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MK Yadav Sir

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DUMPING AND ANTI-DUMPING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Govt now selective in levying dumping duty

Finmin Rejects 57% Of Recos In 3 Years, Most Cases Deal With Cheap Imports From China

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: For long, India was counted to be the top user of anti-dumping duty and often came under attack at the World Trade Organization (WTO). But for the last three years, the government has been very selective in imposing the duty even after the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) investigations have established that the goods were being "dumped" into India.

By its very definition, dumping is established when the price in the importing country is lower than the origin and causes or threatens to cause injury to the domestic industry. Between 1991 and August 2020, DGTR, a quasi-judicial body, had recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty in 1,039 cases and it was accepted into all but seven cases, resulting in a rejection rate of 0.7%, data compiled by Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research showed.

But post-Covid, just when the government launched the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign, this seems to have taken a drastic turn, with the finance ministry rejecting a significant chunk of the recommendations. Since August 2020, DGTR's "success rate" has dropped to 43% as only 61 of its 141 recommendations have been accepted, according to data accessed by **TOI**.

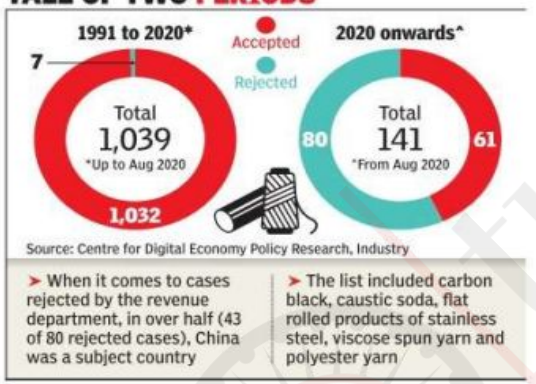
As has traditionally been the case, goods from China have been the biggest target of anti-dumping action. When it comes to the cases rejected by the revenue department, in over half — 43 of the 80 rejected cases — China was a subject country. The list included carbon black, caustic soda, flat rolled products of stainless steel, viscose spun yarn and polyester yarn.

There were 23 cases — 29% share of the rejected cases — where China was the sole country whose producers were dumping goods into India, including tyre, amoxycillin, melamine and nylon tyre cord fabric, among others.

So, why is the revenue department rejecting cases concerning Chinese producers, who are shipping goods that are causing damage to Indian industry, when one of the key themes is to prevent Indian industry from cheap imports from across the border?

The official argument is that dumping duty, where the main focus is on intermediaries and raw material, pushes up the cost of the finished product and the finance ministry and Niti Aayog do not support the action across the board. Industry players, however, point out that in a large number of cases dumping will eventually wipe out domestic players.

TALE OF TWO PERIODS



Source: Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research, Industry

- When it comes to cases rejected by the revenue department, in over half (43 of 80 rejected cases), China was a subject country
- The list included carbon black, caustic soda, flat rolled products of stainless steel, viscose spun yarn and polyester yarn

Context: For long, India was counted to be the top user of **anti-dumping duty** and often came under attack at the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.

- But for the last three years, the government has been very selective in imposing the duty even after the **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)** investigations have established that the goods were being "dumped" into India.

Dumping

- When the goods are **exported by a country to a foreign country** at a price lower than the price it charges in its own home market is called dumping.
- Under **World Trade Organization (WTO) rules**, dumping is illegal only if the foreign country can reliably show the negative effects the exporting firm has caused its domestic producers.
- In order to **protect domestic producers** from dumping, countries use tariffs and quotas.

