



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 01/01/2025

1.KHORLOCHHU HYDROPOWER PROJECT:

RECENT: Tata Power has commenced construction on the Rs 6,900 crore Khorlochhu Hydropower Project in Bhutan, with commissioning expected by 2029.

It is the first-ever energy project to be developed through a joint venture (JV) partnership between India and Bhutan.

It will be constructed by Khorlochhu Hydro Power Limited (KHPL), a strategic partnership between Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) and India's Tata Power.

2.MARKHOR:

RECENT: The Markhor, a wild goat with spiral-shaped horns, was seen in a rare appearance in Noorkha village of Boniyar in Baramulla district of North Kashmir.

It is a large wild goat of the family Bovidae (order Artiodactyla).

It is a diurnal animal and is mainly active in the early morning and late afternoon.

The markhor is the national animal of Pakistan.

Conservation status:

IUCN: 'Near Threatened'

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

CITES: Appendix I.

3.KONDA REDDI TRIBE:

RECENT: Konda Reddi tribe continues to live in harmony with nature and their story offers a poignant reminder of the fragile balance between tradition and modernity.

Konda Reddis is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group inhabiting the banks of the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh.

Language: They speak Telugu with a unique accent.

4.DAE HOMI BHABHA CHAIR SCHEME:

RECENT: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology informed the Rajya Sabha about the DAE-Homi Bhabha Chair Scheme.

It is administered by the Department of Atomic Energy.

The tenure under DAE- Homi Bhabha Chair Scheme is for the period of one to five years at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

5.SAMARTH UDYOG BHARAT 4.0 INITIATIVE:

RECENT: The Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel provided information about the SAMARTH Udyog Bharat 4.0 initiative in the Rajya Sabha.

It is an initiative of the Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises, Government of India under its scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in Indian Capital Goods Sector.

SAMARTH Udyog encompasses manufacturers, vendors and customers as the main stakeholders.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 02/01/2025

1. LOKPAL DAY:

RECENT: The Lokpal of India has designated January 16 as “Lokpal Day”.

AIM: To promote awareness about the Lokpal’s role in enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.

It acts as an “Ombudsman” body, handling complaints of corruption and grievances.

2. PMAY-G HOUSING INITIATIVE:

RECENT: The Rural Development Ministry of India has set ambitious goals for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in 2024-25.

AIM: At providing affordable housing to the rural poor.

It was launched in 2016 and focuses on building pucca houses with basic amenities.

3. YEAR OF REFORMS:

RECENT: India’s Ministry of Defence has declared 2025 as the “Year of Reforms.”

AIM: To modernise the armed forces, focusing on joint operations, advanced technologies, and integrated military strategies.

4. OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING:

RECENT: The Optional Practical Training (OPT) programme has become a focal point of discussion among supporters of US President-elect Donald Trump’s ‘Make America Great Again’ (MAGA) initiative.

This programme serves as a critical pathway for international students seeking to secure an H-1B visa.

It allows students to gain work experience in their field of study, which enhances their employability in the competitive US job market.

5.TOBACCO BOARD:

RECENT: The Tobacco Board has undertaken several strategic activities to ensure the sustainability and growth of the tobacco industry.

It is a statutory body established on 1st January 1976 by an Act of Parliament “Tobacco Board Act, 1975 (Act 4 of 1975)”

The Board is headed by a Chairman and is responsible for the development of the tobacco industry.

Headquarters: Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

India is the 2nd largest producer of tobacco in the world after China.

India is the 4th largest producer of PCV tobacco in the world after China, Brazil and Zimbabwe.

India is the 2nd largest exporter of unmanufactured tobacco (quantity terms) after Brazil.

PRABHA IAS ACADEMY



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 03/01/2025

1.UDISE+ REPORT 2024:

RECENT: The Ministry of Education (MoE) has released the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report 2023-24. The UDISE+ system underwent revitalisation in 2022-23, which enabled the collection of data across more than 60 fields for each student.

2.NEW ANT SPECIES:

RECENT: A discovery in the Western Ghats has brought attention to the biodiversity of leaf litter ecosystems.

Scientists from Goa, Karnataka, and Dehradun identified a new ant species named *Tapinoma onaele* in Kodagu district, Karnataka.

The name 'Onaele' translates to 'dried leaves' in Kannada, signifying the crucial role of this habitat.

3.NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS:

RECENT: The union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2024.

National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.

4.RAMESH CHAND PANEL:

RECENT: The government announced the formation of an 18-member panel headed by NITI Aayog member.

It was established to revise the base year of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2011-12 to 2022-23.

5.INCINERATION:

RECENT: Residents of Pithampur have expressed strong objection to incineration of 377 Metric Tonnes of harmful Union Carbide waste brought from Bhopal.

Incineration is the process of burning hazardous materials at temperatures high enough to destroy contaminants.

Incineration is conducted in an “incinerator,” which is a type of furnace designed for burning hazardous materials in a combustion chamber.

PRABHA IAS ACADEMY



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 04/01/2025

1.MARS CHOPPER DRONE:

RECENT: NASA has introduced the Mars Chopper, a new drone designed to succeed the Ingenuity helicopter.

The Mars Chopper is approximately the size of an SUV.

It features six rotors, each with six blades, which are smaller than those of Ingenuity.

2.INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE POLICY:

RECENT: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has amended the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023.

AIM: To enhance stakeholder engagement in the formulation and amendment of trade policies.

The changes reflect the Government of India's commitment to improving the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) by ensuring that various stakeholders, including importers, exporters, and industry experts, can contribute their insights.

3.BAANKNET PORTAL:

RECENT: The government recently launched a revamped e-auction portal, 'Baanknet,' in Delhi.

It is an e-auction portal that consolidates information on all properties that are put up for e-auction by public sector banks (PSBs).

The portal is a one-stop destination for buyers and investors offering a wide range of properties.

