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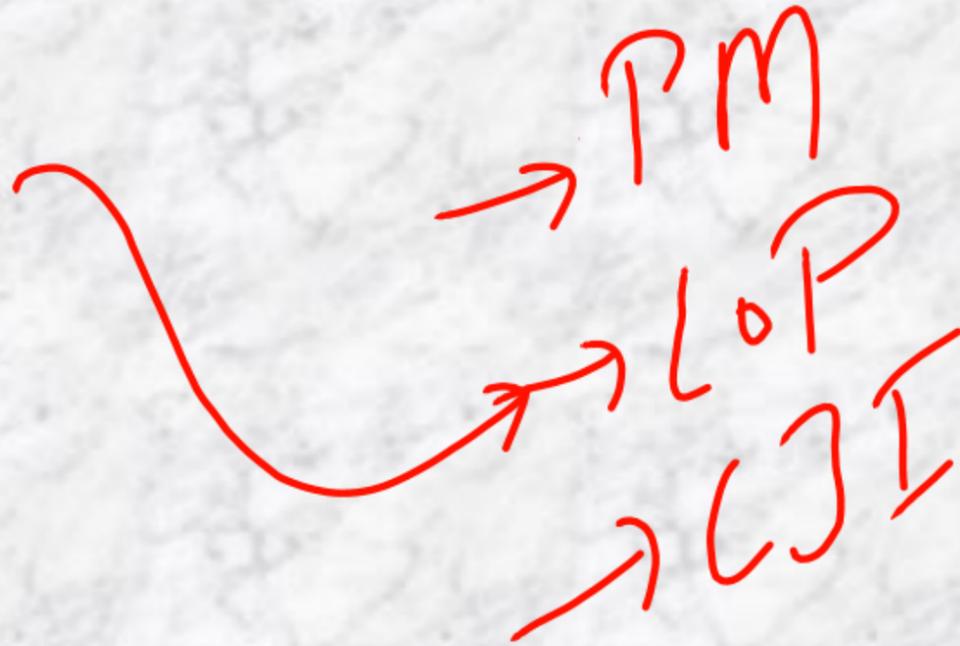
Questions for Practice

In the present times, the Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by the president on the recommendation of a selection committee. Who among the following are members of the Selection Committee?

1. Prime Minister ✓
2. Head of Indian National Congress
3. Union Cabinet Minister

Code:

- a. Only one ✓
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None



Questions for Practice

Consider the following statements regarding AFSPA

- ✓ 1. If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant.
- ✗ 2. A disturbed area can be declared only by the Union govt as per AFSPA.
- ✓ 3. Armed forces have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area under AFSPA

How many statements given above is/are correct?

a. Only one

✓ b. Only two

c. All three

d. None

Questions for Practice

Consider the following statements with respect to International Court of Justice

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nation ✗
2. In the ICJ, a person alleged of war crimes can be prosecuted ✗
3. It was established in the post cold war era. ✗

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None ✓

Questions for Practice

Windsor framework is an agreement between:

- a. India and Germany
- b. Germany and UK
- c. European Union and UK
- d. European Union and India

Questions for Practice

Recently a species called Dinoflagellate algae has been spotted in

a. Chilika lake

b. Kumbalgani → Kerala

c. North western Himalayas

d. Bay of Bengal

Questions for Practice

How many of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Mount Merapi - Japan

2. Aleppo - Syria

3. Sanliurfa - Turkey

4. Odessa - Ukraine

Code

a. Only one

b. Only two

c. Only three ✓

d. All four

Model Prisons Act 2023

- **“Prisons”/ “persons detained therein” is a “State List” subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.**
- **The Model Act is a comprehensive document which covers all relevant aspects of prison management, viz. security, safety, scientific & technological interventions, segregation of prisoners, special provision for women inmates, taking appropriate action against criminal activities of prisoners in the prison, grant of parole and furlough to prisoners, their education, vocational training and skill development, etc.**
- **It has appropriate provisions for reformation, rehabilitation and integration of prisoners in the society.**
- **It also has provision for ‘Welfare Programs for Prisoners’ and ‘After-Care and Rehabilitation Services’, as an integral part of institutional care**

