
PRAYAAS Times

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MPSC/UPSC- 2025-26

By PRAYAAS EDUCATION

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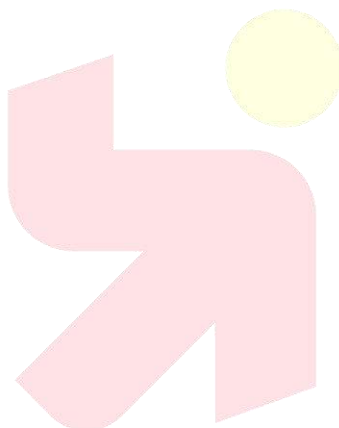
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2. General Studies II

Census 2025

Context: -

- The 2025 Census aims to update the National Population Register (NPR) as the foundation for establishing the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC).

Syllabus of Mains - Role of women and women's organization, **population and associated issues**, poverty and developmental issues.

What is NRIC?

National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC)-

- The National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) is a verified registry of Indian citizens established under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- It mandates:
 - Compulsory registration of all Indian citizens.
 - Issuance of identity cards to registered citizens as **proof of citizenship**.

National Population Register (NPR)-

- The National Population Register (NPR) is a database that records the details of all usual residents in India, irrespective of their citizenship status. This includes both citizens and non-citizens who have been residing in India for at least six months or intend to stay for the same duration.
- Purpose:** The NPR serves as the preliminary step toward creating the NRIC.
- Legal Basis:** The NPR is governed by provisions of the Citizenship Rules, 2003, under the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Data Collection:** It includes demographic and biometric data.
- The NPR and NRIC are interlinked, with the NPR serving as the foundational database to identify citizens for the NRIC.

Need for NRIC (National Register of Indian Citizens): -

National Security:

- Helps distinguish citizens from non-citizens.
- Aids in addressing illegal immigration and security threats.
- Enhances the government's ability to maintain internal security and law enforcement.

Identity Verification:

- Reduces cases of identity fraud and duplication of identity documents.
- Establishes a reliable and universally accepted proof of citizenship.

Targeted Welfare Delivery:

- Ensures government welfare schemes and subsidies reach eligible citizens only.
- Prevents misuse of public resources by excluding non-citizens from citizen-specific benefits.

Data Accuracy:

- Creates an updated, verified, and centralized demographic database.
- Provides accurate data for policy-making, governance, and planning.

Steps in NRIC Implementation: -

Data Collection:

- Demographic information is collected as part of the Census house listing process.
- Data is gathered from all households, serving as the preliminary input for the NRIC.

Biometric Integration:

- Biometric details, primarily linked to Aadhaar, are incorporated to eliminate duplication and ensure accuracy.
- Ensures robust identification through unique identifiers.

Transparency:

- **Public is invited to review preliminary lists** of the NRIC.
- Claims, objections, and corrections can be submitted to address any inaccuracies or omissions.

Verification and Appeals:

- A systematic verification process is undertaken to adjudicate claims and objections.
- Dedicated authorities review appeals and discrepancies to ensure no eligible citizen is excluded.

Final Register and ID Cards:

- The verified data culminates in the creation of the final NRIC.
- **Identity cards are issued to citizens as mandated by the Citizenship Act, 1955**, serving as official proof of citizenship.

Advantages of NRIC: -

Streamlined Governance:

- Verified data aids in policymaking and administrative efficiency.

Improved Welfare Delivery:

- Ensures resources reach genuine beneficiaries, reducing leakages.

Enhanced Security:

- Assists in identifying unauthorized residents and illegal immigrants.

Complementary Role with Aadhaar:

- NRIC focuses on citizenship, while Aadhaar emphasizes identity verification for all residents.

Issues of NRIC: -

Privacy Concerns:

- Misuse of demographic and biometric data due to weak data protection despite Aadhaar-related Supreme Court guidelines.

Inclusion Challenges:

- Documentation demands disproportionately affect marginalized, rural and less-educated groups, as seen in Assam NRC's exclusion cases.

Administrative Burden:

- Large-scale verification demands meticulous planning, resources, capacity-building and risks errors in data entry or claim adjudication.

Humanitarian Impacts:

- **Exclusion brings statelessness and causes psychological distress** for individuals and communities.

Learnings from Assam NRC: -**Unique Legal Framework:**

- Assam's NRC was based on Assam Accord, differed from national NRIC plans.

Implementation Challenges:

- Stringent documentation led to exclusion of vulnerable groups.

Humanitarian Concerns:

- Highlighted importance of sensitivity & transparency in citizenship verification.

Way Forward: -**Awareness Campaigns:**

- Educate citizens about their rights and documentation requirements.

Streamlined Procedures:

- Simplify processes to minimize errors and administrative burdens.

Inclusion Measures:

- Develop mechanisms to prevent exclusion of vulnerable groups.

Data Protection:

- Enact stringent laws to safeguard privacy and prevent misuse of collected data.

Pilot Projects:

- Test NRIC frameworks on smaller scales before nationwide implementation.

Conclusion: -

- The National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) represents a transformative initiative aimed at fostering transparent governance, enhancing national security, and ensuring equitable resource allocation.

As former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee once said:

- "Citizenship is the reflection of one's loyalty and identity with the nation."
- The NRIC aligns with this vision, empowering citizens with proof of their identity while fortifying national integrity.

2.1 India Russia bilateral summit

Context:

- The 23rd India-Russia Summit, which was **held in New Delhi on 5th Dec 2025, once again brought to the fore the treacherous geopolitical terrain that defines today's world.** The Ukraine war has pitted India's most important partners against each other.
- Link for reference: [Joint Statement following the 23rd India – Russia Annual Summit | Prime Minister of India](#)

Syllabus of Mains – GS-2- Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Areas of Cooperation between India-

Russia:

Defence and Security:

- Russia is India's largest defence supplier, providing advanced weaponry like fighter jets, submarines, and the S-400 missile system.
- Joint military exercises enhance interoperability and strategic trust. **Ex.**

Exercise Zapad-2025

Nuclear and Energy Cooperation:

- Collaboration in civilian nuclear energy, with Russian-built reactors like Kudankulam.
- Joint development in hydrocarbon exploration and energy security projects.

Space and Technology:

- Cooperation in space research, satellite launches, and technology transfers.
- Joint ventures in advanced research and innovation.

Trade and Economic Ties:

- Bilateral trade includes petroleum products, defence equipment, pharmaceuticals, and IT services.
- Promotion of joint industrial projects and investment in infrastructure.

