



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION



INSTAKAS

ANANYA SAADHANA

VALUE ADDED UPGRADE

COMPREHENSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2025

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

Coverage

- ✔ Polity & Governance
- ✔ Economy
- ✔ Health & Society
- ✔ Environment
- ✔ Science & Technology
- ✔ Culture
- ✔ Security
- ✔ International
- ✔ Karnataka Darshana
- ✔ Practice Questions



☎ 080 69 405 206

🌐 www.insightsonindia.com

📍 t.me/InstaKASforKPSC

Subscribe to our channel

 **INSTA KAS**

VINAY KUMAR G B

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR
INSIGHTS IAS, BENGALURU

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**



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 IAS

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

- ✔ Nandan R(Faculty for Current affairs and Environment)
- ✔ Dinesh(Mentor)
- ✔ Vishwaprasanna (Content contributor)

1. NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

8

1. Population Census-2027
2. Beta Version of “Adi Vaani”
3. DIGIPIN Initiative
4. Buildings To be Geo-tagged in Census 2027
5. Rajasthan Proposes New Anti-Conversion Bill
6. Himachal Pradesh Becomes Fully Literate State
7. C.P. Radhakrishnan Elected as the 15th Vice-President of India
8. National Annual Report & Index on Women’s Safety (NARI) 2025
9. National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)
10. SPREE-2025 and AMNESTY Scheme
11. PM Vishwakarma Scheme
12. Visakhapatnam Declaration on E-Governance
13. Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025
14. National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025.
15. Samagra Shiksha scheme
16. National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribes (NFST)
17. Angikaar 2025
18. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025
19. Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

ECONOMY

14

1. PM Urges Indians to Embrace ‘Vocal for Local’ Mantra
2. APEDA Launches BHARATI Initiative to Boost Agri-food Exports
3. Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

4. Coconut Development Board
5. Recommendations of the 56th Meeting of the GST Council
6. Stablecoins
7. India to Start Pilot Projects in Venezuela
8. India-ILO MoU on Occupational Classification to Boost Global Job Opportunities
9. Third Anniversary of the National Logistics Policy (NLP)
10. Pink Tax
11. International Seabed Authority (ISA)
12. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
13. Rashtriya Gokul Mission
14. Blue Ports
15. Prime Minister Pushes for Local Production
16. Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010
17. Unified Payments Interface
18. Finance Minister Launches GST Appellate Tribunal
19. Huge Scope for Indian Tea Sector
20. Maitri 2.0 Cross-Incubation Programme
21. India-ADB Sign \$125 million Loan to Assam
22. Excess Rainfall Threatens Karnataka’s Coffee Plantations
23. Nilgiris Tea
24. National Makhana Board
25. 99th Meeting of Network Planning Group under PM GatiShakti
26. Oju Hydroelectric Project

HEALTH & SOCIETY

23

1. Acanthamoeba
2. Clinical trial for Envafolelimab
3. National Health Mission (NHM)
4. Maternal Mortality in India 2021-23
5. AI-Based Mental Health Program ‘Never Alone’

Launched at AIIMS Delhi

6. Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan
7. Autism Myths Around Tylenol
8. Seven Years of Ayushman Bharat

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

27

1. Earthquake in Afghanistan
2. Ethiopia Opens Africa's Largest Dam Across Nile
3. Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal)
4. Typhoon Ragasa
5. Changes in Green Credit Programme Norms
6. Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) 2025
7. *Senna spectabilis*
8. India's First Vulture Conservation Portal
9. Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis Nigriceps*)
10. Vembanad Lake
11. Sariska Tiger Reserve
12. Ozone Hole Growth
13. Light Pollution Impacting Biodiversity
14. First bamboo-based Bio-refinery
15. Kerala Approves Draft Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2025
16. Yellow-crested Cockatoos
17. India to Submit Updated Carbon-reduction Targets by the Beginning of COP30
18. Mission Mausam
19. Production Gap Report 2025
20. 51st Foundation Day of Central Pollution Control Board
21. Orcas
22. Pallas's Cat
23. Australia Approves First Vaccine to save Koalas from Chlamydia
24. India's First Dugong Reserve
25. State Of The Rhino Report

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

38

1. Gujarat's Kutch Village Yields Rare Jarosite Discovery
2. Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0
3. Exercise MAITREE
4. Exercise Yudh Abhyas
5. Blood Moon
6. Ghost Bat Drone
7. EnteroMix – mRNA Cancer Vaccine
8. EXERCISE ZAPAD 2025
9. ISRO Inks Agreement with HAL for Transfer of SSLV Technology
10. Melioidosis
11. AdFalciVax
12. Samudra Pradakshina
13. MNRE Unveiled India's First National Policy on Geothermal Energy
14. Indian Navy's 'Androth'
15. India-AI Impact Summit 2026
16. Exercise Pacific Reach
17. Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025
18. Agni-Prime Missile
19. Tejas Mark-1A
20. Astronomers Detect Quasi-Moon Near Earth
21. 25 Lakh Additional LPG Connections Under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
22. SPARSH

HISTORY AND CULTURE

45

1. 200th Birth Anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji
2. Nalanda University
3. SAMHiTA Conference on South Asian Manuscripts and Mathematics
4. GI Tag Push in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)
5. Langkhon Festival
6. Acharya Vinoba Bhave

7. Sarnath
8. Kolhan's Manki-Munda system
9. Seven Natural Heritage Sites Added to UNESCO Tentative List
10. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
11. Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl
12. Adi Sanskriti

INTERNAL SECURITY 50

1. Kuki-Zo Groups
2. 1st Interpol Silver Notices
3. Directorate of Enforcement (ED)
4. National Investigation Agency (NIA)
5. Indian Coast Guard

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 52

1. China and India Pledge to be 'partners not rivals': SCO Summit
2. India-Singapore 2025 Summit
3. BRICS Virtual Summit
4. Political Crisis in Nepal and Its Implications for India
5. East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)
6. First India-Iran-Uzbekistan Trilateral Meeting
7. India Condemn the Doha Strike
8. International Criminal Court
9. India-Russia Discuss BRICS Grain Exchange Plan
10. FIPIC
11. K Visa
12. India and Morocco Sign Defence Cooperation
13. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2025, Tianjin
14. Universal Postal Union (UPU)

MISCELLANEOUS 57

1. Ramon Magsaysay Award

2. National Teachers Awards
3. 99th birth anniversary of Bhupen Hazarika
4. International Day of Sign Languages
5. Seychelles
6. Baltic Sea
7. Papua New Guinea

PERSONALITIES 60

1. Sree Narayana Guru
2. Sir M Visvesvaraya

2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA

STATE ISSUES 62

1. Samruddhi Gram Panchayat Project (SGPP)
2. Siddi community
3. Kali tiger reserve
4. New high-yielding and climate-resilient millet varieties.
5. Raste Gundi Gamana app & E Aasthi digital platforms
6. Infant mortality rate of Karnataka
7. Upper Krishna project
8. Quantum city
9. Kagzi lemon
10. E-Swathu
11. Cantonment new Railway Colony area- Biodiversity heritage site
12. Project Khushi
13. Chief Minister's Adivasi Gruha Bhagya scheme
14. ASTraM app
15. Sharavati pumped storage
16. New State textile policy of Karnataka - 2025-2030
17. Bengaluru Water Resilience Project
18. ELEVATE 2025, ELEVATE Unnati 2025, and

ELEVATE Minorities 2025.

19. The Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025,
20. KMF launches Nandini products in US at World Kannada Summit
21. Deepika Student Scholarship
22. N. V. Prasad Committee
23. Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act (K-ESMA), 2013.
24. Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP)
25. NIMHANS launches AYUSH-MANN
26. State Skill Development Policy 2025–32
27. State records highest maternal mortality in 2023;

3. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Committees

AWARDS

75

1. National Teachers Award 2025.
2. Anuparna Roy wins best director award at Venice festival
3. Award in B. Saroja Devi's name
4. Karnataka ratna award
5. Mohanlal to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award
6. BBMP's e-Khata wins National Award 2025
7. 71st National Film Awards

SPORTS

78

1. India won the Asia Cup 2025 in men's hockey and Archery
2. Indian men shoot gold in the compound event

DEFENCE

78

1. Navy's latest base INS Aravali commissioned in Gurugram
2. IAF's iconic MiG-21 fighter to fly into sunset after six decades of service

IMPORTANT DAYS

78

1. World Alzheimer's Day
2. National Teachers day
3. Hindi Diwas (India)
4. Engineers' Day (India)
5. Hyderabad Liberation Day (India)
6. International Day of Peace
7. World Ozone Day
8. World Pharmacists Day
9. World Tourism Day
10. India's first Sustainable Aviation Fuel.
11. 8th India International Tea Convention (IITC) 2025

4. PRACTISE QUESTIONS

1. September month MCQs
2. Karnataka Issues MCQ'S

1. NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1. Population Census-2027

Context

- ◆ The Registrar General of India (RGI) has sought a Rs 14,618.95-crore budget to conduct the Census 2027, which will be the first “Digital Census” and collect data on caste.

Census in India

- ◆ **Definition** - A census is a **survey of the population of an area that includes collecting details of a country’s demographics** including age, sex and occupation.
- ◆ **History:** Under **W.C. Plowden, the Census Commissioner of India, first census was conducted in 1881.**
- ◆ **Independent India’s first census was held in 1951** and since then it has happened in the first year of every decade.
- ◆ The **Constitution mandates that enumeration is carried out** but the **Census of India Act of 1948 does not specify its timing or periodicity.**
- ◆ **Census is conducted by - Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** which functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**

2. Beta Version of “Adi Vaani”

In News

- ◆ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the beta version of “Adi Vaani,” app.

About Adi Vaani

- ◆ **Purpose-** It is an **AI-powered translation tool designed to support a future language model for tribal languages.**
- ◆ **Significance** - It combines advanced technology with community efforts to **protect and revive tribal languages** and cultures in India.
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - It is India’s first AI-powered translator for tribal languages which was developed under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh.

- ◆ **Adi Vaani supports: Santali (Odisha), Bhili (Madhya Pradesh), Mundari (Jharkhand), Gondi (Chhattisgarh)**

Importance

- ◆ **India has 461 tribal languages, with 81 vulnerable and 42 critically endangered** due to limited documentation and transmission.
- ◆ **Adi Vaani uses AI to digitize, preserve, and revitalize these tribal languages.**

3. DIGIPIN Initiative

In News

- ◆ The Department of Posts has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ESRI India to Strengthen the DIGIPIN Initiative.

DIGIPIN (Digital Postal Index Number)

- ◆ It is an open-source, interoperable, geo-coded, grid-based digital address system developed by the Department of Posts in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and NRSC, ISRO.
- ◆ It divides India into approximately 4m x 4m grids and assigns each grid a unique 10-character alphanumeric code based on latitude and longitude coordinates.
- ◆ It is a cornerstone of the Department of Posts’ vision to offer Address-as-a-Service (AaaS) — an array of services associated with address data management to support secure and efficient interactions between users, government entities, and private sector organisations.

Importance

- ◆ It simplifies addressing for public and private services, improving logistics efficiency and emergency response capabilities.

4. Buildings To be Geo-tagged in Census 2027

In News

- ◆ The 2027 Census will mark India’s first fully digital enumeration, featuring the geo-tagging of over 33 crore buildings—residential and non-residential—using Digital Layout Mapping (DLM) and GIS coordinates during the Houselisting Operations.

Geo-tagging of buildings in Census 2027

- ◆ This initiative replaces earlier hand-drawn sketches and aims to improve workload management and data accuracy.
- ◆ Enumerators will classify buildings by usage and collect data on housing conditions, amenities, and assets.

5. Rajasthan Proposes New Anti-Conversion Bill

Context

- ◆ The Rajasthan government has announced stringent provisions under its proposed Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025.

Key Provisions of the New Bill

- ◆ **General offences:** Unlawful conversions will invite imprisonment of seven to fourteen years and a minimum fine of ₹5 lakh. (Earlier: one to five years and ₹15,000 fine).
- ◆ **Vulnerable groups:** If the converted person is a minor, woman, differently abled, or from SC/ST communities, the punishment will be ten to twenty years of imprisonment and a fine of ₹10 lakh.
- ◆ **Mass conversions:** In cases of mass conversions, guilty parties face twenty years to life imprisonment along with a minimum fine of ₹25 lakh.
- ◆ **NOTE** - Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion, but courts have held this does not include a right to convert another person by force, fraud, or allurement under the guise of “propagation”.

6. Himachal Pradesh Becomes Fully Literate State

In News

- ◆ On International Literacy Day, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister declared the state fully literate, achieving a 99.30% literacy rate which is higher than the national benchmark of 95%.

Definition of literacy

- ◆ According to the 2011 Census, literacy is defined as the ability to both read and write with understanding in any language for individuals aged seven and above.
- ◆ Merely being able to read does not qualify as literacy. The 2011 data shows a notable rise in literacy levels across India.

Additional Information - International Literacy Day (ILD)

- ◆ It is observed annually on September 8
- ◆ Observed by - UNESCO.
- ◆ 2025 theme - Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era.

India's progress in literacy

- ◆ India has made significant progress in literacy, with Himachal Pradesh becoming the fourth state—after Tripura, Mizoram, and Goa—to achieve full functional literacy.
- ◆ Ladakh is the first fully literate Union Territory.
- ◆ The national literacy rate rose from 74% in 2011 to 80.9% in 2023–24.
- ◆ The ULLAS Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram enrolled over 3 crore learners with a 90% success rate.

7. C.P. Radhakrishnan Elected as the 15th Vice-President of India

In News

- ◆ C.P. Radhakrishnan was elected as the 15th Vice-President of India.

About the Office of the Vice President

- ◆ The Vice-President of India is the second-highest constitutional office in the country.
- ◆ The Constitution does not specify who performs the Vice President's duties when the office falls vacant.
- ◆ Article 63: India shall have a Vice-President.
- ◆ Article 64: The Vice-President shall be the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- ◆ Article 65: The Vice-President acts as President, during casual vacancy in the office of the President.

Election Procedure of the Vice President

- ◆ Nomination: Requires 20 proposers and 20

seconders with ₹15,000 deposit and certified copy of the entry showing his name in the current electoral roll.

- ♦ Voting: By an Electoral College, which consists of the members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (both elected and nominated members)
- ♦ Voting is with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, and the voting at such an election shall be by secret ballot. (Article 66).
- ♦ No Whip: provisions of the Anti-Defection Law are not applicable.

Eligibility for Vice-President (article 66)

- ♦ Is a citizen of India;
- ♦ Has completed the age of 35 years,
- ♦ Is qualified for election as a member of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha)
- ♦ Must not hold any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority.

No.	Vice President	Tenure
1	Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1952–1962
2	Zakir Husain	1962–1967
3	V. V. Giri	1967–1969
4	Gopal Swarup Pathak	1969–1974
5	B. D. Jatti	1974–1979
6	Mohammad Hidayatullah	1979–1984
7	R. Venkataraman	1984–1987
8	Shankar Dayal Sharma	1987–1992
9	K. R. Narayanan	1992–1997
10	Krishan Kant	1997–2002
11	Bhairon Singh Shekhawat	2002–2007
12	Mohammad Hamid Ansari	2007–2017
13	M. Venkaiah Naidu	2017–2022
14	Jagdeep Dhankhar	2022–2025
15	C. P. Radhakrishnan	2025–present

8. National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025

Context

- ♦ The National Annual Report & Index on Women's

Safety (NARI) 2025, released by the National Commission for Women (NCW), provides a city-wise ranking of women's safety in India.

Key highlights from NARI 2025

- ♦ **Safest cities:** Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, Mumbai.
- ♦ **Least safe cities:** Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar, Ranchi.
- ♦ The national safety score was pegged at 65 per cent, serving as the benchmark for assessing city performance.

Government Initiatives for Women Safety

- ♦ Nirbhaya Fund: Ministry of Women and Child Development has established the fund for financing safety projects across the country.
- ♦ SHe-Box Portal: Launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Sexual Harassment Electronic Box (SHe-Box) is an initiative to provide a single-window platform for women to register workplace sexual harassment complaints.
- ♦ Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, applies to all women, regardless of age, job type, or work sector.
- ♦ It mandates employers to create an Internal Committee (IC) in workplaces with over 10 employees, while the Appropriate Government sets up Local Committees (LCs) for smaller organizations or cases against employers.

9. National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

In News

- ♦ Coal India Limited (CIL) and the National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at empowering tribal students enrolled in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).

National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

- ♦ **Established:** NSTFDC was set up in 2001 under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- ♦ **Objective:** socio-economic and educational

upliftment of Scheduled Tribes (STs) by providing better self-employment opportunities to help them become economically independent and self-reliant.

- ◆ **Significance** - It also provides grants for conducting skill development and training programs aimed specifically at tribal youth.

10. SPREE-2025 and AMNESTY Scheme

In News

- ◆ The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has launched two key initiatives — SPREE-2025 and the AMNESTY Scheme-2025 — to expand social security coverage and ease compliance for industries.

SPREE-2025

- ◆ **Abbreviation** - Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees.
- ◆ **Significance** - It allows unregistered industries and employees to enroll with ESIC via the ESI Portal, Shram Suvidha Portal, or Company Affairs Portal without paying past dues.
- ◆ Registered employers will be covered from their chosen date, and **employees will receive ESIC benefits from the registration date.**
- ◆ **The scheme promotes voluntary compliance over punishment**, aiming to reduce litigation and build trust between employers and employees.

AMNESTY Scheme-2025

- ◆ It is a **one-time dispute resolution initiative by ESIC**, effective from 1st October 2025 to 30th September 2026.
- ◆ **It aims to reduce the backlog of court cases and promote compliance under the ESI Act** by allowing employers to settle legal disputes with ESIC through out-of-court settlements.

11. PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Context

- ◆ On 17 September 2025, the PM Vishwakarma Scheme completed two years.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- ◆ **Aim:** To support and provide **skill-upgradation training to artisans and craftspeople amid a changing economic landscape.**

- ◆ **Administered by:** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ◆ **Around 18 trades and crafts are included under the scheme:**
 - ◆ These include carpenter, boat-maker, armourer, blacksmith, hammer and tool kit maker, locksmith, goldsmith, potter, sculptor, cobbler, mason, basket-maker, doll and toy-maker, barber, garland maker, washerman, tailor, and fishing net-maker.
- ◆ **Financial Assistance:** It also offers financial assistance and creates avenues of “market linkage”.
- ◆ **A stipend of ₹500 per day is provided during the training.**
- ◆ Only after the training they will receive a **tool kit incentive of ₹15,000, to purchase modern tools specific to their trade.**
- ◆ They will also receive collateral-free loans at lower interest rates of nearly **8% up to ₹1 lakh and an additional ₹2 lakh for setting up their business.**

12. Visakhapatnam Declaration on E-Governance

Context

- ◆ The Visakhapatnam Declaration on E-Governance, adopted at the 28th National Conference on e-Governance held in Visakhapatnam.

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Co-hosted By:** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)**, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- ◆ **Theme:** “**Viksit Bharat: Civil Service and Digital Transformation**” with a vision of “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.”
- ◆ **Digital Inclusion:** Focus on **extending digital governance** to underserved and connectivity-challenged regions such as the **North-East and Ladakh** through expanding mandatory **e-services under the NeSDA (National e-Governance Services Delivery Assessment) framework.**
- ◆ **AI Platforms:** Scaling AI-driven initiatives such as **Digital India BHASHINI (multilingual communications)**, **Digi Yatra (airport check-ins)**, and **NADRES V2 (agricultural disaster risk**

reduction), with a focus on ethical, transparent AI use.

Connect with the basics -E Governance

- ◆ Definition - Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by the government to deliver services, exchange information, and interact with citizens.

What is e-Governance?

Benefits

- ◆ **Efficiency:** Faster, cheaper, paperless transactions.
- ◆ **Transparency & Accountability:** Reduced corruption, direct monitoring.
- ◆ **Inclusivity:** Services to rural/remote areas via Common Services Centres (CSCs).
- ◆ **Citizen Empowerment:** 24x7 access, participatory governance.
- ◆ **Economic Growth:** Boosts startups, IT industry, and digital economy.

Key Initiatives

- ◆ **Connectivity and Infrastructure:** Over the years, **Digital India** has built strong digital infrastructure across the country.
- ◆ **Aadhaar & DBT:** Aadhaar-enabled e-KYC simplified verification, reduced paperwork, and enhanced transparency. DBT ensured direct transfer of welfare benefits, curbing leakages.
- ◆ **Karmayogi Bharat:** Initiative aims to nurture a future-ready civil service by **equipping officials with the right Attitude, Skills, and Knowledge (ASK)** to deliver efficient and citizen-centric governance.
- ◆ **DigiLocker:** Aims at 'Digital Empowerment' of citizens by providing access to authentic digital documents in the citizens' **digital document wallet**.
- ◆ **UMANG:** Provides a **single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan-India e-Gov services** ranging from Central to Local Government bodies.

13. Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

Context

- ◆ The Union Education Ministry has launched the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025.

Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

- ◆ It's a nationwide virtual innovation contest for school students, with a prize pool of ₹1 crore
- ◆ **Participants:** Open to students from Classes 6 to 12 across six lakh government and private schools.
- ◆ **Objective:** Encourage students to develop innovative ideas and products focusing on self-reliance, indigenous knowledge, and sustainability, contributing to India's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- ◆ **Organisers:** Department of School Education & Literacy, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog) and AICTE.

14. National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025.

Context

- ◆ Gram Panchayats were conferred with the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025.

National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025.

- ◆ NAeG are under a newly instituted category dedicated to grassroots-level initiatives in digital service delivery.
- ◆ Each award includes a trophy, certificate, and financial incentives of Rs.10 lakh (Gold) and Rs.5 lakh (Silver), to be reinvested in strengthening citizen-centric initiatives.
- ◆ Ministry: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPPGP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).
- ◆ This first-of-its-kind recognition highlights the Government's vision that Good Governance is best delivered through Digital Governance.
- ◆ **Rohini Gram Panchayat**, Maharashtra has become the first Gram Panchayat in the State to adopt a fully paperless e-Office system.

15. Samagra Shiksha scheme

Context

- ◆ The Supreme Court has issued notice to the Centre after Tamil Nadu alleged that Samagra Shiksha funds were delinked from reimbursements under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- ◆ **Launched in** - Union Budget 2018-19,

- ◆ **Mandate** - to provide school education covering complete pre-primary to senior secondary (up to class 12th).
- ◆ **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme (partnership with States & UT).
- ◆ **Significance** - : To implement SDG 4, Right to Education and New Education Policy.
- ◆ **Coverage:** 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students and 5.7 million Teachers of Govt. and Aided schools.

Subsumed erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

- ◆ Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- ◆ Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and
- ◆ Teacher Education (TE)

16. National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribes (NFST)

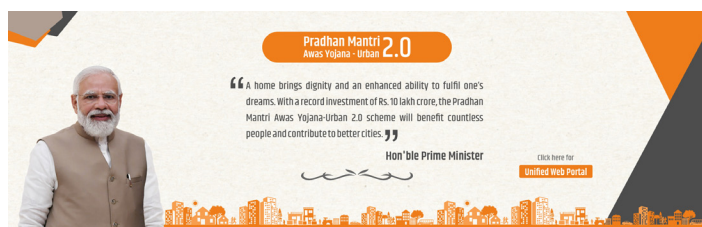
Context

- ◆ Research scholars from Scheduled Tribe communities across the country have reported months-long delays and irregularities in the disbursement of funds under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribes (NFST).

National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribes (NFST).

- ◆ **Implementation** - It is a scholarship programme by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ◆ **Financing** - It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- ◆ **Objective** - to encourage the Scheduled Tribe (ST) students to acquire higher education by providing financial assistance in the form of fellowships.
- ◆ **Targeted beneficiary** - The candidate must be registered for regular and full time M.Phil./ Ph.D courses in recognized University/ Institute/ Colleges by UGC.

17. Angikaar 2025



Context

- ◆ The Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, launched “Angikaar 2025”, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0), in New Delhi.

Angikaar 2025

- ◆ It is an outreach campaign to accelerate the implementation of PMAY-U 2.0 by creating widespread awareness about the scheme across the country.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)

- ◆ Launched in - August 2024
- ◆ Objective - to provide financial assistance for housing to one crore urban poor and middle-class families over the next five years.
- ◆ Significance - to ensure every citizen has access to a ‘pucca’ (permanent) house.

18. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025

Context

- ◆ The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 rankings were announced by the Ministry of Education.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

- ◆ Launched on - 29 September 2015.
- ◆ **Mandate-** It is a government-approved methodology for ranking institutions of higher education across India.
- ◆ **Released by:** Ministry of Education
- ◆ Parameters - Teaching, Learning and Resources; Research and Professional Practices; Graduation Outcomes; Outreach and Inclusivity; and Perception.

Key Highlights of NIRF 2025

- ◆ IIT Madras ranked first overall for the seventh year in a row and remained the best engineering college for the tenth straight year.
- ◆ IISc Bengaluru topped the universities category for the tenth consecutive year and led the research institutions category for the fifth consecutive year.
- ◆ IIM Ahmedabad ranked first in management

for the sixth consecutive year.

- ♦ **AIIMS New Delhi** led medical institutions for the eighth consecutive year and topped the dental category for the first time.

19. Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

Context

- ♦ The Union Education Ministry has launched the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025.

Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

- ♦ **Ita nationwide virtual innovation contest for school students, with a prize pool of ₹1 crore**
- ♦ **Participants: Open to students from Classes 6 to 12** across six lakh government and private schools.
- ♦ **Objective:** Encourage students to develop innovative ideas and products focusing on self-reliance, indigenous knowledge, and sustainability, contributing to India's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- ♦ **Organisers:** Department of School Education & Literacy, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog) and AICTE.

ECONOMY

1. PM Urges Indians to Embrace 'Vocal for Local' Mantra

Context

- ♦ Recently, in his latest Mann Ki Baat address, the Prime Minister of India renewed his call for citizens to adopt the mantra of 'Vocal for Local', emphasizing the importance of supporting indigenous products to build a self-reliant India.

'Vocal for Local' Initiative

- ♦ **Launched by-** It was launched by NITI Aayog under its Aspirational Blocks Programme in 2024.
- ♦ It emphasizes supporting locally made products, artisans, and industries to boost India's economy and reduce dependency on imports.

Key Examples of 'Vocal for Local'

- ♦ **Khadi & Village Industries:** Khadi became a symbol of national pride and emerged as a symbol of self-reliance.
- ♦ **GI-Tagged Products:** From Pochampally Ikat, Pashmina, Darjeeling tea to Madhubani paintings, traditional crafts are gaining global recognition.
- ♦ **Handloom & Handicrafts** – Schemes such as **One District One Product (ODOP)** and **PM Vishwakarma Yojana** encourage artisans and craftsmen.
- ♦ **Digital India Products:** UPI, RuPay, and Indian-made fintech apps are now widely adopted.
- ♦ **Startups and MSMEs:** Government schemes like **Startup India** and **Make in India** have helped thousands of local entrepreneurs scale up.
- ♦ **Festival Campaigns** – Citizens are urged during **Diwali, Raksha Bandhan, and Holi** to purchase locally produced diyas, sweets, and handicrafts.

2. APEDA Launches BHARATI Initiative to Boost Agri-food Exports

In News

- ♦ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched its new initiative 'BHARATI'.

BHARATI

- ♦ **Abbreviation - Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement**
- ♦ **Mandate - It envisions making India a hub for agri-food startups and innovation.**

Significance

- ♦ **Boost to Agricultural Exports:** Will help India diversify agri-exports and capture global niche markets (organic, GI-tagged, AYUSH products).
- ♦ **Startup Support:** Fills critical gaps in incubation and scale-up for agri-tech and food processing startups.
- ♦ **Innovation Promotion:** Fosters R&D in packaging, traceability and cold-chain logistics – sectors vital for reducing perishability and wastage in Indian agriculture.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- ◆ **Founded:** 1986,
- ◆ **Functions under** - Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ◆ **Objective:** Development and **promotion of the export of** scheduled products, including **fruits, vegetables, cereals, animal products, and processed foods.**

3. Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Context

- ◆ Countries are advancing towards implementing the High Seas Treaty, known as the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

BBNJ Treaty (High Seas Treaty)

- ◆ **Mandate** - It is the first treaty to address the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the high seas.
- ◆ **Significance** - It is meant to ensure that resources in international waters are treated as the “common heritage of humankind” and that benefits are **shared fairly, especially with developing countries.**
- ◆ The treaty was **agreed upon in 2023** after years of negotiations and **opened for countries to sign in 2024.**
- ◆ It is a **legally binding** treaty. **India signed the BBNJ Agreement in 2024.**

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- ◆ It was **adopted in 1982** and came into force in **1994.**
- ◆ **Mandate** - It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world’s oceans and seas.
- ◆ **Note-** establishes the International Seabed Authority to regulate mining.

4. Coconut Development Board

In News

- ◆ The Coconut Development Board (CDB) celebrated World Coconut Day in Kerala, by launching revised schemes and presenting Export Excellence Awards.

World Coconut Day

- ◆ **Observed on** - September 2nd
- ◆ **Observed by** - International Coconut Community (ICC), an intergovernmental organization for coconut-growing nations under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
- ◆ **2025 theme** - “Uncovering Coconut’s Power, Inspiring Global Action”.

Additional Information- Coconut Development Board (CDB)

- ◆ It is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, established on 12th January 1981.
- ◆ Its mandate is the **integrated development of coconut cultivation and industry** in India, with a focus on increasing productivity and product diversification.
- ◆ **Headquarters:** Kochi, Kerala

5. Recommendations of the 56th Meeting of the GST Council

In News

- ◆ The 56th GST Council meeting recommended changes in GST tax rates aimed at benefiting individuals, the common man, and the aspirational middle class.

Goods and Service Tax (GST)

- ◆ Goods and Services Tax is an **indirect tax used in India on the supply of goods and services.**
- ◆ It is a value-added tax **levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption.**
- ◆ It was **launched in India in 2017** as a **comprehensive indirect tax for the entire country.**

It is of three types i.e.

1. CGST to be levied by the Centre,
2. SGST to be levied by the States and
3. IGST a tax levied on all Inter-State supplies of goods and/or services.

GST Council

- ◆ **Legal status** - It is a **Constitutional body under Article 279A**, introduced by the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.

- ♦ **Mandate** - It is empowered to modify, reconcile or to procure any law or regulation based on the context of GST in India.
- ♦ **Federal body** - It is also considered as a **federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation.**
- ♦ **Functions:** It makes recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to GST.
- ♦ **Composition**
 - ♦ **Chairperson:** Union Finance Minister.
 - ♦ **Members:** Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

6. Stablecoins

Context

- ♦ Stablecoins have grown rapidly, with their market capitalization more than doubling in the past 18 months to nearly \$280 billion.

Stablecoins

- ♦ Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies designed to maintain price stability

Connect with the basics

- ♦ **Cryptocurrency** - It is a virtual currency used for financial transactions. It uses blockchain technology for various transactions.
- ♦ **Blockchain** - The blockchain is an incorruptible digital ledger of transactions that can be programmed to record virtually everything of value. Each list of records in a blockchain is called a block.
- ♦ **Bitcoin** - It is a type of Cryptocurrency that enables instant payments to anyone.

7. India to Start Pilot Projects in Venezuela

Context

- ♦ India and Venezuela have agreed to collaborate on pilot projects in priority sectors such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and digital public infrastructure.

Venezuela

- ♦ **Location** - Venezuela, is located at the **northern end of South America.**
- ♦ **Neighbourhood**- Venezuela is bounded by the **Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean to the north, Guyana to the east, Brazil to the south, and Colombia to the southwest and west.**
- ♦ **Orinoco Belt:** This is a vast region in **Venezuela rich in heavy crude oil, making up a large part of the country's total reserves.**
- ♦ **Lake Maracaibo** of Venezuela is the **largest lake in Latin America and one of the oldest water bodies on the planet.**
- ♦ **Angel Falls**, located in Venezuela's Canaima National Park, is the **world's highest uninterrupted waterfall.**



8. India-ILO MoU on Occupational Classification to Boost Global Job Opportunities

Context

- ♦ The Union government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to advance the International Reference Classification of Occupations (IRCO).

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- ♦ It is an United Nations Agency **established in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles.**

- ◆ It became the first **specialized agency of the UN in 1946.**
- ◆ **India's membership** - India became a founding member of the ILO in 1919, even before gaining independence.
- ◆ **Member countries** - It has 187 Member states.
- ◆ **Mandate** - It sets labour standards, develops policies and devises programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - It is the **only tripartite U.N. agency that brings together governments, employers and workers.**
- ◆ **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland.

