

Genus Allmania



❖ Context

- Recently, a rather frail-looking plant discovered in Palakkad's (Kerala) granite hillocks has been identified as a new species of the genus Allmania.

❖ Key Highlights

- An annual herb that grows to a height of about 60 cm, Allmania multiflora is only the second species of this genus identified so far anywhere.
- The discovery has come 188 years after the genus and the first species were described by botanists.
- The first species, Allmanianodiflora, was originally published under the genus Celosia as Celosia nodiflora in 1753.
- Specimens found in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) were first described as Allmanianodiflora in 1834.
- Found at heights ranging between 1,000 to 1,250 metres, Allmania multiflora is an annual herb, erect, with branches arising from the base.

- The stem is red to violet at the base and green above.
- Shorter tepals and wider gynoecium (parts of the flower), shorter bracts and the diameter of the seeds are among the characteristics that distinguish it from **Allmanianodiflora**.
- Flowering and fruiting occur from May to September.
- The species is quite special from both the botanical and conservation points of view.
- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered
- **Key Issues:**
- Its population is quite small.
- Locals may unintentionally exploit it as a vegetable alongside amaranths.
- Its natural habitat, granite hillocks, is also under threat today.

Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3) and OneWeb

❖ Context

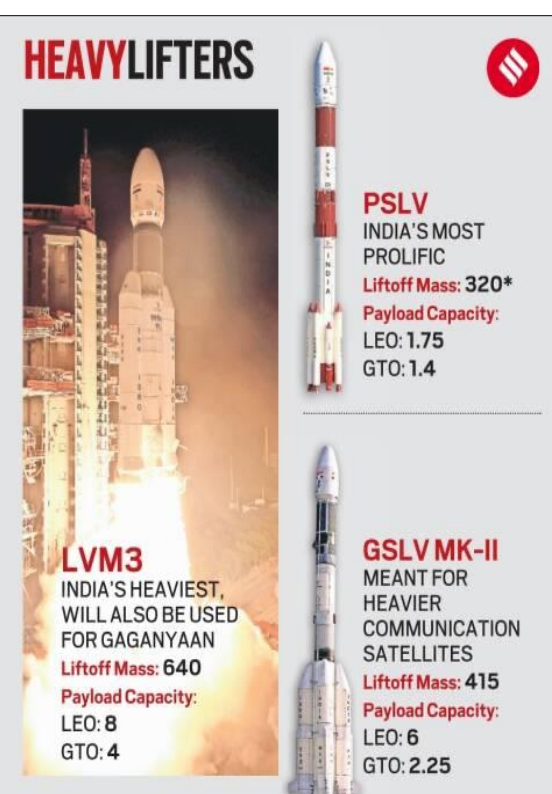
- Recently, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) crossed an important milestone with the successful launch of the **LVM3 M2/OneWeb India-1 mission**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **LVM3 rocket** carried almost **6 tonnes of payload** into lower-earth orbit.
- It has **successfully orbited 36 satellites** of U.K.-based **OneWeb**.
- This is OneWeb's 14th launch, bringing the constellation to 462 satellites.
- With this launch, **LVM3 has made its entry into the global commercial launch service market**.
- This successful mission **carried a payload of 5,796kg** - now **ISRO's heaviest till date**.

❖ LVM3

- It is a **three-stage rocket** with the first stage fired by solid fuel, the second by liquid fuel and the third is the cryogenic engine.



- The LVM3 also has the **human-rated variant** which will be used for **Gaganyaan missions**.
- **Significance:**
 - Very few countries have the capability to launch satellites weighing more than 2 tonnes.
 - Until recently, even ISRO used to take the **services of Ariane rockets** of Europe to launch its heavy satellites.
 - The LVM3 rocket, is meant to **end that dependence**.

- It will also **become the vehicle for the more ambitious parts of India's space programmes** - manned missions, Moon landings and deep space explorations - in the near future.

