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MCQs

THE HINDU

Blaming climate change for extreme weather has limits

Prelims: General Studies Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 3

Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Why in Focus?

- A recent study by World Weather Attribution (WWA) found that climate change made the South Asian heatwave around three times more likely and up to 1°C warmer.

World Weather Attribution (WWA) is an international scientific collaboration that assesses how climate change affects the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods and droughts.

- However, the article examines the scientific uncertainties involved in attributing individual extreme weather events directly to climate change.

Key Highlights

- Extreme Event Attribution (EEA)** studies how much climate change has influenced an extreme weather event.

Extreme Event Attribution (EEA): A

scientific method used to determine how much human-caused climate change has influenced the likelihood or intensity of a specific extreme weather event.

- Scientists **compare today's climate with a pre-industrial climate to see how human-caused warming** has changed the event.
- Detection checks whether an event is beyond normal natural climate variation, while attribution measures the role of climate change** in making it more likely or severe.
- Scientists **use weather records, climate models and statistical analysis** to study these links.
- It is **easier to link climate change to long-lasting events like heatwaves than to short and highly localised events** like hour-long heavy rainfall.

Implications

- Climate models may not capture local weather** events accurately due to low resolution.
- Limited local weather data makes it difficult to understand** natural climate variability.
- The **definition of an "extreme" event depends on the time period studied**; an event appearing exceptional over 10–20 years may not be unusual over centuries.
- Scientific uncertainties make it difficult to use climate attribution studies to legally hold** countries or companies responsible for emissions.



Way Forward

- **Improve high-resolution climate models** and expand long-term, localised weather observations.
- **Strengthen computing capacity and scientific methodologies** for more reliable attribution studies.
- **Avoid sweeping conclusions and communicate uncertainties** transparently while interpreting attribution results.
- **Focus on climate adaptation, early-warning systems and resilient infrastructure**, as preparedness can reduce loss of life regardless of the precise cause of an extreme event.

Mains Question

“Extreme event attribution can help identify the human influence on climate-related disasters, but significant scientific uncertainties remain. Discuss the methodology, limitations and significance of extreme event attribution in strengthening climate-change adaptation and resilience.” (250 Words)

Why is FSSAI tightening the rules on food claims?

Prelims: General Studies Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 3

Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security

Why in Focus?

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has intensified action against misleading food advertisements and labelling claims, including certain health and nutritional claims made for Bournvita.

Key Highlights

- FSSAI has **issued 150+ notices to food companies for misleading advertisements, false claims** and labelling violations.
- The **action against Bournvita concerns whether its health and nutritional claims**

are properly supported by evidence; it does not mean that the product has been declared unsafe.

- FSSAI is **targeting words** such as “100%”, “pure”, “natural”, “healthy” and “immunity-boosting” when they may create a misleading impression of a product.
- Food **companies are expected to make evidence-based claims rather than using broad marketing statements** that may mislead consumers.
- FSSAI has **expanded its monitoring to e-commerce platforms, restaurants and food-service businesses because consumers increasingly make purchasing decisions** based on online advertisements and product descriptions.

Implications

- **Misleading health claims can influence consumer choices**, particularly in products marketed toward children and families.
- **Stronger regulation can promote consumer protection, transparency** and healthier food choices.
- With rising concerns over obesity and unhealthy diets, **accurate nutritional information** has become increasingly important.
- **One-time removal of misleading claims may not be sufficient**; continuous monitoring and enforcement are needed.

Way Forward

- **Ensure that all health and nutritional claims are scientifically supported** and clearly communicated.
- **Strengthen monitoring of both offline and online food advertisements.**
- **Make food companies responsible for maintaining accurate claims** across packaging, advertisements and e-commerce listings.
- **Improve consumer awareness so that marketing claims are not mistaken** for guarantees of health benefits.

Mains Question

“Misleading food advertisements can adversely

influence consumer choices and public health. Discuss the role of FSSAI in regulating food claims and suggest measures to strengthen consumer protection in India.” (250 Words)

Why is Meta’s \$17.1-billion settlement significant?

Prelims : General Studies Paper I

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 3

Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology, and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

Why in Focus?

- **Meta settled the lawsuit for up to \$17.1 billion** with at least **47 U.S. States** over allegations of harming children and violating their privacy.
- Meta was accused of hiding the harm its platforms caused to children, **violating child privacy laws**, and deliberately using features to **keep teenagers engaged or ‘addicted’ to its platforms**.

