

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 26-06-2024

### Javelin anti-tank missiles

*Recently, India and the US discussed co-producing Javelin missiles in India.*

- **About-** It is a **3<sup>rd</sup> generation** man-portable fire **anti-tank guided missile (ATGMs)**.
- It is developed and produced jointly by U.S. defence majors, **Raytheon and Lockheed Martin**.
- It employs a **top-down attack mode**, striking tanks from above where the armour is the thinnest.
- It is a highly lethal **medium-range missile** has been in full-rate production since 1994.
- It is capable of defeating all known and projected armour, as well as soft and irregular targets.
- **Features**
  - **Weight-** 22.1 kg.
  - **Range-** 2,500 metres to 4,750 meters.
  - **Technology-** It uses **"fire-and-forget" technology** with automatic infrared guidance, allowing it to self-guide to the target without external commands or target designation.

*Fire-and-forget missiles require no further guidance after launch, allowing them to hit their target without needing the launcher to maintain line-of-sight or provide ongoing direction.*

- It is designed to defeat heavily armoured vehicles like main battle tanks, lighter military vehicles, fortifications, bunkers, and helicopters.
- It's reload and reacquire time is about one minute.
- **Significance for India** - The anti-tank missiles will enable the Indian Army to meet its requirements to boost the weapon system.

**Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)**

- An Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) is a precision weapon designed to destroy armoured vehicles such as tanks.
- It is primarily designed to hit and destroy heavily armoured military vehicles.
- These are "fire-and-forget" missiles.
- The missiles rely on an electro-optical imager (IIR) seeker, a laser, or a W-band radar seeker in the nose of the missile.

## References

1. [The Economic times | Javelin anti-tank missiles](#)
2. [Lockheedmartin|Javelin](#)

## Didymocarpus janakiae

*Recently a new plant species, Didymocarpus janakiae discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.*

- **Genus-** Didymocarpus.
  - The genus consists of 111 species out of which 27 species are present in India.
- The species has been named in honour of ***Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal***, Indian botanist renowned for her contributions to botany, particularly in plant breeding, genetics, and cytology.
  - In 1931, she became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian woman to be awarded a doctorate in botany in the US (University of Michigan).
- **Location-** It is confined to the sub-tropical forests of ***West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh***.
- **Habitat-** They thrive in undisturbed habitats such as ***moss-covered rocks***, highlighting the ecosystem's pristine quality.
- **Other nomenclature-** It is commonly known as ***stone flower*** which is part of the African violet family (Gesneriaceae).
- **Threat-** It is under threat of habitat degradation caused by rapid development activities like road construction.
- **Conservation status** - It is proposed for listing as Critically Endangered under IUCN guidelines.



## Reference

[Hubnetwork | Didymocarpus janakiae](#)

## World Craft City

*Recently, Srinagar is recognized as the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian city to attain the status of a 'World Craft City'.*

- **Agency-** World Craft Council (WCC).
- **Reason for selection-** Since the **14<sup>th</sup> century** the Srinagar has become known for its rich ***arts and crafts tradition and heritage***.
- **Types of crafts in Srinagar-** Handicrafts & handloom products, like Paper-machine, walnut wood carving, carpets, Sozni embroidery, Pashmina Kani shawls, and hand-knotted carpet
- The J&K administration had applied for the recognition of Srinagar as World Craft City in 2021 together with recognition as ***UNESCO Creative Cities Network***.

*Srinagar's recognition as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Creative City for Crafts in 2021.*

- These crafts, honed over centuries and passed through generations, have earned global recognition for their exceptional quality and craftsmanship.
- Handicrafts are vital for local income, economic growth, and social bonds,

driving the city's development.

- **Other World Craft Cities in India- *Jaipur, Malappuram and Mysore*** are the other Indian cities that have previously been recognised as World Craft Cities.

### World Craft Council (WCC)

- It is a non-profit, non-governmental organization.
- It is affiliated to UNESCO.
- **Establishment-** 1964.
- **Aim-** To promote the preservation, protection, and development of traditional crafts and foster economic development through crafts.
- **Objective-** To promote
  - Fellowship among crafts persons worldwide,
  - Foster economic development through craft-related activities,
  - Organize exchange programs, workshops, conferences, seminars, and exhibitions, and
  - Offer encouragement and advice to artisans.

### References

1. [The Indian Express | World Craft City](#)
2. [World Crafts Council | About](#)

### Bio-bitumen

*India plans to start large-scale production of bio-bitumen production from biomass or agricultural waste to reduce imports of the material used for asphaltting of roads.*

- Bio-bitumen is known as biologically sourced bitumen that is derived from ***renewable biological sources*** rather than from fossil fuels.
- It is made using non-petroleum-based renewable resources and can be made from vegetable oils, synthetic polymers, or both, making it a more sustainable model long term.

*Bitumen is produced through the distillation of crude oil and also occurs naturally.*

- **Properties-** It typically retains the desirable characteristics of conventional bitumen, such as durability, waterproofing ability, and adhesion.

- **Advantages** - Bio-bitumen has a potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependency on fossil fuels, offering a more sustainable alternative in construction and infrastructure projects.
- It doesn't contain any toxic chemicals, so it is safer for workers and the environment.
- **Applications**- It can be used in similar applications as traditional bitumen, including asphalt paving for roads and as a binding agent in roofing materials and waterproof coatings.

## Reference

[The Economic Times | Bio-bitumen](#)

## Gigantic jets

*Gigantic jets were recently witnessed over the Himalayan Mountains by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).*

- Gigantic jets are a ***rare and powerful type of lightning*** that can extend from the top of a cloud to the edge of space.
- They are relatively a recent discovery in the field of atmospheric phenomena, having been documented only in the 21st century.
- It is different from regular cloud-to-cloud and cloud-to-ground lightning.
- The bottoms of Gigantic Jets look similar to blue jets, while the tops look similar to red sprites.



- It occurs between some thunderstorms and the Earth's ionosphere high above them.

- It pack ***50 times*** the power of a regular lightning strike and can travel as high as 80 kilometres above the Earth's surface.
- Unlike familiar cloud-to-cloud and cloud-to-ground lightning, gigantic jets bridge the gap between thunderstorms and the Earth's ionosphere, soaring high above the storm clouds.

## Reference

[Indian express | Gigantic jets](#)

