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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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INDIAN EXPRESS

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ZONAL COUNCIL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal security)

23RD CENTRAL ZONAL COUNCIL MEET

15 of 18 issues resolved, Shah points to decline in LWE incidents

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, AUGUST 22

FROM WAIVER in pending dues of paramilitary forces to increasing component of untied component in devolution of funds to states from the Centre, changes in National Social Assistance Schemes to the need for a cargo hub within the state — these were some of the demands from states in central India during the 23rd central council meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Bhopal on Monday.

Eighteen issues were discussed during the meeting, attended by Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami and Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel joined the meeting virtually, their visit having been cancelled by bad weather.

Of 18 issues taken up for discussion, 15 were resolved, including the need for an cargo hub in Chhattisgarh.

Baghel said more time should be given for completion of work under PM Sadak Yojna in Bastar. He also urged Shah to waive pending dues of Rs 17,000 crore the state owes to the Centre. "It was pointed out that there has been a revision in the rule after which the due have gone down substantially. But as the matter was brought up, the rules will be reviewed again," an official said.

The Chhattisgarh government also discussed a plan to start a cargo hub in the state and the hurdles it faced with the Aviation Ministry. Senior officials said Shah agreed with Chhattigarah on the need for a cargo hub even if it was not immediately financially viable. Shah emphasised contribution of the four states in India's development and lauded work done by Chhattisgarh to control Left-wing extremism (LWE). He appreciated the progress in the agricul-



Home Minister Amit Shah being welcomed by Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Chouhan in Bhopal, Monday. *PTI*

DEMANDS BY STATES

Chhattisgarh: Solar plants in aspirational districts; plant to make ethanol from crop straw.
Uttarakhand: All-weather roads to villages bordering China; merger of seasonal rivulets with glacier-fed rivers; better facilities for Chardham pilgrims.
Uttar Pradesh: Better coordination in inter-state issues such as cattle smuggling; collective efforts in controlling lumpy skin disease.
Madhya Pradesh: Return the land given to central undertakings and defence establishments if not in use; relaxation in the compensatory afforestation norms. **ENS**

sues have been resolved. For the 14th meeting of standing committee on January 2022, out of 54 issues, 36 issues have already been resolved. Eighteen issues were discussed in today's meeting out of which 15 were resolved, which is a great achievement," said Shah, underscoring the importance of these meetings.

Dhami stressed on the need to

Context: Demands from states in central India during the 23rd central council meeting chaired by Union Home Minister in Bhopal.

Zonal Council

- **Statutory bodies**: They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
- **Five Zonal Councils** were set up under Part-III of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956: T**he Northern Zonal Council**, **The Central Zonal Council**, **The Eastern Zonal Council, The Western Zonal Council, The Southern Zonal Council**.
- A **North-Eastern Council** was created by a separate Act of Parliament, the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971.
    - **Members**: Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim.
- **Organizational Structure:**
    - **Chairman** - The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.
    - **Vice Chairman** - The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.
    - **Members**- Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.
    - **Advisers**- One person nominated by the Planning Commission for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone
    - **Union Ministers** are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.
- **Each Zonal Council is an advisory body** and may discuss any matter in which some or all of the States represented in that Council, or the Union and one or more of the States represented in that Council, have a common interest and advise the Central Government and the Government of each State concerned as to the action to be taken on any such matter.
- As per Section 17(1) of States Reorganisation Act, **each Zonal Council shall meet at such time** as the Chairman of the Council may appoint in this behalf.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 8

CRISP-M TOOL FOR MGNREG SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

British High Commissioner listening, Jharkhand village shares its problems

ABHISHEK ANGAD
KHUNTI (JHARKHAND), AUGUST 22

AT GOILKERA, a remote village in Jharkhand's Khunti district, villagers flocked around British High Commissioner to India Alexander Ellis, and flooded him with complaints ranging from lack of electricity, few teachers in schools to poor implementation of the job-guarantee scheme.

Sitting cross-legged with his deputy Nicholas Low and senior state government officials, including Khunti Deputy Commissioner Shashi Ranjan, Ellis was all ears to their way of life for well over an hour, and addressed them towards the end in broken Hindi. "This is my first time in an Indian countryside ...We are working with the government to support the livelihoods of these villagers to make sure they are ready for the future, in particular to the effects of climate change on rains and water. This can reduce the pressures on migration which, just like in any country, is strong when climate change takes place."