Key Highlights

- The lawsuit alleged that Meta collected data from **children under 13 without parental consent** and violated privacy laws.
- Meta was accused of deliberately using **addictive design features**, such as **infinite scrolling**, to keep teenagers engaged for longer.
- Internal documents and former employees reportedly raised concerns about the impact of **Instagram on teenagers’ mental health**, including social comparison and feelings of inadequacy.
- Meta was also accused of failing to adequately protect children from **sexual predators, violent content, and graphic material**.
- Former Meta employees testified that the company had repeatedly **ignored warning signs** about harm to young users.
- Meta **denied the allegations**, arguing that the evidence and internal documents presented

during the trial were **selectively presented and taken out of context**.

- Other technology companies, including **Alphabet and TikTok**, also face lawsuits over **children’s safety and addictive platform design**.
- **Social media addiction is not medically recognised as a formal psychiatric condition**, making its diagnosis and treatment difficult.
- The settlement requires Meta to introduce new **teen safety features**, including a **default two-hour daily limit**, notification controls, and reduced algorithmic influence.

Implications

- The settlement increases **legal and regulatory pressure** on social media companies to protect children online.
- It raises broader questions about whether **platform design and business models** intentionally encourage excessive use.
- The case could strengthen demands for greater **corporate accountability** for the mental health and safety impacts of digital platforms.
- Safety features alone may have a limited impact if platforms continue to depend on **endless engagement and targeted advertising** for revenue.

Way Forward

- Develop stronger **child online safety and data protection regulations** for digital platforms.
- Require greater **transparency and accountability** regarding algorithms and engagement-driven design features.
- Promote **age-appropriate platform design** that prioritises children’s safety over excessive engagement.
- Strengthen **parental awareness, digital literacy, and healthy limits** on social media use.
- Encourage independent research to better understand the relationship between **social media use, platform design, and mental health**.
- Establish clearer standards for identifying and



addressing **harmful or compulsive digital behaviour** among young users.

Mains Question

Q. The growing concerns over children's safety and mental health have raised questions about the accountability of social media platforms and their engagement-driven business models. Discuss the need for an effective regulatory framework to protect children in the digital age. (250 words)

Can an accused be denied a copy of the FIR?

Prelims: General Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance.

Mains: General studies 2

Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity

Why in Focus?

- The Supreme Court directed the Ghaziabad Police to provide journalist Abhishek Upadhyay with the **FIR (First Information Report) and CCTV footage** in a road rage case. The case highlights the importance of **FIR access, fair investigation and natural justice**.

Key Highlights

- Under **BNSS, 2023**, Section 173(2) requires the police to provide the FIR **immediately and free of cost** to the **informant or victim**.
- The law does not specifically require the police to immediately provide the FIR to the **accused**. Under **Section 230**, the accused receives the FIR and other prosecution documents from the Magistrate **after investigation and filing of the chargesheet**.
- However, courts have recognised that an accused should have access to the FIR **during the investigation itself** so that they can protect their legal rights.
- In **Youth Bar Association of India v. Union of India, 2016**, the Supreme Court directed police to **upload FIRs on official websites**

within 24 hours of registration, with limited exceptions.

- FIRs involving **sensitive offences**, such as sexual offences, POCSO cases and terrorism, may be withheld from online publication to protect victims and the investigation.
- The Supreme Court provided safeguards against arbitrary withholding. A person can approach **senior police officers or the Magistrate** to obtain a certified copy.
- In the present case, the Supreme Court **protected Abhishek Upadhyay from arrest** and directed the police to provide the FIR and CCTV footage, enabling him to pursue appropriate legal remedies.

Implications

- Delayed access to FIR** can prevent an accused from knowing the exact allegations and preparing an effective defence, which may affect the **right to a fair trial**.
- Limited access to FIR** can make legal remedies such as **anticipatory bail and quashing of proceedings** difficult to pursue.
- Non compliance by police** with Supreme Court directions creates an **implementation gap** and weakens transparency and police accountability.
- The **sensitive offence exception** is important for protecting privacy and investigation, but its excessive use may reduce transparency.
- FIR access must maintain a **balance between the rights of the accused and the interests of victims, witnesses and investigation**.
- Alleged misuse of criminal proceedings against journalists may create a **chilling effect on freedom of the press** and investigative journalism.

Way Forward

- Ensure **strict and uniform implementation** of Supreme Court directions on FIR registration, access and online publication.
- Strengthen digital FIR systems through the **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)**.



Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) was launched in **2009** by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and is implemented by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**. It digitises crime and criminal records and connects police stations to improve **investigation, information sharing and policing efficiency**.

- Require police to provide **clear and recorded reasons** whenever an FIR is withheld under the sensitive offence exception.
- Strengthen supervisory mechanisms to ensure **police accountability and timely access to FIRs**.
- Maintain a proper balance between **fair trial, victim protection, privacy and effective investigation**.

Mains Question

“Timely access to the FIR is essential for protecting the rights of the accused and ensuring a fair criminal justice process.” Discuss in the context of the BNSS, 2023 and Supreme Court judgments. (15 marks, 250 words)

KEYWORDS

Betelgeuse (Alpha Orionis)

- **Betelgeuse**, also called **Alpha Orionis**, is one of the **brightest stars** in the night sky.
- It is a **red supergiant** with a distinctive **orange-red colour**, representing a late stage in the life of a massive star.
- Although only about **10 million years old**, Betelgeuse is much more **massive than the Sun**.
 - ◆ It burns through its **materials faster** and therefore has a **shorter lifespan** than the Sun.
- It lies around **700 light-years from Earth**, meaning its light takes about **700 years** to reach us.
- It is about **700 times larger**, around **15 times more massive**, and **7,500-14,000 times brighter** than the Sun.
- Despite its enormous size and brightness, its surface temperature of about **3,300°C** is **lower than the Sun's**.

Microclimate

- A **microclimate** is the climate of a **small, specific area** that may differ from the surrounding region.
- They are influenced by factors such as **temperature, humidity, wind, dew, frost, heat balance, and evaporation**.

- **Soil type and vegetation** can significantly affect local microclimatic conditions; for example, **sandy and dry soils** experience greater temperature variations.
- Factors such as **moisture, latitude, elevation and season** also influence a region's microclimate.
- Different microclimates in nearby areas can support a greater variety of **flora and fauna**.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was established in **2001** in **Shanghai, China**, evolving from the earlier Shanghai Five grouping.
- The **founding members of the SCO** were **China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**.
- **India and Pakistan joined the SCO as full members in 2017**, followed by **Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024**.
- The SCO aims to promote **regional peace, security and stability, along with cooperation in areas such as trade, economy, energy, transport, science and technology**.
- The SCO has two permanent bodies: the **SCO Secretariat in Beijing** and the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)**.



in Tashkent, which focuses on countering terrorism, separatism and extremism.

GOBARDhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme

- GOBARDhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) is a **National Circular Bioenergy Scheme** aimed at creating a nationwide waste-to-energy ecosystem.
- The **scheme aims to increase India's domestic Compressed Biogas (CBG) production nearly ten-fold**, while mobilising large-scale private investment and promoting a circular bioeconomy.
- It **will be implemented from FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36**, with the objective of establishing CBG as a major pillar of India's future energy mix.
- The **scheme supports both cluster-based and standalone pipeline infrastructure for connecting CBG plants with trunk pipelines** and City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks.
- The **scheme introduces a stable administered CBG price of ₹2,110 per MMBTU (Metric Million British Thermal Unit)** through a government-backed pricing framework and is administered the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Places in News

Kepang La

- It has been discussed as a potential new **Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) point** along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** for commander-level flag meetings between the Indian Army and the Chinese **People's Liberation Army (PLA)**.
- It is a strategic **mountain pass** on the India-China border in the **Tuting sector of Upper Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It is located near where the **Yarlung Tsangpo River** enters India from Tibet as the **Siang River**, which later becomes the **Brahmaputra**.
- The pass has **socio-religious significance** for local communities on both sides, who traditionally visit a sacred Buddhist **Chorten (shrine)** located there.
- If operationalised, it would become the **sixth BPM point**, adding to Chushul and Daulat Beg Oldie in Ladakh, Nathu La in Sikkim, and Bum La and Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh, strengthening **de-escalation and border confidence-building**.



Species In News

Himalayan Griffon

- Himalayan Griffon is **one of the nine species of vultures found in India and is an Old World vulture** with the scientific name *Gyps himalayensis*.
- It is **primarily distributed across the Himalayas, Tibetan region and Central Asian mountains**, and can migrate to northern India through altitudinal migration.
- It is a **large vulture weighing up to 12 kg, with a wingspan of around 270–300 cm**, and uses wind thermals for soaring.
- Himalayan Griffons are **generally monogamous and build their nests mainly on cliff ledges or in small caves**.
- The **IUCN Red List** classifies the Himalayan Griffon **as Near Threatened**.

