



ASPIRE with RAM IAS

Weekly
Current Affairs
Compilation
for UPSC
TNPSC KPSC

Guiding Dreams, Empowering Future
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EXCLUSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS BULLETIN

NATIONAL VACCINATION DAY

UNIVERSAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME (UIP)

WHY IN NEWS...?

- India celebrated National Vaccination Day (16 March).
- ~98.4% immunisation coverage (Jan 2026).
- Focus on HPV vaccine and indigenous vaccines.

NATIONAL VACCINATION DAY

- Observed on 16 March every year.
- Marks first Oral Polio Vaccine dose (1995).
- Symbol of India's polio eradication success.

UNIVERSAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME (UIP)

- Launched in 1985 (EPI 1978).
- Free vaccination for children and pregnant women.
- One of the largest immunisation programmes globally.
- Covers ~2.9 crore pregnant women and ~2.54 crore infants.

DISEASES COVERED

- 12 diseases including Polio, Measles, TB, Hepatitis B, etc.

MISSION INDRADHANUSH



Why Is Vaccination Important?



Protection Before Exposure

Simple, safe & effective – protects you before you encounter harmful diseases



Trains Your Immune System

Builds antibodies against diseases without causing illness



Long-Lasting Immunity

Protection that lasts years, decades – or even a lifetime



Saves Lives Every Year

Childhood vaccines alone prevent millions of deaths annually



Protects the Vulnerable

Shields babies, the elderly & immune compromised who cannot be vaccinated



Prevents Diseases

Including Polio, Measles, Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis B & Cervical Cancer



Safe for Nearly Everyone

All ingredients thoroughly tested, monitored & approved

- Launched in 2014.
- Target: >90% immunisation coverage.
- Focus on unvaccinated and vulnerable populations.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- PHCs, Anganwadi centres, ASHA workers.
- Cold chain system for vaccine storage.
- Digital tools: eVIN, U-WIN.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Polio-free status (2014).
- Maternal & neonatal tetanus eliminated (2015).
- Reduction in child mortality.
- COVID vaccination success.

CHALLENGES

- Vaccine hesitancy.
- Last-mile delivery gaps.



- Migrant population coverage issues.

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen digital systems.
- Improve awareness.
- Boost indigenous R&D.

CONCLUSION

India's immunisation programme has evolved into a strong public health system ensuring wide coverage, but future success depends on technology integration, awareness, and last-mile delivery to achieve universal health coverage.

PRELIMS PYQ

Q. With reference to Recombinant Vector Vaccines:

1. Genetic engineering is used.
2. Bacteria and viruses are used as vectors.

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

KISAN CREDIT CARD (KCC) SCHEME

WHY IN NEWS...?

- Focus on KCC saturation and expansion to all eligible farmers
- Integration with digital banking and financial inclusion

ABOUT KCC SCHEME

- Launched in 1998 by Government of India
- Provides short-term credit to farmers for cultivation and allied activities
- Implemented through banks including cooperative banks and RRBs

OBJECTIVES

- Provide timely credit support to farmers
- Reduce dependence on informal moneylenders
- Support agriculture and allied sectors

FEATURES

- Credit limit up to ₹3 lakh
- Interest subvention available
- Flexible repayment based on crop cycle
- Includes crop insurance and personal accident insurance

EXPANSION

- Extended to fisheries and animal husbandry
- Focus on tenant farmers and sharecroppers

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Large number of farmers covered
- Boost to institutional credit in agriculture
- Improved financial inclusion

CHALLENGES

- Limited access for small and marginal farmers

- Regional disparities
- Credit misuse and rising NPAs

WAY FORWARD

- Digitalisation of KCC process
- Better targeting of beneficiaries
- Strengthening financial literacy

CONCLUSION

The Kisan Credit Card scheme has played a crucial role in improving farmers' access to institutional credit, reducing dependence on informal sources, and strengthening rural economy. However, addressing inclusion gaps, improving delivery efficiency, and leveraging digital tools are essential to maximize its impact and ensure sustainable agricultural growth.

