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12th JULY 2023



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Cluster Munitions

- ➔ Recently the United States has confirmed that it will supply cluster munitions to Ukraine as part of a new military aid package.
- ➔ According to a **CNN report**, America's Biden administration will supply disputed weapons to Ukraine to fight the war against Russia.
- ➔ The **US** and **Ukraine** have not ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Cluster munitions have been outlawed by more than 100 countries, including the UK, France and Germany.
- ➔ **Cluster munitions** are a form of air-dropped or ground-released explosive munitions that result from the application of small submunitions, commonly known as bombs, over a wide area.
- ➔ They are designed to injure or kill humans and to destroy **runways**, **railway** or **power transmission lines**, and other targets.

- ➔ Cluster munitions can cause significant damage to civilians and objects, in violation of international humanitarian law.
- ➔ They have a high failure rate, leaving behind unexploded ordnance that poses a constant threat.
- ➔ In addition, they pollute large areas over a long period of time, making them unsuitable for human use, as well as increasing the burden on health care and the economy of affected countries.
- ➔ **In the year 2001**, during the Afghanistan war, America considered cluster bombs as important.
- ➔ The US last used cluster bombs in 2003 during the war with Iraq.
- ➔ Government forces sent by Russia in the **Syrian Civil War** often used cluster munitions.
- ➔ Israel used cluster bombs in civilian areas of South Lebanon, notably during the **2006 war with Hezbollah**.
- ➔ The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen has faced criticism for using cluster bombs in their conflict with **Houthi rebels**.

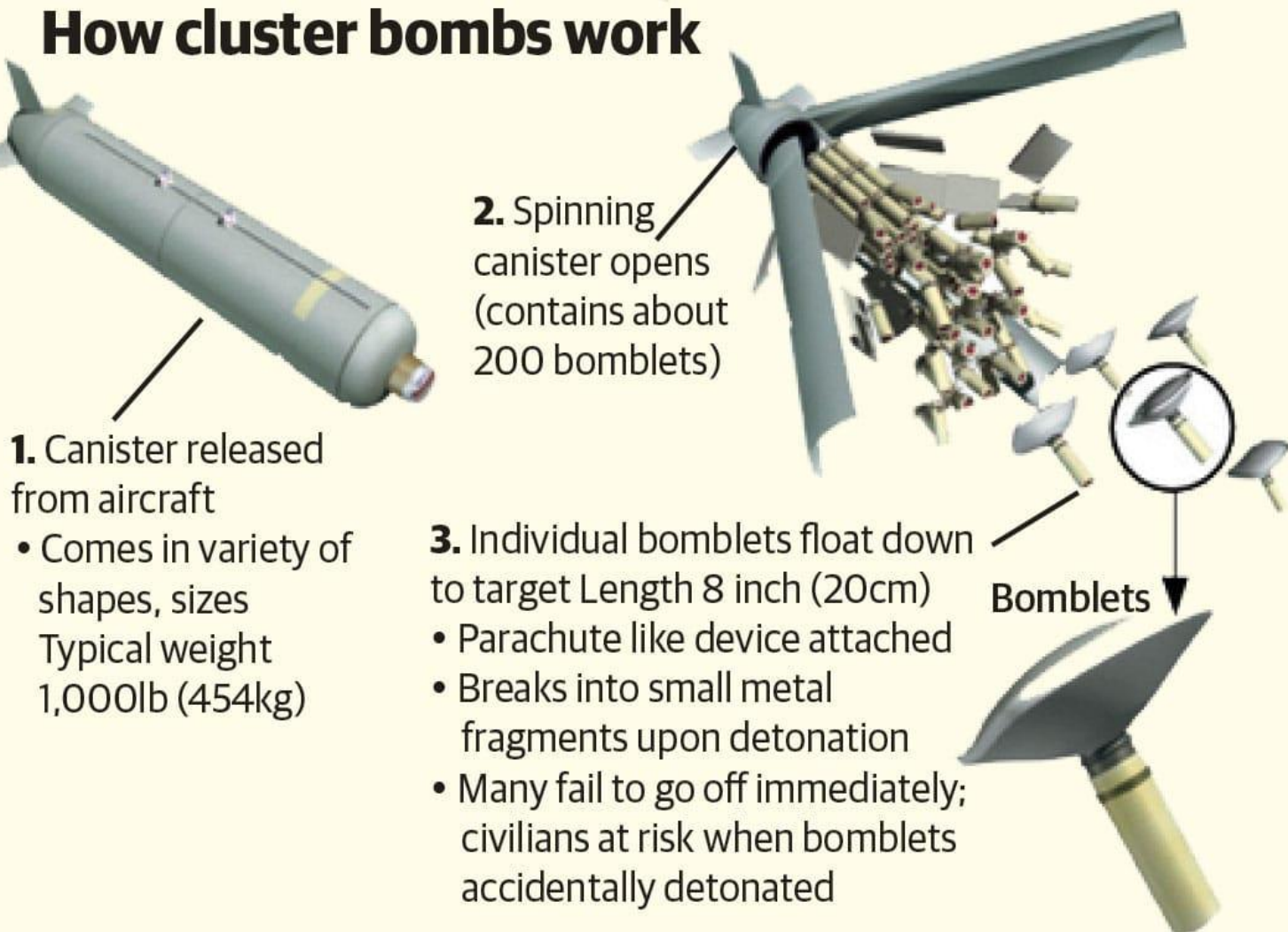
- ➔ The Convention on Cluster Munitions outlaws the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of these weapons due to their long-term effects on civilian populations.
- ➔ It was adopted **by 107 countries** in **Dublin on 30 May 2008** and signed in Oslo **on 3 December 2008**.
- ➔ Coming into force **on 1 August 2010**, the Convention became a binding international law.
- ➔ So far, a total of **123 countries** have joined this convention, in which **111 are member countries** and **12 are signatories**.
- ➔ Several countries, including **India, the United States, Russia, Ukraine, Pakistan** and **Israel**, have not signed the convention.



