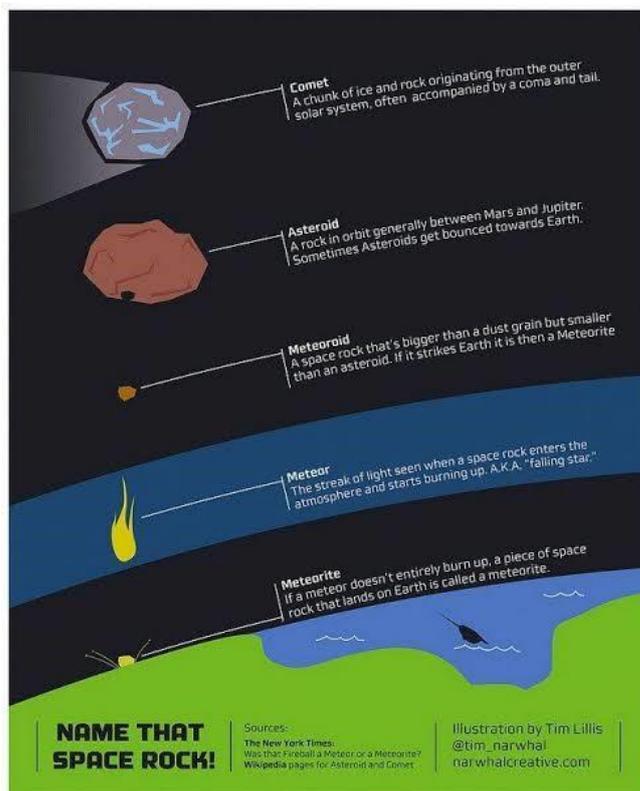




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- It refers to an asteroid with the potential to make threatening close approaches to the Earth.



Science and Technology

Asteroids:

Why in News?

NASA has predicted that an asteroid '2001 FO32' is the likely to pass by Earth, closest to Earth being on 21st March 2021.

About Asteroids:

- These are small bodies in the solar system.
- They **orbit the Sun**.
- They are made up of **metals and rocks**.
- They mostly have shorter and elliptical orbits.
- There is an **asteroid belt** region in the Solar System, located roughly between the orbits of the planets Jupiter and Mars.

Related information: Potentially Hazardous Asteroid

Economy

Energy Efficiency Enterprise (E3) Certifications:

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Power launched "Energy Efficiency Enterprise (E3)" Certifications Programme for the Brick Manufacturing Sector.

About E3 Certifications:

- It is an accreditation process focussing on the Brick industry.
- The certification is provided by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.
- The initiative is an attempt to push burnt clay brick manufacturers to adopt energy-efficient manufacturing.

- It will also encourage customers to source bricks from such E3 certified units.
- It will be awarded to the Manufacturing Units which meet the minimum Specific Energy Consumption performance criteria as specified in the Scheme.
- Presently, the adoption of this certification is voluntary for the Brick industry.

- It will function in consonance with ration card and Aadhaar based authentication.
- This will also help achieve the target set under Sustainable Developmental Goals 2 of ending hunger by 2030.

Advantages:

- Energy savings
- Improved quality of bricks.
- Cost savings.
- Energy savings to occupiers of buildings due to better thermal comfort and improved insulation properties.

About Bureau of Energy Efficiency:

- BEE is a **statutory** body under **Ministry of Power** under **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.
- It implements policy and programmes in the field of energy efficiency and conservation.

Polity and Governance

One Nation One Ration Card System:

Why in News?

The Ministry of Finance recently announced that 17 states have successfully implemented 'one nation, one ration card system'.

About One Nation One Ration Card:

- Initially, it was started as inter-State portability of ration cards in 2019.
- It will allow the migratory workers and other beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 to lift their entitled quota of food grains from **any** Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice anywhere in the country.

Easy access

Under the 'One nation, one ration card' system, beneficiaries can buy subsidised foodgrains from a ration shop in any part of the country

Ration card-Aadhaar linkage must to access the portability scheme

The scheme will be rolled out across the country on: July 1, 2020



A migrant will be allowed to buy a maximum of 50% of the family quota. This is to ensure that the individual, after shifting to another place, does not buy the entire family quota in one go

States providing portability of PDS entitlements:

- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura
- A person will only be eligible for the subsidies supported by the Centre, which include rice sold at ₹3/kg and wheat at ₹2/kg
- Even if a beneficiary moves to a State where grains are given for free, he/she will not be able to access those benefits

Art and Culture

Hampi World Heritage Site:

Why in News?

A part of world heritage site at Hampi collapsed recently.

About Hampi World Heritage Site:

- The site of Hampi comprises mainly of the remnants of the capital city of the then Vijayanagara Empire (14th-16th century CE).
- It is located in the **Tungabhadra basin** in Karnataka.
- The region includes forts, royal and sacred complexes, temples (e.g. Vittala Temple), shrines, pillared halls, Mandapas etc.
- One of the unique features of temples at Hampi is the wide chariot streets flanked by the row of **pillared mandapas**.
- Group of Monuments at Hampi is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

- It used to be the capital of Vijayanagara Empire in the 14-16th century .
- UNESCO describes it as “austere, grandiose site”.

News in Short

Annual democracy report:

- Fifth annual democracy report released recently, was titled ‘Autocratisation goes viral’.
- It is released by Sweden’s **organisation Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)** Institute.
- The report downgraded India’s position from “the world’s largest democracy” to an “electoral autocracy”.
- The reasons cited were:
 - Overuse of defamation and sedition laws.
 - Muzzling of Press
 - The use of the UAPA frequently

Active pharmaceutical ingredients (API)

- The government has approved Production linked incentive scheme for API manufacturing as well.
- A medicine is made of two main ingredients:
 - The chemically active **APIs**
 - The chemically **inactive, excipients**, a substance that delivers the effect of APIs to one’s system.
- API is a chemical compound which is the most important raw material to produce any finished medicine.
- In medicine, API produces the intended effects to reduce and cure the disease.
- e.g., Paracetamol is the API for popular medicine Crocin.
- Combination drugs are those which use multiple **APIs**, while some single-dose drugs like Crocin use just one API.