



NAMMA FORESIGHT ACADEMY

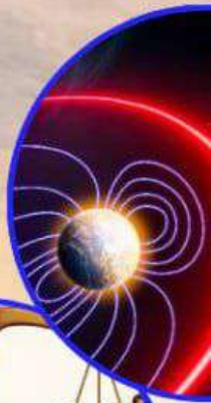
UPSC- CSE/ IfoS & State services Exams

DECEMBER
2025

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

MONTHLY
MAGAZINE

LENSE
(Latest Events and
News Analysis Series)



THEMES

FEATURES

- Day wise analysis
- Classes in YouTube
- Monthly Coverage
- Analysis through MCQS
- Exam -Focused Presentation
- Mains & Prelims Oriented

- Exercise EKUVERIN
- world soil day
- GlowCas9 Protein
- TIDE 2.0 Scheme
- Kavachi Volcano
- Santhali
- Indo-Russia Summit
- Aravalli Hills
- Social boycott bill-25
- Digital nagarik programme
- Justice mission 2025
- Thanjavur Painting
- Rashtriya Prerna Sthal
- Solar Storm

2nd Floor, 502, 22nd Main Rd, opposite TTMC Bus Stop, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru
Karnataka 560040 Phone: 8050709380 /9886184260/ 8549801374

INDEX

01st Dec 2025.....(01-03)

1. Ramban Sulai Honey
2. Khamniungan Tribe
3. Darjeeling Mandarin Orange
4. Svalbard
5. Sariska Tiger Reserve
6. Venezuela.

02nd Dec 2025..... (04-06)

1. Guinea-Bissau
2. Heron Mk II
3. Bioremediation
4. Exercise EKUVERIN
5. Vande Mataram 150 Years Celebration

03rd Dec 2025..... (06-09)

1. UNESCO's Creative Cities Network.
2. Chaolung Sukapha
3. Bonda Tribe
4. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
5. Bitra Island
6. GLP-1 Drug

04th Dec 2025..... (09 - 12)

1. Alaknanda Galaxy
2. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve
3. Humpback Whale
4. INS Aridhaman
5. Ebola

05th Dec 2025..... (12 - 15)

1. 1 Assam Accord
2. World Soil Day

3. Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab
4. National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme
5. Thailand
6. Exercise Garuda Shakti

06th Dec 2025..... (15 - 17)

1. India-Russia Summit.
2. Goldilocks Phase
3. Rocket-Sled Ejection Test

07th Dec 2025..... (17 - 19)

1. 1 Zambezi River
2. UMEED Portal
3. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme
4. Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve
5. Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

08th Dec 2025..... (20 - 22)

1. Border Roads Organisation
2. Kilauea Volcano
3. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority
4. Hoolock Gibbon
5. Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

09th and 10th Dec 2025..... (23 - 27)

1. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
2. UN Environment Assembly

3. Japan
4. C-130J Super Hercules
5. Solar Storm
6. Sultanpur National Park
7. Blue Corner Notice
8. African Penguin

11th Dec 2025..... (27 - 30)

1. NewSpace India Limited
2. Rhinophis siruvaniensis
3. Deepavali
4. SAMPANN Portal
5. GlowCas9 Protein

12th Dec 2025.....(30 - 33)

1. Boreendo
2. National Film Heritage Mission
3. Diving Support Craft A20
4. Italy
5. Sanchar Mitra Scheme

13th Dec 2025.....(33 - 36)

1. Sujalam Bharat App
2. Mexico
3. Hard Corals
4. Uchi Pillaiyar Temple.
5. Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary

14th Dec 2025.....(36 - 39)

1. Ramsar Sites
2. Tapanuli Orangutan
3. APAAR ID
4. Ponduru Khadi

15th Dec 2025.....(39 - 42)

1. Gulf of Oman
2. Dandami Madia Tribe
3. Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS).
4. Bluebird 6 Satellite
5. Jordan

16th & 17th Dec 2025.....(42 - 47)

1. Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan
2. Black-Capped Capuchin Monkey
3. Project Mausam
4. Gestational Diabetes Mellitus
5. Exercise Ekatha
6. Ekam AI and SAMBHAV
7. National Digital Livestock Mission
8. DHRUV64
9. AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter

18th Dec 2025..... (48 - 50)

1. Exercise "Desert Cyclone II"
2. INS Hansa
3. ICGS Sarthak
4. BharatNet Project
5. Kavach System

19th Dec 2025..... (51 - 53)

1. SabhaSaar Initiative
2. Hormuz Island
3. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
4. Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme

20th Dec 2025..... (53 - 56)

1. Hainan Island
2. Antariksh Prayogshala

3. TIDE 2.0 Scheme
4. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Amulya
5. Doppler Weather Radar

21th Dec 2025..... (56- 59)

1. Netherlands
2. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
3. Kavachi Volcano
4. Bharat Taxi Initiative
5. Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

22th Dec 2025..... (60 - 62)

1. Syria
2. Raccoon Roundworm
3. World Anti-Doping Agency
4. Southern Ocean

23th Dec 2025..... (62- 64)

1. Anjadip Ship
2. Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) Mission
3. Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI).
4. Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
5. Bhima River

24th Dec 2025..... (65 - 68)

1. SHAKTI Scholars Young Research Fellowship
2. India's Largest Circular Stone Labyrinth
3. Akash-NG Missile System
4. Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR).
5. INSV Kaundinya

25th And 26th Dec 2025.....(68 - 71)

1. K-4 Missile
2. Thanjavur Painting
3. PM-SETU Scheme.
4. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar
5. Titan
6. Rashtriya Prerna Sthal
7. Minamitori Island

27th Dec 2025..... (72 - 73)

1. Santhali Language
2. Lantana camara
3. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
4. Rabies

28th Dec 2025..... (74 - 75)

1. Dulhasti Stage-II Hydropower Project
2. Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)
3. Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme
4. Somaliland

29th Dec 2025..... (76 - 78)

1. Kolleru Lake
2. INS Vagsheer
3. PM-YUVA 3.0 Scheme
4. Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary

30th And 31st Dec 2025..... (78 - 80)

1. Aravalli Hills
2. Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 Submits Final Report

3. Kaimur wildlife sanctuary

4. Justice mission 2025

KARNATAKA STATE NEWS(81 -90)

1. Human milk bank (karnataka initiative)

2. Karnataka land revenue (amendment) rules.

3. Vijayanagara legacy & inclusive growth.

4. Social boycott bill.2025

5. Karnataka's dominance in India's exports.

6. Kutumba bill 2025

7. Black soldier fly composting

8. Digital heritage portal.

9. India's first comprehensive silk museum

10. Karnataka laws on hate speech and social boycott

11. Dakshina Kannada designed as District export hub

12. Advanced command & control Units for tech - driven wildlife protection.

13. India's first startup & tech museum.

14. Bengaluru innovation report 2025

15. Digital nagarik programme

01st Dec 2025

1. Ramban Sulai Honey
2. Khamniungan Tribe
3. Darjeeling Mandarin Orange
4. Svalbard
5. Sariska Tiger Reserve
6. Venezuela.

1. Ramban Sulai Honey

WHY IN NEWS : The Prime Minister, during the 128th episode of his radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' noted that Ramban Sulai honey from Jammu and Kashmir, made from wild basil, gained wider recognition after receiving a GI tag.



About Ramban Sulai Honey

- Ramban Sulai Honey, produced in the Ramban District of Jammu and Kashmir, is known for its rich taste, aromatic floral undertones, and high nutritional value.
- Extracted from Sulai plants growing in the Himalayas, it is prized for its medicinal properties and purity.
- The bees forage on the nectar of snow-white blossoms of Sulai during the months of August to October to produce this well-rounded, naturally sweet honey with floral undertones.
- This crystal-clear honey, ranging from white to amber, contains essential minerals, enzymes, and vitamins that enhance its health benefits.

2. Khamniungan Tribe

WHY IN NEWS : Recently, the Prime Minister of India mentioned about the Khamniungan tribe in his 'Mann Ki Baat' episode.

About Khamniungan Tribe



- The Khamniungan tribe is one of the major tribes among the Nagas, with habitation both in India and Myanmar.
- Geographically, the land of Khamniungans is located in the Eastern part of Nagaland and in the North-Western part of Myanmar.
- The meaning of the term Khamniungan is 'source of great water or river'.
- Social Structure: The traditional social structure was based on the clan system.
- Language: They speak Khamniungan, one of the Naga languages which belongs to the Sino- Tibetan language

3. Darjeeling Mandarin Orange

WHY IN NEWS : Recently, the Darjeeling Mandarin orange received the Geographical Indication status.

About Darjeeling Mandarin Orange

- It is grown in the hills of Darjeeling in West Bengal.
- The Mandarin Orange (*Citrus reticulata* Blanco) is a major cash crop of the Darjeeling Hills.
- It is the third product from the region, after Darjeeling Tea and Dalley Khursani chilli, to get the tag.
- It is commonly known as "suntala" is the pride of Darjeeling hills due to its delightful aroma and flavour



Q1. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- A. Banarasi Saree – Gujarat
- B. Pochampally Ikat – Telangana
- C. Muga Silk – Rajasthan
- D. Kolhapuri Chappal – Tamil Nadu

Answer: B. . Pochampally Ikat – Telangana

ನಮ್ಮ ಪೂರೈಕೆ

4. Svalbard

WHY IN NEWS : A significant new discovery recently emerged in the Arctic, with scientists spotting an unexpected gathering of walrus on the remote shores of Svalbard, a wild stretch of land nestled between mainland Norway and the North Pole.

About Svalbard

- It is a Norwegian archipelago that is situated in the Arctic Ocean, to the north of the European mainland.
- It is located about halfway between the North Pole and the northern part of Norway.
- It is the northernmost place in the world with a permanent population.
- Discovery: It was discovered by the Dutch explorer Willem Barentsz in 1596.
- The 1920 Svalbard Treaty established Norwegian sovereignty over the Svalbard Islands.
- It covers a total area of about 61,022 sq.km.



- Approximately 60% of the archipelago is covered with glaciers, and the islands feature many mountains and fjords

5. Sariska Tiger Reserve

WHY IN NEWS : The administration of the Sariska Tiger Reserve in eastern Rajasthan is adopting new technology like drones to monitor its steadily increasing tiger population.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Tiger Reserves:

- Every Tiger Reserve has a Core and Buffer area.
- Core area is kept free from human activities.
- Buffer area allows regulated human use.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Core (Critical Tiger Habitat):** No human activity allowed.
- Buffer:** Sustainable, regulated human activities permitted. This zoning reduces conflict and supports conservation.



6. Venezuela.

WHY IN NEWS : Recently, US President Donald Trump said his administration would “close the airspace above and surrounding Venezuela in its entirety.”

About Venezuela

- Location:** It is located on the northern coast of South America.
- Bordering Countries:** It is bounded by Guyana to the east, Brazil to the south, and Colombia to the southwest and west.
- Maritime boundaries:** It shares a border with the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean to the north.
- Capital:** Caracas

02nd Dec 2025

1. Guinea-Bissau
2. Heron Mk II
3. Bioremediation
4. Exercise EKUVERIN
5. Vande Mataram 150 Years Celebration

1. Guinea-Bissau

WHY IN NEWS : Recently, the African country of Guinea-Bissau fell under military rule

Guinea-Bissau – Geographical Features



Aspect	Details
Location	West Africa, along the Atlantic Ocean
Terrain	Mostly low-lying coastal plains with a deeply indented estuarine coastline; rises eastward into savanna
Plateau	Fouta Djallon Plateau dominates the southeastern region; important watershed of West Africa
Climate	Tropical climate influenced by the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)
Environment	Dominated by swamps, marshlands, and mangrove ecosystems
Major Rivers	Corubal, Geba, Cacheu (westward-flowing, estuarine rivers)
Drainage Pattern	Short rivers draining into the Atlantic Ocean

Q1. Which of the following rivers flows through Guinea-Bissau?

- A. Niger
- B. Senegal
- C. Corubal
- D. Volta

Answer: C. Corubal

Explanation: Major rivers include **Corubal, Geba, and Cacheu**, all draining westward into the Atlantic.

2. Heron Mk II

WHY IN NEWS : To enhance their unmanned capabilities in the wake of Operation Sindoor, the Indian armed forces have signed up for more satellite-linked Heron Mk II UAVs under emergency procurement, sources in the Israeli defence industry said recently.



About Heron Mk II

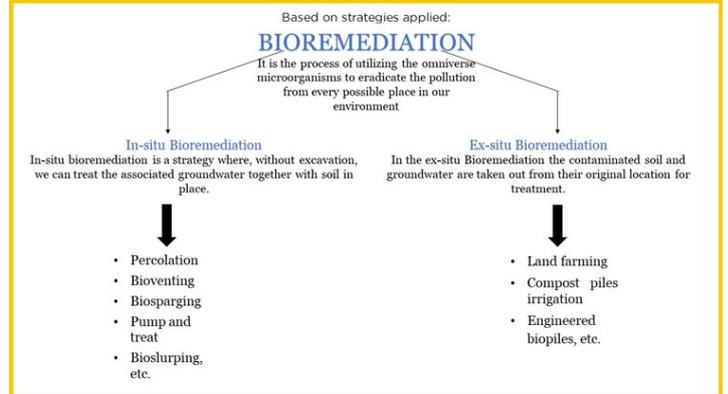
- It is a medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).
- It was developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)

3. Bioremediation

WHY IN NEWS : Bioremediation offers a cheaper, scalable, and sustainable alternative, especially in a country like India where vast stretches of land and water are affected but resources for remediation are limited

About Bioremediation

- Bioremediation literally means “restoring life through biology.”
- It is the use of living organisms, primarily microorganisms, to degrade environmental contaminants into less toxic forms.
- It is used to clean up contaminated soil, air, and water.
- It harnesses microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, algae, and plants to sequester or transform toxic substances such as oil, pesticides, plastics, or heavy metals.
- These organisms metabolise these pollutants as food, breaking them down into harmless by-products such as water, carbon dioxide, or organic acids.
- In some cases, they can convert toxic metals into less dangerous forms that no longer leach into the soil or groundwater.
- Two Broad Types of Bioremediation:
 - In situ bioremediation, where treatment happens directly at the contaminated site, such as when oil-eating bacteria is sprayed on an ocean spill;
 - Ex situ bioremediation, where contaminated soil or water is removed, treated in a controlled facility, and returned once cleaned



4. Exercise EKUVERIN

WHY IN NEWS : The 14th edition of the exercise EKUVERIN is set to take place in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

About Exercise EKUVERIN

- Ekuverin meaning ‘Friends’ in Dhivehi language started in the year 2009.
- Ekuverin is one of the three major joint exercises between India and the Maldives.
- It is a bilateral military annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives.
- The Exercise aims to enhance interoperability while carrying out counterinsurgency and Counter Terrorism operations in semi-urban, jungle and coastal terrain.
- It further focus on integration of niche technology to enhance interoperability, the countries will share best practices, reflecting the shared commitment of India and the Maldives towards peace and security in the region.



- Other Exercises between India and Maldives: The two bilateral exercises are “Ekuverin” and “Ekatha” and trilateral- “Dosti”, which includes Sri Lanka

5. Vande Mataram 150 Years Celebration

WHY IN NEWS : The Prime Minister of India will inaugurate the year-long commemoration of 150 years of the National Song “Vande Mataram” in New Delhi.

About Vande Mataram 150 Years Celebration

- “Vande Mataram,” written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in a blend of Sanskrit and Bengali, is the National Song of India.
- It was first featured in his novel Anand Math in 1882, with its tune composed by Yadunath Bhattacharya.
- It became a symbol of patriotism during India’s freedom struggle.

03rd Dec 2025

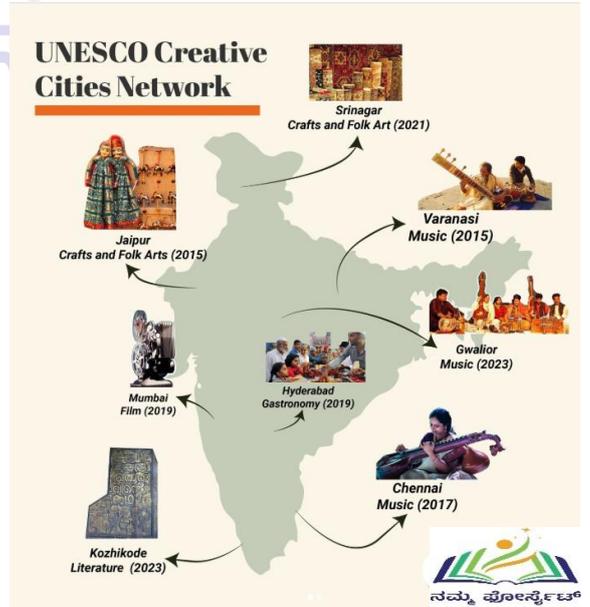
1. UNESCO's Creative Cities Network.
2. Chaolung Sukapha
3. Bonda Tribe
4. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
5. Bitra Island
6. GLP-1 Drug

1. UNESCO's Creative Cities Network.

WHY IN NEWS : Recently, Lucknow has officially joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) under the Gastronomy category during the 43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference.

About UNESCO Creative Cities Network

- It was created in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- It was launched to promote UNESCO’s goals of cultural diversity and strengthen resilience to threats such as climate change, rising inequality, and rapid urbanisation.
- The network covers seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.
- Aim of UCCN: The network is aimed at leveraging the creative, social, and economic potential of cultural industries



2. Chaolung Sukapha

WHY IN NEWS: Recently, the union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways led a vibrant celebration of Assam Day and paid rich tributes to Chaolung Sukapha.

Q1. Charaideo, associated with Chaolung Sukapha, is famous for

- A. Rock-cut caves
- B. Ahom royal burial mounds (Maidams)
- C. Buddhist monasteries
- D. Mughal forts

Answer: B. Ahom royal burial mounds (Maidams)

Explanation: Charaideo Maidams are royal burial mounds of Ahom kings and are often called the “Pyramids of Assam”.

3. Bonda Tribe

WHY IN NEWS Members of the Bonda community in Odisha’s Malkangiri district are set to transition from fragile thatched huts to permanent pucca houses under the Union government’s PM-Janman scheme.

About Bonda Tribe

- The Bondas are exclusively found in the Malkangiri district of Odisha and are mostly concentrated in the Khairaput block of the district.
- It is a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) and one of the oldest tribes of India.
- They are also known as Bondo, Bondas, Bonda Paraja, and Bhonda.
- With a population of approximately 7,000 people, they live in a mountainous and forest ecosystem
- They are considered one of the first settlers in India, with their lineage tracing back to the Austroasiatic race

Q1. With reference to the Bonda tribe, consider the following statements:

1. They are classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
2. They traditionally practice shifting cultivation.
3. They are matrilineal in social organization.

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

ABOUT CHAOLUNG SUKAPHA

RECENTLY, THE UNION MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS LED A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF ASSAM DAY AND PAID RICH TRIBUTES TO CHAOLUNG SUKAPHA

ABOUT CHAOLUNG SUKAPHA

He was a visionary 13th-century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries.

He is widely referred to as the architect of “Bor Asom” or “greater Assam”.

It was in Charaideo that Sukapha established his first small principality, sowing the seeds of further expansion of the Ahom kingdom.



WHY IS CHAOLUNG SUKAPHA IMPORTANT?

Sukapha’s significance — especially in today’s Assam — lies in his successful efforts towards assimilation of different communities and tribes.

He adopted a policy of conciliation and assimilation rather than annihilation.

Sukapha developed very amiable relationships with the tribal communities living in Assam — especially the Sutias, the Morans and the Kacharis.



Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- The Bonda tribe is **patrilineal**, not matrilineal.

4. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

WHY IN NEWS The Union government has decided to expand the ambit of the PM Fasal Bima Yojana to include crop damage by animals as a ground for payouts, a long-standing demand by farmers, an official said recently.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding PMFBY:

1. There is no upper limit on government subsidy for premium.
2. The scheme covers post-harvest losses.
3. Participation of states in PMFBY is mandatory.



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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- Participation by states is **voluntary**, not mandatory.

5. Bitra Island

WHY IN NEWS The Chief of Staff of the Southern Naval Command recently said the Navy is setting up a detachment in Bitra Island, which "is more or less completed".

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Bitra Island:

1. It is the smallest inhabited island of India.
2. It is a part of the Lakshadweep archipelago.
3. It lies to the east of the Andaman Islands.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only



ನಮ್ಮ ಭೋರ್ಸೆಟ್

ನಮ್ಮ FORESIGHT

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

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Bitra is India's smallest inhabited island and is part of Lakshadweep. It lies west of mainland India, not near Andamans.

6. GLP-1 Drug

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the World Health Organization has finally issued global guidelines on the use of popular GLP-1 drugs for weight loss.

About GLP-1 Drugs

- The Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) or GLP-1 receptor agonists are synthetic drugs which are being used for the treatment of obesity in adults.
- These drugs are mainly injectables, though oral versions are under development.
- Examples: Two leading GLP-1 drugs are: Semaglutide and Tirzepatide (by Eli Lilly)
- Both have been introduced in India and are transforming obesity and diabetes treatment

04th Dec 2025

1. Alaknanda Galaxy
2. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve
3. Humpback Whale
4. INS Aridhaman
5. Ebola

1. Alaknanda Galaxy

WHY IN NEWS: Recently, researchers at National Centre for Radio Astrophysics - Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCRA-TIFR), Pune, have discovered a spiral galaxy and named it as Alaknanda.



About Alaknanda Galaxy

- It is located about 12 billion light years away and has textbook spiral structure.
- It is named after a Himalayan river Alaknanda and the Hindi word for the Milky Way.
- The galaxy has two well-defined spiral arms wrapping around a bright central bulge, spanning approximately 30,000 light-years in diameter.
- It is a powerhouse of stellar birth, creating stars at a rate equivalent to about 60 solar masses annually.
- It looks remarkably similar to our own Milky Way and formed when the Milky way was only 10 per cent of its current age.
- It was discovered by using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope

2. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

WHY IN NEWS: A Rainbow Water Snake was recently spotted for the first time in Uttar Pradesh, with photographic evidence collected from the buffer area of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

About Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

Aspect	Details
Location	Indo-Nepal border, Lakhimpur-Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh
Established	1988
Area	1,284 sq. km
Constituent Areas	Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur WLS, Katerniaghat WLS + buffer forests of North & South Kheri and Shahjahanpur
Biogeographic Zone	Upper Gangetic Plains
Topography	Typical Tarai-Bhabar habitat
Major Rivers	Sharda (Kishanpur), Geruwa (Katerniaghat), Suheli & Mohana (Dudhwa NP)
River System	All are tributaries of Ghagra River
Vegetation Type	North Indian Moist Deciduous Forest
Dominant Forest	Sal forests
Important Flora	Sal, Asna, Asidha, Haldu, Faldu, Gahmhar, Kanju
Key Mammals	Tiger, Leopard, Swamp deer, One-horned Rhinoceros, Chital, Hog deer, Sambar
Other Fauna	Wild boar, Ratel
Bird Diversity	~400 species
Notable Birds	Floricorn, Black-necked stork

3. Humpback Whale

WHY IN NEWS: Recently, it was found that Humpback whale populations have surged from 10,000 to nearly 80,000 because of conservation efforts and the species incredible ability to adapt and switch food sources.



About Humpback Whale

- The Humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae) is a species of baleen whale.
- It is a rorqual; a member of the family Balaenopteridae.
- They undertake long migrations between polar feeding grounds in summer and tropical or subtropical breeding grounds in winter.
- It has the distinctive hump on its back.
- Its long pectoral fins inspired its scientific name, Megaptera, which means “big-winged”
- Humpback females are larger than males.
- Distribution: They inhabit all major oceans from sub-polar latitudes to the equator

4. INS Aridhaman

WHY IN NEWS: Recently, the Indian Navy's Chief Admiral said that India will soon induct its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Aridhaman.

About INS Aridhaman

- It is India's third indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine.
- It is the second submarine in the Arihant class.
- It is being built under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project to build nuclear submarines at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding INS Aridhaman:

1. It is part of India's nuclear triad.
2. It is powered by nuclear energy.
3. It carries submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).

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. Ebola

WHY IN NEWS: An Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo is now over, Congolese health officials and the U.N.'s World Health Organization said recently, after the country went 42 consecutive days without recording a new case

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Ebola:

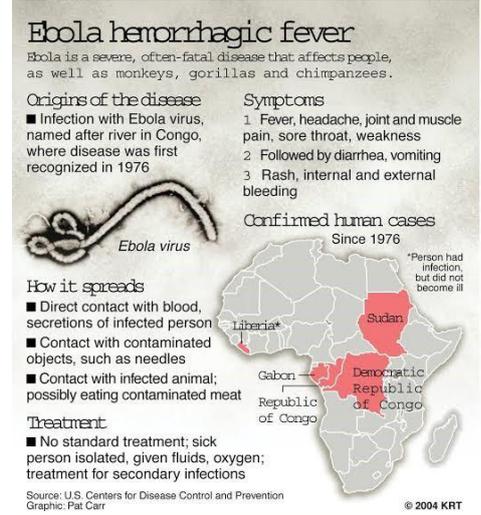
1. It is a zoonotic disease.
2. Fruit bats are considered the natural reservoir.
3. It spreads mainly through airborne transmission.

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

Explanation: Ebola spreads through **direct contact with bodily fluids**, not airborne.



Ebola hemorrhagic fever
Ebola is a severe, often-fatal disease that affects people, as well as monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees.

Origins of the disease
■ Infection with Ebola virus, named after river in Congo, where disease was first recognized in 1976

Symptoms
1. Fever, headache, joint and muscle pain, sore throat, weakness
2. Followed by diarrhea, vomiting
3. Rash, internal and external bleeding

Confirmed human cases Since 1976
Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo

How it spreads
■ Direct contact with blood, secretions of infected person
■ Contact with contaminated objects, such as needles
■ Contact with infected animal; possibly eating contaminated meat

Treatment
■ No standard treatment; sick person isolated, given fluids, oxygen; treatment for secondary infections

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2004 KRT

05th Dec 2025

1. Assam Accord
2. World Soil Day
3. Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab
4. National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme
5. Thailand
6. Exercise Garuda Shakti

1 Assam Accord

WHY IN NEWS: The Supreme Court recently asked the Centre if a new order allowing persecuted minorities entry to India violates the Assam Accord's 1971 deadline.

About Assam Accord

- The Assam Accord was signed on 15th August, 1985, amongst the Union of India, the Govt. of Assam, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad.
- The signing of the Accord brought an end to the 6-year-long agitation, the Assam Movement (1979-1985), aimed at dispelling foreigners from the state of Assam.

ASSAM ACCORDS (1985)



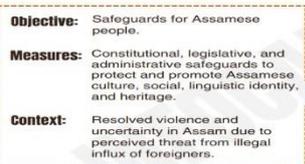
About: 

Date: August 15, 1985

Parties Involved: Governments of India and Assam, All Assam Students' Union (AASU), All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP)

Background: Resolution of a six-year agitation (1979-1985) by AASU for identification and deportation of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Clause 6 of Assam Accord:



Objective: Safeguards for Assamese people.

Measures: Constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards to protect and promote Assamese culture, social, linguistic identity, and heritage.

Context: Resolved violence and uncertainty in Assam due to perceived threat from illegal influx of foreigners.

National Register of Citizens (NRC):



Purpose: Compilation of Indian citizens in Assam.

Objective: Ascertain legitimacy of citizens vs. foreigners.

Origins: As per 1985 Assam Accord, identifies Bangladeshi migrants entering post-midnight on March 24, 1971.

Outcome: 2019 updated NRC revealed over 1.9 million applicants not included.

Update: Commenced in 2013 following Supreme Court order.

History: First NRC in Assam created in 1951.

- The aim of the accord was to detect and deport all immigrants in the state who had come to the territory post-24 March 1971

2. World Soil Day

WHY IN NEWS: World Soil Day 2025 underscores the urgent need to restore and protect soil health as cities expand and environmental threats intensify.

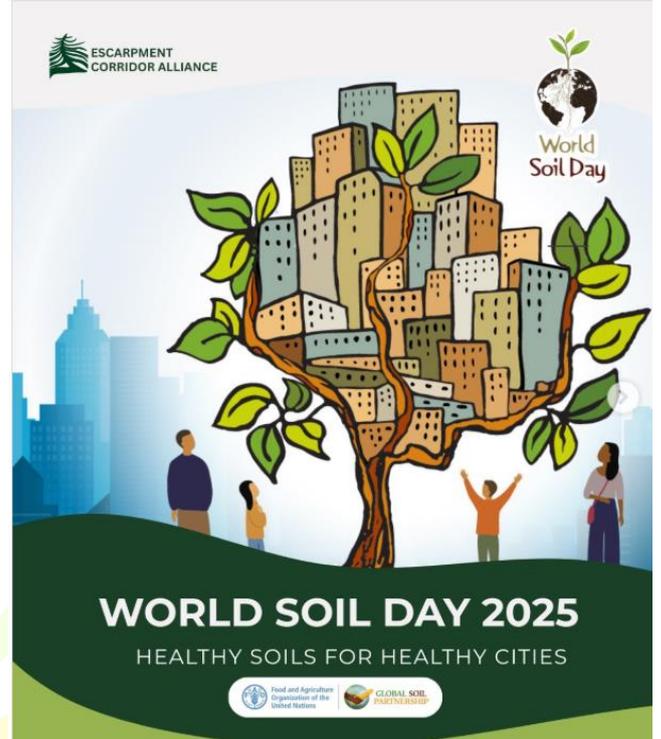
Q1. Match the following soils with their characteristic features:

Soil Type	Characteristic
1. Alluvial	a. Rich in humus
2. Black	b. High iron content
3. Red	c. High moisture retention
4. Laterited	d. Transported soil

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a). 1-d, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a



3. Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab

WHY IN NEWS: Recently, researchers documented unique predatory behaviour of horn-eyed ghost crab at Rushikonda Beach.



About Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab

- It belongs to the genus Ocypode.
- Their pale bodies blend seamlessly with the sand, and combined with their swift movements during dawn and dusk, this has led to their common name, "ghost crabs".
- It is widely regarded as a keystone species and indicator of coastal health.
- Six species of ghost crabs have been reported along the Indian coastline.
- Habitat: It is usually found in the intertidal zones.
- Distribution: It lives in the Indo-Pacific region (except the Red Sea); from the coast of East Africa to the Philippines and from Japan to the Great Barrier Reef.

4. National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme

4. National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Rajya Sabha about the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme.

About National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme

- It is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2024.
- Aim: The aim of the scheme is to help create a sound forensic laboratory infrastructure and prepare world class trained forensic professionals in the country.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Implementation Period: 2024–25 to 2028–29

5. Thailand

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Thailand has formally expressed its ambition to join BRICS and is seeking India's backing ahead of New Delhi's chairmanship of the grouping in 2026.

