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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

12 April 2024

National and International News

CDP-SURAKSHA



Context:

- The government has introduced a new digital platform called CDP-SURAKSHA to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers as part of the Cluster Development Programme (CDP), an initiative to promote horticulture **crops** and boost the sector's growth.
- The CDP-SURAKSHA is essentially a digital platform.
- SURAKSHA stands for "System for Unified Resource Knowledge, Allocation. and Secure Horticulture Assistance."

Key points:

- CDP-SURAKSHA enables instant subsidy disbursal to farmers' bank accounts using e-RUPI vouchers, facilitating transactions through the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- CDP-SURAKSHA's features include database integration with PM-KISAN, cloud-based server space from NIC, UIDAI validation, eRUPI integration, LGD, content management system, geotagging, and geo-fencing.
- e-RUPI is a one-time payment mechanism from NPCI that doesn't require a card, digital payment app, or internet banking access.
- It can be shared with beneficiaries via SMS or QR code.
- The CDP aims to develop horticulture clusters, with 55 identified clusters and 12 selected for the pilot.
- The initiative will cover about 9 lakh hectares and benefit 10 lakh farmers, attracting private investment of Rs 8,250 crore.





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Israel Deploys C-Dome Defense System



Context:

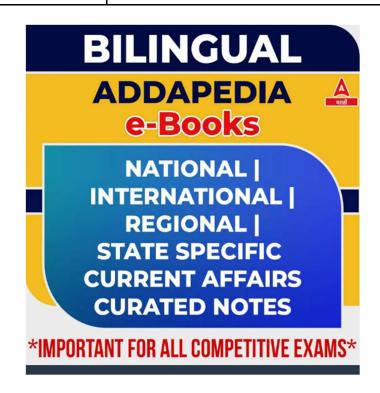
 Israel recently deployed the C-Dome defense system for the first time to intercept a suspicious aerial target near the southern city of Eilat.

Key points:

- This action came after an alert in the area, which had previously been targeted by missile fire from Yemen's Houthi rebels.
- The **C-Dome, a naval adaptation of the Iron Dome**, successfully intercepted the target, marking its maiden operational use.

C-Dome: Naval Adaptation of Iron Dome

- The C-Dome defense system, mounted on Sa'ar 6-class corvettes, is the naval counterpart of the land-based Iron Dome.
- Developed by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, the C-Dome employs the same interceptor technology as the Iron Dome, providing robust defense against rocket and missile threats.
- This operational debut underscores Israel's ongoing efforts to enhance its defensive capabilities in response to evolving security challenges.

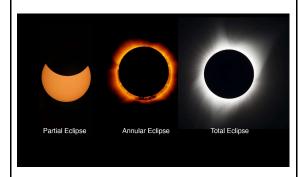






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Total solar eclipse



Context:

- During the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024, North America, Mexico, and Canada experienced a momentary plunge into darkness.
- The crew members of the International Space Station had a unique perspective, capturing the Moon's shadow cast over Earth.

Solar eclipse and its different types:

- A solar eclipse occurs when the **Moon moves between Earth** and the Sun, blocking sunlight either fully or partially.
- There are four types of solar eclipses: total, annular, partial, and hybrid.
- In a total solar eclipse, the Moon completely blocks the Sun, darkening the sky, and observers may see the Sun's corona.
- An **annular solar eclipse** happens when the Moon covers the Sun's center, leaving a ring of fire visible.
- A **partial solar eclipse** occurs when the Moon partially covers the Sun, creating a crescent shape.
- Both partial and annular eclipses have regions outside the Moon's shadow seeing a partial eclipse.
- The partial solar eclipse is the most common type.
- The **hybrid solar eclipse is rare**, shifting between total and annular as the Moon's shadow moves.

How often does a solar eclipse take place?

- Solar eclipses occur during the new moon phase when the Moon and Sun align on the same side of Earth.
- A new moon happens approximately every 29.5 days due to the Moon's orbit around Earth.
- Solar eclipses don't occur every month but rather between two to five times annually.
- The Moon's orbit is tilted about five degrees relative to Earth's orbit around the Sun, causing the Moon's shadow to often miss Earth, resulting in fewer opportunities for solar eclipses.
- Nodes are points where the Moon's orbit intersects with Earth's orbit, creating opportunities for solar eclipses when the new moon crosses these nodes.

Why is a total solar eclipse so rare?

- Total solar eclipses occur about once every 18 months.
- A specific location on Earth experiences a total solar eclipse only once every 400 years.
- Total eclipses are rare because they require being within the umbra, the darkest part of the shadow, which covers less than one percent of the Earth's surface during an eclipse.
- Due to the large portion of Earth being water and uninhabited land, it's rare for many people to witness a total solar eclipse at once.





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Kala Azar



Context:

- India has successfully eliminated visceral leishmaniasis, commonly known as kala-azar, meeting the target set by the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC).
- Initially aiming for elimination by 2010, India extended the target until 2023 due to persistent challenges.
- Kala-azar, a vector-borne disease transmitted through sandfly bites, has been a significant health challenge in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh.

Key points:

- According to the NCVBDC, India reported only 520 cases of kala-azar in 2023, meeting the World Health Organization's (WHO) elimination criteria, which defines elimination as no block in the country reporting more than one case per 10,000 people.
- In 2020, India accounted for 18% of the global burden of kala-azar.

About:

- Visceral leishmaniasis, commonly known as kala-azar (KA), derives its name from the late nineteenth century in India.
- The term "kala-azar" translates to "black disease," describing the greyish or blackish discoloration of the skin that occurs during infection.
- This name comes from the Hindi word for black (kala) and the Persian word for disease (azar).
- Kala-azar is a slowly progressing indigenous disease caused by a protozoan parasite belonging to the genus Leishmania.
- In India, Leishmania donovani is the sole parasite responsible for causing this disease.
- The parasite primarily infects the reticuloendothelial system and is commonly found in high numbers in the bone marrow, spleen, and liver.





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Suvidha Portal Helicopter And Helipad Air Balloons Venicle Permit Temporary Party Office Door to Door Canvassing Canvassing Parmission of Video Van Display Banner and Flags

Context:

• The Suvidha Portal has received over 73,000 applications since the announcement of General Elections 2024.

About:

- It is an **online platform** accessible at https://suvidha.eci.gov.in, designed for **political parties and candidates to submit permission requests remotely.**
- The portal also offers offline submission options for inclusivity.
- Managed by nodal officers across state departments, the IT platform of Suvidha Portal aims to facilitate the efficient processing of permission requests.
- Additionally, it has a companion app available on IoS and Android platforms, enabling real-time tracking of request status.
- One of the key features of the Suvidha Portal is its transparency.
- It provides real-time tracking of applications, status updates, timestamped submissions, and communication via SMS.
- This transparency supports the scrutiny of election expenditures for greater accountability.
- The Election Commission's commitment is to facilitate a fair, efficient, and transparent electoral environment.
- The Suvidha Portal ensures equal access to permissions and clearances for all parties and candidates, aligning with this commitment.

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