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MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. Short Selling
2. National Voters' Day
3. Child Marriages In India
4. Suez Canal Economic Zone
5. Green India Mission
6. Nature-Based Solutions
7. Aditya-L1
8. M1 Abrams
9. Tidal Disruption Event
10. Etikoppaka Toy Craft

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 11

SHORT SELLING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

WHAT IS SHORT SELLING, PRACTISED BY HINDENBURG RESEARCH

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 26

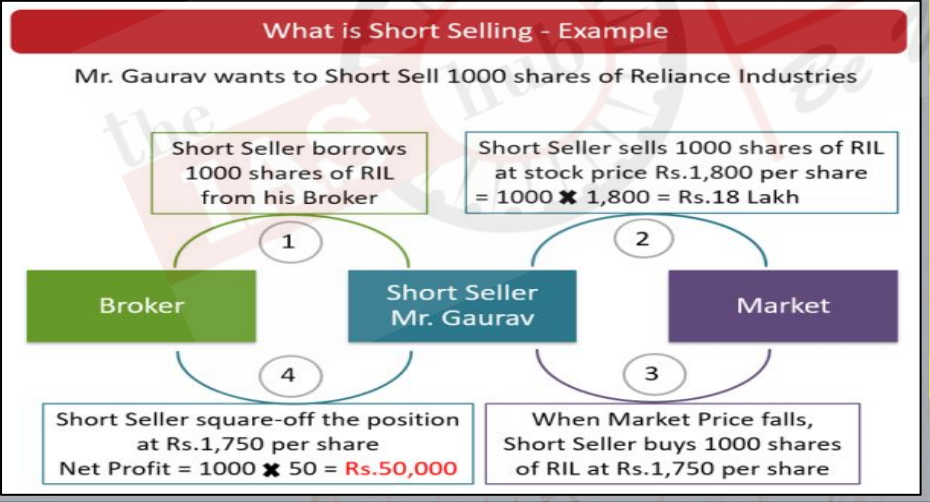
SHORT SELLER Hindenburg Research on January 25 disclosed short positions in Adani Group, alleging stock manipulation and accounting fraud in its latest investigative report.

What is short selling?

"Buy low, sell high" is the traditional investment strategy, in which one buys a stock or security at a particular price and then sells it when the price is higher, thereby booking a profit. This is referred to as a "long position", and is based on the view that the price of the stock or security will appreciate with time.

Short selling, or shorting, on the other hand, is a trading strategy based on the expectation that the price of the security will fall. While fundamentally it is based on the "buy low, sell high" approach, the sequence of transactions is reversed in short selling — to sell high first and buy low later. Also, in short selling, the trader usually does not own the securities he sells, but merely borrows them.

In the stock market, traders usually short stocks by selling shares they have borrowed from others through brokerages. When the price of the shares falls to the expected levels, the trader would purchase the shares at the lower price and return them to the owner, booking a profit in the process. If, however, the price of the shares appreciates instead of falling, the trader will be forced to buy shares at a higher price to return to the owner, thereby booking a loss.



Context: **Short seller** Hindenburg Research on January 25 disclosed short positions in Adani Group, alleging stock manipulation and accounting fraud in its latest investigative report.

Short selling

- **About**: Short selling, or shorting, is a **trading strategy** based on the expectation that the price of the security will fall.
  - While fundamentally it is based on the **"buy low, sell high"** approach, the sequence of transactions is reversed in short selling - to **sell high first and buy low later.**
  - Also, in short selling, the trader usually does not own the securities he sells, but merely borrows them.
- **Traditional method:** **"Buy low, sell high"** is the traditional investment strategy in which one buys a stock or security at a particular price and then sells it when the price is higher, thereby booking a profit.
  - This is referred to as a **"long position"**, and is based on the view that the price of the stock or security will appreciate with time.
- **Process**: In the stock market, **traders usually short stocks by selling shares** they have borrowed from others through brokerages.
  - When the price of the shares falls to the expected levels, the trader would **purchase the shares at the lower price and return them to the owner**, booking a profit in the process.
  - If, however, the price of the shares appreciates instead of falling, the trader will be forced to buy shares at a higher price to return to the owner, thereby booking a loss.

