

THINK IAS

JOIN **SAMYAK**

Samyak
An Institute For Civil Services

DAILY
CURRENT **नामा**

For UPSC CSE

21 August 2024

 **9875170111**

 **SAMYAK IAS, NEAR RIDDHI-SIDDHI, JAIPUR**

Geography

1. Supermoon/ Blue moon/ Sturgeon Moon - The Hindu
2. Bhima River - The Hindu
3. Teesta River - The Hindu

Society

4. The bitter dispute in the Namdhari sect, which has left 8 people injured in a violent clash - Indian Express
5. Passive euthanasia - The Hindu

Polity

6. Long before today's 'lateral entry', Nehru govt recruited from 'open market' - Indian Express
7. What is the process for designating senior advocates, how has it changed - Indian Express

World Affairs

8. After years of impasse, India, Malaysia raise strategic partnership, discuss entry to BRICS - The Hindu
9. India, Japan conduct '2+2' dialogue with focus on Indo-Pacific - The Hindu

Economy

10. Greening in India gets a boost with Green Tug Transition Program (GTP) SOP launched by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal - PIB
11. BHAVISHYA - Promoting Digital Empowerment and Ease of Living for Pensioners - PIB
12. NEHHDC achieves Oeko-Tex Certification for Eri Silk, marking a milestone for Northeast's unique vegan silk - PIB

Environment

13. Rare owl species rediscovered in Kerala after 75 years - The Hindu
14. Zebrafish use surprising strategy to regrow spinal cord - The Hindu
15. South American lungfish - The Hindu
16. Japan's Miyawaki mini forests to combat urban heat island - Indian Express
17. Chinese yaks stray onto Indian side, held by villagers in eastern Ladakh - The Hindu

Sci and Tech

18. Polio - The Hindu
19. Jupiter probe to stage first lunar-earth double fly-by manoeuvre - The Hindu
20. A new nasal spray to treat life-threatening allergic reactions - Indian Express
21. Parvovirus B19 Alert - Indian Express

Miscellaneous

22. CAS arbitrator calls Vinesh's axing draconian - Indian Express
23. National Geoscience Awards-2023 - PIB

Geography

1. Supermoon/ Blue moon/ Sturgeon Moon - The Hindu

Relevance: Important Geophysical Phenomenon

Context

The rare supermoon blue moon, also known as the 'Sturgeon Moon' appeared on August 19, 2024.

Super Blue moon

- **Meaning:** Second full moon in a month. Because new moon to new moon cycle lasts 29.5 days, the full moon at some time occurs at the beginning of a month, and there are days left still for another full cycle to be completed. Such a month, in which the full moon is seen on the 1st or 2nd, will have a second full moon on the 30th or 31st.
- **Occurrence:** It happens every two or three years.
- **Super blue moon:** It combines a supermoon and a blue moon. A supermoon occurs when the moon aligns closely with Earth during its orbit, making it appear larger and brighter.



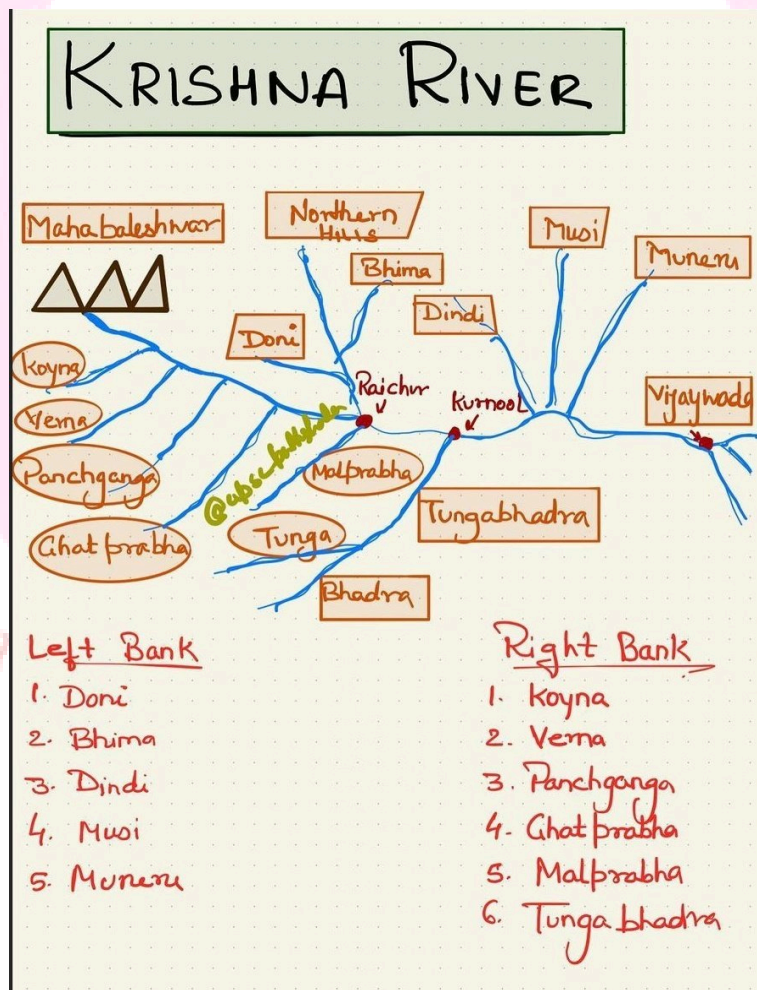
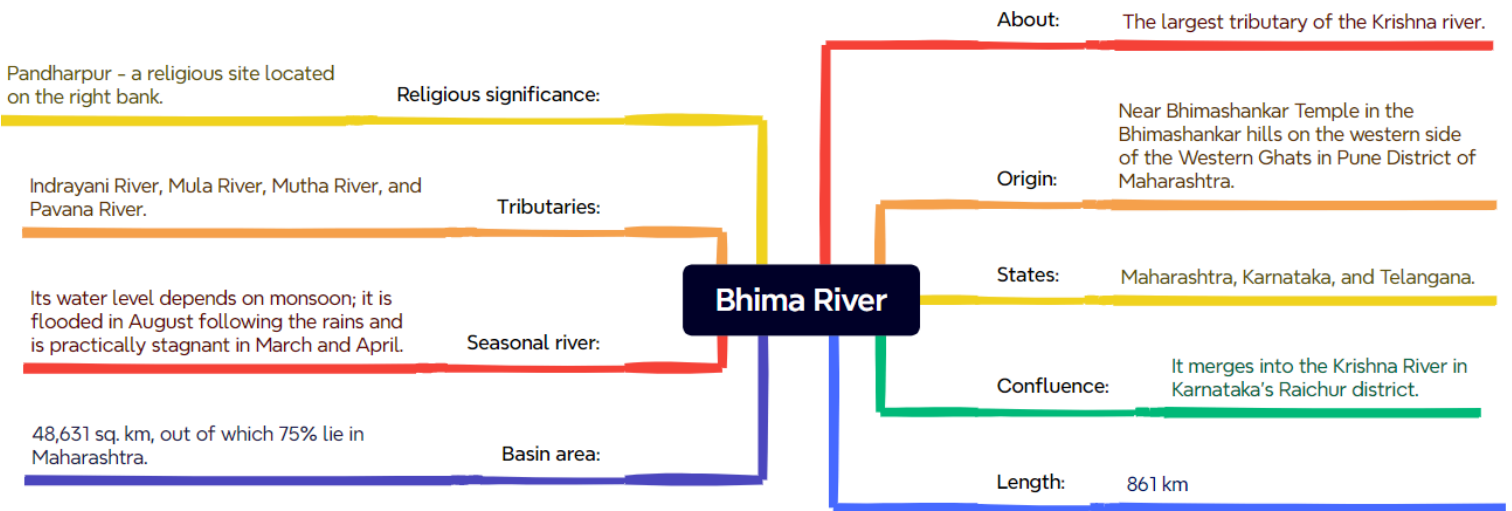
2. Bhima River - The Hindu

Relevance: Salient features of India's Physical Geography

Context

Two young lives were tragically lost in the Bhima River in Ganagapur, Kalaburagi district, recently.

