



INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ

A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative

**KAS, FDA/SDA/PDO/ GROUP C,
PSI/PC, TEACHER'S EXAMS**

ಕನ್ನಡ & English

By- Nandan Sir

March 2nd Week 2026

- Iranian Kurds
- Raisina Dialogue 2026
- Gravity Bomb
- India's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Karnataka & Andhra to Ban Social Media Use by Children
- IISc launches "Moonshot" Project on Brain Co-processors
- India - US Defence Ties
- Essential Commodities Act Invoked
- US F-1 Visas for Indian Students Drop 69%
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- Minuteman III
- Dandi March
- Bull Sharks in Iran's Karun River
- UNSC Condemning Iran Attacks on Gulf
- Assam's GI-tagged Joha Rice

- Operation White Hammer
- Operation Sagar Bandhu
- Failure of Atomic Clock Cripples ISRO's NavIC
- Thorium can Power India's 100 GWe by 2047 Mission
- Rajasthan's Property Bill
- Sangita Kalanidhi Award
- Jnanpith Award
- Western Tragopan: King of Birds
- Paid Menstrual Leave May Hurt Women's Careers: SC
- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026
- Kharg Island
- SWAMIH
- National Chambal Sanctuary
- International Solar Alliance
- KC-135 Stratotanker
- Global Pandemic Agreement
- Purple Potatoes

INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ
WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS
MARCH 2ND Week 2026

Iranian Kurds
International

Context

- U.S. President Donald Trump encouraged Iranian Kurdish forces to launch attacks against Iran as conflict in West Asia widened.

Kurds

- Kurdish people are an **ethnic minority group in the Middle East without an independent state.**
- The population ranges between **25 million and 45 million** worldwide, with most living in the mountainous region across parts of **western Iran, eastern Turkey, northern Iraq and Syria, and Armenia.**
- They speak various **Kurdish dialects**, not related to Turkish or Arabic; and are mostly **Sunni Muslims.**
- **Turkey has the largest population** of approximately 15 to 20 million people while Iran has 8-12 million Kurds.
- **Concerns of Kurds:** They were **promised a nation post-WWI, but never granted.**
- They faced rebellions, state suppression of language and culture.
- **Kurdistan Regional Government:** Following years of conflict and the 1991 Gulf War, the Kurds established the Kurdistan Regional Government (K.R.G.) in Iraq, which is now a constitutionally recognised autonomous region.

Raisina Dialogue 2026
International

Context

- **PM Modi attended the inaugural session of the Raisina Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi.**

- The theme for 2026 edition is “Samskara: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement.”

Raisina Dialogue

- The Raisina Dialogue is **India’s premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.**
- It brings together global leaders, policymakers, diplomats, scholars, and strategic experts to discuss major international challenges.
- **The first session was held in 2016.**
- It is **hosted by the Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation**, in collaboration with the **External affairs ministry of India.**

Gravity Bomb
Science and Tech

Context

- US Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth announced that the **US would be shifting to ‘gravity bombs’**, marking a major tactical pivot in the ongoing campaign against Iran.

Gravity Bomb

- A gravity bomb (or free-fall bomb) is an unpowered munition **dropped from an aircraft.**
- Unlike cruise missiles such as the Tomahawk cruise missile, **it has no engine and falls toward the target under gravity, guided by the aircraft’s speed and altitude.**
- **Modernisation:** Many gravity bombs are fitted with Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits, which use GPS and steerable fins to convert them into precision-guided munitions.
- **Key Feature:** Gravity bombs are **relatively cheap** but require aircraft to fly close to targets,

making them effective mainly when air superiority is achieved.

India's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity Environment

Context

- India has submitted its **7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, assessing national progress toward biodiversity targets for 2030.
- The report evaluates India's performance against **23 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs)** aligned with the **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- **Origin:** The Convention was opened for signature in **1992** at the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit)**.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force on **29 December 1993**.
- The first session of the COP was scheduled in **1994** in the **Bahamas**.
- **Secretariat:** Montreal, Canada.
- **Ratification:** The CBD has been ratified by **196 nations**, making it one of the most widely adopted international treaties.
- **Note - The United States is the only UN member state that has not ratified the convention.**

It has 3 main objectives;

1. The conservation of biological diversity
 2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
 3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- The governing body is the **Conference of the Parties (COP)**, which meets every two years.
 - The **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-**

Sharing are **supplementary agreements to the CBD**.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was **concluded at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, held in **Montreal, Canada, in 2022**.
- It features **23 targets to be met by 2030** and **four global goals for 2050** to preserve biodiversity for current and future generations.
- The agreement is **not binding on members**.

