Sleepy Classes
Free. Regular. Quality.

2- Minute Series

(A compilation of foundational Topics prerequisite for civil services)

Monthly Compilation

for

April 2021

Visit our website www.sleepyclasses.com or

our YouTube channel for entire GS Course **FREE** of cost

Also Available: Prelims Crash Course || Prelims Test Series

Table of Contents

1. Geography 1

1.1.Rice Export 1
1.2.Stars Project 1
1.3.Decarbonised Transportation Initiative 3
1.4.Places In News 5
1.5.Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) 7

2. History & Culture 8

2.1.Shaheed Bhagat Singh 8
2.2.Pathrughat Peasant Uprising 11
2.3.Gyanvapi Mosque 11
2.4.Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR 13
2.5.Rabindranath Tagore 15

3. Polity & Governance 18

3.1.The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 18
3.2.Article 244 (A) and Tribal areas 19
3.3.The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 20
3.4.Appointment of CJI in India (Procedures and Process involved) 21

4. Economy 24

4.1.Consolidated Sinking Fund 24
4.2.Non- Fungible Token (NFT) 24
4.3.India's Top Exports & imports 26
4.4.SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS 28
4.5.Harmonized System of Nomenclature Code 29

5. Environment 31

5.1.Plastic Pollution 31
5.2.Kolar Leaf Nosed Bat 33
5.3.Whale Sharks 35
5.4.Disk Footed Index 36
5.5.Great Indian Bustard 37

6. Scienze & Technology 40

6.1.Asteroid Impact Deflection Assessment (AIDA) 40
6.2.Nisar 40

6.3.Helium Crisis for India *41*
6.4.Ultra Wideband Technology *41*
6.5.Baikal Covid *42*

1. Geography

1.1.Rice Export

Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF)

- It will monitor, identify and anticipate developments pertaining to rice production and exports and recommend necessary policy measures.
- Its objective is to identify, document particulars and reach out to stakeholders across the entire production/ supply chain of export of rice for increasing these exports significantly to the global market.
- It will comprise representatives from the rice industry, exporters, and officials from APEDA, Commerce Ministry, Agriculture Ministry and Directors of Agriculture from major rice producing states such as West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana etc.

APEDA

- It has been set up under the aegis of the Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Promotion Development Authority (APEDA).
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is an Apex-Export Trade Promotion Active government body set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It was established under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.

Note

- Import of Sugar
- India is the second largest producer of rice in the world

Applications

- GS 1
- GS 3
- Some points about Agriculture

1.2.Stars Project

Strengthening Teaching-Learning And Results For States (Stars) Project

- The Union Cabinet approved the STARS project under the new National Education Policy.
- The overall focus and components of the STARS project are aligned with the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of Quality Based Learning Outcomes.
- Implementation of the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project with a total project cost of Rs 5718 crore with the financial support of World Bank amounting to US $ 500 million (approximately Rs. 3700 crore).
- STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. (MOE)

- The project covers 6 States namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.
- The identified States will be supported tor various interventions for improving the quality of education.
- The STARS project seeks to support the states in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes and school to work transition strategies for improved labour market outcomes.
- The Project envisions improving the overall monitoring and measurement activities in the Indian School Education System through interventions in selected states. The project shifts focus from the provision of inputs and maintaining of outputs to actual outcomes by linking the receipt and disbursement of funds to these outcomes.

The Stars Project Has Two Major Components

- At the National level, the project envisages the following interventions which will benefit all states and UTs:
  - ✓To strengthen MOE's national data systems to capture robust and authentic data on retention, transition and completion rates of students.
  - ✓To support MOE in improving states PGI scores by incentivizing states governance reform agenda through SIG (State Incentive Grants).
- To support the strengthening of learning assessment systems.
- Further, the STARS project includes a Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) under the National Component which would enable it to be more responsive to any natural, man-made and health disasters.
- It will help the government respond to situations leading to loss of learning such as school closures/ infrastructure damage, inadequate facilities and use technology for facilitating remote learning etc.
- The CERC component would facilitate the rapid re-categorization of financing and the utilization of streamlined financing request procedures.
- At the State level, the project envisages:
  - ✓Strengthening Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning
  - ✓Improving Learning Assessment Systems
- Strengthening classroom instruction and remediation through teacher development and school leadership
- Governance and Decentralized Management for Improved Service Delivery.
- Strengthening Vocational education in schools through mainstreaming, career guidance and counselling, internships and coverage of out of school children

Some Of The Measurable Outcomes Of The Project Are

- Increase in students achieving minimum proficiency in grade 3 language in selected states,
- Improvement in secondary school completion rate,

- Improvement in governance index scores
- Strengthened learning assessment systems,
- Strengthened school management by training of Head Teachers and Principals for improved education service delivery.
- Improvement in the State level service delivery such as Strengthening planning and management capacities for decentralized management by training of BRCs and CRCs.
- Partnerships developed to facilitate cross- learning between states

Note

- Setting up and support to the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH as an independent and autonomous institution under Department of School Education and Literacy, MOE.
- PARAKH stands for Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development.
- According to reports, PARAKH can is seen as a game changer as it will not only help states in offering quality standardised assessments, but also aid in providing regular data for improving quality.
- All states will partner with one other state for sharing their experiences and best practices.

Application

- GS 1
- GS 2
- GS 3
- GS 4

1.3.Decarbonised Transportation Initiative

- NITI Aayog in collaboration with International Transport Forum (ITF) have jointly launched the Decarbonising Transport in India project.

International Transport Forum (ITF)

- The ITF is an inter-governmental organisation within the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) system.
- It is the only global body with a mandate for all modes of transport.
- It acts as a think tank for transport policy issues and organises the annual global summit of transport ministers.
- India has been a member of ITF since 2008

Decarbonising Transport Initiative

- The Decarbonising Transport initiative promotes carbon-neutral mobility to help stop climate change.
- It provides decision makers with tools to select CO2 mitigation measures that deliver on their climate commitment.

- The DTI was launched in 2016 with funding from the International Transport Forums (ITF) and other funding partners including World Bank, European Commission etc.

Decarbonising Transport In Emerging Economies

- The Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies (DTEE) project aims to help national governments and other stakeholders to identify transport measures and establish pathways to reduce transport CO2 emissions and meet their climate goals and NDCs.

Indian Context

- The India project is carried out in the wider context of the International Transport Forum's "Decarbonising Transport" initiative.
- It is part of the "Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies" (DTEE) family of projects, which supports transport decarbonisation across different world regions.
- It will provide the government with a detailed understanding of current and future transport activity and the related CO2 emissions as a basis for their decision-making.
- The "Decarbonising Transport in India" project will design a tailor-made transport emissions assessment framework for India. India, Argentina, Azerbaijan, and Morocco are current participants

Note

- The Decarbonising Transport initiative does not advocate specific measures or policies.
- Building on an evidence-based assessment of mitigation impacts, it identifies options for decision-makers to achieve their targets - for instance the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted by countries under the Paris Agreement, as well as targets set by sectors, companies or cities.

Note : (For Mains)

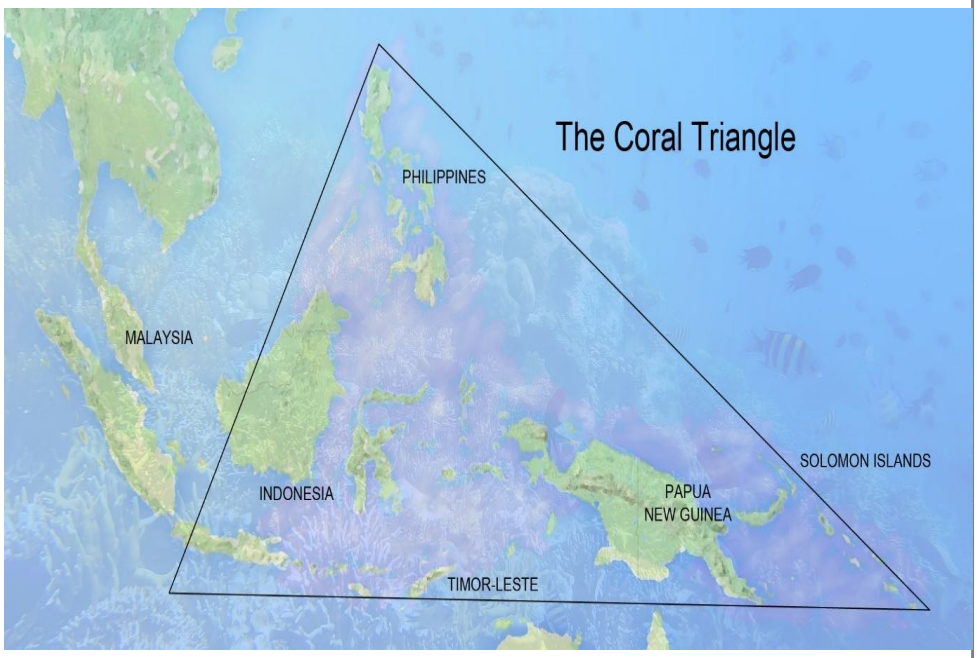
- Builds a catalogue of effective CO2 mitigation measures: the Transport Climate Action Directory.
- Provides targeted analytical assistance for countries and partners to identify climate actions that work.
- Gathers and shares evidence for best practices that will accelerate the transition to carbon-neutral mobility.
- Shapes the climate change debate by building a global policy dialogue and by bringing the transport perspective to the broader climate change discussions.

Applications

- GS 1
- GS 2
- GS 3
- GS 4

1.4.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.

Pleases 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.

1.2.Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)

- In the context of international trade, supply chain resilience is an approach that helps a country to ensure that it has diversified its supply risk across a clutch of supplying nations instead of being dependent on just one or a few.
- India, Japan and Australia - launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).
- The initiative, first proposed by Japan with India and Australia as partners, potentially see other Asian and Pacific Rim nations.
- The SCRI aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the region.
- Unanticipated events — whether natural, such as volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, earthquakes or even a pandemic; or manmade, such as an armed conflict in a region — that disrupt supplies from a particular country or even intentional halts to trade, could adversely impact economic activity in the destination country.
- Under the SCRI, the countries will share best practices on supply chain resilience and will hold investment promotion and buyer- seller matching events to provide opportunities for stakeholders to diversify their supply chains.
- Japan
- India
- Australia

2. History & Culture

2.1.Shaheed Bhagat Singh

Modi pays tributes to Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru on 'Shaheed Diwas'

It was on this day that Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged by the British government

SHARE ARTICLE

Narendra Modi. PTI file

New Delhi, March 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid homage to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru and said their sacrifice would remain an inspiration for every generation of the country.

It was on this day that Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged by the British government.

