

UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

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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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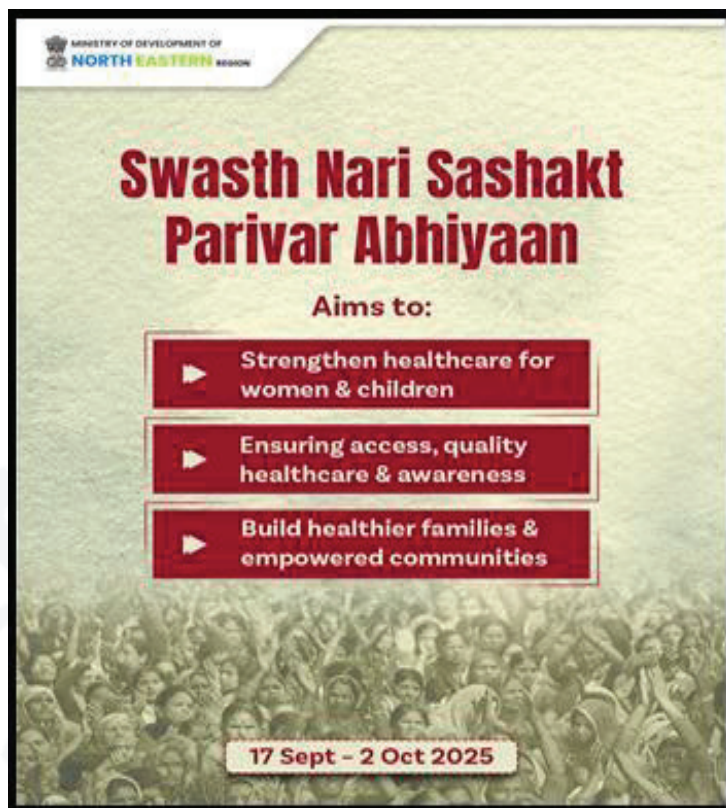


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1. PM Modi Launches 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' Abhiyan And Rashtriya Poshan Maah From Dhar In MP

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan, and the 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah camping from Dhar in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the country's largest PM Mitra Park in the village of Bhainsla in the district.
- He also transferred financial assistance to over 15 lakh women under the Matru Vandana Yojana.
- He also inaugurated the Adi Seva Parv, a program for tribal areas in the state.
- The Prime Minister urged women to get themselves tested at the health camps being organized under the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan.'
- Congratulating the people of Dhar district on the upcoming PM Mitra Park, the Prime Minister said that it will bring golden opportunities for farmers and youth.
- The Prime Minister said that everything purchased during these festivals should be made in India. He appealed to traders to ensure that everything they sell is of Indian origin.
- The Prime Minister said that whatever you buy, it should be made in India. He appealed to the traders, saying that whatever you sell, it should be from your own country.



Rashtriya Poshan Maah

- Rashtriya Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month) is an initiative by the Government of India, celebrated every year in the month of September.
- The primary goal of this month-long celebration is to raise awareness about nutrition and the importance of a healthy diet for overall well-being.
- The program focuses on improving the nutritional status of individuals, particularly among women, children, and adolescents.

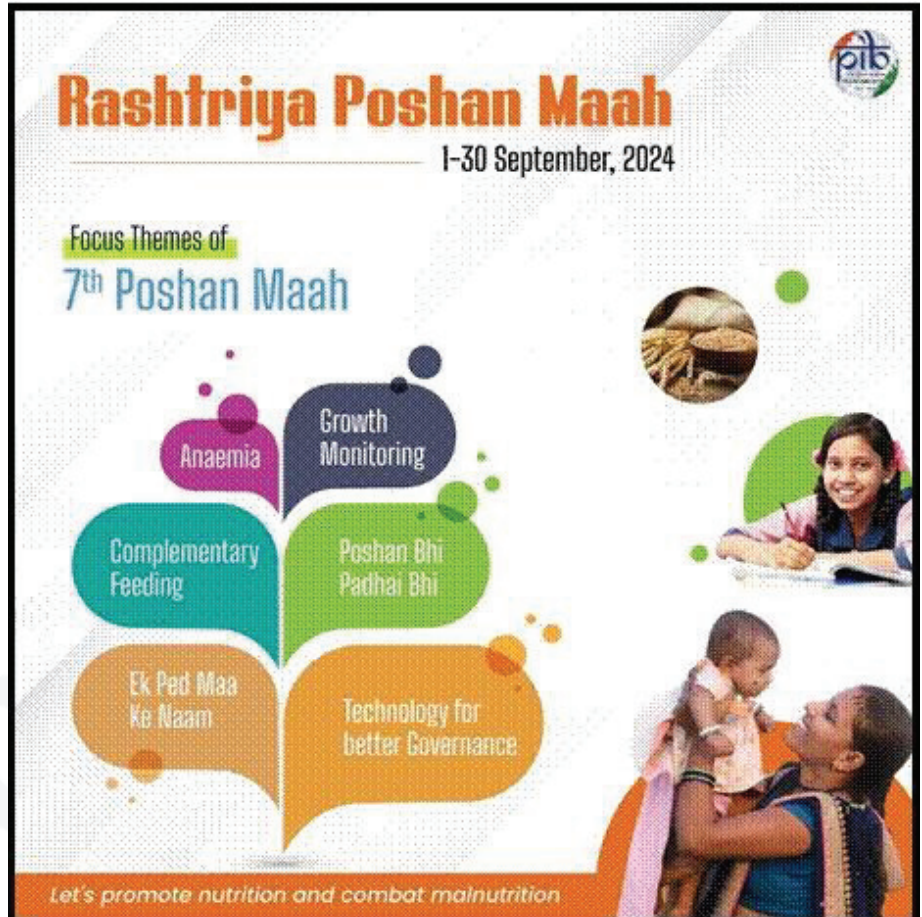
Key Objectives:

- **Raising Awareness:** Educating people about the significance of nutrition in daily life and how it impacts health, development, and productivity.
- **Promoting Healthy Eating Habits:** Encouraging communities to adopt better dietary practices to combat malnutrition and prevent lifestyle diseases.

- **Addressing Nutritional Challenges:** Tackling issues like malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and stunting that are prevalent in some parts of the country.
- **Empowering Women and Children:** Focusing on improving maternal and child health by promoting breastfeeding, balanced diets, and timely introduction of complementary foods for infants.

Activities during Rashtriya Poshan Maah:

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Various campaigns are conducted through social media, print, and TV advertisements, as well as public meetings and school programs.
- **Community-based Activities:** Local health and nutrition programs, workshops, and events are organized to engage communities and share valuable information on health and nutrition.
- **Educational Programs:** Sessions and workshops for teachers, schoolchildren, mothers, and caregivers to teach the basics of balanced diets, hygiene, and sanitation.
- **Partnerships with NGOs:** The government collaborates with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to spread awareness in rural and underserved areas.



Focus Areas:

- **Maternal Health:** Encouraging pregnant women to get adequate nutrition for the health of both the mother and the baby.
- **Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF):** Promoting exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and proper complementary feeding thereafter.
- **Diet Diversity:** Advocating for a diet rich in diverse food groups to ensure all essential nutrients are consumed.
- **Micronutrient Supplementation:** Educating on the importance of iron, folic acid, and other micronutrients, especially for women and children.

PM Mitra Park

- Prime Minister's Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme was launched by the Indian government in 2021.
- The scheme aims to set up textile parks across the country, boosting the textile and apparel sector by enhancing infrastructure and providing state-of-the-art facilities.

Key features of PM MITRA:

- **Location:** The government plans to set up 7 textile parks in different parts of India.
- **Focus:** The parks are meant to bring together the entire textile value chain under one roof, from spinning, weaving, dyeing, and printing, to garmenting, making it a comprehensive hub.
- **Incentives:** The government is offering financial assistance, infrastructure support, and policies to attract investment in these parks.
- **Employment:** The initiative is expected to generate thousands of jobs and is likely to increase the sector's export potential.

Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

- The Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA) is a landmark initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), aimed at strengthening healthcare services for women and children across India, with a focus on improving access, quality care, and awareness.
- Described as a Jan Bhagidaari Abhiyaan, it encourages active participation from private hospitals and healthcare professionals to foster inclusive healthcare delivery.
- The campaign will be inaugurated on September 17, 2025 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on his 75th birthday, aligning with his vision for empowered communities.
- The Abhiyan is organising more than one lakh health camps, making this the largest ever health outreach for women and children in the country.
- These camps will be organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres, and other healthcare facilities and will actively promote nutrition, health awareness, and overall family well-being.
- This Abhiyaan supports the government's broader goal of building healthier families and aligns with national priorities for inclusive development, leveraging platforms such as the Anganwadis to amplify outreach and sustainability in maternal and child health programs.

Background

- The comprehensive Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA), initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a pivotal health campaign that will run till Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2025.
- It builds on the legacy of transformative government programs like Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, leveraging the momentum of nationwide health and sanitation drives to address critical gaps in maternal and child health, as identified in prior national health surveys.
- The Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan is strategically aligned with existing government schemes such as Mission Shakti, which focuses on women's safety and empowerment, and Poshan 2.0, aimed at combating malnutrition among women and children.

Objectives

Enhance Women's Health Through Comprehensive Screening and Services

- The Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA) prioritises women's health by providing comprehensive health screenings and services tailored to their needs. Through health camps and other related initiatives, the campaign offers screenings for conditions like dermatological concerns, hypertension, anaemia, reproductive health issues, breast and cervical cancer, diabetes, tuberculosis (TB), and sickle cell disease (SCD), with specialised counselling in tribal areas.
- These services, supported by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, aim to address gaps identified in national health surveys, ensuring early detection and treatment to improve women's health across urban and rural areas.

