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सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

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TIMES OF INDIA

Page 7

DAM SAFETY ACT 2021

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Over 100-yr-old, yet functional: House panel red flags 234 dams

Vishwa.Mohan
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel has expressed concerns over the safety of aging dams in the country, saying there are 234 functional large dams in India which are more than 100 years old — some of them over 300 years old — but so far none of these dams have been decommissioned.

Dam decommissioning is a very long process which includes removal of hydro-electric generation facilities and recontouring of river channels through ecologically viable interventions in the catchment areas. Since dams have a life span, few countries, including the US, have decommissioned their dams and restored the natural flow of rivers.

Though the dams are normally designed for 100 years of useful age and their functional life also gets decreased with progressive reservoir sedimentation concurrently reducing project benefits, none of the dams have, so far, been decommissioned in India.

The parliamentary panel — standing committee on water that submitted its report to Parliament on March 20 — recommended the Jal Shakti ministry take suitable measures for evolving a "viable mechanism to assess the lives and operations of the dams" and also persuade the states to decommission those which have outlived their lifespan.

Dam safety has always been an issue in the country which in the past reported as many as 36 dam disasters which include the worst one in Gujarat (Machu dam in Morbi) where around 2,000 people died and over 12,000 houses were destroyed in 1979.

The panel was informed by the ministry that "there is no mechanism to assess the viable lifespan and performance of dams". Regular maintenance of dams is, however, undertaken for their health assessment and safety. The dams are mostly owned by state governments/public sector undertakings (PSUs)/private agencies which carry out the operation and maintenance (O&M) works of the dams in their jurisdiction.

The Centre legislated the Dam Safety Act in 2021 to provide for surveillance, inspection, O&M of a specified dam.

The panel also noted challenges in water sector and pitched for a need to adopt multi-pronged strategy such as "strengthening of legal and institutional framework" for water conservation, crop diversification, growing of crops requiring less water, revival of dry springs, floodwater harvesting and ensuring better percolation of rainwater.

UNSAFE DAMS?

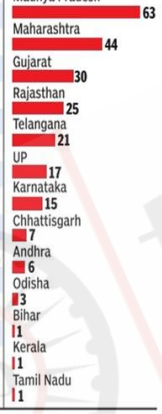
No. of functional large dams which are more than 100 years old — **234**

15 OLDEST DAMS

Dams	Year*	State
Thonnur Tank	1000	Karnataka
Cumbhum	1500	Andhra Pradesh
Swarup Sagar	1560	Rajasthan
Udai Sagar	1585	Rajasthan
Dhamapur	1600	Maharashtra
Rajsamand	1676	Rajasthan
Barwa Sagar	1694	Uttar Pradesh
Magar Pur	1694	Uttar Pradesh
Pachwara Lake	1694	Uttar Pradesh
Jai Samand	1730	Rajasthan
Jagannathasagar	1781	Odisha
Kalapvihir	1800	Maharashtra
Mudana	1800	Maharashtra
Rushi	1800	Maharashtra
Vihar	1860	Maharashtra

*Year of completion
Source: National Register of Large Dams-2019

STATES HAVING MORE THAN 100 YEARS OLD DAMS



Context: A parliamentary panel has expressed concerns over the safety of aging dams in the country, saying there are **234 functional large dams in India** which are more than 100 years old - some of them over 300 years old - but so far none of these dams have been decommissioned.

- The Centre legislated the **Dam Safety Act in 2021** to provide for surveillance, inspection, O&M of a specified dam.

