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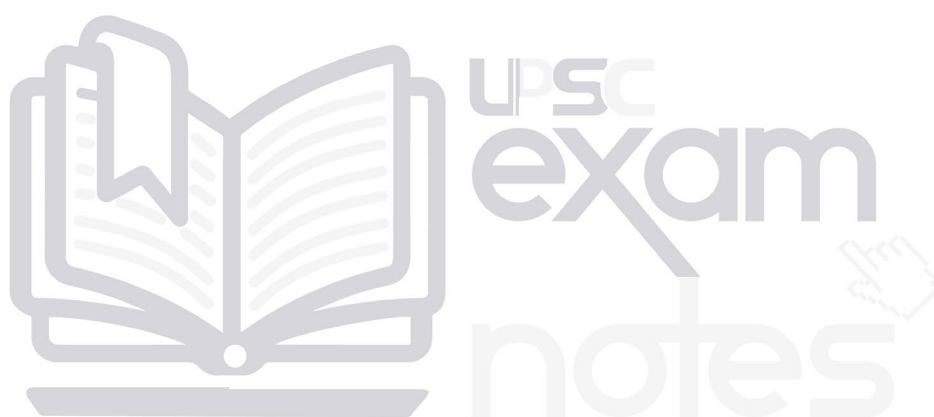
WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS DECEMBER 2022

Table of Contents

.....	1
GS II:Governance.....	1
PERSONAL RIGHTS	1
1. Context	1
2. Personality Rights	1
3. Personality rights and Public rights:	1
4. Use of a name on the Internet effect Personality Rights?	1
5. Consumer Rights	2
6. False endorsement by Celebrities	2
GS:II Governance.....	2
MALNUTRITION.....	2
GS:II Governance.....	4
ENTRY OF WOMEN INTO MASJIDS	4
1. Context	4
2. Key points	4
3. Islamic law on women's entry	4
4. Women access mosques for prayers	5
4.1 Denial of access to mosques for women	5
4.2 Similar Bans before	5
4.3 Legal issue	6
GS II: Polity	6
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA.....	6
1. Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commissioners	6
GS II: Polity	7
BORDER DISPUTES	7
2.2.Assam- Meghalaya border dispute	8
GS II: International relations	9
TERROR-FUNDING.....	9
1. Context	9
2. Key points	10
3. Terror Funding	10
4. Sources of terror funding	10
5. The 2018 conference was hosted by France	11
6. The 2019 conference was hosted by Australia	11
7. India's takeaways from previous conferences	11

7.1 Priority issues	12
7.2 India's 5 pillared strategies against the financing of terrorism	12
8. International efforts	12
8.1 Delhi Declaration of Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)	12
8.2 The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)	13
8.3 Financial Action Task Force	13
8.3.1 Various lists under FATF	13
9. National Efforts	13
9.1 Further efforts in curbing terror financing	14
10. The global flow of funds for nefarious purposes has three traditional channels:	14
GS III: Environment & Ecology	15
GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD	15
GS III: Economy	17
GDP AND GVA	17
1. Context	17
2. Key Points	17
3. GDP and GVA	17
4. How are the two related?	18
5. GVA data	18
5.1 Manufacturing sector	19
5.2 Trade and hotels	19
5.3 Mining and quarrying	19
5.4 Agriculture	19
6. GDP data	20
6.1 Private Consumption Expenditure	20
6.2 Investment expenditure	20
6.3 Government final consumption expenditures	20
6.4 Net Exports data	20
GS IV: Science & Technology	20
RANSOMWARE	21
1. Context	21
2. Ransomware	21
4. Trends in Ransomware	21
GS III: Science & Technology	22
MEASLES	22
GS I : Heritage & Culture	24

NALANDA	24
1. Background	24
2. A city of dynasties	25
3. Travellers	25
3.1 Monk Hiuen Tsang and Fa-Hien	26
3.2 Sher Shah Suri	26
3.3 Ralph Fitch and Francis Buchanan	26
GS I: World Geography	26
FUJIWHARA EFFECT	26
GS I: Modern Indian History	30
LACHIT BORPUKAN	30





PERSONAL RIGHTS

1. Context

The Delhi High Court recently passed an interim order to prevent the unlawful use of Bollywood star Amitabh Bachan's name, image, and voice. The court, through its order, restrained persons at large from infringing the personality rights of the actor.

2. Personality Rights

- Personality rights refer to the right of a person to protect his/her personality under the right to privacy or property.
- These rights are important to celebrities as their names, photographs or even voices can easily be misused in various advertisements by different companies to boost their sales.
- Therefore, it is necessary for renowned personalities/celebrities to register their names to sell their personality rights.
- A large list of unique personal attributes contributes to the making of a celebrity.
- All of these attributes need to be protected, such as name, nickname, stage name, picture, likeness, image, and any identifiable personal property, such as a distinctive race car.

3. Personality rights and Public rights:

Personality rights are different from publicity rights.

Personality rights consist of two types of rights:

- First, the right of publicity, or the right to keep one's image and likeness from being commercially exploited without permission or contractual compensation, which is similar (but not identical) to the use of a trademark; and
- secondly, the right to privacy or the right to not have one's personality represented publicly without permission.
- However, under common law jurisdiction, publicity rights fall into the realm of the 'tort of passing off.
- Passing off takes place when someone intentionally or unintentionally passes off their goods and services as those belonging to another party.
- Often, this type of misrepresentation damages the goodwill of a person or business, resulting in financial or reputational damage.
- Publicity rights are governed by statutes like the Trade marks Act 1999 and the Copyright Act 1957.

4. Use of a name on the Internet effect Personality Rights?

- The Delhi High Court in 2011 observed in the case of Arun Jaitley vs Network Solutions Private Limited and Ors., in which Mr. Jaitley filed a suit seeking a permanent injunction against the defendants from misuse and immediate transfer of the domain name.
- The court stated that "the popularity or fame of individual will be no different on the internet than in reality".
- The court decided in the favour of Mr. Arun Jaitley, stating that the "name also falls in the category wherein it besides being a personal name has attained distinctive indicia of its own.

5. Consumer Rights

While celebrities are protected from commercial misuse of their name and personality, there have also been instances where consumers are misled owing to false advertisements or endorsements by such personalities.

Due to such cases, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has made a notification in 2022 to keep a check on misleading adverts and endorsements of consumer products by imposing a penalty on the endorser.

6. False endorsement by Celebrities

- While celebrities are protected from commercial misuse of their name and personality, there have also been instances where consumers are misled owing to false advertisements or endorsements by such personalities.
- While on one side Indian courts have considered recognition of Personality Rights, the Government has realized the imminent need to also protect the consumers at large from the false and misleading advertisement of products endorsed by such personalities.
- As a result of the same, to find a balance to the scale, the Amendment to the Consumer Protection Act of 2019 was passed to keep a check on misleading advertisements and endorsements of consumer products by imposing penalties on the endorser as well.
- It will be interesting to see the fallout of this legislation in light of the increasing endorsement deals involving famous personalities and celebrities.

GS:II Governance

MALNUTRITION

1.Context

Iron deficiency anaemia is responsible for 3.6% of disability-adjusted life years or DALYs (years of life lost due to premature mortality and years lived with disability). Malnutrition is most serious challenge and concern.