- The initiative involves specialists like gynaecologists, surgeons, and dentists, supported by district hospitals, to ensure accurate diagnosis and follow-up care, addressing health disparities identified in national surveys.

Implementation Strategy

Nationwide Health Camps with Real-Time Monitoring

- SNSPA will organise more than one lakh health camps across Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and Community Health Centres, coordinated and tracked through the SASHAKT portal for real-time updates on progress and resource allocation.
- This digital platform, managed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, ensures transparency and efficiency, enabling stakeholders to monitor camp activities, attendance, and outcomes, thereby addressing gaps in women's health and nutrition as identified in national surveys.
- Beneficiaries will be enrolled under PM-JAY, Ayushman Vaya Vandana, and ABHA. Helpdesks will be set up at health camps for card verification and grievance redressal.

Healthcare Worker Accountability via Self-Verification

- A self-verification system engages healthcare functionaries, including Medical Officers, Community Health Officers (CHOs), Multipurpose Workers (MPWs), and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), to ensure accountability and adherence to protocols.
- This system, integrated with the SASHAKT portal, allows workers to report their activities, and ensure that services like screenings, immunisations, and counselling are delivered effectively at the grassroots level.

Multi-Platform Outreach for Awareness

- SNSPA aims to leverage Doordarshan, All India Radio (AIR), and social media campaigns to maximise public awareness and participation. These platforms, aligned with Poshan Maah activities at Anganwadis, promote key messages on women's health, nutrition, and hygiene.
- By utilising national media networks, the campaign ensures that its objectives reach both urban and rural populations, fostering widespread engagement.

Volunteer and Nikshay Mitra Engagement

- The campaign expands participation through Nikshay Mitras and volunteers, who support tuberculosis eradication efforts and community health initiatives.
- Collaborations with voluntary organisations and the Indian Red Cross Society, particularly for blood donation camps, enhance community involvement. This approach, rooted in the Jan Bhagidaari Abhiyaan model, ensures sustainable impact by mobilising local support and resources.

Impact and Expected Outcomes

Enhanced Health Metrics

- Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan (SNSPA) is expected to significantly improve key health indicators, particularly by reducing the maternal mortality rate through comprehensive antenatal care, screenings, and immunisations provided at health camps.
- The campaign's focus on early detection of conditions like anaemia, hypertension, and diabetes, as highlighted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, aims to address gaps identified in national health surveys, ensuring better health outcomes for women and children across India.

Increased Awareness of Hygiene and Wellness

- The campaign aims to boost awareness of menstrual hygiene, nutrition, and overall wellness among women and families through educational sessions conducted during Poshan Maah at Anganwadis.

- By leveraging platforms like Doordarshan and All India Radio, SNSPA promotes sustainable behavioural changes to foster healthier lifestyles. These efforts, supported by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, empower communities with the knowledge needed for long-term well-being.

Expanded Healthcare Access in Underserved Regions

- Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan (SNSPA) aims to enhance healthcare access in rural and tribal areas by deploying specialist medical services (e.g., gynaecologists, surgeons) and organising blood donation drives in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society.

Other Relevant Schemes

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)

- The Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), expanded in 2014 under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, broadened its coverage to provide comprehensive care for all antenatal and postnatal complications.
- The programme ensures that mothers and newborns receive critical healthcare services, particularly within the first 48 hours after delivery, to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes.
- Since its expansion in 2014–15, JSSK has reached over 16.60 crore beneficiaries, offering free healthcare services that have significantly reduced out-of-pocket expenses for families. By addressing financial barriers, the initiative has strengthened access to quality maternal and child healthcare across India.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)

- In alignment with the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) has supported over 11.07 crore beneficiaries as on March 2025.
- This initiative has significantly advanced maternal and child healthcare by providing financial assistance to ensure access to quality delivery services.
- JSY, a conditional cash transfer scheme, incentivises institutional deliveries among economically disadvantaged pregnant women, with a focus on rural and underserved areas.
- By addressing financial barriers, the program encourages safer childbirth practices, contributing to improved health outcomes for mothers and newborns.

Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)

- The Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) initiative provides zero-cost, high-quality healthcare services for pregnant women, sick newborns, and mothers up to six months post-delivery.
- It ensures dignified and respectful care delivered by trained professionals in certified facilities, strengthening maternal and neonatal health outcomes.

Mission Indradhanush

- Launched on December 25, 2014, Mission Indradhanush is a key public health initiative aimed at enhancing immunisation coverage for children and pregnant women, protecting them from life-threatening diseases.
- Under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the mission strengthens the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) by addressing coverage gaps to safeguard vulnerable populations from preventable diseases.
- As on December 2024, more than 5.46 crore children and 1.32 crore pregnant women have been vaccinated.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

- The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) plays a critical role in safeguarding maternal health by offering four comprehensive antenatal check-ups during the first trimester, enabling timely detection of high-risk pregnancies.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- Launched in 2017, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, offers maternity benefits of ₹5,000 for the first child (plus Janani Suraksha Yojana incentives, averaging ₹6,000) to support disadvantaged pregnant and lactating mothers.
- For the second child, if a girl, PMMVY provides ₹6,000, aiming to promote girl child welfare, enhance sex ratio at birth, and improve maternal health among socially and economically vulnerable women.

Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyaan

- The campaign identifies and rewards the top 1,000 Gram Panchayats for outstanding grassroots efforts in enhancing nutrition and health outcomes.
- These Suposhit Gram Panchayats serve as exemplary models of community-led progress in maternal and child nutrition.

QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following are key objectives of Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan (SNSPA)?

- I. Comprehensive health screening for women
- II. Promotion of maternal and child care
- III. Establishment of PM Mitra Parks
- IV. Community awareness and behavioral change

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

2. Which of the following services are provided under **Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan (SNSPA)** health camps?

- I. Screening for hypertension and diabetes
- II. Counselling for tuberculosis (TB) and sickle cell disease (SCD)
- III. Distribution of Mother and Child Protection (MCP) cards
- IV. Construction of new hospitals

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

3. Under PM Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), which of the following statements are correct?

- I. Rs. 5,000 benefit for the first child
- II. Rs. 6,000 benefit for the second child if a girl
- III. Registration during pregnancy is mandatory for second child benefit
- IV. Benefits are given irrespective of child's gender

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

4. Which of the following schemes are aligned with **Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan (SNSPA)** to improve maternal and child health?

- I. Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)
- II. Mission Indradhanush
- III. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. None
- D. All three

5. Which of the following are focus areas of Rashtriya Poshan Maah?

- I. Maternal health
- II. Infant and young child feeding (IYCF)
- III. Diet diversity and micronutrient supplementation

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. None
- D. All three

2. 'Block Everything' protests grip France



- France is currently experiencing one of its most intense waves of social unrest in recent years, driven by widespread opposition to government austerity measures.
- The protests, organized under the grassroots slogan “Bloquons Tout” or “Block Everything,” represent a potent mix of work stoppages, road blockades, and acts of civil disobedience.
- The movement has rapidly gained momentum on social media, energizing citizens frustrated by years of budget-tightening policies that have hit public services and workers hard.
- Protesters accuse the government, and particularly figures like Budget Minister François Bayrou, of imposing harsh austerity without regard for the social consequences.
- The unrest reflects deeper concerns over rising poverty and inequality, which data from France’s national statistics bureau show have worsened considerably in recent years.

Macron’s Presidency under Pressure as Calls for Resignation Mount

- The current wave of demonstrations echoes the infamous “Yellow Vest” (Gilets Jaunes) movement from Macron’s first term.
- That uprising, triggered initially by rising fuel prices, evolved into a broader protest against Macron’s pro-business and austerity policies.
- It was marked by weeks of sustained, sometimes violent protests across the country.
- Now, with discontent intensifying, calls for President Emmanuel Macron to step down are spreading nationwide.
- The government’s austerity agenda has chipped away at Macron’s popularity, with approval ratings reaching historic lows amid a political crisis exacerbated by repeated cabinet reshuffles and a recent change of prime minister.

Unions Mobilize Massive Strikes across Key Sectors

- France braced for massive disruption as unions coordinated strikes involving a wide cross-section of workers.
- Teachers, health workers, transport employees, and others joined the walkouts, promising what union leaders have described as the largest mobilization since last year’s heated conflict over pension reforms.
- Estimates suggest that one-third of teachers will participate in the strike, while nine out of ten pharmacies are expected to close.
- Public transport in major cities, especially Paris, faces severe interruptions.
- The Paris Metro system anticipates serious delays, with only three of its driverless lines expected to operate normally.
- Although most high-speed trains will run, suburban and metro rail services are expected to be heavily disrupted. Air traffic should remain largely unaffected after air traffic controllers decided to postpone their planned strike action until October.

Industrial Action Hits Critical Infrastructure

- The strikes have impacted critical infrastructure beyond public transport and health services. Workers at the state-controlled power utility EDF have reduced nuclear power production by 1.1 gigawatts as part of the industrial action, highlighting the scale of the unrest and its potential to affect the country’s energy supply.
- This power reduction reflects broader worker dissatisfaction and willingness to escalate protests in response to austerity policies.

