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Enlightening minds. Lightening journey

24 OCTOBER 2025

EN-BUZZER

Daily News Analysis

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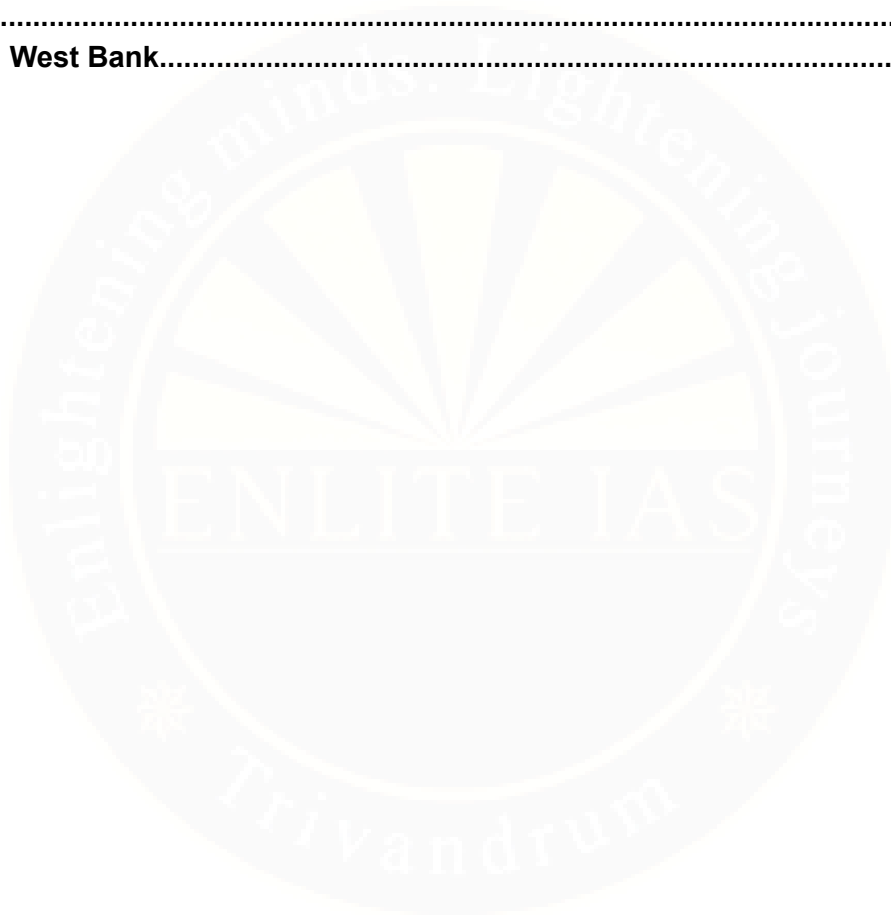
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Table of Contents

1. Impact of War on Women and Children.....	2
2. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).....	4
3. Cloud Seeding or Artificial Rain.....	6
4. High Residual Resistivity Ratio Niobium.....	8
5. Fiji.....	10
6. Iran.....	11
7. Israel and West Bank.....	12





1. Impact of War on Women and Children

- **Prelims** - Impact of War on Women and Children
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- UN Women published a report citing a two fold increase in the proportion of women killed in armed conflicts in 2023, compared to the previous year.

Impact of War on Women and Children

- **Fact:** According to UN data, over 80% of refugees and internally displaced persons are women and children.
- **Impact on Women:**
 - **Gender Based Violence:** Women are frequently subjected to rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage, and trafficking.
 - **Health and Reproductive Challenges:** Armed conflict disrupts access to essential healthcare services, including reproductive health and maternal care, leading to increased maternal mortality and higher rates of sexually transmitted infections, such as HIV/AIDS.
 - **Displacements and Exploitation:** Displacement often exposes women to further abuse in refugee camps, including trafficking and exploitation in exchange for survival needs such as food or shelter.
 - **Socio-economic Consequences:** The destruction of infrastructure leads to economic hardships that push women into precarious labor or force them into dependency, reversing gains in gender equality and education.
 - **Mental Trauma:** Exposure to violence, loss of family members, and prolonged displacement cause widespread depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among women.
- **Impact on Children:**
 - **Physical Harm and Mortality:** Millions of children die in conflicts each year due to direct violence, bombing, malnutrition, and loss of healthcare. Landmines and explosives leave many disabled.



