

Factly Weekly

Compilation

2023

**For UPSC CSE Prelims
Exam**

3rd Week

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UPSC Syllabus: Schemes and programmes

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA)

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the PMJUGA for improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities.

About Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA)

Aspects	Description
About	The Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan was approved by the Union Cabinet on 18 September 2024.
Aim	To develop enabling infrastructure, promote economic empowerment, and universalise access to education.
Objective	To bridge critical gaps in infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through the convergence of various government schemes.
Scope	The mission will covering over 63,000 tribal-majority villages. The scheme will benefit more than 5 crore tribal people across 549 districts in 30 states and union territories.
Focus	The mission focuses on ensuring holistic and sustainable development in tribal areas.

Components of the scheme

1. Tourism and Tribal Homestays: PMJUGA is to promote tribal homestays to tap into the tourist potential of tribal areas. Tribal households will receive ₹5 lakh each to build new two-room homestays or ₹3 lakh to renovate existing homes. The scheme targets creating 1,000 tribal homestays across villages with tourist potential.

2. Sustainable Farming on Forest Land: The package aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices** for Forest Rights Act (FRA) patta holders to ensure the conservation of forest lands. The initiative seeks to expedite pending Forest Rights Act claims.

3. Infrastructure Development: The scheme will build 20 lakh pucca homes for tribal families and lay 25,000 km of roads connecting ST-majority villages. 2.35 lakh households and public institutions will be electrified, and 25 lakh LPG connections will be provided. 5,000 tribal villages will receive broadband connectivity through the BharatNet project.

4. Livelihood and Economic Empowerment: The initiative includes fishing support for 10,000 communities and one lakh individuals, and livestock rearing support for 8,500 beneficiaries. 100 tribal multi-purpose marketing centres will be established to promote economic activities in tribal areas.

5. Health, Education, and Social Welfare: 1,000 mobile medical units and 2,000 new anganwadi centres will be set up, with 6,000 centres being upgraded. 1,000 hostels and 1,000 Poshan Vatikas under the National AYUSH Mission will be established. Ayushman cards will be provided to each household in tribal-majority villages.

6. Renewable Energy and Green Initiatives: The package will provide off-grid solar power to every unelectrified household and public institution. It also focuses on promoting sustainable energy solutions for tribal areas, ensuring access to clean and renewable energy.

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)

Why in News?

The government has approved the extension of the PM-AASHA scheme, allocating ₹35,000 crore to ensure farmers receive better prices for their produce and to manage price fluctuations of essential commodities for consumers.

About Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)

Aspects	Description
About	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is an umbrella scheme introduced by the Government of India. The scheme was launched as part of the government's efforts to double farmers' income and protect them from market fluctuations. It seeks to address price volatility in the agricultural sector and ensure farmers are fairly compensated for their crops.
Aim	To ensure that farmers receive the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce
Objective	To ensure that farmers are safeguarded against any sharp fall in farm prices. By providing a secure MSP system, it enhances the confidence of farmers to invest in quality inputs and maintain productivity, which is crucial for national food security.
Components of PM-AASHA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Price Support Scheme (PSS): This scheme involves the government procuring pulses, oilseeds, and copra at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to ensure that farmers receive fair compensation for their produce. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS): Under this scheme, farmers are compensated for the difference between the MSP and the actual market price when the latter falls below the MSP, ensuring they don't incur losses. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS): This scheme aims to protect farmers from distress sales during times of surplus production and declining market prices. Price Stabilization Fund (PSF): The fund is used to maintain buffer stocks of essential commodities like pulses and onions, helping stabilize prices and ensuring their availability at affordable rates. Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS): This is an experimental scheme rolled out on a pilot basis for oilseeds. It involves the participation of private players in procuring the crops at MSP.

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Operational Framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. States and Union Territories (UTs) have the option to choose either the PSS or PDPS for oilseeds in a particular procurement season. Only one scheme can be made operational for a specific commodity in a state.2. States can roll out the PPSS on a pilot basis for oilseeds, with private stockists playing a key role in the procurement process.3. Pulses and copra are procured under the PSS, while oilseeds can be covered under either PSS or PDPS, depending on the state's choice.
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Subhadra Yojana

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister launched 'SUBHADRA' Scheme in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

