

Rajasthan

Greenfield Expressway

For Prelims –

Economy of Rajasthan: Growth, Development and Planning, Infrastructure and Resources

For Mains (GS- I)-

Economy of Rajasthan: Infrastructure Development – Transportation, Major

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan State Government announced the construction of 9 Greenfield Expressways in the budget 2024-25.

➔ Main Point

- Currently, there is not a single expressway in Rajasthan.
- The total length of the proposed expressways will be 2756 km. and their construction cost will be around ₹102151 crore.
- The newly constructed expressways will be interconnected and passing through low connectivity areas.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 July, 2024



Name of Expressway	Region	Length
Jaipur-Jodhpur High-Speed Corridor	Ring Road, Jaipur to Amritsar Jamnagar Economic Corridor	350 km.
Kotputli – Kishangarh Expressway	NH-48 and NH-448 in Kishangarh to NH-148B Paniyala in Kotputli	181 km.
Jaipur – Bhilwara Expressway	Ring Road, Jaipur to Bhilwara	193 km.
Bikaner Kotputli Expressway	From the intersection of NH-11 and NH-62 in Bikaner to NH-148B Paniyala More, Katputli	295 km.
Beawar – Bharatpur Expressway	NH-58 in Beawar to NH-21 in Bharatpur	342 km.
Jalore-Jhalawar-Haldighati Expressway	Amritsar Jamnagar Economic Corridor in Jalore to Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Jhalawar	402 km.
Ajmer-Banswara Expressway	Ajmer to NH-927A Salia Village, Banswara	358 km.
Jaipur-Phalodi Thar Expressway	Ring Road, North Jaipur to NH-11 Phalodi	345 km.
Sriganganagar-Kotputli Expressway	RIICO Industrial Area, Sriganganagar to Narnaul Bypass at Mandlana Village, Kotputli	290 km.

--:2:--

PYQ.

Q. The meeting town of North-South and East-West Corridor Super Highway is –

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Nagpur
- (d) Jhansi

[d]

[RAS Prelims 2013]

Practice Question

1. Match the correct length of the new expressways proposed recently-

Expressway	Length
A. Jaipur-Jodhpur High-Speed Corridor	1. 342 km.
B. Beawar – Bharatpur Expressway	2. 345 km.
C. Ajmer-Banswara Expressway	3. 358 km.
D. Jaipur-Phalodi Thar Expressway	4. 350 km.

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	4	3	2
(b)	3	2	1	4
(c)	4	1	3	2
(d)	4	2	3	1

Farmer welfare in state budget

For Prelims –

Economy of Rajasthan: Major issues of agriculture, industry and service sector

For Mains (GS- I)-

Economy of Rajasthan: Agricultural scenario – production and productivity. Dairy and animal husbandry.

Economy of Rajasthan: Economic welfare schemes of Rajasthan

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the state government has made a provision of more than ₹ 96 thousand crores for the welfare of farmers in the state budget 2024-25.

➔ Main Point

- Works worth Rs 50 thousand crores will be done under Rajasthan Irrigation Water Grid Mission and more than Rs 30 thousand crores under Run off Water Grid.
- Works worth Rs 650 crore will be completed under Rajasthan Agriculture Development Scheme.
- Also, provisions have been made by the state government like increasing the Kisan Samman Nidhi from Rs 6 thousand to Rs 8 thousand, minimum support price (MSP) of wheat and giving loan up to Rs 1 lakh through Gopal Credit Card for cattle rearers.
- In the state budget 2024-25, many provisions have been made for the second phase of 'Indira Gandhi Canal Project', including getting works done at a cost of more than Rs 1,430 crore, issuing 1 lakh 45 thousand agricultural electricity connections and increasing the assistance amount for camel herders to Rs 20 thousand from 10 thousand per year.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 July, 2024



