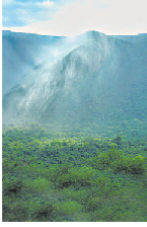




20 February 2024

National and International News

<p>Supreme Court Upholds Broad Definition of Forest</p> <hr/> <p>Verdict on woods Some of the observations made by the SC over the pleas challenging the 2023 amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980</p> <div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The "all-encompassing" dictionary meaning will continue to hold field until the States and Union Territories prepare a consolidated record of forest lands ■ Environment Ministry should issue a circular in this regard to the States and Union Territories ■ Establishment of "zoos or safaris" must have the final approval of the top court </div> </div>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Supreme Court has instructed the Central government to adhere to the broad definition of 'forest' for now, as per a 1996 order. ● This decision will lead to 1.97 lakh square km of undeclared forest land being included in the definition of 'forest'. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, issued this directive while hearing petitions challenging the 2023 amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. ● The Act was originally enacted to prevent further deforestation and ecological imbalance. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 2023 amendments had narrowed the definition of forest to include only declared forests and lands recorded as forests in government records after 1980. ● However, the court emphasized the need to follow the dictionary meaning of 'forest', as established in the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad case. ● The court clarified that 'forest' should not be limited to lands recorded as forests in government records. ● It directed States and Union Territories to compile a consolidated record of all lands recorded as 'forest' in government records, and instructed the Environment Ministry to publish these records on its website by April 15, 2024. ● Additionally, the court mandated that the establishment of zoos or safaris by any government or authority must receive final approval from the Supreme Court. ● The case is set to be heard again in July 2024.
<p>Morodharo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Archaeologists recently uncovered a fortified Harappan settlement called Morodharo in the Kutch District, Gujarat. ● Dating back to 2600-1900 BCE, it features a 102m



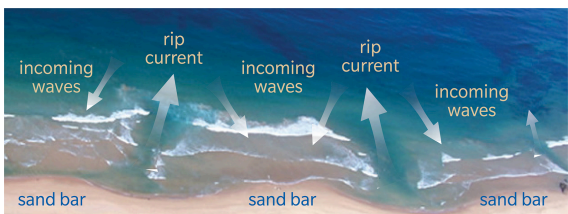
by 58m fortification wall averaging 3.3m in thickness.

- The settlement includes a 10x10m platform and a well.
- Burial cairns and Harappan pottery were found, resembling items from Dholavira.

Key features of IVC:

- The Harappan civilization was the first urban civilization in South Asia, covering approximately 800,000 sq km.
- Major Harappan cities included Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Surkotada, Kalibangan, Banawali, and Rakhigarhi.
- The civilization's town planning featured a rectangular grid pattern, planned streets and alleyways, fortifications, and division into an upraised citadel and lower town.
- Harappans extensively used burnt bricks and had well-developed residential areas with multiple-story houses, courtyards, and sophisticated drainage systems.

RIP Currents



Context:

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are collaborating on a project to continually monitor and issue operational forecast alerts regarding rip currents.

About:

- Rip currents are powerful water flows moving from a beach towards the open ocean, sea, or lake.
- They can exceed 45 meters (150 feet) in width but are usually less than 9 meters (30 feet) wide, with speeds up to 8 kilometers (5 miles) per hour.
- Rip currents are considered one of the most dangerous natural hazards globally.

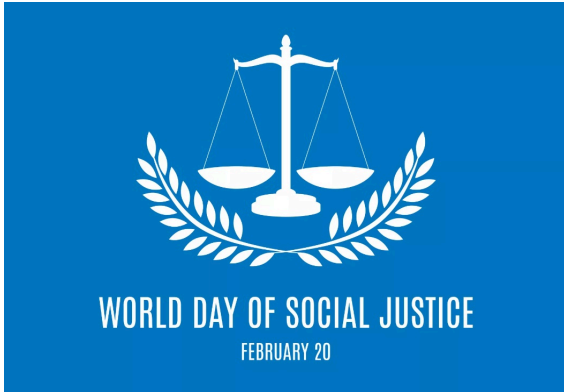
How are they formed?

- Rip currents form when waves break near the shoreline, piling up water between the breaking waves and the beach.
- One of the ways this water returns to sea is to form a rip current, a narrow stream of water moving swiftly away from shore, often



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

World Day of Social Justice



perpendicular to the shoreline.

Context:

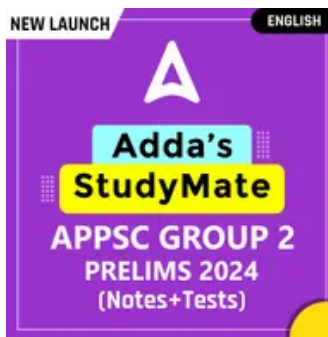
- The **United Nations General Assembly** designated February 20th as the annual World Day of Social Justice, starting from the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, in a declaration made on November 26, 2007.
- **The theme of World Day of Social Justice 2024 is "Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances".**

Social Justice in Indian Scenario

- In India, **social justice is a multifaceted concept** that encompasses a wide range of issues, **including casteism, discrimination against women, and economic inequality.**
- The Indian Constitution adopts this concept in various provisions, including the **preamble in the form of 'Socialist', 'Social and Economic Justice', 'Equality', etc.**, which clearly states that the state is extensively involved in the social welfare of people and endeavors to establish an equal society.

Govt Schemes that aid Social justice:

- **MGNREGA**
- **Skill India Mission**
- **ICDS**
- **PM Awas Yojana**
- **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)**
- **PM-JANMAN**



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