9. Third Anniversary of the National Logistics Policy (NLP)

Context

- ◆ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) commemorates the third anniversary of the National Logistics Policy (NLP), launched in 2022.

Objectives -

- ◆ **to reduce logistics costs to global benchmarks and to bring it below 10% of GDP,**
- ◆ To improve India's ranking in the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) to the top 25 by 2030,
- ◆ to establish a robust, data-driven decision support system to ensure an efficient and integrated logistics ecosystem.

Government Initiatives in Logistics

- ◆ **PM GatiShakti Master Plan:** It was launched in 2021 to integrate different modes of transport into a coordinated network.
- ◆ **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047:** It aims to boost coastal tourism, strengthen maritime skill development, and position India as a global hub for shipbuilding and repair.

10. Pink Tax

Context

- ◆ As per International Finance Students Association's (IFSA) research 'The Gender Tax: Assessing the Economic Toll on Women,' almost 67% of Indian individuals have never heard of the Pink Tax.

Pink Tax

- ◆ Pink tax is **neither a real tax, nor is it a government-imposed fee.**
- ◆ It's just a **pricing phenomenon wherein women pay more for buying a product exclusively made for them or enjoying a service tailor-made for them.**
- ◆ **Pink toys, haircuts, drycleaning, razors, shampoos, body lotions, deodorants, facial care, skincare items, beauty care, clothing, T-shirts, jeans, salon services etc. suffer the tax.**
- ◆ The term "Pink Tax" is believed to have originated in the U.S. in California in 1994.



Regulation in India

- ◆ While there are **no specific laws in India to address the issue of Pink Tax,**
- ◆ **The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission** ruled that companies must follow fair pricing policies and **avoid gender-based price discrimination.**
- ◆ In **July 2018,** the Union Government exempted **sanitary napkins and tampons** from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Prior to this rule, these hygiene items were levied 12% GST.

11. International Seabed Authority (ISA)

In News

- ◆ India has secured its first-ever global exploration contract from the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to explore polymetallic sulphide nodules in the Carlsberg Ridge.

Do you know?

- ◆ India had applied in January 2024 for **exploration rights in two Indian Ocean regions— Carlsberg Ridge**, which has now been granted, and the **Afanasy-Nikitin Sea (ANS) mount**, still pending approval.

Carlsberg Ridge



- ◆ It is a **3,00,000-sq km stretch** that lies in the **Indian Ocean**, specifically in the **Arabian Sea and northwest Indian Ocean**.
- ◆ It forms the **boundary between the Indian and Arabian tectonic plates**.

Significance for India

- ◆ Enhances India's role in strategic **deep-sea mining and access to critical minerals**.
- ◆ Strengthens India's resource security in key **industrial metals like copper, zinc, gold, and rare earths**.
- ◆ Supports India's **"Deep Ocean Mission"** and transition to mineral self-reliance.

International Seabed Authority

- ◆ **Established on - November 16, 1994.**
- ◆ **Headquarters: Located in Kingston, Jamaica.**
- ◆ **Members - 170 members** (169 countries and the European Union).
- ◆ **Purpose:** ISA is responsible for **regulating and controlling mineral-related activities in the international seabed** for the benefit of humankind.
- ◆ **Significance** - It ensures **environmental protection from deep-seabed mining activities**.
- ◆ **Jurisdiction:** The ISA oversees the international seabed area beyond national boundaries, covering the seabed, ocean floor, and subsoil, which constitutes about 50% of the world's ocean area

12. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Context

- ◆ In the past three years, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued 84 Quality Control Orders (QCOs) covering 343 products, accounting for nearly 45 per cent of all 187 QCOs notified so far.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- ◆ **Established under** - It is the **National Standards Body** of India under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India**.
- ◆ **Legal status** - It is established by the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016** which came into effect on 12 October 2017.
- ◆ **Headquarters: New Delhi.**

Functions:

1. **Formulation of Indian Standards (IS)** across many sectors.
2. **Product Certification Schemes**, both voluntary and compulsory.
3. **Release of Quality Control Orders (QCOs): Making compliance with certain Indian Standards mandatory** for some products.
4. The schemes operated by **BIS are, Product Certification (ISI mark), Management Systems Certification, Hall Marking of Gold and Silver Jewellery/Artefacts and Laboratory Services** for the benefit of the industry and in turn aiming at consumer protection.

13. Rashtriya Gokul Mission

In News

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Sex Sorted Semen facility under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission in Purnea, Bihar.

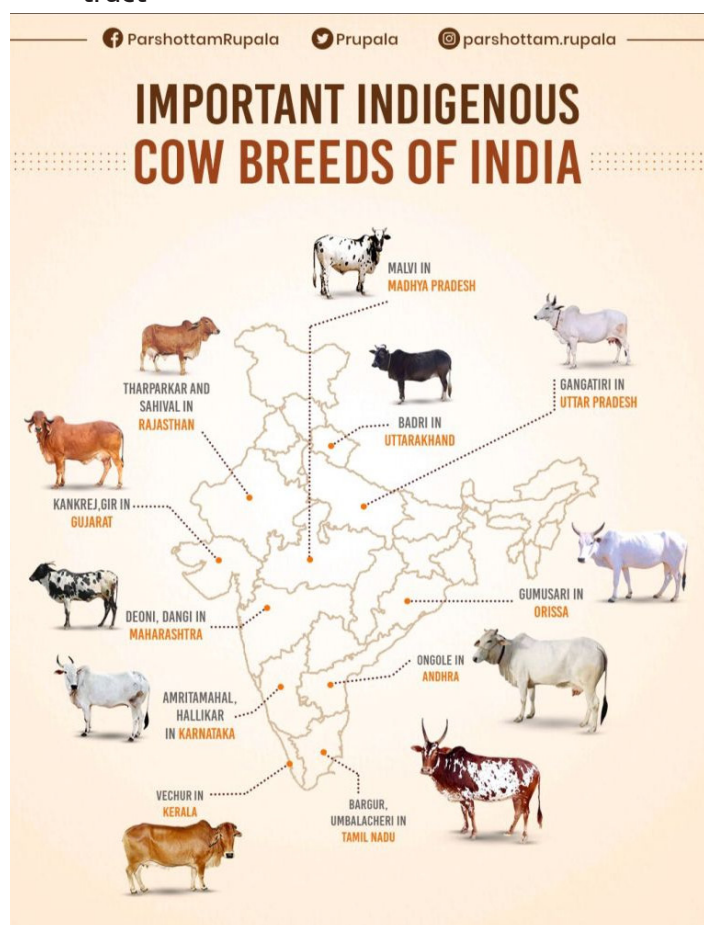
Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- ◆ It was launched in **2014**

Objectives

- ◆ Development and **conservation of indigenous breeds**
- ◆ Breed **improvement programme for indigenous cattle breeds** to improve their genetic makeup

- ◆ **Enhancement of milk production and productivity**
- ◆ Upgradation of nondescript cattle using elite **indigenous**
- ◆ **breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi.**
- ◆ Distribution of disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.
- ◆ **Gokul Grams: They will act as Centres for development of Indigenous Breeds** and a dependable source for supply of high genetic breeding stock to the farmers in the breeding tract



14. Blue Ports

Context

- ◆ The Department of Fisheries (DoF) has signed a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to strengthen Blue Port infrastructure in India.

Blue Ports framework

- ◆ Implementing by - Department of Fisheries (DoF)
- ◆ Objective - These harbours aim to modernize

- post-harvest fisheries infrastructure, ensuring:
1. Safer and more hygienic handling of fish catch.
 2. Cleaner and more efficient harbour operations.
 3. Better services and livelihoods for fishing communities.

Additional information - Fisheries Sector of India

- ◆ **Producer** - India is the 3rd largest fish producing and 2nd largest aquaculture producing nation in the world.
- ◆ India is the 4th largest exporter of fish and fisheries.
- ◆ In terms of employment, the sunrise sector supports the livelihood of over 30 M people in India.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)- to bring about the Blue Revolution** through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.

Government Initiatives for the Growth of the Sector

- ◆ **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB):** Established in 2006, NFDB serves as the apex body for the planning and promotion of fisheries development in India.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** Launched in 2020, PMMSY is a flagship scheme aimed at boosting fish production and doubling farmers' income.
- ◆ **Blue Revolution: Launched in 2015, the Blue Revolution aims to promote sustainable development** and management of the fisheries sector.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- ◆ It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts **to defeat hunger and improve food security.**
- ◆ **It was founded on 16 October 1945.**
- ◆ **Members:** The FAO comprises **195 members**, including 194 countries and the European Union.
- ◆ **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy.

15. Prime Minister Pushes for Local Production

Context

- ♦ PM Modi has urged Indians to buy made in India products, to build a developed India by 2047.
- ♦ The Prime Minister laid the foundation for the country's first PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) park in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.
- ♦ The PM MITRA park in Dhar is one of seven such establishments approved by the Union Ministry of Textiles.
- ♦ The other sites are Tamil Nadu's Virudhnagar, Telangana's Warangal, Gujarat's Navasari, Karnataka's Kalaburagi, Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, and Maharashtra's Amravati.

Manufacturing Sector of India

- ♦ India's manufacturing sector is currently contributing 17% to India's GDP.
- ♦ India has a goal to achieve the target of 25% GDP share for the manufacturing sector.
- ♦ India is focussing on 14 identified sunrise sectors like semiconductors, renewable energy components, medical devices, batteries and labour intensive industries, including leather and textile, to enhance the share of manufacturing in GDP
- ♦ **Employment Generation:** The manufacturing sector has also been a significant source of employment, adding approximately 22 lakh jobs in 2022-23.
- ♦ Major states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh have been leading contributors to the sector's GVA and employment.

16. Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010

Context

- ♦ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has cancelled the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licence of the Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), founded by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk.

FCRA Amendment Act, 2020

- ♦ The amendment has made it compulsory for the NGOs to open an exclusive Bank account

with the State Bank of India in New Delhi to receive foreign donations.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act

- ♦ **Enacted in** - It is an act of Parliament enacted in 1976 and amended in 2010.
- ♦ **Objective** - To regulate foreign donations and to ensure that such contributions do not adversely affect the internal security of the country.
- ♦ **Applicability** - The Act is applicable to all associations, groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who intend to receive foreign donations.
- ♦ **Restrictions** - The members of legislatures, political parties, government officials, judges and media persons are prohibited from receiving any foreign contributions.

17. Unified Payments Interface

In News

- ♦ NPCI International Payments Ltd, in partnership with Qatar National Bank, has enabled the acceptance of QR code-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) across Qatar.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- ♦ It is India's real-time instant payment system, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016.
- ♦ Through this, users can link and manage several bank accounts within one UPI-enabled app (such as Google Pay, PhonePe, Paytm, BHIM).
- ♦ UPI has become the world's largest real-time payment system.
- ♦ In 2024, UPI processed over 12 billion transactions monthly, accounting for over 65% of retail digital payments in India.
- ♦ Accepted internationally in countries like UAE, Nepal, Bhutan, France, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, etc.

18. Finance Minister Launches GST Appellate Tribunal

In News

- ♦ The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs formally launched the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) in New Delhi.

Do you know?

- ◆ GST (Goods and Services Tax) is a **single indirect tax on the supply of goods and services across India.**
- ◆ It replaces multiple taxes like excise, VAT, and service tax, creating one unified market.

Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

- ◆ **Legal status** - It is a **statutory appellate body** established under the Goods and Services Tax laws.
- ◆ **Mandate** - It has been constituted to hear appeals against orders passed by the GST Appellate Authorities and **to provide taxpayers with an independent forum for justice.**
- ◆ **Banches** - It will function through a **Principal Bench in New Delhi and 31 State Benches** across 45 locations in India.
- ◆ **Composition** - Each Bench of the GSTAT will comprise **two Judicial Members, one Technical Member (Centre), and one Technical Member (State), ensuring a balanced composition of judicial expertise** and technical knowledge from both Central and State administrations.

19. Huge Scope for Indian Tea Sector

Context

- ◆ The Executive Director of the International Tea Committee has said that India can become the superpower of the tea industry.

Indian Tea Industry

- ◆ India is the **2nd largest tea producer and largest black tea producer.**
- ◆ **Export destinations** - Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia etc. India is the **4th largest tea exporter in the World.**
- ◆ **Employment** - The Indian tea Industry is employing **1.16 million workers directly.**
- ◆ **Note** - **Assam grows about 55% of the teas** produced in India. India's tea production has increased by 39% in 2022 from 2008.
- ◆ **Prominent tea regions:** Assam (Assam Valley, Cachar) and West Bengal (Dooars, Terai, Darjeeling).
- ◆ **Global reputation:** **Indian teas, especially Assam, Darjeeling, and Nilgiri, are renowned**

for their quality.

Geographical Condition for Tea production

- ◆ The tea plant grows well in **tropical and subtropical climates.**
- ◆ **Soil:** It requires deep and **fertile well-drained soil, rich in humus and organic matter.**
- ◆ **Temperature:** The average annual temperature for tea plants to grow well is in the range of **15-23°C.**
- ◆ **Precipitation:** The rainfall needed is between **150-200 cm.**
- ◆ Frequent showers evenly distributed over the year ensure continuous growth of tender leaves.
- ◆ **Major tea producing states** are **Assam, hills of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**
- ◆ Apart from these, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura are also tea-producing states in the country.

Asia Tea Alliance

- ◆ **Member countries** - It is a coalition of tea associations from major tea-producing countries in Asia like **India, China, Sri Lanka, Japan etc.**
- ◆ **Objective** - It aims to promote the collective interests of member nations within the global tea market.

Tea Board of India

- ◆ It was set up as a **statutory body in 1954 under the Tea Act, 1953.**
- ◆ It was established for the **purposes of regulating the Indian tea industry and protecting the interests of tea producers in India.**
- ◆ **Headquarters-Kolkata.**

20. Maitri 2.0 Cross-Incubation Programme

In News

- ◆ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the second edition of the

Brazil-India Cross-Incubation Programme in Agritech (Maitri 2.0) in New Delhi.

Maitri 2.0

- ◆ It is a two-way learning platform for co-creation between Indian and Brazilian innovators to build a stronger, innovative, and inclusive agri-food ecosystem for global food security.
- ◆ It aims to connect incubators, promote co-incubation, and foster collaboration in sustainable agriculture
- ◆ **Importance - Maitri 2.0 is a strategic step aligned with both nations' goals in agriculture, technology, and food security.**

21. India-ADB Sign \$125 million Loan to Assam

Context

- ◆ The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 125 million dollar loan agreement to enhance urban livability and bolster climate resilience in six district headquarters and Guwahati, in the State of Assam.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- ◆ Established in - 1966
- ◆ **Mission:** It supports inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth across Asia and the Pacific.
- ◆ **Membership:** 69 members.
- ◆ **Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines.
- ◆ **Largest Shareholders (as of 31 December 2023):** Japan and the USA (each 15.6%), China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).

22. Excess Rainfall Threatens Karnataka's Coffee Plantations

Context

- ◆ India's coffee heartland, Chikmagalur, Coorg, and Hassan districts of Karnataka, has been hit by incessant rains, extreme cold, and lack of sunlight.

Coffee Production in India

- ◆ **Production: India is among the top 10 coffee-producing countries**, with about 3% of the global output in 2020.

◆ **Types: Arabica and Robusta.**

- ◆ Arabica has higher market value than Robusta coffee due to its mild aromatic flavour.
- ◆ Robusta is the majorly manufactured coffee with a share of 72% of the total production.

Agro-Climatic Conditions for Coffee Production in India

Factors	Arabica	Robusta
Soils	Deep, fertile, rich in organic matter, well drained and slightly acidic (Ph 6.0 – 6.5)	Same as Arabica
Slopes	Gentle to moderate slopes	Gentle slopes to fairly level fields
Elevation	1000 – 1500 m	500 – 1000 m
Temperature	15°C – 25°C ; cool, equable	20°C – 30°C; hot, humid
Relative Humidity	70-80%	80-90%
Annual Rainfall	1600-2500 mm	1000-2000 mm

Major Producers: South Indian states like Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu contribute 80% of the country's total coffee production.

Coffee Board of India

- ◆ It was established through **Coffee Act VII of 1942.**
- ◆ **Administrative Control:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ◆ **Headquarter: Bangalore, Karnataka**
- ◆ **Role of the Board -** enhancement of production, productivity & quality;

23. Nilgiris Tea

Context

- ◆ The Nilgiris tea, famous for “champagne among teas,” is facing prolonged crisis as small growers face unstable green tea leaf prices, high production costs, and inadequate institutional

support.

☰ Nilgiris Tea

- ◆ **Region** - Grown mainly in the Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu (Western Ghats) at an altitude of around 900–2,600 metres above sea level.
- ◆ **History:** Introduced by the British in the mid-19th century (first plantations around Coonoor, 1850s).
- ◆ **Taste Profile:** Fragrant, brisk, floral, citrus-like; suitable for iced tea.
- ◆ **Geographical Indication (GI):** Granted GI tag in 2008.

24. National Makhana Board



☰ Context

- ◆ PM Modi launched the National Makhana Board in Purnea, Bihar, approving a development package of about ₹475 crore for the makhana 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.

25.99th Meeting of Network Planning Group under PM GatiShakti

☰ Context

- ◆ The 99th meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG) under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was held in New Delhi.

☰ 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.

26.Oju Hydroelectric Project

☰ Context

- ◆ An expert panel of the Union Environment Ministry has recommended environmental clearance for the 2,220 MW Oju hydroelectric project.

☰ Oju Hydroelectric Project

- ◆ **Location-** It is proposed on the Subansiri river in Taksing near the China border in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ◆ This will be India's third largest hydel project.
- ◆ **Energy capacity** - 2,100 MW

HEALTH & SOCIETY

1. Acanthamoeba

☰ Context

- ◆ The Kerala Health Department fears that Acanthamoeba could be much more widely present in the State's waterbodies than was thought before.

📖 **Acanthamoeba**

- ◆ Acanthamoeba are **free-living protozoan amoebae** (single-celled organisms) found widely in the **environment (soil, air, dust, freshwater, seawater, contact lens cases, swimming pools, hospital equipment)**.
- ◆ They are **not true parasites, because they can complete their life cycle without infecting humans or animals.**

📖 **Pathogenic Infections caused by Acanthamoeba:**

Acanthamoeba keratitis (AK):

- ◆ Eye infection, usually in contact lens users.
- ◆ **Symptoms: severe pain, redness, blurred vision, photophobia, corneal ulceration.**
- ◆ **Risk factors: improper contact lens hygiene, exposure to contaminated water while wearing lenses.**

Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis (GAE):

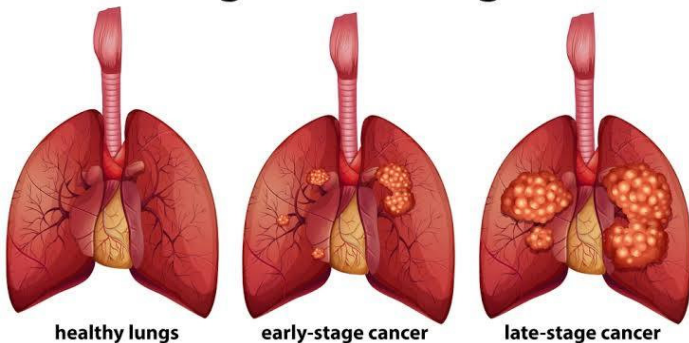
- ◆ Rare but usually **fatal brain infection.**
- ◆ Occurs mainly in **immunocompromised persons (HIV/AIDS, transplant, cancer patients).**
- ◆ **Symptoms: headache, fever, seizures, confusion, neurological deficits.**

Disseminated Acanthamoeba infection:

- ◆ Can spread to skin, lungs, sinuses in immunocompromised patients.
- ◆ Causes chronic ulcers, abscesses, or nodules.
- ◆ **Treatment remains difficult:** Overall, therapeutic outcomes are mixed due to diagnostic delays and underlying patient vulnerabilities.

2. Clinical trial for Envafolelimab

Lung Cancer Stages



📖 **In News**

- ◆ Glenmark has started a multi-country Phase 3

clinical trial for Envafolelimab, targeting Stage III non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

📖 **Envafolelimab**

- ◆ It is a novel drug for **third-stage non-small cell lung cancer.**
- ◆ It has received approval from the **Drugs Controller General of India** to begin patient enrolment and dosing in the country.

📖 **Lung cancer**

- ◆ Lung cancer is a type of cancer that starts when **abnormal cells grow in an uncontrolled way in the lungs.**
- ◆ **Symptoms - A cough that does not go away, chest pain and shortness of breath.**

📖 **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.

3. National Health Mission (NHM)

📖 **Context**

- ◆ Over 14,000 contractual employees of the National Health Mission (NHM) in Chhattisgarh have resigned en masse.

☰ National Health Mission (NHM)

- ◆ **Launched: 2013** (by subsuming the National Rural Health Mission, 2005 and National Urban Health Mission, 2013).
- ◆ **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).**
- ◆ **Aim: To provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare** to the rural and urban population, especially the vulnerable groups.

4. Maternal Mortality in India 2021-23

☰ Context

- ◆ The Government of India released the **Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2021–23**, prepared by the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI), Ministry of Home Affairs under the Sample Registration System (SRS).
- ◆ The report shows a **Stable Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 88 per 1,00,000 live births for the period 2021–23.**

☰ Maternal Mortality in India

- ◆ Maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy.
- ◆ **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births.**
- ◆ The **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1 targets** reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030.

☰ Government Initiatives to Reduce MMR

- ◆ **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):** Launched in 2005 with the objective of **reducing maternal and neonatal mortality**, JSY promotes **institutional delivery among pregnant women** especially with weak socio-economic status.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) -** The maternity benefit, of **Rs. 5000/-**, is available to a woman for the first living child of the family subject to fulfilment of conditionalities.
- ◆ Further under ‘Mission Shakti’, the scheme (PMMVY 2.0) provides **additional cash incentive for the second child, if that is a girl child.**

- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):** Launched in 2016, PMSMA provides pregnant women a fixed day, **free of cost assured and quality Antenatal Care** on the 9th day of every month.
- ◆ **LaQshya:** Launched in 2017, aims to **improve the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure the quality care during delivery** and immediate post-partum.

☰ Innovations in Maternal Healthcare

- ◆ **Madhya Pradesh’s ‘Dastak Abhiyan’:** A community-driven campaign that focuses on **early detection of maternal health risks and ensures timely medical intervention.**
- ◆ **Tamil Nadu’s Emergency Obstetric Care Model:** A robust referral system that ensures **pregnant women receive timely emergency care**, reducing maternal complications.

5. AI-Based Mental Health Program ‘Never Alone’ Launched at AIIMS Delhi

☰ Context

- ◆ All India Institute of Medical Sciences, launched an AI-based mental health and wellness program called “Never Alone” to tackle student suicides and improve mental health awareness.

☰ ‘Never Alone’ program

- ◆ It was launched on **World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September).**
- ◆ It offers **24/7 virtual and offline consultations with mental health experts through a web-based app** accessible via WhatsApp.
- ◆ The program aims to **minimise stigma surrounding suicide** and increase awareness among students.

☰ Objectives and Need

- ◆ The app provides **personalised and secure mental health screening for just 70 paise per student per day** for institutions with 5 thousand students.
- ◆ As per the data of the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in 2022, over 1.7 lakh people died by suicide in India**, with young adults aged 18-30 years accounting for 35 percent of all suicides.

6. Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan

Context

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan and the 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah Campaign in Madhya Pradesh.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan

- ◆ It marks the **largest ever health outreach for women and children in India.**
- ◆ **Led By:** Jointly by the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD).**
- ◆ **Aim:** To provide **women-centric preventive, promotive, and curative health services at the community level.**
- ◆ **Implementation:** It will involve **organising more than 10 lakh health camps at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres (CHCs), District Hospitals and other government health facilities across the country.**
- ◆ **Significance:** It will strengthen screening, **early detection, and treatment linkages for non-communicable diseases, anaemia, tuberculosis, and sickle cell disease,** while also **promoting maternal, child, and adolescent health.**

7. Autism Myths Around Tylenol

Context

- ◆ US President Donald Trump recently claimed that Tylenol (paracetamol/ acetaminophen) use during pregnancy may cause autism and suggested limiting its use.

Tylenol

- ◆ It is a **paracetamol, which is used as a pain reliever and a fever reducer.**
- ◆ It is used to **alleviate headaches, muscle aches, arthritis** and used to manage symptoms of **colds and flu.**

Connect with the basics - Autism

- ◆ Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a **lifelong neurodevelopmental condition** affecting **how a person communicates, interacts socially, and behaves.**
- ◆ **Key Characteristics:** Persistent difficulties in social-communication and interaction, and restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior or interests.

8. Seven Years of Ayushman Bharat

Context

- ◆ Recently, the Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest government-funded health assurance scheme, completed its seven years.

Ayushman Bharat

- ◆ Launched in - It was launched in 2018
- ◆ Objective - To achieve universal health coverage.

It has two key components

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri- Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)

Ayushman Arogya Mandir

Ayushman Arogya Mandir

- ◆ **Launched in** - The Government of India in 2018 announced the creation of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) by transforming existing Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres.
- ◆ **Functions** - These centres would deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) bringing healthcare closer to the homes of people covering both maternal and child health services and non-communicable diseases, including free essential drugs and diagnostic services.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- ◆ **Objective** - The world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- ◆ **Feature** - It provides cover of Rs 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empaneled hospitals in India.
- ◆ **Coverage** - Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
- ◆ **Implementation** - The National Health Authority (NHA) is the nodal agency responsible for the nationwide roll-out and implementation of the AB-PMJAY scheme.
- ◆ **Financing** - This scheme is a Centrally sponsored scheme with some Central sector components.
- ◆ **Note** - First Ayushman Arogya Mandir inaugurated in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

1. Earthquake in Afghanistan

Context

- The recent earthquake in Afghanistan, with a 6.0 magnitude, resulted in over 800 deaths and 2,000 injuries due to shallow depth and poor building structures.

Reasons for Earthquake in Afghanistan

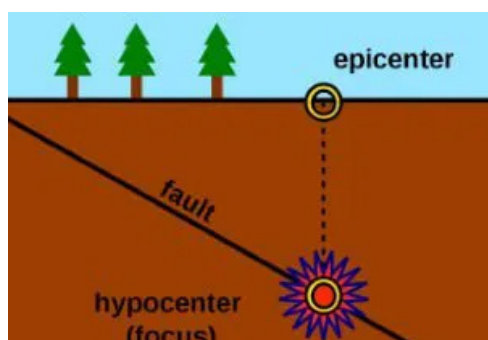
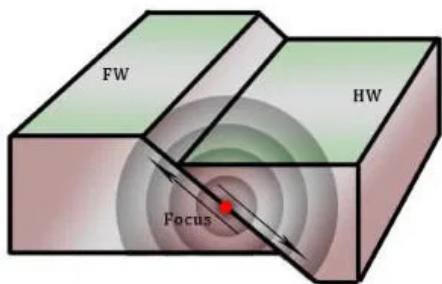
- The Himalaya and Hindu Kush mountains are seismically active because of the ongoing friction between the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates.

Connect with the basics - Earthquakes

- Definition** - An earthquake is the shaking or trembling of the earth's surface, caused by the seismic waves or earthquake waves that are generated due to a sudden movement (sudden release of energy) in the earth's crust.
- A **seismograph**, or **seismometer**, is an instrument used to detect and record earthquakes.

Focus and epicentre

- The point where the energy is released is called the focus or the hypocentre of an earthquake.
- The point on the surface directly above the focus is called epicentre.



Additional information

Recent earthquakes

Region	Magnitude(s)	Depth range (km)
Tibet Autonomous Region, China	7.1	10
Swan Islands region, offshore Honduras	7.6	10
Sagaing–Mandalay region, Myanmar	7.7	10
Haʻapai region, Tonga (offshore)	7.0	31
Magallanes offshore, Chile (Drake Passage)	7.4	10
Alaska offshore, United States	7.3	38
Kamchatka offshore, Russia	7.4; 8.8; 7.4; 7.8	19.5–39.5
Macquarie Island region, Australia (offshore)	7.0	31

2. Ethiopia Opens Africa's Largest Dam Across Nile



Context

- Ethiopia has inaugurated the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Africa's largest hydro power project.

About the GERD

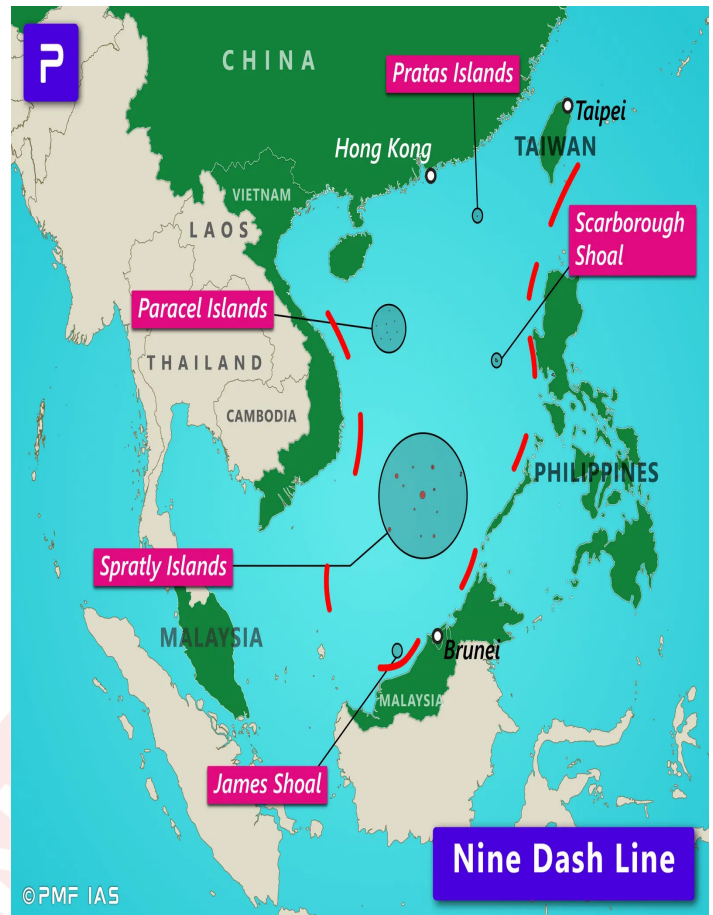
- ◆ **Location:** Guba, Ethiopia, on the Blue Nile (a major tributary of the Nile).
- ◆ **Installed capacity:** 6,450 MW, placing it among the world's top 20 hydroelectric dams.

Blue Nile



- ◆ **Origin - The Blue Nile originates in Lake Tana,** located in the Ethiopian Highlands of eastern Africa.
- ◆ **It joins the White Nile at Al-Muqrin in Khartoum (the capital of Sudan).**
- ◆ **From this confluence, the river flows north through Sudan and Egypt, eventually emptying into the Mediterranean Sea as the Nile.**
- ◆ **Note - The Nile River is the longest river in the world, flowing through 11 countries:** Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, Tanzania, Sudan and Egypt.

3. Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal)



In News

- ◆ The Philippines opposed China's plan to establish a nature reserve at the disputed Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal) in the South China Sea.

Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal)

- ◆ **Known as - Scarborough Shoal (English) and Panatag Shoal (Philippines).**
- ◆ It is a **disputed coral atoll located in the South China Sea.**
- ◆ It is **strategically significant for its rich fisheries, potential hydrocarbon resources, and military importance.**
- ◆ **Location - 220 km west of Luzon, Philippines, near the Manila Trench.**

South China Sea

- ◆ A marginal sea of the western Pacific Ocean, bounded by Taiwan (northeast), the Philippines (east), Borneo and the Gulf of Thailand (south), and the Asian mainland including Vietnam and China (west/north).

4. Typhoon Ragasa

In News

- ◆ Super Typhoon Ragasa has caused widespread devastation across East Asia.

Typhoon Ragasa

- ◆ **Speed** - A super typhoon is a **very violent storm**, equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane, packing winds of **253km/h (157 mph)**.

