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THE HINDU Page 5

INDIAN BLACK HONEYBEE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Indian black honeybee is a Western Ghats discovery

SPECIAL

Roshni R.K.
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A new species of endemic honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats. The new species has been named *Apis karinjodian* and given the common name Indian black honeybee.

The finding has been published in the September issue of *Entomon*, a peer-reviewed journal brought out by the Association for Advancement of Entomology.

The research team behind the discovery comprised Shanas S. from Kerala Agricultural University's Integrated Farming Systems Research Station, Karamana, here; Anju Krishnan G., a Ph.D. research scholar from the Zoology Department of S.N. College, Cherthala (affiliated to the University of Kerala); and Mashhoor K. from the EMEA College of Arts and Science, Malappuram. It is after a gap of more than 200 years that a new species of honeybee has been spotted in the Western Ghats. The last honeybee described from India was *Apis indica* in 1798 by Fabricius. Although Fabricius named the Indian bee *Apis indica*, it was not considered a valid species till now. The research team restored the status of *Apis indica* based on a new measure for species discrimination in honeybees termed 'Radio-Medial Index (RMI).'



A taste of honey: Apis karinjodian is found from the central to southern Western Ghats.

They obtained high-resolution photographs of the type specimen from the Natural History Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, to prove the distinct identity of *Apis indica*, which led to the discovery of *Apis karinjodian*.

Apis karinjodian has evolved from *Apis cerana* morphotypes that got acclimatised to the hot and humid environment of the Western Ghats. Molecular analysis of mitochondrial DNA was also carried out and molecular sequence data available in the public open database NCBI-GenBank also helped confirm the species status of the new honeybee. The research work took more than three years.

The distribution of *Apis karinjodian* ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Context: A new species of endemic honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats.

Western Ghats

- **About**: often called **Great Escarpment of India**, a mountain range running parallel along the western coast of India starting from **Gujarat** and ending in **Tamil Nadu** covering the states of **Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala.**
  - Recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Formation**: The mountains of the Western Ghats are **Block Mountains** formed due to the down warping of a part of land into the Arabian Sea.
  - The mountains of the Western Ghats are **not true mountains**, but are the faulted edge of the Deccan Plateau.
  - Western Ghats are **older than the Himalayas** and are a **continuous range** of mountain.
- **Another name: Sahyadri** in Maharashtra, **Nilgiri hills** in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and **Anaimalai** hills and Cardamom hills in Kerala.
- **Forests type**: Evergreen Forests , Moist Deciduous Forests, Scrub jungles, Sholas and Savannas including the high rainfall savannas
- **Highest peak**: Anamudi

Indian black honeybee

- **Scientific Name:** Apis karinjodian.
- **About**: Apis karinjodian has evolved from Apis cerana morphotypes that got acclimatised to the hot and humid environment of the Western Ghats.
- **Distribution**: ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Species of bees

- **Different species:** There are almost **20,000 different species** of bees in the world.
- **Habitat**: Bees **live in colonies**.
- **3 types:** In each colony, there are **three types of bees**, the queen bee, the worker bee, and the drone.
- **Females**: The **worker and the queen bee** both are females**,** but only the queen bee can reproduce.
- **Males:** All **drones** are male.
- **World Bee Day**: celebrated annually on 20th May

Honeybee in India

- **4 species**: India is home to four of the seven known bee species.
- **Two of these are domesticated**: Apis cerana (oriental honey bee) and Apis mellifera (European honey bee).
- **Other two are wild**: Apis dorsata (giant/rock honey bee) and Apis florea (dwarf honey bee).

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 6

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Climate change woes are bad, getting worse: WMO

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Egypt, 6 November

Earth's warming weather and rising seas are getting worse and doing so faster than before, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned Sunday in a somber note as world leaders started gathering for international climate negotiations.

"The latest State of the Global Climate report is a chronicle of climate chaos," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "We must answer the planet's distress signal with action—ambitious, credible climate action." In its annual state of the climate report, the United Nations' weather agency said that sea level rise in the past decade was double what it was in the 1990s and since January 2020 has jumped at a higher rate than that. Since the decade began, seas are rising at 5 millimeters a year (.2 inches) compared to 2.1 millimeters (.08 inches) in the 1990s.

