



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 06-07-2024

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Brahmaputra River

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- Mapping

Context

- Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the **flood situation** was improving as the water flowing above the danger mark in Brahmaputra river and its tributaries continued to recede.



About

- The Brahmaputra River is one of the major rivers in Asia, originating in Tibet and flowing through China, India, and Bangladesh.

Origin

- The Brahmaputra originates from the **Chemayungdung Glacier**, located on the northern side of the Himalayas in Tibet.
- It is known as the **Yarlung Tsangpo River** in Tibet.

Course

- After flowing eastward through Tibet, the river turns south when it reaches India and enters Arunachal Pradesh.

- *It then flows southwest through the Indian state of Assam, where it is known as the Brahmaputra River.*

Tributaries

- *The Brahmaputra receives numerous tributaries along its course, including the **Subansiri, Kameng, Manas, and Teesta rivers.***
- *These rivers drain a large part of the eastern Himalayas.*

Confluence

- *In Bangladesh, the Brahmaputra merges with the Ganges (known locally as the Padma) and later joins the **Meghna River** before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.*

Importance

- *The Brahmaputra River is crucial for irrigation, transportation, and as a source of livelihood for millions of people in India and Bangladesh.*
- *It supports rich biodiversity and is a lifeline for agriculture in the region.*

Challenges

- *The river is prone to flooding, especially during the monsoon season, which can cause significant damage to infrastructure and agriculture in the floodplains of Assam and Bangladesh.*

Geopolitical Significance

- *The Brahmaputra has geopolitical importance, especially between India and China, as it originates in Tibet (controlled by China) and flows through India and Bangladesh.*

Sampoornata Abhiyan

Syllabus: GS-2: Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors

Context:

- *NITI Aayog launched the **'Sampoornata Abhiyan'** ON 4th July witnessing significant participation from citizens across the country.*

Sampoornata Abhiyan

- *Launched by NITI Aayog.*
- *Campaign runs from 4th July to 30th September 2024.*
- *Aim: Achieve 100% coverage of 12 key social sector indicators in Aspirational Districts and Blocks.*

Scope and Participation:

- *Targets all **112 Aspirational Districts** and **500 Aspirational Blocks** across India.*
- *Significant involvement from local citizens, officials, community leaders, local artists, students, and representatives from various regions.*

Activities included:

- *Health camps, like the one at **Kurabalakota Mandal, Andhra Pradesh.***
- *Nutritional food displays by **Asha and Anganwadi workers** in **Uttar Pradesh** and **Himachal Pradesh.***
- *Selfie booths for participants to celebrate the campaign.*
- ***Awareness marches (Sampoornata Yatras),** like the one in **Bhamini block, Andhra Pradesh.***
- *Painting competitions for children, as seen in **Block Badhra, Haryana.***

Key Locations and Events:

Launch events organized in various states including:

- **Madhya Pradesh:** *Health camps focusing on key indicators.*
- **Uttarakhand and Haryana:** *Local participation at district headquarters.*
- **Andhra Pradesh:** *Health camp with local enthusiasm.*
- **Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh:** *Nutritional displays for pregnant women and children.*

North-Eastern States:

- **Arunachal Pradesh:** *Launch by Deputy Chief Minister Shri Chowna Mein.*
- **Nagaland:** *Event addressed by MLA Shri C KipiliSangatam.*
- **Manipur:** *Free health camp on Diabetes and Hypertension.*

Campaign Activities Over Three Months:

- *Awareness activities such as Gram Sabhas (village meetings), Nukkad Natak (street plays), PaushtikAahar Mela (nutrition fairs), Health camps, ICDS camps (Integrated Child Development Services), awareness marches and rallies, exhibitions, poster making, and poem competitions.*
- *Aim: Saturate 12 identified themes across all **Aspirational Blocks and Districts.***

Support and Collaboration:

- **NITI Aayog officials and Young Professionals** actively involved in guiding and supporting local governance.
- Collaboration with relevant Central Ministries, State, and Union Territory governments.
- Strengthening **Competitive and Cooperative Federalism** to ensure socio-economic development in underserved areas.