About Thailand

Location: Thailand is located in the center of mainland Southeast Asia.

Bordering Countries: It shares boundaries with **Myanmar (North West)**, **Laos (North East)**, **Cambodia (East)**, and **Malaysia (South)**.

Maritime boundary: Bordered by Andaman Sea (SW) and Gulf of Thailand (S)

Capital City: Bangkok



6. Exercise Garuda Shakti

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the 10th edition of the Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI has commenced at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

About Exercise Garuda Shakti

- It is the joint special forces exercise conducted between India– Indonesia.
- The Indian contingent is represented by troops from THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (Special Forces).
- The exercise aims to strengthen mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the Special Forces of the two nations.
- Focus: Its scope includes troop-level tactics, techniques and procedures in a counter-terrorism environment, covering unarmed combat techniques, combat shooting, sniping, heliborne operations and planning for drone, counter-UAS and loiter-munition strikes in semi-mountainous terrain

06th Dec 2025

- 1 . India-Russia Summit.
2. Goldilocks Phase
3. Rocket-Sled Ejection Test

1 . India-Russia Summit.

WHY IN NEWS Russian President Vladimir Putin's official state visit to India has resulted in major breakthroughs in areas like labour mobility, trade expansion, nuclear energy cooperation, defence manufacturing and tourism .

India-Russia Strategic Partnership

- India and Russia share a long-standing strategic partnership built on defence cooperation, energy security, and technological collaboration.
- The 2025 summit reaffirmed the relevance of this relationship amid shifting global geopolitics.
- Despite Western sanctions on Russia, bilateral trade between the two nations crossed USD 65 billion in 2024, driven largely by discounted Russian crude oil imports.
- The summit aimed to rebalance trade, diversify cooperation, and build long-term frameworks that benefit India's economic and strategic interests

Key Announcements from the India-Russia Summit

1. Labour Mobility Pathway

- Regulated jobs for **Indian workers in construction, healthcare & services** in Russia
- Ensures **safe migration**, addresses Russia's labour shortage
- Part of India's strategy to **formalise overseas employment**

2. Nuclear Energy Cooperation

- Joint work on **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**
- Expansion of **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant**
- Cooperation in **fuel supply, safety & training**
- Supports India's **low-carbon energy transition**

3. Defence Production & Technology

- Push for **co-production & joint manufacturing in India**
- **Technology sharing** under *Make in India*
- Long-term **defence industrial cooperation roadmap**

4. Bilateral Trade Expansion

- Correct trade imbalance caused by oil imports
- Boost Indian exports: **pharma, textiles, machinery, auto parts, food**
- **Alternative payment mechanism** (sanctions-resilient)
- Chennai–Vladivostok **maritime corridor**

5. Tourism & People-to-People Ties

- **Free 30-day double-entry e-tourist visa** for Russians
- Boost to **tourism, hospitality & retail**
- Russia may ease visas for Indians (reciprocity)

6. Technology, Space & Energy

Technology: Cybersecurity, DPI, AI collaboration

Space: Astronaut training, satellite navigation

Energy: Long-term **oil & LNG supply**, Indian investments in Russian energy projects

2. Goldilocks Phase

WHY IN NEWS As the current RBI Governor completes his first year, the Indian economy finds itself in an unexpectedly strong position despite global turmoil — including trade wars, steep U.S. tariffs, and geopolitical conflicts.

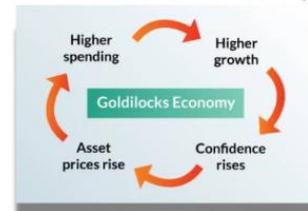
- The Governor described the moment as a “rare goldilocks period,” with inflation at just 2.2% and GDP growth at 8% in the first half of 2025–26.
- Reflecting this strength, the Monetary Policy Committee cut the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.25%.
- This favourable phase has been building over time: retail inflation has fallen for three consecutive years, and GDP growth has averaged 8.2% over four-and-a-half years.
- Even excluding the high-base recovery year of 2021–22, growth has averaged 7.8% between 2022–23 and Q2 of 2025–26

About Goldilocks Economy

- An **ideal economic state** with **balanced growth, low inflation, and full employment** neither overheating nor slipping into **recession**.

Key Indicators:

- **GDP Growth:** Steady and robust (e.g., India ~7–8%).
- **Inflation:** Low and stable (e.g., retail inflation near 2%).
- **Employment:** Low unemployment rates; full employment.
- **Asset Prices:** Moderate rise in stocks, bonds, real estate, and other assets.
- **Interest Rates:** Low market interest rates supporting growth.



3. Rocket-Sled Ejection Test

WHY IN NEWS The DRDO successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test on December 2 to evaluate a fighter aircraft’s escape (ejection) system under controlled conditions.

- This milestone places India among the few nations with the capability to test such systems indigenously and at high speeds.

- The test demonstrates India's growing self-reliance in advanced aerospace safety technologies and highlights the importance of having a dynamic test facility to validate and improve pilot-escape mechanisms essential for fighter aircraft operations

Q1. Which organisation is associated with conducting Rocket-Sled Ejection Tests in India?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) DRDO
- (c) HAL
- (d) Indian Air Force only

Answer: (b) DRDO

Explanation: DRDO conducts such tests for indigenous aircraft systems.

07th Dec 2025

- 1 Zambezi River
2. UMEED Portal
3. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme
4. Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve
5. Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

1 Zambezi River

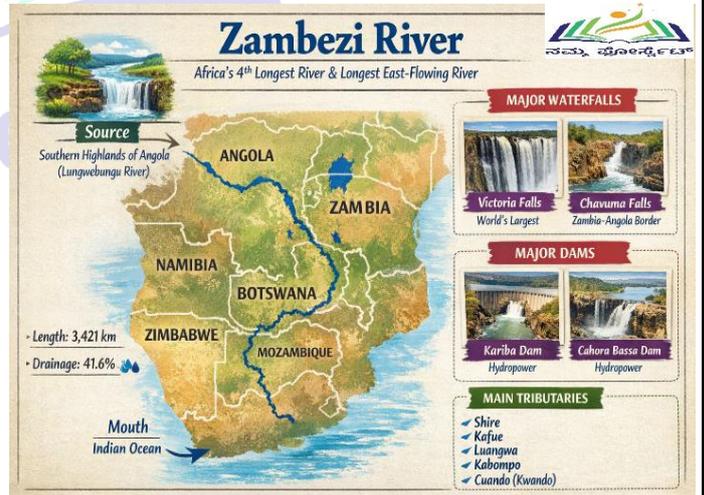
WHY IN NEWS A new study suggests the Zambezi River actually starts off in Angola's southern highlands, at the source of a river called the Lungwebungu, giving the Zambezi a new total length of 3,421 km, or 342 km longer than previously thought.

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Zambezi River:

1. It originates in the southern highlands of Angola.
2. It flows through six countries before reaching the sea.
3. It empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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





ನಮ್ಮ ಭರೋಸ್ಥೆ

ನಮ್ಮ FORESIGHT

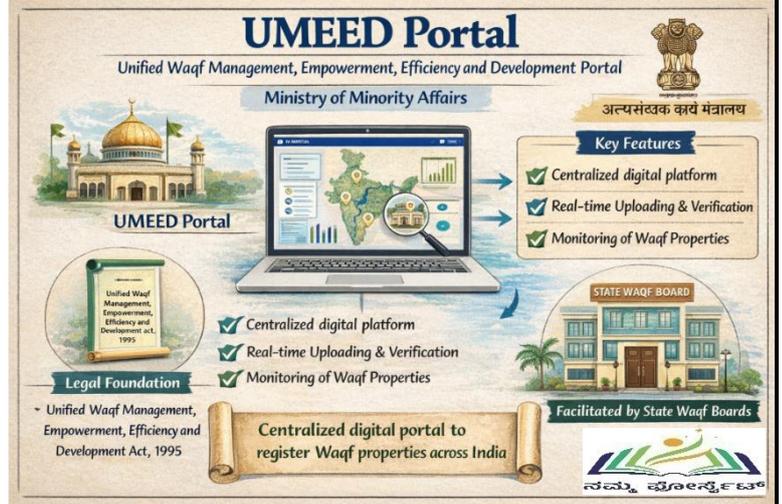
KAS/ACF/PSI/VO/AO &AAO/RFO

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

Answer: (a). 1 and 2 only

2. UMEED Portal

WHY IN NEWS The union Minister said that the government will not impose any penalties and strict action for the next three months against those who have not registered waqf properties on the UMEED Portal.



3. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

WHY IN NEWS Stating that Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme has steadily expanded its reach, the Minister of State for Food Processing Industries recently said that major components of the scheme have made notable progress as of 31 October 2025

Q1. Which of the following is/are objectives of the PMFME Scheme?

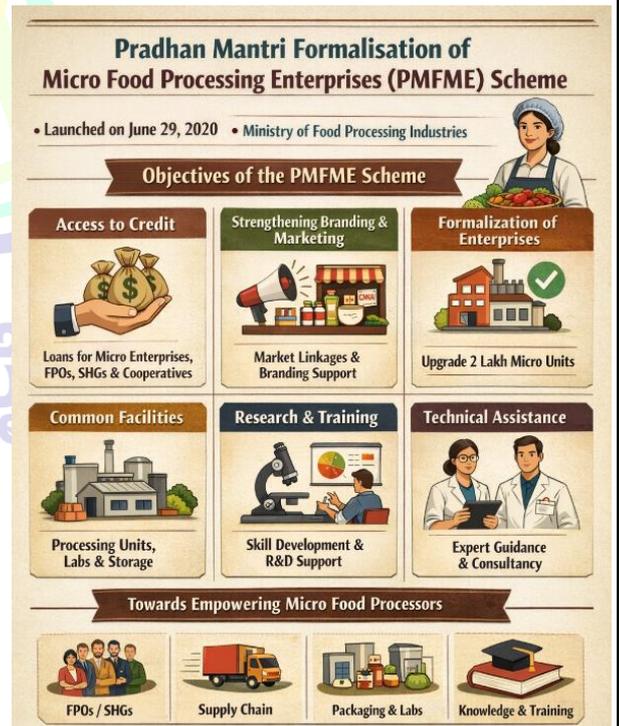
1. Formalisation of micro food processing enterprises
2. Integration with organized supply chains
3. Promotion of large food processing industries

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation: The scheme focuses on **micro enterprises**, not large industries.



4. Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve

WHY IN NEWS Marking the state's first inter-state tiger translocation and the country's second, a tigress is set to be airlifted from the Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh to around 800 km away in Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) in Rajasthan's Bundi in the next few weeks

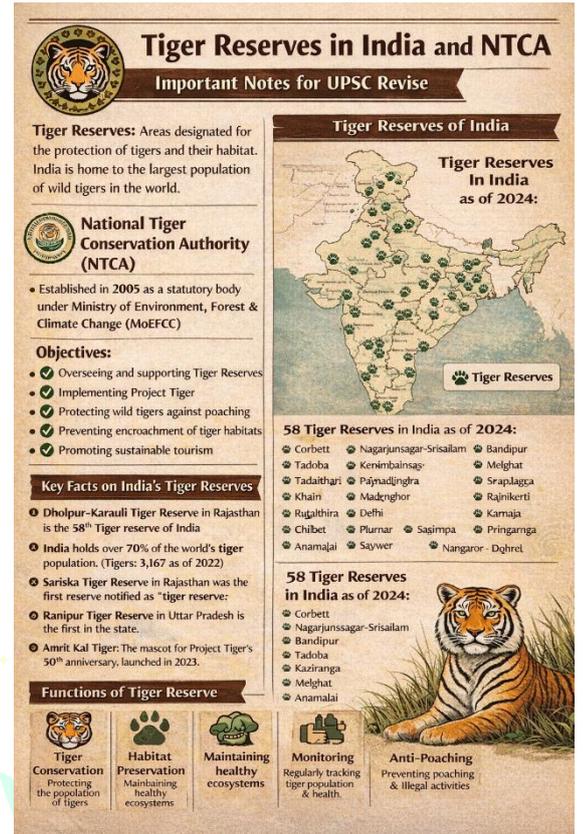
Q1. With reference to Tiger Reserves in India, consider the following statements:

1. Tiger Reserves are notified under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
2. The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
3. All Tiger Reserves in India are located only in forested landscapes.

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



Tiger Reserves in India and NTCA
Important Notes for UPSC Revise

Tiger Reserves: Areas designated for the protection of tigers and their habitat. India is home to the largest population of wild tigers in the world.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- Established in 2005 as a statutory body under Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Objectives:

- Overseeing and supporting Tiger Reserves
- Implementing Project Tiger
- Protecting wild tigers against poaching
- Preventing encroachment of tiger habitats
- Promoting sustainable tourism

Key Facts on India's Tiger Reserves

- Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan is the 58th Tiger reserve of India
- India holds over 70% of the world's tiger population. (Tigers: 3,167 as of 2022)
- Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan was the first reserve notified as "tiger" reserve:
- Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh is the first in the state.
- Amrit Kal Tiger: The mascot for Project Tiger's 50th anniversary, launched in 2023.

Functions of Tiger Reserve

- Tiger Conservation:** Protecting the population of tigers
- Habitat Preservation:** Maintaining healthy ecosystems
- Maintaining healthy ecosystems**
- Monitoring:** Regularly tracking tiger population & health
- Anti-Poaching:** Preventing poaching & illegal activities

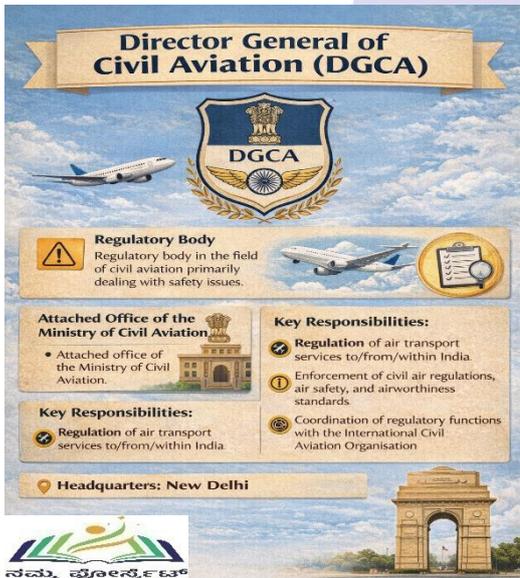
Tiger Reserves of India as of 2024:

58 Tiger Reserves in India as of 2024:

- Corbett, Nagarjunsagar-Srisaalam, Bandipur, Tadoba, Kenimbainsag, Melghat, Tadathari, Pajmadinghra, Srapslaga, Khairi, Madngghor, Rajnikerti, Rughalithira, Delhi, Kamaja, Chibbet, Plurnar, Sasimpa, Pringarniga, Anamajai, Sawyer, Nangaror, Dghrel

58 Tiger Reserves in India as of 2024:

- Corbett, Nagarjunsagar-Srisaalam, Bandipur, Tadoba, Kaziranga, Melghat, Anamajai



Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

Regulatory Body
Regulatory body in the field of civil aviation primarily dealing with safety issues.

Attached Office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

- Attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Key Responsibilities:

- Regulation of air transport services to/from/within India.
- Enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety, and airworthiness standards.
- Coordination of regulatory functions with the International Civil Aviation Organisation

Headquarters: New Delhi

5. Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted the Indigo airline a temporary one-time exemption from some Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms for pilots

08th Dec 2025

- 1 Border Roads Organisation
2. Kīlauea Volcano
3. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority
4. Hoolock Gibbon
5. Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

1 Border Roads Organisation

WHY IN NEWS The Defence Minister recently dedicated 125 newly completed Border Roads Organisation (BRO) infrastructure projects to the nation, marking the highest number and value of inaugurations undertaken by the agency in a single day

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Border Roads Organisation (BRO):

1. It was established in 1960.
2. It is responsible for development and maintenance of road networks in India's border areas.
3. It also undertakes infrastructure projects in friendly foreign countries.

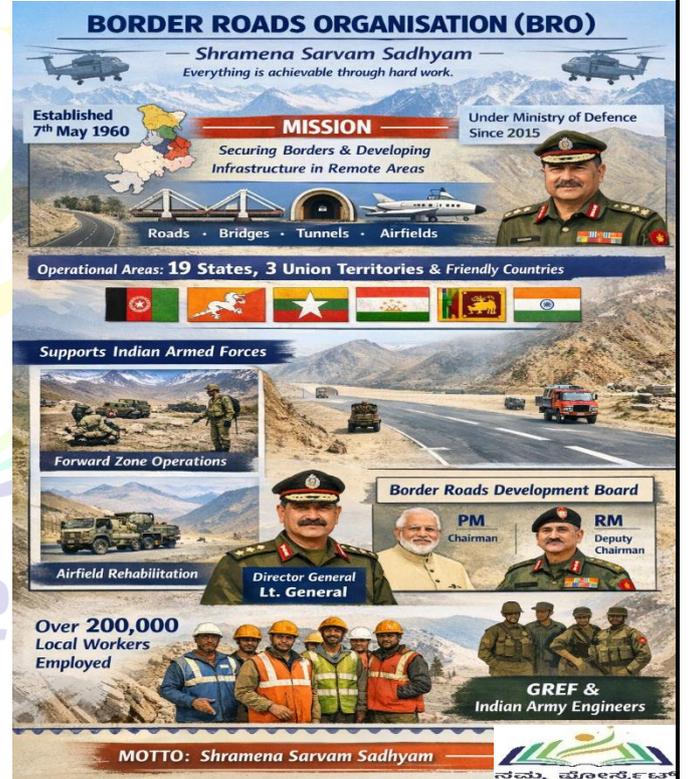
Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 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

Explanation:

- BRO was **established in 1960**.
- It builds and maintains roads in **border and strategic areas**.
- It executes projects in **Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, etc.**



BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION (BRO)
Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam
Everything is achievable through hard work.

Established 7th May 1960

MISSION
Securing Borders & Developing Infrastructure in Remote Areas

Under Ministry of Defence Since 2015

Roads · Bridges · Tunnels · Airfields

Operational Areas: 19 States, 3 Union Territories & Friendly Countries

Supports Indian Armed Forces

Forward Zone Operations

Airfield Rehabilitation

Director General Lt. General

Border Roads Development Board
PM Chairman, RM Deputy Chairman

Over 200,000 Local Workers Employed

GRAF & Indian Army Engineers

MOTTO: Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam

2. Kilauea Volcano

WHY IN NEWS Fresh lava fountains recently erupted from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano nearly a year after one of the world's most active volcanoes began its current eruptive phase

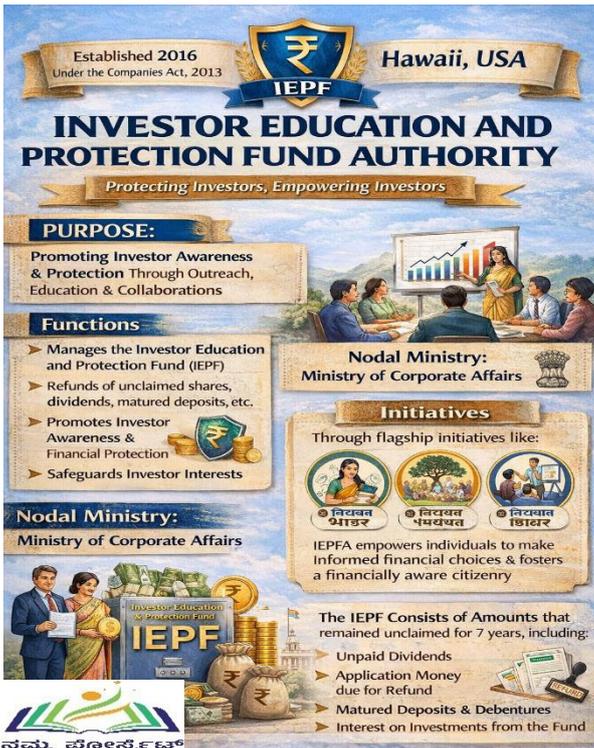
Q1. Which of the following is a direct effect of Kilauea's eruptions?

1. Lava flows covering inhabited areas
2. Release of volcanic gases like SO₂
3. Earthquakes triggered by magma movement

- 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

Explanation: Kilauea's eruptions produce **lava flows**, release **sulfur dioxide**, and trigger **earthquakes** due to magma movement underground.

Established 2016
Under the Companies Act, 2013

Hawaii, USA

IEPFA

INVESTOR EDUCATION AND PROTECTION FUND AUTHORITY

Protecting Investors, Empowering Investors

PURPOSE:
Promoting Investor Awareness & Protection Through Outreach, Education & Collaborations

Functions

- Manages the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)
- Refunds of unclaimed shares, dividends, matured deposits, etc.
- Promotes Investor Awareness & Financial Protection
- Safeguards Investor Interests

Nodal Ministry:
Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Initiatives
Through flagship initiatives like:

- निरचन शिबिर
- निरचन पर्यटन
- निरचन छिबिर

IEPFA empowers individuals to make informed financial choices & fosters a financially aware citizenry

The IEPF Consists of Amounts that remained unclaimed for 7 years, including:

- Unpaid Dividends
- Application Money due for Refund
- Matured Deposits & Debentures
- Interest on Investments from the Fund

नमः भोःग्येःषः

3. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) collaborated with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) organised a "Niveshak Shivir" in Jaipur

Q1. The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA Authority) functions under which Ministry in India?

- A. Ministry of Finance
B. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
C. Reserve Bank of India
D. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Answer: B. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

4. Hoolock Gibbon

WHY IN NEWS Recently, a stranded family of Hoolock gibbons was rescued in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Dibang Valley district by officials.

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Hoolock Gibbon:

1. It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. It is found only in India and nowhere else in the world.
3. It is an arboreal primate that primarily moves by brachiation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

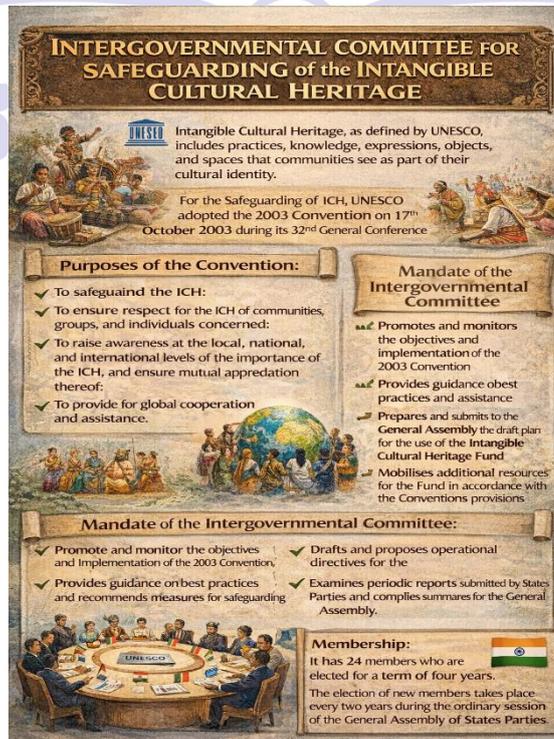
Answer: B. 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Hoolock Gibbons are **protected under Schedule I** of the Wildlife Protection Act. They are **arboreal primates** and move through trees by **brachiation**. They are **not endemic to India**; they are also found in Bangladesh, Myanmar, and southern China.



5. Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

WHY IN NEWS India will host the 20th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 8 to 13 December 2025 in New Delhi



09th and 10th Dec 2025

1. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
2. UN Environment Assembly
3. Japan
4. C-130J Super Hercules
5. Solar Storm
6. Sultanpur National Park
7. Blue Corner Notice
8. African Penguin

1. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

WHY IN NEWS : The family of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the writer and composer of 'Vande Mataram', recently hailed the Prime Minister's gesture to mark the 150 years of the country's national song

Q1. Which of the following statements about Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is/are correct?

1. He was one of the first graduates of the University of Calcutta.
2. He served as a Deputy Collector under the British Government.
3. He was the first President of the Indian National Congress.

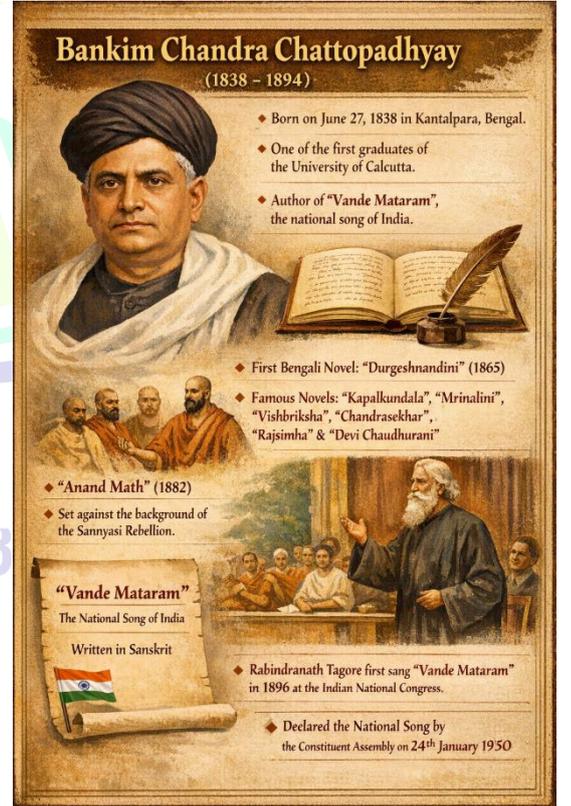
Select the correct answer using the code below:

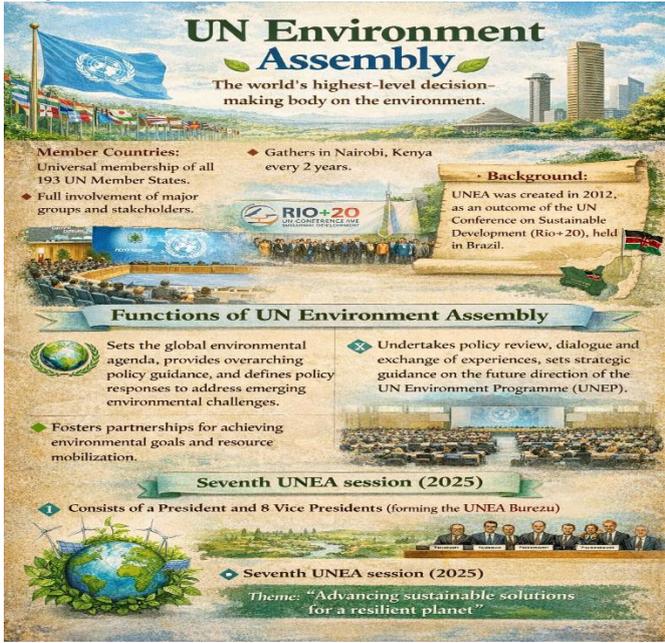
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

2. UN Environment Assembly

WHY IN NEWS : Recently, the seventh UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) is taking place in Nairobi, Kenya





3. Japan

WHY IN NEWS : Recently, a major earthquake rocked Japan's northern coast and also the country's meteorological agency recorded several tsunami waves

Q1. Consider the following pairs:

Exercise	Forces Involved
1. Dharma Guardian	Army
2. JIMEX	Navy
3. Veer Guardian	Air Force

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (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



4. C-130J Super Hercules

WHY IN NEWS : A new defence Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility to support the C-130J Super Hercules aircraft will be established in Bengaluru

Q1. Which of the following statements about the C-130J Super Hercules are correct?

1. It is capable of operating from short and semi-prepared airstrips.
2. It is used for airdrop and special operations missions.
3. It is a fighter aircraft used for air-to-air combat.

- (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

Explanation:

The C-130J Super Hercules is **not a fighter aircraft**; it is a **tactical transport plane**. Its key capabilities include:

- **Short-field takeoff and landing**, allowing operations from semi-prepared airstrips.
- **Airdrop operations** of troops, equipment, and supplies.
- **Special operations**, including reconnaissance and search-and-rescue missions.

It **does not engage in air-to-air combat**, so statement 3 is incorrect.

5. Solar Storm

WHY IN NEWS : India's first solar observatory Aditya-L1 played a key role in helping scientists decode why the strongest solar storm in more than two decades that struck Earth in May 2024 behaved so unusually, ISRO said recently.

Q1. Which of the following phenomena on Earth are caused by solar storms?

1. Geomagnetic storms
2. Auroras (Northern and Southern Lights)
3. Increase in volcanic activity

Select the correct answer:

- (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

6. Sultanpur National Park

WHY IN NEWS : Sultanpur National Park is once again echoing with the sounds of migratory birds, with their numbers rising significantly as temperatures drop.

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. National Parks in India are notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. Human activities such as grazing and forestry are strictly prohibited inside National Parks.
3. Biosphere Reserves and National Parks are the same.

Which of the statements given above 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

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct → National Parks are legally protected under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- **Statement 2:** Correct → Human activities like grazing, forestry, hunting are strictly prohibited.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect → **Biosphere Reserves** may include National Parks and other protected areas but are larger in scope; they are not the same.

7. Blue Corner Notice

WHY IN NEWS : Recently, Interpol has issued a Blue Corner Notice for the missing owners of the Goa's nightclub, where a devastating fire took place

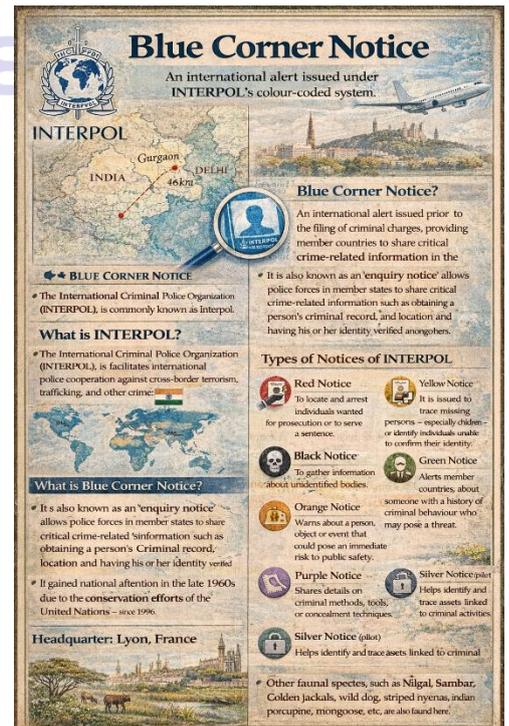
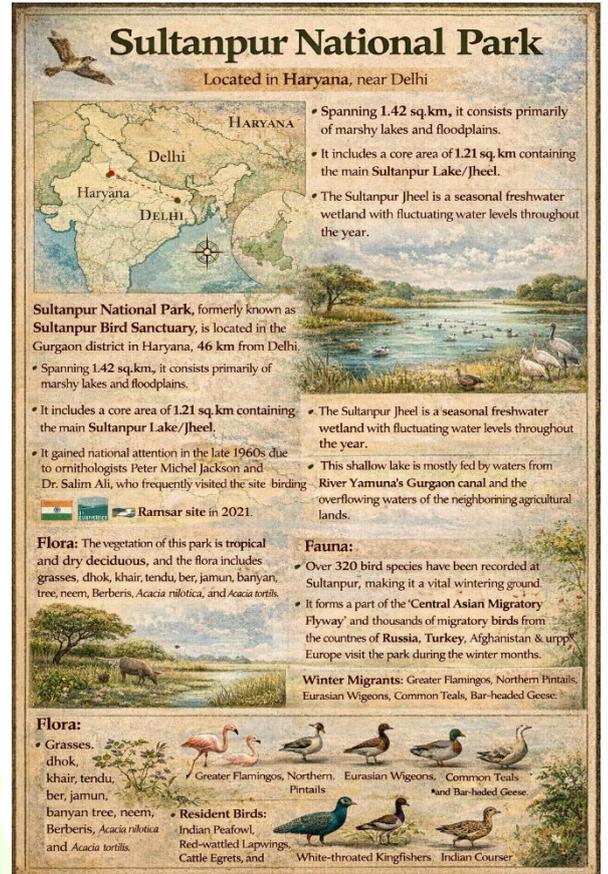
Q1. Which of the following statements correctly describe Interpol Notices?

