

**PRELIMS EDGE 2025****05-07-2025**

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

Context: The ongoing tariff war by the USA has sparked countervailing duties by countries including India initiating debates within the WTO



About the WTO

- WTO is an international institution formed to regulate **the rules for global trade** among nations.
- It was formed under the Marrakesh Agreement signed on 15th April 1994 by 123 countries after the Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-94) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), leading to the birth of WTO in 1995.
- WTO succeeded the GATT which had regulated world trade since 1948.
- **GATT** focused on trade in goods, while **WTO** covers trade in goods, services, and intellectual property, including creations, designs, and inventions.

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Members:** WTO consist of 166 countries, representing 98% of global trade.
- **Key Bodies:**
 - **Ministerial Conference (MC):** Highest decision-making authority.
 - **Dispute Settlement Body (DSB):** DSB resolves trade disputes.

Key WTO Agreements:

- **TRIMS** (Trade-Related Investment Measures): Prohibits measures that discriminate against foreign products, e.g., local content requirements.
- **TRIPS** (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights): TRIPS resolves disputes over intellectual property rights.
- **AoA (Agreement on Agriculture):** AoA promotes agricultural trade liberalization, focusing on market access and domestic support.

Other Agreements:

- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- General Agreement on Trade in Services
- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Source: India tells WTO it may impose retaliatory tariffs worth \$724 million on U.S. imports (The Hindu)

TERMS IN NEWS

Nipah Virus



- Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus (transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.
- **Nature:** The organism that causes Nipah Virus encephalitis is an RNA or Ribonucleic acid virus of the family Paramyxoviridae, genus Henipavirus, and is closely related to Hendra virus. NiV initially appeared in domestic pigs, dogs, cats, goats, horses, and sheep.
- It spreads through fruit bats (genus Pteropus). The virus is found in bat urine, faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.
- **Fatality:** The case fatality rate ranges from 40% to 75%.
- **Symptoms:** Causes encephalitic syndrome in humans, presenting with fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion, coma, and potentially death.
- **Diagnosis:** Diagnosis can be established through real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) from bodily fluids and

antibody detection via enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

- **Prevention:** No vaccines available for humans or animals.
- **WHO Response:** It has identified Nipah as a priority disease

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra



- Mount Kailash is a diamond-shaped peak made of black rock, located in **Tibet**.
- India organizes the KMY annually between June and September through the **Lipulekh Pass** (since 1981) in Uttarakhand and the **Nathu La Pass** (since 2015) in Sikkim.
- Mount Kailash stands at 6,638 meters and is considered a sacred peak by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Bons (indigenous religion of Tibet).
- For Tibetans Buddhists, Kailash is the cosmic axis, or Mount Meru, connecting heaven and earth.
- In Hinduism, it is the abode of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.
- In Jainism, Kailash is Ashtapada, where Rishabhanatha attained enlightenment.
- Mount Kailash is considered the **spiritual center of the Earth**, with the Sutlej, Brahmaputra, Kamali, and Indus rivers originating from it.

- Lake **Mansarovar** is located at the base of the mountain.
- Mount Kailash, though lower in height than Mount Everest (8,849 meters), remains unclimbed as its ascent is prohibited due to its sacred significance.

Roll Cloud



- A roll **cloud is a low, horizontal, tube-shaped, and relatively rare type of arcus cloud.**
- Roll clouds usually appear to be “rolling” about a **horizontal axis.**
- They usually appear at an altitude of 2,000 to 7,000 meters, and continue to curl visibly.
- They are more often seen in areas with complex terrain and changeable weather—both in the mountains and on the coasts of the oceans. For example, in the Alps, around Japan, Scotland, and northern Australia.
- During severe weather, roll clouds can be confused with funnel clouds, as the roll cloud will show clear signs of rotation along the horizontal and vertical axes, like a tornado.
- Roll clouds are helpful to meteorologists because their appearance sometimes heralds bad weather—strong winds, thunderstorms, storms, or even tornadoes.
- **A sharp, rapid roll of clouds can indicate a storm is about to intensify, while a smooth movement can mean calmer weather.**
- Along the edge of a thunderstorm, they can serve as a precursor to more active and serious weather in the immediate future.

