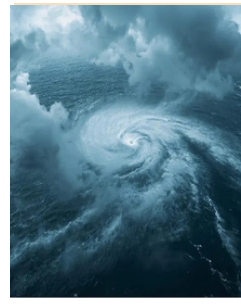

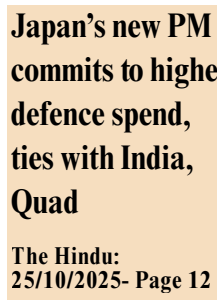



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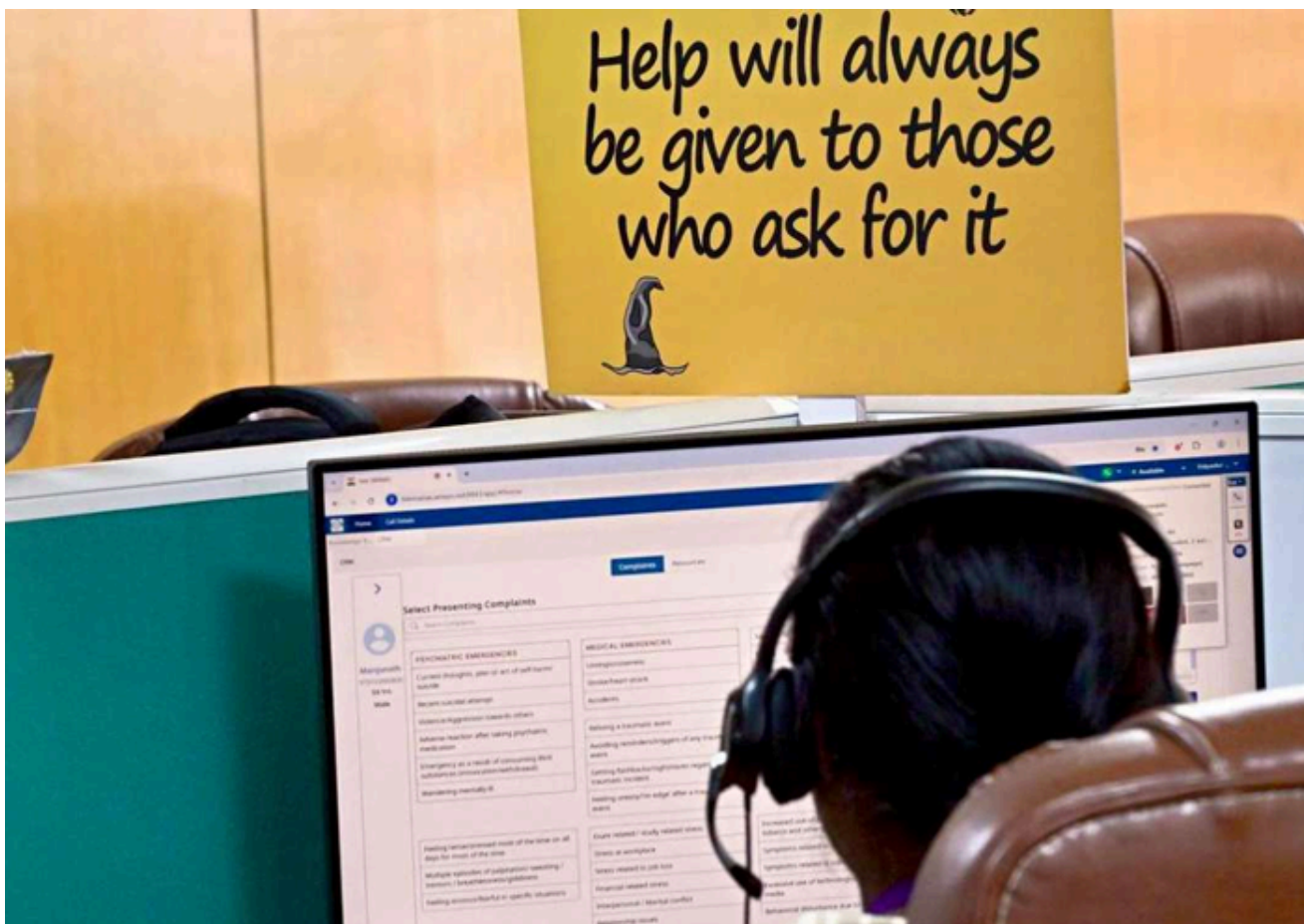
 <p>Low pressure area off T.N. coast may turn into cyclone</p> <p>The Indian Express: 25/10/2025- Page 2</p>	 <p>PM SHRI signing a tactical decision: Minister</p> <p>The Hindu: 25/10/2025- Page 2</p>	 <p>RBI may limit banks' market exposure</p> <p>The Indian Express: 25/10/2025- Page 11</p>	 <p>Japan's new PM commits to higher defence spend, ties with India, Quad</p> <p>The Hindu: 25/10/2025- Page 12</p>	 <p>'Future of enterprise will be transformed and led by AI'</p> <p>The Hindu: 25/10/2025- Page 11</p>
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Behind the carbide gun injuries that rocked Bhopal on Diwali

