

19 MAY 2019

MRSAM

Why in news?

- Recently Indian Navy successfully test fired MRSAM missile.

About Barak-8 Missile:

- It is an Indian-Israeli surface to air missile.
- It is also known as LRSAM (Long Range Surface to Air Missile) or MRSAM (Medium Range Surface to Air Missile)
- It is a two stage missile.
- It has maximum speed of Mach 2 with maximum operational range of 70 km (which has been increased to 100 km)
- Both maritime and land-based versions of the system exist.
- It is a long-range surface-to air missile system (LRSAM) jointly developed by DRDO, Israeli Aerospace Industries and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.



ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS OF A DIGITAL PLANET

In news:

- According to the French think-tank Shift Project, the share of greenhouse gas emissions from information and communication technologies will rise from 2.5% in 2013 to 4% in 2020.
- Sending 1 MB e-mail takes around 25 watts per hour, representing 20 gm of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Greenpeace warned about the concentration of data centres, in particular those used by Amazon. The server farms crunching mammoth amounts of data worldwide require huge amounts of electricity both to run and to power air-conditioning.

About Greenpeace:

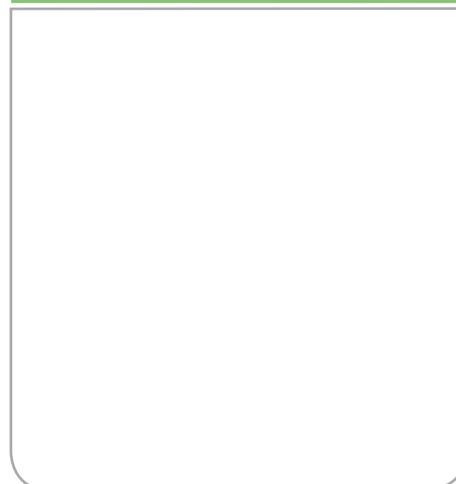
- Greenpeace was founded in 1971 is a non-governmental environmental organization
- It's international coordinating body is in Amsterdam
- Its goal is to "ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity" and focuses its campaigning on worldwide issues such as climate change, deforestation, overfishing, commercial whaling, genetic engineering, and anti-nuclear issues.
- It does not accept funding from governments, corporations, or political parties, relying on three million individual supporters and foundation grants.

HORNBILLS AMONG TOP SEED DISPERSERS

In news:

- The study carried out in Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh noted that hornbills, one among the large-sized frugivores, are the top seed dispersers.

NOTE



- The large-seeded trees mainly depended on hornbills and imperial pigeons for their dispersal.
- They swallow the fruit as a whole causing no damage to the seed. They are known to disperse seeds far away from the parent plant up to 13 km.

About Hornbill:

- Hornbills are secondary cavity nesters and choose cavities formed in large trees for nesting.
- Their most sightings has reported most sightings from Karnataka followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- There are nine hornbill species in India with a total population of 938.
- Number of hornbill species recorded namely great hornbill, rufous-necked hornbill, wreathed hornbill, brown hornbill, Malabar pied hornbill, Oriental pied hornbill, Narcondam hornbill, Indian grey hornbill, Malabar grey hornbill.
- IUCN status: Great Indian Hornbill – Vulnerable
- Indian grey hornbill - LeastConcern
- Threats:They are hunted for meat, and the tribal communities use their feathers for head dresses.



UN SASAKAWA AWARD 2019 - DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In news

- In a matter of huge honour for India, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) on Thursday conferred the prestigious Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction to Pramod Kumar Mishra, additional principal secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sasakawa Award 2019

- The Sasakawa Award is believed to be the most prestigious international award in disaster risk management and it began over 30 years ago. It is jointly organised by the UNDRR and the Nippon Foundation, with a total grant of \$50,000 distributed among the winners.
- The winners could be either organisations or individuals.
- This year’s award theme was “Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies” and the UNDRR got more than 61 nominations from 31 countries.



PROJECT SPARROW-CBIC

In news

- Government of India has now launched Project Sparrow for online writing of Annual Performance Appraisal Reports (APARs) for over 46,000 Group B & C officers of CBIC.

In brief

- Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) is implemented by Directorate General of Human Resource Management (DGHRM), the HR arm of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)

NOTE



- It is a project for online writing of Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) for Officers of CBIC.
- This Project leverages modern technology for enhancing the overall efficiency and morale of the huge workforce working in Central GST and Customs formations of CBIC. The Project is an important milestone in the journey towards digitisation and paper less working.



NOTE

