

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY

Cultural heritage of Hyderabad:

Ministry of Tourism recently organised the 50th webinar titled “Cultural heritage of Hyderabad” under DekhoApnaDesh series.

What is DekhoApnaDesh series?

The Ministry of Tourism is organizing the DekhoApnaDesh webinars with an objective to create awareness about and promote various tourism destinations of India – including the lesser known destinations and lesser known facets of popular destinations.

1. It also promotes spirit of Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat.

Note: Some important facts were mentioned in this PIB article. The facts mentioned are important for your Prelims as well as Mains.

Key facts:

1. Hyderabad is popularly known as the “City of Pearls” and the “City of Nizams”, and has been the centre of a vibrant historical legacy, ever since its inception by the QutubShahi dynasty.
2. Muhammad QuliQutb Shahestablished Hyderabad in 1591 to extend the capital beyond the fortified Golconda.
3. In 1687, the city was annexed by the Mughals. In 1724, Mughal governor NizamAsaf Jah I declared his sovereignty and founded the AsafJahi dynasty, also known as the Nizams.
4. Hyderabad served as the imperial capital of the AsafJahis from 1769 to 1948.

Important cultural sites of Hyderabad highlighted in the session:

1. Golconda Fort, Hyderabad: Built by the Kakatiya dynasty in the 13th century.
2. Chowmahalla Palace: Once the seat of the AsafJahi Dynasty. It has bagged the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Merit Award for Culture Heritage Conservation.
3. Charminar: The monument was erected when QuliQutab Shah shifted his capital from Golconda to Hyderabad.
4. Mecca Masjid: Completed by Aurangzeb in 1693. The bricks used here are believed to be from Mecca, and hence the name.
5. Warangal Fort: This fort appears to have existed since at least the 12th century when it was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

UK’s ‘Eat Out to Help Out’ scheme:

What is it?

The EOHO Scheme is an economic recovery measure by the UK government to support hospitality businesses as they reopen after the COVID-19 lockdown in the country.

1. The scheme was announced on July 8 as part of the Plans for Jobs summer economic update.

How it works?

1. Under the EOHO Scheme, the government would subsidise meals (food and non-alcoholic drinks only) at restaurants by 50 per cent, from Monday to Wednesday every week, all through August.
2. The discount is capped at GBP 10 per head and does not apply to take-away or event catering.
3. There is no minimum spend and no limit on the number of times customers can avail the offer, since the whole point of the scheme is to encourage a return to dining in restaurants.

EOHO scheme would cost GBP 500 million.

Why was this scheme deemed necessary?

All over the world, the food services sector is one of the worst affected by the pandemic.

1. In the UK, the top two concerns were customers avoiding restaurants for fear of contracting the virus and customers having less disposable income for dining out.
2. The scheme makes eating out more affordable for consumers directly and helps restore demand.
3. And Restoring consumer demand is being seen as crucial to the UK’s economic recovery.

What do critics of the scheme say?

The scheme may have been introduced too early, since it was not yet clear whether the problem was on the demand side, with people being reluctant to go out and eat, or on the supply side, with restaurants unable to serve enough people, thanks to social distancing.

The scheme benefits everyone, regardless of income. Higher income households would have returned to restaurants anyway.

U.S. blacklists 24 Chinese firms amid South China Sea dispute

Latest developments:

The United States has blacklisted 24 Chinese companies and targeted a number of individuals it said were part of construction and military actions related to disputed islands in the South China Sea.

What's the issue?

1. The United States accuses China of militarising the South China Sea and trying to intimidate Asian neighbors who might want to exploit its extensive oil and gas reserves.
2. The U.S. has conducted multiple freedom of navigation operations by sending its warships through the area to assert the freedom of access to international waterways.
3. China claims 90% of the potentially energy-rich South China Sea, but Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also lay claim to parts of an area through which about \$3 trillion of trade passes each year.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS & CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Lokayukta:

The Supreme Court has issued notice on a plea filed by the State of Nagaland for a direction to its Lokayukta to cease exercising his powers and functions and transfer all his work to the Upa-Lokayukta.

What's the issue?

The petition by the State asked the court to use its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to preserve the institutional integrity of the Lokayukta and ensure that a "fit, proper and competent person" occupies the office of the Lokayukta.

What is Lokayukta?

