

UPSC / KPSC/RFO/KEA/ PSI/ESI/VO/GROUP -C

**MONTHLY
MAGAZINE**

LENSE
(Latest Events and
News Analysis Series)

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- Classes in YouTube
- Monthly Coverage
- Analysis through MCQS
- Exam -Focused
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1th Oct 2025 (Wednesday)

1. **Preponderance** of Probability in Civil Proceedings
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6. Nesting of Pallid Fish Eagle
7. NBA Funds Red Sanders Conservation in Andhra Pradesh.

1) **Preponderance of Probability in Civil Proceedings.**

Why in News: Former CJI D.Y. Chandrachud highlighted that the Ayodhya land title judgment was based on the “**test of preponderance of probabilities**”, the standard of proof used in civil cases.



Q) The term “Preponderance of Probability”, recently in news is related to?

1. It is the **standard of proof** generally applied in civil cases.
2. It requires establishing **facts beyond reasonable doubt**.
3. A **fact is considered proved** if it is **more likely than not** to have occurred.
4. It **was invoked by the Supreme Court** in the **Ayodhya land title case** (2019).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
B) 1, 3 and 4 only
C) 2 and 4 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B) 1, 3 and 4 only

2) **RBI constitutes six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)**

Why in News : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a **six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)** to oversee the functioning of payment systems in India. The new body replaces the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS), a committee of the RBI’s Central Board.

Q. With reference to the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) recently constituted by the RBI, consider the following statements:

1. It has been established under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
2. The **RBI Governor serves as its Chairperson**.
3. **The Board consists of 5 members**, including nominees from the Government.

4. It replaces the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS).

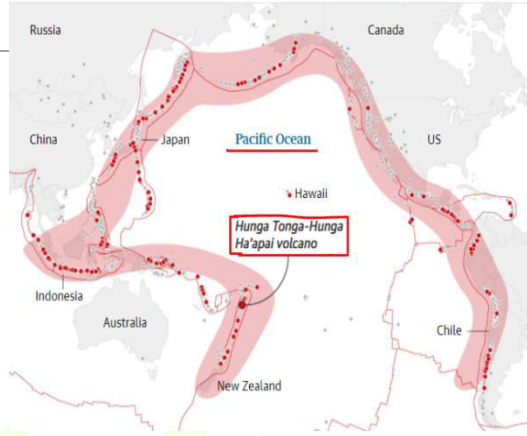
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d) 1, 2 and 3 The Board consists of 6 members

3) Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai Volcano Eruption.

Why in News: A collaborative research team aboard CSIRO research vessel RV Investigator completed a 54-day voyage to study the longterm environmental and oceanic impacts of the 2022 **Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai (HTHH)** submarine volcano eruption.



Q1. With reference to the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai (HTHH) volcano, consider the following statements:

1. It is a **submarine stratovolcano** located in the **South Pacific Ocean**.
2. It is part of the **Tonga–Kermadec volcanic arc** formed by subduction of the Pacific Plate beneath the Indo-Australian Plate.
3. The 2022 eruption was one of the largest of the 21st century, sending a plume into the stratosphere and generating global shock waves.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Match the following volcanoes with their respective locations/plate boundaries:

Select the correct match using the code below:

Column A (Volcano)	Column B (Location / Plate boundary)
A. Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai	1. Subduction of Pacific Plate beneath Indo-Australian Plate
B. Krakatoa	2. Sunda Strait, subduction of Indo-Australian Plate beneath Eurasian Plate

C. Mauna Loa	3. Hawaiian hotspot, Pacific Plate
D. Mount Etna	4. Convergent boundary of African Plate and Eurasian Plate

- a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
b) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
c) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
d) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-

Answer: a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

4)Gulf of Aden

Why in News: A suspected missile strike, likely launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels, caused a vessel to catch fire in the Gulf of Aden.

Q) Which of the following statements about the Gulf of Aden is/are correct?

- It is an **extension of the Indian Ocean** between the Arabian Peninsula and the Asia continent.
- It connects the **Red Sea to the Arabian Sea** via the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb.
- It derives its name from a port city on **Yemen's coast**.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A) 1 and 2 only
B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only
D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer:B) 2 and 3. Extension of the Indian Ocean, between the Arabian Peninsula and the African continent. **Strategic importance:** Part of Suez Canal shipping route.



5)Flood Warnings Issued in Andhra Pradesh as Godavari & Krishna Rivers in Spate.

Why in News: The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has issued flood alerts as the **Godavari and Krishna rivers** continue to receive heavy inflows. Authorities have sounded the second flood warning at **Prakasam Barrage**



(Krishna) and the first flood warning at Dowleswaram (Godavari).

Q)With reference to the **Krishna River**, consider the following statements:

1. It originates from the Western Ghats near **Mahabaleshwar**.
2. Its major tributaries include **Bhima, Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Musi**.
3. Important dams/barrages: **Almatti Dam, Srisaillam Dam, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, Prakasam Barrage (Vijayawada)**, Dowleswaram Barrage.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer:A) 1, 2 only. Krishna River flows through Maharashtra → Karnataka → Telangana → Andhra Pradesh

Q) About the **Godavari River**, consider the statements given below:

1. It originates at **Trimbakeshwar** in Nashik district, Maharashtra.
2. It is the second-longest river in India and is often called **Dakshina Ganga**.
3. Major tributaries: **Indravati, Pranhita, Sabari, Manjira**.
4. **Dowleswaram Barrage** on the Godavari is located in Telangana.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2,3 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: A) 1 and 2, 3 only. Dowleswaram Barrage is in Andhra Pradesh.

Q) Arrange the following rivers in order of their approximate length (longest to shortest):

1. Godavari
2. Krishna
3. Narmada
4. Cauvery

- A) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- B) 1 – 3 – 2 – 4
- C) 2 – 1 – 4 – 3
- D) 3 – 1 – 2 – 4

Answer: A) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

(Godavari ~1465 km > Krishna ~1400 km > Narmada ~1312 km > Cauvery ~800 km)

6) Nesting of Pallid Fish Eagle

Why in News: A joint survey by the State Forest Department and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has revealed the rare nesting of the Pallid Fish Eagle (Pallas's sea eagle) in **Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand**



Q) consider the following statements, With respect to Jim Corbett National Park:

1. It was established in **1936** as Gandhi National Park, the **first national park of India**.
2. It was renamed in honor of **hunter-turned-conservationist Jim Corbett**.
3. It is located in the **foothills of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand**. It became part of Project Tiger in 1973.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only
D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B) 2 and 3. Hailey National Park renamed as Jim Corbett National Park.

- **First to come under Project Tiger (1973).** • Rivers: Ramganga, Pallaen, Sonanadi.
- Vegetation: **Sal and mixed forests**, tropical moist & dry deciduous, grasslands, riparian vegetation.

7) NBA Funds Red Sanders Conservation in Andhra Pradesh.

Why in News: The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has sanctioned ₹82 lakh to the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board for the conservation of Red Sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus), an endemic and endangered tree species. About Red Sanders



Q) Consider the following statements about Red Sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus) and choose the correct ones:

1. It is endemic to the Southern Eastern Ghats of India.
2. In Andhra Pradesh, it is mainly found in Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa, and Kurnool districts.

3. Major threats include illegal felling and smuggling due to high commercial demand.

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D) 1, 2 and 3. Relevant Articles: **Article 48A** – State shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife. **Article 51A(g)** – Fundamental duty of citizens to protect the environment.

8) Swachh Shehar Jodi Initiative - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Why in News: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the **Swachh Shehar Jodi Initiative**, a mentorship programme to pair top-performing cities with low-performing ones to share best practices in sanitation and waste management



Q) Swachh Shehar Jodi Initiative:

1. It is a **mentorship programme** under the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U).
2. The initiative **pairs low-performing cities with top-performing cities** to share best practices.
3. It involves **72 mentor cities** and around **200 mentee cities**.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D) 1, 2 and 3

2 and 3 October (Thursday and Friday)

1. Maitree Puraskar 2025 – National Sanskrit Award
2. Jambu Savari 2025 – A Grand Dasara Procession Amidst Rains
3. Vijayadashami Procession 2025 – Salute to Bapu, Unveiling Progress Through Cultural Tableaux
4. Tejaswi Surya Appointed Head of Selection Committee for People's Trust Bill 2025

1) Maitree Puraskar 2025 – National Sanskrit Award

Q) With reference to the *Maitree Puraskar 2025*, consider the following statements:

1. It is awarded annually by Maitree Sanskrit–Sanskriti Pratishthanam.
2. The award is given for excellence in the field of Sanskrit at the national level.
3. The award carries a cash prize of ₹1,00,000 each and a plaque.
4. In 2025, it has been conferred on Suryanarayana Bhatta Hitlalli and P. Ramanujan.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a) 1, 2 and 4 only. cash prize of ₹10,000 each and a plaque.

2) Jambu Savari 2025 – A Grand Dasara Procession Amidst Rains

With reference to the *Jambu Savari 2025* procession, consider the following statements:

1. The Utsava idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari was carried in a golden ambary (750 Kg) by elephant **Abhimanyu for the sixth time.**
2. For the first time, authorities banned spectators from climbing trees and buildings to prevent accidents.
3. The number of seats inside Mysore Palace premises was reduced due to security concerns following a stampede incident earlier in the year.
4. **Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh** participated in the procession for the first time along with the Chief Minister.



Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q) With reference to the history of *Dasara (Mahanavami)*

- 1) The festival was celebrated with grandeur under the Vijayanagara Empire, depicted in the Hazara Rama temple at Hampi.



- 2) The Italian traveller Niccolò de' Conti described it as a grand religious and martial event with royal support.
- 3) After the fall of Vijayanagara, the Wodeyars of Mysore revived the festival in 1610 CE at Srirangapatna. **Raja Wodeyar I** who first revived Dasara.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d) 1, 2 and 3

Match the Following

Column A (Year)	Column B (Inaugurator)
1. 2023	A. President Droupadi Murmu
2. 2024	B. Writer Hampa Nagarajaiah (HampaNa)
3. 2025	C. Booker Prize-winning author Banu Mushtaq
4. 2022	D. Hamsalekha

Options:

- a) 1-D, 2-B, 3-C,4-A
- b) 1-C, 2-A, 3-B,4-D
- c) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D
- d) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D

Answer: a) 1-D, 2-B, 3-C,4-A

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates Dasara festivities in Mysuru

President Droupadi Murmu, while inaugurating the Dasara festivities in Karnataka, acknowledged the presence of the country's spiritual centres in the State

Updated - September 26, 2023 05:20 pm IST - MYSURU

Hampa Nagarajaiah inaugurates Mysuru Dasara 2024

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Dy CM D. K. Shivakumar, several Ministers participate in the inauguration of 10-day festivities atop Chamundi hills

Updated - October 03, 2023 04 pm IST - MYSURU

Mysuru Dasara 2025: Banu Mushtaq inaugurates 'Nada Habba' festivities with call for harmony and inclusivity

Banu Mushtaq said Dasara was not merely a festival, but a "fair of harmony" and a symbol of the "collective culture" of Karnataka

Updated - September 22, 2023 08:57 pm IST - Mysuru

Q) Match the following districts with their respective prizes in the Mysuru Dasara Tableaux Awards 2025:

Column A (Districts)	Column B (Awards)
1. Udupi	A. First Prize (Padubailur Hulivesha)
2. Dakshina Kannada	B. Second Prize (Buffalo Racing) Culture
3. Belagavi	C. Third Prize (Mayakkadevi Temple)
4. Chikkaballapur	D. Consolation Prize (Chikkaballapur's Heritage)

Options:

- a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D



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- b) 1-B, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C
- c) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D
- d) 1-C, 2-B, 3-A, 4-D\

Answer: a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D

**3) Historian Ramachandra Guha
selected for Mahatma Gandhi Seva
Award – Karnataka**

This award is presented to individuals and organisations that have made significant contributions to spreading the life values of Mahatma Gandhi.

Q) Mahatma Gandhi Seva Award – Karnataka 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The award has been conferred on eminent historian and author **Ramachandra Guha**.
2. It is presented annually by the **Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Karnataka**.
3. The award recognizes significant contributions in promoting Gandhian values and ideals in society.
4. The award is exclusively for individuals from the field of literature.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a) 1, 2 and 3 only

4) Vijayadashami Procession 2025 – Salute to Bapu, Unveiling Progress Through Cultural Tableaux

Q) Which of the following were showcased along the Mysuru Dasara 2025 procession route to invoke Gandhiji's message "My Life is My Message"?

1. Footprints depicting Gandhiji's travels and life events
2. Mandya's freedom struggle lamp and Shivapura flag satyagraha
3. Badanwal spinning machine in Mysuru
4. Tejas fighter aircraft tableau

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation: The Tejas aircraft tableau represented **India's defence progress**, not directly Gandhian legacy.

4) Tejaswi Surya Appointed Head of Selection Committee for People's Trust Bill 2025

Q) People's Trust Bill 2025:

1. It is also referred to as the **People's Confidence Bill**.
2. It seeks to enhance **public trust and accountability of elected representatives**.
3. A **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** has already been formed to examine this bill.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is incorrect — there is **confusion regarding a JPC on a separate bill**, not on the People's Trust Bill itself

4 October (Saturday)

1. Rajnath Singh Warns Pakistan Against Aggression in **Sir Creek Region**
2. Three Tigers Found Dead in Kanha Tiger Reserve, MP
3. India May Need to Engage with Stablecoins: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
4. Snow Leopard Population Rises in Himachal Pradesh to 83
5. Demise of Thumri Maestro Pandit Chhannulal Mishra
6. **Shakti Scheme Gets World Recognition**

1) Rajnath Singh Warns Pakistan Against Aggression in Sir Creek Region

Pakistan's aggression in Sir Creek will be met with resounding response: Rajnath

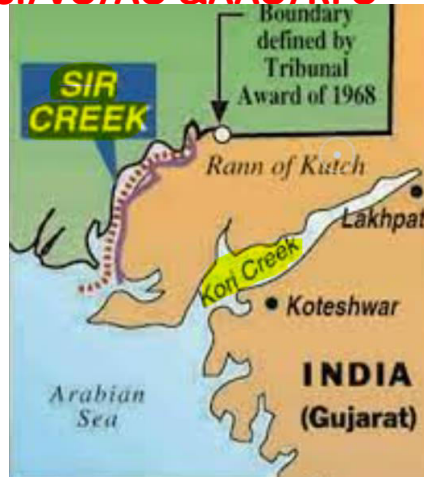
Rajnath Singh said that while New Delhi had made repeated attempts to resolve the Sir Creek dispute through dialogue, Pakistan's intentions remained unclear

Why in News: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh issued a strong

warning to Pakistan regarding any military misadventure in the Sir Creek region, emphasizing that India would deliver a "resounding and decisive response" capable of changing "history and geography." The statement highlights renewed strategic sensitivity around the **Sir Creek area** amid recent maritime tensions.

Q) Consider the following statements regarding the Sir Creek:

1. It is a 96 km long tidal estuary located in the **Rann of Kutch between Gujarat and Sindh.**
2. The creek opens into the Gulf of Mannar in the Indian Ocean.
3. The area around Sir Creek is significant for determining the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary between India and Pakistan.**



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b. Sir Creek flows into the **Arabian Sea**, not the Gulf of Mannar. It plays a key role in **defining the EEZ boundary** in the Arabian Sea.

Other Important Borders of India

Border	Shared With	Length (Approx.)	Key Facts
Line of Control (LoC)	Pakistan (J&K)	740 km	Ceasefire line established after 1971 war, not internationally recognized
Line of Actual Control (LAC)	China	3488 km	Divides Indian-controlled and Chinese-controlled territories, pass through Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh,
International Border (IB)	Pakistan	3323 km	Runs from Gujarat to Jammu; includes Punjab and Rajasthan
McMahon Line	China (Arunachal Pradesh)	~890 km	Drawn in 1914 Simla Convention; China disputes its legality
Durand Line	Afghanistan-Pakistan	~2670 km	Legacy of British India; does not recognize it officially
Indo-Bangladesh Border	Bangladesh	4096 km	India's longest international border, marked by enclaves and riverine

- **Strategic Importance:** Lies near the international boundary between India and Pakistan. **Vital for fishermen's livelihood, maritime security, and oil & gas exploration.**

2) Three Tigers Found Dead in Kanha Tiger Reserve, MP

Male tiger, two cubs, found dead at the Kanha Tiger Reserve

Officials rule out human involvement, suspect male tiger's attempt at asserting territorial dominance as reason for death of cubs

Updated - October 04, 2025 02:25 am IST - Bhopal

Why in News: A 10-year-old male tiger and two female cubs were found dead in Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR),

Madhya Pradesh. Forest officials attributed the deaths to territorial fights among tigers, ruling out human involvement.

Q) With reference to the Kanha Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:

- 1) It is spread across the **districts of Mandla and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh.**
- 2) It was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1973 under the Project Tiger initiative.
- 3) The Barasingha, the state animal of Madhya Pradesh, is exclusively found in this reserve.
- 4) Kanha served as the inspiration for **Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b) 1, 2 and 4 only. The **Barasingha** (*Swamp Deer*) is indeed the **state animal** of Madhya Pradesh and has a major population in Kanha, but it is **not exclusively found** there — it also exists in small numbers in other parts of India.

3) India May Need to Engage with Stablecoins: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Why in News? During the **Kautilya Economic Conclave**, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that countries must “prepare to engage” with stablecoins, whether they welcome such financial innovations or not — indicating a possible shift in India’s cryptocurrency policy stance.

Q) With reference to **Stablecoins, consider the following statements:**

1. **Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies** designed to minimize price volatility by pegging their value to stable assets like fiat currencies or commodities.
2. DAI is a fiat-backed stablecoin regulated by the U.S. government.
3. In India, income from Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs), including cryptocurrencies, is taxed at 30% under Section 115BBH of the Income Tax Act, 1961.



How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Nations must prepare to deal with **stablecoins: Finance Minister Sitharaman**

Ms. Sitharaman said the task before nations is not only to manage uncertainty but to confront trade, financial and energy imbalances

Updated - October 06, 2025 12:56 am IST - New Delhi

Answer: (b) Only two. DAI is a **crypto-backed decentralized** stablecoin, not fiat-backed or government-regulated.

Q) With reference to “Blockchain Technology”, consider the following statements:

1. It is a public ledger that everyone can inspect, but which no single user controls.
2. The structure and design of the blockchain are such that all the data in it are about cryptocurrency only.
3. Applications that depend on the basic features of blockchain can be developed without anybody’s permission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 only

4. 1 and 3 only

Answer: Option 4): 1 and 3 only. Blockchain is not only for cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin. It is also used in banking, health, supply chains, and contracts.

3) Snow Leopard Population Rises in Himachal Pradesh to 83

Why in News: The Wildlife Wing of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, in collaboration with the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), has recorded 83 snow leopards in the latest population survey — a sharp rise from 51 individuals in 2021. The state is now the first in India to complete a comprehensive population estimation of snow leopards.



Q) With reference to the Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*), consider the following statements:

1. It is the state animal of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.
2. It is found only in India's Himalayan region.
3. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and in Appendix I of CITES.
4. **'Sheen-e She' Snow leopard** was the mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 held in Ladakh.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: (c) Only three

- It is not restricted to India; snow leopards are found across 12 countries including China, Nepal, and Kazakhstan

4) Demise of Thumri Maestro Pandit Chhannulal Mishra

Why in News: Pandit Chhannulal Mishra (1936–2025), a **Padma Vibhushan** awardee and one of the last great exponents of the Purab Ang style of Thumri in the Banaras Gharana, passed away. His death marks the end of an era in Hindustani semi-classical music.

- **Nature:** Semi-classical vocal form of Hindustani music, often described as the "lyric of Indian classical music."

THUMRI MAESTRO PANDIT CHHANNULAL MISHRA PASSES AWAY

PANDIT CHHANNULAL MISHRA, A MAESTRO OF HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSIC AND PADMA VIBHUSHAN RECIPIENT, PASSED AWAY AT 89

WHO WAS PANDIT CHHANNULAL MISHRA?

Background: Born in 1936 in Varanasi, Pandit Chhannulal Mishra emerged from a modest family to become one of India's greatest Hindustani classical vocalists.

Musical Lineage: Foremost exponent of the Purab Ang Thumri of the Banaras Gharana, blending the melodic precision of Kirana with the emotive depth of Banaras traditions.

Artistic Range: Mastered Thumri, Dadra, Kajri, and Chaiti, combining folk vitality and classical discipline—hallmarks of the Kashi musical spirit.

Voice & Expression: His gravelly, resonant voice conveyed devotion, mysticism, and deep emotion, evoking Lord Shiva, the Ganga, and the eternal mood of Banaras.

Cultural Symbol: Alongside Ustad Bismillah Khan, he personified the Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb, symbolising the harmony of Hindu-Muslim artistic traditions.

Honours: Recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, his legacy unites classical rigor, folk heart, and spiritual emotion in a single aesthetic stream.



- **Origin:** Emerged in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, mainly Lucknow and Banaras, in the 18th century CE. • **Founder/Patron:** Developed under Sadiq Ali Shah during the Nawabi period of Lucknow.

3) Shakti Scheme Gets World Recognition

Why in News: The Karnataka government's flagship women empowerment initiative — Shakti Scheme — has been recognized by the International Book of Records with a World Record of Excellence. The scheme, which offers free bus travel for women across the state, has issued over 500 crore free tickets since its launch.

Karnataka's Shakti scheme bags world record recognition

Launched on June 11, 2023, as the first of the Congress government's five guarantees, the Shakti scheme allows women, including transgender persons and students, to travel free of cost on non-premium state-run buses.

