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# ANANYA SAADHANA

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COMPREHENSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2025

**Essential for  
success in**  
KAS,  
FDA/SDA/PDO/  
GROUP C, PSI/PC,  
TEACHER'S EXAMS

## Coverage

- ✓ Polity & Governance
- ✓ Economy
- ✓ Health & Society
- ✓ Environment
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- ✓ Culture
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## Editor's page



What began in June 2013 as a small Daily Answer Writing Challenge soon grew into the Secure Initiative — connecting aspirants worldwide to learn and improve together. Over time, Insights IAS has become a trusted friend and guide for lakhs of UPSC aspirants, helping thousands achieve success. Your feedback, support, and trust have shaped our journey.

As we continue to evolve, our goal remains the same — to simplify your preparation, remove distractions, and help you give your best effort with confidence and clarity.

That's what matters most to us — your growth and satisfaction.

**Best Regards,**  
**Vinay Kumar GB**  
**Founder & Director, Insights IAS**



To the future administrators of Karnataka,

Success in KPSC and other state exams demands more than facts—it requires a Karnataka-centric mindset: understanding how state schemes shape districts, how budgets affect people, and how heritage connects to progress.

Ananya Sadhana is your focused companion in this journey—delivering analytical, state-specific content to strengthen your preparation for Prelims, Mains, and Interview. Your goal isn't just to clear an exam, but to help build Karnataka's future.

Let's shape a prosperous Karnataka, together.

**Best,**  
**Sharath Kumar S**  
**Managing Director, Insights IAS | Insta KAS**

# Sources



## About the Magazine

The magazine is a must-read for competitive exam aspirants of KAS, FDA/SDA, PSI/PC, Group C, PDO, Teacher Recruitment & Asst Prof Exams. It provides a 360-degree overview, covering both the current and the static part of the topics.

This magazine has been divided into two main parts. The first part consists of the analysis of the current affairs topics and associated information. The topics have been divided into different sections like Polity and Governance, Economy, Science and Technology etc for focussed approach.

The second part consists of fact oriented current affairs which is useful for all exams. This will act as a ready reckoner for most important facts.

The USP of the book is presentation of information in crisp format. Efforts have been made by the team to provide information in a very precise way.

## The Team

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# 1. NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### 1. Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India: NCRB Report (2023)

**Syllabus: GS2/Governance; Government Policy & Intervention**

#### Context

- Recently, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released its Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2023 report, offering a snapshot of the India's public health and safety landscape.

#### Key Findings of Report (2023)

- Age Groups:** 30-45 Years (31.7%; 1,40,933 deaths); **18-30 Years** (24.4%; 1,08,254 deaths).
- Road Accidents:** India witnessed a staggering **1.73 lakh deaths and 4.47 lakh injuries due to road accidents in 2023**—a 1.6% increase from the previous year.
- Accidents due to Forces of Nature: 6,444 deaths were attributed to natural forces like **lightning (39.7%), heat stroke (12.5%),** exposure of cold (11.4%) and **floods.**
- Accidents due to Other Causes: The major causes of accidental deaths were **traffic accidents (45.2%), sudden deaths (14.5%), drowning (8.6%), falls (5.7%), poisoning, and electrocution (3.2%).**
- Farmer Suicides:** The agricultural sector saw **10,786 suicides in 2023 (declined by 10% from 2022),** including **4,690 farmers and 6,096 agricultural laborers.**
- It translates to nearly **one farmer suicide every day, underscoring the deep-rooted agrarian distress.**
- Maharashtra led with 2,518 farmer suicides,** followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

#### Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India: NCRB Report (2023)

- Mental Health and Illness-Linked Suicides:**

Report highlights a 3.2% rise in suicides due to illnesses, with nearly 20% of cases linked to conditions like cancer, paralysis, and mental health disorders.

- Mental illness accounted for 13,978 suicides.**
- Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka reported the highest illness-related suicides.**
- Alarmingly, **suicides due to cancer rose by 14%, and abortion-related fatalities spiked by 59%.**

#### Additional Information - National Crime Record Bureau

- Set-up in - 1986**
- Functions under - Ministry of Home Affairs**
- Objective - It acts as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.**
- Headquarter - New Delhi**

#### Projects being implemented by NCRB

- Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project**
- Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems(CCTNS)**
- Reports - NCRB brings out three annual reports i.e. These reports are principal reference points for police officers, researchers, media & policymakers.**
  - Crime in India**
  - Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India**
  - Prison Statistics I**

### 2. Model Youth Gram Sabha initiative

**Syllabus: GS2/Governance**

#### Context

- The Union Government is set to launch the **Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS) initiative from October 2025.**
- It is inspired by the Model UN framework, to **instill awareness about Panchayati Raj institutions among school students.**

#### Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS)

- The initiative **will train rural and tribal students in grassroots democracy.**
- Vision: To create a new generation of informed and responsible citizens who see**

**local governance** as central to development and social justice.

- ◆ The **program involves students in mock Gram Sabha sessions**, where they take on **roles like sarpanch and ward members to discuss village issues and pass resolutions**.
- ◆ **Each school receives ₹20,000 financial support** to conduct the activity.
- ◆ **Implementing Ministries:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Tribal Affairs.

### 3. DigiLocker

**Syllabus: GS2/ Governance**

#### Context

- ◆ The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced that candidates' documents, including caste, income, and disability certificates, will now be verified through DigiLocker.

#### DigiLocker

- ◆ **Launched by** - It is a flagship initiative **launched in 2015 of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)** under the Digital India programme.
- ◆ **Mandate** - It is a digital platform and a paperless solution designed to ensure that a user can access the latest and updated versions of their documents online.
- ◆ **Significance** - It aims to provide a **digital wallet to every citizen so that all lifelong documents, including educational, identity, health records, insurance policy papers, PAN records, and driving licences and certificates, can be accessed anywhere, anytime.**

### 4. Ladakh Delegates Offered Terms of Article 371

**Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance**

#### Context

- ◆ Ladakh's two key socio-political amalgams, Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) decided to resume talks with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Statehood and Sixth Schedule.

- ◆ The Centre has reportedly proposed special provisions under Article 371 of the Constitution as a potential alternative to Sixth Schedule status.

#### Background

- ◆ In 2019, the former State of Jammu & Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh, the latter without a Legislative Assembly.
- ◆ After its special status was removed, several political groups in Ladakh have been demanding that land, employment, and the cultural identity of Ladakh, should be protected under the Sixth Schedule.
- ◆ In 2019, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes recommended the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule.

#### Sixth Schedule

- ◆ The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.
- ◆ This Schedule contains provisions regarding the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- ◆ The Schedule also gives ARCs and ADCs the power to collect land revenue, impose taxes, regulate money lending and trading, collect royalties from licenses or leases for the extraction of minerals in their areas, and establish public facilities such as schools, markets, and roads.

#### Protections offered under Article 371

- ◆ Articles 371 and 371-A through J provide “special provisions” for specific states, often to give representation to certain religious and social groups and to allow these groups to exercise autonomy over their affairs without interference from the state and central governments.
- ◆ Special provisions under Article 371 would allow protections to be extended to the local population of Ladakh.

## 5. 100 Years of UPSC : the guardian of meritocracy

### Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance

#### Context

- ◆ The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) marks a century of its establishment on October 1.

#### Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

- ◆ **Establishment:** The **Government of India Act, 1919**, first provided for such a body, and in October 1926, the Public Service Commission was set up, following the **recommendations of the Lee Commission (1924)**.
- ◆ Later named the **Federal Public Service Commission (1937)**, it was renamed the **Union Public Service Commission** with the adoption of India's Constitution on 26th January 1950.
- ◆ **Functions-** The UPSC conducts **civil services examinations to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service , Indian Foreign Service and the Indian Police Service , among others.**
- ◆ **Members:** Besides the chairman, it can have a maximum of 10 members.
- ◆ **Appointment -** A UPSC chairman is appointed for a term of six years or until attaining 65 years of age, all members have the same term.
- ◆ **Reappointment:** The UPSC Chairman is **not eligible for reappointment after completing their term.**
- ◆ **Removal (317): Removal by President:**
  1. Can only be done on the ground of misbehaviour.
  2. Requires a Supreme Court inquiry and report confirming the misbehaviour.
  3. Reference to the Supreme Court is made by the President.
  4. Can remove without Supreme Court inquiry if the person: Is adjudged insolvent, engages in paid employment outside office duties, is unfit due to mental or physical infirmity.

#### Civil Services Day

- ◆ **Civil Services Day is observed on 21st April every year**
- ◆ **Reason -** to commemorate the day in 1947 when **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first**

batch of civil servants at the Metcalfe House, New Delhi.

- ◆ **He termed civil servants as the “Steel frame of India,”** emphasizing their role in maintaining unity and integrity.

## 6. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

### Syllabus: GS3/Infrastructure

#### Context

- ◆ The Union Cabinet on Economic Affairs approved four multi-tracking projects under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.
- ◆ These projects span across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh, adding about 894 km to the Indian Railways network.

#### PM GatiShakti

- ◆ **It was launched in - 2021**
- ◆ **Objective** - to enhance the country's infrastructure and promote seamless connectivity across various sectors.
- ◆ **Significance** - It is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development which is driven by seven engines – **railway, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport and logistics infrastructure.**
- ◆ **Implementation:** PM Gati Shakti will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like **Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.**

## 7. Reforming Passive Euthanasia in India

### Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance; GS4/Ethics

#### Context

- ◆ Despite the legal validity of passive euthanasia, its implementation remains mired in procedural complexity, institutional gaps, and ethical ambiguity.
- ◆ Note - Karnataka is the second State after Kerala to implement the directive.

#### Supreme Court Ruling

- ◆ **Common Cause vs. Union of India & Anr. (2018) case** - It recognised **right to die with dignity**

as a fundamental right under Article 21 and upheld legal validity of passive euthanasia.

- ◆ **Definition of Euthanasia** - It is an act of deliberately ending a person's life to relieve suffering from painful and incurable disease or disorder.

📖 **Passive euthanasia v/s Active euthanasia**

- ◆ **Passive euthanasia** - It is withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for terminally ill patients undergoing prolonged medical treatment with no hope of recovery and do not have decision-making capacity.
- ◆ **Active euthanasia** - It is the intentional act of killing a terminally ill patient on voluntary request. It is illegal in India.

## 8. PM-SETU Yojana

**Syllabus: GS2/Governance**

📖 **Context**

- ◆ The Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs- PM – SETU.

📖 **PM-SETU Yojana**

- ◆ **Abbreviation** - Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
- ◆ **Financing** - It is a centrally sponsored scheme
- ◆ **Objective** - to transform 1,000 Government ITIs across India into modern, industry-aligned training institutions.

## 9. All Jal Jeevan mission Pipelines to be mapped

**Syllabus :GS2/Governance**

📖 **In News**

- ◆ The Union government is planning to map all drinking water assets, including pipelines under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), on the GIS-based PM Gati Shakti platform.

📖 **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**

- ◆ **Launched in** - 2019
- ◆ **Objective** - to provide Functional Household

**Tap Connections**

- ◆ **Significance** - to ensure 55 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water to all rural households by 2024.
- ◆ However, due to implementation challenges, the deadline has now been extended to 2028.
- ◆ **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ◆ **Financing** - Central sponsored scheme

## 10. Draft Shram Shakti Niti, 2025 Unveiled

**Syllabus: GS2/Government Policy & Intervention**

📖 **Context**

- ◆ Recently, the Union Ministry of Labour & Employment has unveiled the Draft National Labour and Employment Policy, titled as Shram Shakti Niti 2025, aimed at reshaping India's labour landscape.

### Shram Shakti Niti 2025 or National Labour and Employment Policy

ಶ್ರಮ ಶಕ್ತಿ ನೀತಿ 2025 ಅಥವಾ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ನೀತಿ

- ◆ **Objective** - It aims to build a labour ecosystem that is inclusive, equitable, and resilient, ensuring dignity, protection, and opportunity for every worker.

📖 **Key Features of the Policy**

- ◆ **Universal and Portable Social Security:** Policy aims to establish universal and portable social security for all workers.
- ◆ It envisions the creation of a **Universal Social Security Account (USSA) by integrating key welfare and insurance systems** such as:
  1. Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);
  2. Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);
  3. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY);
  4. e-SHRAM portal
  5. State welfare boards.
- ◆ **Skilling & Employment:** The policy envisions a skill-employment creation with the help of programs like Skill India, the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- ◆ These will be supported by a digitally enhanced **National Career Service-Digital Public Infrastructure (NCS-DPI)**, designed to connect

talent with opportunity across India's towns, cities, and MSME clusters.

- ♦ **Nodal ministry** - The **Ministry of Labour & Employment** aims to act as National Employment Facilitator and regulator enabling convergence among workers, employers, and training institutions.

## 11. Bharat Taxi

**Syllabus: GS2/ Governance**

### In News

- ♦ A new cooperative ride-hailing platform called "Bharat Taxi" is set to launch in December 2025.

### Bharat Taxi

- ♦ **Launched by** - The platform is being built with support from the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** and will integrate with national digital platforms like **DigiLocker** and **UMANG**.
- ♦ **Promotion:** The initiative is jointly promoted by a number of major cooperative and financial institutions, including **NCDC, IFFCO, Amul, KRIBHCO, NAFED, NABARD, NDDDB, and NCEL**.
- ♦ **Mission:** It aims to create a **driver-owned platform that provides higher earnings for drivers, transparent fares for riders, and an inclusive mobility ecosystem**.
- ♦ **Significance** - The service is designed to **compete with private ride-hailing services like Ola and Uber**, without surge pricing, by leveraging a cooperative pricing model.

## 12. CCRAS Launches SPARK 4.0

**Syllabus: GS2/ Governance**

### In News

- ♦ The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**, under the **Ministry of Ayush**, announced the fourth edition of its **flagship Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK)** for 2025–26.

**Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK)**

- ♦ **Objective** - It aims to **promote scientific curiosity and research skills among**

**undergraduate Ayurveda students** across the country.

### Features -

- ♦ Under **SPARK-4.0**, **300 Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS)** students from colleges recognised by the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** would be receiving a **studentship of ₹50,000**, disbursed as **₹25,000 per month over two months**.
- ♦ The student would get **short-term independent research projects and a certificate** on completion.
- ♦ **Significance** - to **strengthen Ayurveda's research ecosystem**.

## 13. Appointment of District Judges

**Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance**

### Context

- ♦ The **Supreme Court** unanimously held that **judicial officers who have completed seven years of practice as advocates** before joining the service will be eligible for **direct recruitment as District Judges under Article 233**.

### Eligibility Expansion for District Judges

- ♦ Previously, only **practising lawyers with seven years' experience** could be directly appointed; **in-service judicial officers were excluded**.
- ♦ The Court held that **Article 233(2)** provides for qualification for advocates but does not specify any separate qualification for **in-service candidates**.

### Appointment of District Judges

- ♦ **Authority of Appointment:** District judges are appointed by the **Governor of the State**, but only after consulting the **High Court of that state**.
- ♦ This ensures **judicial independence**, giving the **High Court a significant role in selection**.
- ♦ **Eligibility:** Traditionally, appointments were made from:
- ♦ **Members of the State Judicial Service (subordinate judicial officers)**, or **practising advocates with a minimum of 7 years' experience**.

- ◆ Recent judicial interpretations have clarified that judicial officers with 7 years of prior Bar experience before joining the judicial service are also eligible for elevation to District Judge.

## 14. Civil Registration System (CRS) 2023 Report

**Syllabus: GS1 / Society and GS2 / Governance**

### Context

- ◆ The Registrar General of India (RGI) released the “Vital Statistics of India Based on the Civil Registration System (CRS)”

### Key Findings of the CRS 2023 Report

- ◆ **Births Registered:** 2.52 crore births were registered in 2023
- ◆ **Deaths Registered:** 86.6 lakh deaths were registered in 2023
- ◆ **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):** is the number of female births per 1,000 male births
  - ◆ **Lowest SRB:** Jharkhand (899), Bihar (900), Telangana (906), Maharashtra (909), Gujarat (910), Haryana (911), and Mizoram (911).
  - ◆ **Highest SRB:** Arunachal Pradesh (1,085), Nagaland (1,007), Goa (973), Tripura (972), and Kerala (967).

### Additional Information - Civil Registration System (CRS)

- ◆ It is a **unified process** for the continuous, permanent, and compulsory **recording of vital events such as births, deaths, and stillbirths.**
- ◆ It **does not include registration of marriages or divorces.**
- ◆ The **system operates under the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969**, which mandates compulsory **reporting of all births and deaths.**

## 15. Nobel Prize 2025 Winners List

### Context

- ◆ The 2025 Nobel Prizes in six categories — Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace, and Economic Sciences — were awarded.



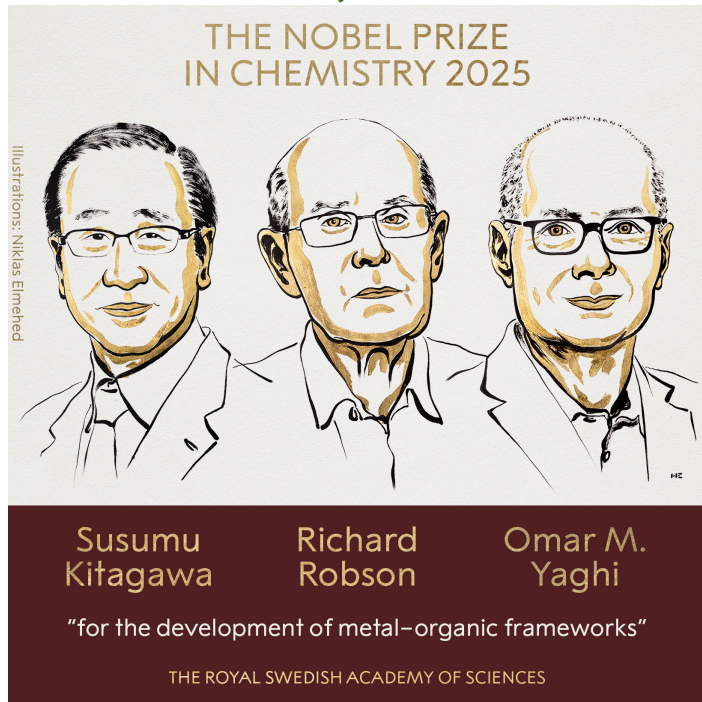
### Nobel Prize

- ◆ It is a set of **prestigious international awards given annually for outstanding achievements.**
- ◆ Recipients of the prize are called **Laureates.**
- ◆ It was **established by** the will of **Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel (the inventor of dynamite).**
- ◆ The **first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901**, and they have been awarded annually since then. They were not awarded during World War I (1914–1918) and II (1939–1945).
- ◆ It is **formally presented on December 10**, the anniversary of **Nobel’s death in 1896.**
- ◆ **Given in 6 fields: Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace, and Economic Sciences.**
- ◆ Prize in **Economic Sciences was introduced in 1968** by Sveriges Riksbank (Swedish central bank)
- ◆ A **Nobel Prize can be shared by up to three individuals.** In the case of the **peace prize, it can also be awarded to an organisation.**
- ◆ To become a Nobel Prize laureate one must be nominated for a prize by an eligible nominator. **Self-nomination is not allowed.**
- ◆ The **Nobel Prize cannot be awarded posthumously.** However, since 1974, if the recipient dies after the prize has been announced, they can still be awarded it

### Note

- ◆ **First Indian Nobel Laureate was Rabindranath Tagore, for Literature (1913).**
- ◆ **The first Indian woman Nobel Laureate was Mother Teresa, for Peace (1979).**

## Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025



- ♦ Awarded by - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- ♦ Awardees - Susumu Kitagawa (Japan), Richard Robson (Australia), and Omar M. Yaghi (USA)
- ♦ Achievement - for their groundbreaking development of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs).

### Additional Information - Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs)

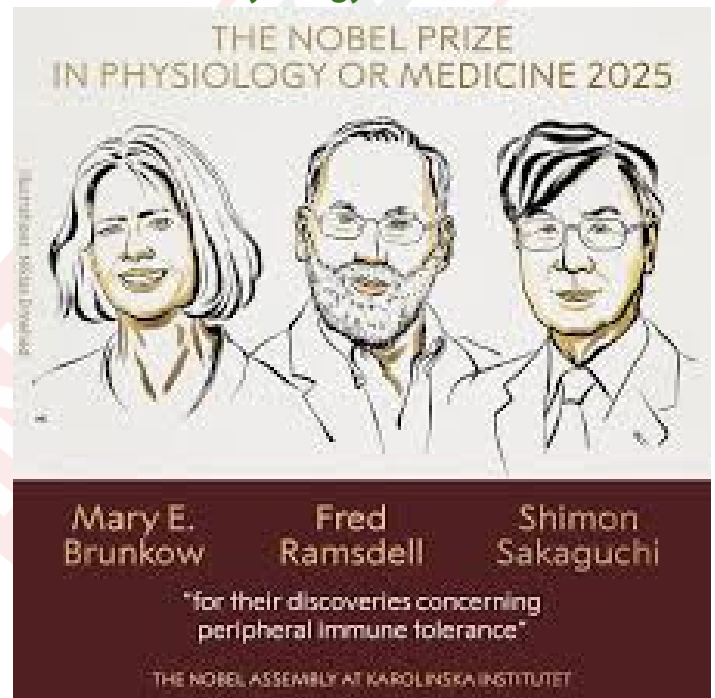
- ♦ They are **crystalline, porous materials made of metal ions** as "nodes" connected by organic molecules called "linkers."
- ♦ **Functionality:** Their lattice structure creates large **cavities that can store substances, catalyse reactions, or conduct electricity.**

## Nobel Prize in Physics 2025



- ♦ Awarded by - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- ♦ Awardees - John Clarke (UK), Michel Devoret (France), and John Martinis (USA)
- ♦ Achievement - for the discovery of **macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation** in an electric circuit.
- ♦ Their discovery confirmed that quantum phenomena, once thought limited to subatomic particles, can also manifest in macroscopic systems, expanding the boundaries of quantum mechanics.

## Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2025



- ♦ Awarded by - Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, for outstanding contributions to medical research.

### Awardees -

1. Shimon Sakaguchi (Japan) received the award for discovering regulatory T-cells.
  2. Mary E. Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell (USA) were honoured for identifying the **Foxp3 gene**, which controls immune regulation.
- ♦ **Significance of the discovery** - groundbreaking discoveries concerning **peripheral immune tolerance** that prevents the immune system from harming the body.

**Did you know?**

- ◆ **First Laureate:** In 1901, Emil von Behring received it for **developing serum therapy to treat diphtheria.**
- ◆ **Indian-Origin Laureate:** In 1968, Har Gobind Khorana became the first Indian winner for **decoding the genetic code guiding protein synthesis.**

**Nobel Prize in Economics 2025**

THE SVERIGES RIKSBANK PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES IN MEMORY OF ALFRED NOBEL 2025



Illustrations: Niklas Elmehed

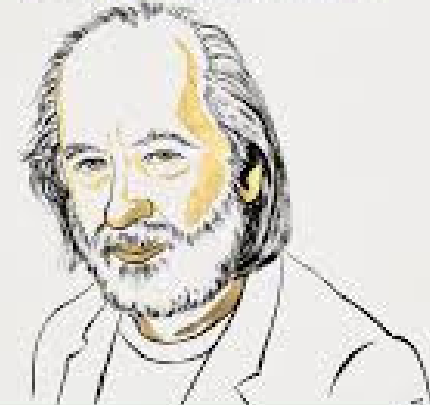
|   |  |                            |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| <p><b>Joel Mokyr</b></p> <p>"for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress"</p> | <p><b>Philippe Aghion</b></p> <p>"for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction"</p> | <p><b>Peter Howitt</b></p> |
|---|--|----------------------------|

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

- ◆ **Awarded by - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**
- ◆ **Awardees - Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt “**
- ◆ **Achievement - for having explained innovation-driven economic growth”.**
- ◆ The **official name for the Nobel Prize in Economics** is the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences** in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- ◆ It was **established in 1968** by Sweden’s central bank (Sveriges Riksbank) in memory of Alfred Nobel, and **first awarded in 1969.**

**Nobel Prize in Literature 2025**

THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE 2025



**László Krasznahorkai**

"for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art"

THE SWEDISH ACADEMY

- ◆ **Awarded by - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**
- ◆ **Awardee - to Hungarian novelist and screenwriter László Krasznahorkai.**
- ◆ He is known for **distinct long sentences that can span dozens of pages**, his acclaimed works include **Satantango (1985)** and **The Melancholy of Resistance (1989).**

**Nobel Peace Prize 2025**

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2025



**María Corina Machado**

"for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy"

THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE

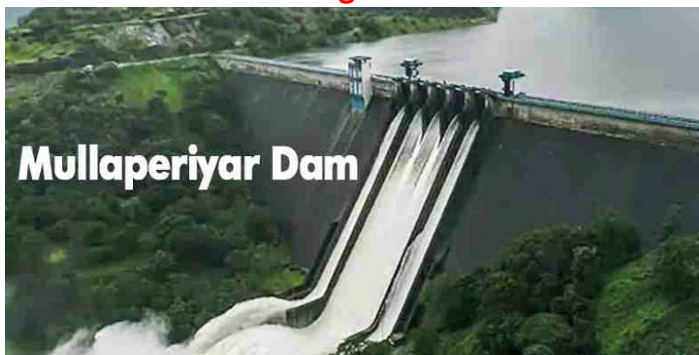
- ◆ **Awarded by - Norwegian Nobel Committee**
- ◆ **Awardee - to Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado.**
- ◆ **Achievement - She was honoured for**

promoting democratic rights and advocating a peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy in Venezuela.

- ♦ **Political Role:** Machado, the leader of the Vente Venezuela party, has mobilised civic movements demanding judicial independence, electoral transparency, and human rights protection.

## 16. Strengthening and Safeguarding Dams in India

**Syllabus: GS3/Infrastructure; Disaster Management**



### Context

- ♦ Recently, the Supreme Court of India issued notices to various stakeholders calling for urgent directions to reinforce the aging structure of the 130-year-old Mullaperiyar dam.

### Mullaperiyar Dam

- ♦ It is a gravity dam built on the Periyar River in the Idukki district of Kerala that was constructed between 1887 and 1895.
- ♦ The dam is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu, under a 999-year lease agreement signed in 1886 between the Maharaja of Travancore and the British government.
- ♦ It diverts water to the Vaigai basin in Tamil Nadu for irrigation across 68,558 hectares.

**India's Dam Landscape - According to the National Register of Large Dams (NRLD) maintained by the Central Water Commission (CWC)**

- ♦ India ranks third globally — after China and the United States — in the number of large dams, with over 6,000 operational dams.
- ♦ **Functions of Dams** - irrigation (supporting agriculture across vast regions); hydropower

generation; flood control; and drinking water supply.

- ♦ There are concrete gravity dams (e.g., Bhakra Dam), earthen dams (e.g., Banasura Sagar Dam), rock-fill dams, and arch dams (rare in India), based on topography, geology, and hydrological needs.

### Legal and Institutional Framework

- ♦ **Dam Safety Act, 2021:** Enacted to ensure surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of dams. It mandates:
- ♦ **National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA):** It coordinates dam safety efforts across states.
- ♦ **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP):** It was launched by the CWC with World Bank support. It focuses on rehabilitation of aging dams; improved safety monitoring; and capacity building for dam operators and engineers;

## 17. LEAPS 2025

**Syllabus: GS3/Infrastructure**

### Context

- ♦ Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, launched the Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield (LEAPS) 2025.

### LEAPS 2025

- ♦ **Launched by** - It is a flagship initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ♦ **Purpose:** To benchmark and recognize excellence in the logistics sector, promoting efficiency, sustainability, innovation, and technology adoption.
- ♦ **Alignment:** Supports National Logistics Policy (2022), PM GatiShakti, and initiatives like Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

### Objectives:

- ♦ Promote best practices in logistics operations.
- ♦ Encourage ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) compliance and green logistics.
- ♦ Foster collaboration between government, industry, and academia.

## 18. We Rise Initiatives

### Syllabus: GS2/ Women Empowerment

#### In News

- ◆ 'We Rise (Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises) initiative was launched recently.

#### We Rise Initiatives

- ◆ **Objective**-to empower women entrepreneurs to expand globally through trade facilitation, mentorship, and strategic partnerships.
- ◆ **Launched by** - by NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) under its Award to Reward (ATR) initiative

#### Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)

- ◆ Launched in NITI Aayog in 2018
- ◆ It serves as a national aggregator to strengthen India's women entrepreneurship

#### Award to Reward (ATR) initiative

- ◆ It was launched in 2023
- ◆ **Objective** - to institutionalize WEP's partnership framework by bringing together ecosystem stakeholders to address specific needs of women entrepreneurs while celebrating their success stories.

## 19. SC Forms Panel on Transgender Persons

### Syllabus: GS1/Social Issues

#### In News

- ◆ The Supreme Court set up a committee under former Justice Asha Menon to formulate an equal opportunity policy for transgender individuals.

#### Challenges Transgender Facing

1. Institutional gaps in implementing the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and Rules.**
2. **Lack of data and representation in policymaking.**
3. **Healthcare discrimination.**
4. **Workplace barriers.**

## 5. Social stigma.

### Steps Taken To Improve the Lives of Transgender Persons

- ◆ **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** - It is aimed at protecting the rights of transgender individuals and their welfare. The act prohibits discrimination against transgender people in areas like education, employment, healthcare, and public services.
- ◆ **NALSA (2014):** Recognized transgender persons as a third gender.
- ◆ **National Portal for Transgender Persons:** Enables online applications for identity certificates.
- ◆ **SMILE scheme:** It is aimed at rehabilitation and support for transgender persons, including livelihood and social security components.

## 20. Online National Drugs Licensing System

### Syllabus: GS2/ Health, GS3/ Governance

#### Context

- ◆ **The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has directed digital monitoring on the **Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLs)** for tracking the supply chain of high-risk solvents.

#### Online National Drugs Licensing System

- ◆ It is a **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** in India for processing drug- and cosmetic-related applications for manufacturing and sales licences, and various certificates.
- ◆ It is developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)** in coordination with the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).**

#### Additional Information - Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)

- ◆ **Established under** - It is the Central Drug Authority and is responsible for carrying out duties entrusted by the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**
- ◆ **Responsibilities:**
  - ◆ Adoption of drugs.
  - ◆ clinical trials, please.
  - ◆ establishing the criteria for drugs.

- ♦ control over the country's imported drugs' quality.
- ♦ Coordination of state drug control organizations' efforts.

#### Other Drug Regulatory Bodies in India

- ♦ **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI):** It is in charge of approving licenses for specific kinds of medications. He or she also serves as the **head of the CDSCO department of the Indian government.**
- ♦ **Drug Price Control Order (DPCO):** To keep certain necessary medications in India accessible for the general people, the DPCO controls their prices.
- ♦ **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:** This act regulates domestic drug use.

## 21. MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards

### Syllabus: Miscellaneous

#### Context

- ♦ President Droupadi Murmu presented the MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2022–23 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

#### MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards

- ♦ **Instituted by** - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- ♦ **Aim** - These awards are conferred annually to acknowledge outstanding voluntary community service.

#### National Service Scheme (NSS)

- ♦ **Launched in** - 1969 during the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi,
- ♦ It is one of the **flagship youth programmes** of the Government of India.
- ♦ It aims to **foster the personality and character development of students through voluntary community service**, inspired by the Gandhian ideals of selfless service.
- ♦ **The motto of NSS** – “Not Me, But You” (स्वयं से पहले आप) – reflects its core philosophy of prioritising community welfare above individual interest.

## ECONOMY

### 1. India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership

#### Syllabus GS3/Economy

#### In News

- ♦ India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) came into effect.

#### European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership

- ♦ It is the **intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.**
- ♦ It was **set up in 1960** by its then seven Member States for the promotion of **free trade and economic integration** between its members.

#### The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

- ♦ It is a modern and ambitious agreement signed by India with a commitment linked to investment and job creation.
- ♦ The agreement was signed in March 2024 at New Delhi.

### 2. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) incentive scheme

#### Syllabus: GS3/Economy

#### Context

- ♦ The Government has extended the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) incentive scheme for exporters until March 31, 2026.

#### RoDTEP incentive scheme

- ♦ **Launched in** - 2021.
- ♦ It replaced the older **Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)**, which was not compliant with World Trade Organization (WTO) norms.
- ♦ **Objective** - It is an **incentive scheme** by the Indian government to **refund various**

embedded central, state, and local duties and taxes that were previously not reimbursed for exporters.

- ◆ **Significance** - By neutralizing these costs, the scheme aims to make Indian products more competitive in the global market.
- ◆ **Implementation** - Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

### 3. Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)

**Syllabus :GS3/Economy**

#### In News

- ◆ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) to oversee the country's payment systems.

#### Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)

- ◆ It replaces the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS), a committee of the RBI's Central Board.
- ◆ **Legal status** - The new board derives its authority from the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- ◆ It will be supported by the RBI's Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS), which will report directly to it.

#### Composition( total members)

- ◆ **Chaired by** - RBI Governor
- ◆ **Two other RBI officials** - the Deputy Governor and Executive Director for Payment Systems
- ◆ **Three Central Government nominees.**
- ◆ **Note** - Decisions will be made by majority vote, with the chairperson (or deputy governor in absence) holding a casting vote in case of a tie.
- ◆ The Board must meet at least twice annually.

#### Functions

- ◆ The Board is responsible for the regulation and supervision of all payment systems including electronic and non-electronic, domestic and cross-border systems.

### 4. Hike in Wheat MSP

**Syllabus: GS3/ Agriculture**

#### Context

- ◆ The Union Cabinet, approved a 6.59% increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat to Rs 2,585 per quintal for 2026-27 marketing year.

#### Minimum Support Prices (MSP)

- ◆ **Definition** - It is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- ◆ **Announcement and Recommendation** - The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces the MSP at the start of each sowing season, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- ◆ **Significance** - MSP protects the producer-farmers against distress sale during bumper production years.

#### Crops Covered

- ◆ The Centre announces the MSP (which is not legally guaranteed) for 22 mandated crops and Fair & Remunerative Price for sugarcane.

#### These include

- ◆ **14 kharif crops** - paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, tur/arhar, moong, urad, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, niger seed, cotton,
- ◆ **6 rabi crops** - wheat, barley, gram, masur/lentil, rapeseed and mustard, and safflower
- ◆ **2 commercial crops** - Jute and Copra

#### Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane

- ◆ **Recommended by** - Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- ◆ **Objective** - to assure margins on account of profit and risk to farmers, irrespective of the fact whether sugar mills generate profit or not.

