



**UPSC  
Mentorship**  
A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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## GS I

# 1. Cauvery panel asks Karnataka to ensure flow of water for Tamil Nadu; SC to hear Kejriwal's plea against ED arrest, and more

Source: The Hindu, Page 2

**Context:**The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Thursday asked Karnataka to ensure flow of one tmc ft (11,500 cusecs) of water at Biligundlu every day till July 31 to supply water for Tamil Nadu. Karnataka had cited deficit water flow and urged the committee to defer any decision till July 25.

### River Cauvery (Kaveri):

- It is known as 'Ponni' in Tamil and is a sacred river of southern India.
- It rises on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka state, flows in a southeasterly direction through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and descends the Eastern Ghats in a series of great falls and drains into Bay of Bengal through Pondicherry.
- Left Bank Tributary: Arkavathi, Hemavathi, Shimsa, and Harangi.
- Right Bank Tributary: Lakshmantirtha, Suvarnavati, Noyil, Bhavani, Kabini, and Amaravathi.



### The Dispute:

- As the river originates in Karnataka, flows through Tamil Nadu with major tributaries coming from Kerala and drains into the Bay of Bengal through Pondicherry the dispute therefore involves 3 states and one Union Territory.
- The genesis of the dispute is 150 years old and dates back to the two agreements of arbitration in 1892 and 1924 between the then Madras presidency and Mysore.
- It entailed the principle that the upper riparian state must obtain consent of lower riparian state for any construction activity viz. reservoir on the river Cauvery.
- The Cauvery water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu began in 1974 when Karnataka started diverting water without Tamil Nadu's consent.
- After several years, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was established in 1990 to resolve the issue. It took 17 years for the CWDT to reach a final order in 2007, which outlined the



sharing of Cauvery water among the four riparian states. In distress years, water would be shared on a pro-rata basis.

- CWDT issued its final award in February 2007, specifying water allocations among the four states in the Cauvery basin, considering the total availability of 740 TMC in a normal year.
- The allocation of water among the four states is as follows: Tamil Nadu - 404.25 TMC, Karnataka - 284.75 TMC, Kerala - 30 TMC, and Puducherry - 7 TMC.
- In 2018, the Supreme Court declared the Cauvery a national asset and largely upheld the water-sharing arrangements determined by the CWDT.

## GS II

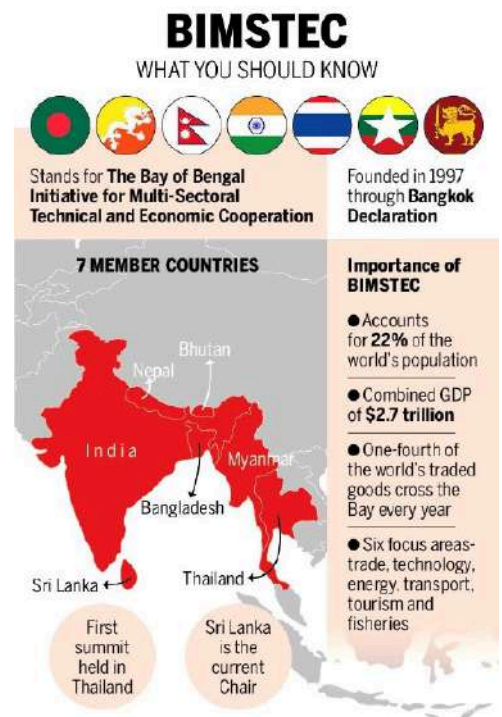
### 2. India hosts BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers amid raging Myanmar crisis

Source: The Hindu, Page 12

Context: The seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) should find solutions to the regional challenges within itself, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on July 11 addressing the first BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' retreat held here.

What is BIMSTEC?

- BIMSTEC is a sub-regional organisation that came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. It includes the littoral states of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Thailand is a member too) and the land-locked states of Nepal and Bhutan.
- Initially, it was formed with four Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri-Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation) and became 'BIMST-EC' after the inclusion of Myanmar.
- BIMSTEC has identified 14 pillars for special focus - trade and investment, transport and communication, energy, tourism, technology, fisheries, agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter terrorism and transnational crime, environment and disaster management, people-to-people contact, cultural cooperation and climate change.



