

## CHINNAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

### Why in News?

A team of **researchers in Kerala has identified the presence of the Eurasian Otter in the state for the first time**, specifically at Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Idukki.

### About Eurasian Otter:

- The Eurasian otter, **also known as the European otter, Eurasian river otter, common otter, and Old World otter**, is a semiaquatic mammal native to Eurasia.
- It is a **semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal**.
- **Scientific Name: Lutra lutra**
- It is regarded as a **flagship species and indicator of high quality aquatic habitats**.
- Features:
  - Eurasian Otters have a sleek, streamlined bodies, which helps them to move quickly through the water
  - It has sensitive whiskers around the snout to help detect prey.
  - These otters are active mainly at night, when they hunt for fish, crustaceans, and other aquatic animals.
  - It has an acute sense of sight, smell, and hearing.
- Distribution:
  - It has one of the widest distributions of all Palearctic mammals.
  - Its range covers parts of three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa.
  - In India, it occurs in northern, northeast, and southern India.
- Habitat:
  - It lives in a wide variety of aquatic habitats, including highland and lowland lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, swamp forests, and coastal areas.
  - In the Indian sub-continent, Eurasian otters occur in cold hill and mountain streams.



- Conservation Status:
  - IUCN: **Near threatened**
  - CITES: **Appendix I**
  - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: **Schedule II**
- Eurasian Otters are a threatened species due to **habitat loss, pollution, and hunting.**
- Conservation efforts have been put in place to protect their populations, including the **restoration of wetland habitats and the reduction of pollution in rivers and streams.**

### About Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary** is located 18 km north of Marayoor on State Highway 17 in the Marayoor and Kanthalloor panchayats of Devikulam taluk **in the Idukki district of India's Kerala state.**
- It is one of 18 wildlife sanctuaries among the protected areas of Kerala.
- It has **earned the name for being the only rehabilitation centre for the Indian star tortoise in India.**
- It is under the jurisdiction of and contiguous with Eravikulam National Park to the south, Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary is to the north and Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary is to the east.
- The Western Ghats, Anamalai Sub-Cluster, including all of Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, is under consideration by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for selection as a World Heritage Site.
- The **Chinnar and Pambar rivers are the major perennial water resources** in the sanctuary.
- The Chinnar originates near Kumarikal Malai, follows the interstate boundary along the northwest edge of the sanctuary for 18 km and becomes the Amaravati River in Tamil Nadu.



- The Pambar River originates in the Anaimudi Hills and is joined by seasonal rivulets and a few perennial streams originating from sholas in the upper reaches.
- There are **11 tribal settlements inside the Chinnar WLS**, each is well demarcated by temporary stone walls.
- Climate: **Rainshadow region of Western Ghats** with a 6-7 month dry season in lower areas. The average rainfall is 500mm, mostly during the NE monsoon.
- The **main inhabitants are Muthuvas and Pulayars**.
- **Cultivation of maize, ragi and lemongrass is practiced** in the settlements.
- The **Muthuvas carry out small scale ganja cultivation** for their religious purposes.
- There are 963 species of flowering plants in the sanctuary.
- Home to 965 floral species, 29 mammal species including the **endangered Grizzled Giant Squirrel**, 225 bird species, 52 reptile species, and **endemic fish like Deccan Mahseer**.

## MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

### Why in News?

Recently, the **NITI Aayog** has released a **Discussion Paper** titled-'**Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06'**, stating that 24.82 crore people escaped Multidimensional Poverty in the last nine years.

### About Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

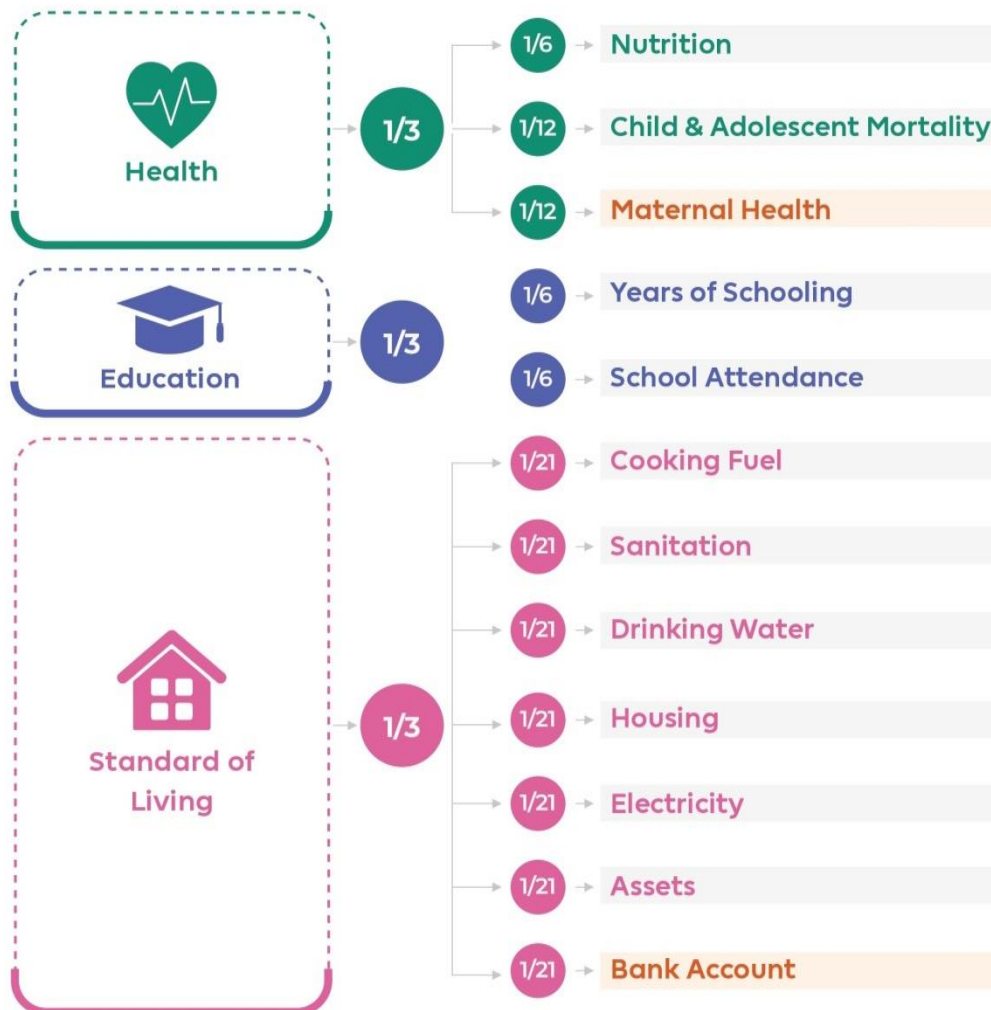
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a key international resource that **measures acute multidimensional poverty across more than 100 developing countries**.
- **First launched in 2010 by UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**, the global MPI advances SDG 1 – ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- It also measures interconnected deprivations across indicators related to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 11.
- The **MPI monitors deprivations in 10 indicators spanning health, education and standard of living** and includes both incidence as well as intensity of poverty.

