TPS 18 Daily Current Affairs
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

World Affairs

International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT)

Science and Technology

Norovirus
CO2 injection technology
Flu-Gas Desulfurization (FGD)
Flue Gases

Environment

Orangutan
Borneo Islands
Shellfish Reefs
Coral reefs
Coral bleaching
Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB)

WORLD AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN RADIO AND TELEVISION (IAWRT)

Why in News?

India’s first radio festival was recently held in Delhi.

More about News

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Note: We attempt to cover new issues every day and drop the issues which are already covered. Therefore aspirants are advised to regularly follow NEO IAS daily current affairs material and video for a guaranteed success in Prelims 2018. NEO IAS daily current affairs stands out from other daily current affairs by its exclusive UPSC prelims focus on aspects that lie in and beyond current affairs.
The festival was organised by the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT), in collaboration with UNESCO.

The event touched on the 2018’s theme of World Radio Day – sports and radio – and traced the journey of creativity, music and social changes on the radio.

About IAWRT:

IAWRT is a global organization formed by professional women working in electronic and allied media with a mission to strengthen initiatives towards ensuring women’s views and values are integral part of programming and to advance the impact of women in media.

IAWRT organizes conferences, implements projects undertakes activities collaborates with and media organizations.

It is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

IAWRT is managed by international board, which oversees funding initiatives for a number of local chapters and member activities.

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### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### NOROVIRUS

**Why in News?**

The ongoing 23rd Olympic Winter Games at the South Korean city of Pyeongchang, has been hit by an extraordinary outbreak of disease caused by Norovirus.

**What is norovirus?**

- Norovirus is a group of related viruses in the Caliciviridae family.
- The norovirus is also referred to as the “winter vomiting bug.”
- The virus is not uncommon, as roughly 21 million Americans get the virus each year.
- It infects people across all age groups and is highly contagious.
- A common way the virus is transmitted is through close contact with an infected person.

**Transmission**

- Primary route is oral-faecal.
- Also through contaminated food, water and surface.

**Symptoms**

- Sudden onset of vomiting and/or diarrhoea
- Nausea and abdominal pain headaches
- Body aches and fever
- Extreme cases, loss of fluids could lead to dehydration.

**Vaccine**

At present not available.

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**Prevention**
- Precautionary hand washes after using lavatory and before cooking and eating.
- Disinfecting the surfaces are the ways to prevent it.

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**CO2 INJECTION TECHNOLOGY**

**Why in News?**

State owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to introduce carbon dioxide (CO2) injection technology in its **Gandhar oil field** in Gujarat.

**Key Facts**

- It will be the first large scale CO2-injected project in Asia.
- Its purpose is to recover extra 20 million barrels of crude oil under **enhanced oil recovery (EOR)** programme.

**Note** → EOR programme aims at recovering up to 20% of residual oil from ageing oil fields to improve India's energy security.

- Gandhar located in Gujarat is one of ONGC’s major **brownfields** and was discovered in 1983.
- The field produces approximately 30,000 barrels of oil per day and is on the decline.
- Under this project, ONGC plans to invest $75 million in CO2 capture and another $200 million in injector producer network to recover an extra 15% of residual oil currently valued at $1.36 billion.
- It will be **operational in 20 months**.
- ONGC is in talks with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for utilising nearly 5 million tonnes of emitted gas (CO2) from the latter’s Gandhar plant.

**About CO2 injection technology**

- CO2 injection technology is a **proven concept in the West** specially the US and Canada.
- Under it, **CO2 gas is injected with residual oil in the ageing field** in which total oil production has been declining.
- It **reduces its viscosity** and makes it easier to displace oil from the rock pores.
- CO2 gas also swells oil, thereby pushing it towards the producing well for extraction.

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**FLU-GAS DESULFURIZATION (FGD)**

**Why in News?**

The state owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has bagged major order worth Rs. 560 crore from the National Thermal Power Corporation.
(NTPC) for setting up **flue gas desulphurisation (FGD)** system at National Capital Power Station (capacity 2×490 MW) at **Dadri** in Uttar Pradesh.

**Key Facts**

- The order involves **installation of an indigenously developed FGD system** in NTPC power station.
- The system is **aimed at controlling various harmful emissions**, as per stringent emission norms declared by the Union Ministry for Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- It will be the **13th order for desulphurization unit** being executed by BHEL as part of Make in India programme and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions scheme to reduce carbon footprint.

**Flu-Gas Desulfurization (FGD)**

- FGD is a **set of technologies used to remove sulphur-dioxide (SO2) from exhaust flue gases of fossil-fuel power plants**, as well as from the emissions of other SOx emitting processes.
- Common methods used in it are wet scrubbing method, Wet and Dry lime scrubbing method, Spray-dry scrubbing method, SNOX method, Dry sorbent injection method, etc.
- For a typical coal-fired power station, FGD system may remove **90% or more of the SO2 in the flue gases**.
- SO2 emissions are a **primary contributor to acid rain** and have been regulated by every industrialized nation in the world.

