

'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement'

GS Paper 3, Environment)

Why in news?

- Recently, Prime Minister launched the 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement' via video conferencing.
- The launch also initiated the '**LiFE Global Call for Ideas and Papers**', inviting individuals, universities, think tanks, non-profits and others worldwide to submit measurable and scalable behavior change solutions that can drive climate-friendly behaviors among individuals, communities and organisations.



What is LiFE?

- The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow 2021.
- The idea promotes an environmentally conscious lifestyle that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' instead of 'mindless and wasteful consumption'.

Aim:

- The LiFE Movement aims to utilise the power of collective action and nudge individuals across the world to undertake simple climate-friendly actions in their daily lives.
- The LiFE movement, additionally, also seeks to leverage the strength of social networks to influence social norms surrounding climate.

Pro-Planet People' (P3):

- The Mission plans to create and nurture a global network of individuals, namely 'Pro-Planet People' (P3), who will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly lifestyles.

- Through the P3 community, the Mission seeks to create an ecosystem that will reinforce and enable environmentally friendly behaviours to be self-sustainable.
- The Mission envisions replacing the prevalent ‘use-and-dispose’ economy governed by mindless and destructive consumption with a circular economy, which would be defined by mindful and deliberate utilization.

Lord Nicholas Stern, international climate economist coined word ‘FEAST’ during the event:

Prof. Cass Sunstein, author of Nudge Theory spoke about the EAST framework of behaviour change.

- **E** stands for ‘easy’, and the basic idea is that if the goal is to help individuals or households, or companies to choose an environmentally preferable approach, to make it easy is often the best thing to do.
- **A** is for ‘attractive’. India and other nations have often used attractiveness as a signal to promote environmentally preferable choices.
- **S** stands for ‘social’. It creates a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy. Norms are essential for improving lifestyles.
- **T** stands for ‘timely’. If people are given information or a reminder or a signal at exactly the right time when they are making the decision, or maybe the hour before, it’s more likely to be effective.
- He added one letter to the framework – the letter is **F**. **F** stands for ‘fun’. Often environmentally preferred behaviour, better lifestyles actually are fun. They make people smile.

India Bangladesh Joint Military Ex SAMPRITI-X

(GS Paper 3, Internal Security)

Why in news?

- As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh bilateral defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X is being conducted from 05 June to 16 June 2022.



Venue:

- It will be conducted at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh.

Aim:

- Exercise SAMPRITI is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour conducted alternately by both countries which aims to strengthen and widen the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between both the armies.
- The aim of the exercise is to strengthen interoperability between the two armies and to understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques.

Key Highlights:

- During the joint military exercise, armies of both the Nations will share expertise in multiple simulated scenarios of Counter Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief and UN Peacekeeping Force under UN mandate.
- The exercise schedule is progressively planned in such a manner that the participants will initially get familiar with each other's organisational structure and tactical drills.
- As the exercise progresses, joint tactical exercises will be conducted wherein the joint battle drills of both contingents will be practised.

Way Forward:

- In addition to sharing best practices and understanding each other at the tactical level, this exercise is an opportunity for greater cultural understanding to strengthen trust and cooperation between armies of both the Nations.
- The exercise will benefit both the armies by gaining from each other's vast experience which will further contribute to peace and stability in the region.

Sticky bombs

(GS Paper 3, Internal Security)

Why in news?

- With the Amarnath Yatra around the corner, security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are concerned over terrorist groups possessing '**sticky bombs**'.
- They are reshaping their standard operating procedure for the pilgrimage.



What are sticky bombs?

- These are explosives that can be attached to vehicles and detonated remotely.
- Sticky bombs, which were also used by the British forces during the World War II, can be put on any vehicle and detonated through a remote control or an in-built timer.

New phase of terrorism:

- The 'sticky bombs' emerged on the terror scene in Kashmir in February 2021 when these were recovered from Samba of Jammu region, indicating initiation of a new phase of terrorism in the union territory.
- It was the first such recovery of "sticky bombs", used largely in Afghanistan and Iraq. In India, it was used by suspected Iranian terrorists who targeted the vehicle of an Israeli diplomat in February 2012, resulting in injury to his wife.

