theIAShub

the IAS hub
Be Your Dream.

OCTOBER
10

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place

THE HINDU
ET
BS
TOI
The Indian EXPRESS
livemint
pib
DownToEarth
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
Science Reporter
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मन्त्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. Chabahar Port
2. Gaza Strip
3. United Nations Security Council
4. Marrakesh (Morocco)
5. Tanzania
6. Shrestha Scheme
7. Great Barrier Reef
8. Nobel Prize in Economics
9. DGGI
10. Microplastics

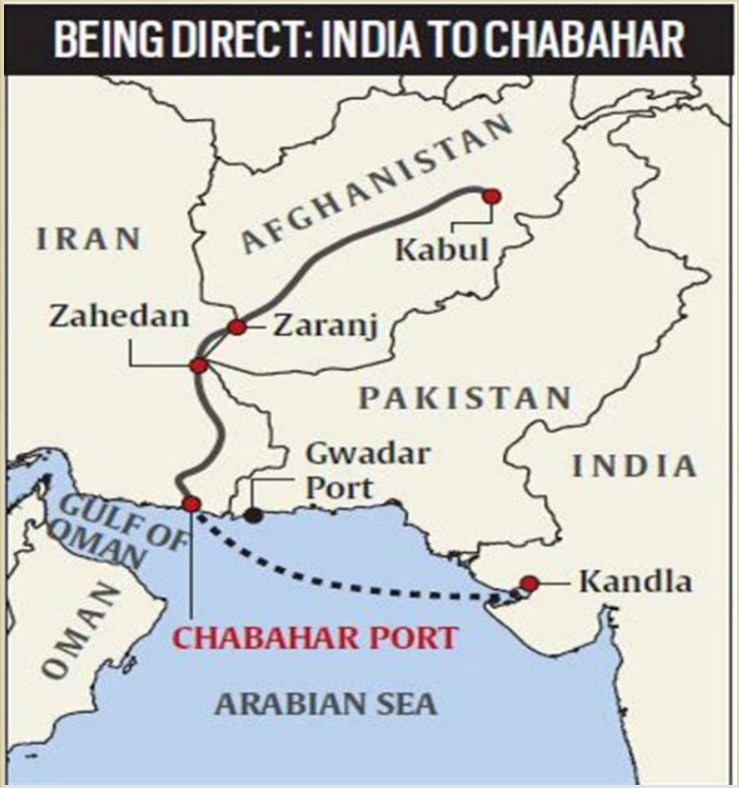
HINDUSTAN TIMES

Oct 9

CHABAHAR PORT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

India, Iran narrow differences on long-term pact on strategic Chabahar port



Context: Recently, India and Iran have made significant progress in narrowing their differences on a **proposed 10-year pact for operations** at the strategic **Chabahar port**

Chabahar Port

- **Meaning**: Chabahar is made of the Persian words Chahar meaning four; and bahar meaning spring.
  - Chabahar city is also home to Iran's only deep-seaport with direct access to the ocean.
- **Location**: Off the Gulf of Oman in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan & is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean.
- **Consists of two ports**: Chabahar Port consists of two separate ports called Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
- **Significance**: Important for its fishery sector and will act as an important trade center connecting South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East.

Significance for India

- **Gateway to Central Asia and beyond**: The port gives access to the energy-rich Persian Gulf nations' southern coast & and Central Asia and India can bypass Pakistan with the Chabahar port becoming functional.
- **Access to Afghanistan**: The International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) allowed India to trade with the outside world via Iran, but India could not do so with Afghanistan (not a member of INSTC) in spite of being a very close neighbor.
- **Strategic Importance**: Due to its location in the Gulf of Oman and at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz and enables Iran to have direct entry to the Indian Ocean.

THE HINDU

Page 1

GAZA STRIP

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

Israel imposes total siege on Gaza; death count rises

Agence France-Presse
Associated Press
GAZA CITY/JERUSALEM

Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip on Monday and cut off the water supply as it kept bombing targets in the crowded Palestinian enclave in response to the Hamas surprise assault it has likened to the 9/11 attacks.

Israeli media reported that more than 900 people were killed multi-pronged attacks by Hamas on the country's south.

In Gaza, where Israel has launched a withering barrage of airstrikes, 560 people were reported dead.

The skies over Gaza were blackened by plumes of smoke from deafening explosions as Hamas kept launching rockets as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Hamas – whose militants surged into Israeli towns on Saturday, dragging off about 100 hostages – claimed on Monday that Israeli air strikes had killed four of the captives.

