theIAShub

the IAS hub
Be Your Dream.

APRIL
6

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 मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. Infrastructure Status
2. Radio Spectrum
3. DIR-V Program
4. Dairy and Livestock Sector
5. Point of Order
6. Mental Illnesses
7. IFC
8. UN Statistical Commission
9. Lateral Flow Immunoassay
10. Al-Aqsa Mosque

LIVE MINT

Page 1

INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Coastal shipping to get infrastructure status: Sonowal

Subhash Narayan & Rituraj Baruah

NEW DELHI



Sarbananda Sonowal, Union minister of ports, shipping and waterways MINT

The union ministry for ports, shipping and waterways has proposed giving infrastructure status to coastal shipping, a government priority. The status entitles a sector to several benefits and concessions, including cheaper bank loans. In an interview, the Union minister of ports, shipping and waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said the ministry is holding stakeholder consultations for developing coastal shipping in a public-private partnership mode.

He also said that stakeholder consultation is underway for proposed viability-gap funding (VGF) for coastal shipping—when ships move between ports within a country.

On the development of Chabahar Port, the minister said Iran and India are moving toward finalization of the amended provisions of the long-term contract. *Edited excerpts*:

INTERVIEW

There has been a major push on shipping and waterways. What has been the progress?

Our aim is to boost the performance and productivity of ports, shipping and waterways and to strengthen our position of eminence in the global maritime sector. Targets set out in Maritime India Vision-2030 provide a clear roadmap for bringing all-round improvement in port modernization and automation, coastal shipping, shipbuilding, ship repair, transition to renewable energy, increasing share of Indian seafarers across the globe, improving vessel turnaround time, developing transhipment hubs, cruise shipping and augmenting capacities at

TURN TO PAGE 6

Context: The **union ministry for ports, shipping and waterways** has proposed giving infrastructure status to coastal shipping, a government priority.

- The status entitles a sector to several **benefits and concessions, including cheaper bank loans.**
- **Infrastructure status** granted by the finance ministry.

Significance of Infrastructure status

- It includes the logistics sector in the master list of infrastructure sub-sectors under a new head **'Transport and Logistics'.**
- **Minimum investment and area requirements** to get the infrastructure tag for each category like multi-modal logistics park, cold chain facility and warehousing facility have been clearly defined.
- This makes it **easier for companies operating** within these segments to raise long-term credit from banks and other financial institutions at lower rates.
- The inclusion also makes it **easier for logistics companies** to -
  - Access larger amounts of funds as **External Commercial Borrowings (ECB)**
  - Access longer-tenure funds from insurance companies and pension funds
  - Be eligible to borrow from India **Infrastructure Financing Company Limited (IIFCL)**
- It also helps **attract foreign investments.**
- This also means that development firms with larger **land parcels** can utilise their excess land holdings to develop more infrastructure facilities, thereby boosting the supply of warehousing facilities.
- The coupled with **easier access to capital** will eventually bring down the cost of logistics.
- The **LPI measures the state of trade and logistics** based on parameters like customs, infrastructure, international shipments, logistics quality and competence, tracking and tracing and timeliness.

ECONOMIC TIMES
Page 11

RADIO SPECTRUM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

DoT to Allocate MHA Spectrum

New Delhi: The department of telecommunications (DoT) has decided to allocate 10 MHz spectrum in 806-824 MHz band to the ministry of home affairs (MHA).

The ministry requires spectrum for its connectivity needs, including for walkie-talkie operations and setting up an exclusive captive mobile network, said officials with knowledge of the matter. These airwaves could not have been put to auction since the spectrum band to be reserved was not identified for international mobile telecommunications (IMT) usage, they said.