About Subhadra Yojana

Aspects	Description
About	This scheme is a flagship scheme of Government of Odisha. It was launched on 17th September 2024.
Purpose	Financial assistance aimed at empowering women in Odisha, ensuring their economic independence and overall well-being.
Eligibility Criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Women must be aged 21–60,2) She must be native to Odisha3) She must meet specific income criteria. Exclusions: Women from wealthy families, government workers, income tax payers and Recipients of other government support above Rs 1,500 per month (or Rs 18,000 per year).
Key Features of the Scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Financial Support: The scheme provides Rs 10,000 per year to over one crore women in Odisha from 2024 to 2029.2. Payment Schedule: Funds are distributed in two installments of Rs 5,000 each—on Rakhi Purnima (August) and International Women's Day (March 8).3. Mode of Payment: Direct deposit into Aadhaar-enabled single-holder bank accounts. Subhadra Debit Card will be provided to recipients for easy access to funds.4. Registration: Over 60 lakh women have registered. Registrations are open until all qualifying beneficiaries are covered.5. Incentives: Rs 500 for 100 top digital transaction performers in each panchayat/urban area.

Cascade Frog (*Amolops formosus*)

Why in News?

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Scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) have gained insights into how water flow influences the presence and abundance of Cascade frog species.

About Cascade Frog (*Amolops formosus*)



Source: TH

1. Location: Cascade Frog are found in **India** (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Assam), Northern Bangladesh, and much of Nepal.

2. Characteristics:

- a. The Assam Cascade Frog has a **slender body and long legs**, which make it highly adept at jumping across rocks and swimming in strong currents.
- b. It has **smooth skin**, and its **skin colouration is a blend of earthy browns and greens**, providing excellent camouflage against the rocky and leafy surroundings of its habitat.
- c. Some individuals have **light stripes or patterns** on their backs or limbs.

3. Habitat: This species thrives in **hilly, forested areas** where there are streams and waterfalls. These frogs are often found near the water's edge, where they lay their eggs.

4. Species Behaviour: Assam Cascade Frogs are **mainly nocturnal and are active during the rainy season** when the water flow in their habitats is high. They are **insectivores**, feeding on small insects and other invertebrates they find near the water or on the forest floor.

5. Conservation status:

- a. It is currently classified as **Least Concern** by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- b. It is **not listed under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act (IWPA)**. It is also **not included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**.

6. Major Threats: Habitat loss due to **deforestation** and alterations in water management, such as **dam construction**.

UPSC Syllabus: Environment

Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2024

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Why in News?

Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2024 has been initiated. It will run from 17th September 2024 to 2nd October 2024.

About Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2024

- 1. Theme of the campaign:** Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskar Swachhata
- 2. Aim:** To reignite collective action and citizen participation in cleanliness efforts across India.
- 3. Key Pillars of SHS 2024:**

Pillars	Description
Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) — Shramdaan Activities	1) Focus on transforming specific target units with time-bound cleaning activities. 2) Emphasis on overall cleanliness and sanitation efforts.
Swachhata Mein Jan Bhagidari — Public Participation, Awareness & Advocacy	1) Promote public involvement through participatory activities and awareness campaigns. 2) Encourage active engagement of citizens in cleanliness initiatives.
Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs	1) Provide preventive health check-ups for sanitation workers. 2) Ensure social security coverage for Safai Mitras as part of the campaign.

4. The campaign will culminate on Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2nd October 2024, with a nationwide Shramdaan activity to honor Mahatma Gandhi's legacy and promote cleanliness as a way of life.

Cellulitis Disease

Why in News?

Recently, Cellulitis has now become widespread in the erstwhile Karimnagar district.

About Cellulitis Disease

- 1. About:** Cellulitis is a **common bacterial skin infection**. It affects the deeper layers of the skin and enters through a break or crack in the upper layer.
- 2. Causes:** It is primarily caused by the **Streptococcus** and **Staphylococcus bacteria**. The bacteria enter through cuts, bruises, scrapes, insect bites (e.g., bedbugs, mosquitoes), and other injuries.
- 3. Risk:** It is common among **people working in agricultural fields**, construction sites, and individuals with compromised skin integrity. Those with diseases like leukaemia, HIV-AIDS, and diabetes, which lower immunity, are at higher risk.
- 4. Symptoms:** Visible Signs include **swollen skin**, **red rashes** that appear suddenly, and pain or tenderness in the affected area. Other Symptoms includes fever, chills, and sweating.
- 5. Treatment:** Cellulitis is treated effectively with **antibiotics**, and most individuals recover fully within 24 hours after treatment. Quick treatment is crucial to prevent complications.

6. Complications: If left untreated, cellulitis can enter the bloodstream and spread to other parts of the body, which can be life-threatening.

7. Prevention: Maintaining proper hygiene can help prevent cellulitis, especially for people with lower immunity. Avoid scratching insect bites or injuries as that can facilitate the spread of infection.

