

1. Twin hurdles hinder India's maritime role (Page no.- 1)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

As the Quad grouping of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. looks to roll out an Indo-Pacific maritime domain awareness (MDA) initiative for information sharing and maritime surveillance across the region, two issues limit India's ability to further expand its role, say government officials. These are infrastructure constraints and continued delay in posting Indian liaison officers at other facilities and centres in the region.

2. 'Northeast helps in global outreach' (Page no.- 6)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday indicated Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal were India's most trusted global partners along with Japan and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

At the inaugural session of the two-day NADI-3 Asian Confluence River Conclave in Guwahati, Mr. Jaishankar said the prioritisation of the northeast, comprising eight States, by the Narendra Modi government had made it obvious that India should work with its most trusted global partners.

3. Heritage to sustainability, UN-Habitat lays out plan for Pink City (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 3 (Environment)

Posing a challenge for urban planners, UN-Habitat has identified multi-hazard vulnerabilities, urban sprawl, weak urban mobility and "green-blue disconnect" as the pressing issues for Jaipur city.

Though Rajasthan's capital has received a high sustainability rating, government agencies have their task cut out to deal with the city's expansion.

The global body has based its findings on a sustainable cities integrated approach pilot project, as part of which the "sustainable urban planning and management" component was implemented in collaboration with the Jaipur Development Authority and Jaipur Greater Municipal Corporation.

4. Mistake of ignoring monkeypox outbreak in Nigeria (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 3 (Science & Tech.)

Monkeypox was first reported in 1958 in laboratory monkeys and the first human case was reported in 1970 in a nine-month-old baby in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nigeria reported its first case of monkeypox in humans in 1970 when one case was detected; there were two human cases of monkeypox in Nigeria in 1978. And after nearly four decades of not reporting any cases, monkeypox (West African clade) made a re-emergence in Nigeria in September 2017.

5. Nanobots dig deep to disinfect tooth (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 3 (Science & Tech.)

Rather than the dentist's drill, a fine beam of light pushes an antibacterial deep into the tooth's passageway in this approach. Another is to use ultrasound waves to, again, make the antibacterial go deeper. Some early experiments with lasers attempted to do away with pushing antimicrobials altogether and use the heat from ultra-thin light beams to incinerate the bacteria.

6. Is the Indo-Pacific bloc limited in scope? (Page no.- 11)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

The launch this week of U.S. President Joseph Biden's new trade initiative for the region, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), which was witnessed by leaders of 13 countries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was heralded as the start of a new economic bloc in the region, one which could be seen as a counter to China. The IPEF, which comprises a "baker's dozen" of Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam, represents 40% of the world's GDP. However, the launch of the IPEF has also been accompanied with some scepticism, not least from within the U.S., about just what it can deliver, given that officials made it clear that it is not a traditional trade deal.

7. Price rise and GST ? (Page no.- 11)**GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)**

The GST regime, about to complete five years this July, is due for an overhaul in tax rates levied on different products because of structural anomalies and to reduce the multiple tax slabs. A ministerial group of the GST Council, under Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S. Bommai, was tasked last September to suggest immediate changes, as well as a roadmap for short- and medium-term changes to the GST rate structure. The group of ministers (GoM) is yet to conclude its deliberations.

8. 'India seen facing wider coal crunch, power outage risks' (Page no.- 11)**GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)**