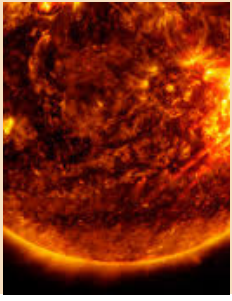


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India aims at self-reliance in solar physics, space weather

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Kerala will officially be the first State 'free of extreme poverty'

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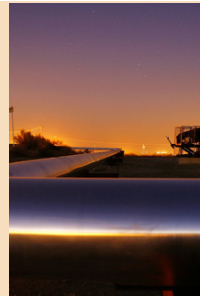


Punjab records fourfold drop in farm fires in 2025

The Indian Express: 23/10/2025- Page 2

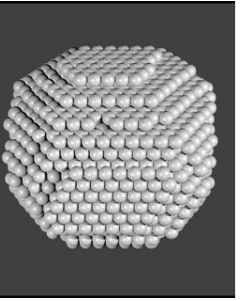
'OPEC output confusion must put oer under oil prices'

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Scientists use 'atomic stencils' to make designer nanoparticles

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President visits Sabarimala, offers prayers at hill temple



President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday offered prayers at the Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala, Kerala, making her the first woman President of the country to worship at the famed hill temple. The President arrived at Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium Ground in Pramadam around 8.40 a.m. by a special helicopter. She was accorded a formal reception by Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan and others. From there, she travelled to Pampa in a specially arranged motorcade, where elaborate security and traditional arrangements had been made. The hill temple and its surroundings were placed under unprecedented security cover, with the movement of other pilgrims prevented beyond the Nilackal base camp. The President offered prayers at Sabarimala, before visiting the Malikappuram Devi temple and the Vavar Swami shrine. Following the darshan, she was presented with a wooden carving of deity Ayyappa on behalf of the TDB by Mr. Vasavan. President Droupadi Murmu will be the chief guest of the valedictory ceremony of the platinum jubilee of St. Thomas Autonomous College, Pala, to be held today. The President will unveil a plaque of the upcoming platinum jubilee block at the function. In view of the visit of the President to Kumarakom and Pala on Thursday, Kottayam and Pala towns have come under a tight security blanket for the next few days. The district administration and the police have deployed nearly 2,000 security personnel, established no-flying zones, and implemented traffic control in view of her visit.

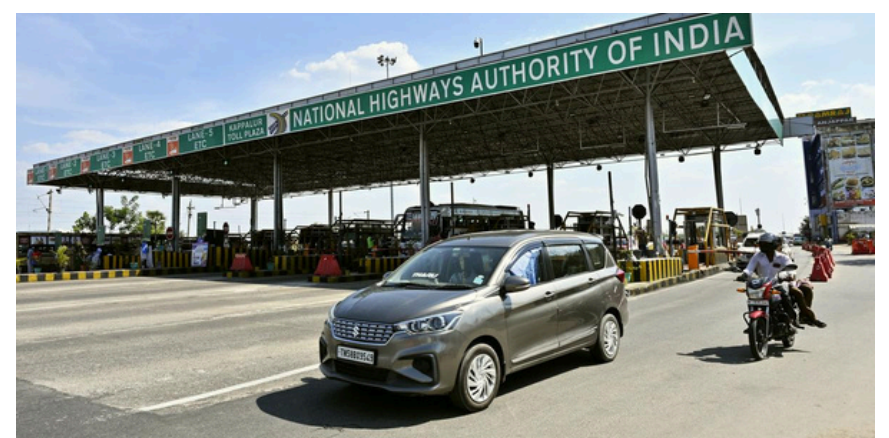
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WELCOMES

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Hon'ble President of India

To the Education Hub of Kerala
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In order to identify road defects, including potholes and cracks on road surfaces, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will deploy advanced sensors and data acquisition systems across 23 States, covering a distance of over 20,000 km in order to take corrective action. The move is being undertaken to improve the riding experience of commuters. The data collected will be uploaded on the NHAI's AI-based portal Data Lake, where it will be analysed.

STATE



Ladakh delegates offered terms of Article 371 by govt.

