



**UPSC  
Mentorship**  
A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## SOURCES



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## Geography

### 'Shompen people prize their freedom above all', says former ASI director in Andaman Islands

#### What in News?

India's president visited Great Nicobar Island, planned for major development. Experts warn this could threaten the indigenous Shompen tribe's survival and ecosystem.

#### Shompen Tribe

**Location:** The Shompen are indigenous to the dense tropical rainforests of the Great Nicobar Island, part of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG):** The Shompen are among the least studied PVTGs in India.

**Population:** While the 2011 Census estimated their population to be 229, their exact numbers remain unknown due to their isolation.

**Isolation:** The Shompen are largely uncontacted, avoiding interaction with outsiders.

#### Livelihood:

- They are semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers.
- Main activities include hunting wild pigs, pythons, monitor lizards, and fishing.
- They also engage in rudimentary horticulture and collect forest plants, with pandanus fruit being a staple.

#### Social Structure

- Nuclear families are common, with monogamy as the norm, though polygamy is allowed.
- The eldest male of a family controls household activities.

#### Language and Culture

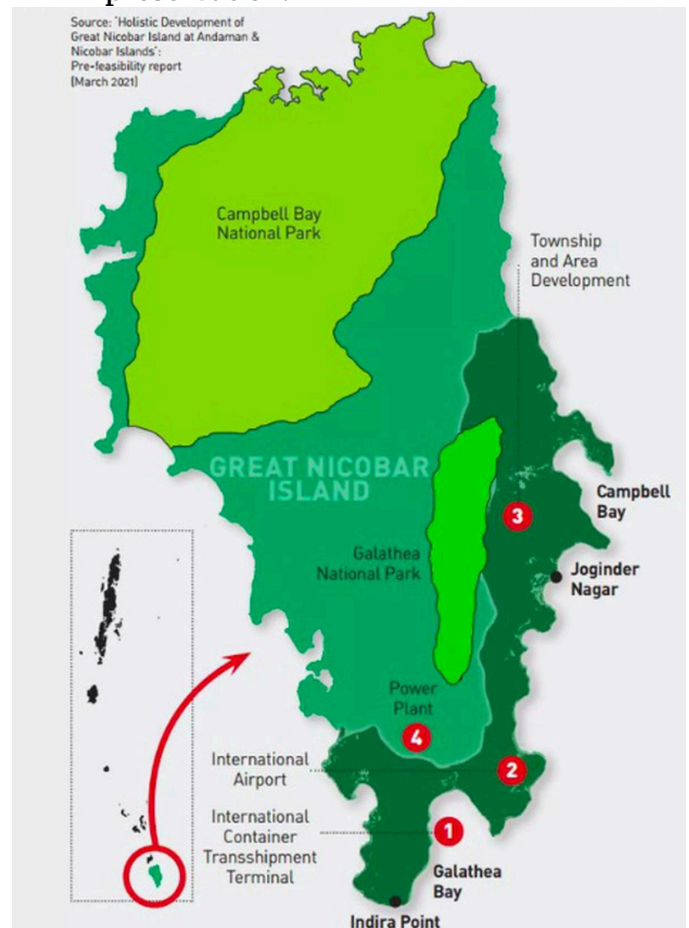
- They speak their own language, which includes multiple dialects, often incomprehensible across different groups.
- Physically, they exhibit **Mongoloid features**, including light brown skin and oblique eyes.

#### Concerns

- The development planned for Great Nicobar Island, while economically promising, poses a significant threat to the survival of the Shompen tribe.
- Potentially leading to the loss of their habitat, culture, and way of life.

#### Conclusion

- The Shompen tribe, one of India's most vulnerable and isolated indigenous groups, face severe risks due to proposed development projects.
- Careful considerations must be taken to ensure their protection and cultural preservation.



**Question:** What steps can be taken to balance development and the preservation of indigenous tribes like the Shompen?

Source: [The Hind](#)



## Why is salt pan land being used for homes?

### What in News?

The Indian government transferred 256 acres of salt pan land for Dharavi housing, raising environmental concerns over ecological impact.

### What are Salt Pan Lands?

Salt pans are low-lying coastal tracts where seawater periodically flows in, leaving behind salt deposits after evaporation. This process contributes to the natural balance of coastal ecosystems.

**Protection Status:** According to the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification of 2011, salt pans are categorized under CRZ-1B, marking them as ecologically sensitive. Economic activities, other than salt extraction and natural gas exploration, are restricted.