Multilateral and Geopolitical Cooperation:

- Close coordination in BRICS, SCO, G20, and United Nations forums.
- Shared vision on global strategic stability and counterterrorism.

People to People connect:

- Scholarships, cultural exchanges, and academic collaborations strengthen people-to-people ties.

Evolution of diplomatic relation:

Early Years (1947–1950s):

- India maintained a non-aligned stance after independence in 1947.
- Diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union were established in 1947, but ties were initially limited due to India's closer ties with the West.

Strengthening Ties (1960s–1970s):

- Relations deepened after the 1962 Sino-Indian War, as India sought military and technical support.
- The 1971 Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation marked a strategic partnership during the Bangladesh Liberation War.
- The Soviet Union became India's major arms supplier and economic partner.

Post-Cold War Period (1991–2000s):

- After the USSR's dissolution in 1991, India quickly established relations with the Russian Federation.
- Economic cooperation slowed initially due to Russia's internal transition, but defence ties remained strong.

21st Century Strategic Partnership:

- India and Russia declared a "strategic partnership" in 2000.
- Cooperation expanded in defence, nuclear energy, space technology, and trade.
- Russia remained a key supplier of military equipment, including the S-400 missile

Challenges in bilateral relations:

Economic Imbalance:

- Bilateral trade (~\$65 billion in 2025) is relatively low compared to India's trade with China (~\$125 billion) and the EU.
- Heavy dependence on defence imports limits diversification in sectors like IT, manufacturing, and services.

Geopolitical Divergence:

- Russia's close ties with China and its involvement in the Ukraine conflict may sometimes conflict with India's strategic autonomy.
- Differing positions in global issues like the Indo-Pacific and sanctions regimes can create diplomatic balancing challenges.

Technology and Innovation Gap:

- Limited collaboration in advanced IT, AI, space, and next-generation defence systems.
- Some Russian defence technology is outdated or restricted, constraining India's modernization plans.

Impact of Western Sanctions:

- Western sanctions on Russia affect joint projects, including nuclear energy (Rosatom) and defence procurement, creating uncertainty in long-term planning.

Diversification of Global Partnerships:

- India's growing engagement with the US, EU, and Quad requires careful balancing of ties with Russia to avoid strategic friction.

Way forward:

- **Economic Diversification:** Expand trade beyond defence and hydrocarbons into IT, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, and infrastructure. Encourage joint ventures and investment in manufacturing and technology sectors.
- **Technological Modernization:** Collaborate on next-generation defence systems, AI, space technology, and cybersecurity. Upgrade existing defence platforms and co-develop modern military hardware.
- **Energy and Nuclear Cooperation:** Strengthen nuclear energy projects like Kudankulam and explore renewable energy collaboration. Joint exploration in hydrocarbons and emerging energy technologies.
- **Geopolitical Coordination:** Continue strategic alignment in multilateral forums like BRICS, SCO, G20, and the UN.
- **People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges:** Enhance educational programs, scholarships, and cultural initiatives to strengthen long-term goodwill.
- **Sustainable Defence Partnership:** Ensure predictable delivery of military equipment despite global sanctions. Explore joint production and technology transfer for long-term defence self-reliance.

Conclusion:

- While defence has traditionally dominated the partnership, expanding trade, investment, and technological collaboration can make India-Russia relations more balanced, resilient, and future-ready, contributing to India's economic and technological advancement.
- **India-Russia ties are a pillar of India's strategic autonomy, anchored in defence cooperation, energy security, and geopolitical alignment.** Strengthening this partnership ensures India remains well-equipped to safeguard its security and global interests in a complex international environment

Mains question for practice:

- Analyse the significance of India-Russia cooperation in BRICS and SCO for India's strategic and economic interests. (10 Marks, 150 words)

3. General Studies III

3.1 Freebies Vs Fiscal responsibility

Context:

- The Government of Bihar has **launched the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana (MMRY) to boost women's self-employment**. Under this flagship scheme, one woman from every family is eligible for an initial Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of ₹10,000 to start a livelihood or micro-enterprise.

Syllabus of Mains – GS-3- Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment. Inclusive Growth and issues arising from it. Government Budgeting.

Freebies culture:

- “Freebies culture” in India refers to the practice of political parties promising or distributing free goods and services to voters—often during election periods—in order to gain political support. These can include things like free electricity, water, laptops, cycles, cash transfers, farm loan waivers, household appliances, or subsidized travel.
- For Example:**
 - Free electricity — up to a certain number of units for households.
 - Subsidised LPG cylinders (e.g., at ₹500).
 - Free ration kits for families including essentials like rice and sugar.
 - Monthly allowances for women and unemployed youth (e.g., “Ladki Bahin Yojana of Maharashtra”).
 - 50% discount on public transport fares for students and women.

Why is Targeted Welfare Needed?

- Resource Constraints of the State:** India's fiscal space is limited; universal benefits for all citizens strain budgets. Targeting ensures scarce public funds reach those with the greatest need. **The 15th Finance Commission (Chair: N.K. Singh)** discussed state finances, warned that fiscal space of states is shrinking due to heavy subsidies and political freebies.
- Enhancing Equity and Inclusion:** Directing welfare to the poor, women-headed households, SC/ST/OBC communities, elderly, and disabled improves social justice.
- Better Poverty Reduction Outcomes:** Welfare delivered to the poorest has a higher marginal impact on nutrition health outcomes, educational attainment, asset creation. **Schemes like Ujjwala, Ayushman Bharat, and DBT transfers show improved outcomes when targeted.**
- Ensuring Fiscal Prudence:** Targeted schemes cost less than universal freebies, helping states maintain sustainable deficits, lower debt levels, space for developmental expenditure. **The Reserve Bank of India**

Welfare Approaches:

- Rights-Based Approach:** Welfare is delivered as a legal entitlement, not charity. Examples: Right to Education Act (RTE), MGNREGA (Right to Work).
- Targeted Welfare Approach:** Welfare is directed at specific vulnerable groups based on socio-economic criteria. Examples: Ujjwala Yojana (poor households), Ayushman Bharat (poor & vulnerable families).
- Universal Welfare Approach:** Benefits provided to all citizens regardless of income. Ensures inclusion and avoids exclusion errors, especially in essential services. **Examples:** Universal immunisation, Universal basic education

warns that freebies create fiscal risks, increasing state deficits. States must reveal the “true cost” of populist schemes.