PIB JAN 27

NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE 13TH NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

Context: The President of India graced and addressed the 13th National Voters' Day Celebrations in New Delhi on January 25, 2023.

National Voters Day

- **About**: It has been celebrated on **January 25 every year**, since 2011 to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India i.e. 25th January 1950.
  - New voters are felicitated and handed over their **Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC)** in the NVD functions held across the country.
  - It is celebrated at the **national, state, district, constituency, and polling booth levels,** which makes it one of the largest celebrations in the country.
- **Objectives**: The main purpose of the NVD celebration is to **create electoral awareness amongst citizens** and encourage them to participate in the electoral process.

- **13th National Voters' Day (2023):** The theme for this year's NVD is **'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'** is dedicated to voters and conveys an individual's feeling and aspiration towards participation in the electoral process through the power to vote.
  - The logo is designed to **showcase the festivity and inclusivity of the electoral process**.
  - The tick mark in the logo stands for **informed decision-making by the voter.**
  - **Ashoka Chakra** in the background represents the largest democracy in the world, whereas the inked finger represents the participation of each and every voter of the country.



DTE JAN 27

CHILD MARRIAGES IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Indian Society)



GOVERNANCE

Teenage pregnancies in every 3 of 5 child brides, finds CRY

Non-profit study significant proportion of adolescent mothers had low-birth-weight babies

NEXT NEWS >

By Nandita Banerji
Published: Tuesday 15 November 2022

Laws in India related to Child Marriages

- **Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929**: It is also known as the **Sarda Act.** It was a law enacted to restrain the practices of Child Marriage.
  - Its main goal was to eliminate the evils placed on young girls who could not handle the stress of married life and to avoid early deaths.
  - This act d**efined a male child as 21 years or younger** and a female child as 18 years or younger.
- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006**: Under this act, the **marriageable age for a male is prescribed as 21 years** and that of a female is 18 years.
  - Child Marriage is prohibited in India as per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

Context: At least 1.5 million girls under 18 get married in India, according to the United Nations child rights body (UNICEF).

- Child marriage adversely **impacts children, and girls in particular**, in multiple ways, said the study by Child Rights and You (CRY) released Children's day November 14, 2002.

Key findings

- **Declining trend in India**: A **significant reduction in the prevalence of child marriage**, declining from 47 per cent in 2005-06 to 27 per cent in 2015-16, was stated by National Family Health Survey (NFHS-IV) 2015-16.
  - The **latest NFHS-V (2019-21)** indicated that close to one in every five, that is, 23.3 percent, women aged 20-24 years, married before 18 years of age.
  - Despite having laws and regulations in place, a substantial proportion **— every third adolescent girl in the age group of 15–19 years is married** and every second married adolescent girl has given birth to a child.
  - **Mean age at marriage of females** during child marriage is lowest in Uttar Pradesh (16.3 Years) followed by Odisha (16.5 years), Andhra Pradesh (16.6 years) and Maharashtra (17), while the national average stands at 16.5 years.
- **Reasons**: **Lack of or limited educational opportunities**, particularly for girls, forces them to drop out and puts them at risk of child marriage and the practice is more prominent among lower socioeconomic strata of society.
  - The study findings also reflect a **huge gap in the community's awareness level** about government protection systems and instruments in place and institutional mechanisms.
  - Active resistance of community members towards incidents of child marriage in their community and **reporting of such incidents** to the relevant government officials is essential in curtailing the practice of child marriage, the study found.
- **Steps taken by India:** India has taken **several steps to implement Goal 5 of sustainable development (child, early and forced marriage.)**, including the enactment of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, the analysis stated. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) was enacted to protect children from offences of sexual assault and sexual harassment.
  - **POCSO** does not consider any exceptions, even in cases of marriage, unlike the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

SUEZ CANAL ECONOMIC ZONE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

Egypt may give area for desi cos in Suez Eco Zone

Egypt is considering the possibility of allocating a special area of land for Indian industries in the Suez Canal Economic Zone, a joint statement released by the two countries on the summit said on Thursday.