## 3. India, Austria agree to ‘sustainable’ economic and tech partnership

Source: The Indian Express, Page 8

Context: The two leaders — who met over a private dinner on Tuesday night and held official talks on Wednesday — recognised that the two countries have the potential to significantly upgrade their bilateral partnership to a higher level.

India-Austria relationship:

Historical Context and Evolution:

- **Early Relations:** India and Austria established diplomatic relations in 1949, shortly after India's independence.
- **Cold War Era:** Relations were limited during the Cold War due to Austria's neutrality and India's non-alignment.
- **Post-Cold War:** Engagement increased significantly after the end of the Cold War, particularly in economic and cultural domains.



Diplomatic Relations and Bilateral Engagements:

- **High-Level Visits:** Both countries have exchanged several high-level visits to strengthen bilateral ties.
- **Political Engagements:** Cooperation in international forums on issues like climate change, disarmament, and UN reforms.
- **Bilateral Agreements:** Signed agreements on trade, investment protection, and cultural exchanges.

Economic Cooperation:

- **Trade and Investment:** Bilateral trade has grown steadily, with both countries exploring opportunities in sectors like technology, renewable energy, and pharmaceuticals.
- **Investment:** Austrian companies have invested in India, particularly in infrastructure and technology sectors.

Cultural and Educational Exchanges:

- **Academic Partnerships:** Collaboration in higher education and research.
- **Cultural Exchanges:** Promoting understanding through cultural events, film festivals, and exhibitions.



**Strategic and Security Cooperation:**

- **Defence Cooperation:** Limited but growing engagement in defence technology and cybersecurity.
- **Counter-Terrorism:** Mutual concerns and cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts at international forums.

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- **Challenges:** Differences in economic size and strategic priorities can sometimes limit the depth of engagement.
- **Opportunities:** Potential for deeper economic ties, especially in technology and innovation sectors. Collaboration on global issues like climate change and sustainable development.

**Conclusion:**

- **Future Prospects:** Both countries have a shared interest in enhancing cooperation in various fields, leveraging their strengths for mutual benefit.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthening people-to-people contacts, enhancing economic partnerships, and leveraging cultural diplomacy for deeper engagement.

**GS III**

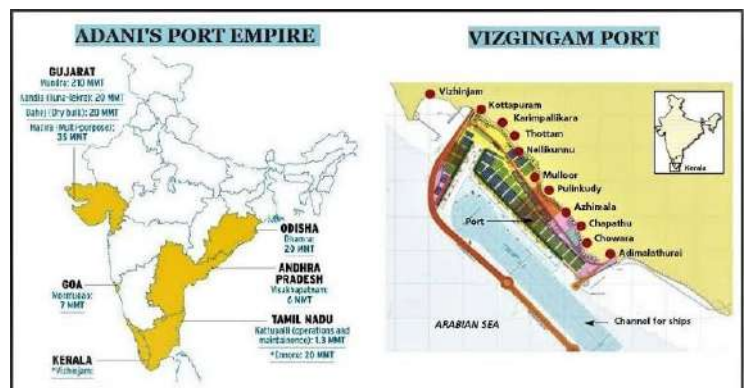
**4. First mothership docks at Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram, offloads cargo**

Source: The Hindu, Page 12

**Context:** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: MV San Fernando, the inaugural mothership carrying 1,930 containers from China, arrived at Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram (VIST) on Thursday morning.

**Vizhinjam International Seaport:**

- It is India’s first deepwater container transshipment port.
- **Location:** It is located at Vizhinjam, a coastal town in Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala.



