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MK Yadav Sir

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LIVE MINT

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MINING OF CRITICAL MINERALS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

Cabinet okays commercial mining of lithium, titanium

Rituraj Baruah &
Ravi Dutta Mishra

NEW DELHI



The move is aimed at reducing import dependency. AP

The union cabinet on Wednesday approved amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act allowing commercial mining of lithium and a few other minerals, said officials with knowledge of the development.

The amendments will lift the ban on commercial mining of six critical minerals—lithium, beryllium, titanium, niobium, tantalum and zirconium. These minerals are required for manufacturing in several sectors, including electric vehicles, batteries, glassware, automotive components, defence machinery, telecommunication equipment, capacitors, super alloys, carbides and medical technology. India is seeking to become a manufacturing hub and reduce import dependence of several minerals used in manufacturing. All of India's lithium requirement is imported from countries such as Chile, Russia, China, Ireland and Belgium. Berrylium is sourced from Russia, the UK, Netherlands, South Africa and China.

The development comes just weeks after a committee set up by the union ministry of mines declared 30 minerals as 'critical' for the country, including these six minerals. Critical minerals refer those that are at risk of supply shortage, which may have a larger impact on the economy compared to that of other raw materials.

So far, most of the exploration in the country has been focussed on bulk commodities like limestone, coal and iron ore. With new requirements in technology and energy transition, there is a growing demand for these critical minerals, prompting the government to focus on the exploration of deep-seated and critical minerals. Among these minerals, the demand for lithium has grown manifold in the past few years, as the focus has shifted towards electric mobility and grid scale battery storage amid India's energy transition. The government has also come up with a production-linked incentive scheme for advanced chemistry cells. Another for niche batteries manufactured with newer chemistries is also in the works.

The Geological Survey of India has found the presence of significant lithium reserves totalling 5.9 million tonnes in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. Another reserve has been found in Rajasthan.

The proposal comes at a time when the Centre is also working on a policy on critical minerals. Queries mailed to the spokespeople of the union ministry of mines and the cabinet secretariat remained unanswered till press time.

rituraj.baruah@livemint.com

Context: The union cabinet approved amendments to the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act** allowing commercial mining of lithium and a few other minerals.

- The development comes just weeks after a committee set up by the Union ministry of mines declared **30 minerals as 'critical' for the country,** including these six minerals.
- **Critical minerals** refer those that are at risk of supply shortage, which may have a larger impact on the economy compared to that of other raw materials.

Key Points

- The amendments will **lift the ban on commercial mining of six critical minerals** - lithium, beryllium, titanium, niobium, tantalum and zirconium.
- All of **India's lithium requirement** is imported from countries such as Chile, Russia, China, Ireland and Belgium.
- **Beryllium** is sourced from Russia, the UK, Netherlands, South Africa and China.
- So far, most of the exploration in the country has been focussed on **bulk commodities like limestone, coal and iron ore.**
- With new requirements in **technology and energy transition**, there is a growing demand for these critical minerals, prompting the government to focus on the exploration of deep-seated and critical minerals.
- Among these minerals, the **demand for lithium** has grown manifold in the past few years, as the focus has shifted towards electric mobility and grid scale battery storage amid India's energy transition.
- The government has also come up with a **production-linked incentive scheme** for advanced chemistry cells.
- Another for **niche batteries** manufactured with newer chemistries is also in the works.
- The **Geological Survey of India** has found the presence of significant lithium reserves totalling 5.9 million tonnes in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. Another reserve has been found in Rajasthan.

TIMES OF INDIA

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JAN VISHWAS BILL 2023

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Governance)

Cabinet nod to changes in bill to decriminalise minor offences

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved amendments to the Jan Vishwas Bill, 2023, which seeks to decriminalise minor offences, and accepted several recommendations of the joint committee of Parliament. At least six of the seven "general recommendations" made by the parliamentary panel have been accepted by the government. While there was no official word on the legislation, the government is expected to introduce the amended bill during the monsoon session of parliament that kicks off next week.

