

JUNE
26

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place



ET

BS

TOI

The Indian **EXPRESS** live **mint** पॉब

DownToEarth
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT,
ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Science Reporter



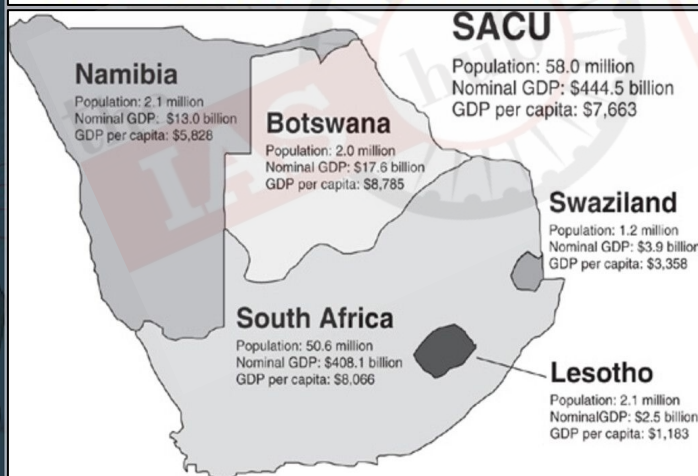
MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

- 1 South African Customs Union
- 2 Delimitation Commission
- 3 Probe Over Cough Syrups
- 4 Fertility Rights for Prisoners
- 5 India-Egypt Relations
- 6 Wagner Group
- 7 New Global Financing Pact
- 8 Aravalli Range
- 9 MQ-9B Predator Drone
- 10 Heliopolis Memorial

India plans to revive trade deal with SACU

Amid declining merchandise exports due to demand slowdown in the west, India is placing renewed focus on striking a trade deal with a union of five countries of southern Africa that could give a leg up to exports of pharmaceutical products and automobiles, two people aware of the development said. The resource rich Southern African Customs Union (SACU), a customs union among five countries of southern Africa: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa, is one of the largest suppliers of raw primary or semi-processed commodities. According to the ministry of commerce, five rounds of negotiations regarding a potential India-SACU preferential trade agreement have been held thus far. The first round of discussions took place in 2007 and talks stalled in 2010. However, reports indicated that both sides had agreed to revive the talks in 2020. **RAVI DUTTA MISHRA & SHASHANK MATTOO**



Context: India is set to revive talks for a free trade agreement with **South African Customs Union (SACU)**, a big market for its automobiles, refined petroleum products, unmounted diamonds, and pharmaceuticals, in a bid to get a firmer foothold in the African market and diversify trade.

South African Customs Union (SACU)

- It is a customs union among five countries of Southern Africa: **Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.**
- Its headquarters are in the **Namibian capital, Windhoek.**
- The SACU which is in place since **1910** is the oldest customs union in the world.
- It was established as **Customs Union Agreement** between the then Union of South Africa and the High Commission Territories of Bechuanaland, Basutoland, and Swaziland.
- The **Economic structure** of the Union links the Member states by a single tariff and no customs duties between them.
- The Member States form a **single customs territory** in which tariffs and other barriers are eliminated on substantially all the trade between the Member States for products originating in these countries; and there is a common external tariff that applies to non members of SACU.

UNSETTLING SEVERAL POLITICAL HEAVYWEIGHTS

Assam CM's Jalukbari Among 30 Seats To be Altered by Proposed Delimitation

Bikash.Singh@timesgroup.com

Guwahati: The delimitation draft in Assam, which was published recently, has unsettled several political heavyweights and is likely to change the political landscape of the state, if implemented. With many assembly and parliamentary constituencies being redrawn, several leaders will have to look for new constituencies for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and 2026 assembly elections if this draft is finalised.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will have to look for a new constituency as Jalukbari constituency, which he had been repre-

senting since 2001, will be divided into three parts.

As many as 30 assembly constitu-

encies will cease to exist and 26 new constituencies have been created. Similarly, four Lok Sabha constituencies will no longer exist in their current shape.

BJP leader and

Assam Assembly

Speaker Biswajit Daimary's Panery

constituency no longer exists while

Forest Minister Chandra Mohan's

Patowary seats in Dharmapur will

no longer be there.

Some of the other seats excluded include that of Transport Minister Parnal Suklabaidya (Dholai), Siddhartha Bhattacharya (Guwahati East), Asom Gana Parishad's Ramendra Narayan Kalita (West Guwahati), Binod Hazarika (Chabua), Sushanta Borgohain (Thowra), Krishnendu Paul (Patharkandi), Rupsing Teron (Baithalango), and Dosing Rohtang (Howraghat).

