

CURRENT AFFAIRS PRELIMS+MAINS QUICK REVISION



Kerch Bridge Attack

- The Kerch Bridge, which connects the Russian mainland to the Crimean peninsula in the Black Sea, was recently attacked.
- → A portion of the bridge was damaged in what the Russians said was an attack by two Ukrainian maritime drones. → The Kerch Bridge over the Kerch Strait is 19 km long and consists of two parallel rail and road routes.



- ➔ It was opened by Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2018, four years after Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine through a referendum.
- Recently, according to Russian officials, a portion of the bridge was blown up, killing two people and injuring a child.
- → Ukraine did not claim responsibility when the attack occurred, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky later described the attack on the bridge as one of the successful operations of the Ukrainian military.
- The bridge is important to Russia for symbolic, administrative and operational reasons.
- → When Russia moved swiftly to annex Crimea in 2014, there was no direct contact between the Russian mainland and Crimea. Then Russia immediately ordered to build a bridge.
- The bridge remained a weak link in later years as Ukraine's military power grew with support from the West.
- → When Russia declared full-scale war on Ukraine on February 24, 2022, one of the military objectives, according to experts, was to secure a "land bridge" from mainland Russia to Crimea.

- → Russia now has a land bridge stretching from northeastern Ukraine through Donbas and Kherson to Crimea, but it is not far from the front line and is also within the Ukrainian border.
- Therefore, the Kerch Bridge remains an important logistical supply link for Russian troops in the south.



Heat Waves Early Warning

- ➔ Global temperatures have been at unprecedented levels for several weeks. This is having serious effects on people, economies and the environment.
- WMO has launched an early warning initiative for all. Through this initiative, it is strengthening the capacity of Member States to develop and put into use impactbased warnings.
- → The initiative aims to protect everyone from dangerous weather, water or climate crisis events through life-saving early warning systems (EWSs) by the end of 2027.
- → WMO, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and other partners are co-leading the initiative.
- Early Warning System (EWS) is an integrated system of multiple systems and processes. It includes activities related to "hazard monitoring, forecasting and forecasting, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparedness".

- It is recognized under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- At present, about one-third of the world's population is not covered under the EWS.
- The Geological Survey of India has developed a prototype of the Regional Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS).
- National Center for Coastal Research has launched Integrated Flood Warning System 'IFLOWS-Mumbai' and Integrated Coastal Flood Warning System CFLOWS.
- → The Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has set up the Storm Surge EWS and the Indian Tsunami Early-Warning Center (ITEWC).
- Defense Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE) issues advance warnings of avalanches.

+ 1.5°C: Change in average temperature of hottest days



+ 1.5°C: Change in average temperature of coldest nights

+ 2.0°C: Change in average temperature of hottest days



+ 2.0°C: Change in average temperature of coldest nights



BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- ➔ India has participated in the first-ever meeting of BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand.
- BIMSTEC is a regional organization. It was established in 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. Its secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It was initially formed with four member states-Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Then its abbreviated name was BIST-EC.
- ➔ It was named BIMSTEC in 2004 after Myanmar (1997), Nepal (2004) and Bhutan (2004) joined the organization.
- → The founding principles of BIMSTEC are based on -Sovereign Equality, Territorial Integrity, Political Independence, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence and mutual benefit.
- → Acts as a connecting link to achieve the goals of India's foreign policies, namely, the Neighborhood First Policy and the Act East Policy.

- The landlocked Northeast India region can be better developed with the cooperation of member countries like Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- ➔ With the active participation of the members of this group, the Bay of Bengal can be made a piracy-free zone.
- This platform allows India to pursue a constructive agenda to counterbalance Chinese investments in the region.
- Challenges related to BIMSTEC: Lack of internal economic integration, trade barriers due to poor infrastructure, etc.

BIMSTEC

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation



Star Rating of Coal and Lignite Mines

- Star Rating under the Star Rating Policy for Coal Mining promotes sustainable mining practices. Also improves the overall performance of coal and lignite mines.
- → It implements a system of self-assessment and subsequent certification by the Coal Controller's Organization (CCO) for all coal mines under various factors covered in the following seven modules:
 - 1. Mining Operational Norms:
 - 2. Environmental Norms;
 - 3. Adoption of technologies: Best mining practices;
 - 4. Economic Performance;
 - 5. Rehabilitation and Resettlement norms;
 - 6. Labour compliance and
 - 7. Safety and security standards
- → CCO is under the Ministry of Coal. It collects and maintains data on the coal production of all private and public sector coal mines in the country.

The star rating evaluates coal mines under three categories: underground mines, open-cast mines and mixed mines.

- The star rating is awarded on the basis of the percentage of marks obtained under various parameters of seven modules.
- Mines are given a rating ranging from no star (not a single star) to 5 stars.

→ Importance

- It improves overall performance and promotes sustainable mining practices.
- Reflects the mining industry's commitment to environmental sustainability, safety and social responsibility.
- Promotes competition among mines.
- Enables adoption of advanced mining technology.

Coal Ministry Announces of Star Rating Registration Process

