



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 28-06-2024

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Chenab river

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- Rivers in India

Context

- A five-member Pakistan delegation and neutral experts of the World Bank toured the Ratle power project, a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power project in the Chenab Valley.



About

The Chenab River is a significant river in South Asia, primarily flowing through India and Pakistan. Here are some key points about the Chenab River:

- **Location and Course:** The Chenab River originates from the confluence of the Chandra and Bhaga rivers near Tandi in Himachal Pradesh, India. It flows northwest through the states of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir in India, and then enters Pakistan.

In Pakistan, it joins the Indus River near the city of Uch Sharif in Punjab province.

- **Length:** *The total length of the Chenab River is approximately 960 kilometers (600 miles).*

It is one of the largest rivers in the region.

- **Tributaries:** *Major tributaries of the Chenab River include the Jhelum River, Ravi River, and Tawi River.*

These tributaries significantly contribute to the flow and drainage of the Chenab basin.

- **Hydroelectric Power:** *The Chenab River is harnessed for hydroelectric power generation in both India and Pakistan.*

Several dams and hydroelectric projects are constructed along its course to utilize its water resources for electricity generation and irrigation.

- **Historical and Cultural Significance:** *The Chenab River has historical and cultural importance in the region, featuring prominently in the ancient history and mythology of the Indian subcontinent.*

- **Environmental Concerns:** *Like many rivers in the region, the Chenab River faces challenges such as pollution, siltation, and environmental degradation due to human activities and climate change impacts.*

- **Cross-Border River:** *The Chenab River forms a part of the boundary between India and Pakistan, and its waters are governed by the Indus Waters Treaty (1960), which allocates the use of the river's waters between the two countries.*

Overall, the Chenab River plays a crucial role in the economy, ecology, and culture of the regions it traverses, contributing to agriculture, hydroelectric power generation, and providing a lifeline to communities along its banks.

Julian Assange

Syllabus: GS-2: International affairs. &

Context:

- *In a dramatic conclusion to an extradition saga that lasted more than a decade, **WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on June 26** pleaded guilty to violating espionage law, allowing him to walk free to return to his home in Australia, as part of a landmark deal with U.S. Justice Department.*

Julian Assange: Background and WikiLeaks

- Born in 1971 in Townsville, Australia; **studied mathematics and physics** at the University of Melbourne but did not complete his degree.
- **Founded WikiLeaks in 2006**, aiming to publish censored or restricted official materials related to war, spying, and corruption.

Founding of WikiLeaks

- Founded in the year: 2006
- Purpose: An international **non-profit organization** that publishes news leaks and classified media provided by anonymous sources.

Key Leaks:

- **Collateral Murder Video (2010)**: Footage of a July 2007 Baghdad airstrike in which Iraqi journalists were killed by U.S. forces.
- **Afghan War Diary (2010)**: Over 75,000 documents about the war in Afghanistan.
- **Iraq War Logs (2010)**: Nearly 400,000 documents concerning the Iraq War.
- **Cablegate (2010)**: Over 250,000 U.S. diplomatic cables.

Legal Issues and Controversies

- **Swedish Sexual Assault Allegations (2010)**: Accused of sexual misconduct in Sweden, which led to a lengthy legal battle. Assange denied the allegations, claiming they were politically motivated.
- **Asylum in Ecuadorian Embassy (2012-2019)**: Sought refuge in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden and potentially to the U.S. Stayed there for nearly seven years.
- **Revocation of Asylum**: Ecuador withdrew asylum in April 2019, leading to Assange's arrest by British authorities.

Asylum:

- **Faced extradition from the UK to Sweden in 2010** over sex crime allegations, which he denied as a pretext for potential U.S. extradition.
- **Took refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in London in 2012**, staying there for seven years until Swedish prosecutors dropped the case in 2017.

U.S. Legal Challenges:

- Trump administration indicted Assange on 17 charges related to the **Espionage Act for collaborating in a conspiracy** involving leaked DNC emails during the 2016 U.S. presidential election.
- **Ecuador revoked his asylum in 2019**, leading to his arrest and imprisonment in the UK's Belmarsh Prison.

Extradition Saga and Recent Developments:

- *UK courts approved **Assange's extradition to the U.S. in 2022**, but he won the right to appeal, arguing political motivation.*
- *On June 26, 2024, **Assange pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to obtain and disclose classified documents in exchange for his release.***
- *He was **sentenced to the five years** he had spent in UK custody and declared a free man.*
- ***Assange returned to Australia**, where his lawyer affirmed his commitment to WikiLeaks and advocacy for freedom of speech.*

Impact and Legacy:

- *Assange's case **sparked global debates on press freedom, government transparency, and the limits of whistleblowing.***
- ***WikiLeaks continues its operations despite legal challenges**, reflecting ongoing tensions between national security and freedom of information.*

Skin Bank

Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Technology

Context

- *Army Hospital Launches First-Of-Its-Kind Skin Bank Facility For Armed Forces In Delhi.*

More to know

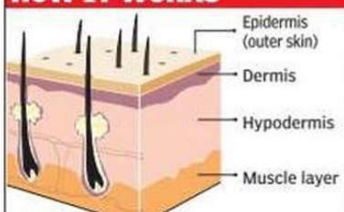
- *Army's Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi has opened a **state-of-the-art skin bank facility, a first-of-its-kind to be established within the Armed Forces Medical Services.***