British High Commissioner to India Alexander Ellis with a group of villagers in Khunti district. *Abhishek Angad*

Ellis and Low are in Jharkhand to 'gain insights' on how climate change is impacting the lives and viate distress migration.

With CM Hemant Soren, he is scheduled to launch a new tool JHAR-CRISP – funded and formulated by UK agencies – in Ranchi. The tool is a mobile and web-based Geographical Information System (GIS) to support planning, implementation and monitoring five districts to begin with. PHIA Foundation, an NGO which works on rural distress and livelihood, is the implementation partner.

Goilkera, under Dahu Panchayat of Rani block, is a remote village with a population of around 500 belonging to the Munda tribe. Most villagers are engaged in agriculture, wage labour and minor forest produce.

Xavier Horo, a psychology graduate, who works as a farmer in his village Goir under Sade Panchayat, 15 kilometres from Goilkera, complained that electricity didn't reach his village despite several applications. "There is no electricity in my village and we are also not getting kerosene oil under the PDS; how do we educate our children under these conditions? We don't even get mobile network reception, so how do we enable online education for our children." To this, Ranjan said an application to the DC office will

Context: With CM of Jharkhand, British High Commissioner is scheduled to launch a new tool JHAR-CRISP - funded and formulated by UK agencies - in Ranchi.

Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M)

- It is a tool for integration of climate information in Geographic Information System (GIS) based watershed planning under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
- The tool will help embed climate information in the GIS-based planning and implementation of MGNREGA.
- The British Government and other stakeholders supported the Rural Development Ministry in developing the tool.
- This tool will be used in seven states where the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Government of UK and Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India are jointly working towards climate resilience.
- The states are Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

LIVEMINT

Page 2

FACELESS TAX ASSESSMENT SCHEME

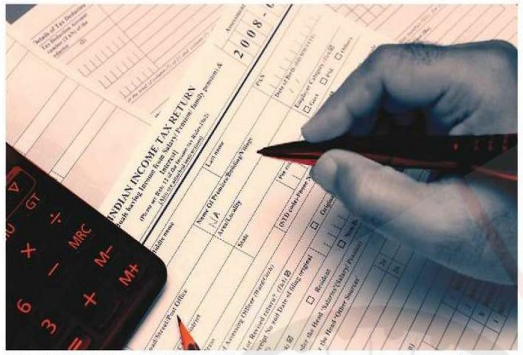
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Faceless tax assessment scheme to show human face

The faceless system was introduced in 2019 in order to bring automation in the system

Dilasha Seth &
Gireesh Chandra Prasad

NEW DELHI



Allahabad High Court highlighted a flaw in the reassessment order issued by the National Faceless Assessment Centre. MINT

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is reviewing the operation of its faceless tax assessment procedures to ensure field officers do not make aggressive tax demands and allow natural justice to take its course, a person informed about the discussions in the government said. The review follows an 11 August order by the Allahabad High Court giving instructions about instituting safeguards amid complaints over the system's alleged over-reliance on data rather than human interaction.

The faceless system was introduced in 2019 in order to bring automation in the system, do away with random individual discretion by tax officials and check corruption. However, many taxpayers have complained about aggressive tax demands and about being denied a hearing to address such problems.

Hearings were an area of concern initially under the faceless system but after legal cases mounted, the government made it compulsory to grant a hearing if a taxpayer asked for one.

The court order came in a case involving Kanpur-based SR Cold Storage dating back to a disputed income for assessment year 2017-18. The person cited above said several changes have already been implemented in the assessment proceedings this year, and the faceless operation is constantly being monitored for further refining.

Listing some of these changes, the person said that e-verification of information has been made available to assessment officers, standard operating procedures have been introduced earlier this month, and an apex committee at CBDT is closely watching the performance of 20 committees set up across the country to look into taxpayer grievances over aggressive made far beyond returned income. "The faceless assessment system is continuously being monitored for any glitch or loopholes to be fixed," the person said.

The court told the government to put in place systems to ensure that cross-checking of facts on its Insight data portal is not an empty formality and that field officers are held accountable if they breach the principle of natural justice. The court order highlighted a flaw in the reassessment order issued by the National Faceless Assessment Centre based on data available in the Insight portal, the tax department's taxpayer profiling portal, about bank deposits allegedly made by the assessee. The court, which favoured the petitioner and quashed the reassessment order, is set to hear about the imposition of a cost of ₹50 lakh on the central government in the case.