Dam Safety Act 2021

- **Surveillance of dams**: The act provides for the **surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance** of all specified dams across the country.
  - These are dams with height more than 15 metres, or height between 10 metres to 15 metres with certain design and structural conditions.
- **National Bodies:**
  - **The National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS)**: Its functions include **evolving policies and recommending regulations** regarding dam safety standards;
    - It will be chaired by the **National Water Commissioner.**
  - **The National Dam Safety Authority**: Its functions include implementing policies of the National Committee, providing technical assistance to State **Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs),** and resolving matters between SDSOs of states or between a SDSO and any dam owner in that state.
- **State bodies:** State Committee on Dam Safety and State Dam Safety Organisation.
  - These bodies will be **responsible for the surveillance, inspection, and monitoring the operation and maintenance** of dams within their jurisdiction.
- **Schedules**: Functions of the national bodies and the State Committees on Dam Safety have been provided in Schedules to the act.
  - These Schedules can be **amended by a government notification.**
- **Punishment**: An offence under the act can lead to imprisonment of up to **two years, or a fine, or both.**

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 3

REIT AND INVIT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Fundraising via REITs & InvITs hits all-time low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 2 April

Higher yields on bonds, lack of new launches, limited availability and awareness among investors have made emerging investment instruments REITs and InvITs less attractive with fundraising hitting an all-time low at ₹1,166 crore in 2022-23.

Going forward, a change in the tax rule on distributions classified as repayment could lead to a substantial increase in tax liability as it will be taxed as 'other income' in the hands of the investor, making the instruments less attractive, Manavi Prabhu, Head Fixed Income, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said.

₹1,166 crore was mobilised by REITs and InvITs together in 2022-23. In comparison, ₹13,841 crore was raised in 2021-22 through these avenues

These assets will have to either generate better underlying yields or will have to reduce the price to ensure that they are more attractive than existing fixed-income investment options, he added.

According to data compiled by PRIME Database, ₹1,166 crore was mobilised by real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) together in FY23.

In comparison, ₹13,841 crore was raised in 2021-22 through these avenues. Before that, ₹33,515 crore was mobilised in 2020-21. Besides, ₹2,306 crore was collected in 2019-20, ₹8,847 crore in 2018-19, and ₹7,283 crore in 2017-18, PRIME Database noted.

Context: Higher yields on bonds, lack of new launches, limited availability and awareness among investors have made emerging investment instruments **REITs and InvITs** less attractive with fundraising hitting an all time low at ₹ 1,166 crore in 2022-23.

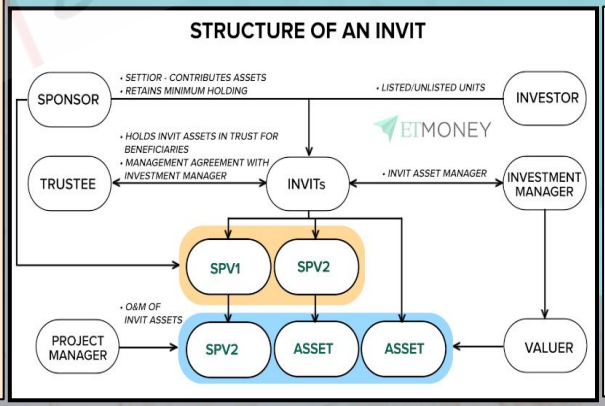
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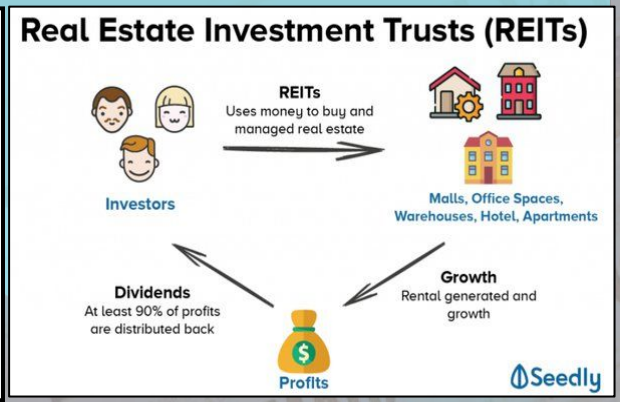
Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT)

- It is like a mutual fund, which e**nables direct investment of small amounts of money** from possible individual/institutional investors in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return.
- InvITs can be **treated as the modified version of REITs** designed to suit the specific circumstances of the infrastructure sector.
- They are similar to REIT but i**nvest in infrastructure projects** such as roads or highways which take some time to generate steady cash flows.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT)

- A REIT is roughly like a mutual fund that i**nvests in real estate** although the similarity doesn't go much further.
- The basic deal on REITs is that you own a share of property, and so an appropriate share of the income from it will come to you, after deducting an appropriate share of expenses.
- Essentially, it's **like a group of people pooling their money together** and buying real estate except that it's on a large scale and is regulated.