### Salt Pans in India

**Mumbai:** The city has 5,378 acres of designated salt pan land.

### National Scale:

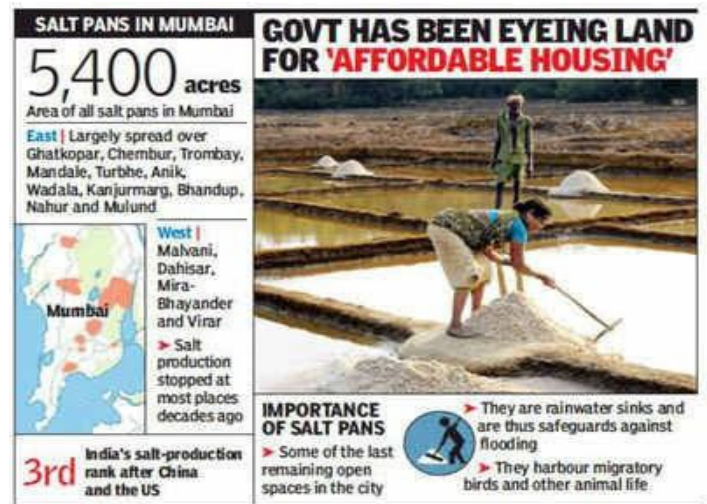
- India has identified around 60,000 acres of salt pan land.
- Andhra Pradesh (20,716 acres), Tamil Nadu (17,095 acres), and Maharashtra (12,662 acres) have the largest shares.

### Significance of Salt Pans

- **Environmental:** Salt pans, along with mangroves, act as natural barriers against coastal flooding, providing critical environmental services.
- **Economic:** These areas support the livelihood of many workers involved in salt harvesting, processing, and transportation.
- **Raw Material:** The salt extracted from these pans is vital for industries such as chemicals, agriculture, and water treatment.
- **Tourism:** Certain salt pans, with their scenic landscapes, have become attractions, contributing to the local economy through ecotourism and cultural tourism.

### Welfare Schemes for Salt Workers

- **Scheme for Grant of Rewards to the Children of Salt Labourers:** Offers financial rewards to children of salt workers for their educational progress.



- **Namak Mazdoor Awaz Yojana (NMAJ):** Provides housing for salt workers and promotes cooperative societies within the salt industry.
- **Salt Commissioner's Organization (SCO):** Oversees the development of the salt industry, facilitating technological improvements and conducting training programs for workers.

### Concerns

**Environmental Impact:** Constructing housing on salt pan land could disrupt the ecosystem, threatening the natural flood barriers and reducing biodiversity.

**Loss of Livelihood:** The redevelopment may also displace workers who depend on salt pans for their income.

### Conclusion

The Dharavi Redevelopment Project seeks housing for slum dwellers but must balance economic goals with environmental and social concerns about salt pan lands' sustainability.

**Question:** What sustainable solutions can be implemented to balance housing development and the preservation of ecologically sensitive salt pan lands?

Source: [The Hindu](#)



## Social Justice

# Why did Supreme Court strike down discriminatory rules across state prison manuals?

## What in News?

On October 3, 2024, the Supreme Court invalidated colonial-era prison rules, stating they reinforce caste differences and violate prisoners' fundamental rights.

## Background of the Ruling

- The Supreme Court acted upon a plea which highlighted discriminatory rules in prison manuals from several states, including Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu.
- The rules pertain to the classification of prisoners and the assignment of work, perpetuating caste-based labor divisions.

**Supreme Court's Findings:** State Prison Manuals violate prisoners' fundamental rights by perpetuating social hierarchies.

## Violation of Fundamental Rights





1. **Right to Equality (Article 14):** The court ruled that using caste as a basis for classification in prisons reinforces caste differences and deprives prisoners of equal opportunities for reform.
2. **Right Against Discrimination (Article 15):** The rules were found to discriminate against marginalized communities by relegating them to menial tasks while high-caste prisoners are assigned more respectable work.
3. **Abolition of Untouchability (Article 17):** The court noted that the manuals perpetuate untouchability, as specific degrading tasks are assigned based on caste affiliation.
4. **Right to Life with Dignity (Article 21):** The manuals were said to restrict the dignity and personal growth of marginalized prisoners, violating their right to life with dignity.
5. **Prohibition of Forced Labour (Article 23):** The court indicated that imposing undesirable work on marginalized communities equates to forced labor.