1. Interpol issues notices to communicate information about criminals, threats, or missing persons internationally.
2. Red Notice is an international alert to locate and arrest a person wanted by a member country.
3. Interpol has the power to arrest individuals in member countries.

Select the correct answer:

- (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



8. African Penguin

WHY IN NEWS : Recently, a new study found that over 60,000 African penguins starved to death between 2004 and 2011 after sardine stocks collapsed

Q1. The African Penguin, sometimes seen in news, is primarily found in:

- Galápagos Islands
- South Africa and Namibia
- Antarctica
- Australia

Answer: (b) South Africa and Namibia

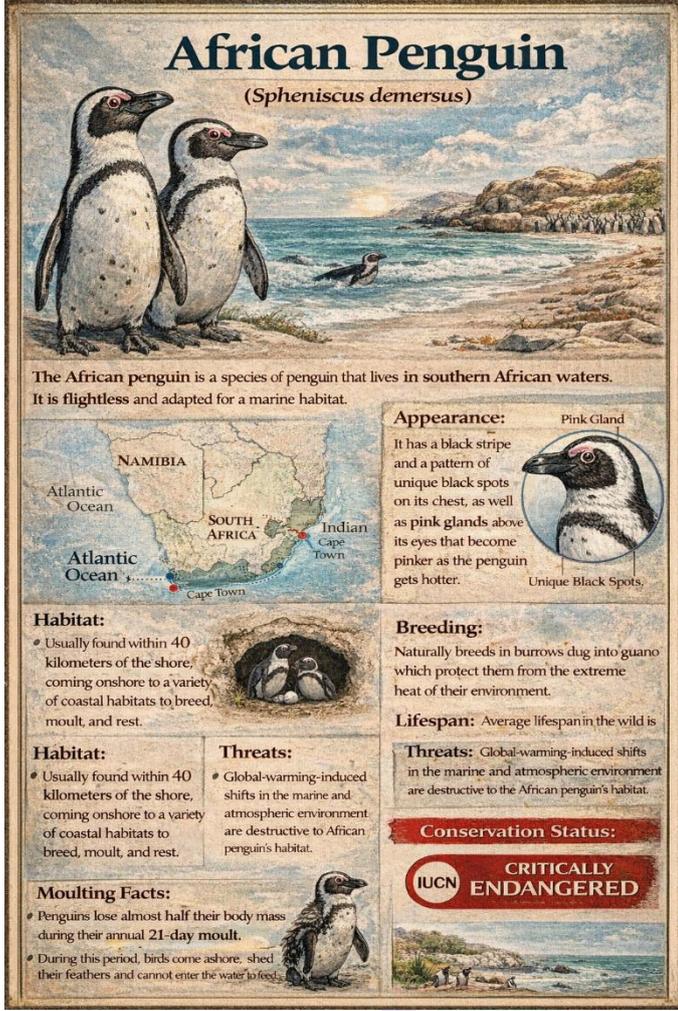
Explanation:

The **African Penguin** (*Spheniscus demersus*) is also known as the “**Jackass Penguin**” due to its braying call.

Habitat: Coastal islands and shores of **South Africa and Namibia**.

It is the **only penguin species that breeds in Africa**.

Conservation status: Endangered (IUCN Red List) due to **oil spills, overfishing, and habitat loss**.



- Not found in **Antarctica** (home to Emperor & Adélie penguins), Galápagos (Galápagos penguin), or Australia (Little penguin).

11th Dec 2025

- NewSpace India Limited**
- Rhinophis siruvaniensis**
- Deepavali**
- SAMPANN Portal**
- GlowCas9 Protein**

1. NewSpace India Limited

WHY IN NEWS : As on date, M/s. NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has signed 70 Technology Transfer Agreements to transfer technologies developed at ISRO to Industry

Q1. Which of the following activities is/are undertaken by NSIL?

1. Commercial exploitation of ISRO's space products
2. Transfer of ISRO-developed technologies to industry
3. Regulation of private satellite launches

Select the correct answer using the code 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

About NewSpace India Limited

- Incorporated on 6 March 2019 (under the Companies Act, 2013)
- A Govt. of India Company under Dept. of Space (ISRO's)

Primary Responsibility:

- Enabling Indian industries in high-tech space activities.
- Commercialization of Indian Space Programme.

Major Business Areas of NSIL :

1. Production of PSLV & SSLV
2. Launch Services & Space Applications
3. Satellite Building (Communication & Earth Observation)
4. Technology Transfer
5. Spin-off Technologies & Products
6. Consultancy Services

About *Rhinophis siruvaniensis*

- It is a new species of shieldtail snake.
- It was discovered in Siruvani Hills, located in the Western Ghats in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- A shiny snake, *R. siruvaniensis* is brownish black and creamy white in colour, with bold dark blotches.

The tip of its tail is dome-shaped. → Dome-shaped tail tip

Key Facts about Shieldtail Snakes

- Shieldtails are a group of small-sized, non-venomous snakes that burrow in the soil and mostly live underground.
- They belong to the Uropeltidae family of snakes and are also called uropeltids.
- They've been named shieldtails because the tip of their tails looks like a disc-shaped shield.

Distribution:

- They are endemic to India & Sri Lanka.
- In India, they are found in the Western Ghats and some parts of Peninsular India.

2. *Rhinophis siruvaniensis*

WHY IN NEWS : A new shieldtail species, *Rhinophis siruvaniensis*, has been described with the help of citizen scientists after it was found recently in the Siruvani Hills which fall in both Kerala and Tamil Nadu

Q1. With reference to *Rhinophis siruvaniensis*, consider the following statements:

1. It is endemic to India.
2. It belongs to the family Uropeltidae.
3. It is mainly fossorial (burrowing) in nature.

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

3. Deepavali

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Deepavali has been inscribed on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

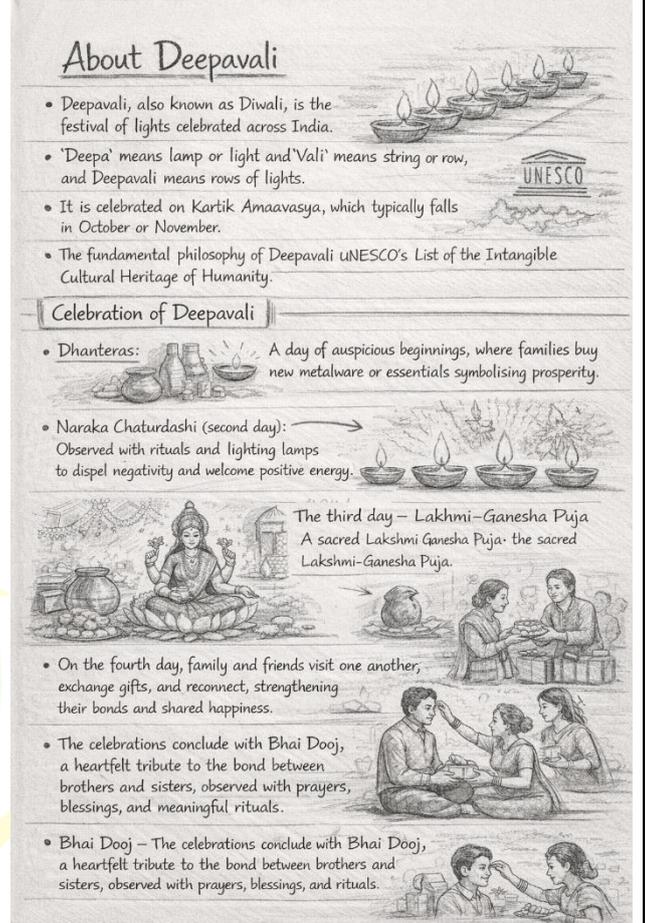
Q1. Consider the following Indian cultural elements:

1. Chhau dance
2. Yoga
3. Durga Puja in Kolkata
4. Kalbelia folk dance

Which of the above are included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list?

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

Answer: C. 1, 2, 3 and 4



About Deepavali

- Deepavali, also known as Diwali, is the festival of lights celebrated across India.
- 'Deepa' means lamp or light and 'Vali' means string or row, and Deepavali means rows of lights.
- It is celebrated on Kartik Amaavasya, which typically falls in October or November.
- The fundamental philosophy of Deepavali UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Celebration of Deepavali

- **Dhanteras:** A day of auspicious beginnings, where families buy new metalware or essentials symbolising prosperity.
- **Naraka Chaturdashi (second day):** Observed with rituals and lighting lamps to dispel negativity and welcome positive energy.
- **The third day – Lakhmi-Ganesha Puja:** A sacred Lakshmi Ganesha Puja: the sacred Lakshmi-Ganesha Puja.
- On the fourth day, family and friends visit one another, exchange gifts, and reconnect, strengthening their bonds and shared happiness.
- The celebrations conclude with Bhai Dooj, a heartfelt tribute to the bond between brothers and sisters, observed with prayers, blessings, and meaningful rituals.
- **Bhai Dooj –** The celebrations conclude with Bhai Dooj, a heartfelt tribute to the bond between brothers and sisters, observed with prayers, blessings, and rituals.

4. SAMPANN Portal

WHY IN NEWS Controller General of Communication Accounts (CGCA) recently inaugurated the onboarding of all MTNL employees retiring in November 2025 onto the SAMPANN portal at the Office of Principal CCA, Delhi.



SAMPANN
"System for Accounting and Management of Pension"
A Comprehensive Pension Management System for Telecom Pensioners.
CGCA, DoT, Ministry of Communications
Launched on 29th December, 2018

- Online Pension Processing
- Direct Pension to Bank Account
- Faster Settlement of Cases

SAMPANN Portal Features

- Direct Pension Disbursement
- Single Window System
- Online Grievance Redressal
- Track & Monitor Pension Status

Quick & Transparent Pension Processing

Q1. Which of the following functions are performed through the SAMPANN Portal?

1. Pension sanction
2. Pension authorization
3. Pension disbursement
4. Grievance redressal for telecom pensioners

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- 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

5. GlowCas9 Protein

WHY IN NEWS Recently, scientists from Kolkata based Bose institute have created GlowCas9 protein which can track gene editing.

About GlowCas9 Protein

– Structure:

– GlowCas9 is created by fusing Cas9 with a split nano-luciferase enzyme derived from deep-sea shrimp proteins.

– Properties of GlowCas9 Protein:

– GlowCas9 is very stable and maintains its structure and activity at higher temperatures compared to the conventional enzyme.
– It glows inside cells, allowing for real-time monitoring of CRISPR operations.

– Working of GlowCas9 Protein:

– The split nano-luciferase enzyme pieces reconnect when Cas9 folds correctly, producing light.
– This glowing activity allows scientists to monitor CRISPR operations in living cells, tissues, and even plant leaves—without harming them.

– Benefits of GlowCas9 Protein:

– It can also increase the precision of homology-directed repair (HDR).
– Homology-Directed Repair (HDR) is a DNA repair process crucial for fixing hereditary mutations that are linked to genetic diseases like sickle cell anaemia, muscular dystrophy and so on.
– GlowCas9 pioneers the emerging field of theratracking or visualizing molecular gene therapy in motion

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding GlowCas9 protein:

1. It is created by fusing Cas9 with a fluorescent marker.
2. It helps researchers confirm successful delivery of Cas9 into cells.
3. It is primarily used for treating infectious diseases in humans.

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

12th Dec 2025

1. Boreendo
2. National Film Heritage Mission
3. Diving Support Craft A20
4. Italy
5. Sanchar Mitra Scheme

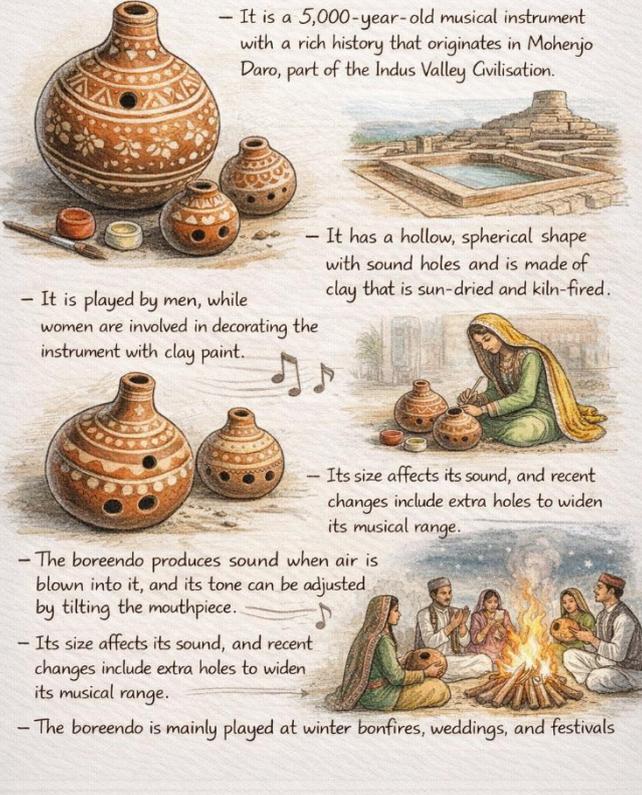
1. Boreendo

WHY IN NEWS Boreendo, an ancient musical instrument from Pakistan, was recently inscribed on the UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

About Boreendo



The boreendo, or bhorindo, is a traditional musical instrument from Pakistan's Sindh region.



– It is a 5,000-year-old musical instrument with a rich history that originates in Mohenjo Daro, part of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

– It has a hollow, spherical shape with sound holes and is made of clay that is sun-dried and kiln-fired.

– It is played by men, while women are involved in decorating the instrument with clay paint.

– Its size affects its sound, and recent changes include extra holes to widen its musical range.

– The boreendo produces sound when air is blown into it, and its tone can be adjusted by tilting the mouthpiece.

– Its size affects its sound, and recent changes include extra holes to widen its musical range.

– The boreendo is mainly played at winter bonfires, weddings, and festivals

Q1. With reference to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The list recognises living traditions, performing arts, rituals and craft knowledge.
2. The list includes elements in urgent need of safeguarding.
3. Boreendo has been inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List.**

Select the correct option:

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

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage lists include **living traditions and crafts** that are significant to cultural diversity, and the *Urgent Safeguarding List* focuses on elements at risk; **Boreendo was inscribed on that urgent list.**

2. National Film Heritage Mission

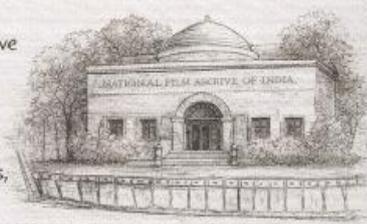
WHY IN NEWS In response to a question in Lok Sabha recently, the Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting said that till date 1,469 titles, equaling 4.3 lakh minutes of films, have been digitized under the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM).



ನಮ್ಮ ಫೌಂಡೇಷನ್

Key Facts about National Film Archive of India (NFAI)

- It was established in February 1964 as a media unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- Its primary objective is to acquire and preserve Indian cinematic heritage.
- This includes preservation of film and non-film material, including but not limited to celluloid, stills, glass slides, posters, lobby cards, scripts, and song booklets.
- Beyond safeguarding celluloid history, the NFAI actively promotes Indian cinema.
- They organize screenings, film appreciation courses, and research programs,



3. Diving Support Craft A20

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Navy will commission Diving Support Craft (DSC) A20, at Kochi under the aegis of Southern Naval Command.

About Diving Support Craft A20

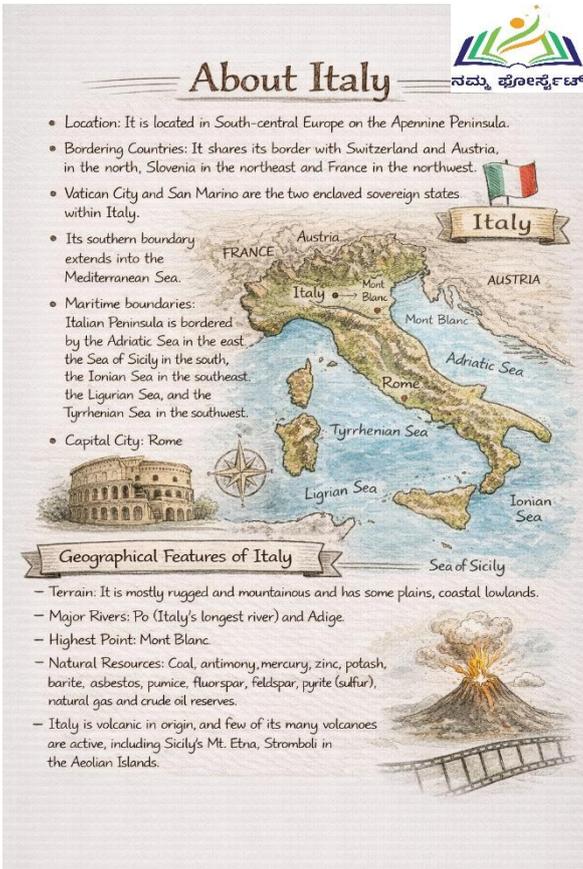
- It is the first vessel of the indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Craft.
- DSC A20 is the lead ship in a series of five Diving Support Craft being built by M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), Kolkata.
- Purpose: It is built for a wide spectrum of diving and underwater missions in coastal waters.

Features of Diving Support Craft A20

- It has a catamaran hull design form, the ship offers superior stability, enhanced deck area, and improved seakeeping characteristics,
- It is equipped with advanced, state-of-the-art diving systems that meet the highest standards of safety and operational efficiency.
- Capacity: It has a displacement capacity of approximately 390 tons

4. Italy

WHY IN NEWS The recently held Italy–India Business Forum 2025 will strengthen bilateral trade, innovation and strategic economic partnership.



About Italy

- Location: It is located in South-central Europe on the Apennine Peninsula.
- Bordering Countries: It shares its border with Switzerland and Austria, in the north, Slovenia in the northeast and France in the northwest.
- Vatican City and San Marino are the two enclaved sovereign states within Italy.
- Its southern boundary extends into the Mediterranean Sea.
- Maritime boundaries: Italian Peninsula is bordered by the Adriatic Sea in the east, the Sea of Sicily in the south, the Ionian Sea in the southeast, the Tyrrhenian Sea, and the Ligurian Sea in the southwest.
- Capital City: Rome

Geographical Features of Italy

- Terrain: It is mostly rugged and mountainous and has some plains, coastal lowlands.
- Major Rivers: Po (Italy's longest river) and Adige.
- Highest Point: Mont Blanc.
- Natural Resources: Coal, antimony, mercury, zinc, potash, barite, asbestos, pumice, fluor spar, feldspar, pyrite (sulfur), natural gas and crude oil reserves.
- Italy is volcanic in origin, and few of its many volcanoes are active, including Sicily's Mt. Etna, Stromboli in the Aeolian Islands.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding straits near Italy:

1. The Strait of Messina separates Sicily from mainland Italy.
2. The Strait of Otranto connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea.
3. The Strait of Sicily lies between Sicily and Tunisia.

Which of the statements given above 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:

✓ Statement 1 is correct.

✗ Statement 2 is wrong — the Strait of Otranto connects the **Adriatic Sea to the Ionian Sea**, not to the Black Sea.

✓ Statement 3 is correct — the **Strait of Sicily** separates Sicily from **Tunisia**.

5. Sanchar Mitra Scheme

WHY IN NEWS In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha recently, the Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development said that 222 institutions are currently participating in the Sanchar Mitra Scheme

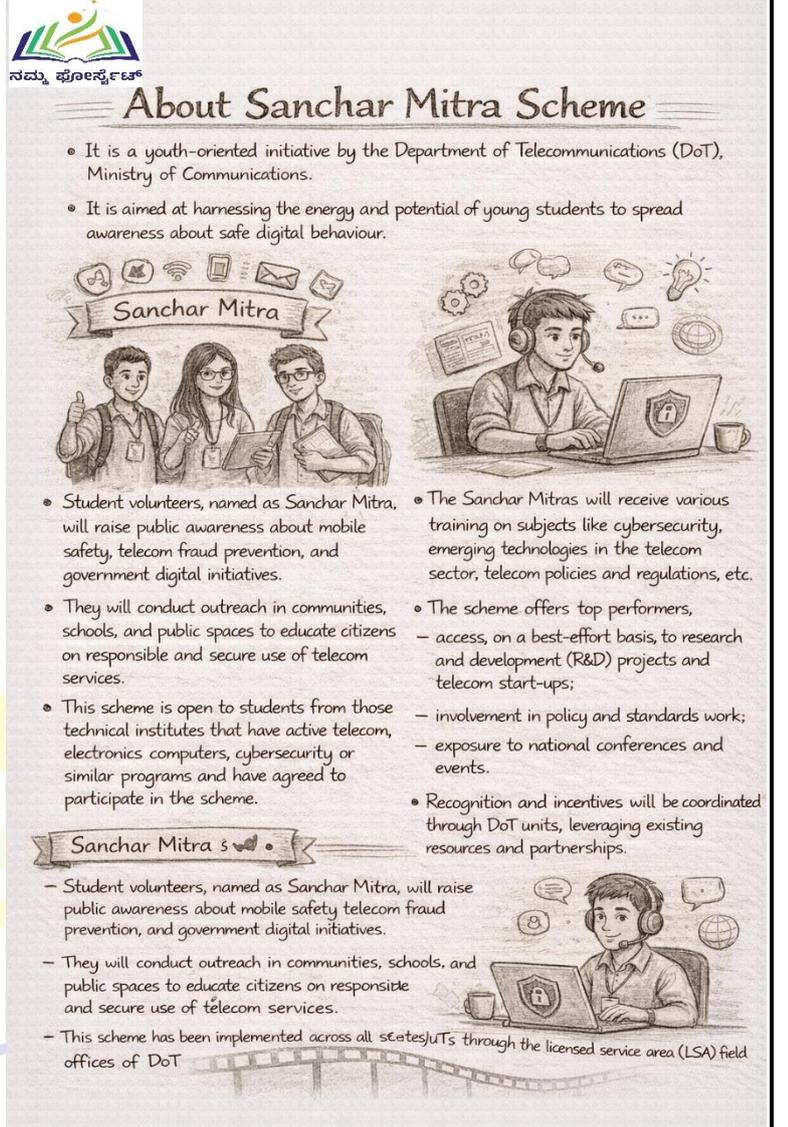
Q1. Consider the following objectives of the Sanchar Mitra Scheme:

1. Promoting awareness about telecom services and policies
2. Educating citizens about cyber fraud and safe digital practices
3. Providing telecom subsidies directly to beneficiaries

Which of the above 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



About Sanchar Mitra Scheme

- It is a youth-oriented initiative by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications.
- It is aimed at harnessing the energy and potential of young students to spread awareness about safe digital behaviour.

Sanchar Mitra

- Student volunteers, named as Sanchar Mitra, will raise public awareness about mobile safety, telecom fraud prevention, and government digital initiatives.
- They will conduct outreach in communities, schools, and public spaces to educate citizens on responsible and secure use of telecom services.
- This scheme is open to students from those technical institutes that have active telecom, electronics computers, cybersecurity or similar programs and have agreed to participate in the scheme.
- The Sanchar Mitras will receive various training on subjects like cybersecurity, emerging technologies in the telecom sector, telecom policies and regulations, etc.
- The scheme offers top performers,
 - access, on a best-effort basis, to research and development (R&D) projects and telecom start-ups;
 - involvement in policy and standards work;
 - exposure to national conferences and events.
- Recognition and incentives will be coordinated through DoT units, leveraging existing resources and partnerships.

Sanchar Mitra s

- Student volunteers, named as Sanchar Mitra, will raise public awareness about mobile safety telecom fraud prevention, and government digital initiatives.
- They will conduct outreach in communities, schools, and public spaces to educate citizens on responsible and secure use of telecom services.
- This scheme has been implemented across all states/UTs through the licensed service area (LSA) field offices of DoT

13th Dec 2025

1. Sujalam Bharat App
2. Mexico
3. Hard Corals
4. Uchi Pillaiyar Temple.
5. Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary

1. Sujalam Bharat App

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Minister of Jal Shakti launched the Sujalam Bharat App

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Sujalam Bharat App:

1. It provides real-time water quality and infrastructure data.
2. It serves as the digital backbone for rural water governance.
3. It was launched under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation: The app captures real-time data and is a key digital tool for rural water governance under Jal Jeevan Mission, not AMRUT.



2. Mexico

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Mexico's Senate approved tariffs of up to 50% on imports from Asian countries, including India

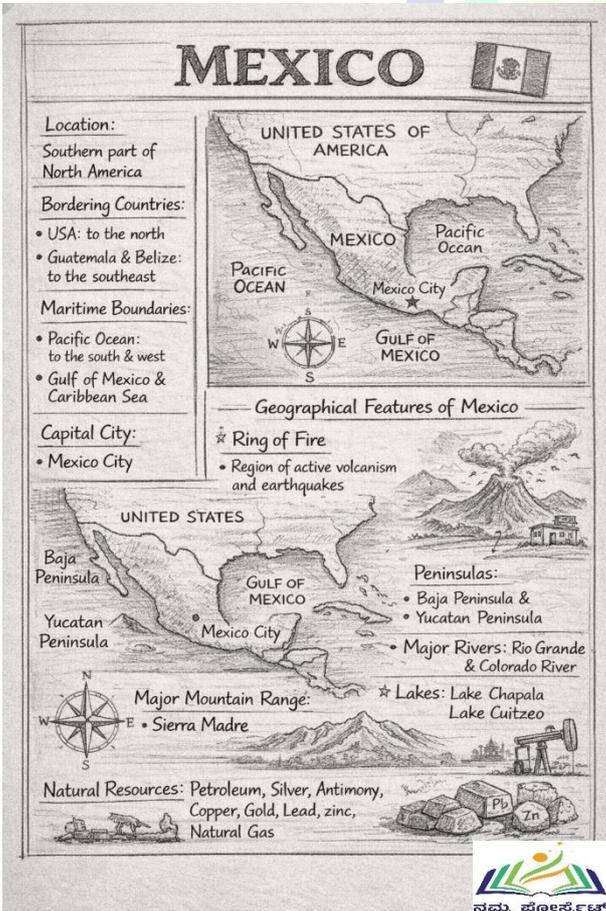
Q1. The Yucatán Peninsula is bordered by:

1. Gulf of Mexico
2. Caribbean Sea
3. Pacific Ocean

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: B. 1 and 2 only

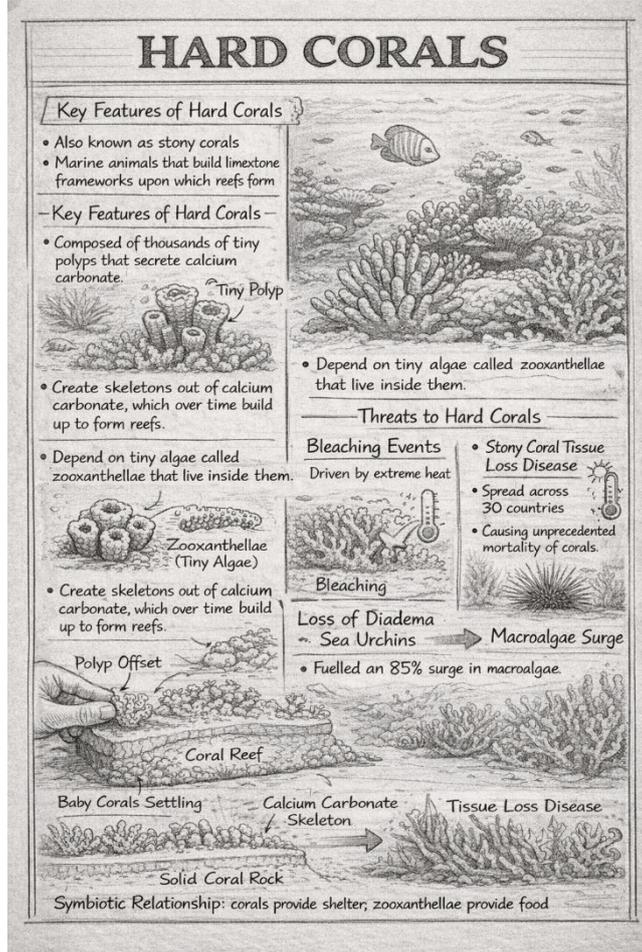




ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರೋಸೈಟ್

3. Hard Corals

WHY IN NEWS A major new assessment by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) has reported a dramatic decline in hard coral populations across the Caribbean



Q1. Which of the following factors can cause coral bleaching?

1. Rise in sea surface temperature
2. Ocean acidification
3. Increased sedimentation

Select the correct answer:

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

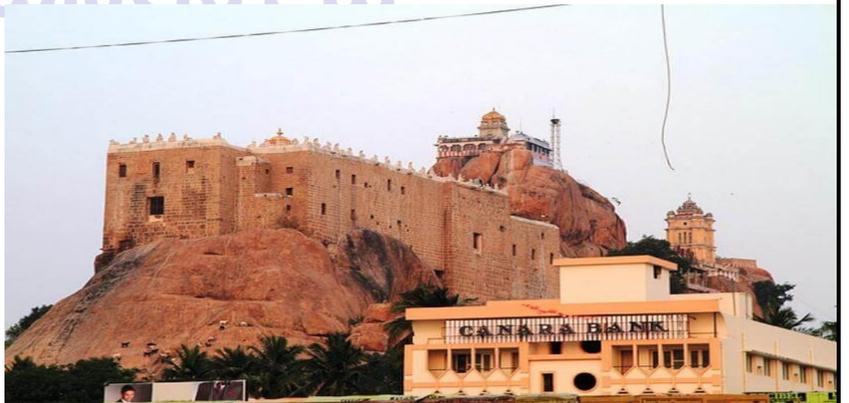
Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3

4. Uchi Pillaiyar Temple.

WHY IN NEWS The Tamil Nadu government recently informed the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court that the deepam (lamp) was lit at the Uchipillaiyar temple mandapam in Thirupparankundram hill during Karthigai Deepam this year too as it was done for over the last 150 years

About Uchi Pillaiyar Temple

- The Uchi Pillaiyar Temple, also known as Rockfort Temple, is located at the top of Rockfort Hill, Trichy, in Tamil Nadu.
- It is a 7th-century-CE Hindu temple, dedicated to Lord Ganesha.
- The temple stands 83 metres (272 ft) tall, perched atop a rock.
- Trichy Rockfort hill is made of granite that is estimated to be over 3.8 billion years old.
- It is one of the oldest rock formations in the world.