Israel said it had called up 3,00,000 army reservists for its "Swords of Iron" campaign, and truck convoys were moving tanks to the south, where its forces had dislodged the last holdout Hamas fighters from embattled towns.

"We are in control of the communities," said military spokesman Daniel Hagari, cautioning that some "terrorists" may remain after about 1,000 militants had swarmed into the region.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel would impose a "complete siege" on the long blockaded enclave and stressed what this meant for its 2.3 million people: "No electricity, no food, no water, no gas – it's all closed."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 14



Down to ruins: The rubble of the Yassin Mosque, destroyed in an Israeli air strike, in Gaza City on Monday. AP



Context: Recently, Israel imposed a **total siege on the Gaza Strip**, cutting off the water supply, as it kept bombing targets in the crowded Palestinian enclave in response to the **Hamas surprise assault** it has likened to the 9/11 attacks.

Gaza Strip

- **About**: It is also known as Gaza, is a Palestinian enclave situated on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Boundaries**: It shares an 11-kilometer (6.8-mile) border with Egypt to the southwest and a 51-kilometer (32-mile) border with Israel to the east and north.
- Both the **Gaza Strip and the West Bank** are territories claimed by the de jure sovereign State of Palestine.
- Israeli territory separates the territories of Gaza and the West Bank from each other.
- Initially under the **jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority**, the Gaza Strip has been governed by Hamas, a militant Palestinian fundamentalist Islamic organization, since the **Battle of Gaza in June 2007**, following their victory in the 2006 elections.

Israel

- **About**: Israel is located at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea in West Asia.
- **Boundaries**: North by Lebanon, the northeast by Syria, the east by Jordan and the West Bank, and to the southwest by Egypt

INDIAN EXPRESS

Oct 10

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – International Organization)



UN security council meets; deeply distressed, says Guterres

AGENCIES
UNITED NATIONS, OCTOBER 9

THE UN Security Council held an emergency meeting behind closed doors Sunday, with the United States demanding all 15 members strongly condemn "these heinous terrorist attacks committed by Hamas," but they took no immediate action.

US deputy ambassador Robert Wood alter said that "a number of countries" did condemn the attack but not all council members.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres led the clarion call Monday. He said that over 137,000 people in Gaza – or about 6% of its population – were now sheltering in sites run by UNRWA, the aid agency for Palestinians.

"I am deeply distressed by today's announcement that Israel will initiate a complete siege of the Gaza Strip, nothing allowed in — no electricity, food, or fuel," he said.

Context: Recently, the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** expressed its deep distress over the announcement that **Israel will initiate** a complete siege of the **Gaza Strip** following an attack by the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- **About**: It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).
- **Formation**: By the UN Charter in 1945.
- **Objective**: Primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- **Members**: 15 (5 permanent + 10 non-permanent members).
- **Headquarters**: New York, USA.
- **UNSC Presidency**: Held by each of the 15 members in turn for one month, based on English alphabetical order.
- **Eligibility for Presidency**: Both permanent and non-permanent members are eligible for the UNSC presidency.
- **Presidential Powers**: In the UNSC, the Council President has a **broad range of procedural powers**: They can call and preside over meetings, approve the UN body agenda for the month, issue presidential statements, decide the content & and theme of debates, etc.
- India as a **non-permanent member: 8 times**. The latest membership was for the year 2021-22.

UNSC REFORMS: MEANING

- The **aim for UNSC reforms encompasses** Reform in categories of membership (permanent, non-permanent) question of the veto held by the **five permanent members**' representation Size of an enlarged Council and its working relationship between UNSC & and UNGA, etc.

MARRAKESH (MOROCCO)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

G20 Marrakesh meeting to discuss crypto, MDB reforms this week

Rhik Kundu
rhik.kundu@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

The G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meetings in Marrakesh later this week is expected to unveil the roadmap for regulating crypto assets and reforming multilateral development banks (MDBs).

In September, G20 leaders meeting in New Delhi endorsed recommendations by global risk watchdog the Financial Stability Board (FSB) on regulating, supervising and overseeing crypto-asset activities and integrating digital assets into the financial systems.

India has evaluated the recommendations made by the FSB and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and analyzed its own position with reference to what the leaders have agreed, a senior government official said.

"We understand that emerging market economies like India face higher risk, as mentioned in the FSB synthesis paper," said a senior government official, under the condition of anonymity.

