

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

1. The implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has been a subject of debate in India, balancing the principles of equality and secularism with cultural diversity. Critically analyze the constitutional, social, and political implications of UCC, and suggest measures to address the challenges in its implementation. [BPSC General Studies II Section I: 38 marks].
2. "The SCO Summit 2024 addressed critical issues like regional security, economic cooperation, and connectivity. Discuss the major outcomes of the summit and evaluate India's role in shaping the agenda, highlighting its significance for regional and global diplomacy." [BPSC General Studies I Section II: 38 marks]

International Relations**Exchange of Nuclear Installations****Why in the news?**

India and Pakistan exchanged the list of their nuclear installations on 1st January, 2025.

- ❖ It is exchanged under a bilateral agreement that prohibits the two sides from attacking each other's such facilities.

About the Agreement:

- ❖ The exchange is conducted under the provisions of the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations and Facilities, which was signed on December 31, 1988, and entered into force on January 27, 1991.
- ❖ According to the agreement:
 - Both countries are required to notify each other of their nuclear installations and facilities covered under the accord on January 1 of each year.
 - This marks the 34th consecutive exchange of such lists, with the first exchange taking place on January 1, 1992.

Environment And Geography**India's GreenHouse Emissions****Why in the news?**

In its fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on December 30, 2024:

- ❖ India's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 declined by 7.93 per cent compared to 2019.
 - Total greenhouse gas emissions - excluding land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) - amounted to 2,959 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e) and 2,437 MtCO₂e including LULUCF.
 - Total national emissions (including LULUCF) have decreased by 7.93 per cent with respect to 2019 and increased by 98.34 per cent since 1994.
 - The main contributors to India's total greenhouse gas emission were CO₂ generated from burning fossil fuels, methane from livestock and increasing aluminium and cement production.
- ❖ India's GDP emission intensity fell 36 percent between 2005 and 2020.
- ❖ India represents 18 per cent of the global population but its annual primary energy consumption per capita in 2022 was 25.4 gigajoules (GJ).
 - This was a third of the then global average of 78 GJ per person.

- In comparison, an average person in high-income countries consumed 119 GJ, with per capita consumption in the US recorded at 277 GJ.

Facts:

- ❖ Biennial Update Reports (BURs) are submitted by developing countries to the UNFCCC every two years.
 - They provide updates on greenhouse gas emissions, progress on climate actions, and needs for support in mitigation, adaptation and capacity building.
- ❖ Emission intensity refers to the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted per unit of GDP.

Defence And Security

2025 as 'Year of Reforms'

Why in the news?

The Ministry of Defence has decided to observe 2025 as the "Year of Reforms".

- ❖ **Objective:**
 - To transform the tri-services into a technologically advanced combat-ready force capable of multi-domain integrated operations.
- ❖ The key area of focus will remain on joint training and operations across all branches of the armed forces, including the Army, Navy and Air Force.

- In a bid to meet the challenges of modern warfare, a renewed focus was kept on merging big tech into the training process of the armed forces.
- Operational and inter-service cooperation to ensure that three wings of the armed forces operate seamlessly will be another area of focus for 2025.

Indigenously Built Warships

Why in the news?

Indian Navy will commission three indigenously built warships Nilgiri, Surat and Vaghsheer on 15th January, 2025 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

About the Warships:

Nilgiri	❖ It is equipped with stealth features and state-of-the-art technologies.
Surat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It features substantial improvements in design and capabilities. ❖ Equipped with modern aviation facilities, Nilgiri and Surat can operate a range of helicopters, during both day and night operations.
Vagsheer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It is one of the most silent and versatile diesel-electric submarines in the world. ❖ It is designed to under-take a wide range of missions, including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, area surveillance, and special operations. ❖ Vaghsheer is armed with wire-guided torpedoes, anti-ship missiles, and advanced sonar systems.

- Objective: It will provide a significant boost to the Indian Navy's combat readiness, demonstrating the country's unparalleled progress in defense self-reliance and indigenous shipbuilding.
- According to the Indian Navy, all three platforms have been designed and constructed entirely at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai which is a testament to the country's growing self-reliance.



Persons In News

Jeetendra Mishra

Why in the news?

Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra has assumed command of the Indian Air Force's Western Air Command.

- ❖ He succeeds Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha, who retired after more than 39 years of service.
- ❖ He was Commissioned into the Indian Air Force as a fighter pilot in December 1986.
- ❖ In his 38 years of service, the Air Marshal has tenanted important command and staff appointments



Important Days/ Dates

Lokpal Day

Why in the news?

The Lokpal of India will celebrate its inaugural Lokpal Day on 16th January 2025.

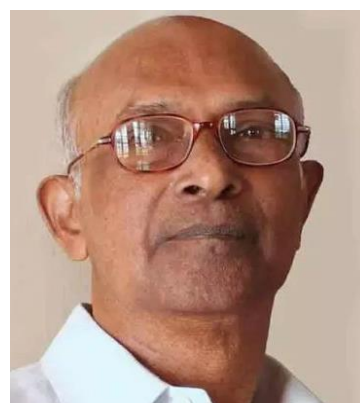
- ❖ The annual observance was decided during a meeting on 14th March 2024, marking the date of its establishment through a notification issued on 16th January 2014.
- ❖ The Chief Justice of India Shri Justice Sanjiv Khanna will be the Chief Guest of the celebrations.

Obituary

Dr KS Manilal

Why in the news?

Eminent botanist and Padmashree awardee K S (Kattungal Subrahmanyam) Manilal passed away on 1st January, 2024.



- ❖ He was a former head of the Department of Botany at the University of Calicut.
- ❖ He was celebrated for translating the ancient Latin text "Hortus Malabaricus" into English and Malayalam.
- ❖ His decades-long contributions to botany, particularly his efforts to translate Hortus Malabaricus, a 17th century botanical treatise documenting the rich flora of Malabar region (south-western coast of India) into English and Malayalam, earned him widespread recognition.

News in Short

- ❖ Mumbai's Ayush Mhatre has set a new world record as the youngest player to score 150 or more in List A cricket during the Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Nagaland surpassing compatriot Yashasvi Jaiswal's feat.
 - At 17 years and 168 days, he bettered the previous record set by India batter Jaiswal, who was 17 years and 291 days old when he achieved the milestone while playing for Mumbai against Jharkhand in 2019.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26.
- ❖ India's R Vaishali has won a bronze medal in the women's section of the World Blitz Championship.
- ❖ As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD):
 - The year 2024 was the warmest on record in India since 1901, with the average minimum temperature settling 0.90 degrees Celsius above the long-period average.
 - The annual mean temperature in 2024 was 25.75 degrees Celsius, 0.65 degrees above the long-period average, which too was highest since 1901.
 - The average maximum temperature stood at 31.25 degrees Celsius, 0.20 degrees above normal, which was fourth-highest since 1901.

- ❖ AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal has launched the 'Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana'.
- The scheme offers a monthly honorarium of ₹18000 to Hindu and Sikh priests.

- ❖ Trinidad and Tobago has declared a state of emergency over a surge in gang violence.
- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah has been named captain of Cricket Australia's Test team of year 2024.



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