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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Consider the following statements with respect to Graphene:

1. It conducts electricity better than copper. ✓
2. It is impermeable to gases, even those as light as hydrogen and helium.
3. Graphene can also protect us against chemical and biological attacks.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Which of the following best describes the term Goldilocks Scenario in Economics?

- a. A situation where inflation and unemployment are not reducing
- b. A point where the economy is running just perfectly
- c. A situation where the efforts of the Central Bank have no impact on money supply
- d. A situation where fiscal measures don't bring any positive change in economy

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Consider the following with respect to Global Initiative Digital Health

1. It was launched during the G20 presidency of India.

2. It will be managed by UNESCO

3. It will Facilitate the deliberate use of quality assured digital transformation tools that enable governments to manage their digital health transformation journey.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

a. Only one

b. Only two ✓

c. All three

d. None

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

The Term Fujiwhara Effect is related with:

- a. Economic policy
- b. Gravitational Waves
- c. Climate change
- d. Merger of Cyclones

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

The Sulina channel connect River Danube with

a. Caspian Sea

b. Black Sea

c. Mediterranean Sea

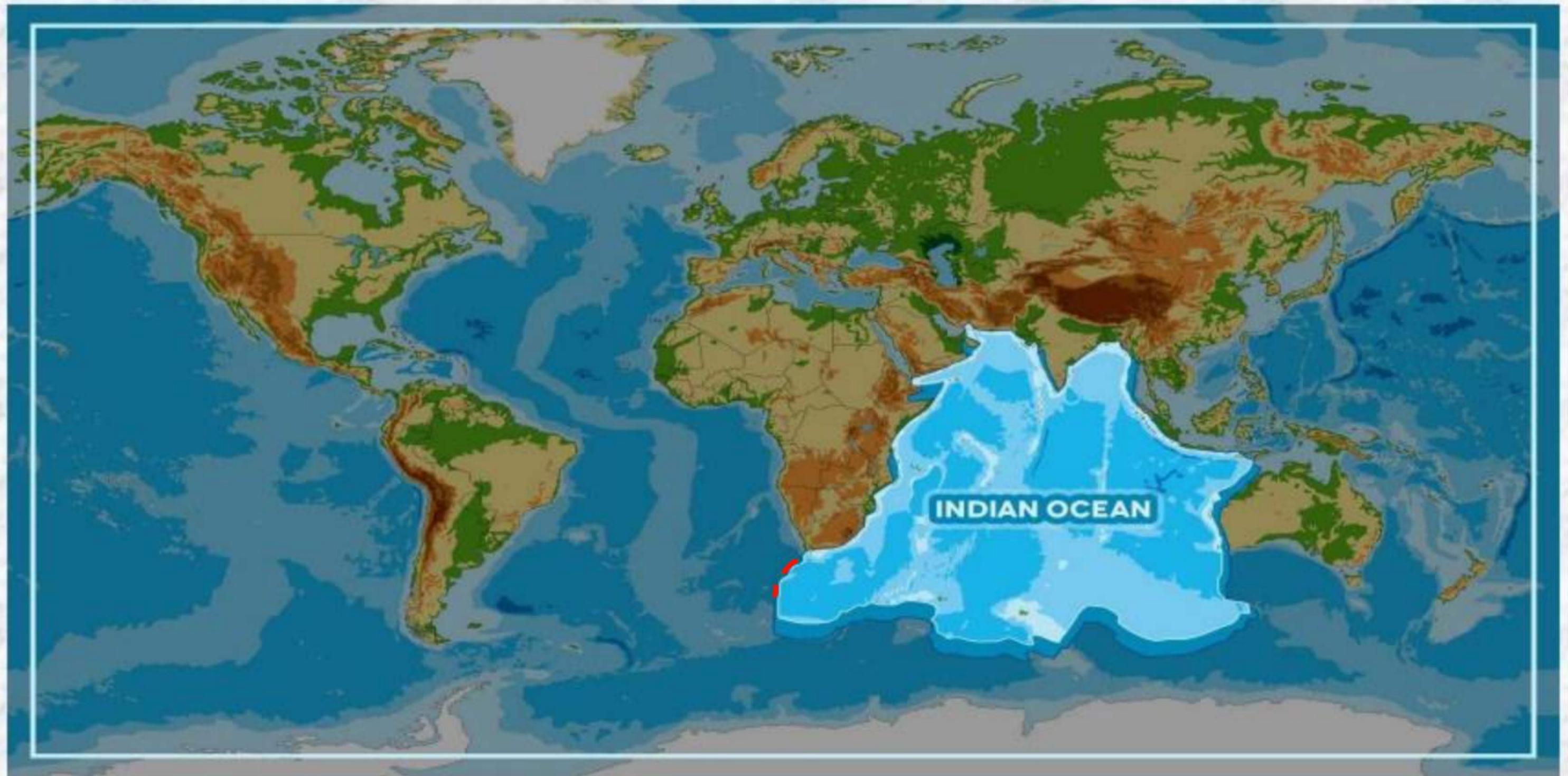
d. Red Sea

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

October
2023

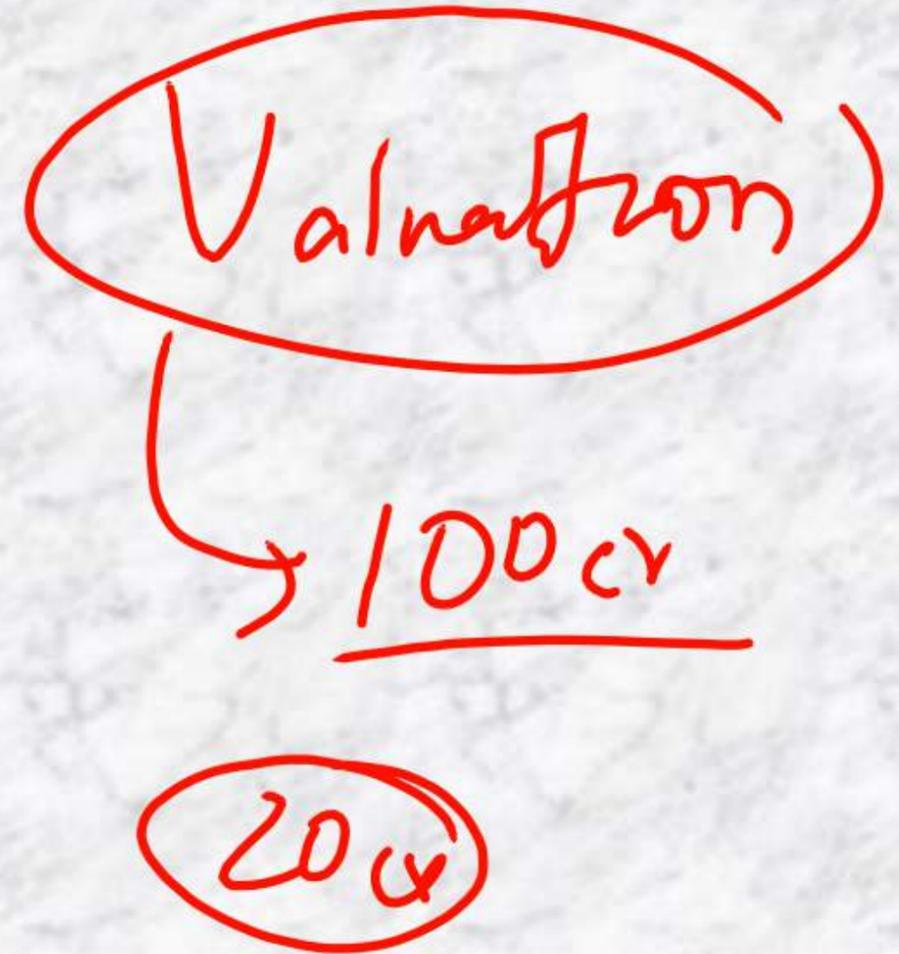
- It includes 23 countries from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, Australia and Littoral States situated in and around the Indian Ocean.
- IORA was formed in 1997 (then called the Indian Ocean Region-Association for Regional Cooperation) in Mauritius
- The grouping, whose apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers that meet once a year, moves by rotation through members every two years.
- It is a regional tripartite forum that gathers government representatives, academia and business leaders to encourage cooperation and greater interaction between them.
- It is founded upon the values of open regionalism for boosting economic cooperation especially on the realms of trade facilitation, investment, the region's social development and promotion.

