

INTERNATIONAL RELATION

❖ **SCO FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEET**

❖ **CONTEXT: The Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will meet on 5th May in Goa.**

- While Russia needs India in the SCO, with relations between India and China rough since 2017, the group has provided Delhi a forum to play up its proximity to Moscow. It has also helped India stay involved in the regional discussion on Taliban rule, from which it is otherwise excluded.
- This year, of the four observers, **Iran and Belarus are set to be admitted as full members**. Afghanistan and Mongolia are the two other observers. The dialogue partners are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Turkey.
- India, which was admitted as a full member in 2017 along with Pakistan in the first-ever expansion of the group, holds the rotating presidency of the SCO this year, and in this capacity has hosted several ministerial-level SCO meetings, including a tourism ministers' meeting at Varanasi in March.
- The main work of the foreign ministers' meeting is to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Heads of State Council, or the SCO summit, expected to be held in July. The foreign ministers will put their heads together to prepare a draft declaration to be adopted at the summit, formalise the admission of Iran and Belarus to the SCO, and discuss other regional and international issues.
- As a pointer, at the foreign ministers' meeting hosted in July 2022 by last year's chair Uzbekistan, the discussions centred on the Ukraine conflict, the resulting energy crisis and food shortages, Afghanistan, terrorism, trade and connectivity.
- China and Russia dominate the SCO. Like last year, this year too, SCO meetings are being held under the shadow of Russia's war in Ukraine, and the resultant geopolitical changes in the world.

❖ **Central Asia, the heart of SCO**

- Eurasia, which in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) definition includes 13 countries (Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), is at the centre of this flux in the world order. Excluding Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and Turkmenistan, all others are either members, observers or dialogue partners of the SCO.
- While the West views the SCO as a cosy club run by China and ally Russia, those familiar with the workings of the group describe the forum as a venue where the two dominant powers are in competition with each other for influence. Four of the five Central Asian republics are members of SCO.
- Russia has viewed these resource-rich republics, that were part of the erstwhile Soviet Union, as its strategic backyard. But it has not been able to stop a growing Chinese footprint over the region, which has been driven both by strategic economic and security reasons.
- The competition has been all the more apparent as Beijing's outreach to the Central Asian 5, or C5, caught momentum with the Belt and Road Initiative, and accelerated over the last year during Russia's preoccupation with its war in Ukraine. Later this month, Beijing is preparing to host an in-person C Plus C5 summit, after last year's inaugural summit held virtually.
- But Russia's continuing economic influence in the region is still strong, as are its political, cultural and people-to-people connections. The power play in central Asia has its impact in the SCO. And this is where Russia needs India.

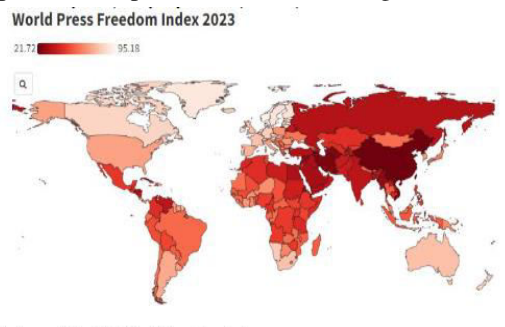
❖ **India and the SCO**

- Moscow sees India's presence in the SCO as a potential countervailing force to Chinese dominance of Central Asia. It was Russia that began pushing for India's membership of the group, around the time that China's Xi Jinping launched his Belt and Road Initiative in Kazakhstan. In 2015, India was admitted as an observer along with Iran and Pakistan,
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit the same year to all five central Asian republics in one trip gave India's interest in the region an authoritative imprimatur. The region spoke to all the recurrent themes of Indian foreign policy over the last two decades – **trade, connectivity, energy security and combating terrorism**. A membership of the SCO two years later gave India a higher profile in Central Asia to which it does not have overland access.
- In post-US Afghanistan, it has helped India stay involved in the regional discussion on Taliban rule, from which it is otherwise excluded. Just last month, the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Iran, China, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, which have formed a group called "Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan", met in the Uzbek city of Samarkand.
- Just as much as Russia needs India in the SCO, with relations between India and China rough since the Doklam episode in 2017 and worsening steadily after the Chinese incursions in eastern Ladakh, the group has provided Delhi a forum to play up its proximity to Moscow.