AGP's Pradip Hazarika's (Amguri) seat has ceased to exist. Congress leader Jakir Hussain Sikdar (Sarukhetri), Sherman Ali Ahmed (Bagbar), Rekitabuddin Ahmed (Chayagon), Bharat Narah (Naoboicha), and Basanta Das (Mangaldoi) will have to look for new constituencies.

Key Facts

- The **first delimitation exercise** was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.
- The **Delimitation Commission Act** was enacted in 1952.
- Delimitation Commissions had been **set up four times** - 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
- There was **no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses**.

Context: The **delimitation draft in Assam**, which was published recently, has unsettled several political heavyweights and is likely to change the political landscape of the state, if implemented.

- As many as 30 assembly constituencies will cease to exist and 26 new constituencies have been created. Similarly, four Lok Sabha constituencies will no longer exist in their current shape.

Delimitation Commission

- **About:** The Delimitation Commission is a high-level body set up by an **act of the Parliament**.
 - Delimitation is the **process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies** in a country to represent changes in population.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** The delimitation commission is an independent body **constituted under Article 82** after the Parliament enacted a Delimitation Act after every census.
 - Under **Article 170**, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- **Appointment:** The Delimitation Commission is **appointed by the President of India** and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- **Composition:**
 - A retired judge of the Supreme Court
 - The Chief Election Commissioner
 - State Election Commissioners (of the respective states)
- **Decision:** If the members of the Commission have differing opinions, then the **decision of the majority will be taken into consideration**.
- **Duties:** It shall be the duty of the Commission to readjust the representation of the several territorial constituencies in the House of the People and of the several territorial constituencies in the Legislative Assembly of each state on the basis of the latest census figures of population.

WHO widens probe over cough syrups

SOHINI DAS

Mumbai, 25 June

The World Health Organization (WHO), which has issued product alerts for at least three Made-in-India cough and cold medications since October, is investigating more products. While the global agency has not yet expanded the list of medical product alerts, it said this might change as it receives more information.

“To date, this situation has impacted more than 20 products with two countries of origin (India and Indonesia) and more than 15 different manufacturers. All the products are syrup-based (paracetamol syrup, cough syrup, or vitamin syrup),” said Margaret Harris, spokesperson for WHO.

She added that WHO takes all reports of substandard or falsified medical products very seriously. “WHO is aware of media reporting of potentially contaminated syrups in other countries than those listed above. Turn to Page 6 ▶



LITTLE RELIEF

- Maiden Pharma: WHO alert in October 2022
- Marion Biotech: WHO alert in January 2023
- QP PharmaChem: WHO alert in April 2023
- India inspects 150 plants; show cause notices to 70 sites
- India issues closure notices to 18 plants



NEED TO GO FOR ROOT-CAUSE ANALYSIS: PHARMEXCIL DIRECTOR GENERAL

P2 ▶

Context: The World Health Organization’s probe into contaminated cough syrups, which have been linked to nearly 300 worldwide deaths so far, has flagged 20 such toxic medicines originating from two countries - India and Indonesia.

Key Points

- All the medicines are syrups - cough medicine, paracetamol or vitamins.
- These would include the 15 previously identified contaminated syrups, seven of which were manufactured in India by Haryana-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals (4), Noida-based Marion Biotech (2), and Punjab-based QP Pharmachem (1).
- The rest were made in Indonesia.
- The WHO has already raised ‘medical product alerts’ on the 15 medicines in Gambia and Uzbekistan, where Indian-made syrups were linked to at least 88 deaths last year, as well as in Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

- The Indian pharmaceutical industry ranks third globally in pharmaceutical production by volume and is known for its generic medicines and low-cost vaccines.
- India is a major exporter of Pharmaceuticals, with over 200+ countries served by Indian pharma exports. India supplies over 50% of Africa’s requirement for generics, ~40% of generic demand in the US and ~25% of all medicine in the UK.
- India also accounts for ~60% of global vaccine demand, and is a leading supplier of DPT, BCG and Measles vaccines. 70% of WHO’s vaccines (as per the essential Immunization schedule) are sourced from India.

Woman undertrial seeks nod for IVF treatment, fails to convince court

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

SADAFMODAK
MUMBAI, JUNE 25

IN JANUARY, a 32-year-old woman approached a Mumbai sessions court with a request that doesn't usually involve courts: Permission to undergo in vitro fertilisation (IVF). She cited family pressure to bear a child despite being behind the bars for nearly six years.

