

# Civils Shot 2025

" Current Affairs Simplified, Concepts Amplified "



## JUNE 2024 CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES

"Your One-Stop Destination for  
Comprehensive **UPSC Current Affairs** !



<https://t.me/civilshubias10>  
<http://www.civilshubias.com>



## KEY FEATURES

- 1. All Sources, One PDF - The Hindu, The Indian Express, Live Mint, PIB + Top Coaching Magazines - Everything at One Place**
- 2. Static Linkage Masterstroke - Every Topic is linked with Forward + Backward with Static Concepts, Real Gamechanger for preparation**
- 3. Smart Prioritisation - Articles are categorised into High, Moderate & Least Priority - "Study What Matters, Skip What Doesn't".**
- 4. Crisp + Filtered Content - Only 35-45 pages/month by extracting what's truly Relevant from Newspapers, Magazines, and Reports**
- 5. Table Format for Quick Revision - No long Paragraphs, Just, "What + Why in News + Static Linkage + Priority Tag".**
- 6. Only Smart Learning, No Daily Note-Making, - No Running After Any Other Magazine, PDF, or Source, Just Civils Shot 2025.**

### Revise Your Current Affairs Notes 10x Faster!

- Focuses only on What can be Asked.
- Saves time by eliminating Low-Relevance News.
- Enhances Retention through Smart Prioritisation.
- Provides a ready-to-use roadmap for Current-Affairs.

#### NOTE :

- Civils Shot 2025 adopts Comprehensive **Prelims Trend Analysis** to optimise current affairs preparation.
- **Data-Driven Insights: Past 10+ years' papers analysed for subject-wise trends, allowing aspirants to focus on high-priority subjects first.**
- With **360° Dynamic + Static Integration**, each topic is linked to forward and backward static concepts, ensuring in-depth understanding.
- **Notes-making:** Not recommended, as the magazine is already very concise.

# About Topic Prioritization

By analysing 10+ years of UPSC Prelims papers, topics are categorised into High, Moderate, and Low Priority.

## High Priority Topics

- These are the most crucial topics with a high likelihood of being directly questioned in the UPSC CSE Prelims 2025.
- A thorough and comprehensive preparation of these topics is highly recommended.

## Moderate Priority Topics

- These topics are also important and may appear in the UPSC Prelims 2025.
- It is essential to allocate focused attention to these areas as well.

## Less Priority Topics

- These topics hold relatively lesser importance but may still be referenced indirectly in answers or appear in indirect questions.
- Some attention to these topics will be beneficial for comprehensive preparation.

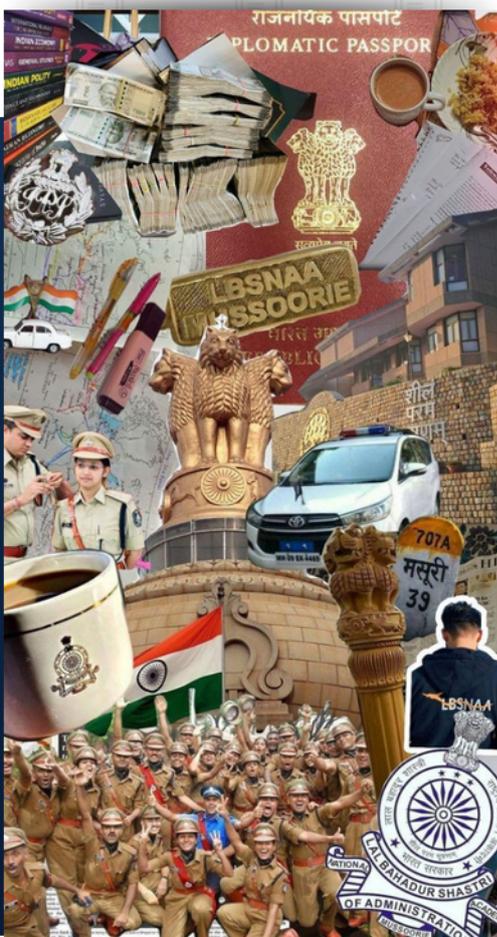
## HOW TO USE THIS MAGAZINE ?

Revise the Magazine at least 5 times before the Prelims to ensure maximum retention and Conceptual Clarity.

| STAGE                                     | FOCUS AREA                                    | APPROACH   |
|---|---|--|
| 1st Reading & 1st Revision                | Read the entire magazine thoroughly.          | Gain a Comprehensive Understanding of all Topics.              |
| 2nd to 4th Revision                       | Prioritize high and moderate-priority topics. | Revise key concepts, strengthen retention, and practice MCQ's. |
| 5th Revision ( Final Week Before Prelims) | Focus solely on high-priority topics.         | Quick and focused revision to reinforce important areas.       |

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Polity & Governance     | 1-6     |
| Economy                 | 6 - 15  |
| Environment             | 15 - 22 |
| Science & Tech          | 22- 27  |
| International Relations | 27 -33  |
| Art & Culture           | 33 - 35 |
| Schemes                 | 36 - 38 |
| Indices and Reports     | 39 - 41 |
| Defence                 | 41-43   |
| Health                  | 44-47   |





| Topic Name                           | Description  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Parole and Furlough</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Governing Law: Prisons Act, 1894</b></li> <li>• <b>Guidelines: Model Prison Manual, 2016</b> by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain <b>humanitarian approach</b> towards prisoners</li> <li>• Balance <b>prisoners' rights</b> with <b>societal safety</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Parole</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Definition:</b> Conditional <b>temporary release of a prisoner</b> with suspension of sentence</li> <li>• <b>Nature: Discretionary</b> (Not a Right)</li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency reasons (e.g., Death in family, Marriage of family member, Medical Treatment)</li> <li>• Reintegration into society</li> <li>• <b>Release Period: Does not count</b> towards sentence duration</li> <li>• <b>Maximum Duration: One Month</b></li> <li>• <b>Granting Authority: State Government/ Competent Authority</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Furlough</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Definition:</b> Temporary release of a prisoner for <b>short-term leave</b></li> <li>• <b>Nature: Right of the Prisoner (Subject to Good Conduct)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow prisoners to maintain <b>family ties</b></li> <li>• Improve <b>mental health and social adjustment</b></li> <li>• <b>Release Period: Counts</b> towards sentence duration</li> <li>• <b>Maximum Duration: 14-21 days in a year</b></li> <li>• <b>Granting Authority: State Government/ Competent Authority</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Special Category Status (SCS)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Introduced by: 5th Finance Commission (1969)</b> on the recommendation of the <b>Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Provide <b>additional financial assistance</b> to states with unique socio-economic and geographical disadvantages</li> </ul> <p><b>Criteria (Subjective):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hilly &amp; difficult terrain</li> <li>• Low population density</li> <li>• Strategic international borders</li> <li>• Economic &amp; infrastructural backwardness</li> <li>• Non-viable state finances</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90:10 Centre-State funding for Central Sponsored Schemes (CSS)</li> <li>• Tax concessions</li> <li>• Preferential treatment in funding</li> <li>• <b>Discontinued:</b> After <b>14th Finance Commission (2015-20)</b></li> <li>• <b>Current Status:</b> Only for <b>Northeastern States + Himalayan States (J&amp;K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand)</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Leader of Opposition (LoP)</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heads official opposition in either House of Parliament.</li> <li>• Not mentioned in the Constitution, only in Rules of the House.</li> <li>• Defined under Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.</li> <li>• Party needs 10% of MPs in the House to claim LoP status.</li> <li>• If no party qualifies, single largest opposition party's leader performs LoP duties</li> </ul>   |

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
|                                       | without official recognition.  |
| <b>Standing and Ad hoc Committees</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Standing Committees</b></li> <li>• <b>Permanent in Nature</b></li> <li>• Formed every year</li> <li>• Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public Accounts Committee (PAC)</li> <li>○ Estimates Committee</li> <li>○ Departmental Standing Committees</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Ad hoc Committees</b></li> <li>• <b>Temporary in Nature</b></li> <li>• Formed for specific purposes</li> <li>• Dissolved after work completion</li> <li>• Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)</li> <li>○ Select Committees</li> <li>○ Railway Convention Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Cabinet Committees</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nature: Extra-Constitutional Bodies</b> (Not mentioned in the Constitution)</li> <li>• <b>Legal Basis:</b> Established under <b>Rules of Business of Government of India (GoI)</b></li> <li>• <b>Constitutional Mention:</b> Only in <b>Article 352</b> (After <b>44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978</b> regarding National Emergency)</li> <li>• <b>Composition:</b> Includes <b>Cabinet Ministers</b> + Non-Cabinet Ministers</li> <li>• <b>Total Committees (2024): 8 Committees</b></li> </ul>  |

**List of Cabinet Committees (2024)**

| Committee Name                                      | Headed by                  | Important Role  |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Appointments Committee of the Cabinet               | <b>Prime Minister</b>      | <b>Appointments to top posts like CVC, CBI, UPSC</b>  |
| Cabinet Committee on Security                       | <b>Prime Minister</b>      | <b>Matters of national security</b>                   |
| Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs               | <b>Prime Minister</b>      | <b>Economic policies</b>                              |
| Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs          | <b>Minister of Defence</b> | <b>Parliament sessions &amp; legislative business</b> |
| Cabinet Committee on Investment                     | <b>Prime Minister</b>      | <b>Investment-related decisions</b>                   |
| Cabinet Committee on Accommodation                  | <b>Home Minister</b>       | <b>Allocation of government accommodation</b>         |
| Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development | <b>Home Minister</b>       | <b>Employment &amp; Skill Development</b>             |
| Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs              | <b>Prime Minister</b>      | <b>Political &amp; Economic issues</b>                |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Statutory Body</b> under <b>Aadhaar Act, 2016</b></li> <li>• Works under <b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)</b></li> <li>• Issues <b>12-digit Aadhaar Number</b></li> <li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> Resident of India</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Function:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrolment &amp; Authentication of Aadhaar</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Security</li> <li>Preventing Aadhaar misuse</li> </ul>  |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |
|--|---|-------|-----------|-------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Living Will</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Meaning:</b> Legal document where a person declares medical treatment preferences in case of terminal illness or unconsciousness</li> <li>Recognised under <b>Passive Euthanasia</b> by <b>SC in 2018 (Common Cause Case)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Conditions for Validity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signed before <b>Two Witnesses</b></li> <li>Certified by <b>Gazetted Officer/Notary</b></li> <li>Stored with <b>District Collector</b></li> <li><b>First State to Implement: Goa (2024)</b></li> </ul>   |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |
| <b>Post Office Act, 2023</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Repeals: Indian Post Office Act, 1898</b></li> <li><b>Aim:</b> Simplifies the legislative framework for delivering <b>citizen-centric services &amp; banking services</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exemptions from <b>liability for delay, loss, or damage</b> unless prescribed by rules</li> <li>No <b>penal provisions</b> under the Act</li> <li>Modernises postal operations to support <b>financial inclusion &amp; digital services</b></li> </ul>  |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |
| <b>Article 3</b>   | <p>Empowers <b>Parliament</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create <b>New States</b></li> <li>Alter boundaries</li> <li>Change names</li> <li>Merge or separate territories</li> </ul> <p><b>Process:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Steps</th> <th>Authority</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bill Introduction</td> <td><b>Parliament (Only on President's Recommendation)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consultation with State</td> <td><b>Mandatory but Non-Binding</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Type of Majority Needed</td> <td><b>Simple Majority</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Steps | Authority | Bill Introduction | <b>Parliament (Only on President's Recommendation)</b> | Consultation with State | <b>Mandatory but Non-Binding</b> | Type of Majority Needed | <b>Simple Majority</b> |
| Steps  | Authority   |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |
| Bill Introduction  | <b>Parliament (Only on President's Recommendation)</b>  |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |
| Consultation with State  | <b>Mandatory but Non-Binding</b>  |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |
| Type of Majority Needed  | <b>Simple Majority</b>  |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |
| <b>Telecommunications Act, 2023</b>                                | <p><b>Replaces:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Telegraph Act, 1885</li> <li>Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Right of Way (RoW):</b> Telecom infrastructure allowed on public &amp; private properties</li> <li>Spectrum allocation through <b>auction</b></li> <li>Universal Service Obligation Fund renamed as <b>Digital Bharat Nidhi</b></li> <li>Stricter rules on unsolicited commercial communications</li> </ul>  |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |
| <b>Offshore Areas (Existence of Mineral Resources) Rules, 2024</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Formulated Under:</b> Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> Regulate the <b>exploration, exploitation, and mining</b> of offshore mineral resources in India</li> </ul> <p><b>Applicability:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers <b>all minerals</b> found in offshore areas</li> <li><b>Excludes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mineral oils</li> <li>Hydrocarbons</li> <li>Part B minerals of <b>MMDR Act, 1957</b> (<i>Atomic Minerals like Uranium, Thorium</i>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |
| <b>Offshore Minerals in India</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extraction of <b>mineral deposits</b> from the <b>deep seabed</b> (Depth &gt; 200 meters)</li> <li>India's <b>Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):</b> Over <b>2 million sq km</b></li> </ul> <p>Potential recoverable minerals:</p>   |       |           |                   |  |                         |                                  |                         |                        |

|                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lime Mud</li> <li>• Phosphorite</li> <li>• Polymetallic Nodules</li> <li>• Heavy Minerals</li> </ul>   |   |          |            |                 |                              |  |                    |                      |   |                             |                            |   |                       |                  |   |                     |                        |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|----------|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Offshore Reserves</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified by <b>Geological Survey of India (GSI)</b></li> <li>• Major reserves under India's <b>Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Offshore Reserves</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Mineral</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Importance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Lime Mud</b></td> <td>Gujarat &amp; Maharashtra coasts</td> <td>Used in <b>cement &amp; steel industries</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Phosphorite</b></td> <td>Off Tamil Nadu coast</td> <td>Source of <b>Phosphorus for fertilizers</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Polymetallic Nodules</b></td> <td>Central Indian Ocean Basin</td> <td>Contains <b>Copper, Nickel, Cobalt, Manganese</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Heavy Minerals</b></td> <td>Off Odisha Coast</td> <td>Source of <b>Ilmenite, Monazite, and Zircon</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Gas Hydrates</b></td> <td>Krishna-Godavari Basin</td> <td>Potential future source of <b>Natural Gas</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Mineral   | Location | Importance | <b>Lime Mud</b> | Gujarat & Maharashtra coasts | Used in <b>cement &amp; steel industries</b> | <b>Phosphorite</b> | Off Tamil Nadu coast | Source of <b>Phosphorus for fertilizers</b> | <b>Polymetallic Nodules</b> | Central Indian Ocean Basin | Contains <b>Copper, Nickel, Cobalt, Manganese</b> | <b>Heavy Minerals</b> | Off Odisha Coast | Source of <b>Ilmenite, Monazite, and Zircon</b> | <b>Gas Hydrates</b> | Krishna-Godavari Basin | Potential future source of <b>Natural Gas</b> |
| Mineral                     | Location  | Importance  |          |            |                 |                              |  |                    |                      |   |                             |                            |   |                       |                  |   |                     |                        |   |
| <b>Lime Mud</b>             | Gujarat & Maharashtra coasts  | Used in <b>cement &amp; steel industries</b>      |          |            |                 |                              |  |                    |                      |   |                             |                            |   |                       |                  |   |                     |                        |   |
| <b>Phosphorite</b>          | Off Tamil Nadu coast  | Source of <b>Phosphorus for fertilizers</b>       |          |            |                 |                              |  |                    |                      |   |                             |                            |   |                       |                  |   |                     |                        |   |
| <b>Polymetallic Nodules</b> | Central Indian Ocean Basin  | Contains <b>Copper, Nickel, Cobalt, Manganese</b> |          |            |                 |                              |  |                    |                      |   |                             |                            |   |                       |                  |   |                     |                        |   |
| <b>Heavy Minerals</b>       | Off Odisha Coast  | Source of <b>Ilmenite, Monazite, and Zircon</b>   |          |            |                 |                              |  |                    |                      |   |                             |                            |   |                       |                  |   |                     |                        |   |
| <b>Gas Hydrates</b>         | Krishna-Godavari Basin  | Potential future source of <b>Natural Gas</b>     |          |            |                 |                              |  |                    |                      |   |                             |                            |   |                       |                  |   |                     |                        |   |



| Topic Name   | Description  |         |         |             |                                    |                             |  |                |                       |
|--|--|---------|---------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> 1961 with <b>Legal Backing under</b> Societies Registration Act, 1860</li> <li>• <b>HQ:</b> New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Functions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develops <b>National Curriculum Framework (NCF)</b></li> <li>○ Prepares <b>Textbooks &amp; Educational Research</b></li> <li>○ Provides training to teachers</li> <li>○ Nodal agency under <b>NEP 2020</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Why in News?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Released <b>National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE),2023</b></li> <li>• Class 3 to 12 textbooks to be revised by <b>2024-25</b></li> </ul>  |         |         |             |                                    |                             |  |                |                       |
| <b>National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> 2016</li> <li>• <b>Legal Backing:</b> Companies Act, 2013</li> <li>• <b>Functions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Corporate disputes</li> <li>○ Insolvency proceedings under <b>Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016</b></li> <li>○ Oppression and mismanagement cases</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Feature</th> <th>Details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Head</b></td> <td><b>President</b> (Judicial Member)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Appointing Authority</b></td> <td>Central Government (After consultation with <b>CJI</b>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Appeals</b></td> <td>NCLAT → Supreme Court</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Feature | Details | <b>Head</b> | <b>President</b> (Judicial Member) | <b>Appointing Authority</b> | Central Government (After consultation with <b>CJI</b> ) | <b>Appeals</b> | NCLAT → Supreme Court |
| Feature  | Details  |         |         |             |                                    |                             |  |                |                       |
| <b>Head</b>  | <b>President</b> (Judicial Member)   |         |         |             |                                    |                             |  |                |                       |
| <b>Appointing Authority</b>  | Central Government (After consultation with <b>CJI</b> )   |         |         |             |                                    |                             |  |                |                       |
| <b>Appeals</b>   | NCLAT → Supreme Court  |         |         |             |                                    |                             |  |                |                       |
| <b>Office of Parliamentary Secretary (PS)</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No mention in <b>Constitution</b> or <b>Statutory Laws</b></li> <li>• Appointed to assist Ministers in <b>Parliamentary Work</b></li> <li>• Not part of <b>Council of Ministers</b></li> <li>• Oath administered by <b>Prime Minister</b></li> </ul>  |         |         |             |                                    |                             |  |                |                       |
| <b>Security Deposit in Elections</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Legal Backing:</b> Representation of People Act, 1951</li> </ul> <p><b>Amount:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ₹25,000 for <b>Lok Sabha</b> elections</li> </ul>  |         |         |             |                                    |                             |  |                |                       |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ₹10,000 for <b>State Assembly</b> elections</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Prevents <b>non-serious candidates</b> from contesting elections</li> <li>• <b>Forfeiture Condition:</b> If the candidate receives less than <b>1/6th (16.67%)</b> of valid votes</li> </ul>  |
| <b>PM's Principal Secretary</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Post Created:</b> During <b>Indira Gandhi's tenure (1977)</b></li> <li>• Appointed by <b>Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC)</b></li> <li>• Holds office at the <b>pleasure of PM</b></li> <li>• Since <b>2019</b> → Given <b>Cabinet Minister Rank</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Self-Declaration Certificates (SDC)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently mandated by <b>Supreme Court (2024)</b></li> </ul> <b>Applicable for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Print</b></li> <li>• <b>TV</b></li> <li>• <b>Internet</b> Advertisements</li> <li>• Ensures transparency in <b>Political &amp; Commercial Advertisements</b></li> <li>• Issued by <b>Press Information Bureau (PIB)</b></li> <li>• As per recent Supreme Court directive, advertisements in TV, print, or internet require a valid Self-Declaration Certificate.</li> </ul> |