Anti-dumping

- It is a **protectionist tariff,** imposed by a domestic government on foreign imports that are at a price lower than the price it normally charges in its own home market.
- **Anti-dumping duty** is imposed as a remedy to the distortive trade which arises due to the dumping of goods.
- This tool of fair competition is **permitted by the WTO.**

PMFBY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

Govt says crop insurance claims worth ₹2,761 crore pending

BLOOMBERG



New Delhi: Crop insurance claims worth around ₹2,761.10 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) were pending till 2021-22, with most pendency of claims in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat, Parliament was told on Tuesday. Admissible claims under the PMFBY are generally paid by the concerned insurance company within two months of completion of harvesting period and one month of notification. PTI



Context: Crop insurance claims worth around Rs 2,761.10 crore under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** were pending till 2021-22, with maximum pendency of claims in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

- The admissible claims under the PMFBY are generally paid by the concerned insurance companies **within two months of completion of harvesting period** and one month of notification for invoking the risks of prevented sowing, mid-season adversity and post harvest losses.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- It was **launched on 18th February 2016** by Prime Minister.
- It provides a c**omprehensive insurance cover** against failure of the crop thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers.
- The Scheme **covers all Food & Oilseeds crops and Annual Commercial/Horticultural Crops** for which past yield data is available and for which requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) are conducted being under General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES).
- Farmers including **sharecroppers and tenant farmers** growing notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.
- The scheme is implemented by **empanelled general insurance companies.**
- **Selection of Implementing Agency (IA)** is done by the concerned State Government through bidding.
- The scheme is being administered by **Ministry of Agriculture.**

RIGHT TO REFERENDUM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity)

In Constitutional Democracy, There is No Question of Referendum: SC

Raghav.Ohri@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that in a "constitutional democracy" like ours, the will of the people is represented through "established institutions". And that there is "no question of a referendum".

Speaking for the five member Constitution Bench, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud verbally observed that one "cannot envisage a Brexit-type referendum..which was a political decision".

The remark came in response to a contention raised by the petitioners challenging the abrogation of Article 370. Representing one of the petitioners, senior advocate Kapil Sibal argued that "the will of the people of Jammu & Kashmir was not taken" before abrogation of Article 370. Sibal argued that the will of people of Jammu and Kashmir was "decimated" by a Central Act.

In response to this, the CJI verbally remarked that "in a constitutional democracy like ours, the will of the people has to be through established institutions". The CJI added that a situation like Brexit cannot be envisaged since it was a political decision (by the then British government).

The Bench questioned the counsel as to whether Article 370, after the dissolution of constituent assembly, can become "unamendable". The CJI orally remarked that the "temporary nature" of Article 370 remained because the view of the Constituent Assembly was not yet taken on board.

Sibal went on to argue that Article 356 was "misused" by the Central government in violation of "constitutional morality and federalism". Calling it an "excessive use of power" Sibal contended that the then Governor of J&K had "no power to dissolve the Cabinet" since it was done without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

The senior lawyer went on to argue that the then Governor primarily "delegated" the power to the Centre. "What the primary institution cannot do the delegate cannot do", Sibal added.

He also referred to the remark made by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) and MP Ranjan Gogoi about the "basic structure of Constitution". The Rajya Sabha MP on Monday had said that the basic structure of the Constitution is "debatable".



One cannot envisage a Brexit-type referendum. It was a political decision by the British govt: SC

Sibal remarked that "now one of your esteemed colleagues" have said that the basic structure of the Constitution is also doubtful. In response, the CJI verbally remarked that any reference to a "colleague" needs to be a "sitting colleague". The CJI added "Once they cease to be Judges" remarks made by them are "opinions, not binding diktats".

Agreeing that a comment by a retired Judge cannot be a "binding", Sibal said that he was "surprised" to hear Gogoi's remark. Concluding his arguments, Sibal said "this is a historic moment, not only for the present but for the future of India".

The Constitution Bench will resume the hearing on Wednesday when senior advocate Gopal Subramanium will commence his arguments against abrogation of Article 370.

Context: There is no question of a Brexit-like **referendum** on the scrapping of **Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir,** the Supreme Court said, as it grappled with the question whether it was constitutionally legal.

- The remark by the **five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice** came in response to senior advocate's argument that the scrapping of Article 370 - which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir - was a political act like Brexit, where the opinion of British citizens was sought through a referendum.