Model Prisons Act 2023

- **The Model Act provides for classification and security assessment of prisoners and for lodging them in separate barracks/enclosures/cells in accordance with the assessment**
- **The Model Act provides that wherever there is no provision for a stand-alone High Security Prison, high risk offenders, hardened criminal and habitual offenders should be segregated and lodged in separate barracks or cells of the prison away from other prisoners in safe and secure custody.**
- **The Model Act also provides that the appropriate Government may establish and maintain as many open and semi-open correctional institutions for prisoners, as may be required.**

Model Prisons Act 2023

- **The Model Act provides that the appropriate Government may establish such number of exclusive prisons for women prisoners as it may consider necessary.**
- **It also provides for making available facilities to meet any specific needs of women inmates.**
- **The Act also provides that separate enclosures/wards for transgender prisoners may be provided and access to any specific health-care or psychosocial needs may also be provided.**

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2023

- Released by : Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- Frequency: Annual ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- India's Position: 161/180 (2023), 150/180 (2022), 142/180 (2021)
- Norway, Ireland and Denmark occupied the top three positions in press freedom, while Vietnam, China and North Korea constituted the bottom three.
- RSF is an International NGO whose self-proclaimed aim is to defend and promote media freedom. Headquartered in Paris, it has consultative status with the United Nations
- Five Indicators: political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and safety. ✓

GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) 2023

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd is one of India's premier defence shipyards and a Category 1 Mini Ratna Company**
- **It has embarked on a mission to identify and encourage the development of innovative solutions towards technological advances in shipbuilding by Startups.**
- **As part of this drive, the Company launched GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme - 2023 or "GAINS 2023" in Kolkata today leverage the eco-system that addresses present and emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry.**
- **The 'GAINS 2023' Challenge is a two-stage process to help generate a large number of ideas from which a few promising ones may be selected and nurtured.**

GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) 2023

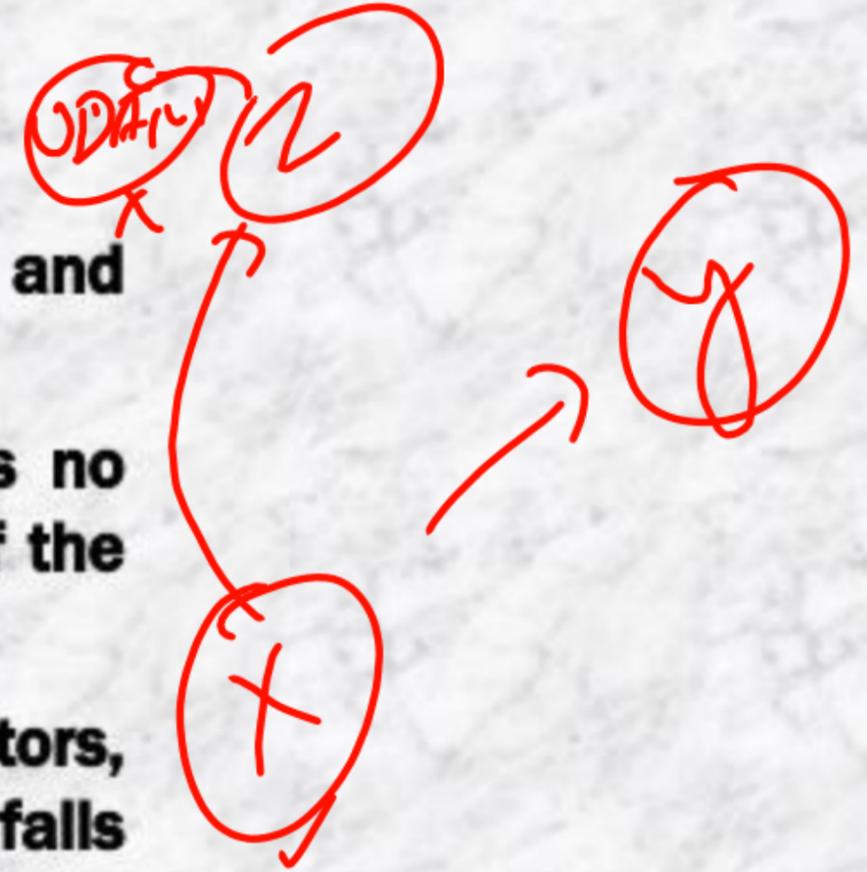
- **In the first stage, participating entitles/firms/Individuals would only be required to submit short illustrated and written submissions with sufficient detail to clarify a required degree of understanding of the chosen problem/solution.**
- **This should also be accompanied by a rough order of cost and justification of professional qualification/ competence required to successfully implement the proposal.**

