Factly Weekly

Compilation

2024

For UPSC CSE Prelims Exam

4th Week

May 2024

INDEX

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UPSC Syllabus: Environment

GSAP SKILLS Platform

Why in News?
Recently, the Fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, Convention on Biological Diversity launched the GSAP SKILLS Platform.

About GSAP SKILLS Platform

Aspects	Description
About	The Global Species Action Plan (GSAP) SKILLS platform brings the content of GSAP online, allowing for real-time updates of technical tools and resources.
Purpose	It aims to facilitate global collaboration and partnerships. It connects decision makers, species conservation practitioners, and experts at all levels.
Objective	1) It provides real-time updates on technical tools and resources to ensure they remain accessible and relevant. 2) Each Global Biodiversity Framework target includes: a) A brief summary and rationale for species conservation interventions, actions, and sub-actions. b) Information on actors and technical tools and resources for those actions. c) Facilitates the scaling-up of implementation efforts.
Managed by	1) It is managed proactively by IUCN to meet the needs of governments and stakeholders in taking actions for species conservation. 2) It is also supported by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, and the Tech4Nature Initiative launched by IUCN and Huawei in 2020.

About Global Species Action Plan (GSAP)
1. The Global Species Action Plan (GSAP) is an initiative designed to support the implementation of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** and combat the growing loss of biodiversity worldwide.
2. It outlines the necessary actions to effectively conserve and sustainably use wild species.
3. The GSAP includes measures such as integrating species data into spatial planning and establishing wildlife corridors to facilitate animal migration.
4. Goals: Its goal is to outlines strategic interventions and actions to conserve and sustainably manage species and ensure equitable benefits.

Kendu Leaf

Why in News?
Villagers in Odisha's Koraput who started the initiative of seeking kendu leaf under the Community Forest Rights (CFR), are now struggling for approvals from the forest department.
About Kendu Leaf
1. **About:** It is a species of flowering tree in the family Ebenaceae. It is native to India and Sri Lanka. In various parts of India, it is also known as tendu leaf.

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2. **States where it is produced:** Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

3. **Uses:** It is used in multiple ways:

a) The Kendu leaves are used to wrap bidis, a popular smoke among the locals. Tribals living in remote forests, pluck it and sell them in the market to earn their livelihood.

b) Traditional medical practitioners use it to treat malaria, diarrhoea, and dysentery. Due to their antimicrobial properties, the leaves are applied to cuts and bruises as well.

Kendu Leaf in Odisha:

1. It is called the green gold of Odisha. It is a nationalized product, like bamboo and the sal seed. It is one of the most important non-wood forest products in Odisha.

2. Odisha is the third-largest producer of tendu leaves, after Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Himalayan serow

Why in News?

Recently, Himalayan serow was seen for the first time in the central region of Nameri National Park and Tiger Reserve.

About Himalayan serow

Source: Times of India

Aspects	Description
About	1. Himalayan serow is a subspecies of the mainland serow (Capricornis sumatraensis). 2. It resembles a cross between a goat, a donkey, a cow, and a pig
Habitat	1. They are found at high altitudes between 2,000 metres and 4,000 metres. 2. They are known to be found in the eastern, central, and western Himalayas but not in the Trans Himalayan region.
Physical Characteristics	It is a medium-sized mammal with a large head, thick neck, short limbs, long, mule-like ears, and a coat of dark hair. It is a very elusive animal.
Diet	Himalayan serows are herbivores animals.
Distribution	1. There are several species of serows in the world. All of them are found in Asia. 2. However, they are restricted to the Himalayan region.
Conservation Status	**IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable **CITES:** Appendix I **The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I

About Nameri Tiger Reserve

Aspects	Description
About	1. Nameri Tiger Reserve is located in the northern area of Sonitpur district in Assam, close to the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh. 2. It shares its northern boundary with Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh, creating a continuous habitat. 3.The reserve has been carved out of two protected areas: Nameri National Park & Sonai-

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	Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary, and two Reserve Forests: Naduar Reserve Forest & Balipara Reserve Forest.
River	It is defined by the Jia-Bhoreli river on the west and the Bor-Dikorai river on the east.
Vegetation	The reserve's vegetation includes tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, cane brakes, and some open grassland patches along the rivers.
Fauna	1. Its fauna is diverse and notable, especially for the presence of the rare white-winged wood duck. 2. Other species include the leopard cat, common otter, black giant squirrel, Indian mongoose, large clawed shrew, Indian flying fox, slow loris, Assamese macaque, and Rhesus macaque.

