

Task force reviews death of Olive Ridley turtles

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
General issues on Environmental ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change

Mains: General Studies - 3
Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Olive Ridley turtles

- The Olive Ridley turtle, scientifically known as *Lepidochelys olivacea*, is **one of the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles**.
- These turtles inhabit the **warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans**.
- They are best known for their **unique mass nesting called "Arribada,"** where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
- Despite their abundance, Olive Ridley turtles are classified as **Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List** due to declining numbers.
- They grow to about **2 feet in length and weigh around 50 kg**.
- Their name comes from their **olive-colored, heart-shaped carapace**.
- These turtles are **carnivores, feeding mainly on jellyfish, shrimp, snails, crabs, mollusks,** and various fish and their eggs.
- They **spend their entire lives in the ocean,** migrating thousands of kilometers between feeding and mating grounds.
- Females return to the same beach where they hatched to lay their eggs.
- The **coast of Orissa in India is the largest mass nesting site** for Olive Ridley turtles, followed by the **coasts of Mexico and Costa Rica**.

- Threats include **poaching, habitat loss, and accidental deaths from fishing nets**.
- The Odisha government has mandated **Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in fishing nets** to reduce accidental deaths.
- Conservation efforts by WWF-India and local communities include protecting nesting areas, ensuring safe passage for hatchlings, and promoting the use of TEDs.



Avadi Ordnance clothing unit sends its first defence export to Suriname

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

Mains: General Studies - 2
Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

Indian Ordnance Factories

- The Indian Ordnance Factories trace their origins to British rule, with the establishment of the **Board of Ordnance in Fort William, Kolkata, in 1775**.
- The **first industrial unit, the Gun Carriage Agency at Cossipore, Kolkata,** was set up in **1801** and began production in 1802.
- Before independence, there were 18 ordnance factories, which increased to 41 factories post-independence, primarily to meet defense requirements.

- The administration of these factories evolved over time, leading to the creation of the **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in 1979**, under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, Government of India.
- On **October 1, 2021**, the **OFB was dissolved**, and its 41 factories were corporatized into **seven Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)** under the Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD.



- The **Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination & Services)** was formed under the DDP, Ministry of Defence, as the successor to the OFB Headquarters.

ISRO set for a historic 100th launch from Sriharikota

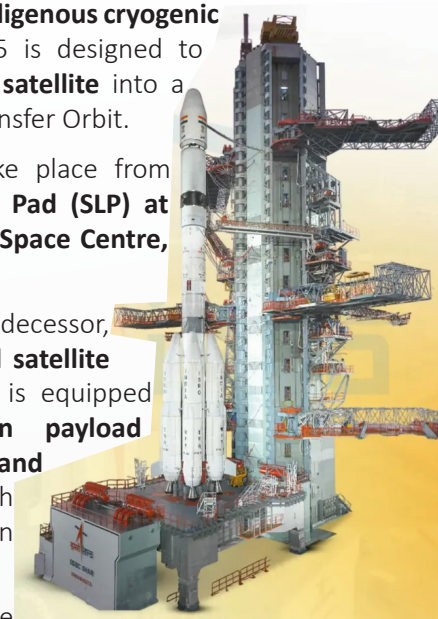
Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
General Science.

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

GSLV-F15

- GSLV-F15 marks the **17th mission** of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and the **11th flight** incorporating an indigenous cryogenic stage.
- It is also the **8th operational GSLV mission** utilizing this indigenous technology and the **100th launch** from India's spaceport at Sriharikota.
- The payload fairing of GSLV-F15 features a **metallic structure with a diameter of 3.4 meters**.

- Equipped with an **indigenous cryogenic stage**, the GSLV-F15 is designed to deploy the **NVS-02 satellite** into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
- The launch will take place from the **Second Launch Pad (SLP) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR**.
- Similar to its predecessor, **NVS-02, the second satellite in the NVS series**, is equipped with a **navigation payload operating in L1, L5, and S bands**, along with a ranging payload in the C-band.
- To ensure precise time estimation, **NVS-02 incorporates a combination of indigenous and procured atomic clocks**.



OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT, questions jurisdiction of Indian courts in copyright case

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

Mains: General Studies - 2
Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

Federation of Indian Publishers

- The Federation of Indian Publishers serves as the **representative body for publishers across India**, encompassing English, Hindi, and various regional languages.
- With a membership **covering over 80% of the country's publishing industry**, the Federation includes all major publishers as direct members.
 - ➔ Other publishers are represented through local associations.
- On the **international stage**, the Federation has played a **significant role**, earning India recognition and respect as a prominent publishing nation.
- One of its key attributes is its function as a **deliberative and consultative body**, dedicated to enhancing professional standards among its members.

