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SOURCES



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Geography

How a nearby river contributes to the rise of Mt Everest, according to new study

What in News?

The loss of landmass in the Arun River basin, which spreads across Nepal and Tibet and is 75 km away from Everest, is causing the world's tallest peak to rise by up to 2 mm a year, the study said.

Mount Everest and Its Rising Height

- Mount Everest is currently 8,849 metres tall. Over the past 89,000 years, it has grown by 15 to 50 m higher than expected, primarily due to erosion from a nearby river.
- **Arun River Basin:** The basin, located 75 km from Everest, plays a critical role in the uplift of Everest by causing erosion of rock and soil at its base.

Arun River

- A trans-boundary river part of Kosi or Sapt Koshi river system
- Location: Nepal
- Origin: Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China where it is called the **Phung Chu or Bum-chu**.

What is a River Basin?

- A river basin is land drained by a river and tributaries, including surface water and groundwater.

Processes Affecting Everest's Height

- **Isostatic Rebound:** A geological process where the Earth's crust rises when surface weight, such as eroded rock or ice, is reduced. This is a significant factor in Everest's rise, accounting for around 10% of its annual uplift rate.
- **Tectonic Plate Collision:** The Himalayas, including Everest, have been rising due to the collision between the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates for around 50 million years.

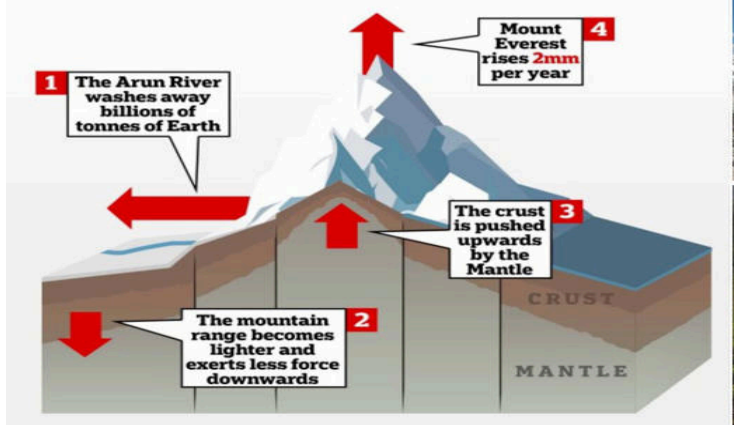
What is Tectonic Plate?

- Tectonic Plates are large, rigid pieces of the Earth's lithosphere (the outermost shell) that fit together like a jigsaw puzzle, covering the Earth's surface.

Key Features:

- Composition: Made of the crust and the uppermost part of the mantle.
- **There are two main types:**
 1. Continental Plates: Thicker and less dense, comprising landmasses.
 2. Oceanic Plates: Thinner and denser, forming the ocean floors.

MOUNT EVEREST IS GETTING TALLER BY THE DAY



- **Movement:** Tectonic plates move due to convection currents in the mantle, leading to various geological activities.

Boundaries:

- **Convergent:** Plates move towards each other, causing subduction or mountain formation.
- **Divergent:** Plates move apart, leading to the formation of new crust (e.g., mid-ocean ridges).
- **Transform Boundaries:** Plates slide past each other, causing earthquakes (e.g., San Andreas Fault).

Importance:

- Responsible for earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and the formation of mountains.
- Influences climate, geography, and natural resources distribution.

Ways Forward

Further research confirms findings on river systems' influence on mountain formation and topography.

Question: How does the Arun River contribute to the rise of Mount Everest, and what is the role of isostatic rebound in this process?

Source : [The Indian Express](#)



Polity

10 years of Swachh Bharat Mission: Its aims and status on key targets

What in News?

SBM's focus areas were building individual toilets, community toilets, solid waste management, and leading awareness campaigns aimed at behavioural changes.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Overview

Launched: October 2, 2014, as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

Divided into:

1. **SBM-Gramin:** Focused on rural areas.
2. **SBM-Urban:** Focused on urban cities.

Executed by: Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Key Focus Areas

- **Individual Toilets:** Construction of household toilets.
- **Community Toilets:** Development of cluster toilets for communities.
- **Solid Waste Management:** Strategies for managing waste efficiently.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Initiatives to promote behavioral changes regarding sanitation.

