



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

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Constitutional Morality: The Soul of Indian Democracy



CONTEXT: There needs to be a ceaseless cultivation of constitutional morality among citizens, Lawmakers and judges.

What is 'Constitutional Morality'?

- **"adherence to the core values, principles, and procedures enshrined in the Constitution"**
- Constitutional Functionaries, Institutions, Citizens - **liberty, equality, fraternity, justice and rule of law**
- Gap - **legal compliance** and **ethical governance** - Majoritarian Impulse

Historical and Philosophical Roots

- **History of Greece (1846)** - citizens' deep reverence for the constitution - DISSENT
- Indian Context - **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** - Constituent Assembly Debates
 - **"top dressing on an undemocratic soil"**
 - Needs to be **'Cultivated'**
 - **MORAL COMPASS**

Morality & Law: The Relationship

Law - means to enforce moral order

- Shaw vs DPP (1962)
- Hart-Devlin debate (1960s)
- P. Rathinam vs Union of India (1994)
- Ancient India - Dharma

Essential Components of Constitutional Morality

- Respect for Constitutional Supremacy
- Rule of Law and Due Process
- Democratic Spirit and Tolerance for Dissent
- Institutional Accountability and Checks & Balances
- Commitment to Equality and Fraternity
- Constitutional Patriotism

Judicial Evolution in India

- Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala, 1973
- Manoj Narula v. Union of India, 2014
- NCT of Delhi v. Union of India, 2018
- Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India, 2018
- Indian Young Lawyers Association v. State of Kerala (Sabarimala case), 2018
- K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India, 2017

Constitutional Morality vs. Public Morality

| <u>Aspect</u> | <u>Constitutional Morality</u> | <u>Public Morality</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Basis | Rooted in constitutional values | Rooted in prevailing social norms |
| Nature | Rational & universal | Often majoritarian |
| Objective | Protection of rights & dignity | Preservation of social order |
| Example | Decriminalisation of homosexuality | Opposition to same-sex relationships |

Importance in Indian Democracy

- Prevents Majoritarianism
- Strengthens Rule of Law
- Protects Rights and Freedoms
- Builds Trust in Institutions
- Ensures Ethical Governance



Constitutional Morality: The Soul of Indian Democracy



CONTEXT: There needs to be a ceaseless cultivation of constitutional morality among citizens, Lawmakers and judges.

Challenges in Upholding Constitutional Morality

- Populism and Political Expediency
- Erosion of Institutional Autonomy
- Social and Religious Conservatism
- Citizens' Apathy

Way Forward

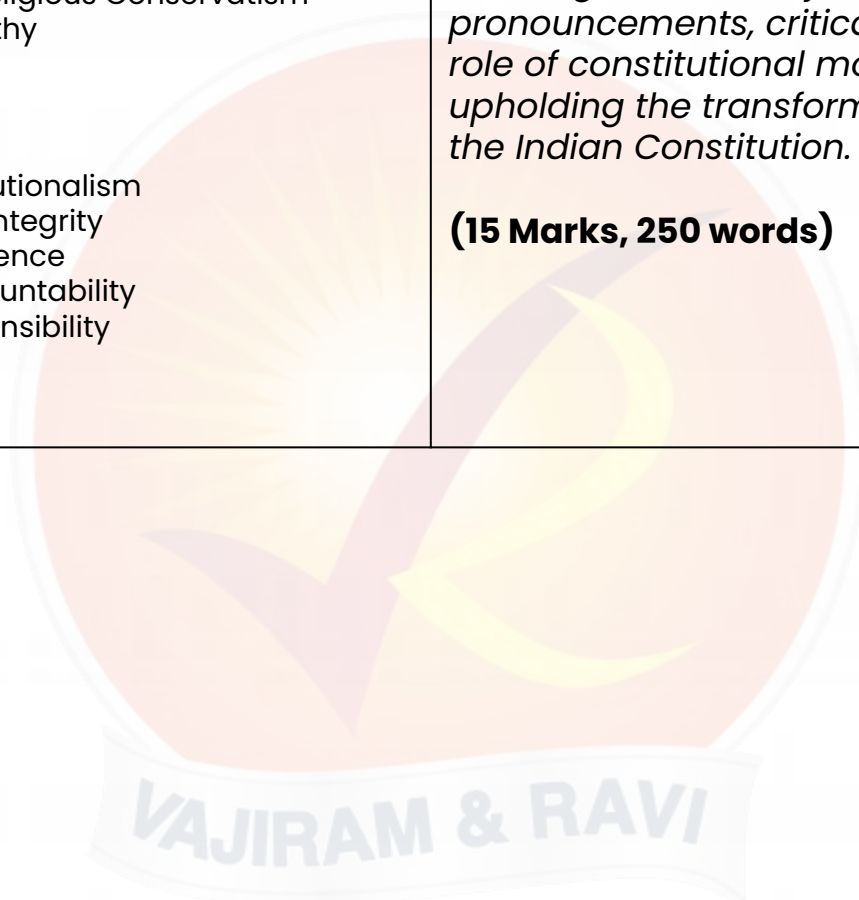
- Civic Constitutionalism
- Institutional Integrity
- Judicial Prudence
- Political Accountability
- Citizen Responsibility

Mains Practise Question

"Constitutional morality acts as a safeguard against majoritarian impulses in a democracy."

In the light of recent judicial pronouncements, critically examine the role of constitutional morality in upholding the transformative vision of the Indian Constitution.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Cyclone Montha: The Science Behind



CONTEXT: A.P. braces for cyclone as IMD issues high alert for 23 districts

- Tropical regions - Higher insolation - Warming of seas
- Coriolis Force - Rt in N.H. & Lt in S.H
- Anti-Clockwise in N.H. & Clockwise in S.H.