4.LEADS 2024:

RECENT: The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry released the “Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2024” report in New Delhi.

It is the 6th edition of the LEADS report.

It was conceived on the lines of the Logistics Performance Index of World Bank in 2018 by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

It evaluates logistics performance across four key pillars: Logistics Infrastructure, Logistics Services, Operating and Regulatory Environment, and the newly introduced Sustainable Logistics.

5.BANDED ROYAL BUTTERFLY:

RECENT: Tripura recorded a milestone in biodiversity documentation with the first-ever recording of the Banded Royal butterfly (*Rachana jalindra indra*), a rare species, in the state in the Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary.

It is a species of lycaenid or blue butterfly found in parts of South and Southeast Asia.

Scientific Name: *Rachana jalindra*

It is legally protected under Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protected) Act, 1972.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 06/01/2025

1.F-T-P APPROACH:

RECENT: The biofuel sector is currently at an important point where sustainable development, energy security, and climate action converge.

The Feedstock-Technology-Product (F-T-P) approach provides a structured framework that integrates biofuels into various industries, particularly sugar.

This method aligns with India's National Policy on Biofuels 2018 and aims to make the sugar industry a driver of sustainable growth.

2.PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM:

RECENT: On January 5, 2025, President Joe Biden honoured 19 distinguished individuals during a ceremony at the White House.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honour in the United States.

The honourees included prominent figures such as Hillary Clinton, philanthropist George Soros, and posthumously awarded Robert F. Kennedy. Notable personalities like Lionel Messi, Jane Goodall, and Denzel Washington were also among the recipients.

3.NO DETENTION POLICY:

RECENT: In December 2024, the Union government amended the Rules of the Right to Education Act, 2009.

The no-detention policy was introduced to ensure that children could learn without the stress of being held back.

This change allows schools to detain students in Classes 5 and 8 if they fail to meet promotion criteria after year-end examinations.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) revealed that only 42.8% of Class 5 students could read a Class 2-level text in 2022.

4.CHARGE SHEET:

RECENT: The Supreme Court held that offences in the chargesheet cannot be based on bald assertions of connivance.

A chargesheet is a final report that is filed by the investigating officer or police officials after the completion of the investigation in a cognizable or non-cognizable case.

It is also known as the Police report or the Final report.

5.KM3NeT PROJECT:

RECENT: Scientists are deploying two telescopes which are part of the Cubic Kilometre Neutrino Telescope or KM3NeT to detect high-energy neutrinos, also known as ghost particles, under the Mediterranean Sea.

It is a research infrastructure housing the next generation neutrino telescopes with a volume of at least one cubic kilometre.

It uses Cherenkov radiation (light that neutrinos produce when they interact with a water or ice molecule) to study neutrinos.

As a European research infrastructure, it is located in the Mediterranean Sea and involves collaboration among multiple countries.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 07/01/2025

1. SHAHID MADHO SINGH HAATH KHARCHA:

RECENT: The Scheme was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the Adivasi Mela in Bhubaneswar.

AIM: To reduce the dropout rate among Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in Odisha.

The scheme provides a one-time incentive of ₹5,000 for ST students enrolling in Class IX and Class XI.

2. FOREST CONSERVATION ACT 2025:

RECENT: The passage of the Bill to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act marks change in India's approach to forest regulation.

This amendment comes after more than four decades since the original Act was enacted in 1980.

AIM: To align the Act with contemporary ecological, strategic, and economic needs.

3. INCOME INEQUALITY TRENDS 2023:

RECENT: Analysis reveals changes in income inequality in India, particularly following the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

A working paper from the People Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE) indicates that while there has been a slight recovery in income distribution, substantial wealth concentration persists among the highest earners.

The Gini index is important measure of income inequality within a population.

4.WORLD GOLD COUNCIL:

It is a nonprofit association of the world's leading gold producers.

A market development organization for the gold industry, the WGC includes 33 members and many members are gold mining companies.

It was formed in 1987 by some of the world's most forward-thinking mining companies to promote the use of and demand for gold through marketing, research, and lobbying.

Headquarters: London, UK.

5.DOZER PUSH MINING METHOD:

RECENT: The CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) has successfully conducted the first trial blast for the Dozer Push Mining Method, integrating advanced digital technologies, for the first time in India.

It is an unmanned, automated machinery to optimizes the mining process which ensures that vibration and flyrock are controlled within safe limits.

It is an innovative approach developed by CSIR-CIMFR which aims to enhance safety and operational efficiency in mining processes.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 08/01/2025

1.MAIYA SAMMAN YOJANA:

RECENT: In January 2025, Jharkhand's Chief Minister Hemant Soren initiated a substantial financial transfer under the Maiya Samman Yojana.

AIM: To empower women by providing direct cash transfers. The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), part of the INDIA bloc.

2.10 YEARS OF UJALA SCHEME:

RECENT: The UJALA scheme, launched on 5th January 2015, has transformed India's approach to energy efficiency.

This initiative, initially known as the Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme, aimed to make affordable LED lighting accessible to millions of households.

The UJALA scheme has contributed to reducing India's carbon footprint.

3.BRICS:

RECENT: Indonesia has officially become a full member of the BRICS group, as announced by Brazil's government.

BRICS is an acronym representing Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The group was informally established in 2006 and formalised in 2009.

4.e-SHARAM PORTAL:

RECENT: The union Minister of Labour & Employment launched the multilingual functionality on the e-Shram portal, during an event held in New Delhi.

It is a flagship initiative by the Government of India to support and empower the unorganized workforce.

It was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on 26th August 2021.

This portal is designed to create a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW).

5.NITROGEN USE EFFICIENCY:

RECENT: Researchers have demonstrated that reducing nitric oxide (NO) levels in plants can significantly improve nitrogen uptake and Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) in rice and Arabidopsis.

It is a term that is used to describe the efficiency of a plant in using applied or fixed nitrogen for biomass production.

