



ONLYIAS
BY **PHYSICS WALLAH**

UDAAN 500⁺

PRELIMS WALLAH (CURRENT)

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMS EXAMINATION 2025

(January 2024 to December 2024)

INDIAN POLITY

500 DAYS CURRENT AFFAIRS REVISION BOOKLET

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Constitutional Developments

INTERNAL EMERGENCY

Context: 2024 marks the beginning of the **50th year** since the imposition of **Emergency** on June 25, 1975.

About Emergency

- **Constitutional Provisions:** Emergency provisions are outlined in **Part XVIII** of the Constitution, from **Articles 352 to 360**.
- **Article 352:** National Emergency (War, External Aggression, or Armed Rebellion).
- **Article 356:** President's Rule (Failure of Constitutional Machinery in States).
- **Article 360:** Financial Emergency.
- **Article 365:** President's Rule (Failure to Comply with, or to give effect to directions given by the Union).
- **National Emergency** has been proclaimed three times so far—in **1962, 1971 (External Aggression)** and **1975 (Internal Disturbance)**.

Types of Emergency

Parameter	National Emergency	President's Rule	Financial Emergency
Relevant Article	Article 352	Article 356	Article 360
Proclaimed By	President of India based on a written recommendation of the Cabinet.	President of India on receipt of a report from the Governor of a State or otherwise.	President of India.
Grounds for Proclamation	War, External Aggression, Armed Rebellion (earlier termed as internal disturbance)	Failure of the constitutional machinery in a state.	Threat to the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory.
Approval by Parliament	Must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within one month by a special majority.	Must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months by a simple majority.	Must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months by a simple majority.
Maximum Duration	Indefinitely, subject to Parliamentary approval every six months.	Maximum of three years, subject to parliamentary approval every six months.	Once approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency continues indefinitely till it is revoked.
Revocation	Can be revoked by the President at any time. President must revoke a proclamation if the Lok Sabha passes a resolution disapproving its continuation. (simple majority) Again, this safeguard was introduced by the 44 th Amendment Act of 1978.	Can be revoked by the President at any time. Such a proclamation does not require the parliamentary approval	Can be revoked by the President at any time. Such a proclamation does not require the parliamentary approval
Judicial Review	The proclamation is subject to judicial review, especially on whether the grounds are valid.	Judicial review can challenge the validity of the imposition based on "constitutional machinery failure."	Judicial review applies to ensure the proclamation is based on valid grounds.
Historical Usage	Declared three times : 1962 (Indo-China War), 1971 (Indo-Pak War), and 1975 (Internal Emergency).	Frequently imposed , especially during the 1970s and 1980s. For instance, imposed in Punjab (1987–1992).	Never imposed in India so far.

ELECTORAL BOND SCHEME

Context: The Supreme Court held the Electoral Bond Scheme as Unconstitutional.

About Electoral Bond Scheme

- It was introduced by way of a **Finance Bill** and was implemented in **2018** under the **Finance Act, 2017**.
- Nature:** Electoral Bonds were **bearer instruments** in the nature of **promissory notes** and interest-free banking instruments.
- A citizen of India or a body incorporated in India was eligible to purchase these bonds.
- Value:** Electoral Bonds could be purchased for **any value**, in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1,00,000, ₹10,00,000, and ₹1,00,00,000 from **specified branches** of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**.
- The Electoral Bonds could only be **encashed** by an **eligible political party** through a **designated bank account** with an authorized bank.
- These bonds have a **validity period** of only **15 days**, during which they could be used for making donations to political

parties registered under **Section 29A** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**.

- The party had secured **not less than one per cent** of the votes polled in the last general election to the Lok Sabha or a Vidhan Sabha.

SECULARISM

Context: The Supreme Court emphasized that **Secularism** is a fundamental and unchangeable part of India's Constitution's **Basic Structure**.

About Secularism

- The Indian Constitution upholds **religious freedom** and ensures the **separation of religion from the State**, embodying the principle of secularism.
- Notable Cases:**
 - Kesavananda Bharati Vs State of Kerala (1973):** Preamble is **integral** to the Constitution, subject to amendments that don't alter the basic structure.
 - S.R. Bommai Vs Union of India (1994):** Supreme Court elaborated on the **meaning of secularism** and said that secularism means **equal treatment of all religions**.

Difference between the Western and Indian Secularism

Western Secularism	Indian Secularism
Negative concept of Secularism, advocates a strict separation of religion from the state, ensuring no interference or association.	Positive concept of secularism, advocates equal respect and active engagement with all religions to ensure harmony
State cannot give financial support to educational institutions run by religious communities	The Indian Constitution permits partial financial support for religious schools by the state.
Mutual exclusion of state and religion , i.e. non-interference in affairs of each other.	Principled distance of state from religion , i.e. state can interfere or engage with religion.
No public policy can solely be based on religion , as religion is completely a private matter.	The government frequently frames policies having a religious basis . Example: Constitution of Waqf Boards etc

Knowledge Nugget

- The terms **Socialist**, **Secular** and **Integrity** were added to the **Preamble** through the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**.
- Socialist:** It aims to emphasize socialism as the Indian state's goal. **Socialism** in India refers to a **welfare state** promoting equality of opportunity, while allowing the private sector to thrive.
- Secular:** Secularism in India means the state does not favor or penalize any religion and guarantees equal treatment for all religions.

Constitutional Provisions

- Articles 14, 15, and 16** prohibit discrimination on religious grounds, ensuring equal protection of laws and equal opportunity in Educational Institutions and Public Employment.
- The right to private entrepreneurship and business is guaranteed as a fundamental right under **Article 19(1)(g)**, without restriction.
- Articles 25-28** guarantee the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate the religion of one's choice.
- Article 44** allows the government to work towards a Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY (AMU) MINORITY TAG

Context: A seven-judge Supreme Court Bench established a holistic and realistic test to determine the minority status of educational institutions under **Article 30**.

More on News

- The petitioners had challenged the **five-judge Bench** judgement in the **1967 case of S. Azeez Basha v Union of India**, which had held that AMU was a Central university and cannot be considered a minority institution.
- The Supreme Court has overruled its 1967 Azeez Basha ruling and stated that an institution's establishment by statute does not negate its minority status.
- The final determination on AMU's minority status is deferred to a separate Bench.

About Minority Educational Institutions (MEI)

- "Minority Educational Institution" means a college or an educational institution established and administered by a minority or minorities.
- **Article 30(1)** provides for all linguistic and religious minorities a fundamental right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (**NCMEI Act, 2004**) has been enacted to safeguard the educational rights of the minorities enshrined in Article 30(1) of the Constitution.
 - NCMEI is a **quasi-judicial body** with the powers of a **Civil Court** to decide questions relating to the status of any institution as an MEI.
- **Protections for Minority Educational Institutions (MEIs):**
 - **Exemptions under Article 15(5):** MEIs are exempt from providing reservations for SCs and STs.
 - **Administration Rights:** Minority status also allows educational institutions to exercise greater control over their day-to-day administration from student admissions (they can reserve up to 50% seats for minority students) to the hiring of teaching and non-teaching staff.

About Minority

- The term "**Minority**" is not defined in the Indian Constitution.
- However, the Constitution recognises **religious and linguistic minorities**.
- The Central Government has **notified six religious minority communities viz. Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain** (added in 2014).
- **Linguistic minorities:** Groups residing in India whose mother tongue differs from the principal language of the state or region. This definition applies at the state, district, and taluka/tehsil levels.

- States Reorganisation Commission (SRC, 1956) identified the need to address grievances of linguistic minorities. This led to the **7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956**, introducing **Articles 350-A and 350-B**, thereby establishing the office of the **Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM)** in 1957.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Article 350-A:** Obligates states to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education for children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
 - **Article 350-B:** Mandates the appointment of a Special Officer, known as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, by the President of India to investigate matters related to the safeguards of linguistic minorities and report to the President.
- The CLM is a **constitutional authority** in India dedicated to safeguarding the rights of linguistic minorities. It operates under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Regional Offices:** **Belgaum**, Karnataka; **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu; **Kolkata**, West Bengal. Each regional office is headed by an **Assistant Commissioner**.

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY (AMU)



1877

Syed Ahmad Khan establishes Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College to uplift Muslims.

1950

AMU declared an institution of national importance (INI) by Parliament, under Entry 63 of the Union List, which allows the Union government to grant INI status to leading educational institutions.

