

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

29th November 2024



National mission on Natural Farming

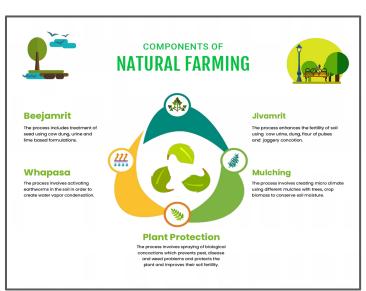


29th November 2024

CONTEXT: The NMNF mission aims to bring an additional 7.5 lakh hectares of area under natural farming.

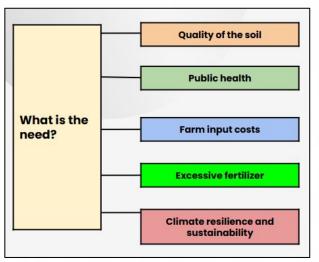
Concept

 "Natural Farming is a chemical-free traditional farming method. It is considered as an agroecology based diversified farming system which integrates crops, trees and livestock with functional biodiversity"-Niti Ayog



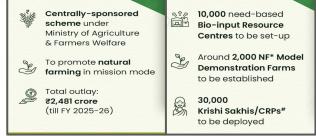




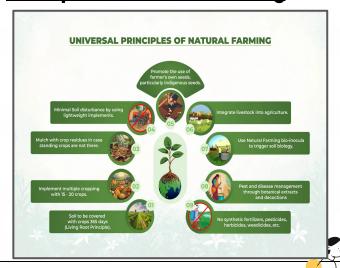


What are the highlights of the mission?

- Natural farming among one-crore farmers
- Cluster based approach
- Bio Input Resource Centres
- Model Demonstrations Farms
- Certification and Market Access



Principles of Natural Farming



National mission on Natural Farming



29th November 2024

CONTEXT: The NMNF mission aims to bring an additional 7.5 lakh hectares of area under natural farming.

<u>Is Natural farming same as the Organic farming?</u>

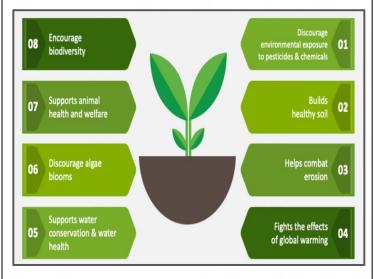
Table 1: Difference between Organic and Natural Farming	
Organic Farming	Natural Farming
Organic fertilizers and manures like compost, vermin-compost and cow dung manure are used and added to farmlands from external sources.	organic fertilizers are added to the soil. In
Organic farming is still expensive due to the requirement of bulk manures, and it has an ecological impact.	It is an extremely low-cost farming method, completely moulding with local on biodiversity surrounding environments.
In organic farming the manures and composts are to be incorporated into the soil for their proper decomposition and this requires more effort and cost.	In natural farming, decomposition of organic matter by microbes and earthworms is encouraged right on the soil surface itself, which gradually adds nutrition in the soil, over the years.
Organic farming has a slight adverse effect on the surrounding environment as it involves intervening with the natural processes.	Natural farming practice does not have any effect on the surrounding environment and it confirms with local processes of biodiversity.
Guidelines & regulations to be followed for certification purpose.	Less regulated.

Benefits

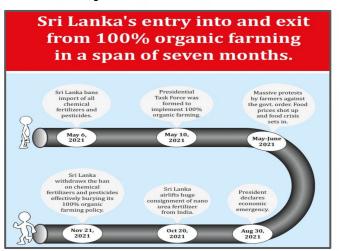
- Environment Sustainability
- Climate Change Resilience
- Healthier Food
- Economic Benefits

Challenges

- Local Systems
- Labour Intensive
- Initial Low yields
- Market Demand



<u>Case study:</u> Curious Case of Sri Lanka



Government Schemes:

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
- Soil Health Card Scheme
- National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
- National Organic Farming Research Institute (NOFRI)
- States Practicing



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION:

What are the present challenges before crop diversification? How do Natural Farming provide an opportunity for sustainable and climate resilient agriculture?