An email sent to the finance ministry and CBDT on Wednesday seeking comments on the story remained unanswered at the time of publishing.

Experts said the tax department must go for human validation of data identified through artificial intelligence before issuing any notice to a taxpayer.

Rajat Mohan, a partner at tax consultant AMRG Associates, said that the tax authorities must be mindful of the technology tools' reach, impact, inherent limitations. "Risk areas identified by big data analytics need human validation before the same is flown to a taxpayer. Re-verification of data on tax portals prior to the initiation of proceedings has emerged as an imperative need to avert violations of the principles of natural justice. Judiciary has taken a step in the right direction to curb the abuse of power by the tax officers leading to chaos in the entire tax collection system," Mohan said.

Samir Kanabar, a tax partner at EY India, said, "Tax assessment being a complex task requires application of mind, and one cannot accomplish the same in abstract or merely relying on data."

dilasha.seth@livemint.com

TAXING PROBLEMS

FACELESS assessment was introduced to check human discretion and corruption

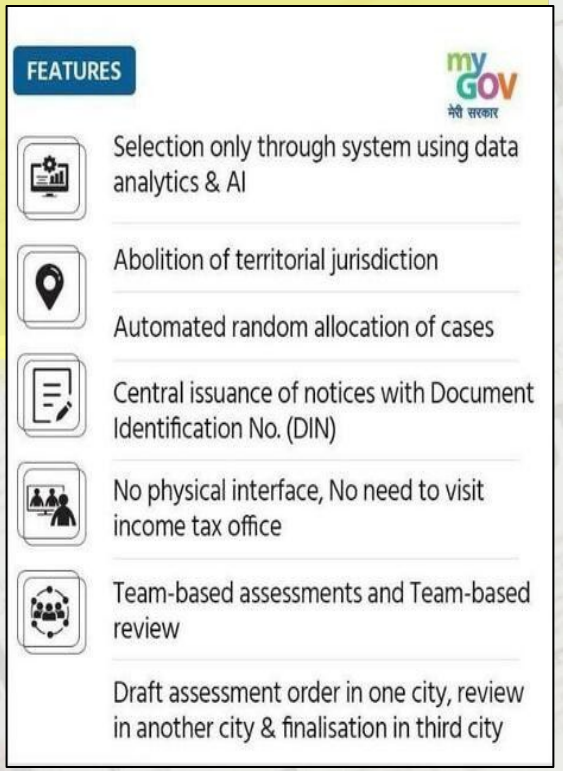
BUT system has been characterized by a heavy reliance on data at the cost of human interaction

JUDICIARY wants field officers held accountable if they breach the principle of natural justice

Context: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is reviewing the operation of its faceless tax assessment procedures to ensure field officers do not make aggressive tax demands and allow natural justice to take its course.

Faceless tax assessment scheme

- The faceless system was introduced in 2019 in order to bring automation in the system.
- It is a huge step forward in the direction of achieving a more digitally and technically empowered functionality of the government authorities and department.
- Under this scheme, the Individual will be able to carry out the assessment process digitally and in a much-fast-tracked manner.
- Faceless Assessment Scheme Focuses On :
    - No human interface
    - Eased compliance for taxpayers
    - Efficiency and transparency
    - Quality of assessment improved
    - Fast-tracking of disposal of disputes and cases
    - Specialization in functionality



LIVEMINT Page 4

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSITS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Banks issue CDs to secure cheap funding

Reuters
feedback@livemint.com



India's banking system liquidity surplus is around ₹1.40 trillion in August, MINT

Banks in India have hiked their fundraising activity through the issuance of certificates of deposits, as funding in the banking system continues to contract, analysts said.

"Banks are not raising deposit rates, as they are able to get funds easily from money market by issuing CDs, and that too cheaply, and they may continue to opt for this route of fundraising for next few weeks," said Raju Sharma, head of fixed income at IDBI Mutual Fund.

Indian private and state-run banks have raised around ₹30,000 crore through two-month to one-year CDs in the two weeks to August 19, sharply higher than the roughly ₹50,000 crore in the previous two weeks, data compiled by *Reuters* showed.