It is further defined as the ratio between crop yield and the amount of nitrogen absorbed from the soil through roots or from the atmosphere through fixation by bacteria.

PRABHA IAS ACADEMY



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 09/01/2025

1.SOAPSTONE MINING CRISIS:

RECENT: The issue of unregulated soapstone mining in Uttarakhand's Bageshwar district has escalated into environmental and cultural crisis.

Soapstone is primarily composed of talc and is widely used in construction and various industries.

The Indian Bureau of Mines indicates that Rajasthan and Uttarakhand are major producers of soapstone.

The court has ordered investigations into the mining practices, denoting serious concerns regarding land subsidence and the integrity of traditional structures.

2.ANJI KHAD RAIL BRIDGE:

RECENT: The Anji Khad Rail Bridge, located in Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir, is India's first cable-stayed rail bridge.

It is part of the ambitious Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project.

AIM: To enhance connectivity in the region, which is crucial for both economic development and tourism.

3.SECTION 479 OF BNSS:

RECENT: The Central Government of India has taken steps to address the plight of undertrial prisoners the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a directive to all states and Union Territories (UTs) regarding the

implementation of Section 479 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS).

AIM: To provide relief to undertrial prisoners who have been detained for extended periods.

4.GRAVITATIONAL LENSING:

RECENT: Physicists studying a distant galaxy using a telescopic technique called "gravitational lensing" found 44 previously unknown astral bodies.

It is an effect on light from a background source that arises as a result of the curvature of spacetime, the three dimensions of space and time united into a single entity, caused by mass.

It causes the light to bend, distort, and magnify as it passes around the massive object.

5.PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS:

RECENT: The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is scheduled for January 8-10, 2025, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

It is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs.

It is held in different cities, to showcase the diversity and progress of different regions of India.

Since 2015, it has evolved into a biennale event, with theme-based conferences held in the intervening years.

The theme for this year is the "Diaspora's contribution to a Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 10/01/2025

1. QUANTUM COMPUTING:

RECENT: Quantum computing have positioned the technology at the forefront of scientific innovation.

As the United Nations has proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, the global race to develop full-scale quantum computers intensifies.

Quantum chips are the heart of quantum computing.

2. MODHWETH FESTIVAL:

RECENT: The Toda tribe, an ancient Dravidian ethnic group, resides in the Nilgiris Hills of Tamil Nadu.

It occurs annually, either on the last Sunday of December or the first Sunday of January.

Modhekuttan, a tribe member, brought into light the festival's purpose, stating that prayers to their deity, Shakti, are believed to fulfil wishes.

3. NEW ISRO CHAIRMAN:

RECENT: On January 7, 2025, the Government of India announced the appointment of V Narayanan as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary of the Department of Space.

He will officially take office on January 14, 2025, succeeding S Somanath.

4. IOM:

RECENT: The UN International Organization for Migration said it was more than doubling an appeal launched last month for Syria, from \$30 million to \$73.2 million.

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental partners.

IOM is part of the United Nations system as a related organization.

It is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

5.EBOLA:

RECENT: Researchers developed the first nanobody-based inhibitors targeting the Ebola virus.

It is a severe and often deadly disease caused by a group of viruses, known as orthoebolaviruses (formally ebolavirus).

Orthoebolaviruses were discovered in 1976 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and are found primarily in sub-Saharan Africa.

It gets its name from the Ebola River, which is near one of the villages in the Democratic Republic of Congo where the disease first appeared.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 11/01/2025

1.EMPOWHER BIZ:

RECENT: The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) of NITI Aayog launched a new initiative called EmpowHER Biz – Sapno Ki Udaan.

This programme is in partnership with New Shop, a leading 24/7 convenience retail chain in India.

AIM: To empower women entrepreneurs by providing them with essential skills and resources to thrive in the organised retail sector.

2.FUTURE OF JOBS REPORT 2025:

RECENT: The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 marks changes in the global labour market.

The report indicates that artificial intelligence (AI), big data, and security management specialists will dominate job growth over the next five years.

3.GRAVITATIONAL LENSING:

RECENT: Advancements in astrophysics have led to a groundbreaking discovery involving the identification of 44 previously unknown stars within a distant galaxy cluster.

Gravitational lensing is a phenomenon where a massive foreground galaxy cluster bends and magnifies the light from a more distant galaxy.

This effect allows astronomers to study objects that would otherwise be too faint or distant to observe. In this case, the galaxy cluster Abell 370 acted as a lens, stretching the light from the Dragon Arc into an elongated shape, akin to a "hall of mirrors.

4.FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE:

RECENT: Germany has experienced its first outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in nearly 40 years, affecting water buffalo near Berlin.

It is a severe, highly contagious viral disease of livestock that has a significant economic impact.

The disease affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and other cloven-hoofed ruminants.

It is a transboundary animal disease (TAD) that deeply affects the production of livestock and disrupts regional and international trade in animals and animal products.

5.NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL:

Under the component 'Promotion of National Integration' of the National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD), a NYF is organised during the month of January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (12 January), which is celebrated as National Youth Day.

It is organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in partnership with one of the States/UTs which hosts the NYF.

The Theme of NYF 2025 is Innovation in Science and Technology.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 13/01/2025

1.SPACE DOCKING:

RECENT: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to achieve milestone in space exploration.

Docking refers to the process of bringing two spacecraft together in orbit.

Over the next few days, ISRO will attempt to dock two small satellites in orbit, marking India's first foray into this complex operation.

If successful, India will join the ranks of the United States, Russia, and China, becoming the fourth nation to possess docking capabilities.

2.PINK FIRE RETARDANT:

RECENT: Wildfires in Southern California have brought into light the use of pink fire retardant as authorities deploy aerial resources to combat the flames.

Pink fire retardant is a chemical mixture used to extinguish or slow down wildfires.

