UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 18-09-2024

Periyar

Periyar's 146th birth anniversary celebrated recently in chennai.

- Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy, also known as "Periyar," is an Indian social activist and politician born on September 17, 1879.
- **His parents -** Venkatappa Nayakar and Chinnathayee.
- He started the ***Self-Respect Movement*** and ***Dravidar Kazhagam.***
- He is known as the '***Father of the Dravidian movement***' as well as Paguthariyu Pagalavan.
- **INC -** E.V. Ramasamy joined the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1919, but resigned in 1925 when he felt that the party was only serving the interests of Brahmins.
- He was arrested during the ***non-cooperation movement*** in 1920.
- In 1921, he courted imprisonment for picketing toddy shops in Erode.
- In 1921, during the anti-liquor campaign he cut down 100 trees in his own farm.
- He opposed and questioned the discriminated against non-Brahmins by Brahmins in cultural and religious matters.
- **Vaikom Satyagraha -** He led the famous Vaikom Sathya Graha in 1924, where the people of down trodden community were prohibited to enter into the temple.
- Finally the Travancore government relaxed such segregation and allowed the people to enter into the temple. Hence periyar was given the title of 'Vaikom Hero'.
- From 1929 to 1932 Ramasamy made a tour of British Malaya, Europe, and Soviet Union which influenced him.



- In 1939, E.V. Ramasamy became the head of the Justice Party and in 1944, he changed its name to Dravidar Kazhagam.
- E.V. Ramasamy promoted the principles of rationalism, self-respect, women's rights and eradication of caste.

Tamil Nadu celebrates Periyar's birth anniversary as 'Social Justice Day' since 2021 whereas the World Day of Social Justice is 20th Feb.

- **Newspapers & Journals**
  - Kudi Arasu, Tamil weekly magazine
  - Puratchi,
  - Paguthariv u,
  - Viduthalai,
  - Revolt, English magazine.

Reference

The Indian Express | Periyar's 146th birth anniversary

Cellulitis Disease

There has been an upsurge in number of cellulitis cases in Karimnagar, Telangana.

- **Cellulitis-** It is a common, potentially serious ***bacterial skin infection.***
- It is caused by ***Streptococcus and Staphylococcus bacteria***, which live on the skin's surface.

- In some cases, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) can cause cellulitis.
- **Infection -** It typically affects the skin's deeper layers, including the dermis and subcutaneous tissue.
- Cellulitis can occur anywhere on the body, but it most often affects the lower legs.
- The affected skin is swollen and inflamed and is typically painful and warm to the touch.
- **Symptoms-** Redness, swelling, warmth, Pain, Fever and blisters.
- Left untreated, the infection can spread to the lymph nodes and bloodstream and rapidly become life-threatening. It isn't usually spread from person to person.
- **Affected Population-** Common among those working in agriculture, construction, and people prone to cuts, bruises, and other injuries.
- People who are overweight, have a weakened immune system, or have other skin diseases are at higher risk for developing cellulitis.
- **Diagnosis-** Doctors usually diagnose cellulitis through a physical examination of the affected area.
- In severe cases, ***blood tests*** may be conducted to check for a more widespread infection.
- **Treatment-** The primary treatment is a course of ***antibiotics.***
- The disease can be treated successfully with antibiotics, and most people recover fully within 24 hours.

References

1. Deccan chronicle | Spread of Cellulitis Disease
2. Hopkins medicine | Cellulitis

Karma Festival or Karma Naach

Festival Karma starts with great pomp in Jharkhand recently.

- The Karma Dance, also known as Karma Naach, is a traditional tribal performance that is conducted to commemorate the harvest festival and to honor the revered Karam tree.
- **Region**- Eastern India, especially in Chota Nagpur plateau, covering states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal celebrated this tribal festival.
- **Central deity** –Karam tree, regarded as a symbol of Karam Devta or Karamsani, the deity representing strength, vigor, and vitality.
- **Dance -** Both males and females actively gather to form a circle, intertwining their arms around each other’s waists & dances in a circle around a sacred tree, honored as Karma.
- **Instrument** - Thumki, Chhalla, Payri, and Jhumki instruments.
- **Celebrated by -** Munda, Ho, Oraon, Baiga, Kharia, and Santhal tribes.
- **Celebrated on -** The Ekadashi tithi (the eleventh day) of the lunar fortnight in the month of Bhado/Bhadra, which corresponds to August-September in the Gregorian

calendar.