Targets of SBM

- **Open Defecation-Free (ODF):** Aim to eliminate open defecation by constructing household and community toilets.
- **Budget Allocation:** Increased from Rs 10,000 (Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan) to Rs 12,000 per toilet under SBM.

Achievements So Far

- **Toilets Constructed:** Over 10 crore toilets.
- **ODF Status Declared:** 6 lakh villages ODF by October 2, 2019.
- **Funding:** The Centre released Rs 57,469.22 crore for SBM-Gramin between 2014-2019.
- **Current Statistics:**
 - 5.54 lakh villages and 3,913 cities declared ODF+.
 - 97% of municipal wards have door-to-door waste collection.

Impact of the Mission

- **Health Benefits:** Estimated to prevent 3 lakh deaths from diarrhoea and malnutrition.
- **Infant Mortality Reduction:** A study links SBM to a decrease in annual infant deaths by 60,000 to 70,000 between 2014 and 2020.

Important Terms and Definitions

Open Defecation-Free (ODF): A status achieved when no one defecates in the open within a defined area, ensuring the presence of adequate toilet facilities.

Solid Waste Management: The process of collecting, treating, and disposing of solid waste materials to reduce their impact on the environment and public health.

Community Toilets: Shared toilet facilities for a group of households, especially in densely populated areas where individual toilets may not be feasible.

ODF+: A designation for areas that not only meet the ODF criteria but also have systems in place for liquid waste management.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM): A national campaign launched to promote sanitation, hygiene, and waste management across India.

Question: How has the Swachh Bharat Mission impacted public health in India, particularly concerning open defecation and infant mortality rates?

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



Who is an Overseas Citizen of India? What are the rights and privileges of OCI card holders?

What in News?

The Consulate General of India in New York has clarified that recent rumors claiming OCI card holders are being reclassified as "foreigners" are false. The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated that the existing rules for OCI card holders remain unchanged.

Overview of OCI

- **Definition:** The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) scheme allows Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) to hold an OCI card, enabling them to enjoy certain privileges in India while holding a foreign passport.
- **Introduced:** August 2005.
- **Purpose:** To provide dual citizenship rights for the Indian diaspora.

Rights and Privileges of OCI Card Holders

- **Visa:** OCI card holders receive a lifelong, multiple-entry visa for visiting India.
- **Registration Exemption:** They are exempt from registering with local police for any length of stay.
- **Total Holders:** As of 2023, over 4.5 million registered OCI card holders exist across 129 countries, with the largest populations in the US, UK, Australia, and Canada.

Latest Rules Regarding OCIs

- **Permit Requirement:** As per a 2021 gazette notification, OCIs need permission to visit protected areas and undertake research or journalistic activities in India.
- **Economic Parity:** The notification aligned OCI card holders with "foreign nationals" regarding economic, financial, and educational rights under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Who Cannot Be an OCI?

- Individuals with Pakistani or Bangladeshi citizenship in their family background are not eligible.
- Foreign military personnel are also excluded.

Restrictions on OCI Card Holders

- **Voting Rights:** OCIs cannot vote or hold certain government positions.
- **Employment:** They cannot hold employment in the government sector.

Key Terms

- **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI):** A status granted to Persons of Indian Origin, allowing them to live and work in India without a visa.
- **Person of Indian Origin (PIO):** Any foreign citizen with Indian ancestry who may have held Indian citizenship.
- **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA):** An Indian law to facilitate external trade and payments and to promote the orderly development and maintenance of the foreign exchange market in India.

Ways Forward

Continuous monitoring and clarifications regarding OCI rules are essential to prevent misinformation and ensure the rights of OCI card holders are upheld.

Question: How do the rights and privileges of OCI card holders compare to those of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), and what implications do recent changes have on their status?

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



What special status is Ladakh seeking? | Explained

What in News?

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was detained while protesting for Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule, echoing similar demands in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur for ethnic safeguards.

Asymmetrical Federalism in India

- The system where certain states or regions have more autonomy than others, in contrast to symmetrical federations like the U.S. or Australia, where all states have the same powers.

