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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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Art & Culture

Marathi among 5 languages accorded 'classical language' status

What in News?

The Union Cabinet has granted 'Classical Language' status to Marathi, alongside four other languages—Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali.

Criteria for Classical Language Status: The decision to accord a language classical status is based on several criteria, including its antiquity, recorded history, and the richness of its early texts, typically over a thousand years old. The language must have an original and significant body of literary work that is distinct from modern language forms.

Significance for Marathi: Marathi is termed "India's pride," acknowledging its contribution to Indian heritage and history.

Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali

- Pali and Prakrit—languages tied to Buddhist and Jain traditions—reinforces India's commitment to preserving ancient cultural traditions.
- Assamese and Bengali are recognized for their literary richness and historical importance in India's northeastern region.

Historical Context of Classical Languages

- The concept of "Classical Language" was introduced by the Government of India in October 2004, with Tamil being the first to be declared as such.

Process of Approval: A Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC) evaluates the eligibility of languages for classical status. In the case of Marathi, a proposal was submitted in 2013, and after inter-ministerial consultations, the decision was finally approved in 2024.

Constitutional Rights : Classical languages align with Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution, which provide for the protection of linguistic minorities and their culture.

Classical Languages in India

Classical languages are recognized for their significant contribution to India's ancient heritage, having a rich and well-documented history of over a thousand years.

Existing Classical Languages

- **Tamil (2004):** Literary Works: Thirukkural, Silappadikaram.
- **Sanskrit (2005):** Literary Works: Vedas, Upanishads, Mahabharata, Ramayana.
- **Telugu (2008):** Literary Works: Kavirajamarga, Vachana Sahitya.
- **Kannada (2008):** Literary Works: Nannaya's Mahabharata, Sri Krishnadevaraya's Amuktamalyada.
- **Malayalam (2013):** Literary Works: Ramacharitam, Manipravalam literature.
- **Odia (2014):** Literary Works: Sarala Mahabharata, Charya literature.
- **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bengali (2024)**

Conclusion:

The recognition of Marathi and four other languages as classical languages is a significant step in preserving India's linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

Questions: What are the criteria for a language to be recognized as a classical language in India, and how does this status benefit the cultural preservation of such languages?

Source : [The Indian Express](#)



Geography

How cyclones can cause excess mortality years after they strike

What in News?

The study found that states' "mortality systematically increased for about 172 months (14.3 years) following a Tropical Cyclones"

Mortality in tropical cyclones refers to the loss of life caused by the storm's direct and indirect impacts.

1. Direct Causes of Mortality : Storm Surge, High Winds, Heavy Rainfall and Flash Floods, Flying Debris
2. Indirect Causes of Mortality : Health Complications, Infrastructure Collapse, Economic Hardship

Excess Mortality

- Mortality rates systematically increased for around 172 months (14.3 years) following a tropical cyclone.
- These storms, known as hurricanes in North America, result in significant long-term health impacts, with estimates of 7,000–11,000 excess deaths per Tropical Cyclones.

Case Studies of Tropical Cyclone Mortality

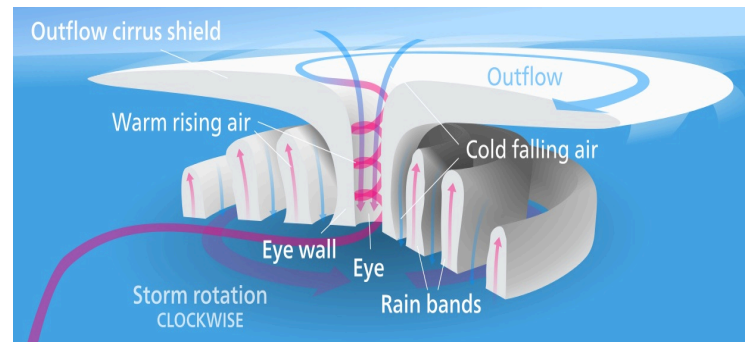
- Cyclone Bhola (1970): In Bangladesh, an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 people died, mainly due to storm surges and the lack of effective warning systems.
- Cyclone Nargis (2008): In Myanmar, over 138,000 people lost their lives, primarily due to storm surges and delayed humanitarian response.

Tropical Cyclone

It is a rapidly rotating storm system characterized by a low-pressure center, strong winds, and thunderstorms that produce heavy rainfall. These storms form over warm ocean waters near the equator and can result in significant loss of life and property damage.

