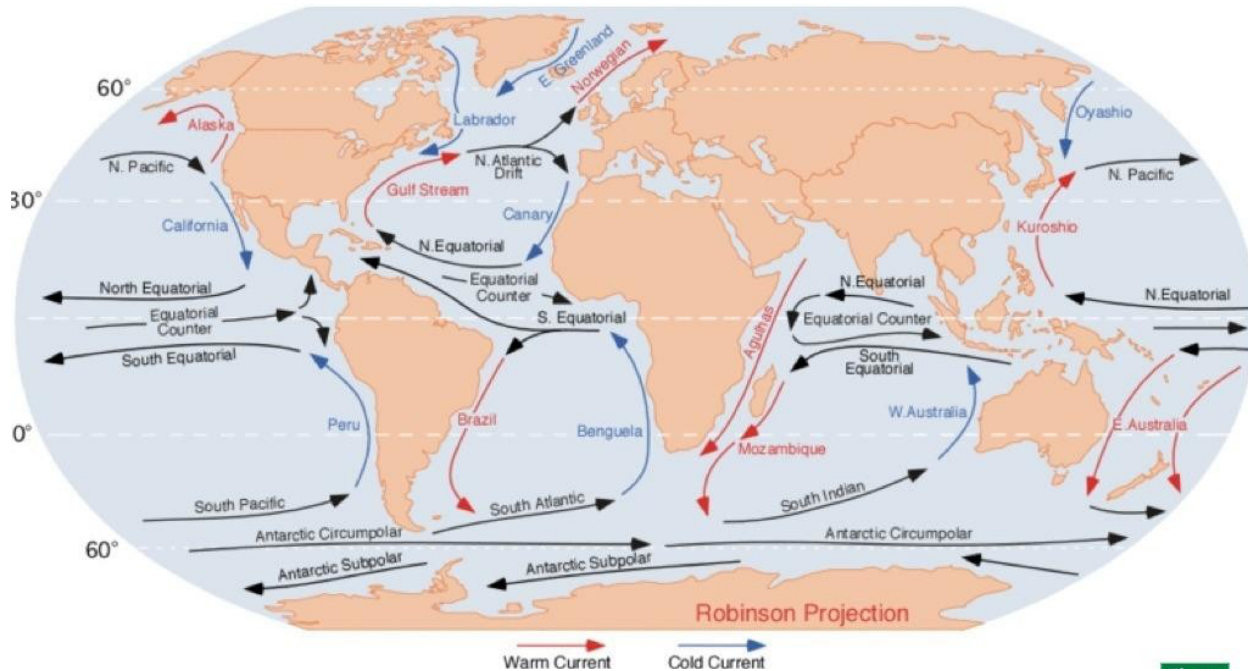


1. Antarctic Ice Melting and Ocean Currents

Topic: Geography



In News: A new report published in the journal Nature, has found that rapidly melting Antarctic ice is causing a dramatic slowdown in deep ocean currents and could have a disastrous effect on the climate.

More on the Topic:

- **Highlights from the Report:**
- The downwards movement of cold, dense saltwater towards the sea bed near Antarctica was **impacting ocean currents with fresh water from the ice cap melting.**
- **It results in sea water becoming less salty and dense,** thus slowing the downwards movement, causing impacting to deep ocean currents, or "overturning", in the northern and southern hemispheres that have been relatively stable for thousands of years.
- The deep-water flows which drive ocean currents **could decline by 40 per cent by 2050.**

Impacts:

- A slowdown in the North Atlantic current could cause Europe to become colder.
- It will disrupts **the base of the food chain** as the Southern Ocean supports about three-quarters of global phytoplankton production thus in turn impacts the marine ecosystem.
- The slowdown of currents could reduce **the ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.**



- As ocean circulation slows down, **water on the surface quickly reaches its carbon-absorbing capacity** and is not then replaced by non carbon-saturated water from greater depths.