2. Various Reports Findings

- As per National Family Health Survey -5, every second Indian woman is anaemic, every third child is stunted and malnourished, and every fifth child is wasted.
- According to Food Security Report for 2021, India ranks 101 out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2021, with a 15.3% undernourished population, the highest proportion of stunted children (30%), and wasted children (17.3%).
- Global Nutrition Report 2021-stunting among children in India is significantly higher than the Asian average of 21.8%.
- According to WHO a loss of 47 million DALYS or years of healthy life are lost due to illness, disability, or premature death(2016). According to NITI Aayog, a rice fortification budget of rs 2800 crore per year can save 35% of the total or 16.6 million DALYs per year

3. Food fortification

It is the process of adding nutrients to food. For instance, rice and wheat are fortified with iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12, and salt is fortified with iron and iodine.

Since 1920, developed countries and high-income countries have successfully tackled the issue of malnutrition through food fortification. Low and middle-income countries such as India; have pursued food fortification as one of the strategies to tackle micronutrient malnutrition.

4. Rice Programme

The distribution of fortified rice has been taken up in select states, including Maharashtra as part of a targeted public distribution programme for the masses.

5. Outcome of programme

The programme has been a success in preventing anaemia-from 58.9% to 29.5% within 2 years

Prompting the central government to declare the scaling up of the distribution of fortified rice through the existing platform of social safety nets such as the PDS, ICDS, and PM-POSHAN.

The health benefits accruing from food fortification have made 80 countries frame laws for the fortification of cereal flour, and 130 countries with iodized salt, where 13 countries have mandated rice fortification.

6. Non-Meal Scheme in Gujarat

In Gujarat, an eight-month-long study on multiple micronutrients fortified rice intervention for schoolchildren (6-12years) in 2008-2019, as part of the Midday Meal Scheme, found increased hemoglobin concentration, 10% reduction in anemia prevalence, and more importantly improved average cognitive scores by 11.3%.

7. Advantages of Food Fortification

It is a cost-effective complementary strategy to address multiple micronutrient deficiencies. Thus, given its proven efficacy and cost-effectiveness, food fortification can help us in reducing micronutrient deficiencies and address overall health benefits.

8. Concerns

Activists have expressed concern that excess iron overload from fortified rice has been dangerous for Jharkhand's tribal population suffering from sickle cell anaemia and thalassemia.

GS:II Governance

ENTRY OF WOMEN INTO MASJIDS

1. Context

The Jama Masjid in Delhi prohibited the entry of single women or women in groups inside the mosque premises.

2. Key points

- The authorities reasoned that some women fail to respect the sanctity of the place of worship, making videos there.
- When women come alone, they indulge in improper acts and shoot videos. The ban is to stop this.
- The decision led to an uproar on social media and the mosque management clarified that the ban excluded those women coming for worship or those accompanied by their husbands or families.
- Many continued to question the unilateral decision of the authorities, forcing Delhi Lieutenant-Governor to step in to douse the ire.
- Following a meeting with the Lieutenant-Governor, the mosque authorities withdrew the ban. The masjid administration does not want to prevent anyone from worshipping inside.
- Incidentally, the Jama Masjid is otherwise one of the few mosques to allow women worshippers to offer regular prayers.

3. Islamic law on women's entry

- There is a clear difference of opinion among Islamic scholars on the right of women to visit a dargah or a cemetery, there is lesser disagreement on a woman's right to offer prayers inside a masjid.
- Most Islamic scholars agree that prayer can be offered at home but can only be established in a group, hence the importance of going to a mosque.
- Most also agree that women have been exempted, not prohibited from going to the mosque, keeping in mind their child-rearing and other domestic responsibilities.

The Quran at no place prohibits women from going to mosques for prayers. For instance, verse 71 of Surah Taubah, says, "The believing men and women are protectors and helpers of each other. They (Collaborate) to promote all that is good and oppose all that is evil; establish prayers and give charity and obey Allah and his Messenger".

- Wherever the Quran talks of establishing prayer, it talks in gender-neutral terms. Before the five daily prayers, a prayer call or azaan is pronounced.
- The azaan is a general invitation to both men and women for prayers, reminding the faithful, **"come for prayer, come for success"**.

4. Women access mosques for prayers

- Incidentally, when Muslims go to Mecca and Medina for Haji and Umrah (lesser pilgrimage); both men and women pray at Haram Sharief in Mecca and Masjid-eNabavi in Medina.
- Both places have separate halls earmarked for men and women.
- Also, across West Asia, there is no ban on women coming to the masjid for prayers.
- In the U.S. and Canada too, women access mosques for prayers and even gather there for special Taraweeh prayers during Ramzan and lessons on religion.

4.1 Denial of access to mosques for women

- The denial of access to mosques for women worshippers is a largely subcontinental phenomenon.
- In India, only a handful of mosques maintained or owned by Jamaat-eIslami and the Ahl-e-Hadith sect have provisions for women worshippers.
- Most mosques while not expressly forbidding women's entry into masjids and have no provision for women to do ablutions for prayer or a separate prayer zone for them.
- They are built keeping only men in mind. Under the circumstances, they are reduced to a **"men-only"** zone.

4.2 Similar Bans before

- The short-lived order of the Jama Masjid administration drew parallels with the much more prolonged ban on entry of women inside the sanctum sanctorum of the Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai.

- Back in 2011, a grill was put up on the premises of the vastly popular 15th-century dargah, prohibiting women from going beyond it.
- Following the "this much and no further order, some women approached the dargah management for redress.
- However, with the request having been denied, they started a campaign, "Haji Ali for All", winning over more women in the process.
- Led by the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan, the women approached the Bombay High Court which ruled in their favour in 2016.

4.3 Legal issue

- According to the Constitution, there is complete equality between men and women.
- In the Haji Ali Dargah case too, the High Court quoted Articles 15, 16 and 25 of the Constitution to grant women the desired access to the dargah.
- There are petitions filed before the Supreme Court wherein access has been sought for women in all mosques across the country.
- The apex court has clubbed them with the Sabarimala case.

GS II: Polity

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

1. Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commissioners

The CEC and ECs are appointed by the President to a tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as judges of the Supreme Court of India.

The Election Commission of India draws its authority from the Constitution itself. Under Article 324, the powers of “superintendence, direction and control of elections” is to be vested in an Election Commission.

2. Size of the Election Commission

- The Constitution does not fix the size of the Election Commission
- Article 324(2) says that “the Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and a such number of other Election Commissioners if any, as the President may from time to time fix”.
- Earlier, the Election Commission of India consisted of just the Chief Election Commissioner

- However, on October 16, 1989, the Congress government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi appointed two more Election Commissioners, making the Election Commission a multi-member body
- On January 2, 1990, the National Front government of Prime Minister VP Singh amended the rules, making the EC a single-member body again
- However, on October 1, 1993, the government of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao promulgated an Ordinance to provide for the appointment of two more Election Commissioners
- The EC has had three members ever since. The Ordinance was subsequently replaced by The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 1993, which came into effect on January 4, 1994
- All three ECs have equal say in the decision making of the Commission

GS II: Polity

BORDER DISPUTES

1. Why in news?

The Maharashtra Karnataka border dispute is in the news again after NCP leader Ajit Pawar raised the issue on Wednesday, and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said his government was “committed to acquiring” Marathi-speaking villages along the border.