UPSC Syllabus: Science and technology

Types of online cybercrimes

Why in News?

Numerous Indians are becoming victims of online financial fraud. The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) analyzed trends from January to April, and discovered that 46% of reported frauds during this time came from Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia.

About types of online cybercrimes

Types	Description
Trading Scam	**Method:** Scammers use social media to advertise free trading tips, falsely using well-known stock market experts to lure victims into exclusive groups. **Process:** Victims are manipulated into downloading unregulated trading apps and making financial investments. They later find out that they cannot withdraw their money until they reach a very high account balance.
Digital Arrest	**Method:** Victims receive misleading calls claiming their involvement with illegal packages, with impersonators posing as law enforcement officials demanding money to resolve these fabricated issues. **Process:** In some cases, victims are kept in a 'digital arrest', needing to stay on a video call until they comply with the scammers' financial demands.
Investment Scam (Task-Based)	**Method:** Individuals are promised easy money for completing simple online tasks aimed at boosting social media ratings. **Process:** After completing initial tasks, victims are persuaded to invest more money for greater returns, which never materialize, leading to continuous investment requests.
Romance/Dating Scam	**Method:** Scammers create fake online dating profiles to establish romantic relationships, then concoct emergencies that supposedly require financial assistance. **Process:** The scam typically escalates to a crisis where the fictional partner claims to be detained and in need of funds for release.

Read more: Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

Zero Debris Charter

Why in News?

Recently, twelve countries signed the Zero Debris Charter at the ESA/EU Space Council. This charter formalizes their commitment to the long-term sustainability of human activities in Earth's orbit.

About Zero Debris Charter

Source: European Space Agency

Launch	The Zero Debris Charter is an initiative launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) during the ESA Space Summit in Seville in November 2023.
Aim and Binding Status	It aims to create a community of space actors committed to achieving specific debris mitigation and remediation targets by 2030. It is non-legally binding.
Goals and Objectives	a) The Charter aims to eliminate the creation of new space debris by 2030. b) The charter stipulates that the probability of a mission generating space debris should be less than 1 in 1,000 for each object involved. c) The charter also sets a target of 99% success rate for post-mission disposal strategies, including the use of external means if necessary.
Implementation Strategies	a) To achieve these goals, ESA will develop innovative technologies for satellite end-of-life disposal, in-orbit servicing, and active debris removal.

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	b) The agency will also collaborate closely with regulatory bodies to ensure the effective implementation of these strategies.

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About types of online cybercrimes

Source: blog.ccasociety.com

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Read more: Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

INS Kiltan

Why in News?
The Indian Naval Ship Kiltan received a warm reception from the Royal Brunei Navy upon its arrival in Muara, Brunei.
About INS Kiltan

Source: Indian Express

Aspects	Description

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About	1. INS Kiltan is a state-of-the-art indigenous warship which is set to be commissioned into the Indian Navy. 2. It is the third in the Kamorta-class corvettes built under Project 28. 3. It is named after an island in the Aminidivi group which is part of the strategically important Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of islands.
Designed and constructed by	The Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.
Features of INS Kiltan	1. INS Kiltan is the first major Indian warship with a superstructure made from carbon fibre composite material, enhancing stealth, reducing weight, and cutting maintenance costs. 2. INS Kiltan is outfitted with a variety of advanced and largely indigenous weapons and sensors. a) This includes heavyweight torpedoes and anti-submarine warfare (ASW) rockets, which are essential for its role in submarine defense. b) The ship also features a 76 mm caliber medium-range gun and two multi-barrel 30 mm guns, serving as close-in-weapon systems (CIWS) with dedicated fire control systems to protect against incoming threats. c) It is equipped with missile decoy rockets (Chaff) for evasion maneuvers. d) The ship incorporates an advanced Electronic Support Measure (ESM) system, as well as a sophisticated bow-mounted sonar and the Revathi air surveillance radar, enhancing its detection and tracking capabilities.
Future enhancement	It has been planned to install a short-range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) system and will be equipped with an integral ASW helicopter.
Strategic Importance	a) It joins the lineage of indigenous warships like the Shivalik Class and Kolkata Class, along with sister ships INS Kamorta and INS Kadmatt.

