary Pulicat lake bird sanctuary Manjira Bird Sanctuary Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary Rollapadu Bird Sanctuary (Great Indian Bustard)
<b>Goa</b>	Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary	<b>Odisha</b>	Chilika Lake Bird Sanctuary Nalabana Bird Sanctuary
<b>Karnataka</b>	Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary Ghataprabha Bird Sanctuary Gudavi Bird Sanctuary Mandagadde Bird Sanctuary	<b>West Bengal</b>	Rasikbil Bird Sanctuary Sajnakhali Bird Sanctuary Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary Kulik Bird Sanctuary (Raigunge)
<b>Kerala</b>	Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary Thattekad Bird Sanctuary		



## Topic 488: Protected Areas in news

Name	Description
Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary (Uttarakhand)	Tiger reserve status for Nandhaur sought
Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary	Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary shelters the highest density of Indian rhinos in the world
Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (GNBR)	It comprises of the Galathea National Park and the Campbell Bay National Park
Mahadayi, Netravali and Cotigao sanctuaries and some part of Mahaveer National Park in Goa	Demand to notify WS as Tiger Reserves
Askot Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttarakhand	Butterfly named Himalayan tailless bushblue  Climate change is prompting a habitat change in Himalayas



## Topic 489: Pollutants/Areas to focus

1. Nitrogen --> International Nitrogen Management System and 2019 Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management
2. Asbestos
3. Sulphur --> India largest SO<sub>2</sub> emitter
4. Uranium pollution
5. Lead --> Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
6. Mercury --> COP 3- Minamata Convention on Mercury



## Topic 490: IUCN Red List India (2019)

### 'Critically Endangered' Mammals

1. Himalayan Brown/Red Bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*)
2. Pygmy Hog (*Porcula salvania*)
3. Andaman White-toothed Shrew (*Crocidura andamanensis*)
4. Kondana Rat (*Millardia kondana*)
5. Large Rock Rat or Elvira Rat (*Cremnomys elvira*)
6. Namdapha Flying Squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*)
7. Malabar Civet (*Viverra civettina*)
8. Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*)
9. Kashmir stag/hangul (*Cervus elaphus hanglu*)

### 'Endangered' Mammals

1. Tigers (including Bengal Tiger)
2. Asiatic Lion (Included Gir Lions)
3. Red Panda
4. Dhole/Asiatic wild dog or Indian wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*)
5. Eld's deer/thamin or brow-antlered deer (*Panolia eldii*)
6. Golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*)
7. Himalayan / White-bellied Musk Deer
8. Hispid hare/ Assam rabbit (*Caprolagus hispidus*)
9. Hog deer
10. Lion-tailed macaque/ wanderoo (*Macaca silenus*)
11. Nilgiri tahr
12. Kharai Camel – India's swimming camels

### 'Endangered' Marine Mammals

- Freshwater (river) dolphin / South Asian River Dolphin



### **‘Vulnerable’ Mammals**

1. Lion
2. Nilgiri langur/ Nilgiri leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus johnii*)
3. Great Indian one horn Rhinoceros
4. Gaur/Indian Bison
5. Four-horned antelope, Chousingha
6. Takin
7. Nilgiri marten
8. Barasingha or swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*)
9. Oriental small-clawed otter/ Asian small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*)
10. Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*)
11. Asian black bear/ moon bear or white-chested bear (*Ursus thibetanus*)

### **‘Vulnerable’ Herbivorous Marine Mammals**

- Dugong/Sea Cow

## **Topic 490: IUCN Red List India (2019)**

### **‘Near Threatened’ Mammals**

1. Wild ass/ khur (*Equus hemionus khur*)
2. Chiru/ Tibetan Antelope
3. Marbled cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*)
4. Himalayan tahr
5. Markhor (*Capra falconeri*)

### **Least concern**

- Blackbuck (*Salman Khan*)

### **‘Not Evaluated’ Mammals**

- Himalayan wolf



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# TOPICS TO REVISE

- 491. International Tribes/Community in News
- 492. Indian Tribes/Community in News
- 493. Arts in news
- 494. Other arts/handicrafts in news
- 495. Important reports – International and National in news
- 496. Important Reports dealing with Health in news
- 497. Important UNEP and WB initiatives
- 498. Defence exercises in news
- 499. Defence/Military Exercises
- 500. GI tags 2019-2020



