



10 May 2024

National and International News

Aravalli hills

'3.5% OF HILLS TO BE TAKEN UP FOR MINING BY 2059'

RECEDING HILLS
5772.7 sq km
 of total forest land in the Aravallis was flattened between 1975 and 2019

16,360 sq km
 of the Aravallis will be lost by 2059 if the degradation continues, according to projections

MINING RAMPANT
1,650.3 sq km
 of Aravalli area where illegal mining was active in 2019

2,628.6 sq km
 of the hills will be taken up for mining by 2059, according to projections



CONSEQUENCES

Desert-like conditions will expand from Thar in Rajasthan towards north India, including Delhi-NCR. Sandstorms may become more frequent.

Loss of wildlife habitat and indigenous flora of the hills.

Why in news?

- The **Supreme Court** has halted the issuance of new mining leases and renewals in the Aravalli ranges and hills.
- This decision is based on a report from the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**.

Key points:

- The FSI report was presented in court by the **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)**.
- According to the FSI report, the **Aravallis are defined to include the hills and a uniform 100-metre-wide buffer zone around the downsides of the hills.**

About Aravalli hills:

- The Aravalli range runs approximately in a **south-west direction**, starting near **Delhi**, passing through southern **Haryana**, **Rajasthan**, and ending in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat.
- The **highest peak is Guru Shikhar in Mount Abu** at 1,722 m.
- The Aravalli Range is **arguably the oldest geological feature on Earth**, having its origin in the **Proterozoic era**.
- The range gives rise to several rivers, including the **Banas, Luni, Sakhi, and Sabarmati**.

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Widal Test

Why in news?

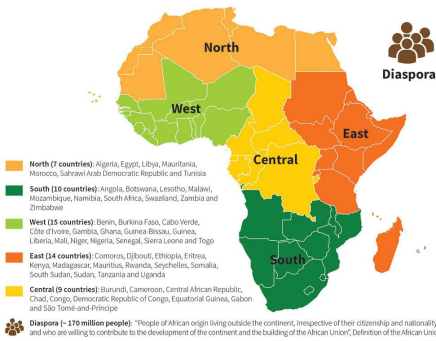
- The **Widal Test** often gives **inaccurate results** masking the **true extent of India's typhoid problem**.
- This situation is **leading to increased expenses**.
- It also poses a **risk of increasing antimicrobial resistance**.

About Widal Test:

- **Typhoid fever**, is a **bacterial infection** caused by the **bacterium Salmonella Typhi**.
- It is commonly **spread through contaminated food or water**.
- **Symptoms of typhoid fever include** fatigue, high fever, headache, diarrhoea or constipation, abdominal pain, weight loss, and red spots.
- These **symptoms are similar to those of malaria, dengue, influenza, and typhus, making it difficult to diagnose** without proper testing.
- The **Widal test is a serological test** that detects antibodies against the bacteria in a patient's blood sample.
- The **test was developed in the late 1800s by a French physician** but is no longer used in many countries because of its flaws.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO) advises not to rely too much** on this test due to the various factors that can influence the results.

African Union (AU)

THE SIX REGIONS OF THE AFRICAN UNION



Why in news?

- The **African Union (AU) condemned the Israeli military's actions in southern Gaza's Rafah**.

About AU:

- The African Union (AU) is a **continental body** made up of **55 member states** that **constitute the countries of the African Continent**.
- The AU was **officially launched in 2002**, replacing its predecessor, the **Organization of African Unity (OAU)**, which was **founded in 1963**.
- The **primary objective** of the AU is to **promote unity, cooperation, and development among African nations** and to **advance the continent's interests on the global stage**.
- To realize its objectives and the **Pan African Vision** of an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, the AU developed **Agenda 2063**. This is a **strategic framework for Africa's long-term socio-economic and integrative transformation**.
- The **headquarters of the AU** is located in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.



मराठी

Blue corner notice

TYPES OF INTERPOL NOTICES



RED NOTICE: To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition or similar lawful action.



YELLOW NOTICE: To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.



BLUE NOTICE: To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.



BLACK NOTICE: To seek information on unidentified bodies.



GREEN NOTICE: To provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.



ORANGE NOTICE: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.



INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE: Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council sanctions committees.



PURPLE NOTICE: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

Why in news?

- There is a **political storm in Karnataka over serious allegations of sexual abuse against, a sitting MP from Hassan.**
- The **International Criminal Police Organisation, also known as Interpol, has issued a blue corner notice against the absconding politician.**

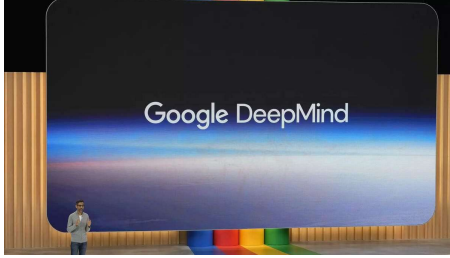
About Blue corner notice:

- **Interpol's colour-coded notices are part of an elaborate system that enables countries to share alerts and requests for information on wanted persons or crimes worldwide.**
- There are **seven types of notices**, each with a different implication:
 - **Red Notice:** Seeks the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.
 - **Yellow Notice:** Helps locate missing persons, often minors, or helps identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
 - **Blue Notice:** Collects additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.
 - **Black Notice:** Seeks information on unidentified bodies.
 - **Green Notice:** Provides a warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
 - **Orange Notice:** Warns of an event, a person, an object, or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
 - **Purple Notice:** Seeks or provides information on modus operandi, objects, devices, and concealment methods used by criminals.
- **These notices are issued by the Interpol's General Secretariat at the request of a member country's Interpol National Central Bureau and are made available for all member countries.**



मराठी

AlphaFold



Why in news?

- Google DeepMind has unveiled the third major version of its “AlphaFold” artificial intelligence model.
- The model is designed to help scientists design drugs and target disease more effectively.
- The company used AI to successfully predict the behaviour of microscopic proteins.

About AlphaFold:

- AlphaFold is a new AI model developed by Google DeepMind and Isomorphic Labs.
- It's a revolutionary model that can predict the structure and interactions of all life's molecules with unprecedented accuracy.
- The model can generate a joint 3D structure of molecules, revealing how they all fit together.
- It models large biomolecules such as proteins, DNA, and RNA, as well as small molecules, also known as ligands — a category that includes many drugs.
- Furthermore, AlphaFold 3 can model chemical modifications to these molecules which control the healthy functioning of cells. When disrupted, these can lead to disease.
- It assembles its predictions using a diffusion network, similar to those found in AI image generators.

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