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For the 4th Week

of

April 2021

(19th April to 24th April)

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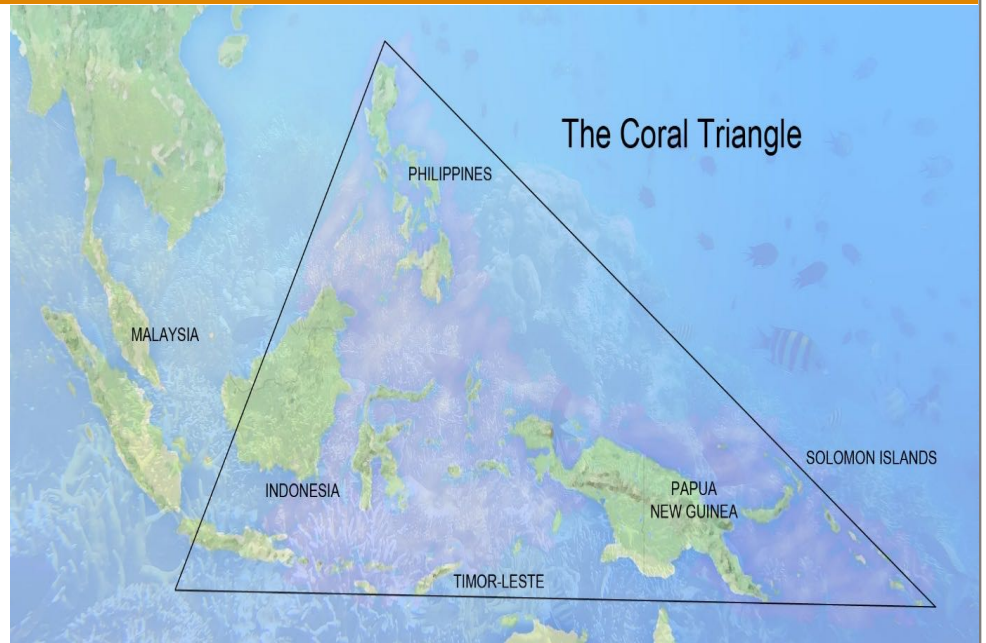
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1. Geography

1.1.Places In News

Coral Triangle

- It is a marine area located in the western Pacific Ocean described as world's epicentre of marine diversity.
- It includes waters of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Solomon Islands.
- It houses nearly 600 different species of reef-building corals.



UPSC Question 2018

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.
3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Lithium Triangle

- The Lithium Triangle is a region of the Andes rich in lithium reserves around the borders of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.
- The area is thought to hold around 54% of the world's lithium reserves.



Golden Triangle

- It is Southeast Asia's main opium-producing region and one of the oldest narcotics supply routes to Europe and North America.



Plases Note



Northern triangle

- The Northern Triangle of Central America is the three Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- The term is used with respect to the countries' economic integration, and their shared challenges, including widespread poverty, violence, and corruption, which have prompted many to become refugees fleeing the three nations.



2. History

2.1. Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR

About

- He was an Indian jurist, economist, politician and social reformer, who inspired the Dalit Buddhist Movement and campaigned against social discrimination towards the untouchables.
- He was British India's Minister of Labour in Viceroy's Executive Council.
- A member of the Constituent Drafting committee and India's first Minister of Law and Justice and considered as the chief Architect of the Constitution of India.

Early Life

- Born on 14 April 1891 in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- Born into a Mahar (Dalit) caste, who were treated as untouchables and subjected to socio-economic discrimination.
- Ambedkar's ancestors had long worked for the army of British East India Company.
- Belonging from a depressed class, During his school days, he was segregated from other students and given little attention by teachers. Not allowed to sit in class, and even the drinking water had to be poured by someone from a higher caste as they were not allowed to touch either the water or the vessel that contained it.

Education

- In 1897, He joined Elphinstone High School in Mumbai Mahar caste to have passed this matriculation examination. where he was the only dalit child and he was the first from his
- In 1912, he obtained his degree in economics and political science from Bombay University
- In 1913, moved to USA at the age of 22, was awarded a Baaroda State Scholarship for post Graduate education at Columbia University.
- October 1916, Enrolled for Bar Course at Gray's Inn and at the same time enrolled at the London School of Economics where he started working on doctoral thesis.

