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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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INDIAN EXPRESS

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G20 MEETINGS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International relations/organisations)

Inter-ministerial Secretaries to finalise calendar for G20 meetings on August 17

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 9



G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant urged Secretaries to attend it personally.

DAYS AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged states to develop a mass movement around G-20 of which India is scheduled to assume presidency from December 1 this year, the top government officials have swung into action to finalise and freeze the calendar of the G-20 meetings to be held in Delhi and several other cities across the country.

According to sources, India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant has called an inter-ministerial meeting of around 20 Secretaries on August 17. The meeting is expected to be attended by Secretaries from the key ministries and departments, officials from Lok Sabha Secretariat, and Comptroller and Auditor General, sources said.

The sources said that among the Secretaries who have been asked to attend the meeting are — Ajay Seth (Economic Affairs), S Radha Chauhan (DoPT), Manoj Ahuja (Agriculture), Govind Mohan (Culture), Alkesh Kumar Sharma (Electronics and IT), Kamal Kishore (NDMA), Sunil Barthwal (Labour), Leena Nandan (Environment), K Sanjay Murthy (Higher Education), Alok Kumar (Power), Rajesh Bhushan (Health), BVR Subramanyam (Commerce), Arvind Singh (Tourism), Indevar Pandey (Women and Child Development), Anurag Jain (DPIIT), Dr Srivari Chandrasekhar (Science & Technology), S Somnath (Space), Manoj Joshi (Housing & Urban Affairs), and Sanjay Kumar (Youth Affairs).

These Secretaries are heading separate working groups on issues ranging from anti-corruption to agriculture, and from culture to digital economy, sources said.

With less than four months remaining for India to assume the G-20 Presidency, finalising the G-20 meeting calendar spread across 53 cities is of critical importance to ensure logistics arrangements such as venues, hotel rooms, and detailed programme of each meeting, said a source.

The source said, the G-20 Sherpa has desired that the calendar should be "fully finalised" on or before August 17, 2022.

The move is significant as the Prime Minister had urged the Chief Ministers to develop a mass movement around the G-20 at a meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council last week.

"The PM said we should develop a mass movement around G20," said a statement issued by the NITI Aayog after the meeting on Sunday. "The PM also spoke about India's G20 Presidency in 2023 and called it a unique opportunity to show the world that India is not just Delhi—it is every state and Union Territory of the country," the statement said.

"This will allow us to identify the best talent available in the country. He also said there should be a dedicated team for G20 in the states to derive the maximum possible benefit from this initiative," the statement said.

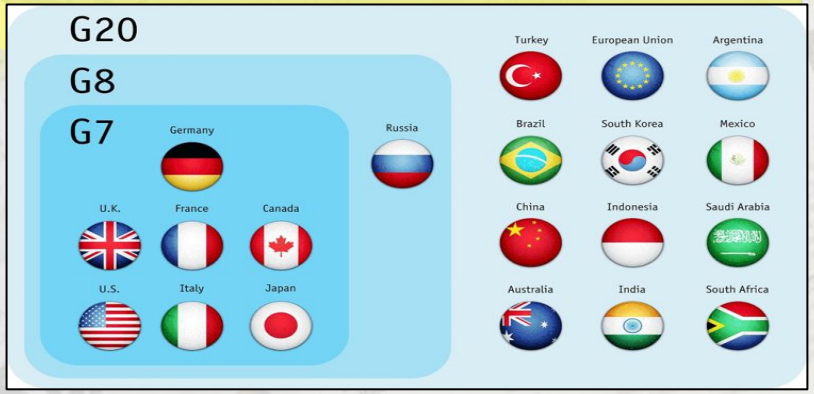
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who gave a presentation to NITI Governing Council on the upcoming G-20 meeting, said that the presidency presents a "great opportunity and a great responsibility".

Context: India's G-20 Sherpa has called an inter-ministerial meeting of around 20 Secretaries on August 17.

G20

- **Founded in 1999 with** representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- **An informal group of** 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- **The membership comprises a mix** of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population.
- **Membership**: The **members are divided into five groups** (India is in Group 2, along with Russia, South Africa and Turkey).
- **Rotation method**: The G-20 has **no fixed headquarters**, and the secretariat moves by rotation between the countries hosting or assuming Presidency of the grouping each year.
- **System of 'Sherpas':** The G-20 agenda that still depends heavily on the guidance of Finance Ministers and central Governors is finalised by a unique system of 'Sherpas', who are special envoys of G-20 leaders.
- **Another feature of the G-20 is 'Troika' meetings,** comprising the countries presiding over the G-20 in the past year, present year, and next year. At present, the Troika is made up of Italy, Indonesia and India.





