

1

**पीएम सूर्य घर: मुफ्त बिजली योजना
50 लाख सौर रूफटॉप इंस्टॉलेशन**

- योजना ने 50 लाख रूफटॉप सोलर इंस्टॉलेशन का माइलस्टोन पार किया।
- शुभारंभ: 13 फरवरी 2024, मंत्रालय: MNRE
- लक्ष्य: 1 करोड़ घर, 300 यूनिट मुफ्त बिजली/माह
- कुल वित्तीय आवंटन: ₹75,021 करोड़
- स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा
- DISCOM पर सस्मिडी बोझ कम होता है
- विकेंद्रीकृत नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को प्रोत्साहन



तथ्य: विकेंद्रीकृत सौर ऊर्जा को बढ़ावा देता है।

कीवर्ड: रूफटॉप सोलर, MNRE, नेट मीटरिंग, RPO

2

**पीएम E-DRIVE योजना एवं
EV चार्जिंग अवसंरचना**

- देशभर में EV चार्जिंग स्टेशनों हेतु ₹2,000 करोड़।
- PM-eBus सेवा के तहत 523 ई-बसें तैनात।
- EV अपनाने एवं घरेलू विनिर्माण पर जोर।
- हरित गतिशीलता और ऊर्जा संक्रमण को बढ़ावा।
- तेल आयात निर्भरता में कमी।
- बैटरी निर्माण एवं चार्जिंग नेटवर्क का विस्तार।
- फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल नीति: केवल E20 मिश्रण पर फोकस।



तथ्य: EV पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को सशक्त बनाता है।

कीवर्ड: EV, चार्जिंग इन्फ्रा, eBus, E20, ग्रीन मोबिलिटी

3

**स्वामित्व योजना एवं पंचायत
विकास सूचकांक (PDI)**

- ड्रोन सर्वे एवं संपत्ति कार्ड से ग्रामीणों को लाभ।
- पंचायत विकास सूचकांक (PDI) लॉन्च।
- शासन, अवसंरचना एवं SDGs पर मापन।
- 15वें वित्त आयोग के अनुदान के उपयोग से जुड़ाव।
- पारदर्शिता एवं स्थानीय शासन को बढ़ावा।
- भूमि रिकॉर्ड आधुनिकीकरण।
- ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को सशक्त बनाना।



तथ्य: स्वामित्व से संपत्ति अधिकार सुनिश्चित होते हैं।

कीवर्ड: स्वामित्व, PDI, पंचायती राज, 15वां वित्त आयोग

4

**MSME सस्टेनेल (ZED)
प्रमाणीकरण**

- ZED = Zero Defect Zero Effect
- गुणवत्ता व पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता को बढ़ावा।
- MSME की प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता में सुधार।
- संसाधन दक्षता व अपशिष्ट में कमी।
- हरित विनिर्माण एवं निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन।
- ESG एवं सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी के अनुरूप।
- विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में अपनाने का विस्तार।



तथ्य: प्रदूषण घटाकर उत्पादकता बढ़ाता है।

कीवर्ड: ZED, MSME, स्थिरता, ESG, सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी

5

**C-DAC और भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण
भारत (GSI) MoU**

- C-DAC और GSI के बीच छत्र MoU हुआ।
- खनिज अन्वेषण, भू-स्थानिक डेटा व AI में सहयोग।
- आपदा प्रबंधन समाधानों का विकास।
- उन्नत कंप्यूटिंग, डेटा एनालिटिक्स का उपयोग।
- भू-विज्ञान नवाचार को बढ़ावा।
- निर्णय लेने में AI और GIS का उपयोग।
- राष्ट्रीय संसाधन सुरक्षा में मदद।



तथ्य: टेक्नोलॉजी + जियोसाइंस सहयोग से राष्ट्रीय विकास।

कीवर्ड: C-DAC, GSI, AI, GIS, भू-स्थानिक, आपदा प्रबंधन

6

**क्लाउडेड लेपर्ड संरक्षण
कार्य योजना**

- अंतराष्ट्रीय क्लाइडेड लेपर्ड दिवस पर चर्चा।
- वैज्ञानिक नाम: Neofelis nebulosa
- IUCN स्थिति: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I
- भारत: पूर्वोत्तर एवं हिमालयी क्षेत्र में पाया जाता है।
- प्रमुख खतरे: आवास हानि, शिकार, अवैध व्यापार।
- फोकस: आवास संरक्षण व समुदाय भागीदारी।



तथ्य: भारत में महत्वपूर्ण क्लाइडेड लेपर्ड आबादी।

कीवर्ड: क्लाइडेड लेपर्ड, IUCN, CITES, वन्यजीव संरक्षण

7

**CAQM: NCR में धूल प्रदूषण
नियंत्रण पर सख्ती**

- CAQM ने धूल प्रदूषण नियंत्रण को और सख्त किया।
- अधिक ULBs को उत्तलधन पर मुकदमा चलाने की शक्ति दी गई।
- निर्माण एवं ध्वंस स्थलों पर फोकस।
- PM10 स्तर घटाने के लिए कदम।
- निगरानी एवं प्रवर्तन तंत्र को मजबूत किया।
- स्वच्छ वायु हेतु समन्वित कार्यवाही।
- CAQM अधिनियम, 2021 के तहत कार्रवाई।



तथ्य: CAQM दिल्ली-NCR में वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन के लिए नोडल निकाय है।

कीवर्ड: CAQM, धूल प्रदूषण, NCR, PM10, वायु गुणवत्ता

8

युवा संगम – फेज VII

- युवा संगम फेज VII के लिए ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण प्रारंभ।
- ‘एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत’ पहल का हिस्सा।
- युवाओं के बीच सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान।
- राष्ट्रीय एकता व आपसी समझ को बढ़ावा।
- नेतृत्व विकास एवं सहयोग को प्रोत्साहन।
- भारत की विविधता से परिचय।
- राष्ट्र निर्माण में युवाओं की भागीदारी।



तथ्य: युवा संगम से राष्ट्रीय एकता को बल मिलता है।

कीवर्ड: युवा संगम, EBSB, युवा विनिमय, एकता, नेतृत्व

9

**आयुर्वेद दिवस एवं निवारक स्वास्थ्य
के प्रोत्साहन पर जोर**

- आयुर्वेद दिवस पूरे देश में मनाया गया।
- निवारक स्वास्थ्य एवं जीवनशैली पर जोर।
- AYUSH सेवाओं के एकीकरण को बढ़ावा।
- AYUSH संस्थानों का विस्तार।
- पारंपरिक ज्ञान प्रणाली का संरक्षण।
- समग्र एवं एकीकृत स्वास्थ्य दृष्टिकोण।
- “वन हेथ” दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप।



तथ्य: परंपरागत प्रणाली स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा में सहायक है।

