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MK Yadav Sir

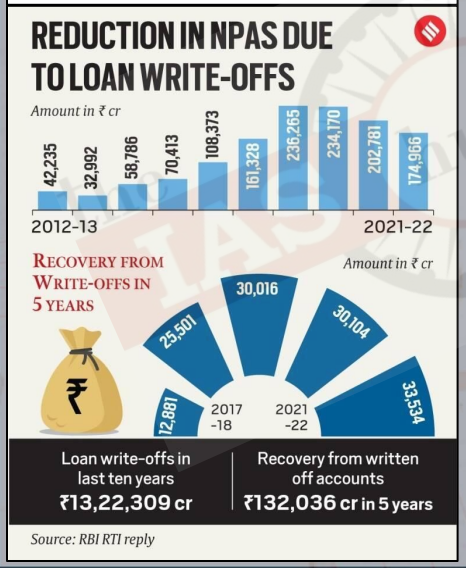
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NON-PERFORMING ASSETS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

'Banks' gross NPAs may hit 10-year low'

Bad loans of Indian banks are expected to decline 90 bps to less than 5% in FY23 and hit a decadal low of sub-4% by 31 March 2024, said an Assocham-Crisil Rating study unveiled. The study attributed the decline in gross non-performing assets (NPAs) to the post-covid economic recovery and higher credit growth. It said the biggest improvement would be in the corporate loan segment, where gross NPAs are seen falling below 2% in the next fiscal from a peak of about 16% as on 31 March 2018. "This follows significant clean-up of books by banks in recent years, as well as strengthened risk management and underwriting, which has led to higher preference for borrowers with better credit profiles. The steady improvement in corporate asset quality is clearly manifested in key indicators such as the credit quality of bank exposures," Assocham secretary general Deepak Sood said. PTI



Context: The Assocham-Crisil Rating study attributed the decline in gross **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** to the post-Covid economic recovery and higher credit growth.

Non Performing Assets (NPA)

- **About**: When a **person delays the payment of the loan or an amount** which was due on him through the delay in payment in either interests or installments or principal amount, that particular loan or amount is termed as Non-Performing Asset.
  - As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), an asset becomes non-performing when it **stops to generate income for the bank.**
- **Different from Bank Fraud: Bank fraud is a criminal offense**, Non-Performing Assets is a loan or advance wherein interest or installments of principal remain overdue for a period of 90 days.
- **Classification of Non-Performing Assets (NPA):**
  - **Substandard Assets**: These are the assets which have remained NPA for a period of **less than or equal to 12 months.**
  - **Doubtful Assets:** If the asset is in the substandard **category for a period of 12 months.**
  - **Loss Assets:** These assets are of little value, it can **no longer continue as a bankable asset**, there could be some recovery value.
    - **Gross non-performing assets**: The sum of all the loans that have been defaulted by the individuals who have acquired loans from the financial institution.
    - **Net non-performing assets:** The amount that is realised after provision amount has been deducted from the gross non-performing assets.
- **Regulations of NPA**: Banks utilize **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Sarfaesi) Act of 2002** as an effective tool for bad loans (Non Performing Asset) recovery.
  - The Sarfaesi Act is effective only against secured loans where banks can enforce the underlying security.
  - The Act provides **three alternative methods** for recovery of non-performing assets, namely: Securitisation, Asset Reconstruction and Enforcement of Security without the intervention of the Court.
    - The **other measures** for reducing NPA's are Debt Recovery Tribunals, Lok Adalats, Credit Information Bureau, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), Bad Bank etc.
- **Loan Write-Off:** It is the amount of loan that is written off by the banks, thus reducing the level of non-performing assets (NPAs) on its books. NPA is a non-performing asset.

TIMES OF INDIA Page 1

NEW MINISTERS IN DELHI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Atishi new PWD, edu minister; Bharadwaj to handle health, water

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com



ATISHI: Education dept; PWD; power; tourism; art, culture & languages; women & child development



SAURABH BHARADWAJ: Health; urban development; industries; water; irrigation and flood control; vigilance; services

New Delhi: Newly appointed ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj will look after the education and health departments, respectively — the two portfolios that have been the mainstay of AAP's 'Delhi model of governance'.