UPSC Syllabus: Science and technology

Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet has approved the development of the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV).

About Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)

1. Developed: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

2. Timeline: The NGLV will undergo three developmental flights: D1, D2, and D3. The project is expected to be completed in 96 months (eight years).

3. Industry Participation: The project will involve extensive industry participation, with private industries expected to invest in manufacturing capacity. This will enable a smooth transition from the development phase to the operational phase.

4. Significance:

The NGLV will play a crucial role in supporting India's commercial and national missions, including the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and lunar or interplanetary exploration.

It will also facilitate the deployment of communication and earth observation satellite constellations to LEO, boosting India's space technology ecosystem.

The NGLV is engineered to meet the needs of India's human spaceflight programme, with a focus on the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and crewed missions to the Moon by 2040.

Key Features of NGLV

1. The NGLV is designed to provide three times more payload capacity than the existing LVM3.

2. The cost of the NGLV will only be 1.5 times more than the current vehicles.

3. The vehicle will incorporate reusability features, making access to space more affordable and efficient.

4. NGLV will be capable of launching 30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO). It includes a reusable first stage, which is a significant enhancement over the current satellite launch capabilities.

5. India's current launch systems, such as the PSLV, GSLV, LVM3, and SSLV, can handle up to 10 tonnes to LEO and 4 tonnes to Geo-Synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

Primary Amebic Meningitis

Why in News?

Recently, cases were seen of Primary Amebic Meningitis in Kerala.

About Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)



Source: CDC

- 1. About:** Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a rare but often fatal brain infection caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, a free-living amoeba found in warm freshwater environments, such as lakes, rivers, and hot springs.
- 2. How it occur:** PAM occurs when *Naegleria fowleri* enters the body through the nose and travels to the brain, where it causes severe inflammation and destruction of brain tissue. This condition is sometimes referred to as the “brain-eating amoeba.”
- 3. Causes:** The infection is caused by the inhalation of water containing *Naegleria fowleri* amoebae, typically during activities like swimming, diving, or bathing in contaminated water. Once inside the nasal passages, the amoebae move along the olfactory nerve to the brain, where they multiply and trigger a severe immune response.
- 4. Symptoms:** PAM symptoms typically appear 1-9 days after exposure to contaminated water. Early signs, resembling bacterial meningitis, include severe headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, and stiff neck. As the infection worsens, neurological symptoms develop. PAM progresses rapidly, leading to death within 5-12 days if untreated.
- 5. Diagnosis:** Diagnostic methods include lumbar puncture to analyze cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), detecting *Naegleria fowleri* in CSF or brain tissue via microscopy or PCR, and brain imaging (MRI/CT) to spot inflammation.
- 6. Treatment:** PAM is hard to treat due to its fast progression. Early diagnosis and aggressive treatment are crucial. Options include the antifungal amphotericin B, Miltefosine, and therapeutic hypothermia to reduce brain swelling.
- 7. Prevention:** Preventive measures include avoiding warm, stagnant freshwater, using nose clips while swimming, and avoiding untreated water for nasal rinsing.

Exercise Eastern Bridge VII

Why in News?

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Recently, the **Indian Air Force** (IAF) completed Exercise Eastern Bridge VII in collaboration with the **Royal Air Force of Oman** (RAFO).

About Exercise Eastern Bridge VII



Source: connectedtoindia

Aspects	Description
About	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Exercise Eastern Bridge VII with the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) was held at the RAFO airbase in Masirah.The exercise saw the participation of MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft from the IAF, while RAFO deployed F-16 and Hawk aircraft.The exercise featured complex air operations, air-to-air combat drills, and mission scenarios, which were designed to improve the strategic and tactical capabilities of both forces.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Strengthen military cooperation between India and Oman.Enhance the interoperability between IAF and RAFO.Improve operational coordination and tactical skills.
Training and Operations	The exercise involved: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Complex air operations designed to simulate real-world scenarios.Air-to-air combat drills to enhance tactical capabilities.Mission scenarios focusing on improving strategic and operational proficiencies.
Commitment to Regional Peace	<ol style="list-style-type: none">The successful completion of the exercise reinforces the commitment of both India and Oman to maintaining regional peace and security.The forces showcased their ability to jointly operate in diverse scenarios and demonstrated preparedness to face emerging security challenges.

Exercise Aikya

Why in News?

Recently, a two-day disaster management exercise, “**EXERCISE AIKYA**,” was conducted in Chennai.

