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NAMMA FORESIGHT ACADEMY

UPSC- CSE/ IFoS & State services Exams

JANUARY 2026

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MONTHLY MAGAZINE

LENS

(Latest Events and News Analysis Series)

Compiled - The Hindu
IE,PIB, Prajavani

THEMES

- The Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025
- Savithri bhai Phule
- White dwarf system
- PANKHUDI Portal
- India's Bioeconomy
- India–EU Free Trade Agreement
- Padma Awards
- karnataka film awards

FEATURS

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- Mains &Prelims Oriented

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INDEX

01st JAN 2nd 2026……..(1- 7)

1. Sirkeer Malkoha
2. Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbine
3. Oreshnik Missile
4. Pralay Missile
5. Stingless Bees
6. Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention
7. Nimesulide
8. India needs Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA)
9. E-Bill System for Fertiliser Subsidies
10. BSNL launches Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi)
11. The Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025
12. Global Environment Facility

3rd JAN 2026……..(8-12)

1. Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project (VPHEP).
2. District Mineral Foundations
3. Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) Programme
4. Eastern Imperial Eagle
5. Venezuela
6. Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)
7. WHO Pharmacovigilance
8. Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)
9. Savithri bhai Phule

4th JAN 2026…..(13-17)

1. White-Bellied Heron
2. Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple
3. Rani Velu Nachiyar
4. Thadou Tribe
5. Re-CirculatoryAquaculture System
6. India becomes world's largest rice producer
7. Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN)

5th JAN 2026……(17- 21)

1. Typhoid
2. Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology
3. Taimoor Missile
4. Double-Humped Bactrian Camel
5. Design Linked Incentive Scheme
6. China's proposal of the Global Governance Initiative (GGI)

7. Monroe Doctrine

6th JAN 2026…….(22-26)

1. Suryastra Rocket System
2. Industrial Research and Development Promotion Program
3. Socotra Island
4. OPEC+
   Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)
5. 1000 years survival of Somnath Temple
6. India has inaugurated the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL)
7. Lucknow To Get India's First Urban Night Safari At Kukrail Forest Area

7th JAN 2026……..(26-31)

1. Melghat Tiger Reserve
2. SHINE Scheme
3. Sagar Island
4. Iran
5. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
6. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)
7. Constitutional duty of the Election Commission of India
8. Mpemba Effect
9. Indian Railways becomes the biggest electrified rail system globally
10. Biomaterials India

8th JAN 2026……..(31-35)

1. Sports Authority of India (SAI).
2. Bio-Bitumen
3. Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve
4. Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary
5. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)
6. Earth Observation Satellite EOS-N1 (Anvesha)
7. White dwarf system

9th JAN 2026……..(36-41)

1. Long Range Anti-Ship Missile
2. Kamala Hydroelectric Project
3. North Island
4. Weimar Triangle
5. M-STrIPES
6. Barak River
7. UIDAI launches Aadhaar mascot Udai
8. District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Plan
9. Dust EXperiment (DEX)
10. Child marriage and India
11. Spina Bifida

10th JAN 2026……..(41-46)

1. Two New Frog Species
2. Grey Slender Loris
3. PANKHUDI Portal

4. Dal Lake
5. Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector
6. National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS)
7. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
8. Zehanpora Stupa
9. Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) Communication Technology
10. Kashmir Markhor

11th JAN 2026.....(46-51)

1. Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary
2. Aerosols
3. Kathputli
4. Phayre's Leaf Monkey
5. Swami Vivekananda
6. Swachh Jal Abhiyan
7. OrbitAid's AyulSAT
8. Orobanche aegyptiaca
9. Operation Hawkeye
10. Bhairav Battalion

12th JAN 2026.....(52-55)

1. Bhairav Battalions
2. Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary
3. Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
4. PSLV-C62 Mission
5. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)
6. Aerosols
7. Pax Silica Initiative
8. Greenwald Limit

13th JAN 2026.....(56-60)

1. Bhadrakali Inscription
2. Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System
3. Why Shaksgam Valley
4. Mustard Crop
5. Rajasthan Panchayat Organic Pledge
6. BHASHINI Samudaye
7. India Tightens Crypto KYC to Curb Money Laundering and Terror Financing
8. Kathputli Puppetry

14th JAN 2026.....(60-66)

1. PRAGATI Platform
2. Argentina
3. Valley of Flowers National Park
4. Zanskar River
5. Artemis II Mission
6. Karuna Abhiyan
7. Responsible Nations Index
8. BRICS India 2026 Logo
9. S. Sahoo Committee
10. Jharkhand Megaliths

15th JAN 2026.....(67-72)

1. Export Preparedness Index 2024
2. Henley Passport Index
3. Miyawaki Method
4. NPS Vatsalya Scheme
5. Gharial
6. India's Bioeconomy
7. UGC's new rules against caste discrimination
8. Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024
9. Vultures in India

16th JAN 2026.....(72-77)

1. RBS-15 Missile
2. Similipal National Park
3. Jamma Bane Lands
4. Voyager 1
5. The Global Risks Report 2026
6. Traditional Indelible Ink
7. Project Suncatcher
8. Kruger National Park

17th JAN 2026.....(77-80)

1. Dardanelles Strait
2. Kaziranga National Park
3. Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC).
4. Chatham Islands
5. Lokpal of India
6. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
7. Sammakka–Saralamma Jatara

18th JAN 2026.....(81-87)

1. Chang'e-6 Mission
2. Royle's Pika
3. Irrawaddy Dolphin
4. Mt Elbrus
5. Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2026.
6. Amended Forest Conservation Guidelines 2026
7. India–Israel Joint Declaration on Fisheries and Aquaculture
8. Tirukkural
9. IRENA
10. Havana Syndrome

19th JAN 2026.....(87-94)

1. United Arab Emirates
2. Indian Bison
3. Brandt's Hedgehog
4. ICGS Sankalp
5. Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).
6. Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme
7. Second range-wide Dolphin Survey
8. BRICS Plus naval exercise

9. UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty
10. Microscopic crustacean
11. First open-sea Marine Fish Farming Project in Andaman Sea

20th JAN 2026.....(94-100)

1. United Nations Economic and Social Council
2. INS Sudarshini
3. Sela Lake
4. Type 096 Tang-Class Submarine
5. Vadhavan Port
6. Environmental Protection Fund
7. Indian Skimmer
8. Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity (GEI) Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025
9. India Launches Responsible Nations Index (RNI)
10. Export Promotion Mission (EPM)
11. Parbati Giri

21th JAN 22nd 2026.....(100-109)

1. Central Silk Board
2. World Economic Forum (WEF).
3. Souparnika River
4. Kamchatka Peninsula
5. Atal Pension Yojana
6. Small Industries Development Bank of India
7. Bhitarkanika National Park
8. Lok Sabha to launch digital attendance system
9. Silver metal
10. Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme (IGICBS)
11. National Legislative Index (NLI)
12. Operation Trashi-I
13. Spain joined Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)
14. Solar Radiation Storm
15. Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

23rd JAN 2026.....(109-115)

1. Gangapur Dam
2. Phulkari
3. Lambadi Tribe
4. Indira Gandhi Peace Prize
5. Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative
6. Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework
7. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
8. S. Formally Withdraws From the World Health Organization
9. Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Glide Missile (LRAShM)
10. Operation Megaburu
11. Governor's Power to Address the State Legislatures
12. Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary

24th JAN 2026.....(115-121)

1. Asiatic Wild Dog
2. Gandak River
3. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
4. Anna Chakra
5. State of Finance for Nature 2026
6. Content for Mains Enrichment (CME):
7. IICDEM & Adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026
8. Trucks-on-Trains
9. Global Future Councils (GFCs)
10. PLI Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners & LED Lights)

25th JAN 2026……(122-127)

1. Karbi Anglong Violence
2. Port Security
3. Tunnel Safety Guideline
4. Artemis II Mission
5. UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Alliance
6. Two new rare ant fly species discovered
7. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
8. Asiatic Wild Dog (Dhole)
9. Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) – Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme
10. Muna Island

26th JAN 2026…..(127-131)

1. Bactrian Camel
2. The Padma Awards
3. Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards
4. Narayan Ramachandran Committee
5. Nihilist Penguin
6. Agarwood
7. Lakkundi Excavation

27th JAN 2026……..(132-136)

1. Chatergala Pass
2. Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
4. Pygmy Hog
5. Enhancing Circular Economy of ELVs in India Report
6. Tap Water Coverage Urban India
7. Wings India 2026
8. Humanoid Robot 'ASC ARJUN'
9. Antarctic Activities and Environmental Protection Law
10. Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)
11. Day Zero

28th JAN 2026……9136-144)

1. Myanmar
2. PANCHAM
3. Mahakaleshwar Temple
4. Model Youth Gram Sabha
5. Sonamarg Avalanche
6. India–EU Free Trade Agreement

7. 4B Movement
8. Maharashtra launches country's first menopause clinics
9. Buddhist Diamond Triangle Joins UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List
10. First National Coordinators Meeting in Beijing & SCO
11. Smart Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder
12. New plant species: Hoya nagaensis
13. Rojava Region

29th JAN 2026.....(144-150)

1. JALAJ Livelihood Centres
2. Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark
3. Sea of Japan
4. Nipah Virus
5. Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary
6. WaSH Warriors
7. Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026
8. Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0
9. New Aadhaar App
10. V-BAT Autonomous Drones
11. Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary

30th JAN 2026....(150-157)

1. Canada
2. NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme (NSPS)
3. Tehri Lake
4. Pechora Missile System
5. PAIMANA Portal
6. Power Gap Index
7. Government Notifies Coking Coal as Critical & Strategic Minerals
8. Digital Food Currency
9. Western Disturbance
10. Paathara (Khoni) Practice
11. The Shiveluch volcano

30th JAN 2026....(157-163)

1. Paathara Practice
2. . Living Root Bridges
3. . Hanle Dark Sky Reserve
4. Right to Menstrual Health as a Fundamental Right
5. Supreme Court Stays UGC Equity Regulations 2026
6. BHARAT SAMPARK – Engaging India's Young Minds
7. National Commission for Women marks its 34th Foundation Day
8. Stealth Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)
9. New Consumer Price Index (CPI) series
10. UAE central bank approves first USD-backed stable coin

KARNATAK JAN 2026 MONTH NEWS....(163-168)

1. **Hoardings under Revised Advertising Regulations**
2. **Karnatak aims for goa like beach tourism**
3. **Misiion suraksha a sureshot cure for child marriages in shivamogga**
4. **Karanatak rank 2nd in fasal bhima yojana implimentation**
5. **Law to preserve , digitilise manuscripts available across karanatak**
6. **Karanatak proposed honour killing law**
7. **Karanatak body opposes kelara malaylam language bill**
8. **Arc recommends consolidating irrelevant schems**

01st And 2nd JAN 2026

1. Sirkeer Malkoha

2. Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbine

3. Nimesulide

4. Oreshnik Missile

5. India needs Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA)

6. Pralay Missile

7. E-Bill System for Fertiliser Subsidies

8. Stingless Bees

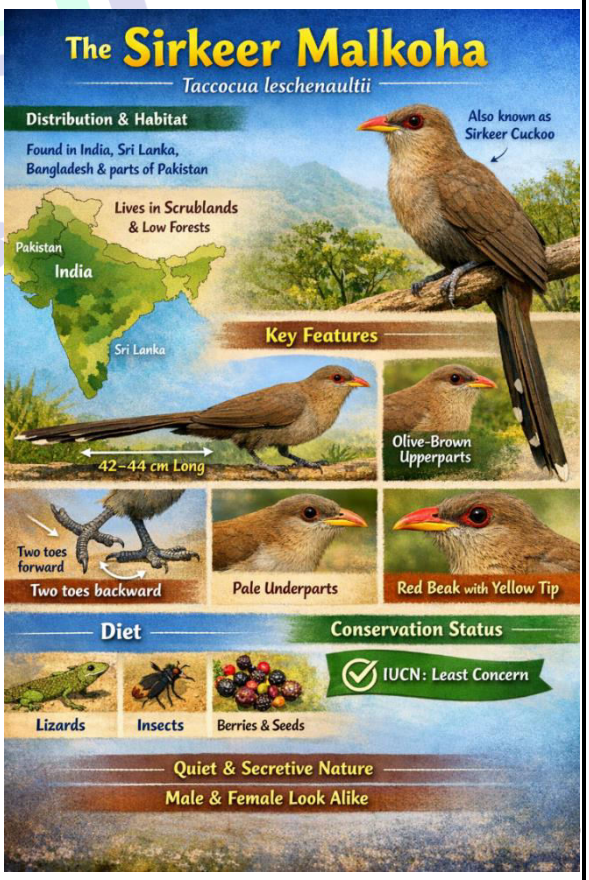
9. BSNL launches Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi)

10. Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention

11. The Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025

12.Global Environment Facility

1. Sirkeer Malkoha



WHY IN NEWS The rare Sirkeer Malkoha (Taccocua leschenaultii), a bird species typically found in Uttarakhand's plains, has been recently recorded for the first time in the Uttarkashi district

Q1. With reference to the *Sirkeer Malkoha*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a bird species endemic to the Western Ghats of India.
2. It belongs to the cuckoo family (*Cuculidae*).
3. It is commonly found in open grasslands and agricultural fields.
4. It is listed as *Endangered* on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A) 1 and 2 only

2. Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbine

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Defence recently signed defence procurement contracts worth ₹4,666 crore for the acquisition of Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbines for the Indian Army and Navy and Heavyweight Torpedoes for the Indian Navy.

Q1. With reference to the Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbine, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenously developed small arm designed primarily for urban and close-range combat.

2. It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with the Ordnance Factory Board (now Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited).

3. It is designed to replace the INSAS rifle for all frontline infantry roles, including long-range battlefield engagements.

4. It can be used by the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force for counter-terrorism and special operations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A) 1, 2 and 4 only

3. Nimesulide

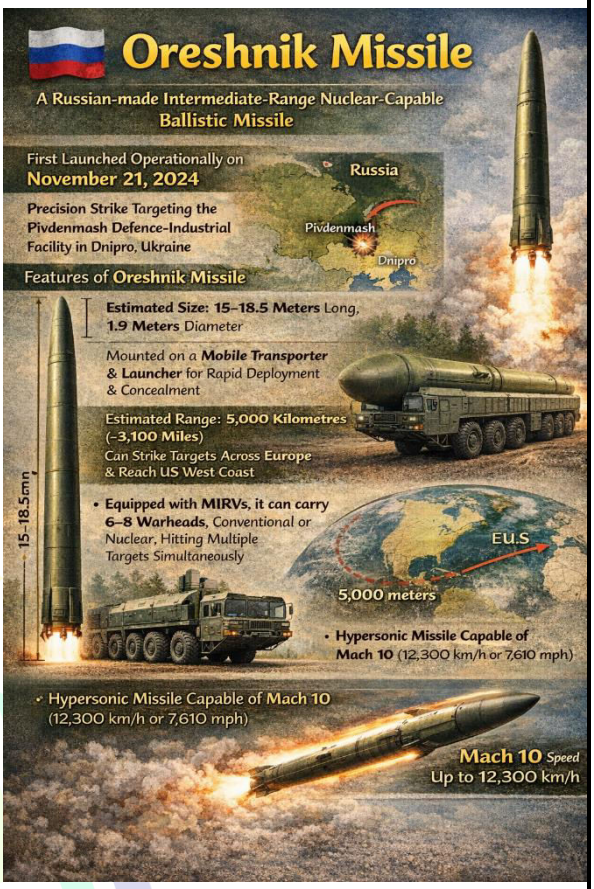
WHY IN NEWS The government recently prohibited the manufacturing, sale and distribution of all oral formulations containing Nimesulide above 100 mg with immediate effect

About Nimesulide

- First introduced in Italy in 1985, it is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) used for its pain-relieving, anti-inflammatory, and fever-reducing effects.
- It is commonly used to manage acute pain, musculoskeletal disorders, dental pain, and symptoms associated with conditions such as osteoarthritis and dysmenorrhea.
- Nimesulide works by inhibiting the action of cyclooxygenase (COX), an enzyme responsible for the production of prostaglandins-chemicals that cause pain, inflammation, and fever.
- By blocking this enzyme, Nimesulide reduces the levels of prostaglandins, thus providing relief from pain and inflammation.

- By targeting the underlying inflammatory process rather than just masking the pain, Nimesulide helps relieve swelling, improves mobility and function in affected areas, and enhances overall comfort and quality of life

4. Oreshnik Missile



WHY IN NEWS Russia recently announced that its nuclear-capable Oreshnik missiles have entered active service in Belarus, a neighbouring ally that shares borders with NATO members Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia

Q. With reference to the *Oreshnik missile*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenously developed Indian defensive missile system.
2. It is a Russian-origin intermediate-range ballistic missile.
3. It has hypersonic speed and is difficult to intercept by current missile defence systems.
4. It can be equipped with both conventional and nuclear warheads.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only
B) 2, 3 and 4 only
C) 1, 3 and 4 only
D) 2 and 4 only **Answer: B) 2, 3 and 4 only**

5. India needs Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA)

WHY IN NEWS India is accelerating efforts to scale Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) as climate change intensifies risks to food security, rainfed farming, and farm incomes.

What is Climate-Resilient Agriculture?

- Climate-Resilient Agriculture refers to farming systems that sustainably increase productivity, enhance adaptation to climate variability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions where possible, and ensure food security.
- It integrates biotechnology (climate-tolerant and genome-edited crops), bio-inputs (biofertilisers, biopesticides), precision irrigation, soil health management, and AI-based advisories.

Trends / data points:

- 51% of India's net sown area is rainfed, contributing nearly 40% of food production, making it highly climate-vulnerable.
- Over 75% of annual rainfall is concentrated in just 4 monsoon months, increasing drought–flood cycles.
- Rising heat stress, erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and salinity are lowering yield stability.

Need for Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA):

- **Food security pressure:** Stable yields are required to feed a population projected to reach 1.7 billion, protecting against 10–40% projected losses in staples like wheat.
- **Rainfed vulnerability:** With 60% of Indian farmland being rainfed, CRA provides a lifeline for marginal farmers against increasingly erratic monsoon cycles.

6. Pralay Missile

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out a salvo launch of two indigenous Pralay missiles.

Q. With reference to the *PRALAYA missile*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile by DRDO.
2. It is a short-range ballistic missile capable of carrying conventional warheads.
3. It is designed to evade enemy air defence systems using manoeuvrable trajectory and advanced guidance.
4. It is capable of carrying nuclear warheads as part of India's nuclear deterrence.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A) 1, 2 and 3 only

7. E-Bill System for Fertiliser Subsidies

WHY IN NEWS The Union Government has launched an integrated e-Bill System to digitally process fertiliser subsidies worth about ₹2 lakh crore.

Q1. The *E-Bill System* for fertiliser subsidies in India has been implemented through integration of which of the following systems?

1. Integrated Financial Management System (iFMS) of the Department of Fertilisers
2. Public Financial Management System (PFMS) of Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
3. e-Urvarak DBT portal for Point-of-Sale authentication

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

8. Stingless Bees

WHY IN NEWS Amazonian stingless bees have become the first insect in the world to be granted legal rights, after two municipalities — Satipo and Nauta — in Peru passed an ordinance earlier this month

Q1. Which of the following is a characteristic feature of stingless bees?

1. They produce honey.
2. They are important pollinators.
3. They possess functional stingers used for defense.

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

9. BSNL launches Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi)

WHY IN NEWS BSNL has launched Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) services nationwide across all telecom circles, enabling calls and messages over Wi-Fi.

What is VoWiFi?

- Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) is a technology that allows users to make and receive voice calls and SMS over a Wi-Fi network instead of a mobile tower.
- It works using IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) and uses the same mobile number and phone dialer, without any third-party app.

How VoWiFi works?

- **Phone connects to Wi-Fi:** The smartphone uses an available home, office, or public Wi-Fi network to connect to the telecom network, instead of relying on a nearby mobile tower.
- **Secure login using SIM:** The user is authenticated through the SIM card, ensuring the same level of security and identity verification as regular mobile calls.
- **Call routed via internet:** Voice is converted into digital data packets and transmitted over the internet, allowing calls even where mobile signals cannot reach.
- **Seamless switching:** When Wi-Fi becomes weak or unavailable, the call automatically shifts to the mobile network (VoLTE) without interruption or call drop.

Key features:

- **IMS-based service:** Uses IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) to manage calls, enabling smooth handover between Wi-Fi and cellular networks.
- **Existing mobile number and dialer:** Users make and receive calls using their regular phone number and default dialer, without installing any additional apps.
- **No additional charges:** Wi-Fi calls are treated like normal voice calls and are provided free of extra cost to subscribers.
- **Indoor and low-signal support:** Ensures reliable connectivity in basements, offices, high-rise buildings, and remote areas with poor mobile coverage.
- **Wide smartphone compatibility:** Supported on most modern VoWiFi-enabled smartphones, requiring only a settings toggle.
- **Network congestion reduction:** Offloads voice traffic from mobile towers to Wi-Fi, improving overall network efficiency and call quality.

10. Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India has launched the **Market Access Support (MAS)** Intervention under the Export Promotion Mission to strengthen global market access for Indian exporters, especially MSMEs and first-time exporters.

Q1. The main objective of the Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention is to:

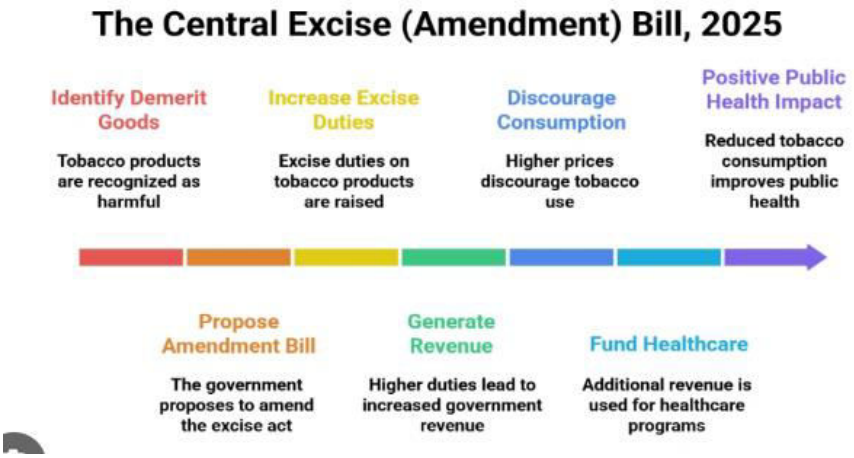
1. Enhance access of MSMEs to national and international markets
2. Provide financial assistance for participation in trade fairs and exhibitions
3. Fund long-term capital investment for MSMEs
4. Promote brand building of Indian MSME products abroad

Select the correct answer:
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1, 2, and 4 only
C. 1, 3, and 4 only
D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: B. 1, 2, and 4 only

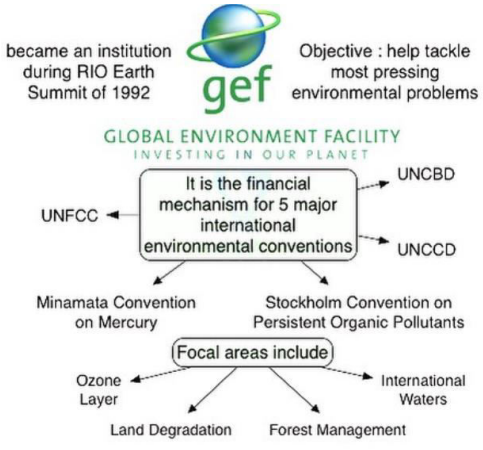
11. The Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025

WHY IN NEWS The Centre has notified the Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025 and related tax changes on tobacco products, effective February 1, 2026.The move ends the GST compensation cess, revises excise duties, and aims to raise tobacco prices in line with public health and fiscal objectives.



12.Global Environment Facility

WHY IN NEWS Recently, at the **64th Global Environment Facility (GEF)** council meeting in Brazil, the governing body approved the disbursement of USD 1.4 billion to accelerate efforts to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises.This is the 2nd work program of the **GEF-8 funding period**, which runs from 2022 and 2026.



Q1. The GEF provides funding for which of the following areas?

1. Biodiversity
2. Climate change mitigation
3. Land degradation
4. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: c) 1, 2, 3 and 4

3rd JAN 2026

1. Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project (VPHEP).

2. District Mineral Foundations

3. Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) Programme

4. Eastern Imperial Eagle

5. Venezuela

6. Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)

7. WHO Pharmacovigilance

8. Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

9. Savithri bhai Phule

1. Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project (VPHEP).

WHY IN NEWS Around 60 people were injured after a loco train carrying workers and officials hit a goods train inside the Pipalkoti tunnel of the Vishnugad–Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project recently

Q1. With reference to the *Vishnugad–Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric project located on the Alaknanda River.
2. It is being implemented by NHPC Limited.
3. The project is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
4. It is designed to generate more than 1,000 MW of electricity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A) 1 and 2 only

2. District Mineral Foundations

WHY IN NEWS The Allahabad High Court recently held that the formation of District Mineral Foundations is beneficial legislation and must be construed liberally for those who are affected negatively by mining operations

3. Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) Programme

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the President of India graced a special programme under SOAR initiative.

Q. With reference to the *Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) Programme*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
2. It aims to build artificial intelligence (AI) capacity among government officials and public sector professionals.
3. The programme focuses exclusively on advanced AI research and PhD-level training.
4. It supports India's vision of responsible and inclusive adoption of Artificial Intelligence.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A) 1, 2 and 4 only

4. Eastern Imperial Eagle

WHY IN NEWS Wildlife enthusiasts recently confirmed the presence of an Eastern Imperial Eagle visiting the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) during the winter migratory season

Q. With reference to the *Eastern Imperial Eagle*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a large bird of prey belonging to the family *Accipitridae*.
2. In India, it is mainly found as a winter migratory species.
3. It is listed as *Critically Endangered* in the IUCN Red List.
4. Grasslands, open woodlands and agricultural landscapes form its typical habitat.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A) 1, 2 and 4 only
B) 1 and 3 only

C) 2 and 3 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: A) 1, 2 and 4 only

5. Venezuela

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the U.S. military has launched large-scale strikes inside Venezuela, with explosions heard in multiple areas, including the capital Caracas

Q. With reference to *Venezuela*, which was frequently in news in January 2026, consider the following statements:

1. In January 2026, the United States launched **Operation Absolute Resolve**, resulting in the capture of Venezuela's sitting President.
2. The U.S. justified its action by invoking allegations of **narco-terrorism** and links between Venezuelan leadership and drug trafficking networks.
3. Venezuela possesses the **world's largest proven oil reserves**, making it strategically significant in global energy geopolitics.
4. The crisis is expected to severely disrupt India's crude oil imports because Venezuela is one of India's largest oil suppliers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

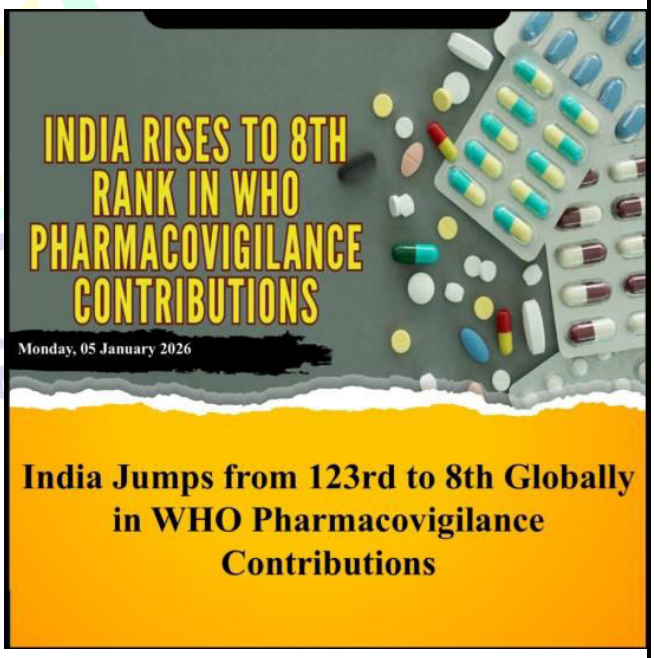
A) 1, 2 and 3 only
B) 1 and 4 only
C) 2, 3 and 4 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: A) 1, 2 and 3 only

6. Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)

WHY IN NEWS Land acquisition has emerged as the single largest bottleneck in **infrastructure development**, accounting for 35% of project delays, the Cabinet Secretary said after the 50th PRAGATI meeting.

7. WHO Pharmacovigilance



WHY IN NEWS Union Health Minister announced that India has risen to 8th position globally in contributions to the **WHO pharmacovigilance database**, from 123rd a decade ago.

1. The primary purpose of WHO's Programme for International Drug Monitoring (PIDM) is:

a) To regulate drug prices globally
b) To monitor adverse drug reactions worldwide
c) To manufacture essential medicines for developing countries
d) To conduct clinical trials for new medicines

Answer: b). To monitor adverse drug reactions worldwide

8. Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) approved 22 additional projects under the **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)** involving ₹41,863 crore of investment.

Q1. Under ECMS, incentives are provided for manufacturing of which of the following?

1. Passive components
2. Active components
3. Semiconductor devices
4. Electronic assembly units

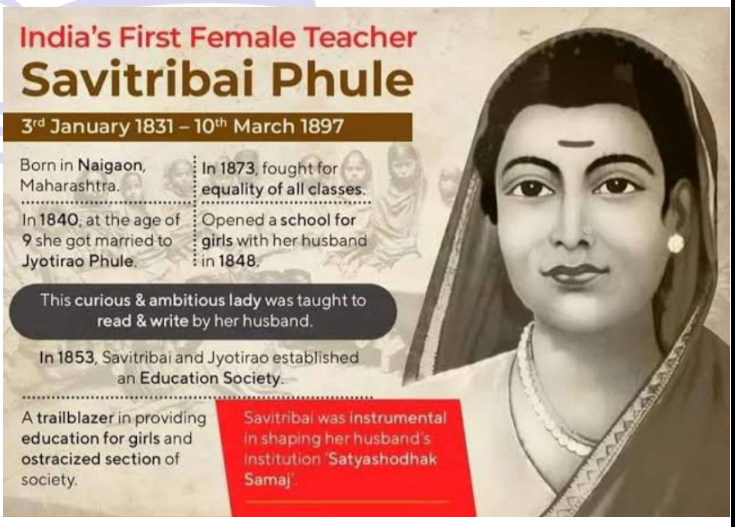
Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: b). 1, 2 and 3 only

9. Savithri bhai Phule

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister paid tribute to Savitribai Phule on her **194th birth anniversary on 3rd January 2026.**



1. Consider the following statements about Savitribai Phule:

1. She is regarded as the *first female teacher* of India.
2. She established the first girls' school in India at Pune along with Jyotiba Phule.
3. She played an active role in the Satyashodhak Samaj founded by Mahatma Gandhi.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a). 1 and 2 only
Explanation:

- Statements 1 & 2 are correct: Savitribai is considered **India's first woman teacher** and opened the **first girls' school in 1848** with Jyotiba Phule.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: **Satyashodhak Samaj was founded by Jyotiba Phule**, not Gandh

4th JAN 2026

1. White-Bellied Heron

2. Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple

3. Rani Velu Nachiyar

4. Thadou Tribe

5. Re-Circulatory Aquaculture System

6. India becomes world's largest rice producer

7. Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN)

1. White-Bellied Heron

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Environment Ministry expert panel has recommended environmental clearance (EC) for the Kalai-II hydroelectric project on Lohit River which is a white-bellied heron habitat

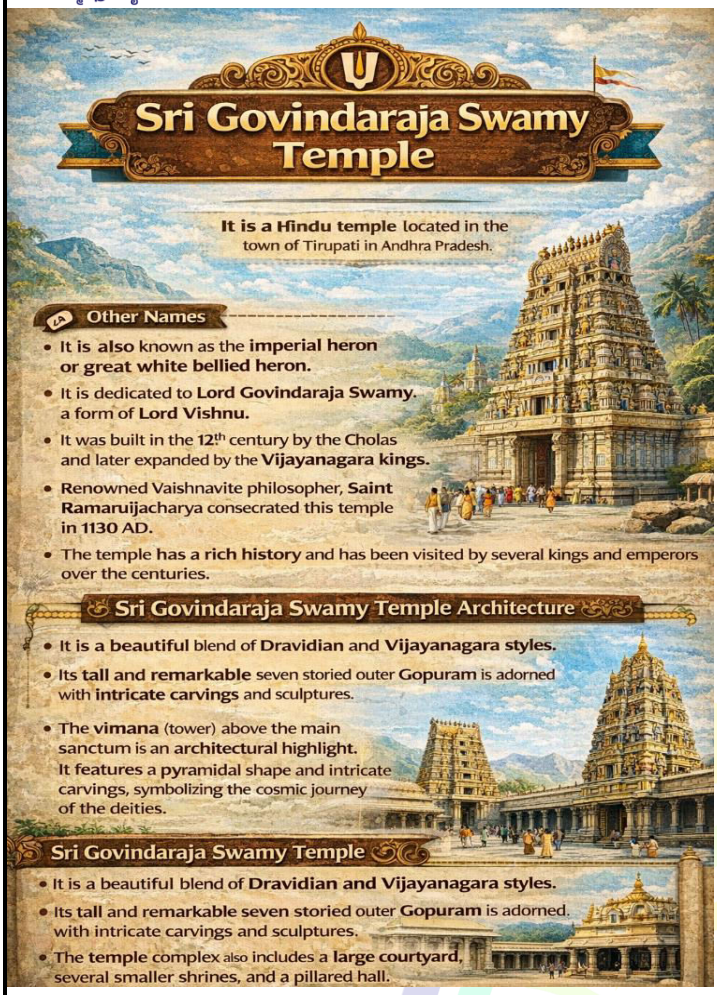
Q. **With reference to the *White-bellied Heron*, consider the following statements:**

1. It is one of the rarest heron species in the world.
2. It is found mainly along undisturbed riverine habitats in the Eastern Himalayas.
3. It is listed as *Endangered* on the IUCN Red List.
4. In India, it is reported from Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A) 1, 2 and 4 only



2. Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple

WHY IN NEWS Under the influence of alcohol, a man climbed the main Gopuram of Sri Govindaraja Swamy temple in Tirupati recently

Q1. Which of the following statements about Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple is/are correct?

1. It was originally consecrated by Saint Ramanujacharya.
2. The temple is dedicated to an incarnation of Lord Shiva.
3. It follows the Vaishnavite tradition.

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

3. Rani Velu Nachiyar

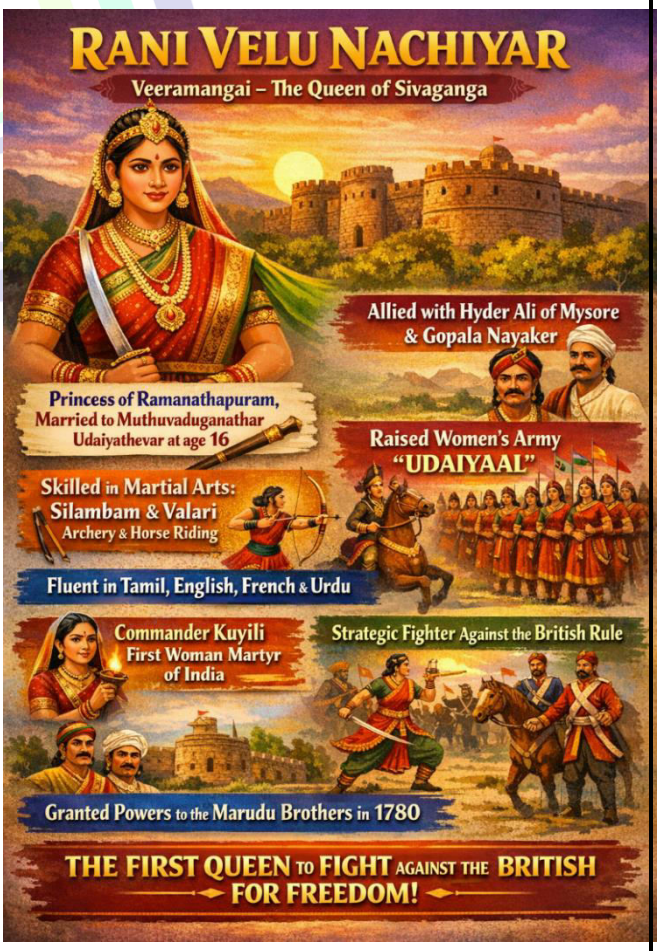
WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Prime Minister of India paid tributes to Rani Velu Nachiyar on her birth anniversary.

Q. With reference to *Rani Velu Nachiyar*, consider the following statements:

1. She was the ruler of the Sivaganga kingdom in present-day Tamil Nadu.
2. She is regarded as the first Indian queen to wage war against the British East India Company.
3. She was associated with the Marudu brothers in resisting British rule.
4. She led the Revolt of 1857 in South India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A) 1, 2 and 3 only
B) 1 and 4 only



C) 2 and 3 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: A) 1, 2 and 3 only

4. Thadou Tribe

WHY IN NEWS The public broadcaster Prasar Bharati recently asked the programme head of All India Radio (AIR) in Manipur's capital, Imphal, for inputs on recruiting staff for resuming live broadcasts in the Thadou tribe's language and other major dialects of the border state.

Q. With reference to the *Toda (Thoda) tribe*, consider the following statements:

1. They are an indigenous pastoral community inhabiting the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu.

2. Their traditional livelihood is primarily based on buffalo rearing.

3. Their distinctive houses are barrel-shaped huts known as *munds*.
4. They are classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: B) 1, 2 and 4 only

5. Re-Circulatory Aquaculture System

WHY IN NEWS The Union Minister, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is set to inaugurate state-of-the-art Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) Facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Q. With reference to the Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), consider the following statements:

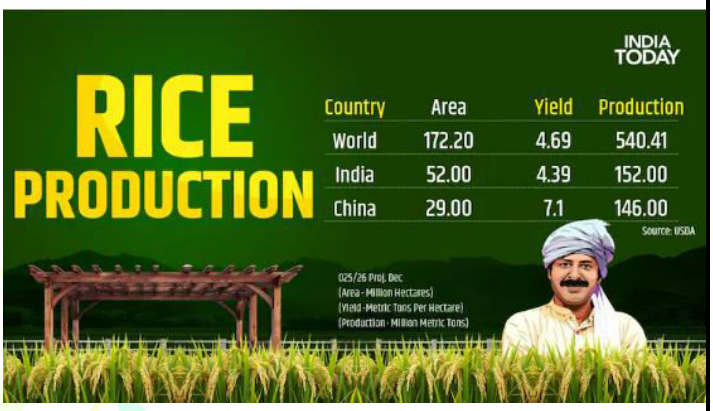
1. It is an aquaculture technique in which water is continuously treated and reused within the system.
2. It significantly reduces water requirement compared to traditional aquaculture practices.
3. It allows fish farming even in areas with limited land and water availability.
4. It is suitable only for marine fish species and not for freshwater species.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A) 1, 2 and 3 only

6. India becomes world's largest rice producer



WHY IN NEWS Union Agriculture Minister said India has become the world's **largest rice producer,** with output at 150.18 million tonnes, overtaking China at 145.28 million tonnes.

1. Consider the following pairs:

Pair No.	State	Category
1	West Bengal	Largest producer
2	Punjab	Highest productivity
3	Uttar Pradesh	Largest area under rice

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

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

Answer: C. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:Punjab has high productivity, but **Tamil Nadu and Telangana** often show higher productivity → Incorrect

7. Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN)

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has proposed an Aadhaar-like unique ID for electric vehicle batteries to ensure lifecycle traceability and efficient recycling.

1. With reference to India's Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN), consider the following statements:

1. BPAN is a unique 21-character identification number proposed for electric vehicle batteries and certain industrial batteries.
2. BPAN is intended to track the entire lifecycle of a battery, from raw material sourcing to recycling or disposal.
3. BPAN is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

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

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5th JAN 2026

1. Typhoid

2. Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology

3. Taimoor Missile

4. Double-Humped Bactrian Camel

5. Design Linked Incentive Scheme

6. China's proposal of the Global Governance Initiative (GGI)

7. Monroe Doctrine

1. Typhoid

WHY IN NEWS Gandhinagar is facing a surge in typhoid cases linked to contaminated drinking water, exposing serious flaws in the city's newly laid water supply system.

Q. With reference to *Typhoid fever*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a bacterial disease caused by *Salmonella typhi*.
2. It spreads mainly through contaminated food and water.
3. Vaccination provides lifelong immunity against typhoid.
4. Improvement in sanitation and access to safe drinking water helps in prevention of typhoid.

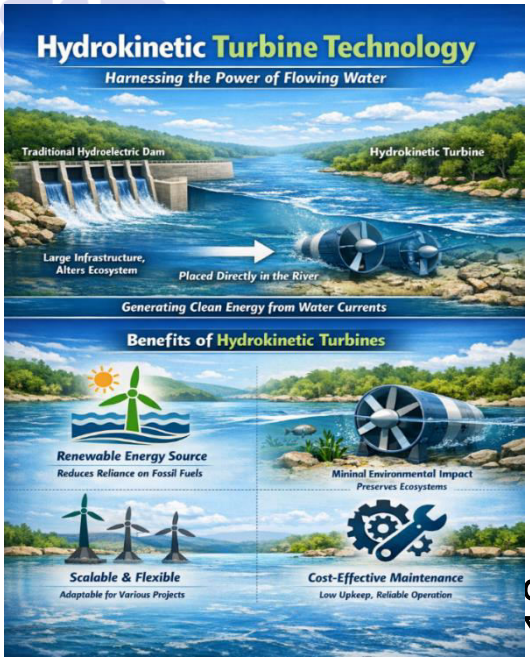
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A) 1, 2 and 4 only

2. Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology

WHY IN NEWS In a major push to expand renewable energy and ensure 24x7 electricity supply, the Tripura government recently identified 10 river sites to generate 185 MW of power using Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology.



Q1. Hydrokinetic turbines are most suitable for deployment in which of the following locations?

1. Fast-flowing rivers
2. Tidal currents in coastal areas
3. Ocean thermal gradients
4. Irrigation canals

Select the correct answer using the code below:
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

3. Taimoor Missile

WHY IN NEWS The Pakistan Air Force has successfully conducted a flight test of the indigenously developed Taimoor Weapon System recently

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding cruise missiles:

1. They use aerodynamic lift like aircraft during most of the flight.

2. They can fly at very low altitudes to evade radar detection.

3. All cruise missiles are supersonic throughout their flight.

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**

4. Double-Humped Bactrian Camel

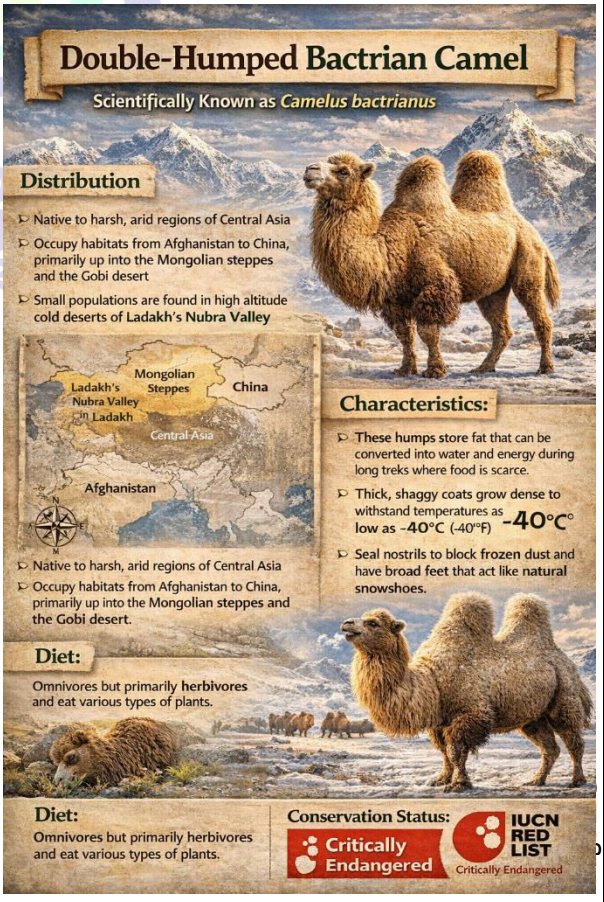
WHY IN NEWS Ladakh's double-humped Bactrian camels are set to debut at the 77th Republic Day parade

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Bactrian camel:

1. It is adapted to extreme cold and hot desert conditions.
2. It has a thick coat that is shed seasonally.
3. It is found only in tropical deserts.

