



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 22-06-2024

GS-1

1. Over 5,000 Myanmar refugees take shelter in Manipur's Naga district

GS-3

2. Methanol poisoning
3. Donanemab
4. Enterobacter bugandensis
5. Limbless amphibian added to Kaziranga's fauna

Over 5,000 Myanmar refugees take shelter in Manipur's Naga district

Syllabus: GS-1; Society, GS-2; International Relations

Context:

- *About 5,400 people from Myanmar have taken shelter in Manipur's Kamjong district due to fears of "aerial bombardment and attacks".*

Complex Demographics and Migration Issues

Undocumented Migrants:

- *The presence of **undocumented migrants** in the Naga-dominated district adds complexity to the **ethnic conflict in Myanmar**.*
- *The conflict involves the **tribal Kuki-Zo people** and the majority **Meitei community**.*

Conflict Impact:

- ***Since May 3, 2023**, at least 221 people have been killed.*
- *More than 50,000 people have been displaced due to the conflict.*

Manipur's Diverse Population:

- *The population includes 34 Scheduled Tribes.*
- *This includes the **Kuki-Zo-Hmar people** and the Nagas.*

Cross-border Movement:

- *Since the 2021 military coup in Myanmar, many have **crossed into Mizoram and Manipur** due to ethnic ties.*
- *India and Myanmar share an unfenced border.*

Border Control:

- *Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the **suspension of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with Myanmar**.*
- *The 1,643 km border is planned to be fenced.*
- ***The Assam Rifles** is deployed along the Myanmar border.*

Local Concerns:

- *The Naga body stated there is no valid reason for **war preparedness in Naga villages**, calling the threat perception imaginary.*
- *They expressed that the **presence of combat-uniformed men** has created fear and insecurity among villagers, exacerbated by the influx of refugees.*

Illegal Immigrants:

- *Over 5,400 illegal immigrants are being housed in shelters in eight **Tangkhul Naga villages**.*
- *These **immigrants outnumber** the local residents.*

Challenges:

- *Despite capturing the **biometrics of over 5,100 immigrants**, monitoring adult male inmates is challenging.*
- *The prolonged stay of immigrants is seen as detrimental to the well-being of the local community.*

Social Impact:

- *Increasing activities of **anti-social elements** have become unbearable.*
- *The imbalance in population has led to the **overwhelming of native customs** by foreign culture.*

Military Presence:

- *Naga bodies observed **massive military mobilization** exercises around the border.*
- *They criticized the "belligerent attitude" of military personnel, affecting peace and tranquility despite the **Indo-Naga Ceasefire agreement of 1997**.*
- *This military presence is creating **fear among the villagers**.*

Sympathy and Request:

- *The Naga community expressed sympathy for immigrants **fleeing violence in Myanmar**.*
- *They acknowledged the state's efforts but called for measures to **ensure the safe return of immigrants to their home country**.*

1951 Refugee Convention - Key Points for UPSC Exam

- **Adopted:** 28 July 1951.
- **Came into Force:** 22 April 1954.
- **Administered by:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- **Purpose:**
- *To define the term "refugee" and outline the rights of individuals granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations granting asylum.*

Definition of Refugee:

- *A person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside their country of nationality and is unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country.*

Core Principles:

- **Non-refoulement:** Prohibits returning refugees to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.
- **Non-discrimination:** Equal treatment for all refugees without discrimination based on race, religion, or country of origin.
- **Non-penalization:** Refugees should not be penalized for illegal entry or stay, provided they present themselves without delay to the authorities and show good cause for their illegal entry or presence.

Rights of Refugees:

- Right to Non-refoulement; Right to work; Right to housing; Right to education; Right to public relief and assistance; Right to freedom of movement; Right to identity papers and travel documents;
- **Responsibilities of Refugees:** Must conform to the laws and regulations of the host country.

Key Articles:

- **Article 1:** Definition of a refugee.
- **Article 33:** Prohibition of expulsion or return ("refoulement").
- **Article 31:** Prohibition of penalties on account of illegal entry or presence.

1967 Protocol:

- **Purpose:** To address limitations in the 1951 Convention, particularly the temporal and geographical restrictions.
- **Removed:** The restriction to events occurring before 1 January 1951 and limited the scope to Europe.
- **Result:** The Convention now applies universally without geographical or time limitations.
- **India and the 1951 Convention:**
- **Non-signatory:** India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.
- **Domestic Policies:** Despite this, India hosts a large number of refugees and adheres to the principle of non-refoulement through its judicial decisions and executive policies.

Methanol poisoning

Syllabus: GS-3: General Science – Methanol

Context:

- **Methanol-laced hooch** claims 47 lives in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi, exposing gaps in liquor regulation.

