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THE HINDU Page 6

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME BOUNDARY LINE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - India and its neighbourhood)

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 14 fishermen from T.N., Karaikal; seizes boats

They left Karaikal port on Wednesday morning and were fishing near the International Maritime Boundary Line when they were detained; Stalin urges Centre to take steps for their release

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUCHI

Fourteen fishermen of Karaikal, Nagapattinam and Pudukottai districts were reportedly detained by the Sri Lankan Navy for trespassing into the territorial waters of the island nation on the night of November 16.

They were said to have ventured into the sea from the Karaikal port on Wednesday morning on a mechanised boat owned by Selvamani of Kottucherrymedu.

They were reportedly fishing near the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) near Nedunntheevu.

According to sources, a Sri Lankan patrolling vessel detained all 14 fishermen and seized their boat.

Of the arrested fishermen, Sivakumar, Dinesh Kumar, Kishore, Sathish, Thendral Kumar, Kadamban, Manikandan and Dharman are from Karaikal. Ashok, Arul and Azhagar are from Jagathapattinam in Pudukottai district. The rest are from Nagapattinam district.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai requested Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar to take steps for their release.



Mechanised fishing boats at Kottaipattinam coastal village in Pudukottai district. FILE PHOTO

"The Sri Lankan Navy's continued acts of infringement upon the traditional rights of our fishermen in the Palk Bay seem to pose a challenge to India. I request that the diplomatic steps... be taken so that such an incident does not recur," he said in a letter.

The frequent arrests and seizure of boats had shattered the livelihood of many fishermen, he said.

15 fishers released

Fifteen fishermen from Rameswaram, who had been jailed in Sri Lanka on the charge of poaching in the territorial waters of the island nation and using banned fish nets in the Palk Bay, were released by a court on Thursday.

Frequent arrests and seizure of boats had shattered the livelihood of many fishermen: Stalin

Sri Lankan Navy personnel arrested the fishermen on November 5. A Sri Lankan court remanded them in judicial custody. The court, which heard their case on Thursday, ordered their release. The fishermen were handed over to officials of the Indian High Commission in Jaffna.

A teenage boy from Thangachimadam, who was one among the 15 fishermen, was not jailed. He had gone for fishing along with his father to help the family repay debts. The boy was under treatment for a kidney ailment and hence he was sent to a Home in Sri Lanka, family members of the fishermen said.

Thanking the Union and State governments, fishermen leader Jesu Raja told *The Hindu* that the government should hold talks with Sri Lanka and ensure that such arrests did not recur.

The 15 released fishermen would return home soon after fulfilling the statutory procedures in Sri Lanka, he added.

Context: Fourteen fishermen of Karaikal, Nagapattinam and Pudukottai districts were reportedly detained by the Sri Lankan Navy for trespassing into the territorial waters of the island nation.