- A meeting between civil society groups from Ladakh and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officials took place in New Delhi regarding Ladakh's political and constitutional status.
- The meeting comes a month after violent protests in which four people, including a Kargil war veteran, were killed while demanding statehood and constitutional safeguards for Ladakh.
- The MHA indicated to the Apex Body Leh (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) that special provisions under Article 371 of the Indian Constitution could be considered for Ladakh.
- Article 371 provides for special provisions, regional autonomy, and self-governance for certain states such as Nagaland, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Karnataka, and others.
- However, both LAB and KDA rejected Article 371 provisions and continued to demand inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, which provides tribal status and greater autonomy.
- The groups emphasized that only the Sixth Schedule would ensure adequate protection for land, jobs, culture, and environment in Ladakh.
- The government officials reportedly listened to their demands but did not provide any assurance or timeline for a decision.
- LAB and KDA also demanded the release of detained protesters, including Sonam Wangchuk, and compensation for those killed and injured in the police firing.
- Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, co-convener of LAB, said the MHA promised to review their demands and respond later.
- The MHA suggested that safeguards similar to Article 371 could be extended to Ladakh in the future, but no commitment was made.
- A high-powered committee led by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai is expected to meet again soon with Ladakh representatives.
- This highlights ongoing tensions in Ladakh over demands for statehood and constitutional protection, showing public dissatisfaction with current administrative arrangements post-2019 (after Ladakh became a Union Territory).

Punjab records fourfold drop in farm fires in 2025

- **Significant Reduction:** Punjab recorded only 415 incidents of farm fires between September 15 and October 21, 2025, compared to 1,510 cases in the same period last year — a nearly fourfold decrease.
- **Data Source:** The figures were compiled by the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB).

Previous Years' Comparison:

- In 2023, the number of farm fires during this period was 1,764.
- The consistent decline indicates a positive trend in reducing stubble burning.

Reasons for the Drop:

- Delayed paddy harvest due to heavy rains and floods in early October delayed crop residue burning.
- Stricter field monitoring and awareness campaigns by the government also played a major role.

Government Actions:

- Civil administration and police carried out rigorous anti-stubble burning measures.
- Officials highlighted the impact of public awareness drives about the environmental harm caused by stubble burning.

Paddy Cultivation Data:

- Total area under paddy cultivation in Punjab in 2025: 31.72 lakh hectares.
- By October 21, 32.84% of the crop had been harvested.

District-wise Data:

- Tarn Taran (136 cases) and Amritsar (120 cases) reported the highest number of farm fires.
- Other districts with cases: Ferozepur (41), Patiala (27), Gurdaspur (16), and Sangrur (14).

Timeline Trend:

- On October 11, there were 116 cases.
- By October 21, the number rose to 415 — indicating a gradual increase as harvesting progressed.

Government Concern:

- Officials warned that as paddy harvesting accelerates and wheat sowing begins, the number of fire incidents could rise.
- **Penalties and Legal Action:**
- The PPCB imposed environmental fines worth ₹9.4 lakh on 189 cases; about ₹6.25 lakh has been recovered so far.
- 170 FIRs have been registered — 61 in Tarn Taran and 50 in Amritsar — against violators.

Overall Implication:

- The data reflects partial success of Punjab's anti-stubble burning strategies.
- However, future trends depend on continuous monitoring, weather patterns, and compliance by farmers during the ongoing harvest season.

Kerala will officially be the first State 'free of extreme poverty'

- **Historic Declaration:** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will officially declare the State free from extreme poverty on November 1, at a ceremony at Central Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram.
- **Significance:** Kerala will become the first Indian state to achieve this milestone, marking a major step in social welfare and inclusive governance.
- **Programme Launch:** The extreme poverty eradication programme began in 2021, as one of the first Cabinet decisions of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.
- **Policy Foundation:** The programme was based on findings from the NITI Aayog's 2021 report, which showed Kerala had the lowest poverty rate in India — only 0.7% of its total population.

Identification of Beneficiaries:

- A total of 64,006 families were identified as extremely poor, based on criteria such as food security, health, livelihood, and shelter.
- Surveys were conducted at the ground level to locate the most marginalised sections of society.

Inclusion of Marginalised Groups:

- Many beneficiaries were people not listed as voters, and lacking ration cards or Aadhaar.
- The initiative ensured inclusion of previously overlooked populations.

Support Measures Implemented:

- Essential documents were provided to 21,263 individuals.
- Houses were built for 3,913 families, and land allotted to 1,338 families.
- House repair works worth up to ₹2 lakh each were completed for 5,651 families.
- **Government's Approach:** The focus was on meeting both immediate and long-term needs of the extremely poor.
- **Leadership Acknowledgement:** Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh highlighted the collective effort of local bodies, the Opposition, and the State administration.
- **Broader Message:** The achievement reflects Kerala's strong social welfare system, grassroots governance, and inclusive developmental model, serving as an example for other states.