It added that the Indian side can arrange the master plan for the proposal. "Egypt welcomes the flow of more Indian investments and promises to offer incentives and facilities as per applicable regulations and frameworks," said the statement. **P12**

Context: Egypt is considering the possibility of allocating a special area of land for Indian industries in the Suez Canal Economic Zone.

Suez Canal Economic Zone

- **About**: It is located around the main **international maritime route,** Suez Canal Passageway, which is considered the **international trunk route** that connects Europe and East North America via the Suez Canal with Asia.
- **Suez Canal:** The Suez Canal is an **artificial sea-level waterway** running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt, to connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
  - The canal **separates the African continent from Asia.**
  - It **provides the shortest maritime route** between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans.
  - It is one of the **world's most heavily used shipping lanes**, carrying over 12% of world trade by volume.



THE HINDU Page 14

GREEN INDIA MISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

'States fall short of target to improve forest cover, quality'

Centre approved plan for increasing tree cover by 53,377 ha, but only 26,287 ha has been achieved; forest quality improved in only 1,02,096 ha against the target of 1,66,656 ha, says RTI response

Jacob P. Koshy
NEW DELHI

India is lagging behind in the targets to increase the number and quality of tree- and forest-cover plantations set in the Green India Mission, according to data accessed through the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to climate change.

The target under the Mission is 10 million hectares (mha) of forest and non-forest lands for increasing the forest and tree cover and improving the quality of existing forests. Improving tree cover is critical to sequester carbon and bolster India's carbon stocks as part of its international commitments to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Targets not met

From 2015-16 to 2021-22, the Centre, based on submissions from 17 States, had approved a target of increasing tree and forest cover by 53,377 hectares and improving the quality of degraded forest by 1,66,656 ha.

In response to queries by a Kerala-based RTI campaigner, Govindan Nampoothiry, the Environment Ministry this month responded with figures from 17 States noting tree/forest cover had increased by 26,287 hectares and forest quality improved in only 1,02,096 hectares as of December 31, 2022.

For executing these projects, the Union government had allocated ₹681 crore but only ₹525 crore had been utilised, the Ministry revealed.

The States with a significant shortfall in tree cover include Andhra Pradesh, with a target of 186 ha but having only achieved 75 ha; Uttarakhand with a target of 6,446 ha but only 1,505 ha achieved; Madhya Pradesh targeting 5,858 ha but delivering 1,882 ha; and Kerala committing 1,686 ha but furnishing 616 ha.

Punjab, however, committed to 629 ha but delivered 1,082 ha.

Forest cover increase

As per the India State of Forest Report-2021, forest and tree cover in the country increased by 2,261 square kilometres since the last assessment in 2019. India's total forest and tree cover was 80.9 million hectares, which accounted for 24.62% of the geographical area of the country.

The report said 17 States and Union Territories had more than 33% of their area under forest cover. Madhya Pradesh had the largest forest cover, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. The top five States in terms of forest cover as a percentage of their total geographical area were Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76%), Manipur (74.34%) and Nagaland (73.9%).

However, critics said the increase in green cover was almost entirely via commercial plantations, that, in an ecological sense, could not compensate for natural forests and their biodiversity and, being monocultures, were susceptible to pest attacks.

Status check

The table shows State-wise physical progress under the Green India Mission. It lists the targeted increase in tree cover, achievement and shortfall for select States



T. APPALA NAIDU

Green cover: A view of a forest in Andhra Pradesh.

State	Target	Achievement	Shortfall
Uttarakhand	6,446	1,505	-4,941
Madhya Pradesh	5,858	1,882	-3,976
Kerala	1,686	616	-1,070
West Bengal	558	175	-383
Maharashtra	1,316	933	-383
Andhra Pradesh	186	75	-111

All figures are in hectares

Context: India is lagging behind in the targets to increase the number and quality of tree- and forest-cover plantations set in the **Green India Mission,** according to data accessed via the Right To Information Act.

