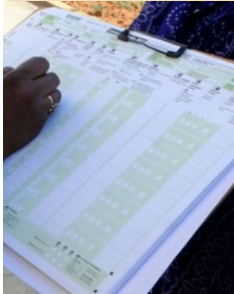


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Census self-enumeration trial to begin in select areas today



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Trailing in EV race, how Japan's carmakers are planning a reboot



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India, U.S. sign pact to enhance defence ties



India and the United States have unveiled a 10-year defence framework, marking a new phase in their strategic cooperation aimed at “advancing peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific”. The “Framework for the U.S.-India Major Defence Partnership” was signed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on the sidelines of the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Friday.

The development came amid strained ties due to Washington’s slapping of 50% tariffs on Indian goods. According to the Ministry of Defence, both sides appreciated the continuing momentum in bilateral defence cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the partnership. Both sides had already launched the COMPACT initiative (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce and Technology) to drive transformative changes in key areas of defence cooperation. The new framework underscores a shared intent to respond jointly to common security threats, deter conflict, and uphold the sovereignty and autonomy of regional partners, while laying the foundation for collective peace and prosperity in the region. The U.S. Secretary of War on Friday reiterated that India remains a priority partner for Washington in defence cooperation. Building on the 2013 Joint Principles for Defence Cooperation and the 2016 recognition of India as a Major Defence Partner (MDP), the new framework charts a 10-year road map to deepen collaboration across all defence domains — land, maritime, air, space, and cyberspace. The meeting on Friday included delegation-level discussions followed by one-on-one interaction between the two leaders.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Chhattisgarh's new Vidhan Sabha building. The state's legislative assembly, which began functioning from Raipur's Rajkumar College in 2000, will now move into a state-of-the-art, eco-friendly complex spread over 51 acres in Nava Raipur.



Ahead of COP30, UN Climate Change has produced three key mandated reports that shed light on where progress is happening and where more acceleration is still needed. The Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) Synthesis Report, The NDC Synthesis Report, and The NAP Synthesis Report. Three key mandated reports produced by UN Climate Change ahead of COP30 show the Paris Agreement is working but faster, wider action needed.



STATE

Census self-enumeration trial to begin in select areas today

New Features and Innovations

- The 2027 Census will introduce several technological innovations:
- Online self-enumeration mode.
- Data collection via mobile apps.
- Use of Artificial Intelligence tools.
- Geo-referenced digital maps for precise location-based reporting.
- Geo-referencing of enumeration blocks.
- Enumeration of caste for all household members.

Methodology and Implementation

- The actual self-enumeration website and app are not yet public, but their usability will be checked between November 1-10, 2025, specifically in select areas.
- Enumerators will visit selected households, assist them in filling out the details on a website, and note which households opt to self-enumerate.
- The pre-test phase includes 30 questions focusing on basic household particulars, infrastructure, and access to resources such as lighting, water, fuels, and appliances.
- Enumerators in the pilot areas will conduct two visits between November 10-30 to verify details and encourage digital self-enumeration.

Timeline and Phases

- The pre-test runs in two stages: November 1-10 and then from November 10-30 for digital usability checking and data verification, respectively.
- Sample areas across all states and union territories will offer self-enumeration between November 1-7.
- The entire Census exercise will be held in two major phases: HLO and main Population Enumeration, with final completion targeted for February 28, 2027.

Institutional Linkages

- The modules (website and mobile app) will be linked to the Census Management and Monitoring System, enabling seamless data collection and analysis.
- The notification from the Registrar General and Census Commissioner (RG&CCI) ensures process transparency but clarifies caste methodology is still not finalized.

Background and Context

- Census 2021 was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and rescheduled as Census 2027, extending the data collection period and increasing the need for robust, digital methods.
- The trial includes evaluating the public's ability and readiness to engage in self-enumeration, especially given the digital-first approach and inclusion of features like geo-tagging and AI.