International Maritime Boundary Line

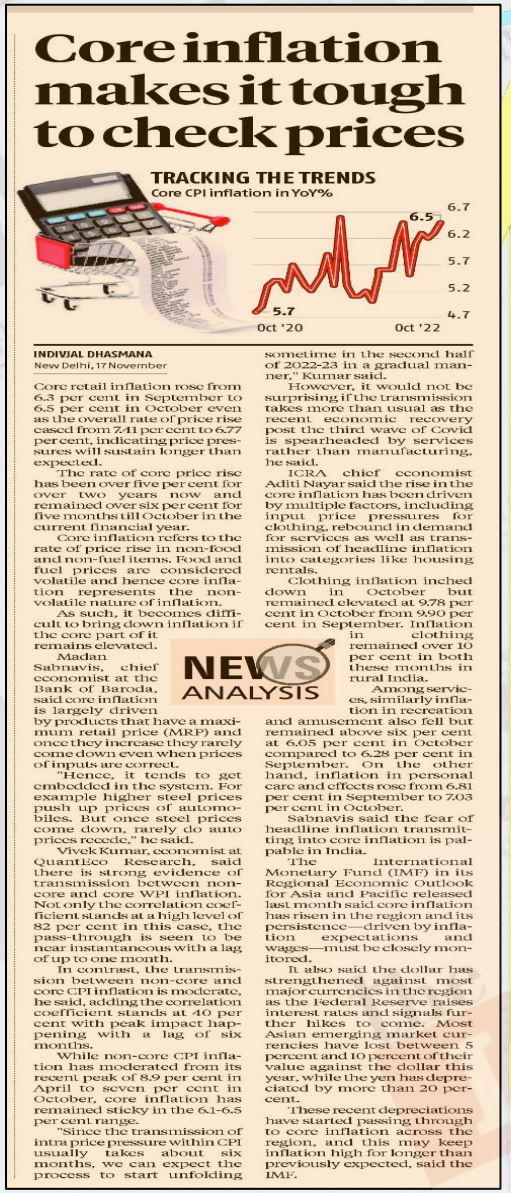
- **About**: A **conceptual division of the Earth's water surface** areas using physiographic or geopolitical criteria.
  - It usually **bounds areas of exclusive national rights** over mineral and biological resources, encompassing maritime features, limits and zones.
  - Generally, a maritime boundary is **delineated at a particular distance** from a jurisdiction's coastline.
- **Recognized by UNCLOS:** Although in some countries the term maritime boundary represents borders of a maritime nation that are recognized by the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea(UNCLOS).**
  - The terminology **does not encompass lake or river boundaries,** which are considered within the context of land boundaries.
  - The UNCLOS, adopted in 1982, **lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order** in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.
- **Classification**: Maritime spaces can be divided into the following groups based on their legal status:
  - **Maritime spaces under the sovereignty and authority (exercising power) of a coastal State**: internal waters, territorial sea, and archipelagic waters,
  - **Maritime spaces with mixed legal regime, which fall under both the jurisdiction of the coastal State and under the international law:** contiguous zone, the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone, and
  - **Maritime spaces that can be used by all States (including land-locked ones) on an equal basis:** high seas.
- **Zones**: The zones of maritime boundaries are expressed in concentric limits surrounding coastal and feature baselines:
  - **Inland waters:** The zone inside the baseline.
  - **Territorial sea**: The zone extending 12 nm. from the baseline.
  - **Contiguous zone**: The area extending 24 nm. from the baseline.
  - **Exclusive Economic Zone**: The area extending 200 nm. from the baseline except when the space between two countries is less than 400 nm.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

HEADLINE AND CORE INFLATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)



Core inflation makes it tough to check prices

INDIVJAL DHASMANA
New Delhi, 17 November

Core retail inflation rose from 6.3 per cent in September to 6.5 per cent in October even as the overall rate of price rise eased from 7.41 per cent to 6.77 per cent, indicating price pressures will sustain longer than expected.

The rate of core price rise has been over five per cent for over two years now and remained over six per cent for five months till October in the current financial year.

Core inflation refers to the rate of price rise in non-food and non-fuel items. Food and fuel prices are considered volatile and hence core inflation represents the non-volatile nature of inflation.

As such, it becomes difficult to bring down inflation if the core part of it remains elevated.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, said core inflation is largely driven by products that have a maximum retail price (MRP) and once they increase they rarely come down even when prices of inputs are correct.

"Hence, it tends to get embedded in the system. For example higher steel prices push up prices of automobiles. But once steel prices come down, rarely do auto prices recede," he said.

Vivek Kumar, economist at QuantEco Research, said there is strong evidence of transmission between non-core and core WPI inflation. Not only the correlation coefficient stands at a high level of 82 per cent in this case, the pass-through is seen to be near instantaneous with a lag of up to one month.

In contrast, the transmission between non-core and core CPI inflation is moderate, he said, adding the correlation coefficient stands at 40 per cent with peak impact happening with a lag of six months.

While non-core CPI inflation has moderated from its recent peak of 8.9 per cent in April to seven per cent in October, core inflation has remained sticky in the 6.1-6.5 per cent range.

"Since the transmission of intra price pressure within CPI usually takes about six months, we can expect the process to start unfolding sometime in the second half of 2022-23 in a gradual manner," Kumar said.

However, it would not be surprising if the transmission takes more than usual as the recent economic recovery post the third wave of Covid is spearheaded by services rather than manufacturing, he said.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said the rise in the core inflation has been driven by multiple factors, including input price pressures for clothing, rebound in demand for services as well as transmission of headline inflation into categories like housing rentals.

Clothing inflation inched down in October but remained elevated at 9.78 per cent in October from 9.90 per cent in September. Inflation in clothing remained over 10 per cent in both these months in rural India.

Among services, similarly inflation in recreation and amusement also fell but remained above six per cent at 6.05 per cent in October compared to 6.28 per cent in September. On the other hand, inflation in personal care and effects rose from 6.81 per cent in September to 7.03 per cent in October.

Sabnavis said the fear of headline inflation transmitting into core inflation is palpable in India.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific released last month said core inflation has risen in the region and its persistence—driven by inflation expectations and wages—must be closely monitored.

It also said the dollar has strengthened against most major currencies in the region as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates and signals further hikes to come. Most Asian emerging market currencies have lost between 5 percent and 10 percent of their value against the dollar this year, while the yen has depreciated by more than 20 percent.

