

# MANTHAN

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**Registered / Corporate Office:**

**CL Educate Limited, A – 45, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, New Delhi – 110044**

**Contact No. 011-41280800 / 1100**

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# 1. Marburg virus outbreak in Rwanda

- **Bleeding eye disease:** An outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) has killed at least 15 people, and infected at least 66 in Rwanda, the country's Ministry of Health announced.
- Often referred to as the “bleeding eye virus”, MVD is one of the deadliest pathogens known to infect humans.
- Case fatality rates ranging from 24% to 88% in past outbreaks, depending on virus strain and case management. The first case in Rwanda this year was reported in September.

## Ebola's lesser-known twin

- Marburg belongs to the filovirus family, like the much better known Ebola. Both pathogens are clinically similar, and although rare, can cause outbreaks with high fatality rates.
- The first recognised MVD outbreak occurred in the town of Marburg in Germany in 1967. Since then, subsequent outbreaks have been mostly reported across Africa, most recently in Tanzania, Ghana, and now Rwanda.
- The World Health Organisation has put MVD in a list of pathogens that pose the greatest threat to public health, and do not have adequate drugs and vaccines against them.

## Spread from bats, human contact

- Initially, human MVD infections were caused by prolonged exposure to mines or caves inhabited by colonies of Rousettus bats, most notably the Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*).
- However, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), the virus also spreads through human-to-human contact: both directly (through contact with blood and other bodily fluids of infected people), and indirectly (through surfaces and materials like bedding, clothing, etc. contaminated with these fluids).

## Can cause haemorrhagic symptoms

- The interval between infection and onset of symptoms varies from 2 to 21 days.
- Initial symptoms, according to the WHO, include high fever, severe headache, muscle ache, severe watery diarrhoea, abdominal pain and cramping, and vomiting.
- Many patients develop haemorrhagic symptoms (bleeding), often in many places including the digestive system (faeces and vomit often come with fresh blood), the nose, gums, the eyes (hence “bleeding eye disease”), and vagina.
- Haemorrhage leads to most MVD fatalities, with death in fatal cases occurring 8 to 9 days after the onset of symptoms, usually of severe blood loss and shock.

## Treatments still in the works

- Currently, there are no approved vaccines or specific treatments for MVD. According to WHO, supportive care — rehydration with oral or intravenous fluids — and treatment of specific symptoms, improves survival.
- Some treatments are also being further divided.

- The US-based Sabin Vaccine Institute had provided Rwanda with 700 doses of its experimental Marburg vaccine, which were administered to healthcare professionals at the frontlines. Its efficacy is still unclear.

## QUESTIONS

### Fill in the Blank:

1. The recent outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) in Rwanda has resulted in at least \_\_\_\_\_ deaths and \_\_\_\_\_ infections.
2. Marburg virus disease is often referred to as the “\_\_\_\_\_ eye virus” due to its characteristic haemorrhagic symptoms.
3. Marburg virus disease has case fatality rates ranging from \_\_\_\_\_% to \_\_\_\_\_% in past outbreaks, depending on virus strain and case management.
4. The Marburg virus belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ family, which also includes the Ebola virus.
5. The first recognized Marburg virus disease outbreak occurred in \_\_\_\_\_, Germany, in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The World Health Organization has listed MVD among pathogens posing the greatest threat to public health due to the lack of adequate \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Initial human infections of MVD were caused by exposure to caves or mines inhabited by colonies of \_\_\_\_\_ bats, particularly the \_\_\_\_\_ fruit bat.
8. The interval between infection and onset of MVD symptoms ranges from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ days.
9. Fatal cases of MVD often result from severe blood loss and \_\_\_\_\_ occurring approximately \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ days after the onset of symptoms.
10. Rwanda has received 700 doses of an experimental Marburg vaccine from the US-based \_\_\_\_\_ Vaccine Institute, although its \_\_\_\_\_ is still uncertain.

## 2. Why global plastic treaty talks collapsed

- The week-long global talks in Busan, South Korea, on curbing plastic pollution ended in failure to adopt a final legally binding treaty as countries could not reach an agreement on how to regulate plastic production.
- This was the fifth and final round of negotiations since March 2022, when the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) agreed to develop a legally binding treaty on plastics pollution by the end of 2024.
- Although the treaty was not finalised, discussions on the draft text of the treaty will continue next year.

### Why did the talks fail?

- The main dispute was regarding the demand for production cap goals in the final treaty along with clear language on the elimination of certain plastic chemicals and products.
- This demand was mainly pushed by a coalition of more than 100 countries which includes African nations, Latin American nations and most of the European Union.

- However, a coalition of “like-minded countries” including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Russia, and Iran opposed the inclusion of provisions on plastic production cuts, arguing they were beyond the mandate of the 2022 resolution to end plastic pollution.
- For instance, Kuwait said in a bid to include such provisions in the final treaty, the mandate was being stretched for advancing trade restrictions, economic agendas, and commercial competition, under the guise of environmental action. India and China also supported the stand of this coalition.

### What does the treaty’s draft text say?

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- The draft text reflected both points of consensus and contention.
- Points of consensus included proposing a ban on open dumping and open burning for sustainable waste management.
- The draft text also provided clear definitions of plastic and plastic products, but it did not reflect definitions of contentious issues such as microplastics, nanoplastics, primary plastic polymers, and recycling.
- Despite a pushback from the Arab group of countries led by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the draft text included options to include a goal to reduce plastic after the treaty is finalised.
- References to single-use plastics and short-lived plastics were also included.
- This draft text, with all its issues and progress, will serve as the basis for the next session in 2025.

### What was India’s stance?

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- India’s stance and interventions centred on issues such as the varying responsibilities of countries in addressing plastic pollution, keeping in focus the right to development of countries and the need for the provision of technical and financial assistance to manage plastic waste.
- It also stressed that the scope of the treaty should be well-defined to not overlap with existing multilateral environmental agreements.
- India outlined its stance in the opening plenary.
- Its delegation said any legally binding treaty must recognise the need for support to developing countries through finance and technology transfer.
- At the outset it made clear it did not support any articles on “supply”, referring to the discussions surrounding curbing production.
- India said the sustainable level of production at a global or national level was not well-defined and may become a method for imposing a cap on the production of products, chemicals, or primary polymers.
- It also said production of primary polymers was not directly linked to plastic pollution and there should be no targets concerning polymer or plastic production.
- Instead, it asked to focus on reducing plastic pollution. Further, it did not support a levy of a plastic pollution fee on the production of primary polymers.
- At the end of the talks, India added that a balance has to be struck between preventing plastic pollution and protecting the sustainable development of developing countries.

### United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

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- The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world’s highest-level decision-making body on environmental matters.
- It is composed of the 193 Member States of the United Nations and is responsible for setting the global environmental agenda.