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	b) It will provide a comprehensive operational picture and bolster the Indian Navy's combat capabilities.

Magellan Mission

Why in News?

Recent research has unveiled new signs of volcanic activity on Venus. This new signs of volcanic activity arise from analyses of data collected by NASA's Magellan mission, which orbited Venus from 1990 to 1994.

About the Magellan Mission

1. **About the Mission-** The Magellan mission is an initiative of NASA launched on May 4, 1989, from Cape Canaveral using the space shuttle Atlantis. It is the first interplanetary mission initiated from a Space Shuttle. The mission is named after the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, renowned for being the first to circumnavigate the Earth.

2. **Aim-** The main purpose of the Magellan mission was to map Venus's surface. Venus has a very thick atmosphere which obscures optical observation. This makes radar imaging a necessity for studying its surface.

3. **Mission Duration-** Magellan reached Venus in 1990. The mission provided new insights into Venus, revealing a relatively young surface that might have been shaped by extensive lava flows from widespread volcanic activity.

In October 1994, the Magellan spacecraft was deliberately directed to crash into Venus to collect valuable data on Venus's atmosphere during its final moments. This marks the first deliberate crash of an operational planetary spacecraft.

Future mission on venus

1. **VERITAS Mission 2031:** NASA's upcoming mission, VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy), is set for a 2031 launch.

2. **Aim:** This mission aims to enhance the understanding of Venus's surface and interior through more precise observations.
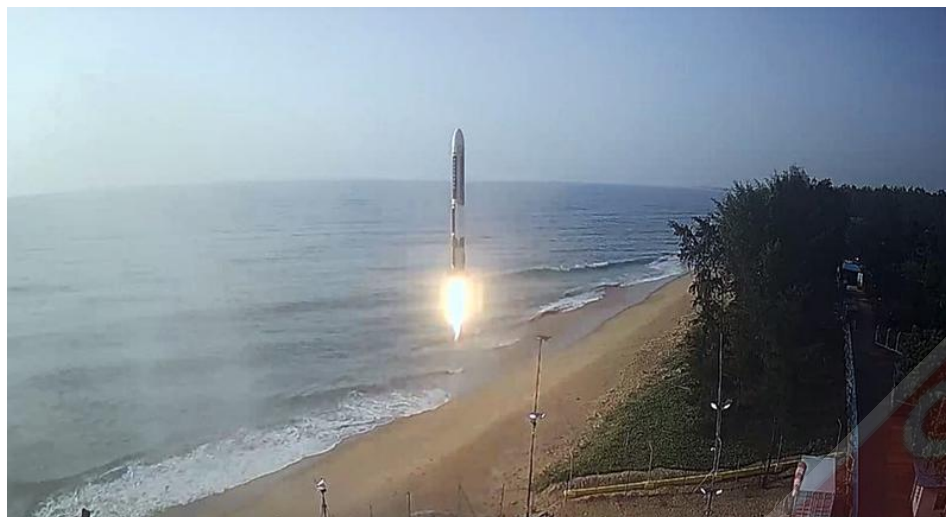
3. **Mission Goals:** VERITAS will explore why Venus, despite its similarities in size and composition to Earth, has followed a distinct evolutionary path.

Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SOrTeD)

Why in News?

The Agnikul Cosmos Private Ltd. recently launched the Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD) from Sriharikota.

About Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SOrTeD)

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Source: The hindu

Aspect	Description
About	Agnibaan SOrTeD is a single-stage rocket equipped with the Agnilet engine which is a proprietary technology of AgniKul.
Uniqueness	The engine is fully 3D-printed, single-piece, and semi-cryogenic, delivering 6 kilonewtons (kN) of thrust.
Launch Mechanism	Unlike conventional sounding rockets that use guide rails, Agnibaan SOrTeD launches vertically, following a pre-programmed trajectory to execute specific flight maneuvers.
Specifications and Capabilities	1. The rocket can be configured as a single or two-stage launcher, depending on mission requirements. 2. It stands 18 meters tall, weighs 14,000 kg, and is capable of carrying payloads up to 100 kg to an altitude of 700 km in one of five different configurations. 3.The first stage can host up to seven Agnilet engines, fueled by Liquid Oxygen and Kerosene. 4. It is designed to be launched from over 10 different launch ports worldwide.

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	5. AgniKul developed a versatile launch pedestal named 'Dhanush' to accommodate various launch sites and this enhances the rocket's mobility across its configurations.

UPSC Syllabus: History

Nyishi Tribe

Why in News?

Recently, mountaineer and cricketer Kabak Yano made history as the fifth woman from Arunachal Pradesh and the first from the Nyishi tribe to scale Mt Everest.

About Nyishi Tribe

Source: Travel Hippies

Aspects	Description
About	1. The Nyishi are the predominant ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh, India. 2. The name "Nyishi" is derived from their language, where "Nyi" means "a man" and "shi" signifies "a being," collectively translating to "a civilized human being."

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	3. The Nyishi language is part of the Sino-Tibetan family, though its exact origins are debated.
Geographical Distribution	1. Nyishis are primarily found in eight districts of Arunachal Pradesh: East Kameng, Pakke Kesang, Papum Pare, Lower Subansiri, Kamle, Kra Daadi, Kurung Kumey, and Upper Subansiri. 2. Smaller populations reside in Sonitpur and North Lakhimpur districts of Assam. 3. They are the largest tribal group in Arunachal Pradesh, with a population of about 300,000.
Socio-Economic Practices	1. The tribe practices slash-and-burn agriculture, hunting, and fishing. 2. They are also skilled in various handicrafts, including weaving, cane and bamboo work, pottery, blacksmithing, wood carving, and carpentry.
Religious Beliefs	1. As per the 2011 Census, 31% of Nyishis follow Christianity, and 29% adhere to Hinduism. 2. Many continue to practice their indigenous religion, Donyi Polo, worshipping the Sun ("Donyi") and the Moon ("Polo") as divine entities.
Cultural Festivals	1. Nyishis celebrate three major festivals: Boori-Boot and Nyokum in February, and Longte in April. 2. These festivals are times of communal joy, aimed at appeasing deities to ensure bountiful harvests, health, wealth, and overall prosperity.
Social Structure	1. Polygyny is common within the Nyishi community. They trace lineage patrilineally and are organized into various clans.

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	2. Unlike many societies, Nyishis do not have a caste system or rigid social classes, but they do recognize a form of social distinction that is flexible and not based on birth or occupation. 3. Women are highly regarded in Nyishi society, often seen as pillars of peace, progress, and prosperity. 4. They also play a crucial role through the 'reciprocal marital exchange' system.

UPSC Syllabus: Polity and nation

Supreme Court Ruling on Election Manifestos

Why in News?
The Supreme Court recently stated that there is nothing corrupt about promises made in a political party's manifesto which eventually works out to the public's financial benefit.

About Supreme Court Ruling on Election Manifestos
Case- The case pertains to an appeal against the electoral victory of B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, a Congress candidate, in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly election. The petitioner had argued that the promises in Mr. Khan's party manifesto were corrupt. However, the court rejected this claim, describing the promises as policy thresholds and projections, not as corrupt practices.

Judgement
1. The Supreme Court of India has stated that making promises in election manifestos is not inherently corrupt, even if these promises may lead to financial benefits for the public.
2. The court ruled that such commitments are not considered "corrupt practices" by candidates.

