Ban on LTTE for five years

Context:

The Central Government has extended the ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for another five years under sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) with immediate effect.

What does it say?

The notification states that the LTTE's continued violent and disruptive activities are prejudicial to the integrity and sovereignty of India; and it continues to adopt a strong anti-India posture as also continues to pose a grave threat to the security of Indian nationals.

About LTTE

- The **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam** was a Tamil militant and political organization that was based in northeastern Sri Lanka.
- Its aim was to secure an independent state of Tamil Eelam in the north and east in response to the state policies of successive Sri Lankan governments towards Tamils.
- Founded in May 1976 by Velupillai Prabhakaran, it was involved in armed clashes against the Sri Lankan state forces and by the late 1980s was the dominant Tamil militant group in Sri Lanka.
- The escalation of intermittent conflict into a full-scale nationalist insurgency however did not commence before the countrywide pogroms against Tamils.
- Since 1983, more than 80,000 have been killed in the civil war that lasted 26 years, a large number of them who were Sri Lankan Tamil civilians

What is UAPA?

- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act** is an Indian law aimed at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Its main objective was to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.
- The National Integration Council appointed a Committee on National Integration and Regionalisation to look into, the aspect of putting

reasonable restrictions in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India.

- Pursuant to the acceptance of recommendations of the Committee, the Constitution (Sixteenth Amendment) Act, 1963 was enacted to impose, by law, reasonable restrictions in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- In order to implement the provisions of 1963 Act, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Bill was introduced in the Parliament.

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

Why in News?

India is unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020.

The decision was taken during the CG meeting of GFDRR held in Geneva, Switzerland today, on the margins of the 6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019.

About GFDRR:

- GFDRR is a global partnership that helps developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.
- GFDRR is a grant-funding mechanism, managed by the World Bank, that supports disaster risk management projects worldwide.
- It is presently working on the ground with over 400 local, national, regional, and international partners and provides knowledge, funding, and technical assistance.

India and GFDRR:

- India became member of CG of GFDRR in 2015 and expressed its interest to co-chair in last meeting of CG held in October 2018.

- India's candidature was backed by its consistent progress in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the country and its initiative to form a coalition on disaster resilient infrastructure.
- This will give the country an opportunity to work with the member countries and organizations of GFDRR with a focused contribution towards advancing the disaster risk reduction agenda during the course of the year.
- This is the first time that the country has been afforded the opportunity of co-chairing the CG meeting of GFDRR.
- India would like to pursue a focused agenda and develop synergies with ongoing work streams of GFDRR. Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (DRI) will be a central theme of engagement with the GFDRR partners and stakeholders.

Radar and Radar evasion:

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent comment about how he gave the go-ahead for the Balakot airstrike despite bad weather as the clouds would enable Indian Air Force fighter jets to evade enemy radars, has raised a storm on social media. So, what is a radar and how does it function?

What is a radar?

- Radar stands for radio detection and ranging.
- A radar typically has a magnetron, transmitter, receiver, and a screen.
- The magnetron generates radio waves which are released through an antenna in different directions at certain time intervals.
- If there is an object in the air, an aeroplane for instance, the radio waves hit it and bounce back, to be caught by the receiver of the radar.
- By mapping the reflected waves on a screen with a grid map, the aeroplane is displayed as a blip on the screen and its movement is shown as the radio waves strike it at intervals (Remember all the Hollywood action movies!).
- This is the basic principle of a radar.

C.A Dated On 15-05-2019

Evolution of RADAR:

- Over the decades, there have been tremendous technological advancements in radars, making them highly sophisticated and powerful.
- By virtue of being radio waves, radars can see through cloud cover, and during day and night.
- In fact, that is what they are meant to do. Imagine rough weather and overcast skies over a city, but commercial flights continue taking off and landing at the airport.
- This is because the Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) across the world depend on radars.
- All ATCs have two radars -- primary and secondary.
- The primary is a classic radar based on the principle described above. The secondary radar identifies the details of the aircraft by communicating with the transponders on the aircraft.
- Thus, radars enable continuous airport operations in cloudy conditions. And that goes for military radars as well, including those of Pakistan, which has an advanced military.

