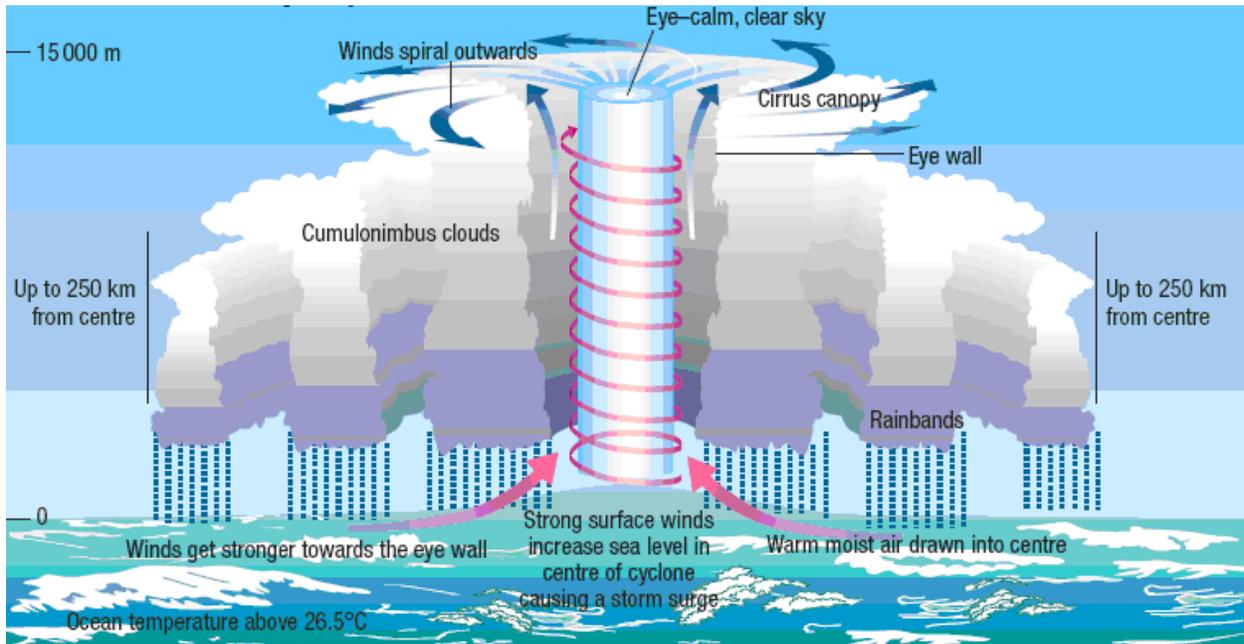


1. Cyclone Asan

Topic: Geography



In News: Cyclone Asani is tipped to fizzle out before coming near the Bengal coast by May 12. It is the fifth cyclone on Bay of Bengal since 2020.

More on the Topic:

- Cyclone Asani, which developed over southeast regions of Bay of Bengal and intensified into a ‘severe cyclone’.
- It was Started as a low-pressure area over south Andaman Sea.
- It was named by Sri Lanka. Asani means “wrath” in Sinhalese.

What is a Cyclone?

- A cyclone is a **general term for a weather system** in which winds rotate inwardly to an area of low atmospheric pressure.
- For large weather systems, the circulation pattern is in a **counter clockwise direction in the Northern Hemisphere and a clockwise direction in the Southern Hemisphere.**
- Types of cyclones include tropical cyclones, extratropical cyclones and tornadoes.

Why are more cyclones in Bay of Bengal?

- Warm air currents contribute to the development of cyclones by raising the surface temperature.
- The Bay of Bengal is a great target because it receives more rainfall and has slow breezes that maintain temperatures reasonably warm all year: about 28 degrees.
- The eastern coast of India receives cyclones that form not just in the Bay of Bengal, mostly around the Andaman Sea near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, but also those travelling from the Pacific Ocean, where the frequency of ‘typhoons’, as these are called there, is quite high.

- Most of these cyclones weaken considerably after encountering a big landmass. Lack of much land mass before reaching Bay of Bengal increases the cyclones from Bay of Bengal.
- The relatively colder waters of the Arabian Sea are not conducive to the formation and intensification of cyclones.
- The western coast of India thus witnesses only those cyclones that originate locally or the ones, like Ockhi, that travel from the Indian Ocean near Sri Lanka.

How are the cyclones named?

- In 2000, a group of nations called **WMO/ESCAP (World Meteorological Organisation/United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)**, which comprised Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, decided to start naming cyclones in the region.
- After each country sent in suggestions, the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) finalised the list.
- The WMO/ESCAP expanded to include five more countries in 2018 — **Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.**
- The list of 169 cyclone names released by IMD in April 2020 were provided by these countries — 13 suggestions from each of the 13 countries.