- MPI's global methodology is based on robust Alkire and Foster (AF) method that identifies people as poor based on universally acknowledged metric designed to assess acute poverty, providing a complementary perspective to conventional monetary poverty measures.
- NITI Aayog launched National Multidimensional Poverty.
- The **National Multidimensional Poverty measures simultaneous deprivations across three equally weighted dimensions of Health, Education, and Standard of Living** that are represented by 12 Sustainable Development Goals-aligned indicators.
- However, the **National MPI covers 12 indicators** while global MPI covers 10 indicators.
- India's national MPI retained 10 indicators from the Global MPI and has added 2 new indicators, namely **Maternal Health (in the dimension of Health) and Bank Account (in the dimension of Standard of Living)**
- The discussion paper is released by Niti Aayog, which is the nodal agency to release **Multidimensional Poverty (MDP) report for States and Union Territories.**
- Purpose - Plays a role in assessing advancements towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1.2.
- Highlights of this discussion paper:
  - **India has registered a significant decline in multidimensional poverty in India** from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23 i.e. a reduction of 17.89 percentage points.
  - **Approximately 24.82 crore people have escaped multidimensional poverty in the last nine years (2013-14 to 2022-23).**
  - **Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in the number of poor with 5.94 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty during the last nine years** followed by **Bihar** at 3.77 crore, **Madhya Pradesh** at 2.30 crore and **Rajasthan** at 1.87 crore.
  - **All 12 indicators of the MPI have shown significant improvement**, reflecting progress in Health, Education, and Standard of Living dimensions.
  - Initiatives like Poshan Abhiyan and Anemia Mukh Bharat, the Targeted Public Distribution System under the National Food Security Act, extending free food grain distribution under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for another five years, Ujjwala Yojana, improved electricity coverage via Saubhagya, and

transformative campaigns like Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission have collectively elevated living conditions and overall well-being of people.

- Niti Aayog's **data shows a decline in poverty from 55.3% in 2005-06 to an anticipated level below 10% by 2024.**
- Similarly, World Bank figures indicate a drop in India's poverty rate from roughly 19% in 2015 to 11.9% in 2021.

### Indicators and their weights



## KLI-SOFC

### Why in News?

Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Kochi-Lakshadweep islands submarine optical fiber connection (KLI-SOFC) project.

### About KLI-SOFC Project:

- KLI-SOFC is **Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fiber Connection Project.**
- Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fiber Connection (KLI - SOFC) project has been dedicated to people today and will ensure 100 times faster Internet for the people of Lakshadweep.
- The KLI-SOFC project **will lead to an increase in internet speed** unlocking new possibilities & opportunities.
- It is **located in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.**
- **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the Project Executing Agency.**
- For the first time since independence, Lakshadweep will be connected through Submarine Optic Fibre Cable.
- The project **will play a significant role in achieving the objective of 'Digital India' and 'National Broadband Mission'** and for rolling out of various e-governance projects of Government of India in Lakshadweep Islands.
- **E-Governance, Tourism, Education, Health, Commerce and Industries will get a boost.** It will also help in further improvement in standards of living of the people in Island and will accelerate overall social and economic development in these areas.
- The dedicated submarine OFC **will ensure a paradigm shift in communication infrastructure in the Lakshadweep islands, enabling faster and more reliable internet services, telemedicine, e-governance, educational initiatives, digital banking, digital currency usage, digital literacy etc.**