- In comparison, the Himalayas are much younger—they began forming only about 50 million years ago when the Indian tectonic plate collided with the Eurasian plate

5. Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary

WHY IN NEWS A forest department team seized a large number of deer heads, horns, and animal flesh and arrested a poacher during a raid in the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary recently

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Wildlife Sanctuaries:

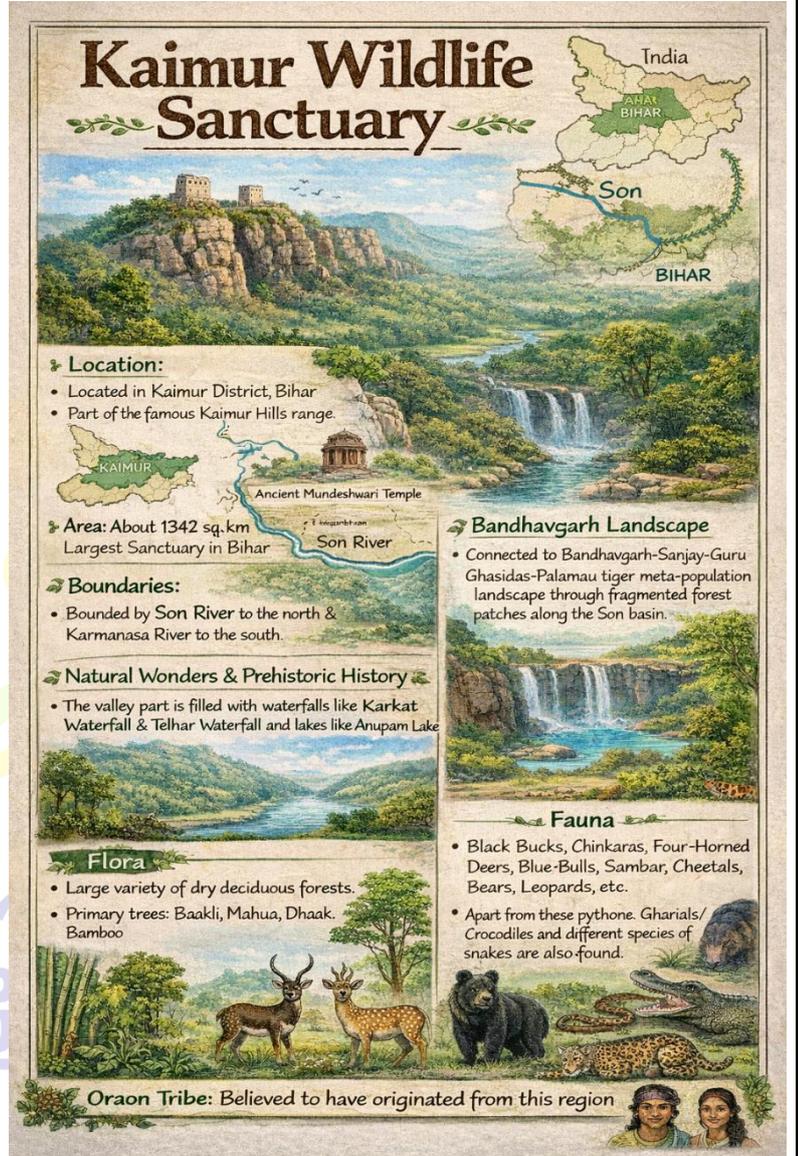
1. They can be declared on private land.
2. Human habitation is completely prohibited.
3. Boundaries can be altered by the State Government.

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. 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Sanctuaries may include private land; human activities may continue under regulation.



14th Dec 2025

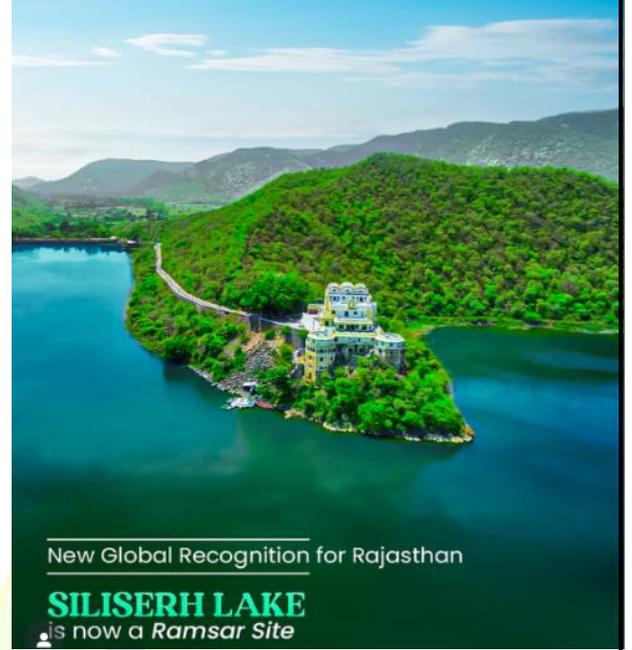
1. Ramsar Sites
2. Tapanuli Orangutan
3. APAAR ID
4. Ponduru Khadi

1. Ramsar Sites

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Siliserh Lake, in Alwar, Rajasthan and Kopra Jalashay near Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh have been designated as Ramsar Sites

Siliserh lake

- Location: It is located in the state of Rajasthan.
- It is a human-made lake within the buffer zone of Sariska Tiger Reserve.
- It was built in 1845 by Maharaja Vinay Singh to supply drinking water to Alwar city.
- It is in a semi-arid zone, and the Site serves as an important water source for diverse species of the region.
- Fauna
- It supports 149 bird species and 17 mammal species including the vulnerable river tern and the endangered tiger
- The site also supports more that 1% of the biogeographic population of black stork (*Ciconia nigra*).



Kopra Jalashay

- Location: It is located in the state of Chhattisgarh.
- It is a reservoir located in the upper catchments of the River Mahanadi.
- Its strong hydrological and ecological connectivity contributes to a wide variety of habitats across the area.
- It supports more than 60 migratory bird species which rely on it for nesting, feeding and as a stop-over site.
- Fauna: Notable species include the vulnerable greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) and the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*).



2. Tapanuli Orangutan

WHY IN NEWS Scientists fear that Cyclone Senyar may have swept away a significant number of Tapanuli orangutans

Q1. Consider the following statements:

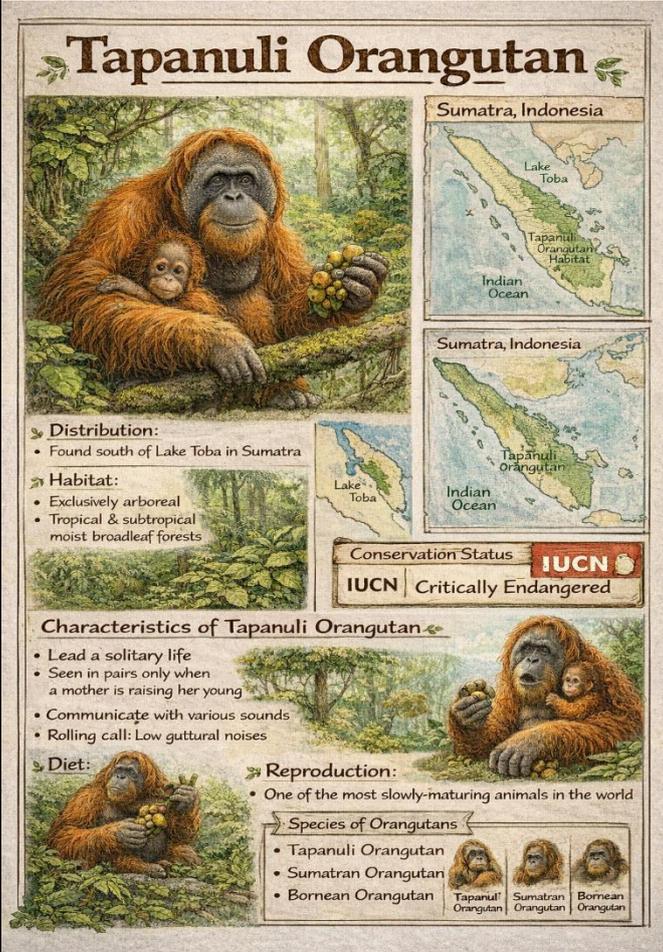
1. Tapanuli Orangutan is arboreal in nature.
2. It is found south of Lake Toba.
3. It is classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN.

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

The Tapanuli Orangutan (*Pongo tapanuliensis*) is a critically endangered great ape species, endemic to the Batang Toru ecosystem in northern Sumatra, Indonesia, located south of Lake Toba. It is primarily arboreal, spending most of its life in forest canopies for feeding, nesting, and movement. Recognized as a distinct species in 2017, it is currently the rarest great ape in the world, with an estimated population of fewer than 800 individuals. Due to severe habitat fragmentation, infrastructure development, and limited geographic range, it is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.



3. APAAR ID

WHY IN NEWS The Orissa High Court recently directed education authorities at both the state and central levels to amend the consent form used for generating Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) IDs to include an explicit opt-out option

Q1. Consider the following statements about APAAR ID:

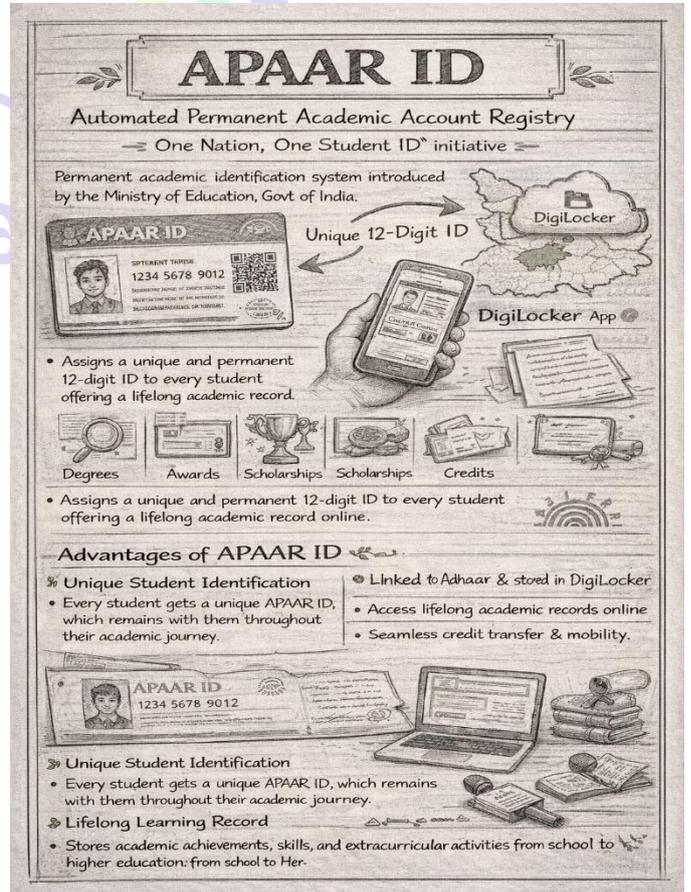
1. It provides a unique and lifelong identity to students.
2. It stores academic achievements such as degrees and certificates.
3. It is mandatory for admission to higher education institutions.

Which of the statements given above 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

Explanation: APAAR ID is voluntary, not mandatory.



4. Ponduru Khadi

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Ponduru khadi has been granted the geographical indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry under the Union ministry of commerce and industry

HERITAGE WEAVE EARNS TAG



- The khadi is unique as the entire process, from cotton to fabric, is carried out manually

- Process of cleaning the cotton with the jawbone of Valuga fish is unique to Ponduru khadi and is not practised anywhere else in the world

- Ponduru is the only place in India where spinners still use single-spindle charkhas with 24 spokes, also known as the 'Gandhi Charkha'

- The final textile has a very high yarn count, around 100-120 counts

- Spinning thin yarn to 100-120 counts is a difficult process requiring special skill, which very few spinners possess

- Produced from one of three types of cotton – hill cotton, punasa cotton, or red cotton

- Cotton used is indigenous to Srikakulam district and is grown in and around Ponduru

15th Dec 2025

1. Gulf of Oman
2. Dandami Madia Tribe
3. Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS).
4. Bluebird 6 Satellite
5. Jordan

1. Gulf of Oman

WHY IN NEWS Iran recently seized an oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman, Iranian media said recently, adding that 18 crew members from India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh were on board

Q1. Which of the following statements about the Gulf of Oman is/are correct?

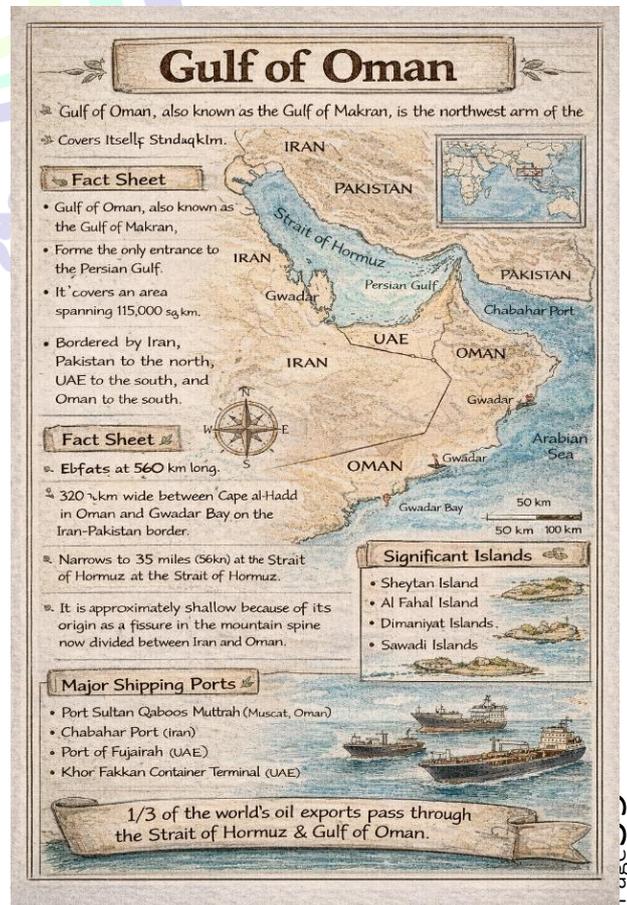
1. It serves as a major oil transit route.
2. It is linked to the Red Sea via the Strait of Hormuz.
3. It is an extension of the Arabian Sea.

Select the correct answer:

- 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: The Red Sea is connected to the Gulf of Oman



via the Red Sea → Bab el-Mandeb → Gulf of Aden → Arabian Sea → Gulf of Oman route, but the direct connection is with the Arabian Sea, not the Red Sea.

2. Dandami Madia Tribe

WHY IN NEWS Recently, members of the Dandami Madia tribe perform the traditional Bison Horn Maria dance during a village festival at Judiya Para in Jagdalpur

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Dandami Madia tribe:

1. They are a sub-group of the Gond tribe.
2. Their traditional livelihood includes shifting cultivation.
3. They mainly practice Buddhism.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Dandami Madia belongs to the **Gond tribal group**.
- They traditionally practice **shifting cultivation (podu)**.
- They follow **animistic beliefs**, not Buddhism.

Dandami Madia Tribe

- Dandami Maria, also known by other names like Bison Horn Maria, & Khalpati Maria.
- Tribal community living in Chhattisgarh.
- Named after their unique custom of wearing distinctive head-gear that resembles the horns of a wild bison.
- Worn during ceremonies.
- Identify as part of the larger Gond tradition.

Language

- Main distinct language spoken is Dandami Maria.
- Some speak Gondi dialects — an oral language of Dravidian origins.

Society & Customs of Dandami Madia Tribe

Economy:

- Live by agriculture, supplemented by hunting and fishing.

Ghotul:

- Youth dormitory for unmarried boys & girls, important social institution.

Language:

- Main distinct language spoken is Dandami Maria.
- Some speak Gondi dialects — an oral language of Dravidian origins.
- Permit divorce & widow remarriage.

Society & Customs

Dandami Madia Tribe

- Port Sultan Qaboos Muttrah (Muscat, Oman)
- Chabahar Port (Iran)
- Port of Fujairah (UAE)

1/3 of the world's oil exports pass through the Strait of Hormuz & Gulf of Oman.



3. Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS).

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Army is undertaking a major strategic shift in its air defence operations, repurposing its Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) to specifically counter the rising threat of sub-sonic cruise missiles.

4. Bluebird 6 Satellite

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the US-based commercial BlueBird-6 satellite developed by US-based AST Spacemobile on 21st December 2025 using ISRO's LVM-3 rocket

Q1. With reference to the BlueBird satellite recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
2. Its primary purpose is to provide **direct broadband connectivity to standard smartphones**.
3. It was developed by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation: The BlueBird Block-2 (also called BlueBird-6) was placed into Low Earth Orbit by an ISRO LVM3-M6 mission. Its purpose is to deliver space-to-phone broadband directly to standard mobile handsets without special hardware. It was built by the U.S. commercial firm **AST SpaceMobile**, not by ISRO.



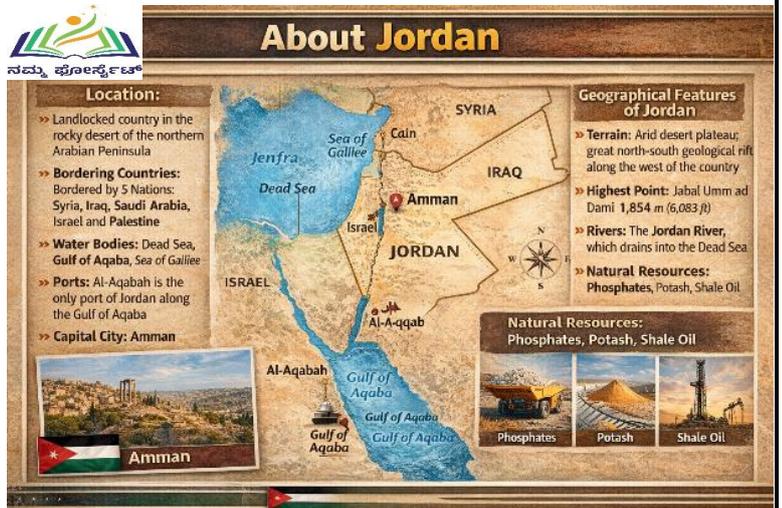
5. Jordan

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Prime Minister of India has embarked on a three-nation visit to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman

Q1. Which of the following countries have a coastline along the Gulf of Aqaba?

1. Israel
2. Jordan
3. Egypt
4. Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the code below:





ನಮ್ಮ ಭೋಜನ

- 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

Explanation:

- **Israel** – Port of Eilat
- **Jordan** – Port of Aqaba
- **Egypt** – Sinai Peninsula coast
- **Saudi Arabia** – Eastern coastline of the gulf

16th & 17th Dec 2025

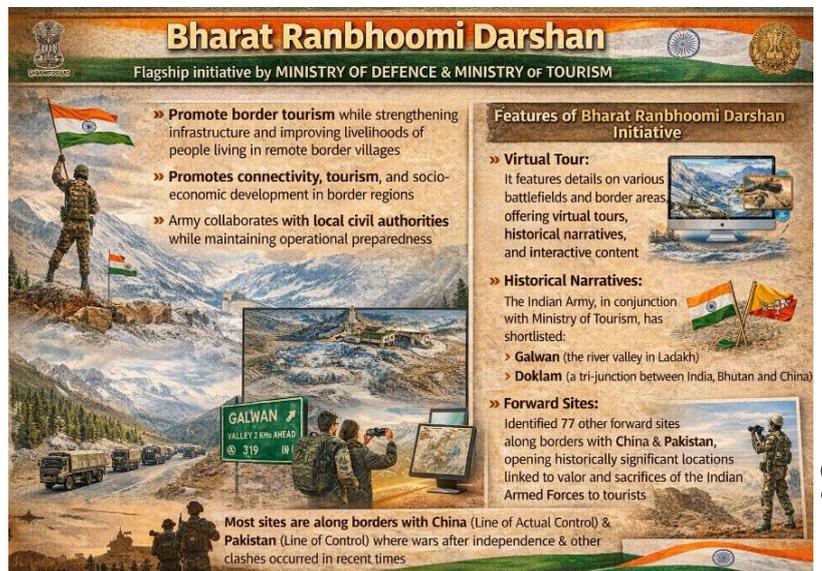
1. Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan
2. Black-Capped Capuchin Monkey
3. Project Mausam
4. Gestational Diabetes Mellitus
5. Exercise Ekatha
6. Ekam AI and SAMBHAV
7. National Digital Livestock Mission
8. DHRUV64
9. AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter

1. Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Chief Minister of Sikkim officially declared Cho La & Dok La, two significant border destinations, open for tourists under the “Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan” initiative

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat Ranabhoomi Darshan:

1. It aims to promote tourism at historic battlefields and war memorials.



2. It involves coordination between the Ministry of Defence and tourism authorities.
3. It is limited only to ancient battle sites.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The initiative covers **ancient, medieval, and modern battlefields**, including post-Independence war sites.
- It involves **defence and tourism sectors**, not limited to ancient sites.

2. Black-Capped Capuchin Monkey

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) has imported eight black-capped capuchin monkeys (*Sapajus apella*) from South Africa under an animal exchange programme

About Black-Capped Capuchin Monkey

Sapajus apella



Distribution

- » Native to South America, they are ubiquitous throughout the Amazon River Basin
- » **Conservation Status:**
IUCN Least Concern

Habitat

- » Tropical, Subtropical, Dry, Submontane, Savannah, Mangrove Forests




Behavior and Lifestyle of Black-Capped Capuchin

- » Black-capped capuchins are predominantly arboreal and diurnal species.
- » **Communication:**
 - » Vocalizations
 - » Body language.
 - » Tactile methods
 - » Olfactory cues
- » **Diet:** It classified as omnivores their diet consists of fruit, sloes, nuts, insects, eggs and crustaceans
- » **Ecological Role:** Feeding upon fruit, the capuchins become seed dispersers of certain forest plants.

Key Facts about the Bannerghatta Biological Park

- » It has been an integral part of Bannerghatta National Park and emerged out as an independent establishment in 2002.
- » It is located about 22kms south of Bengaluru city, Karnataka. It has different units such as Zoo, Safari, Butterfly Park, and Rescue Centre.
- » It is the first biological park in India to have a fenced, forested elephant sanctuary.

3. Project Mausam

WHY IN NEWS The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) recently organised a National Workshop on the Project Mausam titled as - "Islands at the Crossroads of Maritime Networks within Indian Ocean Region"

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Project Mausam:

1. It focuses on the role of monsoon winds in facilitating ancient maritime trade.
2. It seeks UNESCO World Heritage recognition for transnational cultural routes.
3. It is limited only to India's coastal regions.

Which of the statements given above 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

Explanation:

- The project highlights **monsoon wind systems (Mausam)** that enabled navigation and trade.
- It aims to develop **transnational World Heritage nominations**.
- It is **not limited to India**; it spans the Indian Ocean region.

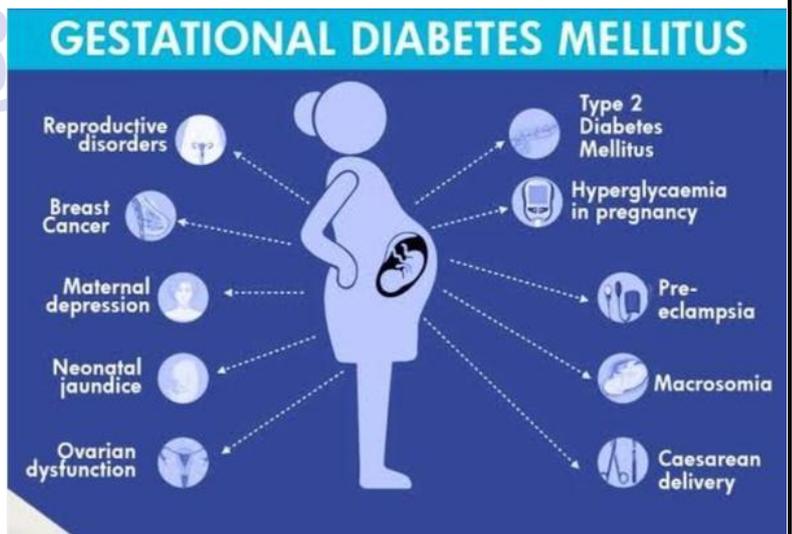
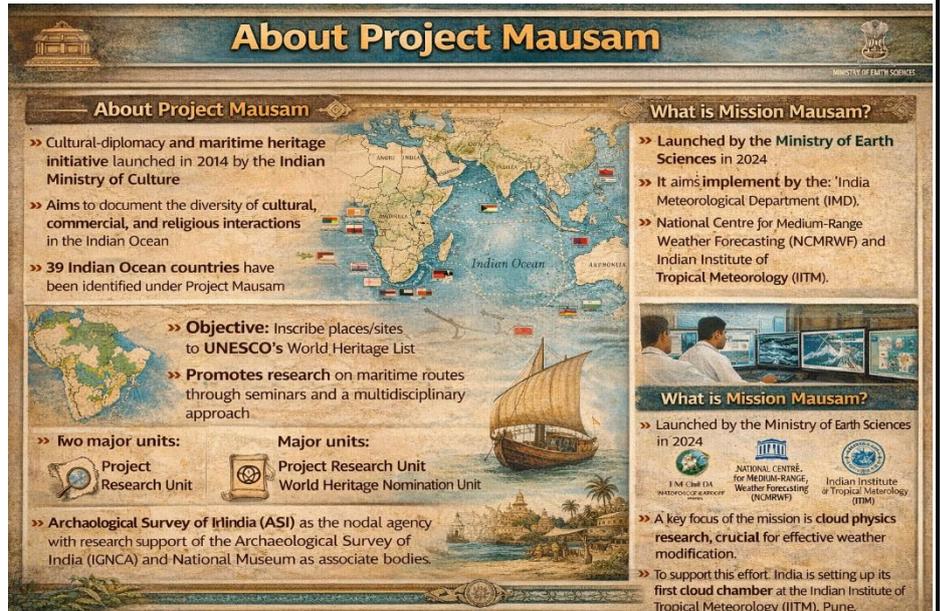
4. Gestational Diabetes Mellitus

WHY IN NEWS A study conducted at seven antenatal clinics with over 3,000 women, found that early gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) affects about one in five pregnant women

About Gestational Diabetes Mellitus

- Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) is glucose intolerance first diagnosed during pregnancy, and is typically diagnosed between 24-28 weeks gestation.
- Causes
- It happens when the hormones from the placenta block your ability to use or make insulin.
- The placenta supplies a growing fetus with nutrients and water, and also produces a variety of hormones to maintain the pregnancy
- This is called contra-insulin effect, which usually begins about 20 to 24 weeks into the pregnancy.

Symptoms:



- Most of the time, gestational diabetes doesn't cause symptoms but it includes excessive thirst, urinating more often, fatigue, nausea.
- Risk factors can increase the chances of developing GDM. These include:
- Living with overweight or obesity
- Being over the age of 45
- Having a family history of diabetes or gestational diabetes in a previous pregnancy
- Having polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)

Treatment: Gestational diabetes can be managed with a combination of lifestyle changes and medication

5. Exercise Ekatha

WHY IN NEWS Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS), Indian Navy, is on an official visit to Maldives to attend the closing ceremony of Ex Ekatha 2025

About Exercise Ekatha 2025

- Established in 2017, Exercise Ekatha is an annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).
- It aims to enhance bilateral maritime cooperation, and 2025 marks its eighth edition.
- The exercise involved a series of professional interactions designed to boost interoperability and operational collaboration between the two navies.
- Activities included technical and combat diving, boarding operations, firing drills, demolition and explosive handling, asymmetric warfare tactics, and special heli-borne operation drills

6. Ekam AI and SAMBHAV

WHY IN NEWS

Recently, the Indian Army showcased a wide range of homegrown technologies Ekam AI and SAMBHAV project during Vijay Diwas celebration.

About Ekam AI & SAMBHAV

Fully Indigenous, Secure AI Platform

- » It enables users to analyse information, manage documents, and support decision-making without dependence on foreign software or external cloud systems
- » It allows personnel at different levels to leverage AI-enabled support without requiring specialised technical expertise

Significance: » Ensures complete data security and sovereignty.

Project Research Unit | World Heritage Nomination Unit

About SAMBHAV

- » A portable communication system that provides mobile connectivity using satellite support.
- » **Features:** The system can be deployed quickly in remote or disaster-affected areas, improving communication for both soldiers and civilians.

Significance: The project highlights how defence innovation can also strengthen national communication infrastructure.

WHAT IS VIJAY DIWAS?

- » **Vijay Diwas** is commemorated on **December 16** every year to honour the victory of the **Indian armed forces** over Pakistan in the **1971 war** which led to the liberation of Bangladesh.
- » **Vijay Diwas** is commemorated on **December 16** every year to honour the victory of the Indian armed

7. National Digital Livestock Mission

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, informed the Lok Sabha about the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM)

About National Digital Livestock Mission

- It was launched by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India for creating a digital database of livestock and related services across the country.
- Aims: To enhance livestock productivity and breed improvement, strengthen disease surveillance and control, enable traceability of livestock products and create a farmer-centric digital ecosystem for efficient service delivery.
- It has been implemented across all States in India.
- The digital backbone of the mission is the 'Bharat Pashudhan' platform.
- Bharat Pashudhan' platform includes mobile and web-based applications used by field workers to record livestock-related activities.
- Each animal is assigned a unique 12-digit bar-coded ear tag, which serves as its digital identity.
- Using this system, field workers capture data on animal registration, artificial insemination and breeding, ownership changes, vaccinations, disease reporting, milk recording, ration balancing and e-prescriptions.



BHARAT PASHUDHAN - NATIONAL DIGITAL LIVESTOCK MISSION

Government of India selected **Jammu and Kashmir among the six states** and union territories for implementation of the NDLM.

