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MK Yadav Sir

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PIB

MARCH 16

TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EXPORT SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) being implemented for creation of appropriate infrastructure for the growth of exports

Context: Under **Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)**, financial assistance for a total of 40 export infrastructure projects has been approved during FY 2019-20, 2020-21 2021-22 & 2022-23 (as on 9th March, 2023).

Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)

- **About**: The **Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce and Industry)** is implementing the TIES w.e.f. FY 2017-18 to assist Central and State Government agencies in creating appropriate infrastructure for the growth of exports.
  - The scheme replaces a centrally sponsored scheme - **Assistance to States for creating Infrastructure for the Development and growth of Exports (ASIDE).**
- **Objective**: To **enhance export competitiveness** by bridging gaps in export infrastructure, creating focused export infrastructure and first-mile and last-mile connectivity.
- **Eligibility**: The Central and State Agencies, including **Export Promotion Councils, Commodities Boards, SEZ Authorities and Apex Trade Bodies** recognised under the EXIM policy of Government of India; are eligible for financial support under this scheme.
- **Key Features**: Under the scheme, **financial assistance in the form of grants-in-aid** is provided to Central/State Government owned agencies (or their Joint Ventures with major stake-holding by them) for setting up or upgrading export infrastructure in States/UTs.
  - The States can avail of the scheme through their implementing agencies for infrastructure projects with significant export linkages like **Border Haats, Land customs stations, quality testing and certification labs, cold chains, trade promotion centres, export warehousing and packaging, SEZs and ports/airports cargo terminuses.**

ECONOMIC TIMES
Page 8

WHITE LABEL ATM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

White Label ATM Provider India1 Payments Defers IPO Plans

Atmadip.Ray@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: India1 Payments, the country's largest white-label ATM operator, has put its initial public offering (IPO) plan on the back burner, after letting regulatory approval for the share sale to lapse.

It is not planning to seek fresh approval for the IPO immediately from the Securities & Exchange Board of India because of the current choppy market. "We're not in a hurry to go and, you know, sell it at any cost," managing director K Srinivas told ET.

The company generates enough cash to carry out its business of ATM deployment, he said. It is also not seeking fresh capital infusion from the existing shareholders — Banktech Group of Australia and ICICI Ventures, the private equity arm of ICICI Bank.

"I have nothing to tell you (about the IPO) at this point. The board will decide at an appropriate time when we should look back at the public markets," he said.

The firm had around November 2021 received the regulator's approval for the IPO, but that ran out in November last year.

Context: India1 Payments, the country's largest **white-label ATM** operator, has put its initial public offering (IPO) plan on the back burner, after letting regulatory approval for the share sale to lapse.

White-label ATM

- **About**: White Label ATMs are ATMs that are **owned and operated by non-banking entities.**
  - ATMs operated under this business model **allow customers to use them for banking transactions** regardless of the bank they have an account with.
- **Origin**: RBI approved the operation and inclusion of WLA ATM by non-banking organisations under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007.**
  - It was introduced to **expand India's ATM network**, especially in semi-urban and rural areas.
- **Working Mechanism**: White Label ATM companies work with banking networks to enable bank customers to use banking services like **withdrawing funds, paying bills and depositing cash.**
  - White Label ATM (WLA) **operators charge card-issuing bank fees** to provide this facility to the bank's clients.
  - The transaction process in White Label ATM operators consists of a **lending bank, a sponsor bank** that handles settlements and an ATM network provider.
  - The Sponsor bank provides the **cash facility** for the White ATM.

PIB

MARCH 16

PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

Functioning of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS)

Context: Proposals for computerization of 54,752 **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** has been received from the States/UTs and central share amounting to Rs. 201.18 crore has been released for the procurement of hardware, digitization of legacy data and establishing support system, stated by the Minister of Cooperation in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

- A **Centrally sponsored project** for Computerization of functional **PACS/ Large Area Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS)/ Farmers Service Societies (FSS)** across the country with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2,516 Crore is under implementation.