When a parasitic wasp saved South's tapioca crops

- After a devastating mealybug outbreak in South India's tapioca (cassava) crops in 2020, scientists from ICAR-NBAIR introduced a classical biological control method using a parasitic wasp (*Anagyrus lopezi*), which restored harvests without chemical sprays.
- Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry were worst hit; collectively, these states contribute over 90% of India's tapioca output from 1.73 lakh hectares, with economic losses mounting as yields dropped from an average of 35 tonnes per hectare to as little as 5-12 tonnes in severely infested regions.
- The mealybug pest caused massive crop damage by feeding on plants, which led to leaf curling, stunted growth, and poor tuber formation, rapidly becoming an economic threat as no natural predators existed locally.
- Chemical control measures proved costly, environmentally harmful, and unsustainable for small farmers, prompting NBAIR to adopt biocontrol using the parasitic wasp imported from West Africa and mass-produced in dedicated centres.
- The intervention included the release of over 200,000 wasp parasitoids, widespread farmer outreach, and training sessions across affected towns to maximize impact.
- By 2024, the parasitic wasp successfully brought mealybug populations under control naturally—larvae feed on mealybugs from within, reducing pest numbers without harming other crops, restoring yields, and eliminating the need for chemical sprays.
- The success demonstrates the effectiveness and sustainability of classical biological control against invasive alien species threatening Indian agriculture, highlighting ICAR's innovation and capacity for large-scale farmer engagement.
- It serves as a staple food for millions in these regions due to its high carbohydrate and calorific content, providing essential food security and dietary energy.
- The crop's adaptability to marginal soils and lower input needs makes it especially valuable for resource-poor regions prone to food insecurity, helping buffer communities during food shortages.



Union govt. proposes mandatory labelling of synthetic AI-generated content on social media

- The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry of India has proposed a draft amendment mandating the disclosure and labelling of synthetic AI-generated content on social media platforms.
- Social media companies must allow users to self-declare if their content is AI-generated, while platforms must proactively detect and label such content if users fail to declare it.
- Synthetic content disclosures must cover at least 10% of the visual area for all AI-generated audiovisual posts, ensuring labels are prominent for users.
- The proposed rule applies to synthetic content of all types (text, video, audio) and is not restricted to photorealistic images; it is intended to address concerns over deepfakes and impersonation that pose privacy and misinformation risks.
- The Ministry's move responds to public concern about misuse of AI in creating misleading or harmful content, aiming to help users distinguish between synthetic and authentic material via mandatory data labelling.
- Platforms are required to embed permanent labels or unique metadata clearly in the content itself, covering at least 10% of the display area, making the synthetic nature easily visible or audible.
- Feedback on the proposed amendments is being sought until November 6, with officials noting that major social media platforms are technically capable of implementing these rules.
- Unregulated AI tools enable the creation and viral dissemination of fake videos, audio, and images that can disrupt elections, incite violence, manipulate public opinion, and enable identity theft or financial crimes.

'Synthetic' Transparency
GOVT HAS LAID DOWN THE RULES FOR AI CONTENT

FAST FWD
'Synthetic info' now legally defined under IT Rules
Framework inspired by similar laws worldwide

- Platforms must verify AI-generated user posts
- Disclaimers must occupy 10% display area
- Labels (metadata) stay permanently embedded
- Only senior officials to issue takedown notices
- Major platforms like Meta, X, YouTube impacted
- Safe harbour retained for compliant intermediaries
- Experts warn of diluted legal protections online
- New rules raise government accountability in takedowns

WHAT FOLLOWS?

Officers issuing content notice to be made more 'accountable'

- The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is amending social media takedown rules to make the process more transparent and officers more accountable for notices issued to platforms.
- Under Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Rules 2021, government officials can flag online content that may violate Indian laws or pose risks; once flagged, social media firms lose “safe harbour” protections and are held legally responsible for the content like publishers.
- New safeguards require that each notice must clearly state it is a “warning,” not a takedown order, and provide an explanation for why safe harbour does not apply.
- Notices must now be issued only by senior authorised officers—Joint Secretary & above at the central level, or Deputy Inspector-General & above at the state level—ensuring greater oversight and responsibility.
- The changes are intended to reduce arbitrary or unclear takedown actions, compelling platforms to treat flagged content with more legal caution and providing transparency to stakeholders.
- The aim is to clarify that such communications are warnings and not immediately enforceable takedown orders, addressing both legal concerns and public complaints about arbitrary censorship.
- The need for greater accountability in officers issuing content takedown notices arose from concerns over arbitrary, vague, or excessive use of these powers by lower-level officials, resulting in legal uncertainty, over-censorship, and potential suppression of legitimate online speech.
- Previously, takedown notices could be issued by relatively junior officers, sometimes without detailed explanation or sufficient legal reasoning, leading to complaints from social media platforms, civil society, and courts about unclear or excessive government intervention in digital content.
- Legal challenges (notably by X) and public pushback highlighted risks that too many officials could trigger loss of “safe harbour” for platforms, creating inconsistent content removal standards and substantial burdens on platform operations.
- Reviews by the IT Ministry identified vulnerabilities in the system—particularly lack of transparency, accountability, and specific statutory justification for notices—as contributing to arbitrary or disproportional content blocking, sometimes impacting newsworthy or critical speech.