**Least Priority Topics**

| Topic Name  | Details   |
|---|---|
| <b>India Meteorological Department (IMD)</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> 1875</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Parent Ministry:</b> Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)</li> <li>• <b>Functions</b> - Weather forecasting + Seismology + Agro-meteorology + Climate research</li> </ul> <b>Important Reports:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State of Climate Report</b></li> <li>• <b>Long Range Forecast for Monsoon</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR)</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> 1976</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters:</b> Nagpur, Maharashtra</li> <li>• <b>Parent Body:</b> ICAR</li> </ul> <b>Functions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cotton variety development</li> <li>• Integrated Pest Management (IPM)</li> <li>• Cotton biotechnology research</li> </ul> <b>Key Varieties:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gossypium hirsutum</b></li> <li>• <b>Gossypium arboreum</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> 1929</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Parent Ministry:</b> Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Farmers Welfare</li> <li>• <b>Functions</b> - Agricultural education + Research in crop improvement + Soil health management</li> </ul> <b>Key Initiatives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)</b></li> <li>• <b>National Agricultural Research System (NARS)</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Press Council of India (PCI)</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> 1978</li> <li>• <b>Act:</b> Press Council Act, 1978</li> <li>• <b>Nature:</b> Statutory Quasi-Judicial Body</li> </ul>   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserves <b>freedom of the press</b></li> <li>Maintains <b>standards of journalism</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Composition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairman: Retired Supreme Court Judge (Nominated by a 3-member Committee)</li> <li>28 other members (Journalists, Editors, and MPs)</li> <li><b>Powers:</b> Can <b>censure publications</b> but cannot impose penalties</li> </ul>  |
| <b>National Security Adviser (NSA)</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Established:</b> 1998 (During Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government)</li> <li><b>First NSA:</b> Brajesh Mishra</li> <li><b>Current NSA:</b> Ajit Doval</li> </ul> <p><b>Role:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief adviser to the PM on <b>national security issues</b></li> <li>Heads the <b>National Security Council (NSC)</b></li> <li>Rank equivalent to <b>Union Cabinet Minister</b></li> <li><b>Eligibility:</b> Can be appointed from <b>IFS, IPS, or Defence Services</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>National Security Council (NSC)</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Formed:</b> 1998</li> <li><b>Headed by:</b> Prime Minister</li> <li><b>Three-tier Structure:</b></li> <li><b>Strategic Policy Group (SPG)</b> – Headed by Cabinet Secretary</li> <li><b>National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)</b> – Comprises experts</li> <li><b>Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC)</b></li> <li><b>Advises on</b> – Political + Economic + Energy + Security issues</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Established:</b> 2017 (Reconstituted)</li> <li><b>Nature:</b> Non-Constitutional, Non-Permanent Independent Body</li> <li><b>Current Chairman:</b> Bibek Debroy</li> <li><b>Nodal Agency:</b> NITI Aayog</li> </ul> <p><b>Functions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyses macroeconomic issues</li> <li>Provides policy suggestions</li> <li>Prepares reports like "<b>State of Inequality in India</b>"</li> </ul>   |

## ECONOMY



| Topic Name                                 | Details   |
|--|---|
| <b>India's External Trade (FY 2023-24)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India recorded <b>trade deficit</b> with <b>9 out of its top 10 trading partners</b>, reflecting higher imports than exports.</li> <li><b>Top 5 Trading Partners (Descending Order):</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>China</b> (Largest trading partner for the third consecutive year)</li> <li><b>USA</b></li> <li><b>UAE</b></li> <li><b>Russia</b> (Entered top 5 due to increased oil imports)</li> <li><b>Saudi Arabia</b></li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Trade Surplus Partners (Top 5):</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>USA</b> (Largest trade surplus partner)</li> <li>Netherlands</li> <li>United Kingdom</li> <li>Belgium</li> <li>Italy</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |

| <p><b>Priority Sector Lending (PSL)</b></p>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced in <b>1972</b> based on the recommendations of the <b>Gadgil Committee (1969)</b>.</li> <li>Regulated by the <b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b> to ensure credit access to <b>vulnerable and under-served sectors</b>.</li> <li>Primary objective: <b>Inclusive Growth &amp; Financial Inclusion</b></li> </ul> <p><b>PSL Categories</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="416 315 1485 880"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Agriculture</td> <td>Loans to farmers, SHGs, and FPOs</td> <td>18% (8% for small &amp; marginal farmers)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MSMEs</td> <td>Loans to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises</td> <td>No fixed % (Part of overall target)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Export Credit</td> <td>Loans to exporters</td> <td>Max 32% (For foreign banks with &lt;20 branches)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>Loans for education purposes</td> <td>Up to ₹20 lakh (India) &amp; ₹30 lakh (Abroad)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>Loans for affordable housing</td> <td>Up to ₹35 lakh in metros, ₹25 lakh in others</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Renewable Energy</td> <td>Loans for solar, wind, and biogas projects</td> <td>Up to ₹30 crore (Grid-connected projects)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Infrastructure</td> <td>Loans for schools, healthcare centres</td> <td>Up to ₹5 crore</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>PSL Targets (2023-24)</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="416 954 1485 1290"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bank Type</th> <th>Target</th> <th>Additional Details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domestic SCBs &amp; Foreign Banks (≥20 branches)</td> <td><b>40%</b> of ANBC/CEOBE</td> <td>Agriculture: 18%, Small Farmers: 8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foreign Banks (&lt;20 branches)</td> <td><b>40%</b> of ANBC/CEOBE</td> <td>Export Credit: 32%, Others: 8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RRBs &amp; Small Finance Banks</td> <td><b>75%</b> of ANBC/CEOBE</td> <td>Special Focus on Agriculture &amp; MSMEs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Cooperative Banks</td> <td><b>40% → 75%</b> (from FY 2025-26)</td> <td>Gradual increase in stages</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Failure to Meet PSL Targets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banks must deposit the shortfall amount into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)</b> under NABARD</li> <li>Other funds like <b>Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)</b> and <b>National Housing Bank (NHB)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Recent Updates (2024)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBI included <b>Electric Vehicles (EVs)</b> and loans to <b>Agri-tech Startups</b> under PSL.</li> <li>Separate sub-targets for <b>women-led MSMEs</b> were introduced.</li> </ul> | Category                                      | Description | Target | Agriculture | Loans to farmers, SHGs, and FPOs | 18% (8% for small & marginal farmers) | MSMEs | Loans to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises | No fixed % (Part of overall target) | Export Credit | Loans to exporters | Max 32% (For foreign banks with <20 branches) | Education | Loans for education purposes | Up to ₹20 lakh (India) & ₹30 lakh (Abroad) | Housing | Loans for affordable housing | Up to ₹35 lakh in metros, ₹25 lakh in others | Renewable Energy | Loans for solar, wind, and biogas projects | Up to ₹30 crore (Grid-connected projects) | Social Infrastructure | Loans for schools, healthcare centres | Up to ₹5 crore | Bank Type | Target | Additional Details | Domestic SCBs & Foreign Banks (≥20 branches) | <b>40%</b> of ANBC/CEOBE | Agriculture: 18%, Small Farmers: 8% | Foreign Banks (<20 branches) | <b>40%</b> of ANBC/CEOBE | Export Credit: 32%, Others: 8% | RRBs & Small Finance Banks | <b>75%</b> of ANBC/CEOBE | Special Focus on Agriculture & MSMEs | Urban Cooperative Banks | <b>40% → 75%</b> (from FY 2025-26) | Gradual increase in stages |
|--|---|---|-------------|--------|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---|-----------|------------------------------|--|---------|------------------------------|--|------------------|--|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Category   | Description   | Target  |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Agriculture  | Loans to farmers, SHGs, and FPOs  | 18% (8% for small & marginal farmers)         |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| MSMEs  | Loans to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises   | No fixed % (Part of overall target)           |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Export Credit  | Loans to exporters  | Max 32% (For foreign banks with <20 branches) |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Education  | Loans for education purposes  | Up to ₹20 lakh (India) & ₹30 lakh (Abroad)    |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Housing  | Loans for affordable housing  | Up to ₹35 lakh in metros, ₹25 lakh in others  |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Renewable Energy   | Loans for solar, wind, and biogas projects  | Up to ₹30 crore (Grid-connected projects)     |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Social Infrastructure                                      | Loans for schools, healthcare centres   | Up to ₹5 crore                                |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Bank Type  | Target  | Additional Details                            |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Domestic SCBs & Foreign Banks (≥20 branches)               | <b>40%</b> of ANBC/CEOBE  | Agriculture: 18%, Small Farmers: 8%           |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Foreign Banks (<20 branches)                               | <b>40%</b> of ANBC/CEOBE  | Export Credit: 32%, Others: 8%                |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| RRBs & Small Finance Banks                                 | <b>75%</b> of ANBC/CEOBE  | Special Focus on Agriculture & MSMEs          |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| Urban Cooperative Banks                                    | <b>40% → 75%</b> (from FY 2025-26)  | Gradual increase in stages                    |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| <p><b>Priority Sector Lending Certificates (PSLCs)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced by <b>RBI in 2016</b> as a market-based tool to promote <b>efficient allocation of credit</b> under Priority Sector Lending (PSL).</li> <li>Tradable certificates issued by banks having <b>excess PSL loans</b> to those having <b>shortfalls</b>.</li> <li>Facilitates banks to meet their PSL targets <b>without giving direct loans</b>.</li> <li>No transfer of underlying loan or risk → Only the priority sector obligation is transferred.</li> <li>Traded on <b>RBI's e-Kuber Portal</b>.</li> <li>Valid for <b>1 year</b> from the date of issue.</li> <li>No limit on the amount of certificates a bank can buy or sell.</li> </ul>  |   |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |
| <p><b>External</b></p>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECBs are <b>loans raised by Indian resident entities from non-resident lenders</b> for</li> </ul>  |   |             |        |             |                                  |                                       |       |   |                                     |               |                    |   |           |                              |  |         |                              |  |                  |  |   |                       |                                       |                |           |        |                    |  |                          |                                     |                              |                          |                                |                            |                          |                                      |                         |                                    |                            |

**Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)**

commercial purposes.

- Governed by **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999** and RBI guidelines.

**Key Features**

| Parameter        | Automatic Route  | Approval Route                          |
|------------------|--|---|
| Maximum Amount   | USD 750 million/year   | Above USD 750 million                   |
| Minimum Maturity | 3 years (Infra: 5 years)   | As per RBI discretion                   |
| End-use          | Capital goods, Infra, Renewable Energy                           | Any purpose except speculation          |
| Lender Type      | Foreign Banks, Export Credit Agencies, Multilateral Institutions | Foreign Equity Holders, Sovereign Funds |

**ECB Routes**

1. **Automatic Route:** No prior approval required (subject to eligibility).
2. **Approval Route:** Prior approval of RBI required for specified purposes.

**Latest ECB Trends (2024)**

- India raised **USD 32 billion** through ECBs in FY 2023-24.
- Top sectors:
  - Infrastructure
  - Renewable Energy
  - Startups
  - Health Care
- RBI allowed ECBs for:
  - **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**
  - **Green Hydrogen Projects**
  - **Climate Adaptation Projects**

**Prohibited End Uses**

- Real Estate
- Capital Market Investment
- Equity Investment
- Working Capital (except startups)
- Repayment of domestic loans

**Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**

- FDI refers to **investment by a non-resident entity in the capital of an Indian company** or business, with the objective of establishing long-term interest and control.
- Administered by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

Governed by:

- **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999**

**FDI Routes**

| Route                   | Description  | Examples                            |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Automatic Route</b>  | No prior approval required (subject to sectoral limits). | IT, Manufacturing, Renewable Energy |
| <b>Government Route</b> | Prior approval from DPIIT + concerned Ministry needed.   | Defence, Telecom, Print Media       |

**FDI Limit under Automatic Route (2024)**

| Sector                                  | FDI Limit |
|---|-----------|
| Agriculture                             | 100%      |
| Renewable Energy                        | 100%      |
| Defence Manufacturing                   | 74%       |
| Insurance                               | 74%       |
| Telecom                                 | 100%      |
| Space Sector (Satellites Manufacturing) | 100%      |

#### Top FDI Source Countries (2000–2024)

| Rank | Country     | Share (%) |
|------|-------------|-----------|
| 1    | Mauritius   | 26%       |
| 2    | Singapore   | 23%       |
| 3    | USA         | 10%       |
| 4    | Netherlands | 7%        |
| 5    | Japan       | 6%        |

#### Top FDI Recipient States (2023-24)

| Rank | State       | Share (%) |
|------|-------------|-----------|
| 1    | Maharashtra | 28%       |
| 2    | Gujarat     | 18%       |
| 3    | Karnataka   | 17%       |
| 4    | Tamil Nadu  | 10%       |
| 5    | Delhi NCR   | 9%        |

#### Sectors with Highest FDI Inflows

| Sector                       | Share (%) (2023-24) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Computer Software & Hardware | 39%                 |
| Services                     | 14%                 |
| Telecom                      | 10%                 |
| Trading                      | 7%                  |
| Construction Activities      | 6%                  |

#### Recent Developments (2024)

- **100% FDI allowed** under Automatic Route in:
  - Space Sector (Satellites Manufacturing)
  - **Green Hydrogen Projects**
  - Data Centres
- DPIIT allowed Startups to raise FDI through **Convertible Notes**.
- FDI in Telecom increased from **74% to 100%** under Automatic Route.
- India became the **3rd Largest FDI Recipient in the World (2023)** after USA & China.

#### FDI vs. FPI

| Parameter  | FDI                  | FPI                   |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Type       | Long-term Investment | Short-term Investment |
| Control    | Gives Ownership      | No Ownership          |
| Regulation | FEMA + DPIIT         | SEBI                  |
| Impact     | Capital Formation    | Market Volatility     |

#### Why in News?

- India recorded **USD 83.57 billion** FDI inflows in FY 2023-24.

