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Madhya Pradesh will create first cyber tehsil of India



- Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- After this, MP will become the first state in the country to have a cyber tehsil.
- Cyber Tehsil will make the mutation process easy and people from anywhere in the state can avail of its benefit.
- With this, the process of conversion will become convenient in the cases of undisputed land.
- The Home Minister of Madhya Pradesh also informed that the Cabinet has decided to launch 'Urja Saksharta Abhiyan' from November 25 to make citizens energy literate.
- Schools, colleges and the general public will be connected with this campaign.
- Madhya Pradesh will become the first state to run India's energy literacy campaign on a big scale

SWADESH, World's First Multimodal Brain Imaging Data and Analytics

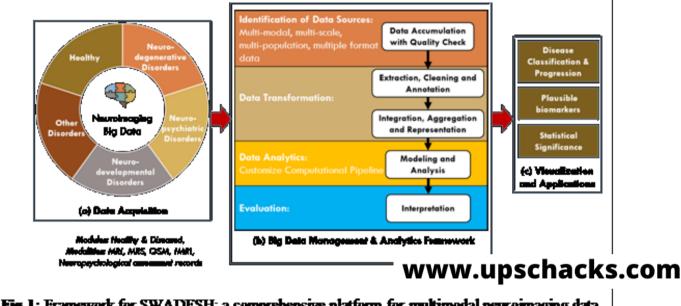


Fig 1: Framework for SWADESH: a comprehensive platform for multimodal neuroimaging data, quality control, and data analytics. The major components are: (a) data acquisition, (b) big data management and analytics framework, and (c) visualization and applications

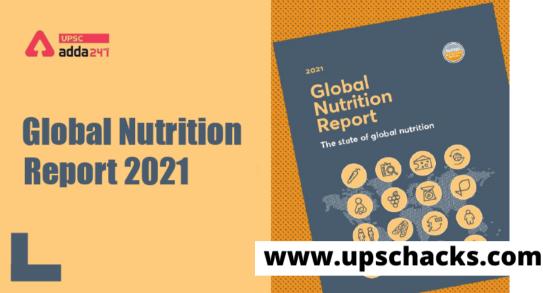
- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT)-National Brain Research Centre (DBT-NBRC) have recently developed the project SWADESH.
- It is the first large-scale multimodal neuroimaging database designed specifically for the Indian population with big-data architecture and analytics for various disease categories under one platform.
- It would strengthen Alzheimer's disease (AD) research and help the scientific community come up with promising treatments.

- It proposes a big-data architecture that manages and analyzes six modules, namely
- Neurodegenerative [AD, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and Parkinson's disease (PD)].
- Neuropsychiatric (schizophrenia and bipolar disorder).
- Neurodevelopmental (autism and epilepsy).

- COVID-19-related disorders, other disorders, and healthy subjects.
- SWADESH is supported by JAVA-based workflow environment and Python.
- Backed by a dedicated storage system, it provides quality control, data analysis reports, and data backups.
- Its development will facilitate the integration of multi-site data and collaborative research worldwide.
- Presently, SWADESH has data of 500 AD and MCI patients and 70 PD patients.
- It also includes data of 600 healthy old individuals and 800 healthy young individuals in the control group.

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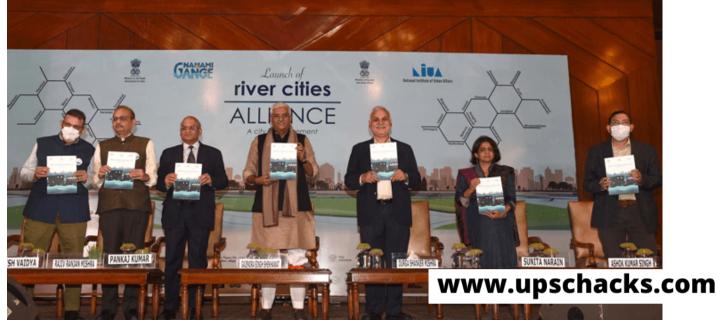
Global Nutrition report, 2021



- The annual Global Nutrition Report annual report sets out progress towards global nutrition targets.
- It also evaluates the impact of poor diets on human health and the planet, assesses the nutrition financing landscape and provides a comprehensive overview of reporting on past Nutrition for Growth commitments.
- The Global Nutrition Report was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013 as a mechanism for tracking the commitments made by 100 stakeholders spanning governments, aid donors, civil society, the UN and businesses.
- As per the GNR, as many as 12 million people died prematurely in 2018 due to risks linked to consumption of an imbalanced and unhealthy diet.

