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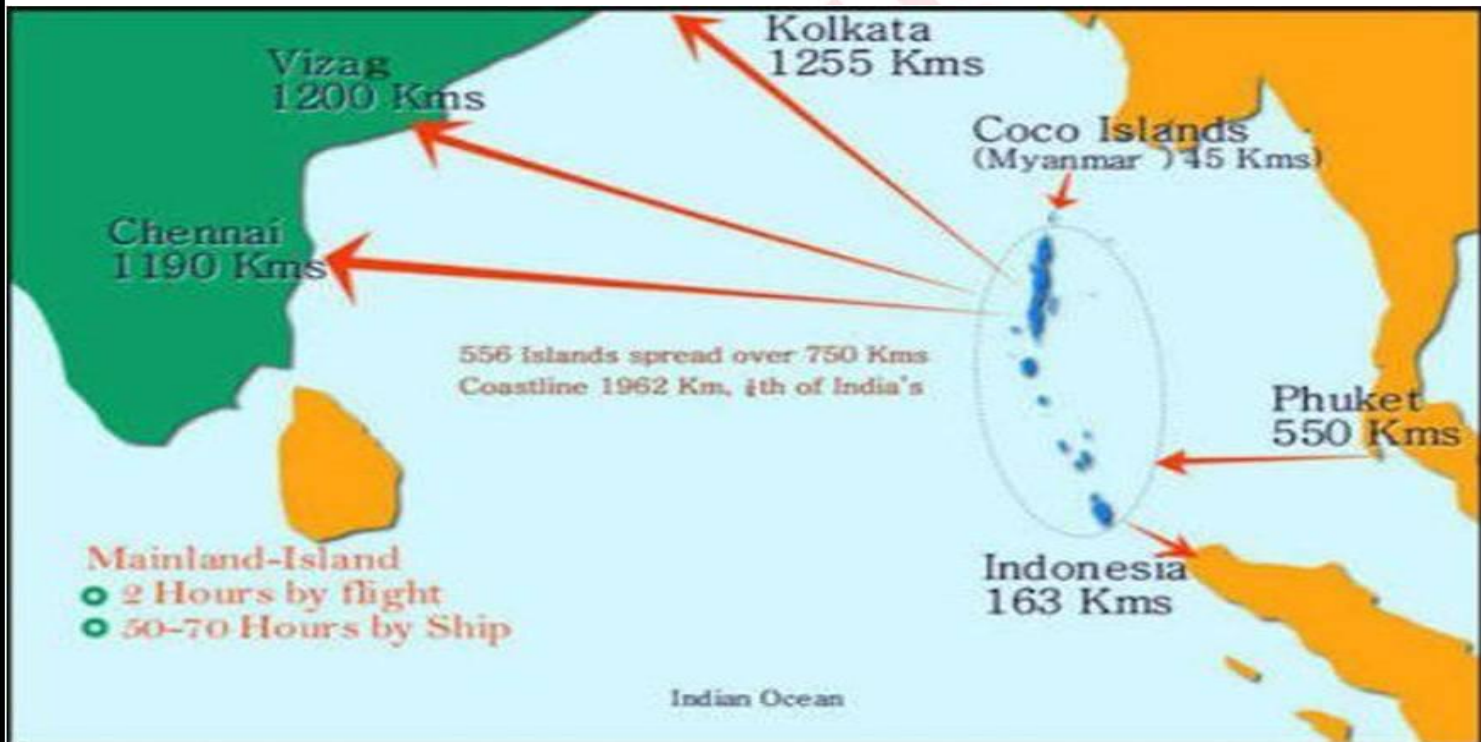
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NEWS

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Cocos Islands

- ➔ An Indian Navy Dornier maritime patrol aircraft and an **Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130 transport aircraft** visited Australia's Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI).
- ➔ Cooperation between India and Australia has extended to support of **India's Gaganyaan mission** with the planned upgrade of the CKI runway for use at CKI as a ground station and forward operating base.



Picture 2: Cocos Islands Reference Map

Source: Dr Naing Swe Oo, TISS

- ➔ The two countries are also focusing on enhancing maritime domain awareness and anti-submarine warfare and will participate in the upcoming Malabar multilateral naval exercise with Japan and the US in Australia.
- ➔ The military engagement between the two countries is aimed at strengthening surveillance and response capabilities in the region, particularly in response to China's growing naval presence in the Indian Ocean.
- ➔ **Atolls and islands;** - The region consists of two atolls made up of 27 atolls, of which only two – West Island and Home Island – are inhabited.
- ➔ **Myanmar**, formerly known as Burma, became a self-governing Crown Colony in 1937 after separating from India as a Burmese territory along with the Coco Islands.
- ➔ During World War II, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Cocoa Islands were invaded by Japanese forces.
- ➔ **In 1943, the political jurisdiction of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands** along with the Cocoa Islands was handed over to the government-in-exile of Indian freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, then called the Azad Hind Government.