## Directive to States

- The Supreme Court ordered all states and union territories to revise their prison manuals within **three months** to eliminate caste discrimination.
- Additionally, the Centre was instructed

## 130-year-old colonial-era Prison laws revised

The MHA has prepared a new 'Model Prisons Act 2023'

-  Lays emphasis on the safety of women & transgender prisoners
-  Ensures rehabilitation of inmates in society after completion of sentence
-  Brings about transparency in prison management by using technology
-  Focuses on vocational training & skill development of prisoners and their reintegration into the society

to amend the Model Prison Manual 2016 and the draft Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2023.

## Model Prison Manual 2016

- Comprehensive guideline for the administration and management of prisons in India.
- It aims to standardize practices across states and union territories, ensuring that the rights of prisoners

## Objectives

- To provide a framework for prison management that emphasizes rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners into society.
- To ensure humane treatment of prisoners in accordance with constitutional and international human rights standards.
- To promote transparency and accountability in prison operations.

## Way Forward

The Supreme Court mandates revising prison manuals to eliminate caste discrimination, ensuring equality, dignity, and rehabilitation.

**Questions:** To what extent does the caste system continue to influence contemporary Indian society? Discuss with examples.

Source : [The Indian Express](https://www.thehindianexpress.com)



## Governance

### Centre plans common interest groups, social infra, micro-credit for urban poor workers across 25 cities

#### What in News?

The preparations for the pilot project started this week, with the enumeration of vulnerable households expected to start in November, 2024.

#### Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)

##### Objective

To reduce poverty and vulnerability among urban poor households by enabling access to sustainable livelihood opportunities through skill development, social mobilization, and enhanced access to credit and social infrastructure.

##### Key Components of DAY-NULM

##### Social Mobilization and Institutional Development (SMID):

Urban poor households, especially women, are organized into self-help groups (SHGs) and federations to foster collective action and ensure access to credit and social services.

##### Employment through Skill Training and Placement (EST&P):

##### Self-Employment Programme (SEP):

This component supports individuals and groups in starting their micro-enterprises.

##### Shelters for Urban Homeless (SUH):

Provides secure, dignified shelters for the urban homeless, equipped with basic amenities

##### Significance of DAY-NULM

- Poverty Reduction
- Women Empowerment
- Inclusive Growth

##### Pilot Project

- It is a preliminary, small-scale implementation of a larger initiative, designed to test its feasibility, effectiveness, and impact before full-scale rollout.
- Critical tool for policymakers and organisations to evaluate strategies and gather insights for future implementations.

##### Features of a Pilot Project

- Objective Testing
- Data Collection and Evaluation
- Limited Scope
- Flexibility
- Scalability

The cities selected for the pilot project are Guwahati, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Puri, Rourkela, Kolkata, Durgapur, Surat, Ahmedabad, Dahod, Lucknow, Agra, Varanasi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Bhopal, Ujjain, Indore, Chennai, Tirupur, Agartala, Chamba, Aizawl and Patna.

##### Concerns

**Implementation Challenges:** Challenges such as lack of awareness, bureaucratic delays, and inadequate infrastructure may hinder the mission's goals.

**Urban Slums:** Require continuous monitoring and infrastructure development to ensure the effectiveness of initiatives like shelters for the homeless.

##### Conclusion

The expanded DAY-NULM pilot project aims to improve urban livelihoods for the poor, but addressing implementation gaps and infrastructure is crucial for success.

**Question:** What steps should the government take to ensure effective implementation of DAY-NULM for vulnerable groups in urban areas?

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



## Economy

### RBI policy: Why Monetary Policy Committee may keep repo rate steady but could cut in December?

#### What in News?

The six-member MPC may change the monetary policy stance from 'withdrawal of accommodation' to 'neutral' in the policy meeting next week.

#### What is the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

- **Composition:** The MPC consists of six members, including three officials from the RBI and three external experts.
- **Role:** To formulate the monetary policy of India, particularly focusing on controlling inflation and managing economic growth.

#### Current Context of the MPC's Meeting

- **Inflation Concerns:** Recent data indicates a rise in inflation, with September CPI projected at 5.2%, driven primarily by increasing food prices.
- **Growth Projections:** The MPC's earlier projections forecast CPI inflation at 4.5% and GDP growth at 7.2% for FY2025.

**Inflation :** Refers to the general increase in prices of goods and services in an economy over time, leading to a decline in purchasing power.

#### Types of Inflation:

1. **Demand-Pull Inflation :** Occurs when demand for goods and services exceeds supply. Often linked to economic growth and increased consumer spending.
2. **Cost-Push Inflation :** Results from rising production costs, such as wages and raw materials. Can lead to reduced supply, further driving up prices.
3. **Built-In Inflation :** Arises from adaptive expectations, where businesses and workers anticipate future inflation and adjust prices and wages accordingly.

