

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

1. The 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) was recently held in Vientiane, Lao PDR with significant participation from India led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Examine the strategic importance of the East Asia Summit for India's Act East Policy. Discuss the key highlights of India's engagement in this summit and their implications for regional cooperation and security. [BPSC GS 1 Section II: 38 marks]
2. Technology has become a critical factor influencing modern geopolitics, shaping global power dynamics and international relations. Analyze the role of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity, and 5G in determining geopolitical strategies. Discuss the implications of technological competition among major powers for global stability and security. [BPSC GS II Section III: 19+19 marks]

Bihar Special**MoU with ISRO****Why in the news?**

Bihar has achieved a milestone in disaster management with the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Ahmedabad on 11th January 2025.

About the MoU:

- ❖ It was finalized between the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA), the Bihar Mausam Seva Kendra (BMSK), and the Space Applications Centre (SAC), a key institution of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ❖ The agreement aims to enhance Bihar's capacity to monitor and predict disasters such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, cold waves, lightning, and even earthquakes.
- ❖ Satellite data will be used to provide early warnings and improve response strategies. Remote sensing technology will allow for the estimation of river depths and water flow, helping mitigate flood damage.

- ❖ Additionally, the MoU includes provisions for research and education, enabling students from Bihar pursuing higher studies to collaborate with SAC and ISRO for academic and scientific exploration.

Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA)

- ❖ It is a statutory body created under the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 passed by the Parliament.
 - Bihar SDMA was set up vide notification No. 3449 on 6th Nov' 2007, under Section 14 (1) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 passed by the Parliament.
- ❖ It is chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, a Vice-Chairman and other members.
- ❖ **Objectives of BSDMA are:**
 - Lay down the State Disaster Management Policy.
 - Approve the State DM Plan.
 - Approve the DM Plans prepared by the departments of the Government of Bihar.

- Lay down guidelines to be followed by the Deptt. of the Government of the State for mainstreaming.
 - Recommend provision of funds for mitigation and preparedness measures.
 - Coordinate the implementation of the State Plan.
- ❖ Present Vice-Chairman of BSDMA: Dr. UdayKant.



National Affairs

Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing
Platform

Why in the news?

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal has launched the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi.

- ❖ It aims to enhance India's cleantech value chains in sectors like solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage.
- ❖ It also aims to encourage the cleantech sector to become self-sustaining without relying on government support in the long term.

Key Highlights of the Platform:

- ❖ **Objective:** To spur innovation and help India become a global leader in sustainability and cleantech.
- ❖ **Product-Linked Incentives (PLIs):** Shri Goyal emphasized that while PLIs can kickstart the sector, long-term growth requires the cleantech sector to become self-sustaining.
- ❖ **Collaboration:** The platform will provide opportunities for Indian firms to collaborate, co-innovate, and share ideas, technologies, and resources.
- ❖ **Climate Goals:** India aims to achieve 500 Gigawatts of clean energy sources by 2030, and the platform is expected to play a crucial role in meeting this target.



Polity And Governance

CSPOC

Why in the news?

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla chaired a Standing Committee meeting of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in Guernsey.

- ❖ As per his announcement, India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in 2026.
- ❖ The session brought together Parliamentary leaders to address pressing global challenges and lay the groundwork for the 28th CSPOC, to be held in India next year.

International Relations

UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science

Why in the news?

India has joined the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics.

- ❖ As part of the committee, India will contribute to shaping global standards and practices in harnessing big data and data science for official statistical purposes.
- ❖ India's active engagement in the Committee of Experts will highlight its pioneering initiatives, including establishing the Data Innovation Lab and exploring alternate data sources.

About the Committee:

- ❖ The UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics was created to investigate further the benefits and challenges of Big Data, including the potential for monitoring and reporting on sustainable development goals.

Defence And Security

HimKavach

Why in the news?

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed the 'HimKavach' clothing system.

- ❖ Objective: To protect soldiers operating in extreme cold conditions.
 - It is designed to function in temperatures ranging from 20°C to -60°C, has passed all user trials in operational settings.

About the HimKavach:

- ❖ It is made up of multiple layers, each tailored for insulation, breathability, and comfort.
- ❖ The modular design allows soldiers to add or remove layers depending on the weather.
 - This feature is seen as critical for troops operating in the Himalayas, where temperatures can drop sharply.