- **Reducing Political Populism and Freebie Culture:** Objective targeting limits the misuse of welfare for electoral gains. Encourages policy-making based on need and evidence, not short-term political incentives.
- **Promotes Human Capital and Empowerment:** Targeting allows governments to focus on interventions with long-term developmental impact, such as education support, healthcare, skill training, reduces dependency by linking benefits with capacity-building.
- **Efficient Use of Technology:** Aadhaar, direct benefit transfer platforms, SECC data, and digital governance tools make targeting more accurate and less leak-prone compared to past decades.

Constitutional Perspective:

- **Directive principles of state policy:**
 - **Article 38:** Promote social, economic, and political justice.
 - **Article 39(a):** Adequate means of livelihood for all.
 - **Article 41:** Right to work, education, and public assistance.
 - **Article 46:** Welfare of weaker sections (SC/ST/OBC).
- **Article 21 (Right to Life):** SC has expanded “life” to include health, education, nutrition, dignity. Programs like MDM, PDS, Ayushman Bharat flow from this.
- **Article 14 (Equality & Non-Arbitrariness):**

Key Judgements:

- **Subramaniam Balaji Review Petition (2022–23):** SC acknowledged Balaji (2013) needs reconsideration. “Freebies can lead to economic disaster.
- **Mohinder Singh Gill v. CEC (1978):** Free and fair elections are part of the basic structure. **Freebie-driven inducements can violate this principle.**

Impact of freebies culture:

Economic Impact

- **Fiscal Stress & Rising Public Debt:** Freebies increase revenue expenditure, widening fiscal deficits. States with high freebie commitments (e.g., Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan) face debt risks.
- **Crowding Out Merit Expenditure:** Money that could be spent on health, education, infrastructure, skilling gets diverted. Long-term human capital suffers.
- **Distortion of Market Incentives:** Free power/water reduces resource efficiency. Encourages overuse of electricity, groundwater depletion, and inefficiency in agriculture.
- **Reduces Productive Investment:** Excessive subsidies leave little fiscal space for capital expenditure → slows growth. Weakens investor confidence due to fiscal uncertainty.

Social Impact

- **Creates Dependency Culture:** People may start expecting free goods and cash transfers instead of seeking employment or skill improvement.
- **Weakens Social Responsibility:** Free services sometimes reduce ownership and maintenance (e.g., upkeep of public housing, infrastructure).
- **Inequitable Distribution:** Universal freebies often benefit non-poor more than the poor → worsening inclusion and exclusion errors.
- **Diverts Welfare from the Vulnerable:** When budgets are limited, essential schemes (nutrition, healthcare, pensions) suffer.

Governance Impact

- **Distorts Policy Priorities:** Governments may focus on short-term populist schemes instead of structural reforms.
- **Weakens Administrative Efficiency:** Frequent rollout of new schemes demands administrative capacity that many states lack delays and inefficiency.

- **Erodes Fiscal Responsibility Norms:** Violates the spirit of the FRBM Act, which calls for prudent fiscal management.

Political Impact

- **Undermines Free and Fair Elections:** Freebie promises influence voter behaviour, affecting level playing field. SC has warned that freebies may compromise electoral integrity.
- **Promotes Competitive Populism:** Political parties escalate giveaways, trapping states in a cycle of fiscal irresponsibility.
- **Weakens Issue-Based Politics:** Elections shift from governance and reforms → towards “who gives more.”

Way forward:

- **Create a Clear Legal Framework:** Enact a law or amend the RPA, 1951 to define irrational freebies and regulate electoral promises. Empower the Election Commission to scrutinize fiscally irresponsible schemes announced before elections.
- **Establish an Independent Fiscal Council:** As recommended by the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions. The Council can assess the fiscal sustainability of schemes, rate state finances, prevent competitive populism that increases debt.
- **Strengthen Targeting Using Technology:** Use Aadhaar, DBT, SECC data, and AI-based beneficiary identification to reduce inclusion/exclusion errors. Regularly update poverty and socio-economic data to ensure accurate targeting.
- **Enhance Transparency and Accountability:** Mandate states to publish subsidy statements (already done partially by Union Govt). Conduct social audits and independent evaluations of welfare schemes.

Conclusion:

- The Economic Survey 2022–23 emphasized that while welfare is constitutionally justified, non-merit, election-driven freebies distort resource allocation, reduce investment in human capital, and encourage dependency, undermining inclusive development.
- India’s freebie culture, if left unchecked, threatens fiscal prudence, democratic integrity, and inclusive growth. A paradigm shift toward targeted welfare, accountability, and evidence-based policy-making is essential to uphold constitutional values, promote social justice, and safeguard economic sustainability.

Mains question for practice:

- “Targeted welfare is the need of the hour; indiscriminate freebies are harmful for the economy and society.” Examine. Discuss the constitutional and fiscal perspectives. (15 Marks, 250 words)

3.2 Research Security in India

Context (TH):

- India’s 2047 development goals rely on advancing science & technology, necessitating robust research security to counter cyberattacks, foreign interference and intellectual property theft.

Syllabus of Mains - Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and **social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;** money-laundering and its prevention.

Need for Research Security

Protection of National Interests:

- Safeguarding strategic investments in cutting-edge technologies such as AI, quantum computing, biotechnology, and defence is crucial to ensure the nation's technological sovereignty and security.

Prevention of Intellectual Property Theft:

- Securing research outputs prevents unauthorized access and misuse, thereby preserving the innovation ecosystem and ensuring fair rewards for creators and institutions.

Global Competitive Edge:

- By protecting research integrity, nations can maintain their technological leadership, foster societal benefits, and drive sustained economic growth.

National Security:

- Securing sensitive research data ensures adversaries cannot exploit critical information for malicious purposes, safeguarding the nation's strategic assets.

Economic Stability:

- Unauthorized access to proprietary research can lead to financial losses for institutions and industries, making research security essential for economic resilience.

Examples of Breaches and Vulnerabilities

Defence Sector Espionage:

- Allegations of espionage within India's defence research ecosystem underscored risks of sensitive data exposure.

COVID-19 Vaccine Data Theft:

- Cyberattacks targeted vaccine R&D, highlighting vulnerabilities.

ISRO Cyberattacks:

- ISRO faced cyberattacks in 2019 aimed at stealing data from satellite projects.

Harvard University Incident:

- Concealed Chinese funding while receiving U.S. defence grants raised concerns about research security.

Current Threats and Challenges in Research Security

Foreign Interference:

- Risks of espionage, unauthorised data access and strategically motivated funding.

Insider Threats:

- Unauthorized personnel, including contractors and academic staff, pose security risks.