- While political jurisdiction remained under **Netaji Bose**, **territorial** control remained **under the Japanese Navy**. The Coco Islands became part of Burma, now known as Myanmar, in 1948 when it gained independence from the British.
- The Coco Islands became a matter of concern for India since 1994 as Myanmar had leased the island to the **People's Republic of China**.
- The concern was over possible surveillance of Indian missile launches in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. Speculation about an active Chinese presence in both **Great Cocoa Island and Little Cocoa Island began in the 1990s**.
- Although there were frequent reports regarding the construction of infrastructure, the approvals were limited only to the construction of runways, airstrips and naval jetties.

Malawi (Capital: Lilongwe)

- A parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the **Malawi Parliament, Catherine Gotani Hara**, called on **President Draupadi Murmu** at Rashtrapati Bhavan recently.
- The President said that India and Malawi have enjoyed cordial and friendly relations for a long time and there was great potential for further enhancement of bilateral relations. He said that democratic values and faith in pluralism make **India and Malawi natural partners**.



- ➔ India has been one of Malawi's largest trade and private investment partners and also a preferred destination for health and education for Malawians.
- ➔ The President said that several projects have been implemented in Malawi in areas such as infrastructure, health, water resources, capacity building and education.

➔ **Political Boundaries**

- It is a landlocked country in South-East Africa.
- The country is surrounded by Tanzania in the north, Lake Malawi in the east, Mozambique in the east and south and Zambia in the west.

➔ **Geographical Features**

- **Highest point:** Sapitawa (Mt. Mulanje).
- **Lowest point:** the confluence of the Shire River and the point along the Mozambican international border.
- **Major Lakes:** The largest lake here is Lake Malawi (in Tanzania it is called Lake Nyasa) and Chilaw is another major lake.
- **Major rivers:** Shire River (the largest), Lilongwe River, North and South Rukuru, Dvanga etc.

Yojana Classics

- ➔ Publications Division, a premier publishing house of the Government of India, brings out **Yojana Classic**, a collectable series on various thematic areas, drawn from selected works published in Yojana since 1957.
- ➔ **Apoorva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** released the book during his visit to the stall of the Publications Division set up at the ongoing Delhi Book Fair 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi recently.