Updated - October 03, 2023 11:44 am IST - Bangalore

THE HINDU BUREAU

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Q) With reference to the Shakti Scheme launched by the Government of Karnataka, consider the following statements:

- 1) It was launched on June 11, 2023, as one of the five guarantees of the Congress government.
- 2) The scheme allows all women and transgender persons free travel in all premium and non-premium state-run buses across Karnataka.
- 3) The scheme has been recognized by international organizations like the **Golden Book of World Records** for its social impact.
- 4) **Article 15(3)** of the Indian Constitution provides the basis for such welfare schemes by allowing special provisions for women and children.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Answer: (c) Only three. The free travel benefit is only in **non-premium state-run buses like KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC**. Premium or luxury buses (e.g. AC, Volvo) are **excluded**.

6 October (Monday)

1. Telangana Leads India in UPI Transaction Intensity, RBI Report Shows
2. Pulicat Lake
3. ICGS Akshar

1) Telangana Leads India in UPI Transaction Intensity, RBI Report Shows

Why in News: An RBI paper has revealed that **Telangana tops** all Indian states in UPI transaction intensity, reflecting a shift toward digital payments, especially for low-value,

Telangana tops States in UPI transaction intensity: RBI paper

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra also recorded high UPI usage intensity

THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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everyday transactions, and impacting cash demand in the economy

Q) With reference to the RBI report on UPI transaction intensity in India (2025), consider the following statements:

1. **Telangana** recorded the highest per capita UPI transaction intensity among all Indian states.
2. The average value of UPI transactions in India has been rising due to higher-value business payments.
3. The increase in UPI payments has coincided with a decline in ATM cash withdrawals as a share of GDP.
4. Northeastern states and Kerala show higher cash withdrawal intensity primarily due to tourism and limited digital infrastructure.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: (c) Only three. Incorrect statement: 2 — because the average UPI transaction value is *declining*, not rising.

- Low-value peer-to-merchant (P2M) payments increasingly dominate UPI usage.
- **Average value of UPI transaction declining**; bulk of P2M transactions <₹500.

2) Pulicat Lake

Why in News: Fishermen around Pulicat Lake have demanded a long-term solution as siltation in the lagoon is affecting fish catch and threatening their livelihoods.

Q) Pulicat Lake, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's largest brackish water lagoon, located entirely within the state of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The lake is separated from the Bay of Bengal by Sriharikota island.
3. The Aarani and Kalangi rivers feed the lagoon.
4. The Buckingham Canal passes through the lake area.
5. It was designated as a Ramsar site in 2002.

How many of the above statements are correct?



10 Major Indian Lakes: States & Features

A Visual Guide to India's Significant Water Bodies

 <p>Vembanad Lake Kerala: Longest lake in India, backwater ecosystem</p>	 <p>Chilika Lake Odisha: Largest brackish water lagoon, winter bird sanctuary</p>	 <p>Wular Lake Jammu and Kashmir: Largest freshwater lake, fed by Jhelum River</p>
 <p>Umiam Lake Meghalaya: "Jewel in the crown" of Kashmir, houseboats and shikaras</p>	 <p>Pichola Lake Rajasthan: Historic lake with palaces, Udumbar, island with a temple</p>	 <p>Bhimtal Lake Uttarakhand: Largest lake in Uttarakhand, "City of Lakes"</p>
 <p>Hussain Sagar Lake Telangana: Heart-shaped lake, Buddha statue in the center</p>	 <p>Pulicat Lake Andhra Pradesh: Second largest brackish water lake, flamingo habitat</p>	 <p>Tso Moriri Lake Ladakh: High-altitude lake, part of Ramsar site</p>

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Answer: (c) Only four. Pulicat is the **second largest** brackish water lagoon (after Chilika), and it lies in **both Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**, not entirely in one state.

3) Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar

Why in News: A tiger attack in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, West Champaran, recently claimed a human life, highlighting the need for strengthened human-wildlife conflict management and conservation awareness.



4) ICGS Akshar

Why in News: The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Akshar, the second in the **Adamyia-class** series of **Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)**, was recently commissioned at Karaikal, Puducherry, enhancing India's coastal security and maritime operational capabilities.



- CGS Akshar is the second ship in the Adamyia-class series of eight Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs), not the first.
- It is fitted with CPP, IBS, IPMS, and APMS, designed indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited with over 60% indigenous content.
- The vessel is based at Karaikal, Puducherry, and operates under the Coast Guard Region (East).

7 October (Tuesday)

- 1) Two youths rescued from swollen **Manjeera River** near Edupayala Temple in Medak
- 2) Philippines to host Southeast Asia's first coral larvae cryobank under Coral Triangle network
- 3) Delhi Forest Department announces six-day bird walks at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary
- 4) **Tikhir Tribal Council** urges inclusion of Tikhir aspirants in Nagaland Police recruitment
- 5) **Exercise KONKAN-25** begins between Indian Navy and Royal Navy off the western coast of India
- 6) **2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** awarded for discoveries on immune system regulation

1) Two youths rescued from swollen Manjeera River near Edupayala Temple in Medak

Why in News: In a dramatic rescue operation near the Edupayala temple in Medak district, Telangana, two youths from Kukatpally were saved after being swept away by the swollen waters of the Manjeera River. The incident highlights rising water levels due to recent heavy rains in the catchment area.

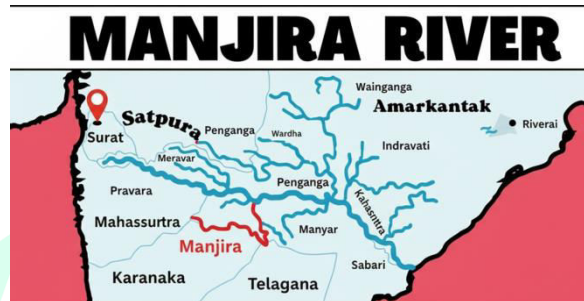
Q) With reference to the Manjeera River, consider the following statements:

- 1) It originates in the Balaghat Range of hills near Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra.
- 2) It is a tributary of the Krishna River.
- 3) Its final stretch forms a natural boundary between Telangana and Maharashtra.

Q) Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only



- **States covered:** Maharashtra → Karnataka → Telangana.
- **Length:** ~724 km, Catchment area: ~30,844 sq. km
- **Confluence:** Joins the Godavari River at Basara (Nizamabad district, Telangana)
- The Godavari is the largest **Peninsular river system**. It is also called the **Dakshin Ganga**.
- The Godavari is a **consequent river** because its course follows the general direction of the land's slope, which is downhill from the Western Ghats to the Bay of Bengal

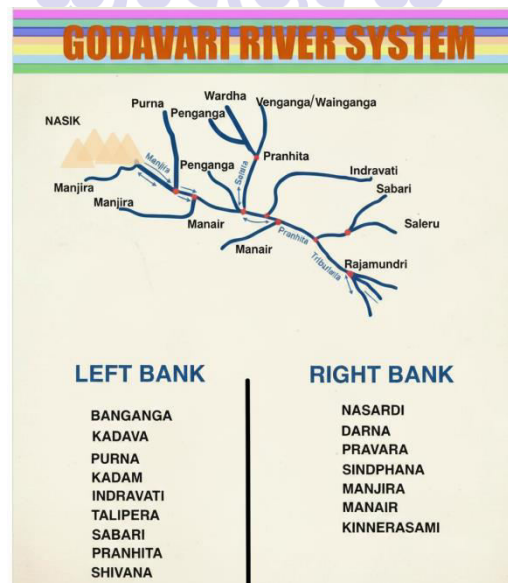
Q. Which of the following projects are located on the Manjeera River?

- 1) Singur Dam
- 2) Nizam Sagar Project
- 3) Srisaillam Project

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only



Both the Singur Dam (Singur Reservoir) and Nizam Sagar Project are major water resource and drinking water schemes built on the Manjeera River, serving Hyderabad and Telangana's irrigation needs. The **Srisailem Project** lies on the **Krishna River**, not on the Manjeera.

What is the **Coral Triangle**?



- **Extent:** A 5.7 million sq km marine zone covering Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste.
- **Biodiversity:** Hosts 76 % of coral species, 33 % of reef fish, 6 of 7 turtle species, and vast mangrove ecosystems.
- **Human Link:** Supports 120 million people via fishing and tourism.
- **Threats:** Facing global warming, coral bleaching, destructive fishing, and pollution, UNEP warns 90 % of reefs may vanish by 2050 if warming exceeds 1.5 °C — underscoring the Cryobank's urgency.

2) Philippines to host Southeast Asia's first coral larvae cryobank under Coral Triangle network

Why in News: The Philippines is preparing to host Southeast Asia's first coral larvae cryobank, linking research institutions from Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. The initiative will create a network of cryobanks across the Coral.

3) Delhi Forest Department announces six-day bird walks at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

Daily bird walks at **Asola Bhatti Sanctuary** for Wildlife Week celebrations

Why in News: Delhi's Forest and Wildlife Department has announced six days of

daily bird walks at **Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary** as part of the Wildlife Week celebrations, promoting awareness about urban biodiversity and bird conservation. Triangle, aimed at conserving marine biodiversity and safeguarding coral species against

- It is in the **southern part of Delhi**, across the Delhi-Haryana border of the **Aravali hill range**; covers 32.71 sq. km, contains one of the **last surviving remnants of the Delhi Ridge hill range**; and was established in 1986.



4) Tikhir Tribal Council urges inclusion of Tikhir aspirants in Nagaland Police recruitment

Why in News: The **Tikhir Tribal Council** (TTC) submitted a representation to the Nagaland Director General of Police, requesting that aspirants from the Tikhir tribe residing in Noklak district be included in the recently announced Nagaland Police constable recruitment, highlighting tribal representation and inclusion in government services.



Q) Which of the following statements about the **Tikhir tribe** of Nagaland is correct?

- A) They are mainly found in **Arunachal Pradesh** and **speak the Ao Naga language**.
 B) They are a **Scheduled Tribe of Nagaland**, primarily agricultural, **speak Naga Yimchungru** (Tibeto-Burman family), celebrate the *Tsonglaknyi* festival in October, and most have converted to Christianity.
 C) They are a **non-tribal community** known for their fishing practices and Buddhist beliefs.
 D) They are a large tribe living near Kohima and Dimapur.

Answer: B

5) Exercise KONKAN-25 begins between Indian Navy and Royal Navy off the western coast of India

Why in News: Exercise KONKAN-25, a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the **Royal Navy of the United Kingdom**, commenced on 05 October 2025 off the western coast of India. The exercise aims to strengthen maritime cooperation and enhance interoperability between the two navies.



Q) With reference to Exercise KONKAN-25, recently conducted off the western coast of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a bilateral maritime exercise between the **Indian Navy** and the **Royal Navy of the United Arab** .
2. The exercise includes both a **Harbour Phase** focusing on professional interactions and a **Sea Phase** involving complex maritime operations.
3. The exercise was first initiated in 2015 as part of the India-UK Vision 2035 framework.

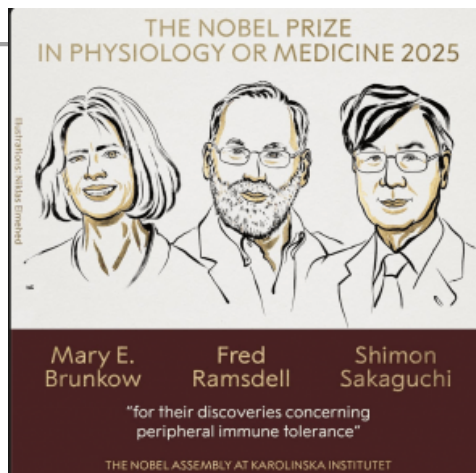
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- A) 2 only
 B) 1 only
 C) 2 and 3 only
 D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A) 2 only. Exercise KONKAN is a **bilateral naval exercise** between **India and the UK**, started in **2004**, not 2015.

6) 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine awarded for discoveries on immune system regulation

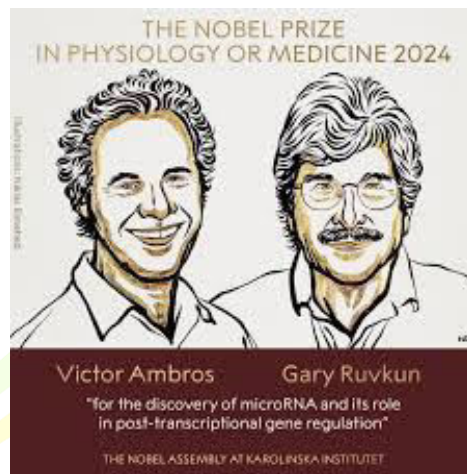
Why in News: The 2025 Nobel Prize in **Physiology or Medicine** was jointly awarded to **Mary E. Brunkow, Fred**



Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi for their pioneering research on peripheral immune tolerance. Their discoveries regarding regulatory T cells (Tregs) and the FOXP3 gene explain how the immune system avoids attacking its own tissues and have paved the way for therapies in autoimmune diseases, cancer, and transplantation medicine.

Q) With reference to the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, consider the following statements:

1. The prize was jointly awarded to **Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi** for their discoveries related to **regulatory T cells (Tregs)** and the **FOXP3 gene** that regulate immune tolerance.
2. Their work explains how the immune system distinguishes between self and non-self, preventing autoimmune diseases.
3. The discovery has paved the way for therapeutic applications in **autoimmune disorders, organ transplantation, and cancer immunotherapy**.
4. **Regulatory T cells (Tregs)** were first discovered by **Fred Ramsdell** in 1995 at Osaka University.
5. **FOXP3 gene mutations** are associated with **autoimmune disorders such as IPEX syndrome**.



How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Answer: (c) Only four (1, 2, 3, and 5)

1. **Statement 4** is incorrect — *Regulatory T cells (Tregs)* were discovered by **Shimon Sakaguchi**, not **Fred Ramsdell**.
2. **Indian Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine:** In **1968**, **Har Gobind Khorana** from India, was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine**, along with Marshall Nirenberg and Robert Holley from the US.



8 October (Wednesday)

1. **Mig La Pass:** World's Highest Motorable Road Constructed by BRO
2. **Black Sea Source.**
3. **Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary**
4. **Karnak Temple**
5. **Nobel Prize in Physics 2025** Awarded for Experiments in Quantum Tunnelling

1. Mig La Pass: World's Highest Motorable Road Constructed by BRO

Why in News: Project Himank of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has achieved a landmark feat by constructing the **world's highest motorable road at Mig La Pass**, situated **19,400 feet above sea level** in Ladakh.

Q) Consider the following statements regarding the Mig La Pass in Ladakh:

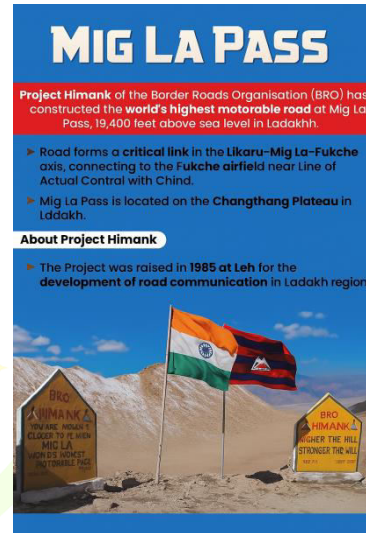
1. It is located on the **Changthang Plateau** near the Indo-China border.
2. It connects the **Likaru–Mig La–Fukche axis**, forming part of the **Hanle–Fukche corridor**.
3. It is the **world's second-highest motorable road** constructed by BRO under Project Himank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (a)

- It was established in **1985 at Leh** under the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.
- **Mig La Pass in Ladakh, India**, at an altitude of **19,400 feet**, while the **second highest is Umling La**, also in Ladakh, at 19,024 feet.



Q) Assertion (A): Project Himank was established to promote tourism development in Ladakh.

Reason (R): It focuses mainly on constructing scenic highways for tourist convenience.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) **A is false, but R is true.**

Answer: (d)

- **Project Himank** : Established on **04 December 1985** at **Leh** under the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.
- **Objective:** To develop and maintain strategic road infrastructure in the high-altitude regions of Ladakh.

2. Black Sea Source.



Why in News: Russia has reported destroying 251 Ukrainian drones overnight, most of them over its southwest and the Black Sea, with one drone reportedly targeting Moscow. This highlights the intensifying conflict dynamics over the strategically vital Black Sea region, which holds immense geopolitical and maritime importance for Europe and Asia.

Q) Consider the following pairs:

Sea	Bordering Country
1. Adriatic Sea	Albania
2. Black Sea	Croatia
3. Caspian Sea	Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea	Morocco
5. Red Sea	Syria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?



- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 2 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (2) 1, 3 and 4 only

Sea Name	Countries Bordering Trick to Remember
Adriatic Sea	Incredibly Slimy Cockroach Bit My Aunt (I – Italy, S – Slovenia, C – Croatia, B – Bosnia & Herzegovina, M – Montenegro, A – Albania)
Black Sea	BuRGURT (B – Bulgaria, G – Georgia, U – Ukraine, R – Romania, T – Turkey)
Caspian Sea	TARIK (T – Turkmenistan, A – Azerbaijan, R – Russia, I – Iran, K – Kazakhstan)
Mediterranean Sea	Asian part: SILCy (Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Cyprus); African part: TAMEL (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Libya); European part: BOSS ki SASTI MoMo (Bosnia, Spain, Albania, Slovenia, Turkey, Italy, Montenegro, Monaco, Greece, France, Croatia)
Red Sea	DEYSED (D – Djibouti, E – Eritrea, Y – Yemen, S – Sudan, E – Egypt, D – Djibouti)

3. Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in News: A 12-year-old male tiger was brutally hunted, dismembered, and buried at Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills WLS) in Karnataka, just four months after a previous poisoning case. The repeated incidents have raised serious concerns about poaching networks, wildlife monitoring, and anti-poaching infrastructure in the region.



LOCATION & STATUS

- Situated in **Chamarajanagar, Karnataka**, near Eastern Ghats tri-junction (Karnataka-Kerala-Tamil Nadu).
- Declared a **Wildlife Sanctuary in 2013**.
- Managed under MM Hills Wildlife Division (earlier Kollegal Forest Division).
- Not yet a Tiger Reserve** (proposal pending).



GEOGRAPHY & HABITAT

- Area:** ~906 sq km (large sanctuary).
- Borders:** BRT Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Flora:** Dry/moist deciduous dominant; scrub on fringes; semi-evergreen, evergreen & shola patches at higher altitudes.

- **Karnataka has 5 tiger reserves, 30 wildlife sanctuaries, and 5 national parks.** The tiger reserves are Bandipur, Bhadra, Nagarhole, Dandeli-Anshi, and BRT (Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple).
- **The Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary**, located in the Latehar district of **Jharkhand**, is **India's first and only wolf sanctuary.**

Q) Consider the following statements regarding the *Ramadevarabetta Vulture Sanctuary* in Karnataka:

1. It is **India's first vulture sanctuary**, established to protect vultures affected by diclofenac poisoning.
2. The Indian long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*) found here is listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a) 1 only

- *Ramadevarabetta Vulture Sanctuary* was declared in **2012** as **India's first vulture sanctuary** to protect vultures affected by **diclofenac poisoning** from cattle carcasses.
- The **Indian long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*)** is classified as **Critically Endangered**, not Vulnerable, on the **IUCN Red List**.



4) Karnak Temple

Why in News: A recent geoarchaeological study has revealed that **Egypt's famed Karnak Temple Complex** rose from an island amid Nile floods, highlighting its evolution into one of the ancient world's most enduring sacred centers.

Q) Consider the following statements regarding the Karnak Temple Complex in Egypt:

1. It is located in Luxor, on the east bank of the Nile River.
2. The temple complex is dedicated to the Theban triad — Amun, Mut, and Khonsu.
3. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site along with the Luxor Temple and the Valley of the Kings.
4. It was primarily built during the reign of the Ptolemaic rulers.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

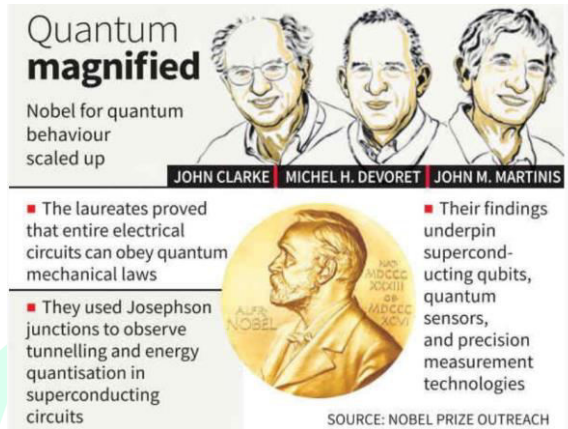
Answer: (c) Only three

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Construction began around **2055 BCE** and continued mainly during the **New Kingdom**, not under the **Ptolemaic rulers**.

5) Nobel Prize in Physics 2025 Awarded for Experiments in Quantum Tunnelling

Why in News: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced that the **Nobel Prize in Physics 2025** will be awarded to **John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John**

Martinis for their pioneering experiments that revealed how quantum particles behave in ways contrary to classical physics, particularly in exhibiting the phenomenon of quantum tunnelling.



Q. With reference to the Nobel Prize in Physics 2025, consider the following statements:

- The award was given for experiments related to the phenomenon of quantum tunnelling.
- The experiments involved the use of **superconducting materials** separated by a non-conducting layer called a Josephson Junction.
- These experiments have applications in **quantum computing and superconducting technologies**.
- The discoveries are primarily related to the development of optical lasers and photon entanglement.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

- Statement 4 is incorrect — the research was *not* related to lasers or photon entanglement but to *quantum tunnelling and superconducting circuits*.



