

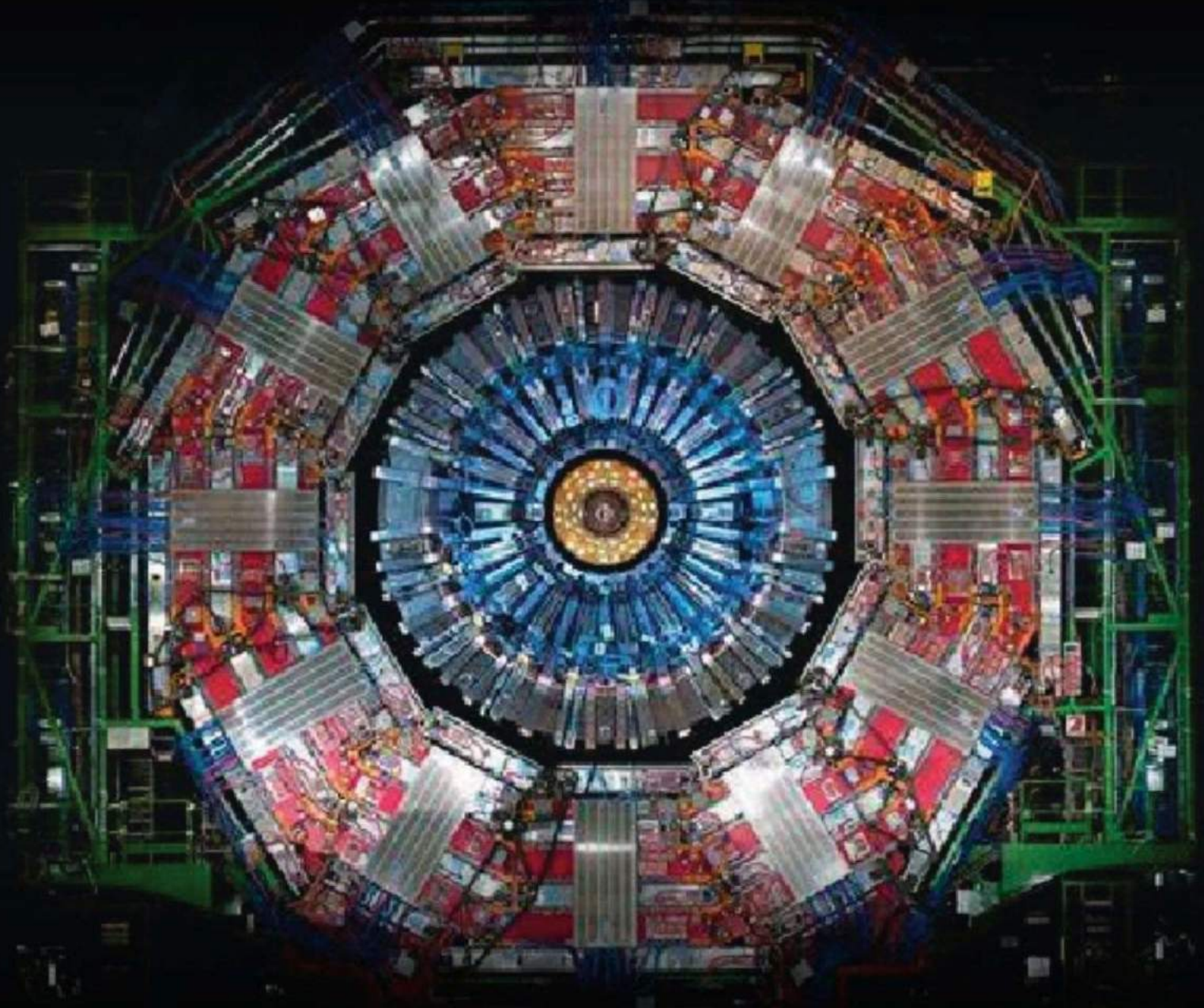


ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightning journeys

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

April 1 - 15



CERN - European Organization for Nuclear Research



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys



ASPIRE

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

4 JUNE, 2023

This scholarship program will assist deserving students in obtaining scholarships worth up to 100% for our Prelims Cum Mains Programme 2024.

**SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER**

**FREE
ADMISSION**



ERNAKULAM ✦ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ✦ KOZHIKODE

☎ 7994058393

✉ enliteias@gmail.com

🌐 www.enliteias.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLITY

1. Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)
2. Quality Control Orders (QCO)
3. Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)
4. Lokpal
5. National Curriculum Framework
6. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
7. National Party Status
8. Preventive Detention Laws
9. Maternity Benefit Act

ECONOMY

10. De-Dollarisation
11. Dabba trading

SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

12. Export Guarantee Scheme
13. Genome India Project
14. Livestock Insurance Scheme
15. National Mission in Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)
16. MUDRA scheme
17. MAHARISHI Initiative

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/ INITIATIVES

18. Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

19. Bastille Day
20. U.N. water conference
21. Trans-Asian railway network
22. W12+ Blueprint
23. World Food Programme
24. UN Statistical Commission

ENVIRONMENT/

GEOGRAPHY

25. Kharai Camels
26. Eravikulam National Park (ENP)
27. Caltoris bromus sadasiva
28. Nathu La
29. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
30. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve
31. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

32. Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX)
33. Sky Canvas Project
34. Cannabis
35. Silver Leaf Disease
36. Giant Magnetoresistance
37. Large Hadron Collider (LHC)
38. NISAR Satellite

**DEFENCE/MILITARY
EXERCISE**

39. Project-75I

40. Exercise 'Ex KAVACH

41. Sukhoi 30 MKI

42. Exercise Cope India 23

43. Exercise Orion

44. Indian Space Policy 2023

HISTORY/ ART & CULTURE

**45. Indian Council for Cultural
Relations (ICCR)**

46. Pashmina Shawls

47. Kurmi

48. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

POLITY

1. Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)

In News

A hardhanded response that strikes at the root of rights.

What is ESMA?

- *Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)* is a law passed by the Indian Parliament in 1968.
- It is to ensure the maintenance of essential services in the country, including power supply, transport and medical services.

About the Act

- The ESMA is a law made under List No. 33 in Concurrent List of 7th Schedule of Constitution of India.
- It *maintains national uniformity by providing minimum conditions of essential services* across the nation.
- Each state has a separate state Essential Services Maintenance Act with slight variations from the central law in its provisions.
- The law empowers state governments to take strict action against those who disrupt essential services, including arresting and prosecuting them.
- Under ESMA, striking employees can be punished with imprisonment for up to one year, and/or a fine.

2. Quality Control Orders (QCO)

In News

What are the issues with the new Quality Control Orders for fibres?

About QCO

- QCO ensure that the *notified products conform to the requirements of the relevant Indian Standard(s)*.
- QCOs are issued by various Line Ministries (Regulators) under the Central Government depending upon the product(s)/ product categories being regulated through the Order.
- BIS implements Quality Control Orders (QCOs) issued by the Government.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is committed to quality of products and services.
- The *Indian Standards formulated by BIS* form the basis for Product Certification Schemes, which provide Third Party Assurance of Quality of products to consumers.
- The QCOs are *equally applicable* to Indian manufacturers as well as foreign manufacturers.
- *No one can manufacture, import, distribute, sell, hire, lease, store or exhibit for sale any product(s) covered under the QCO without a Standard Mark.*

- Any person who contravenes the provisions of the Order shall be punishable under the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 29 of the BIS Act, 2016.