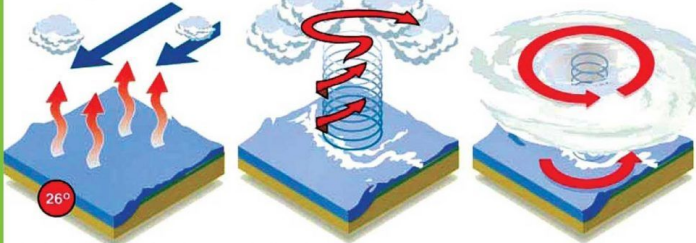
HOW TROPICAL STORMS ARE FORMED

High humidity and ocean temperatures of over 26°C are major contributing factors

Water evaporates from the ocean surface and comes into contact with a mass of cold air, forming clouds

A column of low pressure develops at the centre. Winds form around the column

As pressure in the central column (the eye) weakens, the speed of the wind around it increases

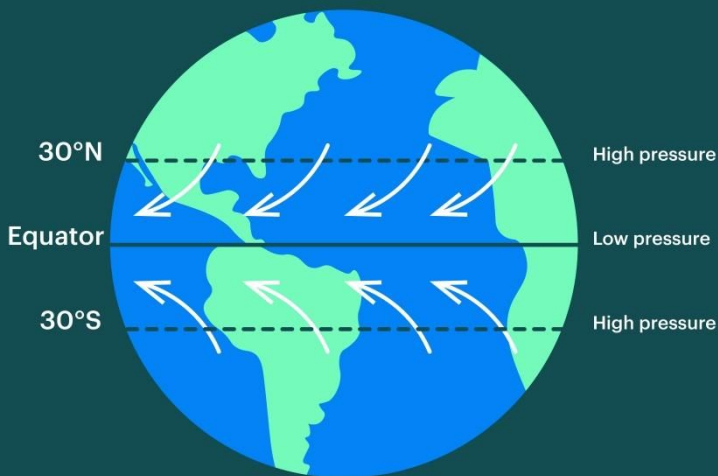


Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale

| CATEGORY 1 | CATEGORY 2 | CATEGORY 3 | CATEGORY 4 | CATEGORY 5 |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Minimal damage | Moderate damage | Extensive damage | Extreme damage | Catastrophic |
| | | | | |
| Winds 119-153 kph | Winds 154-177 kph | Winds 178-208 kph | Winds 209-251 kph | Winds 252 kph and more |

SOURCE: NHC

- Why does the Bay of Bengal often witness cyclones?



| Northern Hemisph | |
|-------------------------|--|
| North Atlantic | United States National Hurricane Center |
| Eastern Pacific | United States Central Pacific Hurricane Center |
| Central Pacific | United States Central Pacific Hurricane Center |
| Western Pacific | Japan Meteorological Agency PAGASA (unofficial) |
| North Indian Ocean | India Meteorological Department |
| Southern Hemisph | |
| South-West Indian Ocean | Mauritius Meteorological Services Météo Madagascar Météo-France Reunion |
| Australian region | Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Papua New Guinea National Weather Service Australian Bureau of Meteorology |
| Southern Pacific | Fiji Meteorological Service Meteorological Service of New Zealand |
| South Atlantic | Brazilian Navy Hydrographic Center (unofficial) |

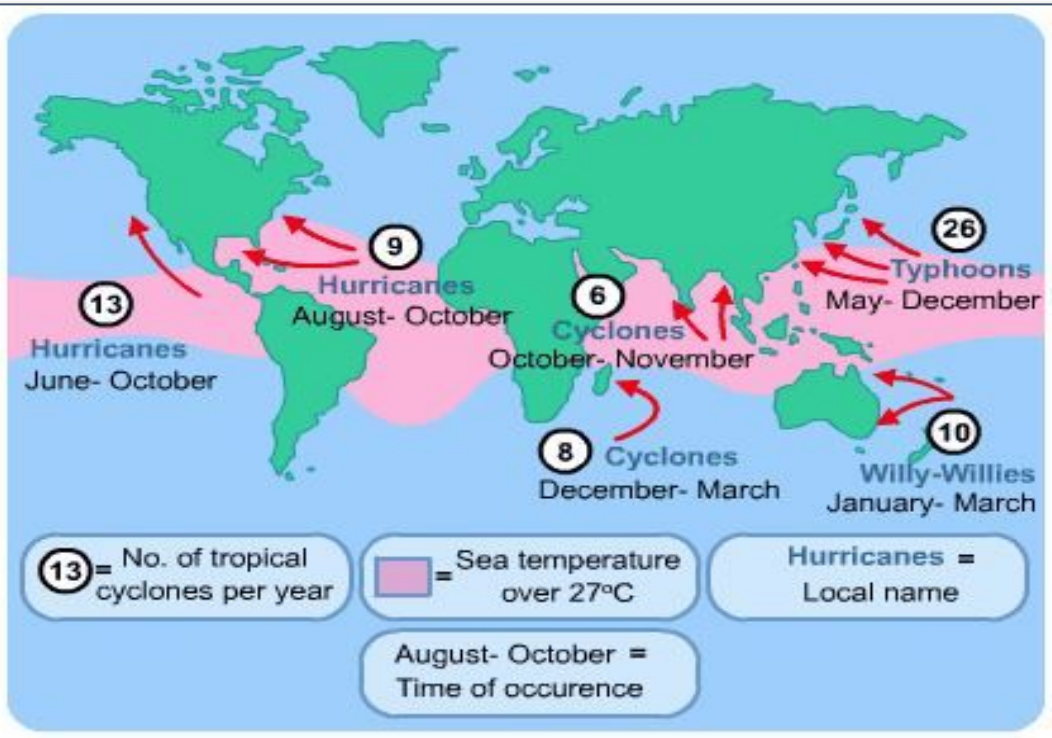


Cyclone Montha: The Science Behind



CONTEXT: A.P. braces for cyclone as IMD issues high alert for 23 districts

Various Types of Cyclones



Naming of Cyclones

There are six regional specialized meteorological centres (RSMCs) and five regional Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs) mandated for issuing advisories, naming of tropical cyclones across the globe