Conditions for Formation

- **Warm Ocean Water:** Sea surface temperatures above 26.5°C
- **Low-Pressure Area:** Cyclones form in regions with pre-existing low-pressure zones.
- **Coriolis Force:** Due to Earth's rotation, causes the spinning motion necessary for cyclones to form. This is why they form between 5° to 20° latitude.



- **High Humidity:** Sufficient moisture in the mid-troposphere fuels the storm.
- **Weak Vertical Wind Shear:** Low difference in wind speeds at different altitudes

Naming of Cyclones: World Meteorological Organization (WMO) & India Meteorological Department (IMD)

Tropical Cyclones in India

India is highly vulnerable to tropical cyclones, particularly along its eastern coast (Bay of Bengal), though the western coast (Arabian Sea) also experiences cyclones.

- Bay of Bengal: More cyclones form here due to warm waters and favorable conditions.
- Cyclone-Prone States: Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
- Seasons: Peak seasons for cyclones in India are May-June and October-November.

Way Forward

The study highlights the long-term human toll of tropical cyclones, with excess mortality extending for more than a decade

Questions : What are the main factors contributing to the increase in excess mortality after a tropical cyclone?

Source : [The Indian Express](#)

Bihar under water: Why the state sees floods every year

What in News?

Bihar is among India's most flood-prone states. The reasons for this are the state's unique geography, and a decades-old solution that has proved short-sighted.

Flood-Prone Nature of Bihar

Bihar is India's most flood-prone state, with 76% of its population in north Bihar vulnerable to floods due to unique geographical features and historical management decisions. The region is crisscrossed by both snow-fed and rain-fed rivers, creating multiple flood risks.

Types of Floods in Bihar

The state's Disaster Management Authority categorizes floods into four classes:

1. **Flash Floods:** Caused by sudden rainfall in Nepal
2. **River Floods:** Resulting from river overflow
3. **Drainage Congestion:** Long-lasting floods due to drainage issues, lasting the entire monsoon
4. **Permanent Waterlogged Areas:** Chronic flooding due to encroachment, siltation, and changes in river courses.

Geographical Factors Contributing to Flooding

- **Proximity to the Himalayas:** The state is located downstream of Nepal, where the Himalayan rivers (Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati, etc.) carry large sediment loads, increasing overflow risks during heavy rains.
- **Soil and Sediment Issues:** The young Himalayan range has loose soil, leading to sediment-laden rivers that overflow when water volumes surge.

Impact of Infrastructure Solutions

- **Narrowed River Channels:** Embankments restrict sediment distribution, causing riverbeds to rise and increasing overflow risks.
- **Inadequate Capacity:** Embankments, initially designed to handle specific water discharge levels, are failing under current conditions, leading to breaches and flooding.

Himalayan Rivers: Kosi, Gandak, and Bagmati Flowing into Bihar

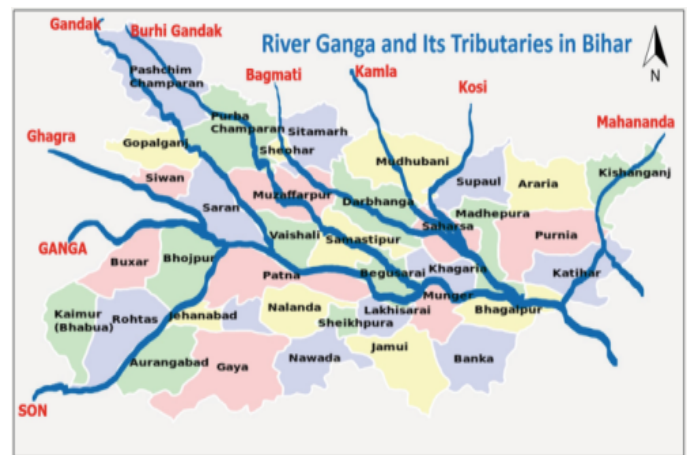
The Kosi, Gandak, and Bagmati rivers are major tributaries of the Ganges and play a crucial role in the hydrology, agriculture, and overall ecology of Bihar.

Kosi River

- **Origin:** Tibetan plateau in the Himalayas, from the glaciers of the Kangchenjunga range.
- **Course:** Flows through Nepal before

entering Bihar, joined by Sunkoshi and Tamur.

- It is often referred to as the "Sorrow of Bihar" due to its flooding tendencies.



Gandak River

- **Origin:** Nepal region of the Himalayas and is fed by various streams from the Annapurna Range.
- **Course:** It flows southeast, entering Bihar at Nawada and merges with the Ganges near Ghazipur, UP.
- The Gandak Barrage at Valmikinagar is a key structure for irrigation and flood control.

