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### Science and Technology

#### Baikal-Gigaton Volume Detector (GVD):

##### Why in News?

Russian scientists recently launched one of the world's largest **underwater neutrino telescopes** called Baikal-GVD underwater **Lake Baikal**.

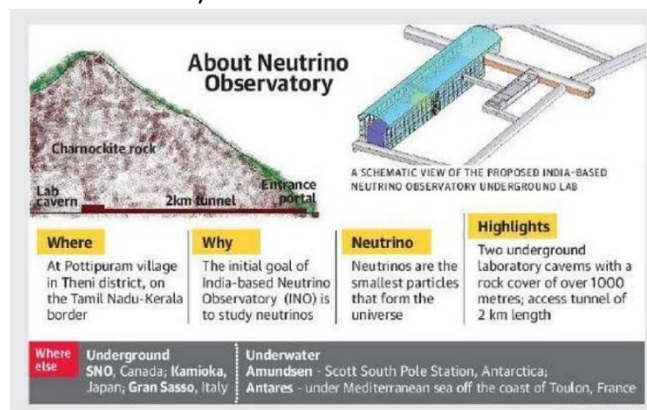
##### About Baikal- GVD:

- It is designed to study in detail the elusive fundamental particles called **neutrinos** and also to possibly determine their sources.
- Other large neutrino detectors in the world:
  - **IceCube** at the South Pole
  - **ANTARES** in the Mediterranean Sea.

##### About Neutrinos:

- The neutrino is also a tiny elementary particle, like protons and electrons, but are **not** part of the atom. Such particles also exist in nature.

- It has a very tiny mass and no charge.
- It interacts extremely weakly with other matter particles. Hence, every second trillion of neutrinos falling on us pass unnoticed.
- Source of Neutrinos:
  - Sun- Solar neutrinos
  - Stars: Stellar neutrinos,
  - Cosmic rays coming from beyond the solar system,
  - From the Big Bang from which our Universe originated.
  - They can also be produced in the lab.
- The INO will study atmospheric neutrinos only. Solar neutrinos have much lower energy than the detector can detect.
- Applications of Neutrino Science:
  - Properties of the sun
  - Constituents of the Universe
  - Probing early Universe
  - Medical Imaging, etc
- India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) is also envisioned with **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research** as the nodal institution in **Bodi West Hills** (Theni district) of Tamil Nadu.



##### About Lake Baikal:

- It is a rift lake located in Southern Siberia, **Russia**.

- It is the largest freshwater lake by volume in the world.
- Baikal is also the world's deepest lake.



## Art and Culture

### Shivakumara Swamigalu

#### Why in News?

Recently, the PM paid tribute to Shivakumara Swamigalu on his Jayanti.

About Shivakumara Swamigalu:

- He was a prominent **Lingayat scholar**, educator, and a spiritual leader.
- He belonged to Ramanagara District, Karnataka.
- He was recently called as "**Nadedaaduva Devaru**" or the "Walking God" among his followers.
- They also considered him as an incarnation of **Basaveshwara**, the 12th century social reformer, noted for his acceptance for all irrespective of their religion or caste.

#### About Lingayats

- The term Lingayat refers to a person who wears a personal **linga**, the aniconic form of god Shiva, on the body.
- They are the followers of the 12th-century social reformer-philosopher poet, **Basaveshwara**.
- The Lingayats are strict monotheists. They worship only one God, i.e., Linga (Shiva).
- According to Lingayat tradition, the word '**Linga**' doesn't mean Linga established in

temples, but the universal consciousness qualified by the universal energy (Shakti).

## Governmental Initiatives

### Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

#### Why in News?

Recently, the daily wages under MGNREGS have been revised to ₹289 in Karnataka.

#### About MGNREGS

- It was launched in 2006.
- It is acclaimed as one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- Objective: Guarantee **100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members** of any rural household willing to do public work-related **unskilled manual work**.
- **Legal Right to Work:** It aims to addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a **rights-based framework**.
- At least **one-third** of beneficiaries must be **women**.
- Wages are to be paid according to the **statutory minimum wages** specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the **Minimum Wages Act, 1948**.
- **Demand-Driven Scheme:** The most iconic part of MGNREGA's design is its **legally backed guarantee** for any rural adult to get work **within 15 days** of demanding it, failing which there is a provision of '**unemployment allowance**' to the job seeker.
- Decentralised planning: Significant role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in planning and implementing these works.
- The act mandates **Gram sabhas to recommend the works** that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by the Gram Sabha itself.

# Places in News

## Nigeria

### Why in News?

A fighter jet of Nigeria is allegedly shot down by terrorist group Boko Haram.

### About Nigeria:

- It is a country in **West Africa**.
- Land Neighbours:
  - Niger in the north,
  - Chad in the northeast,
  - Cameroon in the east, and
  - Benin in the west.
- Its southern coast is on the **Gulf of Guinea** in Atlantic Ocean.



### About Lake Chad:

- Lake Chad is an **endorheic freshwater** lake bordering the above indicated countries.
- It has shrunk by over 95% from about 1963 to 1998.



## Ukraine

### Why in News?

Recently, there has been exchange of words between USA and Russia on issue of Russia's massive military deployment along Ukraine border.

### About Ukraine:

- Location: Eastern Europe
- Surrounding Countries: Ukraine is bordered by Belarus, Russia, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland.
- Surrounding Seas: **Sea of Azov, Black Sea**.



## News in Short

### Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

- Rajinikanth was recently conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2019.
- Dadasaheb Phalke award is India's **highest** award in the field of **cinema**.
- It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals (an organisation set up by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**).
- The award is given to people for "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema".
- It was first presented in 1969. The first recipient was actress Devika Rani, also remembered as "the first lady of Indian cinema."