Tropical Cyclones (Connect with the basics - Cyclone)

- ◆ They are **violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas** bringing about large-scale destruction caused by violent winds, very heavy rainfall and storm surges.
- ◆ **Wind Direction** - The winds blow **counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere**.
- ◆ **Different Names** - Tropical Cyclones are known by different names in different regions
 - ◆ Cyclones in the Indian Ocean
 - ◆ Hurricanes in Atlantic
 - ◆ Typhoons in the Western Pacific & South China Sea
 - ◆ Willy-Willies in Western Australia.
- ◆ **Conditions** - The conditions favorable for the formation and intensification of tropical cyclones are:
 - ◆ Large sea surface with a temperature higher than 27°C.
 - ◆ Presence of Coriolis force.
 - ◆ Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
 - ◆ A pre-existing weak-low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
 - ◆ Upper divergence above the sea level system.

5. Changes in Green Credit Programme Norms

Context

- ◆ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has issued a new notification regarding the methodology for calculating Green Credits.

Green Credit Programme (GCP)

- ◆ **Launched in - 2023**
- ◆ **Mandate** - It is an innovative **market-based mechanism to incentivize voluntary environmental actions** across diverse sectors.
- ◆ **Stakeholders: Individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies.**
- ◆ **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)** is the Administrator, responsible for the implementation, management and monitoring.

6. Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) 2025

In News

- ◆ According to the Air Quality Life Index, India is the second most polluted country in the world.

Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)

- ◆ **Developed by - Professor Michael Greenstone and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).**
- ◆ **Mandate-** It translates air pollution levels into their impact on life expectancy.

Key Findings of recent report

- ◆ **Most polluted region - South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, remains the most polluted region).**
- ◆ **Bangladesh is the worst globally, with air 12 times dirtier than WHO limits.**

Status In India

- ◆ Air pollution is India's most severe health threat, **reducing average life expectancy by 3.5 years** — nearly twice the impact of malnutrition and over five times that of unsafe water and sanitation.

7. Senna spectabilis



Context

- ◆ Kerala has carried out India's first science-based, community-led eradication of *Senna spectabilis* in Wayanad, clearing 383 acres of infested forest.

Senna spectabilis

- ◆ *Senna spectabilis* was **introduced in the 1980s in Kerala**.
- ◆ It has spread across the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, choking native plants and food sources for wildlife.
- ◆ **Native range: Tropical Areas of South America (Brazil, Peru, etc.)**
- ◆ **Ornamental use:** Commonly planted for its striking yellow flowers (avenue and garden tree).

Connect with the basics - Invasive species

- ◆ **Definition** - Invasive species are non-native organisms (animals, plants, fungi, microbes) that establish self-sustaining populations and cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health.
- ◆ **Impacts** - They contribute to biodiversity loss, ecological disruption, and can lead to significant economic losses in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.
- ◆ **Causes** - Globalization (increased trade and travel), human activities, and climate change facilitate their spread and establishment.
- ◆ **Indian Context** - India has several widespread invasive species, including plants like **Lantana camara** and **Water Hyacinth**, and animals such as the **African Catfish** and **Nile Tilapia**.

8. India's First Vulture Conservation Portal

In News

- ◆ We Foundation India, in collaboration with Gauhati University's Department of Zoology, has launched **India's first vulture conservation** portal to build a network for protecting these vital scavenger birds.

Vultures

- ◆ They are **large, social raptors that live on every continent except Antarctica and Australia**.
- ◆ The 23 species are divided into New World vultures from the Americas and Old World vultures from Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Status in India

Among 23 species India has nine species of vultures in the wild

- ◆ The Oriental White-backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*): Critically Endangered
- ◆ Slender billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*): Critically Endangered
- ◆ Indian Vulture or Long billed Vulture (*Gyps indicus*): Critically Endangered
- ◆ Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*): Endangered
- ◆ Red Headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*): Critically Endangered
- ◆ Indian Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*): Least Concern.
- ◆ Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*): Near Threatened
- ◆ Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*): Near Threatened
- ◆ Bearded Vulture or Lammergeier (*Gypaetus barbatus*): Near Threatened

Threats

- ◆ Vultures are crucial for ecosystem health, but **face severe decline due to diclofenac poisoning, habitat loss, and human disturbances**.

Recent Conservation efforts

- ◆ India's first vulture conservation portal aims to create a nationwide network to support vulture protection.
- ◆ It focuses on spreading awareness in local languages like Assamese to engage grassroots communities.

9. Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis Nigriceps*)



Context

- ♦ The Union Environment Ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee has approved an Environmental Impact Assessment study for the proposed 400-hectare Birmania Rock Phosphate mine in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, which falls within the potential habitat of Great Indian Bustard (GIB).

Great Indian Bustard

- ♦ **Scientific name** - Ardeotis nigriceps
- ♦ **Morphology** - It is one of the heaviest flying birds (weighing up to 15kgs). It can be distinguished by its black crown on the forehead contrasting with the pale neck and head.
- ♦ **Habitat** - It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent and is found in Rajasthan (Desert National park), Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in India and parts of Pakistan.

Conservation Status

- ♦ **IUCN Red List** - It is listed as 'Critically Endangered'.
- ♦ **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** - It is listed under 'Schedule I' of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ♦ **CITES** - It is listed under 'Appendix I'.

Conservation Measures

Project Great Indian Bustard

- ♦ **Launched in** - It is a Rajasthan government project launched in 2018.
- ♦ **Objective** - The main objective is to conserve the remaining population of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard.

Bustard Recovery Programme

- ♦ **Launched in** - It was launched by the Union Environment Ministry in 2017.
- ♦ **Objective** - To create awareness about the declining populations and highlighting the importance of implementing a focused bustard conservation programme at the national level.
- ♦ WWF-India, is undertaking initiatives towards conservation of GIB in and around Desert National Park.

10.Vembanad Lake

In News

- ♦ Vembanad Lake of Kerala is facing a severe ecological crisis.

Vembanad Lake

- ♦ It is the **longest lake in India and the largest in Kerala.**
- ♦ **It is a Ramsar site and a wetland of international importance.**
- ♦ **It is fed by 10 rivers** including Pamba, Meenachil, Achankovil, Manimala, and Periyar and eventually opens into the Arabian Sea.

Note :

- ♦ Chilika Lake (Odisha) is the largest coastal lagoon and a Ramsar site, rich in biodiversity including migratory birds and Irrawaddy dolphins.
- ♦ Wular Lake (Jammu & Kashmir) is the largest freshwater lake, formed by tectonic activity.
- ♦ Sambhar Lake (Rajasthan) is the largest saltwater lake known for salt production and migratory birds.
- ♦ Pangong Tso Lake (Ladakh) is a high-altitude saline lake, famous for clear blue waters.
- ♦ Lonar Lake (Maharashtra) is India's only meteorite crater lake.

11. Sariska Tiger Reserve

Context

- ♦ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has decided to invite public objections before finalising Rajasthan's proposal to alter the boundaries of the Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH) in Sariska Tiger Reserve.

Sariska Tiger Reserve (Sariska National Park)

- ♦ Located in Alwar district, Rajasthan.
- ♦ One of the largest and most renowned tiger reserves in Northern India.

Historical timeline:

- ♦ Pre-Independence: Hunting ground of the princely state of Alwar.
- ♦ 1955: Notified as a Wildlife Reserve.
- ♦ 1978: **Declared the 11th Tiger Reserve in India.**
- ♦ 1982: Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary redesignated as Sariska National Park.

12. Ozone Hole Growth

In News

- ◆ The ozone hole over Antarctica has grown to 20 million sq km—larger than average but still within the decade’s normal range, according to NASA.

Basics - Ozone Layer (O₃)

- ◆ It is a highly reactive molecule containing three oxygen atoms.
- ◆ Found in - It is present between 10 and 50 km above the earth’s surface, called the stratosphere.
- ◆ Function - This ozone layer serves as a natural filter for blocking deadly incoming UV radiation from the sun.
- ◆ Significance - This ozone shield is necessary for the survival of human life on the earth.

OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

- ◆ Definition - The decrease in ozone concentration in the middle layers of the atmosphere – mainly in the stratosphere is referred to as the depletion of the ozone layer.
- ◆ Caused by - It is caused by emissions of anthropogenic halogenated hydrocarbons such as CFCs, HCFCs, Halons, Carbon tetrachloride and Methyl bromide.

Why is ozone depletion more in Antarctica than the equator?

- ◆ The severe depletion of the Antarctic ozone layer known as the “ozone hole” occurs because of the special weather conditions that exist there and nowhere else on the globe.
 - ◆ The very low temperatures of the Antarctic stratosphere create ice clouds called polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs).

Measures to Prevent Ozone Layer Depletion

Vienna Convention

- ◆ Objective - To protect human health and the environment from any harmful effects of the depletion of the ozone layer.
- ◆ Held in - Vienna, Austria
- ◆ Adopted in - 1985.
- ◆ Came into force - 1988.

Montreal Protocol

- ◆ Enforcement - It was agreed upon in 1987 in

Montreal, Canada and entered into force in 1989.

- ◆ Objective - To protect the Ozone layer by reducing the production of substances that are supposed to be responsible for Ozone layer depletion.

Kigali Agreement -

- ◆ The protocol was further strengthened with the ratification of the legally binding Kigali Agreement in 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda.
- ◆ Significance - It seeks to phase out the production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that are potent greenhouse gases by the late 2040s.

13. Light Pollution Impacting Biodiversity

In News

- ◆ A recent global study has found that artificial light at night is significantly altering bird behaviour, causing many species to stay active for up to an hour longer after sunset.

Light Pollution

- ◆ Definition - It refers to the excessive or inappropriate use of artificial outdoor lighting, which disrupts natural darkness.
- ◆ It disrupts ecosystems, obscures the night sky, and affects human health and energy efficiency.

Causes

- ◆ **Urbanisation:** Expansion of cities leads to more streetlights, billboards, and building illumination.
- ◆ **Over use:** Use of artificial lighting beyond what is necessary, especially in commercial zones and residential areas.
- ◆ **Increase in commercial Activity:** Bright signage and lighting in malls, petrol stations, and industrial zones contribute significantly.
- ◆ **Unregulated Use of LEDs:** While energy-efficient, high-intensity LEDs often emit blue light, which scatters more in the atmosphere.

Impacts

- ◆ **Environmental and Ecological:** Nocturnal animals, migratory birds, and insects rely on natural light cycles.
- ◆ **Human Health:** Exposure to artificial light at night suppresses melatonin production, leading to insomnia and other health issues.

- ◆ Chronic exposure to light pollution has been linked to increased stress and reduced cognitive performance.
- ◆ **Astronomy and Scientific Research:** Brightening of the night sky hampers astronomical observations, especially near urban centers.
- ◆ **Energy Waste:** Billions of units of electricity are wasted annually due to poorly directed lighting, increasing carbon emissions.

14. First bamboo-based Bio-refinery

Context

- ◆ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated India's first bamboo-based bio-refinery at Golaghat district in Assam.

About

- ◆ **Five lakh tonnes of green bamboo would be sourced annually from four northeastern States to produce ethanol.**
- ◆ The bioethanol plant is expected to give a ₹200-crore boost to Assam's rural economy.

Biorefinery

- ◆ **Definition** - A biorefinery is an industrial facility that **converts biomass (plant material, agricultural residues, forestry waste, algae, organic waste, etc.) into a wide range of value-added products** such as:
 - ◆ Biofuels (ethanol, biodiesel, biogas, biohydrogen);
 - ◆ Biochemicals (organic acids, solvents, bioplastics, enzymes);
 - ◆ Biomaterials (fibers, biocomposites, biodegradable plastics);
 - ◆ Bioenergy (electricity, heat, syngas).

◆ **Significance** - A biorefinery is like a green alternative to an oil refinery, converting renewable biomass into fuels, energy, and chemicals in an efficient, sustainable, and eco-friendly way.

15. Kerala Approves Draft Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2025

In News

- ◆ The Kerala Cabinet has approved the draft Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2025, a landmark proposal aimed at tackling growing

human-wildlife conflict.

Key Provisions of the Draft Bill

- ◆ **Empowerment for Immediate Action:** The Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) will be authorized to order the immediate killing of any wild animal that attacks or injures a person in residential areas, bypassing the lengthy procedures required by the central Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ◆ **Decentralized Authority:** District Collectors or Chief Conservators of Forests can report incidents directly to the CWW, who can act without waiting for central government approval.

Additional Information- Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

- ◆ It provides the legal framework for the protection of various species of wild animals, management of their habitat.

Objectives

- ◆ Prohibition of hunting of wild animals;
- ◆ Protection and management of wildlife areas and the animals, birds and plants in these areas;
- ◆ Establishing new protected areas such as National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries;
- ◆ Control of illegal wildlife trade.

Key Changes in the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022

- ◆ Changes in the Preamble: The phrase 'protection of wild animals, birds and plants' is substituted with the 'conservation, protection and management of wildlife'.

Reduction of Schedules from six to four

1. **Schedule I:** Animal species that will enjoy the highest level of protection including those which are critically endangered.
 2. **Schedule II:** Animal species that will be subject to a lesser degree of protection.
 3. **Schedule III:** Protected Plant species
 4. **Schedule IV:** Specimens listed in the Appendices under CITES (scheduled specimens)
- ◆ **Implementation of CITES:** The Union Government shall form a Managing Authority

and a Scientific Authority to regulate import export of specimens of species.

- ♦ Management of Wildlife Sanctuaries: State governments have power to form an Advisory Committee consisting of Chief Wildlife Warden, members of legislature, wildlife NGOs and Panchayat Raj to manage wildlife sanctuaries.

16. Yellow-crested Cockatoos



In News

- ♦ Recently, yellow-crested cockatoos have found an unexpected refuge in Hong Kong's urban parks, where they represent about 10% of the global wild population of around 2,000 mature birds.

Yellow-crested cockatoos(*Cacatua sulphurea*)

- ♦ It lives in various **forest types, scrub, and agricultural areas** .
- ♦ It prefers **open habitats like forest savanna** rather than primary forests.
- ♦ **Native to Indonesia and East Timor.**
- ♦ Its diet includes **fruits, flowers, and leaves** from multiple plant species.
- ♦ IUCN Red Status : **Critically Endangered**

17. India to Submit Updated Carbon-reduction Targets by the Beginning of COP30

Context

- ♦ India will submit its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) around the commencement of U.N. Climate Change Conference COP 30 in Brazil in November.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- ♦ **Definition** - The NDCs are **renewable-energy**

adoption goals set by a country as part of being a signatory to the Paris Agreement.

- ♦ **Countries are required to update their NDCs every five years.**

India last updated its NDCs in 2022:

1. It committed to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% of 2005 levels;
2. source half of its electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources;
3. and create a carbon sink of at least two billion tonnes — all three by 2030.

UN Climate Change Conference

- ♦ The United Nations Climate Change Conferences, often referred to as COP (Conference of the Parties), are international gatherings where countries come together to discuss and negotiate global efforts to address climate change.
- ♦ These conferences are organized under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an international treaty that came into force in 1994 with the objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.
- ♦ The COP meetings are held annually. The conferences provide a platform for countries to assess progress in dealing with climate change.

18. Mission Mausam

In News

- ♦ **The National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and New Space India Limited (NSIL) signed an MoU to set up two Direct Broadcast Network (DBNet) stations in Delhi/NCR and Chennai under the Mission Mausam project.**

Direct Broadcast Network (DBNet)

- ♦ It is a global operational framework designed for the **real-time acquisition of satellite data from Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites.**
- ♦ It plays a **critical role in Weather Prediction (NWP)** and supports a wide range of applications, **including weather forecasting, cyclone monitoring, and climate research.**
- ♦ It aims to improve the accuracy and timeliness of weather forecasts and related services.

Mission Mausam

- ◆ **Launched in** - It was approved by the Union Cabinet in September 2024.
- ◆ **Implementation** -It is a ₹2,000 crore initiative by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to make India “Weather Ready” and “Climate Smart.”
- ◆ **Significance** - It is aimed at enhancing weather and climate forecasting, especially for sectors like agriculture and disaster management.

19. Production Gap Report 2025

Context

- ◆ The 2025 Production Gap Report, presents a stark picture of the growing disconnect between climate commitments and governments’ fossil fuel production plans.

Production Gap Report 2025

- ◆ **Published by** - Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Climate Analytics, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

Key Findings

- ◆ **Alarming Production Gaps:** Planned fossil fuel production in 2030 is projected to exceed 1.5°C-aligned levels by 120% and 2°C levels by 77%.
- ◆ **Countries Driving Expansion:** Major producers ramping up extraction include China, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Nigeria.

20. 51st Foundation Day of Central Pollution Control Board

In News

- ◆ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) celebrated its 51st Foundation Day.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- ◆ It is a statutory organization established in September 1974
- ◆ **Established under** - Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and later empowered under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- ◆ It also supports the Ministry of Environment under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ◆ **Objective** - to promote the cleanliness of water bodies and improving air quality by preventing and controlling pollution.

- ◆ **Headquarters** - New Delhi, regularly measuring pollutants

21. Orcas



Context

- ◆ Researchers have recently found that many orcas share freshly killed prey with humans.

Orcas

- ◆ They are also known as **killer whales**.
- ◆ **Scientific Name:** Orcinus orca
- ◆ **Family:** Delphinidae (they are the largest members of the dolphin family).
- ◆ **Distribution:** Found in all oceans — from **Arctic and Antarctic regions to tropical seas**.
- ◆ **Characteristics:** Distinctive black-and-white coloration with a white patch near each eye.
- ◆ **Highly intelligent and social animals, living in groups called pods** (can range from 5–40, sometimes hundreds).
- ◆ **Apex predators (no natural predators)** – they hunt fish, seals, dolphins, sharks, and even large whales.
- ◆ **Echolocation:** Use sound waves to navigate and hunt.
- ◆ **Cooperative Hunting:** Pods work together like wolf packs. Hunting strategies vary by pod and region.

22. Pallas’s Cat



Context

- ◆ A wildlife survey conducted in Arunachal Pradesh has brought out first-ever photographic evidence of the elusive Pallas's cat in the state.

Pallas's Cat

- ◆ **Scientific name** - (*Otocolobus manul*).
- ◆ It is one of the **most elusive and rarely photographed wild cats**, and remains one of the least studied feline species.
- ◆ **Appearance:** Its coat is **usually gray or light tan, but it can change color with the seasons** to better blend into the local landscape.
- ◆ **Distribution:** Its **documented in Arunachal Pradesh** extends the known distribution of the species in the eastern Himalaya, adding to earlier **confirmed records from Sikkim, Bhutan, and eastern Nepal**.
- ◆ They are **found in Turkmenistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Mongolia, and Russia**.
- ◆ It is **nocturnal, and an ambush predator**, meaning it waits at the exits of rodent burrows until its prey appears.
- ◆ **IUCN Status: Least Concern.**

23. Australia Approves First Vaccine to save Koalas from Chlamydia



Context

- ◆ Australia has approved the first vaccine to protect its shrinking koala population against chlamydia.

Chlamydia:

- ◆ **Pathogen** - It is a **sexually transmitted infection** caused by the **bacterium Chlamydia pecorum** that can **cause infertility and blindness**.
- ◆ In koalas, chlamydia is a threat to survival and a key conservation issue.
- ◆ **Transmission** - It is also **found in humans caused by Chlamydia trachomatis**, in humans, chlamydia is a **major sexually transmitted infection (STI) but treatable**.

Additional Information - Koala

- ◆ **Scientific name** - *Phascolarctos cinereus*
- ◆ **Distribution** - It is a **tree-dwelling marsupial native to Australia**.
- ◆ Often **mistakenly called the "koala bear," it is not a bear but a marsupial** (a mammal that carries its young in a pouch).
- ◆ **Physical Characteristics:** **Thick, soft, grey or brown** with lighter underside – provides insulation.
- ◆ **Habitat & Distribution:** Found mainly in eastern and southeastern Australia (**Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia**).
- ◆ **Diet:** **Herbivores** – almost entirely eat **eucalyptus leaves**.
- ◆ **Behavior:** **Mostly nocturnal and sedentary**.
- ◆ **Threats:** Along with **habitat loss, climate change and bushfires**, a major reason for koalas' vulnerability is chlamydia.
- ◆ **IUCN Status** – **Vulnerable**.

24. India's First Dugong Reserve



In News

- ◆ India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu, has received international recognition from IUCN.

Dugong Conservation Reserve

- ◆ **Established in** - It was established in 2022 by the Tamil Nadu government under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ◆ It is home to 12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows, crucial feeding grounds for dugongs.
- ◆ **Significance** - Seagrasses support carbon sequestration, prevent coastal erosion, and provide habitat for fish, turtles, and other marine fauna.

Dugong

- ◆ The dugong is a large, herbivorous marine mammal found throughout the Indo-Pacific region, including the warm coastal waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- ◆ **Distribution** - Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kachchh, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ◆ **Habitat** - They are highly dependent on seagrass meadows, both as habitat and for food, and prefer warm, shallow bays or mangrove channels.
- ◆ **Threats** - habitat degradation, destructive fishing practices, hunting, and climate change.

Conservation status

- ◆ IUCN Red List- Vulnerable
- ◆ Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 - Schedule I

In News

- ◆ Rhino populations have stabilised at around 27,000 globally, down from 500,000 a century ago, according to the latest State of the Rhino report by the International Rhino Foundation.
- ◆ **Scientific name** - Rhinocerotidae
- ◆ **Habitats** - Rhinos' habitats include tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannas and shrublands, tropical moist forests, deserts and shrublands.
- ◆ In India, it is found in Assam – Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Pobitora Reserve Forest, Orang National Park, and Laokhowa Reserve Forest.
- ◆ **Three species of rhino** - There are three species of rhino in Asia — Greater one-horned, Javan, and Sumatran.
- ◆ **Rhino range countries** - India, Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia, and Malaysia. These countries are also known as Asian Rhino Range Countries.
- ◆ **Great one-horned rhino** - The Indian state of Assam is home to the largest population of greater-one horned rhinos, with more than 90% in Kaziranga National Park.
- ◆ **World Rhino Day** - It is celebrated on September 22nd of every year.

Conservation status

- ◆ IUCN - Vulnerable
- ◆ Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 - Schedule I

Conservation practices

NEW DELHI DECLARATION ON ASIAN RHINOS 2019

- ◆ It was signed by Asian Rhino Range Countries (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Malaysia, Indonesia).
- ◆ **Objective** - To increase the population of three species of Asian rhinos, including the Greater one-horned rhinoceros found in the Indian subcontinent.

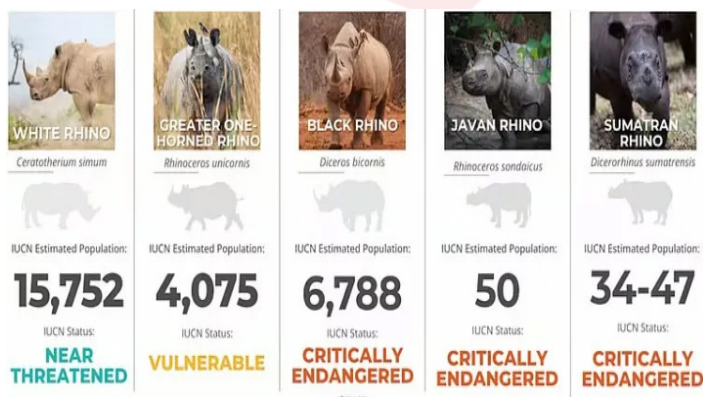
National Rhino Conservation Strategy

- ◆ **Launched in** - 2019
- ◆ **Objective** - To conserve the greater one-horned rhinoceros.

INDIAN RHINO VISION 2020

- ◆ **Launched in** - 2005
- ◆ It is an ambitious effort to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-

25.State Of The Rhino Report



horned rhinos spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020.

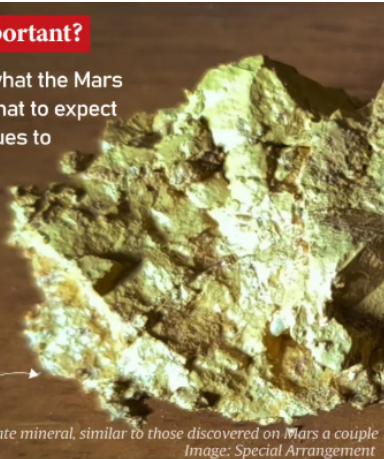
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. Gujarat's Kutch Village Yields Rare Jarosite Discovery

Why is its discovery important?

Scientists can get a feel of what the Mars surface could be like, and what to expect on its surface. It can offer clues to evolution of chemicals and minerals on the red planet.

Scientists can use the site to carry out mineralogy and biochemistry experiments similar to those planned for Mars.



Jarosite is a yellow-coloured iron-rich sulphate mineral, similar to those discovered on Mars a couple of decades ago. Image: Special Arrangement

Context

- ◆ Researchers confirm the presence of jarosite, in Matanomadh village of Kutch, Gujarat, similar to what was discovered on Mars a couple of decades ago.

Jarosite

- ◆ **On Earth:** Jarosite is a yellow mineral, formed when oxygen, iron, sulphur, and potassium-rich minerals react with water, often under volcanic conditions.
- ◆ **On Mars:** First detected by **NASA's Opportunity rover in 2004**, jarosite provided one of the **strongest pieces of evidence for the presence of water in the planet's past.**
- ◆ In India earlier it was found in Kerala's Varkala cliffs.
- ◆ Globally deposits have been found in Mexico, Canada, Japan, Spain, and in Utah and California in the US.

2. Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0

Context

- ◆ The Indian Army conducted Exercise Yudh

Kaushal 3.0 in the high-altitude Kameng region, Arunachal Pradesh.

About the exercise

- ◆ The exercise featured large-scale manoeuvres with drone surveillance, precision strikes, real-time target acquisition, air-littoral operations and synchronized battlefield tactics.
- ◆ A major highlight was the operational debut of the newly raised ASHNI platoons, designed to integrate advanced technology with traditional combat skills for decisive battlefield advantage.

3. Exercise MAITREE

Context

- ◆ The 14th edition of the India–Thailand joint military exercise, MAITREE-XIV, commenced in Meghalaya.

Exercise MAITREE

- ◆ Training modules include tactical drills, joint planning, weapons skills, physical endurance and raiding operations.
- ◆ Instituted in 2006, Exercise MAITREE remains a key component of bilateral defence cooperation.

4. Exercise Yudh Abhyas

Context

- ◆ The 21st edition of the India–US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas commenced in Alaska, USA.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas

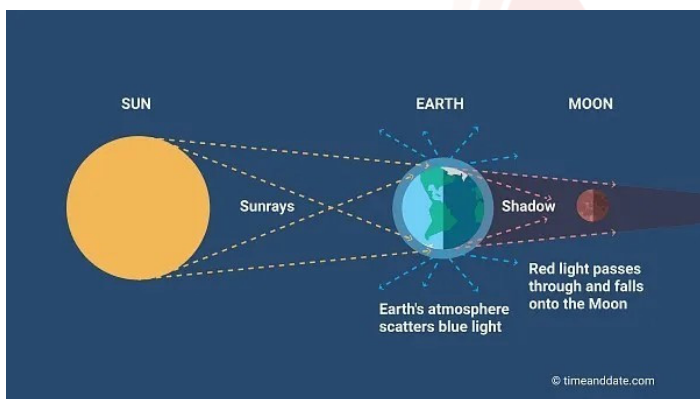
- ◆ Yudh Abhyas, meaning “Preparing for War” in Hindi, began in 2004
- ◆ It is a counterinsurgency training exchange between India and the USA.

Additional Information - Bilateral military exercises by India

- ◆ Joint Exercises by the Indian Army
- ◆ Joint Exercises by the Indian Navy
- ◆ Joint Exercises by the Indian Air Force

Exercise	Details
Ex Cope India	Joint exercise of India with USAF and Japan (observer)
Ex INIOCHOS	First Air Exercise between India and Greece
Ex Desert Flag-8 in UAE	First participation of Tejas in an international air exercise
Ex Cobra Warrior	Multinational including India, US, Finland, Sweden, South Africa, UK etc.
Ex Veer Guardian	First Air Exercise between India and Japan
Ex Orion	Multinational by France, First overseas exercise for the IAF's Rafale.

5. Blood Moon



Context

- ◆ A total lunar eclipse, popularly called a “Blood Moon”, was recently witnessed across the globe.

Lunar Eclipse

- ◆ A lunar eclipse occurs **when the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon, blocking sunlight from directly reaching the lunar surface.**
- ◆ Depending on the alignment, it can be total (Moon passes fully through Earth’s umbra) or partial.

- ◆ **Unlike a solar eclipse, it is safe to watch with the naked eye.**

Why does the Moon appear Red (Blood Moon)

- ◆ During a total lunar eclipse, **sunlight passing through Earth’s atmosphere gets scattered.**
- ◆ **Rayleigh Scattering: Blue light (shorter wavelength) scatters away, while red/orange light (longer wavelength) bends towards the Moon, making it glow red.**

6. Ghost Bat Drone



In News

- ◆ Australia is rapidly developing its defense capabilities with the production of MQ-28A Ghost Bat drones.

Ghost Bat Drone

- ◆ They are **38-foot-long autonomous military aircraft** designed as “robot wingmen.”
- ◆ They can be operated remotely and can fly preprogrammed missions with human oversight from afar.
- ◆ They are named after a fierce native bat, they have a range of ~2,300 miles, nearly spanning Australia.

7. EnteroMix – mRNA Cancer Vaccine

Context

- ◆ Russia has unveiled EnteroMix, a new vaccine reported to show 100% efficacy in early clinical trials for cancer treatment.

EnteroMix – mRNA Cancer Vaccine

- ◆ As per the Russian Federal Medical and Biological Agency (FMBA), the Russian EnteroMix cancer vaccine is now ready for clinical use.

- ◆ It is to shrink aggressive tumours, slow their growth, and do so without the harsh side effects of chemotherapy or radiation.
- ◆ The vaccine will be tailored to each patient's RNA, making it a fully personalised therapy.
- ◆ Uniqueness - EnteroMix uses a combination of four harmless viruses to target and destroy cancer cells while simultaneously activating the body's immune defences.

Connect with the basics - mRNA Vaccines

- ◆ Traditional vaccines perform this task by introducing a **dead, inactive or modified portion of a virus into our body so that our immune system can learn to recognize and fight this foreign invader.**
- ◆ On the other hand, mRNA vaccines are a **new type of vaccine.** They don't use live viruses to trigger an immune response. Instead, they supply mRNA that instructs our cells to make a version of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein that will trigger an immune response. Once triggered, the body will make antibodies. These antibodies will help to fight the infection if the real virus enters the body in the future.

8. EXERCISE ZAPAD 2025

Context

- ◆ An Indian Armed Forces contingent departed for Russia to take part in the multilateral joint military exercise ZAPAD 2025.

EXERCISE ZAPAD 2025

- ◆ More than 20 countries, including China, are participating in the exercise. Notably, for the first time since Operation Sindoor, the Indian and Pakistani armies will take part in the same military drill.
- ◆ The exercise aimed at **enhancing military cooperation, improving and interoperability among participating armies.**

9. ISRO Inks Agreement with HAL for Transfer of SSLV Technology

Context

- ◆ The Indian Space Research Organisation signed a formal agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. for the transfer of technology for production of small satellite launch vehicles

(SSLV).

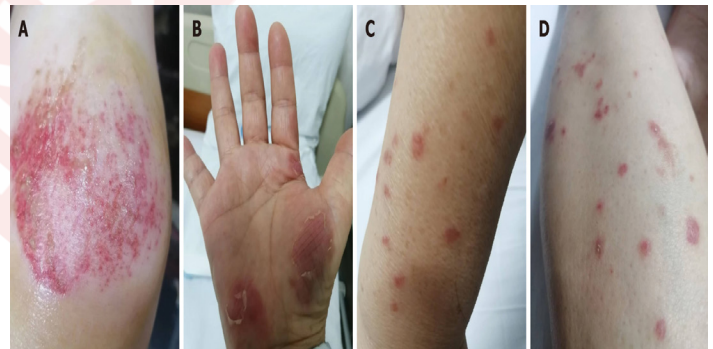
Key Highlights of agreement

- ◆ It marks a significant step in industry participation in the space sector.
- ◆ It is the **100th transfer of technology agreement facilitated by the space sector promoter INSPACe.**
- ◆ ISRO will complete the entire technology transfer process within 24 months from the date of signing the agreement.

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

- ◆ SSLV is the small satellite launch vehicle developed by ISRO to cater for the launch of small satellites weighing between 10 to 500kg into the Low Earth Orbit.
- ◆ They are low on cost and intended satellite insertion into orbits takes a shorter flight time.