1981

AMU Act amended to state that AMU was established by Muslims to promote cultural and educational advancement for Muslims.

2006

Allahabad High Court invalidates the 1981 amendment and AMU's 50% reservation, citing the Azeez Basha ruling. AMU appeals to the Supreme Court.

TIMELINE AND KEY LEGAL MILESTONES



1920

MAO College is reconstituted as Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) by an Act of Parliament.

1967

S. Azeez Basha v Union of India – Supreme Court rules that AMU is not a minority institution, as it was established by an Act of the legislature, not by the Muslim community, disqualifying it under Article 30.

2005

AMU reserves 50% of postgraduate medical seats for Muslim students.

2019

Supreme Court refers the case to a seven-judge Bench for reconsideration.

Knowledge Nugget

About National Commission for Minorities

- **Origin:** Commission was envisaged by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** in **1978**. (Currently, Ministry of Minority Affairs)
- With the enactment of the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, the Commission became a **statutory body**.
- The **first Commission** with statutory status was set up in **1993**.
- **Composition:** Chairman, Vice Chairman and 5 other members. Members are nominated by the Central Government.
- **Tenure:** 3 years

VETO POWER OF THE PRESIDENT

Context: The **Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, which aimed to designate the Punjab Chief Minister as the Chancellor of State Universities, has been returned by the President without assent.

About Reservation of State Bills

- As per **Article 200**, a bill passed by a State Legislature must be presented to the Governor. The Governor can either give assent to the Bill, withhold assent, or reserve it for the **President's decision**.
- If the **Governor returns** a bill to the legislature, House or Houses shall reconsider the Bill accordingly, and if the Bill is passed again by the House or Houses with or without amendment and presented to the Governor for assent, the **Governor** shall not withhold assent.
- In cases where a bill is **reserved for the President**, if the **President sends a bill back** to the state legislature for reconsideration, the legislature must **review it within six months** and send it back to the President. However, the **President** is not obligated to approve the reconsidered bill.

Knowledge Nugget

Veto Powers of President

- Veto Power of the President of India is guided by **Article 111** of the Indian Constitution.
- The types of vetoes available to President of India:
 - **Absolute Veto:** The power of the President to **withhold the assent** to the bill is termed as his absolute veto.
 - **Suspensive Veto:** The power of the President to **return the bill** to the Parliament with or without consideration is called suspensive veto.
 - **Pocket Veto:** The power of the President to **not act upon the bill** is termed as a pocket veto.

- **Qualified Veto:** It allows the veto power of the President to be **overridden** by the legislature with a higher majority. The President of India does **not have a Qualified Veto**, whereas the President of the United States has the power of a Qualified Veto.

ANGLO-INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Context: The Anglo-Indian community in India calls to reinstate reserved seats for Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

About Anglo-Indian Community

- The community originated from an **official policy** of the **British East India Company**, which promoted marriages between its officers and local women.
- The term “Anglo-Indian” first appeared in the **Government of India Act, 1935**.
- **Article 366 (2)** of the Constitution of India defines an Anglo-Indian as:
 - A person whose **father** or **male ancestors** are of **European descent**.
 - Domiciled within **Indian territory**, born to parents habitually resident in India (not temporarily present).
- **Constitutional Provisions for Anglo-Indian Reservation:**
 - **Article 331:** Permits the President to nominate **2 Anglo-Indians** to the **Lok Sabha** if the community lacks adequate representation.
 - **Article 333:** Allows a **State Governor** to nominate **1 Anglo-Indian** to the **State Assembly** if the community is underrepresented.
 - **National Commission for SCs (Article 338):** Examines constitutional and legal safeguards for Anglo-Indians, reporting their effectiveness to the President.
- **Historical Context of Anglo-Indian Reservation:**
 - **Constituent Assembly Intent:** Initially, the Constituent Assembly envisioned a 10-year reservation for SCs/STs starting in 1950.
 - **Amendments to Article 334:** This article, which set timelines for SC/ST and Anglo-Indian reservations, was repeatedly amended to extend deadlines, starting with the **8th Constitutional Amendment Act (1959)** and ending with the **104th Constitutional Amendment Act (2019)**.
 - **104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019:** It **ended** Anglo-Indian reservations and set 2030 as the final year for SC/ST reservations in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, concluding an 80-year period since 1950.



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ART AND CULTURE



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KATEEL YAKSHAGANA MELA

Context: Karnataka High Court permitted the Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali, an over-a-century-old Yakshagana mela in Dakshina Kannada, to resume its all-night performances.

More on news:

- The Court's decision mandates adherence to the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, ensuring compliance with noise control regulations during the shows.

About Yakshagana (Song of Yaksha)

- Origin:** The **Kateel Yakshagana Mela** is a traditional **Yakshagana troupe** and festival in the town of **Kateel, Karnataka** tracing back to the **11th to 16th CE**, it includes stories from **Hindu epics** like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.
- Each troupe comprises **15 to 20 actors** and a **Bhagavatha**, who is the master of ceremonies and main storyteller. The Yakshagana troupes are known as '**melas**'.
- Parthi Subba** is considered the **father of Yakshagana**. He composed around **18 Yakshagana prasangas (the text of verses)**.
- Forms:** Two major forms include, the **Moodalopaya Form**, commonly performed in the **eastern region** and the **Puduvlopaya Form**, more common in the **western region**.
- Performed by:** Traditionally **performed by men** in all roles, these troupes now also include women.
- Musical Instruments:** Chande (drums), Taala (mini metal clappers), Flute, Harmonium and Maddale.

JALLIKATTU

Context: The **Jallikattu** event featuring the **traditional bull-taming sport** was held in **Madurai**.

About Jallikattu

- Traditional Practice:** It is an age-old practice, wherein a bull is released into a crowd of people and participants of the event try to grab the large hump on the bull's back, attempting to bring the bull to stop.
- Historical References:** Jallikattu is known to have been practised during the **Tamil classical period (400–100 BCE)** among the **Ayar tribes** who lived in the '**Mullai**' geographical region of ancient **Tamil Nadu**.

- Location:** It is celebrated mostly in **Tamil Nadu** and **Sri Lanka** as part of **Pongal** celebrations on **Mattu Pongal day**, in January.
- Bull Breed:** **Pulikulam** or **Kangayam**.

CHITHIRAI FESTIVAL

Context: Thousands of devotees descended on the **Vaigai riverbed** in **Madurai** to witness the annual ritual of the **Chithirai festival**.

About Chithirai Festival:

- The Chithirai Festival falling at the beginning of April (**Tamil month Chithirai**) celebrates the celestial union of **Lord Sunderswara (Lord Shiva)** and **Goddess Meenakshi**, considered to be **Lord Vishnu's sister**.
- The festival commences by **hoisting a flag (Kodi Yetram)** at **Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple**. The '**kodimaram**' (**flag pole**) on which the flag is hoisted is decorated with beautiful flowers.

Meenakshi Temple of Madurai:

- Location:** Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple is a historic Hindu temple located on the **southern bank** of the **Vaigai River, Madurai** in **Tamil Nadu**.
- Presiding deity:** The temple is dedicated to **goddess Meenakshi**.

TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR FESTIVALS

Context: The President of India greeted fellow citizens on the eve of Chaitra Sukladi also popular as **Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand, Navreh** and **Sajibu Cheiraoba**.

More on News:

- These festivals are celebrated in different parts of the country and spread the message of peace, harmony and tolerance to welcome the spring season and **Indian New Year**.

Festival	Features
Chaitra Sukladi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It marks the beginning of the new year day according to the Hindu Calendar (Vikram Samvat) in parts of North India. It falls on the first day of the Chaitra month, the first month of the Hindu calendar.

Ugadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated by the peoples of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Maharashtra, marking the beginning of a new lunar year. It derives its name from the Sanskrit words “yuga” (age) and “adi” (beginning).
Gudi Padwa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Hindu festival that marks the beginning of the new year according to the lunisolar Hindu calendar. The word Gudi Padwa is made of two words - Gudi refers to the ‘flag’ (garlanded with flowers, mango, and neem leaves, topped with upturned silver or copper vessel) and padwa or padava or padavo comes from the Sanskrit word ‘Pratipada’ which refers to the first day of a lunar fortnight. It is celebrated in the states of Maharashtra, Goa, and parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
Cheti Chand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated as Jhulelal Jayanti by the Sindhi community to commemorate the birth anniversary of Uderolal/ Jhulelal, the patron saint of Sindhis. This marks the beginning of the Sindhi New Year. As per the Hindu calendar, it is primarily observed on the 2nd day of Chaitra Shukla Paksha. Chaitra month is called ‘Chet’ in Sindhi.
Navreh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navreh is derived from Nav-varsh of Sanskrit. It is the lunar new year that is celebrated in Kashmir. It falls on the first day of the Chaitra Navratri.
Sajibu Cheiraoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the Manipuri New Year festival of Meiteis (an ethnic group in Manipur) which is observed on the first day of Manipur lunar month Shajibu. The festival marks the beginning of a new agricultural cycle.
Vaisakhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaisakhi, also known as Baisakhi, is a vital sikh festival in Punjab. It marks the first day of the month of Vaisakh and celebrates the harvest season, cultural heritage, and Khalsa Panth formation by Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1699.
Vishu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vishu is a Hindu festival celebrated as the New Year Day in Kerala. On this day, people worship Lord Vishnu and his incarnation, Lord Krishna.

Bishub (Pohela Boishakh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is also known as Poila Boishakh and is celebrated marking the first day of the Bengali New Year. It is celebrated in West Bengal and Bangladesh.
Bahag Bihu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's Assam's harvest festival and also marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year. Bihu dance performances, feasting, and community gatherings are common during celebrations.
Puthandu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It marks the start of Tamil Nadu's New Year, celebrated as a festival by Tamil people worldwide, usually in mid-April. People make Kolam, intricate floor designs, cook a special dish called Mango Pachadi, and visit temples.

MAHAVIR JAYANTI

Context: Recently, the Vice-President of India greeted the people on the occasion of **Mahavir Jayanti (April 21st, 2024)**.

About Mahavir Jayanti


- Mahavir Jayanti, also known as **Mahavir Janma Kalyanak**, celebrates the birth anniversary of **Lord Mahavir**, the **24th** and the **last Thirthankara** of Jainism.

Contribution of Lord Mahavir

- Lord Mahavir**, renowned as a **teacher** who propagated Dharma in Jainism.
- Core teachings:** **Ahimsa** (non-violence), **Satya** (truth), **Asteya** (non-stealing), **Brahmacharya** (chastity), and **Aparigraha** (non-attachment), which later became the fundamental principles of Jainism.

ABOUT LORD MAHAVIR

- **BIRTH** Born as Vardhamana in 6th century BCE, Kundagrama, Bihar, India.
- **ROYAL RENUNCIATION** Renounced royal life at 30 for spiritual quest.
- **SPIRITUAL JOURNEY** After 12 years of meditation, attained omniscience (Kevala Jnana).
- **TEACHINGS** Preached non-violence (ahimsa) for 30 years across India.
- **FIRST SERMON** Delivered at Pava.
- **SYMBOL** Lion.
- **ENLIGHTENMENT** Attained Nirvana at 72 in Pavapuri, Bihar (468 B.C.).



About Jainism:

- Jainism came to prominence in the **6th century B.C.** The word '**Jain**' is derived from **Jina** or **Jaina** which means the '**Conqueror**'.
- **Tirthankaras:** Tirthankaras are revered spiritual teachers in Jainism who guide souls towards liberation. They are believed to have attained perfect knowledge and enlightenment (**Kaivalya**), showing the path to salvation.
- There are **24 Tirthankaras** in Jainism. The **first** Tirthankara is **Lord Rishabhanatha**, and the **24th** and final Tirthankara is **Lord Mahavira**, who is considered the most recent and the one who revitalised Jain teachings.
- **Concept of God:** Jainism believes in God (perfect being) but does not believe in God as a creator.
- **Three Jewels or Triratna:** **Right Faith** (Samyak Darshan), **Right Knowledge** (Samyak Jnana) and **Right Action** (Samyak Charitra).
- **Five Doctrines of Jainism:** **Ahimsa** (non-injury to living beings), **Satya** (do not speak a lie), **Asteya** (do not steal), **Aparigraha** (do not acquire property) and **Brahmacharya** (observe continence).
- **Major Sects:** There are **2 major sects** under Jainism.
- **Digambaras:**
 - Monks of this sect believe in complete nudity. Male monks do not wear clothes while female monks wear unstitched plain white sarees.
 - They follow all **5 vows** but believe that women cannot achieve liberation.
 - **Bhadrabahu** was an exponent of this sect.
 - **Major Sub-Sects:** Mula Sangh, Bisapantha, Terapantha, Taranpantha or Samaiyapantha.
 - **Minor Sub-Sets:** Gumanapantha, Totapantha.
- **Shwetambara:**
 - Monks of this sect **wear white clothes**.
 - They follow **only 4 vows** (except brahmacharya).
 - They believe women too can achieve liberation.
 - **Sthulabhadra** was an exponent of this sect.
 - **Major Sub-Sects:** Murtipujaka, Sthanakvasi, Terapanthi
- **Patronage:** Jainism flourished under the patronage of **Chandragupta Maurya**, **Kharavela of Kalinga**, the royal dynasties of South, the **Ganga Dynasty**, the **Kadamba Dynasty**, the **Chalukya Dynasty**, and the **Rashtrakuta Dynasty**.
- **Contribution of Jainism:**
 - **Language & Literature:** They helped in the growth of **Prakrit** and **Kannada language**. **Kalpasutra** was written by **Bhadrabahu** and contains biographies of Tirthankaras. Teachings of tirthankara before Mahavira were known as **Purva**.

- **Philosophy:** Promoted concepts of **Syadvada** (theory of relativity of knowledge), **Anekantavada** (multiplicity of truths) and **Karma**.
- **Art & Architecture:** **Statue of Gomateshwara (Shravanabelagola)**, temples of **Khajuraho** (Parsvanatha, Adinatha, and Shantinatha temples) and **Mt. Abu** (Dilwara Temples) and **Tiger cave of Udayagiri** and **Indra Sabha of Ellora** are significant contributions of Jainism.
- **Basadis:** Jain monastic establishment or temples in **Karnataka**
- **Manastambha:** Located at the **temple's front**, it features an **ornamental pillar structure** with **Tirthankara images atop**, facing all four cardinal directions, holding religious significance.
- **Economic Ethos:** Jain merchants promoted **ethical business practices** and **philanthropy**.

Knowledge Nugget

About Jain Councils

- **First Jain Council**
 - It was convened at **Patliputra (present day Patna)** in the beginning of the **3rd Century B.C.** and was presided over by **Sthulabhadra**.
 - **Patron:** Chandragupta Maurya.
 - **Purpose:** Preservation of Jain scriptures following a famine in Magadha.
 - **Result:** **Sthulabhadra** divided the Jaina canon into **12 'angas'** or sections. This was accepted by **Svetambaras**. The Angas are written in **Ardhamagadhi Prakrit**. The monks of the south disagreed with this compilation, and the **first split in Jainism** began. The council marked the division of Jainism into **two sects: Digambara and Svetambara**.
 - **Twelve Angas:** Acaranga, Suttrakritanga, Samavayanga, Thananga, Bhagavati, Jnatadharmakatha, Upasakadasa, Antakritdasa, Anuttaraupapatikadasa, Prasna Vyakarana, Vipaka Sutra, and Dristivada (the 12th anga is lost).
 - The **Acharanga sutta** (code of conduct) and **Bhagavati sutta** (Jaina doctrines) are the most important of the 12 Angas.
- **Second Jain Council:**
 - It was convened at **Vallabhi (Gujrat)** in **512 A.D.** during the reign of the **Maitraka Dynasty** and was presided over by **Devardhi Kshmasramana**.
 - **Patron:** Svetambara monks under the leadership of **Devardhi Kshamashramana**
 - **Purpose:** **Compilation and codification** of Jain texts in a systematic manner.
 - **Result:** New additions were made in the form of '**Upangas**' or minor sections.

Difference between Jainism and Buddhism

- **God's Existence:** Jainism recognised the existence of God while Buddhism did not.
- **Varna System:** Jainism does not condemn the varna system while Buddhism does.
- **Belief System:** Jainism believed in transmigration of soul i.e., reincarnation while Buddhism does not.
- **Path Followed:** Buddha prescribed the middle path while Jainism advocates the extreme path, even completely discarding the clothes i.e. life of austerity.