Fifth and Sixth Schedules - Historical Context

- **Colonial Era Roots:** The British created 'excluded' and 'partially excluded' areas under the Government of India Act, 1935, to deal with tribal populations, which had been historically independent.
- **Partially Excluded Areas:** Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, and other states.

Fifth Schedule

- **Applicable Areas:** 'Scheduled areas' in 10 states, declared by the President, based on tribal population, compactness of the area, and economic backwardness.
- **Governance:** Tribes Advisory Councils (TAC) are set up, advising on welfare, and the Governor can regulate land transfers and business activities.
- **Executive Control:** Governors have the power to make regulations, subject to Central government approval.

Sixth Schedule

- **Applicable Areas:** 'Tribal areas' in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, with 10 such tribal areas currently in place.
- **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs):** Significant powers to make laws on land management, customs, marriage, and social issues, subject to Governor approval.
- **Additional Powers:** Manage primary education, health facilities, impose taxes, and control land revenue, offering greater autonomy than Fifth Schedule areas.

Ladakh's Demand for Sixth Schedule Status

- **Why Ladakh Seeks Inclusion?:** To protect the culture, land, and economic interests of the region's tribal communities.
- **Current Status:** Since 2019, does not enjoy the same autonomy as the Sixth Schedule areas, which is why activists like Sonam Wangchuk are pushing.

Special Provisions for Northeastern States

- **Articles 371A-H:** Specific protections for Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh, including respect for local laws and customs and special administrative provisions.

Further Reforms and Issues

- **Expansion of Scheduled Areas:** Many tribal areas are yet to be notified as 'scheduled areas', leaving them without constitutional protections.
- **125th Constitutional Amendment:** Aims to grant more powers to ADCs, but its passage is pending.
- **Growing Demands:** Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur have passed resolutions demanding inclusion in the Sixth Schedule.

Ways Forward

To support Ladakh's Sixth Schedule demand, amend the Constitution, engage in dialogue, extend Article 371, establish ADCs, and ensure legal safeguards.

Questions: How does the demand for the Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh align with the broader issues of autonomy and tribal rights in India?

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



Government Scheme

PM launches package for scheme saturation in tribal-majority villages

What in News?

On October 2, 2024, launched of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan to provide essential services in tribal-majority villages, honouring tribal leader Birsa Munda.

Overview of Tribal Development Initiatives in India

- Tribal development initiatives are government programs designed to uplift and empower Scheduled Tribes (STs) through various socio-economic measures, infrastructure development, and access to essential services.
- India's approach to tribal development involves multiple schemes and constitutional provisions aimed at ensuring the welfare and empowerment of tribal communities.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

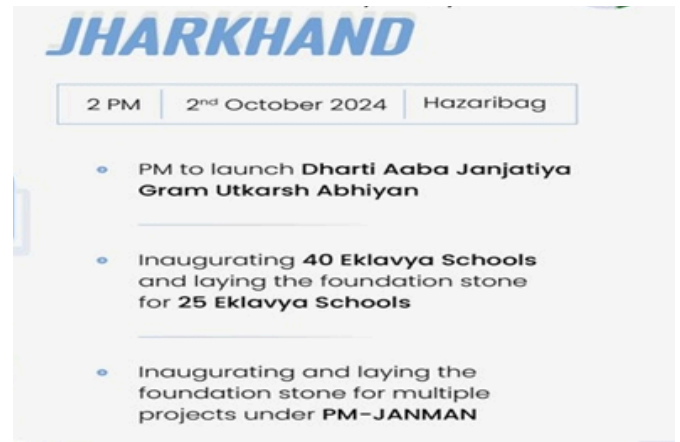
Objectives of the Package: To enhance the socio-economic status of tribal communities by saturating villages with essential services and schemes.

Key Features of the Package:

- **Funding:** Total outlay of ₹79,156 crore over five years; Central share of ₹56,333 crore.
- **Tourism Development:** Up to ₹5 lakh for tribal families to create homestays.
- **Infrastructure Goals:** Build 20 lakh pucca homes, connect 25,000 km of roads, and ensure piped water access to remote hamlets.
- **Electrification:** Targeting 2.35 lakh households and providing 25 lakh LPG connections.
- **Digital Connectivity:** Broadband for 5,000 tribal villages and setting up 100 multi-purpose marketing centres.