LIVE MINT

Page 9

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Governance)

CAT to dispose of pending cases

Citing 1,350 cases pending disposal for more than 10 years, a parliamentary committee has asked the Central Administrative Tribunal to decide them on a priority, specifically ones related to pensions and senior citizens. The tribunal adjudicates service matters of central government employees. As many as 80,545 cases were pending in different benches of the tribunal as of 31 December. Of these, 16,661 cases are pending for up to one year, 46,534 for one to five years, 16,000 for five to 10 years and 1,350 for more than 10 years, the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice said in its report. The panel said according to the Central Administrative Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, every application should be heard and decided as far as possible, within six months from the date of its registration. PTI

Context: Citing 1,350 cases pending disposal for more than 10 years, a Parliamentary committee has asked the **Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)** to decide them on a priority basis, specifically the ones related to pensions and senior citizens.

Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

- **About**: The CAT is responsible for adjudication or trial of matters connected with recruitment and conditions of service of personnel in **public service in India.**
- **Origin**: The CAT was created by the Act in 1985 under **Article 323A of the Constitution of India.**
  - The Tribunal derives its jurisdiction, powers, and authority from this Section.
  - It was established via the **42nd Constitutional Amendment** of the Constitution.
  - Tribunals under **Article 323A** can be formed only through the Parliament and not the State Legislatures.
  - However, Article 323B, which deals with other tribunals, enables such tribunals to be formed both by the Parliament and the State Legislatures.
  - **Article 323A is only for tribunals for public service matters.**
  - Only one service at the central level and one for each state or two or more states can be established.
  - Here, there is **no hierarchy of tribunals.**
- **Jurisdiction**: The CAT exercises original jurisdiction over all service matters concerned with:
  - Members of the **all-India services.**
  - Persons appointed to **any civil service of the Union or civil post** under the Union.
  - **Civilians** appointed to any defence services or posts related to defence.
  - **Employees of PSUs or public sector organizations** were notified by the government.
    - Members of the **defence forces, officers, Supreme Court staff, the Parliament's secretarial staff** are not covered under the CAT.
- **Composition:** Central Administrative Tribunal members are drawn from legal and administrative fields to provide the benefit of expertise in both domains.
  - **Chairperson** (tenure of 5 years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier)
    - Should be an SC judge or the Chief Justice of a High Court.
  - **Vice-chairperson** (tenure of 5 years or 62 years of age, whichever is earlier)
  - Other members
    - All are **appointed by the President.**

THE HINDU Page 3

FERNARIUM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

In a first, Eravikulam National Park gets a fernarium

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

The Eravikulam National Park (ENP) in Kerala, the natural habitat of the Nilgiri tahr in Munnar, has a new attraction – a fernarium set up inside the park. According to officials, this is the first time such a fern collection is being set up in the hill station.

Job J. Neriamparampil, Assistant Wildlife Warden, ENP, said that 52 varieties of ferns had already been planted in the new fernarium.

"As per data, ENP has 104 varieties of ferns. We have planned to increase the number of ferns inside the park to 104 soon," Mr. Neriamparampil said.

"The fern park has been set up near the orchidarium and will be opened to the public on April 20," he said.

Biodiversity area

"The ENP is one of the rich biodiversity areas, and the new initiatives aim to provide visitors with awareness of the park's biodiversity," said the official.

Jomy Augustine, botanist, said that ferns were the ecological indicator of healthy forests. "The climatic condition inside the ENP is more suitable for growing ferns," Dr. Augustine said.



Pioneer attempt: The Eravikulam National Park in Munnar has set up a fernarium inside the park. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Ferns are part of the Epiphytic family. They grow naturally in a soilless condition. The plants obtain water and nutrients through leaching from trees. A large number of ferns are on the trees inside the park," said Dr. Augustine.

Meanwhile, after the calving season of the Nilgiri tahrs, the ENP opened for the public on Saturday.