Karnataka & Andhra to Ban Social Media Use by Children **Syllabus: GS2/Governance**

Context

- **Karnataka** has announced a ban on social media use by children under 16 in its latest Budget, and **Andhra Pradesh** is moving to introduce a measure that would prohibit those under 13 to use such service.
- **Objective - to restrict social media access for minors to combat digital addiction and safeguard mental health.**

State-Wise Proposed Restrictions

- **Karnataka:** The proposal aims to ban social media for children under 16 years of age.
- **Andhra Pradesh** - to prohibit social media for children under 13 years of age,

Key Objectives and Context

- **Health and Safety:** The primary drivers are rising concerns over **digital addiction, cyberbullying, and declining academic performance**.
- **Global Precedents:** These moves follow international trends, such as **Australia's world-first nationwide ban for under-16s enacted in late 2025**.
- **Support Measures:** Karnataka has paired its proposal with the "**Mobile Bidi, Pustaka**

Hidi" (Leave the phone, pick a book) campaign and plans to deploy mental health counselors in educational centers.

Additional Information - 'Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi' (Drop the Mobile, Pick up a Book)

- It is a statewide campaign launched by the Government of Karnataka in February 2026
- Objective - to combat mobile phone addiction and revive reading habits among schoolchildren.

Key Details of the Campaign

- **Primary Objective:** To reduce excessive screen time for children under 16 and encourage them to cultivate a love for physical books and libraries.
- **Target Audience:** Approximately 50 lakh students across government, aided, and private schools in Karnataka.
- **Implementation:** Overseen by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) and the Department of State Education Research and Training (DSERT).

IISc launches "Moonshot" Project on Brain Co-processors

Syllabus: GS3/ Science and Technology

Context

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) launched a moonshot project to develop brain co-processors that combine neuromorphic hardware and AI algorithms to enhance or restore brain function.

Brain Co-Processors

- Brain co-processors are advanced devices designed to interact directly with the human brain.
- They decode neural signals, process them using AI algorithms, and re-encode them back into the brain through neural stimulation or neurofeedback.

- They enable cognitive and motor rehabilitation, particularly for stroke survivors who lose sensorimotor abilities such as reaching and grasping objects.

India – US Defence Ties **Syllabus: GS2/IR**

Context

- India has denied reports that it assisted the United States in targeting an Iranian vessel near Sri Lankan waters.

India – US Military Exercises:

- **Yudh Abhyas:** Land forces.
- **Malabar:** Naval quadrilateral with US, India, Japan, Australia.
- **Cope India:** Air exercise.
- **Tiger Triumph:** Tri-service HADR exercise.
- **Vajra Prahar:** Special forces.

Essential Commodities Act Invoked **Syllabus: GS2/Governance**

News

- The Centre invoked the Essential Commodities Act in response to the oil crisis following Israel-U.S. strikes on Iran.
- Centre directed oil refining companies to prioritize LPG production using propane and butane streams, supply it exclusively to domestic consumers, and not use these streams for other petrochemical products.

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

- It has been a tool used by the government through the years to offset rising food prices, prevent hoarding and maintain food security.
- The list of essential commodities includes drugs and medicines, fertilizers, foodstuffs (including edible oils), hank yarn, petroleum and petroleum products, raw jute and jute textiles, and various types of seeds such as those for fruits, vegetables, and cattle fodder.

- The **2020 amendment to the Essential Commodities Act** limited the Centre's powers to regulate key food items only under extraordinary circumstances and
- It allowed stock limits on agricultural produce only if prices rose sharply—100% for horticultural goods and 50% for non-perishable foodstuffs.

US F-1 Visas for Indian Students Drop 69% **Syllabus: GS2/IR**

In News

- In 2025, F-1 visa issuances to Indian students fell by 69% in June-July (12,776 visas) compared to 41,336 in 2024.

F-1 visa

- The **F-1 visa** permits foreign students to study full-time in the U.S.
- It has long served as a **key talent pipeline for the US**. Created under the **Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952**,
- It allows students to remain temporarily in the US after graduation.
- This route has **helped American universities and technology firms attract global talent**, particularly from India and China.

How is the F-1 visa different from an M visa?

- There are two types of US study visas — F and M.
- The **'F' category visa is used for university or college, high school, private elementary school, seminary, conservatory, and other academic institutions, including a language training programme.**
- The **'M' category visa is used for vocational or other recognised nonacademic institutions**, other than a language training programme.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) **Syllabus: GS3/Defence**

Context

- The 57th Raising Day of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was observed recently.

Central Industrial Security Force

- **It is a paramilitary force established in 1969, under the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.**
- Every year, **CISF Raising Day is observed on March 10.**
- **Operates under - Ministry of Home Affairs of India.**

Functions - It provides security to the strategic establishment including

- **Department of Space**
- **Department of Atomic Energy,**
- **Airports, Delhi Metro and ports.**
- **Historical monuments**
- **Basic areas of the Indian economy such as petroleum and natural gas, electricity, coal, steel and mining.**

Minuteman III **Syllabus: GS3/Defence**

Context

- As tensions continue to rise in the Middle East, the **United States conducted a test launch of a Minuteman III missile.**

Minuteman III

- It is **nicknamed as 'doomsday' missile**, and is an **intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).**
- **Range - It reaches a top speed of Mach 23, or roughly 28,400 kilometres per hour, and can travel over 9,600 kilometres.**
- **Developed by Boeing in the 1950s**
- **Purpose - to bolster American homeland protection,**
- **Minuteman III is stored and launched from a silo, a fortified underground bunker designed to protect the missile from enemy attacks.**
- **Notably, a Minuteman III has never been fired in actual combat, making the weapon one of**

the most powerful things on Earth that has never actually been used in war.