|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India became the <b>3rd Largest FDI Recipient in the World (2023)</b> after USA &amp; China.</li> </ul>  |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
|--|---|---------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| <b>GAAR vs BEPS</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BEPS refers to <b>tax avoidance strategies used by MNCs</b> to shift profits from high-tax jurisdictions to <b>low-tax or no-tax countries (Tax Havens)</b>.</li> <li>Example: Google, Apple, Amazon shifting profits to <b>Ireland or Cayman Islands</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>BEPS Framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by <b>OECD + G20 Countries</b> in <b>2015</b> through the <b>BEPS Action Plan (15 Actions)</b>.</li> <li>India is a signatory to the <b>OECD BEPS Multilateral Convention (MLI)</b> since <b>2019</b>.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent Artificial Profit Shifting</li> <li>Ensure Taxation at Place of Value Creation</li> <li>Curb Harmful Tax Practices</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) IN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced in India under <b>Income Tax Act, 1961</b></li> <li>Implemented from <b>April 1, 2017</b></li> <li>Applicable to transactions made <b>with the primary purpose of tax avoidance</b>.</li> <li>Covers both <b>Domestic + International Transactions</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Why in News ?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India became the <b>first country to implement GAAR + Equalisation Levy + BEPS</b> together.</li> </ul> <p>OECD recommended India's <b>Equalisation Levy (Google Tax)</b> as a model for other countries.</p> |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment vehicles like <b>Mutual Funds</b> that pool money from investors to invest in <b>Infrastructure Projects</b> (Toll Roads, Power Transmission Lines, Gas Pipelines).</li> <li>First introduced by <b>SEBI in 2014</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Features of InvITs</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Feature</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Regulating Authority</b></td> <td><b>SEBI</b> (InvIT Regulations, 2014)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Structure</b></td> <td>Trust-Based Investment Model</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Minimum Investment</b></td> <td>₹10 lakh (earlier ₹1 crore, reduced in 2019)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Liquidity</b></td> <td>Listed InvITs are traded on Stock Exchanges</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tax Benefit</b></td> <td>Pass-through taxation (No tax at InvIT level)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Governing Law</b></td> <td><b>SARFAESI Act, 2002 + SEBI Regulations</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Why in News?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>India's first Green Energy InvIT launched by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).</b></li> <li><b>Government encouraging InvITs for Asset Monetisation under National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).</b></li> </ul>  | Feature | Description | <b>Regulating Authority</b> | <b>SEBI</b> (InvIT Regulations, 2014) | <b>Structure</b> | Trust-Based Investment Model | <b>Minimum Investment</b> | ₹10 lakh (earlier ₹1 crore, reduced in 2019) | <b>Liquidity</b> | Listed InvITs are traded on Stock Exchanges | <b>Tax Benefit</b> | Pass-through taxation (No tax at InvIT level) | <b>Governing Law</b> | <b>SARFAESI Act, 2002 + SEBI Regulations</b> |
| Feature  | Description   |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>Regulating Authority</b>                      | <b>SEBI</b> (InvIT Regulations, 2014)   |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>Structure</b>                                 | Trust-Based Investment Model  |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>Minimum Investment</b>                        | ₹10 lakh (earlier ₹1 crore, reduced in 2019)  |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>Liquidity</b>                                 | Listed InvITs are traded on Stock Exchanges   |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>Tax Benefit</b>                               | Pass-through taxation (No tax at InvIT level)   |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>Governing Law</b>                             | <b>SARFAESI Act, 2002 + SEBI Regulations</b>  |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>FinTech Repository</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by RBI.</li> <li>Web-based comprehensive database of Indian FinTech firms for better regulatory understanding.</li> </ul>   |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>PRAVAAH Portal</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Form: <b>Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation, and Authorization</b></li> <li>Launched by <b>RBI in 2024</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single-window platform for <b>Regulatory Applications + Approvals</b></li> <li>Replaces traditional <b>offline manual application system</b></li> </ul>   |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |
| <b>Sovereign Credit Ratings</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of a <b>Country's Creditworthiness</b> to repay its debt.</li> <li>Provided by <b>Credit Rating Agencies</b> like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ S&amp;P Global</li> <li>✓ Moody's</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |         |             |                             |                                       |                  |                              |                           |  |                  |   |                    |   |                      |  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fitch</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Factors Considered</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal Deficit</li> <li>• Inflation Rate</li> <li>• External Debt</li> <li>• Political Stability</li> <li>• GDP Growth</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures (WTO)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade regulations to protect <b>human, animal, and plant health</b> from risks arising due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pests</li> <li>○ Plant diseases</li> <li>○ Contaminants in food (like bacteria, toxins, or chemicals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Legal Basis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established under <b>Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO)</b> (1995).</li> <li>• Part of the <b>Uruguay Round Agreements</b>.</li> <li>• Came into force on <b>January 1, 1995</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>India's Stand at WTO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India supports <b>science-based SPS measures</b> but opposes their misuse as <b>Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs)</b> by developed countries.</li> <li>• Frequent disputes with USA &amp; EU over: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mango &amp; Basmati Rice Exports (due to pesticide residue)</li> <li>○ Dairy Products</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Preston Curve</b>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graph showing the relationship between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Per Capita Income</b></li> <li>○ <b>Life Expectancy</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Key Observation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher income → Longer life expectancy</li> <li>• But after a certain income level (~\$20,000 per capita), <b>life expectancy plateaus</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benchmark Interest Rate for <b>US Dollar Loans &amp; Derivatives</b></li> <li>• Replaced <b>LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate)</b> from <b>2023</b></li> </ul>  |



| Topic Name                  | Details   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Rubber Board</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory body under <b>Rubber Act, 1947</b>.</li> <li>• Nodal Ministry: <b>Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry</b></li> <li>• Headquarters: <b>Kottayam, Kerala</b></li> <li>• One of the oldest Commodity Boards in India (Established in <b>1947</b>).</li> </ul> <p><b>India's Rubber Industry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India: <b>2nd largest producer &amp; 4th largest consumer</b> of natural rubber globally.</li> <li>• Top Producing States: <b>Kerala &gt; Tripura &gt; Assam</b></li> <li>• Kerala contributes <b>75%</b> of India's natural rubber production.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Pump and Dump Scheme</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock Market <b>Manipulation Scheme</b>.</li> <li>• Fraudsters artificially inflate stock prices using <b>false or misleading information</b> → Sell at high prices → Small investors suffer losses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Process</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchase of low-value stocks.</li> <li>2. Fake promotions through social media, emails, or fake news.</li> <li>3. Artificial price hike due to investor demand.</li> </ol>   |

|                    | <p>4. Selling at high prices → Small investors face <b>heavy losses</b>.</p> <p><b>Legal Framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibited under <b>SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) Regulations, 2003</b>.</li> <li>SEBI can impose <b>monetary penalties &amp; ban traders</b> involved in such schemes.</li> </ul>   |                     |             |         |         |                                      |                   |         |                                    |               |       |  |                     |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------|--|---------------------|
| <b>Derivatives</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial contracts whose value is derived from underlying assets like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commodities</li> <li>Securities</li> <li>Currencies</li> <li>Stock Index</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hedging:</b> Risk management against price fluctuations.</li> <li><b>Speculation:</b> Profit-making from price movements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Types of Derivatives</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Example</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Futures</td> <td>Agreement to buy/sell at future date</td> <td>Crude Oil Futures</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Options</td> <td>Right (not obligation) to buy/sell</td> <td>Stock Options</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swaps</td> <td>Exchange of cash flows or interest rates</td> <td>Interest Rate Swaps</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Regulation in India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEBI regulates <b>Equity &amp; Commodity Derivatives</b>.</li> <li>RBI regulates <b>Currency Derivatives</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recent Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEBI allowed trading in <b>Commodity Options</b> for farmers in 2024.</li> <li>RBI introduced <b>Exchange-Traded Currency Derivatives</b> in 2024</li> </ul> | Type                | Description | Example | Futures | Agreement to buy/sell at future date | Crude Oil Futures | Options | Right (not obligation) to buy/sell | Stock Options | Swaps | Exchange of cash flows or interest rates | Interest Rate Swaps |
| Type               | Description  | Example             |             |         |         |                                      |                   |         |                                    |               |       |  |                     |
| Futures            | Agreement to buy/sell at future date   | Crude Oil Futures   |             |         |         |                                      |                   |         |                                    |               |       |  |                     |
| Options            | Right (not obligation) to buy/sell   | Stock Options       |             |         |         |                                      |                   |         |                                    |               |       |  |                     |
| Swaps              | Exchange of cash flows or interest rates   | Interest Rate Swaps |             |         |         |                                      |                   |         |                                    |               |       |  |                     |



| Topic Name                                    | Details   |
|---|---|
| <b>International Sugar Organisation (ISO)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>UN-affiliated Intergovernmental Organisation</b> to promote global cooperation in the sugar sector.</li> <li>Established: <b>1968</b> under <b>International Sugar Agreement, 1968</b></li> <li>Headquarters: <b>London, UK</b></li> <li>Members: <b>85 countries</b> (Representing <b>90% of Global Sugar Production &amp; 60% of Global Consumption</b>).</li> </ul> <p><b>Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve transparency in the <b>global sugar market</b>.</li> <li>Collect and publish <b>market data &amp; forecasts</b>.</li> <li>Promote research on <b>sugarcane, beet, and biofuels</b>.</li> <li>Facilitate <b>sustainable sugar production &amp; bioenergy use</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>India's Role</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>One of the Largest Producers &amp; Consumers</b> of sugar globally.</li> <li>India hosted <b>ISO Council Meeting in New Delhi (2024)</b> for the first time.</li> <li>India raised the issue of <b>Fair Trade for Sugarcane Farmers</b> and promotion of <b>Ethanol Blending Program</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Financial Influencer (FinFluencer)</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>Social Media Content Creator</b> giving <b>financial advice</b> or investment tips on platforms like YouTube, Instagram, or Telegram.</li> <li>Many are <b>unregistered</b> with SEBI and can mislead small investors.</li> </ul> <p><b>SEBI Guidelines (2024)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandatory registration under <b>Investment Adviser or Research Analyst</b></li> </ul>   |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | <p><b>Regulations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No tie-ups with <b>Brokerage Firms</b> without SEBI registration.</li> <li>Ban on <b>Referral Commissions</b> from Stock Brokers or Mutual Funds.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Clearing Corporation (CC)</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entity responsible for <b>Clearing &amp; Settlement</b> of trades in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Securities</li> <li>Derivatives</li> <li>Commodities</li> </ul> </li> <li>Acts as an <b>Intermediary</b> between buyers and sellers to reduce <b>Counterparty Risk</b>.</li> <li>Regulated by SEBI</li> </ol> <p><b>How It Works</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trade Agreement → Buy/Sell Order Placed</li> <li>Clearing Corporation becomes <b>Counterparty</b></li> <li>Ensures both parties fulfill obligations</li> <li>Settlement of Funds and Securities</li> </ol> <p><b>Bonus Concept</b></p> <p>What is <b>T+1 Settlement System</b>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced by SEBI in <b>2023</b>.</li> <li>Settlement of trades in <b>One Day (T+1)</b> instead of <b>Two Days (T+2)</b>.</li> <li>India became the <b>First Country</b> to implement <b>T+1 Settlement in Stock Markets</b>.</li> </ul> |

**KEY TERMS**

**1. Front Running**

- It refers to the unethical practice of using non-public, price-sensitive information to trade securities before a large transaction is executed.
- The intention is to profit from the anticipated price movement caused by the upcoming transaction.
- Front running is a form of insider trading and punishable under the SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) Regulations, 2003.

**2. Variable Repo Rate (VRR)**

- It is a liquidity adjustment tool used by the RBI to manage short-term liquidity in the economy.
- Under this mechanism, the interest rate is determined through auction-based bidding rather than being fixed by the RBI.
- The rate is usually lower than the repo rate but higher than the reverse repo rate.
- The borrowing duration is typically more than one day and can go up to 14 days.

**3. Sticky Inflation**

- It refers to a situation where prices remain high and do not adjust quickly despite changes in demand or supply conditions.
- Sticky inflation is often observed in essential goods and services like food, housing, and healthcare.
- It occurs due to rigid contracts, wage agreements, or price regulations.

**Agriculture**

| Topic       | Details  |         |       |         |  |  |  |
|-------------|--|---------|-------|---------|--|--|--|
| <b>Rice</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Staple Food Crop</b> for more than <b>65% of the Indian population</b>.</li> <li>Accounts for <b>1/3rd of total food grain production</b> in India.</li> <li>Covers about <b>25% of the total cropped area</b>.</li> <li>Grown primarily as a <b>Kharif Crop</b> in North India and as <b>Rabi Crop</b> in parts of Eastern and Southern India.</li> <li>Aman,Aus,Boro are major variety</li> </ol> <p><b>Top Rice-Producing States (2023-24)</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>State</th> <th>% Share</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Rank    | State | % Share |  |  |  |
| Rank        | State  | % Share |       |         |  |  |  |
|             |  |         |       |         |  |  |  |

|     |                |     |
|-----|----------------|-----|
| 1st | West Bengal    | 13% |
| 2nd | Uttar Pradesh  | 12% |
| 3rd | Punjab         | 11% |
| 4th | Tamil Nadu     | 9%  |
| 5th | Andhra Pradesh | 7%  |

#### Global Status

- **2nd Largest Producer** (After China)
- **Largest Exporter** of Rice globally (Approx. 40% of Global Trade - 2023)
- India banned the export of **Non-Basmati White Rice** in **2023** to control domestic inflation.

### Palm Oil

#### What is Palm Oil?

- Derived from the **Mesocarp (Pulp)** of the fruit of the **Oil Palm Tree (Elaeis guineensis)**.
- High in **Saturated Fats** and remains **semi-solid** at room temperature.
- Used in Cooking, Cosmetics, and Biofuels.

#### Global Production

| Rank | Country   | Share (%) |
|------|-----------|-----------|
| 1st  | Indonesia | 59%       |
| 2nd  | Malaysia  | 25%       |
| 3rd  | Thailand  | 4%        |
| 4th  | Colombia  | 2%        |
| 5th  | Nigeria   | 2%        |

#### India's Role

- **Largest Importer** and **2nd Largest Consumer** of Edible Oils globally.
- Palm Oil accounts for **60% of India's Edible Oil Imports**.

#### Major Palm Oil Growing States in India

| State          | Contribution (%) |
|----------------|------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 52%              |
| Telangana      | 34%              |
| Kerala         | 12%              |

#### National Edible Oil Mission – Oil Palm (NEOM-OP)

- Launched in **2021** to boost domestic Palm Oil production.
- Target: Cover **10 lakh hectares** by **2025-26**.
- Focus Areas: North-Eastern States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

### Natural Rubber

#### What is Natural Rubber?

- It is obtained from the **Latex (milky fluid)** of tropical trees like **Hevea brasiliensis**.
- It is a **Polymer of Isoprene (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>8</sub>)**.
- Mainly used in **Tyre Industry** (Automobile Sector), Footwear, and Medical Goods.

#### Ideal Conditions

- Temperature: **20°C – 34°C**
- Rainfall: **150 – 300 cm**
- Soil: Lateritic, Alluvial, and Well-Drained Soil
- Humidity: **75-90%**
- Requires **100+ rainy days** in a year
- Cannot tolerate **strong winds**

#### India's Position

- India is the **6th largest producer** of natural rubber globally.

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major Rubber-Producing States: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerala (90% of total production)</li> <li>Tamil Nadu</li> <li>Tripura</li> <li>Assam</li> <li>Meghalaya</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Global Scenario</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Largest Producer: <b>Thailand</b></li> <li>Other Leading Producers: Indonesia, Vietnam, China</li> <li>India is the <b>2nd largest consumer</b> of natural rubber after <b>China</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rubber Board of India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory body under the <b>Rubber Act, 1947</b></li> <li>Nodal Ministry: <b>Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry</b></li> <li>Headquarters: <b>Kottayam, Kerala</b></li> <li>Functions: Research, Development, and Promotion of Rubber Industry</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## Environment

### SPECIES

| Name  | Description  | Habitat / Distribution  | IUCN Status  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Giant Panda</b><br><i>(Ailuropoda melanoleuca)</i>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herbivorous (99% diet: <b>Bamboo</b>).</li> <li>Characterized by <b>black and white fur</b>.</li> <li>Has a "<b>pseudo-thumb</b>" (modified wrist bone) for gripping bamboo.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native to <b>China (Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Gansu provinces)</b>.</li> <li>Found in <b>temperate forests</b>.</li> </ul>   | <b>Vulnerable</b>                                    |
| <b>Mainland Serow</b><br><i>(Capricornis sumatraensis thar)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Omnivorous (<b>Leaves, shoots, fruits, and small animals</b>).</li> <li>Goat-antelope species with <b>short, backward-curving horns</b>.</li> <li><b>Shy and solitary</b>.</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Found in <b>Eastern Himalayas and Northeast India (Arunachal, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim)</b>.</li> <li>Also in <b>China and Southeast Asia</b>.</li> </ul> | <b>Vulnerable</b>                                    |
| <b>Four-Horned Antelope</b><br><i>(Tetracerus quadricornis)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Only antelope species with four horns</b>.</li> <li>Herbivorous (<b>Grass, leaves, fruits</b>).</li> <li><b>Diurnal and shy</b>.</li> <li>Competes with livestock for food.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Found in <b>India (Western and Central India, Western Ghats) and Nepal</b>.</li> <li>Prefers <b>dry deciduous forests</b>.</li> </ul>  | <b>Vulnerable</b>                                    |
| <b>Arabian Oryx</b><br><i>(Oryx leucoryx)</i>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National animal of UAE, Oman, Jordan</b>.</li> <li>Herbivorous (<b>Grasses, roots, fruits</b>).</li> <li><b>Adapted to desert life</b> (survives without water for weeks).</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Found in <b>Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Jordan, Israel, Iraq)</b>.</li> <li>Lives in <b>deserts and arid regions</b>.</li> </ul>   | <b>Least Concern</b><br>(Previously Extinct in Wild) |
| <b>Hoolock Gibbon</b><br><i>(Genus: Hoolock)</i>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Only ape species in India</b>.</li> <li><b>Frugivorous</b> (Fruits, leaves, insects).</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Found in <b>Northeast India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China</b>.</li> <li><b>Tropical and subtropical forests</b>.</li> </ul>  | <b>Endangered</b>                                    |

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monogamous and territorial.</b></li> <li>• Arboreal (lives in trees).</li> </ul>   |  |   |
| <b>Western Hoolock Gibbon</b> ( <i>Hoolock hoolock</i> )    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smaller than Eastern species.</b></li> <li>• Black or brown fur with a <b>white brow band.</b></li> <li>• Agile tree-dweller.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>India (Assam, Arunachal, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur).</b></li> <li>• Also in <b>Bangladesh and Myanmar.</b></li> </ul>      | <b>Endangered</b>                           |
| <b>Eastern Hoolock Gibbon</b> ( <i>Hoolock leuconedys</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Larger than Western species.</b></li> <li>• <b>Lighter brown fur.</b></li> <li>• Less territorial.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Arunachal Pradesh &amp; Assam (Dibang Valley, Dapha Bum, Namdapha National Park).</b></li> <li>• Also in <b>China &amp; Myanmar.</b></li> </ul> | <b>Vulnerable</b>                           |
| <b>Greater Adjutant Stork</b> ( <i>Leptoptilos dubius</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scavenger bird</b> (Feeds on carrion, fish, small vertebrates).</li> <li>• <b>Tallest flying bird in India.</b></li> <li>• <b>Threatened by habitat loss.</b></li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>India (Assam, Bihar), Cambodia.</b></li> <li>• <b>Wetlands and garbage dumps.</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Endangered</b>                           |
| <b>Saltwater Crocodile</b> ( <i>Crocodylus porosus</i> )    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Largest living reptile</b> (Up to 7m long).</li> <li>• <b>Aggressive predator</b> (Feeds on fish, birds, mammals).</li> <li>• <b>Can live in both freshwater &amp; saltwater.</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>India (Sundarbans, Odisha, Andaman &amp; Nicobar).</b></li> <li>• Also in <b>Australia, Southeast Asia.</b></li> </ul>                          | <b>Least Concern</b>                        |
| <b>Mugger Crocodile</b> ( <i>Crocodylus palustris</i> )     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Broad-snouted freshwater crocodile.</b></li> <li>• <b>Opportunistic carnivore</b> (Fish, reptiles, mammals).</li> <li>• <b>Threatened by poaching.</b></li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>India (Rivers, lakes, wetlands), Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka.</b></li> <li>• Prefers <b>freshwater habitats.</b></li> </ul>                      | <b>Vulnerable</b>                           |
| <b>Gharial</b> ( <i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> )               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Long, thin snout adapted for fish-eating.</b></li> <li>• <b>Weak limb structure, aquatic lifestyle.</b></li> <li>• Threatened by <b>river pollution, sand mining.</b></li> </ul>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>India (Chambal, Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra), Nepal.</b></li> <li>• <b>Riverine species.</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Critically Endangered</b>                |
| <b>Indian Painted Frog</b> ( <i>Uperodon taprobanicus</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Burrowing frog species.</b></li> <li>• <b>Nocturnal</b> (Active at night).</li> <li>• <b>Feeds on insects, termites.</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh.</b></li> <li>• Prefers <b>marshy wetlands, forests.</b></li> </ul>   | <b>Least Concern</b>                        |
| <b>Pearl Spot Fish</b> ( <i>Etroplus suratensis</i> )       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State fish of Kerala.</b></li> <li>• Omnivorous (Feeds on plankton, algae).</li> <li>• Important in <b>aquaculture and local cuisine.</b></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>India (Kerala backwaters, freshwater rivers, estuaries).</b></li> <li>• Also in <b>Sri Lanka.</b></li> </ul>                                    | <b>Least Concern</b>                        |
| <b>Diadromous Fish</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish that migrate between <b>freshwater &amp; saltwater.</b></li> <li>• Includes <b>Salmon, Eel, Hilsa.</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>coastal regions &amp; rivers worldwide.</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not applicable (Category of species)</b> |