- These risks included non-communicable diseases (NCD).
- The increase of premature deaths due to poor diets was the highest in Africa (22 per cent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (8 per cent).
- Tobacco smoking is said to the leading cause of preventable deaths in the world. But recent estimates indicate that unbalanced diet has superseded tobacco smoking as the leading cause of premature deaths in the world.
- The report says that the world is off track to meet five out of six global maternal, infant and young children nutrition (MIYCN) targets, on stunting, wasting, low birth weight, anaemia and childhood obesity.
- Worldwide, 149.2 million children under 5 years of age are stunted, 45.4 million are wasted and 38.9 million are overweight. Over 40% of all men and women (2.2 billion people) are now overweight or obese.
- In fact, no country in the world was 'on course' to achieve the target for obesity.

River Cities Alliance



- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti in partnership with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the River Cities Alliance recently
- It is the first-of-its-kind dedicated platform for river cities in India.
- It will focus on three broad themes-Networking, Capacity Building and Technical Support.
- The Secretariat of the Alliance will be set up at the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA), with National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) support.
- The primary objective of RCA is to provide the member cities with a platform to discuss and exchange information on aspects that are vital for sustainable management of urban rivers such as:

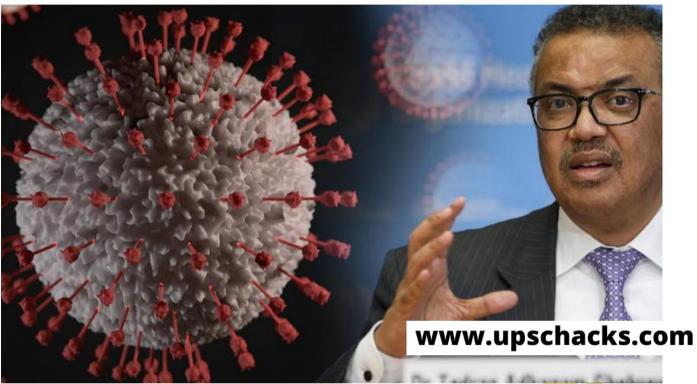
- Minimizing their water footprint.
- Reducing impacts on river and water bodies.
- Capitalizing on natural, intangible, architectural heritage and associated services.
- Develop self-sufficient, self-sustainable water resources through recycle, reuse strategy.
- It will work towards adopting and localizing national policies and instruments with key river-related directions, prepare their Urban River Management Plans and develop city-specific sectoral strategies that are required for sustainable urban river management.
- The Alliance gives opportunities to these cities to strengthen governance aspects for river cities and improves their liveability to attract external economic investments.
- It will also provide opportunities to access state of the art knowledge and frameworks as well as an opportunity to serve as the site for unique demonstration projects which will be implemented by NIUA and NMCG.
- The 30 member cities include Haridwar, Rishikesh, Kanpur, Ayodhya, Patna, Howrah, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj, etc. from Ganga basin states and Aurangabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwar, Pune, Udaipur, Vijayawada, etc. from non-Ganga basin states.

Scientists discover 'ultrahot' Jupiterlike planet where a year is only 16 hours.



- Scientists at NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, an MIT-led mission, discovered an "ultrahot Jupiter" that's about five times Jupiter's mass and revolves around its star in 16 hours.
- The planet, TOI-2109b, has shortest orbit of any known gas giant to date.
- Its day side is estimated to be around 6,000 degrees
 Fahrenheit, making it the second hottest detected so far.

Why did WHO skip 2 letters in Greek alphabet & name the new COVID variant Omicron?



- WHO has named the new COVID-19 variant Omicron.
- The variants are named after Greek letters, but while naming Omicron, experts skipped two letters Nu and Xi.
- "A WHO source confirmed [they]...had been deliberately avoided. Nu [was] skipped to avoid confusion with..."new" and Xi [was] skipped to "avoid stigmatising a region", they said," tweeted senior editor of The Telegraph, Paul Nuki.