India aims at self-reliance in solar physics, space weather

- India is intensifying efforts to achieve self-reliance in solar physics and space weather research, recognizing the massive impact of solar activity on Earth's technology infrastructure and critical space assets.
- Solar eruptions and coronal mass ejections can disrupt satellites, communications, navigation, and power grids, making their study crucial for national security and modern life resilience.
- The country has placed its first dedicated space observatory at Lagrange point 1 (Aditya-L1), positioning it to receive uninterrupted data on solar activity and its effects on Earth, which is fundamental for scientific research and real-time space weather forecasting.
- The research addresses key challenges such as understanding solar eruptions and their propagation, enabling scientists to better predict the onset and impact of space weather phenomena on Indian infrastructure.
- India has recently opened its space sector to private participation and announced support for startups and private satellite launches, which can accelerate innovation and the application of solar monitoring for practical uses like early warning systems.
- Collaboration between Indian institutions and international partners is emphasized, alongside the nurturing of young talent through integrated research and education programs, to boost indigenous expertise and capacity in space science.
- This underlines the need for multi-sectoral cooperation and advanced technological investment to keep pace with global advances in space weather prediction and maintain the integrity of India's growing space-based and ground infrastructure.

Scientists use 'atomic stencils' to make designer nanoparticles

- Scientists have developed a new nanofabrication method, termed "atomic stenciling," which enables precise control over the size, shape, and composition of nanoparticles, allowing for the creation of complex designer nanostructures.
- The team combined atomic-scale templates with established nanoparticle growth processes, overcoming limitations of traditional wet-chemical techniques that struggled to achieve atomic-level structural control.
- This breakthrough enables the fabrication of materials with atomically defined silver domains, unlocking the ability to give each nanoparticle highly tailored and uniform physical and chemical properties.
- The approach allows researchers to address and control factors such as strain, growth dynamics, and specific surface chemistry at an unprecedented level, with applications ranging from catalysis to advanced electronic materials.
- The researchers highlight that such atomic-level precision in patterning dramatically expands the possibilities in nanoscience and could drive future advances in material science, quantum research, and the semiconductor industry.

Advantages Offered:

- **Atomic Precision:** Achieves atomic-scale patterning, precisely controlling patch size, geometry, and placement.
- **High Uniformity:** Generates identical nanoparticles for consistent, predictable self-assembly behaviour.
- **Scalability:** Allows large-scale synthesis of patchy nanoparticles with simplified processing.
- **Material Versatility:** Compatible with multiple materials — gold, silver, silica — and adaptable to various polymer coatings.
- **Enhanced Self-Assembly:** Promotes spontaneous formation of ordered 3D superlattices and metamaterials.
- **Functional Tunability:** Enables customisation of surface chemistry, optical, and electronic properties.

Key Applications:

- **Targeted Drug Delivery:** Functional patches enable selective binding and controlled release to specific biological targets.
- **Catalysis:** Distinct surface domains improve reactivity and catalytic precision.
- **Optoelectronics & Photonics:** Supports creation of plasmonic and light-responsive metamaterials.
- **Energy Systems:** Enhances charge transfer and stability in batteries and solar cells.
- **Smart Materials:** Forms basis for programmable, self-assembling nanostructures with adaptive functions.

PRELIMS CORNER :

1.Which national agency has launched “CyTrain” a portal for online training of different stakeholders in Cybercrime investigations and prosecution?

- (a) C-DAC
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) CERTIn
- (d) NCRB

2.Ichamati river is a transboundary river that flows through?

- (a) India and Bangladesh
- (b) India and Bhutan
- (c) India and Nepal
- (d) India and Tibet

3.‘The Competitiveness roadmap for India@100’ sometimes seen in news recently, is released by

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- (c) Department of Economic Affairs
- (d) Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

4.Coco Islands and Preparis Island are part of?