UPSC PRELIMS PYQ

Q. Which of the following are the objectives of Kisan Credit Card scheme?

1. Provide short-term credit
2. Support allied activities

Answer: Both are correct



V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT

INDIA'S FIRST DIGITAL TWIN PORT

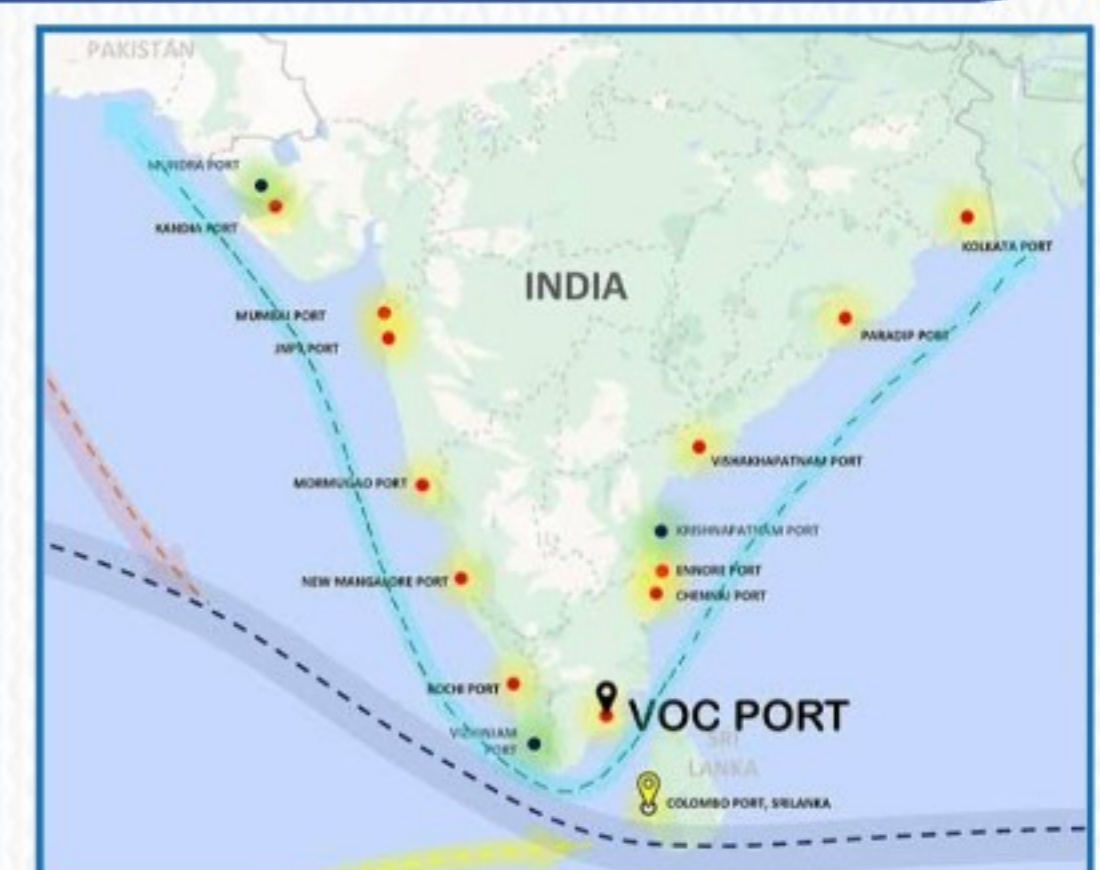


WHY IN NEWS...?

- V.O. Chidambaram Port has become India's first port to adopt Digital Twin technology.
- Part of India's push towards smart infrastructure and digital logistics.

ABOUT V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT

- Located in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- One of the major ports of India.
- Handles bulk cargo, containers, and



industrial goods.

- Strategically important for trade with Southeast Asia.

▶▶ Continued on P3

► From P2

WHAT IS DIGITAL TWIN TECHNOLOGY

- A digital twin is a virtual replica of a physical system.
- Uses real-time data, sensors, and analytics.
- Helps simulate operations and predict outcomes.

