

1 Dec 2022: PIB Summary for UPSC



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1. ALH Mk III Squadron

Syllabus - GS3, Science and Technology; Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

Prelims - Advanced Light Helicopter Mk III squadron, 840 Sqn (CG).

Context - Indian Coast Guard commissions Advanced Light Helicopter Mk III squadron.

Details -

- An Indian Coast Guard ALH Mk III squadron was commissioned by DG Shri V.S Pathania at ICG Air Station, Chennai.
- It is a big leap towards self-realisation in the field of helicopter manufacturing in tune with the government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The commissioning of the ALH Mk III Squadron will give a major boost to the abilities of the Indian Coast guard in the security-sensitive waters of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

- The ALH Mk-III helicopters are indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It features state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR, shakti engines, a full glass cockpit, electro-optical sensors, a high-intensity searchlight, an automatic identification system, an advanced communication system as well as a search and rescue homer.
 - The aircraft has the ability to switch roles from an offensive platform with a heavy machine gun to that of a benign one carrying a Medical Intensive Care Unit to help with the transportation of critically ill patients.
 - A total of 16 ALH Mk III aircraft have been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned in Chennai.
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2. Intra Nasal COVID Vaccine, BBV154

Syllabus - GS3, Science and Technology - developments and their applications

Prelims - BBV154 intra-nasal vaccine, BRIC.

Context - World's first nasal vaccine for COVID developed by India got approval from the [CDSCO](#) - Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation for restricted use in emergency situations in the age group of 18 and above.

Details -

- The world's first intra-nasal vaccine for COVID is developed by BBIL (Bharat Biotech International Limited). The product development and clinical trials were funded by the DBT (Department of Biotechnology), GoI & BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) under the Mission COVID Suraksha Program.
- This intra-nasal vaccine received approval under restricted use in emergency situations for ages 18 and above for primary 2 dose schedule, homologous booster doses.
- BBV154 intranasal vaccine is a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilised spike protein. It has been specifically formulated to allow intranasal delivery through nasal drops. Phases I, II and III clinical trials have shown successful results.
- The intranasal vaccine is expected to make mass COVID-19 immunisation easier and cost-effective in low- and middle-income countries. The vaccine is stable at 2-8 degrees C, which means easy storage and distribution.

BRIC (Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council) -

- In another historic and path-breaking decision, Dr. Jitendra Singh approved the subsuming of 14 autonomous institutions of the DBT to create one Apex Autonomous Body - Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) for achieving centralised and unified governance to maximise the impact of biotech research.
 - This is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance".
 - The aim to create BRIC is to enhance the scientific character and science outcomes at the institutes by building research synergies, new education programs in line with [National Education Policy](#), improving human resource structures across cadres and effective management and monetization of assets emanating from the research being carried out.
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3. Hornbill Festival

Syllabus - GS1, Indian Heritage and Culture - Festivals

Prelims - Hornbill Festival, 23rd edition.

Context - The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 23rd edition of the Hornbill Festival.

Details -

- Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Hornbill festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama near the state capital of Nagaland, Kohima and declared the 'festival of festivals' open.

About Hornbill Festival -

- Organised by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments, the festival showcases a melange of cultural displays under one roof. This festival usually takes place between the 1st and 10th of December every year in Kohima.
- The aim of the festival is to revive and protect the rich cultural heritage of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.
- The festival is named after the Hornbill, the globally respected bird which is displayed in folklore in most of the state's tribes.