कीवर्ड: AYUSH, आयुर्वेद, निवारक स्वास्थ्य, एकीकृत स्वास्थ्य

अन्य महत्वपूर्ण वन-लाइनर्स

CAQ और IISc ने 48V सिलिकॉन कार्बाइड आधारित पावर मॉड्यूल विकसित किया।



सरकार ने PM जल जीवन मिशन (2028-29) को मंजूरी दी।



PFRDA ने नई प्राणोधि और सुरक्षा योजनाओं लॉन्च कीं।



फार्मा विभाग ने GCTCs हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए।



राष्ट्रपति ने “स्टेट्स ऑफ इंडिया 2025” हैडबुक प्रधानमंत्री को भेंट की।

1 PM Surya Ghar: 50 Lakh Rooftop Solar

- Scheme crosses 50 lakh rooftop solar installations.
- Launched on 13 Feb 2024 by MNRE.
- Target: 1 crore households.
- Up to 300 free units/month via rooftop solar.
- Financial outlay: ₹75,021 crore.
- Boost to clean energy & energy security.
- Reduces DISCOM subsidy burden.



FACT: Promotes decentralised renewable energy.

KEYWORDS: Rooftop Solar, MNRE, Net Metering, RPO

2 PM E-DRIVE Scheme & EV Charging Infrastructure

- ₹2,000 crore for EV public charging stations nationwide.
- 523 e-buses deployed under PM-eBus Sewa.
- Focus on EV adoption and domestic manufacturing.
- Supports energy transition and green mobility.
- No separate flex-fuel vehicle policy beyond E20 blending.
- Reduces oil import dependence.
- Promotes sustainable transport.



FACT: PM E-DRIVE drives EV ecosystem growth.

KEYWORDS: EV, Charging Infra, eBus, E20, Green Mobility

3 SVAMITVA Scheme & Panchayat Development Index

- SVAMITVA: Drone survey & property cards for villagers.
- Strengthens rural land records & ownership.
- Panchayat Development Index (PDI) launched.
- Measures performance across governance & SDGs.
- 15th Finance Commission tied grants utilisation.
- Promotes transparency & local governance.
- Supports Atmanirbhar Gram.



FACT: Empowering rural India through ownership and decentralised governance.

KEYWORDS: SVAMITVA, PDI, 15th FC, Panchayati Raj

4 MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification

- ZED = Zero Defect Zero Effect.
- Promotes quality & environmental sustainability.
- Enhances competitiveness of MSMEs.
- Encourages resource efficiency & waste reduction.
- Supports green manufacturing and exports.
- Aligns with ESG & circular economy goals.
- Expands adoption across sectors.



FACT: ZED improves productivity while reducing pollution.

KEYWORDS: ZED, MSME, Sustainability, ESG, Circular Economy

5 C-DAC & Geological Survey of India MoU

- C-DAC & GSI signed umbrella MoU.
- Strengthens mineral exploration, geospatial & AI applications.
- Supports disaster management solutions.
- Enhances use of advanced computing & data analytics.
- Promotes innovation in geosciences.
- Improves decision-making with AI & GIS.
- Boosts national resource security.



FACT: Tech + Geoscience partnership for national development.

KEYWORDS: C-DAC, GSI, AI, Geospatial, Disaster Management

6 Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan

- India highlighted its conservation plan on Clouded Leopard Day.
- Scientific name: Neofelis nebulosa.
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable.
- CITES: Appendix I.
- Found in North-East India & Himalayan foothills.
- Threats: Habitat loss, poaching, illegal trade.
- Focus on habitat protection & community involvement.



FACT: India is home to a significant clouded leopard population.

KEYWORDS: Clouded Leopard, IUCN, CITES, Wildlife Conservation

7 CAQM: Dust Mitigation in NCR

- CAQM expands anti-dust enforcement in NCR.
- More ULBs empowered to prosecute violations.
- Focus on construction & demolition sites.
- Aims to reduce PM10 levels.
- Strengthens monitoring & compliance.
- Supports cleaner air in Delhi-NCR.
- Enforced under Commission for Air Quality Management Act, 2021.



FACT: Targeting construction dust to improve air quality.

KEYWORDS: CAQM, PM10, Dust Pollution, NCR, Air Quality

8 Yuva Sangam Phase VII

- Online registrations opened for Yuva Sangam Phase VII.
- Part of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- Promotes youth exchange across states.
- Encourages cultural integration & mutual understanding.
- Strengthens national unity & social cohesion.
- Builds leadership & collaboration skills.
- Empowers youth as nation-builders.



FACT: Youth connect, stronger India.

KEYWORDS: Yuva Sangam, EBSB, Youth Exchange, Unity

9 Ayurveda Day & Promotion of Preventive Healthcare

- Ayurveda Day celebrated nationwide.
- Focus on preventive healthcare & wellness.
- Integration of AYUSH services strengthened.
- Expansion of AYUSH institutions.
- Promotes traditional knowledge systems.
- Supports holistic & affordable healthcare.
- Aligns with 'One Health' approach.



FACT: Traditional wisdom for a healthier future.

KEYWORDS: AYUSH, Ayurveda, Preventive Healthcare, One Health

Other Important One-Liners



CAE & IISc develop 48V Silicon Carbide based Power Module.



Government approves PM Jal Jeevan Mission (2028-29).



PFRDA launches new pranidhi & suraksha yojanas.



Department of Pharma invites applications for GTCs.



President of India presents Handbook: 'States of India 2025' to PM.

1 ✓

Correct Option: C

Explanation:

The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is a voluntary option under NPS and therefore not a feature of UPS.



2 ✓

Correct Option: A

Explanation:

Operation Sankalp is the ongoing mission of the Indian Navy to strengthen maritime cooperation and enhance synergy with friendly foreign navies.



3 ✓

Correct Option: A

Explanation:

The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) is implemented by the Ministry of Mines to ensure secure and sustainable supply of critical minerals.



4 ✓

Correct Option: B

Explanation:

The Chenab Rail Bridge in Jammu & Kashmir is the world's highest railway arch bridge. It was inaugurated in July 2026.



5 ✓

Correct Option: A

Explanation:

The Supreme Court held that 'deepfake' content violates the Right to Equality under Article 14, as it can damage reputation and create false narratives.



6 ✓

Correct Option: B

Explanation:

The Climate Action Index (CAI) tracks states' progress on climate change mitigation, clean energy transition, and related performance indicators.



7 ✓

Correct Option: B

Explanation:

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme focuses on traditional artisans and craftspeople such as blacksmiths, carpenters, potters etc., but not data analysts.



8 ✓

Correct Option: B

Explanation:

The RBI's 'Retail Direct - Gilt' facility allows retail investors to purchase government securities (gilt) directly from the RBI.



9 ✓

Correct Option: D

Explanation:

The Proboscis Monkey is native to the island of Borneo, especially in Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia.



Great effort!
Keep learning, keep improving.