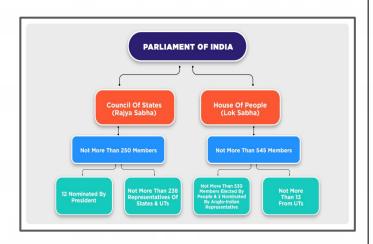
Parliamentary Productivity



29th November 2024

CONTEXT: Representatives of political parties are utilising Parliament more to showcase political spectacle than to use it as a forum for serious legislative functioning.

Structure of the Parliament of India



Reasons behind the increasing disruptions:

- The limited efficacy of the rules and disciplinary powers of speakers.
- More heterogeneous composition
- Coalition government
- Live parliamentary proceedings
- Acceptance that disruptions were part of India's political culture

Role and the significance of the Parliament

- Debating Function (Art. 107-108)
- Legislative functions (Art. 245-255)
- Enforcing accountability of Executive (Art. 75 (3))
- Financial functions (Art. 112)
- International Standing: Art. 246 and 253
- Representative



Trends of parliamentary interventions filed in the Lok Sabha and Raiva Sabha The Lok Sabha has seen a decrease in the filing of Calling Attention motions, while the Rajya Sabha has seen a decreased filing of all parliamentary interventions RAJYA SABHA 400 Half-an-hour discussion Short notice questions 300 Calling attentions 200 100 15th Lok Sabha 16th Lok Sabha 17th Lok Sabha PARLIAMENTARY INTERVENTIONS 200 Half-an-hour discussion **LOK SABHA** Short notice questions 150 **Calling attentions** 100 50 16th Lok Sabha 17th Lok Sabha 15th Lok Sabha PARLIAMENTARY INTERVENTIONS SOURCE: LOK SABHA AND RAJYA SABHA STATISTICAL STATEMENTS

Parliamentary Productivity

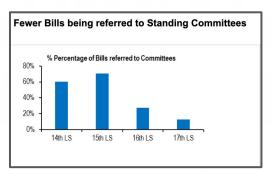


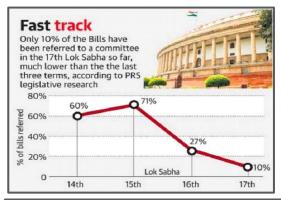
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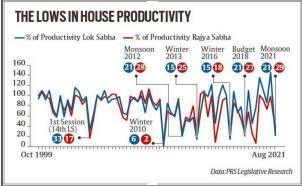
CONTEXT: Representatives of political parties are utilising Parliament more to showcase political spectacle than to use it as a forum for serious legislative functioning.

ISSUES

- Frequent Adjournment of Parliament sessions
- Lack of Parliamentary Debate
- Reduced working hours/days of **Parliament**
- Resort to money bill route
- Party supporting wrong doing of members

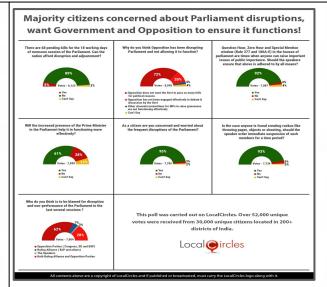






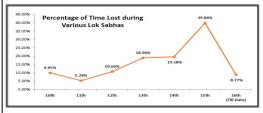
Consequences

- Financial Loss
- Resort to Ordinances
- Erosion of credibility
- Discussions withheld
- Accountability of government is not duly enforced.



Improving the Parliamentary functioning

- Give MPs more teeth in questioning the government
- Former CJI: legal community and lawyers
- Mandatory to refer bills to the parliamentary committees
- Appropriate action against unruly members
- Review of Anti-Defection law
- Legislative Impact Assessment
- Shadow cabinet



Best Practice: UK Model

- 20 out of 100 days
- The main opposition party gets 17 days
- Decisions Not binding on the government
- Constitutional convention to respond
- Canada

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Role of Parliament is to deliberate and discuss but in recent times increasing disruption has become a roadblock in parliamentary functioning. Comment.



