



PAREEKSHA BAAZ
Institute for CSE Examination

PRELIM POINTERS

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'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' Campaign



Overview:

Union women and child development minister recently launched the "Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Campaign".

About 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' Campaign:

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, Government of India.
- It seeks to engage multiple stakeholders in a collective effort **to eliminate child marriage in India.**
- It will **focus on the seven high-burden states-West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh**-and nearly **300 high-burden districts** where child marriage rates are high as compared to the national average.
- The campaign will call on every State and Union Territory to devise an action plan aimed at **reducing the child marriage rates below 5% by 2029.**
 - Child marriage rates dropped from 47.4% in 2006 to 23.3% in 2019-21, according to government data.
- A **key feature** of the initiative is the **launch of the Child Marriage Free Bharat portal**, a platform to **raise awareness, report cases, and monitor progress.**
 - The portal is designed to **facilitate effective monitoring of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs)** by strengthening supervision and evaluation mechanisms to ensure their active role in preventing child marriages and supporting affected individuals.
 - **People** will be able to **register their complaints** pertaining to child marriage, and these **will be directed straight to the concerned CMPOs** anywhere in the country.

- All states have been directed to log on to the portal and register the CMPOs so that there is **real-time monitoring of cases**.
- Nodal officers will be assigned at the Centre for monitoring the portal.
- It seeks to enhance public access to information, making it easily available to enable better communication and support.

Q1: What is the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006?

PCMA came into force in 2006 to prevent child marriage and ensure the eradication of the practice. It replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929. The primary object of the Act is to prohibit solemnization of child marriage. This Act is armed with enabling provisions to prohibit child marriages, provide relief to victims, and enhance punishment for those who abet, promote, or solemnize such marriages. As per the act, the age of marriage for boys is 21, and for girls, it is 18, and any marriage of people below this age will be considered a child marriage which is illegal, an offence, and is punishable under the law.



What is the President's Colours Award?



Overview:

The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) presented the prestigious President's Colours to four battalions of the Mechanised Infantry during a solemn ceremony held recently.

About President's Colours:

- It is the **highest honour** that can be awarded to any military unit, military training establishments, or **State/UT Police Forces** of India.
- It is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war.
- It is also known as "**Rashtrapati ka Nishaan**" in Hindi.
- **History:**
 - The President's Colour award has its history way back to ancient Indian traditions.
 - In **ancient times**, whenever any **military unit** marches, they **carried 'dhwajas' or 'patakas' or simply a flag** of their respective kings to demonstrate their king's supremacy. The flag had emblems or messages of their kings to other rulers.
 - **During British rule** in India, the **tradition continues**. The military unit of the British Armed Forces of that time **carried the king's/queen's version of the flag** whenever they go for a military march.
 - On **November 23, 1950**, the '**king's colour**' of the erstwhile British Indian regiments was **laid to rest** in Chetwode Hall, Dehradun, to **make way for the 'colours' of the President of the Republic of India**.

- The **Indian Navy was the first** Indian Armed Forces **to be awarded** the President Colour by Dr. Rajendra Prasad on May 27, 1951.
- **Award:**
 - It is a type of **special flag**, also **known as 'Nishaan'**, which is awarded to a military unit in an organised ceremony.
 - Colours are **generally presented personally by the President**, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, **and in case of the President's non-availability, by the Service Chief.**
 - The flag consists of a **golden border in the middle** and the **insignia of a respective military unit**, training establishments, and police forces in the centre.
 - Sometimes, it **may also contain the motto**, important **achievements**, and battle participation of those military units to which the award is bestowed.
 - **During any ceremonial parade**, the **President's Colour**, i.e., the special flag of a military unit, is **kept in a special position**, and soldiers often march with the President's Colour on important dates, like their establishment anniversary.

Q1: What is an Insignia?

An insignia is a symbol, badge, or emblem that represents a specific organization, rank, or identity. It is often used to denote membership, achievements, or affiliation with a particular group or institution. In the military, for example, an insignia can refer to a badge or emblem worn by soldiers to indicate their rank, unit, or service branch.

Key Facts about Baltic Sea



Overview:

The Swedish Prime Minister has said the Baltic Sea is now a "high risk" zone as he met Nordic and Baltic leaders' days after a suspected sabotage attack on undersea cables.