Larger lenders, such as Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda, have also jumped the bandwagon and are actively borrowing funds through three-month and one-year notes. These lenders are paying 6.60%-6.74% for one-year funds and are keen to tie up funds for a year in anticipation of policy tightening in the near future.

The Reserve Bank of India's repo rate stands at 5.40%.

India's banking system liquidity surplus has averaged around ₹1.40 trillion in August, falling further from ₹1.90 trillion in July and ₹2.92 trillion in June.

"With liquidity getting drained out of the banking system, we expect banks to continue to raise funds through CDs as well as bonds," said Venkatakrishnan Srinivasan, founder and managing partner at debt advisory firm Rockfort Fincap.

Market participants also said that a pick up in credit growth as the economy revives will create the need for a steady flow of funds at banks. At the same time, mutual funds have been happy to park funds in CDs, thus making it a win-win for issuers and investors.

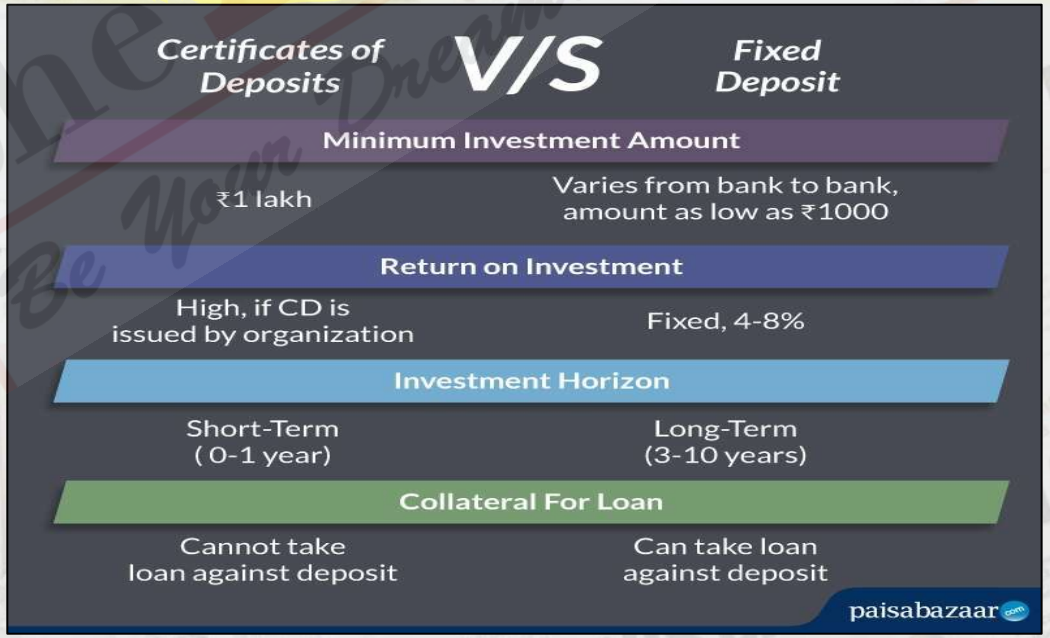
"Debt funds that are mandated to invest in shorter duration instruments are always on the lookout for investment opportunities and that is the major reason that banks are able to get large quantums without any major difference on rates," Sharma said.

"We expect the liquidity tightness to lead to an effective policy rate hike of 60-75 bps," said Upasna Bhardwaj, chief economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Context: Banks in India have hiked their fundraising activity through the issuance of certificates of deposits.

Certificate of Deposit (CD)

- It is a savings product that earns interest on a lump sum for a fixed period of time.
- CDs differ from savings accounts because the money must remain untouched for the entirety of their term or risk penalty fees or lost interest.
- CDs usually have higher interest rates than savings accounts as an incentive for lost liquidity.
- Almost all consumer financial institutions offer CDs, although it's up to each bank which terms it wants to offer, how much higher the rate will be compared to the bank's savings and money market products, and what penalties it applies for early withdrawal.



THE HINDU Page 12

TOMATO FLU
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

'Tomato flu' detected among children in India, says *Lancet*

Cases reported in Kerala, T.N. and Odisha; precautions taken to check spread

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

A new infection dubbed tomato flu, or tomato fever, has been detected in India mostly among children younger than five, according to a report in the *Lancet Respiratory Journal*.