Bhima River



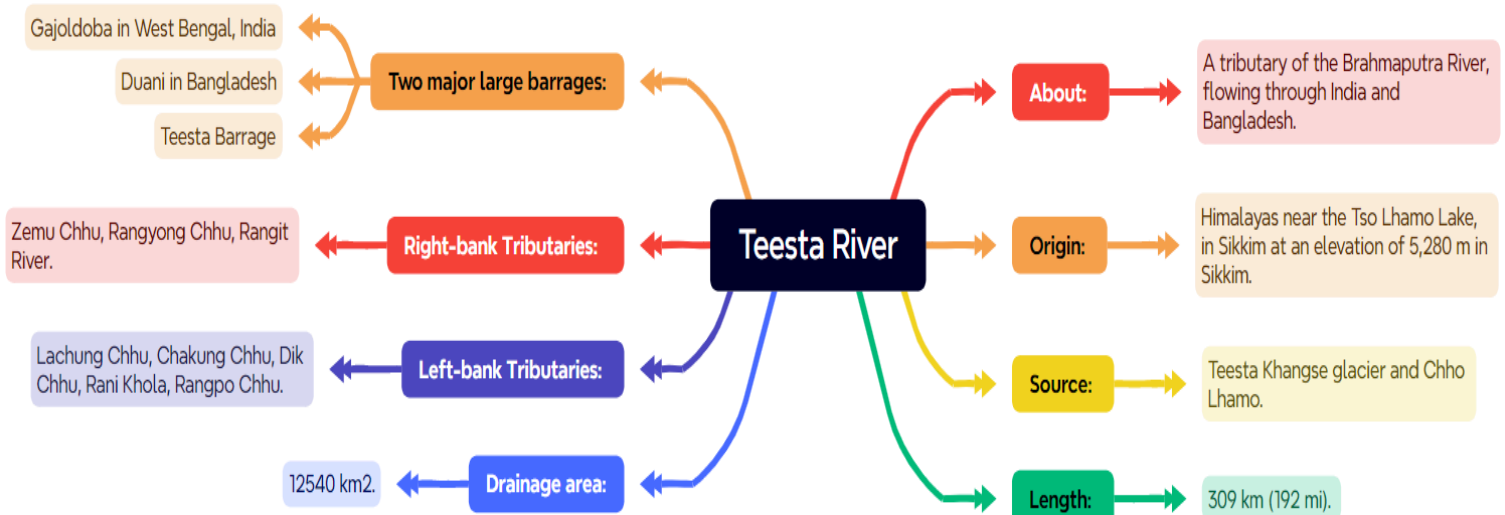
3. Teesta River - The Hindu

Relevance: Salient features of India's Physical Geography

Context

A landslide damaged six houses and a building of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at the site of its Teesta-V hydropower station in Gangtok district of Sikkim recently.

Teesta River



Society

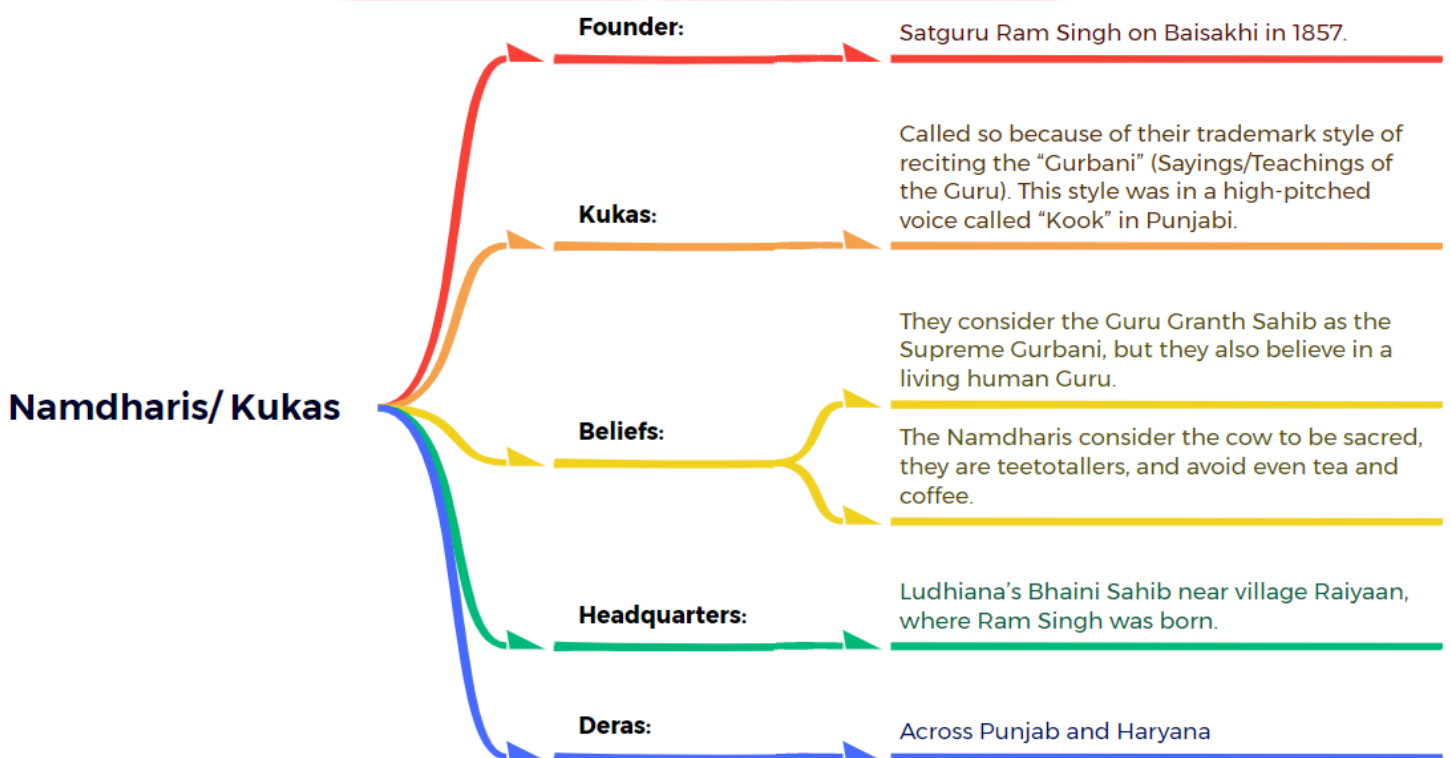
4. The bitter dispute in the Namdhari sect, which has left 8 people injured in a violent clash - Indian Express

Relevance: Salient features of Indian Society

Context

Hundreds of followers of two rival groups of the Namdhari religious sect clashed violently in Rania in Haryana's Sirsa district at the end of last week, leaving at least eight people injured.

