



**UPSC  
Mentorship**  
A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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## Science

India has tech to protect itself from missile attack like Israel, more numbers needed, says Air Chief Marshal A P Singh

### What in News?

India has tech to protect itself from attack like Israel

#### Delay in delivery of S-400, why?

- In 2018-19, India signed a contract with Russia for five S-400 missile squadrons.
- While three squadrons have been delivered, the remaining two face delays due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- Concurrently, the Indian Defence Acquisition Council has approved the procurement of the Long Range Surface Air Missile (LRSAM) system under Project Kusha.

#### S-400 Triumph Missile System:

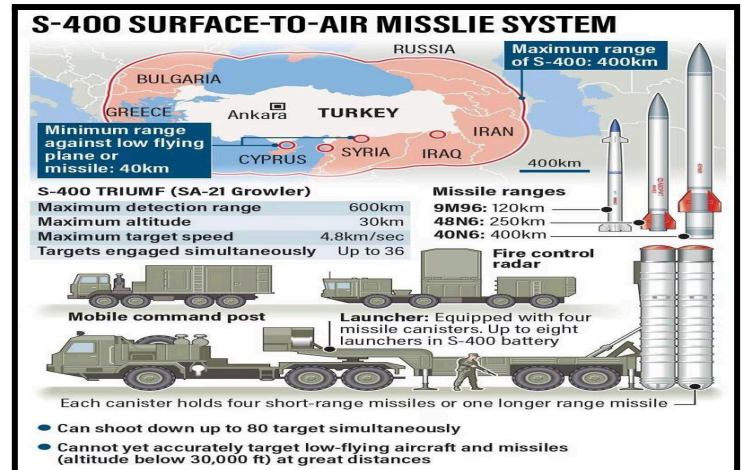
- The S-400 Triumph is a mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system developed by Russia, designed to intercept and destroy various aerial threats including aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles.

#### Importance for India

- **Strategic Need:** Enhances India's air defense capabilities and deterrence posture against China and Pakistan, both of which are modernizing their air forces and missile arsenals.
- **Geopolitical Context:** India faces a two-front threat from China and Pakistan, necessitating robust air defense systems due to historical border disputes and conflicts.
- **Regional Stability:** The acquisition counters China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean Region, where it is constructing ports and military infrastructure.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Aims to diversify India's defense partnerships and maintain autonomy amid global uncertainties.

#### Project Kusha

- Led by DRDO, Project Kusha is focused on developing India's long-range air defense system, targeted for completion by 2028-29.
- **Capabilities:**
  - The system will be able to detect and neutralize enemy threats, including cruise missiles and stealth aircraft.
  - It will comprise three types of



interceptor missiles with ranges of 150 km, 250 km, and 350 km, alongside advanced surveillance and fire control radars.

- **Competitive Edge:** Project Kusha is expected to rival the S-400 system and Israel's Iron Dome.

#### Iron Dome System:

- **Ground-to-air defense system** developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries, operational since 2011.
- **Functionality:** It detects and neutralizes threats, including rockets, artillery, and UAVs, using radar and interceptor missiles.
- **Specifications:** Range: Close to 70 km.
- **Components:** Includes detection and tracking radar, battle management and weapons control, and missile launchers.

#### Conclusion:

India's acquisition of the S-400 missile system and the development of Project Kusha mark significant steps in enhancing the country's air defense capabilities.

**Question:** How will the integration of the S-400 and Project Kusha enhance India's strategic posture in the context of its two-front threat?

**Source:** [The Indian Express](https://www.thehindu.com/news-international/india-s-400-missile-system/article66484411.ece)



## International Relation

**Jaishankar to visit Pakistan for SCO meeting: What is the organisation — and what is its significance?**

### What in News?

SCO is one of the few international organisations which deal with security issues and primarily has Asian members.

### What is the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

- **Origins:** Formed in 1996 as the "Shanghai Five," including China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, in response to rising concerns over extremist groups and ethnic tensions in Central Asia after the dissolution of the USSR.
- **Expansion:**
  - Officially established as an international organisation in 2001 with the inclusion of Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.
  - 10 members, including China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.
  - On July 4, 2024 SCO officially admitted **Belarus** as an official member during the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- **Observers:** Afghanistan and Mongolia.

