Prelim Bits 01-07-2019

Group of Twenty (G20)

- The 14th edition of the **G-20 Summit** is currently underway in **Japan's Osaka.**
- **G20** is a global forum comprised of twenty of the world's largest economies.
- It focuses on addressing global economic challenges.
- Its membership includes **19 countries** and **European Union.**
- The members are divided into **5 groups**, consisting of a maximum of four states for choosing the President:
    1. **Group 1**: Australia, Canada, United States, Saudi Arabia.
    2. **Group 2**: India, Russia, South Africa, Turkey.
    3. **Group 3**: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico.
    4. **Group 4**: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom.
    5. **Group 5**: China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea.
- In addition to the member countries **Spain** is a **permanent guest** and always participates in the G20 summits. Every year, the **host country also chooses other guests**.
- G20 was conceived in 1999, while the repercussions of the Asian financial crisis of 1997 still lasted.
- In a **G7** meeting, it was decided to expand the group and make it more representative in order to generate policies that have an impact in the economy.
- So a new forum of finance ministers and presidents of Central Banks, which would later become the **G20**.
- With the global financial crisis of 2008, the **G20** became the main instrument and thereafter**, Presidents and Heads of State joined the G20.**
- The group **does not have permanent offices or employees.**
- The **President** is chosen by a rotation system amongst the member countries.
- There are **two working channels of G20,**
    1. **Finance Channel -** It covers meetings between **finance** ministers and central bank presidents.
    2. **The Sherpas Channel -** It covers **non-financial issues**, such as

political commitment, the fight against corruption, development, gender equality, trade and energy.

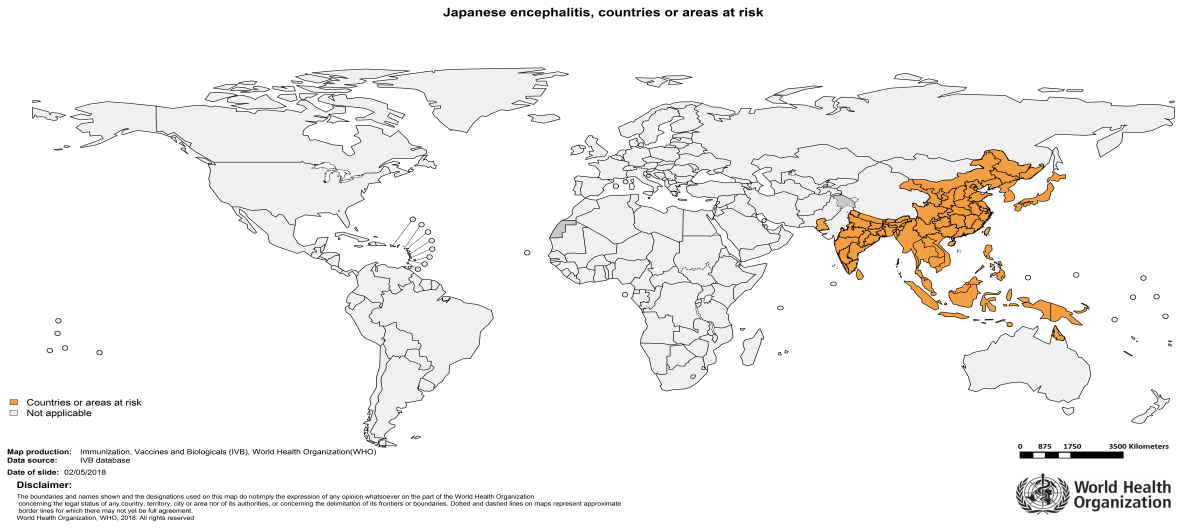
- Civil societies through, **Affinity groups** participate in the **G20** that seeks to enrich submit.
- The key regional organizations like ASEAN, African Union, OECD, ILO are usually invited to participate and are represented by the country that holds the presidency.
- In the recent submit in **Osaka**, India held talks with member countries to address the Trade and Security issues.

INS Shivalik and INS Sindhukirti

- These are the Indian Navy's **indigenously** conceived design and constructed frontline stealth frigate.
- **INS Shivalik** is the **Shivalik-class** advanced, stealth-minded, guided-missile frigate warship.
- It is the **first stealth warship** built by India at Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai s part of the Indian Navy's **Project 17**.
- It is equipped with a wide range of electronics and sensors.
- In addition, it uses **HUMSA** (hull-mounted sonar array), **ATAS/Thales** Sintra towed array systems.
- It is equipped with a mix of Russian, Indian and Western weapon systems.
- It also has improved stealth and land attacking features over the preceding *Talwar*-class frigates.
- It is the first Indian navy ship to use the **CODOG** (COmbined Diesel Or Gas) propulsion system.
- **INS Sindhukirti** is the seventh **Sindhughosh-class, diesel-electric submarine** of the Indian Navy, built at the Admiralty Shipyard and Sevmash in the Soviet Union.
- It is among the oldest operational submarines in the Navy.
- It has been virtually rebuilt with modern sensors weapons and systems which make it "a hole in the water" for the Navy.

Japanese Encephalitis

- Japanese Encephalitis has been recently reported in Assam.
- It is a **mosquito-borne viral infection**.
- It is a **flavivirus** family related to dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses.
- It is the leading cause of viral encephalitis in Asia.



- It will not spread from one person to another.
- There is **no cure** for the disease. Treatment is focused on relieving severe clinical signs and supporting the patient to overcome the infection.
- Most JEV infections have mild (fever and headache) or without apparent symptoms.
- Approximately 1 in 250 infections results in severe clinical illness. The incubation period is between 4-14 days.
- Safe and effective vaccines are available to prevent JE.
- **'SA 14-14-2' vaccine** become the most widely used vaccine in endemic countries, and it was prequalified by WHO.
- Since the recent outbreak in Assam, all 27 districts of Assam were covered under the JE vaccination campaign for those aged between 1 to 15 years.
- Migratory birds along with pigs in the community play an important role in the transmission of JE from one area to another.

Source: Indian Express, PIB

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