Stay Informed.
Stay Ahead.



Every Quiz,
Stronger You!

1 Reading Comprehension

Read the passage carefully and answer the question that follows.

In today's fast-paced world, the ability to read with understanding is more important than ever. Reading is not merely about decoding words; it is about grasping meaning, making connections, and applying ideas in real life. When we read widely and critically, we expose ourselves to diverse perspectives, improve our vocabulary, and strengthen our analytical skills. Regular reading also enhances empathy, as it allows us to step into others' experiences and understand the world beyond our own.

Which of the following best captures the main idea of the passage?

- A) Reading is only about learning new words.
- B) Reading helps us understand, connect, and grow as individuals.
- C) Critical reading is difficult and unnecessary.
- D) People should read only for academic success.

✓ **Right Option:** B) Reading helps us understand, connect, and grow as individuals.

Explanation:

The passage explains that reading is more than decoding words—it helps us understand, make connections, develop skills, and build empathy. Option B best summarizes this central idea.

2 Reasoning

Study the pattern carefully and answer the question that follows.

Q: In the following number series:

3, 8, 15, 24, 35, 48, ?

What is the next number in the series?

- A) 63
- B) 65
- C) 68
- D) 72

✓ **Right Option:** B) 65

Explanation:

Let us look at the differences between consecutive terms:

3, 8, 15, 24, 35, 48, ?
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
+5 +7 +9 +11 +13 +15

The differences are consecutive odd numbers starting from +5.

Next difference = +17

So, next term = $48 + 17 = 65$

Hence, the correct answer is option B) 65.

1 The government has notified the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). Which of the following is NOT a feature of UPS?

- A) Assured pension of 50% of average basic pay
- B) Family pension for the spouse
- C) Contributions to be invested in equity only
- D) Assured minimum pension of ₹10,000



2 Which operation was launched by the Indian Navy to enhance maritime synergy with friendly foreign navies in July–August 2026?

- A) Operation Sankalp
- B) Operation Samudra Setu
- C) Operation Indradhanush
- D) Operation POSEIDON



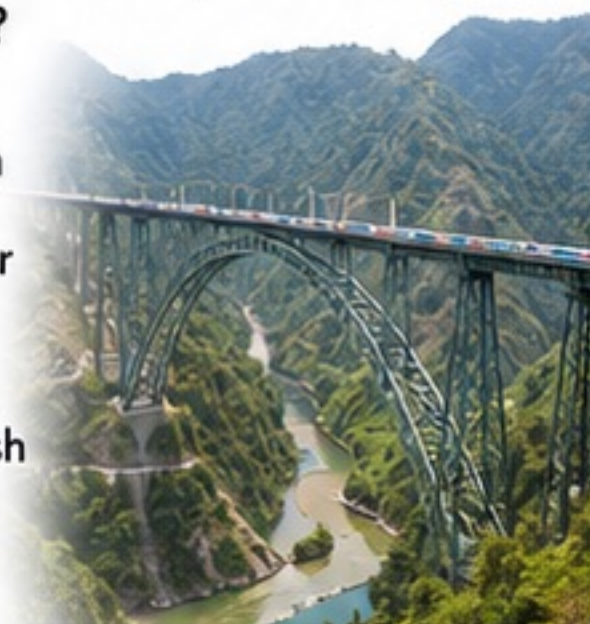
3 The government has launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) to secure the country's critical mineral supply chains. Which ministry is the nodal ministry for this mission?

- A) Ministry of Mines
- B) Ministry of External Affairs
- C) Ministry of Science & Technology
- D) Ministry of Commerce & Industry



4 In which state was the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River inaugurated in July 2026?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Jammu & Kashmir
- C) Uttarakhand
- D) Arunachal Pradesh



5 Recently, the Supreme Court of India issued guidelines to regulate 'deepfake' content. Which fundamental right does the Court say deepfakes primarily threaten?

- A) Right to Equality
- B) Right to Freedom of Speech
- C) Right to Privacy
- D) Right to Religion



6 Which of the following indices, released in July 2026, tracks the performance of states on climate action and clean energy transition?

- A) Energy Transition Index
- B) Climate Action Index
- C) Green States Index
- D) Net Zero Readiness Index



7 Under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, which of the following is NOT one of the traditional trades covered?

- A) Carpenter
- B) Blacksmith
- C) Data Analyst
- D) Potter



8 The RBI has recently introduced the 'Retail Direct – Gilt' facility. What is the primary objective of this facility?

- A) To allow retail investors to invest directly in government securities
- B) To provide loans to retail businesses
- C) To promote digital payments
- D) To facilitate foreign direct investment in gilts



9 Recently seen in the news, the 'Proboscis Monkey' is native to which of the following regions?

- A) Amazon Rainforest
- B) Congo Basin
- C) Borneo Island
- D) Madagascar



1. This is a ____ bridge.



a) strong

b) sturdy

c) weak

d) fragile

2. He felt a deep sense of ____ after winning.



a) pride

b) shame

c) guilt

d) anger

3. Please be ____ while crossing the road.



a) careless

b) cautious

c) reckless

d) hurried

4. She spoke in a very ____ voice.



a) loud

b) soft

c) harsh

d) noisy

5. The old house looked ____ and deserted.



a) lively

b) crowded

c) lonely

d) busy

6. The chef added a ____ of salt to the soup.



a) pinch

b) handful

c) cup

d) bowl

7. After the rain, the air felt ____ and fresh.



a) damp

b) dry

c) stale

d) hot

8. She has a great sense of ____ and helps others.



a) selfishness

b) sympathy

c) jealousy

d) anger

9. The baby slept ____ through the night.



a) soundly

b) quietly

c) restlessly

d) briefly

1 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Why has PoK erupted in protests?

How did demands over prices evolve into a movement for greater political representation in PoK? How has Islamabad responded to the protests? What has India said about the unrest? How have international rights groups and overseas Kashmiris reacted to the crackdown?

EXPLAINER

Kallol Bhattacharjee

The story so far:

Immense discontent over inflation, lack of accountability and opaque governance in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has escalated into a violent crackdown by Pakistani security forces over the past week, leaving dozens dead and many injured. Security forces have reportedly used assault weapons and sniper fire against protesters gathered in the main squares of cities such as Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad to oppose the three-phase election currently under way in PoK.



Supporters of the banned Joint Awami Action Committee, an alliance of civil society groups, start a fire to block a road during a protest in Muzaffarabad. REUTERS

THE GIST

- Movement began over rising prices, evolved into demand for political rights.
- JKJAAC leads protests; Pakistan's response is crackdown.
- India, rights groups & Kashmiris condemn human rights violations.

2 WHY PROTESTS IN PoK?



Rising inflation & high prices of essential commodities.



Lack of accountability & opaque governance by Pak establishment.



Demand for political rights & greater representation.



Exclusion from decision-making in resource use and development.



Long-standing sense of alienation & neglect.



