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PT 365

NEWS through MAPS

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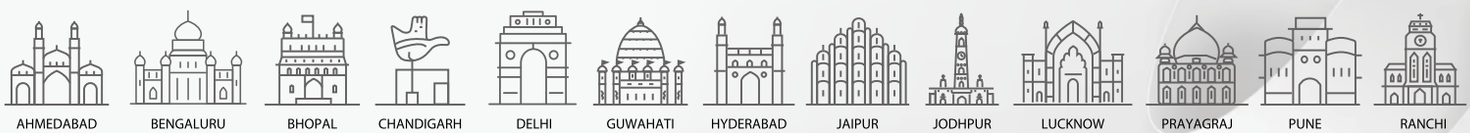

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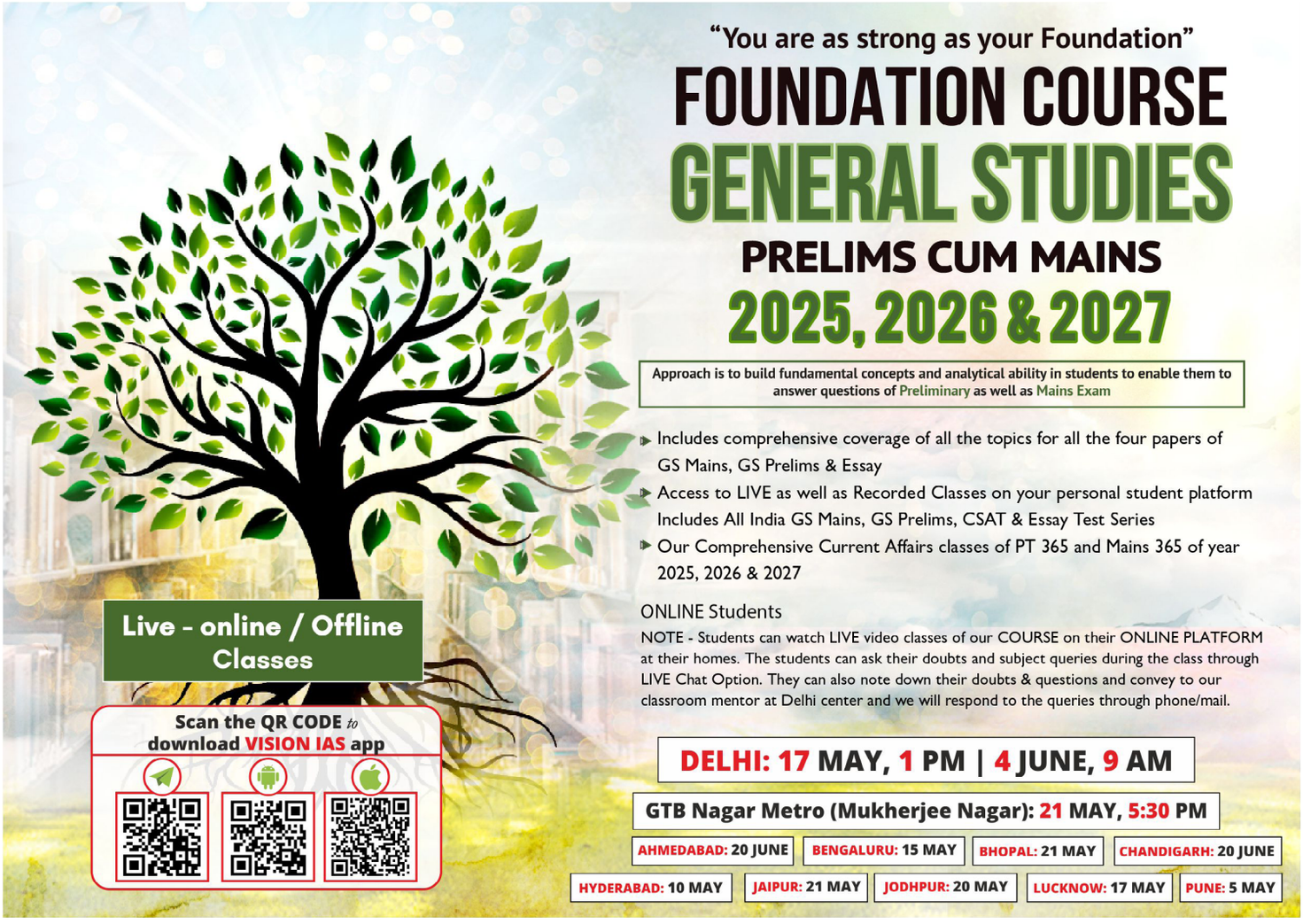

Note to Students

Dear Students,

In our endeavour to streamline your Prelims preparation, we are pleased to announce our new initiative, "PT 365: News through maps".