Government Braces for Potential Violence with Huge Security Deployment

- Given the scale and intensity of the protests, French authorities are preparing for possible violence during the union marches.
- Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau warned of a “very, very strong” mobilization combining lawful demonstrations with the threat of sabotage from ultra-left groups.
- A massive security presence will be deployed, with more than 80,000 police officers and gendarmes on the streets. They will be supported by drones, armored vehicles, and water cannons to maintain order.
- Authorities expect between 600,000 and 900,000 protesters nationwide, underscoring the movement’s size and the challenge it poses to public order.

Political Response: New Prime Minister’s Promises Fail to Ease Tensions

- The political fallout from the strikes and protests remains significant. Last week, Sebastien Lecornu, who previously served as defense minister, was appointed as Macron’s seventh prime minister, signaling an attempt by the government to reset its approach.
- Lecornu has promised a new course, seeking to calm tensions and offer a fresh strategy. However, these assurances have so far failed to mollify workers and unions, who remain deeply hostile to the government’s austerity plans.

Rising Inequality and Poverty: The Root Causes of Discontent

- At the heart of the unrest lie broader socioeconomic issues. Despite France’s status as a developed economy, poverty and inequality have worsened in recent years, fueling frustration among the working and middle classes.
- The government’s austerity policies—intended to reduce public spending and improve fiscal discipline—are widely seen as disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, including public sector workers, students, and healthcare providers.
- These underlying grievances have merged with immediate economic concerns to create a potent catalyst for nationwide mobilization.

Lessons from the Yellow Vest Movement: Prolonged Unrest Expected

- The current wave of protests echoes many aspects of the Yellow Vest crisis, including its grassroots, decentralized nature and widespread public sympathy for protesters’ demands.
- That movement lasted for months and included increasingly violent clashes with police, highlighting the potential for France’s social unrest to persist over an extended period.
- Analysts warn that without meaningful government concessions, the Block Everything protests could become a similarly sustained challenge.
- France is engulfed in massive strikes and protests under the “Block Everything” movement, driven by widespread opposition to austerity measures and growing inequality.
- The unrest involves key sectors such as education, health, and transport, causing significant disruptions nationwide.
- The government has deployed unprecedented police forces amid fears of violence.
- Despite the appointment of a new prime minister and promises of change, worker hostility remains strong.
- The protests recall the Yellow Vest movement and reflect deep social and economic grievances that threaten to destabilize Macron’s presidency further.

QUESTIONS

6. What are the key root causes of the “Block Everything” protests in France?

- I. Austerity measures and government budget cuts
- II. Rising inequality and poverty
- III. Increasing fuel prices
- IV. Pro-business policies of the government

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

7. Which of the following are key defence initiatives under the India-France partnership?

- I. SHAKTI (Army Exercise)
- II. GARUDA (Bilateral Air Exercise)
- III. TARANG SHAKTI (Multinational Air Exercise)
- IV. FRIND-X (Defence Startup Excellence Platform)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

8. Which of the following sectors are covered under India-France scientific and technological collaboration?

- I. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- II. Space cooperation, including Gaganyaan and TRISHNA satellite projects
- III. Implementation of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) in France and Europe
- IV. Civil nuclear energy including Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

9. Regarding the President of France, which of the following statements are correct?

- I. The President of France is directly elected by citizens.
- II. The President appoints the Prime Minister.
- III. Emmanuel Macron was the third President of France.
- IV. The President is the Commander-in-Chief of the French Armed Forces.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

10. Which of the following powers/responsibilities are held by both the President of India and the President of France?

- I. Granting pardons and clemency
- II. Appointing the Prime Minister
- III. Dissolving the Parliament
- IV. Acting as the head of state

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

3. India announces \$ 680 million package to boost Mauritius infra and security



Bilateral Meeting in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a significant economic and strategic package for Mauritius following a bilateral meeting with Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Varanasi.
- The package, worth \$680 million, includes \$25 million in budgetary support and aims to deepen the longstanding partnership between the two nations.

Strategic Focus on Port and Chagos Marine Area

- A major highlight of the announcement was the in-principle agreement on the redevelopment of the Port Louis harbor and the development and surveillance of the Chagos Marine Protected Area.
- This area is strategically vital as it houses the Diego Garcia military base, jointly operated by the US and UK. These developments underscore India's intent to enhance its strategic presence in the Indian Ocean.

Infrastructure, Defence, and Maritime Cooperation

- India and Mauritius signed several agreements focused on:
 - Improving infrastructure, including highways and ring roads.
 - Enhancing healthcare services.
 - Strengthening maritime security and defence preparedness.
 - Supporting the construction of an ATC (Air Traffic Control) Tower at the international airport.
- The projects are to be implemented through a mix of grants and grant-cum-line-of-credit models, ensuring alignment with Mauritius' development priorities.

Local Currency Trade and Sovereign Support

- PM Modi emphasized both countries' intent to enable bilateral trade in local currencies, facilitating smoother and more autonomous economic engagement.
- He firmly stated that the package was not mere assistance but "an investment in our shared future," highlighting the emotional and historical bond by calling Mauritius "not a partner but family."

Hydrographic Cooperation and EEZ Development

- An important agreement was signed for cooperation in hydrography, which will include joint hydrographic surveys, navigation charting, and data sharing over the next five years. This is crucial as Mauritius' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has significantly expanded following a treaty with the UK that acknowledged its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

India: A Trusted Security Partner

- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri reaffirmed India's role as Mauritius' preferred partner in securing and managing its expanded maritime responsibilities. India's assistance will help Mauritius develop its maritime economy, safeguard its marine resources, and enhance its defence capacity.
- India is also refitting a Mauritius Coast Guard ship and continues to provide training for Mauritian defence personnel, reinforcing its position as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean.

Symbolic Support on Chagos

- PM Ramgoolam acknowledged India's unwavering support for Mauritius' sovereignty over Chagos.
- He stated that Mauritius wished to raise its flag on Diego Garcia and preferred using an Indian vessel over a British one for symbolic and political reasons.
- PM Modi congratulated Mauritius for the Chagos Agreement, calling it a historic milestone and reiterating India's consistent support for decolonization and Mauritius' full sovereignty.

Vision MAHASAGAR and Neighbourhood First

- Modi reaffirmed Mauritius' central role in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, which aims to build a stable and prosperous Indian Ocean region.
- The bilateral relationship was earlier elevated to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership during Modi's visit to Mauritius in March.

What is MAHASAGAR

- Full form: "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions."
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced it on March 12, 2025, during his visit to Mauritius.
- **Purpose / vision:** A policy framework aimed at strengthening cooperation among countries of the Global South in areas of security, trade, sustainable development, capacity building, and mutual growth.

What it builds on

- **SAGAR:** "Security and Growth for All in the Region" — India's earlier vision focused on the Indian Ocean region, announced about ten years earlier (2015, also in Mauritius).
- MAHASAGAR is meant to extend beyond SAGAR — instead of focusing mostly on the Indian Ocean region, it extends to other regions (Global South) and emphasizes broader cooperation.

Key Components / Areas of Focus

MAHASAGAR involves a number of strategic areas:

Trade for development

- Promoting trade, possibly in local or national currencies, to reduce dependence and enhance mutual benefit.

Capacity building for sustainable growth

- Including technology sharing, training, education, infrastructure development, etc.

Mutual security for a shared future

- Cooperation in maritime security, defence, securing Exclusive Economic Zones, surveillance, etc.

Support through concessional loans, grants

- To help partner nations with development projects etc.

People-to-people and institutional cooperation

- Education, health, digital infrastructure, joint training, etc

India and Mauritius Relation:

1. Colonial History & Indian Diaspora

- **Indentured Labor System (1834–1920):**
 - After slavery was abolished in the British Empire, Indian laborers were brought to Mauritius by the British to work on sugar plantations.
 - The first ship, 'Atlas', arrived in 1834 with Indian indentured laborers.
 - Over 450,000 Indians came to Mauritius under this system, most of them from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.

- **Cultural Legacy:**

- These migrants brought with them their languages (Bhojpuri, Hindi, Tamil, etc.), religions (Hinduism, Islam), festivals (Diwali, Holi), and food habits.
- Today, over 68% of the Mauritian population is of Indian origin, making the country a key hub of the Indian diaspora.

2. Diplomatic Relations

- Established in 1948, even before India's independence (India had a liaison office in Mauritius).
- After Mauritius gained independence in 1968, India was among the first countries to recognize and support its nationhood.
- **India and Mauritius enjoy strong bilateral relations covering:**
 - Trade and commerce
 - Culture and education
 - Defence and maritime cooperation
 - Technology and capacity-building

3. Strategic & Security Cooperation

- Mauritius is strategically located in the Indian Ocean, and India supports it in:
- Maritime security, including surveillance and anti-piracy.
- Defence training, providing patrol vessels and helicopters.
- Cooperation under SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), India's Indian Ocean outreach initiative.

4. Economic & Development Partnerships

- India has extended multiple Lines of Credit and grants to Mauritius for development projects such as:
 - Infrastructure (metro express, hospitals)
 - Social housing
 - Digital and civil services reforms
- Mauritius has been a major source of FDI into India, partly due to the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) (though this has been amended to prevent tax evasion).

5. Cultural & Educational Links

- India supports Mauritius through scholarships, training programs (ITEC), and cultural exchanges.
- Institutions like the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in Mauritius promote Indian languages, arts, and traditions.
- Celebrations of Indian festivals and visits by Indian leaders reinforce people-to-people ties.

6. Political Affinities

- Many of Mauritius' political leaders have Indian ancestry.
- Shared democratic values and Commonwealth heritage strengthen political alignment.
- Mauritius often supports India in international forums (e.g., UN).