These recent depreciations have started passing through to core inflation across the region, and this may keep inflation high for longer than previously expected, said the IMF.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Context: Core retail inflation rose from 6.3 per cent in September to 6.5 per cent in October even as the overall rate of price rise eased from 7.41 per cent to 6.77 per cent, indicating price pressures will sustain longer than expected.

Difference between Headline and Core Inflation

Basis of difference	Headline Inflation	Core Inflation
Definition	• This is the measure of the total Inflation of an economy over a specific period of time. • **Headline inflation** = Core inflation + (Food and Fuel) inflation.	• This is headline inflation less the inflation contributed by volatile commodities such as food energy etc. • **Core inflation** = Headline inflation – (Food and Fuel) inflation.
Measure or Indicator	• In India the year on year percentage changes in **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** is used as a measure or indicator of headline inflation. • The **WPI or Wholesale Price Index measures the change** in the price level of bulk sale of commodities in the first stage of distribution.	• There is **no exclusive measure of core Inflation in India.** • RBI, however, prefers using Non -Food Manufacturing inflation Index to measure this inflation
Importance	• It is primarily **used to measure the short -term impact** of inflation on the economy. • It **reflects the impact of inflation on the retail consumers** as most of their income is spent on essential goods such as food and energy.	• It is primarily **used to measure the long -term impact** of inflation on the economy. • It reflects the **impact of inflation on the production of goods or services.**

INDIAN EXPRESS

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NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Various Security Forces & Agencies & Their Mandate)

Anti-terror financing meet begins today, NIA DG flags social media

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

THE DIRECTOR General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Thursday said that social media platforms are being used to raise money for terrorist activities and that such issues will be discussed at an international ministerial conference on terror financing that begins Friday in New Delhi.

The No Money for Terror (NMFT) conference, hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be among the attendees. Over 70 countries are participating in the two-day event.

NIA DG Dinkar Gupta said at a press conference Thursday: "Social media platforms are being used to raise financing, funding or as crowdfunding platforms. We have evidence of this kind of thing happening. This is an issue that needs to be discussed because such platforms are being used for raising finances which are being used in terror activities." Gupta said Pakistan and Afghanistan were not participating in the conference, while China was yet to confirm its attendance.

Asked if Pakistan, China and Afghanistan were invited to the conference, Secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Sanjay Verma, said: "China has been invited." He did not comment on the other two neighbouring countries.

The NMFT started in 2018 as an initiative of the French government which had, in 1989, laid the foundation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) — the international body at the forefront of combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

"This is the third edition of the NMFT conference. The first edition was in France and the second was in Melbourne. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, the third conference, which India had promised to host in 2021, could not take place. As of now, 72 foreign countries are participating, India will be the 73rd. Apart from these, there are 15 multilateral international organisations such as Interpol, FATF, Europol and NGOs, which are stakeholders in the anti-terror-funding resolve," Gupta said.

The NIA DG said representatives will discuss issues such as terror sources, funding and threats. The sessions will be chaired by senior ministers, including Amit Shah and S Jaishankar.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Context: The Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said that social media platforms are being used to raise money for terrorist activities and that such issues will be discussed at an international ministerial conference on terror financing.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- **About:** The **primary counter-terrorist task force** of India which is empowered to deal with the investigation of terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states under written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Origin**: The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the **National Investigation Agency Act 2008** by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008 after the Mumbai terror attack the same year..
  - Therefore, it is a **statutory body** (a body set up by law (statute) that is authorised to implement certain legislation).
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Home Affairs.**
- **Jurisdiction**: The agency has been **empowered with all the powers and privileges** to conduct investigations under the various acts specified in the Schedule book of NIA act.
  - State government authorities can request an investigation by NIA upon approval of Central government within the limits of law specified under the NIA Act.
  - The NIA maintains the **'NIA Most Wanted List'**.
- **NIA (Amendment) Act 2019:** Made a few major changes to the original NIA Act of 2008.
  - **Investigation of New offences**: The amendment allows the agency to investigate the following new offences as well:
    - Human trafficking
    - Counterfeit currency or bank notes related offences
    - Sale or manufacture of prohibited arms
    - Offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908
    - Cyber terrorism
  - **Expands the jurisdiction of the NIA**: Now, it has the **authority to investigate offences that are committed outside Indian territory** subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other nations.
  - **Special Courts**: The amendment also allows the central government to constitute Special Courts to conduct trials of scheduled offences:
    - Accordingly, the government will have the **power to designate Sessions Courts** as Special Courts, after consulting with the Chief Justice of the High Court (under which the Sessions Court functions).
    - The Act also authorises the **state governments to designate Special Courts.**
    - The Government can **appoint more than Special Court in an area.**
    - The Special Courts' judges are appointed by the GOI in consultation with the High Court Chief Justices of the area.
    - The **trials of the NIA Special Courts** have precedence over the trial of the accused in any other case in any other court.