About Baltic Sea:

- It is a **semi-enclosed inland sea** located in **Northern Europe**.
- It is an **arm of the North Atlantic Ocean**.
- It extends northward from the latitude of southern Denmark almost to the Arctic Circle and **separating the Scandinavian Peninsula from the rest of continental Europe**.
- It **connects to the Atlantic Ocean through the Danish Straits**.
- It has a **coastline** of approximately **8,000 km**.
- **Surrounding Countries: Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland, and Sweden.**
- It covers an area of approximately 377,000 sq.km. The sea is approximately 1,600 km long and 193 km wide.
- It is **connected to the White Sea via the White Sea Canal** and **to the North Sea's German Bight via the Kiel Canal**.
- The Baltic Sea contains **three major gulfs**: the **Gulf of Bothnia** to the north, the **Gulf of Finland** to the east, and the **Gulf of Riga** slightly to the south of that.
- It is often cited as the **world's largest brackish inland water body**.
- Its water **salinity levels** are **lower than that of the World Oceans** due to the inflow of fresh water from the surrounding land and the sea's shallowness.

- **More than 250 rivers and streams empty** their waters into the Baltic Sea. **Neva** is the **largest river** that drains into the Baltic Sea.
- **Islands:** It is home to over 20 islands and archipelagos. **Gotland**, located **off the coast of Sweden**, is the **largest island** in the Baltic Sea.

Q1: What is a Gulf?

The Gulf is a portion of the sea that is almost surrounded by land except one narrow opening. Gulfs are formed when a giant rock collapses or when a piece of land sinks. This causes a big indentation in the area, and the water eventually fills it up. Gulfs are also formed through a natural process of erosion.



OPCW- The Hague Award

Overview:

The 2024 OPCW The Hague Award was conferred upon the Indian Chemical Council (ICC) at a ceremony during the 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at Hague.

About OPCW- The Hague Award:

- The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons established the 'OPCW-The Hague Award' in collaboration with the **Municipality of The Hague in 2014**.
- It is part of the OPCW's ongoing effort to highlight significant contributions made by **individuals and organisations**, widely from academia, researchers, chemical industry, and civil society to achieve a **world free of chemical weapons**.
- Recipient of the award receives a **medallion, a certificate** and share of **the €90,000 award fund**.

Key facts about the Indian Chemical Council

- It is India's premier body **representing the chemical industry which was** established in 1938.
- It is the apex national body **representing all branches of the Chemical Industry** in India such as Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Plastics & Petrochemicals & Petroleum Refineries etc.
- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has authorised all ICC offices (Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai) to **issue the CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN for the exporters**.
- **Initiatives of ICC:**
 - ICC's '**Nicer Globe**' initiative has had a substantial impact on chemical transportation safety in India, offering real-time monitoring and emergency response capabilities.
 - It has conducted other activities to promote chemical safety and security through its '**Responsible Care**' (RC) programme and the introduction of the Security Code of RC.

Do you know?

- The [Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons](#) is the implementing body of the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**.
- Its mission is to implement the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in order to achieve the OPCW's vision of a world that is free of chemical weapons and of the threat of their use, and in which cooperation in chemistry for peaceful purposes for all is fostered.
- It **receives states-parties' declarations detailing** chemical weapons-related activities or materials and relevant industrial activities.
- The OPCW was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2013**.



- **Headquarters:** Hague, Netherlands.

Q1: What is the Chemical Weapons Convention?

It is a multilateral treaty that bans chemical weapons and requires their destruction within a specified period of time. It entered into force on April 29, 1997.



Jarawa Tribe



Overview:

For the first time in the history of India's election process, 19 members from the Jarawa Tribe in Andaman and Nicobar Islands had been included in India's electoral roll.

About Jarawa Tribe:

- The Jarawas are an **indigenous tribe** which lives in the **Andaman Islands**.
- They are classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- They inhabit parts of the **Middle Andaman and South Andaman Islands**. The region is characterized by **dense forests, mangroves**, and pristine beaches, providing a rich habitat.
- They are regarded as **descendants of the Jangil tribe, which is now extinct**.
- Some believe the ancestors of the Jarawas were **part of the first successful human migrations out of Africa**.
- The Jarawas have **traditionally been hunter-forager-fishermen**, and are known as warriors who fiercely defend their territory.
- They are known for their **robust physique** and **excellent nutritional health**.
- **Traditional clothing** among the Jarawa Tribe is **minimal and functional**, designed to suit the tropical climate of the Andaman Islands.
- **After the British established a colonial presence** in the Andaman Islands in 1789, the **population** of Jarawas **declined massively**.
- However, the Jarawas survived the British colonial presence and World War II.

