

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS****East Asia Summit**

Recently, India and Singapore organised an East Asia Summit workshop on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing.

**About the Summit**

- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and the Government of Singapore organised a virtual East Asia Summit (EAS) Workshop on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.
- It was co-chaired by India and Singapore Food Agency (SFA).

**Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing****About:**

- IUU fishing activities violate both national and international fishing regulations.
- Illegal fishing refers to fishing activities conducted in contravention of applicable laws and regulations, including those laws and rules adopted at the regional and international level.
- Unreported fishing refers to fishing activities that are not reported or are misreported to relevant authorities in contravention of national laws and regulations or reporting procedures of a relevant regional fisheries management organisation.
- Unregulated fishing occurs in areas or for fish stocks for which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law.

**Threats:**

- It is a global problem that threatens ocean ecosystems and sustainable fisheries.
- It also threatens economic security and the natural resources that are critical to global food security, and
- It puts law-abiding fishermen and seafood producers at a disadvantage.

**Economic losses due to IUU:****Difficult to Quantify:**

- ❖ The inherent nature of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing makes it difficult to accurately quantify the full global economic impacts resulting from these activities.
- ❖ Various studies over the years have assessed regional levels of IUU fishing and estimated global losses, but such estimates are based on data that are now many years old.

**New Methodologies:**

- The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) is currently developing regional IUU estimate methodologies that can be regularly updated.
- Implementing the UN's action plan recommendations will help gauge the actual level of activity and impacts so that they may be appropriately addressed.

**About East Asia Summit(EAS)****Origin:**

- The concept of East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991 by the then Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad.

**Formed:**

- Established in 2005, it is the Indo-Pacific's premier forum for strategic dialogue.

**Aim:**

- Promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.

**Different from rest:**

- It is the only leader-led forum at which all key partners meet to discuss political, security and economic challenges facing the Indo-Pacific.

**Membership:**

- Apart from the 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states, the East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Russia.

**Leader:**

- ASEAN leads the forum, and the chair position rotates between the ASEAN Member States annually.

**India:**

- India is one of the founding members of the East Asia Summit.

**Priority areas:**

- There are six priority areas of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS. These are:
  - Environment and Energy,
  - Education,
  - Finance,
  - Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases,
  - Natural Disaster Management, and
  - ASEAN Connectivity.

**Significance of East Asia:**

- Important Nations:** The eastern region of Asia consists of the Asian nations, Greater China (Greater China consists of the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan), Japan, Mongolia, North Korea and South Korea.
- Economic benefit:** It represents nearly 50 per cent of the world's population with 20 percent of global trade, and comprising 16 nations that are on a dynamic path of economic development.
- Regional Security:** Considering tension on the Korean Peninsula, South China and in the Taiwan Strait, among others, it is vital for Japan, China and South Korea to maintain a common stance and to share a common concern for security in the East Asian region.
- Global Implications:** An East Asia community would play a big role in instilling a sense of responsibility in Asian countries and in leading them jointly in contributing to the resolution of global issues.

**Importance for India**

- India has been a part of EAS since its inception in 2005 in Kuala Lumpur and the fact that Indian Prime Ministers have participated in all the Summits, stands testimony to the importance India attaches to this process.

**Way Ahead**

- Joint effort:** Working with other fishing nations through regional fisheries bodies and international partnerships. Strengthening enforcement and data collection programs aimed at detecting, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing.
- Restricted port entry:** Implementing measures that restrict port entry and access to port services for vessels included on the IUU lists of international fisheries organisations with U.S. membership. Identifying countries that have fishing vessels engaged in IUU fishing activities.
- Capacity expansion:** Supporting capacity-building and technical assistance workshops that provide the tools, resources, information, and skills to solve IUU issues, combat IUU fishing, and promote sustainable seafood practices.

**IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM****1. Rongali Bihu**

Rongali Bihu, also known as Bohag is observed in mid-April (14-15th April) and marks the start of the Hindu calendar's Assamese New Year.

