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for

4th Week of

July 2020

(20th July - 25th July)

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1. Geography

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1.1.US-Trinity Test

- Scientists tested the world's first atomic bomb 75 years ago which was dubbed as the 'Trinity Test'.
- Trinity was the code name of the first detonation of a nuclear device.
- It was conducted by the United States Army, in 1945, as part of the Manhattan Project.

Manhattan Project

- The Manhattan Project was a research and development undertaking during World War II that produced the first nuclear weapons. It was led by the United States with the support of the United Kingdom and Canada.

Additional Info

Little Boy

- "Little Boy" was the codename for the type of atomic bomb dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 during World War II. It was the first nuclear weapon used in warfare.

Fat Man

- "Fat Man" was the codename for the nuclear bomb that was detonated over the Japanese city of Nagasaki by the United States on 9 August 1945.

1.2.India: Maternal Mortality Ratio

- Recently, the Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS) has released a special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18.
- MMR is defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 1,00,000 live births during the same time period.
- MMR has declined to 113 in 2016-18 from 122 in 2015-17 and 130 in 2014-2016.
- The target 3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations aims at reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1, 00,000 live births.

1.3. Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has approved the Zonal Master Plan for the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone to pave the way for faster execution of Char Dham Road Project.

Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZs)

- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas in India notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

- The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of "shock absorbers" to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

Please note

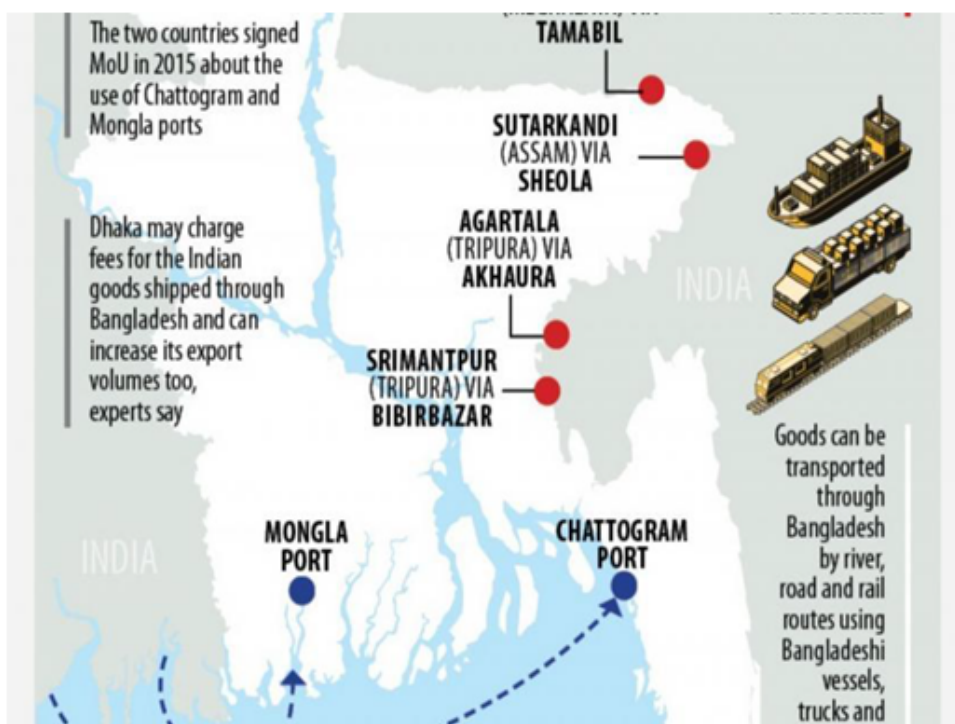
- Eco-Sensitive Zones or Ecologically Fragile Areas are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ESZs are notified by MoEFCC, Government of India under Environment Protection Act 1986.
- But The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones".
- Section 3(2)(v) of the Act, says that Central Government can restrict areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall be carried out or shall not, subject to certain safeguards.
- Rule 5(1) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 states that central government can prohibit or restrict the location of industries and carrying on certain operations or processes on the basis of certain considerations.

Char Dham Road Project

- The Char Dham project proposes to provide all-weather connectivity to Yamunotri, Gangotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath, and has 53 projects of 826 km length, involving an investment of Rs. 12,000 crore.