Analytical Insights

- The push towards digital enumeration reflects the government's attempt to modernize data collection, increase accuracy, and possibly reduce future costs and operational hurdles.
- Inclusion of caste data for the first time since Independence is significant, though its methodology remains under review, suggesting potential political and administrative sensitivities.

Overall Implications

- If successful, the self-enumeration and digital-based approach could transform how demographic data is gathered in India, enabling real-time analytics and more granular policymaking.
- This transition is also expected to pose operational and digital literacy challenges, which will be gauged and addressed based on insights from this pre-test.

Cloud seeding can't be a reliable fix for Delhi's winter pollution: IIT-Delhi study

Study Findings and Methodology

- The IIT Delhi study emphasizes that cloud seeding should be viewed as a short-term, high-cost, and emergency measure, not a regular pollution management solution.
- The report was based on extensive atmospheric and pollution data collected over a decade (2011-2021), satellite moisture assessments, and pollutant washout evaluations.
- The Delhi government had backed a plan for two cloud seeding trials aimed at managing the severe winter pollution; these included attempts to induce artificial rain via silver iodide and other substances.

Technical Barriers and Criteria

- The study notes that successful cloud seeding is rarely feasible in urban Delhi due to a lack of persistent and suitable meteorological conditions like optimal cloud cover and moisture.
- Events meeting multi-criteria (cloudy weather, adequate moisture) are infrequent and mostly limited to exceptional weather anomalies in Delhi winters.
- Moisture stability index and saturation levels required for effective cloud seeding are seldom encountered in Delhi's polluted urban environment.

Pollution Washout Efficacy

- Analysis by the study confirms that while artificial rain may reduce major air pollutants (PM2.5, PM10, NOx, SO2), the effect is transient, with pollution levels rebounding within days after events.
- There are significant environmental and health uncertainties from the chemical agents used (such as silver iodide), increased operational costs, and scientific unknowns.

Recent and Historical Context

- The December Parliament report from previous year also flagged cloud seeding's limited effectiveness in routine pollution scenarios and recommended against its regular use.
- The study reiterates previous expert warnings that such interventions are not reliable amidst Delhi's regular dry and adverse atmospheric conditions.

Policy Implications and Recommendations

- This underscores that persistent reduction in urban pollution requires addressing its root causes: emissions from traffic, industry, construction, crop burning, and other sources.
- Cloud seeding should be reserved only for rare, extreme emergencies and should not replace comprehensive long-term pollution abatement policies.
- Resources should be redirected towards proven, sustainable solutions rather than high-cost, short-term experiments with limited efficacy.

Analytical Insights

- The findings reinforce the complexity of Delhi's pollution crisis, demanding a multi-sectoral approach and caution against over-reliance on engineering fixes like cloud seeding.
- The study provides scientific guidance for policymakers seeking data-driven solutions, highlighting the importance of focusing on systemic changes over technological interventions.

Indian Railways to patronise 'Aabhar' online store in a bid to encourage local artisans

- Indian Railways will patronise the newly launched 'Aabhar' online store, which will showcase and sell gift items made by indigenous tribes, handloom weavers, and other artisans under the One District One Product (ODOP) and Geographical Indication (GI) product schemes.

Objective and Policy Context

- The program is part of efforts to promote local artisans and traditional industries, aligning with the government's 'Vocal for Local' campaign and the broader policy push for social inclusion.
- The online store aims to provide a sustainable market to local artisans, boost rural entrepreneurship, and support women-led enterprises, thus promoting inclusive economic development.

Platform and Product Sourcing

- 'Aabhar' is hosted on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), sourcing exclusively from trusted public sector organizations like Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIE), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), and other state and central handicraft and handloom bodies.
- The store will offer a variety of gift hampers and items, suitable for official events, ceremonies, and functions, aiming to replace mass-produced goods with handcrafted, local products.