- It is located around 10 nautical miles from the international shipping route connecting Europe and the Persian Gulf with East Asia, through which around 30 percent of global maritime cargo passes.
- It is developed in a landlord model with a public-private partnership component on a design, build, finance, operate, and transfer (“DBFOT”) basis.
- It is being built by Adani Vizhinjam Ports Private Ltd., a subsidiary of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. (APSEZ), India’s largest private-sector port operator.
- Construction of the port began in December 2015.
- It is being designed to primarily cater to the transshipment and gateway container business, with provision for a cruise terminal, liquid bulk berth, and facilities for additional terminals.
- It has a natural draft of 18-20 metres, which means that some of the largest container vessels in the world will be able to dock here.
- There would be about 30 berths, most of which would be capable of handling mother vessels.

## 5. Should States get special packages outside Finance Commission allocations?

Source: The Hindu, Page 9

**Context:** In the run-up to the Union Budget, Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Ministers of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, respectively, who are in a position to decide the political fate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre, have demanded special financial packages for their respective States.

### THE PROBLEM OF SPECIAL PACKAGES:

#### Coalition Politics Returns:

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) relies on Janata Dal (United) of Bihar and Telugu Desam Party of Andhra Pradesh for a parliamentary majority.
- Contrast to 2014 and 2019 when single-party governments were in power.

#### Revival of State-Specific Grants:

- Demand for State-specific discretionary grants or ‘special packages’ has resurfaced in public discussion.
- Single-party dominance provided a check on such practices, but coalition politics revives them.

#### Federal Structure and Fiscal Policies:

- A healthy federal structure requires transparent fiscal boundaries, principles of tax assignment, and grant distribution.
- The Constitution provides for addressing specific States’ issues through Articles 371A to H (Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir is abrogated).

#### Nature of Special Packages:



- Special packages are discretionary and often result from political bargaining power rather than genuine need.
- Granted under Article 282 ('Miscellaneous Financial Provisions').

#### **Impact on Fiscal Federalism:**

- Election outcomes influencing fiscal distribution contradicts the principles of fiscal federalism.
- Allocation of funds should be through the Finance Commission, constituted every five years as per Article 280.

#### **Double-Engine Sarkar and Its Implications:**

- The term describes when the same political party governs both Union and State levels.
- The coalition now requires negotiations with smaller parties for political stability.

#### **Federal Tendencies in Polity:**

- The Constitution is quasi-federal, but assumes a federal character outside emergencies.
- The Supreme Court has noted that polity can be both unitary and federal based on the situation (State of Rajasthan and Others v Union of India, 1977).

#### **Determining Fiscal Distribution:**

- Concerns about the divisible pool of Union taxes and States' shares.
- The 16th Finance Commission must balance the interests of States and the Centre.

#### **Discretionary Grants and Fiscal Federalism:**

- The Finance Commission is responsible for recommending grants to States in need.
- Discretionary grants under Article 282 have far outpaced those recommended by the Finance Commission.

#### **Key Constitutional Articles:**

##### **Article 280: Finance Commission:**

- **Purpose:** Provides for the constitution of a Finance Commission by the President every five years.
- **Functions:** Recommends the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the States, and among the States themselves.

##### **Article 275: Grants from the Union to Certain States**

- **Provision:** Allows for grants-in-aid from the Union to any State that is in need of assistance, as determined by the Parliament. The grants can be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

##### **Article 282: Expenditure Defrayable by the Union or a State out of its Revenues Purpose:**

- Allows the Union or a State to make any grants for any public purpose, even if it is not within their legislative competence.
- **Usage:** Grants under this article are often used for discretionary purposes, such as special packages.

##### **Articles 371A to H: Special Provisions for Specific States**





- **Purpose:** Provide special provisions for specific States to address unique circumstances and needs.
- **Article 371A:** Special Provisions for Nagaland
- **Article 371B:** Special Provisions for Assam
- **Article 371C:** Special Provisions for Manipur
- **Article 371D:** Special Provisions for Andhra Pradesh
- **Article 371E:** Special Provisions for Sikkim
- **Article 371F:** Special Provisions for Mizoram
- **Article 371G:** Special Provisions for Arunachal Pradesh
- **Article 371H:** Special Provisions for Goa
- **Article 371I:** Special provisions for the state of Maharashtra and Gujarat
- **Article 371J:** Special Provisions for Karnataka

## 6. Zika virus: the need to improve surveillance and vector control

Source: The Hindu, Page 9

**Context:** The Zika virus is making the news once again. At least 15 cases, including eight pregnant women, of Zika have been discovered so far in Pune, Maharashtra. In Karnataka, a 74-year-old who had Zika has died.