The portfolios were allocated immediately after Kalkaji MLA Atishi and Greater Kailash legislator Bharadwaj were administered the oath of office and secrecy by LG VK Saxena on Thursday.

Atishi was also given the responsibility of PWD; power; tourism; art, culture & languages, and women & child development. Bharadwaj, who was DJB vice-chairman, will look after water; urban development; industries; water; irrigation & flood control; vigilance and services. The induction of the two and redistribution of portfolios followed the resignations of Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain from the cabinet.

Kailash Gahlot will take charge of the finance, home and planning departments.

▶ 'Focus on city growth', P 6

Context: Newly appointed ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj will look after the education and health departments, respectively - the two portfolios that have been the mainstay of AAP's 'Delhi model of governance'.

Appointment of CM and Ministers in UT Delhi

- **CM in Delhi**: The Chief Minister of Delhi is **appointed by the President** (not by the lieutenant governor).
  - **Other ministers**: They are **appointed by the president** on the advice of the chief minister.
  - **Strength of the council of ministers**: It is fixed at **ten per cent of the total strength** of the Assembly.
    - That is seven - one chief minister and six other ministers.
- **Chief Minister of Union Territories:** He/She shall be appointed by the President.
  - Other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister.
  - The Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- **UTs**: The **Union Territories of Puducherry (in 1963) and Delhi (1992)** are provided with a legislative assembly and a council of ministers headed by a chief minister.
  - Similarly, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been provided with a **unicameral legislature.**
  - The remaining union territories do not have such popular political institutions.

IRAN - BLACK SEA CORRIDOR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

Armenia Proposes Iran-Black Sea Corridor for Indian Traders

Seeks Indian investments in infrastructure and logistics sectors

DipanjanRoy.Chaudhury
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Armenia has proposed a Persian Gulf-Black Sea corridor to connect Indian traders with Russia and Europe.

The offer was made last week by a visiting Armenian team comprising senior officials and experts. It came at a time when Armenia's foreign minister Ararat Mirzoyan was also visiting India.

The proposed corridor—which will run parallel to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)—will aim to connect Mumbai with Bandar Abbas in Iran and then Armenia and onward to Europe or Russia, bypassing Azerbaijan with whom India has lukewarm ties amid its close association with Turkey and Pakistan.

Armenia, whose ties with India have witnessed an upswing in recent years buoyed by defence exports from here, has sought Indian investments for the corridor in the Armenian territory, sources in the Armenian government indicated to **ET**.

Since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war, India's trade with Russia has increased manifold via the INSTC that connects Mumbai with Russia via Iran and the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan is a key element under INSTC but has been slow in completing an infrastructure link under INSTC. Historically, Armenia shares strong political and business ties with Iran.

"As the new cold war disrupts Russia-West economic and political relations, any large-scale transit of cargo passing the Russia-Europe border looks too risky for the international logistic and insurance companies," Benyamin Poghosyan, founder and chairman of Yerevan, Armenia-based Center for Political and Economic Strategic Studies and senior research fellow at APRI-Armenia, told ET.

"At the same time, India's need for additional trade routes to reach Europe circumventing the Suez Canal remain valid. In parallel to the discussions around INSTC, Iran in 2016 put forward a new international transport corridor project, Persian Gulf-Black Sea, which should connect Iran with Europe via the South Caucasus. The negotiations were paused during the Covid pandemic, but all potential participants of the project—Iran, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Greece—expressed their interest in participating."

The Persian Gulf-Black Sea corridor fits well into India's plans as it looks for additional ro-

PROPOSED TRADE ROUTE

The Persian Gulf-Black Sea corridor fits well into India's plans as it looks for additional routes to reach Europe, circumventing the Suez Canal and avoiding the negative impact of Russia-West confrontation

utes to reach Europe, circumventing the Suez Canal and avoiding the negative impact of Russia-West confrontation. The corridor itself may connect Iran with Georgia via either Armenia or Azerbaijan. Armenia and Azerbaijan have railway and highway connections with Georgia, and Azerbaijan has a railroad up to the Azerbaijan-Iran border.

There is a missing link of some 165 km inside Iran (the Rasht-Astara line) to connect Azerbaijani and Iranian railways. In January 2023, Russia and Iran agreed to launch the construction with Russian funding. Azerbaijan also has a highway connection with Iran, Poghosyan explained.