Article 329(b) of the Constitution

Why in News?
The Election Commission (EC) recently cited Article 329(b) of the Constitution, which prevents courts from interfering with the commission's operations during an ongoing election.

About Article 329(b) of the Constitution
1. Article 329(b) is part of Part XV of the Constitution, which specifically addresses electoral issues.
2. Judicial Role in Electoral Matters:
a) Article 329(a) restricts the judiciary from questioning the constitutionality of laws concerning electoral district boundaries or seat allocation.
b) Article 329(b) as amended by the Constitution (19th Amendment) Act of 1966, states that elections to either house of Parliament or state legislatures can only be challenged through an election petition as outlined by law.
3. Legal Framework for Election Petitions: The Representation of the People Act, 1951, specifies that high courts are the authorities empowered to hear and decide election petitions. Decisions from these petitions can be appealed to the Supreme Court.
4. Supreme Court Interpretations

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a) Ponnuswamy Judgment (1952): The Supreme Court in "Ponnuswami v. Returning Officer, Namakkal" clarified that the term "election" in Article 329(b) encompasses the entire electoral process, from the notification of election to the declaration of results. It established that the courts cannot interfere with the electoral process once it has begun, until its completion.

b) Venkatachalam vs. A. Swamickan (1999): The Court determined that Article 329(b) does not apply to matters related to Articles 191 and 193, which deal with disqualifications and penalties for members of Parliament and legislative assemblies.

Section 436-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)

Why in News?

Sharjeel Imam who was convicted in the case of sedition and unlawful activity under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) was granted statutory bail but he will not be released from custody.

About Section 436A of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

1. Section 436A was added to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, through an amendment in 2005. It focuses on undertrials who individuals are still awaiting trial and not yet convicted.

2. According to this section, if an undertrial has been detained for a period that equals half the maximum sentence possible for the crime they are accused of (except for crimes punishable by death), then they are eligible to be released on bail.

3. This release can be on their personal promise to return to court, known as a personal bond, and may or may not include a surety, which is a guarantee by another person.

4. However, the court can decide to keep the person in detention for longer than half the maximum sentence if there are good reasons to do so. These reasons must be written down after hearing from the Public Prosecutor.

What are the protections for undertrials

1. About Statutory Bail: Statutory bail is granted under Section 436-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). This provision mandates release if an undertrial has served half the maximum period of the prescribed sentence for the offense addressing the issue of long undertrial detentions.

2. It must be noted that individual may continuously be detained despite being granted bail in one casein case he/she is accused of multiple cases across various jurisdictions.

3. If someone is accused of a bailable offense, the court must grant them bail if they agree to pay bail bond. For non-bailable offenses, the decision to grant bail is up to the court.

4. Under Section 167(2) of the CrPC, default bail is granted if the police fail to file a charge sheet within the stipulated time (60 days for lesser offenses, 90 days for severe offenses). This provision underscores the rights of the accused against undue detention.

5. This helps to prevent people from being held in jail for a long time without trial. However, this only applies to crimes listed under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

6. For crimes under stricter laws like the UAPA, the police have more time to investigate.

Read More- **Default Bail**

EMigrate Project

Why in News?

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been established between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and CSC eGovernance Services India Limited.

About Memorandum of Understanding to Streamline eMigrate Services via Common Services Centres

Source: PIB

1. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and CSC eGovernance Services India Limited have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding.

2. Purpose: This MoU aims to synergize efforts between MEA and CSC SPV to extend eMigrate services through Common Services Centres across India.

3. Objective: A key objective is to protect Indian citizens from potential exploitation by untrustworthy entities as they seek employment abroad. The MoU is designed to extend safe and legal migration channels at the grassroots level.

4. Significance of the MoU:

a) Impact on Migration: The agreement seeks to enhance the migration process for Indians working abroad, reflecting the increasing number of workers and significant remittances they contribute.

b) Enhancing Digital Governance: Integrating eMigrate services with CSC's digital platform aligns with the Digital India mission to provide accessible digital services nationwide, especially in rural and remote areas.