Amarnath Yatra:

- Concerned over the development, the security agencies reworked their strategy, especially keeping in mind the Amarnath Yatra beginning June 30.
- About three lakh pilgrims are likely to take part in the pilgrimage to the cave shrine located in the upper reaches of south Kashmir. It is expected to end on August 11.

World's first fishing cat census done in Chilika

(GS Paper 3, Environment)

Why in news?

- Recently, world's first population estimation of the fishing cat, was conducted outside the protected area network.



Stakeholders:

- It was conducted by the **Chilika Development Authority (CDA)** in collaboration with the **Fishing Cat Project (TFCP)**.

Key Highlights:

- The Chilika Lake, **Asia's largest brackish water lagoon**, has 176 fishing cats.
- According to the CDA, the estimation was conducted in two phases. Phase 1 was conducted in 2021 in the 115 sq.km marshland in the north and north-eastern section of Chilika and its surrounding areas.
- Phase 2 was conducted in 2022 in the Parikud side along the coastal islands of Chilika.

Methodology:

- A total of 150 camera traps were deployed in two phases with each fixed in the field for 30 days.
- **Spatially explicit capture recapture (SECR)** method was used to analyse the data.

Habitat of fishing cat:

- The fishing cats are **globally threatened cats** that occur in wetlands such as marshlands, mangroves and flooded forests in major South and Southeast Asian river basins starting from the Indus in Pakistan till the Mekong in Vietnam and in the island nations of Sri Lanka and Java.
- They are **found in 10 Asian countries** but have remained undetected in Vietnam and Java since the last decade or so.

Threat to Wetlands in Asia:

- Earlier in 2022, CDA had declared its intent to adopt a five-year action plan for fishing cat conservation in Chilika.
- Wetlands in Asia are being lost at alarmingly rapid rates and proper data on their current status or even baseline data in many countries are missing.

Way Forward:

- The status of many wetland species remains understudied and highly threatened.
- Tracking specialist species such as the fishing cat gives us an indication of what might be happening to these ecosystems, which are safeguards against climate change and droughts.

BALTOPS naval exercise **(GS Paper 3, Internal Security)**

Why in news?

- Recently, NATO started nearly a two-week **United States-led naval exercise on the Baltic Sea**.

Participants:

- It was started with more than 7,000 sailors, **airmen and marines from 16 nations**, including two aspiring to join the military alliance, **Finland and Sweden**.

About BALTOPS naval exercise:

- The **annual** BALTOPS naval exercise, **initiated in 1972**, is not held in response to any specific threat.
- As NATO's close partners, Finland and Sweden have participated in the naval drill since the mid-1990s.

Why joining of Finland and Sweden is in news?

- Finland and Sweden both have a **long history of military non-alignment** before their governments decided to apply to join NATO in May, a direct result of Russia's February 24 invasion of Ukraine.
- Over the past years, Russia has repeatedly warned Finland and Sweden against joining the Western military alliance and warned of retaliatory measures if they did.

Why Russia is against joining of Finland & Sweden?

- Baltic Sea is a strategically important body of water — “one of the great seaways of the world.”

- From Russia’s perspective, Finland and Sweden joining NATO will be “very problematic” and leave Russia in a difficult military position as the Baltic Sea's coastline would be almost completely encircled by NATO members, except for Russia's Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad and the Russian city of St. Petersburg and its surrounding areas.



Why Turkey has objected?

- Turkey, a NATO member that has had good relations with Russia, has objected to Finland and Sweden joining the military alliance, citing their alleged support for a Kurdish group that Turkey labels as terrorist. NATO's chief has been trying to resolve the dispute.

China launches three astronauts to complete space station assembly

(GS Paper 3, Science and Tech)

Why in news?

- Recently, China launched a new three-person mission to complete assembly work on its permanent orbiting space station.
- Their spaceship blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert atop the Long March 2F rocket.