About Ocean Currents:

- Ocean currents are **the continuous, predictable, directional movement of seawater driven by gravity, wind (Coriolis Effect), and water density.**
- Ocean water moves in two directions: horizontally and vertically. Horizontal movements are referred to as currents, while vertical changes are called upwellings or downwellings.
- These overturning circulation/currents, driven by the movement of denser water towards the sea floor, helps deliver heat, carbon, oxygen and vital nutrients (rise up from the bottom) around the globe.

Source: Indian Express

2. Foreign Trade Policy 2023

Topic: Economy

THE ROADMAP
Making Exports Hubs

- Bringing collaboration between Exporters, States & Districts
- Promoting E-Commerce at District level
- Strengthening Infrastructure and Logistics ecosystem
- Thrust to cluster based economic development

In News: Foreign Trade Policy 2023 was announced recently.

More on the Topic:

- The Key Approach to the policy is based on these 4 pillars:



- (i) Incentive to Remission,
- (ii) Export promotion through collaboration - Exporters, States, Districts, Indian Missions,
- (iii) Ease of doing business, reduction in transaction cost and e-initiatives and
- (iv) Emerging Areas – E-Commerce Developing Districts as Export Hubs and streamlining SCOMET policy.

Highlights of the Policy:

- **Aim:** The FTP 2023 aims at process re-engineering and automation to facilitate ease of doing business for exporters.
- It also focuses on emerging areas like dual use high end technology items under SCOMET, facilitating e-commerce export, collaborating with States and Districts for export promotion.
- **SCOMET:** “Special Chemicals, Organism, Materials, Equipment and Technologies” items are dual-use items having the potential for both civilian applications as well as weapons of mass destruction.
- **New amnesty Scheme:** The new FTP is introducing a one-time Amnesty Scheme for exporters to close the old pending authorizations and start afresh.
- **“Towns of Export Excellence Scheme”:** The FTP 2023 encourages recognition of new towns through “Towns of Export Excellence Scheme” and exporters through “Status Holder Scheme”.
- **Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme:** The FTP 2023 is facilitating exports by streamlining the popular Advance Authorisation and EPCG schemes, and enabling merchanting trade from India.
- EPCG Scheme allows the import of capital goods at zero Customs duty for export production.
- **Facilitation under the Advance authorization Scheme (AAS):** AAS provides duty-free import of raw materials for manufacturing export items. It has been now extended to the export of the Apparel and Clothing sector.
- **Promoting export from the districts:** The FTP aims at building partnerships with State governments and taking forward the Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative to promote exports at the district level and accelerate the development of the grassroots trade ecosystem.

Source: PIB



3. Vaikom Satyagraha

Topic: Modern Indian History



In News: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced that the government was planning year-long events to commemorate the Vaikom Satyagraha that was launched to end caste discrimination in a local temple a century ago.

More on the Topic:

- March 30 marked the commencement of the centenary year of the Vaikom temple street entry movement that was launched in 1924.
- It was a milestone in temple entry movements in India.
- This non-violent movement was **to end the prohibition imposed on backward communities in using the roads around the Vaikom Mahadeva temple.**
- It was the prelude to the temple entry proclamation of Kerala in 1936.



- Launched by leaders in Kerala such as T.K. Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon and George Joseph, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, the movement was sustained and successfully conducted by **Periyar E.V. Ramasamy**, then president of the Tamil Nadu Congress, and others between 1924 and 1925.
- Mahatma Gandhi himself visited Vaikom in March, 1925.
- The movement was backed by Gandhiji, Chatampi Swamikal, and Sree Narayana Guru.
- The campaign gained popularity throughout India, and supporters arrived from around the country.

About Periyar:

- Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy, revered as Periyar was an **Indian social activist and politician** who started the Self-Respect Movement and Dravidar Kazhagam.
- He is known as the '**Father of the Dravidian movement**'.
- He rebelled against gender and caste inequality in Tamil Nadu.

Source: Hindu

4. The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

Topic: Economy



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National Company Law Appellate Tribunal

In News: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has upheld a \$162 million fine imposed on Google by Competition Commission of India for abusing its Android dominance to promote its payment service.

More on the Topic:

- The penalty was a result of a **long-drawn investigation by CCI**. The probe concluded that Indian Android developers find it difficult to place their apps on smartphones.



