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News Analysis (11 Sep, 2019)

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Eurasian Economic Forum

Recently, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**) organized the **Eurasian Economic Union** meeting.

- The forum called for **greater cooperation** in the spheres of communication, technology, and development amongst its member-nations.
- The entire event was organized to discuss and deliberate upon China's **Belt and Road Initiative**, because of which India, despite being present in the **SCO** summit, decided to **skip** this meeting.
- The forum promoted the revival of the ancient **Great Silk Road** in Eurasia in a new, modern format.
- On the sidelines of this summit, in the meeting on **economics and tourism**, speakers pushed the idea of the SCO member states' **Eight Wonders Exhibition Tour**, in which one historical monument or place corresponding to each member country will be represented on the pamphlet.
 - For Kazakhstan, it was the Petroglyphs of Tamgaly,
 - For China, it was the Daming Palace of the Tang dynasty, and
 - For **India**, the monument chosen was the 182-metre **Statue Of Unity** of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Ancient Silk Route



- It was a network of trade routes that linked ancient regions of the world for the promotion of trade & commerce.
- It was regularly used during **China's Han dynasty rule** from 2nd century BC to 14th century AD.
- It stretched from China via India to Mesopotamia, Africa, Greece, Rome & Britain.

Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

- The Eurasian Economic Union is an international organization for regional economic integration that came into existence on **1st January 2015**.
- The EAEU provides for **free movement** of goods, services, capital, and labor within its borders.
- It pursues, coordinates, & harmonizes the policies in the sectors determined by the Treaty and international agreements within the Union.
- The **member states** of the Eurasian Economic Union are,
 - The Republic of **Armenia**,
 - The Republic of **Belarus**,
 - The Republic of **Kazakhstan**,
 - The **Kyrgyz** Republic, and
 - The **Russian** Federation.

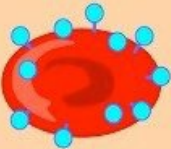

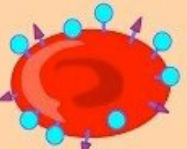




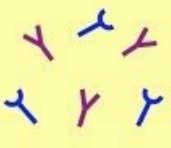
Source: IE

Bombay blood group

Recently there has been a spike in demand for a rare blood type called **Bombay blood group**.

- Under the ABO blood group system, blood group are classified into **four common blood groups i.e. A, B, AB and O**.
- **Each red blood cell has antigen over its surface**, which helps determine which group it belongs to.
 - For instance, in the AB blood group, both antigens A and B are found. A will have A antigens; B will have B antigens. In O, there are no A or B antigens.
 - The A, B, and O blood groups were **first identified by Austrian immunologist Karl Landsteiner in 1901**.
- The Bombay blood group (**also called hh**), is **deficient in expressing antigen H**.
 - It means the RBC of hh blood group has no antigen H.
 - Often the hh blood group is confused with the O group. **The difference is that the O group has Antigen H, while the hh group does not.**
 - The rare Bombay blood group was **first discovered in Mumbai (then Bombay) in 1952 by Dr Y M Bhende**.

- Globally, the hh blood type has an incidence of one in four million. However, this blood type is **more common in South Asia** than anywhere else because of inbreeding and close community marriages.
 - In India, **one person in 7,600 to 10,000** is born with this type.
- Due to the rarity of hh blood type, patients face problems during a blood transfusion, often leading to death due to non-availability of hh blood.
 - The individuals with Bombay blood group can only be transfused blood from individuals of Bombay hh phenotype only which is very rare.
 - Rejection may occur if they receive blood from A, B, AB or O blood group.
 - In contrast, hh blood group can donate their blood to ABO blood types.
- This group is generally not stored in blood banks, mainly because it is rare and the shelf life of blood is 35-42 days.