India Meteorological Department is one of the six RSMCs to provide tropical cyclones in the Indian ocean region and provides advisories to 13-member countries

The 13 member countries are Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen

In 2020, a new list of names was released that had 169 names of cyclones, having 13 suggested names each from 13 countries

RULES FOR NAMING CYCLONES

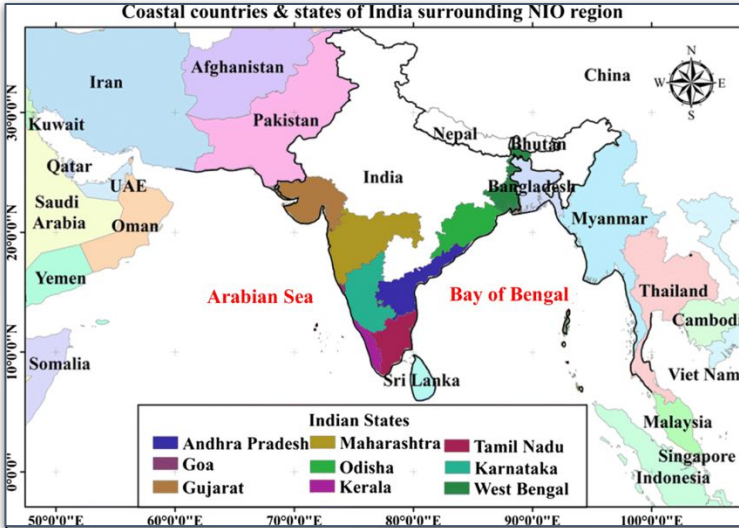
- Should be politically and ideologically neutral in terms of religious beliefs, cultures, and gender
- Should not offend any groups around the world
- Cannot be more than eight letters
- Should not be unpleasant or cruel in nature
- Should be short and easy to say
- Cannot repeat names of tropical cyclones across north Indian Ocean
- Can be rejected by member countries if their conditions are not met
- Finalised names may also be reviewed during implementation if a member raises justifiable objection



Cyclone Montha: The Science Behind



CONTEXT: A.P. braces for cyclone as IMD issues high alert for 23 districts



Mains Practise Question

How are tropical Cyclones formed? What are the reasons that Bay of Bengal witness more cyclonic formations than Arabian Sea? Also elaborate upon the naming of Tropical Cyclones. .

(10 Marks, 150 words)

Naming of Cyclones

New List of Names for Tropical Cyclone over North Indian Ocean

The Weather Channel

| Place | List 1 | List 2 | List 3 | List 4 | List 5 | List 6 | List 7 | List 8 | List 9 | List 10 | List 11 | List 12 | List 13 |
|----------------------|---------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Bangladesh | Nisarga | Biparjoy | Arnab | Upakul | Barshon | Rajani | Nishith | Urmi | Meghala | Samiron | Pratikul | Sarobor | Mahanisha |
| India | Gati | Tej | Murasu | Aag | Vyom | Jhar | Probaho | Neer | Prabhanjan | Ghurni | Ambud | Jaladhi | Vega |
| Iran | Nivar | Hamoon | Akvan | Sepand | Booran | Anahita | Azar | Pooyan | Arsham | Hengame | Savas | Tahamtan | Toofan |
| Maldives | Burevi | Midhili | Kaani | Odi | Kenau | Endheri | Riyau | Guruva | Kurangi | Kuredhi | Horangu | Thundi | Faana |
| Myanmar | Tauktae | Michaung | Ngamann | Kyarhit | Sapakyee | Wetwun | Mwaihout | Kywe | Pinku | Yinkaung | Linyone | Kyeekan | Bautphat |
| Oman | Yaas | Remal | Sail | Naseem | Muzn | Sadeem | Dimma | Manjour | Rukam | Watad | Al-jarz | Rabab | Raad |
| Pakistan | Gulab | Asna | Sahab | Afshan | Manahil | Shujana | Parwaz | Zannata | Sarsar | Badban | Sarrab | Gulnar | Waseq |
| Qatar | Shaheen | Dana | Lulu | Mouj | Suhail | Sadaf | Reem | Rayhan | Anbar | Oud | Bahar | Seef | Fanar |
| Saudi Arabia | Jawad | Fengal | Ghazeer | Asif | Sidrah | Hareed | Faid | Kaseer | Nakheel | Haboob | Bareq | Alreem | Wabil |
| Sri Lanka | Asani | Shakhti | Gigum | Gagana | Verambha | Garjana | Neeba | Ninnada | Viduli | Ogha | Salitha | Rivi | Rudu |
| Thailand | Sitrang | Montha | Thianytot | Bulan | Phutala | Aiyara | Saming | Kralson | Matcha | Mahingsa | Phraewa | Asuri | Thara |
| United Arab Emirates | Mandous | Senyar | Afoor | Nahhaam | Quffal | Daaman | Deem | Gargoor | Khubb | Degl | Athmad | Boom | Saffar |
| Yemen | Mocha | Ditwah | Diksam | Sira | Bakhur | Ghwyzi | Hawf | Balhaf | Brom | Shuqra | Fartak | Darsah | Samhah |



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Environment & Conservation

Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 8

The expansive Western Ghats and two national parks in India – Assam’s Manas national park and West Bengal’s Sundarbans national park – have been categorised as being of “significant concern” in the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) list of natural World Heritage sites across Asia.

Why did the IUCN state?

The IUCN’s World Heritage Outlook 4 report released earlier this month attributes four threats to the loss of habitats and species in South Asia: climate change, tourism activities, invasive alien species, and roads. The report categorises the natural sites as “good”, “good with some concerns”, “significant concern”, and “critical”. The report uses four cycles of conservation assessments undertaken since 2014.

