

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE for



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

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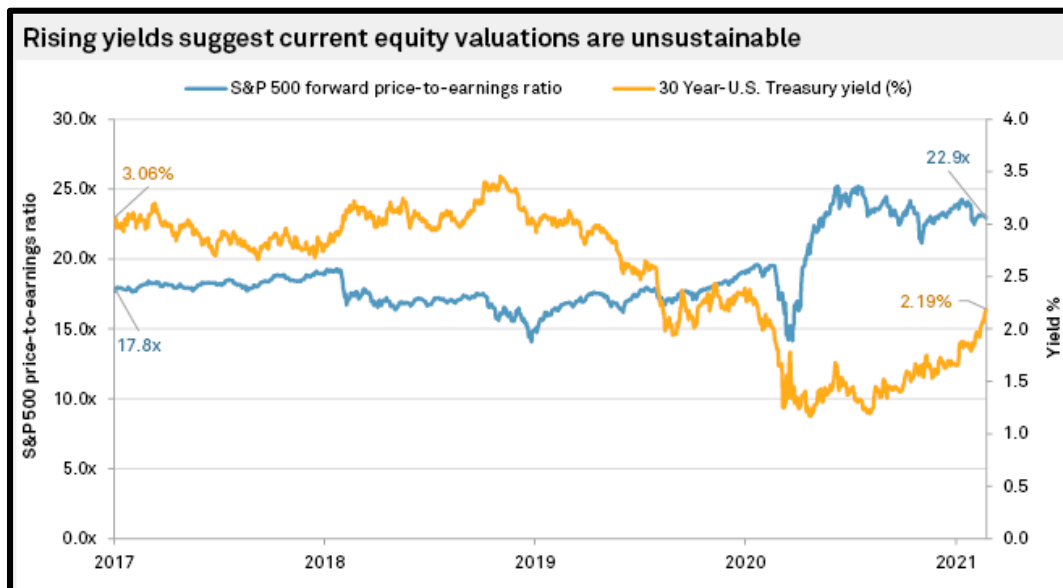
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Success is born of action...

Topic 1: Bond Yield

Importance for Prelims: Economy



The rise in bond yields across the planet has disrupted the bull rally on the stockmarkets with the benchmark Sensex of the BSE plunging 1,145 points, or 2.25 per cent

- The rise in bond yields in India is in response to factors like absorption of additional borrowing by the government, expectation of higher growth in the economy and slippage in fiscal deficit.

About Bond Yield

- It could be a come back an capitalist realizes thereon bond. it's usually a operate of the bond's market value and its coupon or interest payments. • yield = coupon amount/price. once the worth changes, therefore will the yield.

Understanding bond yield:

- In traditional case: If a bond is bought at its \$1,000 nominal value with a 10th coupon. If we hold on to that, the establishment pays \$100 a year for ten years, then pays back the \$1,000 on the regular date. The yield is so 100% (\$100/\$1000).

- If sold to the market: **Bond costs modification on a daily basis of prevailing interest rates** (When interest rates are low, bond costs increase and yield decreases) as a result of investors are seeking a stronger come back. If the worth of the bond within the market is \$800, it's commerce under face worth or at a reduction. If the worth of the bond within the market is \$1,200, it's commerce on top of face worth, or at a premium.
- Regardless of the market value of a bond, the coupon remains a similar. However, the bond holder continues to receive \$100 a year.
- What changes is that the bond yield. commerce it for \$800, the yield are going to be 12.5% ($\$100/\800). If oversubscribed for \$1,200, the yield are going to be 8.33% ($\$100/\$1,200$).

Topic 2:SAGAR

Importance for Prelims:International Relations



India extended \$100 million line of Credit to Mauritius that occupies necessary place in India's SAGAR initiative.

- Security and Growth for all in the Region focusses on the Blue economy in theregion.
- It seeks to strenthen India's relations beside her neighboring countries and furtherstrengthens this bond by prioristising the Indian Ocean region.

Objectives of SAGAR:

- ✓ To get a climate of trust and transparency
- ✓ Respect for international maritime rules and norms by all countries
- ✓ Sensitivity to (towards) each other's interests
- ✓ Peaceful resolution of maritime issues
- ✓ Increase in maritime cooperation.

Topic 3: Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA)

Importance for Prelims: Polity

RKA delayed the Cow Science exam when its chairman resigned yesterday.

- It was fashioned for conservation, protection and development of cows and their progeny by organizing animal husbandry on trendy and scientific lines in 2019.
- It falls under the Department of agriculture and dairy farming (Ministry of Fisheries, animal husbandry & Dairying).
- it will operate as an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul mission.
- It conjointly includes development and conservation of endemic breeds.
- This focus can facilitate exaggerated growth of farm animal sector that is additional inclusive, benefitting women, and little and marginal farmers.
- it will add collaboration with Veterinary, Animal Sciences or Agriculture University or departments or organizations of the Central/State Government engaged within the task of analysis within the field of breeding and rearing of cow, organic manure, biogas etc.

Topic 4:Genome valley

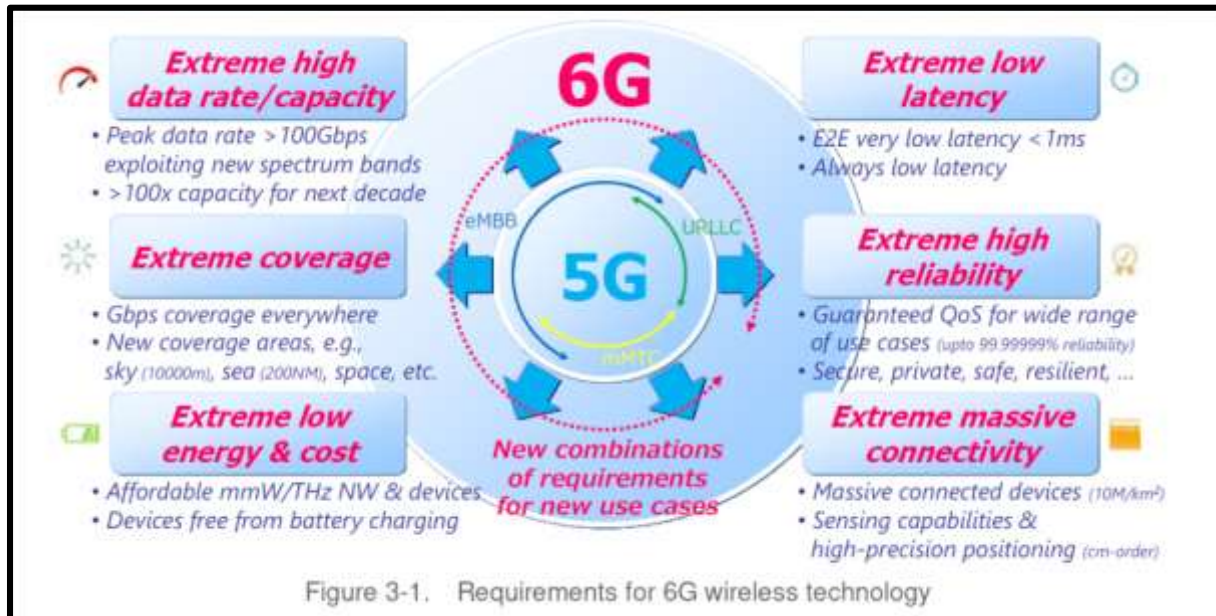
Importance for Prelims: Geography

Telangana health minister talked concerning Hyderabad because the vaccine capita citing foreign envoys and Indian PM's visit to the ordination depression.

- It is India's initial consistently developed R&D cluster in Hyderabad.
- It homes over 150 firms, creating it the country's largest cluster of multitenantedlab house infrastructure in an exceedingly single location.
- It could be a good mix of knowledge parks, special economic zones, multi-tenanted wet laboratories, incubation facilities, office areas beside outstanding support facilities.
- It homes company like India Biotech that recently additionally developed Covaxinvaccine for Corona virus.

Topic 5:6G

Importance for Prelims: Science & Technology



The DoT is attempting attempt} to stipulate an overall framework of 6G and to produce directional steering for the following 6G analysis.

- The department goes to prepare a webinar on February twenty four to analyze the technical needs and challenges to introduce 6G within the country for standardization of 6G, probable use cases, opportunities and challenges in the present scheme, and strategizing for 6G in India.

About 6G

- It may be a successor to 5G cellular technology.
- It is anticipated that 6G networks are able to use higher frequencies than 5G networks and this can modify higher knowledge rates to be achieved and for the 6G network to possess a way larger overall capability.
- A abundant lower latency levels are additionally one in every of the options.
- It seeks to utilize the rate band of frequency that is presently unutilized.

Topic 6: National Company Law Tribunal

Importance for Prelims: Polity



The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the NCLT, Mumbai, to continue proceedings Future Retail's plea seeking permission for line a shareholders' meeting to approve its Rs 24,713 crore retail quality sale take care of Reliance Retail however asked the judicature to not pass final orders enabling the deal

- Earlier a fight arose between Amazon and therefore the Biyani cluster, owner of the biggest chain in India through Future Retail, once FRL set to dump Amazon to travel with Reliance Retail.
- Amazon had cited its Rs 1,413 crore investment in Future cluster before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre's Emergency arbitrator (EA) to induce a remain the FRL-Reliance Retail deal, wherever Future Retail said Semitic deity had no authority over domestic take care of the Reliance.
- The matter than visited city HC and currently before the SC and in between the future Retail visited NCLT for permission to decision a shareholders' meeting to approve the deal with Reliance Retail.

About NCLT:

- It may be a statutory body entrenched under the section 408 of the

businesses Act, 2013.