**About Rongali Bihu**

- The word Bihu is taken from the Sanskrit word Bishu meaning to ask blessings and prosperity from the Gods" during harvesting season.
- Bohag or Rongali Bihu is one of Assam's three Bihus, and it is one of the most significant festivals for the Assamese community.
- Bihu, in Assam, is of three types: Rangoli Bihu, Magh Bihu and Maghar Domahi.
- It falls in the second week of April every year, marking the beginning of the harvest period.
- It celebrates the commencement of harvesting season and is also regarded as the first day of the Assamese New Year.
- The significance of this festival is purely agricultural in nature. It is celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy throughout the state.
- It is Assam's harvest festival which marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
- This Bihu is all about partying, donning new outfits, and ringing in the New Year with song, dancing, and cultural performances. Hundreds of people turn up to enjoy cultural events.

## **2. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**

The Government has recognized that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 must be amended to introduce more stringent penalties.

- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 was authored by acclaimed dancer and animal lover, Rukmini Devi Arundale.
- This Act aims to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and for that purpose to amend the law relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals.
- As per the provisions of this law, the government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).
- The Act defines animals as any living creature other than humans.
- It also discusses different forms of cruelty, exceptions, and killing of a suffering animal in case any cruelty has been committed against it, so as to relieve it from further suffering.
- It also provides the guidelines relating to experimentation on animals for scientific purposes.
- It provides the guidelines relating to exhibition of the performing animals, and offences committed against the performing animals.
- This Act provides for the limitation period of 3 months beyond which no prosecution shall lie for any offences under this Act.
- The prevention of cruelty to animals is a state subject.
- The data in this regard is not maintained in the Central Government.
- However, the AWBI is regularly getting information on the cruelty to animals for which the AWBI is writing to the State Governments and local authorities to take necessary action as per the prevailing laws.

## **3. 'Calm' System**

- THE ARMY has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for anti-armour loiter munition for its mechanised forces which can be used on enemy tanks and other targets in the plain sand deserts of western India, as well as in high altitude areas on the northern borders, including Ladakh.
- A Canister Launched Anti-Armour Loiter Munition (CALM) System is a pre-loaded canister with loiter munition a drone which once fired, can remain aloft for a period of time over the area of operation until a target is sighted, and which can then be guided down to destroy the target with the explosive payload that it carries.
- Usually, loiter munitions carry a camera that is nose-mounted, and which can be used by the operator to see the area of operation and choose targets. These munitions also have variants that can be recovered and reused in case they are not used for any strike.

### **The Army's RFI**

- Recently, the Army issued a RFI for a CALM System. The Army has specified that it intends to procure 150 such systems which will be launched from the BMP Infantry Fighting vehicles of the Mechanised Infantry that are especially modified for this purpose. These systems are being procured under the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat programmes.

### **Need for equipment**

- The RFI states that the CALM Systems will be used along the country's western border and in the northern high-altitude areas up to 5,000 metres.
- In the plains and deserts, the system should be able to operate in a temperature range of 0°C to 45°C, while at high altitudes it should be able to operate between minus 15°C and 40°C
- They will be employed by the Mechanised Infantry units of the Army for surveillance of beyond line of sight targets by day and night in real time, and beyond visual range engagement of enemy armoured fighting vehicles and other ground based weapons platforms over extended ranges.

### **Use in combat**

- CALM Systems were seen in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict last year, where Azerbaijan forces made extensive use of Israeli systems to wreak havoc on Armenian tanks, radar systems, communication hubs, and other military targets.
- Top down attack capability of loiter munition is a major advantage against targets such as tanks, which are vulnerable due to weak armour protection on top.

## **4. Colour Blindness**

THE SUPREME Court has directed the Film and Television Institute of India not to exclude candidates suffering from colour blindness from its film-making and editing courses, and asked it to make changes

to its curriculum. The court agreed with an expert committee's conclusion that the colour grading module of the editing course has "no relevance or nexus with the role of a film editor".