- In the budget, the target of electricity provided to farmers for irrigation through 'Kusum Yojana' is to be achieved by the year 2027.
- In the year 2024, there is a target to distribute interest-free short-term crop loans of Rs 23 thousand crore. Under this, 5 lakh new farmers will be able to get loans.
- In the budget, the scope of long-term agricultural loans given by cooperative banks for land improvement has been increased to Rs 100 crore.
- Warehouses of 100 to 500 metric tonnes capacity will be constructed in 500 new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) and 150 Gram Seva Cooperative Societies in the state.
- Rajasthan Agriculture and Horticulture Mission and Organic and Conventional Farming Board will be formed. Apart from this, 2-2 clusters will be developed in 10 agro climate zones to promote advanced technology and train farmers.
- Chief Minister Animal Husbandry Development Fund will be constituted with a provision of Rs 250 crore for animal husbandry promotion, conservation and development. Also, under the Govardhan Organic Fertilizer Scheme, financial assistance of up to Rs 10 thousand per farmer will be provided for the production of organic manure from cattle.

Other provisions made for farmers in Budget 2024-25 -

- Mangala Pashu Bima Yojana
- Cattle Feed plant – Kota
- Agro Processing – Bhusavar

--5--

PYQ.

Q. Match List-I with List-II and choose the correct answer using the codes given below the lists-

List-I

(Welfare schemes of Government of India)

- (A) Nai Roshni Programme
- (B) Disha
- (C) Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana
- (D) Swavalamban Yojana

List-II

(Their essence)

- (i) Women Empowerment
- (ii) Financial Inclusion
- (iii) New Pension System
- (iv) Information Technology Training

Code –

- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | iii | i | ii | iv |
| (b) | iv | ii | iii | i |
| (c) | i | iv | ii | iii |
| (d) | ii | iii | iv | i |

[b]

[RAS Prelims 2016]

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 July, 2024



Practice Question

1. How much additional burden will be imposed on the government revenue if the Rajasthan government increases the Kisan Samman Nidhi from Rs 6000 to Rs 8000?
- (a) 1100 crore annually
 - (b) 1200 crore annually
 - (c) 1300 crore annually
 - (d) 1400 crore annually



-:7:-

National

Upper Siang Hydropower Project - Arunachal Pradesh

For Prelims –
For Mains (GS- II)-

Geography of India: Major rivers and lakes
Geography of India: Major rivers

➔ Why in News?

- Activists and locals are protesting against the Upper Siang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh.



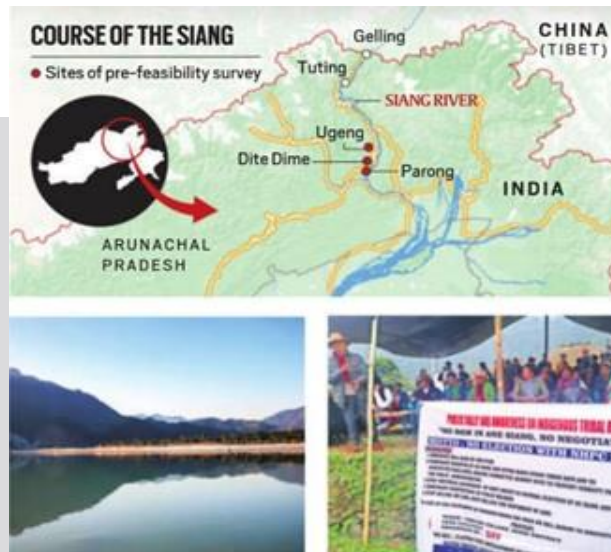
➔ Main Point

The Upper Siang Project:

- Proposed 11,000 MW hydropower project on the Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Yarlung Tsangpo River (Brahmaputra) breaks through the Himalayas in great gorges (including the Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon) and enters into Arunachal Pradesh, where it is known as Dihang or Siang.
- The government replaced two planned projects into one larger project in 2017, of 11,000 MW project to be built by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).
- The project features a 300-meter high dam, the largest in the Indian subcontinent.
- There are 29 hydroelectric projects in the Siang River basin with a combined capacity of 18,326 MW.

Strategic Importance:

- Strategically aims to counter China's hydel projects on Tsangpo, especially the planned 60,000 MW 'Super Dam' in Tibet.