LIVEMINT Page 11

OPEC AND OPEC+

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Saudi Arabia cuts oil exports as it delivers on OPEC+ agreement

Bloomberg
feedback@livemint.com

Saudi Arabia has cut oil exports sharply this month as the kingdom delivers on an OPEC+ agreement to shore up global crude markets.

Saudi shipments were down by about 430,000 barrels a day, or roughly 6%, by mid-November compared with the previous month, according to data from energy analytics firm Kpler Ltd. An even bigger slump of 676,000 barrels a day was observed by another consultant, Vortexa Ltd.



The kingdom has often sought to lead OPEC+ by example. AP

The kingdom, which leads the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is fully committed to the agreement struck last month between the group and its allies, according to an official who asked not to be identified.

"Saudi Arabia is cutting a lot, going down for a second straight month," said Viktor Katona, an analyst at Kpler in Vienna.

US President Joe Biden slammed Riyadh and its partners last month, saying the hefty 2 million barrel-a-day cut would endanger the global economy and aid fellow OPEC+ member Russia in its war in Ukraine, though oil-market trends have since given the decision some vindication.

Crude prices have retreated about 4% this week to near $90 a barrel amid a fragile backdrop for demand.

Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman defended the cutbacks last week at the COP27 climate talks in Egypt, saying they were needed to offset extreme economic uncertainties. He said the group would remain "cautious." The kingdom has often sought to lead OPEC+ by example, swiftly delivering its pledged curbs — or even exceeding them — to encourage other members to follow.

Crude prices have retreated about 4% this week to near $90 a barrel amid a fragile backdrop for demand

Exports from OPEC's 13 members are down "very significantly in the first half of November, by more than 1 million barrels a day," said Daniel Gerber, chief executive officer of tanker-tracker Petro-Logistics SA in Geneva.

While an uptick is likely in the second half of the month, flows are on track for an average monthly drop of 1 million a day — roughly equivalent to the group's full pledged reduction, according to the firm, which has monitored tanker traffic for four decades.s

Context: Saudi Arabia has cut oil exports sharply this month as the kingdom delivers on an OPEC+ agreement to shore up global crude markets.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

- **About:** A permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the **Baghdad Conference** in September 1960.
- **Membership: Open to any country** that is a substantial exporter of oil.
  - **Founding member:** Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
  - **Current Members**: Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
    - **India is not a member.**
- **OPEC Secretariat:** Located in Vienna.
  - OPEC had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first five years of its existence.
  - This was moved to Vienna, Austria, on September 1, 1965.
- **Objective:** To **coordinate and unify petroleum policies** among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.
- **Functions**: The OPEC Member Countries **adjust their oil productions activities** in order to bring stability to the petroleum market and help manufacturers get a good return on their investments.

OPEC Plus

- **About: Non-OPEC countries** which export crude oil are termed as OPEC plus countries.
- **Aim/objective**: To **manage the supply of oil** in an effort to set the price of oil in the world market, in order to avoid fluctuations that might affect the economies of both producing and purchasing countries.
- **Current members**: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.
  - **India is not a member.**

ECONOMIC TIMES Page 2

JUDICIAL TRANSFERS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Apex Court Collegium Recommends Transfer of Three HC Judges

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: The Supreme Court collegium has recommended transfer of three high court judges. The collegium has recommended that Madras High Court's acting chief justice T Raja be transferred to the Rajasthan High Court.

It has also recommended transfer of Justice Nikhil S Kariel and justice A Abhishek Reddy to the Patna High Court. Justice Kariel, a judge of the Gujarat High Court, was enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Gujarat in 1998 and practiced in the areas of service, civil and criminal laws. He was elevated as judge of the Gujarat High Court in October 2020. Justice Reddy is currently a judge of the Telangana High Court. He enrolled as an advocate in July 1990 and was elevated as HC judge in August 2019.

Context: The Supreme Court collegium has **recommended transfer of three high court judges**.