- UNEA was established in 2012 as part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide a platform for ministers and other high-level officials to discuss and make decisions on pressing environmental issues.
- The assembly meets biennially and addresses a wide range of topics related to global environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and sustainable development.
- UNEA adopts resolutions, which guide the work of UNEP and influence global environmental policies.
- One of its key goals is to strengthen international cooperation to promote a sustainable and inclusive environment, with a focus on protecting ecosystems, supporting the transition to green economies, and promoting sustainable resource use.
- The UNEA sessions often feature important dialogues between countries, organizations, and stakeholders to ensure collaborative efforts toward achieving environmental goals outlined in agreements like the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## QUESTIONS

### Fill in the Blank:

1. The week-long global talks in Busan, South Korea, on curbing plastic pollution ended without adopting a final legally binding treaty because countries could not reach an agreement on how to regulate \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) agreed in March 2022 to develop a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution by the end of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A coalition of over 100 countries, including African nations, Latin American nations, and most of the European Union, demanded the inclusion of \_\_\_\_\_ in the final treaty.
4. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Russia, and Iran, part of a coalition of “like-minded countries,” opposed provisions on plastic production cuts, arguing that they were beyond the mandate of the \_\_\_\_\_ resolution.
5. The draft treaty proposed a ban on open \_\_\_\_\_ and open \_\_\_\_\_ as part of sustainable waste management.
6. Despite pushback, the draft treaty included references to \_\_\_\_\_ plastics and \_\_\_\_\_ plastics.
7. India stressed that the treaty should not overlap with existing \_\_\_\_\_ agreements and emphasised the need for technical and financial assistance for managing plastic waste.
8. India’s delegation said that a legally binding treaty must recognise the need for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ transfer to developing countries.
9. India did not support a levy of a plastic pollution fee on the production of \_\_\_\_\_ polymers.
10. At the end of the talks, India reiterated the need to balance the prevention of plastic pollution with the sustainable \_\_\_\_\_ of developing countries.

## 3. Why some PLI schemes are in the slow lane; what govt is doing about it

- The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, covering 14 sectors, aims to bolster India's domestic manufacturing capabilities and generate substantial employment.
- While sectors such as mobile phone manufacturing and food processing are progressing well, others—including textiles, solar modules, IT hardware, automobiles, advanced chemical cells (ACC), and specialty steel—are lagging in terms of employment generation.
- These disparities have prompted discussions to modify certain schemes, renew others, and increase funding where necessary to optimize outcomes.
- The government views PLI as vital for scaling up domestic manufacturing to integrate India into global supply chains and create significant direct and indirect job opportunities.
- Achieving notable employment outcomes requires a robust supply chain that allows the scheme's benefits to reach smaller suppliers.
- Sectors like mobile manufacturing and food processing are beginning to exhibit this trickle-down effect, with expectations that employment metrics will improve as these schemes achieve critical mass.
- The potential impact of PLI is substantial. A February 2024 report by rating agency Crisil estimated that the scheme could drive industrial capital expenditure (capex) of Rs. 3–3.5 lakh crore during its tenure, constituting 8–10% of total capex in key industrial sectors over the next three to four years.
- However, several challenges persist across sectors. Industry stakeholders have raised concerns about stringent eligibility norms, restrictions on access to Chinese machinery and technicians, and import tariffs that complicate operations.
- These issues highlight the need for calibrated adjustments to address sector-specific hurdles and enhance the effectiveness of the PLI schemes.
- In summary, while the PLI schemes have demonstrated potential for transforming India's industrial landscape and employment scenario, their success hinges on addressing sectoral challenges, refining formats, and ensuring the benefits extend to smaller players in the supply chain.
- By overcoming these barriers and achieving critical mass, the schemes can unlock significant growth and strengthen India's position in global supply chains.

### **The initial challenge**

- The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes aim to boost domestic manufacturing in sectors where India has traditionally had limited presence.
- While these schemes are ambitious, developing domestic industries from scratch poses initial challenges, particularly in employment generation, as companies require time to establish operations.
- For instance, sectors like solar modules and Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) have commissioning periods of 1.5 to 3 years.
- However, some sectors, such as mobile phone manufacturing, have witnessed early success.
- Before the PLI scheme, India was a net importer of phones; now, most phones sold domestically are manufactured within the country. India even exported smartphones worth approximately \$15 billion in 2023-24, with Apple being a major contributor.
- The scheme primarily benefits larger companies initially, with the government expecting this to have a trickle-down effect on the supply chain, encouraging ancillary industries and boosting employment. For example, Apple now has at least 14 Indian suppliers, compared to none before it began assembling iPhones in India.

- The PLI schemes offer incentives for 3–7 years to achieve critical mass in targeted sectors, enabling them to remain competitive even after the incentives are withdrawn.
- However, critics argue that the scheme resembles subsidization and question its sustainability, doubting whether sectors will remain competitive without continued government support.
- Despite these challenges, the government sees the PLI schemes as a transformative step towards self-reliance and export-oriented growth.

### Review of the PLI scheme

- The government is in active discussion with stakeholders as it reviews the progress of the PLI schemes in the 14 sectors, especially those like textiles, advanced chemistry battery cell, solar modules, and automobiles, where progress has been slow.
- The IT hardware PLI scheme was recently upgraded with an increased outlay, with discussions around renewing other schemes, such as that for drones, learnt to be also under consideration.
- The government could also tinker with eligibility criteria in schemes such as textiles.

### QUESTIONS

#### Fill in the Blank:

1. The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme covers \_\_\_\_\_ sectors to bolster India's domestic manufacturing capabilities and generate substantial employment.
2. Sectors such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are progressing well under the PLI scheme in terms of employment generation.
3. A February 2024 report by Crisil estimated that the PLI scheme could drive industrial capital expenditure (capex) of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore during its tenure.
4. Sectors such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ face initial challenges in employment generation due to long commissioning periods of 1.5 to 3 years.
5. India transitioned from being a net importer of mobile phones to exporting smartphones worth approximately \_\_\_\_\_ in 2023–24.
6. The PLI schemes offer incentives for \_\_\_\_\_ years to enable sectors to achieve critical mass and remain competitive.
7. Critics argue that the PLI schemes resemble \_\_\_\_\_ and question their sustainability once government support is withdrawn.
8. The government recently upgraded the IT hardware PLI scheme by increasing its \_\_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is a major contributor to India's smartphone exports, with at least 14 Indian suppliers under the PLI scheme.
10. The success of the PLI schemes hinges on addressing sector-specific hurdles, refining formats, and ensuring benefits extend to \_\_\_\_\_ in the supply chain.