Mr. Neriamparmpil said that a selfie point was among the new facilities established for tourists.

"Three buggy cars have been arranged for the visitors to explore the park, and two more will be purchased soon. The park had 1,607 and 1,684 tourists on Saturday and Sunday, respectively, said the official.

According to officials, a survey of new births in the ENP will be held on April 20. The last annual census recorded 785 tahrs, while 125 new calves were sighted.

"It is expected that the number of calves will increase from 125 to 150 after the census," Mr. Neriamparampil said.

Context: Eravikulam National Park (ENP), the natural habitat of Nilgiri tahr in Munnar, has a new attraction - a Fernarium setup inside the park. According to officials, this is the first time such a fern collection has been established in the hill station.

- 52 varieties of **ferns** have already been planted in the new **Fernarium**.
- **Eravikulam National Park** is a national park located along the Western Ghats in the Idukki and Ernakulam districts of Kerala in India.

Key Points

- Ferns are part of the **Epiphytic family.**
- They **grow naturally** in a soilless condition.
- The plants obtain water and nutrients through **leaching from trees.**
- Ferns are **non-flowering** pteridophytes.
- Ferns are the first plant with a fully developed **vascular system.**
- Ferns are important for the environment for their **ornamental values.**
- They have **medicinal and edible purposes**.
- Furthermore, the **indicators of moisture,** ferns, also clean the ecosystem and are good nitrogen fixating agents.
- They are also used to filter heavy metals from polluted waters and are a **bioindicator** for the health of an ecosystem.
- Further, ferns **provide microhabitats,** as well as shelter and shade to small animals, are a source of food or medicine for animals, including people.
- Recently, **India's first cryptogamic garden** was inaugurated in July 2021 in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district.
- The garden is a first of its kind and houses a plethora of cryptogams species.

ECONOMIC TIMES
Page 10

BARCODE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Barcode Turns 50, But Faces Competition from QR Codes

Patented in 1952, barcode revolutionises checking out at supermarkets

Paris: The patch of irregular vertical lines that revolutionised checking out at the supermarket and facilitated the globalisation of retail is turning 50.

But as the barcode celebrates its birthday on Monday, its days might be numbered as it faces competition from the younger QR code, the information-filled squares used in smartphones.

The trademark beep as a product is scanned is heard about six billion times per day across the world as around 70,000 items are sold each second.

It has become so integrated in the shopping experience that it is easy to forget how much the technology revolutionised retail by speeding up the checkout process and giving retailers the ability to trace products and better manage inventory.

The barcode not only identifies a product, but "gives professionals in stores access to other functionalities", said Laurence Vallana, head of France de SES-Imagotag, a company that specialises in electronic tagging.



TRADEMARK BEEP SOUND

The sound of the trademark beep as a product is scanned is heard about six billion times per day across the world as around 70,000 items are sold each second

Barcodes were initially patented by Norman Joseph Woodland and Bernard Silver in the United States in 1952. But it wasn't until nearly two decades later, in 1971, that US engineer George Laurer perfected the technology and moves towards its commercialisation began.

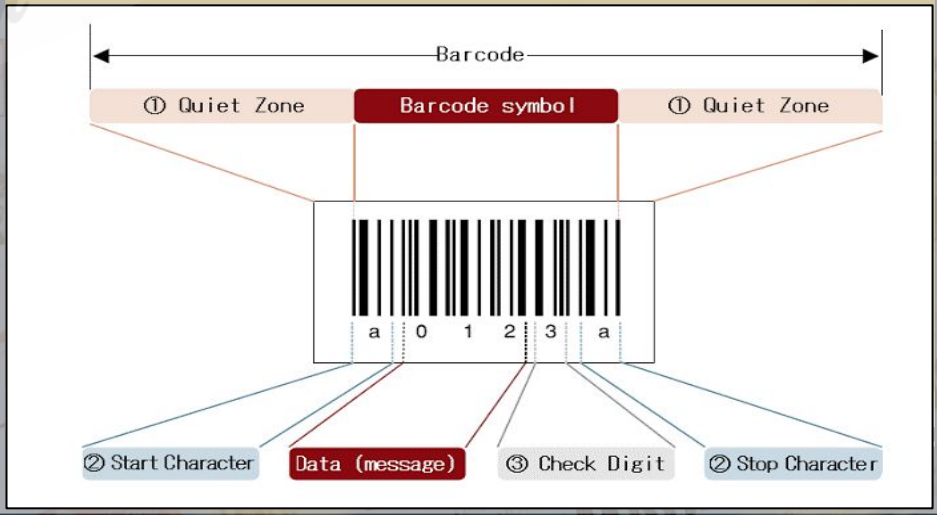
On April 3, 1973 the standard to identify products was agreed by a number of large retailers and food companies. It later became known as EAN-13, which stands for European Article Number and the number of digits in the barcode.The following year, on June 26 in the US state of Ohio, the first product was scanned: a pack of chewing gum that is now in the National Museum of American History in Washington. **AFP**