#### Wheat Production in India

- ◆ **Area:** In 2023-24, the area under wheat stood at 318.33 lakh hectares, while the production is estimated at 113.92 million tonnes.
- ◆ In India wheat is the second largest crop after paddy in terms of area coverage.
- ◆ **Major producing states** - Uttar

Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

- ◆ Major Export Destinations (2023-24): Nepal, Iraq, South Korea, UAE and Mongolia.

## Top Producing Countries

| Market                         | % of Global Production | Total Production (2024/2025, Metric Tons) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">China</a>          | 18%                    | 140.1 Million                             |
| <a href="#">European Union</a> | 15%                    | 121.3 Million                             |
| <a href="#">India</a>          | 14%                    | 113.29 Million                            |
| <a href="#">Russia</a>         | 10%                    | 81.5 Million                              |
| <a href="#">United States</a>  | 7%                     | 53.65 Million                             |

### Condition for Wheat Cultivation

- ◆ **Climate:** Temperature: Requires 10-15°C during sowing (germination) and 21-26°C during ripening and harvesting.
- ◆ **Rainfall:** Optimal rainfall is 50-100 cm. Excess rainfall can damage the crop.
- ◆ **Soil Type:** Grows best in well-drained loamy and clayey soil.

## 5. India Emerges as the Fastest-Growing Dairy Producer Worldwide

**Syllabus: GS3/ Agriculture**

### Context

- ◆ **India's dairy sector has expanded by 70% in the past 11 years**, with milk production rising from 146 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 239 million tonnes in 2023-24.

### Dairy Sector of India

- ◆ **Global Leadership:** India is the world's largest milk producer, contributing 24.76% of global milk output.
- ◆ **Economic Contribution:** Dairy is India's single largest agricultural commodity, contributing 5% to GDP and employing over 8 crore farmers.
- ◆ **Per Capita Availability:** Rose to 471 g/day in 2023-24, substantially above the world average of 322 g/day.
- ◆ Top Producing states: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.

### Key Enablers of India's Dairy Success

- ◆ **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** - It was established in 1965 at Anand to replicate the Amul cooperative model across India.
- ◆ **Operation Flood (1970)** - It transformed India into the world's largest milk producer by creating a nationwide cooperative structure for procurement and distribution.

## 6. Aspirational Agriculture Districts

**Syllabus: GS3/Economy**

### In News

- ◆ The Centre announced 100 Aspirational Agriculture Districts to be developed under the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) across 29 states and UTs.
- ◆ Uttar Pradesh leads with 12 districts, followed by Maharashtra (9), Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (8 each) and Bihar (7).

### Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

- ◆ **Launched in - 2025.** The scheme will be launched in partnership with states.

### Key Focus Areas:

- ◆ Enhancing agricultural productivity.
- ◆ Promoting crop diversification and sustainable practices.
- ◆ Expanding post-harvest storage at Panchayat and Block levels.
- ◆ Improving irrigation facilities.
- ◆ Facilitating long-term and short-term credit access.

### Building Rural Prosperity and Resilience Program

- ◆ **Purpose:** launched in partnership with states to address under-employment in agriculture.
- ◆ **Key Focus Areas:** Skilling, investment, and technology to invigorate rural economy. Modernizing agriculture with improved productivity and warehousing.
- ◆ **Target Beneficiaries:** Rural women, young farmers, marginal & small farmers and landless families.

### Additional Information - Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

- ◆ **Launched in - 2018**
- ◆ **Objective** - It aims to rapidly and effectively transform 112 of the country's most socio-economically underdeveloped districts.
- ◆ **Implementation** - NITI Aayog

## 7. Securities Transaction Tax

**Syllabus: GS3/Economy**

### In News

- ◆ The Supreme Court of India decided to examine a plea challenging the constitutional validity of the Securities Transaction Tax (STT).

### Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

- ◆ It is a direct tax levied on the transaction value of securities traded on the Indian stock exchange under the Finance Act, 2004.
- ◆ It aims to combat tax evasion in the stock market.
- ◆ It includes – derivatives, shares, and equity-oriented mutual funds.
- ◆ It is applied on the buying and selling of securities irrespective of the profit or loss made in the transaction.

## 8. VLGC Shivalik

**Syllabus: GS3/Economy**



### Context

- ◆ The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) received India's third Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC), Shivalik,

### Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC), Shivalik

- ◆ It is built in South Korea and named after the

Himalayan range.

- ◆ It is an 82,000 cubic metre LPG carrier equipped with advanced safety, temperature control, and operational systems.
- ◆ The vessel joins the Shipping Corporation of India Limited's (SCI) two existing VLGCs — Sahyadri and Anandamayi.
- ◆ **Significance** - The arrival of Shivalik symbolizes India's march toward maritime self-reliance.

## 9. Biometric, Wearable Glass Authentication for UPI Payments

**Syllabus: GS3/Economy**



### Context

- ◆ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the Reserve Bank of India launched biometric and wearable glass recognition-based authentication for UPI transactions at the Global Fintech Fest 2025.

### About

- ◆ **Face & Biometric Authentication:** Users can authenticate UPI payments using face recognition or biometrics stored in Aadhaar.
- ◆ Authentication occurs entirely on the user's device, ensuring data privacy and security.

### Hands-Free Payments via Smart Glasses:

- ◆ **Wearable smart glasses** enable small-value transactions using voice commands.
- ◆ Users can scan a QR code and complete payments without using a phone, PIN, or touch.

- ♦ **Multi-Signatory UPI Accounts:** Allows joint account holders to authorize payments collectively.
- ♦ Enhances convenience, transparency, and control for family or business accounts.

#### Additional Information - National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- ♦ **Established in** - It serves as an umbrella body for the operation of retail payments in India.
- ♦ **Established by** - Reserve Bank of India along with the Indian Bank's Association.
- ♦ **Established under** - It was set up under the provisions of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

#### Products of NPCI

1. RuPay
2. National Common Mobility Card
3. Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)
4. Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
5. Bharat Bill Payment System

### 10. Central, State co-op Banks Brought under Ambit of RBI's Ombudsman scheme

#### Syllabus: GS3/Economy

##### Context

- ♦ State co-operative banks and central co-operative banks will come under the ambit of the Reserve Bank Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021.

#### Reserve Bank Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS)

- ♦ It was **launched in 2021**,
- ♦ **Objective**- to provide customers a **speedy, cost-effective, and expeditious grievance redress mechanism**.
- ♦ **Coverage:** All **commercial banks, regional rural banks (RRBs), state co-operative banks, central co-operative banks**, and scheduled/non-scheduled primary (**urban**) **co-operative banks** with a **deposit size of ₹50 crore** or more.
- ♦ All **Non-Banking Financial Companies** (excluding housing finance companies) with **asset size of ₹100 crore** or more that accept deposits or have a customer interface.

##### Significance:

- ♦ **Strengthens consumer protection in the financial sector.**
- ♦ **Enhances trust and accountability** in banks and NBFCs

### 11. Himachal natural farming

#### Syllabus:GS3/Economy

##### In News

- ♦ Farmers in Himachal Pradesh are increasingly adopting natural farming, supported by the **State's flagship Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y)**, which promotes **chemical-free agriculture**.

##### Natural Farming

- ♦ It is a **chemical free farming, involving livestock** (preferably local breed of cow) integrated natural farming methods and **diversified crop systems** rooted in the **Indian traditional knowledge**.
- ♦ It is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on **biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations;** maintaining soil aeration and **exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs**.

#### Additional Information- National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

- ♦ Launched in - **November 2024**
- ♦ It is a **centrally sponsored Scheme**
- ♦ Objective - to promote **chemical-free, ecosystem-based natural farming** rooted in traditional knowledge.

### 12. Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission

#### Syllabus: GS3/ Agriculture

##### Context

- ♦ PM Modi launched two new agriculture schemes, the **PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)** and the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses**, at a special Krishi programme in New Delhi.

**Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana**

- ◆ **Launched in - 2025.** The scheme will be launched in partnership with states.

**Key Focus Areas:**

- ◆ Enhancing agricultural productivity.
- ◆ Promoting crop diversification and sustainable practices.
- ◆ Expanding post-harvest storage at Panchayat and Block levels.
- ◆ Improving irrigation facilities.
- ◆ Facilitating long-term and short-term credit access.

**Building Rural Prosperity and Resilience Program**

- ◆ **Purpose:** launched in partnership with states to address under-employment in agriculture.
- ◆ **Key Focus Areas:** Skilling, investment, and technology to invigorate rural economy. Modernizing agriculture with improved productivity and warehousing.
- ◆ **Target Beneficiaries:** Rural women, young farmers, marginal & small farmers and landless families.

**Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses**

- ◆ The Mission was launched for 2025–26 to 2030–31 with a budgetary allocation of ₹11,440 crore.
- ◆ **Objective -** It aims to make India self-sufficient in pulses production, reducing dependence on imports in light of rising domestic demand.
- ◆ It aims to ensure 100 percent procurement of Tur, Urad, and Masoor at MSP for four years.

**Additional Information- Pulses Production and Consumption in India**

- ◆ **Global Leader:** India is the largest global producer (25%), consumer (27%), & importer (14%) of pulses.
- ◆ **Seasonal Production:** Pulses are grown in Kharif and Rabi seasons

Season-wise Major Pulses Crops

| Season | Pulses                                    |
|--------|---|
| Kharif | Arhar, Urd, Moong, Lobia, Kulthi and Moth |
| Rabi   | Gram, Lentil, Pea, Lathyrus and Rajma     |
| Spring | Urd, Moong, Lobia                         |

- ◆ **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan** are the top three pulses producing states in the country.

**Government Initiatives for Achieving Self-Sufficiency in Pulse Production**

- ◆ **National Food Security Mission (NFSM-Pulses):** Boosts area, production, and productivity through HYV seeds, improved agronomy, and demonstrations.
- ◆ **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Pulses:** Regularly revised MSPs (E.g., Tur ₹7000/qtl in 2023-24) ensure price security and encourage pulse cultivation.
- ◆ **Seed Hub Program by ICAR-IIPR:** Expands availability of certified, short-duration, and high-yielding pulse seeds at the grassroots level.
- ◆ **PM-AASHA Scheme:** Ensures MSP realisation via Price Deficiency Payment (PDP) and targeted procurement by private and public agencies.
- ◆ **Climate-Resilient Varieties Development (ICAR):** Develops varieties resistant to drought, pests, and diseases suited to changing climates.
- ◆ **e-NAM Integration for Pulses:** Enhances market access, reduces middlemen, and enables transparent price discovery through online pulse trading.

**13. State Mining Readiness Index**

**Syllabus: GS3/ Economy**

**Context**

- ◆ The Ministry of Mines has released the State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) and corresponding State rankings.

**State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI)**

- ◆ **Mandate -** This index is designed to benchmark State performance in facilitating and reforming the mining sector.
- ◆ The index aims to promote transparency, efficiency, and sustainable mining by encouraging competition among States.
- ◆ **Indicators-**
  1. Auction performance,
  2. Early mine operationalization,
  3. Thrust on exploration
  4. Sustainable mining pertaining
  5. Non-coal minerals.

**Categorisation of States**

- ◆ **States have been divided into three categories**

based on their mineral endowment;

- ◆ The top three ranked States in **Category A (Mineral-rich States): Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.**
- ◆ The top three ranked States in **Category B (Moderately endowed States): Uttar Pradesh, and Assam.**
- ◆ The top three ranked States in **Category C (Lesser-endowed States): Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Tripura.**

## 14. The 'Critical Factor' in India's Clean Energy Ambitions

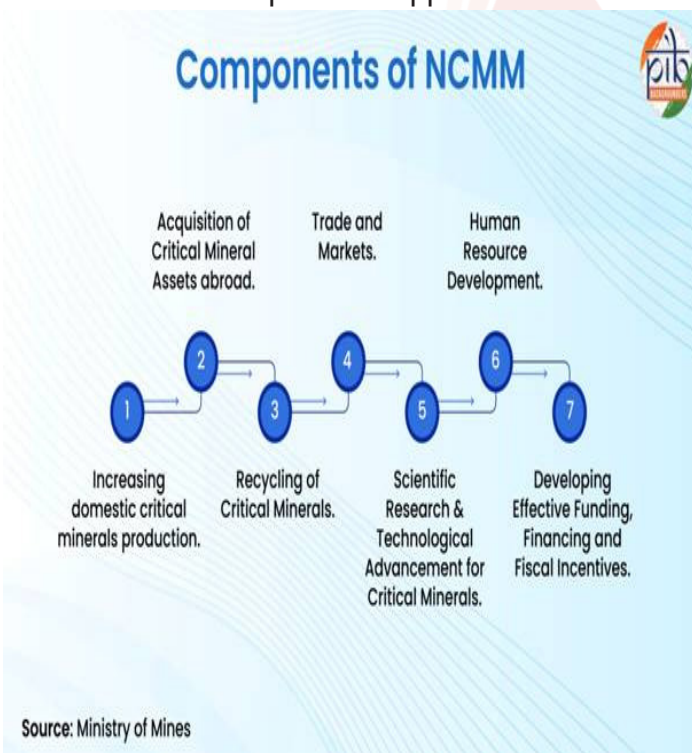
**Syllabus: GS3/ Economy**

### Context

- ◆ As India targets 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070, securing access to critical minerals has become a national priority.

### Critical Minerals

- ◆ These are minerals that are **essential for economic development and national security.**
- ◆ The lack of availability of these minerals could potentially lead to "supply chain vulnerabilities and even disruption of supplies".



### List of Critical Minerals

- ◆ A total of 30 minerals were found to be most

**critical for India :** Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, Rare Earth Elements (REEs), Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

### India's Policy Push for Mineral Exploration

- ◆ **Domestic Reserves:** India has vast untapped mineral potential, with **lithium in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Rajasthan**, and REEs in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- ◆ **Policy Initiatives:** **National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016 and Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2021** have accelerated exploration through private participation and advanced surveys.
- ◆ **KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd)** is acquiring overseas mineral assets to ensure supply security.
- ◆ **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** - It aims to strengthen the value chain from exploration to recovery.

## 15. SAIME model (Aquaculture model) of Sundarbans wins FAO recognition

**Syllabus: GS3/Environment/Economy**

### In News

- ☒ **The Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) model** received Global Technical Recognition from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

### Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) model

- ◆ **Developed by - Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS)** in West Bengal's Sundarbans.
- ◆ **Objective - It is a community-based initiative that integrates sustainable aquaculture practices with mangrove conservation and restoration**
- ◆ **Significance - It enhances coastal resilience, supports sustainable livelihoods, promotes chemical-free shrimp farming, and aids carbon sequestration and climate action.**

Sundarbans in West Bengal

## Geographical location

- ♦ It is a vast contiguous mangrove forest ecosystem present in the **coastal region of Bay of Bengal**
- ♦ It spread over **India and Bangladesh** on the **Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna delta**.

## Conservation efforts

- ♦ **UNESCO World Heritage site** - Sundarbans National Park was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987.
- ♦ **Biosphere Reserve** - Sunderbans was designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2001.
- ♦ **Wetland of International Importance** - Sundarban Wetland, India was recognised as the 'Wetland of International Importance' under the **Ramsar Convention in January 2019**.
- ♦ **Flora and Fauna** - Sunderban National Park is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species and is **home to the Royal Bengal tiger, Gangetic dolphins and Estuarine crocodile**

## 16. UDAN Scheme

**Syllabus: GS3/Infrastructure**

### Context

- ♦ Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme has completed 9 Years.

### UDAN Scheme

- ♦ It is a regional connectivity scheme **launched in 2016**.
- ♦ The first UDAN flight operated between Shimla and Delhi in 2017.
- ♦ **Ministry: Ministry of Civil Aviation.**
- ♦ **Aim:** To make **air travel affordable and accessible to the common citizen** by connecting Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to major hubs.

### Implementation:

- ♦ **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** Financial support to airlines to ensure affordable fares.
- ♦ Airfare Cap to ensure affordability.

## 17. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)

**Syllabus: GS2/Governance/GS3/Poverty**

### Context

- ♦ The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, is one of the world's largest poverty alleviation programmes.

### Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

- ♦ **Launch:** It was launched in **2010** by restructuring the earlier **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)**, the initiative was renamed in **2016** as **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- ♦ **Financing** - It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ♦ **Aim** - to reduce rural poverty through self-employment and skilled wage employment.
- ♦ **Women Centric Model:** The mission promotes economic independence by **linking women to credit, markets, and technology** through SHGs and federations.

## 18. Cassava/Tapioca crops

**Syllabus: GS3/Agriculture**

### Context

- ♦ A tiny parasitic wasp, *Anagyrus lopezi*, has been successfully used for biological control of the invasive cassava mealybug in tapioca plantations.

### Cassava (Also called 'Bread of the Tropics')

- ♦ **Known as** - 'Yuca' or 'Manioc'.
- ♦ It is a **root vegetable grown through stem cuttings**.
- ♦ It is a tall semi-woody perennial shrub or tree **native to South America** and was **introduced in Africa & Asia by Portuguese sailors**.
- ♦ **Nigeria is the world's largest producer of Cassava**.
- ♦ It has numerous health benefits as it is **rich in energy & vitamins**.
- ♦ **Significance** - Under India's **National Policy on Biofuels (2018)**, cassava is recognized as a raw

material for ethanol production, enhancing its significance beyond food security.

## 19. Makhananomics

### Syllabus: GS3/Economy

#### In News

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the newly launched National Makhana Board as a transformative “revolution” for the sector.

#### Makhana (*Euryale ferox*)

- ◆ It is a **flowering plant classified in the water lily family** (Nymphaeaceae).
- ◆ **Climatic condition:** Requires a **temperature range of 20-35°C**, and annual **rainfall between 100- 250 cm**.
- ◆ It is a **fully organic non-cereal food** found principally in India but also in Korea, Japan, as well as parts of eastern Russia.
- ◆ **Bihar accounts for ~90% of India’s makhana production.**
- ◆ **GI Tag:** In 2022, ‘Mithila Makhana’ was conferred a GI tag.

## HEALTH AND SOCIETY

### 1. WHO Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Use

#### Syllabus: GS2/ Health

#### In News

- ◆ The WHO Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Use 2000–2024 and projections 2025–2030 has been released.

#### Key Highlights

##### Global Trends: ECONOMY

- ◆ **Decline in Use:** Global adult tobacco use dropped from 26.2% (2010) to 19.5% (2024).
- ◆ **Still Prevalent:** Despite progress, **1 in 5 adults globally still consumes tobacco.**
- ◆ **E-Cigarettes Rise:** Over **100 million people worldwide now use e-cigarettes**, posing new regulatory and health challenges.

#### India’s Progress & Status:

- ◆ **Tobacco Users (2024):** Around **243.48 million Indians aged 15+ use tobacco.**
- ◆ **Global Standing:** India is the **2nd largest producer (after China) and 2nd largest exporter (after Brazil).**

#### Initiatives taken by India to Control Tobacco Consumption

- ◆ **Cigarettes Act, 1975** - The act mandated the display of statutory **health warnings in advertising and cigarette packages.**
- ◆ **Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003** - The act replaced the Cigarettes Act of 1975. It aims to **provide smoke-free public places and also place restrictions on tobacco advertising and promotion.**
- ◆ **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill, 2019** - To prohibit the Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement of e-Cigarettes.
- ◆ **National Health Policy 2017** - It has set an ambitious target of **reducing tobacco use by 30% by 2025.**
- ◆ **Tobacco Quit line service - 1800-112-356** - It was initiated in 2016 to reach a large number of tobacco users. It **aims to provide telephone-based information, advice and support for tobacco cessation.**
- ◆ **National Tobacco Control Programme (launched in 2007-08):** Aims to create awareness about harmful effects, **aligned with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).**
- ◆ **Tobacco-Free Film Rules (2024):** Enforced new standards for tobacco depiction in films and TV.
- ◆ **Yellow Line Campaign:** Introduced **visible indicators (yellow lines) around schools to reinforce bans on tobacco sales** within 100 yards.
- ◆ **Taxation and Price Interventions: Incremental increases in excise and GST duties,** though experts recommend further hikes to maximize impact.

#### About Tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*)

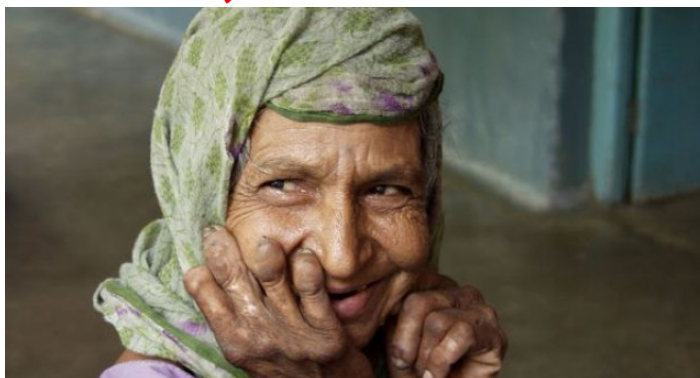
- ◆ **Cultivation** - It is an annual herbaceous plant **native to tropical and subtropical regions of South America** and widely cultivated worldwide.
- ◆ **Climatic conditions** - It requires a **frost-free period of 90–120 days**, with **optimal temperatures of 20°C–30°C and at least 500**

mm of rainfall;

- ♦ **Soil** - It prefers **well-drained sandy loam or alluvial soils**.
- ♦ **Nicotine content** - Every part of the plant (except the seed) contains nicotine (2–8% nicotine), concentrated mostly in the **leaves (about 64% of total plant nicotine content)**.

## 2. Leprosy in India

**Syllabus: GS2/ Health**



### Context

- ♦ India's leprosy prevalence rate has fallen from 57.2 per 10,000 population in 1981 to just 0.57 in 2025.

### Leprosy

- ♦ Leprosy, also known as **Hansen's disease**.
- ♦ It is a **chronic neuromuscular disorder**. It is caused by several strains of **Mycobacterium leprae**.
- ♦ Leprosy can be cured with Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT).

### National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)

- ♦ It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the National Health Mission (NHM).
- ♦ **Objective** - It aims at **eliminating leprosy in each of the districts by 2030**.
- ♦ **NIKUSTH**- A real-time leprosy reporting software implemented across India..

## 3. Supreme Court on Retrospective Application of Surrogacy Act

**Syllabus: GS2/ Health**

### In News

- ♦ In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court ruled that the age restrictions under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, cannot be applied retrospectively to couples who had frozen embryos and initiated the surrogacy process before the Act came into force.

### Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021

- ♦ **Definition of Surrogacy** - The Act defines surrogacy as a practice where a **woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand it over to them after the birth**.
- ♦ It is permitted **only for altruistic purposes** or for couples who suffer proven infertility or disease.
- ♦ Surrogacy is **prohibited for commercial purposes** including for sale, prostitution or any other forms of exploitation.
- ♦ **Abortion: Abortion of such a fetus is allowed only with the consent of the surrogate mother and the authorities and must adhere to the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.**
- ♦ **Eligibility and Conditions for Couples:** A couple should procure certificates of eligibility and essentiality in order to have a child via surrogacy.
  - ♦ The couple is deemed 'eligible' if they have been **married for five years, the wife is aged between 23-50 years and the husband is between 26-55 years**.
  - ♦ The couple must **not have any living child** (biological, adopted or surrogate.)
  - ♦ **A child with mental or physical disabilities, or one suffering from a life-threatening disorder has been exempted from the above criterion.**
  - ♦ The couple can get an '**essential**' certificate if suffering from proven infertility of either partner certified by a District Medical Board.
  - ♦ **They must also have insurance coverage for 16 months for the surrogate mother, covering any postpartum complications.**
- ♦ **Eligibility to be a surrogate** - A surrogate mother has to be a **close relative of the couple, a married woman with a child of her own, aged between 25-35 years, who has been a surrogate only once in her life**.
- ♦ She must also possess a certificate of **medical**

and psychological fitness for surrogacy.

- ♦ **Regulation:** The Centre and State governments will constitute a **National Surrogacy Board (NSB) and State Surrogacy Boards (SSB) respectively.**
- ♦ **Offences:** Offences under the Act include **commercial surrogacy, selling of embryos, exploiting, abandoning a surrogate child etc.**
- ♦ These may invite up to **10 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs. 10 lakh.**
- ♦ **Importance :** The Act expands access to reproductive options for individuals and couples who are unable to conceive or carry a pregnancy due to medical reasons.

## 4. World Mental Health Day

**Syllabus: GS2/Health**

### Context

- ♦ On October 10, every year, World Mental Health Day highlights the extent of mental illness in the world.
- ♦ Global Mental Health Issue (as per WHO): More than a billion people are living with mental health disorders.

### World Mental Health Day

- ♦ **Most Common Mental Health Disorders:** **Anxiety and depressive disorders** together accounted for more than **two-thirds of all mental health conditions** in 2021.
- ♦ **Mental Health in India:** India has a **13.7% lifetime prevalence of mental disorders** in the country.
- ♦ **According to the latest NCRB data, 1,71,418 suicides were reported in India in 2023, a 0.3% increase from 2022, with Maharashtra recording the highest number.**
- ♦ Even more alarming, **student suicides reached 13,892, a 64.9% rise over the past decade.**

### Rise in Mental Health Issues Among Youth

- ♦ **Excessive internet & social media use:** Leads to **anxiety, sleep disorders, and attention issues.**
- ♦ **Lack of family engagement:** **Weak social support systems** negatively impact emotional well-being.
- ♦ **Hostile workplaces & long working hours:**

Cause **burnout, stress, and reduced productivity.**

- ♦ **Unhealthy lifestyle choices:** **Ultra-processed foods and lack of physical activity** worsen mental and physical health.

### Understanding Mental Wellbeing

The India's **National Mental Health Survey** defines **mental well-being** as a **multidimensional concept** that includes:

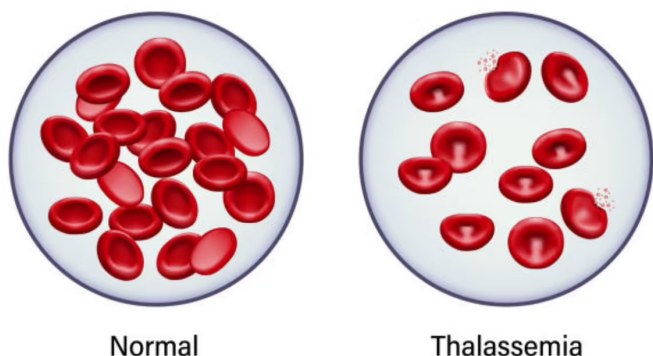
1. **Emotional health:** **Managing stress and emotions effectively.**
2. **Social health:** **Building healthy relationships and a supportive community.**
3. **Cognitive health:** **Enhancing focus, decision-making, and problem-solving abilities.**
4. **Physical health:** **Maintaining overall fitness through a healthy lifestyle.**

### Key Initiatives by the Government of India

- ♦ **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017:** The act **decriminalised suicide attempts in India** and also included **WHO guidelines** in the categorisation of mental illnesses.
- ♦ The most significant provision in the act was "advance directives", which **allowed individuals with mental illnesses to decide the course of their treatment.**
- ♦ It also **restricted the use of electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) and banned its use on minors,** finally introducing measures to tackle stigma in Indian society.
- ♦ **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017:** The Act acknowledges **mental illness as a disability** and seeks to enhance the **Rights and Entitlements of the Disabled.**
- ♦ In **Sukdeb Saha vs State of Andhra Pradesh,** the Supreme Court of India **reinforced mental health as a fundamental right under Article 21.**
- ♦ **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP):** Delivered in 767 districts, offering services like **suicide prevention, stress management, and counseling.**
- ♦ **National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP):** Launched in 2022 to provide access to mental health services through **53 Tele MANAS Cells across 36 states/UTs.**

## 5. Thalassemia

Syllabus: GS2/Health



Normal

Thalassemia

### News

- ◆ Thalassemia patients in Kerala are facing serious health risks due to a shortage of leukocyte filter sets and iron chelation drugs.

### Thalassemia

- ◆ Thalassemia is an **inherited blood disorder (passed from parents to children through genes)** where the **body cannot produce enough hemoglobin** (it is the protein in red blood cells (RBCs) that carries oxygen).
- ◆ **Symptoms - Anemia, weak bones, delayed or slow growth, Iron overload** (due to frequent transfusions), **poor appetite, enlarged spleen or liver, and pale skin.**
- ◆ **Note - India is known as the thalassemia capital of the world**, with over 1,00,000 patients dying before the age of 20 due to lack of access to treatment.
- ◆ In India, **thalassemia, along with two other blood disorders (Hemophilia and Sickle Cell disease) are recognised under Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016.**
- ◆ Every year, **World Thalassemia Day is observed on May 8** to raise awareness among the public and policymakers.

### Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY)

- ◆ **Launched by - Union Health Ministry, in**

partnership with Coal India Limited

- ◆ **Objective - to Rs. 10 lakh financial aid to eligible patients for bone marrow transplants (BMT) at 17 empanelled hospitals nationwide,**

## 6. Rotavirus Vaccine Effective Against Gastroenteritis in Children

Syllabus: GS2/ Health

### Context

- ◆ According to a recent study India's indigenous rotavirus vaccine, Rotavac, has significantly reduced rotavirus-related gastroenteritis cases among children since its introduction in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

### Rotavac

- ◆ **Introduction:** India introduced **Rotavac, an indigenous oral rotavirus vaccine**, in 2016 under the Universal Immunisation Programme, administered at **6, 10, and 14 weeks of age.**

### Rotavirus

- ◆ **Responsible pathogen - A highly contagious, double-stranded RNA virus from the Reoviridae family.**
- ◆ **Target population:** Primarily affects **infants and young children under the age of five.** Adults can also be infected, but symptoms are typically mild.
- ◆ **Symptoms:** **Fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, and severe, watery diarrhea.** The biggest concern is severe dehydration, which can be life-threatening if untreated.
- ◆ **Transmission:** Occurs primarily through the **fecal-oral route—by contact with contaminated hands, surfaces, or objects.** It can also spread through **contaminated food and water.**

# GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

## 1. Climate Change Spurs Growth in Amazon Rainforest Trees

**Syllabus: GS1/ Geography, GS3/ Environment**



### Context

- ◆ A recent study published in Nature Plants reveals that trees in the **Amazon rainforest are steadily increasing in size due to rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)**.

### Amazon Rain Forests

- ◆ **Location:** The region belongs to **nine nations of the South American continent**.
- ◆ **Surrounded by** - It is bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.
- ◆ **Area Covered:** The majority of the forest, **60%, is in Brazil, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and with minor amounts in Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela.**
- ◆ **Climate:** Hot and humid climate with temperatures of **26-30°C throughout the year**. There are no periodic seasons. The precipitation ranges from **2,000 mm to 10,920 mm annually**.
- ◆ **T r i b e s :** Yanomamo, Kayapo, Akuntsu, Matses, Tupi etc.
- ◆ **Fauna:** Anaconda, Jesus lizard, howler monkey,

golden lion tamarin, jaguar, sloth, spider monkey, Amazon River dolphin, toucan and the scarlet macaw, poison dart frog and the glass frog.

- ◆ **Flora:** Moist broadleaf tropical rainforest like myrtle, laurel, palm, acacia, rosewood, Brazil nut, rubber tree, mahogany and Amazonian cedar.

### Significance of the Rainforests

- ◆ **Lungs of the planet:** Rainforests **generate about 20% of the world's oxygen** and its trees play a key role in reducing pollutant levels.
- ◆ **Fight climate change:** They act as a crucial buffer in the global fight against climate change as it holds **tremendous capacity to store carbon**.
- ◆ **Medicinal Properties:** Many of these plants contain bioactive compounds capable of treating diseases that are not yet curable, especially cancer.

### Threat to the forests

- ◆ **Climate Change:** Due to climate change the forests are witnessing various challenges like changes in rainfall patterns, pollution etc.
- ◆ **Deforestation:** The size of the Amazon forest shrank dramatically as a result of settlers' clearance of the land to obtain lumber and to create grazing pastures and farmland.
- ◆ **Wildfires:** It causes threat to the survival of ecosystems and biodiversity. The 2019 forest fires in the region have led to widespread devastation in the region.

### Additional Information - Amazon River

- ◆ It is the **largest river by volume of water and second longest river after the Nile river of Africa** in the world.
- ◆ **Source:** River has its source in the **Peruvian Andes, at an elevation of 5,598 m**.
- ◆ **Length:** **6400 km**.
- ◆ **Basin:** The basin includes the greater part of Brazil and Peru, some parts of Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia and a small area of Venezuela.
- ◆ **Tributaries:** Japurá, Juruá, Madeira, Negro, Purus, and Xingu rivers.
- ◆ **Mouth:** Atlantic Ocean on the **northeastern coast of Brazil**.

## 2. India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay

**Syllabus :GS3/Species**



### **In News**

- ◆ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has officially recognized India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu, at the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress.

### **India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve**

- ◆ It was established in September 2022, by the Tamil Nadu government under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ◆ It covers 448.34 sq. km. in northern Palk Bay and is home to over 12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows, vital feeding grounds for dugongs (Dugong dugon)

### **Dugongs(Dugong dugon)**

- ◆ Dugongs are primarily herbivorous, grazing on 30 kg-40 kg of seagrass a day.
- ◆ They are known as "sea cows," and peacefully graze on seagrass in shallow coastal waters of the Indian and western Pacific Oceans.
- ◆ They are often referred to as the "farmers or gardeners of the sea" for their important role in preserving the coastal ecosystems and aiding fish production.
- ◆ **Geographic Range:** These gentle giants are found in warm waters along coastlines, mainly confined to seagrass beds which occur in calm sheltered habitats such as bays and lagoons.
- ◆ **Distribution** - They are found in the Gulf of Mannar, the Palk Bay, the Gulf of Kutch and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India.
- ◆ **Threats** - Their population was on the decline over the past several decades owing to a

variety of factors, including hunting for meat, commercial fishing practices leading to accidental drowning, and habitat degradation.

### **Protection status :**

- ◆ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List - Vulnerable
- ◆ Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 - Schedule I

## 3. Amazon's 'flying rivers'

**Syllabus: GS1/ Geography**



The forest acts like a pump relaying the water

### **In News**

- ◆ The Amazon rainforest plays a critical role in South America's water cycle through the phenomenon called "flying rivers".

### **Flying Rivers**

- ◆ "Flying rivers" are massive streams of water vapour carried in the atmosphere, invisible to the eye.