The Jan Vishwas Bill is meant to usher in ease of living by amending 183 provisions in 42 Acts with a view to promote ease of business. These laws are administered by 19 ministries. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill was introduced by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal in the Lok Sabha last December and was referred to a joint committee of Parliament. TNN

Context: The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the **Jan Vishwas Bill, 2023,** which seeks to decriminalise minor offences, and accepted several recommendations of the joint committee of Parliament.

- At least **six of the seven "general recommendations"** made by the parliamentary panel have been accepted by the government.

Highlights of the Bill

- The Bill **amends 42 laws**, across multiple sectors, including agriculture, environment, and media and publication.
- Acts being amended include the **Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, and the Information Technology Act, 2000.**
- The Bill **converts several fines to penalties,** meaning that court prosecution is not necessary to administer punishments.
- It also **removes imprisonment** as a punishment for many offences.
- All offences under the **Post Office Act, 1898** are being removed.
- **Fines and penalties** for certain offences in specified Acts are being increased.
- These fines and penalties will be **increased by 10%** of the minimum amount every three years.
- The Bill **amends some Acts** to provide for the appointment of Adjudicating Officers to decide penalties.
- It also specifies the **appellate mechanism**.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 14

Panel Set Up to Suggest Reforms to Arbitration and Conciliation Act

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The government has formed an expert committee to recommend reforms to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, and will submit its report within two months, attorney general R Venkataramani informed a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

"The matter can be deferred for a while till the committee gives its report. It's a consultative process," the AG told the bench led by Chief Justice DY Chadrachud. Senior counsel Fali S Nariman supported the AG, saying reference by the government is on a new law to be enacted.

The issue that requires consideration by the five-judge bench is whether courts can deviate from the agreed procedure of appointing arbitrators under Section 11 of the Act and whether a person, who is ineligible to be an arbitrator, can nominate another person as an arbitrator. The apex court, after taking note of the AG's submission, deferred the case till September 13.

"The attorney general submits that the issues which have been raised before the constitution bench will undoubtedly also come within the remit of the committee. After report of the committee, the government would take a considered view if the modification of legislation is warranted," the bench, also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, PS Narasimha, Pankaj Mithal and Manoj Misra, said, while differing the matter. The government on June 14 formed a 15-member expert panel led by former law secretary TK Vishwanathan to recommend reforms to the 1996 Act.

ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION ACT 1996

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Governance)

Context: The government has formed an expert committee to recommend reforms to the **Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996**, and will submit its report within two months.

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

- The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 contains the **law related to arbitration.**
- This act was added to the **constitution on January 25, 1996.**
- It is based on the **UN law model** and is equal to the law adopted by the United Nations Commission on international trade law.
- The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 improved the previous laws regarding arbitration in India, namely **the Arbitration Act, 1940, the Arbitration Act, 1937, and The Foreign Awards Act, 1961.**
- This act also derives authority from the **UNCITRAL Model Law** on international commercial arbitration and the UNCITRAL rules on conciliation.
- It unites and manages the laws associated with **domestic arbitration, international business arbitration, and the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards.**
- It also defines the **law related to conciliation.**

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 4

POLICY FOR RARE DISEASES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

Waiver for rare disease drugs brings little relief

SOHINI DAS
Mumbai, 12 July

India's pharma sector on Wednesday said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council's decision to exempt tax on rare diseases drugs is unlikely to benefit the population unless the waiver is extended to drugs that are made commercially available in the country.

The GST Council on Tuesday said the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) used for treating rare diseases enlisted under the National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021, will be exempt when imported for personal use subject to existing conditions. "We support the government's move to address the needs of patients suffering from rare diseases. However, the customs duty and GST waiver provided by the government will have a pronounced impact only when they are also applicable to all Rare Disease products that are approved and available in the country, and not just on personal imports. Keeping patient interest in mind, companies are launching innovative treatment options in India at the earliest. It helps patients avoid going through a complex process of importing every time they need it," Simpson Emmanuel, MD and CEO Roche Pharma India said in an emailed response to Business Standard.