The carbide gun social media craze, which turned into a health crisis and left nearly 200 people injured across Madhya Pradesh during Diwali, has prompted the state to ban the devices, with officials admitting that they failed to anticipate the scale of the problem despite a warning dating back to 2023. Carbide guns have long been used by farmers to scare monkeys, but social media attention to the devices prompted many to try them at home during Diwali.



Government sources in the Bhopal administration said that the crackdown on carbide guns was hampered by stretched resources, inadequate threat assessment of social media trends, and a failure to heed medical research that flagged the danger two years ago. There was no campaign undertaken to explain to people that the use of carbide guns was dangerous. This is because of the relatively low number of cases in previous years. A prohibitory order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, has been issued, banning carbide guns during Gyaras, New Year celebrations, and wedding functions. A research study conducted by ICMR Bhopal had warned: "Carbide gun-associated ocular injuries in our study occurred due to a lack of awareness of risks, improper handling, and poor design quality/unpredictable functioning of guns. The ease of access of youngsters to cheap, ready-made guns and low-cost raw materials contributed to the risk." Calcium carbide is primarily known for its use in the production of acetylene gas through hydrolysis. Calcium carbide reacts vigorously with water to produce acetylene gas. Acetylene is a colourless, odourless, extremely flammable gas. It is used as a reducing agent and in steel manufacturing and metal cutting.



Tele-MANAS... 24/7 mental health support at NIMHANS in Bengaluru serves as the nodal centre for the national mental health helpline. "TeleMANAS" (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) toll-free helpline, providing counseling services for individuals experiencing mental distress.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness of the Army during the Army Commanders' Conference in Jaisalmer. During the conference, detailed deliberations were held with the senior leadership of the Army on key aspects, including grey zone warfare, the road map for synergy between the forces, Aatmanirbharta and innovation. Addressing the gathering, the Defence Minister described Operation Sindoor as an embodiment of India's military prowess and national character.



