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FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. 60th Anniversary Symposium on Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's Philosophy of 'Integral Humanism' | 2 |
| 2. IEPFA and SEBI Launch First "Niveshak Shivar" in Pune | 3 |
| 3. DRI Foils Drug Smuggling in Mizoram | 5 |
| 4. Second Phase of NAKSHA Capacity Building Programme | 6 |
| 5. Lavender Revolution in Bhaderwah: Rural Startup Model Empowering India | 8 |
| 6. COVID-19 Cases Resurge in India: Wastewater Surveillance Indicates Silent Spread | 9 |
| | 11 |
| 7. Operation SHIELD – Civil Defence Emergency Preparedness Exercise in Northern India | 11 |
| 8. Empowerment of Tribals through Forest Rights in Odisha | 12 |
| 9. India's Tactical Response and Military Advantage After May 7 Air Conflict..... | 14 |
| 10. India's Engagement with the U.S. on FATF Grey Listing of Pakistan | 16 |
| 11. India's Cultural Renaissance at Osaka World Expo..... | 17 |
| 12. Neolithic Habitation Site with Early Metallurgy Unearthed in Assam | 19 |
| 13. Indian Iron and Steel Exporters Fear \$1 Billion Hit Due to New U.S. Tariffs | 20 |



1. 60th Anniversary Symposium on Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's Philosophy of 'Integral Humanism'

Key Highlights and UPSC-Relevant Points:

1. Integral Humanism – Definition and Core Philosophy:

- Propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in 1965, *Integral Humanism* promotes a holistic approach to human development, combining body, mind, intellect, and soul.
- It rejects Western ideologies of individualistic capitalism and class-conflict-based socialism.
- Aims for a model based on Indian culture, spiritual heritage, and collective well-being.

2. Indian Perspective in Governance and Society:

- Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasized that Integral Humanism is rooted in Indian philosophical thought and should not blindly imitate the West.
- Pandit Deendayal asked whether India had its own philosophy to guide the state and society, which led to the formulation of Integral Humanism.



3. Agriculture as Economic Foundation:

- Farming was described as the greatest strength of the Indian economy.
- New paddy varieties with 30% more yield, 20% less water requirement, and quicker maturation were highlighted, aligning with sustainable agriculture goals.

4. Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Development:

- Integral Humanism promotes the idea that Earth is not only for humans but for all living beings.
- Emphasis on responsible use of natural resources, not exploitation.
- Call for mass participation in the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” tree plantation campaign on June 5, World Environment Day.

5. Balanced View on Wealth and Material Needs:

- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya emphasized that both poverty and excess wealth are undesirable.
- Integral Humanism advocates for a life of balance—material well-being should serve, not dominate, human purpose.



6. Social Justice and Women Empowerment:

- Lakhpati Didi Yojana was highlighted as a major campaign for women's economic empowerment.
- The philosophy recognizes the importance of uplifting all sections of society, especially women, for national development.

Relevant Constitutional and Legal Provisions:

- **Article 38** – State to secure social, economic, and political justice.
- **Article 39(b) and (c)** – Distribution of material resources for common good and prevention of wealth concentration.
- **Article 48A** – Protection and improvement of the environment.
- **Article 51A(g)** – Fundamental duty to protect and improve the natural environment.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)** – Reflect Gandhian ideals of rural development, harmony, and self-reliance

Conclusion:

The symposium underscored the timeless relevance of Integral Humanism in building a self-reliant, inclusive, and ethical India. It presents a uniquely Indian framework for socio-economic development, rooted in cultural values, sustainable living, and collective harmony. This philosophy can serve as a guiding force for policy-making and global leadership in the 21st century.

2. IEPFA and SEBI Launch First “NiveshakShivir” in Pune

Key Highlights and UPSC-Relevant Points:

1. Purpose and Objectives of ‘NiveshakShivir’:

- The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, in collaboration with **SEBI**, launched the first *NiveshakShivir* in Pune to **empower investors** and resolve issues related to **unclaimed dividends and shares**.
- The initiative aims to promote **financial literacy**, address **pending financial claims**, and ensure **faster settlements** under one platform.

2. Key Services Provided at the Shivir:

- Over 450 claimants participated. Dedicated kiosks assisted investors with:
 - Claiming unclaimed dividends/shares (pending for 6–7 years or more).
 - On-the-spot **KYC** and **nomination updates**.
 - Step-by-step assistance in filling the **IEPF-5 form** and navigating the **IEPF portal**.





- Search facility was provided to check if claimants or their family members had unclaimed investments.

3. Investor Awareness Tools Introduced:

- A special brochure titled “**Investor Guide to Claiming Unclaimed Shares and Dividends**” was launched by NSDL.
- It simplifies the claim process, lists **key documents** (PAN, Aadhaar, Entitlement Letter), and offers **tips to avoid rejections**.
- This guide aims to increase **transparency**, **reduce errors**, and build trust in the financial system.

