



SROTHAS

A Monthly Magazine for UPSC Civil Service Examination

**CURRENT
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I. POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1. Judicial Recusals

- Recusal is the exclusion of oneself as a judge or policy maker on a particular matter, especially because of a conflict of interest.
- It is a basic precept that no one should be a judge in his or her own case.
- Courts must uphold the promise of fair and impartial justice and adjudicate disputes impartially

2. Mo Ghara Scheme

- The Odisha government has launched a new scheme called Mo Ghara (MyHome), a housing loan scheme for the state's rural poor, which aims to convert all kutcha houses into pucca houses.
- Under this scheme, the beneficiary can avail a housing loan of up to Rs 3lakh which can be repaid over 10 years in easy instalments subject to an annual moratorium.

3. State Food Safety Index 2023

- Among the larger states, Kerala secured the top ranking, followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu
- Smaller states: Goa, Manipur and Sikkim
- UTs: J&K, Delhi and Chandigarh

- The index has evaluated the performance of states and UTs across six different aspects of food safety.

4. Poshan app allows migrant workers to access nurseries

- Under the 'One Nation One Anganwadi Programme', even if people relocate to another state, they can avail the benefits provided by the government to children below six years of age and pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- This can be possible with the coordination of Centre and the State governments using 'PoshanTracker App' on mobile phones.

5. GOBARDhan

- The Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the Unified Registration Portal for GOBARDhan.
- GOBARDhan : Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan.
- A comprehensive repository for assessing investment and participation in the biogas/CBG sector at pan-India level and streamlining the process of setting up CBG/biogas plants

6. KAVACHSYSTEM

- KAVACH is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards

Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with Indian industry.

- It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards.
- It is intended to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red and avoiding collision.

7. Unique Disability ID

- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities aims at building an end-to-end integrated system for Issuance of Universal ID & Disability Certificates for Person with Disabilities with their identification and disability details.
- Unique ID is being implemented by creating a National Database for PwDs, and to issue a Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disabilities.

8. Mekedatu Reservoir Project

- It aims to store and supply drinking water for the Bengaluru city. The project is also proposed to generate approximately 400 megawatts (MW) of power.

9. Obscenity & sexual intent under POSCO Act

- Under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Sections 292, 293 and 294 deals with the offence of obscenity
- Section 292 says that any content is considered obscene if it is lascivious

or appeals to a cautious interest, or if its effect is to pervert and corrupt persons who might read, see or hear the content.

- This section prohibits the sale or publication of any obscene pamphlet, book, paper, painting or other similar material.

10. E education platforms & generative AI

- The SWAYAM-user community will drastically scale up by 2025, when India's active Internet users become 900 million.
- SWAYAM is an Indian government Massive open online course platform providing educational opportunities for a vast number of university and college learners
- Generative AI allows users to quickly generate new content based on various inputs. Inputs and outputs to these models can include text, images, sounds, animations, 3D models, or other types of data.

11. ST Status for Meiteis

- Violent communal clashes recently erupted in Manipur over the Manipur High Court (HC) ordering the state to enforce a 10-year-old recommendation to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the non-tribal Meitei community.
- The Meitei are the largest community in Manipur. They are dominant in the capital Imphal and are commonly referred to as Manipuri.

12. The World economic Forum (WEF) released the annual Gender Gap Report 2023

- "Global Gender Gap Report 2023", assesses equality across various sectors.
- Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world for the 14th consecutive year

13. Amrit Dharohar and MISHTI Scheme

- Amrit Dharohar:
 - Ensure the conservation of existing Ramsar sites through public participation
 - These locations will become a center of ecotourism and a source of green jobs for thousands of people
- MISHTI:
 - It refers to the Mangrove Initiative for Coastal Habitats and Material Income
 - It will help revive and protect the country's mangrove ecosystem

14. CM Learn and Earn'scheme

- MP government has launched Chief Minister's Learn and Earn scheme to teach employable skills to the youth
- The youth will also be given an allowance of Rs 8,000 to 10,000

15. World Food Safety Day 2023: 7th June

- Fifth World Food Safety Day is celebrated on 7 June 2023 to draw attention to help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, agriculture, and sustainable development.
- 2023 theme: Food Standards Save Live
- Theme emphasizes that how important food standards are to protecting public health.

16. Girl Empowerment Mission GEM 2023

- NTPC Kanti has launched the Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM)-2023, a four-week residential workshop program for 40 underprivileged rural girls.
- This is the first time NTPC Kanti is organizing the GEM program.
- The participants will receive academic training and development skill sets such as soft skills, life skill training, sports, meditation, yoga

17. SAGAR SAMRIDDHI

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI', an online dredging monitoring system.
- To accelerate 'Waste to Wealth' initiative of the Ministry
- This system has been developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) the technological arm of MoPSW.

- The new technology brings in marked improvement against the old system of Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM) system.

18. ICAR signs a MOU with Amazon Kisan to empower farmers

- ICAR has signed a MoU with Amazon Kisan to combine strengths and create synergy between the two organizations.
- To guide the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income
- ICAR will provide technological backstopping to the farmers through Amazon's network
- It will improve farmers' livelihood and boost crop yield.
- This MoU will help ensuring access to high quality fresh produce for consumers across India.

II. ECONOMY

1. Circular economy in smart cities

- The union cabinet approved the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate, and Sustain (CITIIS) 2.0 program, which would support the circular economy in 18 smart cities selected through a competition.
- The program envisages the support of competitively selected projects supporting the circular economy with a focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate reform measures at the state level and institutional strengthening and dissemination of knowledge at the national level.

2. Payment system operators (PSOs)

- PSOs include Clearing Corporation of India, National Payments Corporation of India, Card Payment Networks, Cross Border Money Transfer, ATM Networks, Prepaid Payment Instruments, White Label ATM Operators, Instant Money Transfer and Trade Receivables Discounting System, Bharat Bill Payment System.
- Psos is used to ensure proper governance and prudent risk management
- Maintaining a robust IT infrastructure with cyber resilience
- Implementation of a responsive grievance redressal mechanism.

3. Oil reserves in salt caverns

- Underground storage caverns are used to store very large quantities of crude oil and natural gas.
- These caverns are cavities that have been “mined” out of naturally occurring salt domes.
- Approximately 7% of the total underground natural gas storage capacity is in Salt Caverns.
- Salt caverns are developed through a solution mining process that involves pumping water into geological formations with large salt deposits to dissolve the salt.

4. Momentum Trading

- Momentum trading is an investment strategy that seeks to capitalize on directional trends in stock prices.
- Momentum trading can either long-term or short-term types of stock trading

5. Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI):

- PPIs facilitate the purchase of goods and services, conduct of financial services and enable remittance facilities, among others, against the money stored in them.
- PPIs can be issued as cards or wallets.

