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For the 3rd Week

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1. Geography

1.1. Pokkali Rice : Kerala

- Pokkali is a unique saline tolerant rice variety that is cultivated using extensive aquaculture in an organic way in the water-logged coastal regions, spread in about 5000 hectares area in Alappuzha, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts of Kerala in Southern India.



- Pokkali is a unique saline tolerant rice variety that is cultivated using extensive aquaculture in an organic way in the water-logged coastal regions, spread in about 5000 hectares area in Alappuzha, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts of Kerala in Southern India.
- The rice is cultivated from June to early November when the salinity level of the water in the fields is low.
- From mid-November to mid-April, when the salinity is high, prawn farming takes over.
- Harvesting takes place by end-October.
- Only the panicles are cut about 30 cm from top and the rest of the stalks are left to decay in the water, which in time become feed for the prawns that start arriving in November–December.
- Then, the second phase of the Pokkali farming, the prawn filtration, begins.
- The prawn seedlings, which swim in from the sea and the backwaters after the rice harvest, feed on the leftovers of the harvested crop.
- The rice crop, which get no other fertilizer or manure, draw nutrients from the prawns' excrement and other remnants.
- The organically-grown Pokkali is famed for its peculiar taste and its high protein content.
- Farmers claim that the rice—its grains are extra large—has several medicinal properties..

GI - Tag

- The brand Pokkali has received a GI tag from the Geographical Indications Registry Office, Chennai.

Application - The Hindu

- Saltwater resistant variety may help farmers tide over saltwater incursion caused by cyclone Amphan
– Climate Resistant /Adaptive Crop

1.2.Five Star Village Scheme

- The Department of Posts [Ministry of Communications] has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages, to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.
- All postal products and services will be made available and marketed and publicized at village level, under the Five Star Villages scheme.
- The schemes covered under the Five Star scheme include:



1. **Savings Bank (SB/RD/TD/MIS or NSC/KVP)**
2. **Sukanya Samruddhi Account/PPF Account**
3. **Funded POSA linked IPPB Account**
4. **Postal Life Insurance/ Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy**
5. **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana**

- If a village attains universal coverage for four schemes from the above list, then that village gets four-star status; if a village completes three schemes, then that village get three-star status and so on.
- The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages.
- The scheme was launched on pilot basis in Maharashtra; based on the experience here, it will be implemented nation-wide.

Scheme Implementation Team

- The scheme will be implemented by a team of **five Gramin Dak Sevaks** who will be assigned a village for marketing of all products, savings and insurance schemes of the Department of Posts.
- This team will be headed by the Branch Post Master of the concerned Branch Office.

Campaign

- The team of Gramin Dak Sevaks will conduct door-to-door awareness campaign on all schemes, covering all eligible villagers.

- Prominent places of targeted villages like Panchayat Offices, schools, village dispensaries, bus depots, markets will also be used for advertising and pamphlets will be distributed

Training and Monitoring

- Required training and infrastructure, covering all schemes, would be provided to all branch offices in identified villages.
- The scheme progress and target achievement will be closely monitored at Circle, Regional and Divisional levels. Monthly progress will be reviewed by the Chief Post Master General.

Previous Year Question

1. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana consider the following statements:

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labor and Employment.
2. It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.
3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Polity & Governance

2.1. Protection and Anticipatory Bail

- Context: Context: Courts in “extraordinary circumstances” have the discretion to grant protection from arrest to accused even while denying them anticipatory bail, but the power cannot be exercised in an untrammelled manner, and the order will have to be a reasoned one, the Supreme Court ruled in June 2021.
- The Bench said that applicant may plead protection for some time as he/ she is the primary caregiver or breadwinner of his/her family members, and needs to make arrangements for them. Court may also exercise its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to pass such an order.
- The court must take into account the statutory scheme under Section 438, Cr.P.C., (which deals with anticipatory bail) and balance the concerns of the investigating agency, complainant and the society at large with the concerns/interest of the applicant.
- Conditions while granting anticipatory bail
- While granting anticipatory bail, the Sessions Court or High Court can impose the conditions laid down in sub-section (2). These include:
 - ✓ a condition that the person shall make himself available for interrogation by a police officer as and when required;
 - ✓ a condition that the person shall not, directly or indirectly, make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer;
 - ✓ a condition that the person shall not leave India without the previous permission of the Court;
 - ✓ such other condition as may be imposed under sub-section (3) of section 437, as if the bail were granted under that section.

