

Prelim Bits 27-11-2022 & 28-11-2022 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

China - Indian Ocean Region Forum

China convened the first 'China-Indian Ocean Region Forum' bringing together 19 countries from the region except India.

- The first Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation (IORFDC) was held in Kunming city in China.
- Representatives from 19 countries including all countries from South Asia except India attended this event.
- The forum was organised by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), China's new development aid agency.
- In this forum, China proposed to establish a marine disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation mechanism between China and countries in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- China also proposed the establishment of a blue economy think tank network for China and countries in the IOR.
- The new China-led forum could be seen as a counter measure to India's [IORA](#)

Indian Ocean Rim Association

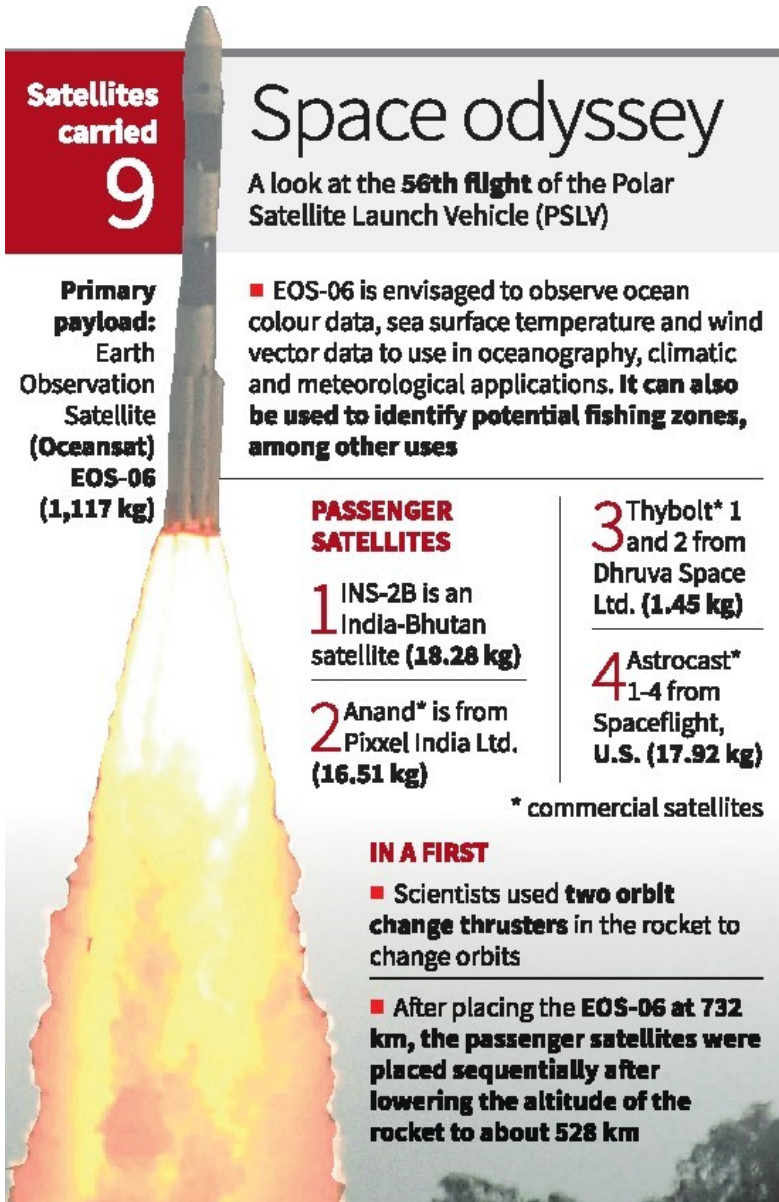
- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a dynamic inter-governmental organization.
- It is aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region.
- It has 22 Member States and 10 Dialogue Partners.
- IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually.

References

1. [The Hindu - China's Indian Ocean forum: India lone absentee](#)
2. [Hindustan Times - China gathers India Ocean countries for forum](#)

PSLV-C54

ISRO's PSLV-C54 placed Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-06) and eight co-passenger satellites in orbits.