The United States Forest Service has mobilised nine large planes and 20 helicopters to disperse this chemical mixture, aiming to protect lives and property.

3.LA NINA:

RECENT: La Nina conditions have re-emerged in the Pacific Ocean, as reported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on January 9, 2025.

It is a climate pattern that represents the cool phase of ENSO.

This phenomenon is part of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which influences global weather patterns.

4.NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION:

RECENT: The union Commerce and Industry Minister released the eighth edition of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

It was launched during 2001 and laid the foundation for systematic development of the organic agriculture sector in the country.

It is a key government programme that strengthens India's organic certification system, promoting sustainable farming practices and opening new opportunities for farmers and exporters.

5.NEDUNTHEEVU ISLAND:

RECENT: As many as 17 Indian fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy while fishing near the Neduntheevu island.

The Neduntheevu, sometimes known as Neduntivu, is the largest island falling in the Palk Strait in the northern parts of Sri Lanka.

This is known as Delft Island also, as it was so called by the Dutch colonials.

The island's area is 50 sq.km. Its length is 8 km, and its maximum width is about 6 km.

It happens to be the biggest of the seven inhabitable islands in the region.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 14/01/2025

1.GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD:

RECENT: Sightings of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) in Rajasthan have provided boost to conservation efforts for this critically endangered species. Twelve GIBs were spotted together in the Desert National Park (DNP), showcasing the success of protective measures implemented in their habitat.

These birds, known locally as “Godawan” and “Maldhok,” are vital to the ecosystem and cultural heritage of northern and western India.

2.COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE:

RECENT: India is set to host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in January 2026.

The conference will centre on the role of artificial intelligence and social media in parliamentary processes.

3.BHARAT CLEANTECH MANUFACTURING PLATFORM:

RECENT: The Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform was launched by Union Minister Piyush Goyal at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi.

To enhance India’s cleantech value chains, focusing on solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors.

4.AMRIT BHARAT TRAINS 2.0:

RECENT: The Railway Minister announced that the Railway Ministry has introduced 12 significant improvements to the Amrit Bharat Version 2.0 trains.

Objective: The new trains are designed to cater to low and middle-income families, offering a comfortable experience.

Under this initiative 50 upgraded trains will be manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) over the next 2 years.

5.SMALL LANGUAGE MODULES:

RECENT: Big Tech firms that announced large language AI models also released Small Language Models subsequently.

SLMs represent a specialized subset within the broader domain of artificial intelligence, specifically tailored for Natural Language Processing (NLP).

SLMs are AI models designed to process and generate human language.

They're called "small" because they have a relatively small number of parameters compared to large language models (LLMs) like GPT-3.

PRABHA IAS ACADEMY



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 15/01/2025

1. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION:

RECENT: The Government of India has reconstituted the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), incorporating new members to enhance its oversight and policy formulation capabilities.

The AEC is crucial for developing policies that guide the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), which plays a very important role in India's nuclear energy landscape.

2. MAHAKUMBH EXPERIENCE:

RECENT: The Mahakumbh festival in Prayagraj, scheduled from 13 January to 26 February 2025, marks spiritual gathering.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has introduced the Bhashini platform to enhance communication for millions of attendees.

This initiative offers real-time translation and voice-enabled assistance in 11 languages, ensuring that all visitors can engage meaningfully.

3. NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD:

RECENT: The National Turmeric Board was inaugurated on 14 January 2025 in New Delhi by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal.

AIM: To enhance the welfare of turmeric farmers, develop superior varieties, and boost exports. The headquarters is located in Nizamabad, region for turmeric cultivation.

4.BHARGAVASTRA:

RECENT: India has successfully tested the Bhargavastra, its first micro-missile system designed to counter swarm drones.

It is India's first indigenous micro-missile system designed to take on the threat of swarm drones.

It was developed by the Economic Explosives Ltd.

It can quickly deploy on a mobile platform and hit targets over 2.5 km.

5.FALCATED DUCK:

RECENT: Birders at the Sultanpur National Park in Gurugram, Haryana experienced this delight as they spotted a Falcated Duck.

It is also known as falcated teal (*Mareca falcata*) is a gadwall-sized dabbling Duck.

Distribution: It is from eastern Siberia and Mongolia to northern Japan with wintering grounds in southeast Asia to eastern India. There have also been sightings of falcated teals in America, Poland and Thailand.

Habitat: They are normally found in freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers and marshes that are surrounded by forest.

The breeding season of this species is from May to early July. They make their nests on the ground near water, usually in tall grass or brush.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 16/01/2025

1. PARBATI KALISINDH CHAMBAL EASTERN RAJASTHAN CANAL PROJECT:

RECENT: It is initiative aimed at enhancing irrigation in Rajasthan.

This project will impact 23 districts and is crucial for providing water for irrigation, drinking, and industrial use.

The project includes a 39-metre-high dam across the Banas river, located near Doongri, about 30 km from Sawai Madhopur.

2. CLOUDED LEOPARD:

RECENT: Its population is declining rapidly due to habitat destruction, hunting, and climate change.

It's range includes the Himalayas in Nepal, Bhutan, and India, extending to South China and Peninsular Malaysia.

IUCN: Vulnerable

3. BHASHINI PLATFORM:

RECENT: The Mahakumbh festival in Prayagraj, scheduled from 13 January to 26 February 2025, marks spiritual gathering.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has introduced the Bhashini platform to enhance communication for millions of attendees.

Bhashini provides multilingual support, allowing visitors to communicate in their native languages.

4.MUD VOLCANO:

RECENT: A mud volcano eruption in the Caspian Sea created a temporary 'ghost island' in early 2023, only for it to erode away by the end of 2024.

It is a small volcano-shaped cone of mud and clay, of height usually less than a few meters and often a few decimeters.

The craters are usually shallow and may intermittently erupt mud.