Special Provisions for Tribal Welfare

- The package reinforces the government's dedication to tribal welfare and development, as evidenced by previous initiatives like the PM-JANMAN package.



Key Terms

- **Dharti Aaba:** A reference to Birsa Munda, symbolizing tribal identity and heritage.
- **Scheduled Areas:** Regions identified under the Fifth Schedule with special protections.
- **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs):** Local bodies in Sixth Schedule areas with legislative powers.

Questions : Discuss the significance of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in the context of India's commitment to tribal welfare and the challenges faced in implementing such initiatives.

Source : [The Hindu](#)



International Relation

PM Modi says India trusted partner in Jamaica's development journey

What in News?

India has been a "trusted partner" in Jamaica's development journey and it is ready to share expertise in areas, including digital public infrastructure, biofuel, innovation and health with the nation, says Indian PM

India-Jamaica Relationship

- Strong bilateral relationship, deeply rooted in historical and cultural ties.
- The Indian diaspora, which arrived in Jamaica 180 years ago as indentured laborers, plays a significant role in people-to-people connections.

What is Indian Diaspora?

The population of Indian-origin people who live outside India, either as expatriates, citizens of other countries, or descendants of earlier emigrants.

Key Aspects of the Indian Diaspora

1. Size and Global Presence
2. Migration Waves
3. Economic Impact
4. Cultural Influence
5. Political and Diplomatic Influence

Key Areas of Cooperation in India-Jamaica

- **Digital Public Infrastructure:** Jamaica looks to India's progress in digitization, seeking to strengthen its own capabilities in the digital sphere.
- **STEM Education:** Holness emphasized Jamaica's interest in improving STEM education with India's assistance.
- **Energy and Biofuel:** Collaborative efforts in energy security and biofuel development are set to expand, benefiting both nations.
- **Health:** Health sector partnerships were also underscored, with India poised to share innovations.

What is STEM EDUCATION?

- STEM Education refers to the integrated teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, focusing on real-world applications and problem-solving.
- It promotes interdisciplinary learning, encourages critical thinking, and involves project-based activities.



Defence and Security: Challenges like organised crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism, agreeing to cooperate in defense training and capacity building for Jamaica's armed forces.

Cultural and People-to-People Ties : The road in front of the Jamaica High Commission in New Delhi has been named "Jamaica Marg" in honor of the two nations' strong ties.

Ways Forward

- Engaging the Indian diaspora requires diplomacy, economic opportunities, political inclusion, cultural exchange, and tackling challenges to strengthen India's global influence and economic growth.

Question: How is India assisting Jamaica in strengthening its digital and STEM education sectors?

Source: [The Indian Express](https://www.thehindu.com/news-international/india-jamaica-relationship/article18484447.html)



Science & Technology

Explained: the significance of India's mission to develop supercomputers

What in News?

On September 26, 2024, inauguration of three PARAM Rudra supercomputers, a significant step in India's National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). The initiative aims to enhance the country's scientific capabilities through advanced computational resources.

Supercomputers

- High-capacity computing systems designed for complex computations in various fields such as quantum mechanics, climate research, and big data analytics.
- These machines are essential for tasks that require extensive processing power, which regular computers cannot handle efficiently.

National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)

- Launched in 2015 with a budget of Rs 4,500 crore, NSM aims to develop a grid of 70 supercomputers across research institutions and universities in India.
- The initiative is jointly managed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Recent Developments

- The newly inaugurated supercomputers (PARAM Rudra) are located in Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata, focusing on high-performance computing (HPC) for weather and climate research.
- Over 20 supercomputers have been deployed nationwide since the launch of NSM, significantly boosting India's computational capacity.

Applications of Supercomputers

- Climate modeling, weather forecasting, aerospace engineering, molecular dynamics, and national security.
- Also supports research in computational biology, energy, and medical research.

Historical Significance

- India's drive to develop indigenous supercomputing technology stems from past experiences of technology denial by Western nations, notably in the 1970s and 1990s.

Achievements

- Between 2019 and 2023, NSM successfully commissioned a total capacity of 24.83 petaFLOPS in HPC machines.
- The mission has trained 1.75 lakh personnel in high-performance computing and facilitated over 73.25 lakh computational queries.