Follow Us

Top Stories

Caste-based rese... to decide: SC

The top court had on ...

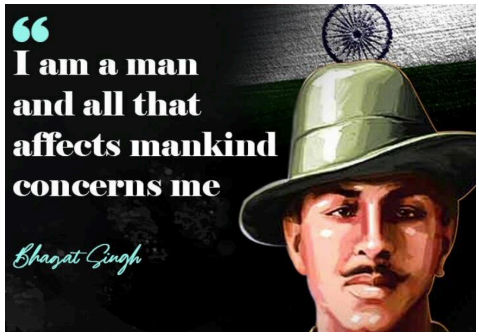
7 hours ago

'Second Covid w... cases': SBI repor...

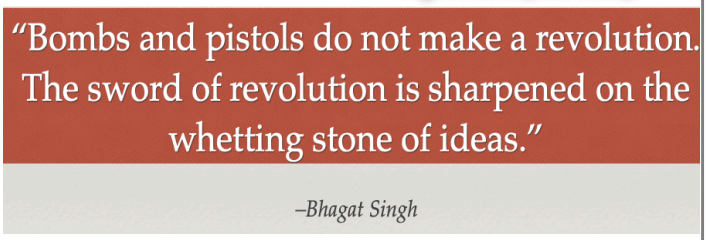
Says lockdown failed ...

- The freedom fighter, who needs no Introduction and Probably the most famous one in India after Gandhiji.
- His feelings of patriotism were not only restricted against British rule but also towards the division of India on communal lines.
- As an individual, his political and social bent of mind matched to that of Socialist and Marxist ideologies which further brought revolutionary Ideas to his mind.

Points to Remember



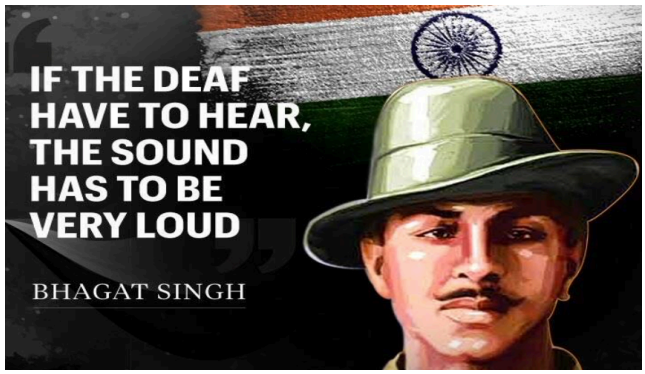
- Born - September 1907, in the Lyallpur district of Punjab Province of British India. (now in Pakistan)
- Since his childhood, he family was actively participating in freedom movement and politics and therefore participated in different movements for attaining India's independence.
- Attended DAV High School, an Arya Samaj Institution and did not attend the Khalsa High School in Lahore, unlike most of his Sikh peers, as his grandfather Arjun Singh did not approve the school officials' loyalty to the British Government.
- Bhagat Singh revered Kartar Sing Sarabha, who was a founding member of the Gadhar Party, which is known to have set the foundation for the future revolutionary movements in India.
- In 1919, at the age of 12 years, Bhagat Singh visits the site of Jallianwala Bagh massacre hours after thousands of unarmed people were killed by troops of British Army under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer.



- In 1923, He joined National College in Lahore and after that started his journey of working as writer and editor for Punjabi and Urdu newspapers in Amritsar.
- In 1926, Joined the 'Naujawan Bharat Sabha' and joined the 'Hindustan Republican Association' where he met prominent revolutionaries like Chandra Shekhar Azad and Ram Prasad Bismil.
- During his college days, Bhagat Singh worked for Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi in the newspaper Pratap Press in Kanpur for some months.
- In 1925, He went to Delhi and started publishing the Daily 'Veer Arjun' Newspaper for 6 months.
- Bhagat Singh then joined Hindustan Republican Association and became one of its chief leaders and due to his ideological bent towards socialism, the name of the organisation was changed to Hindustan Socialist Reublican Association.
- In April 1926, Bhagat Singh established contact with Sohan Singh Josh and through him the 'Workers and Peasants Party' which brought out the monthly magazine Kirti in Punjabi. For the next year Bhagat Singh worked with Josh and joined the editorial board of Kirti.
- In 1927, he was first arrested on charges of association with the Kakori Case accused for an article written under the pseudonym Vidrohi (Rebel). He was also accused of being responsible for a bomb explosion at Lahore during the Dussehra fair.

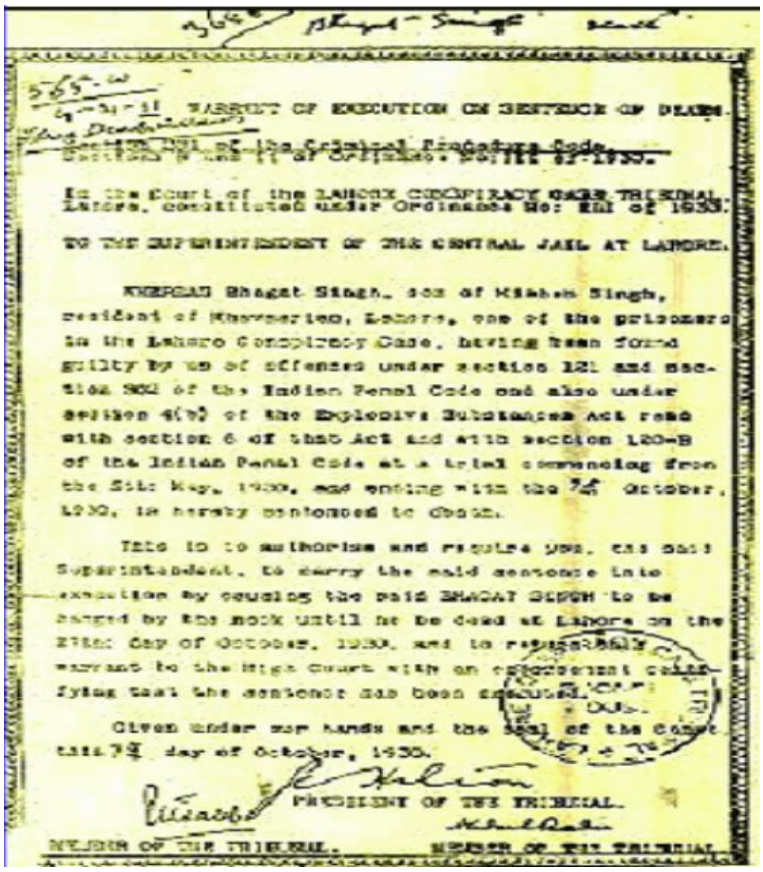
"Dear Father,

My life has been dedicated for serving the nation, I cannot get married as I have no intention to achieve worldly pleasures when my motherland is suffering. I have a responsibility to save the 30 crore citizens of my country as they are in great distress. So, I am leaving to achieve Swaraj for my country. I hope you will allow me to do this small contribution for my motherland. Your Son Bhagat

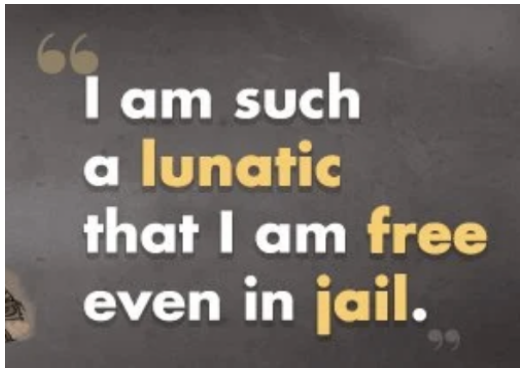


- He was a voracious reader, he enjoyed the works of Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, and Mikhail Bakunin.
- Initially, Bhagat Singh supported Mahatma Gandhi and Non- Cooperation Movement. However after Gandhiji withdrew Non Cooperation movement in the wake of Chauri Chaura incident, Bhagat Singh turned to revolutionary nationalism.
- During the protests against the Simon Commission, Lala Lajpat Rai was lathi charged and later died due to the injuries, in order to avenge the death of Lalaji Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru shot dead a police officer by the name of John Saunders, whom they had mistaken for British Police superintendent James Scott, who was the real target.
- After publicly announcing avenging Lalaji's death, Bhagat resurfaced along with an associate Battukeshwar Dutt.

- In April 1929, they set off two explosive devices inside the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi at that time when Public Safety Bill and Trade dispute bills were being passed in the assembly. After explosion allowed themselves to be arrested, while shouting famous slogans:" Inquilab Zindabaad" or "Long Live the Revolution".
- In connection with the Lahore Conspiracy Case, Bhagat Singh along with others was sent Jail. While in Prison also he focused his energies towards demanding and seeking better living conditions for the inmates and at par that of British offenders and launched a hunger strike.
- The strike ended with Das' death from starvation in September 1929 and the Britishers were forced to accept the Demands.



- In 1930, Bhagat Singh wrote an essay 'Why I Am an Atheist' when he was in Lahore Central-jail
- He was sentenced to be hanged on 24 March 1931, but it was brought forward by 11 hours to 23 March 1931 at 7.30 PM.
- *"They may kill me, but not my ideas. They can crush my body, but will not be able to crush my spirits"* -Bhagat Singh
- Bhagat Singh wanted himself to be shot dead instead of being hanged - In his letter he mentioned that - "Since I was arrested during the war. Therefore, I cannot be punished for hanging. Let me be thrown in to the mouth of a canon".



- After hanging, their bodies were carried away secretly through backdoor of the Jail and late at night, the authorities reached the Satluj river banks in Ferozpure where they burnt the bodies of the three revolutionaries.
- Jawahar Lal Nehru wrote about him - "Bhagat Singh did not become popular because of his act of terrorism, but because he seemed to vindicate, for the moment, the honour of Lala Lajpat Rai, and through him, of the nation. He became a symbol; the act was forgotten, the symbol remained, and within a few months each town and village of the Punjab, and to a larger extent in the rest of India, resounded with his name"
- In the memory of the martyrdom of the three brave sons of India the day '23 March' is celebrated every year as ' martyr 's day.
- On the 50th death anniversary of the trio, shaheed- e- Azam Sardar Bhagat Museum was opened in Khatkar Kalan, his ancestral Village.

2.2.Pathrughat Peasant Uprising

Context

- Type - Peasant Uprising which took place on January 28, 1894 in Assam.
- Reason - Against the increase in land revenue levied by the colonial administration, when the military opened fire.