UDAN 5.1

- **UDAN 1.0: 5 airlines companies were awarded 128 flight routes to 70 airports (including 36 newly made operational airports)**
- **UDAN 2.0: 73 underserved and unserved airports were announced and for the first time, heliports were also connected.**
- ✓ **UDAN 3.0: In coordination with the Ministry of Tourism, Tourism Routes were included. In addition to Seaplanes for connecting Water Aerodromes, several routes in the North-East Region came under the ambit of the scheme.**
- **UDAN 4.0: Gave impetus to North-Eastern Regions, Hilly States, and Islands. The operation of helicopters and seaplanes incorporated.**

UDAN 5.1

- UDAN 5.0 where the focus is on Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats) aircraft.
- Similarly, the cap of 600 km has been removed and there is no restriction on the distance between the origin and destination of the flight
- One key update is the expanded operational scope for operators, allowing routes where either the origin or destination location falls within a priority area. Previously, both points had to be in priority areas to qualify.
- Additionally, the scheme has reduced airfare caps by up to 25 percent to make helicopter travel more affordable for passengers.



Laundromat Countries

- "Laundromat" countries are nations that purchase cheap crude oil from Russia, convert it into refined petroleum products, and then "launder" these in Europe and other G7 countries.
- According to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), the five "laundromat" countries are: India, China, Turkey, UAE, Singapore.
- These countries are responsible for 70% of Russia's crude oil exports.
- The "laundromat" countries have openly bypassed the sanctions that were imposed by the West on Russia.
- As a result, these countries have been purchasing crude oil from Russia at a cheaper price.
- In 2022, India emerged as the leading exporter of refined oil products at 3.7 million tonnes to Price Cap Coalition countries. This is an increase of 0.3 million tonnes from 2021.

Laundromat Countries

- The Price Cap Coalition (PCC), composed of Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, the UK, and the US,
- They have introduced three different price caps, which are currently in force and subject to periodic revision.
- The mechanism agreed by PCC set one price cap for Russian oil (3 December 2022) and two caps for petroleum products shipped to third countries (4 February 2023).
- This mechanism helps addressing inflation and keeping energy costs stable.
- The price caps prohibit operators from members of the PCC to trade, broker or transport petroleum products that originate in or that have been exported from Russia to third countries, unless they are sold at or below the price caps.
- They also prohibit the provision of services (e.g. insurance) or financial assistance related to this trading, brokering or transporting, unless the petroleum products are sold at or below the price caps