# Topic 491: International Tribes/Community in News

Name	Description
<b>Yanomami people</b>	They live in the rainforests and mountains of northern Brazil and southern Venezuela
<b>Berber</b>	An ethnic group indigenous to North Africa
<b>Rabha tribe</b>	Rabha, also, Rava, etc., are an indigenous Mongoloid community of Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, and the Indian states of Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal.
<b>Kayapo people</b>	Indigenous peoples in Brazil who inhabit a vast area spreading across the Amazon River and along Xingu River and its tributaries
<b>Uighurs</b>	<p>Minority Turkic ethnic group originating from and culturally affiliated with the general region of Central and East Asia.</p> <p>The Uyghurs are recognized as native to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.</p>
<b>Chakma and Hajong</b>	<p>Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists while Hajongs are Hindus</p> <p>They were inhabitants of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) who migrated to India</p>



# Topic 492: Indian Tribes/Community in News

Name	Description
<b>Chenchus</b>	PVTG living in dense jungles spread across Andhra and Telangana
<b>Tharu Community – Barna</b>	In West Champaran district of Bihar, people belonging to Thaarua tribal community have been observing a sixty-hour lockdown for centuries. The Thaarua community has adopted BARNA as a tradition for protection of nature; that too for centuries.
<b>Great Andamanese tribe</b>	One of five PVTGs that reside in the Andamans archipelago Number just 74, speak Jeru among themselves
<b>Bonda Community</b>	Bonda are a Munda ethnic group who live in the isolated hill regions of the Malkangiri district of southwestern Odisha
<b>Kurumbas/Kurumbar</b>	They are a designated Scheduled Tribe in the Indian states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
<b>Irula</b>	They are a Dravidian ethnic group inhabiting the area of the Nilgiri mountains, in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala
<b>Muduka/Mudugar Tribe</b>	Kerala
<b>Gutti Koya tribe</b>	Telangana and Chhattisgarh
<b>Tangams tribe</b>	The Tangams are a little-known community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh and reside in the hamlet of Kugging in Upper Siang district.
<b>Sahariya Tribe</b>	It is a Rajasthani tribal community in the Shahbad region
<b>Kattupaniyan tribe</b>	Kattupaniyan is a diminutive tribal community. They habit the forested hills in the northern part of Nilambur taluk of Malappuram district and adjoining Thamarassery forest range of Kozhikode district.
<b>Tiwa tribe</b>	Tiwa (Lalung) is an indigenous community inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya



# Topic 493: Arts in news

Name	Description
<b>Nangiarkoothu</b>  <b>or Nangyar Koothu</b>	It is an allied traditional art of Kutiyattam, an age-old Sanskrit drama tradition of Kerala  Performed traditionally by the women of the Ambalavasi Nambiar community
<b>Chakiar Koothu</b>	Performance art from Kerala  Chakyar Koothu was originally performed only in Koothambalams of Hindu temples  The art form derives the name after the Chakiar community  Koothu is an extended form of Koodiyattam. While Koodiyattam is a full time vocation for many, Koothu has few takers
<b>Mudiyettu</b>	Traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama from Kerala
<b>Theyyam</b>	Popular ritual form of worship in Kerala and also in South Canara and Kodagu of Karnataka  Theyyam is performed by mainly by males, except the Devakoothu theyyam (performed only by women)
<b>Thirra</b>	Thirra or Theyyam thira is a ritual dance performed in "Kaavu"(grove)& temples of the Malabar region in Kerala State.  This art form is performed by the artists of malaya community
<b>Nimmalakunta puppetry</b>	Leather puppetry from Andhra Pradesh
<b>Tholu bommalata</b>	GI Tag in 2008
<b>Padittrupathu</b>	It is a classical Tamil poetic work and one of the Eight Anthologies (Ettuthokai) in the Sangam literature.
<b>Araimandi</b>	It is perhaps the most important (and hardest) posture in Bharatanatyam The word araimandi basically means half sitting posture and closely resembles the Ayata Mandala



## Topic 494: Other arts/handicrafts in news

Name	Description
<b>Madhubani painting/ Mithila painting</b>	<p>It was traditionally created by the women of various communities in Mithila region of India and Nepal.</p> <p>GI tag</p>
<b>Chikan</b>	<p>It is a traditional embroidery style from Lucknow</p>
<b>Zardozi</b>	<p>is a type of heavy and elaborate metal embroidery on a silk, satin, or velvet fabric base. In Persian, 'zardozi' means gold embroidery.</p> <p>This signature embroidery art of Lucknow has GI tag</p>