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Przewalski's Horse</b> ( <i>Equus ferus przewalskii</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Only true wild horse species.</b></li> <li>• <b>Stocky build, short mane.</b></li> <li>• <b>Previously extinct in the wild.</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Mongolia, China, Kazakhstan.</b></li> <li>• <b>Grasslands &amp; steppes.</b></li> </ul>       | <b>Endangered</b>                          |
| <b>Sea Cucumber</b><br>(Class: <i>Holothuroidea</i> )        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marine invertebrate.</b></li> <li>• Used in <b>Traditional Chinese Medicine</b></li> <li>• <b>Threatened by overfishing.</b></li> </ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Coral reefs.</b></li> <li>• <b>Seafloor dwellers.</b></li> </ul> | <b>Vulnerable</b>                          |
| <b>Stromatolites</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fossilized microbial structures.</b></li> <li>• <b>Oldest known life forms (3.5 billion years old).</b></li> </ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Shark Bay (Australia), Andaman &amp; Nicobar.</b></li> </ul>                                  | <b>Not applicable (Geological Feature)</b> |
| <b>Parengyodontium Album</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fungus species.</b></li> <li>• Important in <b>biodegradation.</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Soil, decaying wood.</b></li> </ul>   | <b>Not evaluated</b>                       |
| <b>Termites</b> (Order: <i>Blattodea</i> )                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ecosystem engineers, decompose wood.</b></li> <li>• Threat to <b>agriculture &amp; wooden structures.</b></li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found worldwide (<b>Tropical &amp; Subtropical regions</b>).</li> </ul>                                   | <b>Not evaluated</b>                       |

### PLANTS/TREES SPECIES

| Name  | Unique Features   | Habitat / Distribution  | IUCN Status                |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Mahua</b> ( <i>Madhuca longifolia</i> )          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native Indian tree used for <b>Traditional Liquor, Oil, and Medicine.</b></li> <li>• Climate-resilient tree of <b>Central India.</b></li> <li>• Flowers edible + High socio-economic importance for <b>tribal communities.</b></li> </ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Central &amp; Eastern India (Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh).</b></li> <li>• Also in <b>Nepal &amp; Sri Lanka.</b></li> </ul> | <b>Not Evaluated</b>       |
| <b>Baobab Tree</b><br>( <i>Adansonia digitata</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known as "<b>Tree of Life</b>".</li> <li>• Can live for over <b>1000 years.</b></li> <li>• Stores <b>water in trunk during droughts</b></li> <li>• Recently found in <b>Mandhata Island (Madhya Pradesh)</b> for the first time in India.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native to <b>Africa &amp; Madagascar.</b></li> <li>• Introduced to <b>India (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh).</b></li> </ul>                           | <b>Least Concern</b>       |
| <b>Encephalartos Woodii</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World's Rarest Plant</b> (Only Male plant specimens exist).</li> <li>• Type of <b>Cycad Plant (Living Fossil).</b></li> <li>• Thought to be <b>extinct in the wild.</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native to <b>South Africa.</b></li> <li>• Found only in <b>Botanical Gardens Worldwide.</b></li> </ul>   | <b>Extinct in the Wild</b> |
| <b>Filoboletus Manipularis</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rare <b>Bioluminescent Mushroom</b></li> <li>• Glows in the dark due to <b>Luciferase Enzyme.</b></li> <li>• Discovered recently in <b>Western Ghats (Karnataka).</b></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Tropical Forests of Western Ghats &amp; Northeast India.</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not Evaluated</b>       |

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|---|--|--|----------------------|
| <b>Davana Flowers</b><br>( <i>Artemisia pallens</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aromatic medicinal herb</b></li> <li>• Used in <b>Ayurvedic Medicine and Perfume Industry.</b></li> <li>• Cultivated for <b>essential oils.</b></li> </ul>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native to <b>Southern India (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh).</b></li> </ul>                             | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Dictyostelium Discoideum</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of <b>Slime Mold.</b></li> <li>• Model organism in <b>Cell Biology &amp; Evolutionary Research</b></li> <li>• Shows both <b>unicellular &amp; multicellular behavior.</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Soil Worldwide (Humid Regions).</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Chlorella Sorokiniana</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of <b>Green Microalgae.</b></li> <li>• Used in <b>Biofuel Production &amp; Carbon Sequestration.</b></li> <li>• Rich in <b>Proteins &amp; Omega-3 Fatty Acids.</b></li> </ul>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Freshwater Lakes &amp; Ponds.</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Microalgae</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tiny aquatic organisms used in <b>Biofuels, Cosmetics &amp; Pharmaceuticals.</b></li> <li>• Important for <b>Carbon Sequestration &amp; Food Security.</b></li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Freshwater &amp; Marine Ecosystems Worldwide.</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Dendrophthoe Longensis</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newly discovered <b>Parasitic Plant species (2024).</b></li> <li>• Grows on <b>Mango &amp; Fig trees.</b></li> <li>• Found in <b>Assam</b></li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endemic to <b>Northeast India (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh).</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Petrocosmea Arunachalense</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Plant Species (2024).</b></li> <li>• Herb belonging to <b>Gesneriaceae family.</b></li> <li>• Found at <b>high altitudes (1500-2000m).</b></li> </ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discovered in <b>Arunachal Pradesh.</b></li> <li>• Endemic to <b>Eastern Himalayas.</b></li> </ul>              | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Thismia Malayana</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rare <b>Mycoheterotrophic Plant.</b></li> <li>• Completely depends on <b>Fungi for Nutrition.</b></li> <li>• No Chlorophyll (Non-photosynthetic).</li> </ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Malaysia, Indonesia.</b></li> <li>• Recently discovered in <b>Western Ghats (India).</b></li> </ul> | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Didymocarpus Janakiae</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Plant Species (2023)</b></li> <li>• Endemic to <b>Maharashtra (Western Ghats).</b></li> <li>• Herb with <b>Bright Yellow Flowers.</b></li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Konkan region of Maharashtra.</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Paraparatrechina Neela</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newly discovered <b>Blue-Coloured Ant species (2024).</b></li> <li>• Named after <b>Neelakurinji Flowers.</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in <b>Western Ghats (Kerala).</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Ophichthus Suryai</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Snake Eel Species (2024)</b></li> <li>• Discovered off the coast of <b>West Bengal (Bay of Bengal).</b></li> <li>• Named after <b>Professor S. Sundaram Surya.</b></li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian waters (<b>Bay of Bengal).</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |
| <b>Musankwa Sanyatiensis</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ewly discovered Fish Species (2024).</b></li> <li>• Found in <b>Sanyati River, Zimbabwe.</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Southern Africa.</b></li> </ul>  | <b>Not Evaluated</b> |

|                          |   |  |                      |
|--------------------------|---|--|----------------------|
|                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Named after <b>local Zimbabwean traditions.</b></li> </ul>   |  |                      |
| <b>Senna Spectabilis</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Invasive Plant Species.</b></li> <li>Threat to <b>Western Ghats Biodiversity.</b></li> <li>Native to <b>South America.</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Found in <b>India (Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve).</b></li> <li>Also in <b>Tropical regions worldwide.</b></li> </ul> | <b>Least Concern</b> |

### PROTECTED AREAS IN NEWS

| Name                                      | Location         | Vegetation                        | Key Fauna                                    | Unique Facts   | Rivers                                      | Tribes               |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------|
| <b>Kawal Tiger Reserve</b>                | Telangana        | Dry Deciduous Forest, Teak Forest | Bengal Tiger, Sloth Bear, Indian Bison       | Part of <b>Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve Landscape</b>                     | <b>Godavari River</b>                       | <b>Gond, Lambada</b> |
| <b>Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve</b>       | Maharashtra      | Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest     | Bengal Tiger, Indian Leopard, Dhole          | <b>Oldest &amp; Largest Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra</b><br>Fire incidents in 2024 | <b>Andhari River</b>                        | <b>Gond, Kolam</b>   |
| <b>Pench Tiger Reserve</b>                | MP & Maharashtra | Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest   | Bengal Tiger, Indian Gaur, Chital            | Inspiration for <b>Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book</b>                               | <b>Pench River</b>                          | <b>Gond, Korku</b>   |
| <b>Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve</b> | Madhya Pradesh   | Dry Deciduous Forest              | Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Chinkara              | <b>53rd Tiger Reserve of India (2023)</b><br>Named after Rani Durgavati            | <b>Narmada River</b>                        | <b>Gond, Bhil</b>    |
| <b>Ranthambore National Park</b>          | Rajasthan        | Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest     | Bengal Tiger, Striped Hyena, Marsh Crocodile | Famous for <b>Machli – World's Most Photographed Tigress</b>                       | <b>Banas River + Chambal River (Nearby)</b> | <b>Meena, Gujjar</b> |
| <b>Nagi Bird Sanctuary</b>                | Bihar            | Wetland Ecosystem                 | Indian Skimmer, Bar-headed Goose             | <b>Important Bird Area (IBA)</b><br>Migratory Bird Hotspot                         | <b>Nagi Dam Reservoir</b>                   | None                 |
| <b>Nakti Bird Sanctuary</b>               | Bihar            | Wetland Ecosystem                 | Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Wigeon           | Located near <b>Nakti Dam</b>  | <b>Nakti Dam Reservoir</b>                  | None                 |
| <b>Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary</b>        | Assam            | Tropical Moist                    | Indian One-Horned                            | <b>Highest Rhino Density in the World</b>  | None  | <b>Bodo, Mising</b>  |

|  |                             |                                 |  |  |                                  |                           |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
|  |                             | Deciduous Forest                | Rhinoceros, Asiatic Buffalo              |  |                                  |                           |
| <b>Raimona National Park</b>           | Assam                       | Moist Deciduous Forest          | Golden Langur, Asian Elephant            | Part of <b>Manas Biosphere Reserve</b><br>Assam's <b>6th National Park (2021)</b>        | <b>Sankosh River</b>             | <b>Bodo, Garo</b>         |
| <b>Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary</b>       | Uttarakhand                 | Temperate Broadleaf Forest      | Himalayan Monal, Leopard, Black Bear     | <b>Birdwatcher's Paradise</b><br>Scenic views of <b>Nanda Devi &amp; Kedarnath Peaks</b> | <b>Kosi River (Nearby)</b>       | <b>Bhotia, Kumaoni</b>    |
| <b>Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere (RRB)</b> | Uttarakhand (Proposed 2024) | Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest | Bengal Tiger, Asian Elephant, King Cobra | Proposed under <b>UNESCO MAB Programme</b>   | <b>Ganga &amp; Yamuna Rivers</b> | <b>Gujjar, Van Gujjar</b> |

### GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS & ALLIANCES

| Name   | Established Year | Objective   | Key Facts/Features  | India's Role/Significance  |
|--|------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Global Gibbon Network (GGN)</b>                       | 2021             | Conservation of Gibbons                                       | Focuses on habitat protection and research on endangered Gibbon species | India is home to <b>Hoolock Gibbon</b> (only Ape species in India) |
| <b>International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAWP)</b>    | 2022             | Protect the rights of waste pickers                           | Launched at <b>UNEP's INC-1 on Plastic Pollution</b>                    | India is a founding member   |
| <b>Global Soil Partnership (GSP)</b>                     | 2012             | Promote sustainable soil management                           | Led by <b>FAO</b> Soil Health Restoration Projects                      | India launched <b>Soil Health Card Scheme</b> under GSP            |
| <b>Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)</b> | 2021 (COP26)     | Support small island developing states for climate resilience | Joint initiative of <b>India, UK &amp; Australia</b>                    | India pledged <b>\$10 million</b>                                  |
| <b>Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM-46)</b>   | 2024             | Environmental Protection in Antarctica                        | Annual meeting under <b>Antarctic Treaty System</b>                     | India attended as a <b>Consultative Party</b>                      |

## CONVENTIONS & AGREEMENTS

| Name   | Established Year     | Objective                                       | Key Provisions                                   | India's Status   |
|--|----------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Montreal Protocol</b>   | 1987                 | Phase out Ozone Depleting Substances            | Kigali Amendment (2016) to phase out <b>HFCs</b> | India ratified Kigali Amendment in <b>2021</b>                                       |
| <b>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</b> | 1994                 | Combat desertification and drought              | Part of <b>Rio Conventions</b>                   | India hosted <b>COP-14 in 2019</b>   |
| <b>Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)</b>                   | 2023 (EU Law)        | Impose carbon tariffs on imports                | Targets high-carbon goods like steel, cement     | India raised concerns at <b>WTO</b>  |
| <b>Nature Restoration Plan (NRP)</b>                               | 2024 (EU Initiative) | Restore 20% of degraded land & water ecosystems | Focus on <b>Biodiversity Conservation</b>        | No direct mention, but aligns with India's <b>National Mission for a Green India</b> |
| <b>New Collective Quantitative Goal (NCQG)</b>                     | 2024 (Under UNFCCC)  | Climate Finance for Developing Countries        | Replacement of \$100 billion target              | India demands <b>Climate Justice</b>   |

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

| Name  | Launched Year | Objective                          | Species/Region Covered                      | Significance                                       |
|---|---------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Crocodile Conservation Project</b>                     | 1975          | Protect crocodile populations      | <b>Gharial, Mugger, Saltwater Crocodile</b> | India was the first country to launch it globally  |
| <b>Rhisotope Project</b>                                  | 2024          | Use of Isotopes to protect Rhinos  | South Africa, India (Proposed)              | Combines <b>Nuclear Science + Conservation</b>     |
| <b>Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island (GNI)</b> | 2023          | Strategic + Ecological Development | Great Nicobar Island                        | Balances Infrastructure with Biodiversity          |
| <b>Miyawaki Technique</b>                                 | 1970s (Japan) | Dense, fast-growing forests        | Urban Afforestation Projects                | Used in Chennai & Mumbai for urban forest creation |
| <b>Evacuating Island</b>                                  | 2024          | Relocation of Climate Refugees     | Small Island Developing States              | First Climate Refugee Project                      |

## CLIMATE & INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

| Name  | Established Year | Objective                                 | Funding Agency/Partners | India's Role  |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) | 2024             | Climate Resilient Infrastructure          | UNOPS + GCF             | India is a Partner  |
| CoHABITAT   | 2024             | Urban Biodiversity Restoration            | UNEP Initiative         | India is exploring partnerships                                   |
| Blue Planet Prize                                 | 1992             | Award for Environmental Conservation      | Japan-based initiative  | Not directly related  |
| Evacuating Island Infrastructure                  | 2024             | Build Infrastructure for Climate Refugees | International Donors    | Possible India participation under <b>South-South Cooperation</b> |