- Over the years, the contact between the Jarawas and the outsiders increased, and **since 1997, they have initiated contacts with settled populations**, where they traded and interacted with tourists, got medical aid, and even sent their children to school.
- **At present, their number** ranges between **250 to 400 individuals**.

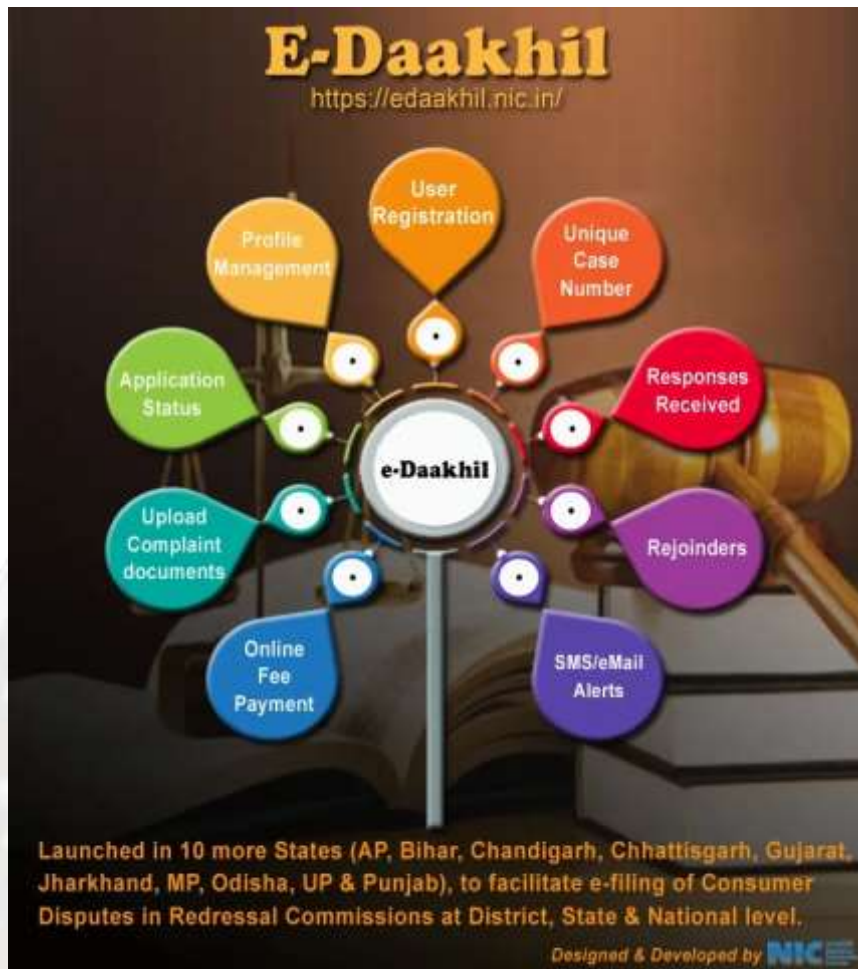
Q1: Who are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?

PVTGs are a more vulnerable group among tribal groups in India. These groups have primitive traits, geographical isolation, low literacy, zero to negative population growth rate and backwardness. Moreover, they are largely dependent on hunting for food and a pre-agriculture level of technology. Currently, there are 2.8 million PVTGs belonging to 75 tribes across 22,544 villages in 220 districts across 18 states and Union Territories in India.





E-Daakhil Portal



Overview:

The Department of Consumer Affairs is proud to announce the successful nationwide implementation of the E-Daakhil portal, now operational in every state and union territory of India.

About E-Daakhil Portal:

- It was introduced as an inexpensive, speedy and **hassle-free mechanism** for **filing consumer complaints**.
- It was first launched on 7th **September 2020** by the **National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission**.