Judicial Transfers

- **Constitutional Provisions: Article 222 of the Constitution** provides for the transfer of High Court judges, including the Chief Justice. It says the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, may transfer a judge from one High Court to any other High Court.
  - It also provides for a **compensatory allowance to the transferred judge.**
  - This means that the executive could transfer a judge, but only after consulting the Chief Justice of India.
- **Supreme Court's Judgment**
  - **Union of India vs. Sankalchand Himatlal Sheth (1977):** The Supreme Court rejected the idea that High Court judges **can be transferred only with their consent**. It reasoned that:
    - The transfer of power can be exercised only in **public interest.**
    - The President is **under an obligation to consult the Chief Justice of India**, which meant that all relevant facts must be placed before the Chief Justice of India.
    - The Chief Justice of India had the **right and duty to elicit and ascertain further facts** from the judge concerned or others.
  - **S.P. Gupta vs. President of India (1981)(also known as the 'Judges' Transfer Case' and, later, the First Judges Case):** It considered the validity of the transfer Judges as well as a circular from the Law Ministry.
    - The Ministry had put that additional judge in all High Courts may be asked for their **consent to be appointed as permanent judges** in any other High Court, and to name three preferences.
    - The Minister's reasoning was that such transfers would **promote national integration** and help avoid parochial tendencies bred by caste, kinship and other local links and affiliations.
    - The majority ruled that **consultation with the CJI did not mean 'concurrence'** with respect to appointments.
  - **SCARA Vs Union of India, 1993 (Second Judges Case)**: The opinion of the CJI, formed after taking into account the views of senior-most judges, was to have primacy.
    - Since then, **appointments are being made by the Collegium.**

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 2

MEASLES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Don't ignore vaccination: After losing kids to measles, mums spread word at PTM

Sumitra.DebRoy
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The advice came straight from a mother's heart. "Vaccination can save the lives of your children. Get your children immunised," Shaheen Khan, whose 14-month-old son Faizal was among the first victims of the ongoing measles outbreak in Mumbai, told a small gathering at a parent-teacher meeting at Shivaji Nagar on Wednesday. She said she did not want any other kid in east Mumbai's Govandi to meet the same fate and other mothers lapped up her soulful testimony.

Shaheen and Sahrunissa Khan lost three children from their families to measles because they weren't vaccinated. Now, about 25 days after the loss of their boys, the mothers have become advocates for vaccination in their small way.



The BMC has started a series of PTMs in Mumbai's Govandi, the epicenter of the outbreak, to prevent school outbreaks

The forum was held to inform mothers of pre-primary and primary class students how to identify symptoms of measles and the importance of vaccination. "If I can convince even one mother to vaccinate her child, I will feel my son's death has not gone to waste," she said, adding that she repents not having vaccinated her son.

The back-to-back deaths of Shaheen's child and Sahrunissa's sons, aged 3 and 5 in October, blew the lid off the outbreak sweeping Govandi since late September. Of 1,300-odd suspected cases, almost 80% are from Govandi.

Local civic officials said the mothers have participated in a few informal talks and are ready to speak in more localities. "When Shaheen spoke, mothers listened with rapt attention," a senior official said.

Sahrunissa told **TOI** they started talking to mothers in the neighbourhood after their kids succumbed. "It is not just vaccination, we're telling mothers to rush their babies to hospital if they come down with any symptoms," she said. The 39-year-old recently delivered her tenth child. Claiming not to be fully unaware of vaccination, she blamed frequent travels to her native place for failing to immunise the kids.

BMC has started a series of parent-teacher meetings in Govandi to prevent school outbreaks. BMC and representatives from World Health Organisation interacted with 40 maulvis and local private practitioners on Thursday. The maulvis committed to making an announcement about the vaccination camps during prayers on Friday.

All you need to know

- Measles and rubella are highly contagious viral diseases that are spread by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing.
- Infection with measles is followed by high fever, rash that spreads over the body, cough, running nose and red watery eyes.
- Measles weakens the immune system of the body.
- Serious complications include blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhoea and severe respiratory infections such as pneumonia.
- One-third of all measles-related deaths worldwide occur in India.
- Rubella infection during pregnancy can cause abortion, stillbirth, and may lead to multiple birth defects in the newborn like blindness, deafness, heart defects
- India accounts for around one third of all children born worldwide with Congenital Rubella Syndrome.



MR vaccination

- Measles-rubella (MR) vaccine is given for preventing both measles and rubella diseases in the child.
- No specific treatment is available for measles and rubella but these diseases can easily be prevented by vaccination.

Context: Seven suspected measles deaths and 164 cases of the viral infection have been reported in Mumbai since September 2022.