Right to referendum

- It is a **form of direct democracy** in which citizens are allowed to vote on a specific issue or question, typically proposed by a government or other official body.
- In 1905, **Norway became the first country** to hold a national referendum on a constitutional issue, and other countries soon followed suit.
- There is **no provision for a referendum** in the Indian Constitution.
- As a result, the referendum is **neither unlawful nor forbidden in India**.
- Referendums have been **used in India in the past.**
- **Sikkim conducted a referendum** to remove the monarchy on April 14, 1975. With 97.55 percent of the vote, the state was declared an Indian state.
- The **Goa Opinion Poll**, held on January 16, 1967, in the Indian state of Goa, determined the future of the Union Territory of Goa, Daman, and Diu within the Indian Union.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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Irregularities: CAG reports 7.5 lakh recipients linked to single number

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

HIGHLIGHTING IRREGULARITIES in registration and validation of beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat- Prime Minister Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY), the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has revealed that nearly 7.5 lakh beneficiaries were linked with a single cellphone number — 9999999999.

In its audit report on Performance Audit of Ayushman Bharat — PMJAY, tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday, the CAG said that overall, 7,49,820 beneficiaries were linked with a single mobile number in the Beneficiary Identification System (BIS) of the scheme.

"Data analysis of the BIS database revealed that there were large numbers of beneficiaries registered against the same or invalid mobile number. Overall, 1119 to 7,49,820 beneficiaries were linked with a single mobile number in the BIS database...," the report states.

Besides 7,49,820 beneficiaries linked with 9999999999, 1,39,300 beneficiaries were linked to the phone number 8888888888; and 96,046 others linked to the number 9000000000. There were also at least 20 cellphone numbers to which between 10,001 and 50,000 beneficiaries were linked, as per the report.

The report stated that 7.87 crore beneficiary households were registered, constituting 73% of the targeted households of 10.74 crore (November 2022). Later, the government increased the target to 12 crore.

The report noted, "Mobile numbers are significant for searching records related to any beneficiary in the database, who may approach the registration desk without the ID. In case of loss of e-card, identification of the beneficiary may also become difficult. This may result in denial of scheme benefits to eligible beneficiaries as well as denial of pre- and post-admission communication causing inconvenience to them."

"The NHA [National Health Authority], while agreeing with audit observation, stated (August 2022) that with the deployment of BIS 2.0, this issue shall be resolved," the CAG reported. "Further, the BIS 2.0 system has been configured so that more than a certain number of families cannot use the same mobile number. This shall arrest the prevalence of entering 'random numbers' which constitute the overwhelming cases of mobile number inconsistency."

According to the report, "Beneficiary Empowerment Guidebook provides that for communication with the beneficiary from admission in hospital to post-discharge feedback, contact number will be used."

"Guidelines on disabling a BIS e-card provides that the SHA shall send SMS intimation to the contact number provided at the time of card creation informing the beneficiary to check their eligibility. Data analysis of the BIS database revealed that there were large numbers of beneficiaries registered against the same or invalid mobile number," it states.

The report has also pointed out unrealistic household size for registered beneficiaries under PMJAY. "Data analysis revealed that in 43,197 households, the size of the family was unrealistic, ranging from 11 to 201 members..." the report noted. "Presence of such unrealistic members in a household in the BIS database indicates not only lack of essential validation controls in the beneficiary registration process, but also the possibility that beneficiaries are taking advantage..."

According to the report, many pensioners in Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu were found possessing PMJAY cards and availing treatment under the scheme.

CAG REPORT ON PMJAY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

Context: The database of India's Public Health Assurance Scheme, **Pradhan Mantri Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY),** the world's largest, has revealed several errors. This has come to light in the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report.**

Key Points

- The report states that crores of rupees were spent on **ineligible beneficiaries** due to these discrepancies.
- This amount has been spent on ineligible beneficiaries mainly **due to insufficient verification.**
- According to reports, **Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka,** Many pensioners in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu were found to have **PMJAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) cards** and were receiving treatment under the scheme.
- Highlighting irregularities in the registration and verification of beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat- **Pradhan Mantri Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India has revealed that nearly 7.5 lakh beneficiaries were linked through a single cell phone number 9999 99999.
- In its audit report on **Ayushman Bharat - PMJAY**, tabled in the Lok Sabha, the CAG said that 7,49,820 beneficiaries of the scheme were linked to a single mobile number.
- **Errors in the database of Ayushman Bharat,** Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana included invalid names, wrong dates of birth, duplicate health IDs and unrealistic number of family members.