### **The Condition**

- Colour blindness is the inability to distinguish between certain colours — usually greens and reds, and sometimes blues. Two types of cells in the retina detect light— the "rods", which distinguish between light and dark, and the "cones" that detect colour.
- Three types of cones see colour — red, green, and blue — and our brains use the information from these cells to perceive colour.
- Colour blindness can be the result of the absence of one or more of these cone cells, or their failure to work properly.
- Mildly colour blind people often see all colours properly only when the light is good; others cannot tell one colour apart from another no matter how good the light is. In the most severe but rare cases, everything appears as a shade of grey.

### **Usually lifelong**

- The condition remains roughly the same for as long as the individual is alive.
- It cannot as yet be treated or reversed, but it can be corrected to some extent by wearing special contact lenses or colour filter glasses.
- Most colour blind people are born with the condition, but some can develop it later in life.
- Congenital colour vision deficiencies are usually passed on genetically. Colour vision that arises later in life could be the result of disease, trauma, or ingested toxins

### **Prevalence**

- Incidence is higher among men.
- Every tenth male is estimated to have some form of colour deficiency.
- In the FTII case, the expert committee's report: Estimated 8% of male population in India and less than 1% female population have red and green colour deficiency being the most common form of colour-blindness.

## **DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Q1. Evaluate the performance of Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – 'Saubhagya' scheme in achieving Universal Household Electrification.**

### **Introduction**

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – 'Saubhagya' scheme was launched in 2017. Under Saubhagya free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas will be provided. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.

It calls upon all stakeholders to channelize their energies towards electrification of each and every household in the country, within a challenging timeframe of 18 months. The scheme had a total outlay of Rs.16,320 crores.

### **Body**

#### **Performance of Saubhagya so far**

- About 2.82 crore willing households have been electrified.
- A survey was conducted through them for firming up the number of un-electrified households. 'Sankhya', a Web Portal and Mobile App, was specifically developed for this survey for real time analysis and for formulating a prudent strategy.
- Implementation of SAUBHGAYA in itself was a remarkable success story of Cooperative Federalism where both the State and Central Governments worked with seamless coordination for timely achievement of targets.
- 56 DISCOMs worked tirelessly across the length and breadth of the country to ensure electricity connections to every willing household.
- Saubhagya camps were organised at village level to reach out to the beneficiaries and to facilitate on-the-spot electricity connections – ensuring that no household was left out.
- A special fleet of 'Saubhagya Raths' were flagged off across various states in the country to create awareness among the people and to also identify every household without electricity that may have failed to register under the scheme initially.
- A Control Room that worked 24x7 was set up to assist the beneficiaries on all scheme-related queries, address their grievances and also provide electricity connections with the support of DISCOM for speedy resolution.

- In locations where the solutions were not techno-economically viable due to scattered households, stand-alone Solar PV-based systems were installed.
- Measures needed to augment Saubhagya: In order to achieve 24x7 power for all, we need to focus on three frontiers:

**Real-time monitoring of supply at the end-user level:**

- We achieve what we measure. While the government is bringing all feeders in the country online, we currently have no provision to monitor supply as experienced by households.
- Only such granular monitoring can help track the evolving reality of electricity supply on the ground and guide DISCOMS to act in areas with sub-optimal performance.
- Eventually, smart meters (that the government plans to roll out) should help enable such monitoring.

**DISCOMS need to focus on improving the quality of supply as well as maintenance services:**

- Adequate demand estimation and respective power procurement will go a long way in reducing load shedding.
- Moreover, about half the rural population across the six States reported at least two days of 24-hour-long unpredictable blackouts in a month.
- Such incidents are indicative of poor maintenance, as opposed to intentional load-shedding.
- DISCOMS need to identify novel cost-effective approaches to maintain infrastructure in these far-flung areas.
- Some States have already taken a lead in this. Odisha has outsourced infrastructure maintenance in some of its rural areas to franchisees, while Maharashtra has introduced village-level coordinators to address local-level challenges. Such context-based solutions should emerge in other States as well.