Wikipedia and ANI's suit



29th November 2024

SYLLABUS: GS Paper 2 Media; Social Media Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 12

single-judge Bench subsequently directed Wikimedia on August 20 to disclose the administrators' details.

What is Wikipedia?

Wikipedia is a community-driven encyclopaedia freely available on the **Internet.** Volunteers from around the world work together to populate and maintain it.

While not all pages on Wikipedia are of equal quality, it has acquired a reputation of being reliable because its editors include field experts and the platform allows anyone to communicate their knowledge freely as long as they abide by the guidelines.

have collectively tarnished the reputation of the plaintiff by publishing false, misleading and defamatory content on the ANI page, and discredit the plaintiffs impeccable professional standing."

When editors associated with ANI attempted to edit the allegedly defamatory statements, other (independent) editors reversed or modified them. ANI has contended that Wikimedia, through the 'administrators', has "actively participated in removing any edits that sought to reverse the false and misleading content framed against the

Wikipedia later changed the page's status to 'extended confirmed protection', which prevented ANI-associated editors from further changing those statements. ANI has alleged that this implies Wikimedia violated the obligations of an intermediary under the safe-harbour

How is Wikipedia populated?

Following the single-judge Bench's direction to reveal the identities of the three 'administrators', Wikimedia, which hosts Wikipedia, filed an appeal before the Division Bench. Through a consent order, the court directed Wikimedia to submit the subscriber information of these individuals in sealed covers.

According to the suit filed by ANI, some of the statements on its Wikipedia page are defamatory. For example: "The news

Second, pages on controversial topics are often extensively edited for propriety. Any member of the Wikipedia community can ask for a page's status to be protected, and the editors may subsequently place the page in a state of 'extended confirmed protection' or 'full protection'. Once a page is placed in 'extended confirmed protection', only editors whose accounts have the 'Extended Confirmed Users' badge can edit it. For pages under full protection, only 'administrators' can make change

Wikimedia plays no role in the selection of 'Extended Confirmed Users' or 'administrators'. Any editor who has a sufficiently long-standing account and a minimum number of edits to their name can apply to become an administrator, and community members elect them.

Finally, Wikimedia is not involved in these elections.

What effect will loss of safe-harbour status have?

In sum, Wikipedia has acquired its reputation for reliability through its democratic architecture, its support for editors to anonymously edit articles without fear of retaliation or consequences, and by enforcing a policy of desisting from generating first-hand knowledge.

Any intervention from the judiciary or legislature to force the disclosure of editor information – including those designated with administrator status - is bound to hamper the platform's reputation. Future editors may not be able to operate in confidence: they could be moved by the threat of reprisals from affected particles and/or uncertainty over how Indian courts might interpret the particulars of Wikipedia's setup.

Safe Harbour Provisions (IT ACt, 2000)

Legal Framework:

- Governed under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- Protects intermediaries like social media platforms, search engines, and online marketplaces from being held liable for third-party content.

Conditions for Protection:

- Intermediaries must not initiate or modify content.
- They must act to remove unlawful content upon receiving legal notice.
- Compliance with IT rules (e.g., IT Rules, 2021) is mandatory.

Significance:

- Ensures free operation of internet services.
- Balances innovation with accountability.

Challenges:

- Ambiguity in defining intermediary responsibilities.
- Conflicts between freedom of expression and regulatory compliance.

provisions of the Information Technology Act 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

Will Wikimedia lose safe-harbour

protection?Wikimedia Foundation Inc., a non-profit organisation based in the U.S. that's been impleaded as the first defendant, does not play a role in determining the contents on Wikipedia. Its role is limited to providing the technical infrastructure to run the platform and ensure editors don't face technical hurdles as they create new pages, all while abiding by guidelines developed by the community.