Lokayukta is an anti-corruption authority or ombudsman – an official appointed by the government to represent the interests of the public.

1. Most importantly, it investigates allegations of corruption and mal-administration against public servants and is tasked with speedy redressal of public grievances.

Genesis:

The Administrative Reforms Commission headed by Late Morarji Desai in 1966 recommended the setting up of the institution of Lokayukta.

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013, commonly known The Lokpal Act was passed by the Parliament of India in December 2013.

1. It provides for the appointment of a Lokayukta "to investigate and report on allegations or grievances relating to the conduct of public servants."
2. It also called for establishment of Lokpal at the Centre.

Who is appointed as the Lokayukta?

The Lokayukta is usually a former High Court Chief Justice or former Supreme Court judge and has a fixed tenure.

Selection of Lokayukta:

1. The Chief Minister selects a person as the Lokayukta after consultation with the High Court Chief Justice, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Chairman of the Legislative Council, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council. The appointment is then made by the Governor.
2. Once appointed, Lokayukta cannot be dismissed nor transferred by the government, and can only be removed by passing an impeachment motion by the state assembly.

No Confidence motion:

Why in News?

The no-confidence motion against the Pinarayi Vijayan government was defeated 87-40 in the Kerala Assembly on Monday. The Assembly has been adjourned sine-die.

What is a no-confidence motion?

A no-confidence motion is a parliamentary motion which is moved in the Lok Sabha against the entire council of ministers, stating that they are no longer deemed fit to hold positions of responsibility due to their inadequacy in some respect or their failure to carry out their obligations. No prior reason needs to be stated for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.

Procedure to move a “No Confidence Motion”:

A motion of “No Confidence Motion” against the Government can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha under rule 198.

The Constitution of India does not mention about either a Confidence or a No Confidence Motion. Although, Article 75 does specify that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

1. A motion of No Confidence can be admitted when a minimum of 50 members, support the motion in the house.
2. The Speaker then, once satisfied that the motion is in order, will ask the House if the motion can be adopted.
3. If the motion is passed in the house, the Government is bound to vacate the office.

A no-confidence motion needs a majority vote to pass the House.

1. If individuals or parties abstain from voting, those numbers will be removed from the overall strength of the House and then the majority will be taken into account.

Electricity Amendment Bill 2020:

Aam Aadmi Party has sought permission from the Speaker to table a motion for repealing of the Centre’s three agriculture-related ordinances and Power Amendment Bill-2020.

It is because AAP argues that these laws are contrary to the federal structure of the country, besides impinging on the rights of the States.

Note:

We have already discussed about the three agriculture related ordinances. For details, please refer:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/centre-should-repeal-ordinances-farmers/>.

In this article, we will discuss about the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020.

Contentious clauses in the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020:

Firstly, few states have accused the Centre of failure to consult the States on the Bill since electricity is on the Concurrent List. Other issues are:

1. The Bill seeks to end subsidies. All consumers, including farmers, will have to pay the tariff, and the subsidy will be sent to them through direct benefit transfer.

States are worried about this clause because:

1. This would mean people would have to pay a huge sum towards electricity charges, while receiving support through direct benefit transfer later.
2. This would result in defaults leading to penalties and disconnection.
2. The Bill “divests” the States of their power to fix tariff and hands over the task to a Central government-appointed authority.

This is discriminatory, since the tariff can be tweaked according to the whims and fancies of the Central government.

3. The Bill also makes it compulsory for the State power companies to buy a minimum percentage of renewable energy fixed by the Centre.

This would be detrimental to the cash- strapped power firms.

Other key provisions in the Bill:

Renewable Energy: It delegates the Central Government with the power to prepare and notify a National Renewable Energy Policy “for promotion of generation of electricity from renewable sources”, in consultation with State Governments.

Cross Border Trade: The Central Government has been delegated with the power to prescribe rules and guidelines to allow and facilitate cross border trade of electricity.

Creation of Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority: It has been proposed to be given sole jurisdiction to adjudicate upon matters on performance of obligations under a contract regarding sale,

purchase and transmission of electricity, which exclusion of this specialized authority's jurisdiction on determination of tariff or any other dispute regarding tariff.

DNA Bill can be misused for caste-based profiling, says panel draft report:

The parliamentary standing committee on science and technology headed by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has raised few concerns over the DNA Bill.