"India will put forward its position keeping its interests in mind," the person said.



Global regulations will play a significant role in shaping the future of the crypto industry, said industry leaders. AFP

The IMF and FSB joint synthesis paper, released on 7 September, says a blanket ban on crypto assets may be hard to implement, while noting that increased adoption of these assets could undermine monetary policy transmission.

However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expressed concerns amid a growing demand for crypto currencies in the country, and has sought an outright ban on digital currencies.

Global regulations will play a significant role in shaping the future of the crypto industry, said industry leaders.

"It is good to see that the regulatory direction has been taken upon a global scale now," said Nischal Shetty, founder of crypto exchange WazirX and CoFounder of Shardeum. "Overall, I am optimistic about the future of the crypto industry. It is important for governments to work with industry participants to develop regulations that are fair and effective," Shetty added.

The G20 finance ministers and central bank governors' (FMCBG) meeting on 12-13 October will also deliberate on the way forward based on the reforms suggested by the second part of the NK Singh and Lawrence Summers panel report that will be released ahead of the meeting.

While the first part of the report was released in July, ahead of the FMCBG meeting in Gandhinagar, the second edition will review multiple suggestions for reforms, elaborate on operational reforms, speed of response and private capital mobilisation, including prospects for scaling up of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

It will also suggest a new foreign currency hedging mechanism. The first part of the report suggested an increase in MDBs' annual spending by $3 trillion by 2030, including $1.8 trillion for additional climate action and $1.2 trillion for achieving other sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired a meeting with the heads of MDBs and co-convener of the G20 independent expert group, NK Singh, last week.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Mint welcomes comments, suggestions or complaints about errors.

Readers can alert the newsroom to any errors in the paper by emailing us, with your full name and address to **feedback@livemint.com.**

It is our policy to promptly respond to all complaints. Readers dissatisfied with the response or concerned about *Mint*'s journalistic integrity may write directly to the editor by sending an email to **asktheeditor@livemint.com**

Mint's journalistic Code of Conduct that governs our newsroom is available at **www.livemint.com**

Context: The **G20 finance ministers and central bank governors'** meetings in **Marrakesh** later this week are **expected to unveil the roadmap for regulating crypto** assets and reforming multilateral development banks (MDBs).

Morocco

- **Location**: Western North Africa.
- **Boundary**: Algeria to the east and southeast, Western Sahara to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north.
  - It is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Strait**: It lies directly across the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain.
- **Climate**: Mediterranean climate, with mild wet winters and hot dry summers.
- **Mountain Ranges:** The Atlas Mountains dominate the central part of the country, while the Rif Mountains make up the northern edge.
  - Jebel Toubkal is the highest point in Morocco at 13,664 ft (4,165 m) and is also the highest peak of the Atlas Mountains.

Marrakesh

Marrakesh is a UNESCO World Heritage Site & the **fourth largest city** in **Morocco**.

The **12th century Koutoubia Mosque** in the city is one of the city's important landmarks.



TANZANIA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2– IR)

India & Tanzania elevate ties to a strategic partnership

Ink 6 Pacts, Agree On A 5-Year Road Map For Defence Cooperation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and Tanzania elevated bilateral ties to a strategic partnership as PM Narendra Modi hosted Samia Hassan, President of the African country and the first head of state to visit India from the continent after the African Union became a member of the G20 at the summit here last month.

The two countries also signed six agreements and agreed to a five-year roadmap for defence cooperation, with Modi describing Tanzania as an invaluable partner also in India's Indo-Pacific efforts. He also said both sides were working on an agreement to increase trade in local currencies.

A joint statement issued after the meeting said the two leaders strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, "whenever, wherever, and by whomsoever" committed and the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism. They agreed that terrorism is one of the most serious threats to global peace, security and stability and must seriously be addressed, it said.

The six agreements will provide for cooperation in the digital domain, culture, sports, maritime industries and white shipping information sharing.

"In today's meeting we identified several new initiatives, laying the foundation for this future strategic partnership. India and Tanzania are important partners of each other for mutual trade and investment," said Modi.

Tanzania, which backed India's candidature for non-permanent membership of UNSC for 2028-29, announced it had decided to join the Global Biofuels Alliance launched by India at the G20 summit. "Additionally, Tanzania's decision to join the International Big Cat Alliance will enable us to strengthen global efforts to conserve big cats," he added.

