



IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 01

- **CHANGI NAVAL BASE**
- AGALEGA ISLANDS
- **DORDANELLES STRAIT**
- **TROPICAL CYCLONES**
- SWAMIH FUND
- **FINANCIAL INCLUSION**
- ADENOVIRUS
- KESSELER SYNDROME

CONTRACTOR



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International relations

Changi naval base

- India and Singapore have signed Bilateral Agreement for Navy Cooperation.
- This agreement will allow Indian Navy ships logistical support, including refueling at Singapore's Changi Naval
 Base located near disputed South China Sea (SCS).



❖ Agalega islands

- Oversea military base of India (under construction) in Agalega islands. Negotiations are on with Mauritius government in this regard.
- This location is of strategically prime importance for india (Surveillance of Western part of Indian ocean).



GEOGRAPHY

DORDANELLES STRAIT, BOSPHOROUS STRIAT

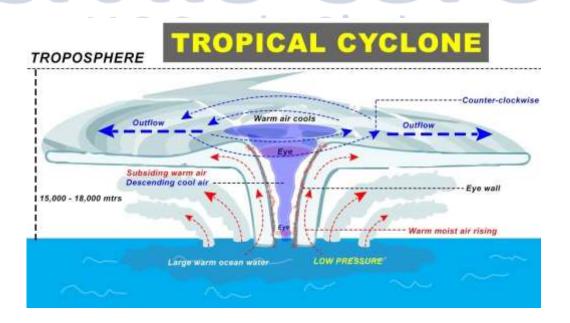
- Recently, Russia alleged that the British warship had breached its territorial waters in Black Sea which Britain and most of the world say belong to Ukraine.
- The Turkish straits system the **Dardanelles, Bosporus**and **Marmara Sea** forms a transitional zone between
 the **Mediterranean** and the Black Sea.
- These two strits connect balck sea to mediteranian sea, which has huge socio-economic (one of the major trade route i.e suez canal) interest.
- These straits strenghthens Russian precense in meditarianian region

In news: Russia seized and annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and considers areas around its coast to be Russian waters.

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* Tropical cyclones



In news: cyclone Yaas named by Oman hit dharma port in Odisha. Other two which occurred were: cyclone Tauktae named by Myanmar and Gulaab named by Pakistan.

- Cyclones are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area.

 The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere.
- They are of two types: 1. Tropical cyclones and 2. Extra tropical cyclone.

Reasons for formation

- 1. A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation
- 2. Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C
- 3. Small variations in the vertical wind speed
- 4. Presence of the Coriolis force enough to create a cyclonic vortex
- 5. Upper divergence above the sea level system

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Why cyclones in Arabian sea not predictable?

• Cyclones originate in the Arabian Sea are trickier. Because the cyclone, while moving away from western coast of india, can suddenly turn around and come back in, unlike Cyclone originating in Bay of Bengal (BoB). In BoB is more prone to cyclones (3 times).

Cyclone forecasting:

- In India cyclone forecasting is done by IMD by using **Doppler weather** radars. Using this method possible to detect a potential storm at least four days in advance.
- India also seeks help from other countries like japan and U.S.

ECONOMICS

❖ SWAMIH FUND

- In order to complete the stalled housing projects, the Government announced setting up of SWAMIH fund in November 2019.
- This fund was set up in the form of Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF).
- The fund would provide necessary capital for the completion of stalled housing projects.
- It would be provided on the basis of RERA registration, Priority for projects very close to completion, stalled projects and affordable-middle-income category.
- The expectation is that construction in the stalled projects would resume, helping their buyers move into their homes.
- This is also expected to revive buyers' confidence in the realty market, and boost employment and improve demand for allied sectors such as iron, cement and steel.

❖ Financial inclusion:

 Financial inclusion may be defined as the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low-income groups at an affordable cost.

† Challenges to financial inclusion:

- Financial illiteracy
- People from remote areas doesn't posses' sufficient documents to open Bank accounts.
- Unaware of Insurance products
- Income disparity and unemployment
- Poor quality of services offered at rural areas due to infrastructure crunches.

❖ How to promote digital financial inclusion:

- **Supply-Chain Financing (SCF):** SCF is to finance suppliers by using invoices. Ex: MSMEs may have invoices for the goods and services which they have supplied to a corporate entity but may not have received the payment so far.
- **NBFCs issuing credit card:** NBFCs currently account for over 30percent of credit given in the financial system. This can be used to improve inclusion by allowing NBFC to provide credit card to customers.
- **Digi money:** even if money is transferred electronically, people still need to withdraw cash from atm counters, good number of atm counters are non-functional. this seriously effects financial inclusion. thus, provide systems like PoS, QR codes etc.
- **Tax reduction:** Provide tax reduction to both consumers and traders as well. This would encourage them to use digital money.
- **Infrastructure:** once large population starts using digital mechanism, internet traffic would increase considerably. Thus, more communication towers to be constructed.

Refer and learn:

Recommendations of Nandan Nilekani committee on deepening digital payments (2019).

Science and technology

❖ Adenoviruses

- It is a DNA virus which causes **Pneumonia**, **Diarrhrea**, **Conjunctivitisetc**.
- Adenoviruses are preferred for vaccines because it has double stranded DNA which makes them genetically more Stable. Thus, chance of mutation is low, ex: Rabies vaccine.
- Adenovirus vaccines may not work for everyone because these vaccines are based on natural viruses which human being could be already exposed to.

* Kessler syndrome IAS Study Circle

- This is a scenario in which the density of objects in <u>low Earth</u>
 orbit (LEO) due to <u>space pollution</u> is high enough that collisions
 between objects could cause a cascade in which each collision
 generates <u>space debris</u> that increases the likelihood of further
 collisions.
- This was proposed by NASA scientist DONALD KESSELER in 1978.
- This is also known as collisional cascading.

 NASA noticed collisional cascading in the 1970s when their derelict Delta rockets left in orbit began to explode creating shrapnel clouds.

How to avoid?

- One technology proposed to help deal with fragments from 1 to 10 cm in size is the **laser broom**, a proposed multimegawatt land-based laser that could deorbit debris.
- Using powerful magnets to grab it increasing atmospheric drag etc. are some other techniques.

PRACTICE QUESTION

- Q.1 changi naval base is located in
 - a. china

b. japans

c. laos

- d. Singapore
- Q.2 Straight of DORDANELLES is located between:
 - a. black sea and sea of marmara
 - b.aegian sea and sea of marmara
 - c. adratic sea and sea of marmara
 - d. Tyrrhenian sea and ionian sea
- Q.3 Which one among the below mentioned is/are not a preexsisting conditon for tropical cyclone?
 - 1. pre-existing high-pressure area
 - 2. Temperature higher than 27 degrees Celsius
 - 3. small variation in vertical wind speed

- 4. upper divergence below sea level system
 - a. 1,2
- b. 1,2,4
- c. 1,4
- d. 2,3,4
- Q.4 SWAMIH fund belong to which category of Alternate Investment Fund (AIF)?
 - a. Category I Alternate Investment Fund (AIF)
 - b. Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF)
 - c. Category B Alternate Investment Fund (AIF)
 - d. Category III Alternate Investment Fund (AIF).

ANSWERS: 1.D 2.B 3.C 4.B AS Study Circle

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