QCO on Fibres

- Quality Control Orders (QCO) have been issued for fibres — cotton, polyester and viscose.
- The main aim of the QCO is to control import of sub-quality and cheaper items and to ensure that customers get quality products.

3. Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

In News

Parliamentary panel asks CAT to dispose of cases pending for over 10 years on priority basis.

About CAT

- The Central Administrative Tribunal had been established under *Article 323 -A* of the Constitution.
- It was formed for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and *conditions of service of persons appointed to public services*.
- It was established as a specialist body comprising of Administrative Members and Judicial Members who by virtue of their specialized knowledge are better equipped to dispense speedy and effective justice.
- *CAT deal exclusively with service matters and* would reduce the burden of the various Courts and give them more time to deal with other cases.
- There are 19 Benches and 19 Circuit Benches in the Central Administrative Tribunal all over India.

Recent Issue

- There are 80,545 cases pending in different Benches of the tribunal.
- A Parliamentary committee has asked the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) to decide these cases on a priority basis.

4. Lokpal

In News

Lokpal disposed of 68% corruption complaints against public servants without any action.

About Lokpal

- Lokpal of India was established under the *Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013*.
- It was formed to inquire and investigate into allegations of corruption against public functionaries who fall within the scope and ambit of the above Act.

- It is committed to address concerns and aspirations of the citizens of India for clean governance.

Jurisdiction of Lokpal

- It can inquire into allegations of corruption against anyone:
 - Who is or has been *Prime Minister, or a Minister* in the Union government, or a Member of Parliament.
 - An official of the Union Government under Groups A, B, C and D.
 - chairpersons, members, officers and directors of any board, corporation, society, trust or autonomous body.
 - Any society or trust or body that receives foreign contribution above ₹10 lakh.

Functions of Lokpal

- Lokpal may order a preliminary inquiry by its *Inquiry Wing or any other agency*.
- The Inquiry Wing or any other agency will have to complete its preliminary inquiry and submit a report to the Lokpal within 60 days.
- Based on the preliminary inquiry it can order a full investigation, or direct to start departmental proceedings or close the proceedings.

5. National Curriculum Framework

In News

Government releases pre-draft of National Curriculum Framework for schools.

About the Framework

- The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF) is developed based on the vision of the *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020*.
- It addresses education for the age group 3 to 18 years, across the entire range of diverse institutions in India.
- It will be in four Stages in the *5+3+3+4 Curricular and Pedagogical* restructuring of School Education as envisioned in NEP 2020.

Objectives of NCF

- It is to help in positively transforming the school education system of India as envisioned in NEP 2020, through corresponding positive changes in the curriculum including pedagogy.
- It will help change practices in education and not just ideas

Recommendations in the Pre-Draft NCF

- A key part of the document is inclusion of values and its “rootedness” in India.
- It says that it leans towards making students acquainted with true sources of knowledge.
- It focuses on the moral development of a child through *panchakosha vikas or five-fold development*.

- It recommends developing moral values for the child through a balanced diet, traditional games, yoga asanas etc.
- It says that for Grade 10 certification, students will have to take two essential courses from the list.
- It recommends learning about *Ayurveda and yoga*.

6. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

In News

Telecom authorities block 120 sender IDs for bulk messaging over China link.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs

What is I4C?

- **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)** was established to provide a framework and eco-system for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) for dealing with Cybercrime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
- I4C act as the *nodal point to curb Cybercrime* in the country.

About I4C Scheme

- Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre scheme was approved in 2018.
- It focuses on tackling all the issues related to Cybercrime for the citizens.
- It improves coordination between various Law Enforcement Agencies and the stakeholders.

Functions of I4C

- Identify the research problems/needs of LEAs and take up R&D activities in developing new technologies and forensic tools.
- To prevent misuse of cyber space for furthering the cause of extremist and terrorist groups
- Suggest amendments in cyber laws to keep pace with fast changing technologies and international cooperation
- To coordinate all activities related to implementation of **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT)** with other countries related to cybercrimes.

7. National Party Status

In News

Election Commission grants national party status to AAP.

What is a national party?

- A registered party is recognised as a National Party only if it fulfils any one of the following three conditions:

- The party wins *2% of seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three different states.*
- At a General Election to Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, the party *polls 6% of votes in four States in addition to 4 Lok Sabha seats.*
- A party is recognised *as a state or regional party in four or more states.*

Benefits of a national party tag

- The Party can contest elections anywhere in India.
- The party is *allotted one election symbol valid across the entire country*, no other party can use it.
- The party will *get two sets of voter list* revisions by the Election Commission.
- Party candidates will gain access to the voter list.
- The party could open a central office in Delhi, on land provided by the government.
- The party can *field 40-star campaigners.*
- Expenditure on the star campaigners will not be included in the election expenditure of the party candidate.
- The party gets time to convey its message to the masses through *All India Radio and Doordarshan.*

Recent Developments

- Recently the *AAP was recognised as a national party.*
- The *TMC, NCP and the CPI* were stripped of 'national party' status.

8. Preventive Detention Laws

In News

The Supreme Court observed that preventive detention laws are a colonial legacy.

What is Preventive Detention?

- *Preventive detention* means to detain a person so that to prevent that person from committing on any possible crime.
- *Preventive detention* is an action taken by the administration on the grounds of the suspicion that some wrong actions may be done by the person.

Preventive Detention in India

- Preventive detention in India dates from British rule in the early 1800s.
- India had laws like *Defence of India Act, 1939* and the *Maintenance of Internal Security Act.*
- The first Preventive Detention Act of free India was enacted by the Parliament in 1950 and is known as Preventive Detention Act 1950.
- The *National Security Act of 1980* empowers the Central Government and State Governments to detain a person to prevent him/her from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of India

- Preventive detention is for a maximum period of three months, it can be extended up to a total of twelve months, only on the recommendation of an advisory board, made up of High Court judges.

Supreme Court observation

- The Supreme Court observed that *preventive detention laws in India are a colonial legacy and confer arbitrary power to the state.*
- There is a possibility of an unfettered discretion of power by the government.
- Judges should ensure that the government has followed every procedure of law while flexing preventive detention powers against individuals.

9. Maternity Benefit Act

In News

SC agrees to hear plea challenging constitutional validity of provision of Maternity Benefit Act.

Maternity benefit

- Maternity Benefit is a benefit given to the mothers-to-be or the mothers of the newly born.
- It will provide **fully paid leave from employment** along with other benefits before and after the delivery of the child.
- It is provided with a motive to facilitate the women in taking care of the child.

About the Act

- It is a beneficial piece of legislation and its object is to ensure the security of tenure for the working woman.
- The Act applies to all establishments *including factories, plantations, mines, shops or establishments covered under the ambit of law having 10 or more than 10 employees.*
- To be entitled to access the benefits under this Act, the employee (women) must be employed with the establishment for a period of *80 odd days in the past twelve months.*
- If a woman miscarries during the pregnancy or gets an abortion, she will be entitled to a maximum of six weeks of paid leaves.
- If the employee gives birth before this time, the wages will be paid within 48 hours of production of the birth certificate.
- Under the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017, the leave period has been increased from 12 to **26 weeks.**
- The maximum period of maternity leaves of 26 weeks can be availed for up to two children.