## Science & Technology



| Topic                              | Description   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Dark Matter and Dark Energy</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Though both have not been directly observed, there is solid evidence for their existence from gravitational effects.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Dark Matter</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nature:</b> Hypothetical, <b>invisible matter</b> that does not emit or interact with <b>electromagnetic radiation</b></li> <li><b>Evidence:</b> Detected through <b>gravitational effects</b> on visible matter and galaxy rotation curves</li> </ul> <p><b>Properties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not emit, absorb, or reflect light</li> <li>Forms <b>clumped halos</b> around galaxies</li> <li>Exerts <b>attractive gravitational force</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Composition (Hypothesised):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>WIMPs (Weakly Interacting Massive Particles)</b></li> <li><b>Axions</b></li> <li><b>Sterile Neutrinos</b></li> <li><b>Percentage in Universe:</b> 27% of the universe's mass-energy</li> </ul> |
| <b>Dark Energy</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nature:</b> Hypothetical <b>repulsive force</b> driving the <b>accelerating expansion of the universe</b></li> <li><b>Discovered by:</b> Observations of distant supernovae in <b>1998</b></li> <li><b>Percentage in Universe:</b> 68% of the universe</li> </ul> <p><b>Properties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smoothly distributed across space</li> <li>Constant density</li> <li>Associated with <b>Cosmological Constant (<math>\Lambda</math>)</b> proposed by <b>Albert Einstein</b></li> </ul>   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Significance:</b> Explains why the universe's expansion is <b>speeding up</b> instead of slowing down</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Recombinant Proteins (RPs)</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Definition:</b> Proteins produced using <b>recombinant DNA technology</b> by inserting desired genes into host organisms like <b>bacteria, yeast, or mammalian cells</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Applications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Biopharmaceuticals:</b> Insulin, Growth Hormones, Monoclonal Antibodies</li> <li>• <b>Vaccines:</b> Hepatitis B, HPV</li> <li>• <b>Enzymes:</b> Industrial and Food Processing</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Coal Gasification</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Process:</b> Conversion of coal into <b>syngas (CO, H<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O)</b> through <b>partial oxidation</b> with oxygen, steam, or CO<sub>2</sub></li> </ul> <p><b>Uses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Power Generation</b></li> <li>• Production of <b>Methanol &amp; Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG)</b></li> <li>• <b>Fertilizers</b> (Urea production using syngas)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Process:</b> <b>In-situ gasification</b> of coal seams deep underground without mining</li> </ul> <p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploits coal reserves that are otherwise uneconomical</li> <li>• Reduces surface environmental damage</li> <li>• Produces <b>cleaner fuel</b></li> <li>• <b>Pilot Project:</b> Launched in <b>2024</b> by the Ministry of Coal at <b>Jamtara, Jharkhand</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Atomic Clock</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Function:</b> Measures time based on <b>vibration frequencies of atoms</b> like <b>Cesium-133</b> or <b>Rubidium-87</b></li> <li>• <b>Accuracy:</b> Most accurate clocks in the world, losing only <b>1 second in 300 million years</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Operational in India:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ahmedabad</b> (Space Applications Centre, ISRO)</li> <li>• <b>Faridabad</b> (National Physical Laboratory, CSIR)</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synchronisation of <b>Navigation Systems (NavIC)</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>National Quantum Mission (NQM)</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched by:</b> Govt. of India (2023–2031)</li> <li>• <b>Nodal Agency:</b> <b>Department of Science &amp; Technology (DST)</b></li> <li>• <b>Budget:</b> ₹6,000 crore</li> </ul> <p><b>Focus Areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantum Computing</li> <li>• Quantum Communication</li> <li>• <b>Quantum Sensing &amp; Metrology</b></li> <li>• <b>Quantum Materials &amp; Devices</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (2025)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Declared by:</b> <b>United Nations</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness about the transformative potential of <b>Quantum Science</b></li> <li>• Promote international cooperation in quantum research</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Key Concepts of Quantum Science</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quantum Superposition</b> = Object exists in more than one state simultaneously.</li> <li>• <b>Quantum Entanglement</b> = Particles interconnected irrespective of distance.</li> <li>• <b>Quantum Supremacy</b> = Quantum computer outperforms classical computer.</li> <li>• <b>Quantum Cryptography</b> = Secure communication through Quantum Key Distribution (QKD).</li> <li>• <b>Quantum Simulation</b> = Models quantum systems accurately.</li> <li>• <b>Quantum Sensing</b> = High precision measurements of magnetic fields, gravity, and time.</li> </ul>                               |
| <b>SafeEXO-Cas</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Technology:</b> Advanced <b>CRISPR/Cas9</b> gene editing platform</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Improves precision and reduces <b>off-target mutations</b> in genome editing</li> <li>• <b>Developed by:</b> Researchers from <b>Massachusetts General Hospital (2024)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Significance:</b></p>  |

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
|                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer for <b>gene therapy applications</b></li> <li>• Potential treatment for <b>genetic disorders</b> like Sickle Cell Anaemia &amp; Cancer</li> </ul>  |
| <b>TRISHNA Mission</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full Form: Thermal InfraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment</b></li> <li>• <b>Collaboration: ISRO + CNES (France)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-resolution <b>thermal imaging</b></li> <li>• Water resource management</li> <li>• Urban Heat Mapping</li> <li>• <b>Orbit: Sun-synchronous orbit</b></li> <li>• <b>Operational Life: 5 years</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>EarthCARE Mission</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full Form: Earth Cloud Aerosol and Radiation Explorer</b></li> <li>• <b>Collaboration: ESA (European Space Agency) + JAXA (Japan)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study <b>cloud-aerosol interactions</b></li> <li>• Measure their impact on Earth's <b>radiation balance</b></li> <li>• <b>Launch Year: 2024</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Daksha Project</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed by: Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune</b></li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Detect high-energy events like <b>Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs)</b> and <b>Neutron Star Collisions</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Related Missions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Astrosat (India's first space telescope)</li> <li>• NASA's <b>Fermi Gamma-ray Telescope</b></li> <li>• NASA's <b>Swift Observatory</b></li> <li>• <b>Significance:</b> India's first dedicated <b>Gamma-Ray Burst</b> mission</li> </ul> |
| <b>JUNO Mission</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agency: NASA</b></li> <li>• <b>Launched in: 2011</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Study Jupiter's <b>origin, atmosphere, magnetic field, and gravity</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Significance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First spacecraft to map Jupiter's <b>magnetic field</b></li> <li>• Revealed that Jupiter's atmosphere is deeper than previously thought</li> <li>• <b>Current Status:</b> Extended till <b>2025</b></li> </ul>   |



| Topic                       | Description   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Planet Nine</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Type:</b> Hypothetical <b>9th Planet</b> in the Solar System</li> <li>• <b>Proposed by: Caltech Scientists (2016)</b></li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Beyond <b>Neptune's orbit</b></li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Explains unusual orbits of <b>Trans-Neptunian Objects (TNOs)</b> in the <b>Kuiper Belt</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Characteristics (Hypothetical):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 times the mass of Earth</li> <li>• 20 times farther from the Sun than Neptune</li> </ul> |
| <b>HM Sagittae (HM Sge)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Iky Way</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Components:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White Dwarf</li> <li>• Red Giant Star</li> <li>• <b>Observation:</b> Hubble Space Telescope (NASA)</li> </ul>   |

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| <b>UNOOSA</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established in: 1958</b></li> <li>• <b>HQ: Vienna, Austria</b></li> <li>• <b>Parent Body: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)</b></li> </ul> <b>Functions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes peaceful use of outer space</li> <li>• Implements <b>Outer Space Treaty (1967)</b></li> <li>• Manages UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space</li> <li>• <b>India's Role:</b> Active member</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Hydrogen Line</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electromagnetic radiation (<b>21 cm wavelength, 1420 MHz frequency</b>) emitted when an electron in a <b>neutral hydrogen atom</b> undergoes an energy level transition.</li> </ul> <b>Significance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used in <b>radio astronomy</b> to study the <b>distribution of hydrogen</b> in galaxies.</li> <li>• Helps in mapping the <b>Milky Way</b> and other galaxies.</li> <li>• Important in <b>Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI)</b> research.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>KAVACH System</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full Form:</b> Indigenous <b>Automatic Train Protection (ATP)</b> system.</li> <li>• <b>Developed by:</b> RDSO (<b>Research Designs &amp; Standards Organisation</b>).</li> </ul> <b>Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevents <b>train collisions</b>.</li> <li>• Functions even in <b>foggy weather</b> and for <b>high-speed trains</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Other Name:</b> <b>Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)</b>.</li> </ul> <b>Significance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of <b>Mission Raftaar</b> to increase train speeds.</li> <li>• Enhances <b>railway safety</b> and efficiency.</li> </ul> |
| <b>ALMA Telescope</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Type:</b> <b>Advanced radio telescope</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> <b>Atacama Desert, Chile</b> (5000m altitude).</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration:</b> <b>Europe, USA, Japan, Canada, Chile, South Korea, Taiwan</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Wavelength Range:</b> <b>Millimeter &amp; Submillimeter</b> (0.3 mm - 9.6 mm).</li> </ul> <b>Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studies <b>star and planet formation</b>.</li> <li>• Observes <b>early galaxies</b> and <b>black holes</b>.</li> <li>• Helps in <b>exoplanet discovery</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>PraVaHa Software</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed by:</b> <b>ISRO</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> <b>Aerodynamic simulation software</b> to analyze:</li> <li>• <b>External &amp; internal airflows</b> on launch vehicles.</li> <li>• <b>Re-entry dynamics</b> of spacecraft.</li> </ul>   |

 **Least Priority Topics**

| Topic                             | Description  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Milgromian Dynamics (MOND)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Concept:</b> Alternative theory proposed by <b>Mordehai Milgrom (1983)</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Explains <b>galactic rotation curves</b> without the need for <b>dark matter</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Key Idea:</b> Modifies <b>Newton's laws of gravity</b> at extremely low accelerations.</li> </ul> <b>Significance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges the dominant <b>dark matter hypothesis</b>.</li> <li>• Explains the motion of stars in <b>galaxy outskirts</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Lal, Mursan, Hilsa</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Mars</li> <li>• <b>Named After:</b> Indian towns under the International Astronomical Union (IAU) naming system.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>T Coronae Borealis</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Type:</b> Rare <b>Recurrent Nova</b></li> <li>• <b>Constellation:</b> <b>Corona Borealis</b></li> </ul>  |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cycle:</b> Every <b>80 years</b></li> <li>• <b>Last Explosion:</b> 1946</li> <li>• <b>Next Expected Explosion:</b> 2024-25 (Visible to the naked eye)</li> </ul> <p><b>Mechanism:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binary star system with a <b>white dwarf</b> and a <b>red giant</b>.</li> <li>• White dwarf accretes matter from the red giant → Explosion.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Olympus Mons</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Mars</li> <li>• <b>Type:</b> Shield Volcano</li> <li>• <b>Height:</b> 21.9 km (Tallest volcano in the Solar System)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Alphafold-3</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developer:</b> Google DeepMind + Isomorphic Labs</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> AI model to predict <b>3D structures of proteins, DNA, and RNA.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Significance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revolutionary in <b>drug discovery</b>.</li> <li>• Helps in understanding <b>protein folding disorders</b> like <b>Alzheimer's</b> and <b>Parkinson's</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Tmesipteris Oblanceolate</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rare fern species with the largest genome.</li> <li>• Found in New Caledonia and Vanuatu.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Arun-III Hydro Power Project</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capacity:</b> 900 MW</li> <li>• <b>Type:</b> Run-of-the-River Project</li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Arun River, Eastern Nepal</li> <li>• <b>River System:</b> Arun River (Tributary of Kosi River)</li> <li>• <b>Developed by:</b> Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India's largest investment in Nepal's hydropower sector.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>India's First Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager</b></li> <li>• <b>Developed by:</b> TCS + IIT Bombay</li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-precision <b>magnetic field imaging</b> at the <b>atomic scale</b>.</li> <li>• Used in <b>healthcare, security, and material sciences</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Xylitol</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Type:</b> Natural <b>Sugar Substitute</b></li> <li>• <b>Source:</b> Derived from <b>plants, fruits, and vegetables</b> (Birch, Corn Cobs 🌽)</li> </ul> <p><b>Uses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sweetener for <b>diabetics</b> (Low Glycemic Index).</li> <li>• Used in <b>chewing gums, toothpaste, and medications</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>White Phosphorous</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appearance:</b> Waxy, <b>yellowish-white solid</b></li> <li>• <b>Odour:</b> Garlic-like smell</li> </ul> <p><b>Properties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly <b>combustible</b> in air.</li> <li>• Used in <b>military smoke screens</b> and <b>incendiary weapons</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Legality:</b> Not classified as a <b>chemical weapon</b> under the <b>Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)</b> unless used to harm humans.</li> </ul> |
| <b>LignoSat</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Type:</b> World's <b>First Wooden Satellite</b></li> <li>• <b>Developer:</b> Kyoto University + Sumitomo Forestry (Japan)</li> <li>• <b>Material:</b> Made from <b>Magnolia Wood</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote <b>sustainable space technology</b>.</li> <li>• Reduce <b>space debris</b> as wood burns completely during re-entry.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Double Sun Halo</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Phenomenon:</b> Rare <b>Optical Halo</b> around the Sun</li> </ul> <p><b>Types:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>22° Halo:</b> Inner ring</li> <li>• <b>46° Halo:</b> Outer ring</li> <li>• <b>Cause:</b> Refraction of sunlight through <b>ice crystals in the atmosphere</b></li> <li>• <b>Recently Seen in:</b> Ladakh (2024)</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance:</b></p>   |

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|                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symbol of <b>climate variations in high altitudes</b></li> <li>• Often mistaken as <b>two suns in the sky</b></li> </ul>   |
| JADES-GS-z14-0                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discovery by: James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)</b></li> <li>• <b>Year: 2024</b></li> <li>• <b>Significance: Earliest and farthest known galaxy</b></li> <li>• <b>Distance: 33 billion light years away</b></li> <li>• <b>Redshift: <math>z = 14.32</math></b></li> </ul> <p><b>Importance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps study the <b>early universe formation</b></li> <li>• Provides insights into <b>galaxy evolution</b></li> </ul> |
| COPUOS (UN)                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full Form: UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space</b></li> <li>• <b>Established in: 1958</b></li> <li>• <b>Parent Body: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Functions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develops <b>International Space Law</b></li> <li>• Implements <b>Outer Space Treaty (1967)</b></li> <li>• Manages UN <b>Space Object Register</b></li> </ul>  |
| Outer Space Treaty (1982)      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adopted by: UNGA</b></li> <li>• <b>Purpose: Governs the exploration and use of Outer Space</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outer space is the "<b>Common Heritage of Mankind</b>"</li> <li>• No <b>military bases</b> or <b>weapons of mass destruction</b> allowed on Moon or other celestial bodies</li> <li>• States are responsible for <b>national space activities</b></li> </ul>                       |
| Rescue Agreement               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Purpose: International agreement on the rescue of astronauts and return of space objects</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Significance: Provides for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance to <b>astronauts in distress</b></li> <li>• Return of <b>spacecraft or debris</b> to the launching state</li> </ul>   |
| Liability Convention (1972)    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Purpose: International liability for damage caused by space objects</b></li> <li>• <b>Key Feature: Launching states are absolutely liable for damage on Earth</b></li> </ul>  |
| Registration Convention (1975) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Purpose: Registering space objects with the UN</b></li> <li>• <b>Significance: Increases transparency in space activities</b></li> </ul>  |
| Moon Agreement (1979)          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Purpose: Governs the activities of states on the Moon and other celestial bodies</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moon is the <b>Common Heritage of Mankind</b></li> <li>• No private ownership of <b>lunar resources</b></li> <li>• Peaceful use only</li> <li>• <b>Significance: Very few countries have signed (India is not a party)</b></li> </ul>  |

## International Relations



| Initiative      | Description  |
|-----------------|--|
| UN Peacekeeping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established: 1948</b> (First mission: UNTSO in Palestine)</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mandate:</b> Maintain <b>international peace and security</b> through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict prevention</li> <li>• Peacebuilding</li> <li>• Protection of civilians</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Troop Contribution:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India is the <b>2nd highest troop-contributing country</b> (after Bangladesh)</li> <li>• Over <b>2.75 lakh Indian personnel</b> have served in UN missions</li> <li>• In <b>2007</b>, India became the <b>first country to deploy an all-women peacekeeping contingent</b> (Liberia)</li> <li>• <b>Funding:</b> Collective responsibility of <b>UN Member States</b> (based on a scale of assessments)</li> <li>• <b>Current Missions (2024):</b> 12 Active Peacekeeping Missions (e.g., UNIFIL in Lebanon, MINUSMA in Mali)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                    |
| <b>75 years of United Nations Peacekeeping</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> “Peace begins with me”</li> <li>• <b>Significance:</b> Marks the contribution of <b>over 2 million peacekeepers</b> from 125 countries since 1948</li> <li>• <b>India's Role:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted a <b>UN Peacekeeping course for women officers</b></li> <li>• Announced <b>₹1 million contribution to UN Technology Innovation Labs</b> for peacekeeping</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <b>G7 Summit</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>50th Summit Location:</b> Apulia, Italy</li> <li>• <b>India's Role:</b> Participated as an <b>Outreach Country</b></li> <li>• <b>Established:</b> <b>1975</b> (as G6, Canada joined in 1976)</li> <li>• <b>Members:</b> US, UK, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Canada</li> <li>• <b>Former Member:</b> Russia (joined in <b>1998</b> as G8, suspended in <b>2014</b> after Crimea annexation)</li> <li>• <b>Structure:</b> Informal grouping with <b>no permanent secretariat, charter, or binding decisions</b></li> <li>• <b>Significance:</b> Represents <b>40% of the global economy</b> and <b>10% of the world's population</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Hiroshima AI Process (HAP)</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiative by G7 to regulate Artificial Intelligence</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> <b>1981</b> (Riyadh Agreement)</li> <li>• <b>Members:</b> UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters:</b> <b>Riyadh, Saudi Arabia</b></li> <li>• <b>Significance:</b> India's <b>largest trading bloc partner</b> (~15% of India's global trade in 2023)</li> <li>• <b>India-GCC Trade:</b> Mainly <b>crude oil, petroleum products, jewellery, and food items</b></li> <li>• <b>Excludes:</b> <b>Iran and Iraq</b></li> <li>• <b>Security Cooperation:</b> GCC-India Framework Agreement (2004)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Financial Action Task Force (FATF)</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> 1989 during the G7 Summit held in <b>Paris</b></li> <li>• <b>Type:</b> Inter-governmental body</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters:</b> Paris, France</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To formulate global standards and policies to combat <b>Money Laundering (ML), Terrorist Financing (TF), and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Membership:</b> 40 members (38 countries + <b>European Commission</b> + <b>Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)</b>)</li> <li>• <b>India's Membership:</b> Became a full member in <b>2010</b></li> <li>• <b>Observer Organisations:</b> United Nations, World Bank, IMF, Interpol, and OECD</li> <li>• <b>Grey List:</b> Countries under enhanced monitoring due to strategic deficiencies in countering money laundering and terror financing (e.g. Pakistan was removed in</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p><b>October 2022)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Blacklist:</b> Non-cooperative countries with severe deficiencies (e.g. North Korea, Iran)</li> <li>• <b>Global Network:</b> FATF works closely with <b>FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs)</b> such as the <b>Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Plenary Meetings of FATF</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FATF Plenary meets thrice a year (February, June, October)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Mutual Evaluation Reports (MERs)</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process to review anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures in member countries</li> </ul>  |
| <b>International Energy Agency (IEA)</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established: 1974</b> under the framework of the <b>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</b> in response to the 1973 Oil Crisis</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters: Paris, France</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To ensure reliable, affordable, and clean energy for its member countries and promote <b>energy security, sustainable development, and climate action</b></li> <li>• <b>Members:</b> 31 countries (All OECD members can join, but membership is not automatic)</li> <li>• <b>India's Status:</b> Became an <b>Associate Member</b> in <b>2017</b> (Not a full member due to non-OECD status)</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World Energy Outlook (WEO)</b></li> <li>• <b>Global Energy &amp; CO<sub>2</sub> Status Report</b></li> <li>• <b>World Energy Statistics</b></li> <li>• <b>Energy Technology Perspectives (ETP)</b></li> <li>• <b>Net Zero by 2050 Roadmap</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Recent Initiative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched the <b>Global Energy Transition Stocktake Report (2023)</b></li> <li>• Focus on <b>Net Zero Emissions by 2050</b></li> </ul>                                   |
| <b>Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched by: USA</b> in <b>May 2022</b> during the <b>Quad Summit in Tokyo</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To strengthen <b>economic cooperation</b> among Indo-Pacific countries, focusing on fair trade practices, resilient supply chains, and clean energy transitions</li> </ul> <p><b>Members: 14 countries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USA, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Brunei, Fiji</li> <li>• <b>India's Status:</b> Joined <b>3 Pillars</b> but <b>opted out of the Trade Pillar</b> citing concerns over binding commitments on digital trade and labor standards</li> </ul> <p><b>4 Pillars of Cooperation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trade (Digital trade, Labor standards)</b></li> <li>• <b>Supply Chains (Resilient and diversified supply networks)</b></li> <li>• <b>Clean Energy, Decarbonization &amp; Infrastructure</b></li> <li>• <b>Taxation &amp; Anti-Corruption</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Significance for India:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes <b>Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)</b> with Japan and Australia</li> </ul> |
| <b>India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Announced at: G20 Summit 2023, New Delhi</b></li> <li>• <b>Part of: Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)</b>, a US-led initiative to counter China's <b>Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)</b></li> <li>• <b>Signatories: India, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, European Union, Italy, France, Germany</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enhance <b>trade connectivity</b> between <b>India, the Middle East, and Europe</b></li> <li>• Provide an <b>alternative to China's BRI</b> for <b>global supply chains</b></li> <li>• Strengthen <b>energy cooperation</b> and <b>digital connectivity</b></li> </ul>   |