- There are two types of PPIs :small PPIs and full-KYC (know your customer) PPIs.
- PPIs can be issued by both banks and non-banks after obtaining approval from the RBI

6. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is a statutory committee constituted under the "Production, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells (Rules, 1989) Rules under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

7. Production-linked incentive (PLI)

- Production Linked Incentive or PLI scheme aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
- The program invites foreign companies to set up units in India, but it also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units as well as create more jobs and reduce the country's dependence on imports from other countries.

8. Disinflation

- Disinflation is a temporary slowdown in the rate of price inflation and is used to describe when the rate of inflation has decreased slightly in the short term.

- Unlike inflation and deflation, which refer to the direction of prices, disinflation refers to the rate of change in the rate of inflation

9. Surplus liquidity in banking system

- Liquidity in the banking system means readily available cash that banks need to meet short-term business and financial needs.
- On a given day, if the banking system is a net borrower from the RBI under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), the system's liquidity can be said to be in "deficit" and if the banking system is a net creditor to the RBI, the system's liquidity can be said to be in "surplus".

10. India joins us-led critical mineral club

- Recently, India joined the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP), a US-led collaboration that aims to accelerate public and private investment in critical mineral supply chains around the world.
- The MSP includes Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, UK, the European Commission, Italy, and now India.
- It focus on the supply chains of minerals such as Cobalt, Nickel, Lithium and also the 17 'rare earth'

11. Karbon Card launched country's first mobile-based expense management card

- Karbon Card has launched a mobile expense management card for businesses and individuals that offers its users unlimited cashback of up to 1%.
- Card++ differentiates by providing interesting cashback offers, incentivizing people their spending.
- Its features include the ability to make payments on various platforms like Google, Amazon, Swiggy and Ola

12. Voice-banking solution

- Reserve Bank Innovation Hub has partnered with IIT Madras Research Park and Incubation Cell to launch a voice banking solution to remove language barriers.
- It will help the illiterate and visually impaired in their banking needs to conduct the basic banking transactions through voice controls in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and English, in the initial stage
- SBI, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra and IDFC First organized a code festival on voice banking called 'Vaulter Voice'

13. ANTARDRIHSTI

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched a Financial Inclusion Dashboard 'ANTARDRIHSTI' to provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters.
- It will enable the ability to gauge extent of financial exclusion at granular levels across the country.
- It will further facilitate greater financial inclusion through a multi-stakeholder approach

14. Yes Securities announced Partnership with WatchYourHealth

- YES SECURITIES has partnered with WatchYourHealth to provide investment solutions to healthcare professionals through the 'Wellth Where Investments and Health Unite' program.
- To help the healthcare community start their investment journey for successful wealth creation and achieving long-term financial goals

15. SIDBI signs pact with HDFC Bank to offer financial solutions to MSMEs

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank for providing financial solutions to MSMEs.
- Under the MoU, SIDBI and HDFC Bank will work together to provide complete financial product and services to the customers under MSMEs.
- To facilitate providing complete financial solutions to MSMEs in a seamless manner

16. India tops digital payments rankings globally: MyGovIndia

- According to the MyGovIndia govt data, India has topped the global rankings in digital payments for the year 2022.
- During the year under review, there were 5 million digital transactions in the country.

- India accounted for 46% of the global real-time payments in 2022, which was more than the combined digital payments the next four top countries.
- This shows the robustness of India's payment ecosystem as well as the country's acceptance of the digital.

17. My Account My Name'

- Indian Overseas Bank has launched a Unique feature named 'My Account My Name' for IOB SB HNI and IOB SB MAX account holders.
- This feature allows customers to choose any name as their account number.
- The account name can only be a numeric, alphabetic, or alphanumeric combination of seven characters.
- For example, a customer's account number can be 'Jackson' or '1234567' or 'Jack123.

III. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Friendship Shield 2023.

- **Bilateral Military Exercise:** The PLA and the Laotian People's Armed Forces (LPAF) concluded their bilateral military exercise, Friendship Shield 2023.
- The drills aims to foster interoperability to effectively “counter transnational armed criminal groups based in jungles and mountains.”

2. New START nuclear treaty

New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), agreements:

- **Exchange of data:** Russia and the US exchange data twice a year on ballistic missiles covered by the treaty, on bombers, test sites, nuclear bases and so on.
- **Keep a check on updates:** The treaty also mandates that both sides send notification within five days if they change or update their stockpiles, such as moving missiles to a new base or placing a new warhead in the system.
- **Limitation for nuclear arms:**
- It also limits each country to 800 deployed and non-deployed launchers and delivery vehicles.

3. India -Nepal transit agreement

- India and Nepal have signed a series of energy and transport agreements, including the export of Nepal's hydropower to Bangladesh through Indian territory
- It will help Nepal's population to access India's inland waterways.
- Pipeline will be constructed from “Siliguri to Jhapan” in eastern Nepal, connecting Nepal and Bangladesh via India's land.
- Gorakhpur-Bhutwal Transmission Line: It was also announced that the two countries signed the revised Treaty of Transit under which Nepal will get access to India's inland waterways.

4. G20 rules for international cyber law

- ñ The National Cybersecurity Coordinator has outlined a draft named ‘Delhi Declaration’ which contains a series of commitments to responsible state behaviour in cyberspace for G20 member countries.
- The draft contains non-binding norms that they have already signed under United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC).
- To cooperate, mitigate and investigate cyber incidents, and other malicious activities in cyberspace like “ransom ware”

- To protect and not disrupt software supply chains;
- To respect international law and rule of law in cyberspace;

5. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

- The ICCPR is a multilateral treaty that binds nations to respect the civil and political rights of individuals.
- Compliance with the ICCPR is monitored by the UN Human Rights Committee, which reviews regular reports from state parties on how human rights are applied
- It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1966

6. Indo-US partnership and recent investments

- Solar facility in Tamil Nadu: US-based International Development Finance Corporation has committed \$500 million to enable a reputed US company to develop a solar manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu.
- This project will power more than 30 million light bulbs in homes, schools, and businesses across India, create more than a thousand jobs for Indians and Americans, and transition a critical part of America's clean energy supply chain to a close partner.

7. Bangkok Vision 2030

- The grouping comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

- Bangkok Vision 2030 seeks to move BIMSETC toward a region that is prosperous, resilient, and open moving us on a forward-looking trajectory for sustainable and balanced growth.

8. NATO plus five:

- The arrangement currently exists between the U.S and its NATO partners & five countries: Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan and Israel.
- The announcement follows a recommendation by the House S. Committee on China that India be included in the club.
- 'NATO plus 5' is a security arrangement that brings together NATO and five aligned nations to boost defence and intelligence ties.

