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THE HINDU Page 1

CHABAHAR PORT
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

India, Iran discuss development of Chabahar Port

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of Iran, is in New Delhi

India and Iran held Foreign Office Consultations on Thursday during the visit of Tehran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani here.

Dr. Kani, who is a close relative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, handles Iran's nuclear negotiations and is considered to be part of the ruling elite of the Iranian state. This is the first high-profile visit from Iran since the crackdown on democratic protesters began in the country in the second fortnight of September. India has not commented about the ongoing crackdown so far.

"During the delegation-level talks, the two sides reiterated their commitment to continue cooperation for development of the Shahid Beheshti terminal of the Chabahar Port," said the Ministry of External Affairs in a press note released after the talks between the two delegations. Asked if India would restart buying Iranian oil, the Ministry spokesperson said there were no updates.

The Indian delegation to the meeting was led by Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra. The Ministry said the "entire gamut of bilateral relations including political, economic, cultural and consular" aspects were discussed during the consultations. "The two sides exchanged views on regional and international issues including Afghanistan. Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Kani briefed the Foreign Secretary on issues related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," said a release.

Context: India and Iran held Foreign Office Consultations during the visit of Tehran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs here.

Chabahar Port

- **Meaning**: Chabahar is **made of Persian words** Chahar meaning four; and bahar meaning spring.
  - Chabahar city is also home to Iran's only deep-seaport with direct access to the ocean.
- **Location**: Off the **Gulf of Oman** in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan & is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean.
- **Consist of two ports:** Chabahar Port consists of two separate ports called **Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.**
- **Significance**: Important for its fishery sector and will act as an important trade center connecting **South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East.**
- **Significance for India**
  - **Gateway to Central Asia and beyond:** The port gives access to the energy-rich Persian Gulf nations' **southern coast** & Central Asia and India can bypass Pakistan with the Chabahar port becoming functional.
  - **Access to Afghanistan:** The **International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** allowed India to trade with the outside world via Iran, but India could not do so with Afghanistan (not a member of INSTC) in spite of being a very close neighbor.
  - **Strategic Importance:** Due to its location in the Gulf of Oman and at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz and enables Iran to have direct entry to the Indian Ocean.
    - Chabahar Port is also quite **near the Gwadar Port** of Pakistan being developed by China.
    - It will also **counter the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).**



BUSINESS STANDARD

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APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

EC APPOINTMENT CASE

SC flags govt's 'tearing hurry' on Arun Goel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 November

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the "haste" and "tearing hurry" in appointing Arun Goel Election Commissioner (EC).

The Centre vehemently resisted the observations, with Attorney General R Venkataramani saying the whole issue pertaining to the appointment of Goel should be looked at in its entirety.

At the outset, a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Justice K M Joseph perused the Centre's original file pertaining to Goel's appointment as EC, and said, "What kind of evaluation is this? We are not questioning the merits of Arun Goel's credentials but the process." As the Bench questioned the "lightning speed" with which Goel was appointed as an EC and also that his file did not even move within departments for 24 hours, the Centre through Venkataramani vehemently urged the Bench not to make observations without looking into the entire issue pertaining to the appointment process.

During the hearing, lawyer Prashant Bhushan attempted to make submissions before the Bench when the attorney general was arguing.

"Please hold your mouth for a while," the top-most law officer told Bhushan.

The top court reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas seeking a collegium-like system for the appointment of ECs and the Chief Election Commissioner and asked the parties to file written submission in five days.

Justice Ajay Rastogi, who is also part of the Bench, told Venkataramani, "You have to listen to the court carefully and answer the questions. We are not on individual candidates but on the process." The attorney general said he was bound to answer the questions of the court.

The top court said the 1985-batch IAS officer got voluntary retirement from service in a single day, his file was cleared by the law ministry in a single day, a panel of four names was put up before the prime minister and Goel's name got the nod from the President within 24 hours.

The Bench, which also comprised Justices Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar, said none of the four names in the panel was "carefully handpicked" by the law minister such that they could complete a six-year tenure.



Arun Goel was secretary in the Ministry of Heavy Industries until recently, and his voluntary retirement came into effect on November 18 this year. Goel has also served in the Union culture ministry FILE PHOTO

Venkataramani responded that there were a mechanism and criteria for selection and there could not be a scenario where the government had to look back at every officer's track record and ensure that he would complete the six-year tenure.