- Some experts have tended to view the Quad grouping of Australia, India, Japan and the United States as a counter to the influence that Russia and China seek to project through the SCO, and India's membership of both as an irreconcilable contradiction.
- But if the Quad is India's diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific, the SCO represents its diplomacy in the Eurasian landmass. It can also be seen as an exercise of true multipolarity.
- If the SCO is a bipolar China-Russia platform, it offers several multipolarities within as other members leverage their strengths to get the best deal for themselves. At last year's foreign ministers' meeting in Tashkent, India was the only country that did not sign a joint statement calling for the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention. The entry of Iran and Belarus can only increase the cross currents within.
- SCO veterans describe the forum as a "diplomatic battlefield". The challenge for India is to use both the SCO and the Quad to further its own interests instead of getting trapped in an either-or proposition.
- ❖ **About SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)**
 - Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
 - Its creation was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed during the St. Petersburg SCO Heads of State meeting in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.
 - It was preceded by the **Shanghai Five mechanism**. Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, **Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five**.
 - Shanghai Five (1996) emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China to ensure stability along the borders.
 - Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organization in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
 - **India and Pakistan became members in 2017.**
 - On 17th September, 2021, it was announced that Iran would become a full member of the SCO.
 - The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.
 - **Structure of the organisation:**
 - ✓ **Heads of State Council** – The supreme SCO body which decides its internal functioning and its interaction with other States & international organisations, and considers international issues.
 - ✓ **Heads of Government Council** – Approves the budget, considers and decides upon issues related to economic spheres of interaction within SCO.
 - ✓ **Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs** – Considers issues related to day-to-day activities.
 - ✓ **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** – (RATS) of SCO is a permanent body based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The objective of RATS is based upon the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism. RATS possess information on terrorist organizations and terrorists.

REPORT & INDEXES

- ❖ **World Press Freedom Index 2023**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: India ranked 161 out of 180 countries in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index.**
- **About the World Press Freedom Index:**
 - Global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) publishes the yearly report on press freedom in countries across the world.
 - It evaluates the environment for journalism in 180 countries and territories and is published on World Press Freedom Day (3 May).
 - RSF defines press freedom as the ability of journalists as individuals and collectives to select, produce, and disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal, and social interference and in the absence of threats to their physical and mental safety.
- **Methodology used for compiling the World Press Freedom Index 2023**
 - Each country or territory's score is evaluated using five contextual indicators that reflect the press freedom situation in all of its complexity: political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and safety.
 - The Index is based on a score ranging from 0 to 100 that is assigned to each country or territory, with 100 being the best possible score (the highest possible level of press freedom) and 0 the worst.



- The press freedom map offers a visual overview of the scores of all the countries in the index. The colours and classifications are assigned as follows:
 - ✓ [85 - 100 points] good (green)
 - ✓ [70 - 85 points] satisfactory (yellow)
 - ✓ [55 - 70 points] problematic (light orange)
 - ✓ [40 - 55 points] difficult (dark orange)
 - ✓ [0 - 40 points] very serious (dark red)
- **Findings of the 2023 World Freedom Index:**
 - The situation is “very serious” in 31 countries, “difficult” in 42, “problematic” in 55, and “good” or “satisfactory” in 52 countries.
 - The environment for journalism is “bad” in seven out of ten countries, and satisfactory in only three out of ten.
 - Top Scorer: Norway is ranked first for the seventh year running. But – unusually – a non-Nordic country is ranked second i.e. Ireland, ahead of Denmark at 3rd. The Netherlands is at 6th has risen 22 places, recovering the position it had in 2021.
 - Last Place: The last three places are occupied solely by Asian countries: Vietnam (178th); China (down 4 at 179th), and North Korea (180th).
 - India and Neighbourhood: India is ranked 11 spots down from last year i.e. at 161st, Bangladesh is ranked 163rd, Afghanistan 152nd, Pakistan 150th, Sri Lanka 135th, Thailand 106th, and Bhutan 90th.
- **About Reporters Without Borders (RSF):**
 - RSF is an international NGO whose self-proclaimed aim is to defend and promote media freedom.
 - It is headquartered in Paris, it has consultative status with the United Nations.
 - Objective: To compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories in the previous calendar year.

ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

- ❖ **Ocean's 20: Blueprint for a Blue Economy**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) will chair SAI20, the Engagement Group for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) of G20 countries in Goa.**
- Under the Indian presidency, G20 leaders will address urgent policy needs for collective progress, equity and inclusive growth when they meet in New Delhi this year. With the summit theme of “One Earth, One Family, One Future”, India has set the tone and perspective for commitment to green development, circular economy and lifestyle behaviour changes as an actionable plan for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) will chair SAI20, the Engagement Group for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of G20 countries in Goa in June.
- Two priority areas have been selected for SAI20 deliberations — blue economy and responsible Artificial Intelligence.
- **Priority Areas for the SAI20:**
 - Two priority areas have been selected for deliberations; Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI).
 - As Chair of SAI20, India's CAG aims to help create a framework for G20 nations to ensure inter-generational equity and mitigate climate change while developing ocean resources.
 - For SAI20, the CAG is to prepare technology-driven tools to assess authorised development in coastal stretches and track marine water quality.
- **Primary Functions of SAIs:**
 - For SAI20, the CAG is to prepare technology-driven tools to assess authorised development in coastal stretches and track marine water quality. SAI20 member countries are being engaged in a collaborative exercise to evolve globally relevant audit toolkits along with a compendium of case studies and challenges in the broader framework of auditing coastal spaces, which include:
 - ✓ Legal and institutional frameworks,
 - ✓ Compliance to coastal regulation,
 - ✓ Biodiversity conservation,
 - ✓ Capacity building and compliance to SDGs.
- **Important Key Roles of SAI20:**
 - The engagement of SAIs in advising executives is crucial in balancing key developmental concerns while ensuring sustainable development.
 - SAI20's role in promoting inter-generational equity and addressing climate change concerns highlights their importance in ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are shared fairly across generations.

- **Blue Economy:**
 - Blue, or ocean economy, whose global annual value is estimated as \$2.5 trillion, encompasses an array of coastal activities, including fishing and tourism.
 - About 90 per cent of global trade is carried out through sea routes.
 - In 2018, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had for the first time laid out the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles.
 - Investors can use this framework to fund ocean-based industries.
 - Financiers can use it as a reference point to see how marine investment can impact livelihood and poverty eradication.
 - The four goals and 23 targets set out in the global biodiversity framework of COP15 aim to conserve and sustainably use the planet's biodiversity. These objectives focus on topics such as reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity, ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, and restoring degraded ecosystems.
- **Why the Measurement of Blue economy is Challenging?**
 - The measurement of the blue economy is challenging due to conflicting definitions and issues while classifying different sectors and sub-sectors.
 - Existing international economic classifications are unable to properly differentiate between land-based and ocean-based activities.
 - The System of National Accounts (NAS) does not provide a clear understanding of the blue economy.
 - Given these difficulties, a new accounting framework is needed that can objectively identify production, trade, and services related to the various segments of the blue economy.
- **Indian Blue Economy**
 - India has marked the blue economy as one of the 10 core sectors for national growth.
 - A National Blue Economy Policy that aims to harness maritime resources while preserving the country's rich marine biodiversity has been prepared by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Challenges to Indian Blue Economy**
 - Hazards of cyclones and sea-level rise are likely to be higher in the coastal regions due to climate change.
 - GIS maps from the European Space Agency indicate that 15 per cent of India's coastal areas have witnessed changes between 1992 and 2018 due to agriculture.
 - Depleting forest cover and urbanisation.
 - Population living along the country's coastal areas is expected to rise from 64 million in 2000 to 216 million by 2060.
- **Suggestions by CAG for Executive**
 - Disaster-resilient infrastructure along coasts that can withstand the impacts of hurricanes, typhoons, and tsunamis is the need of the hour. This is particularly important for coastal communities that are vulnerable to the effects of sea-level rise and increasingly intense storm events.
 - The executives should be adequately equipped with infrastructure, especially ICT hubs in place for early warning systems. The development of disaster-resilient infrastructure has implications for the auditing community, as auditors are responsible for ensuring that organisations comply with relevant regulations and standards.
- **CAG's Audit Report**
 - Last year, the CAG tabled its Conservation of Coastal Ecosystem report in Parliament, which contained its observations on How the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification for 2011 and 2019 have been implemented between 2015 and 2019.
 - It looked at the underlining efficiency of development drivers such as project clearances, construction activity, institutional capacity to curb land and forest violations, community livelihood support mechanisms, as well as mitigation management plans to conserve biodiversities such as mangroves and near-shore coral reefs that protect us from weather vulnerabilities like storms and coastal floods.
 - The audit resulted in focused recommendations to help improve the CRZ ecosystem.
- The toolkits being prepared by SAI20 under the leadership of the CAG of India will be presented at the SAI20 Engagement Group meet.
- This will provide a unique opportunity for constructive dialogue and agreement to improve auditing of performance in specific areas of ocean-based activities.
- It will help in the assessment of how clearly the policy goals are planned and implemented.