INDIAN EXPRESS

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FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (FTAS)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economic development)

Talks on trade deal with UK moving at faster pace: Goyal

New Delhi: Negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement between India and the UK is progressing at a faster pace, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday. The agreement is aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investments between the two countries. India has signed a trade pact with the UAE in a "record" time and "now our talks with the UK is moving at a faster pace", Goyal said.

In such pacts, two or more countries significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on maximum number of goods traded between them. Besides, they ease norms for promoting trade in goods and investments.

In January, India and the UK formally launched talks for a free trade agreement. They have set the deadline for concluding talks by Diwali. India is also negotiating similar pacts with Canada, European Union (EU) and Israel, he said, adding that several other nations have shown keen interest in negotiating trade agreements with India. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) want to negotiate these pacts, he said.



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. *File*

However, he added that the commerce ministry does not have enough resources to simultaneously negotiate free trade pact with more nations. GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region, namely, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. EFTA members are Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Five-nation EAEU comprises Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The minister was speaking at Vyapari Udyami Sammelan here. He asked the domestic traders body to focus on quality of products and work in a unity. Goyal informed that the government is taking steps to reduce compliance burden. PTI

Context: Negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement between India and the UK is progressing at a faster pace.

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

- **A pact between two or more nations** to reduce barriers to imports and exports among them.
- **Under a free trade policy, goods and services** can be bought and sold across international borders with little or no government tariffs, quotas, subsidies, or prohibitions to inhibit their exchange.
- **The concept of free trade is t**he opposite of trade protectionism or economic isolationism.

India and FTAs:

- So far, **India has signed 13 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)** with its trading partners signed during the last five years, including the 3 agreements, namely
  - India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA),
  - India-UAE Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and
  - India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA)



LIVEMINT

Page 1

INDIA'S TRADE GAP

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

India's trade gap with UAE widens as oil imports rise

Textiles, auto lead 17.5% rise in exports during May-June after FTA comes into effect

Dilasha Seth
dilasha.seth@livemint.com
BENGALURU

India's trade gap with the United Arab Emirates ballooned fourfold in the May-June period, the first two months since the India-UAE free trade agreement came into effect, driven by a jump in oil and gold imports.

The country's trade deficit with the UAE widened to $3.92 billion in the two-month period from $980 million the year earlier.

India, too, made gains, with its exports to the West Asian nation rising 17.5% to $5.4 billion. On the other hand, imports grew 67% to $9.3 billion in the period, mainly due to a spike in oil shipments in both volume and value terms amid soaring global prices.

However, unlike its imports, Indian exports mainly comprised value-added and finished goods such as textiles, gems and jewellery, machinery, footwear, and automobiles.

The widening trade gap is not a major concern as India largely imports raw materials from the UAE, said Arpita Mukherjee, a professor at ICRIER, an economic policy think tank.

"The growth in exports, post the trade agreement, shows that the trade accord is going to benefit exports. I am not very worried about imports. We have to import raw materials, intermediate goods and goods that are not produced in the country," Mukherjee said.

Countries such as China, the US and India are scouring the world to secure raw materials and energy supplies to feed their industry and boost economic growth.

For example, China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI, aims to develop multiple trade corridors to secure factory supply chains and energy.

In that context, the trade accord with the UAE, a key energy supplier and a significant market, may offer long-term benefits to India.

India's gains in exports to the UAE were most visible in sectors where it gained duty-free access under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into effect on 1 May.

While footwear exports surged 73% in May, gems and jewellery exports grew by 33%, tea, coffee, and spices rose by 50%, ready-made textiles by 42% and automobiles by 192%.

As a result, exporters expect India to sell $40 billion of goods to the UAE in the current fiscal year from $28 billion in FY22.

"The first month is very impressive despite the fact that many sectors are still preparing to exploit their potential. We should look for exports of $35-40 billion this fiscal year," said Ajay Sahai, director general and chief executive of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

Product-wise segregated data is not available for June yet.

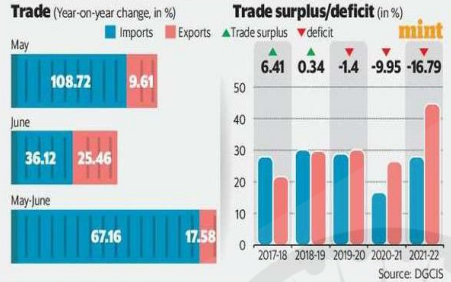
Pharma exports also reported a 52% growth. The pact provides that Indian pharmaceutical and medical products will get regulatory approval within 90 days of regulatory approval in developed jurisdictions such as the US, UK, European Union, Canada and Australia. Vegetable exports surged 147%.