- The current NCLT traces its formation to the recommendations of the Justice Eradi Committee that was established by Central Government within the year 1998
- It may be a quasi-judicial authority incorporated for handling company disputes that are of civil nature arising under the companies Act.
- It has power to control its own procedures.
- The NCLT composition is of the President and alternative Judicial and Technical members, to exercise and discharge powers and functions as prescribed by the Act or the other power delegated to them by means of the other enactment or a Notification by Ministry Of corporate Affairs.
- Appeals against the order of the NCLT can visit NCLAT, completely dedicated for this purpose.

It has been given jurisdiction over:

1. Board for Industrial and financial Reconstruction. (“BIFR”)
2. The appellant Authority for Industrial and monetary Reconstruction. (“AAIFR”)
3. Jurisdiction and powers relating to ending restructuring and alternative such provisions, unconditional within the High Courts.
4. Company Law Board (“CLB”).

It has following power:

1. Most of the powers of the corporate Law Board underneath the businesses Act, 1956.
2. All the powers of BIFR for revival and rehabilitation of sick industrial companies;
3. Power of tribunal within the matters of mergers, demergers, amalgamations, winding up, etc.;
4. Power to order repayment of deposits accepted by Non-Banking

monetary Companies as provided in section 45QA of the bank of Bharat Act, 1934;

5. Power to finish up companies;
6. Power to Review its own orders.

Topic 7: Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

Importance for Prelims: Policy and schemes

The secretary Ministry of animal husbandry, dairying and Fisheries talked of potential social, economic and organic process profit investment in animal husbandry will bring from funds like AHIDF will ensure.

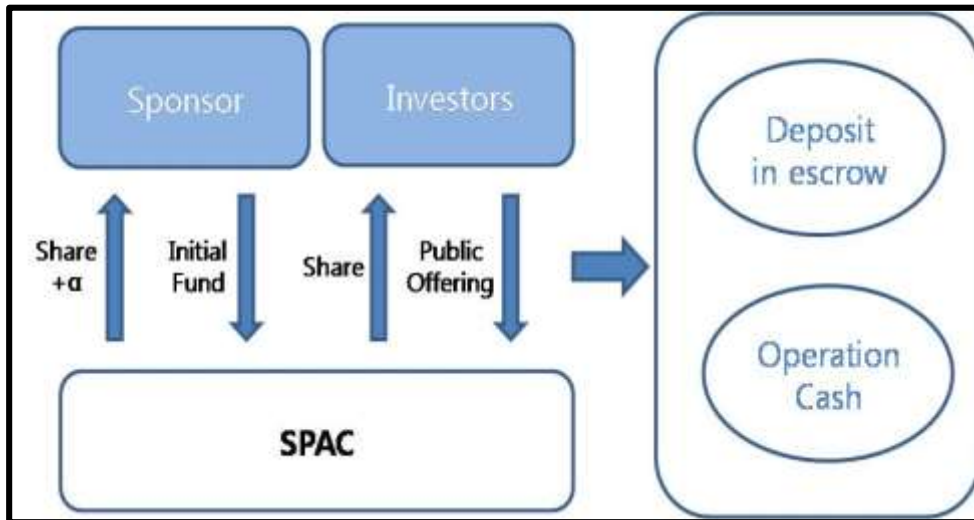
- Last year as a part of AtmaNirbhar India package announcement was created for setting from husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) price Rs. 15000 crores.
- The AHIDF has been discovered with an outlay of ₹15,000 crore. As per the provisions of AHIDF, a project will be eligible for a loan quantity that covers up to 90th of the estimated price – with an interest subvention of 3 for all eligible entities.
- Applicants will submit the proposal with an entire elaborate Project Report through the UdyamiMitra Portal
- It can profit FPOs, MSMEs, section 8 firms, personal firms and individual bourgeois with minimum 100% margin cash contribution by them
- The loan from fund can have a pair of years moratorium amount for principal loan quantity and 6 years compensation amount thereafter

Objectives of the fund

- Infrastructure for dairy.
- Meat process and
- Value addition infrastructure and
- Establishment of animal feed plant within the personal sector

Topic 8: Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPAC)

Importance for Prelims: Economy



Many countries are these days seeing SPAC as another to Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)

- SPACs provide a replacement route for insecure taking people to participate within the startup elation.
- It is an empty company shell (or blank-cheque firms with no operations or business plans once seeking investment) that raises cash from investors with the aim of exploit personal businesses by merging them.
- It takes firms or start-ups public through the rear door route.
- In this they compete directly with personal equity investors and strategic patrons for acquisition candidates.
- Its significance lies in lease clients understand a bit of extremely unreal rising businesses that may quickly soar in worth.
- Issue in method of IPOs that wants making ready for a lot of disclosures, hiring Investment bankers, obtaining the rating right and so hoping investors can bite Needs 18-24 months. SPAC scale back now and risks.
- It will complete its provide in an exceedingly Matter of months and once done, the company will merely merge with it.

- The folks that sponsor SPACs are chargeable for raising money and negotiating With target firms. For this service, the fee to the sponsor may be quite stiff.

Topic 9: London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

Importance for Prelims: Economy

London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)	
London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is the most popular interest rate benchmark that financial institutions use globally.	
How LIBOR Works?	LIBOR Rate Calculation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ICE (Intercontinental Exchange) calculates the LIBOR rates. ▪ It averages the rates considered after surveying the panel of banks they are comfortable with borrowing money. ▪ Bank fixes the interest on consumer loans a few points more than the LIBOR rate. ▪ It serves as a gauge of the strength of the economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LIBOR rates could be for a day or up to 12 months (seven maturities). ▪ Rates Quoted in 3 Currencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Dollar (USD) • Euro (EUR) • Japanese Yen (JPY) • Swiss Franc (CHF) • Pooled Sterling (GBP) ▪ All five currencies to come up with 35 LIBOR rates.
Dropping Confidence in LIBOR	Future of LIBOR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial institutions lost confidence in the LIBOR after the 2008 financial crisis. ▪ Some countries have already started with alternative benchmark rate. ▪ Financial institutions around the globe still widely use LIBOR as the benchmark rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The future of this benchmark rate is uncertain. ▪ The 1-month and 2-month USD LIBOR rate won't exist after December 31, 2021. ▪ By 2023, it would be replaced by Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR).

A new EY India report as majority of LIBOR rates are possible to be phased out by the tip of 2021, the NBFCs in India ought to set up for a good lay to rest Bank Offered Rate (IBOR) transition.

Report highlights

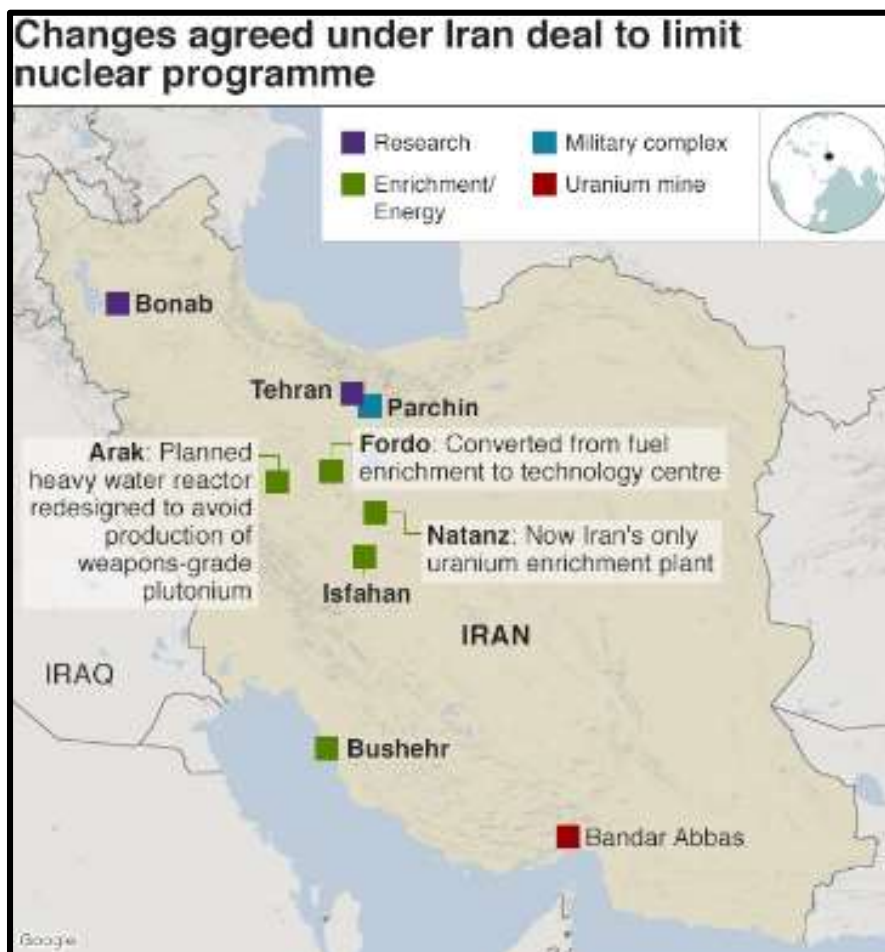
- LIBOR-linked borrowings and derivative exposures of NBFCs want coming up with for this transition.
- NBFC, banks need to ensure contract amendments, monetary news, tax and alternative risk
- It additionally must proactively interact with their corporate clients who will be
- It additionally must interact with their clients wedged by LIBOR migration on account of their sizeable overseas borrowings and by-product exposure

About LIBOR

- It may be a globally benchmark rate documented by contracts measured in trillions of dollars across global currencies.
- It is that the key rate of interest at that major global banks lend to 1 another within the international interbank marketplace for short-term loans.
- LIBOR is run by the intercontinental Exchange, that asks major international banks what quantity they might charge alternative banks for short-run loans.
- The rate is calculated exploitation the water Methodology, an even, transaction based mostly, data-driven, stratified method.