The border dispute between the two states is decades-old, having its origins in the states’ reorganisation in the 1950s.

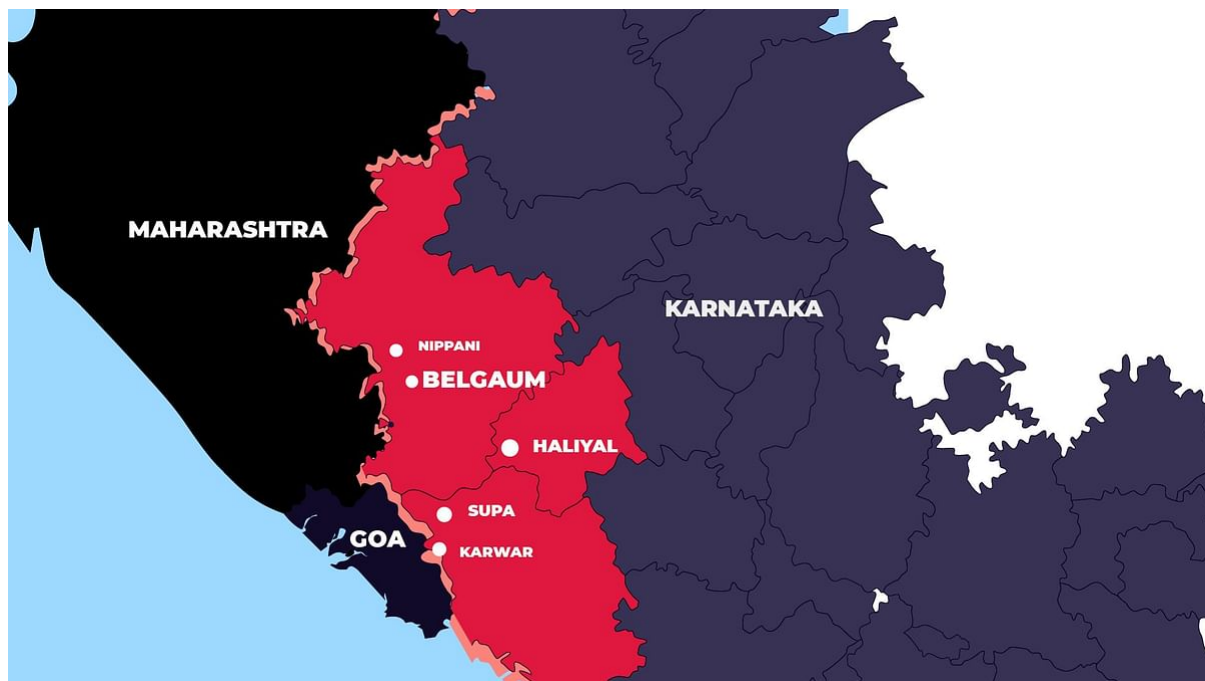
2. Key takeaways

2.1. Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute

- Both Maharashtra and Karnataka were formed in 1960. But since its inception, Maharashtra has claimed that 865 villages along the border, including Carvar, Nippani and Belgavi (earlier Belgaum), should be merged with it
- On its part, Karnataka has asserted rights over 260 Kannada-speaking villages along the Maharashtra border.
- The erstwhile Bombay Presidency, a multilingual province, included the present-day Karnataka districts of Vijayapura, Belagavi, Dharwad, and Uttara Kannada
- In 1948, the Belgaum municipality requested that the district, having a predominantly Marathi-speaking population, be incorporated into the proposed Maharashtra state
- However, The States Reorganisation Act of 1956 made Belgaum and 10 *talukas* of Bombay State a part of the then Mysore State (which was renamed as Karnataka in 1973)
- While demarcating borders, the Reorganisation of States Commission included talukas with a Kannada-speaking population of more than 50 per cent in Mysore. But the

opponents of the decision have maintained that in 1956, Marathi-speakers outnumbered Kannada-speakers in those areas.

- The Mahajan Commission was set up by the Government of India in October 1966 to look into the border dispute.
- In its report submitted in August 1967, the Commission, led by former Chief Justice of India Mehr Chand Mahajan, recommended that 264 villages should be transferred to Maharashtra, and that Belgaum and 247 villages should remain with Karnataka
- Maharashtra rejected the report, calling it biased and illogical. Despite demands from Karnataka, the Centre never implemented the report
- In 2004, the Maharashtra government moved the Supreme Court for settlement of the border dispute under Article 131(b) of the Constitution. The case is pending in the apex court



2.2.Assam- Meghalaya border dispute

- Assam and Meghalaya have a longstanding dispute in 12 stretches of their 884-km shared border.
- The two states signed a March pact to resolve the dispute in six out of 12 areas. In August, they decided to form regional committees. The second round of discussions for the remaining six phases was to commence by the end of this month.
- The Assam-Meghalaya pact was seen as a major achievement, as Assam's border disputes with other states in the Northeast have remained unresolved despite multiple rounds of talks
- During the British rule, undivided Assam included present-day Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram.
- Meghalaya was carved out in 1972, its boundaries demarcated as per the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969, but has held a different interpretation of the border since

- In 2011, the Meghalaya government had identified 12 areas of difference with Assam, spread over approximately 2,700 sq km
- Both state governments identified six out of 12 disputed areas for resolution in the first phase: three areas contested between West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya and Kamrup in Assam, two between RiBhoi in Meghalaya and Kamrup-Metro, and one between East Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya and Cachar in Assam
- A final set of recommendations were made jointly: out of 36.79 sq km of disputed area taken up for settlement in the first phase, Assam would get full control of 18.46 sq km and Meghalaya of 18.33 sq km



GS II: International relations

TERROR-FUNDING

1. Context

The third ministerial **"No Money for Terror (NMFT)"** Conference was held on November 18 and 19.

2. Key points

- It was hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The NMFT started in 2018 as an initiative of the French government which had, in 1989, laid the foundation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the international body at the forefront of combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
- The issue of terror funding also came to the limelight due to increasing cases of it across the Indian States.

3. Terror Funding

- According to unodc.org:
It is sponsored money for initiating terrorist activities which are required for the following purpose:
 1. To recruit and support members
 2. To maintain logistics hubs
 3. To conduct operations
- Terrorist financing involves the solicitation, collection or provision of funds with the intention that they may be used to support terrorist acts or organisations.
- Funds may stem from both legal and illicit sources.

According to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, a person commits the crime of financing terrorism "if that person by any means, directly or indirectly, unlawfully and willfully, provides or collects funds with the intention that they should be used or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in full or in part, to carry out" an offence within the scope of the Convention.

- The primary goal of individuals or entities involved in the financing of terrorism is therefore not necessarily to conceal the sources of the money but to conceal both, the financing and the nature of the financed activity.

4. Sources of terror funding

According to Interpol. int:

- Sources of terrorist funding include, but are not limited to, low-level fraud, kidnapping for ransom, the misuse of non-profit organisations, the illicit trade in commodities (such as oil, charcoal, diamonds, gold and the narcotic "captagon") and digital currencies.

- Use of virtual assets and crowdfunding platforms by terrorist entities, their use of the dark web, the links between terror financing and legitimate economic activities and payment intermediaries.