STATE

Low pressure area off T.N. coast may turn into cyclone

- A well-marked low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, off the Tamil Nadu coast, is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by Monday morning.
- This system is expected to bring heavy rainfall, particularly to northern districts of Tamil Nadu starting Saturday, and may cause intense rainfall in Chennai, Ranipet, and Villupuram on Sunday.
- The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) explains that the low pressure could become a depression over the southeast and central Bay by Saturday, deepening further by Sunday.
- If it becomes a cyclone, it may be named 'Cyclone Montha' as per standard naming for tropical cyclones in the north Indian Ocean.
- Heavy rain is forecast for districts like Cuddalore, Viluppuram, and Chengalpattu on Saturday, while six northern districts may receive intense rainfall on Sunday.
- The RMC notes that clarity on where the cyclone could make landfall will increase once the system intensifies further.
- Tamil Nadu has already received 22 cm rainfall this season, about half the average Northeast monsoon total for the state.
- The prevailing weather conditions are expected to support sustained wet weather over Tamil Nadu until the end of the month.
- The timely onset of the northeast monsoon in October 2025 has brought much-needed relief to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, regions that rely heavily on it for both agriculture and water security.
- This is also called the retreating monsoon. It is shorter and less widespread but still important, especially for southern India.
- By October, the land starts to cool faster than the ocean. This creates a high-pressure area over the Indian subcontinent and a low-pressure area over the surrounding seas. The direction of wind flow reverses and winds blow from land to sea. These are called northeasterlies. Since these winds pass over the Bay of Bengal before reaching the southeastern coast, they pick up some moisture.
- As they reach Tamil Nadu, south Andhra Pradesh and parts of Sri Lanka, they provide abundant moisture for rainfall activity.

PM SHRI signing a tactical decision: Minister

- Kerala's decision to sign up for the Centrally sponsored PM School for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme was described as a tactical move by the State Education Minister to avoid denial of Central school education funds.
- The Minister argued that this step enables access to much-needed funds while Kerala continues resisting the implementation of several contentious NEP (National Education Policy) provisions.
- Kerala received ₹188.58 crore in 2023-24 and expects ₹513.54 crore in 2024-25 under Central schemes; PM SHRI would add significant funding, vital when the State faces fiscal constraints.
- By joining PM SHRI, Kerala will secure additional resources for Samagra Shiksha Kerala and other projects, boosting total Central funding to ₹1,476.13 crore.
- The move drew criticism from coalition partners like CPI, who viewed the agreement as undermining the united Left Democratic Front's opposition to the NEP and Centralized policies.
- The PM-SHRI Scheme, launched in 2022, is a centrally sponsored initiative aimed at upgrading over 14,500 existing schools to serve as model institutions showcasing the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- The scheme runs from 2022-23 to 2026-27, after which the responsibility for maintenance lies with the respective states and UTs.

Key Features of PM-SHRI Schools

- Modern, well-equipped Smart Classrooms, Computer Labs, Integrated Science Labs, and Atal Tinkering Labs.
- Focus on competency-based learning and real-life application of knowledge.
- Promotion of green initiatives such as water conservation, solar energy use, and waste recycling.
- Experiential, inquiry-driven, and learner-centred pedagogy.

Funding Pattern:

- General States/UTs with legislature: 60:40 (Centre: State/UT)
- Northeastern and Himalayan States, J&K: 90:10
- UTs without legislature: 100% Central funding

Schools are selected for the PM SHRI Scheme through a competitive "Challenge Mode" process in three stages.

STATE

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

Study says fat composition is the secret of civet coffee

- A recent scientific study by researchers of the Central University of Kerala has revealed that civet processed robusta coffee, popularly known as Kopi Luwak, shows distinct difference in its fatty acid methyl esters and total fat content when compared to naturally harvested robusta beans, offering fresh scientific insight into the origins of its famed aroma and flavour.
- The findings add empirical weight to long held beliefs about the unique sensory, nutritional and aromatic qualities of the civet coffee, one of the world’s expensive and exotic brews.
- The research compared civet scat-collected robusta beans with manually harvested ones from organically and conventionally managed estates in Coorg.
- Civet coffee, primarily produced from the excreta of the Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), is made when the animal consumes ripe coffee cherries.
- The pulp is digested while the beans, subjected to natural fermentation in side the gut, are excreted intact and later collected for processing.
- The entire digestive passage takes about 12 hours before the beans are recovered, washed, and roasted.
- The study found that civet-processed beans were larger and contained higher fat contents than manually collected ones.
- The traditional method of collecting feces from wild Asian palm civets has given way to an intensive farming method, in which the palm civets are kept in battery cages and are force-fed the cherries.
- This method of production has raised ethical concerns about the treatment of civets and the conditions they are made to live in, which include isolation, poor diet, small cages, and a high mortality rate.
- Kopi luwak is produced mainly on the Indonesian islands of Sumatra, Java, Bali, Sulawesi, and in East Timor.