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)

- **About**: It is a **village-level institution** that works directly with rural residents.
  - PACS are the **lowest unit** in a three-tier structure.
  - The other two tiers - **State Cooperative Banks (StCB) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCB)** - have already been automated by the NABARD and brought on the Common Banking Software (CBS).
- **Key Features**: Credit from the SCBs is transferred to the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), that operate at the district level.
  - The DCCBs work with PACS, which deal directly with farmers.
- **Benefits of digitisation:**
  - Computerisation will bring **transparency** and link all credit societies to a common accounting system
  - Each PACS will **get around ₹4 lakh to upgrade its capacity** and even old accounting records will be digitised and linked to cloud-based software.
  - Service delivery such as Direct **Benefit Transfer (DBT), Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS), Crop Insurance Scheme (PMFBY)**, and inputs like fertilizers and seeds.

THE HINDU Page 10

SCHEDULED TRIBE LIST

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Current procedure for inclusion on ST list adequate: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Both the procedure and criteria had been strongly criticised by an internal govt. task force formed in 2014

The Tribal Affairs Ministry on Wednesday insisted once again that the current procedure for inclusion of communities on the Scheduled Tribes list was "adequate". It was responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, which raised concern about the need for a revision in the criteria and procedure for inclusion on the list.

According to the modalities for inclusion first framed in 1999, the proposal for inclusion must originate from the respective State or Union Territory government.

Following this, the proposal is sent to the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry, which sends it to the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI). If the ORGI approves the inclusion, the proposal is forwarded to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Only after the concurrence of these institutions, will the proposal go forward to the Cabinet to bring in the appropriate amendment to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

In response to an RTI query from *The Hindu*, the ORGI had said in January, 2022 that it continues to follow the criteria set out by the Lokur Committee in 1965 to decide whether a community can be included in the ST list.

These criteria include: indications of "primitive traits", distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, and backwardness.

Both the procedure and criteria for inclusion of communities had been strongly criticised by an internal government task force formed in February 2014, for being "obsolete", "condescending", "dogmatic" and "rigid".

Context: The Tribal Affairs Ministry on March 15 in a reply to a question in Parliament insisted once again that the current **procedure for inclusion of communities in the Scheduled Tribes** list was "adequate".

Inclusion in ST list

- **Constitutional provision**: According to **Article 342**, the President may, with respect to any State (after consultation with the Governor) or UT, by public notification, specify the tribes deemed to be ST in relation to that state or UT.
  - Article also **provides for listing of STs State/UT wise** and not on an all-India basis.
- **Legal provision:** The **Parliament** may by law **include or exclude** from the list of ST.
  - This means, the **Presidential orders** can be modified only through an Act of Parliament.
- **Eligibility Criteria for inclusion in ST List:**
  - Indications of primitive traits,
  - Distinctive culture,
  - Geographical isolation,
  - Shyness of contact with the community at large, and
  - Backwardness.
    - However, these **criteria are not mentioned in the Constitution**
- **Process of Inclusion**: Begins with a **recommendation from the respective State governments.**
  - Then sent to the Tribal Affairs Ministry, which **reviews** and sends them to the Registrar General of India for approval.
  - This is followed by the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes' approval** before the list is sent to the Cabinet for a final decision.
- **Benefits of Inclusion**: Post-matric scholarship, overseas scholarship, and national fellowship, besides education, concessional loans from the **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation,** and hostels for students.
  - Reservation in services and admission to educational institutions as per government policy.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

FLOOR TEST

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Threats, dissent can't be ground for Governor to call floor test: SC

Governor shouldn't enter any area which precipitates fall of a govt: CJI

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 15



Koshyari was Governor when the Uddhav govt fell

THREATS TO rebel Shiv Sena MLAs could not have been the ground to unseat the Uddhav Thackeray government in Maharashtra, the Supreme Court said Wednesday as it questioned the role of the Governor, inquiring about the material before him on the basis of which he ordered a trust vote.

"That cannot be the ground for unseating a government. Ultimately that's subject to Section 156 (3) (of CrPC – Magistrate's power to order investigation of an offence), subject to FIRs," Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, presiding over a five-judge Constitution Bench, said as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Governor, highlighted the threats faced by the rebel MLAs.