Political Life

- He was invited to testify before the South borough Committee, which was preparing for the Government of India Act of 1919, where he for the first time argued for the demand of separate electorates and reservations for untouchables.
- And this process was further amplified through the publication of his weekly - Mooknayak.
- Founded Bahiskrit Hitkarni Sabha - to improve education and Socio Economic development of the depressed classes.
- In 1925, He was appointed by Bombay Presidency Committee to work with all- European Simon Commission in 1925.

Caste Struggles

- In 1927, led Mahad Satyagraha to fight for the right of Untouchables, to draw water from the main tank of the town.
- In late 1927, he led thousands of followers to burn copies of Manusamriti.
- In 1930, He launched the Kalaram Temple Movement because the depressed classes were allowed to visit the temple but only upper caste Hindus.
- He was invited to attend the Second Round Table Conference in London, which resulted in the announcement of the Communal Awards, Further for which Poona Pact was anchored between Madan Mohan Malviya and B.R Ambedkar in Yerwada Jail - Poona.

Political Career

- In 1936, founded the Independent Labour Party to contest the Bombay elections to Central Legislative Assembly, this political party was further transformed into Scheduled Castes Federation.
- He served on the Defence Advisory Committee and Minister of Labour in the Viceroy's Executive Council.
- Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee and was appointed as the first Law Minister of Independent India.
- In the first General Elections of India in 1952, he lost to his former assistant and Congress Party Candidate Narayan Kajorkar. and thus joined as an appointed member in Rajya Sabha.

Political Career

- He was a critic of Islamic Practices in South Asia and he condemned the child marriage and the mistreatment of women in Muslim Society.
- He also opposed Article 370 of the Constitution.
- He recommended the adoption of Uniform Civil Code in the country
- He resigned from the cabinet in 1951, when Parliament stalled his draft of the Hindu Code Bill.

Economics Career

- He was the first Indian to pursue a doctorate in economics abroad.
- He wrote 3 scholarly books on economics -
 - ✓ Administration and Finance of the East India Company.
 - ✓ The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India.
 - ✓ The Problem of Rupee : Its Origin and its Solution
- The Reserve Bank of India, was based on the ideas that Ambedkar presented to the Hilton Young Commission.

Religious Life

- In 1955, he founded the Bhartiya Buddha Mahasabha in Rangoon or the Buddhist Society of India.

- In 1956, he completed his final work, The Buddha and his Dhamma, which was published posthumously.
- In 1956, he along with his followers converted into Buddhism.
- Three days after completing he's final work - "The Buddha and his Dhamma" Ambedkar died in his sleep on 6 December, 1956 at his home in Delhi.

Autobiography

- "Waiting for a Visa" - Relates to his experiences with untouchability, this book is used as a Textbook in Columbia University.

Other Works

- "Annihilation of Caste" in 1936.
- "Who were the Shudras" - Trough this work he tried to explain the formation of untouchables.

Newspapers

- "Mooknayak" (Mute Hero - 1920)
- "Bahiskrit Bharat" (India Ostracised - 1927)
- "Junta" (Masses - 1930)
- "Prabhudha Bharat" (An awakened India - 1956)

3. Polity & Governance

3.1. Appointment of CJI in India (Procedures and Process involved)

- The senior most judge of the Supreme Court, N.V. Ramanna has been appointed as the next Chief Justice of India after the expiry of the term of incumbent, S.A. Bobde.
- Surprisingly, the Constitution of India does not have any provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI. Article 124(1) of the Indian Constitution says there “shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India”.
- The Constitution merely states that the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President of India and the CJI is appointed by the President as well once the consultation with the judges of SC and HC is done as the President deems necessary
- In the absence of a constitutional provision, the procedure relies on custom and convention. When the incumbent CJI retires, the senior most judge in the SC becomes the CJI. Seniority, here, is not defined by age, but by the number of years an individual has been serving as judge in the apex court.
- In an instance where two judges have served for the exact same time, because they were appointed as SC judges on the same day, other factors are used to determine the seniority of the judges, like which judge has more years of experience in the high court and if either of them were nominated from the bar directly.
- The procedure to appoint the next CJI is laid out in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) between the government and the judiciary
 - ✓ The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the ‘appropriate time’, which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.
 - ✓ The CJI sends his recommendation to the Law Ministry; and in the case of any qualms, the CJI can consult the collegium regarding the fitness of an SC judge to be elevated to the post. In the ‘Three Judges’ case, it was decided that that a consultation of the plurality of judges is required for appointment of the CJI in India.
 - ✓ After receiving recommendation from the CJI, the law minister forwards it to the Prime Minister who then advises the President on the same.
 - ✓ The President administers the oath of office to the new CJI.
- With regard to the the recommendation of the incumbent CJI to the government, the government cannot send the recommendation of the CJI (or the collegium) back to them for reconsideration.
- The Memorandum of Procedure does not have any provision for the eventuality of the government disagreeing with the incumbent CJI’s recommendation on the new one.
- Since the establishment of the Supreme Court in 1950, there have been 46 CJIs, including the incumbent S.A. Bobde. In all cases, the convention and the procedure was duly followed, except for two – Justice AN Ray in 1973 and Justice MH Beg in 1977.