10. Melioidosis



Context

- ◆ Andhra Pradesh has reported its first confirmed case of melioidosis in Turakapalem village, linked to 23 unexplained deaths since July.

Melioidosis

- ◆ Pathogen - Bacterial infection caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei*.
- ◆ Transmission & Reservoir - The bacteria live in **soil and water**, and can persist for years in contaminated environments.
- ◆ Person-to-person transmission is very rare; animal-to-human or insect-to-human are not documented.
- ◆ Vulnerability-Severe in patients with **diabetes, chronic kidney/liver disease, alcohol dependence, or cancer.**
- ◆ Symptoms - Range from **flu-like fever and headache to severe pneumonia, persistent**

cough, chest pain, skin sores, or organ abscesses.

- ◆ **Prevention & Management** - Safe water, protective gear, and hygiene practices.
- ◆ **Treatment**- At present, there is **no vaccine available for melioidosis**.

11. AdFalcivax

Context

- ◆ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has granted non-exclusive rights for its multi-stage malaria vaccine, AdFalcivax, to five pharmaceutical companies.

AdFalcivax

- ◆ It is India's first indigenous multi-stage malaria recombinant vaccine.
- ◆ **Developed by** - Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), under the ICMR.
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - The vaccine is designed to prevent **Plasmodium falciparum** infection in individuals and reduce community transmission.
- ◆ Plasmodium falciparum is the deadliest malaria parasite, difficult to control and responsible for widespread devastation.

Additional Information - 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.

12. Samudra Pradakshina

Context

- ◆ Defence virtually flagged off Samudra Pradakshina – a historic tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition.

Samudra Pradakshina

- ◆ The initiative is a first of its kind, a symbol of nari shakti (women power), the jointness of the armed forces, self-reliant India (Aatmanirbhar Bharat) and India's global vision.
- ◆ Over the next nine months, 10 women officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force will sail onboard the indigenously-built Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni.
- ◆ They will follow an easterly route covering nearly 26,000 nautical miles, crossing the Equator twice and rounding the three great Capes — Leeuwin, Horn and Good Hope.

- ◆ During the expedition, the crew will also carry out scientific research in collaboration with the **National Institute of Oceanography**, which includes the study of micro-plastics, documentation of ocean life and raising awareness about marine health.
- ◆ They will return to Mumbai in May 2026.

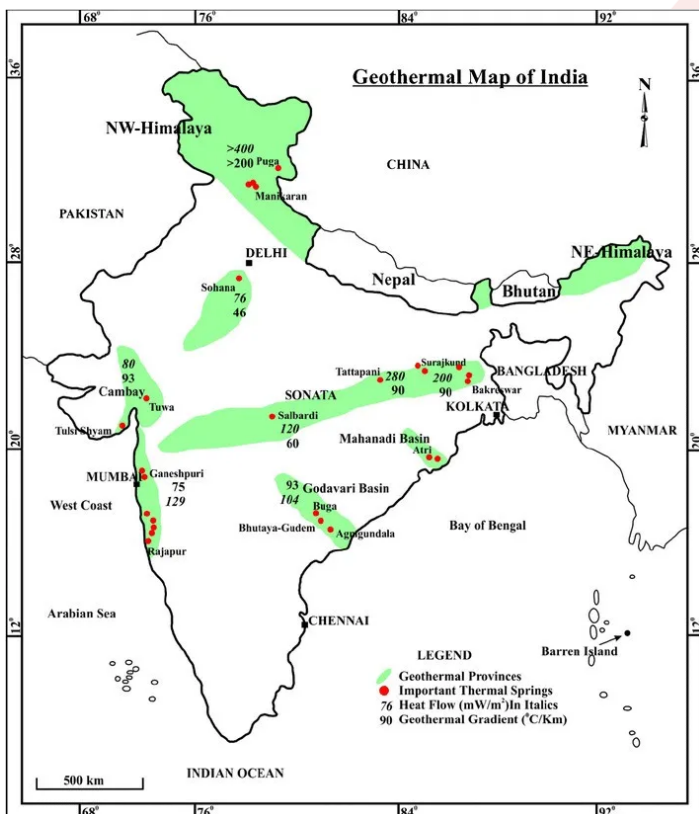
13. MNRE Unveiled India's First National Policy on Geothermal Energy

Context

- ◆ Recently, the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched its first national policy on geothermal energy.

National Policy on Geothermal Energy

- ◆ **Vision & Goals:** To establish geothermal energy as a key pillar of India's renewable energy sector, enhancing energy security, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting sustainable development.



Additional Information - Geothermal Energy (Geo= Earth, Thermal= Heat)

- ◆ **Source** - It is the heat stored within the Earth's crust, and comes from the natural heat of the Earth. It is primarily due to the decay of the naturally radioactive isotopes of uranium,

thorium and potassium.

- ◆ **Global Geo-Thermal Capacity (15.4 GW):** United States, followed by Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey, and New Zealand.

Geothermal Potential Sites in India

- ◆ The Geological Survey of India (GSI), since 1973, has identified 381 hot springs with surface temperatures ranging from 35°C to 89°C.
- ◆ Geothermal Atlas of India, 2022' estimated the potential of about 10,600 MW of geothermal power in India.

14. Indian Navy's 'Androth'



Context

- ◆ The Indian Navy has received 'Androth' an indigenously built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC).

Indian Navy's 'Androth'

- ◆ **Named after** - Androth island (the largest island of the Lakshadweep archipelago),
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - The warship is the second of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft.
- ◆ Built by- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).

15. India-AI Impact Summit 2026

In News

- ◆ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) officially unveiled the logo and key initiatives for the India-AI Impact Summit 2026.

India-AI Impact Summit 2026

- ◆ **Mandate** - It is a global platform bringing together policymakers, innovators, researchers, and industry leaders to **demonstrate AI's transformative potential for humanity and the planet.**
- ◆ **Significance** - The first summit of its kind hosted by a Global South nation, positioning India as a thought leader in responsible and equitable AI adoption.

Guiding Principles (Three Sutras)

- ◆ **People:** AI for human dignity, cultural inclusion, and equitable opportunities.
- ◆ **Planet:** Resource-efficient AI supporting sustainability and climate action.
- ◆ **Progress:** Democratizing AI resources and distributing benefits equitably.

16. Exercise Pacific Reach

Context

- ◆ Indian Navy's latest indigenously designed INS Nistar is participating in the multinational Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 in Singapore.

Exercise Pacific Reach

- ◆ The 2025 edition (XPR-25) was hosted by the **Republic of Singapore** Navy, with participation or observation by more than **40 nations**
- ◆ The exercise will mainly be conducted in two phases viz. **harbour and sea phase.**
- ◆ **Started in 1996, the biennial exercise is hosted in rotation** by participating nations

17. Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025

Context

- ◆ The 18th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025, was released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation's (WIPO).

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025

- ◆ **Established in - 2007.**
- ◆ **It is published annually and provides performance metrics and ranks around 140 economies** on their innovation ecosystems.

Major Finding

- ◆ **Top Nations: Switzerland** remains the world's top innovation leader for the 15th consecutive

year, followed by **Sweden, the United States, South Korea, and Singapore** in the top five ranks.

- ◆ **India: India has made a steady climb from 48 in 2020 to 38 in 2025.**

Key Indian Initiatives for Innovation

- ◆ **Startup India (2016):** Launched by DPIIT; offers tax exemptions, Fund of Funds, credit guarantee, and ease of compliance to nurture startups.
- ◆ **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):** NITI Aayog initiative; promotes innovation through Atal Tinkering Labs (schools), Incubation Centres (startups), and New India Challenges (solutions to national problems).
- ◆ **National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI):** DST programme; supports innovators via PRAYAS (idea to prototype), Entrepreneur-in-Residence (fellowships), and incubation support.

Additional Information - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- ◆ It is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, that **serves the world's innovators and creators, ensuring that their ideas travel safely to the market and improve lives everywhere.**
- ◆ **History:** WIPO was established in **1967 by the WIPO Convention.**
- ◆ **Members:** The organization has **193 member states** including both developing and developed nations like India, Italy, Israel, Austria, Bhutan, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, Pakistan, the U.S. and the U.K.
- ◆ **India joined WIPO in 1975.**
- ◆ **Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.**

18. Agni-Prime Missile

Context

- ◆ India successfully tested the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime Missile from a rail-based mobile launcher system.

Agni-Prime (Agni-P)

- ◆ **Developed by: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- ◆ **Type:** Two-stage, solid-fuel propelled **ballistic missile.**

- ◆ **Range:** Up to 2000 km.
- ◆ **Payload:** Can carry high explosive, thermobaric, or nuclear warheads.
- ◆ **Unique Feature:** First Indian missile tested from a rail-based mobile launcher.
- ◆ **Significance:** Only Russia, US, China, and possibly North Korea had such rail-based launch capability before; India has now joined this group.

19. Tejas Mark-1A

Context

- ◆ The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract to buy 97 light combat aircraft, of the Tejas Mark-1A variant, for the Indian Air Force from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

Tejas Mk-1A Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

- ◆ Tejas is a 4.5 generation, all weather and multi-role fighter aircraft.
- ◆ LCA Mk1A is the most advanced version of the LCA Tejas.

20. Astronomers Detect Quasi-Moon Near Earth

Context

- ◆ Astronomers have recently identified 2025 PN7, a tiny asteroid that is a “quasi-moon” of Earth and has been following our planet for about 60 years.

2025 PN7

- ◆ **Observed by** - The asteroid is approximately 62 feet in diameter and was observed by the Pan-STARRS observatory in Hawaii.

Quasi-Moons

- ◆ A quasi-moon differs fundamentally from a natural satellite such as Earth’s Moon.
- ◆ Earth’s Moon is gravitationally bound to the planet and revolves directly around it, a quasi-moon is gravitationally bound to the Sun.

21. 25 Lakh Additional LPG Connections Under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Context

- ◆ The Government has decided to provide 25

- lakh additional LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana during the current Financial Year.
- ◆ With this expansion, the total number of PMUY connections will rise to 10.58 crore.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- ◆ **Launched on** - 1st May 2016
- ◆ **Implemented by** - Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- ◆ **Objective** - to replace harmful cooking fuels such as coal and firewood with clean LPG to protect women & children’s health by reducing indoor smoke pollution.
- ◆ The scheme provides a completely free LPG connection, including the first refill and a stove.
- ◆ The scheme also offers a targeted subsidy of ₹300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per year (pro-rated for 5 kg connections) to all PMUY consumers.
- ◆ PMUY initially aimed to provide 8 crore free LPG connections to poor households, achieving this target in September 2019.
- ◆ To reach more families, PMUY 2.0 was launched in August 2021, distributing an additional 1.6 crore connections by January 2022.

22. SPARSH

Context

- ◆ The System for Pension Administration – Raksha (SPARSH) has resolved 5.60 lakh out of 6.43 lakh legacy discrepancy cases (87%), safeguarding the entitlements of defence pensioners.

System for Pension Administration – Raksha (SPARSH)

- ◆ It is the world’s largest pension system for defence personnel.
- ◆ Implemented by- Ministry of Defence.
- ◆ Significance - It is aimed at providing a comprehensive digital solution for the administration of defence pensions.

SPARSH Seva Kendras

- ◆ The SPARSH Seva Kendras are points of contacts for the pensioners to avail the services that are available through the portal.
- ◆ These centres will provide interface and assistance to the Pensioner in the event of non-availability to portal access.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

1. 200th Birth Anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji

In News

- ♦ The 200th birth anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji known as 'The Grand Old Man of India' was recently observed.

Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1917)

- ♦ Dadabhai Naoroji was **born in Bombay on 4 September 1825** in a priestly Parsi family.
- ♦ He was a pioneering figure in India's freedom struggle.
- ♦ **He was the first Indian to be elected to the House of Commons (1892).**

Contributions:

- ♦ He formulated the famous **drain-of-wealth theory**, which became **India's cornerstone argument against British rule**.
- ♦ He was the first to **give expression to the demand for Swaraj** from the platform of Indian National Congress (1906).
- ♦ Two young law students viz. **W.C. Bonnerji (1844-1906)** and **Pherozezshah M. Mehta (1845-1915)** became his disciples
- ♦ Dadabhai Naoroji was appointed as Justice of the Peace in 1883, started a **newspaper called 'Voice of India'**.
- ♦ **He twice served as the President of Indian National Congress (1886 and 1893)** besides representing India at the International Congress of Social Democrats at Amsterdam in 1905.
- ♦ **Death and Legacy - He permanently returned to India from Britain in 1908 at the ripe age of 83.**

2. Nalanda University

In News

- ♦ Bhutan's Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay recently visited Nalanda University.

Nalanda University

- ♦ It was originally **established in 427 CE by Emperor Kumaragupta**
- ♦ It was the **world's first residential university**, hosting **2,000 teachers and 10,000 students for over 800 years**, and attracting scholars

from across Asia.

- ♦ It is located near the **Rajgir hills and symbolizes a unique blend of nature, spirituality, and learning, drawing** from its ancient heritage where great thinkers like **Buddha, Mahavira, Nagarjuna, and Aryabhata once taught or meditated.**

Revival

- ♦ **The idea to revive Nalanda was proposed by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** in 2006, with support from the East Asia Summit, the Singapore government, and Indian leadership.
- ♦ **The Nalanda University Act was passed in 2010, and the first students enrolled in 2014.**
- ♦ The revived Nalanda University aspires to be futuristic and global, rooted in ancient wisdom while addressing modern challenges, making it a beacon of sustainable and inclusive education welcomed worldwide.

3. SAMHiTA Conference on South Asian Manuscripts and Mathematics

Context

- ♦ The Minister of External Affairs of India inaugurated the SAMHiTA Conference on South Asia's Manuscript Traditions and Mathematical Contributions in New Delhi.

SAMHiTA (South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive)

- ♦ It is an initiative **to create a relational database and digital archive of Indian and broadly South Asian manuscripts.**
- ♦ **Focus areas:** Mathematics, astronomy, linguistics, philosophy, medicine, literature in manuscripts.
- ♦ **Significance:** Helps reclaim **India's intellectual traditions, prevents cultural erasure, and strengthens research in history of science.**

Other Initiatives to safeguard the Manuscripts

- ♦ The Ministry of Culture established the **National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) in 2003 to document, conserve, and promote access to Indian manuscripts.**
- ♦ The **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** is a premier Indian institution and autonomous trust under the Ministry of Culture, **functions as a vast repository for**

manuscripts and other cultural resources, and as a hub for academic research.

- ♦ The **National Digital Library of India (NDLI)**, the **Bharatvani Project**, and the **Indian Culture Portal** are all digital archives initiated by the Government of India.

4. GI Tag Push in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)

Context

- ♦ The **Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) government** recently launched a special drive to work towards **GI tag registration of cultural artefacts** belonging to all 26 communities of the region.

Connect with the basics - Geographical Indication or GI Tag

- ♦ Definition - It is a name or a sign given to certain products related to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town, or country.
- ♦ A certification for unique products - GI Tag may be regarded as a certification for a particular product with certain specific qualities or has a specific reputation because of its geographical origin.
- ♦ GI Tags can be issued for wine and spirit drinks, foodstuffs, agricultural products, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- ♦ Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) - At the International level, GI is governed by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- ♦ Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act - In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in September 2003.
- ♦ Darjeeling tea - The first product in India to be accorded with the GI tag was Darjeeling tea in 2004-05.

5. Langkhon Festival



Context

- ♦ The **Tiwa tribesmen** celebrated the **Langkhon (Langkhun) Festival** in **Umsowai village** of **Karbi Anglong district, Assam**.

About

- ♦ The festival involves the **worship of bamboo symbolizing the close bond between nature and human life**.
- ♦ It is primarily celebrated in the **Karbi Anglong district of Assam**.

6. Acharya Vinoba Bhave

In News

- ♦ The Prime Minister paid homage to **Acharya Vinoba Bhave** on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

Acharya Vinoba Bhave

- ♦ He was born on September 11, 1895 and was a **renowned spiritual leader, freedom fighter, and social reformer**.
- ♦ He was deeply **influenced by Mahatma Gandhi** after reading about his speech in 1916 and **abandoned formal education and joined Gandhi at the Kochrab Ashram**.
- ♦ He was often **regarded as Gandhi's spiritual successor and the National Teacher of India**.

Contributions

- ♦ He **founded the Gramseva Mandal in 1934** to organize village service activities.
- ♦ He is **best known for leading the Bhoodan Movement (1951)**, a voluntary and non-violent movement aimed at redistributing land to

landless peasants.

- ◆ He became a key figure at Sabarmati Ashram, contributing to Khadi, village industries, Nai Talim, and sanitation initiatives.
- ◆ He also translated the Bhagavad Gita into Marathi, naming it Geetai.

7. Sarnath

Context

- ◆ India officially nominated Sarnath for the UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2025-26 cycle.

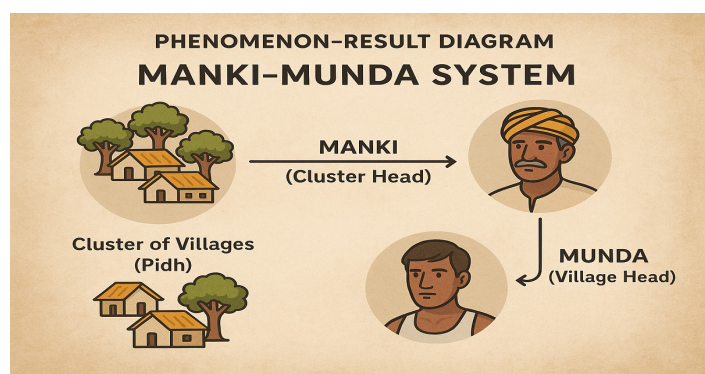
Sarnath

- ◆ **Location:** It is situated near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ◆ **One of the four major Buddhist pilgrimage sites** (others: Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Kushinagar).
- ◆ **Historical Importance:**
- ◆ attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath (around 528 BCE).
- ◆ This event is called “Dharmachakrapravartana” or “Turning of the Wheel of Dharma”.
- ◆ It marked the beginning of the Buddhist Sangha (community of monks).

Monuments & Structures:

- ◆ Dhamek Stupa – built by Ashoka, commemorates the Buddha’s first sermon.
- ◆ Chaukhandi Stupa – marks the spot where Buddha met his first disciples.
- ◆ Ashokan Pillar – erected by Emperor Ashoka; its lion capital is now the National Emblem of India.
- ◆ Monasteries & remains – ruins of ancient viharas, temples, and sculptures.

8. Kolhan’s Manki-Munda system



In News

- ◆ **Adivasis from the Ho tribe protested in Jharkhand’s West Singhbhum** accusing the Deputy Commissioner of **interfering with their traditional Manki-Munda governance system.**

Manki-Munda system

- ◆ The **Ho tribe of Jharkhand’s Kolhan region** traditionally followed a **decentralized, hereditary governance system led by village heads called Mundas and regional leaders called Mankis.**
- ◆ **Mundas resolved local socio-political disputes, while unresolved cases were escalated to the Manki, who oversaw a group of villages (pir).**
- ◆ This system resolved social and political issues, not land or revenue matters.
- ◆ This self-contained system operated independently, without external authority or taxation.
- ◆ **The arrival of the East India Company disrupted this autonomy by introducing taxes and external control.**

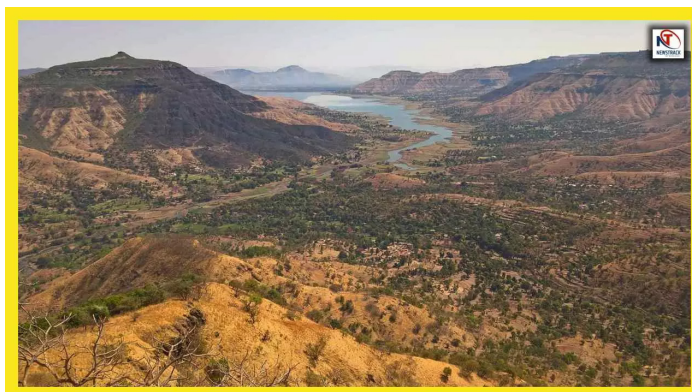
9. Seven Natural Heritage Sites Added to UNESCO Tentative List

Context

- ◆ Seven natural heritage sites from across India have been included in UNESCO’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, increasing India’s count on the Tentative List from 62 to 69 properties.

Newly Added Sites

- ◆ **Deccan Traps at Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra:** The sites form part of the **massive Deccan Traps** and are located within the **Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary**, already a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



- ◆ Geological Heritage of St. Mary's Island Cluster, Karnataka: Known for its rare columnar basaltic rock formations, this island cluster dates back to the Late Cretaceous period, offering a geological snapshot from around 85 million years ago.



- ◆ **Meghalayan Age Caves, Meghalaya:** The stunning cave systems of Meghalaya, particularly the **Mawmluh Cave**, serve as the global reference point for the **Meghalayan Age in the Holocene Epoch**, reflecting significant climate and geological transitions.



- ◆ **Naga Hill Ophiolite, Nagaland:** A rare exposure of **ophiolite rocks**, these hills represent **oceanic crust uplifted onto continental plates**—offering deep insights into tectonic processes and mid-ocean ridge dynamics.



- ◆ **Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Hills),**

Andhra Pradesh: These visually **striking red sand formations near Visakhapatnam** showcase unique **paleo-climatic and coastal geomorphological features** that reveal Earth's climatic history and dynamic evolution.



- ◆ **Natural Heritage of Tirumala Hills, Andhra Pradesh:** Featuring the Eparchaean Unconformity and the **Silathoranam (Natural Arch)**, this site represents over **1.5 billion years of Earth's history**.



- ◆ **Varkala Cliffs, Kerala:** The scenic cliffs along Kerala's coastline expose the **Warkalli Formation of the Mio-Pliocene age**, along with natural springs and striking erosional landforms.



Do You Know?

- ◆ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the Nodal agency for UNESCO's World Heritage Convention in India.
- ◆ India hosted the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee in July 2024, New Delhi.

10. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya



In News

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary, calling him a guiding force in India's journey toward a "Viksit Bharat."

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (1916–1968)

- ◆ He was a **political thinker, economist, and leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.**
- ◆ He was an **exceptional scholar and dedicated nationalist.**
- ◆ **Ideology** - He was a visionary thinker, known for his **doctrine of Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manav Darshan)** which emphasized a **balance between spiritual and material development and promoted decentralization and self-reliant village-based economy.**
- ◆ **Contributions**- He contributed to ideological journalism by starting 'Rashtra Dharma' (monthly), 'Panchajanya' (weekly), and 'Swadesh' (daily).

11. Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl

Context

- ◆ A professor from Haryana, was booked for allegedly stealing a replica of the Mohenjodaro 'Dancing Girl' bronze figurine from the National Museum in Delhi.

Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl

- ◆ It is a **4,500-year-old bronze statuette** from the Indus Valley Civilization.
- ◆ **Discovery:** Unearthed in 1926 at Mohenjodaro (present-day Pakistan) by archaeologist Ernest Mackay.
- ◆ **Material and Technique:** Made of bronze using the **lost-wax casting technique**, the statuette **reflects the advanced metallurgical knowledge of the Harappans.**
- ◆ The statue is around 10.5 centimetres tall and is adorned with a necklace and a large number of bangles stacked on her arms.
- ◆ Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl



12. Adi Sanskriti

In News

- ◆ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Beta version of Adi Sanskriti at the National Conference on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan.

Adi Sanskriti

- ◆ **Mandate** - It is a **digital learning platform aimed at preserving tribal art forms, promoting heritage, enabling livelihoods, and connecting tribal communities globally.**
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - It is envisioned as the **world's first Digital University for preserving and promoting tribal culture and traditional knowledge.**

It includes three key components:

- ◆ **Adi Vishwavidyalaya** – A Digital Tribal Art Academy offering 45 courses on tribal dance, painting, crafts, music, and folklore.
- ◆ **Adi Sampada** – A socio-cultural repository with over 5,000 curated documents on tribal art, dance, textiles, artefacts, and livelihoods.
- ◆ **Adi Haat** – An evolving online marketplace (currently linked with TRIFED) to support tribal artisans through direct consumer access and sustainable livelihoods.
- ◆ **Relevance** - Adi Sanskriti is a key initiative for cultural preservation and tribal empowerment under Viksit Bharat @2047.

INTERNAL SECURITY

1. Kuki-Zo Groups



Context

- ◆ The revised Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement was signed between the Ministry of Home Affairs, Manipur government and 24 Kuki-Zo insurgent groups which is valid for one year.

Kuki-Zo groups

- ◆ **Found in** - They are an ethnic community spread across **Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Assam, and Myanmar.**
- ◆ **Insurgency-** Since the **1980s–90s, various Kuki-Zo insurgent groups have taken up arms, mostly demanding:**
 - ◆ Greater autonomy/self-determination;
 - ◆ Protection of tribal rights and land;
 - ◆ In some cases, separate statehood.

2. 1st Interpol Silver Notices



Context

- ◆ The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has got its first Interpol silver notice issued, against the recovery of around 82 kg of cocaine in Delhi.

Interpol Silver Notice

- ◆ A silver notice is issued by Interpol to **identify, locate, and trace assets acquired through criminal proceeds by a fugitive.**
- ◆ **Aim:** Helping trace and recover criminal assets for combating transnational organised crime.
- ◆ The Interpol launched ‘Silver Notice’, the newest addition to the organisation’s list of colour-coded notices

Interpol/International Criminal Police Organisation

- ◆ **Founded in:** 1923
- ◆ **Members:** 196
- ◆ **Headquarters:** Lyon, France.
- ◆ **Role:** Not a law enforcement agency itself; it connects police forces worldwide and provides support.
- ◆ **Functions**
 - ◆ Facilitates international police cooperation by:
 - ◆ Sharing information and criminal records.
 - ◆ Issuing international arrest warrants and alerts.
 - ◆ Coordinating cross-border investigations.
 - ◆ Providing training and technical assistance.
 - ◆ Focuses on major areas of transnational crime, including: Terrorism, Cybercrime, Or-

ganized crime, Drug trafficking, Human trafficking, Financial crime.

INTERPOL Notices

- ◆ **Red Notice:** To seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.
- ◆ **Yellow Notice:** To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
- ◆ **Blue Notice:** To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.
- ◆ **Black Notice:** To seek information on unidentified bodies.
- ◆ **Green Notice:** To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
- ◆ **Orange Notice:** To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
- ◆ **Purple Notice:** To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.
- ◆ **INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notice:** Issued for entities and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.

3. Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

In News

- ◆ The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has achieved a 94% conviction rate in PMLA cases.

Enforcement Directorate

- ◆ **Established in-** On 1st May 1956, an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed. In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.
- ◆ **Established under -** It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- ◆ **Functions -** ED enforces the following laws
 - ◆ Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
 - ◆ Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)

4. National Investigation Agency (NIA)

Context

- ◆ The Supreme Court criticized the Union Government for not establishing exclusive National Investigation Agency (NIA) courts, urging budget allocations to ensure timely trials and prevent bail for serious offenders.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- ◆ **Established under:** NIA Act, 2008 after 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
- ◆ **Function:** Central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency.
- ◆ **Mandate:** Investigates offences affecting India's sovereignty, security, international treaties, etc.

NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019:

- ◆ **Jurisdiction extended:** Can investigate scheduled offences committed outside India involving Indian citizens/interests.
- ◆ **Expanded mandate:** Covers offences under Explosive Substances Act, 1908 Human Trafficking, Cyber Terrorism Arms Act, 1959.
- ◆ **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- ◆ **Special Courts:** Total NIA Special Courts: 51
- ◆ **Exclusive NIA Courts:** 2 (Ranchi & Jammu)

5. Indian Coast Guard

In News

- ◆ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has reaffirmed India's commitment to global maritime governance at the 4th Coast Guard Global Summit, held in Rome.

Indian Coast Guard

- ◆ The Indian Coast Guard is a maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency of India with jurisdiction over its territorial waters including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.
- ◆ It was established in 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India.
- ◆ **Parent Agency:** Ministry of Defence
- ◆ **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- ◆ **Head:** Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. China and India Pledge to be 'partners not rivals': SCO Summit

SCO
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- 1996 Shanghai Five**
Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, China
- 2001 Shanghai Five → SCO**
Uzbekistan was included.
Renamed as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- 2017 First Round of Expansion**
India and Pakistan Joined.
- 2022 SCO Summit, Uzbekistan**
Varanasi was selected as the SCO region's 1st "Tourism and Cultural Capital" for 2022-23.
- 2023 SCO Summit, India.**
India hosted the summit for the 1st time. It was held virtually.
Iran was included as SCO's 9th member.
SCO members agreed to explore using "national currencies" for payments within the grouping.
- 2024 SCO Summit, Kazakhstan**
Belarus became the 10th member state of the SCO.

An Eurasian intergovernmental organisation and economic and security alliance



Governance
Main Focus: Regional Development, Security Issues, Regional Terrorism, Ethnic Separatism, Religious Extremism
Governed by Heads of State Council (HSC), SCO's supreme decision-making body (Meet once a year)
Official Languages: Russian, Chinese

Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)
A Permanent Organ of the SCO
Headquarters: Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Serves to promote cooperation of member states against the 3 evils:
• Regional Terrorism
• Ethnic Separatism
• Religious Extremism

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Tianjin.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- Founded in** - The SCO is an intergovernmental organization founded in 2001 with six members.
- Objective:** To enhance regional cooperation for efforts to curb terrorism, separatism, and extremism in the Central Asian region.
- Members:** China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus and the four Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
- Secretariat:** Beijing
- Official languages:** Russian and Chinese
- Observer status:** Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia
- The SCO has been an observer in the UN General Assembly since 2005.

Areas of Concern

- Ongoing Border Tensions** - Incidents in Doklam (2017), Galwan Valley (2020), and northeastern states (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh).



- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** India has expressed reservations about China's Belt and Road Initiative, especially regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which passes through the territory of India.

2. India-Singapore 2025 Summit



In News

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in New Delhi.

Key Outcomes of the Summit

- Maritime Security & Malacca Strait Patrol:** India expressed interest in patrolling the Malacca Strait, a strategic chokepoint connecting the Indian Ocean and the Pacific.

Strategic Importance of Malacca Strait

- Global Trade Artery:** Nearly 40% of India's trade and 80% of China's oil imports pass through it.

- ♦ **Energy Security:** Ensures uninterrupted oil and gas flows from the Middle East to East Asia.
- ♦ **Geostrategic Leverage:** India's Andaman & Nicobar Command provides proximity to this chokepoint, enhancing its role in **Indo-Pacific maritime security**.

3. BRICS Virtual Summit

Context

- ♦ Recently, a virtual **BRICS Summit** was held against the backdrop of increasing global concerns over **U.S tariff tussle**.
- ♦ The summit was called by **Brazil** amid the **50% tariffs** imposed by the U.S on both India and Brazil.

BRICS

- ♦ **Founded in** - 2009
- ♦ **HeadQuarters** - Shanghai
- ♦ It is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa** (included in 2010)
- ♦ **Origin** - The term "**BRIC**" was coined by the **British Economist Jim O'Neill** in 2001 to describe the four emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.
- ♦ **Share of BRICS** - BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries, representing **41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP, and 16% of the global trade** (By 2028, BRICS is expected to make up 35 percent of the global economy)
- ♦ **Chairmanship** - The chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members. **South Africa is the chair for 2023**.

Initiatives of BRICS

- ♦ New Development Bank (NDB)
- ♦ Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)
- ♦ BRICS Payment System
- ♦ Customs Agreements
- ♦ Constellation of Remote Sensing Satellites

New Initiative

- ♦ BRICS is planning to launch its own "new currency" system, a major step towards **de-dollarization** (reducing dependence on the US dollar for trade).

4. Political Crisis in Nepal and Its Implications for India

In News

- ♦ Mass protests led by Nepal's Generation Z erupted prompting widespread violence, including the burning of government buildings and attacks on politicians.

Reasons for Crisis in Nepal

- ♦ **GenZ Discontent:** Frustration over corruption, the luxurious lifestyles of leaders, lack of accountability, and youth unemployment (above 20%) fueled mass discontent.
- ♦ **Suppression of Dissent:** The government banned 26 major social media platforms, citing regulatory reasons.
- ♦ **Extreme State Response:** Protesters faced excessive force—**police fired live rounds, rubber bullets, and enforced harsh curfews**, resulting in over 20 deaths and hundreds wounded.

5. East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)

In News

- ♦ The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) faces strong opposition from environmental activists.

