

Rajasthan

586 Gram Panchayats in Rajasthan declared TB-free

For Prelims –

Current Events: Major Welfare Schemes of Rajasthan Government

For Mains (GS- III)-

Current Affairs: Major Development Projects of Rajasthan

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Central Tuberculosis divisions of the India Government has declared 586 Gram Panchayats of Rajasthan TB free.

➔ Main Point

- Rajasthan' campaign is being organized by the Health Department in 9325 Gram Panchayats in the year 2024.

Pradhan Mantri TB Free India Campaign:

- **Start**-9 September, 2023
- **Ministries Concerned** - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Govt of India)
- **Target** – TB elimination by 2025.

Note: The global target year for TB elimination is 2030.

Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative:

- It is a scheme to adopt people suffering from TB disease. Under this scheme, any ordinary citizen, public representative, political party, non-government institution, corporate institution can adopt a TB patient. Under this campaign, arrangements have been made that the person or institution who becomes Nikshay Mitra can adopt any TB patient of any village, ward, panchayat, block or district for at least one year and maximum three years old and provide them food, nutrition, medical livelihood level necessary help.

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'TB Free Panchayat' Initiative:

- On March 24, 2023, on World TB Disease Day, the Prime Minister inaugurated the 'One World TB Summit-2023' organized in Varanasi and launched the 'TB Mukta Panchayat' initiative.
- It is an official pan-India initiative of micro preventive treatment and family-centred care model for TB. But India is now working on the goal of ending TB by 2025.

Global Efforts:

- "Find.Treat.All. #EndTB" joint initiative has been launched with Global Fund and Stop TB Partnership by WHO.

PYQ.

- Q. Which of the following statements is incorrect in the context of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan in Rajasthan?
- (a) The slogan of this scheme is 'Apni Yojana Aapno Vikas Hai'.
 - (b) The funding of this scheme is shared between the central and state governments in the ratio of 60:40.
 - (c) The special focus in this scheme is on capacity building of public representatives and personnel.
 - (d) The Panchayat Empowerment Campaign has been renamed as Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

[a]

[RAS Prelims 2021]

Practice Question

1. Recently, the Central Tuberculosis Section of the Government of India has declared how many Gram Panchayats of Rajasthan as TB free?

(a) 486

(b) 586

(c) 576

(d) 666



Rajasthan tops list under Chief Minister's Free Medicine Scheme

For Prelims –

Current Affairs: Major Welfare Schemes of Rajasthan Government

For Mains (GS-III) –

Current Affairs: Major Development Projects of Rajasthan

➔ Why in News?

- In the recent ranking released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Rajasthan has been ranked first in the operation of free medicine scheme.

➔ Main Point

- In June 2024 also, Rajasthan had secured first position with 76.78 marks.
- Telangana has been ranked second.

Chief Minister Free Medicine Scheme

- The Chief Minister Free Medicine Scheme was implemented in Rajasthan on October 2, 2011.
- Under this scheme, medicines for general use are being made available free of cost to all patients in government hospitals.
- 1828 medicines are approved under the scheme.

PYQ.

Q. Mukhyamantri Free Medicine Scheme was implemented in Rajasthan on-

- (A) 2 September, 2011
- (B) 2 September, 2010
- (C) 2 October, 2011
- (D) 2 October, 2010

[c]

(RAS Prelims 2018)

Practice Question

1. In the ranking released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Rajasthan has been placed at which position in the implementation of free medicine scheme?
- (a) Second
 - (b) Third
 - (c) First
 - (d) Fifth

Batul Begum

For Prelims –
For Mains (GS-III)-

For Prelims – Current Affairs: Persons in news
Current Affairs: Persons in news

➔ Why in News?

- Jaipur's Mand and folk singer Batul Begum will perform with her group 'Basant' in the Olympic Games held in France.

➔ Main Point

- Along with Batul Begum, Anwar Hussain, Senu Sapera, Manwar, Farhan Sahil and Loomnath will also perform Rajasthani art.
- Batul Begum has received the 'Nari Shakti Samman' by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in the year 2022.

PYQ.

Q. The singing style with which Gavari Devi was associated–

- (a) Langa
- (b) Thumri
- (c) Taalbandi
- (d) Mand

(RAS Prelims 2013))

Practice Question

1. Batul Begum is associated with which style of art?
- (a) Kathak
 - (b) Mand singing
 - (c) Flute playing
 - (d) Painting



Gopal Credit Card Scheme

For Prelims –

Current Affairs: Major Welfare Schemes of Rajasthan Government

For Mains (GS-III)-

Current Affairs: Major Development Projects of Rajasthan

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the state government has announced the Gopal Credit Card Scheme keeping in mind the needs of farmers and cattle rearers.