Section 5(4) of the Act

- It states a woman who legally adopts a child below the age of three months or a commissioning mother shall be entitled to maternity benefit for a period of twelve weeks.
- Recent argument is that Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 was discriminatory and arbitrary towards the adoptive mothers.

- ***Dabba (box) trading refers to informal trading that takes place outside the purview of the stock exchanges.***
- It is a gambling centred around stock price movements.

About Dabba Trading

- Traders bet on stock price movements without incurring a real transaction to take physical ownership of a particular stock as is done in an exchange.
- The primary purpose of this trades is *to stay outside the purview of the regulatory mechanism.*
- The transactions are facilitated using cash and the mechanism is operated using unrecognised software terminals.
- It could also be facilitated using informal rough records, transaction books, challans, DD receipts, cash receipts alongside bills/contract notes as proof of trading.

Problems with Dabba Trading

- The primary risk entails the possibility that the *broker defaults in paying the investor or the entity becomes insolvent or bankrupt.*
- The use of cash means that they are outside the purview of the formal banking system.
- All of it combined results in a loss to the government exchequer.
- The investors are without formal provisions for investor protection, dispute resolution mechanisms and grievance redressal mechanisms.

SCHEMES

12. Export Guarantee Scheme

In News

Centre to expand definition of 'political risk' under export guarantee scheme.

About the Scheme

- **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC)** is the provider of export credit insurance support to Indian exporters.
- The covers issued by ECGC can be divided broadly into four groups:
 - Standard Policy
 - Other Specific Policies
 - Financial Guarantees
 - Special Schemes
- Various export credit insurance schemes are introduced to meet the requirements of commercial banks extending export credit.
- The insurance covers enable the banks to extend timely and adequate export credit facilities to the exporters.

New Schemes

- Exporters will get insurance cover for the losses suffered on account of countries' sudden imposition of barriers to trade.
- The government will expand the definition of "political risk" under the export guarantee scheme.
- It will to cover any fresh imposition of non-tariff barriers by importing nations after a shipment has left Indian shores.

13. Genome India Project

In News

10,000 Indian genomes to be sequenced by year-end.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Science & Technology
- **Aim:** The GIP aims to collect **10,000 genetic samples from citizens across India.**

About the Project

- It is a *mission-mode, multi-institution consortium project, first of its kind in India supported by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.*
- The project is led by the Centre for Brain Research at Bengaluru-based *Indian Institute of Science.*
- 20 national institutions in the country are collaborating for this project.
- Centre for Brain Research acts as the central coordinator between all 20 leading institutions.

- Institutes involved include the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru as well as several Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).
- The specific aims for the project are:
 - Create an *exhaustive catalog of genetic variations* in Indians.
 - Create a *reference haplotype structure* for Indians. This reference panel can be used for imputing missing genetic variation in future GWA studies.
 - Design genome wide arrays for research and diagnostics at an affordable cost.
 - Establish a biobank for DNA and plasma collected for future use in research.
- The results from this project would be a valuable national resource for the country.

About human genome

- The human genome is a sequence of about three billion nucleotides (basic structural units of DNA).
- It is represented by four letters **A, C, G, T**.
- Only 0.1 % of it differs between any two individuals on an average.
- These genetic variations among individuals are crucial for understanding our disease predispositions, rare inherited disorders, determine our response to drugs, as well as help track migration and evolutionary patterns of population groups.

14. Livestock Insurance Scheme

In News

High premium, poor coverage: Centre mulls rehaul of livestock insurance scheme.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.

About the Scheme

- The Livestock Insurance Scheme, a *centrally sponsored scheme*.
- The entire cost of the subsidy is being borne by the Central Government.
- The crossbred and high yielding cattle and buffaloes are being insured at maximum of their current market price.
- The benefit of subsidy is being provided to a maximum of 2 animals per beneficiary for a policy of maximum of three years.
- The scheme is being implemented in all states except Goa through the State Livestock Development Boards of respective states.
- It was formulated with the twin objective:
 - To provide protection mechanism to the farmers and cattle rearers against any eventual loss of their animals due to death.
 - To demonstrate the benefit of the insurance of livestock to the people and popularize it.

Issues with the scheme

- Less than 1% of the country's cattle population is insured

- There was zero insurance coverage of livestock in 2022-23
- The average yearly premium is 4.5% of the insured amount which is unaffordable for most farmers.
- Farmers are often caught in the fight between State government officials and insurance companies.

15. National Mission in Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)

In News

NM-ICPS Mission can accelerate technology translation and commercialization through TIHs spanning all over the country.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Science & Technology
- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Science & Technology

About the Mission

- The mission that was launched in 2018.
- It has a total outlay of Rs.3660 Crores for a period of five years
- The NM-ICPS would address:
 - Technology development
 - Application development
 - Human resource development & skill enhancement
- Entrepreneurship and start-up development in CPS and associated technologies.
- It aims at establishment of 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH), 6 Application Innovation Hubs (AIH) and 4 Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP).
- It will adopt a strategic approach involving a suitable mix of Academic, Industry and Government.
- The Mission addresses the increasing technological requirements of the society.
- It takes into account the international trends and road maps of leading countries for the next generation technologies.

16. MUDRA scheme

In News

Those criticising MUDRA scheme don't understand power of microfinance.

About the Scheme

- MUDRA stands for - **Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd**
- The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) was launched in 2015.
- It has been initially formed as a *wholly owned subsidiary of Small Industries Development bank of India (SIDBI)*.
- The authorized capital of MUDRA is **1000 crores and paid up capital is 750 crore, fully subscribed by SIDBI.**

- It provide loans up to 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small and micro enterprises.
- MUDRA is a **refinancing Institution**. MUDRA *does not lend directly to the micro entrepreneurs / individuals*.
- The loans can be availed of from nearby branch office of a bank, NBFC, MFIs etc.
- Components:
 - *Shishu*: covering loans up to Rs 50,000
 - *Kishor*: covering loans above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakhs
 - *Tarun*: covering loans above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakhs
- This Agency would be responsible for developing and refinancing all Micro-enterprises sector by supporting the finance Institutions.
- MUDRA will provide refinance support, monitor the PMMY data by managing the web portal, and facilitate offering guarantees for loans granted under PMMY.

Achievements of MUDRA scheme

- ₹23 lakh crore worth of bank guarantee-free loans have been disbursed under the scheme.
- more than 70 % beneficiaries are women
- This scheme has created 8 crore new entrepreneurs.

17. MAHARISHI Initiative

In News

G20 MACS meeting in Varanasi to feature the MAHARISHI Initiative.

About the Initiative

- The MAHARISHI stands for - ***Millets And OtHer Ancient Grains International ReSearchH Initiative***.
- It is started aligning with the ***International Year of Millets 2023***.
- It is an International Initiative and will focus on Research and Awareness of agrobiodiversity, food security, and nutrition.
- It was launched during the *Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS)*.