Do you know?

- The Minuteman III was **originally supposed to be replaced in the 2030s**, but delays with the new Sentinel ICBM have led officials to consider **keeping it in service potentially until 2050**.

Dandi March

Syllabus: GS1/ Modern History of India

Context

- The Vice President of India recently paid **tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and the freedom fighters involved in the Dandi March (1930)**.

Dandi March

- The British colonial government had imposed a **monopoly on the production and sale of salt and levied a salt tax**, making even this basic necessity expensive for Indians.
- In 1930, **Gandhiji declared that he would lead a march to break the salt law as it was sinful to tax salt** since it is such an essential item of food.
- Gandhiji with his 78 followers started **Salt Satyagraha March on 12th March 1930 from Sabarmati Ashram and reached Dandi after 24 days on 6th April 1930**.
- **He broke the salt law by picking up natural salt from the seashore and boiling seawater to make salt.**
- The Salt Satyagraha became the **starting point of the Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- The Dandi March inspired similar protests across different regions like in Tamil Nadu led by C. Rajagopalachari & in Kerala organized by K. Kelappan, popularly known as Kerala Gandhi.
- **After Gandhi's arrest, Sarojini Naidu led a nonviolent protest at the Dharasana Salt Works on 21 May 1930.**

Bull Sharks in Iran's Karun River Syllabus: GS1/ Geography



Context

- Recent discussions about unusual wildlife habitats have **highlighted the presence of bull sharks in Iran's Karun River near the city of Ahvaz**.

Karun River

- The Karun River is the **largest and only navigable river in Iran**.
- It originates in the **Zagros Mountains**.
- It flows through southwestern Iran and **eventually joins the Shatt al-Arab**, which is formed by the confluence of the **Tigris River and Euphrates River**.
- The **Shatt al-Arab then empties into the Persian Gulf**.

Bull Sharks (Carcharhinus leucas)

- **Biological Features:** Bull sharks are **one of the few shark species capable of surviving in both saltwater and freshwater**.
- They possess specialised **osmoregulation mechanisms that allow them to control salt concentration in their bodies**.
- This adaptation enables them to **travel far inland through river systems**.
- **Global Distribution:** Bull sharks have been recorded in several rivers across the world, like; **Mississippi River (USA), Amazon River, Zambezi River and Ganges River**.

- **Conservation Status:** It is listed as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.**

UNSC Condemning Iran Attacks on Gulf
Syllabus: GS2/IR



Context

- India co-sponsored a resolution at the UN Security Council that condemned the attacks by Iran against Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan.
- India along with 134 countries that demanded the “immediate cessation of all attacks by Iran” against GCC countries Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan.
- The resolution was passed with 13 UNSC members voting in favour while Russia and China abstained.
- It also condemned “any actions or threats by Iran aimed at obstructing international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz”.

Additional Information - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- It is a **political and economic union of six Arabian Peninsula countries**
- **Members:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

- **Establishment:** Founded on **May 25, 1981**, through an agreement signed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- **Objectives:** To achieve unity and coordination among member states in all fields, including economic, security, cultural, and social cooperation.
- **Headquarters:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Purple Potatoes
Syllabus: GS3/Agriculture



Context

- A young farmer from Punjab has gained attention for cultivating purple potatoes using seed tubers imported from Bolivia.

Purple potatoes

- Cultivated in - **Andean region of South America, especially Peru and Bolivia.**
- Purple potatoes are **naturally pigmented potato varieties with deep purple skin and flesh.**
- The tubers are deep purple both externally and internally **due to a high concentration of anthocyanins**, natural antioxidants responsible for the colour.
- The **thicker peel gives them a longer shelf life than conventional potatoes.**
- The **crop duration is around 90–100 days**, with sowing generally done in October–November.

- They are **rich in vitamin C and antioxidants**, and are considered **beneficial for people managing conditions such as diabetes or joint pain**.

Do You Know?

- **India has developed its own purple potato variety Kufri Jamunia**, launched in 2024 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Potato Cultivation

- India is the **world's second top producer and consumer of potato after China**; in 2020, it saw a **production of 51.30 million tonnes**.
- Among the states in India, **Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal lead the production, followed by Bihar**.
- **Potato is a cool-season crop and best suited to well-drained sandy loam soils**.

Assam's GI-tagged Joha Rice Syllabus: GS3/Economy



Context

- **India has facilitated the export of 25 metric tonnes of Assam's GI-tagged Joha Rice to the United Kingdom and Italy**.