### Why is SCO significant?

- **Security Focus:** Security issues, counter-terrorism efforts, and cooperation on regional stability.
- **Alternative to Western Influence:** With major powers like Russia and China leading the group, the SCO is seen as an alternative to Western-led international forums.
- **India's Interest:** It enhances India's engagement with Central Asian nations and offers a platform for security cooperation despite tensions with China and Pakistan.

### Historical Context for India's Membership

- **Balance of Power:** Russia supported India's 2017 inclusion in SCO, while China



backed Pakistan, balancing influence within the organization.

### India's Role in SCO

- **Security Cooperation:** India actively participates in the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), a critical SCO organ for counter-terrorism exercises and intelligence sharing.
- **Challenges:** India's strained ties with Pakistan and China complicate its participation. Although the SCO promotes cooperation, it does not resolve underlying tensions among its members.

### Conclusion

- SCO is vital for regional security, providing India a platform for communication with Central Asian countries, but struggles to resolve deep rivalries.

**Questions:** How does India's membership in the SCO impact its strategic objectives in Central Asia?

**Source:** The Indian Express



## Economy

# As China tightens grip, India and US sign agreement to strengthen supply chain for critical minerals

## What in News?

This follows a series of unexpected curbs imposed by China, including restrictions on exports of gallium and germanium, which are products widely used in the semiconductor industry

**Critical Minerals:** It is essential for economic development and national security. Their availability is crucial, as supply chain vulnerabilities may arise from a lack of access or geographical concentration of these minerals.

**Supply Chain Vulnerabilities:** Concentration of critical minerals can lead to disruptions, affecting industries and technologies reliant on them.

### Critical Minerals for India

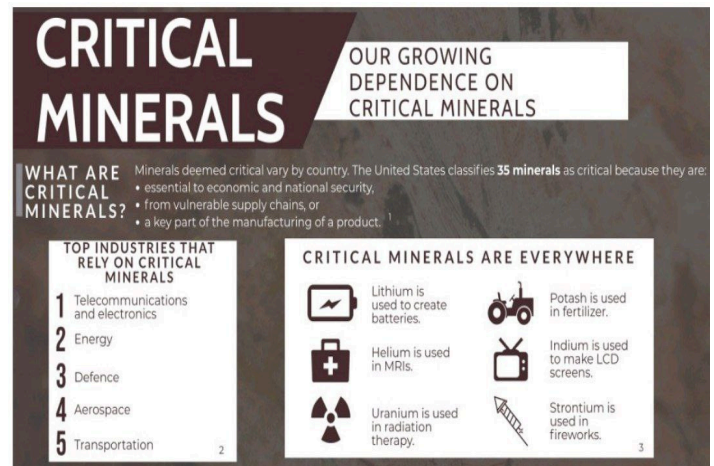
- **Identified Minerals:** A set of 30 minerals has been identified by the Expert Committee under the Ministry of Mines based on factors like disruption potential and import reliance.
- **Key Minerals:** Antimony, Beryllium, Cobalt, Lithium, Nickel, and others.
- **Geographical Distribution:** Critical minerals are found in states like Bihar, Gujarat, and Jharkhand.

### Current Global Scenario

- **Rising Demand:** Demand for critical minerals surged, especially lithium, cobalt, and nickel, driven by clean energy technologies.
- **Market Growth:** The IEA predicts significant growth in demand for minerals essential for clean energy by 2040.
- **Concentration of Resources:** Major reserves are concentrated in countries like Australia, China, and the DRC, raising geopolitical concerns.

### Significance of Critical Minerals

- **Economic Development:** Essential for high-tech industries, green technologies, and job creation.
- **National Security:** Vital for defense and aerospace, ensuring self-reliance in critical supplies.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Necessary for achieving India's net-zero



targets by 2070 and transitioning to electric vehicles.

### Concerns Related to Critical Minerals in India

- Limited Domestic Reserves
- Increasing Demand
- Challenges Posed by China

### Steps Required to Boost Critical Minerals Availability

- Ensuring Resource Availability
- Financial Considerations
- Technology as the Key Driver

### Conclusion

Addressing the challenges related to critical minerals is vital for India's economic growth, national security, and environmental sustainability.