Pointing out that members of a legislature party losing confidence in a leader is an internal party affair, the CJI said the Governor has no role in it.

"You can never allow the Governor to ask for a trust vote when there is absolutely nothing to shake the majority on the floor of the House... The trust vote is not for determining who is to be your leader in the House... Governor's trust vote is where the majority in the House is shaken. Where was there anything to indicate that?"

The Solicitor General told the Bench, also comprising Justices M R Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha, that the MLAs had written to the Governor communicating the threat to their lives and that they did not want to continue with the "corrupt government".

"The apprehension of MLAs is also fortified by a letter from the Leader of the Opposition who has also provided links to videos where Mr so-and-so has openly stated that dead bodies would come... This is a threat on a public platform. Let us not lessen the gravity," Mehta said, adding that the court should not condone it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Context: Threats to rebel Shiv Sena MLAs could not have been the ground to unseat the Uddhav Thackeray government in Maharashtra, the Supreme Court said as it questioned the role of the Governor, inquiring about the material before him on the basis of which he ordered a **floor test or trust vote.**

- SC said That cannot be the ground for unseating a government. Ultimately that's subject to **Section 156 (3) (of CrPC** – Magistrate's power to order investigation of an offence), subject to FIRs.

Floor Test

- **About**: A floor test is used to determine whether the executive has the **confidence of the legislature.**
- **Constitutional mechanism**: Under **Article 163 of the Constitution**, the governor of a state may request that the chief minister show his majority in the assembly when it is not in session.
  - According to **Article 175(2)**, the Governor can summon the House and call for a floor test to prove whether the government has the numbers.
  - However, the governor can only exercise these powers with the **approval of the council of ministers.**
  - While the assembly is in session, the Speaker of the Assembly may request a floor test.
- **Voting Process:** Voting is done in three modes namely **Ballot vote, Voice vote, and Division vote.**
  - The **ballot vote** is similar to the voting process during state or parliamentary elections.
  - The process of voting using slips, electronic gadgets, or a ballot box is called **division voting.**
  - In a **voice vote**, the legislators are required to answer orally.
- **SC Judgements:**
  - **Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix vs Deputy Speaker case, 206 (the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly case):** The power to summon the House is not solely vested in the Governor and should be exercised with aid and advice of Council of Ministers and not at his own.
  - **Shivraj Singh Chouhan & Ors versus Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly & Ors (2020)**: The SC upheld the powers of the Speaker to call for a floor test if there is a prima facie view that the government has lost its majority.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Bar Council allows overseas law firms entry in some sectors

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New Delhi: The Bar Council of India, the legal profession's apex regulating body, has decided to allow foreign lawyers and firms to practice in the country in the field of foreign law and international issues in non-litigious matters, marking the first step towards opening up of the profession for overseas players.

The council notified "Rules for registration and regulation of foreign lawyers and foreign law firms in India" to allow entry of foreign lawyers and law firms in "a restricted, well-controlled and regulated manner on the principle of reciprocity", which means lawyers of only those countries that permit Indian lawyers to practise law there would be allowed to operate.

▶Step in right direction, say law schools, P 20
▶Decision comes with 'reciprocity' rider, P 17

Firms expect hiring boom for legal talent

Recruitment firms expect to see a boom soon in the domestic legal talent market following the move to allow foreign law firms in India. Experts said the move will provide significant opportunities to both experienced lawyers and talented students. Internship opportunities with foreign law firms will also open up. P17

▶Courts, tribunals, P 20

Context: The **Bar Council of India**, the legal profession's apex regulating body, has decided to allow foreign lawyers and firms to practice in the country in the field of foreign law and international issues in non-litigious matters, marking the first step towards opening up of the profession for overseas players.

- The council notified **"Rules for registration and regulation of foreign lawyers and foreign law firms in India"** to allow entry of foreign lawyers and law firms in "a restricted, well-controlled and regulated manner on the principle of reciprocity", which means lawyers of only those countries that permit Indian lawyers to practise law there would be allowed to operate.