This mission aims to create a **farmer-centric ecosystem driven by technology**, which will include the establishment of a **digital livestock database in J&K and improved farmer services**.

www.jkbp.in

Objectives of the National Digital Livestock Mission

- Improving breeding outcomes suited to India's diverse agro-climatic conditions.
- Enabling real-time disease monitoring and control, and establishing a robust traceability mechanism for livestock products.
- The mission also focuses on empowering farmers by providing easy access to information on government schemes and livestock-related services

8. DHRUV64

WHY IN NEWS Recently, India unveiled its first fully indigenously developed microprocessor DHRUV64

Q1. With reference to DHRUV64, consider the following statements:

1. It is a fully indigenous microprocessor developed in India.
2. It is based on the open-source RISC-V architecture.
3. It is designed only for satellite communication systems.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **DHRUV64** is India's first fully indigenous 64-bit, dual-core microprocessor developed by **C-DAC** under the Microprocessor Development Programme.
- It is based on the **open-source RISC-V architecture**.
- It is designed for multiple strategic and commercial applications, not limited to satellite communication.



About DHRUV64
Fully Indigenous, Microprocessor of India

Developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP).

Key Features of DHRUV64

- » Processor Core & Speed: 64-bit dual-core, 1.0 GHz

Potential Applications of DHRUV64

- » Suitable for 5G Infrastructure, Automotive, Consumer Electronics, Industrial Automation, Internet of Things

Potential Applications of DHRUV64

- » 64-bit dual-core, 1.0 GHz giving it the ability to handle multiple tasks smoothly.
- » Execution Method: Superscalar execution allows the processor to start more than one instruction in the same moment for better speed
- » Instruction Handling: Supports out-of-order process meaning it can complete instructions that are ready first, improving overall efficiency.
- » Packaging & Integration: Advanced FCBGA package includes built-in communication and control functions inside an advanced FCBGA package, make in many systems.

Incredible India's Homegrown Microprocessor Technology

- » Supports Prototype Development at Lower Cost

5G Infrastructure, Automotive Systems, Consumer Electronics, Industrial Automation, IoT

9. AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Army recently received the final batch of three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, completing its six-unit fleet at the 451 Army Aviation Squadron based in Jodhpur, Rajasthan



About AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter

Fully Indigenous Microprocessor of India

- » It is widely used for advanced reconnaissance, precision strikes, and close air support missions globally.
- » Country of Origin: United States
- » Manufacturer: Boeing

AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter Features

- » Length: 17.8 m
- » Max Speed: 300 kph
- » Max operating weight: 10,432 kg and climb up to up to more than 2,800 feet per minute

AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter Features

- » Length: 17.8 m
- » Max speed: 300 kph
- » Max operating weight: 10,432 kg climb up to more than 2,800 feet per minute.
- » It is a heavily armed, twin-engine ground-attack helicopter.

Apache for Indian Defence Forces

- » The Indian Air Force has a fleet of 22 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, and in 2020, Boeing signed an agreement with the Government of India for the acquisition of **Six more Apache helicopters for the Indian Army.**
- » It can track up to 128 targets per minute and prioritise threat levels.

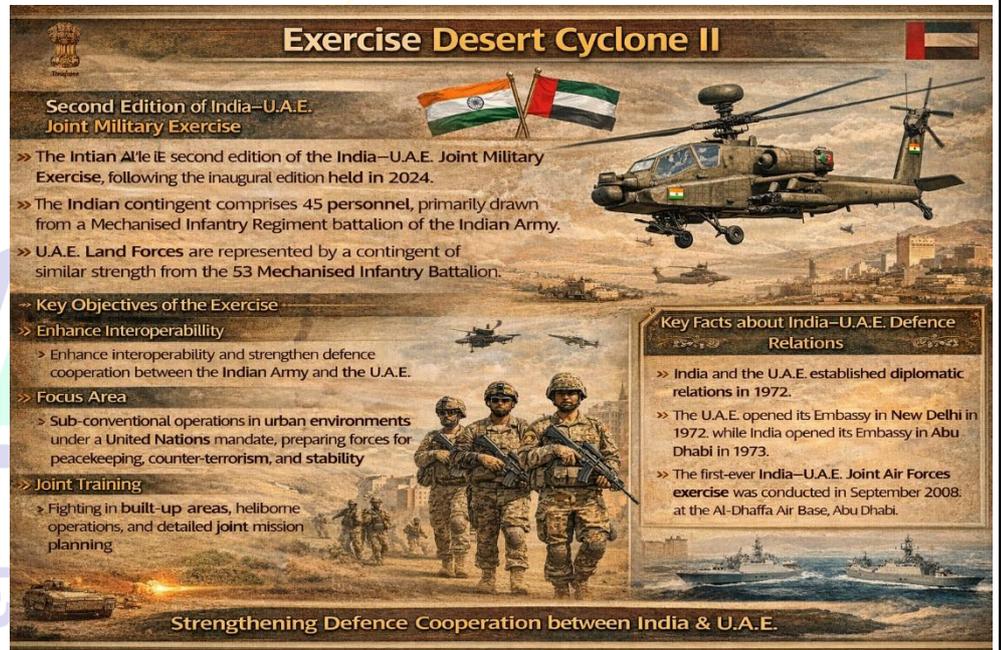
AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter Features

18th Dec 2025

1. Exercise “Desert Cyclone II”
2. INS Hansa
3. ICGS Sarthak
4. BharatNet Project
5. Kavach System

1. Exercise “Desert Cyclone II”

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Defence informed that an Indian Army contingent has departed for the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) to participate in the second edition of the Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone II, scheduled to be conducted at Abu Dhabi from 18–30 December 2025.



Exercise Desert Cyclone II

Second Edition of India–U.A.E. Joint Military Exercise

- » The Indian Army's second edition of the India–U.A.E. Joint Military Exercise, following the inaugural edition held in 2024.
- » The Indian contingent comprises 45 personnel, primarily drawn from a Mechanised Infantry Regiment battalion of the Indian Army.
- » U.A.E. Land Forces are represented by a contingent of similar strength from the 53 Mechanised Infantry Battalion.

Key Objectives of the Exercise

- » Enhance Interoperability
 - > Enhance interoperability and strengthen defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the U.A.E.
- » Focus Area
 - > Sub-conventional operations in urban environments under a United Nations mandate, preparing forces for peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, and stability
- » Joint Training
 - > Fighting in built-up areas, airborne operations, and detailed joint mission planning

Key Facts about India–U.A.E. Defence Relations

- » India and the U.A.E. established diplomatic relations in 1972.
- » The U.A.E. opened its Embassy in New Delhi in 1972, while India opened its Embassy in Abu Dhabi in 1973.
- » The first-ever India–U.A.E. Joint Air Forces exercise was conducted in September 2008, at the Al-Dhaffa Air Base, Abu Dhabi.

Strengthening Defence Cooperation between India & U.A.E.



2. INS Hansa

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Indian Navy commissioned its second MH-60R helicopter squadron, INAS 335, also known as the ‘Ospreys’, at INS Hansa, Vasco da Gama, Goa

About INS Hansa

- INS Hansa is an Indian Naval Air Station located near Dabolim, Goa.
- It is the largest naval airbase in India and houses some of the Indian Navy’s premier air squadrons.

- The base includes a civil enclave, which functions as Dabolim Airport, handling domestic and international flights round-the-clock.
- The station was originally commissioned on 5 September 1961 at Suler near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, and was initially co-located with the Indian Air Force's Suler Air Force Station.
- Following the liberation of Goa, the Navy took over Dabolim airfield in April 1962, and INS Hansa was relocated to Dabolim in June 1964.
- INS Hansa has earlier witnessed key capability additions, including the commissioning of the second P-8I maritime patrol aircraft squadron in 2022, strengthening shore-based fixed-wing naval operations.
- The Navy is also progressing the acquisition of 15 MQ-9B Sea Guardian remotely piloted aircraft, which will enable persistent maritime surveillance and enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).
- Although formally commissioned at Goa, the MH-60R helicopters have already demonstrated operational effectiveness in Operation Sindoor, TROPEX-25, and the Tri-Services Exercise 2025

3. ICGS Sarthak

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Sarthak, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, recently made a port call at Chabahar, Iran

Q1. With reference to ICGS Sarthak, consider the following statements:

1. It belongs to Samarth-class offshore patrol vessels.
2. It displaces about 2,450 tonnes.
3. It is capable of undertaking search & rescue, combating maritime crime, and environmental protection.

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

About ICGS Sarthak

Second Edition of India-U.A.E. Joint Military Exercise

- >> It is the fourth in the series of five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) being built by Goa Shipyard for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- >> These OPVs are multi-mission platforms capable of undertaking concurrent operations.
- >> ICGS Sarthak was commissioned on October 28, 2021.
- >> The 105-m long ship displacing 2,450 tons
- >> Two 9,100-kilowatt diesel engines, max speed of 26 knots
- >> ICGS Sarthak functions as a command platform for duties including:
 - Search and Rescue
 - Combating Maritime Crimes
 - Preserve and Protect Marine Environment
- >> ICGS Sarthak functions as a command platform for duties including:
 - Based at Porbandar, Gujarat, the ship will operate on India's western seaboard under operational control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region.

Key Facts about India-U.A.E. Defence Relations

- >> India and the U.A.E. established diplomatic relations in 1972.
- >> The U.A.E. opened its Embassy in New Delhi in 1972, while India opened its Embassy in Abu Dhabi in 1973.
- >> Has a complement of 11 officers and 110 men

It is the fourth in a series of five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) built by Goa Shipyard for Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

4. BharatNet Project

WHY IN NEWS The Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha recently, said that BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs)

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding BharatNet:



ನಮ್ಮ ಭೋರ್ಸೈಟ್

ನಮ್ಮ FORESIGHT

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

1. It uses Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) as the primary medium.
2. It is a key component of the Digital India programme.
3. It provides connectivity only to government offices.

Which of the statements given above 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

About BharatNet Project

It is an ambitious project of the Government of India aimed at providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs).

- >> The project was approved in 2011.
- >> It is one of the biggest rural telecom projects in the world.
- >> The primary objective is to provide unstricted access to broadband connectivity to all the telecom service providers.
- >> This enables access providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Cable TV operators, and content providers to launch various services such as e-health, e-education, and e-governance in rural and remote India.
- >> The project initially aimed to connect approximately 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country.

In 2016, the Telecom Commission approved implementing the project in three phases:

- Phase I:** Search and Rescue, Combating Maritime Crimes, Preserve and Protect Marine Environment
- Phase II:** Focused on laying optical fibre cables to connect 1 lakh Gram Panchayats using optical fibre, radio, and satellite technologies. This phase was completed in December 2017.
- Phase III:** Phase II (ongoing), *1 JUPPLS, Greenet Protocol, Nurt Ingested abdicationed Maritime Montane(SRENIS)

In 2016, the Telecom Commission approved implementing the project in three phases.

It is the fourth in a series of five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) built by Goa Shipyard for Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

KAVACH SYSTEM: Automatic Train Protection for Indian Railways

Developed by RDSO with Medha, HBL & Kernex

Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) | Telecom Towers | RFID Systems | Loco Equipment | Signal Units | Signal Units

AS OF DECEMBER 2025

7,129 km OFC Laid	860 Telecom Towers Installed	767 Stations Connected to Data Centres	3,413 km Trackside Equipment Deployed	4,154 Locomotives Equipped with Kavach
-------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	----------------------------------------

TRAINED WORKFORCE
40,000+ Technicians & Operators Trained

SAFETY IMPACT
Railway Accidents Reduced by Nearly 90%

2014: 135 Incidents | NOW: 11 Incidents

5. Kavach System

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Railway Minister, in a written reply during the Winter Session of Parliament, informed the Lok Sabha that the indigenously developed Kavach system has been fully commissioned on over 2,000 km of the Indian Rail network, with the rollout progressing at a very fast pace

Q1. With reference to the Kavach System, consider the following statements:

1. Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.
2. It has been developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) under Indian Railways.
3. Kavach relies solely on satellite-based navigation for preventing train collisions.

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

19th Dec 2025

1. SabhaSaar Initiative
2. Hormuz Island
3. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
4. Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme

1. SabhaSaar Initiative

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Minister informed the Rajya Sabha about the SabhaSaar initiative

Q1. SabhaSaar Initiative directly supports which of the following?

1. Informed citizen participation in democracy
2. Awareness about legislative discussions
3. Digital governance and e-democracy

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

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3



SABHASAAR INITIATIVE:
AI-Enabled Voice-to-Text Tool for Panchayat Meetings

Launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

FEATURES OF SABHASAAR INITIATIVE

- AI-Powered Summarisation of Panchayat Meetings
- Brings Uniformity in Meeting Minutes
- Using e-GramSwaraj Login Credentials
- Developed Using India AI Compute Portal & Bhashini Platform

SIGNIFICANCE

- Ideal for panchayats, administrative bodies, and rural development projects
- Streamlines Documentation
- Instant Access to Insights
- Empowers Stakeholders

2. Hormuz Island

WHY IN NEWS A breathtaking natural phenomenon recently turned Iran's Hormuz Island into a global talking point, as its coastlines transformed into a surreal blood-red landscape overnight

Q1. With reference to the Hormuz Islands, consider the following statements:

1. They are located near the Strait of Hormuz.
2. They have strategic importance for global oil trade.
3. They are volcanic islands.

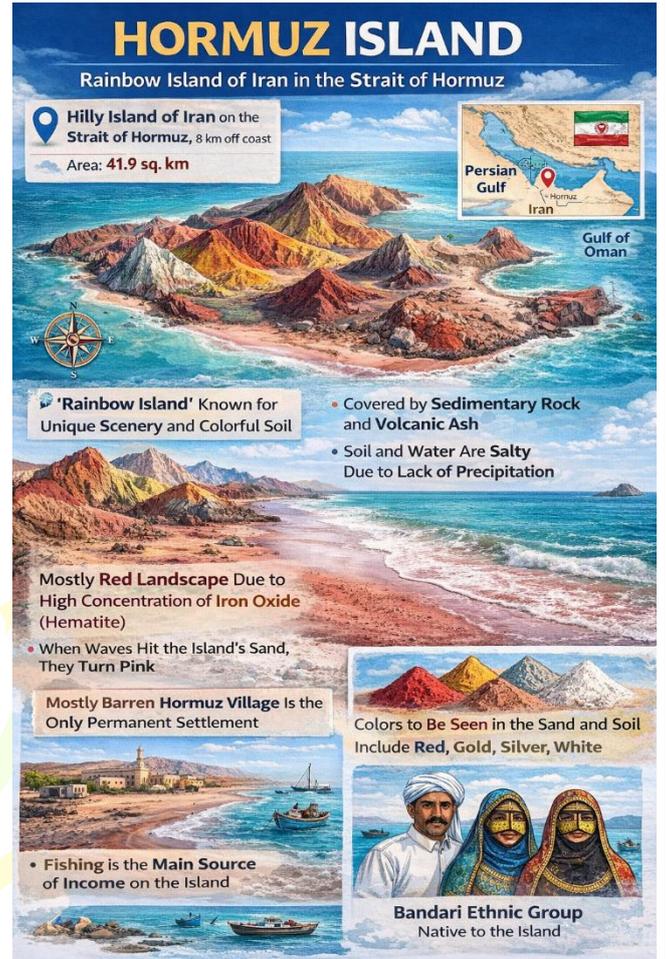
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Hormuz Islands are near the Strait of Hormuz.
- The region is critical for global energy shipping routes.
- The islands are **not volcanic**; they are known for salt domes and mineral-rich formations.




REGIONAL RURAL BANKS
Driving Financial Inclusion in Rural Areas

Established under Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, following the Narasimham Committee on Rural Credit Recommendation (1975)

Origin:
Established under Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, following the Narasimham Committee on Rural Credit Recommendation (1975)

First Bank: Rathama Grameen Bank established 2nd October 1975

Mission: Fulfill the credit needs of unserved sections in Rural Areas

- Small & Marginal Farmers
- Agricultural Labourers
- Socio-Economically Weaker Sections

Functions:
Providing Banking facilities to Rural and Semi-Urban Areas

- Carrying out Government Operations like disbursement of MGNREGA wages, distribution of pensions, etc.

Equity of RRBs:
Central Gov: 50%
Sponsor Bank: 35%

Regulation: RBI, NABARD

Priority Sector Lending Goal: 75% of total advances

Ownership: 50+15+35

- Central Govt: 50%
- Sponsor Bank: 35%

Ownership: 50% (Central Govt), 15% (Sponsor Bank)

28 RRBs currently operate with a network of more than 22,000 branches in over 700 districts

STATS:

3. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

WHY IN NEWS The Finance Ministry recently unveiled a new logo for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to signify a single and unified brand identity

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding RRBs:

1. They are jointly owned by the Central Government, State Government, and a Sponsor Bank.
2. They operate in all districts of India.
3. NABARD exercises supervisory control over RRBs.

Which of the statements given above 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:

- Ownership is shared among **Centre (50%), State (15%), and Sponsor Bank (35%)**.
- RRBs operate in **notified districts of specific states**, not all districts.
- **NABARD supervises RRBs**.

4. Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme

WHY IN NEWS The Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development recently said that as of 10.12.2025, 136 projects amounting to Rs 542.22 crores have been approved under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme to different IITs, NITs, MSMEs, startups, and research institutions.

About Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme

- It is a flagship scheme of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched in 2022.
- It aims to fund research and development (R&D) in rural-specific communication technology applications.
- It encourages collaboration among academia, startups, research institutes, and industry stakeholders to drive innovation.
- The scheme provides milestone-based financial assistance to eligible entities, ensuring ease of compliance and adequate funding.
- It supports the development of state-of-the-art telecom solutions in key sectors such as education, agriculture, health, and water management.
- Funding under the scheme is provided through the Digital Bharat Nidhi (formerly known as the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)).
- It facilitates the development, pilot testing, and adoption of new telecom technologies, particularly for deployment in rural and remote areas

20th Dec 2025

1. Hainan Island
2. Antariksh Prayogshala
3. TIDE 2.0 Scheme
4. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Amulya
5. Doppler Weather Radar

1. Hainan Island

WHY IN NEWS China recently split off Hainan Island, with an economy comparable to a mid-ranked country, from the mainland for customs processing, part of a bid to join a major trans-Pacific trade deal and establish a new Hong Kong-style commercial hub.

Q1. Consider the following statements about Hainan Island:

1. It is the southernmost province of China.
2. It is separated from mainland China by the Taiwan Strait.
3. Haikou is the capital of Hainan Province.

Which of the statements given above 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:

- Hainan is **China's southernmost province**
- It is separated by the **Qiongzhou Strait**, not the Taiwan Strait
- **Haikou** is the provincial capital

Hainan Island
"The Hawaii of China"

Largest Island of China
35,400 sq.km
Population: 10 Million

Haikou "The Coconut City" Provincial Capital

260 km East to West
210 km North to South

Formed by Rift in the Miocene & Pliocene Epochs (23 to 2.6 Million Years Ago)

Gateway Between Indian Ocean & Pacific Ocean

China's Largest Free Trade Port

Host of the Boao Forum "Asia's Davos"

Connecting Northeast Asia & Southeast Asia

Antariksh Prayogshala (Space Labs)
An Initiative of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)

Creating State-of-the-Art Space Labs Within Indian Academic Institutions

Provide hands-on training to students pursuing space tech courses

Up to **SEVEN** Institutions from different zones across the **country** to be selected in phased manner

One lab proposed in each zone to ensure balanced regional representation

Financial Support of up to **75%** of total project cost
Capped at ₹5 crore per institution
Milestone-linked basis

Also available to **Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs)**

Procedure thru Selection

1. Eligibility Screening
2. Evaluation & ranking by Empowered Committee (EC)
3. Final Selections on a Zone-Wise Basis

Key Facts About IN-SPACE

- ✓ Single-window nodal agency in the Department of Space (DOS)
- ✓ Facilitates private sector participation in the space sector
- ✓ Promotes, enables, authorizes & supervise space activities of **Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs)**
- ✓ Facilitates sharing & establishment of space infrastructure facilities

8 in interface between ISRO & NGEs

- Building launch vehicles & satellites
- Providing space-based services

2. Antariksh Prayogshala

WHY IN NEWS The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) recently rolled out a Request for Proposal (RfP) to establish Antariksh Prayogshala (Space Labs) at select academic institutions across India

Q1. With reference to Antariksh Prayogshala, consider the following fields of research:

1. Life sciences
2. Material sciences
3. Space medicine
4. Astrophysical observation

Which of the above are likely to be supported?

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

Answer: A. 1, 2 and 3 only

3. TIDE 2.0 Scheme

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology informed the Rajya Sabha about the TIDE 2.0 Scheme.

About TIDE 2.0 Scheme

- The “Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs 2.0 (TIDE 2.0)” Scheme was launched in the year 2019.
- It promotes technology-based entrepreneurship by providing financial & technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups primarily engaged in using emerging technologies such as IoT, AI, Block-chain, Robotics etc.

Features of TIDE 2.0 Scheme

- It is implemented through empowering 51 incubators in India and handholding close to 2000 tech start-ups over a period of 5 years.
- These selected incubators are located in the Institutes of Higher Learning and premier R&D organizations across the country.
- These incubators provide startups with requisite expertise, industry linkages and ecosystem partnerships etc.
- Under TIDE 2.0, Centres of Excellence in Intellectual Property Rights (CoE-IP) are also established to encourage or support Startups/SMEs/academia/inventors in the Electronics and IT domain.
- These CoE provide various IP related services, awareness creation and training.
- It complements other Government initiatives such as GENESIS, SAMRIDH, Startup India and sector-specific innovation programmes

4. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Amulya

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship ‘Amulya’ was commissioned in Goa

Q1. ICGS Amulya, recently commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard fleet, belongs to which class of vessels?

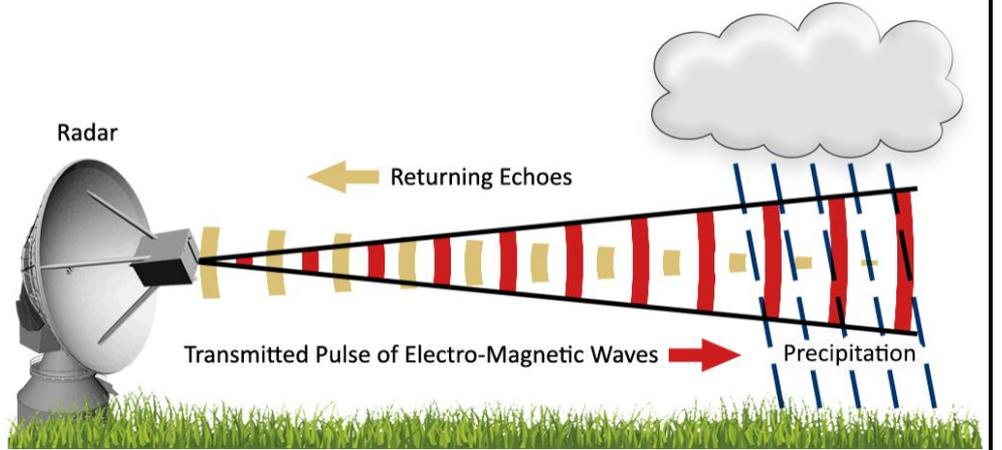
- A. Vikram-class Offshore Patrol Vessel
- B. Samudra-class Pollution Control Vessel
- C. Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel
- D. Saryu-class Corvette

Answer: C. Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel

Explanation: *Amulya* is the third vessel in the new-generation Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel series built for the Indian Coast Guard.

5. Doppler Weather Radar

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Minister of State for Earth Science informed that there are currently 47 Doppler weather radars (DWRs) across the country to survey weather patterns and forecast



About Doppler Weather Radar

- A Doppler radar is a specialized radar that uses the Doppler effect to produce velocity data about objects at a distance.
- These radar systems can provide **information regarding the movement of targets as well as their position.**

Working of Doppler weather Radars

- In radars, a beam of energy, called **radio waves, is emitted from an antenna.**
- When this beam strikes an object in the atmosphere, the energy scatters in all directions, with some reflecting directly back to the radar.
- The larger the object deflecting the beam, the greater is the amount of energy that the radar receives in return.
- Observing the time required for the beam to be transmitted and returned to the radar allows weather forecasting departments to “see” raindrops in the atmosphere, and measure their distance from the radar.
- Types of weather Radar Bands: Varying frequencies like **S-band, C-band and X-band** — are commonly used by the IMD in India.

Applications of Doppler weather Radars

- It is used to track the movement of weather systems and cloud bands, and gauge rainfall over its coverage area of **about 500 km.**
- An X-band radar is used to detect thunderstorms and lightning, whereas a C-band radar helps in cyclone tracking

21th Dec 2025

1. Netherlands
2. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
3. Kavachi Volcano
4. Bharat Taxi Initiative
5. Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

1. Netherlands

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Indian defence Minister and the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands reaffirmed the strong and steadily expanding defence partnership between the two nations

Q1. Consider the following straits/seas:

1. English Channel
2. Skagerrak
3. Kattegat
4. Strait of Dover

Which of the above connect the North Sea with other water bodies?

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

Answer: B. 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation: Countries bordering the North Sea are United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium

- English Channel / Strait of Dover → Connects North Sea with the Atlantic Ocean
- Skagerrak → Connects North Sea with Kattegat → Baltic Sea
- Kattegat does NOT directly connect with the North Sea

Netherlands

Location: It is a country located in **Northwestern Europe**,

Bordering Countries: It is bordered by **Germany** in the east; and **Belgium** in the south.

Maritime Borders: it is bounded by the **North Sea** in the north and west.

Capital City: **Amsterdam**

Geographical Features of Netherlands

- ▶ Three primary geographic regions form the Netherlands:
- ▶ The Lowlands
- ▶ Veluwe & Utrecht Hill Ridge
- ▶ Limburg Hills

Rivers: Rhine, Meuse, and Scheldt.

Port of Rotterdam is the country's ports along the North Sea

Climate: Temperate; Marine; Cool Summers and Mild Winters

Natural resources:

- Natural Gas
- Petroleum
- Peat
- Limestone
- Salt

Natural Gas

Petroleum

Peat

Limestone

Salt

Vaalserberg
Highest point on continental Netherlands at 322 m



2. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

WHY IN NEWS The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, recently extended his greetings to all personnel associated with the Sashastra Seema Bal on their Raising Day

About Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- The Sashastra Seema Bal, previously known as the Special Service Bureau, was established on 15 March 1963 after the Sino-Indian Conflict of 1962.
- It was created with the objective of guarding India's international borders with Nepal and Bhutan.
- SSB is a part of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Role of SSB:

- The primary responsibility of SSB is to protect the safety of India's designated borders with neighbouring nations Nepal and Bhutan.
- To foster an understanding of security among people residing in those border communities.
- To stop smuggling, illegal immigration, and other transnational crimes.
- To stop unlawful entry or exit on or from the Indian Border.
- To implement social responsibility initiatives in the relevant jurisdiction, for instance, establishing schools, buildings, restrooms, and roads by a border region development plan.
- To perform any additional tasks, such as UN missions, Law & Order missions, Counter The uprising Operations, Election duty, the central government may assign.
- Organisation: Headed by a Director General (IPS officer or senior CAPF officer); includes infantry-style battalions, specialized units (engineering, signals, medical, dog squads), and training centers

3. Kavachi Volcano

WHY IN NEWS Scientists recently reported a rare footage showing sharks living inside Kavachi volcano near the Solomon Islands, challenging assumptions about marine survival in extreme volcanic environments

Q1. Consider the following statements about Kavachi Volcano:

1. It is a submarine volcano that frequently erupts above sea level.
2. It is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire.
3. It has permanently formed a large island above sea level.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Kavachi is **submarine** and eruptions often **break the sea surface**
- It lies along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**
- Any island formed is **temporary** and quickly eroded

4. Bharat Taxi Initiative

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Government of India has launched Bharat Taxi initiative



Kavachi Volcano
Shallow Submarine Volcano in the South Pacific Ocean

Location: South of Remote Vangunu Island in the Solomon Islands

Pacific Ring of Fire: Sits on the tectonically active Pacific Ring of Fire

It is one of the world's few active undersea volcanoes
Has **Erupting Regularly for Many Years**
Unpredictable & Temporary Island-Building Events
Eruptions Produce **Steam, Ash, Lava & Water Discoloration**
New Islands Form But Quickly Erode Due to Wave Action
Documented Eruptions Recorded Since 1939

Documented Eruptions
Natural Gas Petroleum
Peat Limestone Salt

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Taxi Initiative:

1. It is a digital platform providing taxi services across major tourist destinations.
2. It aims to integrate local taxi operators into a national network.
3. It is a subsidy scheme for electric vehicle purchase.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Bharat Taxi is a **technology-enabled taxi aggregation platform**
- It integrates **local cab operators**
- It is **not an EV subsidy scheme**

5. Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

WHY IN NEWS Forest authorities recently arrested 53 persons for attempting to encroach upon protected land within the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh

About Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

- It is located in the state of Chhattisgarh.
- It was established by joining the regions represented by **Sitanadi and Udanti** wildlife sanctuaries.
- The drainage system of the reserve consists of the Mahanadi as the main river, along with the **Udanti, Sitanadi, Indravan, and Pairs Rivers as tributaries.**
- The location of the reserve is strategic since it also connects with the Kanker and North Kondagaon forest divisions, forming a contiguous forest corridor to Indravati Tiger Reserve in the Bastar region.
- It covers an area of about 1,842 sq.km.
- There are **19 named mountains** in the reserve. Deo Dongri is the highest point. The most prominent mountain is **Atānga Dongar**



Bharat Taxi Initiative
A First-of-its-kind Cooperative-Driven, Citizen-First National Ride-Hailing Initiative

Developed Under the Union Ministry of Cooperation & National e-Governance Division (NeGD)

India's First Cooperative Taxi Network
Enabling Drivers to Become Shareholders & Co-Owners

Jointly Promoted By Leading Cooperative & Financial Institutions
NCDC, IFFCO, KIRBHCO, NABARD, NDDDB, NDDDB and NCEL

Jointly Promoted By Leading Cooperative & Financial Institutions

Driver-Owned Fleet: Drivers can purchase shares and become cooperative members, giving them transparency and decision-making power.

Zero Commission: Unlike private cab aggregators that take a large cut, Bharat Taxi transfers the full fare to the driver.

Transparent, No-Surge Pricing: Fares will remain predictable, with no surge charges.

Deep Digital Integration: Services will connect with government platforms such as DigiLocker, UMANG and API Setu

Platform Integration & Technical Architecture. Integration of the: DigiLocker, UMANG, API Setu

Key Features of Bharat Taxi

- Driver-Owned Fleet:** Drivers can purchase shares and become cooperative members, giving them transparency and decision-making power.
- Transparent, No-Surge Pricing:** Fares will remain predictable, with no surge charges.
- Security, Compliance & Infrastructure:** Ensuring adherence to Government of India's data protection norms and cybersecurity stand. and advising on robust technical infrastructure.

About Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve: It is in the Gariaband district of Chhattisgarh. It was established in 2008-09 by merging two separate wildlife sanctuaries (Udanti and Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuaries).