“Each of these categories not only shows the potential for a site to preserve its values and underlying attributes but also indicates the urgency of measures that need to be taken to improve the conservation outlook and ensure the long-term conservation of all sites,” says

the report. The IUCN assessment of over 200 natural and mixed World Heritage sites “offers the most in-depth analyses of threats facing natural World Heritage around the world and their protection and management status,” says Grethel Aguilar, IUCN director general, in the introduction to the report.

The report points out that the percentage of sites with “a positive conservation outlook has, for the first time, decreased significantly.”

Do we have ‘good’ protected areas?

Protected areas in South Asia are being usurped rapidly, obliterating natural habitats. Of the 228 sites assessed since

2014, some 63% of sites had a positive outlook in 2014, 2017 and 2020, however, ‘the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4 shows that in 2025 only 57% of these sites have a positive conservation outlook.’

The threats are also shapeshifting, “it is ...notable that roads and railroads are now among the top five greatest threats to natural World Heritage in Asia, while in 2020 this was not the case.” The other threats include: forest fires, hunting, roadkill, waste disposal, encroachment, illegal logging etc.

Of the 32 Asian sites categorised as “good with some concerns,” four happen

to be in India – The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Kaziranga National Park, Keoladeo National Park, and Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks. Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim has been rated “good” in its

conservation outlook, valuing “attributes [that] are currently in good condition and likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained.”

The Western Ghats, a mosaic of forests and grasslands, are older than the Himalayas and have an exceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemism, habitat to some 325 globally threatened (listed in IUCN’s Red List) flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species, according to UNESCO. This includes the Nilgiri tahr, a stocky, agile goat found nowhere else in the world.

What makes the Ghats vulnerable?

The Western Ghats are highly endangered not least by hundreds of hydropower projects such as the proposed ₹5,843 crore Sillahalla Pumped Storage Hydroelectric project in the Nilgiris,

which involves constructing dams across River Sillahalla and River Kundah, with an aim to generate 1,000 MW of power for Tamil Nadu’s plains.

Moreover, tourism is creating problems of garbage, often consumed by wild animals such as elephants and exacerbating conflict. Plantations are replacing natural ecosystems. And climate change has forced fauna to adapt by redistributing themselves from fast-warming lower altitudes to higher reaches, such as in the case of the Nilgiri flycatcher and the black and orange flycatcher. Exotic species are colonising natural forests, such as eucalyptus and acacia (both originally from Australia), which were introduced here during the colonial era. As for the Sundarbans mangroves where tigers swim, salinity, heavy metal contamination, and unsustainable resource extraction threatens the ecosystem. Sea level rise and frequent storm surges reduce mangrove biodiversity, says the report.



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Environment & Conservation

Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 8

Is there hope yet?

Outside India, seven sites in China have been proclaimed “best protected and managed protected areas,” including the Badain Jaran Desert-Towers of Sand and Lake, Chengjiang Fossil Site, and Mount Huangshan.

Is there hope yet?

Outside India, seven sites in China have been proclaimed “best protected and managed protected areas,” including the Badain Jaran Desert-Towers of Sand and Lake, Chengjiang Fossil Site, and Mount Huangshan.

The Natural World Heritage sites make up less than 1% of the Earth’s surface, but nurture more than 20% of mapped global species richness. “This includes over 75,000 species of plants, and over 30,000 species of mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles and amphibians,” says the report.

This report is timely. “The world has agreed to halt biodiversity loss through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention is uniquely placed to meet these challenges by bridging the gap between nature and culture, and protecting places with extraordinary biodiversity, functional habitats and high ecosystem integrity,” says the report. “This report is more than a health check. It is a guide for action,” says Ms. Aguilar.

Context and Key Findings

- The **IUCN** released its *World Heritage Outlook 4 Report (2025)* assessing the conservation status of **natural and mixed World Heritage Sites**.
- It evaluates sites based on four categories:
 - *Good, Good with some concerns, Significant concern, and Critical.*
- The report highlights a **decline in global conservation outlook**, marking the first time the percentage of sites with a “**positive outlook**” has dropped significantly.
- In **South Asia**, several natural sites, including India’s, are facing mounting threats from multiple pressures.

Indian Sites Categorised as ‘Significant Concern’

- **Western Ghats, Manas National Park (Assam), and Sundarbans National Park (West Bengal)** have been classified as of “*Significant Concern.*”
- These areas face increasing *habitat degradation, biodiversity loss, and anthropogenic pressures.*

Key Threats Identified by IUCN

- The report attributes four major threats to the **loss of habitats and species** across South Asia:
 - **Climate Change** – altering rainfall patterns, temperature, and species distribution.
 - **Tourism Activities** – unregulated tourism leading to waste, habitat disturbance, and human-wildlife conflict.
 - **Invasive Alien Species** – threatening native biodiversity.
 - **Infrastructure (Roads and Railways)** – fragmenting habitats and increasing roadkills.
- Other associated threats:
 - Forest fires
 - Hunting and poaching
 - Waste disposal and encroachment
 - Illegal logging

Overall Trend in Conservation Outlook

- Of the **228 sites assessed since 2014**, around **63%** had a positive outlook earlier (2014–2020).
- However, in **2025**, this has **declined to 57%**, indicating a worsening global scenario.
- The report notes that **roads and railways** have newly emerged among the **top five threats** to Asian natural heritage sites.