About the eMigrate Project

1. The project primarily supports blue-collar workers destined for Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries.

2. Objectives: eMigrate is designed to streamline the emigration process online, bringing together foreign employers, registered recruitment agents, and insurance companies on a unified platform to ensure safe and legal migration.

3. Services to be Provided Through CSCs:

a) Registration Support: Assistance in registering applicants on the eMigrate portal via CSCs.

b) Document Handling: Help with uploading and processing necessary documents for applicants on the eMigrate portal.

c) Service Booking: Support in booking medical and other required services for migrant workers registered on the eMigrate portal.

d) Awareness Campaign: Increase awareness of eMigrate services among citizens throughout India.

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UPSC Syllabus: Indian Economy

RBI Self-Regulatory Organization Framework for FinTech Firms

Why in News?
Recently, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a new framework for the recognition of a Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for fintech Firms.

About RBI Self-Regulatory Organization Framework for FinTech Firms

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a new framework for the recognition of a Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) tailored specifically for the FinTech sector.

2. Aim: This initiative is aimed at enhancing self-governance and compliance among FinTech companies.

3. Organizational Requirements:

a) Applicants for the SRO-FT must be established as not-for-profit entities.

b) Their shareholding structure should be diversified, with no single entity holding 10% or more of the paid-up share capital.

4. Operational Guidelines

a) It is expected to operate with objectivity, credibility, and responsibility, under the oversight of the RBI.

b) It is tasked with promoting the healthy and sustainable development of the FinTech sector.

This may include outlining a phased approach to regulatory and supervisory compliance where necessary.

UPSC Syllabus: Schemes and Programmes

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)

Why in News?
The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) launched "PRAGATI- 2024".

About PRAGATI-2024

Source: PIB

1. PRAGATI-2024 stands for Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation.

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2. It is designed to explore research opportunities and enhance collaboration between the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and the Ayurveda drug industry.

About Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)

1. About: It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

2.Headquarters: The headquarters is located in New Delhi, India.

3. Primary Role: It serves as the apex body in India for conducting, coordinating, formulating, developing, and promoting research in Ayurvedic sciences on scientific lines.

4. Researh focus: The Council's research activities encompass a wide range of areas including:

a) Medicinal Plant Research involving Medico-Ethno Botanical Survey, Pharmacognosy, and Tissue Culture

b) Drug Standardization

c) Pharmacological Research

d) Clinical Research

e) Literary Research & Documentation

f) Tribal Health Care Research Programme

5. It also focuses on the formulation, coordination, development, and promotion of scientific research in both Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa medicinal systems.

UPSC Syllabus: Geography

Kumaon Himalayas

Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme Court has put a stop to a project covering 90 acres in the ecologically sensitive and earthquake-prone lower Himalayan ranges in Uttarakhand's Kumaon hills.
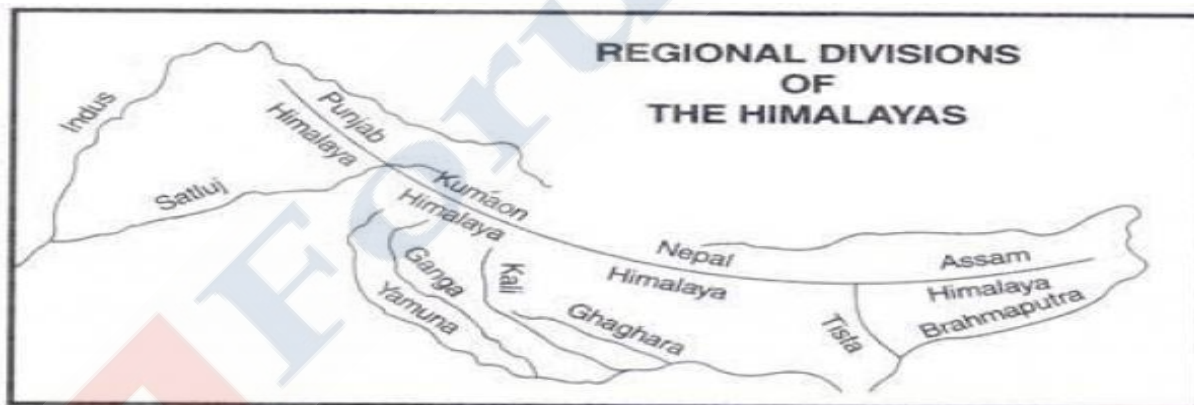
About Kumaon Himalayas