NOWRUZ

Context: Google celebrated 'Nowruz Day' on 19 March, 2024 with a specially designed Google Doodle.

About Nowruz Festival:

- Nowruz, the **Parsi word** for "new day," marks the beginning of the **Iranian or Persian New Year**.
- **History:** It is an ancient festival with roots in **Zoroastrianism** and begins on the **vernal equinox**, which falls around March 20th or 21st each year.
- The **United Nations** celebrates the **International Day of Nowruz** on **March 21st**.
- **UNESCO Intangible List:** Nowruz was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in **2016**.
- **Significance:** It symbolises the renewal of nature and the **beginning of spring** in the **Northern Hemisphere**.

PARUVETA FESTIVAL

Context: The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is making efforts to secure UNESCO recognition for the annual 'Paruveta' festival.

About Paruveta Festival:

- It is also known as the '**mock hunting festival**' and is celebrated at **Sri Narasimha Swamy Temple** in **Ahobilam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Origin:** According to the legend, **Lord Vishnu**, upon his incarnation as a **man-lion (Narasimha)** in Ahobilam, married **Maha Lakshmi**, who was born as a tribal girl named **Chenchulakshmi**.
- The **Chenchu tribes** revere **Ahobila Narasimha** as their brother-in-law and express their devotion through the '**Narasimha Deeksha**,' during which they wear yellow robes, adorn a '**Tulasi Mala**,' and observe celibacy.
- While Paruveta rituals are commonly observed in many temples during **Vijayadasami** or **Sankranti**, at Ahobilam, it is conducted for a '**mandala**' (forty days).
- It is celebrated by all sections of people, irrespective of their caste and religion and **symbolizes communal harmony**.

About Chenchu Tribes:

- **Region:** The Chenchu tribes primarily inhabit the hills of southern India, mainly in **Andhra Pradesh**, with smaller communities in **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Odisha**.
- **Native language:** **Chenchu**, belongs to the Dravidian language family. Many also speak Telugu, the language of their Hindu neighbours.
- **Traditional livelihood:** **Wandering and food-gathering**. They now work as **farmers or forest labourers**.
- **Habitat:** They live in **hive-shaped houses** made of **wattle thatch** (poles intertwined with twigs, reeds, or branches).
- **Society:** Consists of **clans** (extended family units), **local groups**, and **families**. They are **exogamous** and **patrilineal society**.

Knowledge Nugget

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH): It was founded in **1984** in **New Delhi** with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India.

MORODHARO

Context: Excavation in **Lodrani, Kutch**, searching for buried gold, uncovers fortified **Harappan-era settlement**.

About Morodharo:

- Located in the **Kutch District of Gujarat**.
- **Fortified settlement** dates back to the Harappan era, ranging from the mature (**2,600-1,900 BCE**) to late (**1,900-1,300 BCE**) phases.
- **Artefacts:** Unearthed Harappan pottery includes perforated jar sherds, reserved slipware, and terracotta cakes, similar to those found in Dholavira.

ABHAYA MUDRA

Context: In his maiden speech the Opposition leader of Lok Sabha, invoked the Abhaya Mudra.

Mudras in Buddhism:


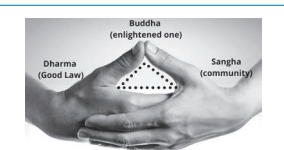


- **Definition:** Mudras are **symbolic hand gestures or positions** used in Hinduism, Buddhism, and other Indian spiritual practices. They are believed to have a powerful influence on the mind and body.

Abhaya Mudra: Gesture of Fearlessness

- **Hand Position:** The right hand is raised to shoulder height, with the palm facing outward and fingers pointing upwards.
- **Finger Variation:** Occasionally, the index, second, or third finger may touch the thumb, while the remaining fingers are extended upward.
- **Double Abhaya Mudra:** In some cases, both hands are raised in this posture, referred to as the "double abhaya mudra."

- **Symbolism in Buddhist tradition:**
 - **Enlightenment:** It symbolizes the security, serenity, and compassion that arise from the Buddha's Enlightenment.
 - **Fearlessness and Protection:** The "gesture of fearlessness" symbolizes the Shakyamuni (Buddha) taming a mad elephant, representing his ability to grant fearlessness and protection to his followers.

Other Mudras in Buddhism:

 <p>Dharmachakra Mudra</p>	<p>Dharmachakra Mudra represents continuous flow of energy. The mudra also symbolises kalachakra, which refers to the time cycles.</p>
 <p>Dhyana Mudra</p>	<p>Dhyana mudra is the gesture of meditation, of the concentration of the good Law and the sangha.</p>
 <p>Varada Mudra</p>	<p>The Varada mudra "generosity gesture" signifies offering, welcome, charity, giving, compassion and sincerity</p>
 <p>Bhumisparsha Mudra</p>	<p>The Bhumisparsha mudra is a hand gesture believed to have been adopted by Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) at the moment of his enlightenment, with the Earth serving as his witness.</p>

SAMMAKKA-SARALAMMA JATARA (MEDARAM JATRA)

Context: Every two years, millions of worshippers gather from across India to celebrate the grand **Sammakka Saralamma Jatara** festival in **Medarm, Telangana**.

About Festival:

- **Medaram** is a remote place in the **Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary**, a part of **Dandakaranya**, the largest surviving forest belt in the Mulugu district.
- **Location:** Medaram village, Mulugu District, Telangana.
- **Frequency:** Celebrated **biennially** (every two years).
- **Duration:** Lasts for **four days**.
- **Historical Significance:** India's **largest tribal festival**, honouring **Sammakka** and **Saralamma**, tribal deities, who resisted Kakatiya dynasty's oppressive taxes (12th century) and sacrificed their lives, demonstrating tribal devotion.

- **Deities Honored:** Includes **Sammakka**, **Saralamma**, **Pagididdaraju**, **Govindarajulu**, and **Nagulamma**.
- **Offerings:** Devotees offer jaggery, sarees, rice, and other items to the deities.
- **Rituals:** Holy bath in **Jampanna Vagu**, a tributary to **River Godavari**.
- **Sacred Location:** Sammakka is brought from a nearby hill called **Chilukalagutta**.
- The festival is celebrated by the **Koya tribe**, India's second-largest tribal community.

Knowledge Nugget

About Koya Tribe

- The Koyas are a **multi-lingual, multi-racial** tribal community in India.
- They reside in the states of **Andhra Pradesh**, **Chhattisgarh**, **Odisha**, and **Telangana**.
- The Koyas are physically classified as **Australoid**.
- They follow a **patrilineal** and **patrilocal** family system. The family is called "**Kutum**".
- The nuclear family is the predominant family structure.

BUDDHA'S RELICS

Context: 4 bone fragments of Lord Buddha, also known as **Kapilvastu Relics**, presently kept in the National Museum, were taken to **Thailand** after 1995.

About Relics:

- **Definition:** Relics are **sacred objects** associated with holy individuals. In most cases, relics are objects that are recovered from the holy person's tomb or cremation. They may be literal **body parts (teeth, hair, bones)** or objects which the holy person used or touched.
- According to Mahavastu, "when the relics are seen, the Buddha is seen."
- For the first time, the relics of **two chief disciples of Buddha: Sariputta** and **Maha Moggallana** from **Sanchi** in **Madhya Pradesh** are also being ferried along with the remains of Buddha.
- **Buddha's Birth:** He was born as **Siddhartha** to **King Sudhodhana** and **Queen Mayadevi** around **563 BCE** in **Kapilavastu** (modern-day Piprahwa, Uttar Pradesh).
- **Enlightenment:** He renounced earthly pleasures at **age 29** and attained enlightenment under a **Pipal tree**, becoming Buddha (the enlightened one).
- **Key Buddhist pilgrimage sites:** Lumbini, Bodhgaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar.
- **Buddha's death:** Buddha died in **Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh)** at the age of **80 years**. The **Mallas of Kushinagar** cremated his body with ceremonies befitting a universal king.