CLUSTER BOMBS

Nearly 100 countries are signing a treaty to ban cluster bombs, while the leading producers of the bombs, including the US, Russia, China and Israel, remain outside the pact.

How cluster bombs work



Extension of tenure of ED director for the third time illegal: Supreme Court

- ➔ The Supreme Court recently gave a blow to the Central Government. The Supreme Court overturned the order granting a third extension to **ED chief Sanjay Mishra**. The court ruled that extending the term of the ED chief for the third time is illegal.
- ➔ The Supreme Court ruled that the third service extension of the **ED director** was illegal and void in law. However, in a victory for the government, the Supreme Court ruled that the amendment to the law governing service extension was correct.
- ➔ The government's argument in the matter is that no other officer has been found yet to replace the ED director.
- ➔ The current ED director is currently monitoring several cases like money laundering as well as FATF. In such a situation, we need some more time for the new appointment.

- ➔ In November 2018, the central government had given a two-year extension to the ED director.
- ➔ After this, he was to retire, but the government gave him a one-year extension.
- ➔ In November 2021, the Central Government brought an ordinance by making changes in the **Central Vigilance Commission Act**.
- ➔ There was a provision in this amendment that the director of agencies like the investigating agency ED and CBI could be given an extension of up to five years.
- ➔ The Enforcement Directorate or ED is a multidisciplinary organization tasked with investigating economic offences and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- ➔ It was established on May 01, 1956, when an enforcement unit was formed under the control of the Department of Economic Affairs to prevent violations of exchange control statutes under the **Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (FERA, 1947)**.