Focus Areas of 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' in:

Aspirational Blocks KPIs:

- Percentage of pregnant women registered for **Antenatal Care (ANC)** within the first trimester;
- Percentage of persons screened for **Diabetes against the targeted population** in the Block;
- Percentage of persons **screened for Hypertension** against the targeted population in the Block;
- Percentage of pregnant women **taking Supplementary Nutrition** under the ICDS Programme regularly;
- Percentage of **Soil Health Cards** generated against the soil sample collection target; and
- Percentage of SHGs that have received a **Revolving Fund** against the total SHGs in the block

Aspirational Districts KPIs:

- Percentage of pregnant women **registered for Antenatal Care (ANC)** within the first trimester;
- Percentage of pregnant women taking **Supplementary Nutrition** under the ICDS Programme regularly;
- Percentage of children fully immunized (9-11 months) (BCG+DPT3+OPV3+Measles 1);
- Number of **Soil Health Cards** distributed;
- Percentage of schools with functional electricity at the secondary level; and
- Percentage of schools providing textbooks to children within 1 month of the start of the academic session.

Nomadic Elephant

Syllabus: GS-2; International Relations

Context

- The two-week-long **India-Mongolia joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant'** commenced on Wednesday in Meghalaya's Umroi.



More to know

- 'Nomadic Elephant', which is being held at the Foreign Training Node in Umroi, is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Mongolia. The last edition was conducted in Mongolia in July 2023.
- This is to **enhance military capabilities for counter-insurgency missions under UN mandate.**
- The 16th edition involves a 45-member Indian contingent from Sikkim Scouts Battalion and personnel from other services, alongside the Mongolian 150 Quick Reaction Force Battalion.
- The exercise, focusing on semi-urban and mountainous terrains, includes tactical drills like response to terrorist actions and cordon and search operations, aiming to share best practices in joint operations.

- The exercise include response to terrorist action, the establishment of a joint command post, an intelligence and surveillance centre, securing of a helipad/ landing site, small team insertion and extraction, special heliborne operations, cordon and search operations, besides employment of drones and counter-drone systems, among others.

Significance

- 'Nomadic Elephant' aims to enable both sides to share their best practices in **tactics, techniques, and procedures for conducting joint operations.**

V.O. Chidambaranar Port

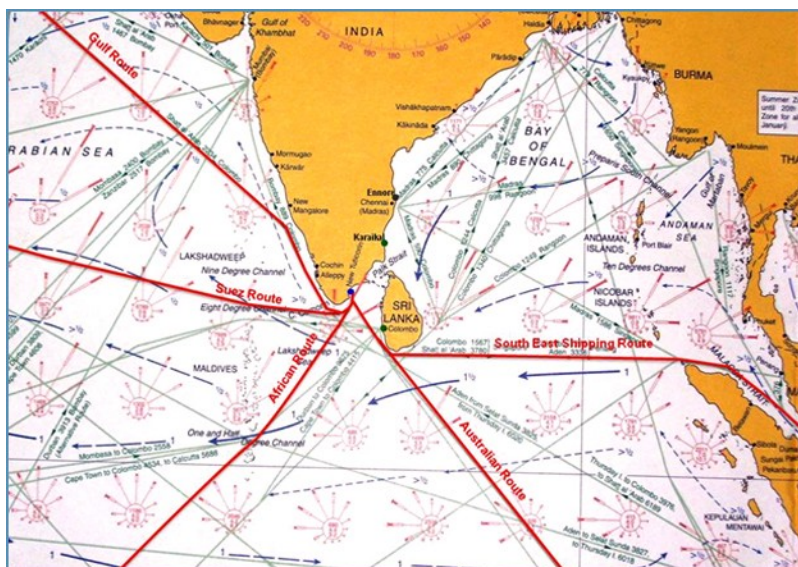
Syllabus: GS-3; Infrastructure- Growth and Development

Context

- VO Chidambaranar Port Authority in Thoothukudi has signed Concession Agreement with JSW Tuticorin Multipurpose Terminal Private Ltd, a part of JSW Infrastructure, for mechanisation of NCB-III to handle dry bulk cargo.

Significance

- This will help in capacity addition of seven million tonnes per annum (mtpa) for the port.