4. Institutional Collaboration and Capacity Building:

- The event brought together key stakeholders including **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), Registrars and Transfer Agents (RTAs), Depositories, and Depository Participants**.
- Ensured **inter-agency coordination** and helped demystify the processes for **dematerialization (demat) of physical shares, KYC updates, and claim tracking**.

5. Future Roadmap and Governance Approach:

- *NiveshakShivir* is planned to be expanded across multiple Indian cities with high volumes of unclaimed funds.
- Reflects the government’s move towards **investor-centric governance, good financial practices, and inclusive financial systems**.

6. About IEPFA – Role and Mandate:

- Established by the Government of India under Section 125 of the **Companies Act, 2013**, IEPFA promotes **investor awareness, grievance redressal, and facilitates refund of unclaimed investments**.
- It operates the **IEPF portal** (www.iepf.gov.in) and is responsible for maintaining transparency in corporate governance and investor protection.

Relevant Constitutional & Legal Provisions:

- **Companies Act, 2013 – Section 125:** Provides for the establishment of the Investor Education and Protection Fund and the authority (IEPFA).
- **SEBI Act, 1992:** Empowers SEBI to protect investors' interests and regulate securities markets.
- **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005:** Investors can seek information about unclaimed assets from concerned authorities.
- **Article 38 and 39 of the Constitution:** Emphasize securing socio-economic justice and equitable distribution of resources.

Conclusion:

The launch of *NiveshakShivir* marks a transformative step in ensuring that Indian investors, especially retail and small investors, are empowered with the tools and knowledge to reclaim their rightful assets. This



initiative, grounded in **transparency, accountability, and accessibility**, strengthens India's financial ecosystem and promotes **inclusive and responsible investor participation**, aligned with the broader goals of financial inclusion and economic justice.

3. DRI Foils Drug Smuggling in Mizoram

Key Highlights:

1. Major Drug Seizure by DRI in Mizoram:

- On **30 May 2025**, the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** seized **9.72 kg of Methamphetamine tablets** from a vehicle on the **Aizawl–Champhai Highway (NH-6)** near Seling, Mizoram.
- The international market value of the contraband is approximately **₹9.72 crore**.
- One person was arrested and the vehicle was seized. The drugs were hidden in a **concealed cavity in the rear seat**.



2. Origin of Smuggled Drugs – Cross-Border Issue:

- Preliminary investigation revealed the drugs were smuggled from **Myanmar through the Zokhawthar sector**, highlighting vulnerabilities along the **Indo-Myanmar border**.
- This underscores the threat from **Golden Triangle-based narcotics networks**, which impact India's North-Eastern states.

3. Legal Framework Involved – NDPS Act, 1985:

- The accused has been charged under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.
- The NDPS Act prescribes **rigorous imprisonment up to 10 years**, and includes **provisions for asset seizure, bail restrictions, and stringent anti-trafficking laws**.
- Section 21 and Section 22 deal with punishment for possession, trafficking, and manufacturing of psychotropic substances.

4. Role of DRI in Combating Narcotics:

- The DRI is India's premier anti-smuggling intelligence and enforcement agency under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, Ministry of Finance.
- Since **January 2025**, DRI has seized over **₹72 crore worth of Methamphetamine and Heroin** in Mizoram and arrested **seven persons**.



5. Methamphetamine – Definition and Impact:

- **Methamphetamine** is a **synthetic psychostimulant** classified under **Schedule I of the NDPS Act**.
- It has **high addictive potential**, severely affects the central nervous system, and is a major concern in transnational narcotics trafficking.
- It is often trafficked from **Southeast Asia's Golden Triangle** region, which includes Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand.

6. Geopolitical & Security Significance of North-East India:

- The North-Eastern states, especially Mizoram and Manipur, are vulnerable due to **porous international borders** and **cross-border ethnic linkages**.
- Ensuring border security and intelligence coordination is crucial under **India's Act East Policy** and internal security frameworks.

Relevant Constitutional and Legal Provisions:

- **Article 47 of the Constitution:** Directs the State to endeavor to prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.
- **NDPS Act, 1985:** Provides for **control and regulation of operations relating to narcotic drugs** and psychotropic substances.
- **Customs Act, 1962:** Empowers DRI to prevent illegal import/export, including drugs.
- **Preventive Detention Laws** (e.g., PIT NDPS Act, 1988): Used to detain habitual offenders in narcotics cases.

