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Chennai to become cruise hub as firm plans expansion

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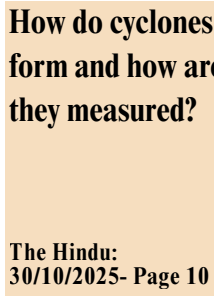
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Developing nations need 12 times more funds to fight climate crisis



To adapt to climate change, developing countries will require anywhere from \$310-365 billion (at least 27 lakh crore) annually by 2035, according to a United Nations analysis. This is nearly 12 times more than the money that currently flows from the developed to the developing world for this purpose. International public adaptation finance flows to developing countries stood at \$26 billion (about 2.2 lakh crore) in 2023, down from \$28 billion the previous year.

The analysis, underlining the huge gap between the demand and supply of funds needed to protect developing nations from climate change impacts, appears in *Running on Empty*, an annual report on the shortfall released on Wednesday, ahead of the 30th edition of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP-30) to be held in Belem, Brazil next month. If these trends continue, a target agreed upon by countries at the COP-26 in Glasgow, to double adaptation finance to \$40 billion by 2025 will be “missed”, the report added. At COP-29 in Baku, Azerbaijan last year, developing countries, which were demanding nearly \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035, were disappointed when the developed world agreed to only \$300 billion, called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance. The report also raises concerns that whatever money has been made available at present is primarily classified as ‘debt.’ Although 70% of international public adaptation finance was concessional in 2022-23, it is “worrisome” that debt instruments continue to dominate these overall flows, comprising 58% on average in that financial year, the report said.



President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday took a sortie in a Rafale fighter jet from the Indian Air Force Station in Ambala, and described the experience as “unforgettable”. Previously, she undertook a sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI, in April 2023, from Tezpur in Assam.



South Africa stormed into their maiden Women's World Cup final with a commanding 100-run win over England at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati on Wednesday. Laura Wolvaardt's sublime century and Marizanne Kapp's all-round brilliance powered the Proteas to a historic victory. South Africa have finally ended their long and agonising wait to play in a Women's World Cup final. After the heartbreaks of 2000, 2017, and 2022, the Proteas have created history by reaching their maiden final of the tournament.



STATE

Kerala puts PM SHRI scheme on hold, sets up review panel

- The PM SHRI (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India) scheme is linked to the National Education Policy and is a Central government initiative designed to release statutory federal grants for school education, estimated at ₹1,446 crore for Kerala.
- Implementation of the PM SHRI scheme requires signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by state governments, with certain obligatory conditions tied to the National Education Policy.
- **Political Dynamics in Kerala**
 - The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala is led by the CPM, with its key ally CPI (Communist Party of India).
 - The CPI publicly denounced the State government's signing of the MoU with the Centre, calling the NEP-linked scheme "reactionary."
 - The dissent from CPI prompted the Kerala government to freeze further action on the scheme.
- **Governance Response**
 - Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced the formation of a seven-member Cabinet subcommittee to examine CPI's concerns about joining the PM SHRI scheme.
 - General Education Minister Sivankutty was appointed as chair of this review panel, which includes ministers from various coalition parties—CPI, CPI(M), Janata Dal (Secular), Kerala Congress(M), and Nationalist Congress Party.
- **Implications and Strategic Decisions**
 - The Government will not proceed with PM SHRI until the subcommittee completes its review and submits a report.
 - The delay is also partly due to the upcoming local body elections, with CM Vijayan indicating no immediate call would be made on the scheme during the election season.
 - **Financial and Political Trade-offs**
 - There is a significant federal fund at stake—over ₹1,400 crore—for school education tied to accepting NEP-linked conditions.
 - Critics (and CPI) argue that accepting the scheme's conditions could compromise the state's autonomy in education policy.