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Myanmar
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Thailand

DETAILED ANSWER KEY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE CHRONICLE PAGE

‘OPEC output confusion must put floor under oil prices’

- Oil prices and futures are signaling a shift toward a protracted period of oversupply, despite varying forecasts for OPEC’s production outlook, and this is leading to increased price volatility in the market.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts a severe glut in oil markets for 2025 and 2026, with non-OPEC producers—especially the U.S.—leading supply growth that could overwhelm demand.
- While OPEC+ output curbs have matched or exceeded targets, the overall effectiveness is undermined by a slower rate of global oil demand growth and persistent uncertainty about the sustainability of OPEC supply discipline.
- OPEC’s share of global supply has fallen to about 30%, and the slow pace of demand recovery means spare capacity among major producers remains high, creating a “shadow market” with potential to dampen prices further if released.
- Analyst reports suggest that the durability of the current downturn is less than in past cycles, but persistent weak demand projections, robust non-OPEC output, and hidden inventories all contribute to a bearish market outlook.
- History shows that while oil markets may tighten if OPEC+ cuts deeper or demand rebounds, there is little immediate prospect of major price increases, with recent policy signals favoring continued caution on the part of key exporters.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

- The OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization founded at the Baghdad Conference, in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- OPEC currently has 12 members, including Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Venezuela.
- OPEC works to coordinate oil policies among member countries to ensure stable prices, steady supply to consumers, and fair returns for investors.
- OPEC nations produce about 30% of the world’s crude oil, hold 80% of proven reserves, and account for nearly half of global exports, with Saudi Arabia as the largest producer among the OPEC.
- OPEC+ was formed in 2016 as an alliance between OPEC and 10 other oil producers to address declining oil prices due to US shale oil growth.
- OPEC+ includes the OPEC members plus Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan, and Sudan.
- The OPEC and OPEC+ countries combined produce about 60% of global oil production.

INTERNATIONAL

Israel must ease passage of aid into Gaza, provide 'basic needs', says ICJ

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Israel is obliged to ease the passage of humanitarian aid into Gaza and provide Palestinians with the “basic needs” for survival, based on international moral authority and obligations under the United Nations.
- The ICJ's advisory opinion, though not legally binding, is considered to carry significant weight and calls for Israel to cooperate with relief schemes facilitated by the UN and its agencies—including UNRWA, which Israel has banned after accusing it of ties with Hamas.
- Israel categorically rejected the advisory opinion, claiming it is a politically motivated move and disputes the findings regarding their cooperation with humanitarian organizations, though it says it works with some UN bodies, but not UNRWA.
- Aid groups are pressuring for scaled-up humanitarian assistance in the region, especially after the ceasefire and amid ongoing restrictions on aid passage, highlighting the severity of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
- Norway plans to propose a UN General Assembly resolution demanding that Israel lift restrictions on Gaza aid, while the Palestinian delegate to the ICJ urged the international community to compel Israel to comply with the court's recommendations.
- The ICJ found Israel had not substantiated its counter-claims in court and stressed that international cooperation and adherence to humanitarian responsibilities remain critical in the ongoing situation.



China faces economic reality as top party leaders huddle on future strategy

- China's leadership is formulating a new economic strategy for the years up to 2030, against the backdrop of slowing growth, an aging population, low household spending, and ongoing trade friction with the United States.
- Consumer demand remains weak due to both cyclical and structural factors, with persistent woes in the real estate sector, a limited social welfare net, and a shrinking working-age population following the end of the one-child policy.
- The government is urged by economists to shift away from investment-led growth toward a more consumption-driven model to sustain economic momentum as urbanization and demographic changes reshape domestic demand.
- Trade frictions with the U.S. and its allies, particularly around critical rare earths, have added to export uncertainties despite China's continuing dominance in mining and processing these materials.
- The crisis in the property market is a significant headwind, reducing demand for construction materials and dampening economic confidence, with experts citing the need to “clean up the property market mess” as a top government priority.
- While China's export sector has shown resilience by finding alternative markets, short and medium-term outlooks remain cautious, and party officials are closely monitoring the ability to tackle these interrelated economic challenges.



Prelims Corner: Explanations

Q1. Ans d

'CyTrain' portal: It is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform, developed for capacity building of police officers/judicial officers through online courses on critical aspects of cybercrime investigation, forensics, prosecution, etc. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was established in 1986 to act as a repository of information on crime and criminals.

It was set up based on the recommendations of the Tandon Committee, the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the Task Force of the Home Ministry.