Namdharis/ Kukas



5. Passive euthanasia - The Hindu

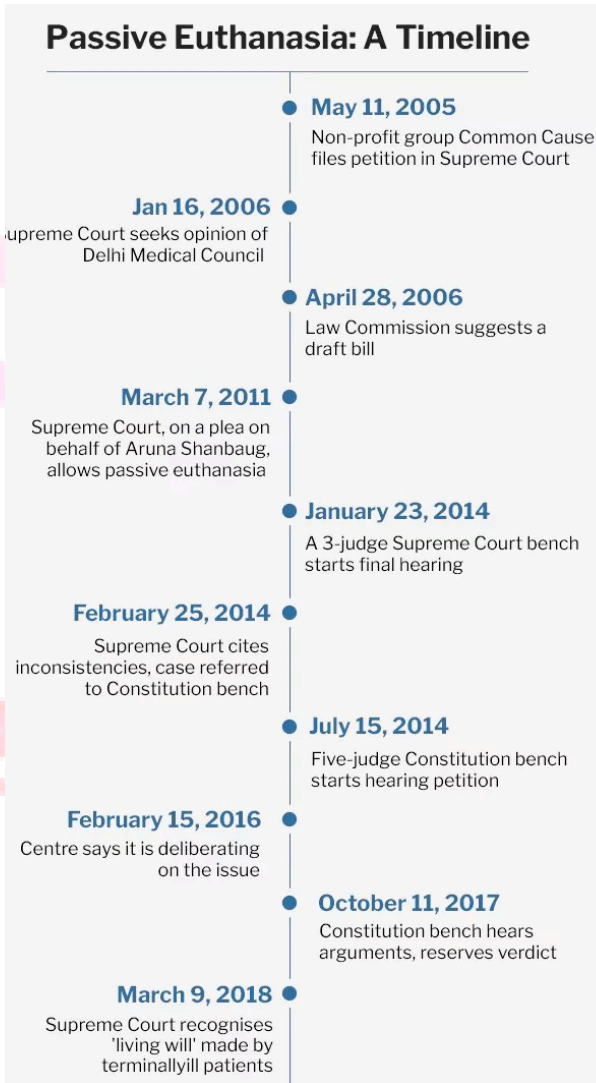
Relevance: Salient features of Indian Society

- **Meaning:** The act of withholding or withdrawing medical treatment, such as withholding or withdrawing life support, with the intention of allowing a person to die.
- **Active euthanasia:** It involves an active intervention to end a person's life with substances or external force, such as administering a lethal injection.
- **Euthanasia in India:**

- **Legal passive euthanasia:** The Supreme Court legalised passive euthanasia in 2018, stating that it was a matter of 'living will'.
- **Ruling of the judgement:** An adult in his conscious mind is permitted to refuse medical treatment or voluntarily decide not to take medical treatment to embrace death in a natural way, under certain conditions.
- **Lays down guidelines for 'living will'** made by terminally ill patients.
- **Constitutional provision:** SC stated that dignity in the process of dying is as much a part of the right to life under Article 21.

Different Countries with Euthanasia:

- **Netherland, Luxembourg, Belgium:** They allow both euthanasia and assisted suicide for anyone who faces "unbearable suffering" that has no chance of improvement.
- **Switzerland:** It bans euthanasia but allows assisted dying in the presence of a doctor or physician.
- **Canada:** It announced that euthanasia and assisted dying would be allowed for mentally ill patients by March 2023; however, the decision has been widely criticised, and the move may be delayed.
- **United States:** It has different laws in different states. Euthanasia is allowed in some states like Washington, Oregon, and Montana.



Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement? (2018)

- A. Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution.
- B. Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV.
- C. Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III.
- D. Article 24 and the provisions under the 44th Amendment to the Constitution.

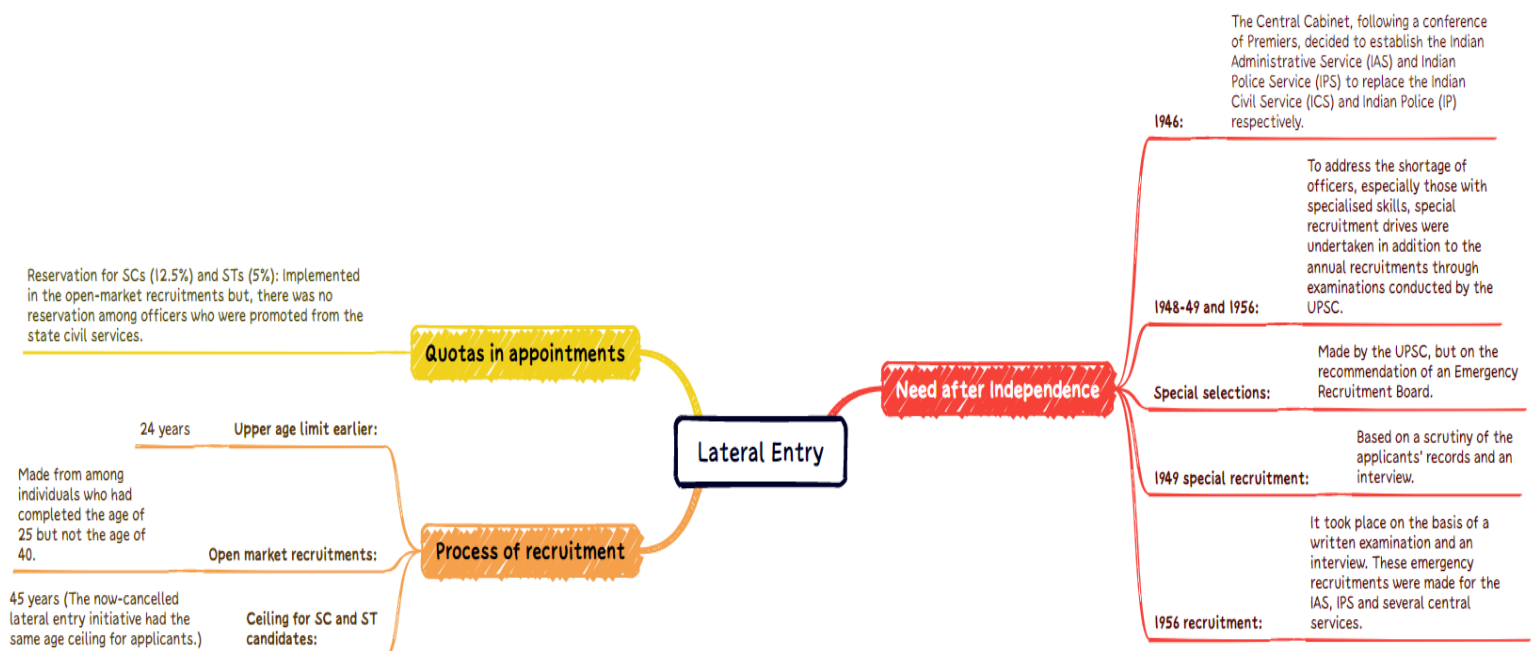
Polity

6. Long before today's 'lateral entry', Nehru govt recruited from 'open market' - Indian Express

Relevance: Appointment to various Constitutional Posts, Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies

Context

Six decades before the government opened “lateral entries” into the bureaucracy, the government of Jawaharlal Nehru had made dozens of appointments from the “open market” based on candidates’ competence and expertise in various fields.