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



5. Design Linked Incentive Scheme

WHY IN NEWS The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme is critical to anchoring India in the most strategic and value-intensive segment of the global semiconductor value chain—chip design

Q1.Silicon is most widely used in semiconductor chips because it:

1. Is abundantly available
2. Forms a stable native oxide (SiO_2)
3. Has zero electrical resistance

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

6. China's proposal of the Global Governance Initiative (GGI)

WHY IN NEWS China has reiterated its four global initiatives—with the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) at the core—as a people-centred framework for peace, security, and development.

1. With reference to the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) proposed by China, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It was proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2025.
2. It aims to replace the United Nations system with a new China-led global body.
3. It emphasizes sovereign equality, international rule of law, and multilateral cooperation.

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

The Global Governance Initiative contributes Chinese wisdom to the world

YOU WENZE

ON September 1, 2025, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) at the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus" Meeting.

The GGI elaborates the principles, methods, and pathways that should be followed to reform and improve global governance and systematically addresses key questions of "who should govern, how to govern, and for whom to govern".

in all countries.

To focus on taking real actions means we should coordinate global actions, fully mobilise various resources, and strive to resolve real problems.

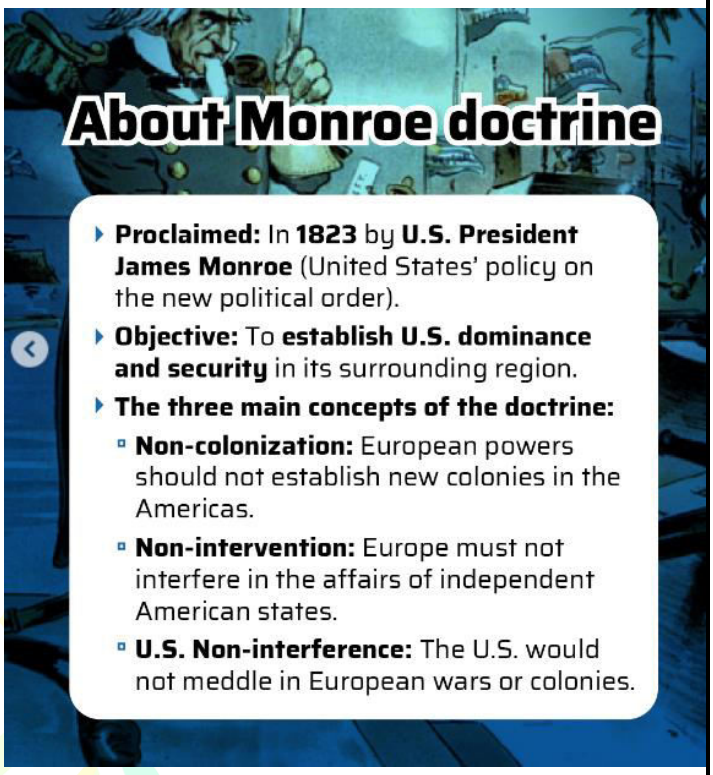
The "five core concepts"of the GGI stem from the purposes and principles of the UN. Charter, and respond to the shared aspiration of most countries, providing a systematic solution for building a more just and equitable global governance system.

The GGI demonstrates China's sense of responsibility. As a permanent member of the UN. Security Council and the biggest developing country, China has all along been a staunch builder of world peace, contributor to global development, defender of the international order and provider of public goods.

To reform and improve global governance does not mean to over-

7. Monroe Doctrine

WHY IN NEWS The U.S. action against **Venezuela** and the capture of its president has been justified by Donald Trump by invoking the **Monroe Doctrine**, a 19th-century U.S. policy.



Q1. Consider the following statements about the Monroe Doctrine:

1. It considered any European intervention in the Western Hemisphere as a threat to the US.
2. It promised US non-interference in European internal affairs.
3. It was supported diplomatically by Britain.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3

6th JAN 2026

1. Suryastra Rocket System

2. Industrial Research and Development Promotion Program

3. Socotra Island

4. Rice Crop

5. OPEC+

6. 1000 years survival of Somnath Temple

7. India has inaugurated the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL)

8. Lucknow To Get India's First Urban Night Safari At Kukrail Forest Area

1. Suryastra Rocket System

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Indian Army has signed a ₹293 crore contract with private defence manufacturer NIBE Limited, in collaboration with Israel, for the supply of suryastra rocket launcher system

Q1 Which of the following features distinguish Suryastra rockets from conventional unguided rockets?

1. Precision guidance system
2. Extended range capability
3. Ability to strike targets with high accuracy

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: D. 1, 2 and 3

2. Industrial Research and Development Promotion Program

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the government announced relaxation for deep-tech startups to avail recognition under Department of Scientific and Industrial Research's (DSIR) Industrial Research and Development Promotion Program.

Q1. Consider the following objectives of the IRDP Programme:

1. Encouraging industry–academia collaboration
2. Promoting technology development and commercialization
3. Supporting basic research only in government laboratories

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

3. Socotra Island

WHY IN NEWS Hundreds of tourists are stuck on the Yemeni island of Socotra after flights were grounded over clashes on the mainland.

About Socotra Island

- It is an island in the Indian Ocean about 340 km southeast of Yemen, to which it belongs.
- The largest of several islands extending eastward from the Horn of Africa, Socotra has an area of about 3,600 sq.km.
- The Hajhir Mountains occupy Socotra's interior, whereas narrow coastal plains lie in the north and a broader plain in the south.
- To the southwest and west are the smaller islands **of Samḥah and Darzah, called al-Ikhwān ("the Brothers"),** and ʿAbd al-Kūrī, all of which also belong to Yemen.
- The island has a total population of around 70,000 people who speak their Socotri language.
- Apart from the main town of Hadibo, there exists little infrastructure on the island.
- It broke off from the Arabian Peninsula some 80 million years ago and is often called the "Galápagos of the Indian Ocean."
- Socotra is a treasure trove of endemic flora and fauna, meaning they are found nowhere else on Earth.
- For example: 37% of Socotra's 825 plant species, 90% of its reptile species, and 95% of its land snail species do not occur anywhere else in the world.
- In 2008, Socotra was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

4. Rice Crop

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Agriculture Minister said India's rice production has reached 150.18 million tonnes, compared to China's 145.28 million tonnes

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding rice cultivation:

1. Rice requires standing water during most of its growing period.
2. Rice can be grown in both tropical and subtropical regions.
3. Rice is completely intolerant to saline soils.

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

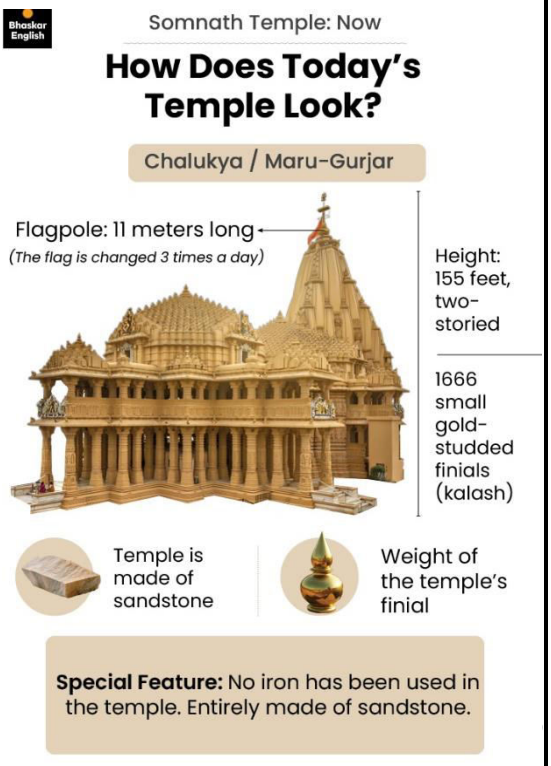
Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

5. OPEC+

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)+ has agreed in principle to maintain steady oil output despite rising political tensions among key members and widening geopolitical uncertainty.

6. 1000 years survival of Somnath Temple

WHY IN NEWS Prime Minister of India highlighted the thousand-year survival of the Somnath Temple, marking 1,000 years since the 1026 attack by **Mahmud of Ghazni**.



1. Consider the following statements regarding the Somnath Temple:

1. It is the first among the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.
2. The present structure of the temple is built in the Nagara style of temple architecture.
3. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel initiated the reconstruction of the temple after Independence.

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

7. India has inaugurated the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL)

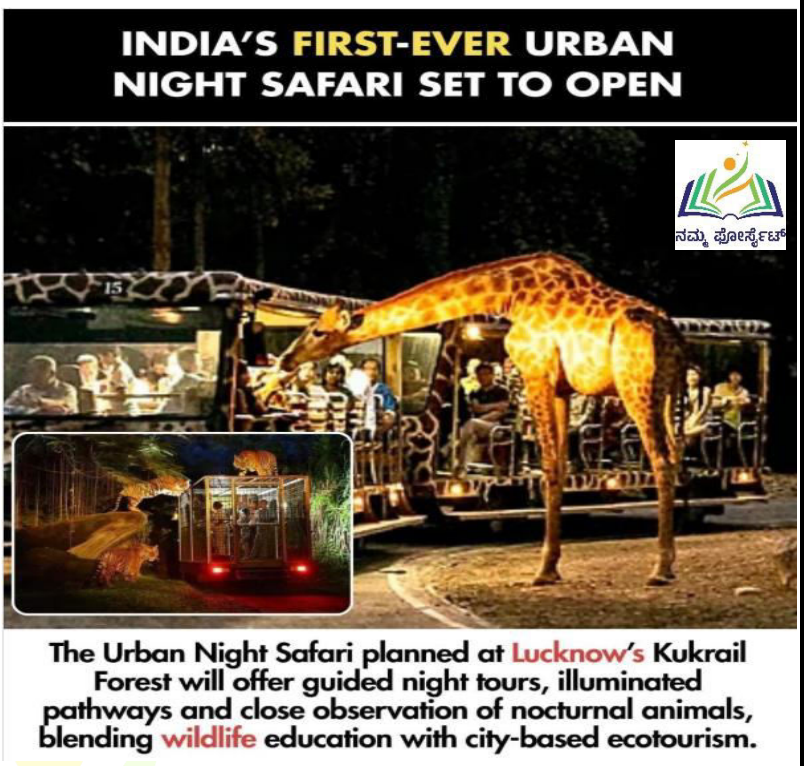
WHY IN NEWS India has inaugurated the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL) and the world's fifth National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration **at CSIR–NPL**, New Delhi.

The National Environmental Standard Laboratory is an apex national facility for testing, calibration, and certification of air pollution monitoring equipment under Indian climatic and environmental conditions.

- **Located in:** CSIR–National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi
- **Organisations involved:** Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- CSIR–National Physical Laboratory (NPL)
- **Aim:**
    - To establish India-specific standards for air pollution monitoring instruments.
    - To support effective implementation of pollution control policies such as National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- **Key features:**
    - Calibration and testing under Indian climatic conditions (temperature, humidity, dust load).
    - Ensures traceable, accurate, and standardised environmental data.
    - Supports domestic manufacturing, startups, MSMEs, and regulators.
    - Only the UK and India currently have such national-level facilities.

8. Lucknow To Get India's First Urban Night Safari At Kukrail Forest Area

WHY IN NEWS Lucknow is set to introduce India's first urban night safari at the Kukrail Forest Area, marking a unique blend of **wildlife conservation** and city-based tourism.



The Urban Night Safari planned at Lucknow's Kukrail Forest will offer guided night tours, illuminated pathways and close observation of nocturnal animals, blending wildlife education with city-based ecotourism.

7th JAN 2026

1. **Melghat Tiger Reserve**
2. **SHINE Scheme**
3. **Sagar Island**
4. **Iran**
5. **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**
6. **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**
7. **Constitutional duty of the Election Commission of India**
8. **Mpemba Effect**
9. **Indian Railways becomes the biggest electrified rail system globally**
10. **Biomaterials India**

1. Melghat Tiger Reserve

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has released 15 critically endangered Indian vultures at the Melghat Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Tiger Reserves:

1. Each Tiger Reserve has a Core (Critical Tiger Habitat) and Buffer zone.
2. Core areas are kept free from human activities.
3. Buffer zones act as a transition area for coexistence of wildlife and humans.

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

2. SHINE Scheme

WHY IN NEWS Recently, at the 79th Bureau of Indian Standards Foundation Day union ministers launched the SHINE scheme in New Delhi.

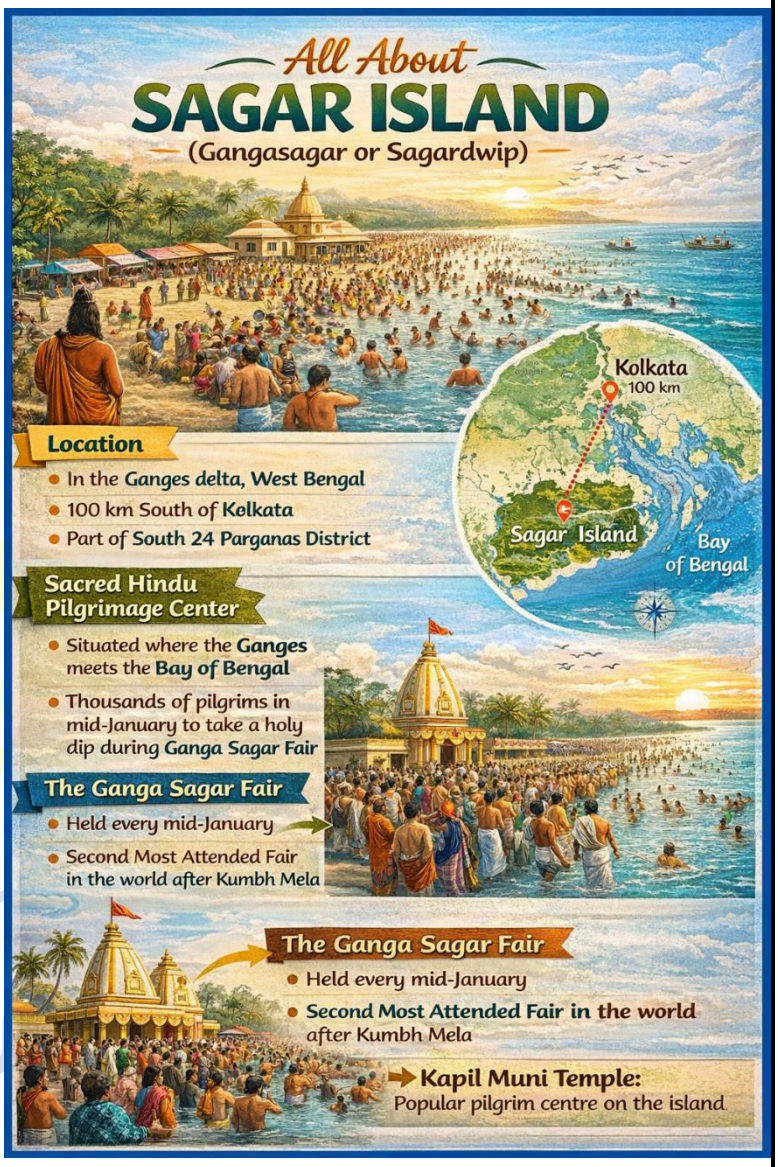
About SHINE Scheme

- The Standards Help Inform & Nurture Empowered Women (SHINE) is a new scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards.
- It places women at the center of India's quality journey.
- Through structured training, grassroots partnerships with NGOs and SHGs, and practical, locally delivered programmes,
- It empowers women with knowledge that protects families and strengthens livelihoods.
- Through this BIS spreads awareness about standards, safety, and quality within households, self-help groups, and communities.
- Key Facts about Bureau of Indian Standards
- It is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016.
- Objective: It was established for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking, and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- It is the successor of the Indian Standards Institution (ISI), which was created in 1947 to ensure quality control and competitive efficiency in the rapid industrialization era.
- BIS represents India in International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

- Nodal Ministry: It is functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Headquarter: It is headquartered in New Delhi and maintains regional and branch offices throughout the country

3. Sagar Island

WHY IN NEWS The West Bengal Chief Minister recently laid the foundation stone of a 5-km-long bridge over the river Muriganga to connect Sagar Island with the mainland



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Sagar Island:

1. It is one of the largest inhabited islands in the Sundarbans.
2. It is located at the confluence of the Ganga and the Bay of Bengal.
3. It is completely free from coastal erosion.

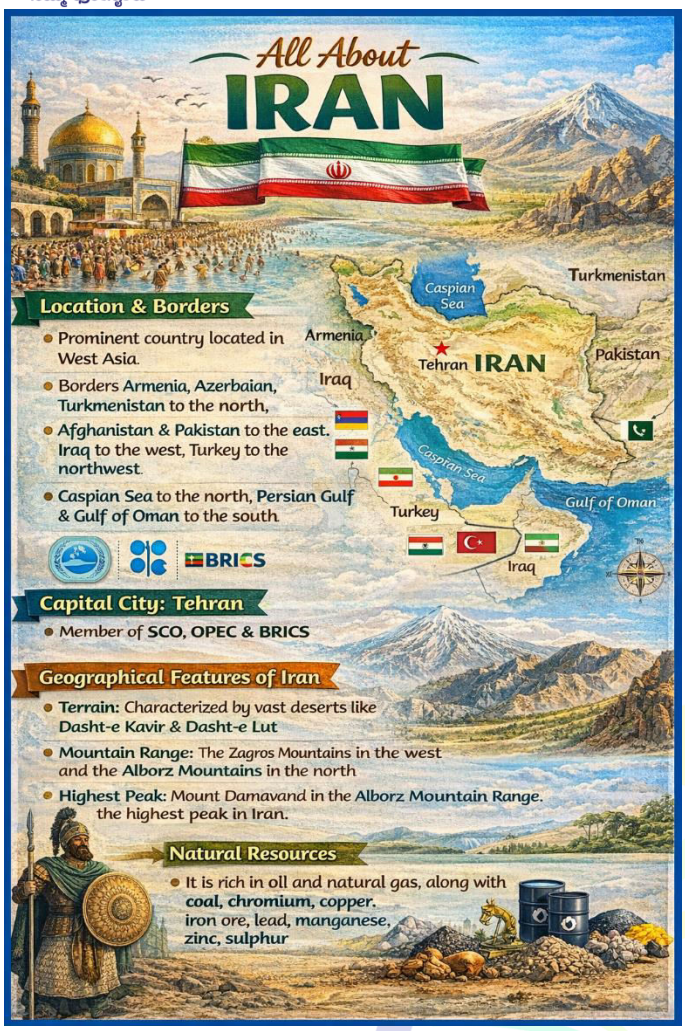
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

4. Iran

WHY IN NEWS Recently, India has issued an advisory urging its nationals to avoid any non-essential travel to Iran until further notice amid the ongoing protests



Q1. Which of the following seas/oceans border Iran?

1. Caspian Sea
2. Persian Gulf
3. Gulf of Oman
4. Red Sea

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: A. 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Iran is bordered by the **Caspian Sea** to the north, and by the **Persian Gulf** and **Gulf of Oman** to the south. It does *not* border the Red Sea.

5. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

WHY IN NEWS The 79th Foundation Day of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) was celebrated, where Union Minister highlighted **BIS's shift** from a regulatory to a facilitative approach, aligned with ease of doing business and quality culture.

1. With reference to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), consider the following statements:

1. BIS is the National Standards Body of India.
2. BIS was established by an Act of Parliament in 2016.
3. BIS functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

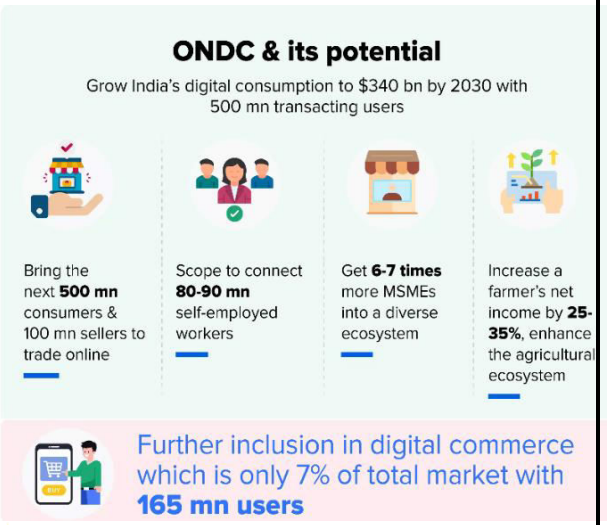
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

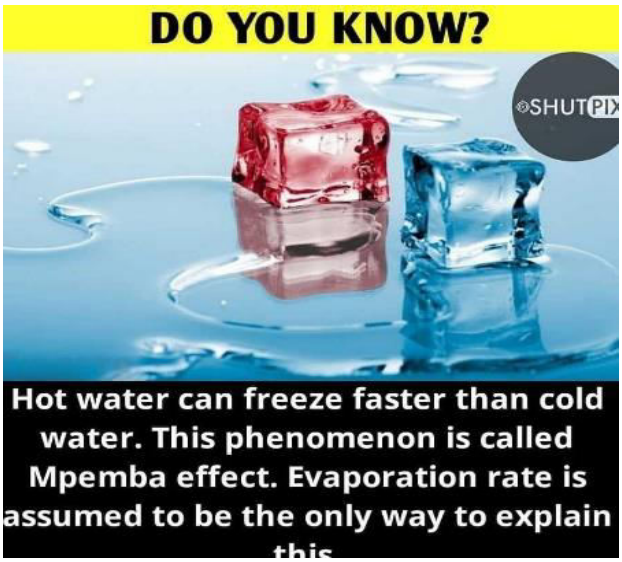
6. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

WHY IN NEWS Online ticket booking for 170+ centrally protected monuments and museums has been enabled by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform.



7.Constitutional duty of the Election Commission of India

WHY IN NEWS The Election Commission of India (ECI) told the Supreme Court of India that Article 324 grants it constitutional control over the preparation of electoral rolls, including the power to conduct **Special Intensive Revision (SIR).**



8. Mpemba Effect

WHY IN NEWS Indian scientists have developed the first supercomputer-powered simulation that successfully captures the Mpemba effect, resolving a long-standing **scientific paradox** of hot water freezing faster than cold.

9. Indian Railways becomes the biggest electrified rail system globally

WHY IN NEWS Indian Railways has become the largest electrified rail network in the world, with about 99.2% of its **broad-gauge network** electrified by November 2025.

1. With reference to India's Railway Electrification System, consider the following statements:

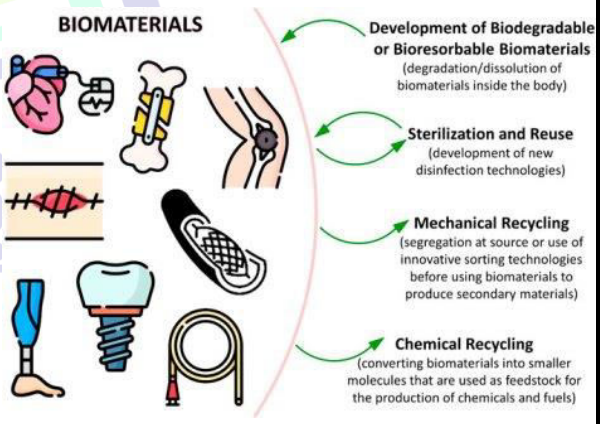
1. Indian Railways uses 25 kV AC, single-phase, 50 Hz traction system.
2. Railways in India initially used DC traction system in some regions.
3. India has achieved 100% electrification of all broad-gauge routes.

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

10. Biomaterials India



WHY IN NEWS India's focus on Biomanufacturing and Bio-foundry has reached a climax in early 2026 with the operationalization of massive **PLA (Polylactic Acid) facilities**.

8th JAN 2026

1. **Sports Authority of India (SAI).**
2. **Bio-Bitumen**
3. **The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)**
4. **Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve**
5. **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary**
6. **Earth Observation Satellite EOS-N1 (Anvesha)**
7. **White dwarf system**

1. Sports Authority of India (SAI).

WHY IN NEWS The Sports Authority of India (SAI) recently launched a four-day Sports Sciences Workshop for combat sports coaches at its Sports Science Division in New Delhi.

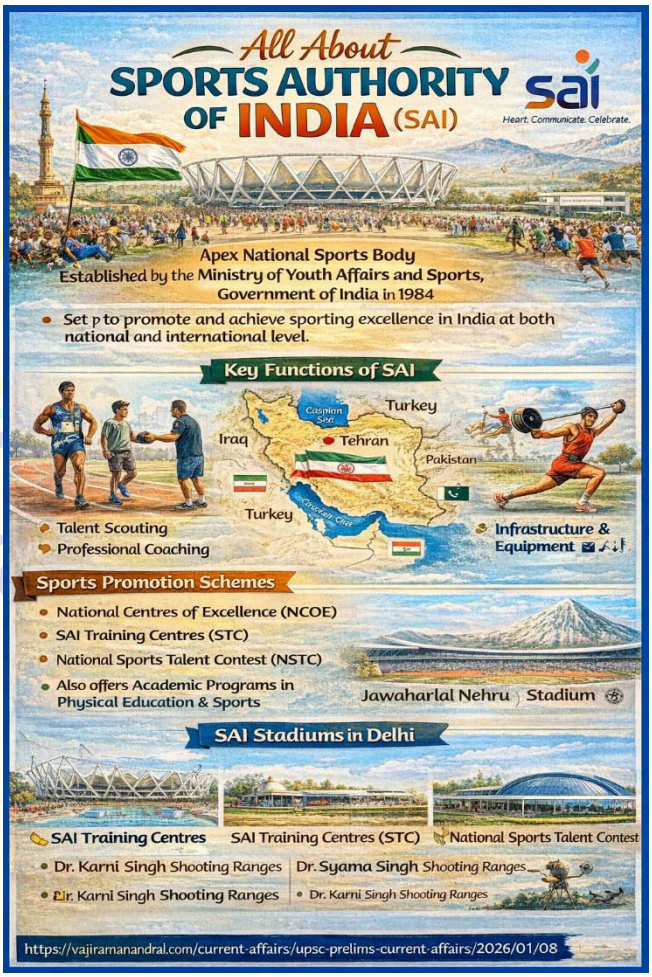
Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Sports Authority of India:

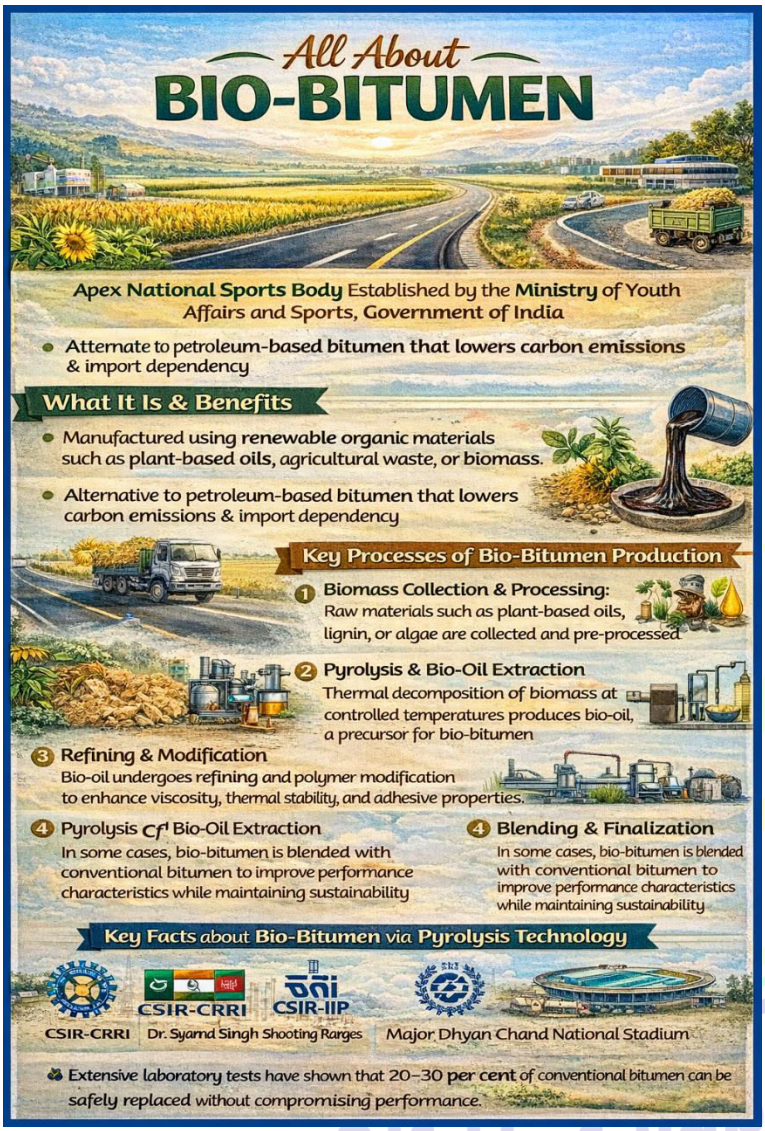
1. It is a statutory body created by an Act of Parliament.
2. It was set up as a successor to the IX Asian Games Organising Committee.
3. It manages national sports coaching schemes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A. 2 and 3 only





2. Bio-Bitumen

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the union Minister of State for Science and Technology said that India has entered an era of "Clean, Green Highways" following the successful technology transfer of "Bio-Bitumen via Pyrolysis: From Farm Residue to Roads".

1. With reference to *bio-bitumen* used in India's road infrastructure, consider the following statements:

1. Bio-bitumen is a petroleum-free and renewable alternative to conventional bitumen.
2. It can be produced from agricultural biomass such as crop stubble or lignin.
3. Bio-bitumen completely replaces conventional bitumen without blending in all applications.

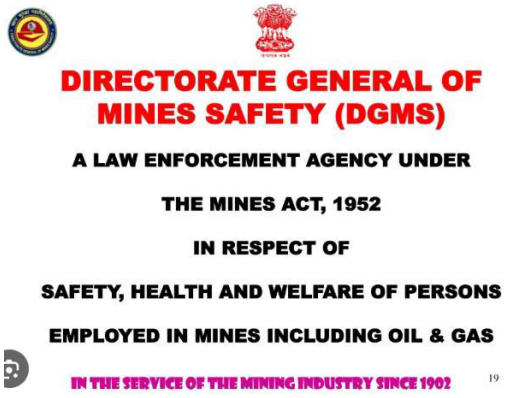
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

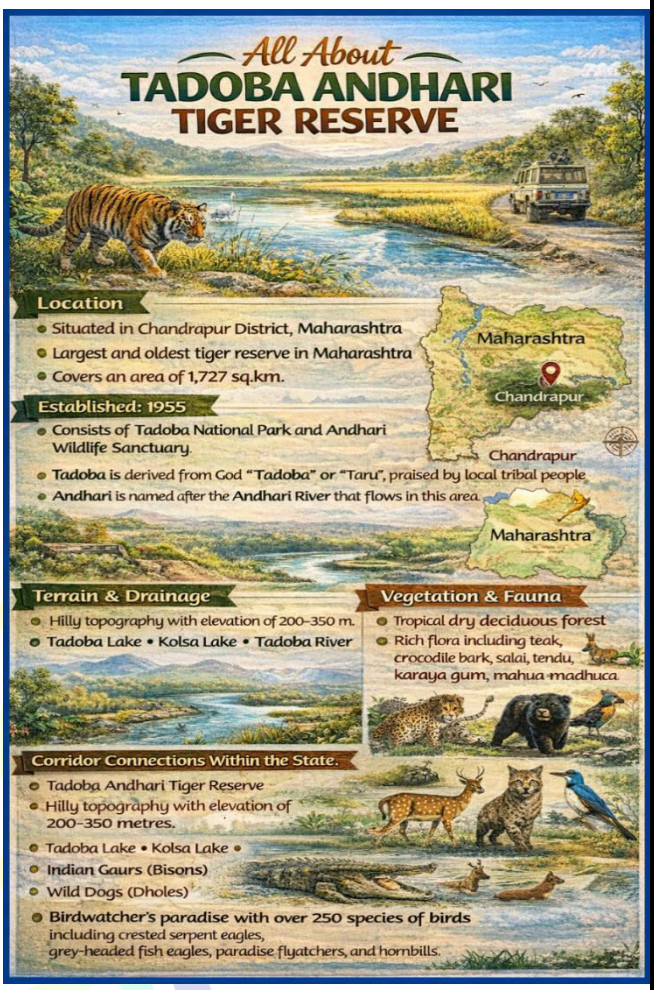
Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

3. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)

WHY IN NEWS The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) marked its 125th Foundation Day (2026), reaffirming its role in mine workers' safety and welfare.



4. Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve



WHY IN NEWS The Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) recently undertook a sterilisation and vaccination program to deal with the growing menace of stray dogs

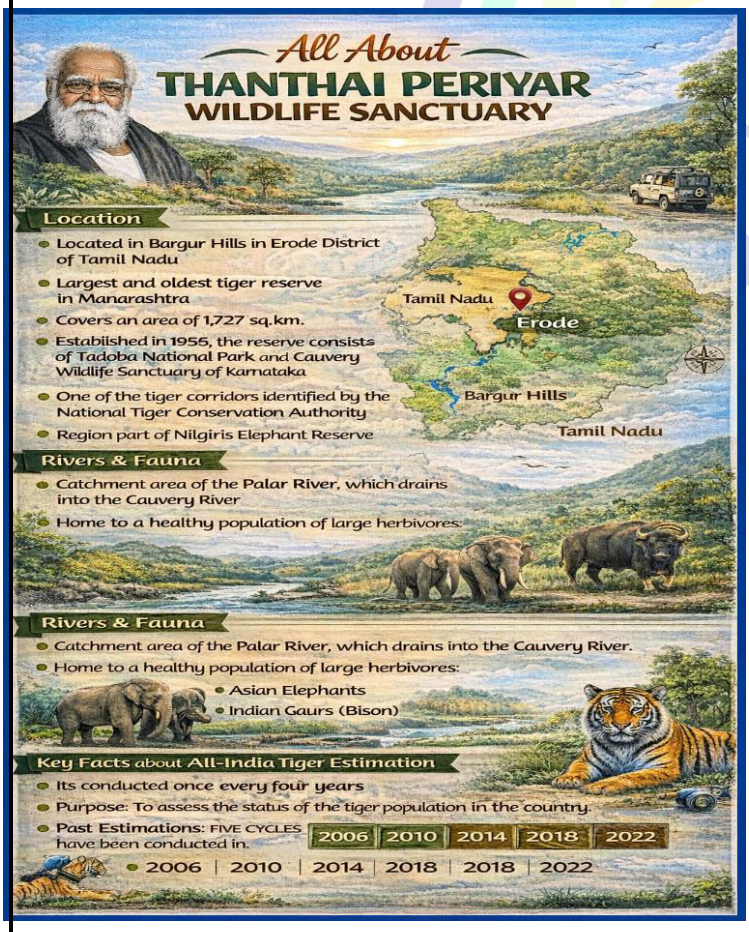
Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Nagarahole (Rajiv Gandhi) Tiger Reserve:

1. It lies between the Kabini and Lakshmana Tirtha rivers.
2. It forms part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
3. It was the first Tiger Reserve in Karnataka.

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



5. Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the first phase of the All-India Tiger Estimation-2026 (AITE-26) commenced in the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the announcement/notification of a Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. It is notified by the State Government.

2. Rights of people are settled after the initial notification.

3. Commercial hunting is prohibited.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 1, 2 and 3
D. 2 and 3 only **Answer: C.** 1, 2 and 3

6. Earth Observation Satellite EOS-N1 (Anvesha)

WHY IN NEWS Indian Space Research Organisation **(ISRO)** will begin 2026 with the PSLV-C62 mission, launching the advanced surveillance satellite EOS-N1 (Anvesha) along with 18 co-passenger payloads.

1. With reference to the EOS-N1 (Anvesha) satellite, consider the following statements:

1. It is a hyperspectral Earth-observation satellite developed by India.
2. EOS-N1 was launched aboard a PSLV mission from Sriharikota in January 2026.
3. The satellite is intended for applications in agriculture, urban mapping, and environmental monitoring.

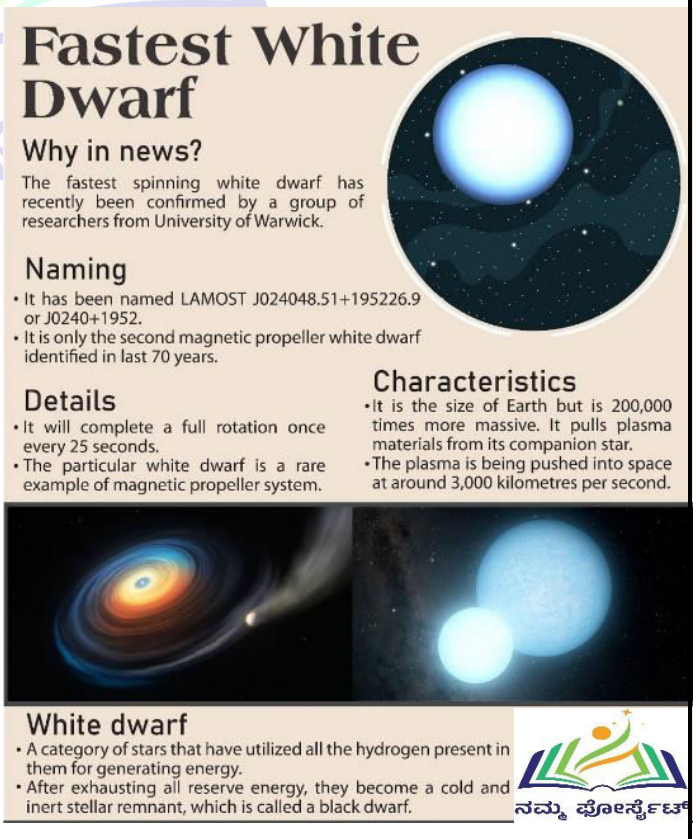
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7. White dwarf system

WHY IN NEWS NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarization Explorer (IXPE) has, for the first time, probed the internal structure of a white dwarf system, revealing unexpected details about gas flows and X-ray behaviour in the binary system **EX Hydrae**.



9th JAN 2026

1. **Long Range Anti-Ship Missile**
2. **Kamala Hydroelectric Project**
3. **North Island**
4. **Weimar Triangle**
5. **M-STrIPES**
6. **Barak River**
7. **UIDAI launches Aadhaar mascot Udai**
8. **District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Plan**
9. **Dust EXperiment (DEX)**
10. **Child marriage and India**
11. **Spina Bifida**

1. Long Range Anti-Ship Missile

WHY IN NEWS India's indigenous LR-ASHM missile will be on display at the Republic Day parade on January 26, highlighting the country's growing maritime strike capability

Q1. With reference to the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM) developed by India, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenous missile developed by DRDO for the Indian Navy.
2. It is capable of being launched from air, surface, and submarine platforms.
3. It uses active radar homing for terminal guidance.

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

2. Kamala Hydroelectric Project

WHY IN NEWS The Public Investment Board (PIB) recently gave approval for the Rs 26,070-crore, 1,720 MW Kamala hydroelectric project in Arunachal Pradesh.

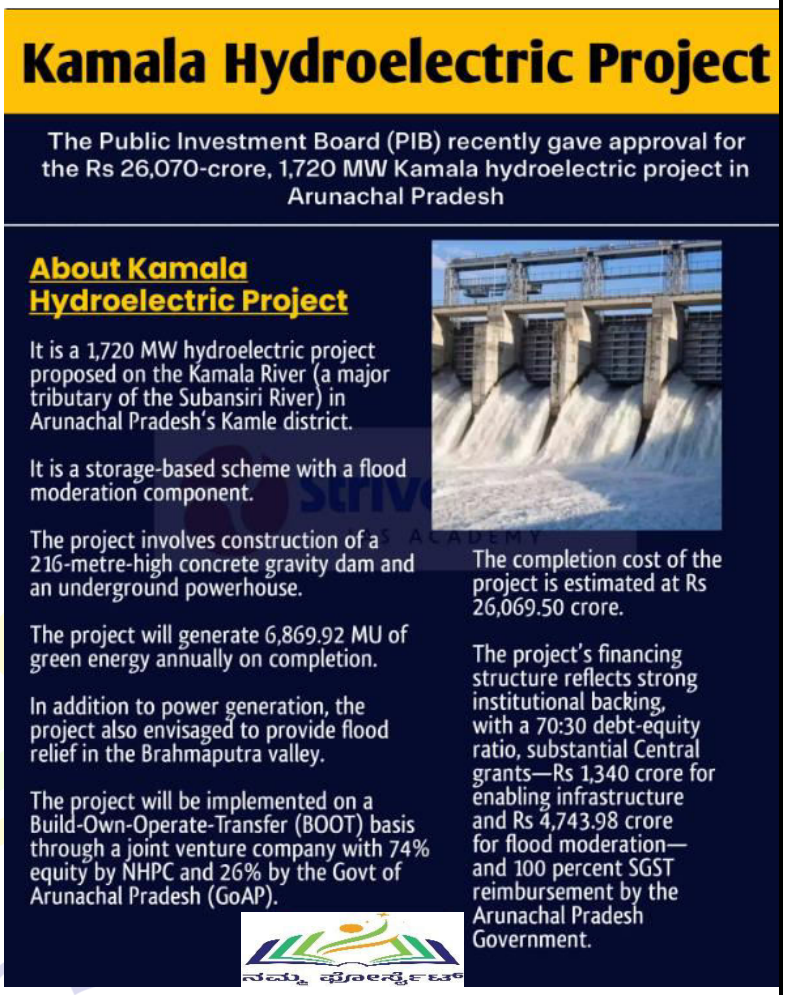
Q1. With reference to the Kamala Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh, consider the following statements:

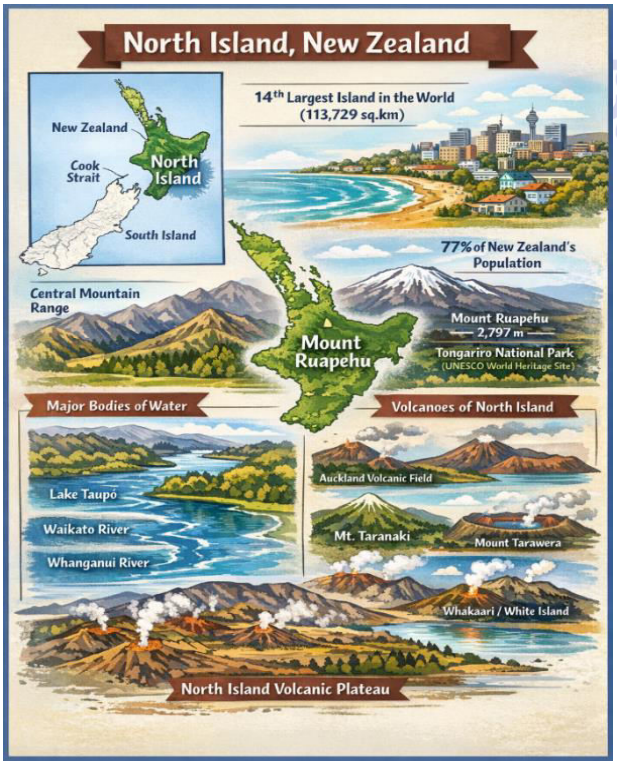
1. It is proposed on the Kamala River.
2. The Kamala River is a tributary of the Subansiri River.
3. The project is aimed at harnessing hydropower potential of the Eastern Himalayas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d). 1, 2 and 3





3. North Island

WHY IN NEWS A magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck the North Island region of New Zealand recently

Q1. North Island is separated from South Island of New Zealand by which strait?

(a) Cook Strait
(b) Bass Strait
(c) Torres Strait
(d) Drake Passage

Answer: (a) Cook Strait

4. Weimar Triangle

WHY IN NEWS India's External Affairs Minister recently participated in India's first-ever engagement in the Weimar Triangle, with French and Polish counterparts along with German representatives.

Q1. The Weimar Triangle is a trilateral cooperation framework involving which three countries?