Chennai to become cruise hub as firm plans expansion

Strategic Positioning as a Cruise Hub

- Chennai is set to be developed as a major cruise hub, with Mumbai-based Waterways Leisure Tourism Limited planning to base its Cordelia Cruises operations there, making Chennai the home port.
- This development is timed with the India Maritime Week 2025 and is projected to connect Chennai with multiple coastal and international destinations over the next three to five years.
- Cordelia Cruises will introduce more ships at Chennai, with each cruise ship accommodating around 2,500 passengers.

Expansion Plans and Economic Impacts

- The cruise company envisions 1.5 to 2 million passengers per year passing through Chennai within five years, highlighting significant growth in maritime tourism.
- Cruise routes from Chennai will include key regional destinations such as Malaysia, Thailand, Andaman, Puri, Kolkata, Puducherry, and Sri Lanka, as well as Visakhapatnam and Goa.
- The move is expected to boost related industries such as seafood processing, shipbuilding, ship repair, recycling, and also enhance import-export trade efficiency in Tamil Nadu.

Government Support and Vision

- Tamil Nadu's Minister for Public Works, Highways and Minor Ports, E.V. Velu, emphasized the state's ambition to be a leader in the national maritime sector, projecting Tamil Nadu as a model partner in India's maritime growth mission.
- The state already plays a crucial role in maritime logistics, being a key port of call for export-import trade and maritime tourism, and now aims to strengthen these credentials even further.

Port Infrastructure and Investor Appeal

- Tamil Nadu is uniquely positioned with three major ports: Kamarajar Port, Chennai Port, and V.O. Chidambaranar Port, adding to its attractiveness for further cruise and shipping investments.
- The presence of multiple major ports provides logistical advantages and opportunities for seamless integration of passenger and cargo traffic.
- Indian Ports Association officials and Chennai Port authorities are actively inviting investors to participate in this growth story, showcasing government-industry cooperation.
- The initiative signals the importance of public-private partnerships and the embrace of global maritime tourism trends to drive the state's and India's economic ambitions in the maritime sector.

PRELIMS CORNER :

1. It is the second-largest wetland system in India. Currently, it is shrinking, and its unique biodiversity is under threat of ecological decay. It is declared as a Ramsar site. The above statements are about which of the below lake ?

- (a) Loktak Lake
- (b) Vembanad lake
- (c) Chilika Lake
- (d) Kolleru Lake

2. With reference to the Indian Constitution, any change to the list of Scheduled Castes specified in the President's order can be made by :

- (a) President by an order
- (b) Parliament or State legislature by law
- (c) State legislature by law
- (d) Parliament by law

3. These are a group of Buddhist caves that were carved and sculpted from the 2nd Century BCE. to the 5th century CE. The caves were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The forests surrounding the caves are adjacent to the Gautala Autramghat Wildlife Sanctuary. The above statements are about which cave ?

- (a) Ajanta Caves
- (b) Ellora Caves
- (c) Bagh Caves
- (d) Elephanta Caves

DETAILED ANSWER KEY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE CHRONICLE PAGE

Study reveals rare defence traits in Indian frogs

- Researchers from the University of Delhi have, for the first time, documented rare and contrasting anti-predator behaviours in two Indian frog species.
- The study, led by herpetologist S.D. Biju and published in Herpetological Notes, highlights remarkable and previously unrecorded defensive strategies in Indian amphibians.

Species and Their Defence Mechanisms

- The nocturnal apatanai horned toad (*Xenophrys apatani*), endemic to Arunachal Pradesh, relies on cryptic, leaf-litter colouration for camouflage.
- When threatened or handled, the apatanai frog inflates its body, emits a piercing distress call, and may even bite attackers to deter predators.
- The bi-coloured frog (*Clinotarsus curtipes*) from the Western Ghats, Kerala, was observed to arch its body by vertically extending its limbs when disturbed.
- This body-raising behaviour likely makes the frog appear larger and more intimidating, helping it evade predation.

Research Methods and Documentation

- The observed behaviours were confirmed through field photography, video documentation, and controlled threat simulations after capture.
- Such detailed documentation of anti-predator strategies is reportedly the first for Indian frogs, despite India having 419 recognised frog species.