The woman, former prison



The jail in Byculla where the undertrial was a guard. File

guard at Byculla women's jail, and five others are facing trial in connection with the custodial death of an inmate in the jail on June 23, 2017.

She sought permission to undergo IVF treatment while awaiting the conclusion of her trial. On June 17, the court rejected her application, saying her plea was not sustainable because she was in jail.

After an in-person hearing with her, the court said if permission was granted, she would make other applications, including ones to continue treatment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Context: A 32-year-old woman approached a Mumbai sessions court with a request that doesn't usually involve courts: **Permission to undergo in vitro fertilisation (IVF).**

FERTILITY RIGHTS FOR PRISONERS



In March, Ireland introduced a scheme allowing prisoners, both male and female, to access fertility treatments. Its authorities stated that incarceration meant loss of liberty and not other rights, including family life.

In the UK, while there are no absolute conjugal rights for prisoners, authorities have over the past years been approached by prisoners for IVF treatment. There has been much debate on

whether it can be considered a right and over who will incur the expense of the treatment. Currently, a prisoner bears the expense if granted permission based on various criteria.

Key Points

- The court rejected her application, saying her plea was **not sustainable because she was in jail.**
- The court said if permission was granted, she would make other applications, including ones to continue treatment and visit the doctor.
 - This would burden the prosecution and inconvenience the ongoing trial.
- While convicts are granted furlough, temporary releases that enable them to maintain family association, **undertrials are not eligible for such relief** even if they have been in custody for long due to the pendency of their trial.

Strategic allies now, Egypt backs India's focus on Global South

Sachin.Parashar
@timesgroup.com

PM Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi signed a landmark strategic partnership agreement following their decision earlier this year to elevate ties, and after a bilateral meeting that saw discussions on G20 cooperation, food and energy security, climate change and the need for concerted efforts by the Global South to deal with such issues. Egypt's highest civilian honour, Order of the Nile, was conferred on Modi by Sisi, making him the first Indian to receive the award.

The leaders agreed it was important to prioritise interests of developing nations in forums like G20. Sisi expressed trust in India's presidency and said Egypt was ready to push G20 talks in "constructive directions" like tackling food and energy shortages.

► Boost trade, def ties, P 9



Egyptian Prez Abdel Fattah el-Sisi conferring the country's highest state honour, 'the Order of the Nile', on PM Modi in Cairo on Sunday; Modi visiting the Al-Hakim Mosque (right)



Context: Indian and Egypt signed a landmark strategic partnership agreement following their decision earlier this year to elevate ties, and after a bilateral meeting that saw discussions on G20 cooperation, food and energy security, climate change and the need for concerted efforts by the Global South to deal with such issues.

- **Egypt's highest civilian honour**, Order of the Nile, was conferred on PM, making him the first Indian to receive the award.

India-Egypt relations

- India-Egypt relations can be traced back to 2750 BCE when the Pharaoh Sahure sent ships to the "Land of Punt," believed to be peninsular India.
- The exchange continued, with **Egyptian mummies wrapped in Indian indigo-dyed muslin** in the second millennium BCE.
- The **President of Egypt was the Chief Guest at India's 74th Republic Day** celebrations this year.
- In his meeting with the Prime Minister of India, the two nations agreed to elevate the India-Egypt Relationship to '**strategic partnership**'.
- Egypt has also been invited as a '**Guest Country**' during India's Presidency of G20 in 2022-23.
- Despite a century of **bilateral engagement**, the trade volume between India and Egypt stands at \$6,061 million in 2022-23, with a 17% decline from the previous year.
- Petroleum-related products constitute a significant portion of the trade. India ranks as **Egypt's sixth-largest trading partner**, while Egypt is India's 38th.
- Indian investments in Egypt are concentrated in 50 projects totaling \$3.15 billion, while **Egypt's investments in India amount to \$37 million**.
- The number of Indians residing in Egypt is relatively small, with a significant proportion being students.

Wagner group back to base under deal with Putin

Reuters

ROSTOV-ON-DON/VORONEZH

Heavily armed Russian mercenaries withdrew from the southern Russian city of Rostov overnight under a deal that defused an unprecedented challenge to the authority of President Vladimir Putin and halted their rapid advance on Moscow.