(a) Germany, France, Italy
(b) Germany, Poland, Czech Republic
(c) Germany, France, Poland
(d) France, Italy, Spain

Answer: (c) Germany, France, Poland

5. M-STrIPES

WHY IN NEWS Forest staff who are to be involved in the census of tigers and other wild animals at Anamalai Tiger Reserve will be using the advanced Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-Stripes/MSTrIPES) app.

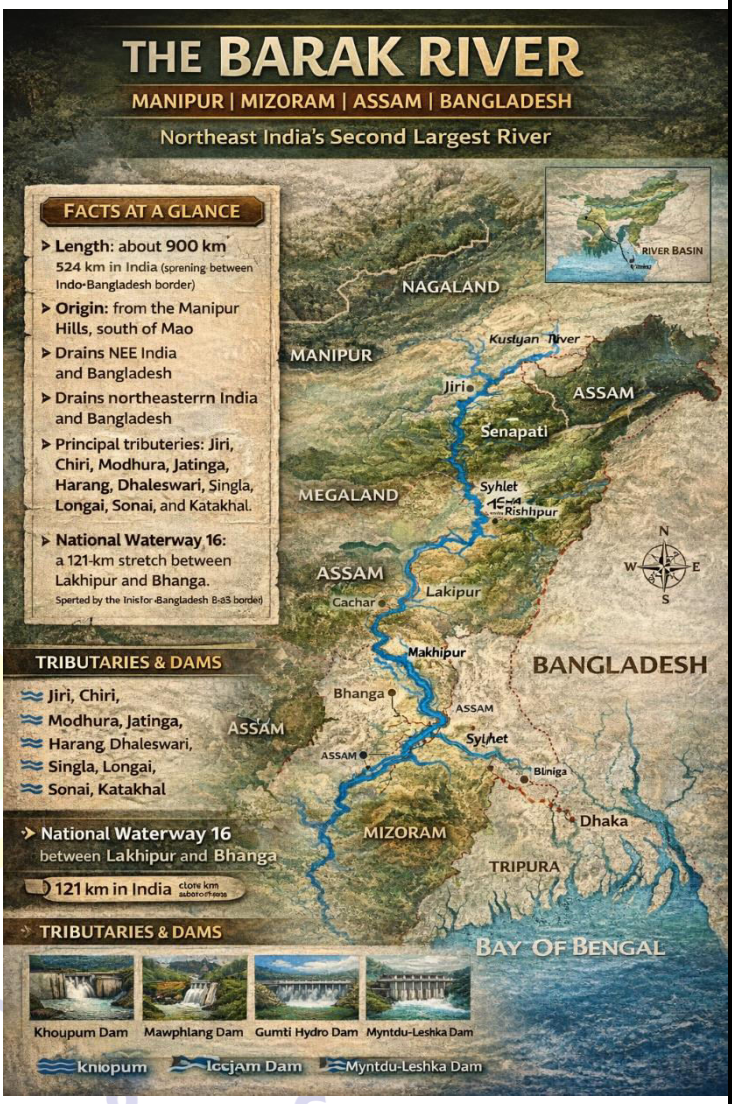
Q1. M-STrIPES, often seen in the context of tiger conservation, stands for

A. Monitoring Scheme for Tiger Protection and Ecosystem Services
B. Modified Strategy for Tiger Reserve Protection
C. Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status
D. Management System for Tiger Population Estimation

Answer: C. **Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status**

6. Barak River

WHY IN NEWS The Senapati Forest Division recently launched Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises as a pilot initiative to rejuvenate the Barak River watershed while simultaneously strengthening local livelihoods



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Barak River:

1. It flows westward after entering Bangladesh.
2. It ultimately drains into the Bay of Bengal.
3. It is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River.

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

7. UIDAI launches Aadhaar mascot Udai

WHY IN NEWS The Unique Identification Authority of **India (UIDAI)** has launched Aadhaar mascot 'Udai (उदय)' to make Aadhaar-related information more relatable and people-friendly.

Q1. Consider the following statements about Aadhaar:

1. Aadhaar is issued under the Citizenship Act, 1955.
2. Aadhaar is a 12-digit random number issued to residents of India.
3. Aadhaar can be used as proof of identity and proof of address.

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: B. 2 and 3 only

8. District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Plan

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Textiles has announced the **District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) plan** to convert 100 high-potential districts into Global Export Champions and upgrade 100 Aspirational Districts into self-reliant textile hubs.

9. Dust EXperiment (DEX)

WHY IN NEWS ISRO has confirmed that an **interplanetary dust particle (IDP)** enters Earth's atmosphere roughly every 16 minutes, based on measurements from India's first cosmic dust detector Dust EXperiment (DEX).

1. The Dust Experiment (DEX), recently in news, is associated with which of the following ISRO missions?
A. Chandrayaan-2
B. Chandrayaan-3
C. Aditya-L1
D. Mangalyaan-2

Answer: C. Aditya-L1

10. Child marriage and India

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India has intensified efforts to eliminate child marriage through **the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat (BVMB)** campaign, aiming to reduce prevalence by 10% by 2026 and make India child marriage-free by 2030.

Q1. Consider the following statements about child marriage in India:

1. PCMA, 2006 makes child marriage *void ab initio* in all cases.
2. The Act provides for *maintenance* and *residence* for the female contracting party.
3. The Act allows courts to appoint a *Child Marriage Prohibition Officer*.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A. 2 and 3 only

11. Spina Bifida

WHY IN NEWS India continues to report one of the highest global burdens of Spina Bifida, despite clear scientific evidence that **pre-conception folic acid** intake can prevent over 70% of cases.

10th JAN 2026

1. Two New Frog Species

2. Grey Slender Loris

3. PANKHUDI Portal

4. Dal Lake

5. Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector

6. National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS)

7. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

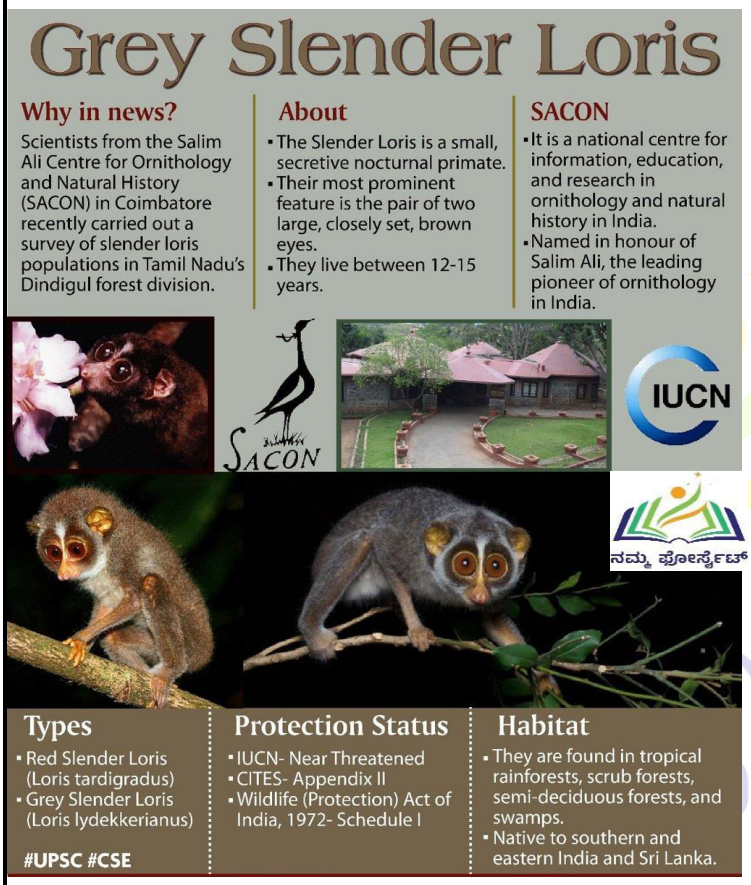
8. Zehanpora Stupa

9. Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) Communication Technology

10. Kashmir Markhor

1. Two New Frog Species

WHY IN NEWS A team of scientists led by 'Frogman of India' S. D. Biju recently discovered two new frog species named Soman's Slender Arm Frog (Leptobrachium somani) and Mechuka Slender Arm Frog (Leptobrachium mechuka) from the remote mountain habitats of Arunachal Pradesh



2. Grey Slender Loris

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have begun efforts to restore habitats and strengthen monitoring of the grey slender loris

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Grey Slender Loris:

1. It has large forward-facing eyes adapted for night vision.

2. It feeds mainly on insects and small vertebrates.

3. It is commonly found in dense evergreen forests only.

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

3. PANKHUDI Portal

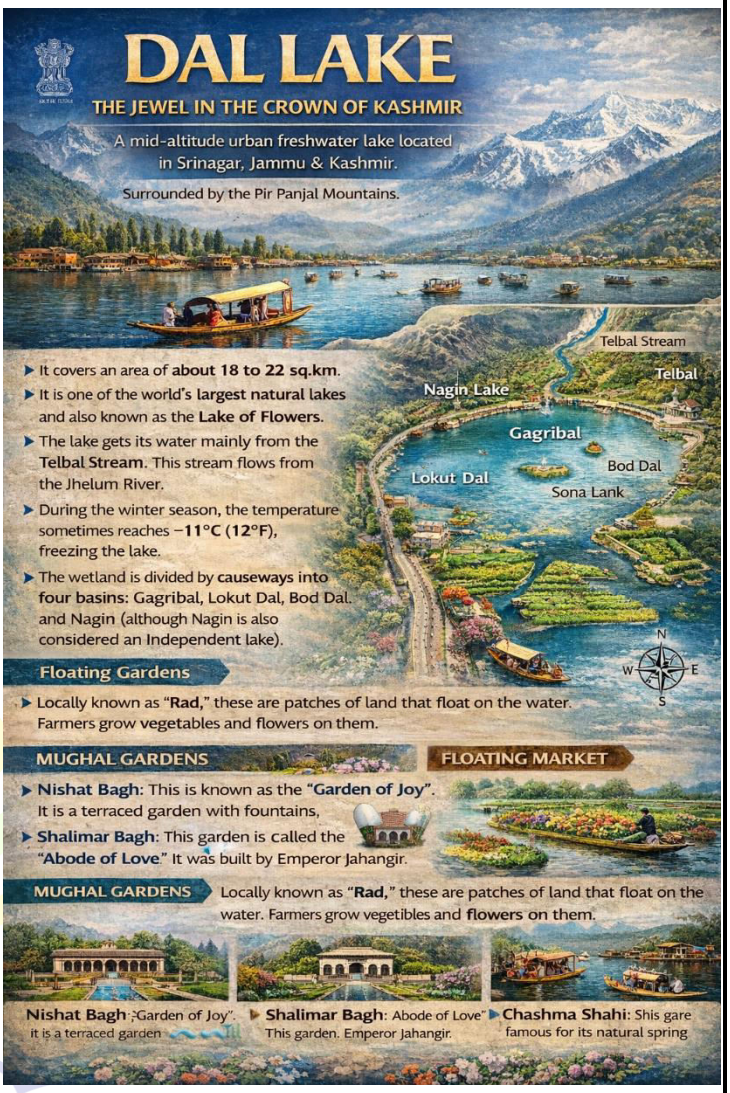
WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the PANKHUDI portal

Q1. The PANKHUDI Portal is associated with

A. Farmer insurance services
B. Women entrepreneurship promotion
C. Child nutrition monitoring
D. Urban housing scheme

Answer: B. Women entrepreneurship promotion

4. Dal Lake



WHY IN NEWS Parts of the Dal Lake in Srinagar froze recently as the city recorded its coldest night of the winter, with temperatures plunging well below the freezing point across the Kashmir Valley.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Dal Lake:

1. It is a freshwater lake formed due to tectonic activity.
2. It is fed by both glacier melt and mountain streams.
3. It has been declared a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C. 1 only

Explanation: Dal Lake is **freshwater** and of **tectonic origin**, but it is **not a Ramsar site** and is mainly fed by **streams, not glaciers**.

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5. Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector

WHY IN NEWS The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has reached a milestone in digitalizing the dairy sector, notably generating over 35.68 crore "Pashu Aadhaar" IDs.

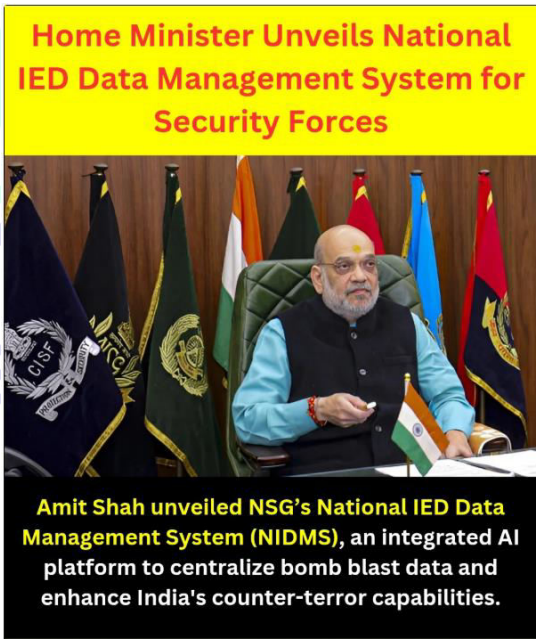
6. National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS)

WHY IN NEWS Union Home Minister inaugurated the National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS) at the **NSG garrison**, Manesar, calling it a "next-generation shield against terrorism".

1. The National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS) was developed by:

A. National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)
B. National Investigation Agency (NIA)
C. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
D. Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)

Answer: B



7. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

WHY IN NEWS The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in its World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026 report, projected **India's GDP growth at 7.4%** in 2025–26.

What is UNDESA?

- UNDESA is a core department of the United Nations Secretariat that leads the UN's work on economic, social and environmental development, especially the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Established in:

- **1948** (restructured into its present form in **1997** through mergers of UN development and policy departments)

Headquarters: New York City, United States

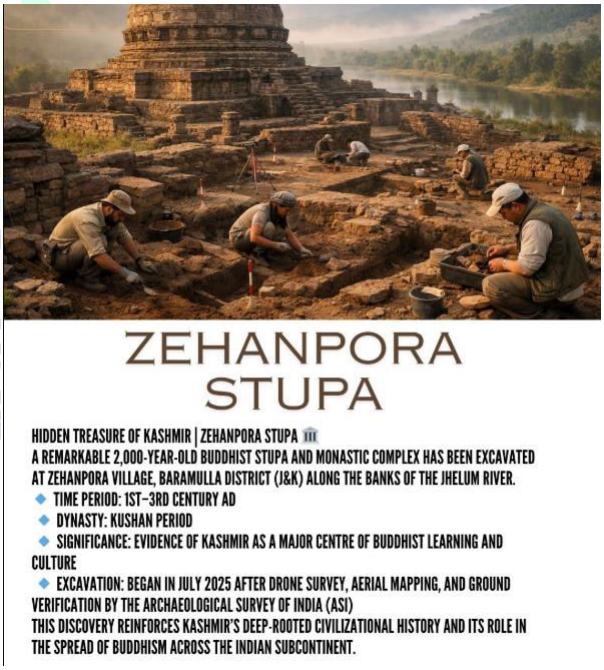
Aim: To support countries in achieving sustainable, inclusive and equitable development by translating **global UN commitments** into national policies and actions in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

Key functions:

- **Global economic and social analysis:** Produces flagship reports like World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) to guide national and global policy.
- **SDG monitoring and coordination:** Tracks progress on the **17 SDGs** and supports their implementation across countries.
- **Policy advice and technical assistance:** Helps governments design policies on poverty reduction, inequality, employment, climate action and social protection.
- **Intergovernmental support**: Provides secretariat services to the UN General Assembly, **ECOSOC,** UN Commissions and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).
- **Global data and research:** Maintains major development databases and statistical platforms used by policymakers worldwide.

8. Zehanpora Stupa

WHY IN NEWS The 2,000-year-old **Buddhist stupas** and monastic complex at Zehanpora in Baramulla, Kashmir, dating to the Kushan period, have been scientifically excavated.



1. The Zehanpora Stupa, recently in news, is located in which state/UT of India?

A. Ladakh
B. Himachal Pradesh
C. Jammu & Kashmir
D. Uttarakhand

Answer: C. Jammu & Kashmir

9. Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) Communication Technology

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India has announced that Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication technology will be rolled out nationwide by end-2026 to reduce road crashes.

Q1. Which of the following technologies are typically used in V2V communication?

1. Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC)
2. Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything (C-V2X)
3. 5G networks
4. Bluetooth Classic

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

Answer: B. 1, 2 and 3 only

10. Kashmir Markhor

WHY IN NEWS The Kashmir markhor, India's rarest wild goat, is facing local extinction, with only 200–300 individuals left, mostly confined to the **Kazinag range** of Jammu & Kashmir.

11th JAN 2026

1. **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**
2. **Aerosols**
3. **Kathputli**
4. **Phayre's Leaf Monkey**
5. **Swami Vivekananda**
6. **Swachh Jal Abhiyan**
7. **OrbitAid's AyulSAT**
8. **Orobanche aegyptiaca**
9. **Operation Hawkeye**
10. **Bhairav Battalion**

1. Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary

WHY IN NEWS The Kerala government has officially renamed the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, making it the first butterfly sanctuary in the State

1. With reference to Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

1. It lies entirely within the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
2. It is drained by a tributary of the Valapattanam River.
3. It was notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B. 2 and 3 only

2. Aerosols

WHY IN NEWS A recent study found that water vapor heats the atmosphere much more than aerosols do

Q1. Consider the following aerosols:

1. Sulphate aerosols
2. Black carbon
3. Organic carbon

Which of the above are primarily produced from combustion processes?

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

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3

3. Kathputli

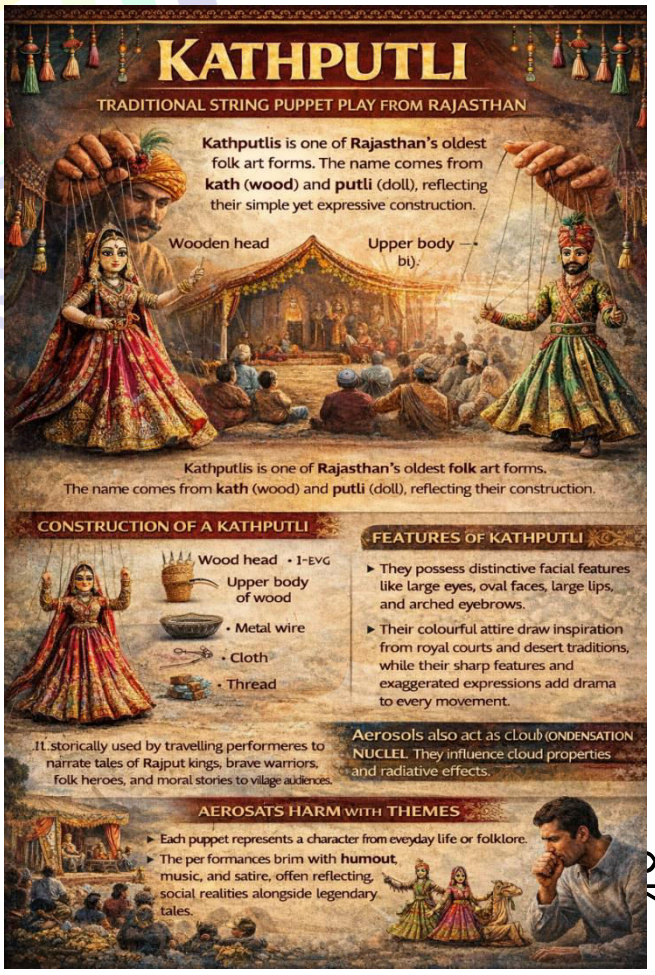
WHY IN NEWS In Jaipur nearly 250 families carry forward one of Rajasthan's oldest folk art forms, Kathputli

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

1. Kathputli puppets are mostly carved from a single piece of wood.
2. They generally lack legs and are dressed in long flowing skirts.
3. Movements are controlled by multiple strings attached to limbs and head.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only



C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 2 and 3 only

4. Phayre's Leaf Monkey

WHY IN NEWS Recently, it was found that rapid habitat destruction forces arboreal Phayre's leaf monkey to alter its habits

5. Swami Vivekananda

WHY IN NEWS Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary on 12 January was commemorated as National Youth Day, with President Droupadi Murmu paying tribute to his role in awakening India's spiritual and national consciousness.

Q1.Which of the following works was authored by Swami Vivekananda?

1. Raja Yoga
2. Bhakti Yoga
3. Karma Yoga
4. Jnana Yoga

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

Answer: C. 1, 2, 3 and 4

6. Swachh Jal Abhiyan

WHY IN NEWS Madhya Pradesh has launched the Swachh Jal Abhiyan after over 20 deaths in Indore's Bhagirathpura due to contaminated drinking water.

What it is?

- A state-wide technology-driven drinking water safety campaign launched by the Madhya Pradesh government to ensure safe, clean and accountable water supply after the Indore contamination disaster.

Aim: To ensure zero tolerance to contaminated drinking water through mapping, monitoring, grievance redressal, and accountability across urban and rural MP.

Key Features:

- **GIS mapping:** Creates a digital map of all water and sewer lines so leaks, overlaps, and contamination risks can be quickly identified and fixed.
- **Robotic inspection:** Uses robots to check underground pipelines at critical junctions where sewage and drinking water may mix.
- **Jal Sunwai:** Weekly public hearings allow citizens to directly report water problems and demand accountability from officials.
- **CM Helpline 181:** A dedicated phone platform ensures fast registration and tracking of drinking water complaints across the state.
- **Time-bound disposal:** Sets fixed deadlines for officials to resolve complaints, preventing delays and bureaucratic neglect.

7. OrbitAid's AyulSAT

WHY IN NEWS India is set to demonstrate in-orbit satellite refuelling for the first time as Chennai-based OrbitAid's AyulSAT is launched onboard **ISRO's PSLV-C62.**

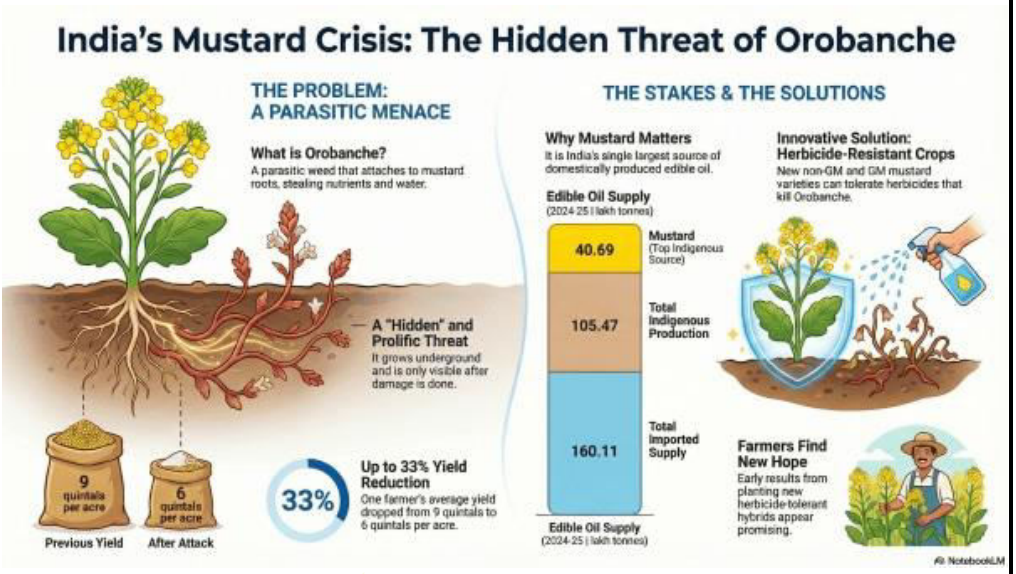
1. AyulSAT (or AayulSAT), recently in news, is associated with which of the following?

A. India's first lunar lander mission
B. India's on-orbit satellite refuelling demonstration
C. India's first Mars orbiter
D. India's first reusable launch vehicle

Answer: B. India's on-orbit satellite refuelling demonstration

8. Orobanche aegyptiaca

WHY IN NEWS India's largest oilseed crop, mustard, is facing a major yield threat due to the rapid spread of the parasitic weed Orobanche aegyptiaca in Rajasthan and Haryana.



9. Operation Hawkeye

WHY IN NEWS The United States carried out large-scale airstrikes against ISIS targets in Syria under Operation Hawkeye after an ISIS ambush in Palmyra killed two US soldiers and a civilian interpreter.

What it is?

- Operation Hawkeye is a US-led military counter-terrorism operation involving air and precision strikes against Islamic State (ISIS) targets across Syria.

Launched by: The operation was launched by the United States under President Donald Trump and executed through US Central Command (CENTCOM) in December 2025.

Aim:

- To avenge and respond to the Palmyra ISIS ambush that killed American personnel.
- To degrade ISIS networks, prevent regrouping, and protect US and coalition forces operating in Syria.
- To reinforce the message that attacks on US personnel will invite direct military retaliation.

About Syria:

What it is?

- Syria is a sovereign Middle Eastern country that has emerged from a 13-year civil war (2011–2024) and is currently governed by an interim government led by President Ahmed al-Sharaa.

Located in: Syria lies in south-western Asia on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, forming a strategic land bridge between West Asia, the Levant and Mesopotamia.

Capital: Damascus, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.

Neighbouring nations: Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.

Key features:

- **Mediterranean coastline** – Gives Syria sea access for trade and naval activity.

- **Al-Ansariyah Mountains** – Separate the humid coast from the dry interior.
- **Anti-Lebanon & Mount Hermon** – Form a natural border and water source.
- **Syrian Desert** – A vast arid interior with strategic importance.
- **Euphrates River** – Syria's main lifeline for irrigation and power.
- **Orontes River** – Supports fertile western valleys and settlements.

10. Bhairav Battalion

WHY IN NEWS India's newly raised Bhairav Battalions will make their first public appearance at the Army Day Parade in Jaipur.

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Bhairav Battalion:

1. It is structured to use drones and modern surveillance tech in operations.
2. Its personnel are drawn from existing infantry and support arms.
3. It is exclusively part of the Special Forces command.

Which of the 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

12th JAN 2026

1. Bhairav Battalions

2. Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary

3. Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

4. PSLV-C62 Mission

5. Aerosols

6. Pax Silica Initiative

7. Greenwald Limit

1. Bhairav Battalions

WHY IN NEWS For the first time, the Indian Army's newly raised Bhairav Battalion will march down Kartavya Path and salute the Supreme Commander during the Republic Day parade

Q. The Bhairav Battalions of the Indian Army are best described as:

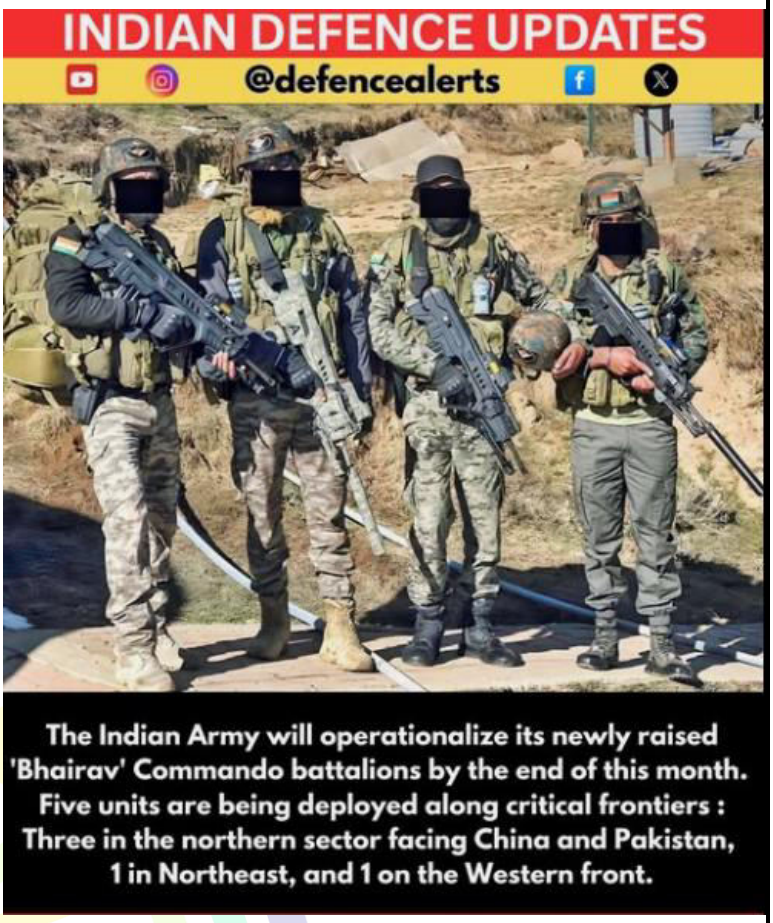
a) Conventional infantry units raised for border guarding duties

b) High-speed offensive units designed for modern and unmanned warfare

c) Naval special forces units for coastal security

d) Territorial Army units for internal security

Answer: b) High-speed offensive units designed for modern and unmanned warfare



2. Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Flamingo Festival attracted many families to Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary near Sullurpeta in Andhra Pradesh

About Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary

- Location: It is located in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is situated just near the Pulicat Lake, which is the second-largest salt lake in all of India.
- It is an important breeding site for spot-billed pelicans.
- Vegetation: The sanctuary is filled with significant plant communities like the Barringtonia swamp forests and the southern dry evergreen scrub.
- Flora: Plants like Buchnania angustifolia, barringtonia actutangula, Acacia arabica, Albizzia amara, Borassus flabellifer, Euphorbia antiquorum, etc are found here.
- Fauna: In addition to the spot-billed pelican, it is an important breeding site for black-headed ibis, Asian openbill, black-crowned night heron, and little cormorant

3. Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

WHY IN NEWS The Union Ministry of Agriculture has proposed to merge three separate ongoing schemes with its flagship Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

Q. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY), consider the following statements:

1. It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** aimed at incentivising States to increase public investment in agriculture.
2. The scheme follows a **flexible, state-led planning approach** allowing States to design projects based on local needs.
3. Funding under the scheme is shared between the Centre and States in the ratio of **60:40** for general category States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d) 1, 2 and 3

4. PSLV-C62 Mission

WHY IN NEWS ISRO's PSLV-C62 mission experienced an anomaly at the end of the PS3 stage, and a detailed investigation has been launched to analyze the issue.

1. PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)

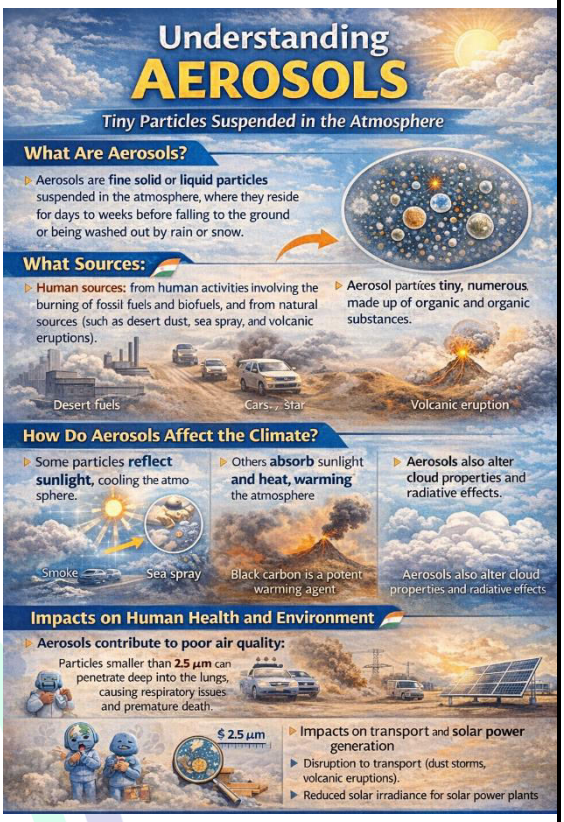
1. PSLV is a 4-stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages.
2. PSLV has been used to launch India's Chandrayaan-1, Mangalyaan, and Aditya-L1 missions.
3. PSLV-XL variant carries extended strap-on boosters while PSLV-CA has no strap-on boosters.

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

5. Aerosols

WHY IN NEWS A recent study found that water vapor heats the atmosphere much more than aerosols do



1. Which of the following statements about aerosols is/are correct?

1. Aerosols are tiny solid or liquid particles suspended in the atmosphere.
2. Natural sources of aerosols include dust storms, volcanic eruptions, and sea spray.
3. Aerosols have no significant impact on climate or weather patterns.

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

6. Pax Silica Initiative

WHY IN NEWS The United States has announced that India will be invited to join the US-led Pax Silica initiative next month as part of efforts to stabilise and deepen India-US strategic and trade ties.

7. Greenwald Limit

WHY IN NEWS China's EAST fusion reactor has achieved stable plasma densities up to 65% beyond the Greenwald limit, a long-standing barrier in nuclear fusion research.

What it is?

- The Greenwald limit is a theoretical density ceiling for plasma in a tokamak (fusion reactor), beyond which the plasma becomes unstable and collapses.
- It links the maximum safe plasma density to the plasma current and size of the reactor.

Why it is important?

- Fusion reactions require very high plasma density, temperature, and confinement time.
- The Greenwald limit has long been a major bottleneck, preventing reactors from packing enough fuel to reach self-sustaining fusion (ignition).

Key features:

- **Tokamak-specific limit:** The Greenwald limit applies to donut-shaped magnetic fusion reactors, where plasma is confined using strong magnetic fields.
- **Stability threshold:** Exceeding this limit normally causes plasma to become unstable and collapse, risking damage to the reactor.
- **Density–energy link:** Higher plasma density leads to more atomic collisions, which increases the rate of fusion and energy output.
- **Design barrier:** For decades, it was treated as a fixed ceiling, forcing engineers to limit fuel density in fusion reactors.

13th JAN 2026

1. Bhadrakali Inscription

2. Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System

3. Why Shaksgam Valley

4. Mustard Crop

5. Rajasthan Panchayat Organic Pledge

6. BHASHINI Samudaye

7. India Tightens Crypto KYC to Curb Money Laundering and Terror Financing

8. Kathputli Puppetry

1. Bhadrakali Inscription

WHY IN NEWS The Bhadrakali inscription is a key 12th-century record that confirms the history and development of Somnath Temple and patronage given by the Solanki dynasty.

About Bhadrakali Inscription

- Location: It is situated in Prabhas Patan, Gujarat specifically on the wall of the Bhadrakali Temple.
- It was carved in 1169 CE (Valabhi Samvat 850 and Vikram Samvat 1255) and currently protected by the State Department of Archaeology,
- It is a eulogistic inscription of Param Pashupata Acharya Shriman Bhavabrihaspati, the (spiritual preceptor of Maharajadhiraj Kumarapala of Anhilwad Patan).
- Historical Details in Bhadrakali Inscription
- This inscription records the ancient and medieval history of the Somnath Temple.
- It mentions the construction of Somnath Temple in all four yugas.
- Accordingly, in the Satya Yuga, Chandra (Soma) built it of gold; in the Treta Yuga, Ravana built it of silver; in the Dvapara Yuga, Shri Krishna built it of wood; and in the Kali Yuga, King Bhimdev Solanki constructed a beautifully artistic stone temple.
- The historic Bhadrakali inscription reflects the devotion of the Solanki rulers and scholars like Bhavabrihaspati.
- Protection: State Department of Archaeology, Gujarat

2. Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System

PORTABLE ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE (MPATGM) WEAPON SYSTEM

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation & Indian Army conducted successful trials of indigenous Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System.

About Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System

- It is indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The system consisted of the MPATGM, Launcher, Target Acquisition System, and the Fire Control Unit.
- It is the third-generation “fire and forget” missile.
- Features of Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System
- It incorporates cutting-edge indigenous technologies, including ;
- an Imaging Infrared (IIR) homing seeker, all-electric control actuation system, advanced fire control system, tandem warhead, propulsion system and a high-performance sighting system.
- The IIR seeker provides robust day-and-night operational capability.
- The tandem warhead is designed to defeat modern main battle tanks equipped with advanced armour protection.
- The missile can be launched from a tripod-mounted system as well as from a military vehicle-based launcher, enhancing its operational flexibility.

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) are the development-cum-production partners (DcPP) for the MPATGM

3. Why Shaksgam Valley

WHY IN NEWS China has rejected India's territorial claim over the Shaksgam Valley in the Jammu & Kashmir region, insisting the area is part of Chinese territory

About Shaksgam Valley

- The Shaksgam Valley, or Trans Karakoram Tract, is part of the Hunza-Gilgit region of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and is a disputed territory claimed by India but controlled by Pakistan.
- It borders Xinjiang Province of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the north, the Northern Areas of POK to the south and west, and the Siachen Glacier region to the east.
- It was ceded to China by Pakistan in 1963, when both countries signed a boundary agreement to settle their border differences.
- However, Article 6 of the agreement clearly stated that "the two parties have agreed that after the settlement of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the sovereign authority concerned will reopen negotiations with the Government of the People's Republic of China, on the boundary as described in Article Two of the present agreement, so as to sign a formal Boundary Treaty to replace the present agreement."
- The agreement laid the foundation of Karakoram highway, which was built jointly by Chinese and Pakistani engineers in the 1970s

4. Mustard Crop

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Mustard Crop has been increasingly susceptible to infestation by Orobanche aegyptiaca

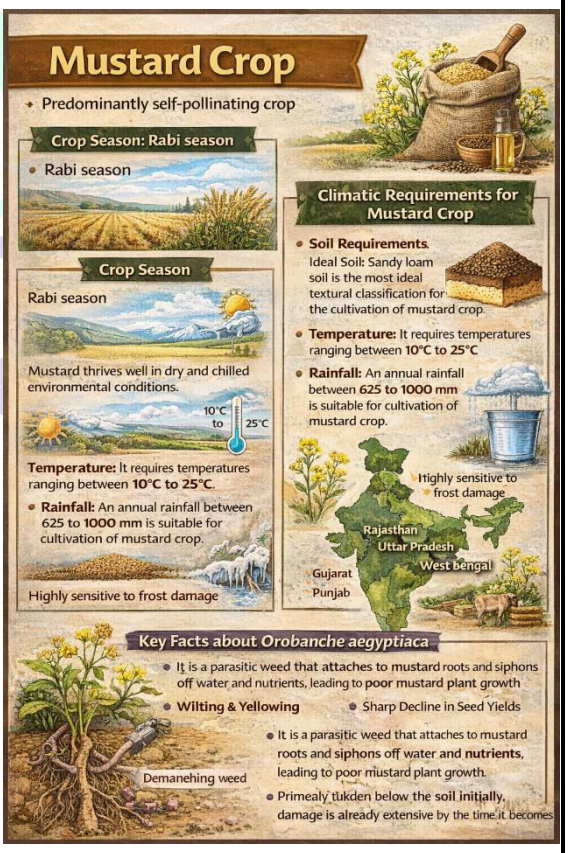
Q. **With reference to the Mustard plant (Brassica juncea), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a **rabi oilseed crop** predominantly grown in northern and central India.
2. Mustard belongs to the family **Brassicaceae**, also known as **Cruciferae**.
3. Mustard seeds are a significant source of **erucic acid** used in edible oils.
4. India is the **largest producer of mustard in the world**.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b) 1, 2 and 3 only



5. Rajasthan Panchayat Organic Pledge

WHY IN NEWS Bamanwas Kankar panchayat in Rajasthan has become the first village body in the State to be certified as fully organic, marking a major grassroots milestone in India's shift towards chemical-free and **sustainable agriculture.**

What it is?

- Bamanwas Kankar panchayat, comprising seven hamlets in Kotputli–Behror district, has formally committed to 100% organic farming and eco-friendly animal husbandry, eliminating chemical fertilisers, pesticides, and synthetic inputs from all agricultural and livestock practices.

Key features:

- **Chemical-free farming**: All crops grown without synthetic fertilisers or pesticides.
- **Eco-friendly livestock management**: Animal husbandry aligned with health and ecological standards.
- **Community-led transition**: Shift driven by collective village decisions, not top-down mandates.
- **Institutional support**: Backed by COFED (Cofarmin Federation of Organic Societies and Producer Companies) for certification, data collection, and market access.
- **Market linkage**: Organic certification enables farmers to access premium markets and reduce input costs.

6. BHASHINI Samudaye

WHY IN NEWS BHASHINI Samudaye is being organised by MeitY in New Delhi to strengthen India's language AI ecosystem.

Q1. Consider the following statements about BHASHINI Samudaye:

1. It is part of the **National Language Translation Mission (NLTM)**.
2. It aims to co-create language datasets and AI tools through community participation.
3. It focuses only on English and Hindi languages.

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

7. India Tightens Crypto KYC to Curb Money Laundering and Terror Financing

WHY IN NEWS India has introduced **stricter KYC and** Anti-Money Laundering **(AML) norms for cryptocurrency users** by mandating **live selfie verification, geo-tagging and bank account validation**.

What it is?

- It is a mandatory digital identity verification framework for users of cryptocurrency exchanges, requiring them to prove their real identity, physical presence and financial linkage before trading virtual digital assets.

Organisation involved:

- The framework is issued and enforced by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-India) under the Union Ministry of Finance, in line with the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Aim:

- To prevent money laundering, terror financing and proliferation financing through crypto assets.
- To ensure that crypto transactions are traceable, accountable and linked to real individuals.

Key features:

- **Live selfie with liveness detection** – Confirms the user's physical presence and identity by detecting real-time movements, preventing deepfakes and fake photo uploads.
- **Geo-tagging with IP address** – Records the exact location and device network of onboarding to trace suspicious or cross-border activities.
- **PAN and secondary ID** – Links crypto accounts to a verified legal identity, enabling tax tracking and law-enforcement verification.
- **Penny-drop bank verification** – A Re 1 transfer ensures the bank account is active and belongs to the user, blocking mule or fake accounts.
- **OTP verification** – Confirms control over registered mobile and email, adding an extra layer of authentication.
- **Periodic KYC updates** – Keeps customer information current and risk-sensitive, especially for high-risk users.
- **Ban on mixers, tumblers and privacy tokens** – Stops tools that hide transaction trails, enabling better tracking of illicit crypto flows.

8. Kathputli Puppetry

WHY IN NEWS Jaipur's Kathputli Nagar, home to nearly 250 families of traditional puppeteers, has drawn attention for preserving one of Rajasthan's oldest living folk art traditions.

14th JAN 2026

1. **PRAGATI Platform**
2. **Argentina**
3. **Valley of Flowers National Park**
4. **Zanskar River**
5. **Artemis II Mission**
6. **Karuna Abhiyan**
7. **Responsible Nations Index**
8. **BRICS India 2026 Logo**
9. **S. Sahoo Committee**
10. **Jharkhand Megaliths**

1. PRAGATI Platform

WHY IN NEWS Prime Minister's flagship platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, PRAGATI, recently marked a significant milestone with the successful conduct of its 50th meeting.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation):

1. It is an ICT-based platform for real-time monitoring of government projects.
2. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
3. It focuses only on Central Sector Schemes and excludes State-level projects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

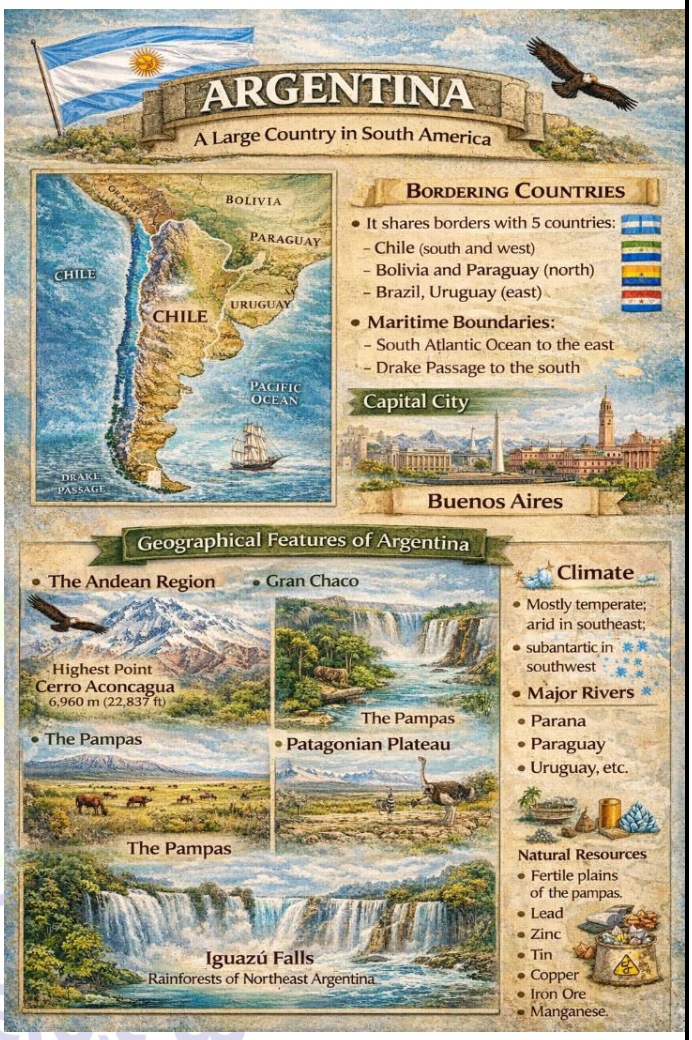
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 only

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: It includes **both Central and State-level projects**, hence statement 3 is incorrect.