Methanol-Laced Hooch

- **Hooch:** Illegally produced or homemade alcoholic beverages.
- **Methanol:** A type of alcohol used industrially as a solvent, antifreeze, and fuel, highly toxic to humans.
- **Methanol vs. Ethanol:** Methanol is not fit for human consumption. Unlike ethanol (the alcohol found in beverages), methanol is poisonous and can cause blindness, organ damage, or even death.
- **Sources:** Methanol can be obtained from sources like industrial chemicals or windshield washer fluid. It is sometimes mixed into illegally produced alcohol to increase volume or potency.

Why Methanol is Used in Hooch

- **Cost Reduction:** Methanol is cheaper than ethanol (the alcohol typically found in beverages).
- **Availability:** Easier to obtain through industrial means.

Health Impact of Methanol

- **Acute Toxicity:** Even small amounts can be lethal.
- **Symptoms:** Nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, severe abdominal pain, and visual disturbances.
- **Severe Effects:** Blindness, metabolic acidosis, organ failure, and death.

Donanemab

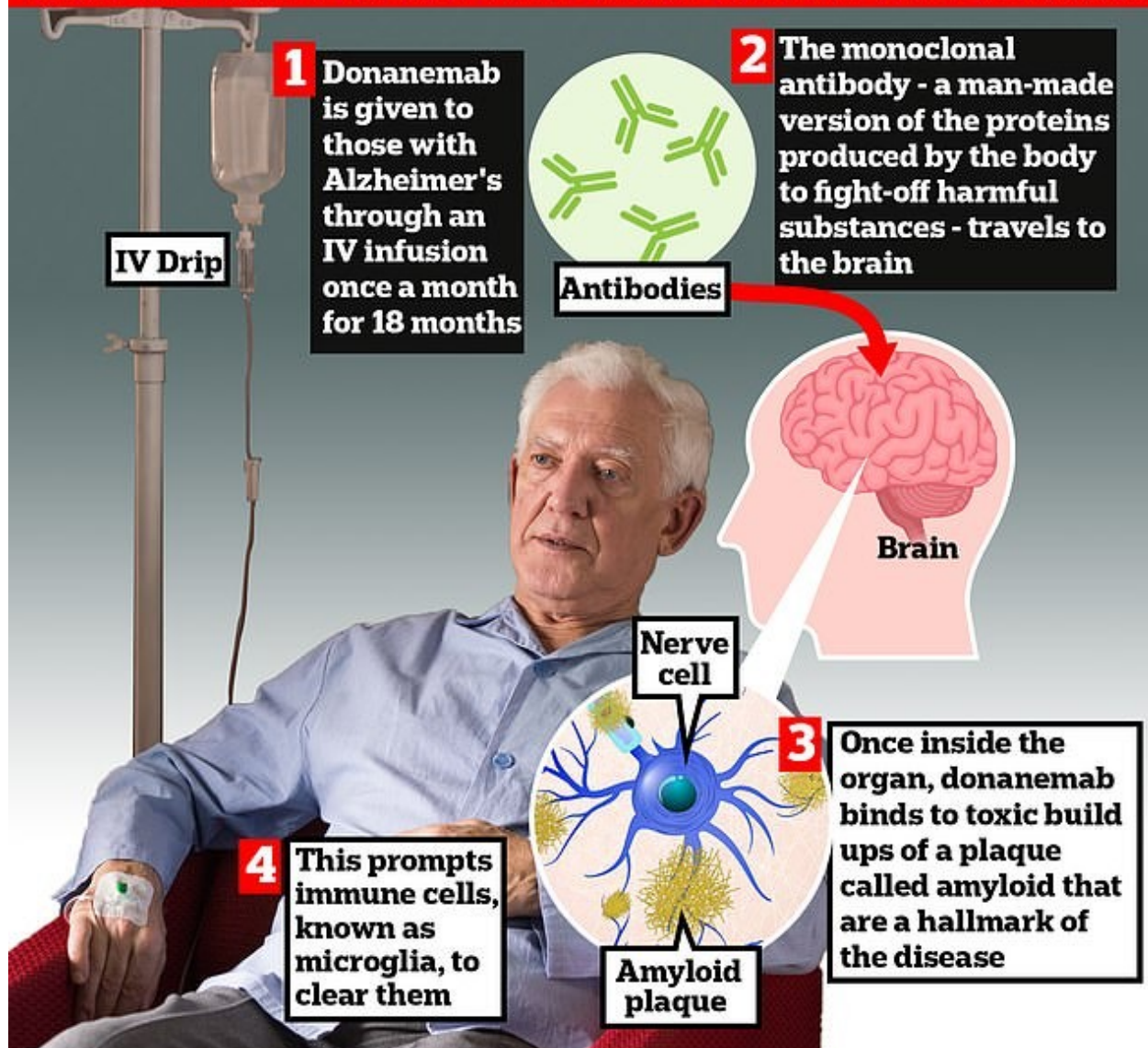
Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Technology

Context

- A committee of independent advisers to the Food and Drug Administration voted unanimously that the benefits outweigh the risks of the newest experimental drug for Alzheimer's disease.