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Environment & Conservation

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India's Performance in Other Categories

- **"Good with some concerns" (4 Indian sites):**
 - Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area
 - Kaziranga National Park (Assam)
 - Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)
 - Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (Uttarakhand)
- **"Good" (1 Indian site):**
 - Khangchendzonga National Park (Sikkim) – noted for **effective conservation measures and stable ecosystem conditions.**

The Ecological Importance and Vulnerability of the Western Ghats

- **Ecological Significance:**
 - Older than the Himalayas, the **Western Ghats** harbour exceptional biological diversity and endemism.
 - Home to around **325 globally threatened species** (IUCN Red List), including the **Nilgiri Tahr**, endemic amphibians, and flora.
- **Major Threats:**
 - **Hydropower projects** (e.g., ₹5,843 crore Sillahalla Pumped Storage Project in Nilgiris) – causing habitat fragmentation.
 - **Tourism pressures** – leading to garbage accumulation, animal ingestion of plastic, and human-animal conflict.
 - **Conversion to plantations** – replacing natural forest ecosystems with tea, coffee, or monoculture species.

- **Climate change impacts** – forcing fauna like the **Nilgiri flycatcher** and **black and orange flycatcher** to migrate to higher altitudes.
- **Invasive species** – such as *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia* (introduced during colonial era), colonising native forests.

Threats to the Sundarbans Ecosystem

- **Ecological Importance:** Largest mangrove forest in the world; critical tiger and fish habitat.
- **Emerging Threats:**
 - Rising **salinity and heavy metal contamination.**
 - **Unsustainable resource extraction** by local communities.
 - **Sea-level rise and frequent storm surges** reducing mangrove cover and biodiversity.

Hope Spots: Global Best Performers

- Seven sites in **China** were rated as "*best protected and managed*", including:
 - Badain Jaran Desert–Towers of Sand and Lake
 - Chengjiang Fossil Site
 - Mount Huangshan
- These serve as global benchmarks for integrated management and effective ecological governance.



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Environment & Conservation

Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 8

Global Significance of Natural World Heritage Sites

- Although they cover **less than 1% of Earth's surface**, these sites host:
 - Over **20% of global species richness**,
 - Including **75,000+ plant species** and **30,000+ animal species** (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians).
- Their conservation is vital for maintaining global biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Link to Global Biodiversity Framework

- The report aligns with the **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022)**, which aims to **halt biodiversity loss by 2030**.
- The **UNESCO World Heritage Convention** is seen as a key instrument to bridge **nature–culture conservation**, ensuring protection of sites with exceptional biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.

The Way Forward (as per the Report)

- Strengthen **site-specific management** and monitoring frameworks.
- Control **unregulated tourism and infrastructure expansion** near ecologically fragile zones.
- Restore degraded ecosystems through

- **community-based conservation models**.
- Address **climate adaptation** and **invasive species management** through long-term ecological planning.
- Enhance international cooperation under **UNESCO** and **IUCN frameworks**.

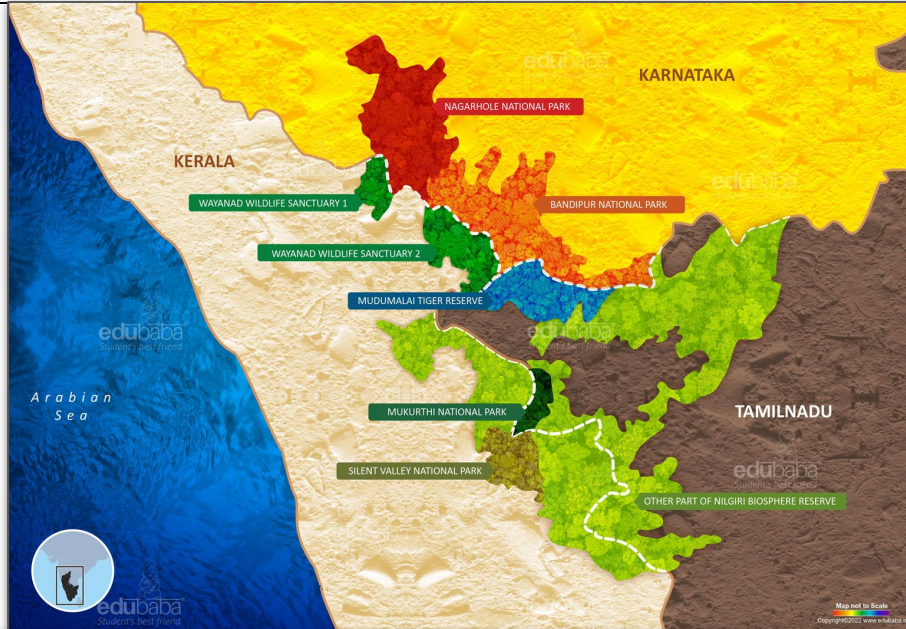
Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve – Key Facts

- **Geographical Location:**
 - Situated in: The Nilgiri Hills of the Western Ghats.
 - Spread across: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka.
- **Major Protected Areas within the reserve:**
 - Tamil Nadu: Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Mukurthi National Park.
 - Kerala: Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Silent Valley National Park.
 - Karnataka: Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park.
- **Vegetation** – Tropical evergreen forests, montane sholas, grasslands, moist deciduous forests, and thorn forests.
- **Flora** – It is home to 132 endemic plant species, including rare species like Adenoon, Calacanthus, and Frerea.
- **Fauna** – It hosts the largest population of Nilgiri Tahr and Lion-tailed macaque, along with elephants, tigers, gaurs, sambars, and chitals.
- **Significance** – It is the first UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve in India (1986) under the Man and Biosphere Programme.



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Environment & Conservation

Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 8



The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (the Framework), which aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, was adopted in December 2022 at the **15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**.














It features **23 targets** to be met by 2030 and four global goals to preserve biodiversity for current and future generations.

Although **not binding**, the landmark agreement is anticipated to have a significant impact on nations as they work to achieve their goals by creating new plans and regulations to combat climate change through tackling biodiversity loss.