Historical background

- British Annexation of Assam happened in 1826, surveys of land were done throughout the length and breath of the country
- In 1893, British Government decided to increase agricultural land tax by over 70-80 %.
- Earlier the peasants were paying the taxes in kind, but now the British Government made it mandatory to pay in cash , which led to further resentment.
- Across Assam, peasants began protesting the move by organising Raij Mels, or peaceful people's convention
- Although the gathering in Pathrughat was emocratic, but the British perceived them as "Breeding grounds for sedition" and opened fire.
- One of the few occasions in the history of the pre-Congress, pan-Indian anti-imperialist movement, when, in the absence of a well defined leadership, the masses organised themselves to resist the autocratic designs of the British.

Present Situation

- Today a "martyrs column" stands where the incident took place — Patharughat, a small village in Assam's Darrang district, 60 km northeast of Guwahati.

2.3.Gyanvapi Mosque

About

- Located in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- It is said to be constructed on the site of Kashi Vishwanath temple, which had been demolished by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1696.
- It is administered by by Anjuman Inthaazamiay Masajid.

Historical Backgrounds

- Built during the reign of Aurangzeb in 1669 CE.
- According to scholar Madhuri Desai, the mosque was built on the plinth of the former temple.
- The remnants of the Hindu temple can be seen on the walls of the Gyanvapi mosque.
- The demolished temple is believed by the Hindus to be an earlier restoration of the original Kashi Vishwanath temple

- The temple structure that existed prior to the construction of the mosque was most probably built by Raja Man Singh during Akbar's reign.
- The temple's demolition was intended as a warning to the anti- Mughal factions and Hindu religious leaders in the city.

Present Situation

- Maulana Abdus Salam Nomani (d. 1987), an Imam of the Gyanvapi mosque, contests the fact that a temple was destroyed to build the mosque.
- According to him, the foundation of the mosque was laid by the third Mughal emperor Akbar, and Akbar's grandson and Aurangzeb's father Shah Jahan started a madrasah called Imam-e-Sharifat at the site of the mosque in 1048 hijri (1638-39 CE).

Additional Information

- Around 1750, The Maharaja of Jaipur commissioned survey of the land around the site, with the objective of a purchasing land to rebuild the Kashi Vishwanath temple.
- This survey showed showed that the edges of the rectangular Gyanvapi mosque precinct were lined up with the residences of Brahmin priests.
- Describing the site in 1824, British traveler Reginald Heber wrote that "Aulam Gheer" had defiled a sacred Hindu spot and built a mosque on it. He stated that Hindus considered this spot more sacred than the adjoining new Kashi Vishwanath temple.

Temple Ruins

- A Temple Structure can be seen at the mosques real wall, long believed to be a remnant of the original Kashi Vishwanath temple.

Gyan Vapi Well

- The mosque is named after a well, the Gyan Vapi ("the well of knowledge"), which is located within the mosque precincts.
- The legends mentioned by the Hindu priests state that the lingam of the original temple was hidden in this well, when the temple was destroyed.

2021 Legal Case

- On 8th April 2021, a court in Varanasi city ordered the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque.
- The court's ruling runs up agains the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, which states that any place of worship shall be maintained as it existed on 15 August 1947.
- This is an unconscionable intervention that will open the floodgates for another protracted religious dispute.

Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991

- It prohibits the conversion of religious places of worship as it existed at the time of Independence.
- The Act was passed in September 1991, over a year before the demolition of the Babri Masjid (1992).

- Section 3 of the Act bans the conversion of a place of worship or even a section of it into a place of worship of a different religious denomination or of a different segment of the same religious denomination.
- The Act also imposes a positive obligation on the State to maintain the religious character of every place of worship as it existed at the time of Independence.

Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, Exemption

- The disputed site at Ayodhya is exempted from the Act. Due to this exemption, the trial in the Ayodhya case proceeded even after the enforcement of this law.
- The Act also does not apply to any place of worship which is
- an ancient and historical monument or an archaeological site covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- Penalty: Section 6 of the Act prescribes a punishment of maximum three-years imprisonment along with a fine for contravening the provisions of the Act.

2.4.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 Viceroys 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 Simmon Commission in 1925.

Caste Struggles

- In 1927, led Mahad Satygraha tom fight for the right of Untouchables, to draw water form 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 along tho visit the temple but only upper caste Hindu's.
- 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 Assemble, 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 Kajrolkar. and thus joined as an appointed member in Rajya Sabha.

Political Career

- He was critique 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)

2.5.Rabindranath Tagore

About

- He was an Indian polymath - poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer and painter born on 7 August, 1941.
- For "Gitanjali" in 1913, He became the first non European to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature and second non European to receive Nobel Prize after Theodore Roosevelt.
- Also known by the name of "The Bard of Bengal".

- He denounced British Raj and advocated Independence and was an exponent of Bengal Renaissance for which he founded Vishwas-Bharti University.
- His compositions were chosen by 2 Nations as national anthems - India's "Jana Gana Mana" and Bangladesh's "Amar Shonar Bangla" and the Sri Lankan Nation Anthem was inspired by his works.

Early Life

- Brothers -
  - ✓Dwijendranath Tagore - Philosopher and poet.
  - ✓Satyendranath Tagore - First Indian to be appointed in Indian Civil Services.
  - ✓Jyotindranth Tagore - Music, composer and playwright.
- Never went to school, was trained informally at home by his does not explain things, proper teaching stokes curiosity.
- He debuted in the short story genre in Bengali with "Bhikharini" (The Beggar Women) and seldom used the pen name "Bhanusimha" in his poems.

Education and After

- Father Debendranth wanted his son to become Barrister, therefore enrolled him at a public school in Brighton, England in 1878.
- He briefly read law at University School of London, but again left school, opting instead for Independent studies and in 1880 returned to Bengal degree-less.
- In 1890, Tagore began managing his vast ancestral estates in Shelaidaha.
- In 1901, Tagore moved to Shantiniketan to found an Asharam with a marble-floored prayer hall - The Mandir- an experimental school, grooves of trees, garden and a library.
- He gained Bengali and foreign readers alike - published Naivedya (1901) and Kheya (1906) and translated poems into free verse and in 1913 he was awarded Nobel Prize for Gitanjali.

Life

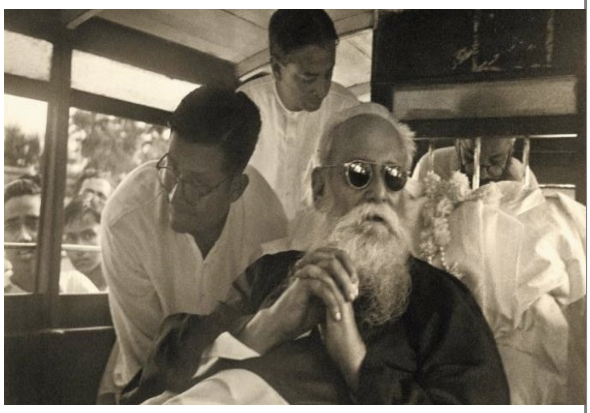
- He was awarded Knighthood by King George V in 1915 Birthday Honours which he renounced after the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
- In 1921, Tagore and Agricultural Economist Leonard Elmhrist set up the "Institute for Rural Reconstruction" later renamed Shriniketan or "Abode of Welfare".
- In early 1930's he targeted ambient "abnormal caste consciousness" and untouchability. He lectured against these, and penned Dalit heroes for his poems and his dramas and campaigned successfully to open Guruvayoor Temple to Dalits.
- Tagore's remit expanded to science in his last years, as hinted in Visva-Parichay, in 1937 a collection of essays.

Death

- His last 5 years were marked by chronic pain and two long period of illness and he began losing consciousness in late 1937 and ultimately closed his eyes on 7 august 1941 aged 80.

Ideas

- He denounced Nationalism and propounded Internationalism.
- He heralded the cultural rapprochement between communities, societies and nations much before it became the liberal norm of conduct.
- According to Amartya Sen - "Tagore rebelled against strongly nationalist forms of the independence movement, and he wanted to assert India's right to be independent without denying the importance of what India could learn from abroad".



Works

- Europe Jatiri Patro (Letters from Europe)
- Mansusher Dorm (The Religion of Man)
- Brief chat with Einstein "Note on Nature of Reality".
- His novel - "Ghare Baire" (The Home and the World) in which he excoriated rising Indian nationalism and religious zeal in the Swadeshi movement.
- Gora - Here he raises controversial questions regarding the Indian identity. Politically Charged compositions - "Chitto Jetha Bhayshunyo" - "Where the mind is without Fear" and "Ekla Chalo Re
- He wrote "Banglar Mati Banglar Jol" (Soil of Bengal, Water of Bengal) to unite the Bengali population after Bengal partition in 1905.

Tagore Vs Gandhi

- Tagore -Believed that **imperialism is an external manifestation of nationalism**, He considered that 'internationalism' would cut above the narrowness of nationalism.
- Mahatma Gandhi, on the other hand, strived to make internationalism more accepting and tolerant by broadening its horizons within the fold of nationalism.

Freedom of Tagore

"Freedom does not simply mean political freedom from the British; True freedom means the ability to be truthful and honest with oneself otherwise autonomy loses all of its worth"

3. Polity & Governance

3.1.The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021

What is the status of Delhi?

- Delhi was granted special status through the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act 1991 that added Article 239 AA.
- As per Article 239AA – Public Order, Police & Land in NCT of Delhi fall within the domain and control of Central Government which shall have the power to make laws on these matters.
- For remaining matters of State List or Concurrent List, in so far as any such matter is applicable to UTs, the Legislative Assembly shall have power to make laws for NCT of Delhi.
- It further provides a Legislative Assembly for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the seats in such Assembly shall be filled by members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the National Capital Territory.

Relationship between CoM and LG:

- Article 239 AA provides for a Council of Ministers consisting of not more than ten percent, of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly, with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor in the exercise to his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws, except in so far as he is, by or under any law, required to act in his discretion.
- It further provides that in the case of difference of opinion between the Lieutenant Governor and his Ministers on any matter, the Lieutenant Governor shall refer it to the President for decision and act according to the decision given thereon by the President and pending such decision it shall be competent for the Lieutenant Governor in any case where the matter, in his opinion, is so urgent that it is necessary for him to take immediate action, to take such action or to give such direction in the matter as he deems necessary.

What is the NCT Amendment Act 2021?