- **National Mission for a Green India (GIM)** is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

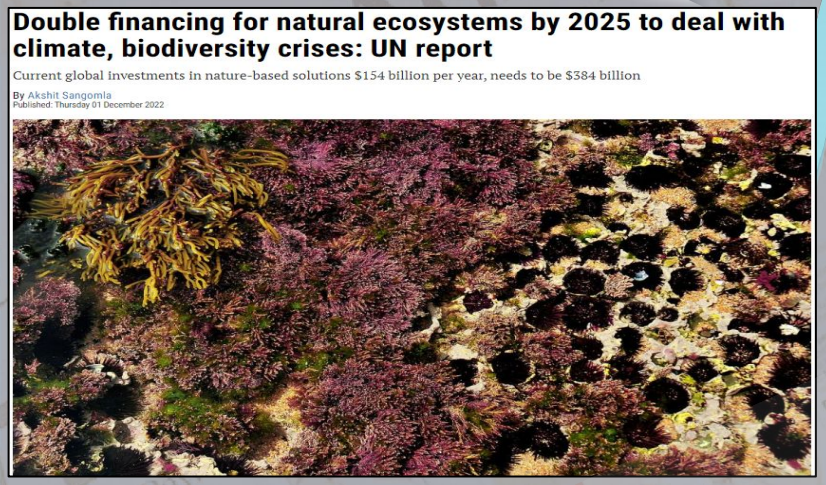
Green India Mission

- **About**: GIM is one of the eight missions launched under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).**
- **Origin**: GIM, launched in February **2014**, is aimed at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.
- **Objectives of the Mission:**
  - To protect, restore and enhance India's falling forest cover.
  - To respond to climate change through a combination of adaptation as well as mitigation measures.
  - To increased forest-based livelihood incomes.
  - To enhance **annual Carbon sequestration by 50 to 60 million tonnes** in the year 2020.
- **Goals**:
  - **Improvement in quality of forest cover** and ecosystem services of forests /non-forests, including moderately dense, open forests, degraded grassland and wetlands (5 m ha).
  - **Eco-restoration/afforestation** of scrub, shifting cultivation areas, cold deserts, mangroves, ravines and abandoned mining areas (1.8 m ha).
  - Improvement in forest and tree cover in urban/peri-urban lands (0.20 m ha)
  - **Improvement in forest and tree cover** on marginal agricultural lands/fallows and other non-forest lands under agroforestry /social forestry (3 m ha)
  - **Management of public forest/ non-forests areas** (taken up under the Mission) by the community institutions
  - **Adoption of improved fuelwood-use efficiency** and alternative energy devices by project-area households.
  - **Diversification of forest-based livelihoods** of about 3 million households living in and around forests.

DTE JAN 27

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

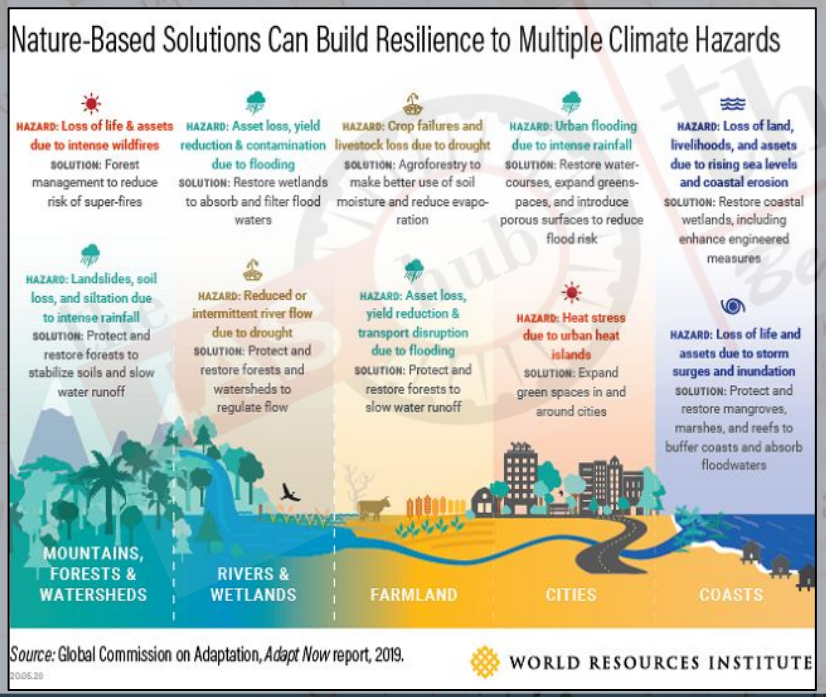
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