Key Areas of Protests
Rawalakot, Muzaffarabad & other regions

Relevance: GS II – Governance, Polity
GS III – Internal Security, Human Rights

3 JKJAAC & NATURE OF PROTESTS



Led by Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) – an alliance of civil society groups.



Protests include rallies, roadblocks & public demonstrations.



Allegations of rigged elections & denial of 12 reserved seats.



Reports of police firing, deaths & injuries.



Protesters continue despite crackdown.

Relevance: GS II – Political Rights, Democratic Representation

4 ISLAMABAD'S RESPONSE



Pak security forces used excessive force, including assault weapons & sniper fire.



Arrests, detentions & communications restrictions.



Elections conducted amid allegations of manipulation.



Media blackout & internet restrictions to curb protests.



Pakistan blames India for "instigating instability" in PoK.

Relevance: GS II – State Response, Human Rights
GS III – Internal Security

5 INDIA'S STAND



Reiterated condemnation of human rights violations in PoK.



Called for end to oppression & respect for fundamental rights.



Highlighted that PoK is an integral part of India under internationally recognised agreements.



Supports the right of people of PoK to demand their democratic & political rights.

Relevance: GS II – India's Foreign Policy
GS III – Human Rights, International Law

6 INTERNATIONAL REACTION



Amnesty International & HRW condemned crackdown & human rights violations.



UK-based Kashmiri groups demand international intervention.



Overseas Kashmiris amplify voices through campaigns.



Calls for independent investigation into deaths & abuses.

Relevance: GS II – International Organisations
GS II – Diaspora, Soft Power

7 STRATEGIC DIMENSION



PoK lies along the Line of Control – critical for India's security.



Disturbances target terror-related infrastructure in areas like Kotli, Muzaffarabad & Rawalakot.



Unrest exposes internal fragility of Pak establishment's control.



India views it in context of broader counter-terror & regional stability.



Relevance: GS III – Security, Defence, Counter-terrorism
GS II – India's Strategic Interests

8 PRACTICE MCQ

Q. Which of the following statements about the recent protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is/are correct?

1. The protests were primarily triggered by rising inflation and demand for political representation.
2. The Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) is a civil society alliance leading the protests.
3. India has stated that PoK is not part of its territory under any international agreement.
4. Amnesty International has condemned the crackdown on protesters in PoK.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: B



9 MAINS DISCUSSION QUESTION

Q. The protests in PoK reflect deep-rooted political grievances and human rights violations. Discuss the implications of the unrest for regional security and India's policy response.



Focus Areas: Governance • Human Rights • Security
India's Policy • International Law • Regional Stability

1 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Critical minerals, the foundation of strategic power

Critical minerals have moved from the margins of resource policy to the centre of industrial strategy and security. Lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, copper and rare earth elements are foundational to electric vehicles, storage, renewable power, semiconductors, defence and advanced manufacturing...

Geopolitical risk as a factor

Clean energy transitions will require minerals far beyond today's production systems. The current copper project pipeline points to a potential 30% supply shortfall by 2035... nonoxides.

Structural constraints

Several constraints slow progress. Exploration remains shallow, regulatory clearances can be time-consuming, private participation is limited and remote-region project economics are challenging. Processing is a larger bottleneck...



Vinayak Vipul
Partner, Business Consulting,
EY-Parthenon India

“Critical mineral security will define India's industrial and strategic trajectory

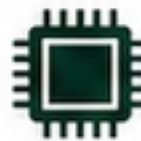
2 WHY CRITICAL MINERALS MATTER



Power clean energy & electric vehicles



Enable energy storage & renewable power



Essential for semiconductors & electronics



Strengthen defence systems & aerospace



Support advanced manufacturing

TOP 5 CRITICAL MINERALS FOR INDIA



Lithium



Cobalt



Copper



Nickel



Rare Earth Elements

Relevance: GS III – Economy, Energy, Technology Security • GS II – International Relations

3 INDIA'S RESOURCE BASE (Domestic Potential)

- Cobalt: 44.9 million tonnes
- Copper: 163.9 million tonnes
- Graphite: 211.6 million tonnes
- Nickel: 189 million tonnes
- Monazite deposits contain rare earth oxides



Recycling can eventually meet ~25% of copper & graphite demand by mid-century.

Relevance: GS I – Geography • GS III – Mining & Minerals

4 GLOBAL SUPPLY & GEOPOLITICAL RISKS



Mineral supply is increasingly concentrated in a few countries.

- Indonesia leads in nickel.
- China leads in cobalt, graphite & rare earths (~70% avg. market share in 20 strategic minerals).
- Top 3 refining countries' market share rose to 86% in 2024 (from 82% in 2020).



Copper supply shortfall potential 30% by 2035



Rare earth demand rising sharply with wind power, electronics & magnets

Relevance: GS II – International Relations
GS III – Economy, Trade & Strategic Autonomy

5 INDIA'S POLICY RESPONSE



सत्यमेव जयते

- Identified 30 critical minerals.
- Strengthened regulatory frameworks.
- Launched National Critical Mineral Mission.
- Target: 1,200 domestic exploration projects by 2030-31.
- Goal: Produce ≥ 15 critical minerals & acquire 50 overseas mining assets.
- Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) has secured 15,703 hectares in Argentina's Catamarca (Lithium).

Relevance: GS III – Mineral Policy, Governance
GS II – International Cooperation

6 DEPENDENCE & CHALLENGES

- India remains import dependent for lithium, cobalt & nickel.
- China-dominated processing creates disruption risk.
- Critical gap is in processing & refining.
- Limited high-purity input facilities.
- Bulk mineral experience exists, but high-purity critical mineral production is limited.



Processing & Refining



High-purity Material

Relevance: GS III – Industry, Infrastructure, Technology

7 PATHWAY TO SELF-RELIANCE



Operationalise strategic stockpiles for critical minerals.



Accelerate applied research & development.



Build industry partnerships & global supply chain tie-ups.



Diversify overseas supply through trusted partners.



Invest in recycling, circular economy & secondary resources.



Relevance: GS III – Sustainable Development
GS II – Strategic Partnerships

8 PRACTICE MCQ

Q. With reference to critical minerals in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India has identified 30 critical minerals in its policy.
2. Copper project pipeline indicates a 30% supply shortfall by 2035.
3. China leads global refining of cobalt, graphite and rare earth elements.
4. Recycling can eventually meet up to half of copper demand by mid-century.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: B



9 MAINS DISCUSSION QUESTION

Q. “Control over critical minerals is emerging as a key determinant of economic power, technological leadership and strategic autonomy.”
Discuss the challenges India faces in securing critical minerals and suggest a comprehensive strategy.