\$100

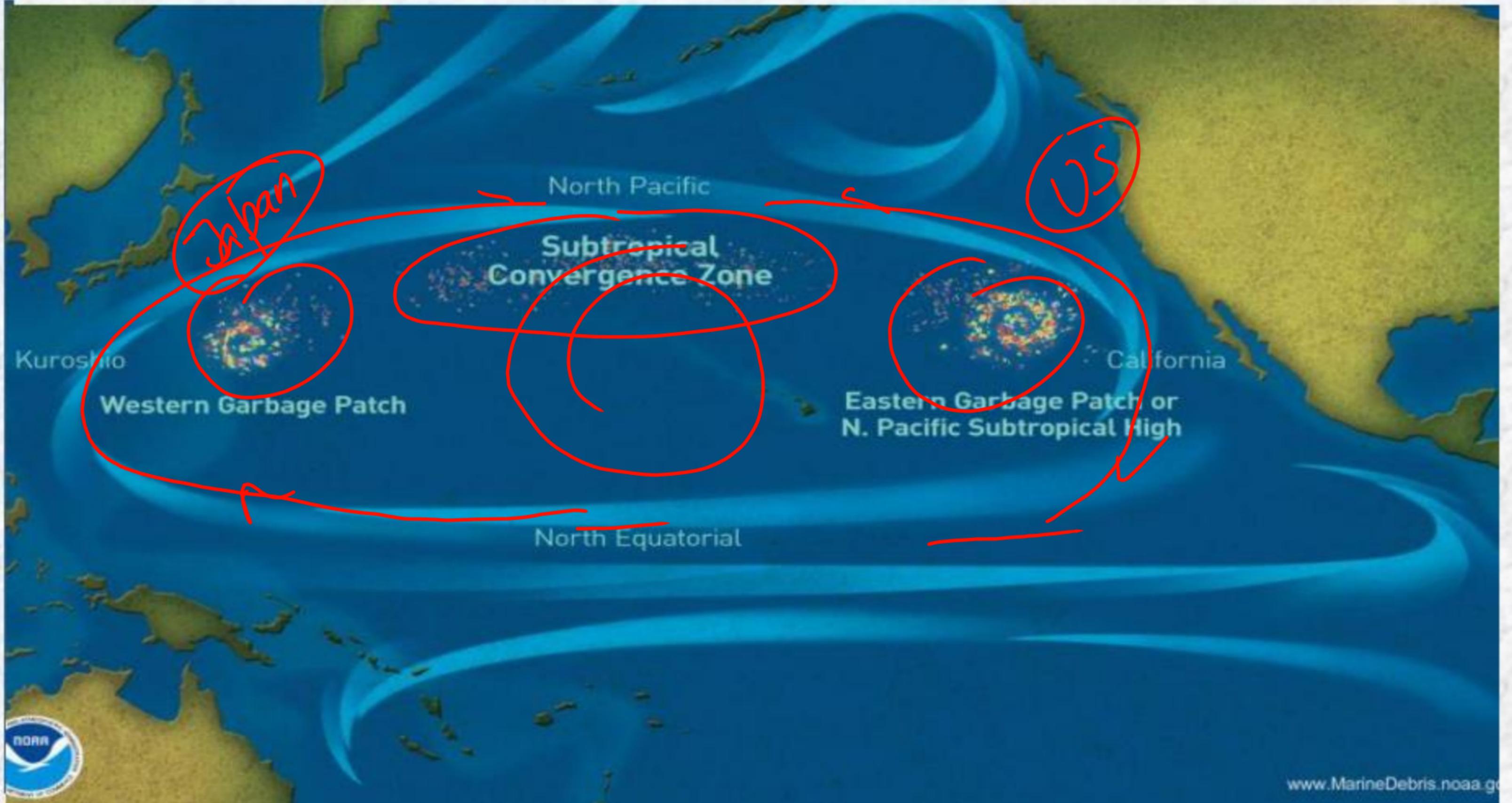
\$90

India

Great Pacific garbage patches

- **The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean.**
- **Also known as the Pacific trash vortex, the garbage patch is actually two distinct collections of debris bounded by the massive North Pacific Subtropical Gyre.**
- **The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, also known as the Pacific trash vortex, spans waters from the West Coast of North America to Japan.**
- **The patch is actually comprised of the Western Garbage Patch, located near Japan, and the Eastern Garbage Patch, located between the U.S. states of Hawaii and California**
- **The circular motion of the gyre draws debris into this stable center, where it becomes trapped.**

UPSC



Blue hole ✓

- The scientists found the second-deepest blue hole in the world in an unlikely place — the shallow Chetumal Bay located on the southeastern side of the Yucatan Peninsula.
- It has been named as Taam Ja' Blue Hole
- A blue hole is a vertical cave typically carved out of eroded limestone that opens onto the ocean floor with a rounded mouth
- A blue hole is actually a massive underwater sinkhole, which is hundreds of metres long and spans across areas that are bigger than cities and stands at a height of several skyscrapers.
- Blue holes form when seawater meets limestone. Since limestone is very porous, the water easily permeates the rock while the chemicals present in the water slowly eat the limestone away over time.

Blue hole

- **Reports have it that they are believed to have been formed in the Ice Age, when the sea level was as low as 100–120 m lower than current levels**
- **The deepest to date — the Dragon Hole in the South China Sea — measures 987 feet**
- **At such “anoxic” layers, only microbes specially suited to living an oxygen-free life can survive,**

Meri LiFE App

- MeriLiFE empowers individuals to lead a sustainable lifestyle by making pro-planet choices in their daily lives.
- The app is inspired by the concept of LiFE, introduced by the Honourable Prime Minister at COP 26,
- The concept of LiFE emphasizes mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and wasteful consumption.
- The Meri LiFE mobile application aims to enable a greater community of young people to emerge as Pro-Planet-Persons, changemakers and solution providers towards some of the greatest environmental problems we are confronted with today, through phygital mediums.
- Meri LiFE is a marketplace where young people can explore their interests, find Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability focused opportunities that match their interests, and sign up to act on issues that matter the most to them