7. Recent Developments

- India helped Mauritius during the COVID-19 pandemic with vaccine supply and medical aid (“Vaccine Maitri”).
- Joint initiatives like the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) (signed in 2021) promote trade and investment.

QUESTIONS

11. Which of the following are components of the \$680 million India-Mauritius economic and strategic package announced by PM Modi?

- I. Budgetary support of \$25 million
- II. Redevelopment of Port Louis harbor
- III. Development and surveillance of the Chagos Marine Protected Area
- IV. Construction of a new nuclear power plant in Mauritius

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

12. Regarding strategic cooperation under the India-Mauritius package, which of the following statements are correct?

- I. Enhancing maritime security and defence preparedness
- II. Refitting Mauritius Coast Guard ships
- III. Construction of ATC tower at Mauritius International Airport
- IV. India taking over administration of Chagos Archipelago

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

13. Which of the following objectives are part of India’s Vision MAHASAGAR?

- I. Trade for development and local currency transactions
- II. Capacity building for sustainable growth
- III. Mutual security for a shared future
- IV. Establishing an Indian military base in Mauritius

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

14. Which of the following statements regarding India-Mauritius historical and cultural ties are correct?

- I. Indian laborers were brought to Mauritius under the indentured system (1834–1920)
- II. The first ship carrying Indian laborers was named ‘Atlas’
- III. Over 68% of Mauritius’ population today is of Indian origin
- IV. India-Mauritius diplomatic relations were established in 1968

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

15. Which of the following are areas of cooperation between India and Mauritius as part of bilateral strategic and developmental engagement?

- I. Trade and commerce
- II. Defence and maritime cooperation
- III. Technology and capacity-building
- IV. India administering Mauritius’ internal governance

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

4. Hyderabad Liberation Day

- India attained independence on 15th August 1947.
- Subsequently, on 17th September 1948, the Indian Army launched Operation Polo and brought Hyderabad State under the Indian Union.
- Thereafter, the eight districts of Marathwada were integrated into the Republic of India.
- Operation Polo was the codename for the Indian military operation in September 1948 to annex the princely state of Hyderabad into the Indian Union.

What Was Operation Polo?

- Operation Polo was launched by India on 13 September 1948.
 - It lasted for five days, ending on 18 September 1948.
 - The operation led to the integration of the princely state of Hyderabad into the Republic of India.

Background:

- When British India was partitioned in 1947, princely states were given the option to join either India or Pakistan, or remain independent.
- The Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan, chose to remain independent, despite his state being landlocked within Indian territory.



- Hyderabad had a majority Hindu population, but was ruled by a Muslim monarch.
- The state experienced internal unrest, especially due to the Razakars — a private militia that supported the Nizam and used violence to suppress dissent.

The Military Operation:

- India considered Hyderabad's independence a threat to national integrity and security.
- After failed negotiations and increasing lawlessness in Hyderabad, India initiated a military operation.
- The Indian Army, under Major General J.N. Chaudhuri, launched the offensive.
- Hyderabad's forces surrendered after 5 days.

Outcome:

- The Nizam surrendered and later became the Rajpramukh (Governor) of the state.
- The operation was termed a "Police Action" to avoid the international backlash of a full-scale war.
- Hyderabad became part of the Indian Union.
- Operation Polo marked a key step in the political integration of India.
- The name "Operation Polo" was chosen because the Nizam had a large number of polo grounds.

Accession of Junagarh

- The accession of Junagarh to India is a significant and complex episode in the aftermath of India's independence in 1947.

Background

Junagarh Princely State

- **Ruler:** Nawab Mahabat Khan III
- **Population:** Predominantly Hindu (~80%), but ruled by a Muslim Nawab
- **Location:** In present-day Gujarat, on the Kathiawar peninsula
- **Status:** One of the 562 princely states under British paramountcy before 1947

Events Leading to Accession

1. Initial Decision (August 1947)

- On 15 August 1947, British paramountcy ended.
- States could join India, Pakistan, or remain independent.
- Despite being surrounded by Indian territory and having a Hindu majority, the Nawab chose to accede to Pakistan on 15 August 1947 (officially accepted by Pakistan on 13 September 1947).

2. India's Reaction

- India strongly opposed this move for several reasons:
- Junagarh had no physical contiguity with Pakistan.
- The majority Hindu population was reportedly against accession to Pakistan.
- India argued that the will of the people must be considered.

3. Popular Uprising and Indian Intervention

- Civil unrest and protests erupted in Junagarh and surrounding areas.
- A provisional government called the Arzi Hukumat was formed by local leaders with Indian support.
- In October 1947, Indian forces entered Junagarh, claiming to restore order.

4. Plebiscite (February 1948)

- A referendum was conducted under Indian administration.
- **Result:** 99.95% voted in favor of joining India.
- India formally integrated Junagarh into the Union of India.

Accession of Goa

- The accession of Goa refers to the integration of the Portuguese-controlled territories of Goa, Daman, and Diu into India in 1961, through a military operation called "Operation Vijay".

Background

- Goa, along with Daman and Diu, had been under Portuguese colonial rule for over 450 years (since 1510).
- After India gained independence from the British in 1947, Portugal refused to give up its Indian territories.
- Diplomatic efforts by India to negotiate the transfer of these territories failed.

Operation Vijay (December 1961)

- Date: 18–19 December 1961
- India launched a military operation to liberate Goa, Daman, and Diu.

- It involved Army, Navy, and Air Force units.
- The operation lasted about 36 hours and ended with minimal resistance from Portuguese forces.
- **Result:** Portuguese Governor General Manuel António Vassalo e Silva surrendered to Indian forces.
- The territories were incorporated into India as a Union Territory called Goa, Daman, and Diu.
- In 1987, Goa was granted statehood, while Daman and Diu remained a Union Territory (later merged with Dadra and Nagar Haveli in 2020).

Significance

- Marked the end of European colonialism in India.
- Was criticized by some Western nations but largely celebrated in India.
- Seen as a completion of India's territorial integration post-independence.

QUESTIONS

16. Which of the following were features of Operation Polo (Hyderabad Police Action)?

- I. Launched on 13 September 1948
- II. Lasted for 5 days
- III. Nizam surrendered and became Rajpramukh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

17. Regarding the accession of Junagarh, which of the following statements are correct?

- I. The Nawab initially acceded to Pakistan
- II. The majority population of Junagarh was Hindu
- III. India conducted a plebiscite in February 1948

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

18. Which of the following were features of Operation Vijay (Goa Liberation)?

- I. Conducted in December 1961
- II. Involved Army, Navy, and Air Force units
- III. Portuguese resistance lasted over a month
- IV. Goa, Daman, and Diu were incorporated as a Union Territory

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

19. Which of the following were reasons for Hyderabad's integration into India through Operation Polo?

- I. Nizam's choice to remain independent
- II. Threat to national integrity and security
- III. Internal unrest caused by Razakars militia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

20. Consider the following statements regarding the accession of princely states post-independence:

- I. Hyderabad was integrated through Operation Polo in 1948
- II. Junagarh accession was decided through a referendum in 1948
- III. Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule through Operation Vijay in 1961
- IV. All princely states had the option to join India, Pakistan, or remain independent

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. All four
- D. None

5. 'Erra Matti Dibbalu'

- Popularly known as 'Erra Matti Dibbalu', the red sand dunes beside the Visakhapatnam-Bheemunipatnam Beach Road have made it to the tentative list of UNESCO's Natural Heritage Sites.
- The Erra Matti Dibbalu were popularised through various films in Telugu and other Indian languages over the years.
- The Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO has announced that seven places in India, including Erra Matti Dibbalu in Visakhapatnam, have been added to the Tentative List of UNESCO's World Heritage Convention.
- Addition to the tentative list is a mandatory requirement before the inscription of any property on the World Heritage List.
- Standing at heights ranging from 10 to 30 feet above the ground, the 'Erra Matti Dibbalu' are sure to catch the attention of motorists driving on the 30-km Visakhapatnam-Bheemunipatnam beach road.
- The Erra Matti Dibbalu, which have already been declared as one of the 34 national geo heritage sites, was formed during the last glacial maxima (LGM), which is estimated to have occurred globally around 18,500 years ago.
- The coastline of the Bay of Bengal is estimated to have been about 50 km inland during the LGM.
- Archaeological evidences like tools from microlithic, mesolithic and paleolithic eras have also been found in the region of the red sand dunes, according to geologists.
- "Climate changes occurred several times with warm, cold and interglacial periods during the past thousands of years.

- The coastline in those days is estimated to have been around 50 km inland from the present coastline.
- There was a vertical fall in sea level with the sea receding about 100 metres.
- The continental shelf exposed the sand there.
- “During high tide and low tide, the sand is carried away by winds for some distance and they are deposited there.
- Though the sand dunes must have formed during the interglacial period, which occurred 18,500 years ago, the process might have started some 20,000 years ago. The colour of beach sand is due to the presence of ferrous minerals.
- These minerals react with water to acquire a rusty red colour over a period of time,”.