- **Nobel Prize in Physics 2024** has been awarded to **John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton** for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable **Machine Learning (ML)** with **Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs)**.

9 October (Thursday)

- 1) **RBI introduces Unified Markets Interface (UMI) to tokenise financial assets using CBDC**
- 2) **Trade Deal is a Launchpad for Growth, Says British PM**
- 3) **Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary, Punjab.**
- 4) **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025 awarded for creation of Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs)**
- 5) **Draft National Labour Policy (Shram Shakti Niti, 2025) proposes universal social security through integration of key schemes**

1) RBI introduces Unified Markets Interface (UMI) to tokenise financial assets using CBDC

Why in News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the Unified Markets Interface (UMI) — a digital infrastructure aimed at tokenising financial assets using wholesale Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) to improve efficiency and transparency in financial markets.

Q) Consider the following statements regarding Unified Market Infrastructure (UMI) recently in news:



1. It aims to create a next-generation financial market infrastructure (FMI) enabling **asset tokenisation** and automated settlements.
2. It uses wholesale CBDC (w-CBDC) for settlement and Account Aggregator framework for data sharing.
3. It is implemented under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (1) 1 and 2 only
- (2) 2 and 3 only
- (3) 1 and 3 only
- (4) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (1) 1 and 2 only

UMI is a financial market initiative under the **RBI/financial regulators**, not MeitY.

Account Aggregator (AA) Framework:

- Launched under RBI's regulatory sandbox (2021).
- Operates under NBFC-AA license issued by RBI.

- Institutions like Sahamati act as facilitators.

Asset Tokenisation (Static Concept):

- Converts physical assets (like gold, bonds, property) into digital tokens on blockchain.
- Enhances liquidity, transparency, and accessibility for investors.

2) Trade Deal is a Launchpad for Growth, Says British PM

India-UK trade deal launchpad for growth, opportunities: British PM Keir Starmer

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral talks with his British counterpart Keir Starmer on October 9.

Why in News: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's first official visit to India highlighted the India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which aims to boost bilateral trade by £25.5 billion annually. The agreement includes provisions for duty-free access on almost all tariff lines, marking a major milestone in India-U.K. trade relations.

Key Points:

- It is a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** — reduces tariffs and boosts trade in goods & services between India and the U.K.
- **Duty-free access:** 99.1% of tariff lines become duty-free as soon as the agreement starts — covering almost 100% of trade value.
- **Vision 2035:** 10-year plan to strengthen cooperation in: **Trade & investment, Technology, Defence, Energy, Health, Education, Culture**
- **Benefiting sectors:** Textiles, automobiles, whisky, and other goods.
- **Impact:** U.K. firms like **Rolls-Royce** plan to expand operations in India through this agreement.

3) Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary, Punjab.

Why in News: Around 100 wild boars were found dead in Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary in March 2025. A postmortem investigation has indicated that the deaths were likely caused by toxic waste contamination in Nangal Lake, which forms part of the sanctuary ecosystem.

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India's post

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India •
14 January •

Exploring India's Ramsar Sites

Day 39: Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary

From wetlands to wildlife, each site is a unique haven for nature. Let's celebrate and safeguard these vital ecosystems together!

#RamsarSites #MissionLIFE #ProPlanetPeople



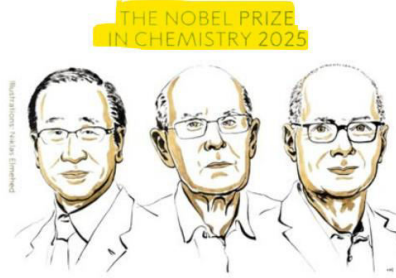
Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary

formed in 1961, is a crucial reservoir near the second-highest Bhakra Dam on the Sutlej River. This wetland in the Shivalik foothills attracts resident and migratory birds, serving as a refueling base. By regulating water flow, it minimizes flood risks.



4) Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025 awarded for creation of Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs)

Why in News: The **2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** has been awarded to Richard Robson, Susumu Kitagawa, and Omar Yaghi for their pioneering work in developing **Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs)** — crystalline materials that combine metal ions and organic molecules to create highly porous, tunable structures with vast industrial and



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025 has been awarded to **Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi** "for the development of metal–organic frameworks."

Q) Which of the following statements regarding the Nobel Prize is/are correct?

1. The **Nobel Peace Prize** is awarded in **Stockholm, Sweden**.
2. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.
3. The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in **1901**, based on the will of **Alfred Nobel**.

Select the correct answer:

- (1) 1 and 2 only
- (2) 2 and 3 only
- (3) 1 and 3 only
- (4) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (2) 2 and 3 only: The Peace Prize is awarded in **Oslo, Norway**, while Chemistry, Physics, and Economics are awarded in **Stockholm** by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

Nobel Prize – Background Information

Origin:

The Nobel Prizes were established through Alfred Nobel (1833-1896), a Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite, and inventor of dynamite.

The first prizes were awarded in 1901.

Awarded For:

- Outstanding contributions in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace.

Institutions Responsible:

- Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences – Physics, Chemistry, Karolinska Institute (Nobel Assembly) – Physiology or Medicine.
- Swedish Academy
- Norwegian Nobel Committee (Oslo) – Peace Prize.

Award Ceremony:

- Held annually on December 10, the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel.
- Ceremonies take place in **Stockholm (Sweden)** for all prizes except **Peace Prize**, which is presented in Oslo (Norway).

Prize Components:

- Nobel Medal, Diploma, and a Monetary Award (approx. 11 million SEK in 2025).

India and Nobel Connection:

- Rabindranath Tagore (1913) – Literature,
- C. V. Raman (1930) – Physics,
- Mother Teresa (1979) – Peace,
- Amartya Sen (1988) – Economics,
- Abhijit Banerjee (2019) – Economics,
- Venkatraman Ramakrishnan (2009) – Chemistry.

Q) Which of the following scientists is correctly paired with his contribution to the development of MOFs?

Scientist	Contribution
A. Richard Robson	1. Conceived MOFs in the 1970s using copper ions and organic ligands
B. Susumu Kitagawa	2. Demonstrated gas adsorption and porous flexibility
C. Omar Yaghi	3. Developed stable and tunable MOFs via rational design and AI-based molecular engineering

Select the correct answer:

- (1) A only
- (2) A and B only
- (3) B and C only
- (4) A, B, and C

Answer: (4) A, B, and C. All three were recognized jointly for their foundational and pioneering roles in MOF chemistry.

Origin:

- The Nobel Prizes were established through the will of **Alfred Nobel** (1833–1896), a **Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite**.
- The first prizes were awarded in **1901**.

Field	Nobel Prize Winners	Awarded For
Physiology/Medicine	Victor Ambros (USA), Gary Ruvkun (USA)	Discovery of microRNAs
Physics	John J. Hopfield (USA), Geoffrey E. Hinton (British-Canadian)	Development of artificial neural networks using statistical physics concepts
Chemistry	David Baker (USA), Demis Hassabis (British), John M. Jumper (USA)	Computational protein design (Baker), Protein structure prediction (Hassabis & Jumper)
Literature	Han Kang (South Korean)	Poetic prose confronting historical traumas and the fragility of human life
Peace	Nihon Hidankyo (Japanese organization)	Efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons through witness testimony
Economics	Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson (USA)	Studies on the formation of institutions and their impact on prosperity

5) Draft National Labour Policy (Shram Shakti Niti, 2025) proposes universal social security through integration of key schemes

Why in News: The Ministry of Labour and Employment has released the Draft National Labour and Employment Policy (Shram Shakti Niti, 2025) for public consultation. The policy aims to unify India's fragmented social security ecosystem and promote inclusive, technology-driven, and gender-sensitive labour reforms.

About Draft National Labour & Employment Policy — Shram Shakti Niti 2025

The draft presents a **renewed vision for a fair, inclusive, and future-ready world of work** aligned with the national aspiration of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

It emphasises cooperative **federalism, evidence-based policymaking, digital transparency, and coordinated action** among the **Centre, States, industry, and social partners**.

Released by: Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

Inspired by: India's civilisational ethos of **śrama dharma' – the dignity and moral value of work**.

Aim: To build a balanced, inclusive, and future-ready labour and employment ecosystem that protects workers, boosts productivity, and supports sustainable enterprise-led livelihoods.

Phased implementation

- **Phase I (2025–27)** focuses on institutional setup and social-security integration.
- **Phase II (2027–30)** completes the nationwide rollout of **universal social security accounts, introduces skill-credit systems, and establishes district-level Employment Facilitation Cells**.
- **Phase III (beyond 2030)** brings paperless governance, predictive analytics, and continuous policy renewal.

Q) With reference to the Draft National Labour and Employment Policy (Shram Shakti Niti, 2025), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to create a **"One Nation, Integrated Workforce"** by unifying multiple social security schemes such as **EPFO, ESIC, PMJAY, and the e-SHRAM portal**.
2. It proposes **AI-enabled safety systems and gender-sensitive workplace standards** to improve occupational safety and health.

3. The policy aligns with **Viksit Bharat 2027** vision to ensure welfare of workers while fostering enterprise growth.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (1) Only one statement is correct
- (2) Only two statements are correct
- (3) All three statements are correct
- (4) None of the statements are correct

Correct Answer: (2) All Two statements are correct, Vision (2047 Goal): To achieve a fair, inclusive, and future-ready world of work, aligning with **Viksit Bharat 2047** — ensuring welfare of workers while fostering enterprise growth.

10 October (Friday)

1. Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) launched at GIFT City
2. Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project
3. Mera Hou Chongba Festival celebrated in Manipur
4. SAKSHAM — Indian Army's Indigenous Counter-UAS Grid
5. Nobel Prize in Literature
6. PM-KUSUM Scheme to be Showcased Globally via International Solar Alliance
7. Supreme Court Rules Surrogacy Age Limits Not Applicable

1. Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) launched at GIFT City

Why in News: The Union Finance Minister recently launched the **Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS)** at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located in GIFT City, Gujarat, marking a significant milestone in India's financial infrastructure aimed at facilitating faster and more secure foreign currency settlements.



Q) With reference to the Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) launched at GIFT City, consider the following statements:

1. It has been established under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
2. It is authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. It is operated by CCIL IFSC Limited, a subsidiary of the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL).
4. The system initially supports settlement in Euro (EUR) currency.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (1) 1 and 3 only
- (2) 2 and 4 only



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ನಮ್ಮ FORESIGHT

IAS/KAS/ACF/PSI/VO/AO &AAO/RFO

(3) 1, 2, and 3 only

(4) 1, 3, and 4 only

Answer: (1) 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 2 — FALSE-** FCSS is authorised by IFSCA (the regulator for IFSCs), not the RBI. RBI regulates domestic payment systems, but IFSC-specific systems are authorised by the International Financial Services Centres Authority.
- **Statement 4 — FALSE.** The initial currency supported is the US Dollar (USD) — not the Euro (EUR).

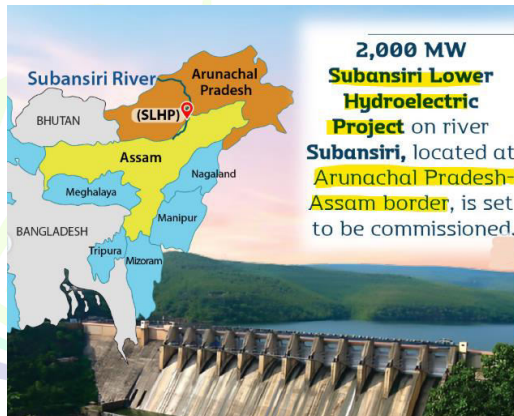
Objective:

- Develop GIFT City as a global financial hub.
- Bridge India's domestic economy with international financial markets. o Promote innovation and competitiveness in the financial ecosystem.
- **Headquarters:** GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

2. Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project

Why in News: Hundreds of local residents recently staged protests in Daporijo, Arunachal Pradesh, opposing the proposed 2,000 MW Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project, citing concerns over displacement, ecological impact, and livelihood loss.

Q) Consider the following statements about the Subansiri River:



1. It originates in the western part of Mount Porom in the Tibetan Himalaya.
2. It flows through Tibet, Assam and West Bengal before joining the Brahmaputra.
3. It is locally known as the "Silver River" because of its metallic deposits.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) 2 only
- (2) None of the above
- (3) 1 only
- (4) All 3

Answer: (3) 1 only

- Flows through Tibet → Arunachal Pradesh → Assam, joining Brahmaputra at Lakhimpur →
- Locally called the "Gold River"
- **Tributary Status:** Right-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- **Major Tributaries:** Laro, Nye, Yume, Tsari, Kamla, Jiyadhol, Ranganadi, and Dikrong.

3. Mera Hou Chongba Festival celebrated in Manipur

Why in News: The Mera Hou Chongba festival, which symbolizes hill-valley unity and harmony among various ethnic communities of Manipur, was recently celebrated with great enthusiasm at Kangla Fort, Imphal.

Q) With reference to the Mera Hou Chongba Festival, consider the following statements:

1. It is celebrated **biennial** in the state of **Mizoram**.
2. The festival symbolizes unity between the hill and valley communities.
3. It is observed during the harvest season of **October (Mera month)**

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) 2 only
- (2) None of the above
- (3) 1 only
- (4) All 3

Answer: (1) 2 only. (2 and 3 are correct)



4. SAKSHAM — Indian Army's Indigenous Counter-UAS Grid

Why in News: The Indian Army has initiated procurement of SAKSHAM—an indigenously developed Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) Grid designed to detect, track, identify and neutralise hostile drones/UAS in real time. The system has been developed in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad and will operate over the secure Army Data Network (ADN).



5. Nobel Prize in Literature

Why in News: The Swedish Academy announced that the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded to **László Krasznahorkai**, a Hungarian author, "for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art."

Q) With reference to the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature,

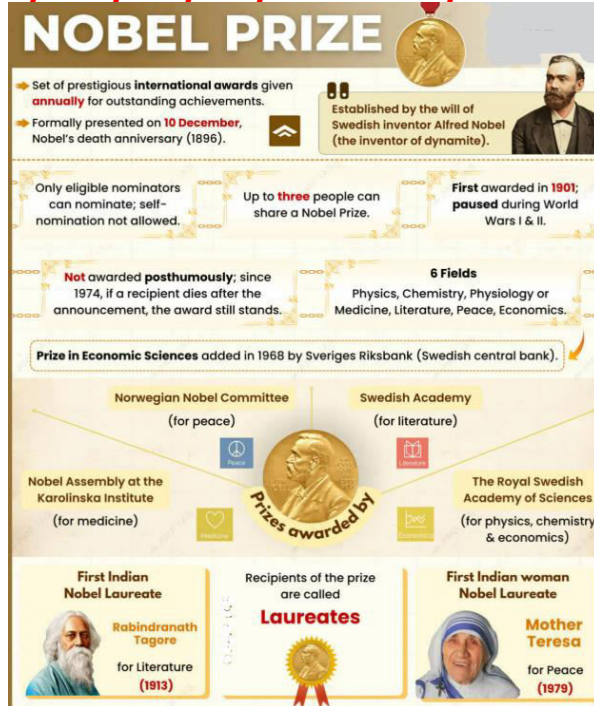


consider the following statements:

1. The 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to **László Krasznahorkai** of **Hungary**.
2. He became the first Hungarian author to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature.
3. His notable works include *Satantango* and *The Melancholy of Resistance*.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) 1 and 2 only
- (2) 2 and 3 only
- (3) 1 and 3 only
- (4) 1, 2 and 3



Answer: (3) 1 and 3 only. Statement 2 Wrong — He is the **second** Hungarian laureate; the first was **Imre Kertész (2002)**.

Components of the Prize:

- Gold Medal
- Nobel Diploma
- Cash Award (about 11 million Swedish kronor ≈ **USD 1.17 million in 2025**)

6. PM-KUSUM Scheme to be Showcased Globally via International Solar Alliance

Why in News: The Union Government plans to showcase the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PMKUSUM)** scheme to African countries and island nations through the International Solar Alliance (ISA) platform. This move aims to promote India's experience in farm-level solar energy transition and to support other developing nations in achieving clean energy-based rural livelihoods.



Q. With reference to the PM-KUSUM Scheme recently showcased globally through the International Solar Alliance (ISA) platform, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to de-dieselize the agricultural sector and enhance farmers' income through the sale of surplus solar power.
2. **Under Component-A**, decentralized solar power plants of 500 kW to 2 MW capacity can be installed only on government-owned land.

3. The International Solar Alliance, through which the scheme is being promoted, was jointly launched by India and France during COP-21 in Paris.

Which of the above statements are **correct**?

- (1) 1 and 2 only
(2) 2 and 3 only
(3) 1 and 3 only
(4) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (3) 1 and 3 only

- Statement 2 — Incorrect. Decentralized solar plants can be set up on *barren or fallow* (including private) lands, not restricted to government land.
- **About International Solar Alliance (ISA)**
- **Launch:** Jointly launched by India and France on 30 November 2015 during the COP-21 Paris Climate Conference.
- **Framework Agreement:** Entered into force on 6 December 2017.
- **Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana, India (first intergovernmental organization headquartered in India).
- **Membership:** 114 signatory countries, with over 90+ full members (as of 2025). Open to all countries lying between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn, later extended globally.

7. Supreme Court Rules Surrogacy Age Limits Not Applicable

Why in News: The Supreme Court ruled that age limits prescribed under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, cannot be retrospectively applied to couples who had frozen embryos and initiated the surrogacy process before the law came into force on January 25, 2022.

Age Criteria under the Act:

- Woman: 23–50 years
- Man: 26–55 years

Why the SC said **age limit** under **surrogacy law** cannot be applied retrospectively

The Bench comprising **Justice B.V. Nagarathna** and **Justice K.V. Viswanathan** said that the couples had already begun the process before the Act came into effect, and that the new restrictions could not take away their right to have a child through surrogacy



11 October (Saturday)

1. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
2. Four New Plant Species Discovered in the Western Ghats of Karnataka
3. AgriEnics Programme - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
4. DRAVYA Portal: CCRAS Launches AI-Ready Database on Ayurvedic Substances



Why in News: The Madras High Court has directed the **Tamil Nadu government** to take strict action against illegal resorts and tourist lodges operating within the prohibited zone of the **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR)**. The Court observed that these establishments violate environmental laws and endanger wildlife habitats.



- Which of the statements given above are Wrong?**

- Answer: (4) 4only**

- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** STR features ***dry thorn, deciduous, semi-evergreen***, and *riparian* forests — **not alpine or montane wet temperate** types
- **Connectivity with Other Reserves:** Contiguous with — **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu), Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) , Biligiri Ranganatha (BR) Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka)**

Zeuxine seetharamii
dwarf orchid

Oberonia marnkuliensis
epiphytic orchid

Parasopubia gorenensis
dwarf herb

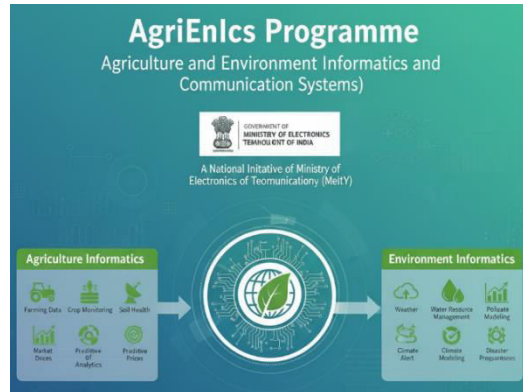
Utricularia kuntensis
lithophytic bladderwort

3. AgriEnics Programme - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Why in News: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the transfer of technology under the AgriEncls Programme, a national initiative designed to strengthen research and innovation in agriculture and environmental management through digital technologies.

Q) AgriEncls Programme, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. The AgriEncls Programme is an initiative of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** to promote digital innovation in agriculture.
2. The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Kolkata** acts as the **nodal agency** for implementing this programme.
3. The programme aims to integrate emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, IoT, and Sensor Networks for agricultural and environmental applications.



Which of the statements given above is/are wrong?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 1 only. The AgriEncls Programme is launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, not the Ministry of Agriculture.

Objective: To promote research, development, deployment, demonstration, and commercialization of technologies in the agriculture and environment domains.

4. DRAVYA Portal: CCRAS Launches AI-Ready Database on Ayurvedic Substances

Why in News: The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has launched the DRAVYA Portal — an AI-ready, comprehensive digital database on Ayurvedic medicinal substances. In its first phase, the portal will catalogue information on 100 key medicinal substances to enhance accessibility and scientific validation of traditional knowledge.

Q) DRAVYA Portal, recently launched by the Government of India, consider the following statements:

1. The DRAVYA Portal has been developed by the



DRAVYA PORTAL
INDIA'S DIGITAL AYURVEDA REPOSITORY
Developed by CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH

ABOUT DRAVYA PORTAL

- Digitized Retrieval Application for Versatile Yardstick of AYUSH Substances
- AI-Ready QR Code Integration Substances
- Open Access Classical Texts + Modern Research
- Goal: Evidence-based Ayurveda for Viksit Bharat

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) under the Ministry of Ayush.

2. It is designed as an AI-ready, open-access digital repository that integrates data from Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani systems of medicine.
3. The portal aims to promote traditional knowledge dissemination but does not include any integration with modern scientific validation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

However, it does aim to enhance scientific validation of traditional knowledge — hence statement 3 is incorrect.