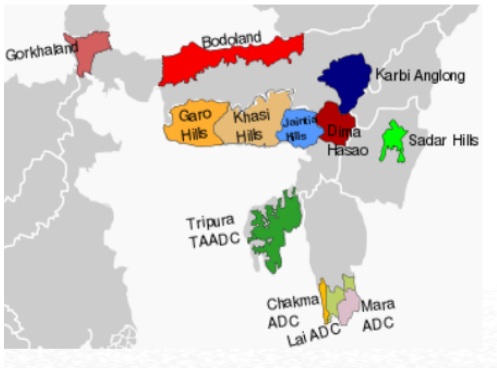
- The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs to bring changes in the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.
- The amendments, according to the 2021 Amendment Act, seek to promote “harmonious relations between the legislature and the executive” and provide for rules made by the Legislative Assembly of Delhi to be “consistent with the rules of the House of the People” or the Lok Sabha.
- The amendment also seeks to define the responsibilities of the elected government and the Lieutenant Governor along the constitutional scheme of governance of the NCT interpreted by the Supreme Court in recent judgements such as by a five judge Bench in 2018 and by a two judge bench on the issue of services in 2019.
- Restriction on laws passed by the Assembly: The amendment provides that the term “government” referred to in any law made by the Legislative Assembly will imply Lieutenant Governor (LG).

- Rules of Procedure of the Assembly: The 1991 Act allows the Legislative Assembly to make Rules to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly. The amendment provides that such Rules must be consistent with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.
- • Inquiry by the Assembly into administrative decisions: The amendment prohibits the Legislative Assembly from making any rule to enable itself or its Committees to:
  - ✓consider the matters of day-to-day administration of the NCT of Delhi and
  - ✓conduct any inquiry in relation to administrative decisions.
- Further, the amendment provides that all such rules made before its enactment will be void.
- Assent to Bills: The 1991 Act requires the LG to reserve certain Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly for the consideration of the President. These Bills are those:
  - ✓which may diminish the powers of the High Court of Delhi,
  - ✓ which the President may direct to be reserved,
  - ✓dealing with the salaries and allowances of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and members of the Assembly and the Ministers, or
  - ✓relating to official languages of the Assembly or the NCT of Delhi.
- The amendment requires the LG to also reserve those Bills for the President which incidentally cover any of the matters outside the purview of the powers of the Legislative Assembly.
- LG's opinion for executive actions: The 1991 Act specifies that all executive action by the government, whether taken on the advice of the Ministers or otherwise, must be taken in the name of the LG. The amendment adds that on certain matters, as specified by the LG, his opinion must be obtained before taking any executive action on the decisions of the Minister/ Council of Ministers.

3.2.Article 244 (A) and Tribal areas

Article 244 (A) and Relevance for Tribal

- What is Article 244 (A) of Constitution?
  - ✓Article 244 (A) allows for creation of an 'autonomous state' within Assam in certain tribal areas. It was inserted into the Constitution in 1969 by the Twenty second Constitutional Amendment Act by the then Congress government, it also has a provision for a Legislature and a Council of Ministers for that autonomous state with such powers and functions as defined by law.
  - ✓The 22nd Amendment further amended article 275 with regard to sums and grants payable to the autonomous State on and from its formation under article 244A.



How is it different from 6th Schedule?

- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution - Articles 244(2) and 275(1) - is a special provision that allows for greater political autonomy and decentralised governance in certain tribal areas of the Northeast through autonomous councils that are administered by elected representatives.

- In Assam, the hill districts of Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong and West Karbi and the Bodo Territorial Region are under this provision.
- Article 244(A) accounts for more autonomous powers to tribal areas. Among these, the most important power is the control over law and order which is not available to autonomous councils under 6th Schedule.

Background to Article 244 (A)

- In the 1950s, a demand for a separate hill state arose around certain sections of the tribal population of undivided Assam.
- In 1960, various political parties of the hill areas merged to form the All Party Hill Leaders Conference, demanding a separate state. After prolonged agitations, Meghalaya gained statehood in 1972.
- The leaders of the Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills were also part of this movement and were given the option to stay in Assam or join Meghalaya. They stayed back as the then Congress government promised more powers, including Article 244 (A).
- Since then, there has been a demand for its implementation. In the 1980s, this demand took the form of a movement with a number of Karbi groups resorting to violence. It soon became an armed separatist insurgency demanding full statehood.
- This came to an end in Feb 2021 with many insurgents laying down their arms. The demand for grant of 'autonomous state' status to the region still remains.

3.3.The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021

- The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated on April 4, 2021 with a view to streamline tribunals, as well as to to abolish certain tribunals and authorities and to provide a mechanism for filing appeal directly to the commercial court or the High Court.
- It dissolves certain existing appellate bodies and transfers their functions (such as adjudication of appeals) to other existing judicial bodies.
- The Finance Act, 2017 had empowered the central government to notify rules on:
  - ✓qualifications of members of tribunals,
  - ✓terms and conditions of their service, and
  - ✓composition of search-cum-selection committees for 19 tribunals (such as the Customs, Excise, and Service Tax Appellate Tribunals).
- The Ordinance amends the 2017 Act to include provisions related to the composition of search-cum-selection committees and term of office of tribunal members in the Act itself.
- The 2017 Act specifies that the Chairperson and Members of the Tribunals will be appointed by the central government on the recommendation of a Search-cum- Selection Committee.
- The 2021 Ordinance specifies that these Committees will consist of:

Transfer of functions of key appellate bodies as proposed under the Ordinance		
The Cinematograph Act, 1952	FCAT	High Court
The Trade Marks Act, 1999	Appellate Board	High Court
The Copyright Act, 1957	Appellate Board	Commercial Court or the Commercial Division of a High Court
The Customs Act, 1962	Authority for Advance Rulings	High Court
The Patents Act, 1970	Appellate Board	High Court
The Airports Authority of India Act, 1994	Airport Appellate Tribunal	Central government, for disputes arising from the disposal of properties left on airport premises by unauthorised occupants. High Court, for appeals against orders of an eviction officer.
The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002	Airport Appellate Tribunal	Civil Court
The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999	Appellate Board	High Court

- ✓ the Chief Justice of India, or a Supreme Court Judge nominated by him, as the Chairperson (with casting vote),
- ✓ two Secretaries nominated by the central government,
- ✓ the sitting or outgoing Chairperson, or a retired Supreme Court Judge, or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court, and
- ✓ the Secretary of the Ministry under which the Tribunal is constituted (with no voting right).

- The Ordinance specifies that the term of office for the Chairperson of the tribunals will be of four years or till the attainment of the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier.
- For other members of the tribunals, the term will be of four years or till the age of sixty-seven years, whichever is earlier.
- Further, the Ordinance includes the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 within the purview of the Finance Act, 2017.
- The Ordinance removes the following bodies from the purview of the Finance Act, 2017:
  - ✓ the Airport Appellate Tribunal established under the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994,
  - ✓ the Appellate Board established under the Trade Marks Act, 1999,
  - ✓ the Authority of Advanced Ruling established under the Income Tax Act, 1961, and
  - ✓ the Film Certification Appellate Authority established under the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

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

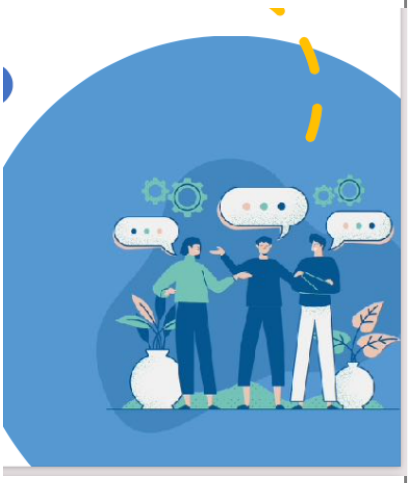
- The senior most judge of the Supreme Court, N.V. Ramanna has been appointed as the next Chief Justice of India after the expiry of the term of incumbent, S.A. Bobde.

- 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 merelu 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.

What is Model Code of Conduct?

- The MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections. This is in keeping with Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and state legislatures.
- The MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced. Its main purpose is to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

- A form of the MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960. It was a set of instructions to political parties regarding election meetings, speeches, slogans, etc.
- In the 1962 general elections to the Lok Sabha, the MCC was circulated to recognised parties, and state governments sought feedback from the parties.
- The MCC was largely followed by all parties in the 1962 elections and continued to be followed in subsequent general elections.
- In 1979, the Election Commission added a section to regulate the 'party in power' and prevent it from gaining an unfair advantage at the time of elections
- For example, Ministers must not combine official visits with election work or use official machinery for the same. The party must avoid advertising at the cost of the public exchequer or using official mass media for publicity on achievements to improve chances of victory in the elections.
- In 2013, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to include guidelines regarding election manifestos, which it had included in the MCC for the 2014 general elections. These prohibit parties from making promises that exert an undue influence on voters, and suggest that manifestos also indicate the means to achieve promises.



Is MCC statutory?

- MCC was the result of a consensus among major political parties. It has no statutory backing. This means anybody breaching the MCC can't be proceeded against under any clause of the Code.
- However, certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- The ECI can issue a notice to a politician or a party for alleged breach of the MCC either on its own, or on the basis of a complaint by an other party or individual.
- Once a notice is issued, the person or party must reply in writing, either accepting fault and tendering an unconditional apology, or rebutting the allegation. In the latter case, if the person or party is found guilty subsequently, he/it can attract a written censure from the ECI.
- In extreme cases, like a candidate using money/liquor to influence votes or trying to divide voters in the name of religion or caste, the ECI can also order registration of a criminal case against the candidate under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code or Income-Tax Act.
- However, the MCC carries significant moral weight; indeed, former Chief Election Commissioner S Y Quraishi had described it as the Moral Code of Conduct. Even if it just a rap on the knuckles, most politicians do not relish the prospect of a censure or a reprimand by the ECI.
- The ECI also launched cVIGIL app to create a fast-track complaint reception and redressal system. cVIGIL is an innovative mobile application for citizens to report Model Code of Conduct and Expenditure violations during the elections.

4. Economy

4.1.Consolidated Sinking Fund

- A sinking fund is a kind of fund in which a fixed amount is deposited at a regular interval. So the sinking fund is like a recurring deposit.
- After some years this fund turns into a huge collection of funds that are further used to repay the previous debt taken by the government or a company.

Background

- The Fund was first proposed by Tenth Finance Commission and was formed in the year 1999-2000,
- Initially, 11 States — Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Uttaranchal and West Bengal — set up sinking funds.
- Later, the 12th Finance Commission (2005-10) recommended that all States should have sinking funds for amortisation of all loans, including loans from banks, liabilities on account of NSSF National Small Saving Fund), etc.

Features

- The fund should be maintained outside the consolidated fund of the States and the public account.
- It should not be used for any other purpose, except for redemption of loans.
- As per the scheme, State governments could contribute 1-3% of the outstanding market loans each year to the Fund.
- The Fund is administered by the Central Accounts Section of RBI Nagpur.
- At present 23 states have set up consolidated sinking funds

4.2.Non- Fungible Token (NFT)

What is an NFT ?