9. Artemis Accord:

- The Artemis Accords ensure that space exploration is conducted in a safe, sustainable and transparent manner and in full compliance with international law.
- founding members of the Artemis Accords are Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the US.
- As more countries establish a presence in space through research stations, satellites or even rocket launchers, these agreements provide a set of principles to create a safe and transparent environment that inspires exploration, science and commercial activities.

10. NISAR Mission

- NISAR was built by the US and Indian space agencies under a partnership agreement signed in 2014.
- It is expected to be launched in January 2024 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre into a near-polar orbit
- The satellite will operate for a minimum of three years.
- It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory.
- NISAR will map the entire globe in 12 days.

11. Ekuverin

- A joint military exercise between the Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force
- The 12th edition 'Ex Ekuverin' is being commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
- Ekuverin meaning 'Friends', is a bilateral annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives



12. India, France, UAE begin maiden joint maritime exercise in the Gulf of Oman

- First India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise has been commenced in the Gulf of Oman

- It involves the Indian Navy frigate, INS Tarkash, the French Navy ship Surcouf along with Rafale fighter jets, and UAE Navy maritime patrol aircraft.

13. 'Har Ghar Jal' Programme

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) report has highlighted significant impacts of 'Har Ghar Jal' Programme on public health and economic savings.
- The report on 'Har Ghar Jal' estimates that ensuring safely managed drinking water for all households in the country.
- The 'Har Ghar Jal' report focuses on diarrheal diseases as they contribute significantly to the overall disease burden related to water, sanitation, and hygiene issues.

14. 'Atlantic Declaration'

- Britain and the United States have backed a new "Atlantic Declaration" or greater cooperation on pressing economic challenges in areas like clean energy, critical minerals and artificial intelligence.
- The joint declaration described the partnership covering the broad spectrum of the two countries' economic, technological, commercial and trade relations.
- They will strengthen their supply chains, develop technologies of the future and invest in one another's industries.

15. WHO, Global Fund announce commitment for enhanced collaboration

- The WHO and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria signed a new Strategic Framework.
- For Collaboration to build stronger and more resilient health systems and maximize collaboration and impact in support of country, regional and global responses to major communicable diseases.

16. Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission

- The Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) convened for the first time in 1956.
- The Commission administers the Regional Plant Protection Agreement for Asia and the Pacific.
- Reviewing the plant protection situation at the national level in member countries, and also at the regional level.
- Coordinating and promoting development of regional plant protection systems

IV. ENVIRONMENT

1. Cyclone Freddy

- It originated off the northern coast of Australia
- Australian Bureau of Meteorology, which acts as a WMO regional center, named the cyclone as- Freddy
- Freddy was the first tropical cyclone in the Southern Hemisphere to undergo six separate rounds of rapid intensification

2. Madh Island

- Located in the western suburbs of Mumbai, Maharashtra
- The area is bounded by the Arabian Sea to the west, and the Malad creek on the east

3. Nathu- La

- Sikkim;+ It is one of the three open trading border posts between China and India
- It is also one of the five officially agreed Border Personnel Meeting points between the Indian and China for regular consultations and interactions between the two armies to improve relations

4. Shinku La Pass

- Shinku-La Pass is a mountain pass between Zaskar Valley in Ladakh and Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh
- Recently, Union Cabinet has approved the construction of Shinku La Tunnel to provide all-weather connectivity in Ladakh

5. Pulicat Lake

- Andhra Pradesh – Tamil Nadu Border
- It is the second largest brackish water lake in the country; next only to Chilika lake
- Greater flamingos and pelicans are some of the famous migratory birds that visit this place

6. Yaya Tso

- Yaya Tso, known as a birds' paradise for its beautiful lake, has been proposed as Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site (BHS)
- It is a nesting habitat for a large number of birds and animals, such as the bar-headed goose, black-necked crane and brahminy duck

7. Ashtamudi Lake

- Located in the Kollam district of Kerala
- 2nd largest lake in Kerala (after Vembanad Lake)
- Ashtamudi Lake is regarded as the "Gateway to Kerala Backwaters"
- The lake is fed by the River Kallada that originates in Kulathupuzha in the Western Ghats

8. Hindon River

- It is a tributary of the Yamuna, stretches of which rank as among the most polluted in the country
- This river is sandwiched between two major rivers: Ganga on the left and Yamuna on the right

9. Aravali Green Wall Project

- It is an ambitious plan to create a 1,400km long and 5km wide green belt buffer around the Aravali Mountain range covering states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi
- The plan is inspired by Africa's 'Great Green Wall' project, running from Senegal (West) to Djibouti (East), which came into effect in 2007

10. Great Green Wall Initiative

- launched in 2007 by the African Union
- Supported by UNCCD
- Initiative to restore Africa's degraded landscapes & transform degraded Sahel region

11. Wild Ass Sanctuary

- It is located in the Little Rann of Kutch of the Gujarat State in India
- It is the only place where the Indian wild ass, locally called Khacchar, is found
- The sanctuary is home to a sizeable population of Rabari and Bharwad tribes

12. Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre (JCBC) Pinjore

- Located within Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary for the breeding and conservation of Indian vultures and House sparrow in the State of Haryana
- It is a collaborative initiative between the Haryana Forest Department and Bombay Natural History Society
- It is the first Vulture breeding facility in Asia, established in the year 2001

13. Sunderbans

- Sunderbans is a mangrove area in the delta formed by the confluence of the Padma, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers in the Bay of Bengal
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Criteria: Natural); Ramsar Wetland ; Sunderbans is the largest delta and mangrove forest in the world
- The Sunderbans mangrove forest covers an area of about 10,000 km²: Bangladesh (about 60% area) and India (about 40% area)

14. Konda Reddy Tribe

- Konda Reddis are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) and one of the most backward tribes mostly living in the Godavari gorges of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
- Their mother tongue is Telugu with a unique accent
- The Konda Reddis are known for their eco-friendly practices such as use of household articles made of bamboo, bottle gourd, and seed.

15. Irula Tribe

- Irula (people of darkness) inhabit mostly in the northern TN districts and some parts of Kerala and Karnataka
- Irulas are one of India's oldest indigenous communities and they are a particularly vulnerable tribal group
- They speak the Irula language that is closely related to Dravidian languages like Tamil and Kannada
- The Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Cooperative Society is a major producer of anti-snake venom (ASV) in the country.