Conclusion:

The recent operation by DRI in Mizoram is a critical success in India's fight against transnational narcotics smuggling. It highlights the **strategic vulnerabilities of the Indo-Myanmar border**, the **growing menace of synthetic drugs** like Methamphetamine, and the urgent need for **coordinated law enforcement, border management, and public awareness**. Effective implementation of the **NDPS Act**, coupled with **international cooperation**, is essential to counter the evolving narcotics trade that threatens India's national security and youth welfare.

4. Second Phase of NAKSHA Capacity Building Programme

Key Highlights and UPSC-Relevant Points:

1. **NAKSHA Programme – A Geospatial Land Survey Initiative:**
 - **NAKSHA** stands for **NAtional geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of urban HABitations**.





- It is a **pilot initiative** by the **Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development**, aimed at creating modern, verifiable, and GIS-based land records for urban areas.
- Launched in collaboration with **Survey of India, NICSI, MPSeDC**, and five **Centres of Excellence (CoEs)**.

2. Second Phase of Capacity Building from 2nd June 2025:

- Follows the first phase (May 2025), which trained 160 master trainers from participating states/UTs.
- The second phase will train **304 district and Urban Local Body (ULB)-level officers** from **157 ULBs**.
- Training to be conducted at five Centres of Excellence including **LBSNAA (Mussoorie), YASHADA (Pune), ATI (Mysuru), MGSIPA (Chandigarh)**, and **NER-CoE (Guwahati)**.

3. Focus Areas of Training:

- Practical and technical training on:
 - **GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) and ETS (Electronic Total Station)-based land surveying,**
 - **Web-GIS applications,**
 - **Land parcel mapping,**
 - **Legal and administrative aspects** of land surveys.
- Designed to promote accurate, efficient, and transparent **urban property surveys** using modern geospatial technologies.

4. Urbanization Challenge and Need for Modern Land Records:

- With India's **urban population expected to cross 600 million by 2031**, reliable land records are essential for:
 - **Urban planning,**
 - **Taxation and revenue generation,**
 - **Property rights protection,** and
 - **Ease of doing business and citizen service delivery.**
- NAKSHA aligns with the broader goal of **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)**.

5. Constitutional and Legal Framework:

- **Land** is a **State subject** under **Entry 18 of the State List (Seventh Schedule)**, but centrally driven initiatives like NAKSHA guide states in adopting uniform standards.
- Supported by **Right to Property (Article 300A)** and **Right to Information (Article 19(1)(a))**, emphasizing **transparency** and **access to public records**.



- Aligned with **Ease of Living** and **Urban Governance Reforms** under **Smart Cities Mission** and **AMRUT**.

6. NAKSHA's Implementation and Impact:

- Covers **157 ULBs across 27 States and 3 UTs**.
- Promotes **inter-agency coordination**, including use of **Survey of India's baseline data**, **NIC's tech support**, and **state-level agencies**.
- Aims to institutionalize **tech-driven land governance** for reducing disputes, enhancing service delivery, and boosting **property formalization** in urban India.

Conclusion:

The second phase of the NAKSHA Capacity Building Programme marks a significant step toward **modernizing urban land records** and building **local capacity** in advanced geospatial technologies. It aligns with India's goals for **transparent urban governance, efficient land administration, and citizen empowerment**. For UPSC aspirants, NAKSHA is a vital example of **federal cooperation, technology in governance, and inclusive urban development**—highly relevant under GS Paper II (Governance), Paper III (Technology), and Essay.

5. Lavender Revolution in Bhaderwah: Rural Startup Model Empowering India

Key Highlights and UPSC-Relevant Points:

1. Lavender Farming as a Rural Startup Revolution:

- Bhaderwah in Jammu & Kashmir has emerged as the hub of **India's "Purple Revolution"**, driven by **lavender cultivation**.
- The initiative is backed by **CSIR–Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu** under the **Aroma Mission**.
- Lavender cultivation is now a **successful agri-startup model**, transforming the socio-economic landscape of this hilly region.

2. Significant Economic Impact and Youth Empowerment:

- Young entrepreneurs in Bhaderwah reportedly earn over **₹ 65 lakh annually on average** from lavender farming and value-added products like essential oils.
- Over **50 distillation units** are operational, with supply reaching states like **Maharashtra**.
- Encouraging **reverse migration**, inspiring many to leave conventional jobs and join agriculture-driven entrepreneurship.





3. Startup India & Stand-Up India Vision in Action:

- Lavender farming exemplifies the **StartUp India** and **Stand-Up India** schemes initiated by the **Prime Minister in 2016**, promoting entrepreneurship beyond the IT sector.
- It **debunks the myth** that startups are only urban-centric or require high-tech backgrounds or foreign education.

4. Constitutional & Legal Framework:

- Falls under **Article 48** (Directive Principles): Promotion of agriculture and animal husbandry using modern technology.
- Supports **Article 43** (DPSP): State to promote cottage industries and self-employment in rural areas.
- Linked to **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** and **National Policy on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (2015)** for rural development.