They are:

1. DNA data could be misused for caste or community-based profiling.
2. The Bill refers to consent in several provisions, but in each of those, a magistrate can easily override consent, thereby in effect, making consent perfunctory (Meaning of perfunctory: performed merely as a routine duty; hasty and superficial).
3. There is also no guidance in the Bill on the grounds and reasons of when the magistrate can override consent, which could become a fatal flaw.
4. The Bill permits retention of DNA found at a crime scene in perpetuity, even if conviction of the offender has been overturned.
5. The Bill also provides that DNA profiles for civil matters will also be stored in the data banks, but without a clear and separate index.

Overview of the DNA Technology (Use And Application) Regulation Bill, 2019:

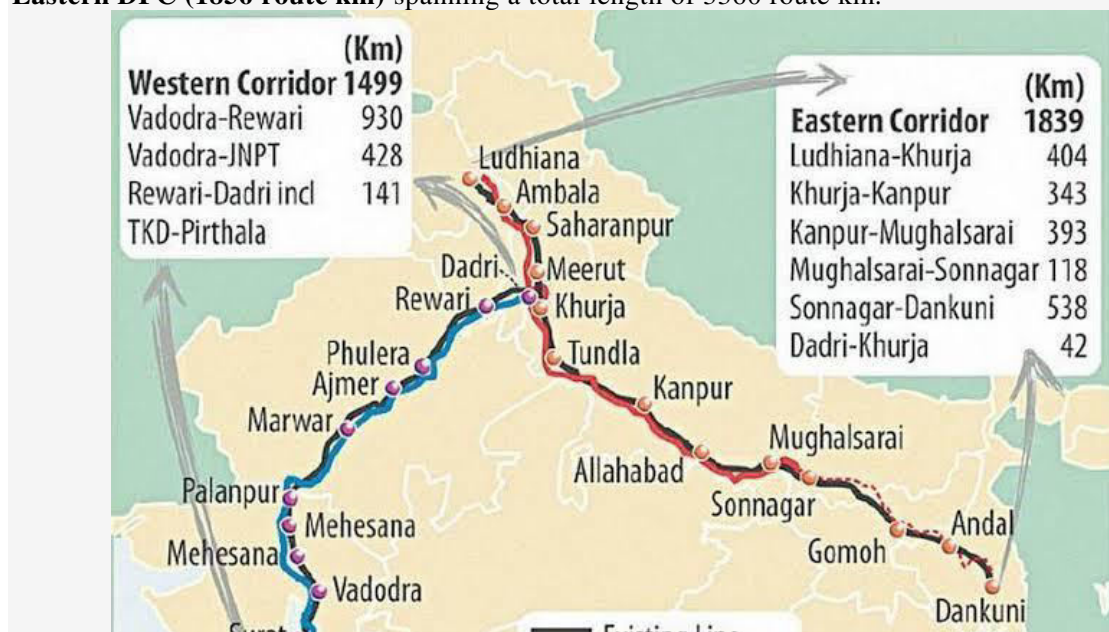
1. It seeks to establish a national data bank and regional DNA data banks.
2. It envisages that every databank will maintain indices like the crime scene index, suspects' or undertrials' index, offenders' index, missing persons' index and unknown deceased persons' index.
3. It also seeks to establish a DNA Regulatory Board. Every laboratory that analyses DNA samples to establish the identity of an individual, has to be accredited by the board.
4. The bill also proposes a written consent by individuals be obtained before collection of their DNA samples. However, consent is not required for offences with punishment of more than seven years in jail or death.
5. It also provides for the removal of DNA profiles of suspects on the filing of a police report or court order, and of undertrials on the basis of a court order. Profiles in the crime scene and missing persons' index will be removed on a written request.

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited:

DFCCIL under the **Ministry of Railways** is a special purpose vehicle tasked with planning and completion of 3, **Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs)**.

It has been registered as a company under the Companies Act 1956 on 30 October 2006.

1. In the first phase the organisation is constructing **the Western DFC (1504 Route km) and Eastern DFC (1856 route km)** spanning a total length of 3360 route km.



Attorney General:

Attorney General of India KK Venugopal has told the Centre that it must compensate states fully for the loss of Goods and Services Tax revenue during the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

1. The Centre had sought advice from the attorney general on the matter.

Attorney General- Facts:

The Attorney General for India is the central government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India.