## 4. Namibia elects its first female president in disputed elections



- Namibia has elected its first female president, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, marking a significant moment in the country's history and extending the ruling SWAPO party's 34-year hold on power.
- Nandi-Ndaitwah, who previously served as vice-president, secured 57% of the vote, surpassing expectations that a runoff might be needed. The 72-year-old seasoned diplomat described her victory as a vote for "peace and stability" in the country.
- Her win follows her promotion from foreign minister to vice-president in February, after President Hage Geingob passed away while in office.
- Despite her electoral success, the election process was marred by technical issues, including shortages of ballot papers and logistical challenges, which led election officials to extend voting.
- Opposition parties have rejected the election results, claiming the extension was illegal, and plan to challenge them in court.
- Nandi-Ndaitwah's popularity stems from her reputation as a steady and experienced leader, untainted by the corruption scandals that have plagued some members of her party.
- A member of Namibia's independence movement in the 1970s, she has maintained a clean image throughout her career.
- Her victory is also notable as she outperformed SWAPO, which received 53% of the parliamentary vote, a drop from 65% in the previous election.
- Meanwhile, the newly formed Independent Patriots for Change (IPC), led by Panduleni Itula, emerged as the second-largest party, securing 20% of the parliamentary vote.
- This election represents a rare instance of an incumbent liberation movement maintaining its dominance in southern Africa, defying a growing trend where such parties are losing ground among younger, more restless voters.
- For example, South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) lost its parliamentary majority for the first time since the end of apartheid, Botswana's ruling party was ousted after decades of dominance, and Mozambique has faced ongoing protests over alleged election rigging.
- Nandi-Ndaitwah's victory not only solidifies her as a pioneering leader in Namibia but also underscores the continued relevance of liberation-era movements in the region, albeit with signs of weakening support.
- Her presidency will likely focus on addressing the challenges of economic inequality, youth discontent, and declining public trust in the ruling party.
- Namibia's electoral outcome reflects both the resilience and the fragility of liberation-era political structures in southern Africa.
- Nandi-Ndaitwah's leadership will be closely watched as she navigates internal party reforms and seeks to restore confidence in the ruling SWAPO party amid increasing calls for transparency and change.

### **Namibia's independence movement**

- Namibia's independence movement was a long and arduous struggle against colonial domination, primarily led by South Africa under its apartheid regime.

### **German Colonial Rule (1884–1915):**

- Namibia was a German colony known as German South West Africa.
- The Herero and Namaqua Genocide (1904–1908) was a key event, where tens of thousands of indigenous Herero and Nama people were killed during uprisings against German rule.

## **South African Rule (1915–1990):**

- After World War I, South Africa took control under a League of Nations mandate.
- Post-1948, South Africa implemented apartheid laws in Namibia, similar to those in South Africa.

## **Independence Movement**

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### **Founding of SWAPO (1960)**

- The South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), led by Sam Nujoma, became the leading liberation movement.
- It sought to end South African rule and establish an independent Namibia.
- SWAPO's armed wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), launched guerrilla warfare against South African forces.

### **International Support**

- The United Nations revoked South Africa's mandate over Namibia in 1966, recognizing SWAPO as the legitimate representative of the Namibian people.
- The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 435 in 1978, calling for free elections under UN supervision.

### **Cold War Context**

- The conflict was entangled in the Cold War. SWAPO received support from socialist countries, while South Africa was backed by Western powers.
- Neighboring Angola, after its own independence in 1975, became a key base for SWAPO operations.

### **Battle of Cuito Cuanavale (1987–1988)**

- This pivotal battle in Angola involved South African forces and SWAPO allies (Cuban and Angolan troops).
- The outcome weakened South African dominance and hastened negotiations.

## **Independence Achieved**

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### **Negotiations and Ceasefire (1988)**

- South Africa agreed to implement UN Resolution 435.
- A ceasefire was declared, and the UN oversaw elections.

### **Elections and Independence (1989–1990)**

- Free and fair elections were held in November 1989, with SWAPO winning a majority.
- Namibia formally gained independence on March 21, 1990.
- Sam Nujoma became the first President of Namibia.

### **Post-Independence**

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- Namibia has since been recognized as a stable democracy, with SWAPO remaining the dominant political party.
- Challenges persist, including addressing economic inequality rooted in the colonial era, but the country remains a symbol of successful liberation in Africa.

## QUESTIONS

### Fill in the Blank:

1. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was elected as Namibia's first female president, securing \_\_\_% of the vote.
2. Nandi-Ndaitwah succeeded President Hage Geingob after he \_\_\_ while in office.
3. Despite her victory, the election process faced challenges, including shortages of \_\_\_ and logistical difficulties.
4. The opposition parties plan to challenge the election results, claiming the \_\_\_ of voting was illegal.
5. Nandi-Ndaitwah's popularity is attributed to her clean reputation and lack of involvement in \_\_\_ that have affected other SWAPO members.
6. SWAPO received \_\_\_% of the parliamentary vote in the recent election, down from 65% in the previous one.
7. The newly formed Independent Patriots for Change (IPC), led by \_\_\_, emerged as the second-largest party with 20% of the parliamentary vote.
8. Namibia's independence movement was led by SWAPO, founded in 1960 by \_\_\_, to end South African rule.
9. The \_\_\_ Genocide, which occurred between 1904 and 1908, involved the killing of tens of thousands of Herero and Nama people under German colonial rule.
10. Namibia formally gained independence on \_\_\_, with Sam Nujoma as its first president.

## 5. Mauritian PM asks for independent review of Chagos Island deal with UK

- Mauritius' new Prime Minister, Navin Ramgoolam, has called for an independent review of a draft agreement regarding the Chagos Islands deal with the UK.
- The deal, which aims to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius while securing the continuation of the UK-US military base on Diego Garcia, has drawn criticism and raised questions under the new Mauritian administration.
- During a recent parliamentary session, Ramgoolam, a vocal critic of the agreement prior to taking office, informed lawmakers of his decision to reassess the confidential draft agreement negotiated over the past two years. He emphasized that his government was not privy to the details of these negotiations, which took place before his election.
- The deal, as it stands, reportedly allows the UK-US military presence on Diego Garcia to continue for 99 years with a renewal option, alongside an annual financial payment from the UK to Mauritius.
- Ramgoolam's skepticism about the agreement persisted after a meeting with the UK's National Security Adviser, Jonathan Powell. Despite the ongoing reservations in Mauritius, UK Labour Party leader Keir Starmer defended the agreement as beneficial, describing it as essential for securing US and UK interests tied to the base on Diego Garcia.
- Starmer expressed confidence in the deal and reaffirmed the UK's commitment to engaging with Mauritius to finalize it.