"Similarly, IGST exemption is also being extended to FSMP when imported by Centres of Excellence for Rare Diseases or any person or institution on recommendation of any of the listed Centres of Excellence," it added.

Emmanuel said that such patients who are being treated on a locally available, approved product are 'deprived' of the customs duty and GST waiver benefit.

"The CoEs cannot import such products and get the duty benefit for patients because if a product is registered and available in India, license at a patient level or at an institute level is not allowed," he explained. "I sincerely hope the government extends Customs and GST waiver benefits to all lifesaving medicines (including cancer medicines) that are imported and not just those for personal use so that patients in India can avail the duty waiver benefits and bring down their treatment cost," Emmanuel said.

Industry insiders said that at present drugs that are imported and marketed here are charged a 10 per cent customs duty and a 12 per cent GST.

"If this is waived, this would result in a 22 per cent benefit for the patient straight away. Most of these drugs are expensive, costing in lakhs, but the volume of patients is also very low. Waiving duty will definitely ensure better access to patients," an industry insider said, who added that multinational companies have been in talks with several government departments on this matter.

Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), which represents the multinational Pharma companies operating here, also batted for extending the exemptions to drugs that are already commercially available here.

Suresh Pattathil, OPPI president said that while they welcome the decision of the GST Council, they would like to wait for the final notification by the Department of Revenue to assess the implications.

WHAT THE INDUSTRY WANTS

- GST Council has exempted drugs for rare diseases from IGST when imported for personal use
- Industry bats for extending exemption to all drugs for rare diseases that are marketed in India
- Industry observers say patients cannot get a separate licence to import a drug that is already registered in India



Context: India´s pharma sector said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council´s decision to **exempt tax on rare diseases drugs** is unlikely to benefit the population unless the waiver is extended to drugs that are made commercially available in the country.

- The GST Council said the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) used for treating rare diseases enlisted under the **National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021**, will be exempt when imported for personal use subject to existing conditions.
- However, the customs duty and GST waiver provided by the government will have only when they are also **applicable to all Rare Disease products** that are approved and available in the country, and not just on personal imports.

National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021

- **About**: It offers **financial support for one-time treatment** of up to Rs. 20 lakh, introduces a crowdfunding mechanism, creates a registry of rare diseases and provides for early detection.
- **Origin**: It was first prepared by the Centre in 2017 but was put on hold due to questions on its formation, criterias, cost sharing, beneficiaries, etc.
  - An expert group was constituted in 2018 to review these questions, which submitted its report in January 2021 and after a further round of consultation, the policy has been made public.
- **Three groups:** It categories 'rare disease' into three groups:
  - **Group 1**: Disorders amenable to **one-time curative treatment.**
    - Eligible for a **one-time treatment cost of up to Rs. 20 lakh** provided the beneficiaries conformed to definition of the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** and were treated in government tertiary care hospital, under the umbrella scheme of **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN).**
    - RAN provides for **financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line (BPL)** and who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty Government hospitals/institutes.
  - **Group 2**: Diseases requiring **long term/lifelong treatment** having relatively lower cost of treatment and benefit has been documented in literature and annual or more frequent surveillance is required.
  - **States could "consider" supporting patients** of such rare diseases that could be managed with special diets or hormonal supplements.
  - **Group 3**: Diseases for which **definitive treatment** is available but challenges are to make optimal patient selection for benefit, very high cost and lifelong therapy.
- **Centres of Excellence**: The government would notify **selected Centres of Excellence at premier government hospitals** for comprehensive management of rare diseases.
  - The Centres of Excellence would be **provided a one-time grant to a maximum of Rs. 5 crore** each for infrastructure development for screening, tests, treatment.

PIB July 13

ATAL VAYO ABHYUDAY YOJANA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana: Empowering the Elderly for a Dignified Life

Context: The **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY),** introduced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is a comprehensive initiative aimed at empowering senior citizens in India.