These eruptions continuously rebuild the cones, which are eroded relatively easily.

5.ELECTROKINETIC MINING:

RECENT: A research team developed electrokinetic mining (EKM), an eco-friendly method for extracting rare earth elements.

It is a novel technique which uses Electrokinetic i.e the application of a direct or alternating electric field to accelerate the migration of movable species, such as metals, water, and particles.

PRABHA IAS ACADEMY



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 17/01/2025

1.KOKBOROK LANGUAGE:

RECENT: The Tripura Student Federation (TSF) protested in Agartala, Tripura, demanding the adoption of the Roman script for the Kokborok language.

Kokborok is a Sino-Tibetan language.

It is spoken by the Borok people of Tripura.

Officially recognised in 1979, it has historical roots dating back to the 1st century AD.

The name Kokborok combines “Kok” (verbal) and “Borok” (people).

According to the 2011 Census, approximately 880,537 people speak Kokborok, accounting for nearly 24% of Tripura’s population.

2.WORLD EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL OUTLOOK REPORT 2025:

RECENT: The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has released its World Employment and Social Outlook Report for 2025, denoting the ongoing struggles in global labour markets.

The report reveals that geopolitical tensions, climate change costs, and unresolved debt issues continue to hinder economic recovery.

The global jobs gap reached 402 million in 2024. This includes 186 million unemployed, 137 million temporarily unavailable, and 79 million discouraged workers.

3.VRR AUCTIONS:

RECENT: In move to manage liquidity, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced daily variable rate repo (VRR) auctions.

The variable repo rate is a lending rate set by the RBI that adjusts based on economic conditions.

A higher repo rate increases borrowing costs, while a lower rate reduces them.

AIM: To alleviate the tight liquidity conditions, particularly with upcoming goods and services tax (GST) outflows.

4.HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE:

RECENT: New Research uncovers delayed effects of genetic mutation in Huntington's Disease development.

It is a genetic condition that affects the cells in your brain.

It is an inherited condition that causes brain cells to slowly lose function and die.

If one of your parents has HD, you have a 50% chance of also developing it.

It affects the cells in parts of your brain that regulate voluntary movement and memory.

5.SIACHEN GLACIER:

RECENT: The Siachen Glacier was equipped with 4G and 5G service by a private telecom firm of India.

It is a piedmont glacier located in the Karakoram Range.

It lies in the heavily glaciated Himalayan region known as the "Third Pole," because mountain glaciers in this region contain more freshwater than is found anywhere else on Earth except for the polar ice caps.

It lies between the Salto Ridge, a subrange of the Karakorams, to the west and the main Karakoram Range to the east.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 18/01/2025

1.RINL REVIVAL PACKAGE:

RECENT: The Government of India announced revival package for Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), a state-owned steel manufacturer facing severe financial difficulties.

AIM: To restore the company's operations and safeguard thousands of jobs amid political pressure and economic challenges.

RINL, also known as Vizag Steel, is located in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It has a production capacity of 7.3 million tonnes per annum.

2.SNOW LEOPARD:

RECENT: Studies reveal that the Sanjiangyuan area in China's Qinghai province is a critical habitat for snow leopards, hosting approximately 1,000 individuals.

The snow leopard primarily inhabits the mountains of Central and South Asia. It thrives at elevations ranging from 1,800 to 5,500 metres.

The species is adapted to alpine, subalpine, and semi-arid ecosystems.

IUCN: Endangered.

3.SWACHH SURVEKSHAN TOOLKIT:

RECENT: The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, revealed a new toolkit for the ninth edition of Swachh Survekshan, the largest urban cleanliness survey globally.

It aims to enhance urban sanitation through public participation.

The survey evaluates cities based on cleanliness and sanitation metrics.

4.BHARATHAPUZHA RIVER:

RECENT: A family of four drowned in the Bharathapuzha.

It is Kerala's second longest river after the Periyar River.

It flows for a length of 209 km.

It is considered the Nile of Kerala and is also known as Nila, Kuttipuram Puzha, and Ponnaniyar.

5.INFORMATION RATIO:

RECENT: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently directed mutual funds to disclose the information ratio (IR) of a scheme along with performance disclosure.

It's a metric for measuring how a portfolio or financial asset fares in regards to a benchmark, compared to the volatility of its returns.

This benchmark is usually a market index, like Nifty 50. It can also be an index representing any specific industry or market sector.

The IR depicts how well a portfolio or asset is matching and exceeding an index's returns.

PRABHA IAS ACADEMY



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 20/01/2025

1.CHINCHOLI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:

It is located in the Kalburgi District of North Karnataka.

It was declared a sanctuary in 2011 and extends over 134.88 sq.km.

It is the first dry land wildlife sanctuary in South India.

It is also called the Ooty of Telangana.

2.SCOT MISSION:

RECENT: The Prime Minister lauded the Indian space startup Digantara at the success of Mission SCOT.

SCOT (Space Camera for Object Tracking) is Digantara's (an Indian space startup) inaugural mission dedicated to space surveillance.

It is one of the world's first commercial Space Situational Awareness (SSA) satellites.

It was launched aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission.

SCOT is built to track Resident Space Objects (RSOs).

3.EXERCISE LA PEROUSE:

RECENT: The indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai is participating in the Exercise LA PEROUSE.

It is the fourth edition of the multinational exercise.

Participating organizations: This edition will witness participation of personnel/ surface and sub-surface assets from various maritime partners including Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Royal Navy, United States

Navy, Indonesian Navy, Royal Malaysian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy and Royal Canadian Navy.

4. PLANET PARADE:

RECENT: Four planets in our solar system namely Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars have formed a breathtaking arc across the night sky and created a rare phenomenon known as 'planet parade'.

It refers to a situation when several planets in our solar system are visible in the night sky, at the same time.

This planetary meet-up, also known as a conjunction, makes the two planets appear close together or even touch in the Earth's night sky.