These guidelines specifically remind editors Wikipedia is an encyclopaedia and that therefore all statements on any page need to be backed by reliable, verifiable sources. Most of the allegedly defamatory statements on ANI's Wikipedia page also have references to reliable sources. Original research is not allowed on

Supreme Court Collegium



29th November 2024

SYLLABUS: GS 2: Judiciary

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 8

THE SUPREME Court Collegium Thursday recommended the elevation of Delhi High Court Chief Justice Manmohan as a judge of the apex court.

The Supreme Court, which has a sanctioned strength of 34, is currently working with 32 The five-judge Collegium is headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna

Constitutional Provisions for Judicial appointments Article 124

Supreme Court judges should be appointed by the President after consultation with such judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court as the President may deem necessary. The CJI is to be consulted in all appointments except his or her own.

Article 217

High Court judges should be appointed by the President after consultation with the CJI and the Governor of the state. The Chief Justice of the High Court concerned too should be consulted.



What is the collegium system in the Indian judiciary?

- The Collegium system: appointment and transfer of judges in the Supreme Court and High Court.
- It is not rooted in the Constitution.
- CJI, along with four senior-most Supreme Court judges, recommends the appointment and transfer of judges.
- The government can also raise objections but if the Collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound by it.

A JURY OF JUDGES

WHAT IS THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM?

- A forum which decides on appointments, transfers (A/Ts) of judges.
- Comprised of Chief Justice of India, 4 Supreme Court Judges | Executive on A/Ts
- Born from 'Three Judges Cases' which gave primacy to CJI's call on A/Ts
 - Judiciary gets greater say than
- Administrative burden of checking professional background data
- Closed-door affair, lacks transparency
- Exclusivity sidelines talented junior judges, advocates

President merely approves CJI's choice SOME OF THE CHANGES SOUGHT:

- CJI cannot make unllateral choice
- · Consulted judges' views need to be in writing
- Non-compliance must make CJI choice non-binding
- Transfer of Judges reviewable only in case of non-compliance

LAWMAKERS AND THE CONTENTIOUS LAW

THE TWO SYSTEMS AT LOGGERHEADS

Here's a look at the Collegium and the NJAC systems and a comparison between the two in relation to the powers vested with them and their functioning

Original provision

Under Article 124(2) and Article 217(1) of the Constitution, SC/HC judges have to be appointed by the President after "consultation" with the CJI. Govt was not bound by the CJI's recommendation.

Judicial takeover

In 1993, SC introduced the collegium system taking over primacy in appointments of SC&HC judges.

CJI's primacy

In 1998, a nine-judge Constitution bench ruled that "consultation" must be effective and the CII's opin-ion shall have primacy

Composition

Under the collegium system, a panel of top five SC judges appointed judges in secrecy

Veto power

Government could return collegium's recommendation. But if a recommen-dation was sent again, government was bound by it.

Constitutional amendment

NJAC was established by the Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014, giving some say to executive in judges' appointment

NJAC Act

Parliament also passed the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 to regulate pro-cedure to be followed by NJAC that replaced colle-gium system

The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and NJAC came into force from April 13, 2015. But it could not take off as the CJI refused to join until peti-tions against the new system were decided

Composition

CJI, 2 seniormost SC judges, Union law minister, and two eminent persons

Veto power

NJAC not to recommend person any two members did not agree



Trump's Tariffs



29th November 2024

SYLLABUS: GS 2, 3 Paper: IR, Economy

Newspaper:Indian Express Page Number: 17

flicts. Trade experts highlight Trump's disregard for multilateral organisations like the WTO. pointing to deeper confrontations ahead. The WTO was originally formed to foster cooperation among nations, with economic theories suggesting that countries integrated through trade are less likely to engage in military conflict due to mutual economic reliance.

India in a Relatively **Better Position**

As Trump's primary target appears to be China which has a much higher trade surplus than the US, India is relatively insulated from Trump's tariff war, primarily because India is less export-oriented than many other Asian economies, as per Fitch Ratings. However, if the global growth shrinks, it would also impact India's goods and services exports, especially to the US, its largest trade partner.

impact emerging markets, including India.