PIB August 9

NNMC BILL 2023

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

Parliament Passes National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) Bill, 2023 for Comprehensive Reforms in Nursing Sector

Context: The Parliament has passed the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) Bill, 2023.**

- The Act will replace the existing Indian Nursing Council with a **modern regulatory structure,** marking a significant legislative reform in the sector.
- The **NNMC Act, 2023,** will introduce several crucial provisions to elevate the standards of nursing education and services, enhance professional conduct, and ensure greater transparency and accountability.

Key highlights of the proposed Act

- **Establishment of National and State Commissions**: Under the NNMC Act, a **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission** and Autonomous Boards at the National level will be established.
- **Tenure and Accountability**: One of the pivotal reforms introduced by the Act will be the provision of **fixed tenures for members and the chairperson of the Commission**, eliminating reappointment and preventing vested interests.
- **Uniform Admission Process and Competence**: The National Commission will implement a **standardized admission** process to ensure consistency across nursing education.
- **Embracing Innovation and Collaboration**: The NNMC Act will encourage the use of **cutting-edge technology** and innovation in nursing education.
- **Development of Soft Skills and Specialized Courses**: The Act will emphasize on the **development of soft skills** among registered professionals and recognizes specialized courses and certification programs in nursing and midwifery.
- **Global Mobility and Expertise**: The NNMC Act will seek to **facilitate global mobility and employability** of Indian nurses by inviting foreign experts and domain specialists to participate in the National Commission meetings.
- **National Advisory Council and Coordination:** The Act will provide for the formation of a **National Advisory Council** to ensure balanced representation from all states and Union Territories.

PIB

August 9

INDIA-VIETNAM JTSC

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - IR)

5th India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission meeting in New Delhi

Context: The **5th meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission (JTSC)** was held in New Delhi.

- This meeting was held after a gap of more than four years since **4th JTSC meeting held in January 2019**, on account of COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.

Key Points

- Both sides **reviewed the progress on bilateral trade and economic cooperation** and discussed ways to unlock the vast untapped potential in bilateral trade to enable the business communities from the two sides to benefit from the partnership of two of the fastest growing economies.
- The Indian side also suggested **Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on professional services,** internationalization of RuPay card, QR based payment system, and domestic currency trade settlement.
- Vietnam is the **23rd largest global trade partner of India** and the 5th largest among ASEAN countries with bilateral trade of USD 14.70 Bn during 2022-23.
- Vietnam accounts for **11.2% of India's total trade** with ASEAN.
- Vietnam is an **important destination** for India's iron & steel and agricultural and animal products mainly meat products, animal fodder, cereals and marine products.

DST

August 9

INNOVATION YATRA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Innovation Yatra at four different locations of the country spanning 14 states will sensitize common people about innovations

Context: A 11-day **innovation yatra** spanning across 14 States and UTs - Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh (UT), Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir (UT), Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, will **sensitize common people about innovations,** especially the grassroots innovations and student creativity based innovations by illustrating and demonstrating such technologies and disseminating information about a lot more.

Key Points

- The innovation yatra is being **organised by the National Innovation Foundation - India (NIF),** an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India in different parts of the country in association with the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India from 5th August 2023 to 15th August 2023 to celebrate atmanirbharta under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava, through Rural Innovations of the country.
- Through the yatra, it is envisaged that **important socio-economic pillars of the country** like rural employment generation, drudgery reduction, problem-solving, sustainability, and atmanirbharta will get a huge impetus.
- In addition, **technological ideas and innovations** will also get mobilized from the rural population of the country and it will strengthen the supply side of technologies for the nation.
- Some of the eligible amongst them may be **taken up by NIF for further incubation.**
- This yatra also **provides an excellent platform to disseminate region-specific literature on sustainable practices for agriculture** and also to facilitate the diffusion of grassroots innovations through line departments, grassroots-level functionaries, and district administration, among others.

DST

August 9

AIWGST-14

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

ASEAN-India Working Group on S&T discuss promoting STI partnership to touch the lives of its citizens

Context: The **14th meeting of ASEAN-India Working Group on Science and Technology (AIWGST-14)** discussed joint cooperation initiatives and cooperation mechanism between ASEAN and India.