7. What is the process for designating senior advocates, how has it changed - Indian Express

Relevance: Appointment to various Constitutional Posts, Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies

Context

The Supreme Court recently designated 39 lawyers, including 10 women, as senior advocates. Among those who received the designation is Indra Sawhney, who filed the case which led to the landmark 1992 SC ruling which placed a 50% ceiling for reservations.

Senior advocate

Senior advocate

It identifies advocates whose standing and achievements would justify an expectation that they can provide outstanding services as advocates in the best interest of the administration of justice.

Designation of senior advocate:

Distinction:

Section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961 prescribes two different classes of advocates, "senior advocates and other advocates".

Restrictions on senior advocates:

They are barred from filing a vakalatnama, appearing before a court without a junior/ an advocate-on-record, doing drafting work, or directly accepting briefs for cases from clients.

The Chief Justice of India, along with any other Supreme Court judge, can recommend in writing the name of an advocate for the designation.

Recommendation:

The new guidelines prescribe the minimum age as 45 years to apply for the 'senior advocate' designation. This age limit may be relaxed by the Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates, the CJI, or a Supreme Court judge.

Min. age:

The new guidelines reserve only 5 marks for the "publication of academic articles, experience of teaching assignments in the field of law," & "guest lectures delivered in law schools and professional institutions connected with law". Previously, 15 marks were set aside.

Reserving marks:

Latest guidelines for the designation of senior advocates

Reported and unreported judgements (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law) has increased from 40 to 50 points in the new guidelines.

Weightage given to reported and unreported judgements:

2018 'Guidelines to Regulate the Conferment of Designation of Senior Advocates'

Discouraged the system of 'voting by secret ballot':

Except in cases where it was "unavoidable".

Created a 'Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates':

It is chaired by the CJI and comprises the two senior-most SC judges, Attorney General, & a "member of the Bar" nominated by chair and other members.

Recommendation by CJI or any other judge:

CJI or any other judge could recommend the name of an advocate for designation.

Submission of application:

Advocates could submit their applications to the 'permanent secretariat' (henceforth, the Secretariat), which would evaluate them on various criteria including years of legal practice as an advocate, district judge, or a judicial member of an Indian tribunal.



World Affairs

8. After years of impasse, India, Malaysia raise strategic partnership, discuss entry to BRICS - The Hindu

Relevance: India and its Neighborhood- Relations

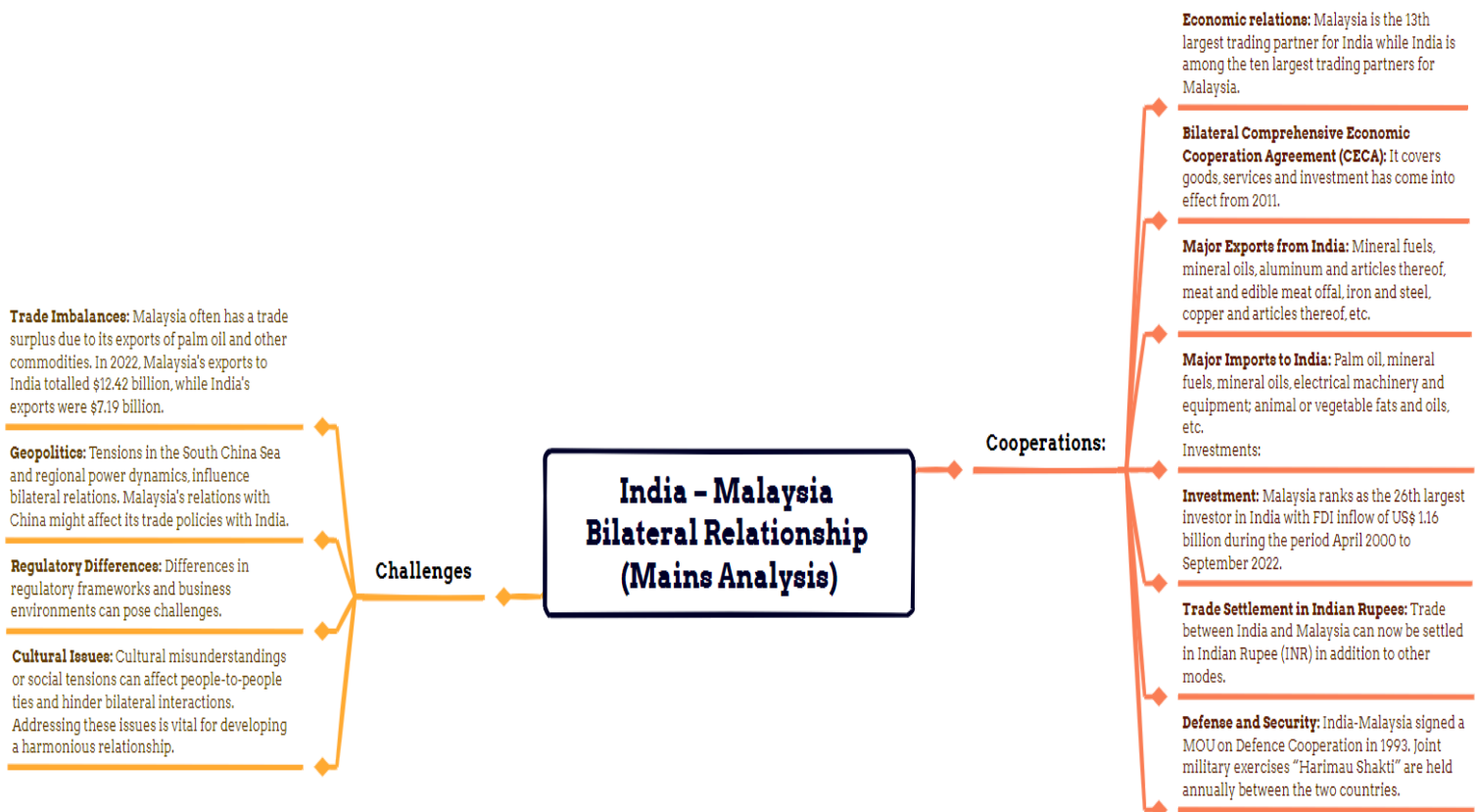
Context

India and Malaysia decided to upgrade ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' recently, during talks between Indian Prime Minister Modi and Malaysian Prime Minister, as part of a visit aimed at moving beyond several years of tensions over a number of issues.