Under the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991, an EC can have a tenure of six years or up to the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

Referring to Goel's appointment, the Attorney General said his profile was important and not the voluntary retirement which was being made an issue.

The Bench said the 1991 Act said the EC's tenure would be of six years and the government had to ensure the person who held the post completed the stipulated period.

Context: The Supreme Court questioned the " haste" and "tearing hurry" in appointing an IAS officer as Election Commissioner.

SC's Observations

- **Supreme Court's opinion on appointment procedure:** The SC suggested that the least intrusive will be a system where there is a presence of the Chief Justice in the **appointment committee.**
- **Issues:**
  - **No law for the appointment of election commissioners:** The court said **Article 324 of the Constitution**, dealing with the appointment of election commissioners, had envisaged the enactment of a law to provide for the procedure for such appointments, but the government had not done this yet.
    - In the absence of a law, the **"silence of the Constitution is being exploited by all",** said the court.
  - **Issue of incompletion of tenure:** The SC said that although the CEC's tenure is six years under 'The Chief Election Commissioner And Other Election Commissioners (Conditions Of Service) Act, 1991', **no CEC has completed his tenure since 2004.**

Election Commissioner

- **Appointment & Tenure of Commissioners:** The **President** appoints CEC and Election Commissioners.
  - They have a **fixed tenure of six years,** or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
  - They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to **Judges of the Supreme Court (SC)** of India.
- **Removal**: They can **resign anytime** or can also be removed before the expiry of their term.
  - The CEC of India can be removed from their office in a manner similar to the removal of a judge of the SC of India, while other **ECs can be removed by the President of India on the recommendation of the CEC.**
- **Limitations**:
  - The Constitution has **not prescribed the qualifications** (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
  - The Constitution has **not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.**
  - The Constitution **has not debarred** the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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INSTITUTE OF EMINENCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Education)

JNU has applied for Institute of Eminence status, says V-C

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU University applied for Institute of Eminence status earlier this month, Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit said Thursday, five years after the scheme was notified by the central government.

In an Idea Exchange session with *The Indian Express* in August this year, Pandit said the university had not applied for eminence status till then. On Thursday, she said it submitted its application in the first week of this month. "It's a huge document, we had to get everybody in it because I didn't want to make it just one school. We have included all schools," she said.

She said among the projects the university wants to work on are a think tank, a JNU publishing unit, a JNU bookstore, a faculty club and the university library.

Pandit said the university is emphasising that it will not tolerate violence by students. Earlier this month, the university had seen a clash between two groups of students following which the Delhi police registered two FIRs against two stu-



Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit

EXPLAINED

The IOE

THE UNION Cabinet had approved UGC's 'Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities Regulations 2017' in August 2017. The regulations are aimed at creating an enabling architecture for 10 public and 10 private institutions to emerge as world-class institutions, since the country has little representation in international ranking of educational institutions.

Context: Jawaharlal Nehru University applied for Institute of Eminence status earlier this month, five years after the scheme was notified by the central government.

Institute of Eminence Scheme

- **About**: Launched for Higher Education Institutions in India in 2017 by **University Grants Commission (statutory body).**
- **Objectives**: The main aim of the Institute of Eminence Scheme is to **make Indian Institutes globally competitive** and an attractive destination for students internationally
  - It also aims to **identify 10 Public and 10 Private Institutions** to be declared as Institute of Eminence (IoE), which will be granted more autonomy, both administratively and academically, and will enjoy better opportunities at the global level.
- **Legal Basis:** The Scheme was enabled by **UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) 2017 regulations.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education.
- **Eligibility**: Only higher education institutions currently placed in the top 500 of global rankings or top 50 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are eligible to apply for the eminence tag.
  - The selection shall be made through challenge method mode by the **Empowered Expert Committee constituted** for the purpose.
- **3 Categories of Eligible Institutions**
  - **Existing Government Educational Institutions** – They will receive additional funding up to ₹ 1000 Crore.
  - **Existing Private Higher Educational Institutions** – There will be no financial support, but these institutions will be entitled to more autonomy as a special category deemed university.
  - **Greenfield Category Institutes** – They would get 3 year period to establish and operationalise the Institutions. EEC will decide about IoE status of the Institution after that period.