FEATURES OF DIGITAL TWIN PORT

- Real-time monitoring of port operations.
- Tracks vessel movement, berth allocation, and cargo handling.
- Improves efficiency of cranes and yard operations.
- Predictive maintenance and reduced downtime.
- Better decision-making using data analytics.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Enhances operational efficiency and reduces costs.
- Improves turnaround time of ships.
- Supports smart port ecosystem.



- Strengthens India's logistics competitiveness.

LINK WITH GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- Aligned with Maritime India Vision 2030.
- Supports Sagarmala Programme.
- Boosts Ease of Doing Business and digital India initiatives.

CHALLENGES

- High initial investment cost.
- Need for skilled manpower.
- Cybersecurity concerns.
- Integration with legacy systems.

WAY FORWARD

- Promote digital infrastructure in all major ports.
- Capacity building and training.
- Public-private partnerships.

- Strong cybersecurity frameworks.

CONCLUSION

The adoption of digital twin technology at V.O. Chidambaranar Port marks a significant step towards modernising India's maritime sector. By improving efficiency, transparency, and decision-making, it strengthens logistics competitiveness and supports the vision of smart, technology-driven infrastructure. However, sustained investment, skill development, and cybersecurity measures are essential to fully realise its potential.

PRELIMS PYQ

Q. With reference to Digital Twin technology, consider the following statements:

1. It creates a virtual model of a physical system.
2. It uses real-time data for monitoring and analysis.

Which of the statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

NATIONAL QUANTUM MISSION (NQM)

WHY IN NEWS...?

- Government is implementing National Quantum Mission to boost quantum technology ecosystem.
- Focus on positioning India among global leaders in quantum technologies.

ABOUT NATIONAL QUANTUM MISSION

- Approved in 2023 with an outlay of 6003 crore.
- Implementation period: 2023–2031.
- Aims to develop quantum technologies and applications.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop quantum computers (50–1000 qubits).
- Build secure quantum communication systems.
- Advance quantum sensing & metrology.
- Promote research in quantum materials.

KEY FEATURES

- Establishment of Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs).

- Focus on computing, communication, sensing, and materials.
- Collaboration between academia, industry, and government.

APPLICATIONS

- Cybersecurity through Quantum Key Distribution (QKD).
- Drug discovery and material science.
- Financial modeling and optimization.
- Defense and strategic technologies.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Strengthens national security.
- Enhances technological sovereignty.
- Boosts economic growth and innovation.

CHALLENGES

- High cost and complexity.
- Shortage of skilled workforce.
- Technological uncertainty.
- Global competition.

WAY FORWARD

- Increase R&D investment.
- Develop skilled manpower.
- Promote public-private partnerships.
- Strengthen global collaborations.

CONCLUSION

The National Quantum Mission marks a transformative step in positioning India at the forefront of next-generation technologies. By focusing on computing, communication, sensing, and materials, it has the potential to revolutionize multiple sectors including defense, cybersecurity, and industry. However, sustained investment, capacity building, and strategic policy support are essential to fully realize its long-term benefits.

PRELIMS PYQ

Q. With reference to quantum communication, consider the following statements:

1. It uses principles of quantum mechanics.
2. It provides highly secure data transmission.

Which of the statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS - 2025



WHY IN NEWS...?

- Sahitya Akademi announced Awards 2025 including Yuva and Bal Sahitya Puraskar.
- Awards cover 24 Indian languages reflecting linguistic diversity.

ABOUT SAHITYA AKADEMI

- Established in 1954 as National Academy of Letters.
- Autonomous body under Ministry of Culture.
- Headquarters in New Delhi.
- Promotes Indian literature and cultural exchange.

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD

- Annual award for outstanding literary works.
- Covers 24 languages (22 scheduled + English + Rajasthani).
- Includes cash prize, shawl, and citation.

AWARDS 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- Awards given across poetry, novels, essays, and drama.
- Focus on regional literature and inclusivity.
- Recognition across diverse Indian

languages.

YUVA PURASKAR

- Started in 2011.
- Given to writers below 35 years.
- Encourages young literary talent.

BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR

- Started in 2010.
- Focus on children's literature.
- Encourages reading habits among children.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Promotes linguistic diversity.
- Encourages regional writers.
- Strengthens cultural unity.