Outcomes of the meet

- **Upgrading the 2010 Strategic Partnership:** Made an 'Enhanced Strategic Partnership' in 2015.
- **Agreements and MoUs signed:** On workers' mobility, digital technology, culture, tourism, sports, and education.
- **Joining BRICS:** India will also work with Malaysia on its request to join the BRICS grouping.
- **Discussion on geopolitical challenges:** Current conflicts and tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

India – Malaysia Bilateral Relationship





9. India, Japan conduct '2+2' dialogue with focus on Indo-Pacific - The Hindu

Relevance: India and its Neighborhood- Relations

Context

The India-Japan partnership is set against a larger context of a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific and it will continue to grow, External Affairs Minister said recently as both sides held a fresh edition of "2+2" dialogue amid China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region.

"2+2" dialogue

- **About:** They signify the participation of two high-level representatives, Ministers holding Foreign and Defence portfolios, from each of the two countries who aim to enhance the scope of dialogue between them.
- **Benefit:** It enables the partners to better understand each other's strategic concerns taking into account political factors to build a stronger, more integrated strategic relationship in a rapidly changing global environment.
- **India's 2+2 Partners:** US, Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom and Russia.

India-Japan Relations

- **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad):** India and Japan, along with the US and Australia, are part of the Quad, aimed at ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- **Defense:** Joint military exercises like 'Malabar'.
- **Trade Agreements:** The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Japan facilitates trade and investment.

- **Investments:** Japan is a major investor in India's infrastructure projects, including the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and high-speed rail projects.
- **Technology:** Japan's technological expertise complements India's growth in sectors like automotive, electronics, and renewable energy.
- **Culture:** Cultural exchange programs and cultural festivals help in strengthening people-to-people ties.
- **Educational Initiatives:** Scholarships and student exchange programs between Indian and Japanese universities.
- **Mutual stand on UN Reforms:** Both countries support each other's aspirations for permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council.
- **Climate Change:** Joint efforts in addressing climate change through sustainable development and clean energy initiatives.
- **Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief:** Collaborative efforts in providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief in times of crisis.



Challenges

- **Trade Imbalance:** There is a significant trade imbalance, with Japan exporting more to India than importing.
- **Non-Tariff Barriers:** Regulatory and procedural barriers in both countries can hinder smooth trade flows.
- **China angle:** Balancing relations with China while enhancing bilateral ties can be complex.
- **Bureaucratic Red Tapism:** Administrative and bureaucratic delays can impede the implementation of bilateral projects and agreements.
- **Changing Political scenario:** Domestic political changes in both countries can impact the continuity and stability of bilateral relations.
- **Societal Differences:** Differences in business practices, work culture, and societal norms can pose challenges.
- **Language Barrier:** Language remains a significant barrier in enhancing people-to-people connections and business collaborations.

Economy

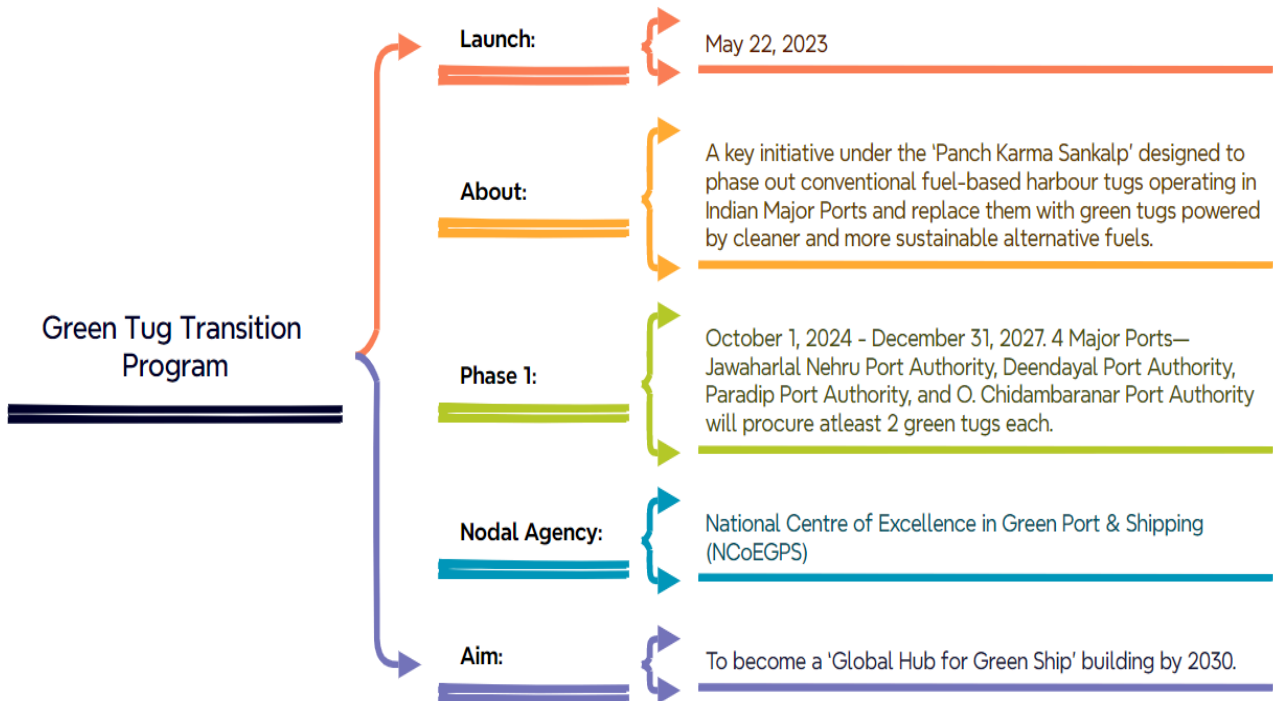
10. Greening in India gets a boost with Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP) SOP launched by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal - PIB

Relevance: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc

Context

The Union Minister of Port Shipping and Waterways launched the SOP for Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP) recently in New Delhi.