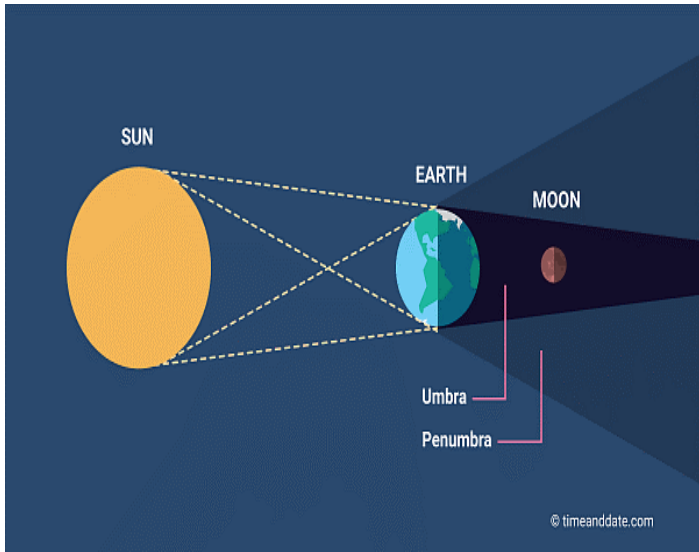
### **Flying Rivers**

**Process:**

- ◆ Moisture originates from the Atlantic Ocean.
- ◆ Trade winds push moist air westward across the equator.
- ◆ Amazon trees act as a "biological pump" – absorb water from soil → transpire it back into the air → release huge amounts of water vapour.
- ◆ This recycled water forms clouds and rainfall further inland, supplying regions as far as the Andes and southern South America.

## 4. Supermoon

**Syllabus: GS1/Geography**



### Context

- ◆ The Supermoon, also known as the Harvest Moon, was observed recently.

### Supermoon

- ◆ A supermoon occurs when a full moon or new moon coincides with the moon's closest approach to the earth in its elliptical orbit — a point known as the perigee.
- ◆ Because the moon's orbit is not a perfect circle, its distance from the earth varies throughout the month by around 50,000 km.
- ◆ When the moon is near its perigee and also directly opposite the sun, the full moon appears about 14% larger and 30% brighter than when it is at its farthest point. This is the supermoon.
- ◆ Culturally, supermoons have long captured human imagination, inspiring folklore and spiritual observances across civilisations.
- ◆ The term "supermoon" was first used by astrologer Richard Nolle in the 1970s and is now common in astronomy and the media.

## 5. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

**Syllabus: GS3/ Agriculture, GS3/ Environment**

### Context

- ◆ The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), launched in 2015 under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, has emerged as a flagship initiative to promote organic farming in India.

### Basics - Organic farming

- ◆ Organic farming is a **sustainable agriculture system that excludes synthetic inputs like chemical fertilizers and pesticides.**
- ◆ It relies on **natural resources like crop residues, farmyard manure, and compost to maintain soil health and manage pests and diseases.**

### Organic farming in India

- ◆ **India ranks at 4th place** in organic farming globally in terms of area.
- ◆ **Madhya Pradesh** has the **largest area under organic certification** followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka.
- ◆ **Sikkim is India's first fully organic state.**
- ◆ **India ranks first globally in terms of number of farmers practicing organic farming.**

### Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

- ◆ **It was launched in 2015 under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture**
- ◆ **Aim** - The schemes stress on **end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic farming** i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing and post-harvest management.
- ◆ **Objective** - to advance a scalable model of eco-agriculture that **integrates low-cost, chemical-free techniques.**
- ◆ **Significance** - to **enhance food safety, income generation, and environmental sustainability.**

## 6. Namchik Namphuk Coal Block

**Syllabus: GS3/ Environment**

### In News

- ◆ Arunachal Pradesh has launched its first commercial coal mining project at the Namchik-Namphuk coal block in Changlang district.

### Namchik-Namphuk Coal Block

- ◆ **Location: Changlang district, southeastern**

**Arunachal Pradesh**, part of the Upper Assam coal belt region.

- ◆ **Reserves:** Estimated **1.5 crore tonnes of coal**, enabling long-term production viability.
- ◆ **Economic Impact:** Expected to generate **₹100 crore annual revenue for the state**.
- ◆ **Environmental Features:** Operates under Mission Green Coal Regions, focusing on land reclamation, afforestation, and eco-responsible mining.
- ◆ **Social Impact:** Creation of local employment; reduction of illegal mining activities.
- ◆ **Strategic Alignment:** Supports the **PM EAST vision** - balanced Northeast development.

## 7. Falling Camel Counts

**Syllabus: GS3/Species in News**



### Context

- ◆ The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is planning to launch the National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI) — a national mission aimed at reversing the steady decline in India’s camel population.

### Key findings -

- ◆ India is witnessing a rapid and alarming decline in its camel population, especially in the traditionally camel-rearing states of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- ◆ According to the **20th Livestock Census, India’s camel population stood at 2.52 lakh in 2019, down from about 11 lakh in 1977 and 4 lakh in 2013.**
- ◆ Nearly **90% of these camels are concentrated in Rajasthan and Gujarat.**

## Camels in India - Dromedary Camel (Camelus dromedarius)

- ◆ **India mainly has one species of camel.** It is a **one-humped camel, adapted to desert conditions.**
- ◆ Chinkara and Camel are the two State Animals of Rajasthan.

### Economic & Cultural Importance:

- ◆ **Transport & Labor:** Traditionally used for carrying goods, plowing, and transport in desert regions.
- ◆ **Milk Production:** Camel milk is nutritious and in demand.
- ◆ **Tourism:** Camel safaris are popular in Rajasthan.
- ◆ **Cultural Festivals:** Camel fairs, especially the Bikaner Camel Festival, celebrate the animal.
- ◆ **Defense Use:** Camels are used by the Border Security Force (BSF) in desert patrols.

## 8. Invasive Alien Species

**Syllabus: GS3/Environment**

### In News

- ◆ Conservation scientists warn that invasive alien species are destroying local biodiversity and habitats in India.

### Invasive alien species

- ◆ **Definition:** They are **non-native organisms introduced accidentally or intentionally** (e.g., ornamental fish, decorative plants, or for land restoration).
- ◆ They often **spread rapidly, outcompeting native species, harming biodiversity** and damaging habitats.

### Common Examples in India

- ◆ **Lantana camara:** Invades forests, outcompetes native plants, and hinders regeneration.
- ◆ **Parthenium hysterophorus (Congress grass):** Spreads over farmland and causes allergic reactions.
- ◆ **Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth):** Chokes lakes and rivers, depleting oxygen and affecting

fisheries.

- ◆ **African Catfish (Clarias gariepinus):** Outcompetes native fish species, threatening aquatic biodiversity.

#### **Control and Management Measures**

- ◆ Stricter quarantine checks on imports, trade, and shipping.
- ◆ Ballast water management in ships to prevent marine invasions.
- ◆ Mechanical Control: Manual removal, cutting, dredging, or uprooting.
- ◆ Chemical Control: Use of herbicides or pesticides — applied cautiously to avoid ecological harm.

## 9. PM-KUSUM Programme

Syllabus: GS3/Environment

#### **In News**

- ◆ The Union government is planning to promote the PM-KUSUM in African and island nations through the International Solar Alliance.

#### **PM-KUSUM Scheme**

- ◆ **Launched in - 2019**
- ◆ **Implementation - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.**
- ◆ **Aim:** To provide financial support to farmers for installing solar-powered irrigation systems like solar pumps and grid-connected solar plants.
- ◆ **Significance-** To deliver affordable and reliable solar energy to the agricultural sector, reducing irrigation costs and cutting pollution caused by diesel use.
- ◆ **Target:** The scheme aims to add about **34,800 MW of solar capacity by March 2026.**

## 10. Atacama Desert

Syllabus: GS1/ Geography



#### **In News**

- ◆ A rare burst of winter rains has triggered in Chile's Atacama Desert

#### **Atacama Desert**

- ◆ **Location:** It is the driest desert in the world, located in northern Chile.
- ◆ It is nestled between the **Andes Mountains on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west.**
- ◆ It forms a **continuous strip for nearly 1,000 km** along the narrow coast of the northern third of Chile.
- ◆ **Bordered by:** It is bordered by **Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia**
- ◆ It also **hosts 12 volcanoes**, mainly located in the western outliers of the Andes.
- ◆ **Rainfall:** Average rainfall in this region is about **1 mm per year**. Some locations within the desert have never had any rainfall whatsoever.
- ◆ **Temperature:** Temperatures are comparatively mild throughout the year. The average temperature in the desert is about **63 degrees F (18 degrees C).**
- ◆ **Natural Resources:** This region has the largest natural supply of **Sodium Nitrate, which can be used for producing fertilizers and explosives**, amongst other things.
- ◆ **Chinchorro Mummies:** The **oldest artificially**

mummified human remains have been found in the Atacama Desert.

## 11. National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030

**Syllabus:GS3/Environment**

### In News

- ◆ India has officially launched its National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030 at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025.
- ◆ It marks a transformative step in species assessment and conservation planning.

### National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030

- ◆ **Mandate** - It envisions publishing **Red Data Books for both flora and fauna**, providing authoritative documentation of threatened species.
- ◆ It is developed by the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), IUCN India, and the Centre for Species Survival.**
- ◆ India aims to publish National Red Data Books for both flora and fauna by 2030.

### Key Features

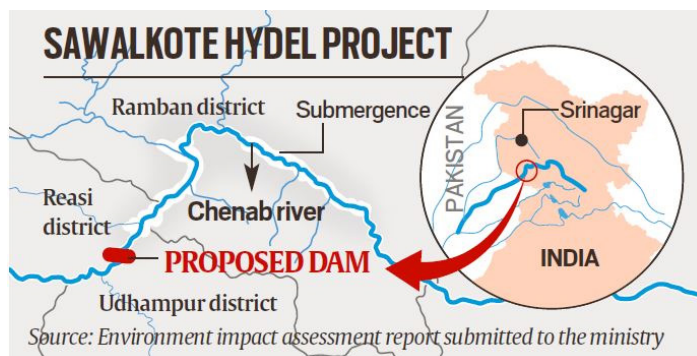
- ◆ It will assess nearly **11,000 species of plants and animals by 2030**, including terrestrial and marine biodiversity
- ◆ It adheres to **IUCN Red List protocols and supports India’s commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.**
- ◆ It includes a centralized digital platform for data collection, monitoring, and public access to conservation status.

### Relevance for India

- ◆ India, **one of the world’s 17 megadiverse countries**, is home to **four of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots**, the Himalayas, Western Ghats, Indo-Burma, and Sundaland.
- ◆ It occupies just **2.4% of the world’s land area** and it harbours nearly **8% of global flora and 7.5% of global fauna**, with over **28% of plants and 30% of animals being endemic.**

## 12. Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project

**Syllabus: GS1/Geography**



### In News

- ◆ Recently, an apex committee of the Environment Ministry has accorded a fresh environmental clearance to the Sawalkote hydroelectric project.

### Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project

- ◆ **Origin:** First proposed 1984,
- ◆ **Location** - It is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric initiative located on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ◆ **Developed by** - National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).
- ◆ **Energy capacity** - It is one of India’s largest hydroelectric projects in the Indus basin, with a proposed capacity of 1,856 MW.

### Additional Information - Chenab river



- ◆ **Origin:** The Chenab is formed at **Tandi in Himachal Pradesh** by the confluence of the **Chandra and Bhaga rivers.**
- ◆ **Source:** The **Chandra and Bhaga rivers** originate from the **Barelacha Pass in the Himalayas.**
- ◆ **Flow:** It flows through **Himachal Pradesh** and

the Jammu region of **Jammu and Kashmir, India, before entering Pakistan.**

- ♦ **Joining the Indus:** In Pakistan, it joins the **Sutlej River to form** the Panjnad, which then merges with the Indus River.

#### **Key facts for UPSC**

- ♦ **Other name:** It is also known as the **Chandrabhaga river.**
- ♦ **Historical name:** In ancient texts, it was called **Asikni.**
- ♦ **Indus Waters Treaty:** As a **transboundary river, it is governed by the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty. Pakistan is allocated the Chenab's waters,** but India is permitted to use the water for non-consumptive purposes like hydroelectric power generation.
- ♦ **Tributaries:** The **Marusudar is a major tributary of the Chenab.**

### 13. Three Major Ports Recognised as Green Hydrogen Hubs Under The National Green Hydrogen Mission

**Syllabus:GS3/Environment**

#### **In News**

- ♦ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has designated Deendayal, V.O. Chidambaranar, and Paradip ports as Green Hydrogen Hubs under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

#### **Green Hydrogen**

- ♦ **Green Hydrogen:** It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.
- ♦ **Benefit:** It is a clean burning element that can decarbonise a range of sectors including iron and steel, chemicals, and transportation.
- ♦ Hydrogen can be stored for long periods of time which can be used to produce electricity using fuel cells.

#### **National Green Hydrogen Mission**

- ♦ **Aim:** To make India a **global hub for the production of green hydrogen.**
- ♦ **Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE)

#### **Additional Information - Hydrogen**

- ♦ **Symbol and Atomic number** - Hydrogen is the chemical element with the **symbol H and atomic number 1.**
- ♦ Hydrogen is the **lightest element and the most abundant chemical substance in the universe,** constituting roughly 75% of all normal matter.
- ♦ It is **colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, and highly combustible gas.**

### 14. International Blue Flag Certification

**Syllabus: GS3/ Environment**

#### **In News**

- ♦ **Five beaches in Maharashtra have received the international Blue Flag certification.**
- ♦ The list includes **Shrivardhan and Nagaon beaches, Parnaka, and Guhagar and Ladghar beaches.**

#### **Blue Flag Certification**

- ♦ **Objective** - 'Blue Flag' is a certification that can be obtained by a **beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator,** and serves as an eco-label.
- ♦ **Awarded by** - The certification is awarded by the **Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education.**
- ♦ **Parameters** - The certification is accorded based on four major parameters:
  1. Environmental education and information
  2. Bathing water quality
  3. Safety and services at the beaches
  4. Environment management and conservation

#### **Indian Sites under Blue Flag**

- ♦ There are now a total of 10 sites under Blue Flag Certification.
  1. Shivrajpur – Gujarat
  2. Ghoghla – Diu
  3. Kasargod – Karnataka
  4. Padubidri – Karnataka
  5. Kappad – Kerala
  6. Rushikonda – Andhra Pradesh
  7. Golden – Odisha
  8. Radhanagar – Andaman and Nicobar
  9. Kovalam – TamilNadu
  10. Eden beach - Pondicherry.

11. Minicoy Thundi (Lakshadweep)
12. Kadmat (Lakshadweep).
13. Shrivardhan (Maharashtra)
14. Nagaon (Maharashtra)
15. Parnaka (Maharashtra)
16. Guhagar (Maharashtra)
17. Ladghar beaches (Maharashtra)

## 15. IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2025

### Syllabus: GS3/ Environment

#### News

- ◆ The IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4 revealed a worrying global environmental trend that climate change has emerged as the greatest threat to natural World Heritage sites.

#### Key Points

- ◆ The report finds that **43% of sites face severe climate threats**, while **invasive alien species affect 30%**, and **wildlife and plant diseases are rising sharply**, now impacting 9% of sites, up from just 2% in 2020.
- ◆ **Note - Khangchendzonga National Park is the only site rated “Good”** in conservation outlook.
- ◆ **Sundarbans National Park has deteriorated from “Good with Some Concerns” (2020) to “Significant Concern” (2025)** due to sea-level rise, salinity, and cyclones.
- ◆ **Manas National Park is in significant Concern category persists due to poaching and encroachment.**

#### Additional information - Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP)

- ◆ **World Heritage Site:** Declared a **UNESCO mixed World Heritage Site in 2016**, meaning it has both **natural and cultural significance**.
- ◆ It was also designated as part of the **World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2018**.
- ◆ **Location:** Situated in the **eastern Himalayas on the border of Sikkim state and eastern Nepal**.

#### Geography and ecosystem:

- ◆ Encompasses diverse landscapes from **plains and valleys to mountains, glaciers, and forests**.

- ◆ Home to the **world’s third-highest peak, Mt. Khangchendzonga**.
- ◆ It contains the **26 km long Zemu Glacier**.
- ◆ Recognized for the widest and most extensive zone of **krummholz (stunted forest)** in the Himalayan region.

#### Biodiversity:

- ◆ **Flora:** Includes a vast number of **medicinal plants, orchids, rhododendrons**, and a significant portion of India’s flowering plants.
- ◆ **Fauna:** A haven for a wide variety of species, including:
  - ◆ **Mammals:** **Snow leopard, red panda, Himalayan black bear, musk deer, golden cat, clouded leopard, and Tibetan wolf**.
  - ◆ **Birds:** Over 300 bird species, including the **blood pheasant (Sikkim’s state bird), Himalayan monal, and satyr tragopan**.
  - ◆ **Others:** **Reptiles, amphibians, and various insects**.

## 16. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

### Syllabus: GS3/Environment

#### Context

- ◆ A report on the performance of PM Surya Ghar Yojana has been jointly published by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and JMK Research & Analytics.

#### PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

- ◆ **Launched in - 2024**
- ◆ **Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- ◆ **Objective:** Installing rooftop solar (RTS) & providing free electricity for up to 300 monthly units for 1 Crore households.
- ◆ **Uniqueness -** It is the **world’s largest domestic rooftop solar initiative**, transforming India’s energy landscape
- ◆ **Subsidy:** The scheme offers a subsidy of up to **40% to households**.

#### PM-Surya-Ghar-Muft-Bijli-Yojana-eligibility-Model Solar Village:

- ◆ An **allocation of ₹800 crore** has been designated for this component, with **₹1 crore provided to each selected Model Solar Village**.
- ◆ To qualify as a **candidate village**, it must be

a revenue village with a **population of over 5,000 (or 2,000 in special category states).**

- ◆ This initiative **aims to promote solar energy adoption and empower village communities** to achieve energy self-reliance.

## 17. Seals and Birds Under Threat in IUCN's New Red List

**Syllabus: GS3/ Environment**

### Context

- ◆ **Arctic seals and global bird populations are facing severe threats from climate change and human activities.** It is highlighted in the latest IUCN Red List of Threatened Species released at the **World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi.**

### Key Findings of the Report

- ◆ Status of Arctic Seals: The IUCN Red List now includes 172,620 species, of which 48,646 are threatened with extinction.
- ◆ The hooded seal has been moved from Vulnerable to Endangered status.
- ◆ Bearded and harp seals are now classified as Near Threatened.
- ◆ Status of global bird populations: 61% of bird species are experiencing population decline, up from 44% in 2016.
- ◆ Out of 11,185 bird species, 1,256 (11.5%) are globally threatened.
- ◆ The green sea turtle has been downlisted from endangered to least concern after its population rose by 28% since the 1970s.

### International Union of Conservation of Nature

- ◆ **Establishment - 1948.**
- ◆ **Set up in - Gland, Switzerland.**
- ◆ **Objective - To promote international cooperation and to provide scientific knowledge and tools to aid conservation action.**
- ◆ IUCN Red List - It established the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 1964.

### IUCN Red List

- ◆ It is a list compiled by the IUCN, which **contains the world's most comprehensive information on the conservation status of plants, animals,**

**and fungus species.**

- ◆ **Species in the IUCN Red List** - There are **143000 species** on the Red List.
- ◆ **India's membership in IUCN** - India became a member in **1969**
- ◆ **The IUCN classification** - **The IUCN classification of species is based on their extinction/conservation status.**

### They are as follows

- ◆ Extinct (EX)
- ◆ Extinct in the Wild (EW)
- ◆ Critically Endangered (CR)
- ◆ Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)
- ◆ Near Threatened (NT)
- ◆ Least Concern (LC)

## 18. Snow Leopards

**Syllabus: GS3/Species in News**

### In News

- ◆ The snow leopard, known as the elusive “ghost of the mountains”, has the lowest genetic diversity among big cats, even lower than the critically endangered cheetah.

### More about the news

- ◆ A Stanford University study, using whole-genome sequencing of 37 snow leopards, concluded that this low diversity is likely due to a persistently small population over evolutionary history rather than recent inbreeding.

### Snow Leopard

- ◆ **Scientific name** - Panthera uncia
- ◆ **Habitats** - The Snow Leopard lives at high altitudes in the **steep mountains of Central and Southern Asia**, and in an **extremely cold climate.**
- ◆ **Range states** - Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim .
- ◆ **Ghost of the mountains** - The Snow Leopard is also **known as Ghost of the mountains**
- ◆ **Bio indicator** - It acts as an **indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem**
- ◆ **Snow Leopard capital of the world** - Hemis, Ladakh.
- ◆ **International Snow Leopard Day** - It is observed on 23rd October.

### **Conservation status**

- ◆ **IUCN Red List**- Vulnerable
- ◆ **CITES convention** - Appendix I
- ◆ **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**- Schedule I

### **Conservation Efforts Launched by India**

#### **1. Project Snow Leopard (PSL)**

- ◆ **Launched in** - 2009
- ◆ **Objective** - To promote an inclusive and participatory approach to **conserve snow leopards and their habitat.**

#### **2. Species recovery programme**- Snow Leopard is in the **list of 21 critically endangered species** for the recovery programme of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.

#### **3. Snow Leopard conservation breeding programme** - It is undertaken at **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal.**

#### **4. HimalSanrakshak** - It is a **community volunteer programme**, to protect snow leopards, launched on 23rd October 2020.

#### **5. First National Protocol** - was also launched in 2019.

#### **6. SECURE Himalaya** - **Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** funded the project on **conservation of high altitude biodiversity** and reducing the dependency of local communities on the natural ecosystem.

### **International Conservation Efforts**

- ◆ **SNOW LEOPARD ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION PROGRAM** - It seeks to **address high-mountain development issues using the conservation of the endangered snow leopard** as a flagship program.
- ◆ **Bishkek Declaration** - In 2013, the **12 snow leopard range countries** signed and agreed to **secure at least 20 snow leopard landscapes across by 2020**
- ◆ **International Year of the Snow Leopard** - Year '2015' was designated as International Year of the Snow Leopard

### **Recent Census** -

- ◆ The exercise reported 718 snow leopards in India
- ◆ It was conducted from 2019 to 2023.
- ◆ **Conducted by** - The program was conducted

by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) with the help of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners - the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru (Karnataka), and WWF (World Wildlife Fund)-India.

- ◆ **Based on data analysis, the estimated population of 718 snow leopards in different states/UTs are as follows** - Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and J & K (9).

## **19. State of Finance for Forests (SFF) Report**

### **Syllabus :GS3/Environment**

#### **In News**

- ◆ The first State of Finance for Forests (SFF) report was recently released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

#### **State of Finance for Forests (SFF)**

- ◆ It provides a global overview of **public and private forest finance in 2023,**
- ◆ It compares current flows with the **investments needed to realize forests' potential to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation.**

#### **Key Findings**

- ◆ In 2023, global forest finance stood at US\$84 billion, far below the US\$300 billion needed annually by 2030 and US\$498 billion by 2050, leaving a US\$216 billion yearly gap.

## **20. REDD+ Programme**

### **Syllabus: GS3/Environment**

#### **Context**

- ◆ According to a study, only a small number of tropical forests have achieved significant cuts in deforestation, with just 19% meeting their reported targets.
- ◆ These offset projects are a part of the REDD+ programme.

#### **REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation**

### and Degradation Plus)

- ◆ It is a climate change **initiative under** the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ◆ It offers **financial incentives for developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** from deforestation and forest degradation.
- ◆ The “plus” in REDD+ includes additional activities like the **conservation and sustainable management of forests** and the **enhancement of forest carbon stocks**.
- ◆ The goal is to **provide a financial value for forests** that encourages developing countries to protect them

## 21. SC Allows Sale of Green Fireworks in Delhi

**Syllabus: GS3/Environment**

### In News

- ◆ The Supreme Court **relaxed its earlier blanket ban and permitted the sale and use of green firecrackers in the Delhi–NCR region**, subject to strict conditions.
- ◆ The court noted that blanket bans had led to smuggling and use of more harmful conventional fireworks, and cited its **2018 Arjun Gopal judgment**, which introduced green firecrackers and showed reduced emissions.

### Green firecrackers

- ◆ They are **eco-friendly** alternatives to traditional fireworks, developed to **address air pollution concerns**.
- ◆ They emit **30–35% less particulate matter and harmful gases like SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO**, and **exclude toxic substances such as barium nitrate**.
- ◆ They are developed and approved by CSIR labs (NEERI and CEERI).
- ◆ They **comply with prescribed noise limits** and are identifiable by green logos and QR codes.

## 22. WTI Founder Menon Becomes First Asian to Chair Key IUCN Panel

**Syllabus: GS3/Environment**

### In News

- ◆ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) elected Wildlife Trust of India’s (WTI) founder Vivek Menon as the new chair of the Species Survival Commission (SSC), making him the first Asian to hold the post.

### Species Survival Commission (SSC)

- ◆ The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a **science-based network of more than 10,500 volunteer experts from almost every country of the world**.
- ◆ It is one of the six expert commissions under the global body that **advises the IUCN secretariat on matters concerning biodiversity and species conservation**.
- ◆ The commission and its specialist groups play a **key role in preparing the IUCN’s red list of threatened species**.

### Additional Information - International Union of Conservation of Nature

- ◆ Establishment - 1948.
- ◆ Set up in - Gland, Switzerland.
- ◆ Objective - To promote international cooperation and to provide scientific knowledge and tools to aid conservation action.
- ◆ IUCN Red List - It established the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 1964.

### IUCN Red List

- ◆ It is a list compiled by the IUCN, which **contains the world’s most comprehensive information on the conservation status of plants, animals, and fungus species**.
- ◆ Species in the IUCN Red List - There are **143000 species** on the Red List.
- ◆ India’s membership in IUCN - India became a member in **1969**
- ◆ The IUCN classification - The IUCN classification of species is based on their extinction/conservation status.

### They are as follows

- ◆ Extinct (EX)
- ◆ Extinct in the Wild (EW)
- ◆ Critically Endangered (CR)
- ◆ Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)
- ◆ Near Threatened (NT)

- ◆ Least Concern (LC)
- ◆ Data Deficient (DD)
- ◆ Not Evaluated (NE)

## 23. Indian wolf

### Syllabus: GS3/Species in News

#### News

- ◆ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has for the first time evaluated the Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*)

#### Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*)

- ◆ **Distribution** - The Indian Wolf is primarily found in **India and Pakistan, with its historic range confined south of the Himalayas** .
- ◆ It is mainly found in sixteen states with major populations in **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Karnataka**.
- ◆ **Threats** : **Habitat loss, persecution, and human-wildlife conflict**.
- ◆ It is one of the **most ancient wolf lineages**
- ◆ It is now listed as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List**.

## 24. CAQM Invokes Stage-II of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Entire NCR

### Syllabus: GS3/ Environment

#### In News

- ◆ The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has invoked Stage-II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the entire National Capital Region.

#### Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- ◆ **Objective** - It is a set of emergency measures implemented in Delhi-NCR to control air pollution based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) levels.
- ◆ **Implementation** - It was formulated by the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) and enforced by CAQM from 2021.

#### GRAP is divided into four stages corresponding

#### to AQI levels:

- ◆ Stage I – Poor (AQI 201–300)
- ◆ Stage II – Very Poor (AQI 301–400)
- ◆ Stage III – Severe (AQI 401–450)
- ◆ Stage IV – Severe+ (AQI >450)

#### Why Do Air Quality Deteriorate in NCR during Winters?

- ◆ Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana.
- ◆ Low wind speed and temperature inversion trapping pollutants.
- ◆ Vehicular emissions, construction dust, and Diwali fireworks add to the load.
- ◆ Urban heat island effect and regional topography aggravate stagnation of pollutants.

#### Commission for Air Quality Management

- ◆ **Constituted under:** The **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021**.
- ◆ **Jurisdiction:** Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ◆ **Purpose:** To coordinate and implement region-wide measures for air quality improvement, replacing the earlier EPCA.

## 25. Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025

### Syllabus: GS3/ Environment

#### Context

- ◆ India has moved up to the 9th position in terms of total forest area globally, as per the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025, released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bali.

#### Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025

- ◆ **It is published once in 5 years**
- ◆ **Total Global forests cover - 4.14 billion hectares (32% of total land area).**
- ◆ **Countries with largest forest cover - Russia has the largest forest cover followed by Brazil, Canada, the USA, China, Congo, Australia, Indonesia, India and Peru.**
- ◆ **Note- the world continues to lose 10.9 million hectares of forest every year (2015–2025), a rate still considered alarmingly high.**

### India's Forest Cover Status:

- ◆ India's forest cover - 72.7 million hectares (2% of global forest area).
- ◆ India has maintained its third position worldwide after China and Russia In terms of annual forest gain.
- ◆ India Moves up to 9th Position Globally in Forest Area

### Government Initiatives toward forest conservation

- ◆ 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign - It encourages citizens to plant trees and enhance environmental consciousness.
- ◆ **National Mission for a Green India (GIM):** A mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) that aims to increase forest cover and improve existing forest quality to combat climate change.
- ◆ **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (2016):** An act that ensures funds for afforestation and related activities by requiring users of forest land for non-forest purposes to pay compensatory levies.
- ◆ **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs):** Areas designated around Protected Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries) to act as a buffer and minimize the negative impact of certain human activities on fragile ecosystems.
- ◆ **Joint Forest Management (JFM):** A program that fosters partnerships between state forest departments and local communities to protect, and regenerate forest resources.

## 26. Government Defends Forest Rights Act in Supreme Court

**Syllabus: GS2/ Governance, GS3/ Environment**

### Context

- ◆ The Central Government has defended the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, before the Supreme Court.
- ◆ It emphasizes that the legislation is restoring the dignity, livelihoods, and cultural identity of India's forest-dependent communities.

### Forest Rights Act, 2006

- ◆ The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**, popularly known as the

Forest Rights Act (FRA).

- ◆ It legally recognizes the rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land and resources they have traditionally used for generations.

## 27. The UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative

**Syllabus: GS 3/Environment**

### In News

- ◆ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) rallied its 193 Member States to commit to universal early warning coverage by 2027 under the UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

### Basics - Early Warning System (EWS)

- ◆ It is an integrated approach that combines **hazard monitoring, forecasting, disaster risk assessment, communication, and preparedness** to enable timely action for **saving lives, livelihoods, and assets at risk.**

### UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative

- ◆ Launched in 2022
- ◆ **Co-led by - WMO, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).**
- ◆ **Aim -** Its goal is to ensure that every person — regardless of where they live — is protected by life-saving alerts for hazards such as cyclones, floods, heat waves or droughts.

## 28.5th Edition of "An Eye on Methane: From Measurement to Momentum"

**Syllabus: GS3/ Environment**

### In News

- ◆ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the fifth edition of its flagship publication — "An Eye on Methane: From

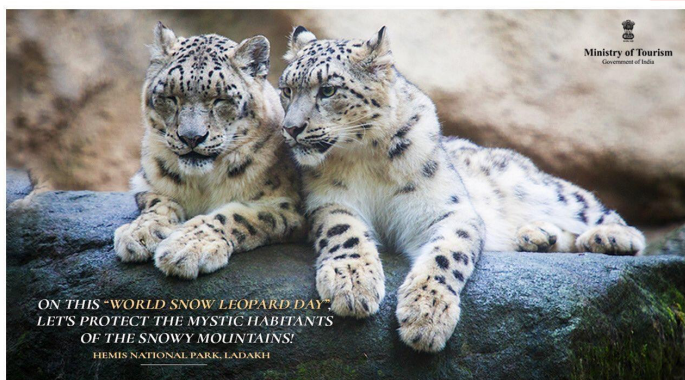
Measurement to Momentum” report.

### Key Highlights of the 2025 Report

- ◆ Methane emissions from **energy, agriculture, and waste sectors remain high**, despite available cost-effective mitigation technologies.
- ◆ Methane has **80 times more warming potential than CO<sub>2</sub> over 20 years**.
- ◆ Approximately **60% of current methane emissions originate from human activities**, with the largest contributors being **agriculture, fossil fuel extraction and use, and landfill waste**.
- ◆ The report highlights India’s effective role in the **Global Methane Pledge (GMP)** and its efforts through **SATAT, National Biogas Mission, and waste-to-energy projects**.

## 29. International Day of the Snow Leopard 2025

### Syllabus: GS3/ Environment



### Context

- ◆ India celebrated International Snow Leopard Day on October 23, with a nationwide campaign “#23for23”.

### International Day of the Snow Leopard 2025

- ◆ In 2024, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed October 23 as the International Day of the Snow Leopard.
- ◆ **Objective** - to enhance international and regional cooperation for **Snow Leopard** conservation.
- ◆ The ‘#23for23’ campaign is an initiative of the **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP)** and the **Snow Leopard Trust Worldwide**.

### Snow Leopard

- ◆ **Scientific name** - Panthera uncia
- ◆ **Habitats** - The Snow Leopard lives at high altitudes in the **steep mountains of Central and Southern Asia**, and in an **extremely cold climate**.
- ◆ **Range states** - Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim .
- ◆ **Ghost of the mountains** - The Snow Leopard is also known as Ghost of the mountains
- ◆ **Bio indicator** - It acts as an **indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem**
- ◆ **Snow Leopard capital of the world** - Hemis, Ladakh.
- ◆ **International Snow Leopard Day** - It is observed on 23rd October.

### Conservation status

- ◆ **IUCN Red List**- Vulnerable
- ◆ **CITES convention** - Appendix I
- ◆ **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**- Schedule I

### Conservation Efforts Launched by India

1. **Project Snow Leopard (PSL)**
  - ◆ **Launched in** - 2009
  - ◆ **Objective** - To promote an inclusive and participatory approach to **conserve snow leopards and their habitat**.
2. **Species recovery programme**- Snow Leopard is in the **list of 21 critically endangered species** for the recovery programme of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.
3. **Snow Leopard conservation breeding programme** - It is undertaken at **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal**.
4. **HimalSanrakshak** - It is a **community volunteer programme**, to protect snow leopards, launched on 23rd October 2020.
5. **First National Protocol** - was also launched In 2019.
6. **SECURE Himalaya** - **Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** funded the project on **conservation of high altitude biodiversity** and reducing the dependency of local communities on the natural ecosystem.

### International Conservation Efforts

- ◆ **SNOW LEOPARD ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION PROGRAM** - It seeks to address high-mountain development issues using the conservation of the endangered snow leopard as a flagship program.
- ◆ **Bishkek Declaration** - In 2013, the 12 snow leopard range countries signed and agreed to secure at least 20 snow leopard landscapes across by 2020
- ◆ **International Year of the Snow Leopard** - Year '2015' was designated as International Year of the Snow Leopard

#### Recent Census -

- ◆ The exercise reported 718 snow leopards in India
- ◆ It was conducted from 2019 to 2023.
- ◆ **Conducted by** - The program was conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) with the help of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners - the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru (Karnataka), and WWF (World Wildlife Fund)-India.
- ◆ **Based on data analysis, the estimated population of 718 snow leopards in different states/UTs are as follows** - Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and J & K (9).