→ Mission
LiFE
↓
Lifestyle
for
Environment

Bluebugging

- **Bluebugging is a hacking technique that allows attackers to access a device with a Bluetooth connection.**
- **Once the device accesses a compromised link, the attacker can take full control of it**
- **Bluebugging can target devices such as phones, tablets, laptops, and even earphones, speakers, and smartwatches.**
- **It's conducted by exploiting a security flaw in the Bluetooth protocol.**
- **Once a device is blue-bugged, the entire control of the phone is accessible to the hacker.**
- **The hackers can retrieve all the data including messages, calls, and sensitive information from the device.**

Space science and Technology Awareness Training (START)

- **ISRO has launched a new Introductory-level online training programme called 'Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START)'**
- **It is aimed at post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology.**
- **The programme will cover various domains of space science, including Astronomy & Astrophysics, Heliophysics & Sun-Earth Interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy.**
- **It will be delivered by the scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres.**

Space science and Technology AwaReness Training (START)

- **Eligibility of Candidates**
- **Category-1: Post-graduate students and final year under graduate students of physical sciences (Physics and Chemistry) and technology (e.g. Electronics, Computer Science, Mechanical, Applied Physics, Radiophysics, Optics & Opto-electronics, Instrumentation and other associated subjects) studying in Indian educational Institutes/Universities/Colleges are eligible to be considered for the training.**
- **Category-2: Interested Individual participants (including students who are not eligible / could not join through the category-1) of any background can directly register and attend the live sessions through Youtube Channel of IIRS**

India and Asian Development Bank: Country partnership strategy (CPS)

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched a new country partnership strategy (CPS) for India.**
- **The partnership will focus on deepening its engagement with the nation, while simultaneously supporting India's drive for robust, climate-resilient, and inclusive growth.**
- **It will also focus on accelerating structural transformation and job creation, promoting climate-resilient growth, and deepening social and economic inclusiveness, during its partnership period 2023-2027.**
- **ADB has announced to contribute to the nation's national flagship programmes on developing industrial corridors, multimodal logistics systems, urban infrastructure, skill ecosystem, and small businesses.**

India and Asian Development Bank: Country partnership strategy (CPS)

- **Asian Development Bank**
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a multilateral development bank that aims to reduce poverty in Asia and the Pacific.**
- **It was established in 1966 and is headquartered in the Philippines.**
- **It has 68 members, 49 from Asia and the Pacific and 19 from outside**
- **India is among the founding members of this Bank**
- **US and Japan (15.6% each) are the largest shareholders of ADB in non-borrowing category**
- **China (6.4%) and India (6.3%) are the largest shareholders of ADB in borrowing category**

The Nilgiri marten

- The Nilgiri marten (*Martes gwatkinsii*) is a rare, solitary, and elusive mammal found in southern India. It is the only species of marten native to India
- It is a rare species of marten endemic to the Western Ghats
- Nilgiri marten is known to inhabit five habitat clusters in the Western Ghats – Brahmagiri, Nilgiris, Anamalai, Cardamom Hills and Agasthyamalai
- The study showed that the maximum number of individuals inhabit Shola ecosystems, typically semi-evergreen forests, evergreen forests and forest patches interspersed with grasslands and plantations.
- Martens are small carnivores. The Nilgiri marten is a skilled hunter that eats rodents, birds, and insects.
- Scientific estimates put the Nilgiri marten population at around 1,000.

The Nilgiri marten

- WPA: Schedule I / IV

- IUCN – Vulnerable

- CITES: Appendix III



Places in News: Sabang Port

- **Context: India and Indonesia have completed a joint feasibility study on developing the strategically valuable Sabang port**
- **Sabang Port, which is located in the province of Aceh, is roughly 700 km from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
- **The successful development of this vital port would allow India easier access to the Malacca Straits.**
- **Malacca Strait is a narrow stretch of the sea between Indonesia and Malaysia and one of six chokepoints along the world's maritime trading routes.**





KHAN GLOBAL STUDIES

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