**Questions:** How can India mitigate the impacts of a widening current account deficit on its economy?

**Source:** [The Indian Express](https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-us-agreement-to-strengthen-supply-chain-for-critical-minerals/article67881271.ece)



## How circular migration can help meet global skill shortage and lift Indians out of poverty

### What in News?

India can address skill shortages in Europe and Japan through circular migration, allowing workers to gain experience and contribute to the home economy.

#### Global Skill Shortages

- **Regions Affected:** Europe and Japan are experiencing shortages in critical sectors such as healthcare, construction, and technology due to ageing populations.

#### Government Initiatives

- **Skill Development:** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and state governments focus on identifying skilled workers and facilitating transitions through training and certification.
- **Training Programs:** Initiatives like Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) upgrade skills to meet international standards.

#### Migration:

- A migrant is an individual who is relocating or has relocated across an international boundary or within a state, departing from their usual place of residence.
- Analysing changes in migration regarding scale, direction, demographics, and frequency can inform the development of impactful policies, programs, and practical interventions.

#### Types of Migration

- **Internal Migration:** Movement within the country, e.g., rural-urban migration.
- **External Migration:** Cross-border movement for work or asylum.
- **Forced Migration:** Due to wars or disasters.
- **Voluntary Migration:** Driven by better economic prospects.
- **Reverse Migration:** Return to the original place of residence.

#### Reasons for Migration

- **Economic:** Push factors (poverty), pull factors (better jobs).
- **Socio-Cultural:** Marriage, caste-based issues.
- **Political:** Instability or persecution.
- **Environmental:** Climate change, natural disasters.

#### Impacts of Migration

- **Positive:**
  - **Economic Growth:** Remittances boost the economy.

- **Social Change:** Spread of new ideas, cultural diversity.
- **Innovation:** Migrants bring skills, contributing to development.

- **Negative:**

- **Urbanization Pressure:** Overcrowding, pollution, slums.
- **Social Tensions:** Competition for resources, family separation.

#### Poverty:

- Condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living & income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can't be met.

#### Types of Poverty

1. **Absolute Poverty:** Scarcity of basic needs (food, water, shelter), measured at \$1.90/day. Common in developing nations.
2. **Relative Poverty:** Based on income inequality compared to surrounding living standards. Common in developed countries.
3. **Situational Poverty:** Temporary, caused by adverse events (job loss, disaster). Recoverable with minimal help.
4. **Generational Poverty:** Passed through generations, trapping people in poverty with no access to escape tools.
5. **Rural Poverty:** Fewer job opportunities, services, and education in rural areas. Dependence on farming and menial work.
6. **Urban Poverty:** Overcrowding, limited health, education, housing, and social protection in cities.

#### Conclusion

Circular migration offers a strategic approach to bridge global skill shortages while uplifting Indian workers from poverty.

**Question:** Migration is an increasing phenomenon in contemporary India, with far-reaching implications on urban life." Discuss.

**Source:** [The Indian Express](#)



## Environment

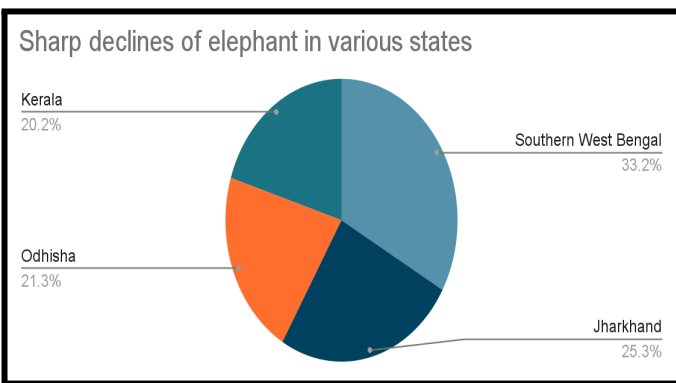
### How elephants are counted, why policy needs a rethink

What in News?