Broader Ecological Context

- Out of 7,876 known frog species globally, about 650 show such defensive behaviour, but these have rarely been recorded in Indian species.
- The findings underscore the lack of natural history observations and documentation for much of India's native amphibian fauna.

Scientific Significance

- The discovery of these rare defence traits not only fills gaps in natural history knowledge for Indian frogs but also highlights the need for further research on their behavioural ecology.
- Professor Biju notes that such observations serve as examples of how much about native amphibian behaviour remains undocumented or poorly understood.

Conservation and Knowledge Implications

- These defence behaviours point to the evolutionary adaptations Indian frogs have developed for survival in their native habitats.
- Enhanced understanding of anti-predator strategies can inform both ecological studies and conservation efforts, particularly as amphibians face increasing threats from habitat loss and climate change.



FTA talks with EU crossed halfway mark: Piyush Goyal

Progress on FTA Negotiations

- India and the European Union (EU) have made substantial progress in negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), having finalized 10 out of 20 chapters of the agreement so far.
- Several remaining chapters are also nearing completion, demonstrating momentum in bilateral dialogue.
- Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted these developments following a focused three-day round with European Commissioner Maros Sefcovic and his team.
- Guidance has been received from both the Indian and European leadership, but care will be taken not to prematurely conclude negotiations at the expense of quality.
- The EU team will visit New Delhi next week for a new phase of negotiations, and Commissioner Sefcovic is scheduled to return to the capital at the end of November or December for further talks.

Key Issues and Sensitivities

- Core issues under negotiation include steel, automobiles, and Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, as well as concerns about EU regulations—areas described as having “higher sensitivities” for both sides.
- These complex, sector-specific matters suggest extensive deliberations will be required before final agreement can be reached.

Completion Timeline and Policy Implications

- While there is hope to complete negotiations by the end of the calendar year—corresponding with a bilateral summit between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and EU President Ursula von der Leyen—the emphasis remains on substance over speed.
- The outcome of the FTA will have significant policy and economic implications for trade relations between India and the EU, affecting market access and regulatory harmonization in major sectors.

Broader Significance

- The halfway mark in negotiations reflects growing India-EU strategic partnership and India’s commitment to deepening economic integration with the EU, its important trading partner.
- Successful conclusion of the FTA would signal a milestone for India’s external trade policy and could serve as a template for future agreements with other blocs.

500 Indians taking shelter in Thailand to be repatriated

- India plans to repatriate 500 citizens who sought shelter in Thailand to escape a Myanmar military operation against cyber scam hubs located in the Myawaddy region of southeastern Myanmar.
- The Myanmar army has recently cracked down on the KK Park cybercrime hub, which is infamous for targeting and trapping Indian victims through job fraud and cyber schemes, forcing many operators and workers to flee to neighboring Thailand.
- The scam hubs have become a major issue, particularly given the high number of Indians being trafficked and exploited in tech-related scam operations.
- The move follows diplomatic efforts, including a briefing between the Indian and Thai authorities, which was prompted by the recent surge in cross-border scam activity and the influx of Indian escapees.
- The crackdown on scam operations in Myanmar is tied closely to broader regional security and anti-cybercrime measures, as noted by Thai Prime Minister, who identified shutting down these hubs as a national security priority.
- Other countries have also taken action: Laos and local authorities joined in evacuating scam victims, while some operators used alternative communications and escape routes, complicating law enforcement efforts.

Broader Security and Humanitarian Context

- India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar raised the topic at ASEAN and East Asia Summit platforms, highlighting it as a regional security issue requiring coordinated responses.
- The fraudulent hubs exploit regional borders and communication channels, and their dismantling is seen as crucial not only for individual victim relief but also for wider international cybercrime containment.
- The situation underscores the vulnerability of Indians abroad to human trafficking and organized crime in the region, as well as the need for sustained diplomatic and security collaboration between affected countries.