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|                               | <p><b>Planned Route &amp; Key Ports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>India:</b> Mundra, Kandla, JNPT (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust)</li> <li>• <b>UAE:</b> Fujairah, Jebel Ali</li> <li>• <b>Saudi Arabia:</b> Land connectivity from UAE to Haifa (Israel)</li> <li>• <b>Europe:</b> Haifa (Israel), Piraeus (Greece), Marseille (France)</li> </ul> <p><b>Components:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rail and maritime connectivity</b></li> <li>• <b>Energy corridors</b> (Green hydrogen, clean energy transport)</li> <li>• <b>High-speed data cable networks</b></li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Artemis Accords</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched by:</b> USA &amp; NASA in 2020</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To promote peaceful, transparent, and cooperative <b>space exploration</b> in compliance with <b>international space law</b></li> <li>• <b>India's Status:</b> Signed as the <b>27th Member</b> in <b>June 2023</b> during PM Modi's US visit</li> <li>• <b>Legal Foundation:</b> Based on the principles of the <b>Outer Space Treaty, 1967</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peaceful use of space</li> <li>• Transparency in space activities</li> <li>• International cooperation</li> <li>• Preservation of <b>space heritage sites</b> (e.g. Apollo landing sites)</li> <li>• Responsible use of <b>space resources</b></li> <li>• Debris mitigation and disposal</li> </ul> <p><b>Main Missions under Artemis Program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Artemis-I (2022):</b> Unmanned Moon Mission</li> <li>• <b>Artemis-II (2024):</b> First <b>crewed lunar flyby</b> since Apollo missions</li> <li>• <b>Artemis-III (2025):</b> First <b>human return to the Moon</b> (South Pole region)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Colombo Process</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established in:</b> 2003 (Colombo, Sri Lanka)</li> <li>• <b>Type:</b> <b>Regional Consultative Process (RCP)</b> on labour migration</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Promote <b>safe, orderly, and fair labour migration</b> from Asian countries to destination countries, especially in the <b>Gulf region and Europe</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Members: 12 Asian Countries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, and China</li> </ul> <p><b>India's Role:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Became <b>Chair (2024-26)</b> for the <b>first time</b> since its inception</li> <li>• Focus areas during India's Chairmanship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Skill Development &amp; Certification</b></li> <li>○ <b>Migrant Welfare &amp; Protection</b></li> <li>○ <b>Female Labour Migration</b></li> <li>○ Digitalization of <b>Labour Migration Systems</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |



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| <p><b>Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched by:</b> G7 Countries at <b>G7 Summit 2022 (Germany)</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Mobilize <b>\$600 billion</b> by <b>2027</b> to finance <b>sustainable infrastructure projects</b> in <b>developing and low-income countries</b> as an alternative to China's <b>Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Focus Areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clean Energy</b> (Renewable Energy, Green Hydrogen)</li> <li>• <b>Digital Infrastructure</b></li> <li>• <b>Health Systems</b></li> </ul> |
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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Climate Resilience</b></li> <li>• <b>Gender Equality</b></li> </ul> <p><b>India's Role:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key partner under PGII for projects like India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)</li> <li>• <b>Blue Dot Network:</b> Shapes global infrastructure standards under PGII by promoting quality infrastructure projects based on Transparency, Sustainability, and Economic Impact</li> </ul>  |
| <b>International Air Transport Association (IATA)</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Founded in: 1945</b> (Havana Conference, Cuba)</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters: Montreal, Canada</b></li> <li>• <b>Members: Over 300 airlines from 120+ countries</b> (Representing <b>83%</b> of global air traffic)</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote <b>safe, secure, and efficient air transport</b></li> <li>• Develop <b>global standards</b> for airline operations</li> <li>• Facilitate <b>cooperation among airlines</b></li> <li>• <b>India's Status:</b> Member (Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, etc.)</li> <li>• <b>Recent Development:</b> Focus on <b>Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050</b> through the use of <b>Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)</b></li> </ul>                           |
| <b>International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established in: 1947</b> under the <b>Chicago Convention (1944)</b></li> <li>• <b>Headquarters: Montreal, Canada</b></li> <li>• <b>Type: UN Specialised Agency</b></li> <li>• <b>Members: 193 countries</b> (Including India)</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set global standards for <b>aviation safety, security, and environmental protection</b></li> <li>• Facilitate international <b>air navigation and air transport agreements</b></li> <li>• Promote <b>Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Arab League</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Founded in: 1945</b> (Cairo, Egypt)</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters: Cairo, Egypt</b></li> <li>• <b>Members: 22 Arab countries</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote <b>political, economic, and cultural cooperation</b> among Arab states</li> <li>• Protect <b>Arab sovereignty and independence</b></li> <li>• Resolve <b>disputes among member states</b></li> <li>• <b>Recent Development:</b> Syria was <b>reinstated</b> in 2023 after being suspended in 2011 due to the civil war</li> </ul>   |
| <b>UNCTAD</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established in: 1964</b></li> <li>• <b>Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the <b>integration of developing countries</b> into the global economy</li> <li>• Address issues related to <b>trade, investment, and development</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trade and Development Report</b></li> <li>• <b>World Investment Report</b></li> <li>• <b>Technology and Innovation Report</b></li> <li>• <b>Digital Economy Report</b></li> <li>• <b>Recent Development:</b></li> <li>• UNCTAD has launched the <b>Global Supply Chain Forum</b> in 2024 to address disruptions in global trade</li> </ul> |
| <b>World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiated in: 2003 (Geneva) and 2005 (Tunis)</b></li> <li>• <b>Organisers: ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote <b>digital cooperation</b> and <b>inclusive information society</b></li> <li>• Bridge the <b>digital divide</b> between developed and developing countries</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss issues like <b>cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and internet governance</b></li> <li><b>India's Role:</b> Actively participates in WSIS to promote <b>Digital India and Universal Internet Access</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Social Media 4 Peace Initiative</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by: UNESCO in 2021</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the spread of <b>online hate speech, disinformation, and harmful content</b></li> <li>Promote <b>freedom of expression</b> while tackling <b>digital risks</b></li> <li>Support <b>media and information literacy</b> in conflict-prone regions</li> <li><b>Focus Countries: Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Kenya, Indonesia</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Manama Declaration</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Adopted by: Arab League Summit in Manama, Bahrain</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Called for deployment of <b>UN Peacekeeping Forces in Palestine</b></li> <li>Condemned <b>Israeli settlement activities</b> in West Bank</li> <li>Reaffirmed support for a <b>two-state solution</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Global Supply Chain Forum 2024</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organised by: UNCTAD &amp; Barbados Government</b></li> <li><b>Held in: Bridgetown, Barbados (January 2024)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address <b>global supply chain disruptions</b> post-COVID-19 and geopolitical tensions</li> <li>Promote <b>resilient, sustainable, and inclusive trade systems</b></li> <li>Focus on <b>climate-friendly logistics</b></li> </ul>                              |



**Least Priority Topics**

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| <b>Path to Peace Summit</b>   | <p><b>Held in: Switzerland (Bürgenstock)</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss ways to achieve <b>peace in Ukraine</b> amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict</li> <li>Focus on principles of <b>territorial integrity</b> and <b>international law</b></li> <li><b>Participants: Over 90 countries</b> (India participated as an <b>observer</b>)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Horizon 2047 Framework</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Signed by: India and France in 2023</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set a long-term roadmap to guide <b>bilateral ties</b> till <b>2047</b> (100th anniversary of India's independence &amp; 100 years of diplomatic relations)</li> <li>Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Defence cooperation</b></li> <li><b>Space partnership</b></li> <li><b>Renewable energy</b></li> <li><b>Digital infrastructure</b></li> <li><b>Cultural exchanges</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| <b>Action for Peace (A4P)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by: UN Secretary-General in 2018</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the effectiveness of <b>UN Peacekeeping Missions</b></li> <li>Improve the <b>safety and security</b> of peacekeepers</li> <li>Promote <b>political solutions</b> to conflicts</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Women Participation</b></li> <li><b>Protection of Civilians</b></li> <li><b>Performance &amp; Accountability</b></li> </ul> <p><b>India's Role:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the <b>largest troop-contributing countries</b> to UN Peacekeeping Missions</li> </ul> |
| <b>Global Principles</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unveiled by: United Nations in 2024</b></li> </ul>  |

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| for Information Integrity                                | <b>Objective:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackle <b>disinformation, hate speech, and harmful content</b></li> <li>Promote <b>truthful and trustworthy information</b> in the digital space</li> <li>Strengthen <b>digital platform accountability</b></li> </ul>   |
| Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Established in: 1966</b></li> <li><b>Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden</b></li> </ul> <b>Objective:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct research on <b>conflict, arms control, disarmament, and international security</b></li> <li>Publish data on <b>military spending, arms transfers, and nuclear weapons</b></li> </ul> <b>Key Reports:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SIPRI Yearbook</b></li> <li><b>Global Arms Trade Report</b></li> <li><b>Military Expenditure Report</b></li> <li><b>Recent Development:</b> SIPRI reported <b>India as the largest arms importer (2018-2022)</b></li> </ul> |

## Culture

### TEMPLES

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Aluva Shiva Temple     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: <b>Kochi, Kerala.</b></li> <li>Situated on the <b>Periyar River Bank</b> at <b>Aluva Manappuram.</b></li> <li>Part of <b>108 Shiva Temples of Kerala.</b></li> <li>Dedicated to <b>Lord Shiva</b> in the form of <b>Shivalinga.</b></li> <li>Famous for <b>Shivaratri Festival</b> celebrated on the riverbank.</li> </ul>  |
| Bavikonda Monastery    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: <b>Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.</b></li> <li>Ancient Buddhist monastery dating back to <b>3rd Century BCE.</b></li> <li>Name means "<b>Hill of Wells</b>" due to <b>Rainwater Storage Tanks</b> found on the site.</li> <li>Associated with <b>Hinayana School of Buddhism.</b></li> <li>Excavations reveal <b>Stupas, Viharas, and Relic Caskets.</b></li> </ul> |
| Jyotirmath (Joshimath) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: <b>Chamoli, Uttarakhand.</b></li> <li>One of the <b>Four Cardinal Mathas</b> established by <b>Adi Shankaracharya.</b></li> <li>Promotes <b>Advaita Vedanta Philosophy.</b></li> <li>Associated with <b>Badrinath Temple.</b></li> <li>Serves as the <b>Winter Seat of Lord Badri Vishal.</b></li> </ul>  |
| Vadakkumnathan Temple  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: <b>Thrissur, Kerala.</b></li> <li>Dedicated to <b>Lord Shiva.</b></li> <li>Famous for <b>Thrissur Pooram Festival.</b></li> <li>One of the <b>Oldest Shiva Temples</b> in India.</li> <li>Classified as a <b>UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site.</b></li> </ul>  |
| Martand Sun Temple     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: <b>Anantnag, Jammu &amp; Kashmir.</b></li> <li>Dedicated to <b>Surya (Sun God).</b></li> <li>Built during the <b>8th Century</b> by <b>King Lalitaditya Muktapida</b> of the <b>Karkota Dynasty.</b></li> <li>Architectural style: <b>Kashmiri Aryan.</b></li> <li>Now in ruins but a significant <b>Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)</b> site.</li> </ul>      |

### FAMOUS PERSONALITIES

| Personality Name | Details  |
|------------------|--|
| Swami            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Born as <b>Narendra Nath Datta</b> on <b>January 12, 1863</b> in <b>Kolkata.</b></li> </ul> |

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| <b>Vivekananda (1863-1902)</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His birth anniversary is observed as <b>National Youth Day</b> since <b>1985</b>.</li> <li>• Disciple of <b>Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa</b>, who influenced his spiritual journey.</li> <li>• Propagated <b>Vedanta Philosophy</b> (Uttara Mimamsa), including <b>Advaita Vedanta</b> (Non-dualism), <b>Visishtadvaita Vedanta</b> (Qualified Non-dualism), and <b>Dvaita Vedanta</b> (Dualism).</li> <li>• Gained global fame through his speech at the <b>World Parliament of Religions in Chicago (1893)</b>, where he began with the iconic salutation "Sisters and Brothers of America".</li> <li>• Founded the <b>Ramakrishna Mission</b> in <b>1897</b> for <b>social service</b>, including <b>education, healthcare, and relief work</b>.</li> <li>• Major Literary Works: <b>Karma Yoga, Raja Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, and Jnana Yoga</b>.</li> <li>• Played a key role in <b>spreading Indian philosophy and spirituality in the West</b>.</li> <li>• Passed away on <b>July 4, 1902</b>, at the age of 39.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Ahilyabai Holkar (1725 – 1795)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Born in <b>1725</b> at <b>Chaundi</b> village (now in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra).</li> <li>• Became the ruler of the <b>Holkar dynasty</b> after the death of her husband <b>Khanderao Holkar</b> and son <b>Malhar Rao Holkar II</b>.</li> <li>• Ruled from <b>1767 to 1795</b> with her capital at <b>Maheshwar</b> on the banks of the Narmada River.</li> <li>• Renowned for her <b>just administration, philanthropy, and architectural contributions</b>.</li> <li>• Restored several temples including <b>Kashi Vishwanath Temple (1780)</b>, <b>Somnath Temple (1783)</b>, and <b>Gaya Vishnupad Temple</b>.</li> <li>• Built numerous <b>ghats, wells, and dharamshalas</b> across India, promoting <b>pilgrimage tourism</b>.</li> <li>• Known as the <b>Philosopher Queen</b> for blending administrative efficiency with compassion.</li> <li>• Maharashtra Government renamed <b>Ahmednagar district to Ahilyanagar (2024)</b> in her honour.</li> <li>• Often regarded as a symbol of <b>women's empowerment</b> in Indian history.</li> </ul> |

### CULTURE LOCATIONS IN NEWS

| Topic   | Details   | Additional Facts (Pre-2025 Focus)  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Vivekananda Rock Memorial</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated at <b>Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu</b>, where <b>Swami Vivekananda</b> meditated in <b>1892</b> before attending the <b>World Parliament of Religions (1893)</b>.</li> <li>• Built in <b>1970</b> to honour his contribution.</li> <li>• Located at the <b>southernmost tip of mainland India</b>.</li> </ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managed by <b>Vivekananda Kendra Trust</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Architectural style:</b> Fusion of traditional Tamil and Bengali architecture.</li> <li>• Part of <b>Swadesh Darshan Scheme</b> under Coastal Circuit.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Mudgal Fort</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in <b>Raichur district, Karnataka</b>.</li> <li>• Built over <b>1000 years ago</b> with influences from <b>Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Deccan Sultanate, and Vijayanagara Empire</b>.</li> <li>• Houses <b>Ranganathaswamy Temple</b> and <b>Hussain Alam Dargah</b> inside the premises, symbolising <b>communal harmony</b>.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fortification built with <b>Cyclopean masonry</b>.</li> <li>• Important site during the <b>Battle of Raichur (1520)</b> between Vijayanagara and Bahmani ultanate.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Great Trigonometric Survey (GTS) Observatory</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in <b>Bengaluru, Karnataka</b>.</li> <li>• Established during British rule by <b>William Lambton</b> in early <b>19th century</b>.</li> <li>• Crucial for accurate <b>mapping of Indian subcontinent's geographical features</b>.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of the larger <b>Great Trigonometric Survey of India (1802-1871)</b>.</li> <li>• Helped measure the height of <b>Mount Everest</b> for the first time (known as <b>Peak XV</b> then).</li> </ul>                       |