PRELIMS
1. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) granted Navratna Status
In News

- Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Central Public Sector Enterprises of Ministry of Railways, has been granted Navratna Status.
 - The company was granted Mini-Ratna status in September 2013.

About RVNL

RVNL was incorporated as PSU in 2003, with following functions:

- Undertaking project development and execution of works covering full project life cycle.
- Creating Project specific SPVs for individual works, if required.
- On completion of a Railway project by RVNL, the concerned Zonal Railway will undertake its operation and maintenance.

Benefits of Navratna status

- When a company achieves Navratna status, it gets enhanced financial and operational freedom
- It empowers it to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore or 15% of their net worth on a single project without seeking government approval.
- They will also have the freedom to enter joint ventures, form alliances and float subsidiaries abroad.

2. Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (MSTPP)
In News

- NTPC has marked its first overseas capacity addition, beginning with Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (MSTPP) in Bangladesh

About Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (MSTPP)

- Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (MSTPP) is located in Rampal, Mongla, Bagerhat, Bangladesh.
- NTPC recently added Unit-1, a 660 MW capacity, of the 1320 MW (2x660)
 - The new addition takes the Installed Capacity of NTPC to 72304 MW.
- This demonstrates the company's global reach and commitment to providing reliable and sustainable power.
- The project was executed in collaboration with the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Pvt Ltd. (BIFPCL), a foreign joint venture company of NTPC Ltd.

3. Ajay Banga Selected 14th President of the World Bank
In News

- Recently, the Executive Directors of the World Bank selected Ajay Banga as President of the World Bank for a five-year term beginning June 2, 2023.

About World Bank

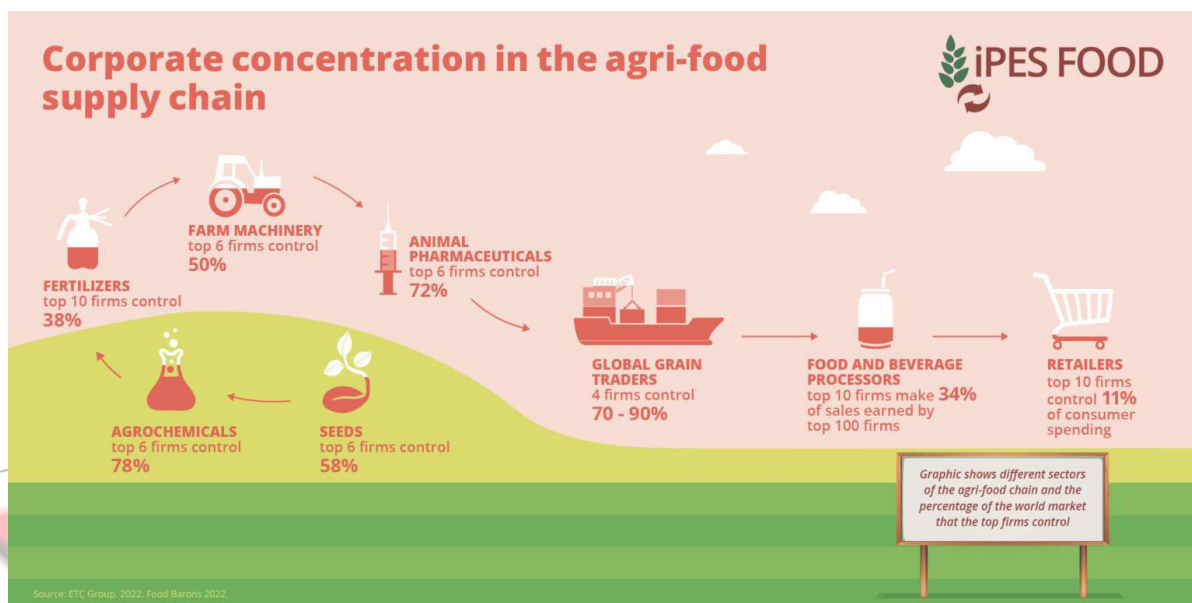
- **Origin:**
 - It traces its origin to the **Bretton Woods Conference**, officially known as the **United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference**.
 - It was a gathering of delegates from 44 nations that met from July 1 to 22, 1944 in **Bretton Woods, New Hampshire (USA)**, to agree upon a series of new rules for international financial and monetary order after the conclusion of World War II.
- **Partnerships:**
 - The World Bank Group is an international partnership comprising 189 countries and five constituent institutions that works towards **eradicating poverty and creating prosperity**.
- **Significance:**
 - The World Bank is dedicated to **providing financing, advice, and research** to developing nations to aid their economic advancement.
 - The bank predominantly acts as an organisation that attempts to **fight poverty** by offering **developmental assistance to middle- and low-income countries**.
- **The five development institutions under the World Bank Group are:**
 - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
 - International Development Association (IDA)
 - International Finance Corporation (IFC)
 - Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
 - International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
 - India is a **member of four of the five constituents** of the World Bank Group. [India is **not a member of ICSID** (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes)].