Satellites carried
9

Space odyssey
A look at the **56th flight** of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)

Primary payload:
Earth Observation Satellite (Oceansat) EOS-06 (1,117 kg)

■ EOS-06 is envisaged to observe ocean colour data, sea surface temperature and wind vector data to use in oceanography, climatic and meteorological applications. **It can also be used to identify potential fishing zones, among other uses**

PASSENGER SATELLITES

1 INS-2B is an India-Bhutan satellite (18.28 kg)

2 Anand* is from Pixxel India Ltd. (16.51 kg)

3 Thybolt* 1 and 2 from Dhruva Space Ltd. (1.45 kg)

4 Astrocast* 1-4 from Spaceflight, U.S. (17.92 kg)

* commercial satellites

IN A FIRST

■ Scientists used **two orbit change thrusters** in the rocket to change orbits

■ After placing the **EOS-06 at 732 km**, the **passenger satellites** were placed **sequentially after lowering the altitude of the rocket to about 528 km**

Significance of PSLV-C54

- It is one of ISRO's longest missions, where it successfully placed nine satellites, including EOS-06 in multiple orbits.
- For the first time, ISRO used two orbit change thrusters in the PSLV rocket to change orbits.
- The mission placed satellites in two different sun synchronous orbits.

The other 7 commercial satellites (Astrocast 1-4 from the US, Thybolt -1&2 and [Anand](#)) were roped in for launch via NSIL.

India-Bhutan SAT

- The ISRO NanoSatellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B) was built by the joint collaboration of Indian scientist and Bhutanese scientists.
- The INS-2B has two payloads and will provide high-resolution images to Bhutan for the management of the country's natural resources.

OCEANSAT-3

- The Earth Observation Satellite-6 (EOS-06) is the third-generation satellite in the Oceansat series.
- This is to provide continuity services of [Oceansat-2](#) spacecraft with enhanced payload specifications as well as application areas.
- EOS-06 is envisaged to observe ocean colour data, sea surface temperature and wind vector data to use in oceanography, climatic and meteorological applications.
- The satellite also supports value added products such as potential fishing zone using chlorophyll, SST and wind speed, and land based geophysical parameters.
- So far India has launched several [Ocean Observatory Satellites](#) including Oceansat series.