Green Tug Transition Program



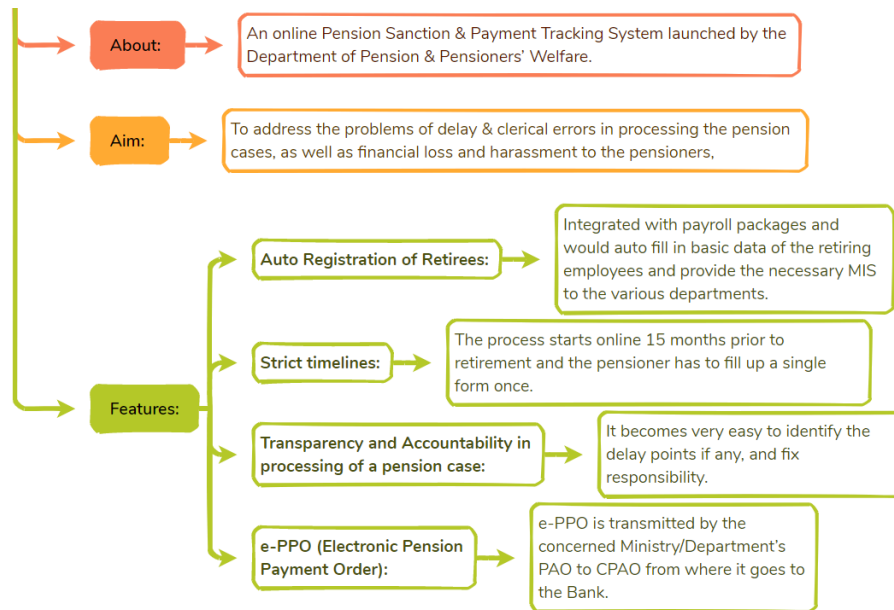
11. BHAVISHYA - Promoting Digital Empowerment and Ease of Living for Pensioners - PIB

Relevance: Indian Economy and issues

Context

To overcome the problems of delay & clerical errors in processing the pension cases, as well as financial loss and harassment to the pensioners, the DOPPW introduced, a unique innovative centralized pension processing software called 'Bhavishya' for all central government Ministries/Departments.

Bhavishya Software



12. NEHHDC achieves Oeko-Tex Certification for Eri Silk, marking a milestone for Northeast's unique vegan silk - PIB

Relevance: Indian Economy and issues

Context

The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), has successfully obtained the prestigious Oeko-Tex certification for its Eri Silk, directly from Germany on the Nation's 78th Independence Day.

Eri Silk

- **About:** Renowned as the world's only vegan silk, where, unlike other silks, the moth inside the cocoon is not killed & the moth naturally exits the cocoon, leaving it behind for us to use.
- **Domesticated silkworm:** *Philosamia ricini* that feeds mainly on castor leaves.
- **Making:** Practiced mainly in the north-eastern states and Assam along with Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa.
- **Significance:** A Geographical Indication (GI) tagged product from Assam.

Oeko-Tex certification

- **About:** Has a rigorous standard that ensures textiles are tested for harmful substances and produced in environment friendly conditions.
- **Significance:** It marks a pivotal step in bringing Eri Silk closer to penetrating the global export market, expanding its reach, and establishing a strong international presence.

Environment

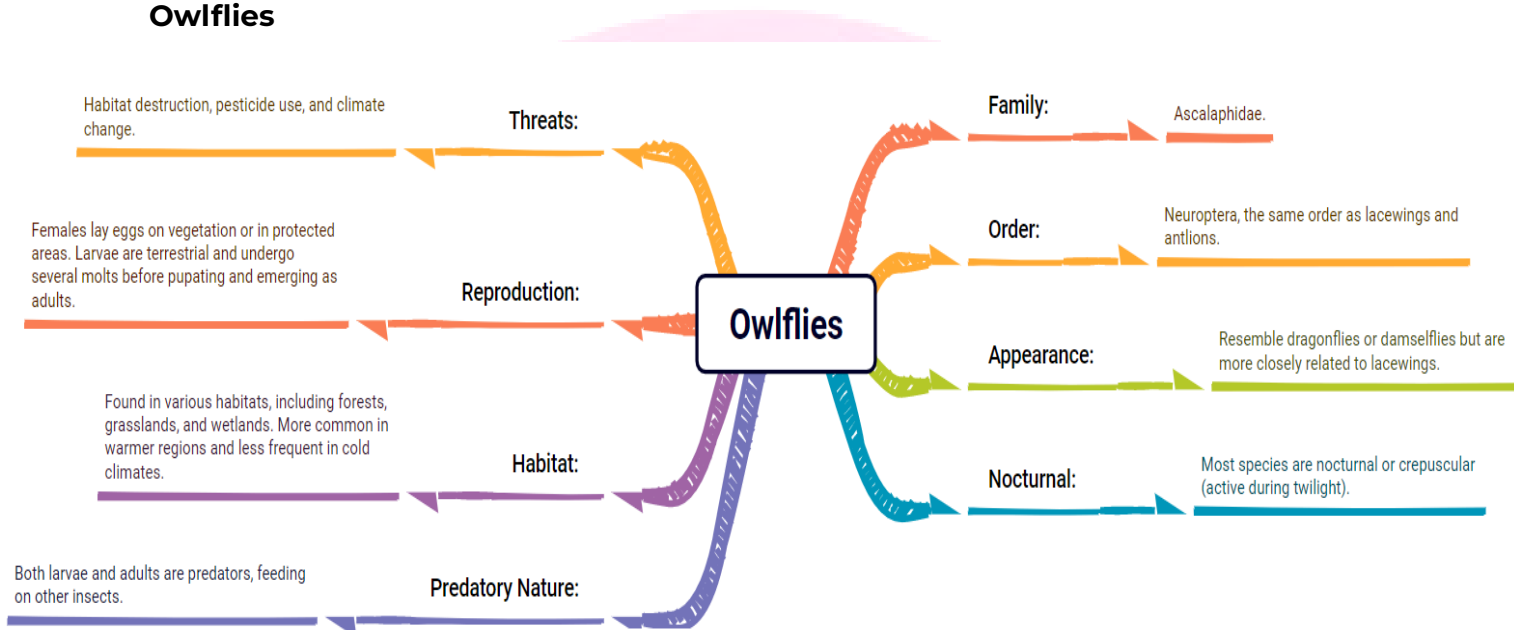
13. Rare owlfly species rediscovered in Kerala after 75 years - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

Context

A rare species of owlfly has been rediscovered after 75 years from Kerala by researchers.

Owlfly



14. Zebrafish use surprising strategy to regrow spinal cord - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

Context

A new study maps out a detailed atlas of all the cells involved and how they work together in regenerating the zebrafish spinal cord.

Zebrafish

- **About:** A small (2-3 cm long) freshwater fish found in tropical and subtropical regions.
- **Naming:** It is named after horizontal blue stripes running the length of its body.
- **Distribution:** South Asia's Indo-Gangetic plains, where they are mostly found in the paddy fields and in stagnant water and streams.
- **IUCN Red List Status:** Least concerned.

15. South American lungfish - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

Context

Analysis have revealed that the South American lungfish genome grew massively during the past 100 million years, adding the equivalent of one human genome every 10 million years.

South American lungfish

- **About:** A freshwater species (*Lepidosiren paradoxa*), nearest living relative to the first land vertebrates and closely resembles its primordial ancestors dating back more than 400 million years.
- **Distribution:** Inhabits slow-moving and stagnant waters in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, French Guiana and Paraguay.
- **Significance:**
 - Has the largest genome compared to any of the animals on the earth.
 - Length of the DNA in each cell of this lungfish would extend almost 60 metres. The human genome would extend a mere 2 metres.