- NFT stands for non-fungible token.
- In economics, a fungible asset is something with units that can be readily interchanged - like money.
- With money, you can swap a £10 note for two £5 notes and it will have the same value.
- However, if something is non-fungible, this is impossible - it means it has unique properties so it cannot be interchanged with something else.
- It could be a house, or a painting such as the Mona Lisa, which is one of a kind.
- You can take a photo of the painting or buy a print but there will only ever be the one original painting.
- NFTs are "one-of-a-kind" assets in the digital world that can be bought and sold like any other piece of property, but they have no tangible form of their own.
- The digital tokens can be thought of as certificates of ownership for virtual or physical assets.

How do NFTs work ?

- Traditional works of art such as paintings are valuable because they are one of a kind.
- But digital files can be easily and endlessly duplicated.
- With NFTs, artwork can be "tokenised" to create a digital certificate of ownership that can be bought and sold.
- As with crypto-currency, a record of who owns what is stored on a shared ledger known as the blockchain.
- The records cannot be forged because the ledger is maintained by thousands of computers around the world.
- NFTs can also contain smart contracts that may give the artist, for example, a cut of any future sale of the token.

What's stopping people copying the digital art ?

- Nothing. Millions of people have seen Beeple's art that sold for $69m and the image has been copied and shared countless times.
- In many cases, the artist even retains the copyright ownership of their work, so they can continue to produce and sell copies.
- But the buyer of the NFT owns a "token" that proves they own the "original" work.
- Some people compare it to buying an autographed print.

People are paying millions of dollars for tokens ?

- Yes. It's as wild as it sounds.

How much are NFTs worth ?

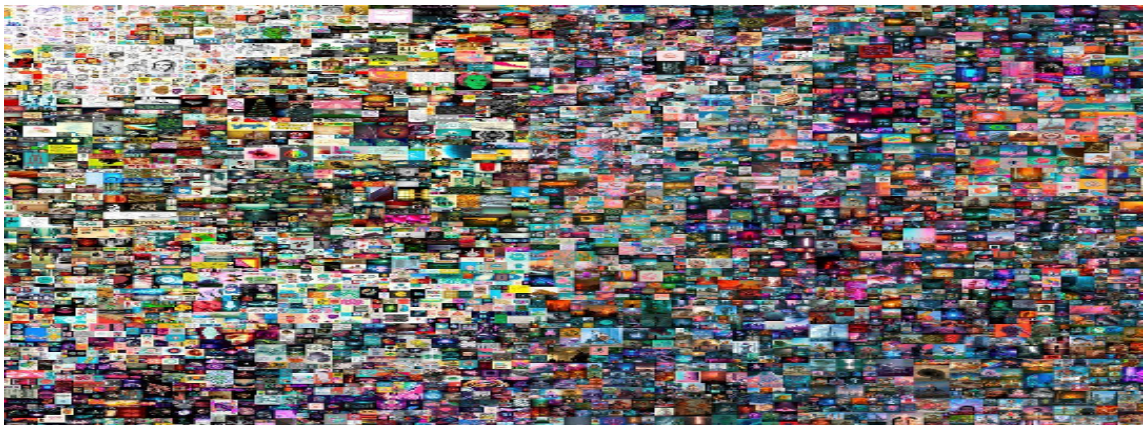
- In theory, anybody can tokenise their work to sell as an NFT but interest has been fuelled by recent headlines of multi- million-dollar sales.

Some Examples ?

- Gif of Nyan Cat - a 2011 meme

Twitter's founder Jack Dorsey’s first-ever tweet

- Christie's sale of an NFT by digital artist Beeple for $69m (£50m) set a new record for digital art

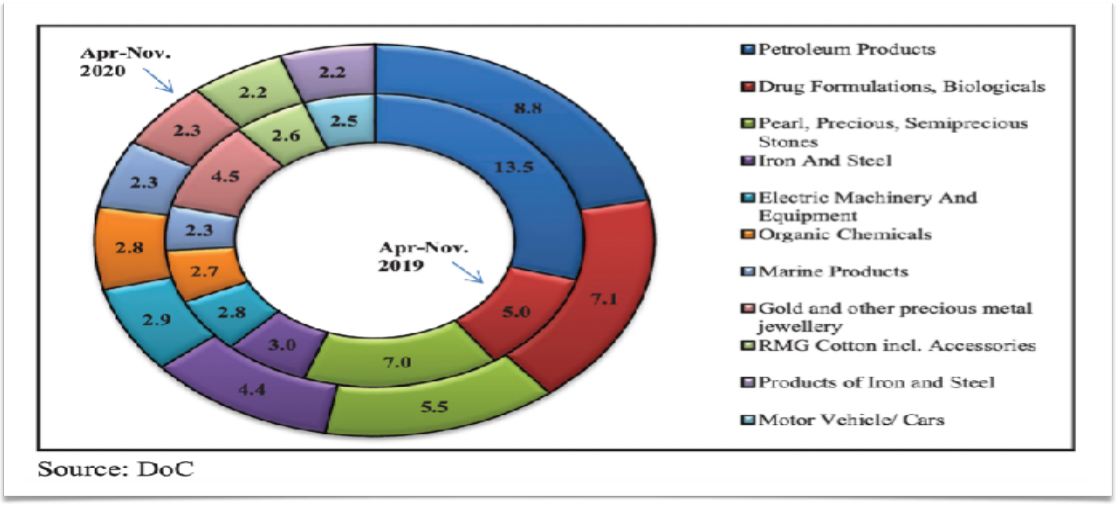


4.3.India's Top Exports & imports

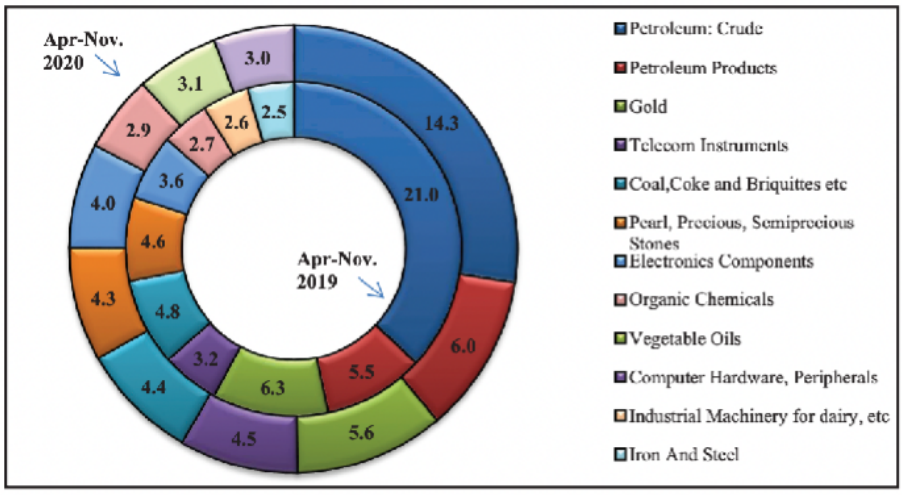
Source of Data

- Economic Survey 2020-21
- Volume-2
- Chapter-3
- External Sector

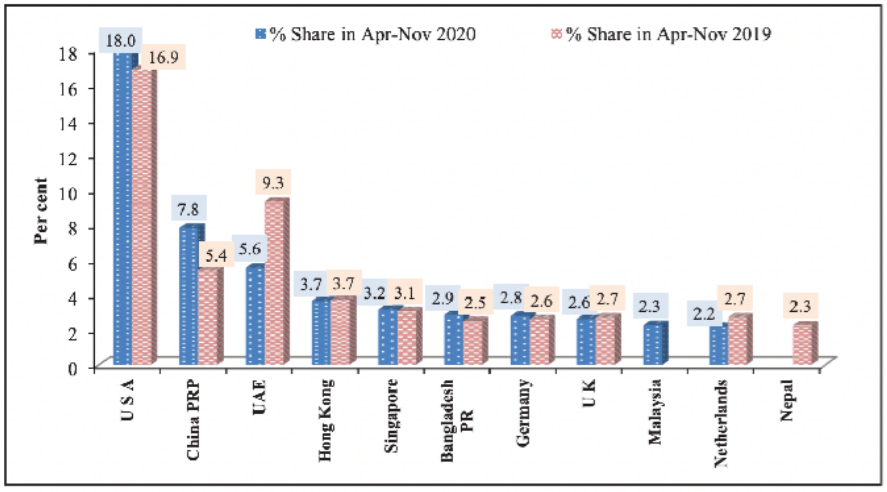
Top 10 Export Commodities



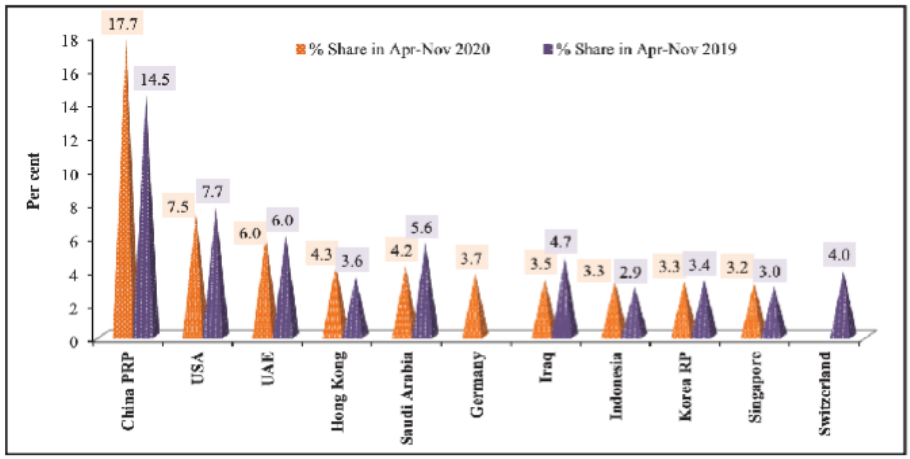
Source: DoC



Source: DoC



Source: DoC



Source: DoC

Available on App Store and Play Store
www.sleepyclasses.com
Call 6280133177

4.4.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 shops 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

4.5.Harmonized System of Nomenclature Code

What is the News about Harmonized System

- With effect from the 1st April, 2021,GST taxpayers will have to furnish HSN (Harmonised System of Nomenclature Code),or Service Accounting Code (SAC) in their invoices.

What is Harmonized System

- In trade parlance, every product is categorised under an HSN code (Harmonised System of Nomenclature). It helps in systematic classification of goods across the globe.
- HSN codes for goods at 6 digits are universally common.

What is Harmonized System in Indian Context

- Common HSN codes apply to Customs and GST.
- Accordingly, codes prescribed in the Customs tariff are used for the GST purposes too.
- Manufacturers and importers/exporters have been commonly using HSN Codes.
- Manufacturers were furnishing these codes even in the pre-GST regime.
- Importers and exporters have been furnishing these codes in import/export documents.