The joint statement said the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in maritime security in the Indian Ocean region and expressed satisfaction over the first ever India-Tanzania joint exclusive economic zone surveillance exercise conducted in July.



Piyal Bhattacharjee

Tanzanian President Samia Hassan receives a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan from Prime Minister Narendra Modi & President Murmu. PM Modi said that India and Tanzania remained important partners for mutual trade and investment



Context: Recently, **India and Tanzania elevated their bilateral ties** to a strategic partnership when the Prime Minister of India hosted Samia Hassan, **President of the African country, marking a significant milestone** as the first head of state to visit India from the continent after the African Union's recent inclusion as a member of the G20.

- Tanzania, which backed India's candidature for **non-permanent membership of UNSC** for 2028-29, announced it had **decided to join the Global Biofuels Alliance** launched by India at the G20 summit.
- Both Countries **agreed to enhance cooperation in** maritime security in the Indian Ocean region and expressed satisfaction over the **first-ever Indi Tanzania joint exclusive** economic zone surveillance exercise.

Tanzania

- **Formation**: It was formed as a sovereign state in 1964 through the union of the separate states of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.
- **Capital**: Dodoma
- **Located**: It is located in east Africa just south of the Equator.
- **Boundaries**: Uganda, Lake Victoria and Kenya to the north, by the Indian Ocean to the east, by Mozambique, Lake Nyasa, Malawi and Zambia to the south and southwest and by Lake Tanganyika, Burundi and Rwanda to the west.
- **Mountain**, Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres -Africa's highest mountain)
- **Lake**: Lake Tanganyika (the world's second-deepest lake).

PIB Oct 9

SHRESTHA SCHEME
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Schemes)

SCHEME FOR RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS IN TARGETED AREAS (SHRESHTA)

Context: Recently, **SHRESHTA** has been making significant strides in expanding the scope of development interventions by collaborating with grant-in-aid institutions **run by NGOs and residential high schools.**

SHRESTHA Scheme

- **Objective:** Its primary objective is to enhance the socio-economic standing of Scheduled Castes individuals by offering top-tier education to their children in the finest private residential schools across the nation.
- **Eligibility:** Students must belong to the marginalized income groups within the SC community.
- Parental annual income must be less than Rs.2.5 Lakh annually.
- **Mechanism:** This mechanism is referred to as the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS).
- The National Testing Agency (NTA) will be responsible for conducting NETS.
- **Beneficiaries:** The government has targeted that every year around **3000 students belonging to the SC category** will be admitted to Class 9 and Class 11 under this system.

DTE

Oct 9

GREAT BARRIER REEF

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

There's a hidden source of excess nutrients suffocating the Great Barrier Reef. We found it

Previously unquantified groundwater inputs are the largest source of new nutrients to Great Barrier Reef



Initiatives to Protect Corals

- A number of global initiatives are being taken to address the issues, like:
- International Coral Reef Initiative
- Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)
- Global Coral Reef Alliance (GCRA)
- The Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform

Context: Recently, there has been growing concern about the impact of **climate change on the Great Barrier Reef**, despite its significant **economic and environmental** value.

- Although **nitrogen and phosphorous** are essential to support the incredible biodiversity of the reef, too much nutrient can lead to losses of **coral biodiversity and coverage**.
- It also increases the **abundance of algae and the ability of coral larvae** to grow into adult coral and impacts **seagrass coverage and health**, which is crucial for fisheries and biodiversity.

Great Barrier Reef

- **Location**: Situated in the Pacific Ocean, it can be found off the northeastern coast of Queensland, Australia, within the Coral Sea.
- **Largest Coral Reef Area**: Indonesia
- **Coral Reef Areas in India**: Gulf of Mannar, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Lakshadweep Islands and the Gulf of Kutch.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Status**: The Great Barrier Reef earned the esteemed status of a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981.
- **Marine Protected Area**: A substantial portion of this remarkable ecosystem falls under the protective umbrella of a marine protected area.
- This area is overseen and managed by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority of Australia.
- **Biodiversity**: The Great Barrier Reef boasts an incredible array of marine life. Estimates suggest it serves as the habitat for around 1,500 species of fish and over 600 diverse coral species.

THE HINDU Page 1

NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economics)

Claudia Goldin wins 2023 Economics Nobel Prize for research on workplace gender gap

Associated Press

The Nobel Prize for economics was awarded to Harvard University professor Claudia Goldin on Monday for her research that has advanced the understanding of the gender gap in the labour market.