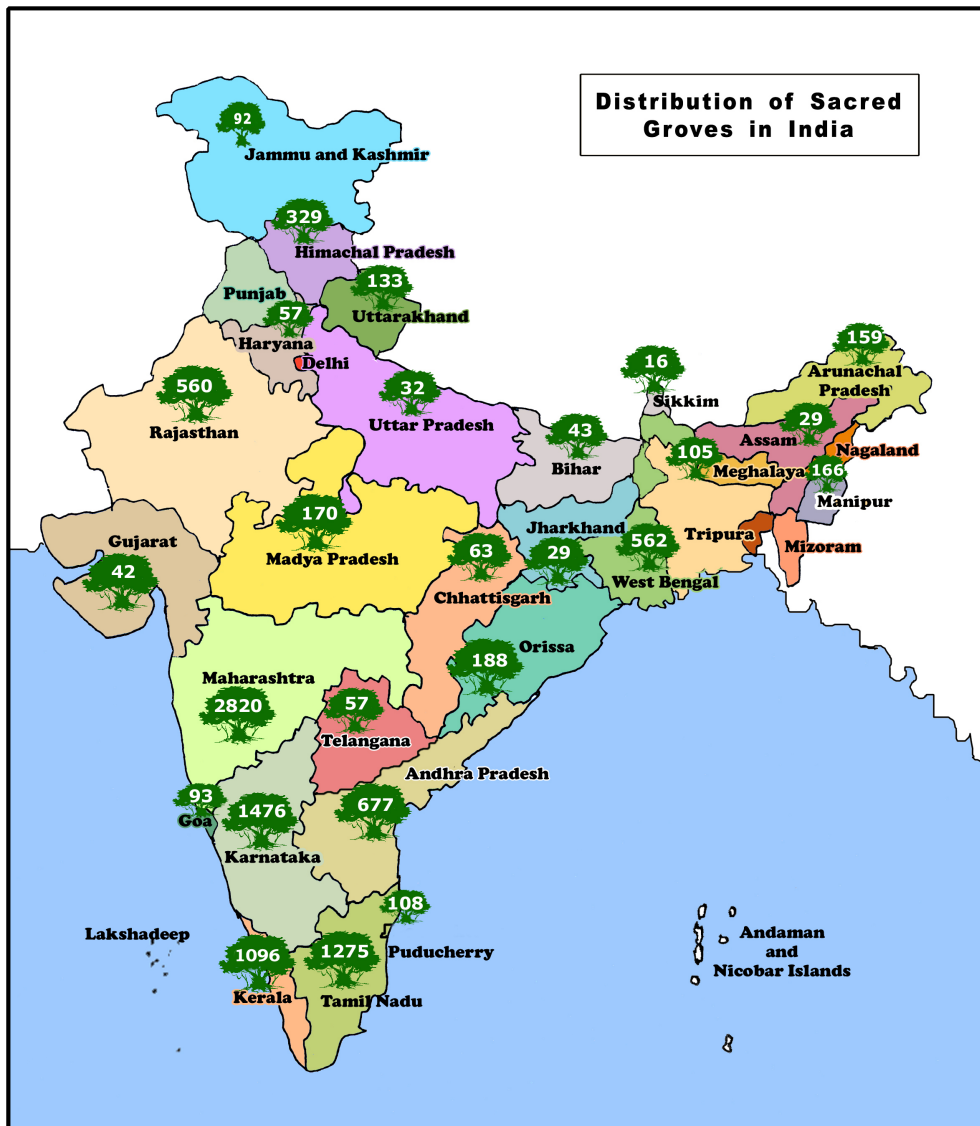
References

1. [The Hindu - PSLV-C54 places earth observation satellite in orbit](#)
2. [Hindustan Times - ISRO successfully launches India-Bhutan SAT](#)
3. [Indian Express - PSLV-C54 carried earth observation satellite](#)
4. [ISRO - PSLV-C54/EOS-06 Mission](#)

Sacred Grooves

The Tamil Nadu's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR & CE) Department, which administers 1,500 temples in the arid northern region, have started recreating sacred groves to protect the forest patches.

- Sacred forests or groves comprise patches of natural vegetation from a few trees to several acres that are dedicated to local deities or tree spirits.
- These spaces are protected by local communities because of their religious beliefs and traditional rituals that run through several generations.
- In India, sacred groves are found all over the country and abundantly along the Western Ghats.
- The degree of sanctity accorded to the sacred groves varies from one area to another. Eg: In some forests, even the dry foliage and fallen fruits are not touched.



| Significance | Threats |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vegetation cover of the sacred groves improves the soil stability of the area and prevents soil erosion. • They are important repositories of floral and faunal diversity that have been conserved by local communities in a sustainable manner. • The groves are often associated with ponds, streams or springs and the vegetative cover helps in the recharging aquifers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disappearance of the traditional belief systems. • Transformation of the primitive forms of nature worship into formal temple worship. • Rapid urbanization and developmental interventions. • Invasion by exotic weeds and commercial forestry. • Increasing livestock grazing and fuelwood collection. |

References

1. [The Hindu - Recreating sacred groves in Tamil Nadu](#)
2. [ENVIS - Sacred Forests](#)

Bluebugging

Apps that let users connect smartphones or laptops to wireless earplugs can record conversations, and are vulnerable to hacks.