Reports and Publication:

- **World Development Report:**
 - The World Development Report is an **annual report published** since 1978 by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or World Bank.
 - Each WDR provides in-depth analysis of a specific aspect of economic development.

4. Who's Tipping the Scales Report

- ✓ The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems has released a report titled “Who’s tipping the scales”.
- ✓ The report has highlighted the visible manner in which corporate takeover of food governance systems is taking place.
- ✓ According to the report, partnerships between corporates and intergovernmental bodies like the UN creates conflicts of interest and allows the corporates to blue-wash or social-wash their reputations.



What is Bluewashing?

- a) Bluewashing refers to a deceptive form of marketing in which an enterprise uses deceptive marketing techniques to overstate its commitment to responsible social practices.
- b) It can be used interchangeably with the term greenwashing but has a greater focus on economic and community factors rather than the environment.

what is the origin of the term bluewashing?

- c) The term bluewashing was first used to refer to companies who signed the United Nations Global Compact and its principles but did not make any actual policy reforms.
- d) Referring to the colour of the United Nations flag, bluewashing came to mean that some participating companies were using the Global Compact to improve the public perception of their values, social programs, and governance practices without introducing any real changes or reforms.

ANSWER WRITTING

Q. Enumerate the reasons behind the loss of biodiversity at an alarming rate in recent years. What could be the potential impact of biodiversity loss on human health?

The term biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems, and can encompass the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life. According to Living Planet Report by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), in the last 50 years, there has been a 69 per cent decline in the wildlife populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish globally. Researchers believe that Earth is witnessing its sixth mass extinction event and has termed it as ‘biological annihilation’.

The main reasons behind the loss of biodiversity at an alarming rate in recent years are:

- **Changes in Land Use:** The degradation and conversion of forests to alternative land uses, such as agriculture is one of the leading causes of biodiversity loss, especially in the tropics. With a projected global population of 9.8 billion people by 2050, land utilized for agriculture is expected to increase. These land-use changes are one of the gravest threats to remaining biologically diverse habitats.

- **Habitat Fragmentation and destruction:** Factors such as the development of agricultural practices, reduced resources such as food, water, air quality, mining, pollution, and activities related to urbanization are leading to Habitat fragmentation.
- **Nutrient loading:** Over the past four decades, nutrient loading has emerged as one of the most important drivers of ecosystem change in terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems. The increasing use of nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizers has resulted in the eutrophication of freshwater ecosystems and hypoxia in coastal marine ecosystems.
- **Role of Invasive Species:** Invasive alien species have been a major cause of extinction, especially on islands and in freshwater habitats. E.g.: 80% of the threatened species in the Fynbos biome of South Africa are endangered due to invasions by alien species.
- **Natural disasters:** Natural catastrophes such as volcanos, wildfires, floods, hurricanes, droughts, epidemics, tsunamis etc. also cause loss of biodiversity.
- **Climate change:** The risk of species extinction increases with every degree of warming. In the ocean, rising temperatures increase the risk of irreversible loss of marine and coastal ecosystems. E.g.: corals have nearly halved in the past 150 years.
- **Overexploitation of resources:** Overexploitation remains a serious threat to many species and populations. Among the most commonly overexploited species or groups of species are marine fish and invertebrates, trees, and animals hunted for meat.