For the first time, the pact has listed 17 agencies from the Indian side, besides the Export Inspection Council, to issue certificates of origin to exporters digitally. They include the Spices Board, Coir Board and Tobacco Board. This facilitates faster clearances and

TURN TO PAGE 6

TRADE WINDS

India exports to UAE rose 17.5% to $5.4 billion during May-June, while imports grew 67% to $9.3 billion on a spike in oil shipments.



FTA 101

THE comprehensive trade deal with UAE came into effect on 1 May

INDIAN exports comprised value-added and finished goods

TRADE pact eliminates duties on 90% of exports in value terms to the UAE

SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA/MINT

Context: India's trade gap with the United Arab Emirates ballooned fourfold in the May-June period, the first two months since the India-UAE free trade agreement came into effect, driven by a jump in oil and gold imports.

India's Trade Deficit in 2021-22

- **The trade deficit of India rose by 87.5 percent** from USD 102.63 billion in 2020-21 to USD 192.41 billion in 2021-22.
- **Increase in merchandise import:** The merchandise import of the country in the period April 2021 to March 2022 was USD 610.22 billion, which is a 54.71 percent increase from the time period of April 2020 to March 2021 which was recorded at USD 394.44 billion.
- **Trade deficit:** In March 2022, the country's trade deficit was USD 18.69 billion, while during the entire period of 2021-22 it was USD 192.41 billion.
- **India's monthly merchandise export:** The monthly merchandise exports of India for the first time exceeded USD 40 billion and reached USD 40.38 billion in March 2022.
- **India's merchandise import:** In March 2022, the merchandise import of India stood at USD 59.07 billion, a 20.79 percent from March 2021's USD 48.90 billion.
- **Non-petroleum exports:** In March 2022, non-petroleum exports were recorded at USD 33 billion, which is a 4.28 percent growth over March 2021's USD 31.65 billion.
- **Non-petroleum imports:** In March 2022, the non-petroleum imports were recorded as USD 40.66 billion a 5.26 percent increase from USD 38.63 billion recorded in March 2021.

LIVEMINT Page 6

FLOATING SOLAR PROJECTS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Floating solar projects may get sops under new policy

Such projects reduce need for land and will boost energy capacity, but the technology is expensive

Subhash Narayan & Rituraj Baruah
NEW DELHI



The maintenance cost of floating projects is low as extra water is not required for cleaning the modules at regular intervals. NTPC

The government is working on a policy on floating solar power generation, offering higher incentives to companies willing to invest in plants requiring a power generation technology that is expensive, two people in the know said. The move is expected to further boost India's renewable energy capacity, they added.

The proposal, if approved, will reduce the need for vast stretches of land to set up solar parks. However, the technology for floating solar module projects, wherein photovoltaic solar panels are mounted on floating structures on water bodies, is expensive. "Costs for floating solar plants are high, so we must support it more in terms of subsidy. We will start something soon," a government official said, seeking anonymity.

The Union new and renewable energy ministry may make provisions for higher subsidy for the proposed floating solar policy to keep tariffs for electricity generated from the projects within manageable levels, the people cited above said.

The Centre is also in consultation with states to identify stretches of water bodies and reservoirs to set up floating solar projects. The official said the Centre is considering a plug-and-play mode, where winning bidders can set up plants fast as the infrastructure will be created at identified sites before inviting the bids.

Emailed queries to a ministry spokesperson did not elicit any response till press time.

According to the government, floating solar plants are not only efficient and environment-friendly, but also help in water conservation, reducing evaporation from areas where projects are set up, thereby helping water supplies in drought-hit areas.

The plants are more efficient as they do not overheat and are good for a country like India. The operation and maintenance cost of floating projects is however low as extra water is not required for cleaning the modules at regular intervals.

BOOSTING CAPACITY

CENTRE may make provisions for sops to keep tariffs for power generated from projects within manageable levels

GOVT is in talks with states to identify water bodies and reservoirs to set up floating projects

WINNING bidders can set up plants fast as the infrastructure will be created at the sites before bids are invited

FLOATING solar plants are efficient, environment-friendly and help in water conservation

With renewable power generation projects slowing down a bit, with states even backing down from taking contracted power from renewable projects citing higher tariff, policymakers are looking at alternatives to keep costs low amid competition from other segments.