LIVEMINT Page 1

EVERGREENING OF LOANS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Sebi to RBI: NBFCs evergreening loans

Jayshree P Upadhyay
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MUMBAI



Sebi said non-bank lenders are evergreening loans by using alternative investment funds.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has informed the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) about instances of non-bank lenders evergreening loans by using alternative investment funds (AIFs), two people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

"Sebi, during the course of its examination, found at least two NBFCs (non-banking financial companies) and two AIFs indulging in the practice of 'evergreening' through the AIF route. We told some industry players to stop this misuse, but it has continued. Which is why Sebi has stopped AIFs working on 'priority distribution' from accepting new mandates till the regulators have a solution," an official, one of the two people cited above said, seeking anonymity.

Some lenders use the evergreening of loans to mask loan defaults and show inflated earn-

TURN TO PAGE 8

Context: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has informed the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) about instances of non-bank lenders evergreening loans by using alternative investment funds (AIFs).

Evergreening of loans

- **About**: An evergreen loan is **a type of interest-only loan** in which principal payment is deferred.
  - Typically, the **repayment of principal is only expected** at the end of the loan term, although interest rates may be higher or contain penalties for delayed payment.
  - They are called evergreen since interest can be paid but **the repayment of principal** can, in effect, be delayed indefinitely such that it works like revolving credit.
  - Evergreen loans may also be known as **"standing" or "revolving" loans.**
- **Most Common Types of Evergreen Loans:**
  - **Revolving line of credit (LOC):** One of the most common types of evergreen loans is a r**evolving line of credit (LOC)** given to the borrower, provided the borrower meets the various requirements to secure the loan.
    - A revolving LOC is, by far, **predominantly given to companies that need capital**, or more specifically, working capital.
  - **Evergreen letter (or note)**: A lender may offer an evergreen letter (or note). It is **essentially a credit letter** that the borrower secures to seek a loan elsewhere.
    - The letter lets the loan provider know that in the event that the borrower cannot fulfill the loan obligation, the lender offering the evergreen letter guarantees it will cover whatever debt the borrower can't satisfy.
    - Similar to the loan, the **letter can be indefinitely renewed up** until the borrower no longer needs it.

Alternative Investment Funds (AIF)

- **About**: AIF are those funds created or established in India as a **privately pooled investment** vehicle in order to collect funds from specific investors as per a previously defined investment policy.
  - Alternative Investment Funds **consist of investment funds** pooled in together which is then used in investing private equity, hedge funds etc
- **Exemptions**: AIF **does not include funds** that are included in the regulations of the SEBI which oversee fund management activities.
  - Other exemptions include family trusts, employee welfare trusts or gratuity trusts.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 9

G7 PRICE CAP

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Not Worried about G7 Price Cap on Russia Oil

Hints at another budgetary support to state-run OMCs if losses mount



Our Bureau

New Delhi: India has diversified its sourcing of crude oil and is not worried about the proposed price cap on Russian oil, said Hardeep Singh Puri, Union minister for petroleum and natural gas, and housing and urban affairs.

"There is a fascinating marketplace for oil and gas out there. No matter what you decide, energy — be it crude oil or refined products — does not have the stamp of any nation. I am not concerned about the situation after December 5 (when the price cap by G7 nations comes into effect). Europe today is still buying 3 times more energy from Russia than we are," he said at the Times Now Summit 2022.

The G7 is looking to cap the price of Russian seaborne oil between $65 and $70 a barrel. This is an economic measure in retaliation to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The measure will be implemented through reinsurers and shipping companies based out of Western countries which have been directed to curb sales of Russian crude oil if it's sold above a set price. Japan will be exempted from this.

Responding to a question on how India hopes to meet its energy requirements after the sanctions kick in, Puri said, "We have played and we will continue to play the market card. Last year, we sourced our energy requirements from 27 nations, the number has now gone up to 39. Our energy imports from the US have grown by 1,300% over the past few years and now we are buying energy worth $20 billion from there." "I don't foresee any difficulty in procuring energy and am confident of securing it at affordable prices."

> **FREE MARKET** LAST YEAR WE SOURCED OUR ENERGY REQUIREMENTS FROM 27 NATIONS, IT HAS NOW GONE UP TO 39

Puri said in the days to come, India can buy oil from either the US, Guyana or any new source. "It is a global challenge but we have and we will convert it into an opportunity."

Commenting on the domestic fuel prices and the hit that oil companies took while keeping pump prices in check, Puri said that commercial entities have contributed by foregoing recovery on fuel sales. "The PSU oil marketing companies had borne a loss of ₹28,000 crore, and we gave them a budgetary support of ₹22,000 crore. This time too there is an expectation that there will be a bailout, and we will try for the same," he said.

