

A push for greener, cleaner school buses

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

Center for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP)

- The Center for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP) is **one of India's leading think tanks**, registered under the Companies Act, 1956.
- It is supported by grants from governments, industry trusts, and both domestic and international foundations.
- CSTEP's mission is to **enrich policy making** by applying innovative approaches that leverage science and technology to **create a sustainable, secure, and inclusive society**.
- CSTEP's research focuses on addressing critical global challenges, including the **Clean Energy Transition, Clean Air for All**, and ensuring a Sustainable and Secure Future for all.
- CSTEP is known for its **ecosystem approach**, which focuses on the interconnectedness of environmental and social factors to create sustainable solutions for both ecosystems and communities.
- CSTEP **collaborates with governments, institutions, and various stakeholders** to tackle complex developmental issues and provide actionable insights for policymaking.

Government plans to develop State-owned AI engine for schools

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International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS)

- The International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS) was **established by the Government of Kerala in 2009**.
- Its goal is to **promote Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) for universal access**.
- ICFOSS strengthens Kerala's FOSS efforts and **connects with global communities** to advance FOSS initiatives.
- It supports research, FOSS pilot projects, and provides tech assistance to government programs.
- The organization also **promotes local language computing** and builds capacity for students.
- The organization also operates the **Swatantra Incubator**, a platform that supports innovative startups in the fields of Information Technology (IT), Internet of Things (IoT), and FOSS technologies, providing them with the resources and guidance they need to succeed.

State Budget earmarks funds for health infra sans human resource

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
General Science

Mains: General Studies - 3
Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues

Leptospirosis

- Leptospirosis is a zoonotic **disease caused by Leptospira bacteria**, typically **spread through animal urine in tropical and subtropical areas**.
- It presents in two phases: flu-like symptoms followed by fever, jaundice, and organ failure.
- Severe forms include **Weil's syndrome**, characterized by jaundice, renal failure, and bleeding, and Severe **Pulmonary Hemorrhagic Syndrome (SPHS)**, marked by life-threatening lung hemorrhage and respiratory failure.

- **Humans are infected** through contact with leptospirae via broken skin or mucous membranes, **often from contaminated water or animals.**
- Occupations like **farming, veterinary work, and sewer management** are at **higher risk** for infection.
- Prevention includes protective clothing, sanitation, rodent control, and animal vaccination.
- Diagnosis is confirmed through **culturing or the Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT)**, though rapid tests are available.
- MAT involves **mixing the patient's serum with Leptospira bacteria**, and if antibodies are present, the bacteria will clump, which is visible under a microscope.
- Early **antibiotic treatment with penicillin or doxycycline** is crucial for managing the disease.
- Currently, **no widely applicable vaccine exists**, and the global spread of leptospirosis remains uncertain due to variable diagnostic and surveillance capabilities

₹500-crore fund gives autonomy for National Mission on Manuscripts

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Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

National Mission for Manuscripts

- The National Mission for Manuscripts was established in **2003, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture**, Government of India.
- The Mission **seeks to unearth and preserve the vast manuscript wealth** of India.
- The mission focuses on **documenting, conserving and disseminating** the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts.
- Presently, NMM is a part of the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts**.
- The Union Ministry of Culture is set to "revive and relaunch" the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) and is mulling the formation of an autonomous body to help preserve ancient texts in India.

- The mission has established more than **100 Manuscripts Resource Centres and Manuscripts Conservation Centres** all over India.

Gyan Bharatam Mission

- The Union Budget 2025-26 announced the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**, under which one crore manuscripts will be conserved and documented.
- It is a **special mission for the survey, documentation, and conservation of India's manuscript heritage** lying with **academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collectors.**
- It intends to cover more than one crore manuscripts.
- A key component of the **Gyan Bharatam Mission is the national digital repository of the Indian knowledge system.**
- It will serve as a platform for knowledge sharing.

Tribunal at the receiving end

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues

Mains: General Studies - 2
Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate

United Nations Security Council

- The Security Council **convened for the first time on January 17, 1946**, at Church House in Westminster, London.
- Since then, it has established a **permanent presence** at the United Nations Headquarters in **New York City**.
- Comprising **15 members**, each with one vote, it operates under the Charter of the United Nations, which mandates all Member States to comply with its decisions.
 - ➔ **Five permanent members:** China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - ➔ **Ten non-permanent members**, elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.
- More than 50 UN Member States have never held a seat on the Security Council.

- While any UN Member State that is not a Council member may participate in discussions when its interests are under consideration, it does so **without voting rights**.
- The Security Council **identifies threats to peace** and urges disputing parties to **resolve conflicts peacefully**, recommending suitable solutions.
- In certain situations, it may **impose sanctions** or authorize the use of force to uphold or restore international stability.

Are freebies and welfare schemes different?

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Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

Center for Financial Inclusion

- CFI, an **independent think tank**, has prioritized consumer-centric initiatives since its **establishment in 2008**.
- Through **rigorous research, innovative pilot programs**, and sector-wide convenings, it drives evidence-based change in inclusive finance.
- CFI collaborates with diverse stakeholders to **ensure inclusive financial services empower individuals and improve lives**.
- Emphasizing the **role of financial services in reducing vulnerability**, CFI addresses systemic barriers that hinder full participation in the financial system.
- Utilizing **comprehensive research** and a systems-level approach, it identifies critical challenges affecting financial inclusion for vulnerable populations worldwide.
- CFI **strengthens the evidence base and deepens understanding** of financial services to **enhance resilience and improve livelihoods**.

Species in News

Mithun

- Conservation Status
 - ↗ IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
 - ↗ **CITES:** Appendix I
 - ↗ **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule 1
- The Mithun or gayal (*Bos frontalis*) is a **heavily built, semi-domesticated bovine species**.
- It is known as the '**cattle of the mountain**'.
- The highest concentration of mithuns in the world is spread over **the North Eastern (NE) region of India, with Arunachal Pradesh having the highest population**.
- It is also found in parts of Southeast Asia, viz., Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bhutan.
- It is the **state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland**.
- The '**Soulung**' festival is **observed annually by the Adi tribes of Arunachal Pradesh** to commemorate the birth and arrival of Mithun on this earth.
- Like Guars, they are strongly built, large-sized fleshy animals with an average weight of 400-650 kg.



Places In News

South Africa

- South Africa, the **southernmost country on the African continent**, is distinguished by its diverse landscapes, natural beauty, and rich cultural heritage.
- It has **three capital cities**: Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), and Bloemfontein (judicial).
- **Johannesburg**, the **largest urban center** and a key commercial hub, is situated in Gauteng, the country's most populous province.
- **Durban**, located on the Indian Ocean, serves as a major industrial port city.
- The country **shares borders** with Namibia to the northwest, Botswana and Zimbabwe to the north, and Mozambique and Eswatini to the northeast and east.
- ▶ **Lesotho**, an independent nation, is **entirely landlocked within South Africa's eastern region**.
- A **vast plateau** dominates much of the country's terrain, separated from the surrounding lower-lying areas by the **Great Escarpment**, a defining feature of South Africa's topography.