1. He is a part of the Union Executive.

Appointment and eligibility:

He is appointed by the President of India under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and holds office during the pleasure of the President.

1. He must be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
2. He should be an Indian Citizen.
3. He must have either completed 5 years in High Court of any Indian state as a judge or 10 years in High Court as an advocate.
4. He may be an eminent jurist too, in the eye of the President.

Powers and Functions:

1. The Attorney General is necessary for giving advice to the Government of India in legal matters referred to him. He also performs other legal duties assigned to him by the President.
2. The Attorney General has the right of audience in all Courts in India as well as the right to participate in the proceedings of the Parliament, though not to vote.
3. The Attorney General appears on behalf of Government of India in all cases (including suits, appeals and other proceedings) in the Supreme Court in which Government of India is concerned.
4. He also represents the Government of India in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution.
5. The Attorney General can accept briefs but cannot appear against the Government.
6. He cannot defend an accused in the criminal proceedings and accept the directorship of a company without the permission of the Government.
7. The Attorney General is assisted by two Solicitor General and four Additional Solicitor Generals.

Armed Forces Tribunal:

The Delhi-based principal bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal has initiated hearing of matters pertaining to regional benches through video conferencing.

About AFT:

It is a military tribunal in India.

It was established in 2009 under the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007.

1. The act was passed on the basis of recommendation of 169th Law Commission Report and various Supreme Court directives.

Powers and functions:

To adjudicate Disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolments and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, The Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950.

Composition:

Each Bench comprises of a Judicial Member and an Administrative Member.

1. Judicial Members are retired High Court Judges.
2. Administrative Members are retired Members of the Armed Forces who have held the rank of Major General/ equivalent or above for a period of three years or more or Judge Advocate General (JAG), who have held the appointment for at least one year.

Who can be a chairperson?

The person holding the office of chairperson of AFT must have been either a retired judge of Supreme Court or a Retired chief justice of high court.

Exceptions:

1. Paramilitary forces including the Assam Rifles and Coast Guard are outside the tribunal's purview.

2. AFT is considered to be a criminal court with respect to Indian Penal Code, and Code of Criminal Procedure.
3. Appeals against the decision of the AFT can be taken only in Supreme Court. High Courts are not allowed to entertain such appeals.

7 New ASI Circles:

Culture Ministry announced 7 new circles of the Archaeological Survey of India.

1. Trichy, Raiganj, Rajkot, Jabalpur, Jhansi and Meerut have been announced as new circles and Hampi Mini Circle has been converted into a full fledged circle.

ASI was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who became its first Director-General.

Three capitals for Andhra Pradesh:

Latest developments:

The Supreme Court has refused to entertain the Andhra Pradesh government's plea challenging the state high court's decision ordering status quo on two new laws enabling the formation of three capital cities.

What's the issue?

1. On August 4, the Andhra Pradesh High Court ordered status quo on two new laws that enable the establishment of three new capitals for the state.
2. On July 31 the state government notified the AP Decentralisation And Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020, and the AP Capital Region Development Authority (Repeal) Act, 2020.

INDIAN ECONOMY

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have signed a loan agreement for a \$500 million Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III to improve the network capacity, service quality and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.

What is AIIB?

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.

1. It is headquartered in Beijing.
2. It commenced operations in January 2016.
3. It is a development bank with a mission to improve the economic and social outcomes in Asia.

Is AIIB actively recruiting new members?

AIIB is an open and inclusive multilateral financial institution.

1. Membership in AIIB shall be open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.

Unlike other MDBs (multilateral development bank), the AIIB allows for non-sovereign entities to apply for AIIB membership, assuming their home country is a member.

AIIB Project Preparation Special Fund:

1. Established in June 2016, the Project Preparation Special Fund (Special Fund) is a multidonor facility with the primary purpose of supporting eligible AIIB members—especially low-income members—prepare bankable infrastructure projects AIIB may finance.
2. The Special Fund provides technical assistance grants for preparing bankable infrastructure projects. Through these grants, clients can hire experts and consultants to carry out the required preparation work.

Various organs of AIIB:

Board of Governors: The Board of Governors consists of one Governor and one Alternate Governor appointed by each member country. Governors and Alternate Governors serve at the pleasure of the appointing member.