Aim

- *The Defence Ministry said that this landmark initiative aims to revolutionise the treatment of severe **burn injuries and other skin-related conditions among service members and their families.***
- *The new skin bank aims to serve as a **centralised hub** for the collection, processing, storage, and distribution of skin grafts, providing a critical resource for military medical centers across the country.*

The Ministry said that the facility will adhere to the highest standards of quality

HOW IT WORKS



Epidermis (outer skin)
Dermis
Hypodermis
Muscle layer

SKIN IS TAKEN FROM A **DONOR'S CADAVER** WITH THE FAMILY'S CONSENT

Donor has to be over **18** years of age

OUTER SKIN

Skin bank personnel come to the donor's home, morgue or hospital and take skin from the **thigh**

SKIN can be preserved for **2-5 years** if maintained in sub-zero temperature

Harvested skin is evaluated, processed, screened and given to **burns surgeon**

When skin is applied on a **burns patient**, it acts as a temporary dressing. It's rejected by the body over four weeks

SKIN can be harvested within **six hours** of death

30-40 minutes

Procedure duration

WHO CAN'T DONATE

Those suffering from AIDS, Hepatitis B and C sexually transmitted diseases, skin cancer, active skin disease, septicemia

DURING THAT PERIOD, IT HELPS
Effective control of protein and fluid loss from wounds; reversal of hyper-metabolic state with improvement in nutritional status; control of wound infection and improvement in bed of the wound, making it ready for the acceptance of precious skin auto grafts and immediate pain relief and general well-being

NO NEED TO MATCH BLOOD GROUP OF DONOR AND RECIPIENT

- control and safety, ensuring the integrity and reliability of the skin grafts.

Significance

- The launch of the skin bank as a testament to the unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of service members. the facility will not only **enhance the quality of care, but also strengthen the ability to support those who have been affected by serious injuries.**

Know More

What is a skin bank for?

- Skin Banking is a process in which skin is removed from a donor body, tested for suitability as a graft material, packaged, stored, and finally reused as a graft.
- The process is similar to that for blood banking. Skin grafts can be autografts or allografts.

Pushpak, ISRO's reusable launch vehicle

Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Technology

Context

- *Recently, The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** completed the third **Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX)** at the **Aeronautical Test Range (ATR)** in **Chitradurga, Karnataka**.*



Working

- *Due to this vehicle's low lift-to-drag ratio aerodynamic configuration, the landing velocity exceeded 320 kmph, compared to 260 kmph for a commercial aircraft and 280 kmph for a typical fighter aircraft.*
- *After touchdown, the vehicle velocity was reduced to nearly 100 kmph using its brake parachute, after which the landing gear brakes were employed for deceleration and stop on the runway.*
- *During this ground roll phase, Pushpak utilises its rudder and nose wheel steering system to autonomously maintain a stable and precise ground roll along the runway.*

More to know

- *The RLV-LEX uses **multisensor fusion** including sensors like the Inertial sensor, Radar altimeter, Flush air data system, Pseudolite system and NavIC.*

- *Notably, the RLV-LEX-03 mission reused the winged body and flight systems as such without any modification, from the LEX-02 mission, demonstrating the robustness of ISRO's capability of design to reuse flight systems for multiple missions.*

Significance

- *This mission simulates the **approach & landing interface and high-speed landing conditions for a vehicle returning from space**, which will reaffirm ISRO's expertise in acquiring the most critical technologies required for the development of a Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)*

eShakshya app

Syllabus: GS-3: Internal security – law and order.

Context:

- *The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** is testing a mobile app called **eSakshya to help police record crime scenes, searches, and seizures**, then upload these files to a cloud platform.*

More about eShakshya App:

- *Police must upload a selfie after completing the procedure.*
- *Each recording can be **up to four minutes long**, and multiple files can be uploaded for each **First Information Report (FIR)**.*
- ***In 2022, 58.24 lakh crimes** were reported in India.*
- ***20% of these crimes** involve punishments of seven years or more, and 35% involve seizures.*
- *An **estimated 11.64 lakh crimes** will require crime scene photography and videography as per Clause 176 of the BNSS.*
- ***Approximately 20.38 lakh crimes** will involve search and seizures.*
- ***Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.*
- *The BNSS requires **compulsory audio-video recording** of search and seizure in criminal cases and mandatory forensic examination for offences with punishments of seven years or more.*
- *Procuring **necessary hardware and cloud storage** is expensive, and many States lack the resources.*
- *The mobile app, developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, aims to bring uniformity to investigations and increase conviction rates.*

- *The app will be available to all police stations for download and use.*
- *Police have **two options for recording**:*
- ***Record on personal devices**, generate a hash value, then upload at the police station and send to a judicial officer.*
- ***Directly upload using eSakshya**, which requires good internet connectivity.*
- *Adhering to the **chain of evidence submission** is crucial to prevent benefits to the accused.*
- *Procedural errors in **recording or handling digital evidence** could result in criminals escaping justice.*
- ***Forensic evidence** must be handled meticulously to avoid challenges related to the chain of command.*