5. Scientific and Institutional Support:

- CSIR-IIIM and other national S&T bodies provide **technical training, plant material, and market linkage** support.
- The Lavender Festival organized by CSIR-IIIM helps share best practices and connects **stakeholders from Himachal, Uttarakhand, and NE states**.

6. Sustainability, Scalability & Inclusive Development:

- Lavender is a **low-water crop**, suitable for hilly terrain, making it **ecologically sustainable**.
- Encourages **elderly participation**, with special exhibitions featuring **60+ age group entrepreneurs** planned.
- Supports **economic diversification, value addition, and employment generation** in underrepresented geographies.

Conclusion:

The Lavender Revolution in Bhaderwah is a **model of grassroots innovation**, blending **agriculture, science, and entrepreneurship**. It not only enhances rural incomes but also redefines **startup ecosystems** in India. With government support and local participation, it showcases the potential of India's **rural transformation**, contributing to **inclusive growth, self-reliance**, and the vision of “**New India**”. For UPSC, this serves as a best-practice case study for **GS Paper III (Economy, Agriculture, S&T), Paper II (Governance), and Essay**.

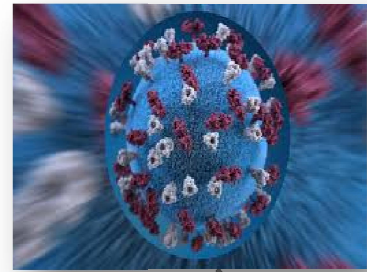
6. COVID-19 Cases Resurge in India: Wastewater Surveillance Indicates Silent Spread

Key Highlights and Relevance:

1. Recent Surge in COVID-19 Cases in India:



- As per the Union Health Ministry (June 1, 2025), **India has 3,395 active COVID-19 cases**, with Kerala (1,336) and Maharashtra (467) reporting the highest numbers.
- The trend mirrors early surges seen in **Southeast Asian countries** like Singapore, Hong Kong, and Bangkok.
- **Four recent COVID-related deaths** were reported from Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, and Uttar Pradesh, bringing the total to **26 deaths in the current wave**.



2. Significance of Wastewater Surveillance:

- **Wastewater epidemiology** involves tracking viral RNA in sewage to detect infection trends before clinical cases emerge.
- Bengaluru-based **Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS)** reported a **significant rise in viral load** in wastewater in the past two weeks.
- Pune's **National Chemical Laboratory** observed **positivity in all 10 sewage treatment plants** since May 6, indicating community spread.

3. Early Warning System:

- The **increase in viral RNA in sewage samples precedes the rise in reported cases**, suggesting a **“silent wave”** of transmission.
- Wastewater surveillance acts as a **proactive public health tool**, complementing traditional testing methods and enabling early response.

4. Legal and Institutional Framework:

- COVID-19 management in India is guided by the **Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897**, and **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, which empower central and state authorities to implement health safety measures.
- **Article 47** of the Indian Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy) obliges the State to improve public health as its primary duty.

5. Global and National Context:

- According to WHO (May 28), global SARS-CoV-2 activity has been **rising since mid-February**, with the highest rates in **South-East Asia, Eastern Mediterranean, and Western Pacific** regions.
- India's response must align with **International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005**, under the WHO framework.

6. Public Health Monitoring Indicators:

- In Karnataka, COVID-19 test positivity increased from **10% (May 28)** to **24% (May 30)**.
- Although **Vijayawada** shows stable viral load, authorities remain cautious, given the **dynamic nature of viral transmission**.

**Definition:**

- **Wastewater-Based Epidemiology (WBE):** A surveillance method where sewage samples are tested for biological markers (like viruses or drugs) to estimate population-level exposure and predict outbreaks.

Conclusion:

India is witnessing a **low-intensity but evolving COVID-19 resurgence**, highlighted by **wastewater surveillance data** and **test positivity trends**. While clinical case numbers remain limited, the **proactive use of genomic and wastewater surveillance** tools is vital for **public health preparedness**. For UPSC, this underscores the importance of **epidemiological tools, health governance, DPSPs, and international**

7. Operation SHIELD – Civil Defence Emergency Preparedness Exercise in Northern India

cooperation in managing emerging public health threats.

1. Overview of Operation SHIELD:

- A major **civil defence exercise** named "**Operation SHIELD**" was conducted on **June 1, 2025**, across **Punjab, Rajasthan, and Haryana**.
- The drill simulated **emergency situations** like **air raids, drone attacks, and wartime scenarios** to test **preparedness and response mechanisms**.
- Coordinated by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, the exercise included **mock evacuations, fire control, rescue operations, and casualty handling**.