Double financing for natural ecosystems by 2025 to deal with climate, biodiversity crises: UN report

Current global investments in nature-based solutions $154 billion per year, needs to be $384 billion

By Akshit Sangomla
Published: Thursday 01 December 2022



Context: Financing for **nature-based solutions (NbS)** needs to be doubled to deal with multiple global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, according to a new United Nations (UN) report.

- The report was released by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** along with the Economics of Land Degradation initiative of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the European Commission December 1, 2022.

Key points

- The current **global investments in NbS** are around $154 billion (Rs 12,49.44 crore) per year, which needs to be increased to $384 billion by 2025.
- **Investments in economic activities** that release GHGs into the atmosphere are currently three to seven times larger than the investments in NbS.
- The third highlight of the report was the **need for private investments** in nature-based solutions, which currently stands at only 17 per cent.
- A **centralised carbon market** is required for private financing to come into play.
- Markets are **still evolving and work** is ongoing to create standards and ensure integrity.
- This is required as **public investments into NbS** cannot be ramped up soon because of economic challenges for national governments due to conflict, debt and poverty.

Nature-Based Solutions

- **About**: It refer to the **sustainable management and use of nature** for tackling socio-environmental challenges.
- **Definition**: The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** defines NbS as actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.
- **Essential component of Paris agreement**: NbS are an essential component of the overall global effort to achieve the goals of the **Paris Agreement on Climate Change.**
  - In its essence, **Article 5.2 of the Paris Agreement** recognizes the importance of natural resources in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
  - **Article 7** further promotes the idea of building the resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 7

After Covid delay, first solar mission set to launch by July

IIA hands over primary payload of mission to ISRO

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 26

THE INDIAN Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, on Thursday handed over the primary payload of the country's first mission to the sun to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for integration with the other payloads on board the satellite.

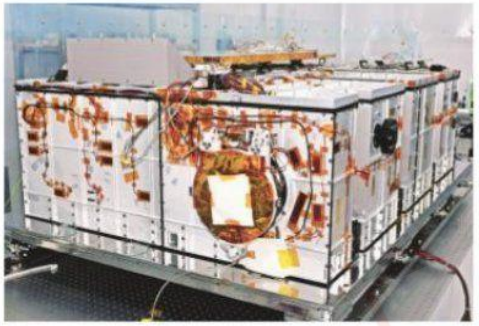
Called Aditya-L1, the mission to observe the sun from a vantage point 1.5 million kilometres from the earth, is likely to be launched by June or July this year after being delayed repeatedly through the pandemic.

The satellite will be carried by India's trusted rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, said ISRO chairperson S Somanath at a ceremony where he was given a 3D model of the payload.

He said the complexity of the chronograph and what it was attempting to do was the reason it took 15 years to develop. He said there was a need for a 50-year road map of scientific explorations and missions. Also, Indian scientists need to come up with novel ideas not attempted by other countries – projects that might seem impossible or even never get approval, he said.

"ISRO aims to play an important role in future science experiments in space and an ecosystem needs to be created for this, including a road map," he said.

The payload handed over on Thursday called Visible Emission Line Coronograph (VELC) will be the main payload among seven designed to study various aspects of the Sun like its atmosphere, solar wind acceleration and the origin of coronal mass ejection. To get an unobstructed, continuous view of the Sun, the satellite will travel to the L1 or Lagrange point between the sun and the earth. Lagrange points — there are five between any two celestial objects — are referred to as parking spots in space because the gravitational pull of the celestial objects equals the force required to keep it in orbit. So, a satellite can stay in Lagrange points between any two celestial objects without expending fuel.



