

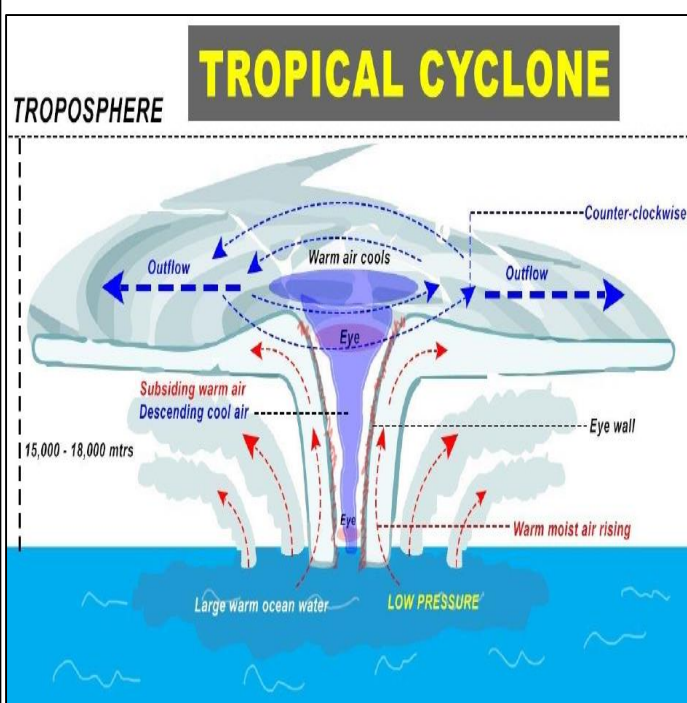
Cyclone Mocha

❖ Context

- **West Bengal and Odisha** are bracing for Cyclone Mocha, the first cyclone to hit the country in 2023, as the weather office has predicted **heavy rains and high-speed winds over the region in coming days.**
- The cyclonic storm will **move initially north-northwest to central Bay of Bengal** till May 11, 2023 and then re-curve and **move north-northeast towards Bangladesh-Myanmar coast.**

❖ Formation of Tropical Cyclone:

- Cyclones are a type of low-pressure environment with rapid inward air circulation.
- Tropical cyclones occur **near the equator** over warm ocean water.
- Usually, a high temperature anywhere means the existence of low-pressure air, and a low temperature means high-pressure wind.
- As **air gets warm** over hotter regions it **ascends**, leading to low pressure at the surface it is covering.
- When **air cools** in colder areas it **descends**, leading to high pressure at the surface.
- In a depression or low-pressure situation, the air rises and blows in an **anticlockwise direction** around the low in the **northern hemisphere** and in a **clockwise direction** in the **southern hemisphere.**
- This is because of the **Coriolis effect**, a result of the earth's rotation on its axis.
- As warm air rises and cools, water vapour **condenses to form clouds** and this can lead to rains.



- A tropical storm occurs when winds exceed 63 miles per hour, and a tropical cyclone or hurricane occurs when winds reach 119 miles per hour.
- Weather systems formed over the Bay of Bengal in the peak of summer in May are among the strongest in the North Indian Ocean region.

❖ Naming of the Tropical Cyclones:

- In 2000, a group of nations called **WMO/ESCAP** (World Meteorological Organization / United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) **decided to start naming cyclones in the region.**
 - This group of nations comprises **Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.**
- After each country sent in suggestions, the **WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) finalized the list.**
- The WMO/ESCAP expanded to include five more countries in 2018 - **Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.**
- The list of 169 cyclone names released by IMD in April 2020 were provided by these countries - 13 suggestions from each of the 13 countries.
- This cyclone will be named Mocha (Mokha), a name suggested by Yemen after the Red Sea port city, which is known to have introduced coffee to the world over 500 years ago.
- **Significance :**
 - It becomes **easier for people to remember**, as opposed to numbers and technical terms.
 - It is **easy to identify individual cyclones, create awareness of its development, and rapidly disseminate warnings** to increase community preparedness.
- **Side Note :**
 - Local Name of Cyclone :
 - Hurricanes – In the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific.
 - Typhoons – In Southeast Asia.
 - Cyclone - In the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific around Australia.