Norway and India: Green maritime partners

- Norway and India are positioning themselves as key players in the global push towards sustainable and equitable maritime industries, leveraging their extensive coasts and strategic locations.
- India is recognized for its vital role in global shipping, shipbuilding, ship recycling, and digital maritime solutions, while Norway brings expertise in ship design, equipment manufacturing, and building a comprehensive maritime cluster.
- The recent entry into force of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) acts as a major boost for bilateral maritime collaboration and economic growth.
- Norway's maritime companies have expanded ties with Indian shipyards, evidenced by Norwegian shipowners commissioning vessels from Cochin Shipyard, underscoring trust and mutual industry growth.
- India is seen as a rapidly growing market for sustainable shipping, contributing significantly to Norwegian-controlled vessel operations in the region.

Shared Sustainability Goals

- Both countries prioritize clean shipping, environmental protection, and sustainable fisheries, with Norway aiming to cut emissions substantially by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.
- The adoption of stricter international regulations and support for the International Maritime Organization's Net-Zero Framework reflect a commitment to decarbonization in shipping and logistics.
- Norway's green transition is marked by investments in zero-emission fuels, autonomous vessels (such as Yara Birkeland), and innovative solutions like ASKO Ferries, providing templates for India's emerging maritime sustainability.
- Norway sees India as a crucial partner in expanding green maritime corridors and sustainable workforce solutions, leading to new investment opportunities and technological exchange.
- Both nations emphasize constructive dialogue on gender equality and workforce diversity in maritime sectors, actively supporting more inclusive industry initiatives and upskilling through bilateral training programs.

How do cyclones form and how are they measured?

Fundamental Drivers of Cyclone Formation

- Cyclones are powerful systems that draw heat from warm ocean waters to generate destructive winds, rainfall, and storm surges.
- They are known internationally by different names: hurricanes in the Atlantic/Eastern Pacific and typhoons in the Western Pacific.
- Cyclones begin as areas of low pressure, often associated with thunderstorm clusters, and can only develop further if key atmospheric and oceanic conditions align.

Essential Ingredients and Process

- The most important condition is a warm sea surface temperature, generally above 26.5°C, extending to a depth of at least 50 m to provide enough heat energy.
- When air near the ocean surface warms and rises, it cools, condenses, and forms clouds; the released heat further warms the surroundings, setting up a cycle of convection and moisture draw.
- The atmosphere must also be unstable, and a sufficient Coriolis force (from Earth's rotation) is needed to induce rotation and cyclone spin, which is why cyclones do not form near the equator where the Coriolis effect is weakest.

Wind Shear and Cyclone Structure

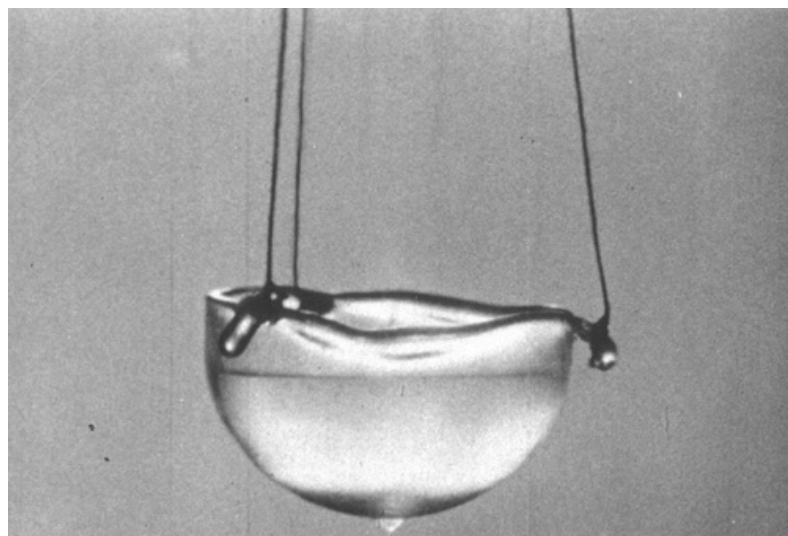
- Low vertical wind shear is critical for cyclogenesis; high wind shear (large changes in wind speed/direction with altitude) disrupts cyclone organization and strength.
- As cyclones intensify, a well-defined central "eye" forms, surrounded by thunderstorms—the eyewall contains the most intense winds and rainfall.
- Air spirals toward the low-pressure center at the surface and outwards at higher altitudes, maintaining circulation.