Visible Emission Line Coronograph (VELC) will be the main playload among seven designed to study the Sun. *IIA*

The VELC, which was conceptualised and designed in 15 years, may help is solving one of the main puzzles of solar astrophysics — why the sun's atmosphere called corona is a million degrees hot even though the surface is just over 5,700 degrees Celsius?

"No other solar coronagraph in space has the ability to image the solar corona as close to the solar disk as VELC can. It can image it as close as 1.05 times the solar radius. It can also do imaging, spectroscopy and polarimetry at the same time, and can take observations at a very high resolution (level of detail) and many times a second," said Prof Raghavendra, principal investigator of VELC.

Programme Director of Aditya L1 Nigar Shaji thanked LEOS of ISRO for producing the main mirror as well as 18 different optical assembles for VELC. Explaining the logo of the payload, the principal investigator of the VELC payload Prof B Raghavendra Prasad said it is a photo of the solar corona taken 125 years ago by British and Indian astronomers working at the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory.

ADITYA-L1

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Context: The Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru handed over the primary payload of the country's first mission to sun, Called **Aditya-L1,** to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for integration with the other payloads on board the satellite.

Aditya-L1 Mission

- **About**: Aditya-L1 Mission is **India's first solar mission** planned by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
  - Earlier the name was **Aditya -1,** which has been renamed as Aditya-L1 Mission.
  - It is ISRO's second space-based astronomy mission after AstroSat for a scientific expedition to study the Sun. The mission was initially named Aditya 1 which was limited to observing only the solar corona.
- **Objective**: To **study Sun's Corona, Chromosphere and Photosphere**. In addition, it will study the particle flux emanating from Sun, and the variation of magnetic field strength.
- **Launch Vehicle**: It was launched using the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) XL.**
  - Unlike other missions lead by ISRO, Mission Aditya L1 comprises few moving components which may be a cause of collision in space
- **Payloads which have been used for the mission:**
  - Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)
  - Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)
  - Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX)
  - Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya
  - Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS)
  - High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS)
  - Magnetometer
- **Significance**: It will **help in tracking Earth-directed storms** and predict its impact through solar observations.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 11

M1 ABRAMS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

M1 ABRAMS

US President Joe Biden has agreed to send M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, though reluctantly

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden announced Wednesday that he would send M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, after weeks of tense negotiations with the chancellor of Germany and other European leaders. The leaders had insisted that the only way to unlock a flow of heavy European arms was for the US to send tanks of its own.

What are M1 Abrams?

The M1 Abrams tank is among the most powerful ground weapons the US has. Only last week, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin dismissed the idea of sending the tank, with his aides saying its long tail of supply and repair vehicles was too complex for the stretched Ukrainian forces to operate.

The No. 3 official in the Pentagon, Colin Kahl, had said "the Abrams tank is a very complicated piece of equipment," adding, "We should not be providing the Ukrainians systems they can't repair, they can't sustain, and that they, over the long term, can't afford, because it's not helpful."

But by promising Abrams tanks — which John Kirby, the National Security Council spokesperson, said would take "many months" to be built by General Dynamics — Biden was able to give Germany political cover to send Leopard tanks by early spring. And Germany's decision opened the way for Spain, Poland and Finland.

What changed?

European and US officials acknowledged that three months ago, it would have been inconceivable that US and Europe would contribute such heavy arms. But over time, they argued, the battlefield has changed and the threat that Russia would reach for a tactical nuclear weapon has diminished. Moreover, they said, they wanted to demonstrate to Putin that his bet that European unity would fracture over the winter had failed, and that NATO remained committed to the war. NYT



Context: US President Joe Biden announced that he would send **M1 Abrams** tanks to Ukraine, after weeks of tense negotiations with the chancellor of Germany and other European leaders.