"Floating solar projects have good potential in India. But such projects will require government support by way of high subsidies to be attractive for investors. As the Centre is providing 30% capital subsidy for rooftop solar, higher support may be required for floating solar projects to ensure its viability and investor interest," said Amplus Solar managing director and chief executive Sanjeev Aggarwal.

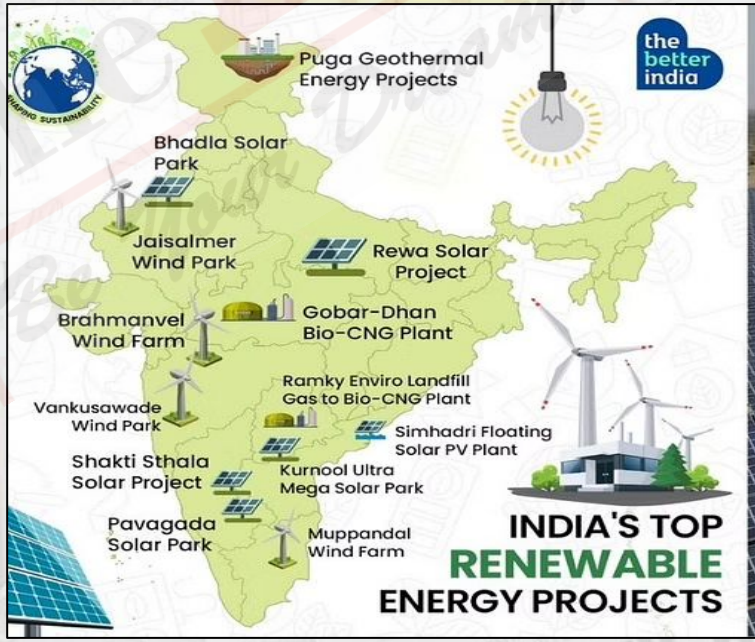
However, experts said there are challenges in the medium term for adoption of floating solar units. "Local manufacturing of floating solar panels is negligible and imports from Europe will be expensive. The policy should address this issue before we can witness big growth for such projects, more so, as supplies of solar modules from China is still limited and getting components for local assembly is becoming difficult as none of the Chinese vendors have made it to the government's official list of suppliers, " said a top executive of a solar power generation firm, asking not to be named.

Despite its advantages, floating solar has seen very limited number of installations in the country. According to global clean energy communications and consulting firm Mercom, India has about 170MW of floating solar projects in operation compared to 57.7 GW total installed solar capacity.

Context: The government is working on a policy on floating solar power generation, offering higher incentives to companies willing to invest in plants requiring a power generation technology that is expensive

Floating Solar Panels

- **Refers to the deployment of photovoltaic** panels on the surface of water bodies.
- **They are a viable alternative** to land-based solar arrays with applications in India.
- **These platforms are typically** moored on calmer bodies of water, such as ponds, lakes or reservoirs.
- **These installations are** relatively quick to construct, silent to run and require no land levelling or removal of vegetation.





THE HINDU Page 10

TEESTA RIVER DISPUTE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International relations)

Bangladesh river water deal likely

Joint River Commission meeting to decide on agreements on Kushiyara, Ganga

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh are likely to ink at least one major river agreement later this month, *The Hindu* has learned.

The planning for the agreement is being tightly guarded by officials on both sides as water sharing between the two countries is considered a sensitive subject given the fact that it often takes political meaning.

Apart from the major agreements under discussion, sharing of data of river waters and better flood control planning are expected to feature in the upcoming meeting of the Joint River Commission (JRC) that will meet in the last week of August ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's September 6-7 India visit.

In response to a query, *The Hindu* learned that there is a "strong possibility" that an agreement on the Kushiyara that flows from Assam into Bangladesh is part of one such agreement that may get "done" during the JRC.



Long history: Indian and Bangladesh Ministers during talks on river waters commission in 1982. ▪ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

A diplomatic source also hinted at a "major agreement" involving the Ganga may also be taken up as there is a "strong urge" to achieve a big river agreement ahead of Prime Minister Hasina's visit, which may be her last trip to Delhi before Dhaka goes into election mode next year.

Teesta waters agreement

The Awami League government has been insistent on sealing the Teesta waters agreement, which has eluded settlement so far. Now, it is understood that India has agreed to offer Bangladesh a package on river waters-related deals that will be considered a significant advancement in terms of sharing of river resources with Dhaka.

While political ties between Delhi and Kolkata have been a reason that apparently stalled Teesta waters, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was in Delhi last week and met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on issues that are relevant to her State.