ISSUES

- Concerns over representation and inclusivity.
- Limited global visibility.
- Delays in announcements.

WAY FORWARD

- Promote translations across languages.
- Increase global outreach.
- Use digital platforms.

FINAL CONCLUSION

The Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025 highlight India's rich literary diversity and play a vital role in promoting cultural unity through language and literature. By recognising writers across various languages and age groups, the awards strengthen India's intellectual heritage. However, improving inclusivity, transparency, and global outreach will further enhance their relevance.

UPSC PRELIMS PYQ

Q. With reference to Sahitya Akademi, consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Culture.
2. It gives awards in languages of the Eighth Schedule.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

60th JNANPITH AWARD

WHY IN NEWS...?

- Vairamuthu selected for 60th Jnanpith Award (2025).
- Highlights importance of Tamil literature and regional languages.

ABOUT JNANPITH AWARD

- Highest literary award in India.
- Instituted in 1961; first awarded in 1965.
- Given for lifetime contribution to literature.
- Covers 22 scheduled languages and English.
- Includes cash prize, citation and Saraswati statue.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Selected by a committee called Pravara Parishad.

- Based on literary excellence and contribution.

ABOUT VAIRAMUTHU

- Renowned Tamil poet, lyricist, and author.
- Written over 7000 songs in Tamil cinema.
- Known for works on rural life and social themes.
- Recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award and Padma awards.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

- 58th: Gulzar and Rambhadracharya.
- 59th: Vinod Kumar Shukla.
- First winner: G. Sankara Kurup (1965).

SIGNIFICANCE

- Promotes linguistic diversity.
- Encourages regional literature.



- Strengthens national integration.

PRELIMS PYQ

Q. With reference to Jnanpith Award:
1. It is the highest literary award in India.
2. It is given only for Eighth Schedule languages.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) Neither

Answer: (a)



KHARG ISLAND – FUJAIRAH ATTACKS

WHY IN NEWS...?

- Recent attacks on Kharg Island (Iran) and Fujairah (UAE) have raised global concerns.
- Highlights tensions in West Asia affecting oil supply and shipping routes.

ABOUT KHARG ISLAND

- Located in the Persian Gulf, Iran.
- Handles major share of Iran's oil exports.
- Strategically vital for Iran's economy.

ABOUT FUJAIRAH

- Located in UAE on the Gulf of Oman.
- Important oil storage and export hub.
- Situated outside the Strait of Hormuz.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

- Strait of Hormuz is a critical

global oil chokepoint.

- Large percentage of global oil passes through this region.
- Any disruption affects global energy markets.

IMPACT OF ATTACKS

- Threat to global oil supply.
- Increase in oil prices.
- Risk to international shipping and trade.
- Geopolitical tensions between major powers.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA

- India depends heavily on oil imports from West Asia.
- Impacts energy security and economy.
- Affects trade routes and shipping costs.

CHALLENGES

- Rising geopolitical instability.
- Dependence on limited oil supply routes.

- Risk of escalation into larger conflict.