Cultural and Economic Promotion

- The initiative is designed to promote India's rich cultural heritage by bringing attention to handlooms, handicrafts, and artisanal products that reflect the skill and tradition of various communities.
- The project aligns with the 'One Station One Product' (OSOP) scheme, under which Indian Railways has already provided platforms for selling local handlooms and crafts at railway premises in the past.

Implementation and Impact

- The Railway Board is actively sharing information and facilitating the purchase of these products by designating liaison officers to coordinate with the online store.
- This move is expected to increase market access and income opportunities for marginalized groups, thereby addressing economic disparities and encouraging the preservation of traditional crafts.

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- The combination of large-scale public sector patronage and digital marketplace access could provide local artisans with unprecedented exposure, legitimacy, and steady demand for their crafts.
- By encouraging government and official use of these products, the initiative can create a demonstration effect, encouraging private and commercial buyers to support traditional industries as well.

US, Russia to be part of mega Indian Navy drill in February

Main Event

- The US and Russian navies, along with more than 55 other countries, will participate in the Indian Navy's mega biennial maritime exercise, MILAN, scheduled for February.

Strategic Significance

- MILAN represents a major international exercise aimed at fostering interoperability, operational synergy, and maritime diplomacy among participating navies, highlighting India's growing strategic maritime partnerships with major powers.
- Apart from MILAN, the Indian Navy will host two more big events: the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026 and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs at Visakhapatnam, where India will serve as Chair for 2025-2027.
- These events are scheduled between February 15 and 25, indicating a concentrated period of high-level naval engagement in India.

Participation and Preparedness

- Both the US and Russian navies have expressed intent to participate, though specifics about their contributions (such as sending ships or aircraft) are still being finalized.
- Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan emphasized continued Indian Navy preparedness at operational areas like Sindoor, with regular deployment of forces and equipment, in a strategic messaging directed towards China.

Security and Surveillance

- The Navy maintains robust monitoring, especially concerning Chinese naval activities in the Indian Ocean; assets like research vessels are closely watched, ensuring Indian security interests are safeguarded continuously.
- The Navy's surveillance extends to approximately 50-60 ships in operation daily in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), underlining India's commitment to maritime security and rapid response capability.
- The concurrent hosting of MILAN, IFR, and IONS showcases a broad agenda of multilateral cooperation, maritime diplomacy, and leadership assertion in Indo-Pacific naval affairs.

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- India's initiative in conducting such major exercises with participation from diverse global powers reflects its intent to play a central role in shaping Indo-Pacific maritime order.
- The engagement with both the US and Russia signals India's balanced approach to strategic partnerships, reinforcing its non-aligned, multi-vector foreign policy while prioritizing regional security, operational readiness, and enhanced maritime domain awareness.



PRELIMS CORNER :

1.The Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) was launched by India in which of the below summit?

- (a) COP21 Paris Climate Conference**
- (b) COP26 Glasgow Conference**
- (c) COP27 Sharm el-Sheikh Conference**
- (d) COP22 Marrakech Conference**

2.The Quito Adjustment is related to which of the following convention/protocol

- (a) Montreal Protocol**
- (b) Kyoto Protocol**
- (c) Nagoya Protocol**
- (d) Vienna Convention**

3.Which of the following is correct regarding Micro forests ?

- (a) Small-scale forests are grown in urban areas to promote biodiversity.**
- (b) Traditional forests with minimal tree coverage.**
- (c) Artificial forests created through genetic engineering.**
- (d) Miniature trees grown in bonsai gardens.**

4.Which of the following conventions is related to the elimination or restriction on the production and use of persistent organic pollutants?

- (a) Basel Convention**
- (b) Stockholm Convention**
- (c) Rotterdam Convention**
- (d) Vienna Convention**

DETAILED ANSWER KEY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE CHRONICLE PAGE

India's investment rate needs to rise to 34-35% to get 7% growth, says EAC-PM Chair

- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) chairman, S Mahendra Dev, emphasized that India's investment rate must rise to 34-35% of GDP from the current 31-32% to achieve a sustained 7% GDP growth rate.
- The current investment rate is seen as insufficient to support a high growth momentum, and investment—particularly from the private sector—needs to increase significantly.