About Exercise Aikya



Source: PIB

Aspects	Description
About	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Organized by: It was jointly organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Indian Army Southern Command, and the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA).Location: The event took place at the Headquarters of the Dakshin Bharat Area.Aim: It aims to improve disaster preparedness and response through collaboration between various stakeholders.
Participants	<ol style="list-style-type: none">It included representatives from six southern states and Union Territories: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Puducherry.Various central ministries responsible for disaster management, State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), and armed forces, response agencies, early warning agencies and research institutions and academic bodies were part of the exercise.

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Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The primary goal was to foster cooperation and coordination among disaster management agencies across Peninsular India, reflecting the meaning of 'Aikya' (Oneness in Tamil).2. The exercise involved simulating emergency situations to test the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders.
Focus Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The event facilitated discussions on recent disaster management trends, technologies, and lessons learned from previous operations.2. Disaster scenarios including tsunamis, landslides, floods, cyclones, industrial incidents, and forest fires, with a focus on recent events in Tamil Nadu, Wayanad, and Andhra Pradesh, were addressed.3. Key discussions included the use of AI and technology in disaster management, the economic impact of disasters, vulnerabilities specific to the region, and strategies to reduce response times.
Future Plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This exercise is a part of ongoing efforts to enhance disaster management capabilities in India.2. NDMA and Indian Army Southern Command plan to expand similar exercises to other institutions to strengthen the national disaster preparedness framework.

Asteroid 2024 PT5

Why in News?

Asteroid 2024 PT5 recently passed close to Earth without causing any harm, and another asteroid, resembling a mini-moon is approaching.

About 2024 PT5



Source: IE

- 1. About:** 2024 PT5 is an asteroid, measuring 33 feet in length. It will soon be captured by Earth's gravity. It is not a true mini-moon. It will follow a horseshoe-shaped orbit.
2. The asteroid will be temporarily caught by Earth's gravitational pull and will remain in orbit for approximately 56 days.
- 3. Duration:** 2024 PT5 will start its journey around Earth on September 29, 2024, and will break free by November 25, 2024, continuing its cosmic trajectory.
- 4. Scientific Significance:** 2024 PT5 offers a unique opportunity to study objects that frequently pass near Earth. Scientists suggested that 2024 PT5 might be a fragment of lunar ejecta, adding further interest to its origin.
- 5. Discovery and Observation:** The asteroid was first detected on August 7, 2024, by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System. 2024 PT5 will only be visible through specialized telescopes due to its small size.
- 6. Resource Exploration Potential:** Some mini-moons may contain valuable metals, making them attractive for future mining if they are captured by Earth's gravity.

About mini moon

1. A "mini moon" refers to a small object that temporarily orbits a planet, in this case, Earth.
2. These mini moons are typically small asteroids that get captured by Earth's gravity and orbit it for a period before either being flung back into space or burning up in the atmosphere.
3. They are significantly smaller than the Earth's actual moon, often just a few meters in diameter.
4. Mini moons are rare and typically short-lived in Earth's orbit due to the influence of gravitational forces from the Sun, Earth, and the Moon.

Lancet Report on Antibiotics Overuse

Why in News?

According to a recent Lancet study, **60% of the 29.9 lakh sepsis deaths in India in 2019** were caused by bacterial infections. Of these, 2.9 lakh sepsis deaths were directly attributed to AMR.

About Sepsis

1. Sepsis occurs when the **immune system reacts dangerously to a bacterial infection**. This potentially leads to organ failure without treatment.

2. Sepsis Deaths in India: **Lower respiratory infections accounted for 27% of sepsis deaths in India**. Among children under five, **streptococcus pneumoniae** was the deadliest bacterial infection.

About Antimicrobial resistance



1. Antimicrobial resistance- It occurs when **microbes** (bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites) become **resistant to antimicrobial drugs** (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics). As a result, the medicines become ineffective and infections persist in the body, increasing the risk of spread to others.

2. Global Trends in AMR- Globally, deaths from **methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA)** has more than doubled.

3. **AMR in India**- India's most prevalent drug-resistant bacteria includes **E. coli** which causes gut infections, **Klebsiella pneumoniae** which causes pneumonia and urinary tract infections and **Acinetobacter baumannii** which commonly associated with hospital-acquired infections

Read More- [Increasing Antimicrobial Resistance in India- Explained Pointwise](#)

Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet has approved an expansion of India's Gaganyaan Programme to include the development of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), marking a significant milestone in India's human spaceflight initiatives.