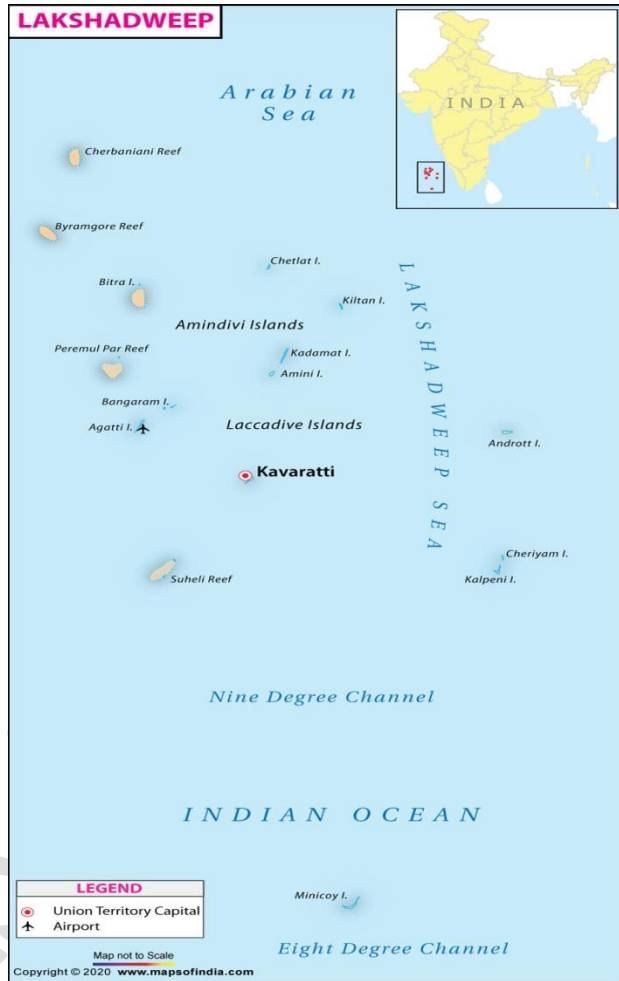
- This will improve facilities like government services, medical treatment, education and digital banking.
- The potential of developing Lakshadweep as a logistics hub will get strength from this”
- Lakshadweep will play a strong role in the creation of a Viksit Bharat”.
- The need for digitally connecting the Lakshadweep Islands through a high capacity submarine cable link with the main land has been felt for some time.
- **Earlier, the only means of communication with the Islands was through Satellite medium, which had limited bandwidth capacity** and was not able to meet the growing bandwidth demand.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DOT) took immediate action and conceptualized the Kochi-Lakshadweep Submarine OFC Project (KLI project).
- **The KLI project has been completed well within the timelines.**
- In the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Cable (KLI) project submarine cable connectivity from Mainland (Kochi) to eleven Lakshadweep Islands namely, Kavaratti, Agatti, Amini, Kadmat, Chetlet, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Androth, Kiltan, Bangaram and Bitra has been extended.
- The project is **funded by Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF), Department of Telecommunication (DoT).**
- Major activities related to the project includes Marine Route Survey, Submarine Cable laying, Civil Construction of CLS stations, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of End Terminals (SLTE).
- **The PM also dedicated a Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) plant for the conversion of seawater into potable water at Kadmat Island, Lakshadweep.**
- LTTD is a process under which warm surface seawater is flash evaporated at low pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold deep seawater.

### **About Lakshadweep:**

- Lakshadweep is a **union territory of India.**
- It is **an archipelago of 35 islands** serving as the maritime boundary between the Arabian Sea to the west and the Laccadive Sea to the east.



- It is located 200 to 440 km off the Malabar Coast of India.
- The **name Lakshadweep means "one lakh islands" in Malayalam and Sanskrit,** though the Lakshadweep Islands (previously known as Laccadive Islands) are just one part of the archipelago of no more than a hundred islands.
- **Jeseri** is the primary as well as the **widely spoken native language in the territory.**
- The region forms a single Indian district with 10 subdivisions. **Kavaratti serves as the capital of the Union Territory.**
- This region **comes under the jurisdiction of Kerala High Court.**
- The islands were also mentioned in the Buddhist Jataka stories of the sixth century BCE.
- It comprises of 12 atolls, three reefs, five submerged banks and ten inhabited islands.
- The **principal islands in the territory are Minicoy and those in the Amindivi group.**
- The easternmost island lies about 185 miles (300 km) from the coast of the state of Kerala. Ten of the islands are inhabited.
- Aside from an abundance of coconut palms, common trees include banyans, casuarinas, pandani (screw pines), breadfruits, tamarinds, and tropical almonds (genus Terminalia). Betel nut and betel leaf also grow in the islands.
- Among the most notable marine fauna are sharks, bonitos, tunas, snappers, and flying fish. Manta rays, octopuses, crabs, turtles, and assorted gastropods are plentiful. The islands also are home to an array of water birds, such as herons, teals, and gulls.
- The **primary languages spoken** in Lakshadweep include **Malayalam, Jeseri (Dweep Bhasha), and Mahl.**





- The Union Territory **was formed in 1956 and it was named Lakshadweep in 1973.**
- Previously recognized as Laccadive, Minicoy, and Amindivi Islands, the **name Lakshadweep was officially adopted on November 1, 1973.**
- More than 93% of the population who are indigenous, are Muslims and majority of them belong to the Shafi School of the Sunni Sect.
- The **entire indigenous population has been classified as Scheduled Tribes** because of their economic and social backwardness.
- **Kolkali and Parichakali are the two popular folk art forms** in the Territory.
- They are an integral part of the cultural milieu except in **Minicoy where “LAVA” is the most popular dance form.**
- For marriages “OPPANA” is a common feature, a song sung by a lead singer and followed by a group of women.
- **8 Degree Channel (8 degrees north latitude) separates the islands of Minicoy and Maldives.**
- **9 Degree Channel (9 degrees north latitude) separates the island of Minicoy from the main Lakshadweep archipelago.**