Prime Minister will lead parade on 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) parade at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat on October 31 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The event is themed around "Unity in Diversity" and is held at the site of the Statue of Unity, symbolizing Patel's key role in uniting 562 princely states into modern India.
- This year's parade will be mobile, featuring tableaux from different states and the guard of honour presented by women police personnel.
- Chief Ministers of all States have been invited, and the public can register online to attend the event.
- The parade includes Shaurya Chakra awardees from the CRPF and gallantry medal winners from the BSF, highlighting valor and national unity.
- Demonstrations by special breeds of Indian dogs used by the BSF, including Rampur hounds and Mudhol hounds, will be featured, showcasing their role in security operations.
- A cultural program with 900 artists performing various Indian classical dances will showcase India's diversity.
- The event also marks the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, adding significance to the day.



Victims and perpetrators of terrorism cannot be equated, says Jaishankar

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar criticized efforts, especially by Pakistan, to equate victims and perpetrators of terrorism at the UN, calling it a cynical and flawed global strategy.
- He highlighted Pakistan's attempts at the UN Security Council to shield the group responsible for the Pulwama terror attack, underscoring the gridlock and inefficacy of the global body in reform and counter-terrorism.
- Jaishankar linked the issue to the polarization and stagnation at the UN, stating that meaningful reforms remain blocked due to the existing process and politicized debates.
- He questioned the credibility of multilateralism if victims and perpetrators are equated, or if known terror outfits are protected from sanctions, signaling a broader loss of trust in the UN's ability to address terrorism.
- The comments were made at the event celebrating the 80th anniversary of the United Nations and during the release of commemorative UN postage stamps in New Delhi.
- Jaishankar's remarks serve as a call for urgent reform at the UN, emphasizing genuine commitment to counter-terrorism and fair global governance.
- The need for UN reforms stems from the necessity to adapt to modern geopolitical realities, enhance effectiveness in addressing global challenges, and increase legitimacy and transparency.
- Key areas for reform include the Security Council to ensure more equitable representation, streamlining bureaucracy to improve efficiency, and updating financial structures to address funding challenges.



Gyan Bharatam Mission to ink pact with institutes

- The Gyan Bharatam Mission, under the Union Culture Ministry, is launching a flagship initiative to identify, digitize, preserve, and promote India's manuscript heritage through collaboration with institutes across the country.
- About 20 institutes (including Asiatic Society Kolkata and University of Kashmir) will initially sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), with 30 more joining soon for the conservation, upkeep, and digitisation of manuscripts.
- The mission aims to create a National Digital Repository (NDR) to share India's manuscript resources globally, ensuring systematic digital preservation.
- Partner institutes are categorized as "cluster centres" or "independent centres." Cluster centres oversee manuscript-related activities for themselves and designated partners, while independent centres manage their own digitisation functions.
- Centres are tasked with cataloguing, conservation, capacity building, digitisation, research, outreach, and forming dedicated volunteer Gyan Bharatan Cells in specific domains.
- The mission will provide a framework for guidance, monitoring, and funding, with phased financial assistance tied to project milestones and submission of utilization certificates.
- This initiative, announced in the Union Budget, is expected to strengthen collaboration, ensure better manuscript management, and promote India's vast handwritten heritage worldwide.