East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP)

- ♦ **Connectivity** - It is a 1,443-km oil pipeline that will transport oil produced from Uganda's Lake Albert oilfields to the port of Tanga in Tanzania.
- ♦ **Criticism** -The pipeline cuts through **44 protected areas and 7 key biodiversity zones**, endangering species and local livelihoods.

6. First India-Iran-Uzbekistan Trilateral Meeting



In News

- ◆ The first India-Iran-Uzbekistan trilateral meeting was held in Tehran focusing on enhancing cooperation against extremism and terrorism and promoting the use of Chabahar Port by Uzbekistan for trade with India.

First India-Iran-Uzbekistan Trilateral Meeting

- ◆ They also emphasized deeper connectivity via the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).
- ◆ India-Iran-Armenia also held a trilateral focusing on INSTC and Chabahar use

International North-South Transport Corridor(INSTC)

- ◆ **Proposed in** - INSTC was first proposed in 2000
- ◆ **Objective** - It is a 7,200-km-long multi-modal connectivity project to establish transport connectivity between Russia, Central Asian states and India.
- ◆ **Member countries** - It includes 13 countries namely India, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Oman, Syria, and Ukraine.
- ◆ **Significance** - Potential project to Counter China's Belt and Road initiative.

Chabahar Port

- ◆ **Location:** It is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- ◆ It consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
- ◆ It is only about 170 kilometers west of the Pakistani port of Gwadar.
- ◆ **Strategic location:** India needs access to iron from Afghanistan's Hajigak mine and other natural resources from the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, which is made possible by the Chabahar port.
- ◆ **INSTC:** The port is also part of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal transport project to connect the Indian Ocean to Northern Europe.

7. India Condemn the Doha Strike

Context

- ◆ India has recently condemned Israel's bombing in Doha.

- ◆ Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) bombed a home in Doha, Qatar, where Hamas leaders were reportedly meeting.
- ◆ India condemned the violation of the sovereignty of Qatar.

Reasons for India's Stand

- ◆ **Energy Security:** Qatar is a crucial LNG supplier for India having long-term contracts.
- ◆ **Large Diaspora:** Over 8 lakh Indians live in Qatar, contributing heavily in remittances.
- ◆ **Strategic Balancing:** India has strong defence and tech ties with Israel, but also deep economic and cultural ties with Arab Gulf states.

Qatar



- ◆ **Location** - It is a country located in **Western Asia**.
- ◆ It is located on the **northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula**.
- ◆ It shares a **sole land border with Saudi Arabia** to the south and is surrounded by the **Persian Gulf on all other sides**.
- ◆ The **Gulf of Bahrain separates Qatar from the Kingdom of Bahrain**.
- ◆ **Doha is its capital and largest city**.
- ◆ **Languages: Arabic is the official** and English is the common language in the country.
- ◆ Official Currency: Riyal (QAR)

8. International Criminal Court

In News

- ◆ **Qatar has met with the International Criminal Court (ICC) president to seek legal action against Israel following an Israeli strike on its territory targeting Hamas leaders.**

International Criminal Court – ICC

- ◆ **Founded by** - The ICC was established by the **Rome Statute**.
- ◆ **Founded in** - It was founded in **1998** and it began sittings on July 1, 2002, after 60 countries had ratified the Rome Statute.
- ◆ **Headquarters** - **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- ◆ **Functions** - The ICC is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction **to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression**.
- ◆ **Principle of complementarity** - It is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore exercise its **jurisdiction only when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals**.

Enforcement Challenges:

- ◆ **Lacks universal territorial jurisdiction** - The ICC may only **investigate and prosecute crimes committed within member states**.
- ◆ The ICC **does not have its own police force** and relies on state cooperation for arrests and extraditions.
- ◆ **Non-member states have no obligation to cooperate** (e.g., Israel, the US, Russia, China, and India).

Difference between International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Features	International Criminal Court (ICC)	International Court of Justice (ICJ)
Establishment	2002 (Rome Statute, 1998)	1945 (UN Charter)
Location	The Hague, Netherlands	The Hague, Netherlands
Jurisdiction	Individuals accused of serious crimes	Disputes between states
Crimes Covered	Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, Crime of Aggression	Legal disputes (sovereignty, borders, treaty violations) and advisory opinions
Binding Nature	ICC rulings are legally binding but rely on state cooperation for enforcement	ICJ rulings are binding but can be ignored (enforcement through UN Security Council)
Membership	125 States Parties (Rome Statute)	All 193 UN Member States
Cases Heard	Criminal cases against individuals	Civil cases between states
Appeal	Has an appeals mechanism	No formal appeals process

9. India-Russia Discuss BRICS Grain Exchange Plan

Context

- ◆ India-Russia discussed plans of creating a common agricultural food exchange that will help in boosting agriculture trade among the BRICS member-countries.

BRICS Grain Exchange Plan

- ◆ **Proposed in** - **BRICS Summit in Kazan in 2024**.
- ◆ **Mandate** - establishing a **fair and transparent agricultural trading system**.
- ◆ **Enhance food security:** Create a more resilient and reliable supply chain for BRICS members and other countries in the Global South.

10. FIPIC



In News

- ◆ External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar, hosted a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in New York.

Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)

- ◆ It is a multilateral grouping **launched by India in 2014**
- ◆ **Objective** - to enhance cooperation between India and 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs).
- ◆ **Member countries** - Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
- ◆ **Significance**-It aims to strengthen cooperation in areas such as politics, economy, trade, investment, culture, health, education, infrastructure, and disaster management.

11. K Visa

Context

- ◆ China is going to introduce the K Visa program to attract young science and technology professionals from across the globe.

Key Features of the K Visa

- ◆ **Eligibility Criteria:** Open to young foreign

professionals holding at least a bachelor's degree in STEM from recognised institutions in China or abroad.

- ◆ The K visa is being seen as an extension of the R visa for high-level talent introduced by China in 2013.

 **Significance** - It reflects China's broader ambition to;

- ◆ Reposition itself as a **global hub for science and technology.**
- ◆ Shift the balance of talent flows from the US to China.

12. India and Morocco Sign Defence Cooperation

About

- ◆ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Morocco's Defence Minister signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation.

Morocco

- ◆ Morocco is a mountainous country of western North Africa that lies directly across the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain.
- ◆ India and Morocco Sign Defence Cooperation
- ◆ Morocco borders Algeria to the east and southeast, Western Sahara to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north.
- ◆ It is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

13. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2025, Tianjin

In News

- ◆ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held its annual Heads of State Summit in Tianjin, China, in 2025.

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Regional Conflicts and Non-Proliferation:** Rejected double standards in counterterrorism and emphasized preventing cross-border movement of terrorists.
- ◆ **Condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam (J&K).**
- ◆ **Criticized military strikes by Israel and the**

U.S. on Iran

- ◆ Endorsed India’s global vision of “One Earth, One Family, One Future” as a principle for inclusive growth.
- ◆ Proposed the creation of an **SCO Development Bank** to fund infrastructure and development projects.

14. Universal Postal Union (UPU)

In News

- ◆ The 28th Universal Postal Congress, the supreme decision-making body of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), opened in Dubai.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- ◆ Established: 9 October 1874 (Treaty of Bern).
- ◆ UN Agency: Became a specialized UN agency in 1948.

Purpose:

- ◆ Coordinates international postal policies and operations.
- ◆ **Members: 192 member countries**, making it one of the oldest and largest global organizations.
- ◆ **India joined UPU in 1876.**

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Ramon Magsaysay Award



Context

- ◆ An Indian non-profit organisation, ‘Foundation to Educate Girls Globally’, dedicated to girls’ education, has been named a 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee.

Ramon Magsaysay

- ◆ **Established: 1958**, in memory of Ramon Magsaysay, the 7th President of the Philippines, known for his integrity, courage, and democratic leadership.
- ◆ **Instituted by:** The Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF), in partnership with the Philippine government.
- ◆ **Administered by:** The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF), Manila.
- ◆ **Nature:** Recognizes individuals or organizations in Asia who show selfless service and transformative leadership.
- ◆ **Prestige:** Considered Asia’s highest honour, equivalent in stature to the Nobel Prize in Asia.

2. National Teachers Awards



Context

- ◆ The President of India conferred National Awards on 81 teachers from across the country at a function held in New Delhi on Teachers’ Day (5th September).

National Teachers Awards

- ◆ **Organiser:** Ministry of Education and It was Instituted in 1958.
- ◆ **Award given by -** President of India (or) The Vice President of India on 5th September (Teacher’s Day) every year
- ◆ **Purpose -** to give public recognition to meritorious teachers working in primary, middle and secondary schools.
- ◆ **Occasion:** Awards are conferred every year on Teachers’ Day, observed on the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President of India and a great philosopher-educationist.

Do you know?

- ◆ National Education Day is observed on 11th November in honour of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister.

3. 99th birth anniversary of Bhupen Hazarika

Context

- ◆ Recently, the Prime Minister of India penned a heartfelt tribute on the occasion of Bhupen Hazarika's 99th birth anniversary.

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika

- ◆ **Early Life and Education:** Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, also known as the 'Bard of Brahmaputra' and 'Sudhakantha'(the Nightingale), was born on September 8, 1926, in Sadiya, Assam, to Nil Awards and Recognition
- ◆ **Music and Cultural Contributions:** His music reflected nature, love, and fraternity, drawing richly from Assamese landscapes and tribal traditions.
- ◆ **Political and Social Engagement** - He was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1967 and served as President of the Assam Sahitya Sabha in 1993.



Dr. Bhupen Hazarika received numerous national and international honors:

- ◆ Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1992);
- ◆ National Film Award (1975) for Chameli Memsahab;
- ◆ Padma Shri (1977), Padma Bhushan (2001), Padma Vibhushan (2012, posthumous), Bharat Ratna (2019, posthumous);
- ◆ Muktiyoddha Padak (2011, Bangladesh, posthumous).
- ◆ Note - He was honored with commemorative postal stamps and the naming of the **Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Setu, India's longest river bridge.**

Additional Information - Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Setu,

- ◆ It is also known as the **Dhola-Sadiya Bridge.**
- ◆ It is **India's longest river bridge. Spanning 9.15 kilometers**
- ◆ **Constructed across - Lohit River,** a major tributary of the Brahmaputra.
- ◆ It **connects the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh** in the northeastern part of the country.

4. International Day of Sign Languages

Context

- ◆ The International Day of Sign Languages is observed on 23rd September every year

International Day of Sign Languages

- ◆ **Objective - to highlight the importance of sign language in ensuring the human rights of Deaf people worldwide.**
- ◆ **Observed by - UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. India ratified this Convention in 2007.**
- ◆ The date also commemorates the establishment of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) in 1951.
- ◆ **2025 theme- No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights,"**

Do you Know?

- ◆ According to the WFD, there are over 70 million Deaf people worldwide, and more than 80% of them live in developing countries.
- ◆ In India, the 2011 Census recorded about 50 lakh Deaf persons.

5. Seychelles



In News

- ◆ Indian Navy ships INS Tir, INS Shardul, and Indian Coast Guard ship ICGS Sarathi, comprising the First Training Squadron (1TS), arrived in Seychelles.

Seychelles

- ◆ Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands.
- ◆ It is located east of Kenya and northeast of Madagascar.
- ◆ The capital, Victoria, is situated on the island of Mahé.
- ◆ It holds strategic importance for India due to its location along key maritime routes.

Importance for India

- ◆ India and Seychelles share deep-rooted historical ties, with Indian settlers arriving as early as 1770.
- ◆ Bilateral relations have grown steadily, encompassing defence, maritime security, climate resilience, and cultural exchange.
- ◆ Recent engagements include joint projects under grant assistance and collaboration in the International Solar Alliance.

6. Baltic Sea



In News

- ◆ Sweden has accused Russia of being behind a significant rise in instances of GPS signal jamming recorded over the Baltic Sea, raising concerns for aviation in the region.

Baltic Sea

- ◆ The Baltic Sea is one of the seas of the Atlantic Ocean.
- ◆ It is located in Northern Europe, enclosed by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Sweden.
- ◆ It is one of the planet's largest bodies of brackish water, where salt water from the North-East Atlantic blends with fresh water from the surrounding rivers and streams.

7. Papua New Guinea



Context

- Recently, the Indian Navy's indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, INS Kadmatt, led the Fleet Review during Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Day celebrations.

Papua New Guinea

- It is the largest Pacific Island nation.
- The region falls under the seismic 'Ring of Fire'.
- Capital: Port Moresby**
- Official Languages: English, Tok Pisin (a creole), and Hiri Motu.
- Government: Parliamentary democracy, part of the Commonwealth.**

India & Papua New Guinea

- India emphasized that INS Kadmatt's participation reflects its strategic outreach under the **Act East Policy**, aimed at **strengthening ties with Pacific Island nations.**

Additional Information - Ring of Fire

- Known as** - The Ring of Fire also referred to as the **Circum-Pacific Belt** is present along the land borders of the Pacific Ocean.

- Features** - It is characterized by **active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.**
- Significance** - It consists of **75% of Earth's volcanoes i.e. more than 450 volcanoes are located along the Ring of Fire.**
- Reason for the occurrence** - The abundance of volcanoes and earthquakes along the Ring of Fire is due to the frequent movement of tectonic plates in this area.

Additional Information - Recently Erupted

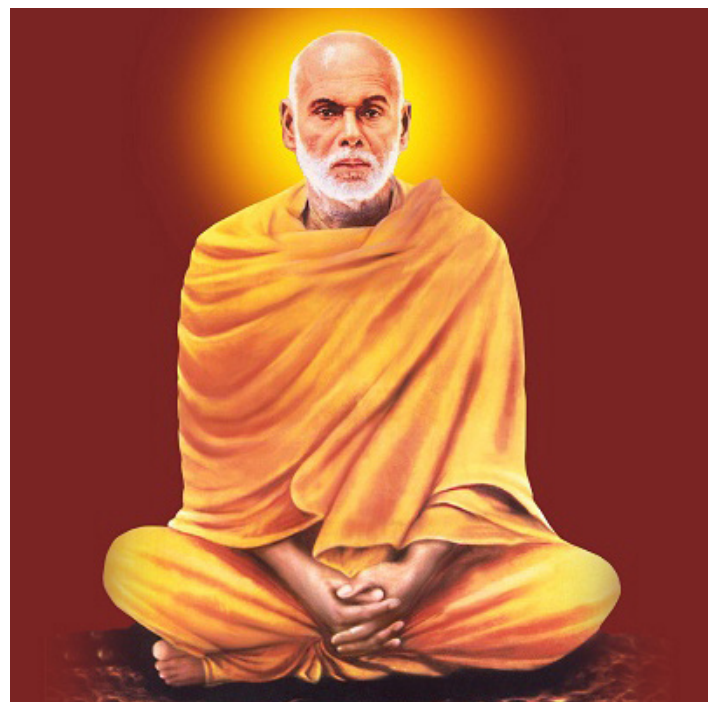
- Sangay Volcano: Ecuador
- Taal Volcano: Philippines
- Mt. Sinabung, Merapi volcano: Indonesia

Volcanoes in India

- Barren Island, Andaman Islands (India's only active volcano)
- Narcondam, Andaman Islands
- Baratang, Andaman Islands
- Deccan Traps, Maharashtra
- Dhinodhar Hills, Gujarat
- Dhosi Hill, Haryana

PERSONALITIES

1. Sree Narayana Guru



In News

- Recently, the birth anniversary of Sree Narayana Guru was observed.

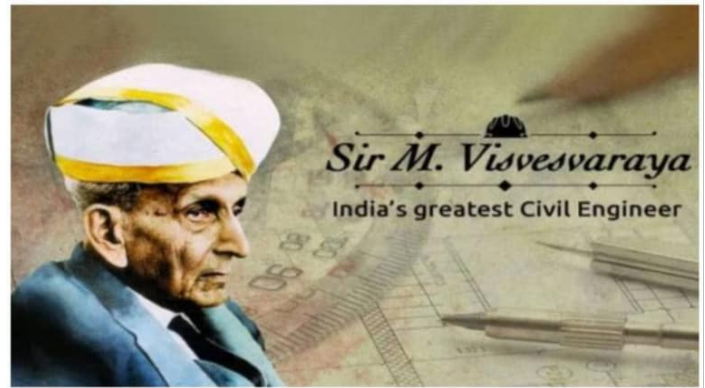
Sree Narayana Guru(1856–1928)

- 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.
- Aruvipuram 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.

2. Sir M Visvesvaraya



Context

- PM Modi paid homage to Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya on his birth anniversary, observed nationwide as Engineers’ Day.

Sir M Visvesvaraya

- Born on** - September 15, 1861.
- He is regarded as one of India’s greatest engineers whose pioneering work revolutionised infrastructure development.
- He served as the Diwan of Mysore and President of the All-India Manufacturers’ Organisation.
- He was conferred with the Bharat Ratna in 1955.

Contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya

- Innovative Flood Management Systems:** After the 1908 Musi River floods, Sir M.Visvesvaraya designed reservoirs like Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar and proposed systematic flood control solutions.
- Pioneering Dam Construction and Irrigation:** As Chief Engineer of Mysore, Sir Visvesvaraya built the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam in 1932, creating Asia’s largest reservoir.
- His automatic sluice gates improved water regulation at multiple dams.
- Literary Works:** Reconstructing India (1920), Planned Economy for India (1936), and Unemployment in India: Its Causes and Cure (1932).
- Autobiography:** Memoirs of my Working Life (1951)

2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA

STATE ISSUES

1. Samruddhi Gram Panchayat Project (SGPP)

News -

- ◆ 205 Gram Panchayats to get high-speed broadband under Samruddhi Gram Panchayat Project (SGPP).

Samruddhi Gram Panchayat Project (SGPP)

- ◆ **Launched in -September 2025**
- ◆ **Objective - to boost digital connectivity and economic opportunities in rural areas.**
- ◆ **Features - It aims to provide high-speed internet to 205 selected gram panchayats using BharatNet's optical fiber cables**
- ◆ **Implementation - Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department,**
- ◆ **Significance-** The goal is to provide high-speed internet to rural areas using optical fibre cables (OFCs).

Additional information - BharatNet

- ◆ The **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** was launched in 2011 and later renamed the **BharatNet Project** in 2015
- ◆ **Implementation - Ministry of Communications.**
- ◆ **Mandate - It aimed at providing high-speed broadband connectivity to every Gram Panchayat (GP) across the country.**
- ◆ **Uniqueness-**It is one of the **largest rural telecom projects in the world**
- ◆ **Significance - to offer affordable broadband access and enable the delivery of e-health, e-education, and e-governance services in rural India.**

2. Siddi community

News -

- ◆ The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru, will be hosting an event showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Siddi community.

Siddi community

- ◆ **Found in -** The Siddi community in Karnataka is a **unique ethnic group of African descent**, primarily residing in the **remote forest areas of the Uttara Kannada and Belagavi districts.**
- ◆ **Uniqueness-** The Siddi people have preserved a **distinct identity that blends their African ancestry with local Indian traditions.**



History and origin

- ◆ **Arrival in India:** The Siddis, also known as **Habshis or Abyssinians**, are the **descendants of Bantu-speaking people from East and Central Africa.**
- ◆ They were **brought to India by Arab, Portuguese, and British traders as slaves, soldiers, and laborers**, beginning as early as the 7th century.
- ◆ **Population:** A significant portion of India's Siddi population, estimated to be around **50,000**, lives in Karnataka.
- ◆ **Religious diversity:** The Siddis of Karnataka follow a **mix of religions, with a plurality following Hinduism, followed by Islam and Christianity.** This diversity has been seamlessly integrated into their communities.
- ◆ **Languages:** While their ancestors spoke African languages, modern Siddis in Karnataka are fluent in local languages like **Kannada and Konkani.**

3. Kali tiger reserve

News-

- ◆ Centre seeks report on 'irregularities' in shifting dwellers from Kali Tiger ReserveKali Tiger Reserve.

Kali Tiger Reserve:

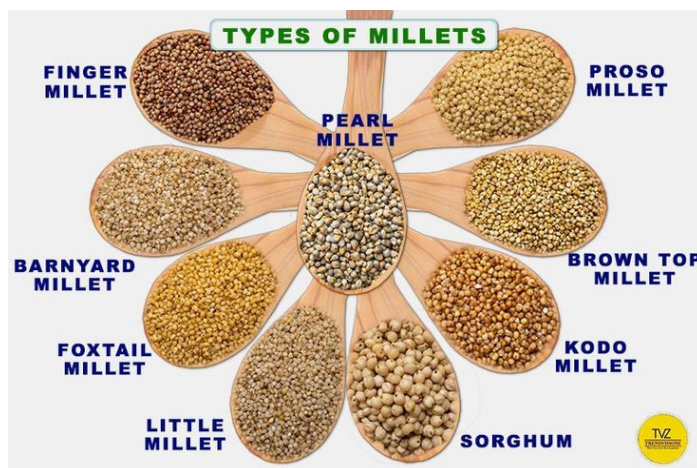
- ◆ **Location -** Kali Tiger Reserve, earlier **known as Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve is located in Uttara Kannada District of Karnataka State.**

- ◆ This belt of **Uttara Kannada district** is a part of the **Western Ghats**.
- ◆ **Protected areas** - The Tiger Reserve comprises of two important protected areas of the region viz., **Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park**.
- ◆ **River: Kali River**, which forms the major source of water for Uttara Kannada, flows through the tiger reserve and hence the name.
- ◆ **Vegetation:** Forests are primarily **moist deciduous and semi-evergreen**, with excellent **patches of evergreen forests** in the westernmost parts as well as in deep valleys.
- ◆ **Flora:** Some common trees and plants here include: **bintangur, Calophyllum wightianum, Malabar tamarind, Garcinia morella, Knema attenuata, Hopea wightiana, Tetrameles nudiflora** etc.
- ◆ **Fauna:** It is known for housing many **tigers, black panthers and elephants**.
- ◆ Other large mammals here are **Indian bison, sloth bear, Indian wild boar, bonnet macaque, northern plains gray langur, gray slender loris, several deer including: barking deer (muntjac), mouse deer (chevrotain), sambar deer and spotted deer (chital or axis deer)**.

Additional Information - Tiger Reserves of Karnataka

- ◆ **Bandipur National Park and Tiger Reserve:** A historically significant reserve, it was once a private hunting ground for the Maharaja of Mysore.
- ◆ **Bhadra Tiger Reserve:** Located in the Western Ghats and named after the Bhadra River, this is another well-known reserve under Project Tiger.
- ◆ **Nagarahole National Park (Rajiv Gandhi National Park):** Situated in the Western Ghats foothills and is an important wildlife area.
- ◆ **Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve (also known as Kali Tiger Reserve):** Located in the Uttara Kannada district, it encompasses the Anshi and Dandeli Forests and is named after the Kali River.
- ◆ **Biligiri Ranganatha Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve:** This reserve connects the hills of Biligiri Ranganatha and the Sagamangalam Forest and is part of an elephant corridor.

4. New high-yielding and climate-resilient millet varieties.



News-

- ◆ The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad has developed eight new high-yielding and climate-resilient millet varieties.

These new varieties are tolerant to both floods and droughts.

High yielding varieties

1. Foxtail millet DFT-3
2. Little Millet - DLtM-5.
3. DBrM-5 Barnyard Millet.
4. DFM-3 Finger Millet.
5. DKM-1 Kodo Millet.
6. DPrM-5 Proso Millet.
7. DSM 4 Sesame.
8. Hybrid sunflower.

Additional Information - Millet Production in India

- ◆ India is the largest producer of millet in the world.
- ◆ It accounts for **20% of global production and 80% of Asia's production**.
- ◆ **Global Distribution:**
- ◆ **India, Nigeria and China are the largest producers of millets** in the world, accounting for more than 55% of the global production.
- ◆ For many years, **India was a major producer of millets**. However, in recent years, millet production has increased dramatically in Africa.

📄 About Millets

- ♦ **Cultivated in** - Millets are that are grown as grain crops, primarily on marginal land in dry areas of **temperate, subtropical and tropical regions**.
- ♦ **Major Millet crops grown in India** - Pearl Millet (Bajra) (highest share), Jowar (Sorghum), and Finger Millet (Mandua/Ragi).
- ♦ **Major producing states** - Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana.

📄 Initiatives taken for promotion of Millet

- ♦ **International Year of Millets** - 2023 was declared as the International Year of Millets (IYOM) by UNGA on India's proposal.
- ♦ **National Year of Millets** celebrated in 2018.
- ♦ Millets are notified as nutri-cereals and included under POSHAN Mission Abhiyan.

5. Raste Gundi Gamana app & E Aasthi digital platforms

📄 News-

- ♦ **The Greater Bengaluru Authority has launched an interactive map service to help citizens view ward boundaries and identify their respective corporations.**
- ♦ 'E-services, including BBMP apps such as **Gundi Gamana, e-Aasthi**, and the online grievance portal, will remain centralised for the time being

📄 Raste Gundi Gamana

- ♦ It is a public-focused mobile app **launched by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)**
- ♦ **Objective - to help citizens report potholes in the city.**
- ♦ The GPS-enabled app, available in English and Kannada,
- ♦ **Significance** - It allows users to upload pictures of potholes and send reports to the **civic body** to expedite repairs and increase accountability

📄 E Aasthi

- ♦ E Aasthi is an online digital platform **introduced by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)**
- ♦ **Objective** - to digitize and streamline

the management of property records in Bangalore.

- ♦ **Features-** It maintains comprehensive, updated digital records of property ownership, including details such as photos of the owner and property, and a unique **Property Identity Number (PID)**.
- ♦ Citizens can apply for property-related services online, including khata registrations, ownership transfers, mutations, and property tax payments, without visiting government offices
- ♦ Property owners can track the status of their applications and receive updates throughout the approval process, increasing transparency.

6. Infant mortality rate of Karnataka



📄 News-

- ♦ The State's infant mortality rate (IMR) fell from 15 in 2022 to 14 in 2023, according to the Sample Registration Survey (SRS), 2023 released this week by the office of the Registrar-General of India.

📄 Connect with the Basics

- ♦ **Infant mortality rate** - It is the number of deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births.
- ♦ It is a key indicator of a country's health status and is influenced by factors like access to prenatal care, living conditions, and socioeconomic status.

Observations -

- ◆ A matter of concern is that **rural areas continue to report a higher number of infant deaths compared to urban regions**. Also, the death rate is high among female babies
- ◆ While **16 female infant deaths per thousand live births were reported in rural areas in Karnataka in 2023**, the rate is 14 in urban regions.
- ◆ Karnataka's IMR is far better than the national average that dropped to 25 in 2023 from 26 in 2022.

7. Upper Krishna project



News-

- ◆ Mr. Siddramaiah said under the third phase of Upper Krishna Project, the height of the Almatti dam will be increased from 519.6 m to 524.25 m to store 130 tmc of water.

Upper Krishna project

- ◆ It is a **major multi-purpose irrigation project** across the Krishna River in Karnataka
- ◆ **Utility to provide irrigation to drought-prone districts such as Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Kalburgi, Yadgir, and Raichur.**
- ◆ **Stage I aims to use 119 tmc of water to irrigate about 425,000 hectares on the left bank of the Krishna River**, with major constructions like the **Almatti and Narayanpur dams**.
- ◆ **Stage II uses 54 tmc to irrigate approximately 197,000 hectares on the right bank**, involving lift irrigation schemes and canal extensions.
- ◆ **Implementing agency - Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited (KBJNL)** is a government-owned company incorporated on 19th August 1994

under the Companies Act 1956 and is wholly owned by the Government of Karnataka.

Additional Information - Krishna river

- ◆ Krishna River System is one of the significant river basins in Peninsular India.
- ◆ With a **total length of about 1,400 kilometres**, the Krishna is one of the longest rivers in India.
- ◆ **The Krishna is the second-largest east-flowing river in Peninsular India.**
- ◆ **Origin** - Krishna River rises at **Mahabaleshwar near the Jor village in Satara district**.
- ◆ **Course** - The Krishna River is bounded by the **Balaghat range on the north**, by the **Eastern Ghats on the south and the east**, and by the **Western Ghats on the west**.

Right Bank Tributaries of the Krishna River are:

1. Venna,
2. Koyna,
3. Panchganga,
4. Dudhganga,
5. Ghataprabha,
6. Malaprabha and
7. Tungabhadra

Left-bank tributaries of the Krishna River are:

1. Bhima,
2. Dindi,
3. Peddavagu,
4. Halia,
5. Musi,
6. Paleru, and
7. Munneru

8. Quantum city

News-

- ◆ The government has allocated 6.17 acres at Hesaraghatta in northwestern Bengaluru for establishing a Quantum City (Q-City).

Quantum city at Hesaraghatta

- ◆ It will have state-of-the-art labs, incubation facilities for start-ups and infrastructure for academic-industry collaboration
- ◆ **Target - By 2035, Karnataka aims to build a \$20 billion quantum economy** through bold initiatives in quantum computing.

Connect with the basics - Computing

- ◆ Definition - A bit (binary digit) is the smallest piece of information storage in computing. Often, a large number of bits is required to convey meaningful information.

Quantum computing

- ◆ **Quantum computing** is a multidisciplinary field comprising aspects of **computer science, physics, and mathematics that utilizes quantum mechanics to solve complex problems faster than on classical computers.**
- ◆ **Quantum mechanics** - It is a science dealing with the behavior of matter and light on the atomic and subatomic scale

Applications

- ◆ **Drug discovery:** Simulating complex molecules to develop new drugs and materials, leading to accelerated medical innovation.
- ◆ **Financial modeling:** Optimizing financial portfolios and managing risk with unparalleled accuracy and speed.
- ◆ **Cryptography:** Breaking existing encryption methods and developing new, quantum-resistant ones.
- ◆ **Machine learning:** Revolutionizing AI by training algorithms on massive datasets much faster, leading to breakthroughs in natural language processing, computer vision, and more.
- ◆ **Materials science:** Designing novel materials with superior properties like high-temperature superconductors or efficient solar cells.

Initiatives by the Government of India

- ◆ **National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications (NM-QTA):**
- ◆ **Quantum Computing Applications Lab (QCAL)**

9. Kagzi lemon



News -

- ◆ The Karnataka State Lime Development Board (KSLDB) plans to open outlets to popularise lemon tea on the lines of Darjeeling and Assam teas.

Kagzi Lemon (*Citrus aurantifolia* Swingle)

- ◆ It is a Kaffir lime variety known for its **high vitamin C, medicinal uses, and culinary importance.**
- ◆ It is particularly known for its juice, which is a **significant source of vitamin C, potassium, and folate.**
- ◆ **State Fruit of Assam:** In February 2024, the Assam government officially declared the Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged 'Kaji Nemu' as the state fruit.
- ◆ **GI Tag:** The Kaji Nemu was awarded a GI tag in 2019.
- ◆ **Economic Significance:** This move is aimed at **promoting the state's agricultural sector, benefiting local farmers, and boosting international exports.**
- ◆ **International Demand:** The GI tag has increased the lemon's demand from countries like the **UK and UAE.**

Additional Information - GI Tagged products of Karnataka

- ◆ Karnataka holds one of the highest numbers of Geographical Indication (GI) tags in India

Handicrafts

1. **Bidriware:** A metal handicraft from Bidar featuring silver inlay work on a blackened alloy of zinc and copper.
2. **Channapatna Toys and Dolls:** Colorful wooden toys made with non-toxic, vegetable-based dyes, from the town of Channapatna, also known as "Gombegala Ooru" or toy town.
3. **Ganjifa Cards of Mysore:** An ancient Indian card game featuring intricate, hand-painted artwork, historically patronized by the Mysore royalty.
4. **Guledgudd Khana:** Handloom fabric known for its special patterns.
5. **Ilkal Sarees:** A traditional saree from North Karnataka where the body and the pallu (the outer end) are woven separately and then joined.
6. **Karnataka Bronzeware:** Traditional bronze

crafts known for their distinct patterns and designs.