## BOEING SUKANYA PROGRAM

### Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **aircraft manufacturing giant Boeing’s largest investment facility outside the USA in Bengaluru on Friday.**
- The **Boeing India Engineering and Technology Center (BIETC)**, built with an investment of Rs 1,600 crore, is spread across a 43-acre campus.
- The Prime Minister **also launched the Boeing Sukanya Program, which aims to support the entry of more women from across India into the aviation sector.**

## **About Boeing Sukanya Program:**

- The Prime Minister also launched the **Boeing Sukanya Programme** that aims to support the entry of more girl children from across India into the country's growing aviation sector.
- The **program will provide opportunities for girls and women to learn critical skills in STEM fields and train for jobs in the aviation sector.**
- For young girls, the **program will create STEM Labs at 150 planned locations** to help spark an interest in STEM careers.
- The **program will also provide scholarships to women training to be pilots.**
- Investments will support flight training curriculum, obtaining certifications, funding for simulator training.
- **BIETC is meant to be a 3,000+ diverse engineering workforce** that contributes to global aerospace growth.
- It will lead to the creation of next generation products and services for aerospace and defense industry.
- This **strengthens the "Make in India-Make for the world"** resolution of India.
- **India boasts a noteworthy 15% of female pilots, three times the global average.** While female enrollment in STEM courses has risen to over 42% in 2021-22, workforce participation remains at a modest 14% in 2021.



## **MADHIKA LANGUAGE**

### **Why in News?**

The **Chakaliya community** in the remote colony of Kookanam, near Karivellur grama panchayat in Kannur (Kerala), is facing the imminent extinction of its unique language, **Madhika.**

## About Madhika Language:

- It is **spoken language of Chakaliya community.**
- Madhika language is a blend of Telugu, Tulu, Kannada, and Malayalam.
- The **language has no script** and will be lost soon.
- Despite its diverse influences, Madhika is losing ground among the younger generation, who prefer mainstream languages like Malayalam.
- The **Chakaliya community, considered untouchables in the past, faced social stigma, contributing to the neglect of their language.**
- It may sound like Kannada but it has its own uniqueness due to diverse influences.
- It is **largely influenced by Havyaka Kannada, an old form of Kannada.**
- **P. Narayanan, 87, and his niece Rajputhri are the last fluent speakers of Madhika.**
- The younger generation's preference for Malayalam contributes to the diminishing use of Madhika.
- Despite sounding similar to Kannada, the diverse linguistic influences make Madhika challenging for listeners.



## About Chakaliya Community:

- **Originating from Karnataka**, the Chakaliya community migrated to northern Malabar centuries ago.
- The **community has a nomadic history**, contributing to its distinct cultural practices.
- They **worship gods like Thiruvekatramana and Mariamma.**
- They are **located in Kannur district (Kerala).**

- **Initially they were given the S.T. status, but later they were brought under S.C. category.** The mention of the community can be found in the book Caste and Tribes of Southern India
- **Social stigma associated with the community** has led to neglect and disinterest in preserving Madhika.

The **UNESCO 'Atlas of Endangered Languages'** employs a classification system to categorize languages based on their endangerment levels. The categories used are:

- **Vulnerable:** The language is still being learned by children, but its use may be confined to certain areas, typically within the home environment.
- **Definitely Endangered:** The language is no longer passed down to children as their primary language within the household.
- **Severely Endangered:** The language is spoken by older generations, typically grandparents, while parents may understand it but do not actively speak it to their children or among themselves.
- **Critically Endangered:** The **language is on the brink of extinction, with the youngest speakers being grandparents**. Its usage is limited, and it is spoken only partially and infrequently.
- **Extinct:** The language has no living speakers, and there is no active use or transmission of the language.

### **Madhika's Status: Critically Endangered**

Madhika is on the verge of extinction due to disinterest, social stigma, and the absence of documentation.

## **MOH-JUJ (TRADITIONAL BUFFALO FIGHT)**

### **Why in News?**

After a hiatus of nine years, **Moh-Juj, the traditional buffalo fights, have made a comeback in Assam.**

This revival, **held during the Magh Bihu festival in mid-January 2024**, marks a significant cultural reclamation in Assam.

## About Moh-Juj:

- It was introduced to Assamese culture by 30th Ahom king Swargadeo Rudra Singha about 200 years ago.
- It is celebrated as a sport in Ahatguri town during Assam's Magh Bihu, a key harvest festival in January–February.
- The buffalo fight tournaments in Ahatguri have been a tradition since 1972.
- The event is part of the cultural celebration of Magh Bihu.
- Conservation Status of Wild Buffalo:
  - IUCN Red List: **Endangered**
  - CITES: **Appendix III**
  - Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: **Schedule I**



Q) Consider the following pairs:

	FESTIVALS	:	STATE
1)	Kambala	:	Tamil Nadu
2)	Sadar	:	Hyderabad, Telangana
3)	Jallikattu	:	Karnataka
4)	Moh-Juj	:	Assam

Which of the above mentioned pairs are correctly matched?

- a) 4 only
- b) 1 and 4
- c) 2 and 4
- d) 1,3 and 4

## GREEN COVER INDEX

### Why in News?

NHAI has signed a three-year MoU with the National Remote Sensing Centre to develop and report a “Green Cover Index” for India’s National Highways.