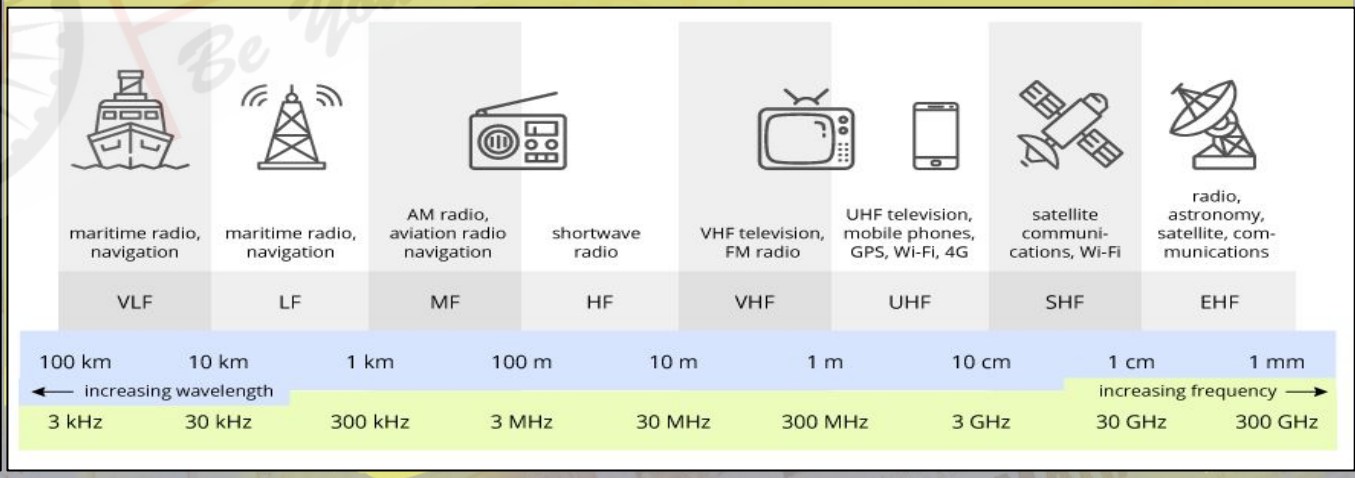
"We have decided to reserve 806-816 MHz for MHA for its connectivity requirements in the 806-824 MHz band, which is a non-IMT band," an official told **ET** on condition of anonymity. — **Kiran Rathee**

Context: The **department of telecommunications (DoT)** has decided to allocate 10 MHz spectrum in 806-824 MHz band to the ministry of home affairs (MHA).

- The ministry requires spectrum for its connectivity needs, including for walkie-talkie operations and setting up an exclusive captive mobile network.
- These airwaves could not have been put to auction since the spectrum band to be reserved was not identified for **international mobile telecommunications (IMT)** usage.

Radio Spectrum

- **About**: The radio spectrum (also known as **Radio Frequency or RF**) is a part of the electromagnetic spectrum, electromagnetic waves in this frequency range are called radio frequency bands or simply 'radio waves'.
  - Radio waves have the **longest wavelengths** in the electromagnetic spectrum. These were discovered by Heinrich Hertz in the late 1880s.
- **Range**: RF bands spread in the **range between 30 kHz and 300 GHz** (alternative point of view offers coverage 3 KHz – 300 GHz).
- **Regulation**: To prevent interference between different users, the generation and transmission of radio frequency bands is strictly **regulated by national laws,** coordinated by an international body, the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU).**



PIB April 6

DIR-V PROGRAM
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

RISC-V is becoming a global movement, in which India will play a leading role: MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Context: Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT said Indian startups using **RISC-V** have tremendous opportunities for developing products, devices and AI solutions with global companies like Tenstorrent evincing interest for collaborations.

Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Program

- **About**: The RISC-V, **an open-source instruction set architecture (ISA)** is being increasingly used for innovations, particularly when it comes to emerging and rapidly developing AI solutions.
- **Objectives**: Its overall aim is to **enable the creation of Microprocessors for the future in India,** for the world and achieve industry-grade silicon and Design wins by December 2023.
  - The government has set a timeline to commercially roll out the **first indigenous chipsets by 2023-24** and future generation of microprocessors under the programme to meet the surging demand in semiconductors in the automotive, mobility and computing segments.
- **Features**:
  - It will consolidate and leverage the ongoing efforts in the country with an **integrated multi-institutional and multi-location team.**
  - It will finalise the **formal architecture and target performance** of chipsets, support original equipment makers and design wins in India and abroad.
  - It is part of the government's Rs 76,000 crore effort to **build a semiconductor ecosystem in the country.**
  - It will see **partnerships between Startups, Academia and Multinationals**, to make India not only a RISC-V Talent Hub for the World but also supplier of RISC-V System on Chips for Servers, Mobile devices, Automotive and Microcontrollers across the globe.
  - It will **catalyse the design innovation in the country** and will encourage the several domestic startups working in RISC-V domains like- micro architecture design, verification and security aspects.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK SECTOR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

Dairy imports may be allowed after a decade

India usually imports high-value milk products but not mass-consumed items

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE & AGENCIES
New Delhi, 5 April

After more than a decade, India may look at importing dairy products, if needed, as there is a supply constraint for such items due to milk production remaining stagnant in the last fiscal year, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh told reporters on Wednesday.