About revised Gaganyaan Programme

1. The Gaganyaan Programme was approved in 2018. It aimed to send Indian astronauts to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and establish the foundation for long-term human space exploration.
2. The Gaganyaan Programme has been updated to incorporate the development of precursor missions for the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) and to include an additional uncrewed mission, along with enhanced hardware requirements.
3. The revised Gaganyaan Programme will involve eight missions, including four under the ongoing programme and four new missions to develop and validate technologies for BAS.
4. The first uncrewed mission is planned to take place before the end of 2028.
5. These missions will equip India with essential technological capabilities for long-duration human space missions in LEO, ultimately contributing to the nation's broader space ambitions.

About Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)

1. **About:** BAS will be India's first own space station and it will be established in 2028. BAS is envisaged as a national space-based facility that will support advanced microgravity research and technology development.
2. **Vision:** The station's creation is part of India's broader vision for space during the Amrit Kaal, which includes launching an operational space station by 2035 and pursuing a crewed lunar mission by 2040.
3. **Significance:** This effort led by ISRO with collaboration from industry, academia, and other national agencies will advance India's space capabilities and foster innovation, industrial participation, and economic growth, particularly in high-tech sectors.

Union Cabinet approved Simultaneous Election Plan

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee that had proposed simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the first step, and municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days of the general election in the next phase.

About Simultaneous Election

Simultaneous Election refers to the concept of holding elections to the Lok Sabha (the lower house of the Parliament) and the State Legislative Assemblies across all states and Union Territories at the same time.

Key Features of Simultaneous Elections:

- 1. Single Election Cycle:** Both the general election (for the Lok Sabha) and state assembly elections would be held together, ideally once every five years, reducing the frequency of elections.
- 2. Synchronized Terms:** The idea is to synchronize the terms of the Parliament and all State Assemblies, so they can complete their five-year tenures concurrently, after which elections would be held simultaneously.
- 3. Phased Voting:** Although elections would be held simultaneously, voting could be conducted in phases across different regions, depending on logistical and security needs.

Challenges to Simultaneous Elections:

- 1. Constitutional Amendments:** Multiple amendments to Articles 83, 85, 172, and 174, along with state consensus, would be needed.
- 2. Premature Dissolution:** Political instability can lead to unsynchronized dissolutions of state assemblies or the Lok Sabha.
- 3. State vs. National Issues:** Simultaneous elections could blur the focus between state and national concerns.
- 4. Logistical Hurdles:** Conducting elections across India's vast and diverse landscape poses significant logistical challenges in terms of voter management, security, and personnel.

Kovind Panel Recommendations

- 1. Appointed Date for Electoral Synchronization:** The Kovind panel suggested synchronizing elections by setting an 'Appointed Date' at the beginning of the Lok Sabha's term. State Assemblies formed between elections would end their terms to align with the Lok Sabha elections.
- 2. Constitutional Amendments:** The proposal includes 18 constitutional amendments, including changes to Article 83 (duration of Parliament) and Article 172 (duration of State legislatures).
- 3. Common Electoral Roll:** The recommendation involves a common electoral roll for all levels of government, which would require coordination between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and State Election Commissions (SECs).

Read more: [Kovind Panel Report on Simultaneous Elections](#)