5. Draft Electricity Amendment Bill 2025 - Ministry of Power

Why in News: The Ministry of Power has released the Draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, proposing significant reforms to introduce competition, enhance market discipline, and allow industries to directly procure power from private players — marking a fresh push towards privatisation of electricity distribution.

Q. With reference to the Draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill aims to introduce competition in electricity distribution by allowing multiple private distributors to operate in the same area.
2. It proposes to strengthen the Open Access mechanism, enabling industries and commercial users to buy power directly from private suppliers.
3. It increases the Universal Supply Obligation (USO) for state-run discoms to ensure 24x7 power to all households.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) 1 and 2 only
- (2) 2 and 3 only
- (3) 1 and 3 only
- (4) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (1) 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The Bill *dilutes*, not increases, the Universal Supply Obligation of state discoms.

13 October (Monday)

1. **Gurugram Becomes First City** in India to Introduce QR Code-Based Kiosk for Traffic Challan Payments
2. Himachal Pradesh Farmers Shift Towards Natural Farming Under PK3Y Scheme
3. Recent Digs in Tamil Nadu's Tenkasi Reveal Presence of Iron Age Culture
4. **Siddi Tribal Community**
5. **Adivasi Akrosh Rally** in Jharkhand Against Kurmi Community's Demand for Scheduled Tribe Status
6. **Hwasong-20**

1. Gurugram Becomes First City in India to Introduce QR Code-Based Kiosk for Traffic Challan Payments

Why in News: Gurugram has become the first city in India to introduce a QR code-based kiosk system for digital payment of traffic challans, aimed at enhancing convenience and promoting digital governance in urban traffic management.

Gurugram gets India's first QR-based challan payment kiosk

Each unit will be equipped with beacon lights for visibility, and allow citizens to connect via video call to report emergencies or request help at the press of a button.

Published - October 13, 2023 02:35 AM IST - GURUGRAM

THE HINDU BUREAU

READ LATER



2. Himachal Pradesh Farmers Shift Towards Natural Farming Under PK3Y Scheme

Why in News: Farmers across Himachal Pradesh are increasingly adopting chemical-free **natural farming practices**, supported by the **State's flagship scheme — Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y)**. The initiative aims to ensure farmer welfare, soil health, and environmental sustainability while providing minimum support prices (MSP) for natural produce.

What is Natural Farming?

- A system that avoids chemical fertilizers and pesticides, relying instead on natural inputs like jeevamrit, bijamrit, mulching, and cow-based bio-cultures.
- Promoted nationally through Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP) under **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- **Linked to Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production)** under the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Difference between Organic and Natural Farming:

PRAKRITIK KHETI KHUSHAL KISAN YOJANA (PK3Y)

Launched: 2018 by Himachal Pradesh Government

Objective: Promote non-chemical, low-cost, and climate-resilient farming practices

Implemented by: State Department of Agriculture



KEY FEATURES

- **Certification**
 - Farmers are certified under CETARA-NF (Certified Evaluation Tool for Agriculture Resource Analysis) –
- **Government procurement & MSP support**
 - MSP for Naturally Grown Crops:
 - Maize – ₹40/kg
 - Wheat – ₹60/kg
 - Raw Turmeric – ₹90/kg
- **State agencies directly procure natural produce from certified farmers**
- **Economic benefits**
 - Farmer Sunil Kumar, (S22angra district) earned ₹2.25 lakh from selling 25 quintals of turmeric at ₹90/kg

Women empowerment

- Women farmers like Rishu Kumari (Kangra district) are acting as master trainers to promote natural farming

Training Coverage

- 9.06 lakh farmers trained
- 2.22 lakh farmers currently practising natural farming fully or partially
- Spread over 38,437 hectares

Consider the following statements regarding India's participation in the Peace Summit on Gaza (October 2025):

1. India is represented at the summit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
2. The summit is co-hosted by Egypt and the United States.
3. One of the objectives of the summit is to finalise a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas.
4. Iran and Hamas have declined invitations to the summit.

Which of the statements given above are wrong?

Options:

- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
- B) 2, 3 and 4 only
- C) 1, 3 and 4 only
- D) 1 only

Answer: B) 2, 3 and 4 only

- Statement 1 is **incorrect**: India is represented by MoS Kirtivardhan Singh; PM Modi could not attend due to short notice.

3. Recent Digs in Tamil Nadu's Tenkasi Reveal Presence of Iron Age Culture

Why in News: The first season of excavations by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) at Thirumalapuram, Tenkasi district, has unearthed evidence indicating the presence of Iron Age culture near the Western Ghats. The findings include a rectangular stone slab chamber with urn burials, marking a first-of-its-kind discovery in Tamil Nadu

Q) Iron age is so named because during this time iron mostly replaced _____ in implements and weapons, beginning in the Middle East and South-eastern Europe.



Options:

1. wood
2. brass
3. bronze
4. stone

Answer: Option 3 : bronze

Q) The Iron Age in North India is archaeologically represented by assemblages that mainly contain which of the following particular pottery types?

- I. Painted Grey Ware (PGW)
- II. Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)

Options:

1. Both I and II
2. Only II
3. Neither I nor II
4. Only I

Answer : Option 1: Both I and II

4. Siddi Tribal Community.

Why in News? Recently, the President of India expressed happiness that the Siddi tribal community, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), has achieved a literacy rate of over 72%.



Q) Consider the following statements about the Siddi community in India:

1. In Karnataka, Siddis are primarily found in Uttara Kannada, Dharwad, and Belagavi districts.
2. They are included among **the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
3. Depending on their region, they commonly speak **Konkani, Marathi, or Urdu**.
4. **Dhamal and Rasda** are traditional dance forms performed by the Siddi community, with Dhamal mainly performed by men with drums and rhythmic footwork.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) 2 only
- (2) None of the above
- (3) 1 only
- (4) All 3

Answer: (4) All 3

5. Adivasi Akrosh Rally in Jharkhand Against Kurmi Community's Demand for Scheduled Tribe Status.

Why in News: Thousands of people from various tribal groups in Jharkhand took part in the 'Adivasi Akrosh Maharally' in Ranchi to protest the Kurmi

Tribals take out rally in Ranchi to protest Kurmis' demand for ST status

Kurminil Dhan, a tribal leader, said it is just a token protest by all 32 tribes of the State to showcase the tribal strength.

Published: October 15, 2023 07:16 pm IST - Ranchi

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READ LATER



community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The rally signaled strong opposition by existing Scheduled Tribes who fear dilution of their constitutional, political, and land rights if new groups are added to the ST list. About the Rally.

Q) Consider the following statements regarding the recent 'Adivasi Akrosh Maharally' in Jharkhand:

1. The rally was organized to **oppose the inclusion of the Kurmi** community in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list.
2. Inclusion of a community in the ST list can be done solely by the President without any constitutional amendment.
3. The Kurmi community is traditionally an agricultural caste group classified as OBC in Jharkhand and neighboring states.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) 2 only
- (2) None of the above
- (3) 1 only
- (4) All 3

Answer: (1) 2 only

- **Article 342:** Procedure for specifying Scheduled Tribes.
- **Fifth Schedule:** Deals with administration and control of Scheduled Areas and STs.
- **Article 338A:** Establishes the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) to safeguard ST interests.

- Statement 2 is incorrect — inclusion/exclusion from ST requires a Constitutional Amendment passed by Parliament after consultation with the Governor.

14 October (Tuesday)

1. Supreme Court Seeks Safety Assessment and Reinforcement Measures for Mullaperiyar Dam
2. Kiru Hydroelectric Project
3. Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025 – India–Australia Joint Military Exercise
4. 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences Awarded for Innovation-Driven Growth Research

1. Supreme Court Seeks Safety Assessment and Reinforcement Measures for Mullaperiyar Dam

Why in News: The Supreme Court of India has indicated that directions may be necessary to reinforce the **130-year-old Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala**, in light of concerns over its structural integrity and safety. The Court was hearing a petition filed by the Save Kerala Brigade, which sought decommissioning of the dam citing potential threats to millions of people living downstream.



Q) Consider the following statements regarding the Mullaperiyar Dam dispute:

1. **Mullaperiyar Dam**, located in Karnataka, is operated by Tamil Nadu under a lease agreement dating back to 1886.
2. The Supreme Court has ruled that the dam must be decommissioned immediately due to safety concerns.
3. The National Dam Safety Act, 2021, provides for surveillance, inspection, and maintenance of dams across India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) 2 only
- (2) None of the above
- (3) 1 only
- (4) All 3

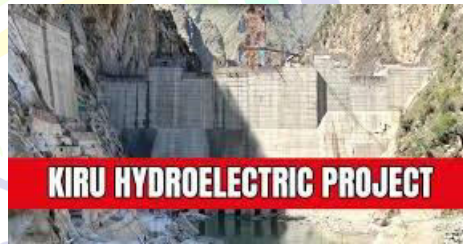
Answer: (3) 1 only, the Supreme Court has **not ordered decommissioning**; it has only indicated that directions may be needed for structural reinforcement or expert assessment.

Mullaperiyar Dam

- It is a masonry gravity dam situated on the Mullaperiyar River in Thekkady, Idukki district, in Kerala.
- It is located 881 m above sea level, in the Western Ghats mountains.
- The dam is built at the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers.
- It was built in the construction of Surkhi (burnt brick powder and sugar lime oxide).
- The dam has a height of 556 m (176 feet), a length 365.7 metres (1,200 feet), and a storage capacity of 8.4 km³ of water.
- It created an artificial lake and reservoir that covers an area of 8.5 sq.km
- It created an artificial lake and reservoir that covers an area of 8.5 km²
- The Thum's surrounded by the Periyar National Park, a renowned biodiversity hotspot that home to numerous endangered species of animals and birds.
- The dam's primary function is to transfer water from the Periyar River to the Vaigai River basin for irrigation and power generation
- Although the dam is located in Kerala, it is operated maintained by the neighbouring Tamil Nadu.
- It was according to a 995-year lease agreement made during British rule that the operational rights were handed over to Tamil Nadu opposed any such move.
- In recent years there has been a long-standing dispute between Kerala and Tamil Nadu over the safety of the dam be strengthened or decommissioned, while Tamil Nadu has opposed any such move.
- In recent years there has been a long-standing dispute between Kerala and Tamil Nadu over the safety of Isam. Kerala has been demanding that the dam be strengthened or decommissioned, while Tamil Nadu has opposed any such move.

2) Kiru Hydroelectric Project

Why in News: The 624 MW Kiru Hydroelectric Project in Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir, has achieved a major milestone by completing 10 lakh cubic metres of dam concreting, out of the total 12 lakh cubic metres target.



Q) Consider the following statements regarding the Kiru Hydroelectric Project in Jammu & Kashmir:

1. It is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric project built on the **Chenab River**.
2. The project has an installed capacity of 624 MW with four 156 MW Francis turbines.
3. The dam is a concrete gravity dam with a height of 135 metres.
4. The powerhouse is located on the right bank of the Chenab River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1, 2, and 3 only
- B) 1 and 4 only
- C) 2 and 4 only
- D) All of the above

Answer: A) 1, 2, and 3 only

Geographical Setting

- **Upstream Project:** Kirthai II Hydroelectric Project
- **Downstream Project:** Kwar Hydroelectric Project
- **Basin:** Part of the Chenab Basin Hydropower Chain, strategically important for energy generation and water resource utilisation in J&K.

4) Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025 – India–Australia Joint Military Exercise

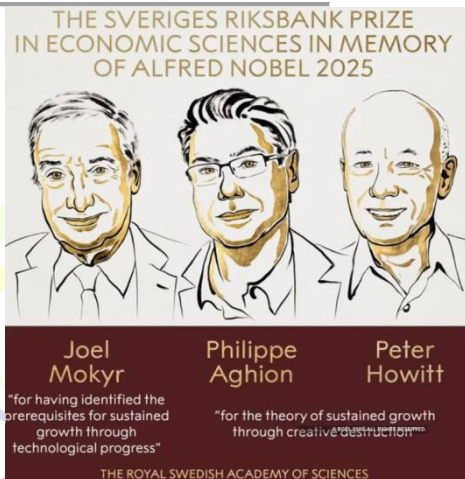
Why in News: An Indian Army contingent comprising 120 personnel departed for Irwin Barracks, Perth (Australia) to participate in the fourth edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025, a bilateral military exercise between India and Australia aimed at strengthening defence cooperation and interoperability.

AUSTRAHIND 2025 India-Australia Joint Military Exercise



5) 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences Awarded for Innovation-Driven Growth Research

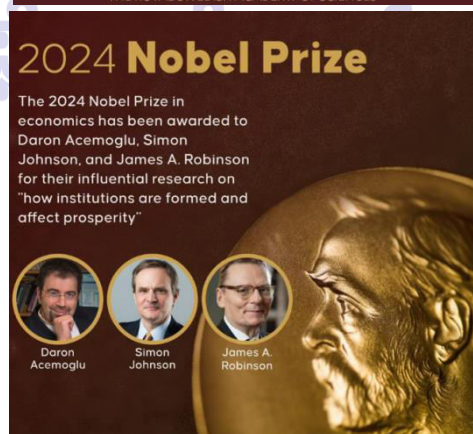
Why in News: The 2025 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt for their pioneering work on innovation-led economic growth, highlighting the role of technological progress and creative destruction in



sustaining economic development.

Q) Consider the following statements regarding the 2025 Nobel Prizes in Economics:

1. The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic was awarded for the **discovery of quantum tunneling**.
2. **Joel Mokyr** was awarded half of the prize for analyzing historical prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress.
3. **Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt** jointly received one-quarter of the prize each for developing the theory of creative destruction.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) All of the above

Answer: D) All of the above

Quantum tunnelling- A particle moving through a barrier it cannot cross in classical physics

15 October (Wednesday)

- 1) Campi Flegrei Volcano
- 2) Gomti River
- 3) Cockscomb Flowers (Mawal) in Srinagar
- 4) Five Beaches in Maharashtra Receive International Blue Flag Certification

1) Campi Flegrei Volcano

Why in News: An artificial intelligence (AI) model has uncovered previously unseen geological structures beneath Italy's Campi Flegrei volcano, including a distinct "ring fault" that could potentially trigger magnitude 5 earthquakes.



Q) Consider the following statements about Italy's Campi Flegrei volcano:

- 1. Campi Flegrei is a single cone-shaped volcano like Mount Vesuvius.
- 2. It is a caldera formed by a massive eruption approximately 39,000 years ago.
- 3. Recent AI-based studies have identified a "ring fault" system beneath it.
- 4. Its last eruption occurred in 1538, forming Monte Nuovo.

Which of the above statements are correct?

Options:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B. 2, 3 and 4 only

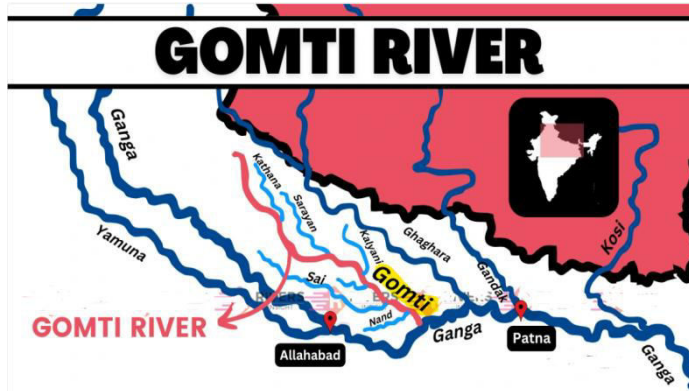
Campi Flegrei (Phlegraen Fields)

- **Location:** Campi Flegrei (Phlegraen Fields) is an active volcano region
- **Proximity:** It lies near Mount Vesuvius, but unlike Vesuvius, is not a single cone-shaped volcano — rather, it is a large volcanic system spread across a wide area
- **Type:** Supervolcano — capable of massive eruptions with global climatic impact
- **Structure:** A caldera, a large volcanic depression about 12–15 km in diameter
- **Formed by** a massive eruption ~39,000 years ago, possibly contributing to the decline of Neanderthals due to global climatic effects



2) Gomti River

Why in News: The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has launched the 'Gomti Rejuvenation Mission' to ensure the uninterrupted flow of the river. The mission aims to intercept 95% of urban sewage currently entering the river, marking a major step towards its cleaning and ecological restoration.



Q) Gomti River and the recent 'Gomti Rejuvenation Mission':

1. The Gomti River originates from **Gomat Taal** in **Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh**.
2. It is a **tributary of the Yamuna River** and flows through Lucknow before joining the Ganga.
3. The Gomti Rejuvenation Mission aims to intercept a significant portion of urban sewage and promote ecological restoration.
4. The river basin is underlain by thick Quaternary alluvial deposits consisting of boulders, sand, silt, and kankar nodules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3, and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Tributaries

- Sai River
- Chowka River
- Kathina River
- Saryu River

Answer: (b) 1, 3, and 4 only. Gomti is a tributary of the Ganga, not the Yamuna.

3) Cockscomb Flowers (Mawal) in Srinagar.

Why in News: The famous Mughal gardens of Srinagar, including Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh, are currently adorned with bright cockscomb flowers, locally known as 'Mawal', drawing tourists and photography enthusiasts from across the country.



Breathtaking beauty of Srinagar shines as crimson cockscomb flowers are harvested under clear blue skies, bringing vibrant color to the Kashmiri landscape

4) Five Beaches in Maharashtra Receive International Blue Flag Certification

Why in News: Recently, five beaches in Maharashtra, Shrivardhan and Nagaon in Raigad district, Parnaka in Palghar, and Guhagar and Ladghar in Ratnagiri district, have received the international Blue Flag certification, recognizing them for cleanliness,

environmental management, safety, and sustainable tourism practices. This marks a major achievement for India's coastal conservation efforts.

Q) Consider the following statements regarding the Blue Flag Certification:

1. It is an **international eco-label** awarded only to beaches for cleanliness and safety.
2. The certification is administered by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark.
3. **Blue Flag certification** is based on parameters including water quality, environmental management, environmental education, and safety.
4. **In 2025, five beaches in Maharashtra—Shrivardhan, Nagaon, Parnaka, Guhagar, and Ladghar**—received the Blue Flag certification.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (1) 2 only
- (2) None of the above
- (3) 1 only
- (4) All 3

Answer: (b) 2, 3, and 4 only

- **Blue Flag** is awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable tourism boats, not only beaches.

Key Facts About Blue Flag Certification

- **Nature:** International eco-label awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable tourism boats.
- **Administered by:** Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark.
- **Launch:** Started in France (1985).
- Expanded beyond Europe in 2001.
- **Criteria:**
- **Based on 33 stringent parameters related to:** Water quality, Environmental management, Environmental education & information, Safety and services

Blue Flag Beaches in India



State / UT	Blue Flag Beaches
Gujarat	Shivrajpur
Diu (UT)	Ghoghla
Karnataka	Kasarkod, Padubiddri
Kerala	Golden Beach
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Radhanagar
Tamil Nadu	Shrivardhan and Nagaon in Raigad district, Parnaka in Palghar, and Guhagar and Ladghar in Ratnagiri district (Newly Adacted)
Puducherry	
Lakshadweep	

16th OCT 2025

1. Supreme Court Allows Sale of Green Fireworks in Delhi-NCR for Deepavali (Test Case Relaxation)
2. Vacancies in National Commission for Minorities (NCM)
3. The New Power of Rare Earths: China's Strategic Leverage and Global Economic Implications
4. India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): Strengthening India's Global Connectivity
5. GalaxEye to Launch 'Mission Drishti' – World's First Multi-Sensor Earth Observation Satellite
6. Raman Research Institute Develops New Technique to Detect Harmful Dye Rhodamine B
7. Ahmedabad Recommended as Host City for 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games

1. Supreme Court Allows Sale of Green Fireworks in Delhi-NCR for Deepavali (Test Case Relaxation)

Why in news: Ahead of Deepavali, the Supreme Court of India temporarily relaxed the blanket ban on firecrackers in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), allowing the sale and use of green fireworks under strict conditions as a test case to assess their environmental impact

Why SC has allowed green crackers in Delhi-NCR and what the order says

SC on green crackers, Delhi NCR firecracker rules: This temporary relaxation modifies a series of previous orders by the Delhi government and the Supreme Court that had imposed a complete ban on all kinds of firecrackers in the NCR in recent years

Q1) Consider the following statements regarding the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) implemented in Delhi-NCR:

1. GRAP was notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. It is implemented only during the winter months when AQI exceeds "poor" category.
3. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is responsible for its enforcement.

Q1) Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: GRAP is a statutory plan under the EP Act (1986) and enforced by CAQM; it is operational year-round, but action stages activate during high pollution episodes.

2. Vacancies in National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

Why in news: The **Delhi High Court** sought a response from the **Union Government** regarding long-pending vacancies in the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**, including those of the **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Members**. The Commission has been headless since **April 2025**, after the tenure of **Iqbal Singh Lalpura** as Chairman ended.

Delhi High Court seeks response on vacancies in National Commission for Minorities

Division Bench says the commission cannot remain headless for so long

Q1)With reference to the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), consider the following statements:

1. The NCM was established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
2. The Commission's jurisdiction extends to both citizens and non-citizens residing in India.
3. The Commission can summon any public servant for inquiry under the powers of a civil court.
4. The term "minority" is defined in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (a)1 and 3 only

3. The New Power of Rare Earths: China's Strategic Leverage and Global EconTomic Implications

Why in news: China has **tightened restrictions on rare earth exports**, escalating its **trade war with the United States**. These curbs come amid **rising tariffs** (up to 30%) imposed by the US on Chinese imports. This development has global implications for **high-technology supply chains**, **clean energy transition**, and **strategic minerals security**.