Context: India has diversified its sourcing of crude oil and is not worried about the proposed price cap on Russian oil, said Union minister for petroleum and natural gas, and housing and urban affairs.

G7 Price Cap

- **Price cap plan:** The introduction of a price cap on Russian oil means countries that sign up to the policy will **only be permitted to purchase Russian oil and petroleum products** that are sold at or below the price cap.
  - The price cap is being **designed to limit Russia from profiting** from its war of aggression while limiting the impact on global energy prices.
  - US and EU officials have been **trying to convince countries including India**, China and Turkey to join the coalition or to at least support the price cap.
  - As per them, **price cap is in the interests of all oil buyers from Russia** as it will give them leverage to lower purchase prices.
- **Implementation**: For countries that join the coalition, it would mean simply **not buying Russian oil** unless the price is reduced to where the cap is determined.
  - For countries that don't join the coalition, or **buy oil higher than the cap price,** they would lose access to all services provided by the coalition countries.
  - Services provided by the **coalition countries include**: insurance, currency payment, facilitation and vessel clearances for their shipments.
- **Russia's Stand:** Russia has warned that it would **not supply anything** at all if it contradicts Russian interests.
  - Recently, Russia announced a **halt on all supplies** via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Europe due to maintenance issues.
- **Issues**: There is **no consensus on what should be the cap among G7+EU countries**. Russia may withhold exports to countries that enforce the cap, and fears about the threat could cause petroleum markets to rise.

G7

- **About**: The G7 was **formed in response to the 1973** oil shocks and ensuing financial crisis.
- **Objectives**: To address the situation following the oil shock, the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations decided to meet in 1975.
- **Members**: The six countries were the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany (West), Japan, and Italy.
  - When **Canada** joined these countries in 1976, the G7 was formed.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

USCIRF REPORT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Reports & Indices)



‘Misrepresents facts’: MEA slams USCIRF report on religious freedom in India

New Delhi: India slammed the US Commission for International Religious Freedom’s (USCIRF) report, which alleged religious freedom is under threat in India, saying that the Congress-appointed body was pursuing a motivated and biased agenda.

The MEA described the observations made in the report as inaccurate.

“They (USCIRF) have a tendency to consistently misrepresent facts and this shows their lack of understanding of India, our constitutional framework, plurality and our robust democratic system,” said spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. “Given its record, we are not surprised to see USCIRF continues to be guided by its prejudices and pursues a motivated agenda that calls into question its own credibility.” TNN

India objects to US’ Modi-MbS remark

India Thursday made its displeasure public about a remark by a US state department official referring to PM Modi while defending the immunity to Saudi leader Mohammed bin Salman, accused of ordering the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The MEA said it was not relevant, necessary or contextual. P16

▶ ‘Not paid heed’, P 20

Context: India slammed the US Commission for International Religious Freedom’s (USCIRF) report, which alleged religious freedom is under threat in India, saying that the Congress-appointed body was pursuing a motivated and biased agenda.

USCIRF Report 2022

- **About:** The **US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** has recommended for the second year in the row to put India on a list (**Countries of Particular Concern or CPCs**) for the worst violations of religious freedoms in 2021.
- **Highlights of the report**: The report highlighted that the government had “repressed critical voices”, especially minority communities and individuals reporting on them.
  - It mentions the **arrest of rights activist Khuran Pervez in Kashmir,** and the July 2021 death of octogenarian Father Stan Swamy, arrested in October 2020 under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967 (UAPA).
  - The report also touches on challenges faced by **Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs),** especially about foreign funding.
  - It also **highlights anti-conversion laws**.
    - In October 2021, **Karnataka’s government ordered** a survey of churches and priests in the state and authorized police to conduct a door-to-door inspection to find Hindus who have converted to Christianity.

USCIRF

- **About**: An independent, bipartisan US federal government commission, dedicated to defending the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad.
- **Origin**: Established by the US government in 1998 after the inaction of the International Religious Freedom Act, recommendations of USCIRF are non-binding on the state department.
  - India does not recognize the view of USCIRF.
- **USCIRF’s Annual Report**: It provides recommendations to enhance the U.S. government’s promotion of freedom of religion or belief abroad. The Report’s primary focus is on two groups of countries:
  - **Country of Particular Concern (CPC)**: It is a designation by the US Secretary of State of a nation engaged in severe violations of religious freedom under IRFA (International Religious Freedom Act of 1998).
  - **Special Watch List:** A “Special Watch List” country is one that is deemed not to meet all the CPC criteria but engages in or tolerates severe violations of religious freedom.