Cyberattacks:

- Targeting research facilities to compromise data integrity and disrupt progress.

Intellectual Property Theft:

- Unauthorized exploitation of patents and trade secrets by foreign actors.

Balancing Collaboration and Security:

- Security measures can limit academic freedom and hinder international partnerships.

Regulatory Burden:

- Administrative workload on research institutions to implement security protocols.

Financial Investment:

- High costs are required to develop and maintain robust security systems.

Lack of Unified Approach:

- Coordination challenges exist between government departments like the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Defence, and Ministry of External Affairs.

Disconnected Security measures:

- Siloed efforts lead to inconsistent application and enforcement.

Challenges in Balancing Research Security and Innovation**Potential Hindrance:**

- Stringent security measures may deter international collaboration and slow down scientific progress.

Balancing Innovation:

- Security policies must encourage domestic and global research collaboration without stifling innovation.

Privacy Concerns:

- Increased surveillance could raise researcher privacy and freedom issues.

Transparency:

- Clear and transparent oversight is necessary to ensure security measures align with ethical principles and do not infringe on rights.

Regulatory Challenges:

- Balancing security with academic freedom and openness can be difficult, leading to resistance from the research community.

Measures to Strengthen Research Security in India**Policy:**

- Establish National Research Security Guidelines to classify research by strategic value & risks.

Framework Development:

- Create an office within the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) for coordinated research security efforts and adopt flexible, risk-based security strategies.

Risk-Based Approach:

- Implement proportional security strategies, inspired by the **European model**, to balance safety with research freedom.

Capacity Building:

- Develop a professional cadre trained in implementing research security measures and launch awareness programs to educate researchers on security risks.

Operational Safeguards:

- Conduct vulnerability mapping to identify risks in collaborations, infrastructure & personnel hiring; establish surveillance mechanisms to monitor and respond to emerging threats.

Balancing Open Science with Security:

- Adopt policies similar to Germany and the UK, emphasising "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" to protect strategic data while promoting transparency and open access for non-sensitive research.

Addressing Academic Concerns:

- Recognize and mitigate potential academic pushback by creating security measures that respect academic freedom and foster collaborative research.

Global Best Practices**United States:**

- The CHIPS and Science Act focuses on research security, and the National Science Foundation leads dedicated security efforts.

Canada:

- National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships with a list of sensitive technologies.

European Union:

- Risk-based strategies and country-agnostic regulations under Horizon Europe.

China:

- Military-Civil Fusion Strategy emphasises integrating civilian and military research, demonstrating the importance of robust security measures.

Conclusion: -

- Strengthening research security is essential to safeguard India's strategic interests while fostering innovation and collaboration.
- **As Prime Minister Narendra Modi aptly said, "India's growth story is driven by innovation, and protecting that innovation is key to our future."**

3.3 Hornbill Festival of Nagaland**Context (IE):**

- "Festival of Festivals", Hornbill Festival began in the Naga heritage village of Kisama.
- Nagaland is known as the land of festivals.

Hornbill Festival: -

- It is **celebrated annually in the first week of December**. It is named after the revered bird, Hornbill.
- **Great hornbill is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh, not of Nagaland**.
- The State Bird of Nagaland is Blyth's tragopan.
- The Hornbill Festival, initiated in 2000, is Nagaland's premier cultural event, showcasing the heritage of its 17 Naga tribes.
- **Held from 1st December to 10th December, it coincides with Nagaland Statehood Day(1st December)**.
- **Cultural Celebration:** Hornbill Festival serves as a platform for the Naga tribes to display their rich traditions through performances, dances, and exhibitions.
- Warriors, dressed in full ceremonial attire, perform traditional dances and war cries that narrate stories of victories, harvests, love, and tribal legends.
- It serves as the state's largest tourist event, attracting over 1.5 lakh visitors in 2023, including international tourists.

Hornbill

- Hornbills are called “gardeners or farmers of the forest” for playing a key role in dispersing seeds of tropical trees.
- Hornbills are large, fruit-eating birds found along certain fleshy fruit trees.
- Great Hornbill is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The hornbills are found in tropical and subtropical Africa and Asia.
- **Threats:** Illegal logging, forest clearance, hunting for meat & medicinal value of body parts.
- India is home to nine species of hornbills. The northeastern region has the highest diversity of hornbill species within India.
- In India, they are found in the Western Ghats, the northeastern states and the Himalayas.



Conservation Status of Great Hornbill:

- IUCN: Vulnerable
- WPA, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES: Appendix I

Other species are:

- **Indian Grey Hornbill (Least Concern)**
- **Malabar Grey Hornbill** (Vulnerable)
- Malabar Pied Hornbill (Near Threatened)
- **Great Hornbill (Vulnerable):** Also in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Narcondam Hornbill (Vulnerable) is found only in the Narcondam Island of Andaman Sea.
- Rufous-necked Hornbill (Vulnerable)
- Wreathed-Hornbill (Vulnerable)
- White-throated Hornbill (Near Threatened) and
- Oriental Pied Hornbill (Least Concern)

About Nagaland

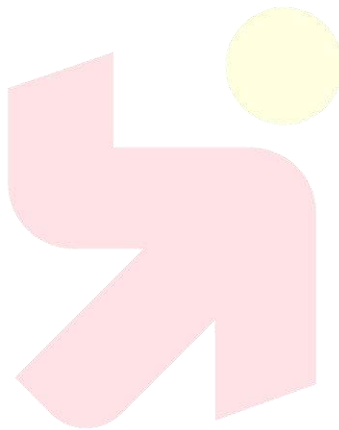
- It became the 16th state of India in 1963.
- **Capital:** Kohima
- Official Language: English
- **Borders:** Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Myanmar.
- **Major Tribes:** Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Chang, Konyak, Lotha, Phom, Pochury, Rengma, Sangtam, Sumi, Yimkhiong, Zeme-Liangmai (Zeliang), Khiamnungan, Kuki, Kachari.
- **Major River:** The Doyang River is one of the major rivers in Nagaland. It is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River and is important to the state's agriculture and water supply.
- **Flora and Fauna:** Nagaland is part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, known for its rich biodiversity and dense forests. The Dzukou Valley is often called the "Valley of Flowers,".
- **GI Tags:** Naga Mircha (King Chilli), Naga Tree Tomato, Chakshesang Shawl and Naga cucumber.

Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Great Indian Hornbill' in its natural habitat? (2016)

- Sand deserts of northwest India
- Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir

- c) Salt marshes of western Gujarat
- d) Western Ghats



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PRAYAAS Shorts- UPSC & MPSC

1.Kashi Tamil Sangam

Context:

- The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, delivered a special video message on the occasion of the fourth edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, celebrating the enduring cultural bond between Kashi and Tamil Nadu.

Link for reference: [Press Release: Press Information Bureau](#)

What is Kashi Tamil Sangam?

- Kashi Tamil Sangma is a government-sponsored cultural and educational exchange initiative intended to rekindle and celebrate the **ancient bonds between the city of Varanasi (Kashi) and Tamil Nadu** — highlighting shared spiritual, cultural, and civilisational heritage.
- Prime Minister of India **It was launched in 2022**. The first edition ran from November to December 2022.
- Objective:** to “rediscover, reaffirm and celebrate” age-old links between Kashi (an ancient north-Indian seat of spirituality and learning) and Tamil Nadu (with ancient traditions of Tamil language, literature, and spiritual practices).
- The programme brings together students, teachers, artisans, professionals, writers, media persons, women, spiritual practitioners a wide, cross-section of society from Tamil Nadu to Kashi.

2.Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Context:

- All the applications enrolled in NCIP are subjected to Quality Check and Validation to ensure compliance with the provisions of Operational Guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana such as having Insurable Interest in the crop being insured.

Objective of PMFBY:

- Provide affordable and comprehensive crop insurance**
- Stabilise farmers' income**
- Encourage farmers to continue farming**
- Promote adoption of modern agricultural practices**
- Ensure easy flow of agricultural credit**

Features of PMFBY:

- Low Premium Rates for Farmers:** Farmers pay only a small premium: 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi crops, 5% for commercial and horticultural crops. The remaining premium is paid by the government.
- Coverage Against All Major Natural Risks:** Covers crop loss due to: Natural calamities (flood, drought, cyclone, hailstorm, landslide), **Pests and diseases, Unseasonal or heavy rainfall, and dry spells.**
- Wide Coverage Throughout Crop Cycle:** Pre-sowing to post-harvest risks is covered. Also includes localized calamities like hailstorm, landslide, inundation, cloudburst.
- Faster and Direct Claim Settlement:** Claims are transferred directly to farmers' bank accounts (DBT – Direct Benefit Transfer). Technology-based assessment helps reduce delays.
- Voluntary Enrolment:** From 2020 onward, the scheme is voluntary for all farmers. Earlier it was mandatory for loanee farmers.
- Uniform Premium Across States:** Same premium rates across India; no state-specific changes.

3. Climate resilient Agriculture

Context:

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing a project- National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), that studies the impact of climate change on agriculture, conducts district level risk and vulnerability assessment of agriculture to future climate change.

About:

- It refers to farming systems designed to **withstand and adapt to the effects of climate change**.
- Helps farmers cope with droughts, floods, heatwaves, irregular rainfall, and new pest/disease outbreaks.
- Aims to maintain stable crop yields and farmer incomes** despite climate-related stresses.
- Focuses on adaptation, such as drought-tolerant seeds, improved irrigation, and soil conservation.
- Includes mitigation measures like reducing greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable practices.
- Encourages diversification of crops, livestock, and farming systems** for greater resilience.
- Promotes the use of technology such as weather forecasting, climate advisories, and smart farming tools.
- Strengthens the overall sustainability of agriculture to ensure long-term food security.

3.1 National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)

About:

- NICRA is a network-project of **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**. It was launched in February 2011 by the Government of India to address climate-related risks to agriculture.
- The project covers agriculture broadly including crops, livestock, fisheries and natural resource management with a view to making these sectors more resilient to climate change and climatic variability.

Objective:

- Enhance resilience of Indian agriculture (crops, livestock, fisheries) against climate variability and climate change.
- To develop and apply improved production and risk-management technologies that help farmers adapt under changing climatic conditions.
- To demonstrate site-specific technology packages i.e. practical, location-appropriate solutions on farmers' fields to deal with real climate risks.

3.2 Indian Council of Agriculture Research:

About:

- ICAR is the apex national organization for agricultural research, education, and extension in India.
- It functions under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.
- Established in 1929** as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it was renamed ICAR after independence.
- ICAR coordinates and manages research in agriculture, horticulture, animal sciences, fisheries, natural resources, and agricultural engineering across India.

Objective:

- To **promote, coordinate, and guide agricultural research and education in India**.
- To develop new technologies, crop varieties, livestock breeds, and innovations to improve agricultural productivity.
- To **ensure sustainable agriculture and address emerging challenges** such as climate change, pests, diseases, and resource depletion.
- To support the National Agricultural Education System through agricultural universities and research institutions.
- To provide research-based policy support to the government for agriculture and rural development.

4. Offer for sale

Context:

- The Government of India on 1st December 2025 announced its decision to divest up to 6.0% stake in Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), comprising 5% equity and an additional 1% as a green-shoe option

4.1 What is Offer for Sale:

- An Offer for Sale (OFS) is a mechanism by which **promoters of a company or the government sell their shares to the public** through the stock exchange.
- It is a simpler and **faster way to sell existing shares** compared to a traditional public issue.
- Quick and transparent way to sell shares.
- Reduces underwriting and regulatory complications of a fresh issue.
- Provides liquidity to existing shareholders.

4.2 Initial Public Offering V/s Offer of Sale:

Features	IPO	OFS
Shares	New shares issue	Existing shares
Purpose	Raise capital for company	Sale by promoters/government
Mode	Through regulators & underwriters	Through stock exchange

4.3 Green shoe-option

- A Green Shoe Option is a provision in an Initial Public Offering (IPO) or Follow-on Public Offering (FPO) that allows the issuer to issue additional shares (usually up to 15%) if the demand for the shares exceeds expectations.
- Named after the first company **"Green Shoe Manufacturing"** in the USA that used this option.
- Helps stabilize the stock price in the immediate days after listing.
- Allows the company to raise extra capital if the IPO is oversubscribed.
- Helps prevent volatility in share price post-listing.

5. TB MukT Abhiyaan:

Context:

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda sensitized the Members of Parliament from across party lines on the TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, at the Extended Parliament House Annexe (EPHA) Auditorium on 2nd Dec 2025.

About:

- TB MukT Bharat Abhiyaan is a mission-mode campaign launched by the Government of India aimed at eliminating tuberculosis (TB) in the country.
- It is part of the broader **National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)**, which replaced the earlier TB control programme and seeks to accelerate India's progress toward becoming "TB-free."
- The scheme was officially launched on 9 September 2022 by the President of India.
- As an intensified drive, a **100-day "TB MukT Bharat Abhiyaan"** campaign was launched on 7 December 2024, covering 347 priority districts across 33 States/UTs.