### 30. Chrysanthemum Flowers or Gul-e-Dawood

**Syllabus: GS3/Environment**



#### In News

- ◆ Kashmir's new Chrysanthemum Garden, Baghe-e-Gul-e-Dawood will open near the Zabarwan range, featuring over 30 lakh blooms across

50+ varieties.

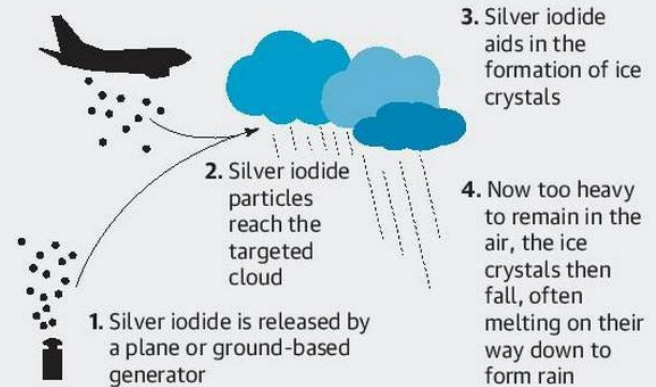
#### Chrysanthemum

- ◆ It is a perennial flowering plant from the Asteraceae family.
- ◆ It is widely cultivated in China, Japan, Europe, and the U.S. for its medicinal properties and use in aromatic beverages.
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - It is rich in phenolic compounds and exhibits potent antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, and other therapeutic activities.

### 31. Cloud Seeding

**Syllabus: GS3/Environment**

#### How cloud seeding works



#### Context

- ◆ Delhi Chief Minister has said cloud seeding is essential for the national capital as it could play a key role in controlling rising pollution levels during the winter season.

#### Cloud Seeding or Artificial Rain

- ◆ **Definition** - Artificial rain refers to inducing precipitation by injecting certain chemicals into clouds to accelerate the process of raindrop formation.
- ◆ Cloud seeding involves dispersing substances like:
  1. Silver iodide (AgI)
  2. Potassium iodide
  3. Sodium chloride
  4. Dry ice (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- ◆ **Conditions Required:** Potential rain-bearing clouds, sufficient humidity and atmospheric instability & Favorable wind and temperature conditions.

**Advantages of Cloud Seeding**

- ♦ **Air Pollution Mitigation:** In cities like Delhi, artificial rain can wash down particulate matter and other pollutants, providing temporary relief from severe air pollution.
- ♦ **Drought Mitigation and Water Resource Augmentation:** States like Maharashtra and Karnataka have used cloud seeding to combat water shortages (e.g., “Project Meghdoot” and “Varshadhari”).
- ♦ **Forest Fire Control:** By increasing moisture levels, cloud seeding can potentially reduce the risk and intensity of wildfires.

**32. Carabid Beetles**

**Syllabus: GS3/ Environment**



**Context**

- ♦ Recent research in Italy has shown that carabid ground beetles can serve as potential bioindicators of microplastic pollution in soil.

**Carabid Beetles**

- ♦ They belong to the family **Carabidae**
- ♦ They are **nocturnal predators** that inhabit nearly all terrestrial ecosystems worldwide.
- ♦ **Species diversity:** Around **34,000 species globally and over 1,000 species recorded in India.**
- ♦ **Physical traits:** Flattened, elongated bodies (mostly dark or metallic-shiny), and prominent mandibles for predation.

**Ecological Role:**

- ♦ **Natural pest controllers:** Feed on a variety of agricultural pests like caterpillars, slugs, aphids, weevils, and snails.

- ♦ **Indicator of soil quality:** High carabid diversity reflects low pesticide use, good organic matter, and balanced soil moisture.

**33. Pilot Whales**

**Syllabus: GS3/Species in News**



**Context**

- ♦ **More than two dozen pilot whales have died after becoming stranded on a remote beach in New Zealand.**

**Pilot Whales**

**Scientific name:**

- ♦ **Globicephala melas** (Long-finned Pilot Whale).
- ♦ **Globicephala macrorhynchus** (Short-finned Pilot Whale).
- ♦ **Family: Delphinidae (Oceanic dolphins).**
- ♦ Despite their name, **they are not true whales but large oceanic dolphins.**
- ♦ They were **named pilot whales because it was thought that each pod followed a ‘pilot’ in the group.**
- ♦ **Distinctive Appearance:** Pilot whales have a distinctive appearance characterized by a **bulbous forehead and a long, black body with a white or light-gray saddle patch** behind the dorsal fin.

**Habitat & Distribution:**

1. **Long-finned species** - They prefer cooler waters (**North Atlantic, Southern Ocean**).
2. **Short-finned species** - They prefer warmer tropical and subtropical waters (**Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea**).

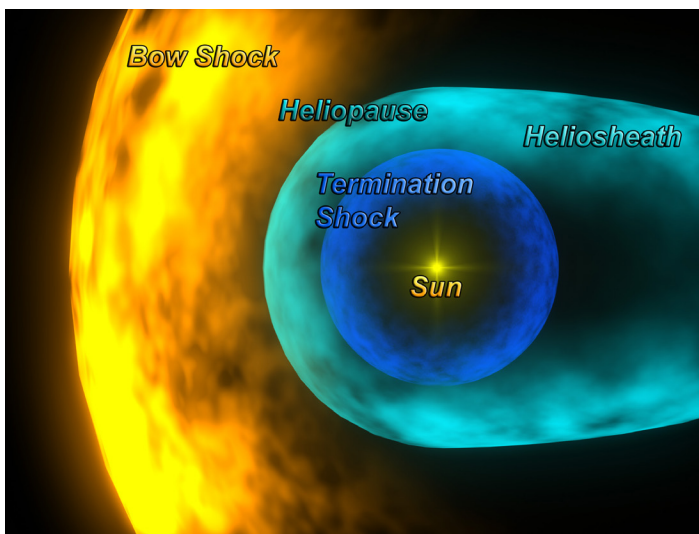
☒ **Conservation Status: IUCN Red List**

1. **Short finned whales - Least Concerned.**
2. **long finned whales - Data deficiency.**

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY


### 1. Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)

**Syllabus :GS3/Science and Technology**



 **In News**

- ◆ NASA launched the Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) to map the heliosphere's boundary, track energetic particles, and enhance space weather forecasting.

 **Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)**

- ◆ It is a **space mission designed to explore the heliosphere—the Sun's protective bubble around the solar system—and its interaction with interstellar space.**
- ◆ It is **positioned at the Earth-Sun Lagrange Point 1 (L1).**
- ◆ It uses 10 instruments to study solar wind, energetic particles, magnetic fields, and cosmic remnants.

 **Features and Objectives**

- ◆ It aims to **uncover how solar particles are energized and how the heliosphere shields**

**Earth** from galactic radiation.

- ◆ It also provides **real-time space weather data to protect astronauts and technology,** while advancing our understanding of cosmic materials and the habitability of planetary systems.

### 2. Biomedical Research Career Programme

**Syllabus: GS3/ S&T**

 **In News**

- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved Phase-III (2025-26 to 2030-31) of the **Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP) to significantly boost India's biomedical research ecosystem and global impact.**

 **Biomedical Research Career Programme**

- ◆ **Objective** - The programme aims to **strengthen research systems, reduce regional disparities in scientific capabilities, and establish world-class biomedical research capacity.**
- ◆ BRCP is implemented through a partnership between the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India; the Wellcome Trust (WT), United Kingdom; and the India Alliance—a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created for this initiative.

### 3. US Tomahawk Missiles

**Syllabus: GS3/ Defence**

**Tomahawk cruise missile**

The Tomahawk Land Attack Missile is an all-weather, long-range, subsonic cruise missile used for land attack warfare. It is launched from U.S. Navy surface ships and U.S. Navy and Royal Navy submarines.



Source: Jane's Fighting Ships, U.S. Navy, Department of Defense @latimesgraphics

 **Context**

- ◆ Ukraine has requested long-range Tomahawk

cruise missiles from the United States.

#### Tomahawk missiles

- ♦ Tomahawks are **long-range subsonic cruise missiles** that can be **launched from ships, submarines or ground launchers**.
- ♦ They have **long-range, deep-strike capabilities**, and can hit targets **1,250km-2,500km away**.
- ♦ They **carry high-explosive warheads** designed to penetrate hardened targets like military bunkers.
- ♦ They **avoid radar detection by flying at high subsonic speeds** while maintaining low altitudes.

### 4. H125 Helicopters

**Syllabus: GS3/ Defence**

#### Context

- ♦ Airbus Helicopters, in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems, is setting up a final assembly line for the Indian made H125 utility helicopter in Vemagal, Karnataka.

#### H125 Helicopters

- ♦ The **Airbus H125** is a light, single-engine utility helicopter.
- ♦ It is known for its versatility and **exceptional performance in high-altitude and high-temperature conditions**.
- ♦ The **H125 was formerly known as the Eurocopter AS350**.
- ♦ The H125 will cater to **civil needs like emergency medical services, tourism, disaster relief, and law enforcement**,
- ♦ Its **military version (H125M)** will serve India's armed forces, especially in **high-altitude areas like the Himalayas**.

### 5. Exercise KONKAN-25

**Syllabus: GS3/Defence**

#### Context

- ♦ India and the United Kingdom conducted the 2025 edition of Exercise KONKAN, an annual bilateral maritime exercise that began in 2004.

#### Exercise KONKAN-25

- ♦ Participating countries - **India and the United Kingdom**
- ♦ **Type** - It is an annual bilateral maritime exercise

#### Other India-UK Bilateral Exercises

- ♦ AJEYA WARRIOR (Army)
- ♦ Exercise Indradhanush (Air Force)
- ♦ Exercise Cobra Warrior (multinational air exercise hosted by the UK).

### 6. 93rd Air Force Day

**Syllabus: GS3/Defence**

#### Context

- ♦ The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 93rd anniversary with a ceremonial parade at Air Force Station Hindon.

#### Indian Air Force (IAF)

- ♦ **Establishment** - It is the **air arm of the Indian Armed Forces**, officially established on **October 8, 1932**.
- ♦ **Mission** - to **safeguard Indian airspace and conduct aerial warfare**.
- ♦ **Uniqueness** - it is the **fourth largest air force in the world**,
- ♦ **Motto** - "Touch the sky with glory," is inspired by the Bhagavad Gita.
- ♦ **Theme**: The 2025 theme is focused on the IAF's contribution to Operation Sindoor.

### 7. Saksham

**Syllabus:GS3/Defence**



#### In News

- ◆ The Indian Army has initiated the **procurement of SAKSHAM (Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management)**.

#### **Saksham**

- ◆ It is an **indigenously developed Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (CUAS) Grid System, to bolster operational readiness against emerging drone threats.**
- ◆ It is a modular Command and Control (C2) system that **integrates real-time sensor data, AI-driven analytics, and counter-drone capabilities to secure the Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS).**
- ◆ It was developed in collaboration with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).**

## 8. Biomedical Research Career Programme

### Syllabus: GS3/Science and Technology

#### **Context**

- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved Phase III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP).

#### **Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)**

- ◆ It is a strategic investment in **India's health and innovation landscape, supported by a ₹1,500 crore Indo-UK partnership** that aligns global expertise with national priorities.
- ◆ **Aim:** To build a world-class research ecosystem in biomedical sciences, clinical, and public health research
- ◆ **Expected Outcomes:** The initiative targets training 2,000+ researchers, high-impact publications, patentable discoveries, and peer recognition.

## 9. Maitri II: India's New Frontier in Antarctica

### Syllabus: GS3/ Science & Technology

#### **Context**

- ◆ The Ministry of Finance has approved the establishment of Maitri II, India's upcoming

research station in eastern Antarctica, to be completed by January 2029.

#### **India's Antarctic Presence**

- ◆ In **1983**, India established the **first permanent base in Antarctica** named **Dakshin Gangotri**. However it is no longer in operation.
- ◆ India presently has two research stations at Antarctica namely **'Maitri' and 'Bharati'**.

#### **Maitri II**

- ◆ **Nodal Agency:** National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.
- ◆ **Estimated Cost:** ₹2,000 crore over seven years.
- ◆ **Location:** Eastern Antarctica, near the Schirmacher Oasis, replacing the aging Maitri station.
- ◆ **Green Research Base:** Designed to operate on renewable energy sources, solar during summer and wind energy year-round, reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

#### **Additional Information - Antarctica**



- ◆ Antarctica is the **world's southernmost and fifth largest continent.**
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - It is also the world's **highest, driest, windiest, coldest, and iciest continent.**
- ◆ The continent is divided into **East Antarctica (Greater Antarctica)** and **West Antarctica (Lesser Antarctica)**. They are separated by **Transantarctic Mountains.**
- ◆ **East Antarctica** is composed of older, igneous and metamorphic rocks whereas **West Antarctica**, is made up of younger, volcanic and sedimentary rock.

- ♦ **West Antarctica, is part of the “Ring of Fire,” a tectonically active area around the Pacific Ocean.**
- ♦ **Mount Erebus, located on Antarctica’s Ross Island, is the southernmost active volcano on Earth.**
- ♦ **Longest River:** Onyx
- ♦ **Largest Lake:** Vostok

### Conservation efforts to protect Antarctica

#### Antarctica treaty

- ♦ The Treaty covers the area south of 60°S latitude.
- ♦ **It was signed at Washington D.C. in 1959 with the objective of the Demilitarisation of Antarctica.**
- ♦ The signatories are supposed to bring laws so that no activity in contravention of the treaty takes place.
- ♦ **India signed the treaty in 1983.**

#### The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR):

- ♦ **Signed in - Canberra in 1980**
- ♦ **Objective - to protect and preserve the Antarctic environment and, particularly, for the preservation and conservation of marine living resources in Antarctica.**
- ♦ **India ratified the CCAMLR in 1985.**

#### The Protocol on the Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (Madrid Protocol)

- ♦ **Signed in - Madrid in 1991.**
- ♦ **Objective - It aims to strengthen the Antarctic Treaty system and develop a comprehensive regime for the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems.**
- ♦ **India ratified the Madrid Protocol in 1998.**

#### Council of Managers of the National Antarctic Programme (COMNAP)

- ♦ **India is also a member of the COMNAP which shows the significant position that India holds among the nations involved in Antarctic research.**

### Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022

- ♦ **Objective: To demilitarize Antarctica; use of Antarctica for peaceful purposes; promote international scientific cooperation in Antarctica.**
- ♦ **Prohibited activities:** The Bill prohibits certain

activities in Antarctica including:

- ♦ Nuclear explosion or disposal of radioactive wastes
- ♦ Discharge of garbage, plastic or other substances into the sea which is harmful to the marine environment.

## 10. Delhi Declaration on 6G

### Syllabus: GS3/Science and Technology

#### In News

- ♦ Recently, the leading global 6G research alliance including Bharat 6G, 6G-IA, ATIS’ Next G Alliance issued a Joint Declaration to develop 6G as a global public good at the International Bharat6G Symposium 2025 in New Delhi.

#### Delhi Declaration on 6G

- ♦ The declaration endorsed key principles to ensure that **6G networks are trusted, secure, resilient, open, inclusive, affordable, and sustainable.**

#### 6G (sixth-generation wireless)

- ♦ **6G (sixth-generation wireless)** is the next-generation cellular technology following 5G
- ♦ It is expected to offer numerous advantages including significantly **higher data speeds, drastically reduced latency, and the integration of communication and sensing capabilities** within the network.

## 11. Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025

### Syllabus: GS3/Defence

#### In News

- ♦ The 4th edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025 began in Australia.

#### AUSTRAHIND 2025

- ♦ Launched in-2022
- ♦ It is an annual bilateral military exercise, held alternately in India and Australia.

## 12. Rhodamine B

**Syllabus: GS3/ Science & Technoly**

### In Context

- ◆ Scientists at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in India have developed an effective and sensitive method to detect toxic molecules like Rhodamine B.

### Rhodamine B

- ◆ Rhodamine B is a **water-soluble synthetic dye** known for its **bright pink fluorescent color**.
- ◆ Rhodamine B is toxic and has carcinogenic potential; it can cause damage to skin, eyes, and the respiratory system.

## 13. BrahMos

**Syllabus: GS3/Defence**

### Context

- ◆ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Aerospace unit in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

### BrahMos Missile

- ◆ **Joint Venture:** Between **DRDO (India)** and **NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia)**.
- ◆ **Name Origin:** Derived from the **Brahmaputra (India)** and **Moskva (Russia)** rivers.
- ◆ **First Test:** Conducted on June 12, 2001.
- ◆ **Type:** “Fire and forget” **supersonic cruise missile** — can be launched from land, sea, or air in all-weather conditions, and is nearly impossible to intercept.
- ◆ **Combat Use:** **Reportedly used for the first time during Operation Sindoor.**

### Speed:

- ◆ Current: Mach 2.8 (Supersonic)
- ◆ Future: Mach 5+ (Hypersonic version under development)

### Range:

- ◆ Initially 290 km (under MTCR limit)
- ◆ Extended to 400 km, with a 600+ km variant under development.

### Additional information - Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)

- ◆ **Objective** - The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) is a group of 35 member states that seeks to **limit the proliferation of missiles and missile technology**.
- ◆ **Established in** - The group was formed in 1987.
- ◆ **India became a member of the MTCR in 2016**

## 14. Exercise Samudra Shakti 2025

**Syllabus: GS3/ Defence**

### Context

- ◆ The Indian Navy is hosting the fifth edition of the Indo-Indonesian Joint Bilateral Maritime Exercise, ‘Samudra Shakti – 2025’ at Visakhapatnam.

### Exercise Samudra Shakti 2025

- ◆ Place - Visakhapatnam
- ◆ Participating countries - India and Indonesia
- ◆ Type - Bilateral Maritime Exercise

## 15. Chandrayaan-2 mission

**Syllabus: GS3 / Science and Technology**

### Context

- ◆ The Chandrayaan-2 mission has made the first-ever observation of the Sun’s Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) on the Moon using its onboard scientific instruments.

### Chandrayaan-1

- ◆ It was **launched in 2008**.
- ◆ It was **India’s first lunar mission**.
- ◆ It made India the fifth country to reach the Moon.
- ◆ The mission’s most significant **discovery was the presence of water molecules on the lunar surface**, a finding confirmed by NASA.

### Chandrayaan-2

- ◆ It was **launched in 2019 with an orbiter, a lander (Vikram), and a rover (Pragyan)**.
- ◆ The mission **aimed to achieve a soft landing on the lunar surface**, but ISRO lost contact with

the lander just before touchdown, **resulting in a crash landing.**

- ◆ Despite this setback, the orbiter continued functioning and provided crucial data on the Moon's surface and atmosphere.

#### 📄 Chandrayaan-3,

- ◆ It is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2, successfully achieved a soft landing on the Moon's south pole in 2023.

#### 📄 Lander payloads:

- ◆ Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) - to measure the thermal conductivity and temperature
- ◆ Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) - for measuring the seismicity around the landing site etc.

#### 📄 Rover payloads:

- ◆ Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) & Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (LIBS) for deriving the elemental composition in the vicinity of landing site.

## 16. New Monoclonal Antibody Shows Early Promise Against Malaria

**Syllabus: GS2/ Health, GS3/ Science and Technology**

#### 📄 Context

- ◆ A novel monoclonal antibody (mAb) named MAM01, has demonstrated strong, dose-dependent **protection against malaria** in an early clinical trial.

#### 📄 Monoclonal Antibodies (mAbs)

- ◆ Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) are lab-created proteins that mimic your body's natural antibodies to fight specific foreign invaders, such as viruses, bacteria, and cancer cells.
- ◆ They are a **powerful form of targeted therapy** because they are designed to bind only to a single, specific target

#### 📄 Malaria

- ◆ **Responsible pathogen** - Malaria is an acute febrile illness caused by **Plasmodium parasites.**

- ◆ **Vector** - It spreads from people to people through the bites of infected female **Anopheles mosquitoes.** It is preventable and curable.
- ◆ **Transmission** - **Malaria is not contagious and cannot spread from one person to another;** the disease is transmitted through the bites of female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- ◆ **Five species of parasites can cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax – pose the greatest threat.**

#### 📄 Symptoms

- ◆ **Infants, children under 5 years, pregnant women, travelers and people with HIV or AIDS are at higher risk.** Severe symptoms include:
  - ◆ extreme tiredness and fatigue
  - ◆ impaired consciousness
  - ◆ multiple convulsions
  - ◆ difficulty breathing
  - ◆ dark or bloody urine
  - ◆ jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin)
  - ◆ abnormal bleeding.

#### 📄 Initiatives to Control Malaria by WHO

- ◆ **WHO's Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030** - It aims to **reduce malaria case incidence and mortality rates by at least 40% by 2020, at least 75% by 2025 and at least 90% by 2030** against a 2015 baseline.
- ◆ **'E-2025 Initiative':** The WHO has identified **25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025** under the initiative.
- ◆ **High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) initiative:** WHO has initiated the initiative in **11 high malaria burden countries, including India.**

#### 📄 Indian Government Initiatives to Control Malaria

- ◆ **National target** - The Government of India set a target to **eliminate malaria in India by 2027.**
- ◆ **National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME)** - It has been developed and launched in 2016 aligned with the Global Technical Strategy (GTS) for **malaria elimination 2016-2030.**
- ◆ **Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India):** It was established by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.

## 17. Strengthening Governance through Blockchain Technology

**Syllabus: GS2/ Governance. GS3/ Science and Technology**

### Context

- India is accelerating its adoption of blockchain technology to transform governance, enhance transparency, and strengthen digital trust through the National Blockchain Framework (NBF).

### Connect with the basics- Blockchain

- Definition** - Blockchain is a distributed, transparent, secure, and immutable database that functions like a ledger of records or transactions, resistant to tampering and accessible across a network of computers.

### Applications of Blockchain Technology

Blockchain technology has numerous applications across various industries due to its secure, transparent, and decentralized nature.

- Cryptocurrencies:** Enabling secure digital currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum.
- Smart Contracts:** Automating agreements without intermediaries.
- Supply Chain Management:** Enhancing transparency and traceability.
- Healthcare:** Securing patient records and improving data sharing.
- Banking and Finance:** Streamlining cross-border payments and fraud detection.
- Voting Systems:** Ensuring transparent and tamper-proof elections.
- Identity Management:** Offering secure, verifiable digital identities.
- Real Estate:** Simplifying property transfers with tokenized assets.
- Gaming:** Enabling ownership of in-game assets and NFTs.
- Energy Sector:** Supporting peer-to-peer energy trading.

### National Blockchain Framework (NBF)

- Launched in- 2024
- Developed by - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- Objective - to accelerate the development and

deployment of permissioned blockchain-based applications.

## 18. Exercise Ocean Sky 2025

**Syllabus: GS3/ Defence**

### Context

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Ocean Sky 2025, a multinational air combat exercise hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base, Spain.

### Exercise Ocean Sky 2025

- Objective** - The exercise aims to foster mutual learning, enhance interoperability, sharpen air combat skills, and strengthen defence cooperation with friendly nations.
- The exercise brings together more than 50 aircraft from Spain, Germany, Greece, Portugal, India, and the United States, including India's Su-30MKI fighter jets.

## 19. Project Arunank

**Syllabus: GS3/Defence**

### In News

- Project Arunank of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) marked its 18th Raising Day in Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh.

### Project Arunank

- It was established in 2008
- It has built over 696 km of roads and 1.18 km of major bridges, enhancing connectivity to remote areas and supporting Armed Forces operations.
- It has embraced sustainable technologies such as Steel Slag, Geo Cells, and GGBFS Concrete to improve infrastructure durability.
- Environmental efforts include planting 23,850 trees under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative.

### Additional Information - Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- Established in** - It was formed in 1960 by

**Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**

- ♦ **Objective** - To coordinate the speedy development of an adequate road communication network of roads in the North and the North-Eastern border regions of the country.
- ♦ **Functions under** - It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.
- ♦ **Significance** - Support the armed forces meet their strategic needs by committed, dedicated and cost-effective development and sustenance of the infrastructure.
- ♦ **Recent and upcoming Projects:** This includes the construction of Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh on Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang Road.

**20. ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit**

**Syllabus: GS3/Defence**



**In News**

- ♦ The Indian Coast Guard launched two advanced Fast Patrol Vessels—ICG Ship Ajit and ICGS Aparajit—at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

**ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit**

- ♦ These vessels are the seventh and eighth in a series of eight indigenously built Fast Patrol Vessels
- ♦ **Built by** - Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- ♦ **Significance** - The FPGVs are designed for multi-mission roles such as fisheries protection, coastal patrol, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, and search and rescue operations, especially around India’s island territories and Exclusive Economic Zone.

**HISTORY AND CULTURE**

**1. Bathukamma Festival Creates Two Guinness World Records**

**Syllabus: GS1/Culture**



**Context**

- ♦ The Bathukamma festival set Guinness World Records for the largest floral arrangement and the most synchronized female dance participants.

**Bathukamma Festival**

- ♦ The Bathukamma festival is celebrated predominantly in Telangana.
- ♦ The term “Bathukamma” translates to “Mother Goddess Come Alive”, reflecting the divine feminine energy and protection.
- ♦ Folklore connects the festival to legends of Goddess Gauri as well as King Dhramangada and Queen Satyavati of the Chola dynasty.
- ♦ Bathukamma’s timing coincides with Navratri, celebrating life, devotion and the triumph of good over evil.

**2. Abhidhamma Divas**

**Syllabus :GS1/History**

**In News**

- ♦ The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), in collaboration with Gautam Buddha University (GBU), Antarrashtriya Baudh Shodh

Sansthan and the Ministry of Culture celebrated International Abhidhamma Day

#### **Abhidhamma Divas**

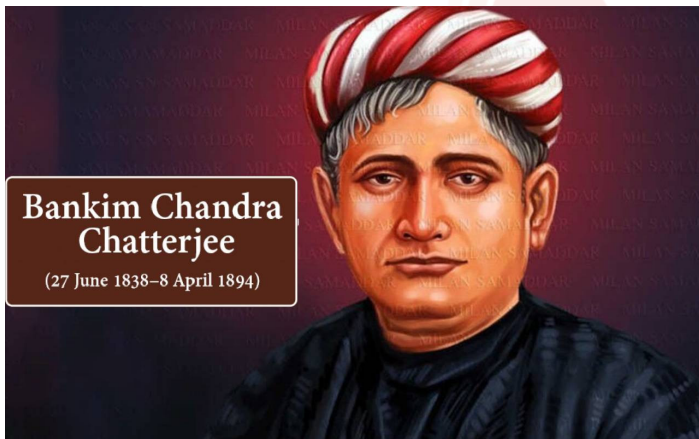
- ◆ It commemorates the Buddha's descent from the Tāvatiṃsa Heaven after imparting Abhidhamma teachings.
- ◆ According to tradition, after attaining enlightenment, the Buddha spent three months in the Tāvatiṃsa Heaven. He taught the Abhidhamma to his mother, Māyā, who had passed away and was reborn there.

#### **Significance in Modern Times:**

- ◆ Abhidhamma Divas encourages mindfulness, self-reflection, and spiritual growth.
- ◆ It reinforces the core values of Buddhism, including compassion and the pursuit of wisdom.
- ◆ The observance also highlights the importance of connecting with the teachings of the Buddha to lead a life of peace and purpose.

### 3. 150th anniversary of Vande Matram

**Syllabus: GS1/ Culture**



#### **In Context**

- ◆ The Union Cabinet announced nationwide celebration of the 150th anniversary of the national song 'Vande Mataram'.

#### **Vande Matram**

- ◆ Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in Sanskrit and first appeared in the novel Anandamath(1882).
- ◆ Its first public recital by Rabindranath Tagore at

the 1896 INC session gave it national exposure.

- ◆ The national song has equal status with Jana Gana Mana, as declared by a 1950 Presidential order.
- ◆ Article 51A(a) mandates respect for the anthem but not for a national song, indicating a sensitive balance.
- ◆ The song was a rallying cry for anti-colonial revolutionaries and a symbol of collective resolve during the independence movement.

### 4. UNESCO's new Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects

**Syllabus: GS1/Culture**



#### **News**

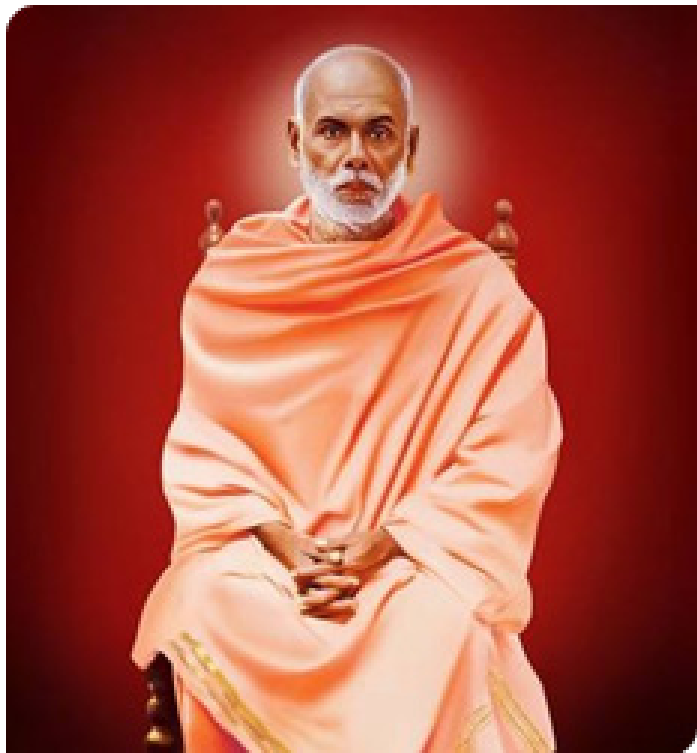
- ◆ UNESCO officially launched the Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects at MONDIACULT 2025.

#### **UNESCO's new Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects**

- ◆ It offers a globally accessible digital platform to raise awareness about stolen heritage.
- ◆ It currently showcases around 240 missing objects from 46 countries, with the goal of gradually "emptying itself" as items are recovered and returned to their countries of origin.
- ◆ It is financially supported by Saudi Arabia and implemented with INTERPOL.

### 5. Sree Narayana Guru

**Syllabus: GS1/Modern History**



### Context

- ◆ The President of India inaugurated the observance of the Mahasamadhi centenary of Sree Narayana Guru at Sivagiri Mutt, Varkala, Kerala.

### Sree Narayana Guru(1856–1928)

- ◆ He was **born in 1856 in Kerala into the Ezhava community, which faced severe caste disabilities.**
- ◆ He was a **saint, philosopher, and one of the foremost social reformers** in modern India who **challenged caste oppression** and emphasized spiritual reform as the path to social reform.
- ◆ **Sree Narayana Guru known for blending Advaita Vedanta with a call for social justice.**

### Key Contributions

- ◆ **Social Philosophy:** Propagated the radical message: **“One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man”.**
- ◆ Rejected **birth-based caste hierarchy and promoted dignity of labour.**
- ◆ **Institution Building:** Founded **Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP, 1903)** to advance **education, social empowerment, and reform.**
- ◆ **Arupipuram Movement (1888):** Consecrated a Shiva idol himself, **breaking the Brahmin monopoly over temple rituals.** Built temples, schools, and ashrams for the common people

with egalitarian access.

- ◆ **Political & Social Movements:** Extended moral and ideological support to the **Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25) for temple entry rights of lower castes.**
- ◆ **Educational Upliftment:** Stressed education as the foundation of empowerment and upliftment.

## 6. Gyan Bharatam Mission

**Syllabus: GS1/Culture**

### Context

- ◆ The Gyan Bharatam Mission on manuscripts under the Union Culture Ministry, signed Memorandums of Understanding with around 20 institutes for conservation, upkeep and digitisation of manuscripts.

### Gyan Bharatam Mission

- ◆ **Purpose - The mission aims to preserve and protect manuscripts found across the country.**
- ◆ **Objective:** To undertake the “survey, documentation and conservation” of more than one crore manuscript heritage lying with academic institutions, museums, libraries, etc.
- ◆ **Significance of Mission:** Preserving **historical value, unveiling ancient Indian knowledge to the world,** ensuring longevity and round-the-clock access to Manuscripts, etc.

### Basic terms - Manuscripts

- ◆ **A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, palm leaf etc. dating back at least 75 years that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value.**
- ◆ **E.g. Bakhshali manuscript** (Third or fourth century A.D.), an **ancient Indian mathematical text written on birch bark,** is considered to be the **earliest recorded example of use of zero.**
- ◆ India possesses an estimated 10 million manuscripts in 80 ancient scripts like Brahmi, Kushan, Gaudi, Lepcha, and Maithili.

### Other initiatives for manuscript conservation in India

- ◆ **National Manuscripts Mission (NMM):** Launched In 2003, by the Ministry of Tourism

and Culture to locate and preserve manuscripts.

- ◆ **National Library of India, Kolkata:** It has about 3600 rare and historically important manuscripts.
- ◆ **Asiatic Society of Bengal:** Founded on Jan. 15, 1784, by Sir William Jones, undertakes digitization of ancient manuscripts.

## INTERNAL SECURITY

### 1. Operation HAECHI-VI

**Syllabus: GS2/International Institutions; GS3/Cybersecurity**

#### Context

- ◆ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested eight accused and identified 45 suspects as part of Interpol's Operation HAECHI-VI.

#### Operation HAECHI-VI

- ◆ The operation focused on seven categories of offences:
  1. cyber-enabled financial crime,
  2. voice phishing,
  3. love and romance scams,
  4. online sextortion,
  5. investment fraud,
  6. money laundering linked to illegal online gambling,
  7. business email compromise,
  8. e-commerce fraud.
- ◆ Investigators worked together to **detect and disrupt online fraud** as well as money laundering activities, **blocking over 68,000 associated bank accounts and freezing close to 400 cryptocurrency wallets.**

#### Additional Information - International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

- ◆ It is an intergovernmental organization established in **1923**.
- ◆ **Objective** - To facilitate worldwide **police cooperation and crime control in around 195 countries.**
- ◆ **Headquarters** - Lyon, France

#### Different Types of Notices issued by INTERPOL

- ◆ INTERPOL issues various notices to facilitate worldwide police cooperation and crime control.

##### 1. Red Notice

- ◆ It is issued to **seek the arrest of a person.**
- ◆ The person is in the wanted list of an international tribunal or in a judicial jurisdiction.