Bagmati River

- **Origin:** Himalayan region in Nepal, near the Langtang range.
- **Course:** From Kathmandu Valley before entering Bihar, flowing through Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur districts.
- The river's flow and sediment management are crucial for the agricultural economy in Bihar.

Way Forward

Addressing flooding in Bihar requires a balanced approach, combining structural and non-structural strategies, recognizing the state's geographical constraints

Questions: What are the long-term strategies needed to mitigate the recurring floods in Bihar, considering its geographical challenges?

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



Polity

Caste bias, segregation in prisons violate dignity: Supreme Court

What in News?

Central, State prison manuals, laws must be revised within three months, rules three-judge Bench headed by CJI; even 21st century regulations discriminate against 'scavenger class', 'habitual offenders'

Caste-Based Segregation in Prisons

Discrimination for marginalized communities such as denotified tribes, persists within Indian prisons. Includes the allocation of work and living conditions based on caste hierarchy

Revision of Prison Manuals

- Review of existing prison manuals directing the removal of any caste-based references and practices & elimination of the 'caste column' in prison registers.
- The manuals are to be updated within three months to ensure that no prisoner is segregated or forced into certain tasks based solely on caste.

Caste-based discrimination in prisons violates

1. Article 15(1): Prohibition of Discrimination

- Prohibits the State from discriminating against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them.
- The focus is on equality and ensuring that no citizen faces discrimination purely based on the aforementioned criteria.
- This applies primarily to access to public places and state services.
- Exceptions under Article 15(3), 15(4), and 15(5) allow the state to make special provisions for women, children, and socially and educationally backward classes, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

2. Article 17: Abolition of Untouchability

- Article 17 abolishes the practice of "untouchability" and forbids its practice in any form.
- This is one of the Fundamental Rights and is enforceable by law.
- Any act of discrimination based on untouchability is a punishable offense under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.
- The term "untouchability" is not defined

in the Constitution but refers to social ostracism and exclusion practiced against certain castes, especially in the Hindu community.

- It ensures the dignity of individuals and emphasises social equality.

Manual Scavenging in Prisons

- Article 23 (prohibition of forced labour) make prohibited to perform menial tasks for lower caste
- It invoked the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, stating that it applies within prisons as well.

Reforming Laws and Practices

- **Need amendment** : Modern Prison Manual of 2016 and Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023

Modern Prison Manual (2016), introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, updates prison administration with a focus on rehabilitation, human rights, and standardized management.

Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act (2023), introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, replaces the outdated Prisons Act of 1894. It modernises prison administration with a focus on reformative justice, undertrial management, and rehabilitation.

Denotified Tribes : Listed as "criminal tribes" under British colonial rule, now denotified. Face social stigma and marginalization, including wrongful labeling as "habitual offenders."

Ways Forward

Implementation of Reforms: Governments must ensure the complete revision of prison manuals to eliminate caste-based discrimination.

Public Awareness: Awareness campaigns to address caste biases and stigmas

Question: Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in addressing social inequalities in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



International Relation

UK-Mauritius treaty on Chagos Archipelago, Diego Garcia: What it means, why it matters for India

What in News?

For years, Mauritius demanded the UK end its control on the Chagos Archipelago. Why was their ownership a matter of contention, and what are the interests of countries like the US and India here?

Background of the Chagos Archipelago

- Located 500 km south of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, the Chagos Archipelago consists of 58 islands.
- France ceded the islands to Britain in 1814, and in 1965, the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) was created, separating Chagos from Mauritius when it gained independence in 1968.

Strategic Importance of Diego Garcia

- Diego Garcia is the largest island in the Chagos Archipelago and home to a major US military base, operational since 1986.
- Crucial for American air operations in the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and is strategically important for monitoring key areas like the Malacca Strait.

The Dispute Between the UK and Mauritius

- Mauritius claimed that the UK illegally occupies the Chagos Islands and has pushed for sovereign rights.
- In 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) ruled that the UK should end its colonial control over Chagos and return it to Mauritius.