Bar Council of India

- **About**: It is a **statutory body established under the section 4 of Advocates Act 1961** that regulates the legal practice and legal education in India.
- **Members**: As per the Advocates Act, the Bar Council of India consists of **members elected from each state bar council, and the Attorney General of India and the Solicitor General of India** who are ex officio members.
  - The council elects its own chairman and vice-chairman for a period of **two years** from amongst its members.
  - Assisted by the various committees of the council, the chairman acts as the chief executive and director of the council.
- **Functions**: **Section 7 of the Advocates Act, 1961** lays down the Bar Council's regulatory and representative mandate. The functions of the Bar Council are to:
  - Lay down **standards of professional conduct** and etiquette for advocates.
  - Lay down **procedure** to be followed by disciplinary committees
  - **Safeguard** the rights, privileges and interests of advocates
  - **Promote** and support law reform
  - Deal with and **dispose of any matter** which may be referred by a State Bar Council
  - Promote legal education and lay down standards of legal education.
  - **Determine universities** whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrollment as an advocate.
  - **Conduct seminars** on legal topics by eminent jurists and publish journals and papers of legal interest.
  - Organise and provide **legal aid to the poor.**
  - **Recognise foreign qualifications** in law obtained outside India for admission as an advocate.
  - **Manage and invest funds** of the Bar Council.
  - Provide for the **election of its members** who shall run the Bar Councils.

BUSINESS STANDARD

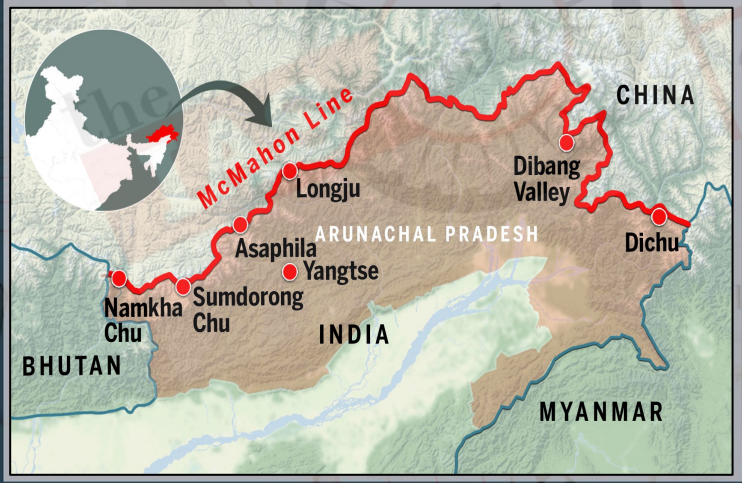
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McMAHON LINE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Border Issues)

McMahon Line is India-China boundary, recognises US

The United States recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh, according to a bipartisan Senate resolution which sees Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India. "At a time when China continues to pose grave and gathering threats to the Free and Open Indo-Pacific, it is critical for the United States to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our strategic partners in the region, especially India," Senator Bill Hagerty, who along with Senator Jeff Merkley introduced a resolution in the Senate, said. "This bipartisan resolution expresses the Senate's support for unequivocally recognising the state of Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India, condemning China's military aggression to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, and further enhance the US-India strategic partnership and the Quad in support of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific," he said. The resolution, which comes following the biggest clash between India and China in the Eastern Sector along the Line of Actual Control in six years, reaffirms that the United States recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh. PTI



Context: The United States recognises the **McMahon Line** as the international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh, according to a bipartisan Senate resolution which sees Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.