Belarus mediates

Fighters of the Wagner group returned to their bases in return for guarantees for their safety and the leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, will move to Belarus, as per the agreement mediated by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

The aborted mutiny raises questions about Mr. Putin's grip on a country he has ruled with an iron hand for over two decades.

Context: Ending their **short-lived mutiny**, fighters of the Wagner group began heading back to their bases in return for guarantees for their safety.

- The **Wagner Group** is a private army of mercenaries that has been fighting alongside the regular Russian army in Ukraine.

Wagner Group

- The **Wagner Group (officially called PMC Wagner)** was first identified in 2014, when it was backing pro-Russian separatist forces in eastern Ukraine.
- At that time it was a **secretive organisation**, operating mostly in Africa and the Middle East, and is thought to have had only about 5,000 fighters - mostly veterans of Russia's elite regiments and special forces.
- The organisation started **recruiting in large numbers in 2022** because Russia had trouble finding people for the regular army.
- About 80% of Wagner's troops in Ukraine have been **drawn from prisons**, the US National Security Council said at the start of this year.
- Although **mercenary forces are illegal in Russia**, the Wagner Group registered as a company in 2022 and opened a new headquarters in St Petersburg.
- The Wagner Group was **heavily involved in Russia's capture of the city of Bakhmut**, in eastern Ukraine.

NEW GLOBAL FINANCING PACT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Paris finance meet: Key takeaways from a summit that showed the scale of the challenge ahead

The summit did not precipitate any transformational solutions, but it started a conversation on the climate and development financing crisis, and this momentum cannot be lost



NEXT NEWS >

By Avantika Goswami, Ananya Anoop Rao
Published: Saturday 24 June 2023



- **Platform:** A platform to **de-risk finance and attract private investment** in sustainable infrastructure
 - Vulnerable countries need several types of blended finance such as a Global Clean Investment Risk Mitigation Mechanism that pools risks across geographies and lower costs for all.
 - Hedging against currency fluctuation should be done to prevent an increase in cost of finance.
- **Pathway:** A political pathway that **creates time-bound deliverables** on climate finance from one summit to another is required.
 - The summit must outline the maths of finance, the mechanisms of delivery, and establish the momentum for real investment over the next two years.

Context: The Summit for a **New Global Financing Pact** concluded in Paris on June 23, 2023.

- World leaders and finance moguls gathered in Paris for the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, which was **hosted by France with India**, co-chairing the steering committee.

New Global Financing Pact

- It is a proposed pact aimed at **addressing the financing needs of sustainable development and climate action**.
- There is a need of **additional \$4 trillion every year** to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals, COP21 and Biodiversity COP15 objectives. However only \$204 billion official development assistance was collected in 2022-23.
- **Only 25% of global climate investment goes to South Asia**, Latin America, and Africa, which house some of the most vulnerable regions.
- Other challenges like **conditional disbursement of money, high domestic taxes, illicit finance flows**, and higher risk perceptions lead to lack of funds to undertake developmental projects in a sustainable manner.

Components of New Global Financing Pact

- **Pact:** There is a **need to create a pact for global flows of finance** that covers two levels of social contracts domestic and international.
 - At the domestic level, high debt limits the fiscal space of developing countries. There is a **need to standardise existing tax structures**, stop illegal cross-border money movement, and curbing ineffectual fossil fuel subsidies to increase the fiscal space.
 - At the international level, finance is **needed for adaptation as well as loss and damage** stemming from climate change. Therefore, the international social contract must rest on a strong foundation of global solidarity.

Bringing the Aravallis back to life

Tree species like sheesham, babool and others planted over 75 hectares of land that was previously mined illegally are helping restore greenery and bring back wildlife



NEXT NEWS >

By Deepanwita Gita Niyogi
Published: Sunday 25 June 2023



Context: The **Aravallis** spanning Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan have been **infamous for stone mining** to fuel the construction boom in the National Capital Region.

- Since the early 2000s, numerous crusher units mushroomed to scoop up precious gravel or bajri using heavy-duty machines which succeeded in denuding the mountain range.

Aravalli Range

- The Aravalli Range, often called Aravali Range, is a hill **chain in northern India** that runs 350 miles (560 kilometres) northeast across Rajasthan state. Isolated rocky outcroppings can still be seen to the south of Delhi.
- The system is split into two sections: the **larger Sambhar-Sirohi ranges**, which include Guru Peak on Mount Abu, the **highest peak in the Aravalli Range**, and the shorter Sambhar-Khetri ranges, which are made up of three discontinuous ridges.
- The Aravalli Range is **abundant in natural resources** (including minerals) and acts as a barrier to the western desert expansion.
- Several rivers flow from it, including the Banas, Luni, Sakhi, and Sabarmati.
- Though **highly wooded in the south**, it is mostly desolate and sparsely inhabited in the north, consisting mostly of sand and stone and masses of rose-colored quartzite.