Last 8 years warmest on record

The global mean temperature in 2022 is estimated to be 1.15 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average, likely making the eight years from 2015 the warmest on record, the WMO said.

The report titled 'WMO Provisional State of the Global Climate 2022' released at the 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC on Sunday stated that the rate of sea level rise has doubled since 1993 and has risen by nearly 10 mm since January 2020 to a new record high this year.

The past two-and-a-half years' account for 10 per cent of the overall rise in sea level since satellite measurements started nearly 30 years ago, the report stated.

Context Earth's warming weather and rising seas are getting worse and doing so faster than before, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned in a somber note as world leaders started gathering for international climate negotiations.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- **About**: A specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for **promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.**
- **Origin**: Originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
    - **Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23rd March 1950**, WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.'
- **Functions**: It facilitates the **"free and unrestricted" exchange of data,** information, and research between the respective meteorological and hydrological institutions of its members.
- **Members**: The WMO has 193 Member States and 6 Member Territories.
    - India is a member of the WMO since 1949.
- **Headquarter**: Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Parent organization of the UN's WMO**: United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- **Administration**: Governed by the World Meteorological Congress, composed of member states, which meets every four years to set policies and priorities.
- **World Meteorological Day**: Annually on 23 March.
- **WMO Publications/Reports:** Status of World Climate and Greenhouse Gas Bulletin.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 12

LAKE VICTORIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

TANZANIA

19 dead as plane plunges into Lake Victoria

Nairobi: A small passenger plane crashed Sunday morning into Lake Victoria on approach to an airport in Tanzania, and the country's prime minister says 19 people on board were killed.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa gave the new death toll, up from three. Earlier, local authorities said 26 of those on the Precision Air flight from the coastal city of Dar es Salaam were rescued and taken to a hospital.

Photos showed the plane, which was headed to Bukoba Airport, mostly submerged in the lake. Precision Air is a Tanzanian airline company.

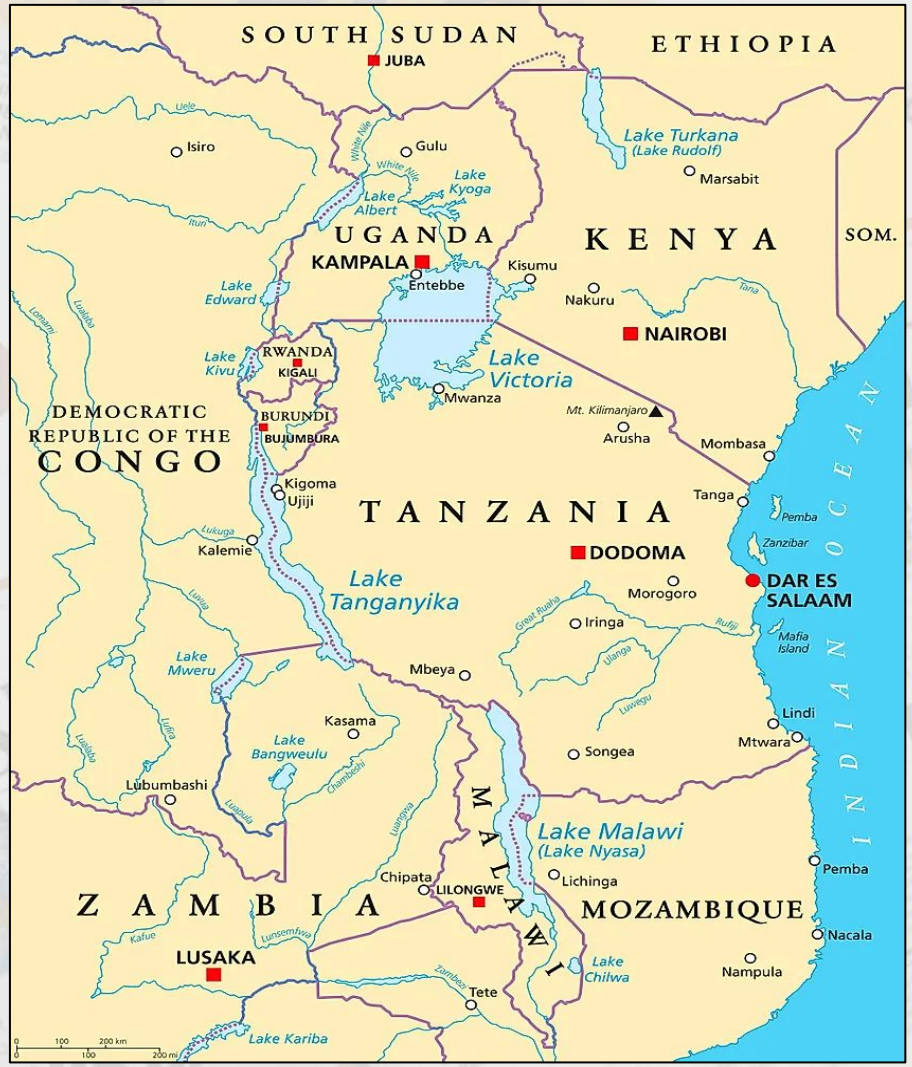
"We have managed to save quite a number of people," Kagera province police commander William Mwampaghale told journalists.