22th Dec 2025

1. Syria
2. Raccoon Roundworm
3. World Anti-Doping Agency
4. Southern Ocean

1. Syria

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the US military carried out a strike against the Islamic State group in Syria

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Golan Heights:

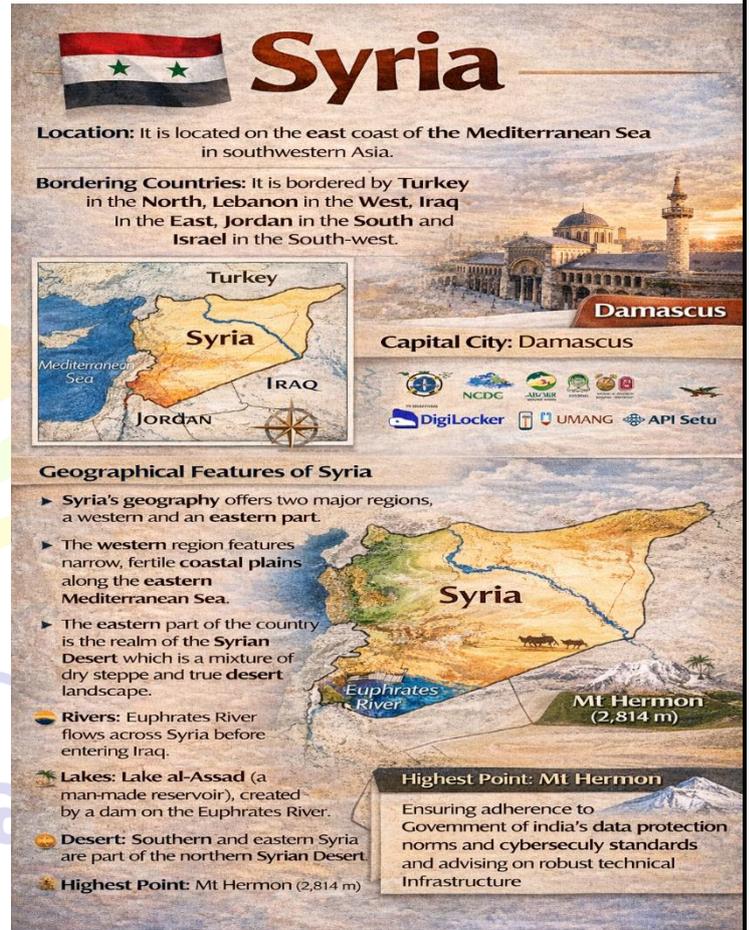
1. It is located between Israel and Syria.
2. It overlooks the Jordan Rift Valley.
3. It provides strategic military advantage due to its elevation.

Which of the statements given above 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

ನಮ್ಮ ಭೋರ್ಸೆಟ್



2. Raccoon Roundworm

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Europe is on alert after a new study revealed the raccoon roundworm, *Baylisascaris procyonis*, has firmly taken hold in wild raccoons across nine countries

About Raccoon Roundworm

- The raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) is the common large roundworm or ascarid found in the small intestinal tract of raccoons.
- It infects raccoons in parts of North America, Europe and Japan, and less commonly in South America.



- The parasite is indigenous to North America and emerging in Europe and Asia after the introduction of North American raccoons for the commercial fur trade in the early 20th century.
- It can cause severe disease in humans and other animals.
- Primary Hosts of Raccoon Roundworm: Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), Wild and domestic canids

WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

World Anti-Doping Agency

Established in 1999 as an international independent agency to lead a collaborative worldwide movement for doping-free sport.

Role: To develop, harmonize and coordinate anti-doping rules and policies across all sports and countries.

Headquarter: Montreal, Canada

Governance Structure of World Anti-Doping Agency

Foundation Board (Board)

- ▶ Consists of 42 member and it is the agency's highest policy-making body, is jointly composed of:
 - Olympic Movement: IOC
 - National Olympic Committees.
 - International Sports Federations, and athletes).
 - Representatives of governments from all five continents

Executive Committee (ExCo)

- ▶ Consists of 16 member to which the Board delegates the management and running of the agency, including the performance of all its activities and the administration of its assets

Governance Structure of World Anti-Doping Agency

Foundation Board (Board)

- ▶ Consists of 42 member and it is the agency's highest policy-making body, is jointly composed of: representatives of the

Executive Committee (Exco)

- ▶ Consists of 16 member to which the Board delegates the management and running of all its activities and the administration of its assets

3. World Anti-Doping Agency

WHY IN NEWS Recently, for the third consecutive year, India has topped the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) global list of offenders

Q1. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established in:

- A. 1989
- B. 1995
- C. 1999
- D. 2005

Answer: C. 1999

4. Southern Ocean

WHY IN NEWS Recently, scientists have found the Southern Ocean mitigates global surface warming by taking up a large portion of the carbon released by human activities

About Southern Ocean

- The Southern Ocean is also known as the Antarctic Ocean, is the fourth-largest ocean by surface area.
- The International Hydrographic Organization describes the Southern Ocean as the World Ocean's southernmost portion.
- It is located on the lower end of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Ocean, and includes the tributary seas around the Antarctic region.
- It is known for its strong winds, intense storms, dramatic seasonal changes and cold temperatures.
- It is dominated by the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) which is the longest, strongest, deepest-reaching current on earth.
- Formation: It was formed around 34 million years ago when Antarctica and South America drifted apart, creating the Drake Passage.

- Biodiversity: Powerful currents, cold temperatures and nutrient and oxygen-rich waters make the Southern Ocean one of the most productive marine ecosystems on Earth.

Role of Southern Ocean

- It plays an important role in the circulation of water around the globe.
- It also plays a key role in regulating the earth's climate through its currents, seasonal sea ice and by absorbing heat and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

23th Dec 2025

1. Anjadip Ship
2. Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) Mission
3. Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI).
4. Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
5. Bhima River

1. Anjadip Ship

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the 'Anjadip' Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft was delivered to the Indian Navy at Chennai

Q1. The primary operational role of INS Anjadip includes:

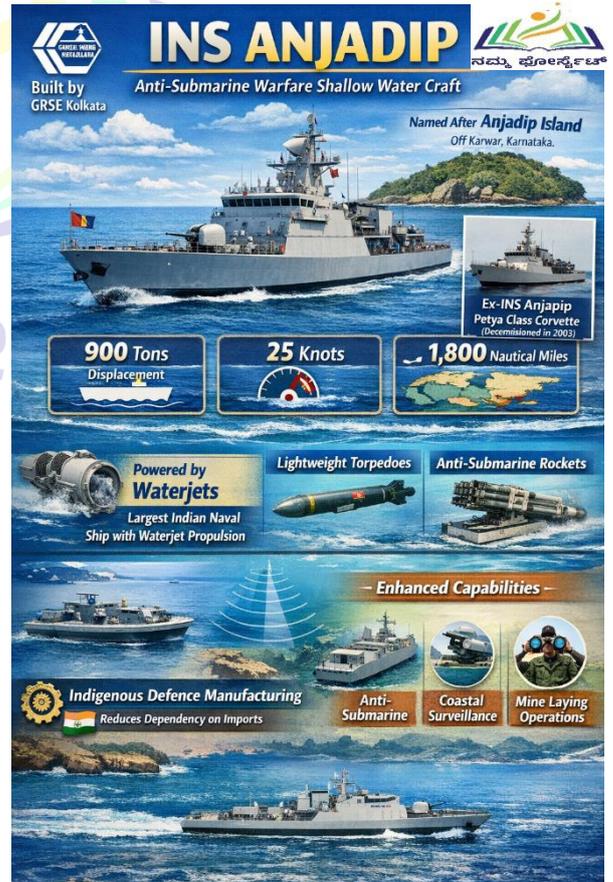
1. Anti-submarine warfare
2. Coastal surveillance
3. Mine laying in deep seas

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation: ASW-SWC ships are meant for **anti-submarine operations and coastal surveillance**, especially in **shallow waters**, not deep-sea mine laying.



2. Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) Mission

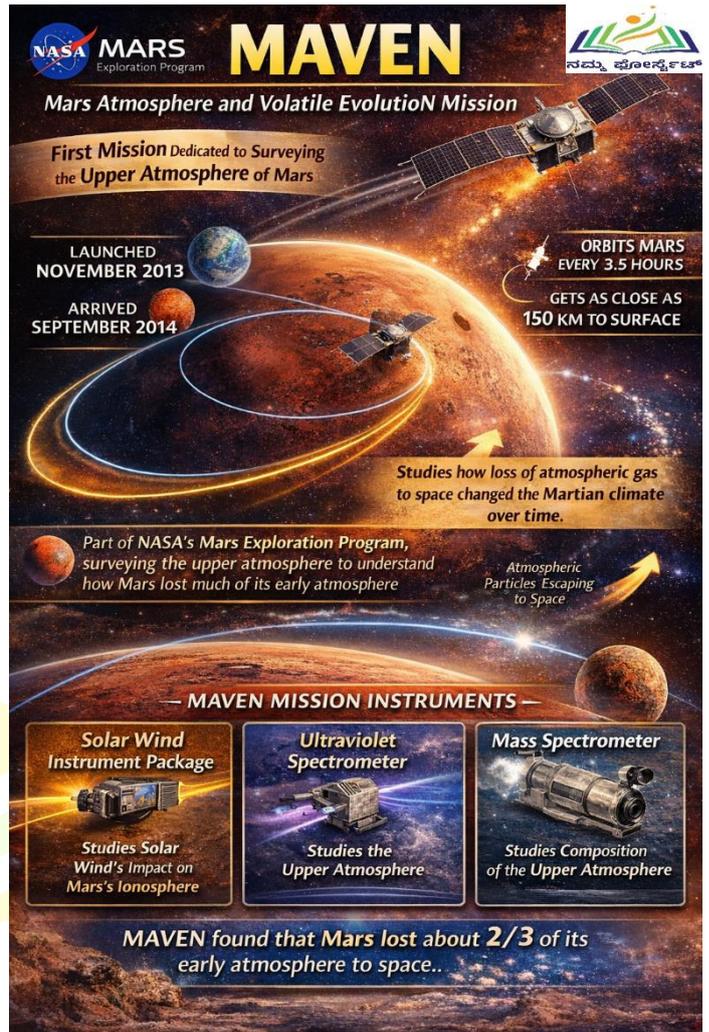
WHY IN NEWS NASA has lost contact with its Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft, the Mars orbiter that has worked for more than a decade to study how the planet's atmosphere is escaping into space

Q1. The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission was launched by:

- A. ISRO
- B. NASA
- C. ESA
- D. CNSA

Answer: B. NASA

Explanation: MAVEN is a NASA mission dedicated to studying the Martian atmosphere.



3. Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI).

WHY IN NEWS The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) recently said that the financial fraud risk indicator (or FRI) has prevented potential losses of ₹660 crore across the banking ecosystem within six months of the rollout of this initiative

4. Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court recently declined urgent hearing of a plea against the practice of state-sponsored ceremonial honours or offering a 'Chadar' by the Prime Minister at the Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, in Ajmer

Q1. Consider the following statements about Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti:

1. He emphasized love, compassion, and service to humanity.
2. He avoided royal patronage and lived a simple life.
3. He propagated Islam through force and state power.

Which of the statements given above 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

Explanation: Chishti Sufism stressed peaceful propagation, not force

KHWAJA MOINUDDIN CHISHTI
Also Known as **Gharīb Nawāz** "Benefactor of the Poor"
Also Known as **Gharīb Nawāz** "Benefactor of the Poor"

Birth & Early Learning

- Born in 1141 CE in Sistan, Persia.
- Studied in Samarkand & Bukhara, famed Islamic learning centres

Came to India around 1192 AD

- Settled in Ajmer.

His Shrine

- Passed away in 1236 CE, buried in Ajmer.

The Chishti Order's Beliefs

The Chishti Order is a branch of Sufism. Sufism is a way of Islam that focuses on finding a deeper, personal connection with God.

Started by saint **Abu Ishaq Shami** in Chisht, Afghanistan

Thrives in Afghanistan, India & South Asia

The Chishti Order

- Started by saint Abu Ishaq Shami in Chisht.
- Thrives in Afghanistan, India & South Asia

- Love for all people
- Helping the poor and needy.
- Living a simple life
- Being tolerant and peaceful.
- Listening to spiritual music called **Qawwali**, to feel closer to God

Started by saint **Abu Ishaq Shami** in Chisht, Afghanistan

Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Assess Risks in Real Time

BHIMA RIVER
Largest Tributary of the Krishna River

Originates Near **Bhimashankar Temple** in the Western Ghats

Drainage Area

- Western Ghats (west)
- Balaghat Range (north)
- Mahadeo Hills (south)
- Total basin area of 48,631 sq.km.
- 75% lies in the state of Maharashtra

Major Tributaries of Bhima River

Right Bank:

- Indrayani River
- Mula River
- Mutha River
- Pavana River

Left Bank:

- Sina & Nira

Drainage Area:

- Western Ghats (west)
- Balaghat Range (north)
- Mahadeo Hills (south)

Spiritual Significance:

Pandharpur is an important pilgrimage centre located on the right bank of the Bhima River.

Indrayani River | Mula River | Mutha River | Pavana River

5. Bhima River

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Karnataka government urged the central government's intervention over Maharashtra's excess use of Bhima river water

Q1. The Bhima River flows through which of the following states?

1. Maharashtra
2. Karnataka
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Telangana

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

24th Dec 2025

1. SHAKTI Scholars Young Research Fellowship
2. India's Largest Circular Stone Labyrinth
3. Akash-NG Missile System
4. Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR).
5. INSV Kaundinya

1. SHAKTI Scholars Young Research Fellowship

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the National Commission for Women launched 'SHAKTI Scholars' young research fellowship on women-centric policy issues

Q1. Which of the following thematic areas are included under the SHAKTI Scholars Fellowship?

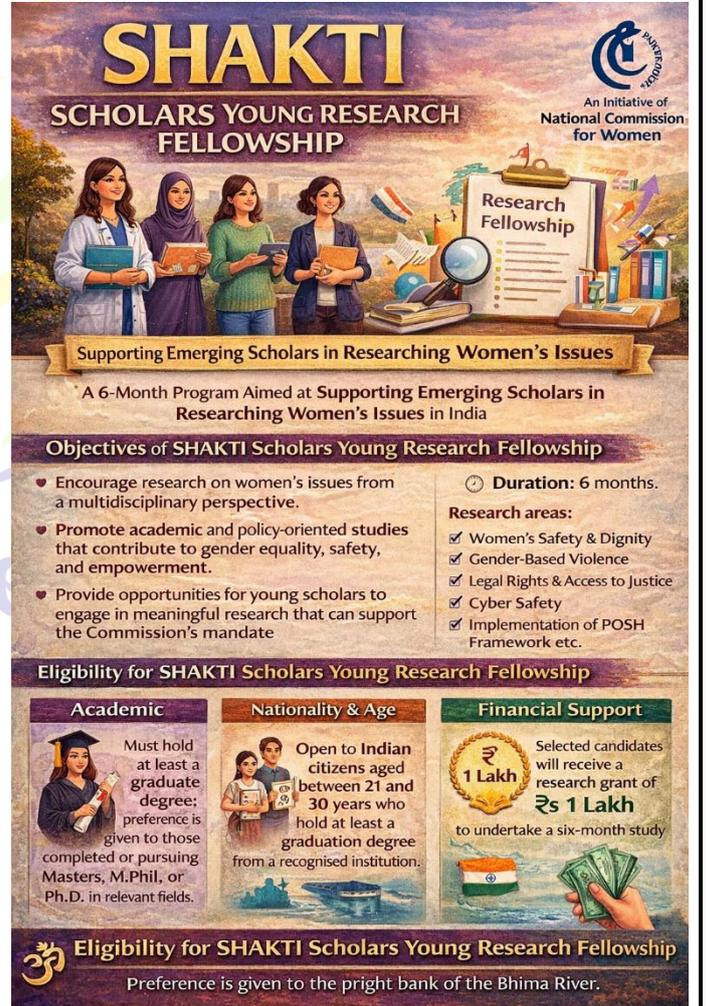
1. Women's safety and dignity
2. Cyber safety and POSH implementation
3. Space science and astrophysics

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation: The fellowship covers women's safety, dignity, gender-based violence, legal rights, cyber safety, POSH implementation, leadership, economic empowerment, etc., but not space science.



SHAKTI SCHOLARS YOUNG RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Supporting Emerging Scholars in Researching Women's Issues
A 6-Month Program Aimed at Supporting Emerging Scholars in Researching Women's Issues in India

Objectives of SHAKTI Scholars Young Research Fellowship

- ♥ Encourage research on women's issues from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- ♥ Promote academic and policy-oriented studies that contribute to gender equality, safety, and empowerment.
- ♥ Provide opportunities for young scholars to engage in meaningful research that can support the Commission's mandate

Duration: 6 months.

Research areas:

- ✓ Women's Safety & Dignity
- ✓ Gender-Based Violence
- ✓ Legal Rights & Access to Justice
- ✓ Cyber Safety
- ✓ Implementation of POSH Framework etc.

Eligibility for SHAKTI Scholars Young Research Fellowship

Academic	Nationality & Age	Financial Support
Must hold at least a graduate degree; preference is given to those completed or pursuing Masters, M.Phil. or Ph.D. in relevant fields.	Open to Indian citizens aged between 21 and 30 years who hold at least a graduation degree from a recognised institution.	Selected candidates will receive a research grant of ₹ 1 Lakh to undertake a six-month study

Eligibility for SHAKTI Scholars Young Research Fellowship
Preference is given to the pright bank of the Bhima River.

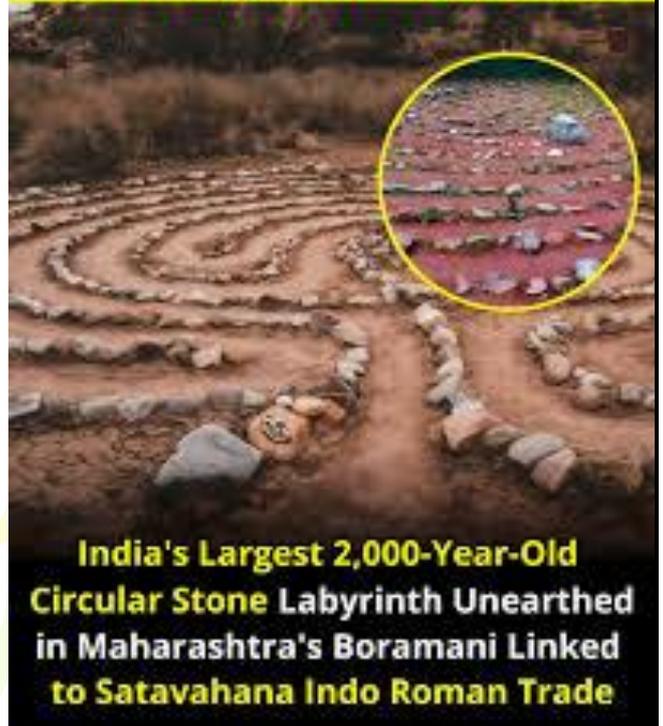
2. India's Largest Circular Stone Labyrinth

WHY IN NEWS Archaeologists recently discovered a remarkable circular stone labyrinth in the Boramani grasslands of Solapur, Maharashtra, identified as the largest of its kind ever recorded in India

About India's Largest Circular Stone Labyrinth

- It was discovered in the **Boramani grasslands of Solapur, Maharashtra.**
- It is approximately 50 feet by 50 feet in size and has **15 concentric circles** formed from small stone blocks.
- The rings guide movement inward toward a tightly coiled spiral at the center, creating a design that reflects both precision and symbolic intent.
- This structure dates back **to nearly 2,000 years ago** and is linked to Indo-Roman trade during the Satavahana dynasty period.
- The presence of soil accumulation between the stone rings shows that this structure has remained untouched for several centuries.
- Its design resembles classical labyrinth forms found in Mediterranean cultures, including motifs seen on **Roman-era coins**, while also incorporating a central spiral associated in India with the concept of the **Chakravyuh.**
- The Chakravyūha is a complex military formation described in the **Hindu epic Mahabharata, designed to encircle** and overwhelm enemies through multiple defensive layers

HISTORIC DISCOVERY!



AKASH-NG MISSILE SYSTEM
NEXT-GENERATION SURFACE-TO-AIR DEFENCE

Developed by DRDO
Produced by BDL



AKASH-NG MISSILE

LIGHTER & ADVANCED
350 KG (VS 720 KG ORIGINAL)

RF SEEKER | DUAL-PULSE ROCKET MOTOR | ADVANCED RADARS | C2 SYSTEMS

RANGE: UP TO 30 KM
ALTITUDE: UP TO 18 KM
ENGAGE UP TO **10 TARGETS** SIMULTANEOUSLY
FIRING RATE: **1 MISSILE EVERY 10 SECONDS**

MOBILE & FIXED CONFIGURATIONS



MOBILE LAUNCHER | **FIXED LAUNCHER**

3. Akash-NG Missile System

WHY IN NEWS The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed the User Evaluation Trials of the Next Generation Akash missile (Akash-NG) system recently

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Akash-NG missile:

1. It is an indigenously developed surface-to-air missile by DRDO.
2. Akash-NG has a range of approximately 50–60 km and uses a ramjet propulsion system.
3. It can simultaneously engage multiple aerial targets and is equipped with an advanced active radar seeker.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

- 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

4. Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR).

WHY IN NEWS To promote tourism and wildlife conservation, the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) administration in Kota launched a poster and trailer of a documentary entitled "Enchanting Mukundra" recently

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Mukundra Hills:

1. Mukundra Hills is a wildlife sanctuary located in Rajasthan.
2. It is known for the reintroduction of tigers under Project Tiger.
3. The Chambal River flows through this sanctuary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

- 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

MUKUNDRA HILLS TIGER RESERVE
LOCATED IN RAJASTHAN, INDIA

- Spread Across 4 Districts: Bundi, Kota, Jhalawar & Chittorgarh
- Situated in a valley formed by Mukundra & Gargola mountains
- Core/Critical Tiger Habitat: Mukundra NP, Darrah, Jawahar Sagar & part of Chambal Sanctuary
- Vital Corridor for Tiger Movement between Ranthambore & MP's Kuno NP

RIVER
• Located on the eastern bank of the Chambal River and is drained by its tributaries.

VEGETATION
• Dry Deciduous Forest
• Kala Dhok (Kaladhi), Khair, Ber, Kakan, Raurij, etc.

WILDLIFE Important fauna includes Leopard, Sloth Bear, Nilgai, Chinkara, PYTHON - RAT SNAKE BUFF-STRIPED KEELBACK GREEN KEELBACK CROCODILE GHARIAL OTTER

• Common reptiles and amphibians:
• Pythons; Rat Snake, Buff-striped keelbacks, Green Keelback, Crocodiles, Gharial, Otter, Tottle: Turtle

5. INSV Kaundinya

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Navy's pioneering stitched vessel Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Kaundinya will undertake her maiden overseas voyage

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding INSV Kaundinya:

1. INSV Kaundinya is an Indian Naval Sailing Vessel used for long-distance oceanic expeditions.
2. It was part of the first Indian circumnavigation of the globe under the Indian Navy's sailing program.
3. These vessels are primarily nuclear-powered training ships.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

INSV KAUNDINYA
TRADITIONALLY STITCHED SHIP INSPIRED BY ANCIENT MARITIME TRADITIONS

JOINT INITIATIVE OF:
INDIAN NAVY, Ministry of Culture, HODI

- Stitched ship inspired by a 5th-century vessel shown in Ajanta cave paintings
- Named after legendary mariner Kaundinya who sailed to Southeast Asia about 2,000 years ago
- Built by Kerala artisans, using coconut fibre, coir rope, wooden joinery, natural resins, and cotton sails instead of nails to stitch the parts together

Built by Kerala artisans, using coconut fibre, coir rope, wooden joinery, natural resins, and cotton sails instead of nails to stitch the parts together, reviving traditional stitching methods

"WHO WAS KAUNDINYA?"
Legendary Indian mariner who sailed to Southeast Asia about 2,000 years ago

Gandabherunda (Mythical two-headed eagle) symbol of the Kadamba dynasty.

SIGNIFICANCE
• INSV Kaundinya showcases India's ancient maritime traditions, it reflects India's historic role in trade, cultural exchange, and modern maritime diplomacy

WHO WAS KAUNDINYA?
He is a legendary Indian mariner who sailed to Southeast Asia about 2,000 years ago. Married Queen Soma and founded the Funan kingdom

Harappan-style stone anchor on the deck



ನಮ್ಮ ಭೋರ್ಸೆಟ್

ನಮ್ಮ FORESIGHT

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

Options:

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

Answer: B. 1 and 2 only

25th And 26th Dec 2025

1. K-4 Missile
2. Thanjavur Painting
3. PM-SETU Scheme.
4. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar
5. Titan
6. Rashtriya Prerna Sthal
7. Minamitori Island

1. K-4 Missile

WHY IN NEWS India tested an intermediate-range ballistic missile called K-4, which is designed to hit targets 3,500-km away, from the nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighaat in the Bay of Bengal recently. About K

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the K-4 missile:

1. It is an indigenously developed **submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)** by India.
2. K-4 has a range of around 3,500 km.
3. It is designed to be deployed on **Arihant-class nuclear submarines**.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

- 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





2. Thanjavur Painting

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Department of Posts successfully undertook the transmission of a priceless Thanjavur painting of the Shri Ram from Bengaluru to Ayodhya using its Logistics Post service

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Thanjavur painting:

1. It originated in **Tamil Nadu** during the reign of the **Chola dynasty**.
2. The paintings are characterized by the use of **gold foil, bright colors, and inlaid stones**.
3. Thanjavur paintings usually depict **Hindu gods and goddesses** in a richly decorated manner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

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

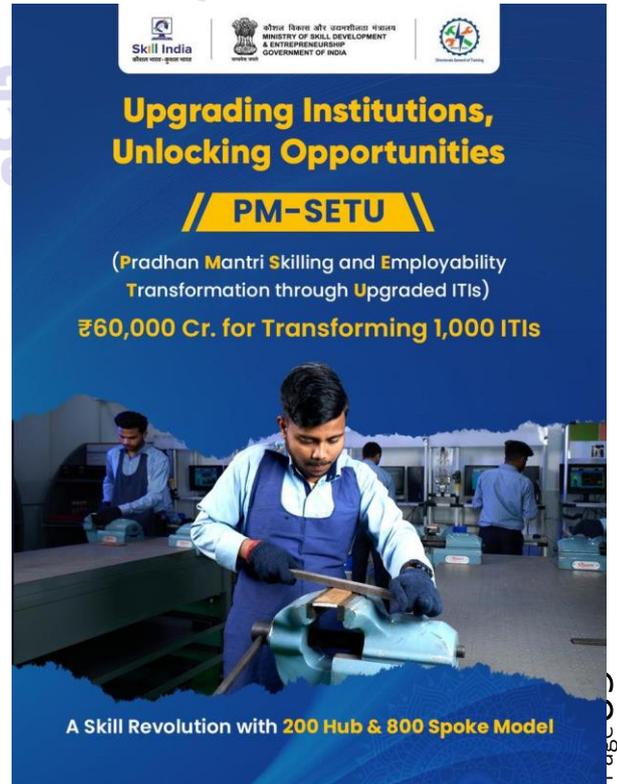
Answer: D. 1, 2, and 3

3. PM-SETU Scheme.

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has invited industry leaders to participate in the PM-SETU scheme

About PM-SETU Scheme

- Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched to strengthen India's vocational training ecosystem.
- It aims to modernise the ITI ecosystem by upgrading 1000 government ITIs across India into modern, industry-aligned training institutions
- Implementation: It is implemented as a hub-and-spoke model, with 200 hub ITIs linked to 800 spoke ITIs.
- Each hub will be equipped with advanced infrastructure, innovation and incubation centres, production units, training of



Skill India
शिक्षण और गुणवत्ता
विश्व श्रम शक्ति विकास केंद्र
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Upgrading Institutions, Unlocking Opportunities

PM-SETU

(Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs)

₹60,000 Cr. for Transforming 1,000 ITIs

A Skill Revolution with **200 Hub & 800 Spoke Model**

trainer facilities, and placement services, while the spokes will extend access and outreach.

- Financial outlay: ₹60,000 crore, over a five- year period.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR
PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL HONOUR FOR CHILDREN

CONFERRED ANNUALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

ORGANISED BY MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AWARDED FOR EXCEPTIONAL EXCELLENCE IN

BRAVERY • ART & CULTURE • ENVIRONMENT • SOCIAL SERVICE • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

ELIGIBILITY FOR PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR

A CHILD SHOULD BE AN INDIAN CITIZEN

AGE: A CHILD ABOVE THE AGE OF 5 YEARS AND NOT EXCEEDING 18 YEARS (AS OF 31ST JULY OF RESPECTIVE YEAR)

ACT/ACHIEVEMENT SHOULD BE WITHIN 2 YEARS OF LAST DATE OF APPLICATION/ NOMINATION

NUMBER OF AWARDS 25*
RELAXATION AT THE DISCRETION OF NATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

EACH AWARDEE RECEIVES:
• A MEDAL • A CERTIFICATE • CITATION BOOKLET

MAY BE RELAXED SUBJECT TO RECOMMENDATION BY THE NATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

4. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

WHY IN NEWS President of India to confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) to children who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in diverse fields on 'Veer Bal Diwas'

5. Titan

WHY IN NEWS Saturn's largest moon, Titan, may not have a subsurface ocean after all, according to a re-examination of data captured by NASA's Cassini spacecraft, which flew by Titan dozens of times starting in 2004

Q1. Titan is a natural satellite of which planet?

- Jupiter
- Saturn
- Uranus
- Neptune

Answer: B. Saturn

Explanation: Titan is Saturn's largest moon and has a dense nitrogen-rich atmosphere, with lakes of liquid methane and ethane.