This phenomenon is more an illusion of perspective rather than the planets being in a perfect line in space.

5. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM:

RECENT: The World Economic Forum (WEF) is holding its Annual Meeting from January 20 to 24 in Davos, Switzerland.

It was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit foundation by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab. It was originally known as the European Management Forum.

It introduced the concept of stakeholder capitalism.

It engages organizations and leaders through dialogue, debate and commitments for action in the service of building more future-ready, resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 21/01/2025

1. BRICS:

RECENT: Nigeria was officially admitted as a partner country of the BRICS group, which includes Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa.

BRICS was formed in 2009 to represent emerging economies.

The group focuses on economic cooperation, political dialogue, and reforming global governance.

2. BISON:

RECENT: The population of Bison, or Gaur, in Jharkhand has faced decline.

The Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) remains the last bastion for this species in the state.

Indian Bison or Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) is found in South and Southeast Asia.

Conservation Status.

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

CITES: Appendix I.

3. CONTRACT FARMING:

RECENT: India has emerged as a major exporter of French Fries, which owes much contract farming through which companies procuring potato directly from growers and deepening farmer engagement.

It is an agreement between farmers (producers) and buyers in which both agree in advance on the terms and conditions for the production and marketing of farm products.

These conditions usually specify the price to be paid to the farmer, the quantity and quality of the product demanded by the buyer, and the date for delivery to buyers.

4.SURGICAL TELE-ROBOTIC SYSTEM:

RECENT: India's first indigenous surgical tele-robotic system, SSI Mantra successfully conducted two complex heart surgeries with a patient in Jaipur and the operating surgeon in Gurgaon.

SSI Mantra is a robotic system developed by medical technology company, SSI Ltd which is the first-of-its-kind system in India.

It has been approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) in India under Class B and Class C surgical devices.

These approvals affirm the safety, efficacy, and regulatory compliance of the system for use in hospitals across India.

It facilitates complex surgery such as Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass (TECAB).

5.INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR:

RECENT: Former US President Joe Biden highlighted the potential realization of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) following the Israel-Hamas ceasefire.

It is a connectivity project that seeks to develop a seamless infrastructure of ports, railways, roads, sea lines, and pipelines to enhance trade among India, the Arabian Peninsula, the Mediterranean region, and Europe.

It was announced in 2023 on the sidelines of the G20 meeting in New Delhi when a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the European Union and seven countries, namely India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, and Italy.

The IMEC will comprise two separate corridors, the eastern corridor connecting India to the Arabian Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.

PRABHA IAS ACADEMY



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 22/01/2025

1. PANGSAU PASS FESTIVAL 2025:

RECENT: The Pangsau Pass International Festival (PIF) 2025, held in Arunachal Pradesh, celebrates the region's cultural heritage and its historical significance during World War II.

Pangsau Pass (Pan Saung Pass) is located on the India-Myanmar border at an altitude of 3,727 feet (1,136 meters).

It lies on the crest of the Patkai Hills and is part of the famous Ledo Road (Stilwell Road).

It is named after the Myanmar village Pangsau, located 2 km east of the pass.

2. CHILIKA LAKE BIRD CENSUS 2025:

RECENT: The annual bird census at Chilika Lake revealed a decline in the number of visiting birds compared to previous years.

Chilika Lake is Asia's largest brackish water lagoon.

It spans 1,165 square kilometres.

The lake serves as important wintering ground for migratory birds.

The census recorded 1,127,228 birds of 196 species.

This included 1,087,226 migratory birds from 109 species and 40,002 resident birds from 87 species.

3. KaWaCHAM:

RECENT: The Kerala Warnings, Crisis and Hazard Management System (KaWaCHaM) is set to be launched by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

AIM: To enhance disaster preparedness and response in Kerala, utilising advanced technology for timely alerts regarding extreme weather events.

KaWaCHaM is developed by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) with support from the National Disaster Management Authority and the World Bank.

4.ANTIVENOM:

RECENT: A terrible number, estimated 58000 snakebite cases, renders India the 'snakebite capital' of the world and in this regard antivenoms play a crucial role.

Antivenoms, or antivenins, are life-saving medicines used to treat snake bites.

Antivenoms are the frontline defence. They work by specifically binding to the venom toxins to render them ineffective, allowing the body's natural defence systems to clear them safely over time.

5.VAIGAI DAM:

RECENT: Madras high court directed the local bodies to file an action plan with a timeline to prevent pollution in the Vaigai river.

It is a river in Tamil Nadu.

Origin: It originates from the Varusanadu and Megamalai hills of the Western Ghats.

It travels through the Pandya Nadu region of Tamil Nadu generally in the south-east direction and rarely causes floods.

It drains into the Palk Strait near the Pamban Bridge in Ramanathapuram district.

Length: It is 258 kilometres long.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 24/01/2025

1.VISHWAMITRI RIVER:

RECENT: The Vishwamitri River in Vadodara, is undergoing flood mitigation project due to severe flooding in previous years.

The Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) has initiated a three-phase plan to desilt, dredge and modify the river channel, which includes crucial measures for relocating nearly 300 crocodiles residing in the area.

2.EURODRONE PROGRAM:

RECENT: India has joined the Eurodrone program as an observer nation. This inclusion marks India as the second Asia-Pacific country to gain such status, following Japan.

A Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) designed for long-endurance missions like intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, maritime surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, and early warning.

The Eurodrone programme is a 4-nation initiative involving France, Germany, Spain and Italy.

Managed by the Bonn-based OCCAR (Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation)

It is led by Airbus Defence and Space (Germany), with key partners including Leonardo (Italy), Dassault Aviation (France), and Airbus (Spain) as major subcontractors.

3.DHANAURI WETLAND YOJANA:

RECENT: The principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently directed the Uttar Pradesh government to place on record in four weeks the status of notifying the Dhanauri water body as a wetland.