Context: As the **barcode** celebrates its birthday on March 3, its days might be numbered as it faces competition from the younger QR code, the information-filled squares used in smartphones.

- Barcodes were initially **patented** by Norman Joseph Woodland and Bernard Silver in the United States in **1952.**

Barcode

- A barcode is a **printed series of parallel bars** or lines of varying width used for entering data into a computer system.
- The bars are **black on a white background** and vary in width and quantity depending on the application.
- The bars **represent the binary digits zero and one**, which represent the digits zero to nine processed by a digital computer.
- These barcodes are scanned using special optical scanners known as **barcode readers.**
- The majority of these codes use only two different widths of bars, however some use four.
- One of the most well-known examples of a **barcode is the QR code.**



ADENO-ASSOCIATED VIRUS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Common childhood viruses linked to rare hepatitis cases

LAST YEAR, reports of severe, unexplained hepatitis in previously healthy children puzzled health experts around the world.

Now a small new study of American children adds to the evidence that the cases, which remained extremely rare, may have been caused by a simultaneous infection with multiple common viruses, including one known as adeno-associated virus type 2, or AAV2.

AAV2 is not typically associated with disease, and it requires a second "helper" virus in order to replicate. Many of the children with unexplained hepatitis, or liver inflammation, were infected with multiple helper viruses, the researchers found.

Although the idea remains speculative, the timing of the outbreak may have been related to the loosening of pandemic precautions, leaving large numbers of young children exposed to common viruses they had not previously encountered.

"It may have resulted in a population that was highly vulnerable to getting infected with multiple viral infections," said Dr. Charles Chiu, an infectious disease specialist and microbiologist at the University of California, San Francisco, and an author of the new study. ('Adeno-associated virus type 2 in US children with acute severe hepatitis')

The research appeared on Thursday in the journal *Nature*, alongside two British studies that also implicated AAV2 in the hepatitis cases. Preliminary versions of the British studies were posted online last summer.

The consistent findings are "quite striking," said Dr Frank Tacke, head of the gastroenterology and hepatology department at the Charité University Medical Center in Berlin, who was not involved in the research but wrote an accompanying commentary. "The fact that three independent groups found this from different areas of the world actually makes it really convincing."

The cases date to autumn 2021 but seemed to peak last spring and summer before tapering off, experts said. By last July, more than 1,000 probable cases had been reported in 35 countries, including the United States, according to the World Health Organization. Roughly 5% of children required liver transplants, and 2% died.

In several early studies, scientists found that many of the affected children were infected with adenoviruses, particularly adenovirus 41, which typically causes gastrointestinal symptoms. Adenoviruses are not typically known to cause hepatitis in otherwise healthy children, but they are common helper viruses for AAV2.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