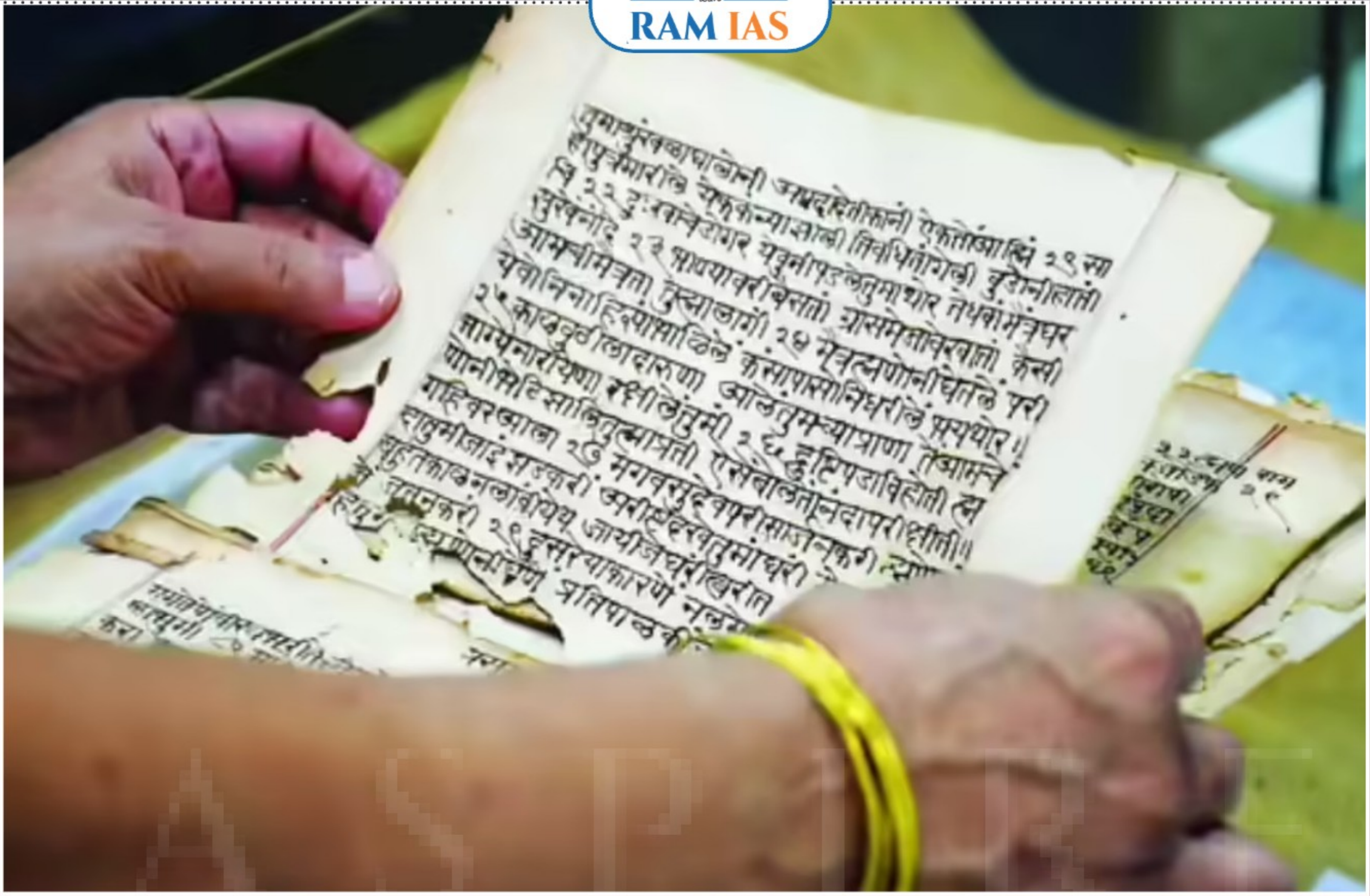
CONCLUSION

The Kharg Island–Fujairah attacks highlight the fragile nature of global energy supply chains and the strategic importance of West Asia. Disruptions in this region have far-reaching implications for global markets and India's energy security. Strengthening diversification, diplomacy, and alternative energy sources is essential for long-term stability.

PRELIMS PYQ

Q. Which of the following is a major global oil chokepoint?
(a) Strait of Hormuz
(b) Bering Strait
(c) Strait of Gibraltar
(d) Malacca Strait

Answer: (a) Strait of Hormuz



INDIA'S FIRST MANUSCRIPT MAPPING DRIVE

WHY IN NEWS...?

- Government launched India's first nationwide Manuscript Mapping Drive.
- Aims to document and preserve India's vast manuscript heritage.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

- Nationwide survey covering institutions, libraries, and private collections.
- Conducted in a phased manner from district to national level.
- Creation of centralized digital database of manuscripts.

WHAT IS A MANUSCRIPT

- Handwritten document on materials like palm leaf, bark, paper, or cloth.
- Must be at least 75 years old and of historical or cultural value.

