

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 09-12-2020

### 3RF

- Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Beirut Port.
- It will bridge the immediate humanitarian response and the medium-term recovery and reconstruction efforts to put Lebanon on a path of sustainable development.
- 3RF is a collaborative process that is based on the participation of the government, civil society, private sector and development partners.
- It is structured around four strategic pillars: improving governance and accountability; jobs and opportunities; social protection, inclusion, and culture; and improving services and infrastructure.
- Each pillar identifies a set of strategic objectives and priority areas across both the recovery track and the reform and reconstruction track.
- A Financing Facility will be set up to pool and align grant financing for the 3RF, under the guidance of the 3RF governance arrangements.
- The fund will channel support directly to Lebanese people and businesses that have been impacted by the explosion.

### Organic Lakshadweep

- After Sikkim, India's smallest Union territory Lakshadweep with 32 sq.km. land area has set to become 100% organic.
- The UT's proposal to declare it as organic was approved by the Centre after receiving certifications under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India through Paramaparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.
- [PKVY is the Centre's Organic Farming Improvement Programme.]
- The UT had not spent or earmarked any amount for procurement or distribution of synthetic chemicals since 2005.
- All farmers and other stakeholders were instructed to use only organic fertilisers, including locally available organic inputs and organic waste.
- According to the requirement of organic certification, no genetically modified organism is allowed to be used in the entire territory.
- The Union agriculture ministry has asked for a village-wise certification under PGS-India programme, for making a formal announcement.

## **Operation Blackface**

- Maharashtra Cyber becomes India's first agency to acquire software 'Crawler' from the Interpol's south Asian wing.
- This software, which has algorithms to look for keywords around child pornography, would track down child pornography uploaded online.
- This software will be used in Operation Blackface, the state's call to action against Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) across the country.
- With the Tactical Response Against Cyber Child Exploitation (TRACE) team of Maharashtra Cyber being trained by Interpol, it better equips them to deal with CSAM instances.

## **World Heritage City**

- Gwalior and Orchha of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage City by UNESCO.
- Orchha, located in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, was the 16th century capital of the erstwhile Bundela dynasty.
- It is famous for its temples and palaces for a unique confluence of Rajput and Mughal architectural influences
- Gwalior city has been the capital of Gurjar Pratihara, Tomar, Baghel Kachhwahs and Scindia Rajvansh.
- The ancient signs left by them will be found in the form of monuments, forts, palaces.
- After being included in the list of World Heritage, UNESCO will work with the tourism department of the state to preserve and refine these archaeological monuments of Orchha and Gwalior.

## **Tharu Tribe**

- The Uttar Pradesh government is working to connect Tharu villages in districts bordering Nepal, with the home stay scheme of the UP Forest Department.
- The biggest chunk of UP's tribal population is made up of Tharus.
- The intention is to put Tharu villages on the tourism map, and to create jobs and bring economic independence to the tribal population.
- Tharus belong to the Terai lowlands, amid the Shivaliks.
- They live in both India and Nepal.
- In India, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.
- Most of them are forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture.
- The word tharu is believed to be derived from sthavira, meaning followers of Theravada Buddhism.
- They speak various dialects of Tharu, a language of the Indo-Aryan subgroup,

and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi.

- Tharu women have stronger property rights than is allowed to women in mainstream North Indian Hindu custom.

## **Havana Syndrome**

- This is a neurological illness that has afflicted American diplomats and intelligence operatives in Cuba, China and other countries.
- The symptoms of the syndrome include nausea, dizziness, fatigue, and cognitive difficulties.
- A National Academies of Sciences (NAS) report has found “directed” microwave radiation to be the disease’s plausible cause.
- The study does not mention that the directed, pulsed radiofrequency energy was delivered intentionally and stopped short of naming a source.
- But it noted that significant research had been conducted on microwave weapons in Russia. Moscow has denied any role in the attacks.

## **Microwave weapons**

- Microwave weapons are supposed to be a type of direct energy weapons.
- It aims highly focused energy in the form of sonic, laser, or microwaves, at a target.
- People exposed to high-intensity microwave pulses have reported a clicking or buzzing sound, as if to be coming from within your head.
- It can have both acute and long-term effects - without any physical damage.

**Source: The Indian Express, Hindustan Times, India Times, World Bank, Down To Earth, AIR**