16. 5th cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation

- The process of estimating the number of tigers in a given area is called 'Tiger estimation.'
- The census estimates are done every four years by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) with technical help from the Wildlife Institute of India
- The first countrywide assessment was done in 2006, followed by 2010, 2014, 2018, and the latest 2022
- Tiger occupancy has also declined in the states of Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana

17. First Synchronized Vulture Survey

- The Kerala Forest and Wildlife department along with its counterparts in Tamil Nadu

and Karnataka is preparing to organize the first synchronized vulture survey in select regions of the Western Ghats

18. Gross Domestic Climate Risk Report

- According to Gross Domestic Climate Risk ranking by Cross Dependency Initiative (XDI), India has nine states in the 50 high risk states including Punjab, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala and Assam

19. Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) 2023

- The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual citizen science project that encourages birdwatchers of all ages to observe and count birds in their backyard or local park
- The GBBC was first launched in 1998 and is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society
- Anyone can participate in the GBBC, regardless of their level of experience with birdwatching

20. Landslide Atlas of India

- Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the Landslide Atlas of India, a detailed guide identifying landslide hotspots in the country
- This Atlas provides the details of landslide present in Landslide provinces of India including damage assessment of specific landslide locations

- ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad, has created this database of landslide-prone regions of India based on events during 1998 – 2022
- The number of districts with maximum landslide exposure are in Arunachal Pradesh (16), followed by Kerala (14), Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir (13 each)

21. BIODIVERSITY BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION TREATY (BBNJ)

- The “BBNJ Treaty”, also known as the “Treaty of the High Seas”, which aims to stop species extinction due to practices like overfishing and oil extraction
- It builds upon the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, signed in 1982.
- The treaty aims to create protected areas covering 30% of the seas by 2030.
- It provides a legal framework for creating marine protected areas and assessing damages from deep-sea mining.

22. Greenwashing

- ñ Greenwashing is the practice in which firms and governments mark all kinds of activities as climate-friendly
- ñ Developed countries are often accused of greenwashing their normal business investments in developing countries by highlighting climate co-benefits of the financial flows, sometimes with very little justification.

- Green washing presents a false picture of the progress being made on the climate change front

23. World Environment Day 2023: 5th June

- World Environment Day is observed annually on June 5 to create awareness about the protection of the environment and the earth's well-being.
- The theme for World Environment Day 2023 is 'Solutions to plastic pollution', under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.
- The day is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire and supported by the Netherlands.
 - This year marks the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day, which will focus on solutions to plastic pollution

24. World Ocean Day

- World Oceans Day is observed every year on 8 June to create awareness about the significance of oceans, and importance of preserving and conserving oceanic resources.
- 2023 theme: Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing
- The concept was originally proposed by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development and the Ocean Institute of Canada at the Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- This day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008.

- Clay the solution for safe disposal of biomedical waste
- The scientist confirm that both bentonite and kaolin clays in powder form can prevent the viral contamination from entering into the environment.
- During the experiment, the researchers studied the behaviour of the Newcastle disease virus (NDV), a safer substitute for the coronavirus, in clay.
- NDV is an infectious and contagious viral infection that affects more than 250 different bird species worldwide.
- A large amount of pathogenic waste gets generated from NDV outbreaks in the form of carcasses, potentially contaminated litter, farm bedding and fomites.

25. A Blue Ocean Event (BOE)

- When the Arctic Ocean changes from being covered in ice year-round and reflecting most of the sunlight that impacts it back into space to being mostly ice-free blue water for a period of time during the warm season (May through October), which will cause it to absorb most of the sunlight that impacts it.
- A Blue Ocean Event occurs when virtually all sea ice disappears and the surface colour changes from white (sea ice) to blue (ocean).
- A Blue Ocean Event starts once Arctic sea ice extent falls below 1 million km².

26. Cyclone Biporjoy

- According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a cyclonic storm 'Biporjoy' has developed over the central-east and adjoining south-east Arabian Sea.
- The name "Biparjoy" was suggested by Bangladesh and the word means "disaster" or "calamity" in Bengali
- The cyclone delay the arrival of south west monsoon. It driving moisture away from india and is hindering monsoon winds

V. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. India's 1st Hybrid Rocket

- India's first hybrid sounding rocket by private players was launched from Pattipulam village, Telangana
- A hybrid rocket is a type of rocket engine that combines features of both liquid-fueled and solid-fueled rockets
- In a hybrid rocket, a solid fuel is burned in combination with a liquid or gaseous oxidizer to produce thrust

2. Starberry-Sense

- The star sensor named Starberry-Sense can help small CubeSat class satellite missions find their orientation in space
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) said that the Starberry-Sense is ready for launch on the PS4-Orbital Platform by ISRO and can be used for CubeSats and other small satellite missions in the future

3. Megha-Tropiques-1 (MT1) Satellite

- Megha-Tropiques is an Indo-French Joint Satellite Mission for studying the water cycle and energy exchanges in the tropics
- The main objective of this mission is to understand the life cycle of convective systems that influence the tropical weather and climate and their role in the associated energy and moisture budget of the atmosphere in tropical regions

4. CHEOPS

- The European Space Agency launched CHEOPS, or the Characterizing Exoplanet Satellite, to monitor bright stars near the Solar system which were capable of hosting Exoplanets

5. Laser- Sheet Compressed Ultrafast Photography (LS-CUP)

- Scientists from Germany and the U.S. have built the world's fastest single-shot laser camera - 1,000x faster than its predecessors at capturing extremely short-lived events
- The LS-CUP consists of laser-sheet imaging, compressed sensing, and a standard streak camera

6. Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)

- The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched a National Mission to quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously
- Aims to facilitate indigenous research, development and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector

7. Agni-1

- India successfully launched the Medium-Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-1 from the APJ Abdul Kalam Islands, Odisha.
- It was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command, which is responsible for the management and administration of the country's tactical and nuclear assets
- Agni series of missiles includes Agni-1(700km), Agni-2 (2000), Agni-3 (3000), Agni-4 (4000), and Agni-5 (5000)

8. CSIR-CCMB joins global research group for algorithm of genetics

- Hyderabad-based CSIR - Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has joined a global research group in the development of an algorithm along the lines of ChatGPT for genetics.
- This algorithm uses genome sequencing data instead of human language to predict disease-causing genetic mutations in patients.
- The group has generated a huge catalogue of genomic information for primates that have been ever produced.

9. Gigafactory

- Tata Group has signed an MoU with the Gujarat government to set up a first-ever lithium-ion cell manufacturing gigafactory in Gujarat.
- This MOU is an outcome of the newly formulated Electronics Policy.
- ñ The state government is committed to increasing carbon-free, energy-efficient,

and clean energy production by boosting the production of electric vehicles and reducing carbon emission

10. Indian Navy's Green Initiatives imbibing Green Technologies

- The Indian Navy has undertaken several green initiatives and shared some of the noteworthy initiatives towards a 'Clean and Green Navy'.
- It employs a number of ships, submarines, and aircraft that have high energy intensity, thus increased energy efficiency is paramount in every operation.
- It has commissioned solar power with a cumulative capacity of 15.87 MW, with the objective of fulfilling the government's 'Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission'

11. Varunastra

- The Indian Navy and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have successfully engaged and destroyed an underwater target using 'Varunastra' Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT).
- It is a significant milestone in the Indian Navy and DRDO for accurate delivery of ordnance on target in the underwater domain.
- The Indian Navy and Naval Science and Technology Laboratory (NSTL) of DRDO developed 'Varunastra', an advanced Heavy Weight anti-submarine torpedo.