5. The 2018 conference was hosted by France

- The conference agreed on "fully criminalising terrorism financing even in the absence of a link to a specific terrorist act" and "enhancing the traceability and transparency of financial flows" by developing frameworks to tackle the risks associated with the use of cash, informal remittance systems (including hawalas), prepaid cards, anonymous means of payments and by promoting digital transactions.
- It also raised a red flag on new financial instruments being misused and committed to "implement the FATF standards as they apply to crypto-assets", urging the FATF "to advance global implementation".
- Importantly, the conference discussed the "traceability and transparency of non-profit organisations (NPOs) and charitable funds", calling for urgent and effective "implementation of FATF standards relating to non-profit organisations" without disrupting civil society activities.
- It also reiterated the importance of effectively implementing UN sanctions, cooperation on intelligence sharing and capacity building of countries that did not fully adhere to FATF.

6. The 2019 conference was hosted by Australia

- The conference identified "**kidnapping for ransom**" and "**emerging technologies**" such as digital and cryptocurrencies, stored value cards, online payment systems and crowdfunding platforms as new channels through which terrorism may be financed.
- It recognised "**the critical role played by the private sector to detect and prevent misuse of financial systems by terrorists**" and flagged the need for monitoring of NPOs.

7. India's takeaways from previous conferences

- India has articulated its "**zero tolerance approach**" towards terrorism in these conferences and tried to attract attention to the cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.
- In the 2019 conference, India called for a "**united global effort against all those who support terror or help generate finances for terror**".
- India pointed out how terror groups are active on social media and that undermines any ban the United Nations (UN) might place.
- It called on nations to expedite the finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism under the UN and asked for FATF Standards to be effectively enforced.
- Given its experience of China blocking its push for sanctions against Pakistan-based terror groups and terrorists, it called for UN listings and FATF to not be politicised.

- It also asked the international community to initiate a discussion on "Countering Financing of Radicalisation (CFR), which would prevent radicalisation, an essential prerequisite of terrorism.

7.1 Priority issues

1. Preventing diversion from legal financial instruments by fighting anonymity in financial networks,
2. Restricting the use of proceeds of other crimes for terrorist activities,
3. Preventing the use of new financial technologies, virtual assets like cryptocurrencies, wallets etc, for terror activities,
4. Eliminate the use of illegal Channels, Cash Couriers and Hawala by Terror Networks
5. Prevent the use of Non-Profit Organisation, NPOs Sector to Spread Terror Ideology
6. Continuous capacity building of counter-terror and financial intelligence agencies of all countries.

7.2 India's 5 pillared strategies against the financing of terrorism

1. To establish a comprehensive monitoring framework involving cooperation, coordination and collaboration among all intelligence and investigative agencies.
2. The strategy of "**Trace, Target and Terminate**", is to be adopted from low-level economic offences to more organized economic crimes.
3. Strengthening and harmonizing the legal structures related to terror finance
4. Developing a robust mechanism against the misuse of Next Generation Technology
5. Strengthening the legal and regulatory framework for asset recovery.

8. International efforts

- To trace the history briefly, the international efforts to tackle the menace of terror financing began way back in 1989 when the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was formed as a means of bringing order and implementing standards to the monetary system in the world about terror finance and money laundering.
- However, it was the 2001 terrorist attacks that changed the way security agencies looked at terror financing.
- The UNSCR resolution 1267 in 1999 and UNSCR resolution 1373 in 2001 formed the bedrock of the financial sanctions regime for terrorist organisations and individuals.
- The Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works on the legal aspects of countering the financing of terrorism, including promoting the ratification of the relevant universal legal instruments, in particular, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999) and the implementation of these international standards.

8.1 Delhi Declaration of Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)

- It is the UN Security Council unanimously adopted on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.

- Among the listed items in the Declaration include the decision to continue to work on recommendations on the three themes of the Special Meeting and the intention to develop a set of non-binding guiding principles to assist Member States to counter the threat posed by the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.
- The declaration aims to cover the main concerns surrounding the abuse of drones, social media platforms, crowd-funding and creating guidelines that will help to tackle the growing issue.

8.2 The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

- It leads and coordinates an all-of-UN approach to prevent counter-terrorism and violent extremism.
- UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) under UNOCT, promotes international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and supports the Member States in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

8.3 Financial Action Task Force

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.
- The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.
- As a policy-making body, the FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.

8.3.1 Various lists under FATF

Grey List

Countries that are considered a haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put on the FATF grey list. Inclusion in this list means a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

Black List

- Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put on the blacklist.
- These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly.
- Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are under High-risk Jurisdiction or blacklist.

9. National Efforts

- National Investigation Agency (NIA): Federal agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India.

- Unlawful Activities Prevention Act: Anti-terror legislation that seeks to designate an individual as a "terrorist".
- National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID: It has been conceived to develop cutting-edge technology to enhance India's counter-terror capabilities.
- NATGRID is a seamless and secure database which provides information on terrorists, economic crimes etc.
- Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) and Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centres (SMAC): The mandate is to share terrorism-related intelligence inputs daily.
- NSG Hubs to ensure a rapid response to terrorist attacks and Coastal Security Scheme for maritime security.
- India has proposed a permanent secretariat to coordinate a bid to fight terror funding: The overall approach of "Beyond-Border Cooperation" is the basis for countering terror funding at the global level.
- India has sensed the need for permanency of this unique initiative of NMFT, to sustain the continued global focus on countering the financing of terrorism a proposal for a permanent Secretariat was made for focussing more on this contagious issue.

9.1 Further efforts in curbing terror financing

- India has borne the brunt of terrorism and has witnessed the serious loss of life and property in senseless explosions in large cities in the past few decades.
- The dastardly efforts to radicalise and mislead the youth create a schism in society.
- In this situation, India needs to take the lead in bolstering such efforts.
- The 90th Interpol General Assembly in New Delhi, followed by a special session of the UN Security Council's Counter in late October.
- In the third week of November, India hosted another global conference focused only on Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT).

10. The global flow of funds for nefarious purposes has three traditional channels:

1. Direct smuggling of cash through international borders.
 2. The use of hawala networks
 3. Banking networks including SWIFT and other international channels.
- Swift technological developments in the areas of blockchain or cryptocurrencies which transcend national boundaries and international currency systems have emerged as a new channel for financing terrorist and other illegal activities.
 - We are aware that terrorist organisations raise money through several sources like travel agencies, money changers, real estate, retail outlets, NGOs, charitable trusts and even from state sponsors.
 - Terrorists also derive funding from a variety of criminal activities ranging in scale and sophistication from low-level crime to organised fraud or narcotics smuggling or illegal activities in failed states and other safe havens.
 - Declassified files seized during the raid on Osama Bin Laden's Abbottabad hideout also revealed terror financing-related documents.

- The first step in identifying and forestalling the flow of funds to terrorists is to understand the funding requirements of modern terrorist groups.
- The costs associated not only with conducting terrorist attacks but also with developing and maintaining a terrorist organisation and its ideology are significant.
- Funds are required to promote a militant ideology, pay operatives and their families, arrange for their travel, train new members, forge documents, pay bribes, acquire weapons and stage attacks.
- Terrorists use a wide variety of methods to move money within and between organisations, including the financial sector, physical movement of cash by couriers and movement of goods through the trading system.
- Charities and alternative remittance systems have also been used to disguise the terrorist movement of funds.
- The adaptability and opportunism shown by terrorist organisations suggest that all methods that exist to move money around the globe are to some extent at risk.
- Only accurate and well-linked financial intelligence can reveal the structure of terrorist groups and also the activities of individual terrorists.
- Of late, such financial intelligence from the private sector has also given significant clues to foil terrorist acts.
- As the world shrinks with technological and communication changes, terrorists, criminals, weapons and funds are also able to move across national boundaries easily.
- International cooperation between law enforcement authorities in this area is a sine qua non for combating such cross-border challenges.