Ways Forward

The National Supercomputing Mission signifies a pivotal advancement in India's scientific research capabilities. By developing indigenous supercomputing technologies, India not only enhances its research capacity but also strengthens its position in the global scientific community.

Question: Evaluate the role of indigenous technological development in India's progress towards self-reliance. How does the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) exemplify this shift?

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



Economy

Centre reconstitutes Monetary Policy Committee ahead of RBI rate review

What in News?

The central government has reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) ahead of the upcoming RBI monetary policy review. The committee now includes three new external members who will serve for four years.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

The MPC is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate, also known as the repo rate, which influences other interest rates in the economy. The primary goal of the MPC is to maintain price stability while supporting economic growth.

What is Repo Rate?

Repo rate is the rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lends money to commercial banks when there is a shortfall of funds. It is used as a tool to control inflation.

Key Responsibilities of the MPC

- **Inflation Targeting:** Under the flexible inflation targeting regime, the RBI aims to maintain the Consumer Price Index (CPI) within a 2-6% range.
- **Price Stability:** The primary goal is to ensure price stability, which is a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth.
- **Policy Formulation:** The MPC assesses the current and evolving macroeconomic situation to determine the appropriate repo rate and liquidity conditions.

Recent Developments

- Influence future monetary policy decisions, especially as inflation concerns remain high.

- In the August 2024 monetary policy meeting, the MPC, with a 4:2 majority, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%, citing inflation risks, particularly from high food prices.

What is Inflation Targeting?

- Inflation targeting is a monetary policy strategy used by central banks to control inflation by setting a specific target for inflation levels.
- The RBI aims to keep CPI inflation within the 2-6% range, with a long-term target of 4%.

Ways Forward

- The reconstitution of the MPC ahead of the October 7-9 monetary policy review is significant as it may shape the future course of India's monetary policy.
- Inflation control and economic growth remain central to the MPC's objectives, with the repo rate expected to stay at 6.5%.

Question: How does the Monetary Policy Committee influence inflation control in India?

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



India's Saudi oil imports jump as Riyadh looks to claw back share lost to Russia

What in News?

India's oil imports from Saudi Arabia surged 39.8% in September 2024 as Riyadh reduced prices to regain market share, coinciding with India's rising fuel demand and refinery maintenance in August–September, 2024.

Overview of India's Oil Imports

- **Primary Suppliers:** Russia, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.
- **India's Import Dependency:** India imports over 85% of its crude oil, making it highly sensitive to global oil prices.
- **Recent Trend:** Russia became India's top supplier after its invasion of Ukraine, offering discounted crude.

Challenges to Crude Oil Import

1. **Saudi Arabia's Comeback:** Saudi oil imports rose to 0.73 million barrels per day (bpd), the highest since March 2024, as Riyadh slashed prices to counter Russia and Iraq.
2. **Russian Oil:** India's import of Russian crude increased by 6.4% in September, totaling 1.88 million bpd and constituting 40.2% of India's overall oil imports.
3. **Iraqi and UAE Oil:** Iraq remained India's second-largest supplier (0.87 million bpd), while UAE oil imports rose 18.6%, driven by the demand for blending lighter Murban crude with Russia's medium-sour Urals crude.

Impact of Russia's Oil Strategy

- Russia has been India's top oil supplier since 2022, providing discounted crude after Western nations reduced their Russian energy imports.
- Despite the narrowing of discounts, Indian refiners have continued to prioritize Russian oil due to the significant cost savings derived from the high volumes of imports.

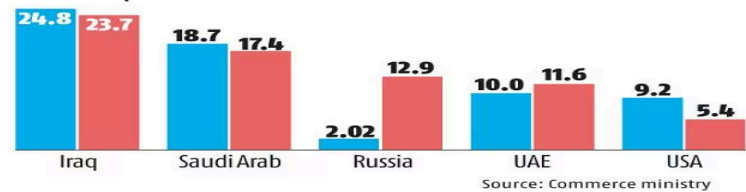
Saudi Arabia's Strategy to Reclaim Market Share

- Saudi Arabia had seen a significant decline in its oil exports to India, in June 2024.