Topic 10: Iran IAEA reach deal on inspections

Importance for Prelims: International developments



Diplomatic negotiations reached a fruitful outcome with the IAEA saying a brief deal for scrutiny of nuclear facilities in Iran.

- It may be a 3-month arrangement for scrutiny of Iranian facilities.
- However, it'll not have same access as before once a law comes into force in Iran.
- This is important amidst recent USA withdrawal from Iran Nuclear deal.
- However, Iran can quickly suspend supposed “voluntary transparency measures” (inspections of non-nuclear sites, as well as military sites suspected of nuclear-related activity).

Topic 11: Western disturbance

Importance for Prelims: Geography



Delhi saw fewer Western Disturbance event this year and this has led to Feb temperature seven degree higher than traditional.

- Towards the tip of Feb, temperature typically starts rising, however, this is independent on the quantity of Western Disturbances. There was 1 Western disturbance around February 5 this year and none then.
- A Western Disturbance could be a weather pattern related to sudden winter rain and snow in northwest India, that plays a crucial role in conveyance down the temperatures.

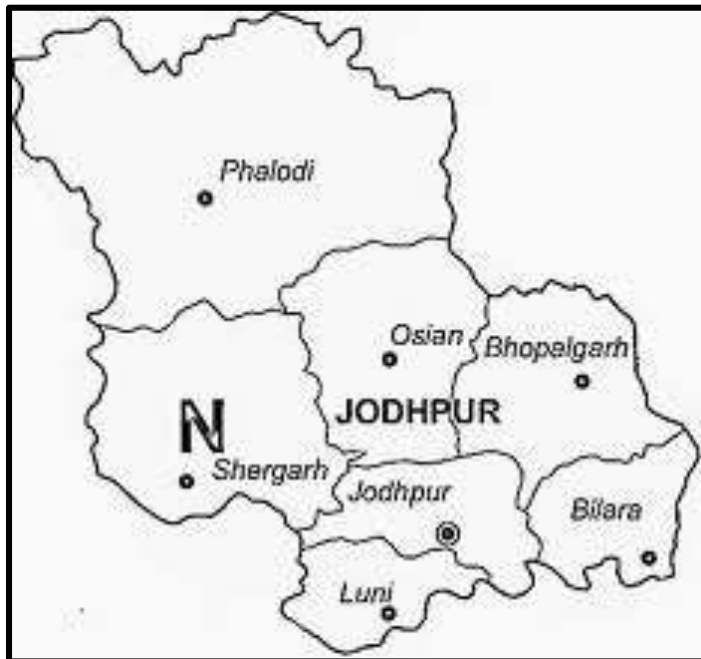
About Western disturbance

- It is an extra-tropical storm (low pressure winds embedded in western winds(westerlies) that be due west to the east) that originates within the Mediterranean region Why name Western disturbance (WD): The disturbance travels from the “western” to the east direction. Disturbance means that a part of “disturbed” or reduced gas pressure. Equilibrium exists in nature because of that the air during a region tries to normalize its pressure.
- WD is related to the downfall, snowfall and fog in northern India.

- After motion over Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan to northern India it comes with the cloud beside rain and snow. The wetness that WDs carry with them comes from the mediterranean sea and/or from the atlantic ocean.
- In India, WD eventually return up against the chain of mountains and acquire blocked, as a consequence, the wetness gets treed and precipitation is shared within the kind of snow and rain over Northwest India and generally, different parts of North India
- Once it's additional intense within the Indian Region, they'll extend even upto 15 degree north, ensuing into rainfall upto north Maharashtra, Gujarat and therefore the entire Madhya Pradesh
- The WD is that the reason for the foremost winter and pre-monsoon season rainfall across North-West India, moderate to serious rain in low lying areas and serious snow to mountainous areas of the Indian landmass.
- It has significance in in agriculture notably for rabi crops as well as wheat.
- Extra-Tropical Cyclones also are referred to as as winter storms and blizzards.

Topic 12:Shergarh

Importance for Prelims: Art and culture



Close to 9 years once the 16th century Sher Shah Gate in Central Delhi was partly broken in significant rains, the restoration work on the monument remains not complete and delayed thanks to Covid protocols as per ASI.

- Sher Shah gate is found on Mathura Road opposite PuranaQila and folded in 2012.
- The gate served because the southern entrance to Shergarh, a city engineered by Sher Shah Suri of the Sur dynasty throughout his reign as emperor of North Asian nation from 1540 to 1545.
- Shergarh was engineered once Sher Shah took management of the Mughal Empire once defeating emperor Humayun in 1540.
- The northern gate of Shergarh is at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg and is understood because the KhooniDarwaza

Topic 13:PM SVANIDHI scheme (Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmanirbharNidhi)

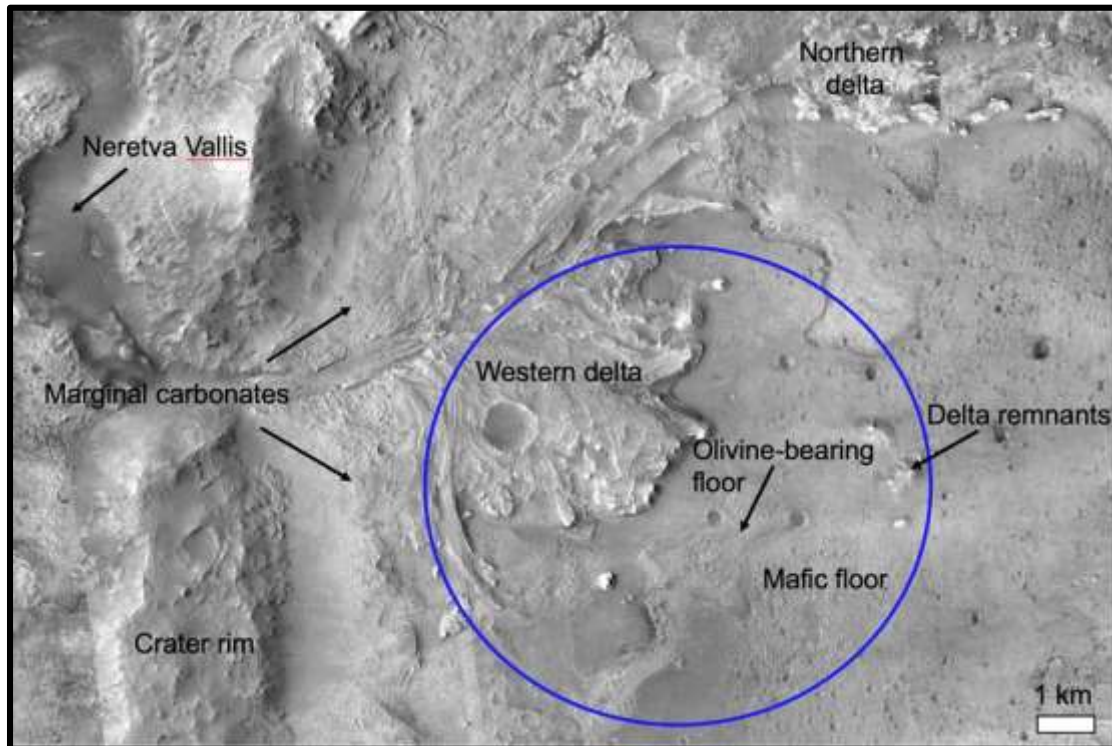
Importance for Prelims: Welfare schemes

Focus on the schemes return because the Centre has alerted banks regarding slowdown in loans to the road vendors.

- It may be a special micro-credit facility theme for providing cheap loan to street vendors.
- The theme is aimed at daily wage staff (mostly migrant workers) to resume their livelihoods that are adversely affected thanks to COVID-19 imprisonment.
- Under the theme, every of those streets' vendors are going to be given collateral free loan of Rs 10,000, that they will come as monthly installments at intervals a year.
- Those who repay their loans on time can get seven p.c annual interest as grant which can be transferred in their bank accounts. there's no provision for penalty.
- The street vendors happiness to the encircling peri-urban or rural square measureas are being enclosed as beneficiaries under the urban livelihoods programme for the primary time.
- According to the ministry knowledge there are around forty two.7 lakh street vendors in country (except West Bengal), out of that 37 lakh application was received under the theme and 20 lakh applications are sanctioned.
- The loaning establishments under the theme embody scheduled industrial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, little Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, NBFCs, small Finance establishments and aid cluster banks.

