

## **Prelim Bits 10-08-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs**

### **Cott-Ally App**

*Cott-Ally mobile app has been developed for farmers to increase awareness about MSP rates, nearest procurement centers, payment tracking, best farm practices etc.*

### **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)**

- It is a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
- CCI operates in all the cotton growing States.
- The major role of the CCI is to undertake Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations on behalf of the Government of India and outreach with the cotton farmers.
- CCI has developed a mobile app Cott-Ally exclusively for the cotton farmers.

### **Cott-Ally Mobile App**

- It is a free mobile-based application owned by The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.
- It provides a platform to farmers cultivating cotton.
- It provides information regarding their payment status, purchase centers available across all cotton growing states in the country, variety of cotton, latest news, and notifications.
- This application is developed to maintain the transparency about the business between the CCI (Cotton Corporation of India Ltd) team and the farmers.
- If the farmers have any queries, they can reach out CCI team immediately by using the Live Chat feature.
- For raising any complaint, they can easily access the Complaint feature of the application.

### **References**

1. [PIB - Cott-Ally App](#)
2. [Cotton Association of India - Cott-Ally App](#)

### **Luna-25 mission**

*Russia set to launch Luna-25, its 1<sup>st</sup> lunar landing mission in 47 years, and it might land on the Moon's lunar South Pole ahead of Chandrayaan-3.*

- The mission is set to be launched from the Vostochny cosmodrome in the Russian Far East on August 11, 2023.
- The mission is scheduled to land on the Moon on August 23, the same day as [Chandrayaan-3's](#) planned landing.

- The mission is aiming for a prized destination that may hold significant quantities of ice that could be used to extract oxygen and fuel in the future.

*If either of the mission succeeds before the other, it will be the first one to land on the lunar south pole in human history.*

- **Soft Landing** - Luna-25 will practice soft-landing, analyse soil samples and conduct long-term scientific research on the Moon's surface.
- It has a mass of 1.8 tons and carries 31 kilograms of scientific equipment, including some that it will use to take rock samples from up to a depth of 15 centimetres to test for the presence of water.

*The Russian mission will take a lot less time to reach the Moon than Chandrayaan-3 because the latter is taking a longer route that takes advantage of the gravities of the Earth and the Moon to use a lot less fuel.*

## References

1. [The Indian Express - Luna-25 mission could land on lunar south pole before Chandrayaan-3](#)
2. [Times of India - Russia to launch moon lander after 5 decades](#)

## Article 3 of the Constitution

*The resolution moved by Kerala CM was passed unanimously to change the name of a state to Keralam, requires the approval from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.*

### Origin of the names

- The earliest epigraphic record that mentions Kerala is emperor Asoka's Rock Edict II of 257 BC.
- The inscription refers to the local ruler as Keralaputra, and also son of Chera referring to the Chera dynasty.
- About Keralam, scholars believe it could have originated from Cheram.
- When it was decided to reorganise states on a linguistic basis, the State Reorganisation Commission of the Union Government recommended creation of the state of Kerala.
- The state of Kerala came into being on November 1, 1956.
- In Malayalam, the state was referred to as Keralam, while in English it was Kerala.

## Article 3 of the Constitution

- Under Article 3, the Parliament may take the following actions:
  1. It can form a completely new State by separating the territory from any State by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state.

2. It can increase or decrease the area of any State.
3. It can change/alter the name of any State.
4. It can also make changes to the boundaries of a State.

## References

1. [The Indian Express - Kerala Assembly passes resolution to rename state as Keralam](#)
2. [India Today - 'Keralam' from Kerala](#)