Board of Directors: Non-resident Board of Directors is responsible for the direction of the Bank's general operations, exercising all powers delegated to it by the Board of Governors. This includes approving the Bank's strategy, annual plan and budget; establishing policies; taking decisions

concerning Bank operations; and supervising management and operation of the Bank and establishing an oversight mechanism.

International Advisory Panel: The Bank has established an International Advisory Panel (IAP) to support the President and Senior Management on the Bank's strategies and policies as well as on general operational issues. The Panel meets in tandem with the Bank's Annual Meeting, or as requested by the President. The President selects and appoints members of the IAP to two-year terms. Panelists receive a small honorarium and do not receive a salary. The Bank pays the costs associated with Panel meetings.

Significance of AIIB:

The United Nations has addressed the launch of AIIB as having potential for "scaling up financing for sustainable development" for the concern of global economic governance. The capital of the bank is \$100 billion, equivalent to 2/3 of the capital of the Asian Development Bank and about half that of the World Bank.

Google Pay violation: HC seeks reply from govt., RBI:

The Delhi High Court has sought response of the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on a plea seeking action against 'Google Pay' for allegedly violating the central bank's guidelines related to data localisation, storage and sharing norms.

What's the issue?

A petition was filed in the court seeking to impose penalty on the company for alleged violations of laws.

The plea claimed that the company was storing personal sensitive data in contravention of UPI procedural guidelines of October 2019, which allows such data to be stored only by Payment Service Provider [PSP] bank systems and not by any third-party application.

A timeline of the RBI's localisation mandate for payments data:

1. April 2018: the localisation circular surfaces: The RBI told all payments system operators in India to ensure that payments-related data was stored within the country and gave the companies six months to comply. The RBI wanted data stored locally "to have unfettered access to all payment data for supervisory purposes".
2. July 2018, Finance ministry tries to step in: The Finance Ministry eased the RBI's directive for foreign payment firms, saying that mirroring a copy of the data in India would be sufficient.
3. In July, the Data Protection Bill mandated localisation: The long-awaited draft Data Protection Bill 2018 was submitted to the government, adding to the confusion. The bill overrode all sectoral regulators and therefore all their directives. It mandated that all data fiduciaries store a copy of users' personal data in India. It also required mandatory storage of 'critical personal data' within India only. The bill, however, failed to explicitly define 'critical data'.
4. September 2018, RBI asks for updates on local storage: The RBI asked payment companies to send it fortnightly updates about their progress on local storage of payments data.
5. October 2018, RBI circular comes into effect: The RBI's circular on localisation of payments data came into effect.
6. February 2019: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released a Draft E-commerce Policy, which included strategies for regulating access to data, mandating data storage requirements, and controlling cross-border data flows. Data localisation may now be left out of the e-commerce policy, and left to the jurisdiction of the Data Protection Bill.

Why data localization is necessary for India?

1. For securing citizen's data, data privacy, data sovereignty, national security, and economic development of the country.
2. The extensive data collection by technology companies, has allowed them to process and monetize Indian users' data outside the country. Therefore, to curtail the perils of unregulated and arbitrary use of personal data, data localization is necessary.
3. With the advent of cloud computing, Indian users' data is outside the country's boundaries, leading to a conflict of jurisdiction in case of any dispute.

Contingency Fund (CF) of the central bank:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has retained a whopping amount of Rs 73,615 crore within the RBI by transferring it to the Contingency Fund (CF) of the central bank.

1. As a result, the CF has swelled to a new high of Rs 264,034 crore.

Under what provisions does the central government receive money from the RBI?

As per Section 47 of the RBI Act, profits or surplus of the RBI are to be transferred to the government, after making various contingency provisions, public policy mandate of the RBI, including financial stability considerations.

1. The RBI's transfer this year is as per the economic capital framework (ECF) adopted by the RBI board last year.

What is the Contingency Fund (CF)?

This is a specific provision meant for meeting unexpected and unforeseen contingencies.

1. This includes depreciation in the value of securities, risks arising out of monetary/exchange rate policy operations, systemic risks and any risk arising on account of the special responsibilities enjoined upon the Reserve Bank.

This amount is retained within the RBI.

RBI's risk provision accounts:

The central bank's main risk provision accounts are Contingency Fund, Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA), Investment Revaluation Account Foreign Securities (IRA-FS) and Investment Revaluation Account-Rupee Securities (IRA-RS). Together now they amount to Rs 13.88 lakh crore.