##### 2. Green Notice

- ◆ It is issued to **warn about the criminal activities of a person.**
- ◆ It is issued if the person is considered as a possible threat to public safety.

##### 3. Blue Notice

- ◆ It is issued to **obtain information about a person.**

##### 4. Yellow Notice

- ◆ **To locate a missing person.** It is also issued when a person is unable to identify himself or herself.

##### 5. Black Notice

- ◆ To seek information about unidentified bodies.

##### 6. Orange Notice

- ◆ It is issued to process an **imminent threat or danger to property or person.**

##### 7. Purple Notice

- ◆ To provide information on procedures, modus operandi, devices or hiding place

#### Central Bureau of Investigation

- ◆ **Set up in** - It was set up in **1963** by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- ◆ **Established under** - It comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.**
- ◆ **Recommended by** - It was established on the recommendation of the **Santhanam Committee.**
- ◆ **Legal status** - The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.**

#### Functions

1. The CBI is the main **investigating agency of the Central Government.**
2. It also provides **assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.**
3. It is also the nodal police agency in India

which coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries.

## 2. Mass Surrender of Maoists

### Syllabus: GS3/Internal Security

#### Context

- ◆ 210 Maoists surrendered in Dandakaranya region of Chhattisgarh, following a similar event in Maharashtra, as a part of a broader strategy by the Union and state governments to abandon violence and embrace rehabilitation.

#### Maoism, or Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)

- ◆ It was rooted in **radical communist ideology**, advocating **armed struggle to overthrow the state** and establish a classless society.
- ◆ **Left-Wing Extremism** in India traces its roots to the **Naxalbari uprising of 1967 in West Bengal, inspired by Mao Zedong's** revolutionary tactics.
- ◆ The movement **gained momentum** through the formation of groups like the **Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)** and later the **CPI (Maoist)**, which rejected electoral politics and embraced violent revolution.

#### Reasons for Maoism, or Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) in India

- ◆ **Left-Wing Extremism:** LWE has historically thrived in regions marked by **poverty, illiteracy, and lack of basic services.**

#### Many tribal communities have faced:

1. **Land alienation due to mining and industrial projects;**
2. **Displacement without adequate rehabilitation;**
3. **Limited access to education, healthcare, and employment;**
4. **Governance Deficit:** Remote districts often suffer from weak administrative presence and poor delivery of public services.

#### This vacuum allowed Maoist groups to:

1. Establish parallel governance structures;
2. Exploit local grievances;
3. Gain legitimacy among disenfranchised populations;

4. **Tribal Discontent:** Tribal populations, especially in forested regions have long felt excluded from mainstream development.

#### Decline in Influence

- ◆ **Red Corridor** - Once widespread across the 'Red Corridor', Maoist influence has significantly declined due to sustained government action.

#### Government Strategy To Tackle LWE

- ◆ The National Policy and Action Plan (2015) to address LWE outlines a holistic approach:
  1. Enhancing security infrastructure and personnel;
  2. Promoting road connectivity and telecom access;
  3. Ensuring rights and entitlements of tribal communities;
- ◆ **MHA has reaffirmed the government's resolve to eliminate LWE by March 31, 2026, urging Maoists to abandon violence and join the mainstream.**

#### Security Measures:

- ◆ Deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and specialized anti-Naxal units.

#### Development Initiatives:

1. Road connectivity projects in remote tribal areas to improve access and mobility.
  2. Expansion of telecom networks, electricity, and banking services.
  3. Focus on education, healthcare, and livelihood programs to address socio-economic grievances.
- ◆ **Transformation of 'Red Zones' into Growth Corridors** through targeted investment.
  - ◆ Seminars like **'Bharat Manthan 2025 - Naxal Mukt Bharat'** aim to build consensus and share best practices across states.

## 3. Seventh National Security Guard (NSG) Hub to Come up in Ayodhya

### Syllabus :GS3/Security Forces

#### In News

- ◆ Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that a new NSG hub will be set up in Ayodhya,

Uttar Pradesh.

- ◆ This will be the seventh NSG hub, joining existing ones in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Jammu.

#### National Security Guard (NSG)

- ◆ **Elite Counter-Terrorism Force:** The NSG is a specialized force trained to **combat terrorism and handle critical security situations.**
- ◆ **Establishment:** In **1984, following Operation Blue Star.** Created under the National Security Guard Act, 1986.
- ◆ **Administrative and operational control:** Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- ◆ **Motto:** “Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha” (Everywhere, Supreme Security)
- ◆ **Key Roles:** Counter-terrorism operations, Hijacking situations, Bomb disposal and post-blast investigations, VIP security.

### 4. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

#### **Syllabus: GS3/Security Forces**

#### In News

- ◆ The Supreme Court transferred the investigation into the Karur stampede from the Tamil Nadu Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the Justice Aruna Jagadeesan Commission to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

#### Central Bureau of Investigation

- ◆ **Set up in** - It was set up in **1963** by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- ◆ **Established under** - It comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.**
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#### Functions

1. The CBI is the main **investigating agency of the Central Government.**
2. It also provides **assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.**

3. It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates **investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries.**

### 5. Police Commemoration Day

#### **Syllabus: GS3/Internal Security**

#### Context

- ◆ Police Commemoration Day was observed on 21st October at the National Police Memorial to honour the valour and sacrifice of police personnel.

#### About

- ◆ On October 21, 1959, **Indian policemen were martyred in an ambush by Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh.**
- ◆ The day commemorates their supreme sacrifice and all police personnel who have laid down their lives in the line of duty.
- ◆ A **memorial was erected at Hot Springs** and members of Police Forces from different parts of the country trek to Hot Springs to pay homage to the martyrs.
- ◆ Since the year 2012, the Police Commemoration Day Parade has been held at the National level at the Police Memorial.

#### National Police Memorial (NPM)

- ◆ **Dedicated by: Prime Minister on Police Commemoration Day, 2018.**
- ◆ **Location: Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.**
- ◆ The Memorial gives police Forces a sense of national identity, pride, unity of purpose, common history and destiny.
- ◆ It comprises a Central Sculpture, a Wall of Valour and a museum.
- ◆ The Wall of Valour: 30 feet tall granite sculpture stands at the police memorial with the names of over 35,000 martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

#### Additional Information

- ◆ ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are state subjects under the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India**
- ◆ **SMART Policing:** The SMART Policing Initiative was introduced by the Prime Minister of India in 2014 **to modernize and transform Indian**

policing.

- ◆ **Assistance to State & UTs for Modernization of Police (ASUMP) Scheme** - to strengthen police infrastructure with the latest technology, weaponry, communication equipment, etc
- ◆ **'CyTrain' portal:** It is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform, developed for capacity building of police officers/judicial officers. It provides online courses on critical aspects of cybercrime investigation, forensics, prosecution, etc.

## 6. Iran Ratifies UN Convention Against Terror Financing

**Syllabus: GS2/ International Relations, GS3/ Security**

### Context

- ◆ **Iran has ratified a law to join the United Nations International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) in a bid to align with global financial norms.**
- ◆ **FATF status:** As of October 2025, Iran remains on the FATF blacklist for its failure to adopt sufficient anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CFT) standards.
- ◆ The ratification is seen as a first step toward potential re-evaluation by the FATF.

### Convention Against Terror Financing

- ◆ **Adoption** - It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on **9 December 1999 (Resolution 54/109)**.
- ◆ **Objective:** To criminalize the financing of terrorism and establish international cooperation mechanisms to prevent, investigate, and prosecute such offences.
- ◆ **International Legal Framework:** Complements other UN instruments such as the **UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001)** and the **UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)**.

### India has ratified the CFT and has incorporated its provisions through:

- ◆ Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967
- ◆ Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

### Additional Information - Financial Action Task Force

- ◆ **Established** - The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
- ◆ **Objective** - To set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- ◆ **Secretariat** - It is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- ◆ **Member Countries** - 37 member countries where India is also a member.

### FATF has two lists

- ◆ **Grey List** - Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
- ◆ **Black List** - Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

## 7. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Raising Day

**Syllabus: GS 3/Security Agencies**



### In News

- ◆ The 64th raising day of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was observed recently.

### Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- ◆ Established on - October 24, 1962
- ◆ It guards the **3,488 km-long India-China border**, stretching from the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ◆ It also plays a crucial role in internal security operations, including anti-Naxal duties in Chhattisgarh.
- ◆ Many of the ITBP's Border Out Posts are located at altitudes between 9,000 and 18,800 feet, where temperatures can plummet to minus 45 degrees Celsius during winters.

### Relevance

- ◆ It is recognised as a specialised armed police force.
- ◆ It trains its personnel in mountaineering, skiing, and tactical combat, i
- ◆ to maintain readiness for disaster response and relief operations in the Himalayan region.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 1. Historic India–Bhutan Railway Projects Set to Transform Connectivity

Syllabus: GS2/ International Relations



### Context

- ◆ The Union Government announced two cross-border railway projects which will connect Bhutan with the bordering areas of Assam and West Bengal.

### Basics - Gelephu and Samtse

- ◆ Gelephu and Samtse are the major **export-import hubs in Bhutan** and serve the **700-km long India-Bhutan border**.
- ◆ Gelephu is being developed as “Mindfulness

City” and Samtse is being developed as an industrial town by the Government of Bhutan.

### Rail Projects

- ◆ **Kokrajhar–Gelephu Line:** It will connect Sarpang district in Bhutan with Kokrajhar and Chirang districts in Assam.
- ◆ It will span **69 km** and is estimated to cost Rs 3,456 crore.
- ◆ **Banarhat–Samtse Line:** It will connect Samtse district in Bhutan with Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal.
- ◆ The line will cover **20 km** and is estimated to cost Rs 577 crore.

### 2. India-Russia Celebrate 25 Years of Strategic Partnership

Syllabus: GS2/IR

### In News

- ◆ Russia and India have significantly advanced their 25-year strategic partnership amid a changing global landscape.

### Background

- ◆ In 2000, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee signed the declaration on strategic partnership, which opened a new chapter in bilateral relations.
- ◆ In December 2010, the Strategic Partnership was upgraded to a “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.”
- ◆ Multiple institutional dialogues, including the Intergovernmental Commission and 2+2 Dialogue, ensure strong cooperation across politics, defense, trade, science, and culture.

### Leadership-level engagements

- ◆ The India-Russia Annual Summit is the highest dialogue mechanism, with **22 meetings held alternately in both countries**.
- ◆ The Indian PM received Russia's highest honor, the Order of Saint Andrew.

### Multilateral engagement

- ◆ India and Russia closely cooperate in multilateral forums like the UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO.
- ◆ Russia supports India's bid for a permanent UN

Security Council seat.

**Trade & Economic relations**

- ◆ India and Russia aim to boost bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030 and investment to \$50 billion by 2025.
- ◆ In FY 2023-24, trade hit a record \$65.7 billion, with India exporting pharmaceuticals and machinery, and importing oil, fertilizers, and minerals from Russia.

**Defence & Security Cooperation**

- ◆ **Joint military exercises** - INDRA, Vostok & ZAPAD.
- ◆ **Defence projects include** - S-400 systems, T-90 tanks, Su-30 MKI jets, MiG-29 and Kamov helicopters, INS Vikramaditya, AK-203 rifles, and BrahMos missiles..
- ◆ **Science & Technology Cooperation** - nanotech, quantum computing, and nuclear energy (Kudankulam plant).

**3. NATO Pipeline System (NPS)**

Syllabus: GS2/IR



**In News**

- ◆ Recently, Poland announced plans to join NATO Pipeline System (NPS) with a €4.7 billion investment.

**NATO Pipeline System (NPS)**

- ◆ **Mandate** - It was established during the Cold War. It supplies fuel and lubricants to NATO forces with modern flexibility.
- ◆ It spans about 10,000 km across 12 countries, has a storage capacity of 4.1 million cubic meters, and connects depots, air bases, airports, refineries, and transport points.

**Additional Information - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

- ◆ NATO, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance.
- ◆ **Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium**
- ◆ **Background:** It was established by 12 countries from Europe and North America with the signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty (also known as Washington Treaty) in 1949 in Washington, D.C** to provide collective security against the Soviet Union attack in the aftermath of World War II.
- ◆ **Collective Defense:** According to **Article 5**, NATO works on the principle of collective defense, where an attack on any NATO member is considered an attack on all NATO members. So far, **Article 5 has been invoked once - in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001.**
- ◆ **Members:** It comprises 32 member states. Sweden became the 32nd member.

**4. Moscow Format Talks**

Syllabus: GS2/ International Relation

**In News**

- ◆ India, China, Pakistan attend 10-nation Moscow Format talk.

**Moscow Format Talks**

- ◆ **Established in - 2017**
- ◆ **Objective** - It is a regional diplomatic initiative to address the Afghanistan conflict, promote stability, and foster national reconciliation.
- ◆ **Significance** - It serves as a platform for regional countries to coordinate on Afghan peace and stability.
- ◆ **Members** - India, Afghanistan, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

## 5. Polar Silk Road

### Syllabus: GS2/ International Relation



#### In News

- ◆ The Chinese ship “Istanbul Bridge” became the first commercial vessel to sail from Ningbo-Zhoushan (China) to Felixstowe (UK) via the Arctic in 18 days, marking the operational launch of the Polar Silk Route.

#### Polar Silk Road

- ◆ The Polar Silk Road is a **part of China’s broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, envisioned as a “blue economic corridor” through the Arctic Ocean.
- ◆ It focuses on **developing navigable Arctic sea routes connecting East Asia, North America, and Western Europe via the Northern Sea Route (NSR) along Russia’s coast.**
- ◆ **Significance** - It establishes a **new shipping corridor between Asia and Europe — shorter and more cost-effective than the Suez Canal route.**

#### Additional Information - China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

##### OBOR

1. One Belt One Road (OBOR) is an ambitious project of China that focuses on connectivity and cooperation among multiple countries spread across the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. OBOR spans about 78 countries.
2. Initially announced in the year 2013, the project involves building networks of roadways, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines and associated infrastructure projects.

#### The project Covers two parts

- ◆ **Silk Road Economic Belt** - It is land-based and is expected to connect China with Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Western Europe.
- ◆ **21st Century Maritime Silk Road** - It is sea-based and is expected to connect China’s southern coast to the Mediterranean, Africa, South-East Asia and Central Asia.

## 6. Africa’s Great Green Wall project

### Syllabus: GS2/IR



#### Context

- ◆ Despite ambitious goals to restore 100 million hectares of land across Africa, the Great Green Wall project faces significant challenges in Senegal.

#### Africa’s Great Green Wall project

- ◆ **Launched by** - African Union in 2007,
- ◆ **Objective** - It aims to **combat desertification and land degradation across the Sahel region** by creating a mosaic of green and productive landscapes.

#### Key aspects of the Great Green Wall

- ◆ **Location:** The project focuses on the **Sahel region, a semi-arid zone that stretches across Africa, forming a transition between the Sahara Desert to the north and the savannas**

to the south.

- ◆ **Countries involved:** Originally involving 11 countries, the initiative now includes over **20 nations across Africa's width, from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east.** Core participating countries include Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Sudan.

#### 📄 Objectives

- ◆ **Land restoration:** To restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- ◆ **Climate change mitigation:** To sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere.
- ◆ **Livelihood improvement:** To create 10 million green jobs for local communities, enhancing food security and reducing poverty.

#### 📄 Additional Information - African Union

- ◆ The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- ◆ It was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963-1999).
- ◆ **Aim:** integration of African states to drive Africa's growth and economic development.

### 7. UN to Cut 25% of its Global Peacekeeping Force

**Syllabus:GS2/IR**

#### 📄 In News

- ◆ The United Nations is going to reduce its global peacekeeping operations by 25%, with 13,000–14,000 personnel expected to withdraw from nine missions due to significant U.S. funding cuts.

#### 📄 United Nations peacekeepers

- ◆ **The United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers, commonly known as the 'Blue Helmets'**
- ◆ They are **military, police, and civilian personnel deployed by the United Nations.**
- ◆ **Objective - to help countries transition from conflict to peace.**
- ◆ **Duties -** It includes protecting civilians, preventing conflict, strengthening security, and supporting peace processes.

- ◆ Peacekeeping operations are authorized by the UN Security Council and supported by member states, with personnel drawn from many countries around the world.

### 8. Official Visit of the UK Prime Minister to India

**Syllabus: GS2/IR**

#### 📄 In News

- ◆ The Prime Ministers of India and the UK have reaffirmed the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the recent official UK PM visit to India.

#### 📄 Key Outcomes

- ◆ **Economic & Trade:** Strengthening of the **UK-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**, expected to **boost market access, reduce tariffs, and generate jobs.**
- ◆ **Climate & Energy:** Establishment of advanced R&D centres in AI and climate change, and launch of **Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory, including a new campus at IIT-ISM Dhanbad.**
- ◆ Agreed to cooperate on Offshore Wind and through the **Global Clean Power Alliance (GCPA).**
- ◆ **Launched the India-UK Climate Finance Initiative.**
- ◆ **Defence and Security:** Enhanced cooperation on maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, including establishing a **Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSCE)** under India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
- ◆ **India-UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre**

### 9. Durand Line

**Syllabus: GS1/Geography; GS2/IR**

#### 📄 News -

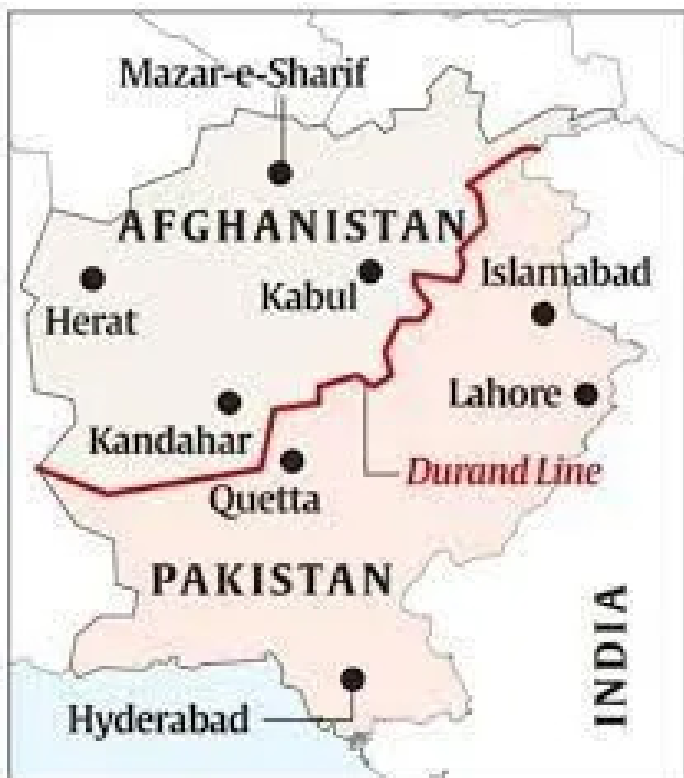
- ◆ Border clashes erupted between Afghanistan and Pakistan along the Durand Line.

#### 📄 Durand Line

- ◆ It is a **2,640 km land border established in**

1893 following an agreement between Sir Mortimer Durand, then Foreign Secretary of British India, and Amir Abdur Rahman Khan, the ruler of Afghanistan.

- ♦ The line was intended to define the spheres of influence between British India and Afghanistan, effectively splitting ethnic Pashtun and Baloch communities between the two sides.



## 10. UPOV Convention

**Syllabus: GS2/IR**

### Context

- ♦ A new report by GRAIN warns of growing corporate control over seeds via free trade agreements.
- ♦ **Powerful economies** — including the US, EU, Japan and the UAE — are pushing harsh IP rules on plant varieties.

### Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Convention 1991

- ♦ **Mandate** - It is an international treaty that provides a framework for intellectual property rights for plant breeders.
- ♦ **Adoption and Enforcement**- The 1991 Act, which entered into force in 1998

- ♦ **Significance** - It strengthens breeders' rights compared to earlier versions of the convention and has significant implications for farmers and the seed industry.

## 11. Sri Lankan PM's State Visit to India

**Syllabus: GS2/IR**

### Context

- ♦ The Sri Lankan Prime Minister is on a state visit to India.

### India and Sri Lanka Relations

- ♦ **Diplomatic Ties:** Diplomatic relations established in 1948 after Sri Lanka's independence.
- ♦ **Trade Relations:** India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) in 2000 contributed significantly towards the expansion of trade between the two countries.
- ♦ **Maritime Security and Defence Cooperation:** In 2011, a decision was taken to establish the Colombo Security Conclave which aims to further promote maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ♦ **India and Sri Lanka conduct a joint Military exercise named 'Mitra Shakti', Trilateral Maritime Exercise "Dosti", and a Naval exercise named SLINEX.**
- ♦ **Multilateral Forum Collaboration:** India and Sri Lanka are member nations of several regional and multilateral organizations such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and BIMSTEC.

## 12. Japan Elects First Female Prime Minister

**Syllabus: GS2/IR**



### Context

- ◆ **The Prime Minister extended congratulations to Sanae Takaichi, Japan's newly-elected and first woman Prime Minister.**
- ◆ He emphasized that partnership between India and Japan plays a vital role in ensuring peace, stability, and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region

## 13. Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Visited India

**Syllabus: GS2/IR**

### Context

- ◆ Afghanistan's Taliban foreign minister met external affairs minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi.

### India-Taliban Diplomatic Engagement

- ◆ **Assurance for Terror Concerns:** Afghanistan reassured India that it would not allow any group to use its territory against another country
- ◆ **India's Embassy Reopening:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar announced that India would reopen its full embassy in Kabul.
- ◆ **Diplomatic Context:** Around a dozen countries — including **China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey** — already operate embassies in Kabul.
- ◆ **Strategic Balance:** The move reflects India's pragmatic approach to maintain influence in Afghanistan amid Pakistan and China's growing presence.
- ◆ **Counterterrorism Focus:** India's emphasis on Afghan soil not being used for terrorism directly addresses concerns about groups like **LeT and JeM.**

## 14. Saudi Arabia Ends Kafala System

**Syllabus: GS2/ International Relations**

### In News

- ◆ In a landmark labour reform, Saudi Arabia has officially scrapped the decades-old Kafala (sponsorship) system.

### Kafala system

- ◆ The Kafala system required **foreign workers to have a Saudi sponsor, usually their employer, who controlled their visa and legal status.**
- ◆ This meant that workers **couldn't change jobs, leave the country, or even renew their residence permits** without the sponsor's consent.

### Why did Saudi Arabia scrap the system

- ◆ Human rights bodies long argued that this system often led to worker exploitation and abuse, as employees were left with little legal recourse if their employers withheld salaries or passports.
- ◆ The reform aligns with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030, which aims to modernise the economy, attract foreign investment, and reduce the kingdom's reliance on oil.

## 15. International Convention Against Doping in Sport

**Syllabus: Miscellaneous**

### In News

- ◆ India was re-elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau representing the Asia-Pacific during

the 10th Session of UNESCO's International Convention against Doping in Sport, held in Paris.

### Doping and its Concerns

- ◆ Doping refers to the practice of using banned chemical substances, known as performance enhancing drugs (PEDs), by athletes.

### Conventions and Declarations related to Anti-Doping

#### Copenhagen Declaration

- ◆ **Held in** - Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport was agreed upon by governments at the Second World Conference on Doping in Sport held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2003.
- ◆ **Purpose** - The declaration was the political document through which governments signalled their intention to formally recognise and implement the World Anti-Doping Code.
- ◆ **Significance** - This declaration was the first step toward the preparation of the UNESCO International Convention against doping in sports.
- ◆ India agreed to this declaration in the year 2003.

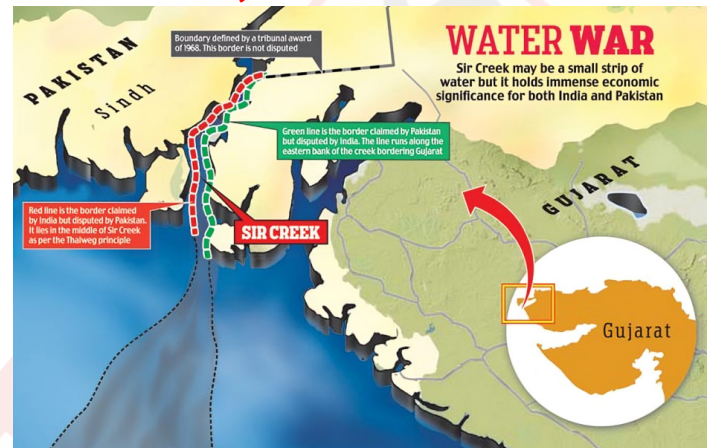
### International Convention Against Doping in Sport

- ◆ It is also known as the 'UNESCO Anti-Doping Convention'.
- ◆ It was adopted at the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris in 2005. It entered into force in 2007.
- ◆ **Objective** - To promote the prevention of and the fight against doping in sports, with a view to its elimination.
- ◆ India ratified this convention in 2007.

- ◆ **Note** - National Anti-Doping Agency, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs, is responsible for adopting, implementing and enforcing anti-doping programmes in India.

## 16. Sir Creek

### Syllabus: GS1/Places



### In News

- ◆ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh warned Pakistan that any aggression in the disputed Sir Creek area will be met with a strong response.

### Sir Creek region

- ◆ Sir Creek is a 96-km-long tidal estuary between Gujarat's Rann of Kutch and Pakistan.
- ◆ The Rann lies on the border between Gujarat and the Pakistani province of Sind.
- ◆ It is considered a disputed region due to varying interpretations of maritime boundary lines by both sides.
- ◆ Sir Creek is a strategic and sensitive zone along the Gujarat coastline

## 2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA

### 1. Five new city corporations under Greater Bengaluru Authority

#### Ward delimitation

| Corporation  | Central | East   | North  | South  | West   | Total  |
|--|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of wards                                    | 63      | 50     | 72     | 72     | 111    | 368    |
| Population as per 2011 census (in lakhs)           | 15      | 09     | 18     | 17     | 26     | 85     |
| Projected 2023 population (in lakhs)               | 25      | 13     | 31     | 30     | 45     | 144    |
| Average ward size as per projected 2023 population | 39,683  | 26,000 | 43,055 | 41,666 | 40,540 | 39,130 |

#### News -

- ◆ The State government on Tuesday published a draft of the new wards within the five city corporations in Bengaluru, taking the total number of wards in the city to 368, up from 198.

#### Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA)

- ◆ It is a new apex urban governance body for the city of Bengaluru which became operational in May and September 2025.
- ◆ It replaced the former single civic body, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)
- ◆ It operates under the authority of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024.

#### Key Functions and Structure

- ◆ Apex Coordinating Body: The GBA is responsible for coordinating and supervising the activities of multiple newly formed city corporations (currently five: East, West, Central, North, and South) and various parastatal agencies like the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), BMRCL (Metro), and BWSSB (Water Board).
- ◆ Urban Planning: It serves as the primary planning authority for the entire Greater Bengaluru Area
- ◆ Leadership: The GBA is chaired by the Chief Minister of Karnataka, with the Minister of Bengaluru Development serving as the Vice-Chairperson. The Chief Commissioner acts as the member secretary.
- ◆ Membership: The Authority includes a wide

range of ex-officio members with voting rights, such as state ministers, Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Bengaluru constituencies, mayors of the five city corporations, and heads of key civic agencies.

- ◆ City Corporation - Up to seven city corporations are permitted; five are currently active.

### 2. Cybercrimes in Bengaluru

#### News -

- ◆ Bengaluru accounts for 51.92% of cybercrimes in metros according to the NCRB report.

#### Key findings of the ep

- ◆ The State recorded 21,889 cybercrime cases, 20% more than Telangana, which registered 18,236 cases.
- ◆ Karnataka has emerged as the cybercrime capital of India, accounting for 25.57% of all registered cases in the country in 2023.
- ◆ At the heart of Karnataka's cybercrime surge is Bengaluru. The IT hub alone accounted for 17,631 of the 21,889 cases reported in the State in 2023, making it the city with the highest cybercrime incidence in the country.

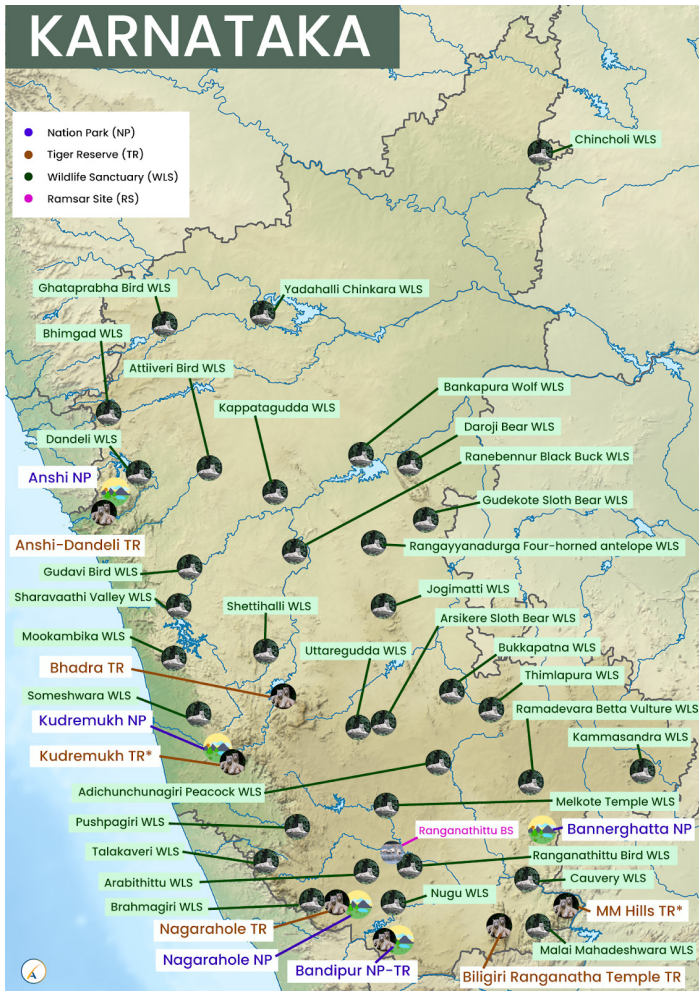
#### Initiatives of Karnataka government to prevent cybercrime

- ◆ New Cyber Command Unit - It consolidates 45 police stations to manage all cybercrime cases.
- ◆ Karnataka Cybersecurity Policy 2024 - It focuses on safeguarding infrastructure and promoting awareness, and the establishment of a Cyber Command Center in Bengaluru.
- ◆ Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training & Research (CCITR) - to improve investigation and prosecution to prevent cyber crimes.

### 3. Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary

#### News -

- ◆ The carcass of a tiger was found in the Hanur range of M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary that is suspected to be another case of poisoning.



### Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary

- ◆ Location - It is located at the intersection of the Western and the Eastern Ghats and falls in the Chamarajanagara District of Karnataka.
- ◆ It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2013.
- ◆ It is contiguous to Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, and the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ◆ It's the home of the famous Male Mahadeshwara Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, known here as Mahadeshwara.
- ◆ Male Mahadeshwara Hills is bound by the Kaveri River to the northeast and by the Palar River to the south.
- ◆ Vegetation: The forests are dry deciduous type, patches of moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen and shola forests can be found here.
- ◆ Flora: Anogeissus latifolia, Boswellia serrata, Hardwickia binata and Chloroxylon swietenia etc.
- ◆ Fauna - It is home to several animals, including elephants, Indian bison, wild dogs, leopards, foxes, sambars, spotted deer, and many species of birds.
- ◆ It is also a tiger habitat noted for its increasing number of tigers.

## 4. Shakti scheme

### Survey findings

**91%** of women said the scheme improved their financial situation

**80%** saved up to ₹1,000 a week on commuting costs

**96%** of women beneficiaries have used the service, the highest among all five guarantees

**19%** of respondents gained new or better jobs

**83%** reported better access to healthcare

**83%** experienced improved family relationships

**72%** felt more confident and empowered



Source: Survey report entitled 'Impact evaluation of the five guarantees of the Government of Karnataka'

### News -

- ◆ Shakti scheme, the flagship women-empowerment initiative of the State government, has achieved another global milestone by entering the International Book of Records – World Record of Excellence.
- ◆ Over 500 crore free tickets have been issued since the launch of the scheme, which offers free bus travel for women.

### Shakti scheme

- ◆ Launched in - The scheme was launched on June 11, 2023
- ◆ It is a program which provides free bus travel for all women residents of Karnataka.
- ◆ Objective: Its primary aim is to empower women by improving access to public transport, encouraging their participation in the workforce, and enhancing their financial independence and mobility.
- ◆ Targeted beneficiary - All women domiciled in Karnataka, including female students and transgender women, are eligible.
- ◆ Note - Free travel is valid only in non-premium buses operated by KSRTC, BMTCL, NWKRTC, and KKRTC, and only within the state.

## 5. Karnataka sees sharp increase in road accidents

Traffic accidents (Highest % increase from 2022 to 2023)



Traffic accident deaths

| State          | Cases  | Death  |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Tamil Nadu     | 67,213 | 18,347 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 54,763 | 14,098 |
| Karnataka      | 43,439 | 12,322 |
| Uttar Pradesh  | 37,764 | 23,947 |
| Maharashtra    | 31,347 | 15,434 |

Pedestrian deaths



### News -

- Among 53 cities across India, Bengaluru is ranked in the top five with a 30.3% increase in accidents; it was preceded by Ranchi (50.3%), Varanasi (46.3%), and Pune (35%)

### Initiatives of Karnataka government to promote road safety

- Karnataka State Road Safety Authority Act, 2017:** The government established the Karnataka State Road Safety Authority to systematically implement road safety programs and manage a dedicated Road Safety Fund.
- Partnership with SaveLIFE Foundation:** The government has signed an MoU with the SaveLIFE Foundation to implement data-driven interventions, including the “Zero Fatality District” (ZFD) programme in high-fatality districts. This collaboration has already contributed to a significant reduction in fatalities on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway through specific engineering and enforcement measures.
- “Namma Raste Namma Surakshite” Safe-A-Thon:** The Transport Department organizes community events, such as walkathons, marathons, and cyclothons, to promote life-saving habits and general road safety awareness.
- “Catch the Youth” Program:** The Traffic Warden Organisation reaches out to colleges to educate young adults on road safety and discourage wilful violations like overspeeding and riding without helmets.
- COBRA Patrol Vehicles:** Bengaluru traffic police deploys motorbikes for 24/7 patrolling and first

response to accidents, breakdowns, and other traffic issues, coordinated via the control room.