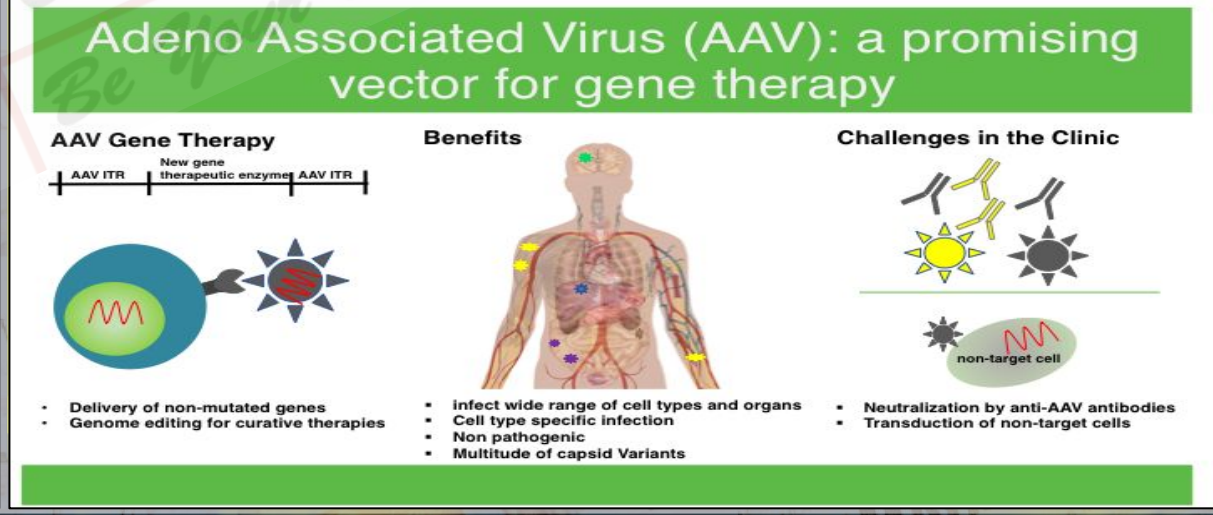
PAPER CLIP
NEW RESEARCH

Context: A recent study led by researchers at UC San Francisco is making progress in uncovering the reasons behind a puzzling outbreak of acute severe hepatitis in healthy children that emerged in the spring of 2022, following the easing of **COVID-19** lockdowns in 35 countries, including the United States.

- In the study, researchers linked the disease to co-infections from multiple common viruses, in particular a strain of **adeno-associated virus type 2 (AAV2)**. AAVs are not known to cause hepatitis on their own.
- They need "**helper**" viruses, such as adenoviruses that cause colds and flu, to replicate in the liver.

Adeno-associated viruses (AAV)

- **About**: These are small viruses that **infect humans and some other primate species.**
  - They belong to the genus **Dependoparvovirus**, which in turn belongs to the family Parvoviridae.
  - They are small replication-defective, nonenveloped viruses and have **linear single-stranded DNA (ssDNA**) genome of approximately 4.8 kilobases (kb).
- **Features**: Several features make AAV an attractive candidate for creating viral vectors for **gene therapy,** and for the creation of isogenic human disease models.
  - **Gene therapy vectors** using AAV can infect both dividing and quiescent cells and persist in an extrachromosomal state without integrating into the genome of the host cell.



DTE

APRIL 3

BLACK ROCKFISH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

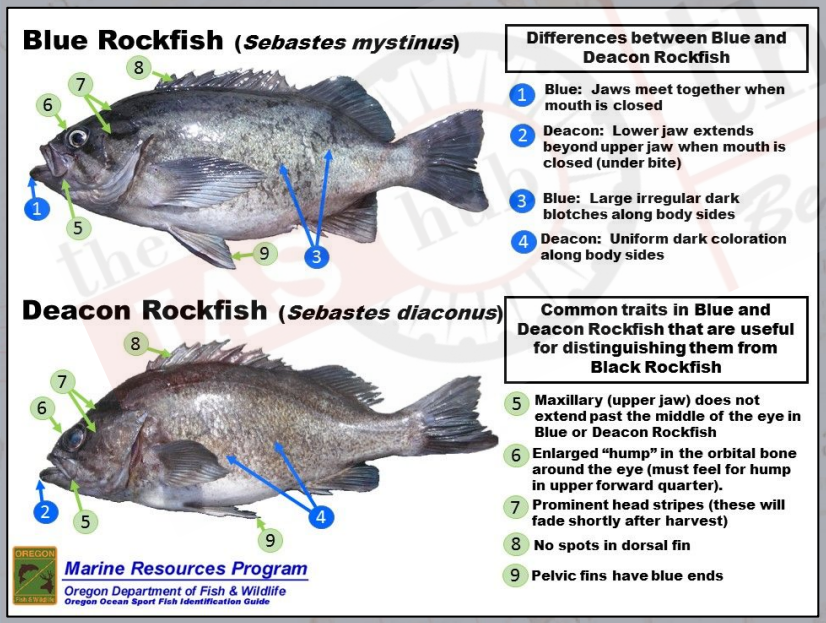
Climate impact: Study finds juvenile black rockfish fared better than expected in unusually high ocean temperatures