Classification and Measurement

- Cyclones are classified primarily by wind speed, central pressure, and rainfall; the Indian Meteorological Department uses categories ranging from 'depression' (31-49 km/hr) to 'super cyclonic storm' (≥ 222 km/hr).
- Monitoring tools include satellite data, ground-based sensors, reconnaissance aircraft (like hurricane hunters in the Atlantic), infrared/microwave imagery, and ocean buoys.
- Meteorologists track and measure storm intensity, cloud top temperatures, wind speed, precipitation, and evolution using these technologies.
- Forecasting cyclone paths and intensity remains a challenge because small errors in early data can yield large uncertainties.
- Sophisticated computer models simulate atmospheric and oceanic conditions, and remote sensing advancements have greatly improved forecast accuracy in recent decades.

SCIENCE

Nanometre ‘tank’ of helium reveals weird waves never seen before



Superfluid Helium and Unique Properties

- When cooled to just a few degrees above absolute zero, helium transitions into a superfluid—a state of matter with zero viscosity and frictionless flow.
- Superfluid helium can flow through narrow capillaries, climb walls, and move without losing energy, making it a subject of fascination for physicists.

Nanometre Scale Breakthrough

- Scientists have now managed to confine superfluid helium in a “tank” just a few nanometres thick, effectively creating an ultra-thin film of superfluid.
- This is a significant feat because the extreme thinness magnifies quantum effects, allowing researchers to observe behaviors not previously seen in such systems.

Waves and Surface Phenomena

- The experimental setup revealed weird waves on the helium’s surface—never observed before—thanks to the ultra-thin geometry and frictionless properties of the superfluid.
- These waves, triggered at the nanometre scale, differ fundamentally from ordinary liquid surface waves, with no analogy in everyday fluids.
- The article provides visual and theoretical comparison with ocean waves for context, emphasizing how different the quantum-induced surface oscillations are.

Lilliputian Paddle Experiment

- Researchers employed a tiny “paddle” (essentially a very small probe) to agitate the superfluid helium and study its response, detecting solitary waves and complex ripple patterns.
- The paddle interaction demonstrated the ability to propagate surface disturbances and probe intrinsic superfluid properties at an unprecedented scale.

Quantum Fluid Effects

- The study highlights quantum mechanical phenomena, such as quantized vortices and frictionless flow, observable only when helium is confined at near-atomic thickness in extremely cold conditions.
- Solitary waves—unique, self-sustaining ripple motions—were not only detected but could be manipulated within the superfluid film, opening new avenues for quantum hydrodynamics research.

Broader Scientific Importance

- The research deepens understanding of quantum fluids, suggesting that nanoscale superfluid tanks could serve as platforms for studying exotic physics, including quantum turbulence and matter-wave interference.
- Insights gleaned from such systems could have applications in nanotechnology, cryogenics, and quantum computing, where mastery over frictionless, loss-free systems is crucial.

Future Directions and Challenges

- While the experiments confirm theoretical predictions, new questions are raised about how quantum fluids behave under extreme confinement and agitation.
- The article hints at further exploration of quantum waves and superfluid tank designs to drive the next phase of low-temperature physics innovation.

Conclusion

- The nanometre ‘tank’ of helium enables unprecedented observation of quantum surface waves, advancing the frontier of superfluid research and demonstrating the ongoing interplay between experimental ingenuity and the wonders of quantum mechanics.