India’s Push for UNESCO Recognition of Chhath Mahaparva

Multinational Nomination for 2026-27 UNESCO Cycle

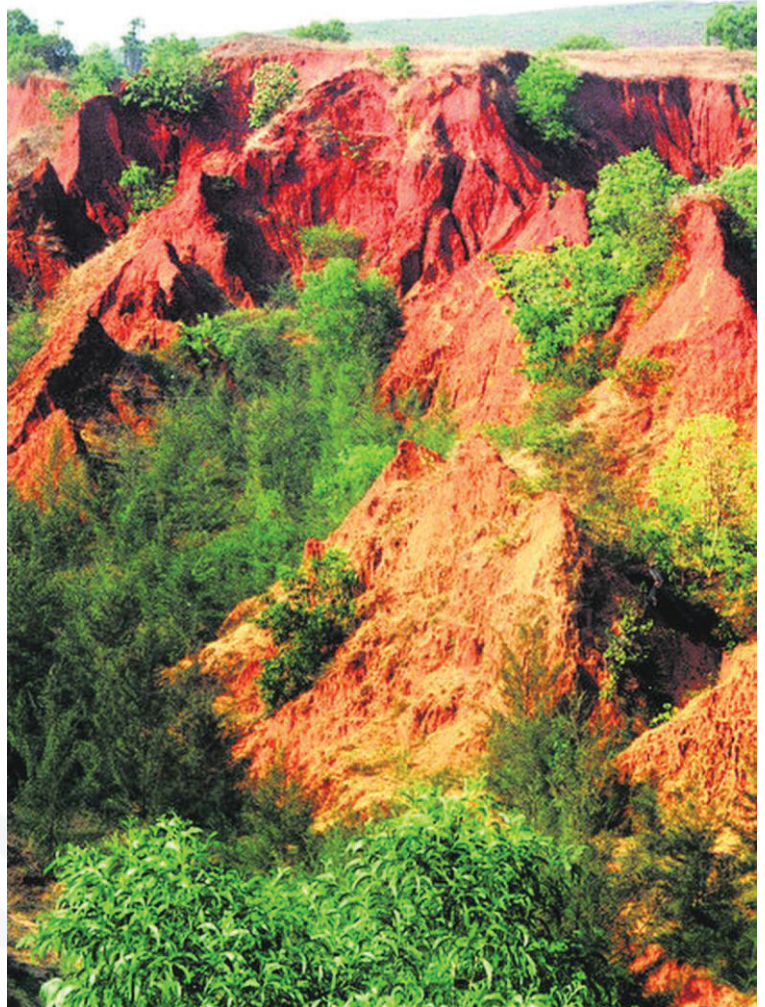
- India is preparing a multinational nomination of ‘Chhath Mahaparva’ for the 2026-27 cycle of UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- To support this effort, the Ministry of Culture has engaged with countries like Suriname, the Netherlands, and the UAE, where Indian diaspora communities celebrate the festival.

Cultural Diplomacy: Meeting with International Delegates

- A meeting was held on September 15 at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), chaired by Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal, and attended by:
 - Officials from the Ministry of Culture
 - Ministry of External Affairs
 - Sangeet Natak Akademi
 - Diplomatic representatives from the UAE, Suriname, and the Netherlands
- This move reflects India’s emphasis on cultural diplomacy and safeguarding living traditions.

About Chhath Mahaparva

- One of India’s oldest festivals
- Dedicated to the Sun God and ‘Chhathi Maiya’
- Celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and in diaspora communities across:
 - Mauritius
 - Fiji
 - Suriname
 - UAE
 - Netherlands





India's Strong Presence on the Intangible Heritage List

- India already has 15 elements inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, including:
 - Yoga
 - Kumbh Mela
 - Durga Puja of Kolkata
- The proposed inclusion of Chhath would be a milestone in India's cultural diplomacy and heritage preservation efforts.

7 New Indian Sites Added to UNESCO Tentative List

- The Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO has announced the inclusion of 7 new properties under the Natural category to the Tentative List of UNESCO's World Heritage Convention:

Newly Added Natural Sites:

- Deccan Traps – Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra)
- St Mary's Island Cluster – Udupi (Karnataka)
- Meghalayan Age Caves – East Khasi Hills (Meghalaya)
- Naga Hill Ophiolite – Kiphire (Nagaland)
- Erra Matti Dibbalu – Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)

- Tirumala Hills – Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)
- Varkala Cliffs – Kerala

Total Indian Sites on the Tentative List

- 69 properties total
- 49 under Cultural
- 3 under Mixed
- 17 under Natural

Deccan Traps – Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra)

- The Deccan Traps are a large igneous province of west-central India (17–24°N, 73–74°E).
- They are one of the largest volcanic features on Earth, taking the form of a large shield volcano.
- They consist of many layers of solidified flood basalt that together are more than about 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) thick, cover an area of about 500,000 square kilometres (200,000 sq mi), and have a volume of about 1,000,000 cubic kilometres (200,000 cu mi).
- Originally, the Deccan Traps may have covered about 1,500,000 square kilometres (600,000 sq mi), with a correspondingly larger original volume.
- This volume overlies the Archean age Indian Shield, which is likely the lithology the province passed through during eruption.
- The province is commonly divided into four subprovinces: the main Deccan, the Malwa Plateau, the Mandla Lobe, and the Saurashtran Plateau.
- The Deccan Traps are thought to have been produced in major part by the still active Réunion hotspot, responsible for the creation of the modern Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean.

St Mary's Island Cluster

- The St. Mary's Island Cluster refers to a group of four small islands off the coast of Udupi, Karnataka, famous for their unique columnar basaltic lava formations.
- These distinctive hexagonal-shaped rocks are a result of volcanic activity when the Indian subcontinent was still connected to Madagascar, around 85-88 million years ago.
- The islands form a National Geological Monument and are a popular tourist destination, known for their distinctive geology and natural beauty.

Meghalayan Age caves

- Meghalayan Age caves, such as the renowned Mawmluh Cave in Sohra, Meghalaya, India, are significant because a specific stalagmite in Mawmluh Cave serves as the Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) for the Meghalayan Age.
- This geological age, which began about 4,200 years ago, is defined by a global mega-drought recorded in the cave's speleothems, marking the current age in Earth's history.
- Mawmluh Cave has been recognized as a significant geoheritage site and was selected as one of the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites in the world.

Nagahill Ophiolite

- The Naga Hills, reaching a height of around 3,826 metres (12,552 ft), lie prominently on the border of India and Myanmar.
- They are part of a complex mountain system, and the parts of the mountain ranges inside the Indian states of Nagaland, Manipur and the Burmese Naga Self-Administered Zone are called the Naga Hills.

- The highest point of the Naga hills is Mount Saramati (3,826 m (12,552 ft)).
- Nagahill Ophiolite Site (NHO) near Pungro in Kiphire district of Nagaland has been declared a National Geological Monument of India by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), for their protection, maintenance, promotion, and enhancement of geotourism.
- These are the ophiolitic rocks of mantle and oceanic crust percentage at the Indian continental plate margin.
- These are a mixture of Mesozoic and subsequent Cenozoic rocks, i.e. magmatic, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks.
- The Naga Hills, due to their complexity and position, forms a natural barrier between the two countries.
- The Naga Hills are part of the Arakan Range (Rakhine Range), which to the north rise to 3,826 metres (12,552 ft).

Tirumala Hills

- The seven hills of Tirumala are Seshadri, Neeladri, Garudadri, Anjanadri, Vrushabhadri, Narayanadri, and Venkatadri, each named after aspects of Vishnu's divine world.
- These hills form part of the Seshachalam range of the Eastern Ghats and are considered the seven heads of the divine serpent Adishesha, on whom Lord Venkateswara resides.

Varkala Cliffs

- Varkala Cliffs are a prominent, 80-foot-high geological formation unique in Kerala, overlooking the Arabian Sea.
- These cliffs are divided into the bustling North Cliff, featuring cafes, restaurants, and shops, and the quieter South Cliff, known for its resorts and tranquil atmosphere.
- They are notable for exposing sedimentary rock from the Mio-Pliocene age and are considered a national monument, although recent construction has raised environmental concerns.

QUESTIONS

21. Which of the following statements are correct regarding 'Erra Matti Dibbalu'?

- I. It is popularly known as the red sand dunes near Visakhapatnam.
- II. It has been added to UNESCO's Tentative List of Natural Heritage Sites.
- III. It was formed during the last glacial maxima, around 18,500 years ago.
- IV. It is a man-made geological formation to promote tourism.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Only one | C. Only three |
| B. Only two | D. All the four |

22. Regarding the Chhath Mahaparva nomination for UNESCO, which of the following statements are correct?

- I. It is being prepared for the 2026–27 UNESCO cycle.

- II. India is seeking multinational recognition involving diaspora communities.
- III. The festival is dedicated to Sun God and Chhathi Maiya.
- IV. It is already inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

23. Which of the following sites were recently added to India's Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites under the Natural category?

- I. Erra Matti Dibbalu – Andhra Pradesh
- II. Tirumala Hills – Andhra Pradesh
- III. Varkala Cliffs – Kerala
- IV. Taj Mahal – Uttar Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

24. Consider the following statements regarding St. Mary's Island Cluster:

- I. Located off the coast of Udupi, Karnataka.
- II. Famous for hexagonal columnar basalt formations.
- III. Formed due to volcanic activity when India was connected to Madagascar.
- IV. It is part of the Eastern Ghats.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

25. Regarding Nagahill Ophiolite in Nagaland, which of the following are correct?

- I. It is a mixture of mantle and oceanic crust rocks.
- II. Declared a National Geological Monument by GSI.
- III. Highest point is Mount Saramati at 3,826 meters.
- IV. It is part of the Arakan Range and forms a natural barrier between India and Bangladesh.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

6. Mizoram's first railway line: PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Rs. 8,070 crore worth Bairabi–Sairang project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Mizoram's first-ever railway line, the Bairabi–Sairang broad-gauge project, marking a historic moment in the state's connectivity journey.
- Built at a cost of Rs. 8,070 crore, the 51.38-km line is being regarded as one of the most complex undertakings in Indian Railways' history.