## 6. Three new judges of HC assume office

### News -

- Chief Justice of the High Court Vibhu Bakhru administered the oath to Justices Geetha Kadaba Bharataraja Setty, Borkatte Muralidhara Pai, and Tyagaraja Narayan Inavally.

### Constitutional Provisions Related to High Courts

- Articles 214 to 231 in Part VI of the Indian Constitution deal with the provisions related to the High Courts.

### Appointment of Judges of High Court

- The Chief Justice and other judges of the High Court are appointed by the President of India as can be seen in the following sections.

### Appointment of Chief Justice of High Court

- The Chief Justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the Governor of the concerned State and the Chief Justice of India.

### Appointment of Other Judges of High Court

- Other judges of the High Court are appointed by the President after consultation with the Governor of the State, the Chief Justice of India, and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

**Additional information - List of Chief justice of Karnataka Highcourt**

| #  | Chief Justice                | Term                                 |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | <b>R. Venkataramaiah</b>     | 1 November 1956 – 16 July 1957       |
| 2  | S. R. Das Gupta              | 25 July 1957 – 13 August 1961        |
| 3  | <b>Nittoor Srinivasa Rau</b> | 29 March 1962 – 7 August 1963        |
| 4  | <b>A. R. Somanath Iyer</b>   | 23 November 1969 – 29 December 1969  |
| 5  | M. Sadasivayya               | 30 December 1969 – 16 September 1970 |
| 6  | A. Narayana Pai              | 17 September 1970 – 6 June 1973      |
| 7  | G. K. Govinda Bhat           | 7 June 1973 – 14 December 1977       |
| 8  | D. M. Chandrashekar          | 22 March 1978 – 25 September 1982    |
| 9  | K. Bhimaiah                  | 28 October 1982 – 10 April 1983      |
| 10 | <b>V. S. Malimath</b>        | 6 February 1984 – 24 October 1985    |
| 11 | Prem Chand Jain              | 28 August 1986 – 16 September 1989   |
| 12 | S. Mohan                     | 26 October 1989 – 7 October 1991     |
| 13 | <b>S. P. Bharucha</b>        | 1 January 1991 – 30 June 1992        |
| 14 | S. B. Majumdar               | 2 July 1993 – 13 September 1994      |
| 15 | <b>G. T. Nanavati</b>        | 28 September 1994 – 4 March 1995     |
| 16 | M. L. Pendse                 | 28 July 1995 – 25 March 1996         |
| 17 | S. A. Hakeem                 | 3 May 1996 – 9 May 1996              |
| 18 | R. P. Sethi                  | 29 June 1996 – 6 January 1999        |
| 19 | <b>Y. Bhaskar Rao</b>        | 9 March 1999 – 26 June 2000          |
| 20 | P. V. Reddi                  | 21 October 2000 – 16 August 2001     |
| 21 | <b>Nagendra Kumar Jain</b>   | 31 August 2001 – 20 October 2004     |
| 22 | <b>Nauvdip Kumar Sodhi</b>   | 19 November 2004 – 29 November 2005  |

|    |                                   |                                     |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 23 | <b>Cyriac Joseph</b>              | 7 January 2006 – 6 July 2008        |
| 24 | <b>P. D. Dinakaran</b>            | 8 August 2008 – 7 August 2010       |
| 25 | <b>Jagdish Singh Khehar</b>       | 8 August 2010 – 12 September 2011   |
| 26 | <b>Vikramajit Sen</b>             | 24 December 2011 – 24 December 2012 |
| 27 | <b>Dhirendra Hiralal Waghela</b>  | 7 March 2013 – 1 June 2015          |
| 28 | <b>Subhro Kamal Mukherjee</b>     | 23 February 2016– 9 October 2017    |
| 29 | <b>Dinesh Maheshwari</b>          | 12 February 2018 – 17 January 2019  |
| 30 | <b>Abhay Shreeniwas Oka</b>       | 10 May 2019 – 30 August 2021        |
| 31 | <b>Ritu Raj Awasthi</b>           | 11 October 2021 – 2 July 2022       |
| 32 | <b>Prasanna B. Varale</b>         | 15 October 2022 – 24 January 2024   |
| 33 | <b>P. S. Dinesh Kumar</b>         | 3 February 2024 – 24 February 2024  |
| 34 | <b>Nilay Vipinchandra Anjaria</b> | 25 February 2024 – 29 May 2025      |
| 35 | <b>Vibhu Bakhru</b>               | – Incumbent                         |

## 7. HelpAge India launches 'AdvantAge60' campaign

### News -

- ◆ HelpAge India, a NGO working for the cause of senior citizens, launched its new campaign 'AdvantAge60'

### 'AdvantAge60: Powering Aspirations',

- ◆ It is a campaign that promotes a positive view of aging for elders in India.
- ◆ The campaign aims to showcase how individuals over 60 can lead active, enabled, and empowered lives, countering ageist stereotypes by highlighting the strength and potential of older people.
- ◆ Theme: "Powering Aspirations – Active, Enabled & Empowered".
- ◆ Launch: Launched on International Day of Older Persons 2025.

## 8. State Film Awards

### News-

- ◆ The Karnataka government has announced the State Film Awards for 2021, celebrating the best of Kannada cinema released in that year.

### State Film Awards

1. Best Film: “Doddahatti Boregowda” (Directed by Raghu KM)
2. Second Best Film: “777 Charlie” (Directed by Kiranraj K)
3. Third Best Film: “Bisilu Kudure” (Directed by Hridaya Shiva)
4. Best Actor: Rakshit Shetty for “777 Charlie”
5. Best Actress: Archana Jois for “Mute”
6. Best Supporting Actor: Pramod for “Ratnan Prapancha”
7. Best Supporting Actress: Umashree for “Ratnan Prapancha”
8. Best Popular Entertaining Film: “Yuvarathnaa” (Produced by Vijay Kiragandur, Directed by Santhosh Anandram)
9. Best Children’s Film: “Cake” (Directed by Kishore Moodbidri)
10. Best Debut Director: Shankar Guru for “Badava Rascal”
11. Best Regional Language Film: “Nada Peda Asha” (Kodava language, Directed by Prakash Kariappa)

## 9. Water Resilience Project

### News-

- ◆ IISc, IIT-M join forces with Greater Bengaluru authority for the World Bank-funded water security and resilience project.
- ◆ The project will receive over ₹3,500 crore in funding from the World Bank, with key stakeholders including the GBA, BWSSB, Minor Irrigation, and the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

### Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program (Bengaluru)

- ◆ Objective - It is a World Bank-supported initiative to address water scarcity and urban flooding in Bengaluru through improved water management

- ◆ It includes reviving 183 lakes, upgrading stormwater drains, building sewage treatment plants, reducing water leakage through new technology like smart meters, and enhancing disaster response systems.
- ◆ Duration: The program is set to be initiated in April 2025.
- ◆ Implementing Agency: The Revenue Department (Disaster Management) is the primary implementing agency.

## 10. Neeriddare Nale scheme



### News -

- ◆ The State government will implement the Neeriddare Nale (water is future) initiative across 525 gram panchayats in 27 taluks of 15 districts.

### Neeriddare Nale scheme (meaning “Water is Future”)

- ◆ Launched on - October 9, 2025
- ◆ Goal: To conserve water and increase groundwater levels in areas where it has been overexploited.
- ◆ Focus areas: The first phase targets 525 gram panchayats across 27 taluks in 15 districts where groundwater is critically low.
- ◆ Strategies: The program will implement several measures including:
  1. Constructing new groundwater recharge structures.
  2. Installing rain water harvesting systems.
  3. Regulating water extraction in critical areas.
  4. Developing region-specific crop and water management strategies.
- ◆ Public awareness: The scheme also involves public awareness campaigns. Actor Vasista

Simha was appointed as the brand ambassador for the Department of Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development to help engage the younger generation on water conservation issues.

## 11. City leads globally in AI skill penetration

### News -

- ◆ 'The State government was investing ₹1,000 crore to build innovation clusters across Mangaluru, Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Belagavi'
- ◆ Bengaluru's ecosystem leads globally in AI skill penetration and R&D output, ranking among the top five cities worldwide.
- ◆ "3P model of People, Policy and Participation, which ensures every stakeholder, from academia to entrepreneurs, has a voice in shaping growth,"
- ◆ Karnataka is not just an investment destination but the global knowledge and skill capital. With 40% of India's R&D talent, 30% of all Global Capability Centres, and 48% of the country's 110 unicorns.
- ◆ Karnataka drives the nation's digital economy."

## 12. Jayaprakash Narayan Award

### News -

- ◆ Former MLA Y.S.V. Datta has been selected for the Jayaprakash Narayan Award 2025 by Bharata Yatra Kendra.
- ◆ The selection committee included Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat president B.L. Shankar and B.R. Patil, Deputy Chairperson of the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission.

## 13. Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy-2025

### News -

- ◆ Karnataka Cabinet's landmark decision to approve the Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy-2025 that will ensure one day's paid leave in a month across government and private sectors.
- ☒ Note - Karnataka becomes the first State to cover both the government and private sectors in its menstrual leave policy.

- ◆ Odisha and Bihar have a policy for government employees while Kerala has implemented the policy in universities.

### News - Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy-2025

- ◆ Women in the state of Karnataka will be entitled to up to 12 menstrual leaves annually.
- ◆ This development marks a significant step in recognising menstrual health as a workplace and rights issue.
- ◆ The Dr. Sapna S committee was appointed by the Karnataka government to study and recommend menstrual leave policy
- ◆ Significance - It aims to create a more inclusive and stigma-free workplace and is considered a landmark decision in India, as it covers both government and private sectors comprehensively.

## 14. Almatti dam

### News

- ◆ Govt. notifies land acquisition to raise Almatti dam height
- ◆ A total of 1,33,867 acres will be acquired for increasing the height of the dam from 519.60 metres to 524.25 metres.

### Almatti dam

- ◆ It also known as Lal Bahadur Shastri Dam,
- ◆ Location - It is a major hydroelectric and irrigation project located on the Krishna River in the Vijayapura district of Karnataka.
- ◆ It was completed in July 2005 and serves multiple purposes including irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, and flood control.
- ◆ The dam stands 52.5 meters high and stretches about 3.5 kilometers in length.
- ◆ The reservoir has a gross storage capacity of 123.08 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic feet) at 519 meters above mean sea level.
- ◆ Almatti Dam is the main reservoir of the Upper Krishna Irrigation Project.
- ◆ It houses a 290 MW hydroelectric power station with vertical Kaplan turbines; five 55 MW generators and one 15 MW generator.

### Additional Information - Important Dams of Karnataka

| Dam/Reservoir         | River       | Location                          | Storage Capacity (TMC ft) |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Almatti Dam           | Krishna     | Nidagundi taluk, Bijapur district | 123.25                    |
| Basava Sagara Dam     | Krishna     | Narayanapur, Yadgir district      | 37.965                    |
| Raja Lakhamagowda Dam | Ghataprabha | Hidkal, Belgaum district          | 51.16                     |
| Renuka Sagara Dam     | Malaprabha  | Navilutheertha, Belgaum district  | 37.73                     |
| Vani Vilasa Sagara    | Vedavathi   | Marikanive, Chitradurga district  | 30.442                    |
| Upper Tunga Dam       | Tunga       | Gajanur, Shimoga                  | 3.24                      |
| Bhadra Dam            | Bhadra      | Lakkavalli, Chikmagaluru district | 71.50                     |
| Tungabhadra Dam       | Tungabhadra | Hospet, Vijayanagara district     | 132.47                    |
| Hemavathi Reservoir   | Hemavathi   | Gorur, Hassan district            | 35.76                     |
| Kabini Reservoir      | Kabini      | Heggadadevanakote, Mysore         | 19.52                     |
| Harangi Reservoir     | Harangi     | Hudgur, Kodagu district           | 8.07                      |
| Krishna Raja Sagara   | Kaveri      | Mandya                            | 45.05                     |
| Linganamakki Dam      | Sharavathi  | Sagara, Shimoga district          | 156.62                    |
| Chakra Reservoir      | Chakra      | Chakra Nagar, Shimoga             | 7.3                       |
| Savehaklu Reservoir   | Chakra      | Chakra Nagar, Shimoga             | 4.1                       |
| Mani Reservoir        | Varahi      | Hummadagallu, Shimoga             | 35.2                      |
| Supa Dam              | Kali        | Ganesha Gudi, Uttara Kannada      | 147.54                    |
| Kodasalli Dam         | Kali        | Kodasalli, Uttara Kannada         | 10.14                     |
| Kadra Dam             | Kali        | Virje, Uttara Kannada             | 13.74                     |
| Shanti Sagara         | Haridra     | Kerebilchi, Davanagere district   | 3.5                       |
| Karanja Dam           | Karanja     | Byalahalli, Bidar district        | 13.1                      |

## 15. State to appoint three Information Commissioners soon

### News -

- ◆ The State government has reportedly finalised the names of three candidates for filling vacancies in the Karnataka Information Commission.
  1. Former IAS officer Richard Vincent D'Souza,
  2. Journalist Venkat Singh, and
  3. Former journalist Mahesh Valvekar.

### Karnataka information commission

- ◆ Established under - It is an autonomous statutory body established under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- ◆ It comprises one State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) and up to 10 State Information Commissioners (SIC) who are appointed by the Governor.
- ◆ Objective - to hear appeals and complaints regarding information requested from various government entities in Karnataka.

### Powers and Functions

- ◆ The KIC's powers include receiving and investigating complaints about denied RTI requests, ordering public authorities to provide information, and exercising powers similar to a civil court.
- ◆ The commission can also recommend disciplinary action against Public Information Officers who obstruct access to information

## 16. Dr. Kalayya Krishnamurthy National Award 2024

### News-

- ◆ Horticultural scientist G. Karunakaran, who is credited with popularising dragon fruit cultivation and identifying the Siddu jackfruit variety, was conferred the Dr. Kalayya Krishnamurthy National Award 2024 by the University of Agricultural Sciences -Bengaluru (UAS-B)

## 17. 'Indira food kit'

### News -

- ◆ 'Indira food kit' to replace 5 kg rice under Anna Bhagya scheme
- ◆ It will benefit about 4.48 crore population holding below poverty line cards and will include toor dal, oil, sugar and salt

### 'Indira food kit'

- ◆ Objective - The scheme aims to ensure better nutrition, transparency, and effective resource utilization.
- ◆ Food covered : The Indira Food Kit contains nutritious items: toor dal, moong dal, sugar, salt, and cooking oil,
- ◆ Distribution - It is based on family size half a kg for 1-2 member families, 1 kg for 3-4 members, and 1.5 kg for families of 5 or more.
- ◆ Beneficiaries :The scheme covers about 1.26 crore ration cardholder families, impacting around 4.48 crore beneficiaries.
- ◆ Benefits : The change is intended to reduce misuse, smuggling, and illegal diversion of rice under the previous scheme.
- ◆ The government expects to save approximately Rs 300 crore annually by implementing the kit instead of rice.
- ◆ The kit is distributed via fair price shops using BPL ration cards under the Public Distribution System.

## 18. Karnataka Sahitya Academy awards

### News-

- ◆ The Karnataka Sahitya Academy honorary awards for 2024

### Awardees -

1. Shudra Srinivas,
2. Pratibha Nandakumar,
3. M. Basavanna,
4. D.B. Nayak and
5. Vishvanath Karnad

### 'Sahitya Shri' award - 10 writers are being given the 'Sahitya Shri' award

- ◆ K.Y. Naranaswamy,
- ◆ B.M. Puttaiah,
- ◆ Padmalaya Nagaraj,
- ◆ B.U. Suma,
- ◆ Mamata Sagara,
- ◆ Sabita Bannadi,
- ◆ Abdul Hai Toranagal,
- ◆ Gurulingappa Dabale,
- ◆ H.S. Anupama and
- ◆ Amaresha Yatagal.

### Karnataka Sahitya Academy Awards,

- ◆ Instituted in - 1983
- ◆ They are among the most prestigious literary honors in Kannada.
- ◆ Field - Awards are given for poetry, fiction, criticism, travel writing, translation, children's literature, and more.
- ◆ Purpose - It is a prestigious annual literary award given by the Government of Karnataka to recognize and promote exceptional contributions to Kannada literature.

### The awards are presented in several categories:

- ◆ Annual Honorary Awards: Five distinguished literary figures are honored each year for their immense overall service to Kannada literature.
- ◆ Book Prizes: Awards are given to the best books in approximately 18 different literary genres, including poetry, novel, short fiction, play, criticism, travel writing, translation, children's literature, and science writing.
- ◆ "Sahityashree" Awards: This award is also presented to several writers annually for their notable literary contributions.

## 19. NIMHANS to host Mental Health Santhe 4.0

### News -

- ◆ NIMHANS will host the fourth edition of its flagship public awareness initiative, Mental Health Santhe 4.0.

### Mental Health Santhe 4.0

- ◆ Objective : It will bring together mental health organisations, professionals, caregivers, and the public in a collective effort to promote mental well-being and suicide prevention.
- ◆ Organised by - Department of Mental Health Education in collaboration with several departments of NIMHANS.
- ◆ The event is supported under the Swachhta Action Plan 2025-26 of the Kayakalp Scheme by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ◆ Theme : 'Community Supporting Mental Wellbeing Together', coincides with the global observance of World Mental Health Day 2025 (October 10th).

## 20. Exports: 'Karnataka is first in services'

### News -

- ◆ Even though Karnataka tops the country's chart in export of services, the State occupies the fourth position in export of merchandise.
- ◆ Karnataka, by exporting \$158 billion of services out of India's total services export of \$387 billion during 2024-25, accounted for 41% of the country's services exports.

### Key findings -

- ◆ Karnataka is top exporter in services followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat, .
- ◆ However, Karnataka trailed Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu to occupy the fourth position when it came to the export of merchandise.

## 21. Bengaluru to get 35-petaflop supercomputer from C-DAC

### News -

- ◆ Bengaluru will soon get a 35-petaflop supercomputer, a high-capacity computing machine, currently being built by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- ◆ A petaflop is a unit of measurement for computer processing speed, representing one quadrillion floating-point operations per second.

### **National Supercomputing Mission(NSM)**

- ◆ Launched in - 2015
- ◆ Objective - It is a mission of the Government of India to boost the supercomputing capabilities of India.

### **Key features**

- ◆ This mission consists of designing and manufacturing 73 supercomputers in India.
- ◆ These clusters of supercomputers will be connected to various academic and research institutions across India.
- ◆ This grid will be connected to the National Knowledge Network (NKN).

### **Implementing Agencies**

1. Department of Science and Technology
2. Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)
3. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
4. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

### **New-age applications of supercomputers**

- ◆ Weather forecasting
- ◆ Natural disaster predictions
- ◆ Drug discovery
- ◆ Space applications
- ◆ Aerodynamic research
- ◆ 3D nuclear test simulations.

### **Facts about Supercomputers**

- ◆ India's First Supercomputer - PARAM 8000, developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, and launched in 1991.
- ◆ "Rudra" is India's first indigenously designed HPC server on par with global HPC-class servers.
- ◆ India's fastest supercomputer is AIRAWAT, which is the largest and fastest AI supercomputing system in the country.
- ◆ It has a speed of 13,170 teraflops and was ranked 75th globally on the Top 500 list in 2023.

## **22.Mining project in Tumakuru district.**

### **News -**

- ◆ The regional office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Bengaluru, has rejected a proposal for diversion of 48.2 ha of forestland for a mining project in Tumakuru district.
- ◆ The inspection pertained to a proposal seeking clearance for the Sarangapani Iron and Manganese Ore Mine Project.
- ◆ The mining project is in Thirtharamapura Reserve Forest and is spread across Gollarahalli, Hosahalli, Kodihalli, Tonalapura, and Lakmenahalli villages in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk of Tumakuru district.
- ◆ The rejection stems from the fact that commercial mining is a prohibited activity within the deemed Eco-Sensitive Zone of Bukkapatna Wildlife Sanctuary.

### **Additional Information - Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary**

- ◆ Location - It is located in the Sira Taluk of the Tumakuru district in Karnataka.
- ◆ It is a protected area, notified in 2019,
- ◆ Objective - to conserve the Indian gazelle (Chinkara) and other dryland biodiversity.

### **Flora and Fauna**

- ◆ The sanctuary is a wooded savannah ecosystem, featuring extensive grasslands and sparsely distributed native tree species.
- ◆ Key Fauna: The sanctuary is primarily known for its chinkaras, and also features blackbucks, four-horned antelopes, leopards, sloth bears, hyenas, and wild boars. More than 160 bird species have also been recorded.
- ◆ Key Flora: Notable tree species include Hardwickia binata (Anjan), Phyllanthus emblica (Amla), and Tamarindus indica (Imli).

## **23.State to ready 300-acre data centre park at Tavarekere in 18 months**

### **News -**

- ◆ Karnataka will create a dedicated data centre park at Tavarekere, an industrial area bordering Hoskote and Kolar.

### **Dedicated data centre park at Tavarekere**

- ♦ Aim - to cater to the huge data centre infrastructure requirement in the State.
- ♦ Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has already notified and would soon be acquiring 1,000 acres of land in Tavarekere, (some 46 km away from the central business area of Bengaluru),

## 24. State inks pact with GAIL to generate gas from wet waste

### News -

- ♦ The Karnataka government has signed an agreement with Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to generate gas from wet waste in Bengaluru.
- ♦ This will help reduce the problem of waste in Bengaluru, and that the gas will be distributed to industries and hotels.

### The types of waste generated and managed in Bangalore include:

- ♦ Organic Waste - Kitchen waste such as food leftovers, vegetable peels, fruit waste, tea/coffee grounds, eggshells, garden pruning and green waste.
- ♦ Non-Organic (Dry) Waste - Recyclable solid waste like plastics (bags, bottles, containers), metals (utensils, wires, batteries), glass (bottles/cups), paper (newspapers, cardboard), and wood.
- ♦ Hazardous Waste - Items such as insect sprays, chemicals, medical waste (syringes, bio-medical waste), e-waste, batteries, and sanitary products.
- ♦ Inert Waste - Construction and demolition debris like sand, concrete, clay, subsoil, stones, and rubble.

### Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016:

- ♦ Mandatory Source Segregation: Waste generators must segregate waste into three streams: wet (biodegradable), dry (plastic, paper, metal, etc.), and domestic hazardous waste.
- ♦ Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Manufacturers/brand owners of certain products (e.g., plastic packaging, e-waste, batteries) are financially responsible for collecting and processing their post-consumer

waste.

- ♦ Role of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs): Responsible for door-to-door collection, transportation, processing, and disposal.
- ♦ User Fees and Spot Fines: Local bodies can levy user fees for waste services and spot fines for littering or non-segregation.
- ♦ Promotion of Waste Processing: Emphasis on composting, biomethanation, recycling, and waste-to-energy plants over landfills.

### Government Initiatives

- ♦ Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Urban and Gramin): Flagship cleanliness campaign with a focus on achieving "Garbage-Free Cities" (SBM-U 2.0) through scientific waste management.
- ♦ Waste to Wealth Mission: Promotes converting waste into energy, compost, and other valuable products.
- ♦ GOBAR-Dhan Scheme: Focuses on converting organic waste and cattle dung into biogas, bio-CNG, and organic manure in rural areas.
- ♦ NAMASTE Scheme: Aims to formalize and integrate informal waste pickers into the formal waste management system, providing them with safety and social security.

## 25. Nammo Bharat trains

# Proposed Nammo Bharat corridors

■ Bengaluru–Hoskote–Kolar: **65 km**

■ Bengaluru–Mysuru: **145 km**

■ Bengaluru–Tumakuru: **60 km**

■ Bengaluru–Hosur–Krishnagiri–Dharmapuri: **138 km** (extends into Tamil Nadu)

### News -

- ◆ Bengaluru City likely to get Namo Bharat trains to boost regional connectivity

### Namo Bharat

- ◆ It is India's first semi-high-speed regional rail service (previously known as RapidX) designed for fast, comfortable, and efficient inter-city travel within the National Capital Region (NCR) and other urban areas.
- ◆ It is currently India's fastest operational train, running at a top speed of 160 km/h on dedicated corridors
- ◆ It marked the launch of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System service, initially branded RapidX and introduced to the public as Namo Bharat at launch.

## 26. Cabinet approves Bengaluru Business Corridor

### News -

- ◆ 117-km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), formerly known as the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), to connect Electronics City with Tumakuru Road and Mysuru Road.

### Bengaluru Business Corridor

- ◆ Implementation - Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) would develop the BBC.
- ◆ It connects Electronics City with Tumakuru Road and Mysuru Road.
- ◆ Significance - It decongest traffic by up to 40% by diverting through-traffic and linking major radial highways; alternative/complement to NICE Road.

## 27. Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC-2)

### News -

- ◆ Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission recommends closure of seven boards and

corporations, merger of nine others.

### Recommendations

- ◆ The boards and corporations whose closure has been recommended are:
  1. Karnataka State Social Welfare Board
  2. Karnataka State Temperance Board
  3. Karnataka Cooperative Poultry Federation
  4. Karnataka Pulpwood Limited
  5. Karnataka State Agro-Corn Products Limited
  6. Mysore Lamp Works Limited
  7. Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited.

The boards and corporations whose merger has been recommended are

1. Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
2. Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Ltd
3. Bengaluru Suburban Railway Company Ltd. (B-RIDE)
4. Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.
5. Ahara Karnataka Ltd.
6. Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Ltd.

Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC-2)

- ◆ Constituted in - January 2021
- ◆ Mandate - to recommend comprehensive measures for enhancing transparency, efficiency, and accountability in public administration.
- ◆ The commission's mandate includes restructuring administrative systems, simplifying citizen-centric service delivery, and strengthening institutional governance across departments.
- ◆ The current Chairman of the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission is Shri R.V. Deshpande, who was appointed in January 2024 with the status of a Cabinet Minister. He took over from the previous chairman, Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar

**Additional Information-**

| Commission   | Chairman  | Constitution reference/date                                |
|--|---|--|
| Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission (KARC-1)   | Haranahalli Ramaswamy   | Constituted by DPAR order in 2000; reports submitted 2001. |
| Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC-2) | T. M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)<br>current chairman is R V Deshpande | constituted in 2001  |

**28. District planning committees**

**News-**

- ◆ The Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission chaired by B R Patil has expressed dissatisfaction over district in-charge, not holding regular meetings of district planning committees

**District Planning Committee (DPC)**

- ◆ It is a constitutional body under Article 243Z. It is mandatory in every district.
- ◆ Core mandate: consolidate Panchayat and Municipality plans; prepare a draft development plan for the district.
- ◆ Composition: at least four-fifths elected from among elected members of district Panchayats and Municipalities, in proportion to rural–urban population.
- ◆ Remaining members: as provided by state law; may include MLAs/MPs of the district and nominated experts.

**29. Facial recognition attendance (FRA)**

**News-**

- ◆ Facial recognition attendance (FRA) has already been implemented as a pilot project for three months in schools and PU colleges in Mandya, Haveri, and Bengaluru South districts
- ◆ Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced the implementation of the FRA in the State Budget for 2025-26.

**Facial recognition attendance (FRA)**

- ◆ It is a contactless biometric system that detects a face, creates a numerical template (embedding), matches it to an enrolled profile, and auto-logs time, date, and location.
- ◆ Workflow: Capture → Detect → Normalize → Feature extraction (embedding) → Match (threshold) → Liveness check → Attendance log → Sync to server/HRMS.
- ◆ Core components: Camera/mobile app; face detection/recognition model (CNN-based); liveness/anti-spoofing; secure template database; admin dashboard; integrations (HR/ payroll, access control).

**30. Akkai on panel to draft transgender equal opportunity policy**

**News -**

- ◆ Trans rights activist Akkai Padmashali from Karnataka has been named as a member of a Supreme Court-appointed committee that was formed to formulate an equal opportunity policy for the protection of the rights of transgender persons.
- ◆ The Supreme Court set up a committee under former Justice Asha Menon to formulate an equal opportunity policy for transgender individuals.

**Challenges Transgender are Facing**

1. Institutional gaps in implementing the

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and Rules.

2. Lack of data and representation in policymaking.
3. Healthcare discrimination.
4. Workplace barriers.
5. Social stigma.

### **Steps Taken To Improve the Lives of Transgender Persons**

- ◆ Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 - It is aimed at protecting the rights of transgender individuals and their welfare. The act prohibits discrimination against transgender people in areas like education, employment, healthcare, and public services.
- ◆ NALSA (2014): Recognized transgender persons as a third gender.
- ◆ National Portal for Transgender Persons: Enables online applications for identity certificates.
- ◆ SMILE scheme: It is aimed at rehabilitation and support for transgender persons, including livelihood and social security components.

## 31. ASTraM app

### **News -**

- ◆ Traffic police introduce e-accident report feature on its ASTraM app

### **ASTraM app**

- ◆ Abbreviation - Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management
- ◆ Launched by - Bengaluru Traffic Police in January 2024

### **Objectives**

- ◆ To equip Bengaluru Traffic Police with real-time, data-driven situational awareness for better traffic management.

- ◆ To provide congestion alerts every 15 minutes to traffic officials and stakeholders for proactive traffic planning.
- ◆ To enable citizens to actively participate by reporting accidents, violations, and making online traffic fine payments.

## 32. Devadasi survey extended

### **News -**

- ◆ The ongoing resurvey of Devadasis in Karnataka has been extended till December 31. The Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC), the nodal agency for conducting the survey.
- ◆ The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2025, aiming to strengthen efforts against the Devadasi system

### **Devadasi rehabilitation Bill**

- ◆ It will replace the 1982 Act
- ◆ Mandate - to protect the dignity of Devadasis and their children.

### **Devadasi system**

- ◆ It is an ancient practice dating back to the Chola, Chera, and Pandya dynasties, involving dedicating young lower-caste girls to temple deities.
- ◆ Though termed "servants of God," these girls often end up providing sexual services to temple patrons and powerful men.
- ◆ The system persists under different regional names across India, such as Natis (Assam), Maharis (Kerala), Basavi/Jogati (Karnataka), Jogin (Andhra Pradesh), and Aradhini (Maharashtra).

## 3. MISCELLANEOUS

### DEFENCE

#### 1. Exercise KONKAN-25

- ◆ Participating countries - **India and the United Kingdom**
- ◆ **Type - It is an annual bilateral maritime exercise**

#### Other India-UK Bilateral Exercises

- ◆ AJEYA WARRIOR (Army)
- ◆ Exercise Indradhanush (Air Force)
- ◆ Exercise Cobra Warrior (multinational air exercise hosted by the UK).

#### Additional Information- Military exercises of October

| Exercise Name        | Partner Country     | Location (if known)             | Details   |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| KONKAN 2025          | United Kingdom      | Western Indian Ocean            | Naval exercise emphasizing interoperability and maritime security                               |
| AUSTRAHIND 2025      | Australia           | Perth, Australia                | Annual Army drill on sub-conventional warfare, joint company-level operations                   |
| Samudra Shakti 2025  | Indonesia           | Visakhapatnam                   | Bilateral naval exercise including INS Kavaratti and Indonesian Navy                            |
| Trishul 2025         | India (tri-service) | Gujarat & Rajasthan (Sir Creek) | Large-scale Army, Navy, Air Force exercise; focused on jointness and operations near Pak border |
| Korea-India exercise | South Korea         | Sea/Harbour Phase               | Joint naval drills with cross-deck visits, training, and operations                             |

#### 2. Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 93rd anniversary at Air Force Station Hindon.

- ◆ **Establishment** - It is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces, officially established on **October 8, 1932**.
- ◆ **Mission** - to **safeguard Indian airspace and conduct aerial warfare**.
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - it is the **fourth largest air force in the world**,
- ◆ **Motto** - "Touch the sky with glory," is inspired by the Bhagavad Gita.
- ◆ **Theme: The 2025 theme is focused on the IAF's contribution to Operation Sindoor.**

**Additional Information - Air bases of Indian air force**

| Air Force Base | Location (State) | Notable Aircraft / Role         |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ambala AFS     | Haryana          | Dassault Rafale, SEPECAT Jaguar |
| Adampur AFS    | Punjab           | MiG-29                          |
| Amritsar AFS   | Punjab           | NA                              |
| Awantipur AFS  | Jammu & Kashmir  | NA                              |
| Bathinda AFS   | Punjab           | Dassault Rafale                 |
| Chandigarh AFS | Chandigarh       | An-32, Il-76, Mi-26, Chinook    |
| Halwara AFS    | Punjab           | Su-30MKI                        |
| Hindon AFS     | Uttar Pradesh    | C-130J, C-17, HS 748, Chinook   |
| Jammu AFS      | Jammu & Kashmir  | MiG-29, Mi-17, Cheetah          |
| Leh AFS        | Ladakh           | Mi-17, Cheetah                  |
| Palam AFS      | Delhi            | HS 748, Dornier 228, Mi-17      |
| Pathankot AFS  | Punjab           | AH-64 Apache                    |
| Sirsa AFS      | Haryana          | Su-30MKI                        |
| Srinagar AFS   | Jammu & Kashmir  | MiG-29, Mi-17                   |
| Udhampur AFS   | Jammu & Kashmir  | Cheetah                         |
| Bagdogra AFS   | West Bengal      | Mi-17                           |
| Chabua AFS     | Assam            | Su-30MKI                        |
| Kalaikunda AFS | West Bengal      | Su-30MKI                        |
| Hasimara AFS   | West Bengal      | Rafale                          |
| Jodhpur AFS    | Rajasthan        | MiG-27, Mi-17                   |

|                 |                   |                            |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Lohegaon AFS    | Maharashtra       | Su-30MKI, transport        |
| Agra AFS        | Uttar Pradesh     | Il-78, An-32, Beriev A-50  |
| Sulur AFS       | Tamil Nadu        | Su-30MKI, Tejas            |
| Bareilly AFS    | Uttar Pradesh     | Su-30MKI                   |
| Car Nicobar AFS | Andaman & Nicobar | Patrol and transport roles |
| Tambaram AFS    | Tamil Nadu        | Training aircraft          |
| Yelahanka AFS   | Karnataka         | Training helicopters       |

### 3. Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA).

#### News -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA).



#### 4. India Maritime Week 2025

- ◆ Dates: October 27 to 31, 2025
- ◆ Location: NESCO Exhibition Centre (also referred to as the Bombay Exhibition Centre), Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ◆ Host: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Government of India
- ◆ Theme: “Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision”
- ◆ Significance- It highlights India’s ambitions as a maritime hub and its leadership in the Blue Economy.

### AWARDS

#### 1. Nobel Prize 2025 Winners List



#### Context

- ◆ The 2025 Nobel Prizes in six categories — Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace, and Economic Sciences — were awarded.