16. Japan's Miyawaki mini forests to combat urban heat island - Indian Express

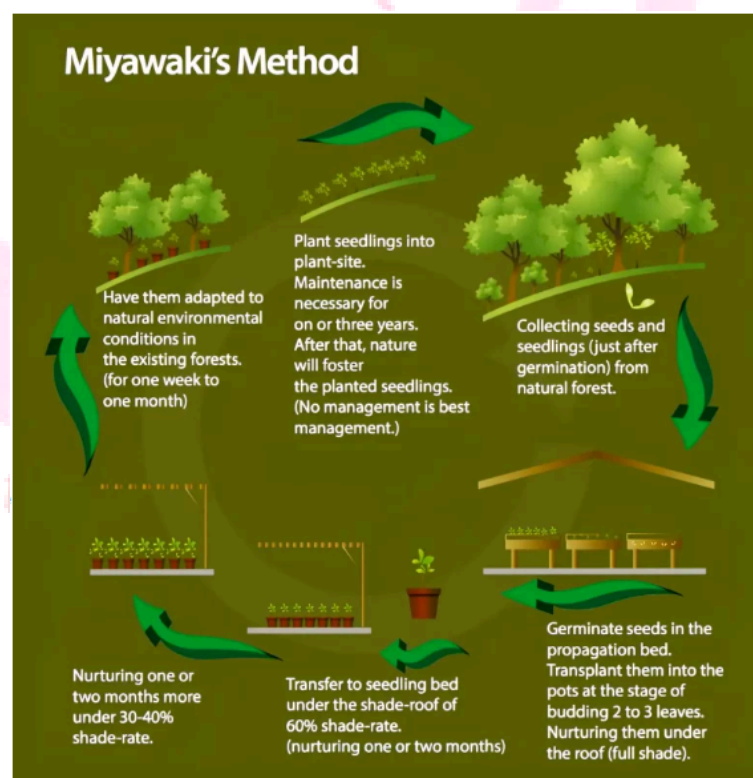
Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

Context

The Forest Department organised a Van Mahotsav programme in the Manendragarh Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB) district on August 17 by planting saplings using the Miyawaki method.

Miyawaki Method

- **About:** A method of afforestation developed by the Japanese botanist and plant ecology expert Professor Akira Miyawaki.
- **Aim:** Improving biodiversity,



sequestering carbon, increasing green cover, lowering air pollution, and preserving the water table.

- **Mechanism:**
 - It involves planting two to four types of indigenous trees within every square meter.
 - Due to the dense planting, the seedlings grow quickly as they compete for sunlight.
 - Only native species that would occur naturally in that area without humans are planted.
- **Efficiency:** In this method, the trees become self-sustainable and grow to their full length within three years.
- **Benefits:**
 - Miyawaki forests grow 10x faster, are 30x denser and contain 100x more biodiversity.
 - They are quick to establish, maintenance-free after the first two-to-three years.
 - They can be created on sites as small as 3 sq. m.

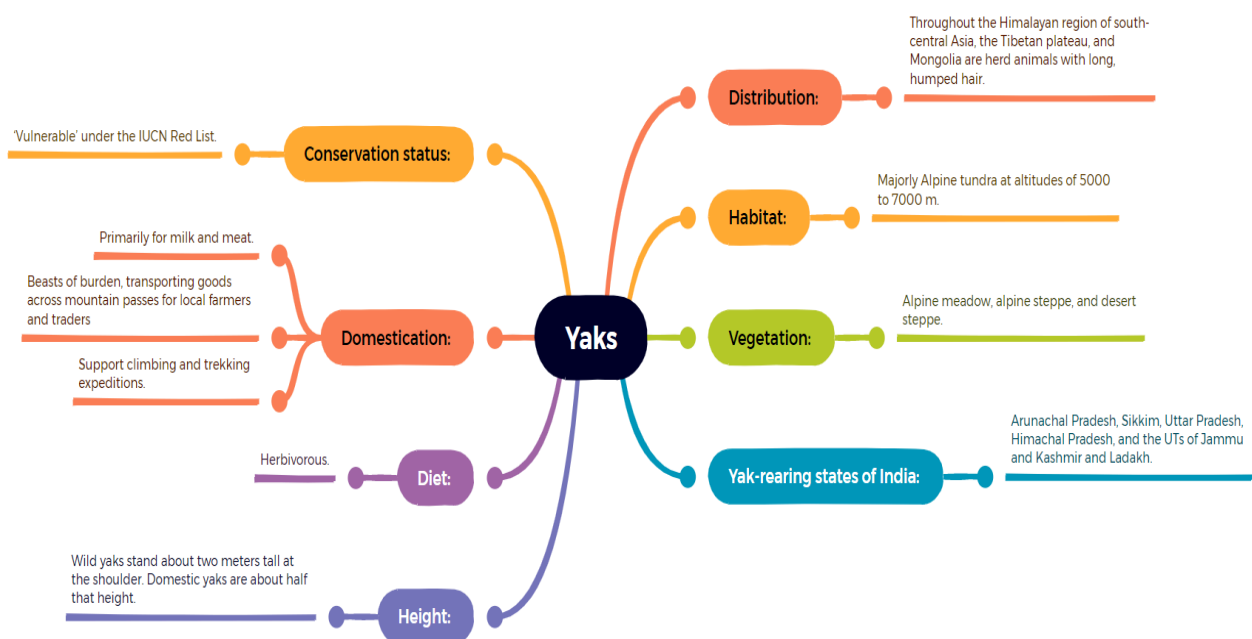
17. Chinese yaks stray onto Indian side, held by villagers in eastern Ladakh - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

Context

Around 40 Chinese yaks ventured into the Indian territory in the Demchok area of eastern Ladakh and are in the control of the villagers there.

Yaks



Sci and Tech

18. Polio - The Hindu

Relevance: Science and Technology- Developments

Poliomyelitis: Polio is a viral disease of brain and spinal cord that can cause irreversible paralysis in a matter of hours. Polio mainly affects children aged under five
Treatment: There is no cure for polio, it can only be prevented. Polio vaccine -- oral or injected -- can protect a child for life
The virus: There are three strains of wild poliovirus, none of which can survive for long periods outside a human body. If virus cannot find an unvaccinated person to infect, it will die out
Symptoms: Fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in neck, and limb pain. **One in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis.** Among those paralysed, up to 10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilised
Eradication: Polio cases have decreased by over 99% since 1988, when there were an estimated 350,000 cases worldwide. Polio is now endemic in only three countries -- Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan
Countries where polio remains endemic
 2000: 20
 1998: 125
 2010: 4
 2012: 3
 Source: Global Polio Eradication Initiative
 Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

Polio in India

INDIA IS POLIO FREE
THE JOURNEY:
March 2014: World Health Organisation certified India and South East Asia Region Polio-Free
February 2014: Indian completed three full years without reporting any case of polio
January 2014: Last case of polio in India was reported in Howrah, West Bengal
2009: India accounted for 741 out of the 1604 cases worldwide
1970s: Polio crippled an estimated 200,000 children in India each year
Polio is still a risk:
 ❖ Polio virus transmission in neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan
IN ACTION:
 ■ 1995: First national polio immunisation campaign held
 ■ Since then 2 national and multiple sub-national campaigns are rolled out every year
 ■ National polio campaign numbers:
 ❖ 2.3 million lakh vaccinators
 ❖ 155,000 supervisors
 ❖ Visit to 209 million households
 ❖ Immunisation of 170 million children up to the age of 5 years
 FROM 2,00,000 TO ZERO
 Source: Unicef India
IANS GRAPHICS