12. GalaxEye to launch world's 1st multi-sensorearth observation satellite

- An IIT-Madras-incubated space-tech startup, GalaxEye, is building the world's first multi-sensor earth observation satellite
- It will launch its first satellite 'Drish Mission' in 2024.
- It is being build with the help of a visible spectrum camera providing synchronised imaging that can take multiple images at the same time.
 - GalaxEye is working on deploying a satellite constellation to providethe comprehensive imagery dataset from space

13. Gaganyaan

- Tata Elxsi has partnered with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for the upcoming Gaganyaan Mission.
- It has designed and developed the crew module recovery models (CMRM) for the recovery team training of the space mission.
- ISRO's Gaganyaan project envisions a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching the crew into a 400-kilometer orbit for a three-day mission and safely bringing them to Earth by landing in Indian sea waters.

14. Microsoft launched voice chat feature to AI-powered Bing Chat

- Microsoft has launched a new 'voice chat' feature to its AI-powered Bing Chat on the desktop.

- Aim: It will help users to talk to the AI chatbot by clicking on the microphone icon in the Bing Chat box
- Currently, the voice chat feature supports five languages- English, Japanese, French, German, and Mandarin.

15. Tactical LAN radio'

- The Indian Army has sealed a deal with a Bengaluru-based company, M/s Astrome TechPvt Ltd to procure the indigenously-developed "tactical LAN radio".
- Tactical LAN radio: It is a state-of-the-art high-bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment for the provisioning of reliable communication.
- It is the second contract that the Army has firmed up under the framework of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).

16. Smart biodegradable microgels

- IIT Mandi have developed smart biodegradable microgels to make agricultural practices more sustainable and minimize the adverse impact caused by the use of insecticides and agrochemicals
- Modern agriculture relies heavily on the application of various agrochemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on crops to meet the demand for food for the growing population.

17. Vigyan -Vidushi

- ñ Vigyan -Vidushi – 2023 has been commenced at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), in Mumbai.

- It is an initiative to address the gender balance in the discipline of Physics at the doctorate level.
- 40 women students from forty different institutes all over India have attended this program which gave them exposure to advanced physics courses.
- This program is an initiative of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), through its HBCSE.

18. Joha rice

- Aromatic rice cultivated in the North-eastern region of India is effective in lowering blood glucose and preventing diabetes onset and hence is an effective nutraceutical of choice in diabetes management.
- Joha is a short-grain winter paddy known for its significant aroma and taste.
- These Rice two unsaturated fatty acids, linoleic acid (omega-6) and linolenic (omega-3) acid.

19. Chandrayaan-3

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to retain the names of the Chandrayaan-2 lander and rover for their Chandrayaan-3 equivalents as well.
- The Chandrayaan-3 lander will bear the name 'Vikram' (after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space programme) and the rover, 'Pragyan'.
- Once the 'Vikram' lander module makes it safely to the moon, it will deploy 'Pragyan' "which will carry out in situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility

- The lander will have four payloads —
- Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA),
- Chandra's Surface Thermo physical Experiment (ChaSTE),
- Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) and
- The LASER Retroreflector Array (LRA).

20. Titan

- 'Titan', A small submersible vessel carrying five people nearly 4,000 metres down the Atlantic Ocean to view the 1912 wreckage of the Titanic
- The trip was organised by the company OceanGate Inc, which mentions private "crewed submersible exploration" as part of its offerings.
- Apart from the use of submersibles for exploration purposes, such as scientific research, allowing people to carry out "real time sampling, collecting and experimentation", deep-sea testing, and for underwater filming.



21. Regenerative Medicine

- Regenerative Medicine refers to a group of biomedical approaches to clinical therapies that may involve the use of stem cells.
- Regenerative medicine may be defined as the process of replacing or "regenerating" human cells, tissues or organs to restore or establish normal function.
- The goal of regenerative medicine is to replace or reboot tissues or organs damaged because of disease, injury, age, or other issues instead of treating symptoms with medication and procedures.
- Regeneration in humans happens at three levels: Molecular, Cellular, Tissue

22. Laboratory-grown diamonds (LGDs)

- ñ Indian government has decided to promote them in a big way to boost the diamond industry, which has its headquarters in Surat.
- India is the largest player in growing of Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) lab-grown diamonds.
- Presenting a 7.5 carat lab-grown diamond in the 75th year of Independence highlights India's leadership in the LGD sunrise sector.
- It is also a great example of the 'Make in India' story after attaining undisputed global leadership in natural diamonds.

23. Skin donation

- The skin can be donated by any deceased person within 6 hours of their death and

then will be stored, processed in the skin bank and further provided to needy patients.

- Storage period: The donated skin can be stored for three to five years.
- No blood group or any other matching is required. Any donated skin can be used to treat any patient.
- The skins which will be donated at the bank can be very helpful in treating burns patients, especially those with extensive burns and with other wounds.

24. INS Kirpan

- INS Kirpan is a Khukri class missile corvette displacing 1,350 tonnes and was commissioned into the Navy on January 12, 1991.
- It has a displacement of close to 1,400 tonnes, a length of 91 metres, a beam of 11 metres, and is capable of speed in excess of 25 knots.
- The ship is fitted with a medium range gun, 30 mm close range guns, chaff launchers, and surface to surface missiles, enabling it to perform a wide variety of roles, including coastal and offshore patrol, coastal security, surface warfare, anti-piracy, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.



25. TAPAS Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

- The Tapas UAV, developed by DRDO, is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicle.
- The vehicle, which was publicly showcased during its first flight at Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru earlier this year, has a range of more than 18 hours and can operate at altitudes of up to 28,000 feet.
- It was developed in response to the ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Tracking, and Reconnaissance) requirements of the tri-services.

26. Ni-kshay Mitra

- Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025 and 'Ni-kshay Mitra' has taken charge of this movement against the disease.
- The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative) has been implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

27. Tissue engineering

- Tissue engineering is a multidisciplinary field that combines principles of engineering and life sciences to create functional living tissues for medical applications.
- It involves the development of strategies to repair or replace damaged tissues or organs in the body.
- Tissue engineering utilizes biocompatible materials, such as scaffolds, and incorporates cells, growth factors, and other bioactive molecules to facilitate tissue regeneration.

28. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

- Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus, or RSV, is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms.
- Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults.
- RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung) and pneumonia (infection of the lungs) in children younger than 1 year of age.

29. Exercise Ekatha

- Exercise Ekatha aims to enhance interoperability between the two navies, especially in diving and special operations.
- It is conducted on an annual basis.
- Counter-terrorism, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations are also incorporated under Exercise Ekatha.
- The training regimen of Exercise Ekatha includes Joint Drills, Workshops, Seminars, Tabletop Exercises and specialized training in various combat-related activities.



VI. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Nasiruddin Muhammad Humayun (1530-1540, 1555-1556)

- He was the successor of Babur, the founder of the Mughal dynasty and father of Akbar
- In 1539 Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayun in Battle of Chausa. In the next year Sher Shah Suri confronted Humayun in Kannauj and defeated him completely (Battle of Kannauj 1540)
- His biography Qanun-i Humayuni was written by historian Khwandamir, it is also known as Humayun Nama of Khwandamir

2. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- Born on February 19, 1630, at Shivneri Fort in Pune ; He was born to Shahaji Bhonsle, a Maratha general who held the jagirs of Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate

3. Attukal Pongala

- Attukal Pongala held in Attukal Temple, Thiruvananthapuram is the largest congregation of women for a festival in the world
- Pongala, which means 'to boil over', is the ritual in which women prepare sweet payasam (a pudding made from rice, jaggery, coconut and plantains cooked together) and offer it to the Goddess or 'Bhagavathy'.

4. Bumchu Festival

- Sikkim; Buddhist festival; Recently celebrated at Tashiding Monastery

5. Unying Festival

- Important festival of the Adi community in Arunachal Pradesh
- The Adi people are believed to have migrated from southern China in the 16th century and they are a major group residing in the lower part of the Lower Dibang Valley district, particularly in the Roing and Dambuk areas of Arunachal Pradesh
- They have a reputation for being skilled in crafting items from cane and bamboo

6. Sokra Misawa Festival

- Celebrated by Tiwa Tribe
- Tiwas worship nature during this springtime festival and then prepare their fields for the next crop
- Tiwa also known as Lalung is indigenous community inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya and are also found in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

7. Yangli Festival

- Tiwa tribesmen in Assam celebrate the Yangli festival once every three years to mark the beginning of the sowing season
- The Yangli festival, which is related to agriculture, is a significant event for the

Tiwas as farming is the main source of income for their community.

8. Navroz

- Navroz is an Iranian and Persian New year
- It marks the beginning of the spring season celebrated by members of the Parsi community across the globe
- It is listed in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of India

9. Bihu Dance

- Bihu is the main festival of Assam
- It is celebrated three times a year
- The festival of Bihu has three forms: Bohag Bihu, Kati Bihu and Magh Bihu, each of which coincides with crucial events in the agricultural calendar of the region

10. World Day Against Child Labour 2023: 12th June

- The World Day against Child Labour is observed annually on June 12 to support the expanding anti-child labour movement.
- "Week of Action against Child Labour" is the theme for the 2023 World Day Against Child Labour.

11. 'Raja' agricultural festival

- Odisha is celebrating the Raja festival, an agricultural festival
- The first day is observed as 'Sajabaja', which means preparations, while the second day is observed as Pahili Raja.

- The third day is observed as 'Majhi Raja' or 'Mithuna Sankranti' and the fourth day is 'Bhudaha' or 'Sesha Raja'.
- The fifth day is called 'Basumati Snana'.
- On this day, ladies give a bath to the grinding stone, considering it as mother earth.

12. Global Slavery Index 2023

- ñ The Global Slavery Index 2023 provides national estimates of modern slavery for 160 countries.
- Produced by: ILO, Walk Free, and International Organisation for Migration
- Walk Free has reported that 49.6 million people are living in modern slavery, out of which, India is home to 11 million.
- Countries with the highest prevalence: North Korea, Eritrea, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey
- Countries with the lowest prevalence: Switzerland, Norway, and Germany

13. 'World Hydrography Day'

- World Hydrography Day is designed to raise awareness about hydrography and how it plays a role in improved knowledge of the seas and oceans.
- The theme this year is "Hydrography - Underpinning the Digital Twin of the Ocean".
- In India, the Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD) functions under the Indian Navy as the nodal agency for hydrographic surveys and nautical charting.

14. Mesolithic period rock painting

- A Mesolithic period rock painting depicting a person tilling a piece of land has been found in Orvakallu village in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh.
- The paintings were made with “natural white kaolin and red ochre pigments”.

VII. PLACES IN NEWS

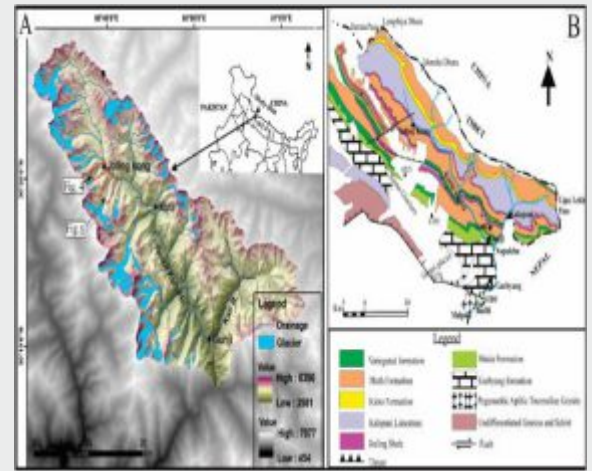
1. Fraser Island

The world's largest sand island, has recently regained its original name, K'gari. This momentous event was celebrated by the traditional owners, the Butchulla people, in the ancient forests of K'gari. The reinstatement of the island's name holds deep



2. YANKTI KUTI VALLEY

- Located in Uttarakhand.
- It is the last valley before the border with Tibet.
- It runs along an NW to SE axis, formed by the river Kuti Yankti, which is one of the headwaters of the Kali River that forms the boundary between India and Nepal in this region.
- This valley is mainly dominated by Byansis, one of the four Bhotiya communities of Kumaon, with the others being Johar, Darmiya and Chaudansi



3. AEGEAN SEA

- The ancient name of the Aegean Sea, Archipelago, was later applied to the islands it contains and is now used to refer to any island group.
- The Aegean Sea, an arm of the Mediterranean Sea, is located between the Greek peninsula on the west and Asia Minor on the east.
- It is located between the southern Balkan and the Anatolian peninsulas, between the mainlands of Greece and Turkey, respectively.
- It is connected through the straits of the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, and the Bosphorus to the Black Sea.