7. **Kasuti Embroidery:** A folk embroidery style from Karnataka known for its intricate, rangoli-inspired motifs.
8. **Kinhal Toys:** A traditional wooden craft from the town of Kinhal in Koppal district, with themes primarily based on Hindu mythology.
9. **Kolhapuri Chappal:** Handcrafted leather sandals shared with the state of Maharashtra.
10. **Molakalmuru Sarees:** Silk sarees from the Chitradurga district known for their nature-inspired motifs.
11. **Mysore Rosewood Inlay:** The art of inserting pieces of contrasting materials, such as ivory and mother-of-pearl, into rosewood objects.
12. **Mysore Silk:** Renowned for its high quality and luster, this silk and its sarees are produced exclusively by the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Ltd (KSIC).
13. **Mysore Traditional Paintings:** An elegant school of classical South Indian painting, known for its muted colors and intricate details.
14. **Navalgund Durries:** Hand-woven flat floor coverings featuring colorful designs, including the motifs of peacocks.
15. **Sandur Lambani Embroidery:** A unique embroidery from the Lambani nomadic tribe that combines darning, cross-stitch, and mirror work.
16. **Udupi Sarees:** Handloom cotton sarees from the coastal region of Udupi.

Agricultural products

1. **Appemidi Mango:** A tangy variety of mango primarily used for pickles, known for its fragrance and long shelf life.
2. **Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee:** Coffee beans from Chikmagalur district, where coffee cultivation in India reportedly began.
3. **Bangalore Blue Grapes:** Soft-skinned, juicy grapes with a “foxy” flavor.
4. **Bangalore Rose Onion:** A pungent, deep-pink variety of onion cultivated in the districts surrounding Bangalore.
5. **Byadagi Chilli:** A famous, deep-red and less-spicy variety of chili grown in the Haveri district.

6. **Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee:** Coffee from the Chikmagalur region, where cultivation first began in India.
7. **Coorg Arabica Coffee:** Arabica coffee variety from the Kodagu (Coorg) region.
8. **Coorg Green Cardamom:** A variety of cardamom known for its superior aroma and taste.
9. **Coorg Orange:** A golden-tinged mandarin orange variety from Kodagu.
10. **Devanahalli Pomello:** A citrus fruit known for its sweet taste with a mild tartness.
11. **Gulbarga Tur Dal:** A pigeon pea variety known for its distinctive taste, aroma, and high milling qualities.
12. **Hadagali Malligae:** A fragrant jasmine variety from the Hadagali region.
13. **Indi Lime:** A lime variety with specific geographical and chemical features.
14. **Kamalapur Red Banana:** A special red banana grown exclusively in the Kamalapur village area, valued for its taste and high nutrient content.
15. **Kari Ishad Mango:** A mango variety with a unique flavor and quality.
16. **Malabar Pepper:** Shared with Kerala, this pepper variety is grown in the Monsooned Malabar region.
17. **Monsooned Malabar Arabica and Robusta Coffee:** Coffee beans exposed to monsoon winds, which gives them a unique flavor and aroma.
18. **Mysore Betel Leaf:** A heart-shaped betel leaf known for its smooth texture and pungent taste.
19. **Mysore Malligae:** The most popular of the three jasmine varieties native to Karnataka.
20. **Nanjanagud Banana:** A world-famous banana variety known for its sweet taste and aroma.
21. **Sirsi Supari:** Areca nut grown in the Sirsi region of Uttara Kannada district, characterized by its unique shape, texture, and taste.
22. **Udupi Mattu Gulla Brinjal:** A round, green-striped brinjal with thin skin and few seeds, traditionally used in Udupi cuisine.
23. **Udupi Malligae:** Another fragrant jasmine variety native to the coastal region of Udupi.

Manufactured products

1. **Dharwad Pedha:** A milk-based sweet with a unique history dating back to the early 19th century.
2. **Mysore Agarbathi:** Incense sticks made with indigenous ingredients like sandalwood and herbs.
3. **Mysore Sandal Soap:** The only soap in the world made with 100% pure sandalwood oil, produced by the Government Soap Factory in Bangalore.
4. **Mysore Sandalwood Oil:** Perfume oil distilled from the sandalwood tree, with production dating back to the early 20th century.

10.E-Swathu

News-

- ◆ Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) officials have been directed to publish the final guidelines to implement E-Swathu in gram panchayat limits across the State.

E-Swathu

- ◆ **Launched in** - E Swathu is an online portal launched by the Government of Karnataka in 2021.
- ◆ **Objective** - It enables the citizens to get the ownership details of properties situated in rural areas of Karnataka.
- ◆ **Managed by** - the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- ◆ **Significance** - It has helped reduce the forgeries related to land and property transactions. It also regulates registrations of unauthorized plots

11. Cantonment new Railway Colony area- Biodiversity heritage site



News -

- ◆ The Department of Forest has declared the 8.61-acre Cantonment Railway Colony area, containing 371 trees from 50 different species, as a Biodiversity Heritage Site.

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

- ◆ **Definition** - They are specific locations with rich, unique, and ecologically fragile ecosystems, including terrestrial, coastal, inland, or marine areas.
- ◆ **Notified by** - These are areas notified by state governments under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- ◆ **India's first BHS** was Nallur Tamarind Grove in Karnataka in 2007.
- ◆ **Objective** - It aims to improve local livelihoods and conserve biodiversity through community participation via Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) of Karnataka

Biodiversity Heritage Site	Location	Year Accorded	Area/Details	Significance
Nallur Tamarind Grove	Bengaluru	2007	54 acres	India's first BHS; ancient tamarind trees, rich flora and fauna
Hogrekan Shola Forest	Chikkamagaluru	Notified pre-2020	Part of shola forests, wildlife corridor	Connects Kudremukha and Bhadra Sanctuaries; diverse vegetation
University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK)	Bengaluru	Notified pre-2020	Large green campus	Ecologically important urban biodiversity hotspot
Ambaragudda	Shivamogga	Notified pre-2020	Shola forest and grasslands	Important for endemic species and conservation
Mamadapura Reserve Forest	Vijayapura	2024	Approximately 1494 acres	Also called Shri Siddeshwara Swamiji BHS; deciduous forest with diverse flora and fauna

12. Project Khushi

News -

- ◆ The Bengaluru city police, in association with Happiest Health, launched 'Project Khushi'.

Project Khushi

- ◆ **Mandate** -It is a health and wellness programme designed to help police personnel prevent and manage lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and metabolic disorders.

13. Chief Minister's Adivasi Gruha Bhagya scheme

News -

- ◆ The Cabinet approved a ₹160 crore package for 11 tribal communities.
- ◆ Soliga, Hasalaru, Gowdalu, Siddi, Kudiya, Malekudiya, Kadukuruba, Iruliga, Betta Kuruba, Yarava, Paniyan and others, for a housing scheme to 6,856 households under the Chief Minister's Adivasi Gruha Bhagya scheme.

Chief Minister's Adivasi Gruha Bhagya scheme

- ◆ **Launched in** - It was started in 2023 as part of Karnataka's focused efforts to improve tribal welfare and housing.
- ◆ **Objective:** To provide pucca houses with basic amenities to Scheduled Tribe (ST) families in Karnataka, improving their living conditions and socioeconomic status by ensuring safe and dignified housing.
- ◆ **Eligibility:**
 - ◆ Applicants must belong to the **Scheduled Tribe community**.
 - ◆ The family should be a **permanent resident of Karnataka**.
 - ◆ **Should not already own a pucca house**.
 - ◆ Priority is given to **economically weaker tribal households** without housing facilities.

- ♦ **Valid tribal certificate (ST certificate), proof of residence,** and other government-required documents are necessary.
- ♦ **Ministry:** The scheme is administered under the Department of Social Welfare and Tribal Welfare, Government of Karnataka.

14. ASTraM app



ASTraM

News -

- ♦ **ASTraM app and the 'Gundi Gamana' to be integrated to monitor potholes, flooding**

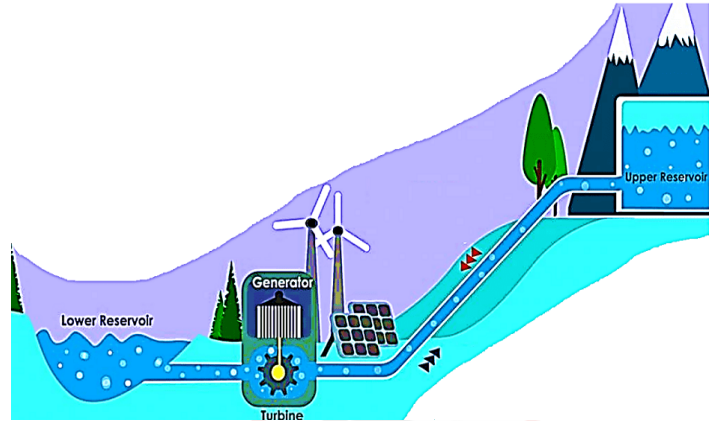
ASTraM app

- ♦ **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.**

15. Sharavati pumped storage



News -

- ♦ **Work on Sharavati project will start soon, says George**

Sharavathi Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project

- ♦ **Location - It is a pumped storage power project on the Sharavathi River in Karnataka.**
- ♦ **Total power generation capacity - 2000 MW**
- ♦ **Uniqueness - It stands as the largest pumped storage power generation unit in the country.**

It will be built between two existing reservoirs.

- ♦ **The Talakalale dam, which stands at 62.48 meters tall, will be the upper reservoir.**
- ♦ **This dam currently helps balance water for the existing Sharavathy hydroelectric project.**
- ♦ **The Gerusoppa dam will be the lower reservoir, and it is about 64 meters tall.**
- ♦ **Water will be pumped uphill during the off-season using grid power and released downhill during peak demand to generate electricity.**
- ♦ **Modelled on the lines of Telangana's Kaleshwaram project, it also aims to supply drinking water to Bengaluru.**
- ♦ **Concerns - This project will destroy the ancient monuments of the 16th century that are the legacy of Rani Chennabhairadevi.**

Rani Chennabhairadevi

- ♦ **She ruled from 1552 to 1606 from her capital Gerusoppa.**
- ♦ **She is the longest reigning queen in Indian history.**
- ♦ **She also fought the Portuguese who gave her the title 'Rainha de Pimenta' that translates into 'The Queen of Pepper' as her kingdom**
- ♦ **She was known for exporting spices to European and Arab countries.**

Additional Information - Sharavathi River

- ◆ It is a west flowing river of Karnataka state.
- ◆ A large part of the river basin lies in the Western Ghats.
- ◆ **Course - Rising in the Western Ghats**, it flows in a northwesterly direction to the Arabian Sea at Honavar in Uttara Kannada District.
- ◆ **Length** - The length of the river is 128 km, and the river basin covers 2,985 sq km.
- ◆ **Waterfalls** - On its way, the Sharavathi forms the Jog Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in India, where the river falls from a height of 253 m.
- ◆ **Major Tributaries:** Nandihole, Haridravathi, Mavinahole, Hilkunji, Yennehole, Hurlihole, and Nagodihole.

16. New State textile policy of Karnataka - 2025-2030

News -

- ◆ Karnataka will soon formulate a Textile Policy 2025-2030

State textile policy of Karnataka - 2025-2030

- ◆ **Aim** - to attract investments in the textile and readymade garment sector and generate employment opportunities to about 2 lakh persons,
- ◆ **Note** - The government had decided to merge Handloom Development Corporation and Karnataka State Textiles Infrastructure Development Corporation

Key features include:

- ◆ **Technical textiles:** The new policy will emphasize the promotion of technical textiles.
- ◆ **Infrastructure development:** The state is planning new textile parks under a public-private partnership (PPP) model in the Kittur Karnataka, Kalyana Karnataka (Raichur), and Mysuru regions.
- ◆ **Mega textile park:** A 1,000-acre mega textile park is also being established in Kalaburagi, with plans to generate significant employment.
- ◆ **Skill development:** The state intends to establish a textile research center in Belagavi to foster innovation and talent.

17. Bengaluru Water Resilience Project

News -

- ◆ Greater Bengaluru authority to undertake Bengaluru Water Resilience Project. The World Bank approved a loan of \$426 million for this project.

Bengaluru Water Resilience Project

- ◆ It is a World Bank-funded initiative

Objectives -

1. to enhance the city's water security and climate resilience.
2. to mitigate urban flooding and address the long-term water stress faced by the city.

Features -

- ◆ **Strengthen infrastructure:** The project aims to improve stormwater drain (SWD) infrastructure to prevent flooding.
- ◆ **Improve water security:** The initiative will focus on rainwater harvesting and watershed development
- ◆ **Revitalize lakes:** The project will help clean up and reintegrate Bengaluru's lake system
- ◆ **Modernize technology:** It incorporates advanced technology for flood modeling, management of borewells, and monitoring water quality.

Key partners and stakeholders - The project involves a collaboration between several public and private agencies:

1. **Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA):** The primary implementing body.
2. **World Bank:** Provides significant funding and technical assistance.
3. **Indian Institute of Science (IISc):** Will update its Urban Flood model for Bengaluru and provide scientific expertise.
4. **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M):** Supports the project with advanced technology for processing and visualization.
5. **Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB):** A key stakeholder involved in water and sewerage management.
6. **Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC):** Offers science and technology inputs and capacity-building

support.

7. **WELL Labs and CSTEP:** Contribute strategies and ideas for enhancing the project's design and implementation.
8. **Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd. (BSMILE):** A special purpose vehicle for managing the project's implementation.

18. ELEVATE 2025, ELEVATE Unnati 2025, and ELEVATE Minorities 2025.

News -

- ◆ State govt. extends deadline for receiving applications for start-up programmes

ELEVATE 2025, ELEVATE Unnati 2025, and ELEVATE Minorities 2025.

- ◆ It is an initiative by the Government of Karnataka
- ◆ **Objective** - to support early-stage startups through funding, mentorship, and investor connections.

1. **ELEVATE 2025 is the general program,**
2. **ELEVATE Unnati 2025 is specifically for startups with SC/ST founders,**
3. **ELEVATE Minorities 2025 targets startups led by minority communities in Karnataka.**

ELEVATE 2025

- ◆ **General Cohort:** This is the standard program for innovative startups that meet the eligibility criteria.
- ◆ **Eligibility:** Startups must be a private limited company, partnership firm, or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) registered in Karnataka, under 10 years old, with a turnover not exceeding ₹100 Crores, and working on innovation.
- ◆ **Support:** Offers grant-in-aid up to ₹50 Lakhs, mentorship, and investor connections.

ELEVATE Unnati 2025

- ◆ **Target Audience:** Specifically designed for startups with founders from Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities.
- ◆ **Eligibility:** Shares the same general eligibility criteria as the main ELEVATE program, with the added requirement that at least one director or partner belongs to the SC/ST community.

ELEVATE Minorities 2025

- ◆ **Target Audience:** Focused on startups led by members of minority communities as defined

by the Karnataka jurisdiction.

- ◆ **Eligibility:** Must meet the general eligibility criteria, with the additional requirement that **at least one director or partner belongs to a minority community.**

19. The Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025,

News-

- ◆ Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has returned the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025, seeking clarification from the State government on its proposal to reduce the size of buffer zones for smaller waterbodies.

The Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025,

- ◆ **Mandate-**It was introduced to amend the existing Act to **define graded buffer zones around tanks based on their size**, from 0 meters for the smallest tanks to 30 meters for those over 100 acres.

Key aspects of the Bill

- ◆ **Graded buffer zones:** The Bill proposes buffer zones that vary based on the size of the water body.
- ◆ Tanks up to 0.05 acres (5 guntas) would have a 0-meter buffer zone.
- ◆ Tanks over 100 acres would have a 30-meter buffer zone.
- ◆ Intermediate buffer zones are defined for tanks between these sizes.
- ◆ **Purpose of reduced zones:** The amendment aimed to permit construction activities like roads, bridges, and utility lines within the buffer zones of smaller tanks.

20. KMF launches Nandini products in US at World Kannada Summit

News -

- ◆ The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) launched its signature products Nandini ghee and sweets — in the United States at the eighth NAVIKA World Kannada Summit 2025 in Lakeland, Florida.

8th NAVIKA World Kannada Summit

- ♦ **Venue - Lakeland, Florida.**
- ♦ **Organized by - North America Vishwa Kannada Association (NAVIKA),**
- ♦ **Objective - The event was designed to celebrate and preserve Kannada culture and connect the global Kannadiga community**

21. Deepika Student Scholarship

News -

- ♦ Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched the 'Deepika Student Scholarship' programme of the Department of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Azim Premji Foundation.

Deepika Student Scholarship

- ♦ **Objective - to support higher education of girl students.**
- ♦ **Features - The scholarship provides ₹30,000 per year to girl students who have completed SSLC and Pre-University Course (PUC) in government schools and colleges and have enrolled in any general degree, professional degree, or diploma course.**
- ♦ **It will benefit over 37,000 students starting 2025-26.**
- ♦ **If more than 37,000 eligible students enroll, the government will provide scholarships to all qualified applicants**

22.N. V. Prasad Committee

- ♦ **News - It is a high-level committee formed by the Karnataka government to examine and propose regulations for bike taxi services in the state.**

N. V. Prasad Committee

- ♦ The committee was established following a Karnataka High Court order in April 2025, which mandated the suspension of bike taxi services until clear rules were in place.

23.Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act (K-ESMA), 2013.

News -

- ♦ The State government has notified 12 functions in Bengaluru city, essentially solid waste

management, water supply, public health, ambulance and crematorium services, among others, under the Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act (K-ESMA), 2013.

Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act (K-ESMA), 2013,

- ♦ **Mandate - It prohibits strikes and lockouts in certain services to ensure their uninterrupted delivery to the public.**
- ♦ The state government can invoke this law during periods of disruption to maintain public safety and daily life.

Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance (Amendment) Act, 2025,

Key provisions

Prohibition of strikes

- ♦ The government can ban strikes in specific essential services by issuing a general or special order.
- ♦ Any strike that begins, continues, or is declared in an essential service after this order is made is illegal.

Services covered

- ♦ Initially, the law specifically covered:
 - ♦ Water or electricity services (including generation, supply, and distribution).
 - ♦ Motor vehicle transport services for passengers and goods.
- ♦ The government can also declare any other service as "essential" if a work stoppage would cause hardship to the public or disrupt public utility services. Recently added services include solid waste management, waste collection, and municipal waterworks.

Duration

- ♦ An order prohibiting a strike is initially valid for one year.
- ♦ The government can extend the prohibition for an additional six months if deemed necessary in the public interest.

Penalties for violations

- ♦ Individuals who participate in or support illegal strikes can face severe consequences, including:

- ♦ **Illegal strikers:** Up to one year of imprisonment or a fine of up to ₹5,000, or both.
- ♦ **Instigators:** Instigating or inciting a strike can result in the same penalties of up to one year in prison or a ₹5,000 fine, or both.
- ♦ **Financial aid:** Providing financial support for an illegal strike is also punishable with a jail term of up to one year or a fine of up to ₹5,000, or both.
- ♦ **Arrest without warrant:** The police have the power to arrest anyone suspected of committing an offense under the Act without a warrant.
- ♦ **Disciplinary action:** Penalties under the Act are in addition to any departmental disciplinary action that may be taken against the employee.

NIMHANS set to roll out two new initiatives for elderly mental healthcare

News - To bridge the widening treatment gap in geriatric mental health, NIMHANS is set to roll out two pioneering initiatives —

1. **NIMHANS–Vayomanasa Sanjeevani (VMS) Gruha**, a community-based outreach programme, and
2. **Post-Diagnostic Dementia Care Centre** developed in collaboration with **Dementia India Alliance (DIA)**.

NIMHANS–VMS Gruha programme

- ♦ **Objective** - It will take **specialised psychiatric services directly to the homes of elderly citizens.**

Additional Information - Karnataka State Dementia Action Plan

- ♦ **Launched by** - The **State Health Department, in association with NIMHANS and Dementia India Alliance (DIA)**, is all set to launch a ‘Karnataka State Dementia Action Plan’.
- ♦ **Dementia is an umbrella term encompassing diseases that affect memory, cognitive abilities and behavior, hindering daily activities.**
- ♦ **Alzheimer’s disease is the most common type of dementia.**
- ♦ The action plan is likely to be launched on **September 21, which is observed as World**

Alzheimer’s Day.

- ♦ The month of **September is observed as World Alzheimer’s awareness month.**

24. Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP)

News -

- ♦ The Department of Electronics, IT and BT unveiled a ₹1,000-crore **Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP)** to drive innovation across the State.

Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP)

- ♦ The programme is designed to catalyse innovation, create 5 lakh jobs, and build robust start-up ecosystems
- ♦ It also aims to build equitable economic growth across the State, beyond Bengaluru.
- ♦ LEAP is conceived as the primary engine to unlock the untapped potential in clusters like Mysuru-Chamarajanagar, Mangaluru-Udupi, Hubballi-Belagavi-Dharwad, Tumakuru, Kalaburagi, and Shivamogga,

25.NIMHANS launches AYUSH-MANN

News -

- ♦ The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, launched **AYUSH-MANN.**

NIMHANS launches AYUSH-MANN

- ♦ **Aim :** enhance public awareness on the role of integrative approaches in the treatment of mental health and neurological disorders

26.State Skill Development Policy 2025–32

News -

- ♦ The Karnataka Cabinet approved the **State Skill Development Policy 2025–32** with a funding requirement of ₹4,432.5 crore over seven years.

Key features of the policy

Strengthening institutional infrastructure

- ♦ **Modernization of ITIs:** Upgrading Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and expanding Government Tool Room & Training Centres

(GTTCs) and Karnataka German Technical Training Institutes (KGTTIs).

- ◆ **Future-ready training:** Introducing courses in high-demand areas like automation, robotics, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, and cybersecurity.
- ◆ **Improved facilities:** Building new infrastructure, fully functional workshops, and specialized skill labs in government ITIs. This addresses the issue of 26 government ITIs that currently lack their own buildings.

Education and industry integration

- ◆ The policy aims to integrate vocational education into mainstream schooling and enhance collaboration with the industry through apprenticeships and training.
- ◆ It also includes provisions for international workforce mobility through language training and global certifications.

Leveraging technology

- ◆ A digital portal with AI-driven tools will be established for training, assessment, and career guidance.

Inclusivity and targeted support

- ◆ The policy focuses on gender-inclusive skill development with targets for female enrollment and fee waivers. Special interventions are also planned for women, persons with disabilities, marginalized communities, the urban poor, and informal sector workers.

27. State records highest maternal mortality in 2023;

News -

- ◆ According to the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2023, released this month, Karnataka's MMR has shot up to 68 deaths per one lakh live births in 2021-23 from 58 in 2020-22.
- ◆ **Maternal mortality rate** - It is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births during a specific time period.
- ◆ **World Health Organization (WHO) definition-** It is the death of a woman during pregnancy or within 42 days of the termination of pregnancy.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Committees

1. **P.N. Desai Committee** - to probe alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).
2. **M. Vijay Bhaskar** - to recommend reforms in the state's higher agricultural education.
3. **Keshav Narayana Commission report** - to investigate the alleged suicide of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) M.K. Ganapathy in 2016.
4. **M Govinda Rao Committee** - to assess the state's regional inequalities and recommend measures for more balanced development.
5. **B.K. Singh** - To investigate allegations of "vote theft" or "voter fraud" in the Aland Assembly constituency in Karnataka.

AWARDS

1. National Teachers Award 2025.

- ◆ **Awardee** - K.S. Madhusudan is a teacher at Government Higher Primary School, Hinakal, Mysuru,
- ◆ **Achievement** - He was honored by the President of India for transforming his government school with technology-driven initiatives, especially the "M Lounge Studio" (Meet, Make, Marvel).

Additional Information - National Teachers' Award

- ◆ It is an annual Indian award **presented by the President of India**
- ◆ **Objective-** to honor some of the country's **finest teachers.**
- ◆ The award ceremony is held on September 5th every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan,

a renowned philosopher and India's second president

2. Anuparna Roy wins best director award at Venice festival

- ◆ **Award Name: Best Director Award (Orizzonti section, 2025)**
- ◆ **Awardee: Anuparna Roy**
- ◆ **Awarding Organisation: Venice International Film Festival**

Additional information :

- ◆ She was the first Indian director to receive this award in this category.
- ◆ The award was for her debut feature film, "Songs of Forgotten Trees."

3. Award in B. Saroja Devi's name

- ◆ News - The State government has instituted an award in the name of actor B. Saroja Devi.

About the new award -

- ◆ The award titled "Abhinaya Saraswati" will be given to women who have rendered a minimum of 25 years of service in the Kannada cine world.
- ◆ The award will carry a cash prize of ₹1 lakh and a silver plaque.

4. Karnataka ratna award

- ◆ **Award Name:** Karnataka Ratna Award
- ◆ **Awardee:** B. Saroja Devi (posthumously) and Dr. Vishnuvardhan (posthumously)
- ◆ **Awarding Organisation:** Government of Karnataka

About Karnataka ratna award

- ◆ It is the **highest civilian honour of the State of Karnataka.**
- ◆ The award is given in recognition of a person's extraordinary **contribution in any field, such as literature, cinema, politics, science, medicine, music, social service, and education.**
- ◆ It was **instituted in 1992** by the Government of Karnataka, during the **tenure of Chief Minister S. Bangarappa.**
- ◆ The award comprises a gold medal weighing **50**

grams, a citation, a memento, and a shawl.

- ◆ With Vishnuvardhan and Saroja Devi being conferred the Karnataka Ratna, the number of recipients of the award has risen to 11.
- ◆ **Kuvempu was the first Karnataka Ratna awardee**

Karnataka Ratna awardees

Winner	Field	Year
Kuvempu	Literature	1992
Dr. Rajkumar	Cinema	1992
S. Nijalingappa	Politics	1999
C. N. R. Rao	Science	2000
Devi Shetty	Medicine	2001
Bhimsen Joshi	Music	2005
Shivakumara Swami	Social service	2007
Javare Gowda	Education and literature	2008
Veerendra Heggade	Social service	2009
Puneeth Rajkumar	Cinema and social service	2022
B. Saroja Devi	Cinema	2025
Dr. Vishnuvardhan	Cinema	2025

5. Mohanlal to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- ◆ **Award Name:** Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023
- ◆ **Awardee:** Mohanlal
- ◆ **Awarding Organisation:** Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India

Additional Information - Dadasaheb Phalke award

- ◆ The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is **India's highest award in cinema.**
- ◆ It was **started in 1969** by the Government of India.
- ◆ The award honors **Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, known as the father of Indian cinema.**

- ◆ **Phalke made India's first full-length feature film, Raja Harishchandra, in 1913.**
- ◆ The award is for **lifetime outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.**
- ◆ It includes a **Golden Lotus medallion (Swarna Kamal), a shawl, a citation, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh.**
- ◆ The first winner of the award in 1969 was actress Devika Rani.

6. BBMP's e-Khata wins National Award 2025

- ◆ Award Name: National eGovernance Award 2025
- ◆ **Awardee: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) e-Khata initiative**
- ◆ **Awarding Organization: Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India (at the 28th National eGovernance Awards)**
- ◆ **Additional Information:** The award was presented at the 28th National Conference on e-Governance held in Visakhapatnam.
- ◆ The award recognizes innovative digital governance initiatives that improve service delivery to citizens at the grassroots level.

BBMP's e-Khata wins National Award 2025

- ◆ Award Name: National eGovernance Award 2025
- ◆ **Awardee: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) e-Khata initiative**
- ◆ **Awarding Organization: Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India (at the 28th National eGovernance Awards)**

E- KHATA

- ◆ **Objective:** To digitize and provide an electronic version of property ownership records and tax details for properties under BBMP jurisdiction.
- ◆ **Year Started:** July 1, 2025.
- ◆ **Eligibility:** Property owners within the jurisdiction of BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) who wish to register, sell, transfer, or update property records must obtain e-Khata.
- ◆ **Implementing Agency:** Bruhat Bengaluru

Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) through its e-Aasthi digital property record management system.

7. 71st National Film Awards

News -

- ◆ **The 71st National Film Awards ceremony was held on September 23, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.**
- ◆ The awards were presented by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, in the presence of eminent film personalities and industry stalwarts.

Acting Awards

- ◆ **Best Male Actor:** Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
- ◆ **Best Female Actor:** Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway)
- ◆ **Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role:** Vijayaraghavan (Pookkaalam - Malayalam), Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar (Parking - Tamil)
- ◆ **Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role:** Urvashi (Ullozhukku - Malayalam), Janki Bodiwala (Vash - Gujarati)
- ◆ **Best Child Artistes:**
 - ◆ Sukriti Veni Bandreddi (Gandhi Tatha Chettu - Telugu)
 - ◆ Kabir Khandare (Gypsy - Marathi)
 - ◆ Treesha Thosar, Shrinivas Pokale, Bhargav Jagtap (Naal 2 - Marathi)

Film Awards

- ◆ **Best Feature Film:** 12th Fail
- ◆ **Best Direction:** Sudipto Sen (The Kerala Story - Hindi)
- ◆ **Best Debut Film of a Director:** Ashish Bende (Aatmapamphlet - Marathi)
- ◆ **Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment:** Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (Directed by Karan Johar)
- ◆ **Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values:** Sam Bahadur (Directed by Meghna Gulzar)
- ◆ **Best Children's Film:** Naal 2 (Marathi, directed by Sudhakar Reddy Yakkanti)
- ◆ **Best Film in Animation, VFX, Gaming and Comic:** Hanu-Man (Telugu)

Technical Awards

- ◆ **Best Cinematography:** Prasantanu Mohapatra (The Kerala Story - Hindi)
- ◆ **Best Screenplay:**
 - ◆ Sai Rajesh Neelam (Baby - Telugu)
 - ◆ Parking (Tamil)
 - ◆ Chaleya (Song in Jawan - Hindi)
- ◆ **Best Dialogue Writer:** Deepak Kingrani (Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai - Hindi)

Music Awards

- ◆ **Best Male Singer:** P.V.N.S. Rohit (Premisthunna in Baby - Telugu)
- ◆ **Best Female Singer:** Shilpa Rao (Premisthunna in Baby - Telugu)
- ◆ **Best Music Direction:**
 - ◆ G.V. Prakash Kumar (Vaathi - Tamil)
 - ◆ Harshavardhan Rameshwar (Animal - Hindi)
- ◆ **Best Lyrics:** Karsarla Shyam (Ooru Palleturu in Balagam - Telugu)

Best Regional Films

- ◆ Assamese: Rongatapu 1982
- ◆ Bengali: Deep Fridge
- ◆ Tamil: Parking
- ◆ Kannada: Kandeelu
- ◆ Marathi: Shamchi Aai
- ◆ Odia: Puskara
- ◆ Punjabi: Godday Godday Chaa
- ◆ Telugu: Bhagavanth Kesari

SPORTS

1. India won the Asia Cup 2025 in men's hockey and Archery

- ◆ Sport - Men's Field Hockey (Asia Cup) and Archery (Compound event)
- ◆ Winner - India
- ◆ Runner-up - South Korea (men's hockey);

2. Indian men shoot gold in the compound event

- ◆ News - India's men's compound archery team won its maiden gold medal at the 2025 World Archery Championships in Gwangju, South Korea.

- ◆ Sport - Men's Compound Archery Team Event
- ◆ Winner - India (Rishabh Yadav, Aman Saini, Prathamesh Fuge)
- ◆ Runner-up - France
- ◆ **India's achievement** - This was **India's first-ever gold medal** in the men's compound team event at the **World Archery Championships**.