Topic 14: Jezero crater

Importance for Prelims: Science and Technology

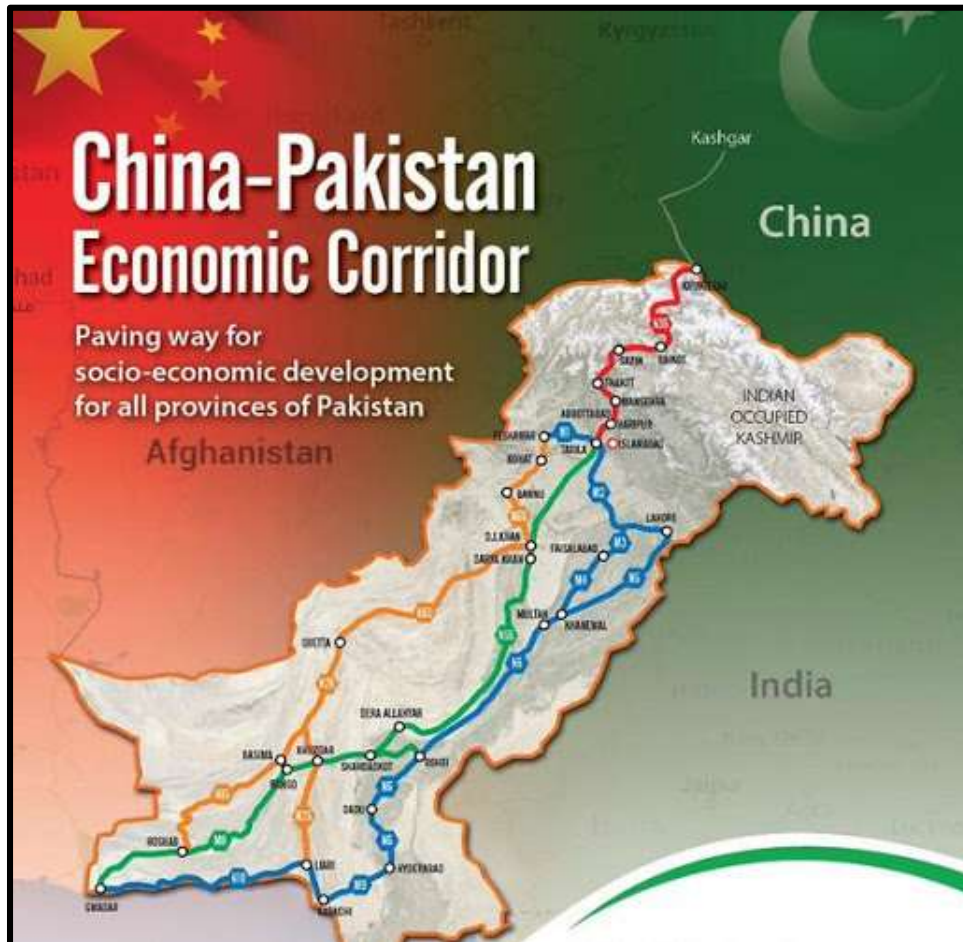


Perseverance landed on depression on Mars referred to as Jezero crater recently.

- Scientists believe the realm was once flooded with water and was home to an ancient stream delta.
- Conceivably, microorganism life may have lived in Jezero throughout one or a lot of of wet times there. If so, signs of their remains may well be found in lakebed or bounds sediments.
- It is 28 miles (45 kilometers) wide, and is found on the western fringe of a flat plain referred to as IsidisPlanitia, that lies simply north of the Martian equator.
- It is oldest tract to be explored on Mars.

Topic 15:CPEC

Importance for Prelims:International agreements



Pakistan says it seeks to strengthen trade ties with the land through CPEC.

- The CPEC is part of China's larger regional transnational 'One Belt One Road'(OBOR) initiative, whose 2 arms are the land-based New trade route and also the 21st century Maritime trade route, using that Peking aims to form a Silk Road Economic Belt sprawling over an outsized patch of Asia and eastern Europe, and reticulated by an internet of transport, energy offer and telecommunications lines.
- The agreement between 2 countries for property comes amounted to around investments of 46 Billion greenback.
- It consists of clutch of major infrastructure works presently below method in Pakistan, supposed to link Kashgar in China's province

province to Gwadar deep sea port getting ready to Pakistan's border with Iran.

- It aims to rework Pakistan's economy—by modernizing its road, rail, air, and energy transportation systems—and to allow China a shorter and quicker land route to avoid its Malacca perplexity and reach intent on Central Asia and Europe through land route.

India's concern with CPEC:

- Its principal objection was that CPEC saw Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- It violates India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Strategic advantage to China by giving a grip to China in Western Indian Ocean.
- Part of the strategy of China of skirting India through "String of Pearls".
- Kashmir dilemma: The route of CPEC passes through POK Associate in Nursingd makes China an indirect stakeholder in Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan.

Topic 16: Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0

Importance for Prelims: Welfare schemes

The states and UT rolled out intense Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 scheme to reach children and pregnant ladies who were uncomprehensible routine immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic

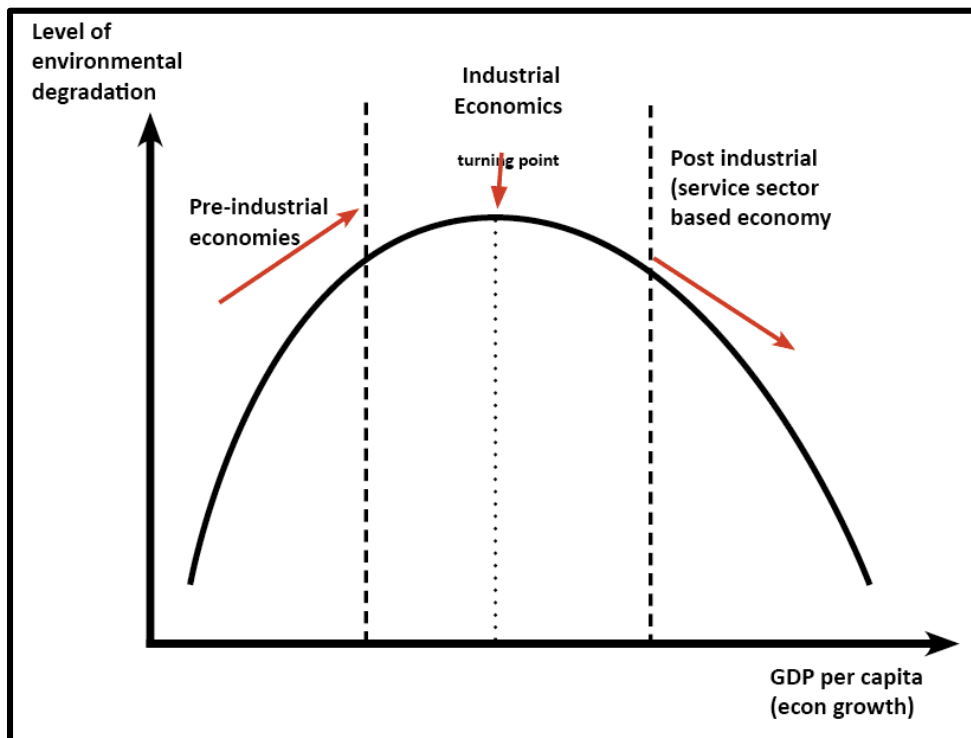
- On the primary day 29,000 children and 5,000 pregnant ladies were reached as per health ministry within the initial session unrolled on twenty two

About IMI 3.0

- To reach those children and pregnant ladies United Nations agency are ignored or been omitted of the Routine immunization Programme
- It is to accelerate the complete immunisation of children and pregnant ladies through a mission mode intervention.
- It can have 2 phases of 15 days every.
- It are going to be conducted on priority in 250 preidentified districts/urban areas across twenty nine States/UTs (the districts are classified to reflect 313 low risk, 152 medium risk and 250 high risk districts).
- Beneficiary from migration areas and remote areas are primary target as they largely uncomprehensible vaccination.
- COVID-appropriate behaviour (CAB) throughout protection activities (social distancing, mask and alternative safety protocols like staggered approach of conducting sessions) has been created a part of strategy.

Topic 17:Kuznets curve hypothesis

Importance for Prelims:Economy/Environment



The scientists at IIT Madras has come back to conclusion that in developing countries the environmental economist curve hypothesis doesn't hold smart.

About Kuznet Curve hypothesis

- It was given by nobel laureate simon kuznets.
- As a rustic grows wealthy, the economic equality suffers at first, however over time, the economic difference declines.

Environment Kuznet Curve hypothesis:

- The Kuznet curve extension to the environmental impacts of growth and rise and ensuant decline in pollution levels has been said to face similar pattern.
- According to the hypothesis the growth is really a cure for environmental issues, instead of being a cause of it

Implications of the Environmental economist Curve

- When an economy is primarily pre-industrial and agricultural, the

atmosphere is sometimes clean and untouched by pollutants from industrial economic activities.

- As the economy shifts towards development and industrialisation, the environment is at the next risk of being injured by pollution and depletion of natural resources.
- The curve then returns to a cleaner environment once economic growth continues, and people prefer to pay their incomes on up the atmosphere by cleaning water and up air quality

Observations of scientists

- The scientists calculated environment potency in terms of greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions (the additional of those emissions meant less environment potency and correlated with the value per capita in fifteen developing countries together with India between 1992 and 2011.
- It found that the environmental potency in terms of CO₂ per capita exhibits an “inverted N-shaped” (not inverted U) relationship with economic growth, an insignificant impact of growth on potency is ascertained just in case of SO₂ i.e., to an extent it's a remedy for environmental degradation in terms of CO₂ emission, it's not a remedy for SO₂ emission.
- It suggests local-level policies like correct designing for urbanization, among others, to regulate the emission of native pollutants.

Topic 18: Indian Bank Association (IBA)

Importance for Prelims: Economy



As a preparation to assess capital needed for formation of “Bad Bank” the IBA has asked the lenders to give details of stressed accounts over Rs five hundred large integer (fund and non-fund based mostly as additionally debt investment).

- The IBA is functioning with the Department of monetary Services and some lenders to line up the ‘Bad Bank’.
- Fraud accounts, those in view of resolution below the IBC and people below liquidation, accounts of monetary service suppliers (such as NBFCs, mutual funds and broking firms), and similar equity/equity and unsecured exposures are excluded from the news format.