### Key Points

- **About:** Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys. It was later identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- **Transmission:** ZVD is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes (AM), mainly Aedes aegypti. This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- Zika virus is also transmitted from mother to foetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products, and organ transplantation.
- **Symptoms:** Symptoms are generally mild and include fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache. Most people with Zika virus infection do not develop symptoms.
- Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly (smaller than normal head size) and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome
- **Related Government Programme/Initiatives:** Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme: To strengthen/maintain decentralised laboratory based and IT enabled disease surveillance systems for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends.
- **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme:** The central nodal agency for prevention and control of six vector borne diseases i.e. Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya in India.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK):** An initiative under the National Health Mission, has a surveillance for Microcephaly (system for monitoring birth defects).



## Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

# 7. Why dengue cases are on the rise

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

Context: In the past few weeks, cases of dengue have been rising in some parts of the country. Karnataka, in particular, has been experiencing a rapid surge in cases in the last few days, while the cases have been climbing up in Kerala and Tamil Nadu as well.

### Dengue:

- Dengue is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus (Genus Flavivirus), transmitted by several species of mosquito within the genus Aedes, principally Aedes aegypti.
- This mosquito also transmits chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika infection.
- There are 4 distinct, but closely related, serotypes (separate groups within a species of microorganisms that all share a similar characteristic) of the virus that cause dengue (DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4).
- **Symptoms:** Sudden high fever, severe headaches, pain behind the eyes, severe bone, joint, and muscle pain, etc.
- **Diagnosis and Treatment:**  
Diagnosis of dengue infection is done with a blood test.  
There is no specific medicine to treat dengue infection.

### Status of Dengue:

- Incidence of dengue has grown dramatically around the world in recent decades, with a vast majority of cases under-reported, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- WHO estimates 39 crore dengue virus infections per year, of which 9.6 crore show symptoms.
- India registered over 1 lakh dengue cases in 2018 and over 1.5 lakh cases in 2019, according to the National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP).
- NVBDCP is the central nodal agency for prevention and control of six vector borne diseases i.e. Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya in India. It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

### Controlling Dengue Using Bacteria:

- Recently researchers from the World Mosquito Program have used mosquitoes infected with Wolbachia bacteria to successfully control dengue in Indonesia.

**Method:** The scientists infected some mosquitoes with Wolbachia and then released them in the city where they bred with local mosquitoes, until nearly all mosquitoes in the area were carrying Wolbachia bacteria. This is called the Population Replacement Strategy.



At the end of 27 months, the researchers found that the incidence of dengue was 77% lower in areas where Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes had been released, as compared to areas without such deployments

**Dengue Vaccine:** The dengue vaccine CYD-TDV or Dengvaxia was approved by the US Food & Drug Administration in 2019, the first dengue vaccine to get the regulatory nod in the US.

## 8. Weight loss is among the ‘best routes to diabetes remission’

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

**Context:** Advancements in hypoglycemic drugs, and lifestyle management through bariatric surgery, reduced caloric food intake, and use of intestinal hormones, and drugs to reduce body weight have paved the way for the possibility of remission of diabetes.

**Diabetes:**

**What do we Need to know about Diabetes?**

- Diabetes is a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin (a hormone that regulates blood sugar, or glucose), or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.