#### Causes of Inflation:

- **Monetary Factors:** Increase in money supply without a corresponding increase in goods and services. Expansionary monetary policies by central banks.
- **Supply Chain Disruptions:** Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions, or pandemics
- **Government Policies:** Fiscal policies, such as increased government spending, can boost demand and lead to inflation.
- **Global Factors:** External shocks like oil price hikes can lead to widespread cost-push inflation.

| Repo Rate   | Reverse Repo Rate   |
|---|---|
| RBI charges when securities are sold by commercial banks within the country                                       | Commercial Banks charges when funds borrowed by RBI within the country      |
| Banks have to pay high rate of interest for the amount borrowed and controls the excess liquidity from the market | Banks are offered high gains and economic system is injected with liquidity |
| It involves selling of securities to RBI and a fixed rate is charged while repurchasing it in future              | It is just transferring of funds from one bank account to RBI account       |
| It controls inflation   | It controls money supply in the market                                      |
| It helps to deal with deficiency of funds   | It helps to deal with liquidity in the market                               |

#### Effects of Inflation:

- **Reduced Purchasing Power:** Erodes the value of money, affecting consumers' ability to buy goods and services.
- **Uncertainty in Investments:** High inflation creates uncertainty, discouraging long-term investment.
- **Interest Rate Impact:** Central banks may raise interest rates to control inflation, affecting borrowing costs.
- **Income Redistribution:** Fixed-income groups suffer, while those with assets may benefit from inflation.

#### Measures to Control Inflation:

- **Monetary Policy:** Central banks can increase interest rates or reduce money supply to curb inflation.
- **Fiscal Policy:** Reducing government spending or increasing taxes to decrease demand.
- **Supply-Side Policies:** Improving productivity and efficiency to increase supply and stabilize prices.
- **Regulatory Measures:** Implementing price controls or anti-profiteering measures during inflationary periods.

#### Conclusion

The MPC's upcoming meeting will be crucial in shaping India's monetary policy landscape, balancing growth and inflation concerns

**Questions:** What factors should the MPC consider when deciding whether to change the repo rate, and how might this impact the broader economy?

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



## Science

### How Europe's creating the moon on Earth

#### What in News?

Europe is taking significant steps toward lunar exploration with the unveiling of the LUNA Analog Facility, a crucial training ground designed to mimic the moon's environment.

#### LUNA Analog Facility

- Launched by the German Space Agency (DLR) and the European Space Agency (ESA) in September 2024.
- The facility aims to recreate essential lunar conditions, including sandy regolith-like material and specialized lighting.
- Initial plans included a massive 700 square meters of artificial regolith made from volcanic soil and rocks from Italy, Germany, and Norway.

#### Simulating Lunar Conditions

- Demonstrated sample collection in a controlled environment, showcasing the importance of simulating moon-like conditions.
- The facility currently lacks a gravity simulator, which means astronauts walk instead of bouncing as they would on the moon.

#### Challenges with Gravity Simulation

- Traditional methods like parabolic flights or swimming pools for zero-gravity training are not applicable in the LUNA facility.
- Engineers are working on a "gravity offload system" to mimic lunar gravity, which involves attaching cables to astronauts' suits to provide resistance.

#### Gravity Offload System

To counteract the effects of gravity on objects, creating a microgravity environment for testing and experimentation. These systems are crucial in aerospace, robotics, and scientific research.

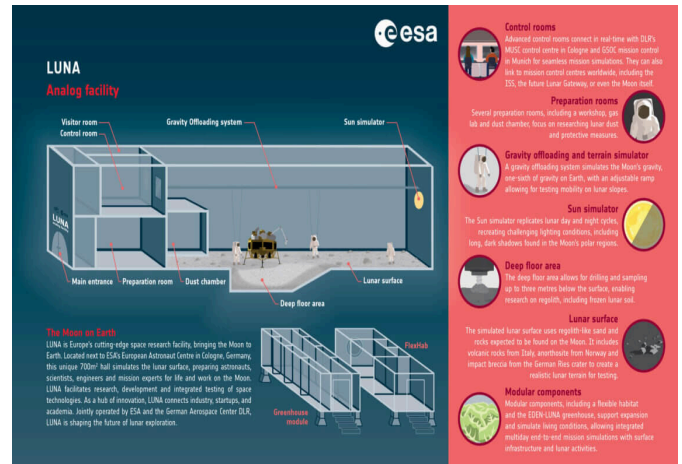
#### Applications

- Aerospace Engineering
- Robotics
- Biomedical Research
- Material Science

#### Future Developments from LUNA Analog Facility

##### 1. Life Support and Sustainability

Closed-loop systems for recycling air,



water, and waste. Innovative food production techniques (hydroponics, aeroponics).

