

## Govt to study dolphins, hilsa in Ganga to ascertain river's health

(GS Paper 3, Environment)

### Why in news?

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** will be conducting the study in **collaboration with the Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute.**



### Bio-indicators:

- Under this, **bio-indicators like the population of dolphins and hilsa fish** and micro-organisms will be studied to ascertain how much improvement has taken place in the health of the river.
- These bio-indicators play an important role in establishing the health of a river.

### 'Gyan Ganga':

- The study is part of a repository of studies and research being conducted by the NMCG on the Ganga river.
- The repository was being made under '**Gyan Ganga**' an **NMCG initiative** focusing on research, policy and knowledge management on subjects related to the Ganga river.
- The impact of human intervention on microbial diversity and the origin of E.coli present in the Ganga river would also be studied.

### National ranching project of hilsa fish:

- A national ranching project of hilsa fish is underway in the middle stretch of the Ganga.
- More than 6,00,000 hilsa adults have been ranched. This will support hilsa fish germplasm conservation and propagation in the river Ganga.
- Hilsa juveniles found in the upstream of the Farakka Barrage on the river near the West Bengal and Jharkhand border show that ranching efforts under the project are working.

### Higher aquatic biodiversity:

- The increase in fish population due to the efforts of the NMCG and the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute will also **improve the prey base of the higher aquatic biodiversity** such as river dolphins, crocodiles, turtles and birds of the Ganga, along with the livelihoods of fishermen.

- The last four years, around 190 fish species have been recorded from the river which provides livelihood and economic sustainability to the fishers residing in the banks of the river.
- The Ganga River and its basin is recognised for being one of the most populated in the world, and it nurtures vast biodiversity.

**UNGA adopts resolution on multilingualism, mentions Hindi for first time**  
**(GS Paper 3, International Organisation)**

**Why in news?**

- In a significant initiative, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted **an India-sponsored resolution on multilingualism** that mentions the Hindi language for the first time.
- The resolution encourages the UN to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official as well as in non-official languages, including in Hindi language.



United  
Nations

General Assembly  
of the United Nations

**Official languages:**

- Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the six official languages of the United Nations; English and French being the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat.

**‘Hindi @ UN’ project:**

- India has been partnering with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) since 2018 by providing an extra-budgetary contribution to mainstream and consolidate news and multimedia content in the Hindi language.
- As part of these efforts, ‘Hindi @ UN’ project was launched in 2018 with an objective to enhance the public outreach of the United Nations in the Hindi language, and to spread greater awareness about global issues among millions of Hindi-speaking populations around the world.

**Multilingualism in UN:**

- UNSC resolution 13(1) adopted in its first session on 1 Feb. 1946, which stated that the United Nations cannot achieve its purposes unless the people of the world are fully informed of its aims and activities.
- Multilingualism is an essential factor in harmonious communication among peoples and an enabler of multilateral diplomacy. It ensures effective participation of all in the Organization's work, as well as greater transparency and efficiencies and better outcomes.

- Multilingualism is recognized by the General Assembly as a core value of the Organization. As such, all United Nations Secretariat entities are expected to contribute actively and demonstrate their commitment to this joint endeavor. Multilingualism mandates also call for the mainstreaming of multilingualism throughout the Secretariat.

## **India seeks permanent solution on fisheries subsidies, public stockholdings ahead of WTO meet** **(GS Paper 3, Agriculture)**

### **Why in news?**

- India seeks a permanent solution on the issues of fisheries subsidies and **public stockholdings (PSH)** at the **12th Ministerial Conference (MC) of the World Trade Organization (WTO)**, which is soon to begin June in Geneva.
- The current negotiations tabled at MC12 do not favour developing countries.



### **Public stockholdings (PSH):**

- India aiming for a permanent solution on PSH that will protect the interests of India's farmers and agricultural products. Many developing countries expect an outcome for a **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** kind of policy that will safeguard them and benefit global trade.
- PSH should be taken positively as vulnerable countries will be supported through such exports in times of dire need.
- The **WTO currently considers PSH subsidies**, including those given for MSP programmes for crops, as **distortions to trade and subject to a cap of 10 per cent** of the value of production.