Focus Areas: Resource Security • Economic Growth • Technology
Strategic Autonomy • International Cooperation • Sustainability

1 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Odisha seeks UNESCO tag for Puri Rath Yatra

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has sought the nomination of the Rath Yatra of Shree Jagannath, Puri, for inscription on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

"The Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath is not merely a religious festival but a timeless tradition that embodies India's rich cultural diversity. inclusivity, spirituality, craftsmanship, music, dance and community participation. Celebrated for centuries, it attracts millions of devotees and visitors from across the globe and stands as one of the most enduring symbols of India's living heritage," Mr. Majhi said in a letter addressed to Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Saturday.

The Chief Minister sought the intervention of Mr. Shekhawat to facilitate the examination of a proposal submitted by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration seeking the nomination of the Rath Yatra of Shree Jagannath, Puri, for inscription on UNESCO's heritage List.

BJD criticises move
The Biju Janata Dal, however, said the Chief Minister's letter is "nothing more than a publicity-oriented exercise" aimed at diverting attention from the Bharatiya Janata Party government's alleged failure to conduct the past three Rath Yatras flawlessly.

The Biju Janata Dal, however, said the Chief Minister's letter is "nothing more than a publicity-oriented exercise" aimed at diverting attention from the Bharatiya Janata Party government's alleged failure to conduct the past three Rath Yatras flawlessly.

2 ABOUT PURI RATH YATRA



- Annual festival of Lord Jagannath, held in Puri, Odisha.
- Three deities – Jagannath, Balabhadra & Subhadra – taken to Gundicha Temple on grand chariots.
- Celebrated since ancient times; attracts millions of devotees worldwide.

- Embodies inclusivity, community participation, art, music, dance & craftsmanship.
- Key symbol of India's living heritage and syncretic tradition.

Relevance: GS I (Art & Culture) • GS II (Social Harmony)
GS V (Heritage Conservation)

3 UNESCO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (ICH)



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

- Protects living traditions, oral expressions, performing arts, rituals, knowledge systems.
- Strengthens cultural diversity & mutual respect.
- India has 15 elements inscribed on ICH list.
- Inscription enhances global recognition, safeguarding & tourism.

Relevance: International Organisations • Soft Power
Cultural Diplomacy • Sustainable Development

4 KEY BENEFITS OF UNESCO TAG



GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Enhances visibility & prestige of India's cultural heritage.



HERITAGE SAFEGUARDING

Promotes documentation, preservation & transmission to future generations.



TOURISM & ECONOMY

Boosts cultural tourism, local livelihoods & infrastructure development.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Encourages participatory conservation & pride among local communities.

Relevance: GS II (Governance) • GS III (Economy)
Inclusive Growth • Cultural Sustainability

5 ODISHA GOVERNMENT'S MOVE



- CM Mohan Charan Majhi wrote to Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- Requested intervention to examine Shree Jagannath Temple Administration's proposal.
- Aim: Nomination of Puri Rath Yatra for inscription on UNESCO's ICH list.
- Aligns with preserving Odisha's cultural legacy & global outreach.

Relevance: Cooperative Federalism • Centre-State
Coordination • Cultural Policy

6 POLITICAL RESPONSE



- BJD termed the move as "publicity-oriented".
- Accused government of failing to conduct last three Rath Yatras flawlessly.
- Highlights political contest over cultural credit & governance performance.

Relevance: Indian Polity • Democratic Accountability
Public Perception • Political Communication

7 STATIC LINKAGES



Constitution: Art. 49 – Protection of monuments & places of national importance.



Cultural Policy: Safeguarding intangible heritage is part of India's cultural policy.



Odisha: Known for rich temple architecture & living traditions – Konark, Chilika, Pattachitra.



Sustainable Development Goal 11.4:
Protect the world's cultural & natural heritage.

Relevance: Polity • Culture • Geography • SDGs

8 PRACTICE MCQ

Q. Consider the following statements about UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH):

1. It includes living traditions, performing arts, rituals, and knowledge systems.
2. India has more than 15 elements inscribed on the ICH list.
3. Inscription on the ICH list provides financial grants to the nominating country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C



9 MAINS DISCUSSION QUESTION

Q. "Cultural heritage is not just about the past; it is a living resource for social cohesion, economic growth and global identity." Discuss with reference to the Puri Rath Yatra.



Focus Areas: Culture & Heritage • Social Harmony • Economy
Governance • Tourism • Global Identity

1 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

AI and cyber, the double helix of today's security threats

The rapid proliferation of digital technologies, while offering immense potential, has also created a complex web of security challenges. The intersection of AI and cyber threats is creating a double helix of security threats that is reshaping the global security landscape.



M.K. Narayanan
Former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Advisor, and a former Governor of West Bengal

While AI has changed from being merely an operational efficiency multiplier to an autonomous decision-maker, the rise of AI-powered cyber threats is creating a double helix of security threats. The intersection of AI and cyber threats is creating a double helix of security threats that is reshaping the global security landscape.

Narayanan notes that the rise of AI-powered cyber threats is creating a double helix of security threats. The intersection of AI and cyber threats is creating a double helix of security threats that is reshaping the global security landscape.

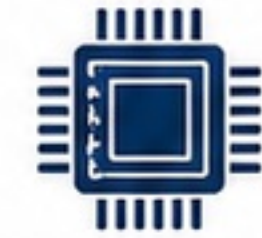
A new disruptive era
AI, as a disruptive force, is transforming every consequential technology. The rise of AI-powered cyber threats is creating a double helix of security threats. The intersection of AI and cyber threats is creating a double helix of security threats that is reshaping the global security landscape.

AI enhances data analysis, pattern recognition & decision-making. It enables precision in surveillance, missile targeting & intelligence. Improves cyber defence: threat detection, anomaly detection, automated response.

AI-driven attacks: deepfakes, phishing, malware, disinformation. Target critical infrastructure, financial systems, data & privacy. Asymmetric impact: small actors can cause large-scale damage.

'Zero Trust' protocols becoming essential. Cyber attacks challenge sovereignty without crossing borders. Need for global norms on state responsibility in cyberspace.

2 AI AS A FORCE MULTIPLIER



- AI enhances data analysis, pattern recognition & decision-making.
- Enables precision in surveillance, missile targeting & intelligence.
- Improves cyber defence: threat detection, anomaly detection, automated response.
- Dual-use nature: same tools can be used for offensive cyber attacks.
- Nations with strong AI capabilities will shape future power balances.
- Key enabler of military, economic & strategic advantage.

Relevance: GS III – Security, Technology, Economic Power

3 CYBER THREATS EVOLVING

- AI-driven attacks: deepfakes, phishing, malware, disinformation.
- Target critical infrastructure, financial systems, data & privacy.
- Asymmetric impact: small actors can cause large-scale damage.
- 'Zero Trust' protocols becoming essential.
- Cyber attacks challenge sovereignty without crossing borders.
- Need for global norms on state responsibility in cyberspace.



