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DAILY NEWS DIARY

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FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q) Elucidate the growing concerns on “Communal Content” over social media.

Context: Chief Justice of India (CJI) made some observations while adjudicating on a case relating to communalization of some sections of media in the country.

Stance of Supreme Court: The petition before the SC drew the court’s attention on how some sections of media linked Tablighi Jamaat to the spread of Covid-19. Such cases of communalized reporting are increasing in the country in recent times. Ex: UPSC Jihad, Hadiya case, Triple Talaq case etc. The court also lamented about the lack of adequate accountability to hold social media and over the top content platforms for their actions. The government highlighted the recent steps it had taken to ensure accountability in this regard. That is, Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 and Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules of 2021.

Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021:

- It mandates a grievance redressal system for over the top (OTT) and digital portals in the country. This is necessary for the users of social media to raise their grievance against the misuse of social media.
- Significant social media firms have to appoint a chief compliance officer and have a nodal contact person who can be in touch with law enforcement agencies 24/7.
- Social media platforms will also have to name a grievance officer who shall register the grievance within 24 hours and dispose of it in 15 days.
- If there are complaints against the dignity of users, particularly women social media platforms will be required to remove that within 24 hours after a complaint is made.
- They also will have to publish a monthly report about the number of complaints received and the status of redressal.
- There will be three levels of regulation for news publishers — self-regulation, a self-regulatory body, headed by a retired judge or an eminent person, and oversight from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, including codes of practices and a grievance committee.

About Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021:

- It provides for a three-level grievance redressal mechanism — self-regulation by broadcasters, self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the broadcasters, and oversight by an Inter-Departmental Committee at the level of the Union government.
- Procedure for grievance redressal:
 1. A viewer can file a complaint directly to the broadcaster, who will have to respond within 15 days.
 2. If the complainant is not satisfied with the response, the complaint can be escalated to the self-regulating bodies set up by TV channels, which should deal with the case in 60 days.
 3. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the self-regulating body, he may, within 15 days of such decision, prefer an appeal to the Central Government for its consideration under the Oversight Mechanism.
 4. Such appeals will be dealt with by the Inter-Departmental Committee set up under the Oversight Mechanism. The committee will be headed by the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and have members from various ministries.

Conclusion: The real contest is to regulate and balance between the freedom of press and the citizens right to get unadulterated news.

GS 3**❖ Economy**

Q. India has not been able to increase its share in global export market. Comment.

Context: India's merchandise exports in August touched \$33.14 billion, 45.17% higher than a year ago and 27.5% over the pre-pandemic level of August 2019.

Trade deficit in India:

- Despite the increase in export, the trade deficit widened to a four-month high driven by a sharp uptick in gold imports.
- Merchandise imports grew during this time. It grew 51.47% year-on-year to \$47 billion, which is also 18% higher than August 2019. This was the primary reason for the widened trade deficit despite an increase in export.

- Gold saw the large increase in import numbers. Gold imports surged to a five-month high of \$6.7 billion in August 2021 and were responsible for 88% of the rise in the merchandise trade deficit relative to July 2021.
- The government has set a target of merchandise exports worth \$400 billion for the year and so far, as achieved 163 billion of dollar exports.



- Growth in export in labour-intensive sector such as textiles and apparel sector has been less than expected (14%) during this period.

Conclusion: Though the global trade is recovering, which is helping Indian exporters, attention must be given to resolving increasing freight rates, large container shortages and releasing benefits under various export schemes.

❖ Science & Technology

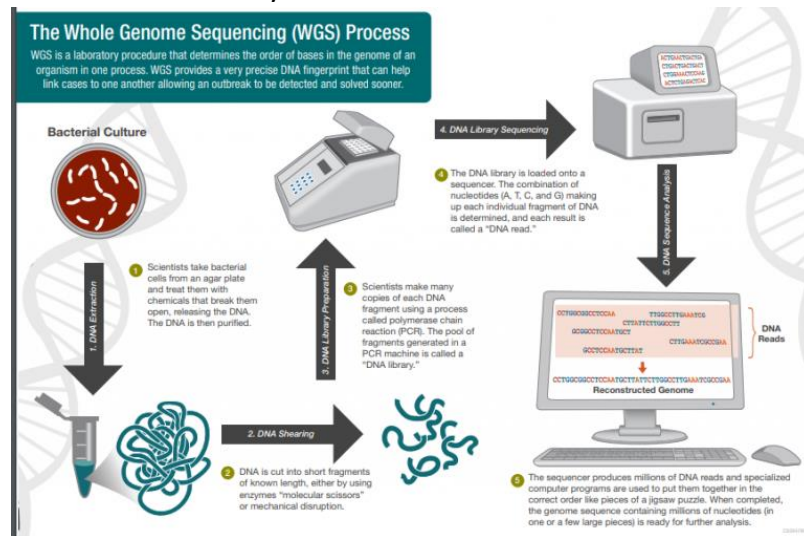
Q. Discuss the significance and challenges pertaining to the Genome sequencing.