India last imported major dairy products in 2011, news agency *PTI* reported.

PAGE 4
WHAT PUSHED INDIA TO CONSIDER IMPORTING DAIRY PRODUCTS?

India usually imports high-value milk products like casein or specialty cheese but not mass-consumed items, such as butter and ghee or even skimmed milk powder.

"The government will intervene to import dairy products like butter and ghee, if required, after assessing the stock position of milk in the southern states, where the flushing (peak production) season has started now," *PTI* quoted Singh.

Milk output in the country was at 221 million tonnes (mt) in 2021-22, up 6.25 per cent, from 208 mt in the previous year, according to official data.

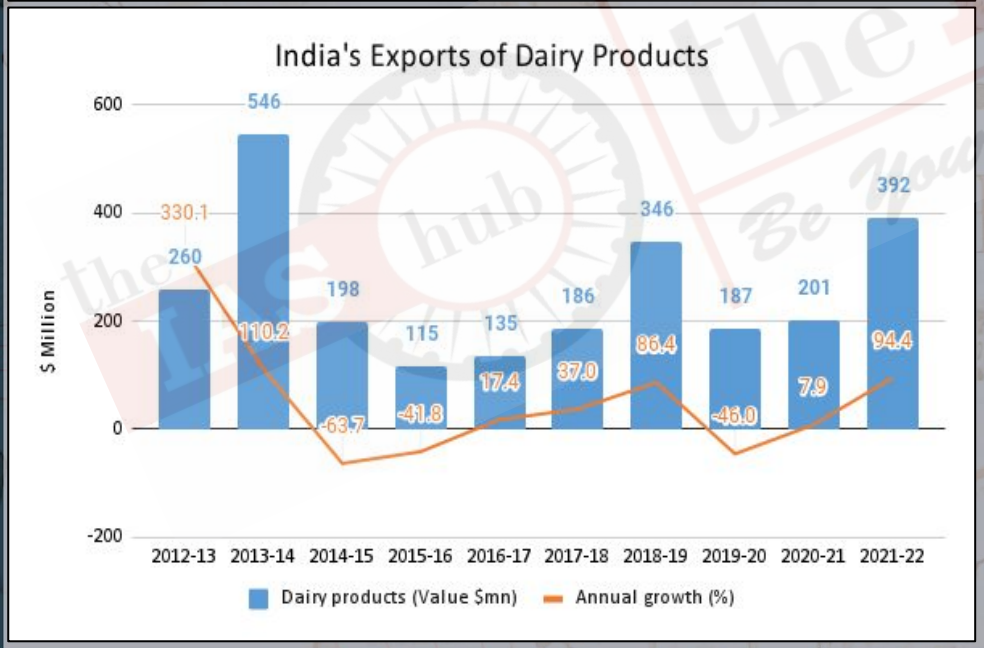
Milk prices in India have increased 12-15 per cent in the last 15 months. Experts said the hikes won't halt before September-October 2023.

The Consumer Price Index-based inflation in milk has risen from 3.81 per cent in February 2022 to 9.65 per cent in February 2023, according to the last available data.

Singh said the country's milk production remained stagnant in 2022-23 due to lumpy skin disease in cattle, while domestic demand grew 8-10 per cent in the same period because of rebound in post-pandemic demand.

Turn to Page 6





Context: After more than a decade, India may look at **importing dairy products**, if needed, as there is a supply constraint for such items due to milk production remaining stagnant in the last fiscal year.

- India last imported major **dairy products** in 2011.
- India usually **imports high value milk products** like casein or specialty cheese but not mass consumed items, such as butter and ghee or even skimmed milk powder.