3. Environment

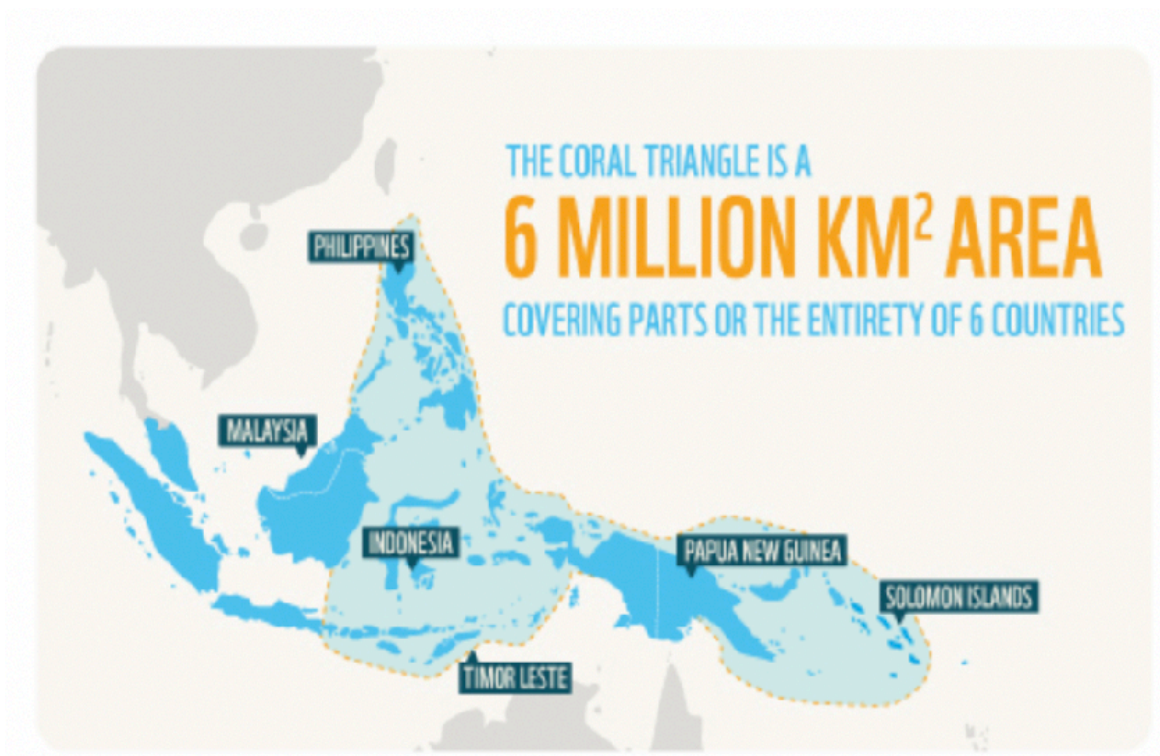
3.1. Coral Triangle Day

Introduction

- The Coral Triangle Day was established on June 9, to celebrate and raise awareness of the ocean conservation and protection, especially on the Coral Triangle, the world's epicenter of marine biodiversity.
- The Coral Triangle day was observed the first time on June 9, 2012, in conjunction with the World Oceans Day on June 8.
- The day is observed by the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF), also shortly known as the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).
- It is a multilateral partnership of six countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste).
- Theme - "Driving Blue Recovery for A Sustainable Coral Triangle", calling the member nations to promote "blue recovery" in the strategy for recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Coral Triangle

- Coral Triangle is a geographical term that refers to a vast ocean expanse located along the equator and the confluence of the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- The region covers the exclusive economic zones of six countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and East Timor (the "CT6" countries).
- It is considered as one of the 3 mega ecological complexes on Earth, together with Congo Basin and the Amazon Rainforest.



Coral Triangle Biodiversity

- 76% (605) of the world's coral species (798) are found in the Coral Triangle, the highest coral diversity in the world.
- The epicentre of that coral diversity is found in the Bird's Head Peninsula of Indonesian Papua, which hosts 574 species (95% of the Coral Triangle, and 72% of the world's total).
- The Coral Triangle has 15 regionally endemic coral species (species found nowhere else in the world), and shares 41 regional endemic species with Asia.
- Just as the Amazon is the symbol of the world's rainforests, the so-called lungs of the earth, the Coral Triangle is developing iconic status as a marine treasure – the centre of the global marine diversity.