Notably, the US remains India's largest trade partner, with bilateral trade surpassing \$120 billion in FY24, slightly outpacing India's trade with China. Unlike China, India's trade balance with the US is favourable, making the relationship a vital source of foreign exchange. Over the past decade, India's reliance on the US market has grown, with the US now accounting for 18 per cent of India's exports, up from 10 per cent in 2010-11. India's export portfolio to the US is diverse, spanning textiles, electronics, and engineering goods.

threatening steep tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on the United States' top three trade partners— Mexico, Canada, and China-on his first day in office.

Whil<mark>e Mexico and China have</mark> hinted at potential retaliation, Canada has already begun negotiating. However, as the world's largest economy, once a champion of free trade, turns protectionist, the risk of a global economic slowdown is increasing. Fears of trade conflict are mounting, particularly as the World Trade Organization (WTO) remains paralysed due to the breakdown of its dispute resolution mechanism.

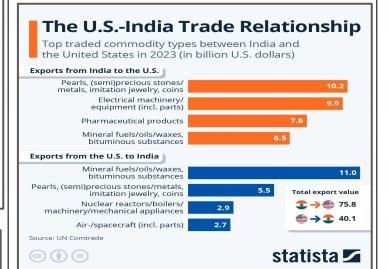
A report by S&P Global, released on Tuesday, indicated that China's growth could slow to 4 per cent by 2025 due to US tariffs weakening exports and investment. Conversely, India is expected to maintain a robust expansion rate of nearly 7 per cent, taking the "global growth baton."

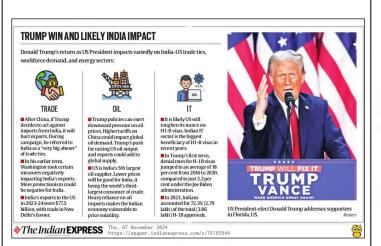
The policies aimed at further stimulating an already robust economy could result in higher inflation, elevated interest rates, and a stronger dollar.

These effects may tighten financial conditions in the US and

Similarly, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum warned of potential retaliation should Trump proceed with a 25 per cent across-the-board tariff. Sheinbaum noted the move could result in the loss of 400,000 US jobs and increased costs for American consumers. particularly in sectors like automotive manufacturing, which is central to Mexico's economy and heavily reliant on exports to the US.

Prelims Booster:





Bolstering ties | The Indo-U.S. Trade Policy Forum decides to take economic ties to the 'next high level'



MARKET ACCESS India seeks easier

market access for its mangoes, grapes and pome-

granates; U.S. seeks quid pro quo for cherries, pork products and alfalfa hay



ACTION PLAN

Working groups on agriculture, non-agriculture goods, services

will meet frequently



HOPE FOR IT WORKERS India, U.S. to restart talks on agreement to

help professionals in both countries move statutory social security contributions back home



POST-COVID PLAN

Both sides to work with allies to secure pharmaceutical manufacturing base

K-4 Ballistic missiles



29th November 2024

SYLLABUS: GS 3 Paper: Defence

Newspaper: Indian Express **Page Number:** 10

INDIA HAS tested a nuclear-capable ballistic missile with a range of around 3,500 km from a nuclear-powered submarine in the Bay of Bengal, in a major boost to its nuclear deterrence and strategic capabilities, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

With the test, India became part of a small group of nations having the capability to fire a nuclear missile from land, air and undersea. The K4 missile was tested from submarine INS Arighaat off the coast of Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, they said. It was the first test of the submarinelaunched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a submarine, the people said.

It has the distinction of having the indigenous systems and equipment that were conceptualised, designed, manufactured and integrated by the Indian scientists, industry and naval personnel.