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|  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognised as an <b>ASI-protected monument</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>City of Literature (Kozhikode)</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated as India's <b>1st City of Literature</b> by <b>UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)</b> in <b>2023</b>. Recognised for its rich <b>Malayalam literary tradition</b> and <b>Vallathol Narayana Menon's contributions</b>.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosts <b>Kerala Literature Festival</b> annually. Birthplace of renowned Malayalam writers like <b>MT Vasudevan Nair</b> and <b>SK Pottekkatt</b>. Home to <b>Malayalam Sahitya Academy Library</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched in <b>2004</b> to promote creativity and sustainable urban development.</li> <li>Covers <b>7 creative fields</b>: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music.</li> <li>2024 Annual Conference held in <b>Braga, Portugal</b>.</li> <li>Indian cities in UCCN: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Jaipur (Crafts &amp; Folk Art -2015)</b></li> <li><b>Varanasi (Music -2015)</b></li> <li><b>Chennai (Music -2017)</b></li> <li><b>Mumbai (Film -2019)</b></li> <li><b>Hyderabad (Gastronomy -2019)</b></li> <li><b>Srinagar (Crafts &amp; Folk Arts 2021)</b></li> <li><b>Kozhikode (Literature 2023)</b></li> </ol> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First Indian city to join UCCN</b>: Jaipur (2015).</li> <li>Total <b>350+ cities globally</b> are part of UCCN.</li> <li>UCCN contributes to <b>UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>, especially <b>SDG 11</b> (Sustainable Cities).</li> </ul>           |
| <b>World Craft City (Srinagar)</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated by <b>World Crafts Council (WCC)</b>.</li> <li>Famous for <b>Pashmina shawls, Papier-mâché, and Kashmiri carpets</b>.</li> <li>Recognised for preserving traditional craft techniques.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's <b>first city</b> to be recognised under the WCC Program.</li> <li>Received the tag in <b>2021</b>.</li> <li>Part of the <b>GI-tagged crafts list</b> in India.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>World Craft City Program</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiated in <b>2014</b> by the <b>World Crafts Council (WCC AISBL)</b>.</li> <li>Recognises cities for their role in promoting <b>traditional crafts</b> and <b>socio-economic development</b>.</li> <li>Indian cities under WCC: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Jaipur (Rajasthan)</b></li> <li><b>Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu)</b></li> <li><b>Mysore (Karnataka)</b></li> <li><b>Srinagar (Jammu &amp; Kashmir)</b></li> </ol> </li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WCC works towards the <b>preservation of traditional crafts</b> globally.</li> <li>Part of <b>UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage framework</b>.</li> <li>Provides a platform for <b>craft-based tourism</b> under <b>Responsible Tourism Mission</b>.</li> </ul> |



| Scheme  | Description  |
|---|--|
| <b>Mission KarmaYogi (NPCSCB)</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched:</b> 2020</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Capacity building of civil servants through <b>individual, institutional &amp; process-level reforms</b></li> <li>• <b>Platform:</b> iGOT Karmayogi – Digital learning platform for <b>personalised training</b></li> <li>• <b>Focus:</b> <b>Competency-based training</b> for <b>efficient, transparent &amp; citizen-centric service delivery</b></li> <li>• <b>Implementing Body:</b> Karmayogi Bharat (SPV) under the <b>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances &amp; Pensions</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Urban)</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched:</b> 2015</li> <li>• <b>Ministry:</b> <b>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> <b>Housing for All by 2022</b> (Now extended till <b>December 2024</b> for incomplete houses)</li> </ul> <p><b>Beneficiaries:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economically Weaker Section (<b>EWS</b>)</li> <li>• Low-Income Group (<b>LIG</b>)</li> <li>• Middle-Income Group (<b>MIG-I &amp; MIG-II</b>)</li> <li>• Slum Dwellers</li> </ul> <p><b>Four Verticals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In-situ Slum Rehabilitation</b> (using land as a resource)</li> <li>• <b>Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)</b> – Interest subsidy on home loans</li> <li>• <b>Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)</b> – Public-Private Partnership model</li> <li>• <b>Beneficiary-led Individual House Construction (BLC)</b> – Financial assistance for constructing or enhancing existing houses</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding Pattern:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ₹ 1.5 lakh per house for EWS</li> <li>• ₹ 2.67 lakh interest subsidy under CLSS</li> </ul> <p>• <b>Implementing Agency:</b> <b>State/UT Governments, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)</b></p> |
| <b>Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PM-JAK)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched:</b> 2008 (Renamed as <b>PMBJP</b> in 2015)</li> <li>• <b>Ministry:</b> <b>Ministry of Chemicals &amp; Fertilizers</b></li> <li>• <b>Nodal Agency:</b> <b>Pharmaceutical &amp; Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)</b></li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> Provide <b>quality generic medicines</b> at <b>50-90% lesser cost</b> than branded medicines</li> <li>• <b>Coverage:</b> Over <b>10,000 Kendras</b> operational across India (as of 2024)</li> </ul> <p><b>Products Sold:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Medicines</li> <li>• Surgical Equipment</li> <li>• <b>Ayush Products</b> (Ayurvedic, Homeopathic, and Unani products)</li> <li>• Sanitary Napkins (<b>Suvidha</b> at ₹1 per pad)</li> </ul>   |

| Name of Scheme  | Information  |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bima Sugam</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched by:</b> IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Unified <b>digital insurance marketplace</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-stop platform for <b>policy buying, servicing, and claims settlement</b></li> <li>• Covers <b>life, health, motor, and travel insurance</b></li> <li>• Enhances <b>transparency</b> and <b>consumer convenience</b></li> </ul>                                  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>National Technical Textiles Mission</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched:</b> 2020</li> <li>• <b>Ministry:</b> Ministry of Textiles</li> <li>• <b>Duration:</b> 2020-2024</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> Promote <b>Technical Textiles</b> in India through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Research &amp; Development</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Market Promotion</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Skill Development</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Export Promotion</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Sub-Scheme:</b> GREAT (Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Technical Textiles)</li> </ul> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>e-Samridhi Portal</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched by:</b> NAFED &amp; NCCF (National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd)</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Digital platform for <b>procurement, price monitoring, and supply chain management</b> of essential commodities</li> </ul>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bhuvan Panchayat 4.0</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed by:</b> NRSC, ISRO (National Remote Sensing Centre)</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> <b>Geospatial Data Platform</b> for <b>Gram Panchayat-level spatial planning &amp; governance</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satellite-based <b>mapping of village assets</b></li> <li>• Monitoring of <b>MGNREGA works</b></li> <li>• Support for <b>natural resource management</b></li> </ul>   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP)</b></p>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministries:</b> MoA&amp;FW (Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Farmers Welfare) + MoRD (Ministry of Rural Development)</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Empower rural women as <b>Para-extension Workers</b> to provide agricultural advisory services</li> <li>• <b>Linked Program:</b> <b>Lakhpati Didi Program</b></li> <li>• <b>Target:</b> Create <b>3 crore Lakhpati Didis</b> (Women earning ₹1 lakh annually)</li> </ul>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established:</b> 1958</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Function:</b> Apex body for <b>Agri-marketing cooperatives</b></li> <li>• <b>Nodal Agency:</b> For <b>Operation Greens</b> (Tomato, Onion, Potato price stabilisation scheme)</li> </ul>   |



## Least Priority Topics

| Scheme   | Description  |
|--|--|
| <b>National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scheme Type: Central Sector Scheme</b></li> <li>• <b>Ministry: Union Home Ministry</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Strengthen <b>forensic labs &amp; infrastructure</b> to enhance the criminal justice system</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Focus Areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading <b>State and Central forensic labs</b></li> <li>• <b>Capacity building</b> of forensic professionals</li> <li>• Supporting the <b>implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023</b> (which mandates forensic examination in certain cases)</li> </ul>                     |
| <b>Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for Offshore Wind Energy</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Support the installation of <b>1 GW Offshore Wind Projects</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Project Breakdown:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>500 MW in Gujarat</b></li> <li>• <b>500 MW in Tamil Nadu</b></li> <li>• <b>Funding: VGF mechanism</b> to bridge the cost gap and attract private investment</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Capacity Building Commission (CBC)</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Established: 2021</b></li> <li>• <b>Part of: Mission Karmayogi (NPCSCB)</b></li> <li>• <b>Autonomy: Independent body with executive &amp; financial autonomy</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Functions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets <b>competency frameworks</b> for civil servants</li> <li>• Develops <b>performance benchmarks</b> for training institutions</li> <li>• Monitors <b>civil service capacity-building programs</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>GREAT Scheme</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full Form: Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles</b></li> <li>• <b>Ministry: Ministry of Textiles</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Support <b>research, innovation, and startups in technical textiles</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Funding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Grant of up to ₹50 lakh</b> for a period of <b>18 months</b></li> <li>• Open to <b>individual innovators, startups, and research institutions</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM)</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed by: ISRO</b> (Indian Space Research Organisation)</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Geospatial database for disaster management</b></li> <li>• <b>Real-time monitoring of natural disasters</b></li> <li>• Helps in <b>disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses <b>satellite imagery</b> and <b>GIS-based mapping</b></li> <li>• Supports <b>disaster response agencies (NDMA, NDRF, State Disaster Management Authorities)</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed by: Capacity Building Commission (CBC)</b></li> <li>• <b>Objective: Standardize training quality</b> across <b>Central Training Institutes (CTIs)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets <b>baseline standards</b> for faculty, curriculum, and infrastructure</li> <li>• Focuses on <b>competency-based training</b></li> <li>• Ensures <b>uniformity in civil service capacity-building programs</b></li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>  |

### ★★ High Priority Topics

| Report/Index Name                             | Details  |
|---|--|
| <b>Financial Stability Report, 2024</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as its 29th edition; a twice-yearly report summarizing the findings of the Financial Stability and Development Council's (FSDC) Sub-Committee, led by the RBI Governor. Other RBI publications include Financial Stability Report (biannual), Monetary Policy Report (biannual), Consumer Confidence Survey (quarterly), Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (quarterly), Report on Foreign Exchange Reserves (biannual), and Digital Payments Index (DPI).</li> </ul> |
| <b>World Investment Report 2024</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Gender Gap Report 2024</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An annual publication from the World Economic Forum (WEF); India ranks 129th based on four main criteria: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Energy Transition Index 2024</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Global Economic Prospects Report</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued by the World Bank.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Red List of Mangrove Ecosystems Report</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compiled by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); India's mangrove distribution: West Bengal (42.45%, the largest portion), Gujarat (23.66%), and Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands (12.39%).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Migration and Development Brief 2024</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Released by the World Bank.</li> </ul>  |

### ★★ Moderate Priority Topics

| Topic Name   | Details   |
|--|---|
| <b>State of Ocean Report 2024</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publisher: <b>UNESCO</b>.</li> <li>Highlights the role of oceans in absorbing <b>90% of the Earth's excess heat energy</b>, leading to <b>Deoxygenation, Sea Level Rise, and Marine Ecosystem Degradation</b>.</li> <li>Emphasizes the urgent need for <b>Sustainable Ocean Management</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publisher: <b>FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)</b>.</li> <li>Comprehensive analysis of <b>Global Fisheries and Aquaculture Production Trends</b>.</li> <li>Focuses on the impact of <b>Climate Change and Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing</b>.</li> <li>Highlights the importance of <b>Blue Transformation</b> for sustainable aquatic food systems.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Blue Transformation</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by <b>FAO in 2021</b>.</li> <li>Aims to enhance <b>Food Security, Nutrition, and Sustainable Livelihoods</b> through</li> </ul>   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>in Action</b>  | <p><b>Aquatic Food Systems.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on promoting <b>Climate-Resilient Fisheries</b> and <b>Aquaculture Practices</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>World Employment and Social Outlook 2024</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publisher: <b>ILO (International Labour Organisation)</b>.</li> <li>Examines <b>Global Employment Trends, Unemployment Rates, and Labour Market Inequalities</b>.</li> <li>Addresses the impact of <b>Technological Change, Green Transition, and Economic Slowdown</b> on job creation.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>State of Global Air Report 2024</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published by <b>Health Effects Institute (HEI)</b> in collaboration with <b>UNICEF</b>.</li> <li>Provides data on <b>Air Pollution Levels</b> and their impact on <b>Global Health Outcomes</b>.</li> <li>Emphasizes the health burden on <b>Children and Vulnerable Communities</b>.</li> <li>Calls for immediate action on <b>Clean Air Policies</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Untapped Collective Intelligence for Climate Action Report</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publisher: <b>UNDP</b>.</li> <li>Explores how <b>Collective Intelligence Technologies</b> such as <b>Crowdsourcing, AI, and Citizen Science</b> can accelerate <b>Climate Action</b>.</li> <li>Highlights case studies demonstrating successful integration of technology with <b>Community Engagement</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2024 Report</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publisher: <b>World Bank</b>.</li> <li>Assesses global developments in <b>Carbon Pricing Initiatives</b> like <b>Carbon Taxes</b> and <b>Emission Trading Systems</b>.</li> <li>Highlights the role of <b>Carbon Pricing</b> in meeting <b>Net-Zero Emission Targets</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sustainable Development Report 2024</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publisher: <b>UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)</b>.</li> <li>Tracks countries' progress towards <b>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>.</li> <li>Includes <b>SDG Index Rankings</b> and recommendations for policy improvement.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>SDSN (Sustainable Development Solutions Network)</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in <b>2012</b>.</li> <li>Works under the <b>UN Secretary-General</b> to promote integrated approaches for <b>SDGs</b> and <b>Paris Agreement</b>.</li> <li>Focuses on <b>Research, Education, and Global Cooperation</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Trans-Fat Elimination Report 2024</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publisher: <b>WHO</b>.</li> <li>Highlights global progress towards eliminating <b>Industrially Produced Trans Fats (IP-TFAs)</b>.</li> <li>Assesses the implementation of the <b>REPLACE Framework</b> in member countries.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Trans-Fatty Acids (TFA)</b>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unsaturated fatty acids formed artificially by <b>Hydrogenation of Oils</b>.</li> <li>Recognized as the <b>Worst Type of Fats</b>.</li> <li>Increases risk of <b>Cardiovascular Diseases, Diabetes, and Obesity</b>.</li> <li>WHO aims to eliminate TFAs globally by <b>2023</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>REPLACE Framework</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by <b>WHO in 2018</b>.</li> <li>Aims to eliminate <b>Industrially Produced Trans Fats</b> through regulatory and voluntary measures.</li> <li>Consists of six strategic action areas: <b>Review, Promote, Legislate, Assess, Create, Enforce</b>.</li> </ul>  |



| Topic Name                           | Details  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>India Employment Outlook 2030</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publisher: <b>Observer Research Foundation (ORF)</b>.</li> <li>Projects <b>Employment Trends in India by 2030</b>.</li> <li>Focus on <b>Technological Disruptions, Green Jobs, and Urbanization</b>.</li> <li>Suggests need for <b>Skill Development</b> and <b>Labour Market Reforms</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Container Port</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by <b>World Bank &amp; S&amp;P Global Market Intelligence</b>.</li> </ul>   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Performance Index (CPPI)</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ranks <b>348 Global Ports</b> based on <b>Container Handling Efficiency</b>.</li> <li>• Aims to promote <b>Operational Improvements</b> in maritime logistics.</li> <li>• Top Indian Port (2023): <b>Visakhapatnam Port</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Global Food Policy Report 2024</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publisher: <b>International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</b>.</li> <li>• Focuses on <b>Climate Change Impacts on Food Security</b>.</li> <li>• Highlights need for <b>Resilient Food Systems, Agroecology, and Inclusive Policies</b>.</li> <li>• Theme: <b>Transforming Food Systems under Climate Change</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>World Wealth Report 2024</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publisher: <b>Capgemini Research Institute</b>.</li> <li>• Analyzes <b>Global Wealth Distribution</b> across <b>71 Countries</b>.</li> <li>• Highlights growing wealth inequality and impact of <b>Geopolitical Instability</b> on wealth creation.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Child Nutrition Report 2024</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publisher: <b>UNICEF</b>.</li> <li>• Assesses <b>Nutritional Status of Children</b> globally.</li> <li>• Focus on <b>Stunting, Wasting, and Childhood Obesity</b>.</li> <li>• Calls for investment in <b>Maternal and Child Nutrition Programs</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>International Religious Freedom 2023 Report</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publisher: <b>U.S. State Department (USCIRF)</b>.</li> <li>• Reviews <b>Religious Freedom Violations</b> across countries.</li> <li>• India placed on <b>"Special Watch List"</b>.</li> <li>• Highlights <b>Discrimination, Violence, and Legal Restrictions</b> on religious minorities.</li> </ul>                                 |
| <b>Multilateral Peace Operations 2023 Report</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publisher: <b>SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)</b>.</li> <li>• Analyses <b>Global Peacekeeping Missions</b>.</li> <li>• Focus on <b>UN, Regional, and Non-UN Operations</b>.</li> <li>• Africa hosts <b>50% of Multilateral Peace Missions</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>A World of Debt Report 2024</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publisher: <b>UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)</b>.</li> <li>• Warns of rising <b>Global Public Debt</b> crossing <b>\$92 Trillion</b>.</li> <li>• Highlights debt burden on <b>Developing Countries</b>.</li> <li>• Calls for <b>Debt Restructuring Mechanism</b>.</li> </ul>                            |