About MACS

- The 12th MACS meeting under India's Presidency.
- The theme of the meet is - Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems for Healthy People and Planet.
- The MACS discuss on food and nutrition security, resilience to climate change, One Health approaches, digital agriculture.
- The MACS in G20 is instrumental in promoting joint action to put science-based solutions for achieving sustainable, resilient and profitable agri-food systems.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS / INITIATIVES

18. Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

In News

U.K. to join Asia-Pacific trade treaty.

About CPTPP

- CPTPP is a free trade agreement among 11 other countries in the Asia-Pacific.
- It is also known *as TPP11 or TPP-11*.
- The countries are - *Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam*.
- It evolved from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which was never ratified due to the withdrawal of the United States.
- The CPTPP was signed by the 11 countries in 2018 at Santiago, Chile.
- This Agreement is a separate treaty that incorporates, by reference, the provisions of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement.
- CPTPP covers virtually all sectors and aspects of trade in order to eliminate or reduce barriers.
- It includes chapters on the protection of the environment and labour to ensure that CPTPP members do not derogate from their commitments.

19. Bastille Day

In News

PM Modi invited to France for Bastille Day parade.

What is Bastille Day?

- Bastille Day, in France marks the anniversary of the fall, of the Bastille, in Paris on July 14, 1789.
- It is the National Day of France.
- The taking of the Bastille signaled the beginning of the French Revolution.

About Bastille

- Bastille, medieval fortress on the east side of Paris.
- In the 17th and 18th centuries it was a state prison and a place of detention for important persons charged with various offenses.
- It was stormed by an armed mob of Parisians in the opening days of the French Revolution.

ECONOMY

10. De-Dollarisation

In News

India, Malaysia moves beyond dollar to settle trade in INR.

About De-Dollarisation

- De-Dollarisation is a *process of substituting US dollar as the currency* used for various international transactions like:
 - Trading oil and/ or other commodities (i.e. petrodollar)
 - Buying US dollars for the forex reserves
 - Bilateral trade agreements
 - Dollar-denominated assets.
- The U.S. dollar has dominated global trade and capital flows over many decades.
- Many nations are looking for alternatives to reduce their dependence on the United States.

Rise of Dollar

- The United States became the leading financial power after World War I.
- The dollar then gained a greater role in 1944, with 44 countries signed the Bretton Woods Agreement.
- During 1960s, European and Japanese exports became more competitive with U.S. exports. In 1971 the direct convertibility of U.S. dollars to gold was ceased.
- The U.S. dollar has increasingly lost its purchasing power since then but it has remained the international reserve currency.

How De-dollarization occurs?

- Brazil and Argentina have discussed the creation of a common currency for the two largest economies in South America.
- The *Ruble - Yuan trade* between Russia and China has increased eighty-fold after the Ukraine war.
- Russia and Iran are also working together to launch a cryptocurrency backed by gold.
- The UAE and India are in talks to use rupees to trade non-oil commodities in a shift away from the dollar.
- For the first time in 48 years, Saudi Arabia said that the oil-rich nation is open to trading in currencies besides the U.S. dollar.

11. Dabba trading

In News

Explained | What is 'Dabba trading' and how does it affect the economy?

What is it?



WE LIGHTENED THEIR JOURNEY'S THEY CREATED US

Anjali Surendranathan IFS
Second Secretary (Political) &
Special Assistant to Ambassador
UPSC 2017 AIR 26



Team Enlite has an excellent Civil Service preparation program with personalized guidance. I am sure that no other institute can have an amazing mentor like Mahesh sir who can make the preparation simple and enjoyable for the students.

Anandu Suresh Govind IAS
Assistant Collector & SDM, Pardi
UPSC 2018 AIR 127



I have done my complete preparation in general studies papers as well as optional subject (Philosophy) at Enlite IAS. I have also attended the current affairs classes and the Interview program there. I owe my success largely to the guidance and support I received from team Enlite and especially Mahesh Sir. I'm glad that I made the right choice in choosing the best institute.

Arjun Mohan IAS
Additional District Magistrate (HQ)
- Central Islands & Minicoy
UPSC 2018 AIR 66



I cannot quantify in words the support provided by Team Enlite in helping me secure 66th rank in Civil Services Examination 2018. Personal care provided by the mentors - Abhilash sir, Mahesh Sir, Abu Sir helped me complete the syllabus in an efficient manner in less than seven months. True to their motto team Enlite enlightens anyone who associate with them and I owe my success completely to ENLITE IAS

Dr. Aswathy Srinivas IAS
Subcollector, Thiruvananthapuram
UPSC 2019 AIR 40



My decision to join and learn with Enlite IAS Academy was the turning point in my life. Words can't explain, the amount of sincere concerted efforts Mahesh sir and Abhilash sir put into everyone of us, including me. The learner centric environment at Enlite gave me the strength and confidence which ensured my overall success, stands testimony to their incredible way of work. This success is synonymous with Enlite for me. ENLITE IS LIGHT!!!

PRELIMS CUM MAINS PROGRAM (PCM 2024)

ADMISSIONS OPEN

BOOK YOUR SLOTS NOW



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

7994058393

www.enliteias.com enliteias@gmail.com

First Floor, Twinkle Plaza, Panavila jn. Trivandrum,

20. U.N. water conference

In News

What was the U.N. water conference and what happened there?

About UN water conference

- The UN's 2023 Water Conference — the first freshwater conference held by the international organization in nearly 50 years.
- The first UN Water Conference was held *in Argentina in 1977*.
- The UN 2023 Water Conference is the most important water event in a generation.
- The Conference aims to raise awareness of the global water crisis and decide on action to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals.
- It was Co-hosted by the governments of the Netherlands and Tajikistan and was held in New York.
- It support game-changing solutions for the multifaceted crises of water.
- The Conference has five themes that support the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework:
 - Water for Health
 - Water for Sustainable Development
 - Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment
 - Water for Cooperation
 - Water Action Decade

Outcomes of the Conference

- It has demonstrated the potential to expedite and mobilize concerted efforts towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6.
- The Water Action Agenda that emerged from the conference is comprised of voluntary commitments.

21. Trans-Asian railway network

In News

Trans-Asian Railway members to finalize a regional strategy on accelerating rail digital transformation.

What is Trans-Asian Railway Network?

- The *Trans-Asian Railway (TAR)* is a project to create an integrated freight railway network across Europe and Asia.
- The TAR is a project of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (*UNESCAP*).

History of the Trans-Asian Railway Network

- The project was initiated in the 1960s, with the objective of providing a continuous 8750 mile (14,000km) rail link between *Singapore and Istanbul, Turkey*.
- The Trans-Asian Railway Network Agreement was signed in 2006 by seventeen Asian nations.
- The agreement formally came into force in 2009.

About the Network

- The system will consist of four main railway routes.
- It will pass through 28 countries.
- It was also seen as a way to improve the economies and accessibility of landlocked countries like Laos, Afghanistan, Mongolia, and the Central Asian republics.

Major Challenges

- Progress in developing the TAR was hindered by political and economic obstacles.
- A big challenge is the differences in rail gauge across different countries.

Recent Developments

- A High-Level Conference on Accelerating Rail Digital Transformation in Asia and Pacific region was held in New Delhi.
- It deliberated on ways and means to accelerate rail digital transformation in Asia and the Pacific

22. W12+ Blueprint

In News

In the *United Nations Water Conference 2023*, the participant members were informed about W12+ Blueprint and its potential.