GS III: Environment & Ecology

GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD

1.Context

The Supreme Court asked if the project Great Indian Bustard could be launched on the line of "Project Tiger".

2.About Great Indian Bustard

Found-This bird is mainly found in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Great Indian Bustard historic range included much of the Indian subcontinent. But it has shrunk to just 10% of that. It is locally known as "Godawan"

3.Status

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) status – critically endangered.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)-Appendix 1

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)-Appendix 1

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972-Schedule 1

4.Habitat

Great Indian Bustard prefers grasslands.

Terrestrial birds spend most of their time on the ground, feeding on insects, lizards, grass, seeds, etc.

Flagship species-Great Indian Bustard is considered the flagship bird species of grassland and hence a barometer of the health of grasslands ecosystems.



5.Threats

- Power Transmission Lines –among the greatest threat to the Great Indian Bustard are overhead transmission lines.
- Due to their poor frontal vision, the birds cannot spot the power lines from a distance and are too heavy to change course when close. Thus they collide with the cables and die.
- Hunting

- Attack by feral dogs and wild pigs
- The natural habitat of Bustards is also an ideal space for setting up wind turbines and solar panels.
- Habitat loss due to widespread agriculture.
- According to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in Rajasthan, 18 GIBs die every year after colliding with power lines.

6. Steps Taken

The Supreme Court ordered all overhead power transmission lines in core and potential Great Indian Bustard habitats in Rajasthan and Gujarat be made underground.

The court sought reports from the chief secretaries of the two states in six weeks on the installation of bird diverters (reflector-like structures strung on power cables) in priority areas. SC asked them to assess the length of transmission lines that need to go underground.

The captive breeding programme of the Great Indian Bustard was spearheaded by the wildlife institute of India, Dehradun

GS III: Economy

GDP AND GVA

1. Context

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released India's economic growth data for the second quarter of the current financial year (2022-23 or FY 23).

The Second Quarter or Q2 refers to July, August and September.

2. Key Points

- India's gross domestic product or GDP grew by 6.3 per cent in Q2 on a year-on-year basis.
- In other words, it was 6.3 per cent more than the GDP in the same months in 2021.
- MoSPI also reported that India's Gross Value Added (or GVA) in Q2 grew by 5.6 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

3. GDP and GVA

- GDP and GVA are two main ways to ascertain the country's economic performance. Both are measures of national income.
- The GDP measures the monetary measure of all **"final" goods and services** that are bought by the final user produced in a country in a given period.

- The GDP does this by adding up the total expenditures in the economy; in other words, it looks at who spent how much. That is why GDP captures the total **"demand"** in the economy.

Broadly speaking there are four key **"engines of GDP growth"**. These are

1. All the money Indians spent on their private consumption (that is, Private Final Consumption Expenditure or PFCE).
 2. All the money the government spent on its current consumption, such as salaries (Government, Final Consumption Expenditure or GFCE).
 3. All the money is spent towards investments to boost the economy's productive capacity. This includes business firms investing in factories or the governments building roads and bridges (Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure).
 4. The net effect of exports (What foreigners spent on our goods) and imports (what Indians spent on foreign goods) (Net Exports or NE).
- The GVA calculates the same national income from the supply side.
 - It does so by adding up all the value added across different sectors.

According to the RBI, the GVA of a sector is defined as the value of output minus the value of its intermediary inputs. This **"value added"** is shared among the primary factors of production, labour and capital.

- By looking at GVA growth one can understand which sector of the economy is robust and which is struggling.

4. How are the two related?

- When looking at quarterly it is best to look at GVA data because this is the observed data.
- The GDP is derived by looking at the GVA data.

The GDP and GVA are related by the following equation; $GDP = (GVA) + (\text{Taxes earned by the Government}) - (\text{Subsidies provided by the government})$.

- As such, if the taxes earned by the government are more than the subsidies it provides, the GDP will be higher than GVA.
- Typically, that is how it is. For the second quarter too, the GDP (at 38, 16, 578 crores) is much higher than the GVA (Which is at Rs 35, 05, 5999 crores).
- The GDP data is more useful when looking at annual economic growth and when one wants to compare a country's economic growth with its past or with another country.

5. GVA data

5.1 Manufacturing sector

- It is a contraction in the manufacturing sector. In Q2, manufacturing GVA declined by 4.3 per cent.
- This is significant because manufacturing carries a huge potential for job creation and can soak up excess labour from the agriculture sector.
- The contraction has meant that manufacturing GVA has grown by just 6.3 per cent over the three years since the Covid pandemic; look at the change between FY23 and FY20 in the Chart.
- However, it would be a mistake to believe that only Covid and its after-effects are responsible for the lacklustre manufacturing performance.
- The fact is, as borne by the data, manufacturing GVA grew by just 10.6 per cent between FY 17 and FY20.
- For perspective, it is important to remember that between FY14 and FY17, manufacturing GVA grew by 31.3 per cent.
- In other words, Indian manufacturing has been struggling to add value for the past six years.
- This would explain why data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that jobs in the manufacturing sector halved between 2016 and 2020.

5.2 Trade and hotels

- Almost 15 per cent growth in services such as trade and hotels etc.
- This is also a huge sector for job creation. But again, if one looks at the Q2FY23 level and compares it to the pre-Covid level (Q2 of FY20), the growth is barely over 2 per cent.
- That this sector grew by over 26 per cent in the three years between FY17 and FY20 when India was experiencing a serious economic declaration shows how badly it has been affected by the Covid disruption.

5.3 Mining and quarrying

- Another sector crucial for job creation, even though it is smaller in terms of overall contribution to India's GVA, is mining and quarrying it, too, has contracted by almost 3 per cent.
- Looking back over the past six years, it has contracted by 3.5 per cent between FY17 and FY20 and grown by just 2.5 per cent since then.

5.4 Agriculture

- One positive story emerging from the GVA pertains to agriculture (along with forestry and fishing), which has done better than expected by growing at 4.6 per cent.
- Typically, this is a good growth rate for this sector and has happened despite some worries that the sowing of crops did not happen in time.
- Overall, while the GVA has grown by 5.6 per cent year-on-year, the growth is just 7.6 per cent when compared to the pre-Covid level set in FY20.

6. GDP data

6.1 Private Consumption Expenditure

- GDP is the biggest engine of growth in private consumption expenditure.
- It typically contributes over 55 per cent of India's total GDP.
- This component is also crucial because if this is depressed, it robs the business of any incentive to make fresh investments; and expenditures towards investments are the second biggest contributors to the GDP, accounting for around 33 per cent of the total.
- Data shows that private consumption has grown by a healthy 9.7 per cent over the past year.
- However, the growth is relatively modest just 11 per cent when compared over the last three years.
- That between FY 14 and FY17, this component grew by almost 28 per cent providing some perspective.