- ➔ In the year 1960, the administrative control of this Directorate was transferred from the Ministry of Economic Affairs to the Department of Revenue. Presently, the Directorate is under the administrative control of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- ➔ Due to the process of economic liberalisation, FERA, 1973, which was a regulatory law, was repealed and in its place, a new law **Foreign Exchange Act, 1999 (FEMA)** came into force with effect from June 01, 2000.
- ➔ In line with the International Money Laundering Regime, a new law Prevention of **Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)** was enacted and Enforcement Directorate was entrusted with the responsibility of enforcement of PMLA with effect from 01.07.2005.
- ➔ Recently, due to the increase in the number of cases related to economic offenders who have taken shelter abroad, the government has passed the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA)** and mandated the Enforcement Directorate to implement it with effect from 21st April, 2018.

- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA):** It is a criminal law enacted to prevent money laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from or involved in money laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA):** It is a civil law enacted to consolidate and amend laws relating to the facilitation of foreign trade and payments and to promote the orderly development and maintenance of the foreign exchange market in India.
- **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA):** This law was enacted to prevent economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by fleeing beyond the jurisdiction of Indian courts.
- **Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA):** The main function under the repealed FERA is to adjudicate show cause notices issued under the said Act up to 31.05.2002 for alleged violations of the said Act, based on which penalty can be imposed in the concerned courts and the prosecutions initiated under FERA can be proceeded with.

→ **Sponsoring Agency under COFEPOSA:** Under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA), this Directorate is empowered to sponsor cases of preventive detention in respect of violations of FEMA.

ED चीफ संजय मिश्रा को क्यों मिला तीसरा एक्सटेंशन?
पढ़ें पूरे विवाद की कहानी



Lambani Embroidery Craft

- ➔ A unique record was created in the meeting of the Culture Working Group under the **G20 Presidency** of India. In fact, the largest-ever display of **Lambani embroidery** items was held at **Hampi** as part of the third Culture Working Group meeting of the G20, which created a Guinness World Record.
- ➔ Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Pralhad Joshi** inaugurated the exhibition on Monday at the G20 Culture Working Group meeting held in **Hampi**.
- ➔ After the first two meetings of the 'G20 Culture Working Group' in **Khajuraho** and **Bhubaneswar**, the third meeting was held in **Hampi** from 9 to 12 July 2023.
- ➔ The G20 delegates are being taken on a tour of heritage sites such as the **Vijay Vittal Temple, the Royal Enclosure** and the **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, the **Yeduru Basavanna Complex** of the **Hampi Group of Monuments**.
- ➔ In this sequence, this exhibition was organized by the 'Culture Working Group' of the Ministry of Culture.

- ➔ Its title is **"Threads of Unity"**. The theme of the exhibition is 'Culture Unites All'.
- ➔ Over 450 **Lambani** women artisans and cultural artists associated with **Sandur Kushal Kala Kendra (SKKK)** created these items using 1755 patchwork Lambani embroidery.
- ➔ This Guinness World Record endeavour is linked with the PM's campaign of Mission **'LiFe'** (Lifestyle for the environment) and the CWG's initiative for **'Culture for LiFe'**, an environmentally conscious lifestyle and a concerted action towards sustainability.
- ➔ Celebrating our shared heritage and promoting sustainable practices, the performance serves as a testimony to the power of unity, diversity, interconnectedness and harmonious coexistence among cultures, embodying the essence of **'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'**.
- ➔ Lambani is an embroidery craft made by a nomadic community living in Karnataka. It has also got **GI-tag**.

- ➔ **Lambani embroidery** is a vibrant and intricate form of textile ornamentation characterized by a rich array of coloured threads, glass or mirror work and stitch patterns.
- ➔ In this, small pieces of discarded cloth are skillfully stitched together to make a beautiful cloth.
- ➔ This rich embroidery tradition is mainly kept alive by the skilled women of the Lambani community as a source of livelihood.
- ➔ It is practised in many villages of Karnataka such as **Sandur, Keri Tanda, Mariammanahalli, Kadirampur, Sitaram Tanda, Bijapur** and **Kamalapur**.
- ➔ This sustainable practice of patchworking is found in many textile traditions in India and around the world.
- ➔ The embroidery traditions of Lambani are shared in terms of technique and aesthetics with the textile traditions of Eastern Europe, West and Central Asia.
- ➔ This historically refers to the movement of nomadic communities in such areas, creating a shared artistic culture.