SYLLABUS: GS 3: Environment & Conservation

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| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>The 23 Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Targets highlighted in (dark) green are particularly relevant for Ecosystems and People.</p> |  <p>1 Biodiversity inclusive spatial planning of all areas</p> |  <p>2 Effective restoration of 30% of areas of degraded ecosystems</p> |  <p>3 Protected areas, "30 by 30"</p> |
|  <p>4 Conservation of species</p> |  <p>5 Sustainable use, harvesting and trade of wild species</p> |  <p>6 Invasive alien species management</p> | <p>7 Reduce pollution risks</p> |
| <p>8 Minimise the impact of climate change</p> |  <p>9 Benefits from sustainable use of wild species</p> |  <p>10 Sustainable management in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry</p> |  <p>11 Restore, enhance and maintain nature's contributions to people</p> |
|  <p>12 Green and blue urban spaces</p> | <p>13 Equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources</p> |  <p>14 Mainstreaming biodiversity and its multiple values</p> | <p>15 Involve businesses and financial institutions</p> |
| <p>16 Sustainable consumption choices</p> | <p>17 Biosafety measures</p> | <p>18 Reform harmful incentives</p> | <p>19 Financial resources</p> |
| <p>20 Capacity building and development</p> | <p>21 Data, information and knowledge</p> |  <p>22 Representation and participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities</p> |  <p>23 Gender equity</p> |



SYLLABUS: GS 2: International Relations

Newspaper : Indian Express; Page No : EXPLAINED

THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) welcomed East Timor as its newest member on Sunday, at its summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Established in 1967, ASEAN has engaged with countries such as the United States, China and India over the years, and US President Donald Trump attended the summit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the leaders virtually, welcoming East Timor.

Also known as Timor-Leste, the country had long attempted to join ASEAN, given its significance in maintaining regional economic, political and security coordination. Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao said, "For the people of Timor Leste this is not only a dream realised, but a powerful affirmation of our journey – one marked by resilience, determination and hope."

Repeated colonisation

With a population of 1.4 million, East Timor is located in the Pacific Ocean to the north of Australia. The island nation was a Portuguese colony for over four centuries before it gained independence in 1975, but was invaded by Indonesia just nine days later.

According to the book *ASEAN Resistance to Sovereignty Violation*, written by author Laura Southgate, that invasion was a result of expansionist tendencies on Indonesia's part, and concerns about the spread of Communism in the region amid the Cold War.

Then US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger stated that in the post-Vietnam environment, US interests in Indonesia were based on its geography and strategic importance. On East Timor, he said, "Jakarta has become concerned that the

backward and resource-poor colony would attain what the Indonesians expect would be a weak, unviable independence leaving it susceptible to outside – especially Chinese – domination... a merger with Indonesia is probably the best solution for the colony if the inhabitants agree".

After Indonesia got some East Timor parties to agree to a merger, they launched an invasion, but not without resistance. Thousands died in the violence, and the occupation only ended with a United Nations-supervised referendum in 1999. Following another outbreak of violence, real independence only came in 2002. Current President Jose Ramos-Horta, 75, played a key role in the peace process and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996.

Hopes from membership

According to the *Associated Press*, "Some 42% of the country's population live below the national poverty line. Nearly two-thirds of its citizens are under 30 years old... Its major source of government revenues comes from the oil and gas industry, but with resources quickly becoming depleted, it is looking to diversify."

ASEAN includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The grouping has a total GDP of \$3.8 trillion.

A report in *The Diplomat* recently said that with full membership, East Timor will become part of major regional institutions, such as the 15-member free trade pact, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

What is ASEAN?

The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** is a regional grouping that aims to promote economic and security cooperation among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Establishment: It was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (**Bangkok Declaration**) by the founding fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Aim: The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".

Secretariat: ASEAN Secretariat is located in **Jakarta, Indonesia**.

ASEAN countries have a total population of 662 million people and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of \$3.2 trillion as of 2022.



SYLLABUS: GS 2: International Relations

Newspaper : Indian Express; **Page No :** EXPLAINED

The institutional mechanism of ASEAN include -

ASEAN Summit: It meets annually to discuss regional issues and set policy directions.

ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC): It oversees the implementation of ASEAN agreements and decisions.

ASEAN Secretariat: It supports and facilitates ASEAN's activities and initiatives.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF): It is a platform for dialogue and cooperation on political and security issues among ASEAN member countries and their partners.

Decision Making: It is done through consultation and consensus.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS : International Institutions

Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 3

A Red Corner Notice will soon be issued against Shariq Sata, the alleged conspirator behind the communal violence in Sambhal last year, Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar Bishnoi said on Sunday.

Tension erupted in Sambhal on November 24 last year, when protesting locals clashed with security forces during a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid following claims that a Harihar temple previously stood at the site. Four people were killed and dozens were injured in the unrest.

During the investigation, Sata emerged as the prime conspirator in the case, the SP said, adding that he fled the country and has been absconding since. After coordinating with various agencies, including the CBI and Interpol, efforts are being made to issue a Red Corner Notice to ensure Sata's arrest at the earliest, the SP said.

INTERPOL Notices

The colour-coded Notices enable countries to share alerts and requests for information worldwide.

INTERPOL Notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.

Notices are issued by the General Secretariat at the request of a member country's **INTERPOL National Central Bureau** and are made available for all our member countries to consult in our Notices database.

Notices can also be issued at the request of International Criminal Tribunals and the International Criminal Court to

seek persons wanted for committing crimes within their jurisdiction, notably genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. They can also be issued at the request of the **United Nations** in relation to the implementation of sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

Most Notices are for police use only and are not available to the public. However, an extract of the Notice can be published on this site if the requesting country wishes to alert the public or seek their help. All United Nations Special Notices are public.