INTERNATIONAL

Hasina warns of mass boycott as her party barred from polls

- Millions of supporters of Bangladesh's Awami League are expected to boycott next year's national election after the party was barred from contesting polls.
- Ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, currently in exile in New Delhi, declared she would not return to Bangladesh under any government formed without her party's participation.
- Hasina left Bangladesh in August 2024 following violent student-led uprisings and now plans to remain in India if elections are held excluding the Awami League.
- An interim government, headed by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, has allegedly barred the Awami League from contesting and suspended the party's registration in May.
- The rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is widely expected to win the upcoming election, given the exclusion of the Awami League.
- Hasina emphasized that the next government must have electoral legitimacy, rooted in the consent and support of voters.
- Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal has concluded proceedings against Hasina over her alleged involvement in violence related to student protests, which she dismissed as "politically motivated" charges that have yet to reach a resolution.
- The situation threatens large-scale voter disenfranchisement and possible instability if the elections go forward without the Awami League, suggesting potential legitimacy issues for any future government.
- Hasina's warning of mass boycott represents a significant protest against what she sees as undemocratic practices, underlining deep political fault-lines in Bangladesh's national politics.



What is China's complaint against India at WTO?

- China has filed a WTO complaint against India, alleging that the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme involves illegal subsidies for the development of advanced chemistry cell batteries, the auto sector, and electric vehicle production.
- China's contention is that these Indian subsidies violate WTO rules by encouraging firms to use domestic inputs and discriminating against foreign (Chinese) components in the Indian market.
- India launched the PLI scheme in 2020 to boost manufacturing by providing financial incentives based on incremental sales to targeted industries.
- The PLI's objectives include raising India's global industry position and strengthening the manufacturing value chain, particularly encouraging medium/small enterprises to move up the chain through "backward linkages".

WTO Rules on Subsidies—The SCM Agreement

- While countries can give subsidies to domestic industry, the WTO's Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) agreement prohibits subsidies that are tied to local content requirements and that discriminate in international trade.
- The SCM agreement divides subsidies into three categories:
 - Prohibited subsidies (e.g., those contingent on export performance or the use of domestic over imported goods)
 - Actionable subsidies (which may cause adverse trade effects to others)
 - Non-actionable subsidies.
- Prohibited subsidies, if found, must be withdrawn immediately.

Interaction with Other WTO Laws

- China's case also rests on other WTO agreements such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) agreement, which bar policies that incentivize use of domestic over imported products.
- Prohibited "local content requirements" would constitute a violation if India's PLI benchmarks are found to favor local goods directly.

Likely Process and Next Steps

- The dispute will first go through consultations between India and China, with the possibility of a WTO panel if consultations fail to resolve the matter.
- With the WTO Appellate Body paralyzed since 2019, any panel outcome might be difficult to enforce unless the appellate function resumes or member countries agree on an alternative.
- The "practical implication" is that the status quo may continue for a while, with India and China in dispute and the matter pending international adjudication.

Prelims Corner: Explanations

Q1. Ans b

In India, Vembanad lake, in the state of Kerala, is the second largest wetland after the Sunderbans of West Bengal. Despite being declared a Ramsar site, the lake is now under serious environmental degradation because of the recurring floods, increased pollution, reduced water spread area and increased weed growth. The Vembanad Lake was declared as a Ramsar Site in the year of 2002. Vembanad Wetland is the largest brackish, humid tropical wetland ecosystem fed by 10 rivers. A Ramsar site is a wetland site designed to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, also known as the 'Convention of Wetlands'.