**FLUE GASES**

- Flue Gases is a **mixture of gases produced by combustion of fuel and other materials in power stations and various industrial plants** and released via flue (ducts) in atmosphere.
- It largely contains **oxides of nitrogen derived from combustion of air, sulphur oxides, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, water vapour, excess oxygen, particulate matter like soot**.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**ORANGUTAN**

**Why in News?**

Researchers has recently found that **Orangutan population is under threat at Borneo Island**.

**More about News**

- The research found about **50 percent drop out** in the orangutan population on the island of Borneo from 1999 to 2015.
- The reasons behind the decreasing population of Orangutan includes -
  - (a) **Hunting by people**
  - (b) **Habitation destruction** by oil palm, paper, logging and mining industries

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About Orangutan

- The orangutans are three extant species of great apes native to Indonesia and Malaysia.
- Three extant species are:
  (a) Bornean orangutan
  (b) Sumatran orangutan
  (c) Tapanuli orangutan
- Orangutans currently inhabit lowland forests on Borneo, an island shared by Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei, and Indonesia’s island of Sumatra.
- Orangutans are the most arboreal of the great apes and spend most of their time in trees.
- Orangutans are among the most intelligent primates; they use a variety of sophisticated tools and construct elaborate sleeping nests each night from branches and foliage.
- All three orangutan species are considered to be critically endangered.

BORNEO ISLANDS

- It is the third-largest island in the world and the largest in Asia.
- It is located north of Java, west of Sulawesi (Island in Indonesia), and east of Sumatra.
- The island is politically divided among three countries: Malaysia and Brunei in the north, and Indonesia to the south.
- Approximately 73% of the island is Indonesian territory.
- Antipodal to an area of Amazon rainforest, Borneo is itself home to one of the oldest rainforests in the world.
SHELLFISH REEFS

Why in News?

Recently a study led by the Nature Conservancy found that between 90 and 99% of Australia’s shellfish reefs have vanished since British colonisation 230 years ago.

More about News

✓ Virtually all of Australia’s shellfish reefs have disappeared, making them the country’s most threatened ocean ecosystem.
✓ Shellfish reefs are made up of oysters & mussels.
✓ They accrete dead shell material such that the reef grows in size and mass over time.
✓ Just like coral reefs, they support the growth of important fish species whilst also helping to improve water quality and increase biodiversity.
✓ The shellfish reef plays a crucial role in water filtration, increased local fish production, bank stabilization and sustaining biodiversity.
✓ Shellfish reefs have declined by up 99% since British colonization.
✓ The reason behind the decline are
  • Early destruction for lime for mortar used in the construction of roads,
  • Overharvesting of shellfish for food and oysters,
  • Destructive fishing practices,
  • Introduction of non-native shellfish and
  • Habitat loss from coastal development.

CORAL REEFS

✓ The Corals are marine invertebrates in the class Anthozoa of phylum Cnidaria.
✓ They typically live in compact colonies of many identical individual polyps.
✓ The Coral reefs are built by and made up of thousands of tiny animals—coral “polyps”—that are related to anemones and jellyfish.

CORAL BLEACHING

✓ The Coral bleaching occurs when coral polyps expel algae that live in their tissues.
✓ Normally, coral polyps live in an endosymbiotic relationship with the algae and that relationship is crucial for the coral and hence for the health of the whole reef.
✓ Bleached corals continue to live. But as the algae provide the coral with 90% of its energy, after expelling the algae the coral begins to starve.
✓ Above-average sea water temperatures caused by global warming have been identified as a leading cause of coral bleaching worldwide.

CENTRAL GEOLOGICAL PROGRAMMING BOARD (CGPB)

Why in News?

The 57th Meeting of the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) was recently held.

More about News

✓ Representatives of State Departments, Central Ministries/organizations, PSUs, academic institutes and private entrepreneurs attended the 57th CGPB meeting.
✓ Apart from discussion on achievements of GSI (Geological Survey of India) during the current year, the proposed Annual Programme for ensuing 2018-19 was presented before all Board members.
✓ An exhibition was also opened displaying the entire gamut of ongoing activities of Geological Survey of India (GSI).

About CGPB:

✓ The Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) is the apex body at the national level to overview the programme of geoscientific activities including mineral exploration in the country.
✓ It was established through Government of India Resolution in 1966, and subsequently revamped in 2009 with the constitution of 12 theme based committees.
✓ CGPB meetings are held twice in a year.
✓ Composition:
  • The Secretary (Mines) is the chairman of CGPB.
  • Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the nodal department and the State Geology and Mining departments and Central Government institutions are its participating members.
✓ Functions:
  • CGPB coordinates activities on geological mapping, mineral prospecting, exploration and exploitation in the country.
  • It is responsible for providing the general strategic direction of geosciences activity; effecting programmatic coordination among agencies; enabling better interaction between central agencies and state level organizations; human resource, and research capability; identifying new areas and new technologies for geoscientific activities; advising on geosciences partnerships between GSI, and State and Central level agencies; actively promoting use of information technology; and approving five-year detailed sub-sectoral targets on a rolling plan basis.

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