Dairy and livestock sector of India

- **Dairy**: It is the single largest agricultural commodity **contributing 5 percent of the national economy** and employing more than 8 crore farmers directly.
  - India is **ranked 1st in milk production** contributing 23 percent of global milk production.
  - The **top 5 milk-producing states** are: Uttar Pradesh (14.9%, 31.4 MMT), Rajasthan (14.6%, 30.7 MMT), Madhya Pradesh (8.6%, 18.0 MMT), Gujarat (7.6%, 15.9 MMT) and Andhra Pradesh (7.0%, 14.7 MMT).
- **Livestock Sector**: It is an important subsector of agriculture in the Indian economy. It **grew at a CAGR of 8.15 per cent** during 2014-15 to 2019-20 (at constant prices).
  - As per the estimates of **National Accounts Statistics (NAS) 2020** for sector wise GVA of agriculture and allied sectors, the contribution of livestock in total agriculture and allied sector GVA (at constant prices) has increased from 24.32 per cent (2014-15) to 29.35 per cent (2019-20).
  - Livestock sector **contributed 4.35 percent** of total GVA in 2019-20.

PIB

April 6

POINT OF ORDER

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity)

Determination of Point of Order raised on March 13, 2023 by Hon'ble Leader of Opposition Shri Mallikarjun Kharge

Context: There are some remarks by the Rajya Sabha Chairman in House on **Point of Order** raised by the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

- On March 13, 2023, the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition responding to the assertions of the Leader of the House, who **demanded apology** for "the shameless way by which a senior leader of the opposition in a foreign country has attacked the democracy of India, insulted the Parliament of India" **raised a Point of Order** that there could be no discussion/reflections in the Rajya Sabha on or about a Member of the Lok Sabha or anyone who is not a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Point of Order

- **About**: A Member can raise a point of order when the proceedings of the House **do not follow the normal rules of procedure.**
- **Key Features**: A point of order should relate to the **interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of the House** or such articles of the Constitution that regulate the business of the House and should raise a question that is within the cognizance of the Speaker.
  - It is **usually raised by an opposition member** in order to control the government.
  - It is an extraordinary device as it **suspends the proceedings before the House.**
  - **No debate is allowed** on a point of order.
- **Nodal Authority**: **Speaker/Chairman** is the final decision making authority.

DTE

APRIL 6

MENTAL ILLNESSES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health

Expenditure on treatment of mental illness pushes 20% Indian households into poverty, finds new study

Critical need to provide financial risk protection to reduce the monetary impact of healthcare expenditure on mental illness among households in India, says paper

NEXT NEWS >

By Rajat Ghai
Published: Tuesday 04 April 2023



Context: As many as 20 per cent of Indian households become poor as a result of spending money for treatment of **mental illnesses,** a new research paper has highlighted.

- Mental illness, also called **mental health disorders**, refers to a wide range of mental health conditions - disorders that affect your mood, thinking and behavior. Examples of mental illness include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders and addictive behaviors.

Key Points

- This study estimated the **out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE), catastrophic health expenditure (CHE),** and poverty impact due to mental illness in India.
  - **OOPE** usually refers to expenses that one has to pay for with their own money rather than an alternative source.
  - **CHE** is money spent on healthcare that exceeds some specified critical level of tolerance or threshold from the household total income in a given specified period.
- In India, mental illness constitutes **one-sixth of all health-related disorders.**
- There have been **rising cases of mental issues in India**, particularly depression, anxiety, bipolar disorders and schizophrenia, and suicide being a leading cause of deaths among young people.
- The **National Mental Health Policy 2014** and the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017** have proposed several steps to combat mental illnesses through promoting awareness, ending the stigma associated and provision of good quality and affordable care for mental illnesses in the country.

Government Initiatives

- **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in 1982**: To ensure the availability and accessibility of **minimum mental healthcare** for all in the foreseeable future, particularly to the most vulnerable and underprivileged sections of the population.
- **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017:** The most significant provision in the act was **"advanced directives"**, which allowed individuals with mental illnesses to decide the course of their treatment and also appoint someone to be their representative.
- **Manodarpan Initiative**: An initiative under **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being.
- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017**: The Act **acknowledges mental illness** as a disability and seeks to enhance the Rights and Entitlements of the Disabled and provide an effective mechanism for ensuring their empowerment and inclusion in society
- **Kiran Helpline:** The helpline aims to **provide early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management,** mental well-being, and psychological crisis management and will be managed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).
- **SAATHI**: It is a **South-Asian Mental Health Outreach Program of ASHA** International that aims to:
  - Promote awareness about mental health and emotional wellbeing
  - Improve access to care.