Why rare earths are at the heart of a renewed China-US trade slugfest

Rare earths are not very rare, but challenges in ensuring the economic viability of extraction and processing mean that one country — **China** — has effectively **monopolised these vital minerals**. Now, **Beijing is using them as a strategic lever in its ongoing trade war with the US**

Q1) With reference to the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2025 with an outlay of ₹34,300 crore for the period 2024-25 to 2030-31.
2. One of its key objectives is to boost domestic manufacturing of rare earth magnets used in EVs and wind turbines.
3. The Mission operates under the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) as its nodal agency.
4. It aims to ensure self-reliance and reduce India's dependence on imports of critical minerals.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

4. India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): Strengthening India's Global Connectivity

Why in news: India's recent trade frictions with the United States have pushed it to diversify its global economic partnerships. In this context, the **India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** is being highlighted as a crucial framework to enhance connectivity, trade, and energy security with Europe via West Asia.

INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR



Q1) Consider the following statements with reference to the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):

1. The IMEC is a proposed multimodal transportation network that would connect India to Europe via the Middle East.
2. It has gained support from the World Bank.
3. It will be the longest transportation corridor in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (A) 1 and 2 only (The Trans-Siberian Railway, which spans over 9,000 kilometers,. It will be the longest transportation corridor in the world)

5. GalaxEye to Launch 'Mission Drishti' – World's First Multi-Sensor Earth Observation Satellite

Why in news: Bengaluru-based space-tech start-up **GalaxEye** has announced that it will launch the **world's first multi-sensor Earth observation (EO) satellite**, named '**Mission Drishti**', in the **first quarter of 2026**.

Space-tech firm GalaxEye to launch world's first multi-sensor EO satellite in 2026

Weighing 160 kg, **Mission Drishti** is India's largest privately built satellite and also the highest-resolution satellite developed in the country

6. Raman Research Institute Develops New Technique to Detect Harmful Dye Rhodamine B

Why in news: Scientists at the **Raman Research Institute (RRI)**, Bengaluru have developed a **powerful and low-cost detection technique** using the **coffee-stain effect** to identify **toxic dyes like Rhodamine B** in water and food samples. This innovation provides a **simple, scalable method** to detect industrial dyes posing serious health and environmental hazards.

RRI scientists deploy coffee-stain effect to spot deadly dyes in food

The dye is toxic and causes damage to the skin, eyes, and even the respiratory system. It is also an important environmental contaminant reported to persist in water.

7. Ahmedabad Recommended as Host City for 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games

Why in news: The **Executive Board (EB)** of **Commonwealth Sport** has recommended **Ahmedabad** as the **proposed host city** for the **2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games**. The **final decision** will be taken at the **Commonwealth Sport General Assembly** in **Glasgow** on **November 26, 2025**, which is expected to be a **formality**.

Ahmedabad set to host 2030 Commonwealth Games as city earns recommendation from governing body

Even though a press release said the final decision on this will be taken at the **Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow** on November 26, it is likely to be a formality

Question: Consider the following statements about the Commonwealth Games (CWG):

1. The Commonwealth Games are held every four years and are governed by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).
2. Only countries that were formerly part of the British Empire can participate in the Commonwealth Games.
3. India has never hosted the Commonwealth Games in South India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

17th OCT 2025

1. Chhattisgarh High Court upholds cancellation of community forest rights in Hasdeo Arand
2. People for Aravallis Urge Haryana Govt to Cancel Aravali Zoo Safari Project
3. Delhi launches 25-point Winter Action Plan to tackle seasonal air pollution
4. Silent Valley National Park: Discovery of Six New Odonate Species
5. West Bengal to Construct Mahakal Temple in Siliguri
6. Russia backs AMCA, offers to make Su-57 jets in India
7. Akash Missile System – India Pitches Supply to Brazil
8. Exercise Samudra Shakti – 2025
9. SAIME Initiative: Global Recognition by FAO

1. Chhattisgarh High Court upholds cancellation of community forest rights in Hasdeo Arand

Why in news: The Chhattisgarh High Court dismissed a petition challenging the cancellation of community forest rights (CFR) granted to villagers of Ghatbarra in the Hasdeo Arand forest, where Adani Enterprises operates the Parsa East and Kete Basen (PEKB) coal mines.

Chhattisgarh High Court upholds cancellation of forest rights of villagers in Hasdeo Arand forest where Adani runs coal mines

A Single Bench of Justice Rakesh Mohan Pandey stated that granting the community forest rights in itself was a “mistake” that was “rectified” through the cancellation, concluding that this made the order granting the rights “void ab initio”

1. Consider the following coalfields and the states in which they are located:

1. Jharia – Jharkhand
2. Raniganj – West Bengal
3. Korba –Madhya Pradesh
4. Singrauli – Chhattisgarh

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2, and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, and 4
- (d) 2, 3, and 4 only

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

2. People for Aravallis Urge Haryana Govt to Cancel Aravali Zoo Safari Project

Why in news: The People for Aravallis, a citizens’ and environmental group, along with five retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers, have urged the Haryana government to cancel the proposed Aravali Zoo Safari Project, terming it a complete violation of environmental protection principles. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court directed the Haryana government not to proceed with the project until further orders.



Q1) Which of the following statements about the Aravalli Hills is/are correct?

1. The Aravalli Hills are one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world.
2. They run in a northeast-southwest direction across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi.
3. The Aravalli Hills are rich in minerals like copper, lead, zinc, and marble.
4. The range is the source of the Chambal River.



Answer: (a) 1, 2, and 3 only

Explanation: The Chambal River does not originate from the Aravalli Hills; it originates from the Vindhya range in Madhya Pradesh.

3. Delhi launches 25-point Winter Action Plan to tackle seasonal air pollution

Why in news: The Delhi government has unveiled a **25-point Winter Action Plan** aimed at addressing the annual spike in air pollution during the winter months when the city's air quality typically dips to 'poor' or 'severe' levels.

Q1) Delhi's "Odd-Even Vehicle Scheme" is based on:

- (a) Engine chassis number
- (b) Vehicle registration number
- (c) Driving Licence number
- (d) Both A & B

Answer: (b) Vehicle registration number

4. Silent Valley National Park: Discovery of Six New Odonate Species

Why in news: An **odonate survey** conducted recently in **Silent Valley National Park**, Kerala, led to the discovery of **six new species of dragonflies and damselflies**, further highlighting the park's immense **biodiversity richness** and **ecological importance** within the **Western Ghats**.

Six odonate species discovered in Silent Valley

The three-day survey from October 10 recorded 83 species of odonates. **The total number of odonate species in the national park has increased to 109**

Q1) Consider the following statements regarding National Parks in South India:

1. **Mudumalai National Park** is located at the tri-junction of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala and is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
2. **Periyar National Park** is famous for its population of Asiatic Lions.
3. **Bandipur National Park** was declared a Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger in 1973.
4. **Silent Valley National Park** in Kerala is known for its tropical evergreen forest and the Lion-tailed Macaque.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

- A) 1, 3, and 4 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 4 only
- D) All of the above

Answer: A) 1, 3, and 4 only

5. West Bengal to Construct Mahakal Temple in Siliguri

Why in news: The West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** has announced the construction of a **Mahakal Temple** at **Siliguri** in **Darjeeling district**. This marks the **third**

major temple initiative by the State government in one year, following the Jagannath Temple at Digha and Durga Angan at Rajarhat.

Q1) Consider the following statements regarding Darjeeling Tea

1. It was the first Indian product to receive a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
2. It is exclusively produced as black tea.
3. The tea is cultivated in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: B) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to receive a GI tag in 2004. While it is primarily known as black tea, it is also produced in green, white, and oolong varieties.

6. Russia backs AMCA, offers to make Su-57 jets in India

Why in news: Russia has extended support for India's **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** project and has offered to **co-manufacture Su-57 fifth-generation fighter jets** in India.

Russia backs AMCA programme, offers to make Su-57 jets in India

Following U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that India will halt its oil purchase from Russia, Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov says "Russian energy remains the most cost-effective option on the global market"

AMCA (India)	Su-57 Felon (Russia)
	
Max Altitude 20,000 m (65,600 feet)	Max Altitude ~ 20,000 meters (65,600)
Range 1,750 – 2,000 km (1,090 – 1,240 miles)	Range 1,500 km (930 miles)
Radar GaN Gallium Nitride AESA (300–400 km)	Radar N036 Byelka AESA (Arag–400 km)
Cost (USD) \$60 – 70 million	Cost (USD) \$35 – 50 million (export version could be higher)
Generation 5th (Mk1), 6th (Mk2)	Generation 5th

Q1) Consider the following statements regarding the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project:

1. The AMCA is a fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under DRDO.
2. It is a single-engine aircraft designed for air superiority missions only.

3. The project received approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in March 2024, with an estimated development cost of ₹15,000 crore.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only(Double engine aircraft)

7. Akash Missile System – India Pitches Supply to Brazil

Why in news: India has reportedly pitched the supply of the indigenously developed Akash Missile System to Brazil, following wide-ranging bilateral defence talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Brazilian Vice-President Geraldo Alckmin in New Delhi

India pitches for supply of Akash missile system to Brazil as Rajnath Singh holds talks with Brazilian Vice-President

The two leaders "identified priority areas" for joint work, including exploring opportunities for co-development and co-production of defence equipment

Q1) consider the following statements:

1. Agni-P is a next-generation ballistic missile with a range of 1,000–2,000 km.
2. BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile deployable from land, sea, and air platforms.
3. Nirbhay is a ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warheads.
4. Akash-NG is an advanced surface-to-air missile with a higher range than the original Akash.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Answer:B) 2 and 4 only

8. Exercise Samudra Shakti – 2025

Why in news: The Indian Navy is hosting the fifth edition of Exercise 'Samudra Shakti – 2025' at Visakhapatnam, a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Indonesia, aimed at strengthening naval cooperation and interoperability.

India, Indonesia begin naval drill

Indian Navy hosts Indo-Indonesian maritime exercise 'Samudra Shakti – 2025' to enhance cooperation and stability in the Indo-Pacific

9. SAIME Initiative: Global Recognition by FAO

Why in news: The Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) model implemented in West Bengal's Sundarbans has received Global Technical Recognition from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations for its innovative approach to combining aquaculture with mangrove restoration.

Sundarbans aquaculture model wins FAO global recognition

Nature Environment and Wildlife Society's mangrove-linked aquaculture project lauded as a model for sustainable livelihoods

Q1) Consider the following statements:

1. Mangroves play a role in carbon sequestration and are considered a "blue carbon" ecosystem.
2. All mangrove forests are classified as protected forests under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
3. Pichavaram mangrove forest is located in Tamil Nadu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

- **Answer: A. 1 and 3 only** (The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, protects mangrove ecosystems that fall within designated wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.)

18th & 19th OCT 2025

1. Gulf of Kutch
2. Mount Lewotobi
3. International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
4. Green Crackers
5. International Maritime Organisation
6. Tuvalu

1. Gulf of Kutch

Why in news : According to a recent report, the long-term survival of dugongs in the Gulf of Kutch and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is highly uncertain or challenging.



✓ It State animal of Andaman Nicobar

Q1) Dugongs in India are mainly found in which of the following regions?

1. Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kutch, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2. Chilika Lake, Gulf of Mannar, and Sunderbans
3. Lakshadweep Islands, Gulf of Kutch, and Pulicat Lake
4. Gulf of Mannar, Godavari Delta, and Bhitarkanika

Answer: 1. Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kutch, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Explanation:

- Major **dugong habitats** in India:
 - Tamil Nadu coast (Gulf of Mannar & Palk Bay)
 - Gulf of Kutch (Gujarat)
 - Andaman & Nicobar Islands

2. Mount Lewotobi

Why in news : Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki erupted recently, shooting volcanic ash 10 kilometres (6.21 miles) into the sky.

About Mount Lewotobi

- ✓ It is a twin-peaked active volcano located on the tourist island of Flores in eastern Indonesia.
- ✓ It is situated along the famous 'Ring of Fire' in the Pacific region.
- ✓ It is one of the most frequently active volcanoes in the region.
- ✓ It has two peaks arranged on a NW-SE line separated by 2 km and a 1232 m high saddle. This gave the twin volcano its name, Lewotobi, "husband and wife"

Q1) Consider the following pairs:

Volcano	Country
1. Mount Erebus	Antarctica
2. Mount Nyiragongo	Italy
3. Mount Merapi	Indonesia

Which of the above are correctly matched?

- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2, and 3

Answer: 1) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Mount Erebus** — Antarctica (active volcano).
- Mount Nyiragongo** — Congo (not Italy).
- Mount Merapi** — Indonesia (very active).



3. International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

Why in news : The report released by GRAIN documented how a growing number of FTAs compel countries to adopt plant variety protection standards set by the 1991 UPOV Convention.

UPOV SYSTEM

- **UPOV:** The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants is an intergovernmental organisation.
- The UPOV convention was adopted on 2 December 1961 and revised in 1972, 1978 and 1991.
- **UPOV's mission:** to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society.

4. Green Crackers

Why in news : Recently, the Supreme Court has permitted only green crackers to be sold in Delhi-NCR region.

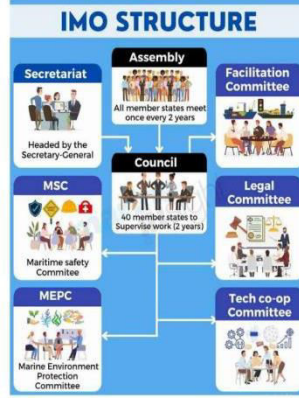
How Green Crackers Differ From Traditional Crackers	
Emissions	Ash & Residue
Low smoke, reduced SO ₂ and PM2.5	Minimal ash production
High smoke, high SO ₂ , PM, and NO ₂	Produces heavy ash and residues
Noise	Regulation
Quieter, reduced noise pollution	PESO regulated, CSIR-NEERI approved
Loud, contributes to noise pollution	Often unregulated
Chemicals Used	Design Features
Eco-friendly oxidizers like potassium nitrate, reduced aluminum and sulfur, no barium	Smaller shells, reduced raw materials, dust suppressants
Gunpowder, chlorates, barium, sulfur, heavy metals	Large shells, high raw material usage, no emission control
Health Impact	Identification
Safer for respiratory system and eyes	CSIR-NEERI logo and QR code for authenticity
High risk of respiratory problems and eye irritation	No official identification

5. International Maritime Organisation

Why in news : The United States President Donald Trump recently said that he was “outraged” that the International Maritime Organisation would be voting on whether to impose a carbon emissions price on global shipping and called it a “Global Green New Scam Tax.”



- The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating international shipping.
- Established in 1948 by a UN convention and became operational in 1959.
- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- Motto: "Safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans."
- It sets global standards for the safety, security, and environmental performance of international shipping.



- **Members**: 175 Member States + 3 Associate Members.
- **Principal Organs**:
 - **Assembly**: The highest governing body; meets every two years.
 - **Council**: Executive body (40 members) elected by the Assembly.
 - **Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)**: Deals with navigational safety and ship design.

- **Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)**: Addresses marine pollution and climate change issues.
- **Legal, Technical Cooperation, and Facilitation Committees** handle specialized areas.
- India is a **founding member** of the IMO.

6. Tuvalu

Why in news : The Government of Tuvalu has officially become the 90th State Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently.

Q1) Which of the following Indian species are listed as *Endangered* under the IUCN Red List?

- Snow Leopard
- Asiatic Lion
- Indian Rhino
- Tiger

Select the correct answer:

- a and b only
- b and c only
- a, c, and d only
- b, c, and d only

Answer: 3. a, c, and d only

Explanation: Snow Leopard, Tiger, and Indian Rhino — *Endangered* Asiatic Lion — *Vulnerable*

21st OCT 2025

1. Election Commission Revives Special Intensive Revision (Sir) Of Electoral Rolls After Two Decades
2. Pakistan Seeks China's Help To Join The New Development Bank (Ndb)
3. Tuvalu Becomes 90th Member Of The International Union For Conservation Of Nature (Iucn)
4. Unfpa State Of World Population 2025: India's Total Fertility Rate Falls To 1.9
5. \$100,000 Fee On H-1b Visas Relaxed By The U.S. Government
6. India-Japan Relations: New Phase Under Pm Sanae Takaichi
7. Rakchham-Chitkul Wildlife Sanctuary

1. Election Commission Revives Special Intensive Revision (Sir) Of Electoral Rolls After Two Decades

Why in news: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has resumed the long-pending Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls — starting with Bihar, followed by West Bengal, and later the rest of the country

Electoral roll revamp: the case for digital transformation

The Election Commission has initiated a Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, starting in Bihar. However, outdated verification methods and lack of digital tools, stress the need for technology-driven reforms

Q1) Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the President.
2. The Election Commission can have a maximum of three Election Commissioners.
3. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed by the President only on impeachment grounds.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2, and 3

ANS D) 1, 2, and 3

2. PAKISTAN SEEKS CHINA'S HELP TO JOIN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK (NDB)

Why in news: Pakistan has sought the support of **China**, its long-term strategic partner referred to as an "iron friend", to facilitate its **membership in the New Development Bank (NDB)** — the multilateral financial institution established by the **BRICS nations**. The move comes as Pakistan seeks **financial diversification** and **access to sustainable infrastructure funding** amid its ongoing economic challenges.

Pakistan seeks iron brother China's help to join India co-founded Brics bank

Facing a deep economic crisis and seeking to reduce reliance on the IMF and World Bank, **Pakistan has asked China to back its bid for membership in the Brics-founded New Development Bank.** The move aims to secure alternative funding for infrastructure and development in Pakistan.

Q1) Consider the following statements regarding the New Development Bank (NDB):

1. It was established by the BRICS countries to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects.
2. Its headquarters is in Shanghai, China.
3. The authorized capital of the bank is US\$50 billion.
4. The NDB can issue bonds in local currencies of member countries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
B) 1, 2, and 4 only
C) 2, 3, and 4 only
D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: B) 1, 2, and 4 only

3. TUVALU BECOMES 90TH MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

Why in news: The **Government of Tuvalu** has officially become the **90th State Member** of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**. This marks an important step in strengthening global cooperation for **climate resilience**, **marine biodiversity conservation**, and **sustainable island development**, especially for **small island developing states (SIDS)** vulnerable to **climate change and sea-level rise**.

Tuvalu Becomes 90th Member of IUCN Amid Climate Crisis

Tuvalu joins the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as its 90th State Member, enhancing its global role in marine conservation and climate resilience.

Q1) Which of the following statements about the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is/are correct?

1. It is an intergovernmental organization that works for nature conservation.
2. It publishes the Red List of Threatened Species.
3. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

4. UNFPA STATE OF WORLD POPULATION 2025: INDIA'S TOTAL FERTILITY RATE FALLS TO 1.9

Why in news: The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) State of World Population 2025 report shows that India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined to 1.9, dropping below the replacement level of 2.1.

Q1) With reference to the Census of India 2011, consider the following statements:

1. The decadal population growth rate during 2001–2011 was lower than that of 1991–2001.
2. The literacy rate among females increased more than that among males between 2001 and 2011.
3. Bihar recorded the highest population density among all Indian states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. \$100,000 Fee on H-1B Visas Relaxed by the U.S. Government

Why in news: The United States government announced further relaxation of its new \$100,000 fee on H-1B visas, clarifying that the fee **will not apply to visa extensions or change of status** applications filed within the U.S.

U.S. further relaxes \$100,000 H-1B visa fee norms

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services added that the proclamation also does not prevent any current H-1B holder from travelling in and out of the U.S.




Q1) According to the 2025 Henley Passport Index, which country's passport ranks at the top position globally (as of early 2025)?

- A. Japan
- B. Singapore
- C. France
- D. Germany

Answer: D. Germany (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and Japan often share top ranks with visa-free access to around 194 destinations.)

6. INDIA–JAPAN RELATIONS: NEW PHASE UNDER PM SANAÉ TAKAICHI

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Japan's newly elected Prime Minister **Sanaé Takaichi**, calling India–Japan relations “vital” for regional and global peace. The two leaders are expected to meet during the upcoming **ASEAN and East Asia Summits** to strengthen the **Special Strategic and Global Partnership**.

India is a crucial partner on Indo-Pacific; PM Takaichi committed to building ties: Japanese government spokesperson 

PM Takaichi expected to continue foreign policy of predecessors; immigration hard-line sparks concerns

Q1) With reference to India–Japan defence cooperation, consider the following statements:

1. The exercise “Shinyuu Maitri” involves the Indian Navy and Japan Air Self-Defense Force.
2. The exercise “Dharma Guardian” is a tri-services exercise.
3. Japan is a part of the **QUAD grouping** along with India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 3 only

7. RAKCHHAM–CHITKUL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Why in news: An **international bird-watching programme** was recently organised at the picturesque **Rakchham** area of the **Rakchham–Chitkul Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Himachal Pradesh**. The event aimed to promote **eco-tourism**, **community awareness**, and **biodiversity documentation** in the high-altitude Himalayan ecosystem.

Rakchham Chitkul Wildlife Sanctuary

Rakchham Chitkul Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh spans 30.98 sq.km in the Western Himalayas, surrounded by snow-capped peaks and green valleys.