Acquisition of MQ-9B drones: Speculative reports uncalled for

Context: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for acquisition of **31 MQ-9B (16 Sky Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian)** High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for Tri-Services from the USA through Foreign Military Sale (FMS) route.

MQ-9B Predator Drone

- The MQ-9B drone is a **variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper"**, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) capable of remotely controlled or autonomous flight operations.
- These are **high-altitude long-endurance drones** armed with strike missiles which can take out enemy targets with high accuracy.
- It was **developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems(GA-ASI)**, primarily for the United States Air Force (USAF).
- The MQ-9B has two variants - **SkyGuardian and its sibling SeaGuardian.**
- The Indian Navy has been **operating the MQ-9B Sea Guardian since 2020.**
- **Features of MQ-9B SeaGuardian :**
 - It can **carry up to 5,670 kg** and has a fuel capacity of 2,721 kg.
 - The drone can **operate at over 40,000 feet.**
 - The Predator also has a **maximum endurance of 40 hours**, making it useful for long-hour surveillance.
 - It can **support land, maritime surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, strike, electronic warfare and expeditionary roles.**
 - It is also capable of **automatic take-offs and landings.**
 - It can safely integrate into civil airspace, enabling joint forces and civil authorities to deliver real-time situational awareness anywhere in the **maritime domain – day or night.**

Prime Minister's visit to the Heliopolis War Memorial

Context: Prime Minister visited the **Heliopolis Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery** in Cairo during his State Visit to Egypt.

- Prime Minister **paid homage to over 4300 valiant Indian soldiers** who sacrificed their lives in Egypt and Aden during the 1st World War.

Heliopolis Memorial

- The **Heliopolis (Port Tewfik) Memorial** is part of the larger Heliopolis Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.
- This memorial commemorates the **memory of 3,727 Indian soldiers** who died fighting in various campaigns in Egypt and Palestine in the First World War.
- The original Port Tewfik memorial had been **unveiled in 1926** and was situated at the entrance to the Suez Canal.
 - Port Tewfik is now known as **Port Suez**.
- The memorial was destroyed in the **Israeli-Egyptian War of 1967** by retreating Egyptian soldiers and a new memorial bearing the names of the Indian soldiers who died in the First World War campaign in Egypt and Palestine was erected in Heliopolis Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery in 1980.
- In 1980, a **new memorial was erected in Heliopolis Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery**, bearing the names of the Indian soldiers who died in the First World War campaigns.
- The memorial **includes the names of soldiers from various Indian regiments** and also commemorates Risaldar Badlu Singh, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery (the highest British wartime gallantry award).

Secure Top Rank with the **IAShub** Courses

Prelims 2023 Courses

01

Prelims Crash Course
Score Enhancement
Program (SEP)

02

INA Current Affairs
(Prelims)

03

TACKLE - Prelims
Test Series

04

Geography - Prelims
Crash Course

Quality Enrichment Courses (Mains 2023)

01

Quality Enrichment Program (QEP)

02

Science of Answer Writing (SAW)

Prelim Cum Mains 2024 Courses

01

NEEV GS Foundation 2024/25

02

INA Current Affairs Pre Cum Mains - 2024

FREE



Download PDF



Login to theiashub.com



**Aaj Ka
Quality Enrichment**
(Toppers' Favourite PDF)



News-CRUX-10
(10 News. 10 Sources. One Place)



Monthly Editorials
(The Hindu & Indian Express)



Daily Quiz (Prelims)



**Government Schemes &
Ministry Wise Year End
Review**



Free Enrichment PDFs
(Tailor Made Crisp Study Material)

FREE

India's Best Answer Writing Sessions
with



Ritika Jindal



Simi Karan



Gaurav Budania



Mridul Shivhare

IAS OFFICERS

Log On To Our Unique
Free Answer Writing Sessions with Toppers (FAST) Portal
& Start Practicing!

**SCAN
HERE**



9560082909



t.me/theiashub



www.theiashub.com



[/mkyadav](https://www.youtube.com/mkyadav)



www.theiashub.com