PIB

Nov 25

LACHIT BARPHUKAN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Personality in News)

PM to address closing ceremony of the year long celebrations of 400th Birth Anniversary of Lachit Barphukan on 25th November

Context: Prime Minister will address the closing ceremony of the year long celebrations of 400th Birth Anniversary of Lachit Barphukan on 25th November, 2022.

Lachit Barphukan (24th November, 1622 — 25th April, 1672)

- **About**: Born on 24 November 1622 to Momai Tamuli Borbarua and Kunti Moran.
- His father was the commander-in-chief of the Ahom army.
- **Ahom kingdom**: The Ahom kingdom was located in the Brahmaputra valley of eastern India (located in present-day Assam, India.)
  - It was first established in 1228.
  - The kingdom was repeatedly assailed upon by Turkic and Afghan rulers of the Delhi Sultanate and later the Mughal Empire.
- **Battle of Saraighat:** Lachit Borphukan is known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by Mughal forces under the command of Ramsingh I to take over Ahom kingdom.
- **Legacy of Lachit Borphukan**: On 24 November each year, Lachit Divas is celebrated statewide in Assam to commemorate the heroism of Lachit Borphukan and the victory of the Assamese army at the Battle of Saraighat.
  - Lachit Divas is celebrated to promote the ideals of Lachit Borphukan – the legendary general of Assam's history.
- **Lachit Borphukan Gold Medal (Best Cadet of NDA)**: The best passing out cadet of National Defence Academy is conferred the Lachit Borphukan gold medal every year from 1999.
- **Mahabir Lachit Award**: An award is presented to notable personalities of Assam by Tai Ahom Yuva Parishad (TAYPA).
- **Lachit Borphukan's Maidam:** Lachit Borphukan's Maidam was constructed in memory of Lachit Borphukan at Jorhat, Assam.
  - It is 8 km far from the famous Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary.
  - Here last remains of Borphukan were laid under this tomb (Maidam) constructed by Swargadeo Udayaditya Singha in 1672.



PIB

Nov 25

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS 2023

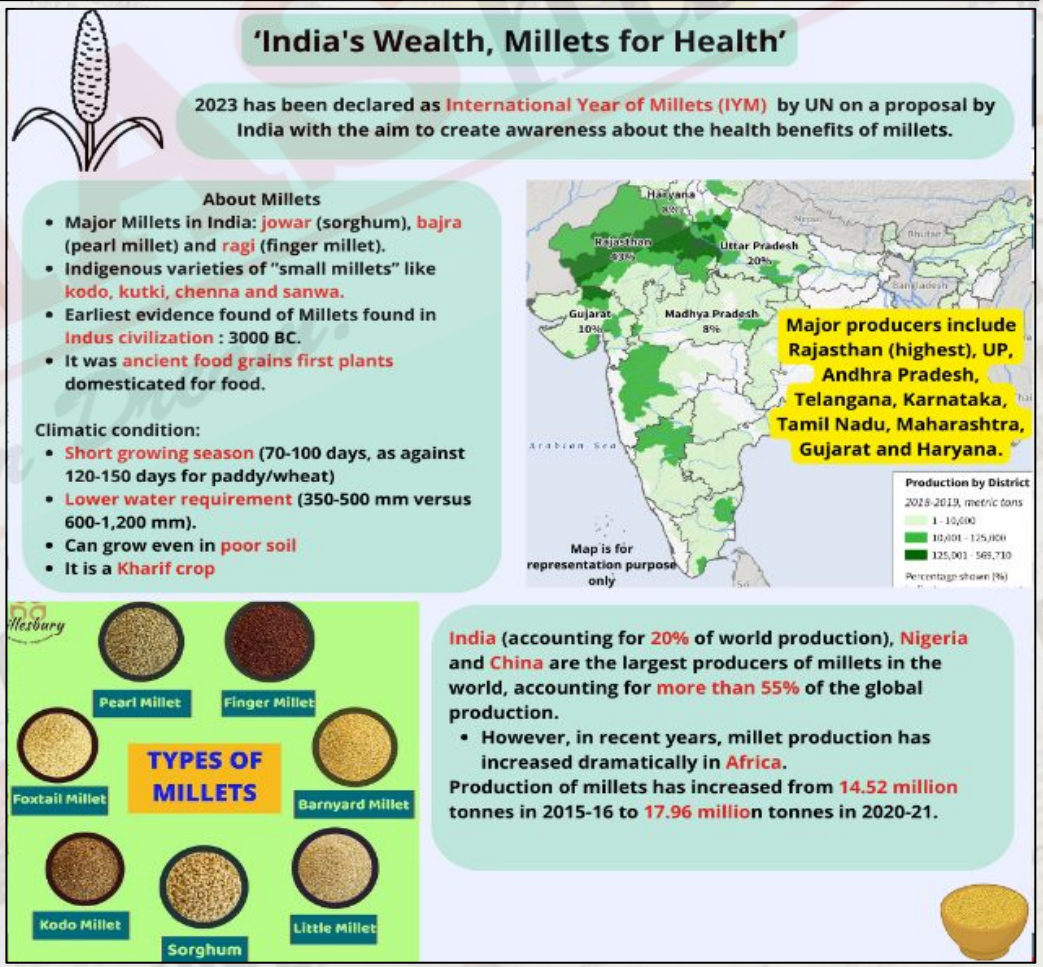
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Agriculture)