### About:

- The **NRSC will undertake a comprehensive pan-India estimation of green cover**, referred to as the “Green Cover Index” for National Highways **using high-resolution satellite imagery.**
- Aim: **To capture the Green Cover Index region-wise for National Highways in the initial assessment cycle**, with subsequent annual cycles focusing on estimating growth patterns using scientific techniques.
- Agencies involved: **NRSC in collaboration with NHAI** will conduct a nationwide assessment for National Highways.
- Technology: It will be **done with the help of high-resolution satellite imagery.**
- Feature: **It will provide an estimate of green cover for every 1 km length.**
- It will provide an efficient and cost-effective solution for generating a macro-level estimate of greenery along National Highways.
- It will enable focused interventions in areas identified as lacking sufficient green cover.
- The findings of the index will facilitate the comparison and ranking of various National Highways for timely and periodic intervention.

### National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC):

- NRSC is **one of the primary centers of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space (DOS).**
- NRSC is mandated with the establishment of ground stations for receiving satellite data, generation of data products, and development of techniques for remote sensing applications including geospatial services for good governance among other things.
- **Headquarter: Hyderabad**

## PEM FUEL CELL

### Why in News?

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully tested a 100 W class **Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell** based Power System (FCPS) **in space**.

The FCPS was part of the POEM3 orbital platform, launched onboard PSLV-C58 on January 1, 2024.

### About:

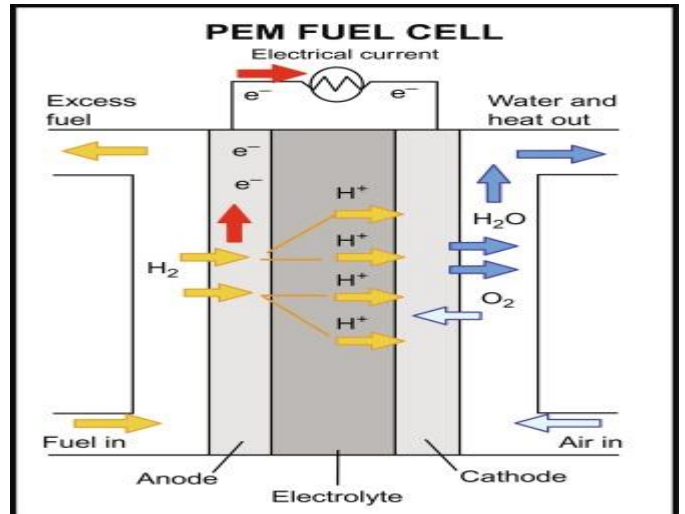
- Objective: To evaluate the functioning of Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel cells in space and **gather data to support the design of systems for upcoming missions.**
- During a brief test on POEM, the system generated 180 W of power by utilizing hydrogen and oxygen gases stored in high-pressure vessels.
- It offered extensive data on the performance of diverse static and dynamic systems within the power system, as well as the underlying physics involved.
- **Hydrogen fuel cells generate electricity directly from hydrogen and oxygen gases, producing pure water and heat as byproducts.**
- **Producing electricity directly from fuels makes fuel cells highly efficient,** and being emission-free with only water as a byproduct further enhances their environmental benefits.
- **India is proposing to establish a space station by 2035,** and the FCPS payload could potentially find applications in it.
- The test was part of the POEM-3 experiment executed during the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.

### About PEM Fuel Cell:

- Polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) fuel cells, **also known as proton exchange membrane fuel cells,** are electrochemical devices that convert chemical energy into electrical energy.



- They use a **proton-conducting polymer membrane as the electrolyte** and typically use hydrogen as the fuel.
- These cells operate at relatively low temperatures and can quickly vary their output to meet shifting power demands.
- They are being developed mainly for transport applications, as well as for stationary and portable fuel-cell applications.



### About POEM:

- The **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)** is a platform that will help **perform in-orbit experiments** using the final, and otherwise discarded, stage of ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- The PSLV is a four-stage rocket where the first three spent stages fall back into the ocean, and the final stage (PS4) after launching the satellite into orbit ends up as space junk.
- POEM has a dedicated Navigation Guidance and Control (NGC) system for attitude stabilization, which stands for controlling the orientation of any aerospace vehicle within permitted limits.
- POEM will derive its power from solar panels mounted around the PS4 tank, and a Li-Ion battery.

## PRERANA PROGRAM

### Why in News?

The **Ministry of Education** launched '**Prerana: An Experiential Learning Program**' empowering participants with leadership qualities.

## About Prerana Program:

- 'Prerana: An Experiential Learning Program' is an initiative **launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.**
- The program aims to provide a meaningful, unique, and inspiring experience to students, empowering them with leadership qualities.
- It is designed to align with the principles of the Indian education system and the philosophy of value-based education as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- It is a **week-long residential program for selected students, combining heritage with innovation** through experiential and inspirational learning, enhanced with cutting-edge technology.
- **Students of Class IX to XII from any recognised school** of the country are eligible for this program.



## Selection Process:

- Students can register on the portal by providing necessary details.
- Alternatively, applicants can join the School/block-level selection on 'Prerana Utsav' day, through activities aligned with Prerana's ethos.
- Two students (01 boy and 01 girl) will be selected for Prerana program from each district.

## Features:

- A **batch of 20 selected students** (10 boys and 10 girls) will attend the program, **every week from various parts of the country.**
- It will take place in a Vernacular School, founded in 1888, located in Vadnagar, Gujarat. PM Modi is an alumnus of this School.
- Curriculum of Prerana School prepared by IIT Gandhi Nagar.

- Prepared by IIT Gandhi Nagar, the program aims to inspire youth and foster respect for Bharat's unity in diversity, aligning with the vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam."
- Participants will be guided by mentors from prestigious institutions throughout the program.