Context: Novel Coronavirus Sequencing and analysis has declined sharply in India. The number of coronavirus samples sequenced and analysed in India has dropped. India formed the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (INSACOG), a consortium of genome sequencing labs, in December 2020. While announcing INSACOG, the central government aimed to analyse 5% of all positive samples. This method is known as 'randomised surveillance'.

Purpose of sequencing

- The main purpose of sequencing is surveillance. It helps to get the true picture of prevailing variants, emerging variants (like delta) and those causing reinfection.
- Currently there are four 'Variants of concern' (VoCs) — Alpha (emerged in the UK), Beta (emerged in Brazil), Gama (emerged in South Africa) and Delta (emerged in India).

- WHO has stressed on the fact that data of sequencing should be submitted to open-access platforms like GISAID, so that a sequence done in one part of the world can be looked at by the global scientific community.



What is genome sequencing?

- A genome is an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes. Genomics is an interdisciplinary field of science focusing on the structure, function, evolution, mapping, and editing of genomes.
- Genomics also involves the sequencing and analysis of genomes through uses of high throughput DNA sequencing.
- Advances in genomics have triggered a revolution in discovery-based research and systems biology to facilitate understanding of even the most complex biological systems such as the brain.

Significance of genome sequencing:

- Mapping the diversity of India's genetic pool will lay the bedrock of personalised medicine and put it on the global map.
- Considering the diversity of population in our country, and the disease burden of complex disorders, including diabetes, mental health, etc., once we have a genetic basis, it may be possible to take action before the onset of a disease.

Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (INSACOG):

- The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) is jointly initiated by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) with Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

- It is a consortium of 28 National Laboratories to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2.
- It carries out whole genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 virus across the nation, aiding in understanding the spread and evolution of the virus.
- INSACOG also aims to focus on sequencing of clinical samples to understand the disease dynamics and severity.

GISAID (Global initiative on sharing avian influenza data):

- GISAID, established in 2008, provides open-access to genomic data of influenza viruses and the coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The genome sequences of SARS-CoV-2 available on GISAID enabled global responses to the pandemic, including the development of the first vaccines and diagnostic tests.

Genomics for Public Health in India (IndiGen) programme:

- CSIR initiated the Program in April 2019.
- It aims to undertake whole genome sequencing of thousands of individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India.
- The objective is to enable genetic epidemiology and develop public health technologies applications using population genome data.

SNIPPETS**❖ ENVIRONMENT****Q. Discuss the importance of the Pulicat lake and the Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary.**

Context: Recently there is increase in numbers of migratory birds visiting the Pulicat Lake in India. This positive development is largely due to increase in the storage levels in the reservoir in adjoining areas.



About Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu bird sanctuary:

- Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish water lake or lagoon in India, after Chilika Lake. It straddles the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu states with over 96% of it in Andhra Pradesh. The lake encompasses the Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary.
- Greater flamingos and pelicans are some of the famous migratory birds that visit this place
- Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary is a famous bird sanctuary located near this lake. It is considered one of the biggest habitats for some hundreds of pelicans and other birds. Located about 20 km north of the Pulicat Lake on the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border.
- The lake is also home for black-headed ibis, Asian openbill, black-crowned night heron, and little cormorant. Other migratory birds that visit the sanctuary include northern pintail, common teal, little grebe, northern shoveler, Eurasian coot, Indian spot-billed duck, grey heron, Oriental darter, black-winged stilt, garganey and gadwall
- The presence of Barringtonia and Acacia nilotica species near the Pulicat lake region provides an ideal breeding site for spot-billed pelicans.
- Flamingo Festival is held every year to promote tourism in Pulicat and Nelapattu.

UPSC - CSE

Q. Who won Behler Turtle Conservation Award 2021?

- A. James O. Juvik
- B. Shi Haitao
- C. Kalyar Patt
- D. Shailendra Singh



Q) With reference to Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The date of election of Deputy Speaker is fixed by the President.
2. The Constitution sets a time limit for the process of these elections.

Options:

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. None

Ans: d

Explanation: The date of election of Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker. There is no time limit prescribed by the Indian Constitution with respect to the election of Deputy Speaker. Article 93 states that the House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the House to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker thereof.

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