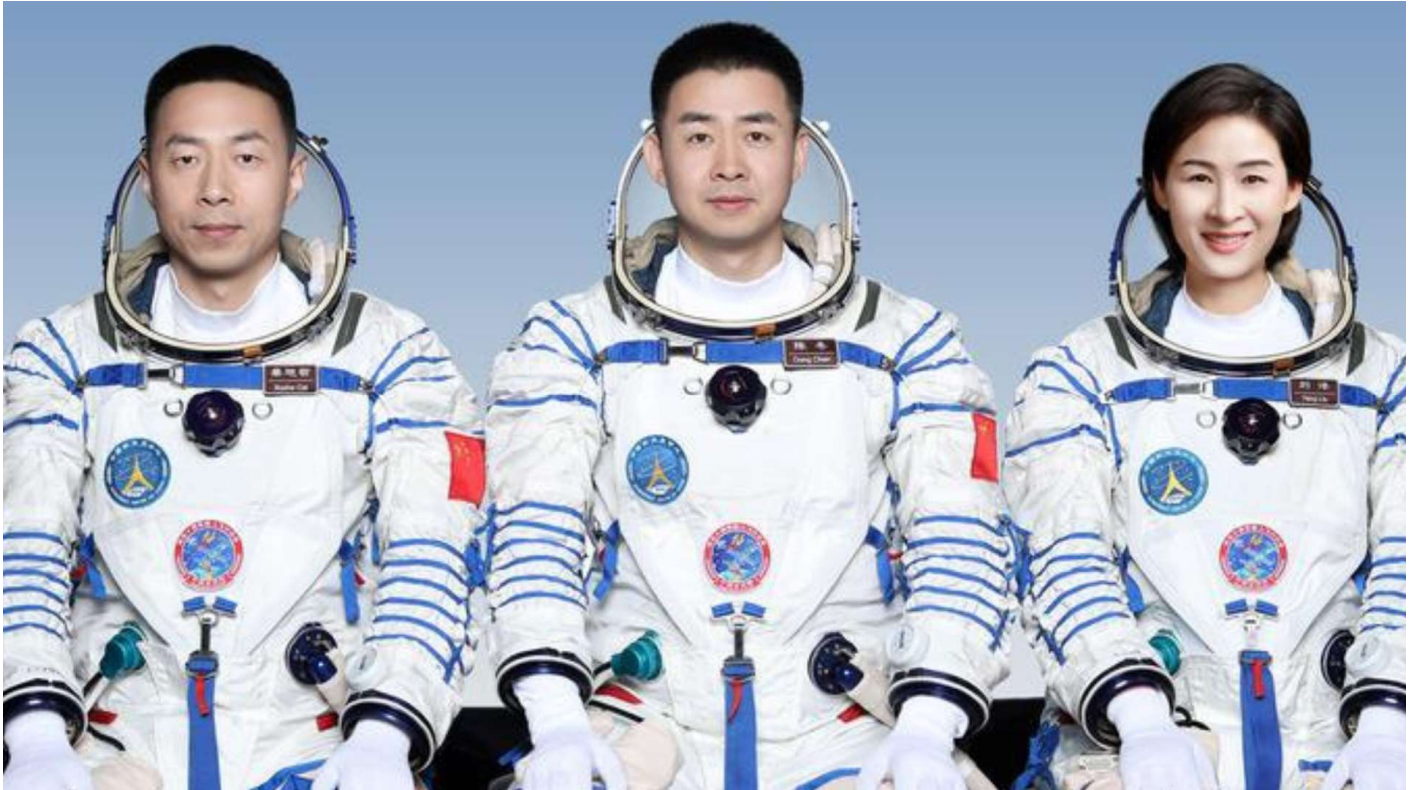
Agenda:

- The **Shenzhou 14 crew** will spend six months on the Tiangong station, during which they will oversee the addition of **two laboratory modules to join the main Tianhe living space** that was launched in April 2021.
- The completed station will be similar to the Soviet Mir station that orbited Earth from the 1980s until 2001.

Tiangong station:

- Tiangong, which means “heavenly palace”, is expected to become fully operational by the end of the year.

- The Shenzhou-14 crew is led by Air Force pilot Chen Dong. The three-person crew's main challenge will be connecting the station's two lab modules to the main body.



China's space program:

- China's space program launched its first astronaut into orbit in 2003, making it only the third country to do so on its own after the former Soviet Union and the U.S.
- It has landed robot rovers on the moon and placed one on Mars 2021. China has also returned lunar samples and officials have discussed a possible crewed mission to the moon.