McMahon Line

- **About**: It is the **demarcation line agreed between Tibet and British Raj** as part of the 1914 Simla Convention, separating their respective spheres of influence in the eastern Himalayan region along northeast India and northern Burma (Myanmar).
  - The **Republic of China was not a party to the agreement,** but its representative had agreed the overall boundary of Tibet, which included the McMahon Line.
  - It is named after **Sir Henry McMahon**, foreign secretary of the British-run Government of India and the chief negotiator of the convention at Simla.
- **Background**: British India annexed Assam in north-eastern India in 1826, by Treaty of Yandabo at the conclusion of the **First Anglo-Burmese War (1824–1826).**
  - After subsequent Anglo-Burmese Wars, the whole of Burma was annexed giving the British a border with **China's Yunan province.**
  - In 1913-14, representatives of Britain, China, and Tibet attended a conference in Simla, India and drew up an agreement concerning Tibet's status and borders.
- **China's Stand**: China considers the **McMahon Line illegal and unacceptable** claiming that Tibetan representatives who had signed the 1914 Convention held in Shimla which delineated the McMahon line on the map were not having the right to do so.
- **Location**: The last Indian village – **Bishing**, is closest to the McMahon Line, and it demarcates the **boundary between China's Tibet region and Arunachal Pradesh**. The Memba tribe which has a population of 100 stays in that village.
  - The **Tawang region of Arunachal Pradesh** was earlier known as South Tibet before the demarcation.
  - In 1950, **Tibet lost its status** as an independent territory and India took control over Tawang.

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RORQUAL WHALES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



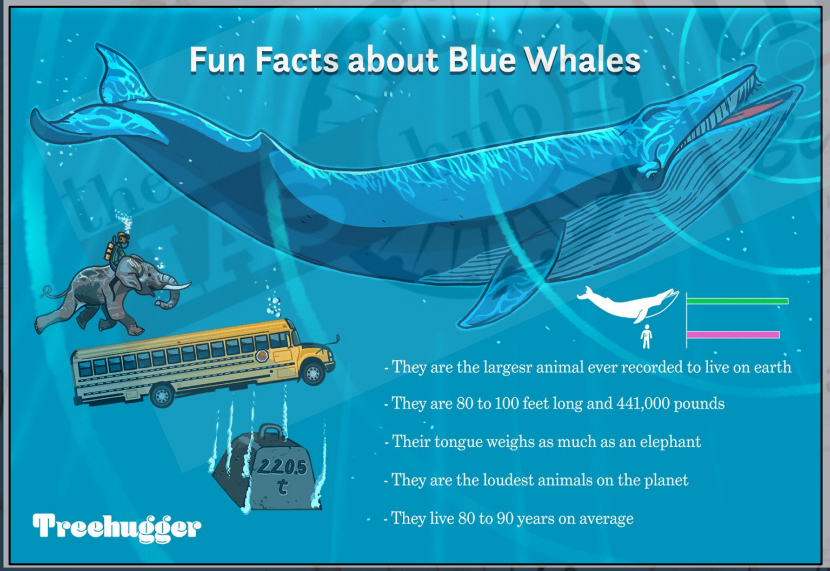
Why do rorqual whales need to be enormous? Answer helps identify species threatened by climate change

Depending on how their prey fares, certain whale species will either win or lose in future oceans

NEXT NEWS >

By Preetha Banerjee

Published: Wednesday 15 March 2023



Context: Whales, **the world's largest animal**, astound with their enormity. But even the largest animal of the family has the smallest size it requires to survive, a new study found.

- The researchers studied "**rorqual whales"**, a group of whales (including the blue whale) that need to be large because of their unique eating pattern.

Key Points

- They gather food through a mechanism called **'bulk filter feeding'.**
- They **dive deep** and take in an enormous amount of water, along with all the living creatures swimming in it.
- They strain out the ones they want to eat using a **special filter structure in the roof of their mouths.**
- The smallest living species of this lineage, the Antarctic minke whale, needs to grow to at least 4.5 metres (approximately 15 feet or weighing 1-2 tonnes), to be able to eat enough to survive.