India's elephant populations have significantly declined, highlighting the need for improved counting methods and urgent policy reassessment for protection.

#### Declining Elephant Populations

- According to the report titled "Status of Elephant in India 2022-23," citing delays in the Northeast census.
- Development projects, including mining and infrastructure, are identified as significant threats to elephant habitats.



#### New Methodologies

- Lower numbers may not be directly comparable to previous censuses.
- The DNA profiling method did not significantly impact the northern landscapes, indicating that the drastic decline in other regions cannot solely be attributed to methodological variations.

#### Current Approaches:

- The Synchronous All India Elephant Estimation 2022-23 (SAIEE 2023) used a genetic mark-recapture model to identify individual elephants through dung samples, marking a significant methodological shift.

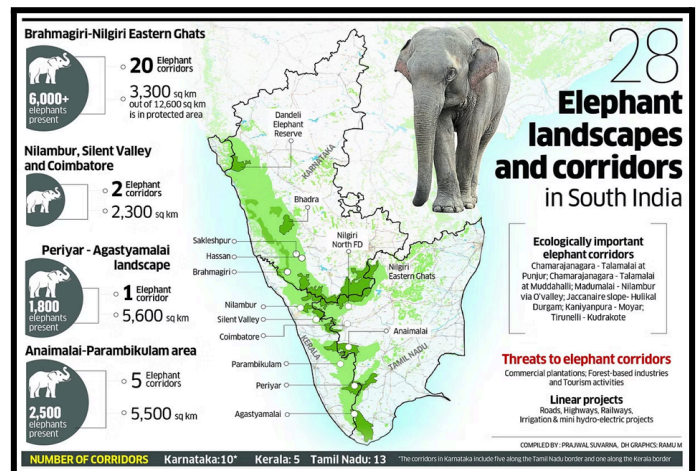
#### Project Elephant Overview

- **Launched:** 1992 by the Government of India as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Implementation:** Operates in 16 states/UTs with financial and technical support from the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change.

#### Status of Elephants in India

- **Population:** India has over 60% of wild Asian elephants, with 29,964 recorded in the 2017 census.

- **Reserves:** 31 elephant reserves, covering approximately 76,508 sq km across 14 states.
- **Highest Populations:** Karnataka (6,049), Assam (5,719), Kerala (3,054).



#### About Asian Elephants

- **Subspecies:** Indian, Sumatran, and Sri Lankan.
- **Habitat:** Found in grasslands and forests across 13 countries in South and Southeast Asia.
- **Reproduction:** Longest gestation (up to 680 days) and birthing every 4-6 years.
- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **Legal Protection:** Listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and CITES Appendix I.

#### Goals of Project Elephant

1. Protect elephants and habitats.
2. Mitigate human-elephant conflicts.
3. Promote conservation-friendly policies.
4. Monitor elephant populations and threats.
5. Enhance research for effective strategies.

#### Conclusion

Declining elephant populations highlight the urgent need for policy reform

**Question:** What specific policy interventions can be implemented to address the habitat threats facing elephant populations in India?

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



## Editorial, Ideas, and Opinions

### Kerala urgently needs to identify risk zones

#### What in News?

Kerala is facing more natural disasters like floods and landslides, driven by climate change, unsustainable development, and landscape changes.

#### Natural status of Kerala

- With the sea to its west and the Western Ghats to its east, Kerala used to be considered a relatively disaster-free zone. Kerala's widespread settlements, from coasts to hill slopes, coupled with infrastructure development, disregard natural drainage, slope stability, and encroachments into forests.

**Recent Disasters in Kerala :** Wayanad Landslides (July 2024) in which Mundakkai and Chooralmala were severely affected

#### Why Disasters been seen in Kerala

- Landslides in the Western Ghats are also becoming regular during every monsoon.
- Like the river Sharavati, the Chaliyar also originates in the eastern side of the Western Ghats. Both these rivers cut across the mountain range and debouch into the Arabian Sea, in spite of the easterly tilt of the Wayanad-Mysore plateaus.
- Rapid warming of the Arabian Sea increases the risk of extreme weather events like floods, heat waves, and cyclones, with rising Indian Ocean heat content since 2000.