Origin of Radar

- The origin of the radar goes back to World War II, when the first radar was demonstrated in Britain in 1935.
- By the time the war began, Britain had a chain of radars along its coast to detect intruders. And by the end of WW-II, all major countries involved deployed radars.
- Ground based radars have limitations primarily due to the curvature of the earth.
- So radars were mounted on aircraft which fly thousands of feet above the ground with 360-degree coverage.
- These are known as Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), and are major force multipliers in today's battlefields.
- During the Balakot airstrike on February 26, IAF had fielded both indigenous and Israeli AWACS to direct the fighters jets on their strike mission and monitor the skies for any movement by Pakistani jets.

Radar evasion:

- Over the years, as radars have improved so have the technologies to evade them.
- There are many ways of evading radars or reducing the radar cross section or foot print.
- That's where the concept of stealth comes in. Stealth is a relative concept and not absolute.
- Radars essentially identify an object by the reflected radio waves.
- So if the radio waves can be deflected away from the receiver, that reduces the footprint. A classic example for this is the US F-117 which is now out of service.
- Another way is to absorb some or most of the radio waves with radar absorbent paint, and changing the shape to minimise the cross section. The iconic US B2 bomber is a perfect example for this.
- The latest stealth planes F-22 and F-35 use a combination of these to evade radars.

Rhino DNA Profile:

Why in News?

The Union Environment Ministry has embarked on a project to create DNA profiles of all rhinos in the country.

By 2021, the project's deadline, the Indian rhino could be the first wild animal species In India to have all its members DNA-sequenced.

About the Project:

- The project's proponents, including the World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) and the Centre-funded Wildlife Institute of India (WII), said the exercise would be useful in curbing poaching and gathering evidence in wildlife crimes involving rhinos.
- There are about 2,600 rhinos in India, with more than 90% of the population concentrated in Assam's Kaziranga National Park.
- The project would formally be under way in a year.

- Around 60 samples of tissue have been collected so far from some rhinos living outside Kaziranga. .
- Once the database is complete, identifying rhinos that were killed or poached would be easier.
- The project is a subset of the Centre's larger, ongoing rhino conservation programme.

Since the 1980s, the government has been trying to move a significant number of rhinos out of Kaziranga in the interest of the species' conservation, threats from poaching and challenges to their habitat.

Rhinos in India:

- Outside Kaziranga, there are about 200 rhinos in West Bengal, 40 in Uttar Pradesh and 1 in Bihar. .
- There are three species of rhinos, of which only one — the Indian rhino — is found in the country.
- The rhinos were once abundant and well-distributed in the country.
- However poaching reduced its numbers to about "200 wild animals by the end of the 20th century.

Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT):

Why in News?

India has expressed support to Nigeria's Ambassador to the UN Tijjani Muhammad-Bande as the next president of the General Assembly and called him to make the body more action-oriented to deal with the global scourge of terrorism.

India drew Mr. Muhammad-Bande's attention to the long-pending global convention on international terrorism and called for action in the UN body to adopt it.

About CCIT:

- India proposed a draft document on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the UN in 1986 but it has not been implemented as there is no unanimity on the definition of terrorism among the member states.

- The **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism** is a proposed treaty which intends to criminalize all forms of international terrorism and deny terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, arms, and safe havens.

- The negotiations for this treaty are currently (May 2018) under way has been under negotiation at the United Nations General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee established by Resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 on Terrorism and the United Nations General Assembly Sixth Committee (Legal).

- The negotiations are currently deadlocked even after two decades of proposal i.e. through 1996 till 2016.

- Although consensus eludes towards adoption of the terrorism convention, but discussions have yielded three separate protocols that aim to tackle terrorism: International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted on 15 December 1997; International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted on 9 December 1999; and International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted on 13 April 2005.