➔ Main Point

- In the first phase of the scheme, 5 lakh cowherd families will be provided interest-free short-term loan up to Rs 1 lakh for animal husbandry, dairy related activities and shed construction.

PYQ.

Q. What is the share of Rajasthan Government in funding the National Agricultural Extension and Technology Mission?

- (a) 20 percent
- (b) 40 percent
- (c) 30 percent
- (d) 50 percent

(RAS Prelims 2021)

Practice Question

1. How much amount of interest-free short-term loan will be provided to cowherds under the Gopal Credit Card Scheme?
 - (a) One lakh
 - (b) Two lakh
 - (c) Fifty thousand
 - (d) Thirty thousand

International

Places in news - Bangladesh

For Prelims –
For Mains (GS- III)-

Geography of the World and India
Earth Science (Geography and Geoscience) –
Major Geopolitical Problems

➔ Why in News?

- Violent student protests and firing by security forces in Bangladesh have left nearly 200 people dead.
- The protests in the country began after the Supreme Court put on hold a Bangladesh government order that said about 30 per cent of all government jobs would be reserved for descendants of freedom fighters who contributed to Bangladesh's independence in 1971.



- Muktijoddha Sangsad a non-political welfare association of the liberation fighters during the Bangladesh Liberation War.

Geographical Location:

- Bangladesh is a country located in South Asia.
- The country shares a 4,096 km international border with India in the north, west and east.
- The country shares a land border with Myanmar in the southeast and a coastal border with the Bay of Bengal in the south.
- There are five Indian states that share their border with Bangladesh. These states include West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

State	Total Length (in km)
West Bengal	2216.70
Assam	263.00
Meghalaya	443.00
Tripura	856.00
Mizoram	318.00
Total	4096.70

- Bangladesh is the eighth most populous country and one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

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- The Bay of Bengal plays a vital role in determining the climate and biodiversity of the coastal areas in Bangladesh.
- The river system of Bangladesh is an essential element of its geography and socio-economic fabric. The three major rivers - Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna and their tributaries form a vast network of river systems in the country.
- **Dhaka** - Capital and largest city.
- **Coastal area** - extends for about 580 km which includes the world's longest natural beach Cox's Bazar and the world's largest mangrove forest Sundarbans.
- **Currency** - Taka (BDT)

PYQ.

Q. Write a note on the Nile River.

(50 words)

(RAS Mains 2010)

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Practice Question

1. Which of the following Indian states does not share international border with Bangladesh?
- (a) Meghalaya
 - (b) Assam
 - (c) Manipur
 - (d) West Bengal



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Multinational Military Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024

For Prelims –

Current Affairs: Major current events and issues of Indian and international importance

For Mains (GS-III)-

Current Affairs: Current events of national and international importance

➔ Why in News?

- Indian Army contingent is taking part in Multinational Military Exercise KHAAN QUEST.

➔ Main Point

- The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 27th July to 9th August 2024 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Background of KHAAN QUEST

- The exercise began as a bilateral event between the USA and Mongolian Armed Forces in 2003.
- By 2006, KHAAN QUEST has expanded into a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise.
- Last edition of Exercise KHAAN QUEST was conducted in Mongolia from 19th June to 2nd July 2023.
- Period: Annually hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces.

Indian Contingent Details:

- The Indian Army sending a robust contingent consisting of: 40 personnel
- Troops mainly from a Battalion of the MADRAS REGIMENT
- Additional personnel from other Arms and Services

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- One Woman Officer and two Women Soldiers
- **Aim of Exercise:** The exercise is aimed to prepare the Indian Armed Forces for peacekeeping missions in a multinational setting, enhancing interoperability and military readiness.
- **India-Mongolia Military Bilateral Exercises:** The 16th edition of Nomadic Elephant held at the Foreign Training Node in Umroi (Meghalaya) in July 2024.

PYQ.

- Q. The 22nd edition of the trilateral naval exercise "Malabar" was held in June 2018. Apart from India, which two other countries participated in this exercise?
- (a) Russia and Japan
 - (b) Japan and the United States
 - (c) Nepal and Vietnam
 - (d) Russia and Bangladesh

[b]

[RAS Prelims 2018]

Practice Question

1. 'Multinational Military Exercise Khan Quest – 2024' was organized by the army of which country recently?
- (a) Pakistan
 - (b) Saudi Arabia
 - (c) Mongolia
 - (d) Kazakhstan

Important Days

Kargil Vijay Diwas (26 July)

For Prelims –

Current Affairs: People, Places and Institutions in News

For Mains (GS-III)-

Current Affairs: People, Places and Institutions in News

➔ Why in News?

- Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on 26 July in India. This day is celebrated to commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces in the Kargil War in the year 1999.
- The 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated in the year 2024.



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➡ Main Point

- The Kargil War was fought between India and Pakistan in the year 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Pakistani army intruded into the Indian side of the Line of Control (LOC) and the Indian Army launched 'Operation Vijay' to reclaim the Pakistani-occupied Indian territories

Difference between 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' and 'Vijay Diwas':

Day-	Vijay Diwas	Kargil Vijay Diwas
Celebrated on-	Every year on 16 December	Observed every year on 26 July
Occasion-	Commemorates the operation conducted by Bangladesh Mukti Bahini and Indian Air Force against Pakistani armed forces in 1971.	Commemorates the victory of the Indian Armed Forces in the Kargil War of 1999
Name of operation-	Bangladesh Liberation War, Bijoy Dibose	Kargil conflict, Operation Vijay

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Place-	East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh)	Kargil, Jammu & Kashmir (present-day Ladakh)
Result-	Indian Army's victory, emergence of newly independent nation Bangladesh.	India won and regained Kargil.

PYQ.

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

List-I

- A. 11 July
- B. 12 August
- C. 29 August
- D. 8 September

List-II

- I. World Literacy Day
- II. National Sports Day
- III. International Youth Day
- IV. World Population Day

Code –

- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) | IV | III | II | I |
| (b) | III | IV | I | II |
| (c) | II | III | I | IV |
| (d) | IV | II | III | I |

[a]
(RAS Prelims 2013)

Daily Current Affairs

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Practice Question

1. When is 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' celebrated every year in India?
- (a) 16 December
 - (b) 26 July
 - (c) 14 February
 - (d) 25 July



Environment and Ecology

State of the World's Forests (SOFO) - 2024

For Prelims –
For Mains (GS- III)-

World Geography: Environmental Issues
Earth Science (Geography and Geology): Major
Environmental Issues

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations published its biennial report 'State of the World's Forests (SOFO)' on the state of the world's forests.