Nodal Ministry: It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.

Headquarters: New Delhi.

The NCRB has also launched CyTrain, a portal for online training of different stakeholders in cybercrime investigations and prosecution.

Q2. Ans a

It is a trans-boundary river which flows through India and Bangladesh. It also forms part of the boundary between the two countries.

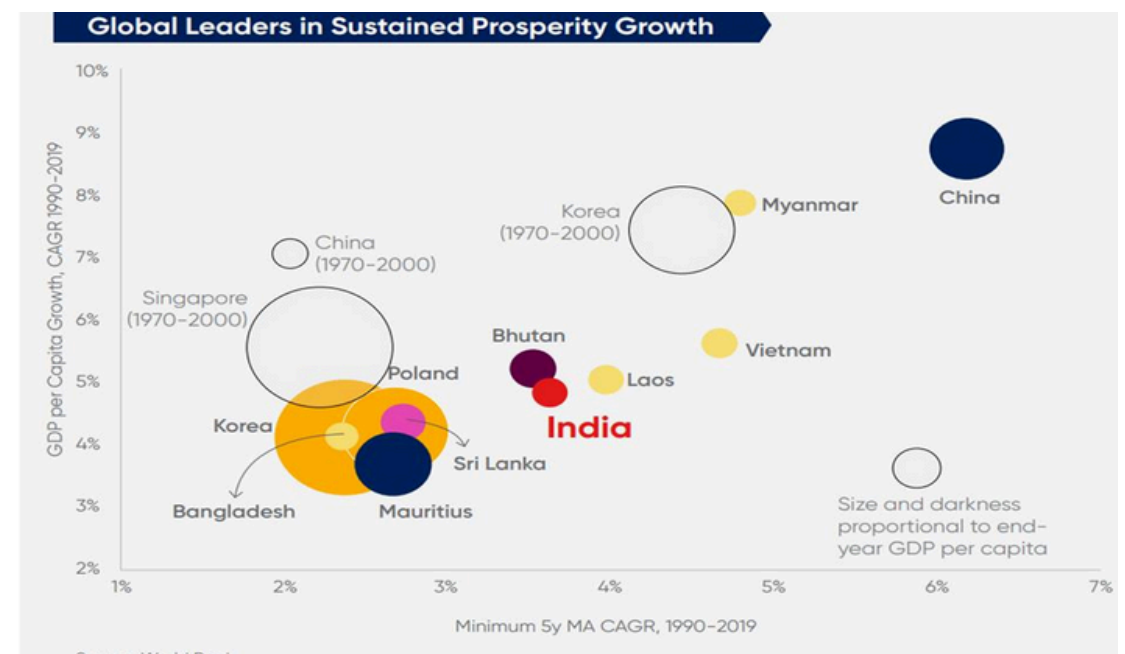
Course:

It is one of the bifurcations of the Mathabhanga River (a tributary of the Padma) and originates at Mahjdia village in the Nadia district of West Bengal. It flows through the Nadia and North 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal. Then it forms part of the India–Bangladesh international border. Later, it enters Bangladesh's Satkhira and Khulna districts. It covers a distance of around 216 km before discharging into the Kalindi River at Hasnabad in North 24 Parganas District and finally outfalls into the Bay of Bengal near Moore Island. Ichhamati River and its tributaries form a large oxbow lake complex in North 24-Paraganas district near Bangaon. The river is facing siltation leading to thin flow of water in the dry season and floods in the rainy season.



Q3. Ans d

The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 was released by the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister (PM). The roadmap, which is a part of the India Competitiveness Initiative, is a collaborative endeavour between the EAC-PM and The Institute for Competitiveness. It envisions setting new guiding principles for the country's growth journey over the following years and guiding different states, ministries, and partners in India's growth to develop sector-specific roadmaps for achieving targeted goals.