What's the CGRA account?

The Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA) is maintained by the Reserve Bank to take care of currency risk, interest rate risk and movement in gold prices.

1. Unrealised gains or losses on valuation of foreign currency assets (FCA) and gold are not taken to the income account but instead accounted for in the CGRA.
2. CGRA provides a buffer against exchange rate/ gold price fluctuations. It can come under pressure if there is an appreciation of the rupee vis-à-vis major currencies or a fall in the price of gold.

What are IRA-FS and IRA-RS accounts?

The unrealised gains or losses on revaluation in foreign dated securities are recorded in the Investment Revaluation Account Foreign Securities (IRA-FS).

Similarly, the unrealised gains or losses on revaluation is accounted for in Investment Revaluation Account-Rupee Securities (IRA-RS).

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020:

NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness has released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020.

EPI is the first report to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states.

How were states ranked?

The index ranked states on four key parameters – policy; business ecosystem; export ecosystem; export performance.

The index also took into consideration 11 sub-pillars — export promotion policy; institutional framework; business environment; infrastructure; transport connectivity; access to finance; export infrastructure; trade support; R&D infrastructure; export diversification; and growth orientation.

Highlights of the report:

1. Top 3 states: Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
2. Among the landlocked states, Rajasthan has performed the best, followed by Telangana and Haryana.
3. Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand topped the chart, followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh.
4. Across Union Territories, Delhi has performed the best, followed by Goa and Chandigarh.
5. On policy parameters, Maharashtra topped the index followed by Gujarat and Jharkhand.
6. On business ecosystem parameter, Gujarat was ranked number one followed by Delhi and Tamil Nadu.
7. In the export ecosystem parameter, Maharashtra topped the Index followed by Odisha and Rajasthan.

8. On the export performance parameter, Mizoram led the index, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
9. At present, 70 per cent of India's export has been dominated by five states – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Export promotion in India faces three fundamental challenges:

1. Intra- and inter-regional disparities in export infrastructure.
2. Poor trade support and growth orientation among states.
3. Poor R&D infrastructure to promote complex and unique exports.

What needs to be done?

1. A joint development of export infrastructure.
2. Strengthening industry-academia linkages.
3. Creating state-level engagements for economic diplomacy.
4. Revamped designs and standards for local products.
5. Harness the innovating tendencies to provide new use cases for such products, with adequate support from the Centre.

Way ahead:

Rapid growth of exports is a crucial component for long-term economic growth. A favourable ecosystem enables a country to contribute significantly to global value chains and reap the benefits of integrated production networks, globally.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) – Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA):

NITI Aayog has launched the India Component of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)–Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA).

About NDC- TIA:

It is a joint programme, supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

1. It aims to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport in India, Vietnam, and China.
2. It is implemented by a consortium of seven other organisations.
3. On behalf of the Government of India, NITI Aayog will be the implementing partner.

Implementation:

The NDC-TIA programme has a duration of 4 years.

It will allow India and other partner countries to achieve accountable long-term targets by making a sectoral contribution through various interventions, coordinated with a large number of stakeholders in the domain.

1. This will contribute towards achieving their NDCs and increasing their ambition in the transport sector of 2025 NDCs.

Need for such initiatives:

1. India has a massive and diverse transport sector that caters to the needs of billion people.
2. It has the world's second-largest road network, which contributes to maximum greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through all means of transportation.
3. With increasing urbanisation, the fleet size i.e. the number of sales of vehicles is increasing rapidly.
4. It is projected that the total number of vehicles will be doubled by 2030.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC

Glanders:

Why in News?

The Delhi High Court has asked municipal bodies to take steps to prevent spread of glanders disease in animals including horses and issued notice to the Delhi government and others on an application filed by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), India.

What's the issue?

In its application, the PETA has sought directions to implement the provisions of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Disease in Animal Act, 2009 and National Action Plan for control and eradication of glanders in horses, mules, ponies, and donkeys in the national capital.

About Glanders:

It is an infectious disease that is caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia mallei*.

Who can get infected?

While people can get the disease, glanders is primarily a disease affecting horses. It also affects donkeys and mules and can be naturally contracted by other mammals such as goats, dogs, and cats.

Transmission:

1. Transmitted to humans through contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals.
2. The bacteria enter the body through cuts or abrasions in the skin and through mucosal surfaces such as the eyes and nose.
3. It may also be inhaled via infected aerosols or dust contaminated by infected animals.