### **Food security:**

- The **COVID-19 pandemic** and the **Ukraine-Russia war** have **escalated food and fertiliser prices**. The inflation in these countries and recurring hike in food prices demand a long-term solution for developing countries, which is currently absent in the WTO's agenda tabled for the subject.
- The WTO's solutions offered short-term fixes. The developing countries would struggle if the PSH went against them and they had to repeatedly buy goods from galloping food markets, putting stress on their economies.

### Expected outcome:

- Instead of being seen as a threat to the global market, PSH should be focused on changing trade rules that will enable long-term resilience and coping mechanisms for developing countries.
- The amendment in rules will help developing countries build self-sufficiency, protect their populations from volatile agriculture markets and help other countries when needed.

### Fisheries:

- The WTO failed to specify the responsibility to assess the origin of the problems of overfishing and illegal fishing.
- The negotiations also do not align with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. It will only make things harder for fisherfolk in underdeveloped countries as their rights and capabilities will be reduced.

### Way Forward:

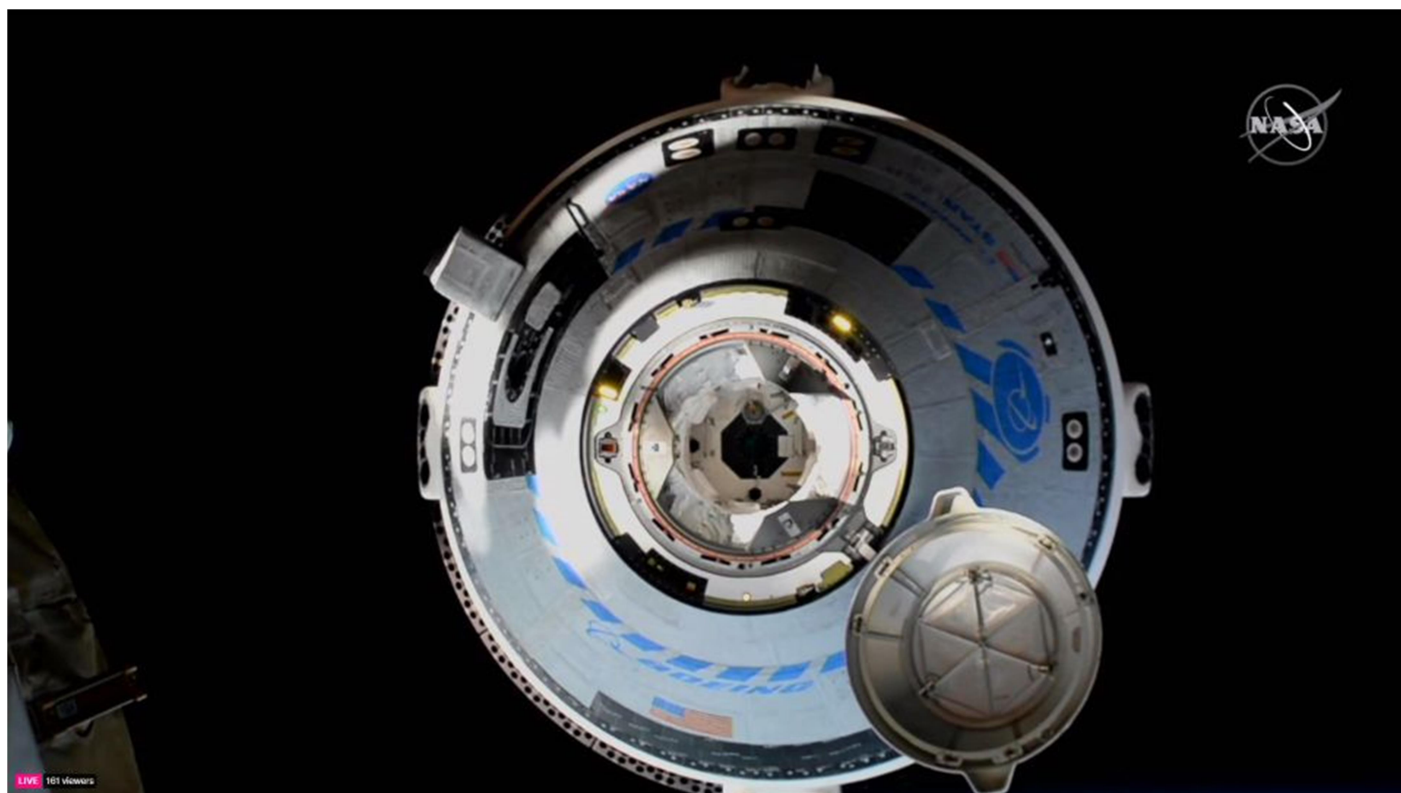
- A bad deal for developing countries would be equivalent to a no deal.
- MC12 will be held from June 12-15 at the WTO headquarters in Geneva after it was postponed in late 2021 due to the Omicron variant of the novel coronavirus.