Key Points

- The **Meeting of The Governing Council of ASEAN-INDIA Science and Technology Development Fund (GC-AISTDF-8)** highlighted the importance of India's ASEAN technology partnership for prosperity of today and for the next generations.
- The **India ASEAN Science and Technology** partnership encompasses all aspects of Research and Innovation, essential for both nations to achieve new heights together.
- Through the **ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF)** and the Plans of Action for Peace, Progress, and Shared Prosperity, the collaboration extends to various areas like blue economy, healthcare, climate action, and sustainable development.
- The aim is to **leverage science and technology** to bridge disparities between urban and rural areas, with a specific focus on developing affordable technologies.

AIWGST

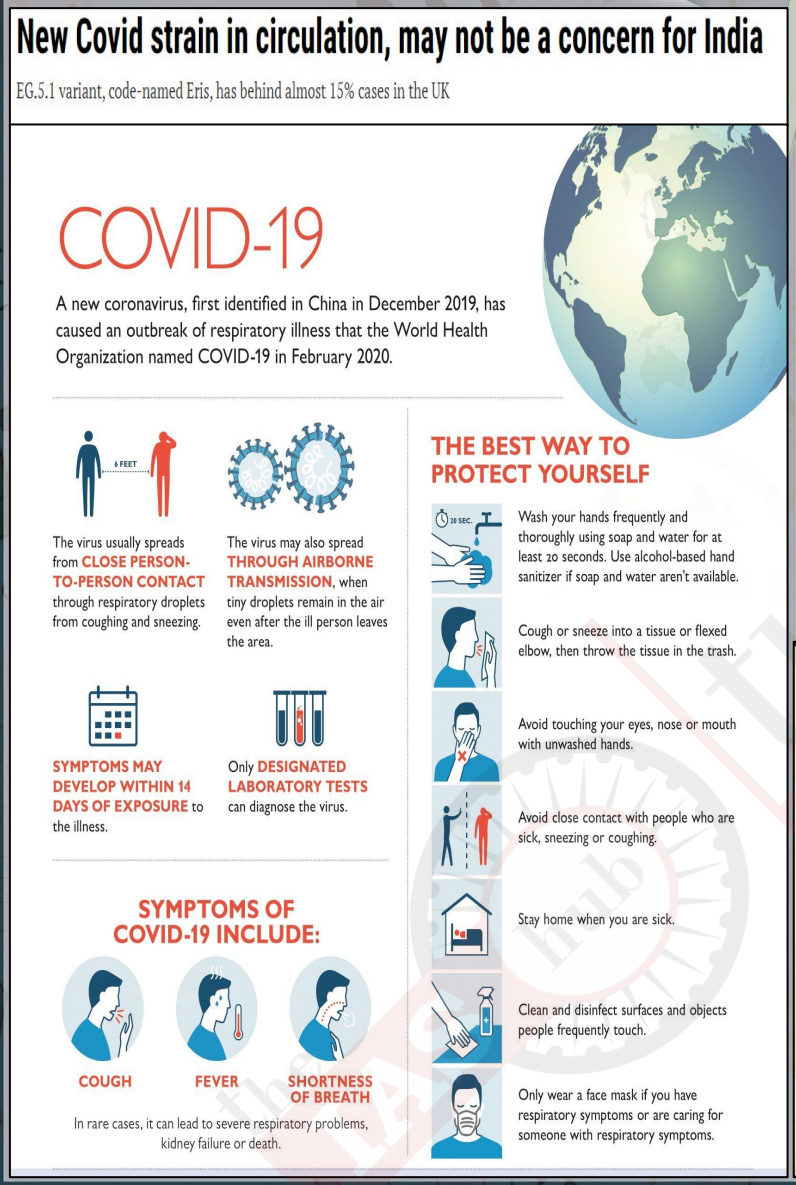
- ASEAN-India Science & Technology Collaboration formally **started in 1996** with establishment of **ASEAN India S&T working group (AIWGST).**
- Initially, the collaborative S&T projects and activities between India and ASEAN were supported through **ASEAN India Fund (AIF)** but in 2008, a **dedicated ASEAN India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF)** with an equivalent amount of 1 million US $ was established jointly by MEA and DST to support R&D projects and associated project development activities. The AISTDF was enhanced to an equivalent amount of 5 Million US$ through an announcement by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on sidelines of ASEAN-India Summit in Malaysia in November 2015.
- The **ASEAN-India Innovation Platform** is the major element of enhanced AISTDF.
- **Several projects and scientific activities have been supported and implemented under ASEAN India S&T program which includes:**
    - ASEAN-India Collaborative R&D on Thermally Sprayed Ceramic-Based Coatings.
    - R&D project on Extent of Transfer of Alien Invasive Organisms (Nuisance) in South/SE Asia Region by Shipping.
    - Training Course on Analysis of Chemicals and Biological Contaminants in Raw and Processed Products for ASEAN Countries.