**Types of Diabetes:**

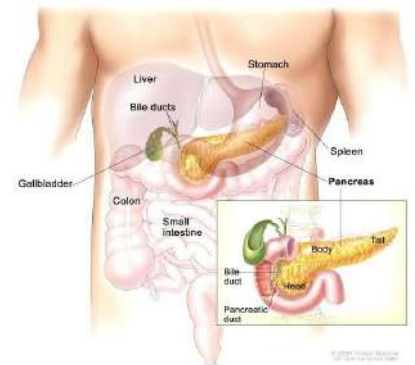
- **Type 1 Diabetes:** It is also known as juvenile diabetes (as it mostly affects children of age 14-16 years), this type occurs when the body fails to produce sufficient insulin. It is predominantly diagnosed in children and adolescents. Although the prevalence is less, it is much more severe than type 2.
- **Type 2 Diabetes:** It affects the way the body uses insulin. While the body still makes insulin. Type 2 diabetes can occur at any age, even during childhood. However, this type of diabetes occurs most often in middle-aged and older people.
- **Gestational Diabetes:** This type occurs in women during pregnancy when the body sometimes becomes less sensitive to insulin. Gestational diabetes does not occur in all women and usually resolves after giving birth.

**Impacts of Diabetes:** It affects the five major organs namely, Kidney, Heart, Blood vessels, Nervous System, and Eyes (retina).

**Factors Responsible:** Factors that lead to increase in diabetes are an unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, harmful use of alcohol, overweight/obesity, tobacco use, etc.

**How Rare is Type-1 Diabetes?**

- Out of 10 lakh children and adolescents living with type 1 diabetes in the world, India holds the highest numbers.



- Out of 2.5 lakh people living with type 1 diabetes in India, 90,000 to 1 lakh are under the age of 14 years.
- Only 2% of all hospital cases of diabetes in the country are type 1 — but which is being diagnosed more frequently.

### What Factors Exacerbate the Condition?

**Genetic Factors:** It plays a role in determining whether a person will get type-1 diabetes. The risk of disease in a child is:

- 3% when the mother has it
- 5% when the father has it
- 8% when a sibling has it.

**Presence of Certain Genes:** It is also strongly associated with the disease. For example, the prevalence of genes called DR3-DQ2 and DR4-DQ8 is 30-40% in patients with type 1 diabetes as compared to 2.4% in the general population. DR3-DQ2 and DR4-DQ8 means the patient is permissive for celiac disease and is capable of developing or having the disease.

### What are the Treatments?

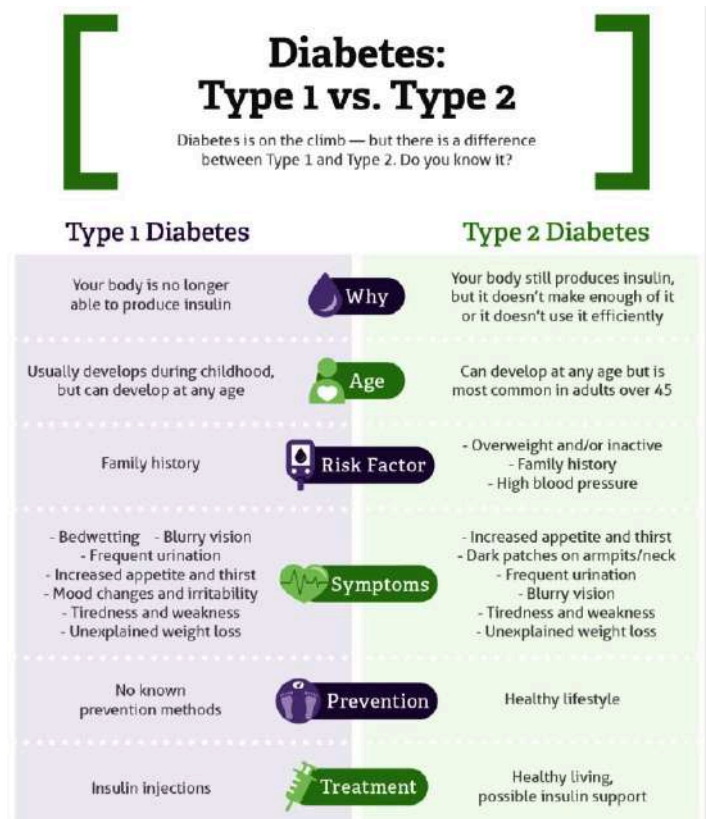
- **Glucose monitoring:** Continuous glucose monitoring devices can help monitor the blood glucose levels throughout 24 hours with the help of a sensor.
- **Artificial pancreas:** It can automatically deliver insulin when required.