- **Nature of Celebration** - A week prior to the festival, young women gather clear sand from the river to sow 7 varieties of grains.
- On the festival day, a branch from the Karam tree is planted in a courtyard or 'akhra'.
- In addition they also planted the stems of Chirchitti (chaff flower) and Sindwar (chaste tree) in their rice fields, which, according to Tirkey, served as natural pest deterrents.
- Devotees present jawa (hibiscus) flowers, and the pahan (priest) performs rituals for Karam Raja.
- **Traditional belief** –Once the procession concludes, the karma branch must not touch the ground and should remain elevated between the dancers for the continuation of the performance.
- The festival concludes with the immersion of the Karam branch in a river or pond, where devotees share the jawa among themselves.
- Towards the conclusion of Karam, branches from sal or bhelua trees are often placed in fields, symbolizing the hope that Karam Raja/Devta will safeguard their crops.

Reference

The Indian Express | Karam Festival

Syntretus perlmani

New Parasitoid Wasp Species, Syntretus perlmani recently discovered by Researchers in Mississippi in Eastern US.

- It is a new species of wasp that lays eggs inside living, adult fruit flies, which then burst from the hosts' abdomens while they're still alive.
    - Female S. perlmani use their needle-like ovipositor organ, the stinger in stinging wasps to stab and deposit an egg within a fruit fly's abdomen.
    - The egg then hatches into a tiny wasp larva, which grows inside the fly for ***about 18 days*** before leaving its host for dead.
- It is the ***1st wasp found to infect adult fruit flies*** similar wasp species are known to target flies during their younger, more vulnerable larva and pupa life stages.
- The wasps are ***parasitoids rather than parasites*** because they always kill their hosts, while parasites usually don't.
- Syntretus perlmani infects the adult stage of fruit flies in the genus Drosophila, including one of the most deeply studied model organisms in biology, ***Drosophila melanogaster.***
- **Appearance -** It is distinct from other species in the genus Syntretus by virtue of its small size (body length about 1.5 mm).
- **Distribution -** It can be easily collected from backyard fly baits and has a broad geographic distribution throughout the Eastern U.S.



Reference

Live Science | Syntretus perlmani

Lenacapavir, Potential Preventive HIV Drug

Patent applications for a drug called lenacapavir have shown to be capable of virtually eliminating new HIV infections through sex opposed in India.

- **Lenacapavir Drug –** It functions as a fusion capsid inhibitor.
- It disrupts the HIV capsid, which is the protein structure that safeguards the genetic material and enzymes essential for the virus's replication.
- This medication is delivered via subcutaneous injection, with a dosing schedule of once every 6 months.
- **Protentional of the Drug-** The drug Lenacapavir has gained significant attention for its potential in preventing HIV.
- It is administered through biannual injections as numerous clinical trials have shown it to be more effective than traditional oral preventive treatments, known as pre-exposure (PrEP).
- **PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis-** It involves the administration of antiretroviral medications to reduce the risk of HIV infection in individuals who are considered to be at high risk.
- The primary medication utilized in PrEP is Truvada, which consists of a combination of two antiretroviral agents - Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF) and Emtricitabine.
- There are multiple forms of PrEP, including daily oral pills and a long-acting injectable form.
- **UNAIDS Opinion**- Lenacapavir could play a pivotal role in the global effort to eradicate AIDS, provided that it is accessible to all.

HIV/AIDS

- HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the immune system, and AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is the most advanced stage of HIV infection.
- HIV/AIDS is particularly targeting CD4 cells (T cells) that are essential for combating infections.
- It can spread through sexual contact, illicit injection drug use or sharing needles, contact with infected blood, or from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding.
- There is ***no vaccine*** to prevent HIV infection and no cure for HIV/AIDS.

UNAIDS
• It serves as a paradigm for reform within the United Nations and stands as the sole cosponsored Joint Programme in the UN framework. • It leverages the knowledge and skills of 11 Cosponsors from the United Nations system and uniquely includes civil society representation on its governing board. • UNAIDS is at the forefront of the international initiative to eliminate AIDS as a public health concern by the year 2030, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Reference

The Hindu | Patent for HIV prevention drug opposed in India

