



Balalatha's

# CSB IAS ACADEMY

The Road Map to Mussoorie...



Prelims EDGE – 17/10/2024

## FIVE EYES

**Context:** Five Eye' countries are extending support to Canada in the Nijjar case.



### About Five Eyes

• It is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network shared by over 20 different agencies of five English-speaking countries — **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.**

- These countries are parties to the **multilateral UK-USA Agreement, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence.**
- These partner nations exchange a wide spectrum of intelligence within one of the world's most tightly knit multilateral agreements as part of the collaboration.
- The alliance's origins can be traced back to the **Second World War.**
- The UK and the US decided to share intelligence after successfully breaking German and Japanese codes, respectively.
- In 1943, the Britain-USA (BRUSA) agreement laid the foundations for what would become the UK-USA (UKUSA) agreement.
- Following this, the UKUSA (UK-USA) was signed in 1946. Canada joined it in 1949, and New Zealand and Australia did so in 1956, forming the alliance.
- In recent years, common interests, such as **balancing the rise of China**, have led to a closer alignment among the Five Eyes countries.

*Source: Five Eyes supports Canada in spat with India on Nijjar (The Hindu)*

## SCHEMES IN NEWS

### Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra

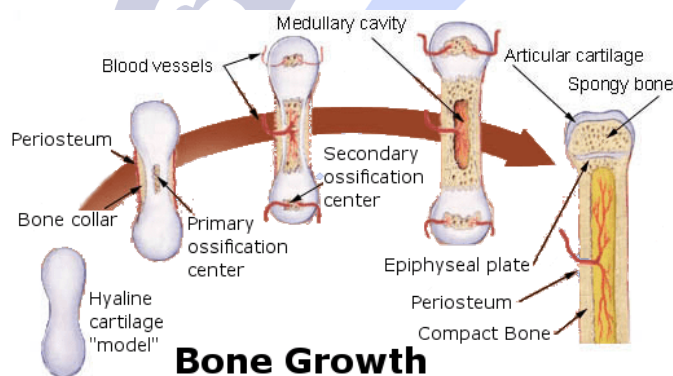
- Recently, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) inaugurated a new 'Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK)' of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), at the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun.
- It is a dedicated initiative aimed at **empowering persons with disabilities, particularly those with visual impairments.**



- It is located at the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) in Dehradun.
- It focuses on providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to visually impaired individuals, enabling them **to gain independence and self-sufficiency**.
- The center is equipped with advanced technologies, including **prosthetics, orthotics, and Braille appliances**, to assist individuals in their daily lives and enhance their mobility.
- It emphasizes on **skill development** through various training programs, ensuring that beneficiaries acquire vocational skills that can lead to employment and self-employment.

## TERMS IN NEWS

### Bone Ossification Test



### Bone Growth

Ossification is the **natural process of bone formation** that starts in early fetal development and continues into late adolescence.

- It differs among individuals.
- The test **approximates a person's age** based on bone development.
- X-rays of specific bones, like those in the hands and wrists, are taken to assess skeletal development. These images are compared to standard references to determine the individual's biological age.
- Experts analyze specific bones and their growth against standardized maturation charts for the relevant population.
- Due to differences in individual maturation, ossification tests are not foolproof. They provide an age range, e.g., 17-19 years.

### Greenwashing

- Greenwashing is a **deceptive practice** where companies or even governments **exaggerate their actions and their impact on mitigating climate change**, often providing misleading information or making unverifiable claims.
- It is an attempt to capitalize on the growing demand for environmentally sound products.
- It is fairly widespread, and entities often label various activities as climate-friendly without verifiable evidence, undermining genuine efforts against climate change.



- The **Volkswagen scandal**, in which the German car company was found to have been cheating in emissions testing of its supposedly green diesel vehicles, was a case of greenwashing.

- Several other multinational corporations, including oil giants like Shell and BP, and Coca Cola have faced accusations of greenwashing.

- It creates a risk of diluting the authenticity of climate goals by

presenting misleading or exaggerated information about environmental initiatives.

- Entities engaged in greenwashing may receive unwarranted recognition or benefits, rewarding irresponsible behavior.
- At the **27th Conference of Parties (COP27)**, the United Nations Secretary-General has declared **zero tolerance** for greenwashing, urging private corporations to rectify their practices.
- **The European Union** approved the world's first green bond standards to combat greenwashing in October 2023.
- Greenwashing is designated as an unfair trade practice under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** in India.

### The Battle of Walong



- The Battle of Walong was the only **counterattack India could manage in the 1962 war against China**.

- The war was fought between 14 and 16 November **1962**.

- The 6 Kumaon infantry battalion, although outnumbered and with little ammunition and resources, held the Chinese back at Walong for over 20 days.

- However, the Army was asked to

pull back after it could not sustain in the final leg of the battle.

- Walong is also the easternmost town in mainland India, **located on banks of Lohit River**.

### Copper Zinc Tin Sulfide Nanoparticles

- Scientists from the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, have developed a **new photocatalyst that can effectively break down sulfamethoxazole into less harmful byproducts, marking a significant step toward solving this environmental issue**.



- Antibiotic contamination in the environment has become a pressing concern due to the increasing levels of broad-spectrum antibiotics like sulfamethoxazole (SMX) being released, leading to antibiotic resistance, ecological damage, and health risks.
- Finding efficient ways to degrade such **antibiotics into less hazardous chemicals** is essential for mitigating these effects.
- The composite is made from earth-abundant, inexpensive, and non-toxic components using a hydrothermal reaction involving zinc chloride, copper chloride, tin chloride, and tungsten

disulfide.

- The composite acts as an efficient **photocatalyst**, which degrades sulfamethoxazole under light exposure.
- This photocatalyst helps reduce the harmful effects of antibiotics like sulfamethoxazole in the environment.
- The CZTS-WS2 composite exhibited over 80% radical scavenging efficiency and antibacterial capabilities.
- The catalyst can be recovered and reused multiple times without losing its effectiveness, making it economically viable.
- The composite demonstrates excellent photostability, which makes it valuable for long-term applications in light-harvesting and photocatalysis.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1 : Which among the following is not part of the Five Eyes Alliance?

- Japan
- Canada
- USA
- Australia

Q2 : Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendras are inaugurated with the aim of empowering which of the following sections of the society?

- Transgenders

- b) Women
- c) Persons with Disabilities
- d) Schedule Caste

Q3 : Bone Ossification Test is related to which of the following?

- a) To Test a Persons age
- b) To check DNA history
- c) To Predict Bone cancers
- d) To Study Bone Structure

Q4 : Which one of the following best describes the term “greenwashing”?

- a) Conveying a false impression that a company’s products are eco-friendly and environmentally sound
- b) Non-inclusion of ecological/environmental costs in the Annual Financial Statements of a country
- c) Ignoring the disastrous ecological consequences while undertaking infrastructure development
- d) Making mandatory provisions for environmental costs in a government project/programme

Q5 : The Battle of Walong seen in the new is related to which of the following?

- a) World War 1
- b) World War 2
- c) India China War 1962
- d) Bangladesh Liberation War 1971

**Answers**

- 1. A
- 2. C
- 3. A
- 4. A
- 5. C