



1.NASA-ISRO SAR MISSION (NISAR)

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: A forthcoming satellite, NISAR, jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the U.S. will map the most earthquake-prone regions in the Himalayas with unprecedented regularity.

More on the Topic

- The data this will generate can **potentially give advance warning of land subsidence**, as recently observed in Joshimath, Uttarakhand, as well point to places that are at greatest risk from earthquakes.
- The NISAR satellite, expected to cost approximately \$900 million (with ISRO contributing about one-tenth) will use **two frequency bands: the L-band and S-band to image the seismically active Himalayan region** that will, every 12 days, create a “deformation map”.
- The geoscience community will use this data to determine how strain is building up in various parts of the Himalayas.

About Strain:

- Strain refers to **the deformation that occurs in rocks when it is under pressure** from other rocks, usually due to movements of continental plates that are sliding, colliding, or subducting against each other.
- The Indian Plate, for instance, **collided into the Eurasian plate forming the Himalayas and continues to incrementally push it upwards.**



- Based on the intensity of past earthquakes, the knowledge of the speed at which plates move and the locations at which plates interact (called faults) can help geologists and seismologists map out regions that are most vulnerable to earthquakes and estimate how far the resultant tremors can spread.

Source: Indian Express

2. India Ransomware Report 2022

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: The India Ransomware Report 2022 was released by CERT-In.

More on the Topic:

- **Highlights from the Report:**
- There has been a 53 per cent increase in ransomware incidents in India in 2022 when compared to 2021.
- In 2022, among various sectors, IT and ITeS was majorly impacted followed by finance and manufacturing.
- Major ransoms such as Lockbit, Makop, and DJVU/Stop ransomware continued targeting critical infrastructure organisation and "disrupted critical services in order to pressurise and extract ransom payments."
- The motivation towards perpetrating ransomware attacks was not just money, but also "geo political conflicts".
- This trend may continue further when ransomware broadens its spectrum beyond financial aspects and becomes an arsenal for cyberwarfares.

About Ransomware:

- Ransomware is a **type of malware that prevents users from accessing their system or personal files and demands ransom payment in order to regain access.**



- The malware may usually be injected remotely by tricking the user into downloading it upon clicking an ostensibly safe web link sent via email or other means, including hacking.

Source: Hindu

3. Reforming World Bank

Topic: International Affairs



In News: While speaking at discussions around evolution of multilateral development banks (MDBs), Minister of Finance (FM) commented world is having the historic opportunity to reform work bank now.

More on the Topic:

- **Criticism Against World Bank:**
- **Structural under-representation of the Global South:** Non-democratic governance structure dominated by industrialized countries, decisions made without consulting poor and developing countries.
- **Dominance of US and other members of G7 in voting and administration.**
- **Undermining democratic ownership:** undermine the sovereignty of borrower nations, limiting their ability to make policy decisions and eroding their ownership of national development strategies. Ex: enforced privatisation, government spending cuts, imposition of user fees.
- **Climate and development assistance:** Difficulty in finding the right balance between climate and development assistance, and climate emission and adaptation priorities.
- **Reports and Predictions:** There were concerns on the reliability of WB reports and predictions.

- **Redefine its purpose as a lending and developmental institution:** Has not been able to redefine its purpose as a lending and developmental institution in light of emergence of non-traditional lenders such as China.

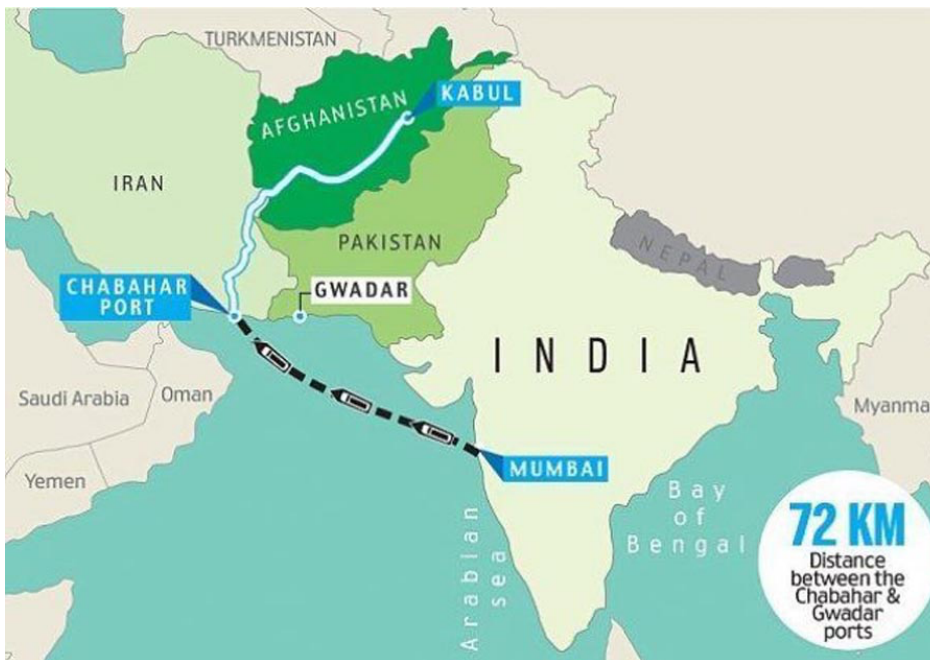
Suggested Reforms:

- Consensus on global development challenges is important.
- More voting power to Developing Countries should be mandated.
- World Bank Group needs **enhanced financial and operational capacity**.
- Balance must be found between **climate and development assistance, prioritizing climate adaptation and emissions**.
- **Lending and investment policies of the Bank should prioritize climate-friendly projects.**
- World Bank decisions should be inclusive, consensus-based, and recognize the development perspectives and priorities of client countries.

Source: Hindu

4. Chabahar Port

Topic: International Relations



In News: First meeting of India-Central Asia Joint Working Group on Chabahar port took place in Mumbai.

More on the Topic:

- The port of Chabahar is located in **southeastern Iran in the Gulf of Oman**.
- In 2016, India signed a tripartite agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to develop the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar.

- The Chabahar port is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries.
- It will make way for India **to bypass Pakistan in transporting goods to Afghanistan using a sea-land route.**
- At present, Pakistan does not allow India to transport its territory to Afghanistan.
- It would give **momentum to the International North-South Transport Corridor** of which both are initial signatories along with Russia.
- Iran is the key gateway to this project.
- It would counter the Chinese presence in the Arabian.

Source: Hindu

5.Gond painting

Topic: Art and Culture



In News: Madhya Pradesh's Gond painting got GI tag.

More on the Topic:

- Gond paintings are a form of painting from folk and tribal art that is practiced by one of the largest tribes in India with whom it shares its name.
- Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh is the original source of Gond painting.
- Gond comes from the Dravidian expression, Kond which means 'the green mountain'.

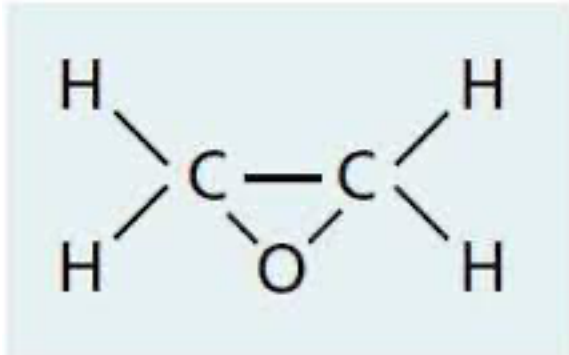


- It is mainly done on walls and floors of houses.
- Natural colors obtained from various sources like flowers, stones, etc. are used.

Source: Business Standard

6. Ethylene Oxide

Topic: Science and Technology



Ethylene oxide

In News: European Commission has brought ethylene oxide under pesticide residue classification.

More on the Topic:

- This means agricultural products being exported to European Union will now be mandatorily tested.
- Exposure to high levels of ethylene oxide can be harmful to human health, and it has been classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a human carcinogen.
- It is a flammable colorless gas with a sweet odour.
- It is used primarily **to produce other chemicals, including antifreeze.**
- In smaller amounts, **ethylene oxide is used as a pesticide and a sterilising agent**

Source: Indian Express



7. World Food Programme (WFP)

Topic: International Affairs



In News: India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) for humanitarian food assistance of 10,000 tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan.

More on the Topic:

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is an international organization within the United Nations that provides food assistance worldwide.
- It is the world's largest humanitarian organization.
- WFP works in over 120 countries and territories to enhance nutrition in women and children, support smallholder farmers, help prepare for climate-related shocks, and boost human capital.
- WFP's funding comes from governments, corporations, individuals etc.

Source: Business Standard