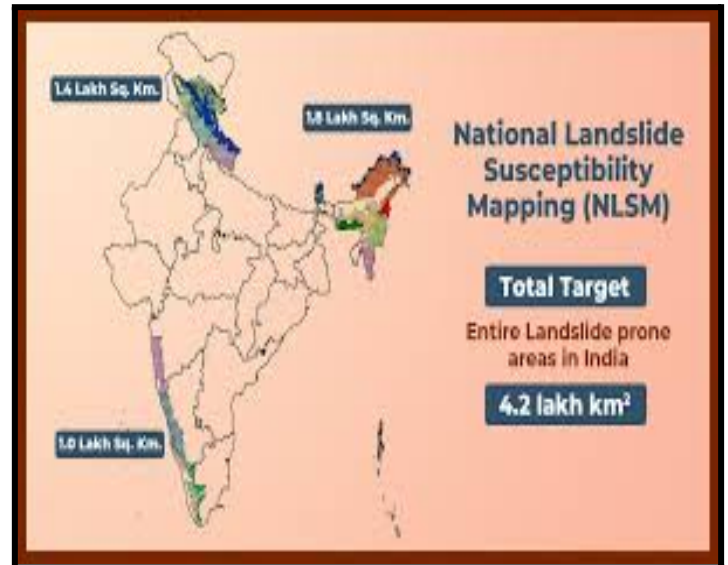
#### Increasing Disaster Frequency:

- **Floods:** The Kerala floods of 2018 were termed the "floods of the century"
- **Coastal Erosion:** Over 250 km of Kerala's 590 km coastline is impacted by erosion.
- **Landslides:** Frequent occurrences in the Western Ghats, worsened by human encroachments, development projects, and disregard for natural land stability.

**Landslides :** Movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope due to gravity.

#### Causes of Landslides:

- **Geography:** Kerala's steep slopes, tectonic factors, and heavy rainfall.
- **Human Activities:** Deforestation, unplanned settlements, infrastructure development, and land-use changes.



#### Types of Landslides

- **Rock Falls:** Free-falling rocks from steep cliffs.
- **Debris Flows:** Saturated loose debris and soil that flow downslope.
- **Earth Flows:** Slow-moving masses of soil or fine particles.
- **Slumps:** Rotational sliding of a mass of earth or rock.

#### Way Forward

Implement sustainable land use, reforestation, drainage systems, slope reinforcement, early warning systems, public awareness, and policy to mitigate landslides.

**Question:** How can Kerala's disaster management framework be strengthened to integrate both scientific and community-based approaches?

**Source:** [The Hin](#)





## In Brief

### 1. Jal Jeevan Mission

#### Features Of Jal Jeevan Mission

- **Nodal Ministry:** Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti Ministry.
- It is based on a Community-centric approach with a focus on Information, Education, and Communication(IEC).
- **Funding split:** 50:50 between Centre and States, 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 100% for Union Territories from the Central government.
- **JJM has 2 components:** JJM Rural & JJM Urban.
  - **Institutional Mechanism of JJM:**
    - National Jal Jeevan Mission
    - State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM)
    - District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM)
    - Paani Samiti/ Village Water Sanitation Committee - sub-committee of Gram Panchayat(GP)
- Implementation of the JJM is through Paani Samitis, consisting of 10-15 members with a mandate of at least 50% women members and others from SHGs, ASHA Workers, Anganwadi teachers, etc.
- They are required to prepare a one-time village action plan, merging all available village resources, subject to approval by Gram Sabha.

### 2. Indigenous Cattle Breeds of India

- **India has 50 Indigenous Bovine Breeds (37 Cattle and 13 Buffaloes).**
  - **Milch Breeds:** Specifically raised for milk production.
    - **Examples:** Sahiwal, Gir, Red Sindhi, Tharparkar and Rathi.
  - **Milch and Draught Breeds:** Draught cattle are employed for heavy labor purposes, aiding in agricultural activities such as plowing and transportation.
    - **Examples:** Kankrej, Ongole, and Hariana.
- **Specialty of Indian Cows**
  - **Hump:** It is an exclusive characteristic of the Indian Desi bulls and cows and facilitates them to carry loads without effort, while the foreign breeds do not have a hump.
  - **Dewlap:** It is a fold of loose skin hanging from the neck of an animal. The Indigenous Cattle have a high heat resistance from their extensive Dewlaps.
  - **Dung:** The dung of Indian breeds of cows is used in agriculture, medicine, etc., whereas the dung of foreign breeds is of no use.