About

- *V.O. Chidambaranar Port, formerly known as **Tuticorin Port**, is a major seaport located in the **Gulf of Mannar** on the southeastern coast of India.*

Location

- *The port is situated in Tuticorin (Thoothukudi) district in the state of Tamil Nadu, India.*
- *It is strategically positioned on the east-west international sea route.*

History

- *The port was **originally conceived in 1868** and has since undergone several expansions and developments.*
- *It was renamed V.O. Chidambaranar Port in 2011 in honor of V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, an Indian freedom fighter and Tamil Nadu's pioneer of shipping industry.*

Infrastructure

- *V.O. Chidambaranar Port is a major container terminal in India, handling a variety of cargo including containers, **coal, fertilizers, petroleum products, and general cargo.***
- *It has modern facilities for handling different types of cargo efficiently.*

Connectivity

- *The port is well-connected by road and rail networks to various parts of Tamil Nadu and neighboring states.*
- *It has dedicated rail sidings and container freight stations to facilitate the movement of cargo.*

Importance

- *It is one of the largest ports in India and plays a crucial role in the country's international trade.*
- *It serves as a **gateway for trade with Southeast Asian countries** and beyond.*

Expansion Plans

- *The port has been expanding its capacity and infrastructure to handle larger vessels and increased cargo traffic.*
- *Several projects are underway to enhance its capabilities and efficiency.*

Environmental Initiatives

- *The port has taken initiatives to improve **environmental sustainability**, including measures to **reduce emissions and conserve energy**.*

Hathras stampede

Syllabus: GS-3: Disaster management – stampede.

Context:

- *The stampede occurred on 2 July 2024 in the **Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh, India**.*
- *The incident took place during a **Hindu religious event called a satsang** in the village of Mughal Garhi.*

Casualties:

- *123 people lost their lives, with most victims being women and children.*
- *At least 150 others were hospitalized due to injuries.*

Attendance and Capacity:

- *Around 250,000 people attended the event, which had official permission for a maximum of 80,000 attendees.*

Cause:

- *The stampede was triggered by **heat, overcrowding, and a strong dust storm**, causing people to panic.*
- *The exit from the venue was narrow, which worsened the situation.*
- *People pushed each other to get a **glimpse of the preacher, Suraj Pal**, and some tried to collect soil from around his feet, contributing to the chaos.*
- *Reports also suggest that attendees were blocked to allow Pal and his group to exit first.*

Investigation:

- *Police reports indicated around 250,000 people attended, far exceeding the permitted number.*
- *Pal's lawyer claimed he denied responsibility, attributing the disaster to "**anti-social elements**" and alleging a "**criminal conspiracy**" against him.*
- *Six aides of Pal were arrested in connection with the incident.*

Government Response:

- *Chief Minister of UP announced **financial assistance of ₹200,000** for each family of the deceased (approximately US\$2,400) and ₹50,000 for those injured.*
- *He also **ordered an investigation** into the causes of the incident.*

Measures:

Planning and Coordination

- **Capacity Limits:** *Strictly enforce attendee limits based on the capacity of the venue.*
- **Permits and Permissions:** *Ensure all events have the necessary permits and that organizers adhere to the conditions set by authorities.*
- **Event Planning:** *Detailed planning for crowd management, including entry and exit routes, crowd control barriers, and designated emergency exits.*

Infrastructure and Facilities

- **Adequate Facilities:** *Provide sufficient water, medical facilities, restrooms, and shaded areas to prevent overcrowding and ensure comfort.*
- **Emergency Exits:** *Clearly mark and maintain multiple, wide emergency exits to facilitate quick evacuation.*

Crowd Management

- **Trained Personnel:** *Deploy trained crowd control personnel and volunteers to manage and guide attendees.*
- **Communication:** *Use public address systems and signage to communicate with the crowd and provide instructions.*
- **Staggered Entry/Exit:** *Implement staggered entry and exit times to prevent bottlenecks.*

Surveillance and Monitoring

- **Surveillance:** *Use CCTV cameras and drones to monitor crowd movement and identify potential issues.*
- **On-Site Medical Teams:** *Have medical teams on standby to respond quickly to any emergencies.*

Weather and Environmental Considerations

- **Weather Monitoring:** Monitor weather conditions and have contingency plans for extreme weather, such as dust storms or heatwaves.
- **Venue Selection:** Choose venues with suitable terrain and avoid locations that can become hazardous, such as muddy fields.

Public Awareness

- **Safety Announcements:** Regularly inform attendees about safety protocols and emergency procedures.
- **Behavior Guidelines:** Educate the public on the importance of orderly conduct and following instructions during the event.

Legal and Regulatory Measures

- **Regulations and Standards:** Implement and enforce regulations for large gatherings, including safety standards for temporary structures like tents.
- **Accountability:** Hold organizers accountable for violations and ensure strict penalties for non-compliance.

Emergency Response Planning

- **Emergency Plans:** Develop comprehensive emergency response plans in coordination with local authorities, including evacuation procedures and medical response strategies.
- **Drills and Simulations:** Conduct regular drills and simulations to ensure readiness for potential emergencies.