### What are Related Initiatives?

- **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS):** In order to prevent and control major NCDs, this initiative was launched by India in 2010 with focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral.

**World Diabetes Day:** It is observed on 14th November every year. The 2022 campaign will focus on access to diabetes education.

**Global Diabetes Compact:** WHO launched a Global Diabetes Compact to better fight the disease while marking the centenary of the discovery of insulin.



## In Brief

### 9. Heat Dome

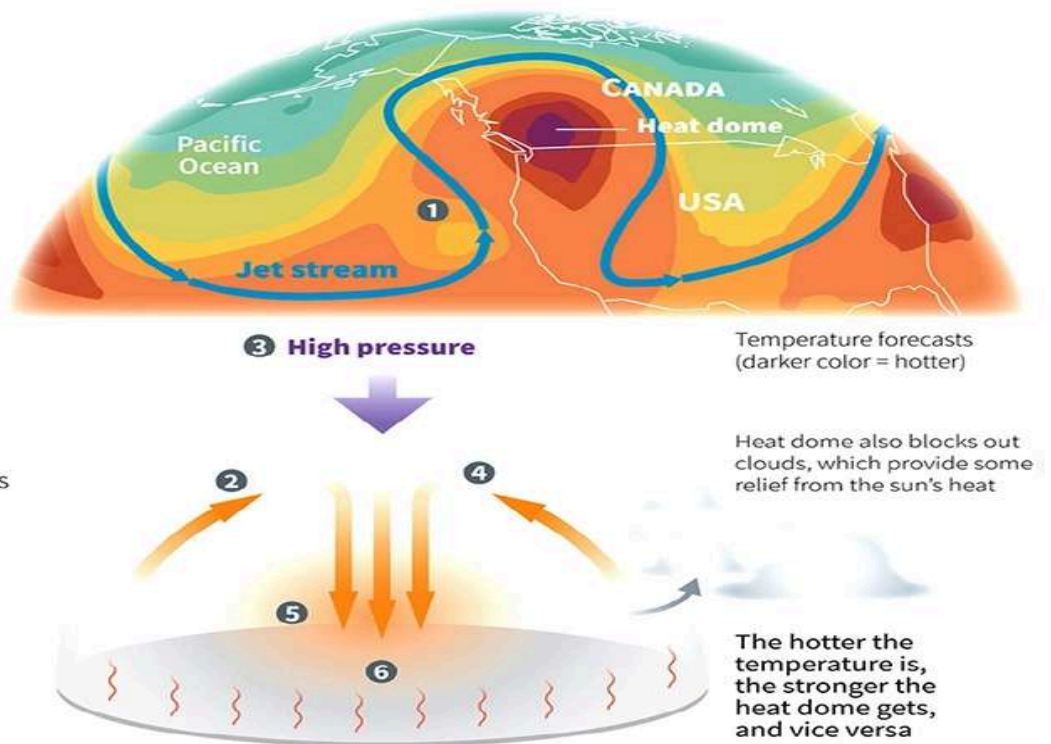
Source: The Indian Express, Page 17

Context: Record-high temperatures in western US due to 'heat domes': What is the phenomenon?

#### The 'heat dome'

Occurs when the atmosphere traps hot ocean air like a lid or cap

- 1 In summer, the **jet stream** (which moves the air) shifts northward
- 2 Hot and stagnant air **expands** upwards
- 3 Strong and **high-pressure** atmospheric conditions combine with influences from La Nina act like a dome or cap
- 4 In a process known as **convection**, hot air attempts to escape but high pressure pushes it back down
- 5 Under the dome, the air sinks and **compresses**, releasing more heat
- 6 As winds move the hot air east, the jet stream traps the air where it sinks, resulting in **heat waves**



#### Heat Dome:

- A heat dome occurs when an area of high-pressure traps warm air over a region, just like a lid on a pot, for an extended period of time.
- The longer that air remains trapped, the more the sun works to heat the air, producing warmer conditions with every passing day. Heat domes generally stay for a few days but sometimes they can extend up to weeks, which might cause deadly heat waves.
- Scientists suggest that any region of high pressure, whether a heat dome or not, forces air to sink and once it reaches the ground, it gets compressed and becomes even warmer.
- Moreover, when air sinks, it gets drier and further raises the temperature of area.