Index and Report

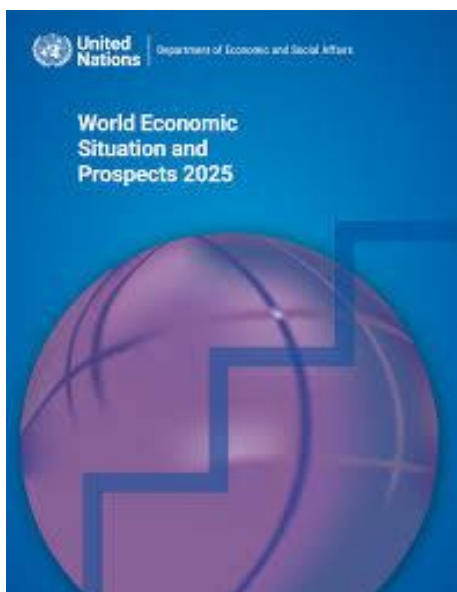
World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2025

Why in the news?

The United Nations has released the “World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2025”.

About the report:

- ❖ It has pegged the global economic growth forecast at 2.8% for 2025 and 2.9% for 2026, largely unchanged from previous years.
- ❖ It has projected a slight improvement in growth for least developed countries (LDCs) in 2025, slower global growth than the pre-pandemic average of 3.2%.
- ❖ A fall in global inflation from 4% in 2024 to 3.4% in 2025, driven by easing labour market pressures in developed economies and moderating international food and energy commodity prices.



Important Days/ Dates

National Youth Day 2025

Why in the news?

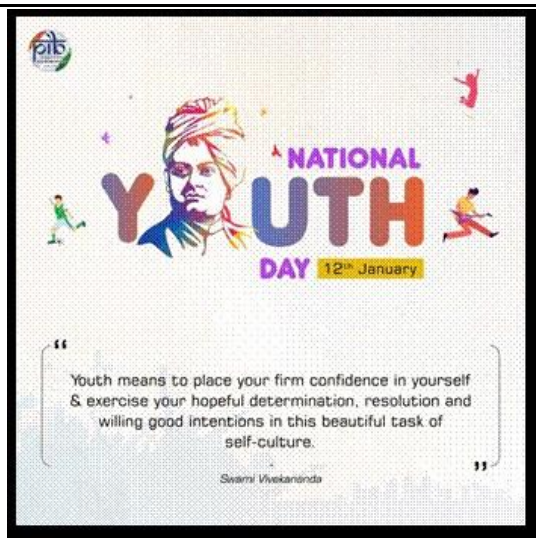
The National Youth Day or Rashtriya Yuva Divas is celebrated on 12th January every year.

- ❖ History of this day:
 - In 1984, the Government of India declared the birthday of the Hindu monk Swami Vivekanand as National Youth Day.
 - Since January 12, 1985, the day has been celebrated in India every year as National Youth Day.
- ❖ Theme 2025: Youth for a Sustainable Future: Shaping the Nation with Resilience and Responsibility.

Swami Vivekananda

- ❖ He was born as Narendranath Datta in Kolkata on 12th January, 1863.
- ❖ He was a philosopher, author, and religious teacher, credited for raising interfaith awareness and bringing Hinduism to the world's major religions.
- ❖ His iconic speech in Chicago in 1893, where he introduced Hinduism to the world, still fills the country's youth with pride.

- ❖ He was chief disciple of the Indian mystic Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swamiji even introduced Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world.
- ❖ He died at the young age of 39, on 4 July 1902.



News in Short

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched a special FM channel of All India Radio Kumbhvani (103.5 MHz), dedicated to Maha Kumbh 2025.
- ❖ In Domestic Cricket, Mumbai's Ira Jadhav has become the highest individual scorer in Women's Under 19 One Day Trophy history.

- In the Women's Under-19 One Day Trophy, Ira scored an unbeaten 346 runs off 157 balls, including 42 fours and 16 sixes against Meghalaya at the Alur Cricket Stadium in Bengaluru.

- ❖ Mount Ibu in Indonesia's North Maluku province erupted on 11th January 2025.
- ❖ The Harbin Ice-Snow World is the world's largest ice-and-snow theme park.
 - Harbin is the capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang.
- ❖ The outgoing US President, Joe Biden has awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction to Pope Francis.
- ❖ Sri Lanka has launched the 1st Hindi certificate course at Bharat Sri Lankan Hindi Sammelan in Colombo.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2025 on 27 people in Bhubaneswar during the 18th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas.

- ❖ Indian-origin Member of Parliament Chandra Arya (Liberal Party) has announced his candidacy for Prime Minister of Canada following the resignation of Justin Trudeau.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit in France from February 10 to 11, 2025.

- ❖ John Dramani Mahama has been sworn in as Ghana's new President.

**BPSC
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