Drivers and Barriers

- The Indian economy's expansion relies mainly on domestic demand, since domestic consumption forms 80% of total demand, with exports playing a lesser role.
- Despite increases in public capital expenditure in recent years, more private investment is needed to boost overall investment and multiply economic growth.
- Firms are hesitant, reflecting ongoing "policy uncertainty" and macro-financial risks, which continue to dampen investor confidence and pushback on new private investments.
- This highlights the "missing middle" in India's manufacturing sector—labour absorption is increasing but still modest, with the bulk of jobs in micro/small firms, and very few medium-sized manufacturing units employing 200-500 workers.

Sectoral and Structural Concerns

- Increasing rural and urban demand will drive private investments, provided that savings rates go up and policy certainty is restored.
- This implies India's historically low female labour force participation (about 11-12% in manufacturing), and the small share of formal jobs relative to the population, which affect overall growth quality and distribution.

Policy Suggestions

- Enhancing savings, easing macroeconomic and policy uncertainty, and encouraging foreign investment are recommended.
- Devolvement to local bodies and improved use of technology in agriculture could help address rural needs, as discussed in the context of the Rohini Nayyar Prize award mentioned in the article.
- Continued reforms (such as GST, privatisation, land and labour reforms) are deemed essential for stimulating private capital inflows.

Inclusive Growth and Decentralization

- Decentralisation—greater power to panchayats and local bodies—is spotlighted as key for inclusive rural development and improving service delivery.
- Successes from schemes like MGNREGA are cited, with benefits for women's empowerment, higher rural wages, and reduced migration.

Analytical Insights

- Structural reforms, policy stability, and harnessing domestic consumption are imperative for India to move from its current growth plateau to a sustainable 7% trajectory.
- The focus on decentralization, rural empowerment, and technology adoption in agriculture represents a recognition that inclusive growth is both a social necessity and an economic imperative.

Nvidia CEO hopes Blackwell chips can be sold in China

Nvidia's Hopes for Blackwell Chips in China

- Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang expressed hope that the company's advanced Blackwell chips might be allowed for sale in China, but emphasized that the decision rests with US President Donald Trump.
- Huang made these comments during a visit to South Korea, following recent high-level talks between US and Chinese leaders.

US-China Semiconductor Tensions

- The US government has imposed strict export controls on Nvidia's most sophisticated AI chips, aiming to restrict China's progress in military and AI capabilities.
- Nvidia's request comes amid ongoing diplomatic friction, as US national security concerns focus on the potential use of US chips by the Chinese military.
- Huang argued that Chinese AI's dependence on US-made hardware benefits America and that China's own domestic chips are sufficient for military applications, implying US export restrictions may be overly cautious.

Market Perspectives and Economic Arguments

- Nvidia remains interested in the Chinese market, though its previously anticipated "non-zero market share" there is now expected to drop to zero following US policy.
- Huang contended that it is in the "best interest" of both the US and China for advanced US technology to be exported, as this encourages market competition and benefits the tech ecosystem.
- He warned against underestimating the competitive abilities of Chinese manufacturers like Huawei, which have made significant advances in AI chip development and systems integration.

Technical and Business Details

- Nvidia's Blackwell chips for China are explicitly designed to be less powerful than global counterparts, in compliance with US export rules, yet to still offer significant capability.
- This notes that while US restrictions have curtailed Nvidia's business in China, private tech firms and cloud services in China remain eager customers for current and next-generation Nvidia products.