- The agreement has also sparked criticism from the US, particularly from members of the incoming Trump administration.
- Marco Rubio, the president-elect's nominee for Secretary of State, voiced concerns in October that the deal could threaten US national security by transferring the islands to Mauritius, a country with close ties to China.
- These remarks reflect broader geopolitical apprehensions about the region's strategic significance and the influence of China.
- UK officials remain optimistic about the mutual benefits of the agreement, emphasizing that the deal is in both parties' interests.
- Starmer's spokesperson reiterated the UK's intent to work collaboratively with the new Mauritian government to advance the negotiations.
- The Chagos Islands issue has been a longstanding point of contention.
- The archipelago was separated from Mauritius by the UK in 1965 during decolonization, and the indigenous Chagossians were forcibly removed to make way for the military base.
- Mauritius has since fought for sovereignty over the islands, garnering international support, including a 2019 International Court of Justice ruling favoring Mauritius' claim.
- As Mauritius' new administration reassesses the agreement, the outcome could have significant implications for international relations, particularly in the context of US and UK strategic interests in the Indian Ocean.
- The review process will likely address concerns about transparency, geopolitical alignments, and the broader ramifications of the deal for all stakeholders involved.

## Chagos Archipelago

- The Chagos Archipelago is a group of islands located in the central Indian Ocean, which is part of British Overseas Territory known as the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).
- The Chagos deal typically refers to the long-standing dispute between the United Kingdom and Mauritius, which is primarily about the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago, as well as the issue of the forced removal of its indigenous population, the Chagossians, by the British government in the 1960s and 1970s.

## Sovereignty Issue

- In 1965, the UK separated the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius, which was a British colony at the time, to create the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).
- The UK claims sovereignty over the Chagos Islands, but Mauritius has consistently argued that the separation was illegal and that the islands are part of its territory.

## Forced Displacement of Chagossians

- In the 1960s and 1970s, the UK forcibly removed the indigenous Chagossians to make way for a U.S. military base on Diego Garcia, the largest island in the archipelago.
- The Chagossians were relocated to Mauritius and Seychelles, and many have since sought the right to return to their homeland.

## Legal Developments

- In 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion stating that the UK's continued administration of the Chagos Islands is illegal and that the UK should end its occupation of the islands.
- The United Nations General Assembly subsequently passed a resolution urging the UK to withdraw from the Chagos Archipelago, and the UK was ordered to cede control to Mauritius.

## The 2020 UK-Mauritius Agreement

- In 2020, the UK and Mauritius reached an agreement allowing Mauritius to take over the administration of the Chagos Archipelago, though the sovereignty dispute has not been fully resolved.
- The deal also focused on ensuring the Chagossians' rights and potential return to their homeland, although this remains a complex and ongoing issue.

## US Military Base

- Despite the legal pressure to return the islands, the US military base on Diego Garcia remains a key point in the negotiation, as the US views it as a vital strategic location in the Indian Ocean.
- The US has long had a lease agreement with the UK to maintain the base, and this military presence complicates any potential resolution of the sovereignty issue.
- The Chagos deal and the broader situation remain contentious, with debates continuing over the islands' sovereignty, the fate of the Chagossians, and the geopolitical implications of the US military

## QUESTIONS

### Fill in the Blank:

1. Mauritius' new Prime Minister, \_\_\_\_\_ Ramgoolam, has called for an independent review of a draft agreement regarding the Chagos Islands deal with the UK.
2. The agreement aims to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago to \_\_\_\_\_ while securing the continuation of the UK-US military base on Diego Garcia.
3. The deal reportedly allows the UK-US military presence on Diego Garcia to continue for \_\_\_\_\_ years, with a renewal option.
4. During a parliamentary session, Ramgoolam informed lawmakers of his decision to reassess the confidential \_\_\_\_\_ agreement negotiated over the past two years.
5. UK Labour Party leader \_\_\_\_\_ Starmer defended the Chagos Islands deal, describing it as essential for securing US and UK interests tied to the base on Diego Garcia.
6. The Chagos Archipelago was separated from \_\_\_\_\_ by the UK in 1965 during decolonization, creating the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).
7. In the 1960s and 1970s, the UK forcibly removed the indigenous \_\_\_\_\_ people to make way for a U.S. military base on Diego Garcia.
8. In 2019, the \_\_\_\_\_ issued an advisory opinion stating that the UK's continued administration of the Chagos Islands is illegal.
9. The US military base on Diego Garcia remains a key point in the negotiations, as the US views it as a vital \_\_\_\_\_ location in the Indian Ocean.
10. The Chagos Islands issue has been a longstanding point of \_\_\_\_\_ between Mauritius and the UK, particularly regarding sovereignty and the forced displacement of the Chagossians.

## 6. Landmark space mission set to create artificial solar eclipses using satellites

- The Proba-3 mission, a groundbreaking space initiative by the European Space Agency (ESA), aims to study the Sun's corona using two satellites flying in precise formation, with the goal of creating artificial solar eclipses.
- These satellites, set to launch from India's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, will demonstrate ESA's first attempt at formation flying in orbit, where the two spacecraft will maintain a distance from each other that never deviates by more than a millimeter, roughly the thickness of a human fingernail.
- This orbit will take them as close as 370 miles to Earth and extend out more than 37,000 miles.
- Once in position, the two satellites will work together in a tandem arrangement to create artificial solar eclipses, which will enable scientists to study the Sun's corona, the outermost layer of its atmosphere.
- In a traditional setting, the Sun's corona can be studied during a solar eclipse when the moon blocks out the Sun's glare, allowing the corona to be visible.
- However, these natural eclipses are short-lived and can be obscured by clouds.
- Proba-3, with its precise formation flying, promises to revolutionize the study of the corona by producing up to 50 artificial eclipses per year, each lasting six hours.
- This new capability will provide valuable, extended observation time, facilitating in-depth research into the corona's properties.
- A key focus of the mission is to investigate the longstanding mystery of why the Sun's corona is much hotter than its surface. While the Sun's surface temperature is around 5,500°C, the corona can reach temperatures exceeding 1 million°C.
- Understanding the mechanisms behind this temperature disparity could improve predictions of solar weather and phenomena such as coronal mass ejections (CMEs), which release pulses of plasma and magnetic fields into space.
- These events can pose a threat to spacecraft, as well as cause power outages and communication blackouts on Earth.
- The Proba-3 spacecraft will orbit the Earth every 19.7 hours for two years, flying in formation for six hours in each orbit.
- The two satellites will use optical sensors, flashing LEDs, and a precision laser system to maintain their exact formation, ensuring the lead spacecraft casts a controlled shadow on the second satellite to facilitate corona measurements. The first data from the mission is expected by March 2025.
- In addition to its scientific goals, the Proba-3 mission will also serve as a platform for testing new technologies.
- ESA scientists hope to use the precise formation flying techniques developed during this mission to service faulty satellites, remove space debris, and demonstrate future potential for multi-satellite instruments.

- These instruments could be used for various purposes, such as climate monitoring, space exploration, and the study of distant planets. As a result, Proba-3 has the potential to open up new possibilities for space-based observatories, advancing both space science and technology.