Linkage: Internal Security, Digital Infrastructure, Data Protection

4 AI & LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS



- LLMs like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini are transforming information landscape.
- Risks: misinformation, hallucinations, manipulation, bias.
- Used for propaganda, social engineering & opinion manipulation.
- Need for transparency, accountability & ethical guardrails.
- Regulation must balance innovation with risk mitigation.
- Human oversight must remain central to all AI systems.

Relevance: Ethics in AI, Media Manipulation, Information Security

5 GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION



- U.S. & China in intense AI race; strategic rivalry across military, tech & economic domains.
- AI seen as cornerstone of future dominance.
- Control over chips, data, talent & algorithms is key.
- Tech decoupling & export controls shaping global supply chains.
- Countries like India must build strategic autonomy in AI & critical tech.

Linkage: International Relations, Strategic Autonomy, Technology Sovereignty

6 THE ROAD AHEAD

- Develop robust AI governance frameworks.
- Invest in R&D, skilled talent & cyber infrastructure.
- Promote responsible AI & ethical innovation.
- Strengthen international cooperation on cyber norms.
- Ensure AI platforms do not manipulate public opinion.
- Human-centric approach for secure & inclusive future.

Way Forward: Trust, Transparency, Accountability, & Global Cooperation



7 KEY CONCEPT MAP



8 PRACTICE MCQ

Q. Which of the following statements about AI and cyber security are correct?

- AI can be used to both enhance cyber attacks and strengthen cyber defence.
- 'Zero Trust' protocols assume that systems inside an organisation are inherently trusted.
- Deepfakes and disinformation are emerging challenges in the information ecosystem.
- Large Language Models always provide unbiased and factual information.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: A



9 MAINS DISCUSSION QUESTION

Q. "AI and cyber technologies are a double-edged sword that can either empower nations or endanger humanity." Critically examine.



Focus Areas: Technology Governance • Ethics • Security
Global Cooperation • Human-Centric Approach

1 You get better care when you stop nodding and start asking why



- Patients must be active partners in their care.
- Asking questions improves diagnosis & outcomes.
- Shared decisions reduce medical errors.
- Builds trust, dignity & patient satisfaction.
- Empowers people to understand options.
- Strengthens accountability in healthcare.
- Linked to Right to Health under Article 21.

Health Literacy • Patient Rights • Article 21

2 AI and cyber, the double helix of today's security threats (Editorial)



- AI enhances cyber attacks in scale & sophistication.
- Deepfakes, phishing, malware becoming AI-driven.
- Critical infrastructure, data & privacy at risk.
- Need AI for defence, threat detection & response.
- Strong laws, audits and accountability essential.
- Invest in cyber capacity, talent & global cooperation.
- Balanced approach to innovation & security.

Cyber Security • AI Ethics • Data Protection

3 Proof of life (Editorial)



- Systems must ensure dignity of every individual.
- Documentation barriers deny essential services.
- Exclusion affects welfare, pensions, rations, rights.
- Simplify verification; use humane tech solutions.
- Protect privacy; prevent misuse of data.
- Inclusion is core to constitutional morality.
- Leave no one behind in governance.

Inclusive Governance • Dignity • Welfare Rights

QUICK NEWS

- ▶ **T.N. urges SC to instruct Karnataka to comply with order on Cauvery water**
Seeks enforcement of Supreme Court order on Cauvery water sharing.
- ▶ **Odisha seeks UNESCO tag for Puri Rath Yatra**
State government moves proposal to get global recognition for Rath Yatra.
- ▶ **Karnataka develops manual to establish child-centric village communities in State**
Focus on safe, inclusive and nurturing environments for children.
- ▶ **IAF chief begins Vietnam visit to boost defence ties**
Aims to enhance strategic cooperation and regional security.
- ▶ **Heat stress during pregnancy linked to adverse birth outcomes, says study**
Research highlights health risks to mother and baby due to extreme heat.
- ▶ **Water-bombing aircraft helps Greece battle wildfires**
Special aircraft deployed to douse large forest fires.
- ▶ **FIFA foul**
Football's governing body fined for discriminatory chants issue.
- ▶ **India may extend tax breaks for contract manufacturing**
Move to promote electronics manufacturing and exports.
- ▶ **Sheikh Hasina's 'homecoming' media event can hurt ties with India: Dhaka**
Bangladesh warns of negative impact on bilateral relations.

PRELIM FACTS

- ▶ **Cauvery Tribunal Award: 2007**
SC verdict of Feb 2018 made it binding.
- ▶ **Puri Rath Yatra: UNESCO ICH**
List inscribed in 2018.
- ▶ **BSF Raising Day: 1 December 1965**
India's first line of defence on borders.
- ▶ **PoK: Area ~13,297 sq km**
Under Pakistan's illegal occupation.
- ▶ **Critical Minerals Act, 2023**
Ensures secure and sustainable supply.
- ▶ **FTAs signed by India: 13**
With 20+ countries/regions.
- ▶ **Right to Health: Article 21**
Part of Right to Life.
- ▶ **Commonwealth Games 2030**
To be held in Ahmedabad, India.
- ▶ **Lab-grown diamonds (HPHT/CVD)**
Low carbon footprint, eco-friendly.



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

- ▶ **Accountability** – Obligation to accept responsibility for actions and decisions.
- ▶ **Dignity** – The state of being worthy of respect.
- ▶ **Sophistication** – The quality of being complex and highly developed.
- ▶ **Calibrated** – Adjusted carefully to achieve the right balance.
- ▶ **Infiltration** – Secret entry of people into a place or area.

4 Glasgow passes baton to Ahmedabad in a glitzy affair (Sports)



- Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games conclude.
- Ahmedabad, India, to host 2030 edition.
- Symbolises India's rising global sporting stature.
- Boost to infrastructure, tourism & economy.
- Promotes fitness, youth engagement & unity.
- Commonwealth values: Humanity, Equality, Destiny.
- Build legacy through inclusivity & sustainability.

Sports Diplomacy • Youth • Ahmedabad 2030

5 Critical minerals, the foundation of strategic power (Editorial)



- Critical minerals drive clean energy & defence.
- Limited supply; high geopolitical concentration.
- Essential for EVs, batteries, semiconductors, AI.
- India must secure sources & diversify partnerships.
- Invest in exploration, recycling & technology.
- Strategic reserves and value-addition needed.
- Key to Atmanirbhar Bharat & strategic autonomy.

Resources Security • Clean Energy • Atmanirbhar Bharat

6 The problem with India's free trade agreement strategy (Data Point)



- Few FTAs despite large trade footprint.
- Utilisation of existing FTAs remains low.
- Sensitive sectors face import surges.
- Rules of origin & standards create barriers.
- Need calibrated, balanced, interest-based FTAs.
- Focus on export diversification & competitiveness.
- Data-driven, state-inclusive FTA strategy needed.