About Siang/Brahmaputra River:

- The Brahmaputra is a transboundary river which flows through Tibet, northeast India, and Bangladesh.
- It is also known as the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet, the Siang/Dihang River in Arunachal, Luit in Assam, and the Jamuna River in Bangladesh.
- It is the 9th largest river in the world by discharge and the 15th longest.
- Originating near Mount Kailash in Tibet's Manasarovar Lake region, it flows through southern Tibet, through the Himalayas via grand gorges like the Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon before reaching Arunachal Pradesh.
- It flows southwest through the Assam Valley as the Brahmaputra and south through Bangladesh as the Jamuna (not to be confused with the Yamuna of India).
- In the vast Ganges Delta, it merges with the Ganges, popularly known as the Padma in Bangladesh, and becomes the Meghna and ultimately empties into the Bay of Bengal.

PYQ.

Q. Match List-I with List-II and choose the correct answer from the codes given below –

List-I (River)

List-II (Tributary)

(A) Godavari

(i) Bhavani

(B) Mahanadi

(ii) Penganga

(C) Damodar

(iii) Shivnath

(D) Kaveri

(iv) Barakar

Code –

(a) A-(i), B-(ii), C-(iv), D-(iii)

(b) A-(ii), B-(iii), C-(iv), D-(i)

(c) A-(iii), B-(i), C-(ii), D-(iv)

(d) A-(iv), B-(ii), C-(i), D-(iii)

[b]

[RAS Prelims 2018]

Practice Question

1. What is the proposed capacity of the Upper Siang Hydropower Project?
 - (a) 5,000 MW
 - (b) 8,000 MW
 - (c) 11,000 MW
 - (d) 15,000 MW
2. Which river does the Siang River transform into downstream in Assam?
 - (a) Ganges
 - (b) Brahmaputra
 - (c) Yamuna
 - (d) Jamuna

International

Places in news – Austria

For Prelims –

Geography of the World: Major Landforms – Mountains, Plateaus, Plains and Deserts.
Geography of the World: Major Rivers and Lakes.

For Mains (GS- II)-

Earth Science (Geography and Geology):
Major Physical Landforms – Mountains, Plateaus, Plains, Deserts.

➡ Why in News?

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the European country Austria, the first Indian Prime Minister in last 41 years. Earlier in June, 1983, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had visited.



➡ Main Point

Geographical Location:

- Austria is a landlocked country located in South-Central Europe which is a geographically positioned both in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth.
- Capital- Vienna.
- Austria is bordered by 8 countries: Czech Republic in the north; Slovakia in the northeast; Hungary in the east; Slovenia in the south, Italy in the southwest; Switzerland and Liechtenstein in the west and Germany in the northwest.

-::12::-

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 July, 2024



- The Danube (2,850 km), is the most significant river in the country. It's the second longest river in Europe, and a vital waterway for trade and commerce.
- Other rivers - the Drau, Enns, Inn, Mur, Raab and Traun.
- Highest Peak – Mt. Grossglockner (3,798m)
- At 115.45 m (378.8 ft), Lake Neusiedl hosts the lowest point in Austria.

Austria is also a member of the following organisations:

- UN (United Nations)
- World Bank Group (WB)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) etc.
- European Union (EU) since 1995.

Note: Not a member of NATO, the US-led military alliance.

HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRIA:

- UN Office at Vienna - the third seat of the General Secretariat of the UN after Geneva and New York.
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) etc.

PYQ.

Q. Match List – I with List – II and select the correct answer from the code given below –

List – I (Mountain Peak)

- A. Kosciusko
- B. McKinley
- C. Albrus
- D. Kilimanjaro

List – II (Continent)

- 1. Europe
- 2. Africa
- 3. Australia
- 4. North America

Code –

	A	B	C	D
(a)	4	3	2	1
(b)	3	4	1	2
(c)	3	1	2	4
(d)	2	4	3	1

[b]

[RAS Prelims 2016]

Practice Question

1. The headquarters of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is located in-
- (a) Paris, France
 - (b) Bonn, Germany
 - (c) Vienna, Austria
 - (d) Moscow, Russia

Environment & Ecology

UNESCO's 11 new Biosphere Reserves

For Prelims –

Biodiversity, conservation of natural resources and sustainable development

For Mains (GS- II) -

Earth Science: Major environmental issues

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, 11 new Biosphere Reserves were declared by UNESCO in 11 countries.