## QUESTIONS

### Fill in the Blank:

1. The Proba-3 mission will use two satellites flying in close formation to create artificial \_\_\_\_\_ high above the Earth.
2. The spacecraft for the Proba-3 mission will be launched from India's \_\_\_\_\_ Space Centre in Sriharikota.
3. The Proba-3 mission is the European Space Agency's first attempt at precise \_\_\_\_\_ flying in orbit.
4. The spacecraft in the Proba-3 mission will reach a highly \_\_\_\_\_ orbit, swinging from 370 miles to over 37,000 miles from Earth.
5. The Proba-3 spacecraft will carry a 1.4-meter wide \_\_\_\_\_ disc to block the sun as seen from the second spacecraft.
6. The main goal of the Proba-3 mission is to study the sun's \_\_\_\_\_, the outer layer of its atmosphere.
7. Scientists traditionally study the sun's corona during solar \_\_\_\_\_, when the moon blocks enough of the sun's glare.
8. The Proba-3 mission is expected to produce \_\_\_\_\_ artificial solar eclipses each year, each lasting six hours.
9. The corona is much hotter than the sun's surface, with temperatures exceeding \_\_\_\_\_ °C.
10. The Proba-3 mission's formation flying technology may help in the future to remove \_\_\_\_\_ from orbit or service faulty satellites.

## 7. South Korea's president, Yoon Suk Yeol, facing impeachment after martial law shock

- South Korean opposition parties have formally submitted an impeachment motion against President Yoon Suk Yeol over his brief declaration of martial law.
- The motion, presented by lawmakers from six opposition parties, accuses Yoon of violating the constitution by imposing martial law in an unconstitutional and illegal attempt to avoid investigations into alleged corruption involving him and his family.
- The Democratic Party, South Korea's main opposition group, argues that the martial law declaration was invalid and a severe constitutional violation, describing it as an act of rebellion.
- They have called for Yoon's immediate resignation or impeachment.
- Yoon's martial law declaration triggered protests, with opposition lawmakers clashing with security forces in an effort to vote against the law.
- The declaration, South Korea's first in over four decades, was issued amid tensions with North Korea and Yoon's disputes with the opposition over next year's budget.



- Yoon labeled the Democratic Party as “anti-state forces” and accused them of undermining the government.
- The opposition, controlling 192 of the 300 seats in parliament, needs support from at least eight ruling party lawmakers to achieve the required two-thirds majority for impeachment.
- Following the declaration, Yoon faced widespread condemnation from both domestic and international actors.
- His decision prompted the United States to voice concern, delaying planned meetings about nuclear consultation and casting doubt on a planned visit by U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin.
- The U.S. was relieved when Yoon reversed his decision, agreeing to lift the martial law after the national assembly voted to oppose it.
- In a significant development, Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun offered his resignation amidst the impeachment motion, and his resignation could halt the impeachment process if accepted by Yoon before the vote.
- The dramatic move by Yoon led to candlelight vigils in major cities, reminiscent of the 2016-17 protests that led to the impeachment of former President Park Geun-hye.
- Yoon’s martial law declaration was framed as a response to the North Korean threat and domestic “anti-state elements.”
- However, the lack of detailed explanation about the North’s threats and the lack of constitutional procedures to justify the declaration led to outrage across the political spectrum.
- South Korea remains technically at war with North Korea, and Yoon’s government has been at odds with the opposition over economic issues and the handling of the controversial family-related allegations.
- Yoon’s approval rating had recently dropped to 19%, amid dissatisfaction with his economic management and controversies involving his wife. The martial law declaration escalated tensions, leading to massive protests and a divided parliament.
- If the impeachment motion is approved, the decision must be upheld by South Korea’s Constitutional Court, which could result in Yoon becoming the second South Korean president to be impeached, following Park Geun-hye’s removal in 2017.
- Internationally, countries such as the U.S., China, and Japan closely monitored the developments.
- The U.S. expressed concern over Yoon’s actions, while China urged its nationals in South Korea to stay calm. Japan also expressed serious interest, leading to the cancellation of a planned visit by a Japanese lawmaker group.
- The crisis has left Yoon’s future in office uncertain and South Korea’s democratic stability in the spotlight.
- In December 2024, South Korea is grappling with significant political instability.
- President Yoon Suk Yeol’s administration is facing strong opposition, exacerbated by his poor approval ratings and a polarized political environment.
- The opposition, led by the Democratic Party, has gained considerable influence following a recent parliamentary election that dealt a blow to the ruling People Power Party.
- This division has left Yoon unable to push major legislative initiatives, potentially making him a “lame duck” for the rest of his term.



- Additionally, generational divides and a lack of connection with younger voters, who face challenges like high competition for jobs and rising housing costs, are contributing to unrest.
- As South Korea approaches future elections, these tensions could reshape the political landscape.

South Korea, officially known as the Republic of Korea, is a country located in East Asia, on the southern half of the Korean Peninsula. It is bordered by North Korea to the north, with which it shares a heavily militarized border, and the Yellow Sea to the west, the Sea of Japan (East Sea) to the east, and the Korea Strait to the south.

- **Capital:** Seoul, one of the largest and most technologically advanced cities in the world.
- **Language:** Korean is the official language, with a writing system known as Hangul.
- **Government:** South Korea is a democratic republic with a president serving as the head of state. The country has a highly developed political system and is known for its political stability.
- **Economy:** South Korea boasts one of the largest economies in the world, driven by advanced industries like electronics, automotive, shipbuilding, and petrochemicals. Companies such as Samsung, Hyundai, and LG are globally recognized.
- **Culture:** South Korea is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, including traditional music (gugak), dance, and art. The global popularity of K-pop (Korean pop music) and Korean cinema has propelled South Korean culture onto the world stage. South Korean dramas (K-dramas) and films have gained significant international followings.
- **Technology and Innovation:** South Korea is a leader in technology and innovation, with high-speed internet and advanced infrastructure. It is one of the top countries in terms of research and development.
- **Education:** The education system in South Korea is highly competitive, and the country consistently ranks among the best in global education rankings.
- **Military:** South Korea has a strong military, due in part to the ongoing conflict with North Korea. The country maintains a mandatory military service requirement for young men.
- **Tourism:** South Korea is a popular destination for tourists, with attractions such as historical sites like Gyeongbokgung Palace, modern marvels like the Lotte World Tower, and natural beauty spots like Jeju Island.

## QUESTIONS

### Fill in the Blank:

1. South Korean opposition parties have formally submitted an impeachment motion against President \_\_\_\_\_ Suk Yeol over his brief declaration of martial law.
2. The motion, presented by lawmakers from six opposition parties, accuses Yoon of violating the \_\_\_\_\_ by imposing martial law in an unconstitutional and illegal attempt to avoid investigations.
3. The Democratic Party, South Korea's main opposition group, argues that the martial law declaration was invalid and a severe \_\_\_\_\_ violation.
4. Yoon labeled the Democratic Party as “\_\_\_\_\_ forces” and accused them of undermining the government.
5. The martial law declaration, South Korea's first in over \_\_\_\_\_ decades, was issued amid tensions with North Korea and disputes with the opposition.
6. Yoon's approval rating had recently dropped to \_\_\_\_\_%, amid dissatisfaction with his economic management and controversies involving his wife.
7. If the impeachment motion is approved, the decision must be upheld by South Korea's \_\_\_\_\_ Court.