About

HOW DOES ALZHEIMER'S DRUG DONANEMAB WORK?



- Donanemab (LY3002813) is a **biological drug** developed by Eli Lilly and Co. that is being tested in Phase III clinical trials as a potential treatment for early Alzheimer's disease.
- Donanemab is a monoclonal antibody that **targets Aβ(p3-42)**, a form of **Amyloid-β (Aβ)** found in plaques.
- It works by clearing the **amyloid plaques** that are characteristic of Alzheimer's.
- In July 2023, results from the Phase III clinical trial showed that donanemab significantly slowed cognitive and functional decline in people with early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease.

- *The drug also slowed memory and thinking decline by more than 20%, and nearly half of study participants who received donanemab at the earliest stage of the disease had no clinical progression at one year.*
- *The results also showed that donanemab works better the earlier it is given.*
- *To be eligible for donanemab treatment, a person would need to be in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and have amyloid protein buildup in their brain.*
- *Regulatory authorities will carefully consider the safety of the drug alongside its benefits.*

Enterobacter bugandensis

Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Technology

Context

- *Nasa's Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams and her colleague Butch Wilmore successfully entered the **International Space Station** after docking the Boeing's Starliner spacecraft on June 6 2024.*
- *However, a new challenge persists for the crew inside the space station in the form of a 'notorious' bacteria, which has evolved into a more potent form.*



A multidrug resistant bacteria on Space Station has mutated

- *On April 16 2024, Nasa released a note on a new scientific paper, which studied strains of the bacterial species 'Enterobacter bugandensis' found on the space station.*
- *Study findings indicate under stress, the ISS isolated strains mutated and became genetically and functionally distinct compared to their Earth counterparts.*
- *The strains were able to persist in the ISS over time with a significant abundance.*
- *It further noted that the bacteria was able to coexist with the multiple other microorganisms, and in some cases could have **"helped those organisms survive."***

How did Enterobacter bugandensis mutate on ISS?

- *Nasa explained that closed human-built environments like the ISS are unique as they provide extreme environmental conditions due to elevated carbon dioxide levels, microgravity, and radiation.*
- *These conditions prompt the microorganisms to adapt to them in order to thrive.*
- *Enterobacter species are found in soil, sewage, and as a **commensal enteric flora of the human gastrointestinal tract.***

Target age group of E. bugandensis

- *The US health department National Institutes of Health explains, "Nosocomial pathogens can cause life-threatening infections in neonates and immunocompromised patients.*
- *E. bugandensis (EB-247) is a described species of Enterobacter, associated with neonatal sepsis.*
- *Neonatal sepsis refers to an infection involving **bloodstream** in newborn infants less than 28 days old.*
- *Enterobacter infections can include lower respiratory tract infections, skin and soft-tissue infections, urinary tract infections (UTIs), endocarditis, intra-abdominal infections, septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, CNS and ophthalmic- infections.*
- *Highlighting the implications of the findings, the research paper underscored the need for robust preventive measures, to ensure the safety of astronauts against any potential pathogenic threats in the future missions.*

Limbless amphibian added to Kaziranga's fauna

Syllabus: GS-3: Biodiversity – wildlife.

Context:

- A **limbless amphibian** called the striped caecilian (*Ichthyophis* spp) was discovered in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

More about news:

- **Herpetologists** conducted a rapid survey from June 14-17 to document the fauna.
- The survey team included experts from **Assam Don Bosco University, Wildlife Institute of India, and local colleges.**
- **Reptiles and amphibians** (herpetofauna) are crucial as **indicator species** for environmental health and are vulnerable to climate change.

Classification and Habitat:

- Belongs to the order **Gymnophiona**, commonly known as caecilians.
- Found in tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
- Typically inhabits moist soil, leaf litter, and undergrowth of tropical forests.

Physical Characteristics:

- **Limbless, snake-like body** with distinct ringed or striped patterns.
- Smooth, shiny skin often **mistaken for earthworms.**
- Eyes are typically reduced or covered by skin, as they rely more on other senses.

Reproductive Biology:

- Generally **oviparous (egg-laying).**
- Eggs are fertilized internally; females lay eggs in moist soil or leaf litter.
- Direct development—eggs hatch into miniature adults, skipping larval stages.

Behavioral Adaptations:

- **Nocturnal and secretive**, spending much of their time underground.
- Use body vibrations and chemical signals for communication and navigation.

Ecological Role:

- Important in **nutrient cycling** and soil aeration due to burrowing behavior.
- Preyed upon by various predators including birds, mammals, and larger reptiles.