- ➔ Craft through cultures makes a perfect symbol for the **'Culture Unites All'** campaign. Through this art, we celebrate our shared heritage and promote dialogue and understanding among diverse communities.
- ➔ About **Sandur Kushal Kala Kendra (SKKK)** – Registered in 1988 as a Society, **'Sandur Kushal Kala Kendra'** aims to revive traditional crafts and ensure a steady income by promoting the livelihood, skills and products of artisans.



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



3rd Culture Working Group Meeting

09-12 July 2023 - Hampi, Karnataka



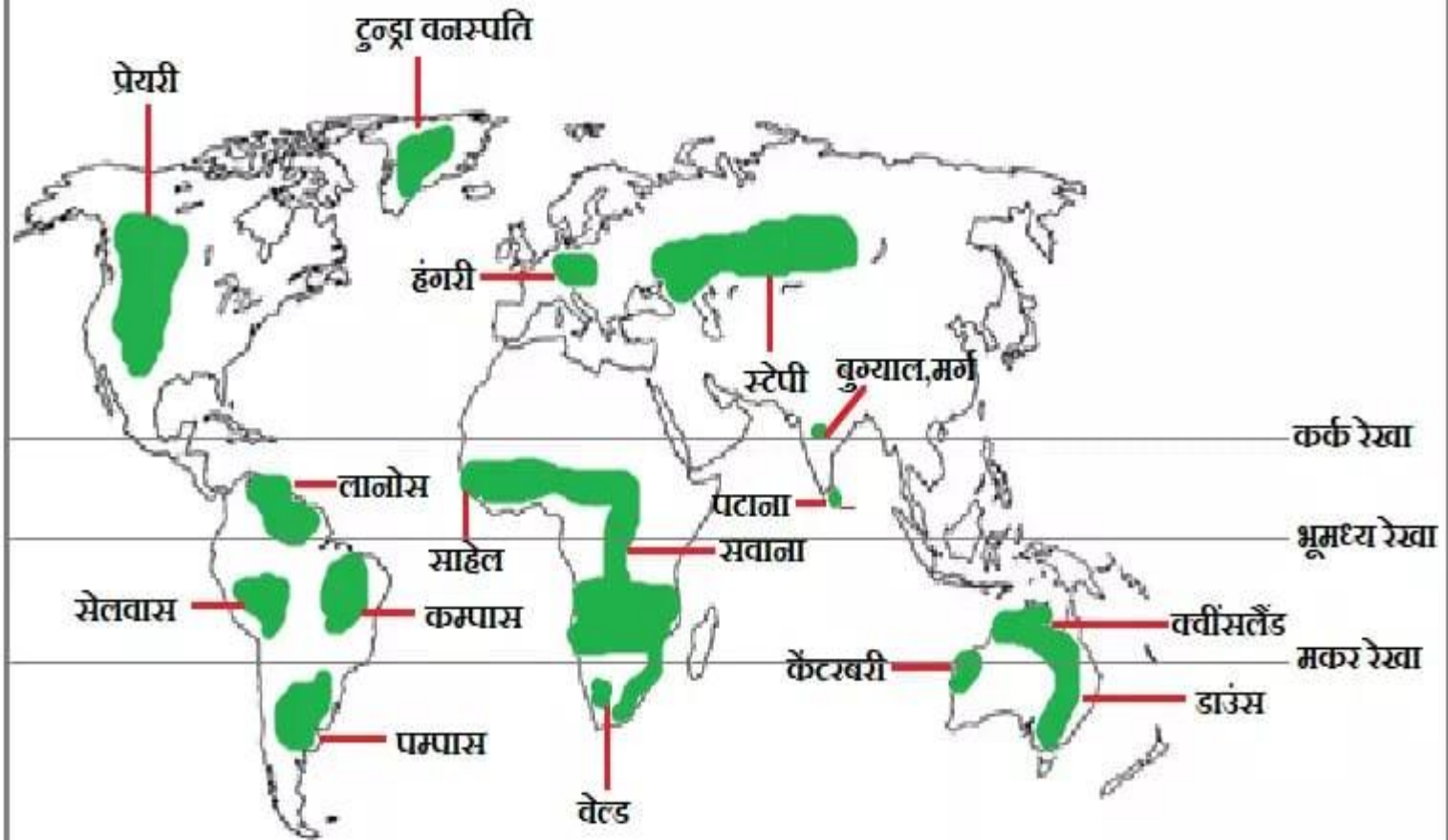
Global Tropical Primary Forest Area

- ➔ According to a new study by **WRI's Global Forest Watch**, 4.1 million hectares of forest area have been lost in tropical regions. This has resulted in the emission of 2.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- ➔ To achieve the target set by the year 2030, there is a need to reduce global deforestation by at least 10 percent every year. These goals include ending deforestation and restoring 350 million hectares of forest area by the year 2030.
- ➔ However, a 10 percent decline in total global tree cover loss, including primary, secondary and planted forests, was projected in 2022.
- ➔ **Primary Forests:** These are mature and natural forests that have not experienced human interference in recent years. They store more carbon than other forests and are a rich source of biodiversity. Their loss cannot be compensated.

- **Secondary Forests:** These forests grow naturally in place of primary forests after they have been cut down. They are more homogeneous than natural forests. These usually contain a limited number of species, even in mature forests.
- **Planted forests:** These are forest areas established mainly by planting saplings or seeds. The trees found in these are usually of the same species, whether they are indigenous or foreign. Their life span is also the same.
- Between 2021 and 2022, 43.9 thousand hectares of moist primary forests have been destroyed in India.
- **WRI :-** It is a global non-profit organization established in 1997.