Title 42

❖ Context

- The United States is getting ready to lift COVID-19 restrictions that have blocked migrants caught at the U.S.-Mexico border from seeking asylum since 2020, a **major policy shift with humanitarian and political implications.**



❖ About Title 42:

- The COVID restrictions, known as **Title 42**, were first **implemented under Republican then-President Donald Trump in March 2020** at the beginning of the pandemic.
- At the time, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the order was needed to **stem the spread of the coronavirus** in crowded detention settings.
- Title 42 allowed border agents to **rapidly expel many migrants to Mexico.**
- Some public health experts, Democrats and advocates criticized its health justification, saying it was part of Trump's goal of curbing legal and illegal immigration.
- Since its inception, migrants have been **expelled more than 2.7 million times under Title 42.**

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR** : 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR**: 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH** PRAYAGRAJ: 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW** (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW** (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA**: 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR**: 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR** : 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA** **BHUBANESWAR**: 9818244644/7656949029



dhyeyaias.com

Arab League

❖ Context

- Recently, the Arab League voted to **reinstate Syria's membership after its suspension more than 10 years ago**, underlining the thawing relations between Damascus and other Arab countries.
- Syria was ousted from the Arab League in 2011 following President Bashar al-Assad's brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protests, which led to the ongoing civil war in the country.

❖ Arab League:

- The Arab League, formally known as the League of Arab States, was **established with initially just six nations: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria**.
- It was **formed in Cairo on March 22, 1945**, following adoption of the **Alexandria Protocol in 1944**.
- **Administration Center** : Cairo, Egypt.
- Currently, it has **22 member states**, who have pledged to cooperate on economic and military affairs, among other issues.
- The League makes decisions on a majority basis, but there is no mechanism to compel members to comply with resolutions.
- Each member has **one vote on the League Council**, decisions being binding only on those states that have voted for them. It has been criticised for its internal conflicts and collective inaction on important international issues.



Ecuadorian Bonds in a Debt-for-Nature Swap

❖ Context

- Credit Suisse, a Swiss bank, has purchased \$1.6 billion worth of Ecuadorian bonds in a debt-for-nature swap.



❖ Key Highlights:

- This agreement commits Ecuador to spend \$18 million annually for the next 20 years on conservation efforts in the **Galapagos Islands**, a UNESCO world heritage site known for its unique ecosystem and its importance in Charles Darwin's research on evolution.
- The swap was completed at a cost of \$644 million, less than half the original value of the bonds.

❖ About Galpagos Islands:

- The Galapagos Islands, officially known as the **Archipiélago de Colón**, are a group of volcanic islands situated in the **Pacific Ocean**.
- They are part of the country of Ecuador and are located about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off its coast.
- The archipelago consists of **18 main islands, 3 smaller islands, and 107 rocks and islets**.
- The Galapagos Islands are renowned for their unique and diverse ecosystems, which have played a significant role in the **field of evolutionary biology**.
- The islands boast a remarkable array of plant and animal species, many of which are endemic and found nowhere else on Earth.
- These include the iconic **Galapagos giant tortoises, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, Galapagos penguins**, and various species of Darwin's finches, among others.

- The marine life surrounding the islands is equally extraordinary, with diverse marine species, including **hammerhead sharks, sea turtles, and colorful fish**.
- Due to their exceptional biodiversity and pristine ecosystems, the Galapagos Islands were declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1978.



Face to Face Centres



Territorial Army

❖ Context

- Recently, the Union Ministry of Defence amended the cadre management provisions for women officers in the Territorial Army.