Q1. Consider the following statements about Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. It is located in the Spiti Valley region of Himachal Pradesh.
2. It is one of the highest wildlife sanctuaries in the world.
3. It is famous for snow leopards and Himalayan ibex.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 2 only

Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3

22st OCT 2025

1. Deepavali Fireworks Send Delhi Air Quality to a Five-Year Low
2. CHANDRAYAAN-2 MAKES FIRST-EVER OBSERVATION OF SOLAR CME IMPACT ON LUNAR EXOSPHERE
3. London Book of World Records Clarifies on Recognition for Karnataka's Shakti Scheme and KSRTC Amid Dissolution Row
4. NITI AAYOG & DP WORLD LAUNCH 'WE RISE INITIATIVE' TO EMPOWER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS
5. BATHOU RELIGION OF BODO COMMUNITY GETS SEPARATE CENSUS CODE

1. Deepavali Fireworks Send Delhi Air Quality to a Five-Year Low

Why in news: Following Deepavali celebrations, air pollution in Delhi reached near five-year low levels, with PM2.5 concentrations crossing 400 µg/m³ across multiple locations — levels not recorded since 2021.

Deepavali fireworks worsen Delhi's air quality

16 cities record 'very poor' air quality; pollution readings point to violation of SC norms on use of green firecrackers; Dharuhera in Haryana records worst air quality nationally

Q1) Who is responsible for certifying and authorizing the sale of Green Crackers in India?

- (a) National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
- (c) CSIR-NEERI and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)
- (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change only

Answer: (c) CSIR-NEERI and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)

2. CHANDRAYAAN-2 MAKES FIRST-EVER OBSERVATION OF SOLAR CME IMPACT ON LUNAR EXOSPHERE

Why in news: ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, through its CHACE-2 (Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2) payload, made the first-ever observation of the effects of a solar Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) on the lunar exosphere, revealing a significant increase in atmospheric density.

Chandrayaan-2 makes first-ever observation of Sun's impact on Moon, says ISRO

The opportunity to directly observe the effects of the CME impacting on the Moon came on May 10, 2024, when a series of CMEs were hurled by the Sun.

Q1) With reference to Chandrayaan-3, consider the following statements:

1. Unlike Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3 had no orbiter.
2. The propulsion module of Chandrayaan-3 carried the lander-rover system to lunar orbit.
3. The lander of Chandrayaan-3 was equipped with stronger legs and new sensors compared to Vikram of Chandrayaan-2.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3

3. London Book of World Records Clarifies on Recognition for Karnataka's Shakti Scheme and KSRTC Amid Dissolution Row

Why in news: A controversy erupted after Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's social media post celebrating London Book of World Records recognition for the Shakti Scheme and KSRTC was met with opposition allegations that the certifying body had been dissolved in the UK.

London Book of Records defends recognition of Karnataka's Shakti scheme and KSRTC

A statement by the company says there is no question of anything dubious, suspicious, or issues of a dissolved company, while adding that all contact details are available on the official website



4. NITI AAYOG & DP WORLD LAUNCH 'WE RISE INITIATIVE' TO EMPOWER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Why in news: Recently, NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and DP World jointly launched the 'We Rise Initiative' to help women entrepreneurs in India scale their businesses globally through **trade facilitation, mentorship, and strategic partnerships.**

'We Rise' Initiative Launched BY NITI AAYOG

NITI Aayog's WEP and DP World launch 'We Rise' to make women-led MSMEs export-ready via mentorship, trade access, and global market support.

Q1) Consider the following statements regarding NITI Aayog:

1. It was established by an executive resolution of the Government of India in 2015.
2. It replaced the Planning Commission which was established by an Act of Parliament.
3. The Prime Minister is the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: NITI Aayog was created by executive resolution in 2015. Planning Commission was not a statutory body.

5. BATHOU RELIGION OF BODO COMMUNITY GETS SEPARATE CENSUS CODE

Why in news: The Bathou religion, the traditional faith of the Bodo community in Assam, has been accorded a **separate code in the upcoming Census** to recognize its distinct identity and preserve indigenous belief systems.

Bathou religion of Bodo community in Assam gets a separate code in the upcoming census



1. With reference to the tribes of Assam, consider the following statements:

1. The Bodo tribe is the largest plains tribe in Assam.
2. The Karbi tribe mainly inhabits the hill areas of Karbi Anglong district.
3. The Mishing tribe is primarily of Tibeto-Burman origin.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Bodos** are the largest plains tribe in Assam.
- **Karbis** inhabit the hilly areas of **Karbi Anglong**.
- **Mishings** are of **Tibeto-Burman** origin and reside along the **Brahmaputra valley**.

23st OCT 2025

1. Government Proposes Mandatory Labelling Of Ai-Generated Content On Social Media
2. Fatf Meeting In Paris To Deliberate On State Sponsorship Of Terrorism
3. Iran Ratifies Law To Join Un Convention Against Terror Financing
4. Carabid Beetle As Bioindicators Of Soil Microplastics

1. GOVERNMENT PROPOSES MANDATORY LABELLING OF AI-GENERATED CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Why in news: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed mandatory labelling of AI-generated content on social media platforms to combat deepfakes and misinformation, ensuring user awareness and platform accountability

IT Ministry proposes mandatory labelling of AI-generated content on social media

The draft amendment to the IT Rules requires social media companies to allow users to self-declare if the content they upload is AI-generated. In cases where users fail to make such declarations, platforms must proactively detect and label AI-generated content.

2. FATF MEETING IN PARIS TO DELIBERATE ON STATE SPONSORSHIP OF TERRORISM

Why in news: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary meetings, currently underway in Paris, are expected to deliberate on state sponsorship of terrorism, including funding to banned outfits and their proxies operating from Pakistan. This comes amid renewed global attention on cross-border terror financing networks, misuse of charitable fronts, and crypto-based laundering systems.

FATF may discuss state sponsorship of terrorism, Pakistan entities in focus

Indian security agencies have gathered inputs showing that the LeT, under the front of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, has raised funds through online and offline campaigns to rebuild its headquarters in Muridke

3. IRAN RATIFIES LAW TO JOIN UN CONVENTION AGAINST TERROR FINANCING

Why in news: Iran has ratified a law to join the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), marking a significant step toward complying with global anti-terror financing norms and aligning with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards.

Iran ratifies law to join United Nations convention against terror financing

It is unclear what the immediate economic impact would be if it were removed from the Financial Action Task Force

Q1) Which of the following countries are currently on the FATF "High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action" (blacklist) as of 2025?

1) North Korea

- 2) Iran
- 3) Myanmar
- 4) Pakistan

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (1) 1 and 2 only
- (2) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (3) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (4) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (2) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

As per FATF (June 2025), the countries on the blacklist are North Korea, Iran and Myanmar. Pakistan was removed in 2022 after completing its action plan.

4. CARABID BEETLE AS BIOINDICATORS OF SOIL MICROPLASTICS

Why in news: Researchers have found that Carabid ground beetles can act as bioindicators to track soil microplastics, highlighting their role in understanding the extent of plastic pollution in terrestrial ecosystems.

Carabid beetles as potential bioindicators to track soil microplastics

TTI Premium

In India, farmers use bioindicators to help anticipate impending rain, manage pests, assess soil fertility, and evaluate the success of certain farming practices



Q)Which of the following organisms are commonly used as bioindicators of air pollution?

- 1) Lichens
- 2)Fungi
- 3)Cyanobacteria
- 4)Earthworms

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 only



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ನಮ್ಮ FORESIGHT KAS/ACF/PSI/VO/AO &AAO/RFO

- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 4 only

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Lichens are highly sensitive to sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and serve as natural indicators of air quality.

24th OCT 2025

1. SANCTUARY STATUS FOR FORESTS OF SARANDA, CASE BEFORE SUPREME COURT
2. IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA'S OIL GIANTS; INDIA TO CUT IMPORTS
3. PM MODI TO ATTEND 47TH ASEAN SUMMIT VIRTUALLY; EAM JAISHANKAR TO LEAD DELEGATION IN MALAYSIA
4. STRIPED HYENA SPOTTED IN KALI TIGER RESERVE, KARNATAKA
5. SABARIMALA TEMPLE
6. UKRAINE USES UK-MADE STORM SHADOW MISSILES IN STRIKE ON RUSSIA'S BRYANSK CHEMICAL PLANT

1.SANCTUARY STATUS FOR FORESTS OF SARANDA, CASE BEFORE SUPREME COURT

Why in news: The Supreme Court (SC) has directed the Jharkhand government to notify 314 sq km of the Saranda forests as a wildlife sanctuary, following delays in compliance with a 2020 National Green Tribunal (NGT) order recognizing Saranda as an ecologically critical region.

Explained: Saranda's forests and the case for a 'sanctuary' before Supreme Court

The Supreme Court directed the Jharkhand government to notify an area of 314 sq km as a wildlife sanctuary while hearing a plea, which sought compliance with a July 2022 judgment of the National Green Tribunal's eastern zone Bench.

Q1)Which of the following statements regarding difference between a Wildlife Sanctuary and a National Park is correct?

- (a) Rights of people are allowed in both without restriction.
- (b) No human activity is allowed in a sanctuary.
- (c) Rights of people can continue in a sanctuary but are not permitted in a national park.
- (d) Both are declared by the Central Government only.

Answer: (c) Rights can continue in sanctuary but not in national park.

Explanation:

Section 35(3) — National Parks are more restrictive; rights are extinguished unless permitted by law.

2. IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA'S OIL GIANTS; INDIA TO CUT IMPORTS

Why in news: The U.S. President Donald Trump announced sanctions on Russia's two biggest oil companies — Rosneft and Lukoil — for “funding the Kremlin’s war machine” amid the ongoing Russia–Ukraine war. Global oil prices surged by 3% following the announcement

1. In October 2025, the United States announced sanctions on two major Russian oil companies. Which of the following were targeted?

- a) Gazprom and Novatek
- b) Rosneft and Lukoil
- c) Transneft and Surgutneftgaz
- d) Tatneft and Sibur

Answer: b) Rosneft and Lukoil

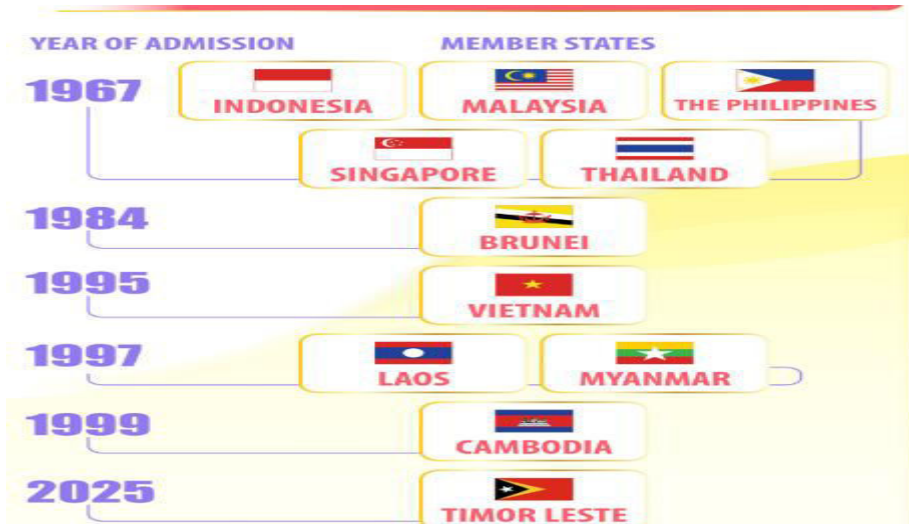
3. PM MODI TO ATTEND 47TH ASEAN SUMMIT VIRTUALLY; EAM

JAISHANKAR TO LEAD DELEGATION IN MALAYSIA

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not travel to Malaysia to attend the 47th ASEAN Summit (October 26–28, 2025) in Kuala Lumpur, but will participate virtually. The announcement came amid speculation about diplomatic engagements, the ongoing Deepavali celebrations, and domestic political commitments (Bihar elections).

Modi to participate in ASEAN meet virtually, drops Malaysia travel plan

Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim says Modi cited Deepavali as the reason for change in travel plan; Leaders, including Trump, are scheduled to attend East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur



4. STRIPED HYENA SPOTTED IN KALI TIGER RESERVE, KARNATAKA

Why in news: Foresters at **Kali Tiger Reserve** near **Dandeli** in **Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka**, recently recorded the rare sighting of a **striped hyena** (locally called **Katte Kiruba**). This marks an important observation for wildlife biologists, as hyenas are seldom sighted in the dense forests of the Western Ghats region.

Q1. The Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) is listed under which of the following in India?



- 1) Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- 2) Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- 3) IUCN Red List – Near Threatened category

Options:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 only

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation: The Striped Hyena is listed under **Schedule III** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and classified as **Near Threatened** by the IUCN.

5. SABARIMALA TEMPLE

Why in news: President **Droupadi Murmu** made a **historic visit** to the **Lord Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala**, becoming the **first woman head of state** to offer prayers at the famous hilltop shrine, a site that has been at the centre of the women's entry debate in recent years.

Q1. With reference to the *Indian Young Lawyers Association v. State of Kerala* (2018) case, commonly known as the Sabarimala Temple case, consider the following statements:

1. The case dealt with the restriction on entry of women of a certain age group into the Sabarimala temple in Kerala.
2. The Supreme Court held that such restriction violated the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, 19, and 25 of the Constitution.
3. The Court upheld the practice as an essential religious custom protected under Article 26.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: B. 1 and 2 only

6. UKRAINE USES UK-MADE STORM SHADOW MISSILES IN STRIKE ON RUSSIA'S BRYANSK CHEMICAL PLANT

Why in news: Ukraine launched a high-precision strike on a Russian chemical plant in Bryansk using UK-supplied Storm Shadow long-range cruise missiles, reportedly breaching Moscow's air defences. This highlights the increasing use of Western-supplied long-range weapons in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Q1) Which of the following cities lies on the Dnipro River?

- 1) Kyiv
- 2) Kherson
- 3) Zaporizhzhia



Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2, and 3
- D. 2 and 3 only

Ans: C. 1, 2, and 3

25th OCT 2025

1. ELECTION COMMISSION ADVISES POLITICAL PARTIES ON RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI-GENERATED CONTENT AHEAD OF BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
2. JAPAN TO RAISE DEFENCE SPENDING TO 2% OF GDP BY MARCH 2026; PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR INDO-PACIFIC SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS
3. BARNAWAPARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY – BLACKBUCK REVIVAL IN CHHATTISGARH
4. NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY COMPLETES TRIALS OF INTRUSION DETECTION SYSTEM (IDS) TO PROTECT WILDLIFE
5. PRIME MINISTER TO LEAD RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS PARADE ON 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL
6. GYAN BHARATAM MISSION SIGNS MOUS FOR MANUSCRIPT DIGITISATION AND PRESERVATION

1. ELECTION COMMISSION ADVISES POLITICAL PARTIES ON RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI-GENERATED CONTENT AHEAD OF BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Why in news: Ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections 2025, the Election Commission of India (ECI) issued an advisory to all political parties emphasizing responsible disclosure and use of synthetically generated and AI-created content during election campaigns.

ECI mandates disclosure tag on AI-generated campaign videos

The ECI says it has been brought to its notice that the misuse of hyper-realistic synthetically generated information, including depicting political leaders as making electorally sensitive messages, is contaminating the level-playing field in the electoral arena, disrupting fair and equal conditions for all political participants.

Q1. Which of the following functions are performed by the Election Commission of India?

1. Conducting elections to the offices of President and Vice-President of India
2. Supervising the registration of political parties
3. Delimitation of constituencies

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans:(a) 1 and 2 only (Delimitation is done by Delimitation Commission, not ECI)

2. JAPAN TO RAISE DEFENCE SPENDING TO 2% OF GDP BY MARCH 2026; PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR INDO-PACIFIC SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS

Why in news: Three days after taking office, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi announced that Japan's defence expenditure will increase to 2% of GDP by March 2026, two years ahead of the previous schedule. She also pledged support for security partnerships such as the Quad, which includes India.

Japan's new PM commits to higher defence spend, ties with India, Quad

Sanae Takaichi said she 'looks forward' to promoting the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership, 'in order to promote the main pillar of Tokyo's diplomacy, a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, India is a crucial partner,' says an Assistant Minister

3. BARNAWAPARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY – BLACKBUCK REVIVAL IN CHHATTISGARH

Why in news: After being declared locally extinct for nearly five decades, the blackbuck has made a successful comeback at the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh, under a five-year targeted revival and reintroduction programme led by the State Forest Department.

Sanctuary / National Park	Location (State)	Key Facts
Velavadar Blackbuck National Park	Gujarat	Famous for large herds of blackbucks; also supports wolves and lesser floricans.
Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	Coastal habitat; blackbucks seen along with migratory birds and salt pans.
Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary	Andhra Pradesh	Semi-arid grassland ecosystem; main blackbuck population in South India.
Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary	Bihar	Contains grasslands that support small blackbuck populations.
Ranebennur Blackbuck Sanctuary	Karnataka	Dedicated blackbuck sanctuary; also habitat for wolves.
Rehekuri Blackbuck Sanctuary	Maharashtra	Protected area exclusively for blackbucks; near Ahmednagar.
Lalpur Blackbuck Sanctuary	Rajasthan	Known for blackbuck herds in arid zones.
Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary	Bihar–Jharkhand border	Mixed deciduous forest and grassland habitat for blackbuck.



4. NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY COMPLETES TRIALS OF INTRUSION DETECTION SYSTEM (IDS) TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

Why in news: The **Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)** has successfully completed trial works of the **Intrusion Detection System (IDS)** across four critical railway sections to prevent elephant fatalities and improve train safety in wildlife-sensitive zones

NFR installs Intrusion Detection System to prevent elephant deaths by trains – Here's how it works

Elephants on Railway Track: The zone is implementing an Intrusion Detection System (IDS) designed to protect wildlife and maintain operational efficiency

**Address: 2nd Floor, 502, 22nd Main Rd, opposite TTMC
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CONTACT: 8050709380 www.nammaforesight.com

Q1. With reference to India's DNA-based elephant census (2021–25), consider the following statements:

- 1) It is the first elephant population estimation exercise in India using genetic mark–recapture methods.
- 2) The method relies on DNA extracted from elephant dung samples.
- 3) The census revealed that Karnataka has the highest number of wild elephants in India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Ans:(c) 1, 2 and 3(2nd Assam , 3rd Tamilanadu)

Programme / Scheme	Year	Body / Agency
Project Elephant	1992	MoEFCC
MIKE Programme	2003 (India joined)	CITES / MoEFCC / WII
Haathi Mere Saathi	2011	MoEFCC + WTI
Gaj Yatra	2017	WTI + MoEFCC
Project RE-HAB	2021	KVIC
Gaja Mitra Scheme	2025	Govt. of Assam

5. PRIME MINISTER TO LEAD RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS PARADE ON 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas parade** near **Kevadia (Ekta Nagar), Gujarat**, on **October 31, 2025**, marking the **150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Ministe

Q1)Which of the following statements about Sardar Patel's legacy is/are correct?

1. He supported the creation of linguistic states immediately after independence.
2. He advocated continuation of the Indian Civil Services to maintain unity and order.
3. He chaired the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights and Minorities in the Constituent Assembly.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only



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(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 3 only

Ans: (a) 2 and 3 only (Baroda Peasant Satyagraha (1918) also held under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhai Patel)

6. GYAN BHARATAM MISSION SIGNS MOUS FOR MANUSCRIPT DIGITISATION AND PRESERVATION

Why in news: The Gyan Bharatam Mission, under the Union Ministry of Culture, is signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with around 20 institutes across India for the conservation, upkeep, and digitisation of manuscripts



Q1) Consider the following statements about the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM):

1. It was established in 2003 by the Ministry of Culture.
2. Its headquarters is at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
3. It maintains a database called *Kritisampada*.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

26th OCT 2025

1. MAHA MedTech Mission
2. Pilot Whales
3. ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit
4. Timor Leste
5. SWAMIH Fund
6. Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

1. MAHA MedTech Mission

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Recently, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Gates Foundation, has launched the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA)-Medical Technology.

Q1)With reference to the MAHA–MedTech Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is jointly launched by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
2. The mission aims to promote indigenous innovation and reduce dependence on imported medical technologies.
3. It provides funding support of up to ₹50 crore for selected projects.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans:(b) 2 and 3 only

2. Pilot Whales

Recently, more than two dozen pilot whales have died after becoming stranded on a remote beach in New Zealand.

Pilot whale

One of the largest members of the dolphin family

Weight: up to 2,300 kg
Length: 7.6 m

Named pilot whales because it was thought that each pod followed a "pilot" in the group

Can dive to depths of about 600 m

- One of the whale species most often involved in mass strandings

Source: CSM/NOAA Fisheries/IUCN/NZ Department of Conservation

Two types:

Long finned: *Globicephala melas*

Short finned: *Globicephala macrorhynchus*

Differ slightly in
- size
- tooth count
- flipper length
- skull formation

Large bulbous forehead

- Commonly seen in tight, sociable pods
- Each pod has between 20-100 whales

Sickle-shaped flippers

1. ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit

Recently, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched two advanced Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) — ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit — at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

1. Consider the following statements regarding Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) of the Indian Coast Guard:

1. They are primarily designed for anti-smuggling, anti-poaching, and search & rescue operations

2. They are indigenously built under the "Make in India" initiative
3. They are capable of operating only in inland waters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)1 and 2 only



4. Timor Leste

Recently, Timor Leste (East Timor) formally admitted to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the group's first expansion since the 1990s.

Q1. With reference to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), consider the following statements:

- 1) The ASEAN Secretariat is located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 2) The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation forms the basis of ASEAN's code of conduct in inter-state relations.
- 3) India became a Full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN in 1996.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)2 and 3 only

Explanation:

Secretariat → **Jakarta, Indonesia** (not Kuala Lumpur).

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (1976) → Core ASEAN principle.

India → Full Dialogue Partner since **1996**.

