

## Prelim Bits 06-11-2022 & 07-11-2022 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Yugpurush Raja Rammohun Roy

A one-year long celebration was launched by the Union Ministry of Culture on the occasion of the 250th birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

A dance drama titled 'Yugpurush Raja Rammohun Roy' based on the life of Raja Rammohun Roy is organised at Kartavya Path and India Gate.

### Raja Rammohun Roy

- Raja Rammohun Roy was born on May 22, 1772 in Radhanagar, West Bengal.
- He played a remarkable role in the religious, social and political reforms of India.
- He is remembered as the "**Father of the Indian Renaissance**".
- He played a major role in the **abolition of Sati (1829)**.

Opposed	Orthodox Hindu rituals Idol worship
Supported	Monotheism

- In 1814, Raja Ram Mohan Roy formed **Atmiya Sabha**, it was a philosophical discussion circle.
- The main objective of the Sabha was conducting discussion and debate sessions on monotheistic Hindu Vedantism.
- In 1828, he founded the **Brahmo Samaj** along with Debendranath Tagore.
- In his first book '**Tuhfat al-muwahhidi**' (A Gift to Monotheism), he advocated for reason in religion and opposed ritualism.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in his book 'The India Struggle' called him 'The apostle of a religious revival' in India.

### Kandukuri Veeresalingam

- Kandukuri Veeresalingam was an eminent social reformer popularly known as **Andhra Raja Ram Mohan Roy**.
- He was born on 1848 in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh
- He was a strong advocate of widow remarriage and batted for empowering women through education.
- He opposed dowry, caste systems and also child marriage.

- Following the footsteps of Brahmo Samaj, he established the first **Brahmo Mandir** in Andhra at Rajahmundry in 1887.

## References

1. [PIB - 250<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy](#)
2. [The Indian Express - Remembering The Legacy Of The Father Of Modern Indian Renaissance](#)
3. [The Indian Express - The apostle of a religious revival](#)

## Indian Black Honeybee

*A new species of endemic honeybee called Indian black honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats.*

*The last honeybee discovered from India was *Apis indica* in 1798 by Fabricius.*

- The new species has been named ***Apis karinjodian*** and given the common name Indian black honeybee.
- *Apis karinjodian* has **evolved from *Apis cerana*** morphotypes that got acclimatised to the hot and humid environment of the Western Ghats.
- **Distribution** - Indian black honeybee is **endemic** to Western Ghats.
- Ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu.
- **Nesting Type** - Cavity nesting (Type of honey bee used in India for commercial honey production)
- **Honey** - Indian black honey bee produces thicker and consistent high quality honey.
- **IUCN Status** - Near Threatened
- Indian black honey is one among the 3 species of cavity-nesting honey bees in India. The other 2 are - *Apis indica* and *Apis cerana*

## References

1. [The Hindu - New honeybee species, endemic to Western Ghats, found](#)
2. [The New IndianExpress - New species of honeybee spotted after 200 years in Western Ghats](#)

## Polavaram Project

*December-end is fixed as the deadline to rehabilitate Polavaram-displaced families.*

- **Background** - The Polavaram project implements **Godavari-Krishna link** under Interlinking of rivers project.
- The project aims to transfer the surplus water from Godavari to Krishna river basin.
- **Legality** - Under the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**, Polavaram Irrigation Project has been declared a **National Project**.
- Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) was constituted under this act to carry out this project.

- **Project Details** -The Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) is a multipurpose project on the **River Godavari** located around West Godavari and East Godavari Districts in Andhra Pradesh.
- Under this project, a gravity dam is under construction across the Godavari River in Polavaram Mandal in West Godavari district.
- The back waters of the reservoir spreads in parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa States.
- The project aims for development of Irrigation, Hydropower and drinking water facilities to East Godavari, Vishakhapatnam, West Godavari and Krishna districts.