Source: Indian Express

2. Anti-dumping Duty

Topic: Culture

In News: India has initiated anti-dumping probe against imports of optical fibre from China, Indonesia and Korea.

More on the Topic:

- Countries start anti-dumping probes to determine **whether their domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.**
- As a countermeasure, they impose these duties under the multilateral regime of the Geneva-based **World Trade Organisation (WTO).**
- The duty is aimed at **ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.**
- The duty will protect domestic industry from cheap imports.



- India has already imposed anti-dumping duty on several products to tackle cheap imports from various countries, including China.

About Optical Fibre:

- The product is used for the manufacture of different kinds of cables, including optical fibre, tight buffer cables, armoured and un-armoured cables.
- Single-mode optical fibre is mainly applied **to high-data-rate, long distance and access network transportation.**

Source: Indian Express

3.Mozambique

Topic: Places in News

In News: India and Mozambique have decided to step up efforts to counter terrorism and initiate de-radicalisation measures amid growing acts of terrorism.

More on the Topic:

- **Significance:** Indian is having significant energy and mining investments in Mozambique.
- The country has **100 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves**, the third-highest proven natural gas reserves in Africa, after Nigeria and Algeria.
- It also has strategic significance for India since it is located close to **Seychelles and Mauritius**, India’s strategic partners for decades.
- China has a big presence in Mozambique. India has to step up cooperation with Mozambique to have diplomatic advantages.
- Mozambique Location: Mozambique is a southern African nation whose long Indian Ocean coastline is dotted with popular beaches.
- **The Mozambique Channel is the part of the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and Mozambique.** It is considered a choke point in the Indian Ocean.
- **Source: Indian Express**



4. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

Topic: Economy

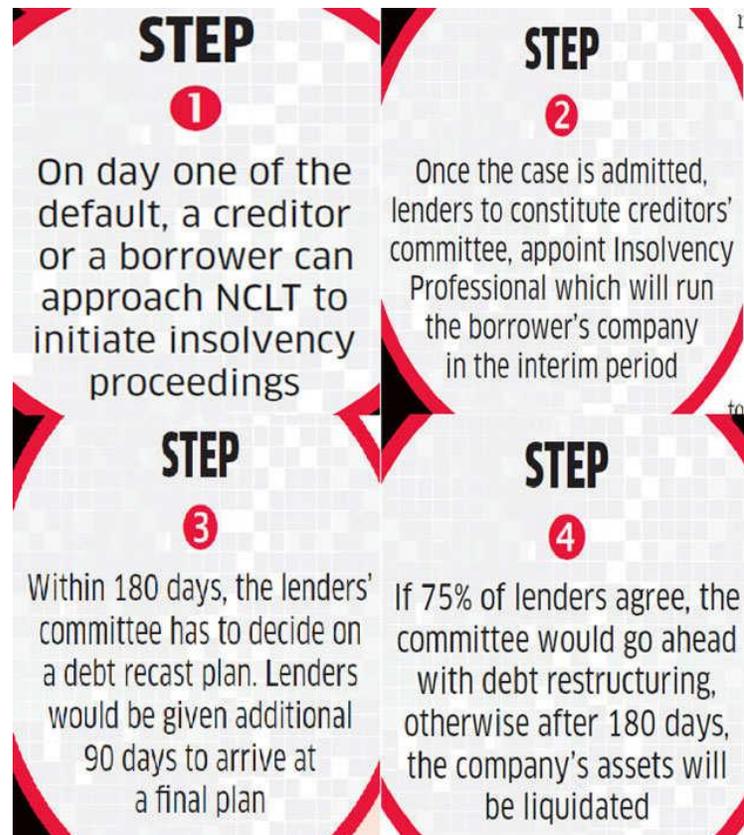
In News: Recoveries by financial creditors under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) have dropped significantly in the past two years.

More on the Topic:

- As of March 2022, financial creditors have recovered 33 per cent of the amount admitted as claims.
- **The pandemic-induced slowdown in the economy and delays in the resolution process** are the root cause behind the drop in realisation.
- Recovery under the IBC is still far higher than other measures.
- Court-led delays caused by protracted legal battles are adding to the problem.

About Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code:

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) enacted on May 28, 2016.
- It was intended to solve mounting **non-performing loans**.
- It aims to establish a **consolidated framework for insolvency resolution of corporations, partnership firms and individuals in a time-bound manner**, seeks to tackle the non-performing asset (NPA) problem in two ways.
- Firstly, **behavioural change on part of the debtors** to ensure sound business decision-making and prevent business failures is encouraged.
- Secondly, it envisages a process through which financially ailing corporate entities are put through a **rehabilitation process** and brought back up on their feet.