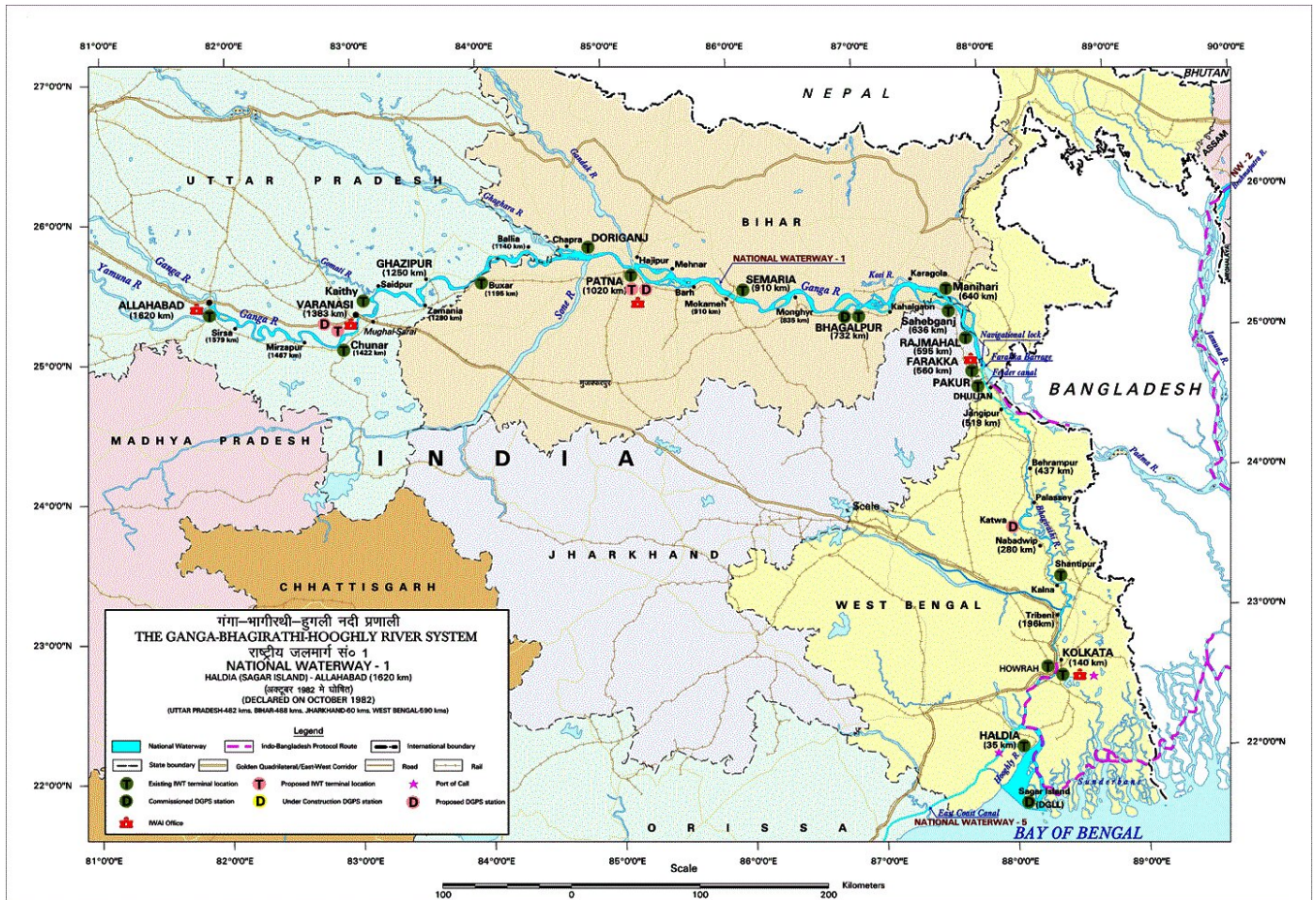
	Type A	Type B	Type AB	Type O
Antigen (on RBC)	Antigen A 	Antigen B 	Antigens A + B 	Neither A or B 
Antibody (in plasma)	Anti-B Antibody 	Anti-A Antibody 	Neither Antibody 	Both Antibodies 
Blood Donors	Cannot have B or AB blood Can have A or O blood	Cannot have A or AB blood Can have B or O blood	Can have any type of blood Is the universal recipient	Can only have O blood Is the universal donor

Source: IE

India's Second Multi Modal Terminal on Ganga at Sahibganj

Recently, Prime Minister has inaugurated India's **second riverine Multi Modal terminal** built at Sahibganj in Jharkhand.

- This is being constructed on National Waterway-1 (River Ganga) under **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)** aided by **World Bank**.
- The First MultiModal Terminal has been constructed at Varanasi over River Ganga.



Importance of Multi-Modal terminal

- Industries in Jharkhand and Bihar will be opened up to the global market
- Accessibility for Indo-Nepal cargo connectivity through waterways route.
- Easier transportation of domestic coal from the local mines in Rajmahal area to various thermal power plants located along National Waterway-1.
- Stone chips, fertilisers, cement and sugar are also expected to be transported through the terminal.
- The connectivity to Kolkata, Haldia and further to the Bay of Bengal through convergence of Road-Rail-River Transport at Sahibganj.
- Connectivity to North-East States through Bangladesh by river-sea route.

National Waterway 1

- **Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly** river system from **Allahabad to Haldia** was declared as National Waterway No.1.
- The NW-1 passes through **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal** and serves major cities and their industrial hinterlands.

Source: PIB

Motihari-Amlekhgunj Pipeline

Recently, Prime Ministers of India and Nepal have jointly inaugurated a cross-border petroleum products pipeline.