- **Distribution of Sacred Relics:** Buddha's relics were divided into **eight parts** and distributed among **Ajathasatru** of Magadha, the **Licchavis** of Vaishali, the **Sakyas** of Kapilavastu, **Mallas** of Kushinagar, **Bullies** of Allakappa, the **Mallas** of Pava, the **Koliyas** of Ramagrama and a **Brahmana of Vethadipa** for erecting stupa over the sacred relics.
- **Two more stupas** came into existence, one over the **urn** in which the relics had been collected and one over the **embers**.
- **Redistribution of Sacred Relics: Ashoka** (272–232 BCE) later collected a major portion of the relics for enshrinement, redistributing the relics to **84,000 stupas** he built to promote Buddhism.
- **Saririka stupas:** Stupas erected over the bodily relics of Buddha (Saririka stupas) are the earliest surviving Buddhist shrines.

GORSAM KORA

Context: The **Gorsam Kora** festival is held in **Zemithang valley** along the **Nyanmjang Chu River**.

About Gorsam Kora Festival

- **Location:** The festival is held at **Gorsam Chorten**, a **93-foot-tall Stupa**, built in the **13th Century CE** by **Lama Pradhar**, a revered local monk.
- It features cultural performances and Buddhist rituals at the **Gorsam Chorten**, which is older than the **Tawang Monastery**.
- **Significance:**
 - Celebrated during the last day of the **first month of the Lunar calendar**, the festival attracts devotees who circumambulate the stupa as an act of spiritual meditation and merit-seeking.
 - The **Zemithang Valley**, where the stupa is located, holds historical importance as it provided refuge to the **14th Dalai Lama** during his escape from Tibet in 1959.
 - The festival symbolizes **peace, prosperity**, and **community bonding**, while also reflecting the rich Buddhist traditions of the **Monpa tribe**.
- **International Participation:** Devotees, including visitors from Bhutan and other Buddhist regions, participate in the festival, underlining its global spiritual appeal.

Key Features of Gorsam Kora Festival (2024):

- **Theme:** Zero Waste Festival
- **Organizers:** Local community of Zemithang, in collaboration with civil authorities, showcasing community-led initiatives in preserving cultural and spiritual heritage.
- **Cultural Bonding:** The festival highlights the cultural ties between **Arunachal Pradesh** and **Bhutan**, with Bhutanese nationals joining local communities in celebrations featuring traditional dances, songs, and performances of the Monpa tribe's vibrant heritage.

Knowledge Nugget

About Monpa Tribe

- Monpas are the inhabitants of the high altitude **Tawang district** and the mountain passes of Bomdila in **West Kameng district (Arunachal Pradesh)**.
- The Monpa society is **patriarchal**; the man is the head of the family.
- After marriage, the **husband** is the one who moves to the house of his parents-in-law.
- The Monpas are a creative lot and are skilled in **wood carving, Thangka painting, carpet making and weaving**.
- **Losar**, the **Tibetan New Year**, is the main festival for even the Monpas.
- **Choskar**, or the **harvest festival**, is unique to the Monpa community.
- The Monpas, like most other autochthons of the eastern Himalayas, believed in the native animistic **Bon religion** before their conversion into **Tibetan Buddhism**.

KARAM PARVA

Context: Tribal populations in several states celebrated the harvest festival of **Karma** or **Karam Parv**.

About Karam Parv:

- Karam (colloquially **Karma**) is a **harvest festival/ festival of grains** celebrated by tribal populations in **Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, and Odisha**, focusing on the Karam tree.
- **Origin:** The **Oraon/Kurukh people** linked their cultural traditions to the agricultural cycle, particularly during autumn rains, with the pahan (priest) praying for good harvests.
- **Communities:** Popular among **Munda, Ho, Oraon, Baiga, Kharia, and Santhal** people.
- **Symbolism of Karam/Kadam Tree:** Kadam Tree (*Neolamarckia cadamba*) is an **evergreen, tropical tree** native to South and Southeast Asia. It is traditionally seen as a **symbol of Karam Devta/ Karamsani** (God of strength, youth, and vitality).
- **Rituals:**
 - Young women sow **seven types of grains** in river sand.
 - A **Karam tree** branch is planted in the courtyard, worshipped with **hibiscus flowers**, followed by singing and dancing.
 - The Karam branch is immersed in a river, and the flowers are distributed.
- **Mythology:** Includes myths of seven brothers punished for neglecting Karam Devta, with their repentance bringing blessings.

- **Farm Practices:** Alongside the Karam tree, branches from **Chirchitti** and **Sindwar trees** are planted in fields for natural pest control.

MAHA KUMBH MELA 2025

Context: The Prime Minister inaugurated and launched multiple development projects worth around Rs 5500 crore at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh for Maha Kumbh 2025 preparation.

Key Highlights of PM Address on Maha Kumbh:

- **Sah'AI'yak:** A multilingual **AI-powered chatbot**, launched to assist devotees in **11 Indian languages**.
- **Inaugurated major temple corridors:** Bharadwaj Ashram and Akshayvat corridors.
- **Historical significance of Prayagraj:** Links to **Lord Ram's journey** and landmarks like **Akshay Vat, Someshwar, Saraswati Koop** and **Rishi Bhardwaj**.
- **Cultural and Spiritual Importance of Prayagraj:**
 - Home to sacred rivers like **Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati**.
 - Mentioned Prayag as not just a geographical location but a space to experience **spirituality**.

About Maha Kumbh Mela:

- The Maha Kumbh Mela is a **sacred pilgrimage** celebrated **four times over 12 years**, known as the world's largest peaceful gathering.
- Millions of pilgrims attend to bathe in holy rivers, seeking **spiritual liberation** and cleansing of sins.
- In 2025, the event will take place from **January 13** (Paush Poornima) to **February 26** (Maha Shivratri).

Four Types of Kumbh Mela in India

Type of Kumbh Mela	Frequency	Locations	Significance
Maha Kumbh Mela	It comes in every 144 years or after 12 Purna (Complete) Kumbh Mela.	Prayagraj	Largest and most significant of all.
Purna Kumbh Mela (site keeps rotating between one of the four pilgrimages)	Every 12 years (celebrated four times over a course of 12 years.)	Prayagraj (Triveni Sangam), Haridwar (Ganga River), Ujjain (Shipra river), Nashik (Godavari river)	Major event held at other sacred locations.
Ardh Kumbh Mela	Every 6 years	Prayagraj (Triveni Sangam), Haridwar (Ganga river)	Mid-point gathering between Maha Kumbhs.
Magh Mela	Annually	Prayagraj	Smaller version of Maha Kumbh, celebrated annually.

HORNBILL FESTIVAL

Context: The 25th Hornbill Festival was celebrated in Nagaland.

About Hornbill Festival:

- The Hornbill Festival was first held in **2000**.
- Known as the **"Festival of Festivals,"** it showcases the major festivals of the **14 recognized Naga tribes** in Nagaland.

Historical Background:

- Prayagraj, the epicenter of Maha Kumbh, is known as **'Tirthraj'** (King of Pilgrimage Sites).
- Rooted in Hindu mythology, it commemorates the **Samudra Manthan** (ocean churning), with nectar of immortality falling at **four locations**, including Prayagraj.
- It is widely believed that **Lord Vishnu**, disguised as the enchantress **'Mohini,'** whisked the Kumbh out of the grasp of the covetous demons who had tried to claim it.
- The origins of the Kumbh Mela date back thousands of years, with references from the **Maurya** and **Gupta periods** (4th century BCE to 6th century CE).
- It was supported by royal dynasties such as the **Cholas, Vijayanagar Empire, Delhi Sultanate, and Mughals**, including Emperor Akbar.
- Prayagraj was described by **Xuanzang** in the **7th century** as a hub of faith, prosperity, and natural beauty, especially the **Triveni Sangam**.
- The origin of Maha Kumbh Mela was transcribed by the **8th-century philosopher Adi Shankaracharya**.
- Documented by British administrators like **James Prinsep** in the **19th century**, it gained greater significance post-independence, symbolizing unity and cultural heritage.
- Recognized by **UNESCO** in **2017** as an **intangible cultural heritage of humanity**, it remains a testament to India's enduring traditions.

- Its aim is to promote inter-tribal interaction and celebrate Nagaland's rich heritage, fostering unity and harmony.
- **Theme for 2024:** Cultural Connect.

About Hornbill Bird:

- **Physical Features:** Large, curved bill with a hollow casque; some species have vibrant plumage, others muted tones.
- **Habitat:** Found in tropical forests, grasslands, and savannas; common in the **Western Ghats, Northeast India, and parts of the Himalayas**.