Rorqual Whales

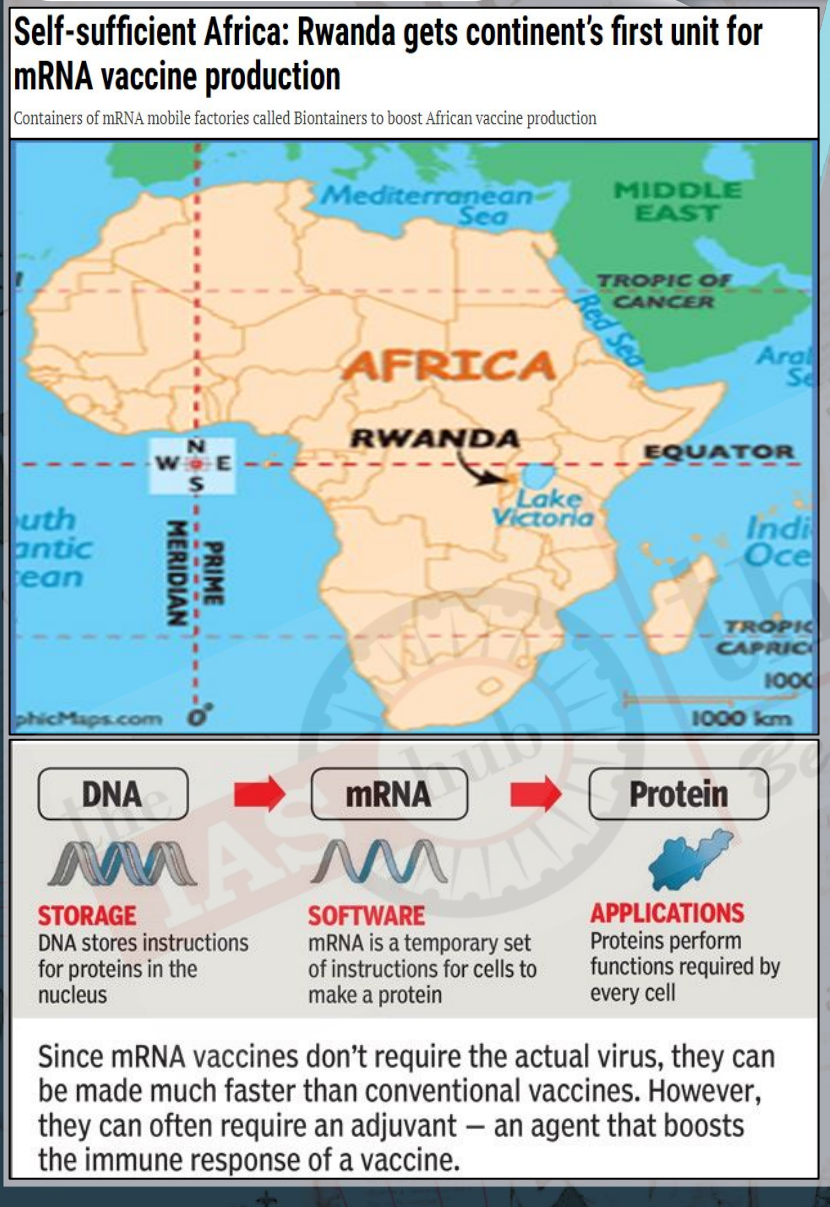
- **About**: Rorquals are the **largest group of baleen whales**, which comprise the family Balaenopteridae, containing ten extant species in three genera. They include:
  - The largest animal that has ever lived, the **blue whale**, which can reach 180 tonnes (200 short tons).
  - The **fin whale**, which reaches 120 tonnes (130 short tons).
  - The smallest of the group, the northern minke whale, reaches 9 tonnes (10 short tons).
- **Feeding Habits**: As well as other methods, rorquals obtain prey by **lunge-feeding on bait balls.**
  - Lunge feeding is an **extreme feeding method,** where the whale accelerates to a high velocity and then opens its mouth to a large gape angle.
  - This generates the water pressure required to expand its mouth and engulf and filter a huge amount of water and fish.
  - The **gray whale does not lunge feed**, as it gulps in sediments from the seafloor rather than water.