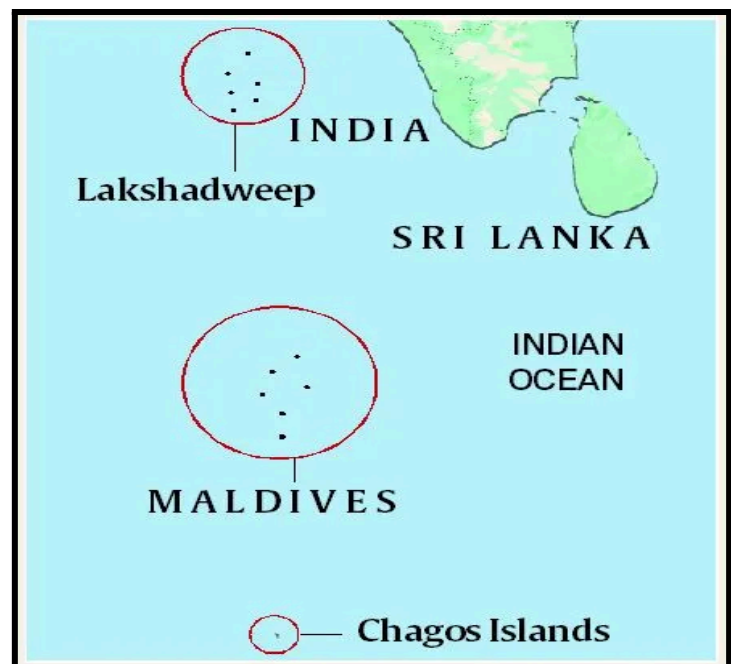
Significance of the UK-Mauritius Agreement

- Diego Garcia will remain under UK control for 99 years, with a new trust fund created for Chagossians displaced by the original detachment.

Implications for India

- India has consistently supported Mauritius' sovereignty claims over the Chagos Islands, voting in its favor at the UNGA.
- India to strengthen ties with Mauritius in the context of growing Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean.
- India recently helped Mauritius build an

airstrip and jetty in Agaléga, enhancing its presence in the Western Indian Ocean.



Conclusion

- The UK-Mauritius treaty over the Chagos Archipelago marks a significant geopolitical development in the Indian Ocean.
- This resolution aligns with India's interests in maintaining stability and securing its strategic ties in the region.

Question : How does the resolution of the UK-Mauritius dispute over the Chagos Archipelago affect India's geopolitical interests in the Indian Ocean?

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



Environment

Odisha's leopard population jumps by 22% to 696

What in News?

Protected areas prove to be the regions with the highest leopard abundance, says All Odisha Leopard Estimation 2024

Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

- The leopard is one of the five big cats found in the world, native to Africa and parts of Asia. It is listed as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List due to declining populations caused by habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict.
- **Habitat:** Leopards are highly adaptable and found in various habitats including forests, savannas, grasslands, and mountainous regions.
- **Physical Characteristics:** Leopards are known for their spotted coats and exceptional ability to climb trees and swim
- **Conservation Status:** Listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN

Leopard Population in Odisha

- In 2024, the leopard population grew 696, ranging between 668 and 724.
- Recovered from a dip of 568 in 2022, though it still lags behind the 760 leopards estimated in the 2018 National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) census.

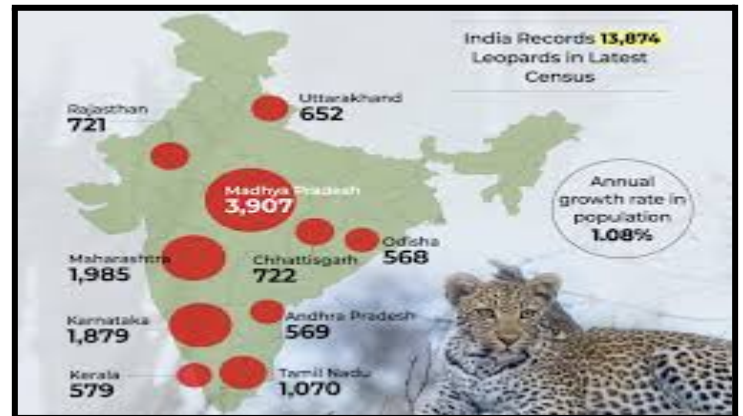
Role of Protected Areas

- **Similipal Tiger Reserve** has the highest leopard population in Odisha, serving as a source for surrounding areas like **Hadagarh** and **Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuaries**.
- Other significant leopard populations were observed in Satkosia and Hirakud Wildlife Divisions, with the latter including Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary.

Challenges to Conservation: Poaching and illegal wildlife trade

Habitat and Distribution

- Approximately 45% of Odisha's leopards are found outside protected areas
- **Melanistic leopards**, a rare morph, were recorded in three forest divisions, adding



to the state's biodiversity.

Leopard Conservation in India

- According to National Tiger Conservation Authority reports, leopard stands at 13,874, though it has declined by 75-90% over the past 120-200 years due to habitat loss and poaching.
- National initiatives such as **Project Leopard** aim to enhance protection and mitigate threats to the species.