4. ZMIINYI ISLAND



- Located in the Black Sea, Zmiinyi Island is also known as Snake Island or the Serpent Island.
- It belongs to Ukraine.
- The island has been known since ancient times and is marked on the map by the village of Bile that is located on it.
- Snake Island lies close to the mouth of the River Danube, which delineates Romania's border with Ukraine.
- It is also roughly to the southwest of the port city of Odessa.

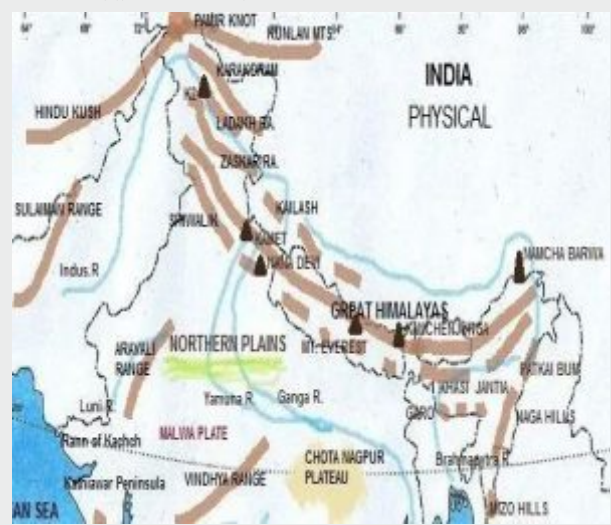
5. PARACEL ISLANDS

- The Paracel Islands, also known as the Xisha Islands and the Hoang Sa Archipelago are disputed archipelago in the South China Sea.
- The archipelago includes about 130 small coral islands and reefs, most grouped into the northeast Amphitrite Group or the western Crescent Group.



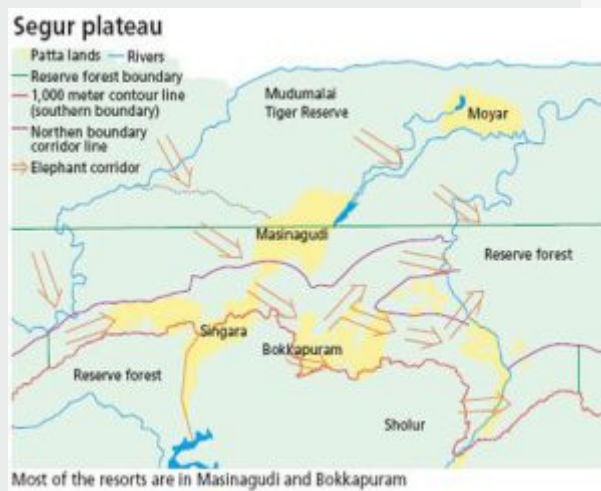
6. ANNAPURNA MOUNTAIN RANGE

- Annapurna is a mountain situated in the Annapurna mountain range of Gandaki Province, north-central Nepal.
- It is the tenth highest mountain in the world at 8,091 metres above sea level.
- Mt Annapurna is one of the most difficult among the 8000 meters height peaks in the world and is also known as the Killer Mountain due to its fatality to summit rate



7. SIGUR PLATEAU

- Sigur Plateau is located in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu.
- It connects the Western and the Eastern Ghats.
- It has the Nilgiri Hills on its southwestern side and the Moyar River Valley on its northeastern side.
- It sustains elephant populations and their genetic diversity.
- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which includes Sigur Plateau and the Nilgiri Hills, is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.



8. MACHILIPATNAM SEAPORT

- Machilipatnam or Masulipatnam or Bandar is located in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh.
- Machilipatnam is a municipal corporation and the administrative headquarters of Krishna district.
- The ancient port town served as the settlement of European traders from the 16th century, and it was a major trading

port for the Portuguese, British, Dutch and French in the 17th century.

- It is a proposed deep sea port on the coast of Bay of Bengal.
- It is located 65 km from the trading hub of Vijayawada.



9. BHARATPUR

- An extended Monastery complex was found in an excavation done by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district.
- The outer wall of the monastery, containing nine layers of brick and a small circular structure has been revealed.
- Buddhism in West Bengal: The region was a bastion of the ancient Buddhist Mauryan and Pala empires when the Mahayana and Vajrayana schools flourished. South-Eastern Bengal was ruled by the medieval Buddhist Kingdom of Mrauk U during the 16th and 17th centuries.



10. ORANG NATIONAL PARK

- It is located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam, India.
- It is also known as the mini Kaziranga National Park (IUCN site) since the two parks have a similar landscape made up of marshes, streams and grasslands and are inhabited by the Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros.



11. SELA TUNNEL PROJECT

- The Sela Tunnel is the longest bi-lane road tunnel in the world.
- The tunnel is being constructed by the Border Roads Organisation at an altitude of 13,800ft near the Indo-China border.

- It is being built on the 317km long BaliparaCharduar-Tawang (BCT) road which connects West Kameng, East Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh to the rest of the country.



12. ISLE OF WIGHT

- Isle of Wight is a county and the largest and second-most populous island of England. It is part of the historic county of Hampshire.
- The island lies off the south coast of England in the English Channel.
- It is separated from the mainland by a deep strait known as The Solent.
- The administrative centre of the unitary authority of the Isle of Wight is Newport.
- The backbone of the island is formed by a chalk ridge that extends across the entire breadth of the island, from Culver Cliff in the east to the Needles in the west.
- It is designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.



13. ODESSA PORT

Odessa Sea Port (UAODS Port) is the largest Ukrainian seaport and one of the largest ports in the Black Sea basin.

- Its total annual traffic capacity is 40 million tonnes.
- Odessa is the base of a fishing fleet as well as the chief operational hub of the Ukrainian Navy. Odessa is also an important cultural and educational centre.



14. VALE DO JAVARI

- Vale do Javari in the western section of the Brazilian Amazon rainforest.
- It is named after the Javari River, which forms the country's border with Peru.
- The region is home to the greatest concentration of isolated tribal groups in the Amazon and the world.
- The area is home to 14 indigenous tribes with nearly 6,000 inhabitants, who are known to reject contact with the outside world.
- Vale do Javari forms part of an international cocaine trafficking route, with gold being exchanged for drugs and arms, consequently making it a hotspot for violent crimes



15. Northern Sea Route (NSR)

- The Northern Sea Route (NSR) – a set of sea routes along Russia's northern coastline connecting the Euro-Barents region with the Pacific Ocean
- It connects the eastern and western parts of the Arctic Ocean. The NSR runs from the Barents Sea, near Russia's border with Norway, to the Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska.
- NSR is different from the Northwest Passage which is a series of possible shipping routes connecting the Atlantic

and Pacific Oceans through the Canadian Arctic.

- The entire route lies in Arctic waters and within Russia's exclusive economic zone.
- It is one-third of the distance of the traditional route through the Suez Canal.