Joha Rice

- It is an **aromatic indigenous rice variety**, which received its Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2017.
- It is gaining recognition in premium global markets for its **distinctive fragrance, fine grain texture and rich taste**.
- **The leading districts in Joha rice production are: Nagaon, Baksa, Goalpara, Sibsagar, Majuli, Chirang and Golaghat**.
- This strong production base provides a good opportunity to create a surplus for exports and enhance farmers' income.

Connect with the basics - Geographical Indication or GI Tag

- 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.

Operation White Hammer

Syllabus: GS3/Internal Security

Context

- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) recently raided an illegal Alprazolam manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh as part of Operation “White Hammer.”

Alprazolam

- It is a psychotropic substance regulated under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- Alprazolam is a benzodiazepine drug used to treat anxiety disorders and commonly marketed under brand names such as Xanax.
- India is one of the world’s largest producers of generic medicines, which sometimes leads to misuse of pharmaceutical chemicals for illicit drug trade.

Legal Framework in India

- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985: Regulates production, possession, sale, transport, and consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances.
- Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940: Regulates manufacture, quality, and sale of pharmaceutical drugs in India.

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

- It is India’s premier anti-smuggling intelligence agency & functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

Operation Sagar Bandhu

Syllabus: GS2/IR; GS3/Defence

Context

- The Indian Army has launched a Major Bridge Project in Sri Lanka under Operation Sagar Bandhu.

About

- The bridge will connect Colombo, the capital city, with the key economic centre of Puttalam along a vital coastal corridor passing through Chilaw District.
- The project reflects India’s engineering assistance to support Sri Lanka’s infrastructure recovery and connectivity.
- It is aligned with India’s Neighbourhood First Policy and broader regional cooperation initiatives.

Background

- India launched Operation Sagar Bandhu in November 2025 as a First Responder following the devastating Cyclone Ditwah.
- The operation aimed to provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to Sri Lanka.

Failure of Atomic Clock Cripples ISRO’s NavIC

Syllabus: GS3/ Science and Technology

Context

- India’s indigenous navigation satellite system Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) has suffered a setback after the failure of the IRNSS-1F satellite due to malfunction of its last operational rubidium atomic clock.

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)

- It was launched in 2013.
- Established by - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It is India’s autonomous regional navigation satellite system, designed to fulfill both civilian and military navigational needs.
- NavIC was erstwhile known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).
- Purpose - It provides precise Position, Velocity, and Timing (PVT) services within India and extends up to 1,500 km beyond the

country's borders, forming its primary service area.

- NavIC is designed with a **constellation of 7 satellites** and a network of ground stations operating 24 x 7.
- **Three satellites of the constellation are placed in geostationary orbit and four satellites are placed in inclined geosynchronous orbit.**
- **Significance** - It provides **location accuracy better than 20 meters and timing accuracy better than 40 nanoseconds** across the core service area.

Thorium can Power India's 100 GWe by 2047 Mission

Syllabus: GS3/Energy Sector

Context

- The **SHANTI Act 2025** represents a **watershed moment for India's atomic energy programme**; however, resolving the challenges of thorium utilisation is urgent.

India's Thorium Reserves



- India has **one of the largest reserves of thorium** in the world.
- Together, **Kerala and Odisha account for over 70% of India's thorium.**
- **India has been developing a three-stage nuclear program**, with thorium-based reactors being a critical part of the third stage.
- **Challenges:** Extracting thorium from ores **requires high amounts of energy and creates significant waste.**

- It includes challenges such as the **need for advanced reactor technology and economic viability.**

Need for Thorium Utilization

- **Reduce Reliance on Imports:** The growth of nuclear generation capacity currently depends heavily on imported uranium.
- **Domestic uranium ores are lean and costly to extract**, though this does provide some insulation against supply disruptions.

Significance of Thorium for India

- **Resource Advantage:** India has limited uranium but abundant thorium reserves, mainly in coastal and riverine sands.
- **Nuclear Behaviour:** Thorium is not fissile like uranium; it is fertile and converts into uranium-233 after absorbing neutrons, which can then sustain nuclear fission.
- **Strategic Fit:** Integral to India's long-term three-stage nuclear power programme.

India's Three-stage nuclear programme

- India established the **Atomic Energy Commission in 1948.**
- **In 1956, Asia's first research reactor, Apsara**, was commissioned at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Trombay.
- **Note - India was the second Asian nation to build a nuclear power plant** in 1969 at Tarapur, just after Japan and long before China.
- **India has a three-phase programme of nuclear power** visioned by **Dr Homi J Bhabha, the father of India's nuclear programme.**
 1. First Stage (Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors – PHWRs)
 2. Second Stage (Fast Breeder Reactors – FBRs)
 3. Third Stage (Advanced Heavy Water Reactors – AHWRs)

Rajasthan's Property Bill

Syllabus: GS2/Polity

Context

- The **Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property in Disturbed Areas Bill** was passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.
- **Rajasthan becomes the second state** in India, after Gujarat, to implement such a bill.

Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property in Disturbed Areas Bill

- **Aim: To regulate property transactions in areas that the government declares as “disturbed”.**
- Under the proposed law, **Section 3(1,2) states that the State government may declare any area within the State as a ‘disturbed area’** if it considers that **communal violence, riots, or public disorder exist or are likely to occur.**
- Once a locality is notified, **any transfer of immovable property, including land, houses or commercial establishments, would require prior approval** from the District Magistrate.
- Property transactions carried out without such permission **would be treated as legally invalid.**
- The law also **provides penalties for property transfers carried out without the required permission.**
- **Concern - The Bill has also drawn attention in relation to Article 14, which guarantees equality before the law.**

Do you Know?

- **Note - The right to property was removed as a fundamental right by the 44th Amendment to the Constitution in 1978.**
- It remains protected under **Article 300A, which states that no person can be deprived of property except by authority of law.**

Sangita Kalanidhi Award

Syllabus: Miscellaneous

Context

- **Veena player Jayanthi Kumaresh has been announced the coveted Sangita Kalanidhi** at the 100th Conference and Concerts of The Music Academy, Madras.
- **Bharatanatyam dancer Narendra G will be conferred the Nritya Kalanidhi award.**

Sangita Kalanidhi Award

- **Instituted in 1942** by The Music Academy, Madras.
- It is regarded as the **highest honour in Carnatic music, often described as the “Nobel Prize of Carnatic music.”**
- The award comprises a **gold medal and a ‘birudu patra’ (citation).**

Additional Information - Music Academy, Madras

- **It originated** as an offshoot of the **All India Congress Session of 1927 held in Chennai (then Madras).**
- It was established to **promote and standardise Carnatic music traditions.**
- The Academy **organizes the annual Music and Dance Festival**, one of the most prominent cultural events in the Carnatic tradition.
- The Academy also confers **several awards, including the Sangita Kala Acharya, TTK Award, and Musicologist Award.**

Jnanpith Award

Syllabus: Miscellaneous

Context

- **Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu has been selected for the Jnanpith Award for the year 2025.**

Vairamuthu

- He is the **third Tamil litterateur to receive the award** after Akilan (1975) and Jayakanthan (2002), and the **first to be honoured for Tamil**

poetry, while the earlier awardees were recognised for prose.

- He has written over 8,000 songs, won seven National Film Awards for lyrics, and earned the honorific “Kaviperarasu” (Emperor of Poets).
- The award, however, has been met with sharp criticism from some writers, artists and activists who point to sexual harassment allegations made against him during the #MeToo movement in India.

About Jnanpith Award (also spelled Gyanpeeth Award)

- Instituted in 1961 by the Bharatiya Jnanpith,
- It is India’s highest literary honour, awarded annually to an Indian author for outstanding contribution to literature.
- Bharatiya Jnanpith is a literary and research organization founded by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain and Rama Jain.
- It is awarded for the work in 22 languages recognized by the Constitution of India and, from 2013, in the English language.
- The award carries a ₹11 lakh cash prize, citation, and a bronze statuette of Vagdevi (Saraswati).
- The first recipient was Malayalam writer G. Sankara Kurup in 1965 for Odakkuzhal.

Western Tragopan: King of Birds Syllabus: GS3/Environment



Context

- The Western Tragopan, a rare Himalayan pheasant, faces increasing threats due to forest loss and human pressures.

Western Tragopan (Tragopan melanocephalus),

- It is also known as Jujurana or “king of birds,” is one of the rarest and most stunning pheasant species in the world.
- **Habitat and Distribution:** Found in temperate and subalpine forests at 2,400–3,600 m (occasionally down to 2,000 m in winter).
- **From Swat Valley (Pakistan) across Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to Uttarakhand.**
- **Diet:** They are omnivores, feeding on berries, seeds, buds, shoots, and insects.
- **Major Threats:** Forest degradation, climate change, and human disturbances.
- **Conservation Status:** It is listed as Vulnerable by BirdLife International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Do you know?

- The bird is also the state bird of Himachal Pradesh, highlighting its cultural and ecological value.

Paid Menstrual Leave May Hurt Women’s Careers: SC Health & Society

Context

- The Supreme Court expressed apprehensions that a law making paid leave during menstrual pain compulsory may damage the careers of young women and deprive them of equal opportunities.

Menstrual Leave

- Menstrual leave refers to paid or unpaid leave granted to women during menstruation when they experience health issues such as:

- **Dysmenorrhea:** painful menstrual cramps
- **Endometriosis:** a disorder where tissue similar to uterine lining grows outside the uterus

Highlights of the SC Judgement

- Such a move could create a **psychological barrier among women that they are inferior to men as they can't work** when they are menstruating.
- The Court encouraged **“voluntary” initiatives** in this regard by States like Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala, which **gives leave to students in State-run universities and institutions up to 60 days’ leave annually** for menstrual pain.