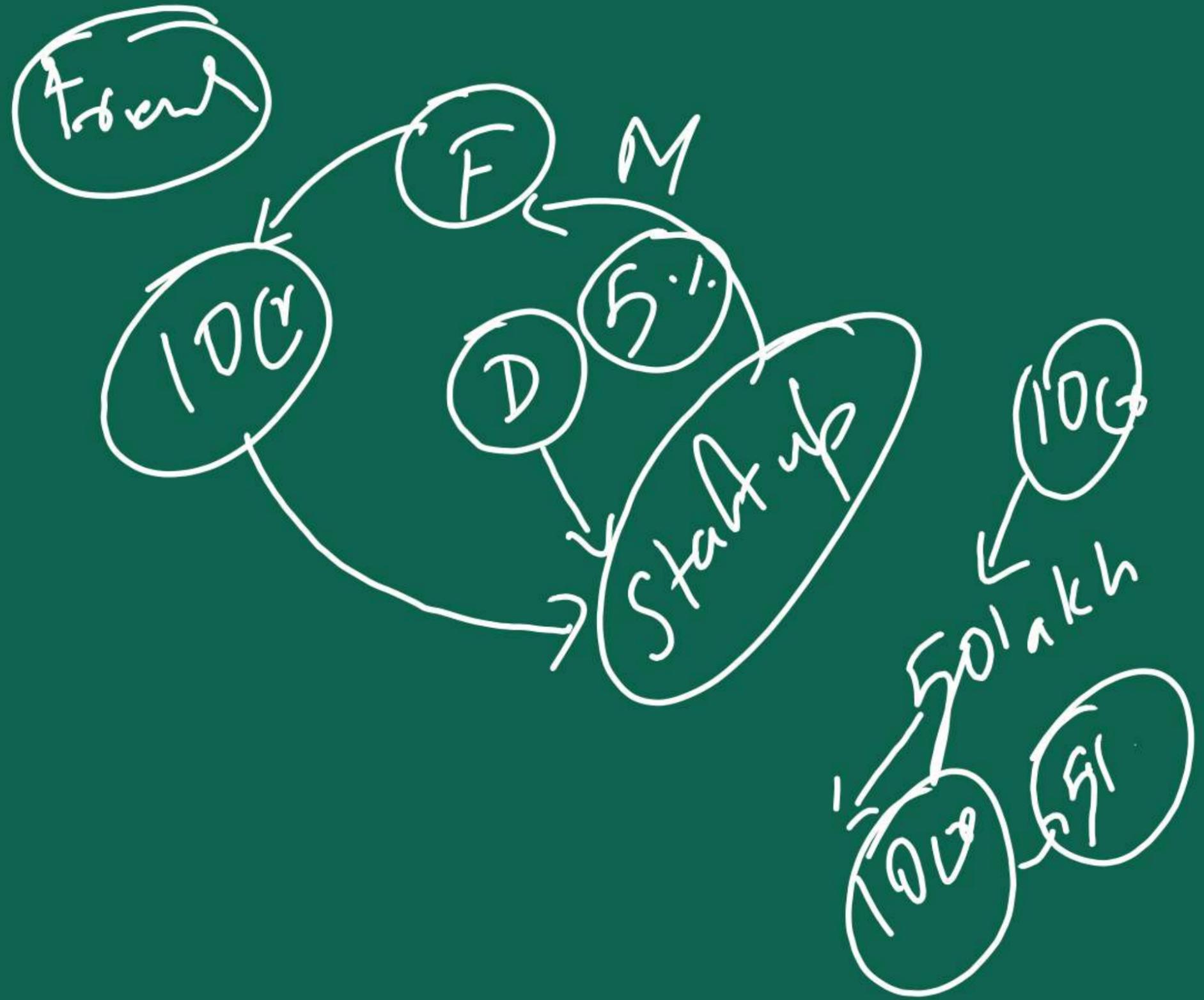
Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)



Angel Tax

- Angel taxes are taxes levied on funds raised by startups if they exceed the fair market value of the company.
- It was proposed in Budget 2023-24 to extend the provisions of 'angel tax' to transactions involving foreign investors.
- If an Indian unlisted company receives an excess premium on the sale of shares to a foreign investor, it will be subject to tax as the premium is considered "income from other sources".
- Before this proposal, Angel tax was imposed only on investments made by a resident investor. Now, it will include foreign investors in the ambit of tax.





Angel Tax

- When a startup raises funding from a foreign investor, it will also be counted as income and be taxable after the amendment.
- Exceptions are also made where foreign investors need not pay any angel tax while investing in a government-recognised, DPIIT-registered startup in India.