##### 2. Resource Utilization

In-situ resource utilization (ISRU) technologies to extract lunar materials. Pilot projects for ISRU processes on the Moon.

##### 3. Habitat Design and Construction

Modular habitat designs for easy deployment and expansion. 3D printing using lunar regolith for construction.

##### 4. Robotic and Autonomous Systems

Development of robotic systems for habitat construction and exploration. Autonomous vehicles for surface exploration and data collection.

#### Conclusion

Enhances lunar exploration & highlighting Europe's commitment to astronaut training and moon missions.

**Questions:** Evaluate the impact of space exploration on understanding celestial bodies and its relevance to Earth sciences.

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





## Scientists are working on a way to detect cancer with sound waves

### What in News?

Scientists have developed a novel technique that uses ultrasound to detect cancer by breaking off tissue into droplets containing DNA, RNA, and proteins

### Ultrasound in Medical Use

Ultrasound is a diagnostic imaging technique using high-frequency sound waves to produce images of internal body structures.

#### Common Uses

1. **Obstetrics:** Monitoring fetal development during pregnancy.
2. **Cardiology:** Evaluating heart conditions (echocardiography).
3. **Abdominal Imaging:** Examining organs like the liver, kidneys, and gallbladder.
4. **Soft Tissue Imaging:** Diagnosing issues in muscles, tendons, and ligaments.

#### Advantages

- Non-invasive and safe.
- No ionizing radiation exposure (unlike X-rays).

**Limitations :** Limited for imaging bones and air-filled organs like the lungs.

#### Current Ultrasound Use:

Ultrasound is commonly used to image internal organs, converting sound waves into visual representations.

#### New Detection Technique:

- Researchers are exploring how high-energy ultrasound can dislodge small pieces of cancerous tissue, releasing their contents into the bloodstream.
- These contents include biomarkers that can help detect cancer and its mutations.

**Breakthrough:** A single circulating cancer cell in a prostate cancer patient's blood.

#### Potential Impact

- **Non-invasive:** This ultrasound-based technique could reduce the need for painful biopsies.
- **Affordable:** The test is expected to be cost-effective and simpler, benefiting a wider population.
- **Early Detection:** Detecting cancer cells and their mutations could allow for earlier and more accurate diagnoses.

#### Next Steps:

- The researchers aim to extend the technique to detect other cancers, such as breast cancer and melanoma.
- However, large-scale clinical trials are required before the method can be implemented in healthcare.

#### Conclusion:

The ultrasound-based detection method offers a promising alternative to traditional biopsies, providing a non-invasive, cost-effective solution for early cancer detection. If successful in clinical trials, it could revolutionize cancer screening within the next five years.

**Questions :** How is biotechnology revolutionizing healthcare services in India? Discuss with reference to cancer detection and treatment technologies.

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



## Environment

### Why a proposed Eco-Sensitive Zone around Gir forest is facing protests

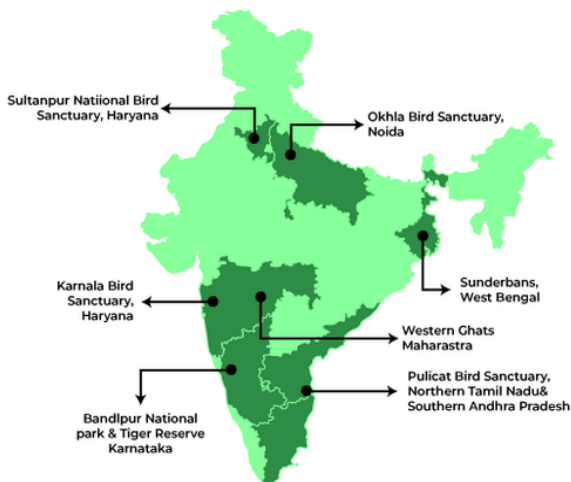
#### What in News?

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) proposed the establishment of an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Gir Forest in Gujarat.

#### Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)

- The National Environment Policy (2006) defined the Eco-Sensitive Zones “as areas/zones with identified environmental resources having incomparable values which require special attention for their conservation” because of its landscape, wildlife, biodiversity, historical and natural values.
- In order to protect the environment and the biological integrity of the area

#### Ecologically Sensitive Zones(ESZ)



outside the protected areas and other such areas where an eco-system has been adversely affected due to anthropogenic and climatic factors,

- **Human-Wildlife Interaction:** The local communities have historically tolerated the presence of lions, but increased human encroachment and lion movements beyond the forest boundaries have raised concerns about conflicts and livestock loss.