About projected unhealthy Bank

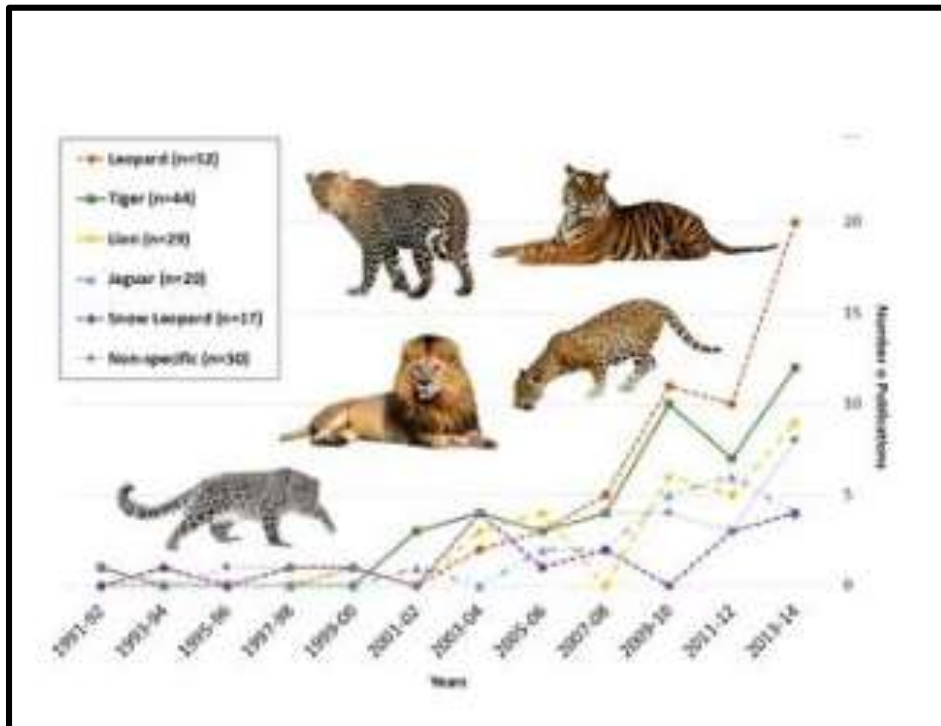
- “Bad Banks” as projected is ‘Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)/Asset Management Company (AMC)’ structure, to scrub up lenders’ books.
- It are going to be an integrated platform (Bad Bank) for all high-value non-performing assets (NPAs) can facilitate debt aggregation and facilitate quicker resolution

About IBA

- It may be a representative body of management of banking in India operational in India or an association of Indian banks and money establishments based mostly in Mumbai.
- It was fashioned in 1946 for development, coordination and strengthening of Indian banking, and assist the member banks in varied ways in which as well as implementation of latest systems and adoption of standards among the members Public Sector Banks, personal Sector Banks, Foreign Banks having offices in India, Co-operative Banks, Regional Rural Banks and every one India institution are its member.

Topic 19: Tribal's forest right vs Critical Wildlife Habitat/Tiger Habitat

Importance for Prelims: Environment



Thousands of tribals living in villages placed within the core area units of Sitanadi Udanti Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh area unit exacting that their Community Forest Resource rights be recognized that are presently profaned **exploitation core areas under critical Tiger environment within the area.**

Land rights under the scheduled Tribes and different ancient Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006:

- SECTION 3 (1) (i) of the Act offers right to safeguard, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource that the tribals are historically protective and preserving for property use.
- For recognition of Community Forest Resource rights, ancient boundary of a social group village is recognised, empowering the gram sabha of the village to require selections on protection, regeneration, conservation and management of the forest and its manufacture.
- The Gram Sabha is authorized to require selections relating to

protection, regeneration, conservation and management of the forest and its manufacture under the Act.

- For Community Forest Resource rights, the standard boundary of social group village as a unit is that the boundary.
- 2006 Act's Section 4(1) says all the same something contained in the other law for the present operative, and subject to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government herewith recognises and vests forest rights under Section 3(1) of identical Act.

Critical Tiger habitat

- These are core areas of tiger reserves and are known beneath the Wild Life Protection Act (WLPA), 1972 supported scientific evidence.
- Such areas are needed to be unbroken as inviolate for the aim of tiger conservation, while not touching the rights of the scheduled Tribes or such different forest dwellers.
- The notification of CTH is completed by the regime in consultation with the skilled committee recognized for the aim.

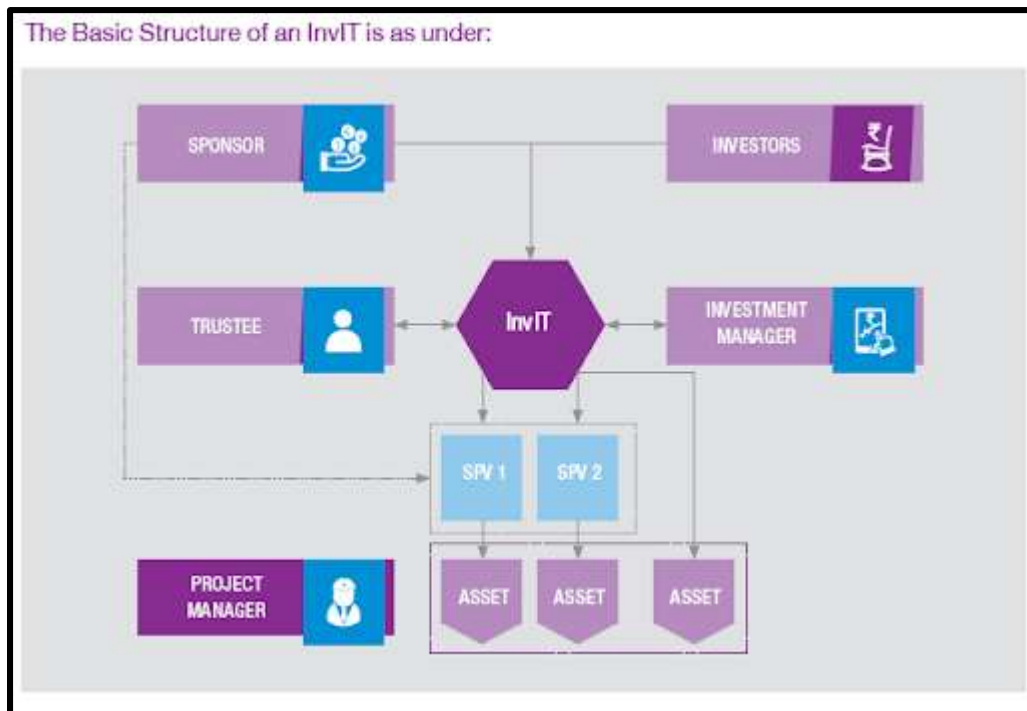
Critical life habitat

- Critical 'wildlife' habitats (CWLHs), on the opposite hand, are outlined only in the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- CWLHs area unit meant to be areas of national parks and life sanctuaries that are needed to be kept as inviolate for the aim of life conservation (not simply tigers).
- Similar to CTH, the identification of CWLH is completed supported scientific and objective criteria, however it obligatorily needs settlement of forest rights under FRA.
- Unlike CTHs, the notification of CWLHs will only be finished the consent of the Gram Sabhas and affected stakeholders.
- Post notification, the forest rights in CWLHs may be changed or settled

subject to sure conditions.

Topic 20:Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT)

Importance for Prelims:Economy



The railways officers are looking at InvIT once its role in road and power sector because it has been seeking to draw in private investment

- It could be a Collective Investment theme kind of like a mutual fund, that allows direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure comes to earn a little portion of the income as come it's a bed structure with Sponsor putting in the InvIT that successively invests into the eligible infrastructure comes either directly or via special purpose vehicles (SPVs).
- It is regulated by the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) rules, 2014

Topic 21: Mount Etna (Italy)

Importance for Prelims: Geography



Context: For a week Mt Etna has been belching lava, ash and volcanic rocks on a regular basis as a result of eruption.

- Mount Etna is the highest Mediterranean island mountain and the most active stratovolcano or Composite volcano in the world. It is about 3,326 metres high and is the highest peak in Italy South of the Alps.
- The almost continuous eruptive activity of Mount Etna continues to influence volcanology, geophysics and other Earth science disciplines.
- It also impacts terrestrial ecosystems including endemic flora and fauna and its activity makes it a natural laboratory for the study of ecological and biological processes.

About Composite volcano

- Cone-shaped volcanoes built from many layers of lava, pumice, ash, and tephra.

- Due to multiple layers of viscous material, rather than fluid lava, composite volcanoes tend to form tall peaks rather than rounded cones.
- Sometimes the summit crater collapses to form a caldera.
- Composite volcanoes are responsible for the most catastrophic eruptions in history.
- So far, Mars is the only place in the solar system besides Earth known to have Stratovolcanoes.

Topic 22:India-South Africa IPR waiver proposal

Importance for Prelims:Economy

Around 90 WTO members have supported India-South Africa IPR proposal for temporary waiver throughout Covid 19 amount.

- At the recent visits Council meeting these members supported the proposal that has 57 co-sponsors.
- It says that the member countries can choose to neither grant nor enforce patents and different intellectual property- (IP) related to Covid-19 medication, vaccines and medical merchandise for the length of the pandemic.
- The co-sponsors of the India-South Africa proposal embody Kenya, Eswatini, Mozambique, Pakistan and Bolivia.
- Significance of this support is that proposal won't be put aside which a lot of efforts area unit created to maneuver towards a accord on the matter
- It was additionally supported by ACP group, one among the most important teams on forum.
- Several developed countries and China, colombia and Chile, however, still oppose it, and sought-after a lot of evidence-based discussion.
- However skew access to vaccine is evident: As per the info, the US, the uk and also the EU accounted for concerning 30 per cent of over 200 million vaccines that are administered globally. it's been according that simply 10 countries have administered 75 per cent of all Covid-19 vaccines whereas over one hundred countries haven't received a single dose.

About ACP cluster

- ACP cluster (African, Caribbean and Pacific cluster – 62 members) was created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975 and currently referred to

as Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

- Aim of the cluster is property development and financial condition reduction inside its member states, in addition as their larger integration into the world's economy.
- Many tiny island developing states are OACPS states. The fourth Lome Convention was revised in 1995 in Mauritius and offers special attention to island countries during this agreement.