The "non-life-threatening" virus was first identified in Kollam district of Kerala on May 6. As of July 26, more than 82 children younger than five had been reported with the infection by government hospitals in Kerala, the report published in the August 17 issue of the journal said.

It further said that this endemic viral illness triggered an alert in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Additionally, 26 children (aged one to nine) were reported with the infection in Odisha. "To date, apart from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha, no other region in India has been affected by the virus. However, precautionary measures are being taken by the Kerala Health Department to monitor the spread of the viral infection and prevent its spread in other parts of India," the report noted.



On alert: Health Department personnel carrying out thermal screening amid the tomato flu scare. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Primary symptoms

The primary symptoms of tomato flu are similar to those of chikungunya, which include high fever, rashes, and intense pain in the joints. As with other viral infections, further symptoms include fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dehydration, swelling of joints, body aches, and common influenza-like symptoms, which are similar to those manifested in dengue.

As tomato flu is similar to chikungunya and dengue as well as hand, foot, and mouth disease, the treatment is also similar – isolation, rest, plenty of fluids, and hot water sponge for the relief of irritation and rashes. Supportive therapy of paracetamol for fever and body ache and other symptomatic treatments may be required.

Similar to other types of influenza, tomato flu is very contagious and children are at an increased risk of exposure as viral infections are common in this age group and the spread is likely to be through close contact, the report noted

Young children are also prone to this infection through the use of nappies, touching unclean surfaces, and putting things directly into the mouth.

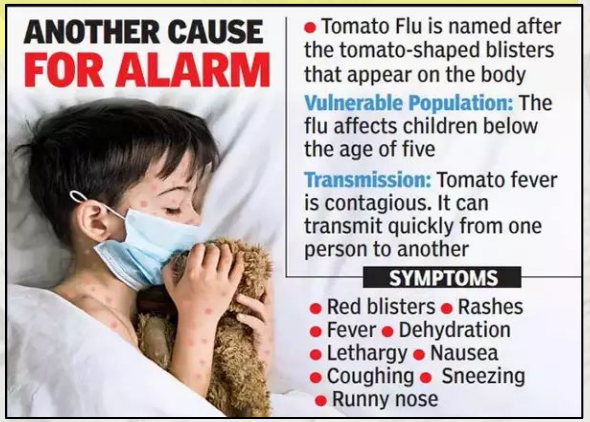
Given the similarities to hand, foot, and mouth disease, if the outbreak of tomato flu in children is not controlled and prevented, the transmission might lead to serious consequences by spreading in adults as well, the report said.

"The 'tomato flu' is caused by Coxsackie virus A 16. It belongs to Enterovirus family. Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) is a frequent febrile rash illness of childhood caused by enteroviruses (EV): Coxsackie A16 (CA16), EV A71, Coxsackie A6, Coxsackie B and Echo viruses," said Dr. Suresh Kumar Panuganti, paediatrician, Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad.

Context: A new infection dubbed tomato flu, or tomato fever, has been detected in India mostly among children younger than five.

Tomato flu

- **Tomato fever or 'Tomato Flu' or HFMD (hand, foot and mouth disease)** is a viral illness where an individual suffers from rashes, and blisters which are red and resonates with tomatoes.
- Tomato fever is **highly contagious.**
- The sickness **does not pose any substantial risk** to life.
- Tomato fever is **believed to be caused by a virus**. It is still considered to be an unidentified type of fever.
- Some suspect it as an aftereffect of certain diseases spread by mosquito bites, such as chikungunya (a viral infection causing fever and joint inflammation) or dengue fever (a viral infection causing fever, rashes, and body pain).
- This disease can spread through intestinal viruses or can be a side effect of dengue or chikungunya.
- There is **no particular treatment required**. However, the symptoms usually subside in seven to ten days.



THE HINDU Page 14

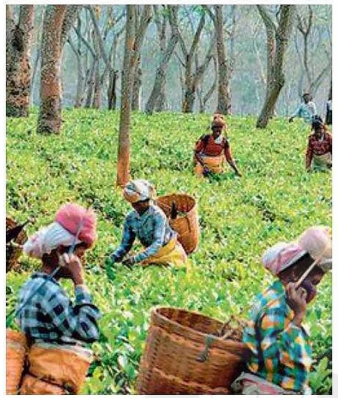
TEA PRODUCTION IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Agriculture)

June tea output drops 17% on flood, pest attack

'Lower production lifts average prices'

REUTERS
MUMBAI



India's June tea production fell 17.4% from a year earlier to 141.31 million kilograms (kg), the State-run Tea Board said, as floods and pest attack dented output in the main producing region.