Department for
Promotion of
Industry and
Internal Trade

Prompt Corrective Action

- It is a framework used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to monitor banks with weak financial records.
- The RBI uses PCA to intervene with banks that are vulnerable due to poor asset quality, loss of profitability, or undercapitalization.
- The RBI first used PCA in 2016 when the number of Non-Performing Assets (NPAS) belonging to state-run banks increased beyond acceptable levels.
- The framework was reviewed in 2017 based on recommendations from the working group of the Financial Stability and Development Council and the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission

Prompt Corrective Action

- The PCA Framework is also intended to act as a tool for effective market discipline.
- The PCA Framework does not preclude the Reserve Bank of India from taking any other action as it deems fit at any time in addition to the corrective actions prescribed in the Framework.
- NBFCs have been growing in size and have substantial interconnectedness with other segments of the financial system.
- Accordingly, it has now been decided to put in place a PCA Framework for NBFCs to further strengthen the supervisory tools applicable to NBFCs.



Phonotaxis

- The click of crickets in the evening or frogs croaking during the monsoons might sound random or even annoying, but they have a good reason for making these sounds.
- Scientists call it phonotaxis: the movement by an animal in response to a sound. It has mostly been observed among crickets, moths, frogs, and toads, among a few other creatures.
- There are two types of phonotaxis: positive and negative.



Phonotaxis

- The purpose of positive phonotaxis is attraction. It usually happens when the females of a particular species – including those of crickets and frogs – are attracted to the sounds made by the males.
- Negative phonotaxis, on the other hand, serves to repel or warn, such as when the sound of a predator nearby signals to an animal that it needs to move away.



Turing Test

- The Turing Test is a deceptively simple method of determining whether a machine can demonstrate human intelligence:
- If a machine can engage in a conversation with a human without being detected as a machine, it has demonstrated human intelligence.
- The Turing Test was proposed in a paper published in 1950 by mathematician and computing pioneer Alan Turing.
- The Turing Test measures the intelligence of a test subject to determine whether a machine can demonstrate intelligence.

Turing Test

- According to the test, a computer program can think if its responses can fool a human into believing it, too, is human.
- Not everyone accepts the validity of the Turing Test, but passing it remains a major challenge to developers of artificial intelligence.
- There are variations to the Turing test as well as modifications to the approach of asking questions in different AI tests.
- The Turing test has several limitations including requiring a controlled environment, not having a dedicated definition of intelligence, and needing to adapt to evolving technological advancements

Turing Test

Ayyampalayam Nettai

- Ayyampalayam Nettai is a coconut variety near the Marudhanidhi dam in Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu.
- The trees are 100 feet tall and have more than 60% oil content and an extremely sweet kernel.
- On average, a single tree can give a yield of about 120 nuts per year without the application of chemical fertilisers. If fertilisers are applied the yield can increase to about 150 nuts.
- The Ayyampalayam Nettai are not just disease-resistant but also drought-resistant



Ayyampalayam Nettai

- The Ayyampalayam Nettai are not just disease-resistant but also drought-resistant.
- Another aspect is the sustainable intercropping that this variety promotes. With these trees growing extremely tall, the canopy that is formed is not dense thus letting in ample sunlight for other varieties of crop to grow.