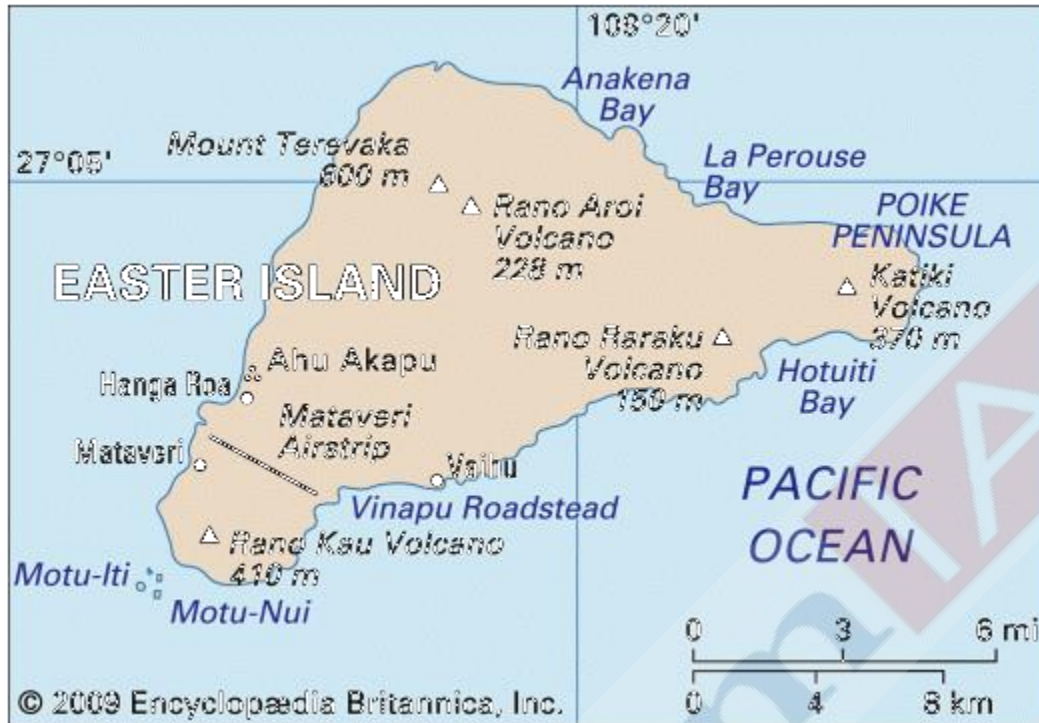
UPSC Syllabus: Polity and nation

Rapa Nui Island

Why in News?

Studying Indigenous genomes reveals vital insights into population history, ecological adaptations, and human migration. Research on Rapa Nui genomes, for instance, helps debunk harmful stereotypes and misconceptions about Indigenous communities, showing how science can challenge derogatory myths.

About Rapa Nui Island



Aspects	Description
About	Rapa Nui, or Easter Island, is one of the world's most isolated inhabited islands with population of about 7,000.
Location	It is located in the southeastern Pacific Ocean.
Geography	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rapa Nui is a triangular island with an area of about 163.6 square kilometers. 2. It is of volcanic origin, consisting mainly of three extinct volcanoes: Terevaka, Poike, and Rano Kau. 3. The island has a temperate climate, with relatively cool temperatures throughout the year.
History	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Polynesians settled Rapa Nui around 1200 AD, developing a complex society and rapidly growing population, which led to the creation of the famous moai statues. 2. In 1722, Dutch navigator Jacob Roggeveen renamed it Easter Island after arriving on Easter Sunday.

Reason for decline	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rapa Nui civilization declined due to deforestation, overpopulation, and resource depletion.2. European contact later introduced diseases and the slave trade, further reducing the population.
UNESCO conservation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In 1995, Rapa Nui National Park, covering much of the island and its archaeological sites, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.2. This recognition helps preserve the island's cultural and natural heritage.3. The moai statues, the ceremonial village of Orongo, and other significant archaeological sites have been carefully protected and studied to understand the history and culture of the Rapa Nui people.