8. South Korea is officially known as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Korea and is located on the southern half of the Korean Peninsula.
9. South Korea is a \_\_\_\_\_ republic with a president serving as the head of state.
10. South Korea boasts one of the largest economies in the world, driven by advanced industries like electronics, automotive, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## 8. Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

- The Maha Kumbh Mela, celebrated as the world's largest spiritual gathering, is a breathtaking convergence of faith, culture, and ancient tradition.
- Rooted in Hindu mythology, this sacred festival unfolds four times over a course of twelve years, rotating between four revered cities in India: Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik, and Prayagraj, each situated along the banks of the holiest rivers—the Ganges, Shipra, Godavari, and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati.
- In 2025, from January 13 to February 26, Prayagraj will once again become the heart of this magnificent celebration, drawing millions of pilgrims and visitors to witness a profound display of devotion, unity, and the vibrant expression of India's spiritual heritage.
- This grand event transcends religious practices, encompassing a rich blend of astronomy, astrology, socio-cultural traditions, and spiritual enlightenment. Millions of devotees, ascetics, and seekers gather to partake in the sacred rituals, including the holy bath at the Triveni Sangam, believing it to cleanse their sins and lead them toward spiritual liberation.
- The Maha Kumbh Mela not only represents India's deep-rooted heritage but also showcases the timeless human quest for inner peace, self-realization, and collective unity.

### Shahi Snan

- The Maha Kumbh Mela is a grand assembly of rituals, with the bathing ceremony standing as the most significant of them all.
- Held at the Triveni Sangam, millions of pilgrims gather to partake in this sacred practice, which is deeply rooted in the belief that immersing oneself in the holy waters can cleanse an individual of all sins.
- This act of purification is believed to liberate both the individual and their ancestors from the cycle of rebirth, ultimately leading to Moksha, or spiritual liberation.
- Alongside the bathing ritual, pilgrims also engage in worship along the banks of the sacred river and participate in enlightening discourses led by sadhus and saints, adding a layer of spiritual depth to the experience.
- While taking a dip in the holy waters is considered sacred throughout the entire Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, certain dates hold special significance like Paush Purnima (January 13), Makar Sankranti (January 14) etc.
- These dates see magnificent processions featuring saints, their disciples, and members of various Akharas (religious orders), all partaking in the grand ritual known as Shahi Snan, or 'Rajyogi Snan.'

- This marks the official commencement of the Maha Kumbh Mela and is the central highlight of the event.
- The tradition of Shahi Snan is based on the belief that those who partake in the ritual receive the blessings of virtuous deeds and the profound wisdom of the saints who have come before them, as they immerse themselves in the sacred waters.

## Aarti

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- The mesmerizing Ganga Aarti ceremony on the riverbanks is an unforgettable sight for the participants.
- During this sacred ritual, priests perform intricate ceremonies while holding glowing lamps, offering a visual spectacle.
- The Ganga Aarti attracts thousands of devotees, evoking profound devotion and reverence for the sacred river.

## Kalpavas

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- Kalpavas, a profound yet lesser-known aspect of the Maha Kumbh Mela, offers seekers a sacred retreat dedicated to spiritual discipline, austerity, and higher consciousness.
- Derived from Sanskrit, “Kalpa” means cosmic aeon, and “Vas” refers to dwelling, symbolizing a period of intense spiritual practice. Pilgrims participating in Kalpavas embrace a life of simplicity, renouncing worldly comforts and engaging in daily rituals like meditation, prayers, and scripture study.
- The practice also includes Vedic Yajnas and Homas, sacred fire rituals that invoke divine blessings, and Satsangs, spiritual discourses for intellectual and devotional growth.
- This immersive experience fosters deepened devotion and spiritual transformation within the larger pilgrimage.

## Prayers and Offerings

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- Devotees perform Dev Puja to honor deities believed to visit the Sangam during the Kumbh.
- Rituals such as Shraadh (offering food and prayers to ancestors) and Veeni Daan (offering hair to the Ganges) are integral to the festival, symbolizing surrender and purification.
- Satsang, or associating with truth, is another core practice where devotees listen to discourses by saints and scholars.
- This exchange of wisdom fosters a deeper understanding of spirituality, inspiring attendees to pursue higher self-realization. Philanthropy holds immense significance during Kumbh.
- Acts of giving, such as Gau Daan (donation of cows), Vastra Daan (donation of clothes), Dravya Daan (donating of money) and Swarn Daan (gold), are considered meritorious.

## Deep Daan

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- During the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, the ritual of Deep Daan transforms the sacred rivers into a mesmerizing spectacle. Devotees float thousands of lighted earthen lamps (Diyas) on the flowing waters of the Triveni Sangam as an offering of gratitude.
- These lamps, often crafted from wheat flour and filled with oil, create a celestial glow that reflects divine brilliance, symbolizing spirituality and devotion.
- The sight of twinkling Diyas on the river, set against the backdrop of the Mela, fills the atmosphere with a profound sense of religious fervor and unity, leaving an indelible impression on pilgrims.

## Prayagraj Panchkoshi Parikrama

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- The historical ritual of circumambulating Prayagraj has been revived to reconnect pilgrims with ancient practices.
- This journey encompasses sacred landmarks like the Dwadash Madhav and other significant temples, offering spiritual fulfilment while preserving cultural heritage.
- The aim is to revive a historic ritual while offering the younger generation an opportunity to connect with and appreciate the rich cultural, religious, and spiritual heritage of this significant event.