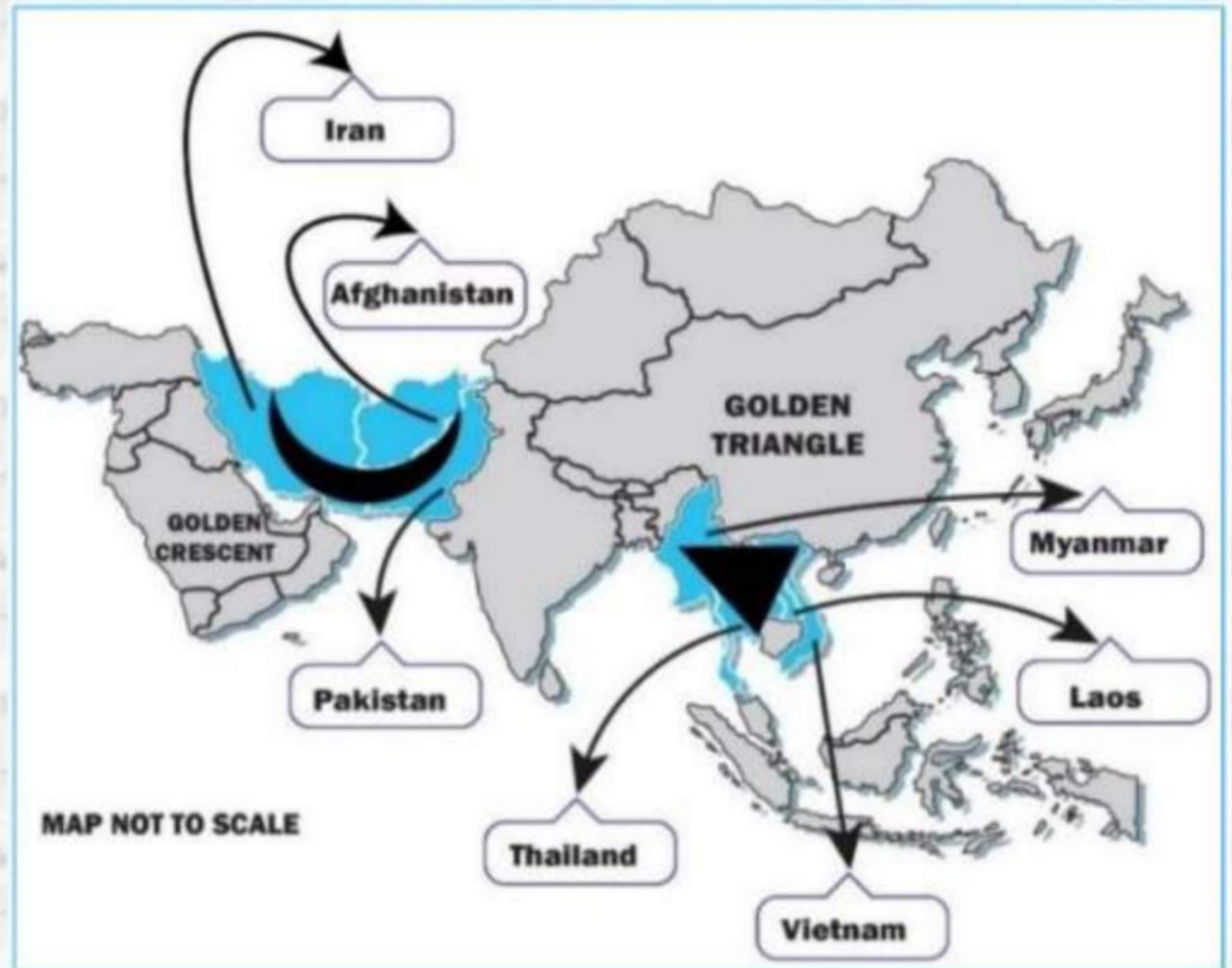
Places in News: Haiti

- The UN Security Council authorized the deployment of an international security mission to help Haiti's national police quell surging gang violence and restore security across the strife-torn Caribbean nation.



Places in News: Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent

- The Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent are two of the safest havens for illicit drug manufacturing and trading on the planet.
- Golden Crescent: Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan
- Golden Triangle: Myanmar, Laos and Thailand



Sponge Bombs

- Context: Israel is said to be developing "sponge bombs" to combat Hamas through its tunnel network. These bombs create a rapid expansion of foam that subsequently hardens, aiming to disrupt and neutralize the tunnels effectively.
- The "sponge bombs" are a chemical weapon and are different from traditional explosives.
- They do not explode in the traditional sense, instead they trigger a sudden explosion of foam.
- These curious, cutting-edge bombs are stored in plastic containers, which consist of two separate liquid compounds partitioned by a metal barrier.
- When the barrier is removed, the compounds blend, creating the foam.
- After removing the barrier, the sponge bomb is thrown into the tunnel, where it expands and hardens.



Project Nilgiri Tahr

- Context: Consolidating efforts towards the conservation of Tamil Nadu's State Animal, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday, October 12, 2023 launched the 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' from the Secretariat in Chennai.
- State animal of Tamil Nadu
- Endemic to Western Ghats- Kerala & Tamil Nadu
- Eravikulam National Park in Anamalai hills, Kerala, is home to the largest population of the Nilgiri tahr, with more than 700 individuals.
- Adult males of Nilgiri Tahr species develop a light grey area or "saddle" on their backs and are hence called "Saddlebacks"

3100



Project Nilgiri Tahr

- Mukurthi National Park park was created to protect its keystone species, the Nilgiri Tahr.
- Conservation Status:
- IUCN: Endangered
- WPA: Schedule I

CITES - App I



World Co-Operative Economic Forum

- On the lines of the World Economic Forum, some co-operative sector leaders and experts have formed the World Cooperative Economic Forum (WCEF)
- It will be based in New Delhi
- It claims to provide voice to over three million co-operatives spread over all countries.
- The WCEF will endeavour to promote cooperative thinking and cooperative movement
- It will be raising issues and concerns of the sector with governments and other stakeholders around the globe