#### Activities:

- The **daily schedule includes yoga, mindfulness, and meditation**, followed by **experiential learning, themed sessions, and hands-on activities**.
- Evenings feature visits to ancient sites, inspirational films, creative missions, talent shows, promoting holistic learning.
- Students also participate in diverse activities, integrating indigenous knowledge, cutting-edge technologies, and insights from inspirational figures.

#### **Significance:**

- Participants will take Prerana's ethos back to their communities, becoming catalysts for positive change and inspiring others.
- It will incorporate the principles of the Indian education system and the value-based education philosophy, a cornerstone of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

## **CHANDUBI FESTIVAL**

### **Why in News?**

The **14<sup>th</sup> Chandubi Festival** was celebrated along the Chandubi Lake **in the state of Assam**.

### **About Chandubi Festival:**

- Chandubi Festival is **organised every year for five days starting from the first day of the New Year** along the Chandubi lake, which is situated in the state of Assam.
- **Chandubi Lake was formed by an earthquake in 1897.**

- The name “Chandubi” comes from “Chand” meaning “five” and “Dubi” meaning “sinking” in the Khasi language.
- The main attractions of the **Chandubi festival** are the local folk culture, ethnic cuisine, local handloom and dresses, boating, etc.
- The major aim of the Chandubi Festival is to promote eco-tourism in this biodiversity hotspot of Assam and preserving the waterbody, the water level of which has rapidly been lowering over the years, has been the motive for organising the festival every year.
- The festival has been providing an opportunity to generate livelihood to different tribes – Rabhas, Garos, Gorkhas and tea tribes – living in the area by selling different food items and homemade beverages, and traditionally woven attire.
- During the festival, many attractive ethnic sports competitions were organized by the festival celebration committee which includes the Baghbol competition, Chagalchari competition, Khutikhel, Lewatana etc.
- **Performances of different tribe’s folk dances are held** including Garo, Boro, Hajpong, Bihu, Rabha and many others.



## OPERATION AMRITH

### Why in News?

The **Kerala Drug Control Department** has initiated Operation AMRITH (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention For Total Health) to curb the overuse of antibiotics in the state.

## **About Operation AMRITH:**

- **Operation AMRITH** aligns with Kerala's Anti-Microbial Resistance Strategic Action Plan (KARSAP), reflecting a **multi-sectoral approach to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**.
- The move aims to raise awareness about AMR, ensure responsible antibiotic use, and prevent the spread of drug-resistant infections.
- **Pharmacies are required to maintain accurate records of antibiotic sales.**
- A **poster stating 'antibiotics not sold without doctor's prescription'** must be displayed in the establishment.
- The **public is encouraged to actively participate in combating AMR.**
- Citizens can report pharmacies selling antibiotics without a prescription to the Drug Control Department.
- Operation AMRITH **involves surprise raids in retail medical shops to detect over-the-counter (OTC) sales of antibiotics.**
- A **Toll-Free Number (18004253182)** is provided for lodging complaints against medical shops.
- Once a complaint is received, it is transferred to the corresponding zonal office for verification, and immediate departmental actions are taken if a violation is detected.
- **Kerala was the first state in India to develop a state action plan on AMR, known as the Kerala Anti-Microbial Resistance Strategic Action Plan (KARSAP), in 2018.**
- KARSAP reflects a multi-sectoral approach, addressing human, animal, and environmental dimensions of the AMR problem.
- The Kerala government has implemented **various similar initiatives:**
  - Antibiotic Literate Kerala Campaign
  - Establishment of block-level AMR Committees in all 191 blocks
  - Kerala Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (KARS-NET)
  - Inauguration of an AMR laboratory by Kerala State Pollution Control Board





- Programme on Removal of Unused Drugs (PROUD) for proper disposal of unused antibiotics.

### **About AMR (Anti-Microbial Resistance):**

- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) refers to the **ability of certain bacteria, viruses, and fungi to become resistant to antimicrobial drugs**, such as antibiotics, antivirals, and antifungals.
- **This resistance allows these microorganisms to continue growing and spreading, despite exposure to previously effective treatments.**
- The emergence of AMR is a growing public health concern, as it can lead to severe infections, hospitalizations, and even death.

## **PUNGNAUR COWS**

### **Why in News?**

On the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, Prime Minister made headlines by **feeding Punganur cows at his residence in New Delhi.**

His gesture not only symbolized a cultural tradition but also shed light on this **unique cattle breed.**

### **About Pungnaur Cow:**

- Pungnaur cows **hail from the Punganur municipality in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district.**
- These **cows are exceptionally small**, measuring just 70-90 cm in height, with an average weight ranging from 115-200 kg.
- They are **known for their broad foreheads, short horns**, and are ideal for small-scale dairy and organic farming.



- Punganur cows are **recognized for their rich milk production**, yielding 3 to 5 liters of milk daily.
- **Many temples in Andhra Pradesh, including the renowned Tirupati Thirumala Temple, use the milk of Punganur cows for Ksheeraabhishekam** (milk offerings to deities).
- The cost of these cows ranges from Rs 1 lakh to 10 lakhs, depending on factors like purity and health.
- Punganur cows are currently present not just in Andhra Pradesh but **also in Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu**.
- The **Andhra Pradesh government has launched “Mission Punganur”** to boost the cattle population using IVF technology.
- Centre has also sanctioned funds for the promotion of Punganur and other indigenous breeds of cattle in Telangana.
- **Gir, Sahiwal, Bargur, Onglore, and Kaangayam** represent some other well-known indigenous cow breeds in India.