➔ Main Point

- The newly added Biosphere Reserves include Belgium and Gambia for the first time and two Transboundary Biosphere Reserves.
- With this, the total number of Biosphere Reserves globally has gone up to 759 spread across 136 countries.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 July, 2024



Newly Declared Biosphere Reserves:

Biosphere Reserve	Location
Kempen-Broek Transboundary Biosphere Reserve	Belgium and Netherlands
Darién Norte Chocoano Biosphere Reserve	Colombia
Madre de las Aguas Biosphere Reserve	Dominican Republic
Niumi Biosphere Reserve	Gambia
Colli Euganei Biosphere Reserve	Italy
Julian Alps Transboundary Biosphere Reserve	Italy and Slovenia
Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve	Mongolia
Yapayao Biosphere Reserve	Philippines
Changnyeong Biosphere Reserve	Republic of Korea
Val d'Aran Biosphere Reserve	Spain
Irati Biosphere Reserve	Spain

-:16:-

❖ **Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) Programme:**

- ◆ It is UNESCO's oldest intergovernmental scientific programme, launched in the year 1971, with objective to establish a scientific basis for improving the relationship between people and the environment.
- ◆ The MAB programme provides a platform for collaboration on research and development, capacity building and networking, sharing information, knowledge and experience on 3 interrelated issues- Biodiversity Loss, Climate Change and Sustainable Development.
- ◆ India has a total of 18 Biosphere Reserves out of which 12 Biosphere Reserves are internationally recognized under UNESCO's 'Man and Biosphere Reserve Programme'.

There are 18 Biosphere Reserves in India:

Sr.No.	Biosphere Reserves	State
1.	Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve	Himachal Pradesh
2.	Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**	Uttarakhand
3.	Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve**	Sikkim
4.	Dehang-Debang Biosphere Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 July, 2024



5.	Manas Biosphere Reserve	Assam
6.	Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve	Assam
7.	Nokrek Biosphere Reserve**	Meghalaya
8.	Panna Biosphere Reserve**	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve**	Madhya Pradesh
10.	Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve**	Madhya Pradesh- Chhattisgarh
11.	Kutch Biosphere Reserve (largest area)	Gujarat
12.	Similipal Biosphere Reserve**	Odisha
13.	Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve**	West Bengal
14.	Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve	Andhra Pradesh
15.	Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve**	Karnataka-Tamil Nadu- Kerala
16.	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (First Biosphere Reserve)**	Tamil Nadu-Kerala
17.	Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**	Tamil Nadu
18.	Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve**	Andaman & Nicobar Islands

** - Listed in UNESCO's 'Man and Biosphere Reserve Programme'.

-:18:-

PYQ.

Q. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the code given below—

List-I	List-II
(Protected Areas in India)	(Number, in year 2018)
A. Community Reserve	(i) 103
B. Conservation Reserve	(ii) 46
C. National Park	(iii) 544
D. Wildlife Sanctuary	(iv) 76

Code —

	A	B	C	D
(a)	(ii)	(iv)	(i)	(iii)
(b)	(iii)	(ii)	(iv)	(i)
(c)	(iv)	(iii)	(ii)	(i)
(d)	(iii)	(ii)	(i)	(iv)

[a]

[RAS Prelims 2018]