Significance:

- Under the IBC, the Indian insolvency regime shifted from '**debtor-in-possession**' to '**creditor-in-control**'.
- The Apex Court in **Swiss Ribbons Vs Union of India**, has held that the core objective of the IBC is to ensure revival and continuation of the corporate debtor.
- Thus, the IBC has a larger public-welfare consideration in play.
- **Insolvency:** It is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.
- **Bankruptcy:** It is a situation whereby a court of competent jurisdiction has declared a person or other entity insolvent, having passed appropriate orders to resolve it and protect the rights of the creditors. It is a legal declaration of one's inability to pay off debts.

Source: Indian Express

5. MPLADS funds

Topic: Government Schemes

MPLADS - Member of Parliament Local Area Development Program

- ✓ Launched on 23rd December, 1993
- ✓ Rs 5 crore per annum grant to each MP
- ✓ To take development project in constituency.
- ✓ Applicable to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs.
- ✓ 15% of annual outlay of funds must be utilized on areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste Population
- ✓ 7.5% of annual outlay of funds must be utilized on areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribes Population



Government of India
**Ministry of Statistics and
Programme Implementation**

In News: GOI has revised MPLAD guidelines.

More on the Topic:

- MPLAD is a central government scheme, under which MPs can recommend development programmes involving spending of Rs 5 crore every year in their respective constituencies.
- MPs from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, including nominated ones, can do so.
- MPs and MLAs do not receive any money under these schemes.
- **The government transfers it directly to the respective local authorities.** The legislators can only recommend works in their constituencies based on a set of guidelines.
- For the MPLAD Scheme, the guidelines focus on the creation of durable community assets like roads, school buildings etc.

- Recommendations for **non-durable assets can be made only under limited circumstances.**
- For example, last month, the government allowed use of MPLAD funds for the purchase of personal protection equipment, coronavirus testing kits etc.

Source: Business Standard

6. Martand Sun temple

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: Holding prayers at the ruins of the eighth-century ancient Martand Sun temple at Mattan raised concerns.

More on the Topic:

- As a norm, no religious prayers are held at the ASI-protected sites across India unless it is an operational place of worship.
- The eighth-century Martand Temple is one of the oldest sun temples in India and a symbol of invaluable ancient spiritual heritage.
- Built by Lalitaditya Muktapida in the 8th Century AD, the Martand Sun Temple is said to have been an excellent specimen of Kashmiri architecture and one of the holiest shrines for the Kashmiri Pandits.
- The temple was destroyed by Sikandar Shah Miri in the 14th Century AD and the ruins are now marked as a “site of national importance” by the Archaeological Survey of India.



Location of those 4 Sun Temples

Source: Hindu

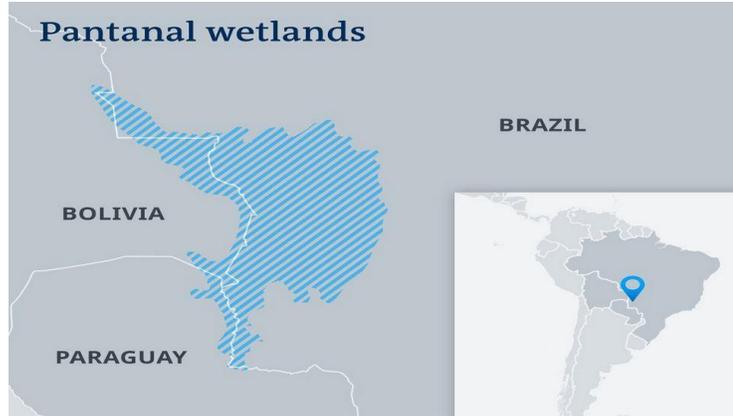
7. Pantanal Wet Land

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The world's largest wetland, the Pantanal in South America, is at the risk of collapse.

More on the Topic:

- The approval of **an increasing number of hydroelectric plants in the river basins** forming the Pantanal wetlands, which may cause significant changes in the hydrology and nutrient intake in the ecosystems.
- **The Pantanal is also threatened by climate change** on a global scale, deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and severe drought and massive fires.
- **At least 17 million vertebrates are estimated to have been killed immediately by wildfires** that burned a quarter of the Brazilian Pantanal in 2020.
- **Location:** The Pantanal **spans over 179,000 sq km in Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia** and boasts one of the highest concentration of flora and fauna in South America.



Source: Hindu