#### Process for Declaring ESZs

- **State Government Role:** Each state's forest department prepares site-specific ESZ proposals for PAs,

## PROJECT LION

The Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project is an initiative of the Indian Government to provide safeguards to the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo leo*) from extinction in the wild by means of reintroduction. The last wild population of the Asiatic lion is found in the region of Gir Forest National Park, in the state of Gujarat. The single population faces the threats of epidemics, natural disasters and other anthropogenic factors. The project aims to establish a second independent population of Asiatic lions at the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. However, the proposed translocation has been bitterly contested by the state government.

which are forwarded to the MoEFCC for review.

- The MoEFCC issues a draft notification and invites public objections and suggestions.

#### Conclusion

- The proposed Eco-Sensitive Zone around Gir Forest has sparked significant protests highlighting the tension between wildlife conservation and local development.
- As stakeholders debate the implications, it is crucial to find a balance that protects the unique biodiversity of Gir while addressing the legitimate concerns of local communities.

**Question:** What measures can be implemented to ensure that conservation efforts in the Gir Forest are balanced with the needs of local communities?

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



## In Brief

### 1. SC dismisses pleas seeking review of verdict scrapping electoral bonds scheme

The Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of pleas seeking review of its February 15 verdict. **Electoral bonds** are financial instruments introduced in India to facilitate anonymous donations to political parties, aiming to enhance transparency in political funding.

#### Features

- **Nature:** They are bearer instruments issued by the Government of India. Can be purchased by Indian citizens or companies incorporated in India.
- **Denominations:** Available in multiple denominations (e.g., ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh).
- **Purchase and Donation:** Can be purchased from specified State Bank of India (SBI) branches. Donors can anonymously contribute to political parties by purchasing these bonds.
- **Eligibility:** Only registered political parties under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, that have secured at least 1% of the votes in the last election can redeem these bonds.
- **Validity:** The bonds have a lifespan of 15 days from the date of purchase. After this period, they cannot be redeemed.

#### Objectives

- **Transparency in Political Funding :** Aims to reduce the influence of black money in elections and enhance accountability.
- **Encouraging Donations :** Intended to promote political contributions by providing anonymity to donors, thereby encouraging more individuals and entities to donate.

### 2. Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

**Primary Function:** Examines the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) audit report after it is presented in Parliament and ensures funds granted by Parliament are spent within approved limits.

**Genesis:** Established in 1921, it became a full Parliamentary Committee after the Indian Constitution came into effect in 1950.

**Membership:** Comprises 22 members (15 from Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha), elected annually. The Chairperson is usually from the Opposition, appointed by the Speaker.

#### Functions

- Examines accounts of government expenditures and C&AG reports.
- Ensures funds are spent legally, wisely, and economically.
- Reviews cases of financial losses or irregularities.



### 3. INDIA- KAZAKHSTAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE KAZIND -2024 COMMENCES IN AULI

**Event:** 8th edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2024, held from 30th September to 13th October 2024 at Auli, Uttarakhand.

**Participants:** Indian Army's KUMAON Regiment, Indian Air Force, Kazakhstan's Land Forces, and Airborne Assault Troopers.

**Objective:** Enhance joint military capability in counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain.

**Focus Areas:** Tactical drills, joint response to terrorism, Special Heliborne Operations, drone usage, and improving interoperability.

**Significance:** Strengthens defence cooperation and bilateral relations.



### 4. POCSO Act

**Enacted:** Effective from 14th November 2012, in response to India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992).

**Objective:** Protect children (below 18) from sexual exploitation and abuse.

**2019 Amendment:** Introduced stricter punishments, including the death penalty for severe offenses.

**Key Features:**

- Gender-neutral law.
- Clear definitions of sexual crimes and new offenses like child pornography.
- POCSO Rules 2020: Interim compensation, special relief, support persons for child victims, immediate aid via CWC recommendations.



## Places in News

# Sudan

**Current Issues :** The conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) escalated on September 26, 2024, with a major offensive by SAF in Khartoum and Bahri.

**Sudan**, a country in northeastern Africa, has been at the crossroads of significant historical, geopolitical, and humanitarian developments.