- The **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment,** being the Nodal Department for welfare of senior citizens, is implementing various programs and schemes.

Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)

- **National Action Plan for Senior Citizen (NAPSrc)** had been revamped, renamed as Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) and subsumed in April 2021.
- Under the umbrella Scheme, **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY),** an Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC) provides financial assistance to eligible organization's for running and maintenance of Senior Citizen Homes/ Continuous Care Homes to improve the quality of life of the senior citizens, especially indigent senior citizens by providing basic amenities, entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing.
- Another component under the AVYAY Scheme is **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY),** to provide eligible senior citizens suffering from any of the age-related disability/ infirmity, with assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/ infirmity manifested such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and locomotor disabilities.
- **Financial criteria for beneficiaries** are either the Senior Citizen belongs to 'Below Poverty Line' (BPL) category or he/ she has income up to Rs. 15,000 (Rupees Fifteen Thousand) per month.

Achievements

- The **Achievements under IPSrC through various activities** are that presently a total of 552 Senior Citizen Homes, 14 Continuous care homes, 19 mobile Medicare units and 5 physiotherapy clinics are being assisted and maintained by different NGOs across the country.
  - Nearly 1.5 lakh beneficiaries are staying in the Senior Citizen homes. 361 districts across the country have been covered.
  - During the last 3 financial years a total of Rs. 288.08 crore grants in aid released and number of beneficiaries is 363570.
- The **Achievements under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)** through various implementing agencies are that a total of 269 camps have been held till date and the Number of beneficiaries of this camp is over 4 lakhs.
  - Under this scheme, a total amount of Rs. 140.34 crore has been released during the last 3 financial years and a total number of 848841 devices where distributed to 157514 beneficiaries in 130 camps.

PIB July 12

DISASTER FUNDING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Disaster Mangement)

Centre releases Rs.7,532 crore to the States for Disaster Response

Context: The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has released an amount of Rs. 7,532 crore to 22 State Governments for the respective **State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF).**

- The amount has been released as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Key Points

- The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted in each State under **Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.**
- The fund is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.
- The Central Government contributes **75% to the SDRF in general States and 90% in North-East and Himalayan States.**
- The **annual Central contribution** is released in two equal instalments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
- As per the guidelines, the **funds are released on receipt of Utilisation Certificate** of the amount released in the earlier instalment and receipt of a report from the State Government on the activities undertaken from SDRF.
- However, in view of the urgency, these requirements were waived while releasing the funds this time.
- The SDRF is to be u**sed only for meeting the expenditure** for providing immediate relief to the victims of notified calamities like cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack and frost & cold wave.
- Allocation of SDRF funds to the States is **based on multiple factors** like past expenditure, area, population, and disaster risk index.
- These factors reflect **States' institutional capacity,** risk exposure, and hazard and vulnerability.

In UNHRC vote, India stands against desecration of Koran

Press Trust of India
GENEVA

India on Wednesday voted in favour of a draft resolution tabled in the UN Human Rights Council that condemns and strongly rejects recent "public and premeditated" acts of desecration of the Koran.

The Geneva-based 47-member UN Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution 'Countering religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence', with 28 members voting in favour, seven abstentions and 12 nations voting against.

India voted in favour of the resolution that "condemns and strongly rejects the recent public and premeditated acts of desecration of the Holy Koran, and underscores the need for holding the perpetrators of these acts of religious hatred to account in line with obligations of States arising from international human rights law".

Rough tally

Those voting in favour of the resolution included Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Malaysia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Qatar, Ukraine and UAE.

Nations voting against the resolution included Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the U.K. and the U.S.

The draft resolution was brought by Pakistan on "behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation" as well as by the State of Palestine.

UNHRC
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - IR)

Context: India **voted in favour of a draft resolution tabled in the UN Human Rights Council** that condemns and strongly rejects recent "public and premeditated" acts of desecration of the Holy Quran.