M1 Abrams

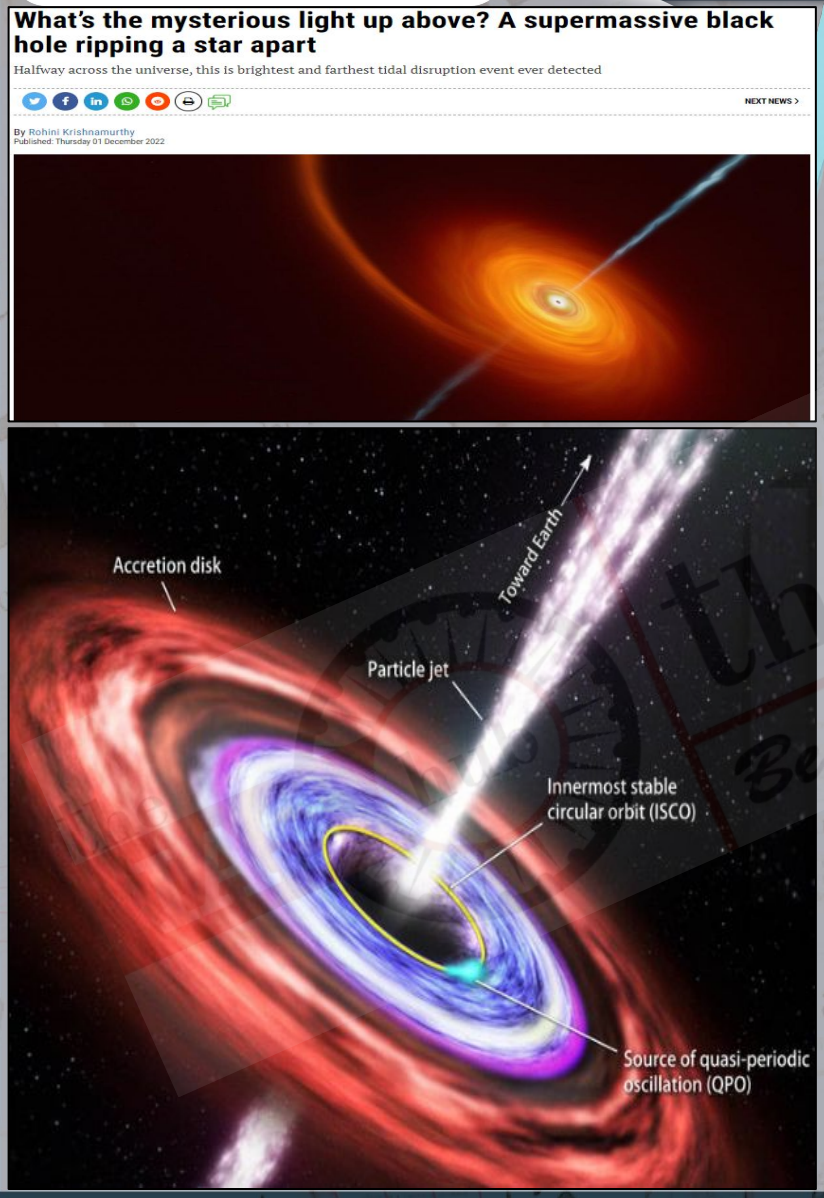
- **About**: The M1 Abrams tank is among the **most powerful ground weapons in the U.S. arsenal**, able to close in on enemy tanks, troop positions and other targets, blast them with its cannon and machine guns, and then speed away.
- **Origin**: The M1 Abrams entered service in **1980** and serves as the main battle tank of the United States Army and formerly of the **United States Marine Corps (USMC).**
- **Versions**: There are three main operational Abrams versions, the **M1, M1A1, and M1A2**, with each new iteration seeing improvements in armament, protection, and electronics.
    - Extensive improvements have been implemented to the latest formerly designated M1A2 System Enhancement Package version 3 or SEPv3 and M1A2 SEPv4, respectively versions such as **improved composite armor, better optics, digital systems and ammunition.**
    - The export version is used by the **armies of Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Australia, and Iraq.**
- **Use in battles:** The Abrams was first used in combat in the **Persian Gulf War** and has seen combat in both the War in Afghanistan and Iraq War under U.S. service, while Iraqi Abrams tanks have seen action in the war against Islamic State and have seen use by Saudi Arabia during the **Yemeni Civil War.**

DTE

JAN 27

TIDAL DISRUPTION EVENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)



Context: A mysterious and intensely bright flash of light coming from halfway across the universe earlier this year had stunned astronomers worldwide.