### 3. Western Ghats

**Geography:** Mountain range parallel to India's western coast, spanning 1,600 km from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu, across six states.

**Biodiversity:** Second to the Eastern Himalayas in biodiversity, hosting over 30% of India's flora and fauna, including 325 threatened species.

**Ecological Significance:** Influences monsoon patterns; recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Hydrological Importance:** Supplies water to 245 million people.



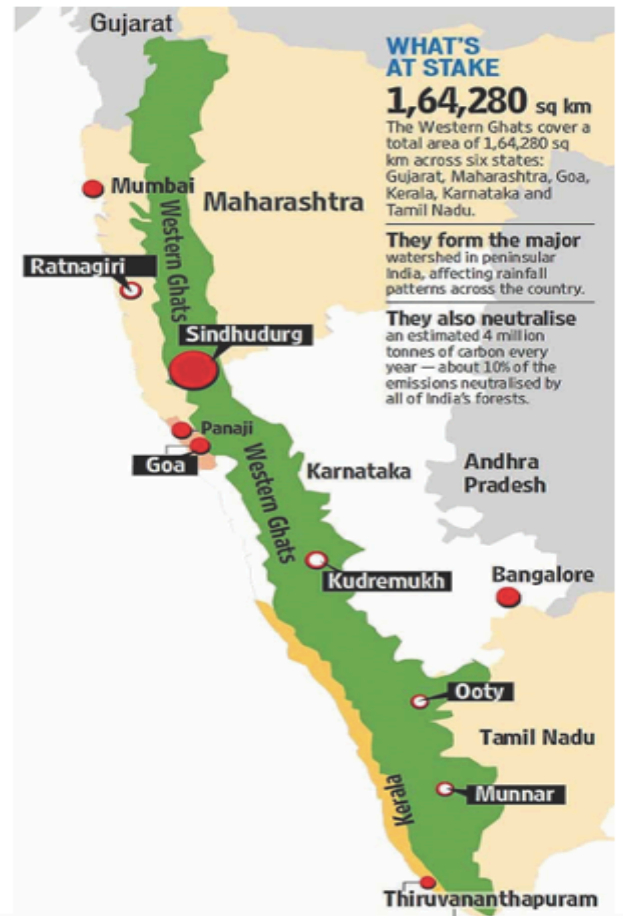
**Economic Significance:** Rich in minerals and a source of plantation crops and timber.

**Threats**

- Illegal Hunting:** Driven by demand for wild meat.
- Human-Wildlife Conflicts:** Heightened by dense populations.
- Resource Extraction:** Unsustainable fuelwood and non-timber product collection.
- Plantation Expansion:** Displacement of natural forests by cash crops.

**Key Committees**

- Madhav Gadgil Committee:** Designated the region as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), advocating community involvement in decision-making.
- Kasturirangan Report:** Marked 37% of the Ghats as ecologically sensitive, calling for mining bans.



**4. E-Office System in India**

**Initiative:** Launched by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) as part of the Digital India Programme.

**Objectives**

- Enhanced Efficiency:** Improves speed and quality of government processes.
- Paperless Governance:** Reduces paper usage significantly, promoting environmental sustainability.
- Secure Environment:** Protects sensitive data using encryption, digital signatures, and biometric authentication.
- Transparency and Accountability:** Increases access to government information through platforms like the RTI Online Portal.



## Places in News

# Yemen

Yemen has been in the spotlight recently due to ongoing peace talks, humanitarian crises, and geopolitical tensions.

**Key issues include:**

- **Conflict :** US-British strikes launched on Yemen capital Sanaa, Hodeidah airport
- **Peace Negotiations:** There are renewed efforts led by Saudi Arabia and Oman to broker a peace deal between the Yemeni government and Houthi rebels, aiming to end the prolonged civil war.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** Yemen continues to face one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with millions suffering from food insecurity, disease outbreaks (like cholera), and lack of access to basic services.
- **Geopolitical Interests:** The conflict also reflects broader regional power struggles, involving Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other global actors.