6. PM E-DRIVE scheme:

Context:

- The scheme has been extended till 31.03.2028 for e-Ambulances including other segments but for e-2Ws and e-3Ws terminal date remains 31.03.2026.

About:

- PM E-DRIVE is a centrally-sponsored scheme by the Government of India under the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), aimed at accelerating the adoption of electric mobility in the country.

- It replaces the earlier subsidy scheme for electric vehicles (under FAME India scheme, whose second phase ended in March 2024).
- The scheme was **approved by the Union Cabinet in late 2024**.
- It formally came into effect on 1 October 2024.
- Initially slated to run until 31 March 2026.

Objective:

- To promote and accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) across India.
- To build and expand the EV ecosystem.
- To reduce environmental pollution, fossil-fuel dependence, and improve air quality.
- To support mass public transport and sustainable mobility.

7. Jio Parsi Scheme:

Context:

- Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA), Government of India, to promote and amplify the Jio Parsi Scheme a flagship initiative aimed at supporting the Parsi community in increasing its population through assisted childbirth and family welfare interventions.

About:

- Jio Parsi is a central-sector scheme launched by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India**.
- It targets the Parsi community (Zoroastrian Parsis) in India.
- The scheme was **launched in 2013-14**.
- In 2024, the government launched an official online portal for the scheme allowing eligible Parsi couples to apply, track status and receive benefits through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Objective:

- **To arrest the population-decline of the Parsi community** in India by adopting a “scientific protocol and structured interventions.” The aim is to stabilise and increase the Parsi population through support measures.

8. Groundwater contamination through Uranium:

Context:

- 13-15% of Delhi's groundwater samples contaminated with uranium, CGWB report finds which published on 28th Nov 2025.

About:

- The Annual **Ground Water Quality Report 2025**, which was made public on Friday, has indicated that 13 to 15 per cent of the total collected water samples have uranium contamination.
- Released under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Central Ground Water Board's (CGWB)** report is based on around 15,000 samples collected across India in 2024.

8.1 Uranium Contamination:

- Uranium contamination refers to the **presence of uranium in groundwater**, soil, or food at levels higher than the permissible limits, posing a risk to human health and the environment.
- Uranium is a **naturally occurring radioactive metal, but contamination occurs due to natural leaching, mining, industrial activities, or nuclear waste disposal**.

8.2 Sources of Uranium Contamination:

- **Natural Sources**
 - Leaching from uranium-rich rocks and soils into groundwater.
 - Found in some regions of India such as Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Jharkhand.
- **Anthropogenic (Human-Made) Sources**
 - Uranium mining and processing.

- Nuclear power plants and improper disposal of radioactive waste.
- Use of phosphate fertilizers in agriculture (may contain uranium).

As per BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) and WHO, the permissible uranium concentration in drinking water is 60 µg/L (micrograms per litre).

9. GDP Outlook Q2 data:

Context:

- India's Q2 GDP growth beats expectations again, rises 8.2% on manufacturing, financial services uptick

About:

- India Q2 GDP Growth Data July-September 2025: Strong consumer spending after GST cut spurs growth in face of global uncertainties.
- In a briefing after the data was released, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said GDP growth for 2025-26 as a whole will now be at least 7 per cent. This is an upward revision from his previous forecast of 6.3-6.8 per cent.
- As per the data released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** on November 28, exports of goods and services in **July-September were 11 per cent higher** on a year-on-year basis without adjusting for inflation – or in nominal terms.

10. Cyclone-Ditwah:

Context:

- Cyclone Ditwah has caused catastrophic flooding and landslides in Sri Lanka, resulting in at least 153 fatalities and displacing over 774,000 people across the island.

About:

- Cyclone Ditwah is a tropical cyclone of the 2025 North Indian Ocean cyclone season.
- It originated from a low-pressure area over the southwest Bay of Bengal / adjoining coast near Sri Lanka. On 26 November 2025 the system was first tracked, intensifying over the next day into a **"Cyclonic Storm"** named "Ditwah".

10.1 Tropical Cyclone

- A tropical cyclone is a **low-pressure system over tropical oceans with strong winds and heavy rain**, forming near the equator (5°–20° latitude).
- Powered mainly **by latent heat from warm ocean water**.

Characteristics:

- Circular structure with well-defined eye at the centre.
- Winds speed varies; classified as **tropical depression, tropical storm, or hurricane**/typhoon/cyclone depending on intensity.
- Moves westward due to trade winds and can curve poleward due to Coriolis force.

Local Names:

- **Hurricane:** Atlantic and Northeast Pacific
- **Typhoon:** Northwest Pacific
- **Cyclone:** Indian Ocean and South Pacific

Method of Nomenclature:

- Names are assigned by regional meteorological agencies from predetermined lists.
- Names are alphabetical, short, and culturally relevant, alternating male/female in some regions.
- If a cyclone is particularly destructive, its name may be retired.

10.2 Temperate Cyclone (Extratropical Cyclone)

- A temperate cyclone is a low-pressure system that forms in mid-latitudes (30°–60°), associated with fronts (cold and warm fronts).
- Energy comes from **temperature contrasts between air masses rather than ocean heat**.

Characteristics:

- Large in size (up to 1,000 km).
- Associated with rain, snow, and strong winds.
- Has a warm sector and cold/warm fronts; lacks a well-defined eye.
- Moves generally west to east in the mid-latitudes.

Local Names:

- Often called extratropical cyclones or depressions; in the USA, some are called nor'easters.
- Named less commonly than tropical cyclones; sometimes storms are named by national weather agencies for warnings.

Method of Nomenclature:

- No universal naming system; names may be assigned by national meteorological agencies for tracking severe storms.
- **Examples:** Storms named in Europe (Storm Ciara, Storm Eunice).