- Pipeline carries petroleum products from **Motihari in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal.**
- This is **South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline.**
- It is 69-km long having a capacity of 2 million metric ton per annum, will provide cleaner petroleum products at affordable cost to the people of Nepal.
- The project would help to deepen **India-Nepal Bilateral Relationship.**

Source: PIB

Equatorial Indian Ocean Monsoon Oscillation (EQUINOO)

Recently, the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru has released a study about Equatorial Indian Ocean Oscillation (EQUINOO) and its effects over Indian Summer Monsoon.

- Positive phase of Equatorial Indian Ocean Oscillation (EQUINOO) is favourable to the Indian summer monsoon.
- Summer monsoon of 2019 picked up steam despite a delayed start due to increased cloud formation which is a feature of a positive phase of EQUINOO.

EQUINOO

- It is an oscillation between enhanced cloud formation and rainfall over the Western Equatorial Indian Ocean (WEIO) and suppressed clouding over the Eastern Equatorial Indian Ocean (EEIO), west of Sumatra.
- A positive EQUINOO phase is when the surface sea temperature in WEIO is above 27.5 degree Celsius leading to enhanced clouding, which is then suppressed in the eastern equatorial Indian Ocean.
- **Positive phase of the 'Equatorial Indian Ocean Oscillation (EQUINOO)**
 - Enhanced cloud formation and rainfall in western part of the equatorial ocean near the African coast, whereas this activity is suppressed near Sumatra.
 - This phase produces good rains over India.

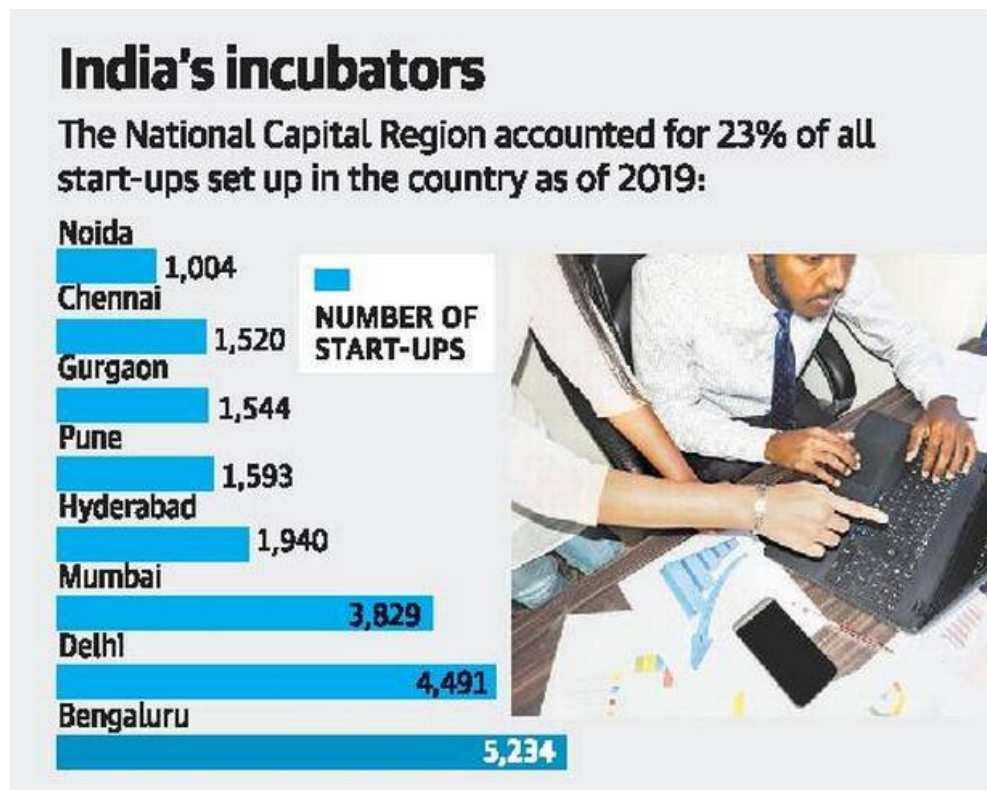
Source: HT

Delhi-NCR: Highest Number of Startups in India

According to a report by Turbocharging Delhi-NCR Start-up Ecosystem, with over 7,000 start-ups, the Delhi-NCR now has the largest number of active start-ups in the country.

- It held that Delhi-NCR accounted for **23% of total start-ups** in India with a cumulative value of \$50 billion.
- Also, Delhi-NCR is home to **10 unicorns**, with at least 1 new unicorn emerging each year since 2013.

A unicorn is a term used in the venture capital industry to describe a startup company with a value of over \$1 billion.



Source: TH