



DATE: 21 JULY 2026

1 Dengue (Source: The Hindu)

Dengue is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus.

Transmission

- Transmitted by several species of female mosquitoes within the genus Aedes, principally Aedes aegypti.

Symptoms

- Sudden high fever, severe headaches, pain behind the eyes, severe bone, joint, and muscle pain, etc.

Diagnosis and Treatment

- Diagnosis of dengue infection is done with a blood test.
- There is no specific medicine to treat dengue infection.



Note

- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted market authorisation to Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India's QDENGGA (TAK-003), making it the first dengue vaccine to be approved in the country



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2 World Trade Organisation (WTO) (Source: The Hindu)

Basics

- **Establishment:** The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established on January 1, 1995, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) under Marrakesh Agreement (1994)
- **Purpose:** The primary objective of the WTO is to facilitate smooth and free trade across the globe, ensuring that trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Members:** 166 countries, representing 98% of global trade.
- **Key Bodies:**
 - **Ministerial Conference (MC):** Highest decision-making authority.
 - **Dispute Settlement Body (DSB):** The DSB resolves trade disputes.

Core Functions

- The WTO provides a forum for negotiations among member countries to reduce trade barriers and reach agreements on various trade-related issues.
- The WTO has a robust dispute settlement mechanism to resolve trade disputes between members, ensuring that trade rules are respected and applied consistently.
- We regularly review member countries' trade policies to ensure transparency and understanding of trade policies and practices.
- The WTO assists developing countries in building their trade capacity through technical assistance and training programs.

Subsidies

- In WTO terminology, subsidies in general are identified by “Boxes” which are given the colours of traffic lights: green (permitted), amber (slow down – i.e. need to be reduced), red (forbidden).

Key Agreements

- **GATT:** The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which focuses on reducing tariffs and other trade barriers.
- **GATS:** The General Agreement on Trade in Services, which governs international trade in services.
- **TRIPS:** The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, which sets minimum standards for the protection of intellectual property.
- **TBT and SPS:** The Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, which address regulations and standards to ensure they do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade.

3 Bab el-Mandeb Strait and Red Sea (Source: The Hindu)

Bab el-Mandeb Strait

- It is a strait between Arabia (northeast) and Africa (southwest) that connects the Red Sea (northwest) with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean (southeast).
- It forms a vital strategic link in the maritime trade route between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.
- It is bordered by Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea on the African coast.

Red Sea

- **Location:** The Red Sea is a seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean, lying between Africa and Asia.
- **Connects:** The Red Sea is connected to the Indian ocean through the Bab el Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden in the south.
- **Features:**
 - To the north lie the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez (leading to the Suez Canal).
 - The sea is underlain by the Red Sea Rift, which is part of the Great Rift Valley.
 - Red Sea is bordered by Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Israel, and Jordan