❖ LVM3 M2/OneWeb India-1 mission

- LVM3-M2 is the **dedicated commercial satellite mission** of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Space.
- This mission is being carried out as part of the business agreement between NSIL and the U.K.-based Network Access Associates Limited (m/s OneWeb Ltd).
- **OneWeb is a joint venture** between India's **Bharti Enterprises** and the **U.K. government**.
- OneWeb Ltd is a global communication network powered from space, **enabling internet connectivity for governments & businesses**.
- This launch **represents more than 70% of its planned 648 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite fleet**.
- **Significance:**
 - The mission **will enable the company to start offering satellite broadband services** in the country by 2023.
 - **Provide high-speed internet services in remote areas**, where terrestrial networks cannot be set up — middle of the ocean, the Himalayas (even on top of Mount Everest).

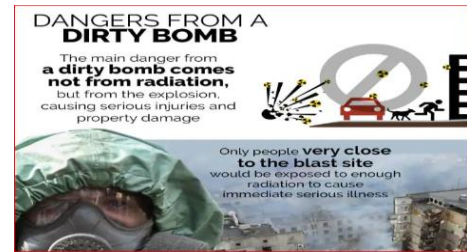
Face to Face Centres



Dirty Bomb

❖ Context

- Russia intends to raise at the United Nations Security Council its accusation that Ukraine is planning to use a so-called “dirty bomb” – a conventional explosive device laced with toxic nuclear material.



❖ Key Highlights

- A dirty bomb or radiological dispersal device is a radiological weapon that combines radioactive material with conventional explosive such as dynamite, pellets.
- The purpose of the weapon is to contaminate the area around the dispersal agent/conventional explosion with radioactive material, serving primarily as an area denial device against civilians.
- It is not to be confused with a nuclear explosion, such as a fission bomb, which produces blast effects far in excess of what is achievable by the use of conventional explosives.
- Unlike the cloud of radiation from a typical fission bomb, a dirty bomb’s radiation can be dispersed only within a few hundred meters or a few miles of the explosion.

- The immediate health impact would probably be limited, since most people in an affected area would be able to escape before experiencing lethal doses of radiation.
- But the economic damage could be massive from having to evacuate urban areas or even abandon whole cities.

Making a dirty bomb



Indian Ocean Region plus Defence Ministers’ Conclave

❖ Context

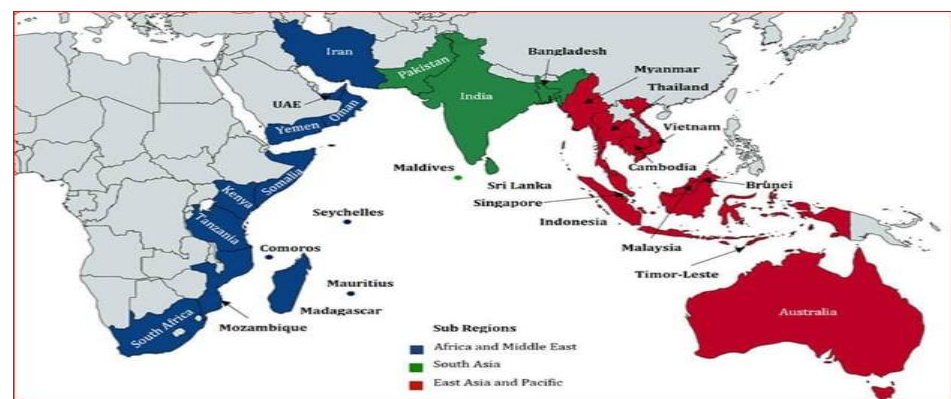
- Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR) Defence Ministers’ Conclave was recently hosted by Defence Minister.



❖ Key Highlights

- The conclave aims to promote strategic and commercial partnerships within the IOR countries, in line with vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- The theme of the conclave was ‘Challenges Opportunities and Collaborations in the Indian Ocean.’
- **Sustainable Exploitation:** Sustainable exploitation of maritime resources as an important means for growth and development of nations across the IOR in the 21st century.
- **Collaborative Effort:** There was a call for a collaborative effort in ensuring that the maritime expanse of the Indian Ocean is peaceful and optimally harnessed for ensuring regional and global food security.

- **India-Africa Security fellowship programme:** The India-Africa Security fellowship programme was also launched to provide an opportunity to African scholars to pursue research on defence and security issues in India.