Topic 23: Draft Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, for social media platforms, OTT players & digital media

Importance for Prelims: Polity

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Identify 'first originator' of content that authorities consider anti-national
- Appoint grievance officer, resolve complaints in 15 days
- File monthly compliance report on complaints received, action taken

DIGITAL NEWS

- Follow Press Council of India, Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act norms.
- Self-regulatory bodies to oversee adherence to Code of Ethics
- I&B Ministry to form panel, oversight mechanism

OTT PLATFORMS

- Self-classify content into five age-based categories: U (universal), U/A 7+ (years), U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A.

- Parental locks for any content classified as U/A 13+ or above.
- Age verification mechanism for content classified as 'A' (adult)

The Centre notified new guidelines for intermediaries in “soft bit oversight” rules for fixing accountability for the “misuse and abuse”.

- The pointers basically take away the “safe harbour” provided to those corporations — it restricted their liability over content that users announce on their platforms — if the platforms don't adjust to due diligence norms. Hold social media and different corporations in charge of “misuse and abuse”
- Big tech platforms to line up stronger grievance redressal mechanisms, and appoint executives to coordinate with enforcement in India.

- It also mentions three-level grievance redressal mechanism. this may embrace self-regulation by the publishers; self-regulation by the self-acting bodies of the publishers and oversight mechanism.

Topic 24: Gelatin sticks

Importance for Prelims: Science and technology



20 gelatin sticks were found close to the car of Mukesh Ambani who enjoys “Z plus” security (highest security to individual assessed to be facing threat in India)

- Gelatin sticks nitrocellulose largely used for blasting functions in quarries (recent years saw its use in some terror cases).
- They would like a detonator to be go away.
- It is additionally referred to as as gelly or straightforward jelly. it consists of consisting of gaplodioncotton(a kind of nitrocellulose or guncotton) dissolved in either nitroglycerine or nitrogly col and mixed with pulp and saltpeter.
- It was made-up in 1875, by Swedish chemist alfred nobel, who additionally made-up dynamite.
- Its composition makes it simply fictile and safe to handle while not protection, as long because it isn't close to anything capable of exploding it.

Topic 25: Rise in bond yield

Importance for Prelims: Economy



Rising yields on government securities or bonds within the u. s. and India have triggered concern over the negative impact on different quality categories, particularly stock markets, and even gold.

- Bond yield is that the come an capitalist gets on it bond or on a specific certificate.
- The major factors poignant the yield is that the financial policy of the ReserveBank of India, particularly the course of interest rates, the fiscal position of the govt and its borrowing programme, world markets, economy, and inflation.
- A fall in interest rates makes bond costs rise, and bond yields fall and vice versa.
- Bond yields are reciprocally proportional to equity returns: once bond yields decline, equity markets tend to exceed, and once yields rise, equity market returns tend to falter so, once bond yields go up, investors begin

reallocating investments faraway from equities and into bonds, as they're a lot of safer. As bond yields rise, the chance value of investment in equities goes up, and equities diminish engaging.

- Also, an increase in bond yields raises the price of capital for corporations, that successively compresses the valuations of their stocks
- Impact on Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI): historically, once bond yields rise within the U.S., FPIs move out of Indian equities. Also, it's been seen that once the bond yield in India goes up, it ends up in capital outflows from equities and into debt.

Topic 26: Vellore mutiny

Importance for Prelims: Modern Indian History



Descendants of tipu sultan who himself ne'er had any links to the town realize themselves in Calcutta and Vellore mutiny in 1806 is given reason for his or her ascendent migrating here.

- It erupted on tenth July 1806 in Vellore, current Tamil Nadu.
- It is one among the primary major mutiny by the Indian sepoy within the east india Company.
- It killed fourteen British officers and a hundred and fifteen Englishmen of the 69th Regiment and concluded on a similar day.
- Led by tipu Sultan's son Hyder Fateh they raised the flag of the Mysore state over the fort.
- From Arcot, British troops arrived led by Sir tribal chief cornetist to quell the rebellion.
- All 3 Madras regiments were concerned and was disbanded when mutiny.

Causes:

- Disregarding the spiritual sensitivities of the Hindu and Muslim Indian sepoys. Prohibiting troopers from sporting spiritual marks on their foreheads and additionally to trim their moustaches and shave off their beards
- Resentment felt towards changes within the sepoy dress code: sporting of latest spherical hats rather than the normal headgear crystal rectifier to believe that try was being created for conversion to Christianity.
- Punishment to troopers who protested these orders.

Topic 27:Haemorrhagic Septicemia

Importance for Prelims:Science and Tech

7 elephants were dead in Odisha in the Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalahandi with reports pointing to a disease, Haemorrhagic Septicemia.

- It is caused by a bacterium called *pasteurella multocida*.
- The bacteria are commonly found in the respiratory tract of herbivores, especially in cattle from which elephant has supposedly got the disease.
- It rapidly multiply and move from the respiratory tract to the bloodstream only when the animal's body faces stress (particularly when they are pregnant), has low immunity or is unhealthy.
- It causes diarrhoea and often haemorrhagic septicemia, which can be fatal.
- It is possibly through contamination of the soil from faecal droppings or contamination of the water bodies, than direct transfer among elephants.

Topic 28:CARACAL

Importance for Prelims:Environment



The National Board for life and Union Ministry of surroundings, Forest and climate change last month enclosed the Lynx caracal, a medium-sized wildcat found in components of Rajasthan and Gujarat, within the list of critically species

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists caracals as a species of 'least concern', primarily thanks to their large numbers in Africa.
- But in India they're 'endangered'.
- Now it's classified as 'Critically Endangered' in India.
- Since 2001, the Caracal's presence has been only according the 3 states, together with Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

About Lynx caracal

- Besides India, the caracal is found in many dozen countries across Africa, theMiddle East, Central and South Asia. whereas it thrives in components of Africa, its numbers in Asia are declining.

- The caracal wild cat (*Caracal caracal*) may be a rare species in India.
- The wildcat has long legs, a brief face, long canine teeth, and distinctive ears — long and pointy, with tufts of black hair at their tips.
- The picture ears are what provide the animal its name — caracal comes from the Turkish *karakulak*, which means ‘black ears’.
- In India, it's referred to as *siya gosh*, a Persian name that interprets as ‘black Ear’. A Sanskrit fable exists a few tiny wild cat named *deergha-karn* or ‘long-eared’.
- In tannin dialect of Gujarat Caracals are domestically named as *Hornetro* which suggests killer of a blackbuck whereas in Rajasthan it's referred to as *Junglee Bilaoor Wildcat*.
- They are largely found within the tropical dry deciduous and tropical thorn and woody plant forests of Central and Western India.
- The caracal has traditionally lived in 13 Indian states, in 9 out of the 26 biotic provinces. within the amount before Independence, the animal roamed an calculable area of 7.9 lakh sq km; between then and 2000, however, this surround shrunken by virtually a [**fr1*]. After 2001, sightings are according from only 3 states.
- “From 2001 to 2020, the according extent of prevalence additional diminished by 95.95%, with current presence restricted to 16,709 sq km, but five-hitter of the caracal’s according extent of prevalence within the 1948-2000 amount,” according to Khandal et al.
- The caracal may be earlier found in arid and semi-arid scrub forest and ravines in Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, province, Maharashtra, province, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh.
- Today, its presence is restricted to Rajasthan, Kutch, and components of MP.

- Caracals had appeared in Indian paintings dating back to seventeenth century.
- The caracal has traditionally been valued for its litheness and extraordinary ability to catch birds in flight; it was a favourite coursing or hunting animal in medieval India.
- Their survival in India is endangered primary reasons **being the rapid loss of scrub and thorn habitat** and unchecked human activities in the caracals habitat

How listing as critically endangered will help?

- The listing of the caracal as critically vulnerable is predicted to bring central funding to conservation efforts. It's doubtless to make sure that the animal is studied comprehensively for the primary time, together with its range, population, prey, etc.

Interesting facts:

- The caracal has historically been valued for its litheness and extraordinary ability to catch birds in flight; it absolutely was a favorite hunting or looking animal in medieval India.
- Firuz sovereign Tughlaq (1351-88) had siyah-goshdarkhana, stables that housed massive numbers of hunting caracal. It finds mention in AbulFazl's Akbarnama, as a looking animal within the time of Akbar (1556-1605). Descriptions and illustrations of the caracal is found in medieval texts like the Anvar-i-Suhayli, Tutinama, Khamsa-e-Nizami, and Shahnameh.
- The caracal's use as a hunting animal is believed to have been taken away from its natural range to places like Ladakh within the north to Bengal within the east. The East India Company's Robert Clive is alleged to have been bestowed with a caracal when he defeated Siraj-ud-daulah within the Battle of Plassey.

Topic 29:NFSA (National Food Security Act)

Importance for Prelims: Welfare and schemes



NITI AAYOG, the government company, has suggested reducing the rural and concrete coverage beneath the National Food Security Act, 2013, to sixty per cent and forty per cent, severally, that it estimates, may result in annual savings of up to Rs 47,229 crore.

- The National Rural-Urban Coverage ratio has been fastened under Section 3(2) of the NFSA, 2013 as 75 you look after rural population and up to 500th of the urban populations.
- Past decade growth and development still because the scope provided by the Act for reduction and also the quantity of savings Government will wear a part of food grant which may any be utilized in different important areas of concern like health and education the Niti paper suggested it.
- It recommends to cut back the National Rural-Urban Coverage ratio under NFSA to 60-40 from 75-50 whereas change the population level to this level (based on population estimates) because it is presently based on census 2011.

- Earlier the Shanta Kumar committee report had suggested reducing the coverage ratio from 67 per cent of population to 40 %.