2. Argentina

WHY IN NEWS Recently, raging wildfires in the Argentine Patagonia have blazed through nearly 12,000 hectares of scrubland and planted and native forests



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Andes Mountains:

1. The Andes are the longest continental mountain range in the world.
2. They run parallel to the western coast of South America.
3. They were formed primarily due to the collision of the African Plate with the South American Plate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Formation is due to **subduction of the Nazca Plate under the South American Plate**, not African Plate.

3. Valley of Flowers National Park

WHY IN NEWS With forest fire raging in the Valley of Flowers, a UNESCO heritage site, for the last five days, the Uttarakhand Disaster Management Department has sought the Indian Air Force's (IAF) help to douse the inferno

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Valley of Flowers National Park:

1. It is located in the state of Uttarakhand.

2. It lies in the catchment area of the Alaknanda River.

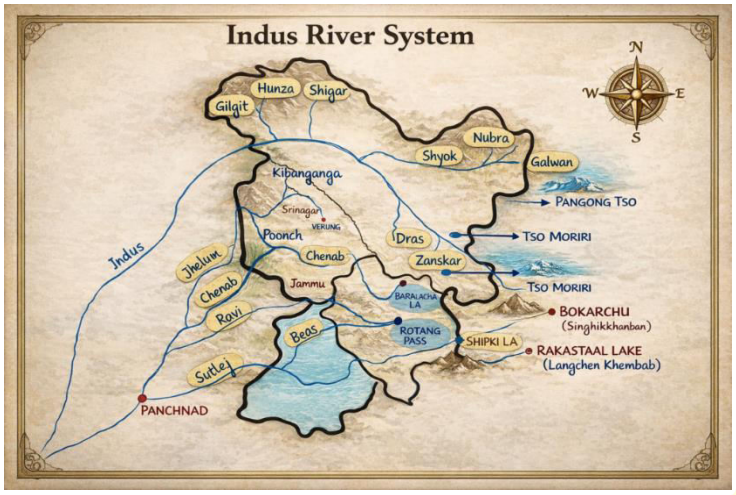
3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3



4. Zanskar River

WHY IN NEWS The much-awaited Chadar trek on the frozen Zanskar River in Ladakh has been deferred due to inadequate ice formation, disappointing trekkers eager to participate in the adventure sport

Zanskar River

- Zanskar River is a **major left-bank tributary of the Indus River**.
- It flows **entirely within the Union Territory of Ladakh**.
- It drains the **remote Zanskar Valley** in the **north-western Himalayas**.

Course of the River

- The river **originates in the high Himalayas**.
- It has **two main branches**:
  - **Doda River** – originates near **Pansi-La Pass**.
  - **Second branch** formed by the **Kargyag River** (near **Shingo La**) and the **Tsarap River** (near **Baralacha La**).
- These branches join and flow **north-westwards**.
- It finally **joins the Indus River near Nimmu** in Ladakh.
- The confluence is at an altitude of about **3,100 metres**.

Physial Features

- The river has carved the **deep Zanskar Gorge**, one of the most spectacular canyons in the region.
- The **entire catchment area is glacial in origin**.
- The valley has a **U-shaped profile**, indicating glacial erosion.
- Several **hanging valleys** open into the main Zanskar Valley.

5. Artemis II Mission

WHY IN NEWS NASA is on track to send humans around the moon as early as the first week of February as it makes final preparations for the imminent rollout of its Artemis 2 mega moon rocket

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Artemis-II mission:

1. It is a crewed mission under NASA's Artemis programme.
2. It aims to land astronauts on the surface of the Moon.
3. It will carry astronauts beyond Earth's orbit and around the Moon.

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

Explanation:

- Artemis-II is a **crewed lunar flyby mission**.
- **No lunar landing** is planned (landing is planned under Artemis-III).

6. Karuna Abhiyan

WHY IN NEWS Gujarat Chief Minister reviewed rescue operations under Karuna Abhiyan-2026 during the Uttarayan festival after a **surge in bird injuries** caused by kite strings, highlighting the state's large-scale wildlife protection drive.

What it is?

- Karuna Abhiyan is a state-wide wildlife rescue and rehabilitation campaign launched by Gujarat in 2017 to protect birds and animals injured during festivals, especially kite-flying during Uttarayan.

Key features:

- **Massive rescue network:** More than 700 veterinarians, 8,600+ volunteers and 1,000+ centres operate across Gujarat during the high-risk festival period.

- **Dedicated wildlife infrastructure:** Includes specialised Water Bird Units, mobile veterinary clinics, animal ambulances and branch clinics.
- **24×7 digital helplines:** WhatsApp (8320002000), Forest emergency (1926) and Animal Husbandry helpline (1962) enable instant reporting and district-wise centre access.
- **Inter-departmental coordination:** Forest Department, Animal Husbandry, municipalities, NCC and NGOs work together for real-time response.

7. Responsible Nations Index

WHY IN NEWS The **World Intellectual Foundation (WIF)** will launch the Responsible Nations Index (RNI), in collaboration with JNU, IIM Mumbai and Dr Ambedkar International Centre.

Q1. The Responsible Nations Index primarily measures a country's performance in which of the following areas?

1. Environmental sustainability
2. Social progress
3. Governance and commitment to global public goods
4. Military preparedness

Select the correct answer:
A. 1, 2 and 3 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1, 3 and 4 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: A. 1, 2 and 3 only

8. BRICS India 2026 Logo

WHY IN NEWS India has officially launched the **BRICS India 2026** logo and website as it prepares to assume the Chairship of BRICS in 2026.

1. Which of the following is/are correct about the New Development Bank (NDB)?

1. It was established by BRICS countries.
2. Its headquarters are located in Shanghai, China.
3. Voting power in NDB is based on GDP share of member countries.

Select the correct answer:
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

9. S. Sahoo Committee

WHY IN NEWS The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has set up an expert committee **under M.S. Sahoo to** design a framework for assured pension payouts under the **National Pension Scheme (NPS).**

What it is?

- The M.S. Sahoo Committee is a 15-member expert group constituted to design a regulatory and operational framework for providing assured, predictable pension income under the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

Constituted by: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

Chairperson: M.S. Sahoo, former Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

Aim: To create a robust system of assured pension payouts under NPS that reduces market-linked risks and ensures stable and predictable post-retirement income for subscribers.

Key Functions:

- Create clear legal and financial rules for NPS plans that guarantee a fixed or predictable pension after retirement.
- Develop **operational structures**, including:
    1. Lock-in periods
    2. Withdrawal limits
    3. Pricing mechanisms
    4. Fee structures
- Create safeguards to prevent **mis-selling,** misleading claims, or unfair practices by pension providers.
- Clearly define what is guaranteed (amount, duration, conditions) so subscribers are not misled about pension security.
- Ensure that NPS shifts from just being a savings product to becoming **a reliable lifelong income system** for retirees.

10. Jharkhand Megaliths

WHY IN NEWS Jharkhand has initiated a push to secure a UNESCO World Heritage Tag for its extensive megalithic landscapes, with Jharkhand CM highlighting them internationally at Davos and the UK.

What are they?

- Megaliths are large stone structures such as menhirs (standing stones), dolmens (table-like tombs), burial slabs, cairns and stone circles.
- They were built for burials, ancestor memory, rituals, boundary marking, and in some cases tracking the sun's movement.

Region:

- Spread across many districts, especially:
  - Ranchi–Khunti belt (e.g., Chokahatu)
  - Hazaribagh region (monolith clusters and alignments)
  - Chatra–Ramgarh–Lohardaga–Gumla–Simdega
  - Singhbhum (Ho areas)
- Many villages have dedicated burial grounds often locally known as hargarhi/hargarha.

History and cultural base:

- Jharkhand's megaliths connect strongly with Adivasi life, especially **Munda, Ho, Oraon and Asur** traditions.
- Unlike many megalith sites that are only "old ruins", Jharkhand has **layered landscapes**—old stones + new stones added over generations.

15th JAN 2026

1. Export Preparedness Index 2024

2. Henley Passport Index

3. Miyawaki Method

4. NPS Vatsalya Scheme

5. Gharial

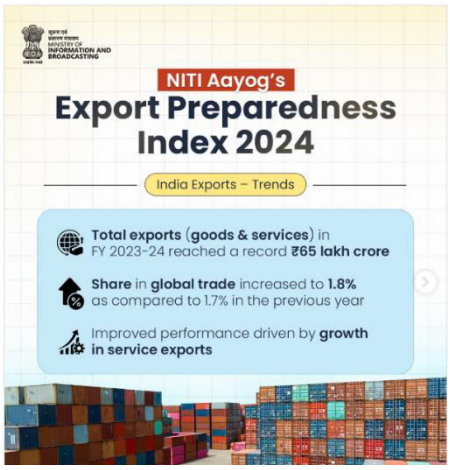
6. India's Bioeconomy

7. UGC's new rules against caste discrimination

8. Vultures in India

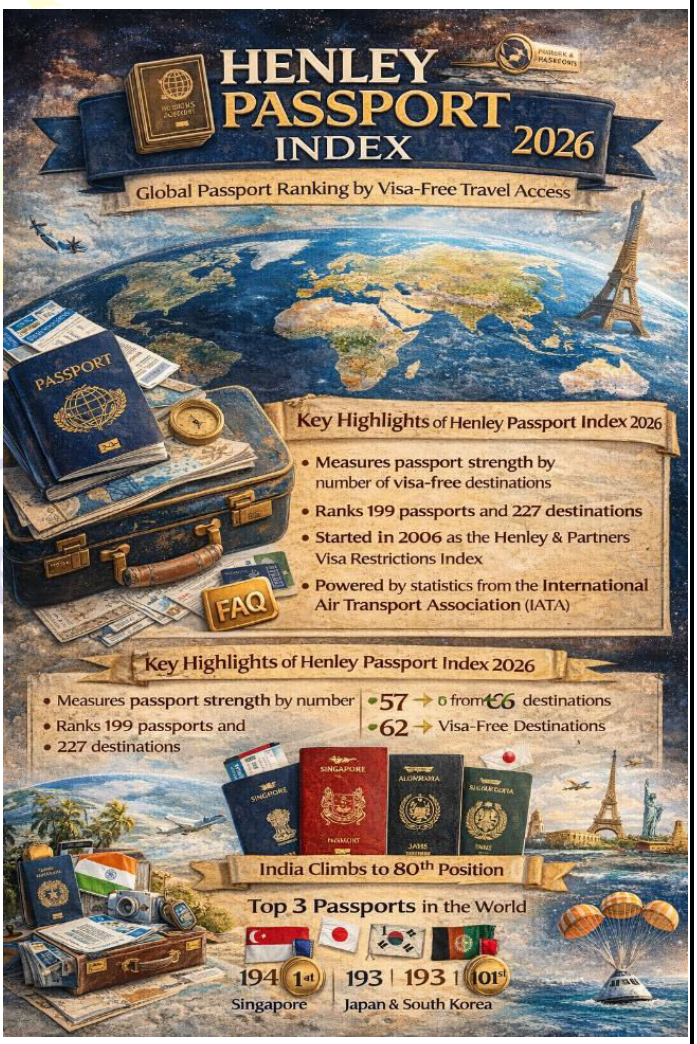
1. Export Preparedness Index 2024

WHY IN NEWS Recently, NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024



2. Henley Passport Index

WHY IN NEWS The 2026 Henley Passport Index has shown significant shifts in global travel mobility, with Asia continuing to dominate the top ranks



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Henley Passport Index:

1. It ranks passports based on the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
2. It is published by Henley & Partners.
3. It is based on data provided by the World Economic Forum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

3. Miyawaki Method

WHY IN NEWS The Miyawaki method can be used in cities where green space has thinned out over decades

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Miyawaki Method:

1. It is a technique for developing dense native forests in a short period of time.
2. It was developed by a Japanese botanist.
3. It requires monoculture plantation of fast-growing tree species.

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

Explanation: It promotes **mixed native species**, not monoculture.

4. NPS Vatsalya Scheme

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has issued the NPS Vatsalya Scheme Guidelines 2025**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the NPS Vatsalya Scheme:**

1. It is a pension scheme specifically designed for minors.
2. It is regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
3. Contributions under the scheme are mandatory for all parents.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

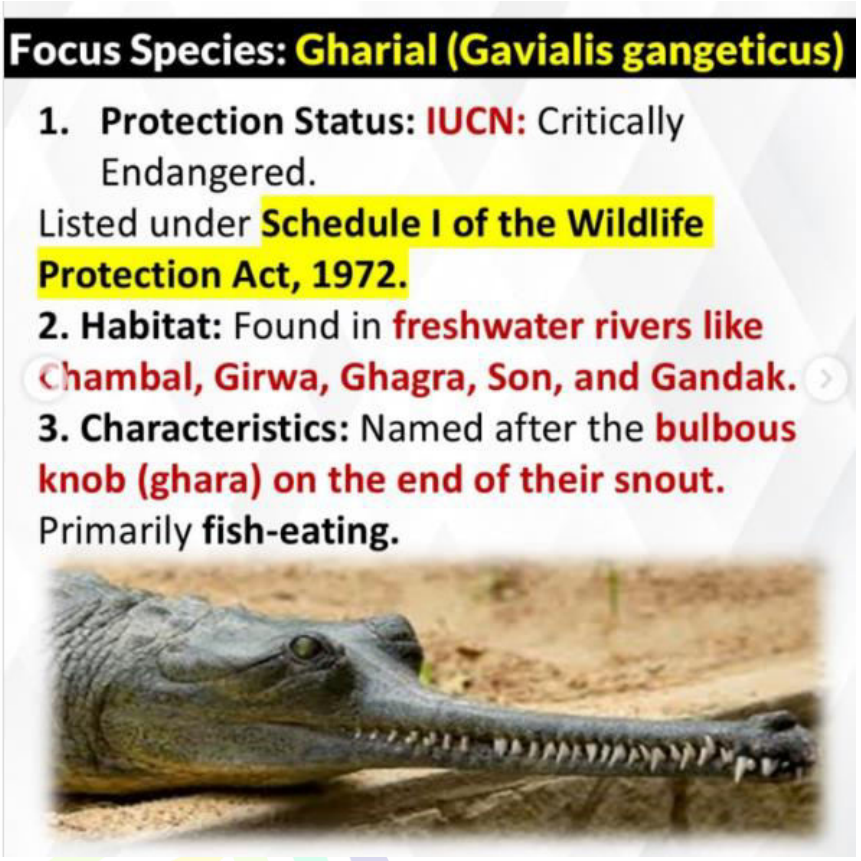
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Participation is **voluntary**, not mandatory.

5. Gharial

WHY IN NEWS Despite significant existential threats, a comprehensive survey across the Ganga River basin recently revealed a population of 3,037 gharials (Gavialis gangeticus), the critically endangered fish-eating crocodile, inhabiting 13 of the surveyed rivers



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Gharial:

1. It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
2. It is a freshwater crocodilian species.
3. It is found naturally in brackish water ecosystems.

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

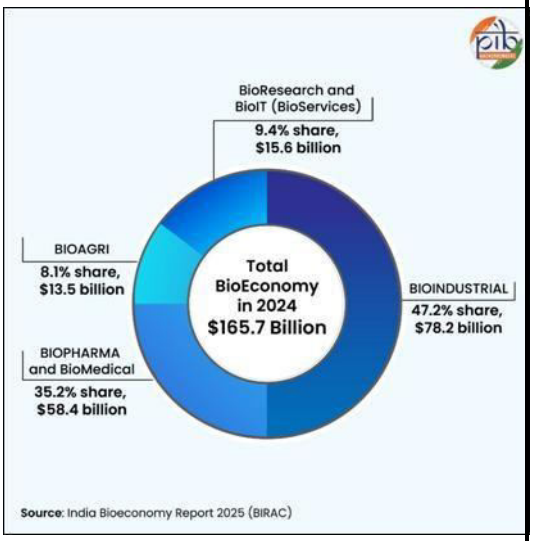
Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Gharial is **endemic to the Indian subcontinent**.
- It is a **strictly freshwater** species.
- It does **not inhabit brackish or marine waters**

6. India's Bioeconomy

WHY IN NEWS India's bioeconomy touched $166 billion in 2024, up from $10 billion in 2014, as announced by Union Minister while inaugurating a BSL-4 biocontainment facility in Gujarat.



Q1. Which of the following sectors contribute significantly to India's Bioeconomy?

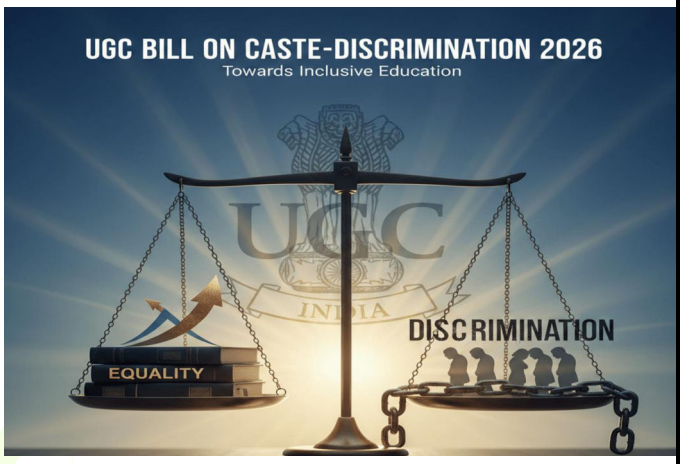
1. Biotechnology
2. Bio-agriculture
3. Bio-manufacturing

4. Bio-pharmaceuticals

Select the correct answer:
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1, 2 and 4 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

7. UGC's new rules against caste discrimination



WHY IN NEWS The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions Regulations, 2026 to curb caste-based discrimination on campuses.

What it is?

- The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026 is a revised legal framework to prevent caste-based discrimination in universities and colleges across India. It updates and strengthens the earlier 2012 anti-discrimination regulations.

Key features:

- **Expanded definition of caste-based discrimination:** Discrimination now explicitly includes acts against **SCs, STs and OBCs**, correcting the exclusion of OBCs in the draft rules.
- **Broad definition of discrimination:** Covers unfair or biased treatment based on caste, tribe, religion, gender, disability, place of birth, and includes actions that harm human dignity or equality in education.
- **Mandatory** Equal Opportunity Centres **(EOCs):** Every higher education institution must set up an **EOC** to promote equity, inclusion and access for disadvantaged groups.
- **Equity Committees in each institution:** Headed by the institution's chief, with mandatory representation of SCs, STs, OBCs, women and persons with disabilities, to handle complaints and monitor inclusion.
- **Regular monitoring and reporting:** EOCs must submit bi-annual reports, and equity committees must meet at least twice a year.
- **Strong penalties for violations:** Institutions violating the rules can be debarred from offering degrees or academic programmes, and may even lose recognition.
- **National-level oversight:** A UGC monitoring committee with professional councils will oversee compliance across the country.

8. Vultures in India

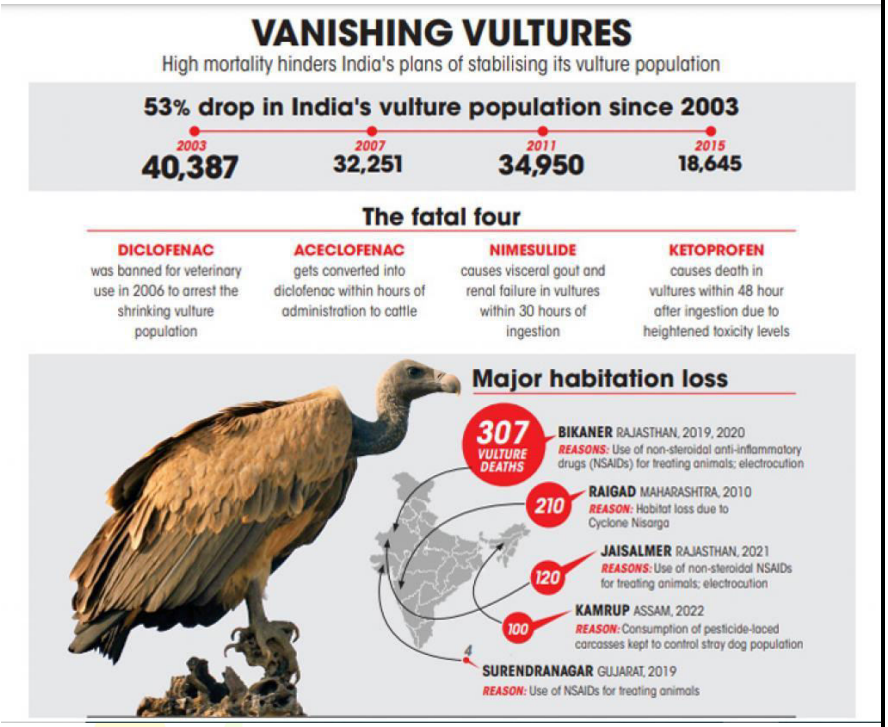
WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu informed the Madras High Court that it is creating Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs), beginning with **the Moyar River Valley** in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, to protect vultures from toxic veterinary drugs like diclofenac.

Q1. Which of the following vultures are listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN?

1. White-rumped Vulture
2. Indian Vulture (Long-billed)
3. Red-headed Vulture
4. Egyptian Vulture

Select the correct answer:
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1, 2 and 3 only
C. 4 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B. 1, 2 and 3 only



16th JAN 2026

1. RBS-15 Missile

2. Similipal National Park

3. Jamma Bane Lands

4. Voyager 1

5. The Global Risks Report 2026

6. Traditional Indelible Ink

7. Project Suncatcher

8. Kruger National Park

1. RBS-15 Missile

WHY IN NEWS Swedish aerospace and Defence Company, Saab, has showcased the capabilities of its RBS-15 missile to destroy the components of the Russian S-400 system

About RBS-15 Missile

- The RBS-15 (Robotsystem 15) is a fire-and-forget surface-to-surface and air-to-surface anti-ship missile with land attack capability.
- The missile was developed by the Swedish company Saab Bofors Dynamics

2. Similipal National Park

WHY IN NEWS The latest crocodile census has recorded an increase in the crocodile population in Odisha's Similipal National Park

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding National Parks in India:

1. National Parks are declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

2. Grazing and private land rights are completely prohibited in National Parks.

3. State governments can alter the boundaries of National Parks without the approval of the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Boundary alteration requires **Central Government approval**.

3. Jamma Bane Lands

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Karnataka government has amended its land revenue law to modernise an age-old system of land records called Jamma Bane lands

About Jamma Bane Lands

- The word Jamma means hereditary.
- The Jamma Bane tenure is a form of land holding prevalent in Kodagu district of Karnataka.
- It is distinctly different from other classes of land holdings in the state.

- History: These lands were originally granted by erstwhile kings of Coorg and the British — between 1600 and 1800 to local communities in return for military service.
- These lands comprise both wetlands, used for paddy cultivation, and forested highlands, which have transformed into the now-famous coffee estates of Coorg.
- Relevant Acts: The Coorg Land Revenue and Regulations Act, 1899 was in place to govern land ownership in the region till the introduction of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964

4. Voyager 1

WHY IN NEWS Voyager 1 is expected to become the first human-made object to reach a distance of one light-day from Earth

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Voyager-1:

1. It was launched by NASA in 1977.
2. It was the first human-made object to enter interstellar space.
3. It was launched to study only the planet Jupiter.

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

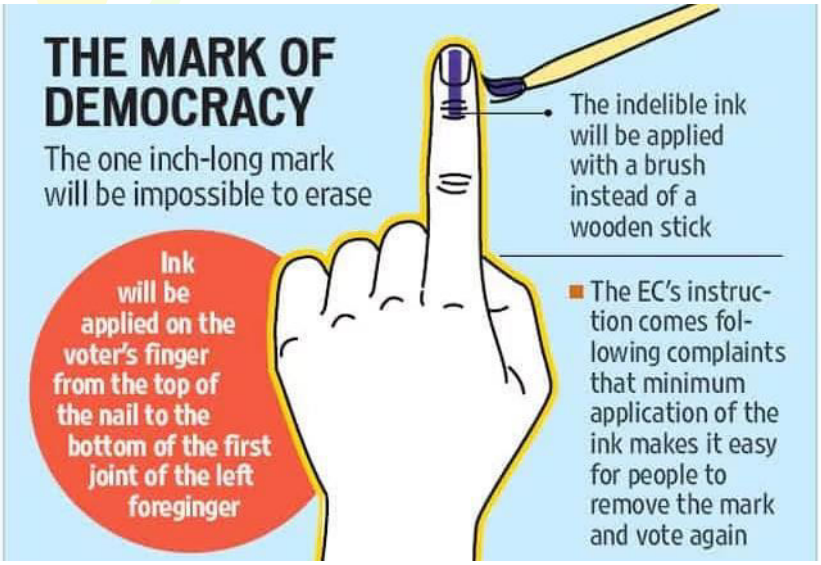
Explanation:

- Voyager-1 was launched in **1977** by **NASA**.
- It became the **first spacecraft to enter interstellar space** (2012).
- It studied **multiple planets**, not only Jupiter.

5. The Global Risks Report 2026

WHY IN NEWS The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2026 has ranked geoeconomic confrontation as the world's top short-term risk, overtaking armed conflict, reflecting rising trade wars, sanctions, and weaponization of economic tools.

6. Traditional Indelible Ink



WHY IN NEWS Maharashtra's **State Election Commission** has decided to revert to traditional indelible ink for zilla parishad and panchayat samiti elections after complaints that marker-pen ink used in municipal polls could be wiped off.

What it is?

- Indelible ink is a **permanent marking ink applied on a voter's finger after voting** to indicate that the person has already exercised their franchise and cannot vote again.

Origin: India began using indelible ink in **1962 (Third General Election)** as a simple, low-cost and effective method to prevent impersonation and repeat voting.

Manufactured by: The ink is manufactured exclusively by Mysore Paints and Varnish Limited, a Karnataka government undertaking, using a closely guarded formula developed by India's National Physical Laboratory.

Aim:

- To prevent multiple voting.
- To ensure the integrity and credibility of elections, especially in large-scale polls with millions of voters.

7. Project Suncatcher

WHY IN NEWS Google Research has unveiled **Project Suncatcher**, exploring AI datacentres in low-Earth orbit powered entirely by solar energy to tackle AI's surging electricity demand.

Q1. With reference to *Project Suncatcher*, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to place AI computing infrastructure in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
2. The satellites will be powered by uninterrupted solar energy.
3. It is an official space programme of the United States government.

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

8. Kruger National Park

WHY IN NEWS **Kruger National Park** was temporarily shut to day visitors after severe flooding caused multiple rivers to overflow due to prolonged heavy rainfall.

Q1. Kruger National Park is famous for hosting:

1. The Big Five animals (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, rhinoceros)
2. African penguins
3. Cheetahs and wild dogs

Select the correct answer:
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C. 1 and 3 only

African penguins do not inhabit Kruger; they live along the South African coast.

17th JAN 2026

1. Dardanelles Strait

2. Kaziranga National Park

3. Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC).

4. Chatham Islands

5. Lokpal of India

6. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

7. Sammakka–Saralamma Jatara

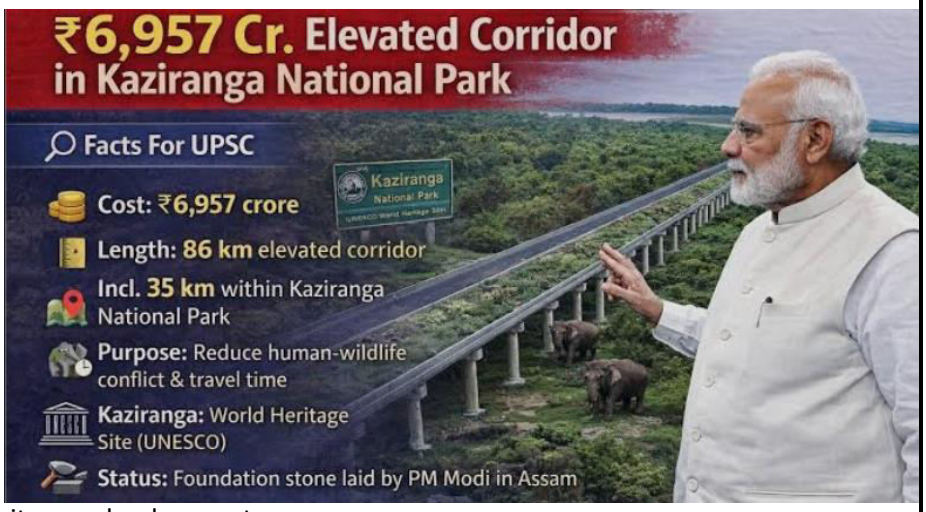
1. Dardanelles Strait

WHY IN NEWS Southbound ship traffic is set to resume in Turkey's Dardanelles Strait after a tanker experienced engine failure recently

About Dardanelles Strait

- It is a very important narrow waterway in northwestern Turkey.
- It connects the Aegean Sea (an arm of the Mediterranean Sea) to the Sea of Marmara.
- This strait acts like a natural border, separating the continent of Asia on its eastern side from Europe on its western side.
- The strait is named for the ancient city of Dardanus. In ancient times it was called the Hellespont, meaning “Helle’s sea,” in memory of Helle, a mythical princess.
- The Gallipoli Peninsula lies along the western side of the Dardanelles Strait.
- It is one of the narrowest straits used for international navigation. It is about 61 kilometers long and only 1.2 to 6 kilometers wide.
- It is entirely within Turkey. It forms a key part of the Turkish Straits, which also include the Bosphorus Strait and the Sea of Marmara.
- The Bosporus connects the Sea of Marmara with the Black Sea.
- These waterways are the only sea route between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea

2. Kaziranga National Park



WHY IN NEWS The Prime Minister of India is scheduled to flag off a 34.5-kilometre elevated corridor in Assam's Kaziranga National Park

Q1. With reference to Kaziranga National Park, consider the following statements:

1. It lies entirely on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River.
2. Annual flooding is a key ecological process for maintaining its grassland ecosystem.
3. The park experiences alluvial soil formation due to fluvial deposition.

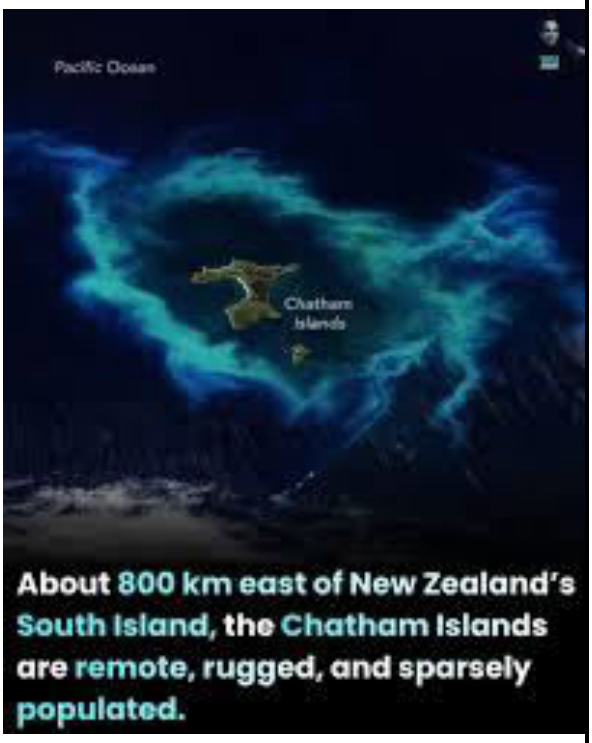
Which of the statements given above are correct?
A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 2 and 3 only
Explanation:
• Kaziranga lies on the **southern bank**, not northern.
• Floods and alluvial soils are core ecological features.

3. Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC).

WHY IN NEWS The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi, highlighting India's commitment to sharing open-source tech platforms with the Global South.

4. Chatham Islands



WHY IN NEWS A bloom of phytoplankton—tiny photosynthetic organisms that become visible to satellites when their numbers explode—encircled the Chatham Islands in austral summer recently

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

1. They are located in the Pacific Ocean to the east of New Zealand.
2. They are administered as a dependent territory of Australia.
3. They follow a time zone that is ahead of New Zealand Standard Time.

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: The islands belong to New Zealand, not Australia; Chatham Islands Time is UTC +12:45.

5. Lokpal of India

WHY IN NEWS **Lokpal of India** observed its Foundation Day on 16 January 2026, marking the day the institution legally came into force in 2014.

Q1. Which of the following statements about the Lokpal are correct?

1. It consists of a Chairperson and up to 8 members.
2. At least 50% of the members must be judicial members.
3. A former Chief Justice of India can be appointed as the Chairperson.

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

6. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

WHY IN NEWS Shri Praveen Vashista, IPS (Bihar cadre, 1991 batch), has been appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the **Central Vigilance Commission** and took oath on 16 January 2026.

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

1. It was set up as an independent body in 1964 on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee.
2. The CVC is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
3. The CVC has powers of a civil court while conducting inquiries on corruption cases.

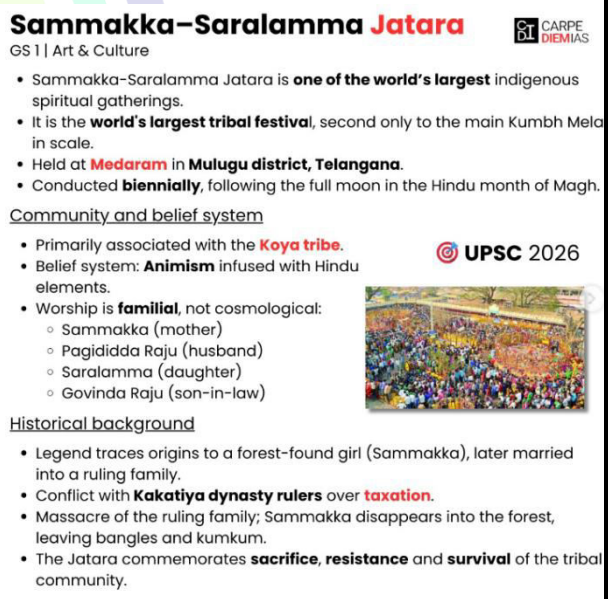
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Sammakka–Saralamma Jatara

WHY IN NEWS Telangana is preparing for the biennial **Sammakka–Saralamma Jatara** beginning 28 January 2026, alongside a large-scale redevelopment of the sacred precinct at Medaram.



Q1. Consider the following statements about Sammakka–Saralamma Jatara:

1. It is celebrated every year during **Makar Sankranti**.
2. The festival honors **twin goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma**.
3. Devotees offer jaggery, turmeric, and coins to the goddesses.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only

18th JAN 2026

1. Chang'e-6 Mission

2. Royle's Pika

3. Irrawaddy Dolphin

4. Mt Elbrus

5. Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2026.

6. Amended Forest Conservation Guidelines 2026

7. India–Israel Joint Declaration on Fisheries and Aquaculture

8. Tirukkural

9. IRENA

10. Havana Syndrome

1. Chang'e-6 Mission

WHY IN NEWS Lunar regolith brought from the Moon by China's Chang'e 6 mission has revealed that the Moon is formed from the remains of an ancient collision between an object with Earth

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Chang'e-5 mission:

1. It successfully brought lunar samples back to Earth.
2. It made China the third country to return samples from the Moon after the USA and the USSR.
3. The samples were collected from the far side of the Moon.

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: Samples were collected from the **near side (Oceanus Procellarum)**.

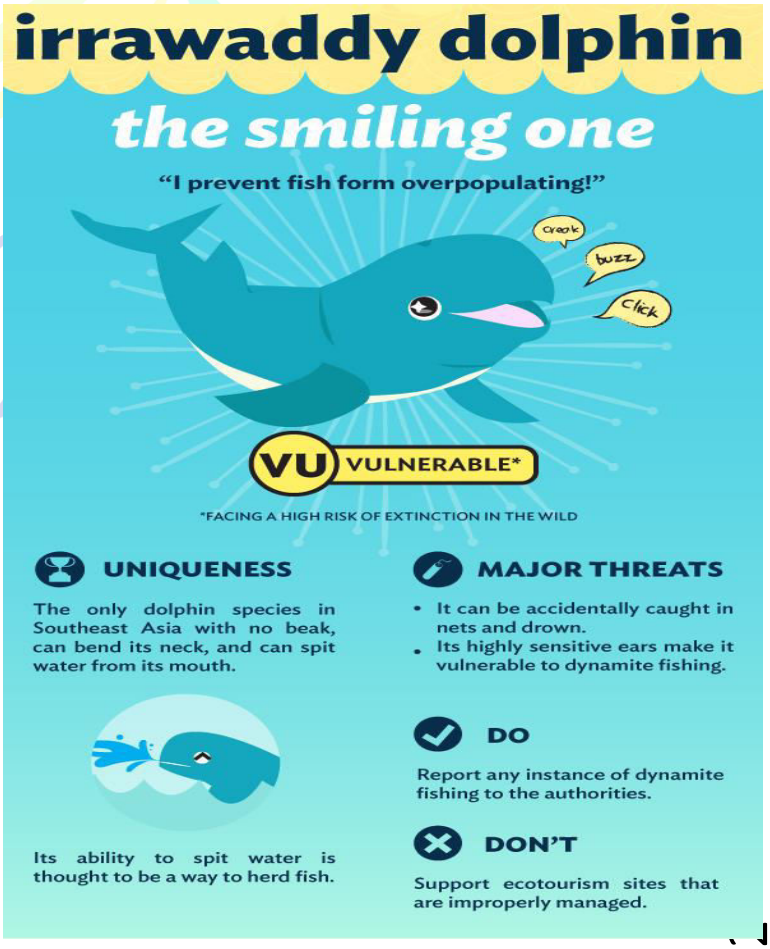
2. Royle's Pika

WHY IN NEWS Scientists said that climate change threatens creatures like Royle's pika that have weathered extreme environments for thousands of years

About Royle's Pika

- Royle's pika (Ochotona roylei), also called the Himalayan mouse hare or hui shutu, is a species of pika.
- Habitat: It is found in open rocky landscapes and rhododendron forests at 2,400–5,000 m elevation in the Himalayan region.
- Distribution: It is found in northwestern Pakistan to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in India to Nepal and Tibet

3. Irrawaddy Dolphin



WHY IN NEWS The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently launched the second nationwide range-wide estimation of riverine and estuarine dolphins under Project Dolphin, which, for the first time, includes the estimation of the Irrawaddy dolphin in the Sundarbans and in Odisha

Q1. With reference to the Irrawaddy Dolphin, consider the following statements:

1. It is found in both freshwater and coastal marine environments.
2. It is endemic to the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar.
3. It is classified as Endangered by the IUCN.

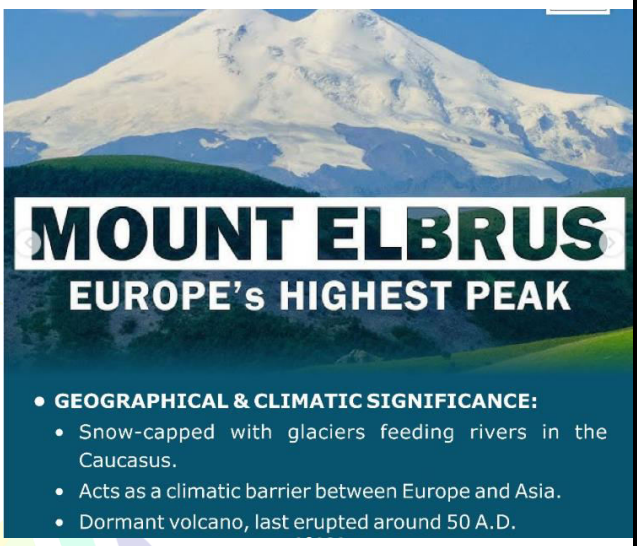
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A. 1 and 3 only
Explanation: The species is found across South and Southeast Asia, not only the Irrawaddy River.

4. Mt Elbrus

WHY IN NEWS Recently, an artificially-triggered avalanche was filmed cascading down Russia's highest mountain, Mount Elbrus



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the geological nature of Mount Elbrus:

1. It is an active stratovolcano.
2. It has two prominent summits.
3. It last erupted in historical times.

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
Explanation: It is **dormant**, with no confirmed historical eruptions.

5. Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2026.

WHY IN NEWS The revised Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2026, unveiled by the central bank recently, aims to enhance complaint resolution efficiency for bank customers

About Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2026

- It is aimed at further improving the efficiency of the resolution of complaints filed by aggrieved customers of banks and other regulated entities.
- It will come into force on July 1, 2026, replacing the existing Integrated Ombudsman Scheme of 2021.
- The proceedings under the Scheme shall be summary in nature and shall not be bound by any rules of evidence.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will appoint one or more of its officers as RBI Ombudsman and RBI Deputy Ombudsman to carry out the functions entrusted to them under the Scheme.
- The appointments will be made generally for a period of three years at a time.
- The RBI will establish a Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre at one or more locations, as may be decided, to receive complaints filed under the Scheme and process them

6. Amended Forest Conservation Guidelines 2026

WHY IN NEWS In January 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) amended guidelines under the **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,** 1980 to allow non-government participation in restoring degraded forest land.

Q1. Which of the following is a major change introduced by the Amended Forest Conservation Guidelines 2026?

Options:

(a) All forest land diversions will now be exempt from approval under Section 2 of the Act.

(b) Certain plantations and afforestation activities on forest land are treated as "forestry activities" and exempt from Net Present Value (NPV) and Compensatory Afforestation (CA) requirements.

(c) Forest land ownership has been transferred to private companies for commercial use.

(d) The Act now allows mining without environmental clearance in forest areas.

Answer: (b) Certain plantations and afforestation activities on forest land are treated as "forestry activities" and exempt from Net Present Value (NPV) and Compensatory Afforestation (CA) requirements.

7. India–Israel Joint Declaration on Fisheries and Aquaculture

WHY IN NEWS India and Israel signed a Joint Ministerial Declaration of Intent to deepen cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture during the **Global Summit on Blue Food Security 2026** in Eilat.