Context: Armenia has proposed a **Persian Gulf-Black Sea corridor** to connect Indian traders with Russia and Europe.

- The proposed corridor - which will run parallel to the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** - will aim to connect Mumbai with Bandar Abbas in Iran and then Armenia and onward to Europe or Russia, bypassing Azerbaijan with whom India has lukewarm ties amid its close association with Turkey and Pakistan.

Persian Gulf - Black Sea corridor

- **About**: It is a **transport and transit corridor project** proposed and created by Iran.
- **Route**: The corridor project **starts from the Persian Gulf** and southern Iran, heads north across the country, and then continues to Armenia, from where it reaches the Georgian ports of Poti and Batumi in the Black Sea.
    - From there, Ro-Ro ships **cross the Black Sea to the Bulgarian ports of Burgas and Varna**, after which the goods are again sent by road to Greece and on to the European Union.



BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

ANTI-MONEY LAWS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

Politically exposed persons, NPOs face tighter PMLA rules

Reporting cap for beneficial owners lowered to 10%

SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 9 March

Tightening its oversight of non-profit organisations (NPOs) and politically exposed persons (PEPs), the government has lowered the threshold for reporting "beneficial ownership" in an entity to 10 per cent from 25 per cent under anti-money laundering laws.

Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), a "beneficial owner" is defined as an individual who owns or controls those engaged in financial transactions with a reporting entity.

Further, it has expanded the due diligence requirement for these two entities. These include submitting details such as the names of persons holding senior management positions, partners, beneficiaries, trustees, settlers, and authors, as the case may be, depending on the form of the organisation.



ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

- Reporting entities such as banks are mandated to identify beneficial owners
- Earlier, such beneficial owners had to be disclosed if they held 25% or above in entities
- Due diligence requirements also widened for them
- New rules came into effect on March 7

Beneficial owner is a person who ultimately owns or controls a client and/or the person on whose behalf transaction is being conducted

'A STEP BACK': TIGHTENED NORMS PUT CRYPTO INVESTORS IN A SPOT P9

So far, due diligence was limited to obtaining the basic KYCs of these entities such as registration certificates, PAN card copies, and documents of officers holding power of attorney to transact on behalf of the client. The finance ministry, through a notification on March 7, brought in the amendments under the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Amendment Rules, 2023. It prescribes disclosures from clients as part of due diligence to be observed by reporting entities (such as financial institutions, banking companies, or intermediaries).

Non-profit organisations are for religious and charitable purposes. Turn to Page 5

Context: Tightening its oversight of nonprofit organisations (NPOs) and **politically exposed persons (PEPs),** the government has lowered the threshold for reporting " beneficial ownership" in an to 10 percent from cent under anti money laws.

- The finance ministry brought in the amendments under the **Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Amendment Rules, 2023.**

Key Points

- Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), a " **beneficial owner"** is defined as an individual who owns or controls those engaged in financial transactions with a reporting entity.
  - It has **expanded** the due diligence requirement for these two entities.
  - These include **submitting details** such as the names of persons holding senior management positions, partners, beneficiaries, trustees, settlers, and authors, as the case may be, depending on the form of the organisation.
  - So far, due diligence was **limited to obtaining the basic KYCs** of these entities such as registration certificates, PAN card copies, and documents of officers holding power of attorney to transact on behalf of the client.
- The rules prescribes disclosures from clients as part of **due diligence to be observed by reporting entities** (such as financial institutions, banking companies, or intermediaries).
- **Nonprofit organisations** are for religious and charitable purposes.
- **PEPs** are individuals entrusted with public functions by a foreign country through heads of state or government, senior politicians, government or judicial or military officers, executives of state owned corporations, and party functionaries.
  - These entities are **mandated to furnish information** on registered office addresses and principal places of business.
- **Reporting entities** were required to register clients such as nonprofit organisations on the **DARPAN portal of the NITI Aayog** and mandated to maintain registration records for five years from the closure of the business relationship or closure of accounts, whichever is later.