THE HINDU Page 12

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)

IFC says to stop funding new coal related infra projects

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of The World Bank, has said it will not support investments in new coal related projects. The IFC funds banks and other financial institutions that in turn lend to infrastructure and energy projects. The IFC has reportedly lent close to $5 billion to almost 88 financial institutions in India.

"This year (2023) IFC, is taking the next step toward alignment with Paris Agreement ambitions... under which IFC will start requiring a commitment from financial institution clients to not originate and finance any new coal projects," the lender said in a statement on its website.



In 2020, the IFC had unveiled a policy requiring clients to cut their exposure to coal projects by half by 2025, and to zero by 2030, but did not halt new investments. The latest update disallows this too.

"We filed the first ever case... over IFC's support to a financial intermediary client backing coal in India in 2011," noted Joe Athialy of the Centre for Financial Accountability. "It has taken 13 years for the IFC to finally end support for new coal. In the meanwhile, communities got scattered, their livelihoods stolen."

Context: The **International Finance Corporation (IFC),** the private sector arm of The World Bank, has said it will not support investments in new coal projects.

- The IFC has **reportedly lent close to $5 billion** to almost 88 financial institutions in India.
- In 2020, the IFC had unveiled a policy requiring clients **to reduce their exposure to coal projects** by half by 2025, and to zero by 2030, but did not prevent new investments. The latest update disallows this too.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- **About**: It is an international financial institution that **offers investment, advisory, and asset management services** to encourage private sector development in developing countries.
  - It is a **member of the World Bank Group** and is headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States.
- **Origin**: It was **established in 1956** as the private sector arm of the World Bank Group to advance economic development by investing in strictly for-profit and commercial projects that purport to reduce poverty and promote development.
- **Governance**: The IFC is **owned and governed by its member countries**, but has its own executive leadership and staff that conduct its normal business operations.
  - It is a corporation whose shareholders are member governments that **provide paid-in capital** and which have the right to vote on its matters.
- **Roles and functions:** Since 2009, the IFC has **focused on a set of development goals** that its projects are expected to target.
  - Its goals are to increase sustainable agriculture opportunities, improve healthcare and education, increase access to financing for microfinance and business clients, advance infrastructure, help small businesses grow revenues, and invest in climate health.
  - It offers an array of debt and equity financing services and helps companies face their risk exposures while refraining from participating in a management capacity.
  - It advises governments on building infrastructure and partnerships to further support private sector development.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 7

UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)

India elected to UN stats panel for 4-year term

New Delhi: India has been elected to the UN Statistical Commission for a four-year term. A second candidate is yet to be decided between South Korea and China and the balloting process will resume later in the day (local time) for electing the remaining Asia Pacific states member, PTI reported from the UN.

"India elected to the highest UN statistical body for a 4-year term beginning on 1 January 2024!", Jaishankar tweeted on Wednesday. "Congrats Team @IndiaUNNewYork for coming through so strongly in a competitive election. India's expertise in the field of statistics, diversity & demography has earned it a seat on the UN Statistical Commission."

Sources said India won in the just-completed UN Statistical Commission election, securing 46 out of 53 votes, ahead of South Korea (23) China (19), and the UAE (15). "In brief, victory for India. This was a multi-cornered election (with) four candidates for two seats," the source said. **ENS**

Context: India has been elected to the **UN Statistical Commission** for a four-year term.

- A second candidate is yet to be decided between South Korea and China and the balloting process will resume later in the day (local time) for electing the remaining Asia Pacific states member.

United Nations Statistical Commission (StatCom)

- **About**: It is a Functional Commission of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council,** established in 1947.
- **Functions**: The Statistical Commission **oversees the work of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)**.
- **Members**: Its 24 member states are elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of the following **geographical distribution**: African states (5), Asian States (4), Eastern European States (4), Latin American and Caribbean States (4), Western European and other States (7).
  - Since July 1999 the Commission meets every year.
- **Terms of reference**: As set forth by the Economic and Social Council, in the terms of reference, the Commission shall assist the Council:
  - In promoting the **development of national statistics** and the improvement of their comparability;
  - In the coordination of the **statistical work of specialized agencies;**
  - In the development of the **central statistical services** of the Secretariat;
  - In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the **collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;**
  - In promoting the **improvement of statistics and statistical methods** generally.
- **Subunits**: One of the best known subunits of the Statistics Division is the **United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**, also known as the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).
  - This unit attempts to **standardize the names of locations** across languages, alphabets, and cultures.