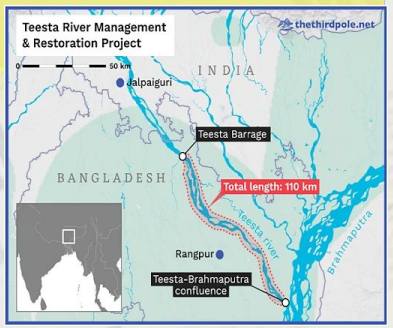
Ms. Banerjee's visit, which came against the backdrop of the tightly guarded India-Bangladesh negotiation, has contributed to the speculation on river water sharing between India and Bangladesh.

Convening the JRC has been a long-pending demand of Bangladesh as the ministerial-level meeting was last held in 2010.

Context: India and Bangladesh are likely to ink at least one major river agreement later this month.

Background: Teesta river dispute

- **India and Bangladesh** have been engaged in a long-standing dispute over water-sharing in the Teesta.
- **India's concern**: Bangladesh is now discussing an almost $1 billion loan from China for a comprehensive management and restoration project on the Teesta river.
- **2011 interim deal – that was supposed to last 15 years –** gave India 42.5 percent of the Teesta waters and gave Bangladesh 37.5 percent. Bengal opposed this deal so it was shelved and remains unsigned.
  - **Bangladesh sought a fair and equitable distribution** of Teesta waters from India, on the lines of the Ganga Water Treaty 1996.
  - **The treaty is an agreement** to share surface waters at the Farakka Barrage near their mutual border.
- **In 2015, the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka generated expectations to take forward the issue but it still remains unresolved.**
  - However, In India, individual states have significant influence over transboundary agreements, impeding the policymaking process.



THE HINDU Page 10

GAZA VIOLENCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International relations)

India terms Gaza violence as grave concern in UN meet

Indian representative calls for Israel-Palestine discussions

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Calling for immediate resumption of talks between Israeli and Palestinian governments during an emergency session on violence in Gaza at the UN Security Council, India thanked the Egyptian government in particular for helping broker a ceasefire effective midnight on Tuesday.

The ceasefire came after three days of Israeli bombardment of Gaza buildings, in which more than 40 people, including 15 children were killed, while hundreds of rockets from Gaza were aimed close to Jerusalem, in violence that India said it views with "grave concern".

"Long-term peace in Israel and Palestine can be achieved only through a negotiated two-State solution leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side, at peace with Israel, taking into consideration the legitimate security needs of Israel," said India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Khamboj, adding that the "immense suffering" and loss of "precious civilian lives" was a matter of "grave concern" for India.

Speaking in one of her first interventions after presenting her credentials to UN Secretary General last week, Ms. Khamboj, India's first woman Ambassador to the UN, said that of particular concern to India was the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, and called on the international community to prioritise a return to talks on the conflict.

Israeli defence forces claimed that the aerial bombardment was an operation targeting a militant group called the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and that Israeli jets had killed several of the group's leaders during the weekend bombing.

Context: Calling for immediate resumption of talks between Israeli and Palestinian governments during an emergency session on violence in Gaza at the UN Security Council, India thanked the Egyptian government in particular for helping broker a ceasefire.

Gaza Violence: Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip were exchanging fire, in the worst bout of cross-border violence since an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas last year.



TIMES OF INDIA

Page 16

ANCIENT STONE TOOLS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Ancient History)

'Made in India' stone tools existed 2.47 lakh years ago, tests reveal

Prashant.Rupera@timesgroup.com

Vadodara: For long it had been assumed that modern humans (homo sapiens) migrated from Africa to India around 1.25 lakh years ago and they carried middle palaeolithic stone tools with them to the country. But scientific dating of artefacts excavated in 2018 from Andhra Pradesh busted these concepts recently. It has revealed that these stone tools were actually indigenously developed in this country much before the advent of modern humans from the African continent.