Heavy June rainfall flooded tea gardens in Assam, which accounts for more than half the country's production, making tea plucking difficult for workers.

That sent production down 19% year-on-year to 74.35 million kg.

Tea plucking in India, the world's second-biggest tea producer, usually accelerates from June to October.

In the first half of 2022, India's tea production fell 20% from a year earlier to 360.19 million kg, Tea Board data shows.

Lower tea production in June lifted average tea prices in July to ₹194.49 ($2.44) per kg, up 10.5% year on year, according to the Tea Board.

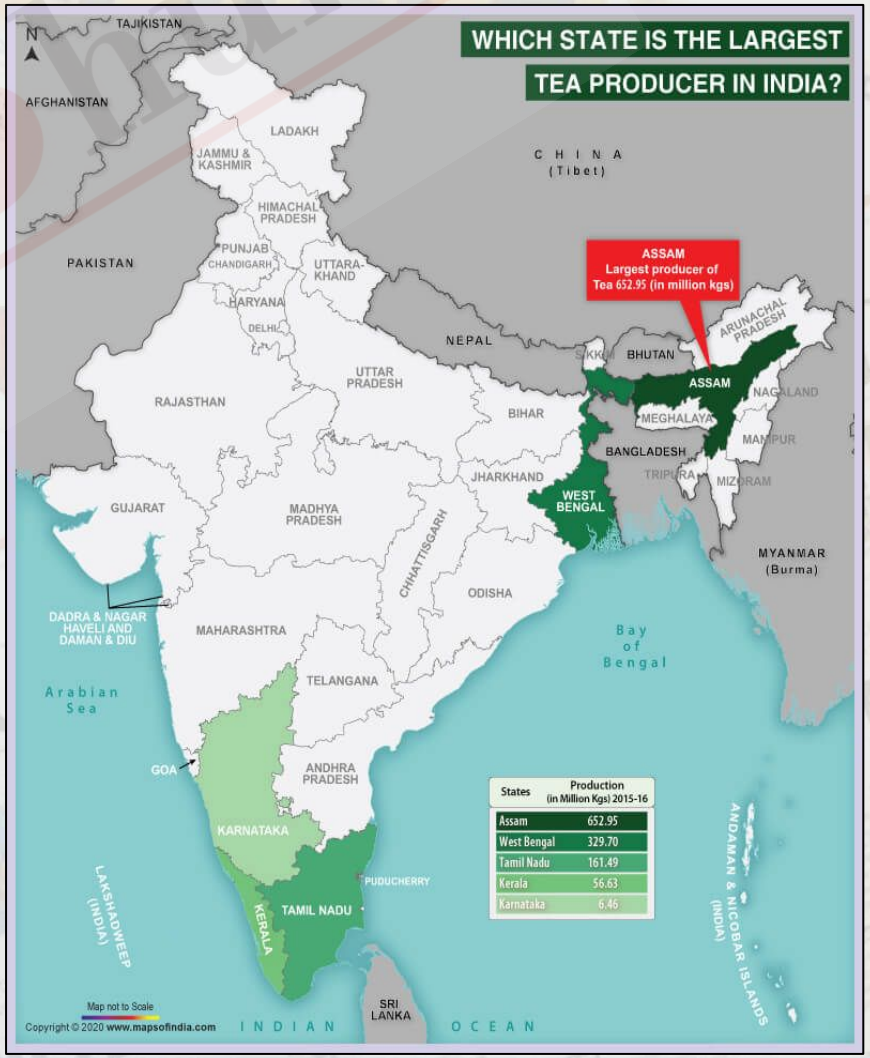
The country exports CTC (crush-tear-curl) grade mainly to Egypt and the United Kingdom, with the orthodox variety shipped to Iraq, Iran and Russia.

The CTC tea is produced using a maceration device.

Context: India's June tea production fell 17.4% from a year earlier to 141.31 million kilograms (kg) as floods and pest attack dented output in the main producing region.

