

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

July 4 is the death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, recognised as one of the greatest spiritual leaders.



About Swami Vivekananda:

- Swami Vivekananda (1863 – 1902), born Narendranath Datta, was a Hindu monk and one of the most celebrated spiritual leaders of India.
- He was the foremost disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa and a world spokesperson for Vedanta.
- He was hailed as a Dhyana Siddha, a meditation expert, by his guru Ramakrishna Paramhansa.
- He attempted to combine Indian spirituality with Western material progress, maintaining that the two supplemented and complemented one another.
- He believed that the path to self-purification is through helping others. He encouraged people to engage in selfless service and to work towards the betterment of society.
- Through his teachings on the four Yogas, the harmony of religions, divinity of the soul, and serving humanity as God, Vivekananda gave spiritual aspirants paths to that realization.
- Vivekananda represented Hinduism at the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions convened during the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.
- After his first visit to the West, Swami Vivekananda went back to India and founded the Ramakrishna Order at Belur outside of Kolkata in 1897.
- The Ramakrishna Order, with headquarters in Kolkata, is one of the largest and most respected religious orders in India today.
- The Order was inspired by the great Bengali saint, Sri Ramakrishna.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO)

India recently asked the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to focus on a realistic target to ensure that net zero carbon fuels occupy 5 per cent of the Marine fuel mix by 2030, without any additional checkpoints during this explorative and take-off period.



About International Maritime Organisation (IMO):

- IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations which is responsible for measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent pollution from ships.
- IMO is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.
- Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.
- It has an integral role in meeting the targets set out in United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

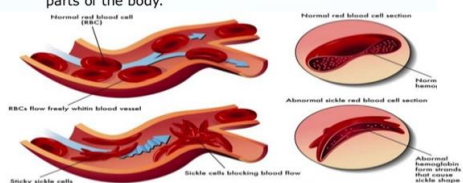
Formation: It was established as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) in 1948, became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1959 and was renamed International Maritime Organization in 1982.

- **Membership:** It currently has 174 Member States.
- **Headquarters:** London.
- **Committees:** The five policy-making committees are responsible for the development, review, updating, and approval of the organization's guidelines and regulations.
- **Funding:** Funding for the IMO comes from contributions by member states, as well as voluntary donations and commercial activities.

ERADICATING SICKLE CELL DISEASE; SECURING THE FUTURE OF INDIA'S

Sickle Cell Anemia

- In sickle cell anemia, the red blood cells become rigid and sticky and are shaped like sickles or crescent moons.
- These irregularly shaped cells can get stuck in small blood vessels, which can slow or block blood flow and oxygen to parts of the body.



TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Context

Recently, the Prime Minister launched National Sickle Cell Anaemia Eradication Mission (NSCAEM), which aims to eliminate the disease by 2047.

- The disease poses a significant threat to the future and existence of India's indigenous populations, and it is imperative to prevent the spread of this disease in a timely manner.

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

- First discovered by a physician named **James Herrick**, Sickle cell anaemia is one of a group of **inherited disorders commonly found among tribal communities**.
- It is a **genetic disorder** in which a person's red blood cells become distorted and take on a sickle-like shape.
- Sickle cell disease exists in two forms within the human body.
 - One is the Sickle Cell trait, in which the individual does not exhibit any disease or symptoms, and lives a normal life.
 - The second form is characterised by the presence of symptoms related to SCD.

How does SCD affect a person?

- A round red blood cell can move easily through blood vessels because of its shape but sickle red blood cells end up **slowing and even blocking the blood flow**.
- These obstructions and shortages **may cause chronic anaemia, pain, fatigue, acute chest syndrome, stroke, and a host of other serious health complications**.

Prevalence of SCD in India

- **India is the second-worst affected country** in terms of predicted births with SCA — i.e., chances of being born with the condition.
- In India, around **18 million people have sickle cell traits** and 1.4 million patients have SCD.
- It is widespread among the tribal population in India where about **1 in 86 births among STs have SCD**.
- A few states in India have a significantly higher SCD prevalence. These include:
 - Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, UP, Maharashtra, MP, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala, and Rajasthan.
 - Collectively, these states are referred to as the **sickle cell belt**.

Treatment Methods

- **Prevention**

- The first approach focuses on prevention, ensuring that new cases are not born.
- If two individuals with Sickle Cell trait marry each other, there is a high probability that their child will have SCD.
- **By screening individuals for Sickle Cell trait before marriage**, the spread of the disease can be prevented.

- **By Providing Healthcare Facilities**

- The second approach involves managing the **treatment and providing adequate healthcare facilities** for individuals already affected by the disease.
- A comprehensive ecosystem is being developed to address these aspects and ensure access to proper healthcare and management for SCA patients.

National Sickle Cell Anaemia Eradication Mission (NSCAEM)

- Announced in the **Union Budget 2023**, the mission aims to address the pressing health challenges posed by SCD, particularly among the tribal population.
- Through this mission, **the government aims to eradicate sickle cell anaemia from India in a mission mode by 2047.**
- A web portal has been created using digital technology to track and maintain a complete record of sickle cell patients.

DEEP SEA MINING

Why in news?

- The International Seabed Authority — the UN body that regulates the world’s ocean floor — is preparing to resume negotiations that could open the international seabed for mining.

International Seabed

- The international seabed, also known as the Area, refers to the seabed and ocean floor and its subsoil beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

- It is a vast area of the ocean that encompasses about 54 per cent of the total area of the world's oceans.
- UNCLOS recognizes that these resources are the common heritage of mankind and should be managed for the benefit of all countries.