Symptoms of glanders commonly include:

1. Fever with chills and sweating.
2. Muscle aches.
3. Chest pain.
4. Muscle tightness.
5. Headache
6. Nasal discharge.
7. Light sensitivity (sometimes with excessive tearing of the eyes).

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q. What are Hurricanes?

Why in News?

Hurricane Laura has made landfall in southwestern Louisiana in US as one of the most powerful storms to hit the state.

What Are Hurricanes?

Hurricanes are large, swirling storms. They produce winds of 119 kilometers per hour (74 mph) or higher.

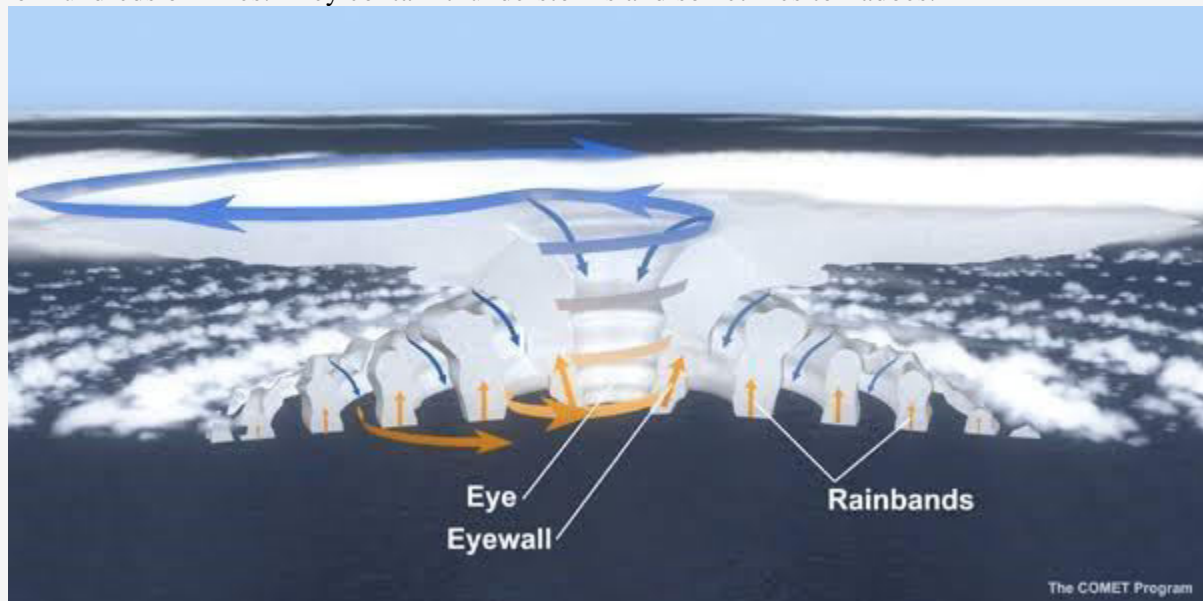
They form over warm ocean waters.

What Are the Parts of a Hurricane?

Eye: The eye is the “hole” at the center of the storm. Winds are light in this area. Skies are partly cloudy, and sometimes even clear.

Eye wall: The eye wall is a ring of thunderstorms. These storms swirl around the eye. The wall is where winds are strongest and rain is heaviest.

Rain bands: Bands of clouds and rain go far out from a hurricane’s eye wall. These bands stretch for hundreds of miles. They contain thunderstorms and sometimes tornadoes.



How Does a Storm Become a Hurricane?

A hurricane starts out as a tropical disturbance. This is an area over warm ocean waters where rain clouds are building.

1. A tropical disturbance sometimes grows into a tropical depression. This is an area of rotating thunderstorms with winds of 62 km/hr (38 mph) or less.
2. A tropical depression becomes a tropical storm if its winds reach 63 km/hr (39 mph).
3. A tropical storm becomes a hurricane if its winds reach 119 km/hr (74 mph).

What Makes Hurricanes Form?

1. Warm ocean waters provide the energy a storm needs to become a hurricane. Usually, the surface water temperature must be 26 degrees Celsius (79 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher for a hurricane to form.
2. Winds that don't change much in speed or direction as they go up in the sky. Winds that change a lot with height can rip storms apart.