How a 15-year vision turned into reality

- Sanctioned in 2008-09 and launched for construction in 2015, the line features 45 tunnels, 55 major bridges, 87 minor bridges and ten road over- and underpasses.
- Nearly 54% of the alignment passes through tunnels and bridges. Among its most striking structures is Bridge No. 144 near Sairang, which at 114 metres stands taller than Delhi's Qutub Minar, making it the tallest pier railway bridge in the country, according to the Northeast Frontier Railway.
- The project also added four stations — Hortoki, Kawnpui, Mualkhang and Sairang — connecting communities along the route.



Why Aizawl's first rail link is a game-changer

- The new route extends connectivity from Bairabi on the Assam–Mizoram border to Sairang, just 20 km from Aizawl, directly linking the state capital with India's railway network for the first time.
- With this, Aizawl becomes the fourth northeastern capital to gain direct rail access, after Assam's Guwahati, Tripura's Agartala and Arunachal Pradesh's Itanagar.

How a 15-year vision turned into reality

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From Aizawl to Delhi: the new rail routes unveiled

- The Prime Minister also flagged off three new long-distance services: the Sairang–Delhi Rajdhani Express, the Sairang–Guwahati Express, and the Sairang–Kolkata Express.

What else PM Modi announced beyond the railway line

- Alongside the rail project, the Prime Minister laid foundation stones for a range of infrastructure works worth over Rs. 9,000 crore.
- These include the 45-km Aizawl Bypass Road under PM-DevINE, the Thenzawl–Sialsuk Road and the Khankawn–Rongura Road under NESIDS, aimed at easing travel and improving access for farmers and traders.
- The Thenzawl–Sialsuk Road is expected to benefit horticulture farmers, dragon fruit growers, paddy cultivators and ginger processors, while the Khankawn–Rongura Road will support market access and a planned ginger processing plant (PTI).
- The Prime Minister also launched projects such as the Chhimtuipui Bridge, which will provide all-weather connectivity and support cross-border commerce under the Kaladan Multimodal Transit framework.
- Other projects include an LPG bottling plant at Mualkhang, new sports infrastructure, and residential schools under PMJVK and the Eklavya Model scheme.

How Mizoram's new rail line will change daily life

- The Bairabi–Sairang railway is expected to transform logistics and tourism, reduce travel time and generate employment.

Mizoram and Its Unique Features

1. Cultural Diversity

- **Tribal Population:** The majority of Mizoram's population belongs to various Mizo tribes, such as the Lusei, Hmar, Lai, Mara, and others.
- **Christian Majority:** Unlike many Indian states, Christianity is the predominant religion (about 87% of the population), influencing its festivals, education system, and lifestyle.
- **Traditional Festivals:** Festivals like Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut, and Pawl Kut are celebrated with traditional music, dance, and food.

2. High Literacy Rate

- Mizoram has one of the highest literacy rates in India — over 91%, as per recent data — second only to Kerala.
- Education is highly valued, and English is widely spoken and used in schools and administration.

3. Geography and Climate

- **Hilly Terrain:** Mizoram is known as the “Land of the Hill People.” It is covered with lush green hills, valleys, and dense bamboo forests.
- **Pleasant Climate:** The state enjoys a moderate climate throughout the year, with a distinct monsoon season.
- **Blue Mountains (Phawngpui):** The highest peak in Mizoram (2,157 meters), considered sacred by locals.

4. Bamboo Economy

- Bamboo plays a significant role in Mizoram’s economy and lifestyle.
- Used in construction, handicrafts, food (bamboo shoot), and even musical instruments.
- Mizoram has a Bamboo Development Agency to promote bamboo-based industries.

5. Mautam – A Natural Phenomenon

- Mautam is a unique ecological phenomenon that occurs every 48–50 years when bamboo flowers en masse, leading to a boom in the rodent population (due to abundant seeds), which then devastates crops — historically causing famines.
- Last occurred in 2006-2008.

6. Peaceful and Clean State

- Mizoram is one of the most peaceful states in the Northeast, having successfully resolved insurgency issues in the 1980s.
- The capital, Aizawl, is known for its cleanliness and organized city layout.

7. Distinct Cuisine

- Mizoram’s cuisine is simple, healthy, and largely non-vegetarian.
- Common dishes include bai (a stew made with vegetables and bamboo shoots), zu (local tea), and smoked meats.
- Rice is the staple food.

8. Traditional Dances and Music

- Dance forms like Cheraw (bamboo dance), Khuallam, and Chheihlam are performed during festivals and cultural events.
- Music is a vital part of life, with both traditional and Western musical influences.

9. Eco-Tourism and Wildlife

- Home to several wildlife sanctuaries and national parks:
 - Dampa Tiger Reserve
 - Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Phawngpui National Park
- Ideal for trekking, bird-watching, and nature tourism.

10. Community Life and Discipline

- The Mizo society is known for its “Tlawmngaihna” — an untranslatable Mizo concept implying selflessness, discipline, and community service.
- There’s a strong community spirit and mutual support among locals.

QUESTIONS

26. Which of the following statements correctly describe the Bairabi–Sairang railway project in Mizoram?

- I. It is Mizoram’s first-ever railway line.
- II. The project cost is over Rs 8,000 crore.
- III. It connects Aizawl directly to Delhi via high-speed rail.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

27. Which of the following statements about the impact of the Bairabi–Sairang railway project are correct?

- I. It reduces travel time and improves logistics within Mizoram.
- II. It directly links Aizawl with India’s railway network for the first time.
- III. It is expected to generate employment and boost tourism.
- IV. It replaces all existing road connectivity in Mizoram.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

28. Which of the following statements are true regarding Mizoram’s geography and natural features?

- I. Phawngpui is the highest peak in Mizoram at 2,157 meters.
- II. The state is known as the “Land of the Hill People.”
- III. Bamboo plays a significant role in Mizoram’s economy.
- IV. Mautam occurs every 12 years causing crop damage.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

29. Which of the following statements correctly reflect Mizoram’s cultural and societal features?

- I. Traditional festivals include Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut, and Pawl Kut.
- II. Mizo society values community spirit known as ‘Tlawmngaihna’.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

30. Regarding infrastructure development alongside the Bairabi–Sairang railway project, which statements are correct?

- I. The Thenzawl–Sialsuk Road will benefit horticulture and ginger farmers.
- II. The Khankawn–Rongura Road supports planned ginger processing plants.
- III. The Aizawl Bypass Road is being constructed under PM-DevINE.
- IV. The railway project also includes a direct metro system within Aizawl.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

7. Anandkumar Velkumar Wins India's First-Ever Gold at Speed Skating World Championships



- Anandkumar Velkumar won India's first-ever gold medal at the Speed Skating World Championships in China.
- Krish Sharma won junior 1000m sprint gold in that same event, adding to India's historic haul.

- The speedster clinched the senior men’s 1000m sprint title with a timing of 1:24.924s, becoming the first Indian World Champion in speed skating.
- This triumph comes just a day after his historic bronze medal in the 500m sprint at the same championships in Beidaihe, where he clocked 43.072 s to secure India’s first senior Worlds medal.
- Earlier this year, he had also made his mark at the World Games in Chengdu, earning a bronze in the 1000m sprint, India’s first medal in roller sports at the Games.
- Velkumar’s meteoric rise has been defined by a series of landmark achievements that have steadily put India on the global skating map.
- Speed skating is an exciting and fast-paced sport where athletes race on ice skates, trying to complete a set distance in the shortest time possible.
- There are different types of speed skating:
- **Long Track Speed Skating:** This takes place on an oval track (400 meters per lap), and races range from 500 meters to 10,000 meters. It’s more about endurance and strategy.
- **Short Track Speed Skating:** This happens on a smaller track (111.12 meters per lap) and is typically much more intense and tactical, with athletes navigating tight turns and often close contact with competitors.
- **Marathon Speed Skating:** Involves longer distances, often raced on outdoor tracks, and can be both physically demanding and mentally taxing.

Main Types of Skating Sports

1. Ice Skating

Type	Description
Figure Skating	Artistic performance on ice involving jumps, spins, and dance movements. Olympic sport.
Speed Skating	Racing on ice tracks, focusing on speed and technique.
Short Track Speed Skating	Similar to speed skating, but on smaller tracks; more tactical.
Synchronized Skating	Teams perform coordinated routines on ice.
Ice Dancing	Like figure skating but more focused on rhythm and dance (no jumps).
Ice Hockey	Team sport played on ice with a puck and sticks.

2. Roller Skating

Type	Description
Artistic Roller Skating	Similar to figure skating but on wheels. Includes dance, freestyle, and pairs.
Speed Roller Skating	Racing on flat tracks with inline skates.
Roller Hockey (Quad & Inline)	Team sport similar to ice hockey but played with roller or inline skates.
Roller Derby	Contact team sport involving laps on an oval track.
Freestyle Slalom Skating	Skaters perform tricks while weaving between cones.
Aggressive Inline Skating	Includes tricks, jumps, grinds; performed in skate parks or urban areas.
Jam Skating	A blend of dance, gymnastics, and skating – often set to music.

3. Skateboarding (Closely related to skating sports)



Type	Description
Street Skateboarding	Tricks performed using urban obstacles (rails, stairs, ledges).
Park Skateboarding	Performed in skate parks with bowls and ramps.
Vert Skateboarding	Aerial tricks on a vertical ramp.
Freestyle Skateboarding	Dance-like routines and technical tricks on flat ground.
Skateboarding debuted as an Olympic sport in Tokyo 2020.	