Q4. Ans b

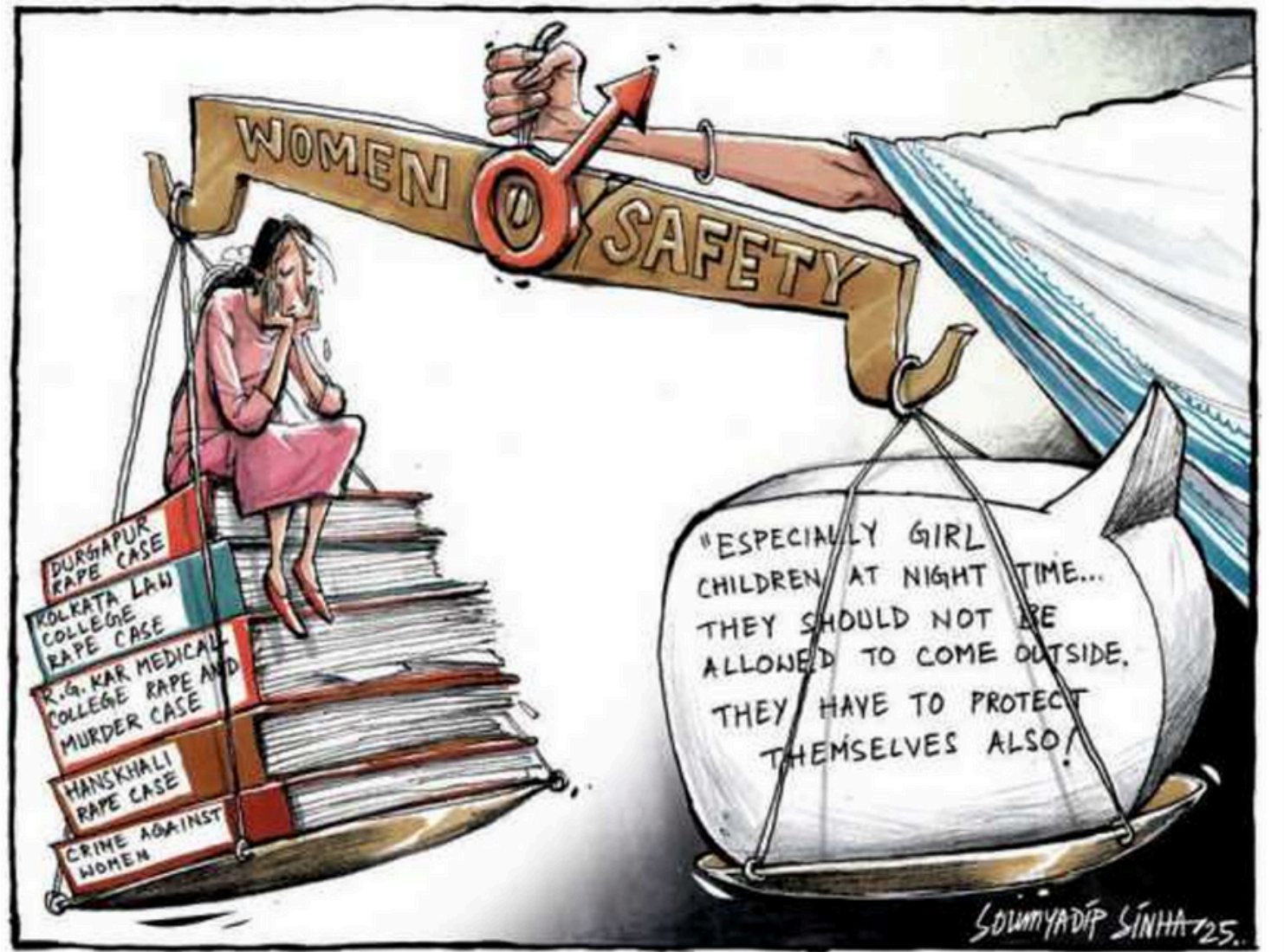
Coco Islands and Preparis Island are a pair of geographically close but politically distinct island groups in the Bay of Bengal that belong to Myanmar. The Coco Islands are a small cluster just south of Preparis Island and about 55 km from India's Landfall Island, while Landfall Island is the northernmost island of the Indian Andaman and Nicobar Islands archipelago. Both islands are strategically located, with recent development on the Coco Islands sparking security concerns for India.