## 10. Bilateral meeting between India and Bhutan on Air Quality, Climate Change, Forests, Natural resources, renewable energy sources and wildlife

Source: PIB

Context: A delegation from the Royal Government of Bhutan, headed by Mr Gem Tshering, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Government of Bhutan met Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and discussed issues related to air quality, climate change, forests, natural resources, wildlife and renewable energy.

### India-Bhutan relationship

- **Historical and Cultural Ties:** India and Bhutan share deep-rooted historical and cultural ties. Bhutan has historically been a close ally of India, maintaining diplomatic relations since 1968.
- **Strategic Partnership:** The relationship between India and Bhutan is characterised by a strategic partnership that includes cooperation in areas such as defence, security, and trade. India has played a crucial role in Bhutan's economic development and security.
- **Hydroelectric Power:** A major aspect of the relationship is the hydropower cooperation. India has helped Bhutan develop its hydroelectric power potential, which is a cornerstone of Bhutan's economy and a significant export to India.
- **Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation:** While Bhutan's economy is largely dependent on India, efforts have been made to diversify trade and strengthen economic ties beyond the traditional sectors of hydropower and agriculture.
- **Development Assistance:** India provides significant development assistance to Bhutan, including grants and concessional loans for infrastructure projects and social development programs.
- **Political Relations:** Both countries share a similar approach to regional and global issues, often coordinating positions in international forums like the United Nations and SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).
- **Cultural Exchanges and People-to-People Contacts:** Cultural exchanges and tourism play a crucial role in strengthening bilateral ties. There are regular exchanges of visits by leaders and officials from both countries.
- **Security Cooperation:** Given Bhutan's strategic location between India and China, security cooperation is a vital aspect of their relationship, focusing on border management and defence cooperation.
- **Challenges and Future Prospects:** Despite the strong ties, there have been occasional challenges, such as border disputes and issues related to Bhutan's evolving foreign policy. However, both countries have managed to resolve issues amicably.
- **Importance in India's Neighborhood Policy:** Bhutan holds strategic importance in India's neighbourhood policy, influencing India's security dynamics in the region and contributing to its broader geopolitical strategy.



## Daily Quiz

1. Which states are primarily involved in the Cauvery River water dispute?

- A) Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry
- B) Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
- C) Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa
- D) Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana

2. India and Austria are both members of which international organisation, promoting dialogue and cooperation?

- A) United Nations
- B) G20
- C) European Union
- D) International Solar Alliance

3. Which of the following statements about Vizhinjam Seaport is NOT correct?

- A) Vizhinjam Seaport is located in the state of Kerala, India.
- B) The construction of Vizhinjam Seaport is being undertaken by Adani Ports.
- C) Vizhinjam Seaport aims to cater primarily to the tourism sector in South India.
- D) The port is strategically located near international shipping routes in the Indian Ocean.

4. Consider the following statements:

**Statement:** The Finance Commission of India is a constitutional body constituted every five years or at such earlier time as the President considers necessary.

**Reason:** The Finance Commission is tasked with recommending the distribution of taxes between the Union and State governments.

- A) Both the statement and the reason are correct, and the reason is a correct explanation of the statement.



B) Both the statement and the reason are correct, but the reason is not a correct explanation of the statement.

C) The statement is correct, but the reason is incorrect.

D) The statement is incorrect, but the reason is correct.

**5.Question: Which of the following statements about the Zika virus is correct?**

A) Zika virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes.

B) Zika virus infection typically manifests with severe respiratory symptoms.

C) Zika virus can only be transmitted from human to human through direct contact with bodily fluids.

D) Zika virus infection has been associated with microcephaly and other neurological disorders.