TOP SOURCES OF CRUDE OIL FOR INDIA

As a % share of India's total crude oil imports

■ FY22 ■ Q1FY23



- Riyadh offered competitive pricing in September 2024, successfully increasing its share from 11.7% in August to 15.5%.
- Saudi Arabia's aggressive pricing may push Russia and Iraq to further lower their prices to remain competitive in the Indian market.

Key Terms

- **Crude Oil Imports:** The act of importing unrefined petroleum to be processed into usable fuels.
- **Urals Crude:** A grade of medium-sour crude oil produced in Russia.
- **Murban Crude:** A lighter crude oil grade from the UAE, used for blending.

Ways Forward

- **Increased Competition:** Saudi Arabia reduces prices, Indian refiners are positioned to benefit from competitive pricing among major oil suppliers like Russia and Iraq.
- **Potential for More Imports:** As India's refinery maintenance concludes and festival demand peaks, oil imports from both Saudi Arabia and Russia are expected to rise further.

Question: Critically evaluate the role of Saudi Arabia and Russia as major players in India's oil import basket.

Source: [The Indian Express](https://www.thehindu.com/news-international/india-saudi-oil-imports-398-increase-september-2024/article194888871.ece)



Environment

Govt printed, then shelved its report on elephant census: Count fell by 20% in 5 years

What in News?

The Indian government printed a report on the elephant census, revealing a 20% decrease in the elephant population over the past five years, but has not released it due to pending data from the Northeast region.

Definitions

1. Elephant Census:

A systematic survey conducted to estimate the population of elephants in a specified area, typically done every five years by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

2. Population Decline:

The decrease in the number of individuals in a species. The 2022-2023 elephant census indicated a 41% drop in specific regions, such as Central India and Eastern Ghats, compared to 2017.

3. Mushrooming Developmental Projects:

Rapid and often unregulated construction projects, such as mining and linear infrastructure, that significantly threaten wildlife habitats.

4. Human-Elephant Conflict:

Disputes between human populations and elephants, often arising when elephants encroach on human settlements or agricultural land, exacerbated by habitat loss.

Findings of the Unreleased Report

- **Status of Elephant in India 2022-23:** The unreleased report indicates a 20% drop in the overall elephant population compared to the last census.
- **Regions Affected:** Central Indian and Eastern Ghats areas, with populations in Southern West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Orissa experiencing up to 84%, 68%, and 54% losses.
- **Final Report Timeline:** The complete report, including data from the Northeast, is expected by June 2025.

Threats to Elephant Populations

- **Habitat Fragmentation:** Caused by construction and land use changes, leading to disconnected habitats and increased human-elephant conflicts.
- **Poaching:** Illegal hunting of elephants for their ivory, posing a significant threat to their survival.
- **Linear Infrastructure:** Development projects like roads and railways disrupt traditional elephant corridors.

Conservation Recommendations

- Strengthening habitat connectivity and restoration.
- Enhancing legal protection for elephants against poaching and habitat destruction.
- Engaging local communities in conservation efforts to support elephants.

Ways Forward

Ongoing assessments are crucial for accurate population estimation and to develop effective conservation strategies for elephants, ensuring their survival amid increasing threats.

Question: What are the main factors contributing to the decline in elephant populations in India, and how can conservation strategies be improved to address these challenges?

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



ELEPHANT NUMBERS IN INDIA (2012-2023)

States	2012	2017	2022-23	Change
Tamil Nadu	4015	2761	3136	13.6%
Karnataka	6068	6049	6013	-0.6%
Kerala	6117	5706*	2785	-51.2%
Maha (W Ghat)	4	6	27	350%
Western Ghats	16204	14522	11961	-17.6%
WB (South)	0	194	31	-84%
Jharkhand	688	679	217	-68%
Odisha	1930	1976	912	-54%
Chhattisgarh	247	247	451	82.6%
Madhya Pradesh	0	7	97	1286%
Maha (Gadchiroli)	0	0	36	NA
Andhra Pradesh	41	65	120	84.6%
Central & Eastern	2906	3168	1864	-41%
Uttarakhand	1346	1839	1792	-2.6%
Uttar Pradesh	291	232	257	11%
Bihar	0	25	13	-48%
Shivalik-Gangetic	1637	2096	2062	-1.6%
Haryana	0	7	0	NA
Himachal Pradesh	0	7	0	NA
A&N	0	25	NA	NA
India (Except NE)	20747	19825	15887	-20%
Arunachal Pradesh	890	1614	Pending	NA
Assam	5620	5719	1031^	NA
Megalaya	1811	1754	Pending	NA
Nagaland	212	446	Pending	NA
Mizoram	0	7	Pending	NA
Manipur	0	9	Pending	NA
Tripura	59	102	Pending	NA
WB (North)	647	488	423^^	NA
North East	9239	10139	9866#	NA