### Geographical Overview of Sudan

- **Location:** Sudan is the third-largest country in Africa, located in the northeastern part of the continent. It shares borders with seven countries, including Egypt, Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, with access to the Red Sea.
- **Capital:** Khartoum
- **Strategic Importance:** Its location gives it access to the Red Sea, which is important for global trade routes, including oil transportation. It also borders resource-rich regions, such as South Sudan (oil), making it geopolitically significant.
- **Major Rivers:** The Nile River (White Nile and Blue Nile) flows through Sudan, making it central to agriculture and population distribution.

### Economic Overview

- **Natural Resources:** Sudan is rich in natural resources, including oil, gold, and minerals.
  - **Oil:** Most of the country's oil fields are now in South Sudan, but oil revenues were a major source of income before the secession.
  - **Gold Mining:** Sudan is one of Africa's largest gold producers, but profits are controlled by military elites.
- **Agriculture:** The majority of the population is dependent on agriculture, but food insecurity is rampant due to conflict and climate change.
- **Economic Sanctions:** Sudan has been under economic sanctions due to human rights abuses, corruption, and its involvement in terrorism under Omar al-Bashir's regime.

### Impact of Climate Change

- **Nile River Disputes:** Sudan is involved in disputes over the Nile's waters, particularly with Egypt and Ethiopia over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).



## Daily Quiz

**Q1. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India:**

1. PVTGs reside in 18 states and one Union Territory.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.
4. Irular and Konda Reddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Q2. Which of the following statements regarding the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) is/are correct?**

1. The CRZ includes areas that are landward of the high tide line.
2. The CRZ Notification allows for the construction of new ports in CRZ-1 areas.

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

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

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding prisoners' rights in India:**

1. Prisoners have the right to free legal aid under the legal services authorities.
2. The Constitution of India explicitly guarantees the right to education for prisoners.

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

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

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM):**

1. It was launched in 2014 to provide skill training and enhance livelihood security for the urban poor.
2. The mission aims to support only rural poor by providing financial assistance for setting up micro-enterprises.
3. The program promotes the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to enhance the economic capacity of the urban poor.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q5. Which of the following types of inflation occurs when the costs of production increase, leading to a decrease in the supply of goods and services?**

- A. Demand-pull inflation
- B. Cost-push inflation
- C. Stagflation
- D. Hyperinflation

**Q6. What is a penumbral lunar eclipse?**

- A. A type of lunar eclipse where the Moon is completely covered by Earth's shadow.
- B. An event that occurs only during a new moon.
- C. A solar eclipse that occurs during a full moon.
- D. A type of lunar eclipse where the Moon passes through the faint outer part of Earth's shadow.

**Q7. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the use of ultrasound in medical applications?**

1. Ultrasound is a non-invasive imaging technique.
2. It can be used to visualize soft tissues in the body.



3. Ultrasound uses ionizing radiation to create images.

4. It is commonly used in prenatal imaging.

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

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

**Q8. Which of the following statements about the Asiatic Lion are correct?**

1. Asiatic Lions are primarily found in the Gir Forest National Park in India.

2. They are classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.

3. Asiatic Lions are larger than African Lions.

4. They are known for their unique tuft of hair at the end of their tails.

5. The Asiatic Lion population is exclusively found in the wild.

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

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

**Q9. Which of the following statements about Kazakhstan's geographical and political relations is/are correct?**

1. Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country in the world.

2. It shares its borders with six countries, including Russia and China.

3. Kazakhstan is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

4. The Caspian Sea, bordered by Kazakhstan, is the world's largest inland body of water.

5. Kazakhstan has a coast along the Black Sea.

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

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

**Q10. Which of the following statements regarding the Red Sea are correct?**

1. The Red Sea is connected to the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal.

2. The Bab el Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea.

3. The Red Sea is bordered by the countries of Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

4. The Great Rift Valley is associated with the geological formation of the Red Sea.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. All of the above



## Solutions

1. **Correct Answer is C**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1: Correct.** PVTGs reside in 18 states and 1 Union Territory (UT). The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has classified these tribal groups based on specific criteria.

**Statement 2: Correct.** A stagnant or declining population is indeed one of the criteria for the classification of a community as PVTG.

**Statement 3: Incorrect.** There are 75 PVTGs notified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, not 95.

**Statement 4: Correct.** Both Irular (Tamil Nadu) and Konda Reddi (Andhra Pradesh) are included in the list of PVTGs.

2. **Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 : Correct :** The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) is defined by the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, which classifies coastal areas into different zones based on their ecological and environmental sensitivity. CRZ includes areas both landward and seaward of the high tide line (HTL). Specifically, it encompasses coastal stretches up to 500 meters from the high tide line, as well as areas that are significantly affected by tidal fluctuations.