Q1. With respect to the India–Israel Joint Declaration on Fisheries and Aquaculture, consider the following statements:

1. It focuses on joint research and development in advanced aquaculture technologies.
2. It includes cooperation on mariculture and seaweed cultivation.
3. It aims to reduce tariff barriers on all Indian fish exports to Israel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

(a) 1 and 2 only

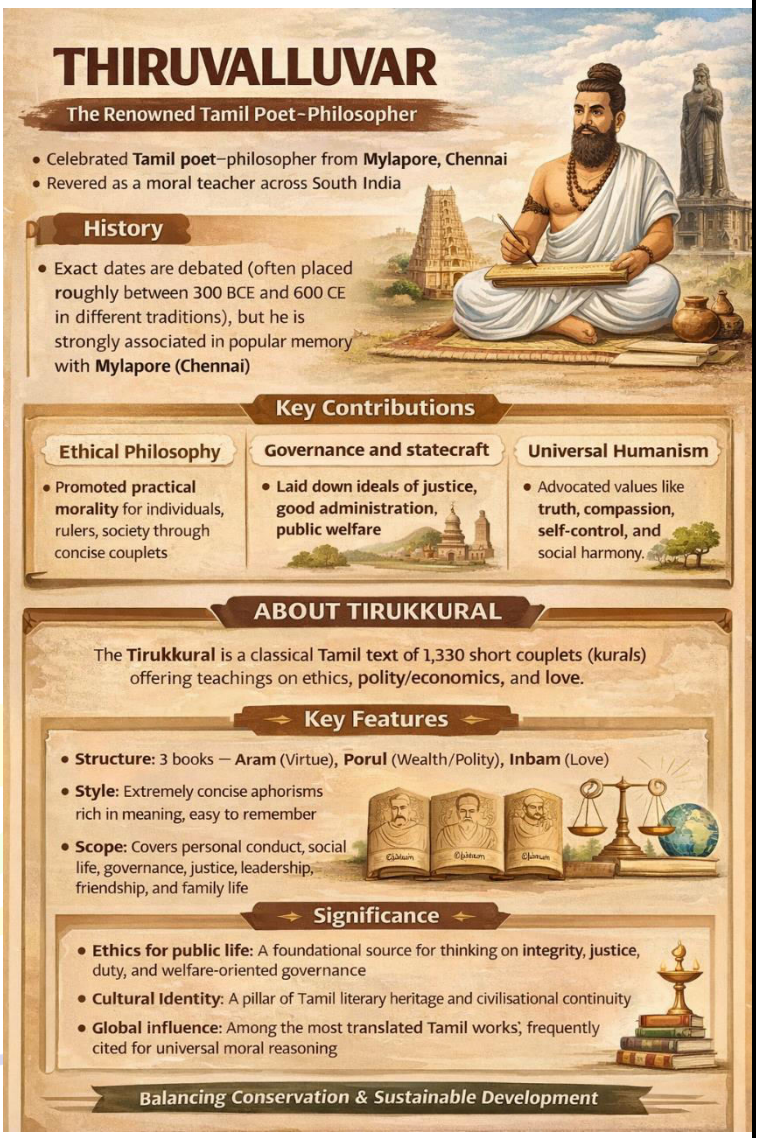
(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

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

8. Tirukkural

WHY IN NEWS Prime Minister of India paid homage to Thiruvalluvar on Thiruvalluvar Day and urged citizens to read the **Tirukkural,** highlighting its timeless ethical and social values.



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

1. It was written by the Tamil poet-saint Thiruvalluvar.
2. It is divided into three sections: Aram, Porul, and Inbam.
3. It is composed in the venpa metre.

Which of the statements given above 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

Explanation:

- **Thiruvalluvar** authored *Tirukkural*, a classic Tamil ethical and moral text.
- It has **three sections**: *Aram* (virtue), *Porul* (polity/wealth), *Inbam* (love).
- Composed in **Kural venpa** metre.

9. IRENA

WHY IN NEWS The 16th Assembly of the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** concluded in Abu Dhabi, calling for an accelerated global shift towards renewables.

Q1. Which of the following is *NOT* included in India's renewable energy targets for 2030?

(a) 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity
(b) 50% of cumulative electric installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources
(c) Reduction of total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes
(d) Achieving net-zero emissions by 2030

Answer: (d) Achieving net-zero emissions by 2030

Explanation:
India's **net-zero target is 2070**, not 2030.
The other three targets were announced at COP-26 as 2030 commitments.

10. Havana Syndrome

WHY IN NEWS Havana Syndrome is back in focus after the US Pentagon began testing a covertly acquired device emitting pulsed radio-frequency waves, which investigators believe could explain some unexplained illnesses.

What it is?

- Havana Syndrome, officially termed Anomalous Health Incidents (AHIs), refers to a set of unexplained neurological and physical symptoms first reported in 2016 by US diplomats in Havana, Cuba, and later by intelligence and military personnel across the world.

Symptoms:

- Severe headaches and migraines
- Dizziness, vertigo and nausea
- Ringing in ears (tinnitus)
- Memory loss and cognitive difficulties
- Balance problems and visual disturbances
- In some cases, symptoms similar to mild traumatic brain injury

Key Features:

- **Global spread:** Cases reported in Cuba, China, Europe, Russia, and the US.
- **No visible injuries:** Many affected showed brain-like trauma without physical impact.
- **Possible directed energy link:** Some scientific and intelligence assessments suggest pulsed radio-frequency or microwave energy as a possible cause.
- **Uncertain attribution:** US intelligence says a foreign attack is unlikely in most cases, though not fully ruled out.
- **Ongoing investigation:** A backpack-sized radio-wave emitting device is now being tested by the Pentagon.

19th JAN 2026

1. United Arab Emirates

2. Indian Bison

3. Brandt's Hedgehog

4. ICGS Sankalp

5. Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).

6. Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme

7. Second range-wide Dolphin Survey

8. BRICS Plus naval exercise

9. UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty

10. Microscopic crustacean

11. First open-sea Marine Fish Farming Project in Andaman Sea

1. United Arab Emirates

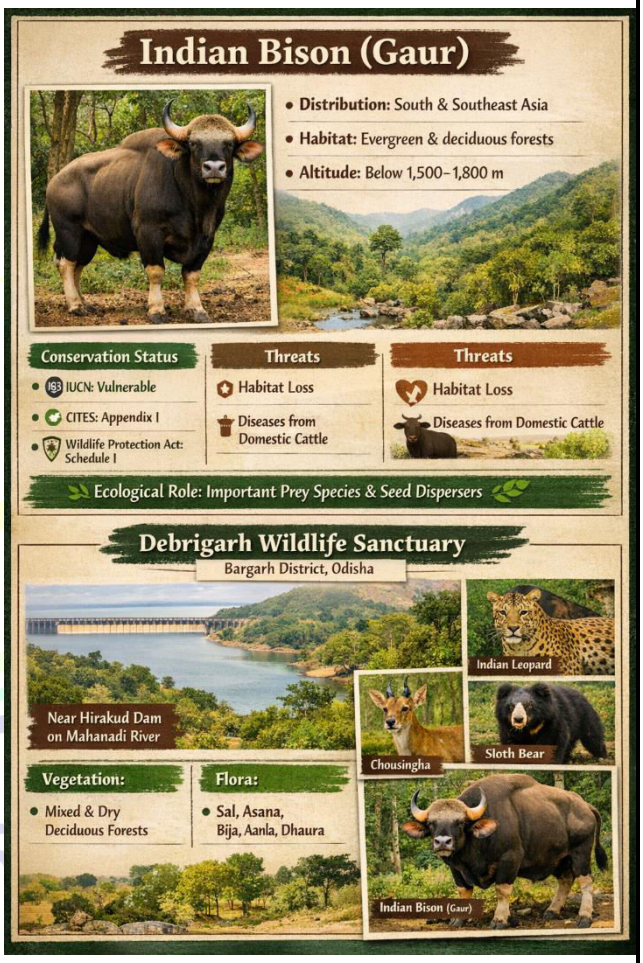
WHY IN NEWS The President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is visiting India and will hold official talks with the Prime Minister of India

About United Arab Emirates

- Location: It is a Middle East country that is located on the north east edge of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Bordering Countries: It is bordered by Saudi Arabia in the south and west; and Oman in the east.
- Maritime Boundary: Gulf of Oman (East), Persian Gulf (North).
- Capital City: Abu Dhabi
- Geographical Features of United Arab Emirates

- Terrain: The emirates comprise a mixed environment of rocky desert, coastal plains and wetlands, and waterless mountains.
- Climate: The climate is hot and humid along the coast and is hotter still, but dry, in the interior.
- Highest point: Jabal Bil 'Ays 1,905 m Mountain
- Major Ports: Port Rāshid and Port Jebel Ali
- Natural Resources: It mainly consists of petroleum and natural gas.
- Tropic of Cancer passes through UAE, specifically Abu Dhabi emirate

2. Indian Bison



WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Indian bison population in Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary has recorded a robust jump of 189 individuals within a year, taking the total head count to 848

Q1. With reference to the Indian Bison (Gaur), consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest species of wild cattle in the world.
2. Both males and females possess horns.
3. It is listed as “Endangered” under the IUCN Red List.

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

3. Brandt’s Hedgehog

WHY IN NEWS A new species of hedgehog, Brandt’s hedgehog, not so far found in India, has been recently discovered in Jammu and Kashmir, DNA analysis and morphological studies reveal

Q1. With reference to Brandt’s Hedgehog, consider the following statements:

1. It is a nocturnal mammal.
2. It is covered with spines which are modified hairs.
3. It is strictly herbivorous.

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

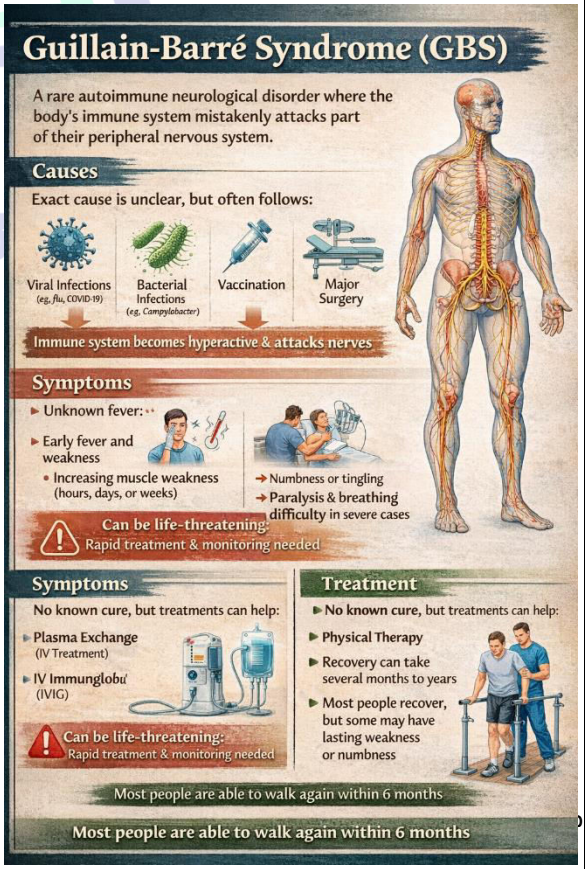
4. ICGS Sankalp

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sankalp visited Port Louis in Mauritius as part of overseas deployment in the Indian Ocean Region

About ICGS Sankalp

- ICGS Sankalp is an offshore patrol vessel which was commissioned in 2008.
- The vessel is indigenously built by the Goa Shipyard Limited.
- It is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment.
- Functions: It is designed primarily for extended maritime surveillance, exclusive economic zone (EEZ) protection, search and rescue operations, and enforcement of maritime laws within India's vast oceanic domains.
- Features of ICGS Sankalp
- The ship is 105-meter-long with an endurance of 6,500 nautical miles.
- Capacity: It has displacement capacity of approximately 2,325 tonnes at full load.
- It consists of HAL Chetak rotary-wing aircraft for enhanced aerial surveillance and SAR.
- Armaments: It is equipped with primary armament consisting of two 30 mm CRN-91 twin-barrel naval guns, designed for surface engagement and controlled by an integrated fire control system.
- It is also fitted with davits to deploy up to five high-speed interceptor boats

5. Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).



WHY IN NEWS A Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) outbreak has hit Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district recently, with two deaths reported in Manasa town

Q1. With reference to Guillain-Barré Syndrome, consider the following statements:

1. It is characterized by rapid-onset muscle weakness.
2. It primarily affects the central nervous system.
3. It is often preceded by a bacterial or viral infection.

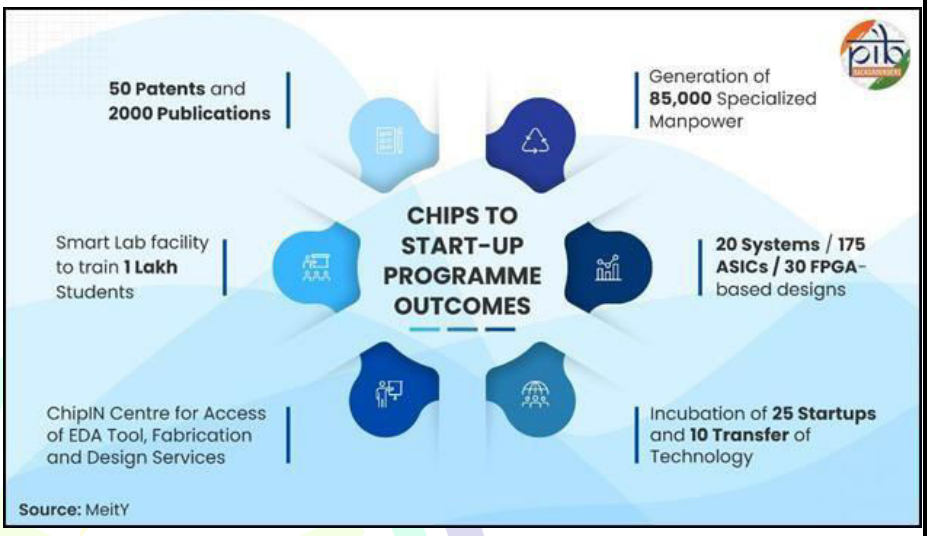
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

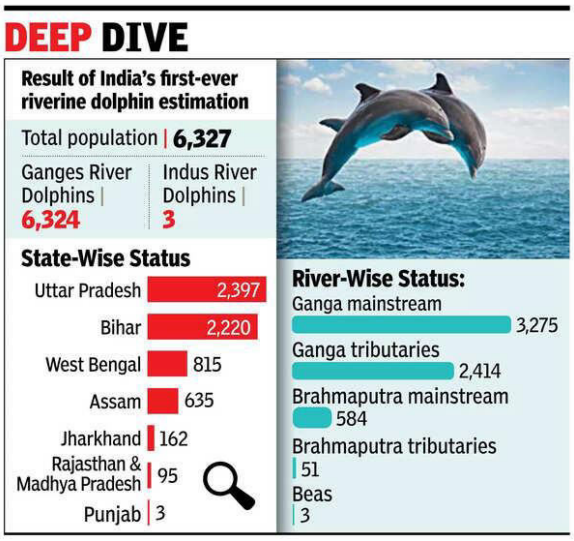
6. Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme

WHY IN NEWS The Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme is in news highlighting its tangible outcomes—56 student-designed chips fabricated, 75+ patents filed, and large-scale chip design training—showcasing India's growing indigenous semiconductor design capability.



7. Second range-wide Dolphin Survey

WHY IN NEWS The second range-wide Dolphin Survey has been launched from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh under **Project Dolphin** to update population estimates, assess habitats and threats.



What it is?

- Project Dolphin is a national conservation initiative of the Government of India aimed at protecting riverine and oceanic dolphins through habitat protection, scientific monitoring, and stakeholder participation.

Launched in: 15 August 2020

Nodal ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Aim: To safeguard India's dolphin diversity by addressing threats such as habitat degradation, pollution, by-catch, and flow alteration, while empowering local communities in conservation.

Key features:

- **10-year initiative** with national coverage.
- Focus on riverine & oceanic species.
- Scientific monitoring & surveys for population and habitat status.
- Integration with river ecosystem conservation and policy action.

About Second range-wide Dolphin Survey (under Project Dolphin):

What it is?

- A pan-India scientific estimation exercise to assess population, distribution, habitat condition and threats to riverine and estuarine dolphins, conducted in two phases across major river systems and coastal/estuarine stretches.

Implementation & coverage

- **Phase I:** Main stem of the Ganga (Bijnor to Ganga Sagar) and the Indus River.
- **Phase II:** Brahmaputra, Ganga tributaries, Sundarbans, and Odisha.
- Coordinated by **Wildlife Institute of India**, with State Forest Departments and conservation partners.
- Uses **standardised protocols**, **hydrophones** for acoustic monitoring, and trained field teams.

8. BRICS Plus naval exercise

WHY IN NEWS India's decision to skip the **BRICS Plus naval** exercise "Will for Peace 2026" has drawn attention as New Delhi clarified that such drills are not institutionalised BRICS activities and reflected a considered political choice amid evolving geopolitics.

1. Consider the following countries:

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Egypt
3. Iran
4. Argentina

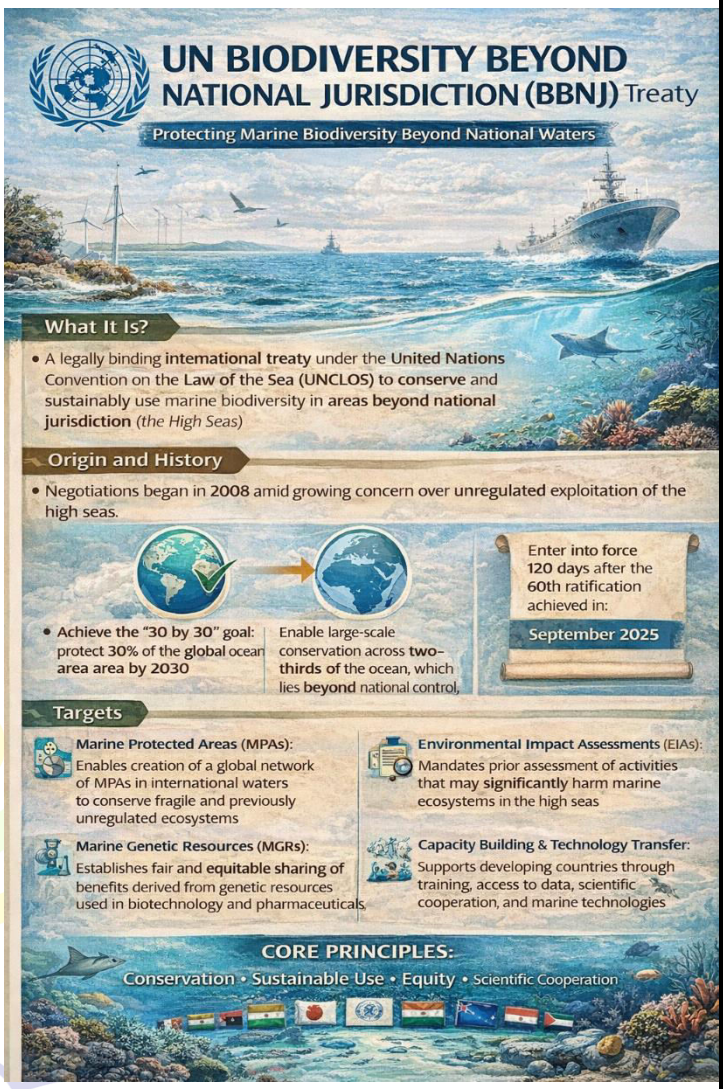
Which of the above joined BRICS as full members in 2024?

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

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3 only

9. UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty

WHY IN NEWS The UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty, also known as the High Seas Treaty, has entered into force after crossing the required 60 ratifications, creating the first legally binding global framework to protect biodiversity in international waters.



1. Consider the following statements about the BBNJ Treaty:

1. It aims to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
2. It was negotiated under the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
3. The treaty allows for the sharing of benefits arising from marine genetic resources.
4. It gives coastal states sovereignty over the high seas adjacent to their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: B . 1, 2 and 3 only

10. Microscopic crustacean

WHY IN NEWS A microscopic crustacean discovered in the Kavaratti lagoon, Lakshadweep, has been formally established as a new genus and species, named *Indiaphonte bijoyi*.

What it is?

- *Indiaphonte bijoyi* is a microscopic crustacean (copepod) belonging to the family Laophontidae under the order Harpacticoida. It is part of meiofauna—tiny invertebrates (less than 1 mm) that live within aquatic sediments and are visible only under a microscope.

Found in: The species was discovered in the **Kavaratti lagoon**, a coral-rich, shallow lagoon ecosystem known for high marine biodiversity.

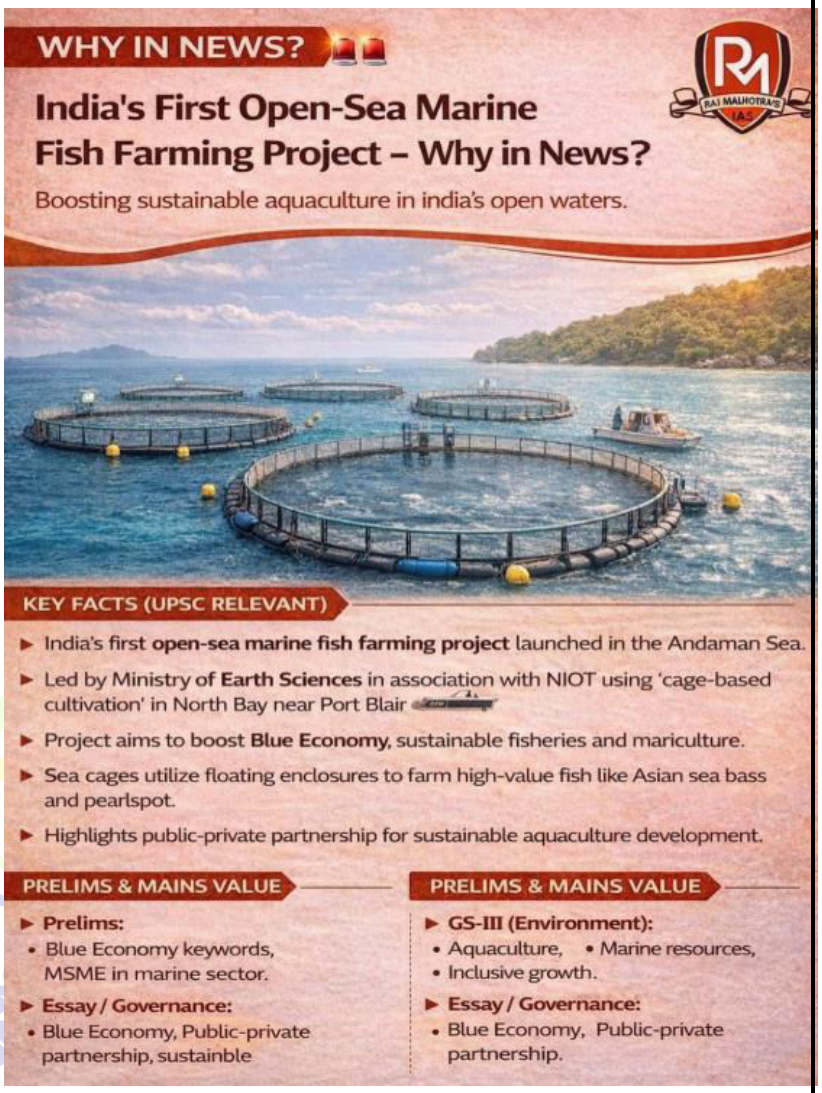
More on the discovery:

- The genus name *Indiaphonte* honours India; the species name *bijoyi* honours S. Bijoy Nandan, a noted Indian marine scientist.

- Recognised as a new genus due to a unique combination of morphological traits not seen in any known Laophontidae genus.

11. First open-sea Marine Fish Farming Project in Andaman Sea

WHY IN NEWS India has launched its first open-sea marine fish farming project in the Andaman Sea, marking a major step in advancing the Blue Economy through science-led, livelihood-oriented utilisation of ocean resources.



1. With reference to India's first open-sea Marine Fish Farming Project launched in the Andaman Sea, consider the following statements:

1. It focuses on the cultivation of marine finfish and seaweed under natural sea conditions.
2. The project has been implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
3. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has provided the open-sea cage technology.
4. The project is a step towards strengthening India's Blue Economy.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B. 1, 3 and 4 only

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20th JAN 2026

1. United Nations Economic and Social Council
2. INS Sudarshini
3. Sela Lake
4. Type 096 Tang-Class Submarine
5. Vadhavan Port
6. Environmental Protection Fund
7. Indian Skimmer
8. Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity (GEI) Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025
9. India Launches Responsible Nations Index (RNI)
10. Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

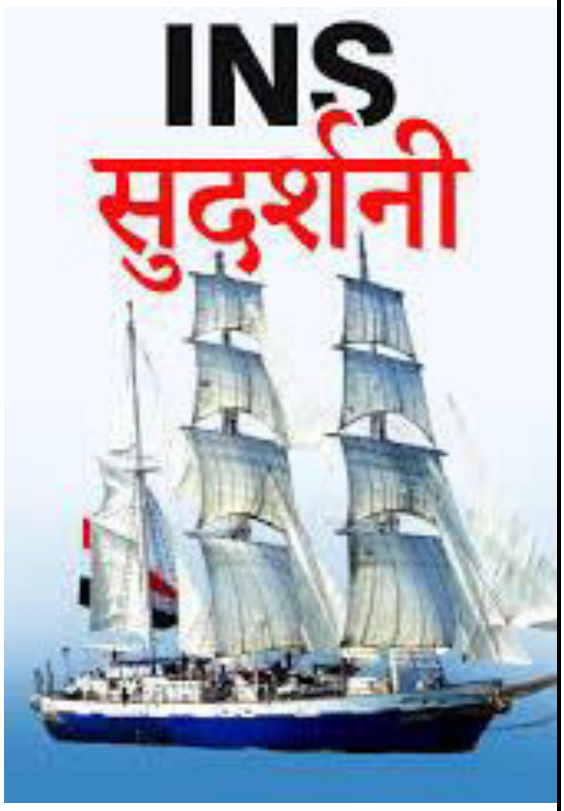
1. United 11. Parbati Giri Nations Economic and Social Council

WHY IN NEWS The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will commemorate its 80th anniversary by holding a special event on 23 January 2026.

About United Nations Economic and Social Council

- It was established by the Charter of the United Nations in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- It is responsible for the direction and coordination of the economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural activities carried out by the UN.
- Decisions are taken by a simple majority vote. The presidency of ECOSOC changes annually.
- Members: It has 54 members, which are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.
- Headquarter: New York (USA).

2. INS Sudarshini



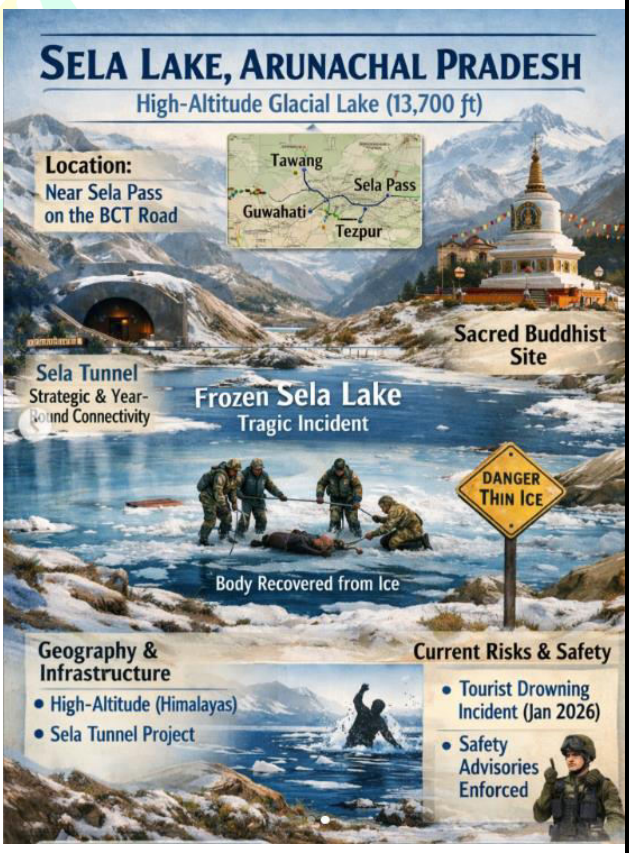
WHY IN NEWS The Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini will embark on the flagship voyage of Lokayan 26, a 10-month transoceanic expedition

About INS Sudarshini

- It is an indigenously built Sail Training Ship (STS).
- It was built by Goa Shipyard Limited and based at Kochi, Kerala under the Southern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.
- It was successfully built and was commissioned on 27 Jan. 2012.
- The aim of using such ships is to make sailors sea-friendly, as they are taught how to survive alone at sea, understand rough weather conditions and train themselves to become good sailors

3. Sela Lake

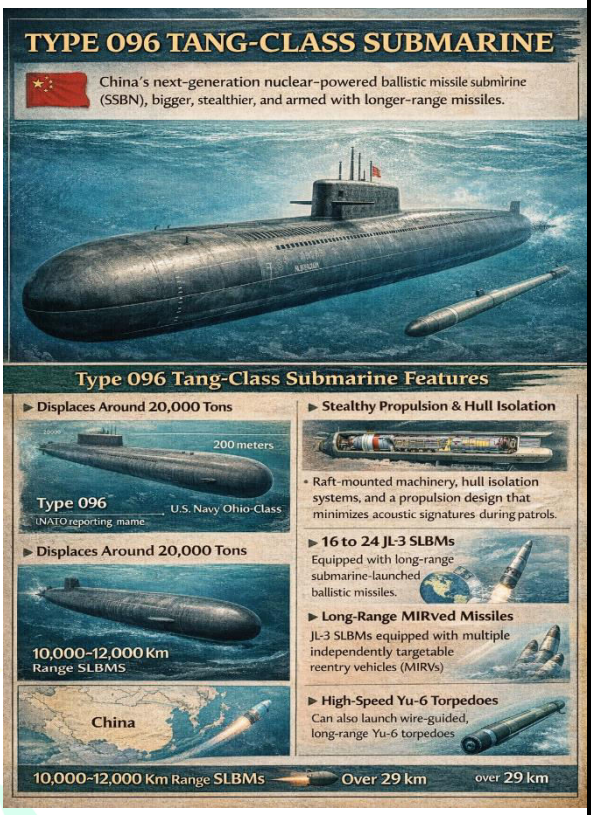
WHY IN NEWS Two tourists from Kerala drowned after the frozen surface of Sela Lake in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district gave way recently.



About Sela Lake

- Sela Lake, also known as Paradise Lake, is a glacial lake located near Sela Pass in Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Sela Pass is a crucial mountain pass connecting the Tawang region with the rest of Arunachal Pradesh.
- It lies at an altitude of 13,700 feet (4,170 meters) and is surrounded by snow-clad mountains.
- Its crystal-clear waters reflect the peaks around it, offering a stunning view.
- The lake is usually frozen all winter because of its very cold temperatures (below zero).
- The lake and its surroundings have limited vegetation because of the altitude.
- Locals and Buddhist monks consider Sela Lake a sacred site.
- It is one of the 101 sacred lakes in the Tawang region, each with its own spiritual story

4. Type 096 Tang-Class Submarine



WHY IN NEWS China has unveiled the most significant upgrade to its undersea nuclear capability with the unveiling of the Type 096 Tang-Class ballistic missile submarine recently

1. Type 096 (Tang-class) submarine belongs to which category?

a) Nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN)
b) Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)
c) Diesel-electric attack submarine
d) Conventionally armed cruise missile submarine

Answer: b) Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)

5. Vadhavan Port

WHY IN NEWS Around 20,000 residents of Palghar district recently took out a protest march on Monday against the proposed Vadhavan port and a slew of other infrastructure projects, citing environmental damage

About Vadhavan Port

- It is a proposed new port 140 km north of Mumbai on the coast of Maharashtra in the Palghar District.
- It is being developed as an all-weather greenfield deep-draft major port.
- Vadhvan offers a natural depth of 20 meters, making it ideal for large container and bulk vessels.
- The project will be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) with a shareholding of 74% and 26%, respectively.
- The total project cost, including the land acquisition component, is Rs.76,220 Crore.
- Scheduled to be finished by 2034, it is projected to be among the top 10 ports in the world.
- The port will comprise nine container terminals, each 1000 meters long; four multipurpose berths; including the coastal berth, four liquid cargo berths, a Ro-Ro berth, and a Coast Guard berth.
- The project involves the reclamation of 1,448 hectares of area in the sea and the construction of 10.14 km of offshore breakwater and container/cargo storage areas.
- The Project will create a cumulative capacity of 298 million metric tons (MMT) per annum, including around 23.2 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalents) of container handling capacity.
- The strategic location of Vadhavan Port provides it with a unique edge.
- Situated just 12 km from the Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor and 22 km from the Mumbai-Vadodara Expressway, the port will connect seamlessly to industrial centers across Maharashtra, Gujarat, and beyond.
- The capacities created will also aid EXIM trade flow through IMEEC (India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor) and INSTC (International North South Transportation Corridor

6. Environmental Protection Fund

WHY IN NEWS The Union Government has notified detailed rules for the utilisation and administration of the Environmental (Protection) Fund, operationalising provisions introduced under the **Jan Vishwas Act, 2023**.

1. Consider the following statements about the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF):

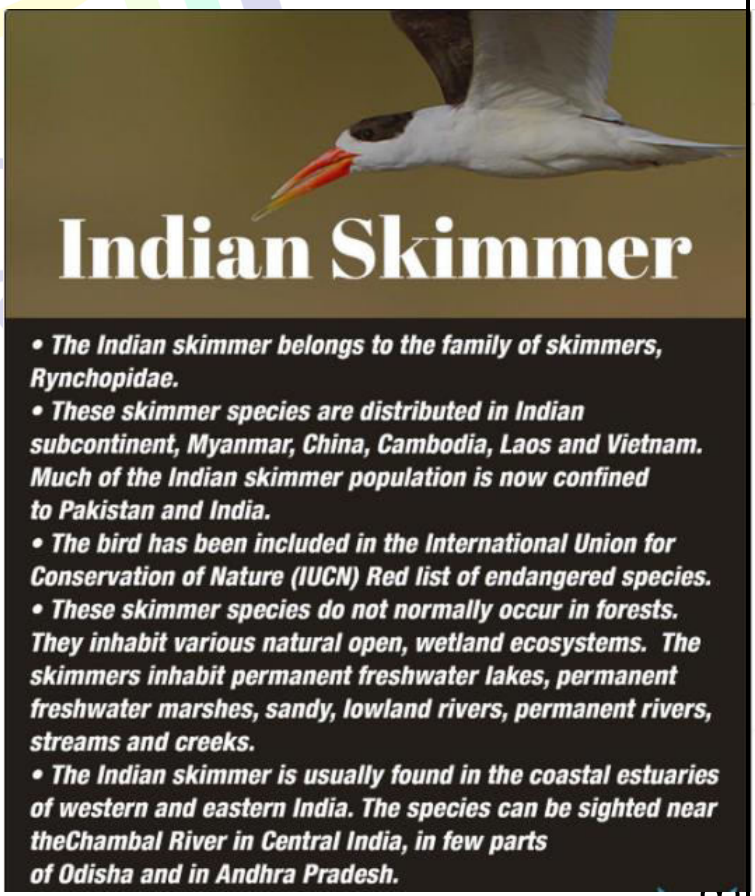
1. It is created under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The fund is meant to channel compensatory payments made for violating environmental laws.
3. The Central Government exclusively administers this fund.

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

7. Indian Skimmer



WHY IN NEWS The Bombay Natural History Society (**BNHS**) and the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) have launched a new conservation project to protect the endangered Indian Skimmer and its breeding habitats across the **Ganga Basin**.

1. With reference to the Indian Skimmer, consider the following statements:

1. It is classified as *Vulnerable* in the IUCN Red List.
2. It is known for its distinct feeding technique in which the lower mandible is longer than the upper.
3. It breeds primarily along the coastal mangroves of India.

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

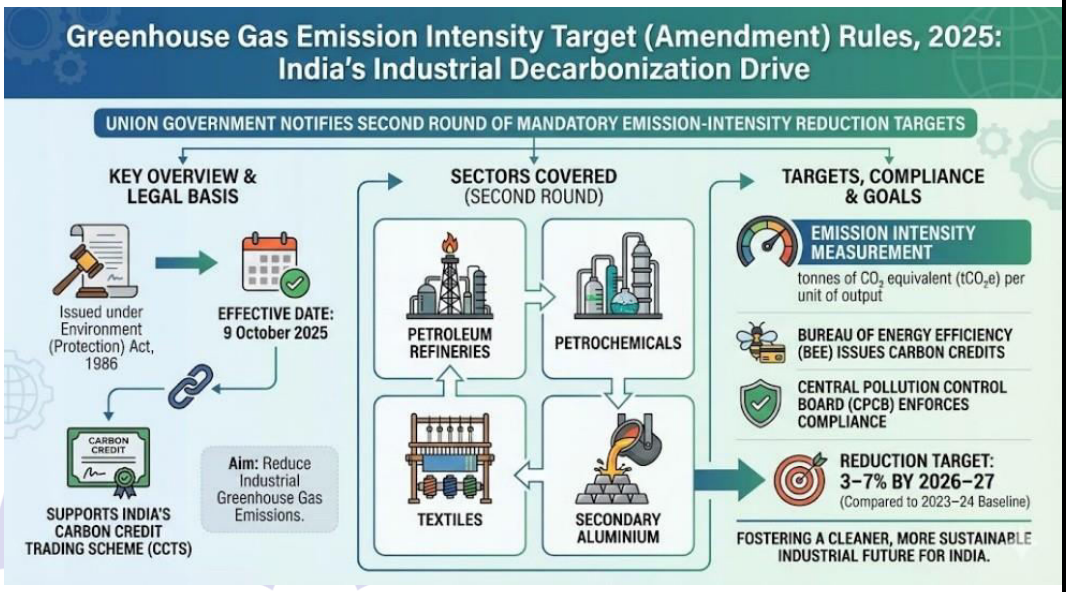
Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Indian Skimmer is **Vulnerable** (IUCN).
- Its lower mandible is longer → allows *skimming* the water surface.
- It breeds on **riverine sandbars**, not coastal mangroves → Statement 3 incorrect.

8. Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity (GEI) Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025

WHY IN NEWS The Union Government has notified the second round of legally binding emission reduction targets for carbon-intensive industries under the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity **(GEI) Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025.**



9. India Launches Responsible Nations Index (RNI)

WHY IN NEWS India has launched **the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) 2026** to introduce a new global benchmark for evaluating countries on ethical governance and responsibility, with India ranked 16th globally.

1. With reference to the Responsible Nations Index (RNI), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It evaluates countries based on how responsibly they exercise power towards their citizens and the world.
2. It is developed by an Indian think-tank in collaboration with academic institutions.
3. It ranks countries primarily on economic growth and military strength.

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 RNI assesses nations on **responsibility towards citizens, the environment and global community**, not on economic power or military strength. It was developed by the **World Intellectual Foundation (WIF)** in collaboration with institutions like **JNU and IIM Mumbai**.

10. Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

WHY IN NEWS The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued operational guidelines for extending interest subvention on export credit **under Niryat Protsahan**, bringing exporters under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).

1. With reference to the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), consider the following statements:

1. It was announced in the Union Budget 2025–26.
2. It aims to consolidate multiple fragmented export support schemes into a unified framework.
3. It focuses only on providing export subsidies to large corporate exporters.

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

11. Parbati Giri

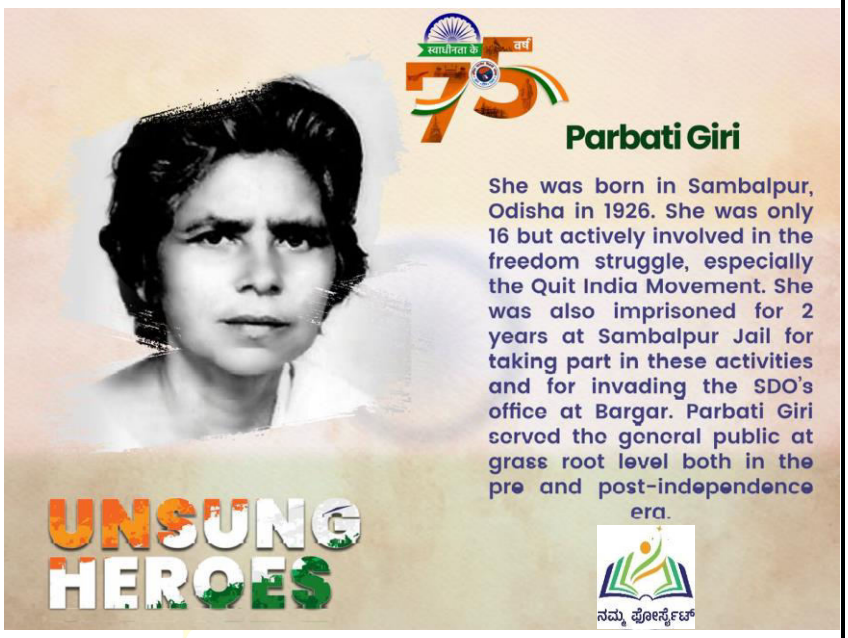
WHY IN NEWS Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Parbati Giri on her birth centenary, highlighting her role in the freedom struggle and her lifelong dedication **to social service**.

1. With reference to Parbati Giri, consider the following statements:

1. She participated in the Quit India Movement at a very young age.
2. She was popularly known as the "Mother Teresa of Western Odisha."
3. She served as a member of the Constituent Assembly of India.

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

21th And 22nd JAN 2026

1. Central Silk Board

2. World Economic Forum (WEF).

3. Souparnika River

4. Kamchatka Peninsula

5. Atal Pension Yojana

6. Small Industries Development Bank of India

7. Bhitarkanika National Park

8. Lok Sabha to launch digital attendance system

9. Silver metal

10. Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme (IGICBS)

11.National Legislative Index (NLI)

12. Operation Trashi-I

13. Spain joined Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

14. Solar Radiation Storm

15. Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

1. Central Silk Board

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the government has increased the Central Silk Board's financial approval limit to ₹1 crore from ₹50 lakh by amending Rule 22 of the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955

Q1. The headquarters of the Central Silk Board is located at:

A. Mysuru
B. New Delhi
C. Bengaluru
D. Coimbatore

Answer: C. Bengaluru

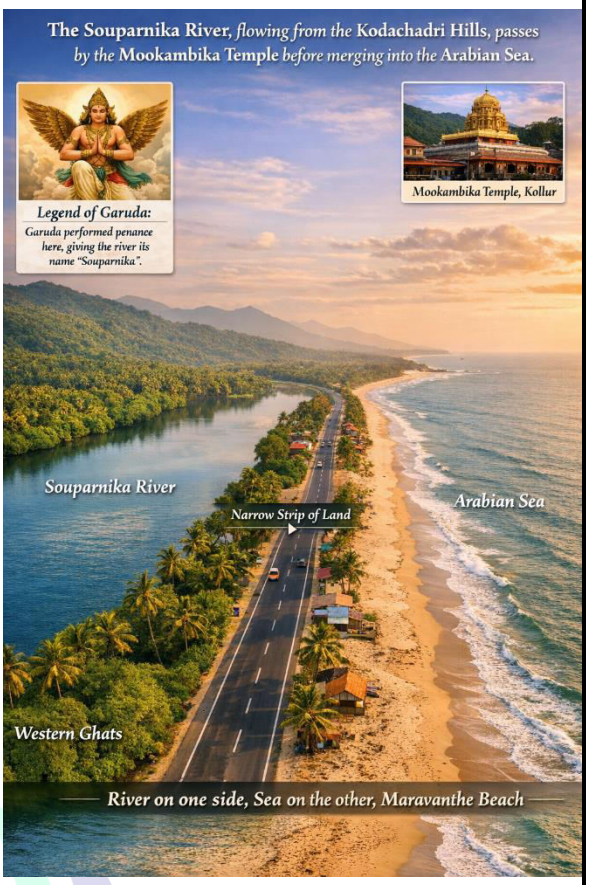
2. World Economic Forum (WEF).

WHY IN NEWS Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently clarified that while India remains engaged with major global powers, the World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos is largely a platform for the exchange of ideas rather than a venue for formal group-to-group trade negotiations

About World Economic Forum (WEF)

- It is an international non-profit organisation that brings together business, political, and social leaders to discuss global challenges.
- Established in 1971, the WEF promotes stakeholder theory for broader societal impact.
- This body has a concise mission: 'To improve the state of the world through public-private cooperation'.
- The WEF is best known for its annual WEF Meeting at Davos, the Swiss ski resort.
- The WEF Annual Meeting brings together top decision-makers from government, business, and civil society to address major global issues and priorities for the year ahead.
- WEF addresses major global concerns such as climate change, economic challenges, and global security.
- The organization is funded by its diverse membership, which includes prominent global figures

3. Souparnika River



WHY IN NEWS The National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently directed the Udupi DC and the Chairman of the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWSDB) to file a detailed report outlining proposed action along with approximate estimates and timelines to stop the flow of wastewater into the Sauparnika River in Kollur

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Sauparnika River:

1. It is associated with the Kollur Mookambika Temple.
2. It has religious significance in Hindu traditions.
3. It is one of the longest rivers of the Western Ghats.

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

4. Atal Pension Yojana

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the union cabinet approved the continuation of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) up to FY 2030-31.