"When the aircraft was about 100 metres midair, it encountered problems and bad weather," he said, adding rescue efforts were continuing. AP

Context: A Tanzanian passenger plane has crashed into Lake Victoria as it attempted to land in the lakeside town of Bukoba, killing at least 19 people.

Lake Victoria

- **About**: one of the African Great Lakes.
  - The **African Great Lakes** are a series of lakes constituting the part of the Rift Valley lakes in and around the East African Rift. They include:
    - **Lake Victoria:** The second-largest freshwater lake in the world by area after Lake Superior in North America.
      - Africa's largest lake by area.
      - World's largest tropical lake.
      - World's ninth-largest continental lake.
    - **Lake Tanganyika**: The world's second-largest freshwater lake by volume and depth.
    - **Lake Malawi**: The world's eighth-largest freshwater lake by area.
- **Coverage**: The Lake's area is divided among three countries: Kenya occupies 6%, Uganda 45% and Tanzania 49%.
- **River**: **Nile river** originates at lake Victoria and empties into the Mediterranean sea.
- **Fauna**: Hippopotamus, African clawless otter, spotted-necked otter, marsh mongoose, sitatunga, bohor reedbuck, defassa waterbuck, cane rats, and giant otter shrew, Nile crocodiles, as well as African helmeted turtles, variable mud turtles, and Williams' mud turtle.
  - **Evarcha culicivora** is a species of jumping spider (family Salticidae) found only around Lake Victoria in Kenya and Uganda.
- **Species of fish**: Cichlid fish and Nile perch



LIVEMINT Page 8

SUGAR INDUSTRY IN INDIA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Mills are allowed to export 6 MT sugar

India on Saturday approved the 2022/23 export of 6 million tonnes (MT) of sugar, in line with market expectations for the year's first tranche. India exported an all-time high of more than 11 million tonnes of sugar in 2021/22 and the industry was expecting New Delhi this year to allow exports of 8 to 9 MT in two tranches. India is the world's biggest producer of sugar and the second biggest exporter. The government has allocated 6 MT of sugar to mills based on their production in the past three years, the government said in a notification. Industry officials were expecting the government to allow 5 to 6 MT of sugar in a first tranche and another 2 to 3 MT in a second tranche based on sugar production.

The notification issued on Saturday did not specify whether the government would allow a second tranche, but trade and government sources said it likely would as the country's production is set to hit a record high for a second straight year. India is expected to produce around 36.5 MT of sugar in the season that began on 1 October, a leading industry body said last month. REUTERS

Context: The government, which has allowed export of six million tonnes of sugar till May 31 of the ongoing 2022-23 season, said on Sunday that it might allow more export after periodic assessment of domestic production.