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

- **About**
 - ISA is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
 - Its primary mandate is to regulate and manage all mineral-related activities in the international seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
 - The ISA is responsible for granting licenses and regulating activities related to the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the international seabed.
 - It ensures that these activities are carried out in a manner that protects the marine environment and promotes the equitable and efficient utilization of resources.
 - ISA came into existence in November 1994, upon the entry into force of UNCLOS.
 - It became fully operational as an autonomous international organization in June 1996.
- **Headquarter** - Kingston, Jamaica.

Deep Sea Mining

What is Deep Sea Mining?

- It involves removing mineral deposits and metals from the ocean's seabed.
- There are three types of such mining:
 - taking deposit-rich polymetallic nodules off the ocean floor,
 - mining massive seafloor sulphide deposits and
 - stripping cobalt crusts from rock.
- These nodules, deposits and crusts contain materials, such as nickel, rare earths, cobalt and more.
- These minerals are needed for batteries and other materials used in tapping renewable energy and also for everyday technology like cellphones and computers.

How is deep sea mining regulated now?

- The high seas and the international ocean floor are governed by the **UNCLOS**
 - Water beyond 200 nautical miles from the coast of a country is known as high sea.
 - High seas are the areas of the ocean for which no one nation has sole responsibility for management.
- It is considered to apply to states regardless of whether or not they have signed or ratified it.
- Under the treaty, the seabed and its mineral resources therein are considered the common heritage of mankind.
- As per the treaty, this heritage must be managed in a way that protects the interests of humanity through the sharing of economic benefits, support for marine scientific research, and protecting marine environments.

SWAMIH FUND

Recently, the Prime Minister of India congratulated new home owners in Bengaluru's first project under SWAMIH Fund.

SWAMIH Fund



About SWAMIH Fund:

- The Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund I is a **social impact fund** specifically formed for completing **stressed and stalled residential projects**.
- The Fund is sponsored by the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.
- It is **managed by SBICAP Ventures Ltd.**, a State Bank Group company.
- It has one of the largest domestic real estate private equity teams focused only on funding and monitoring the completion of stressed housing projects.
- It is a **Category-II AIF** (Alternate Investment Fund) debt fund registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Eligibility criteria for funding

- Real estate project must be **registered under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) 2016**.

- Project must be classified as a **non-performing asset (NPA)** or be under insolvency proceedings.
 - The project should have been declared as a "stalled" or "delayed" project by a competent authority.
 - The fund is available only for projects that fall under the **affordable and mid-income housing categories**.
-

BHARAT 6G ALLIANCE

Recently, the Indian government has launched the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) to spearhead the development of 6G technology in the country.



About Bharat 6G Alliance:

- It is a collaborative platform which aims to **achieve universal and affordable connectivity**, promote indigenous technology, and establish India as a global leader in the telecom sector.
- This platform consists of **public and private companies**, academia, **research institutions**, and standards development organizations, aims to lead the development and deployment of 6G technology in India.
- It will forge coalitions and synergies with other 6G Global Alliances, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Aim: To bring together Indian startups, companies, and the manufacturing ecosystem to establish consortia that drive the design, development and deployment of 6G technologies in India.

- One of the key goals of B6GA is to **facilitate market access** for Indian telecom **technology products and services**, enabling the country to emerge as a global leader in 6G technology.
 - **Funding for 6G technology projects:** To support the advancement of 6G technology, the government has allocated a grant of 240.51 crores through **the Telecom Technology**
-

GUCCHI MUSHROOM

Unpredictable weather patterns, early springs, and above-average temperatures have left gucchi mushroom hunters in distress.

About Gucchi mushroom:



- It is a **species of fungus** in the family Morchellaceae of the Ascomycota.
- It is also known as **morel**.
- They are **pale yellow in colour** with large pits and ridges on the surface of the cap, raised on a large white stem.
- Ideal weather conditions for the great morel are **daytime temperature is between 15 and 20 Celsius** and night-time temperatures are in the five to nine.
- It cannot be cultivated commercially and **grow in conifer forests** across temperature regions, and the foothills in **Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, and Jammu and Kashmir**.
- These mushrooms usually grow in clusters on logs of **decaying wood, leaves or humus soil**.
- They may or may not grow in the same spot the next season, which only makes the process of collection more tedious.
- It is known to be one of the **most expensive mushrooms**.

What are the health benefits?

- They are rich in **potassium, vitamins and copper**.
- They are also a rich source of vitamin D apart from several B-vitamins.
- It is further **rich in antioxidants** that prevent health issues including heart diseases and diabetes by removing reactive oxygen species that harm the body.



WHAT IS SUPERMOON?

As per Scientists, the first supermoon of 2023, which will be seen in July, will appear brighter in the night sky compared to any other full moon that has been witnessed this year.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



About Supermoon:

- A supermoon occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest to the Earth at the same time that the Moon is full.
 - As the Moon orbits the Earth, there is a point of time when the distance between the two is the least (called the perigee when the average distance is about 360,000 km from the Earth) and a point of time when the distance is the most (called the apogee when the distance is about 405,000 km from the Earth).
 - Now, when a full Moon appears at the point when the distance between the Earth and the Moon is the least, not only does it appear to be brighter but it is also larger than a regular full moon.
 - The term "Supermoon" was coined by astrologer Richard Nolle in 1979, defining it as a special event when a full moon is within 90 percent of its closest point to Earth.
 - In a typical year, there may be two to four full supermoons and two to four new supermoons in a row.
-