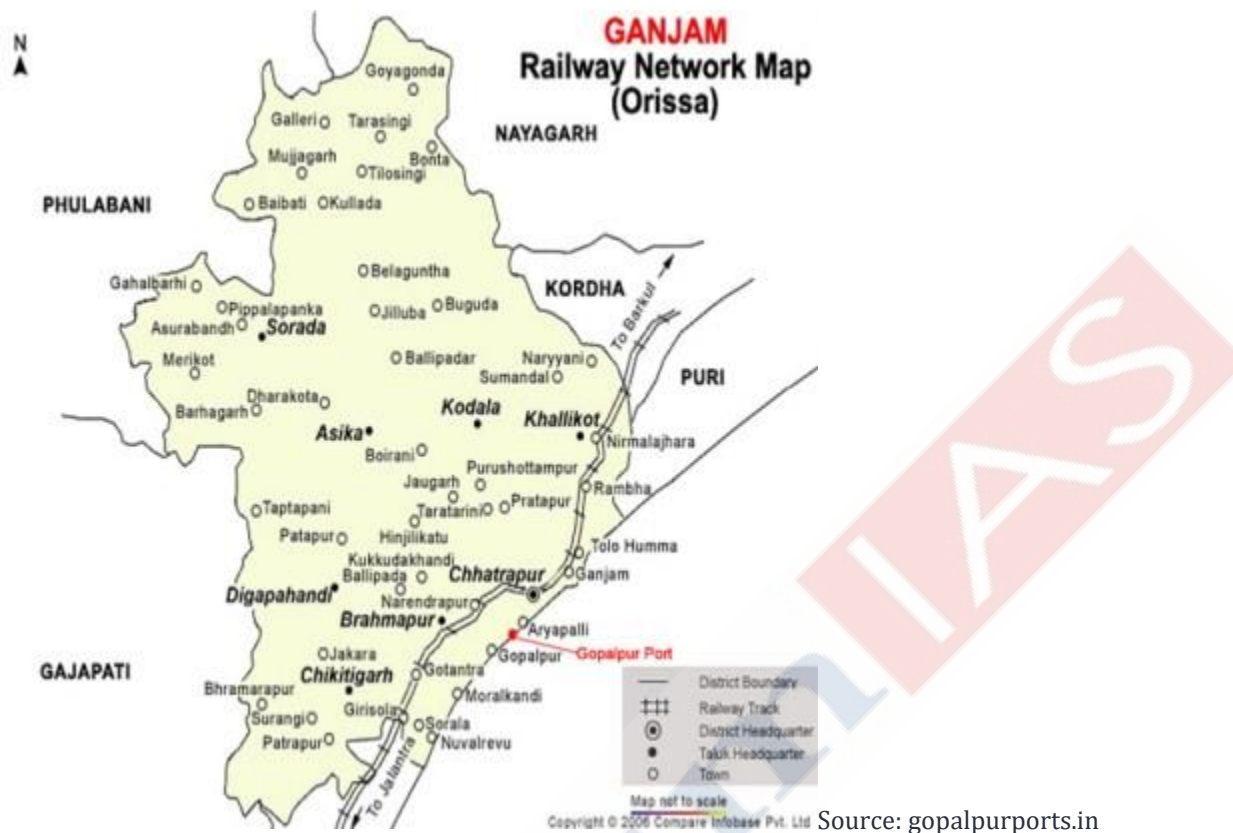
UPSC Syllabus: World Geography

Gopalpur Port

Why in News?

Recently, the Odisha government has approved the proposal of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) acquisition of **95 per cent of the equity shares of Gopalpur Port** from Shapoorji Pallonji Port Maintenance Private Limited and Orissa Stevedores Limited.

About Gopalpur Port



Aspects	Details
Type of Port	Gopalpur Port is a deep-sea port located on the east coast of India in Odisha.
Location	It is positioned between Paradip and Visakhapatnam ports.
Significance and Strategic Advantages	<p>a. It is close to bauxite-rich regions like Sundargarh, Balangir, Sambalpur, Kalahandi, and central Odisha's steel clusters.</p> <p>b. The port's hinterland includes the ib (Jharsuguda) and Talcher coal fields, which together hold about 25% of India's coal reserves and 100% of Odisha's reserves.</p>

UPSC Syllabus: Geography (Places in News)

Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*)

Why in News?

The district administration of Manipur's Tamenglong district has announced an immediate ban on hunting, catching, killing, and selling of the Amur falcon. The ban is part of the efforts to protect the species as they arrive in the district.

About Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*)



Source: worldmigratorybirdday

Aspects	Description
About	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Amur Falcon (<i>Falco amurensis</i>) is a small migratory bird of prey belonging to the family Falconidae. It is known for its remarkable long-distance migration. 2. The species is named after the Amur River, which runs through its breeding grounds in the Far East.
Where are they found?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It breeds in southeastern Siberia, northern China, and Mongolia, and winters in southern Africa. 2. In India, Amur Falcons are primarily found during their migration in the northeastern states, especially in Nagaland, Manipur, and parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. (Locally, the bird is known as 'Kahuaipuina'.) 3. The Doyang Reservoir in Nagaland is particularly famous as a significant roosting site for tens of thousands of Amur Falcons during their annual migration.
Physical Characteristics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amur Falcons are relatively small falcons, with males and females differing slightly in appearance. 2. Males have slate-gray plumage with reddish-brown thighs and undertail coverts, and reddish-orange feet. 3. The females are larger and have a more mottled, brownish-gray appearance with streaked underparts, making them more camouflaged. 4. Both sexes have distinct black eye masks and yellow ceres (the soft tissue at the base of their beaks).
Migration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After the breeding season, these birds undertake a remarkable migration of approximately 22,000 kilometers to southern Africa.

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	2. Their route includes an incredible non-stop flight over the Arabian Sea, where they travel more than 3,000 kilometers without resting. 3. This migration is one of the longest recorded for any raptor species.
Habitat and Diet	1. During the breeding season in their native regions of Asia, Amur Falcons prefer open grasslands, agricultural fields, and forest edges. 2. They are often seen perching on power lines or trees, hunting insects. 3. Their diet primarily consists of insects, particularly locusts and termites, which they catch in flight. 4. They are known to take advantage of locust swarms, providing natural pest control.
Threat	1) Over harvesting from trapping 2) Habitat loss from grassland degradation
Conservation	The Amur Falcon is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

UPSC Syllabus: Species in news

White Revolution 2.0

Why in News?

Recently, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah introduced 'White Revolution 2.0'. The initiative is part of an action plan to form and strengthen 2 lakh new Multipurpose Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (MPACS), along with dairy and fishery cooperatives. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on "cooperation among cooperatives" was also released during the event.