Key Points

- The Geneva-based 47-member UN Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution **'Countering religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence'**, with 28 members voting in favour, seven abstentions and 12 nations voting against.
- The **draft resolution was brought by Pakistan** on "behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation" as well as by the State of Palestine.
- **Those voting in favour of the resolution** included Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Qatar, Ukraine and UAE. Nations voting against the resolution included Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the U.K. and the U.S.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- It is a **United Nations body** whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
- The Council has **47 members** elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis.
- The headquarters of the Council are at the United Nations Office at **Geneva** in Switzerland.
- The Council investigates allegations of breaches of human rights in United Nations member states and addresses thematic human rights issues like **freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of belief and religion, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.**
- The Council consists of 47 members, elected yearly by the **General Assembly** for staggered three-year terms.
- Members are **selected via the basis of equitable geographic rotation** using the United Nations regional grouping system.
- Members are **eligible for re-election** for one additional term, after which they must relinquish their seat.

DTE

July 13

CHANGING COLOR OF OCEAN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

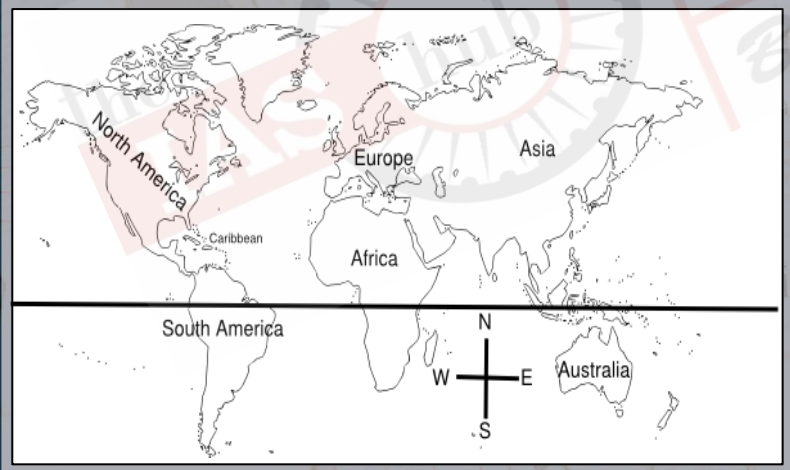


Tropical waters have turned green in colour, courtesy climate change: Study

The green hue comes from chlorophyll, a pigment that helps microscopic plant-like phytoplankton make food; change in ocean colour indicates alterations in phytoplankton communities

NEXT NEWS >

By Rohini Krishnamurthy
Published: Wednesday 12 July 2023



Context: Climate change has altered the colour of 56 per cent of the world's oceans, according to a new study.

Key Points

- The waters in the **tropics have turned green.**
- The **southern Indian Ocean** has seen a significant colour change.
- **Green-coloured** water indicates life, especially phytoplankton, which are microscopic plant-like organisms.
- **Blue** indicates little life.
- The colour also determines the amount of **carbon dioxide absorbed by the ocean.**
- Currently**, oceans absorbed 25 percent of all carbon dioxide (CO2)** emissions.
- Changes in the ocean colour **indicate alterations to the phytoplankton communities** - since phytoplankton are essential for most life in the ocean as the base of the marine food web.
- **Human eyes are not sensitive** enough to differentiate subtle colour changes.
- The **oceans appear blue**, but the true colour may contain a mix of subtler wavelengths, from blue to green and even red.
- The **green hue comes from chlorophyll,** a pigment that helps phytoplankton make food.
- A change in colour due to an **increase or decline in the population** will impact organisms that feed on plankton.
- Though the **southern Indian Ocean** is seeing a significant change, the waters near India are not following the same trend.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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ANTHROPOCENE EPOCH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

ANTHROPOCENE

Scientists say sediments from a Canada lake provide evidence of the beginning of the Anthropocene epoch

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

SEDIMENTS AT Crawford Lake in Canada's Ontario have provided evidence of the beginning of the Anthropocene epoch, scientists said recently.