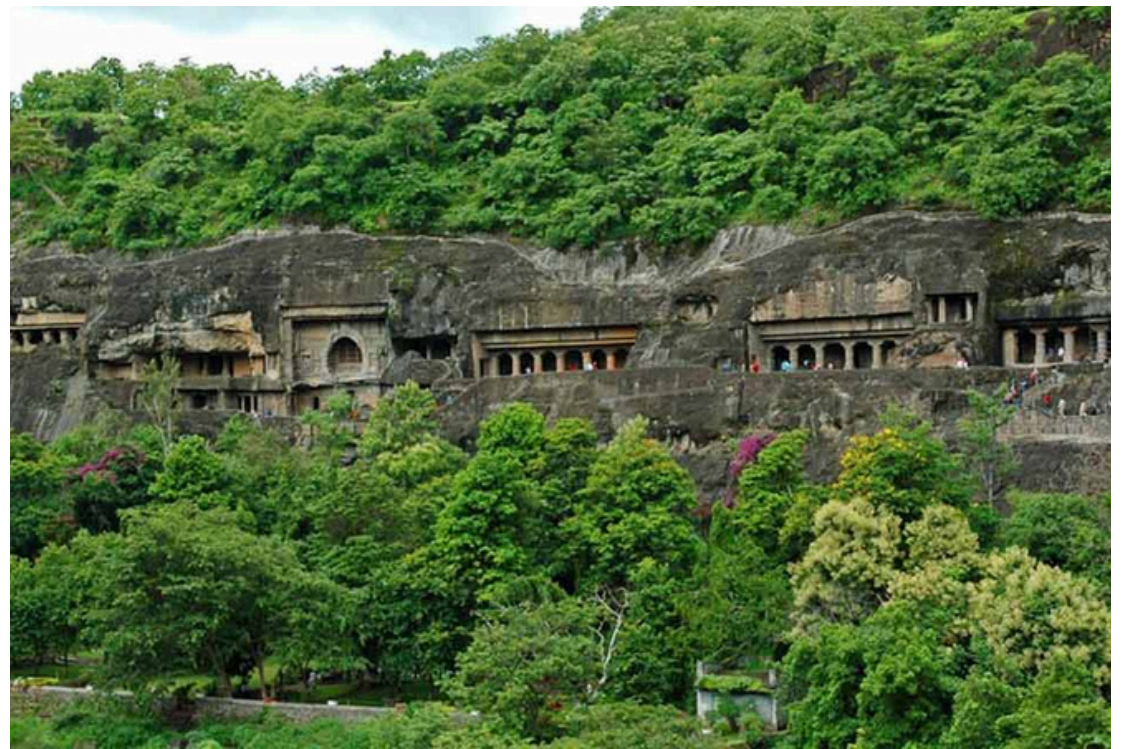
Q2. Ans d

The President of India has to make the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order. Under Article 341(2), any change to the list of Scheduled Castes specified in the President's order can only be made by Parliament by law. A parliamentary law alone can include in or exclude from the list of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, as amended in 1976, a particular caste. Thus, It explains that any changes to the list of Scheduled Castes specified in the President's order can be made by the Parliament by law.