Tea production in India

- India is the second-largest producer of tea globally.
- India is also among the world's top tea consuming countries, with 80% of the tea produced in the country consumed by the domestic population.
- The northern part of India is the biggest producer at about 83% of the country's annual tea production.
- India is among the top 5 tea exporters in the world making about 10% of the total exports.
- The Tea Board of India was set up in 1953 for the development of tea industry in India.
    - Being the regulatory body, the Board exerts control over the producers, manufacturers, exporters, tea brokers, auction organizers and warehouse keepers through various control orders notified under Tea Act.



TIMES OF INDIA

Page 11

MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

'It's for Centre to declare Ram Sethu a monument'

The Supreme Court on Monday said it is within the policy domain of the Centre to take a call on declaring the 'Ram Sethu' a national monument and that the courts have a limited role in this. A 15-year-old petition by Subramanian Swamy seeks conferment of national monument status to the 'Rama Sethu', a bridge to Sri Lanka religiously believed to be built by Lord Ram. Swamy said the Centre is not taking a decision on the ground that the matter is pending adjudication before the SC. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna said the court is not preventing the government from taking a decision on this issue. TNN

Context: The Supreme Court said it is within the policy domain of the Centre to take a call on declaring the 'Ram Sethu' a national monument and that the courts have a limited role in this.

Monuments of National Importance

- National ancient Monuments are defined under the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act,1958.
- The Act defines Ancient Monument as any structure or monument or any cave, rock sculpture, an inscription that is of historical, or archaeological interest.
- **Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act,1958:** The main purpose of the Act was to preserve the historic monuments and archeological areas and regulate the mines to protect the ancient carvings and the articles of national importance.
- The Central Government is authorised to maintain, protect and promote the monuments.
- A "Monument of National Importance" is designated by the Archaeological Survey of India and includes the following:
    - The remains of an ancient monument
    - The site of an ancient monument
    - The land on which there are fences or protective covering structures for preserving the monument
    - Land by means of which people can freely access the monument

DOWN TO EARTH

August 23

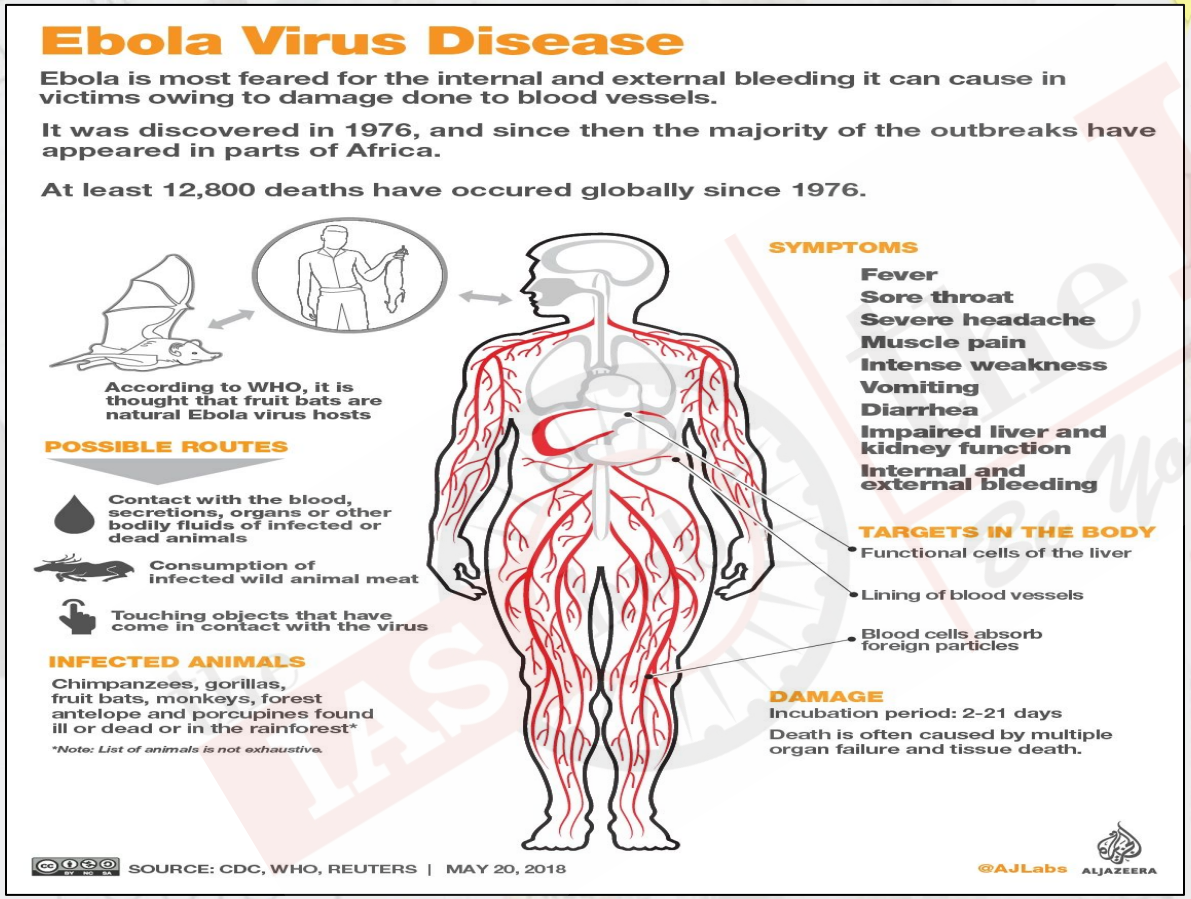
EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