Q) Gir, Sahiwal, Onglore and Punganur are the breed of

- a) bull
- b) buffalo
- c) cow
- d) lion

Q) Which of the following is not a cattle breed:

- a) Gir
- b) Punganur
- c) Onglore
- d) Bison



## VEERBHADRA TEMPLE LEPAKSHI

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister visited the **Veerabhadra temple in Lepakshi, Andhra Pradesh**, during his 11-day special ritual for the consecration of Lord Ram's idol at the Ayodhya Ram temple.

### About Lepakshi Temple:

- Lepakshi' in Telugu means 'Rise, oh bird.'
- Lepakshi holds significance in the Ramayana.
- It is named in honor of Jatayu, the legendary bird that bravely fought Ravan while he was transporting Sita to Lanka on his Pushpaka Vimana after kidnapping her.
- According to the Ramayana, **Lepakshi is believed to be the place where the wounded Jatayu fell during his fight with Ravan.**
- It is here that Jatayu informs Lord Ram and his brother Laxman that Sita had been kidnapped by Ravan, and they should move southwards towards the seashore to reach Lanka.
- The Lepakshi temple is **also believed to have preserved footprints of Goddess Sita.**
- Veerabhadra temple is a Hindu temple located in the Lepakshi, in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. **The temple is dedicated to the Virabhadra, a fierce incarnation of Lord Shiva.**
- According to Hindu mythology, Daksha insulted his daughter Sati and her husband Shiva at a grand sacrifice he had organised.
- Unable to bear the humiliation, Sati immolated herself. To avenge her form of the wrathful Veerabhadra.



## AYODHYA TEMPLE

### Why in News?

The Pran Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol took place at Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on January 22, 2024.

The temple is a new-age architectural marvel of elegant sandstones with no use of iron or steel.

### About Ram Temple:

- The Ram Mandir is a Hindu temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is located at the site of Ram Janmabhoomi, the birthplace of Lord Rama.
- It is spread over nearly 3 hectares and is made with pink sandstone and adorned with intricate carvings.
- The Temple is built over **three 20-foot high floors each with a total of 392 pillars and 44 doors.**
- Foundation of the temple is built of a 14-metre-thick layer of roller-compacted concrete. And a 21-foot-high granite plinth has been placed to protect against ground moisture.
- The **Architectural style of the temple is Nagara style** with Sanctum Sanctorum (garbhagriha), Mandaps (halls), and Mandirs.
- At each corner of the compound will be dedicated to Surya, Bhagwati, Ganesh, Shiv. On the northern and southern arms, temples to Annapurna and Hanuman will be built respectively.
- The idol of Lord Ram inside the sanctum sanctorum (also known as Grabhgriha) of the temple was **carved in black stone by sculptor Arun Yogiraj.**
- Makrana Marble and Pink sandstone, granite stone, and colored Marble are used in the construction.

