Prelim Bits 05-09-2019

IMD Colour-Codes

- The 'India Meteorological Department' (**IMD**) issued a **'Red' alert** for Mumbai due to continuous downpour across the city.
- IMD uses **4** colour codes to indicate various categories of alerts, from Green to Red.
- **Green (All is well)**

1. No action needs to be taken by the authorities.
2. The forecast is of light to moderate rain.

- **Yellow (Be Aware)**

1. Authorities are advised to "Be updated" on the situation.
2. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse.

- **Orange/Amber (Be prepared)**

1. Authorities are expected to "Be prepared".
2. The forecast is of heavy to very heavy rainfall.
3. It is also a sign for people to prepare for evacuation.

- **Red (Take Action)**

1. Authorities to "Take action".
2. The forecast is for extremely heavy rainfall.
3. Extremely bad weather conditions, certainly going to disrupt travel and power and has significant risk to life.

- These alerts are universal in nature and are also issued during floods.
- **Rainfall levels** (according to **IMD**),

1. Moderate - 15.6 mm to 64.4 mm rain in 24 hours
2. Heavy - 64.5 mm to 115.5 mm in 24 hours
3. Very heavy - 115.6 mm to 204.4 mm in 24 hours
4. Extremely heavy - more than 204.5 mm in 24 hours.

Dadabhai Naoroji birth anniversary

- September 4, 2019 was the 194th birth anniversary of 'Dadabhai Naoroji'.
- "Grand Old Man of India", was among the first leaders who stirred national

consciousness in the country.
- He was closely involved with the Indian National Congress in its early phase.
- His first agitation, in 1859, concerned recruitment to the 'Indian Civil Service' (today's IAS).
- In 1865 and 1866, Naoroji helped in founding the 'London Indian Society' and the 'East India Association' respectively.
    - The two organisations sought to bring nationalist Indians and sympathetic Britons on one platform.
- In 1885, Naoroji became a vice-president of the Bombay Presidency Association.
- He was nominated to the Bombay legislative council and helped form the Indian National Congress (**INC**).
    - He was Congress president thrice, in 1886, 1893, and 1906.
- He was the first Asian to become a 'British MP' when he was elected to the House of Commons in 1892.
- In the British Parliament, Naoroji worked to bring Indian issues to the fore.
- A moderate himself, Naoroji acted as a liaison between nationalist Indians and British parliamentarians.
- In 1893, he helped form an Indian parliamentary committee to attend to Indian interests.
- Naoroji was a vocal critic of the colonial economic policy in India.
- He was the key proponents of **"Drain Theory"**, disseminating it in his book "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India".
- He argued that imperial Britain was draining away India's wealth to itself through exploitative economic policies.
- He set up the 'Gyan Prasarak Mandali' (Society for Promotion of Knowledge) for the education of Indians.
- He acted as a mentor to Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

Climate change and Bananas

- A new study has found that climate change has benefited Bananas over the last several decades.
- It also predicted that the trend will reserve, with climate change eventually causing a negative impact.
- Bananas are recognised as the most important crop, providing food, nutrition and income for millions across the globe.
- It thrive in warmer climates and India is the world's largest producer and consumer of the fruit crop.

- The study found that 27 countries, accounting for 86% of the world's dessert banana production.

1. These countries have, on an average seen increased crop yield since 1961 by 1.37 tonnes/hectare every year.
2. It was due to the changing climate resulting in more favourable growing conditions.

- In India, data from the National Horticulture Board show broadly consistent yields in 6 years.



- The study says the gains in these 27 countries could be significantly reduced by 2050 to 1.19-0.59 tonnes/hectare.
- The study predicts that 10 countries, including India could see a significant decline in crop yields.
- On the other hand, that some countries including Ecuador (the largest exporter), Honduras and a number of African countries may see an overall benefit in crop yields.

James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

- NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has been fully assembled.
- It is the successor to the 'Hubble observatory' and is scheduled to launch into space in March 2021.
- The JWST won't just replace Hubble, it will massively expand our ability to observe distant objects.
- Once put in space, the telescope will explore the cosmos, planets and moons within our solar system.
- It will also explore the most ancient and distant galaxies using infrared light.
- It is funded by NASA in conjunction with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).
- It will also have the power to analyse the atmospheres of many the new planets, for the potential for life.



- After launch, it will head near the Earth-Sun '**L2'** Lagrange point almost a million miles away (1.5 million kilometers).

Source: PIB, The Indian Express



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