PIB MARCH 10

EXERCISE TROPEX
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

THEATRE LEVEL OPERATIONAL READINESS EXERCISE (TROPEX-23) INDIAN NAVY'S LARGEST WAR GAME

Context: Indian Navy's major Operational level **exercise TROPEX for the year 2023,** conducted across the expanse of IOR over a duration of four months from Nov 22 - Mar 23, culminated this week in the Arabian Sea.

- The overall exercise construct included Coastal Defence exercise Sea Vigil and the Amphibious Exercise AMPHEX.
- Together, these exercises also witnessed significant participation from the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force and the Coast Guard.

Exercise TROPEX-23

- **About**: TROPEX is conducted biennially and includes participation from **Indian Navy units, Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Coast Guard assets.**
- **Objective**:
  - To validate and refine the **Navy's Concept of Operations**, including operational logistics and interoperability with other services.
  - To test the **combat readiness** of the combined Fleets of the Indian Navy to operate in a multi-threat environment.
- **Execution**:
  - All surface combatants of the Indian Navy including Destroyers, Frigates, Corvettes as well as submarines and aircraft are put through complex maritime operational deployments.
  - The exercise is being **conducted in different phases**, both in harbour and at sea, encompassing various facets of combat operations, including live weapon firings.
- **Benefits**:
  - Provides an **opportunity to test the combat readiness** of the combined Fleets of the Indian Navy to operate in a multi-threat environment.
  - **Facilitates operational level interaction** with the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and the Coast Guard, which will further strengthen interoperability and joint operations in a complex environment.

THE HINDU

Page 6

MIMEUSEMIA CEYLONICA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Long-lost moth species caught on camera in T.N. forest

P. Sudhakar
TIRUNELVELI

Two researchers from Tamil Nadu have spotted a rare moth species for the first time in India in the buffer zone of the Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) after it was last sighted 127 years ago – at Trincomalee in Sri Lanka in 1893.

Interestingly, the researchers, Thalavaipandi Subbaiah of Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and Prashanth Prakhalathan of Tamil Nadu Wetland Mission, are the first in the world to photograph the moth species *Mimeusemia ceylonica*, as only an illustration of the insect existed previously. Recognising this feat, international peer-reviewed journal on animal science, *Species*, had published an article on their work in February.

Mimeusemia ceylonica is a moth species belonging to the subfamily Agaristinae and family Noctuidae. It was first illustrated and described by English entomologist George Hampson in 1893. The species was rediscovered during a moth survey conducted on October 11, 2020 at the Agasthyamalai Community-based Conservation Centre (ACCC) situated in the buffer zone of KMTR, Tirunelveli district, by Mr. Thalavaipandi and Mr. Prashanth.



In a flash: Moth *Mimeusemia ceylonica*, which was rediscovered in Tirunelveli district in 2020. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After spotting the moth in the same area on November 5, 2021, Mr. Thalavaipandi again sighted it at the Vallanaadu Blackbuck Sanctuary in Thoothukudi district on November 5, 2022.

"After the first record in Trincomalee many years ago, no one spotted the moth until we saw it in 2020 in India. There is deficient data about the history of this species. We could see only one moth on all these occasions and not as a pair and hence we did not try to do genitalia dissection to study it further," Mr. Thalavaipandi said.

On the significance of the spotting of *Mimeusemia ceylonica* in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts, Mr. Thalavaipandi said it was "testimony to the rich biodiversity of this region".

"We have recorded around 300 moth species in ATREE premises near the Manimuthar Dam alone and hence there should be numerous moth species around us. Governments should encourage studies on moths as there are very few studies on them in comparison to species such as butterfly," he says.

Context: Two researchers from Tamil Nadu have spotted **a rare moth species, Mimeusemia ceylonica, for the first time in India** in the buffer zone of Kalakkad–Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) after it was last sighted 127 years ago - at Trincomalee in Sri Lanka in 1893.

- Mimeusemia ceylonica is a moth species **belonging to the subfamily Agaristinae** and family Noctuidae.
- It was first illustrated and described by English entomologist George Hampson in 1893.

Moth Species

- Moths are a **group of insects** that includes all members of the order Lepidoptera that are not butterflies.
- They were previously classified as suborder Heterocera, but the **group is paraphyletic** with respect to butterflies (suborder Rhopalocera) and neither subordinate taxa are used modern classifications.
- Moths making up the vast majority of the order.
- There are thought to be approximately **160,000 species of moth,** many of which have yet to be described.
- Most species of moth are **nocturnal**, but there are also crepuscular and diurnal species.
- Moths, like butterflies, bees and other more popularly recognized pollinating insects, serve an **essential role as pollinators** for many flowering plants, including species that bees do not visit.