5. SWAMIH Fund

The Reserve Bank of India will exempt a government-backed SWAMIH fund from its tightened rules for alternate investment funds (AIF).



SWAMIH Fund

RBI has exempted **SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Fund**, a government-backed fund from its tightened rules of **Alternate investment fund (AIF)**.

- The RBI prescribes the regulatory guidelines in respect of investment by the regulated entities in AIF.

About SWAMIH, 2019

- **It is a Category II AIF.**
 - **AIF** means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investments.
 - SEBI regulates **AIF**. E.g., Venture capital funds (including Angel Funds).
- **Objective:** Provide priority debt financing for completion of stalled housing projects.
- **Fund Manager:** SBI Ventures Limited.

6. Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

The Centre recently announced the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)** — its Padma-style national awards for scientific achievement — with **24 individual awards and one team award**.



Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

Government announced Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025, highest recognition for outstanding and inspiring contributions by scientists, technologists, and innovators in diverse fields of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.

About Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- Conferred under **Four Categories:**
 - **Vigyan Ratna (VR)** (lifetime achievements & contributions in any field of science and technology),
 - **Vigyan Shri (VS)** to recognize distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology
 - **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB)** for recognizing & encouraging young scientists
 - **Vigyan Team (VT)** for exceptional team work in science and technology.
- Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (Physics) was awarded **Vigyan Ratna (VR)** **Posthumously**.
- He co-developed **Hoyle-Narlikar theory of gravity** — an alternative to Einstein's general relativity and a counterpoint to the widely accepted Big Bang model.

1. Consider the following statements about the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP):

1. It is the highest national recognition in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India.
2. The awards are given annually by the Ministry of Education.

3. The awards are classified into four categories – Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, and Vigyan Team.
4. The first Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar will be awarded on National Science Day 2025.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: C. 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

RVP is India's **highest science award** recognizing contributions in science, technology, and innovation.

It is given by the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)** and **DST (Ministry of Science & Technology)**, not by the Ministry of Education.

Four categories: **Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and Vigyan Team.**

The **first edition** is to be conferred on **National Science Day, 28 February 2025**

27th OCT 2025

1. India's largest hydroelectric project —lower subansiri hydroelectric project
2. Cyclone montha forms over bay of bengal; imd issues red alert for andhra pradesh and yanam coasts
3. India-asean strategic partnership strengthens amid global uncertainties
4. Russia successfully tests nuclear-powered cruise missile 'burevestnik' with unlimited range
5. Pm-ayushman bharat health infrastructure mission (pm-abhim) strengthens india's pandemic preparedness and health resilience

1. INDIA'S LARGEST HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT —LOWER SUBANSIRI HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Why in news : The **2000 MW Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Project**, India's largest hydroelectric power project, has entered its **commissioning phase**, marking a significant milestone in India's renewable energy infrastructure development.

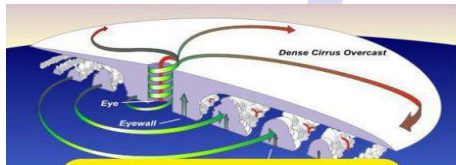
India's largest hydropower project undergoes test run

Work on NHPC's 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project, straddling the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam border, was suspended between 2011 and 2019 due to protests



2. CYCLONE MONTHA FORMS OVER BAY OF BENGAL; IMD ISSUES RED ALERT FOR ANDHRA PRADESH AND YANAM COASTS

Why in news : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a cyclone alert for Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and adjoining South Odisha coasts as severe cyclonic storm Montha is expected to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast with maximum wind speeds of 90–100 kmph, gusting up to 110 kmph.



TROPICAL CYCLONE

Tropical cyclones typically form over large bodies of relatively warm water.

Confined to 10-30 degree N-S of the equator.

They form only on seas with temperatures more than 26-27 degree C. They dissipate on reaching the land.

Wind velocity of tropical cyclones is much greater (100-250 kmph) (200-1200 kmph in upper troposphere) Greater destruction due to winds, storm surges and torrential rains

Tropical cyclones are elliptical in shape. generally move from east to west.



TEMPERATE CYCLONE

They are formed due to interaction of warm and cold air masses.

Confined to 35-65 degree N-S of the equator. More pronounced in the Northern hemisphere due to greater temperature contrast owing to large expanse of landmass.

Cyclone formation by frontogenesis, on both land and sea

Velocity Typical range: 30-150 kmph. Less destruction due to winds but more due to flooding.

Shape: 'inverted V' & usually move from west to east.

Q1. Which of the following conditions is essential for the formation of tropical cyclones?

1. Sea surface temperature above 26°C

2. Strong vertical wind shear
3. Presence of Coriolis force
4. High humidity in the lower to middle troposphere

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 3 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: B) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation: Tropical cyclones require **warm ocean water (>26°C)**, **Coriolis force**, and **high humidity**. **Strong vertical wind shear** disrupts cyclone formation — so it's **unfavourable**.

3. INDIA-ASEAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENS AMID GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES

Why in news : Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the **22nd ASEAN- India Summit** virtually from New Delhi, reaffirming that the India-ASEAN strategic partnership continues to prosper despite global uncertainties

India-ASEAN ties making steady progress: Modi

"The 21st century is our century, the century of India and ASEAN," says Modi, speaking virtually at the **22nd ASEAN-India summit held in Kuala Lumpur**; he describes ASEAN as a "cultural partner" of **India**, announcing further deepening of cooperation in maritime security in 2026.

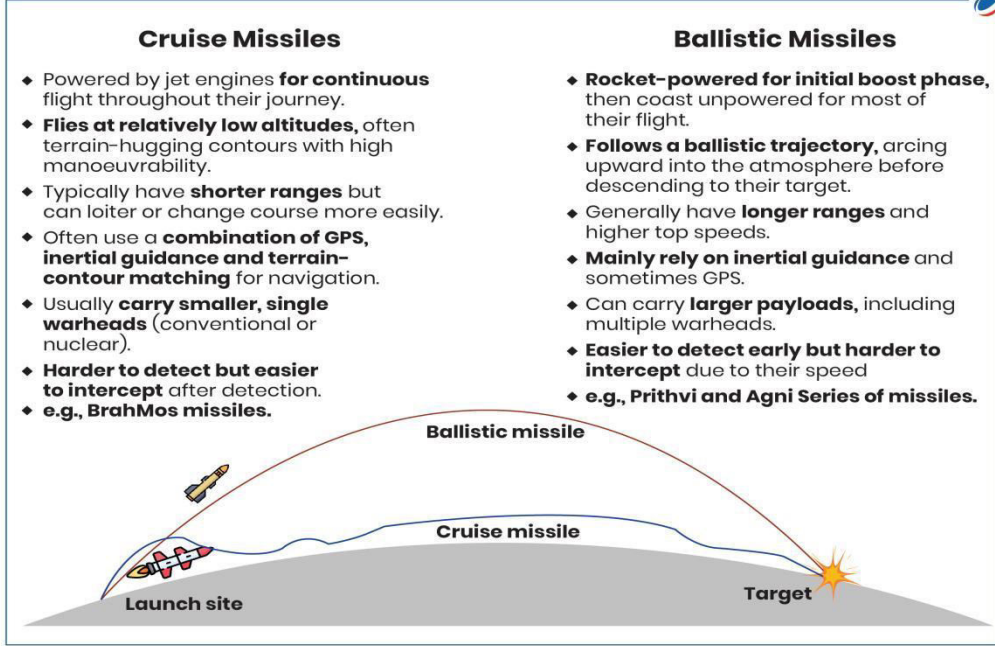
ASEAN & India Relations

India-ASEAN Partnership Timeline

- ▶ **1992:** Sectoral Partner
- ▶ **1996:** Dialogue Partner
- ▶ **2002:** Summit-Level Partner
- ▶ **2009:** ATIGA (ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement)
 - 11.3% of India's global trade
- ▶ **2010:** ASEAN-India Plans of Action
 - 2010-2015
 - 2016-2020
 - 2021-2025
- ▶ **2015:** CECA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement)
 - India plays a crucial role in ASEAN's Indo-Pacific strategy.

4. RUSSIA SUCCESSFULLY TESTS NUCLEAR-POWERED CRUISE MISSILE 'BUREVESTNIK' WITH UNLIMITED RANGE

Why in news : Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the successful final test of the **Burevestnik**, a new nuclear-powered cruise missile capable of striking targets across the globe, as Moscow continues its offensive in Ukraine.



Q1) Consider the following pairs:

Missile	Type	Developed by
1. Akash	Surface-to-air	DRDO
2. Nag	Anti-tank guided missile	DRDO
3. Prithvi	Air-to-air missile	DRDO

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
 (B) 1 and 3 only
 (C) 2 and 3 only
 (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

Akash – Surface-to-air missile.

Nag – Anti-tank missile.

Prithvi – *Surface-to-surface* missile, **not** air-to-air.

5. PM-AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION (PM-ABHIM)
STRENGTHENS INDIA'S PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND HEALTH RESILIENCE

Why in news : The Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021, has emerged as one of India's largest healthcare initiatives to strengthen the country's preparedness for pandemics and future health emergencies



Q1) Which of the following are covered under the Health Benefit Package (HBP) of PM-JAY?

1. Oncology and Cardiology procedures
2. Mental health services
3. Primary health consultations at Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

PM-JAY covers **secondary and tertiary care** (e.g., oncology, cardiology).

Primary care at HWCs is part of the **Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres** component, not PM-JAY.

28th OCT 2025

1. Special intensive revision (sir) 2.0 of electoral rolls launched in 12 states & uts
2. Justice surya kant, part of poll bond, article 370 verdicts, set to be next cji
3. Skill-based initiative launched for ollo tribe women under operation sadbhavana
4. India's maritime global trade to get a boost with proposed great nicobar project
5. Government may attempt cloud seeding today
6. Is the dogri language losing resonance in india?
7. Isro to launch military communications satellite cms-03 (gsat-7r)
8. Ins mahe delivered to indian navy

1. SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION (SIR) 2.0 OF ELECTORAL ROLLS LAUNCHED IN 12 STATES & UTS

Why in news: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched the **second phase of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2.0** of voter lists in **12 States and Union Territories**, covering around **51 crore voters**. The exercise aims to ensure clean, updated, and error-free electoral rolls ahead of the 2026 Assembly and 2029 Lok Sabha elections

Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls begins in 12 States, Union Territories on November 4

This major exercise will cover close to 51 crore voters. The first round of the clean-up exercise was carried out in Bihar earlier this year, during which more than **68 lakh names were deleted from the electoral rolls**.



Visit the website: eci.gov.in

2. JUSTICE SURYA KANT, PART OF POLL BOND, ARTICLE 370 VERDICTS, SET TO BE NEXT CJI

Why in news : Justice Surya Kant has been recommended by Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai to be appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India, following the established Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments.

Constitutional Criteria (Article 124(3)):

A person shall be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court

- He/She is a citizen of India,
- He/She has been a Judge of a High Court (or of two or more such Courts in succession) for at least five years, OR
- an advocate of a High Court (or of two or more such Courts in succession) for at least ten years, OR in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

Q1. Which of the following statements regarding the Chief Justice of India is/are correct?

1. The Constitution explicitly provides that the senior-most Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed as the Chief Justice of India.
2. The term and retirement age of the Chief Justice of India are the same as other Judges of the Supreme Court.
3. The CJI can be removed only through a process similar to that of other Supreme Court Judges.

Options:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (B) 2 and 3 only

Statement 1 — The Constitution **does not** mention seniority; it's a **constitutional convention**.

Statement 2 — The CJI retires at **65 years**, same as other SC Judges.

Statement 3 — Removal process under **Article 124(4)** applies equally to all SC Judges including the CJI.

3. Skill-Based Initiative Launched for Olo Tribe Women under Operation Sadbhavana

Why in news : The Khonsa Battalion of the Assam Rifles has launched a skill-based women empowerment initiative for the Olo tribe under Operation Sadbhavana in Tirap district,

Arunachal Pradesh. This programme aims to promote **self-reliance, inclusive growth, and socio-economic empowerment** among women of this indigenous border tribe.

State	Major Tribes (Recognized / Prominent)	Key Features / Notes
Arunachal Pradesh	Adi, Nyishi, Apatani, Galo, Tagin, Monpa, Sherdukpen, Wancho, Nocte, Mishmi	Most linguistically diverse; tribes follow Donyi-Polo, Buddhism, or Christianity.
Assam	Bodo, Mishing, Karbi, Rabha, Tiwa (Lalung), Dimasa, Deori, Sonowal Kachari	Bodos are the largest plains tribe; BTR (Bodoland Territorial Region).
Manipur	Meitei (non-ST in valley), Tangkhul, Mao, Maram, Poumai, Thadou, Kuki, Hmar, Paite, Zou	Valley dominated by Meiteis; hills by Naga and Kuki groups.
Meghalaya	Khasi, Garo, Jaintia	All three are matrilineal tribes; each has distinct language and customs.
Mizoram	Mizo (Lushai), Lai, Mara, Chakma	Predominantly Christian; Mizos trace roots to Tibeto-Burman origin.
Nagaland	Angami, Ao, Sema (Sumi), Lotha, Konyak, Chakhesang, Rengma, Zeliang	Naga tribes known for traditional village republics and Hornbill Festival.
Sikkim	Lepcha, Bhutia, Limboo	Lepchas considered original inhabitants; Bhutias of Tibetan origin.
Tripura	Tripuri (Debbarma), Reang (Bru), Jamatia, Chakma, Halam, Mog	Indigenous Tripuris follow Vaishnavism; Reangs spread across Tripura and Mizoram.

4. INDIA'S MARITIME GLOBAL TRADE TO GET A BOOST WITH PROPOSED GREAT NICOBAR PROJECT

Why in news : At the **India Maritime Week 2025**, Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** announced that the **Great Nicobar project** will play a central role in transforming India into a global maritime hub, with port capacity targeted to reach **10,000 MTPA** and investments worth **₹10 lakh crore** expected.

Great Nicobar project will boost India's maritime global trade, says Amit Shah

Amit Shah outlines plans for shipping sector at India Maritime Week; 680 MoUs worth ₹10 lakh crore likely to be signed

Q) Consider the following pairs:

Feature	Located in / Associated with
(a) Campbell Bay	Great Nicobar Island
(b) Mount Thuillier	Highest peak in Andaman Islands
(c) Indira Point	Southernmost tip of India

Which of the pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2, and 3
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 2 only

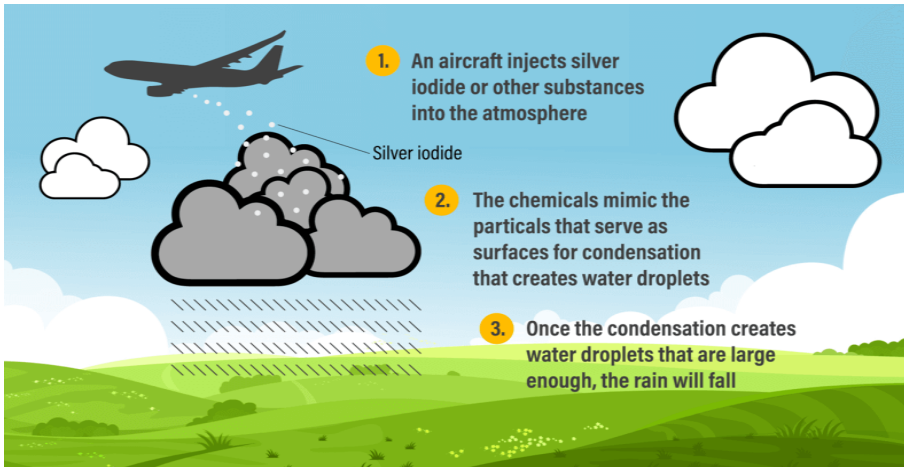
Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Mount Thuillier (642 m) is the highest point of Nicobar Islands, not the Andaman group.

- Saddle – North andaman (Highest overall)
- Harriet – South andaman (Historical + renamed)
- Thuillier – Great Nicobar (Highest in Nicobars)
- Koyob – Little Andaman

5. GOVERNMENT MAY ATTEMPT CLOUD SEEDING TODAY

Why in news: The Delhi government plans to conduct **cloud seeding operations** to combat worsening air quality, delayed due to weather conditions and Chhath celebrations



- ✓ Common cloud seeding chemicals include **silver iodide, potassium iodide, sodium chloride**, and **liquid propane** for stimulating cloud condensation.

Q1) Among following which projects related to karnatak cloud seedings

- 1. Project varuna

2. Project Meghadhoot
3. Project Varshadhari
4. Project Raitkayan

Choose the correct one

- (a) 1,2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 2 only

Ans: (b) 1 and 3 only (Project varuna held in 2003 and Project varshadhari held in 2017)

6. IS THE DOGRI LANGUAGE LOSING RESONANCE IN INDIA?

Why in News : The Dogri language, despite being one of the **five official languages of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**, is witnessing a decline in active usage and literacy, reflecting a broader trend of **language endangerment** in India as reported by **UNESCO**

TRICK: AMENDMENTS IN 8TH SCHEDULE

	Amendments	Addition	Languages
1	21 st Amendment Act	1 Language	Sindhi
2	71 st Amendment Act	3 Language	Manipuri, Konkani & Nepali
3	92 nd Amendment Act	4 Language	Bodo, Dogari, Mathilli & Santhali

✓ **8th Schedule** to the Constitution consists **22 languages**: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.

✓ Initially there were **14 languages** in the 8th Schedules of Indian Constitution

7. ISRO TO LAUNCH MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CMS-03 (GSAT-7R)

Why in News : The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch **CMS-03**, also known as **GSAT-7R**, from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota**. The satellite will strengthen India's **strategic communication capabilities**, particularly for the **Indian Navy and other defence forces**.

ISRO's LVM3 rocket launches GSAT-7R, the Navy's most advanced communication satellite

Indigenous **GSAT-7R** weighs **4,400 kg**, making it the heaviest comms satellite launched from India; **will provide Navy with secure telecom coverage across Indian Ocean region; feeds into ISRO's Gaganyaan preparations**

✓ Launch Vehicle: Launch Vehicle Mark-3- M5 (LVM3 -M5)

8.INS MAHE DELIVERED TO INDIAN NAVY

Why in news : Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has delivered **INS Mahe**, the first of eight **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, to the Indian Navy. It marks a significant milestone in India's indigenous shipbuilding and coastal defence capabilities

CSL delivers *INSMahe* warship to Indian Navy

The ship has been designed for underwater surveillance, search and rescue operations and low intensity maritime operations

29th OCT 2025

1. Centre approves terms of 8th central pay commission
2. Cyclone montha
3. 'moving villagers from tiger reserves must be voluntary': tribal affairs ministry
4. 70 individuals to be honoured with karnataka rajyotsava award
5. Ngt takes cognisance of illegal muck dumping in sunni dam hydro electric project, himachal

1.CENTRE APPROVES TERMS OF 8TH CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION

Why in news : The Union Cabinet has approved the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** for the **8th Central Pay Commission (CPC)**, which will review and recommend revisions to the salaries and benefits of around 50 lakh Central government employees.

Pay Commission	Year	Chairman
First Pay Commission	1947-59	Srinivasa Varadachariar
Second Pay Commission	1959-73	Jaganath Das
Third Pay Commission	1973-87	Raghubir Dayal
Fourth Pay Commission	1987-96	P N Singhal
Fifth Pay Commission	1996-2006	Justice S Ratnavel Pandian
Sixth Pay Commission	2006-16	Justice BN Srikrishna
Seventh Pay Commission	2016-26	Justice Ashok Kumar Mathu

✓ 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) chairman : Justice Ranjan Prakash Desai

Pay Commission	Year of Appointment	Chairperson
1st Pay Commission	1961	Dr. T.V. Hanumanthaiah
2nd Pay Commission	1970	Sri D. Devaraj Urs (CM initiated), Justice H.R. Khanna Committee
3rd Pay Commission	1976	Sri R. Gundu Rao (appointed under his govt), Justice C. Honniah
4th Pay Commission	1986	Justice C.H. Ramaswamy
5th Pay Commission	1996	Justice K. Jagannatha Shetty
6th Pay Commission	2007	Justice N. Venkatachala
7th Pay Commission	2017	Dr. M.R. Srinivasa Murthy (IAS Retd.)
8th Pay Commission	2023	Sri Sudhakar Rao (IAS Retd.)

2.CYCLONE MONTHA

Why in news : Cyclone Montha has formed over the Bay of Bengal and is expected to make landfall near **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**, on **October 28, 2025**, bringing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and storm surges across coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu.

Naming procedure

Topic	Key Points
Authority	WMO–ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones; IMD (New Delhi) is Regional Centre for North Indian Ocean
Region Covered	Bay of Bengal & Arabian Sea
Member Countries (13)	India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Maldives, Oman, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen
Mnemonic	"I Bump My Pretty Mini Omni Scooter To Iran's Qatar Street Under Yemen"
When Named	When wind speed ≥ 62 km/h
How Named	Each country submits 13 names; used sequentially, not repeated; short, simple, non-offensive
Recent Examples	Amphan (Thailand, 2020); Tauktae (Myanmar, 2021); Yaas (Oman, 2021); Biparjoy (Bangladesh, 2023); Remal (Oman, 2024)

Q1. With reference to tropical cyclones, consider the following statements:

1. They are warm-core systems driven by latent heat release.
2. They rotate clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.
3. They lose energy when they move over land.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

Cyclones rotate **anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere** (due to Coriolis effect).