2. Multi-agency and Volunteer Participation:

- Key participants included **Fire and Emergency Services, Police, Health Department, Disaster Management Authorities, and trained volunteers**.
- Civil Defence personnel were joined by **National Service Scheme (NSS)** and **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** volunteers, enhancing community engagement and grassroots-level coordination.

3. Constitutional & Legal Framework:

- **Article 355:** The Union is duty-bound to protect every State from external aggression and internal disturbance.
- **Civil Defence Act, 1968:** Provides legal backing for civil defence training and organisation in the face of hostile attacks, emergencies, and disasters.
- **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Establishes institutional frameworks at the central and state levels to prepare and respond to disasters, including war-like situations.



4. Importance of Civil Defence and Emergency Preparedness:

- Civil defence involves **non-military measures to protect civilians** and critical infrastructure during emergencies.
- Exercises like Operation SHIELD strengthen **inter-agency coordination**, enhance **public awareness**, and improve **institutional readiness** for both natural and man-made disasters.

5. Realistic Simulation Highlights:

- In **Hoshiarpur (Punjab)**, a drone swarm attack on a military station was simulated.
- In **Jaipur (Rajasthan)**, airstrike aftermaths were mimicked by rescuing individuals from rooftops using cranes.
- Such realistic drills are crucial to train personnel and test **standard operating procedures (SOPs)** in high-stress scenarios.

6. UPSC Relevance and Broader Security Context:

- Operation SHIELD is aligned with India's growing emphasis on **internal security preparedness**, particularly in light of **emerging threats like drone warfare and cyber-attacks**.
- Enhancing **civil defence mechanisms** is part of national resilience and security architecture, especially for border states.

Definition (for UPSC use):

- **Civil Defence:** The organization and training of civilians for the protection of life and property during and after attacks or disasters, both natural and man-made.

Conclusion:

Operation SHIELD represents a **proactive and integrated approach to national security**, combining **civil administration, emergency services, and citizen volunteers** in simulating real-time war and disaster scenarios. For UPSC aspirants, it reflects the practical implementation of **disaster management policies, constitutional responsibilities, and internal security strategies**, vital for both **GS Paper II (Governance)** and **GS Paper III (Disaster Management & Security)**.

8. Empowerment of Tribals through Forest Rights in Odisha

1. Assertion of Forest Rights by Tribal Communities:

- Tribal villages like **Palki and Pipadi in Kalahandi, Odisha**, are exercising their **ownership rights over Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** such as **bamboo and kendu leaves** under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**.
- Villages have entered into **direct trade agreements** with buyers, bypassing government intermediaries, thereby enhancing their **economic autonomy and self-sufficiency**.





2. Key Legal and Constitutional Provisions:

- **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 – Section 3(1)(c):** Recognizes **rights of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** to own, access, and manage MFP.
- **FRA Amendment Rules, 2012:** Empowers **Gram Sabhas** to issue **transit permits** for transporting MFP, reinforcing community control.
- **Article 40 of the Constitution:** Promotes **village panchayats as self-governing units**—relevant as Gram Sabhas lead these forest management efforts.
- **Article 244 & Fifth Schedule:** Provide constitutional safeguards for administration of tribal areas, including forest governance.

3. Local Governance & Sustainable Resource Management:

- Gram Sabhas have adopted **scientific harvesting practices**—e.g., rotational bamboo harvesting over four years for **soil regeneration** and **forest conservation**.
- Revenue-sharing model: **1/3rd to bamboo cutters**, rest reinvested in **forest development, village fund, administration, and block/district federations**.

4. Socio-Economic Impact on Tribal Communities:

- Villages have seen a rise in **income generation**, with **employment created for women** and **reduced migration**.
- Community funds are being used for **education, health, infrastructure, and local employment generation**.
- Over **100 villages** in Kalahandi are now issuing their **own transit passes**, reflecting deepening **grassroots governance**.

5. Resistance and Policy Challenges:

- In May 2025, tribal protests erupted after the **Forest Department blocked MFP transport**, violating FRA provisions.
- Complaints were registered citing violation of **Section 3(1)(c)** of FRA.
- Despite progressive steps like **deregulation notices in 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2021**, implementation remains **inconsistent** across Odisha.

6. Broader Significance and UPSC Relevance:

- The case highlights the **importance of decentralised natural resource management**, rural empowerment, and **tribal rights**—vital themes in **GS Paper II (Governance, Constitution, Social Justice)** and **GS Paper III (Environment, Inclusive Development)**.
- Demonstrates success in **bottom-up governance**, community-led forest economy, and **SDG goals** (e.g., poverty reduction, gender equality, sustainable ecosystems).

Key Definitions:

- **Minor Forest Produce (MFP):** Non-timber forest products like **bamboo, tendu/kendu leaves, honey, lac**, etc., essential to tribal livelihoods.