Measles

- **Communicable disease:** A viral disease that is **highly contagious.** This means it's very easily spread to others.
- **Causes**: It is caused by morbillivirus, which is **mostly seen in the winter and spring.**
  - **Measles virus:** Belongs to the **paramyxovirus family** and it is normally passed through direct contact and through the air.
- **Spread**: It is **spread through droplets** of nose, throat or mouth of an infected person.
  - Measles generally **appear only 10 - 12 days after the infection**.
- **Symptoms**: High fever, Runny nose, Bloodshot eyes, Tiny white spots on the inside of the mouth, Rashes on the face, upper neck that spread downwards (this appears after several days).
- **Treatment**: **Routine measles vaccination** for children, combined with mass immunization campaigns in countries with low routine coverage, are key public health strategies to reduce global measles deaths.
- **Vaccine**: The measles **vaccine was introduced in 1963**.
  - The vaccine for the disease are provided in the form of **measles-rubella (MR), measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), or measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV)** combination.
  - The first dose of MMR is given at the age of 12 – 15 months, and the second one at 4 – 6 years.
  - Adults and teenagers can also take MMR vaccinations as required.
- **Preventive efforts:**
  - **Global**: Under the **Global Vaccine Action Plan**, measles and rubella are targeted for elimination in five WHO Regions by 2020. **WHO** is the lead technical agency responsible for coordination of immunization and surveillance activities supporting all countries to achieve this goal.
  - **India**: The Government of India has launched the **Measles and Rubella Vaccination Campaign** in 2017 with a view to providing measles-rubella (MR) vaccines to children between the ages of nine months and under 15 years.

PIB

Nov 18

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

CEC Shri Rajiv Kumar invited as International Observer for forthcoming Elections in Nepal

Context: Chief Election Commissioner of India has been invited by Election Commission of Nepal as International Observer for the forthcoming elections to Nepal's House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly.

Key Points

- ECI has a **similar International Election Visitors Program** where members from other Election Management Bodies are invited to experience firsthand our General and Assembly Elections held periodically.
- ECI had been **chairing the Association of World Election Bodies**, which is the world's largest international organization in the field of election management - since Sept 2019 to October 2022.
    - A-WEB currently comprises 119 Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from 109 countries.
- ECI has now been **unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA)** for the term 2022 to 2024 thus globally acknowledging ECI's presence and efficient conduct of Elections in world's largest democracy.

Election Commission of India

- **About**: An all-India body that is **common to both the Central government and the State governments.**
    - The commission **does not deal with the elections** to the Municipalities and Panchayats in the states.
    - Hence, a separate State Election Commission is provided by the Constitution of India.
- **Constitutional Provisions**: **Article 324** provides the Election Commission of India with the power of direction, superintendence, and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India.
    - Election Commission is a **permanent Constitutional Body**. It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.
- **Composition of Election Commission**: Article 324 of the Constitution has made the following provisions with regard to the composition of the election commission:
    - The **President appoints** the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners.
        - When any other EC is so appointed, the CEC acts as the Election Commission's Chairman.
    - The President can a**lso appoint regional commissioners** to assist the Commission, if necessary after consulting with the Election Commission.
        - The **tenure of office and the conditions of service** of all the commissioners shall be determined by the President.
- **Power and Functions**: The Commission's functions and powers with respect to elections to the offices of the President, the Vice President, the state legislators and the Parliament are divided under three headings: **Administrative, Advisory and Quasi-judicial**.
- **Independence of the Election Commission:**
    - The chief election commissioner is **provided with security of tenure.**
    - He **cannot be removed from his office** except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.
    - he **does not hold his office until the pleasure of the president**, though he is appointed by him.
    - The **service condition**s of the chief election commissioner cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.
    - Any other election commissioner or a regional commissioner cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the chief election commissioner.
- **Limitations**:
    - The Constitution has **not prescribed the qualifications** (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
    - The Constitution has **not specified the term of the members** of the Election Commission.
    - The Constitution has **not debarred the retiring election commissioners** from any further appointment by the government.