DTE

MARCH 10

GLOBAL FOOD EMISSIONS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

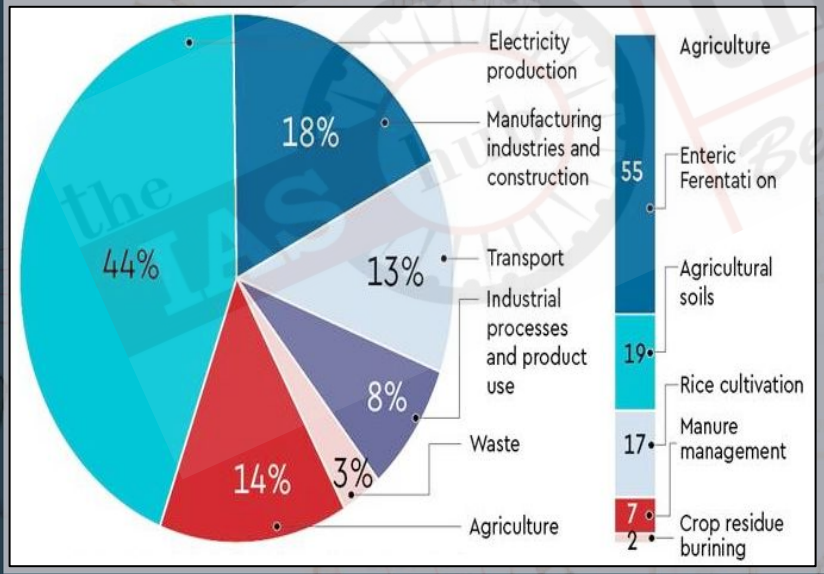


Global food emissions alone can push warming beyond 1.5°C

Around 80% of future warming from food consumption will be from meat, rice and dairy products

NEXT NEWS >

By Shagun
Published: Thursday 09 March 2023



Context: Food emissions alone could push global warming beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels if the current dietary patterns and agricultural production practices continue through the end of the century, according to a new study.

- This additional warming is enough to **surpass the 1.5°C global warming target** and approach the 2°C threshold established by the Paris Agreement.

Key Points

- Around **80 per cent of future warming from food consumption** will be from meat, rice and dairy products - notably high-methane food groups.
- **Methane** is responsible for a majority of the projected increase in global temperature, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the warming associated with food consumption by the end of the century.
- About 20 percent of the end-century warming is attributed each to carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emission.
- **Consumption of dairy and meat** was found to be responsible for more than half of the warming by 2030 and through to 2100.
- **Rice contributed to 19 percent of end-of-century warming** and vegetables, grains, seafood, oils, beverages, eggs, fruit and all other uncategorised food items each contributed five per cent or less.

Global food systems emissions

- **Human food systems** across the world emit more than transportation (14 percent of global GHG emissions) and energy use in buildings (16 per cent).
    - **Food systems** refer to the complete process ranging from food production and consumption to its distribution and disposal.
- **Emissions from food practices** are almost as much as industry (21 per cent) and electricity production (25 percent).
- The food practices of human beings account for 21-37 per cent of the total volume of **greenhouse gases (GHG)** emitted every year due to human activities.
- **Plants remove carbon dioxide** from the atmosphere through photosynthesis, but they also release large amounts of the gas when decomposing.
- **Felling of trees** to make way for farms and pastures removes a major carbon sink. Operation of farm machinery using fossil fuels, or manufacture of agrochemicals and fertilisers also emit GHGs.
- **Reducing land-use change** and conversion of natural habitat alone could lower emissions by 4.6 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO2e).

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 9

PROPYLENE GLYCOL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

India prohibits use of propylene glycol supplied by firm linked to Uzbek deaths

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, MARCH 9

INDIA DIRECTED drug manufacturers to stop using propylene glycol sourced from a Delhi-based firm that supplied the ingredient to Marion Biotech, whose cough syrups were linked to deaths of 19 children in Uzbekistan, according to a government document seen by Reuters.