DTE

August 9

EG.5.1 VARIANT

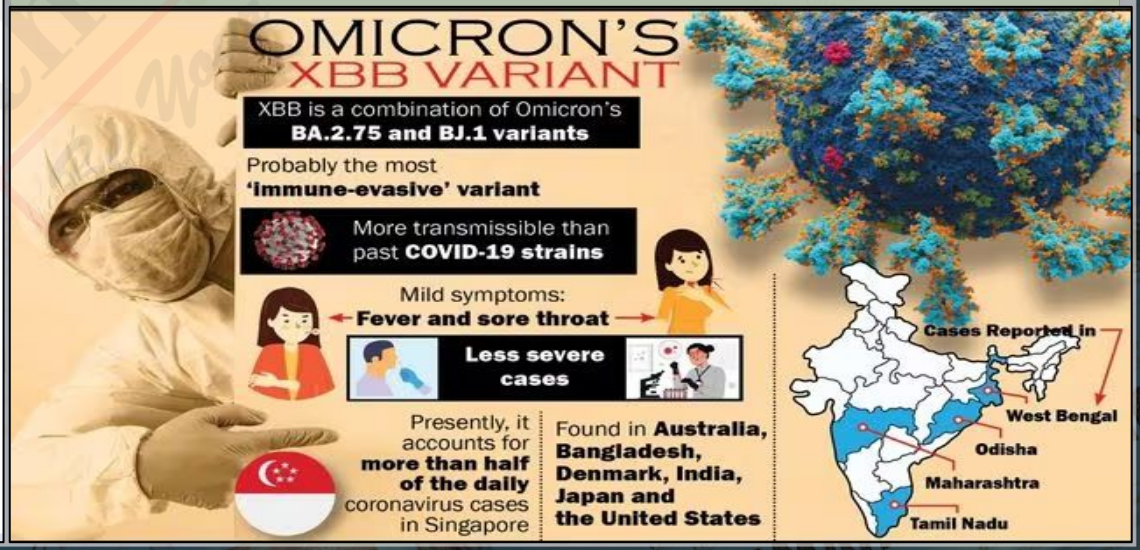
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)



Context: A new strain of the **novel coronavirus (COVID-19)** was identified in the United Kingdom last month.

Key Points

- The **EG.5.1 variant, code-named Eris,** accounts for 14.6 percent of all cases in the country.
- However, the **strain** may not be a concern for India.
- While it is currently not clear whether any **EG.5.1 variants** have been reported in India, New Delhi-based public health specialist said there is **no concern due to the nature of the virus** and the country's past exposure.
- As a **strain of Omicron,** the variant symptoms include runny nose, headache, fatigue, sneezing and a sore throat.



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SPRATLY ISLANDS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

China seeks removal of Philippines vessel

The *BRP Sierra Madre* was grounded in 1999 to check the advance of China in the contested waters

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China renewed calls on Tuesday for the Philippines to remove an ageing ship from a reef that Manila uses to press its stake in the Spratly Islands in defiance of Beijing's claim to nearly the entire South China Sea.

The *BRP Sierra Madre* – deliberately grounded in 1999 in an effort to check the advance of China in the hotly contested waters – has long been a flashpoint between Manila and Beijing. The handful of Philippine marines deployed on the crumbling vessel depend upon resupply missions to survive their remote posting.