## Belem Declaration

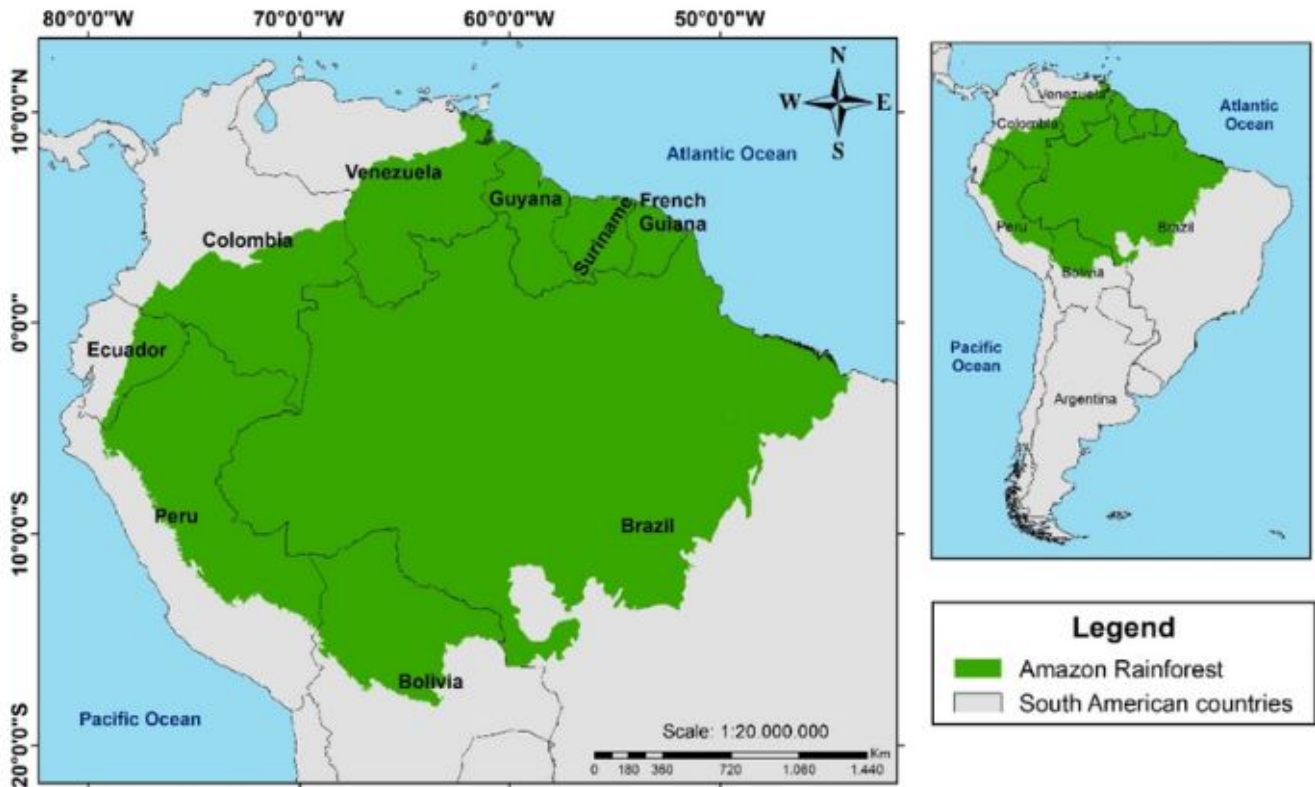
*Amazon countries fail to agree on protection goals.*

## The Amazon Summit

- The summit was hosted by Brazil which aimed at saving the rainforest of the region.

*Amazon forests act as a crucial buffer against climate change that experts warn is being pushed to the brink of collapse.*

- The leaders from the eight amazon countries failed to agree on the goal to protect the rainforest at the ongoing Amazon Summit organised by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).
- **Amazon countries** - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.
- **ACTO** - ACTO is an international organisation aimed at the promotion of sustainable development of the Amazon Basin.
- **Colombia** - It had proposed that 80% of the Amazon should be protected from deforestation and degradation by 2025 but did not find support from all the members.
- **GBF** - The failure of consensus on protected areas could have implications on the overall goals and targets set under the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- Under this, member countries had agreed to protect at least 30% of land and sea by 2030.



## Belem Declaration

- It was released during the Amazon Summit and recognizes Indigenous knowledge as a condition for biodiversity conservation.
- The declaration calls for ensuring full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making and public policy formulation processes.
- The declaration promotes sustainable use of biodiversity resources in the Amazon.

## References

1. [Down To Earth - Amazon countries fail to agree on protection goals](#)
2. [Economic Times - Amazon nations launch alliance to fight deforestation at summit](#)

## Vela Constellation

*There is a question mark-shaped object in space, reveals NASA's James Webb Telescope.*

### The object

- The precise nature of the object remains a mystery, it is poised to contribute to understanding of the cosmos.
- The enigmatic entity lies within the Herbig Haro 46-47 stellar cluster within the Vela constellation.
- These stars are in a constant process of formation, arising from the aggregation of gas and dust particles that compose their mass.



## Vela Constellation

- The constellation is located in the southern sky about 50degree south in declination.
  - Declination is the angular distance of a point north or south of the celestial equator.
- Its brightest star is Gamma Velorum, with a magnitude of 1.6.
- The largest known emission nebula, the Gum Nebula, is found here and in the neighbouring constellation Puppis.
- The Vela pulsar is the brightest celestial source of gamma rays.
- This constellation was originally part of the much larger Argo Navis.

## References

1. [Times of India - A question mark-shaped object in space](#)
2. [Britannica - Vela Constellation](#)