Trade Policy • FTAs • Export Competitiveness

7 Why has PoK erupted in protests? (Explainer)



- Anger over high taxes, inflation & unemployment.
- Exploitation of resources; lack of local rights.
- Demographic changes & political disempowerment.
- Poor governance, corruption & rights violations.
- Youth-led movements demand justice & dignity.
- Reflects Pakistan's governance failure in PoK.
- Highlights need for people-centric approach.

Internal Unrest • Governance • Human Rights

8 Why has West Bengal cleared land for the BSF now? (Explainer)



- Land given for BSF camps, roads & infrastructure.
- Strengthen border management & surveillance.
- Check infiltration, smuggling & cross-border crimes.
- Response to changing security challenges.
- Improve coordination with local administration.
- Enhance response time and operational readiness.
- Balance security needs with local sensitivities.

Border Security • Infiltration • National Security

9 Why lab-grown diamonds are a sustainable alternative to mined stones (Cache)



- Lab-grown diamonds are chemically identical.
- Zero mining; lower land and water impact.
- Lower carbon footprint and energy efficient.
- No displacement, fairer and ethical sourcing.
- Cost-effective; increasing consumer acceptance.
- Supports sustainability and circular economy.
- Future of responsible luxury and innovation.

Sustainability • Green Tech • Ethical Consumption

1 आप बेहतर देखभाल तब पाते हैं जब सिर हिलाना बंद करें और 'क्यों' पूछना शुरू करें



- रोगियों को सक्रिय भागीदार बनना चाहिए।
- प्रश्न पूछने से निदान बेहतर होता है।
- साझा निर्णय से चिकित्सा त्रुटियाँ कम होती हैं।
- विश्वास, गरिमा और संतुष्टि बढ़ती है।
- लोगों को विकल्प समझने में सक्षम बनाता है।
- स्वास्थ्य सेवा में जवाबदेही मजबूत होती है।
- अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत स्वास्थ्य का अधिकार जुड़ा।

स्वास्थ्य साक्षरता • रोगी अधिकार • अनुच्छेद 21

2 AI और साइबर, आज के सुरक्षा खतरों की डबल हेलिक्स (संपादकीय)



- AI साइबर हमलों को बड़े पैमाने पर और परिष्कृत कर रहा है।
- डीपफेक, फिशिंग और मैलवेयर AI-संचालित हो रहे हैं।
- महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना, डेटा और गोपनीयता खतरे में।
- रक्षा, श्रेष्ठ डिटेक्शन और प्रतिक्रिया में AI की आवश्यकता।
- कानून, ऑडिट और जवाबदेही ढांचे को मजबूत करें।
- साइबर क्षमता, प्रतिभा और वैश्विक सहयोग में निवेश करें।
- नवाचार और सुरक्षा के बीच संतुलित दृष्टिकोण अपनाएँ।

साइबर सुरक्षा • AI नैतिकता • डेटा संरक्षण

3 जीवन का प्रमाण (संपादकीय)



- हर व्यक्ति की गरिमा प्रणाली की प्राथमिकता हो।
- दस्तावेजी बाधाएँ आवश्यक सेवाओं से वंचित करती हैं।
- बहिष्करण का असर कल्याण, पेंशन, राशन, अधिकारों पर।
- सत्यापन प्रक्रियाएँ सरल और मानवीय हों।
- निजता की रक्षा करें; डेटा के दुरुपयोग को रोकें।
- समावेशन संवैधानिक नैतिकता का केंद्र है।
- किसी को भी शासन से पीछे न छोड़ें।

समावेशी शासन • गरिमा • कल्याणकारी अधिकार

4 ग्लासगो ने अहमदाबाद को सौंपा बैटन, भव्य समापन (खेल)



- ग्लासगो 2026 कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स का समापन।
- अहमदाबाद, भारत 2030 संस्करण की मेजबानी करेगा।
- यह समारोह भारत की वैश्विक खेल छवि को दर्शाता है।
- अवसंरचना, पर्यटन और अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा।
- फिटनेस, युवा सहभागिता और एकता को प्रोत्साहन।
- कॉमनवेल्थ मूल्यों-मानवता, समानता, भाग्य, नियति।
- समावेशिता और स्थिरता की विरासत का निर्माण।

खेल कूटनीति • युवा • अहमदाबाद 2030

5 महत्वपूर्ण खनिज, सामरिक शक्ति की आधारशिला (संपादकीय)



- महत्वपूर्ण खनिज स्वच्छ ऊर्जा और रक्षा के लिए अनिवार्य।
- आपूर्ति सीमित; भू-राजनीतिक एकाग्रता अधिक।
- EV बैटरी, सेमीकंडक्टर, AI और रक्षा में उपयोग।
- स्रोतों की सुरक्षित पहुंच और विविधता आवश्यक।
- अन्वेषण, पुनर्चक्रण और तकनीक में निवेश करें।
- रणनीतिक भंडार और मूल्य संवर्धन विकास जरूरी।
- अतन्त्रिभर भारत का प्रमुख स्तंभ।

संसाधन सुरक्षा • स्वच्छ ऊर्जा • अतन्त्रिभर भारत

6 भारत की मुक्त व्यापार समझौता रणनीति में क्या समस्या है? (डेटा पॉइंट)



- भारत के FTA कम, जबकि कई देशों के अधिक।
- मौजूदा FTAs का उपयोग भी सीमित है।
- संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों पर आयात दबाव बढ़ रहा है।
- मूल नियम और मानक बाधाएँ बनते हैं।
- निर्यात विविधीकरण और प्रतिस्पर्धा पर ध्यान कम।
- संतुलित, हित-आधारित FTA रणनीति की जरूरत।
- डेटा-आधारित, राज्य-समावेशी नीति अपनाएँ।

व्यापार नीति • FTA • निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धा

7 पीओके में विरोध प्रदर्शन क्यों भड़के? (एक्सप्लेनर)



- ऊंचे कर, महंगाई और बेरोजगारी से नाराज़गी।
- संसाधनों का दोहन, स्थानीय अधिकारों की कमी।
- जनसांख्यिक बदलाव और राजनीतिक हाशियाकरण।
- खराब शासन, प्रष्टाचार और अधिकारों का हनन।
- युवाओं के आंदोलन, न्याय और गरिमा की मांग।
- प्रदर्शन पाकिस्तान के शासन विफलता को उजागर करता है।
- लोगों-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता।

आंतरिक अशांति • शासन • मानवाधिकार

8 पश्चिम बंगाल ने अब BSF के लिए ज़मीन क्यों दी? (एक्सप्लेनर)



- BSF कैंप, सड़क और अवसंरचना के लिए भूमि दी गई।
- सीमा प्रबंधन और निगरानी को मजबूत करेगा।
- घुसपैठ, तस्करी और सीमा अपराधों पर रोक।
- बदलती सुरक्षा परिस्थितियों की प्रतिक्रिया।
- स्थानीय प्रशासन के साथ समन्वय बेहतर होगा।
- प्रतिक्रिया समय और परिचालन क्षमता में सुधार।
- सुरक्षा जरूरतों और स्थानीय संवेदनशीलता में संतुलन।