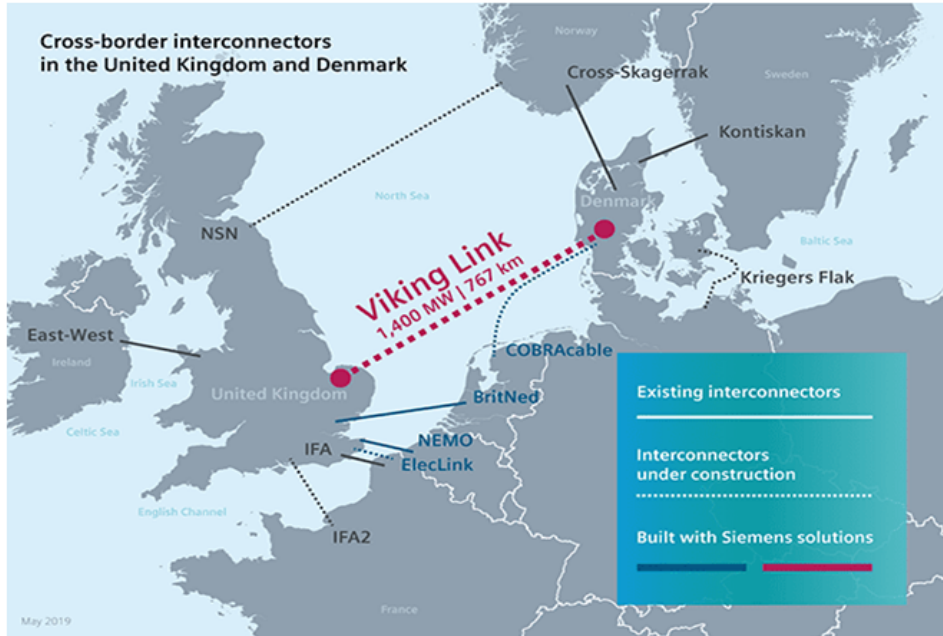
1.4. Chattogram Port

- Recently, the Union Minister of Shipping flagged off the first trial movement of a container ship carrying steel and pulses from Kolkata port to Bangladesh's Chattogram port.
- This has been done under the Agreement on use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of India's transit cargo through Bangladesh.



1.5. World's Longest Subsea Power Cable

- The UK's National Grid and Denmark's Energinet has begun work on the world's longest subsea power cable. The €2 billion Viking Link project, a 475-mile-long (765 km) cable, is being built in Lincolnshire.
- It will run between the UK and Denmark in order to share green energy between the two countries.



1.6. India-Bhutan- New Trade Route

- On July 16, 2020, India and Bhutan opened a new trade route between Jaigon in West Bengal and Pasakha in Bhutan.
- The land route will help to move industrial raw materials and goods destined for Pasakha Industrial Estate. The route will help boost trade and commerce and will lead to decongestion of vehicular traffic.



1.7. World Population Trends

- A new analysis published in The Lancet has projected that the world population will peak much earlier than previously estimated.
- It projects the peak at 9.73 billion in 2064, which is 36 years earlier than the 11 billion peaks projected for 2100 by last year's UN report World Population Prospects.
- For 2100, the new report projects a decline to 8.79 billion from the 2064 peak.
- It used data from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 to model future population in various scenarios as a function of fertility, migration, and mortality rates.
- For India, the report projects a peak population of 1.6 billion in 2048, up from 1.38 billion in 2017.
- By 2100, the population is projected to decline by 32% to 1.09 billion.
- However, meeting UN Sustainable Goal Development targets, the peak would be earlier and see a population decline to 929 million.
- The sharper fall is due to the assumption that all women globally will have much higher access to contraception and education.
- This scenario will lead to a sharper reduction in the Total Fertility Rate, a metric that shows on average how many children a woman must have to keep replenishing the population.

1.8. Chushul

- India and China are scheduled to hold the fourth round of Corps Commanders talks at Chushul.





1.9. India Energy Modeling Forum

- IEMF is envisaged as a pan-stakeholder platform for debating ideas, scenario-planning & discussing India's energy future.
- IEMF seeks to provide a platform for leading experts and policymakers to study important energy and environmental issues and ensure the induction of modelling and analysis in the informed decision-making process.
- IEMF aims to improve cooperation and coordination between modelling teams, the Government of India, knowledge partners and think-tanks, build the
- Capacity of Indian institutions, and identify issues for joint modelling activities and future areas of research.

1.10. Azad Pattan Hydrel Power Project

- Pakistan and China have signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project on the Jhelum River in Sudhnoti district of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- It is expected to be commissioned by 2024.

Additional Info

CPEC

- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a collection of infrastructure projects that are under construction throughout Pakistan since 2013.