DEFENCE

1. Navy's latest base INS Aravali commissioned in Gurugram

- ◆ INS Aravali is the Indian Navy's new **land-based information and communication centre**, not a naval vessel.
- ◆ It was **commissioned in Gurugram, Haryana**, on September 12, 2025,
- ◆ **Objective** - to strengthen India's maritime domain awareness (MDA) capability

2. IAF's iconic MiG-21 fighter to fly into sunset after six decades of service

Mig-21

- ◆ It is a **supersonic jet fighter aircraft**.
- ◆ It was **designed by** the Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau (OKB) of the erstwhile **Soviet Union**.
- ◆ **First inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1963**
- ◆ The MiG-21 participated in nearly every war or conflict India has faced since **1963, the 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan wars, the 1999 Kargil War, the Balakot airstrikes in 2019**, and most recently, **Operation Sindoor**

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Alzheimer's Day

- ◆ **Observed day:** September 21
- ◆ **Observed date:** September 21, 2025
- ◆ **Observing organization:** Alzheimer's Disease

International (ADI) and global Alzheimer's organizations, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO)

- ♦ **Objective:** To create awareness about Alzheimer's disease, fight stigma, promote early diagnosis, and support families affected by dementia
- ♦ **2025 theme:** "Ask About Dementia"

2. National Teachers day

- ♦ **Observed day:** Teachers' Day (India)
- ♦ **Observed date:** September 5
- ♦ **Observing organization:** Government of India; Ministry of Education
- ♦ **Objective:** To honor Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birthday and recognize the contribution of teachers in nation-building
- ♦ **2025 theme:** "Empowering Teachers for a Resilient Future"

3. Hindi Diwas (India)

- ♦ **Observed date:** September 8
- ♦ **Observing organization:** Government of India; Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture
- ♦ **Objective:** To celebrate the adoption of Hindi as one of the official languages of India and promote the language nationwide
- ♦ **2025 theme:** "Hindi: Bridging India's Linguistic Diversity"

4. Engineers' Day (India)

- ♦ **Observed date:** September 15
- ♦ **Observing organization:** Institution of Engineers (India), Government of India
- ♦ **Objective:** To honor the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and celebrate the contribution of engineers to the country's development
- ♦ **2025 theme:** "Engineering Sustainable Progress"

5. Hyderabad Liberation Day (India)

- ♦ **Observed date:** September 17
- ♦ **Observing organization:** Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

- ♦ **Objective:** To commemorate the liberation of Hyderabad from Nizam rule and its integration into the Indian Union in 1948.
- ♦ to honour the courage and sacrifices of those involved in Operation Polo and the anti-Nizam movement.
- ♦ **2025 theme:** "Unity in Action, Dignity in Freedom"

6. International Day of Peace

- ♦ **Observed date:** September 21
- ♦ **Observing organization:** United Nations
- ♦ **Objective:** To promote peace among nations and peoples around the world
- ♦ **2025 theme:** "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All"

7. World Ozone Day

- ♦ **Observed date:** September 16
- ♦ **Observing organization:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- ♦ **Objective:** To promote actions to protect the ozone layer and increase awareness about ozone depletion
- ♦ **2025 theme:** "Ozone Layer Protection: A Collective Responsibility"

8. World Pharmacists Day

- ♦ **Observed date:** September 25
- ♦ **Observing organization:** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)
- ♦ **Objective:** To recognize the role of pharmacists in healthcare and promote pharmacy services globally
- ♦ **2025 theme:** "Pharmacists: Advancing Health Together"

9. World Tourism Day

- ♦ **Observed date:** September 27
- ♦ **Observing organization:** United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- ♦ **Objective:** To raise awareness on the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political, and economic value

- ◆ 2025 theme: “Tourism for Inclusive Growth”

10. India's first Sustainable Aviation Fuel.

- ◆ News - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) started commercial production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel at its refinery in Panipat, Haryana.
- ◆ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has included **Sustainable Aviation Fuel** in its biofuels policy and encourages production and blending to reduce carbon emissions.

11. 8th India International Tea Convention (IITC) 2025

- ◆ News - The 8th India International Tea Convention (IITC) 2025 held from September 18 to 20, 2025, in Kochi, Kerala,

Additional Information - Indian Tea Industry

- ◆ India is the **2nd largest tea producer and largest black tea producer.**
- ◆ **Export destinations - Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia etc.** India is the **4th largest tea exporter in the World.**
- ◆ **Employment** - The Indian tea Industry is employing **1.16 million workers directly.**
- ◆ **Note - Assam grows about 55% of the teas** produced in India. India's tea production has increased by 39% in 2022 from 2008.

4. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. September month MCQs

- 1). Recently Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held at,
A). Shanghai
B). Tianjin
C). Beijing
D). Chengdu
- 2). Consider the following statements
a). Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Belarus, Uzbekistan
b). China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Japan
c). China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India
d). USA, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
Which of the above pairs is/are not the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
A). only 1 statement
B). only 2 statements
C). All of the above
D). none of the above
- 3). The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) secretariat located at,
A). Shanghai
B). Chengdu
C). Beijing
D). Tianjin
- 4). Consider the following statements
a). SCO is an intergovernmental organization, to promote regional cooperation to curb terrorism, separatism, and extremism in the central Asian region.
b). It is a permanent body in the UNO
Which of the above is/ are correct?
A). only a
B). only b
C). Both
D). none

- 5). “RATS” (Regional Anti- Terrorist Structure) is associated with which of the following organizations?
 A). UNO
 B). BRICS
 C). ASEAN
 D). SCO
- 6). Doklam Plateau, Galwan Valley and Tawang Valley are,
 A). Territories in China, claimed by the India
 B). Territories in India, claimed by the China
 C). Territories in Pakistan, claimed by the India
 D). Territories in India, claimed by the Pakistan
- 7). The Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner of India, who conducts the “Population Census”, comes under which of the following ministries?
 A). Prime Minister
 B). President of India
 C). Ministry of Home Affairs
 D). Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation
- 8). Consider the following statements
 a). Population census-2027, will be the first digital census and collect data on caste.
 b). Historically, India’s first census was Conducted in 1871, under the Census Commissioner of India W. C. Plowden.
 c). Independent India’s first census was held in 1951 and since then it has conducted the first year of every decade.
 Which of the above is /are not correct?
 A). only a
 B). only b
 C). a and b
 D). a and c
- 9). Consider the following statements
 a). The Constitution of India does not mandate that Census enumeration is carried out.
 b). The Census of India Act, 1948 does specify its timing or periodicity.
 Which of the above is /are correct?
 A). only a
 B). only b
 C). a and b
 D). None
- 10). “Adi Vaani” is associated with which of the following
 A). India’s first AI powered translation tool for tribal languages.
 B). India’s first nano robotic for multi purpose.
 C). India’s first AI powered communication satellite.
 D). India’s first AI powered telemedicine.
- 11). Consider the following statements
 a). “Adi Vaani” supports Santali, Bhili, Mundari and Gondi languages.
 b). Adi Vaani uses AI to digitise, preserve and revitalize these tribal languages.
 Which of the above is/ are not correct?
 A). only a
 B). only b
 C). a and b
 D). None
- 12). Consider the following statements
 a). Green Credit Programme (GCP) is an innovative market based mechanism to incentivise voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors.
 b). GCP is implemented by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, which comes under the Ministry of Education.
 Which of the above is/ are correct?
 A). only a
 B). only b
 C). a and b
 D). None
- 13). Consider the following
 It is one of the species belonging to the “Delphinidae” family having distinct black and white coloration with a white patch near each eye, highly intelligent and social animal living in groups called “Pods”, due to “cooperative hunting” by using “echolocation”. It is an “apex predator” found in all oceans from Arctic and Antarctica regions to tropical seas.
 Which of the following is correct?
 A). Whale
 B). Dolphin
 C). Orcas
 D). Shark

14). Recently, the Ramon Magsaysay Award, 2025 is honoured to,

- A). Foundation to Educate Girls Globally
- B). Ajim Premji Foundation
- C). Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
- D). Tata Trusts

15). Consider the following statements

- a). Ramon Magsaysay Award set up in 1958, in memory of Philippines 7th President Ramon Magsaysay in Manila.
- b). It is considered as a Nobel Prize of Asia, administered by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation and instituted by the Rockefeller Brother Fund.

Which of the above is/ are not correct?

- A). only a
- B). only b
- C). a and b
- D). None

16). Which of the following states proposed Anti-conversion Bill

- a). Himachal Pradesh
- b). Uttarakhand
- c). Karnataka
- d). Rajasthan
- e). Madhya Pradesh
- f). Gujarat

Which of the above is/ are correct?

- A). a, b, c, d
- B). c, d, e, f
- C). All of the above
- D). None

17). The recent Afghanistan earthquake (6.0 magnitude) caused major damage mainly due to:

- A) High population density
- B) Shallow depth of earthquake and poor building structures.
- C) Heavy rainfall during the quake
- D) Volcanic eruption

18). The Himalayan and Hindu Kush mountains are prone to earthquakes because:

- A) They lie near the Pacific Ring of Fire
- B) They are formed due to volcanic activity
- C) There is ongoing collision between the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates
- D) They are located on oceanic ridges

19). Consider the following statements

- a). The point inside the Earth where an earthquake originates is called Epicentre.
- b). The point on the Earth's surface directly above the earthquake's focus is called Hypocentre.

Which of the above is/ are correct?

- A). only a
- B). only b
- C). Both
- D). none

20). The instrument used to detect and record earthquakes is known as:

- A) Barometer
- B) Seismograph
- C) Anemometer
- D) Hydrometer

21). Which Indian vision was endorsed by the SCO in 2025?

- A) Make in India
- B) SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)
- C) One Earth, One Family, One Future
- D) Digital India

22). The SCO 2025 Summit proposed the creation of:

- A) SCO Currency Union
- B) SCO Peacekeeping Force
- C) SCO Development Bank
- D) SCO Climate Fund

23). The 'Vocal for Local' initiative was launched in 2024 under:

- A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B) NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Programme
- C) Ministry of Rural Development
- D) Ministry of MSME

24). Which of the following is a GI-tagged products

- a). Pashmina Shawl
- b). Pochampally Ikat from Telangana
- c). Channapattana Toys
- d). Mysore sandal soap
- e). Indi Lemon

Which of the above is/ are not correct?

- A). a, b, c
- B). b, c, d
- C). All
- D). none

25. Consider the following statements regarding Air Quality Life Index

- a). It was developed by Energy Policy Institute, University of Chicago (EPIC)
- b). India is most polluted country in the world, followed by Bangladesh.

Which of the above is/ are correct?

- A). Only a
- B). Only b
- C). Both
- D). none

26. According to the recent AQLI report, which region is the most polluted globally?

- A) East Asia
- B) South Asia
- C) Sub-Saharan Africa
- D) Latin America

27. Recently, jarosite was discovered in India at:

- A) Varkala, Kerala
- B) Matanomadh, Gujarat
- C) Jharia, Jharkhand
- D) Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu

28. Jarosite is formed by the reaction of minerals rich in:

- A) Oxygen, Nitrogen, Calcium, Sodium
- B) Oxygen, Iron, Sulphur, Potassium
- C) Silicon, Magnesium, Chlorine, Hydrogen
- D) Carbon, Sodium, Iron, Phosphorus

29. The DIGIPIN initiative has been developed by the Department of Posts in collaborated with:

- A) IIT Delhi & DRDO
- B) IIT Hyderabad & NRSC, ISRO
- C) IIT Kanpur & NIC
- D) IIT Bombay & NASSCOM

30. What does DIGIPIN stand for?

- A) Digital Public Infrastructure Number
- B) Digital Postal Index Number
- C) Distributed Postal Identification Number
- D) Digital Population Identification Network

31. Which of the following is NOT an intended benefit of DIGIPIN?

- A) Simplified addressing system
- B) Enhanced logistics efficiency
- C) Better emergency response
- D) Monitoring citizens' personal financial transactions

32. Consider the following statements regarding the Census, 2027:

- a). It will be India's first fully digital enumeration with geo-tagging and replace Hand-drawn sketches of layouts.
- b). Digital Layout Mapping (DLM) & GIS coordinates will be used for geo-tagging buildings and classify primarily on the basis of Usage (residential, non-residential, mixed)

Which of the above is/ are not correct?

- A). Only a
- B). Only b
- C). Both
- D). none

33. Consider the following statements

- a). CEREBO, Handheld and non-invasive radiation-free device developed by ICMR, is used for the diagnosis of traumatic brain injuries.
- b). Detects intracranial bleeding and edema within one minute. It addresses diagnostic delays where CT/MRI are inaccessible or unaffordable
- c). It take 2 days to train personnel to operate.

Which of the above is/ are correct?

- A). Only a and b
- B). Only b and c
- C). Only a and c
- D). All

34. Consider the following statements regarding the PRATUSH Mission

- a). The credit-card sized computer developed to Catch extremely faint radio signals from the universe's earliest moments.
- b). It is planned to operate Far side of the Moon for Shielding from Earth's radio interference and ionospheric distortion.

Which of the above is/ are not correct?

- A). Only a
- B). Only b
- C). Both
- D). None

35. The ASHNI platoons are designed to:

- A) Conduct underwater sabotage missions
- B) Integrate advanced technology with traditional combat skills
- C) Provide humanitarian relief during disasters
- D) Carry out long-range missile launches

36. Which of the Following Indian Armed Forces conducted Exercise Yudh Kaushal ?

- A) Indian Air Force
- B) Indian Navy
- C) Indian Army
- D) Indian Coastal Gaurds

37. Consider the following statements regarding BHARATI initiative

- a). It was launched by APEDA, to make India a hub for agri-food startups and innovation.
- b). The key focus area is R&D in packaging, traceability, and cold-chain logistics.

Which of the above is/ are not correct?

- A) only a
- B) only b
- C). Both
- D). None

38. Consider the following statements

- a). APEDA functions under Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- b). APEDA promotes the products such as fruits and vegetables, cereals, animal products

Which of the above is/ are correct?

- A) only a
- B) only b
- C). Both
- D). None

39. The BBNJ Treaty (High Seas Treaty) primarily deals with:

- A) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from ships
- B) Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- C) Control of piracy in international waters
- D) Limiting fishing rights of coastal nations

40. Consider the following statements

- a). The High Seas Treaty considers resources in international waters as free-for-all resources.
- b). UNCLOS administered the BBNJ Treaty (High Seas Treaty) and India signed this treaty in 2024.

Which of the above is/ are not correct?

- A) only a
- B) only b
- C). Both
- D). None

41). Consider the following statements

- a). The Samagra Shiksha Scheme is a central Sector Scheme, announced in the Union Budget 2018–19.
- b). Samagra Shiksha Scheme covers stages of education from Pre-primary to senior secondary.
- c). Only SSA, RMSA, Teacher Education schemes were merged into Samagra Shiksha Scheme.

Which of the above is/ are correct?

- A) only a & b
- B) only b & c
- C). Only a & c
- D). All

42. Samagra Shiksha contributes directly to which Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)?

- A) SDG 3
- B) SDG 4
- C) SDG 5
- D) SDG 8

43. Consider the following statements

- a). World Coconut Day is observed every year on September 2, the theme of World Coconut Day 2025 is “uncovering Coconut’s Power, Inspiring Global Action”.
- b). The Coconut Development Board (CDB) is works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries and head quarter is located at Kochi.

Which of the above is/ are not correct?

- A) only a
- B) only b
- C). All
- D). None

44. The International Coconut Community (ICC) functions under:

- A) FAO
- B) UNEP
- C) UNESCAP
- D) WTO

45. Recently, Kerala has carried out India’s first community-led eradication of *Senna spectabilis* is native to:

- A) Africa
- B) South America
- C) Southeast Asia
- D) Australia

- 46. What ecological threat does *Senna spectabilis* pose in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve?**
 A) Increases soil fertility
 B) Chokes native vegetation and reduces wildlife food sources
 C) Provides food for elephants
 D) Improves groundwater recharge
- 47. Water Hyacinth, *Lantana camara*, Nile Tilapia and African Catfish are:**
 A). Invasive species
 B). Flagship species
 C). Key stone species
 D). Top Predators
- 48. Which factor does NOT contribute to the spread of invasive species?**
 A) Globalization
 B) Climate change
 C) Human activities
 D) Natural selection of native species
- 49. The 14th edition of Exercise MAITREE was held in:**
 A) Thailand
 B) Meghalaya, India
 C) New Delhi, India
 D) Bangkok, Thailand
- 50. Exercise MAITREE is a joint military exercise between India and:**
 A) Myanmar
 B) Thailand
 C) Indonesia
 D) Vietnam
- 51. Which Indian ships visited Seychelles as part of the First Training Squadron (1TS)?**
 A) INS Vikramaditya, INS Kolkata, INS Chennai
 B) INS Tir, INS Shardul, ICGS Sarathi
 C) INS Satpura, INS Shivalik, INS Airavat
 D) INS Viraat, INS Sindhughosh, ICGS Vikram
- 52. India and Seychelles collaborate in which global initiative?**
 A) Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
 B) International Solar Alliance
 C) Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
 D) Blue Economy Alliance
- 53. Acanthamoeba are classified as:**
 A) True parasites
 B) Free-living protozoan amoebae
 C) Helminths
 D) Bacteria
- 54. Which condition is most commonly caused by *Acanthamoeba* in contact lens users?**
 A) Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis
 B) *Acanthamoeba* keratitis
 C) Trachoma
 D) Fungal endophthalmitis
- 55. Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis (GAE) is more likely to occur in:**
 A) Healthy children
 B) Pregnant women
 C) Immunocompromised patients
 D) Athletes
- 56. Which of the following is NOT a common habitat of *Acanthamoeba*?**
 A) Soil
 B) Dust
 C) Freshwater
 D) Human intestine
- 57. Consider the following statements**
 a). Kerala is the largest producer of coffee in India and Robusta type of coffee accounts for the major share of India's production.
 b). The ideal temperature range for Arabica coffee cultivation in India is 15°C – 25°C
 c). The Coffee Board of India was established under Coffee Act, 1932 and headquartered at Bangalore, works under Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
 Which of the above is/ are not correct?
 A) only a & b B) only b & c
 C). Only a & c D). All
- 58. The main objective of PM GatiShakti is:**
 A) To enhance agricultural production
 B) To promote seamless connectivity & infrastructure integration
 C) To increase foreign investment in IT
 D) To promote rural employment schemes

- 59. Which of the following schemes is NOT covered under PM GatiShakti?**
A) Bharatmala Pariyojana
B) Sagarmala
C) UDAN
D) Ayushman Bharat
- 60. Consider the following statements**
a). The GST Council was established under 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016
b). Article 279A of the Indian Constitution provides for the GST Council, Chaired by the RBI Governor.
Which of the above is/ are correct?
A) only a B) only b
C). Both D). None
- 61. We Foundation India recently launched India's first Vulture Conservation Portal in collaboration with which university?**
A) Delhi University
B) Gauhati University
C) Banaras Hindu University
D) Kerala University
- 62. Which drug is the primary cause of vulture population decline in India?**
A) Ibuprofen
B) Diclofenac poisoning (NSAID used in cattle)
C) Aspirin
D) Paracetamol
- 63. Which of the following vultures is classified as Endangered (EN)?**
A) Slender-billed Vulture
B) Red-headed Vulture
C) Egyptian Vulture
D) Himalayan Griffon
- 64. The Oriental White-backed Vulture is listed as:**
A) Vulnerable
B) Endangered
C) Critically Endangered
D) Near Threatened
- 65. The 21st edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas was held in:**
A) India (Rajasthan)
B) Alaska, USA
C) Uttarakhand, India
D) California, USA
- 66. Exercise Yudh Abhyas is a bilateral military exercise between**
A). India and Russia
B). India and USA
C). India and France
D). India and Japan
- 67. The Malacca Strait connects:**
A) Indian Ocean & Atlantic Ocean
B) Pacific Ocean & Mediterranean Sea
C) Indian Ocean & Pacific Ocean
D) Arabian Sea & Black Sea
- 68. The Andaman & Nicobar Command is unique because it is:**
A) India's largest Air Force base
B) India's only tri-services command
C) India's first cyber command
D) India's oldest naval command
- 69. The Drain of Wealth Theory was propounded by:**
A) M.G. Ranade
B) R.C. Dutt
C) Dadabhai Naoroji
D) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- 70. Which newspaper was founded by Dadabhai Naoroji?**
A) Young India
B) Kesari
C) Voice of India
D) The Hindu
- 71. Who established the ancient Nalanda University?**
A) Ashoka
B) Chandragupta Maurya
C) Kumaragupta I
D) Harsha
- 72. Which ruler destroyed Nalanda University in the 12th century?**
A) Qutb al-Din Aibak
B) Muhammad Ghori
C) Bakhtiyar Khilji
D) Alauddin Khilji

- 73. The SAMHiTA initiative primarily focuses on which of the following?**
 A) Space technology
 B) South Asian manuscripts
 C) Modern digital libraries
 D) Artificial intelligence research
- 73. Which Ministry established the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) in 2003?**
 A) Ministry of HRD
 B) Ministry of Culture
 C) Ministry of External Affairs
 D) Ministry of Education
- 74. Which institution functions as a premier repository for manuscripts under the Ministry of Culture?**
 A) Archaeological Survey of India
 B) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
 C) National Digital Library of India
 D) National Archives of India
- 75. The NIRF rankings are released by which Ministry?**
 A) Ministry of Science & Technology
 B) Ministry of Education
 C) Ministry of HRD
 D) Ministry of Skill Development
- 76. Which institution has been ranked overall number one in NIRF 2025?**
 A) IIT Delhi
 B) IIT Bombay
 C) IIT Madras
 D) IIT Kanpur
- 77. IISc Bengaluru has topped the universities category for how many consecutive years as of NIRF 2025?**
 A) 5
 B) 7
 C) 10
 D) 12
- 78. Which of the following is/ are parameter under NIRF rankings?**
 a). Teaching, Learning & Resources
 b). Research & Professional Practices
 c). Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity and Perception
 d). All of the Above
- 79. The NIA was created in response to which major event?**
 A) Parliament Attack 2001
 B) 26/11 Mumbai Attacks under NIA Act, 2008
 C) Pulwama Attack 2019
 D) Pathankot Airbase Attack
- 80. Under the NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019, the agency's jurisdiction was expanded to:**
 A) Only Indian territory
 B) Only Union Territories
 C) Offences committed outside India involving Indian citizens/interests
 D) Only border states
- 81. Which of the following countries does NOT border the Baltic Sea?**
 A) Sweden
 B) Finland
 C) Norway
 D) Poland
- 82. The brackish nature of the Baltic Sea is due to the mixing of:**
 A) Rainwater & seawater
 B) Saltwater from North-East Atlantic & freshwater from rivers
 C) Glacial meltwater & seawater
 D) Underground springs & seawater
- 83. Envafohimab drug is targeted at treating:**
 a) Stage II breast cancer
 b) Stage III non-small cell lung cancer
 c) Stage IV pancreatic cancer
 d) Chronic kidney disease
- 84. Consider the following statements**
 a). Indian Council of Medical Research approved the enrolment and dosing of patients for Envafohimab's clinical trial.
 b). The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) functions to determining GST slabs on pharmaceuticals.
 Which of the above is/are correct?
 A). Only a B). Only b
 C). Both D). None

85. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) was established under which Act?

- a) Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897
- b) Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
- c) Pharmacy Act, 1948
- d) Clinical Establishments Act, 2010

86. The Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) mainly deals with:

- a) Approving licenses for new drugs
- b) Controlling the prices of essential medicines
- c) Regulating import of vaccines
- d) Framing rules for cosmetics

87. Consider the following statements

- a). The National Teachers' Awards were instituted in 1962.
- b). President or Vice President of India confers the National Teachers' Awards.
- c). National Education Day is observed on 11th November to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Which of the above is/are not correct?

- A). Only a & b
- B). Only b and c
- C). Only a & c
- D). a, b, and c

88. The main objective of the National Teachers' Awards is:

- a) To promote digital literacy in schools
- b) To recognize meritorious teachers in schools
- c) To train teachers in new education policy
- d) To provide financial assistance to teachers

89. The revised Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement was signed between MHA, Manipur government, and _____.

- a) 12 Meitei insurgent groups
- b) 24 Kuki-Zo insurgent groups
- c) 15 Naga groups
- d) 30 Bodo groups

90. The Kuki-Zo ethnic community is found in all of the following states except:

- a) Manipur
- b) Assam
- c) Nagaland
- d) Kerala

91. Which two missions were subsumed under the National Health Mission?

- a) NRHM and National Immunisation Mission
- b) NRHM and NUHM
- c) NUHM and National Nutrition Mission
- d) National AIDS Control Programme and NUHM

92. "Angikaar 2025" has been launched under which scheme?

- a) Smart Cities Mission
- b) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0
- c) AMRUT 2.0
- d) National Urban Livelihood Mission

93. Consider the following statements

- a). The target of PMAY-U 2.0 is to provide housing assistance to 1 crore urban poor & middle-class families.
- b). The ultimate goal of PMAY-U 2.0 is to ensure every citizen has access to a pucca house.
- c). PMAY-U is comes under Ministry of Tourism.

Which of the above is/are not correct?

- A). Only a & b
- B). Only b and c
- C). Only a & c
- D). Only c

94. Consider the following statements

- a). Dr. Bhupen Hazarika is popularly known as Bard of Himalayas and he received the Bharat Ratna in 2019.
- b). The National Film Award (1975) won by Dr. Bhupen Hazarika was for Chameli Memsahab film.

Which of the above is/are not correct?

- A). Only a
- B). Only b
- C). Both
- D). None

95. Consider the following statements regarding Bhupen Hazarika Setu

- a). Bogibeel Bridge is India's longest river bridge named after Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.
- b). It connects between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A). Only a
- B). Only b
- C). Both
- D). None

96. Which of the following messages is associated with Sree Narayana Guru?

- A) Truth Alone Triumphs
- B) One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man
- C) Service to Man is Service to God
- D) Education is the Soul of Society

97. Which organization did Sree Narayana Guru establish in 1903 for social reform?

- A) Arya Samaj
- B) Theosophical Society
- C) Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP)
- D) Brahmo Samaj

98. Sree Narayana Guru extended support to which famous movement in 1924–25?

- A) Salt Satyagraha
- B) Quit India Movement
- C) Vaikom Satyagraha
- D) Champaran Satyagraha

99. What is the main difference between a solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse?

- A) Solar eclipse is safe to watch with naked eye, lunar is not
- B) Lunar eclipse is safe to watch with naked eye, solar is not
- C) Both are unsafe to watch directly
- D) Both can be watched safely without protection

100. Why does the Moon appear red/ blood during a total lunar eclipse?

- A) Reflection of Earth's oceans
- B) Absorption of sunlight by the Moon
- C) Rayleigh scattering of sunlight through Earth's atmosphere
- D) Presence of iron on the Moon's surface

101. Consider the following pairs about the Interpol Notices

Interpol Notices	Issued for:
Silver Notice	Identifying and tracing criminal assets
Red Notice	Locating missing persons, often minors
Yellow Notice	To seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence
Orange Notice	Warns of an imminent threat to public safety from events, persons, or objects

How many of the above pairs are correct?

- A). Only One pair
- B). Only Two pairs
- C). Only Three Pairs
- D) Four Pairs

102. Where is the headquarters of Interpol located?

- A) Geneva, Switzerland
- B) Paris, France
- C) Lyon, France
- D) Brussels, Belgium

103. The Interpol–United Nations Security Council Special Notice is issued for:

- A) Cybercrime offenders
- B) Persons under UN Security Council Sanctions
- C) Organised crime networks
- D) Drug trafficking

104. Consider the following statements

- a). Nilgiri tea is mainly grown in Kerala, at an altitude between 900–2,600 metres.
- b). The Nilgiri tea received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2008.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A). Only a
- B). Only b
- C). Both
- D). None

105. Consider the following statements

- a). India is the world's largest producer of Black tea and it is also the world's 2nd largest tea producer.
- b). Assam produces the highest share of tea in India (around 55%).

Which of the above is/are not correct?

- A). Only a
- B). Only b
- C). Both
- D). None

106. INS Kadmat is which type of warship?

- A) Destroyer
- B) Aircraft Carrier
- C) Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette
- D) Frigate

107. The occurrence of volcanoes and earthquakes along the Ring of Fire is primarily due to:

- A) Ocean currents
- B) Wind patterns
- C) Movement of tectonic plates
- D) Gravitational pull of the Moon

108. Consider the following pairs about the volcanoes

volcanoes	Location
Sangay Volcano	Ecuador
Taal Volcano	Indonesia
Mt. Sinabung	Philippines
Baratang	India

How many of the above pairs are correct?

- A). Only One pair
- B). Only Two pairs
- C). Only Three Pairs
- D). Four Pairs

109. "Contingent Reserve Arrangement" (CRA) is the initiative of

- A). BRICS
- B). World Bank
- C). IMF
- D). SCO

110. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) refers to:

- A) Number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births
- B) Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births
- C) Number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births
- D) Number of stillbirths per 1,000 live births

111. According to SDG 3.1, the global target for Maternal Mortality Ratio by 2030 is:

- A) Less than 50 per 1,00,000 live births
- B) Less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births
- C) Less than 80 per 1,00,000 live births
- D) Less than 100 per 1,00,000 live births

112. The Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), launched in 2005, primarily focuses on:

- A) Nutrition for pregnant women
- B) Reducing maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery
- C) Providing financial incentives for girl child birth
- D) Providing free ambulance services to rural women

113. LaQshya programme focuses on:

- A) Early childhood vaccination
- B) Institutional deliveries in rural areas
- C) Improving quality of care in labour rooms and maternity operation theatres
- D) Reducing neonatal deaths through nutrition

114. The 'Dastak Abhiyan', aimed at early detection of maternal health risks, is a community-driven campaign of which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

115. At the international level, GI is governed under which agreement?

- A) GATT Agreement
- B) TRIPS Agreement of WTO
- C) NAFTA Agreement
- D) SAARC Trade Agreement

116. The first product in India to receive a GI tag was:

- A) Basmati Rice
- B) Kanchipuram Silk Saree
- C) Darjeeling Tea
- D) Mysore Sandal Soap

117. Consider the following statements

- a). The 28th Universal Postal Congress, the supreme decision-making body of UPU, was recently held in Dubai.
- b). The Universal Postal Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- c). India is not a member of the Universal Postal Union.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A). Only a
- B). Only b
- C). Only a and b
- D). Only a and c

118. The theme of International Literacy Day 2025 is:

- A) Literacy for All
- B) Bridging Gaps through Education
- C) Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era
- D) Literacy and Lifelong Learning

119. Himachal Pradesh became the fourth fully literate state after:

- A) Sikkim, Goa, Mizoram
- B) Tripura, Mizoram, Goa
- C) Kerala, Goa, Tripura
- D) Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura

120. The term MQ-28A is related to

- A) AI technology being developed by USA.
- B) Air gun being developed by UK.
- C) Ghost Bat drone being developed by Australia.
- D) Submarine being developed by Canada.

121. The proposed Birmania Rock Phosstatements is located at:

- A) Gujarat
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Chattisgarh

122. Consider the following statements regarding the Great Indian Bustard

- a). Desert National Park, in Rajasthan a key habitat of the Great Indian Bustard.
- b). It is listed under Critically Endangered category in the IUCN Red List and Schedule 1 of the WLP Act, 1972.
- c). "Project Great Indian Bustard" was launched by the Government of India.

Which of the above is/are not correct?

- A). Only a
- B). Only b
- C). Only c
- D). Only a and c

123. Which organization is working for GIB conservation in and around Desert National Park?

- A) BNHS
- B) WWF-India
- C) IUCN India Chapter
- D) WII (Wildlife Institute of India)

124. The Electoral College for electing the Vice-President of India consists of:

- A) Only elected members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- B) Elected members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies
- C) Both elected and nominated members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- D) Members of Parliament and State Legislatures including Governors

125. The election of the Vice-President is conducted by which voting system?

- A) Simple majority
- B) Two-thirds majority
- C) Proportional representation by means of single transferable vote
- D) Open ballot by show of hands

126. Which of the following is NOT a qualification to become Vice-President of India?

- A) Must be a citizen of India
- B) Must be at least 35 years of age
- C) Must be qualified to be elected as a Rajya Sabha member
- D) Must be a graduate from a recognized university.

126. The nomination for Vice-President requires at least:

- A) 10 proposers and 10 seconders
- B) 20 proposers and 20 seconders
- C) 50 proposers and 50 seconders
- D) No proposers required

127. Why is Nepal's instability a direct security concern for India?

- A) Due to cultural similarities.
- B) Because of the porous border enabling movement of radical groups.
- C) Because India imports oil through Nepal.
- D) Since India depends on Nepal for electricity.