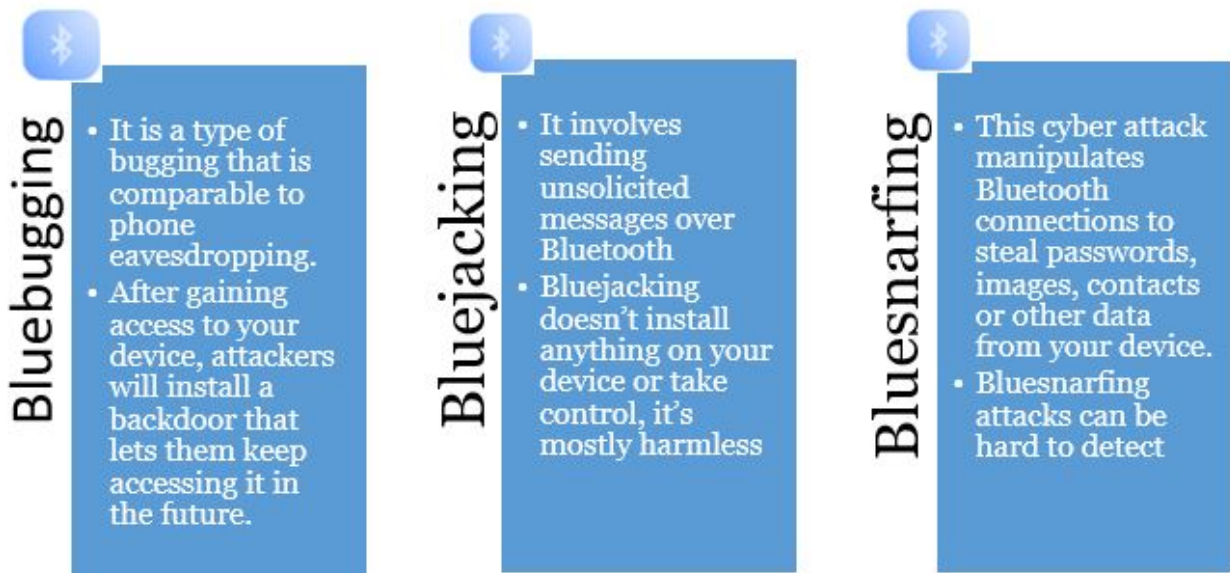
- Bluebugging is a form of hacking that lets attackers access a device through its discoverable Bluetooth connection.
- Once a device or phone is bluebugged, a hacker can listen to the calls, read and send messages and steal and modify contacts.
- **Susceptible Devices** - Any Bluetooth-enabled device can be bluebugged.
- Wireless earbuds are more susceptible to such attacks and can record conversations.

Process of bluebugging

- It works by exploiting Bluetooth connectivity in devices by pairing with the device via Bluetooth.
- For bluebugging to happen, the device's Bluetooth must be in discoverable mode.
- Once a connection is established between the hacker and the device, hackers can use brute force attacks to bypass authentication.
- They can install malware in the compromised device to gain unauthorised access to it.

Other Bluetooth cyber-attacks

- There are 3 main Bluetooth cyber-attack types - Bluebugging, Bluejacking and Bluesnarfing.



References

1. [The Hindu -What is bluebugging?](#)

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards

The heroic restoration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum in India, has received the Award of Excellence in UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2022 for

Cultural Heritage Conservation.

- The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme is awarded every year since 2000.
- It has been recognizing the efforts of private individuals and organizations in restoring, conserving, and transforming structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.
- In 2022, 13 projects from 6 countries have been acknowledged for awards, including 4 from India.

| Heritage property Awarded | Award |
|---|----------------------|
| Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum, Mumbai | Award of Excellence |
| Stepwells of Golconda Fort, Hyderabad | Award of Distinction |
| Domakonda Fort, Telangana | Award of Merit |
| Byculla Station, Mumbai | |

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum

- The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum (CSMVS) is a part of the 'Victorian gothic and art deco ensembles of Mumbai World Heritage Site' in India.
- The museum got the award for its impressive restoration of a major civic institution in the historic city of Mumbai.
- The museum was established as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India in 1922.
- The premier art and history museum is an autonomous institution unaided by the government but supported by public-private partnerships.

Stepwells of Golconda

- The 17th century Qutb Shahi tombs complex which comprises several stepwells (baoli), is located near the Golconda fort in Telangana.
- The Idgah baoli (stepwell) is among the 7 wells inside the Qutb Shahi tombs complex that was restored as part of the conservation effort.

Domakonda Fort

- The Domakonda Fort is a private property and was built in the 18th century with an amalgam of styles including stucco work, arched pillars, flat ceiling, and a courtyard with a water garden pond.

Byculla Station

- The Byculla railway station in Mumbai is part of Central Railways, received an award of merit for its conservation efforts.

References

1. [UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation](#)
2. [The Hindu - Restoration of Mumbai's century-old museum](#)
3. [Indian Express - CSMVS wins UNESCO award for conservation](#)



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