What is it?

The 'PT 365: News through maps' document is a curated document designed to help students develop a visual approach for tackling map-based questions in the examination. The document gathers all major places in the news alongside their development and context. These places are presented in collective maps to aid the student in connecting the dots.

Features of the PT 365 - News through maps documents:

One theme, one map approach: News items of similar nature have been clubbed together in a single map to give the student a sense of the overall picture.

Geographical details of places: Additional geographical information like water bodies, neighbouring countries etc. has been added in international relations.

We sincerely hope that the 'PT 365: News through maps' will aid in quickly revising places in the news and creating a new approach for map-based questions. As part of the PT 365 series, we are confident that PT 365: News through maps will save students' time and enrich their preparation.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit" *-Aristotle*

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Current Affairs Team,
Vision IAS

1. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1.1 India and Neighbourhood

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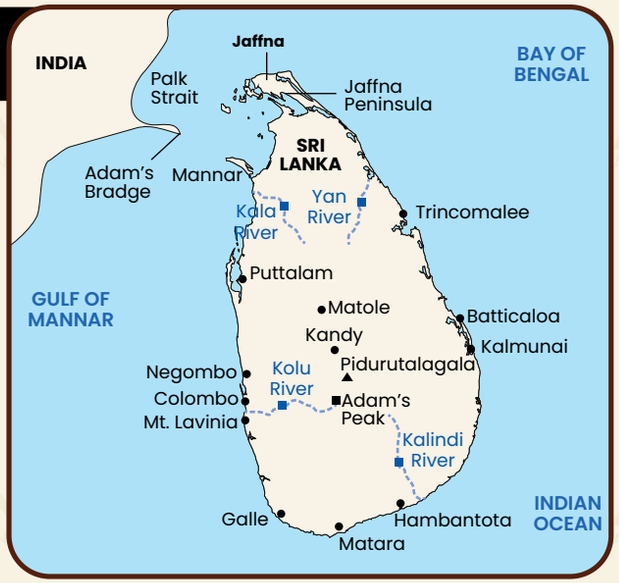
1. Bangladesh (Capital: Dhaka)

- **Context:** Fifth Annual Defence Dialogue was recently held between India and Bangladesh in Dhaka (Bangladesh).
- **Land borders:** India (4096 km border with Indian states of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram), Myanmar (southeast).
- **Water bodies:** Bay of Bengal
- **Other fact:** Home to Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world (140,000 ha)

2. Sri Lanka (Legislative capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte and Executive and Judicial capital: Colombo)

- **Context:** India and Sri Lanka marked their **75th anniversary of diplomatic relations** in 2023.
- **Water Bodies:** Island country lying in **Indian Ocean** and **separated from peninsular India by Palk Strait.**
- **Other Facts:**
  - Ashoka sent his children Mahendra and Sangamitta to spread the teachings of Lord Buddha at the request of King Devanampiya Tissa of Sri Lanka.
  - **Two-thirds of the world's oil and half of the world's container transportation** passes through the south of Sri Lanka.



3. Malaysia (Capital: Kuala Lumpur)

- **Context:** India and Malaysia have agreed to **settle trade in Indian rupees in addition to current modes of settlement** in other currencies.
- **Land Borders: Thailand** (north), **Singapore** (south), **Indonesia** (southwest) and **Brunei**.
  - **Malaysia consists of two non-contiguous regions:** Peninsular Malaysia (West Malaysia) located in Malay Peninsula, and East Malaysia (Malaysia Timur), which is on island of Borneo.
- **Water Bodies:** South China Sea(north), Strait of Malacca (west), Sulu Sea (northeast), and the Celebes sea (southeast).
- **Other facts:** Malaysia has allowed Visa free entry for Indians for stay up to 30 days.