**Quality Customer Service:**

- Finally, the improvement in supply should be complemented with a significant improvement in customer service, which includes billing, metering and collection.
- Success depends on curbing DISCOM losses and consumer honesty.
- Distributed generation could complement centralised grid electricity to resolve both, and ensure sustained use of electricity not just for rural households, but also for the entire rural economy including farms, schools, hospitals, and small businesses.
- It would lead to improved consumer satisfaction, as electricity truly becomes an enabler of prosperity in rural India.

**Way forward**

- Given that electricity is in the concurrent list, it is for states to ensure quality, reliable and affordable electricity to consumers.
- We need radically innovative approaches such as the proposed prepaid smart meters and last-mile rural franchisees to improve customer service and revenue collection.
- Rural renewable energy enterprises could especially be interesting contenders for such franchisees, considering the social capital they already possess in parts of rural India.
- As we focus on granular monitoring, high-quality supply, better customer service and greater revenue realisation at the household level, we also need to prioritise electricity access for livelihoods and community services such as education and health care.
- Only such a comprehensive effort will ensure that rural India reaps the socio-economic benefits of electricity.

**DAILY QUIZ**

**Q1.** India's first Persian newspaper "Mirat-ul-Akhbar" was started by?

- (a) **Raja Rammohan Roy**
- (b) Fardaonji Murzban
- (c) Shishir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh
- (d) Ferozeshah Mehta

**Q2.** With reference to Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
2. It is proposed to develop the Panchayati Raj System across India in the rural areas.
3. It will include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) **1, 2 and 3 only** (b) 3 and 2 only  
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) only 1 and 3
- Q3.** With reference to latest OXFAM's report: First Crisis, Then Catastrophe, consider the following statements:  
1. The estimates are based on the projections by World Economic Forum(WEF).  
2. The World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than \$1.90 per day.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
(a) Neither 1 nor 2 (b) **2 only**  
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) only 1
- Q4.** Which of the following are priority areas of cooperation of East Asia Summit (EAS)  
1. Environment and Energy  
2. Education  
3. Finance  
4. Natural disaster management  
5. Pandemic diseases  
Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 4 only  
(c) 1, 5 and 2 only (d) **1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**
- Q5.** Recently, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani were in the news as zones of conflict between India and which other country?  
(a) **Nepal** (b) Bhutan  
(c) Maldieves (d) Pakistan
- Q6.** Consider the following statements about colour blindness.  
1. Colour blindness is the inability to distinguish between greens and reds colours only  
2. Colour blindness can be developed later in life  
3. It can be reversed to some extent by wearing special contact lenses or colour filter glasses.  
Which of the above statement/s is/are not correct ?  
a) 1 only b) 2 and 3 only  
c) **1 and 3 only** d) 1 and 2 only
- Q7.** Examine the following statements  
1. Like Wild Life Board of India, Prime minister is also the ex officio chairman of Animal Welfare Board of India .  
2. The prevention of cruelty to animals is a state subject.  
Select the correct statements using the code given below  
a) 1 only (b) **2 only**  
c) Both (d) None of the above
- Q8.** Consider the following statement  
1. Chlorine can be used to remove ammonia from water  
2. Ammonia in drinking water is harmful  
3. Ammonia does not form naturally  
4. Ammonia can be treated through ozonation , using ozone  
Select the correct statement/s using the code  
a) 1,2,3,4 (b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only (d) **1 and 4 only**
- Q9.** The vaquita (Phocoena sinus) is a species of porpoise recently seen in news the status of this species under IUCN is  
a) Endangered (b) Extinct in wild  
c) **Critically Endangered** (d) Vulnerable
- Q10.** e-DAR portal recently seen in news is related to which of the following  
a) **To speed up accident compensation claims**  
b) To speed up issuance of License  
c) Aforestation  
d) Lower timber mafia activity in Eastern ghats