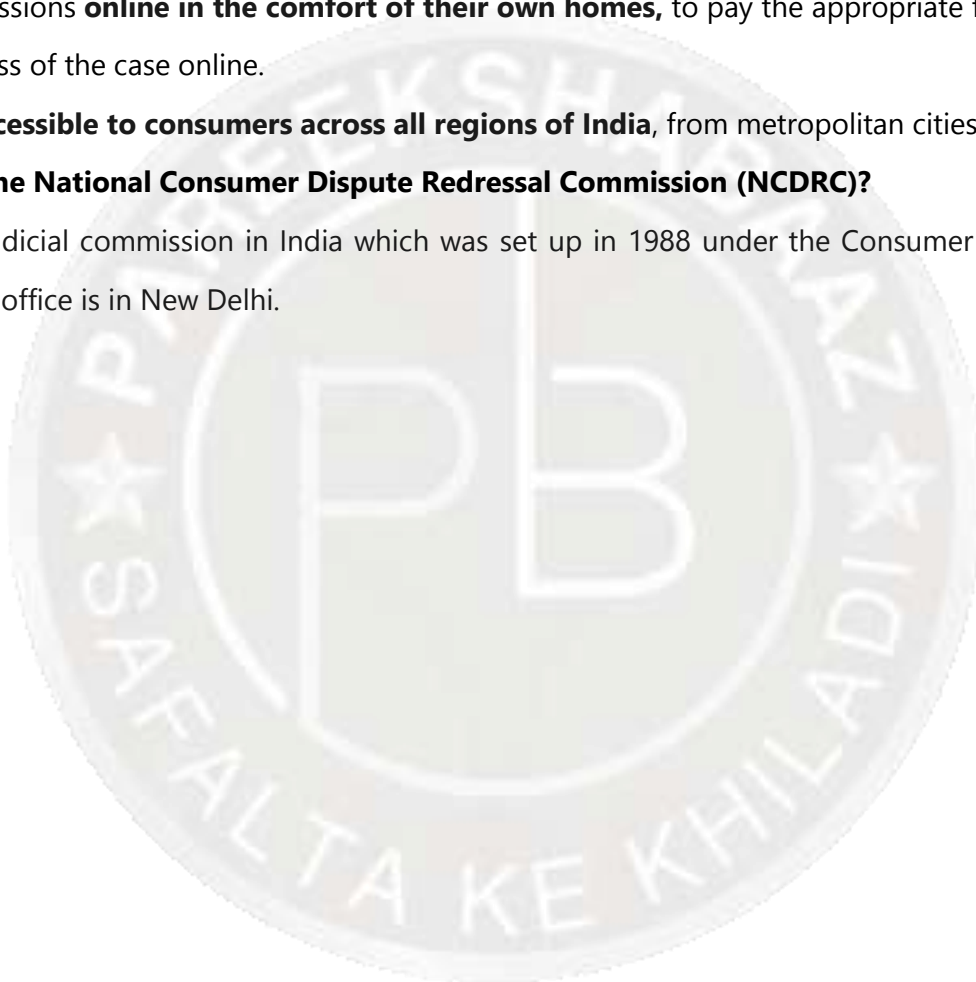
Features

- It is an innovative online platform designed to **streamline the consumer grievance redressal process**, providing an efficient and convenient way for consumers to approach the relevant consumer forum, dispensing the need to travel and be physically present to file their grievances.
- The portal offers an **intuitive and easy-to-navigate interface**, allowing consumers to file complaints with minimal effort.

- From filing complaints to tracking their status, E-Daakhil **ensures a paperless and transparent process** with respect to filing of cases.
- Any consumer or Advocate can sign up on the e-Daakhil platforms with the required authentication by receiving an OTP on their registered cell phone or an activation link on their registered email address. They can then move on with filing a complaint.
- The portal has facilitated all aggrieved consumers to submit complaints to consumer commissions **online in the comfort of their own homes**, to pay the appropriate fees, and track the progress of the case online.
- It is **accessible to consumers across all regions of India**, from metropolitan cities to remote areas.

Q1: What is the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC)?

It is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. Its head office is in New Delhi.



What is Sabal-20 Logistics Drone?



Overview:

In a significant move to bolster the Indian Army's logistical capabilities, the private drone manufacturer EndureAir has delivered its innovative Sabal 20 logistics drone to the Eastern theatre of operations.

About Sabal-20 Logistics Drone:

- It is an **electric-unmanned helicopter** based on **variable pitch technology**, designed specifically **for aerial logistics**.
- It was **manufactured by** the **private drone manufacturer EndureAir**.
- It is designed to fulfill demanding operational requirements, assisting with tasks including precise logistics, high-altitude operations, and long-distance deliveries.
- **Features:**
 - The drone features tandem rotor configuration, and the design "ensures remarkable stability, superior high-altitude performance, minimised turbulence risk, and outstanding lifting capacity across diverse terrains".
 - It is capable of carrying **payloads of up to 20 kg**, which is **equivalent to 50 percent of its own weight**, with scalable options for future requirements.
 - It can **operate in confined and rugged terrain**, while its low RPM (revolutions per minute) design minimises noise, enhancing stealth in sensitive missions.
 - One of the standout features of the Sabal 20 is its **vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) technology**, which allows the drone to operate in confined spaces and difficult environments.
 - It also has cutting-edge autonomous flight capabilities and user-friendly controls that simplify complex tasks, ensuring reliable performance even when it is beyond the line of sight of the operator.