What is an Arcus Cloud?

- **An arcus cloud is a low, horizontal cloud formation that typically forms along the leading edge of a thunderstorm outflow or cold front.**
- There are two main types of arcus clouds: Shelf Cloud and Roll Cloud.
- Roll clouds and shelf clouds are found near the leading edge of thunderstorms and form when relatively cool air, from the storm’s downdraft, forges ahead into the warm, moist air that’s feeding the storm.
- The main difference between roll clouds and shelf clouds (both are called arcus clouds) is that a roll cloud is detached from the parent thunderstorm, whereas a shelf cloud is affixed to the base of a cumulonimbus cloud.

DengiAll



- It is developed by Panacea Biotec Limited under a licensing agreement with the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- has a weakened form of all four dengue virus subtypes and has the same virus composition as the vaccine developed by NIH, except for the inactive ingredients.
- A Phase I and II clinical trial conducted in India revealed a balanced and robust immune response across all four dengue virus types. The vaccine was also found to be safe and well-tolerated.
- Multiple ICMR institutes are involved in the study to evaluate the efficacy, immunogenicity and safety of DengiAll. The ICMR-National Institute of Translational Virology (NITVAR) and AIDS Research (formerly ICMR-NARI) is responsible for overall trial coordination.

Key Facts about Dengue

- It is a **mosquito-borne viral infection**.
- It is more common in tropical and subtropical climates, mostly in urban and semi-urban areas.
- It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected **Aedes mosquitos carrying one of four types of dengue virus (DENV)**.

- Dengue isn't contagious from person to person except when passed from a pregnant person to their child.
- The most common symptoms are high fever, headache, body aches, nausea, and rash. Most will get better in 1–2 weeks.
- A very small portion of people with dengue fever get a severe case. It's called dengue hemorrhagic fever.
- **Treatment:** There is no specific medicine to treat dengue. The focus is on treating pain symptoms

SAKSHAM-3000

- It is a **high-capacity, compact 25.6 Tbps switch-router tailored for modern data centres**.
- It is a state-of-the-art data centre switch-cum-router
- It is **designed for next-generation digital infrastructure developed by Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**.
- The platform aims to address the evolving needs of large enterprises, telecom operators, and hyperscale data centres.

Features

- It was built to **power large-scale computing clusters, cloud infrastructure, 5G/6G networks and AI workloads**, the device supports 32 ports of 400G and a flexible range of Ethernet speeds ranging from 1G to 400G.
- Its **ultra-low latency**, wire-speed processing, and modular CROS (C-DOT Router Operating System) operating system position it as a versatile solution for roles ranging from leaf to super-spine nodes in a CLOS network.

- It is a **“future-ready platform”** for both legacy and cloud-native networks, supporting Layer-2, IP, and MPLS protocols, while being energy-efficient and equipped for time-sensitive applications via PTP and Sync-E.
- It consists with flexible licensing, high reliability through hot-swappable power and fan units, and advanced QoS features like WRR (Weighted Round Robin) and WRED

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1 : Which among the following agreements do not come under the World Trade Organization?

- A. Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS)
- B. Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)
- C. Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)
- D. Agreement on Buffer Stock (AoB)

Q2 : Which among the following diseases do not have vaccines?

- A. Chicken Pox
- B. Nipah Virus
- C. Hepatitis B
- D. Rabies

Q3 : The Nathu La is a mountain pass that connects which of the following regions?

- A. Sikkim and Tibet
- B. Himachal Pradesh and Tibet
- C. Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet
- D. Uttarakhand and Tibet

Q4 : Which among the following have a horizontal Axis?

- A. Tornado

- B. Hurricane
- C. Cyclone
- D. Roll Cloud

Q5 : Consider the following statements regarding Dengue infection

1. It is a mosquito-borne viral infection.
2. It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitos carrying one of four types of dengue virus (DENV).
3. There is no specific medicine to treat dengue. The focus is on treating pain symptoms.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All of the Above
- D. None of the Above

Answers

1. D
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. D