## India-Russia deal on radio equipment

(GS Paper 3, Science and Tech)

### Why in news?

- Recently, Radio technical Systems (RTS) of Russia has signed a large-scale contract with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the supply of radio equipment.



### Key Highlights:

- The Russian company will manufacture 34 sets of **instrument landing system (ILS) 734** for the modernisation of 24 airports in India.
- The contract comes amid the war in Ukraine and pressure from the West on India to diversify its dependence for defence needs.



### Way Forward:

- The contract between RTS and AAI has become a breakthrough for Russian business in the highly competitive market of ground-based radio equipment in India.
- There is no doubt that the successful execution of the contract will open up new opportunities for the implementation of joint projects to modernise Indian airport infrastructure.

## Dharohar – National Museum of Customs and GST in Goa (GS Paper 3, Indian Economy)

### Why in news?

- Recently, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs dedicated to the nation, “Dharohar” - the National Museum of Customs and GST in Goa.



 PIB in Goa

# Dedication to Nation

## DHAROHAR, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CUSTOMS & GST

11th June 2022 | 3.30 pm

**CHIEF GUEST**  
**Nirmala Sitharaman**  
Hon. Minister of Finance of India

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### Unique aspects:

- The dedication ceremony was performed in a unique manner, with the Finance Minister removing the **golden sand from single rock art installed at the centuries old heritage building** in which the museum is housed.
- The two storey ‘**Blue building**’, which was earlier known as **Alfandega**, during the period of Portuguese rule in Goa, has been standing on the banks of the Mandovi River in Panaji for more than 400 years.

### Key Features:

- Dharohar is one of its kind museums in the country that showcases not only the artefacts seized by Indian Customs but also depicts various aspects of work performed by the Customs Department while safeguarding the economic frontiers of the country, its heritage, flora & fauna and the society.
- ‘**Dharohar**’ has **8 galleries** viz: Introductory gallery, History of Taxation Gallery, Guardians of our economic frontiers gallery, Guardians of our Art & Heritage, Guardians of Flora & Fauna, Custodians of our social well being, Journey of Indirect taxes –Salt Tax to GST and the GST gallery.
- The tour de force of Dharohar museum is a unique ‘**Battle of Wits**’ gallery which showcases the **cerebral battle between the smugglers and the Customs officers**. It contains chronicled seizures of antique coins, statues, endangered wildlife, weapons and narcotics.

- Notable among its displays are the **manuscript of Ain-i-Akbari intercepted by the Indian Customs at the Indo-Nepal border at Raxaul, replica of Amin pillars from Kaurkshetra**, medieval period astronomical instruments, seized metal and stone artefacts, ivory items and wildlife items.

**Background:**

- Beginning with the Atal Behari Vajpayee Government initiating discussions on GST in 2000, the Gallery chronicles various stages and processes that paved the way for introduction of reformed unified indirect taxation in the form of GST on 1 July 2017.