19. Jupiter probe to stage first lunar-earth double fly-by manoeuvre - The Hindu

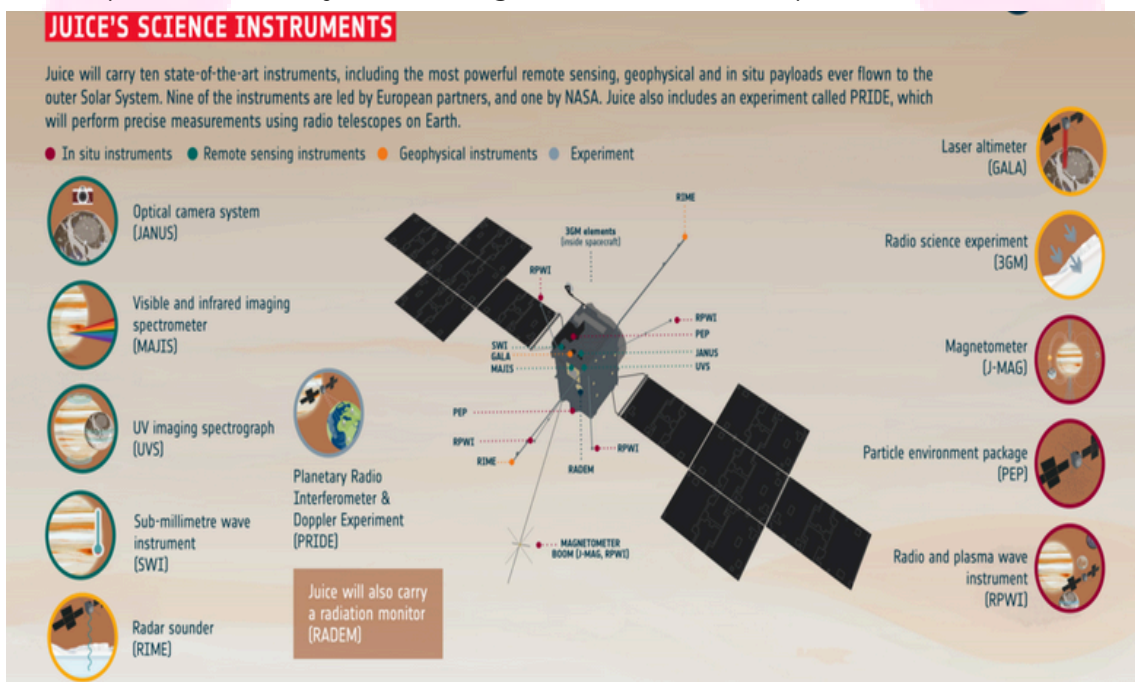
Relevance: Science and Technology- Developments

Context

Just over a year after it was launched, the European Space Agency's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) returned towards the earth and will use the braking effect of its gravity to take a shortcut to Venus and onwards to Jupiter.

JUICE probe

- **About:** It will make detailed observations of the giant gas planet and its three large ocean-bearing moons — Ganymede, Callisto and Europa by using remote sensing, geophysical and in situ instruments.
- **Aim:**
 - To create a comprehensive picture of Jupiter by trying to understand its origin, history and evolution.
 - To analyse the chemistry, structure, dynamics, weather, and climate of Jupiter and its ever-changing atmosphere.
- **Has 10 sophisticated instruments:** They will measure how Ganymede rotates, its gravity, shape & interior structure, magnetic field, composition, & to penetrate its icy crust using radar down to a depth of about nine km.



20. A new nasal spray to treat life-threatening allergic reactions - Indian Express

Relevance: Science and Technology- Developments

Context

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the first-ever nasal spray for treating anaphylaxis, a severe and life-threatening allergic reaction that demands immediate medical attention and an injection of epinephrine, a hormone shot that fights the allergen.

Epinephrine

- **About:** A hormone medication that relaxes the muscles in the airways and constricts the blood vessels, making it the only life-saving treatment for anaphylaxis.
- **Administration:** As an injection, it is administered alongside emergency medical care to treat life-threatening allergic reactions triggered by insect bites or stings, foods, medication, latex or other causes.
- **Most common allergens:** Foods (nuts, milk, fish, and certain fruits); medications (vaccines, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics and insect venom particularly from wasps and bee stings). Foods affect children more, drugs affect more adults.

21. Parvovirus B19 Alert - Indian Express

Relevance: Science and Technology- Developments

Context

The US centres for Disease Control And Prevention (CDC) has issued a healthy advisory due to concerning rise in cases of parvovirus B19.

Parvovirus B19/ "Slapped cheek" illness/ Fifth disease



About:

A highly contagious and common illness, particularly in those with weakened immune systems.

Slapped cheek illness:

It is called so because of the characteristic reddening of the cheeks it causes.

Fifth disease:

Historically, it was fifth in a list of common childhood illnesses characterized by a rash.

Transmission:

Through airborne droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, through blood or contaminated blood products, to the fetus through the placenta.

Symptoms:

Most people have no signs or symptoms.
Slapped cheek rash in children, and joint pains in adults.

Treatment:

Relieving symptoms, such as fever, itching, and joint pain and swelling.

Miscellaneous

22. CAS arbitrator calls Vinesh's axing draconian - Indian Express

Context

The Court of Arbitration for Sport's sole arbitrator who dismissed Vinesh Phogat's appeal for a silver medal acknowledges that the Indian side's arguments were persuasive, but says the clear-cut rules left no scope for any leeway.

Resolving legal disputes in the field of sport by pronouncing arbitral awards having same enforceability as judgements of ordinary courts.

Helping parties solve their disputes on an amicable basis through mediation, when this procedure is allowed.

Setting up non-permanent tribunals, which it does for the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games or other similar major events.

Taking into account the circumstances of such events, special procedural rules are established on each occasion.

Any disputes directly or indirectly linked to sport

These may be disputes of a commercial nature or of a disciplinary nature following a decision by a sports organisation

Functions:

Establishment: 1984

Administrative and financial control: Under the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS).

About: An institution independent of any sports organization which provides for services in order to facilitate the settlement of sports-related disputes through arbitration or mediation by means of procedural rules adapted to the specific needs of the sports world.

Who can refer a case: Athletes, clubs, sports federations, organisers of sports events, sponsors or television companies.

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Disputes submitted to the CAS:

23. National Geoscience Awards-2023 - PIB

Context

The President of India conferred the prestigious National Geoscience Awards - 2023 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi recently.

National Geoscience Awards

National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement

National Geoscience Award

National Young Geoscientist Award

3 categories:

Any citizen of India with significant contribution in geosciences.

Eligibility:

To honour individuals and teams for extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in various fields of geosciences i.e. mineral discovery & exploration, Mining Technology & Mineral Beneficiation, fundamental/ applied geosciences.

Aim:

National Geoscience Awards

About: One of the oldest and most prestigious national awards in the field of geosciences.

Institution: By the Ministry of Mines in 1966.

Initial name: Before 2009, these awards were called National Mineral Awards.