Members of the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG), the 35 geologists have estimated that the new epoch started sometime between 1950 and 1954. They revealed the findings after analysing the lake's bottom sediments, which have over the years captured the fallouts of large-scale burning of fossil fuels, explosion of nuclear weapons, and dumping of plastic and fertilisers on land and in water bodies.

"The data show a clear shift from the mid-20th century, taking Earth's system beyond the normal bounds of the Holocene epoch," working group member Andy Cundy, professor at the University of Southampton, told *AFP*.

Notably, not all geologists agree that the Anthropocene epoch is a reality. There are disagreements regarding when it began, if it has already begun, or if there is enough evidence to prove its advent.

What is this epoch?

The Anthropocene epoch as a term was coined by Nobel Prize-winning chemist Paul Crutzen and biology professor Eugene Stoermer in 2000 to denote the present geological time interval, in which the Earth's ecosystem has gone through radical changes due to human impact, especially since the onset of the Industrial Revolution.

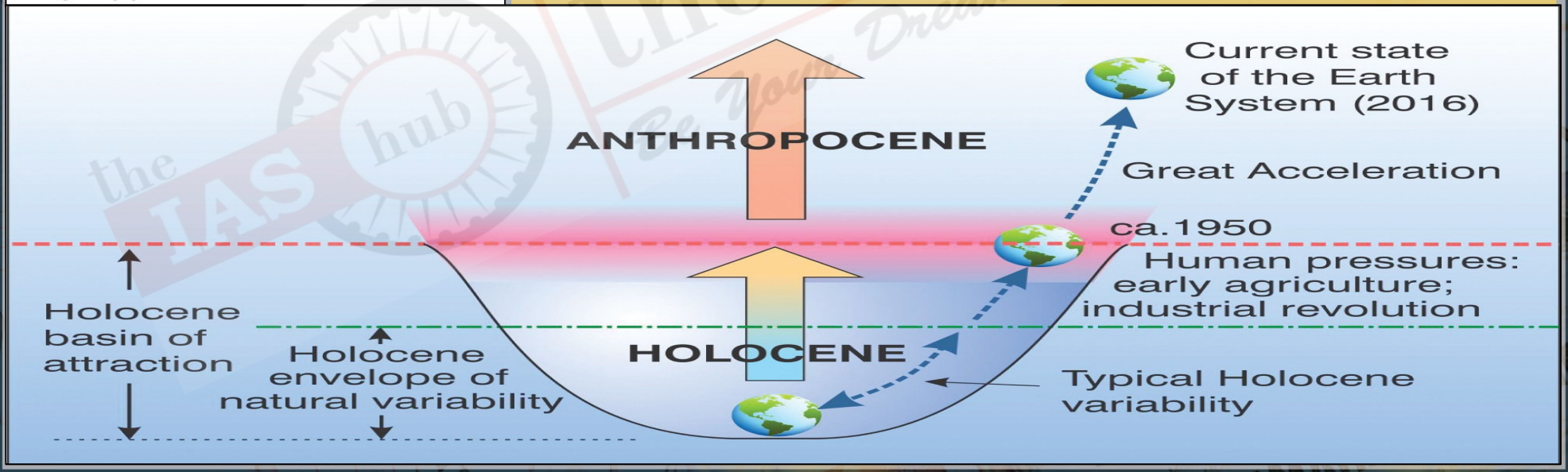
There are numerous phenomena associated with this epoch, such as global warming, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, mass-scale soil erosion, the advent of deadly heat waves, deterioration of the biosphere and other detrimental changes in the environment.

Context: Geologists have said sediments at Crawford Lake in Canada's Ontario have provided **evidence of the beginning of the Anthropocene epoch** - a proposed geological epoch that began when human activity started to have a significant impact on the Earth.

- The data show a clear shift from the mid-20th century, taking Earth's system beyond the normal bounds of the **Holocene** (the epoch that started at the end of the last ice age 11,700 years ago).

