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4 June 2024

National & International News

<p>Postal Ballot</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opposition recently urged the Election Commission to prioritize the counting of postal ballots before finalizing the counting of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). • They cited concerns over a guideline change implemented in 2019. <p>About Postal Ballot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postal ballot voting enables eligible voters to submit their votes via mail, providing a convenient option for those unable to visit polling places in person. • Eligibility Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service Voters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Members of the armed forces. ■ Paramilitary forces personnel. ■ Government employees assigned to election duties away from home. ○ Electors on Election Duty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Government officials. ■ Polling staff working at polling stations outside their home areas. ○ Preventive Detention: Electors under preventive detention orders during the election period. ○ Essential Service Workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Authorized media personnel. ■ Railway and healthcare workers. ○ Absentee Voters: Individuals unable to vote in person due to work commitments, illness, or disability. ○ Senior Citizens and PwDs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Senior citizens aged 80 and above. ■ Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), applicable in the 2020 Delhi Assembly elections.
<p>PraVaHa</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a sophisticated Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa). • This software was developed at ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).



	<p>About PraVaHa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Capabilities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Simulates external and internal flows on: Launch vehicles, Winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles.● Essential for initial aerodynamic design studies, evaluating numerous configurations.● Significance<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Aerospace vehicles face severe aerodynamic and aerothermal loads during launch or re-entry.○ Understanding airflow around aircraft, rocket bodies, or Crew Module (CM) is crucial for designing shape, structure, and Thermal Protection System (TPS).● Role of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Predicts aerodynamic and aerothermal loads.○ Numerically solves conservation equations of mass, momentum, and energy, along with the equation of state.● Application in Gaganyaan Program:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Used extensively for aerodynamic analysis of human-rated launch vehicles:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ HLVM3■ Crew Escape System (CES)■ Crew Module (CM)■ Operational Capabilities○ Simulates airflow for Perfect Gas and Real Gas conditions.
<p>"Bank Clinic" initiative</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has launched the "Bank Clinic" initiative to help bank customers with grievance redressal. <p>About the "Bank Clinic" initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Objective: Assist bank customers with grievance redressal amid the rapid expansion of technology and RBI guidelines on retail banking.● Nature: Non-resolving advisory platform guiding customers on remedies available per RBI guidelines.● Registration: Customers register their complaints on the Bank Clinic website.● Response Time: Customers receive a reply within five working days.● Guidance Provided: Detailed remedies and relevant RBI guidelines for specific issues.● Additional Channel: Serves alongside the normal Banking Ombudsman process.● Goal: Ensure timely and effective redressal of customer issues.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limitation: Guides customers but does not directly resolve queries.
Virus-like Particles (VLPs)	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scientists at the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV), Thiruvananthapuram, made a significant advancement. ● They developed a novel method for generating non-infectious Nipah virus-like particles (VLPs). ● This development was achieved in a laboratory setting. <p>About Virus-like Particles (VLPs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definition: VLPs are molecules that resemble viruses but are non-infectious due to the absence of viral genetic material. ● Use in Vaccines: VLPs are used to create vaccines for diseases such as HPV, hepatitis B, malaria, and more. ● Mechanism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VLPs mimic real viral molecules, triggering an immune response without causing disease symptoms. ○ After the immune response, the body recognizes and can prevent future infections by the actual virus, providing immunity.
Chang'e-6	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● China's space agency announced a successful moon mission. ● An uncrewed spacecraft landed on the far side of the moon. <p>About Chang'e-6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mission Name: Chang'e-6 ● Objective: First human sampling and return mission from the far side of the moon ● Landing Site: South Pole-Aitken Basin on the back of the moon ● Historical Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This marks the second successful mission to the far side of the moon ○ China first accomplished this with Chang'e-4 probe in 2019

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