Project Leopard was launched in November 2018 in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan

Ways Forward

Enhanced Monitoring: Focus on occupancy, prey base, and habitat health to ensure comprehensive conservation.

Combat Poaching: Strengthening enforcement measures and increasing public awareness can help mitigate the poaching and illegal trade of leopard skins.

Question: What role do protected areas play in Odisha's leopard conservation, and how does poaching impact leopard populations?

Source: [The Hindu](#)



Government Scheme

Govt. brings agriculture sector initiatives under two schemes for flexibility

What in News?

The combined total expenditure for improving PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and Krishonnati Yojana will be ₹1,01,321.61 crore, the government said

Merger of Schemes

- Soil Health Management, Rainfed Area Development, and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, under the umbrella of PM-RKVY and KY to avoid duplication and ensure convergence.
- Goal: To give State governments flexibility in formulating comprehensive strategies

PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)

- **Allocation:** ₹57,074.72 crore.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - **Sustainable Agriculture:** Promotion of practices that ensure environmental sustainability and long-term productivity.
 - **Climate Resilience:** Preparing agriculture for climate-related challenges through technological innovations and sustainable practices.
 - **Private Sector Participation:** Encouraging partnerships with private entities to modernize agricultural infrastructure.

Krishonnati Yojana (KY)

- **Allocation:** ₹44,246.89 crore.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - **Food Security and Agricultural Self-Sufficiency**
 - **Value Chain Development:** Enhancing agriculture from production to market.

State Government Flexibility : Implement Annual Action Plans (AAP) tailored to their specific needs instead of receiving fragmented, scheme-wise approvals.

Additional Initiatives : National Mission on Edible Oils - Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)

- With a financial outlay of ₹10,103 crore, NMEO-Oilseeds is aimed at boosting domestic oilseed production and achieving self-reliance in edible oils by 2030-31.
- **Target:** Increase oilseed production from 39 million tonnes to 69.7 million tonnes.

Importance of PM-RKVY and KY

- **Boosting Agricultural Growth**
- **Private Sector Involvement:** "Make in India" initiative, focusing on self-sufficiency in agricultural machinery and inputs.

Ways Forward

- Government's broader strategy to address the challenges posed by climate change, food security, and global agricultural demands.
- The focus on value chain development and private sector involvement shows a shift towards making Indian agriculture more market-oriented and globally competitive.

Questions: What are the key differences in focus between PM-RKVY and Krishonnati Yojana, and how can these differences impact India's long-term food security and agricultural sustainability?

Source: [The Hindu](https://www.thehindu.com)



Science

Indian push needed to end AIDS as a global health threat by 2030: UNAIDS

What in News?

India's efforts are crucial for achieving the global goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, according to UNAIDS

Progress in India's Fight Against AIDS

- **HIV Infections:** Between 2010 and 2023, 44% reduction in new HIV infections. But 68,000 new infections occurred in 2023, indicating that HIV prevention must be intensified.
- **AIDS-related Deaths:** Reduced nearly 80% showing substantial progress in treatment and care for people living with HIV (PLHIV).

UNAIDS Role and Global Strategy

- UNAIDS leads global efforts to combat HIV/AIDS by working with countries to reach the SDG Target 3.3, which aims to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.
- Globally 80% of prevention services should be delivered by community-led organizations

Challenges and Gaps in Prevention

- India must focus on accelerating prevention efforts in specific high-burden States and districts.

Importance of HIV Prevention : To achieve a sustainable HIV response & focus must be on preventing new infections

New Technologies and Treatments: UNAIDS advocates new treatments like **long-acting injectables** for HIV at affordable prices.

AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)

- **Cause:** AIDS is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which attacks the immune system, specifically targeting CD4 cells (T-cells), weakening the body's ability to fight infections.
- **Transmission:** It spreads through unprotected sexual contact, contaminated blood transfusions, sharing needles, and from mother to child during birth or breastfeeding.

- **Symptoms:** Initial symptoms include

fever, fatigue, and swollen lymph nodes, progressing to severe infections, cancers, and eventual immune system collapse.

- **Treatment:** While there's no cure, Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) can manage the disease, prolonging life and reducing transmission.

UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)

- **Founded:** 1996.
- **Mission:** To lead and coordinate the global response to HIV/AIDS, aiming to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Prevention:** Focuses on reducing new infections by promoting safe sex practices, harm reduction, and mother-to-child transmission prevention.
- **Treatment:** Ensures global access to ART and promotes testing to identify undiagnosed cases.
- **Global Impact:** UNAIDS coordinates with governments, NGOs, and civil society to implement programs, monitor progress, and advocate for policies that support vulnerable populations.

