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Dialy News Pedia*Cyclone Warning Centre to be set up in Thiruvananthapuram within a month*

(GS Prelims and Mains 3 – Science and Technology)

Recent News: The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences is proposing to set up a Cyclone Warning Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. The Ministry is planning to set up the Centre in another *one month*. At present, IMD has cyclone warning centres only at Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

The Centre will cater to the needs of Kerala and Karnataka states and will be equipped with all state of the art infrastructure including forecasting tools to issue weather warnings and coastal bulletins (for fishermen, etc.). It will further strengthen the present forecasting activity in India Meteorological Department's existing office in Kerala.

The Ministry is also planning to set up another C-Band Doppler Weather Radar at Mangalore by end of 2019, which will cover the northern parts of Kerala. At present, there are two Doppler Weather Radars in the state, at Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram. With these 3 radars, the entire state will be covered for monitoring of rainfall and severe weather events, and adequately warn the people well in advance. IMD has developed many new models and tools right from nowcasts (2-3 hours) to extended range forecasts (15-20 days' lead time).

Sangham Radio

(GS Prelims and Mains – Government initiative, Shelf Help Groups, Social issues)

Recent news: Sangham, which went on air in 2008, continues its two-hour broadcast in Telugu and reaches out to people of 150 villages in Telangana. Sangam reaches about 150 villages in Jarasangam, Zaheerabad and Raikod, and parts of Kohir and Nyalkal, everyday from 7 pm to 9 pm. Each village has a population of between 600 to 1,200 people. Transmission has never been disrupted in the last 8 years, except on 4 days due to a short circuit.

Sangham Radio, India's first community radio station, is struggling to stay alive.

It is owned and run by 5,000 poor, mostly **Dalit women** in one of India's most underdeveloped areas.



The radio station, an initiative of the **Deccan Development Society (DDS)**, a local grassroots organisation, was started in 1998 in Machanoor village in Telangana's Sangareddy district.

President to inaugurate “International Buddhist Conclave 2018”

(GS Prelims and Mains1- Culture, International Relations)

The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the “**International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018**” in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 23rd August, 2018. The Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh from 23rd – 26th August, 2018 at New Delhi and Ajanta (Maharashtra), followed by site visits to Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodhgaya (Bihar) and Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh). During the inaugural session of the Conclave, the Ministry will launch its website landofbuddha.in and a new film showcasing the Buddhist sites in the country

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has been organizing the International Buddhist Conclave biennially. The earlier International Buddhist Conclaves were organized in New Delhi and Bodhgaya (February 2004), Nalanda and Bodhgaya (February 2010), Varanasi and Bodhgaya (September 2012), Bodhgaya and Varanasi (September 2014) and in Sarnath/Varanasi and Bodhgaya (October 2016).

International Buddhist Conclave 2018 will have a religious / spiritual dimension, an academic theme and a diplomatic and business component. Ministry of Tourism has invited senior leaders of various Buddhist sects, scholars, public leaders, journalists and international and domestic tour operators to increase footfalls to the Buddhist circuit in the country from other parts of the world, and participants from countries having significant Buddhist population including the ASEAN region and Japan.

BIMSTEC

(GS Prelims and Mains 2 – International Relations)

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Evolution of BIMSTEC

BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand - Economic Cooperation) was



formed at a meeting in Jun 1997 in Bangkok. Myanmar was admitted in Dec 1997 and the organization was renamed as BIMST-EC. The grouping expanded when Nepal and Bhutan were admitted in Feb 2004. The grouping's name was changed to BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) at 1st Summit Meeting held in Bangkok in Jul 2004.

Area of Cooperation

BIMSTEC has been steadily expanding its agenda. The grouping has identified 14 priority areas :transport and communication, tourism, environment and disaster management, Climate change, Fisheries, Agriculture, Public Health, Poverty Alleviation, Culture and counterterrorism and transnational crime etc.