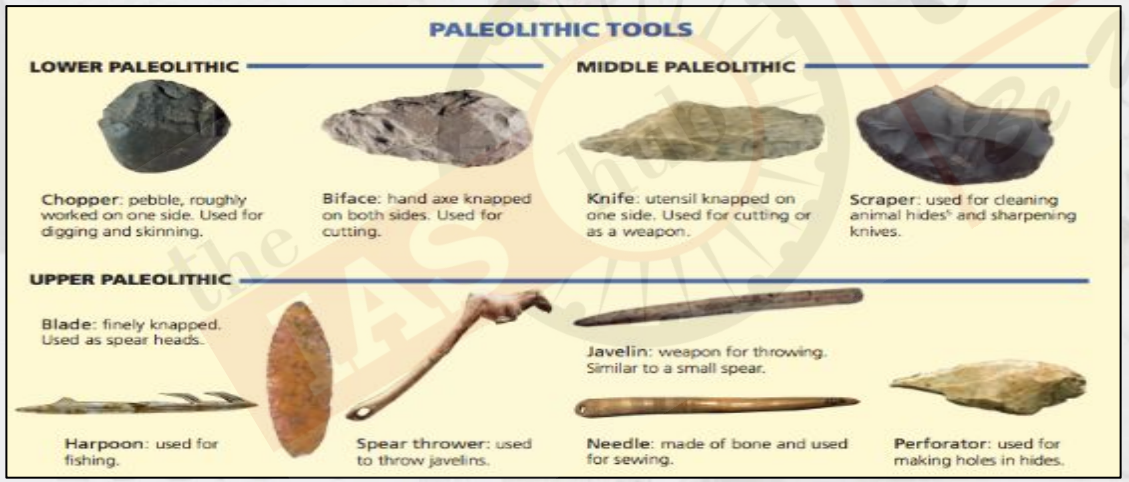
The dating of these tools/artefacts was carried out in the Luminescence Laboratory at the Atomic Molecular and Optical Physics division of Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad.

Till now credit was given to the migrants from Africa who entered India through the Arabian Peninsula-West Asia route, of introducing stone-made tools such as scrapers and points that helped them hunt their prey or gather food to the local land.



Excavations in Andhra have pushed back the antiquity of use of tools by almost 1.22 lakh years

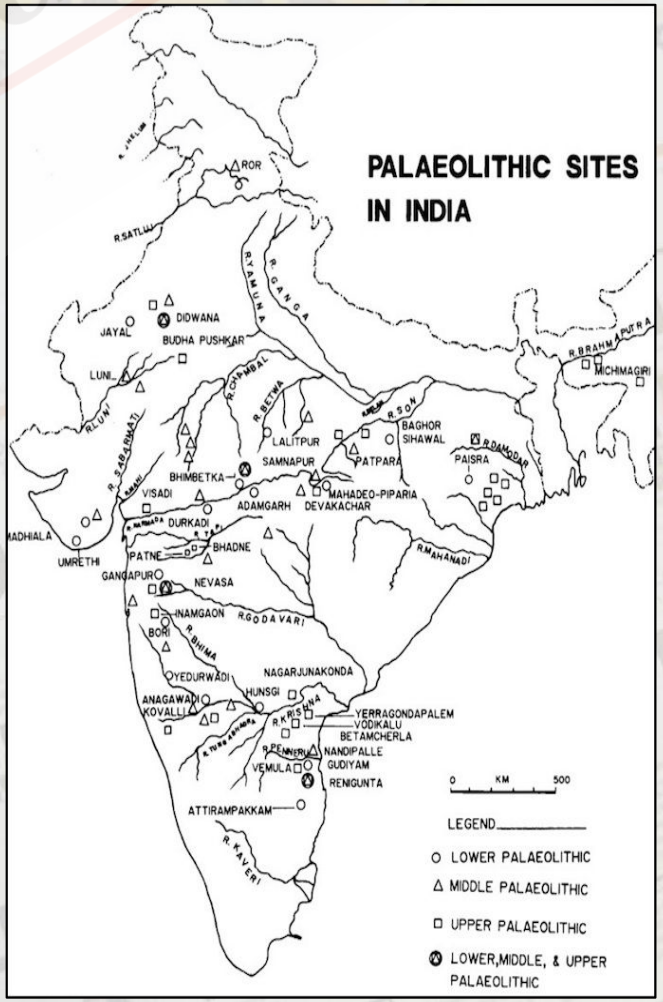
But tools excavated from Andhra Pradesh have now pushed back the antiquity of this culture by almost 1.22 lakh years.



Context: For long it had been assumed that modern humans (homo sapiens) migrated from Africa to India around 1.25 lakh years ago and they carried middle palaeolithic stone tools with them to the country.

Palaeolithic Period

- **An ancient cultural stage of human technological development,** characterized by the creation and use of rudimentary chipped stone tools.
- **The Paleolithic Period was also characterized by** the manufacture of small sculptures (e.g., carved stone statuettes of women, clay figurines of animals, and other bone and ivory carvings) and paintings, incised designs, and reliefs on cave walls.
- Divided into three phases in accordance with the type of stone tools used by the people and also according to the nature of climatic change:
  - First phase may be placed broadly between 600,000 and 150,000 BC
  - Second between 150,000 and 35,000 BC
  - Third between 35,000 and 10,000 BC.



