



IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 05

- **WEDELL SEA**
- CONSERVATION OF ANTARTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES
- **MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**
- NETWORK FOR GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM
- OPERATION PANGEA XIV
- CONTRIBUTION OF AMBEDKAR TO ECONOMY
- BRIDING TRIALS
- DIHING PATKAI NATIONAL PARK
- **VACATION BENCH**
- **UDID PORTAL**

SCAN TO EXPLORE

IMPORTANT JUNE CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR PRELIMS VOL - 05

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GEOGRAPHY

1) WEDDELL SEA

IN NEWS: -

- → India has extended support for protecting the Antarctic environment and for co-sponsoring the proposal of the European Union for designating East Antarctica and the Weddell Sea as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- → Recently an enormous iceberg 'A-76' has calved from the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf, lying in the Weddell Sea, in Antarctica

ABOUT WEDDELL SEA

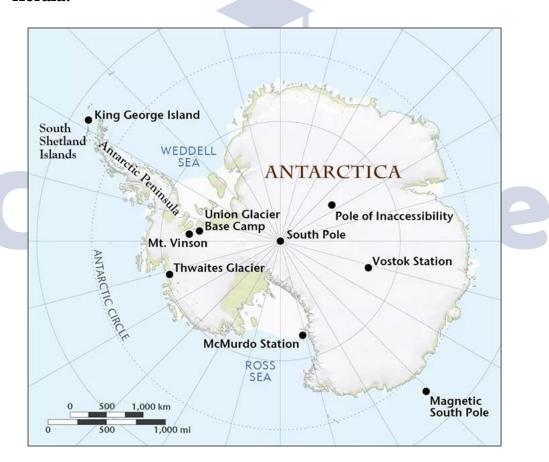
- The Weddell Sea is part of the Southern Ocean and contains the Weddell Gyre.
- Its land boundaries are defined by the bay formed from the coasts of Coats Land and the Antarctic Peninsula.
- Much of the southern part of the sea is covered by the Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf.
- The sea is contained within the two overlapping Antarctic territorial claims of Argentine Antarctica, the British Antarctic Territory, and also resides partially within the Antarctic Chilean Territory.
- The Weddell Sea has been deemed to have the clearest water of any sea.

ROLE OF INDIA

- India had urged the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) member countries to ensure Antarctic conservation.
- India remains associated with the formulation, adaptation and implementation mechanisms of these MPAs in future.

Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

- CCAMLR is an international treaty to manage Antarctic fisheries to preserve species diversity and stability of the entire Antarctic marine ecosystem.
- CCAMLR came into force in April 1982.
- India has been a permanent member of the CCAMLR since 1986.
- Work pertaining to the CCAMLR is coordinated in India by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through its attached office, the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) in Kochi, Kerala.



Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

• MPA is a marine protected area that MPA's are created by delineating zones with permitted and non-permitted uses within that zone for providing protection for all or part of its natural resources.

• Certain activities within an MPA are limited or prohibited to meet specific conservation, habitat protection, ecosystem monitoring, or fisheries management objectives.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Consider the following statements about Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

- 1. India has been a permanent member of the CCAMLR since 1986
- 2. Work pertaining to the CCAMLR is coordinated in India by the Ministry of Earth Sciences

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 nad 2
 - d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - c

ECONOMY

2) NETWORK FOR GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

IN NEWS: -

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a member on April 2021.

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ABOUT NETWORK FOR GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

- The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017.
- The NGFS is a group of central banks and supervisors willing to share best practices and contribute to the development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector, while mobilizing

mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.

• The Secretariat is hosted by the Banque de France.

Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TFCD)

- International initiative to make the private sector contribute to climate positive action and become resilient to climate risks.
- Its recommendations are recognised as the gold standard for global business sustainability reporting frameworks, providing standardised and comprehensive guidelines for corporate climate disclosures.

Check: India's innovation schemes for solar and energy storage

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Consider the following statements

- 1. The Network for Greening the Financial System is based in OECD headquarters, Paris.
- 2. It was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit in 2017
- 3. India is a member of NGFS

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: - b

3) OPERATION PANGEA XIV

IN NEWS: -

More than 1.10 lakh web links, including websites and online marketplaces, have been taken down in the Operation Pangea, launched by INTERPOL.

ABOUT OPERATION PANGEA XIV

- Coordinated by INTERPOL, Operation Pangea, is a well-established international effort to disrupt the online sale of counterfeit and illicit health products
- Operation Pangea works to raise awareness of the risks associated with buying medicines from unregulated websites.
- The first Operation Pangea was conducted in 2008.
- Current operation involves the police, customs, and health regulatory authorities of 92 countries.