Q. The 'Man and Biosphere Programme' (MAB) was started by UNESCO in:

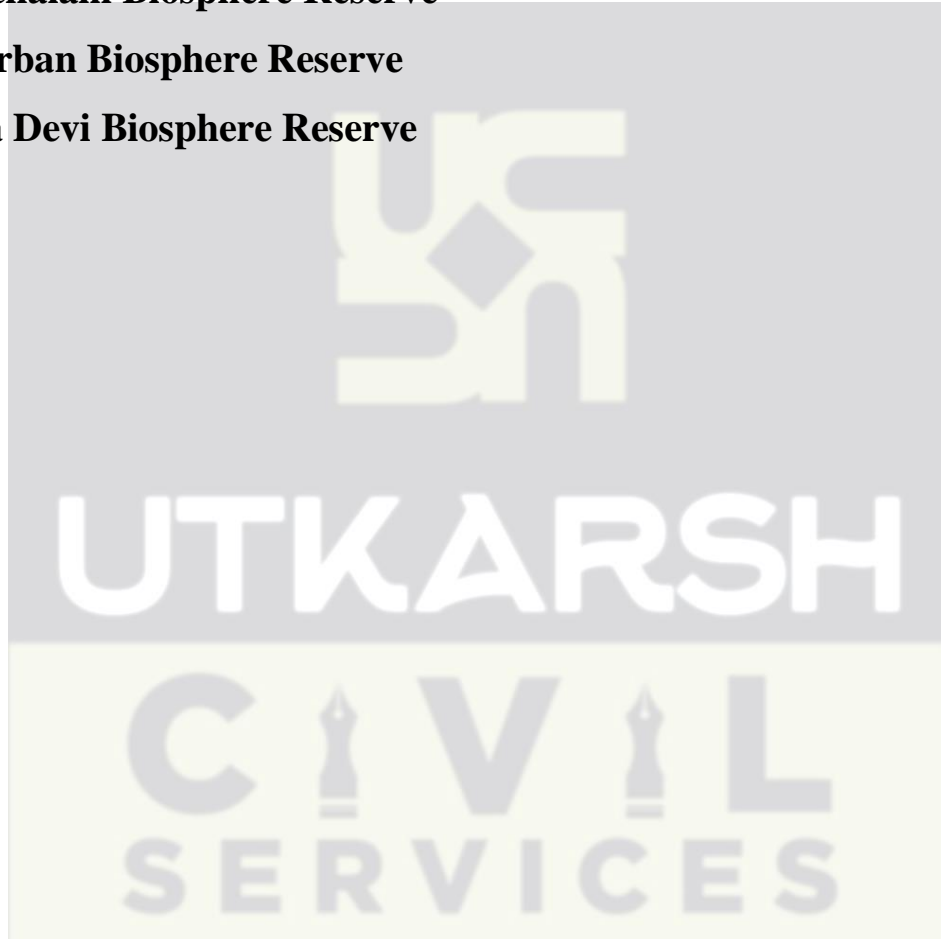
- (a) 1991
- (b) 1970
- (c) 1972
- (d) 1986

[*]

[RAS Prelims 2013]

Practice Question

1. Which of the following Biosphere Reserves is not listed in the 'Man and Biosphere Reserve Programme of UNESCO'?
- (a) Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve
 - (b) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve
 - (c) Sundarban Biosphere Reserve
 - (d) Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve



Sports

James Anderson

For Prelims –
For Mains (GS- III)-

Current Affairs: Sports and Sports Activities
Current Affairs: Recent activities related to personalities and sports

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, England's fast bowler James Anderson has retired from international cricket.



➔ Main Point

- England's 613th Test player, 41-year-old Anderson played the last match of his career against West Indies at Lord's stadium.
- Anderson is the third highest wicket taker in Test cricket in the history of Test matches after Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan and Australia's Shane Warne.
- He took 149 wickets in his Test career against India, which is the highest against any one team.
- Anderson started his international career in 2003 with a Test match against Zimbabwe at Lord's.
- Anderson took a total of 704 wickets in 188 Test matches in his career. At the same time, he took 269 wickets in 194 ODIs and 18 wickets in 19 T20Is.

--:21:--

PYQ.

Q. Muttiah Muralitharan

(15 words)

(RAS Mains 2010)

Practice Question

1. Fast bowler James Anderson, who recently retired from international cricket, belongs to which country?
 - (a) West Indies
 - (b) Australia
 - (c) Zimbabwe
 - (d) England