Ways Forward

Intensify prevention, empower communities, ensure affordable treatments, strengthen healthcare systems, and reduce stigma to combat AIDS effectively by 2030.

Questions : Global health initiatives like UNAIDS have a significant role in combating HIV/AIDS. How can India collaborate with such global agencies to accelerate its progress in achieving health-related SDGs?

Source : [UNAIDS](#)



The fight against sickle cell disease: how one hospital in rural Maharashtra is making a difference

What in News?

Sickle cell disease shortens your life by at least twenty years. But desperation and hopelessness cannot be the final word. For the sake of patients, the fight continues, no matter the adversity

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

Genetic blood disorder by the production of abnormal hemoglobin S, which causes red blood cells to assume a sickle shape. These sickle-shaped cells can obstruct blood flow and break down prematurely, leading to various health complications.

Causes : Genetic Disorder inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. Individuals with two copies of the mutated HBB gene (one from each parent) develop the disease, while carriers with one copy are typically asymptomatic but can pass on the gene.

Symptoms

- Painful in the chest, joints, and abdomen.
- Anaemia
- Organ Damage : Liver, heart, and kidneys.
- Infections

Diagnosis

- Blood Tests: Can detect the presence of haemoglobin S in the blood.
- Genetic Testing: Confirms the presence of the HBB gene mutation

Treatment

- Blood Transfusions: Used to treat severe anaemia or prevent stroke.
- Hydroxyurea: A medication that helps reduce pain episodes and complications.
- Bone Marrow Transplant: Potential cure, but it is rarely used due to risks and complications.

Sickle Cell in India

- **Prevalence:** SCD is more prevalent among tribal populations in India, particularly in states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh.
- **National Program:** The Indian government has launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (2023-2047) to eliminate SCD by 2047 through screening, genetic counselling, and treatment.

National Sickle Cell Anemia Mission (NSCAM)

- Launched : 2023
- Aims: To eliminate SCD by 70 million individuals from tribal populations and providing better healthcare infrastructure, treatment, and counseling services.

Potential for Gene Therapy in India

India is close to developing gene therapy for SCD, which could provide a one-time cure for the disease.

Way Forward

Need for Trained Healthcare Professionals: Improved medical training to recognize and treat SCD, along with better diagnostic facilities, is essential.

Question: Discuss the role of government healthcare programs in addressing genetic disorders, with a focus on Sickle Cell Anemia among tribal populations. How can India achieve better health outcomes for such vulnerable groups?

Source: [The Hindu](#)



Editorial, Ideas and Opinion

Why Italy matters to India

What in News?

In today's interconnected world, Italy and India share not only deep-rooted cultural and economic ties but also strategic and defense interests, particularly in the Indo-Mediterranean region.

Italy's Strategic Importance in the Indo-Mediterranean Region

- The Indo-Mediterranean region is essential for global trade, with Italy ranked as the 6th largest exporter in the world.
- Italy has increased its security and defense presence in the Indian Ocean Region and West Asia to ensure freedom of navigation and combat piracy, especially in areas like the Red Sea and Strait of Hormuz.
- Italy's naval initiatives, such as the **European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Atalanta**, the **European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH)**, and the recently launched **EUNAVFOR ASPIDES** in February 2024,

Italy-India Defense Cooperation : Areas like industrial collaboration, maritime domain awareness, and joint military exercises.

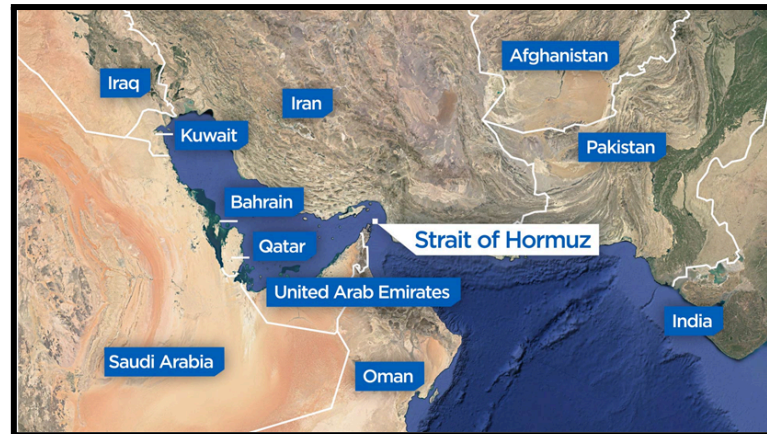
Technological and Economic Cooperation :

- The **Blue-Raman submarine cable project**, which will connect Genoa with Mumbai, signifies deepening cooperation in digital connectivity between India and Italy.