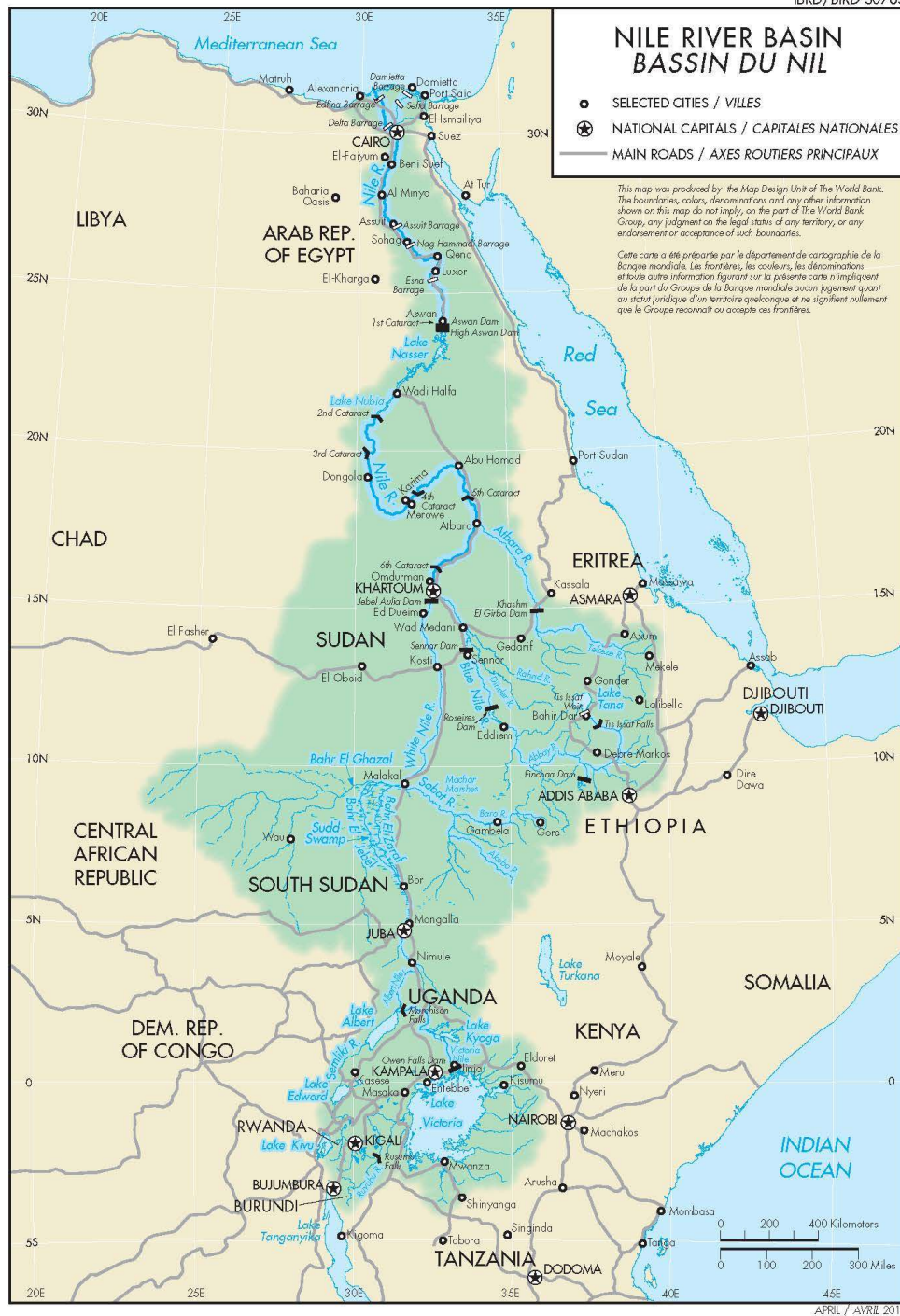
## References

1. [The Hindu - December-end deadline to rehabilitate Polavaram-displaced families](#)
2. [Water Resources Department - Polavaram Project](#)

## The River Nile

*The Nile River is currently facing grave threats from climate change, pollution, and human exploitation.*

- The Nile River is the longest river in Africa and runs from Uganda to Egypt.
- The river's water basin covers 10% of the continent (almost 11 countries).
- The Nile River flows over 6,600 km south-north from **Lake Victoria** (White Nile) and empties into the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- The 3 main tributaries of Nile are
  1. The White Nile,
  2. The Blue Nile and
  3. The Atbara.
- Just before reaching the Mediterranean Sea, the river splits into two main branches,
  1. The Rosetta Branch (to the west) and
  2. The Damietta (to the east).



## Threats

- The life of millions of Africans depends on the Nile but global warming and being overused by humans is putting the river under strain.

*According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Nile Delta is one of the three regions in the world that are most vulnerable to global warming.*

- The UN predicts that the Nile River will lose 70% of its flow by the end of the century

leaving many without water.

- **Drying of Lake Victoria** - Lake Victoria is the Nile's main source of water.
- However, the lake is currently in danger of disappearing due to evaporation, a lack of precipitation, and changes in the tilt of the Earth's axis.
- **Mediterranean Sea level rise** - A third of the delta could disappear if the sea level rises even by a metre.
- UNEP warned if temperature continues to rise, the Mediterranean would advance 100m further into the Delta each year.
- **Silt From Floods** - The silt that for long form the barrier to protect the land no longer makes it to the sea.
- The silt sediment that was once swept along the river's bed has struggled to get beyond Southern Egypt since the Aswan dam was built.
- **Excess salination** - With less freshwater arriving, the Nile Delta will be invaded by more salt water from the Mediterranean.

*In 1970, the Aswan High Dam was built in Egypt to help regulate the Nile's flooding.*

## References

1. [The Hindu - Why is the Nile River in danger?](#)
2. [The Washington Post - Climate change and rising sea levels threaten the Nile River Delta](#)

## RISAT-2

*ISRO's RISAT-2 satellite has made an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.*

- RISAT-2 was launched by the PSLV-C12 launch vehicle in 2009.
- It is the **first of the RISAT series** to reach orbit.
- The satellite weighs about 300 kg.
- The initial designed life of the satellite was 4 years but with proper maintenance it worked for 13 years.
- RISAT-2 is a Radar Imaging Satellite with **all-weather** capability.
- This Satellite was largely used for surveillance purpose and enhanced ISRO's capability for Disaster Management applications.
- RISAT-2 was launched before RISAT-1 (2012) due to the Mumbai terror attacks of 2008.
- The principal sensor (X-band synthetic-aperture radar) of RISAT-2 is from Israel.

## References

1. [The Hindu - RISAT-2 satellite makes re-entry into Earth's atmosphere](#)
2. [Live Mint - India's RISAT-2 re-enters earth after 13.5 years](#)



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