Uzbekistan said in December that the children died after consuming Marion's cough syrups, Ambronol and DOK-1 Max, which were contaminated with unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol or ethylene glycol.

Uzbekistan said in December that the children died after consuming Marion's cough syrups

This month, three Marion employees were arrested after tests in a government laboratory found 22 of 36 syrup samples "adulterated and spurious".

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on Tuesday sent a letter to all licensing authorities stating that Delhi-based Maya Chemtech was "mainly" the supplier of the propylene glycol used in the affected batches.

"Accordingly, you are requested to instruct your enforcement officials to keep strict vigil on the matter and take stringent action against the offenders in public interest," the DCGI said in the letter.

The company did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

The Uzbekistan incident came close on the heels of a similar one in Gambia, where a parliamentary committee linked the deaths of at least 70 children to cough and cold syrups manufactured by New Delhi-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals.

For sale domestically

What are the checks in place to ensure the safety of drugs in India?

The CDSCO and state drugs regulators are responsible for ensuring quality of drugs that are manufactured, sold or distributed in Indian markets.

Context: India directed drug manufacturers to stop using **propylene glycol** sourced from the Delhi-based firm that supplied the ingredient to Marion Biotech, whose cough syrups were linked to deaths of 19 children in Uzbekistan.

- In December 2022, the **children died after consuming Marion's cough syrups**, Ambronol and DOK-1 Max, which were contaminated with unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol or ethylene glycol.

Propylene glycol

- **About:** Propylene glycol is a **food additive.**
  - It carries flavours in food and beverages, helps retain taste.
- **Characteristics**: Propylene glycol is a **synthetic liquid substance** that absorbs water.
  - Propylene glycol is clear, colorless, slightly syrupy liquid at room temperature.
  - It may **exist in air in the vapor form,** although propylene glycol must be heated or briskly shaken to produce a vapor.
  - Propylene glycol is practically **odorless and tasteless.**
- **Usage**: Propylene glycol is **used to make polyester compounds,** and as a base for deicing solutions.
  - Propylene glycol is used by the **chemical, food, and pharmaceutical industries** as an antifreeze when leakage might lead to contact with food.
  - The **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has classified propylene glycol as an additive that is "generally recognized as safe" for use in food.
  - It is used to **absorb extra water** and maintain moisture in certain medicines, cosmetics, or food products.
  - It is a **solvent for food colors and flavors,** and in the paint and plastics industries.
  - Propylene glycol is also **used to create artificial smoke** or fog used in fire-fighting training and in theatrical productions.
  - It is also used as a **drug solubilizer, an excipient.**

DTE

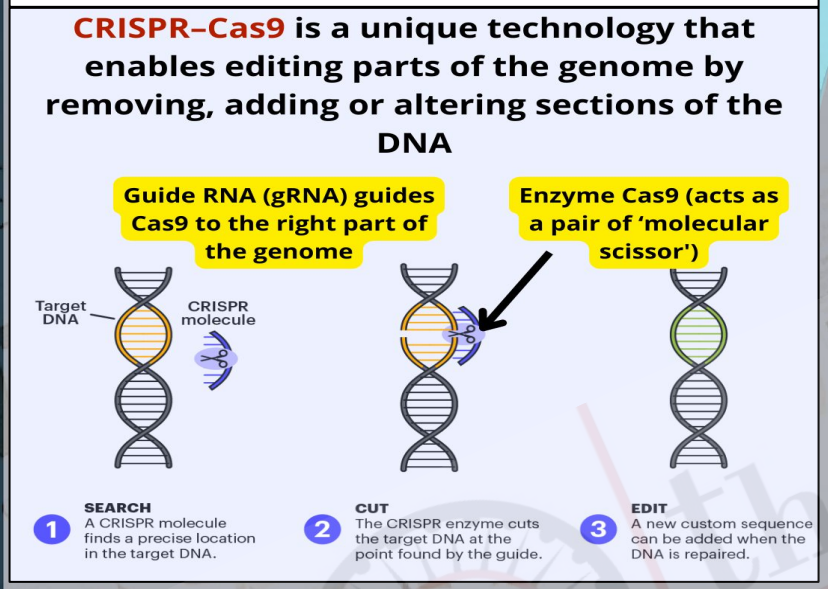
MARCH 10

GENE EDITING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Gene-editing in embryos is concerning. New study shows why