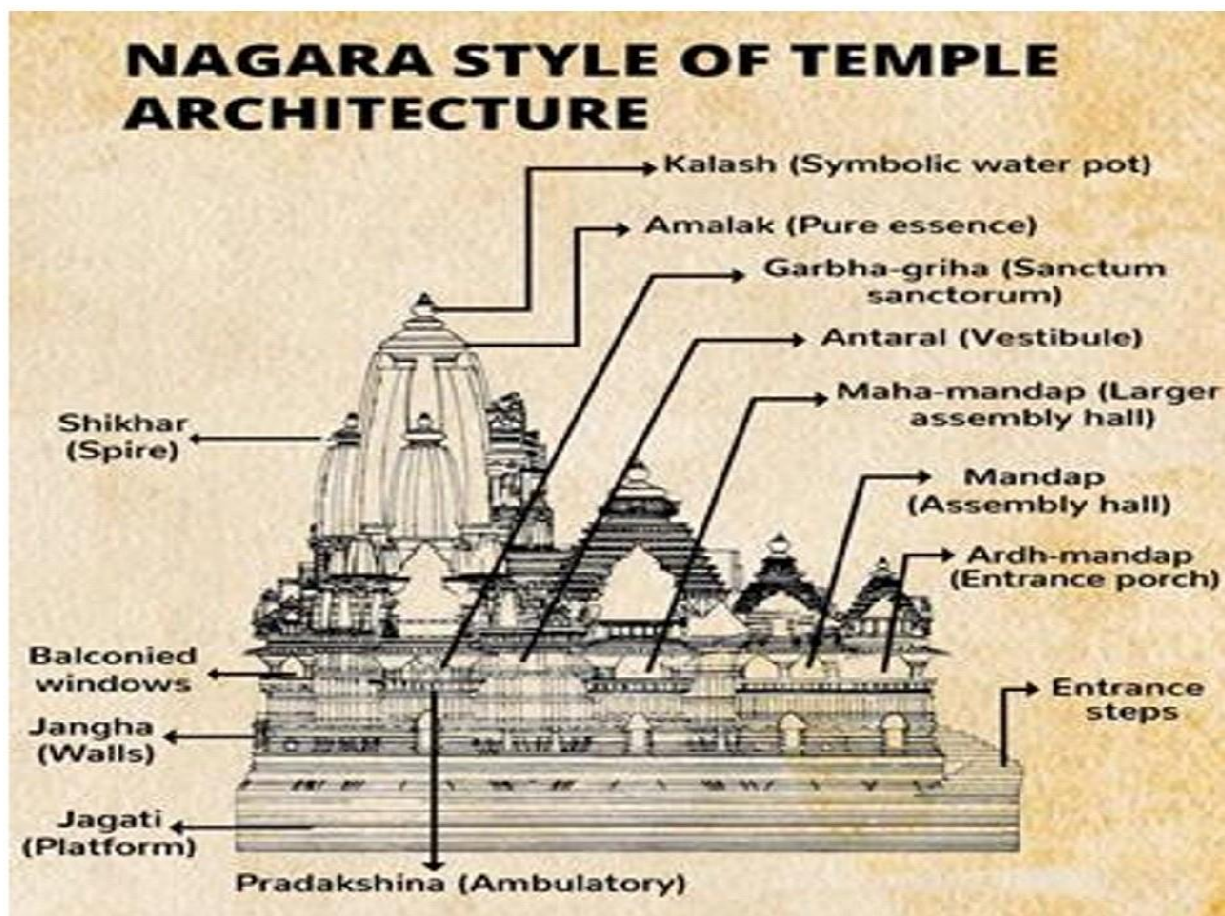


- Construction Material:
  - **Bansi Paharpur Pink Sandstone** from Bharatpur of Rajasthan (for the main temple structure);
  - **Granite Stones** have been used in the plinths
  - **White Makrana and Colored Marbles** have been used for the inlay work
  - **Teakwood** has been used for the construction of the doors of the temple.
  - Special Bricks with 'Shri Ram' inscribed: It intertwines modern craftsmanship with ancient symbolism.
  - Other Materials Used: Shaligram Rock, Copper Plates, Gold, and Ashtdhatu (Gold, Silver, Copper, Zinc, Lead, Tin, Iron, and Mercury)
- It consists of a total of five Mandaps (Hall) – Nritya Mandap, Rang Mandap, Sabha Mandap, Prarthna, and Kirtan Mandaps.
- It has three stories (ground plus two floors, with each story designed to give the devotees an experience of the various stages of Lord Rama's divine journey, each floor of the temple will be 20 feet high), and 392 pillars.
- The ground floor of the temple has been designed to depict the story of the birth and childhood of Lord Rama, and the first floor is designed like Lord Rama's Darbaar.
- The **main entrance to the temple is called the Singh Dwar**, in which a series of ornate statues of elephants, lions, Lord Hanuman, and Garuda were installed.
- On every Ram Navami at noon, a system of mirrors and lenses will focus the sun's rays on Ram Lalla's idol. This unique anointment requires no electricity, utilizing brass instead of iron or steel.
- The **construction of the Ram Mandir is being supervised by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.**
- The trust was set up in 2020 after the Supreme Court's verdict in the Ayodhya land dispute case. It is composed of 15 trustees.

### About Nagara Style of Architecture:

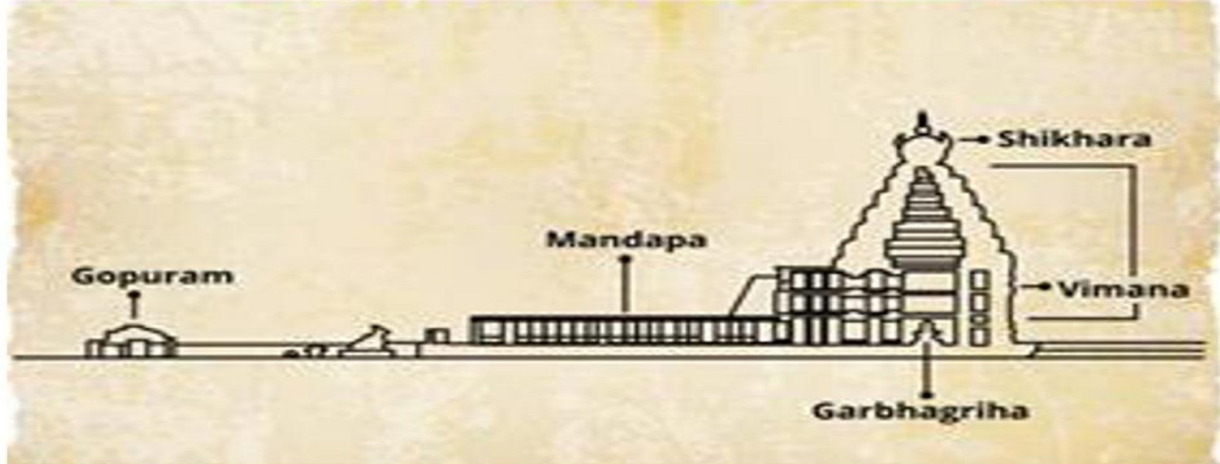
- The Nagara style of temple architecture emerged some time in the fifth century CE, during the late Gupta period, in northern India.
- It is seen in juxtaposition with the Dravida style of southern India, which too emerged in the same period.

- Nagara style of temple architecture that became popular in northern India is known as Nagara.
- In North India it is common for an entire temple to be built on a stone platform with steps leading up to it.
- Nagara temples are built on a raised platform, with the garbha griha (sanctum sanctorum), where the idol of the deity rests, the most sacred part of the temple.
- The garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower.
- Another unique characteristic is that it does not usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways.
- Towering over the garbha griha is the shikhara (literally 'mountain peak'), the most distinguishable aspect of Nagara style temples.
- A typical Nagara style temple also comprises a circumambulatory passage (pradakshina path) around the garbha griha, and one or more mandapas (halls) on the same axis as it.





## DRAVIDIAN ARCHITECTURE



Q) LK99 recently seen in news is a

- a) virus
- b) superconductor
- c) semiconductor
- d) artillery weapon

CLASSIC IAS ACADEMY

CLASSIC IAS ACADEMY