- The source of the intense beam has now been identified - a **supermassive black hole** ripping apart a star, pointing directly at Earth.

Key Points

- **Tidal disruption event (TDE)**: An **astronomical phenomenon** that occurs when a star approaches sufficiently close to a supermassive black hole (SMBH) to be pulled apart by the black hole's tidal force, experiencing spaghettification.
  - In astrophysics, **spaghettification (sometimes referred to as the noodle effect)** is the vertical stretching and horizontal compression of objects into long thin shapes (rather like spaghetti) in a very strong, non-homogeneous gravitational field. It is caused by extreme tidal forces.
  - As this happens, the supermassive black hole spews a **jet of particles moving close to the speed of light**.
  - Black holes sit quietly at the **centres of galaxies** until it is ignited by a TDE, unveiling a hidden population of black holes.
- **Origin**: This signal was **detected in February 2022**. Soon, astronomers turned multiple telescopes, scanning the light in various wavelengths: **X-ray, ultraviolet, optical and radio bands**.
  - The signal named **"AT 2022cmc"** is the brightest TDE ever detected. It is also the farthest.
- **AT 2022cmc**: AT 2022cmc is the **fourth Doppler-boosted TDE detected.** It is also the first such event record since 2011.
  - It appears extremely bright because of an effect called **Doppler boosting**.
  - **Relativistic beaming (also known as Doppler beaming, Doppler boosting, or the headlight effect)** is the process by which relativistic effects modify the apparent luminosity of emitting matter that is moving at speeds close to the speed of light.
- **Gamma-ray bursts:** The source is **100 times brighter** than the most powerful gamma-ray burst afterglow.
  - Gamma-ray bursts - short-lived bursts of gamma-ray light - are known to be the brightest and strongest explosions in the universe. It is associated with the formation of black holes.

THE HINDU Page 7

ETIKOPPAKA TOY CRAFT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

'Padma award is an honour for the Etikoppaka toy craft'

Appaji Reddem
VIJAYAWADA

The Union government choosing to confer Padma Shri on him in the art category is an honour to the Etikoppaka wooden toy craft, and it will go a long way in promoting the art, says C.V. Raju.

Mr. Raju is among the seven persons from Andhra Pradesh who have been selected for the Padma awards announced by the Union Home Ministry.

An agriculturist-turned-craftsman, Mr. Raju has his origins in Etikoppaka, a traditional craftsman village in Visakhapatnam district in coastal Andhra Pradesh. He is involved in promoting the toy craft and usage of natural dyes for the past few decades.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over phone, Mr. Raju said, "It is a great honour earned by the craft. Quality and precision are valued, whether it is me or someone contributing to it. I'm planning to establish an interpretation centre, rather than counter sale, to promote the craft."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, had hailed the good work of Mr. Raju in promoting the traditional toy industry that makes toys with soft wood and natural colours.

These toys are suitable for children as they do not have harmful edges.



Child-friendly: A file photo of toymaker C.V. Raju making natural colours for the toys in Etikoppaka village. K.R. DEEPAK

Context: The Union government choosing to confer Padma Shri on C.V. Raju, the toymaker, in the art category is an honour to the **Etikoppaka wooden toy craft,** and it will go a long way in promoting the art.

Etikoppaka toy craft

- These are traditional toys of **Andhra Pradesh**
- These traditional toys are made by artisans in **Etikoppaka village** located on banks of **river Varaha** in Visakhapatnam district of the state.
- They are provide GI Tag.
- The art of making **traditional wooden Etikoppaka toy**s is more than 400 years old and it has been traditionally handed over to them by their ancestors through generations.
- The art of this toy making is **also known as turned wood Lacquer craft.**
- The toys are **unique in shape and form.**
- They are **made of wood and painted with natural dyes**.
- The wood used is from **'Ankudi Karra'** (Wrightia tinctoria) tree that is soft in nature.
- The natural dyes are prepared from **seeds, lacquer, bark, roots and leaves.**
- These dynes are unique as they **do not have heavy metal or toxic content in it.**



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