3.'MOVING VILLAGERS FROM TIGER RESERVES MUST BE VOLUNTARY': TRIBAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Why in news : The **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has issued a directive that **relocation of forest-dwelling communities from tiger reserves must be entirely voluntary** and based on evidence. This follows concerns about forced evictions and non-implementation of the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**.

Q1). Consider the following statements regarding community forest rights under FRA, 2006:

1. Rights include ownership, access to collect, use, and dispose of minor forest produce.
2. Rights extend to community management of forests.
3. Rights include authority to clear forest land for industrial projects.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Answer: b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:FRA explicitly recognizes **community rights** for sustainable use and management.

It does not allow forest clearing for industrial projects.

4. 70 INDIVIDUALS TO BE HONOURED WITH KARNATAKA RAJYOTSAVA AWARD

Why in news : The Government of Karnataka has announced that 70 individuals will be conferred the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award this year. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chaired the selection committee meeting, which shortlisted around 160 candidates, and the awards will be presented on November 1, celebrated as Karnataka

Eligibility

The award is given to individuals, organizations, or institutions who have made significant contributions in various fields.

Both residents of Karnataka and those of Kannadiga origin living elsewhere can be considered.

Contributions can be in fields such as:

Arts (Music, Dance, Painting, Literature, Theatre), Education and Literature, Science and Technology, Social Service and Philanthropy, Sports, Industry and Trade, Public Affairs or Community Service

5. NGT Takes Cognisance of Illegal Muck Dumping in Sunni Dam Hydro Electric Project, Himachal

Why in news : The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognisance of a complaint alleging illegal dumping of construction muck into the Sutlej River during blasting and excavation works for the Sunni Dam Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Sunni tehsil, Shimla district, Himachal Pradesh.

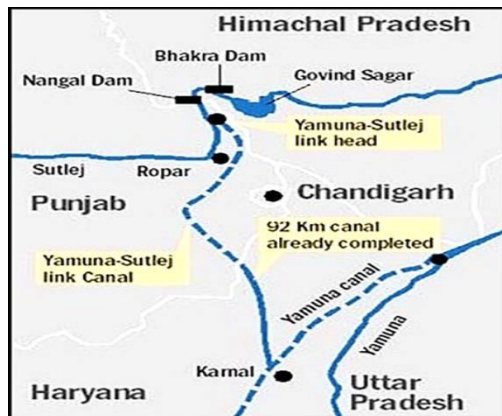
Panel to look into illegal muck dumping in Himachal, Gov gives nod

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A senior officer said that the sub-committee will study the extent of illegal muck disposal, identify vulnerable areas, and recommend both preventive and remedial measures to mitigate the problem.

.Q1) Consider the following statements about the Sutlej River and its major dams:

1. Bhakra Nangal Dam is built on the Sutlej River and provides both irrigation and hydroelectric power.
2. Pong Dam (also called Maharana Pratap Sagar) is built on the Sutlej in Himachal Pradesh.



3. The Satluj River originates from the Raktisar Glacier in Tibet.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: A. 1, 2, and 4 only

Explanation: Pong Dam (Maharana Pratap Sagar): Located on Beas River,

Origin: Sutlej originates from Rakshastal/Raktisar Lake in Tibe.

30th OCT 2025

1. India–norway maritime partnership strengthens during india maritime week 2025
2. India–japan relations: new ‘golden chapter’ under pm sanae takaichi
3. India–china 23rd corps commander-level talks held to maintain peace along lac
4. Proposal to redraw boundaries of karakoram wildlife sanctuary, lada
5. Demand for scheduled tribe (st) status by tai ahom community in assam
6. Human development index (hdi)

1. INDIA–NORWAY MARITIME PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENS DURING INDIA MARITIME WEEK 2025

Why in news : During India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai, Norway and India reaffirmed their strong maritime partnership. Both nations emphasized cooperation on sustainable ocean management, green shipping, shipbuilding, and the blue economy, following the recent implementation of the India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) on October 1, 2025.

Norway and India: Green maritime partners

TI Premium

As major ocean nations, Norway and India face common challenges, and with them, a shared responsibility to think globally and act for the benefit of all

Q1) Which of the following countries is NOT a current member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)?

1. Switzerland
2. Iceland
3. Norway
4. United Kingdom

Answer: 4. United Kingdom

Explanation: Founding members included the UK, but it left EFTA in 1973 when it joined the **European Economic Community (EEC)**.

- Current members: **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.**



2. INDIA-JAPAN RELATIONS: NEW 'GOLDEN CHAPTER' UNDER PM SANAЕ TAKAICHI

Why in news : Japan's newly elected Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi** held her first official conversation with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, affirming both nations' intent to open a "golden chapter" in their bilateral relations. The discussion emphasized cooperation within the **Quad**, and deepening ties in **economic, defence, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges**.

Q1) Which of the following is/are correct about the objectives of the QUAD?

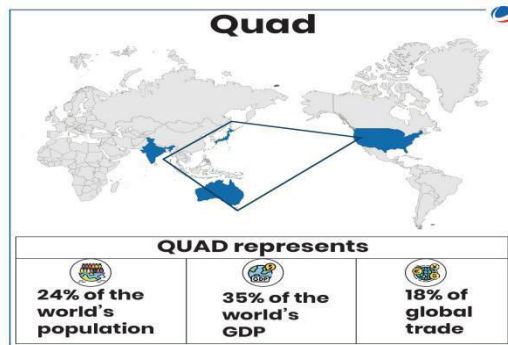
- a) Ensuring freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific
- b) Promoting infrastructure and vaccine cooperation
- c) Establishing a military alliance against China

Select the correct answer using the code below:

1. a and b only
2. b and c only
3. a and c only
4. a, b, and c

Answer: 1. a and b only

Explanation:



- QUAD is **not a military alliance**, but a **strategic and economic partnership**.
- Focus areas: maritime cooperation, supply chain resilience, emerging technologies, cyber security, and vaccines.

3. INDIA-CHINA 23RD CORPS COMMANDER-LEVEL TALKS HELD TO MAINTAIN PEACE ALONG LAC

Why in news : India and China held the **23rd round of Corps Commander-level talks** at **Chushul-Moldo** on **October 25, 2025**, to discuss ways to maintain **peace and stability along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in **Eastern Ladakh**. This is the **first high-level military interaction** since the **Special Representatives' meeting** between **NSA Ajit Doval** and **Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** in August 2025.

Q1) Consider the following locations along the India–China border:

- Pangong Tso
- Depsang Plains
- Tawang
- Lipulekh

Q1) Which of the above are located along the India–China LAC?



- a and b only
- b, c, and d only
- a, b, and d only
- a, b, c, and d

Answer: 3. a, b, and d

Explanation:

- **Pangong Tso** – Eastern Ladakh
- **Depsang Plains** – Western Sector (Ladakh)
- **Tawang** – Arunachal Pradesh (Eastern Sector)
- **Lipulekh** – Uttarakhand (Middle Sector)

4. PROPOSAL TO REDRAW BOUNDARIES OF KARAKORAM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, LADA

Why in news : The Central Government has received a proposal to redraw the boundaries and expanse of the Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) in Ladakh, aimed at improving conservation planning and resolving boundary overlaps with adjacent protected areas.

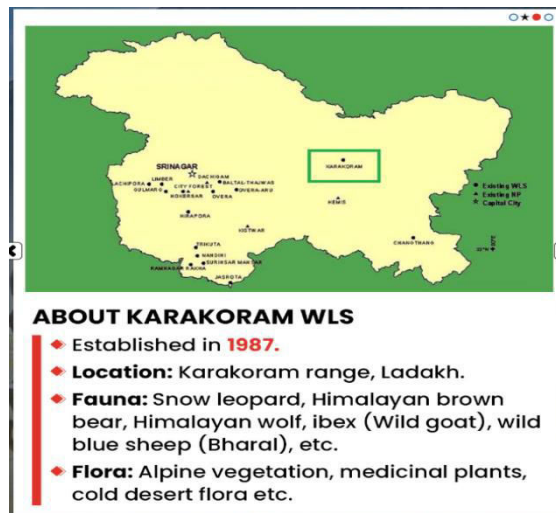
Q1)The Trans-Himalayan region of India includes which of the following ranges?

- Karakoram Range
- Ladakh Range
- Zaskar Range
- Pir Panjal Range

Select the correct answer:

- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2, and 3 only
- 2 and 4 only
- 1, 3, and 4 only

Answer: 2) 1, 2, and 3 only



Explanation:

- The **Trans-Himalayas** (north of the Great Himalayas) include:
 - **Karakoram Range,**
 - **Ladakh Range,** and
 - **Zaskar Range.**
- **Pir Panjal** belongs to the **Lesser Himalayas.**

5. DEMAND FOR SCHEDULED TRIBE (ST) STATUS BY TAI AHOM COMMUNITY IN ASSAM

Why in news : Thousands of Tai Ahom people held a torch rally in Moran, eastern Assam, demanding **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** status for their community. The protest was organized by the Tai Ahom Yuba Parishad, Assam (TAYPA), and the All-Tai Ahom Students' Union (ATASU)

Tai Ahoms, demanding ST status, stage torch rally in Assam

This follows similar rallies by Adivasi, Matak, and Moran communities in the eastern part of the State

Q1) The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for autonomous administration in which of the following states?

1. Assam
2. Meghalaya
3. Tripura
4. Mizoram

Select the correct answer using the code below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1, 2, and 3 only
3. 1, 2, 3, and 4
4. 1, 3, and 4 only

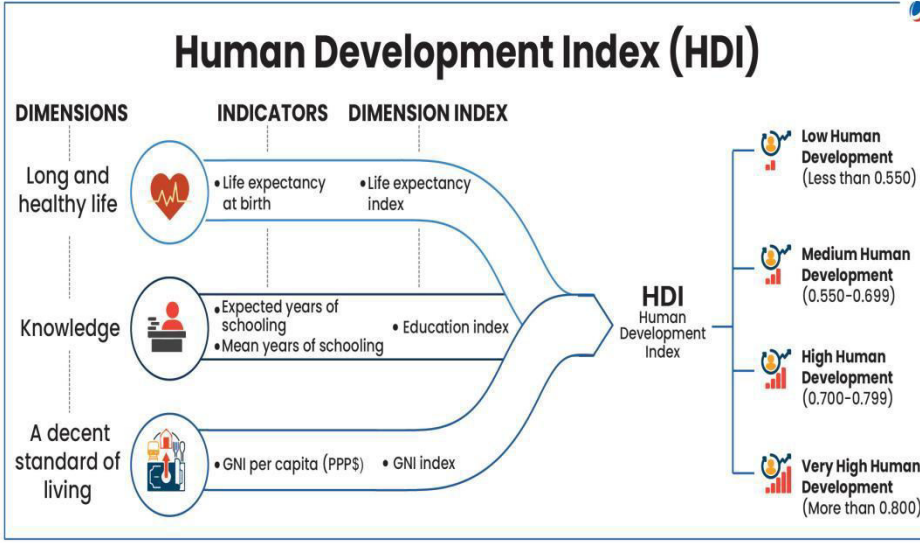
Answer: 3. 1, 2, 3, and 4

Explanation:

- These states have **Autonomous District and Regional Councils** to protect tribal interests.

6. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)

Why in news : The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released the **Human Development Report 2025**, showing that **India's Human Development Index (HDI)** value increased from **0.676 (2022)** to **0.685 (2023)**, ranking **130th out of 193 countries**.



31th OCT 2025

1. Kerala opposes draft 'shram shakti niti 2025' calling it anti-labour
2. Andhra pradesh uses technology to minimise cyclone 'montha' impact
3. India gets 6-month u.s. sanctions waiver for iran's chabahar port
4. Caqm bans entry of old commercial vehicles into delhi as air quality worsens
5. Cheetahs to be introduced in nauradehi sanctuary, madhya pradesh

1. KERALA OPPOSES DRAFT 'SHRAM SHAKTI NITI 2025' CALLING IT ANTI-LABOUR

Why in news : The Kerala government has demanded the withdrawal of the Union Labour Ministry's draft policy 'Shram Shakti Niti 2025', terming it **anti-labour**. State Labour Minister V. Sivankutty alleged that the draft bypasses States on issues listed under the **Concurrent List**, violating **federal principles**

Kerala government demands withdrawal of Centre's draft labour policy Shram Shakti Niti

V. Sivankutty terms it an extremely anti-labour policy which rejects constitutionally enshrined labour rights and the concept of social justice

Q1) Consider the following statements regarding Shram Shakti Niti 2025:

- a) It covers workers in formal, informal, gig and migrant sectors.
- b) One of its objectives is to raise female labour force participation.
- c) It proposes to eliminate all labour laws and replace them with a single code.

Which of the statements are correct?

- 1. a and b only
- 2. b and c only
- 3. a and c only
- 4. a, b and c

Answer: 1. a and b only

Explanation:

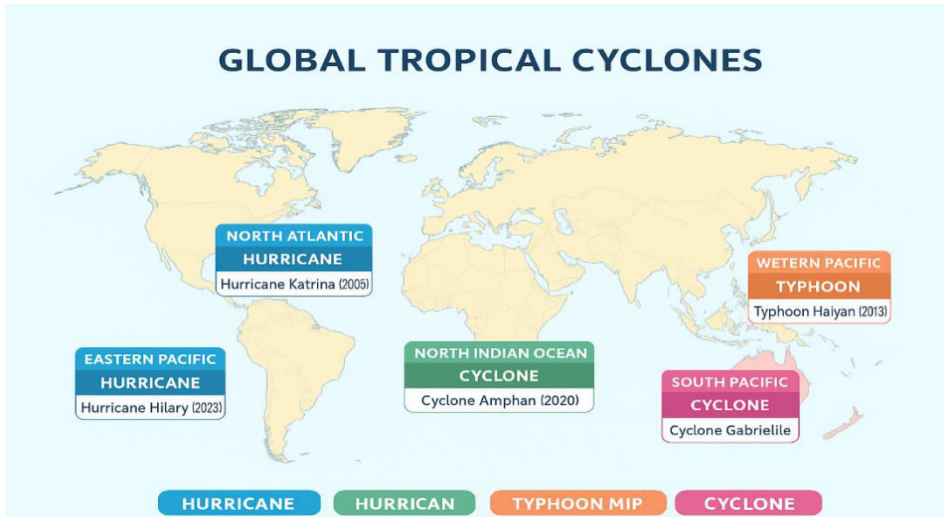
- The draft mentions inclusion of formal, informal, gig and migrant workers. It highlights women and youth empowerment as an objective
- However, it does **not** propose elimination of *all* labour laws and replacement with a single code; rather it builds on the four existing labour codes. So (c) is incorrect.

2. ANDHRA PRADESH USES TECHNOLOGY TO MINIMISE CYCLONE 'MONTHA' IMPACT

Why in news : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** stated that the **State's strategic use of technology**, meticulous planning, and inter-departmental coordination **minimised the impact of Cyclone Montha**, which caused estimated losses worth **₹5,265 crore** across the State.

Tech-driven preparedness helped reduce cyclone impact, loss at ₹5,265 crore, says Naidu

Chief Minister says all government departments worked in close coordination and managed to restore normalcy to a large extent on the very first day



3. INDIA GETS 6-MONTH U.S. SANCTIONS WAIVER FOR IRAN'S CHABAHAH PORT

Why in news : The United States has granted India a six-month waiver from sanctions on Iran's Chabahar Port, effective from October 29, 2025, allowing continued operations and essential supplies to Afghanistan through the port.

India gets six-month waiver on U.S. sanctions against Chabahar: MEA

Waiver came into effect from October 29, MEA officials say; previous waiver on Indian operations at Chabahar, granted by the first Trump administration in 2018, was revoked with effect from September 29



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Q1) Which of the following statements regarding Chabahar Port is/are correct?

1. It lies on the Makran coast of the Arabian Sea.
2. It is developed by India Ports Global Limited (IPGL).
3. It connects to the Zaranj-Delaram Highway in Afghanistan.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2, and 3

Answer: 4). 1, 2, and 3

Explanation:

- All statements are true:
 - Located on **Makran coast** (Iran).
 - Developed by **India Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL)**.
 - Linked via **Zaranj–Delaram Highway**, built by **India's BRO**, giving access to **Afghanistan's Ring Road**.

4. CAQM BANS ENTRY OF OLD COMMERCIAL VEHICLES INTO DELHI AS AIR QUALITY WORSENS

Why in news : The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has ordered a **ban on the entry of old commercial goods vehicles** into Delhi starting **November 1, 2025**, to curb the worsening air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR). Only **CNG, LNG, electric vehicles, and BS-VI compliant vehicles** will be allowed entry

CAQM bans entry of old commercial vehicles as air quality deteriorates

Only CNG, LNG, electric vehicles and those compliant with BS-VI norms to be allowed into Delhi from November 1; govt. lifts one-year limit on NOC applications for deregistered vehicles; **move will help in reducing pollution, says Transport Minister**

5. CHEETAHS TO BE INTRODUCED IN NAURADEHI SANCTUARY, MADHYA PRADESH

Why in news : Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced that **Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary** will soon become the **third home for cheetahs** in the State after **Kuno National Park** and **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary**. Cheetahs will be brought from **Namibia** for this purpose.

3rd home for cheetahs coming but there's a challenge: **25 tigers there**

Apex predators like **lions and tigers were absent, leopards were moved out**, and herbivores were brought in to give the cheetahs room to breathe, hunt, and establish themselves without having to look over their shoulders.

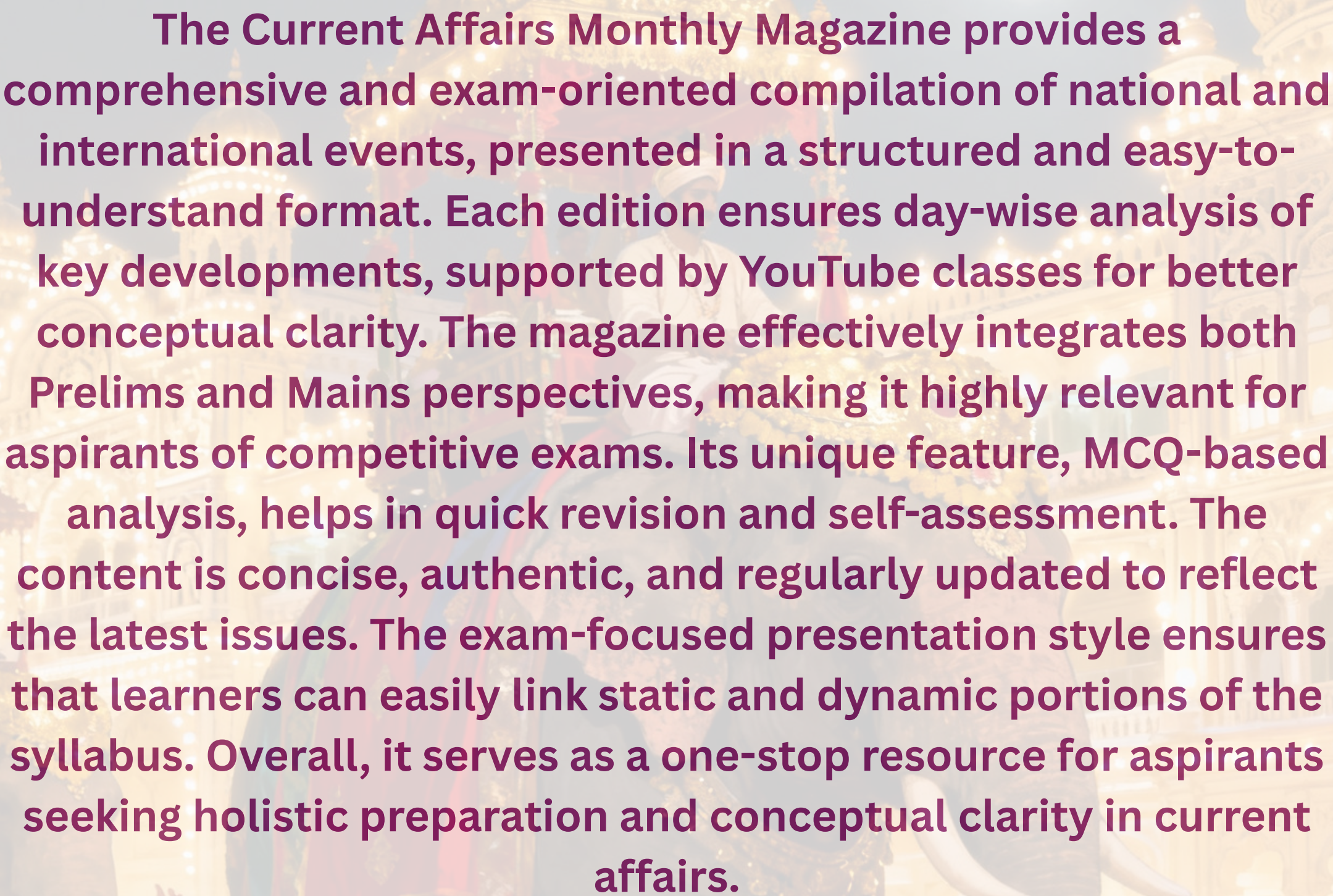
Aspect	Details
Launch Year	2022
Implementing Agency	National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
Location	Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh
Source Countries	Namibia (2022), South Africa (2023)
Subspecies Introduced	African Cheetah (<i>Acinonyx jubatus jubatus</i>)



ನಮ್ಮ FORESIGHT
KAS/ACF/PSI/VO/AO &AAO/RFO

Aspect	Details
Declared Extinct in India	1952
Alternate Sites Proposed	Gandhi Sagar, Nauradehi, and Mukundra Hills (Rajasthan)





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