## Attractions of Kumbh Mela 2025

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- In addition to the rituals and practices of the Maha Kumbh Mela, there are several other captivating attractions that make the event in 2025 even more remarkable. Prayagraj, known for its sacred significance as the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers, is a key destination for pilgrims. The revered Triveni Sangam, where the three rivers meet, is a must-visit for anyone attending the Mela. This sacred spot offers a deeply spiritual experience, drawing millions of devotees and travellers from across the globe.
- Beyond the religious rituals, Prayagraj offers a rich array of cultural, historical, and architectural gems. The city is home to a number of ancient temples, such as the Hanuman Mandir, Alop Devi Mandir, and Mankameshwar Temple, each of which holds great religious significance and offers a glimpse into the city's deep spiritual heritage.
- These temples, with their intricate designs and age-old legends, are a testament to the city's longstanding connection to Hindu traditions.
- For history enthusiasts, Prayagraj also boasts significant historical landmarks, such as the Ashoka Pillar.
- This ancient edifice stands as a reminder of India's rich historical past, with inscriptions that reflect the country's ancient civilization.
- The city's colonial-era architecture, including structures like the University of Allahabad Building and Swaraj Bhawan, further adds to the allure of the region. These buildings provide a fascinating glimpse into the architectural grandeur of the British colonial period.
- Prayagraj's vibrant cultural heritage is another highlight for visitors. The pilgrims can also explore the bustling streets and markets, and experience the local culture, art, and cuisine, all of which offer a unique window into the life of the city.
- In addition to these historical and cultural treasures, Prayagraj is also home to esteemed educational institutions like Allahabad University, often referred to as the "Oxford of the East." This prestigious university has played a significant role in shaping India's intellectual landscape over the years.
- Moreover, the Akhara camps at the Kumbh Mela provide a unique opportunity for spiritual seekers, sadhus, and ascetics to gather, discuss philosophy, meditate, and share their wisdom.
- These camps are not just places of worship but spaces where deeper spiritual exchanges occur, offering a truly enriching experience for anyone attending the Maha Kumbh Mela.
- Together, these attractions make the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 a celebration of faith, culture, and history, providing an unforgettable journey for all who participate.

## Conclusion

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- The Maha Kumbh Mela is far more than a religious congregation; it is a vibrant celebration interwoven with faith, rituals, and spiritual enlightenment that captures the essence of India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

- It serves as a profound reflection of the nation's deep-rooted ethos, showcasing the enduring connection between humanity and the divine.
- Through age-old rituals such as sacred bathing in holy rivers, fasting, charity and heartfelt devotion, this grand festival offers participants a path to Moksha.
- The practices at the Kumbh Mela transcend the boundaries of time and space, connecting millions to their ancestral roots and spiritual origins. It is a living testament to the timeless values of unity, compassion, and faith that bind communities together.
- The grand procession of saints, the resonating chants and the sacred rituals performed at the confluence of rivers transform the Mela into a divine experience that touches the soul of every participant.

## QUESTIONS

### Fill in the Blank:

1. The Maha Kumbh Mela is celebrated every \_\_\_\_\_ years, rotating between four sacred cities: Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik, and Prayagraj.
2. The sacred rivers associated with the Maha Kumbh Mela include the Ganges, Shipra, Godavari, and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Shahi Snan, also known as the Rajyogi Snan, marks the official commencement of the Maha Kumbh Mela and is held at the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Kalpavas ritual emphasizes a life of simplicity and involves daily practices such as meditation, prayers, and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. During the ritual of \_\_\_\_\_, devotees float thousands of lighted earthen lamps on the waters of the Triveni Sangam as an offering of gratitude.
6. The significant bathing ritual dates at the 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela include \_\_\_\_\_ (January 13) and Makar Sankranti (January 14).
7. The mesmerizing \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony, performed on the riverbanks during the Maha Kumbh Mela, involves priests holding glowing lamps while chanting prayers.
8. The historical ritual of circumambulating Prayagraj, known as the \_\_\_\_\_, reconnects pilgrims with ancient practices and sacred landmarks.
9. Acts of giving, such as Gau Daan, Vastra Daan, and Swarn Daan, are considered highly meritorious during the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Prayagraj, the site of the 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela, is known for its cultural and historical landmarks, including the \_\_\_\_\_, which features inscriptions from India's ancient past.

## 9. India, Pakistan and modifying the Indus Waters Treaty

- The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) is a landmark water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank and signed on September 19, 1960.
- It is often cited as one of the most successful examples of conflict resolution between two countries with a history of strained relations.

### Division of Rivers

- The Indus River system comprises six rivers: the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.

## The treaty allocates

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- Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) exclusively to India.
- Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) primarily to Pakistan, though India is allowed limited use for irrigation, power generation, and transport.

## Usage Rights

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- India can utilize the waters of the Western Rivers for non-consumptive purposes, such as hydroelectric power generation, provided it does not obstruct the flow significantly.
- Pakistan has unrestricted rights to the waters of the Western Rivers.

## Permanent Indus Commission

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- The treaty established a Permanent Indus Commission with representatives from both countries to oversee the implementation and resolve disputes.

## Dispute Resolution

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- Mechanisms include bilateral negotiations, mediation by a neutral expert, or arbitration through the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

## Significance

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- **Peaceful Sharing:** Despite wars and tensions, the treaty has largely been upheld by both nations.
- **Hydropower Projects:** India's use of Western Rivers for hydroelectric projects often causes disputes, but the treaty provides frameworks to address them.

## Recent Developments

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### India's Review of the Treaty

- Following terrorist attacks in India allegedly supported by Pakistan, India has occasionally signaled intentions to review the treaty, citing its leverage over the waters.
- In 2023, India sent a notice to Pakistan requesting a modification of the treaty, marking a significant moment in the treaty's history.

### Hydropower Projects

- Projects like the Baglihar Dam and Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project have been contentious, with Pakistan raising objections at international forums.

### Climate Change and Water Scarcity

- Changing river flows due to climate change and increasing water demand have added strain to the treaty.

### Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project

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- The Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project is a key hydroelectric project in India, located in the Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir. It harnesses the water of the Kishanganga River, a tributary of the Jhelum River. Here's an overview of the project:
  - **Capacity:** The project has an installed capacity of 330 MW, with three units of 110 MW each.
  - **Purpose:** It is primarily aimed at generating electricity to meet the power needs of the region.
  - **Dam Type:** It includes a concrete-faced rock-fill dam.



- **Water Diversion:** The project diverts water from the Kishanganga River through a 23.25-kilometer-long tunnel to the power station located near Bandipora.
- **Commissioning:** The project was fully commissioned in May 2018 and is operated by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

### Significance

- **Electricity Supply:** It contributes significantly to the power supply in Jammu and Kashmir, reducing reliance on other sources.
- **Indus Waters Treaty Compliance:** The project was built in accordance with the Indus Waters Treaty (1960), which governs water-sharing between India and Pakistan. However, it has been a subject of disputes between the two countries.

### India-Pakistan Dispute

- Pakistan raised objections, claiming the project would impact water flow downstream, affecting its agricultural activities.
- The matter was taken to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), which ruled in 2013 that India could proceed with the project but had to ensure a minimum water flow downstream to protect Pakistan's interests.

### Environmental and Social Impact

- The project displaced some local communities and had ecological impacts due to water diversion and dam construction. Measures were taken to mitigate these effects, including afforestation and rehabilitation of affected communities.