Asia's Largest Compressed Biogas Plant

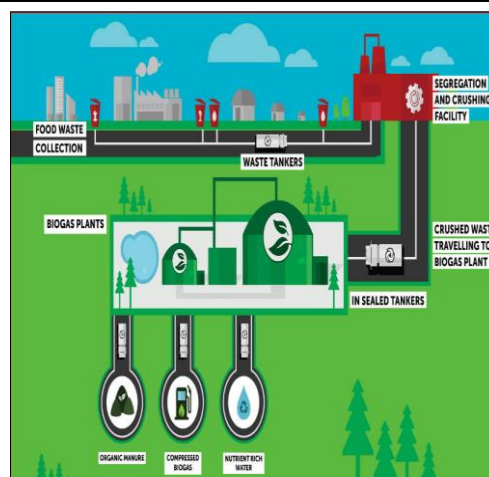
❖ Context

- Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas recently inaugurated Asia’s largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Lehragaga, Sangrur, Punjab.



❖ Key Highlights

- The CBG plant is a step toward achieving the goals of the **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)** scheme, which was introduced by the government in October 2018.
- It aims to create an ecosystem for the production of compressed biogas from various waste or biomass sources in the nation.



- The scheme intends to empower and liberate the rural economy by assisting farmers,
 - boosting domestic energy production and self-sufficiency in India,
 - reducing air pollution,
 - and assisting India in taking the lead globally in the transition to clean energy.

Face to Face Centres



Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

❖ Context

- Recently, The Ministry of Home Affairs has cancelled the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licence of **Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF)** and **Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT)**, organisations for alleged violations of the provisions of the Act.

❖ About FCRA

- FCRA regulates foreign donations and **ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect the internal security** of the country.
- The FCRA Act, first **enacted in 1976** was **amended in the year 2010 and then 2020**.
- FCRA is implemented by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Registration under FCRA :**
 - FCRA registrations are **granted to individuals or associations** that have definite cultural, economic, educational, religious, and social programmes.
 - The MHA is required to **approve or reject** the application within **90 days**.
 - Once granted, FCRA registration is **valid for five years**.
- **Cancellation of Approval :**
 - The **government reserves the right to cancel** the FCRA registration of any NGO if it finds it to be in violation of the Act.
 - Once the registration of an NGO is cancelled, it is **not eligible for re-registration for three years**.
 - All orders of the government can be **challenged in the High Court**.

❖ Amendment Act, 2020

- The **Bill adds public servants** (as defined under the Indian Penal Code) to this list.
- The Bill **prohibits the transfer of foreign contributions** to any other person not registered to accept foreign contributions
- The term '**person**' under the Act includes an **individual, an association, or a registered company**.
- The Act makes Aadhaar number mandatory.
- The Act provides that foreign contributions **must be received only in an account designated by the bank as FCRA account** in such branches of the State Bank of India, New Delhi as notified by central govt.
- **Renewal of the certificate** within six months of expiration is **mandatory**.
- **Not more than 20%** of the total foreign funds received could be defrayed for administrative expenses.
 - In the FCRA Act 2010 this limit was 50%.
- The Bill adds that **suspension of registration of a person** may be extended up to an additional 180 days.
 - In the 2010 Act this limit was up to 180 days only. Central government may permit a person to surrender their registration certificate.

News in Between the Lines

Bestu Varsh



Gujarati new year 'Bestu Varsh'

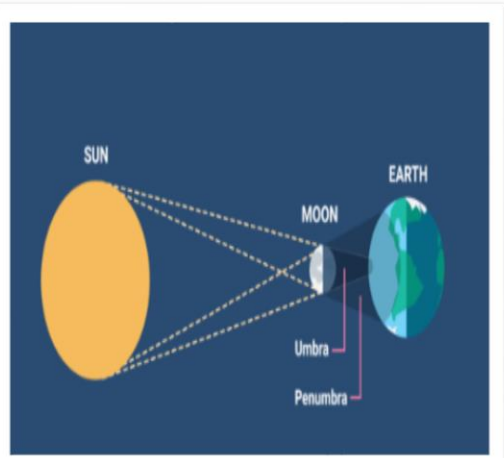
❖ Context

- Gujarati New Year or Bestu Varsh was celebrated on 26th October 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- In Gujarat, the new year which is popularly known as Bestu Varsh is celebrated as part of the five-day Diwali Celebrations.
- Homes are decorated with Asopalav torans and marigold flowers, and attractive Rangoli at the entrance to welcome guests on the new year.
- Relatives, and friends visit each others' places to convey new year greetings. People enjoy traditional feasts. Markets, and shops are mostly closed in the state for five days.