Extensive copying of genetic information from one parent to another due to CRISPR could give rise to mutant copies of disease-causing genes in embyo



- The **gene-edited embryo** should be tested before it is transferred into the uterus. Scientists do this by collecting a small sample from a few or even a single cell. It is then multiplied millions of times using whole genome amplification.
  - **Whole genome amplification** is a technology that helps increase the amount of DNA samples.
  - This technology can reduce the accuracy of genetic testing.
- The researchers proposed an **alternative method** that uses stem cells from gene-edited embryos.
- **Stem cells** can develop into any functional cells, such as skin cells, muscle cells, liver cells or brain cells.
- As these stem cells grow indefinitely, they can **provide ample DNA material for testing.**

Context: A Chinese scientist stirred up a hornet's nest by announcing the birth of gene-edited twins in 2018.

- A new study warns of the **consequences of deploying a technology that is still less understood.**
- Deleting harmful disease-causing mutations by **gene editing could be counterproductive.**

Key Points

- **CRISPR** can target and edit DNA at precise locations. The Chinese scientist used CRISPR to make the embryos resistant to the human immunodeficiency virus.
- **Gene editing** can be divided into two classes.
  - One involves **changing genes in human cells.** This method does not alter reproductive cells, such as sperms or eggs. It can be used to treat diseases caused by mutations.
  - The second method **alters the genome of human embryos**. These altered genes can be passed on to future descendants, raising ethical concerns. The Chinese scientist used the latter in his experiment on the twins.
- Humans possess **two versions of a particular gene** received from each parent.
  - If a child gets a **recessive disease-causing gene** from one parent and a dominant healthy version of the same gene from the other, they could still be protected.
- CRISPR could **lead to extensive gene copying** from one parent to the other.
  - The extensive copying of genetic information from one parent to another due to CRISPR could give **rise to two mutant copies of the disease-causing gene** in the embryo.
  - This significantly increased the risk of diseases.

PIB MARCH 10

WINS AWARDS 2023

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Role of Women)

First Edition of Women Icons Leading Swacchata (WINS) Awards 2023 Launched By MoHUA

Context: To highlight the impact of women in sanitation and waste management, the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs announced the **'Women Icons Leading Swachhata' (WINS) Awards 2023** on 7th March 2023, on the eve of International Women's Day.

Key Points

- **About**: The WINS Awards 2023 aim to recognize celebrate and disseminate inspiring and exemplary initiatives in **urban sanitation and waste management by women led organizations** and individual women.
- **Applications for the Awards are open to:** (i) Self-Help Groups (SHGs) (ii) Micro-enterprises, (iii) Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), (iv) Startups and (v) Individual Women Leaders/Swachhata champions.
- **Applications will be considered under the thematic areas of:** (i) Management of Community/Public Toilets (ii) Septic Tanks Cleaning Services (iii) Treatment Facilities (Used Water/Septage) (iv) Municipal Water collection and /or Transportation (v) Operation of Material Recovery Facilities (vi) Waste to Wealth products (vii) Treatment Facilities (Solid Waste Management) (viii) IEC, Training, Capacity Building (ix) Technology and Intervention and (x) Others.
- **Process**: The Application Form will be made **available to all States.**
    - States & Cities will **publicize details of WINS Awards 2023** via their website, portals, and social media.
        - Citizens are invited to apply.
        - A suggested application format has been provided by MoHUA.
    - **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** will evaluate entries & nominate up to 5 applicants to the State via the Swachhatam portal.
        - ULBs can organize public felicitation of their nominees as city winners. ULB wise nominations will be evaluated at the State level. Up to 3 entries in each category will be nominated by the State to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
        - State can organize public felicitation of nominees as State winners.
        - State nominations will be evaluated at the national level on their innovativeness, impact, uniqueness, sustainability & replicability.
    - At the **national level**, the MoHUA team will set up a Jury to evaluate the applications and select winners in each category.
        - The Jury shall comprise of stakeholders from cities and States, independent experts, brand ambassadors, influencers and industry representatives. **Winning entries will be featured in a compendium.**

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