About NFSA, 2013

- To give for food and nutritional security within the human life cycle approach through access to adequate quantities of quality food at cheap costs to folks to live a life with dignity.
- Based on the agricultural and concrete coverage magnitude relation, the erstwhile commission had determined the state-wise coverage ratio victimization the National Sample Survey
- Household Consumption Expenditure coverage beneath food security law Survey knowledge for 2011-12. The coverage magnitude relation has not been revised since the law came into result on July 5, 2013.
- National Food Security Act, 2013 covers up to 75th of the agricultural population and five hundredth of the urban population under beneath Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households who receives backed food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Provisions:

- The existing AAY family can still receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
- 5 Kgs of food grains per person per month at Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
- Meal and maternity good thing about not but Rs. 6,000 to pregnant girls and wet mothers throughout maternity and 6 months when the kid birth, Meals to youngsters up to 14 years of age.
- Food security allowance to beneficiaries just in case of non-supply of entitled food grains or meals.
- Setting from grievance redressal mechanisms at district and state level.

Topic 30: Significant Social Media Intermediaries**Subject: Security**

Under mediator guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code 2021 has outlined talked of “Significant Social Media Intermediaries” who has to have further due diligence.

- Social media firms with quite 50 lakh registered users will be thought of ‘significant social media intermediaries’ below the rules.

About the rules for significant Social Media Intermediaries

- Additional due diligence by these, like appointment of a chief compliance officer, a grievance and a resident grievance officer and a nodal person for round-the-clock co-ordination with enforcement agencies
- The name and details of the grievance officer can ought to be printed on the web site or the app as could also be required, the chief compliance officer, the resident grievance officer and also the nodal person for co-ordination with enforcement agencies can have to operate out of offices located in India.
- These ought to publish a monthly compliance report during which it'll have to furnish details of the amount of complaints it received throughout the month, variety of links or content that it took down throughout the period, the action taken on the complaints received and whether or not it had proactively taken down any content that was illegal or unlawful
- The instant messaging platforms like WhatsApp has further task of compulsorily distinctive the “first creator of the information” if such an order is elapsed a court of competent jurisdiction or by a government order passed below section sixty nine of the data Technology (IT) Act (limited just for the needs of “prevention, detection, investigation,

prosecution or social control of an offence related to the sovereignty and integrity of Asian country, the protection of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order).

- First creator pursuit might even be done to stop, detect, investigate or prosecute any messages in reference to “rape, sexually specific material or kid sexual abuse material.

Topic 31: NEW IT RULES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Importance for Prelims: Current Events

Government, under the scope of the knowledge Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, has brought in detailed tips for digital content on each digital media and Over the highest (OTT) platforms.

- While all the rules are framed and notified under the present Information Technology (IT) Act, the executive powers for regulation of OTT and digital news sharing platforms shall be under the Ministry of knowledge and Broadcasting (I&B).

Overview of the rules:

Three-tier grievance redressal mechanism:

- First level- OTT provider: Here, the grievance redressal system are going to be at the amount of each OTT supplier. every criticism can need to be addressed at intervals 15 days.
- Second level- a self-regulatory body: If the criticism isn't satisfactorily addressed, then the plaintiff will scale it up to a self-regulatory body together established by the OTTs.
- Composition: This body are going to be headed by a retired choose of the Supreme Court, a supreme court, or an freelance eminent person from the field of media, broadcasting, amusement, kid rights, human rights or different relevant fields.
- **Powers:** This self-regulatory body also has “censuring” powers just in case of any inculpative content.
- At the third tier, the government has equipped itself with predominant powers within the form of “oversight mechanism”. an inter-ministerial committee can perform this perform and it'll for the most part have constant powers because the collective self-regulatory body of the OTTs.

Applicability:

- The new tips place additional load on nearly all such corporations which give a platform to host, share, read or modify content, whereas additionally together with for the primary time, entities that are within the business of either making or distributing news on-line under the scope of a web intermediary.

Safe harbour provisions:

- The government has created social media intermediaries additional answerable for the content being shared on their platform by following due diligence, failing that the “safe harbour provisions” won't be applicable to them.
- These safe harbour provisions are outlined underneath Section 79 of the IT Act, and defend social media intermediaries by giving them immunity from legal prosecution for any content denote on their platforms.

A grievances redressal and compliance mechanism:

- Social media intermediaries also will be needed to possess a grievances redressal and compliance mechanism, appointing a grievance officer whose name and speak to details can need to be shared, a resident grievance workplacer who shall have an office in India and can be an Indian passport-holding subject, and a chief compliance officer.
- The chief compliance officer, who can need to be gift in India, shall be liable for making certain the platform's compliance with the IT Act and also the rules notified Thursday.
- A nodal contact one that is offered continuous for “coordination with enforcement agencies” also will need to be appointed by social media intermediaries.

Identification of the primary conceiver of the information:

- Social media intermediaries, upon being asked either by the court or by a

government authority, are going to be needed to disclose the primary conceiver of the mischievous tweet or message, because the case could also be.

- The platform can, however, be prone to disclose the conceiver of the message “only for the needs of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or penalization of an offence associated with sovereignty and integrity of Republic of India, the safety of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order”.

Fair opportunity:

- Social media companies are asked to present users an {opportunity} for rationalization and a good opportunity to be detected before removing access to their accounts.

Compliance of ethics and rules:

- A self-regulatory body, headed either by a retired Supreme Court or supreme court choose or associate degree freelance eminent person, shall even be fashioned, which can make sure the compliance of ethics and rules by on-line digital news platforms.

“Emergency” powers:

- “In case of emergency nature” the Secretary, Ministry of knowledge and Broadcasting, might “if he's glad that it's necessary or expedient and justifiable” offer orders to dam access. Such orders is released “without giving a chance of hearing” to the publication platform.

Topic 32:IAEA

Importance for Prelims:International Organizations



The move by US administration to revive the Persia nuclear deal has once again turned the spotlight on International energy Agency.

- Widely known as the world’s “Atoms for Peace and Development” organization inside the united nations family, the IAEA is that the international center for cooperation within the nuclear field.

Establishment:

- The IAEA was created in 1957 in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and numerous uses of nuclear technology.
- **HEADQUARTER:** United Nations, Austria.

Objective:

- The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to push safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
- In 2005, it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his or her work for a secure and peaceful world.

Board of Governors:

- a pair of member states (must represent a stipulated geographic

diversity) — elective by the final Conference (11 members each year) – 2 year term.

- At least 10 members states — appointed by the outgoing Board.
- Board members every receive one vote.

Functions:

- It is an freelance coalition that reports annually to the United Nation General Assembly.
- When necessary, the IAEA additionally reports to the world organization Security Council with reference to instances of members' non-compliance with safeguards and security obligations.

Topic 33:TRIPS AGREEMENT

Importance for Prelims:International Agreements

Agreement on TRIPS

TRIPS Agreement

- When the WTO was established, it led to 18 specific agreements to which all members need to adhere. Members necessarily have to agree on all these agreements.
- Among them, the most comprehensive multilateral agreement is the “Trade – Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights” (TRIPS) which came into force since 1995.

India’s joint proposal with South Africa at the globe Trade Organization for a release of sure Trade connected holding Rights obligations to confirm smooth provide of medicines and vaccines throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. It has gained support from most developing countries whereas many developed members, together with the USA, Australia and therefore the EU are opposing it.

- TRIPS is a world agreement administered by the globe Trade Organization (WTO), that sets down minimum standards for several kinds of holding (IP) rules as applied to the nationals of different WTO Members.
- It was negotiated at the tip of the uruguay spherical of the overall Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1994.
- TRIPS needs WTO members to supply copyright rights, covering content producers together with performers, producers of sound recordings and broadcasting organizations; geographical indications, together with appellations of origin; industrial designs; integrated circuit layout-designs; patents; new plant varieties; trademarks; trade dress; and unrevealed or guidance.
- The agreement additionally specifies social control procedures, remedies, and dispute resolution procedures.

TRIPS Plus

- journeys and are higher level of protection norms demanded by the developed countries that don't seem to be prescribed by the WTO's TRIPs regime.
- They demand higher protection to holding rights together with inventions, internationally. These higher levels of protection norms are named as trips and.
- The term is employed to point that these necessities transcend the minimum standards obligatory by journeys.
- Many developing countries WHO are members of FTAs are besieged to enact these harder conditions in their patent laws.
- The developing countries have considerations over the upper level of protection demanded by the developed world. They concern that when such levels of protection area unit given multilaterally, it'll cut back competition and should light-emitting diode to cost rise of medicines, affecting health security in poor countries as an example, the demand for information Exclusivity protection (protection of clinical testdata submitted to a restrictive agency) that have high business worth may be a major demand from the developed world that doesn't sometimes return underneath journeys.
- India has systematically objected to place higher level of protection (TRIPs Plus) than provided by the journeys.
- The implication of journeys and on India is that it'll limit the operation of the country's generics medication manufactures.

Topic 34:SERO SURVEY

Importance for Prelims:Science & technology

While there have been no massive surges even throughout the pageant season, ICMR's third serosurvey found only 21.5% of India has been exposed to the virus.

Sero Surveys

- The serologic survey was meant to notice whether or not the person being tested had developed antibodies against the coronavirus.
- Since it's impracticable to check everybody, police work antibodies in random sets of individuals is an indirect means of estimating the extent of malady unfold during a community.
- The antibodies are proteins created by the system to fight external organisms like viruses that attempt to enter the body.
- These are created solely when the infection is going on, and ar specific to the assaultive virus or bacteria.
- The presence of antibodies, therefore, is a sign that an infection by that exact virus or bacteria has already occurred.
- Subsequent tries to infect the body is discomfited by these antibodies

What concerning Vaccines then?

- Vaccines add an identical manner – whereby they inject harmless doses of a virus or a bacteria within the organic structure to trigger the assembly of antibodies by the system.
- These antibodies will then fight back an actual attack by those viruses or microorganism.

Do antibodies guarantee Immunity?