11. Samudrayaan:

Context:

- Delay in getting syntactic foam from France hits India's Samudrayaan mission. India plans to send a manned submersible 6,000 metres into the ocean to explore its floor, the mission is crucial to future explorations; a syntactic foam cladding will give the submersible buoyancy and help it float

About:

- It is India's first manned mission to explore the deep ocean.
- It is aimed to develop a self-propelled manned submersible to carry three human beings to a water depth of 6,000 meters in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors and tools for deep ocean exploration.
- It is designed to study the deep ocean resources and conduct biodiversity assessments as well.
- The mission will not disturb the ecosystem as the submersible is used solely for exploration purposes.
- The project is part of the larger Deep Ocean Mission, which supports the Central Government's Blue Economy policy.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

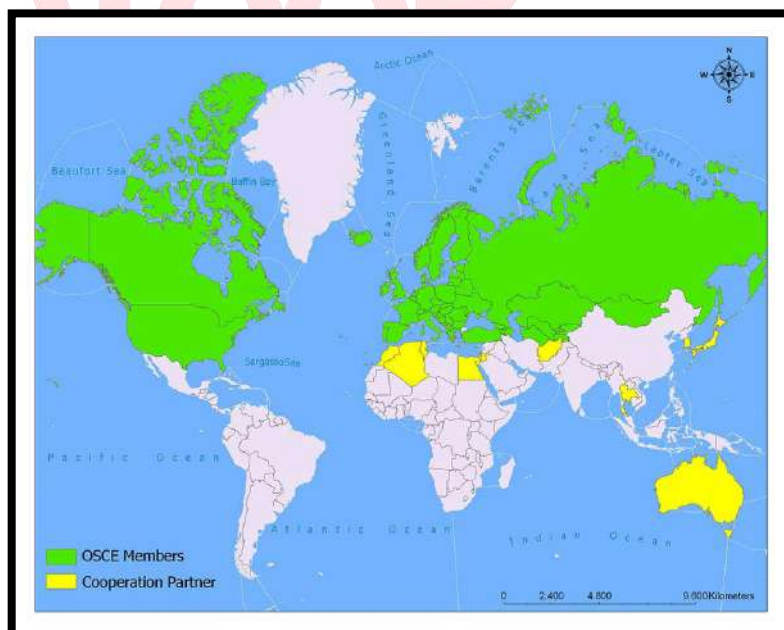
1. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Context

- Ukraine recently told the OSCE that it seeks "real peace, not appeasement" in its ongoing conflict with Russia.

About OSCE

- World's largest regional security organization.
- Secretariat located in Vienna, Austria.
- Has 57 participating states across Europe, North America and Asia.
- India is not a member of OSCE.
- All participating states have equal status in decision-making.
- Decisions are taken by consensus, requiring full agreement of all states.
- **Key bodies include:**
 - OSCE Summit (highest-level decision forum)



- Ministerial Council (annual policy-setting)
- Permanent Council (regular political and operational discussions)
- Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) which deals with politico-military security issues.

12. DHRUVA

Context

- The Department of Posts recently proposed DHRUVA to create a digital addressing system and enable “Address as a Service” (AaaS) in India.

About DHRUVA

- Stands for Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address.
- Designed as an interoperable, standardised, user-friendly digital addressing system.
- Aims to replace traditional textual addresses with UPI-like digital address labels (e.g., name@entity) acting as proxies for actual physical addresses.
- Allows users to share a simple digital address label, while authorised entities can retrieve complete address details and geocoordinates with user consent.
- Built on a foundational layer called DIGIPIN, a geo-coded identifier generated using latitude-longitude data.

12.1 Address as a Service” (AaaS)

- AaaS is a digital addressing system that converts any physical location into a unique, geocoded digital address.
- Enables accurate navigation and last-mile delivery, especially where traditional addresses are unclear.
- Works through **API-based geospatial services** used by logistics, e-commerce, and emergency response systems.
- Indian examples include **MapmyIndia eLoc and Google Plus Codes**, supporting Digital India and smart governance.
- It supplements, not replaces, conventional postal PIN codes.

13. Large Exposures Framework (LEF) Limits

Context

- The Reserve Bank of India recently tightened norms for foreign banks’ exposure to their overseas branches under the Large Exposures Framework (LEF).

About Large Exposures Framework (LEF)

- A prudential regulation designed **to prevent concentration risk** in the banking system.
- Limits how much a bank can lend or be exposed to any single borrower or a group of connected borrowers.
- Helps ensure that failure of one major borrower does not threaten a bank’s stability.
- A “large exposure” refers to any exposure that is 10% or more of a bank’s eligible capital base.
- The framework aligns with **Basel Committee guidelines** to ensure global consistency in risk management.
- Key objective is to promote sound credit discipline, diversify loan portfolios, and safeguard banking operations.

14. Goldilocks Economy

Context

- The RBI recently cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25%, indicating that the Indian economy may be entering a Goldilocks phase.

About Goldilocks Economy

- Refers to an ideal economic condition where growth is strong, inflation remains low, and employment levels are high.
- The term signifies an economy that is “just right”—neither overheating nor slipping toward recession.
- Typically features:**
 - Steady GDP growth without excessive demand pressures.
 - Low and stable inflation, allowing monetary policy flexibility.
 - Full or near-full employment, supporting consumption.
- Current indicators suggest such conditions, with projected GDP growth of 7.3% and inflation around 2%, reflecting a Goldilocks-like environment.

15. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

Context

- The DGCA recently relaxed **Flight Duty Time Limit (FDTL)** regulations for IndiGo to address widespread flight cancellations caused by pilot shortages.

About DGCA

- Acts as India's chief aviation regulatory authority overseeing civil aviation safety and standards.
- Regulates air transport services operating to, from, and within India.
- Enforces civil air regulations, airworthiness standards, and monitors operational and maintenance practices of airlines.
- Headquarters located in New Delhi.
- Functions as an attached office under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Coordinates with the **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)** for global aviation norms, compliance, and technical collaboration.
- Also responsible for licensing pilots, certifying aircraft, issuing safety guidelines, and investigating aviation incidents.

16. UNSC Resolution 2803

Context

- The UN Security Council recently adopted Resolution 2803, endorsing a US-backed Comprehensive Plan to end the Gaza conflict.

About Resolution 2803

- Establishes a **Board of Peace (BoP)** as a temporary governance mechanism **to oversee Gaza's reconstruction and redevelopment** until the Palestinian Authority carries out required institutional reforms.
- Calls for resumption of humanitarian aid to Gaza with safeguards to prevent misuse, ensure transparency, and guarantee that assistance is used solely for civilian and peaceful purposes.
- Authorizes an International Stabilization Force (ISF) to operate temporarily in Gaza to maintain security and support demilitarization efforts.

17. Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFÉ) Norms

Context

- India's proposed CAFÉ III norms were recently criticised by global agencies for being either too stringent or misaligned with global transition pathways.