TITAN
SATURN'S LARGEST MOON

DISCOVERED BY DUTCH ASTRONOMER CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS ON MARCH 25, 1655

RADIUS 2,575 KM
50% WIDER THAN (1,600 MILES)

ONLY MOON WITH A DENSE ATMOSPHERE

ATMOSPHERE 95% NITROGEN, 5% METHANE

SECOND LARGEST MOON IN SOLAR SYSTEM
Only Jupiter's moon Ganymede is larger

HAS A CYCLE OF LIQUIDS LIKE EARTH

ORBIT & ROTATION 15 DAYS, 22 HOURS

STANDING BODIES OF LIQUID (RIVERS, LAKES, SEAS)

ORBIT & ROTATION 15 DAYS, 22 HOURS

KEY FACTS ABOUT CASSINI SPACECRAFT

JOINT PROJECT: NASA • ESA • ASI

OCTOBER 15, 1997

• CASSINI: NASA'S FIRST ORBITER OF SATURN
• HUYGENS: ESA'S PROBE LANDED ON TITAN
• ONE OF THE LARGEST INTERPLANETARY SPACECRAFT

LANDED ON TITAN, SATURN'S LARGEST MOON

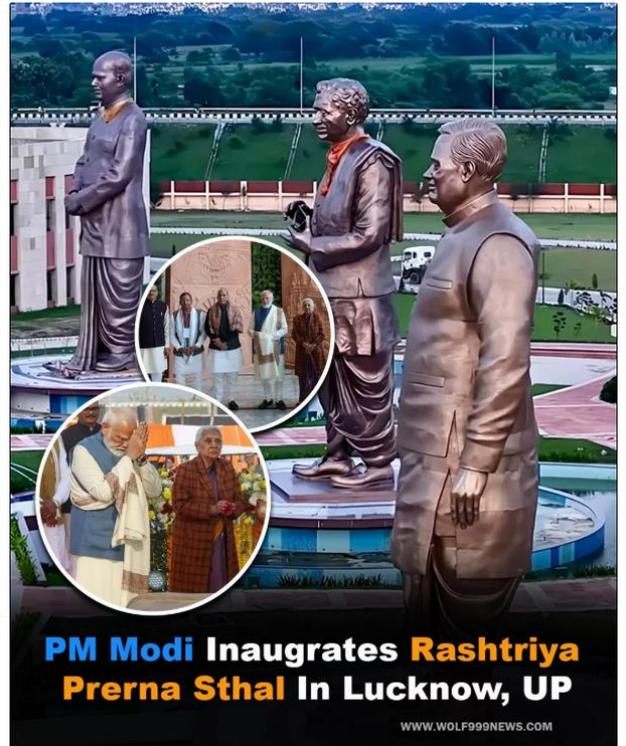
* MAY BE RELAXED SUBJECT TO RECOMMENDATION BY THE NATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

6. Rashtriya Prerna Sthal

WHY IN NEWS The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, dedicated to the life and ideals of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, marking his 101st birth anniversary

About Rashtriya Prerna Sthal

- It has been developed as a landmark national memorial and inspirational complex of enduring national significance.
- It has been dedicated to the life and ideals of former Prime Minister **Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- It is located on the banks of **the Gomti River in Lucknow**, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is spread across 65 acres.
- The sprawling complex also features **65-foot-high bronze statues of BJP ideologues Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**, alongside Vajpayee.
- Each statue weighs 42 tonnes and has a water body surrounding their platforms.
- Constructed at an approximate cost of ₹230 crore, the complex is envisioned as a permanent national asset dedicated to fostering leadership values, national service, cultural consciousness, and public inspiration.
- The complex houses a state-of-the-art museum designed in the shape of a lotus flower. It spans approximately **98,000 square feet**.
- It features five galleries and 12 interpretation walls depicting the lives, struggles, and ideologies of the three leaders



MINAMITORI ISLAND

ALSO KNOWN AS MARCUS ISLAND

1,950KM SOUTHEAST OF TOKYO

IT IS THE EASTERNMOST EDGE OF JAPAN THE ISLAND IS THE FIRST IN JAPAN TO SEE SUN

TOPOGRAPHY & FORMATION OF MINAMITORI ISLAND

SUMMIT OF A GIANT SEAMOUNT RISING FROM THE SEAFLOOR LOCATED ON THE MARCUS-NECKER RIDGE ON THE PACIFIC PLATE

PACIFIC PLATE

CLIMATE ** PARCE

COBALT-RICH CRUSTS

CLIMATE

TRANSITIONAL ZONE BETWEEN TROPICAL & STROTROPICAL CLIMATES

AVERAGE ANNUAL TEMPERATURE: 25.6°C

RESOURCES

DISCOVERED VALUABLE MARINE MINERAL RESOURCES SURROUNDING THE ISLAND

WHAT IS RARE-EARTH MUD?

- RARE-EARTH MUDS ARE PELAGIC MUDS MADE BY ACCUMULATED REMAINS OF PLANKTON IN WHICH A LARGE AMOUNT OF RARE-EARTH IS CONTAINED.
- DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE OCEAN FLOOR AS A THIN LAYER AND CANNOT BE EXCAVATED DEEPLY LIKE COAL

* MAY BE RELAXED SUBJECT TO RECOMMENDATION BY THE NATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

7. Minamitori Island

WHY IN NEWS Japan will conduct test mining of rare-earth-rich mud from the deep seabed off Minamitori Island

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Rare Earth Metals (REMs):

1. Rare earth metals are a group of 17 elements including lanthanides, scandium, and yttrium.
2. They are called "rare" because they are found only in very small quantities in the Earth's crust.
3. They are critical for the manufacture of electronics, renewable energy technologies, and defence equipment.

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

27th Dec 2025

1. Santhali Language
2. Lantana camara
3. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
4. Rabies

1. Santhali Language

WHY IN NEWS President Droupadi Murmu recently released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language at a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Santali language:

1. Santali belongs to the **Austroasiatic language family**.
2. Santali is included in the **Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**.
3. Ol Chiki is the traditional script used for writing Santali.

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

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA IN THE SANTHALI LANGUAGE

CONTEXT

Recently, the President of India released the Constitution of India in the 'Santhali language,' written in the 'Ol Chiki script' at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

SANTHALI LANGUAGE

- ⊙ One of the most ancient living languages of India.
- ⊙ Belongs to the Austro-Asiatic language family.
- ⊙ Included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution through the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003.
- ⊙ Spoken by Santhal tribal people in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar.



OI CHIKKI SCRIPT

- ⊙ The script was invented in 1925 by Raghunath Murmu.
- ⊙ Usually derived from the Mundari root (Munda language).
- ⊙ Ol refers to 'write,' and Chiki refers to 'symbols.'
- ⊙ Has thirty letters, out of which six are known as vowels and twenty-four as consonants.



WHY LANTANA CAMARA IS A PROBLEM

- > Most aggressive invasive alien species, it covers almost a third of Delhi's Ridge
- > Has invaded tropic and sub-tropical regions of all five continents
- > Introduced in India by Portuguese and others as an ornamental plant

Workers uproot lantana and put it upside down at Asola



Native to Central and South America | Spread by birds

FINAL SOLUTION

CUT ROOTSTOCK METHOD

- > Cut portion between stem and root using shovel
- > Lift and put the plant upside down
- > This creates a hormonal imbalance, so no new root is produced and lantana dries up

WHY IT'S DANGEROUS

Alters the forest eco-system	Results in failure of regeneration of forests	Has invaded several million hectares of forests in India	Rate of growth is 1.5 inches per day	Produces volatile chemical that bars insects from coming near it, except its native insect
------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2. Lantana camara

WHY IN NEWS A silent invasion of Lantana camara is underway in large parts of the world and global warming has made things easier for Lantana, helping it spread faster

3. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

WHY IN NEWS Fisher-folk recently urged the Centre to include their representatives in policymaking bodies so that their practical expertise can be utilized, without which the goal of responsible fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) cannot be achieved

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):

1. EEZ extends up to **200 nautical miles** from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured.
2. In the EEZ, the coastal State has **sovereign rights** for exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing natural resources.
3. Foreign vessels require prior permission of the coastal State for **innocent passage** through the EEZ.

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

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)
200 NAUTICAL MILES FROM COAST

UNDER 1982 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)

UNCLOS

EXTENDS 200 NAUTICAL MILES FROM COAST

TERRITORIAL SEA 12 NAUTICAL MILES

COAST STATES RIGHTS WITHIN THE EEZ

- 1. SOVEREIGN RIGHTS TO EXPLORE, EXPLOIT, CONSERVE & MANAGE NATURAL RESOURCES
- 2. JURISDICTION OVER INSTALLATIONS, ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS & MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
- 3. MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION OF FISHERIES

EXTENDS 200 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE COAST

- 4. LAY CABLES & PIPELINES
- 5. INNOCENT PASSAGE OF SHIPS
- 6. SURPLUS QUOTA SHARING

WHAT IS THE TERRITORIAL SEA?

TERRITORIAL SEA 12 NAUTICAL MILES

COASTAL NATION

FULL SOVEREIGNTY OF NATION ..

- RESOURCE USE STRICTLY RESERVED FOR COASTAL NATION
- ALL COUNTRIES HAVE THE RIGHT OF "INNOCENT PASSAGE."

* MAY BE RELAXED SUBJECT TO RECOMMENDATION BY THE NATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

RABIES

Rabies is a vaccine-preventable, zoonotic, viral disease.

Caused by **Rabies Virus (RABV)**

One of the **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD)**

TRANSMISSION
Rabies spreads via **saliva**:

- BITES
- SCRATCHES (claws)
- MUCOSA (eyes, mouth, wounds)

Rabies spreads via **saliva**:

- ✓ ETHERS, TERRALLES DETERMINE
- ✓ SURPLUS QUOTA SHARING
- ✓ COLLECT SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION OF BRAIN & SPINAL CORD
- ✓ FATAL IN 100% CASES!

SYMPTOMS
Incubation period: ~2-3 MONTHS (Varies 1 WEEK to 1 YEAR)

- FEVER
- PAIN
- TINGLING/ BURNING SENSATION at wound site.

Once symptoms appear, **RABIES is FATAL in 100% CASES!**

AFFECTS MARGINALIZED, POOR & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

ಪರಿಸ್ಪರ್ಶ
4. Rabies

WHY IN NEWS According to a paper published in One Health, of the 59,000 rabies-mediated human deaths in the world every year, India represents a third, around 20,000, and more than any other country

28th Dec 2025

1. Dulhasti Stage-II Hydropower Project
2. Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)
3. Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme
4. Somaliland

1. Dulhasti Stage-II Hydropower Project

WHY IN NEWS A panel under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently approved the 260-megawatt Dulhasti Stage-II hydropower project on the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district

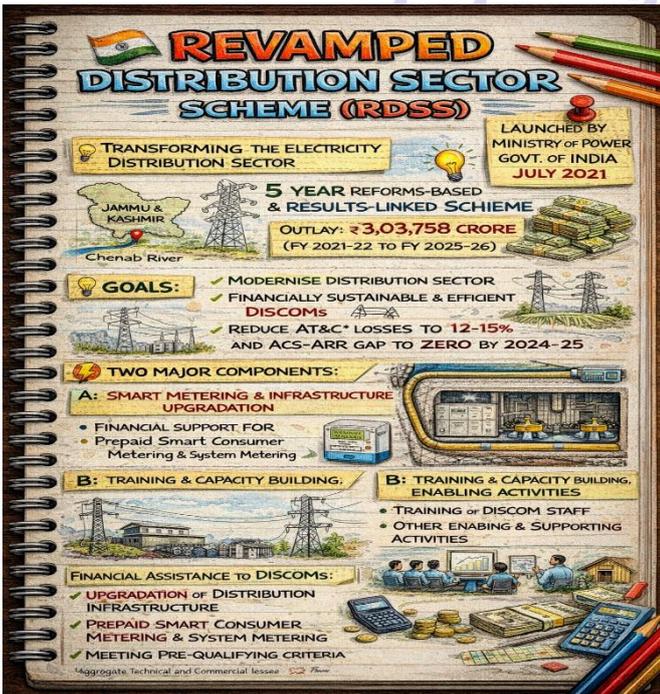
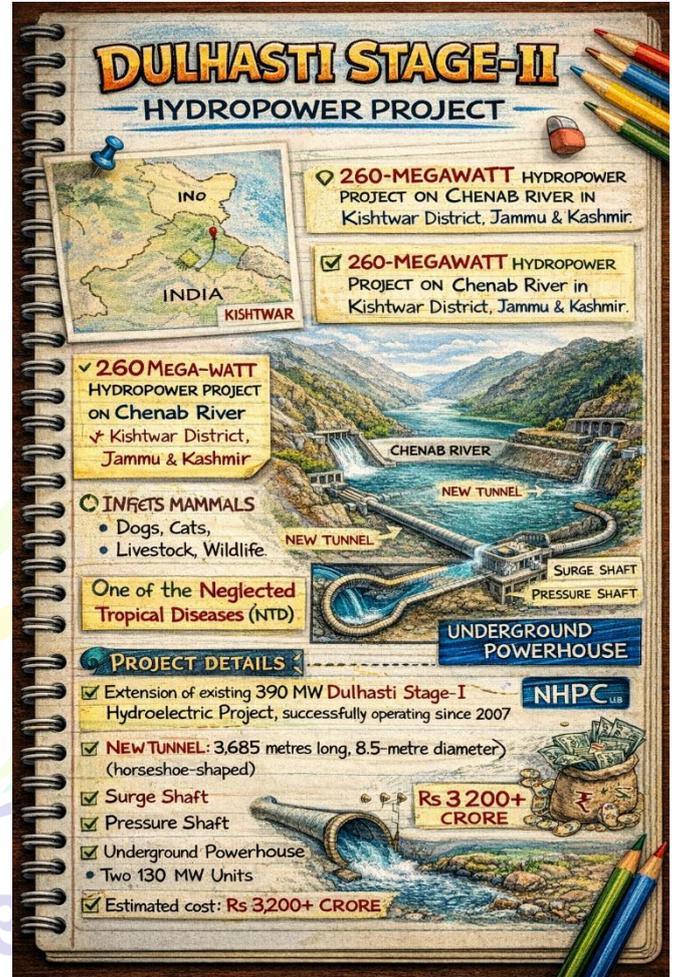
Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Chenab River:

1. It originates in the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh.
2. It is the largest tributary of the Indus River in India.
3. It flows through Jammu and Kashmir before entering Pakistan.

Which of the statements given above 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



2. Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)

WHY IN NEWS Installation of rooftop solar power plants is being expedited in Rajasthan under the revamped distribution sector scheme (RDSS) to reduce transmission and distribution losses and improve power supply quality.

3. Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) notified the operational guidelines for two major shipbuilding initiatives—the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS).

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme:

1. It provides financial assistance to Indian shipyards for building vessels.
2. The assistance is given as a percentage of the contract price of the ship.
3. It is applicable only to warships and defence vessels.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

SHIPBUILDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME (RDSS)

LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF POWER GOVT. OF INDIA JULY 2021

AIM
STRENGTHENING INDIA'S DOMESTIC SHIPBUILDING CAPACITY & IMPROVING GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

TIME PERIOD: VALID UNTIL MARCH 31, 2036

NODAL MINISTRY: MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS

FEATURES OF SHIPBUILDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**
 - 15% TO 25% PER VESSEL DEPENDING ON CATEGORY.
- GRADED SUPPORT**
 - INTRODUCES STAGE-WISE DISBURSEMENT BACKED BY SECURITY INSTRUMENTS
- SHIPBREAKING CREDIT NOTE**
 - SHIP OWNERS SCRAPPING VESSELS AT INDIAN YARDS WILL RECEIVE CREDIT EQUAL TO 40% OF THE SCRAP VALUE
- NATIONAL SHIPBUILDING MISSION**
 - ENSURES COORDINATED PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF INITIATIVES

KEY FACTS ABOUT SHIPBUILDING DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

- FOCUSES ON LONG-TERM CAPACITY & CAPABILITY CREATION
- INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**
 - DEVELOPMENT OF GREENFIELD SHIPBUILDING CLUSTERS, EXPANSION & MODERNISATION OF EXISTING BROWNFIELD SHIPYARDS
- INDIA SHIP TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**
 - ESTABLISHED UNDER INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY TO SUPPORT RESEARCH, INNOVATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- FUNDING**
 - GREENFIELD SHIPBUILDING CLUSTERS RECEIVE 100% CAPITAL SUPPORT IN CENTRE-STATE SPV
- CREDIT RISK COVERAGE**
 - INCLUDES GOVT BACKED NSURANCE COVERAGE TOR PRE SHIPMENT POST-SHIPMENT & VENDOR-DEFAULT RISKS

4. Somaliland

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Israel formally recognised the self-declared Republic of Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state.

SOMALILAND

LOCATION: HORN OF AFRICA | CAPITAL CITY: HARGEISA

BORDERED BY: DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA

BRITISH PROTECTORATE (LATE 19TH CENTURY)

26 JUNE 1960: INDEPENDENCE AS THE STATE OF SOMALILAND

UNITED WITH ITALIAN SOMALILAND ON 1 JULY 1960 TO FORM THE SOMALI REPUBLIC

MARGINALIZATION UNDER SOMALI GOVERNMENT

SIAD BARRES REPRESSIVE REGIME (1970s-80s)

CIVIL WAR & MASS DISPLACEMENT

1991: DECLARED INDEPENDENCE AFTER STATE COLLAPSE

SHIPBUILDING DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- DEVELOPMENT OF GREENFIELD SHIPBUILDING CLUSTERS, EXPANSION & MODERNISATION

PORT: BERBERA PORT DEVELOPING AS A REGIONAL TRADE & LOGISTICS CORRIDOR SERVING LANDLOCKED ETHIOPIA

ECONOMY:

- LARGELY LIVESTOCK-BASED
- EXPORTS TO GULF COUNTRIES
- FORM A MAJOR REVENUE SOURCE

* Aggregate Technical and Commercial Issues

29th Dec 2025

1. Kolleru Lake
2. INS Vagsheer
3. PM-YUVA 3.0 Scheme
4. Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary

1. Kolleru Lake

WHY IN NEWS Kolleru Lake, which is known for its rich biodiversity, is now getting recognition for its delicious black dried fish that has carved a special place for itself in both domestic and international markets

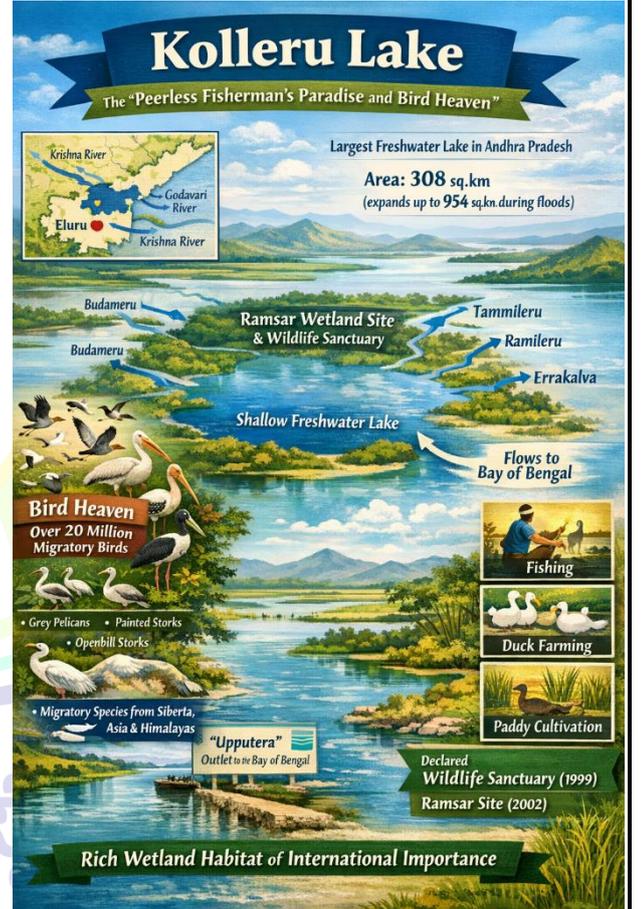
Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Kolleru Lake:

1. It is situated between the Krishna and Godavari rivers.
2. It was declared a Ramsar site in 2002.
3. It is an important wintering ground for migratory birds.

Which of the statements given above 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



2. INS Vagsheer

WHY IN NEWS President Droupadi Murmu became the second Indian President to undertake a submarine sortie, embarking on INS Vaghsheer, a Kalvari-class submarine, from Karwar naval base recently

About INS Vagsheer

- It is the **sixth submarine** of the first batch of six Kalvari-class, or **Scorpene-class**, submarines ordered by the Indian Navy **under Project-75**.
- It is named after the sandfish, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean.
- It was officially commissioned into the Indian Navy on 15 January 2025.



- It now joins its sister vessels **INS Kalvari**, **INS Khanderi**, **INS Karanj**, **INS Vela**, and **INS Vagir**, which were commissioned, respectively, in December 2017, September 2019, March 2021, November 2021, and January 2023.
- These submarines have been completely built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** through French technology transfer.

INS Vagsheer Features

- It boasts advanced stealth technologies, including reduced radiated noise levels and sophisticated hydrodynamic design, making it one of the quietest submarines in the world.
- The **67.5-metre vessel** reaches speeds of 20 knots submerged, dives to over 350 metres, and endures up to 50 days at sea.
- Armed with torpedoes, anti-ship missiles, and mine-laying capabilities, it excels in anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, and surveillance.
- It consists of indigenously developed systems like the air-conditioning plant, internal communication network, and the Ku-Band SATCOM system.
- It can accommodate 8 officers and 35 sailors and is fitted with an anti-torpedo countermeasure system

3. PM-YUVA 3.0 Scheme

WHY IN NEWS The results of the Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors (PM-YUVA 3.0) have been declared, with 43 young authors selected through an All-India contest

Q1. PM-YUVA 3.0 Scheme is primarily aimed at:

- Promoting start-ups among rural youth
- Developing young authors and promoting reading, writing, and book culture
- Providing scholarships for foreign education
- Skill training in digital technologies

Answer: B. Developing young authors and promoting reading, writing, and book culture

Explanation: PM-YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) focuses on **mentoring young writers** and strengthening India's **reading and writing ecosystem**.

PM-YUVA 3.0 SCHEME
— Mentoring Young Authors —

KEY THEMES

- Indian Diaspora in Nation Building
- Indian Knowledge System
- Makers of Modern India (1950-2025)

SELECTION PROCESS

APPLY VIA MyGov Portal → 50 Young Authors Shortlisted → Submit 10,000 Word Proposal → Multi-Stage Evaluation

Not Eligible: PM-YUVA 1.0 & 2.0 Alumni

MENTORSHIP & SUPPORT

- 6 Months Mentorship Program
- ₹50,000/Month Scholarship (₹3 Lakh Total)
- Books Published by NBT, India

NATIONAL CAMP
At New Delhi World Book Fair 2026

LITERARY FESTIVALS & INTERNATIONAL FORUMS
+ Present Your Work Globally +

4. Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary

WHY IN NEWS The Government has declared the Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh as an Eco sensitive zone.

About Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary

- Location: It is situated in **Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh.**
- It is a permanent freshwater environment consisting of two oxbow lakes namely Parvati and Arga.
- It is designated as Ramsar site.
- Fauna: It is **the critically endangered white-rumped** vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*), and the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) have all been recorded.
- Invasive species such as the common water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is also found here.
- Flora: The Vegetation of the Sanctuary is representative of that of the indo-gangetic ecosystem

30th And 31st Dec 2025

1. Aravalli Hills
2. Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 Submits Final Report
3. Kaimur wildlife sanctuary
4. Justice Mission 2025

1. Aravalli Hills

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court has paused its earlier judgment accepting a restrictive definition of the Aravalli Hills and has proposed a re-examination through a high-powered expert committee

Q1. Which of the following rivers originates from the Aravalli Range?

1. Banas
2. Luni
3. Sabarmati
4. Mahi

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

THE ARAVALLI MOUNTAIN RANGE

India's oldest mountain range has been a crucial ecological barrier yet faces legal and conservation challenges

~ 690 km

Rajasthan, Haryana and Haryana to Delhi

Stretching over approx. **690 km**
From Gujarat through India to Delhi

ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Prevent Eastward Expansion of Thar Desert

Regulate Climate & Rainfall Patterns

Recharge Groundwater Aquifers

and support diverse flora & fauna and sustain rural livelihoods

LEGAL COMPLEXITIES OVER DEFINITION

Ambiguities in definition have led to prolonged court battles

- ✔ Uneven protection due to multiple court orders and expert panel definitions
- ✔ 2025 Supreme Court upheld government expert panel's restrictive definition:
- ✔ Elevation of 100+ meters ✔ Hill clusters, slopes, hillocks within 500 meters

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS & CONCERNS

DECEMBER 2025: Supreme Court put definition in abeyance

- ✔ Protest concerns that restrictive definition (100+m elevation, 500m clustering) could exclude ecologically vital hills in Rajasthan, Haryana, UP.
- ✔ Fresh or renewed mining leases in the Aravallis prohibited without Supreme Court approval

2. Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 Submits Final Report

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC-2) has submitted its 10th and final report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Q1. The recommendations of the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission mainly aimed at:

- Increasing bureaucratic control
- Improving efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness of administration
- Expanding legislative powers
- Reducing citizen participation

Answer: B. Improving efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness of administration

Explanation: The core objective was **good governance** through efficiency, transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric administration.

KARC-2 FINAL REPORT (RV DESHPANDE COMMISSION)

Background:

- Chaired by RV Deshpande,
- Formed for governance, staffing & financial reforms
- Commission to dissolve after final report



355 RECOMMENDATIONS

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS

- Karnataka has **2,874** accounts
- Around **1,000** heads with ₹0 allocation to be abolished/merged
- About **230** heads with < ₹1 allocation
- 396** heads related to loan repayment should be merged

♥ **35%+** administrative expenditure signals inefficiency

SCHEMES & BUDGETING

- Merge state schemes overlapping with central schemes
- Discontinue ineffective/inactive schemes
- Identify dormant accounts based on:
 - Expenditure (2023-24)
 - Revised Estimates (2024-25)
 - Budget Estimates (2025-26)
- Abolition of unnecessary account heads will improve:
 - Budget preparation
 - Fund release & expenditure monitoring
 - Error reduction & transparency

RECRUITMENT & STAFFING

- Annual recruitment for **70,000+** vacant posts made mandatory
- Special care to avoid shortages in:
 - Urban Development
 - Revenue
 - Rural Development
 - Health Departments

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

- Set up Reforms Monitoring Unit (RMU) under DPAR
- Quarterly reviews: Chief Secretary
- Annual reviews: Chief Minister
- Monitoring using online tracking for transparency

3. Kaimur wildlife sanctuary

WHY IN NEWS The Bihar government has approved a revised proposal to notify Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary as a [Tiger Reserve](#), which will now be sent to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for final clearance.

Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary

Location:

- Spread across **Kaimur district** of Bihar, and partly in **Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts** of Uttar Pradesh.
- Lies in the **Kaimur Hills**, which are part of the **Vindhya Range**.

Area:

- Covers approximately 1,150–1,200 km².

Established:

- Declared as a **wildlife sanctuary** in 1979.

Flora:

- Typical **tropical dry deciduous forest**.
- Dominated by **Sal, Teak, Khair, Bamboo**, and other native species.

Fauna:

- Mammals:** Leopard, Sloth Bear, Hyena, Jackal, Nilgai, Sambar, Chinkara.
- Birds:** Peafowl, Partridge, Pheasant, and other local and migratory species.
- Reptiles & Amphibians:** Snakes, Monitor lizard, Turtles.

Rivers & Water Sources:

- Streams from **Kaimur Hills** provide perennial water.
- Includes seasonal rivers and waterfalls, enhancing biodiversity.

4. Justice Mission 2025

WHY IN NEW China conducted large-scale live-fire military drills named “Justice Mission 2025” around Taiwan, including missile launches, fighter jet sorties, and naval deployments.



JUSTICE MISSION 2025
China's Offensive Military Exercise Around Taiwan

WHAT IS IT?

- ▶ High-intensity, two-day PLA military exercise involving live-fire missile launches, air and naval manoeuvres
- ▶ Simulates **blockade** and **precision strikes** against Taiwan's ports and maritime targets

LOCATION:

- ▶ Around Taiwan, including waters to the north and south of the island
- ▶ Missile launches from **Pingtan Island**, closest Chinese territory to Taiwan

NATIONS INVOLVED:

- China**
People's Liberation Army
 - ✓ Ground forces, Air force
 - ✓ Missile units

AIM:

- ▶ Deter Taiwan's independence assertions
- ▶ Warn US and allies against military support / arms sales to Taiwan
- ▶ Show China's ability to blockade and isolate Taiwan in conflict

KEY FEATURES:

- ▶ Live-fire missile launches at surrounding waters
- ▶ Joint air, sea, missile, and ground force operations
- ▶ Naval deployments simulating maritime blockade/anti-submarine
- ▶ Among largest drills near Taiwan in recent years

IMPLICATIONS:

- ▶ Heightened regional tension
Raises risk of miscalculation in the Taiwan Strait
- ▶ US-China rivalry
Reinforces strategic competition over Taiwan's security
- ▶ East Asian security impact
Concerns for Japan, ASEAN & global trade routes

1. Human milk bank

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka has announced plans to establish human milk banks in all district hospitals, aiming to combat infant malnutrition and support preterm and underweight babies whose mothers are unable to breastfeed.

Q1. Which immunoglobulin present in breast milk provides mucosal immunity to infants?

- A. IgG
- B. IgM
- C. IgA
- D. IgE

Answer: C. IgA



Human Milk Banks
 Nourishing Karnataka's Infants

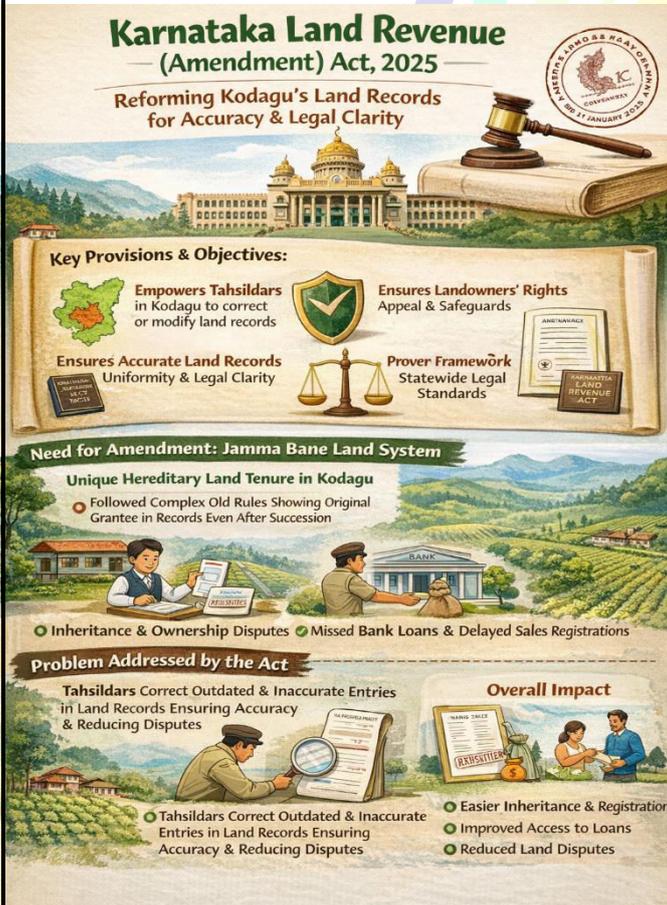
Current Status & Expansion Plans:
 12 Operational
 8 More Planned
 Supported by National Health Mission

Statewide Expansion By Dec 2025
 "A Milk Bank in Every District Hospital by December 2025"
 Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao

What is a Human Milk Bank?
 Collects Donated Breast Milk
 Screens & Pasteurizes
 Provides to Preterm & Underweight Babies
 Provides to Preterm & Underweight Babies

Why They Matter:
Nutrition: Vital Proteins & Antibodies
Health: Reduces Malnutrition & Infections
Support: Helps Babies in Need

Thousands of Babies Helped!



Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 2025
 Reforming Kodagu's Land Records for Accuracy & Legal Clarity

Key Provisions & Objectives:
 Empowers Tahsildars in Kodagu to correct or modify land records
 Ensures Accurate Land Records Uniformity & Legal Clarity
 Ensures Landowners' Rights Appeal & Safeguards
 Prover Framework Statewide Legal Standards

Need for Amendment: Jamma Bane Land System
 Unique Hereditary Land Tenure in Kodagu
 Followed Complex Old Rules Showing Original Grantee in Records Even After Succession
 Inheritance & Ownership Disputes
 Missed Bank Loans & Delayed Sales Registrations

Problem Addressed by the Act
 Tahsildars Correct Outdated & Inaccurate Entries in Land Records Ensuring Accuracy & Reducing Disputes
 Tahsildars Correct Outdated & Inaccurate Entries in Land Records Ensuring Accuracy & Reducing Disputes

Overall Impact
 Easier Inheritance & Registration
 Improved Access to Loans
 Reduced Land Disputes

2. Karnataka land revenue (amendment) rules.

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka Government has enacted the Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Act 2025 to reform land record administration, particularly to address anomalies in Kodagu's unique Jamma Bane land tenure system and bring it in line with the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964.

Q1. Who is the Chief Controlling Authority in matters relating to land revenue administration in a district?

- A. Tahsildar
- B. Assistant Commissioner
- C. Deputy Commissioner
- D. Revenue Inspector

Answer: C. Deputy Commissioner

3. Vijayanagara legacy & inclusive growth.

WHY IN NEWS Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, during a visit to **Hampi**, stated that the ideals of prosperity and inclusive governance reflected in the **Vijayanagara Empire** remain relevant to India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

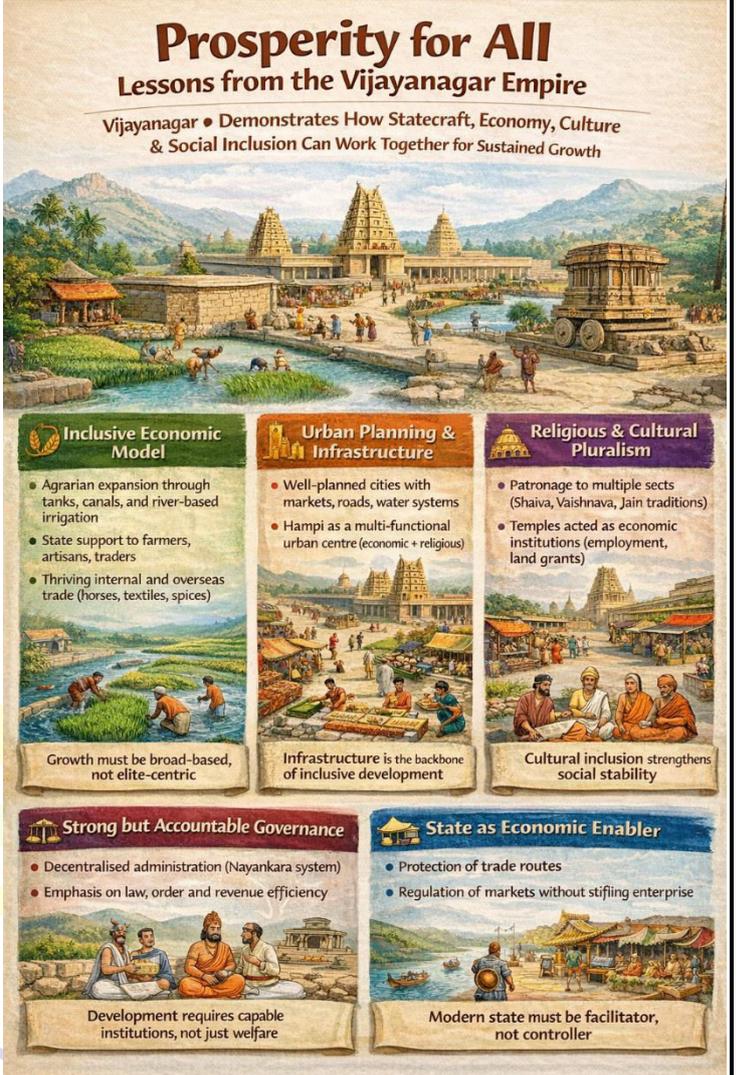
Q1. Consider the following statements about the Amara-Nayaka system:

1. Nayakas were granted land in return for military service.
2. They maintained troops and paid tribute to the king.
3. The system was identical to the Mughal *Jagir* system.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

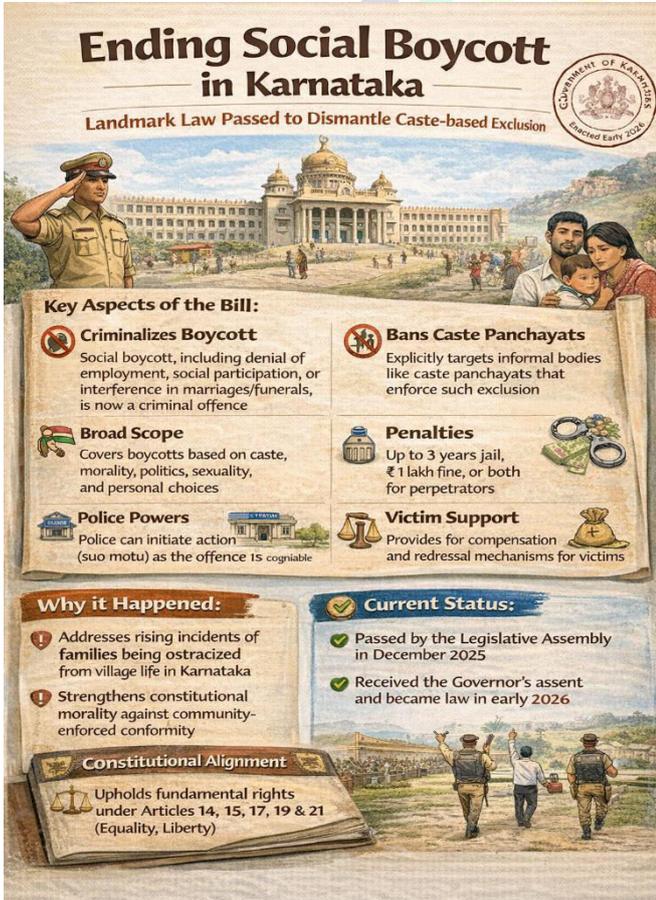


Prosperity for All
Lessons from the Vijayanagar Empire

Vijayanagar • Demonstrates How Statecraft, Economy, Culture & Social Inclusion Can Work Together for Sustained Growth

- Inclusive Economic Model**
 - Agrarian expansion through tanks, canals, and river-based irrigation
 - State support to farmers, artisans, traders
 - Thriving internal and overseas trade (horses, textiles, spices)
- Urban Planning & Infrastructure**
 - Well-planned cities with markets, roads, water systems
 - Hampi as a multi-functional urban centre (economic + religious)
- Religious & Cultural Pluralism**
 - Patronage to multiple sects (Shaiva, Vaishnava, Jain traditions)
 - Temples acted as economic institutions (employment, land grants)
- Strong but Accountable Governance**
 - Decentralised administration (Nayankara system)
 - Emphasis on law, order and revenue efficiency
- State as Economic Enabler**
 - Protection of trade routes
 - Regulation of markets without stifling enterprise

Growth must be broad-based, not elite-centric | Infrastructure is the backbone of inclusive development | Cultural inclusion strengthens social stability | Development requires capable institutions, not just welfare | Modern state must be facilitator, not controller



Ending Social Boycott in Karnataka
Landmark Law Passed to Dismantle Caste-based Exclusion

Key Aspects of the Bill:

- Criminalizes Boycott**: Social boycott, including denial of employment, social participation, or interference in marriages/funerals, is now a criminal offence
- Bans Caste Panchayats**: Explicitly targets informal bodies like caste panchayats that enforce such exclusion
- Broad Scope**: Covers boycotts based on caste, morality, politics, sexuality, and personal choices
- Penalties**: Up to 3 years jail, ₹ 1 lakh fine, or both for perpetrators
- Police Powers**: Police can initiate action (suo motu) as the offence is cognisable
- Victim Support**: Provides for compensation and redressal mechanisms for victims

Why it Happened:

- Addresses rising incidents of families being ostracized from village life in Karnataka
- Strengthens constitutional morality against community-enforced conformity

Current Status:

- Passed by the Legislative Assembly in December 2025
- Received the Governor's assent and became law in early 2026

Constitutional Alignment

- Upholds fundamental rights under Articles 14, 15, 17, 19 & 21 (Equality, Liberty)

4. Social boycott bill, 2025

WHY IN NEWS In December 2025, Karnataka passed the landmark **Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2025**, making it the second state after Maharashtra to criminalize social boycott by caste panchayats and other groups, punishable by **up to 3 years** imprisonment and a ₹1 lakh fine, aiming to protect individual dignity and uphold constitutional rights against ostracization based on caste, morality, or personal choices, with police empowered to act **suo motu**.

Q1. Which of the following acts would amount to social boycott under the Bill?

1. Prohibiting a person from participating in social functions
2. Denying access to community resources
3. Restricting entry into public temples

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

5. Karnataka's dominance in India's exports.

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka has solidified its position as a primary engine of India's export economy, driven heavily by services and high-technology manufacturing. In the fiscal year 2024–25, the state was recognized as a top contributor to national export earnings, contributing around 40% to India's total services exports.

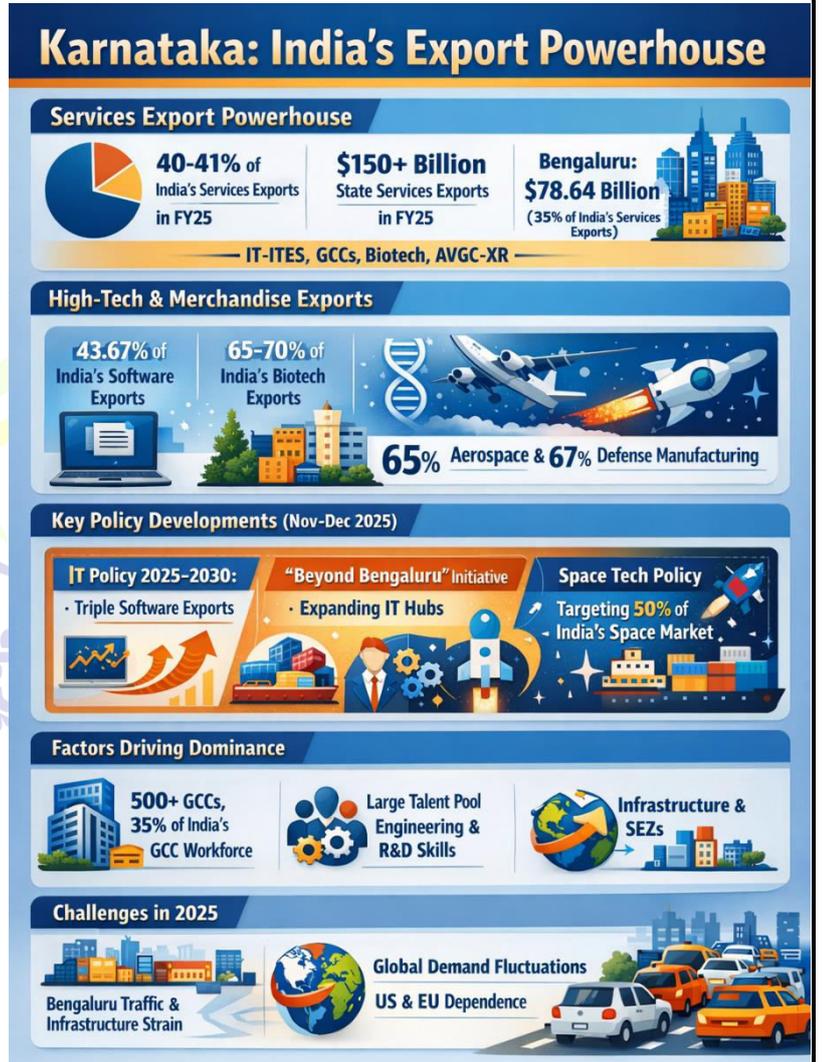
Q1. Which of the following broad pillars are used in the State Export Index?

1. Export Infrastructure
2. Export Ecosystem
3. Export Performance
4. Fiscal Deficit

Select the correct answer:

- 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



6. Kutumba bill 2025

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka government has drafted the Kutumba Bill 2025 to provide legal and statutory backing to **Kutumba**, the state's existing family-based social registry.

KARNATAKA: Unique Family ID Bill Overview



Purpose of the Bill To streamline delivery of govt. welfare schemes and services

Unique Family Identification

- Assigns a "Kutumba" ID number for every household
- Reduces need for multiple document submission
- Improves efficiency & transparency
- Statutory status ensures better data security & management

Other Karnataka Legislation (Dec 2025)

- **Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2025**
Adopted by Karnataka Legislative Assembly
- **Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025**
Being discussed with stakeholders by Deputy CM DK Shivakumar

7. Black soldier fly composting

WHY IN NEWS Black Soldier Fly (BSF) composting gained significant attention in India, particularly in Karnataka, as a modern, scientific solution for managing massive organic waste volumes in Bengaluru

Q1. Which of the following information is intended to be included in the Kutumba database?

1. Family composition
2. Socio-economic details
3. Eligibility for government schemes

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3

Black Soldier Fly Composting: Bengaluru's Scientific Waste Solution

(December 2025)



Bengaluru Initiative

8,000 Tonnes Daily Garbage

- Announced by **DK Shivakumar**
- To Manage **Over 8,000 Tonnes** of Daily Organic Waste

Success in Mangaluru

Successful Demonstration of BSF Composting Appreciated by State

- BSF larvae converting waste into nutrient rich compost

Scientific & Efficient Waste Management

- Modern Tech to Replace **Polluting Landfills**
- **Biogas / Energy Generation** ✓
- Surveying Feasibility of **Full-Scale Adoption** in Bengaluru

Key Benefits Mentioned in Current Context

Zero Methane

BSF Composting Emits Less Greenhouse Gases (vs. Landfills)

High-Value Byproducts

- Compost/Fertilizer + Protein-Rich Larvae for Poultry, Aquaculture

Sanitation

- BSF larvae reduce pathogens in waste like *Salmonella* & *E. coli*

Key Benefits Mentioned in Current Context

- **Zero Methane:** BSF Composting Emits Less Greenhouse Gases (vs. Landfills)

Karnataka Digital Heritage Portal

Dec 2025

Objective:

Integrating Manuscripts, Rare Printed Works & Archival Records onto a Single Accessible Platform

70,000+ Manuscripts & 45,000+ Rare Printed Works

Global Access to Cultural Heritage

Collaboration:

Led by ORI, Mysuru & Karnataka State Archives

Aligned with Digital India Mission & National Mission for Manuscripts

Technology:

AI for Script Recognition & Metadata Tagging

Digital Heritage News (Dec 2025)

Gyan Bharatam Mission

Ministry of Culture's Initiative to Digitize Manuscript Heritage

UNESCO Recognition

Deepavali Inscribed on Intangible Cultural Heritage List

National Archives

Over 10 Crore Historic Documents Digitized

8. Digital heritage portal.

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka announced the development of a unified **Digital Heritage Portal** to digitize and preserve the state's cultural legacy, aiming to become a national leader in digital preservation.

Q1. The Digital Heritage Portal of Karnataka mainly provides information related to:

1. Protected monuments
2. Archaeological sites
3. Historical artefacts and inscriptions

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

9. India's first comprehensive silk museum

WHY IN NEWS India's first comprehensive silk museum is being established in **Mysuru, Karnataka**, proposed by the Central Silk Board (CSB), to cover the entire "soil to sartorial" journey of silk, with in-principle approval from the Union Ministry of Textiles, costing around **₹20 crore**, and located on **the CSRTI campus**, making it a significant recent development in Indian heritage/textiles.

Q. Consider the following statement about the first comprehensive silk museum in India:

1. It is being set up in Mysuru, Karnataka.
2. It will showcase the complete history and value chain of silk production — from silkworm to finished textile.
3. The initiative is backed by the Central Silk Board and the Ministry of Tourism.

Which of the above statements 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

India's First Comprehensive Silk Museum

Mysuru, Karnataka

Tracking the "Soil to Sartorial" Journey of Silk

Silk Museum - Mysuru - Cost: ₹20 Crore

Location:

Mysuru, Karnataka

Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute Campus, Mysuru, Karnataka

Proponent:

Central Silk Board (CSB)

India's Silk Heritage: Mulberry, Tussar, Muga, Eri From Cultivation to Finished Garments

Proponent:

Central Silk Board (CSB)

Central Silk Board (CSB)

Status:

In-Principle Approval from Union Ministry of Textiles

Significance:

First in India, Modeled After International Museums in China & Vietnam Showcasing History & Diversity of Indian Silk Heritage

A Milestone for Indian Textiles
Promoting Global Recognition, Sustainability & Ethical Practices



ನಮ್ಮ ಪೂರೈಕೆ

ನಮ್ಮ FORESIGHT

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

10. Karnataka laws on hate speech and social boycott

WHY IN NEWS In December 2025, Karnataka introduced the **Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025**, aiming to curb hate speech with potential **10-year jail terms**, empowering government to remove online content, and providing victim compensation, but it sparked debate over executive discretion. While existing Indian Penal Code sections address promoting enmity, this bill creates specific hate crime definitions, focusing on "communication of hate speech" without always requiring violence, and introducing state power over digital platforms, though it still awaits the Governor's approval. For social boycotts, general Indian law (like the **Prevention of Atrocities Act for SC/ST**) exists, but the new Bill aims to tackle broader communal disharmony.

Q. With reference to the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It defines hate speech as any public expression intended to cause disharmony, hatred or ill-will against a person or group based on various identity markers.
2. The Bill makes hate speech and hate crimes cognisable and non-bailable offences.
3. Repeat offences under the Bill may attract imprisonment of up to 10 years and fines up to ₹1 lakh.

Which of the above statements 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

11. Dakshina Kannada designed as District export hub

WHY IN NEWS In December 2025 (specifically announced on December 2, 2025), the Government of India officially designated **Dakshina Kannada** in Karnataka as a **District Export Hub (DEH)**.

Karnataka Hate Speech Bill (2025)

Key Aspects

Definition:
Broadly covers expressions in public view (verbal, print, digital) causing disharmony or hatred

Penalties:
Up to 10 Years Imprisonment for Offenders

Government Powers:
Authorizes Government to Order Removal of Hate Speech from Digital Platforms

Victim Support:
Includes Provision for Victim Compensation

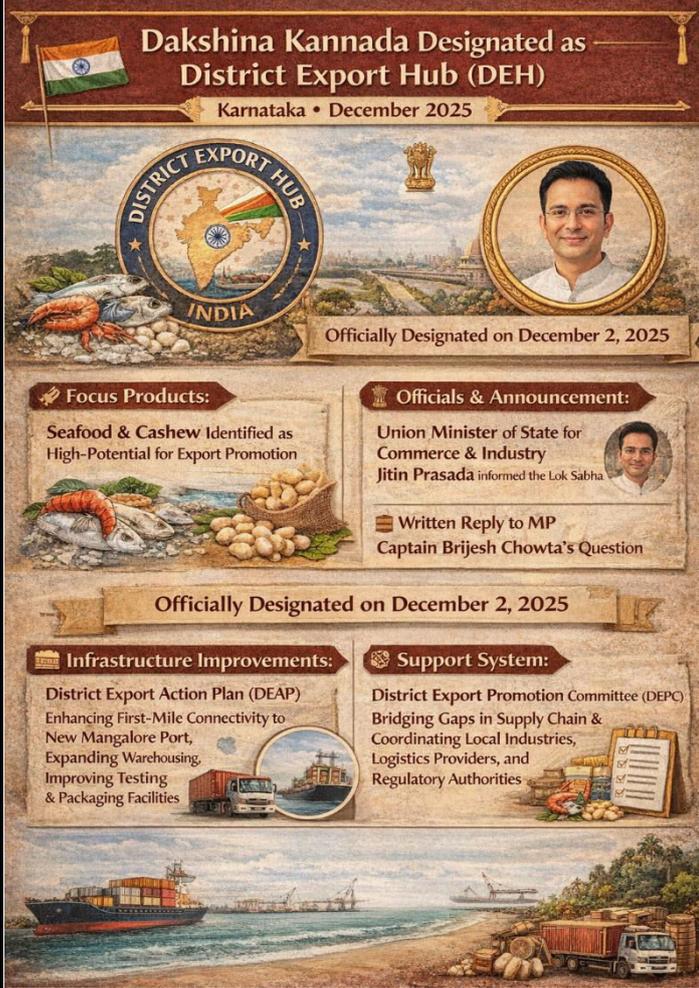
Existing Laws (Pre-Bill)

Indian Penal Code (IPC):
Sections like 153A (promoting enmity) and 295A (outraging religious feelings) already exist, but the new bill creates specific 'hate crime' categories

Social Boycotts:
Laws like the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act address caste-based boycotts, and general law criminalizes social boycotts, but the new bill targets broader social discord

Status:
Introduced in Assembly Awaiting Governor's Assent to Become Law

ನಮ್ಮ ಪೂರೈಕೆ



Dakshina Kannada Designated as District Export Hub (DEH)
Karnataka • December 2025

Officially Designated on December 2, 2025

Focus Products:
Seafood & Cashew Identified as High-Potential for Export Promotion

Officials & Announcement:
Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Jitin Prasad informed the Lok Sabha
Written Reply to MP Captain Brijesh Chowta's Question

Infrastructure Improvements:
District Export Action Plan (DEAP)
Enhancing First-Mile Connectivity to New Mangalore Port, Expanding Warehousing, Improving Testing & Packaging Facilities

Support System:
District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC)
Bridging Gaps in Supply Chain & Coordinating Local Industries, Logistics Providers, and Regulatory Authorities

Q. Consider the following statements about Karnataka's coastline:

1. Karnataka has a coastline along the Arabian Sea.
2. The total length of Karnataka's coastline is about 320 km.
3. Major ports in Karnataka include Mangaluru Port and Karwar Port.
4. The coastline is shared with the state of Kerala to the south and Goa to the north.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

12. Advanced command & control Units for tech-driven wildlife protection.

WHY IN NEWS December 2025/January 2026, India, particularly **Karnataka**, launched advanced tech-driven wildlife protection with **new AI Command & Control Centers** (ICCCs) to tackle rising human-wildlife conflict, using AI cameras, satellite imagery, GPS, and rapid response teams for real-time monitoring and alerts to prevent animal-human clashes. These systems, operational in states like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, represent a major leap in conservation, enabling swift action and integrated responses across vast forest areas, moving beyond manpower alone.



India's High-Tech Wildlife Protection Initiative
(December 2025/January 2026)

Key Developments in December 2025/January 2026

Karnataka's Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC)

- Launched Early January 2026
- Using AI-enabled cameras, satellite data and GPS tracking for real-time monitoring, linking to regional hubs for rapid response to conflict situations

Technology Integration

- Monitors Patrolling Teams, Identifies Conflict Zones
- Citizens Reports (via Helpline 1926) • Technology Integration • Minimize Risk to Humans and Animals

State-Wide Network

- Karnataka established 11 divisional command centers with 4 already operational, forming a network to coordinate actions across the states
- Karnataka establishes 11 ditcommand centers, four already operational, form a network to coordinate actions across the state's large forest landscape

How it Works

1. **Major Conservation**
Acknowledges, that manpower alone cannot guard vast forests, requiring advanced technology
2. **Early Warning System**
Alerts sent to command centers and field teams for immediate action
3. **Integrated Response**
Field teams, officers with GPS, coordinate with state huo proficient deployment & man
4. **Coexistence Focus**
Aims to balance wildlife protection with human safety through intelligent, tech-driven management



ನಮ್ಮ ಭೋರ್ಸೈಟ್

13. India's first startup & tech museum.

WHY IN NEWS In December 2025 news, Bengaluru announced it will host India's first Startup & Technology Museum, set to open in phases by 2027-2028 at the NGEF campus, showcasing India's tech journey via interactive exhibits in a PPP model with UnboxingBLR, funded by a ₹100 crore budget to highlight digital transformation and innovation.

With reference to India's first startup & tech museum, consider the following statements:

1. It is being established in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
2. The museum will showcase India's journey in startups, technology, innovation and future tech trends.
3. It is being developed through a public-private partnership and is expected to be completed by 2027.

Which of the above statements 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

India's First Startup & Technology Museum Coming Up in Bengaluru

(December 2025)

Key Details

Location	• Repurposed Switch Gear factory shed, NGEF campus, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru	Timeline	Phase 1 by 2027 Phase 2 by 2028
Timeline	• Phase 1 by 2027 Phase 2 by 2028	Collaboration	• Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between Karnataka's Dept. of Electronics, IT&BT, and UnboxingBLR. • Managed by KTIMF (Karnataka Technology and Innovation Museum Foundation)
Purpose	• To document India's entrepreneurial and tech evolution, inspiring future innovators		

Features

- Interactive Exhibits
- Holograms
- AR/VR

Covering 4-5 decades of innovation

Significance

- Interactive Exhibits
- Holograms
- AR/VR

Reinforces Bengaluru's status as India's Innovation Hub, creating a landmark for students, founders, and investors to explore the nation's digital growth & startup ecosystem.

Bengaluru Innovation Report 2025

(2nd Edition)

India's Premier Technology & AI Hub

Global AI & Startup Rankings (2025)

#5 Top 5 AI Ecosystem
Bengaluru is ranked 5th among top 50 AI ecosystems globally.

Global Startup Rank
Phase 1 climbed 7 spots, to reach 14th in the Global Start-up Ecosystem Report (GSEI) 2025

Unicorn Hub
Bengaluru hosts 53 unicorns valued at \$192 billion
Contributing 42% of India's total unicorn val.

AI & DeepTech Dominance

Funding Leader
Bengaluru attracts 58% of AI startup funding (\$872 million in the last five years)

Talent Pool - 50% of India's AI/ML talent in Karnataka, with over 2.5 million software engineers in the city

Major firms OpenAI, Anthropic, Graphcore have established bases in the city

Key Policy & Investment Initiatives (Late 2025)

DeepTech Decade Initiative
• ₹150 crore (total ₹600 crore)
DeepTech Elevate Fund for AI & frontier technologies

Quantum City (Q-City)
Proposal India's Quantum City' at Hesarghatta with ₹1,000 crore investment

Beyond Bengaluru
• To reduce pressure on metro, phygital (physical + digital) destination near Baiyappanahalli Metro Station

Startup Growth
1,600+ women-led startups have been founded in Bengaluru

GCC Growth
Karnataka hosts nearly 40% of India's Global Capability Centres (GCCs)

Infrastructure
Introduction of 'Innovase' Destination near Baiyappanahalli

14. Bengaluru innovation report 2025

WHY IN NEWS Based on the Bengaluru Innovation Report 2025 (2nd Edition), released at the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2025 in November/December 2025, the city has cemented its position as India's premier technology and startup capital, with a significant shift toward Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deep-tech.



ನಮ್ಮ ಭೋರ್ಸೈಟ್

15. Digital nagarik programme

WHY IN NEWS the **Digital Nagrik programme** is a major initiative by the Government of Karnataka, in collaboration with Meta (formerly Facebook), aimed at training 1 lakh teachers and 10 lakh students in digital safety, cybersecurity, and Augmented/Virtual Reality (AR/VR) skills by 2025.

Q1. With reference to the "Digital Nagarik Programme" recently launched by the Government of Karnataka, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide training in **digital safety and cybersecurity awareness** to teachers and students.
2. The programme is being implemented in collaboration with a **private technology company**.
3. It focuses only on digital literacy for adults above 30 years of age.

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

Karnataka Digital Nagrik Programme (Nov/Dec 2025-Jan 2026)
Major Initiative by the Government of Karnataka in collaboration with Meta (formerly Facebook), aimed at training 1 lakh teachers and 10 lakh students in digital safety, cybersecurity & AR/VR skills by 2025

1. Karnataka Digital Nagrik Programme (Nov/Dec 2025-Jan 2026)

Objective

- To create awareness about cybersecurity, online etiquette, digital rights, and data privacy among students (classes 6-10, college)

Partnership

- Karnataka's Dept. of Electronics, IT/BT & Science & Technology signed a Letter of Intent with Meta

Implementation

- DSERT is training **100,000 teachers** via the DISHA portal. Training began on November 15, 2025
- Covers **10 lakh students** across govt. primary & high schools, focusing on districts like Bengaluru, Mysuru, Belagavi, Dakshina Kannada

2. Related Digital Initiatives (Dec 2025)

- National Digital Nagrik Forum**
Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) announced this forum to protect rights of consumers and traders in the digital
- Digital India Act**
Discussions continue for the **Digital India Act** to replace IT Act 2000, focusing on protecting the rights of "Digital Nagriks"

3. Digital Literacy Initiatives

- PMGDISHA**
The Pradhan Mantri **Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhyan** Continues as the largest digital literacy initiative, having trained **39 crore** individuals in Dec 2025
- Cyber Aware Digital Naagrik**
The ISCA (information Security Education & Awareness) portal offers various certifications to enhance cyber safety for teachers, students, parents.



LENS – Latest Events and News Analysis Series (December 2025)

by Namma Foresight Academy stands out as a comprehensive, exam-focused monthly magazine meticulously designed for serious aspirants of Civil Services, KAS, and other competitive examinations.

The day-wise current affairs analysis, integrated with YouTube classroom sessions, ensures conceptual clarity and continuity in learning. The magazine's strength lies in its balanced coverage of national, international, scientific, cultural, environmental, and governance-related issues, presented in a crisp and analytical manner.

Themes such as World Soil Day, CRISPR-based GlowCas9 Protein, TIDE 2.0 Scheme, Kavachi Volcano, Santhali language, Indo-Russia Summit, Aravalli Hills conservation, Social Boycott Bill-2025, Digital Nagarik Programme, Justice Mission 2025, Thanjavur Painting, Rashtriya Prerna Sthal, and Solar Storms are explained with prelims-ready facts and mains-oriented perspectives.

The inclusion of high-quality MCQs, theme-based exercises (EKUVERIN), and exam-focused presentation makes LENS not just a magazine, but a complete revision and practice tool. Overall, LENS – December 2025 is a reliable companion for aspirants seeking clarity, relevance, and exam precision in current affairs preparation.



-NAMMA FORESIGHT ACADEMY