Fish growth and development were positively related to temperature, but survival to settlement was not directly related to ocean conditions

NEXT NEWS >

By Nandita Banerji
Published: Friday 31 March 2023





Context: The effect of warming is complicated - new research has found black **rockfish larvae** fared better during two recent years of unusually high ocean temperatures than had been feared.

Key Points

- Scientists from Oregon State University looked into **how larval fish growth and mortality** will change in **warmer conditions** as the climate crisis leads to marine heat waves.
- Fish growth and development were positively **related to temperature,** but survival to settlement was not directly related to ocean conditions, the study found.
- The oceans are planet Earth's greatest **carbon sink,** taking the biggest brunt of human-made global warming. As the excessive heat and energy warm the ocean, the change in **temperature leads to unparalleled cascading effects,** including ice-melting, sea-level rise, marine heatwaves and ocean acidification.
- Today, the ocean has absorbed about 90 per cent of the heat generated by rising emissions. Understanding **how future ocean conditions will affect populations** of marine species is integral to predicting how climate change will impact both ecosystem function and fisheries management.

Black rockfish

- Rockfish, **a diverse genus with many species,** are a group of ecologically as well as economically important fishes found from Baja California to British Columbia in **North America.**
- They are **known for lifespans** that can reach triple digits, an ability to produce prodigious numbers of offspring and variable survival during their early life stages, during which they are highly sensitive to environmental conditions.

DTE

APRIL 3

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

How can humans & animals exist more peacefully? Global conference tries to find solutions

International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence is being held in Oxford, the United Kingdom

NEXT NEWS >

Tigers

	2019	2020	2021
Humans killed by tigers	50	44	31
Tigers: natural deaths	44	20	4
Unnatural, not poaching	3	0	2
Tiger deaths under scrutiny	22	71	104
Poaching deaths	17	8	4
Seizure	10	7	13

Existing government policies:

- **Compensation**: The government has come up with some policies to grapple with the problem: The **compensation for human deaths has been increased from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.**
- **Immune-contraception: Project Elephant and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** guidelines have been issued to mitigate the conflict.
  - **Immune-contraception** has been introduced in order to control the population of nilgai, monkeys and wild boars.

Context: The **International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence** being held in Oxford, the United Kingdom from March 30-April 1, 2023 has brought together hundreds of representatives from conservation organisations, academia, governments, businesses and indigenous as well as local communities from six continents and 70 countries to discuss solutions.

- The conference is organised in collaboration with the **IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and several more organisations.

Aims of the conference

- **Facilitate dialogue and peer-to-peer learning** across sectors and actors on the topic for partnerships and collaboration across people and institutions working on human-wildlife conflict.
- **Generate interdisciplinary** and shared understanding of the latest insights, technologies, methods, ideas, and information from the field of human-wildlife conflict, coexistence and interactions.
- **Mainstream human-wildlife conflict** as one of the top global priorities in biodiversity conservation and the Sustainable Development Goals for the next decade, catalysing opportunities for working together on national, regional or global policies and initiatives.
- **Identify and develop a collective way forward** for addressing knowledge and implementation gaps for effective efforts to reduce and manage human-wildlife conflict.

Man-Animal Conflict (MAC)

- **About**: It refers to the **negative interactions** between people and wild animals, with consequences for both people and their resources and wildlife and their habitats (IUCN 2020).
- **Figures and data**: Between 2018-19 and 2020-21, 222 **elephants were killed by electrocution** across the country, 45 by trains, 29 by poachers and 11 by poisoning.
  - Among tigers, too, 29 were killed by poaching between 2019 and 2021, while 197 tiger deaths are under scrutiny.