OBJECTIVES

- Preserve fragile manuscripts.
- Digitise traditional knowledge.
- Enhance accessibility for research.
- Prevent loss and intellectual piracy.

KEY FEATURES

- Use of digital tools and mobile applications.
- Geotagging of manuscripts.
- Standardised digitisation process.
- Institutional coordination at district and state levels.

GYAN BHARATAM MISSION

- Supports survey, digitisation, and dissemination.
- Aims to create a national digital repository.
- Promotes knowledge sharing and cultural preservation.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Preserves India's civilisational heritage.
- Supports academic research and innovation.
- Enhances India's cultural soft power.
- Improves governance in heritage management.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of awareness among custodians.
- Fragile condition of manuscripts.

- Language and script diversity.
- Infrastructure gaps.

CONCLUSION

India's Manuscript Mapping Drive is a crucial initiative to preserve and digitise the country's vast knowledge heritage. By creating a centralised repository and improving accessibility, it strengthens cultural identity and supports research. Effective implementation and awareness will be key to its long-term success.

PRELIMS PYQ

Q. With reference to manuscripts, consider the following:

1. They are only written on paper.
2. They contain cultural and scientific knowledge.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) Neither

Answer: (b)

PROJECT GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD (GIB)

INTRODUCTION

- Project Great Indian Bustard focuses on saving India's most critically endangered bird through captive breeding.
- It marked its fourth year in March 2026 with two new chicks hatched at the Rajasthan centre.
- The captive population has reached 70 birds.
- The initiative highlights ongoing efforts to recover the species amid severe threats.

About Great Indian Bustard

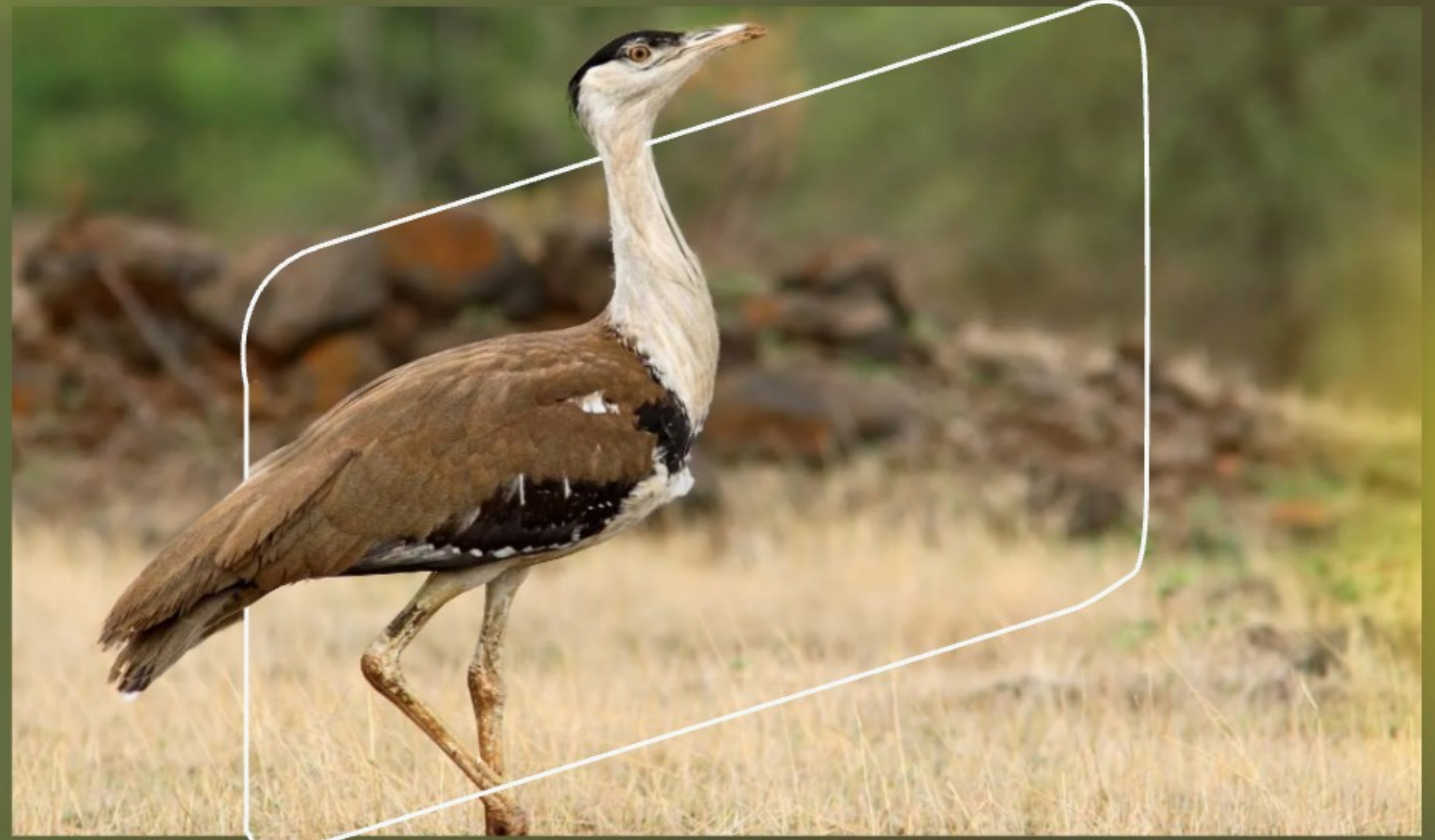
- Great Indian Bustard is one of the heaviest flying birds and Rajasthan's state bird.
- It is a flagship species representing grassland ecosystem health.
- Found mainly in Rajasthan's Thar Desert, with smaller populations in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Omnivorous diet: arthropods, worms, small mammals, reptiles, and plants.
- Poor frontal vision makes it prone to collisions.
- One of four bustard species in India:
 - Great Indian Bustard
 - Lesser Florican
 - Bengal Florican
 - Macqueen's Bustard