What is W12+ Blueprint?

- The *W12+ Blueprint* is an online information tool for informing those working on urban water issues.
- It was launched in partnership with **UNESCO IHP**.
- The living database hosts city profiles and case studies of programs, technologies, policies, and other work that addresses common water security challenges.
- Case studies are accessible to anyone, highly researched, and written for a non-technical audience.
- It uses scientific reports, organizational material, and information accessible on the web.

Uses of the W12+ Blueprint

- It intends to *prompt large-scale replication, scaling, and knowledge sharing of proven solutions to pervasive water challenges in cities*.

- It provides solutions-oriented case studies, data, and lessons learned from organizations, governments, and individuals who are addressing water security challenges in their locality.
- It will house information on best practices, encourage further knowledge exchange, and become a "virtual Hub" for urban water security solutions globally.

23. World Food Programme

In News

India signs MoU with World Food Programme for sending wheat to Afghanistan.

About WFP

- The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies.
- It provide food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) works in over 120 countries and territories to bring life-saving food to people.
- Its works includes:
 - *Enhance nutrition in women and children.*
 - *Support smallholder farmers in improving productivity and reducing losses.*
 - *Help countries and communities prepare for and cope with climate-related shocks.*
 - *Boost human capital through school feeding programmes.*
- WFP is governed by an Executive Board consisting of 36 Member States.
- The organization is headed by an Executive Director (ED).
- The ED is appointed jointly by the UN Secretary-General and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Recent Development

- India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Food Programme (WFP) for sending 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan.

24. UN Statistical Commission

In News

- India gets elected to UN Statistical Commission.

About UN Statistical Commission

- The United Nations Statistical Commission, established in 1947.
- It is the highest body of the global statistical system.

United Nations Statistical Commission



Why in news?

- India has been elected to the highest statistical body of the United Nations for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2024.

United Nations Statistical Commission

- It was established in 1947
- Headquarters - New York , USA
- It is the highest body of the global statistical system.
- It brings together the Chief Statisticians from member states from around the world.
- Functions:
 - It is the highest decision-making body for international statistical activities, responsible for setting statistical standards and the development of concepts and methods, including their implementation at the national and international levels.
 - The Statistical Commission oversees the work of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and it is a Functional Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council.



- Membership - The Commission consists of 24 member countries of the United Nations elected by the United Nations
- The term of office of members is four years.
- India was a member of the Statistical Commission last in 2004


7994058393
www.enliteias.com | enliteias@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENT / GEOGRAPHY**25. Kharai Camels****In News**

CAG asks Gujarat government to save Kharai breed of camels from extinction.

About Kharai Camels

Kharai Camel




Kharai Camel

- They are a rare breed of camel found in the salt marshes of the Kutch district of Gujarat.
- Their name is derived from the local word khara, meaning saline.
- It is well adapted to the saline desert environment and is known for its ability to swim (hence also known as 'swimming camel').
 - They swim long distances in the sea to reach their grazing areas, usually more than 3 km at a time, even in deep waters.
- Kharai camels mostly feed on mangroves.
- They are considered a unique Eco-tonal species as they survive in the dryland ecosystem as well as the coastal ecosystem.
- Conservation Status
 - IUCN - Endangered
 - Wildlife Protection Act - Schedule 1

UNDER THREAT

- The Kharai camel is endangered species
- There are around 6,000 camels and maximum are in Kutch
- Around 600 camels in Jamnagar district

- They mainly feed on mangroves and live near the sea
- This camel specie can survive on dry land and sea
- It can swim for hours in sea in search of mangroves



☎ **7994058393**
 🌐 www.enliteias.com ✉ enliteias@gmail.com

- The *Kharai* are a rare breed of camel found in the salt marshes of Kutch district in the western state of Gujarat.
- The '*Kharai*' camels are a unique breed of camels that can *swim* more than 3 km at a time even in deep waters.

- They eat large volumes of *mangroves or saline plant species*.
- They are bred by two distinct communities - The *Fakirani Jats*, who are the handlers, and the *Rabaris*, who own the animals.

26. Eravikulam National Park (ENP)

In News

In a first, Eravikulam National Park gets a fernarium.

About Eravikulam National Park

Eravikulam National Park



Why in news?

- In a first, Eravikulam National Park gets a fernarium.

Eravikulam National Park

- Location - Kannan Devan Hills of the Southern Western Ghats in Idukki District, Kerala.
- It was declared as Eravikulam-Rajamala Wildlife Sanctuary in 1975 and was elevated to the status of a National Park in 1978.
- The main body of the park comprises a high rolling plateau with a base elevation of about 2000 m from mean sea level.
- Three major types of plant communities found in the park are: Grasslands, Shrub Land and Shola Forests
- Flora - It houses the special Neelakurinji flowers that bloom once every 12 years and the next sighting is expected to be in 2030.
- Fauna - The park holds the largest viable population of the endangered Nilgiri Tahr



© 7994058393

- In 1975 Eravikulam was declared a Sanctuary with the intention of protecting the indigenous population of Nilgiri Tahr.
- In 1978, it was declared as a National Park considering its ecological, faunal, geomorphological and Zoological Significance.
- It is also the land of “*Neelakurinji*”, the flower that blooms *once in twelve years*.
- The Park covers an area of 97 Km² of rolling grasslands and *high level sholas*.
- The highest peak of South India the *Anamudi* is a part of the National Park.

About Fernarium

- The term Fernarium means botanical garden or complex devoted to the growth and displaying various species of ferns.
- It is a specialized area that recreates the natural habitat of ferns, providing visitors with an opportunity to learn about their ecological importance.
- A new Fernarium set up inside the National Park.

27. *Caltoris bromus sadasiva*

In News

New butterfly species discovered in Kerala

About *Caltoris bromus sadasiva*

- It is the first *Bromus swift butterfly* to be documented in the Western Ghats.
- It was first spotted at *Akkulam lake in 2005 and later in Vembanad lakes in 2009.*
- It was discovered by researchers of Travancore Nature History Society and National Centre for Biological Science.
- The research on the species was done at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bengaluru.
- The number of butterfly species in the Western Ghats rose to 336 with the discovery.

About *Bromus swift*

- It is a skipper butterfly belonging to the HesperIIDae family of Lepidoptera.
- It normally found in the Western Ghats and Peninsular India.
- A skipper butterfly was last discovered nearly 75 years ago.

28. Nathu La

In News

Seven dead, 27 rescued after avalanche hits Sikkim's Nathu La.

About Nathu La

- It is a mountain pass in the *Dongkya Range of the Himalayas* between China's Yadong County in Tibet, and the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal in Bengal, South Asia.
- The pass, at 4,310 m, connects the towns of *Kalimpong and Gangtok* to the villages and towns of the *lower Chumbi Valley*.

Nathu La Pass



Why in news?

- Massive avalanche struck the popular Nathu La mountain pass.