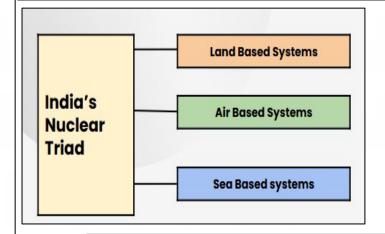
The K-4 is a nuclear-capable intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) developed by India. It is part of the K-series of submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), designed to provide a credible second-strike capability as part of India's nuclear triad. Here are key details about the K-4:

Specifications

- 1. Range: Approximately 3,500 km.
- 2. Payload: Capable of carrying a nuclear warhead weighing up to 2,000 kg.
- 3. Guidance: Features an advanced inertial navigation system (INS) for accurate targeting.
- 4. Platform: Designed to be launched from India's indigenous Arihant-class nuclear-powered
- 5. Fuel Type: Powered by a solid-fuel rocket motor, enhancing its reliability and reducing preparation time.

Strategic Importance

The K-4 enhances India's strategic deterrence by ensuring a secure and credible second-strike capability. It complements shorter-range SLBMs like the K-15 (Sagarika) and represents a significant step toward the deployment of longer-range systems, such as the upcoming K-5 and K-6 missiles, which aim to extend India's reach even further.



INDIA'S NUCLEAR TRIAD

A Land Vector
Prithvi-II (350-km), Agni-1
(700-km), Agni-2 (2,000-km),
Agni-3 (3,000-km) & Agni-5
(over 5,000-km) missiles inducted by the Strategic Forces Command

B Air Vector Sukhoi-30MKI,

Mirage-2000, Jaguar & Rafale fighters can deliver nuclear gravity bombs

Sea Vector
Only 1 nuclear-powered
ballistic missile submarine
(SSBN), the 6,000-tonne INS Arihant, fully operational. Armed with 750-km range K-15 nuclear missiles

- > 6,000-tonne INS Arighat undergoing final trials. Will be commissioned this year

 > Will be followed by two 7,000-tonne SSBNs (called S-4 & S-4*) being built at Vizag. Over 13,000-tonne S-5 class
- SSBNs to be built later
 > K-4 missiles (3,500-km range) have completed development trials
- Development of K-5 (5,000-km) and K-6 (6,000-km) SLBMs in progress

- All Indian nuclear-capable missiles inducted so far have single warheads
- > MIRV payload means a single missile capable of carrying at least two to three nuclear warheads, with each programmed to hit different targets in different directions
- ➤ The targets can be a few hundred km apart
- MIRV missiles can overcome enemy defence systems & ensure effective retaliation to a first strike
- > US, UK & France have submarine launched MIRV missiles
- China has land-based MIRV missiles
- Russia has both sea and land-







Deep depression in Bay of Bengal



29th November 2024

SYLLABUS: GS 1 Paper Geophysical Phenomenon, Cyclones

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: 15

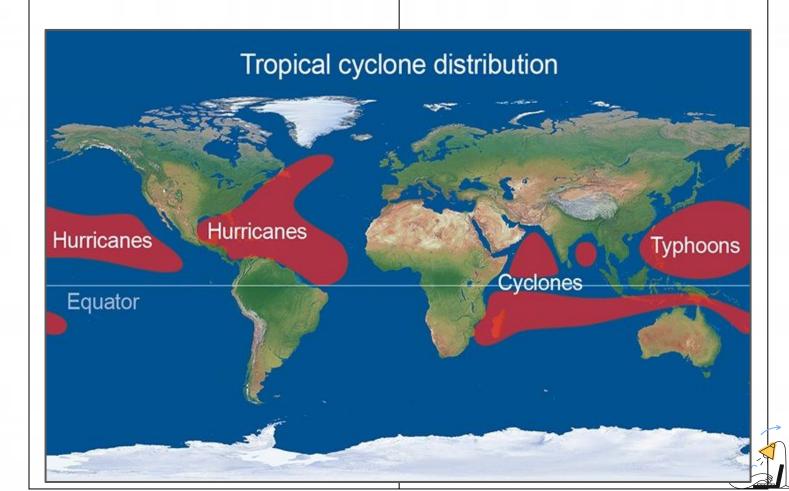
he weather system that had moved slowly since Wednesday will cross the coast between Karaikal and Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu as a depression on Saturday morning.