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List since 2011)
- Listed in Appendix I of CITES and CMS
- Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- Population fewer than 150 in the wild
- Lost from 90% of its historical range
- Covered under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (MoEFCC)

THREATS

- Habitat loss due to agriculture, overgrazing, irrigation, mining, industrialisation
- Invasive species like *Prosopis juliflora*
- Power line collisions – major cause of adult mortality
- ~99,000 sq km habitat affected by overhead lines
- Poaching (reduced but still present)
- Free-ranging dogs, pesticide use (malathion), human disturbance
- Development projects: roads, wind turbines, solar plants, transmission lines



CONSERVATION MEASURES

- Launched in 2018 by MoEFCC, WII, and Rajasthan Forest Department
- Breeding centre established in 2019 at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer
- Captive breeding with soft release strategy
- Additional centres in Kota
- Total captive population: 70 birds (2026)

In-situ Measures:

- Protection of habitats like Desert National Park
- Grassland restoration and invasive species removal
- Satellite telemetry tracking
- Ecological research

Infrastructure Mitigation

- Bird diverters ("firefly reflectors") on power lines
- Supreme Court directives:
 - 2021: Underground lines/diverters
 - 2024: Modified balancing renewable energy
 - 2025: Priority zones with restrictions on overhead lines

Other Measures:

- Bustard Task Force
- National Guidelines for Bustard Recovery
- Planned soft release of chicks (2026)

SIGNIFICANCE

- Indicator of grassland ecosystem health
- Helps conserve other species in Thar ecosystem
- Balances renewable energy expansion with wildlife conservation
- Influences national green energy corridor planning

CHALLENGES

- High cost and technical difficulty of underground power lines
- Conflict between development and conservation (GEC Phases I & II)
- Continued pesticide use and invasive species spread
- Habitat encroachment and feral dog threats
- Extremely low wild population (<150)
- Need for effective post-release monitoring

CONCLUSION

Project GIB's progress to 70 captive birds in 2026 offers hope for species recovery. However, major threats like power line collisions and habitat degradation require urgent, integrated solutions combining policy, technology, and community participation to ensure long-term survival.

PRELIMS QUESTION

Q. With reference to Great Indian Bustard, consider the following statements:

1. It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
 2. They are herbivores.
 3. It is listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only