- It works globally and in some of the focus, countries to meet the essential needs of the people.
- Protecting and restoring nature and maintaining climate stability and building resilience in communities.
- **WRI** established Global Forest Watch in 1997 as part of the Forest Frontiers Initiative.

→ It started as a network of **non-governmental organizations** producing updated reports on the state of forests. Till the year 2019, it provided data related to 82 countries (including India).

विश्व के प्रमुख घास के मैदान (Grasslands of the World)



Tanzania (Capital: Dodoma)

- ➔ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently said that India and Tanzania have started settling business deals in local currencies which will boost commercial activities between the two countries.
- ➔ Addressing industry representatives here, Jaishankar, who is on a visit to Tanzania, said that bilateral trade between India and this African country has grown very rapidly and it had reached \$ 6.4 billion in the financial year 2022-23.
- ➔ Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Canara Bank present in Tanzania have started transactions in local currencies after getting approval from the Reserve Bank of India, which is trying to encourage foreign trade in rupees.
- ➔ Referring to the strengthening of economic relations between India and African countries, the External Affairs Minister said that India's trade with Africa has reached \$98 billion. Apart from this, India has also invested \$75 billion in Africa.

- ➔ **Location:** The country is located in East Africa and just south of the equator.
- ➔ It is bounded by Uganda, Lake Victoria and Kenya to the north and the Indian Ocean to the east.
- ➔ To its west are Lake Tanganyika, Burundi and Rwanda.
- ➔ **Geographical Features**
- ➔ The East African Rift System extends through mainland Tanzania in a north-south direction in two branches.
- ➔ Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro is located in its northeast.
- ➔ **Rivers:** Ruvuma, Rufiji, Wami and Pangani. These rivers meet in the Indian Ocean.