International Year of Millets (IYOM) – 2023 will provide an opportunity to globally promote millets as the nutritious cereals – Shri Narendra Singh Tomar

Context: The Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister has said the **International Year of Millets (IYOM) – 2023** will provide an opportunity to increase global production, efficient processing and better use of crop rotation and promote millets as a major component of the food basket.

International Year of Millets 2023

- **About**: India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023 was approved by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2018 and the United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
  - This was adopted by a **United Nations Resolution** for which India took the lead and was supported by over 70 nations.
- **Objectives**: Awareness of the contribution of millet to Food Security and nutrition.
- **Initiatives in India:**
  - Government declared (in 2018) millets as **"Nutri-Cereals",** considering their "high nutritive value" and also "anti-diabetic properties".
  - The 2018 year: '**National Year of Millets".**
  - **Increase in MSP** for millets.
  - Government has **included millets in the public distribution system (PDS)** and POSHAN Abhiyan.
  - **Millet Mission (under the National Food Security Mission)** will help develop farm-gate processing and empower farmers using FPOs.
  - **Millet Village scheme** by Kerala State Agriculture Department.
  - **Millet Startup** Innovation Challenge.
  - A contest for designing a comic story, with the theme **'India's Wealth, Millets for Health'.**
  - India proposed in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to organize the **"Millet Food Festival'.**



DST

Nov 25

MAGNETIC FIELD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

New study on behaviour of charged particles in a magnetic field under ultra-cold temperatures can help control noise in quantum technology

Context: A new study conducted by Bengaluru-based scientists has thrown fresh light on how a charged particle in contact with an environment in the presence of a magnetic field behaves when it is subjected to ultra-cold temperatures.

Key Points

- Scientists found how noise in the quantum domain can affect a charged particle in a magnetic field and traced the role of quantum noise in the decay of correlations at ultra-cold temperatures in the context of a charged particle in a magnetic field in the research published recently in the journal Physica A.
- The latest findings could **deepen existing knowledge and explore ways** to control noise in the domain of **quantum technology.**
- **Quantum technology i**s too vulnerable to disturbances in the environment that corrupt the information stored in quantum computers.
- Thus understanding the role of noise in quantum technology and finding ways to control it has long been a challenge for scientists.
- They **probed the role of noise in quantum technology** and the evolving area called quantum **Brownian motion.**
    - **Brownian motion** is the random motion of particles when suspended in a fluid, forms one of the foundational pillars of physics.
    - **Quantum Brownian motion** is a class of possible dynamics for an open quantum, continuous degree of freedom.