## Daily Quiz

**Q1. With reference to the S-400 Triumf Missile System, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is a long-range surface-to-air missile system developed by Israel.
2. It is capable of intercepting and destroying both aircraft and ballistic missiles.

**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

**Q2. Which of the following countries are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?**

1. Afghanistan
2. India
3. Kazakhstan
4. Belarus
5. Pakistan
6. Turkmenistan

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- A. 1, 2, 3, and 4
- B. 2, 3, 4 and 5
- C. 1, 2, 4, and 5
- D. 1, 3 and 6

**Q3. Consider the following minerals:**

1. Bentonite
2. Chromite
3. Kyanite
4. Sillimanite

**In which of the following states are they found in significant quantities?**

- A. Odisha
- B. Karnataka
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Rajasthan

**Q4. Which of the following are considered 'push factors' in migration?**

1. Unemployment
2. Natural disasters
3. Political instability
4. Economic opportunities

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Q5. Which of the following statements are true regarding the domestication of elephants in India?**

1. Domesticated elephants are primarily used for logging and transportation.
2. The practice of keeping elephants for religious ceremonies is a modern development.
3. Training and management of domesticated elephants have significant implications for their welfare.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Q6. Which of the following regions of India is considered a biodiversity hotspot?**

1. The Western Ghats
2. The Eastern Ghats
3. The Himalayas
4. The Indo-Burma Region

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q7. The Jal Jeevan Mission contributes directly to which of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?**

1. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
2. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
3. SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

**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 only



**Q8. Which of the following reasons contribute to the decline of indigenous cattle breeds in India?**

1. Genetic dilution through crossbreeding with exotic breeds.
2. Lack of awareness among farmers about the benefits of indigenous breeds.
3. Climate change affecting the health of indigenous breeds.

**Select the correct answer using the codes below:**

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

**Q9. Which of the following are major rivers that originate in the Western Ghats?**

1. Godavari
2. Krishna
3. Kaveri
4. Tapi

**Select the correct answer using the codes below:**

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

**Q10. Which of the following statements regarding the E-Office System is/are correct?**

1. It is a government initiative aimed at improving the efficiency of administrative processes.
2. It requires all government offices to completely switch to digital communication methods.
3. It includes features such as file tracking, electronic approvals, and task management.

**Select the correct answer using the codes below:**

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



## Solutions

### 1. Correct Answer is B

#### Explanation:

**Statement 1: Incorrect :** The S-400 Triumf Missile System is not developed by Israel but by Russia. Israel has its own missile defense system called the Iron Dome, which protects against short-range threats like rockets and artillery. On the other hand, Russia's S-400 is designed to counter a wider range of threats, including aircraft, UAVs, and ballistic missiles.

**Statement 2: Correct :** The S-400 system is a versatile defense platform capable of intercepting and destroying aerial threats like aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles. It has a range of 400 km and is designed to protect against strategic threats, making it one of the most advanced surface-to-air missile systems in the world.

### 2. Correct Answer is D

#### Explanation:

- India, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Pakistan are all members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- Afghanistan is an observer state, not a full member.
- Turkmenistan is not a member of the SCO.
- As of July 2024, SCO officially admitted Belarus as an official member during the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO
- 10 members, including China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.

### 3. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- Odisha is known for its rich deposits of chromite (which is critical for stainless steel production) and other strategic minerals.

- Kyanite and Sillimanite are found in several parts of India, including Odisha, and are used in the refractory and ceramic industries.
- Bentonite, however, is primarily found in states like Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- Odisha plays a crucial role in India's mineral wealth, especially for critical minerals such as chromite and laterite, contributing significantly to India's industrial and manufacturing sectors.

### 4. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

**Push Factors are conditions that drive people to leave their current residence, often due to negative circumstances.**

**Unemployment:** Lack of job opportunities can compel individuals to migrate in search of better prospects.

**Natural Disasters:** Events like earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes can displace populations, forcing them to move away from affected areas.