DTE

MARCH 16

mRNA VACCINES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)



Context: Rwanda is now the first in Africa to have an **mRNA vaccine production facility.**

- **Messenger Ribonucleic acid (mRNA)** is a type of RNA that is necessary for protein production.
- mRNA vaccines **work by introducing a piece** that corresponds to a viral protein.

mRNA vaccines

- **About**: mRNA vaccines trick the body into producing some of the **viral proteins** itself**.**
  - They work by using mRNA, or messenger RNA, which is the molecule that essentially **puts DNA instructions into action.**
  - Inside a cell, mRNA is used as a template to build a protein.
- **Working Mechanisms**: To produce an mRNA vaccine, scientists produce a **synthetic version of the mRNA** that a virus uses to build its infectious proteins.
  - This mRNA is **delivered into the human body**, whose cells read it as instructions to build that viral protein, and therefore create some of the virus's molecules themselves.
  - These **proteins are solitary,** so they do not assemble to form a virus.
  - The immune system then detects these viral proteins and starts to **produce a defensive response** to them.
- **Significance**: There are two parts to our immune system: **innate** (the defences we're born with) and **acquired** (which we develop as we come into contact with pathogens).
  - **Classical vaccine molecules** usually only work with the acquired immune system and the innate immune system is activated by another ingredient, called an adjuvant.
  - **mRNA in vaccines** could also **trigger the innate immune system,** providing an extra layer of defence without the need to add adjuvants.

DST

MARCH 16

PEPTIDES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Peptides derived from snake venom nerve growth factors can impede the progression of Parkinson's disease

Context: Computational analysis has been used to design two **peptides inspired from snake venom neurotrophin molecules** which hold promise as future therapeutic applications for preventing and treating neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease (PD) and Alzheimer's disease (AD).

- **Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases** are some of the most common neurodegenerative disorders.
- Medications or effective **therapeutics** are still lacking to stop, slow, or prevent these diseases.
- This has stimulated the exploration of hypotheses about the **molecular and cellular processes** that lead to neurodegeneration.

Peptides

- **About**: Peptides are naturally occurring short chains of **amino acid monomers** connected by amide bonds.
  - Any substance which resembles the **molecular structure of smaller proteins.**
  - Peptides include many **antibiotics, hormones and other substances** that involve in the biological functions of living beings.
  - Peptides are separated from **proteins** on the basis of size.
  - Proteins are comprised of **multiple polypeptides** that are placed in a biologically functional way.
- **Types of Peptides:**
  - **Milk Peptides:** Formed when the digestive system breaks down a milk protein called **Casein**. They are also formed from proteinases arising from lactobacilli during the fermentation of milk.
  - **Peptones**: Peptones are produced during the **proteolysis of animal milk or meat.** Sometimes it also can be formed from vitamins, fats, metals and some salts. Peptones are useful in growing fungi and bacteria that are used in nutrient media.
  - **Ribosomal Peptides**: These are produced by translation (a process in which cellular ribosomes create proteins) of **mRNA**. To achieve a mature form, they are often subjected to proteolysis. Some organisms like microcins (small bacteria) produce peptides as antibiotics. However, these peptides undergo post-translational modifications like hydroxylation, phosphorylation, sulfonation and glycosylation.
  - **Non-ribosomal Peptides**: Non-ribosomal Peptides are comprised of enzymes that are unique to each peptide, instead of the ribosome. **Glutathione** is the most common non-ribosomal peptide. These peptides have highly complex structures and are often cyclic.
  - **Peptide Fragments**: The fragments of proteins that are used to **quantify or identify the source of protein** are referred to as Peptide fragments.
- **Applications of Peptides:**
  - **Anti-Ageing Creams**: Many anti-ageing creams contain different types of peptides. Most commonly used peptides are those that are obtained from ocean plants like **sea jasmine, sea fennel and sea beet.**
  - **Antimicrobial treatments**: Antimicrobial peptides play a key role in treating the skin that is affected by injury, **sun damage or acne lesions**. Also proves that these are effective in restricting even the drug-resistant bacteria giving way to an array of possibilities in medical applications.
  - **Body Imaging**: Body scans work by sending dyes through the bloodstream that fluoresce when they come in contact with certain tissues. These imaging techniques can help doctors to **detect life-threatening cancer** at its early stages.
  - **Aspartame**: The **artificial sweetener** with zero calories found in many diet foods is a synthesized peptide. Aspartame is produced in labs which is 200 times sweeter than sugar.

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