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UNFCCC COP 29

Context: Recently, the annual global climate conference, COP29, concluded in **Baku, Azerbaijan** with the adoption of **Baku Climate Unity Pact** and several significant agreements.

Key Outcomes of COP29

- **Global Carbon Market:**
 - Finalization of the rules for **Article 6** of the **Paris Agreement**. An agreement has been reached on international carbon market standards under **Article 6** of the Paris Agreement.
 - **Article 6** provides mechanisms for **International Carbon Markets**, allowing countries to trade carbon credits and finance climate action.
- **Implementing Loss and Damage Support:** COP29 advanced the Loss and Damage Fund to support climate-vulnerable countries.
- **Global Energy Storage and Grid Pledge:** The pledge commits signatories to commit to a collective goal of deploying **1,500 GW** of energy storage globally by **2030**.
- **COP Hydrogen Declaration:** Signatories pledge to boost renewable hydrogen production and decarbonize fossil-fuel-based hydrogen.
- **Hydro4NetZero-LAC initiative:** It aims to develop and modernise sustainable hydropower infrastructure.
- **Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative:** Launched in collaboration with **FAO**, to unite various efforts to address climate change in **agriculture** through adaptation and mitigation.
- **Global Energy Efficiency Alliance:** Launched by the UAE in COP29 following the momentum built by the 'UAE Consensus' during **COP28**.
- **Strengthening Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):** Countries are encouraged to enhance their NDCs with a **2025** deadline to update commitments.
- **Baku Adaptation Road Map and Baku High-Level Dialogue on Adaptation:**
 - To enhance UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience implementation.
 - Roadmap will advance the implementation of adaptation action in line with **Article 7** of the Paris Agreement.
- Establishment of a support program for implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- With a central focus on climate finance, COP29 brought together nearly 200 countries in Baku, Azerbaijan, and reached a breakthrough agreement that will:
 - Triple finance to developing countries, from the previous goal of USD 100 billion annually, to USD 300 billion annually by 2035.
 - Secure efforts of all actors to work together to scale up finance to developing countries, from public and private sources, to the amount of USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035.

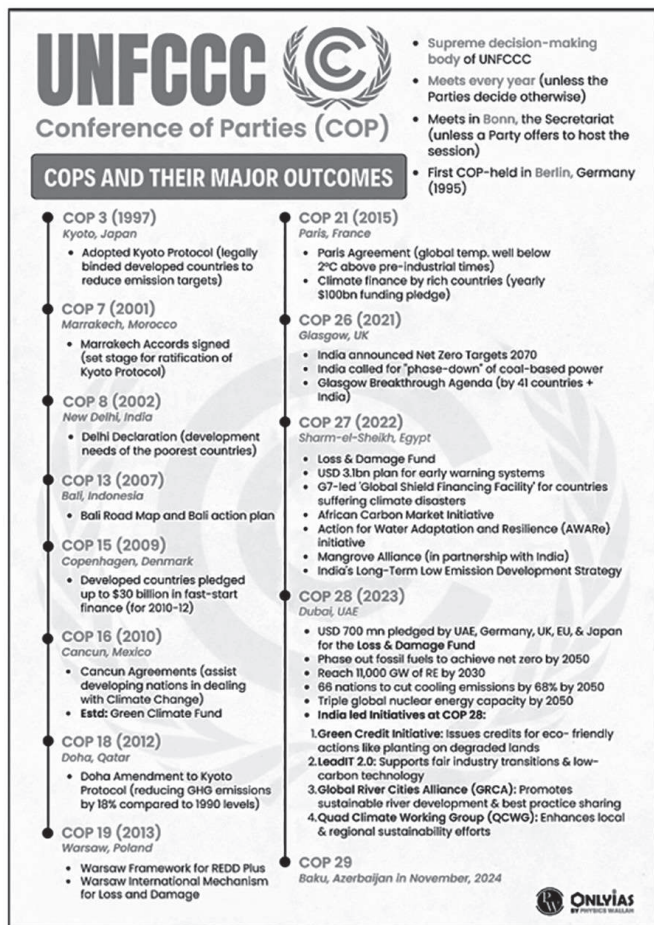
India's Climate Targets: Existing and New

Target (for 2030)	Existing: First NDC (2015)	New: Updated NDC (2022)	Progress
Emission intensity reduction	33-35 per cent from 2005 levels	45 per cent from 2005 levels	Reduced by 33% between 2005-2019
Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity	40 per cent	50 per cent	Achieved 43.18% (Oct-2023)
Carbon sink	Creation of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional sink through afforestation	Same as earlier	—

Knowledge Nugget

About Panchamrit Goals Of India's Climate Action (COP26 Glasgow)

1. Reach 500 GW Non-fossil energy capacity by 2030.
2. 50 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
3. Reduction of total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030.
4. Reduction of the carbon intensity of the economy by 45 per cent by 2030, over 2005 levels.
5. Achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2070.



INDIA AT COP 29

Context: India participated in various side-events during COP 29 UN Climate Change Conference at Baku, Azerbaijan.

INDIA'S KEY INTERVENTIONS AT UNFCCC-COP29 (BAKU, AZERBAIJAN)

MITIGATION WORK PROGRAMME (MWP): Advocates for MWP as a forum for open dialogue, emphasizing it must be non-punitive and non-prescriptive.

OPPOSITION TO EU'S CARBON BORDER TAX: The tax violates UN climate principles and unfairly impacts developing economies.

NEW COLLECTIVE QUANTIFIED GOAL (NCQG): Calls for grant-based, concessional Climate Finance as essential for implementing NDCs.

GLOBAL STOCKTAKE (GST): Rejects follow-ups beyond GST's original mandate to only inform climate action.

JUST TRANSITION: Emphasizes global responsibility, with developed nations leading mitigation and supporting developing nations.

Important Side Events

Integrating Disaster Resilient Infrastructure into the Adaptation Strategies:

- A panel was organised by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and MoEFCC, India to explore integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) into national adaptation strategies.
- Topics included infrastructure vulnerability assessment, embedding DRR in long-term goals, innovative financing, and stakeholder collaboration.

CDRI Initiatives:

- Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS):** Supports island nations in resilience building.
- Global Infrastructure Resilience Initiative (GIRI):** A global effort to strengthen infrastructure resilience.
- Technical support, data, and tools are provided for critical infrastructure resilience.

LeadIT (Leadership Group for Industry Transition) Member Meet

- It is organized by the Swedish and Indian governments.
- Governments and business executives join forces through the worldwide effort LeadIT to hasten the shift to a low-carbon economy.
- Focus Areas for Collaboration:** Hydrogen-based technologies, CO₂ capture, electrification, and biomass pathways.

India-Sweden Industry Transition Partnership (ITP) – Road to Belem

- It is organised by India and Govt. of Sweden
- It was launched under **LeadIT 2.0** at **COP 28** in 2023, a model for international cooperation, and was highlighted as a key mechanism for co-developing technologies, sharing knowledge, and driving the transition of industries such as steel and cement.

Energy Transitions for the Global South

- It was organised by India and International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- This event focused on the role of solar energy in the energy transition of developing countries.

Knowledge Nugget

About CDRI

- CDRI was established by India in 2019 with the goal of advancing disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- It is a worldwide alliance of nations, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, the commercial sector, and academic institutions.
- It is centered on developing infrastructure that can withstand the effects of climate change.
- Additionally, as part of its Infrastructure for Resilient Island States initiative, CDRI announced \$8 million in support for 12 projects in 18 Small Island Developing States.

REDUCING METHANE FROM ORGANIC WASTE DECLARATION

Context: The Reducing Methane from Organic Waste Declaration was launched to set sectoral targets to mitigate methane emissions from organic waste.