It is likely to cross the coast of north Tamil Nadu and Puducherry between Karaikal and Mamallapuram on Saturday morning with a wind speed of 45-55 kmph, gusting to 65 kmph.

The system that had

Cyclones are wind systems that rotate inward toward an area of low atmospheric pressure.

- **Categories:** Tropical cyclones and Temperate cyclones
- Cyclones form over warm water bodies due to the energy derived from the condensation of warm water in cumulonimbus clouds.
- Wind rotation is influenced by Coriolis force

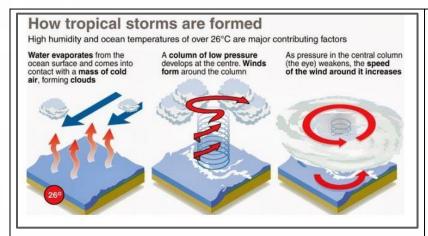


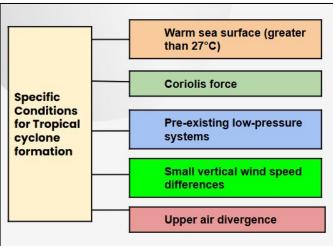
Deep depression in Bay of Bengal



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TEMPERATE CYCLONE

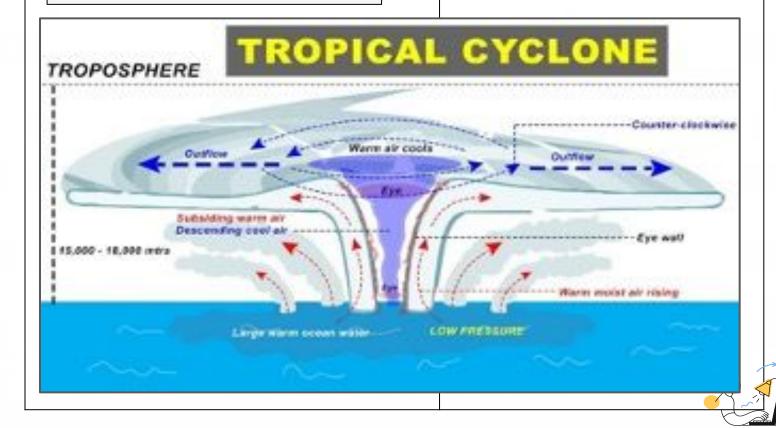
They are formed due to interaction of warm and cold air masses.

Confined to 35-65 degree N-S of the equator. More pronounced in the Northern hemisphere due to greater temperature contrast owing to large expanse of landmass.

Cyclone formation by frontogenesis, on both land and sea

Velocity Typical range: 30-150 kmph.
Less destruction due to winds but more
due to flooding.

Shape: 'inverted V' & usually move from west to east.



Daily Quiz



29th November 2024

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Natural Farming:

- 1. Natural Farming avoids the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- 2. It promotes the use of synthetic hybrid seeds for higher yields.
- 3. Practices like mulching, crop rotation, and mixed cropping are commonly used in Natural Farming.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q2: Consider the following statements regarding the Parliament of India:

- 1. It is responsible for making laws that govern the country.
- 2. It ensures accountability of the executive branch through mechanisms like question hours and budget approvals.
- 3. It plays no role in shaping foreign policy or approving international treaties.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Q3: Consider the following statements:

- Article 124 provides for the appointment, qualifications, and tenure of the judges of the High Courts.
- 2. Article 217 deals with the appointment and conditions of service of the judges of the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d

Q4: Consider the following statements regarding the K-4 missile:

- The K-4 is an Indian submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- 2. The missile is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding tropical cyclones:

- 1. Tropical cyclones form over warm ocean waters in the tropics.
- 2. Tropical cyclones rotate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 3. They primarily occur in regions very close to the Equator.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121 Visit us at: www.vajiramandravi.com