Arguments in Favour of Paid Menstrual Leave

- **Promotes Gender-Sensitive Workplaces:** Recognises biological realities of women and promotes inclusivity and empathy in the workplace.
- **Aligns with Constitutional Principles:** Supports Article 42 of the Constitution of India, which directs the state to ensure just and humane conditions of work.
- **Improves Productivity and Well-being:** Allows women to rest during periods of pain or discomfort, leading to better overall performance and morale.
- **Health and Human Rights Perspective:** Upholds women’s right to health, dignity, and bodily autonomy.
- **De-stigmatising Menstruation:** Recognising menstrual health in workplace policy can help break social taboos & promote gender equality.
- **Global Alignment:** Reflects global best practices, countries like Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Spain have similar policies.

Arguments Against

- **Risk of Workplace Discrimination:** Employers may become reluctant to hire or

promote women, viewing them as less productive or more costly.

- **Informal Sector Dominance:** Nearly **88% of India’s workforce is in the informal sector**, where formal leave policies are largely absent.
- **Implementation Challenges in the Private Sector:** Ensuring compliance and monitoring across diverse industries could be difficult.

Existing Menstrual Leave Policies in India

- **India does not have a national law on menstrual leave**, but some states have introduced policies.
- **Bihar was the first state to introduce menstrual leave (1992) for government employees.**
- **Some companies have introduced voluntary menstrual leave policies like Zomato, Swiggy.**

Additional Information - Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy-2025

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

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026

News-

- **The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Lok Sabha** by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.

Major Highlights of the Bill

- **The Bill aims to amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.**
- **Definition of Transgender Person:** It seeks to narrow the definition of “transgender person” and clarifies that persons with different sexual orientations or self perceived sexual identities will not fall within the definition of transgender persons under the Act.
- **Changes To Recognition Of Gender Identity:** The District Magistrate will issue a certificate of identity after examining the recommendation of a designated medical board headed by a Chief Medical Officer or Deputy Chief Medical Officer.

Additional Information - LGBTQIA+

- **LGBTQIA+ is an umbrella term for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual persons, with ‘+’ representing other identities that are not specifically included in these letters.**

India’s Position on LGBTQIA+ Rights

- **As per census 2011, there were 4.87 lakhs persons in India who opted for “other” in gender category.**
- **Decriminalisation:** Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018) decriminalised consensual homosexual acts (Section 377 partially struck down).
- **Transgender Rights:** NALSA v. Union of India (2014) recognised the right to self-identify gender.
- **It recognises transgender as the “third gender” upholding their fundamental rights.**
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 14 – Right to equality, Article 15 – No discrimination on grounds of sex and Article 21 – Right to life and personal liberty.
- **Legislation:** The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 provides legal recognition of transgender identity.

Challenges Faced by the Transgenders

- **Societal Issues:** Trans persons face deep-rooted societal prejudices, leading to ostracisation from families and communities.
- **Lack of Access to Education:** High school dropout rates due to bullying, harassment, and gender-based violence.
- **Barriers in Employment:** Trans persons face widespread discrimination in hiring and the workplace. Often forced into informal, unsafe, and exploitative sectors, like begging or sex work, due to lack of opportunities.
- **Healthcare Exclusion:** They face lack of gender-affirmative healthcare, discrimination by medical staff, and unavailability of hormonal and surgical services in public hospitals.
- **High mental health burden due to social rejection and isolation.**
- **Violence and Abuse:** Prone to verbal, physical, and sexual violence both in public and private spaces.
- **Political Underrepresentation:** Low political visibility and representation in mainstream parties and institutions.
- **Lack of policy-making** participation hinders the articulation of their needs.

Government Initiatives

- **National Portal for Transgender Persons** - launched in 2020, enables online applications for identity certificates and access to benefits.
- **SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme**, introduced in 2022, provides livelihood, skill training, and shelter support through Garima Greh centres and Ayushman Bharat TG Plus health coverage.
- **National Council for Transgender Persons:** It serves as a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to safeguard and promote the rights of transgender persons in India.

Kharg Island

Syllabus: GS1/Geography



Context

- Recently, U.S. forces struck military targets at Kharg Island in Iran.

Kharg Island

- It is often referred to as the ‘Orphan pearl’.
- It is a small island in the northeastern Persian Gulf, approximately 25 kilometres off the coast of Iran’s Khuzestan Province.
- Despite its modest size, it is the single most important oil export terminal in Iran and one of the most strategically significant energy chokepoints in the world.
- Almost all Iranian crude destined for international markets is loaded here before passing through the Strait of Hormuz into global shipping lanes.

Do you know?

- Iran is the third-largest producer in Organization Of The Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), accounting for roughly 4.5% of global oil supply.

SWAMIH

Syllabus: GS2/Government Initiatives

Context

- The Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Investment Fund (SWAMIH) has emerged as a key policy initiative for India’s Housing Sector.

Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Investment Fund (SWAMIH)

- Launched in 2019,
- It provides last-mile financing to housing projects affected by financial constraints.
- The fund is sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and is managed by SBICAP Ventures Ltd., a State Bank Group company.
- **Impact and Outcomes:** Over 58,596 homes completed so far under SWAMIH, with more than 1 lakh homes expected, benefiting over 2.38 lakh people.

National Chambal Sanctuary

Syllabus: GS3/Environment

In News

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India took suo motu cognisance to protect the National Chambal Sanctuary from rampant illegal sand mining that threatens the habitat of Gharial.

National Chambal Sanctuary

- **Location-** It is situated in a large arc of the Chambal River, covering nearly 1800 km across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- It is the first and only tri-state riverine protected area in India.
- It is a major habitat of the critically endangered Gharial.
- **Species -** Besides Gharials, the sanctuary hosts a rich biodiversity of Marsh Crocodile Muggers, several species of freshwater turtles, including the endangered Red Crowned Roof Turtle, Smoothcoated Otters, Gangetic

River Dolphins, Indian Skimmer, Black-bellied Tern, Sarus Crane and Black-necked Storks.

Additional Information - Gharials

Characteristics:

- They show **Sexual Dimorphism** means males and females differ significantly in size and appearance.
- Unlike crocodiles, gharials **feed exclusively on warm-blooded species and are not man-eaters.**

Habitat Distribution:

- Gharials are strictly **riverine species**, requiring deep, clear, fast-flowing waters with steep, sandy riverbanks.
- Mainly found in **Chambal River, Girwa River, Ken River, Yamuna River, Brahmaputra River, Ghaghara River, Bhagirathi-Hooghly River.**

Conservation Status:

- IUCN Status: Critically Endangered
- It is listed under **Schedule 1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**

Conservation programmes

- **Project Crocodile (1975): Initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and focused on captive breeding.**

International Solar Alliance Syllabus: GS3/Environment

News

- Recently, the Government highlighted the growing global momentum behind solar energy and ISA's role in advancing the clean energy transition.

International Solar Alliance

- **Started** - The ISA, is an Indian initiative that was **launched by the Prime Minister of India**

and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris.

- **Solar powered countries** - It is an initiative with 124 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.
- **Objective** - To collectively address key common challenges to the **scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.**
- **Headquarter** - **National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) campus, Gurugram.**
- **Members:** As of March 2026, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) **has expanded to include 125 member and signatory countries.** Of these, approximately **107 countries have officially ratified the ISA Framework Agreement to become full members.**

KC-135 Stratotanker Syllabus: GS3/Defence

Context

- A KC-135 Stratotanker refuelling aircraft crashed in western Iraq during an ongoing military mission **Operation Epic Fury** (code name mission against Iran).

KC-135 Stratotanker

- The KC-135 Stratotanker was **built by Boeing in the 1950s and early 1960s.**
- It has been a **backbone to the US military's air refuelling fleet**, and critical in allowing aircraft to carry out missions without having to land.
- **They were used extensively in the first Gulf War to extend the range of fighter jets and bombers.**
- It has a speed of **530 miles per hour at 30,000 feet (9,144 meters).**

Global Pandemic Agreement Syllabus: GS2/Health

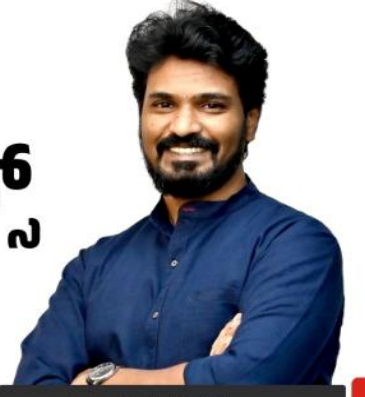
News

- India is pushing for a fair benefit-sharing framework for developing countries in the

upcoming pandemic agreement negotiations in Geneva.

Global Pandemic Agreement

- **It was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2025.**
- **It seeks to establish a legally binding international framework to address global gaps and inequalities in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.**
- **Its Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system is being negotiated to regulate how biological samples and genetic data are shared internationally.**
- **It is expected to be adopted by May 2026, will then be open for countries to sign and ratify, and will enter into force 30 days after 60 ratifications.**



ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನದಲ್ಲಿ
ವಿನಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಜಿ ಬಿ
 ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಇನ್‌ಸೈಟ್ಸ್, ಐಎಎಸ್

ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ ಪ್ರಿಲಿಮ್-ಕಮ್-ಮೇನ್ಸ್ 2026 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಬ್ಯಾಚ್-3 | 6ನೇ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ 2026

- ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಖ್ಯಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಸಂಯೋಜಿತ ತರಗತಿಗಳು (8-9 ತಿಂಗಳು)
- ದ್ವಿಭಾಷಾ ಭೋಧನಾ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ -(ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕನ್ನಡ)
- ಅನುಭವಿ ತರಬೇತುದಾರರಿಂದ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಂದುವರಿದ ತರಗತಿಗಳು
- ಮುಖ್ಯಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಉತ್ತರ ಬರೆಯುವ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಮಹತ್ವ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು
- ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೂ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ
- ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಖ್ಯಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಟೆಸ್ಟ್ ಸರಣಿ, ಆಫ್‌ಲೈನ್ & ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್

EARLY BIRD OFFER



DISCOUNT

VALID TILL.