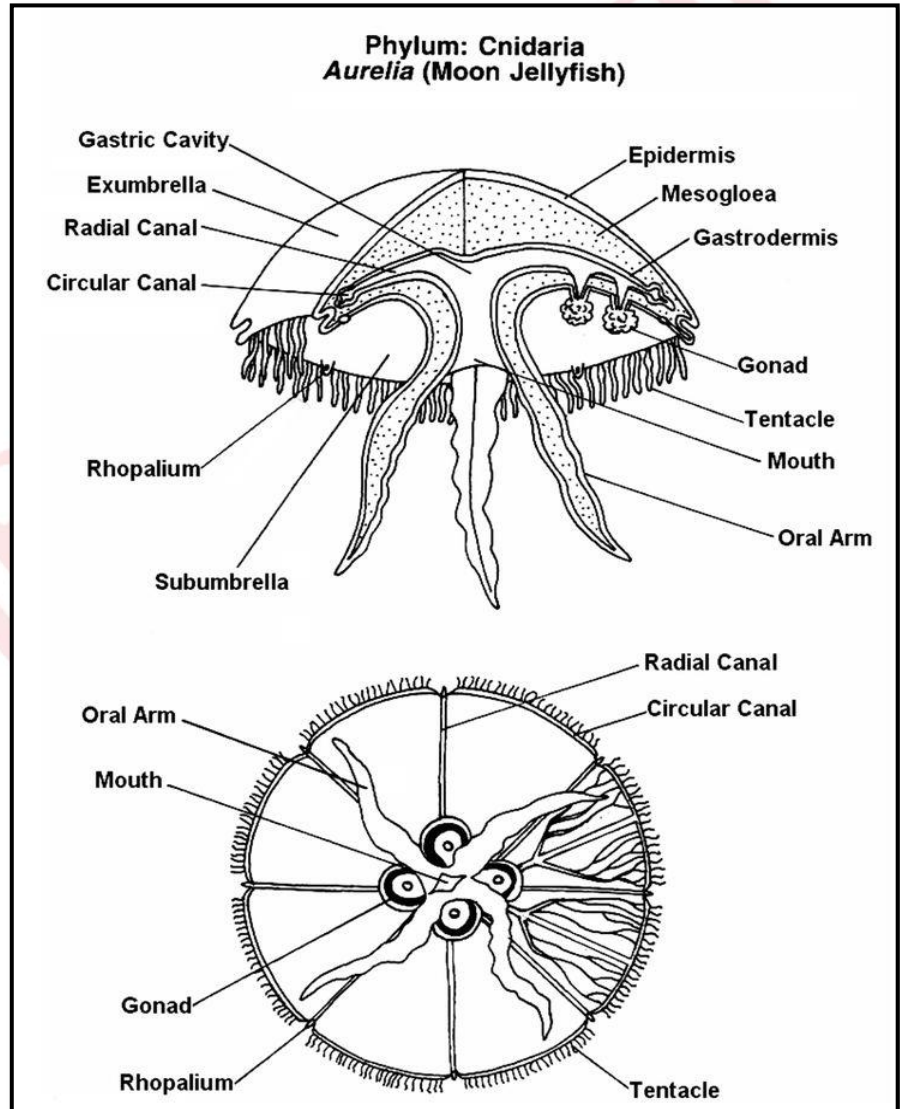
- ➔ Secretary of Information & Broadcasting visited the stall of the Publications Division and expressed his appreciation for the rich collection of books brought out by the Division, which he said reflects India's cultural heritage, art and architecture, glorious history and remarkable contributions of national leaders.
- ➔ One of his latest initiatives is the collectable series '**Yojana Classics**', a treasure trove of captivating works drawn from selected publications since 1957 in the popular development monthly, Yojana.
- ➔ The series not only showcases the mesmerizing richness and vastness of material published over the years, but also provides readers with an enriching journey into the world of India's art, culture and heritage.
- ➔ The launch of '**Yojana Classics**' was marked with its release at Delhi Book Fair 2023. Union Information and Broadcasting Secretary, Shri Apoorva Chandra was the respected dignitary who inaugurated this much-awaited collectible series.

- ➔ Visitors to the Publications Department's stall at the Delhi Book Fair were mesmerized by the exquisite collection of books covering a wide range of subjects including history, heritage and biographies.
- ➔ **Premium books on Rashtrapati Bhavan** and selected speeches of Presidents, Vice Presidents and Prime Ministers were also displayed for the Publications Division.



Jellyfish

- ➔ Oldest species of jellyfish discovered in Canadian Rockies. Ancient evidence of swimming jellyfish discovered in Canadian Rockies.
- ➔ lived in the oceans 505 million years ago. Researchers have found 182 fossils of jellyfish from the famous Burgess Shale fossil site.
- ➔ The Burgess Shale is located in the mountains of Canada's Yoho National Park in the province of British Columbia.



- ➔ The fossils belong to a previously unknown species of jellyfish called *Bergessio Medusa fusiformis*.
- ➔ This discovery shows that these creatures had already evolved millions of years ago.
- ➔ Five hundred million years ago the shallow sea in British Columbia was teeming with creatures different from those living today.
- ➔ But there is a jellyfish that is similar to the jellyfish swimming in today's oceans.
- ➔ Fossils found in Canada's Burgess Shale are the oldest known creatures we recognize as jellyfish.

➔ **Canadian Rockies Jellyfish -**

- Their body is made of soft and 95% water.
- The length of jellyfish is about 8 inches (20 cm).
- The bell-shaped jellyfish evolved more than 500 million years ago.
- These jellyfish are Medusozoans and are umbrella-shaped animals.

- Medusozoan corals and sea anemones belong to a larger group called Cnidaria, which is one of the oldest groups of animals on Earth.
- Medusozoans include modern box jellies, hydroids, stalked jellyfish, etc.

→ What is jellyfish?

- It is one of the most venomous sea creatures, its name comes from the jelly-like mesoglea material.
- They do not have a backbone, they are smooth like jelly and equipped with small stinging cells.
- These Jellyfish are of many different shapes, sizes and colours.
- They have limited control over locomotion and can move using hydrostatic anatomy through contraction vibrations of their bell-shaped bodies.
- They do not need a respiratory system, because their skin is so thin that they absorb oxygen from the water through it.