Nathu La Pass

- Location - In the Himalayas in the East Sikkim district.
- Nathu La connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.
- Altitude - 4302 m
- It forms a part of an offshoot of the ancient Silk Road.
- Nathu La is one of the three open trading border posts between India and China. Other two are
 - Himachal Pradesh - Shipkila
 - Uttarakhand - Lipulekh



- Sealed by India after the 1962 Sino-Indian War, Nathu La was re-opened in 2006

7994058393
www.enliteias.com enliteias@gmail.com

29. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

In News

INCOIS deploys two more gliders into the Bay of Bengal to study climate change.

About INCOIS

- INCOIS was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the *Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)*.
- It is a unit of the Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO and is known as ESSO-INCOIS.
- ESSO- INCOIS is mandated to provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services.
- It is an autonomous organization and provides services to society, industry, the government and the scientific community.

Major Functions

- Provides round-the-clock monitoring and warning services for the coastal population.
- Provide short term (3-7 days) Ocean State Forecasts.
- Deploys and maintains a suite of Ocean Observing Systems in the Indian Ocean.
- Conducts systematic quality checks and archives all observational, satellite and other oceanic data.
- Generates Global Ocean Analysis data using mathematical models and observations.

Recent Developments

- INCOIS has launched two fresh modern deep sea 'Slocum' gliders in the Bay of Bengal.

- It comes under the *Deep Ocean Mission*.
- It is to study the physical and biogeochemical parameters of the sea and get an insight into the climate change.
- The gliders are equipped with sensors to track temperature, salinity, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, *PAR – photosynthetic active radiation* in the sea water.
- The gliders can go underwater up to a depth of about 1,000 metres and will surface four to five times a day.

30. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

In News

HC orders translocation of wild tusker Arikompan to Parambikulam reserve.

About Parambikulam Reserve

- *Parambikulam is one of the premier Tiger Reserves of India* and is endowed by nature in terms of species, habitat and ecosystem diversity, characterized by functional human-ecological affinities.
- Parambikulam is a well-protected part of the Nelliampathy - Anamalai sub unit of the Western Ghats.
- It is buffered by ecologically similar forests of other Forest Divisions and Protected Areas of *Kerala and Tamil Nadu*.
- Parambikulam has one of the highest densities of Gaur population in Southern India.
- The Tiger Reserve is the home of several tribal and non-tribal communities whose livelihood is almost fully dependent on the forests of the Reserve.
- It stood 7th in the country in terms of Management Effectiveness in the 2018 Assessment.

31. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

In News

50 years of Project Tiger to commemorate at Mysuru, Karnataka.

What is IBAC?

- India has launched a global alliance that will work towards the protection and conservation of seven species of big cats.
- The seven species are - *tiger, cheetah, jaguar, leopard, lion, puma and snow leopard*.

About IBCA

- The alliance aims to reach out to 97 range countries covering the natural habitats of big cats.
- IBCA would further strengthen global cooperation and efforts to conserve the wild denizens, especially the big cats.

- It will create a platform for knowledge convergence, best practices, and support for existing species-specific intergovernmental platforms.
- It will also provide *direct assistance to recovery efforts* in potential range habitats.

International Big Cat Alliance(IBCA)



Why in news?

- International Big Cat Alliance conference held at Mysuru

International Big Cat Alliance(IBCA)

- Work toward the protection and conservation of the seven major big cats like tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar, and cheetah.
- Membership to the alliance will be open to 97 'range' countries, which contain the natural habitat of these big cats, as well as other interested nations, international organizations, etc.
- The alliance's purpose is to provide a platform for the dissemination of information on benchmarked practices, capacity building, resources repository, research and development, awareness creation, etc., on the protection and conservation of big cats.
- Its major activities will include advocacy, partnership, knowledge e-portal, capacity building, eco-tourism, partnerships between expert groups and finance tapping.
- IBCA is expected to sustain itself through membership fees, and contributions from bilateral and multilateral institutions and the private sector



7994058393

www.enliteias.com enliteias@gmail.com

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

32. Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX)

In News


ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle aces landing test.

About Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD)

- RLV-TD was developed by ISRO under the RLV Technology Demonstration Programme.
- Programme consists of development of *hypersonic rocket with air-breathing engines and the reusable launch vehicle*.
- It was developed with an objective to test various aspects such as hypersonic flight, autoland, powered cruise flight, hypersonic flight etc.
- The RLV-TD successfully completed its first atmospheric test flight in 2016.

About RLV LEX Mission

- ISRO successfully conducted the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX).
- The test was conducted at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), **Chitradurga, Karnataka**.
- It is first in the world that a winged body has been carried to an altitude of 4.5 km by helicopter and released for carrying an autonomous landing on a runway.
- The autonomous landing was carried out under the exact conditions of a Space Re-entry vehicle's landing.



Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration(RLV - TD)

Why in news?


- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out the landing experiment of the Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD) programme at the Aeronautical Test Range in Challakere, Karnataka.

Key Points

- An Indian Air Forces (IAF) Chinook helicopter was used to drop the RLV-TD from a 4.5 km altitude and ISRO executed the landing experiment of the RLV-TD as planned.
- The release of this vehicle was autonomous as it performed approach and landing manoeuvres using Integrated Navigation, Guidance, and control system and completed an autonomous landing on the airstrip.

Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration(RLV - TD)

- This programme is planned as a series of technology demonstration missions that have been considered as a first step towards realising a Two Stage To Orbit (TSTO) fully reusable vehicle.
- A Winged RLV-TD has been configured to act as a flying test bed to evaluate various technologies namely, hypersonic flight, autonomous landing, and powered cruise flight.
- These technologies will be developed in phases through a series of experimental flights.
- RLV-TD is similar to that of an aircraft and combines the complexity of both launch vehicles and aircraft.
- Features of RLV-TD
 - It consists of a fuselage (body), a nose cap, double delta wings, and twin vertical tails.
 - It also features symmetrically placed active control surfaces called Elevons and Rudder.



MISSION PROFILE RLV-TD HEX-01

1. Launch Phase
2. Powered Cruise Flight
3. Separated Cruise Phase
4. Descent Phase
5. Re-entry Phase
6. Aerodynamic Control

Key parameters:
 1. Separation Alt - 30-35 km, M=5.8
 2. Combined Cruise Phase
 3. HCS - Low Dynamic Pressure
 4. Descent Phase
 5. Re-entry Phase
 Hypersonic Regime
 High ADA: 25° to 45°

© 7994058393
www.enliteias.com | info@enliteias.com

33. Sky Canvas Project

In News

World's *first artificial shooting star* display to be launched by Japanese space start up.

About the Project

- *SKY CANVAS* is the Earth's first space entertainment technology encouraging science.
- It aims to create a new generation of space and science enthusiasts by providing an experience for everyone and a contribution to climate research.
- It will be transforming the night sky into a showcase for human-made shooting stars.
- It will use a proprietary technology that enables satellites to create shooting stars.

How to make a Meteor Shower?

- The shooting star particles (meteor particles) are installed in the satellite and are released after it is confirmed that there are no spacecrafts on the designated path.
- The position, direction and speed of the meteor particles can be controlled.
- The human-made shooting stars are able to emit light in the sky of any designated location anywhere in the world.

Applications of the Project

- The data obtained from studying the path and light emission of shooting stars will help shed light on the mechanisms of climate change.

34. Cannabis

In News

Himachal Pradesh considering legalising cannabis cultivation.