Types of Notice

- **Red Notice:** To seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.
- **Yellow Notice:** To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
- **Blue Notice:** To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.
- **Black Notice:** To seek information on unidentified bodies.
- **Green Notice:** To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
- **Orange Notice:** To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
- **Purple Notice:** To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.
- **Silver Notice (pilot phase):** To identify and trace criminal assets
- **INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notice:** Issued for entities and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS : International Institutions
Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No** : 3



INTERPOL NOTICES

- RED NOTICE**
WANTED PERSONS
- YELLOW NOTICE**
MISSING PERSONS
- BLUE NOTICE**
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- BLACK NOTICE**
UNIDENTIFIED BODIES
- GREEN NOTICE**
WARNINGS AND INTELLIGENCE
- ORANGE NOTICE**
IMMINENT THREAT
- PURPLE NOTICE**
MODUS OPERANDI
- SILVER NOTICE (Pilot Phase)**
IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING OF CRIMINAL ASSETS
- INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE**
ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO UNSC SANCTIONS

VAJIRAM & RAVI



SYLLABUS: GS 2: Governance

Newspaper: The Hindu; Page No: 10

The United Kingdom has evinced interest in the e-Courts project that seeks to digitise entire court records, and a delegation from that country would be in the national capital next week to interact with top Union Law Ministry officials.

The ambitious e-Courts project is currently in its third phase with an aim to upgrade the digital infrastructure of subordinate judiciary across the country.

Officials said a delegation from the United Kingdom will visit the Department of Justice here on November 6 and interact with top officials and members of the e-committee of the Supreme Court.

The e-committee is the governing body charged with overseeing the e-Courts Project conceptualised under the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary-2005".

Under the ongoing phase three of the project, a total of 3,108 crore documents will be digitised.

As part of Phase-III, the system will be migrated to cloud technology, and the cost estimated for providing 25 petabytes (according to existing requirement) of cloud storage is ₹1,205.20 crore.

The project also seeks to establish and expand the scope of virtual courts for the hearing of cases by creating a robust digital infrastructure. A sum of ₹413.08 crore is the cost estimate for the establishment of 1,150 virtual courts.

Phase three of the project was cleared by the Union Cabinet in September 2023.

Ministry of Law and Justice



E-Courts Mission Mode Project

Posted On: 17 DEC 2024 1:15PM by PIB Delhi

The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is a flagship initiative aimed at leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the modernization and development of the Indian Judiciary. Spearheaded by the Department of Justice, Government of India, this transformative project is being implemented in close collaboration with the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India. The decentralized approach ensures that the project is executed effectively through the respective High Courts, enabling tailored solutions that address the unique needs and challenges of each judicial region. By integrating cutting-edge technology into the judicial framework, the project seeks to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in the justice delivery system across the nation.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the e-Courts Project Phase III as a Central Sector Scheme (2023 onwards) with a financial outlay of Rs. 7210 crore. The Phase II of the e-Courts Project has concluded in 2023. Phase III of the e-Courts Project in India is rooted in the philosophy of access and inclusion. It aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online, and paperless courts through digitization of the entire court records including legacy records, and by bringing in universalization of e-filing/ e-Payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras. It will put in place intelligent smart systems enabling data-based decision-making for judges and registries while scheduling or prioritizing cases. The main objective of Phase III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary, which will provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants, and other stakeholders.

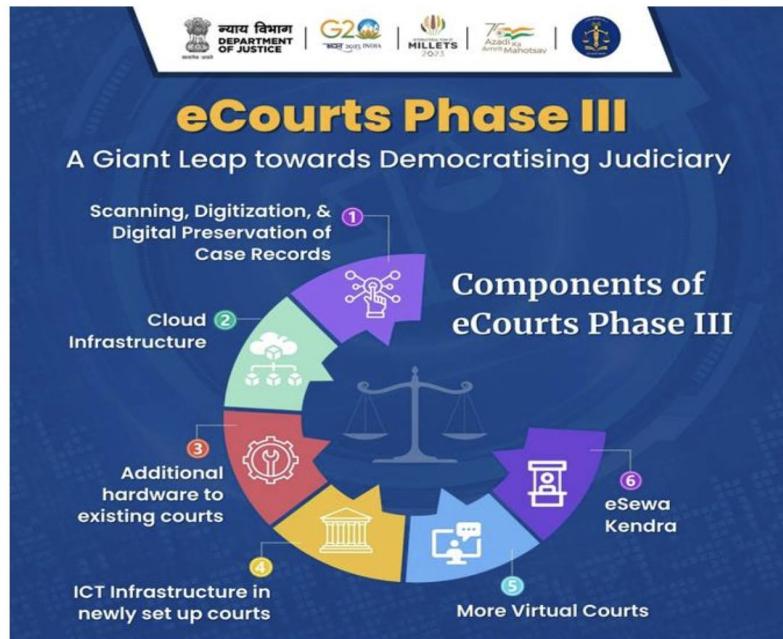


SYLLABUS: GS 2: Governance

Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 10

E-Courts Phase III (2023-2027)

The Union Cabinet approved e-Courts Phase III (2023-2027) in September 2023, with an allocated outlay of Rs. 7,210 crore, which is over four times the funding for Phase II.



The project introduces various advanced digital measures, including:

- Establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts to digitize court proceedings.
- Comprehensive digitization of court records, including legacy records and pending cases.
- Expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, jails, and hospitals.
- Broadening the scope of online courts beyond adjudication of traffic violations.
- Saturation of court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras for citizen convenience.
- Creation of a state-of-the-art Cloud-based data repository for secure storage and efficient retrieval of digitized court records.
- Implementation of software applications for live streaming and electronic evidence handling.
- Integration of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for case pendency analysis and forecasting future litigation trends.



SYLLABUS: GS 2 : Vulnerable Sections

Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 12

Abhinay Lakshman

NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the fifth Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on November 15, which will mark the end of tribal icon Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary, the Union government has written to the States, including poll-bound Bihar, and Union Territories, saying they "must organise" commemorative events at the State and district levels from November 1 to 15.