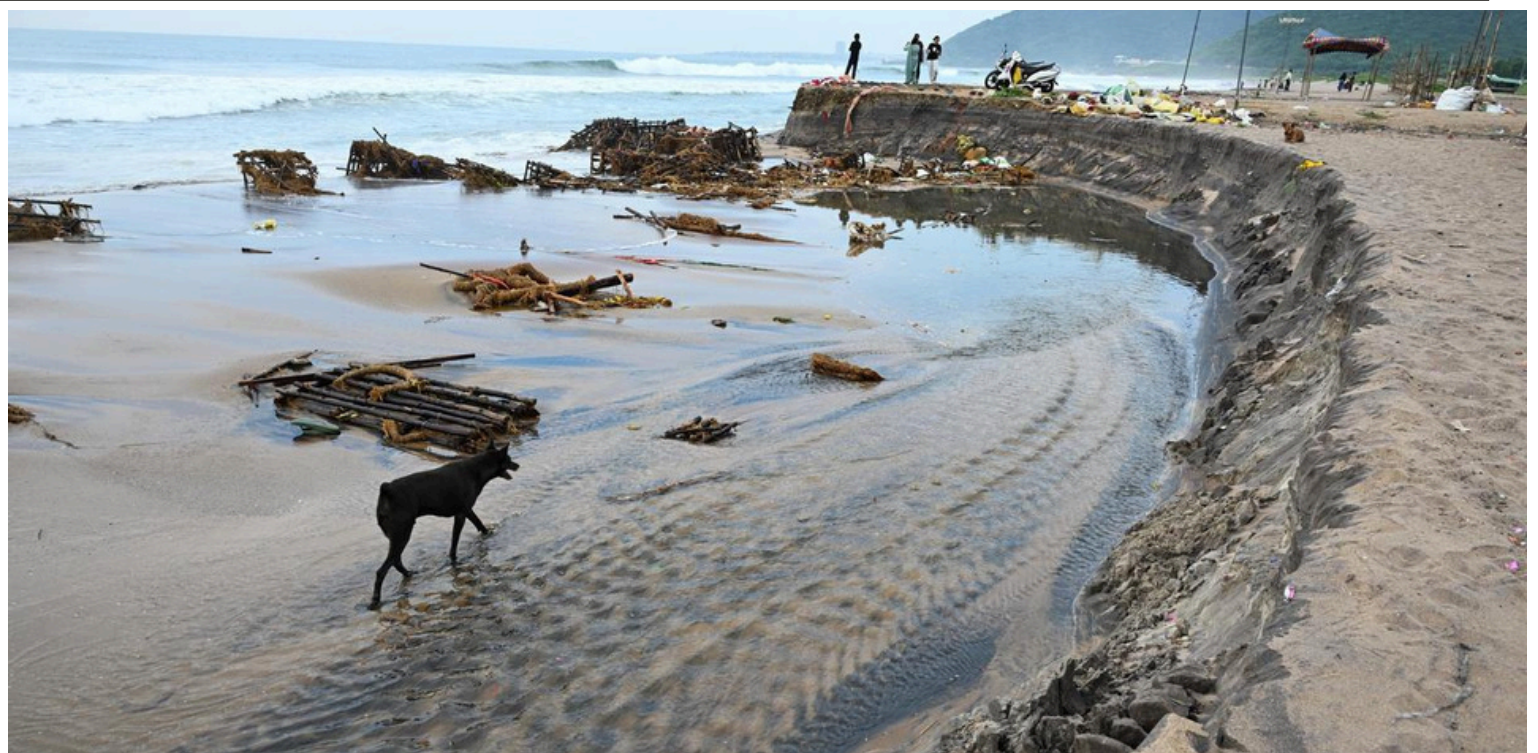
Case Study:



Two imprisoned journalists from Belarus and Georgia have won the European Union's top human rights honour, the Sakharov Prize. The announcement was made by European Parliament President Roberta Metsola in Brussels. Andrzej Poczobut, a correspondent for the Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza, was convicted in Belarus for "harming Belarus' national security" and sentenced to eight years in prison. He is serving his sentence in the Novopolotsk penal colony. Mzia Amaghlobeli, a Georgian journalist and founder of two independent media outlets, was convicted in August for allegedly slapping a police chief during an anti-government protest. She received a two-year prison sentence, which rights groups condemned as an attempt to suppress media freedom. Both journalists are viewed as victims of politically motivated charges aimed at silencing dissent. Rights organizations and the EU consider them symbols of the struggle for freedom and democracy. The Sakharov Prize, named after Soviet dissident and Nobel Peace laureate Andrei Sakharov, was established in 1988. It recognizes individuals or groups who defend human rights and fundamental freedoms. The recognition highlights Europe's support for press freedom and solidarity with persecuted journalists worldwide. The award also draws attention to authoritarian repression in countries like Belarus and Georgia, where media independence is under severe threat.



Javelin thrower and two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra was formally conferred the rank of Lt. Col. (Honorary) in the Territorial Army by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Army Chief, Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, at a pipping ceremony in New Delhi.



Great Green Wall to protect Andhra Pradesh's coastline from cyclones and environmental degradation. The project spanning 5 km will comprise a multi-layered green buffer zone having mangroves, shelterbelt plantations, inland vegetation, and sand dunes that will reduce the impact of cyclones and storm surges, and stabilise shorelines. 'Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh' will be completed by the year 2030.