Q1: What is a vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) technology?

A VTOL aircraft is a vehicle that can depart, hover and land vertically. This includes fixed-wing aircrafts with the ability to take off and touch down vertically as well as helicopters or other aircraft with powered rotors. VTOL aircrafts' ability to take off and land vertically as well as hover, fly slowly and land in small spaces distinguishes it from the conventional aircraft.



SAREX-24



Overview:

The 11th edition of Indian Coast Guard's National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise & Workshop (SAREX-24) will be in Kochi, Kerala on November 28-29, 2024.

About SAREX-24:

- It is conducted under the aegis of **National Maritime Search and Rescue Board**.
- The **theme of the exercise** is 'Enhancing Search and Rescue capabilities through Regional collaboration'.
- It signifies ICG's commitment to provide succor during large-scale contingencies regardless of location, nationality or circumstances in the Indian Search & Rescue Region and beyond.
- This event will feature various programmes, including **table-top exercise, workshop & seminars involving participation** of senior officials from government agencies, Ministries & Armed Forces, various stakeholders and foreign delegates.
- The **sea exercise involving** two large scale contingencies will be carried out off the Kochi coast with participation of ships & aircraft of ICG, Navy, Indian Air Force, Passenger Vessel & Tug from Cochin Port Authority and boats from the Customs.
- The response matrix in the sea exercise will involve various methods to evacuate distressed passengers, wherein the advent of new-age technology using satellite-aided distress beacons, drones to deploy a life buoy, air droppable life rafts, operation of remote controlled life buoy will be demonstrated.
- The exercise is designed not only to evaluate efficiency of operations and coordination with national stakeholders, but also to **aptly focus on cooperative engagements with the littorals and friendly countries**.



Q1: What is the Indian Coast Guard?

It is an armed force that protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law, with jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.



Surface Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology

Overview:

Recently, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has recognized Surface Hydrokinetic Turbine (SHKT) technology under the Hydro Category to drive innovations and explore alternate technologies.

About Surface Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology:

- It uses **kinetic energy of flowing water** with practically zero potential head for generation of electrical energy unlike conventional units, which utilize potential energy of water through construction of **suitable civil structures such as dam**, diversion weir and barrages for creation of necessary 'Head'.
- **Advantages**
 - This technology **supports the power sector** in meeting the **growing demand for base-load, round-the-clock renewable energy**, especially in areas with poor grid accessibility.
 - Surface Hydrokinetic turbines are **easy to install and cost-effective**.
 - This technology provides a win-win situation both for renewable energy buyers and generators.
 - Adoption of SHKT technology shall mark a significant milestone in leveraging India's extensive water infrastructure, including canals, hydropower tailrace channels, etc. for sustainable energy generation.
 - This technology has huge potential in GW scale with a lot **of opportunities to harness renewable energy**, leading to overall growth of the power sector.

Q1: What is kinetic energy?

Kinetic energy is a form of energy that an object or a particle has by reason of its motion. It is a property of a moving object or particle and depends not only on its motion but also on its mass.

Network Readiness Index



Overview:

India has improved its position by eleven slots and is now placed at 49th rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2024 (NRI 2024) report released on 21st November 2024.

About Network Readiness Index:

- It maps the network-based readiness **landscape of 133 economies** based on their performances in **four different pillars**: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact, covering a total of 54 variables.
- The report has been **published by the Portulans Institute**, an independent non-profit research and educational institute based in Washington DC.
- **Highlights of the report**
 - India has not only improved its ranking, but also improved its score from 49.93 in 2023 to 53.63 in 2024. It is noteworthy that India leads in several indicators.
 - The report states that India secured 1st rank in '**AI scientific publications**', 'AI talent concentration' and '**ICT services exports**', 2nd rank in '**FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions**', 'Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country' and 'International Internet bandwidth', 3rd rank in '**Domestic market scale**' and 4th rank in 'annual investment in telecommunication services'.

- India has ranked 2nd **in the group of lower-middle-income countries** after Vietnam.
- As per the report, India has **demonstrated significant digital progress**, with notable strengths in technological innovation and digital transformation.

Q1: What is governance?

It is defined as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development.