What is Cannabis?

- Cannabis is a generic term used to denote the several psychoactive preparations of the plant *Cannabis sativa*.
- It refers to a group of three plants with psychoactive properties, known as *Cannabis sativa*, *Cannabis indica*, and *Cannabis ruderalis*.

About Cannabis

- The major psychoactive constituent in cannabis is Δ -9 *tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)*.
- Compounds which are structurally similar to THC are referred to as cannabinoids.
- Cannabis can also have some problematic side effects for certain people
- Side effects may include - coordination issues, delayed reaction time, nausea, lethargy, anxiety, increased heart rate, decreased blood pressure, paranoia.

Therapeutic uses of cannabinoids

- It has the therapeutic effects for nausea and vomiting in the advanced stages of illnesses such as cancer and AIDS.
- Other therapeutic uses of cannabinoids are being demonstrated by controlled studies.
- It including treatment of asthma and glaucoma, as an antidepressant, appetite stimulant, anticonvulsant and anti-spasmodic.

Cannabis cultivation in India

- **Uttarakhand** became the first State in the country to *legalise cannabis cultivation* in 2017.
- Controlled cultivation is being done in some districts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- Himachal Pradesh State government is considering legalising the cultivation of cannabis.

35. Silver Leaf Disease

In News

In a first, *plant fungus* infects on a man from Kolkata.

About Silver Leaf

- **Silver leaf** is a **fungus disease** of the wood and leaves of some trees, especially *plums, apples, apricots and cherries*.
- It is caused by the fungus plant pathogen *Chondrostereum purpureum*.
- The fungus infects the wood through wounds and causes a silvering of the leaves followed by death of the branch.
- The disease is progressive and often fatal.

Recent Development

- Researchers have come across the *first instance of a human being infected by Chondrostereum purpureum*.
- A limited number of fungi have the ability to infect animals and humans, especially immunocompromised individuals.
- A fungus needs to meet four conditions if it is to infect a human or, more broadly, an animal:
 - *High temperature tolerance*
 - *Ability to invade the host*
 - *Absorb animal tissue*
 - *Resist the host's immune system*.
- If the fungi can escape the *phagocytosis pathway* and is able to evade the host immune system, they can establish themselves as human pathogens.

36. Giant Magnetoresistance

In News

What is magnetoresistance? It's one more thing graphene does differently.

What is GMR?

- **Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR)** is the result of the electrical resistance of a conductor being affected by magnetic fields in adjacent materials.
- It is used in hard disk drives and magneto resistive RAM in computers, biosensors, automotive sensors, microelectromechanical systems, and medical imagers.
- GMR-based devices are particularly used to sense magnetic fields.

GMR in Graphene

- It is found that graphene displays an *anomalous giant magnetoresistance (GMR) at room temperature*.
- The new study has found that a graphene-based device wouldn't need to be cooled to a very low temperature to sense these fields.
- The magnetoresistance observed in the graphene-based device was almost 100-times higher than that observed in other known semimetals.

About Graphene

- It is an *allotrope of carbon* consisting of a single layer of atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice nanostructure.
- It is the thinnest compound known to man at one atom thick.

37. Large Hadron Collider (LHC)

In News

Currently, engineers are warming up the LHC for its third season of operations.

What is LHC?

- The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator. The LHC consists of a 27-kilometre ring of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way.

About LHC

- It was built by the **European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)**.
- The (LHC) is three things:
 - It is the world's largest science experiment.
 - It is a *collider* and it accelerates two beams of particles in opposite directions and smashes them head on.
 - These particles are *hadrons*, a subatomic particle made up of smaller particles.
- The LHC typically uses protons, which are made up of quarks and gluons.

- It energises the protons by accelerating them through a narrow circular pipe that is 27 km long.

Application of LHC

- Using the data scientists have tested
 - The *predictions of the Standard Model of particle physics*.
 - The reigning theory of subatomic particles
 - Observed exotic particles like *pentaquarks and tetraquarks*.
 - Pieced together information about extreme natural conditions

38. NISAR Satellite

In News

NISAR satellite to map Himalayas' seismic zones

About NISAR Satellite

- NISAR is jointly developed by the *Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)*.
- It is expected to follow a *sun-synchronous orbit* and will be launched in January 2024.
- It will map the most earthquake-prone regions in the Himalayas with unprecedented regularity.
- The data generate by NISAR can potentially give advance warning of land subsidence.
- The NISAR is expected to cost approximately \$900 million, ISRO contributing about one-tenth.
- It will use two frequency bands: the *L-band and S-band* to image the seismically active Himalayan region.
- These two frequency bands will together provide high-resolution, all-weather data from the satellite. Every 12 days it will create a deformation map.
- The map will help to determine how strain is building up in various parts of the Himalayas.



WE LIGHTENED THEIR JOURNEY'S THEY CREATED US

SMILNA SUDHAKAR – IFoS
AGMUT Cadre
UPSC2019 Rank : 458



I owe the largest share of my success to the tireless and constant support of the Enlite IAS academy team. Being part of such a committed group of Individuals has truly been an enriching and rewarding experience. I am deeply indebted to Mahesh sir and Abhilash sir, both of whom exemplify the true spirit of Enlite. They have been pillars of support throughout the entire process, helping me navigate and overcome every obstacle that this journey has thrown at me.

PRASAD KRISHNAN IRS
UPSC2020 Rank 209



I joined Enlite PCM batch in 2018 and since then the institute has guided me throughout my journey. Be it the classes, mentorship sessions, mocks, Interview guidance or peer group discussions, Enlite IAS has translated my efforts to the maximum output possible. Special thanks to Mahesh sir, Abhilash sir and Abu sir for all the help.

MANOJ MADHAV S IFS
Third Secretary (EP)
Embassy of India – Brussels, Belgium
UPSC2019 Rank : 105



Team Enlite has played a quintessential role in helping me clear the Civil Services Examination. The mentorship under Mahesh Sir throughout all the stages of the exam is something I owe my success largely to. Quality guidance from faculties like Abu Sir and Abhilash Sir was helpful in improving my overall performance as well. Thank you Team Enlite!

AMITH MP IAS
Asst. Collector - Tindivanam,
Villupuram Dist, Tamil Nadu
UPSC2018 Rank 405



I attended philosophy optional enrichment program @ ENLITE IAS. The unique insights I got during the course played a vital role in my success in the civil service examination. Also 90% of the questions in the exam directly appeared from the class room sessions. It helped in tuning my Interview preparation to an optimum level.

PRELIMS CUM MAINS PROGRAM (PCM 2024) ADMISSIONS OPEN



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

BOOK YOUR SLOTS NOW

7994058393

www.enliteias.com enliteias@gmail.com

First Floor, Twinkle Plaza, Panavila jn. Trivandrum,

DEFENCE/MILITARY EXERCISE

39. Project-75I

In News

Germany expected to present government-to-government proposal for sale of submarines to India.

About Project – 75I

- The **Project 75 (India)-class submarines**, or P-75I are a planned class of **diesel-electric submarines**, which are to be built for the Indian Navy.
- The Indian Navy intends to acquire six conventional, diesel-electric attack submarines, which will also feature advanced capabilities.
- The project has been stuck for a while over technical issue.
- A specification that the submarine on offer should have an operational **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) module** with an endurance of two weeks.