DST

Nov 18

HYDROGEN VALLEY PLATFORM

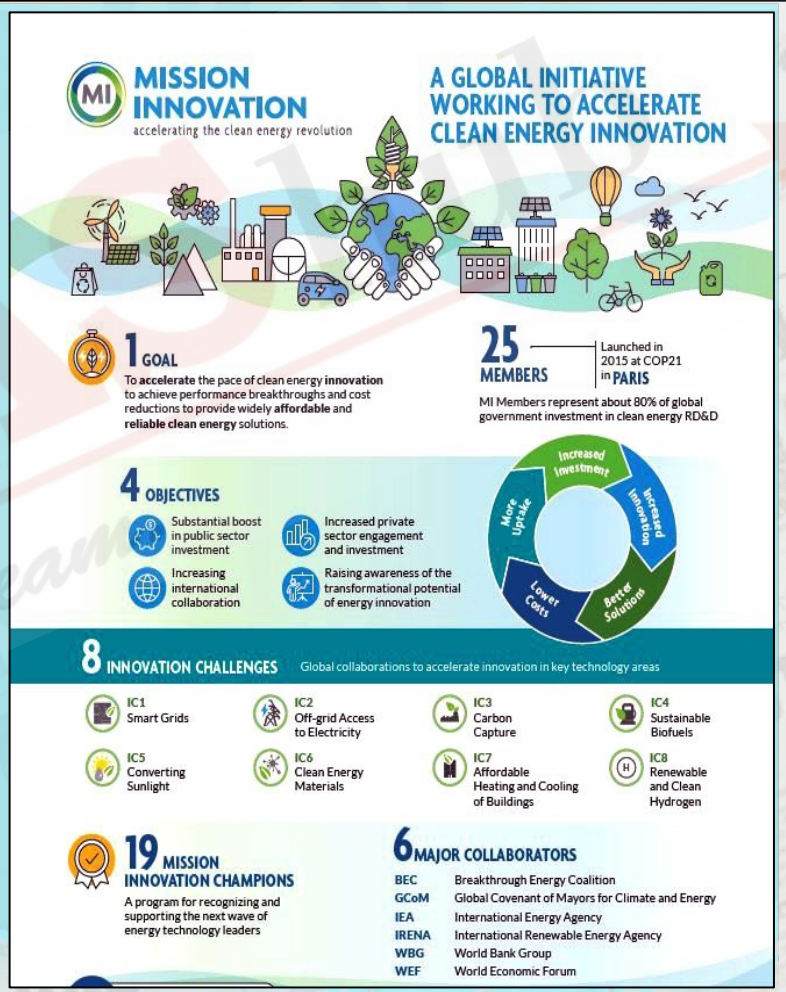
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure-Energy)

Importance of public and private collaboration highlighted at meeting to discuss setting up of hydrogen valley platforms in India

Context: The DST under the Clean Hydrogen Mission of "Mission Innovation" has set in motion the process of identifying and setting up at least 3 **Hydrogen Valleys by 2030.**

Hydrogen Valley Platform

- **About**: A global initiative to **optimize the hydrogen demand and supply** by onsite generation and utilisation, to utilise the renewable resources effectively in water excess areas with geographical identity.
- **Developed by:** A Global Information Sharing Platform, developed by the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking to support the **Mission Innovation IC8 Member States.**
    - **Mission Innovation:** It was announced on 30th November 2015, on the **sidelines of the Paris Climate Agreement** to undertake ambitious measures to combat climate change.
    - **Innovation Challenges (IC):** IC8 was launched in May 2018 at the third Mission Innovation Ministerial to address the need for further **technology improvements to enable hydrogen** to be cost-competitive in the energy system.
- **Objectives**: The H2 Valley's objectives will be **achieved through cohorts of clean hydrogen valleys** to combine the complete hydrogen value chain (production, storage, and transportation) with the aim of reaching critical scale and unlocking learning curve effects.
- **H2 Valley in India**: India has committed to facilitate the delivery of three clean hydrogen valleys in India by 2030. Three phases:
    - The **first phase (2023-2027)** of the project will develop, deploy, and demonstrate small-scale hydrogen valleys, which produce more than 500 tonnes of green hydrogen annually.
    - The **second phase (2028-2033)** will involve upscaling of the hydrogen valleys with production of more than 5000 tonnes of renewable hydrogen per year.
    - The **third phase (2034-2050)** of the project will involve low-carbon hydrogen technologies being adopted in hard-to-decarbonise sectors, such as cement and steel.



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CARBON TRADE MECHANISM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



CLIMATE CHANGE

COP27: Experts flag proposals to include carbon removals in UN trading mechanism

The recommendations, made at the beginning of COP27, provide a broad definition of removals and do not distinguish between them, according to civil society groups

NEXT NEWS >

By Rohini Krishnamurthy

Published: Thursday 17 November 2022

Carbon Markets under the Paris Agreement

- **Article 6**: Provisions relating to setting up a new carbon market.
- **Article 6.2:** Enables bilateral arrangements for the transfer of emissions reductions.
- **Article 6.4:** Talks about a wider carbon market in which reductions can be bought and sold by anyone.
- **Article 6.8**: Provides for making 'non-market approaches' available to countries to achieve targets.

Context: Many concerns have been raised over recommendations to include **carbon removals for carbon-trading mechanisms** under the United Nations.