Earth's Magnetic Field

- **About**: The magnetic field that extends from Earth's interior out into space, where it interacts with the solar wind, a stream of charged particles emerging from the Sun, is known as the **Earth's Magnetic Field or geomagnetic field.**
    - Although a magnetic field can stretch indefinitely, it **decreases as it gets further away from its source.**
    - Magnetic surveys **provide information about the distribution of magnetic material** in the crustal portion.
- **Creation**: The magnetic field of the earth is **created by the flow of electric current generated by rotating metallic fluids** of iron and nickel in the earth's outer core. This is known as **Dynamo effects.**
    - The ionosphere is the outer layer of the earth's atmosphere.
    - Due to the rotation of the earth around its axis, **various gases are ionised** in the ionosphere, and charged ions create a strong magnetic field.
- **Strength varies**: The strength of the earth's magnetic field **varies across the earth;** both poles have a stronger magnetic field than the equator. At the center of the earth is a supposed huge magnetic dipole.
    - The **magnetic pole's axis is not the same as the earth's rotational axis** or the geographical axis.
    - The earth has a **reverse dipole**, which means the north magnetic poles act like the south magnetic poles of a bar placed inside the earth.
- **Protect from geomagnetic storm**: The Earth's magnetic field, which deflects most of the charged particles, **protects it from the solar wind**, which is a stream of intensely charged particles emerging from the Sun.
    - The **Van Allen radiation** belt traps some of the charged particles from the solar wind.
    - A lesser number of particles from the solar wind make it to the Earth's upper atmosphere and ionosphere in the auroral zones, as if on an **electromagnetic energy transmission line.**
    - The solar wind is only seen on Earth when it is powerful enough to cause **auroras and geomagnetic storms.**
    - Bright auroras heat the ionosphere, causing its plasma to **expand into the magnetosphere**, expanding the plasma geosphere size and allowing atmospheric materials to escape into the solar wind.
    - When the pressure of plasmas contained within the magnetosphere is high enough, it inflates and distorts the **geomagnetic field, causing geomagnetic storms.**

DTE

Nov 25

NAGOYA PROTOCOL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



Road to COP15 Montreal: Cameroon hopes to benefit from its rich biodiversity

It also expects that the conference will result in commitments to foster technology transfer in a way that helps developing countries benefit from their resources

NEXT NEWS >

By Ngala Killian Chimtom
Published: Thursday 24 November 2022

Context: Cameroon hopes to draw maximum benefits from biological resources it have preserved for years as the world prepares to convene at the **15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** in Montreal, Canada, from December 7-19, 2022.

Key Points

- **Nagoya Protocol**: Exploiting Africa's vast biological resources in line with the **prescriptions of the Nagoya Protocol** can unlock the continent's economic potential.
- **Echinops giganteus**: In 2012, a French perfume company partnered with a local non-profit to support the exploitation of Echinops giganteus.
  - Echinops giganteus is a **plant that is used worldwide in the cosmetics and food industries**.
  - The plant is grown mostly in the wild, but there are now efforts at planting it, given the likely financial rewards.
- **Mondia whitei:** In 2014, the same company found interest in another plant — **Mondia whitei — a medicinal plant** which is endemic to Africa, said Nkembi.
  - This plant, which is **endangered**, is traditionally used to treat various ailments such as anorexia, stress, bilharzia and sexual dysfunction, as well as for general aches and pains.
  - The plant is also **used as a food flavouring agent** due to its vanilla-like odour. It tastes like a mixture of liquorice and ginger.
  - **Over exploitation** is now threatening its very existence and part of the EruDef effort is to get locals to cultivate it.

Nagoya Protocol

- **About**: The Nagoya Protocol is supplementary to the **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)**.
- **Legal Framework**: This protocol is a **legal framework for the implementation** of one of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is the fair & equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
  - It is legally binding.
- **Origin**: The protocol was **adopted in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.** It entered into force in October 2014.
- **Objective**: The **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** coming from the utilization of genetic resources and helping in the conservation & sustainable usage of biodiversity.
- **Obligations under Nagoya Protocol for Parties**
  - **Access to Genetic Resources:** Access measures should have legal certainty, transparency, and clarity.
  - **Benefit-sharing:** Benefit-sharing measures should have provisions for the fair & equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources with the contracting party that provides genetic resources.
  - **Compliance:** This includes having legal provisions for the implementation of the protocol.
    - This also includes having dispute resolution mechanisms in place for resolving any disputes.

Nagoya Protocol and India

- **Ratification**: India signed the Nagoya Protocol in 2011 and ratified it in October 2012.
  - The ratification by India was done at the **11th Conference of Parties (COP)** to the CBD, which was conducted in Hyderabad.
- **Domestic legislation**: The domestic legislation in India for the implementation of the CBD is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

THANK YOU!

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