6.2 Investment expenditure

- The investment expenditures have grown by 10.4 per cent over FY21 and by almost 21 per cent between FY20 and FY23.
- This is the best growth over any three years going back to FY14.
- This suggests brighter prospects for the economy over the medium term.

6.3 Government final consumption expenditures

- The biggest surprise though from the GDP is the contraction in government final consumption expenditures.
- While these types of expenditures account for just about 10-11 per cent of the GDP, they can prop up an economy during tough times when people and businesses hold back spending.
- Oddly enough, data shows that not only did government consumption expenditure contract by 4.4 per cent in Q2 (Over the Q2 of 2021), but that it is almost 20 per cent below the pre-covid level.

6.4 Net Exports data

- The last component of the GDP equation is the Net Exports data.
- Typically, since India imports far more than it exports, the NX value is negative.
- In Q2, this negative value swelled by 89 per cent.
- Over the past three years, this drag on GDP has also increased in size by almost 150 per cent.

GS IV: Science & Technology

RANSOMWARE

1. Context

Recently, e-services at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) were crippled by what is suspected to be a ransomware attack. The Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations have registered a case and launched investigations to identify the perpetrators, while cyber security experts are employing software tools for data recovery.

2. Ransomware

- Ransomware is a kind of malware (software that damages functions or gains unauthorized access to a computer system).
- It is used to encrypt important documents or files within a system (Crypto ransomware) or simply lock the original user out of the system (Locker ransomware).
- The user is then asked for a ransom in return for decrypting the files. Once the ransom is paid within a stipulated period, then the system is either unlocked or the system's contents are deleted or the system is entirely corrupted.
- Unlike other cyber-attacks, in this form of attack, the user is notified of the attack.
- Ransomware spreads easily when it encounters unpatched or outdated software.

3. History

- The first ever recorded use of ransomware occurred as early as 1989 in the form of the AIDS Trojan.
- However, this method gained prominence only after the unleashing of the Wanna Cry Ransomware in 2017. This was a massive attack that affected more than 200,000 systems in some 150 countries and accounted for a loss of several million dollars.
- Since then, ransomware attacks have seen an upward trend in committing cybercrime.
- Many new, better, and customized ransomware are coming to the forefront. Those in the active stage include GandCrab and ZZZ.

4. Trends in Ransomware

- Initially, ransomware attacks followed a pattern akin to fire and forget, that is, it was used for small-scale extortion from individuals.
- Now, however, the pattern has shifted to more focused and targeted attacks for larger returns like targeting the organization's server.
- The effect is to turn entire organizations into victims rather than individual users, and the pay-off for the extra effort involved in performing this kind of attack is often huge.

5. Problems associated with a Ransomware attack

- Preliminary findings by cyber experts have indicated that at least five of the AIIMS servers that hosted data related to more than three crore patients were compromised.
- In India, several cases of ransomware attacks targeting commercial and critical infrastructure have been reported in the recent past.
- Spicejet faced such a threat in May, while Public Sector Undertaking Oil India was targeted on April 10.
- Cybersecurity firm Trellix, in its third-quarter global report, has identified 25 major ransomware in circulation. According to Interpol, first-ever Global Crime Trend Report presented at its 90th General Assembly meeting in Delhi this October, ransomware was the second-highest-ranking threat after money laundering, at 66%. It is also expected to increase the most (72%).

6. Current Provisions of Cyber-Security In India

- **The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** is the national nodal agency that collects, analyses, and circulates inputs on cyber-attacks; issues guidelines, and advisories for preventive measures, forecasts, and issues alerts; and takes measures to handle any significant cyber security event.
- **Indian National Security Council:** To shape the ecosystem related to Cyber Policy.
- **National Cyber Security Strategy:** To focus on security in the early stages of design in all digitization initiatives.
- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C):** To handle several issues regarding cybercrimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra:** To create a secure cyberspace by detecting botnet infections in India.

GS III: Science & Technology

MEASLES

1. Context:

- Mumbai has recorded over 303 cases of measles this year, with 14 deaths.
- A sharp spike was witnessed in October, around 250 cases have been reported in the last 2 months.
- This is a huge jump from the past few years-10 cases & 1 death in 2021; 29 cases & no death in 2020; 37 cases & 3 deaths in 2019.
- In October, Mumbai recorded only 41% vaccine coverage against measles.

2. Reasons:

- Most patients come from lower socio-economic backgrounds in Mumbai.

- Poverty, poor hygiene practices, poor quality of nutrition & lack of vaccination have all contributed to the spiralling cases.
- Most cases have been reported from Bhiwandi & Malegaon which lack vaccination coverage, especially among children.
- Some families did not immunise their children because of religious & cultural reasons.
- Many lives could have been saved if the children were vaccinated on time & in more significant numbers.

Children below the age of 5 are the most vulnerable, especially those below the age of two. Children who have not been vaccinated are at the greatest risk.

3. Vaccines:

- Studies have shown that vaccines don't guarantee 100% protection against the disease.
- If children are vaccinated & still contract the infection, the illness will be mild.
- Deadly complications like pneumonia, diarrhoea and further sepsis can be avoided with vaccine protection.
- Vaccination is considered the key strategy in limiting the spread of measles during outbreaks.
- At the individual level, administration of the vaccine within 72 hours of initial exposure may modify the clinical course of the illness & is generally recommended as a preventive tool.
- Studies have confirmed benefits from this intervention, with the effectiveness of post-exposure immunisation ranging between 91-100%, corroborating observations made in the pre-elimination era.
- Broad & early implementation of vaccination has been associated with shorter outbreak durations, smaller outbreak sizes, alterations in the epidemic curve, reduction in cases, lower-than-expected morbidity & mortality, and partial or complete avoidance of outbreaks in closed populations.

4. Producing Antibodies:

- Post-vaccination, it takes at least 4 weeks to develop antibodies.
- The best possible method of dealing with an outbreak is to vaccinate a large number of individuals.
- Antibodies are produced due to vaccination & when compared with unimmunised children, the ones who have received a vaccine will be at an advantage in fighting the infection.
- By vaccinating a large number of children, the outbreak will be controlled shortly.
- People were scared of taking their children to hospitals, clinics or healthcare centres for vaccines as they feared Covid-19 infection.

5. Symptoms:

- After exposure to the virus, the symptoms take 10 days to appear.

- Some initial signs include cough, cold, runny nose, sore throat, loss of appetite, high fever & body aches.
- After 5 days, rashes appear, which look like blotchy red marks.
- They usually start at the hairline or behind the ears of the child, then spread to other body parts, including the throat, limbs & joints rarely white dots are observed on the roof of the mouth.
- As measles is a symptomatic disease, complications can also rise, especially when the child is unvaccinated with low nutrition levels.
- Some common complications include red eyes, pneumonia, diarrhoea, ear infections, and encephalitis termed brain inflammation.
- In rare cases it can also lead to Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis (SSPE), a fatal disease of the central nervous system.
- SSPE develops 7-10 years after a child has had measles & recovered.
- The best way to prevent the above scenarios is to ensure that every child gets vaccinated against measles.

6. Prevention:

- The best way to prevent future surges is by generating awareness about the importance of vaccines.
- The measles vaccine must be provided to every child & there is a need to overcome any prejudice a community might have against it.
- It is entirely safe & prevents measles from becoming fatal in children.

