

1. Tomb of Afzal Khan

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court (SC) has recently sought reports from the Maharashtra government on the demolition drive conducted around the tomb of Afzal Khan.

Highlights

- The court stated that these reports should indicate the nature of the structures and whether due process was followed in removing the alleged unauthorized structures.
- The Maharashtra government stated that the demolition drive was over and illegal structures built on government and forest land were razed.
- Hindu groups have alleged the Hazarat Mohammad Afzal Khan Memorial Society has expanded the tomb by carrying out unauthorised constructions.
- In 2004, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) application was filed by a person demanding the demolition.
- The Hindu groups also claimed the Society was glorifying an “enemy of Swaraj” in “Shivaji’s own land” by hosting various activities in the slain commander’s honour
- He was a 17th-century commander of the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur.
- With Chhatrapati Shivaji’s rise and increasing control of the region, Afzal Khan was seen as the man to subdue him in the Deccan.
- Khan put together a force of 10,000 cavalry and marched from Bijapur to Wai, plundering Shivaji’s territory along the way.
- Shivaji called a council of war at the fort of Pratapgarh, where most of his advisers urged him to make peace. However, Shivaji was not eager to back down and he set up a meeting with Khan.

2. Dengue Fever

Why in News?

- In a recent study, the ongoing spread of Dengue in India has been attributed to a late withdrawal of monsoon.

Highlights

- Dengue transmission is closely associated with three key factors — rainfall, humidity and temperature — which dictate the geographies in which dengue spreads and the transmission rate.
- The number of months suitable for dengue transmission by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes has risen to 5.6 months each year.
- It accounts for a 1.69% increase between 1951-1960 and 2012-2021.
- The study projected “expansion of *Aedes aegypti* in the hot arid regions of the Thar Desert and *Aedes albopictus* in cold upper Himalayas as a result of future climatic changes.
- Dengue spreads through the bite of two mosquitoes — *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.
- Currently, *Aedes aegypti* is prevalent in the southern peninsula, eastern coastline, north-eastern states and the northern plains.
- *Aedes albopictus* dominates the eastern and western coastlines, north-eastern states and the lower Himalayas.
- Dengue is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus (Genus Flavivirus), transmitted by several species of female mosquito within the genus *Aedes*, principally *Aedes aegypti*.
- This mosquito also transmits chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika infection.
- There are 4 distinct, but closely related, serotypes (separate groups within a species of microorganisms that all share a similar characteristic) of the virus that cause dengue (DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4).
- Its symptoms are Sudden high fever, severe headaches, pain behind the eyes, severe bone, joint, and muscle pain, etc.

3. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU)

Why in News?

- Recently, Indian Navy vessels monitored more than 200 Chinese fishing vessels in the Indian Ocean, despite growing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Highlights

- Most of the illegal activity is found in the Northern Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is organized every year on 5th June.
- IUU fishing is a broad term that captures a wide variety of fishing activity.
- IUU fishing is found in all types and dimensions of fisheries; it occurs both on the high seas and in areas within national jurisdiction.
- It concerns all aspects and stages of the capture and utilisation of fish, and it may sometimes be associated with organized crime.
- IUU fishing undermines national and regional efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks and, as a consequence, inhibits progress towards achieving the goals of long-term sustainability and responsibility.
- India is the second largest fish producing country in the world accounting for 7.56% of global production and contributing about 1.24% to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) and over 7.28% to the agricultural GVA.
- India aims to achieve a target of producing 22 million metric tonnes of fish by 2024-25.
- The sector is recognized as a powerful engine for providing employment to 14.5 million people and sustaining livelihood for the 28 million fishermen community of the country.

4. Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)

Why in News?

- The United Nations (UN) has recently decided to set up a satellite-based monitoring system “MARS: Methane Alert and Response System” for tracking methane emissions and alerting governments and corporations to respond.

Highlights

- The MARS was launched at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.
- The data-to-action platform was set up as part of the UN Environment Programme’s (UNEP) International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) strategy to get policy-relevant data into the right hands for emissions mitigation.
- The system will be the first publicly available global system to connect methane detection to notification processes transparently.
- MARS will integrate data from a large number of existing and future satellites that have the ability to detect methane emission events anywhere in the world, and send out notifications to the relevant stakeholders to act on it.
- MARS will track the large point emission sources, mainly in the fossil fuel industry, but with time, would be able to detect emissions from coal, waste, livestock and rice fields as well.
- Methane is a colourless and odourless gas that occurs abundantly in nature and as a product of certain human activities.
- Methane is the simplest member of the paraffin series of hydrocarbons and is among the most potent of the greenhouse gases.