The politics of makhanaomics: Behind government's push to boost Bihar's makhana industry

- Bihar contributes around 90% of India's makhana (foxnut) production, but the state has yet to fully benefit from its domination of this crop due to infrastructure and market limitations.
- Makhana is a nutrient-rich dried edible seed from the prickly waterlily, and is mainly cultivated in the northern and eastern Bihar districts; however, large-scale commercial processing is still fledgling.
- Most of Bihar's makhana is sold raw at low prices to food processing units outside the state, where it is cleaned, roasted, and packaged before being sold at higher prices across India.
- The lack of a developed food processing industry and supporting infrastructure in Bihar hinders the value addition and efficient commercialization of makhana cultivation.
- The new National Makhana Board, with an initial budget of Rs 100 crore, aims to improve production, processing, value addition, and marketing, and is a key initiative in government plans to create an ecosystem for industry growth.
- Low productivity, manual harvesting, and an intermediary-driven supply chain are persistent challenges for farmers, keeping their income low.
- The move to boost makhana has political significance in Bihar, especially among the Mallah community that dominates makhana farming; it aligns with electoral strategies and attempts to address issues of rural poverty.
- State and central governments are both seeking to improve makhana's economic ecosystem, but experts suggest tangible breakthroughs depend on actual results in processing and marketing, not just policy announcements.



BUSINESS

RBI may limit banks' market exposure

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed draft regulations to cap banks' direct exposure to capital markets and acquisition financing at 20% of their tier-1 capital, aiming to limit risk and ensure soundness in the financial sector.
- The proposals would limit banks' financing for acquisitions to a maximum of 70% of the deal value, requiring the remaining 30% to be funded by the acquiring company's own resources.
- Previous regulatory changes included broader definitions of capital market exposures and increased maximum bank lending limits on listed securities.
- The draft guidelines state that banks' aggregate exposure—including direct, indirect, and guarantees related to stocks, bonds, and acquisitions—should not exceed the 20% cap, while exposure to individual acquisition financing is capped at 10% of tier-1 capital.
- Only banks with a proven profitable track record over three years can finance acquisitions, and shares taken as collateral should be fully acquired within three years.
- RBI's move is part of ongoing reforms after concerns about banks' aggressive lending to riskier segments such as mergers and acquisitions, which can amplify their vulnerability during economic downturns.
- The RBI also proposed new risk weights for non-banking financial companies' lending to infrastructure, aimed at tightening prudential norms and limiting excessive risk-taking.
- **Greater Financial Stability:** By capping risky lending to capital markets and acquisitions, the RBI aims to shield banks from potential losses in volatile market conditions. This helps protect consumers' deposits and strengthens overall banking stability, reducing the risk of bank failures or crises.
- **Potential Impact on Loan Availability:** As banks allocate less capital to high-risk corporate lending and market-linked exposures, they may have more resources for traditional retail loans—such as personal, home, and vehicle loans—which could mean better loan availability and competitive interest rates for individual consumers.

'Future of enterprise will be transformed and led by AI'

- AI will radically transform enterprise workflows over the next few years, especially through the integration of AI-driven solutions and interfaces, enhancing efficiency and productivity across sectors.
- Major business software providers like SAP observe a strong global shift toward adopting AI as enterprises seek to stay competitive and relevant in a fast-changing digital environment.
- India is witnessing rapid AI adoption in sectors such as telecom (e.g., Reliance Group), where companies are redefining business models due to internal and external drivers.
- AI's true potential lies in its ability to act as a natural interface, breaking down silos between departments and applications to create seamless user experiences and unlock business value.
- **Customization is emphasized:** companies can build AI specifically tailored to their data, history, and requirements, offering highly personalized enterprise solutions.
- SAP positions AI not as a one-time transition but as an ongoing, central function—acting as “the central business unity”—with teams dedicated to data privacy, safety, compliance, and the ethical operation of AI.
- Data security remains a foundation; all required data protection and privacy standards are being built into AI-driven enterprise solutions, with minimum requirements for security increasingly embedded.
- AI bring together business and technical skills, helping companies realize the benefits of AI while overcoming legacy issues and ensuring ethical outcomes.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) has a wide range of uses across industries and daily life, transforming the way tasks are performed and decisions are made.