- 128. The National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025 was released by:**
- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
 - B) NITI Aayog
 - C) National Commission for Women (NCW)
 - D) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- 129. The Nirbhaya Fund is primarily used for:**
- A) Scholarships for women
 - B) Financing safety projects for women across the country
 - C) Providing microfinance to women entrepreneurs
 - D) Funding maternity benefits
- 130. The SHe-Box Portal is an initiative for:**
- A) Reporting domestic violence
 - B) Registering workplace sexual harassment complaints
 - C) Accessing free legal aid for women
 - D) Enrolling in women skill development programs
- 131. Under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 employers with more than 10 employees must establish:**
- A) Local Committee (LC)
 - B) State Women's Tribunal
 - C) Internal Committee (IC)
 - D) National Grievance Redressal Cell
- 132. The new cancer vaccine EnteroMix has been developed by:**
- A) World Health Organization (WHO)
 - B) Russian Federal Medical and Biological Agency (FMBA)
 - C) European Medicines Agency (EMA)
 - D) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- 133. mRNA vaccines differ from traditional vaccines because they:**
- A) Use live viruses to create stronger immunity
 - B) Supply mRNA instructions for our cells to produce viral proteins
 - C) Eliminate the need for antibodies
 - D) Work only for bacterial infection
- 134. The Langkhon (Langkhun) Festival is celebrated by which tribal community?**
- A) Bodos in Assam
 - B) Tiwa's in Assam
 - C) Karbi's in Manipur
 - D) Mising in Nagaland

- 135. Coal India Limited (CIL) signed an MoU with which organization to empower tribal students of EMRSs?**
- A) TRIFED
 - B) Ministry of Skill Development
 - C) National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC).
 - D) NABARD
- 136. The SPREE and the AMNESTY Scheme initiatives are launched by,**
- A). EPFO
 - B). IRDAI
 - C). SEBI
 - D). ESIC
- 137. The key distinction between SPREE-2025 and the AMNESTY Scheme-2025 lies in:**
- A) SPREE-2025 focuses on dispute resolution, while AMNESTY promotes voluntary registration.
 - B) SPREE-2025 waives past dues for new registrations, while AMNESTY facilitates settlement of existing disputes.
 - C) Both schemes are one-time measures applicable only till September 2026.
 - D) SPREE-2025 applies only to registered employers, while AMNESTY applies only to employees.
- 138. Consider the following statements regarding SPREE-2025:**
1. Registration can be done through the ESI Portal, Shram Suvidha Portal, and Company Affairs Portal.
 2. It promotes punishment over voluntary compliance.
 3. Past dues before registration are waived for employers.
- Which of the above are correct?
- A) 1 and 2 only
 - B) 1 and 3 only
 - C) 2 and 3 only
 - D) 1, 2 and 3

139. Which of the following statements about Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is correct?

1. It is located on the White Nile in Ethiopia.
 2. Its installed capacity places it among the top 20 hydroelectric dams globally.
 3. It is Africa's largest hydropower project.
- A) 1 and 2 only
 B) 2 and 3 only
 C) 1 and 3 only
 D) 1, 2, and 3

140. The Nile River flows through 11 countries, making it the longest river in the world. Which of the following is NOT part of the Nile Basin?

- A) Tanzania
- B) Eritrea
- C) Ethiopia
- D) Nigeria

141. Arrange the following in the correct south-to-north order along the Nile's flow:

1. Lake Victoria
 2. Lake Tana
 3. Khartoum
 4. Mediterranean Sea
- A) 1 → 2 → 3 → 4
 B) 2 → 1 → 3 → 4
 C) 1 → 3 → 2 → 4
 D) 2 → 3 → 1 → 4

142. With reference to Indian lakes, consider the following pairs:

1. Vembanad Lake – Largest freshwater lake in India
2. Wular Lake – Largest freshwater lake in India
3. Chilika Lake – Largest brackish water lagoon in India

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

143. Vembanad Lake's ecological degradation is a matter of concern because:

1. It supports one of the largest Ramsar wetlands in India.
2. It sustains Kerala's famous backwater tourism and inland fisheries.
3. It regulates monsoon flooding in the Kuttanad region.

Which of the above are correct?

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

144. With reference to Exercise ZAPAD 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multilateral joint military exercise hosted by Russia.
2. More than 20 countries, including China, are participants.
3. It marks the first instance of Indian and Pakistani armies participating in the same drill since Operation Sindoor.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) None
- D) 1, 2 and 3

145. Consider the following military exercises and their host countries:

1. ZAPAD – Russia
2. Vostok – China
3. Kavkaz – Russia
4. Indra – India-Russia bilateral

Which of the pairs are correctly matched?

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

146. With reference to the National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribes (NFST), consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme, with 100% funding from the Union Government.
3. Only candidates pursuing M.Phil. and Ph.D. in UGC-recognized institutions are eligible.

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

147. Which of the following is NOT a correct feature of SSLV?

- A) Designed for payloads between 10–500 kg.
- B) Cost-effective launch solution for small satellites.
- C) Intended for rapid insertion into Low Earth Orbit.
- D) Primarily developed for interplanetary missions to Mars and Venus.

148. Match the following launch vehicles with their payload capacity & orbit:

1. SSLV – 10 to 500 kg, Low Earth Orbit
2. PSLV – ~1,750 kg to Sun-synchronous Polar Orbit
3. GSLV Mk-III (LVM-3) – ~4,000 kg to Geostationary Transfer Orbit

Correctly matched are:

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

149. With reference to the 'Never Alone' program, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by AIIMS Delhi on World Suicide Prevention Day.
2. The primary aim of the 'Never Alone' program is to minimise stigma around suicide and increase mental health awareness.
3. It provides 24/7 consultations with mental health experts through a WhatsApp-based platform.
4. The per-student cost of screening under the program is less than ₹1 per day for large

institutions.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

150. As per NCRB 2022 data, which of the following is correct regarding suicides in India?

- A) India recorded less than 1 lakh suicides, with young adults forming 20% of cases.
- B) Over 1.7 lakh suicides occurred, with the 18–30 age group accounting for around one-third.
- C) The majority of suicides were among senior citizens aged above 60.
- D) Suicides in India have no significant link to age distribution.

151. Melioidosis, recently reported in Andhra Pradesh, is caused by:

- A) Burkholderia pseudomallei
- B) Leptospira interrogans
- C) Vibrio cholerae
- D) Coxiella burnetii

152. Which of the following statements about melioidosis is/are correct?

1. The bacteria can survive in soil and water for several years.
2. Person-to-person transmission is the most common mode of spread.
3. It is often more severe in individuals with comorbidities like diabetes and cancer.

Options:

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

153. With reference to Stablecoins, consider the following statements:

1. Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies designed to minimize price volatility.
2. They can be backed by fiat currencies, commodities, or algorithms.
3. They are regulated as legal tender by the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only

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

154. Which of the following differentiates Stablecoins from Bitcoin?

- A) Stablecoins use blockchain, while Bitcoin does not.
- B) Stablecoins are always issued by governments, while Bitcoin is decentralized.
- C) Stablecoins attempt to maintain a fixed value by pegging, while Bitcoin is inherently volatile.
- D) Stablecoins are physical assets, while Bitcoin is purely digital.

155. Consider the following statements about Blockchain:

1. Each block in a blockchain contains a cryptographic hash of the previous block.
2. Blockchain can only be used for cryptocurrencies and cannot record other transactions of value.
3. It is decentralized and resistant to data tampering.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

156. With reference to cryptocurrencies in India, which of the following is correct?

- A) Cryptocurrencies are recognized as legal tender under the RBI Act, 1934.
- B) India has banned all forms of blockchain-based applications.
- C) India has introduced taxation on crypto transactions but does not treat them as legal tender.
- D) RBI issues digital rupee as a form of stablecoin.

157. Which of the following best describes the uniqueness of Adi Sanskriti launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs?

- A) It is India's first Tribal University established under Article 371 of the Constitution.
- B) It is the world's first Digital University focused on tribal culture and traditional knowledge.
- C) It is the first Tribal Research Institute under TRIFED.
- D) It is the first global e-marketplace exclusively for tribal artisans.

158. Which of the following is NOT a feature of Adi Sampada under Adi Sanskriti?

- A) Repository of curated documents on tribal art, dance, textiles, artefacts, and livelihoods.
- B) Hosting over 5,000 documents for cultural preservation.
- C) Serving as a marketplace for tribal artisans to directly sell their products.
- D) Acting as a socio-cultural knowledge hub for tribal heritage.

159. Which of the following statements correctly distinguishes AdFalciVax from other malaria vaccines?

- A) It is India's first DNA-based malaria vaccine targeting Plasmodium vivax.
- B) It is India's first indigenous multi-stage recombinant vaccine designed against Plasmodium falciparum.
- C) It is the world's first monoclonal antibody-based malaria vaccine licensed by WHO.
- D) It is a live-attenuated vaccine developed through public-private partnership under MERA-India.

160. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. E-2025 Initiative – WHO initiative to eliminate dengue in 25 countries by 2025.
2. HBHI Initiative – Targets 11 malaria burden countries including India.
3. NFME (2016) – India's framework aligned with WHO Global Technical Strategy for malaria elimination.

Options:

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

161. Which of the following is NOT true about malaria transmission?

- A) It spreads via the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- B) It cannot spread directly from one person to another.
- C) It can be transmitted through casual contact such as shaking hands.
- D) It is preventable and curable with timely treatment.

162. Under India's malaria elimination roadmap:

- A) The target is to eliminate malaria by 2027, ahead of the global WHO target of 2030.
- B) MERA-India was launched by WHO in collaboration with Indian states.
- C) NFME (2016) aims to reduce malaria incidence by 90% by 2020.
- D) India is not part of the HBHI initiative despite being high-burden.

163. Consider the following statements about Pallas's cat:

- 1. Its coat color changes seasonally to blend with the environment.
- 2. It is diurnal and hunts mainly in open grasslands.
- 3. It is an ambush predator, waiting at rodent burrows for prey.
- 4. It is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

164. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

Species	IUCN Red List Status
1). Pallas's Cat	Least Concern
2). Asiatic Lion	Critically Endangered
3). Snow Leopard	Vulnerable
4). Fishing Cat	Near Threatened

Options:

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

165. Consider the following statements about Sariska Tiger Reserve:

- 1. It is located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- 2. It was declared India's 11th Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger in 1978.
- 3. It was redesignated as a National Park in 1982.
- 4. It is the only tiger reserve in India that is part of the Aravalli hills.

Which of the statements are not correct?

- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
- B) 2, 3 and 4 only
- C) None of the above
- D) All are correct

166. Consider the following statements regarding Acharya Vinoba Bhave:

- 1. He is often regarded as Gandhi's spiritual successor and was called the National Teacher of India.
- 2. He founded the Gramseva Mandal in 1934 to promote village service and rural upliftment.
- 3. He was the initiator of the Bhoodan Movement (1951), aimed at voluntary land redistribution.
- 4. He authored Geetai, a Marathi translation of the Bhagavad Gita.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
- B) 2, 3 and 4 only
- C) None are correct
- D) All are correct

167. Match the following initiatives with their founders:

Initiative / Work	Founder
1. Gramseva Mandal (1934)	a. Mahatma Gandhi
2. Bhoodan Movement (1951)	b. Acharya Vinoba Bhave
3. Nai Talim (Basic Education)	c. Rabindranath Tagore
4. Shantiniketan	d. Vinoba Bhave

Options:

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

168. Aedes aegypti is a vector of several viral diseases. Which of the following is NOT transmitted by it?

- A) Yellow fever
- B) Dengue
- C) Chikungunya
- D) Japanese Encephalitis

169. Which of the following statements about *Aedes aegypti* is correct?

- It is native to tropical Asia but now restricted to Southeast Asia.
- It is native to North Africa and has spread to tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions globally.
- It is native to South America and has not spread outside the continent.
- It is native to the Middle East and is found only in desert regions.

170. Consider the following statements about the Wolbachia method of mosquito control:

- Wolbachia bacteria block virus proliferation inside mosquitoes but do not harm the mosquitoes themselves.
- Releasing male *Aedes aegypti* with Wolbachia ensures that their mating with wild females leads to infertile eggs.
- The method completely eradicates *Aedes aegypti* from the ecosystem.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

171. The recently identified novel species belong to which group of *Aspergillus*?

- Aspergillus* section Flavi
- Aspergillus* section Nigri (Black *Aspergillus*)
- Aspergillus* section Fumigati
- Aspergillus* section Nidulantes

172. Black *Aspergilli* are industrially important because they:

- Produce antibiotics like penicillin in large quantities
- Act as workhorses in citric acid production, food mycology, fermentation, and agriculture
- Are primary pathogens in human respiratory infections
- Serve as biofuel producers only

173. The term “saprophyte” in the context of *Aspergillus* refers to:

- Fungi that live parasitically inside humans
- Fungi that decompose dead organic matter
- Fungi that photosynthesize for energy
- Fungi that produce antibiotics

174. Regarding ethanol blending in India, consider the following:

- Ethanol blending refers to mixing ethanol with gasoline.
- Ethanol feedstocks include sugary raw materials (sugarcane, molasses) and starchy crops (corn, cassava).
- The National Policy on Biofuels (2018) initially targeted 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2030.
- The government has advanced this target to 2025–26, and the 20% blending mark has already been achieved.

Which statements are not correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2, and 3 only
- None of the above
- All are Correct

175. Which of the following is a key difference between ethanol and isobutanol as fuel additives?

- Ethanol is more flammable than isobutanol.
- Isobutanol has better compatibility with diesel engines than ethanol.
- Ethanol cannot be produced from sugarcane or corn.
- Isobutanol cannot be used in industrial applications other than fuel blending.

176. The Samudra Pradakshina initiative is significant because:

- It is India’s first international maritime trade mission led by women.
- It is a tri-service, all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition symbolizing nari shakti, jointness of armed forces, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- It is primarily a naval combat exercise along international waters.
- It is a tourism initiative to promote maritime heritage.

177. Which of the following statements correctly describes Border Wing Home Guards (BWHG)?

- They are full-time Army personnel recruited nationally.
- They are civilians from border areas, acting as auxiliaries to the Army and border forces during emergencies.

- C) They are paramilitary forces raised exclusively for counter-terrorism operations.
- D) They are recruited only from urban centers for strategic intelligence operations.

178. Which of the following states currently have Border Wing Home Guard battalions?

- A) Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Tripura, West Bengal
- B) Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala
- D) Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh

2. Karnataka Issues MCQ'S

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

- a. GBA is divided into 5 Corporations, Each corporation is headed by a Chief commissioner.
- b. The revenue generated by each corporation will remain with that corporation.
- c. Mayors will now have a fixed term of 5 years.
- d. The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is headed by the Chief Minister.

Which of the above are correct?

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

2. Which of the following best captures the objective of the Samruddhi Gram Panchayat Project (SGPP)?

- A) Providing high-speed broadband to selected Gram Panchayats using optical fibre cables
- B) Electrification of all villages under Karnataka's Energy Department
- C) Establishment of data centres at Panchayat level for e-Governance
- D) Training rural youth in digital literacy programmes

3. The nodal implementing authority for Samruddhi Gram Panchayat Project (SGPP) is :

- A) Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)
- B) Department of Telecommunications
- C) Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

- Department of Karnataka
- D) Ministry of Communications (Gol)

4. According to NFHS-5, what is the prevalence of hypertension in Karnataka (age 15+)?

- A) 20% women, 23% men
- B) 25% women, 26.9% men
- C) 27% women, 28.5% men
- D) 22% women, 21.9% men

5. Which of the following health outcomes are directly linked to unchecked hypertension, as per Karnataka's Health Minister?

- 1. Stroke
- 2. Heart attacks
- 3. Kidney failure
- 4. Premature deaths

Options:

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

6. Which State Government has a plan to reintroduce ballot papers instead of EVMs in local body polls?

- A). Bihar
- B). Haryana
- C). Karnataka
- D). Maharashtra

7. The Election Commission of India collaborated with which organisations to commission EVMs in 1989?

- A) DRDO and BEL
- B) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)
- C) C-DOT and ECIL
- D) NIC and BEL

8. The proposed Bidadi AI-powered township is significant because it will:

- A) Be India's first township developed under the Smart Cities Mission
- B) Operate entirely on renewable energy sources
- C) Be India's first AI-powered "work-live-play" model township
- D) Replace Electronic City as Bengaluru's primary IT hub

9. Both runways at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) are now Code F compliant. This implies:

- A) They can now handle only narrow-bodied aircraft like Boeing 737.
- B) They can now accommodate the world’s largest passenger aircraft, Airbus A380.
- C) They are now reserved exclusively for cargo operations.
- D) They can now be used interchangeably for domestic and international flights.

10. How many airports in Karnataka have been operationalised under the RCS–UDAN scheme?

- A) 5
- B) 7
- C) 8
- D) 9

11. Match the following Karnataka airports with their year of establishment/ಇನಾಗೂರೋಷನ

Airports	Year of establishment/ inauguration
1. Bellary Airport	a. 1932
2. Kempegowda International Airport	b. 2008
3. Shivamogga Airport	c. 2023
4. Mangaluru Airport	d. 1951

Select the correct option:

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

12. The NGMA Bengaluru’s event “Damami – Dreams, Drums and Roots” is significant because:

- A) It showcases the heritage of Karnataka’s pastoral communities
- B) It highlights the cultural heritage of the Siddi community
- C) It is dedicated to tribal art from North-East India
- D) It celebrates the folk traditions of Vokkaliga community

13. The State Government of Karnataka plans to amend laws to reintroduce ballot papers in local body polls. Which of the following Acts are to be amended?

- 1. Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993
- 2. Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964
- 3. Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024
- 4. Representation of People’s Act, 1951
- A) 1, 2, and 3 only
- B) 2 and 4 only
- C) 1 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

14. Articles 243(K) and 243(ZA) of the Indian Constitution are relevant because they:

- A) Empower the Union Election Commission to supervise all elections in India
- B) Provide constitutional status to State Election Commissions (SECs) for local body elections
- C) Allow State Legislatures to bypass the Election Commission’s guidelines
- D) Enable Panchayats and Municipalities to conduct their own independent election.

15. The HUDCO has sanctioned a loan of ₹9,303.66 crore for Bengaluru’s Twin Tunnel Road to:

- A). B-SMILE
- B). Larsen and Toubro
- C) Tata Constructions
- D). Adani Group

16. The newly launched “Track Duty” platform by BSWML is primarily designed to:

- A) Track waste collection vehicles in real time
- B) Monitor attendance and field visits of officials
- C) Digitally record citizen complaints about sanitation
- D) Maintain financial transparency in SWM contracts

17. The upcoming caste census in Karnataka is Conducted by:

- A). Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.
- B). Registrar General of India
- C). Census Commissioner
- D). Directorate of Economics and Statistics

18. The Kali Tiger Reserve comprises which two protected areas?

- a) Bandipur & Nagarhole

- b) Anshi NP & Dandeli WLS
- c) Bhadra WLS & Kudremukh NP
- d) BRT & Cauvery WLS

19. Arrange the following Karnataka Tiger Reserves by year of establishment:

- 1. Bandipur Tiger Reserve
 - 2. Bhadra Tiger Reserve
 - 3. Dandeli–Anshi (Kali) Tiger Reserve
 - 4. Nagarhole Tiger Reserve
- A) 1 → 2 → 3 → 4
 - B) 1 → 2 → 4 → 3
 - C) 2 → 1 → 3 → 4
 - D) 1 → 4 → 3 → 2

20. The terms “DFT-3, DLtM-5, DBrM-5,DFM-3, DKM-1, DPrM-5” are:

- A). Millet varieties developed by UAS Dharwad
- B). Rice varieties developed by UAS Dharwad
- C). Millet varieties developed by UAS Bangalore
- D). Rice varieties developed by UAS Bangalore

21. The term “DSM-4” is:

- A). Sesame variety
- B). Hybrid sunflower
- C). Millet Variety
- D). Rice Variety

22. The term “RSFH-700” is:

- A). Sesame variety
- B). Hybrid sunflower
- C). Millet Variety
- D). Rice Variety

23. Consider the following statements about NRI quota seats in Karnataka medical colleges:

- a. They are introduced only in private medical colleges.
- b. They account for 15% of seats in government medical colleges.
- c. Their introduction is linked to the recent sanction of additional medical seats by NMC.

Which are correct?

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

24. “Gundi Gamana” is the initiative of:

- A). BDA
- B). BESCOM

- C). BSWML
- D). GBA

25. Which of the following correctly explains how the introduction of E-Aasthi can reduce discretionary power and corruption in municipal property management?

- A) By removing property tax as a revenue source for BBMP.
- B) By mandating property disputes to be resolved only through online courts.
- C) By creating a tamper-proof digital record with unique Property Identity Number and status tracking of applications.
- D) By restricting citizens’ access to property records for privacy reasons.

26. In Karnataka, the IMR dropped from 15 (2022) to 14 (2023), while the national IMR dropped from 26 to 25 in the same period. Which inference is most accurate?

- A) Karnataka’s rate of improvement is faster than the national average.
- B) Karnataka’s performance is stagnant compared to the national trend.
- C) Both Karnataka and India reduced IMR at the same pace.
- D) National reduction was more significant than Karnataka’s.

27. Despite the fall in IMR, rural Karnataka reports higher female infant mortality than urban areas. Which of the following is NOT a likely explanatory factor?

- A) Limited access to neonatal intensive care in rural hospitals.
- B) Gender bias leading to neglect of girl children.
- C) Higher fertility rates in urban areas compared to rural.
- D) Poor maternal nutrition and delayed healthcare access in rural regions.

28. The Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited (KBJNL) is unique among irrigation project agencies in India because:

- A) It is a joint venture company with World Bank and Government of Karnataka.
- B) It is a fully state-owned company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, not a statutory board.
- C) It functions directly under the Ministry of Jal

Shakti, Government of India.

- D) It was established by an Act of the Karnataka Legislature with independent taxation powers.

29. Consider the following statements regarding Quantum City (Q-City)

- a). The Government of Karnataka has a plan to set up Q-City, at Hesaraghatta near Bengaluru.
- b). It is designed to be an R&D hub bridging quantum research, startups, and industry.
- c). Karnataka has announced its aim of building a \$20 billion quantum economy by 2035.
- d). The establishment of Q-City in Karnataka can be seen as aligning with National Quantum Mission, Digital India, Startup India initiatives.

Which of the above are NOT correct?

- A) a, b and d only
- B) b and c only
- C) None of the above
- D) All are correct

30. Which of the following statements about Kagzi lemon is correct?

- a. It is grown mainly in Indi taluk of Vijayapura district.
- b. It has export demand in Australia and UAE.
- c. It is known for its thick rind and low juice content.
- d. It has received the GI tag.

Select the correct code:

- A) a, b and d only
- B) b and c only
- C) a and c only
- D) a, b and c

31. The MoU between Karnataka Media Academy and Infosys Springboard programme is significant because:

- 1. It is the first CSR-based digital education training for journalists in India.
- 2. It directly fulfils the mandate under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- 3. It specifically targets journalists in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Which of the above are not correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) All are Correct
- D) None are incorrect

32. E-Swathu is implemented under the supervision of:

- A) Karnataka Revenue Department
- B) Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department
- C) Karnataka Housing Board
- D) BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike)

33. According to the “Karnataka Mid-Market GCC Report 2025,” which of the following is true about mid-market GCCs?

- a). They are established by enterprises with global revenues between \$100 million and \$1 billion.
- b). They mature at a slower pace than larger GCCs.
- c). Karnataka hosts more than 50% of all mid-market GCCs in India.

Select the correct code:

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

34. Which of the following policy incentives is incorrect under Karnataka’s 2024 GCC Policy?

- A) Five-year electricity duty exemption for GCCs outside Bengaluru.
- B) Internship stipend reimbursements of up to 50%.
- C) Creation of global innovation districts in Mysuru, Belagavi, and Mangaluru.
- D) Target of generating 3.5 lakh jobs and \$50 billion economic output by 2029.

35. Under which legal provision the Biodiversity Heritage site is declared?

- A) Section 16 of the Forest Rights Act, 2006
- B) Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- C) Section 3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986
- D) Section 5 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

36. Match the following Biodiversity Heritage Sites of Karnataka with their locations:

Biodiversity Heritage Sites	Location
1. Nallur Tamarind Grove	a. Chikkamagaluru
2. Hogrekan Shola	b. Bengaluru Rural

3. Ambaragudda	c. Vijayapura
4. Mamadapura Reserve Forest	d. Shivamogga

Choose the correct code:

- A) 1- b, 2- a, 3- d, 4- c
 B) 1- a, 2- b, 3- d, 4- c
 C) 1- b, 2- a, 3- c, 4- d
 D) 1- b, 2- d, 3- a, 4- c
- 37. If a new proposal comes to declare a Biodiversity Heritage Site which of the following authorities would play the most direct role in its notification?**
 A) Central Zoo Authority
 B) Karnataka State Biodiversity Board
 C) National Green Tribunal
 D) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
- 38. Which of the following best explains the significance of Project Khushi launched by Bengaluru City Police?**
 A. It aims to provide mental health counseling to the general public in Bengaluru through police health camps.
 B. It is a wellness programme targeting lifestyle-related diseases among police personnel in association with Happiest Health.
 C. It is a scheme for retired police officials to access post-retirement healthcare benefits.
 D. It is a CSR initiative of private hospitals for free treatment of cardiac emergencies for police officers.
- 39. Consider the following statements about the Chief Minister's Adivasi Gruha Bhagya scheme:**
1. It was launched in 2023 as part of Karnataka's efforts for tribal welfare.
 2. Only Soliga and Siddi tribal communities are eligible for benefits under the scheme.
 3. It provides pucca houses with basic amenities to ST families lacking housing.
 4. It is implemented under the Department of Social Welfare & Tribal Welfare, Government of Karnataka.
- Which of the above are correct?
 A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1, 3 and 4 only
 D. 1, 2, 3 and 4D

- 40. Which two platforms are being integrated to enable real-time monitoring of potholes and flooding in Bengaluru under the Greater Bengaluru Authority?**
 A) ASTraM app and Prahari app
 B) ASTraM app and Gundi Gamana
 C) BBMP Sahaya and Gundi Gamana
 D) ASTraM app and Jana Spandana
- 41. The Sharavati Pumped Storage Project, is implemented by:**
 A). KPTCL
 B). KPCL
 C). KPWD
 D). KREDL
- 42. The upcoming Karnataka Textile Policy 2025–2030 aims to generate employment opportunities for approximately:**
 A) 1 lakh persons
 B) 1.5 lakh persons
 C) 2 lakh persons
 D) 3 lakh persons
- 43. The Bengaluru Water Resilience Project (handling the storm-water drain), taken up by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), is primarily funded by which international institution?**
 A) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 B) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 C) World Bank
 D) New Development Bank (NDB)
- 44. Why did the Portuguese refer to Rani Chennabhairadevi as "Rainha de Pimenta" (Queen of Pepper)?**
 A) She levied taxes on pepper trade routes
 B) Her kingdom was renowned for exporting spices, especially pepper
 C) She monopolized pepper cultivation in southern India
 D) She signed a pepper-trade treaty with the Portuguese
- 45. 'Operation Meri Saheli', implemented by South Western Railway (SWR), primarily focuses on:**
 A) Ensuring timely train services for women
 B) Providing safety and comfort to solo women travellers
 C) Offering employment to women in railway

- stations
D) Reducing ticket fares for women passengers
- 46. Which state government has commenced India's first official survey of Sexual Minorities ?**
A) Karnataka
B) Maharashtra
C) Tamilnadu
D) Kerala
- 47. Consider the following statements regarding "The ELEVATE Karnataka" :**
a). It aims to boost innovation and entrepreneurship in Karnataka by supporting start-ups.
b). It comes under Ministry of MSME.
Which of the above is/are NOT correct?
A) Only a
B) Only b
C) Both
D) None
- 48. The ELEVATE Unnati 2025 programme under the Elevate initiative is specifically designed to support:**
A) Women entrepreneurs
B) SC/ST entrepreneurs
C) Rural entrepreneurs
D) Minority entrepreneur
- 49. Consider the following statements regarding Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority Bill, 2025**
a). No buffer zone is required for tanks measuring less than 5 guntas.
b). 6 metres buffer zone is proposed for tanks with an area between 1 acre and 10 acres.
c). Tanks between 25 acres and 100 acres will have a buffer zone of 30 metres.
Which of the above is/are correct?
A) Only a & b
B) Only b & c
C) All
D) Only a & c
- 50. The M. Govinda Rao Committee, is related to:**
A) Agricultural pricing reforms in Karnataka
B) Regional imbalances in Karnataka
C) Industrial pollution hotspots
D) Panchayat-level financial decentralisation

- 51. The Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana (ABVV) scheme in Karnataka promises free medical treatment to:**
A) All below-poverty-line families.
B) Senior citizens aged 65 and above.
C) All senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of economic status.
D) Only senior citizens with chronic illnesses.
- 52. Which organisation launched Nandini ghee and sweets in the US during the 8th World Kannada Summit 2025 in Florida?**
A) Amul Federation
B) Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF)
C) National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
D) Navika Foods International
- 53. Consider the following statements regarding "Deepika Student Scholarship Programme"**
a). It is a Collaborative effort of the Department of Higher Education and Azim Premji Foundation.
b). It provides ₹35,000 per year to eligible girl students to pursue higher education.
c). Those who have completed SSLC, PUC in government schools and colleges and have enrolled in any degree or diploma cannot get benefit.
d). 37,000 girl students are expected to benefit from 2025–26.
Which of the above is/are correct?
A) Only a & b
B) Only b & c
C) Only a & d
D) Only a & c
- 54. The N. V. Prasad Committee was constituted by the Karnataka government to:**
A) Review regional development policies
B) Propose regulations for bike taxi services
C) Reform state cooperative banking
D) Oversee transport electrification projects
- 55. Recently, which institution developed "fruit fly trap"**
A). University of Agricultural Scientists, Bengaluru
B). National Bureau of Agricultural Insects Resources, Bengaluru
C). Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
D). Karnataka Horticultural Department



Answer keys

1. C	31. D	61. B	91. B	121. B	151. A	1. C	31. C
2. C	32. D	62. B	92. B	122. C	152. C	2. C	32. B
3. C	33. A	63. C	93. D	123. B	153. A	3. C	33. B
4. A	34. D	64. C	94. A	124. C	154. C	4. B	34. C
5. D	35. B	65. B	95. B	125. C	155. A	5. D	35. B
6. B	36. C	66. B	96. B	126. D	156. C	6. C	36. A
7. C	37. D	67. C	97. C	127. B	157. B	7. B	37. B
8. B	38. B	68. B	98. C	128. C	158. C	8. C	38. B
9. D	39. B	69. C	99. B	129. B	159. B	9. B	39. C
10. A	40. A	70. C	100. C	130. B	160. B	10. B	40. B
11. D	41. B	71. C	101. B	131. C	161. C	11. D	41. B
12. A	42. B	72. C	102. C	132. B	162. A	12. B	42. C
13. C	43. B	73. B	103. B	133. B	163. A	13. A	43. C
14. A	44. C	74. B	104. B	134. B	164. B	14. B	44. B
15. D	45. B	75. B	105. D	135. C	165. D	15. A	45. B
16. C	46. B	76. C	106. C	136. D	166. D	16. B	46. B
17. B	47. A	77. C	107. C	137. B	167. D	17. A	47. A
18. C	48. D	78. D	108. B	138. B	168. D	18. B	48. B
19. D	49. B	79. B	109. A	139. B	169. B	19. A	49. A
20. B	50. B	80. C	110. C	140. D	170. A	20. A	50. B
21. C	51. B	81. C	111. B	141. A	171. B	21. A	51. C
22. C	52. B	82. B	112. B	142. B	172. B	22. B	52. B
23. B	53. B	83. B	113. C	143. D	173. B	23. B	53. C
24. D	54. B	84. D	114. C	144. C	174. D	24. D	54. B
25. A	55. C	85. B	115. B	145. A	175. B	25. C	55. B
26. B	56. D	86. B	116. C	146. B	176. B	26. C	
27. B	57. C	87. C	117. C	147. B	177. B	27. C	
28. B	58. B	88. B	118. C	148. D	178. A	28. B	
29. B	59. D	89. B	119. B	149. D		29. D	
30. B	60. A	90. D	120. C	150. B		30. A	

Our Initiatives

**KPSC KAS
Pre-Cum-Mains
Program**

**Samartha
& Samara
KAS Test
Series**

**YouTube
Initiatives -
Insta
Vidyamana**

**Mentorship
Program**

**Mission
Aarakshaka**

- (PSI/ESI/FDA / SDA/ALL GROUP-C CLASSES)
- RAKSHAKA - (PSI / ESI / FDA / SDA/ ALL GROUP-C TEST SERIES)

TOPPERS CORNER



RANJITH K R
TAHASILDAR
KPSC TOPPER 2022



HEMA P
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
CO-OPERATIVE AUDIT
KPSC TOPPER 2022



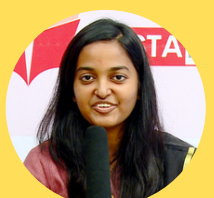
DR CHIKKAPPA NAYAK
TAHASILDAR
KPSC TOPPER 2022



RASHMI V
TAHASILDAR
KPSC TOPPER 2022



DIVYA K SHETTY
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT
OF EXCISE
KPSC TOPPER 2022



POORNIMA V
TAHASILDAR
KPSC TOPPER 2022



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

*Our
KAS
Branches*

Phone: 080 69 405 206

Email: support@insightsias.com