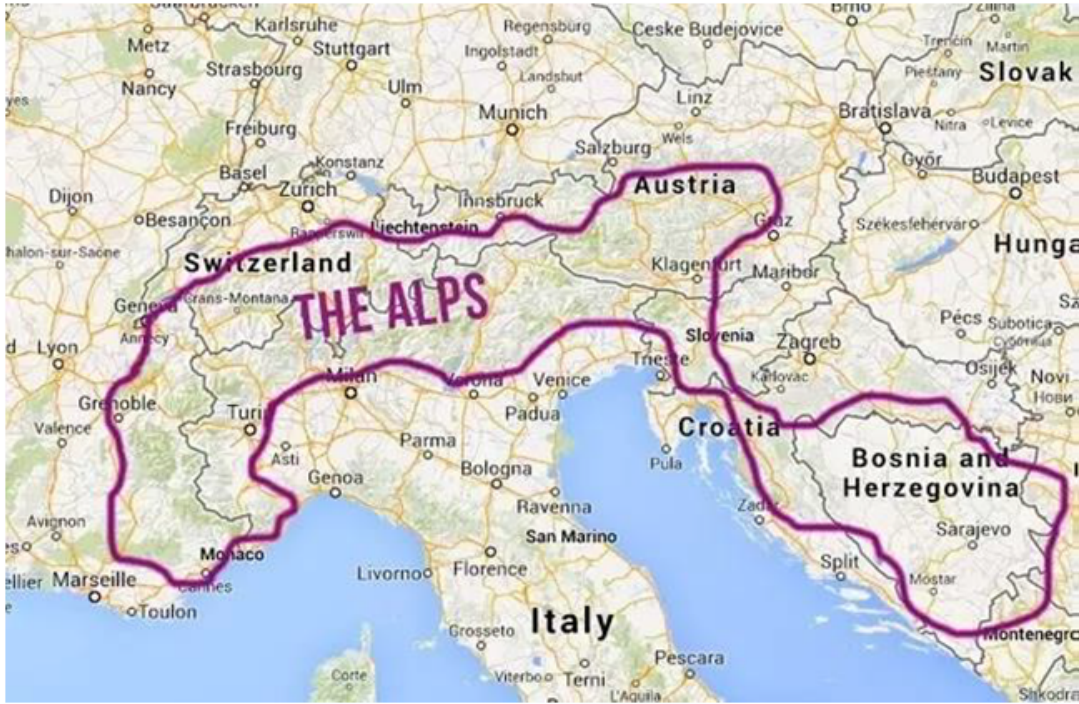
- CPEC is intended to rapidly upgrade Pakistan's required infrastructure and strengthen its economy by the construction of modern transportation networks, numerous energy projects, and special economic zones.



1.11. Mont Blanc Mountain Range



- Mont Blanc is also known as White Mountain in French.
- It rises 4,808 m above sea level and is the highest mountain in the Alps and the highest in the European Union.
- Mont Blanc is the second-highest mountain in Europe after Mount Elbrus.
- It is the tallest peak in the Alps and the highest summit in Western Europe, hence its epithet the “Roof of Europe”



1.12. Melghat Tiger Reserve

- It is located in northern part of Amravati District of Maharashtra.
- The Tapti River and the Gawilgadh ridge of the Satpura Range form the boundaries of the reserve.
- Melghat, part of the Satpura-Maikal landscape was among the first nine tiger reserves notified in 1973-74 under the Project Tiger.
- The forest is tropical dry deciduous in nature, dominated by teak.



1.13.Chabahar Port



1.14.Nagorno-Karabakh Region

- It is a territorial and ethnic conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, which are controlled by Armenia in reality but are internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.



2. Polity & International Relations

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2.1. Consumer Protection Act, 2019

- It will empower consumers and help them in protecting their rights through its various notified Rules and provisions like Consumer Protection Councils, Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions, Mediation, Product Liability and punishment for manufacture or sale of products containing adulterant / spurious goods
- It includes establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers
 - ✓ CCPA will be empowered to conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute complaints / prosecution, order recall of unsafe goods and services, order discontinuance of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/ publishers of misleading advertisements
- e-commerce entities are also under its fold to provide pre-purchase stage information
- It provides for simplifying the consumer dispute adjudication process in the consumer commissions, which include, among others, empowerment of the State and District Commissions to review their own orders, enabling a consumer to file complaints electronically and file complaints in consumer Commissions
- Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism of Mediation has been provided in the new Act
- New Act also introduces the concept of product liability and brings within its scope, the product manufacturer, product service provider and product seller, for any claim for compensation.

2.2. Postal Ballot and Bihar Elections

- With over 70 lakh electors above 65 years of age, the Election Commission of India decided against extending postal ballots to them in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections
 - ✓ 34000 additional polling stations are being prepared
- ECI had recommended extending the postal ballot facility to electors over 65 years as the age group had been termed most vulnerable to COVID-19
 - ✓ Law Ministry notified the change to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 on June 19, extending the postal ballot facility to electors above 65 years, as opposed to the existing provision for above 80 years, as well as COVID-19 patients and those suspected to have the corona virus
 - ✓ Postal ballots had been extended to Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and electors over 80 years in November last year, ahead of the Jharkhand and Delhi elections
- While the option remains for the future, it would not be notified for the Bihar elections
- Commission decided that it would not be possible to arrange the postal ballot facility for about 72 lakh electors, about 10% of the total 7.19 crore electors in the State.