सीमा सुरक्षा • घुसपैठ • राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा

9 लैब-ग्रोन डायमंड, खनन से बने हीरों का टिकाऊ विकल्प (केंश)



- लैब-ग्रोन और प्राकृतिक हीरे रासायनिक रूप से समान।
- खनन शुन्य; भूमि और जल पर कम प्रभाव।
- कार्बन फुटप्रिंट कम और ऊर्जा दक्षता अधिक।
- विस्थापन, श्रम शोषण और पर्यावरण क्षति नहीं।
- लागत-प्रभावी; उपभोक्ता के लिए बेहतर विकल्प।
- नैतिक, पारदर्शी और ट्रेसबिलिटी सुनिश्चित करता है।
- टिकाऊ विलासिता और नवाचार का भविष्य।

स्थिरता • ग्रीन टेक • नैतिक उपभोग

त्वरित समाचार

- ▶ त.न. ने कावेरी जल मामले पर कर्नाटक को सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश का पालन करने को कहा।
- ▶ ओडिशा ने पुरी रथ यात्रा को यूनेस्को टैग देने का प्रस्ताव भेजा।
- ▶ कर्नाटक ने राज्य में बाल-केंद्रित ग्राम समुदाय स्थापित करने के लिए मैनुअल तैयार किया।
- ▶ IAF प्रमुख ने रक्षा सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए वियतनाम का दौरा शुरू किया।
- ▶ गर्भावस्था में हीट स्ट्रेस से प्रतिकूल जन्म परिणाम जुड़े होने का अध्ययन में खुलासा।
- ▶ जल बम बरसाने वाले विमान से ग्रीस में वनान्नि से लड़ाई में मदद मिली।
- ▶ फीफा फाउल: फुटबॉल शासी निकाय पर भेदभाव के आरोप।
- ▶ इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स कॉन्ट्रैक्ट मैनुफैक्चरिंग के लिए भारत कर छूट बढ़ा सकता है।
- ▶ शेख हसीना की 'होमकमिंग' मीडिया इवेंट भारत से रिश्तों को नुकसान पहुंचा सकती है: ढाका।

प्रिलिम्स फैक्ट्स

- कावेरी नदी: उद्गम - पश्चिमी घाट (कुड्डुगु, कर्नाटक); बंगाल की खाड़ी में मिलती है।
- पुरी रथ यात्रा: जगन्नाथ मंदिर की वार्षिक यात्रा; UNESCO ICH सूची (2018) में शामिल।
- BSF स्थापना दिवस: 1 दिसंबर 1965; भारत की प्रथम रक्षा पंक्ति।
- पीओके क्षेत्रफल: लगभग 13,297 वर्ग किमी; पाक अधिकृत हिस्सा।
- महत्वपूर्ण खनिज: लिथियम, कोबाल्ट, निकल, तांबा भारत के लिए रणनीतिक।
- FTA भागीदार: भारत के 20+ देशों/क्षेत्रों के साथ समझौते हैं।
- अनुच्छेद 21: जीवन और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता का अधिकार - स्वास्थ्य इसका हिस्सा।
- कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स 2030: की मेजबानी अहमदाबाद, भारत करेगा।
- लैब-ग्रोन डायमंड: HPHT/CVD तकनीक; पर्यावरण-अनुकूल विकल्प।

जानिए अपने शब्द

- ▶ जवाबदेही - जवाब देने और उत्तरदायी होने की स्थिति।
- ▶ बहिष्करण - किसी को लाभ या अवसर से बाहर रखना।
- ▶ परिष्कृत - अत्यधिक विकसित या उन्नत।
- ▶ संवेदनशील - जिसे चोट पहुंचाना आसान हो या जो जल्दी प्रभावित हो।
- ▶ सत्यापन - किसी तथ्य या जानकारी की पुष्टि करना।

Q1 “Globalization has strengthened cultural exchange while simultaneously threatening indigenous identities.” Critically analyse.

1 Introduction

- Globalization integrates economies, societies and cultures.
- Facilitates cultural exchange but also triggers cultural homogenization.



2 Strengthening Cultural Exchange

- Easy flow of ideas, art, music, cuisine and lifestyles.
- Promotes mutual understanding and tolerance.
- Example: Yoga, Ayurveda, Bollywood, Indian cuisine gaining global recognition.



3 Positive Impacts on Indian Society

- Exposure to global best practices and innovation.
- Enriches cultural diversity and creativity.
- Strengthens soft power and global image of India.



4 Threats to Indigenous Identities

- Dominance of global culture leads to cultural homogenization.
- Decline of local languages, traditions and art forms.
- Consumerism overshadows traditional values.



5 Vulnerable Sections

- Tribal, rural and minority communities face cultural erosion.
- Commodification of traditions and sacred practices.
- Loss of inter-generational knowledge systems.



6 Evidence & Examples

- Decline in folk arts, handloom, local crafts.
- Western festivals and lifestyle dominating urban spaces.
- English and global media overshadowing regional languages.



7 Way Forward

- Promote local languages, art and cultural education.
- Support traditional livelihoods and cultural industries.
- Balanced globalization with cultural self-confidence.



8 Conclusion

- Globalization should lead to cultural pluralism, not cultural dominance.
- Need for policy, community participation and cultural resilience.
- “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” with “Atmanirbhar Sanskriti”.



Q2 Evaluate the contribution of education, healthcare and skill development in achieving social empowerment.

1 Introduction

- Social empowerment enables individuals to access rights, resources and opportunities.
- Education, healthcare and skill development are key pillars.
- They build capability, dignity and participation.



2 Education: Foundation of Empowerment

- Improves knowledge, critical thinking and awareness.
- Promotes equality, social mobility and gender justice.
- Examples: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, NEP 2020.



3 Healthcare: Enabling Dignity and Productivity

- Good health enhances quality of life and economic participation.
- Reduces vulnerability and out-of-pocket expenditure.
- Examples: Ayushman Bharat, National Health Mission.



4 Skill Development: Gateway to Livelihoods

- Bridges gap between education and employment.
- Promotes entrepreneurship, innovation and productivity.
- Examples: PMKVY, NSDC, Skill India Mission.



5 Impact on Key Sections

- Empowers women, youth, SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities and persons with disabilities.
- Creates inclusive growth and reduces inequalities.



6 Interlinkages

- Education improves health awareness and income.
- Good health enhances learning and productivity.
- Skills convert capabilities into economic opportunities.



7 Challenges

- Quality gaps in education and healthcare.
- Unequal access in rural and marginalised areas.
- Skill mismatch and weak industry linkages.



8 Conclusion

- Triad of education, healthcare and skill development drives social empowerment.
- Leads to self-reliant, inclusive and resilient society.
- “Sashakt Nagrik, Sashakt Bharat.”