Project Mariana

NOV-2023

- The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the central banks of France, Singapore and Switzerland have successfully concluded Project Mariana.
- The project tested the cross-border trading and settlement of wholesale central bank digital currencies (wCBDCs) between financial institutions, using new decentralised finance (DeFi) technology concepts on a public blockchain.
- Project Mariana was developed jointly by three BIS Innovation Hub centres (the Swiss, Singapore and Eurosystem Hub Centres) together with Bank of France, Monetary Authority of Singapore and Swiss National Bank.
- The project's proof of concept successfully tested the cross-border trading and settlement of hypothetical euro, Singapore dollar and Swiss franc CBDCs between simulated financial institutions.

IBSA:

- IBSA is a unique Forum which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents, facing similar challenges.
- All three countries are developing, pluralistic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious nations.
- The grouping was formalized and named the IBSA Dialogue Forum when the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in Brasilia on 6 June 2003 and issued the Brasilia Declaration.
- Brazil is current IBSA Chair. Before Brazil, India was the chair of IBSA

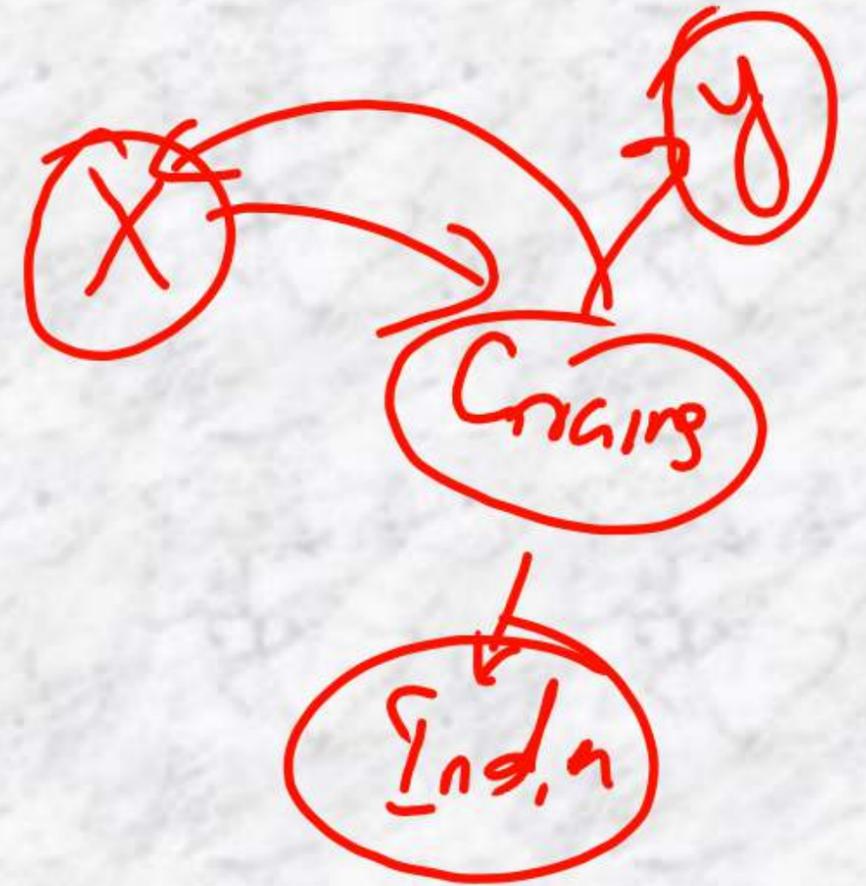
Foreign Minister

IBSA:

- Cooperation in IBSA is on three fronts:
- first, as a forum for consultation and coordination on global and regional political issues;
- second, trilateral collaboration on concrete areas/projects, through working groups and People-to-People Forums; and
- third, assisting other developing countries by taking up projects in the latter through IBSA Fund.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a carbon tariff on carbon-intensive products imported into the European Union (EU).
- It was announced in the European Green Deal and is part of the EU's climate policy. CBAM is scheduled to take effect in 2026, with reporting starting in 2023.
- From 2026, once the CBAM is fully implemented, importers in the EU would have to buy carbon certificates corresponding to the payable carbon price of the import had the product been produced in the continent, under its carbon pricing rules.
- Conversely, if a non-EU producer is paying a price (or tax) for carbon used to produce the imported goods, back home or in some other country, the corresponding cost would be deducted for the EU importer.





KHAN GLOBAL STUDIES

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