Not the Conventional Postal Ballot

- The system works as a polling station on the move, with the polling staff visiting the homes of senior citizens and PWD, having them fill out their ballots, sealing them in envelopes and taking it back.

2.3. Delimitation in NE states Illegal

- Law Ministry notified the Delimitation Commission for Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam and Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir on March 6, 2020
- A former legal advisor to the EC has called it unconstitutional and illegal as it violates the Representation of People Act 1950
- Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies to represent changes in population and is done on the basis of the preceding Census
- The last delimitation exercise, that started in 2002 and ended in 2008, had kept out Arunachal, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland as the use of the 2001 Census for it had been challenged by several organisations before the Gauhati High Court, on the ground that it was riddled with defects.

Section 8A of the RP Act 1950

- Delimitation in the four north-eastern states, when held, would fall within the EC's remit

2.4. ICJ and Qatar

- ICJ refused an appeal by Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and UAE, which had challenged the authority of the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) to adjudicate on the legality of air blockade imposed by these four nations on Qatar.



Demands

- Qatar closing down news outlets such as Al-Jazeera
- Sever ties with radical Islamist groups like Muslim Brotherhood
- Scale down ties with Shia-majority Iran
- Remove Turkish troops stationed in the country

Restrictions on Qatar

- Closing of its only land border (with Saudi Arabia)
- Stopping Qatari ships from entering ports anywhere in the Saudi coalition, and blocking Qatari planes from flying in their airspace
- Qatari citizens were also expelled as part of the measures

The Dispute at ICJ

- Alleging that its rights of free passage under the 1944 Convention on Civil Aviation were violated, Qatar approached the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO), the UN aviation body created by that Convention

3. Science & Technology

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3.1. Manodarpan

- It is being launched for the psychological well being of students, family members and teachers during the time of Covid 19 pandemic.
- It will provide psychological counselling through website, toll free helpline, national directory of counsellors and through interactive chat platform.
- Extended periods of staying indoors interferes the circadian rhythm of our body which may lead to insomnia and depression.

3.2. Global Fund for AIDS, TB & Malaria

- Deprived of sources of livelihood during the pandemic, sex workers, trainpersons, gay and bi-sexual men, drug users and people living with HIV/AIDS have petitioned the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) protesting against being ignored by government and multilateral agencies in COVID-19 related emergency relief efforts.

Global Fund

- It is an international financing and partnership organisation that aims to attract, leverage and invest additional resources to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria to support the SDGs.
- It is a financing mechanism rather than an implementing agency.
- As of June 2019, the organization had disbursed more than US\$41.6 billion to support these programs.

3.3. Sero-prevalence Study

- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare commissioned a Sero-surveillance study in Delhi from end June 2020 to mid-July 2020.
 - ✓ Conducted by National Centre for Disease Control
- Collected blood samples were tested for IgG antibodies and infection using COVID KAVACH ELISA
- The test performed is not a diagnostic test but only provides information about past infection due to SARSCoV-2 in individuals who test positive

Observations

- A large number of infected persons remain asymptomatic
- Only 23.48% of the people are affected in Delhi
- Non-pharmacological interventions such as physical distancing, use of face mask/cover, hand hygiene, cough etiquette and avoidance of crowded places etc., must be followed strictly.

COVID KAVACH ELISA

- It is India's first indigenous antibody testing kit developed by National Institute of Virology, Pune

- ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) antibody test is a blood test
- WHO has called ELISAs “highly sensitive and specific” tests that are suitable for “for testing large numbers of samples per day, as well as in blood banks or for surveillance studies?”

3.4.COVID-19 & Winters

- Fall in temperature with seasonal progression towards winter will environmentally favour COVID-19 transmission in India says the collaborative study of IIT Bhubaneswar and AIIMS Bhubaneswar.
- Low temperature and high humidity appear to favour the spread of the disease
 - ✓ An increase in temperature by one degree leads to a 0.99% decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases
 - ✓ In terms of doubling time, a one-degree rise in temperature leads to slowing by 1.13 days. Similarly, an increase in 10% relative humidity leads to an increase in doubling time by 1.18 days
- The respiratory viral pandemics of the 21st century (SARS-CoV-2 in 2003, Influenza AH1N1 in 2009) have revealed that seasonality in environmental factors play a role in the dynamics of their spread.
- The study says the actual spread will eventually depend on human intervention, such as strict enforcement of universal masking, physical distancing, and improved hand hygiene and possible commencement of herd immunity.

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