Broader Implications

- The policy dilemma highlights the tension between US commercial interests, national security priorities, and the need to maintain American technological leadership in global markets.
- Huang's comments reflect broader industry concerns that overestimating the risks of chip exports could push China to accelerate domestic chip R&D, ultimately hurting US firms' global competitiveness.
- This underscores the uncertainty in US-China tech relations, with companies like Nvidia caught between policy, security, and business imperatives.

Trailing in EV race, how Japan's carmakers are planning a reboot

Industry Context and Current Crisis

- Japan's leading automakers, renowned for their reliability and fuel-efficient models, are struggling to compete in the rapidly advancing global electric vehicle (EV) sector, especially against Chinese rivals and other fast movers in the EV landscape.
- The traditional strengths of Japanese carmakers—such as long development timelines and internal competition—are now viewed as vulnerabilities in a market where innovation must be fast-paced and agile.

Strategic Shifts and Collaboration

- At the Japan Mobility Show, major firms like Toyota and Suzuki acknowledged the need for pooling resources and adopting flexible new strategies to confront disruptive EV trends.
- These automakers are increasingly moving away from the characteristic solo approach to development and instead are considering multi-company platforms as a means to cut costs, speed up launches, and reduce risk.

Focus on Technology, Especially Batteries

- There's major focus on solid-state battery development, which, if successful, could vastly improve EV range, charging time, and safety, offering an advantage over existing lithium-ion batteries.
- However, solid-state battery technology faces its own hurdles, such as high costs, production scalability, and reliability in extreme weather.
- Japanese companies are exploring various technological pathways, including battery electric vehicles (BEVs), hydrogen fuel cells, hybrids, and even next-gen combustion engines.

Market Position and Competition

- While domestic EV sales have been slow (EVs make up less than 2% of auto sales in Japan, compared to much higher figures in China and parts of Europe), Japanese automakers retain significant EV ambitions for the coming years.
- Chinese rivals, particularly those benefiting from integrated supply chains and government support, have surged ahead, OEMs in China now need about 15 months to launch a new EV compared to the 45 months it takes Japanese manufacturers.
- The Japanese auto industry still commands a 30% global market share in all vehicle types, but this lead could shrink further without urgent innovation and adaptation.

Critical Bottlenecks and Adaptations

- Key bottlenecks include long component supply chains, regulatory rigidities, and slow decision-making.
- Japanese automakers are working with tech firms and startups on cost reduction, software optimization, and component sharing to catch up in the EV race.
- Leading companies are also expanding partnerships to secure essential battery supplies and exploring ways to reduce dependence on scarce and expensive raw materials like lithium.

Looking Ahead: Policy and Consumer Trends

- The government is urging automakers to streamline R&D, embrace global collaboration, and pivot to mass-market BEVs as quickly as possible.
- There is cautious optimism in the industry, with firms betting on multiple propulsion technologies to avoid being locked into a single trend that could soon be obsolete.
- Japanese automakers believe they can leverage their legacy in quality and reliability, combined with new tech and partnerships, to regain their edge in the EV space.

INTERNATIONAL

Xi takes centre stage at APEC meet, promises to defend global free trade

Xi Jinping's Central Role at APEC Summit

- Chinese President Xi Jinping became the focal point at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Gyeongju, emphasizing China's commitment to defending global free trade and multilateralism.
- Main Themes in Xi's Address
- Xi called for unity among Asia-Pacific nations and underscored the importance of collaboration in times of volatility and rapid global change.
- He explicitly endorsed maintaining global supply chain stability and cautioned against US-led attempts to restrict supply chains from China, positioning China as a reliable and open trading partner.
- Xi also advocated for enhanced cooperation on green energy and sustainable development, aiming to expand partnerships in emerging sectors.

Economic Arguments and Investment

- Xi wrote that China is open to global investment, assuring CEOs and business leaders that those who gain access to the Chinese market would benefit from rising opportunities and robust international competition.
- He argued that investing in China equates to investing in the future, pointing to China's market scale and resilient growth prospects.
- The summit was notable for China's active push to enhance its reputation as an exporter of rare earth elements and as a hub for global manufacturing, even as it faces ongoing trade friction with the West.