- **Child Soldiers and Exploitation:** Forcible recruitment of children as combatants, spies, and messengers, violating international law. They are also trafficked or subjected to sexual violence.
- **Disruption of Education:** Destruction of schools, loss of teachers, and displacement interrupt children's education, creating a lost generation deprived of skills and future opportunities.
- **Psychological stress and trauma:** Children experience PTSD, anxiety, and depression due to exposure to violence and the death of loved ones.
- **Loss of Parental support and Family structure:** Wars often orphan children or separate families during displacement
- **International Efforts:**
 - **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000):** Recognizes the disproportionate impact of war on women and calls for their inclusion in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.
 - **Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989):** Ensures the protection of children from conflict-related exploitation and violence.
 - **Beijing Platform for Action (1995):** Identified women and armed conflict as one of the 12 critical areas of concern needing global action.
 - **UNICEF and UNFPA Initiatives:** Provide humanitarian assistance focusing on mental health, education, and gender protection in conflict zones.
- **Way Forward:**
 - Implementation of gender-sensitive peace processes and women's representation in negotiations.
 - Provision of trauma-informed healthcare, including mental health services for women and children.
 - Strengthening international humanitarian law enforcement to prevent sexual and child rights violations.
 - Ensuring education continuity and social reintegration programs for displaced and war-affected children.
 - Promoting economic rehabilitation for widows, female-headed households, and orphans in post-conflict recovery.



2. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- **Prelims** - Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Defence Minister, approved a series of capital acquisition proposals worth around 79,000 crore aimed at strengthening the operational capabilities of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- **What is it?:** It is the highest decision-making body in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on matters related to the procurement of weapons, platforms, and systems for the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Formation:** It was established in 2001 following the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) set up after the Kargil War (1999) to streamline defence planning and procurement.
- **Composition:**
 - **Chairperson:** Defence Minister of India
 - **Members:**
 - ★ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
 - ★ Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force
 - ★ Defence Secretary
 - ★ Secretary (Defence Production)
 - ★ Secretary (Defence Research & Development)
 - ★ Financial Adviser (Defence Services)
- **Function:**
 - **Policy Formulation:** Final approval authority for capital acquisitions in the defence sector.
 - **Prioritization:** Approves the Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) and Annual Acquisition Plan (AAP) of the Armed Forces.
 - **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN):** Grants AoN — the first step in any defence procurement, signifying official recognition of need.
 - **Categorization of Procurement:** Decides the mode of acquisition



- **Make in India Promotion:** Encourages indigenization and self-reliance through initiatives like IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed & Manufactured) category.
- **Monitoring:** Reviews progress of major acquisition projects and accords financial sanction where required.



3. Cloud Seeding or Artificial Rain

- **Prelims** - Cloud Seeding
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The Delhi Government successfully conducted a trial run of cloud seeding in the region.

Cloud Seeding

- **Definition:** Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique used to induce precipitation (rainfall or snow) by dispersing substances into the air that serve as cloud condensation or ice nuclei, thereby enhancing the formation and growth of precipitation particles within clouds. Silver iodide (AgI) is the most widely used cloud-seeding agent.
- **Process:**
 - Cloud seeding typically involves the dispersion of substances such as silver iodide, potassium iodide, or dry ice into clouds either by aircraft or ground-based generators.
 - These substances act as nuclei around which water droplets or ice crystals can form, leading to the aggregation of particles and eventual precipitation.
- **Objectives:**
 - The primary objective of cloud seeding is to augment rainfall or snowfall in areas experiencing water scarcity or drought conditions.
 - It can also be used to mitigate the impact of hailstorms by modifying cloud dynamics to reduce the size of hailstones.
- **Methods:** There are two main methods of cloud seeding:
 - **Static Seeding:** This involves releasing seeding agents into clouds without regard to cloud structure or development.
 - **Dynamic Seeding:** Targets specific regions within clouds where natural processes such as updrafts or supercooled water are conducive to precipitation formation.



- **Concerns:**

- The environmental and ecological impacts of cloud seeding, such as unintended consequences on local weather patterns and ecosystems, are not adequately understood.
- Additionally, concerns about the equitable distribution of precipitation and the potential for geopolitical tensions over shared water resources have been raised.

- **Applications:**

- Cloud seeding is used in various regions around the world, including arid and semi-arid areas, mountainous regions, and agricultural zones, to augment water resources and enhance crop yields.
- It is also employed in winter sports areas to increase snowfall for skiing and snowboarding activities.



4. High Residual Resistivity Ratio Niobium

- **Prelims** - High Residual Resistivity Ratio Niobium
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- The Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) announced that it has successfully developed a crucial technology for producing high Residual Resistivity Ratio (RRR) niobium ingots and sheets.

High Residual Resistivity Ratio Niobium

- **Niobium:**
 - Niobium (Nb) is a transition metal (atomic number 41), silvery-grey, ductile, and resistant to corrosion.
 - It is used mainly in high-temperature alloys, superconductors, and aerospace components.
 - India currently imports most of its niobium, making indigenisation strategically vital.
- **Residual Resistivity Ratio:**
 - It is the ratio of a metal's electrical resistivity at room temperature (≈ 300 K) to its resistivity at low temperature (≈ 4 K).
 - It serves as an indicator of metal purity and crystalline perfection.
 - ★ Higher RRR means higher purity and fewer lattice defects.
- **Significance of High RRR Niobium:**
 - **Superconducting Properties:** High RRR niobium shows minimal electrical resistance at cryogenic temperatures, essential for superconducting radio-frequency (SRF) cavities used in particle accelerators and fusion reactors.
 - **Thermal Conductivity:** High-RRR metal efficiently dissipates heat at low temperatures, preventing quenching (loss of superconductivity).
 - **Critical material for Advanced Research:** Used in facilities such as particle accelerators (e.g., LHC, FAIR, ILC), nuclear fusion projects, quantum computing systems, and space-grade electronics.