Ms. Goldin is just the third woman to win the prize out of 93 economics laureates.

She has studied 200 years of women's participation in the workplace, showing that despite continued economic growth, women's pay did not continuously catch up to men's and a divide still exists despite women gaining higher levels of education than men.

"I've always been an optimist. But when I look at the numbers, I think something has happened in America, that we, in the 1990s, our labour force participation rate for women was the highest in the world, and now it isn't the highest in the world," Ms. Goldin said.

"We have to step back and ask questions about piecing together the family, the home, together with the marketplace and employment," she said.

Explaining the gap

Goldin's research does not offer solutions, but it allows policymakers to tackle the entrenched problem, said economist Randi Hjalmarsson, a member of the Nobel committee.

"She explains the source of the gap, and how it's changed over time and how it varies with the stage of development. And therefore, there is no single policy," Ms. Hjalmarsson said. "So it's a complicated policy question because if you don't know the underlying reason, a certain policy won't work."



Claudia Goldin

However, "by finally understanding the problem and calling it by the right name, we will be able to pave a better route forward," Ms. Hjalmarsson said.

Ms. Goldin, 77, said that what happens in people's homes reflects what happens in the workplace, with women often taking jobs that allow them to be on call at home – work that often pays less. "Ways in which we can even things out or to create more couple equity also leads to more gender equality," she said.

In Ms. Goldin's analysis, a woman's role in the job market and the pay she receives aren't influenced just by broad social and economic changes. They also are determined partly by her individual decisions about, for example, how much education to get.

Often young girls make decisions about future work by looking at their own mother's participation, each generation "learning from the successes and failures of the preceding generation," Ms. Hjalmarsson said.

The process of evaluating prospects as times change "helps explain why change in labour market gender gaps has been so slow," she said.

Context: The Nobel economics prize (2023) was awarded to Harvard University professor **Claudia Goldin** for research that has advanced the understanding of the **gender gap in the labor market.**

About

- **Claudia Goldin** has studied 200 years of women's participation in the workplace, showing that despite continued economic growth, **women's pay did not continuously catch up to men's** and a divide still exists despite women gaining higher levels of education than men.
- Goldin's research does not offer solutions, but it allows policymakers to tackle the entrenched problem.

Nobel prize in Economics

- The economics award was created in **1968 by Sweden's central bank** and is formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

List of the nine Indian Nobel Prize winners till date

- **Abhijit Banerjee for Economics, 2019:** For experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.
- **Kailash Satyarthi for Peace, 2014:** For struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.

Others:

- **Venkatraman Ramakrishnan for Chemistry, 2009**
- **Amartya Sen for Economics, 1998**
- **Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar for Physics, 1983**
- **Mother Teresa for Peace, 1979**
- **Hargobind Khorana for Medicine, 1968**
- **CV Raman for Physics, 1930**
- **Rabindranath Tagore for Literature, 1913**

TIMES OF INDIA Oct 9

DGGI
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3– Economy)

Reliance General gets ₹923cr GST notices

Context: Reliance General Insurance Company (RGIC), a subsidiary of **Reliance Capital, recently received** show-cause notices amounting to nearly Rs 923 crore from the **Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI)**.

Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI)

- **Formerly named:** the Directorate General of Anti-Evasion (DGAE).
- **Establishment:** 1979 as an independent unit under the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi
- **Regional Units**: Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai.
- Achieved **full Directorate status in 1983**, led by a Director.
- **Upgraded to** Directorate General in 1988, headed by a Director General.

Main Responsibilities of DGGI

- **Intelligence Gathering**: DGGI is tasked with collecting, collating, and disseminating intelligence related to potential Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion and Central Excise and Service Tax duties across India.
- **Investigation**: DGGI possesses the authority to initiate inquiries into suspected instances of GST evasion or non-compliance. This may entail summoning individuals, scrutinizing records, and conducting searches and seizures as necessary.
- **Enforcement:** The DGGI is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the GST law. This encompasses legal actions against offenders, imposition of penalties, and recovery of outstanding taxes and duties.