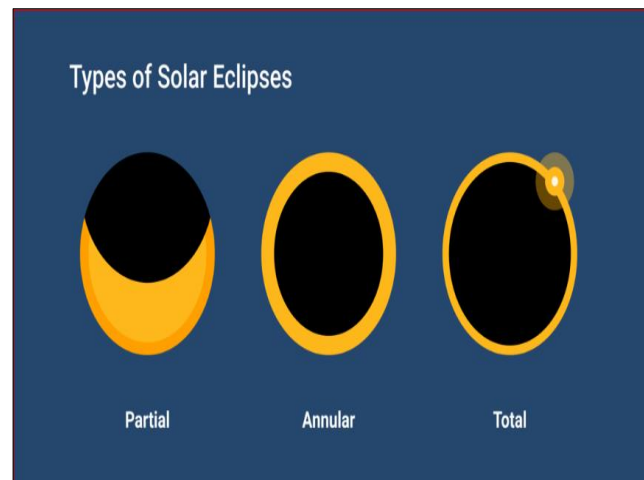
Solar Eclipse



❖ Context

- Recently India & a few other places in the world witnessed a partial solar eclipse.

❖ What is a solar Eclipse?



- A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is positioned in between the Sun and the Earth for a few minutes. Under certain-alignment, the Moon partially or fully blocks the Sun's light and instead casts its shadow on Earth.
- That is why, there can be a partial or a total solar eclipse, depending on how much portion of the Sun's disc gets hidden by the Moon.
- In a partial solar eclipse, only the edge of the Moon's shadow falls on the northern hemisphere.

Face to Face Centres



Great Indian Bustard (GIB)



❖ Context

- The recent sighting of three **Great Indian Bustards (GIBs)** deep in **Pakistan's Cholistan desert** has given rise to speculation that the endangered birds might have flown across the international border from India's **Desert National Park (DNP)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- **About:**
 - It's **flagship grassland species**, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
 - It is one of the **largest flying birds in the world**, and India's heaviest flying bird.
 - The male bird weighs upto 12-15 kg and female bird up to 5-8 kg.
- **Distribution & Population:**
 - The Great Indian Bustard **found mainly in the Indian subcontinent**.
 - Its population of about **150 in Rajasthan** accounts for 95% of its total world population.
 - Less than 10 birds each in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- **Threats:**
 - Intensive agricultural practices, Laying of power lines and industrialisation, Poaching.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972-** Schedule I
 - **CITES-** Appendix I
 - **IUCN Red List-** Critically Endangered.
- **Side Note:**
 - The **captive breeding** of GIBs was taken up in the DNP through a project executed by the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India in 2019.

Agni Prime Missile



❖ Context

- Recently, India successfully 'testfired' a **new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni Prime ballistic missile** off the coast of Odisha.

❖ Key Highlights

- This is the **third test of the two-stage solid propellant Agni Prime missile**.
- Earlier, two missiles were successfully tested in June & December 2021.

❖ About

- It has been **designed and developed** by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**).
- It has a **dual redundant navigation and guidance system**.
- The surface-to-surface ballistic missile has a **range of 1000 to 2000 km**.
- It is the **smallest and lightest among the entire Agni series** of ballistic missiles.
- It will further **bolster India's strategic deterrence capabilities** once it is fully operational after a series of "developmental and user trials".

Bhoota Kola



❖ Context

- Recently released Kannada film Kantara has been at the centre of controversy which **relates to the origins of Bhoota Kola**.

❖ About Bhoota Kola

- Bhoota Kola is an **annual ritual performance where local spirits or deities are worshipped**.
- It is believed that a **person performing the ritual has temporarily become a god himself**.
- This **performer is both feared and respected in the community** and is believed to give answers to people's problems, on behalf of the god.
- There are several '**Bhootas**' who are worshipped in the **Tulu-speaking belt** of Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udipi districts.
- It is usually **performed in small local communities and rural areas**.

[Daily Current Affairs](#)

[Daily Pre PARE](#) [Daily MCQ Quiz](#)

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR:** 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR:** 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ:** 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ):** 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR):** 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA:** 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR:** 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR:** 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA BHUBANESWAR:** 9818244644/7656949029



dhyeyaias.com