- Google licenses its **Android operating system to smartphone producers at a relatively low cost.**
- In India, all major smartphone companies, including Samsung or Xiaomi, use Android. Around 95% of the 750 million smartphones used in the country are based on this operating system.
- Prominent apps, therefore, come pre-installed with Android devices and these can't be uninstalled. Some app developers claimed that Google's policies had driven them out of business.
- Mandating pre-installation of its entire Google Mobile Suite (GMS) – a family of key Google apps and services such as **Google search, Chrome browser, YouTube, Google Maps, and Gmail** – amounted to an **abuse of dominant position” by the company.**
- CCI found, therefore, that the US giant's practice undermines fair competition and stifles innovation.

About NCLAT:

- It was constituted under Section **410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal.**
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).**
- NCLAT is also **the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to **hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).**

Source: Indian Express

5. 'Sagar-Setu' App

Topic: e - Governance

In News: Union Ministry for Ports, Shipping and Waterways has launched the App Version of National Logistics Portal (Marine) 'Sagar-Setu'.

More on the Topic:

- It will provide real-time information of activities that are generally not in reach of the importer, exporter, and customs broker including **vessel-related information, gate, container freight stations and transactions on fingertips.** '
- The app is designed to include features such as a login module, a service catalogue, a common application format, a letter of credit, a bank guarantee, certification, and track and trace, among other things.
- It also enables **digital transactions for payments** required for the clearance process of import and export like container freight station charges, shipping line charges, transportation charges, etc.

Benefits for Traders:

- Improve convenience with reduced turnaround time for approval and compliances.
- Increase visibility of operations and tracking.

Benefits for Service Providers:

- Help in tracking of records and transactions offered
- Receive notification of service requests.

Source: Business Standard

6. Gamosa

Topic: Art and Culture



In News: Gamosa scarf became the site of controversy in Assam.

More on the Topic:

- It is generally a **white rectangular piece of cloth with primarily a red border on two sides and red woven motifs on the other two sides.**

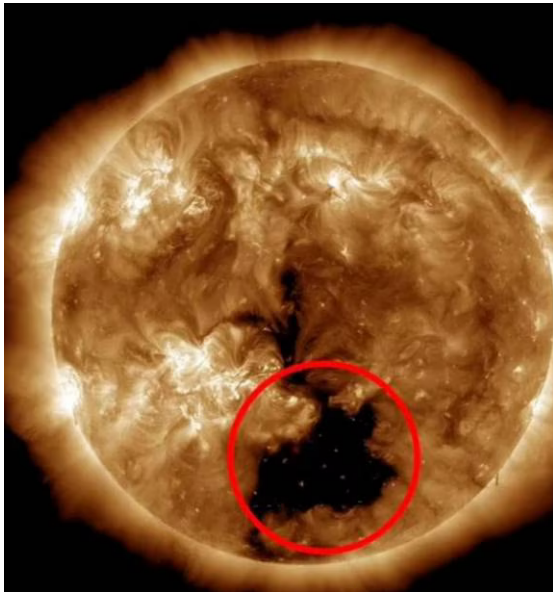


- Although the cotton yarn is the most common material for making/weaving gamosas, there are special occasion ones made from Pat silk.
- It is a symbol of the culture and identity of Assam and had received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2022.

Source: Business Standard

7. Coronal Hole

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: Massive 'Coronal Hole' has been Spotted on Sun's Surface.

More on the Topic:

- Coronal holes appear as **dark areas in the solar corona in extreme ultraviolet (EUV) and soft X-ray solar images.**
- They appear dark because they are cooler, less dense regions than the surrounding plasma and are regions of open, unipolar magnetic fields.
- The appearance of the hole prompted to issue an alert for geomagnetic storms.
- The coronal hole was discovered by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) near the Sun's South Pole.
- **These holes allow solar wind (or geomagnetic storms) to escape more readily into the space,** which are ranked from G1 to G5 - with the latter being the most powerful.
- The continuous flow of charged particles from the Sun are known to impact the Earth's magnetic field, satellites, mobile phones and GPS.

Source: Business Standard
