

## **UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 30-11-2020**

### **National Maritime Domain Awareness Centre**

- Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) will become a National Maritime Domain Awareness (NDMA) centre.
- IMAC will become a multi-agency centre with the presence of stakeholders in NDMA.
- Approved by the Defence Acquisition Council in 2012, IMAC became operational in 2014.
- It is the nodal agency for maritime data fusion set up after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- Located in Gurugram, IMAC tracks vessels on the high seas.
- It gets data from the coastal radars, white shipping agreements, Automatic Identification Systems transponders fitted on merchant ships, air and traffic management system and global shipping databases.
- It is the nodal centre of the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence System (NC3I).

### **Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)**

- GMRT has been awarded with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) status for its novel engineering, advanced technology and scientific contributions made in the field of radio astronomy.
- Pune-based GMRT is an array of 30 antennas positioned in a 'Y' fashion.
- Operated by the TIFR - National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), it was the brainchild of late Govind Swarup.
- Extensively used for studying the universe in low frequency since 2000, the telescope has been instrumental in many path-breaking discoveries.
- Recently, the facility underwent its first upgrade that allows researchers to see much deeper into the universe.
- Demonstration of generation and reception of radio waves by J C Bose (1895) and the discovery of the Raman Effect by C V Raman (1928) have been the only IEEE milestone winners from India, till date.

### **IEEE**

- IEEE is the world's largest technical body publishing research from the fields of engineering and computing.

- Also, it awards standards to institutions and organisations involved in these fields.
- It considers an institution for the milestone on the basis of engineering, science, and computational facilities it offers for not less than 25 years.

### **Sea Sparkle Bloom in Karnataka**

- The bloom of Noctiluca Scintillans, known as “sea sparkle” has been witnessed in the Karnataka coast for about a month.
- The bioluminescent green dinoflagellate N. Scintillans also brightened the sea water during night.
- It has displaced microscopic algae called diatoms (basis of the marine food chain), which has deprived food for the planktivorous fish.
- The species was found to accumulate toxic levels of ammonia.
- It is then excreted into the surrounding waters, possibly acting as the killing agent in blooms.
- N. Scintillans acts as both a plant and an animal.
  1. It grazes on other micro-organisms such as larvae, fish eggs, and diatoms.
  2. The phytoplankton that live inside it can photosynthesise, turning sunlight into energy.
- To know more about bioluminescence, click [here](#).

### **Disqualification of MLA**

- India’s first Member of Parliament to have been disqualified from the Lok Sabha has now been disqualified as an MLA in Mizoram.
- Lalduhoma was a retired IPS officer who was in charge of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s security.
- In 1988, he became the first MP to have been disqualified under the Anti-Defection Law for giving up membership of the Congress (I).
- Now, Mizoram Assembly Speaker debarred Lalduhoma from the House.
- Disqualification was on the ground that he had declared himself as a representative of a party despite being elected as an independent candidate.

### **SilverLine**

- Kerala has informed NITI Aayog that the semi high-speed rail SilverLine from Kochuveli (Tirvandrum) to Kasaragod is viable and feasible.
- Terming the cost realistic, it said 70% of alignment traversed “at grade” compared with the 100% alignment via viaduct and tunnels of other projects.
- By going for “at grade” alignment instead of the initial proposal of an elevated corridor, the cost had been brought down.

- On NITI Aayog's concern over cost of land acquisition and displacement, the government said costlier and built-up areas had been avoided.
- The process of granting administrative sanction for land acquisition had commenced.
- Maximum possible revenue generation would be explored and modes adopted by the Kochi Metro would be looked into.
- The government submitted that the project was self-sustainable.

**Source: The Hindu, The Indian Express**