PIB

April 3

RLV LEX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & tech)

PM praises ISRO conducting Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission

Context: The Prime Minister has expressed happiness as ISRO conducts **Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission**.

- ISRO joined by DRDO and Indian Air Force successfully conducted the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka in the early hours on April 2, 2023.

Reusable Launch Vehicle

- **About**: A reusable launch system is a launch system that **allows for the reuse of some or all of the component stages.**
  - The vehicle returns to earth intact after a mission.
- **Experiment**: RLV-LEX involves taking an **unmanned**, winged prototype to an altitude of about 2.3 km to 2.4 km on a helicopter and releasing it to land.
  - It must travel the distance a**utonomously, gain velocity, maintain control** and come in like any typical aircraft, touching down with the rear wheels first.
- **Phases**: The first in the series of experimental flights is the **hypersonic flight experiment (HEX)** followed by the landing experiment (LEX), return flight experiment (REX) and scramjet propulsion experiment (SPEX).
- **Benefits of RLV:** Cheaper access to space is what makes an RLV attractive: A major hurdle in space exploration is the **prohibitive cost,** which can be slashed if the launch vehicle is a reusable one.
- **Challenges of RLV:**
  - **Extra weight:** Reusable stages weigh more than equivalent expendable stages. This is **unavoidable** due to the supplementary systems, landing gear and/or surplus propellant needed to land a stage.
  - **Refurbishment**: After the launcher lands, it may need to be **refurbished** to prepare it for its next flight. This process may be lengthy and expensive. The launcher may not be able to be recertified as human-rated after refurbishment.
- **RLV Orbital re-entry Experiment (ORE):** ISRO is working on ORE.
- In ORE, a wing body called **Orbital Reentry vehicle (ORV) will be taken to an orbit** by an ascent vehicle derived from the existing GSLV and PSLV stages and stay in orbit for a stipulated period, re-enter and land in a runway autonomously with a landing gear.

PIB

April 3

SHIVAKUMARA SWAMI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Personalities)

PM bows to His Holiness Dr. Sree Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamigalu on his Jayanti

Context: The Prime Minister paid tributes to His Holiness **Dr. Sree Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamigalu** on the special occasion of his Jayanti.

Shivakumara Swami (1 April 1907 – 21 January 2019)

- **About**: He was an Indian **humanitarian, spiritual leader, educator and supercentenarian.**
  - He was considered as the **incarnation of Basaveshwara,** the 12th century social reformer, as he accepted all irrespective of their religion or caste.
- **Lingayat**: He was a **Veerashaiva Lingayat religious figure.**
  - Swami joined the Siddaganga Matha in 1930 Karnataka and became head seer in 1941.
  - Described as the most esteemed adherent of Lingayatism (Veerashaivism), he was referred to as **Nadedaaduva Devaru (walking God) in the state.**
- **Society**: He founded the **Sri Siddaganga Education Society.**
  - Under the swami's guidance, an **agricultural fair** was also held annually to help the local people.
- **Awards**: In 2015, Swami was awarded by the Government of India the **Padma Bhushan**, India's third highest civilian award.
  - In 2007, he was also awarded the **Karnataka Ratna** (highest civilian award in Karnataka).

Lingayats

- **About**: The term Lingayat denotes a person **who wears a personal linga,** the aniconic form of god Shiva, on the body, which is received during the initiation ceremony.
- **Basaveshwara**: Lingayats are the followers of the **12th-century** social reformer-philosopher poet, **Basaveshwara**.
  - Basaveshwara was **against the caste system and Vedic rituals.**
- **Key Characteristics**: The Lingayats are strict **monotheists**. They enjoin the worship of only **one God, namely, Linga (Shiva).**
  - The word 'Linga' does not mean Linga established in temples, but **universal consciousness** qualified by the universal energy (Shakti).
  - The **Veerashaivas** sect of the community also worships Shiva idols and practises other Hindu customs.

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