Some measures that can be implemented immediately include the following:

- Looking out for infected children & treat them as early as possible.
- Make sure that all the children who missed the vaccines due to the lockdown & pandemic get vaccinated.
- Seek medical attention from specialised doctors or paediatricians immediately if children show any symptoms related to the disease.

7. Conclusion:

Wider use of control measures may also impact disease transmission at the community level by directly reducing the number of secondary measles cases & by increasing immunity to levels that can impede the spread.

GS I : Heritage & Culture

NALANDA

1. Background

- Old Pataliputra is an ancient city founded at the confluence of the Sone and Ganga rivers.

- Originally founded by the Magadhan ruler **Ajatshatru**, Pataliputra was what Delhi was to become more than a Millenium later-capital of a succession of dynasties which took pride in its fort, culture, language, law and order and even local self-government.
- The **Greek traveller Megasthenes** who came as an ambassador to the court of the Mauryas praised Pataliputra's local self-government and the sense of honesty among locals.
- His book **Indika** is all but lost, but it has been quoted by several historians.

2. A city of dynasties

- The early images of Pataliputra an important city during the time of the Magadhan rulers, which then became **the capital of the Nandas and later the Mauryas, the Guptas and the Palas.**
- **Chandragupta Maurya was born here, and Asoka ruled from here, as did Chandragupta I, II and Samudragupta.**
- Much later, it was a place of prime importance for Aurangzeb who briefly named it Azimabad after his grandson Mohammed Azim.
- With such pedigree, Pataliputra could as well have been the capital of Modern India.
- After all, in the 16th century, its fortunes were revived under the Afghan King Sher Shah Suri when the city came to be christened Patna.
- Almost 500 years later, the city is still called by that name and has in its way inspired historians, non-fiction writers and novelists to trace the vicissitudes on its timeline.
- Yet, its story is best related by a succession of foreign travellers in ancient and medieval India, each of whom found something amazing about the city which grew out of a village called Pataligram.



The Nalanda University ruins. GETTY IMAGES

3. Travellers

If the account by **Megasthenes in Indika** wherein he is said to have written that people in Pataliputra left their doors and gates unlocked can instantly be recalled by students of history, then those of **Fa-Hien and Hiuen Tsang in the 4th and 7th centuries** respectively, draw a picture of Pataliputra as being one among the very best cities in the world.

- There was political power and the attendant pelf but uniquely, there was an element of culture, a literary magnet that drew many.
- The universally respected Nalanda University was but a few kilometres from it.

3.1 Monk Hiuen Tsang and Fa-Hien

- Famous Chinese **monk Hiuen Tsang** spent six years here.
- His account is probably the best memory of the rule of **Harsha Vardhan** in the first half of the 7th century.
- Before Hiuen Tsang, there was Fa-Hien, another Chinese traveller who graced the city in the fourth century.
- Fa-Hien wrote about it in A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms wherein he called Patna, "**the City of flowers**" or as a well-respected author.
- Amitava Kumar wrote in his engaging book, **A Matter of Rats (Aleph)**, "**It is the Indian Florence**".

3.2 Sher Shah Suri

- A few centuries later came the Afghan ruler Sher Shah Suri, originally called Farid Khan.
- He is said to have been a brave man who killed a tiger with his bare hands.
- This named, Shar Shah, built a fort in Patna and Mosque.
- The fort has crumbled and the mosque reminds us of the times that were.
- Talking of times, Patna did not always enjoy the best of moments in history. or at least some travellers didn't.

3.3 Ralph Fitch and Francis Buchanan

- While British traveller Ralph Fitch came to Patna in 1586 and described it as "**a very long and great Town with a flourishing trade in cotton, sugar and opium**".
- Scottish physician Francis Buchanan described it in an unflattering expression, "**difficult to imagine a more disgusting place**".

GS I: World Geography

FUJIWHARA EFFECT

1. Context

The world is seeing a rise in cyclonic formations and in cases of cyclones merging to form mega cyclones, due to the warming of oceans.

The Fujiwhara effect was identified by Sakuhei Fujiwhara, a Japanese meteorologist whose first paper recognizing the Fujiwhara cases was published in 1921. The first known instance of the effect was in 1964 in the western Pacific Ocean when typhoons Marie and Kathy merged.

3. About Fujiwhara Effect

When two ocean storms form in the same region, their wind circulations start meeting each other at the mid and higher levels. This meeting of winds makes a bond between the two storms like a connecting limb through which they start influencing each other

The Fujiwhara Effect is any interaction between tropical storms formed around the same time in the same ocean region with their centres or eyes at a distance of less than 1,400 km, with an intensity that could vary between a depression (wind speed under 63 km per hour) and a super typhoon (wind speed over 209 km per hour).

The interaction could lead to changes in the track and intensity of either or both storm systems. In rare cases, the two systems could merge, especially when they are of similar size and intensity, to form a bigger storm.

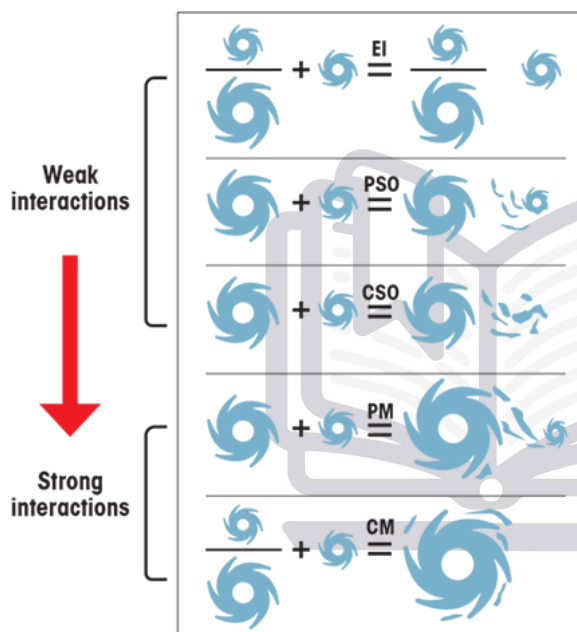
There are five different ways in which Fujiwhara Effect can take place

1. The first is elastic interaction in which only the direction of motion of the storms changes and is the most common case. These are also the cases that are difficult to assess and need closer examination.
2. The second is partial straining out in which a part of the smaller storm is lost to the atmosphere.
3. The third is complete straining out in which the smaller storm is completely lost to the atmosphere. The straining out does not happen for storms of equal strength.
4. The fourth type is a partial merger in which the smaller storm merges into the bigger one and the fifth is a complete merger which takes place between two storms of similar strength.

During a merger interaction between two tropical cyclones, the wind circulations come together and form a sort of whirlpool of winds in the atmosphere.

4. Megacyclones

- In an increasingly warming world, a dance and merger between two large enough tropical cyclones over any of the global oceans could lead to the formation of a mega cyclone, causing devastation along coastlines.
- The Fujiwhara Effect is any interaction between tropical storms formed around the same time in the same ocean region with their centres or eyes at a distance of less than 1,400 km, with the intensity that could vary between a depression (wind speed under 63 km per hour) and a super typhoon (wind speed over 209 km per hour).
- The interaction could lead to changes in the track and intensity of either or both storm systems. In rare cases, the two systems could merge, especially when they are of similar size and intensity, to form a bigger storm.