What is the use of Harmonized System in Indian Context

- This will help tax officers with deeper data analytics for every item supplied.
- It will help them in arresting tax evasion emanating from fake invoices and irregular tax credit claims
- The HS contributes to the harmonization of Customs and trade procedures, and the non-documentary trade data interchange in connection with such procedures, thus reducing the costs related to international trade.

Some Other Important Uses

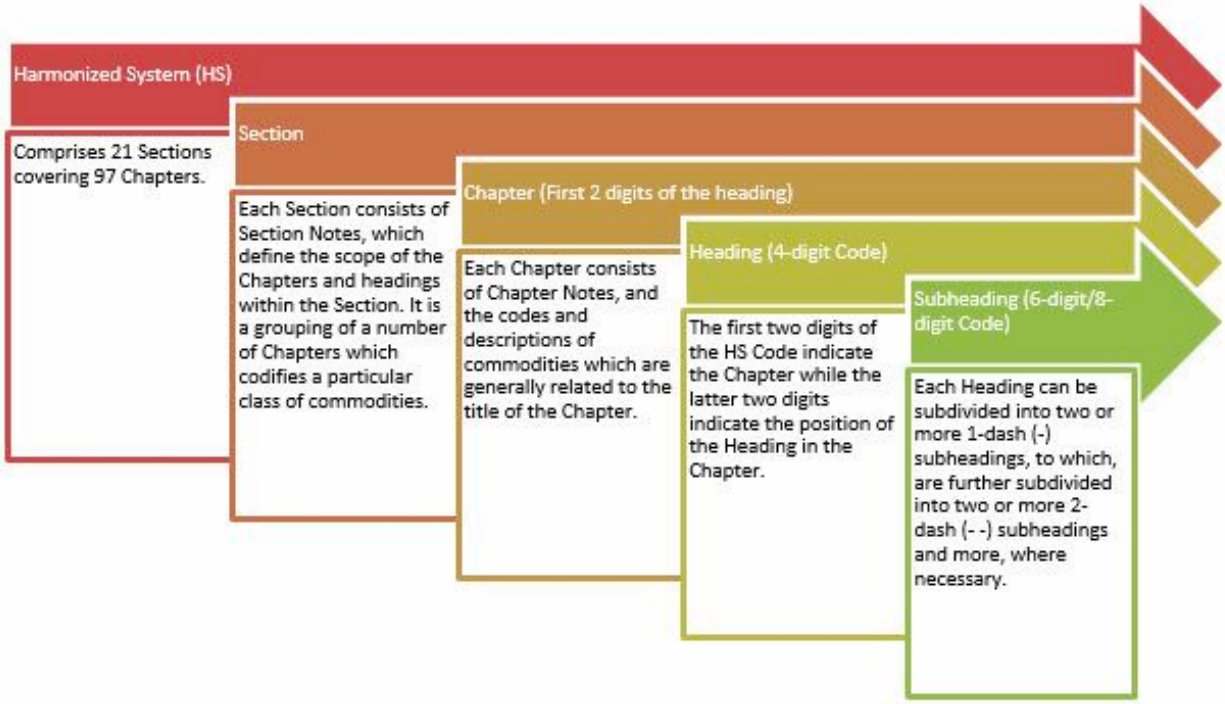
- It is also extensively used by governments, international organizations and the private sector for many other purposes such as internal taxes, trade policies, monitoring of controlled goods, rules of origin, freight tariffs, transport statistics, price monitoring, quota controls, compilation of national accounts, and economic research and analysis.
- The HS is thus a universal economic language and code for goods, and an indispensable tool for international trade.

Does Everyone has to go for Harmonized System

- As per the new invoice norms, businesses with more than ₹5 crore sales have to describe goods and services in internationally accepted six-digit codes of nomenclature.

Concept of Harmonized System

- It is a multipurpose international product nomenclature developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO).



Things Covered

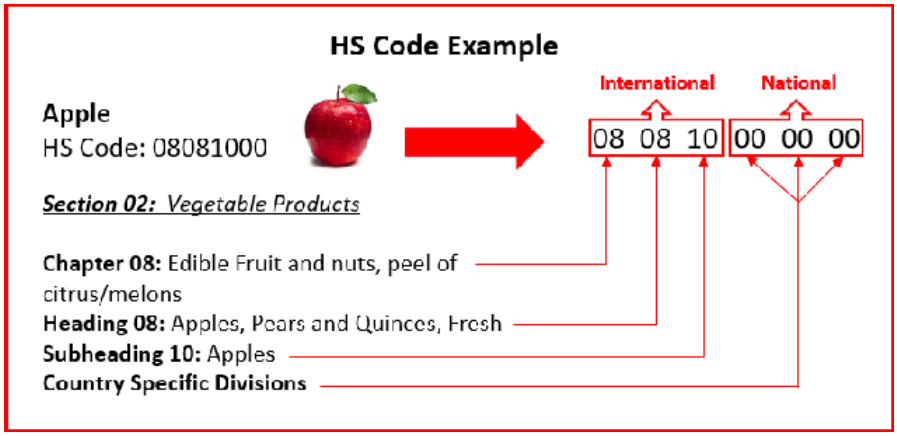
- It comprises more than 5,000 commodity groups. Each identified by a six digit code,
- arranged in a legal and logical structure and is supported by well-defined rules to achieve uniform classification.

What is its Use

- The system is used by more than 200 countries and economies as a basis for their Customs tariffs and for the collection of international trade statistics.
- Over 98 % of the merchandise in international trade is classified in terms of the HS.

Example

- Of the six digits, the first two denote the HS Chapter, the next two give the HS heading, and the last two give the HS subheading.



5. Environment

5.1.Plastic Pollution

Plastic Pollution

Accumulation of plastic in earth's environment

How Plastic went Viral ?

- WWI- short fall rubber & Natural material
- Demand of synthetic material
- Companies producing Plastic

Plastic Pollution- Consumption

Daily life
- Single use plastic (50% of total)

Agriculture
- Plasticulture

Construction
- PVC
- Insulation
- Fibreglasses

Auto industry,
- Cars
- Insulation

Concern , Challenges & impact

Polyethylene Terephthalate
- Bottles , soft drinks , detergents etc
- 50% of pollution

Degradation
- 500 to 1000 yrs
- Plastic to microplastic

Microplastic

- chemical composition remain same
- NE Atlantic ocean , SW Indian ocean
- 90% of seabird contain

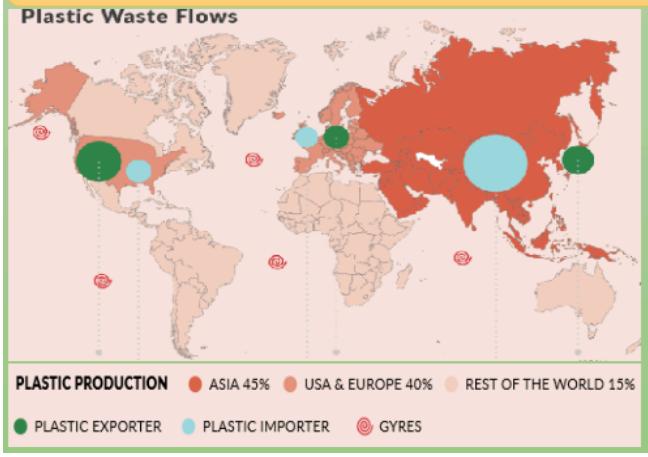
Disaster

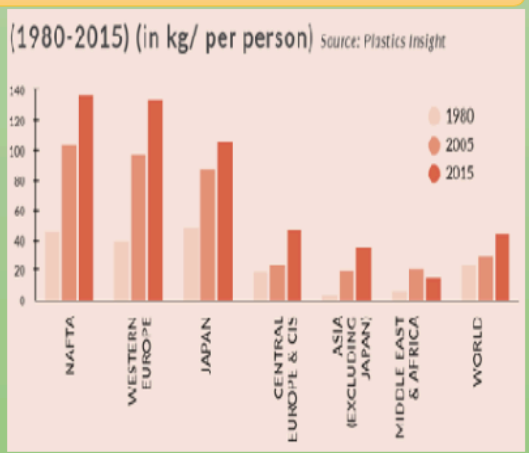
- Flood reasons
- Toxic gasses

Ocean

- Food chain
- Marine life
- Biomagnification

Developed to developing



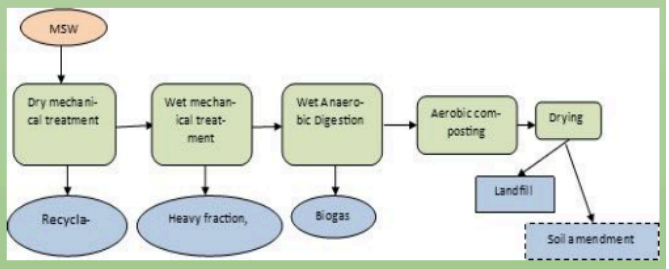


Solution to Plastic waste mgmt

Landfill-CH4 ,GHG

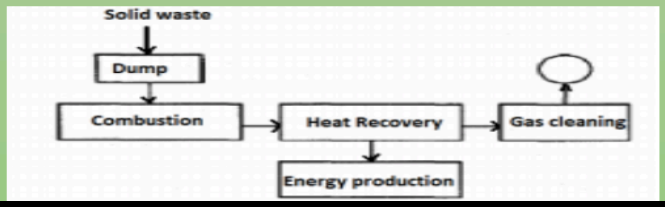
Recycling

- Recyclable waste from MSW



Mixed MSW Incineration

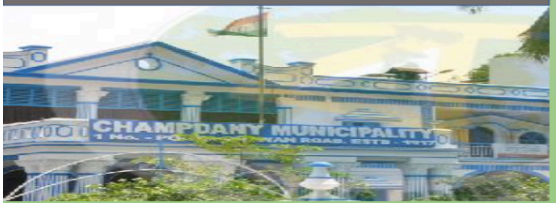
- No need of separation.
- Leave 15-20% of original waste.



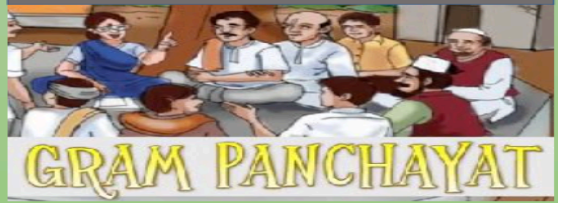
Indian effort

Plastic waste management rules 2011	No rural areas
Plastic waste management rules 2016	Rural areas

Local bodies



Gram Panchayat



Plastic waste management rules 2016

❑ Rural areas

EPR

❑Producer ,Brand Owner or Importer- Collecting back system within 6 month.