It is located in Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh, close to the Okhla bird sanctuary and Surajpur wetland.

It is nestled within the floodplains of the Yamuna Basin, within 15 kms of the River Yamuna.

The wetland, which is mostly composed of marshes, is a significant site for the vulnerable Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*).

It is classified as an Important Bird Area by Bird Life International.

4.SARUS CRANE:

It is the world's tallest flying bird and there are three subspecies of Sarus Crane in the world.

There are three subspecies of Sarus Crane in the world, namely, the Indian Sarus Crane, the Eastern Sarus Crane and the Australian Sarus Crane.

The Indian Sarus Crane is the heaviest and tallest among the three subspecies of Sarus Crane.

It is classified as 'Vulnerable' under the IUCN Red List.

5.GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME:

RECENT: Around 59 people in Pune have been affected with Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

It's a neurological disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system. This is the part of the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord.

GBS is also called acute inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy (AIDP).

It can occur at any age, but it most commonly affects people between 30 and 50.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 25/01/2025

1.SANJAY:

RECENT: The SANJAY system was launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on January 24, 2025.

This Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS) is designed to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Army.

SANJAY is an automated system that processes inputs from various battlefield sensors.

It confirms the accuracy of data, prevents duplication, and fuses information to generate a common surveillance picture.

2.ISRO'S 100TH LAUNCH:

RECENT: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to mark milestone with its 100th launch.

Scheduled for January 29, 2025, the GSLV-F15 mission will deploy the NVS-02 satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

This mission enhances India's Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC), an independent regional navigation satellite system.

3.KISWAH:

RECENT: The Kiswah is set to be displayed at the Islamic Arts Biennale 2025.

The Kiswah, meaning "robe," is a symbol of Islamic artistry.

It is the intricately embroidered cloth that covers the Kaaba in Mecca.

It is made from silk and adorned with gold and silver threads.

The event is set to take place at the Western Hajj Terminal of King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah.

4.SHOMPENS:

They are one of the most isolated tribes on Earth.

They are one of the least studied Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India.

They reside in dense tropical rain forests of the Great Nicobar Island of Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands. Around 95% of the island is covered in rainforest.

5.BLUE CARBON:

RECENT: Studies suggest that mangroves and coastal wetlands annually sequester carbon at a rate 10 times greater than mature tropical forests.

Blue Carbon is the carbon captured by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems.

The world's mangroves, sea grasses and salt marshes together comprise 'blue carbon ecosystems.' They are nature's most effective carbon sinks.

Coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrass meadows sequester and store more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests and are now being recognised for their role in mitigating climate change.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 27/01/2025

1.PARAQUAT:

Paraquat, also known as paraquat dichloride or methyl viologen, is one of the world's most-used herbicides.

It is primarily used to control the growth of weeds and desiccate crops like cotton before harvest.

The WHO classifies paraquat as Category 2 (moderately hazardous and moderately irritating) chemical.

Its sale is banned in over 70 countries, including China and the European Union, due to its potent toxicity. It is widely used in the US and in India.

2.WHITE-NAPED TIT:

RECENT: Bird enthusiasts documented the white-naped tit in North Karnataka's Kappatagudda hills for the first time, identifying it by its call.

The white-naped tit (also called pied tit or white-winged tit) is a passerine bird in the tit family Paridae.

Scientific Name: Machlolophus nuchalis

Conservation Status:

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

3.UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME:

RECENT: The Union Finance Ministry notified operationalisation of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) as an option under the National Pension System (NPS) for central government employees.

UPS shall apply to Central Government employees who are covered under the National Pension System (NPS) and who choose this option under the NPS.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) may issue regulations for operationalizing the UPS.

Once a decision is made to switch to the UPS, it is considered final and binding.

The effective date for operationalization of the Unified Pension Scheme shall be April 1, 2025.

4.UDANTI SITANADI TIGER RESERVE:

RECENT: At least 12 suspected Maoists were killed in a gunfight with security forces inside the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district.

It is located in Dhamtari District of Chhattisgarh.

Tiger, Chital, Wild Buffaloes, Barking Deer, Muntjac, Striped Hyena, Blue Bull, Sloth Bear, Jungle Cat, Sambhar, Gaur, Four-Horned Antelopes, Bison, Panther, etc. are some of the animals present here.

5.CORPSE FLOWER:

It is native to the Indonesian island of Sumatra, gets its name from the literal translation of the Indonesian phrase Bunga bangkai.

Its species name is *Amorphophallus titanum*.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 28/01/2025

1. OPPRESSIVE HEAT WAVES:

RECENT: Researchers have focused on the increasing frequency of heatwaves in India.

A study conducted by IIT-Bombay and ETH Zurich marks the phenomenon of 'oppressive heatwaves'.

These are characterised by high temperatures combined with high humidity.

2. BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEMS:

Blue carbon ecosystems refer to coastal and marine habitats that capture and store carbon.

This includes mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses.

These ecosystems are vital for maintaining biodiversity and providing habitat for marine life.

3. KORAGA TRIBE:

RECENT: The Koraga tribe, classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), is facing decline in its population.

The Koraga population is projected to decrease further to around 12,000 if current trends continue.

Factors contributing to this decline include falling birth rates and rising infant mortality rates.

The community suffers from malnutrition and limited access to education and healthcare.

4.NAMDAPHA TIGER RESERVE:

RECENT: An elephant has been camera-trapped in Namdapha Tiger Reserve after 12 years, fuelling conservation hopes.

It is located in the Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh, surrounded by Myanmar in the South East.

It has a common boundary with Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary.

It is nestled between the Dapha Bum ridge of Mishmi Hills, of North Eastern Himalayas and the Patkai Ranges.

5.WETLAND ACCREDITED CITIES:

RECENT: Indore and Udaipur have become the first two Indian cities to join the global list of wetland accredited cities.