# Topic 495: Important reports – International and National

Name	Description
<b>Environmental Performance Index</b>	It has been developed by two U.S. universities (Yale and Columbia) in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and European Commission
<b>Global Energy Review 2020 report</b>	International Energy Agency
<b>Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)</b>	WHO
<b>World Wildlife Crime Report</b>	UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC)
<b>Global Forest Resource Assessment Report</b>	FAO
<b>Global Environment Outlook (GEO)</b>	UNEP
<b>Emissions Gap Report</b>	UNEP
<b>“Towards a pollution-free planet” report</b>	UN Environment
<b>Swachh Survekshan 2020 report</b>	Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry
<b>Composite WaterManagement Index 2.0</b>	Niti Aayog



## Topic 496: Important Reports dealing with Health

Name	Description
GLOBAL HEALTH REPORT	WHO
WORLD HEALTH STATISTICS	WHO
GLOBAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE DATABASE	WHO
TRACKING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE	WHO
WORLD DRUG REPORT	UN Office of Drugs and Crime
WORLD WILDLIFE CRIME REPORT	UN Office of Drugs and Crime
UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC) INDEX	World Bank
HEALTHY STATES PROGRESSIVE INDIA REPORT	NITI Aayog + MoH&FW + World Bank
PERFORMANCE OF HEALTH OUTCOME INDEX	NITI Aayog
GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE STUDY	Health Metrics and Evaluation; funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
INDIA STATE-LEVEL DISEASE BURDEN INITIATIVE REPORT	joint initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
GLOBAL NUTRITION REPORT	Expert Group of the Global Nutrition Report; WHO is a partner



# Topic 497: Important UNEP and WB initiatives

## Key initiatives:

1. UNEP's Global Environment Monitoring System for Air (GEMS Air)
2. UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Centre
3. UNEP - International Ecosystem Management Partnership
4. UNEP Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) initiative
5. UNEP Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative
6. UNEP's Framework for Freshwater Ecosystem Management
7. World Bank's Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES)
8. Economic and Policy Analysis of Climate Change (EPIC) by FAO



# Topic 498: Defence exercises in news

News	Description
<b>DUSTLIK-2019</b>	first-ever India-Uzbekistan Joint Exercise
<b>Dharma Guardian-2019</b>	second edition of the bilateral annual military exercise 'Dharma Guardian2019' between Indian and Japanese Army
<b>Malabar Exercise</b>	India-Japan-US
<b>Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) military exercise</b>	world's largest international maritime warfare exercise It is hosted and administered by the United States Navy's Pacific Fleet, headquartered at Pearl Harbour Four countries – Brazil, Israel, Sri Lanka and Vietnam – are participating in RIMPAC for the first time
<b>Exercise Yudh Abhyas</b>	India and US
<b>Exercise Al Nagah-Ii</b>	India and Oman
<b>Exercise Ekuverin</b>	India and Maldives
<b>Exercise Konkan</b>	India and UK Royal Navy
<b>SAMPRITI</b>	India Bangladesh defence cooperation
<b>Indra</b>	India-Russia Joint Military Exercise
<b>SAMUDRA SHAKTI</b>	Bilateral Naval Exercise between Navies of India and Indonesia
<b>EXERCISE MITRA SHAKTI</b>	India and Sri Lanka
<b>SURYA KIRAN</b>	India and Nepal
<b>EXERCISE HAND-IN-HAND</b>	India and China



## Topic 499: Defence/Military Exercises

Indian Army	Indian Airforce	Indian Navy
MITHRA SHAKTI- Sri Lanka	Indradhanush- UK	Simbex- singapore
Hand in Hand- China	Garud- France	Slinex- Sri Lanka
Shakti- France	Avia Indra- Russia	Varuna- France
Yuddh Abhyas- USA	Exercise Red Flag- USA	Indra- Russia
Prabal Dostyk- Kazhakhstan	Eastern Bridge- Oman	Malabar- USA
Nomadic Elephant- Mongolia		IBSAmar- Brazil and South Africa
Surya Kiran- Nepal		Ausiindex- Australia
Lamitye- Seychelles		Sahyog Kaijin- Japan
		Naseem Al Bahr- Oman
		Konkan- UK
		Milan- multinational exercise



## Topic 500: GI tags 2019-2020

ITEM		PLACE
Kodaikana Malai Poondur	Agriculture	TN
Chak Hao	Agriculture	MN
Gorakhpur Terracotta	Handicraft	UP
Kashmir Saffron	Agriculture	J&K
Thanjavur Pith Work	Handicraft	TN
Telia Rumal	Handicraft	TS
Sohrai Khovar Painting	handicraft	JH



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