- **Gram Sabha:** A body consisting of all adult members of a village, empowered under the **Panchayati Raj system** and FRA to govern local affairs.

Conclusion:

The transformation of tribal villages in Odisha through the assertion of **forest rights under FRA, 2006** showcases a model of **inclusive, participatory, and sustainable development**. While legal recognition exists, **full administrative decentralisation** and **policy uniformity** are critical to ensuring that tribal communities truly benefit from their traditional knowledge and natural resources. This case is a significant example of **grassroots environmental governance** and **tribal empowerment**, highly relevant for UPSC aspirants.

9. India's Tactical Response and Military Advantage After May 7 Air Conflict

1. Operation Sindoor and Initial Setbacks

- India launched **Operation Sindoor** in retaliation for the **Pahalgam terror attack**, which saw 26 civilians killed after religious profiling.
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan confirmed **"losses in the air"** on May 7 but emphasized that India **rectified tactical errors** swiftly.
- These air losses mark one of the rare official acknowledgments of such incidents in Indo-Pak conflict narratives.

2. Rectification of Tactics and Deep Strikes

- General Chauhan stated that after initial setbacks, the Indian Air Force (IAF) changed tactics and conducted **precision strikes deep into Pakistan** on May 8 and 10.
- These strikes reportedly penetrated **Pakistani air defences with impunity**, showcasing India's advanced operational capability.
- Indian jets used **various platforms and ordnance types**, indicating full-spectrum air operations.



3. Disputed Claims by Pakistan and Rebuttal by India

- Pakistan claimed to have downed **six Indian fighter jets**, including three Rafales.
- General Chauhan called these claims **"absolutely incorrect"**, and emphasized that focusing on rectifying tactical flaws was more critical than confirming losses.
- Indian authorities consistently refused to specify numbers, although all IAF pilots reportedly returned safely.



4. China-Pakistan Defence Nexus

- CDS Chauhan highlighted that **80% of Pakistan's recent military equipment is sourced from China**, with ongoing **OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer)** support for maintenance and upgrades.
- This underscores concerns over the **strategic China-Pakistan military partnership**, relevant to India's regional security calculus.

5. Avoidance of Nuclear Escalation and Diplomacy

- Despite the intensity of the conflict, both sides stated that there was **no risk of nuclear war**.
- Pakistan's CJCSC General Shamshad Mirza confirmed that **military de-escalation** following the ceasefire agreement on May 10 was nearly complete.
- The **Shangri-La Dialogue** served as a platform for parallel diplomatic engagement.

6. Constitutional and Legal Context

- **Defence of India Act, 1971**, and related rules provide the legal basis for wartime and national security responses.
- **Article 355 of the Indian Constitution** empowers the Union to protect states from external aggression and internal disturbances.
- India's counter-terror operations are also backed by **UN Charter provisions under the right to self-defence (Article 51)**.

Key Definitions for UPSC

- **CDS (Chief of Defence Staff):** Principal military advisor to the Government of India, overseeing tri-service coordination.
- **OEM Support:** Manufacturer assistance provided for complex military systems, often in foreign defence collaborations.
- **Precision Strike:** A military attack aimed at a specific target to minimize collateral damage while achieving strategic goals.

Conclusion

India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, despite initial tactical errors, demonstrated operational agility and strategic depth through **Operation Sindoor**. The swift correction in air tactics, coupled with deep strikes and diplomatic messaging, reinforced India's conventional deterrence against Pakistan. The episode also brings attention to **China's role in equipping Pakistan**, highlighting the evolving dynamics of **regional security and defence diplomacy** — a crucial topic for civil service aspirants.



10. India's Engagement with the U.S. on FATF Grey Listing of Pakistan

1. India's Diplomatic Push at FATF

- India, through Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, engaged U.S. officials ahead of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** plenary session scheduled for June 2025.
- India aims to **re-instate Pakistan on the FATF 'grey list'**, a list of countries under increased monitoring for deficiencies in combating money laundering and terror financing.

2. Significance of FATF Grey Listing

- The **'grey list'** status means enhanced scrutiny on a country's financial systems and greater international pressure to curb **terror financing and money laundering**.
- Pakistan's continued grey listing would signal global concern over its alleged role in supporting terror activities, crucial to India's counter-terrorism diplomacy.



3. India-U.S. Strategic Partnership

- Discussions during Misri's U.S. visit highlighted cooperation on **technology, trade, and talent**, underpinning the growing **India-U.S. bilateral relationship**.
- Collaboration extended to economic and financial sectors, including coordination in **international financial institutions** like FATF.

4. Defence and Security Cooperation

- India and the U.S. reaffirmed commitments to a **robust defence partnership**, including **co-production, co-development of defence technologies**, joint military exercises, and logistics support.
- Efforts to enhance **interoperability between armed forces** reflect deepening strategic ties in the Indo-Pacific region amid regional security challenges.