Sugar Industry in India

- **About**: **Second largest agro-based** industry in India after cotton.
- **Distribution**: Two major areas of production- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab in the north and Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in the south.
    - In comparison to north India, the **tropical climate of south India is more suited** to increased sucrose concentration, resulting in a higher yield per unit area.
- **Top Sugarcane Producing States**: Maharashtra>Uttar Pradesh > Karnataka.
- **Global Position**: India is the **world's largest producer** of sugar and the second-largest exporter after Brazil.
- **Geographical Conditions:**
    - **Temperature**: Between 21-27°C with hot and humid climate.
    - **Rainfall**: Around 75-100 cm.
    - **Soil Type**: Deep rich loamy soil.



ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 4

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Indian Society)

BJP Promises Uniform Civil Code, 8 Lakh Jobs

Party makes '11 commitments'; brings out separate manifesto for women

Kumar.Anshuman
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Shimla: The BJP on Sunday promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Himachal Pradesh if the party comes back to power.

"Our government will get the survey of all the Waqf properties in the state done as per the law besides forming a judicial commission which will look into the legality of the misuse of these properties," Nadda told media persons during the launch of the manifesto called the Sankalp Patra. He said the party would form a committee to find out how UCC can be implemented in the state.

The party has also highlighted 11 commitments it has decided to fulfil if it comes to power in the state. The UCC has been the first commitment mentioned in the manifesto highlighting the party's seriousness on the matter.

"We are committed to the UCC and it is the need of the hour," Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jairam Thakur, told **ET**. "We would also like to know how much of Waqf property is there and how it is being misused."

The manifesto also promised to provide eight lakh jobs to the people of Himachal in a phased manner.

The issue of 18% GST on apple packaging by apple farmers has caught the party's attention. To avoid any backfire on the issue, it has promised in the manifesto that farmers would have to pay an effective rate of 12% GST on packaging and the rest would be paid by the state government. The BJP said the state government has promised to pay Rs 3,000 annually to farmers over and above the ₹6,000 under PM Kisan being paid by the central government.

There are 55,92,828 voters in Himachal Pradesh. Of this, 27,37,845 (49%) are women voters. Considering this number, the BJP has launched a separate Stree Shakti Sankalp Patra to woo women voters, which again includes 11 commitments.



BJP national president JP Nadda with Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur in Shimla on Sunday–ANI

TAKING STOCK

'Would also like to know how much of Waqf property is there and how it is being misused'

Context: The BJP promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Himachal Pradesh if the party comes back to power.

Uniform Civil Code

- **About**: It is one that would provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.
- **Status of Uniform Codes in India:**
  - **Constitutional provision:**
    - **DPSP: Article 44 of the Constitution** lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
      - It is **not a fundamental right or a Constitutional guarantee**.
    - **Schedule Seven**: Many of the matters pertaining to the UCC are present in item five of the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
  - **Indian legislation:** Indian laws do follow a uniform code in most civil matters such as Indian Contract Act 1872, Civil Procedure Code, Transfer of Property Act 1882, Partnership Act 1932, Evidence Act, 1872 etc.
  - **Status of states**: States have **made hundreds of amendments** and, therefore, in certain matters, there is diversity even under these secular civil laws.
- **Constitutional Hurdle: Article 25 of Indian constitution,** that seeks to preserve the freedom to practise and propagate any religion gets into conflict with the concepts of equality enshrined under Article 14 of Indian Constitution.

Legal Provisions dealing with Civil Code in India

- **Under the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937**: Issues such as marriage, maintenance, dower, divorce and inheritance come within its purview. **Many of these also find a place in item five of the Concurrent List.**
- **The Hindu Succession Act, 1956:** It originally did not give daughters inheritance rights in ancestral property.
  - They could only ask for a right to sustenance from a joint Hindu family.
  - This **disparity was removed by an amendment to the Act in 2005.**
- **Hindu Code Bill:** The purpose of the bill was to reform Hindu laws, which legalised divorce, opposed polygamy and gave rights of inheritance to daughters.
  - Amidst intense opposition to the code, a diluted version was passed via four different laws.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 13

DIABETES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Study: Diabetes during pregnancy increases risk of premature birth

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New Delhi: One of the main causes for under-five mortality is premature birth. A retrospective study based on the health records of over 2,600 women who had increased blood sugar levels during pregnancy suggests diabetes during pregnancy aggravated the risk of premature birth and other pregnancy-related complications.