#### Nobel Prize

- ◆ It is a set of prestigious international awards given annually for outstanding achievements.
- ◆ Recipients of the prize are called Laureates.
- ◆ It was established by the will of Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel (the inventor of dynamite).
- ◆ The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901, and they have been awarded annually since then. They were not awarded during World War I (1914–1918) and II (1939–1945).
- ◆ It is formally presented on December 10, the

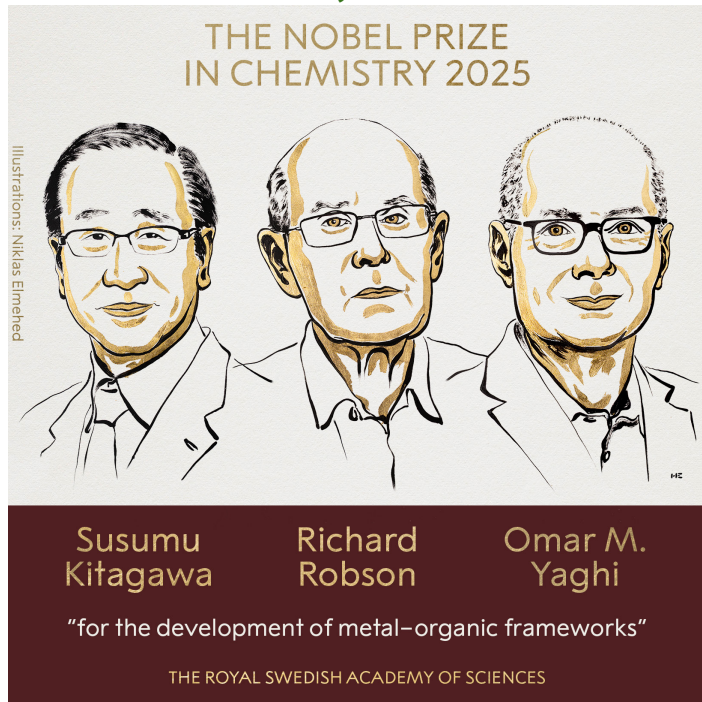
anniversary of Nobel’s death in 1896.

- ◆ Given in 6 fields: Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace, and Economic Sciences.
- ◆ Prize in Economic Sciences was introduced in 1968 by Sveriges Riksbank (Swedish central bank)
- ◆ A Nobel Prize can be shared by up to three individuals. In the case of the peace prize, it can also be awarded to an organisation.
- ◆ To become a Nobel Prize laureate one must be nominated for a prize by an eligible nominator. Self-nomination is not allowed.
- ◆ The Nobel Prize cannot be awarded posthumously. However, since 1974, if the recipient dies after the prize has been announced, they can still be awarded it

#### Note

- ◆ First Indian Nobel Laureate was Rabindranath Tagore, for Literature (1913).
- ◆ The first Indian woman Nobel Laureate was Mother Teresa, for Peace (1979).

## Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025



- ♦ Awarded by - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- ♦ Awardees - Susumu Kitagawa (Japan), Richard Robson (Australia), and Omar M. Yaghi (USA)
- ♦ Achievement - for their groundbreaking development of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs).

### Additional Information - Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs)

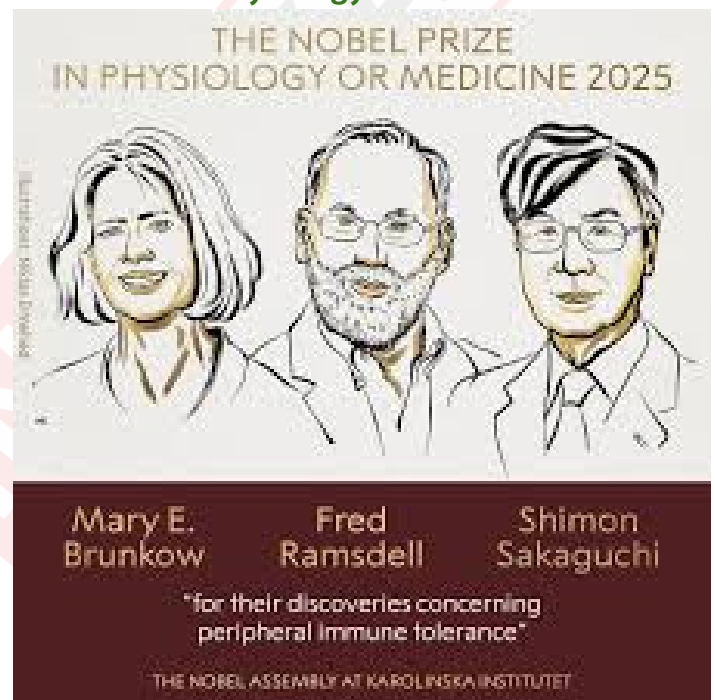
- ♦ They are **crystalline, porous materials made of metal ions** as "nodes" connected by organic molecules called "linkers."
- ♦ **Functionality:** Their lattice structure creates large **cavities that can store substances, catalyse reactions, or conduct electricity.**

## Nobel Prize in Physics 2025



- ♦ Awarded by - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- ♦ Awardees - John Clarke (UK), Michel Devoret (France), and John Martinis (USA)
- ♦ Achievement - for the discovery of **macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation** in an electric circuit.
- ♦ Their discovery confirmed that quantum phenomena, once thought limited to subatomic particles, can also manifest in macroscopic systems, expanding the boundaries of quantum mechanics.

## Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2025



- ♦ Awarded by - Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, for outstanding contributions to medical research.

### Awardees -

1. Shimon Sakaguchi (Japan) received the award for discovering regulatory T-cells.
  2. Mary E. Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell (USA) were honoured for identifying the **Foxp3 gene**, which controls immune regulation.
- ♦ **Significance of the discovery** - groundbreaking discoveries concerning **peripheral immune tolerance** that prevents the immune system from harming the body.

### Did you know?

- ◆ **First Laureate:** In 1901, Emil von Behring received it for developing serum therapy to treat diphtheria.
- ◆ **Indian-Origin Laureate:** In 1968, Har Gobind Khorana became the first Indian winner for decoding the genetic code guiding protein synthesis.

### Nobel Prize in Economics 2025

THE SVERIGES RIKSBANK PRIZE  
IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES IN MEMORY  
OF ALFRED NOBEL 2025

Illustrations: Niklas Elmehed



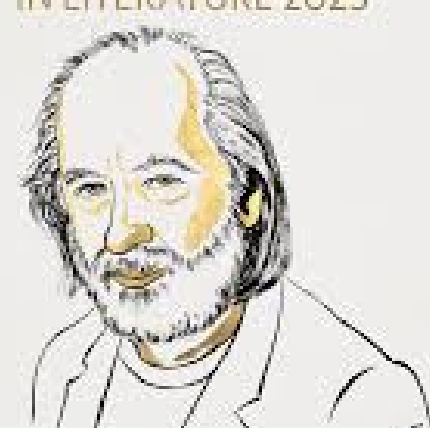
|   |  |                            |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| <p><b>Joel Mokyr</b></p> <p>"for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress"</p> | <p><b>Philippe Aghion</b></p> <p>"for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction"</p> | <p><b>Peter Howitt</b></p> |
|---|--|----------------------------|

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

- ◆ Awarded by - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- ◆ Awardees - Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt “
- ◆ Achievement - for having explained innovation-driven economic growth”.
- ◆ The official name for the Nobel Prize in Economics is the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- ◆ It was established in 1968 by Sweden’s central bank (Sveriges Riksbank) in memory of Alfred Nobel, and first awarded in 1969.

### Nobel Prize in Literature 2025

THE NOBEL PRIZE  
IN LITERATURE 2025



**László Krasznahorkai**

"for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art"

THE SWEDISH ACADEMY

- ◆ Awarded by - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- ◆ Awardee - to Hungarian novelist and screenwriter László Krasznahorkai.
- ◆ He is known for distinct long sentences that can span dozens of pages, his acclaimed works include *Satantango* (1985) and *The Melancholy of Resistance* (1989).

### Nobel Peace Prize 2025

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2025



**María Corina Machado**

"for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy"

THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE

- ◆ Awarded by - Norwegian Nobel Committee
- ◆ Awardee - to Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado.

- ♦ **Achievement** - She was honoured for promoting democratic rights and advocating a peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy in Venezuela.
- ♦ **Political Role:** Machado, the leader of the Vente Venezuela party, has mobilised civic movements demanding judicial independence, electoral transparency, and human rights protection

## 2. Kenton R. Miller Award



### Context

- ♦ Dr Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of Kaziranga National Park became the first Indian to receive the prestigious WCPA-Kenton Miller Award at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

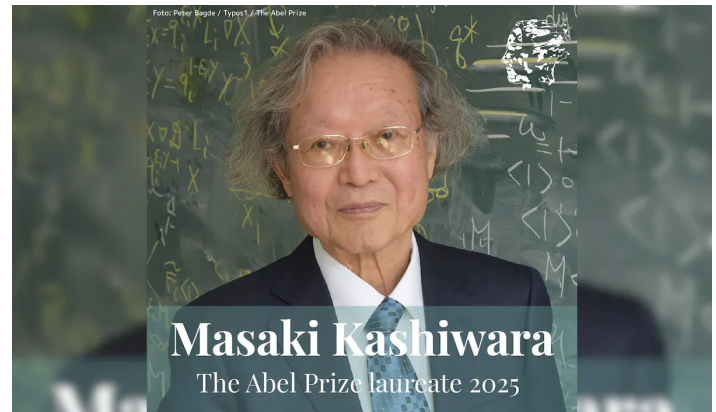
### Kenton R. Miller Award

- ♦ **Established in** - 2006
- ♦ **Awarding organisation** - It is presented every two years by the **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)**.
- ♦ **Note** - WCPA is one of the six technical commissions of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ♦ **Objective** - The award honors individuals who demonstrate **innovation and leadership in conserving national parks and protected areas**, particularly in ensuring their long-term

sustainability.

- ♦ **Named after** - **Dr. Kenton R. Miller**, a former IUCN Director General and a prominent global leader in protected area management.

## 3. Abel Prize 2025



### Context

- ♦ Japanese mathematician Masaki Kashiwara was awarded the Abel Prize 2025 for contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory.

### Contributions of Masaki Kashiwara

- ♦ He pioneered the **theory of D-modules**, an algebraic framework to study systems of **linear partial differential equations (PDEs)**.
- ♦ His work on sheaf theory, deepened understanding of how local analytical data connects to global geometric structure.

### Abel Prize

- ♦ It is an **international award recognizing outstanding scientific work in mathematics**, often considered the **equivalent of a Nobel Prize for mathematicians**.
- ♦ **Named after** - 19th-century Norwegian mathematician **Niels Henrik Abel**.
- ♦ **Awarded by:** The **Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters** on behalf of the Government of Norway.
- ♦ It can be **awarded to mathematicians of any age and nationality**.

### Notable Laureates

- ♦ **Jean-Pierre Serre:** First laureate (2003) for contributions in algebraic geometry and topology.
- ♦ **Srinivasa S. R. Varadhan:** Indian-origin mathematician, won in 2007.

- ◆ **Michel Talagrand (France)** For contributions to **probability theory and functional analysis** won in 2024.

#### 4. 2025 Sakharov Prize



##### Context

- ◆ Two imprisoned journalists Andrzej Poczobut in Belarus and Mzia Amaglobeli in Georgia— have won the 2025 Sakharov Prize.

##### Sakharov Prize

- ◆ Established in - 1988
- ◆ **Named after** - Soviet dissident and Nobel Peace laureate **Andrei Sakharov**.
- ◆ It is the **European Union’s highest human rights award**,
- ◆ **Mandate** - It honours individuals or groups defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

##### Do you know?

- ◆ Several Sakharov laureates, including Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Denis Mukwege, and Nadia Murad, later went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
- ◆ Interestingly, Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado, who won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize earlier this month, received the Sakharov Prize last year.

#### 5. Gallantry Awards



##### Context

- ◆ President Droupadi Murmu approved 127 Gallantry awards and 40 Distinguished Service awards to the Armed Forces.

##### Gallantry Awards

- ◆ **Honoured by** - Government of India
- ◆ It is given to honour acts of **bravery, sacrifice, and exceptional courage** by members of the **armed forces, paramilitary forces, and civilians**.
- ◆ They are classified as **wartime (gallantry in the face of enemy) and peacetime awards**.
- ◆ **Administered by:** Ministry of Defence (for armed forces) and Ministry of Home Affairs (for police and civilians).
- ◆ **Awarded by:** President of India.
- ◆ These gallantry awards are **announced twice in a year** – first on the occasion of the Republic Day and then on the occasion of the Independence Day.
- ◆ **Wartime Gallantry Awards:** Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Mahavir Chakra (MVC) and Vir Chakra.
- ◆ **Peacetime Gallantry Awards:** Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra.

### Gallantry Awards

- ◆ **Order of Precedence:** Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Ashoka Chakra (AC), Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), Kirti Chakra (KC), Vir Chakra (VrC), Shaurya Chakra (SC).
- ◆ **All six awards can be conferred posthumously.**

## 6. India Conferred with Prestigious ISSA Award 2025



### In News :

- ◆ India has been awarded the prestigious International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025 for 'Outstanding Achievement in Social Security' at the World Social Security Forum in Kuala Lumpur.

### The International Social Security Association (ISSA)

- ◆ It is the world's **leading international organization for social security institutions, government departments and agencies.**
- ◆ The ISSA, **founded in 1927 under the**

### **International Labour Organization,**

- ◆ **Mandate** - It promotes excellence in social security administration worldwide.
- ◆ India's Achievements - International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award recognized **India's expansion of social security coverage from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025.**

## APPOINTMENTS

### 1. IPS officers appointed as heads of CISF and ITBP

- ◆ Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) chief - Praveer Ranjan
- ◆ Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) chief - Praveen Kumar T

### 2. Justice Surya Kant set to be next CJI



- ◆ News - The chief Justice of India B R Gavai recommended the name of senior most Supreme Court judge Justice Surya Kant to

be his successor upon his superannuation on November 23, 2025.

**Constitutional Provision**

- ♦ **Article 124(2) of the Constitution mandates the President to appoint Supreme Court judges**, including the CJI, after consulting with judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as deemed necessary.

**3. World’s oldest President, Paul Biya, wins Cameroon election at 92**



**Cameroon**

- ♦ Country lying at the **junction of western and central Africa**.
- ♦ **24th largest country in Africa and 54th largest in the world**.
- ♦ **The capital is Yaoundé**, located in the south-central part of the country.

**Bordering countries - It is bordered by**

1. Nigeria to the northwest,
2. Chad to the northeast,
3. Central African Republic to the east,
4. Republic of the Congo to the southeast,
5. Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to the south
6. Atlantic Ocean to the southwest.

**COMMITTEES**

**1. B.S. Patil committee -**

- ♦ It is focused on restructuring Bengaluru’s administration, most notably the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). IT has led to the draft “Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024”.

**2. Siddanagouda Hegaraddi committee -**

- ♦ It is an expert panel to review the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Bengaluru’s proposed 18.5 km underground tunnel road project

**3. Justice Ranjana Desai (8th Central Pay Commission) -**

- ♦ To review and recommend revisions to the salaries, allowances, and pension structures for approximately 50 lakh central government employees and 69 lakh pensioners.

**4. Sandalwood Development Committee:**

- ♦ Chairperson — Ratan P. Watal

**SPORTS**

**1. World Para Athletics Championship**

**News -**

- ♦ The **2025 World Para Athletics Championships** were the 12th edition of the event, held at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi**.
- ♦ It marks the **first time India** hosted the **World Para Athletics Championship**.
- ♦ **India won a record 22 medals, including six gold, nine silver and seven bronze in World Para Athletics Championships 2025.**

**Gold**

| Athlete              | Event (Class)           |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Simran Sharma        | Women's 100 m T12       |
| Nishad Kumar         | Men's High Jump T47     |
| Sumit Antil          | Men's Javelin Throw F64 |
| Sandip Sanjay Sargar | Men's Javelin Throw F44 |
| Rinku Hooda          | Men's Javelin Throw F46 |
| Shailesh Kumar       | Men's High Jump T63     |

**Silver**

| Athlete             | Event (Class)           |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Simran Sharma       | Women's 200 m T12       |
| Preeti Pal          | Women's 100 m T35       |
| Navdeep             | Men's Javelin Throw F41 |
| Ekta Bhyan          | Women's Club Throw F51  |
| Dharambir (Nain)    | Men's Club Throw F51    |
| Sandeep             | Men's Javelin Throw F44 |
| Yogesh Kathuniya    | Men's Discus Throw F56  |
| Sundar Singh Gurjar | Men's Javelin Throw F46 |
| Deepthi Jeevanji    | Women's 400 m T20       |

**Bronze**

| Athlete           | Event (Class)          |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Sandeep           | Men's 200 m T44        |
| Soman Rana        | Men's Shot Put F57     |
| Praveen Kumar     | Men's High Jump T64    |
| Preeti Pal        | Women's 200 m T35      |
| Pardeep Kumar     | Men's Discus Throw F64 |
| Atul Kaushik      | Men's Discus Throw F57 |
| Varun Singh Bhati | Men's High Jump T63    |

**Additional information - World Para Athletics Championship**

- ♦ They are a biennial track and field event for athletes with physical and intellectual disabilities.

**2025 World Para Athletics Championships: Medal table**

The final medal table for the 2025 championships was topped by Brazil and China.

| Rank | Country                    | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|----------------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    | Brazil                     | 15   | 20     | 9      | 44    |
| 2    | People's Republic of China | 13   | 22     | 17     | 52    |
| 3    | Islamic Republic of Iran   | 9    | 2      | 5      | 16    |
| 4    | Netherlands                | 8    | 3      | 1      | 12    |
| 5    | Poland                     | 8    | 2      | 6      | 16    |
| 6    | Colombia                   | 7    | 10     | 4      | 21    |
| 7    | Great Britain              | 7    | 5      | 13     | 25    |
| 8    | Italy                      | 7    | 1      | 3      | 11    |
| 9    | United States              | 6    | 9      | 12     | 27    |
| 10   | India                      | 6    | 9      | 7      | 22    |

**2. Asian Youth Games 2025**


**3rd Asian Youth Games**  
Bahrain 2025

**News -**

- ◆ India swept the kabaddi gold medals at the Asian Youth Games 2025 in Manama, Bahrain.
- ◆ Both the boys’ and girls’ teams topped their respective podiums on Thursday.

**Asian Youth Games (AYG)**

- ◆ It is a continental multi-sport event **organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** for teenage athletes across Asia.
- ◆ The most recent edition was held in Bahrain in October 2025, and the next is scheduled for Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 2029.
- ◆ **Governing Body: Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**
- ◆ **Participants: Athletes aged 14 to 17 from up to 45 nations across Asia**
- ◆ **Frequency: Held every four years,**

**3. FIDE Chess World Cup 2025**



**News -**

- ◆ The FIDE World Cup 2025 takes place on the beautiful shores of Goa, India, from October 30 to November 27.

**Key tournament details**

| Detail   | Description                                     |
|----------|---|
| Location | Goa, India, at the Resort Rio convention center |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Dates           | October 31 to November 27, 2025  |
| Players         | 206 players in total. The top 50 seeds receive a bye in the first round. |
| Format          | Single-elimination knockout tournament                                   |
| Qualification   | The top three finishers will qualify for the 2026 Candidates Tournament. |
| Prize Fund      | \$2,000,000 in total prizes  |
| Notable Absence | 2023 winner Magnus Carlsen decided not to participate.                   |

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

**1. International Day of Non-Violence (Gandhi Jayanti)**

- ◆ **Observed date:** October 2
- ◆ **Observing organization:** United Nations (UN) and Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, promote the message of non-violence, peace, tolerance, and understanding worldwide.
- ◆ **Theme 2025:** “Non-violence for Peace and Sustainable Development”

**2. World Cotton Day**

- ◆ **Observed date:** October 7
- ◆ **Observing organization:** United Nations (UN), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Trade Organization (WTO), International

Trade Centre, and cotton-producing countries including the Cotton-4 (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali)

- ♦ **Objective:** To raise awareness about the critical role of cotton in economic development, international trade, and poverty alleviation.
- ♦ **Theme 2025:** “The Fabric of Our Lives”

### 3. Indian Air Force Day

- ♦ **Observed date:** October 8
- ♦ **Observing organization:** Indian Air Force and Government of India
- ♦ **Objective:** To commemorate the establishment of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1932 and honor the courage, dedication, and professionalism of the air warriors who protect India’s airspace and national sovereignty.
- ♦ **Theme 2025:** “Modernization and Operational Readiness”

### 4. World Mental Health Day

- ♦ **Observed date:** October 10
- ♦ **Observing organization:** World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN)
- ♦ **Objective:** To raise awareness about mental health issues globally, reduce stigma associated with mental illnesses, promote mental well-being, and encourage investment in mental health services and support systems.
- ♦ **Theme 2025:** “Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies”

### 5. National Postal Day

- ♦ **Observed date:** October 10
- ♦ **Observing organization:** India Post, Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, Government of India
- ♦ **Objective:** To honor the legacy and contributions of the Indian postal system in connecting people across the country, modernizing communication, and providing essential postal, financial, and logistical services, especially to rural and remote areas.
- ♦ **Theme 2025:** “Postal Service for Digital India”

### 6. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

- ♦ **Observed date:** October 13
- ♦ **Observing organization:** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations General Assembly
- ♦ **Objective:** To promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction, raise awareness about reducing exposure to natural and man-made hazards, encourage governments and communities to adopt disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness strategies, and support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ♦ **Theme 2025:** “Fund Resilience, Not Disasters”

### 7. World Food Day

- ♦ **Observed date:** October 16
- ♦ **Observing organization:** Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

- ◆ **Objective:** To raise awareness about global hunger, promote food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and advocate for efforts to eliminate hunger worldwide.
- ◆ **Theme 2025:** “Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future”

### 8. United Nations Day

- ◆ **Observed date:** October 24
- ◆ **Observing organization:** United Nations (UN)
- ◆ **Objective:** To celebrate the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945, promote the organization’s mission of maintaining international peace and security, fostering international cooperation, advancing human rights, and promoting sustainable development.
- ◆ **Theme 2025:** “80 Years of Global Peace and Development”

### 9. World Polio Day

- ◆ **Observed date:** October 24
- ◆ **Observing organization:** Rotary International, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other global health partners
- ◆ **Objective:** To raise awareness about the importance of polio vaccination in protecting every child from poliomyelitis, promote

the global efforts to eradicate the disease, celebrate the contributions of health workers and volunteers, and emphasize the need for continued immunization and surveillance to prevent polio resurgence.

- ◆ **Theme 2025:** “End Polio: Every Child, Every Vaccine, Everywhere”

### 10. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day, India)

- ◆ **Observed date:** October 31
- ◆ **Observing organization:** Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, various Central Ministries, State Governments, and Youth Organizations
- ◆ **Objective:** To honor the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, recognizing his pivotal role in the political integration and unity of India. The day promotes national integration, peace, and unity in diversity, encouraging citizens to reaffirm their commitment to the nation’s unity, integrity, and security.
- ◆ **Theme 2025:** “Ek Bharat, Aatmanirbhar Bharat” (One India, Self-reliant India)

## 4. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

### 1. October Month MCQ'S

1. Which of the following countries is not a current member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)?

- A) Switzerland
- B) Iceland
- C) Liechtenstein
- D) Finland

**Answer: D**

2. The India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) was signed in:

- A) January 2023, Geneva
- B) March 2024, New Delhi
- C) April 2024, Brussels
- D) February 2023, Zurich

**Answer: B**

3. The TEPA includes provisions on “Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.” These relate primarily to:

- A) Digital trade and cybersecurity
- B) Food safety and plant/animal health standards
- C) Cross-border taxation
- D) Environmental impact assessments

**Answer: B**

4. According to the Nature Plants study, the steady increase in the size of Amazon trees is primarily attributed to:

- A) Nutrient enrichment from the Andes Mountains
- B) The carbon fertilisation effect caused by rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels
- C) Genetic adaptation due to deforestation pressures
- D) Enhanced precipitation in equatorial regions

**Answer: B**

5. The carbon fertilisation effect refers to:

- A) The conversion of soil carbon into biomass by microorganisms

- B) The increase in photosynthetic activity due to higher CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations
- C) The release of carbon from decaying organic matter
- D) The reduction of atmospheric carbon by oceanic absorption

**Answer: B**

6. Which country contains the largest share of the Amazon rainforest?

- A) Peru
- B) Colombia
- C) Brazil
- D) Venezuela

**Answer: C**

7. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

| Tribes      | Region         |
|-------------|----------------|
| A) Yanomamo | Amazon Basin   |
| B) Inuit    | Northern Andes |
| C) Zulu     | Brazil         |
| D) Maori    | Venezuela      |

**Answer: A**

8. Brazil’s Forest Code (2012) requires Amazonian landowners to:

- A) Reforest only 20% of their land
- B) Maintain up to 80% of their land as Legal Forest Reserve
- C) Use land exclusively for eco-tourism
- D) Transfer ownership to indigenous tribes

**Answer: B**

9. The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) focuses on:

- A) Military cooperation among Amazon nations
- B) Regional cooperation on sustainable development and conservation
- C) Establishing trade barriers within Amazon countries
- D) Reducing hydroelectric projects in the Andes

**Answer: B**

**10. Which of the following global initiatives supports reducing emissions from deforestation and promotes sustainable forest management?**

- A) UNEP Green Fund
- B) UN REDD+ Programme**
- C) G-20 Forest Alliance
- D) Kyoto Protocol Annex II

**Answer: B**

**11. The Amazon Fund (2008), supported by which of the following countries:**

- A) Norway and Sweden
- B) Norway and Finland
- C) Norway and Germany**
- D) Sweden and Finland

**Answer: C**

**12. The idea of setting up a Public Service Commission in India was first provided by which of the following Acts?**

- A) Indian Councils Act, 1892
- B) Government of India Act, 1909
- C) Government of India Act, 1919**
- D) Government of India Act, 1935

**Answer: C**

**13. The establishment of the Public Service Commission in October 1926 was based on the recommendations of:**

- A) Islington Commission (1912)
- B) Montagu-Chelmsford Report (1918)
- C) Lee Commission (1924)**
- D) Simon Commission (1928)

**Answer: C**

**14. Consider the following statements regarding Union Public Services Commission:**

- a). The tenure of the Chairman and members is 6 years or till 62 years of age, whichever is earlier.
- b). The UPSC Chairman after completing their term can be reappointed once by the President.
- c). The removal of the Chairman or a member by the President requires resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A) Only a and b
- B) Only a and c**

- C) Only b and c
- D) None

**Answer : D**

**15. The President can remove a UPSC member without referring to the Supreme Court in which of the following situations?**

- a). Adjudged insolvent
- b). Engages in paid employment outside office duties
- c). Found guilty of corruption
- d). Mentally or physically unfit**

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A) a, b and c only
- B) a, b and d only**
- C) a and c only
- D) b and d only

**Answer: B**

**16. Who is regarded as the “Father of Civil Services in India”?**

- A) Lord Wellesley
- B) Lord Cornwallis**
- C) Warren Hastings
- D) Lord Curzon

**Answer: B**

**17. The Charter Act of 1853 is significant because it:**

- A) Introduced competitive examinations for civil services**
- B) Abolished the dual government system
- C) Extended the rule of the East India Company
- D) Created the Indian Legislative Council

**Answer: A**

**18. Who was the first Indian to qualify for the Indian Civil Services (ICS)?**

- A) Dadabhai Naoroji
- B) Surendranath Banerjee
- C) Satyendranath Tagore**
- D) R.C. Dutt

**Answer: C**

**19. The provision for creation of All India Services such as IAS, IPS, and IFS is laid down in:**

- A) Article 309
- B) Article 310**

- C) Article 311  
**D) Article 312**

**Answer: D**

**20. Articles 315 to 323 of the Indian Constitution deal with:**

- A) Election Commission of India  
**B) Public Service Commissions for both at the Union and at the States.**  
 C) Emergency Provisions  
 D) Finance Commission

**Answer: B**

**21. With reference to the new India–Bhutan railway projects, consider the following statements:**

- a. The projects originated from the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cross-border rail connectivity.  
 b. These projects are being jointly implemented by the Indian Railways and the Royal Bhutan Army.  
 c. The initiative aligns with India's Neighbourhood First Policy and complements its commitment of \$1.2 billion for Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

Options:

- A. a and c only**  
 B. b and c only  
 C. a and b only  
 D. a, b and c

**Answer: A**

**22. With reference to NASA's Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) mission, consider the following statements:**

- a. IMAP is primarily intended to study the boundary region between the heliosphere and interstellar space.  
 b. The mission aims to understand how solar and cosmic particles are accelerated and how the heliosphere shields the solar system from galactic radiation.  
 c. It is positioned at the Earth–Sun Lagrange Point 2 (L2) for optimal observation of the heliotail.

Which of the statements given above is/ are not correct?

Options:

- A. Only 2**

**B. Only 1**

- C. All are correct  
 D. None are correct

**Answer: B**

**23. With reference to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), consider the following statements:**

- a. ICAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations established under the Chicago Convention of 1944.  
 b. The ICAO Council, elected every three years, comprises 36 Member States categorized under three parts based on specific criteria.  
 c. Part II of the ICAO Council includes States that make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation.  
 d. India was elected to Part III of the ICAO Council for the 2025–2028 term.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

Options:

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

**Answer: A**

**24. The tradition of presenting the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President's Bodyguard (PBG):**

- a. Was initiated by Dr. Rajendra Prasad in 1957 to mark the ceremonial association between the President and the Regiment.  
 b. Represents the highest honor bestowed by the Head of State on any military unit in India.  
 c. Is unique to the President's Bodyguard, symbolizing their status as the President's personal troops.

Which of the statements given above is/ are not correct?

Options:

- A. 1 and 3 only  
 B. 1 and 2 only  
 C. All of the above  
**D. None of the above**

**Answer: D**

**25. With reference to India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve, consider the following statements:**

- a). It was established under the WLP Act, 1972 by the Tamil Nadu government in northern Palk Bay.
- b). It contains extensive seagrass meadows which serve as feeding grounds for dugongs, and often referred to as the "farmers or gardeners of the sea".
- c). It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and included in Schedule I of the WLP Act, 1972.
- d). It was recognized as India's first marine biosphere reserve by the IUCN in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

Options:

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 3**
- C. None are correct
- D. All are correct

**Answer: B**

**26. In India, populations of the Dugong (Dugong dugon) are naturally found in which of the following regions?**

- 1. Gulf of Mannar
- 2. Palk Bay
- 3. Gulf of Kutch
- 4. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Select the correct answer using the code below:

Options:

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 3
- C. None are correct
- D. All are correct**

**Answer: D**

**27. With reference to the "Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)", consider the following statements:**

- a). It has been constituted by the RBI under Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and it functions under the RBI Governor.
- b). It is responsible for the regulation and supervision of all payment systems (electronic, non-electronic, domestic, and cross-border).**
- c). It must meet at least once every quarter and

decisions can be made through circulation if directed by the Chairperson.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

Options:

- A. a Only
- B. b Only**
- C. a and b only
- D. All are correct

**Answer: B**

**28. Consider the following statements regarding the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI) 2023 Report:**

- a). The report is published under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and released by National Crime Records Bureau.
- b). The data collection is primarily based on police records, covering both natural and unnatural causes of death.
- c). Traffic accidents accounted for the highest share of total accidental deaths in India in 2022.
- d). Karnataka recorded the highest number of suicides in terms of farmer suicides in 2023.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. a, b and c only
- B. a, c and d only**
- C. b and c only
- D. a, b and d

**Answer: B**

**29. Which of the following correctly explains the Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS) initiative?**

- A) Inspired by the Model Parliament to educate students about parliamentary democracy.
- B) Inspired by the Model UN to promote awareness about Panchayati Raj institutions among students.**
- C) Inspired by the Smart Village programme to improve digital literacy in rural schools.
- D) Inspired by the Bharat Scouts & Guides to enhance youth leadership and community service.

**Answer: B**

**30. Which of the following statements about the**

**Bathukamma festival is NOT correct?**

- A) It is celebrated predominantly in Telangana.
- B) It is closely associated with the worship of Goddess Gauri.
- C) The festival's timing coincides with Diwali.**
- D) It celebrates life, harvest, and feminine energy.

**Answer: C**

**31. As per RBI "spread" in floating-rate loans refers to:**

- A. The difference between fixed and floating interest rates.
- B. The additional percentage added to the benchmark rate to determine the final lending rate.**
- C. The difference between deposit and lending interest rates.
- D. The margin charged by banks for loan processing.

**Answer: B**

**32. Consider the following statements regarding the RoDTEP scheme:**

- a). It is aligned with WTO norms and the Ministry of Finance is responsible for administering the RoDTEP scheme.
- b). It aims to reimburse exporters for embedded duties, taxes, and levies not refunded under any other scheme.
- c). Reduces export costs, thereby encouraging competitiveness.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 2**
- B. Only 1
- C. All are correct
- D. None are correct

**Answer: A**

**33. Consider the following statements regarding the Road Accidents in India, 2023**

- a). It was released by NCRB and Karnataka recorded the maximum fatalities on National Highways.
- b). The Sundar Committee recommended the creation of a National Road Safety Policy and a National Road Safety Board.**
- c). The UN Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021–2030), declares the target for reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by 60% by

2030.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 1**
- C. All are correct
- D. None are correct

**Answer: B**

**34. Which of the following institutions was founded by Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy to support women and social welfare causes?**

- A) Seva Sadan Society and Avvai Home**
- B) Women's India Association
- C) Lady Irwin College
- D) All India Women's Conference

**Answer: A**

**35. Consider the following statements regarding the "National Pulses Mission" :**

- a). It is supported by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and State Agricultural Universities and State Agencies.
- b). It is to achieve self-sufficiency (Aatmanirbharta) in domestic pulses production.
- c). Tur, Urad, and Masoor are the major pulses will receive 100% procurement support under PM-AASHA as part of this mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. a and b only
- B. a and c only
- C. All are incorrect
- D. All are correct**

**Answer: D**

**36. In the context of the Amazon rainforest, what does the term "Flying Rivers" refer to?**

- A) Underground aquifers connecting different parts of South America.
- B) Massive streams of water vapour transported through the atmosphere.**
- C) Seasonal flood channels of the Amazon River basin.
- D) Subterranean water channels feeding into the Amazon River.

**Answer: B**

**37. Who among the following announces the MSP**

for various crops in India?

- A) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- B) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- C) **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**
- D) NITI Aayog

**Answer: C**

38. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends MSP based on several criteria. Which of the following is not one of those criteria?