DST

April 6

LATERAL FLOW IMMUNOASSAY

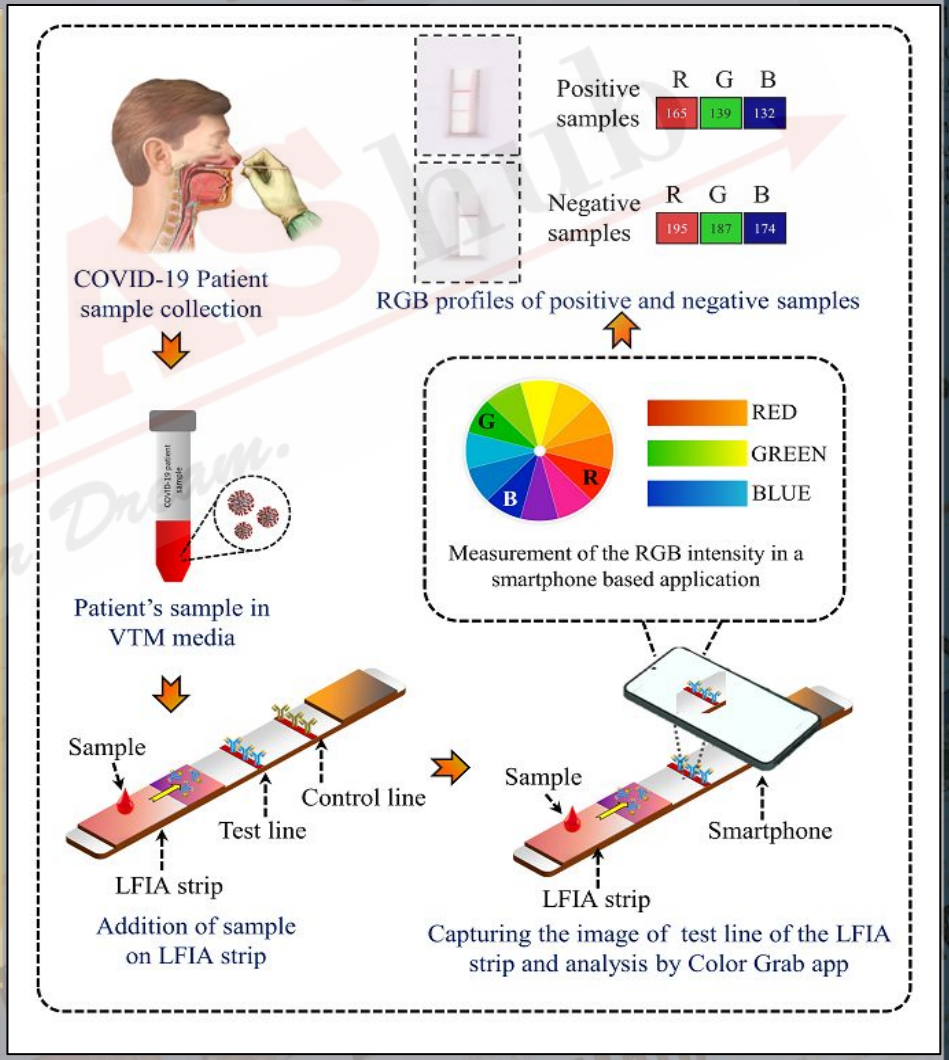
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

New method of visual detection of SARS-CoV-2 can identify the infection at early stage

Context: A new sandwich based **lateral flow immunoassay (LFIA)** for the detection of **Receptor Binding Domain (RBD)** of severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2(SARS-CoV-2) could provide an efficient substitute for RT-PCR tests.