It is a voluntary accreditation scheme that provides an opportunity for cities that value their natural or human-made wetlands to gain international recognition and positive publicity for their efforts.

It was approved during the Ramsar Convention COP12 held in the year 2015.

Aim: It aims to further promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 29/01/2025

1.NAGوبا JATARA:

RECENT: The Nagoba Jatara is an important tribal festival celebrated by the Mesram clan of Adivasi Gonds in Keslapur village, Telangana.

It draws participants from various states including Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.

The festival showcases the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Gond community.

2.ETIKOPPAKA BOMMALU:

RECENT: Etikoppaka Bommalu is a traditional wooden toy craft from Andhra Pradesh. Recently showcased during the 76th Republic Day parade.

The origins of Etikoppaka Bommalu trace back to ancient civilisations, including the Indus Valley.

The craft has been passed down through generations, preserving techniques and designs that reflect the region's rich cultural narrative.

The artisans of Etikoppaka have maintained a connection to their environment, using local materials and traditional methods.

3.SURAJPUR WETLAND CONSERVATION:

RECENT: The Surajpur wetland, located in Greater Noida, is facing environmental threats.

The primary concern is the discharge of polluted wastewater into its channels.

The Greater Noida Authority has initiated a project aimed at protecting and conserving this vital ecosystem.

The wetland is crucial for biodiversity, serving as a habitat for numerous migratory birds during winter.

4.PARTY WHIPS:

RECENT: Recent discussions surrounding the role of party whips in Indian politics have gained momentum.

A party whip is an official in a political party responsible for party discipline.

The whip ensures that party members attend and vote according to the party line during crucial votes.

The term “whip” originates from hunting terminology in England.

The role was formalised in political contexts by Edmund Burke.

5.TEAM INITIATIVE:

RECENT: The Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) has launched initiative aimed at enhancing the digital presence of small businesses in India.

The primary aim of the TEAM Initiative is to facilitate the integration of MSMEs into the ONDC network.

This includes providing digital storefronts, integrated payment systems, and logistics support.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 30/01/2025

1.K-SALTS:

RECENT: Health guidelines from the World Health Organisation (WHO) suggest that switching from traditional table salt to potassium-based salts, known as K-salts, could aid in managing blood pressure and reducing heart disease risks.

K-salts are substitutes for regular table salt, which is primarily sodium chloride.

These potassium-based salts replace sodium chloride with potassium chloride.

This switch can help decrease sodium intake while increasing potassium consumption.

2.MARTYRS DAY:

RECENT: Martyrs' Day is observed annually on January 30 to honour the sacrifices of those who fought for India's freedom.

This year, India will observe the 77th anniversary of his assassination.

This day serves as a reminder of the importance of freedom and the sacrifices made by countless individuals.

3.KARA SEA:

It is a marginal sea of the Arctic Ocean that is located to the north of Siberia, Russia.

It covers an area of 880,000 sq.km.

The sea has been named after the Kara River.

It is situated between the Franz Josef Land in the northwest, the Novaya Zemlya islands in the west, and the Severnaya Zemlya archipelago in the east.

4. BHASHINI PLATFORM:

RECENT: BHASHINI, or the BHASHa INterface for India, is India's Artificial Intelligence (AI)-led language translation platform, breaking down language barriers and enabling conversations between speakers of different Indian languages.

It aims to enhance internet accessibility and digital services in Indian languages, incorporating voice-based functions and promoting content creation in diverse languages.

5. F11 BACTERIA:

RECENT: A study shows that the bacterial strain *Labrys portucalensis* F11 (F11) can break down the strong carbon-fluorine bonds in polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or forever chemicals.

F11 bacteria (*Labrys portucalensis*) are a strain of aerobic bacterium from the Xanthobacteraceae family.

These have adapted to survive in harsh, polluted environments by using contaminants as energy sources.

These bacteria were originally isolated from contaminated industrial soil in Portugal.

It can break down and transform at least three types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and some of the toxic byproducts.



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 31/01/2025

1.e-SHRAM MICROSITES AND OCCUPATIONAL SHORTAGE INDEX:

RECENT: The Government of India launched two major initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of unorganised workers.

The e-Shram microsites are state-specific digital platforms designed to integrate seamlessly with the national e-Shram database.

They allow unorganised workers to access both central and state government welfare programs.

2.BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITE:

RECENT: The Gujarat Biodiversity Board announced the designation of the 'Inland Mangrove Guner' in Kutch as the state's first Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).

AIM: To protect a unique mangrove ecosystem that thrives in a non-tidal environment.

The site spans 32.78 hectares and is for its ecological diversity.

The declaration represents a milestone in Gujarat's commitment to biodiversity conservation.

3.AMMONIA POLLUTION:

RECENT: Events have brought into light the ongoing water crisis affecting Delhi, primarily due to ammonia pollution in the Yamuna River.

Ammonia is a colourless gas with a pungent odour.

It is used in various industrial applications, including fertilisers and cleaning agents.

Major sources of ammonia pollution include agricultural runoff, industrial effluents, and untreated sewage.

4.LEPORSY DAY:

RECENT: World Leprosy Day is observed on January 30 every year to make people aware of leprosy and remove the misconceptions spread in society.

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria, *Mycobacterium leprae*.

The disease predominantly affects the skin and peripheral nerves.

Left untreated, the disease may cause progressive and permanent disabilities.

Apart from the physical deformity, persons affected by leprosy also face stigmatization and discrimination.

5.GUANTANAMO BAY:

RECENT: the US President signed an executive order directing the preparation of a large-scale migrant detention centre at the US naval base in Guantánamo Bay.

It forms an inlet of the Caribbean Sea, indenting southeastern Cuba.

It is a large and well-sheltered bay, it has a narrow entrance to a harbour and capable of accommodating large vessels.

Guantánamo Bay Ports: It is served by the ports of Caimanera and Boquerón