76%

of all known
coral species

6/7

of the world's
marine turtle species

37%

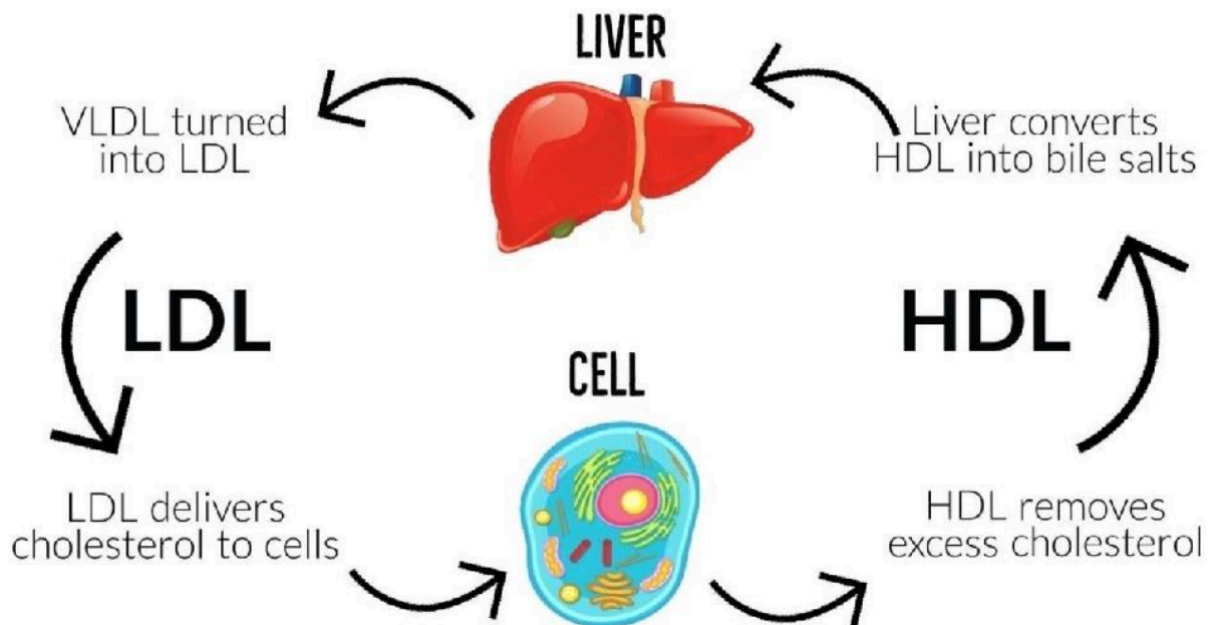
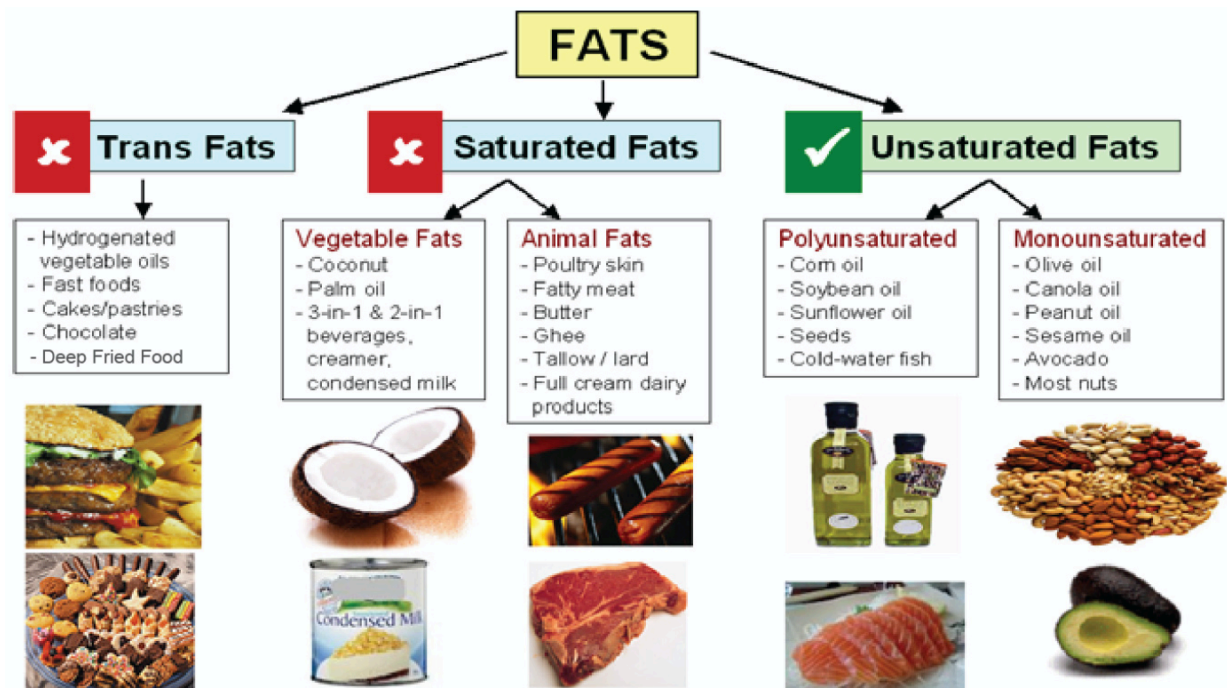
of the world's
coral reef fish species

130

million people
directly dependent on
marine natural resources

4. International Relation

4.1.LDL and HDL



LDL (low-density lipoprotein)

- sometimes called “bad” cholesterol, makes up most of your body’s cholesterol.
- High levels of LDL cholesterol raise your risk for heart disease and stroke.
- HDL (high-density lipoprotein), or “good” cholesterol, absorbs cholesterol and carries it back to the liver. The liver then flushes it from the body.
- High levels of HDL cholesterol can lower your risk for heart disease and stroke.