Blue-Raman Submarine Cable Project: Connects India to Europe via Israel and the Middle East, bypassing the Suez Canal to enhance global internet connectivity. It's crucial for India's IT sector and international cooperation.

People-to-People Ties and Diaspora : Italy hosts the second-largest Indian diaspora within the European Union.

Indo-Mediterranean Economic Corridor : Amid growing regional tensions, Italy has backed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).



India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) : Transcontinental infrastructure initiative aimed at enhancing connectivity and trade between India, the Middle East, and Europe. Announced at the G20 Summit 2023 in New Delhi.

- **Objective:** To create an integrated network of railways, ports, and shipping lanes linking India with the Middle East (UAE, Saudi Arabia) and Europe.
- **Participating Countries:** India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and European nations such as Italy and Germany.
- **Infrastructure Focus:** Rail network, Shipping routes, Green energy projects and digital connectivity

Ways Forward

Italy's importance to India extends far beyond traditional economic ties to defense cooperation contributing to regional security in the Indo-Mediterranean

Question: How does Italy contribute to India's defence capabilities and regional stability, and what role does the Indo-Mediterranean play in strengthening this relationship?

Source: [The Hindu](#)



Daily Quiz

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding classical languages in India:

1. Classical languages have a documented history of over 1,000 years.
2. The first language to be declared classical was Kannada.
3. The status of classical language is granted by the Government of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Consider the following statements about tropical cyclones:

1. They can lead to excess mortality years after they strike.
2. The peak seasons for cyclones in India are January-February and May-June.
3. Cyclones form over cold ocean waters.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q3. Which of the following are the major tributaries of the Gandak River?

1. Burhi Gandak
2. Kosi
3. Trishuli
4. Saryu

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Q4. Which of the following statements about the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 is/are correct?

1. The Act prohibits manual scavenging in all forms, including within prisons.
2. It provides for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers through training and financial aid.
3. The practice of manual scavenging is a violation of Article 23 of the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, and 3

- D. 1 and 3 only

Q5. How does the resolution of the UK-Mauritius dispute over the Chagos Archipelago affect India's geopolitical interests in the Indian Ocean?

1. India has consistently supported Mauritius' claims of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago at the UN.
2. The military base at Diego Garcia is of strategic importance for the US, with implications for India's security interests.
3. The resolution of the dispute reduces China's influence in the Indian Ocean region.
4. India has collaborated with Mauritius to enhance its maritime infrastructure in the Western Indian Ocean.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

Q6. Consider the following statement regarding Indian Leopard:

1. Leopard habitats include forests, subtropical and tropical regions, savannas, grasslands, deserts, and rocky and mountainous regions.
2. Mostly found in the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains
3. Karnataka has highest population of Indian leopard

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All are correct

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):

1. It aims to ensure the holistic development of the agriculture and allied sectors.
2. The scheme encourages states to draw up plans for agriculture development based on district and state agricultural plans.
3. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

Q8. Which of the following statements about HIV/AIDS and its treatment is/are correct?

- 1. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) can manage HIV infection and prolong life.
- 2. AIDS is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which is transmitted only through unprotected sexual contact.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q9. Which of the following statements about Sickle Cell Disease is/are correct?

- 1. Sickle Cell Disease is an autosomal dominant disorder.
- 2. Individuals with Sickle Cell Disease have a higher risk of infections due to splenic dysfunction.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q10. With reference to the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. IMEC is a transcontinental initiative that aims to enhance connectivity and trade between India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- 2. It is intended to replace the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the primary trade route in the region.
- 3. The project is expected to include a rail and shipping route connecting India to Europe via the Middle East.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, and 3
- D. 1 only



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Classical languages are recognized for their significant literary history that typically spans over a thousand years.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Tamil was the first language to be declared classical in 2004, not Kannada.

Statement 3 is correct as the Government of India is responsible for granting classical language status.

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct : studies have shown that mortality can increase for many years following a cyclone.

Statement 2 is incorrect : peak cyclone seasons in India are May-June and October-November.

Statement 3 is incorrect: cyclones form over warm ocean waters, not cold.

3. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- Burhi Gandak and Trishuli are important tributaries of the Gandak River.
- Kosi is not a tributary of Gandak; it is a major river in eastern Bihar.
- Saryu is associated with the Ghaghara River, not Gandak.