About CAFÉ Norms

- Introduced in 2017 under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.
- Implemented in two phases:
 - Phase I:** 2017–18
 - Phase II:** 2022–23
- Aim to reduce overall fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions from passenger vehicles, thereby cutting oil dependence and improving air quality.
- Applicable to passenger vehicles powered by petrol, diesel, LPG, CNG, hybrid systems, and electric drivetrains, with gross vehicle weight (GVW) below 3500 kg.
- Encourage automobile manufacturers to improve fuel efficiency through technological upgrades, lightweight materials, engine optimisation, and electrification.
- India's forthcoming CAFÉ III norms are expected to push stricter compliance toward low-emission mobility.

18. Myeloma

Context

- A new antibody therapy targeting immune and cancer cells has recently shown promise in eliminating residual traces of multiple myeloma.

About Myeloma

- A form of blood cancer that affects plasma cells a type of white blood cell responsible for producing antibodies in the bone marrow.
- Abnormal plasma cells multiply uncontrollably, crowding out healthy cells and impairing the immune system.
- Common symptoms include:**
 - Bone pain (especially in spine, ribs, hips)
 - Fatigue and weakness due to anemia
 - Frequent infections from reduced immunity
 - Nausea, constipation, weight loss
- Increased urination and confusion due to high calcium levels

19. Blue Notice

Context

- The CBI is recently coordinating with Interpol to fast-track the issuance of Blue Notices against certain accused individuals to restrict their movement across jurisdictions.

About Blue Notice

- Issued by Interpol to gather additional information on a person's identity, location, or activities.
- Helps member countries track suspects, witnesses, or individuals of interest who are not yet formally charged or wanted.
- Other Important Interpol Notices**
 - Red Notice:** Requests member countries to locate and arrest wanted persons for prosecution or to serve a criminal sentence.

- **Yellow Notice:** Used to help find missing persons, especially minors, or identify individuals who cannot identify themselves.
- **Orange Notice:** Alerts countries about serious, imminent threats posed by dangerous persons, weapons, explosives, or hazardous materials.
- **Green Notice:** Provides warnings about a person's criminal activities when they pose a potential threat to public safety.

20. Global Environment Outlook (GEO)

Context

- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) recently released the 7th edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report, titled "A Future We Choose."

Key Highlights

- Global greenhouse gas emissions have been rising at an average rate of 1.5% per year since 1990.
- Around nine million deaths every year are linked to some form of pollution, making it one of the largest environmental health risks.
- At current trends, land degradation could lead to the loss of fertile land equivalent to the size of Colombia or Ethiopia annually, threatening food security and ecosystems.
- The report warns that without rapid mitigation, global environmental decline will accelerate, affecting climate stability, biodiversity, and human well-being.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the global environmental authority established in 1972 after the Stockholm Conference.
- Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, it coordinates the UN's environmental activities.
- Leads major global assessments like GEO (Global Environment Outlook) and sets agendas on climate, pollution, and biodiversity.
- Serves as the secretariat for key treaties such as Minamata Convention, Montreal Protocol, and CITES.
- Works through campaigns like Beat Plastic Pollution and supports countries in sustainable development policymaking.

PRAYAAS

PRAYAAS Shorts- MPSC Specific

1. Military Exercise ECUVERIN

Context:

- The 14th edition of the Joint Military Exercise ECUVERIN between the **Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)** has commenced at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 2nd Dec 2025.

About:

- ECUVERIN in Dhivehi translates to 'Friends'**, underscoring the deep-rooted bonds of friendship, mutual trust and military cooperation between the two nations.
- Conducted alternately in both countries since 2009, Exercise ECUVERIN continues to be a **shining example of India's Neighbourhood First Policy** and its commitment to building enduring defence partnerships with friendly nations.
- The two-week-long exercise aims to enhance interoperability and operational synergy in Counterinsurgency and Counter-Terrorism operations across jungle, semi-urban and coastal terrain.
- It will witness participation of troops from both sides sharing best practices, tactical drills and joint operational planning to strengthen their capability to respond to common security challenges in the region.

Other exercise with Maldives:

- Exercise Ekatha:** It is a joint naval exercise between **the navy of India and the navy of Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Naval Wing**.
- Exercise Dosti:** It is a multilateral coast guard exercise involving **Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Coast Guard, and Sri Lanka Coast Guard**.

2. Operation Sagar Bandhu

Context:

- In response to the impact of **Cyclonic Storm Ditwah in Sri Lanka**, the **Indian Navy** has undertaken comprehensive Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations under Operation Sagar Bandhu.

About:

- Indian Navy's swift response once again underscores its role as the First Responder in Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- It also reaffirms India's unwavering commitment to support partner nations in times of need, in line with the Government of **India's MAHASAGAR vision and Neighbourhood First policy**.
- Provide immediate humanitarian assistance: deliver essential relief supplies food, water, medicines, emergency shelters, tarpaulins/blankets, hygiene kits, and other essentials to affected communities.

3. 20th Session of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee

- India will host the 20th session of the Inter-governmental **Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage** at the Red Fort, New Delhi.
- The meeting, scheduled for 8-13 December 2025, is a major platform for global cultural diplomacy and will be coordinated by India's Ministry of Culture.

1.1 Deepavali inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

- The inscription was approved at the 20th ICH Committee meeting in Botswana, based on a nomination by India's Ministry of Culture.
- With this addition, India now has 16 elements on the Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

4. Earth Summit 2025 – Gandhinagar

- The Union Home and Cooperation Minister recently inaugurated the Earth Summit 2025 in Gandhinagar, launching digital services under '**Sahakar Sarathi**' to modernise rural cooperative banking.
- The initiatives aim to strengthen agriculture, animal husbandry, and cooperatives, boosting the cooperative sector's contribution to India's GDP.

5. Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) – 27th Navratna Company

- Numaligarh Refinery Limited has been granted Navratna status as India's 27th Navratna company on 1 December 2025, announced by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri.
- NRL is a subsidiary of Oil India Limited (OIL), headquartered in Numaligarh, Assam; established on 22 April 1993, and awarded Miniratna status in 2009.

6. India's New Base Year for National Accounts – 2022–23

- The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on 3 December 2025 that India will update its national accounts base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23.
- The base year is used to measure key economic indicators such as GDP, GNP, and NNP, ensuring that calculations reflect current economic realities.

7. First FIFA Peace Prize – Donald Trump

- FIFA announced on 5 November 2025 that Donald Trump will receive the first-ever FIFA Peace Prize.
- The award will be presented on 5 December 2025 during the group draw ceremony of the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States.
- The prize honours individuals who make extraordinary and exceptional contributions to global peace.

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