Analytical Insights

- This highlights China's efforts to position itself as a leading defender of open trade, stability, and green energy, while simultaneously countering US protectionist moves and reassuring the world of its economic openness.
- The absence of direct US presidential engagement and Xi's strong stance at APEC reflect a larger shift in the balance of influence within the Asia-Pacific economic order.
- Xi's remarks signal confidence in China's resilience and its agenda for collaboration, investment, and supply chain reliability, with particular attention to supporting new industries and clean energy.
- Xi's leadership and messaging at the summit reinforced China's growing aspiration to shape both regional and global economic rules, especially in the context of multilateral trading systems and supply chains.

Executions and Mass Casualties: Videos Show Horror Unfolding in Sudan

- Thousands of people are feared to have been murdered in the western Sudanese city of el-Fasher, capital of North Darfur state, since the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) seized it.
- El-Fasher fell on Sunday after 18 months of RSF siege, which blocked the entry of food and essentials for hundreds of thousands of people trapped inside.
- Sudan has been ravaged by a civil war for the past two-and-a-half years, causing an estimated 40,000 deaths and the displacement of 12 million people, the UN says.
- Videos shared online showed RSF fighters executing and torturing people. RSF members have frequently recorded themselves committing atrocities in the past.

Descent into all-out war

- The conflict in Sudan began in April 2023, when a long-simmering power struggle between the SAF and RSF erupted into open war.
- The RSF traces its roots to the Janjaweed militias accused of atrocities in Darfur 20 years ago, while the SAF represents the remnants of long-standing military rule from Khartoum.
- Both forces once shared power after the 2019 ouster of former president Omar al-Bashir, but a dispute over integrating the RSF into the national army triggered a nationwide collapse.
- What began as a contest for control of the State has since devolved into a brutal struggle marked by ethnic killings, urban siege warfare, mass displacement, and famine conditions across large parts of the country.
- More than four million people have already fled into neighbouring Chad, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, straining humanitarian operations and heightening instability in already fragile border regions.