About the Reducing Methane from Organic Waste Declaration

- This initiative builds on previous climate pledges and aligns with the **Global Methane Pledge (GMP)** to reduce methane emissions by approximately 30-35% below 2020 levels by 2030 and nearly 55% by 2050.
- **Launch:** Announced at **COP29** in partnership with the **UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)**.
- **Signatories:** Over **30 countries**, including seven of the top 10 methane emitters from organic waste, have signed the COP29 Declaration, but **India has not**.
- **Top Emitting Countries:** Nearly 70% of methane emissions from fossil fuels come from the top 10 emitting countries.
- The United States is the largest emitter of methane from oil and gas operations, closely followed by Russia.
- **China** is the highest emitter of methane in the coal sector.
- It reflects a combined representation of nations responsible for **47% of global methane emissions** from organic waste.
- **Goals:** To Incorporate targeted strategies to reduce methane emissions from the organic waste sector into future Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Knowledge Nugget

Major Highlights of International Energy Agency's Global Methane Tracker 2024

- **Methane Emissions Overview:** In 2023, methane emissions from fossil fuels totaled close to 120 million tonnes (Mt).
- **Rise of Major Methane Emissions Events:** Major methane emissions events increased by over 50% in 2023 compared to 2022.
- One prominent incident was a major well blowout in Kazakhstan that lasted over 200 days.

Major Sources of Methane Emission:

- **Natural Sources:**
 - Wetlands, both natural and human-made, are significant sources of methane emissions due to anaerobic decomposition of organic matter.
- **Agricultural Activities:**
 - Growing paddy fields release methane due to anaerobic conditions in flooded rice paddies.
 - Excreta from cattle and other livestock undergo enteric fermentation, producing methane as a byproduct.
- **Combustion and Industrial Processes:**
 - Burning of fossil fuels, including oil and natural gas, releases methane emissions.

- Biomass burning, such as wood and agricultural residues, also contributes to methane levels.
- Industrial activities like landfills and wastewater treatment plants generate methane during organic waste decomposition in anaerobic environments.
- Fertiliser factories and other industrial processes can also release methane during production and transportation.

FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY INITIATIVE

Context: Tzepporah Berman, chair and founder of the FF-NPT recently, spelt out the latest threats to the planet at COP29 in Baku.

About Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FF-NPT) Initiative

- **Launched:** The idea was conceptualised in 2016 and officially launched in **2019** through a **Climate Breakthrough award**.
- **Objective:** The FF-NPT desires to **make it legally binding on the nations** to end fossil fuel extraction and phase down existing production, and manage a just transition to renewable energy.
- **Endorsed by:** The treaty is endorsed by **14 nations-states comprising**,
 - Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tonga, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Niue, Antigua and Barbuda, Timor-Leste, Palau, Colombia, Samoa, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia
- **First Ministerial Meeting:** The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative convened its first meeting in **May 2024** in **Antigua and Barbuda**.

India's Position on the FF-NPT for the FF-NPT

- **India's position:** While India has not been extensively engaged, the FF-NPT initiative recognises its significance:
 - As a major fossil fuel consumer, India's emissions are projected to rise by 4.6% in 2024, according to the Global Carbon Project.
 - Advocates believe India could benefit from the treaty, ensuring justice and equity in the global energy transition.

CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM

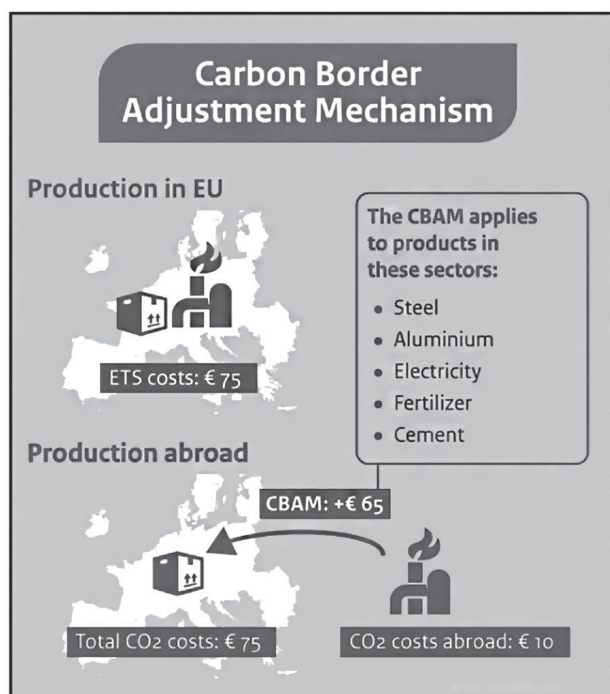
Context: Developing countries cited the **European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** as a concern.

More on News

- **Developing Countries' Stance:** Such policies should be discussed within the framework of the UNFCCC.
- **Developed Countries' Stance:** Such policies should be discussions on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) platform.

About Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

Aspect	Details
Introduced By	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Union (EU) in 2023.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent carbon leakage, where industries move to regions with weaker environmental standards to avoid emissions regulations. Encourage cleaner production practices globally.
Target Goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taxes applied to imports with significant carbon emissions, including steel, cement, aluminum, and other energy-intensive goods.
Legislative Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the EU's "Fit for 55 in 2030 package", aiming to achieve a 55% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels).
Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importers must surrender CBAM certificates annually, based on the declared carbon content of imported goods. Prices of certificates reflect the carbon cost, aligning with the EU's carbon pricing under the Emissions Trading System (ETS).
Applicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the actual declared carbon content of imported goods.
Global Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages countries exporting to the EU to adopt cleaner technologies. Influences global supply chains to factor in carbon costs.



Issues Regarding CBAM for Developing Nations

- **Export Competitiveness:** CBAM disproportionately impacts exports from developing nations like India and China.
- **Differentiated Responsibilities:** It disregards the Paris Agreement's principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities."
- **Economic Disadvantage:** Developed nations, with cleaner technologies, benefit from CBAM, marginalizing developing nations further.
- **Violation of Agreements:** CBAM is seen as violating international agreements like the Paris Accord by imposing unfair trade restrictions on developing nations.

Knowledge Nugget

Terms in News

- **Nearshoring:** Relocating business processes or production to a nearby country, often within the same region.
- **Reshoring:** Bringing business operations back to the home country. For example, European companies are relocating production from Asia to Europe to reduce supply chain risks and improve quality control.

About BASIC Group

- **Formation:** Formed on 28th November, 2009 by **Brazil, South Africa, India, and China**.
- The group committed to collaborating at the **Copenhagen Summit** to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Objective:** To present a united front on climate change negotiations, particularly emphasizing the need for developed countries to take the lead in emissions reduction and provide financial support to developing countries.
- **Economic and Population Influence:** BASIC countries represent **one-third** of the **world's geographical area** and **nearly 40%** of the **global population**. China, India, and Brazil rank as the second, fifth, and ninth-largest economies globally.
- **Core Principles and Commitments:**
 - Guided by the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement.
 - Uphold the principle of **Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)**.
 - Prioritize the unique needs and challenges of developing nations.

GLOBAL CARBON MARKET

Context: COP29, voted to clear a much-delayed agreement to finalise a global carbon market.

About Global Carbon Market

- **Definition:** A global carbon market enables countries to **trade carbon credits** for certified emission reductions.

- **Pricing Mechanism:** Prices are influenced by **emission caps** imposed by nations.
- **Objective:** Establish a global carbon market to trade carbon credits, aiding in **achieving climate targets**.
- **Background:**
 - **Article 6 of Paris Agreement:** Mechanism for collaboration on reducing emissions and meeting nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
- **Carbon Market Framework:**
 - **Article 6.2:** Facilitates **bilateral carbon trading** between countries.
 - **Article 6.4:** Establishes a **global market** supervised by a UN body.
- **Integrity Standards:** UN supervisory body drafts standards to ensure authentic carbon credits.
- **Operational Timeline:** UN-sanctioned carbon credits will be available by **2025**.

Knowledge Nugget

About Carbon Credit

- According to the UNFCCC, a carbon credit represents a permit that represents the right to emit one metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) or an equivalent amount of other greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- Carbon credits are typically generated through projects that reduce emissions, such as renewable energy projects, reforestation, or energy efficiency initiatives.

GLOBAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY ALLIANCE

Context: The Global Energy Efficiency Alliance was launched by the **UAE** at the **COP29** in **Azerbaijan**.

About Global Energy Efficiency Alliance

- **Objective:** The Alliance aims to **double annual global energy efficiency improvement rates** by **2030** and reduce carbon emissions.
- **Vision:** The UAE will play a leading role in this alliance by sharing its expertise in energy efficiency, knowledge transfer, and building effective partnership models with the private sector.
- **Key Actions:**
 - Promote **knowledge sharing, build capacity, and standardise policies** that encourage investments in energy efficiency projects
 - **Collective participation** among nations, multilateral organisations, and private sector players to implement policies, technologies, and investments aligning with global sustainability goals.
- **Focus Country:** **African countries** will be specially focused with plans to share financing models and technological solutions critical for its sustainable development.