40. Exercise 'Ex KAVACH'

In News

Joint Military Exercise 'Ex KAVACH' concludes at Andaman and Nicobar Command.

About the Exercise

- It is a joint Military Exercise '**Ex KAVACH**' involving the assets of *the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard*.
- It was a multi-domain exercise held at Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).
- The exercise was aimed at fine-tuning joint warfare capabilities & Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- It also enhances the interoperability and operational synergy between the forces.

41. Sukhoi 30 MKI

In News

President of India takes a historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft.

About Sukhoi Su-30 MKI

- The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twinjet multirole air superiority fighter developed by Russia's Sukhoi.
- It built under licence by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The Su- 30 MKI is a variant of the Sukhoi Su-30, it is a heavy, all-weather, long-range fighter and is **capable of carrying nuclear warheads**.

- The Su-30MKI has a range of 3,000 km with internal fuel which ensures a 3.75 hour combat mission.

42. Exercise Cope India 23

In News

Exercise COPE India 2023 to be held at Kalaikunda and Agra.

About the Exercise

- The Exercise COPE India is a ***bilateral Military Exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and U.S. Air Force (USAF).***
- Cope India began in 2004 as a fighter training exercise held at Air Station Gwalior, India.
- The exercise has evolved to incorporate subject matter expert exchanges, air mobility training, airdrop training and large-force exercises and fighter-training exercises.
- The exercise will have aerial re-fuellers, Airborne Warning and Control System and Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft of the IAF.
- Japan is taking part in the exercise as an observer.

43. Exercise Orion

In News

Four Rafale jets for multilateral exercise Orion in France.

About the Exercise

- Exercise ***ORION 2023*** is a multilateral exercise hosted by ***French Joint Forces Command.***
- It will be a triennial cycle of exercises aimed at reinforcing joint forces operational readiness.
- ORION is based on a scenario developed by NATO to apprehend the different phases of a modern conflict.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent comprising four Rafale, two C-17, two Il-78 aircraft and 165 personnel is participating in it.
- It will be the first overseas exercise for the Rafale fighter jets of the IAF.
- The participating air forces are Air Forces from *Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, U.K. and U.S.A., India and NATO.*

44. Indian Space Policy 2023

In News

Union Cabinet gives nod to Indian Space Policy 2023.

About the Policy

- The Union Government of India has recently approved the ***Indian Space Policy 2023***.
- It is a significant step towards strengthening India's space sector and achieving self-reliance in space technology.
- Aims:
 - It aims to enhance the role of the Department of Space and boost the activities of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
 - It aims to establish a conducive environment for the private sector to participate in space activities, thereby boosting innovation and entrepreneurship in the space sector.
 - It aims to promote international cooperation in space research and exploration.

What the Policy says?

- It will help to ***institutionalize the private sector participation*** in the space sector.
- It will allow the private sector to take part in end-to-end space activities.
- The activities are building satellites, rockets and launch vehicles, data collection and dissemination.
- It will ***delineate the roles and responsibilities of ISRO, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe)***.
- According to the policy Strategic activities related to the space sector will be carried out by NSIL.
 - *ISRO will not do any operational and production work for the space sector.*
- It focuses on developing new technologies, new systems and research and development.
- The operational part of ISRO's missions will be moved to the NewSpace India Limited.

HISTORY/ ART & CULTURE

45. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

In News

ICCR to build ambassador programme among foreign students in India.

About ICCR

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was founded in 1950 by *Maulana Abul Kalam Azad*.
- It is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India.
- Its objectives are:
 - To actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations
 - To foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries
 - To promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people, and to develop relations with nations.
- It financially supports a number of cultural institutions across India, and sponsors individual performers.

About brand ambassador programme

- The programme is aiming at expanding India's artistic and creative footprint globally.
- It plans to harness the power of over 48,000 foreign students in India as brand ambassadors when they go back home.
- It will *start E-3, or Exit Engagement Evenings* with foreign students.
- ICCR has zeroed in on the Khadi Commission, the Indian Tourism Development Corporation and the Department of AYUSH to hold the E-3 with the students.

46. Pashmina Shawls

In News

Poor testing of pashmina shawls still poses a problem.

About Pashmina

- *Pashmina* refers to a term for cashmere wool of the **Changthangi Cashmere goat**.
- The fleece of Changthangi Goat is known as Pashm.
- This goat is *exotic and is only found* there, 15000 feet above sea level in Ladakh - Jammu and Kashmir.
- Pashmina goats are domestic and not wild. Hence, herders **do not need to kill** them, but simply hold them during the hair removal process.
- Pashmina is considered the finest craftsmanship in the world which transforms the exceptionally warm and delicate Cashmere threads to opulent accessories.

- The art of Pashmina is rarer and revered all over the world.
- Due to the extremely fragile nature of Cashmere fibre, Kashmiri craftsmen and women have always preferred to use hands while processing it.

Hurdles before Traders

- The growing seizure of shawl consignments by the customs department at international airports.
- Pashmina wools always got confused with the banned *shahtoosh guard hair* by Basic microscope.

47. Kurmi

In News

64 trains cancelled as agitation by Kurmi organisations in Bengal continue for third day.

Who are Kurmis?

- Kurmi is traditionally a non-elite tiller caste in the lower Gangetic plain of India.
- Kurmi people, who are based mainly in the *Chotanagpur plateau covering Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal*.
- The Kurmis came to be known for their *exceptional work ethic, superior tillage and manuring, and gender-neutral culture*.
- Their culture bring praise from Mughal and British administrators alike.

About Kurmi Agitation

- Many Kurmi organisations have been agitating over a string of demands
- Kurmis should be recognised as a scheduled tribe
- They need recognition of *Sarna religion*
- Inclusion of *Kurmali language in the eighth schedule* of the Constitution.
- Kurmis are presently classified as OBCs.

48. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

In News

Maulana Azad reference omitted in NCERT textbook.

About Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

- He was an Indian independence activist, Islamic theologian, writer and a senior leader of the Indian National Congress.
- He was the *First Minister of Education* in the Indian government.
- His contribution to establishing the education foundation in India is recognised by celebrating his birthday as *National Education Day* across India.
- Azad became active in journalism when he was in his late teens.

- In 1912 he began publishing a *weekly Urdu-language* newspaper in Calcutta, *Al-Hilal*.
- *Al-Hilal* was soon banned by British authorities.
- By 1916 he had been banished to Ranchi where he remained until the beginning of 1920.
- He was particularly active in the *Khilafat movement*.
- He was imprisoned several times between 1920 and 1945, including for the Quit India movement.
- Azad was president of the Congress Party in 1923 and again in 1940–46.
- He tirelessly advocated for a single India that would embrace both Hindus and Muslims while strongly opposing the partition.
- His autobiography, *India Wins Freedom*, was published posthumously in 1959.



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2024

*NEW BATCH
STARTS ON 10TH MAY 2023*

ENROLL NOW



**FOR ENQUIRIES
CALL: 7994058393
www.enliteias.com**

Trivandrum | Ernakulam | Kozhikode

 /enliteias | e-mail : enliteias@gmail.com