- AI powers recommendation systems for e-commerce, streaming services, and social media, tailoring suggestions based on user behavior and preferences.
- AI aids in diagnostics, medical imaging interpretation, drug discovery, personalized medicine, and hospital resource optimization, improving patient care and operational efficiency.
- AI-driven robots and systems enhance production, quality control, and predictive maintenance in manufacturing plants.
- Financial institutions use AI to detect fraudulent transactions, unusual patterns, and cybersecurity threats in real-time.

Japan's new PM commits to higher defence spend, ties with India, Quad

- Japan's newly appointed Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has pledged to increase the country's defence spending to 2% of GDP by March 2026, advancing the target by two years and aligning Japan with other major powers' defence commitments.
- Takaichi underlined her government's focus on tackling inflation, implementing fiscal reforms, and strengthening Japan's security partnerships, notably with the Quad and the U.S., India, Australia, and other countries in the Indo-Pacific.
- She addressed the importance of the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership in the context of a free and open Indo-Pacific, calling India a "unique country" vital to Japan's diplomatic and strategic interests.
- The announcement reflects a response to rising security concerns from China, Russia, and North Korea, with Japan reaffirming security commitments with allies.
- Japan's planned defence spending increase comes alongside population and economic challenges, as well as broader reviews of Japan's strategic and defence policies.
- Takaichi's upcoming diplomatic schedule includes meetings with regional and global leaders, increased engagement with India, and hosting major international summits, positioning Japan for an elevated global leadership role.
- Deepen coordination at the Quad, UN, G20, and other multilateral platforms to advance shared interests such as a rules-based order and a free, open Indo-Pacific.
- India and Japan can significantly enhance their comprehensive strategic partnership and contribute to regional stability and prosperity.
- The overall policy signals continuity with previous Japanese governments but with an accelerated timeline for critical security-related reforms and international collaboration.

India opposed to any move that may affect truce in Gaza

- India reiterated its opposition to any "unilateral" moves in West Asia that could undermine the ongoing truce and peace process in Gaza, following Israel's preliminary approval of a bill to annex parts of the West Bank.
- Speaking at the UN Security Council debate, India's Permanent Representative P. Harish emphasized the importance of upholding the momentum towards peace generated by recent U.S. diplomatic efforts and called for support of ongoing peace negotiations over unilateral actions.
- India stressed the urgency of the "over-all Palestinian question" and called for unimpeded humanitarian aid—particularly food, fuel, and other necessities—to flow into Gaza.
- Mr. Harish described the Trump peace initiative as an "enabler and catalyst" in the current process but maintained that India's approach is based on supporting peace efforts rather than territorial or sovereignty changes by force.
- India condemned all forms of terrorism, called for the release of hostages, and urged that humanitarian assistance for Gaza must not be obstructed.
- India reaffirmed its support for the "inalienable rights" of the Palestinian people, including self-determination, national independence, and sovereignty, and reiterated its backing for a two-state solution.
- This implies India's consistent historical support for Palestinian rights and statehood, while balancing the need for security cooperation with Israel, emphasizing that both sides must "honour their respective commitments" for lasting peace.
- India strongly favors a negotiated two-state solution as the only way to achieve lasting peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.
- India opposes any unilateral or forcible measures—such as annexation of territory—that could undermine negotiations, disrupt peace initiatives, or escalate violence, especially actions that would negatively impact humanitarian conditions and ongoing ceasefires.

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.