Elastic Interaction (EI): Interaction of vortices (storms) of same or different sizes, resulting in changes only in the direction of motion. This is the most commonly seen interaction

Partial Straining-Out (PSO): Interaction of vortices of unequal sizes. Part of the smaller vortex lost to the atmosphere.

Complete Straining-Out (CSO): Interaction of vortices of unequal sizes. The smaller vortex completely lost to the atmosphere

Partial Merger (PM): Interaction of vortices of unequal sizes Part of the smaller vortex merged to the bigger vortex

Complete Merger (CM): Interaction of vortices of same or different sizes, resulting in complete merger of both the storms



6. Formation of Cyclones

Hurricanes, cyclones, or typhoons are names of huge swirling wind circulations that form over warm ocean waters and are named depending on where they form. They are fuelled by heat, wind, and moisture and under the right conditions can gain significant strength and size. The big ones can have diameters of more than 1,000 km and wind speeds above 250 km per hour.

7. Fujiwhara Effects

- Super typhoon Hinnamnor, the strongest tropical cyclone of the year, was hurtling towards Taiwan from the western Pacific Ocean.
- Another tropical storm called Gardo was moving towards Hinnamnor from its southeast.
- As the two approached each other, they started a dance around the central line between them, showcasing a textbook example of what is known as the Fujiwhara Effect.
- After the dance, which lasted over a day, Hinnamnor devoured Gardo and eventually made landfall in South Korea, drowning seven people on September 7.
- Another Megacyclone, two hurricanes, Danielle and Earl, formed one after the other in the North Atlantic Ocean, sparking fears of the Fujiwhara Effect
- Another hurricane Kay also brewed in the eastern Pacific Ocean. In 2020 hurricanes Marco and Laura had formed back to back in the small region of the Gulf of Mexico and created a possibility of the Fujiwhara Effect

8. Fujiwhara Effect On Rise

- Just between 2013 and 2017, there were 10 cases of the Fujiwhara Effect, mostly weak interactions, in the northwest Pacific Ocean.
- Of these, seven involved super typhoons which are tropical cyclones with wind speovers of 209 km per hour.
- As the oceans get warmer and they're inseverable of stronger cyclones the possibility of the Fujiwhara Effect would increase drastically like it already has.
- There has been a 35 per cent increase in the strength of typhoons that hit Taiwan between 1977 and 2016.
- This happened due to a 0.4 to 0.7°C rise in the sea surface temperature during these 40 years in the northwest Pacific. It shows how global warming is responsible for making cyclones stronger, and thus increasing the chances of the Fujiwhara Effect

10. Consequence Of the Fujiwhara Effect

- The occurrence of the Fujiwhara Effect makes cyclones more unpredictable due to their rapid intensification, carrying of more rain, and newer ways of moving over warming oceans.
- This is because each of the interactions between the two storm systems is unique and very difficult to capture with current climate models.
- In the case of typhoons Parma and Melor in 2009, it became extremely difficult for forecasters to track the movement or intensity of either of the storms, especially Parma, and provide people with an early warning because of the Fujiwhara interaction between the two storms.
- This resulted in large-scale devastation in the Philippines due to the weaker typhoon Parma gaining strength, changing track, and remaining stagnant over the Luzon region because of its interaction with the stronger typhoon Melor.
- The typhoon took multiple U-turns and made three landfalls over the Luzon region.

- In April 2021, a similar event happened in the Indian Ocean, when cyclone Seroja interacted with cyclone Odette just off the coast of Western Australia gaining strength and moving in uncharted ways
- Seroja had already caused flooding and landslides in Indonesia before moving toward Australia. After the interaction, Seroja maintained its intensity and caused per cent to 70 percent of buildings in the small resort town of Kalbarri in Australia.
- Seroja became a unique storm because the northwestern coast of Australia is prone to cyclones while the southwestern part hit by the cyclone does not get much storm activity.

GS I: Modern Indian History

LACHIT BORPUKAN

1. Why in news?

A three-day celebration of the 400th birth anniversary of the legendary Assamese general and folk hero Lachit Borphukan began in New Delhi on November 23.

The ceremony will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju among others.



2. History of the Ahom kingdom

- The Ahom kings ruled large parts of what is now known as Assam for nearly 600 years, from the early 13th century to the early 19th century.

- This was a prosperous, multi-ethnic kingdom which spread across the upper and lower reaches of the Brahmaputra valley, surviving on rice cultivation in its fertile lands.
- The Ahoms engaged in a series of conflicts with the Mughals from 1615-1682, starting from the reign of Jahangir till the reign of Aurangzeb.
- One of the major early military conflicts was in January 1662, where the Mughals won a partial victory, conquering parts of Assam and briefly occupying Garhgaon, the Ahom capital.
- After the Ahoms enjoyed some initial victories, Aurangzeb dispatched Raja Ram Singh I of Jaipur in 1669 to recapture the lost territory, eventually resulting in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671

3.Lachit borpukan

- Lachit was a brilliant military commander who knew the terrain of the Brahmaputra valley and the surrounding hills like the back of his hand.
- He was chosen as one of the five Borphukans of the Ahom kingdom by king Charadhwaj Singha, and given administrative, judicial, and military responsibilities.
- Unlike the Mughals who preferred battles in the open with their massive armies, Borphukan preferred guerrilla tactics which provided an edge to his smaller, but fast moving and capable forces
- Much like Shivaji's encounters with the Mughals in Marathwada, Lachit inflicted damage on the large Mughal camps and static positions. His raids would kill unsuspecting Mughal soldiers and frustrate the mighty armies that were too ponderous to respond swiftly.
- When the monsoon set in, Mughal plans were complicated further. However, as the Mughals were able to successfully camp around the foothills of Alaboi, the Ahom king ordered Borphukan to carry out a frontal assault which led to the deaths of nearly 10,000 Ahom warriors and ended in a weary Mughal victory in 1669.
- As the Mughals attempted to progress through the valley, they realised that travelling by the river would be faster.
- Lachit, who was a great naval warrior and strategist, created an intricate web of improvised and surprise pincer attacks.
- The Ahom forces combined a frontal attack with a surprise attack from behind. They lured the Mughal fleet into moving ahead by feigning an attack with a few ships from the front.
- The Mughals vacated the waters behind them, from where the main Ahom fleet attacked and achieved a decisive victory.
- Lachit Borphukan died a year after the Battle of Saraighat from a long festering illness. In fact, he was very ill during the Battle of Saraighat, as he heroically led his troops to victory. This only added to his legend

Every culture and community has its heroes. Over time, Lachit Borphukan's exploits have become a symbol of resistance against outsiders against all odds. He has become one of the

greatest of Assamese heroes, symbolising the valour, courage, and intelligence that defines the Assamese self-identity.

Mains Corner

- 1. What have been India's priority issues and strategies against financing terrorism? (250 Words)**
- 2. What is Fujiwhara Effect? What causes it and what are its consequences?**
- 3. Had it not been for Veer Lachit Barphukan, the Northeast would not have been a part of India. Do you agree?**
- 4. Progress in settling border disputes, removal of AFSPA herald positive changes in the region. Comment**
- 5. Travellers played a key role in preserving history through their writings during ancient and medieval history. comment (250 Words)**