**6.Consider the following statements:**

**Statement 1:** Dengue fever is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes.

**Statement 2:** The main symptoms of Dengue fever include sudden onset of high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, joint and muscle pain, and rash.

**Statement 3:** Dengue fever can only be prevented by vaccination, as there are no effective treatments available once a person is infected.

**Answer options:**

A) Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

B) Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

C) Statements 2 and 3 are correct.

D) All statements (1, 2, and 3) are correct.

**7.Question: Which of the following statements about diabetes mellitus is correct?**

A) Type 1 diabetes is characterised by insulin resistance and typically occurs in adults.

B) Type 2 diabetes is an autoimmune disorder where the body's immune system attacks insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.





C) Gestational diabetes occurs only in women who have never had diabetes before but develop high blood sugar levels during pregnancy.

D) Diabetes mellitus is not a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks and strokes.

**8. What is a heat dome as referred to in meteorology?**

A) A weather phenomenon characterised by unusually low temperatures and high atmospheric pressure.

B) A large area of high pressure that traps hot air underneath it, causing prolonged periods of extremely hot weather.

C) A sudden increase in humidity levels due to a shift in wind patterns over a region.

D) A type of severe thunderstorm that forms rapidly and causes hail and strong winds.

**9. Which of the following statements about BIMSTEC is correct?**

A) BIMSTEC is a sub-regional organisation comprising countries from South Asia only.

B) BIMSTEC was established to promote economic cooperation and integration among countries bordering the Bay of Bengal.

C) BIMSTEC includes member countries from both South Asia and Southeast Asia.

D) BIMSTEC has its headquarters in New Delhi, India.

**10. Which of the following statements about India-Bhutan relationship is correct?**

A) Bhutan is a member of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).

B) India and Bhutan share a free trade agreement allowing duty-free transit of goods between the two countries.

C) Bhutan is a landlocked country bordered by India to the north and China to the south.

D) India and Bhutan have a history of territorial disputes over the Doklam Plateau.



## Solutions

### 1. Correct Answer-(D)

**Explanation:** Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry

### 2. Correct Answer-(A)

**Explanation:** United Nations

### 3. Correct Answer-(C)

**Explanation:**

- **Statement A is correct:** Vizhinjam Seaport is indeed located in the state of Kerala.
- **Statement B is correct:** The construction of Vizhinjam Seaport is being undertaken by Adani Ports.
- **Statement C is incorrect:** While Vizhinjam Seaport is expected to boost economic activities in the region, especially related to maritime trade and logistics, its primary focus is not on catering to the tourism sector.
- **Statement D is correct:** Vizhinjam Seaport is strategically located near international shipping routes in the Indian Ocean, enhancing its importance for maritime trade.

### 4. Correct Answer-(A)

**Explanation:**Both the statement and the reason are correct, and the reason is a correct explanation of the statement.

- The statement accurately describes the constitutional status and the periodicity of the Finance Commission's formation.
- The reason correctly states one of the main responsibilities of the Finance Commission, which is to recommend the distribution of taxes between the Union and the State governments.

### 5. Correct Answer-(A)

**Explanation:** Zika virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes.

### 6. Correct Answer-(A) Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1:** Dengue fever is caused by the Dengue virus, transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes.

**Statement 2:** The main symptoms of Dengue fever include sudden onset of high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, joint and muscle pain, and rash.



**Statement 3:** Dengue fever does not have a specific antiviral treatment or vaccine available. Prevention involves mosquito control measures and avoiding mosquito bites.

**7. Correct Answer-(C)**

**Explanation:** Gestational diabetes occurs only in women who have never had diabetes before but develop high blood sugar levels during pregnancy.

**8. Correct Answer-(B)**

**Explanation:** A large area of high pressure that traps hot air underneath it, causing prolonged periods of extremely hot weather.

**9. Correct Answer-(C)**

**Explanation:** BIMSTEC includes member countries from both South Asia and Southeast Asia.

**10. Correct Answer-(B)**

**Explanation:** India and Bhutan share a free trade agreement allowing duty-free transit of goods between the two countries.





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