Key Points

- It can detect that **RBD antigen** of the SARS-CoV-2 at an early stage of infection with a visual line of detection (LOD).
- Popularly used gold standard techniques such as **RT-PCR and ELISA** are usually time-consuming, require skilled labor, specific equipment and are not feasible for on-site detection.
- The developed LFIA working on the **principle of antigen-antibody interaction** holds the potential to be used for detection of SARS-CoV-2 without any requirement of skilled personnel and subsequently reduce the spread of the virus.
- The developed LFIA strips can be useful as **a portable, point of care device (PoC) for on-site detection of SARS-CoV-2** particularly at home or even in rural areas. Moreover, the cost of LFIA strips is much less as compared to standard RT-PCR test making it a more economical option for people who cannot afford the RT-PCR test.=



TIMES OF INDIA

Page 20

AL-AQSA MOSQUE

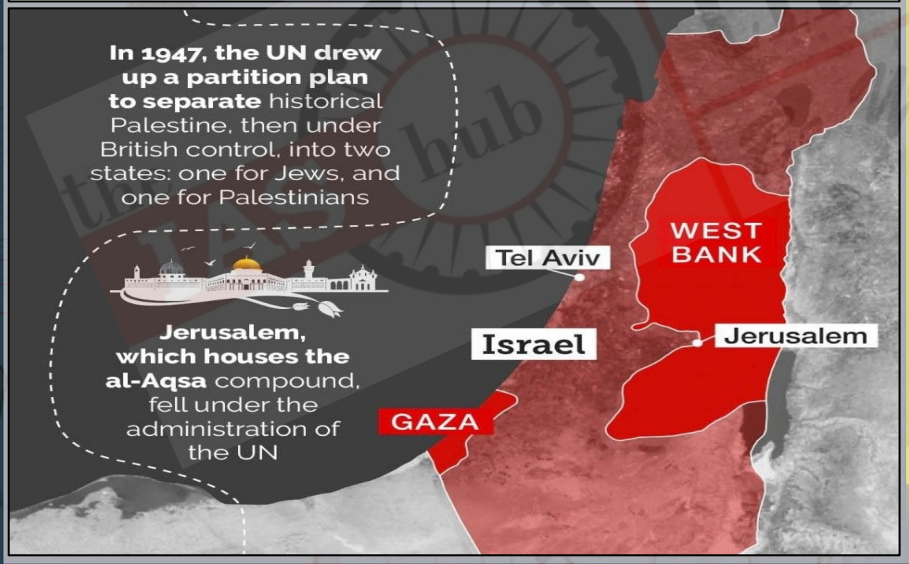
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Places in News)



ISRAEL RAIDS AL-AQSA, ROCKETS FIRED FROM GAZA

Reuters

Israeli police raided Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque before dawn on Wednesday to try to clear groups it said were barricaded inside, leading to clashes and triggering an exchange of crossborder fire with Gaza. The incident came during the month of Ramzan and on the eve of the Jewish Passover, stoking fears of further violence at the mosque compound, a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Palestinian militants fired at least nine rockets from Gaza into Israel, prompting air strikes from Israel which hit what it said were weapon production sites for the Islamist group Hamas. Hamas did not claim responsibility for the rocket attacks but said they were a response to the raid on Al-Aqsa, where clashes in 2021 set off a 10-day war with Gaza. REUTERS



Context: Israeli police raided **Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque** before dawn to try to clear groups it said were barricaded inside, leading to clashes and triggering an exchange of crossborder fire with Gaza.

- The mosque's complex is the reason for the conflict between **Israel & Palestine (Islam & Judaism).**
- Al-Aqsa Mosque is one of Islam's most revered locations, and the Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism.

Al-Aqsa Mosque

- **About**: Al-Aqsa Mosque, located in the **Old City of Jerusalem,** is the third holiest site in Islam.
  - The mosque was built on top of the Temple Mount, known as the **Al Aqsa Compound or Haram esh-Sharif in Islam.**
- **Background:** Muslims believe that Muhammad was transported from the **Great Mosque of Mecca to al-Aqsa** during the Night Journey.
  - Islamic tradition holds that Muhammad led prayers towards this site until the **16th or 17th** month after his migration from Mecca to Medina, when Allah directed him to turn towards the Kaaba in Mecca
- **Location**: The site is part of the Old City of Jerusalem, sacred to Christians, Jews and Muslims.
  - The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, has classified the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls as a World Heritage Site.

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