The Philippine military and coast guard accused the China Coast Guard of breaking international law by blocking and firing water cannon at the resupply mission, preventing one of the charter boats from reaching the shoal.

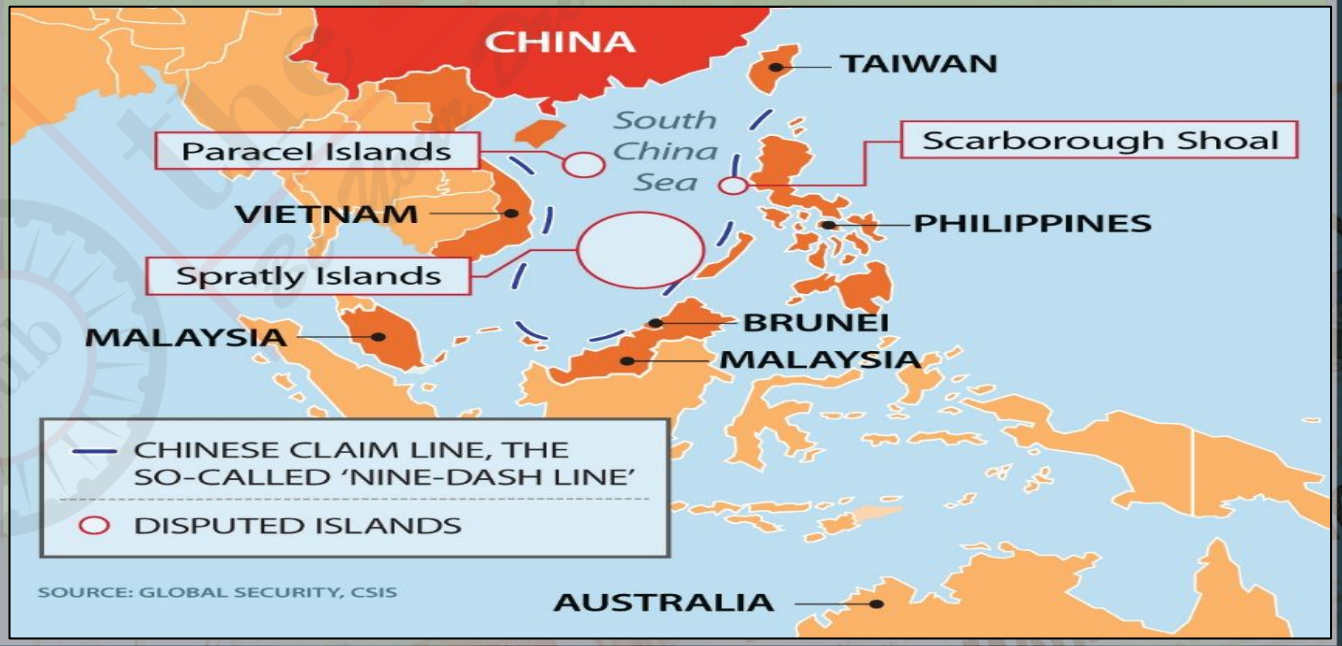
Beijing has accused Manila of "illegal delivery of construction materials".

Context: China renewed calls for the Philippines to remove an ageing ship from a reef that Manila uses to press its stake in the **Spratly Islands i**n defiance of Beijing's claim to nearly the entire South China Sea.

- The move comes after the Philippines accused the **China Coast Guard** of firing water cannon against boats on a resupply mission to its garrison stationed on the grounded vessel at the weekend.

Spratly Islands

- The Spratly Islands are a **disputed archipelago** in the South China Sea.
- The **archipelago** lies off the coasts of the Philippines, Malaysia, and southern Vietnam.
- It is **claimed in its entirety by China, Taiwan and Vietnam**, while portions are claimed by Malaysia and the Philippines.
- The northeast part of the Spratly Islands is known as **Dangerous Ground** and is characterized by many low islands, sunken reefs, and degraded, sunken atolls with coral.
- **Economic activity** has included commercial fishing, shipping, guano mining, oil and gas exploitation, and more recently, tourism.



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