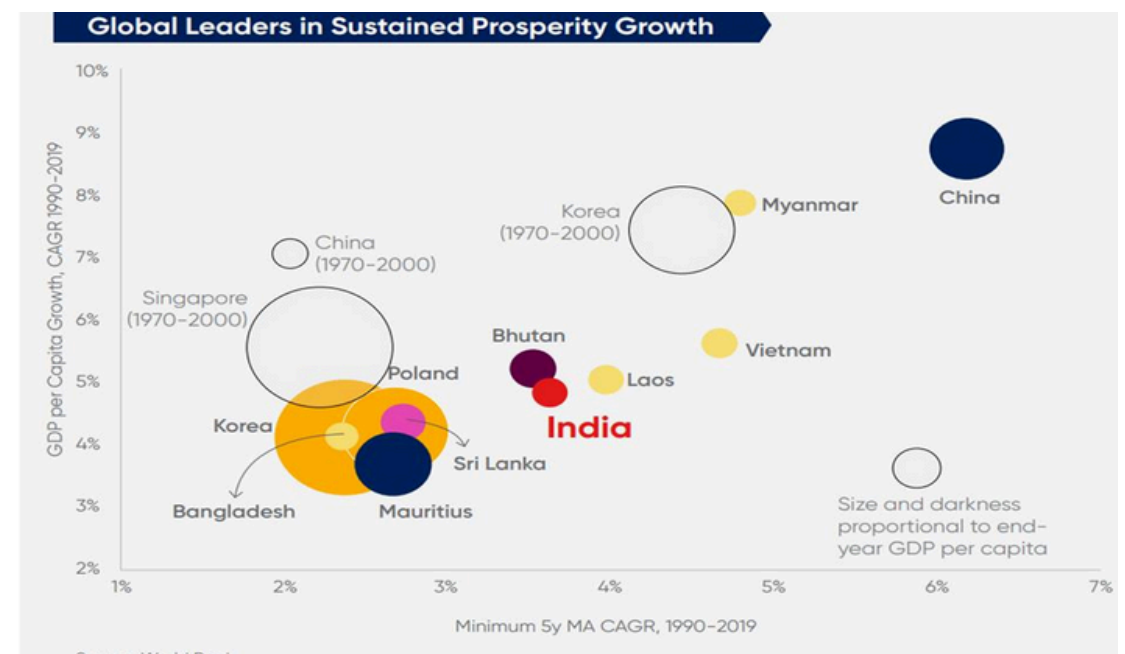
Course:

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:



Mosquitoes found in Iceland for first time after record heat.

Mosquitoes have been found in Iceland for the first time after the country experienced record-breaking heat this spring. Insect enthusiast Bjorn Hjaltason encountered the mosquitoes over several nights last week while using wine-soaked ropes to observe moths, local media reported. Mr Hjaltason found two female mosquitoes and one male which were later confirmed to be *Culiseta annulata*, one of few species that can successfully survive winter. Iceland was one of only two mosquito-free havens in the world prior to the discovery, partly due to its cold climate. The only other recorded mosquito-free zone is Antarctica. The mosquitoes were found in Kjós, a glacial valley to the South West of the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik. Iceland's cold climate and lack of stagnant water in which the insects can breed are key contributors to the country's former lack of mosquitoes, the World Population Review said. But this year, the country broke multiple records for its high temperatures. The species are common across parts of Europe and North Africa but it isn't clear how they reached Iceland. Mosquito experts say the discovery is a sign of how rapid climate change, globalisation and tourism are changing Iceland.

Autumn blooms:



Believed to have been introduced from China to Kashmir many centuries ago, chrysanthemum flowers or Gul-e-Dawood is all set to replicate the success story of tulip garden in the Valley, but, unlike tulips, the mesmerising bloom of 30 lakh flowers will spread out till harsh winters set in. Located at the foothills of the Zabarwan forest range, the well-curated garden is spread over five hectares of land. It will feature more than 50 exquisite chrysanthemum varieties and over 30 lakh blooms are expected this season.

Indian women seals semifinal spot



India couldn't have hoped for a better way to storm into the semifinals of the Women's ODI World Cup. Adding to the festive fervour, India thumped New Zealand by 53 runs via DLS method on Thursday to book a spot in the last-four stage after eight years as it rode on centuries by openers Pratika Rawal and Smriti Mandhana to put up a mammoth 340 for three in 49 overs. As the White Ferns put the host in on a batting-friendly surface, Smriti (109, 95b, 10x4, 4x6) and Pratika (122, 134b, 13x4, 2x6) laid the foundation with a record 212-run stand — the highest for India in World Cups.