About Atal Pension Yojana

- It was launched by the Government of India on 9th May 2015.
- It was designed to encourage voluntary savings for retirement by offering defined pension benefits, linked to the age of joining and amount of contribution.
- Key Features of Atal Pension Yojana
- Target Group: It is aimed at workers in the unorganised sector.
- It was initially available to all citizens of India between 18 and 40 years of age.
- With effect from 1st October 2022, individuals paying income tax are not eligible to join the scheme.
- Guaranteed Pension: Subscribers can opt for a fixed pension ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 per month, depending on the contribution made.
- Government Co-Contribution: For subscribers who enrolled between June 1, 2015, and March 31, 2016, and met certain criteria, the government contributed 50% of the subscriber's amount or ₹1,000 per annum for five years.

- It is administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Exit and withdrawal options
- Exit at age 60: Full pension begins.
- Exit before age 60: Permitted only in cases of death or terminal illness.
- Voluntary Exit: Allowed, but the subscriber only receives the contribution made (with interest) and government co-contribution (if any) is forfeited

5. Kamchatka Peninsula

WHY IN NEWS Russia's Far Eastern Kamchatka Peninsula is reeling under extreme and record-breaking snowfall, with powerful winter storms dumping several metres of snow

Q1. The Kamchatka Peninsula is bounded by which of the following water bodies?

1. Sea of Okhotsk
2. Bering Sea
3. Sea of Japan

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: C. 1 and 2 only

6. Small Industries Development Bank of India

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the equity support of Rs.5,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

About Small Industries Development Bank of India

- It was set up on 2nd April, 1990 by the Government of India under an act of the Parliament, as a wholly owned subsidiary of IDBI Bank.
- It was delinked from IDBI on March 27, 2000.

- Mandate: It is mandated to serve as the Principal Financial Institution for executing the triple agenda of promotion, financing and development of the MSME sector and coordination of the functions of the various Institutions engaged in similar activities.
- Functions of Small Industries Development Bank of India
- Offers direct loans and refinancing to banks and NBFCs.
- Promotes entrepreneurship and MSME growth
- Provides venture capital and technology support
- Financial support to MSMEs is provided by way of
- Indirect/refinance to banks/Financial Institutions for onward lending to MSMEs
- Direct finance in niche areas like risk capital, sustainable finance, receivable financing, service sector financing, etc..
- SIDBI was made responsible for administering the Small Industries Development Fund and the National Equity Fund that were administered by IDBI before.
- Major Stakeholders in SIDBI: Government of India (GOI), State Bank of India (SBI), LIC, and NABARD are among the major stakeholders in the SIDBI.
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

7. Bhitarkanika National Park

WHY IN NEWS
Bhitarkanika National Park saw a marginal increase in winged guests as compared to the previous year, according to the latest census report released by the forest department recently

8. Lok Sabha to launch digital attendance system

WHY IN NEWS The Lok Sabha will introduce **a digital attendance system** from the Budget Session 2026 to ensure the physical presence of MPs inside the House.

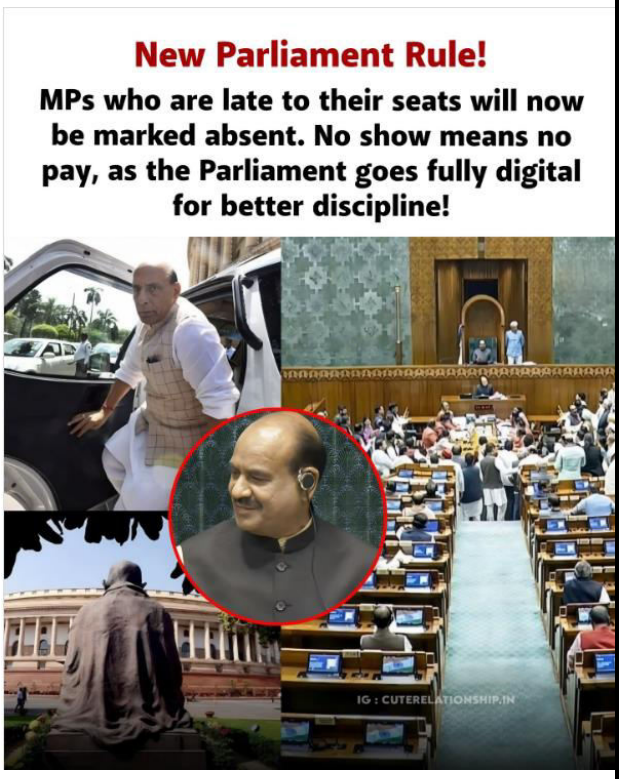
What it is?

- A seat-based biometric attendance mechanism where Members of Parliament mark attendance electronically from their designated seats inside the House, replacing the earlier lobby register system.

Announced by: Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Aim:

- Ensure actual presence of MPs during sittings.
- Improve transparency, discipline, and productivity of Parliament.
- Link attendance with daily allowance strictly to House presence.



How it works?

- Every designated seat in the Lok Sabha chamber is fitted with a digital console, ensuring attendance can be marked only from within the House and not elsewhere in the Parliament complex.
- MPs authenticate their presence using biometric thumb verification, eliminating proxy marking and ensuring that attendance reflects the actual physical presence of the member.
- Once the House is adjourned—whether due to protests or completion of business—the system is locked, preventing members from retroactively marking attendance.
- If an MP fails to record attendance during a sitting, it results in the forfeiture of daily allowance and related entitlements, creating a direct financial accountability mechanism.

9. Silver metal

WHY IN NEWS Silver prices are projected to rise by nearly 20% in the coming months amid sustained global supply deficits and strong industrial demand.

1. Consider the following statements about Silver (Ag):

1. It is the best conductor of electricity among all metals.
2. It can be easily alloyed with copper to increase hardness.
3. Pure silver does not tarnish on exposure to air.

Which of the above statements 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

Explanation:

Table – 5 : World Reserves of Silver

(By Principal Countries)

(In tonnes of silver content)

Country	Reserves
World: Total (rounded off)	*610000
Argentina	6500
Australia	[10] 94000
Bolivia	22000
Chile	26000
China	72000
India	8000
Kazakhstan	NA
Mexico	37000
Peru	110000
Poland	*63000
Russia	92000
USA	23000
Other countries	57000

- Silver is **the best electrical conductor** → correct.
- Alloys with copper (like **sterling silver**) → increases strength → correct.
- Pure silver **tarnishes** due to reaction with **sulfur compounds** → Statement 3 incorrect.

10. Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme (IGICBS)

WHY IN NEWS **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** has completed one year of its Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme (IGICBS) and marked the milestone with a national-level event in New Delhi.

1. With reference to the Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme (IGICBS), consider the following statements:

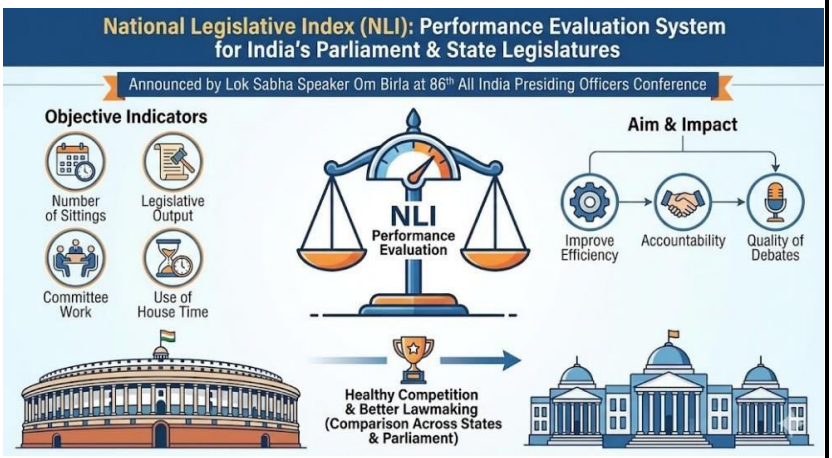
1. It has been launched by the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).
2. It aims to build Indian expertise in global Internet governance policy and standards.
3. It offers two internship tracks — three-month and six-month programs.

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

11.National Legislative Index (NLI)



WHY IN NEWS At the 86th All India Presiding Officers Conference, **Lok Sabha Speaker** Om Birla announced the initiation of a National Legislative Index (NLI) to objectively assess and compare the performance of legislatures.

12. Operation Trashi-I

WHY IN NEWS Operation Trashi-I entered its fourth day in January 2026 as security forces intensified **counter-terrorism operations** in the dense forests of Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir.

1. With reference to 'Operation Trashi-I', consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint counter-terrorism operation involving the Indian Army, CRPF and Jammu & Kashmir Police.
2. It was launched in the Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir.
3. Its primary objective is to flush out terrorists hiding in forested terrain.

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

13. Spain joined Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

WHY IN NEWS Spain has formally joined **the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI),** with its Foreign Minister handing over the Declaration of Accession to S. Jaishankar.

What it is?

- The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) is a non-treaty, voluntary, cooperative framework for practical maritime collaboration among like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

Launched in: 2019 (announced at the East Asia Summit, Bangkok).

Launched by: India, building on the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine

Aim:

- To promote a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.
- To address maritime challenges through practical cooperation, not military alliances.
- To balance security, development, and sustainability in the maritime domain.

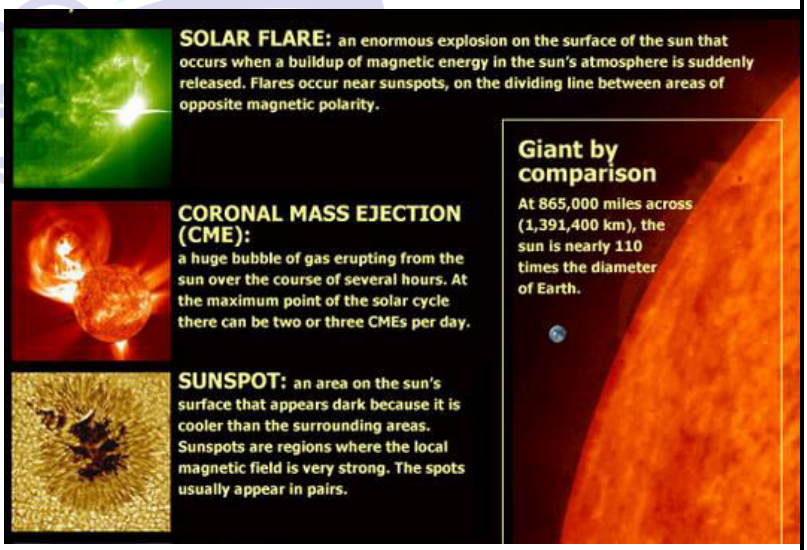
Key features:

- **Seven thematic pillars:**
  1. Maritime Security
  2. Maritime Ecology
  3. Maritime Resources
  4. Capacity Building & Resource Sharing
  5. Disaster Risk Reduction & Management
  6. Science, Technology & Academic Cooperation
  7. Trade, Connectivity & Maritime Transport
- **Non-military, non-bloc approach** focused on cooperation.
- Emphasis on **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)**, sustainability, and infrastructure resilience.
- Countries can **voluntarily lead individual pillars.**

Significance:

- Expands IPOI's global legitimacy, especially with European participation.
- Strengthens India's role as a **net security provider** and agenda-setter in the Indo-Pacific.
- Counters rising great-power rivalry by promoting inclusive multilateralism.

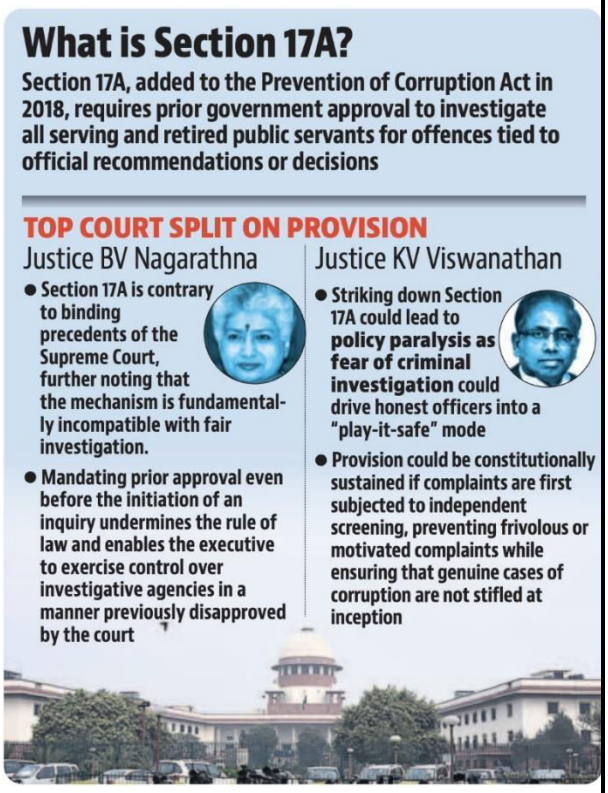
14. Solar Radiation Storm



WHY IN NEWS The Sun unleashed the largest solar radiation storm in over 20 years, ranked S4 (Severe) by the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, causing intense auroras across Europe and disruptions to **aviation GPS systems**.

15. Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

WHY IN NEWS A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India delivered a split verdict on the constitutional validity of **Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**, which mandates prior approval before investigating public servants.



Q1. Section 17A of the PCA, 1988 applies to which of the following categories of officials?

1. Central Government employees
2. State Government employees
3. Employees of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)

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

23rd JAN 2026

1. Gangapur Dam

2. Phulkari

3. Lambadi Tribe

4. Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

5. Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework

6. U S. Formally Withdraws From the World Health Organization

7. Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Glide Missile (LRAShM)

8. Operation Megaburu

9. Governor's Power to Address the State Legislatures

10. Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary

1. Gangapur Dam

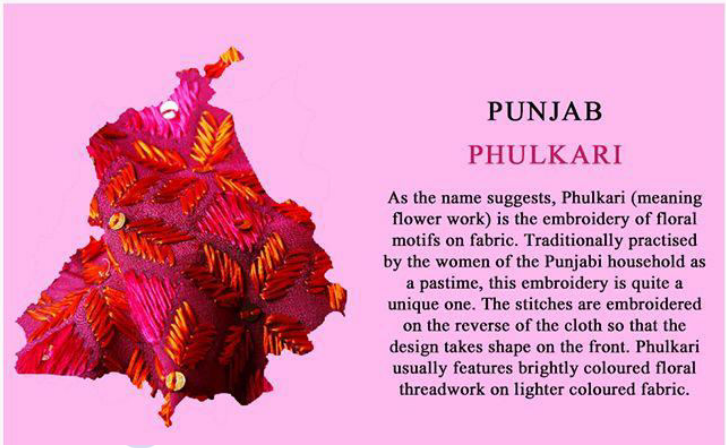
WHY IN NEWS The air show, featuring the Indian Air Force's Suryakiran aerobatic team, took place over the Gangapur dam in the Nashik district recently

About Gangapur Dam

- It is an earthfill dam on the River Godavari, near Nashik, Maharashtra.
- It is the longest earthen reservoir of Asia, with a length of 9.8 kilometers and a height of 36.6 meters.
- The dam has a unique design, with a curved shape and a spillway in the middle.
- It was built in 1965 as part of the Godavari Marathwada Irrigation Development Project.
- The dam was constructed to provide irrigation and drinking water to the drought-prone areas of Nashik, Ahmednagar, and Aurangabad districts.
- The dam has a storage capacity of 215.88 million cubic meters and a catchment area of 2,122 sq.km.
- The dam also has an upstream dam called Kashypi Dam, which regulates the water flow and prevents flooding.
- The dam also has two canals; the left bank canal is 64 km long, and the right bank canal is 30 km.
- The area around the dam features beautiful gardens and is home to numerous migratory birds, adding to its scenic beauty

2. Phulkari

WHY IN NEWS Over 40 rare pre-Partition textiles at an exhibition trace how phulkari functioned within women's lives, and their everyday worlds



About Phulkari

- Phulkari, meaning "flower work," is a traditional embroidery from undivided Punjab, including present-day Pakistan and Haryana.
- The term first appeared in 18th-century Punjabi literature and may be linked to the Iranian art of gulkari.
- Historically, phulkari chaddars were an essential part of a girl's marriage trousseau, crafted by mothers and grandmothers from the girl's birth.
- Girls learned to embroider early, with the number of phulkaris reflecting the family's status and marking cultural milestones

3. Lambadi Tribe

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court is once again being asked to rule on long-standing controversy of Parliament's decision on Scheduled Tribe status to Lambadi community in Telangana.

About Lambadi Tribe

- They are found in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka states in South India.
- They are also known as Sugali or Banjara.
- Language: They speak Gor Boli also called Lambadi which belongs to the Indo-Aryan Group of Languages. Lambadi has no script.
- Belief System: The majority of Banjara in India are Hindu; some have combined Hindu practices with their own animistic beliefs.
- Culture of Lambadi Tribe

- Banjara people celebrate the festival of Teej during Shravanam (in the month of august).
- In this festival young unmarried Banjara girls pray for a good groom.
- Fire dance and Chari are the traditional dance forms of the banjara people.
- Tattoos are very common in their community.
- Women, Lambadi / Gor women (Thandri) wear a very colourful red style dress and lots of jewellery. The clothes they wear are decorated with pieces of mirror and cowl. we wear ivory bangles and ornaments

4. Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

WHY IN NEWS Recently, Mozambican rights activist and humanitarian Graca Machel has been selected for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2025

Q1. The *Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development* is awarded for which of the following?

1. Promoting international peace and disarmament
2. Securing economic cooperation and development
3. Contributions to scientific inventions

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 — It's awarded for efforts in peace, disarmament, harmony among nations and socio-economic development; it's *not* specifically for scientific inventions.

5. Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework

WHY IN NEWS The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework to integrate quantum technologies into the Indian Armed Forces.

6. U S. Formally Withdraws From the World Health Organization

WHY IN NEWS The United States is set to formally withdraw from the **World Health Organization (WHO)** after serving a one-year notice, despite warnings about adverse impacts on U.S. and global health governance.

What is the WHO?

- The World Health Organization is the specialised health agency of the United Nations responsible for coordinating international public health, responding to health emergencies, and setting global health standards to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all.

Establishment and Headquarters:

- **Established:** 7 April 1948 (World Health Day)
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Membership:** 194 Member States

Historical background:

- Emerged from earlier international sanitary efforts such as the **International Sanitary Conferences (1851–1938)**.
- Incorporated the **League of Nations Health Organization** after World War II.
- Played a decisive role in landmark achievements like **eradication of smallpox**, near-eradication of **polio**, and coordination during **Ebola and** COVID-19 outbreaks.

Core functions of WHO:

- **Global health leadership:** Coordinates international responses to pandemics, epidemics, and health emergencies.
- **Standard setting:** Develops global norms such as the **International Classification of Diseases (ICD)** and health regulations.
- **Universal Health Coverage** (UHC)**:** Promotes equitable access to essential health services.
- **Technical assistance:** Supports countries with policy advice, data, and capacity building.
- **Data and surveillance:** Collects and disseminates global health statistics and early-warning alerts.

Process of withdrawal from WHO**:**

- Under U.S. domestic law, withdrawal requires:
    1. One-year advance notice, and
    2. Full payment of outstanding financial obligations.
- The current withdrawal has raised legal concerns as membership dues reportedly remain unpaid, and final modalities are under discussion within WHO's Executive Board.

Significance of the U.S. withdrawal:

- **For WHO:** Loss of ~**18% of total funding**, leading to staff reductions and scaled-back programmes.

- **For global health:** Weakens pandemic preparedness, disease surveillance, and coordinated emergency response.
- **For the U.S.:** Reduced access to real-time global health data, early warnings, and multilateral influence in setting health norms.

7. Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Glide Missile (LRAShM)

WHY IN NEWS India will publicly debut its Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Glide Missile (LR-AShM) at the 77th Republic Day parade, marking India's entry into the exclusive hypersonic anti-ship weapons club.

1. With reference to the Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Glide Missile (LRAShM), consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. It is designed to engage high-value naval targets like aircraft carrier groups.
3. It operates at hypersonic speeds and follows a manoeuvrable trajectory.

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

8. Operation Megaburu

WHY IN NEWS Operation Megaburu, a major anti-Maoist offensive in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, led to the killing of 16 Maoists, including top **CPI (Maoist) leader** Anal alias Patiram Manjhi.

1. Operation Megaburu was launched as a major counter-insurgency/anti-Maoist operation in which state of India?

A. Chhattisgarh
B. Jharkhand
C. Odisha
D. Bihar

Answer: B. Jharkhand

9. Governor's Power to Address the State Legislatures

WHY IN NEWS Several States have seen fresh confrontations with Governors over the content and reading of the Governor's Address to **the State Legislature**, raising questions on constitutional propriety.

1. With reference to the Governor of a State, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor holds office at the pleasure of the President.
2. The Governor can be transferred from one state to another.
3. The Governor must be a resident of the state to which he/she is appointed.

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

10. Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary

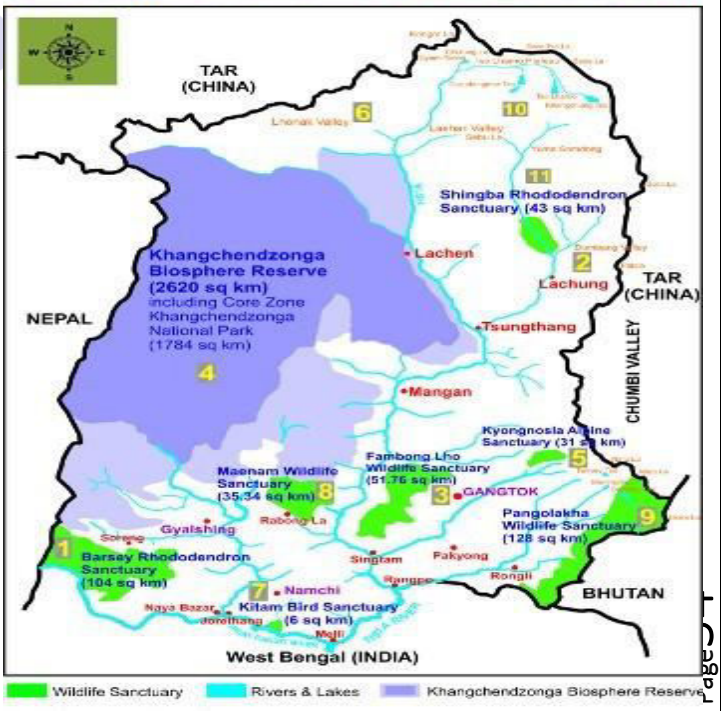
WHY IN NEWS A forest fire has been raging since 20 January 2026 in Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary, near **the Indo-China border**, affecting about 12 hectares of forest land.

What it is?

- Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary is a high-altitude protected area and a designated Important Bird Area (IBA), known for its exceptional alpine to subtropical biodiversity and strategic location along India's eastern Himalayan frontier.

Located in: East Sikkim, Sikkim.

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS AND WILDLIFE PROTECTED AREAS OF SIKKIM



- **Altitude (~1,300 m to >4,000 m):** Wide elevation range creates **subtropical, temperate and alpine ecosystems,** supporting high biodiversity and climate-sensitive species.
- **Area (~12,400 hectares):** Large contiguous forest expanse enables **ecological connectivity,** wildlife movement, and functioning of high-altitude watersheds.
- **Established (2002):** Notified to **legally protect fragile eastern Himalayan ecosystems** and conserve rare flora, fauna, and migratory bird habitats.

Neighbouring states / nations

- Bhutan to the east
- China (Tibet Autonomous Region) to the north (via Nathu La–Jelep La corridor)
- Extends southwards towards West Bengal, connecting with Neora Valley National Park

Key features:

- **Unique biogeography:**
    - Part of the **Eastern Himalayas biodiversity hotspot**
    - Encompasses **three biomes**:
        1. Eurasian High Montane (Alpine & Tibetan)
        2. Sino-Himalayan Temperate Forest
        3. Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forest

24th JAN 2026

1. Asiatic Wild Dog

2. Gandak River

3. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

4. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

5. Anna Chakra

6. State of Finance for Nature 2026

7. IICDEM & Adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026

8. Trucks-on-Trains

9. Global Future Councils (GFCs)

10. PLI Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners & LED Lights)

1. Asiatic Wild Dog

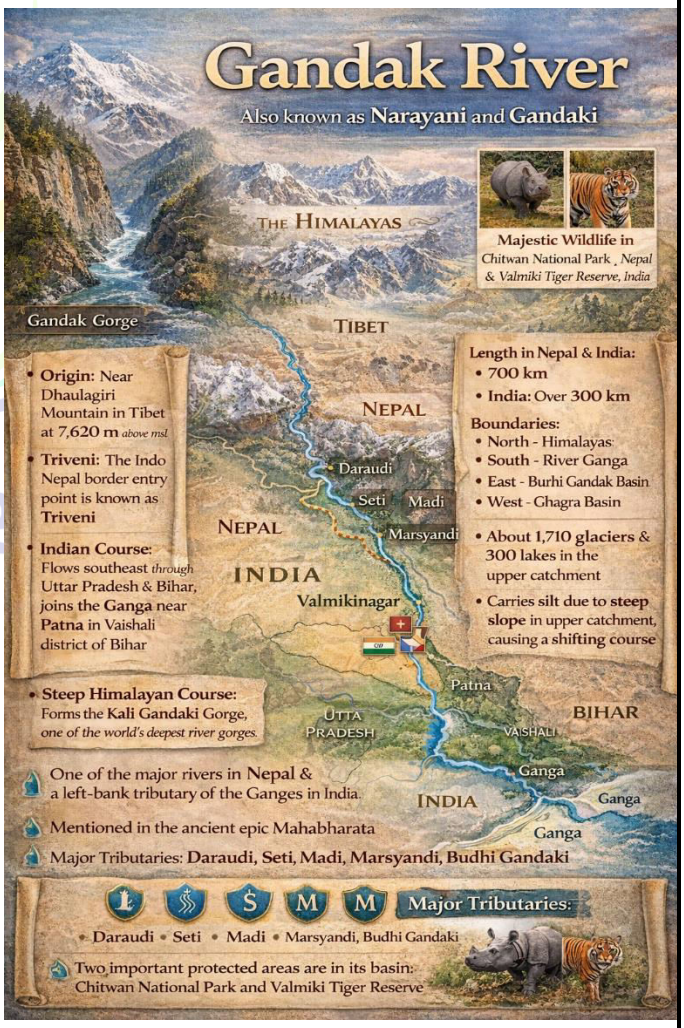
WHY IN NEWS A rare Asiatic Wild Dog 'Dhole', has been seen for the first time in Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh recently.

About Asiatic Wild Dog

- The Asiatic wild dog, also called Dhole, is a wild Asian carnivore of the dog family (Canidae).
- Scientific Name: Cuon alpinus
- Other Names: Indian wild dog, whistling dog, red wolf, red dog, and mountain wolf.
- Asiatic Wild Dog Habitat and Distribution
- They are found throughout Central, Eastern and Southeastern Asia.
- In India, they are found in three clusters across India, namely the Western and Eastern Ghats, the central Indian landscape, and Northeast India.
- The Western and Eastern Ghats are stronghold regions for dholes.
- They inhabit dense jungles, steppes, mountains, scrub forests, and pine forests

2. Gandak River

WHY IN NEWS The Gandak River has emerged as the second major river after the Chambal with the highest number of gharials, also known as fish-eating crocodiles



Q1. The Gandak River is also known by which of the following names?

1. Narayani
2. Salween
3. Gandaki
4. Kali

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: B. 1 and 3 only

3. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA), in the Institutional Category, and Lieutenant Colonel Seeta Ashok Shelke, in the individual Category, have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2026.

Q1. Which of the following statements regarding Subhas Chandra Bose is/are correct?

1. He escaped from house arrest in 1941.
2. He sought international support for India's independence during World War II.
3. He supported constitutional reforms under British rule.

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

4. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

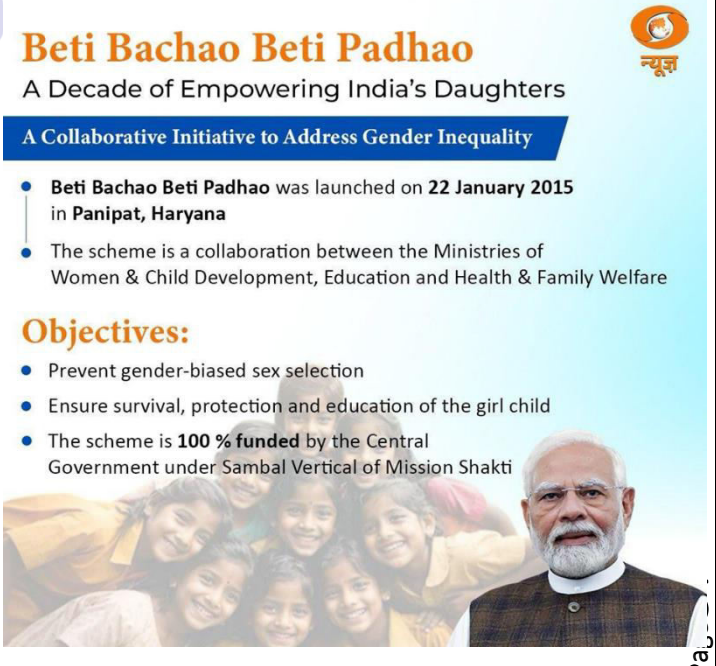
WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign completed 11 years

Q1. Which of the following Ministries are associated with the implementation of BBBP?

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development
2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
3. Ministry of Education
4. Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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



Answer: B. 1, 2 and 3 only

5. Anna Chakra

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has achieved a remarkable milestone by being named as finalist for the 2026 Franz Edelman Award for its Anna Chakra initiative

About Anna Chakra

- It is a supply chain optimization tool under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- It is an operations research–based decision support system designed to optimise state-specific food grain logistics under India's Public Distribution System (PDS).
- The initiative was developed through a Government–UN–Academia partnership, involving:
- The Department of Food and Public Distribution,
- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India, and
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.
- It leverages advanced algorithms to identify optimal routes and ensure seamless movement of food grains across supply chain nodes.
- It is integrated with the PM Gati Shakti platform and FOIS (Freight Operations Information System) portal of the Railways through Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP).

What is the Franz Edelman Award?

- It recognizes the world's most impactful, high-value applications of advanced analytics.
- It is widely regarded as the "Nobel Prize of Operations Research and Analytics".
- It recognizes and rewards outstanding examples of operations research, management science, and advanced analytics practice in the world.
- Award: Winner gets a $10,000 prize.

6. State of Finance for Nature 2026

WHY IN NEWS The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the State of Finance for Nature 2026 report, warning **that** **nature-negative finance** (US$7.3 trillion) vastly outweighs nature-positive investment (US$220 billion).

1. The *State of Finance for Nature 2026* report primarily highlights that:

A. Global finance for nature protection is higher than finance for development activities.

B. Investments harmful to nature far exceed investments in nature protection.

C. Private investment is the largest source of nature-positive finance.

D. Government subsidies no longer contribute to environmental degradation.

Answer: B. Investments harmful to nature far exceed investments in nature protection.

7. IICDEM & Adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026

WHY IN NEWS The Election Commission of India concluded the International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 in New Delhi with the unanimous adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026 by over 40 Election Management Bodies (EMBs).

What is the Delhi Declaration 2026?

- The Delhi Declaration 2026 is a consensus-based global framework adopted by EMBs to strengthen democratic processes through cooperation, innovation, and measurable actions, with periodic reviews and a follow-up meet scheduled for 3–5 December 2026 at India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), New Delhi.

Key features of the Delhi Declaration 2026:

- Unanimous global adoption by EMBs, lending high normative legitimacy.
- Five-pillar architecture covering the full electoral cycle.
- Institutional follow-through: periodic reviews and annual engagement.
- Knowledge co-creation: global encyclopaedia and thematic reports.
- Technology with trust: measured adoption to counter misinformation.

Five pillars of the Delhi Declaration 2026:

1. **Purity of Electoral Rolls**
   - Emphasis on **complete, accurate, and law-compliant voter lists**.
   - Focus on universal photo identity and inclusion of all eligible electors.
2. **Conduct of Elections**
   - Commitment to **free, fair, participative, inclusive, and transparent** elections.
   - Stakeholder-centric election management.
3. **Research and Publications**
   - Co-curation of an Encyclopaedia of Democracies of the World.
   - Comprehensive reports on 7 themes led by International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and 36 themes led by IIIDEM.
4. **Use of Technology**
   - Harnessing digital tools to **facilitate voters and officials** while safeguarding integrity.
   - Sharing India's experience with **ECINET**, including co-development for other EMBs in local languages and legal contexts.
   - Explicit focus on **countering misinformation**.
5. **Training and Capacity Building**
   - Knowledge-sharing, professional training, and **exchange of transparent practices** through IIIDEM.
   - Building long-term institutional capacity of EMBs.

8. Trucks-on-Trains

WHY IN NEWS Indian Railways, through **its Dedicated Freight Corridor** (DFC) network, is scaling up the Trucks-on-Trains (ToT) service to shift long-haul freight from roads to electrified rail.

What is Trucks-on-Trains?

- Trucks-on-Trains (ToT) is a multimodal freight service under the DFC that allows loaded trucks to be carried on specially designed flat wagons for the long-haul rail leg, while trucks handle only the first- and last-mile by road.

Aim:

- Enable a strategic modal shift from road to rail for long-distance freight.
- Reduce logistics costs, fuel consumption, and emissions.
- Decongest highways and improve supply-chain reliability.
- Integrate road agility with rail efficiency under a national multimodal logistics vision.

9. Global Future Councils (GFCs)

WHY IN NEWS The United Arab Emirates and the World Economic Forum (WEF) have signed an MoU for Dubai to host the annual Global Future Councils (GFCs) meetings for the next five years.

What are the Global Future Councils?

- The Global Future Councils (GFCs) are the World Economic Forum's flagship multistakeholder knowledge network, designed as time-bound, invitation-only think tanks that generate forward-looking insights on emerging global challenges and opportunities.

Established in: 2013 (as part of WEF's future-oriented knowledge architecture)

Organisations involved: World Economic Forum

- **Strategic partner host (2026–2030):** United Arab Emirates

Aim of the Global Future Councils:

- To identify emerging trends, risks, and technologies shaping the global future
- To translate expert knowledge into actionable policy-relevant insights
- To support governments and institutions in building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development models

Key features:

- **Invitation-only & time-bound:** Members serve **two-year terms** (current term: March 2025 – December 2026).
- **Interdisciplinary approach:** Councils bring together diverse expertise to address complex, interconnected challenges.
- **Evidence-based outputs:** Emphasis on **data, research, and facts** rather than opinion.
- **Policy integration:** Council insights feed directly into WEF initiatives and the Davos agenda.
- **Scale:**
  - ~37 thematic councils (2025–26 term)
  - 700+ experts currently involved
  - 900 councils and 12,000+ experts engaged since inception

10. PLI Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners & LED Lights)

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India has selected five companies in the fourth round of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods, involving a committed investment of ₹863 crore.

1. With reference to the PLI Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners & LED Lights), consider the following statements:

1. It provides financial incentives on incremental sales of products manufactured in India.
2. It was notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
3. It aims to promote merely the assembly of finished products in India.

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

25th JAN 2026

1. Karbi Anglong Violence
2. Port Security
3. Tunnel Safety Guideline
4. UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Alliance
5. Two new rare ant fly species discovered
6. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
7. Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) – Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme
8. Muna Island

1. Karbi Anglong Violence

WHY IN NEWS Fresh violence erupted in West Karbi Anglong district of Assam, leading to two deaths, multiple injuries, arson of shops and markets, suspension of mobile internet services, and imposition of prohibitory orders.

The unrest is rooted in long-standing disputes over land rights, particularly encroachment on grazing reserve lands under the jurisdiction of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC).

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Karbi people:

1. The Karbi language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family.
2. The Karbi community traditionally follows animistic beliefs centered around Hemphu and Mukrang.
3. The Karbis follow a matrilineal system of inheritance.

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

Explanation: Karbi society is **patrilineal**, not matrilineal

2. Port Security

WHY IN NEWS The Union government has constituted the Bureau of Port Security as a statutory body under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, to strengthen port and maritime security governance

Q1. With reference to the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) in India, consider the following statements:

1. It will be constituted as a statutory body under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
2. It will function under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. It will be responsible for regulatory oversight of port and vessel security.

Which of the statements given above 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: The Bureau of Port Security will be constituted as a statutory body under **Section 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025** and will have regulatory and oversight functions related to the **security of ships and port facilities**. It will function under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)**, not the Ministry of Home Affairs.

3. Tunnel Safety Guideline

WHY IN NEWS On November 12, 2023, the Silkyara Bend–Barkot Tunnel on NH-134 (Char Dham Mahamarg Pariyojana) collapsed, trapping 41 workers for 17 days. Though all were rescued safely, the incident exposed systemic weaknesses in tunnel planning, geological assessment, and emergency preparedness, especially in fragile Himalayan terrain In response, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued comprehensive guidelines to prevent and mitigate road tunnel collapses, particularly relevant for strategic and border area connectivity projects

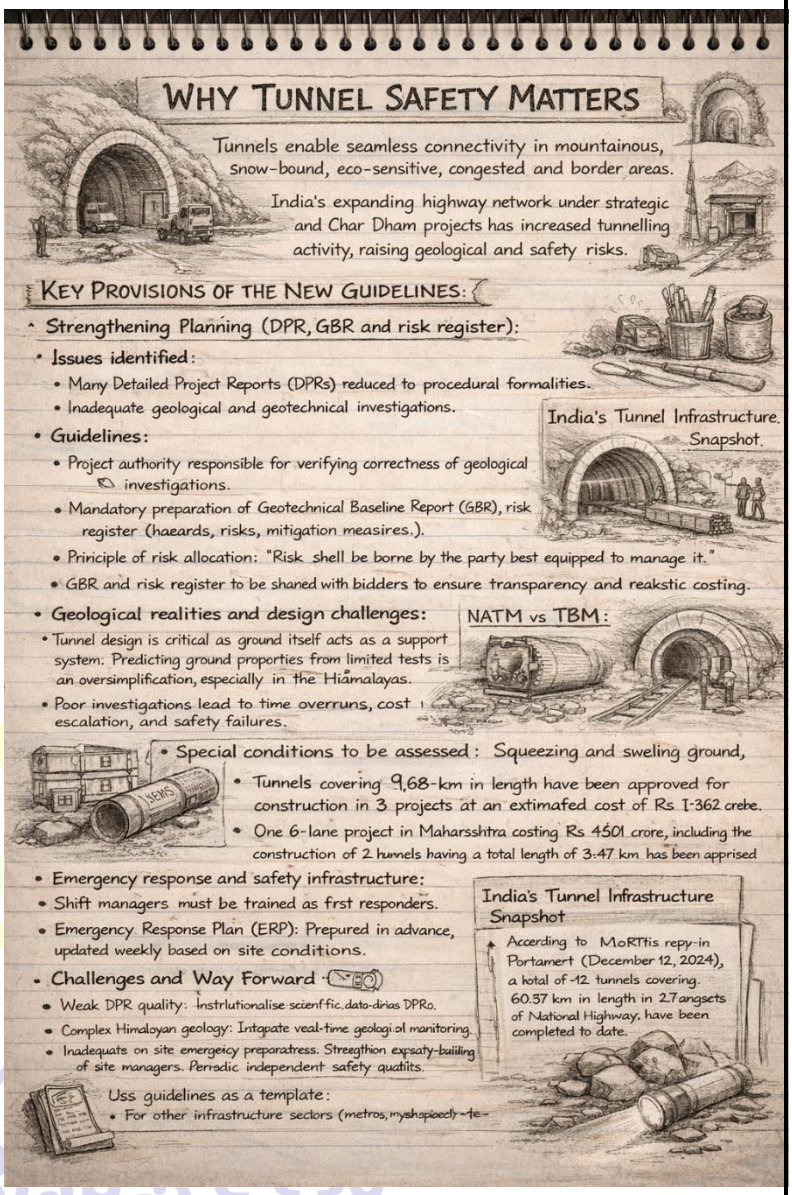
Q1. Consider the following statements about the Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel:

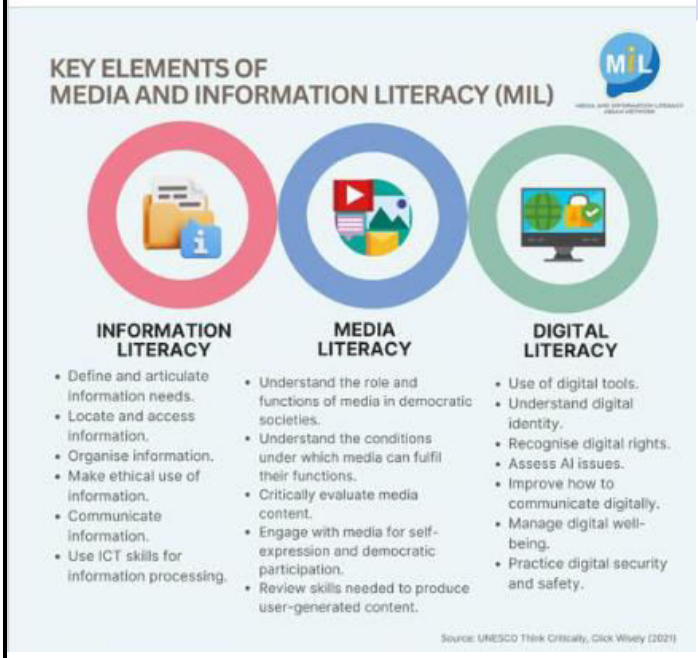
1. It is part of the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL).
2. It is the longest railway tunnel in India.
3. It is located between Banihal and Qazigund.

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





4. UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Alliance

WHY IN NEWS The UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance has announced the election of its first-ever Global Board, marking a major milestone in **its institutional governance**.

What it is?

- The MIL Alliance is a global collaborative network coordinated by UNESCO, bringing together organisations and experts to advance media and information literacy (MIL) and counter disinformation, misinformation, and hate speech.

Launched in:

- **2013**, at the Global Forum for Partnerships on MIL in **Abuja, Nigeria.**
- **Relaunched in 2025** during Global MIL Week with the **Cartagena Declaration**, alongside a renewed strategic action plan.

Organisation(s) involved:

- **UNESCO** (coordination through its MIL Unit).
- 300+ organisations and 180 individual experts from 100+ countries.

Aim:

- Strengthen societal resilience to disinformation**, misinformation**, and hate speech.
- Enable the MIL community to shape policies and practices at global, regional, and national levels.

5. Two new rare ant fly species discovered

Metadon reemeri
Metadon ghorpadei

WHY IN NEWS Researchers have discovered two new, extremely rare ant fly species from Delhi and the Western Ghats, underscoring the hidden biodiversity **of urban forests** and biodiversity hotspots.

About Metadon Ghorpadei and Metadon Reemeri

- They are two new species of ant flies.
- These insects belong to the Microdontinae subfamily of hoverflies.
- Metadon ghorpadei was discovered in Delhi's Northern Ridge Forest.
- Metadon reemeri was found in the Siruvani Hills of the Western Ghats.
- Globally, many Microdontinae species are considered rare or threatened due to their specialised habitat requirements and patchy distribution.
- They are known for their unique association with ants, as their larvae live inside ant nests and feed on ant broods, a specialised behaviour called myrmecophily that makes them exceptionally rare and difficult to detect.
- Of the 454 species reported worldwide, only 27 are known from the Indian subcontinent

6. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

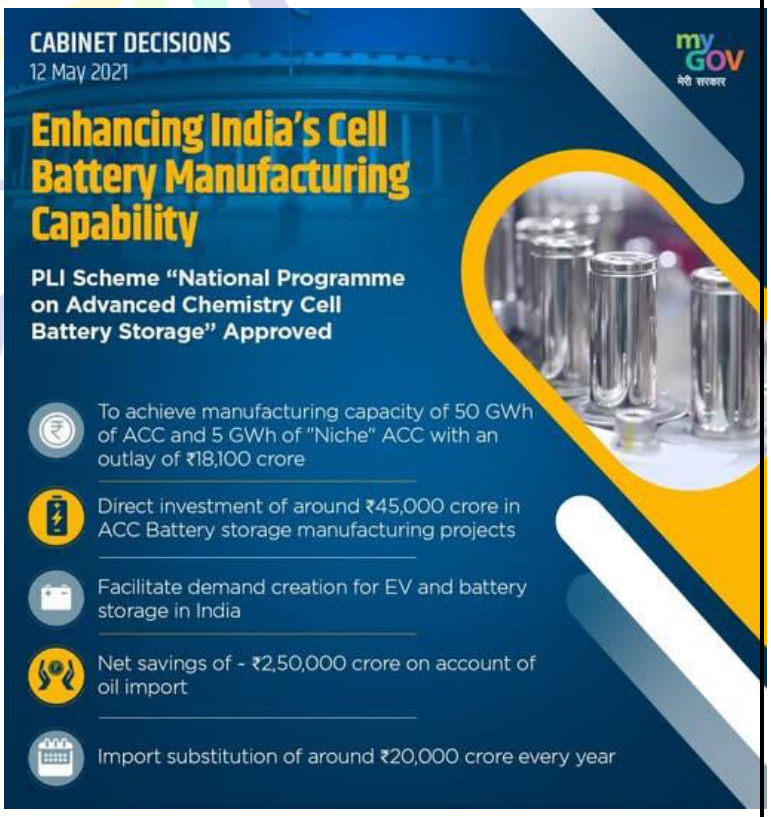
WHY IN NEWS The Centre recently declared the biodiversity-rich area, ranging from zero to one kilometre around Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, located in one of the most fragile ecosystems of the Aravali Range in Rajasthan, as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).

About Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is a protected area located in the **Aravalli mountain range.**
- **Naming:** The sanctuary is named after the historic **Kumbhalgarh Fort,** which lies within its boundary.
- **Area:** It covers a total area of **610.5 square km.**
- **Mountain ranges:** It covers four hills in the mountain ranges of the Aravallis – **the Kumbhalgarh Range, the Sadri Range, the Desuri Range,** and **the Bokhada Range.**
- **Major river:** The eastern section is the origin of the **Banas River,** while the **western slopes** give rise to tributaries of the **Luni River.**
- **Vegetation:** The sanctuary supports mainly **herb-based vegetation across its landscape.**
- **Flora:** Plant species such as **Churel, Dhok, Khair,** and **Salar grow** abundantly and form an important part of the **local forest cover.**
- **Fauna:** The sanctuary supports a wide range of **wildlife,** including **leopard, striped hyena, jungle cat, Indian pangolin, blue bull,** and **chinkara,** along with **several bird species.**

7. Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) – Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

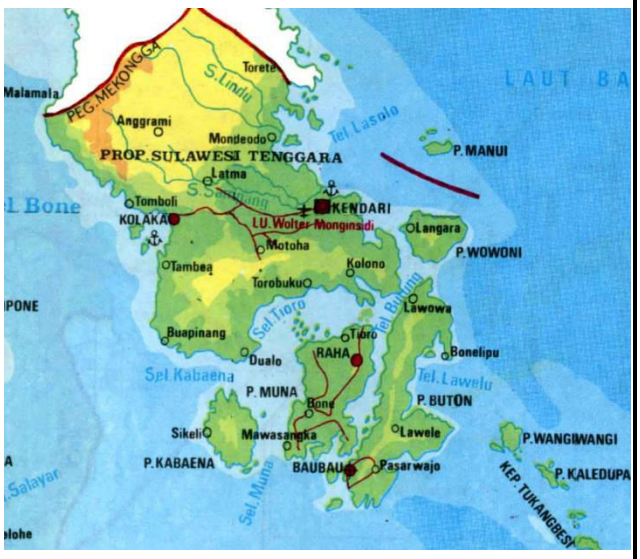
WHY IN NEWS Recently, it was observed that there is a substantial gap between the intended and actual outcomes of the Advanced Chemistry Cell Production Linked Incentive (ACC-PLI) scheme



About Advanced Chemistry Cell Production Linked Incentive (ACC-PLI) scheme

- It was launched in October 2021 to catalyse domestic manufacturing of next-generation battery cells.
- It is aimed to set up 50 gigawatt hour (GWh) of battery cell manufacturing capacity by 2026.
- It is also aimed to build a local battery supply chain (cathode, anode, electrolyte) to reduce import dependence, mobilising private investments and global tech partnerships, lowering battery costs, and accelerating electric vehicle (EV) and energy storage adoption.
- Nodal Ministry: It was launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- Total Outlay: With a total financial outlay of Rs. 18,100 crore

8. Muna Island



WHY IN NEWS The painted outline of a human hand inside a cave on the Indonesian island of Muna represents what researchers are calling the oldest example of rock art in the world, created at least 67,800 years ago

About Muna Island

- It is situated in the Southeast Sulawesi province of Indonesia.
- With an area of 1,704 sq.km., it has a hilly surface, rising to 1,460 feet (445 metres). The north and northeast have teak forests.
- It is known for its diverse culture and natural beauty, including lush forests and pristine beaches.
- The island is home to the Muna people, who have a rich cultural heritage and are known for their traditional crafts and dances.
- The economy of Muna Island is primarily based on agriculture, fishing, and local crafts.
- The main town and principal port is Raha, on the northeastern coast across the Strait of Buton from the neighbouring island of Buton to the east.
- One of the most famous natural attractions on Muna Island is the Liangkobori Cave, which contains prehistoric paintings.
- Additionally, there is Napabale Lake, which has a natural tunnel connecting it directly to the sea

26th JAN 2026

1. Bactrian Camel

2. The Padma Awards

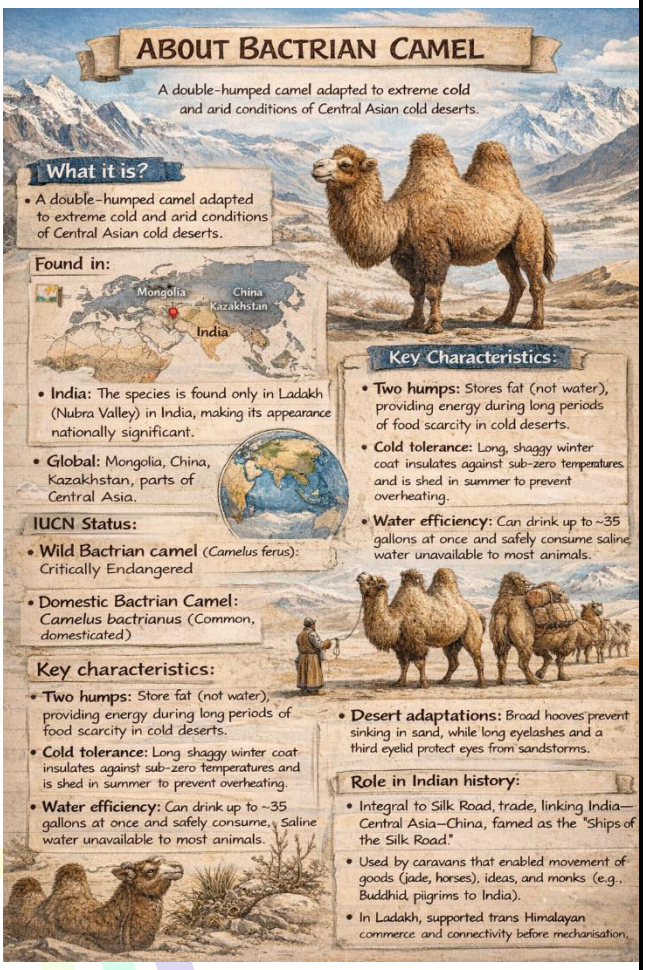
3. Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards

4. Narayan Ramachandran Committee

5. Agarwood

6. Lakkundi Excavation

1. Bactrian Camel



WHY IN NEWS Two Bactrian camels named 'Galwan' and 'Nubra' will feature in the Republic Day Parade 2026 on Kartavya Path as part of the Army's Animal Contingent, highlighting Ladakh's unique **cold-desert heritage**.

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Bactrian Camel:

1. It is the only camel species with two humps.
2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.
3. In India, it is found mainly in the Nubra Valley of Ladakh.

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: C. 1 and 3 only

2. The Padma Awards

WHY IN NEWS The Padma Awards 2026 were announced on the eve of Republic Day, with the President approving 131 awards across **Padma Vibhushan**, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri categories.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Padma Awards:

1. They are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

2. Padma Shri is the highest civilian award in India.

3. The Padma Awards require the recipient to be a citizen of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A. 1 only

3. Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards

WHY IN NEWS President of India has approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards–2025 to 30 individuals for acts of exceptional courage in saving lives.

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Jeevan Raksha Padak (JRP) Awards:

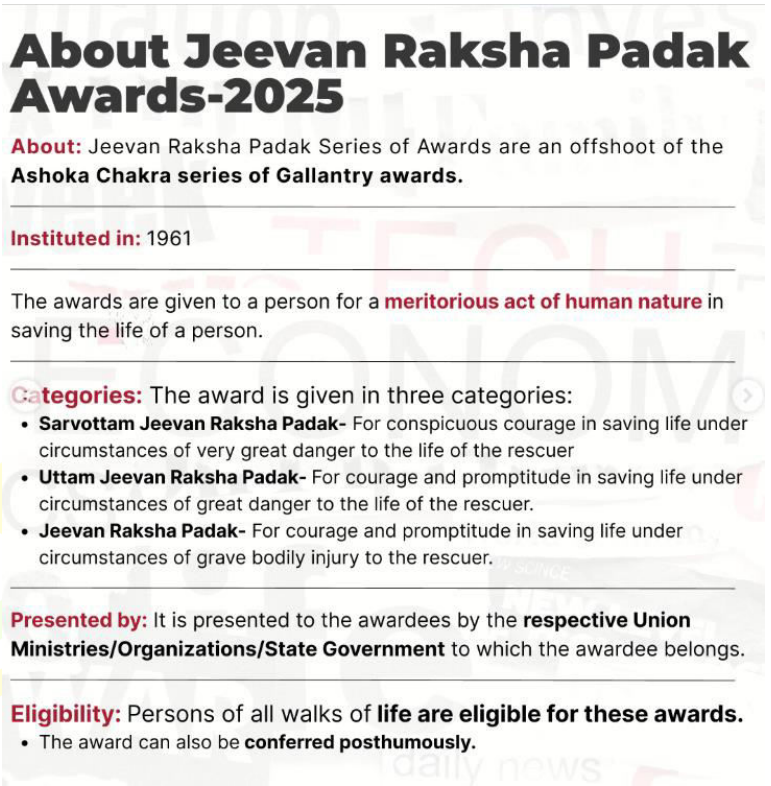
1. It is awarded to civilians for saving lives from drowning, fire, or mine accidents.
2. Both Indian citizens and foreign nationals are eligible.
3. It can be awarded posthumously.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3
Explanation:

- JRP is a **civilian lifesaving award** for acts of bravery in **fire, drowning, or mine accidents**.
- It can be awarded to **foreign nationals**.
- **Posthumous awards** are permitted.



4. Narayan Ramachandran Committee

WHY IN NEWS The PFRDA has constituted the Committee for Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG) to comprehensively review and modernise **National Pension System** (NPS) investment guidelines.

Q1. Consider the following statements about the SARG Committee in India:

1. It is constituted to provide guidance and review the implementation of government schemes.
2. Its members are drawn only from the Ministry of Finance.
3. It submits periodic reports to the Cabinet/Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above 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:

- Members are drawn **from multiple ministries and experts**, not just Finance

5. Agarwood

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region laid the foundation stone for the ₹80 crore Agarwood Value Chain Development Scheme

About Agarwood

- Aquilaria malaccensis, commonly known as agarwood, is a species of tree belonging to the Thymelaeaceae family.
- It is also known as Oud, Gaharu or Agar is prized as the world's most valuable incense.
- The resin is produced as a defence mechanism due to the intense stress suffered by the trees when they are infected by a type of mold belonging to the Phaeoacremonium species (Phialophora parasitica).
- The Aquilaria tree is a fast-growing, subtropical forest tree.

- Distribution: It is mainly found in South Asia's Himalayan foothills, throughout Southeast Asia, and into the rainforests of Papua New Guinea.
- In India, it grows in the wild in the Northeast, especially in Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.
- Soil: Aquilaria can grow on a wide range of soils, including poor sandy soil.
- Applications of Agarwood: The resinous wood is used as incense, for medicinal purposes, and pure resin in distilled form is used as an essential oil as well as a perfume component

6. Lakkundi Excavation

WHY IN NEWS Recent excavations at Lakkundi in Karnataka have unearthed Neolithic-era artefacts, strengthening the State's push to include Lakkundi in **UNESCO's World Heritage** Site list.

What it is?

- An Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)–supervised excavation at the Kote Veerabhadreshwar (Veerabhadraswamy) Temple, aimed at uncovering buried structures and cultural layers to support heritage conservation and UNESCO nomination.

Located in: Lakkundi village, Gadag district, Karnataka, about 12 km from Gadag town; historically known as Lokkigundi.

History

- A major economic, religious and cultural centre from the 10th–13th centuries.
- Flourished under the Kalyana Chalukyas and later the Hoysalas; famous as the "village of a hundred wells and temples".
- Associated with Queen Attimabbe (11th century), noted Jain patron and philanthropist.
- Home to Hindu temples, Jain basadis, stepwells, and later even a Muslim dargah, reflecting religious pluralism.
- Known for the "Lakkundi school" of Chalukyan temple architecture.

Discoveries made at Lakkundi:

- **Neolithic artefacts:** broken grey clay pot, **stone axe**, cowrie shells, cross-shaped pedestal.
- **Early historic–medieval finds:** stone pedestal carved with a **Jina figure**, inscriptions, buried temple remains.
- Confirms **continuous human occupation** from prehistoric to early medieval periods.

Q1. Lakkundi is famous for which iconic Hoysala-style temple known for its intricate sculptures?

A. Dodda Basappa Temple
B. Kashivishwanatha Temple
C. Amruteshwara Temple
D. Mallikarjuna Temple

Answer: B. Kashivishwanatha Temple

27th JAN 2026

1. Chatergala Pass
2. Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary
3. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
4. Pygmy Hog
5. Enhancing Circular Economy of ELVs in India Report
6. Tap Water Coverage Urban India
7. Wings India 2026
8. Humanoid Robot 'ASC ARJUN'
9. Antarctic Activities and Environmental Protection Law
10. Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)
11. Day Zero

1. Chatergala Pass

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) successfully carried out a high-altitude rescue and road restoration operation under Project Sampark at Chatergala Pass

About Chatergala Pass

- Location: It is situated at an altitude of 10,500 ft. in the Bhaderwah–Chatergala axis in Jammu region of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is a high mountain pass that connects Bani in the Kathua district to Bhaderwah in the Doda district.
- It is tucked in the Chamba-doda ranges of the greater Himalayas.
- Terrain: It is surrounded by alpine meadows, snow-covered peaks, and dense forest
- Fauna: Himalayan monals, ibex, and musk deer are found here

2. Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary

WHY IN NEWS The Tripura Forest Minister recently announced that the state has received over Rs 57 crore for the modernization and further development of the Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary in the Sepahijala district

Q1. Consider the following statements about Wildlife Sanctuaries in India:

1. Hunting of animals is completely prohibited in all wildlife sanctuaries.
2. Sanctuaries are notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. Human habitation may be allowed inside sanctuaries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: B. 2 and 3 only

Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary

GS 3 | Environment

- It is located around 25 km from **Agartala, Tripura**.
- It is divided into **5 Sections**, basically to segregate the different types of animals living here.
  - They are the **carnivore** section, **primate** section, **ungulate** section, **reptile** section, and **aviary** section.
- It also has **two natural lakes**, namely **Abasarika** and **Amrit Sagar**.
- **Clouded Leopard National Park**, established in 2007, is a part of SWL.
- Vegetation: **Moist deciduous** forest
- Flora:
  - It has **456** plant species. There are trees of Sal, Chamal, Garjan, and Kanak.
  - The secondary species consist of Pichla, Kurcha, Awla, Bahera, Hargaja, Amlaki, Bamboos and grasses, are also found here.

Wildlife Sanctuary

- Protected area notified under **Section 18** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 by the State Government
- An example of **in-situ** conservation.
- **Often species-specific**, focusing on the protection of a particular animal or plant species.

🎯 **UPSC** 2026

3. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

WHY IN NEWS Boosting maritime engagement with Indonesia, a key member of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), and advancing the vision of MAHASAGAR, the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) departed Belawan recently, after a successful three-day port call.

About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

- It is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.
- It promotes maritime cooperation, mutual understanding, and collaboration on issues such as maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
- In the process, it endeavours to generate a flow of information between naval professionals that would lead to common understanding and possibly cooperative solutions on the way ahead.
- It was conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008.
- The inaugural edition of IONS was held in Feb 2008 at New Delhi, with the Indian Navy as the Chair for two years (2008–2010).
- IONS is structured around a rotating chairmanship, biennial conclaves of chiefs, and working groups.
- There are 36 littoral in the Indian Ocean, which have been geographically grouped into the following four sub-regions:
- South Asian Littorals: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and United Kingdom (British Indian Ocean Territory)
- West Asian Littorals: Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates
- East African Littorals: France (Reunion), Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania.

- South East Asian and Australian Littorals: Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.
- Observers: China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Russia, and Spain

4. Pygmy Hog

WHY IN NEWS India's pygmy hog is vanishing from its grasslands, just as it is needed the most

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Pygmy Hog:

1. It is the smallest and rarest wild pig species in the world.
2. Its natural habitat is the grasslands of Assam and Bhutan.
3. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3

5. Enhancing Circular Economy of ELVs in India Report

WHY IN NEWS A NITI Aayog report "**Enhancing Circular Economy of ELVs in India**" has warned that end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) in India could double to nearly 50 million by 2030, posing serious safety, pollution and waste-management risks.

What is ELVs?

- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) as those no longer roadworthy, invalidly registered, or voluntarily declared as waste by owners. The study emphasizes the scientific management of ELVs to recover valuable resources like steel while mitigating the hazards of unscientific dismantling.

Key Trends and Data:

- **Surging ELV Stock:** The number of ELVs is expected to nearly double from 23 million in 2025 to 50 million by 2030.
- **Pollution Load:** Older BS-I vehicles emit up to eight times more pollutants than modern BS-VI standard vehicles.
- **Resource Potential:** Approximately 98 million tonnes of steel can be recovered from vehicles manufactured between 2005 and 2023.

- **Infrastructure Gap:** India requires 500 Automated Testing Stations (ATS) by 2027, but as of September 2025, only 156 are operational.
- **Informal Dominance:** The informal sector handles roughly 2-3 lakh ELVs annually, while formal facilities (RVSFs) only managed 72,000 in FY 2024-25.

6. Tap Water Coverage Urban India

WHY IN NEWS Urban tap water coverage has increased from 49% (2011) to about 77%, driven largely by the implementation of AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

What it is?

- Tap water coverage refers to the proportion of urban households receiving piped water supply within premises, ensuring reliable, safe, and affordable drinking water access.

Key trends / data:

- Coverage rose from **49% (2011) → ~77% (2025–26).**
- **228 lakh** household tap connections provided so far.
- **20 lakh** sewer connections added and Faecal Sludge and Septage Management coverage expanded.
- **~6,000 MLD** of treated wastewater now reused.
- **AMRUT (2015–):** 6,008 projects approved (₹83,470.84 cr).
- **AMRUT 2.0 (2021–):** ~9,000 projects approved (₹1.89 lakh cr); focus on **water security**, reuse, and universal coverage
- **Jal Hi Amrit: Water Resource Recovery Cell**s set up in 25 States/UTs; AMRUT Mitra engaged 28,000+ women SHG members
- **Environmental co-benefits:** 7,480 acres of water bodies rejuvenated; 2,704 acres of green spaces developed

Q1. With reference to the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in urban areas.
2. Reforms such as reduction of non-revenue water (NRW) and modernisation of property tax are part of the scheme.
3. It includes a component promoting the reuse of treated wastewater.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d).) 1, 2 and 3

7. Wings India 2026

WHY IN NEWS Wings India 2026, Asia's largest civil aviation event, will be held from 28–31 January 2026 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, showcasing India's rapid rise as a global aviation hub.

Q1. *Wings India 2026*, often featured in current affairs, is best described as:

(a) India's programme for indigenous fighter aircraft production
(b) Asia's largest civil aviation event bringing together global aviation stakeholders
(c) A defence exercise between the Indian Air Force and partner nations
(d) A civil–military air transport corridor project

Answer: (b). Asia's largest civil aviation event bringing together global aviation stakeholders

28th JAN 2026

1. **Myanmar**
2. **PANCHAM**
3. **Mahakaleshwar Temple**
4. **Model Youth Gram Sabha**
5. **Sonamarg Avalanche**
6. **India–EU Free Trade Agreement**
7. **4B Movement**
8. **Maharashtra launches country's first menopause clinics**
9. **Buddhist Diamond Triangle Joins UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List**
10. **First National Coordinators Meeting in Beijing & SCO**
11. **Smart Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder**
12. **New plant species: Hoya nagaensis**
13. **Rojava Region**

1. Myanmar

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Solidarity and Development Part won the election in Myanmar

About Myanmar

- It is the northernmost country of Southeast Asia.
- Bordering Countries: It is bordered by India in the west, Bangladesh in the northwest; China in the north and northeast; by Laos in the east and by Thailand in the southeast.
- Maritime Borders: It is bounded by the Andaman Sea in the south and by the Bay of Bengal in the southwest.
- Capital City: **Naypyidaw**
- Geographical Features of Myanmar
- Climate: Tropical monsoon
- Mountain ranges: It consists of **Bago Yoma, Rakhine Yoma,** and Shan Hills.
- Highest Point: **Hkakabo Razi.**
- Major Rivers: It is drained by Mekong, Irrawaddy, Salween and Chindwin.
- Natural resources: Petroleum, timber, tin, copper, tungsten, lead, coal, marble, limestone, natural gas, hydropower

2. PANCHAM

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj launched the PANCHAM – Panchayat Assistance and Messaging Chatbot

Q1. Consider the following statements about PANCHAM:

1. It is a WhatsApp-based AI chatbot for Panchayats launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
2. It has been developed in collaboration with the World Bank.
3. It supports communication in multiple Indian languages.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- PANCHAM (Panchayat Assistance & Messaging Chatbot) is a **WhatsApp-based AI tool** launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, not developed with the World Bank. It was developed in collaboration with **UNICEF**.
- It supports **22 Indian languages** for communication.

3. Mahakaleshwar Temple

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court recently did not entertain a petition challenging the practice of 'VIP darshan' at the famed Shri Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain, observing that the court is not meant to play the role of a gatekeeper on who enters a temple and when

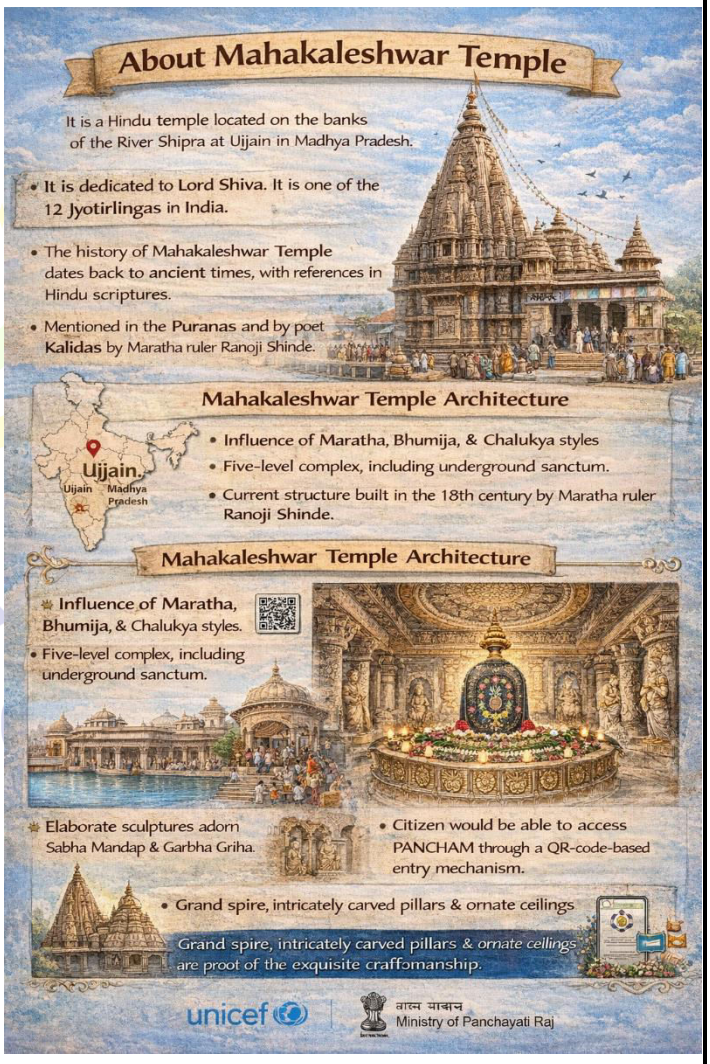
Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Mahakaleshwar Temple (Ujjain):

1. It is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.
2. The temple is located on the banks of the Kshipra River.
3. The Lingam at Mahakaleshwar is a *Swayambhu* (self-manifested) Lingam.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3

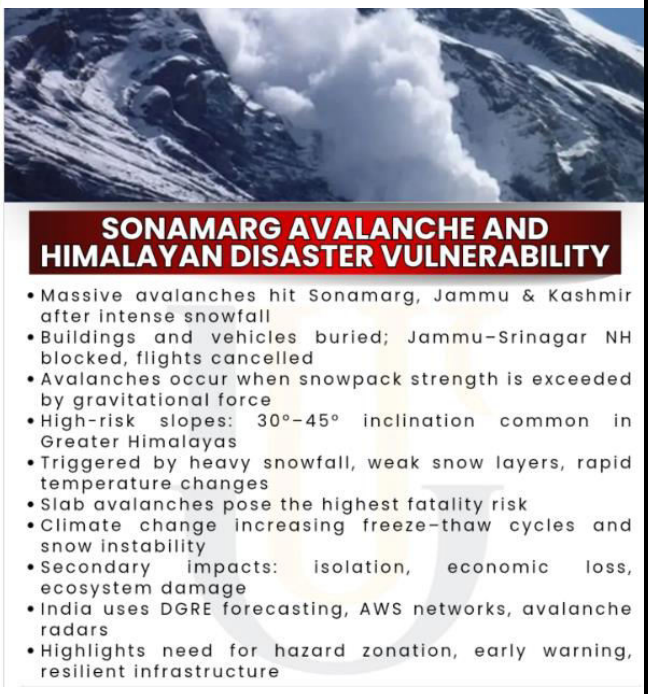


4. Model Youth Gram Sabha

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, is jointly organizing a National Award Ceremony to felicitate the winners of the Model Youth Gram Sabha

5. Sonamarg Avalanche

WHY IN NEWS Massive avalanches struck the Sonamarg tourist resort in Jammu and Kashmir, engulfing buildings and vehicles following heavy snowfall that disrupted the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and forced the cancellation of all flights.



6. India–EU Free Trade Agreement

WHY IN NEWS India and the European Union have concluded negotiations on a long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA), described by leaders as the "mother of all deals".

1. Consider the following statements about the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA):

1. Negotiations for an India–EU FTA had been suspended after 2013 but were relaunched in 2022.

2. The proposed FTA includes negotiations on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, and Investment Protection.
3. The EU is India's largest trading partner.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

7. 4B Movement

WHY IN NEWS The 4B movement, a radical feminist current originating in South Korea, has resurfaced in public debate amid renewed discussions on patriarchy, gender violence, and women's autonomy.

What it is?

- The **4B movement** is a feminist resistance framework where women **refuse participation** in four core institutions associated with patriarchy:
- **No marriage**
- **No childbirth**
- **No dating**
- **No sex**

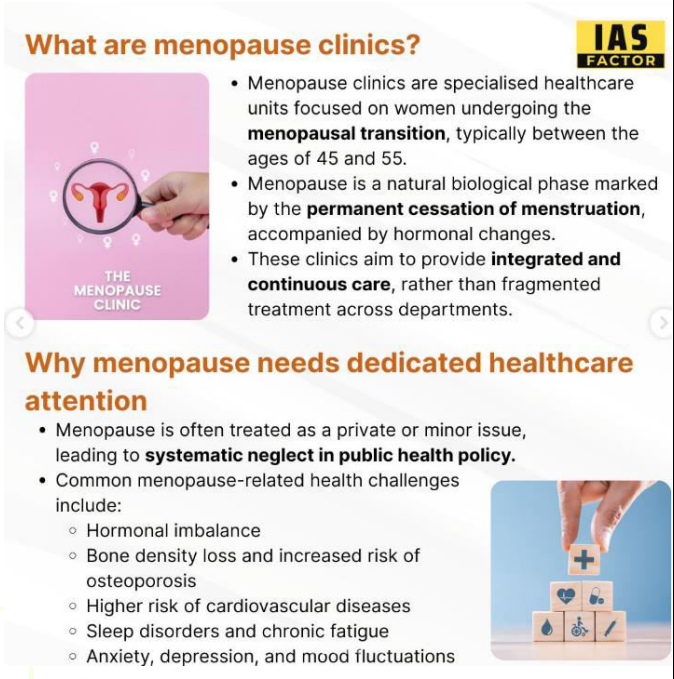
- It represents a **political and** social rejection, not merely a lifestyle choice, of traditional heterosexual norms.

Origin:

- Emerged in **South Korea in the late 2010s**
- Rooted in long-standing gender inequality, online misogyny, and institutional indifference
- Gained visibility through social media during South Korea's #MeToo movement

8. Maharashtra launches country's first menopause clinics

WHY IN NEWS Maharashtra has launched the country's first dedicated menopause clinics across government hospitals and urban health facilities to address women's physical and mental health needs.



1. With reference to the recent initiative by the Government of Maharashtra to launch dedicated menopause clinics, consider the following statements:

1. These clinics aim to address both medical and psychosocial needs of women during menopause.
2. The initiative is part of a nationwide policy mandated by the Union Ministry of Health.
3. The services offered include mental health counselling, bone health screening, and hormonal assessment.

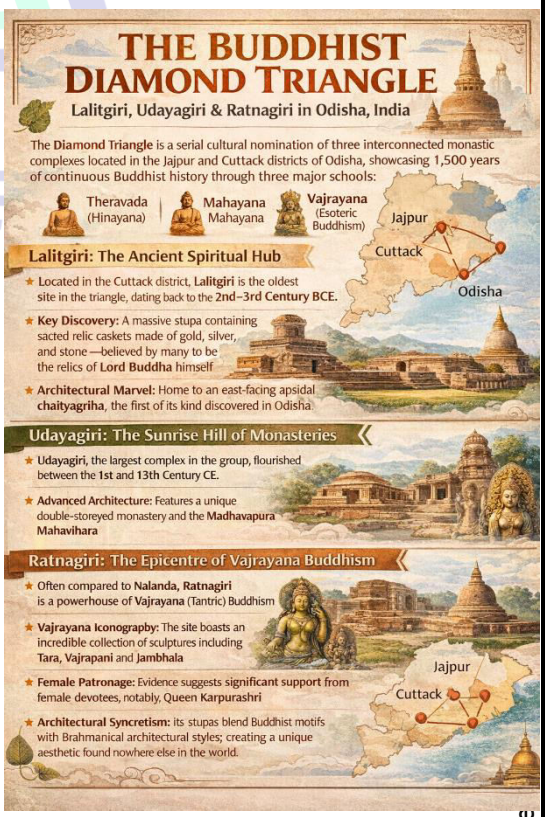
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: B

9. Buddhist Diamond Triangle Joins UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

WHY IN NEWS The UNESCO World Heritage Centre has officially added Odisha's famed Buddhist Diamond Triangle—comprising Lalitgiri, Udayagiri, and Ratnagiri—to India's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites.



1. With reference to the Buddhist Diamond Triangle recently added to India's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It consists of the archaeological sites of Lalitgiri, Udayagiri and Ratnagiri in Odisha.
2. These sites represent the evolution of Buddhism including Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions.
3. Once on the tentative list, a site can be directly declared a World Heritage Site without additional documentation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A 1 and 2 only

10. First National Coordinators Meeting in Beijing & SCO

WHY IN NEWS The first meeting of the SCO Council of National Coordinators (CNC) for 2026 opened in Beijing, under the chairmanship of the Kyrgyz Republic, to finalize the agenda for high-level summits later this year.

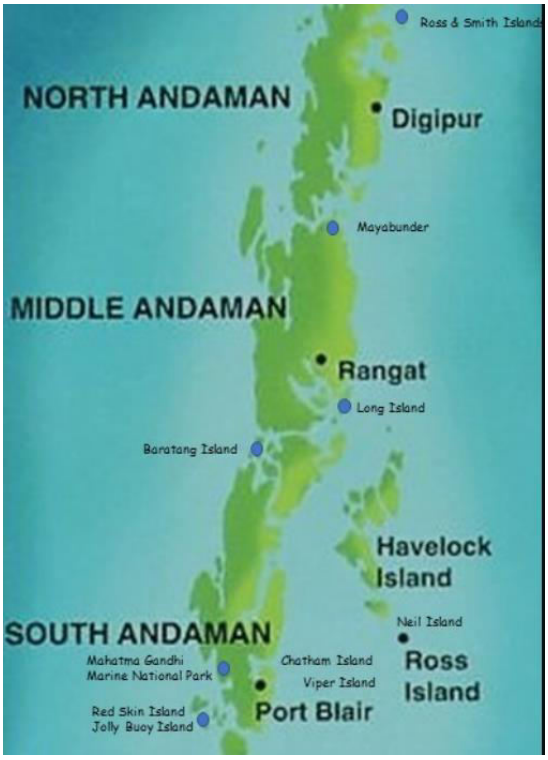
1. Consider the following countries:

1. India
2. Pakistan
3. Iran
4. Belarus

How many of the above are full members of the SCO as of 2024?

A. Only two
B. Only three
C. All four
D. Only one

Answer: B



11. Smart Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder

WHY IN NEWS In a major boost to India's maritime infrastructure, the Union Department of Fisheries has sanctioned the development of a Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

What it is?

- Mayabunder is a town and tehsil and the administrative headquarters of the North and Middle Andaman district, serving as a key economic, fisheries, and tourism hub in northern Andaman.

Located in:

- Northern part of Middle Andaman Island, within the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- About 242 km from Port Blair by road (Andaman Trunk Road) and 136 km by sea.

Geographical features:

- **Karmatang Beach:** Known as the "Turtle Paradise" of Andaman, Karmatang Beach is a globally recognized sea turtle nesting ground. It serves as a vital eco-sensitive zone where Olive Ridley and Leatherback turtles return annually
- **Interview Island:** As the largest wildlife island in the Andaman group, Interview Island is notable for its natural freshwater springs and limestone caves, a rare feature in saline island systems.
- **Avis (Aves) Island:** Located near Mayabunder, Avis Island is an uninhabited coral island known for extensive coconut plantations and clear lagoons.
- Mayabunder lies within a **seismically active zone** and a highly productive marine ecosystem.

12. New plant species: Hoya nagaensis

WHY IN NEWS Researchers from Nagaland University have recorded a new plant species, Hoya nagaensis, from a community-managed forest in Nagaland.

What it is?

- *Hoya nagaensis* is a **previously undocumented flowering plant species** belonging to the *Hoya* genus (known for ornamental and waxy flowers), newly described through taxonomic research.

Region found in:

- **Kavünhou Community Reserved Forest**,
- Located in **Phek district**, within the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity region.

Key features:

- **Distinctive leaf morphology and floral traits** that clearly differentiate it from known *Hoya* species
- **High-altitude** temperate forest habitat, largely unexplored scientifically
- **Extremely restricted distribution,** recorded from a single location
- Provisionally assessed as Critically Endangered due to limited range and habitat pressures

13. Rojava Region

WHY IN NEWS Renewed fighting between Syrian government forces and the Kurdish-led SDF has endangered Rojava's autonomy after the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime in 2024.

What it is?

- Rojava, officially called the **Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES)**, is a **de facto autonomous region in northeastern Syria.**

It follows the ideology of **democratic confederalism**, emphasizing local self-rule, gender equality, and ethnic pluralism, though it lacks international recognition.

Located in:

- Rojava lies in northeastern Syria, covering parts of **Hasakah, Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor, Aleppo (Kobane)**
- It is strategically located along the Euphrates basin and key oil- and gas-rich areas of eastern Syria.

Neighbouring countries / regions

- **Türkiye** to the north
- **Iraq (**Kurdistan Region**)** to the east
- **Syrian government–controlled areas** to the west and south

This location makes Rojava a geopolitical crossroads involving regional and global powers.

History:

- **2012**: Syrian state forces withdrew from Kurdish areas during the civil war, allowing Kurds to establish self-administration.
- **2014–2015**: Kurdish militias, especially the **People's Protection Units (YPG)**, gained global prominence after defeating ISIS at Kobane with U.S. air support.
- **2015**: Formation of the Syrian Democratic Forces **(SDF)**, a multi-ethnic alliance led by Kurds.
- **2016–2023**: Region evolved through multiple constitutional forms, culminating in DAANES.
- **2024–26**: After Assad's fall, Syrian interim leader **Ahmed al-Sharaa** moved to re-centralise power, leading to clashes and loss of nearly 80% of DAANES-held territory.

29th JAN 2026

1. JALAJ Livelihood Centres

2. Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark

3. Sea of Japan

4. Nipah Virus

5. Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary

6. WaSH Warriors

7. Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026

8. Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0

9. New Aadhaar App

10. V-BAT Autonomous Drones

11. Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary

1. JALAJ Livelihood Centres

WHY IN NEWS Recently, the union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated 25 JALAJ Livelihood Centres

About JALAJ Livelihood Centres

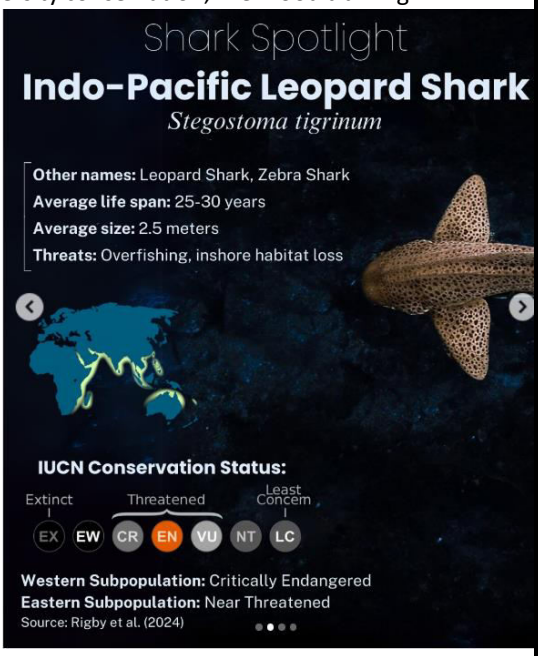
- It is a joint initiative of the Namami Gange Mission and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- Aim: It is aimed at integrating river conservation with sustainable livelihoods in the Ganga river basin.
- Jalaj is based on the circular economy model where the local people will be trained in sustainable livelihood practices and mobilized to contribute to biodiversity conservation and clean river ecosystem.

Features of JALAJ Livelihood Centres

- The initiative promotes community ownership of conservation efforts while creating dignified livelihood opportunities, with a special focus on women's participation.
- Jalaj is a concept to establish symbiotic linkages between river and people.
- The Jalaj established at different locations in the Ganga basin represent the culture and communities indigenous to that area.
- These are established as holistic Centres of overall community well-being, conservation education and livelihood training.
- It will have facilities for dissemination of the information on aquatic biodiversity conservation, livelihood training and sale centres for the products developed by livelihood trainees

2. Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark

WHY IN NEWS Recently, conservationists have initiated Thailand's first rewilding effort with the release of a young Indo-Pacific leopard shark into the waters off Maiton Island



Q1. Which of the following statements about the Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark is/are correct?

1. It is known for its distinctive spotted patterns.
2. It exhibits tail-walking behaviour, which is unique among sharks.
3. It is oviparous (lays eggs).

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

3. Sea of Japan

WHY IN NEWS Recently, North Korea fired a ballistic missile towards the Sea of Japan

Q1. The Sea of Japan is bordered by which of the following countries?

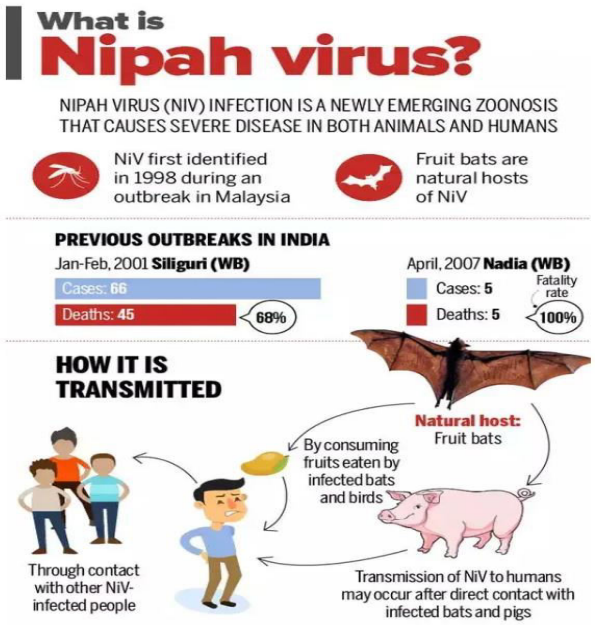
1. Japan
2. South Korea
3. China
4. Russia

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: A. 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:
The Sea of Japan is bordered by **Japan, Russia, and South Korea**.
China does not have a coastline on the Sea of Japan.

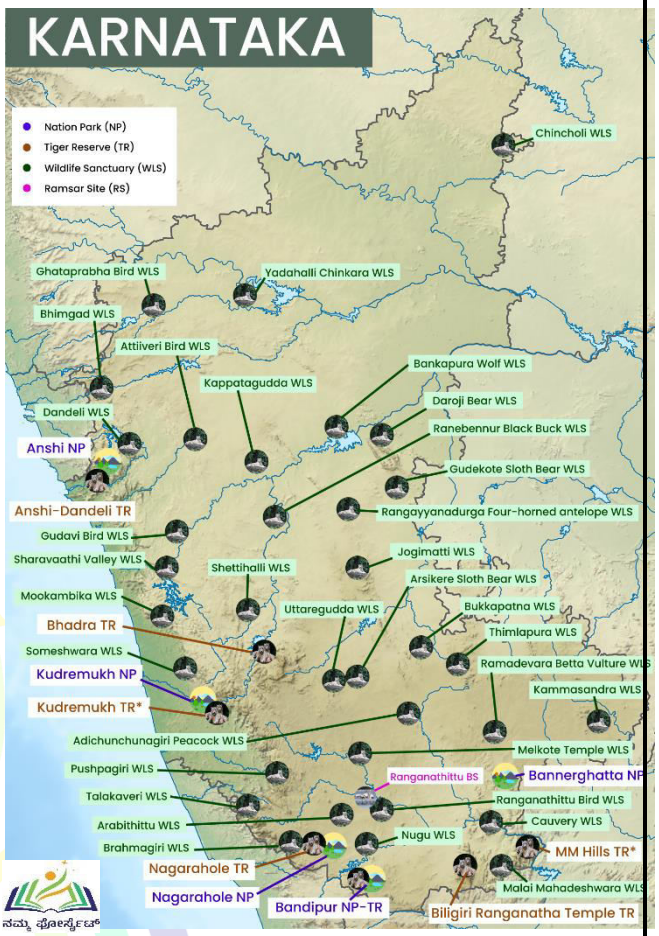


4. Nipah Virus

WHY IN NEWS India recently confirmed two Nipah virus cases in West Bengal since December, with health authorities containing the situation amid misinformation and heightened airport screenings in parts of Asia

5. Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary

WHY IN NEWS In the wake of the controversy surrounding the move to 'reduce' the boundary of Shettihalli Sanctuary in Shivamogga, the forest minister recently visited the sanctuary to understand the situation.



About Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in the Shimoga District of Karnataka.
- The Tunga Anicut Dam is situated within the sanctuary and provides shelter for otters and water birds.
- The Mandagadde Bird Sanctuary is also a part of the Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It is a popular bird nesting site situated on an island in the midst of the Tunga River.
- There are a large number of human settlements inside Shettihalli Sanctuary, mainly consisting of families that were displaced by the construction of the Sharavathi Dam in the 1960s.
- Vegetation
- It is mainly covered by tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests.
- The eastern and central parts are mostly covered by dry and moist deciduous forests, while the western parts have semi-evergreen forests

6. WaSH Warriors

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Jal Shakti honoured WaSH Warriors from across India at a special Samvad Samaroh in New Delhi in January 2026, recognising grassroots leadership in water and sanitation.

What it is?

- WaSH Warriors are grassroots champions—individuals from rural communities—who lead efforts in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH), especially under the Jal Jeevan Mission and allied programmes.

Aim

- To promote safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene through community ownership (Jan Bhagidari).
- To ensure inclusive, equitable, and sustainable WaSH outcomes, particularly for women and vulnerable groups.

Functions:

- Mobilising communities for **water conservation** and **safe water practices**.
- Supporting implementation and sustainability of **Har Ghar Jal** tap connections.
- Promoting **ODF Plus** behaviours and hygiene awareness under **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)**.
- Encouraging local monitoring, maintenance, and long-term functionality of water assets.

7. Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026

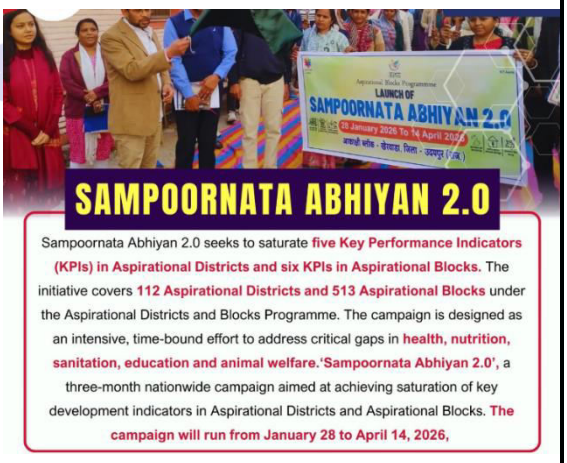
WHY IN NEWS The Union government has notified the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, making source-level processing of waste mandatory for bulk generators and local bodies across India

Q1. Which of the following authorities is responsible for granting authorization to waste management facilities under SWM Rules, 2016?

a) Central Pollution Control Board
b) State Pollution Control Board
c) State Environment Impact Assessment Authority
d) District Collector

Answer: (b) State Pollution Control Board

8. Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0



WHY IN NEWS NITI Aayog CEO Shri B.V.R Subrahmanyam launched 'Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0'—a 3-month intensive campaign to achieve 100% saturation of critical development indicators in India's most underserved regions.

Q1. Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0 aims to saturate key performance indicators in how many Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks (respectively)?

a) 100 Districts and 500 Blocks
b) 112 Districts and 513 Blocks
c) 125 Districts and 400 Blocks
d) 150 Districts and 600 Blocks

Answer: (b) 112 Districts and 513 Blocks

9. New Aadhaar App

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India has launched the **New Aadhaar App** in January 2026, dedicated to the nation. This next-generation app, introduces a Privacy-First approach, allowing users to update mobile numbers from home.

1. With reference to the new Aadhaar App launched in 2026, consider the following statements:

1. It allows users to share only selected Aadhaar details without disclosing full personal data.
2. Aadhaar mobile number and address can be updated directly through the app without visiting an Aadhaar centre.
3. The app mandates Internet connection for every feature including verification.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

10. V-BAT Autonomous Drones

WHY IN NEWS The Indian Army officially selected the US-based firm Shield AI to supply its cutting-edge V-BAT autonomous drones. This emergency procurement deal marks a milestone as India integrates the **Hivemind AI software**, allowing for sovereign development of autonomous military capabilities.

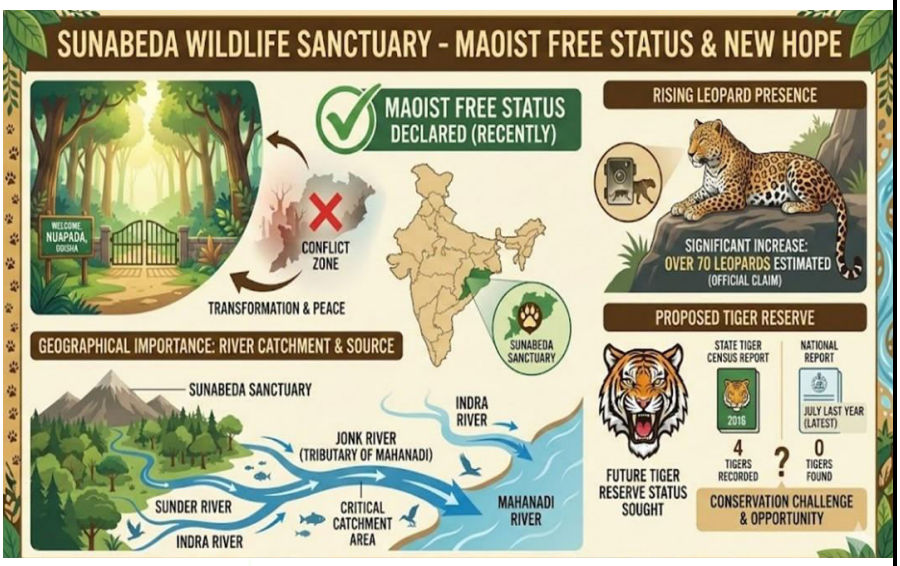
1. With reference to V-BAT autonomous drones recently selected by the Indian Army, which of the following statements are correct?

1. V-BAT is a Group 3 Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) unmanned aircraft system.
2. It requires runway for launch and recovery operations.
3. The system will include licensing of AI-based autonomy software for mission operations.

Select the correct answer using the code below:
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

11. Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary



WHY IN NEWS Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary in Odisha, recently declared 'Maoist-free', is emerging as a promising habitat for leopards, with an estimated population of over 70 individuals, according to forest officials

Q1. The landscape of Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary is best described as:

a) Mangrove delta
b) Alpine tundra
c) Dry deciduous plateau with deep canyons
d) Tropical rainforest

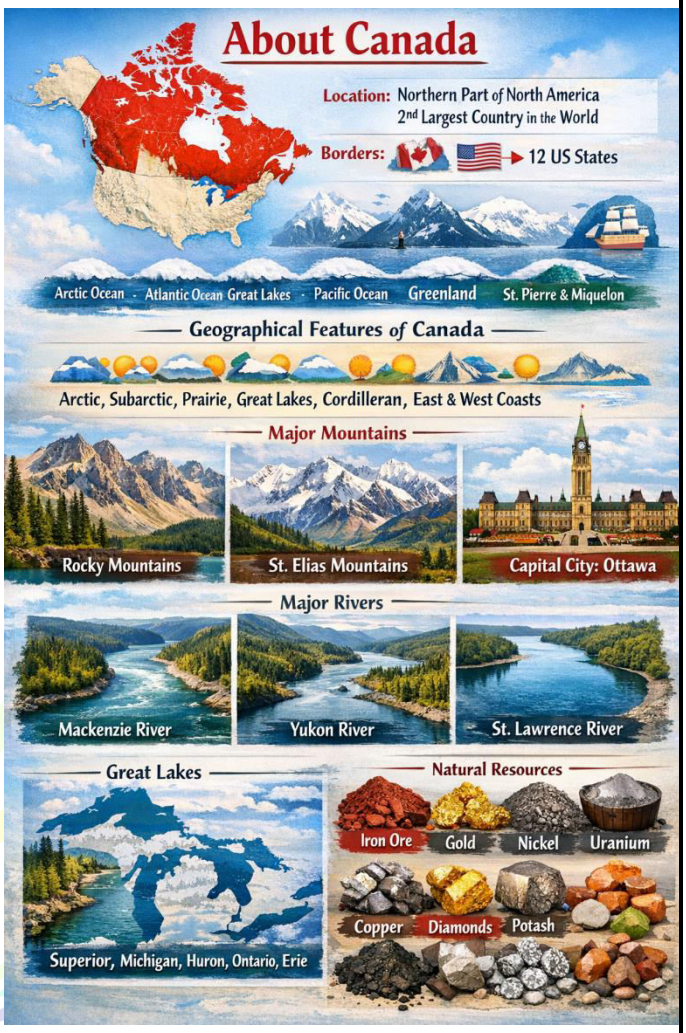
Answer: (c) Dry deciduous plateau with deep canyons

30th JAN 2026

1. **Canada**
2. **NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme (NSPS)**
3. **Tehri Lake**
4. **Pechora Missile System**
5. **PAIMANA Portal**
6. **Power Gap Index**
7. **Government Notifies Coking Coal as Critical & Strategic Minerals**
8. **Digital Food Currency**
9. **Western Disturbance**
10. **The Shiveluch volcano**

1. Canada

WHY IN NEWS Recently, India and Canada signed a Joint Statement on Energy Cooperation on the sidelines of India Energy Week (IEW) 2026 in Goa



Q1.. Consider the following statements about the Great Lakes:

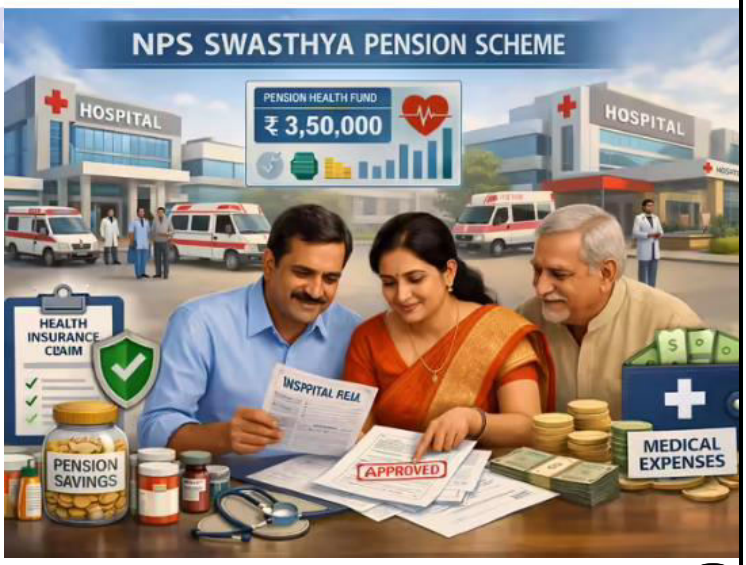
1. Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that lies entirely in the United States.
2. Lake Ontario is the lowest among the Great Lakes by elevation.
3. The Great Lakes drain through the St. Lawrence River into the Atlantic Ocean.

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. NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme (NSPS)



WHY IN NEWS The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) recently rolled out the NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme (NSPS) on a pilot basis

About NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme (NSPS)

- It is a new initiative launched by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) as a Proof of Concept (PoC) under its Regulatory Sandbox Framework.
- The initiative aims to integrate health-related financial benefits with the existing National Pension System (NPS) framework.

- The scheme, launched for a limited and controlled period, is designed to provide financial support for out-patient and in-patient medical expenses.
- The scheme will function as a sector-specific contributory pension scheme within the Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF) of NPS and will be offered to Indian citizens on a voluntary basis.
- It will be launched by Pension Funds after obtaining prior approval from PFRDA.
- As it is being implemented as a pilot project, only a restricted number of subscribers will be enrolled during the PoC phase.
- To facilitate the pilot, certain provisions of the PFRDA (Exits and Withdrawals under NPS) Regulations, 2015, have been relaxed.
- Pension Funds may also collaborate with FinTech firms and health service administrators to implement the scheme

3. Tehri Lake

WHY IN NEWS Two paraglider pilots were rescued by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) recently after they lost control and fell into Tehri Lake during the three-day Acro Festival & SIV Championship Tehri 2026

About Tehri Lake

- It is an artificial dam reservoir located in the Tehri Garhwal town of Uttarakhand.
- It came into existence during the construction of Tehri Dam when the water from the Bhagirathi River was diverted to fill the dam reservoir.
- It lies at an elevation of 1,700 meters.
- The depth of Tehri Lake is around 262 meters, and the length is 42 kms. Filled with multi-purpose rock and earth, Tehri Dam Lake was created with the motive of supplying water for generating electricity, drinking, and irrigation.
- It is surrounded by the majestic Himalayan mountains, making it a picturesque destination

4. Pechora Missile System

WHY IN NEWS Bengaluru-based defence equipment manufacturer Alpha Design Technologies Ltd (ADTL) has completed a major upgrade of the 's (IAF) Pechora, a surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, in line with the Centre's push for modernising ageing military hardware through indigenous capability

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Pechora Missile System:

1. It is a medium-range surface-to-air missile system.
2. It was originally developed by the United States and later exported to India.
3. It is designed primarily to target low-flying aircraft.

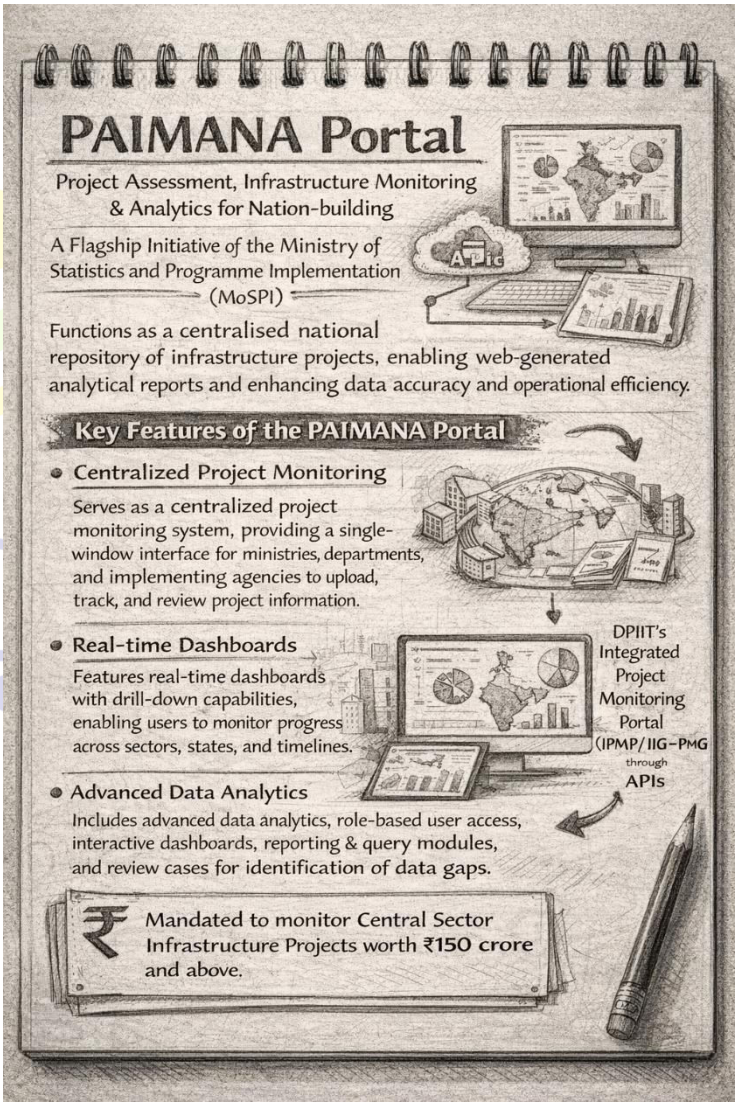
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A. 1 and 3 only

5. PAIMANA Portal

WHY IN NEWS The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has operationalised a new web-based portal, PAIMANA portal for the mandated monitoring of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects worth ₹150 crore and above



Q1. Consider the following statements about the PAIMANA Portal:

1. It is designed for monitoring Central Sector Infrastructure Projects of ₹150 crore and above.
2. It has replaced the earlier OCMS (Online Computerized Monitoring System).
3. It is a monitoring platform developed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: PAIMANA monitors central infrastructure projects above ₹150 crore.
- Statement 2 is correct: It replaces the older OCMS framework.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The portal is developed by **MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation)**, not the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

6. Power Gap Index

WHY IN NEWS The Economic Survey 2025-26, tabled in Parliament has cited the Power Gap Index for the first time.The Survey highlights a critical Strategic Paradox: while India has officially entered the Major Power category, it still registers a negative Power Gap score of -4.0, indicating that the nation is operating below its full strategic potential.

What is it?

- The **Power Gap Index** is a secondary analytical measure derived from the **Asia Power Index**. It measures a country's **Power Efficiency**—the ability to convert raw resources (wealth and military) into actual regional influence (diplomacy and networks).
- **Positive Score:** An Overperformer or **Smart Power**.
- **Negative Score:** An Underperformer or a state with **Unrealized Potential**.

Developed By:

- **Organization:** The **Lowy Institute**, an independent international policy think tank based in Sydney, Australia.
- **Launch:** Part of the annual Asia Power Index project (established in 2018).

Aim & Objectives:

- To show that having a large economy or military doesn't automatically equate to geopolitical influence.
- To help nations identify where their conversion of power is failing—whether in diplomacy, trade relationships, or defense networks.

7. Government Notifies Coking Coal as Critical & Strategic Minerals

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India officially notified Coking Coal as a Critical and Strategic Mineral under the MMDR Act, 1957, a major reform aimed at slashing the country's 95% import dependence.

Q1. Which of the following types of coal has the highest coking properties?

a) Lignite
b) Sub-bituminous coal
c) Bituminous coal
d) Anthracite

Answer: (c) Bituminous coal

8. Digital Food Currency

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India is set to launch a pilot program for Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), also termed Digital Food Currency, in February 2026.This initiative targets beneficiaries in Chandigarh, Puducherry, and three districts of Gujarat (Anand, Sabarmati, and Dahod) to streamline the world's largest free food security program.

What is it?

- Digital food coupons are a **programmed form of e-Rupee (CBDC)**. Instead of physical grains or cash transfers, beneficiaries receive digital tokens specifically locked for use at authorized ration shops.
- It serves as a **Proof of Concept (POC)** for a larger nationwide rollout of digital currency in social welfare.

Developed By:

- **Regulatory Body:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Implementing Authority:** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, in coordination with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and State Governments.

Aim:

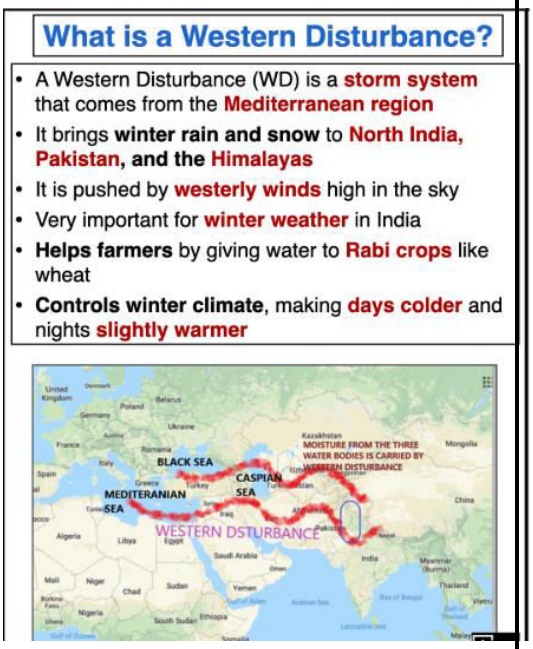
- Ensuring that the subsidy is used strictly for foodgrains, preventing the diversion of funds.
- Real-time tracking of every gram of foodgrain distributed.
- Eliminating the need for repeated biometric authentication at Fair Price Shops, which often fails due to connectivity or physical wear and tear.
- Moving rural beneficiaries toward a digital-first economy through the RBI digital wallet.

How it Works?

- **Direct Credit:** Monthly digital food coupons are credited directly to the RBI-enabled digital wallet on the beneficiary's mobile phone.
- **Redemption:** The beneficiary visits a Fair Price Shop and scans the shop owner's **QR code**.
- **Authentication:** The digital tokens are transferred, and the beneficiary receives their entitled free foodgrains.
- **Validity:** The coupons have a set **timeframe** (e.g., 30 days) to prevent the accumulation of unspent subsidies.

9. Western Disturbance

WHY IN NEWS The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an alert for a quick succession of two Western Disturbances (WD) expected to sweep across Northwest and Central India from January 31 to February 3, 2026.



1. Consider the following statements about Western Disturbances:

1. They originate over the Mediterranean region.
2. They bring winter rainfall to the northwestern parts of India.
3. They are tropical cyclones formed due to heating of land.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

10. The Shiveluch volcano

WHY IN NEWS The Shiveluch volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula erupted twice recently, sending ash plumes up to 8 kilometres above sea level

1. Shiveluch Volcano is located in which of the following regions?

A. Aleutian Islands
B. Kamchatka Peninsula
C. Iceland
D. Philippines

Answer: B

31th JAN 2026

1. Paathara Practice
2. Living Root Bridges
3. Hanle Dark Sky Reserve
4. Right to Menstrual Health as a Fundamental Right
5. Supreme Court Stays UGC Equity Regulations 2026
6. BHARAT SAMPARK – Engaging India's Young Minds
7. National Commission for Women marks its 34th Foundation Day
8. Stealth Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)
9. New Consumer Price Index (CPI) series
10. UAE central bank approves first USD-backed stable coin

1. Paathara Practice

WHY IN NEWS Recently, it is observed that the ancient grain storage tradition named Paathara practice or Khoni is fading fast in Srikakulam district

About Paathara Practice

- It is an ancestral practice of underground grain storage pits.
- It is a storage pit in which freshly harvested grains, mostly paddy, are stored.
- It is observed by farmers along the banks of the Mahendratanaya River in the Uddanam region of Srikakulam district, near the Andhra Pradesh–Odisha border.
- This tradition thrived in the inland, hilly terrain, where underground grain storage was effective.
- Decline: Lack of space and awareness, as well as changes in rural architecture—have contributed to its decline.

Key Features of Paathara Practice

- Structure: The pit is dug in a rectangular shape, plastered with straw and clay, and sealed with a layer of cow dung on top.
- The Paathara was built in front of thatched houses and was an integral part of rural architecture, symbolising a thriving joint family system.
- Every paddy-growing family stores enough grain for its annual needs.

- Advantage: The Paath-ara pro-tects grain from rodents, con-tam-in-a-tion, and theft

2. Living Root Bridges

WHY IN NEWS Recently, India submitted Meghalaya's living root bridges to UNESCO for World Heritage status

About Living Root Bridges

- The living root bridges are locally known as Jingkieng Jri or Lyu Chrai.
- These are nestled across the lush southern slopes of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya.
- These are masterpieces of bioengineering created by indigenous communities.
- These are grown by indigenous Khasi and Jaintia tribes over a time period of 15 to 30 years.
- These bridges range in span from 15 feet to 250 feet, and last for several centuries

3. Hanle Dark Sky Reserve

WHY IN NEWS Recently, a rare blood-red auroral activity was captured by the all-sky camera at the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Ladakh's Hanle Dark Sky Reserve.

1. The Hanle Dark Sky Reserve is located in which Indian Union Territory?

A. Jammu & Kashmir
B. Ladakh
C. Himachal Pradesh
D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: B. Ladakh

4. Right to Menstrual Health as a Fundamental Right

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court of India, in a landmark verdict **Dr. Jaya Thakur vs Government Of India**, declared the right to menstrual health a fundamental right under Article 21, ordering all schools to provide free sanitary pads and gender-segregated toilets.

5. Supreme Court Stays UGC Equity Regulations 2026

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court of India, stayed the implementation of the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026.The court directed that the previous 2012 guidelines remain in force while expressing concerns that the new rules were vague and capable of dividing society.

What is the issue?

- The controversy stems from the UGC's attempt to replace the 14-year-old equity framework with a more stringent, enforceable set of rules.While intended to curb caste-based discrimination following high-profile tragedies (like those of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi), the 2026 regulations sparked a massive backlash.

Key Features of the 2026 Guidelines:

1. **Separate Definitions:** It distinguishes between general discrimination and caste-based discrimination, specifically identifying SC, ST, and OBC groups.
2. **Mandatory Infrastructure:** Every institution must establish an **Equal Opportunity Centre (EOC)** and appoint **Equity Ambassadors** and **Equity Squads**.
3. **Strict Timelines:** Mandatory 24-hour response to complaints and a 15-day window for completing detailed investigations.
4. **Punitive Action:** Non-compliant institutions face de-recognition, loss of grants, and debarment from UGC schemes.
5. **Direct Accountability:** The Head of the Institution is personally responsible for ensuring a discrimination-free environment.
6. **24/7 Support:** Compulsory operation of a round-the-clock Equity Helpline and an online portal for reporting incidents.

6. BHARAT SAMPARK – Engaging India's Young Minds

WHY IN NEWS The Economic Survey–linked outreach initiative BHARAT SAMPARK – Engaging India's Young Minds gained prominence after Union minster interacted with students at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.

What is BHARAT SAMPARK?

- BHARAT SAMPARK – Engaging India's Young Minds is a government outreach and engagement initiative aimed at connecting India's youth, especially students of premier institutions, with public institutions, policy processes, and nation-building

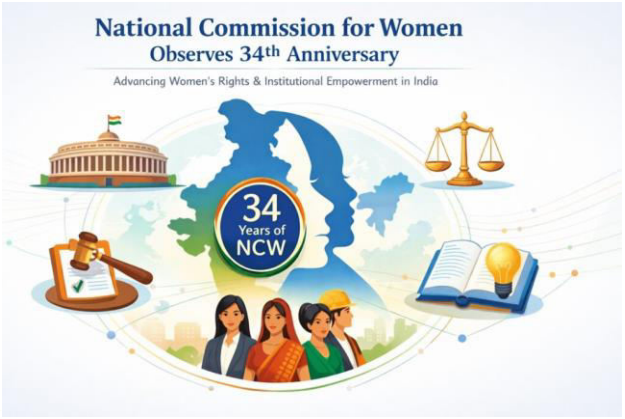
Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Communications

Key features of BHARAT SAMPARK:

1. **Youth–Government Interface:** Enables direct interaction between students and Union Ministers on technology, logistics, innovation, and public sector careers.
2. **India Post Modernisation Focus:** Showcases India Post's transition into a digitally enabled logistics and service platform, supporting e-commerce, financial inclusion, and citizen services.
3. **N-Gen (Next Generation) Campus Post Offices:**

- Youth-centric, digitally upgraded post offices on campuses
- Student-designed interiors, free Wi-Fi, QR-based services, digital payments
- Discounted Speed Post and parcel facilities for students
- Hands-on student engagement in postal operations

7. National Commission for Women marks its 34th Foundation Day



WHY IN NEWS The National Commission for Women (NCW) marked its 34th Foundation Day at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, reaffirming its commitment to women's rights and empowerment.

What is the National Commission for Women (NCW)?

- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** is a **statutory, apex body** of the Government of India tasked with **protecting, promoting, and safeguarding the constitutional and legal rights of women.**
- It acts as a watchdog, advisory body, and grievance redressal mechanism on issues affecting women.

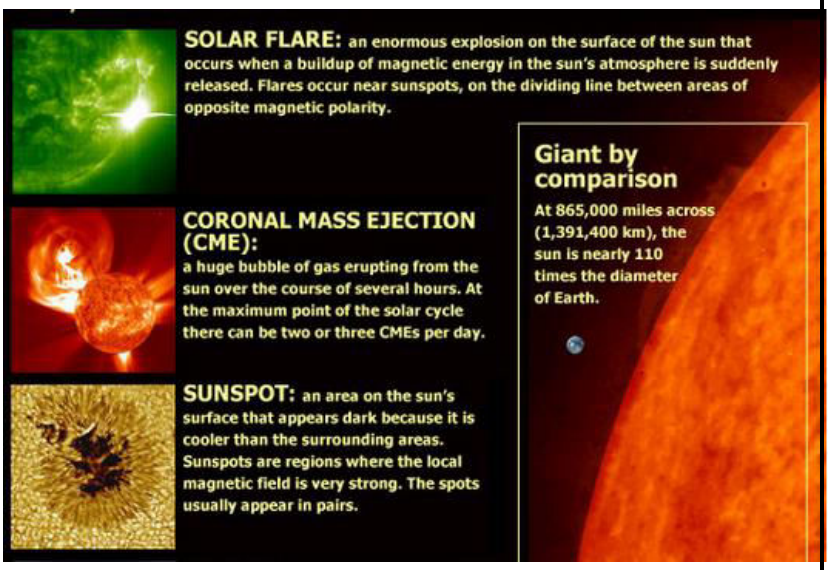
When was NCW established?

- **Established**: **31 January 1992**
- **Statutory basis**: *National Commission for Women Act, 1990* (Act No. 20 of 1990)
- **Nature**: Statutory body (not a constitutional body)

Historical background:

- The **Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI)** first recommended an apex body to monitor safeguards for women.
- The idea was reinforced by the National Perspective Plan for Women **(1988–2000)**.
- After extensive consultations with NGOs, social workers, and experts, the NCW Bill was introduced in **Lok Sabha in May 1990**.
- The Act received **Presidential assent on 30 August 1990,** and the **first Commission was constituted in January 1992.**

8. Stealth Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)



WHY IN NEWS Astronomers have linked an intense geomagnetic storm that struck Earth in March 2023 to a Stealth Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)—a faint solar eruption with no obvious warning signals.

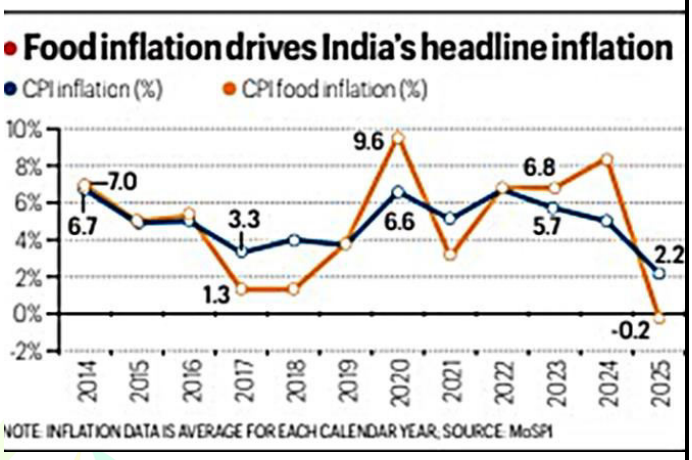
Q1. Stealth CMEs are especially challenging for space weather forecasting because:

1. They are slow-moving
2. They produce no clear indicators in EUV (Extreme Ultraviolet) images
3. They originate from the chromosphere
4. They do not cause geomagnetic storms

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

Answer: A

9. New Consumer Price Index (CPI) series



WHY IN NEWS The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released details of a new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series, revising the base year from 2011–12 to 2023–24 and cutting the weight of food and beverages from ~46% to ~37%.

What is the new CPI series?

The **new CPI series** is an updated framework for measuring **retail inflation in India**, with:

- **Base year revised** from **2011–12 to 2023–24**
- **Revised item weights** based on the latest **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023–24**
- Expanded item coverage and improved methodology to better capture **current** consumption behaviour, including digital services.

CPI is India's **headline inflation measure** and the anchor for monetary policy under the inflation targeting framework.

Organisations involved:

- **Nodal Ministry**: **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
- **Data source**: Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023–24

Historical background of CPI in India:

- **CPI (Combined: Rural + Urban)** introduced in **2011–12** as the primary inflation indicator.
- The basket weights were earlier based on 2011–12 consumption patterns, which became outdated due to:
  - Rising incomes
  - Urbanisation
  - Shift towards services, housing, transport, and digital consumption
- Periodic base-year revision is standard international practice to maintain accuracy.

10. UAE central bank approves first USD-backed stable coin

WHY IN NEWS The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates has approved the first USD-backed stable coin (USDU) under its Payment Token Services Regulation, marking a major step in regulating digital assets.

What is the USD-backed stablecoin (USDU)?

- A USD-backed stablecoin is a cryptocurrency pegged 1:1 to the US dollar, designed to maintain price stability while operating on blockchain networks.
- The newly approved USDU stablecoin is issued by Universal Digital, a crypto firm regulated by the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), making it the first foreign payment token issuer registered with the UAE central bank.

Key features of the USDU stablecoin:

- **Full USD backing**: Each token is backed by US dollar reserves, ensuring price stability.
- **Regulated framework**: Approved under the UAE's **Payment Token Services Regulation.**
- Blockchain-based settlement: Enables faster, cheaper, and transparent digital payments.
- **Cross-border utility**: Suitable for international transfers, trade settlement, and remittances.
- **Financial innovation**: Bridges traditional finance with digital asset infrastructure.

KARNATAK JAN 2026 MONTH NEWS

1. **Hoardings under Revised Advertising Regulations**
2. **KARNATAK AIMS FOR GOA LIKE BEACH TOURISM**
3. **MISIION SURAKSHA A SURESHOT CURE FOR CHILD MARRIAGES IN SHIVAMOGGA**
4. **KARANATAK RANK 2ND IN FASAL BHIMA YOJANA IMPLIMENTATION**
5. **LAW TO PRESERVE , DIGITILISE MANUSCRIPTS AVAILABLE ACROSS KARANATAK**
6. **KARANATAK PROPOSED HONOUR KILLING LAW**
7. **KARANATAK BODY OPPOSES KELARA MALAYLAM LANGUAGE BILL**
8. **ARC RECOMMENDS CONSOLIDATING IRRELEVANT SCHEMS**

1. Hoardings under Revised Advertising Regulations

WHY IN NEWS January 2026, the **Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) Advertisement Rules-2025** have officially brought back commercial hoarding, reducing the mandatory distance between billboards from 175 meters to 50 meters,, permitting them on footpaths with permission, and allowing the conversion of LED hoardings to commercial, aiming to boost revenue while raising concerns over urban clutter and traffic safety.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA):

1. It was proposed to coordinate planning and development across newly added areas of Bengaluru.
2. It was meant to integrate the functioning of multiple agencies such as BBMP, BDA, BWSSB and BESCOM.
3. It is a constitutional body established under the 74th Amendment Act.

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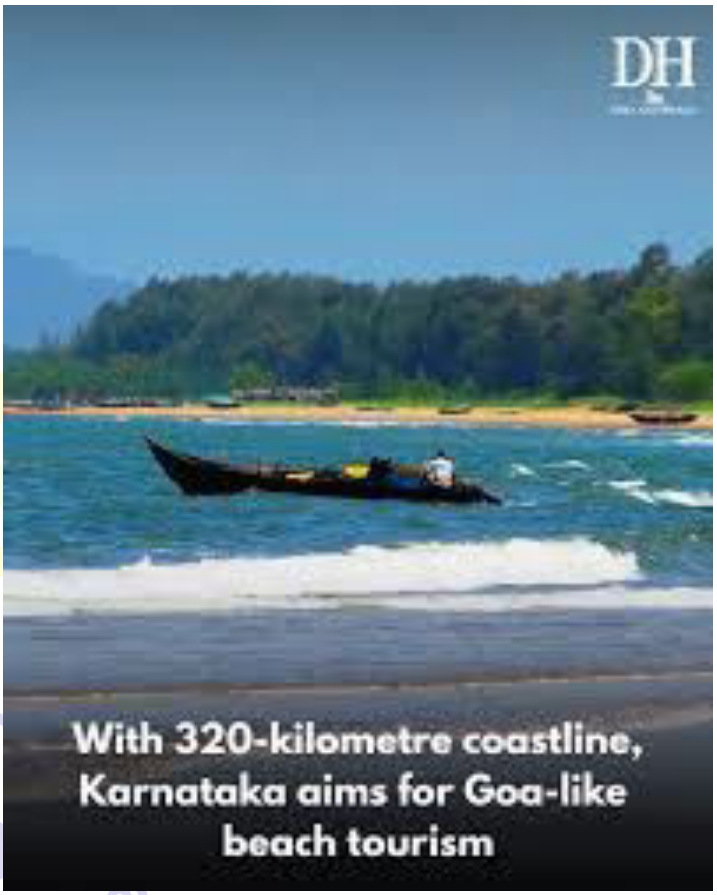
Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

2. KARNATAK AIMS FOR GOA LIKE BEACH TOURISM



WHY IN NEWS Karnataka is aggressively developing its 320-km coastline to rival Goa's beach tourism, focusing on 40 strategic locations across Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada. Initiatives include PPP-model resorts, beach shacks, night tourism, water sports, and potential alcohol sales to boost tourism, with plans to establish a Coastal Tourism Development Board.

Key Highlights of the Initiative

- **Five-Pronged Development:** The government has identified 94 beaches and 21 river islands, divided into five distinct circuits covering marine, beach, backwater, hill, and temple tourism.
- **Infrastructure & Amenities:** Plans include establishing sea-facing resorts, tent tourism, and improving safety with enhanced lighting to allow nighttime beach access.
- **Blue Flag Certification:** Seven beaches, including Someshwara, Ullal, and Kodi, are being developed for international Blue Flag certification.
- **Major Focus Areas:** Key locations such as Om Beach, Kudle Beach (Gokarna), Tannirbhavi, and Malpe are being prioritized for development.
- **Culture & Lifestyle:** Tourism will integrate local culture, such as *Kambala* (buffalo race) and *Pilli Nalike* (tiger dance), alongside food festivals.

3. MISIION SURAKSHA A SURESHOT CURE FOR CHILD MARRIAGES IN SHIVAMOGGA

WHY IN NEWS The implementation of Mission Suraksha, the first of its kind in the state, has prevented 54 child marriages since its inception in July last year.

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It has also encouraged children below the age of 18 to boldly share instances of sexual assault and violence, including abuse by their own family members, with the police.

The initial results have been encouraging and, following this, the programme is being implemented in Chikkamagaluru and Kalburgi, sources in the Directorate of Child Protection confirmed.

4. KARANATAK RANK 2ND IN FASAL BHIMA YOJANA IMPLIMENTATION

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka has secured the 2nd rank among large states for the best implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** for the Kharif 2024 and Rabi 2024-25 seasons. Recognized by the Government of India, this achievement highlights the state's efforts in effectively safeguarding farmers' interests through crop insurance.

- **Recognition:** The award acknowledges the state's excellence in managing insurance for farmers during the specified seasons.
- **Key Contributors:** The achievement was attributed to the dedication of the state's Agriculture Department, including efforts by officials like Shri Selvakumar and Shri Y.S. Patil.

This ranking reflects the state's commitment to implementing central government agricultural schemes effectively.

5. LAW TO PRESERVE , DIGITILISE MANUSCRIPTS AVAILABLE ACROSS KARANATAK

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka government is introducing "The Karnataka Jnana Bhandar Manuscripts and Digitalisation Bill 2025" to comprehensively preserve, digitize, and regulate manuscripts across the state. The law mandates that individuals in possession of manuscripts, such as palm leaf or handwritten records, must self-declare them to authorities. A specialized Authority will be established to survey, catalog, and store these, with a focus on digitizing over 1.2 lakh items for a new, unified digital portal.

6. KARANATAK PROPOSED HONOUR KILLING LAW

WHY IN NEWS The Karnataka government has drafted the "**Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2026**" to combat rising caste-based violence, proposing a minimum 5-year jail term for honour killings. This stringent law, or Iva Nammava, criminalizes threats and violence against couples, treating simple hurt as a serious offence.

Key details of the proposed legislation include:

- **Purpose:** To protect individuals' right to marry someone of their choice, particularly targeting inter-caste, inter-community, or same-gotra relationships.
- **Legal Measures:** The law aims to prevent, prohibit, and punish crimes committed in the name of honour, tradition, or caste.
- **Penalties:** Includes a minimum of five years imprisonment for crimes, with some offenses being non-bailable.
- **Protection:** The legislation also introduces measures to protect couples at risk.
- **Background:** The move follows several recent, high-profile killings in the state.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Karnataka's proposed law on Honour Killing:

1. The law seeks to criminalize honour killings as a separate and distinct offence.
2. It proposes punishment for anyone who participates in 'Khap-style' or community-based diktats that abet honour crimes.
3. The bill proposes protection measures such as safe houses and police protection for couples facing threat.

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

7. KARANATAK BODY OPPOSES KELARA MALAYLAM LANGUAGE BILL

WHY IN NEWS Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is strongly opposing the **Kerala Malayalam Language Bill 2025**, which proposes making Malayalam a compulsory first language in schools, including those in border areas like

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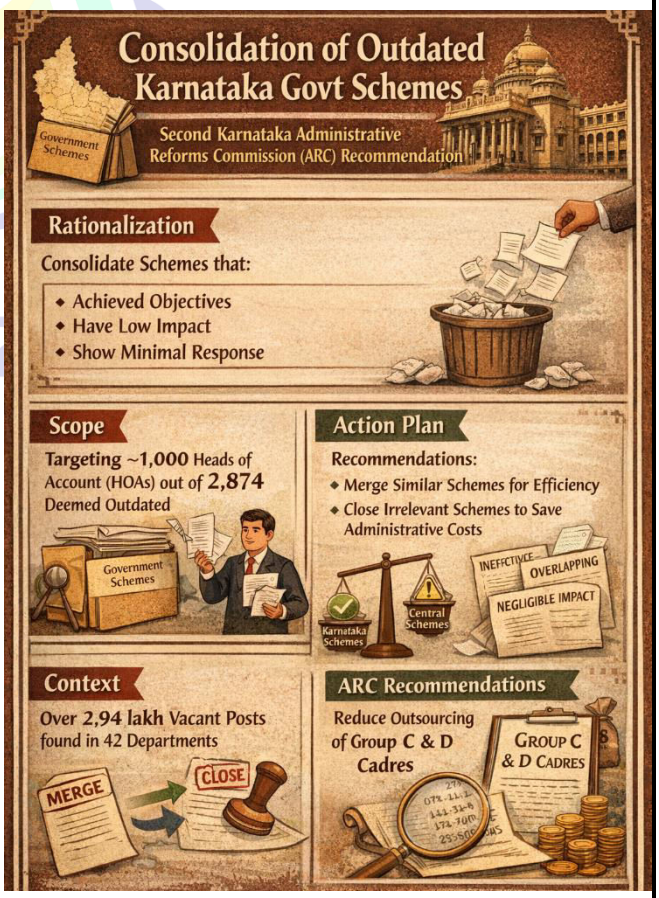
Kasaragod. Karnataka contends the bill is "coercive," violates linguistic minority rights, and hurts Kannada-medium education, pledging to use constitutional means to oppose it.

- **Opposition Basis:** The Bill mandates Malayalam as the primary language, threatening the education of Kannada-speaking minorities in Kerala, according to **Karnataka's CM**.
- **Response:** Siddaramaiah termed it a violation of constitutional rights and warned against implementing it, as reported in
- **Impacted Area:** The policy directly impacts Kannada-medium schools in Kerala's border districts, particularly Kasaragod
- **Kerala's Stance:** The Kerala government has dismissed these concerns as "baseless" and "irresponsible," arguing the bill aims to promote the state language,

8. ARC RECOMMENDS CONSOLIDATING IRRELEVANT SCHEMS

WHY IN NEWS The Second Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has recommended consolidating or closing approximately 1,000 irrelevant and outdated government schemes to optimize state revenue expenditure. Of 2,874 Heads of Accounts (HOAs) analyzed, many were found to be ineffective, overlapping with central schemes, or having negligible impact.



1. Consider the following statements about the Karnataka Second Administrative Reforms Commission (KARC-II):

1. It was constituted to recommend reforms in governance, public administration, and service delivery in Karnataka.
2. It is headed by a former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.
3. The Commission submits its reports in phases/volumes on various administrative sectors.

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: C. 1 and 3 only

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LENS Monthly Magazine (January 2026 Edition)

The January 2026 edition of LENS (Latest Events and News Analysis Series) by Namma Foresights Academy is highly exam-oriented and thoughtfully curated for competitive aspirants. The magazine's day-wise analysis ensures systematic coverage of current affairs, making revision structured and manageable. Integration of YouTube classes adds conceptual clarity and supports multimedia learning. The MCQ-based analysis strengthens practice and application, aligning well with objective exam patterns.

Coverage of important themes such as The Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025, Savitribai Phule, White Dwarf System, PANKHUDI Portal, India's Bioeconomy, India–EU Free Trade Agreement, Padma Awards, and Karnataka Film Awards reflects a balanced blend of polity, science, economy, international relations, and culture.

Its exam-focused presentation with both Prelims and Mains orientation makes it a reliable single source for current affairs consolidation. Overall, it is a valuable, student-friendly resource for UPSC, State PSC, and other competitive examinations.

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