❖ Key Highlights:

- The amendment allows women officers to be posted along the Line of Control (LOC) and expands their career opportunities within the organization.
- The **Territorial Army (TA)** was established in **1948** as a replacement for the Indian Defence Force and the Indian Territorial Force.
- The TA is led by a **Lieutenant General-ranking officer** and falls under the supervision of the **Chief of Defence Staff**. It consists of two units: a departmental unit comprising ex-servicemen and public sector undertakings, and a non-departmental unit consisting of privately employed citizens.
- The TA's primary role is to relieve the **regular army from monotonous duties** and assist civil administration during natural calamities and essential services maintenance.

- It also provides units to the regular army when needed and has actively participated in **various wars and operations**. Women officers were first enlisted in the **Territorial Army in 2019** and initially assigned to ecological task force units, **TA oil sector units**, and **TA railway engineer regiments**.

❖ Significance of This Amendment:

- The recent amendment **expands the role of women officers**, allowing them to be posted with engineer regiments along the Line of Control.
- Women officers can also serve as staff officers at TA Group Headquarters/Directorate General of Territorial Army in New Delhi, based on organizational requirements.
- This amendment is a significant step **towards gender equality** in the military and enhances the career prospects of women officers in the Territorial Army.

Democratic Republic of Congo

❖ Context

- The number of fatalities resulting from recent flooding and landslides in the Democratic Republic of Congo has now reached a minimum of 401.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **Location:** The DRC is situated in the heart of Africa and shares borders with several countries including **Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan**.
- **Capital:** **Kinshasa**, located on the banks of the Congo River. It is the largest city in the country and serves as its political, administrative, and economic center.
- **History:** The DRC gained independence from **Belgium** on June 30, 1960.
- **Natural Resources:** The DRC is rich in natural resources, including vast mineral deposits such as **copper, cobalt, gold, diamonds, and coltan**.

- **Wildlife and Environment:** It is known for its unique biodiversity, including endangered species like the mountain gorillas in **Virunga National Park**.



- **Important Rivers:** Congo River, M'pozo River, Ubangi River, Kasai River.
- **Important Lakes:** The Democratic Republic of Congo is home to several important lakes, including Lakes **Albert, Edward, Kivu, Tanganyika, and Mweru**.
- **Highest Mountain:** The highest mountain in the Democratic Republic of Congo is **Mt. Stanley**, located in the **Ruwenzori Range**.

News in Between the Lines

Kali Tiger Reserve



❖ Context

- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has requested a status report concerning an illicit resort located in the central area of the Uttara Kannada (North Canara) district in Karnataka, India.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The region was previously recognized as the **Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve**, consisting of the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park, both situated **within the Western Ghats**. The majestic Kali River flows through this area.
- The flora in the reserve includes a variety of species such as **bintangur, Calophyllum wightianum, Malabar tamarind, Garcinia morella, and more**.

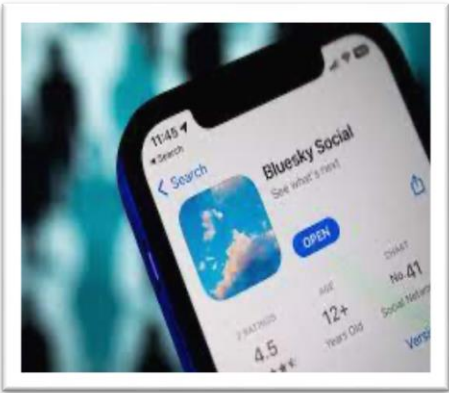
Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR** : 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR**: 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH** PRAYAGRAJ: 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW** (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW** (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA**: 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR**: 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR** : 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA** **BHUBANESWAR**: 9818244644/7656949029