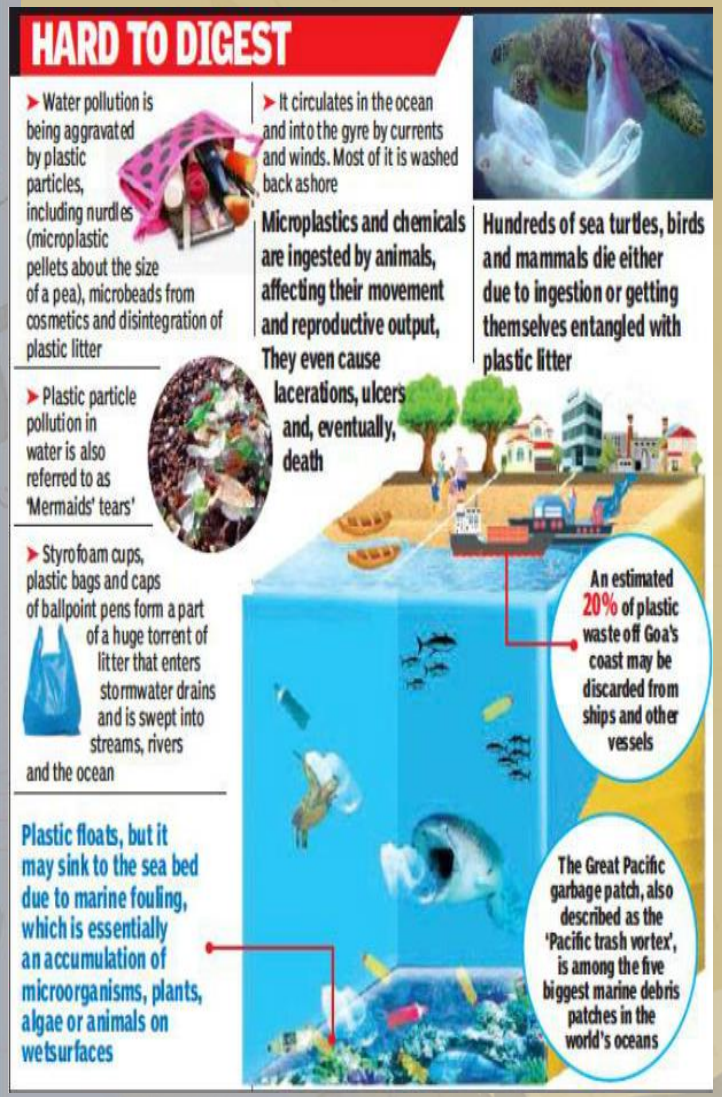
DTE

Sept 29

MICROPLASTICS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env & Eco)

Microplastics pose risk to ocean plankton, climate, other key Earth systems



Context: According to recent research, **trillions of microplastic particles** in the ocean **threaten marine life**, from huge filter feeders to tiny plankton.

- Microplastics in marine sediments alter **microbial communities and disrupt nitrogen** cycling, potentially magnifying human-caused problems like t**oxic algal blooms.**

Microplastics

- **About**: Microplastics are minute fragments of diverse plastic materials present in the surroundings.
  - These minute plastic particles pose a threat to marine environments and the creatures that inhabit them.
- **A recent study revealed a groundbreaking discovery**: microplastics, which are minuscule plastic particles, have been identified in human blood for the very first time.
- **Two main categories of Microplastics**
  - **Primary microplastics** are released into the environment from a variety of sources.
  - **Secondary microplastics**: are created when larger plastics break down.

Concerns related to microplastics

- Microplastics cause damage to human cells in the laboratory.
- It has the potential to adhere to the **outer membranes of red blood cells**, possibly restricting their capacity to carry oxygen.

Secure Top Rank with theIAShub Courses

Prelims 2023 Courses

01 Prelims Crash Course Score Enhancement Program (SEP)

02 INA Current Affairs (Prelims)

03 TACKLE - Prelims Test Series

04 Geography - Prelims Crash Course

Quality Enrichment Courses (Mains 2023)

01 Quality Enrichment Program (QEP)

02 Science of Answer Writing (SAW)

Prelim Cum Mains 2024 Courses

01 NEEV GS Foundation 2024/25

02 INA Current Affairs Pre Cum Mains - 2024

FREE Download PDF

Login to theiashub.com

- Aaj Ka Quality Enrichment (Toppers' Favourite PDF)
- News-CRUX-10 (10 News. 10 Sources. One Place)
- Monthly Editorials (The Hindu & Indian Express)
- Daily Quiz (Prelims)
- Government Schemes & Ministry Wise Year End Review
- Free Enrichment PDFs (Tailor Made Crisp Study Material)



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

SCAN HERE

9560082909

t.me/theiashub

/mkyadav

www.theiashub.com

www.theiashub.com