Key Points

- **Paris agreement**: Article 2.1 of the 2015 Paris Agreement a**ims to hold increasing temperatures to "well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels"** while "pursuing efforts" towards the more ambitious limit of 1.5°C.
  - Article 6.4 establishes a mechanism under the United Nations to **allow countries to voluntarily cooperate to meet their climate targets.**
  - A country that has earned credits by reducing greenhouse gas emissions **can sell them to another country to help it meet its climate target.**
- **Governance**: The supervisory body is **responsible for framing recommendations** around the types of activities (methodologies) allowed under 6.4 and how they should be verified.
  - It is also **tasked with making recommendations on carbon removals,** including reporting, monitoring and addressing concerns over the technology and social impacts.
  - These recommendations will be **approved by the Conference of the Parties** serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA).
  - Once approved, **a developer (a country, a business, or an individual) can start issuing the UN-recognised credits for a project** only after getting approval from the host country and the supervisory body.
- **Carbon removal**: 'Carbon removal' means **removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere**.
  - It can be **land-based like afforestation or reforestation**, direct air capture (where big machines suck CO2), soil carbon sequestration using no-till agriculture and other practices, sequestering carbon from biofuel, and the like.
  - The supervisory body has proposed methodologies under land-based, and engineering-based approaches, such as **direct air capture and ocean fertilisation for 'removals'** in the initial days of the 27th Conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change summit began.
  - These recommendations provide a broad definition of removals. It does not distinguish between types of removals, including each activity's requirements, risks and implications.
- **Ocean-based removals**: Some ocean-based removals include **pumping CO2 into the ocean by spreading iron (ocean fertilisation)** or pumping nutrient-rich waters from the depths to the surface and pumping surface waters downward to transport carbon to the ocean depths.

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RED-CROWNED ROOFED TURTLE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY

CITES COP19: India's freshwater turtle in danger of extinction

India puts forward proposal to move it to Appendix I; Common hippo, straw-headed bulbul, African elephant at risk too

NEXT NEWS >

By Himanshu Nitnaware

Published: Wednesday 16 November 2022

Context: India has put forward a proposal to better protect a species of freshwater reptile called the **red-crowned roofed turtle (Batagur kachuga)** under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Key Findings

- **Poaching and Trading:** Over 11,000 tortoises and freshwater turtles have been seized in India from 2009-2019, found a study by TRAFFIC, a global NGO working on trade in wild animals and plants and their conservation.
  - The poached animals were **illegally traded year after year** and identification were absent in 51.5 per cent of the cases.
- **COP 19**: In the CITES COP19 agenda, countries have proposals to amend the appendices for wild animals, which include transferring hippopotamus, straw-headed bulbul, red-crowned roofed turtle and African elephant to Appendix I.
  - It also **proposes to include requiem and hammerhead sharks** in Appendix II.
  - Overharvesting the animal for illegal consumption and illegal international trade are other reasons for its extinction threat.
  - The **common hippopotamus is threatened** with extinction, as per another proposal made by Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.
    - The species was listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2006.
  - Malaysia, Singapore and the United States have also raised concerns about the **declining population of straw-headed bulbul** (Pycnonotus zeylanicus) from Southeast Asia.
  - Countries like Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Mali and Senegal have demanded the **African elephant** be considered for Appendix I because of the ongoing threat of increasing ivory trade demand.

Red Crowned Roofed Turtle

- **About**: One of the 24 species **endemic to India,** is characterised by the bright colours such as red, yellow, white and blue on the faces and necks of the males.
- **Common Names**: Bengal roof turtle, Red-crowned roofed turtle.
- **Distribution**: A freshwater turtle species found in deep flowing rivers with terrestrial nesting sites.
  - It also occurs in the Brahmaputra basin.
- **Habitat**: Native to **India, Bangladesh and Nepal.**
  - Currently in India, the **National Chambal River Gharial Sanctuary** is the only area with substantial population of the species, but even this Protected Area and habitat are under threat.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** : Critically Endangered
  - **Wildlife Protection Act (IWPA)** : Schedule I
  - **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** : Appendix II

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- **An international agreement**: based on cooperation among member parties that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.
- **Resolution by IUCN**: It was drafted as a **result of a resolution adopted in 1963** by the members of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).**
  - It entered into force in July 1975.
- **Members**: Currently, **there are 184 parties** (including countries or regional economic integration organizations).
  - India is a CITES Party since 1976.
- **Administration**: The CITES Secretariat is **administered by UNEP (The United Nations Environment Programme)** and is located in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **Governance**: The **Conference of the Parties to CITES is the supreme decision-making body** of the Convention and comprises all its parties.
- **Legally binding**: CITES is **legally binding on its members.**

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