Carry bags

❑Thickness 40 micron to 50

Multi layered plastic

❑Challenge of ML properties
❑Expensive recycling

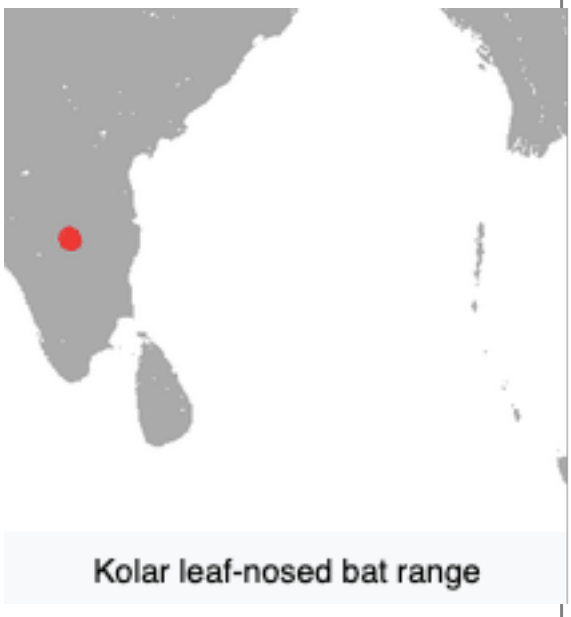
Uses of MLP

❑3 times more waterproof
❑Light weight
❑Reduce shipping volume
❑Increase shelf life of product.

5.2.Kolar Leaf Nosed Bat

Introduction

- The Kolar leaf-nosed bat (Hipposideros hypophyllus), or leafletted leaf-nosed bat is a species of bat in the family Hipposideridae.
- It is endemic to India.
- It is found in only one cave in Hanumanahalli village in Kolar district, Karnataka, and its population is less than 200 individuals.
- Very little is known about this bat, its ecology, w its diet, its behaviour and what would happen to it if the cropping pattern changes in the area in which it resides.


Kolar leaf-nosed bat range

Habitat

- It is known from only one cave in Hanumanahalli village in the Kolar district of the stateof Karnataka in India.
- Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests and caves.
- Subterranean caves are one of the most fragile and understudied habitats.

- One, they are almost inaccessible, often buried underground with narrow openings in obscure places.
- Two, they shelter unpopular creatures such as bats, beetles, roaches, and other insects that have been largely ignored in conservation efforts and plans.
- However, these caves are extremely delicate and vulnerable to external changes, especially to human intervention.
- Deforestation, construction of roads, quarrying, all destroy entire caves.
- Since they largely go unnoticed, a habitat and many endemic species are often wiped out even before they are scientifically identified.

Features

- It is unique among the Hipposideros family as it has only one pair of supplementary leaflets around its nose leaf, compared to two found commonly.
- This species has not been documented anywhere else after it was first described in 1994.

IUCN Status

- Critically Endangered
  - ✓There are petitions to have the bat protected under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, as all bats in India are considered vermin with the exception of two species.

Conservation In India

- The Kolar leaf-nosed bat is found in only one cave, and its population is less than 200 individuals.
- Its single cave is not on protected land, and the species itself is not protected by Indian law.
- Though, the government had notified the 30 acres around the caves as a protected area.
- Any development work here, including construction of new infrastructure, will need the permission of the National Board for Wildlife.
- Its habitat is under threat due to illegal granite mining.
- Karnataka Forest Department, along with the Bat Conservation India Trust (BCIT), is on a war footing to save the remaining bats, which are endemic to the area, from extinction.
- The BCIT, which has been entrusted with drawing up a conservation plan, has also been awarded a grant to conduct further research on this species of bats.
- It has received funding from the Habitats Trust to carry out the project.

Importance of Bats

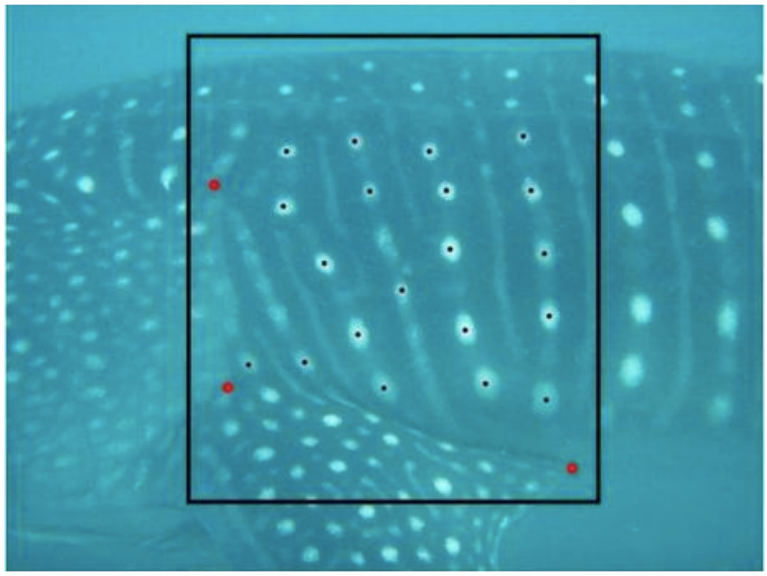
- They are least studied mammals in the country, though there are 130 species in India.
- Bats are vital for the ecology as they are pollinators, their main diet being nectar.
- Bats also help in insect control and therefore, help in the protection of crops.

- They are very adaptable creatures and therefore can often be found near human habitation or even in urban settlements, which makes them vulnerable.
- They have a bad image in the public eye, as carriers of diseases.

5.3.Whale Sharks

Introduction

- Whale sharks (Rhincodon typus) are the largest shark, and indeed largest of any fishes alive today.
- Whale sharks hold many records, most notably for being the largest living nonmammalian vertebrate.
- They feed on plankton and travel large distances to find enough food to sustain their huge size, and to reproduce.
- Whale sharks are found in all the tropical oceans of the world.
- Their white spotted colouration makes these gentle giants easy to distinguish, and popular with snorkelers and divers at sites where they aggregate off the coast.
- Also known as Gentle Giants.



© WWF-Philippines

Like human fingerprints, whale sharks have a unique pattern of spots which allow individual sharks to be identified. By taking photos and cataloguing them, WWF has identified 458 different whale sharks in the Philippines.

Habitat

- Tropical oceans and warm temperate oceans. Pelagic.
- The whale shark is the biggest fish and shark in the world.
- These gentle marine giants roam the oceans around the globe, generally alone.
- However, large numbers of whale sharks often gather in areas with abundant plankton food—making them prime tourist attractions.
- The whale shark is a filter-feeder shark, which means it does not eat meat like other sharks.
- They filter sea water and feed on tiny planktons.
- The distribution of whale sharks indicates the presence of plankton and the overall health of our oceans.

Threats

- They are usually hauled in as bycatch with fishermen targeting economically benefiting species.

- The meat of whale sharks is not very edible, it is the liver that is the most important for commercial trade, while oil from the fish is used for water-proofing boats.
- Whale shark tourism presents a threat to the species as it can interrupt their feeding and sharks can be injured by boat propellers.
- Oil & gas drilling.

IUCN Status

- IUCN Status - Endangered
- The Whale Shark also receives international protection due to its inclusion in Appendix II of the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Appendix I listing the UN Convention on Migratory Species in 2017.

Conservation in India

- It was in 2001 that, in a conservation attempt, whale sharks were included in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972, rendering the capture and killing of the fish a cognisable offence.
- It was the first-ever species to be protected under this Act, after which the Ganges shark (Glyphis gangeticus) and speartooth shark (Glyphis glyphis) were added to it.
- WTI launched the widely-acclaimed Whale Shark Campaign in 2004 to spread awareness on the plight of the species and its protected status among coastal communities in Gujarat.
- On the East coast, the Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh along with The East Godavari River Estuarine Ecosystem (EGREE) has been conducting awareness programmes and workshops to educate fishing communities since 2013.

5.4.Disk Footed Index

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 Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary, about 1,000 km west of its nearest known habitat in Myanmar.

Habitat

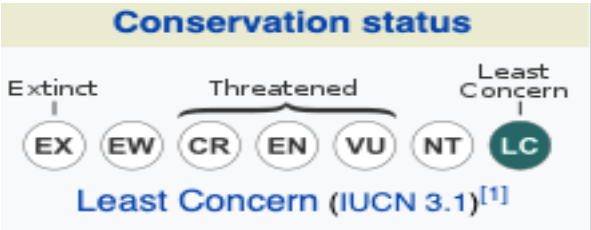
- The researchers found that though several bamboo-dwelling bat species are common throughout Southeast Asia, this particular species is rare and found only in a few localities worldwide.
- It is known to thrive in a few localities in Southern China, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar.
- It has been found 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

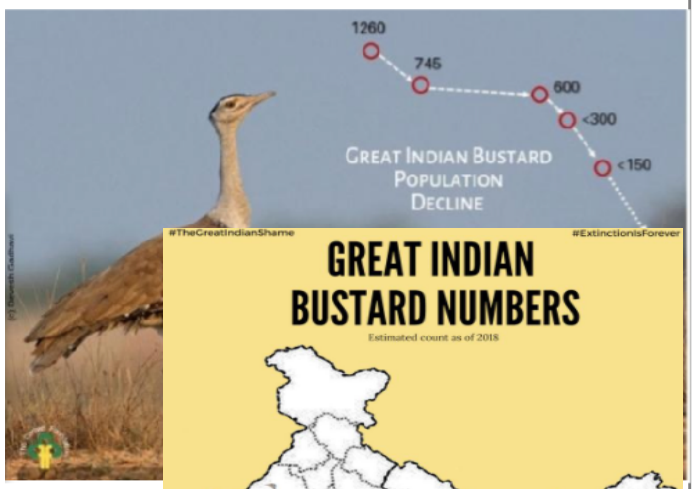
- It has also helped add a genus and species to the bat fauna of India.
- India has a total of 130 bat species.