As per the study, published in Diabetes Medicine — a journal of the British Diabetic Association — there was a continuous increase of 19% odds for premature birth with every four weeks decrease in the gestational age or stage at which diabetes was diagnosed. The study subjects included: women who were diagnosed with gestational diabetes before completing 24 weeks of pregnancy (early diagnosis), those diagnosed in the 24th week or later (standard diagnosis), and women who did not have gestational diabetes (non-GDM).

"Compared to non-GDM women, the odds were higher for premature birth, large for gestational age (LGA) babies, macrosomia (excessive birth weight), neonatal ICU (NICU) admission and lower for normal vaginal delivery in the early diagnosis group, but for the standard diagnosis group the risk was higher for premature birth, LGA babies, NICU admission and induction of labour," the study says.

Asian Indian women having gestational diabetes diagnosis before 24 weeks of pregnancy are at higher risk for adverse pregnancy events than those having diagnosis after that or not having that condition, the authors said.

Context: A retrospective study based on the health records of over 2,600 women who had increased blood sugar levels during pregnancy suggests diabetes during pregnancy aggravated the risk of premature birth and other pregnancy related complications.

Diabetes

- **About:** A metabolic disease or a condition in which the glucose levels in the blood will be high over a prolonged period of time.
  - It is a a **Non-Communicable Disease (NCD).**
- **Cause**: Occurs either **when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin** (a hormone that regulates blood sugar, or glucose), or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin, it produces.
- **Impacts of Diabetes**: It affects the **five major organs** namely, Kidney, Heart, Blood vessels, Nervous System, and Eyes (retina).
- **Types of Diabetes:**
  - **Diabetes Mellitus**: inability of the body to effectively use or respond to the insulin produced by the body, and as a result, blood sugar levels cannot be regulated effectively. It is further classified into two types:
    - **Type 1 Diabetes**: occurs when the **pancreas fails to produce sufficient insulin**.
      - The consequent lack of insulin causes an increase in glucose levels in urine and blood.
      - It is also **known as juvenile diabetes** (as it mostly affects children of age 14-16 years)
    - **Type 2 Diabetes**: While the **body still makes insulin** but it affects the way the body uses insulin.
  - **Diabetes Insipidus**: When the **body is unable to respond or produce the Antidiuretic hormone** (ADH), which is secreted by the hypothalamus, Diabetes Insipidus occurs.
    - This hormone **helps the kidneys manage the amount of water** in the human body.
    - Without this essential hormone, the kidneys pass an abnormally large volume of urine that is odourless and dilute.
  - **Gestational Diabetes**: This condition **occurs in pregnant women** who develop high blood sugar levels without a previous history.
    - It **does not occur in all women** and usually resolves after giving birth.
- **Treatments**: Glucose monitoring and Artificial pancreas.

PIB

Nov 7

CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Central Consumer Protection Authority passes Order against Cloudtail for selling domestic pressure cookers in violation of mandatory BIS standards

CCPA directs Cloudtail to recall and reimburse the prices of 1,033 such pressure cookers sold to consumers and submit a compliance report in 45 days

Context: The Central Consumer Protection Authority has passed order against Cloudtail India Pvt. Ltd. for violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practice by selling domestic pressure cookers in **violation to mandatory standards prescribed as per Domestic Pressure Cooker (Quality Control) Order, 2020**.