**Statement 2 : Incorrect :** CRZ-1 areas are designated as ecologically sensitive zones where development activities are heavily restricted to protect the environment. In CRZ-1 areas, construction of new ports or similar infrastructure is generally not permitted unless it is necessary for the maintenance of existing operations or for the environmental sustainability of the region.

3. **Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 : Correct :** The right to free legal aid is guaranteed to prisoners under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Act provides for free legal services to ensure that no person is denied justice due to lack of means. This applies to all individuals, including prisoners, who may not be able to afford legal representation.

**Statement 2 : Incorrect :** While the right to education is a fundamental right under Article 21A of the Constitution of India, it specifically guarantees the right to education for children aged 6 to 14 years. The Constitution does not explicitly mention the right to education for prisoners. However, various judicial pronouncements have recognized the importance of education for prisoners as a means of rehabilitation and reintegration into society, but it is not enshrined as an explicit right in the Constitution.

4. **Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct.** DAY-NULM was indeed launched in 2014 with the objective of providing skill training and enhancing livelihood security for the urban poor.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** The mission focuses on urban poor, not rural poor; while it does involve self-employment opportunities, it does not limit itself to rural populations.

**Statement 3 is correct** as the mission actively promotes the formation of SHGs to enhance the economic capacity of urban poor individuals.





**5. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

**Cost-push inflation :** Cost-push inflation happens when the costs of production increase (due to rising prices of raw materials, wages, etc.), which leads to a decrease in the supply of goods and services. As the supply decreases, prices rise because producers pass on the higher costs to consumers.

**Other Options : Not relevant as per question**

**Demand-pull inflation :** This type of inflation occurs when the demand for goods and services exceeds their supply, leading to an increase in prices.

**Stagflation :** It is an economic condition characterized by stagnant economic growth, high unemployment, and high inflation simultaneously. It is often caused by cost-push inflation, but it describes a broader economic situation rather than a specific type of inflation.

**Hyperinflation :** It is an extremely high and typically accelerating inflation rate, often exceeding 50% per month. It is usually caused by excessive money supply growth rather than production cost increases.

**6. Correct Answer is D**

**Explanation:**

- A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's penumbra, which is the faint outer part of the Earth's shadow.
- During this type of eclipse, the Moon may appear slightly darker but does not exhibit the dramatic changes seen in total or partial lunar eclipses.

**7. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Ultrasound is a non-invasive imaging technique that does not require any surgical procedures.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It is particularly effective at visualizing soft tissues, such as muscles and organs.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Ultrasound uses sound waves, not ionizing radiation, making it safer for repeated use compared to X-rays or CT scans.

**Statement 4 is correct:** Ultrasound is commonly used in prenatal imaging to monitor the development of the fetus.

**8. Correct Answer is C**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 : Correct :** The Gir Forest National Park in the Indian state of Gujarat is the last remaining habitat of the Asiatic Lion in the wild. This national park is crucial for their conservation.

**Statement 2 : Incorrect :** As of now, Asiatic Lions are classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, not Critically Endangered. The population has been recovering, but they still face threats that keep them from being classified as Critically Endangered.

**Statement 3 : Incorrect :** Asiatic Lions are generally smaller than their African counterparts. African Lions tend to have a larger body size and more pronounced manes, while Asiatic Lions are slightly smaller with a less developed mane.

**Statement: 4 : Correct :** Asiatic Lions have a distinctive tuft of hair at the tip of their tails, which is a notable feature distinguishing them from African Lions.

**Statement 4 : Incorrect :** While the majority of Asiatic Lions are found in the wild in Gir Forest, there are also Asiatic Lions in captivity in zoos and wildlife sanctuaries around the world. Thus, they are not exclusively found in the wild.



**9. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

**Explanation:**

**True** - Kazakhstan is indeed the largest landlocked country in the world.

**False** - It shares its borders with five countries: Russia, China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

**True** - Kazakhstan is a founding member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which includes several post-Soviet states aimed at fostering economic integration.

**True** - The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water, and Kazakhstan has a significant coastline along it.

**False** - Kazakhstan does not have a coast along the Black Sea; that sea is bordered

by other countries like Russia, Ukraine, and Turkey.

**10. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

**True** - The Red Sea is indeed connected to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal, which allows for maritime navigation between Europe and Asia.

**True** - The Bab el Mandeb Strait serves as the gateway between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, leading to the Arabian Sea.

**True** - The Red Sea is bordered by several countries, including Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

**True** - The Great Rift Valley is a tectonic plate boundary that has contributed to the geological formation of the Red Sea, making it a significant geological feature.





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