## Defence

### WEAPONS

| Weapon/System              | Significance  | Key Features   |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| <b>INS Vikramaditya</b>    | India's most formidable aircraft carrier.                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modified <b>Kiev-class</b> carrier acquired from Russia.</li> <li>• Commissioned in <b>2013</b> into the Indian Navy.</li> <li>• Equipped with <b>MiG-29K</b> fighter jets and <b>Kamov</b> helicopters.</li> <li>• Operates using a <b>ski-jump takeoff</b> system (STOVAR).</li> <li>• Displacement: <b>44,500 tonnes</b>.</li> </ul>                         |
| <b>INS Vikrant (IAC-1)</b> | India's first <b>indigenously built</b> aircraft carrier.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constructed by <b>Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)</b>.</li> <li>• Commissioned in <b>2022</b>.</li> <li>• Can accommodate up to <b>30 aircraft</b>, including <b>MiG-29K</b> and <b>ALH helicopters</b>.</li> <li>• Uses a <b>Short Takeoff But Arrested Recovery (STOVAR)</b> system.</li> <li>• Displacement: <b>43,000 tonnes</b>.</li> </ul>                  |
| <b>Nagastra-1</b>          | India's first <b>indigenous loitering munition</b> (Suicide Drone). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed and developed by <b>Solar Industries, Nagpur</b>.</li> <li>• Features an <b>AI-based targeting system</b> for precision strikes.</li> <li>• Operational range between <b>15 km – 30 km</b>.</li> <li>• Can carry a <b>high-explosive warhead</b> for neutralizing enemy targets.</li> <li>• Operates in <b>autonomous and manual modes</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>RudraM-II</b>           | Advanced <b>air-to-surface</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed by <b>Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)</b>.</li> </ul>  |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | missile for precision strikes.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powered by a <b>solid-propellant motor</b>.</li> <li>Effective range: <b>350 km – 400 km</b>.</li> <li>Designed for <b>Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD)</b> missions.</li> <li>Compatible with <b>Su-30MKI and other fighter aircraft</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>MR-MOCR (Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket)</b> | India's first <b>electronic warfare</b> system to obscure enemy radars. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by <b>DRDO's Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur</b>.</li> <li>Disrupts enemy <b>radar and sensor-based detection</b>.</li> <li>Uses <b>microwave chaff technology</b> to create electronic countermeasures.</li> <li>Enhances survivability of military assets during operations.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Javelin Anti-Tank Weapon System</b>                         | A state-of-the-art <b>man-portable, fire-and-forget ATGM</b> .          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jointly developed by <b>Raytheon and Lockheed Martin (USA)</b>.</li> <li><b>Infrared-guided missile</b> for precision strikes.</li> <li>Range: <b>2.5 km</b>.</li> <li>Capable of <b>top-attack</b> and <b>direct-attack</b> modes.</li> <li>India plans procurement under the <b>US Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program</b>.</li> </ul> |

### PROJECTS/OPERATIONS

| Project/Operation/Initiative | Significance   | Key Features   |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Project 28 (P28)</b>      | Indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Corvette development program.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involves the construction of <b>4 Kamorta-class corvettes</b>.</li> <li>Built by <b>Garden Reach Shipbuilders &amp; Engineers (GRSE)</b> under <b>Make in India</b> initiative.</li> <li>First ship: <b>INS Kamorta (Commissioned in 2014)</b>.</li> <li>Equipped with <b>Advanced Torpedoes, Hull-mounted Sonar systems, and Anti-Submarine Rockets</b>.</li> <li>Features <b>stealth technology</b> to reduce radar cross-section.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Operation Vijay</b>       | Military operation to reclaim Kargil Heights from Pakistani intruders. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched in <b>May 1999</b> during the <b>Kargil War</b>.</li> <li>Victory declared on <b>26th July 1999 (Kargil Vijay Diwas)</b>.</li> <li>Indian Army recaptured key locations like <b>Tiger Hill</b> and <b>Tololing Heights</b>.</li> <li>Supported by the <b>Indian Air Force's Operation Safed Sagar</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>INDUS-X</b>               | U.S.-India Defence Innovation Collaboration launched in <b>2023</b> .  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint initiative under <b>India-U.S. Defence Partnership Roadmap</b>.</li> <li>Focuses on collaboration between <b>Defence Start-ups, Private Sector, and Government Agencies</b>.</li> <li>Promotes innovation in <b>Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Technologies, Cybersecurity, and Space Technologies</b>.</li> <li>Strengthens bilateral cooperation in <b>Defence Research and Development (R&amp;D)</b>.</li> </ul>                |

### EXERCISES

| Exercise        | Type      | Countries          | Key Features   |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------|--|
| <b>JIMEX 24</b> | Bilateral | <b>India &amp;</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on <b>Maritime Security, Anti-Submarine Warfare,</b></li> </ul> |

|                               |                                   |  |  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
|                               | Maritime Exercise                 | <b>Japan</b>   | <p>and <b>Surface Warfare</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started in <b>2012</b>.</li> <li>Enhances <b>interoperability and naval cooperation</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>RIMPAC 24</b>              | Multinational Maritime Exercise   | <b>26 Countries</b><br>(India, USA, Japan, Australia, etc.)          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World's <b>largest naval exercise</b>.</li> <li>Held <b>biennially</b> near <b>Hawaiian Islands</b>.</li> <li>Focuses on <b>Maritime Security, Disaster Relief, and Anti-Piracy Operations</b>.</li> <li>First held in <b>1971</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Red Flag Exercise</b>      | Multinational Air Combat Exercise | <b>USA, India, and Allied Nations</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted by <b>US Air Force (USAF)</b> at <b>Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada</b>.</li> <li>Indian Air Force first participated in <b>2008</b>.</li> <li>Simulates <b>realistic aerial combat scenarios</b>.</li> <li>Focus on <b>Air Superiority, Ground Attack, and Electronic Warfare</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Exercise HOPEX</b>         | Bilateral Air Force Exercise      | <b>India &amp; Egypt</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held at <b>Cairo West Air Base, Egypt</b>.</li> <li>Focus on <b>Air Defence, Joint Operations, and Combat Tactics</b>.</li> <li>Strengthens defence cooperation between both nations.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Exercise Tarang Shakti</b> | Multinational Air Exercise        | <b>India, USA, UK, France, UAE, Australia, Japan, Spain, Germany</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's <b>First Multinational Air Combat Exercise</b>.</li> <li>Planned for <b>2024</b>.</li> <li>Focus on <b>Large Force Engagement (LFE)</b> and <b>Multinational Cooperation</b>.</li> <li>Aims to enhance <b>joint operational capabilities</b>.</li> </ul>                                    |

## Health



| Disease/Virus            | Type                         | Transmission                                       | Key Features   | WHO Classification                       |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Nipah Virus (NiV)</b> | <b>Zoonotic Virus</b>        | Bats → Humans, Contaminated Food, Person-to-Person | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First identified in <b>Malaysia (1998)</b>.</li> <li>Natural host: <b>Fruit Bats (Pteropus genus)</b>.</li> <li>High fatality rate: <b>40-75%</b>.</li> <li>Causes <b>Encephalitis and Respiratory Symptoms</b>.</li> <li>Outbreaks in <b>Bangladesh, India (Kerala - 2018, 2021, 2023)</b>.</li> </ul> | <b>WHO Priority Pathogen (High-Risk)</b> |
| <b>H5N2 Bird Flu</b>     | <b>Avian Influenza Virus</b> | Contact with infected birds or droppings           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subtype of <b>Influenza A Virus</b>.</li> <li>Rare human infections but <b>pandemic potential</b> if mutations occur.</li> <li>Symptoms: <b>Fever, Cough, Pneumonia-like illness</b>.</li> </ul>  | <b>WHO Emerging Zoonotic Threat</b>      |

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detected in <b>Mexico (2024)</b> in the first human case.</li> <li>Monitored under the <b>One Health Approach</b>.</li> </ul> |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|

**★★ Moderate Priority Topics**

| Topic Name  | Details  |
|---|--|
| <b>Biopharmaceutical Alliance</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global collaboration for <b>Drug Security &amp; Research</b>.</li> <li>Joint initiative by <b>India, USA, Japan, South Korea, and European Union</b>.</li> <li>Launched to address <b>drug supply shortages</b> during COVID-19.</li> <li>Focuses on <b>vaccines, critical medicines, and raw material supply chains</b>.</li> <li>Part of <b>Global Health Resilience Partnership</b>.</li> <li>Promotes <b>Public-Private Partnerships</b> in biopharma.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apex body for <b>Biomedical Research in India</b>.</li> <li>Established in <b>1911 as IRFA</b> (renamed ICMR in <b>1949</b>).</li> <li>Functions under <b>Department of Health Research (DHR)</b>, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.</li> <li>Funds research on diseases like <b>HIV, Malaria, Cancer, and Lifestyle Disorders</b>.</li> <li>Neither <b>statutory nor regulatory</b> body.</li> <li>Recently launched <b>National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research (2023)</b>.</li> </ul>              |
| <b>Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International framework for <b>Digital Health Infrastructure</b>.</li> <li>Announced during <b>G20 Summit 2023 (India)</b>.</li> <li>Managed by <b>WHO</b>.</li> <li>Focuses on <b>interoperability, data exchange, and reducing duplication of digital health efforts</b>.</li> <li>Secretariat to be set up at <b>WHO Headquarters, Geneva</b>.</li> <li>Aligns with <b>Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-communicable disease with rising global burden.</li> <li>Condition where fat accumulates in the liver <b>without alcohol use</b>.</li> <li>Closely linked to <b>Obesity, Diabetes, and Cardiovascular Diseases</b>.</li> <li>Observed on <b>13th June</b> as <b>International Fatty Liver Day</b>.</li> <li>India became the <b>first country</b> to launch an operational guideline for NAFLD under the <b>National Programme for Prevention &amp; Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NPCDCS)</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Quality Control Order (QCO)</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory framework to ensure <b>Product Quality Standards</b>.</li> <li>Issued by the <b>Government of India</b> under various ministries.</li> <li>Certification granted by <b>Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)</b>.</li> <li>Applicable to <b>domestic and imported products</b>.</li> <li>Part of <b>Make in India</b> initiative to curb <b>substandard imports</b>.</li> <li>Covers sectors like <b>Electronics, Chemicals, Textiles, and Healthcare Products</b>.</li> </ul>                                  |

**★ Least Priority Topics**

| Topic Name                  | Details  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>International Health</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopted in <b>2005</b>, replacing <b>International Sanitary Regulations (1951)</b>.</li> <li>Legally binding framework under <b>WHO</b> for detecting, assessing, reporting, and</li> </ul> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Regulations (IHR)</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>responding to <b>Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC)</b>.</li> <li>- Members: <b>194 WHO Member States + Liechtenstein &amp; Holy See</b>.</li> <li>- Aim: To prevent the <b>international spread of diseases</b> while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH/OIE)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Established in <b>1924</b>.</li> <li>- Global authority on <b>Animal Health and Epizootic Disease Control</b>.</li> <li>- <b>183 member countries</b> (including India).</li> <li>- Headquarters: <b>Paris, France</b>.</li> <li>- Works independently of the <b>UN System</b>.</li> <li>- Focuses on <b>Animal Welfare, Zoonotic Diseases, and Antimicrobial Resistance</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>N332-GT5 and eOD-GT8</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Nanoparticle-based HIV vaccine candidates</b>.</li> <li>- Designed to stimulate the production of <b>Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies (bNAbs)</b> against HIV.</li> <li>- Aim: To provide long-term immunity against different strains of HIV.</li> <li>- Developed by <b>International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) &amp; Moderna</b>.</li> </ul>                                   |
| <b>Capsaicin</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active chemical compound found in <b>Chili Peppers</b>.</li> <li>- Triggers <b>pain receptors (TRPV1)</b>, causing a burning sensation.</li> <li>- Used in <b>Pain Relief Creams, Pepper Sprays, and Culinary Preparations</b>.</li> <li>- Also being studied for <b>Anti-Cancer and Weight Loss properties</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Donanemab</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New drug developed by <b>Eli Lilly</b> for <b>Alzheimer's Disease</b>.</li> <li>- Works by targeting <b>Amyloid Plaques</b> in the brain.</li> <li>- Shown to <b>slow cognitive decline</b> in early-stage Alzheimer's patients.</li> <li>- Approved by <b>US FDA in 2023</b> under accelerated pathway.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Dementia</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Umbrella term for diseases causing <b>Memory Loss, Confusion, and Behavioral Changes</b>.</li> <li>- Common Types: <b>Alzheimer's Disease (60-70%), Vascular Dementia</b>.</li> <li>- No permanent cure available.</li> <li>- Risk Factors: <b>Age, Genetics, Hypertension, Diabetes, Lifestyle Habits</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Omega-3 Fatty Acids</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Essential <b>Polyunsaturated Fats</b>.</li> <li>- Types: <b>ALA (Plant-based), EPA &amp; DHA (Marine-based)</b>.</li> <li>- Sources: <b>Nuts, Flaxseed, Fish Oils</b>.</li> <li>- Benefits: Improves <b>Heart Health, Brain Function, and reduces Inflammation</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Klebsiella Pneumoniae Bacteria</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gram-negative bacteria from the <b>Enterobacteriaceae family</b>.</li> <li>- Causes <b>Pneumonia, Bloodstream Infections, and UTIs</b>.</li> <li>- Rising cases of <b>Antibiotic Resistance</b> (Carbapenem-Resistant Klebsiella Pneumoniae - CRKP).</li> <li>- Common in <b>Hospital-Acquired Infections (Nosocomial Infections)</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chronic <b>Autoimmune Disorder</b> affecting the digestive tract.</li> <li>- Two major types: <b>Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis</b>.</li> <li>- Symptoms: <b>Abdominal Pain, Diarrhea, Fatigue</b>.</li> <li>- No curative treatment, only <b>Symptom Management</b> through medications and lifestyle changes.</li> </ul>   |

## INTERNATIONAL LOCATIONS IN NEWS

### High Priority Topics

| Topic   | Details   | Pre-2025 Focus   |
|---------|---|--|
| Red Sea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrow water body connecting Suez Canal (north) → Bab el Mandeb Strait (south) → Arabian Sea.</li> <li>Bordering Countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti.</li> <li>Part of the Great Rift Valley (Afro-Arabian Rift Valley).</li> <li>Important for Global Trade via Suez Canal (10-12% of Global Trade passes through it).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently in news due to Houthi Rebel Attacks (2024) impacting global shipping routes.</li> <li>USA-led Operation Prosperity Guardian launched to protect maritime trade.</li> <li>Home to the world's northernmost tropical coral reefs.</li> <li>Salinity: Higher than other seas (Average 40 PSU).</li> <li>Recognised under IMO Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA).</li> </ul> |

### Moderate Priority Topics

| Topic             | Details  | Pre-2025 Focus  |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Vizhinjam Seaport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located at Vizhinjam, Kerala.</li> <li>India's First Deepwater Container Trans-shipment Port.</li> <li>Developed by Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. in PPP mode.</li> <li>Will reduce India's dependency on Sri Lanka's Colombo Port for trans-shipment cargo.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational trials began in <b>October 2023</b>.</li> <li>Natural draft depth of <b>20 metres</b> (deepest among Indian ports).</li> <li>Part of the <b>Sagarmala Project</b></li> <li>Located close to <b>International Shipping Route (East-West Shipping Route)</b>.</li> <li>Strategic boost to India's <b>Blue Economy</b> vision.</li> </ul> |
| Lipulekh Pass     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in <b>Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district (Kumaon region)</b>.</li> <li>Tri-junction pass between <b>India, China (Tibet), and Nepal</b>.</li> <li>Traditional route for <b>Kailash Mansarovar Yatra</b>.</li> <li>Recently in news due to <b>India-Nepal border disputes</b> (claim over Kalapani region).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Altitude: <b>5,334 metres</b>.</li> <li>New <b>motorable road to Lipulekh Pass</b> inaugurated in <b>May 2020</b> by BRO.</li> <li>Nepal issued a new map in <b>2020</b> showing <b>Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura</b> as its territory.</li> <li>Critical for India's <b>defence logistics</b> on the China border.</li> </ul>              |

### Least Priority Topics

| Topic             | Details  | Pre-2025 Focus   |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Tashigang Village | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in <b>Lahaul-Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh</b>.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inhabited by just <b>50-60 voters</b></li> <li>Village follows <b>Buddhist traditions</b>.</li> </ul> |

|                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
|                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World's Highest Polling Station at 4,650 meters.</b></li> <li>• First set up during <b>2019 Lok Sabha Elections.</b></li> <li>• Part of <b>Hemis National Park ecosystem.</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important under <b>Election Commission's Accessible Voting Initiative.</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Namaqualand</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desert region located in <b>Southwestern Africa</b> across <b>South Africa and Namibia.</b></li> <li>• Known for <b>seasonal wildflower bloom</b> (Namaqua Daisies).</li> <li>• Recently in news due to the discovery of <b>World's Oldest Inhabited Termite Mounds (34,000 years old).</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of <b>Succulent Karoo Biodiversity Hotspot.</b></li> <li>• <b>UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2017).</b></li> <li>• Rich in <b>copper mining activity.</b></li> </ul>                 |
| <b>Pantanal Region</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in <b>Brazil (Mato Grosso &amp; Mato Grosso do Sul states).</b></li> <li>• <b>World's Largest Tropical Wetland</b> (~150,000 sq. km).</li> <li>• Crucial for <b>Biodiversity Conservation</b> (Jaguar, Giant Otter).</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated <b>UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (2000).</b></li> <li>• Faces threat from <b>wildfires and agricultural expansion.</b></li> <li>• Part of the <b>RAMSAR Convention Wetlands List.</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Dagestan Region</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in <b>Southern Russia (Caucasus region).</b></li> <li>• Recently in news due to <b>Terrorist Attacks (2024)</b> targeting <b>churches and synagogues.</b></li> <li>• Known for its <b>ethnic diversity</b> and <b>Islamic influence.</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borders <b>Caspian Sea.</b></li> <li>• Part of the <b>North Caucasus Insurgency zone.</b></li> <li>• Important for <b>Oil and Natural Gas resources.</b></li> </ul>                                    |
| <b>Mount Kanlaon</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strato volcano located on <b>Negros Islands, Philippines</b></li> <li>• Recently erupted in <b>2024.</b></li> <li>• Highest peak in the <b>Visayas Region (2,465 meters).</b></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of <b>Mount Kanlaon Natural Park.</b></li> <li>• Member of the <b>Pacific Ring of Fire.</b></li> <li>• Protected under the <b>ASEAN Heritage Parks.</b></li> </ul>                                |

## ISLANDS

### ★★ Moderate Priority Topics

| Island                 | Location   | Details   |
|------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Senkaku Islands</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East China Sea</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disputed between Japan (Senkaku) and China (Diaoyu)</li> </ul> |

### ★ Least Priority Topics

| Island               | Location  | Details  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>Saipan Island</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Pacific Ocean</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlled by the United States since WWII</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Delos Island</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aegean Sea, Greece</li> </ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient Greek and Roman sanctuary, part of Cyclades Archipelago</li> </ul>                      |
| <b>Crete Island</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Aegean Sea</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Largest Island in Greece</li> <li>• Historically significant for Minoan Civilization</li> </ul> |