Central Consumer Protection Authority

- **Statutory body**: A regulatory body established in 2020 based on the provisions of the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019.**
- **Nodal Ministry**: Under the administrative **control of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.**
- **Objectives**: Protect the r**ights of the consumer by cracking down on unfair trade practices**, and false and misleading advertisements that are detrimental to the interests of the public and consumers.
- **Composition**:
  - A **Chief Commissioner** as head, and only **two other commissioners** as members - one of whom will deal with matters relating to goods while the other will look into cases relating to services.
  - An **Investigation Wing** that will be headed by a Director General.
  - **District Collectors** too, will have the power to investigate complaints of violations of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and false or misleading advertisements.
- **Major Powers and Functions:**
  - Inquire or investigate into **matters relating to violations of consumer rights** or unfair trade practices **suo moto**, or on a complaint received, or on a direction from the central government.
  - **Intervene in any proceedings** before the District Commission or the State Commission or the National Commission, as the case may be, in respect of any allegation of violation of consumer rights or unfair trade practices.
  - **Issue safety notices** to alert consumers against dangerous or hazardous or unsafe goods or services.
  - **Advise the Ministries** and Departments of the Central and State Governments on consumer welfare measures.
  - **Issue necessary guidelines** to prevent unfair trade practices and protect consumers' interest.

PIB

Nov 7

NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA (NMCG)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

National Mission for Clean Ganga Organizes Ganga Utsav - The River Festival

Context: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organized Ganga Utsav - The River Festival 2022 on 4th November at New Delhi in two sessions.

More In News

- NMCG has been celebrating Ganga Utsav since 2017 **every year on 4th November**, the day on which river Ganga was declared the National River of India in the year 2008.
- Ganga Utsav 2022 is dedicated to the **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.**
- As Ganga Utsav 2022 is held in the **75th year of independence**, it is planned to have **75 separate events** in Ganga and its tributary basin cities and towns
- Activities under Arth Ganga such as Ghat Mein Haat, Ghat Par Yoga, Ganga Artis etc. will be organised.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- **Origin**: Established on 12th August 2011 under the **Societies Registration Act,1860** as a registered society.
- **Objective**: An initiative taken by the Government of India to address the pollution of the river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.
- **Implementation agency**: Implemented by the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga also known as the National Ganga Council.
    - National Ganga Council replaced **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA).**
    - NMCG under National Ganga Council is supported by the **State level Programme Management Groups (SPMGs)** in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
    - The Namami Gange Yojana is implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga along with its State Programme Management Groups (SPMGs).
        - **Namami Gange Programme** is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a **'Flagship Programme'** by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

DTE

Nov 7

COP14 ON WETLANDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



AGRICULTURE

New drought monitoring tool gives hope of better preparation, mitigation at farmer level

State-level workshops will be conducted to help users interpret data from the system

NEXT NEWS >

By Shagun

Published: Friday 04 November 2022

Wetland Convention (Ramsar Convention)

- **About**: An environmental convention signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran which promotes the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
  - It was established in 1971 by UNESCO and came into force in 1975.
  - This treaty is **not a legally binding treaty.**
  - **India is one of the Contracting Parties** to Ramsar Convention since 1982.
- **Ramsar recognition**: It is the identification of wetlands around the world, which are of international importance, especially if they provide habitat to waterfowl (about 180 species of birds).
- **54 Ramsar Sites in India** : 5 new sites from India were added to the List of Ramsar Sites
  - Karikili Bird Sanctuary – Tamil Nadu
  - Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest – Tamil Nadu
  - Pichavaram Mangrove – Tamil Nadu
  - Sakhya Sagar – Madhya Pradesh
  - Pala Wetlands – Mizoram

Context: The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands began November 5, 2022, to discuss the state of wetlands globally.

Key points

- **Two different venues: Wuhan** in China and **Geneva** in Switzerland from November 5-13.
- **Items on the agenda**: Waterbird population estimates, Ramsar Convention criteria, lists of wetlands of international importance and conservation of small wetlands among others.
- **International Mangrove Center**: 'The draft resolution on establishment of the **International Mangrove Center** in the framework of the **Ramsar Convention**' has been submitted by China and is cosponsored by Cambodia and Madagascar.

Wetlands

- **About**: An area of land that i**s either covered by water or saturated with water.**
  - The water is often **groundwater**, seeping up from an aquifer or spring.
  - These are a distinct ecosystem that is flooded by water, either permanently (for years or decades) or seasonally (for weeks or months)
- **Types of Wetlands**: Coastal Wetlands, Shallow lakes and ponds, Marshes, Swamps, Bog and Estuaries.
- **Transition Area**: Transition between terrestrial (land) areas and aquatic (water) areas.
- **Distribution**: Wetlands **exist in many kinds of climates**, on every continent except Antarctica. They vary in size from isolated prairie potholes to huge salt marshes.
  - The **world's largest protected wetland is Llanos de Moxos**, located in Bolivia.