- The mere presence of antibodies doesn't mean that the person is protected against the malady.
- What is additionally necessary is that the quantity of antibodies present,

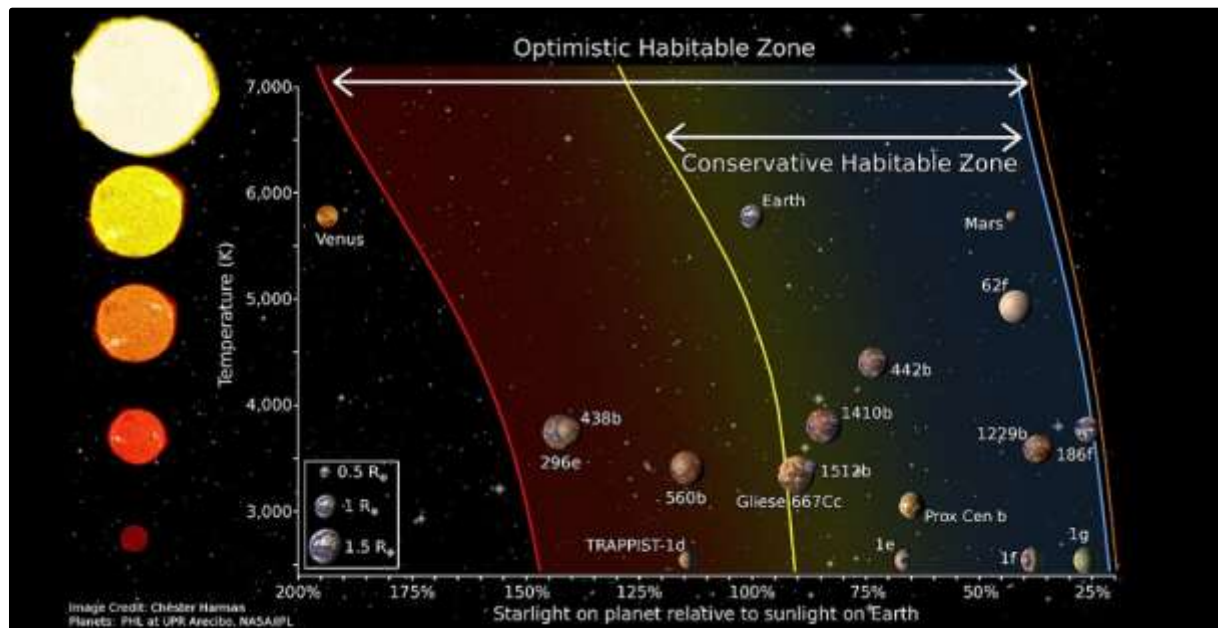
and whether or not it additionally includes what are referred to as “neutralizing antibodies” that truly fight the malady.

What is Herd Immunity?

- Herd immunity may be a stage of an endemic within which some members of a population cluster stay protected against infection as a result of a majority of these around them have already developed immunity, either through vaccination or as a result of they need been infected earlier.
- Once a particular proportion of population gets infected, and so builds immunity against the malady, the epidemic begins to abate and eventually stop.
- No one clearly is aware of what proportion of the population has to be infected before herd immunity kicks in. it's totally different for various diseases, and totally different population teams.

Topic 35:GOLDILOCKS ZONE OF HABITABILITY

Importance for Prelims:Science & tech



One issue that astronomers search for in exoplanets, within the questionable goldilocks zone of habitability, is that the existence of liquid water and an environment like that on Earth.

- In this context it's believed by many who Mars once had such an environment. The mechanism on why it lost its atmosphere has remained doubtful.
- Scientists from Indian establishment for Science Education and Research(IISER) Kolkata counsel that it absolutely was the planet's intrinsic magnetic generator that, by shielding its atmosphere from the sun's solar wind, protected its atmosphere.
- When the magnetic generator converted, the atmosphere slowly was worn by the solar wind and eventually nonexistent, deed the skinny remnant we tend to see nowadays.

Goldilocks Zone

- A livable zone, conjointly known as the “Goldilocks zone”, is that the space around a star wherever it's not too hot and not too cold for liquid

water to exist on the surface of encompassing planets.

- Our Earth is within the Sun's goldilocks zone. If Earth were wherever the dwarf planet Pluto is, all its water would freeze; on the opposite hand, if Earth were wherever Mercury is, all its water would boil off.
- Life on Earth started in water, and water may be a necessary ingredient for all times as we all know it.
- So, once scientists search for the likelihood of alien life, any rocky exoplanet within the livable zone of its star is an exciting notice.

Does it mean a Planet within the goldilocks Zone sure to Have Liquid Water?

- No, not essentially.
- If we glance into our own planetary system, each Venus and Mars are in the Goldilocks zone.
- But, water is obscurity to be seen on these planets.
- On Venus, a harmful greenhouse effect is live that's heating up the earth and presumptively gaseous all the water it control.
- On Mars, lack of an environment and a force field is bombarded by the solar particles that have gaseous the water gift on that.
- Thus, being gift in a very goldilocks zone doesn't guarantee the supply of water on a planet.
- But create them potential targets for astronomers to explore and confirm the presence of water through numerous different strategies.

Topic 36: CHANNAPATTANA TOY MAKERS

Importance for Prelims: Culture



The Channapattana toy makers thanked Prime Minister Modi for his support to the Indian toy makers.

- Channapatana could be a town and taluk headquarter in Ramanagara District, Karnataka, India. Channapatana is additionally known as Channapatna by locals.
- The town is known for its wood toys and work. Channapatna is additionally known as city of toys (“Gombegalanagara”).
- The origin of those toys is dated back to the reign of tipu tree sultan who invited the artisans from Persia so as to coach the native artisans within the art of wood toy creating.
- These toys are given Geographical Indication tag by Government of India.

Topic 37: SNOW LEOPARD

Importance for Prelims: Environment



Himachal Pradesh's rough piece of land may be harbouring as many as 73 snow leopards per recent study on the animal.

- The big cat (also referred to as Ghost of the mountains) acts as an indicator of the health of the mountain system during which they live, thanks to their position because the high predator within the food web.
- The big cat lives at high altitudes within the steep mountains of Central and Southern Asia, and in an especially cold climate.
- They inhabit the upper mountain range and trans-Himalayan landscape within the states/union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- India could be a distinctive country to possess a decent presence of five massive cats, together with Snow Leopard.
- The different four are, Lion, Tiger, Common Leopard, and Clouded Leopard. Snow Leopard capital of the world: Hemis, Ladakh.

- Hemis parkland is that the biggest parkland of India and additionally includes a smart presence of big cat.
- **Threat:** Factors that have contributed to the decline within the big cat populations embrace, reduction in prey populations, smuggled cooking and multiplied human population infiltration into the species surroundings and smuggled trade of life components and product among others.

Protection:

- IUCN Red List- Vulnerable
- Convention on International trade species (CITES)- Appendix I
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)- Appendix I
- Appendix I includes species vulnerable with extinction.
- Indian life (Protection) Act 1972- Schedule I
- Schedule I provides absolute protection and offences below this have the very best penalties.

Conservation Efforts Launched by India:

- Himal Sanrakshak: it's a community volunteer programme, to safeguard snow leopards, launched on twenty third October 2020.
- In 2019, 1st National Protocol was additionally launched on big cat Population Assessment that has been terribly helpful for observance populations.
- SECURE Himalaya: world atmosphere Facility (GEF)-United Nations
- Development Programme (UNDP) funded the project on conservation of high altitude diversity and reducing the dependency of native communities on the natural system.
- This project is currently operational in four big cat vary states, namely, Jammu and Cashmere, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim.
- Project snow leopard (PSL) : it was launched in 2009 to market an

comprehensive and democratic approach to conserve snow leopards and their surroundings.

- Snow Leopard is within the list of twenty one critically species for the recovery programme of the Ministry of atmosphere Forest & temperature change.
- Snow Leopard conservation breeding programme is undertaken at Padmaja Naidu himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, and province.

Topic 38:ROLE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL IN CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS

Importance for Prelims:Polity

Attorney General has refused consent for contempt proceedings against former CJI Gogoi.

- Section 15 of Contempt of Courts Act 1971, describes the procedure for contempt proceedings against a personal.
- In the case of the Supreme Court, the attorney General or the peace officer, and within the case of High Courts, the Advocate General, might herald a motion for initiating a case of criminal contempt.
- However, if the motion is brought by the other person, the consent of the attorney General or the Advocate General in writing is needed.
- It needs to specify the contempt that the person charged is alleged to be guilty.

Is AG's consent obligatory for all contempt of court cases?

- It is obligatory once a private subject desires to initiate a case of contempt of court against an individual.
- The objective behind AG's consent is to save lots of the judicial time of the court because it are wasted if a idle petition happens.
- AG's consent isn't required once the court itself initiates a contempt of court case (suomotu) because it did within the case of Prashant Bhushan case.
- Article 129 of the Constitution provides the Supreme Court the ability to initiate contempt cases on its own, independent of the motion brought before it by the noble metal or with the consent of the noble metal.

What happens if noble metal denies consent?

- If noble metal denies consent, petition ends there itself.
- Earlier noble metal denied consent to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against actor SwaraBhasker& against author Shefali Vaidya.However, complainant will urge the court to require Suo motu cognizance.

What happens once the noble metal has granted consent?

- After the consent, notice is served in person to the person against whom the proceedings are wanted to be initiated by the court.
- If the court decides to not serve the notice in person, the court needs to record the reasons for it.
- If the court is glad that the alleged contemnor is probably going to bolt or evade judicial proceedings, it will order attachment of property of a price that it deems cheap.
- Once the notice is served, the alleged contemnor might file an instrument in support of his defence, explaining the character and circumstances of her remarks.
- Then the case needs to be detected by a minimum of 2 decide bench which can take under consideration any proof offered to check the affidavit and pass acceptable orders.