Importance of BIMSTEC for India

For New Delhi, the BIMSTEC is an integral part of its ongoing efforts to map out new pathways of geo-economic cooperation among countries in the region, which it sees as part of its extended neighbourhood. Apart from the overarching vision of regional connectivity, what animates India's proactive role in BIMSTEC is the **larger national goal of transforming north-eastern states** by opening up fresh avenues of win-win opportunities. In fact, BIMSTEC, could be a potential game-changer for the north-eastern *India's* quest for prosperity. The states of India's northeast have shown a marked economic vibrancy, with the region clocking economic growth of 10% a year, which is faster than the country's average of about 5% a year.

EDITORIAL

To read

Stay with RCEP

India must not take the easiest way out on the trade deal and walk out of talks

Negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, among 16 Asian and Pacific Ocean countries, have entered a decisive phase. Most potential member-countries of the grouping, that comprises the 10 ASEAN members and their Free Trade Agreement partners, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea, would like to see a “substantive agreement” on the trade deal by the end of this year. At a meeting in Singapore, which is driving the effort as the current ASEAN chair, countries which still have issues with the outline of the agreements reached so far may be told politely to step aside and allow a



smaller group to go ahead with finalising the RCEP, with the option to join it at a later date. India is among the countries that will have to take a call at this point, and the government's decision to set up a group of four ministers to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the path ahead indicates the seriousness of the situation. India's concerns with RCEP negotiations thus far are manifold, but some have been addressed. The first is the greater access Chinese goods will have to the Indian market, a problem given India's massive trade deficit. To circumvent this, given that India is the one country that doesn't have an FTA with China, the government has proposed a "differential market access" strategy for China, which others are inclined to accept. After the Wuhan summit, India and China have made progress on addressing the trade deficit, with China increasing access for Indian goods such as pharma and agricultural products. The second concern is about demands by other RCEP countries for lower customs duties on a number of products and greater access to the market than India has been willing to provide. On the other hand, the more developed RCEP countries such as Australia and Singapore have been unwilling to accommodate India's demands to liberalise their services regime and allow freer mobility of Indian workers.

Naturally, none of this is made easier by the fact that some of the RCEP countries, including India, are headed for elections next year, a point where governments traditionally turn protectionist. Despite these concerns, the government must take into account the deeper strategic pitfalls of either slowing down India's RCEP engagement or walking out of the talks at this stage. Doing so would cut India out of the rules-making process for the RCEP and give China further space in the regional trade and security architecture. At a time when the U.S. has broken from the global concord on multilateral trade agreements, an Indian walkout would endanger the united message that RCEP countries, which represent 40% of the global GDP, would wish to send out. It would also be a sharp departure from India's "Act East" slogan and its extended outreach to ASEAN.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

1. Choose the correct statement regarding BIMSTEC

- a. BIMSTC group comprises of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- b. It was established on 6 June 1997 through Bangkok Declaration. It is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



c. BIMSTEC is the sub-regional group of eight countries in South Asia and South East Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal constituting contiguous regional unity.

- 1) a and b
- 2) b and c
- 3) c and a
- 4) All the above

2. “**International Buddhist Conclave (IBC) is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the which of below State Governments .**

- a. Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Telangana.
- b. Telangana, Goa and Punjab.
- c. Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- d. Telangana, Maharashtra and Goa.

3. **Recently which ministry is proposing to set up a Cyclone Warning Centre in Thiruvananthapuram**

- a. Ministry of Science and Technology
- b. Ministry of Earth Science
- c. Ministry of Environment and Climate change
- d. Ministry of Home affairs

4. **Which of the following statement is true regarding sangham radio**

- a. Sangham Radio, India’s first community radio station, is struggling to stay alive.
- b. It is owned and run by 5,000 poor, mostly Dalit women in one of India’s most underdeveloped areas.
- c. It caters to the Sangham (self-help groups) of underprivileged, rural women.

1. a and b

2. a and c



3. b and c

4. All the above

5. Which of the following contaminants can be found in black plastic?

1. Bromine

2. Lead

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

a. 1 only

b. 2 only

c. Both 1 and 2

d. Neither 1 nor 2

MAINS

Writing practice.

Q. Describe the Flood Management in India with the help of case study.