4. Economy

4.1. Special Drawing Rights

What is SDR

- The Special Drawing Right is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF.
- The private entities cannot hold SDRs.
- The international treaties that use Special Drawing Rights are Montreal Convention, Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims.
- The convention caps personal liability for damage to ships at 330,000 XDR. XDR is the unit of Special Drawing Rights.

The International Organisations using SDR

- Japan External Trade Organisation
- Islamic Development Bank
- African Development Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- International Fund for Agricultural Development

Currencies Used

- The value of SDR changes every day.
- The IMF uses a basket of currencies to determine the SDR value.
- The weightage of the currencies depends on its prominence in international trade and the foreign exchange reserves of the respective nation.
- The weightage given to the currencies are as follows:
 - ✓ US Dollar: 41.73%
 - ✓ Euro: 31%
 - ✓ Chinese Renminbi: 11%
 - ✓ Japanese Yen: 8.33%
 - ✓ British Pound: 8.09%
- These currencies are reviewed once in five years.
- The Chinese Renminbi was added to the basket in 2016.

India & SDR

- As part of the Fourteenth General Review of Quotas (2010), India's total quota has been increased to SDR 13,114.4 million from SDR 5821.5 million.



- With this increase, India's share would increase to 2.76 % (from 2.44%), making it the 8th largest quota holding country in the IMF.
- India has 13,114.4 Millions of SDRs Which amounts to 2.76 Percent of Total Governor: Union Finance Minister Alternate Governor: Governor, RBI

5. Environment & Ecology

5.1. Disk Footed Bat

Introduction

- Meghalaya has yielded India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky disks, taking the species count of the flying mammal in the country to 130.
- The disk-footed bat (*Eudiscopus denticulus*) was recorded in the north-eastern State's Lailad area near the Nongkhyllam Wildlife Sanctuary, about 1,000 km west of its nearest known habitat in Myanmar.



Habitat

- The researchers found that though several bamboo-dwelling bat species are common throughout Southeast Asia, this particular species is rare and found only in a few localities worldwide.
- It is known to thrive in a few localities in Southern China, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar.
- It has been found roosting in internodal spaces of bamboo stems.
- There are a couple of other bamboo-dwelling bats in India.
- But the extent of adaptation for bamboo habitat in this species is not seen in the others.

Features

- The bat species is very distinctive in appearance with prominent disk-like pads in the thumb and bright orange colouration.
- The flattened skull and sticky pads enabled the bats to roost inside cramped spaces, clinging to smooth surfaces such as bamboo internodes.
- The disk-footed bat was also found to be genetically very different from all other known bats bearing disk-like pads.
- Scientists analysed the very high frequency echolocation calls of the disk-footed bat, which was suitable for orientation in a cluttered environment such as inside bamboo groves.
- The disk-footed bat has raised Meghalaya's bat count to 66, the most for any State in India.

IUCN Status

- IUCN Status - Least Concern



Conservation In India

- It has also helped add a genus and species to the bat fauna of India.
- India has a total of 130 bat species.

6. Science & Technology

6.1. Ultra Wideband Technology

- Ultra Wideband is a fast, secure and low power radio protocol used to determine location with accuracy unmatched by any other wireless technology
- It transmits data across short distances and precisely determines location by measuring how long it takes for a radio pulse to travel between devices
- A UWB transmitter sends billions of radio pulses across the wide spectrum frequency (3.1 and 10.6 GHz) and a UWB receiver then translates the pulses into data
- UWB achieves real-time accuracy because as it sends up to 1 billion pulses per second (about 1 per nanosecond)
- In 2002 U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorized the unlicensed use of UWB

Applications

- UWB saw limited use in military radars and was even briefly used as a remote heart monitoring system
- Protect vehicles from unauthorized access via two-factor authentication
- A UWB enabled car can detect the presence of its owner, verify his identity and ensure that the communication between two objects, such as a car and its keys, is denied if the distance between them goes beyond a pre-defined threshold