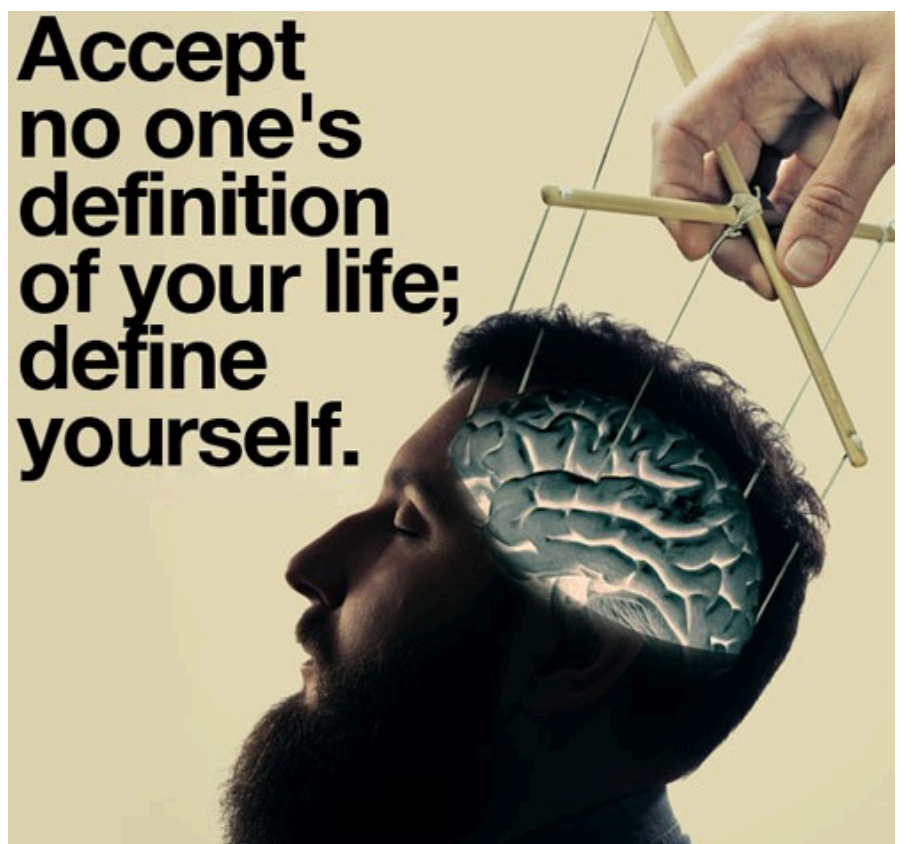


Q3. Ans a

Ajanta cave is a complex of 31 Buddhist caves. The Ajanta caves are carved in the Basaltic Gorge of river Waghur. Basaltic Gorge is a unique geological formation with various lava flows that created the Deccan trap. The forests surrounding Ajanta are adjacent to the GautalaAutramghat Wildlife Sanctuary. The caves were excavated in different periods (circa. 2nd century B.C. to 6th century A.D.) Ajanta Caves exemplifies one of the greatest achievements in ancient Buddhist rock-cut architecture. The artistic traditions at Ajanta present an important and rare specimen of art, architecture, painting, and the sociocultural, religious, and political history of contemporary society in India. The development of Buddhism manifested through architecture, sculptures, and paintings is unique and bear testimony to the importance of Ajanta as a major hub of such activities. Hence these caves were declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1983.



**Accept
 no one's
 definition
 of your life;
 define
 yourself.**



Case Study:



Climate change is ravaging the health of people around the world and policy failures are leading to “millions” of avoidable deaths each year, an international team of experts said on Wednesday. Opportunities for a “just” climate transition were still on the table but remained “largely untapped”, according to the Lancet’s Countdown, a major annual study tracking the health impacts of climate change. The report put figures on some of the most deadly consequences: 546,000 people died each year between 2012 and 2021 because of exposure to heat, a massive increase on figures from the 1990s; and toxic fumes from wildfires killed a record 154,000 last year. The health journal’s report called for increased investment in zero-carbon energy and climate-resilient infrastructure, and better planning for health challenges. The authors were ercely critical of U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to pull his country away from international aid programmes and climate initiatives. With global temperatures in 2024 the hottest on record, going above 1.5 °C relative to the pre-industrial period for the first time, the experts listed the many health threats coming from heatwaves, droughts, heavy rain, and other climate-related phenomena. Fossil fuel-related air pollution caused more than 2.5 million deaths in 2022 alone, the authors said, slamming the practice of subsidising fossil fuels.

Melissa the “Beast”:



Hurricane Melissa, which struck Jamaica with record-tying 296 kmph winds on October 28, was a beast that stood out as extreme even in a record number of monster storms spawned over the last decade in a superheated Atlantic Ocean. Melissa rapidly intensified during five, six-hour periods as it hit the extreme rapid intensification level. While more storms these days are undergoing rapid intensification — gaining 356 kmph in wind speed over 24 hours — Melissa did a lot more than that. It achieved what’s called extreme rapid intensification — gaining at least 92 kmph over 24 hours. It caused catastrophic destruction in Jamaica. Homes were torn apart and streets were inundated with water. Some of the hardest hit communities are impossible to reach. The massive storm made a second landfall in Cuba, before taking aim at the Bahamas. Climate scientists say human-caused global heating has contributed to the rapid intensification of modern-day storms.





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