Countries Where Skating Is Popular

- **Ice Skating:** Canada, Russia, USA, Japan, South Korea
- **Roller Sports:** Colombia, India, Italy, China, Argentina
- **Skateboarding:** USA, Brazil, Japan, Australia

QUESTIONS

31. Which of the following statements correctly describe Anandkumar Velkumar’s achievement at the Speed Skating World Championships?
- I. He won India’s first-ever gold medal at the event.
 - II. He won the senior men’s 1000m sprint title with a timing of 1:24.924 s.
 - III. He became the first Indian to win a medal in roller sports at the World Games.
 - IV. He also won a silver medal in the 500m sprint at the same championships.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one

B. Only two
- C. Only three

D. All the four

32. Which of the following are main types of speed skating events?

- I. Long Track Speed Skating
- II. Short Track Speed Skating
- III. Marathon Speed Skating
- IV. Synchronized Skating

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Only one | C. Only three |
| B. Only two | D. All the four |

33. Which of the following statements are true regarding roller sports?

- I. Artistic Roller Skating is similar to figure skating but on wheels.
- II. Speed Roller Skating involves racing on flat tracks using inline skates.
- III. Roller Derby is a contact sport raced on an oval track.
- IV. Jam Skating is an extreme sport involving aerial stunts on ramps.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Only one | C. Only three |
| B. Only two | D. All the four |

34. Which of the following countries are known for their popularity in ice skating?

- I. Canada
- II. Russia
- III. India
- IV. South Korea

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Only one | C. Only three |
| B. Only two | D. All the four |

35. Which of the following statements are correct regarding skateboarding as a sport?

- I. Skateboarding debuted as an Olympic sport in Tokyo 2020.
- II. Street Skateboarding involves tricks performed using urban obstacles like rails and stairs.
- III. Park Skateboarding is performed in skate parks with bowls and ramps.
- IV. Vert Skateboarding is performed on flat ground without ramps.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Only one | C. Only three |
| B. Only two | D. All the four |

8. 'Judicial experimentalism' versus the right to justice

Background: Section 498A and Its Evolution

- Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (now Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) was enacted to protect women from cruelty in matrimonial settings.



- It was intended as a strong tool against harassment and domestic violence.
- However, over time, the judiciary expressed concerns over the misuse of this provision, especially false or exaggerated complaints leading to wrongful arrests of husbands and their families.

Judicial and Legislative Safeguards Against Misuse

- To counter potential misuse, multiple checks were introduced:
- **Preliminary Inquiry:** In *Lalita Kumari*, the Supreme Court allowed preliminary inquiry before FIR registration in matrimonial disputes.
- **2008 CrPC Amendment:** Introduced the principle of necessity in arrests, limiting arbitrary detentions.
- **Arnesh Kumar (2014):** The Court mandated a checklist before arrest and promoted the use of 'notice for appearance'.
- **Satender Kumar Antil (2022):** Strengthened the enforcement of *Arnesh Kumar*, directing bail for non-compliant arrests.

- These safeguards created a balanced approach—protecting the rights of the accused without diluting the victim’s access to justice.

Cooling Period and Family Welfare Committees: The Controversial Revival

- In *Shivangi Bansal vs Sahib Bansal* (2025), the Supreme Court endorsed the Allahabad High Court’s 2022 guidelines in *Mukesh Bansal vs State of U.P.*, which introduced:
 - A two-month ‘cooling period’ after FIR or complaint registration.
 - Mandatory referral of the matter to a Family Welfare Committee (FWC) during this period.
 - The rationale was to prevent the misuse of Section 498A through immediate coercive actions and arrests. However, this judicial mechanism effectively freezes police or judicial intervention for two months, delaying justice for victims.

Institutional Overreach and Erosion of Victim’s Rights

This move has drawn criticism for multiple reasons:

- **Undermines Victim’s Access to Justice:** Victims face procedural delays even after lodging a valid complaint.
- **Lacks Statutory Backing:** FWCs have no legislative mandate; their authority and scope remain ambiguous.
- **Violates Functional Autonomy:** By sidelining police and judiciary during the ‘cooling period’, it disrupts the normal criminal justice process.
- These steps echo the earlier *Rajesh Sharma* (2017) judgment, where similar FWC-based mechanisms were introduced. That move too faced backlash and was eventually overturned by a three-judge bench in *Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar* (2018), which reinstated prompt access to justice and reaffirmed institutional roles.

Statistical Trends: Misuse Addressed, But Need for Justice Remains

- The NCRB data supports that systemic checks have reduced arbitrary arrests under Section 498A.
- While complaints rose from 1,13,403 in 2015 to 1,40,019 in 2022, arrests declined from 1,87,067 to 1,45,095 in the same period.
- This indicates that reforms have curbed misuse without sacrificing the victim’s right to report and seek redress.
- Hence, the current concern is not misuse by victims or abuse of power by police, but the risk of under-enforcement due to procedural bottlenecks like FWCs and ‘cooling periods’.

Call for Judicial Restraint and Legal Consistency

- The Supreme Court’s endorsement of FWC and cooling period is being viewed as judicial experimentalism that exceeds its remit.
- These measures contradict legislative intent, disrupt the criminal justice chain, and compromise prompt access to justice for genuine victims of domestic violence.
- Revisiting this ruling is critical.
- The Court must assess whether the fears of misuse are already addressed by existing safeguards, and whether further delays through FWCs risk retraumatizing victims rather than offering relief.

Balance Between Safeguards and Justice

- While ensuring that innocent individuals are not wrongfully arrested is important, this should not come at the cost of denying justice to actual victims.

- A victim-centric approach must be preserved, with the judiciary respecting the statutory framework and the autonomy of the police and courts.
- The Supreme Court must reconsider its decision in Shivangi Bansal and align with the precedent set in Social Action Forum, reinforcing justice over procedural delay.

QUESTIONS

36. Which of the following safeguards were introduced by the Supreme Court and legislature to prevent misuse of Section 498A?

- I. Preliminary inquiry before FIR registration (Lalita Kumari)
- II. Checklist before arrests and notice for appearance (Arnesh Kumar, 2014)
- III. Two-month cooling period with mandatory referral to Family Welfare Committee (Shivangi Bansal, 2025)
- IV. Automatic bail for all accused without inquiry

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Only one | C. Only three |
| B. Only two | D. All the four |

37. What is a key criticism of the ‘cooling period’ and Family Welfare Committee (FWC) mechanism endorsed in Shivangi Bansal (2025)?

- I. Delays victim access to justice
- II. Lacks statutory backing
- III. Undermines police and judiciary autonomy
- IV. Reduces the number of FIRs filed

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Only one | C. Only three |
| B. Only two | D. All the four |

38. Which of the following Supreme Court cases strengthened safeguards against arbitrary arrests under Section 498A?

- I. Lalita Kumari (Preliminary Inquiry)
- II. Arnesh Kumar (Checklist before arrest)
- III. Satender Kumar Antil (Bail for non-compliant arrests)
- IV. Rajesh Sharma (2017) introducing FWCs

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Only one | C. Only three |
| B. Only two | D. All the four |

39. According to NCRB data, which of the following trends were observed regarding Section 498A complaints and arrests?

- I. Complaints rose from 1,13,403 in 2015 to 1,40,019 in 2022
- II. Arrests declined from 1,87,067 to 1,45,095 in the same period
- III. Complaints dropped below 1 lakh due to the cooling period
- IV. Misuse of Section 498A was completely eliminated

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

40. Which of the following statements reflect concerns regarding judicial experimentalism in Shivangi Bansal (2025)?

- I. FWCs and cooling periods delay justice for genuine victims
- II. Measures contradict legislative intent of Section 498A
- III. Procedural delays enhance victim protection without downsides
- IV. Police and judiciary autonomy is undermined

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. C Only three

- **I. Comprehensive health screening for women:** Correct. SNSPA focuses on preventive healthcare, including screening for conditions like hypertension, anaemia, diabetes, and reproductive health issues across urban, rural, and tribal areas.
- **II. Promotion of maternal and child care:** Correct. The program integrates with schemes like PMMVY, PMSMA, and Poshan 2.0 to improve antenatal care, child nutrition, and immunization coverage.
- **III. Establishment of PM Mitra Parks:** Incorrect. PM Mitra Parks relate to textile sector development and infrastructure, not healthcare or family welfare.
- **IV. Community awareness and behavioral change:** Correct. SNSPA conducts workshops and campaigns on menstrual hygiene, nutrition, and family health to empower women and families.

2. C Only three

- **I. Screening for hypertension and diabetes:** Correct. SNSPA health camps conduct regular screenings to detect lifestyle-related illnesses and prevent complications among women and children.
- **II. Counselling for tuberculosis (TB) and sickle cell disease (SCD):** Correct. Targeted counselling and awareness are provided for early detection and management of TB and SCD, particularly in tribal areas.
- **III. Distribution of Mother and Child Protection (MCP) cards:** Correct. MCP cards are provided to monitor maternal and child health, track antenatal care, and ensure follow-up.
- **IV. Construction of new hospitals:** Incorrect. Health camps focus on service delivery and awareness, not on building new infrastructure.

3. C Only three

- **I. ₹5,000 benefit for the first child:** Correct. PMMVY provides financial support to pregnant women for institutional delivery and maternal health care.
- **II. ₹6,000 benefit for the second child if a girl:** Correct. The scheme encourages girl child welfare and improved sex ratio at birth.
- **III. Registration during pregnancy is mandatory for second child benefit:** Correct. Early registration ensures eligibility and timely release of benefits.
- **IV. Benefits are given irrespective of child's gender:** Incorrect. The second-child benefit applies only if the second child is a girl, aligning with gender equity objectives.