AFRICA

DR Congo's health authorities probe suspected Ebola case in North Kivu

In previous outbreaks, it has killed as many as 90 per cent of the people it infected, according to the WHO



Context:Health authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are looking into a suspected case of Ebola virus disease in the eastern province of North Kivu.

Ebola virus disease (EVD)

- Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans.
- The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.
- The average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.
- Vaccines to protect against Ebola have been developed and have been used to help control the spread of Ebola outbreaks in Guinea and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

History of Ebola Virus Disease

- First discovered in 1976, the disease broke out for two consecutive times in different parts of central Africa.
- WHO has termed the 2014–2016 outbreak in West Africa as the largest Ebola outbreak ever since it was first discovered.
- The latest 2018-2019 outbreak in eastern DRC has been highly complex.
- In 2014, Kerala also faced a threat of Ebola virus transmission as many people coming from infected areas in African subcontinent visited India.

PIB

August 23

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal security)

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Posted On: 22 AUG 2022 8:14PM by PIB Delhi

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh is visiting Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 23rd to 25th August, 2022 to attend the Annual Meeting of the Defence Ministers' of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States. During the Annual Meeting, Defence Cooperation issues among the SCO Member States will be discussed and it is expected that a joint communiqué will be issued after the deliberations. Shri Rajnath Singh's address at the meeting is slated to be held on August 24, 2022.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- The SCO is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai in 2001.
- The SCO currently comprises:
  - **Eight Member States:** China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan),
  - **Four Observer States** interested in acceding to full membership: Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia
  - **Six "Dialogue Partners":** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey
- In 2021, the decision was made to start the accession process of Iran to the SCO as a full member, and Egypt, Qatar as well as Saudi Arabia became dialogue partners.
- Since its inception in 2001, the SCO has mainly focused on regional security issues, its fight against regional terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism.
  - To date, the SCO's priorities also include regional development.
- The SCO has been an observer in the UN General Assembly since 2005.

PIB

August 23

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) LOAN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure and economy)

ADB, India sign $96.3 million loan to improve water supply and sanitation services in Himachal Pradesh

Posted On: 22 AUG 2022 4:38PM by PIB Delhi

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India today signed a $96.3-million loan agreement to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Key points

- The project is aligned with the objectives of the Government of India's Jal Jeevan Mission which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024.
- It will upgrade water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services.
- ADB's involvement in the project will provide water management best practices, strengthen institutional capacity, and guide tariff reform.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- ADB is an international development finance institution whose mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people.
- Headquartered in Manila, and established in 1966, ADB is owned and financed by its 68 members, of which 49 are from the region.
- ADB's main partners are governments, the private sector, non government organizations, development agencies, community-based organizations, and foundations.
- Under Strategy 2020, a long-term strategic framework adopted in 2008, ADB will follow three complementary strategic agendas: inclusive growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.
- In pursuing its vision, ADB's main instruments comprise loans, technical assistance, grants, advice, and knowledge.
- Although most lending is in the public sector - and to governments - ADB also provides direct assistance to private enterprises of developing countries through equity investments, guarantees, and loans. In addition, its triple-A credit rating helps mobilize funds for development.

THANK YOU!

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