5. Geopolitical Context and U.S. Role

- The U.S., under President Trump (note the timeline may be earlier), played a role in de-escalating the **four-day India-Pakistan military conflict (Operation Sindoor)** through diplomatic pressure.
- India's engagement with the U.S. in financial and defence diplomacy aims to leverage this partnership for regional security and counter-terrorism objectives.

6. Legal and Institutional Framework

- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to develop policies to combat **money laundering** and **terrorist financing** globally.



- Grey listing is governed by FATF's **mutual evaluation process**, requiring countries to comply with its **40 Recommendations** on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CFT).
- India's action aligns with its obligations under the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions** on counter-terrorism and international financial regulations.

Key Definitions for UPSC

- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** An inter-governmental body aimed at developing policies to combat money laundering and terror financing worldwide.
- **Grey List:** A list maintained by FATF of countries with deficiencies in AML/CFT regimes but that have committed to resolve them.
- **Money Laundering:** The process of concealing origins of illegally obtained money.
- **Terror Financing:** Providing funds for terrorist activities, often targeted by international sanctions.

Conclusion

India's proactive engagement with the U.S. over FATF's grey listing of Pakistan illustrates its use of **multilateral financial diplomacy** to combat terrorism and pressure Pakistan internationally. Strengthening ties with the U.S. in economic, technological, and defence domains bolsters India's strategic position in South Asia. The FATF mechanism remains a vital tool in India's broader counter-terrorism and national security strategy, highlighting the intersection of **financial regulations with global security governance** —

11. India's Cultural Renaissance at Osaka World Expo

a critical subject for UPSC aspirants.

1. Overview of Osaka World Expo 2025

- Held in Japan from April 13 to October 13, the Expo's theme is **"Designing future society for our lives"**.
- It focuses on global innovation, cultural exchange, and collaborative solutions to world challenges, including the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- The Expo functions as a "Living Lab" where nations showcase their contributions toward building a sustainable and inclusive future.

2. India's Unique Approach: Soft Power and Cultural Renaissance

- Unlike many countries focusing on technological displays, India emphasized its **soft power** by showcasing its **civilizational heritage and cultural renaissance**.
- The Indian pavilion is curated by the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** and offers an immersive experience that highlights India's **ancient wisdom, compassion, and spirituality**.





- This approach projects India's global identity rooted in **values of inclusivity, sustainability, and progress**.

3. Symbolism and Design of the Indian Pavilion

- The pavilion design pays tribute to **Bodhisattva Padmapani** from the Ajanta Caves, symbolizing **compassion, enlightenment, and knowledge**—core aspects of Indian philosophy.
- The pavilion connects India's **spiritual heritage with contemporary ambitions**, aligning with the Expo's theme of '**Connecting Lives**'.
- It also highlights India's advancements in science, including its **space program**, blending tradition with modern achievements.

4. Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy in International Relations

- India's showcase is an example of **cultural diplomacy**, using culture and heritage to enhance its international image and influence.
- Soft power, a term coined by Joseph Nye, refers to the ability of a country to attract and co-opt rather than coerce, and India's pavilion is a reflection of this strategy.
- Such efforts strengthen India's global standing and contribute to its **strategic diplomacy**.

5. Relevant Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- India's cultural heritage and promotion abroad align with **Article 51A(f)** of the Constitution which mandates citizens to value and preserve the rich heritage of the country.
- The government, through bodies like the **Ministry of Culture** and institutions such as IGNCA, plays a key role in cultural promotion, supported by laws like the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958** to protect cultural sites.

6. Importance for UPSC Aspirants

- Understanding India's soft power initiatives is crucial for topics related to **International Relations, Diplomacy, and Culture**.
- The Expo reflects India's strategy of harmonizing tradition with modernity, a recurring theme in UPSC General Studies papers and Essay writing.

Key Definitions

- **Soft Power:** The ability to influence others through cultural or ideological means rather than coercion or payment.
- **Bodhisattva Padmapani:** A symbolic figure from Buddhist art representing compassion and wisdom, featured in the Ajanta Caves.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** A set of 17 global goals set by the UN to address global challenges like poverty, inequality, climate change, and peace.

Conclusion



India's presentation at the Osaka World Expo exemplifies its emphasis on **cultural diplomacy and soft power** as key tools in shaping its global narrative. By blending its ancient spiritual values with modern

aspirations such as space technology and sustainability, India projects a holistic and inclusive image to the world. This strategy not only boosts India's international influence but also aligns with constitutional mandates on cultural preservation, making it a vital topic for the UPSC Civil Services Examination.