4th Apr 2026



SUBSCRIBE HERE

ಆಫ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ:

~~₹ 60,000/-~~

₹ 54,000/-

incl. taxes

ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ:

~~₹ 50,000/-~~

₹ 45,000/-

incl. taxes



GIRIDHAR SIR
ETHICS



SHIVANAND SIR
POLITY
(HONORARY ADVISOR)



SHASHANK SIR
GEOGRAPHY



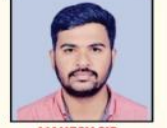
DHRUV SIR
GEOGRAPHY



NAVEEN SIR
HISTORY



NANDAN SIR
ENVIRONMENT & CA



MAHESH SIR
ECONOMY
(HONORARY ADVISOR)



PAJWAL SIR
SOCIETY



SRIKANTH SIR
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



VINAYAK SIR
HISTORY



MAMDAPUR SIR
PHYSICS



LINGARAJU SIR
ESSAY



YOGANAND SIR
AGRICULTURE



NINGAPPA SIR
MENTAL ABILITY



ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಚೇರಿ:

INSTA KAS , 1134/1, 2 ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಶರಾವತಿ
 ಅಸ್ಸತ್ತೆಯ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸರ್ವಿಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಅತ್ತಿಗುಪ್ಪೆ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ
 ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಎದುರು, RPC ಲೇಔಟ್, ವಿಜಯನಗರ,
 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560040.



ಸಂಪರ್ಕ:

08069405206



ಮೇಲ್:

support@insightsias.com



www.insightsonindia.com
 instacourses.insightsonindia.com

ಶಾಖೆಗಳು: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು | ದೆಹಲಿ | ಹೈದರಾಬಾದ್ | ಶ್ರೀನಗರ | ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ



ಮಿಷನ್ ಆರಕ್ಷಕ

ಪಿಎಸ್‌ಐ/ಇಎಸ್‌ಐ/ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಸಿ @ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ

SCHOLARSHIP TEST DETAILS

ಮೊದಲ 5 ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ದಿನಾಂಕ 5ನೇ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ 2026

RANKS: 6-10 50% SCHOLARSHIP	RANKS: 11-25 30% SCHOLARSHIP	RANKS: 26-50 20% SCHOLARSHIP
---------------------------------------	--	--



ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಕರು
ವಿನಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಜಿ ಬಿ
ಸ್ನಾಪಕರು ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಇನ್‌ಸೈಟ್ಸ್ ಐಎಎಸ್

CLASSES STARTS ON

ಬ್ಯಾಚ್ - 5 13ನೇ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ 2026

ತುಲ್ಯ
₹ 25,000/-
20% OFF
Early Bird Offer
₹ 20,000/-

ತರಬೇತುದಾರರು



NAVEEN SIR
MODERN &
KARNATAKA HISTORY



VINAYAK SIR
ANCIENT &
MEDIEVAL



SHASHANK SIR
WORLD & INDIAN,
KARNATAKA GEOGRAPHY



SHIVANANDA SIR
POLITY
(HONORARY ADVISOR)



DHRUVA SIR
WORLD INDIAN &
KARNATAKA GEOGRAPHY



VIJAY KUMAR SIR
PHYSICS



SRIKANTH SIR
BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY &
TECHNOLOGY



NANDAN SIR
ENVIRONMENT & CA



REGISTER HERE
FOR COURSE



LINGARAJU SIR
ESSAY, PRECIS &
TRANSLATION



NINGAPPA
MENTAL ABILITY



HEMANTH S K SIR
GENERAL KANNADA



SHIVAKUMAR MAVALI SIR
GENERAL ENGLISH



SANJAY SIR
COMPUTER



FOR ONLINE
SCHOLARSHIP TEST

📍 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಚೇರಿ:
INSTA KAS , 1134/1, 2 ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಶರಾವತಿ
ಅಸ್ಸತ್ತೆಯ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸರ್ವಿಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಅತ್ತಿಗುಪ್ಪೆ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ
ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಎದುರು, RPC ಲೇಔಟ್, ವಿಜಯನಗರ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560040.

📞 ಸಂಪರ್ಕ:
08069405206

✉ ಮೇಲ್:
support@insightsias.com



www.insightsonindia.com
instacourses.insightsonindia.com

ಶಾಖೆಗಳು: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು | ದೆಹಲಿ | ಶ್ರೀನಗರ | ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