- A) Demand and supply situation of the crop
- B) **Level of buffer stock held by FCI**
- C) Inter-crop price parity
- D) Minimum 50% margin over cost of production

**Answer: B**

39. Which of the following government agency is implementing the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)?

- A) Department of Health and Family Welfare
- B) Department of Science and Technology
- C) **Department of Biotechnology**
- D) Ministry of AYUSH

**Answer: C**

40. What distinguishes a biostimulant from a biofertilizer?

- A) **Biostimulants act by improving natural plant functions; biofertilizers directly supply nutrients through microorganisms.**
- B) Biostimulants fix atmospheric nitrogen; biofertilizers enhance photosynthesis.
- C) Biostimulants are always chemical; biofertilizers are always organic.
- D) Both terms mean the same in agricultural science.

**Answer: A**

41. The term "Tomahawk" described as:

- A). A missile designed and developed by Ukraine.
- B). **A missile designed and developed by USA.**
- C). A missile designed and developed by Russia.
- D). A missile designed and developed by UK.

**Answer: B**

42. Pandit Chhannul Mishra was known for his

association with which gharana of Hindustani classical music?

- A) Gwalior Gharana
- B) **Kirana Gharana**
- C) Agra Gharana
- D) Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana

**Answer: B**

43. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the NATO Pipeline System (NPS)?

- A) To transport weapons and ammunition among NATO members.
- B) **To supply fuel and lubricants to NATO forces with operational flexibility.**
- C) To deliver humanitarian supplies during natural disasters.
- D) To serve as a communication and data exchange network for NATO bases.

**Answer: B**

44. The PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) is modeled on the lines of which existing flagship programme?

- A) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
- B) **Aspirational Districts Programme**
- C) National Rural Livelihood Mission
- D) PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

**Answer: B**

45. Where is Airbus Helicopters, in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems, setting up the final assembly line for H125 helicopters?

- A. Hyderabad, Telangana
- B. Bengaluru, Karnataka
- C. **Vemagal, Karnataka**
- D. Nagpur, Maharashtra

**Answer: C**

46. Which of the following statements about Snow Leopards is incorrect?

- A. **They are found only in India and Nepal.**
- B. They are classified as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.
- C. They are listed under Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- D. They inhabit the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia.

**Answer: A**

47. Which of the following correctly reflects the philosophical distinction of the “Abhidhamma Pitaka” within Buddhist literature?

- A. It elaborates on ritual practices and monastic discipline.
- B. It presents systematic analysis of mind and mental processes beyond ethical rules.**
- C. It focuses solely on stories of Buddha’s previous births.
- D. It contains dialogues between Buddha and his disciples about moral conduct.

**Answer: B**

48. Which of the following statements about perigeal spring tides is correct?

- A. They occur when the Moon is at apogee and the Earth is farthest from the Sun.
- B. They are caused by the combined gravitational pull of the Sun and the Moon when the Moon is at perigee.**
- C. They are weaker than normal spring tides because the Moon is farther from the Earth.
- D. They are purely atmospheric phenomena unrelated to the Moon’s orbit.

**Answer: B**

49. Which of the following statements regarding the Moscow Format is correct?

- A. It is a military alliance under the leadership of Russia and China.
- B. It includes both regional and NATO countries as permanent members.
- C. It provides a diplomatic platform for regional countries to coordinate on Afghanistan’s peace process.**
- D. It was established under the United Nations mandate.

**Answer: C**

50. The Polar Silk Road is primarily aimed at:

- A. Strengthening maritime connectivity between China and Africa via the Indian Ocean.
- B. Developing navigable Arctic routes as part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative.**
- C. Expanding China’s military presence in the Antarctic region.
- D. Establishing overland transport corridors through Central Asia to Europe.

**Answer: B**

51. The Insurrection Act in the United States primarily empowers the President to:

- A. Declare martial law across the country during any emergency.
- B. Deploy the military or federalize the National Guard for domestic law enforcement during insurrections or civil unrest.**
- C. Suspend the Constitution temporarily in the event of rebellion.
- D. Dissolve state governments that fail to maintain law and order.

**Answer: B**

52. Which of the following eligibility conditions is correct for beneficiaries under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana?

- A. Any Indian household irrespective of roof ownership.
- B. Only urban households using grid electricity for more than 10 years.
- C. Only households that already have rooftop solar panels.
- D. Any Indian citizen owning a suitable roof and not already availing similar rooftop solar subsidies.**

**Answer: D**

53. In the context of “Operation HAECHI-VI”, which of the following statements is correct?

- A. It was conducted solely by the CBI under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- B. It was a joint global operation coordinated by INTERPOL targeting cyber-financial crimes.**
- C. It was launched under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to monitor cryptocurrency use.
- D. It was a bilateral initiative between India and South Korea.

**Answer: B**

54. The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) aims primarily to:

- A. Promote rural employment generation through digital infrastructure.
- B. Provide multimodal connectivity and improve logistics efficiency across India.**
- C. Create an urban mass housing programme for industrial workers.

- D. Strengthen fiscal federalism through infrastructure grants to states.

**Answer: B**

**55. Which of the following statements about India's tobacco control progress is correct?**

- A. India has achieved exactly the WHO NCD target of 30% reduction (2010–2025).
- B. India is behind the WHO NCD target for tobacco reduction.
- C. India is on track for a 43% reduction in prevalence (2010–2025), exceeding the WHO NCD target.**
- D. India has achieved less than 20% reduction in tobacco use since 2010.

**Answer: C**

**56. The Yellow Line Campaign introduced in India primarily aims to:**

- A. Mark tobacco cultivation zones
- B. Indicate areas for public smoking
- C. Reinforce ban on tobacco sales within 100 yards of schools**
- D. Identify tobacco-free workplaces

**Answer: C**

**57. In Common Cause v. Union of India (2018), which fundamental right was expanded to include the 'Right to Die with Dignity'?**

- A. Article 14
- B. Article 19
- C. Article 21**
- D. Article 32

**Answer: C**

**58. With reference to the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, consider the following statements:**

1. The prize was awarded for discoveries that explained how the human body maintains immune tolerance and prevents autoimmune disorders.
2. The discovery involved a specific group of T-cells that suppress immune responses against self-cells.
3. These cells were first discovered in the bone marrow.

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**

**59. Which of the following statements best describes the function of Regulatory T-cells (Tregs)?**

- A. They promote antibody production by B-cells.
- B. They activate macrophages and neutrophils during infection.
- C. They suppress immune activation and maintain self-tolerance.**
- D. They destroy virus-infected cells directly.

**Answer: C**

**60. Consider the following statements regarding the Nobel Prize system:**

- 1. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo, while all other prizes are awarded in Stockholm.**
2. The Nobel Foundation directly decides the award winners.
- 3. The Nobel Foundation is the administrative and financial manager of the prizes.**

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**

**61. With reference to the mud volcanoes of India, consider the following statements:**

- 1. They are found only in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
2. They emit molten lava and ash similar to true volcanoes.
- 3. They are associated with regions having hydrocarbon deposits.**

How many of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2**
- C. All
- D. None

**Answer: B**

62. Which of the following gases are typically emitted by mud volcanoes?

1. Methane
2. Carbon dioxide
3. Hydrogen sulfide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: C**

63. The Baratang Island is geologically significant because:

- A. It hosts India's only active lava volcano.
- B. It lies along a subduction zone between the Indian Plate and the Burmese Microplate.
- C. It marks the mid-ocean ridge between the Eurasian and Indo-Australian Plates.
- D. It is the only island with both coral reefs and glaciers.

**Answer: B**

64. Which of the following statements about the Andaman–Nicobar Islands is/are correct?

1. They are a chain of volcanic islands located along the convergent boundary between the Indian and Eurasian Plates.
2. The region experiences frequent earthquakes due to subduction activity.
3. Barren Island, part of this chain, is India's only active lava volcano.

How many of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All are correct
- D. None are correct

**Answer: B**

65. With reference to the MY Bharat–National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards, consider the following statements:

1. The NSS was launched in 1969 to commemorate the birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. The awards were instituted by the Ministry of Education in 1993–94 and are presented by

the President of India every year.

3. They recognise outstanding voluntary community service under the NSS framework by having a motto of “Not Me, But You”.
4. Both individual volunteers and institutions are eligible for the awards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

66. With reference to the PM–SETU scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. It adopts a hub-and-spoke model with industry-led Special Purpose Vehicles managing the clusters.
3. Each spoke ITI functions as an independent centre of excellence, unlinked from the hub ITI.

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**

67. Which of the following components are included under the Jal Jeevan Mission's implementation strategy?

1. Greywater management and water quality monitoring.
2. Operation and maintenance of in-village infrastructure.
3. Convergence with other schemes for source sustainability.
4. Subsidy for urban household tap connections

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: B**

68. With reference to the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) in India, consider the following statements:

1. STT is a direct tax levied on the purchase and sale of securities transacted through recognized stock exchanges in India.
2. STT is governed under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.
3. STT was introduced to curb tax evasion and increase transparency in capital market transactions.
4. It applies to both profit-making and loss-making transactions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

69. Which of the following financial instruments attract Securities Transaction Tax (STT)?

1. Equity shares listed on recognized stock exchanges.
2. Equity-oriented mutual fund units.
3. Derivative instruments such as futures and options.
4. Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs).

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- 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**

70. Which of the following existing Very Large Gas Carriers (VLGCs) are operated by the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), apart from Shivalik?

1. Sahyadri
2. Anandamayi
3. Ganga
4. Narmada

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: A**

71. With reference to the World Para Athletics Championships, consider the following statements:

1. The event is organized by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).
2. It is held every four years, in the same cycle as the Paralympic Games.
3. The first edition of the Championships took place in Berlin, Germany, in 1994.
4. The 2025 World Para Athletics Championships official mascot is Viraaj symbolizes equality and innovation in sports technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

72. With reference to the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), consider the following statements:

1. It provides end-to-end support to farmers, including production, certification, processing, and marketing of organic produce.
2. Under the scheme, farmers adopting organic farming practices receive ₹31,500 per hectare for a three-year period.
3. The cluster model involves mobilizing farmers over a minimum of 20 hectares for collective organic farming.

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**

73. Which of the following statements correctly differentiates Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) from National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)?

- A. PKVY is export-oriented while NPOP is meant for domestic trade.
- B. PKVY follows Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification, while NPOP uses third-party certification.**
- C. PKVY focuses on large-scale farmers, while

NPOP targets smallholders.

D. Both use the same certification and regulatory framework.

**Answer: B**

**74. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched with its primary focus?**

| Scheme / Initiative  | Primary Focus  |
|--|--|
| 1. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana  | Cluster-based organic farming across India.              |
| 2. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) | Organic value chain development in North Eastern Region. |
| 3. Jaivik Kheti Portal   | Online platform for organic trade and awareness.         |
| 4. Large Area Certification (LAC) programme                                    | Organic certification for already chemical-free areas.   |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: D**

**75. With reference to India's position in global organic agriculture, consider the following statements:**

- 1. As per IFOAM Statistics 2022, India ranks 4th globally in terms of total area under organic certification.
- 2. India ranks first globally in terms of the number of organic farmers.
- 3. Sikkim is the first Indian state to achieve 100% organic status.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All are correct**

**Answer: D**

**76. Which of the following statements correctly differentiates between Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana in the constitutional context?**

- A. Both are accorded equal status under Article 51A(a).
- B. Both are mentioned in the Constitution's text.
- C. Vande Mataram was given equal national status through a Presidential order in 1950, but Article 51A(a) mandates respect only for the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana).**
- D. Vande Mataram replaced Jana Gana Mana as the national song in 1950.

**Answer: C**

**77. With reference to Leprosy (Hansen's Disease), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium leprae.
- 2. Transmission occurs mainly through droplets from the nose and mouth of untreated cases.
- 3. Multibacillary leprosy indicates a lower density of bacilli and milder clinical symptoms.
- 4. Introduction of Multidrug Therapy (MDT) in India began in 1983, which revolutionized treatment outcomes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**78. With reference to India's National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the National Health Mission (NHM).
- 2. Its target is to achieve interruption of leprosy transmission by 2027.
- 3. Nikusth 2.0, launched in 2023, is a mobile-based application for patient teleconsultation and telemedicine.
- 4. Leprosy screening has been integrated into Ayushman Bharat's Comprehensive Primary Health Care activities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: A**

**79. The Namchik–Namphuk Coal Block, often seen in news, is located in which of the following regions of India?**

- A. Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh**
- C. Tinsukia district, Assam
- D. Mon district, Nagaland

**Answer: B**

**80. Which of the following legislative frameworks collectively enable commercial coal mining in India?**

- 1. Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957
- 2. Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015
- 3. Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957
- 4. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: D**

**81. On Earth, phosphine (PH<sub>3</sub>) is primarily produced by:**

- A. Industrial combustion of fossil fuels
- B. Volcanic emissions rich in sulfur
- C. Anaerobic microbial activity in oxygen-poor environments.**
- D. Photochemical reactions in the upper atmosphere

**Answer: C**

**82. In the context of India’s bilateral naval engagements, which of the following pairs is correctly matched?**

| Naval Exercise | Partner Country |
|----------------|-----------------|
| VARUNA         | France          |
| MALABAR        | Japan & USA     |
| AUSINDEX       | United Kingdom  |
| KONKAN         | Australia       |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: A**

**83. Which of the following statements is NOT correct about Shram Shakti Niti 2025?**

- A. It seeks to provide universal and portable social security to all workers.
- B. It aims to create a resilient and equitable labour ecosystem ensuring dignity for all.
- C. It proposes the merger of all labour codes into a single Employment Code.**
- D. It emphasises digital skilling through the National Career Service–DPI.

**Answer: C**

**84. Which of the following pairs of Invasive Alien Species and their impact is incorrectly matched?**

| Invasive Alien Species             | Their impacts   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| A. Lantana camara                  | Prevents forest regeneration by outcompeting native plants. |
| B. Eichhornia crassipes            | Reduces oxygen in water bodies, harming aquatic life.       |
| <b>C. Parthenium hysterophorus</b> | <b>Improves soil fertility and prevents erosion.</b>        |
| D. Clarias gariepinus              | Threatens native fish biodiversity.                         |

**Answer: C**

**85. Assertion (A): Ballast water management is an essential step in controlling terrestrial invasive species.**

**Reason (R):** Ballast water is mainly responsible for spreading plant invasions on land.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. Both A and R are false.**

**Answer: D**

**86. Which of the following statements correctly differentiates the biometric authentication feature for UPI transactions introduced in 2025?**

1. The authentication is processed through centralized Aadhaar servers maintained by UIDAI.
2. It enables face and fingerprint verification locally on the user's device, enhancing privacy.
3. It eliminates the need for PIN-based authentication for eligible users.
4. It is mandatory for all UPI users above a certain transaction threshold.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: B**

**87. With reference to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), consider the following statements:**

1. It was established by the Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Banks' Association under the Companies Act, 1956.
2. It functions under the provisions of the RBI Act, 1934.
3. It operates as a not for-profit company handling all wholesale and retail payment systems in 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: C**

**88. Which of the following institutions are covered under the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS)?**

1. Scheduled Commercial Banks
2. State Co-operative Banks
3. Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks with deposits below ₹50 crore
4. NBFCs with asset size of ₹100 crore or more that accept deposits

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: A**

**89. Recently, the Government of India announced plans to promote PM-KUSUM in African and island nations. This initiative will be channelled through:**

- A. The International Solar Alliance (ISA)**  
 B. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)  
 C. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
 D. The World Bank's Solar Initiative

**Answer: A**

**90. PM-KUSUM Scheme has three main components. Which of the following correctly matches them with their objectives?**

| Component      | Objective   |
|----------------|---|
| a. Component-A | Decentralized grid-connected renewable energy power plants. |
| b. Component-B | Stand-alone solar pumps.                                    |
| c. Component-C | Solarization of existing grid-connected pumps.              |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. a only  
 B. a and b only  
**C. a, b, and c**  
 D. b and c only

**Answer: C**

**91. Under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, a surrogate mother must fulfill which of the following conditions?**

1. She must be a close relative of the intending couple.
2. She must be a married woman having at least one biological child of her own.
3. She must be between 25 to 35 years of age.
4. She can act as a surrogate mother more than once if medically approved.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: A**

**92. The Atacama Desert remains one of the driest places on Earth primarily because —**

- A. It lies in the rain shadow region of the Andes Mountains.
- B. The cold Peru (Humboldt) Current suppresses rainfall by cooling the air masses.
- C. It experiences strong westerly winds that carry moisture away.
- D. Both A and B.

**Answer: D**

**93. The Sahel region, central to the Africa's Great Green Wall project, can best be described as —**

- A. A humid tropical zone separating the Congo Basin and the Indian Ocean.
- B. A semi-arid ecological zone between the Sahara Desert and the African savannas.
- C. A coastal wetland zone along the Gulf of Guinea.
- D. A desert plateau running along the Red Sea coast.

**Answer: B**

**94. The 'Blue Helmets' of the United Nations are so called because —**

- A. They represent the official emblem of the UN Security Council.
- B. They are Peacekeeping Forces and wear distinct blue helmets symbolizing neutrality and UN authority.
- C. They are members of the UN's permanent standing army.
- D. They operate only under humanitarian and medical missions.

**Answer: B**

**95. With reference to Saksham, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is an indigenously developed Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (CUAS) Grid System.
- 2. It has been developed jointly by the Defence Research and Development Organisation

(DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

- 3. The system integrates real-time sensor data and AI-driven analytics to counter emerging drone threats.

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**

**96. With reference to the National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a joint initiative of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), and IUCN India.
- 2. It aims to publish the first national-level Red Data Books for both flora and fauna.
- 3. The project includes the assessment of approximately 25,000 species of plants and animals.

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**

**97. Which of the following statements about the Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project is incorrect?**

- A. It is situated on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir.
- B. It is a run-of-the-river project designed with a large reservoir.
- C. It is being developed by the NTPC.
- D. It is one of the largest hydroelectric projects in the Indus basin.

**Answer: C**

**98. The Chenab River is also known by which of the following names in ancient and historical texts?**

- A. Parushni
- B. Vipasha
- C. Asikni
- D. Vitasta

Answer: C

99. Under the Indus Waters Treaty (1960), which of the following statements correctly describes India's rights over the Chenab River?

- A. India has unrestricted consumptive use rights over the Chenab's water.
- B. India can construct storage reservoirs for agricultural irrigation.
- C. India can use Chenab's waters for non-consumptive purposes like hydroelectric power.
- D. India cannot utilize Chenab's waters under any circumstances.

Answer: C

100. Which of the following statements about Bharat Taxi's digital infrastructure is correct?

- A. It is operated as part of the National Highway Authority of India's e-transport initiative.
- B. It is built with support from the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and integrates with DigiLocker and UMANG.
- C. It is managed under the National Informatics Centre (NIC) exclusively for rural transport.
- D. It operates under the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) framework of NPCI.

Answer: B

101. The Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) is an initiative of which of the following bodies?

- A. National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM).
- B. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).
- C. All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).
- D. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Answer: B

102. Which of the following ports have been designated as Green Hydrogen Hubs under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)?

- A. Deendayal, Paradip, and V.O. Chidambaranar
- B. Cochin, Ennore, and Visakhapatnam
- C. Mumbai, Mormugao, and Tuticorin
- D. Paradip, Haldia, and Kakinada

Answer: A

103. Which of the following statements about the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)?

- 1. It is an Indo-UK partnership initiative aimed at strengthening biomedical and public health research capacity in India.
- 2. Generating patentable discoveries and high-impact publications and enhancing international peer recognition of Indian researchers.
- 3. It strengthens India's biomedical research ecosystem and international collaborations.

How many of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. All are correct
- D. None are correct

104. With reference to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026, consider the following statements:

- 1. Oxford University retained its top position for the tenth consecutive year.
- 2. The ranking evaluates universities across five domains, including "Research Quality" and "International Outlook."
- 3. The 2026 edition is the first to use Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted bibliometric analysis for research evaluation.
- 4. India is the third most represented country after the United States and China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

105. Consider the following statements regarding direct recruitment of District Judges in India:

- 1. Only practising advocates with at least seven years of experience are eligible for direct recruitment.
- 2. After the recent Supreme Court ruling, judicial officers with seven years of Bar experience before joining service are also eligible.
- 3. The Governor can appoint District Judges solely based on the recommendation of the

State Public Service Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**106. Under Article 233 of the Constitution of India, which one of the following authorities is primarily responsible for the appointment of District Judges?**

- A. The President of India, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
- B. The Governor of the State, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court of the concerned State.
- C. The Chief Justice of the High Court, in consultation with the Governor of the State.
- D. The State Public Service Commission, in consultation with the High Court.

**Answer: B**

## 2. Karnataka Issues based MCQ'S

**1. Which of the following combinations correctly matches the leadership positions in the GBA?**

- A. Chairperson – Chief Commissioner; Vice-Chairperson – Chief Minister
- B. Chairperson – Minister for Bengaluru Development; Member Secretary – Chief Minister
- C. **Chairperson – Chief Minister; Vice-Chairperson – Minister for Bengaluru Development; Member Secretary – Chief Commissioner**
- D. Chairperson – Governor of Karnataka; Vice-Chairperson – Chief Minister

**Answer: C**

**2. Which key initiative under the Karnataka Cybersecurity Policy 2024 aims to strengthen the State's cyber defense?**

- A. **Launch of the Cyber Command Center in Bengaluru.**
- B. Establishment of Cyber Volunteer Network.
- C. Creation of District-Level Cyber Cells.

D. Partnership with CERT-In for joint investigations.

**Answer: A**

**3. As per NCRB report, which State ranked second after Karnataka in the number of cybercrime cases in 2023?**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. **Telangana**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

**Answer: B**

**4. Which of the following tiger reserves or sanctuaries does NOT share a boundary with the Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary?**

- A. Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve
- B. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- C. Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. **Nagarhole Tiger Reserve**

**Answer: D**

**5. Which two rivers bound the Male Mahadeshwara Hills region?**

- A. Krishna and Tungabhadra
- B. **Kaveri and Palar**
- C. Hemavathi and Kabini
- D. Pennar and Bhavani

**Answer: B**

**6. With reference to the Shakti Scheme launched by the Government of Karnataka, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It provides free bus travel to all women residents of Karnataka, including transgender women.
- 2. The scheme applies to both intra-state and inter-state routes operated by KSRTC.
- 3. Premium services such as Airavat and Vayu Vajra are excluded from the scheme.

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**

**7. According to recent data of "Road Accidents in India" report, Bengaluru was ranked among the**

**top five cities in India with the highest increase in road accidents. Which of the following cities recorded a higher percentage increase than Bengaluru?**

1. Ranchi
2. Varanasi
3. Pune

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: C**

**8. What is the primary objective of deploying “COBRA patrol” vehicles by Bengaluru’s traffic police?**

- A. To escort VIP convoys and monitor high-speed corridors.
- B. To provide 24/7 motorcycle-based first response for accidents and traffic emergencies.**
- C. To monitor emission control and vehicle fitness compliance.
- D. To deliver on-the-spot fine collection and challan services.

**Answer: B**

**9. With reference to Karnataka’s “Namma Raste Namma Surakshite” Safe-A-Thon initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an awareness programme led by the Traffic Department.
- 2. It engages citizens through marathons, walkathons, and cyclothons to promote road safety habits.**
3. It focuses exclusively on school-level safety education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**10. Consider the following statements regarding Karnataka’s partnership with the SaveLIFE Foundation:**

1. It aims to implement the Zero Fatality District (ZFD) programme in high-fatality districts.
2. It focuses on data-driven interventions combining engineering, enforcement, and emergency care.
3. It is limited to the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway corridor.

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**

**11. With reference to the ‘AdvantAge60: Powering Aspirations’ campaign, consider the following statements:**

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to promote pension schemes for senior citizens.
2. The campaign aims to promote a positive view of aging and empower individuals over 60 to lead active and dignified lives by countering ageist stereotypes and project aging as a period of strength and aspiration.
3. It was launched on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons 2025 with a theme of “Powering Aspirations – Active, Enabled & Empowered”.

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**

**12. Which of the following combinations is correctly matched regarding the Karnataka State Film Awards 2021?**

| Category                          | Winner      |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Best Film award                | 777 Charlie |
| 2. Best Supporting Actress        | Umashree    |
| 3. Best Popular Entertaining Film | Yuvarathnaa |

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 4. Best Children's Film        | Cake           |
| 5. Best Regional Language Film | Nada Peda Asha |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only**
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. All are correct

**Answer: B**

**13. Which of the following institutions are collaborating on the Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Project (Bengaluru), which is funded by World Bank?**

- 1. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc) and Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M)
- 2. Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC)
- 3. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
- 4. Greater Bengaluru Authority
- 5. Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board
- 6. State Revenue Department is the implementing body.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 only**
- C. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- D. 1,2, 3, 5 and 6 only

**Answer: B**

**14. Which of the following statements about the Neeriddare Nale scheme is correct?**

- 1. It focuses on creating public awareness about water conservation.
- 2. It seeks to involve citizens in groundwater management.
- 3. It is implemented by the Karnataka Urban Water Supply Board.

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: A**

**15. According to recent reports, Bengaluru ranks among the top five cities globally in which of the following domains?**

- A. Renewable energy innovation
- B. Artificial Intelligence (AI) skill penetration and R&D output**
- C. Biotechnology start-ups
- D. Clean mobility infrastructure

**Answer: B**

**16. Which of the following statements best reflects Karnataka's contribution to India's digital and innovation economy?**

- 1. Karnataka houses 40% of India's R&D talent.
  - 2. About 30% of India's Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are located in Karnataka.
  - 3. The state hosts nearly 48 of India's 110 unicorns.
- 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: D**

**17. Consider the following statements regarding the Jayaprakash Narayan Award 2025:**

- 1. The award is conferred by the Bharata Yatra Kendra, an organization.
- 2. The 2025 recipient, Y.S.V. Datta, is a former MLA known for his contributions to rural governance reforms.
- 3. The selection committee for the award included B.L. Shankar and B.R. Patil.

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: D**

**18. Consider the following statements about the Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy – 2025:**

- 1. Karnataka became the first Indian State to implement menstrual leave in both government and private sectors.
- 2. The policy provides up to 15 days of paid menstrual leave annually for women employees.
- 3. The Dr. Sapna S. Committee was constituted to study and recommend this policy framework.
- 4. Bihar and Odisha have menstrual leave provisions exclusively for government

employees.

5. Kerala has implemented menstrual leave in universities but not for all government employees.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only**  
 B. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only  
 C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only  
 D. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

**Answer: A**

**19. Match the following Dams with their Locations:**

| Dams/ Reservoirs       | Location                     |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Almatti Dam         | 1. Gorur, Hassan district    |
| B. Kabini Reservoir    | 2. Heggadadevanakote, Mysuru |
| C. Hemavathi Reservoir | 3. Nidagundi, Vijayapura     |
| D. Vani Vilasa Sagara  | 4. Marikanive, Chitradurga   |

Select the correct code:

- A. A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2  
**B. A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4**  
 C. A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4  
 D. A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1

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

**20. Consider the following statements regarding the Karnataka Information Commission (KIC):**

- It is a constitutional body established under Article 243 of the Constitution of India.
- The KIC is constituted under the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor of Karnataka on the recommendation of a selection committee chaired by the Chief Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**21. Which of the following individuals were**

**finalised by the Karnataka Government in 2025 for appointment as State Information Commissioners?**

- Richard Vincent D'Souza
- Venkat Singh
- Mahesh Valvekar
- K. Sudhakar

Select the correct code:

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

**Answer: A**

**22. Consider the following statements regarding the Indira Food Kit Scheme recently introduced by the Karnataka Government:**

- The scheme was launched to replace the earlier free rice distribution system under the Anna Bhagya scheme.
- It aims to improve nutritional quality and reduce diversion of food grains.
- The kits are distributed through fair price shops under the Public Distribution System (PDS) using BPL ration cards.
- The food kit contains toor dal, moong dal, sugar, salt and cooking oil.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
 B. 1 and 3 only  
 C. None are correct  
**D. All are correct**

**Answer: D**

**23. Consider the following statements about the Karnataka Sahitya Academy Awards 2024:**

- The Karnataka Sahitya Academy honorary awards for 2024 were presented to five distinguished writers including Shudra Srinivas and Pratibha Nandakumar.
- The 'Sahitya Shri' award was conferred on ten writers for their notable contributions to Kannada literature.
- The Karnataka Sahitya Academy Awards were instituted in 1983 by the Government of Karnataka.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
**B. 1, 2 and 3**

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

**Answer: B**

**24. With reference to the 2024 Karnataka Sahitya Academy honorary awardees, consider the following:**

- 1. D. B. Nayak
- 2. Mamata Sagara
- 3. Vishwanath Karnad
- 4. M. Basavanna

How many of the above were recipients of the Honorary Awards (not Sahitya Shri)?

- A. Only two
- B. Only three**
- C. All four
- D. Only one

**Answer: B**

**25. Consider the following statements regarding Mental Health Santhe 4.0 hosted by NIMHANS in 2025:**

- 1. The initiative focuses on promoting community participation in mental health and suicide prevention.
- 2. It is organised by NIMHANS under the Swachhta Action Plan 2025–26, supported by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- 3. The 2025 theme — “Community Supporting Mental Wellbeing Together” — aligns with the observance of World Suicide Prevention Day.
- 4. It represents the fourth edition of NIMHANS’ flagship mental health awareness initiative.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**26. Consider the following statements regarding Karnataka’s export performance during 2024–25:**

- 1. Karnataka accounted for over 40% of India’s total services exports, making it the top exporter in this category.
- 2. The State ranked fourth in merchandise exports, behind Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.

- 3. Karnataka’s total service export value stood at \$158 billion, out of India’s total of \$387 billion.
- 4. Karnataka was also ranked first in both merchandise and services export categories in 2024–25.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**27. Consider the following statements regarding the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM):**

- 1. It was launched in 2015 with the objective of enhancing India’s high-performance computing capacity through indigenously built systems.
- 2. The Mission aims to design and manufacture a total of 73 supercomputers in India.
- 3. The grid of these supercomputers is to be connected through the National Knowledge Network (NKN).
- 4. The Mission is jointly implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Space (DoS).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**28. Match the following Supercomputers / Systems with their Unique Features or Achievements:**

| Supercomputer / System | Feature / Achievement  |
|------------------------|--|
| A. PARAM 8000          | 1. India’s first indigenously developed supercomputer (1991) |
| B. AIRAWAT             | 2. India’s fastest AI supercomputing system (2023)           |
| C. RUDRA               | 3. First indigenously designed HPC server                    |
| D. PARAM Siddhi-AI     | 4. Ranked among top 100 supercomputers globally in 2020      |

Select the correct code:

- A. A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1
- B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
- C. A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3
- D. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4**

**Answer: D**

**29. The Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary lies in a rain-shadow region of Karnataka. Which of the following statements best explains this phenomenon?**

- A. It receives high annual rainfall due to the Western Ghats monsoon currents.
- B. The Eastern Ghats obstruct monsoon winds, causing dry conditions.
- C. It lies east of the Western Ghats, where descending air currents reduce rainfall.**
- D. It receives rain primarily from the northeast monsoon, making it semi-arid.

**Answer: C**

**30. The development of a “data centre park at Tavarekere” aligns most closely with which of the following policy priorities of Karnataka?**

- A. Mission Karmayogi Karnataka
- B. Beyond Bengaluru Digital Economy Policy**
- C. Raitha Shakti Scheme
- D. Karnataka Renewable Energy Mission

**Answer: B**

**31. The Karnataka-GAIL wet waste gasification initiative will most directly reduce the emissions of which greenhouse gas?**

- A. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- B. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)
- C. Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)**
- D. Sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)

**Answer: C**

**32. The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, have been issued under which parent legislation?**

- A. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**
- B. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- C. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- D. National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

**Answer: A**

**33. Under the SWM Rules, 2016, which of the following entities have been given Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?**

- 1. Plastic packaging manufacturers
- 2. E-waste producers
- 3. Battery manufacturers
- 4. Textile mills

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: B**

**34. Match the following schemes/missions with their respective implementing ministries:**

| Scheme/Mission                    | Implementing Ministry  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| A. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)  | 1. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs                                 |
| B. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) | 2. Ministry of Jal Shakti  |
| C. GOBAR-Dhan Scheme              | 3. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation                           |
| D. Waste to Wealth Mission        | 4. Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India |
| E. NAMASTE Scheme                 | 5. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment                            |

Select the correct code:

- A. A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4, E-5
- B. A-1, B-3, C-2, D-5, E-4
- C. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5**
- D. A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3, E-5

**Answer: C**

**35. Consider the following statements about the Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC):**

- 1. The Bengaluru Business Corridor is being implemented by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).
- 2. It aims to connect Electronic City with Tumakuru Road and Mysuru Road.
- 3. It is primarily designed as a freight-dedicated industrial corridor similar to the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

4. One of its key objectives is to decongest Bengaluru's traffic by diverting through-traffic and providing an alternative to the NICE Road. Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only  
**B. 1, 2 and 4 only**  
C. 2, 3 and 4 only  
D. 1, 3 and 4 only

**Answer: B**

**36. With reference to the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC-2), consider the following statements:**

1. The Commission has Cabinet-rank status and reports directly to the Chief Minister.
2. Its recommendations focus on e-Governance, citizen charters, and administrative decentralisation.
3. It was established following the recommendations of the Karnataka Public Service Commission.

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**

**37. Assertion (A): District Planning Committees play a crucial role in ensuring decentralized planning and convergence of local development efforts.**

Reason (R): They are constitutionally empowered to allocate funds and execute projects independently of the State government.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**  
**B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.**  
C. A is true, but R is false.  
D. A is false, but R is true.

**Answer: C**

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**Mentorship  
Program**

**Mission  
Aarakshaka**

- (PSI/ESI/FDA / SDA/ALL GROUP-C CLASSES)
- RAKSHAKA - (PSI / ESI / FDA / SDA/ ALL GROUP-C TEST SERIES)

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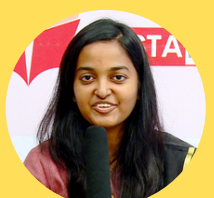
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### **DAVANAGERE BRANCH**

#1092 Jadhav Complex, Ring Road, Nijilingappa Layout, Opp to EDU ASIA School Davanagere, Karnataka - 577004

### **BENGALURU BRANCH**

# 1134/1, 2nd Floor, Beside Sharavathi Hospital, Service Road, Opposite to Attiguppe Metro Station, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560040

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