DTE

Nov 7

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)



ENVIRONMENT

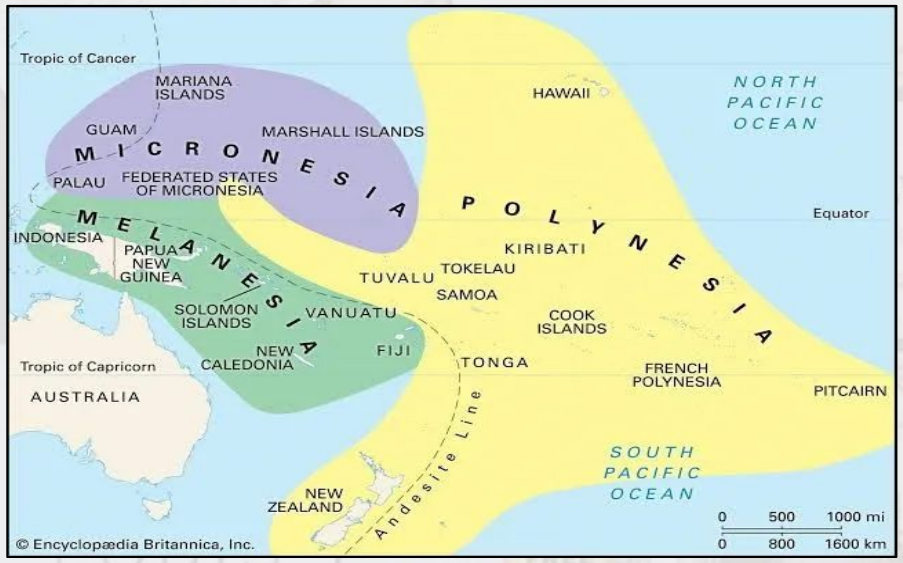
COP14 on wetlands begins; draft resolution for international mangrove centre in China on agenda

Experts in India have expressed surprise at China, a temperate country, offering to host an international mangrove centre

NEXT NEWS >

By Rajat Ghai

Published: Saturday 05 November 2022



Context: Climate change is an existential threat in the islands of the Pacific, affecting livelihoods, security and well-being

Pacific Island Countries

- **About:** A **cluster of 14 states** which are located largely in the tropical zone of the Pacific Ocean between Asia, Australia and the Americas.
- **Territories include**: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
  - Most Pacific islands are coral formations, although all of these rest on volcanic or other cores.
- **Indigenous inhabitants**: Pacific Islanders.
- **It excludes the following:**
  - The neighbouring island continent of **Australia**,
  - The Asia-related Indonesian, **Philippine**,
  - **Japanese archipelagoes**, and the Ryukyu, Bonin, Volcano, and Kuril island arcs that project seaward from Japan
  - The **Aleutian chain or such isolated islands** of the Pacific Ocean as the Juan Fernández group off the coast of South America.
- **Three major groups of islands:**
  - **Melanesia**: The **great arc of islands located north and east of Australia** and south of the Equator is called Melanesia (from the Greek words melas, “black,” and nēsos, “island”) for the predominantly dark-skinned peoples of New Guinea island, the Bismarck Archipelago, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (the New Hebrides), New Caledonia, and Fiji.
  - **Micronesia**: **North of the Equator and east of the Philippines** are the islands of Micronesia, which form an arc that ranges from Palau, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands in the west eastward through the Federated States of Micronesia (the Caroline Islands), Nauru, and the Marshall Islands to Kiribati.
  - **Polynesia**: In the eastern Pacific, largely enclosed within a huge **triangle formed by the Hawaiian Islands** to the north, New Zealand to the southwest, and Easter Island (Rapa Nui) far to the east, are the many (“poly”) islands of Polynesia.

THANK YOU!

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