



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 30-July-2018

General Studies- 1

Flash Flood:

Why in News?

India has been designated as a nodal centre for preparing flash-flood forecasts by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

That means India will have to develop a customised model that can issue advance warning of floods in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

How will It Work?

Using a combination of satellite mapping and ground-based observation, this system — called the Flash Flood Guidance System — aims to provide forecasts six hours in advance.

Like India, several southeast Asian countries depend on the monsoon and are prone to its vagaries.

The proposed model would provide forecasts by computing the likelihood of rainfall and the soil moisture levels to warn of possible floods.

Though Pakistan was among the list of countries that would benefit from the forecast, it had refused to participate in the scheme.

India currently has a warning system for tsunamis that also doubles up a warning system for several Asian countries.

About Flash Floods:

A **flash flood** is a rapid flooding of geomorphic low-lying areas: washes, rivers, dry lakes and basins.

It may be caused by heavy rain associated with a severe thunderstorm, hurricane, tropical storm, or meltwater from ice or snow flowing over ice sheets or snowfields.

Flash floods may occur after the collapse of a natural ice or debris dam, or a human structure such as a man-made dam, as occurred before the Johnstown Flood of 1889.



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Flash floods are distinguished from regular floods by having a timescale of less than six hours

The WMO says flash floods account for 85% of flooding incidents across the world, causing some 5,000 deaths each year.

General Studies- 2

Mission Satyanishtha:

Indian Railways has launched "*Mission Satyanishtha*".

Aim: This mission aims at sensitizing all railway employees about the need to adhere to good ethics and to maintain high standards of integrity at work.

Objectives of the Mission are:

- To train every employee to understand the need and value of ethics in Personal and Public life.
- To deal with ethical dilemmas in life and Public Governance.
- To help understand the policies of Indian Railways on ethics and integrity and the employee's role in upholding the same.
- To develop inner governance through tapping inner resources.

National Viral Hepatitis Control Program

Why in News?

Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program to mark the World Hepatitis Day, 2018.

About NVHCP:

MoHFW has launched the 'National Viral Hepatitis Control Program', with the goal of ending viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030 in the country.

The aim of the initiative is to reduce morbidity and mortality due to viral hepatitis.



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Strategies Adopted:

The key strategies include preventive and promotive interventions with focus on awareness generation, safe injection practices and socio-cultural practices, sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water supply, infection control and immunization; co-ordination and collaboration with different Ministries and departments.

It also focus on building capacities at national, state, district levels and sub-district level up to Primary Health Centres (PHC) and health and wellness centres such that the program can be scaled up till the lowest level of the healthcare facility in a phased manner.

Indo-US Defence Deal:

India is in talks with the U.S. to procure an advanced air [defence](#) system to defend the National Capital Region (NCR) from aerial attacks.

The process for procuring the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II), estimated at \$1 billion, has been initiated.

This system will help in preventing 9/11-type attacks [when terrorists flew hijacked planes into New York's World Trade Center] on Delhi.

Steps taken for Secure airspace

India is deploying a multi-tiered air defence network to fully secure its airspace from incoming fighter aircraft, missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV).

This system would complement other systems such as the medium and long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems under procurement.

India is also in an advanced stage of talks with Russia for the procurement of very long range S-400 air defence systems.

Apart from these imports, India is also developing an indigenous Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system.

Phase-I of the BMD is expected to be deployed soon.



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About NASAMS:

The NASAMS was developed by Raytheon in partnership with KONGSBERG Defence and Aerospace of Norway.

The Raytheon website says it is a "highly adaptable mid-range solution" for any operational air defence requirement and provides a tailorable, state-of-the-art defence system that can maximise the ability to quickly identify, engage and destroy current and evolving enemy aircraft, UAV or emerging cruise missile threats.

NASAMS-II is an upgraded version of the NASAMS and features new 3D mobile surveillance radars and 12 missile launchers for quicker reaction.

General Studies-3

Global Tiger Day

India Post joined hands in promoting tiger conservation by releasing a special cover to mark Global Tiger Day at Bandipur on Sunday.

In all, 6,500 covers have been printed and will be made available to the public at a cost of ₹25 each. The bulk of the specially printed envelopes with a pictorial representation of tigers will be used by the Forest Department for its postal communication.

Global Tiger Day, often called **International Tiger Day**, is an annual celebration to raise awareness for [tiger](#) conservation, held annually on 29 July.

It was created in 2010 at the [Saint Petersburg](#) Tiger Summit.

The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural [habitats](#) of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues



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About Project Tiger:

Global Tiger Day highlighted the importance of tiger conservation, the threats posed to the big cat, and how it was on the brink of extinction till Project Tiger was launched in India in the early 70s.

Tiger population declined from over 40,000 in the pre-colonial days to less than 2,000 post Independence.

Launched in 1973 with nine tiger reserves in the country, it has expanded to nearly 50 reserves in the present times and the objective was to ensure a viable population of tigers in India.

There were local extinctions in the country in Sariska and Panna mainly because of international illegal demand for wildlife parts which hit India in 1990.

Progress Achieved:

After the constitution of the NTCA and the introduction of scientific tiger assessments, the numbers have shown a steady increase in the tiger population in the country – from 1,411 in 2006, to 1,706 in 2010, and 2,226 in 2014, which accounts for almost 70% of the world's tiger population in the wild.

Bandipur, Nagarhole, Wayanad, Mudumalai, Satyamangalam, and BRT forests account for nearly 585 tigers across 10,925 sq km.