PRACTICE QUESTION

With reference to Operation Pangea consider the following statements

- 1. It is aimed to disrupt the online sale of counterfeit and illicit health products
- 2. It is coordinated by INTERPOL

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 nad 2
- d. Neither 1 oe 2

Answer: - c

4) CONTRIBUTION OF AMBEDKAR TO ECONOMY

- Ambedkar was the first Indian to pursue a doctorate in economics abroad. He argued that industrialisation and agricultural growth could enhance the Indian economy.
- He stressed investment in agriculture as the primary industry of India.
- Ambedkar advocated national economic and social development, stressing education, public hygiene, community health, residential facilities as the basic amenities.
- In His book 'The problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Solution' (1923) examines the causes for the Rupee's fall in value. He argued in favour of a gold standard in modified form, and was opposed to the gold-exchange standard favoured by Keynes claiming it was less stable.
- He favoured the stoppage of all further coinage of the rupee and the minting of a gold coin, which he believed would fix currency rates and prices.
- In 1951, Ambedkar established the Finance Commission of India.
- He opposed income tax for low-income groups.
- He contributed to Land Revenue Tax and excise duty policies to stabilise the economy.
- He played an important role in land reform and the state economic development.

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- According to him, the caste system, due to its division of labourers and hierarchical nature, impedes movement of labour and movement of capital.
- His theory of State Socialism had three points:
 - o state ownership of agricultural land,
 - the maintenance of resources for production by the state,
 - o and a just distribution of these resources to the population.
- He emphasised a free economy with a stable Rupee which India has adopted recently.

- He advocated birth control to develop the Indian economy, and this
 has been adopted by the Indian government as national policy for
 family planning.
- He emphasised equal rights for women for economic development.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

5) BRIDGING TRIALS

IN NEWS: - The scientific community is divided in its opinion on the need for bridging trials in the context of COVID 19 pandemic

ABOUT BRIDGING TRIALS

- Bridging trials are required to understand how a vaccine works on the local population, as there are issues of ethnicity, genetic variation and so on
- A bridging trial performed in the new region to provide clinical data on efficacy, safety, dosage and dose regimen in the new region that will allow extrapolation of the foreign clinical data to the population in the new region
- It provides additional pharmacokinetic information (to determine the fate of substances administered to a living organism.) in the population of the new region.
- When no bridging study is needed to provide clinical data for efficacy, a pharmacokinetic study in the new region may be considered as a bridging study.

ENVIRONMENT

6) DIHING PATKAI NATIONAL PARK

IN NEWS:-

Assam's Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary, in the eye of a controversy last year following allegations of illegal coal mining, was notified as the seventh national park of Assam

ABOUT DIHING PATKAI NATIONAL PARK

- The Dehing river flows through this national park
- The national park lies in the foot of the Patkai hills
- Dehing Patkai National Park is part of Dehing Patkai elephant reserve.
- It is also known as Jeypore Rainforest.
- The national park forms the largest stretch of lowland rainforest in the country
- It is spread over Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam.
- The oldest refinery of Asia in Digboi and 'open cast' coal mining at Lido are located near the sanctuary.
- It is the only national park in India which is home to seven different species of wild cats tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, leopard cat, golden cat, jungle cat and marbled cat

NATIONAL PARKS IN ASSAM

- Assam has the third most National Parks after the 12 in Madhya Pradesh and nine in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The seven National Parks in the State are Dehing Patkai, Raimona, Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, and Dibru-Saikhowa

Check: Insitu and Exsitu conservation methods

PRACTICE QUESTION

With reference to Dihing Patkai National Park, consider the following statements

- 1. The national park is also called Jeypore rainforest
- 2. The national park is home to seven species of wild cats
- 3. Assam has the largest number of national parks among Indian states Which among the above statements are correct?
 - a. 1 and 2 only
 - b. 2 and 3 only
 - c. 1 and 3 only
 - d. 3 only

Answer: a

POLITY

7) VACATION BENCH

IN NEWS: -

On May 9, the Supreme Court notified its annual summer holiday from May 13, and listed the judges who will occupy the Vacation Benches for hearing urgent matters during this period.

ABOUT VACATION BENCH

- A Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court is a special bench constituted by the Chief Justice of India.
- The court takes two long vacations each year, the summer and winter breaks, but is technically not fully closed during these periods.
- Litigants can still approach the Supreme Court and, if the court decides that the plea is an "urgent matter", the Vacation Bench hears the case on its merits.

Under Rule 6 of Order II of The Supreme Court rules, 2013 the CJI
has nominated the Division Benches for hearing of urgent
miscellaneous matters and regular hearing matters during the
summer vacation for the period.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements about vacation bench of Supreme Court

- 1. The concept of vacation bench is specified in the constitution.
- 2. The Supreme Court constitutes two vacation benches in a year Which among the above statements are correct?
 - a. 1 only
 - b. 2 only
 - c. Both 1 and 2
 - d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

SOCIAL JUSTICE

8) UDID PORTAL

IN NEWS: -

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has made it mandatory for all states and UTs of the country to issue a disability certificate to eligible people only through the online mode via the UDID portal.

ABOUT UDID PORTAL

- UDID is Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities Project
- The UDID Project was launched in 2016 by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, **Ministry of Social**Justice & Empowerment.

- The Project aims to create a National Database for the Persons with Disabilities.
- Also, it aims to issue a UDID, that is, Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disabilities
- The persons with disabilities included in the project are based on Disabilities Act, 1995.
- The project will encourage transparency, efficiency and ease of delivering the government benefits to the person with disabilities.

Check: Programmes/Initiatives for Disabled

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Consider the following statements about UDID portal

- 1. It is in line with Incheon Strategy for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and Pacific
- 2. The Ministry of Health and Family welfare is the nodal ministry for the project

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Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - a

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