DOWN TO EARTH

August 10

Novel Langya henipavirus

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Novel Langya henipavirus: Infection may have spread through rodent-like mammals

China reports 35 patients; Key symptoms include fever, cough & fatigue

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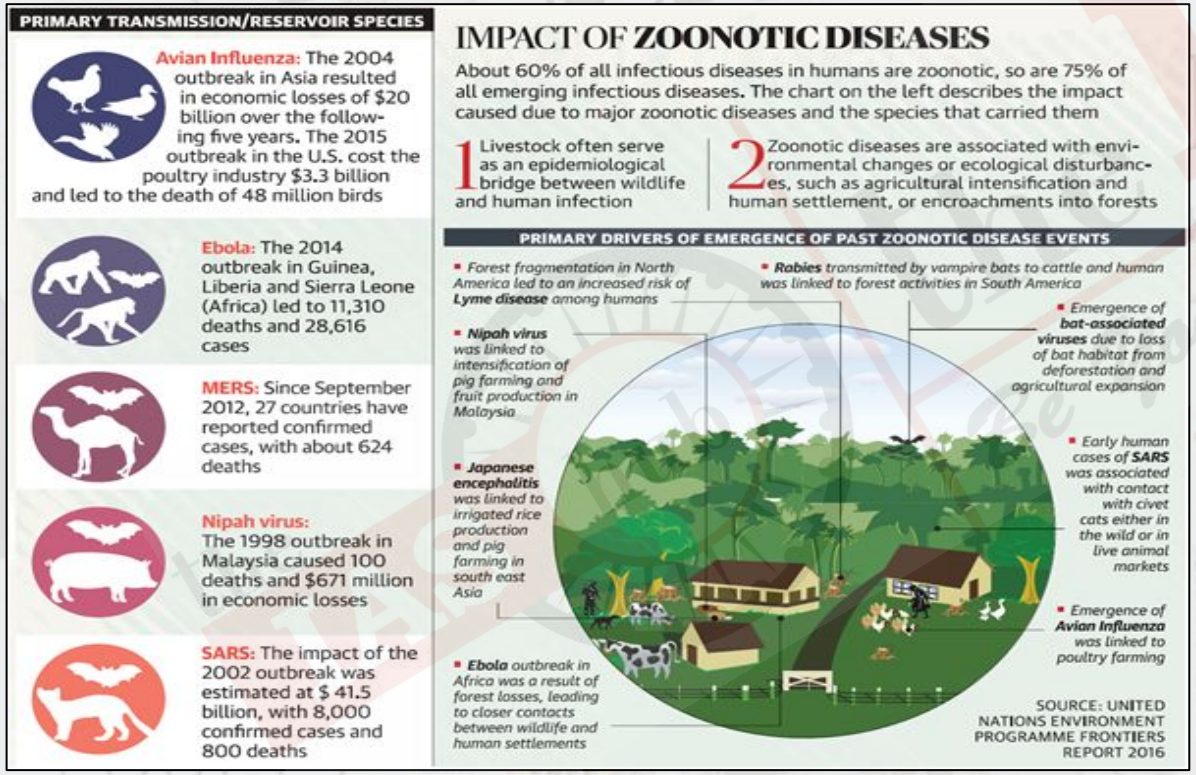
By Himanshu Nitnaware
Published: Tuesday 09 August 2022