In a letter sent to the Principal Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Departments in the States and Union Territories last week, the Tribal Affairs Ministry said that since November 15 marked the end of Birsa's 150th birth anniversary year, "all the States/UTs must participate in celebrating" the occasion.

"However, States where



Tribal artists performing traditional dance during the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas programme in Bhopal in 2021. A.M. FARUQUI

the model code of conduct is in force are being requested to celebrate the Diwas adhering to the MCC."

The letter asked the States and Union Territories to "actively participate" in "inauguration or benefit disbursal targeting tribal populations, launch of tribal-focused schemes, capacity building" and highlighting government schemes such as PM-JAN-

MAN, Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, and Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan.

The letter said that for the national-level event at this year's Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected, and participation has been requested of 25 States and Union Territories, excluding Bihar.

In the suggested activi-

ties annexed with the Tribal Affairs Ministry's letter, the government has recommended the display of "Tribal Village Vision 2030" documents prepared under the Adi Karmayogi scheme, interactions of State VVIPs with PM-JANMAN beneficiaries, and painting exhibition of artworks by students of Eklavya school for tribal students. The list also recommends events like Adi Haats for products made by Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, self-help groups, and tribal artisans.

The government has also suggested that the States and Union Territories hold campaigns for saturation of individual entitlements and contests in schools, colleges, to celebrate tribal heritage, in addition to arranging health awareness campaigns through Mobile Medical Units.

PM-JANMAN: A Lifeline for India's Most Vulnerable Tribes

The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) is not just a scheme—it is a powerful mission of justice, dignity, and upliftment for India's **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**. Launched with a vision of holistic development, this initiative is **transforming lives in 75 PVTG communities across 18 states and 1 Union Territory**, reaching the most remote corners of the country. With a massive ₹24,104 crore investment, PM-JANMAN is bridging decades of neglect by ensuring access to the basics—**housing, water, healthcare, education, nutrition, roads, and sustainable livelihoods**.

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan: Transforming Tribal Heartlands, Village by Village

The Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan is a landmark initiative that **ensures that governance benefits reach every tribal citizen**. It reflects the Government of India's unwavering commitment to Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas, and places tribal communities at the centre of India's development journey.

Launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on October 2, 2024, the Abhiyan **builds on the success of PM-JANMAN** and represents a powerful step towards transforming tribal villages into hubs of opportunity and dignity. With a significant investment of ₹79,156 crore, this multi-sectoral initiative **brings together 17 ministries through 25 integrated interventions**, offering a comprehensive model for grassroots development.



SYLLABUS: GS 2 : Vulnerable Sections

Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No** : 12

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan

Empowering Tribal Communities
Across India



— Nationwide Coverage —

- ▶ **63,843** Tribal Villages covered
- ▶ **549** Districts
- ▶ **2,911** Blocks
- ▶ Implemented in **26 States** and **4 Union Territories**

— Impact —

Direct Benefit to **5 Crore** Tribal Citizens

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: Honouring Tribal Legacy

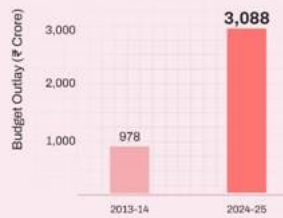
To celebrate the invaluable **contributions of tribal communities to India's freedom struggle and nation-building**, the Government of India observes Janjatiya Gaurav Divas every year on 15th November, in memory of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**. The 2024 celebration marked his 150th birth anniversary, and witnessed a nationwide outpouring of pride, participation, and policy-driven action aimed at preserving tribal heritage.

Expansion of Tribal Scholarship Scheme

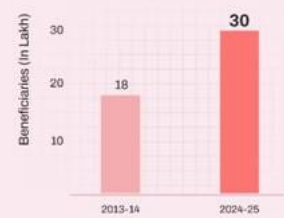
(2013-14 to 2024-25)



Growth in Budget Outlay for Tribal Scholarship Scheme



Increase in Beneficiaries



Learning to Lead: Education that Empowers

The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) initiative has undergone a significant transformation over the past decade, evolving into a flagship programme aimed at **providing quality education to tribal students** across India. The government's strategic interventions in policy, infrastructure, academics, and digital innovation have vastly improved access, governance, and learning outcomes for tribal youth. **EMRS schools are now set up in every tribal block with over 50% ST population** and at least 20,000 tribal residents (per 2011 Census). The Ministry has set the target to set up a total of 728 EMRS's benefiting around 3.5 lakh ST students across the country.



Q1. Regarding constitutional morality in India, consider the following statements:

1. The term "constitutional morality" was first used by Pandit J.L. Nehru.
2. Conventions of the Constitution form part of constitutional morality but are not enforceable by courts.
3. The Supreme Court held that courts can impose new disqualifications on ministers based on constitutional morality.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Q2. Regarding tropical cyclones, consider the following statements:

1. They form over warm ocean waters with sea surface temperatures above 16°C.
2. The Coriolis force is essential for their formation.
3. They generally form near the equator, where the Coriolis effect is strongest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Q3. Regarding ASEAN, consider the following statements:

1. ASEAN was established by the Bangkok Declaration of 1967.
2. India became a full-time member of ASEAN in 1992.
3. The ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q4. How many of the following statements regarding Interpol Notices is/are correct?

1. Interpol issues one type of colour-coded notice to share crime-related information among member countries.
2. Red Notice serves as an international arrest warrant enforceable under international law.
3. India's National Central Bureau for Interpol functions under the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: a

Q5. Regarding the e-Courts Project in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan.
2. The project is implemented by the Department of Justice along with the Supreme Court's e-Committee.
3. Phase III of the project focuses on paperless courts and integration with digital public infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 2 only

Answer: c





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com