CLIMATE AND CLEAN AIR CONFERENCE 2024

Context: **Climate and Clean Air Conference 2024** emphasised global cooperation to eliminate short lived climate pollutants, such as methane, black carbon, and hydrofluorocarbons.

About Short Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs)

- SLCPs also known as Super Pollutants are greenhouse gases and air pollutants that have a significant impact on global warming despite having a **shorter atmospheric lifespan** than carbon dioxide (CO₂). These pollutants include **methane, black carbon** and **hydrofluorocarbons**.
- Short lived climate pollutants are responsible for up to **45% of current global warming**.

Key SLCPs

- **Methane (CH₄):**
 - **Lifetime:** ~12 years.
 - **Source:** Agriculture (livestock, rice paddies), fossil fuel extraction, landfills.
 - **Impact:** Potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential (GWP) ~25 times higher than CO₂ over 100 years.
- **Black Carbon (BC):**
 - **Lifetime:** Days to weeks.
 - **Source:** Incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, biomass, and wood.
 - **Impact:** Absorbs sunlight and heats the atmosphere; contributes to glacier melting.
- **Tropospheric Ozone (O₃):**
 - **Lifetime:** Hours to weeks.
 - **Source:** Secondary pollutant formed from reactions of methane, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).
 - **Impact:** Damages crops, human health, and contributes to warming.
- **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs):**
 - **Lifetime:** Few months to decades (depending on the compound).
 - **Source:** Refrigeration, air conditioning, and industrial processes.
 - **Impact:** High GWP; contributes significantly to warming.

Knowledge Nugget

About Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) is a **voluntary international initiative** of more than **160** governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations that focuses on improving air quality and addressing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs).
- **Origin:** Founded in **2012**, and convened within **UNEP**.
- **India** joined CCAC in **2019**
- It provides secretariat functions of the **Global Methane Pledge (GMP)**.

IPCC REPORTS

Context: The IPCC recently released its 6th **Synthesis Report**, summarising its sixth assessment cycle.

More on News

- The IPCC is currently in its **Seventh Assessment cycle (AR7)**.

About IPCC Assessment Reports

- These are comprehensive reports about knowledge on climate change, its causes, potential impacts and response options.
- The IPCC uses '**modelled pathways**' drawn using **Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs)** to estimate what it will take to limit the warming of the earth's surface.
- IPCC reports comprise **three Working Group reports** namely: Physical science, Climate adaptation & Mitigation action.

Knowledge Nugget

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:

- **About:** It is the **UN body** in charge of examining climate change science.
- **Established:** It was established in **1988** by the World Meteorological Organisation (**WMO**) and the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**).
- **Secretariat:** **Geneva**, Switzerland, housed by the World Meteorological Organisation.
- **Member states:** There are **195 member states** in the IPCC, including **India**.

EMISSIONS GAP REPORT 2024

Context: Recently, the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** released the Emissions Gap Report 2024 ahead of the COP 29 of the UNFCCC meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.

About Key Highlights of the Report

- **Released By:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Record-High Emissions:** Global emissions peaked in 2023, rising by 1.3%.
- **G20 Dominance:** G20 countries account for 77% of emissions; least developed countries contribute only 3%.
- **Paris Agreement Goals:** 42% emissions reduction needed by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5°C; 28% for 2°C.
- **Sectoral Emissions:** Power sector emitted 15.1 billion tonnes CO₂; transport contributed 8.4 billion tonnes; aviation emissions surged 19.5% post-pandemic.
- **Opportunities:** Renewable energy (solar and wind) could cut emissions by 27% by 2030.
- **Per Capita Emissions:**
 - India's per capita GHG emissions in 2022 were 2.9 tCO₂e, significantly lower than China (11 tCO₂e) and the US (18 tCO₂e).

- Developed countries have per capita emissions about three times the global average (6.6 tCO₂e), while India, African Union, and least developed countries remain below it.
- **Cost of Bridging the Gap:** Achieving net-zero by 2050 requires USD 900 billion to USD 2.1 trillion annually, or about 1% of global GDP.

ADAPTATION GAP REPORT 2024

Context: Recently UNEP released Adaptation Gap Report 2024: Come Hell and High Water Report.

About Key Highlights of the Report

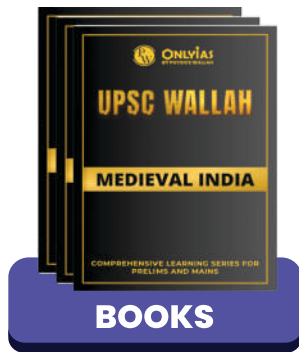
- Global average temperature rise will likely exceed **2.6°C** by **2100** based on current emissions trends.
- Developing countries need **\$387 billion/year** for adaptation, but only \$28 billion was funded in 2022.
- **National adaptation plans** exist for 171 countries, but implementation is slow.
- **Adaptation Finance Gap:** The adaptation finance gap, indicating the disparity between financing needs and actual funds, has widened.
 - Current funding (2022) is significantly below requirements, with only USD28 billion provided—meeting just 5% of the projected needs under the **Glasgow Climate Pact**.
 - **Glasgow Climate Pact** aims to reduce methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.
 - UNEP estimates developing countries need **USD 387 Billion** annually by 2030 for adaptation.
- COP28's new framework lacks effective metrics for progress tracking.
- Progress on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): While 171 countries have at least one adaptation policy, out of 26 countries without an adaptation policy, 10 are uninterested in developing one, indicating slow progress in NAP planning and implementation.
- The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (UAE-FGCR), introduced at UNFCCC COP28, sets dimensional and thematic targets (e.g., agriculture, water, health) for adaptation, yet implementation is lagging. It is the first international declaration of its kind with climate adaptation as the primary focus.

CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX REPORT

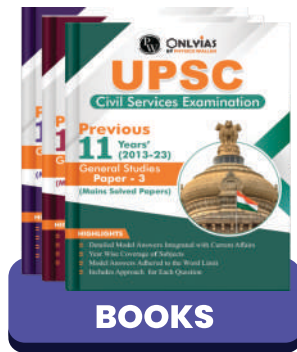
Context: **India** has been ranked **10th** in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2025) report.

- **Released By:** Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, & Climate Action Network International.
- **Criteria:** The CCPI looks at **four categories**, with **14 indicators**.
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions (40% of the overall score),
 - Renewable Energy (20%),

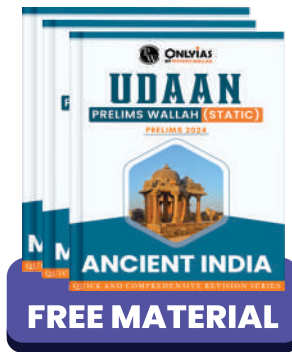
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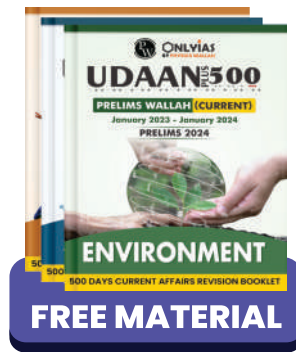
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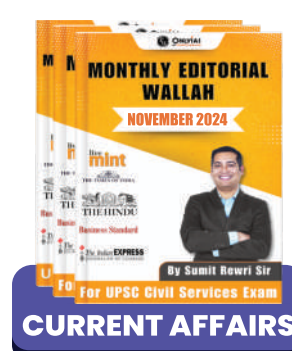
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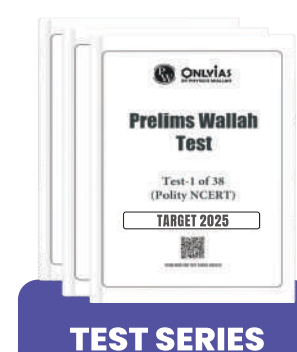
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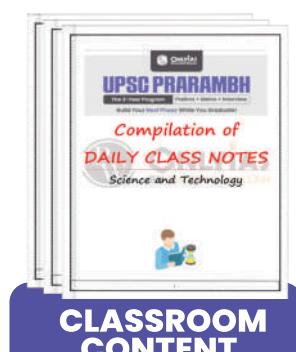
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