- **Applications:**

- **Nuclear & Particle Physics:** SRF cavities in particle accelerators (for energy-efficient beam acceleration).
- **Quantum & Cryogenic Systems:** Superconducting qubits and resonators.
- **Space & Defence:** High-strength, lightweight components for rockets and propulsion systems.
- **Energy Sector:** Possible use in fusion reactors and superconducting magnetic energy storage (SMES) systems.



5. Fiji

- **Prelims** - Location of Fiji
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Fiji



Why in the news?

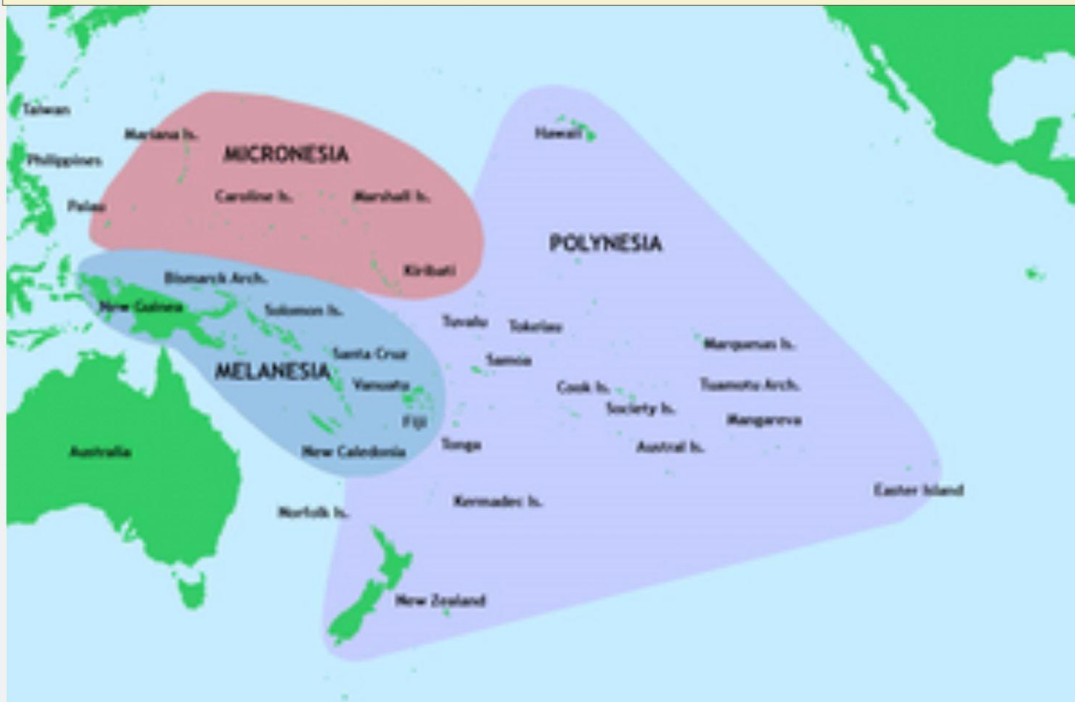
- Fiji becomes the 26th country to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem.

Fiji

- **Location:**
 - Fiji is an island country in Melanesia, part of Oceania in the South Pacific Ocean.
 - It lie north-northeast of New Zealand.
- **Capital:** Suva
- **Major Islands:** Viti Levu (country's capital) and Vanua Levu.
- **Fact:** The sugar-cane industry is dominant.
- **Formation:** The majority of Fiji's islands were formed by volcanic activity.



Grouping of Pacific Islands



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6. Iran

- **Prelims** - Location of Iran
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Iran



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Why in the news?

- Iran has ratified a law to join the United Nations International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) in a bid to align with global financial norms.

Iran

- **Location:** West Asia
- **Capital:** Tehran
- **Border Countries:** Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **Border Sharing Waterbodies:** Caspian Sea, Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf.
- **Key Cooperation with India :** Chabahar Port , INSTC.



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7. Israel and West Bank

- **Prelims** - Location Israel and West Bank
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Israel

Why in the news?

- Israel's parliament gives initial nod to occupied West Bank annexation.

Israel

- **Location:** West Asia
- **Capital:** Jerusalem.
- **Border Countries:** Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt.
- **Palestinian Territories:** West Bank along the east and the Gaza Strip along the southwest.
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Eastern Mediterranean, Red Sea, Sea of Galilee and Dead Sea.
- **River:** Jordan River
- **Climatic Type:** Mediterranean climate, Desert climate.

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West Bank

- The West Bank is a landlocked territory in the Middle East that is a central part of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- It lies to the west of the Jordan River and is bordered by Israel to the west, north, and south, and by Jordan and the Dead Sea to the east.