4. Correct Answer is C

Statement 1: Correct :

- The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 prohibits the employment of people as manual scavengers in any setting, including within prisons.
- The Act bans any person from being engaged in the manual cleaning of human waste (such as dry latrines) and mandates that anyone currently involved in this work must be rehabilitated.

Statement 2: Correct :

- The Act not only prohibits manual scavenging but also includes provisions for the rehabilitation of individuals who have been engaged in such work.
- This includes measures such as offering training, alternative employment, and financial aid to ensure that manual scavengers can transition to other livelihood options.

Statement 3: Correct

- Article 23 of the Indian Constitution prohibits forced labor and human trafficking.
- The practice of manual scavenging, often involving coercion and caste-based discrimination, can be seen as a form of forced labor, which makes it a violation of Article 23.
- The Supreme Court has reiterated this connection in its rulings, stating that compelling certain castes to perform manual scavenging amounts to a violation of their fundamental rights, particularly under Article 23.

5. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

Statement 1 : correct : India has consistently backed Mauritius' claims over the Chagos Archipelago. This aligns with India's stance on decolonization and international law.

Strategic Importance of Diego Garcia:

Statement 2 : correct : Diego Garcia, the largest island in the Chagos Archipelago, houses a key US military base. This base has been crucial for US military operations, and its strategic location holds significance for India in terms of regional security and monitoring maritime routes like the Malacca Strait.



Statement 3 : Correct : While the resolution of the dispute might not directly impact China, it strengthens India-Mauritius ties, allowing India to counteract China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean region. India's support for Mauritius' sovereignty helps secure its interests and curb Chinese activities in the region, such as infrastructure projects.

Statement 4 : Correct : India has actively assisted Mauritius in building strategic infrastructure, such as airstrips and jetties in Agaléga, enhancing India's presence in the Western Indian Ocean. This increases India's strategic foothold and influence in the region, which is vital given Chinese interests in the Indian Ocean. Thus, Statement 4 is correct.

6. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct: Leopards are highly adaptable animals and are found in a wide range of habitats across India, including forests, subtropical and tropical regions, savannas, grasslands, deserts, and even rocky and mountainous terrains.

Statement 2: Incorrect: While leopards are found in the Shivalik Hills and the Gangetic Plains, they are not "mostly" confined to these areas. Leopards have a much broader distribution across India, including regions like the Western Ghats, Central India, the Aravallis, and parts of the Deccan Plateau.

Statement 3: Correct : According to the "Status of Leopards in India 2018" report, Madhya Pradesh has the highest leopard population in India, not Karnataka. Karnataka does have a significant population of leopards, especially in its forested areas like the Western Ghats, but it does not rank highest.

7. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct : The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) aims at achieving comprehensive development of agriculture and allied sectors. Its

objective is to enhance the productivity and profitability of farmers by promoting integrated, holistic, and sustainable agricultural growth.

Statement 2: Correct : One of the key features of RKVY is that it allows states to formulate their agricultural development plans. States are required to prepare these plans in consultation with district-level authorities to ensure that the programs align with local priorities. This decentralized approach ensures that agriculture development is tailored to local conditions.

Statement 3: Incorrect : RKVY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme but not with 100% funding. The funding is shared between the Centre and the States, with the Centre providing a certain percentage of the funds and the States contributing the rest. Typically, the funding ratio is 60:40 between the Centre and most states, and 90:10 for the Northeastern and hilly states.

8. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is effective in managing HIV and prolonging life.
- However, HIV can be transmitted through various means, including contaminated blood, sharing needles, and from mother to child, not just unprotected sexual contact.

9. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is actually an autosomal recessive disorder, not dominant.
- It causes the production of abnormal hemoglobin, leading to sickle-shaped red blood cells. Individuals with SCD are more susceptible to infections, particularly due to spleen dysfunction caused by repeated sickling.



10. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

Statement 1: True : The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is indeed a transcontinental initiative aimed at improving connectivity and trade links between India, the Middle East, and Europe. It was proposed to enhance economic ties and foster development in these regions.

Statement 2: False : While the IMEC is positioned as a counterbalance to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it does not seek to replace it outright. CPEC is part of China's broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and the IMEC serves as an alternative pathway for trade that could enhance regional stability and connectivity but does not intend to supersede CPEC entirely.

Statement 3: True : The IMEC is designed to incorporate a rail and shipping route, which will connect India to Europe through the Middle East. This involves various logistical frameworks, including shipping lanes and rail networks, that facilitate trade across these regions.





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