**Political Instability:** Situations such as war, conflict, and oppressive governments can lead people to seek safety and stability elsewhere.

**Economic Opportunities:** This is actually a pull factor, not a push factor. It refers to the attractive prospects in another location that draw people in, such as job availability and better living conditions.

### 5. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

**Statement 1 : True:** Historically, domesticated elephants in India have been used for various purposes, including logging, transportation of goods, and carrying people. Their strength and ability to work in challenging terrains make them valuable for these tasks.

**Statement 2 : False:** The use of elephants in religious ceremonies, festivals, and rituals has a long history in India. Elephants are often considered sacred



animals in various cultures and are traditionally involved in ceremonies, especially in Hindu and Buddhist contexts. This practice is not a modern development but rather a historical and cultural tradition.

**Statement 3 : True:** The training and management practices for domesticated elephants can greatly impact their physical and psychological well-being. Improper training techniques can lead to stress, health issues, and behavioral problems. There is increasing awareness and concern about the welfare of domesticated elephants, making this statement true.

**6. Correct Answer is C**

**Explanation:**

- **The Western Ghats : Status: Biodiversity Hotspot**  
The Western Ghats are known for their rich flora and fauna, including numerous endemic species. They are recognized as one of the global biodiversity hotspots due to their high levels of species richness and endemism.
- **The Eastern Ghats : Status: Not a recognized biodiversity hotspot**  
Eastern Ghats do not meet the criteria of a biodiversity hotspot because they lack the high levels of endemism and species richness found in other regions like the Western Ghats.
- **The Himalayas : Status: Biodiversity Hotspot**  
The Himalayas are considered a biodiversity hotspot due to their diverse ecosystems, rich plant and animal life, and high levels of endemism. They have a wide range of climatic zones, supporting various species.
- **The Indo-Burma Region : Status: Biodiversity Hotspot**  
The Indo-Burma region includes northeastern India and is recognized as a biodiversity hotspot. It has a vast array of species and high levels of endemism, but it has also suffered significant habitat loss.

**7. Correct Answer is D**

**Explanation:**

**SDG6 :** The primary objective of the Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide clean drinking water to rural households, directly aligning with the goals of SDG 6. It contributes to improving water supply and sanitation facilities, making this goal the most directly connected to the mission.

**SDG3:** Indirectly contributes to this goal  
**SDG11:** About making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable which is irrelevant.

**8. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 : Correct :** This is a significant factor in the decline of indigenous cattle breeds. Crossbreeding with exotic breeds can lead to genetic dilution, where the unique traits of indigenous breeds are lost. Many farmers prefer exotic breeds for their higher milk yield, leading to a decrease in the population of indigenous breeds and compromising their genetic integrity.

**Statement 2 : Correct :** Many farmers may not be fully aware of the advantages of indigenous breeds, such as their adaptability to local climates, disease resistance, and lower maintenance costs. This lack of awareness can result in a preference for high-yielding exotic breeds, further leading to the decline of indigenous varieties.

**Statement 3 : Correct :** Climate change does impact livestock, including indigenous breeds. Changes in temperature, humidity, and the availability of feed can affect their health and productivity.



**9. Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:**

**Godavari** : Origin: The Godavari River originates in the Western Ghats at Triambak in Maharashtra.

**Krishna** : Origin: The Krishna River also originates in the Western Ghats, specifically near Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.

**Kaveri** : Origin: The Kaveri River originates in the Western Ghats at Talakaveri, located in Kodagu district of Karnataka.

**Tapi** : Origin: The Tapi (Tapti) River originates in the Satpura Range, which is not part of the Western Ghats; it starts near Multai in Madhya Pradesh.

**10. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct.** The E-Office System is indeed a government initiative designed to enhance the efficiency of administrative processes by digitizing workflows and reducing paperwork.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** While the E-Office System promotes digital communication, it does not mandate that all government offices must completely abandon physical documentation. Some documents may still require physical copies due to legal or operational requirements.

**Statement 3 is correct.** The E-Office System incorporates various features like file tracking, electronic approvals, and task management, which facilitate a smoother workflow and improved accountability in government operations.







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