## QUESTIONS

### Fill in the Blank:

1. The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was brokered by the \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on September 19, 1960.
2. Under the Indus Waters Treaty, the \_\_\_\_\_ Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) were allocated exclusively to India.
3. The treaty allows India to use the waters of the \_\_\_\_\_ Rivers for non-consumptive purposes like hydroelectric power generation.
4. The Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project is located in the \_\_\_\_\_ district of Jammu and Kashmir.
5. The Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project has an installed capacity of \_\_\_\_\_ MW, with three units of 110 MW each.
6. A Permanent \_\_\_\_\_ Commission was established by the treaty to oversee its implementation and resolve disputes.
7. In 2013, the \_\_\_\_\_ Court of Arbitration ruled that India could proceed with the \_\_\_\_\_ but must ensure a minimum water flow downstream.
8. The treaty provides mechanisms for resolving disputes, including bilateral negotiations, mediation by a neutral expert, or arbitration through the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The Kishanganga Project diverts water from the Kishanganga River through a \_\_\_\_\_-kilometer-long tunnel to the power station near Bandipora.
10. Changing river flows due to \_\_\_\_\_ and increasing water demand have added strain to the Indus Waters Treaty.

# 10. Khilafat agitation and the Non-Cooperation Movement

- In 1920 the British imposed a harsh treaty on the Turkish Sultan or Khalifa. People were furious about this as they had been about the Jallianwala massacre.
- Also, Indian Muslims were keen that the Khalifa be allowed to retain control over Muslim sacred places in the erstwhile Ottoman Empire.
- The leaders of the Khilafat agitation, Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali, now wished to initiate a full-fledged Non-Cooperation Movement.
- Gandhiji supported their call and urged the Congress to campaign against “Punjab wrongs” (Jallianwala massacre), the Khilafat wrong and demand swaraj.
- The Non-Cooperation Movement gained momentum through 1921-22. Thousands of students left government-controlled schools and colleges.
- Many lawyers such as Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, C. Rajagopalachari and Asaf Ali gave up their practices. British titles were surrendered and legislatures boycotted.
- People lit public bonfires of foreign cloth. The imports of foreign cloth fell drastically between 1920 and 1922.
- But all this was merely the tip of the iceberg. Large parts of the country were on the brink of a formidable revolt.
- In many cases people resisted British rule non-violently. In others, different classes and groups, interpreting Gandhiji’s call in their own manner, protested in ways that were not in accordance with his ideas. In either case, people linked their movements to local grievances.
- In Kheda, Gujarat, Patidar peasants organised nonviolent campaigns against the high land revenue demand of the British.
- In coastal Andhra and interior Tamil Nadu, liquor shops were picketed.
- In the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, tribals and poor peasants staged a number of “forest satyagrahas”, sometimes sending their cattle into forests without paying grazing fee. They were protesting because the colonial state had restricted their use of forest resources in various ways.
- They believed that Gandhiji would get their taxes reduced and have the forest regulations abolished.
- In many forest villages, peasants proclaimed swaraj and believed that “Gandhi Raj” was about to be established. In Sind (now in Pakistan), Muslim traders and peasants were very enthusiastic about the Khilafat call.
- In Bengal too, the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation alliance gave enormous communal unity and strength to the national movement.
- In Punjab, the Akali agitation of the Sikhs sought to remove corrupt mahants – supported by the British – from their gurdwaras.
- This movement got closely identified with the Non-Cooperation Movement.



- In Assam, tea garden labourers, shouting “Gandhi Maharaj ki Jai”, demanded a big increase in their wages.
- They left the British-owned plantations amidst declarations that they were following Gandhiji’s wish. Interestingly, in the Assamese Vaishnava songs of the period the reference to Krishna was substituted by “Gandhi Raja”.

## Ottoman Empire

- The Ottoman Empire was a vast and influential empire that lasted from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century until its dissolution in the aftermath of World War I in 1922.
- Founded by Osman I around 1299 in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey), the empire expanded over the centuries to become one of the most powerful states in the world, covering parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

## Founding and Expansion

- Originated as a small principality in Anatolia during the decline of the Seljuk Sultanate.
- Rapidly expanded under leaders like Osman I, Orhan, and Murad I.
- In 1453, under Sultan Mehmed II (“Mehmed the Conqueror”), the Ottomans captured Constantinople, marking the fall of the Byzantine Empire. Constantinople was renamed Istanbul and became the Ottoman capital.

## Peak of Power

- Reached its zenith in the 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries during the reigns of Suleiman the Magnificent (1520–1566) and Selim I.
- Controlled territories across Southeast Europe, Western Asia, North Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula.
- Renowned for its military strength, cultural achievements, and administrative sophistication.

## Governance and Society

- The Ottoman Empire was a multi-ethnic and multi-religious state. It implemented the millet system, granting autonomy to various religious communities.
- Governed through a centralized administration under the Sultan, with the help of viziers, governors, and the Janissaries (elite infantry).
- Islamic law (Sharia) was a foundation of governance, but non-Muslim communities had their own legal systems for internal matters.

## Cultural and Scientific Achievements

- Flourished as a center of art, architecture, and learning.
- Prominent structures like the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace were built during this period.
- Contributions to literature, music, and science, blending influences from Islamic, Byzantine, and European traditions.

## Decline and Fall

- Began to decline in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century due to military defeats, economic struggles, and internal strife.
- Lost significant territories during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including Greece, the Balkans, and parts of North Africa, due to wars, nationalist movements, and European imperialism.
- Reforms like the Tanzimat sought modernization but faced resistance and limited success.

- Participation in World War I on the side of the Central Powers led to its ultimate collapse. Following defeat, the Treaty of Sèvres (1920) dismantled the empire.

### Legacy and the Republic of Turkey

- The Republic of Turkey emerged in 1923 under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, marking the end of the Ottoman era.
- The empire's legacy endures in modern-day architecture, culture, and politics across its former territories.

## QUESTIONS

### Fill in the Blank:

1. The harsh treaty imposed by the British on the Turkish Sultan, also known as the \_\_\_\_\_, was a cause of the Khilafat agitation.
2. The leaders of the Khilafat agitation, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, wanted to initiate a full-fledged Non-Cooperation Movement.
3. Gandhiji urged the Congress to campaign against the “Punjab wrongs” (\_\_\_\_\_), the Khilafat wrong, and demand swaraj.
4. During the Non-Cooperation Movement, many students left government-controlled \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Prominent lawyers like \_\_\_\_\_, C.R. Das, C. Rajagopalachari, and Asaf Ali gave up their practices to support the movement.
6. In Kheda, Gujarat, the \_\_\_\_\_ peasants organized nonviolent campaigns against the high land revenue demand of the British.
7. In Andhra Pradesh, tribals and poor peasants protested through “\_\_\_\_\_ satyagrahas,” where they sent their cattle into forests without paying grazing fees.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ agitation of the Sikhs in Punjab aimed to remove corrupt mahants from their gurdwaras.
9. Tea garden laborers in Assam, shouting “\_\_\_\_\_ ki Jai,” demanded a significant increase in their wages.
10. In Assamese Vaishnava songs of the period, the reference to Krishna was substituted by “\_\_\_\_\_ Raja.”