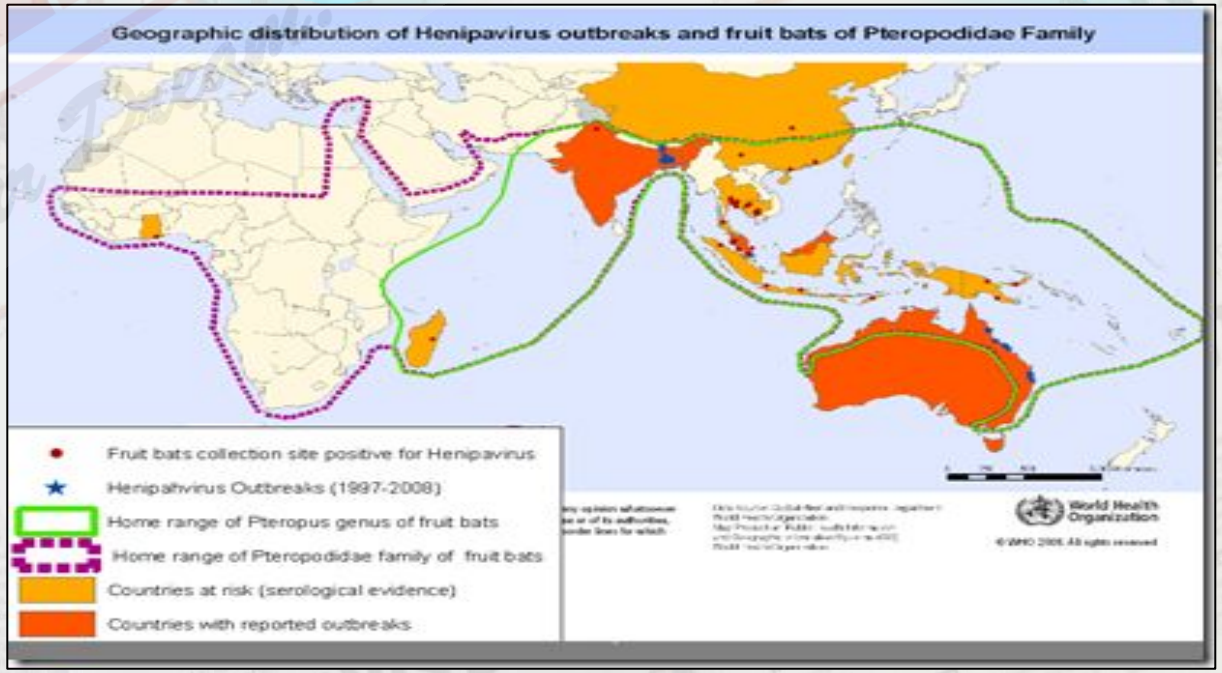


Context: Cases of a novel Langya henipavirus (LayV) have been reported in Shandong and Henan provinces of China.

Key points

- No human deaths have been reported due to LayV, which has a distinct genome.
- The disease may have been transmitted from shrews, small insectivorous mammals resembling a mouse.
- Nipah and Hendra virus also belong to the same genus, henipavirus, from the Paramyxoviridae family.
- Paramyxoviridae is a family of single-stranded Ribonucleic acid (RNA) viruses that cause different types of viral infections.
- These viruses are found in bats, rodents and shrews and are known to infect humans and potentially cause fatal diseases.





PIB

August 10

GOVERNMENT-E-MARKETPLACE (GEM) PLATFORM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

The Union Minister for Home & Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah e-launched the onboarding of cooperatives on the Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal in New Delhi today

Posted On: 09 AUG 2022 6:48PM by PIB Delhi

Context: The Union Cabinet has expanded the scope of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to allow cooperative societies to register as buyers on this portal.

GeM portal

- **This portal was launched by the government** in August 2016 as an end-to-end e-marketplace.
- **Aim**: facilitating efficient and transparent e-procurement of commonly-used services and goods that are required by the states, the Centre, and the PSUs.
- The GeM is a **government-to-business platform.**



Cooperatives in Government-e-Marketplace (GeM) Platform

- It will help the cooperatives of the nation to get competitive prices via a transparent and open process.
- Over 8,54,000 registered cooperatives along with their 270 million members will be benefitted.
- The cooperative societies have over 270 million members, thus, procurement through the GeM portal will economically benefit the common man, and would also boost cooperatives' credibility.
- Currently, cooperatives could not register as "buyers" on the GeM platform and it was only made accessible for procurement by:
  - The departments of the state governments
  - The departments of the central government
  - Local and autonomous bodies
  - public sector undertakings (PSUs)
- While private players cannot use this portal for buying, still the private sector along with the government can become suppliers on this platform.

DST

August 10

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION HUBS (TIH)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Experts discussed best plans for Indo-US joint research projects to be implemented through TIHs

Experts from the India and United States interacted to bring out the best plans for joint research projects that would be implemented through the Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH), at DST-NSF Joint Research and Development Projects Kick-off Workshop.

The workshop was organised by IIT Delhi in association with DST to discuss how the projects to be implemented by the six TIHs identified under NM-ICPS for collaborative research and development with NSF-supported institutions would leverage unique resources, such as testbeds and datasets available in India and in the US, expand collaborations on critical technologies like AI and advanced wireless, and encourage student and researcher exchange programs.

TiHAN: Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation

- **A multidisciplinary initiative** which aims at making India a global player in the futuristic and next-generation "Smart Mobility" technology.
- **It includes** researchers from electrical, computer science, mechanical and aerospace, civil, mathematics.
- Currently, **there is no such testbed facility in India** to evaluate the autonomous navigation of vehicles.
- **Significance**: It will provide a unique platform for high quality research between academia, industry and R&D labs both at the national and international level, thus making India a global leader in autonomous navigation technologies.



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