How biodiversity loss can impact human health:

- **Biodiversity is the basis for much-needed medicines:** Natural compounds found in frogs, plants and many other species provide the basis for many of our medicines. E.g.: Paclitaxel, a drug used to treat cancer is derived from the bark of the Pacific yew tree. According to the UN's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) around 70% of cancer medications are based on nature.
- **Biodiversity provides for traditional medicines:** An estimated 4 billion people still rely primarily on natural remedies to heal themselves e.g.: using latex from fig trees to treat intestinal parasites in the Amazon or neem oil to treat skin disorders in India. Loss of biodiversity can affect traditional medicine systems.
- **Nutrition impact of biodiversity:** Nutrition and biodiversity are linked at many levels. However, the introduction of crop varieties and cropping patterns that affect biodiversity can impact global nutritional status and human health.
- **Impact on the future of drug discovery:** Loss of species can further impact future drug discovery as it could lead to loss of molecules on which researches are yet to be done.
- **Rise in infectious diseases:** Human activities are disturbing both the structure and functions of ecosystems and altering native biodiversity. Patterns of infectious diseases are sensitive to these disturbances.

Human health and planetary health are intricately intertwined hence, it is the responsibility of mankind to save the planet and take some crucial steps to prevent the loss of biodiversity. The key targets agreed upon at COP 15 and SDG goals 14 and 15 must be implemented to protect biodiversity.

MCQs

1. Kuki-Paitei tribal communities recently are in news they belong to which state/ UTs?
(a) Manipur (b) Tripura
(c) Meghalaya (d) Mizoram
2. Considered the following statement regarding Bluewashing ?
1. Bluewashing refers oceans economy development.
2. It can be used interchangeably with the term greenwashing but has a greater focus on economic and community factors rather than the environment.
3. A marketing tactic used by companies to deceive consumers into believing that they are working towards achieving sustainable use and conservation of food systems and water bodies.
Which of the above statement is/ are correct?
(a) Only 1 (b) 1 and 2
3. Considered the following statement regarding global globe race?
(c) 2 and 3 (d) All of the above
1. Commander abhilash tomy created history as the first European to complete the golden globe race
2. His sail boat named Bayanat.
3. During the race boat designs and technology newer than 1968 are not permitted.
4. Required to sail around the world single handed and non-stop.
Which of the above statement is/ are correct?
(a) 1,2,and 4 (b) 2 and 4
(c) 2 ,3 and 4 (d) All of the above
4. Considered the following statement regarding National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22: Summary for Policymakers”?

1. Conducted By Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
2. Objective is to enhance the competitiveness of Indian manufacturing and increase its share in the GDP.
3. Karnataka ia the most innovation state . Which of the above statement is/ are correct?
(a) Only 1 (b)Only 2
(c) **Both 1 and 2** (d)All of the above
5. Recently , India donated propellers of the Antonov AN-32 military transport aircraft to which country ?
(a) **Sri lanka** (b)Indonesia
(c) Myanmar (d)Bangladesh
6. Recently , krishi MApper integrated app lunched by which ministry ?
(a) Union ministry of agriculture and farmers .
(b) Ministry of rural development .
(c) Ministry of labour and employment .
(d) Ministry of social justice and empowerment .
7. Considered the following statement:
 1. Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR) has released a report titled "Report on Currency & Finance 2022-23".
 2. The theme of the report is 'Towards a Greener Cleaner India'.
 3. It is based on the article "Adapting to climate change to cost India ₹85.6 lakh crore by 2030"
 4. Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR) works under the ministry of finance.
 Which of the above statement is/ are correct?
(a) **1,2,and 3** (b)2 and 4
(c) 2 ,3 and 4(d)All of the above
8. Recently, Ajay Banga selected as President of the World Bank for a five-year term. Considered the following statement:
 1. Its origin to the Bretton Woods Conference, officially known as the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference.
 2. The World Bank is dedicated to providing financing, advice, and research to developing nations to aid their economic advancement.
 Which of the above statement is/ are correct?
(a) Only 1 (b)Only 2
(c) **Both 1 and 2** (d)Neither 1 nor 2
9. Considered the following statement regarding Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (MSTPP).
 1. Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (MSTPP) is located in Rampal, Mongla, Bagerhat, Bangladesh
 2. 50:50 joint venture between the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).
 3. The Maitree super thermal power project is located on the bank of Passur River in south-west Bangladesh.
 Which of the above statement is/ are correct?
(a) Only 1 (b)1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3 (d)**All of the above**
10. Consider the following statements.
 1. Brain Stem death is recognized as a legal death in India under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, like many other countries, which has revolutionized the concept of organ donation after death.
 2. After natural cardiac death only a few organs/tissues can be donated (like cornea, bone, skin and blood vessels) whereas after brain stem death almost 37 different organs and tissues can be donated including vital organs such as kidneys, heart, liver and lungs.
 Which of the above statement is/are corrects?
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) **Both 1 and 2** (d) Neither 1 nor 2