FIG. 3.7. Regional Divisions of the Himalayas

polyeyes.com

Aspect	Description
About Kumaon Himalayas	**1) Location:** The Kumaon Himalayas are situated in the west-central section of the Himalayan range in northern India.

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	2) This region is bounded by the Sutlej River to the west and the Kali River to the east.
Topography	1) The area features parts of the Siwalik Range in the south and the Great Himalayas in the north. 2) Most of the Kumaon Himalayas are located within Uttarakhand, northwest of Nepal. 3) Prominent lakes in this area are Naini Lake, Sattal, Bhimtal, and Naukuchiya Tal. 4) Key hill stations such as Nainital, Ranikhet, and Almora are nestled in this region.
Highest peak	The highest peaks in the region include Nanda Devi and Kamet.
Tribes	The region is home to various tribal and indigenous communities, including the Tharus, Bhutiyas, Jaunsaris, Buksas, and Rajis.
Concern associated	The Kumaon Himalayas are recognized for their ecological fragility and vulnerability to seismic activities.

About the Shiwalik Range

1) The Shivalik Hills are a sub-Himalayan mountain range extending approximately 1,600 km from the Teesta River in Sikkim, through Nepal and India, to northern Pakistan.

Figure 1.Source: GeeksforGeeks

2. This range runs parallel to the main Himalayan system, stretching from Haridwar along the Ganges to the banks of the Beas River.

3. The hills have an average elevation ranging from 900 to 1,200 meters.

4. Geological Composition: Predominantly composed of low sandstone and conglomerate hills, the Shivaliks represent the solidified and uplifted debris from the main Himalayan range located just behind them.

They are separated by an intermediate valley that lies between the outer hills and Mussoorie.

UPSC Syllabus: International organisation

U.N. award on gender advocacy

Why in News?

Recently, Major Radhika Sen was awarded the U.N. Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for 2023.

Figure 2.Source: NDTV

1. Major Radhika Sen who is an Indian peacekeeper in Congo, received the U.N. Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for 2023. U.N. Secretary General António Guterres presented the award.

2. Major Sen commanded an engagement platoon in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo from March 2023 to April 2024 which is part of an Indian rapid deployment battalion. Her platoon included 20 women and 10 men.

3. This award was bestowed upon her for her exceptional service and involvement in gender-focused initiatives within the UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO.

4. Major Sen is the second Indian peacekeeper to receive this prestigious honor, following Major Suman Gawani, who was a co-recipient in 2019.

About MONUSCO

1) The UN Security Council established MONUSCO.

2) It took over in 2010, from an earlier UN peacekeeping operation that is the United Nations Organization Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)

3) It's one of the largest UN peacekeeping efforts employing approximately 16,300 individuals.

4) The primary role of MONUSCO is to protect civilians from violence, particularly in conflict-prone areas like North Kivu.

5) MONUSCO is notable for its use of UAVs for monitoring purposes which is a first in UN peacekeeping history.

6) It features an Intervention Brigade which was authorized in 2013 to conduct targeted offensive operations against armed groups.

About United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

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1. The United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award recognises the dedication and effort of an individual peacekeeper in promoting the principles within the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

2. It was created in 2016 by the Office of Military Affairs within the Department for Peace Operations (DPO).

3. The Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award recognizes a military peacekeeper who has best integrated a gender perspective into peacekeeping activities.

4. Each year, the awardee is selected among candidates nominated by Force Commanders and Heads of Mission from all peace operations.

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