dhyeyaias.com

Bluesky



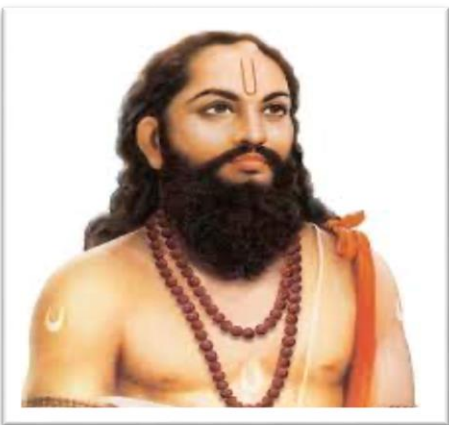
❖ Context

- Recently, Bluesky has come to the fore as a potential claimant to Twitter's throne.

❖ Bluesky:

- Bluesky is a micro-blogging platform and social web built on the **AT Protocol (Authenticated Transport Protocol)**.
- Bluesky might be classified as a Twitter competitor due to its founding team but is different in terms of its structure, as it is meant to form part of a decentralised ecosystem.
- **Users of apps built on the AT Protocol would be able to move between platforms without losing their followers, media, work, and data.**
- This account portability, as the feature is called, is a major part of the AT Protocol's structure.
- Bluesky says its founding mission is to "develop and drive large-scale adoption of technologies for open and decentralized public conversation."

Samarth Ramdas



❖ Context

- Jaggi Vasudev is the latest figure to have found himself at the centre of controversy by claiming that **Saint Samarth Ramdas was Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's "guru."**

❖ About Samarth Ramdas:

- Samarth Ramdas (circa 1608 – 1681), also known as Sant Ramdas or Ramdas Swami, was a **Hindu saint, philosopher, poet, writer and spiritual master.**
- A **devotee of Lord Ram and Hanuman**, he toured the entire Indian subcontinent for 12 years, during which he came across various spiritual teachers and diverse religious traditions.
- Ramdas has **influenced Hindu nationalist thinkers** across the years.
- The likes of **Lokmanya Tilak, RSS founder KB Hedgewar, and VD Savarkar**, all claimed to have been inspired by the 17th century saint.
- His paeon to **Lord Hanuman, Maruti Stotra**, is still commonly recited by school children as well as wrestlers akhadas across Maharashtra.

Orinoco Crocodile



❖ Context

- Venezuela's Orinoco Crocodile is on the brink of extinction.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Known to scientists as **Crocodylus intermedius**, the enormous reptile is native to the Orinoco basin that Venezuela shares with Colombia.
- It can grow to more than six meters (19.7 feet) in length and over 400 kilograms (882 pounds), making it one of the largest crocodiles in the world.
- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, it is **critically endangered**, having suffered an 80% population reduction in just 3-generations in the early and mid-1900s.

Sovereignty



❖ Context

- Recently, PM of India alleged that leaders of a political party has been "openly advocating" Karnataka's secession from the Indian Union and they want to protect the "sovereignty" of Karnataka.

❖ Meaning of 'Sovereignty':

Sovereignty is simply the idea of having supreme authority over a defined territory.

- From the 17th century onwards, Western philosophers used the concept to describe the supremacy of the state - along with its institutions such as the government, the judiciary, and parliament - over the people being governed.
- **'Sovereignty' in Indian Constitution:** The word sovereignty **appears in the beginning of the Preamble** to the Constitution of India, as the first attribute of the independent republic of India.
 - Its placement as the first among the core principles of the republic underlines its importance in the Constitution.
 - **Fundamental Duties- Article 51A(c)** states that it is the duty of all citizens "to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India."
 - It is also mentioned in the **oaths** for positions like the Chief Justices, Union Ministers and Members of Parliament under the Third schedule.

MCQ Quiz

Daily Current Affairs

Daily Pre PARE Daily

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR** : 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR**: 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH** PRAYAGRAJ: 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW** (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW** (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA**: 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR**: 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR** : 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA** BHUBANESWAR: 9818244644/7656949029



dhyeyaias.com