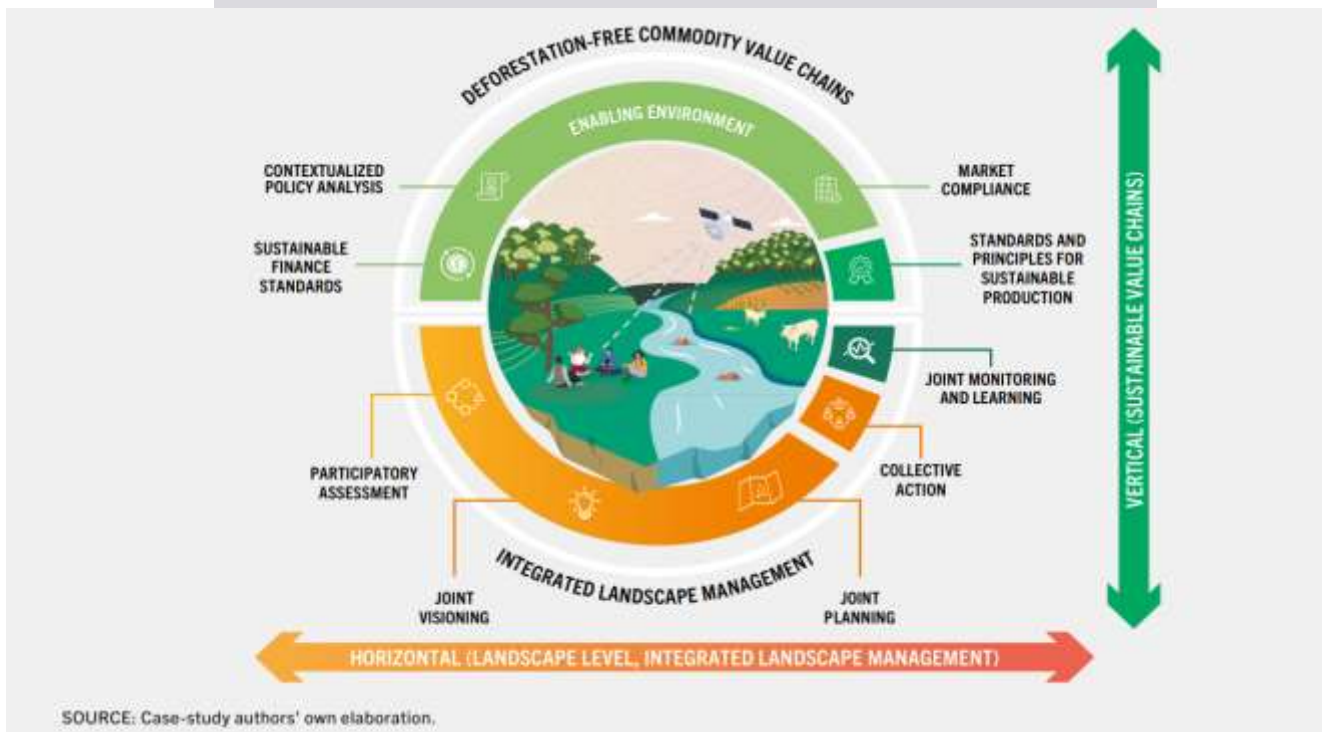


➔ Main Point

- India gained 2,66,000 hectares of forest area annually during the period 2010 to 2020, ranking third among the top 10 countries gaining the most significant forest area during the period.
- China ranks first in the world with the maximum forest area of 19,37,000 hectares, followed by Australia at 4,46,000 hectares and India. The top 10 countries include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.
- The report highlights a significant reduction in deforestation in some countries. For example, Indonesia reduced deforestation by 8.4 percent from 2021 to 2022, while Brazil's Amazon rainforests recorded a 50 percent reduction in deforestation by 2023. The rate of gross global mangrove loss decreased by 23 per cent between the 2000-2010 and 2010-2020 periods.

However, various factors, including climate change and wildfires, have resulted in increased vulnerability of forests.

- Wildfire intensity and frequency have seen a steady increase, with boreal forests accounting for nearly one-quarter of carbon dioxide emissions from wildfires in 2021.



- Wildfires emitted an estimated 6,687 megatonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) globally in 2023, more than twice the carbon dioxide emissions from the European Union due to burning fossil fuels that year.

Other key points:

- The report uses 18 case studies from around the world to illustrate how forest sector innovation can drive positive change.

- It shows how new technology, policies and inclusive approaches to forest management are increasing the possibilities to protect, restore and sustainably use forests.
- The report was released during the 27th session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) held in Rome, Italy.
- Published every two years since 1995, the report serves as a key reference for governments, policymakers, practitioners, academics, students and civil society organisations (CSOs).
- The report contributes to a healthy, sustainable and productive food systems by informing the conservation and effective management of forest resources.

PYQ.

Q. Describe the geographical features of tropical evergreen forests of India.

(50 words)

[RAS Mains 2021]

Practice Question

1. Recently, which organization released a report titled 'State of the World's Forests 2024'?
- (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 - (b) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - (c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 - (d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Typhoon Gaemi

For Prelims –
For Mains (GS- III) -

Geography of the World: Environmental Issues
Earth Sciences (Geography and Geology):
Major Environmental Issues

➔ Why in News?

- Recently Typhoon Gaemi that originated in the Pacific Ocean caused widespread damage in Taiwan and the Philippines.



➔ Main Point

- **Origin:** Started as a tropical disturbance near Palau. (Palau is an island country in the Micronesia subregion of Oceania in the western Pacific region)
- Tropical cyclones that originate in the northwestern Pacific Ocean, mainly developing between 180°E and 100°E , are called 'typhoons'.
- On the other hand, storms that originate in the North Atlantic, Central North Pacific and Eastern North Pacific regions are known as hurricanes.
- Tropical storms that originate in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean region are known as 'cyclones'.

PYQ.

Q. Which of the following forests is known as the “lungs of planet Earth”?

- (a) Rainforests of Northeast India
- (b) Taiga forests
- (c) Tundra forests
- (d) Amazon rainforest

(d)

(RAS Prelims 2013)

Practice Question

1. 'Typhoon Gaemi', which was in the news recently, originated in which of the following regions?

- (a) South Pacific Ocean
- (b) North-Western Pacific Ocean
- (c) North Atlantic Ocean
- (d) Indian Ocean

Paris Olympics – 2024



- The 'Paris Olympics-2024' officially started on 27 July 2024. The main ceremony was held on the Seine River in Paris, the capital of France.
- For the first time in Olympic history, the opening ceremony was held outside the main stadium.
- The Indian contingent was led by (flag bearer) PV Sindhu and Sharath Kamal.
- The Paris Olympics will be held from 27 July to 11 August 2024.
- 117 players are participating from India in the 2024 Olympics.

❖ **Indian players will participate in 16 sports events; which are as follows:**

- Archery
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Boxing
- Equestrian
- Golf
- Hockey
- Judo
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Shooting
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Weightlifting
- Wrestling