About White Revolution 2.0

1. Aim: It aimed at enhancing milk production and empowering women through cooperative dairies. This initiative also aims to combat malnutrition by increasing the availability of milk.

2. Focus: Women Empowerment and Malnutrition. The scheme would empower women engaged in milk procurement by formalizing their work and ensuring payments directly to their bank accounts.

3. Objectives of White Revolution 2.0:

i) Increase in Milk Procurement: The scheme targets increasing milk procurement by cooperatives from the current 660 lakh litres per day to 1,000 lakh litres.

ii) Financial Inclusion of Women: The inclusion of women in formal employment within the dairy sector will be facilitated by depositing earnings from milk procurement directly into their bank accounts.

Four Pillars of the Programme:

1. Empowering Women Farmers: Ensuring greater participation and self-reliance for women in the agricultural and dairy sectors.

2. Enhancing Local Milk Production: Boosting domestic milk production to meet local demand.

3. Strengthening Dairy Infrastructure: Improving the infrastructure needed to support dairy farming and milk processing.

4. Boosting Dairy Exports: Focusing on increasing India's dairy exports to international markets.

UPSC Syllabus: Indian economy

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) on clean and Fair economy

Why in News?

Recently, India signed agreements under the US-led **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)** on clean and fair economy.

About the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) on clean economy

1. The agreement is to facilitate clean energy development and climate-friendly technology deployment.
2. **Aim:** The clean economy agreement aims to accelerate the efforts of IPEF partners to enhance energy security, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
3. **Focus:** These agreements focus on strengthening anti-corruption measures and enhancing tax transparency among member countries.
4. The agreement emphasizes the development of innovative strategies and promotes technical cooperation between member countries to support sustainable energy solutions.

About Fair Economy Agreement

1. **Focus:** The fair economy agreement focuses on creating a **transparent and predictable business environment** to boost trade and investment in member markets.
2. **Key areas of the agreement:** It includes improving **information sharing, facilitating asset recovery**, and strengthening **cross-border investigations and prosecutions**.
3. **Investment Facilitation:** A new IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund, with an initial grant of \$33 million from countries like Australia, Japan, Korea, and the US, aims to mobilize private investments up to \$3.3 billion.
4. **IPGI Investment Accelerator:** The IPEF also launched the **PGI Investment Accelerator**, initially funded with \$300 million from the US International Development Finance Corporation, to catalyze further investments.

About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)



Source: Copyright not intended

- IPEF-** It is an economic initiative launched by U.S.A. President Joe Biden in 2022.
- Objective:** It provides a **platform for countries in the region** to collaborate on advancing resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth, and **aims to contribute to cooperation, stability, and prosperity in the region.**
- Members:** It has **14 partners** – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, U.S.A. and Vietnam.
- Nodal agency:** Department of Commerce for the IPEF engagements.
- The IPEF comprises four pillars of cooperation namely- Trade, Supply Chain, Clean Economy and Fair Economy.

Read more: [IPEF's Clean Economy Investor Forum](#)

UPSC Syllabus: International agreements

Key Highlights of the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit

Why in News?

Recently, the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit was hosted at Wilmington, Delaware, USA.

Key Highlights of the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit

Dimension	Description
Maritime and Legal Initiatives	<p>1. Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI): Quad countries launched MAITRI to train partners in monitoring and securing their waters, enforcing maritime laws, and deterring illegal activities. India will host the first MAITRI workshop in 2025.</p> <p>2. Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission: This mission will improve interoperability and maritime safety across the Indo-Pacific region. The first coast guard exercise is set for 2025.</p> <p>3. Maritime Legal Dialogue: It is a new initiative to support the enforcement of a rules-based maritime order was announced, with a focus on legal measures to</p>

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	uphold international standards in the region.
Focus on Maritime Security	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Quad leaders highlighted the militarization of disputed regions and condemned the use of maritime militia vessels for coercive purposes.2. The Quad opposed any disruptions to nations' offshore resource activities and condemned the use of force or intimidation.
Health and Education Initiatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Quad Cancer Moonshot: India pledged \$10 million for screening efforts to combat cervical cancer. Vaccine production partners, including Serum Institute of India and Gavi, will provide up to 40 million doses.2. STEM Education Fellowship: The Quad fellowship expanded to include 50 scholarships worth \$500,000 for students in the Indo-Pacific region to study at Indian government-funded technical institutions.
Logistics and Disaster Response	Logistics Network Pilot Project: The Quad countries launched a pilot project for sharing airlift capacity to enhance disaster response across the Indo-Pacific.