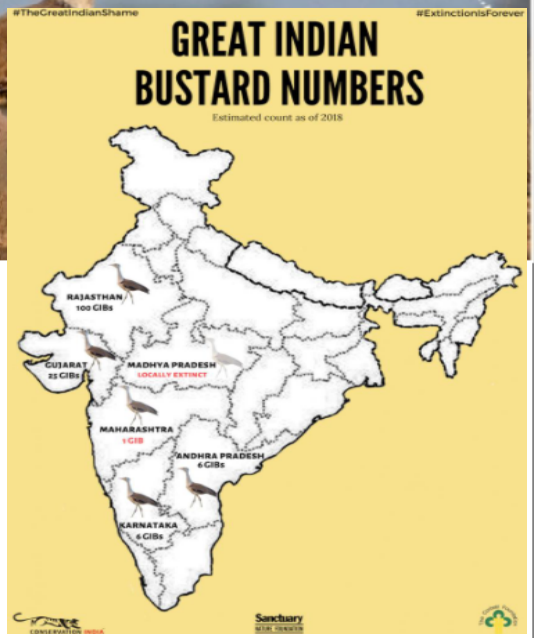
5.5.Great Indian Bustard

Introduction

- It is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world.
- It is the State bird of Rajasthan.
- It is considered the flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology.

- But with less than 200 GIBs remaining in the world, most of them found in Rajasthan's 'Desert National Park', we are on the brink of forever losing a majestic bird species, which was once a strong contender to be declared as India's National Bird.





Habitat

- Bustards generally favour flat open landscapes with minimal visual obstruction and disturbance, therefore adapt well in grasslands.
- Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Small populations occurin Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Reason for Decline

- Habitat loss & fragmentation
- Change of land use pattern
- Desertification
- Ill-thought plantation of exotic & invasive species in grassland ecosystems
- Neglect of state institutions due to classification of 'grasslands' as 'wastelands'
- Conversion of grasslands to agriculture lands due to increasing irrigation potential
- Decline of nature/GIB-friendly agrarian practices
- Collision/electrocution with power transmission lines
- Wind turbines and Solar farms (photovoltaic power stations)
- Hunting
- Noise pollution disrupting natural breeding cycle.

Protection

- IUCN - Critically Endangered CITES - Appendix 1
- The Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican have been included in Appendix I of the UN Convention on Migratory Species at the 13Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in Gandhinagar (Gujarat).
- Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 - Schedule 1

Conservation In India

- It is kept under the species recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- The MoEFCC has also launched a program called 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-An Integrated Approach'.
- The objective of the programme is to build up a captive population of Great Indian Bustards and to release the chicks in the wild for increasing the population.
- Rajasthan government has launched 'Project Great Indian Bustard' with an aim of constructing breeding enclosures for the species and developing infrastructure to reduce human pressure on its habitats.

Important

- The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) along with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India has come up with a unique initiative a "firefly bird diverter" for overhead power lines in areaswhere Great Indian Bustard (GIB) populations are found in the wild.
- The Supreme Court of India, in a recent hearing, directed that power lines in GIB landscapes should be placed underground.
- They have been satellite-tagged in the Desert National Park (DNP).
- The technique of satellite telemetry has been used for a long time in the last century to track the movements of birds.
- It usually involves a bird being fitted with a satellite transmitter weighing 170 grammes.
- Today, GPS technology is being used, giving scientists even more precise data.

6. Scienze & Technology

6.1.Asteroid Impact Deflection Assessment (AIDA)

Method of Planetary defence

- Blowing up the asteroid before it reaches Earth,
- Deflecting it off its Earth-bound course by hitting it with a spacecraft (AIDA)
- Joint mission of NASA & ESA
- Deflect the orbit of the smaller body through an impact by one spacecraft.
- NASA is building the Double Asteroid Impact Test (DART) spacecraft for this
- DART spacecraft will be launch in 2021. It is planned to collide with the target in September 2022.
- ESA's contribution is a mission called Hera, which will perform a close-up survey of the post-impact asteroid
- Flying along with DART will be an Italian-made miniature CubeSat, called LICIACube (Nanosatellite), to record the moment of impact.

6.2.Nisar

- NISAR short for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar
  - ✓SAR refers to a technique for producing high-resolution images
  - ✓The radar can penetrate clouds and darkness i.e., it can collect data day and night in any weather
- It will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of tennis court
- The satellite will be launched in 2022 from Sriharikota, India, into a near-polar orbit and will scan the globe every 12 days over the course of its three-year mission of imaging the Earth's land, ice sheets and sea ice
- NASA will provide one of the radars (L-band) for the satellite, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem
- ISRO will provide the spacecraft bus (GSLV Mk-II), the second type of radar (called S-band radar), the launch vehicle and associated launch services
- It is estimated to be the world's most expensive Earth imaging satellite

Primary Goals

- Tracking subtle changes in the Earth's surface. For e.g. impact on the ground when a lot of water is drawn from an underground aquifer
- Spotting warning signs of imminent volcanic eruptions
- Helping to monitor groundwater supplies and tracking the rate at which ice sheets are melting
- Track changes in croplands, hazard sites and monitor crises such as volcanic eruptions

6.3.Helium Crisis for India

- Helium is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, inert gas
- USA is the most important exporter of helium across the world and also the biggest store house
- India consumes about 70 million cubic metres of helium per year

News

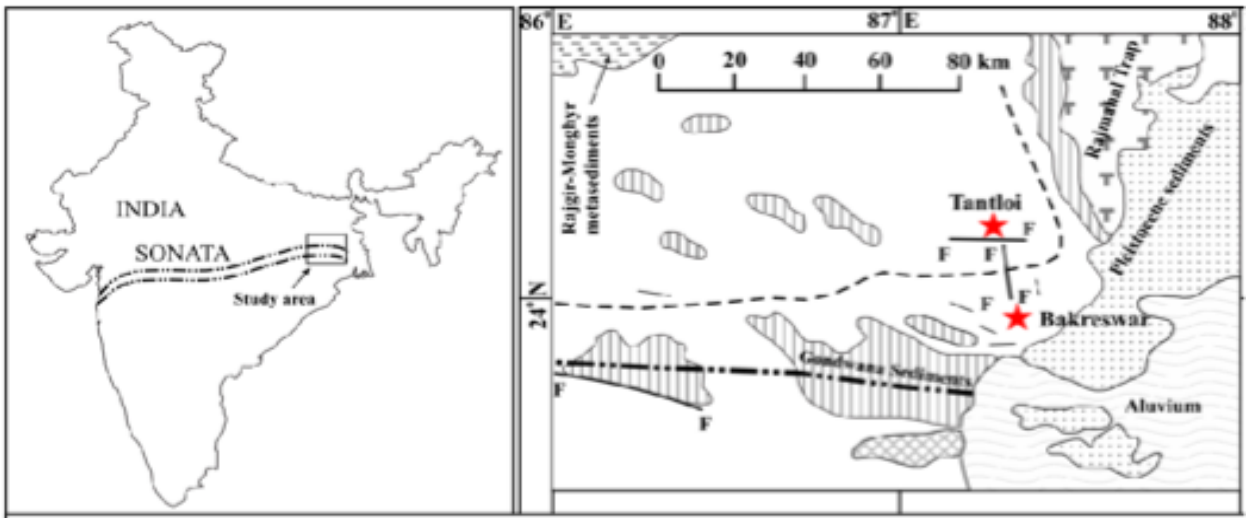
- US is now planning to switch off export of helium from 2021
  - ✓ India consumes helium for its needs and our industry stands to lose out heavily

Applications

- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans
- Rockets
- Nuclear Reactors

Sources

- Present in natural gas
  Despite its rarity, it is concentrated in large quantities under the American Great Plains
- In India
  - ✓ Heating up monazite sand — small quantity obtained by Englishman Moris Travers in 1906
  - ✓ Rajmahal volcanic basin around Bakreswar and nearby Tantloi



6.4.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

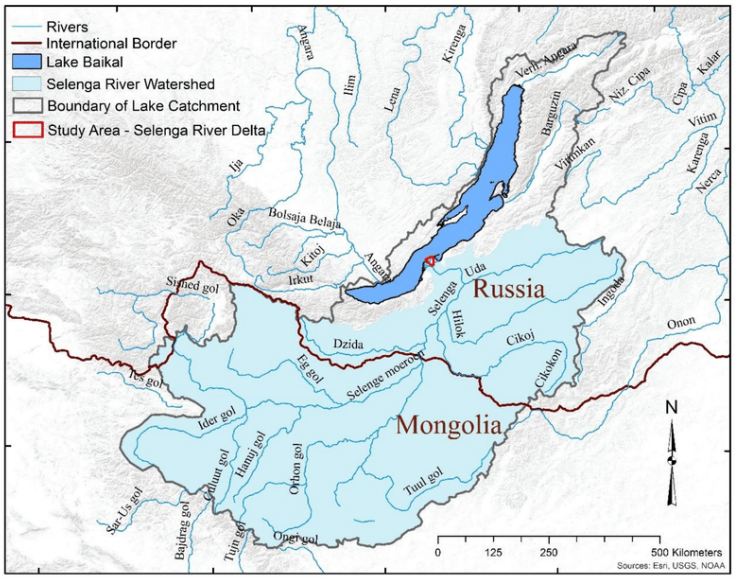
- A UWB transmitter sends billions of radio pulses across the wide spectrum frequency (3.1 and 10.6 GHz) and a UWB receiver then translates the pulses into data
- UWB achieves real-time accuracy because as it sends up to 1 billion pulses per second (about 1 per nanosecond)
- In 2002 U.S. Federal Communications 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

6.5.Baikal Covid

- Baikal-GVD (Gigaton Volume Detector) is one of the three largest neutrino detectors in the world along with the IceCube at the South Pole and ANTARES in the Mediterranean Sea
- Mission: Study in detail neutrinos and determine their sources
- Fundamental Particles
  - ✓Broadly, particles of matter that scientists know about as of now can be classified into quarks (including protons and neutrons) and leptons (electrons) — 5% of the universe



  - ✓Not much is known about the remaining 95 per cent of the universe, which is classified by the authors into dark matter (27 percent) and the remaining 68 per cent of the universe of which scientists have “no idea” about yet
- Neutrinos are fundamental particles, abundant in nature (second most abundant after photons) with about a thousand trillion of them passing through a human body every second. They carry no charge and do not interact with matter
- One way of detecting neutrinos is in water or ice, where neutrinos leave a flash of light or a line of bubbles when they interact. To capture these signs, scientists have to build large detectors
  - ✓An underwater telescope such as the GVD is designed to detect high- energy neutrinos that may have come from the Earth’s core, or could have been produced during nuclear reactions in the Sun

LAKE BAIKAL, RUSSIA
Severobaikalsk
Lake Baikal is the largest freshwater lake in the world. It contains 22–23% of the world's fresh surface water.
LAKE BAIKAL
RUSSIA
Irkutsk
Slyudyanka
Baikalsk
Ulan-Ude
Khilok
Zakamensk
Kyakhra
Meren
Selenga River
Darhan
MONGOLIA
Shuren
Construction of the dam on the Selenga River could affect the unique ecosystem of Lake Baikal.
Tosontsengel
Tsetserleg
0
100 km
RadioFreeEurope RadioLiberty
RFE/RL Graphics