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which of the following is a key tributary of the Arun River?

- A. Tamor River
- B. Koshi River
- C. Teesta River
- D. Ganges River

Q2. Which of the following statements about the Swachh Bharat Mission is correct?

- A. The mission was solely funded by the central government.
- B. It emphasizes the role of community participation in achieving sanitation goals.
- C. The mission has no linkage with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- D. The mission was implemented only in urban areas.

Q3. Consider the following statements:

- 1. **Statement 1:** The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) status grants individuals the right to vote in Indian elections.
- 2. **Statement 2:** The OCI card allows multiple entries to India and is valid for the lifetime of the holder.

Which of the following options is correct?

- A. Only Statement 1 is correct.
- B. Only Statement 2 is correct.
- C. Both Statements are correct.
- D. Both Statements are incorrect.

Q4. Consider the following pairs:

Passes	State
1. Nathu La	Sikkim
2. Bara Lacha La	Ladakh
3. Shipki La Pass	Arunachal Pradesh
4. Pangsau Pass	Jammu

How many pairs are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All are correct

Q5. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan?

- 1. It aims to provide essential services in tribal-majority villages.
- 2. The total outlay for the initiative is ₹79,156 crore over five years.
- 3. The scheme is named after a contemporary tribal leader and does not reference historical figures.

Select the correct answer using code below:

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



Q6. What initiatives are being undertaken to enhance Jamaica's energy security with India's assistance?

1. Collaborative efforts in biofuel development.
2. Importing solar panels from India.
3. Training Jamaican engineers in renewable energy technologies.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding PARAM Rudra supercomputers:

1. PARAM Rudra is India's first exascale supercomputer.
2. It has been developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
3. PARAM Rudra will be used primarily for weather forecasting and climate research.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. None of the above

Q8. Which of the following is NOT a tool used by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to control inflation?

1. Repo rate adjustment.
2. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) changes.
3. Fiscal policy changes.

Select the correct answer using code below:

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

Q9. Consider the following countries:

1. Iraq
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Russia

What is the correct order of countries given above (from top to bottom) in terms of the import of crude oil by India as of September, 2024?

- A. 3—1—2
- B. 1—3—2
- C. 2—3—1
- D. 1—2—3

Q10. Consider the following statement regarding Indian elephant biodiversity:

1. Kerala has the highest population of elephants in India
2. They live in a variety of habitats, including wet tropical evergreen forests, semi-arid thorn and scrub forests, and tropical deciduous forests.
3. The Indian government has taken measures to conserve the elephant population, including the Project Elephant program, which was launched in 1992.

Select the correct answer using code below:

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



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- The Tamor River is a significant tributary of the Arun River. The Arun River itself is a major tributary of the Kosi River.
- The Koshi River, while it receives the Arun's waters, is not a tributary of the Arun.

2. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- The Swachh Bharat Mission places a significant emphasis on community participation and awareness-raising.
- It encourages local communities to engage in cleanliness drives, promote hygiene practices, and take ownership of sanitation initiatives.
- The mission also aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 6, which aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

3. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** This statement is incorrect. The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) status does not grant individuals the right to vote in Indian elections. OCI cardholders do not have political rights and cannot participate in elections in India.
- **Statement 2:** This statement is correct. The OCI card allows multiple entries into India and is valid for the lifetime of the holder. It facilitates easier travel and residency in India for people of Indian origin and their descendants, providing them with certain privileges, such as exemption from registration with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for long-term stays.

4. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

Pair 1 :Correct

Nathu La is a mountain pass located in the Himalayas, specifically in the eastern part of Sikkim. It connects Sikkim to Tibet and is historically significant for trade between India and China. The pass is situated at an altitude of about 4,310 meters (14,140 feet) and has been reopened for trade since 2006 after being closed for decades due to geopolitical tensions.

Pair 2 :Correct

Bara Lacha La is a high mountain pass located in the Zaskar Range of the Himalayas, primarily in the region of Ladakh. It serves as a connection between the Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh and the Zaskar Valley in Ladakh. The pass is situated at an altitude of approximately 4,850 meters (15,919 feet) and is crucial for transportation, particularly for travelers on the Manali-Leh highway.

Pair 3 :Incorrect

Shipki La Pass is actually located in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh, not Arunachal Pradesh. This pass serves as a border crossing between India and Tibet and is significant for trade and cultural exchanges. It is situated at an altitude of approximately 3,500 meters (11,483 feet).

Pair 4 :Incorrect

Pangsau Pass is located in the northeastern part of India, specifically in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, not Jammu. It connects India to Myanmar and is part of the Indo-Myanmar trade route. The pass is situated at an altitude of about 3,000 meters (9,843 feet) and is known for its natural beauty and biodiversity.



5. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Abhiyan indeed aims to provide essential services in tribal-majority villages, which is a significant aspect of the initiative.

Statement 2 is correct: The total outlay is ₹79,156 crore over five years, demonstrating the government's financial commitment to tribal welfare.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The scheme is named after Birsa Munda, a historical tribal leader, symbolizing tribal identity and heritage.

6. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: India and Jamaica are focusing on collaborative efforts in biofuel development to enhance Jamaica's energy security.

Statement 2 is incorrect: There is no mention of importing solar panels from India in the context of this collaboration.

Statement 3 is incorrect: While training in renewable energy is beneficial, it was not explicitly stated as part of the current initiatives discussed.

7. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect : PARAM Rudra is not India's first exascale supercomputer. It is a high-performance computing system, but exascale computing refers to systems capable of performing at least one exaflop, or a billion billion calculations per second. India is still in the process of developing exascale capabilities.

Statement 2: Correct : PARAM Rudra has indeed been developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), which is responsible for the development of supercomputing systems in India.

Statement 3: Correct : PARAM Rudra will be primarily used for applications such as weather forecasting, climate research, and other scientific computations. It aims to bolster India's capabilities in research and development in various fields, including computational modeling.

8. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect. The MPC uses repo rate adjustments as a primary tool to control inflation by influencing the cost of borrowing.

Statement 2: Incorrect. Changes in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) are another tool used by the MPC to manage liquidity in the banking system.

Statement 3: Correct. Fiscal policy changes are not within the MPC's purview; they are determined by the government. The MPC focuses on monetary policy tools.

9. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

The correct order of countries (top to bottom) is Russia-Iraq-Saudi Arabia.

- India's import of Russian crude rose 6.4 per cent over August to 1.88 million bpd, accounting for a staggering 40.2 per cent of New Delhi's overall crude oil imports of 4.68 million bpd in September, which were 5 per cent higher sequentially.
- Iraq, India's second-largest crude oil source market, delivered 0.87 million barrels per day in September, accounting for 18.7% of New Delhi's total oil imports. Saudi Arabia increased its market share to 15.5% in September, from 11.7% in August.
- India, the world's third-largest crude oil user, is very vulnerable to oil prices due to its huge import dependency of more than 85 per cent.



- India's oil imports from its fourth-largest source, the United Arab Emirates, increased 18.6 percent month on month to 0.49 million bpd in September, the highest level since June 2022.

10. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect. The state with the highest population of elephants in India is Karnataka, not Kerala. Kerala also has a significant population of elephants, but Karnataka ranks first, followed by Assam and Kerala.

Statement 2: Correct. Indian elephants are adaptable and live in diverse habitats across the country, ranging from tropical evergreen forests to semi-arid thorn and scrub forests, as well as tropical deciduous forests.

Statement 3: Correct. The Indian government launched Project Elephant in 1992 to protect elephants and their habitats, reduce human-elephant conflicts, and ensure the long-term survival of the species.





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