16. KARAKALPAKSTAN

- The name Karakalpakstan is derived from the Karakalpak people, an ethnic minority group of around 2 million.
- Karakalpak translates to 'black hat', referring to their traditional headgear.
- The Karakalpaks consider themselves to be a distinct cultural group in Uzbekistan.
- Their Turkic language – Karakalpak – is closely related to Kazak.
- Their separate language is a crucial aspect of their cultural identity.



17. Chite Lui River

- Situated in an alluvial valley at an altitude of about 1,000 metres, the river starts its journey from Bawngkawn range in north Aizawl and flows for around 20 km in eastern Aizawl before joining River Tuiriail at the southern end of the city.



VIII. SPECIES IN NEWS

1. Indian Star Tortoise

- They are found across the Indian subcontinent, more specifically, in the Central and Southern parts of India, in West Pakistan and in Sri Lanka.
- IUCN Status- Vulnerable
- WPA, 1972- Schedule IV
- CITES- Appendix I



2. Dactylorhiza hatagirea

- It is commonly known as Salampanja, is a perennial tuberous species endemic to the Hindu Kush and Himalayan ranges of Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.
- IUCN Status- Endangered
- Blyth's Tragopan



3. A pheasant also called grey-bellied tragopan

- State bird of Nagaland
- Distributed across Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar
- Threats- Deforestation, High levels of grazing and slash and burn agriculture
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I
- WPA, 1972: Schedule I



4. Leith's Soft-shelled Turtle

- Leith's Softshell Turtle (*Nilssononia leithii*) is a large freshwater soft-shelled turtle which is endemic to peninsular India and it inhabits rivers and reservoirs.
- IUCN Status- Critically Endangered
- WPA- Schedule IV
- CITES- Appendix I



5. Tibetan Antelopes

- Tibetan Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) is locally known as 'Chiru'.
- The species is endemic to Tibetan Plateau and mainly lives in the northern parts of the Changthang Plateau.
- Shawls – Shahtoosh is the 'guard hair' obtained from the Tibetan antelope.
- IUCN- Near Threatened
- CITES- Appendix I
- WPA, 1972- Schedule I



6. Sarus Crane

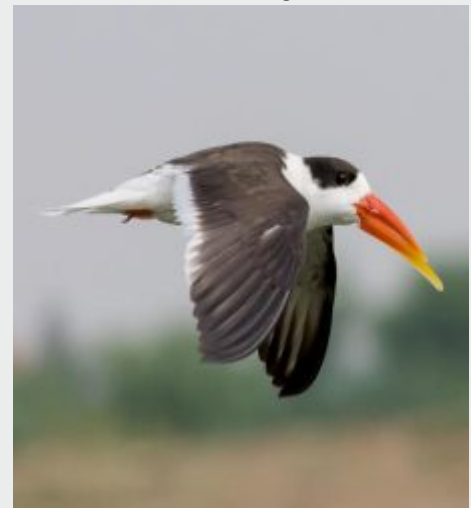
- It is the tallest flying bird in the world.
- Scientific name: *Grus Antigone*
- Distribution: They live in Southeast Asia, northern India and in northern Australia.

- Habitat: They live mainly in wetlands such as canals, marshes and ponds, sometimes near humans
- IUCN Status- Vulnerable
- WPA, 1972- Schedule IV



7. INDIAN SKIMMER

- Another common name for Indian skimmers is Indian scissors bill.
- They are more widespread in winter; the Indian skimmer is found in the coastal estuaries of western and eastern India.
- The species can be sighted near the Chambal River in Central India, in few parts of Odisha and in Andhra Pradesh.
- IUCN status : Endangered



8. Mizoram Parachute Gecko

- It is a newly discovered species of gliding geckos.
- The Mizoram parachute gecko, or *Gekko mizoramensis*, is one of the 14 geckos known to take to the air.
- It is thought that the species evolved as a result of being separated from its closest relative, *G. popaensis*, by the Arakan Mountains.
- Unlike other gliding reptiles, which use the bone to form their flying surfaces, these geckos have flaps of skin.



9. Binturong

- Also called bear cat or cat bear, they are catlike omnivore of the civet family (*Viverridae*), found in dense forests of Southeast Asia.
- It has long shaggy hair, tufted ears, and a long, bushy, prehensile tail. The colour generally is black with a sprinkling of whitish hairs.
- It is principally nocturnal and crepuscular (that is, active during twilight).

- IUCN Status- Vulnerable
- CITES- Appendix III
- WPA, 1972- Schedule I



Questions For Practice

1. India conducts the joint military exercise “ex-ekuverian” with

- (a) srilanka
- (b) bhutan
- (c) maldives
- (d) nepal

2. Which of the following statements is true about cyclones?

- 1. Cyclones are characterized by low air pressure at the center.
- 2. Cyclones are formed by the sinking of warm and dry air.
- 3. Cyclones are most commonly observed over land areas.
- 4. Cyclones have higher air density compared to their surroundings.

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding ‘Disinflation’:

- 1. Disinflation is a further increase in inflation

2. It is the reverse of reflation.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements regarding the High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty:

- 1. It is the world's first treaty to protect the high seas and preserve marine biodiversity in international waters.
- 2. The treaty is not legally binding in nature.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. With reference to the act of ‘Greenwashing’, consider the following statements:

- 1. Greenwashing is the act of making false or misleading statements about the environmental benefits of a product or practice.

2. It is classified as an unfair trade practice by the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Consider the following statements with reference to the Artemis Accord:

1. It is based on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.
2. This binding set of principles are designed to guide civil space exploration.
3. The Artemis Accords reinforce that space resource extraction and utilisation can be conducted under the Outer Space Treaty.
4. The multilateral arrangement aims to ultimately make humans an interplanetary species as they venture on to Mars

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

7. Consider the following statements regarding US-led Mineral Security Partnership (MSP):

1. The focus is primarily on the supply chains of critical minerals and the 17 "rare earth" minerals.

2. India is not a part of the group.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*):

1. They are classified as endangered on the IUCN's Red List of threatened species worldwide.
2. The bird flies low over water with its bill open,
3. It is resident in India and Pakistan.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding 'Tissue engineering':

1. Tissue engineering primarily focuses on repairing damaged tissues in the body using biocompatible materials and cells.
2. Tissue engineering aims to create artificial organs directly.
3. The technique utilised is similar to medical implants.

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

10. Consider the following statements

1. The cyclonic storm Biporjoy is a powerful temperate cyclone recently form over the east -central Arabian sea
2. This cyclonic system also poses a threat to the southwest monsoon in India, hindering its arrival and progression

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answers

- 1. C**
- 2. A**
- 3. B**
- 4. A**
- 5. C**
- 6. C**
- 7. A**
- 8. D**
- 9. A**
- 10. B**