- It provides a platform not only for discussing industry challenges but also for **effectively addressing them**.
- The **Federation is the sole representative of Indian publishers** affiliated with the **International Publishers Association (IPA), Geneva**.

The impact of classifying denotified tribes

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

Mains: General Studies - 2
Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

- The **De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes** are the most neglected, marginalized and economically and socially deprived communities.
- Denotified tribes (DNTs) are communities that were **'notified' as being 'born criminal' during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 and 1947**.
- These Acts were **repealed by the Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were "De-Notified"**.
- These tribes somehow escaped the attention of our developmental framework and thus are deprived of the support unlike Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- The **distinction between nomads and semi-nomads** does not involve distinguishable ethnic categories or social groups, it rather describes the **degree of mobility practiced by them**.
- The **NITI Aayog and the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) are currently conducting research to identify DNT (Denotified Tribes) communities and determine whether they should be categorized as Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), or Other Backward Classes (OBC) based on their social and economic conditions**

Idate Commission(2014)

- The Idate Commission,officially known as the **National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT)**, was established in 2014.

- It was headed by **Bhiku Ramji Idate**.
- The objective is to compile a statewide catalogue of Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs).
- The commission was constituted for a three-year temporary term And submitted its report in 2018.

Key recommendations

- **Establish a Permanent Commission for DNTs, NTs, and SNTs** with constitutional status to address their grievances and ensure effective policy implementation.
- Creating a **separate category for these communities in the reservation system**, distinct from SC, ST, and OBC quotas.
- Provide land and housing rights to nomadic communities who have no permanent residence.
- Introduce **special financial assistance schemes similar to those available for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**.
- Conduct a **nationwide survey/caste-based census to correctly identify and enumerate DNTs, NTs, and SNTs** for better policy planning.

Places in News

Ten Degree Channel



- The Ten Degree Channel is a narrow stretch of water body that **separates Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands**.

- It is named so because it lies approximately on the 10th degree of latitude.
- The channel is **about 145 km wide** and is considered as one of the most important navigational routes in the region.
- It is part of **India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**, making it significant for economic and strategic reasons.

Republic of Suriname



- The Republic of Suriname is located on the **northern coast of South America**, bordered by the **Atlantic Ocean to the north, French Guiana to the east, Brazil to the south, and Guyana to the west.**
- The country's geography is diverse, including **coastal plains, savannas, tropical rainforests, and mountain ranges.**
- The **population of Suriname is highly diverse**, consisting of **South Asians, Creoles, Javanese, and smaller groups of African, Chinese, Indian, and Dutch descent.**
- Suriname, **formerly known as Dutch Guiana**, was a Dutch colony before **gaining its independence on November 25, 1975.**
- The country experienced periods of **military regime from 1980 to 1987** and again briefly in 1990.

- The economy of Suriname relies heavily on its natural resources, **particularly bauxite**, making it one of the top producers globally.
- Other significant sectors include **aluminum production, agriculture, and the export of products such as rice, bananas, and shrimp.**
- Suriname operates as a **multiparty republic** with a **president** serving as both **head of state and head of government.**

Rwanda



- Rwanda is a **landlocked country** located just south of the Equator in east-central Africa.
- Renowned for its stunning landscapes, it is often referred to as **le pays des mille collines** (French for "land of a thousand hills").
- Its **capital, Kigali**, lies at the heart of the country along the Rugezi River.
- Similar to its southern neighbor, Burundi, Rwanda is a relatively small nation with one of the **highest population densities in sub-Saharan Africa.**
- It **shares borders** with Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the east, Burundi to the south, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa) and Lake Kivu to the west.

- A striking **chain of rugged mountains runs from north to south**, forming part of the Congo-Nile divide.
- Most of Rwanda's **rivers flow east of this divide**, with the Kagera River serving as a major eastern waterway, delineating much of the border with Burundi and Tanzania.
- The country's most fertile soils, derived from **volcanic lava and alluvium**, are concentrated in the northwest and the lower sections of larger river valleys.
- In contrast, the rest of the country consists mainly of **metamorphic bedrock**, which has given rise to generally less fertile soils.