4. D All three

- **I. Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK):** Correct. Provides free maternal and child health services including institutional deliveries and antenatal care.
- **II. Mission Indradhanush:** Correct. Enhances immunization coverage for children and pregnant women, supporting SNSPA objectives.
- **III. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):** Correct. Offers four antenatal check-ups to identify high-risk pregnancies early.

5. D All three

- **I. Maternal health:** Correct. Focuses on nutrition awareness, iron-folic acid supplementation, and maternal care.
- **II. Infant and young child feeding (IYCF):** Correct. Promotes exclusive breastfeeding for first six months and complementary feeding thereafter.
- **III. Diet diversity and micronutrient supplementation:** Correct. Educates communities about balanced diets and preventing malnutrition and stunting.

6. D All the four

- **I. Austerity measures:** Correct. Citizens protested against harsh fiscal tightening and public spending cuts.
- **II. Rising inequality and poverty:** Correct. Data shows worsening poverty levels and unequal economic opportunities.
- **III. Increasing fuel prices:** Correct. Echoes grievances similar to the Yellow Vest movement, initially triggered by fuel price hikes.
- **IV. Pro-business policies:** Correct. Policies perceived to favor business over workers contributed to unrest. All four factors collectively fueled the widespread protests.

7. D All the four

- **I, II, III:** These are important joint defence exercises conducted between India and France to enhance interoperability.
- **IV:** FRIND-X is a collaborative platform for defence startups, investors, and academia, promoting innovation in defence technology.
- All four initiatives are part of the India-France defence cooperation framework.

8. D All the four

- **I. AI roadmap:** Joint focus on safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development.
- **II. Space:** Cooperation includes Gaganyaan, TRISHNA, maritime domain awareness, and professional exchanges.
- **III. UPI implementation:** NIPL and Lyra Collect agreement brings UPI to France and Europe.
- **IV. Civil nuclear energy:** Includes ongoing collaboration on Jaitapur NPP, SMRs, AMRs, and ITER project participation.

9. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** The President is directly elected by French citizens.
- **II. Correct:** The President appoints the Prime Minister of France.
- **III. Incorrect:** Emmanuel Macron is not the Third President; he is the current President.
- **IV. Correct:** President is the Commander-in-Chief of the French Armed Forces. This authority is established by the French constitution. .

10. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** Both Presidents have clemency powers.
- **II. Correct:** Both appoint the Prime Minister.

- **III. Incorrect:** In India, the President can dissolve the Lok Sabha; in France, dissolution of the National Assembly is at presidential discretion, but not Parliament as a whole.
- **IV. Correct:** Both serve as the ceremonial head of state.

11. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** \$25 million in budgetary support is part of the package.
- **II. Correct:** Redevelopment of Port Louis harbor is included.
- **III. Correct:** Development and surveillance of the Chagos Marine Area is included.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Construction of a nuclear plant in Mauritius is not part of this package.

12. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** India supports Mauritius in strengthening maritime security and defence.
- **II. Correct:** Refitting a Mauritius Coast Guard ship is part of the cooperation.
- **III. Correct:** Construction of an ATC tower is included.
- **IV. Incorrect:** India supports Mauritius' sovereignty but does not administer the Chagos Archipelago.

13. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** Promoting trade and local currency use is part of MAHASAGAR.
- **II. Correct:** Capacity building and technology sharing are key objectives.
- **III. Correct:** Cooperation in maritime security and shared safety is included.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Establishing an Indian military base in Mauritius is not part of MAHASAGAR.

14. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** Indian laborers were brought under the indentured system.
- **II. Correct:** The first ship was indeed 'Atlas'.
- **III. Correct:** Over 68% of the population is of Indian origin.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Diplomatic relations were established in 1948, before India's independence, not 1968.

15. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** Trade and commerce cooperation exists between India and Mauritius.
- **II. Correct:** Defence and maritime collaboration is an ongoing focus.
- **III. Correct:** Technology sharing and capacity-building are key areas.
- **IV. Incorrect:** India does not administer Mauritius' internal governance; Mauritius remains fully sovereign.

16. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** Operation Polo began on 13 September 1948.
- **II. Correct:** It lasted 5 days, ending on 18 September 1948.
- **III. Correct:** The Nizam surrendered and became the Rajpramukh of Hyderabad.

17. C All three

- **I. Correct:** Nawab Mahabat Khan III chose to accede to Pakistan on 15 August 1947.
- **II. Correct:** The population was predominantly Hindu (~80%).
- **III. Correct:** A referendum was held in February 1948, resulting in 99.95% favoring India.

18. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** Operation Vijay took place on 18–19 December 1961.
- **II. Correct:** It involved all three services: Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- **III. Incorrect:** Resistance was minimal and lasted only about 36 hours.
- **IV. Correct:** Goa, Daman, and Diu were made a Union Territory after liberation.

19. C All three

- **I. Correct:** Nizam initially wanted to remain independent.
- **II. Correct:** India considered this a threat to national integrity.
- **III. Correct:** Razakars' violence against the population increased urgency.

20. C All four

- **I. Correct:** Hyderabad was annexed in 1948 through Operation Polo.
- **II. Correct:** Junagarh's integration was confirmed via a plebiscite in 1948.
- **III. Correct:** Goa was incorporated through Operation Vijay in 1961.
- **IV. Correct:** At the time of partition, princely states could join India, Pakistan, or remain independent, as per the Indian Independence Act, 1947.

21. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** 'Erra Matti Dibbalu' refers to the red sand dunes along Visakhapatnam-Bheemunipatnam beach.
- **II. Correct:** It is on the tentative list of UNESCO's Natural Heritage Sites.
- **III. Correct:** Formed during the last glacial maxima (~18,500 years ago).
- **IV. Incorrect:** The formation is natural, not man-made.

22. C Only three

- **I. Correct:** India is preparing the nomination for the 2026–27 cycle.
- **II. Correct:** Multinational involvement includes UAE, Suriname, Netherlands.
- **III. Correct:** The festival is dedicated to Sun God and Chhathi Maiya.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Chhath is proposed but not yet inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

23. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** All three are newly added natural sites in the tentative list.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Taj Mahal is a cultural heritage site, already inscribed, and not a natural site.

24. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** All three statements accurately describe St. Mary's Island Cluster.
- **IV. Incorrect:** The islands are on the west coast, not part of the Eastern Ghats.

25. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** Nagahill Ophiolite is composed of mantle and oceanic crust rocks, a National Geological Monument, and Mount Saramati is its highest peak.
- **IV. Incorrect:** It forms a barrier between India and Myanmar, not Bangladesh.

26. B Only two

- **I. Correct:** Bairabi–Sairang is Mizoram's first-ever railway line.
- **II. Correct:** Total project cost is Rs 8,070 crore.
- **III. Incorrect:** While new long-distance trains run to Delhi, it is not a high-speed rail.

27. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** Project enhances connectivity, logistics, and tourism, and directly links Aizawl to the railway network.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Road connectivity still exists; the railway complements, not replaces, road networks.

28. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** Phawngpui is the highest peak; Mizoram is called "Land of the Hill People"; bamboo is economically important.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Mautam occurs approximately every 48–50 years, not 12 years.

29. C Both 1 and 2

- **I and II statements are Correct:** Mizoram's traditional festivals include Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut, and Pawl Kut. Christianity is predominant (~87%); festivals and Tlawmngaihna reflect cultural and societal traits.

30. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** These roads and bypass support farmers and infrastructure development.
- **IV. Incorrect:** No metro system exists in Aizawl; the railway is a broad-gauge line, not a metro.

31. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** Velkumar's gold in the 1000m sprint was India's first at the World Championships; he had earlier won India's first medal in roller sports at the World Games.
- **IV. Incorrect:** He won bronze, not silver, in the 500m sprint.

32. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** These are recognized competitive speed skating disciplines.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Synchronized Skating is a team performance-based ice sport, not a speed event.

33. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** Jam Skating is a combination of dance, gymnastics, and skating—not an extreme sport on ramps.

34. C Only three

- **I, II, IV Correct:** Ice skating is widely popular in Canada, Russia, and South Korea.
- **III. Incorrect:** India is primarily known for roller sports, not ice skating.

35. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** Vert Skateboarding involves aerial tricks on a vertical ramp, not flat ground.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Statement about flat ground is false for Vert Skateboarding.

36. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** These were introduced to balance victim protection and prevent misuse.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Automatic bail is not a safeguard; it is not mandated without inquiry.

37. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** These reflect institutional overreach and procedural bottlenecks.
- **IV. Incorrect:** There is no evidence that FIRs are reduced; the issue is delay, not reporting.

38. C Only three

- **I, II, III Correct:** These cases introduced systemic checks against misuse.
- **IV. Incorrect:** Rajesh Sharma's FWC-based mechanism was controversial and later overturned (Social Action Forum, 2018), so it's not considered a protective safeguard.

39. B Only two

- **I, II Correct:** Data shows complaints increased slightly while arrests declined, indicating reduced misuse.
- **III, IV Incorrect:** Complaints did not drop below 1 lakh; misuse was curtailed but not fully eliminated.

40. C Only three

- **I, II, IV Correct:** Critics argue these measures risk retraumatizing victims and overreach judicial authority.
- **III. Incorrect:** Procedural delays may protect accused but compromise prompt victim access; hence, it is not a universally positive outcome.