Key Points

- The **Anthropocene epoch** as a term was first coined by Nobel Prize-winning chemist Paul Crutzen and biology professor Eugene Stoermer in 2000.
- The Anthropocene Epoch is an **unofficial unit of geologic time**, used to describe the most recent period in Earth's history when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet's climate and ecosystems.
- Officially, the **current epoch is called the Holocene,** which began 11,700 years ago after the last major ice age.
- Scientists still **debate whether the Anthropocene is different from the Holocene**, and the term has not been formally adopted by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the international organization that names and defines epochs.

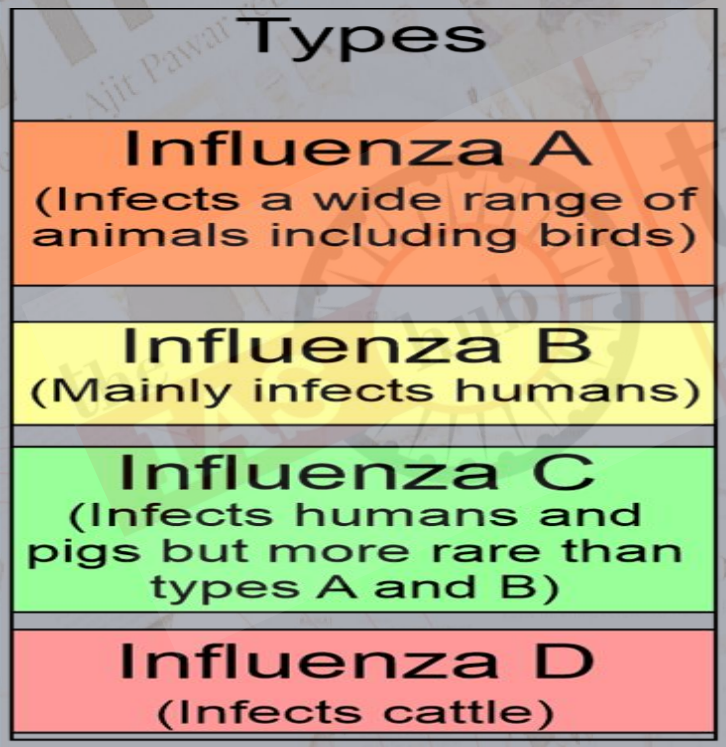


DTE July 13

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)





Context: There is broad consensus among the medical community worldwide as well as in India that COVID-19 is no longer a **public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC),** as announced by the World Health Organization (WHO).

- COVID-19 is like any other **respiratory illness now and other influenza-like diseases.**

Influenza

- A group of **symptoms** that are similar to those caused by the **influenza (flu) virus.**
- These include **fever, chills, headache, muscle or body aches**, cough, sore throat, runny nose, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Public Health Emergency

- **About**: A Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) is the **WHO's highest alert level.**
  - It is part of the **international health regulations(IHR)** which have been the governing framework for global health security since 2007.
- **Definition**: A PHEIC is defined in the **International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005)** as, "an **extraordinary event** which is determined to **constitute a public health risk** to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response". This definition implies a situation that is:
  - Serious, sudden, unusual or unexpected;
  - Carries implications for public health beyond the affected State's national border; and
  - May require immediate international action.
- **Implication**: The definition implies that the situation is **serious, sudden, unusual or unexpected** and carries implications for public health beyond the affected country's border.
- **Condition**: The WHO reserves the designation for only those diseases that need a **coordinated international response** to prevent them from potentially escalating into a pandemic.
- **Previous instances**: The alert has previously been issued for **Ebola**, H1N1 Swine Flu, Poliovirus, **Monkeypox** and Zika Virus.

International Health Regulations (2005)

- **About**: IHR (2005), represents **a binding international legal agreement** involving 196 countries across the globe, including all the Member States of the WHO.
- **Objectives**: Their aim is to help the international community **prevent and respond to acute public health risks** that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide.

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