12. Neolithic Habitation Site with Early Metallurgy Unearthed in Assam

1. Discovery and Location

- Archaeological site found in **DaojaliHading, Dima Hasao district, Assam**, dating back over **2,700 years**.
- Initially discovered in the 1960s during construction of **Lumding-Haflong Road (National Highway 27)**, but large parts were damaged due to road building.

2. Significance of Findings

- The site has yielded artefacts such as **polished double-shouldered celts, cordmarked pottery, mortars, pestles, jadeite stone**, confirming its **Neolithic cultural affiliation**.
- Discovery of a **furnace and iron slag** indicates **early metallurgy**, suggesting the site was a major prehistoric settlement and a center for early iron-working in Northeast India.

3. Cultural and Historical Context

- DaojaliHading links to the broader **Eastern and Southeastern Asian Neolithic cultural complex**, highlighting cultural exchanges and technological developments in prehistoric times.
- The artefacts reflect the **subsistence and craft life** of prehistoric communities in the region.

4. Research and Excavations

- Initial excavations by Gauhati University in the 1960s, followed by further reconnaissance in 1985 and recent surveys by North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council's Department of Archaeology.
- Multidisciplinary teams from IIT Guwahati and NEHU Shillong contributed expert guidance.
- Ongoing studies involve **radiocarbon dating** and geological analysis to better understand chronology and technology.

5. Definitions and Key Terms

- **Neolithic Period:** The late Stone Age when humans developed agriculture, domestication, polished stone tools, and settled communities.





- **Metallurgy:** The science and technology of metals, involving extraction and processing of metal from ores, including early iron smelting evidenced here.
- **Celts:** Polished stone tools or axes used during the Neolithic.

6. Constitutional and Legal Relevance

- Protection of archaeological sites is supported by the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**.
- Preservation of cultural heritage aligns with **Article 51A(f)** (Fundamental Duties), which mandates the preservation of rich heritage and history.

Conclusion

The DaojaliHading site in Assam is a crucial prehistoric archaeological site showcasing early human settlement and metallurgical activity in Northeast India. It enriches understanding of the Neolithic cultural complex in the region and highlights the need for preservation and further research. Such discoveries provide valuable insights into India's ancient past, making it a key topic in archaeology and cultural heritage for the UPSC Civil Services Examination.

13. Indian Iron and Steel Exporters Fear \$1 Billion Hit Due to New U.S. Tariffs

1. Context and Impact of New U.S. Tariffs

- The U.S. plans to double tariffs on Indian iron, steel, and aluminum products from the current 25% to 50% under **Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act**.
- India's exports to the U.S. in FY 2025 were worth about **\$4.56 billion**, including \$3.1 billion in iron and steel articles. The tariff hike is expected to cause a **\$1 billion loss** in export revenues.
- Key export items affected include iron and steel castings, fasteners, stainless steel pipes, and automotive steel parts.

2. Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act, 1962

- Allows the U.S. President to impose tariffs on imports deemed a threat to national security, especially on steel and aluminum.
- India currently faces tariffs under this provision and is seeking exemptions similar to those granted to countries like the U.K.

3. Concerns and Strategy for Indian Exporters

- EEPC India and Federation of Indian Export Organisations highlight **tariff uncertainty** as a major challenge affecting business planning and competitiveness.





- They urge diversification of export markets beyond the U.S. to mitigate risks.
- Indian industry is seeking government intervention for exemptions and bilateral negotiations to avoid disproportionate disadvantage.

4. Economic and Trade Implications

- Higher tariffs increase costs for U.S. industries relying on imports, such as automobile, construction, and manufacturing sectors.
- The hike could disrupt global supply chains and negatively affect India's growing engineering exports.
- India has issued a formal notice at the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** signaling potential retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods, which may escalate trade tensions.

5. Definitions and Key Terms

- **Tariffs:** Taxes imposed on imported goods to protect domestic industries or as a trade policy tool.
- **Retaliatory Tariffs:** Tariffs imposed by one country in response to tariffs or trade barriers imposed by another country.
- **Export Diversification:** Strategy to reduce reliance on a single market by expanding exports to multiple countries.

6. Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 301** of the Indian Constitution promotes freedom of trade and commerce throughout India but also recognizes the need for protective measures in international trade through government policies.
- India's trade policies must align with **WTO agreements** to avoid unlawful discrimination or trade barriers.

Conclusion

The proposed U.S. tariff hike under Section 232 poses a significant threat to India's iron, steel, and aluminum exports, risking a \$1 billion loss and undermining India's export competitiveness. The situation underscores the need for strategic export diversification, strong government advocacy at bilateral and WTO forums, and greater focus on building resilient trade relations. This issue is crucial for understanding India-U.S. trade dynamics and the challenges of protectionism in global commerce for UPSC preparation.