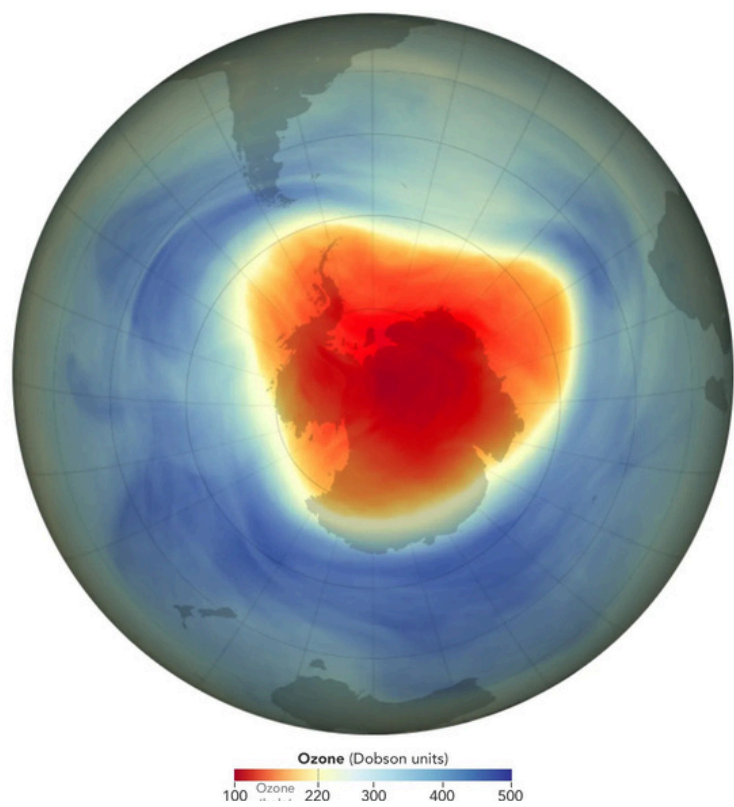
Prelims Corner: Explanations

Q1. Ans c

Under the terms of the Paris Agreement, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) are determined by the countries themselves and communicated to the UNFCCC. In keeping with this, India submitted its updated NDCs on 26 August 2022 and its long-term low-carbon development strategy on 14 November 2022 during COP27 Sharm el Sheikh Conference. These documents lay out India's vision and approaches toward reaching net zero by 2070, which are expected to evolve as necessary over time. As per LT-LEDS, India's vision of low-carbon development is based on the need to ensure India's high energy needs for development, including poverty eradication, achieving Sustainable Development Goals and economic growth. Further, it is necessary that the plan for the country's energy security is based both on the expansion of non-fossil fuel sources for power generation and the rational utilization of fossil fuel resources.

Q2. Ans a

In 2018, the Quito Adjustment is the adjustment made to the Montreal Protocol. It aims high to avoid 1°C of future warming. In this, the decision to strengthen enforcement mechanisms of this accord in response to an unexpected rise in global emissions of the banned chemical trichlorofluoromethane or CFC-11 was adopted. Practical arrangements were made to implement the Kigali Amendment by approving technologies for destruction of substances controlled under the Protocol & adopting new data reporting requirements.



Q3. Ans a

A micro forest is a dense, tiny forest with high biodiversity. The technique is a form of Afforestation or planting a forest where there wasn't one before. This is different than reforestation, which restores an existing forest. Microforests are planted densely and become hotspots for insects and small animals. Forest patches improve health, cool cities more effectively than ornamental vegetation in urban areas, and remove pollutants. Urban forests also have other benefits, including creating a buffer against disasters like tsunamis or hurricanes.



Q4. Ans b

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Stockholm, Sweden and entered into force on 17 May 2004; Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are organic chemical substances, that is, they are carbon-based. POPs are highly toxic, and exposure can occur through diet, environmental exposure, or accidents. They negatively affect humans, plant and animal species and natural ecosystems both in close proximity and at significant distances away from the original source of the discharge. Among others, the provisions of the Convention require each party to Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention (Article 3).

Case Study:



How one Maharashtra SP Is Using AI To Predict Crime and Protect Communities – Without Replacing Humans.

MARVEL, or the Maharashtra Research & Vigilance for Enhanced Law Enforcement, is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages the power of AI to implement safety and security. Rather than broad, generic solutions, the core mission is to provide tailor-made tools to meet specific requirements of departments across the State government, in-charge of both enforcement and development. "Our mission is to augment – not replace – human policing," says Harssh Poddar, SP Nagpur Rural and MARVEL's CEO. "Law enforcement generates massive volumes of data. AI can analyse patterns humans might miss, enabling faster and more accurate decisions." With urban areas blanketed in CCTV cameras and digital devices, many crimes now leave a digital trail. MARVEL's AI algorithms are designed to analyse this vast visual and metadata, detecting patterns that aid both crime prevention and post-incident investigations. Launched in March 2024, the AI tool has been implemented across 16 departments of the state government. It also helped Sindhudurg district become India's first AI district. Twelve vertices of the district administration have public-facing AI tools to solve a myriad of challenges, from malnutrition to traffic management and agricultural guidance.

As Price Plummetts, Farmers See Red



Farmers are dumping tomatoes in Karnataka because of a sharp fall in prices, which often doesn't even cover the cost of harvesting and transportation. This issue is a recurring one, with reports from several years documenting farmers dumping their produce on roadsides, at market yards, or even into water canals due to the low returns and the financial loss of selling them. Farmers are demanding government intervention like price stabilization, and better cold storage facilities and food processing units to support their produce.