4. Philippines (Capital: Manila)

- **Context: India** and **Philippines** during **5th** meeting of the **Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC)** decided to expand their defence partnership.
- **Water Bodies:**
  - Philippines is an archipelago (of over 7,000 islands) in south-eastern Asia between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean.
  - It is **divided into three island groups:** Luzon (largest island of country), Visayas, and Mindanao.
  - Bounded by Philippine Sea, Celebes Sea, Sulu Sea and South China Sea.

5. Lao PDR or Laos (Capital: Vientiane)

- **Context:** Five MoUs were signed between India & Laos for the implementation of five Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in the fields of education, health, water facility and IT.
- **Land Borders:** China(north), Vietnam (northeast and east), Cambodia (south), Thailand (west), and Myanmar(northwest).

6. Vietnam (Capital: Hanoi)

- **Context:** Recently India and Vietnam reiterated commitment to deepen strategic partnership.
- **Land Borders:** China (North), Laos and Cambodia (West)
- **Water Bodies:** The South China Sea (East and South).

1.2 Bilateral Exchanges

Saudi Arabia (Capital: Riyadh)

- **Context:** Indian prime minister and Saudi crown prince co-chaired the first summit-level meeting of the **India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC).**
- **Land Borders:**
  - Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait (north), Qatar, UAE, and Oman (east); Yemen (south and southwest).
- **Water Bodies:** Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba (west) and Persian Gulf (east).
- **Other Facts:**
  - The country **occupies about four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula.**
  - Arabian Peninsula **contains the world's largest sand area,** the **Rub al-Khali** ("Empty Quarter").
  - **Site of that Islam's holiest cities,** Mecca and Medina.
  - To the east, along the Persian Gulf, are the country's **abundant oil fields.**

UAE (Capital: Abu Dhabi)

- **Context:** India-UAE **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) completed one year.** Also, Union Cabinet recently approved **Bilateral Investment Treaty** with UAE.
- **Land Borders:** Saudi Arabia (west and south) and Oman (east and northeast).
- **Water Bodies:** Persian Gulf (west), Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman (east).
- **Other Facts:**
  - UAE is the **federation of seven emirates :** Abu Dhabi(largest), Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah.
  - Some of the **world's largest sand dunes are located east of 'Arādah** in the oases of Līwā.
  - Important oases are at **Al-Ain, east of Abu Dhabi.**

Armenia (Capital: Yerevan)

- **Context:** Union Cabinet approved the MoU with Armenia on Cooperation in the **field of sharing successful Digital Solutions** implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
- **Land Borders:** Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (a disputed territory), Turkey, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (an exclave of Azerbaijan), Georgia, and Iran.
- **Other fact:** Landlocked country of Transcaucasia (populated region to the south of the Caucasus Mountains).

The United States (Capital: Washington, D.C)

- **Context:** Indian PM visited the US on **3rd Official State Visit** (the earlier two state visits happened during 1969 and 2009).
- **Land borders:**
  - US includes **48 conterminous states and the state of Alaska, and the island state of Hawaii.**
  - The conterminous states are bounded **by Canada (north) and Mexico (south).**
- **Water Bodies:**
  - Atlantic Ocean(east), Gulf of Mexico (south) and Pacific Ocean(west).
- **Other facts:**
  - The US is the **fourth largest country in the world** in area (after Russia, Canada, and China).
  - Home to the Great Lakes which including Lake Superior, **Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario.**

Duqm Port

- **Context:** India's **National Security Advisor visited port of Duqm in Oman** recently.
- **Land Borders: Yemen, Saudi Arabia and UAE**
- **Water Bodies: Arabian Sea, Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman.**
- **Other Facts:**
  - **India in 2018** secured access Duqm **for military use and logistical support.**
  - Port can also **provide India an easy access to Red Sea** via the Gulf of Aden.

Brazil (Capital: Brasilia)

- **Context:** 2023 year marks the **75th anniversary of diplomatic relations** between Brazil and India, as well as **20th anniversary of IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa)** forum.

Panama (Capital: Panama City)

- **Context:** India and Panama signed MoU on Electoral Cooperation.
- **Land borders:** Costa Rica and Colombia
- **Water bodies:** Caribbean Sea (an extension of the Atlantic Ocean) to north and Pacific Ocean to south.

Suriname (Capital: Paramaribo)

- **Contexts:**
  - The Indian President was conferred with the **highest civilian honour of Suriname** 'Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star' on the occasion of 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in Suriname.
    - In the year 1873, the first group of 399 Indian Indentured Labours reached Suriname, on board the ship Lalla Rookh.
  - MoU signed between India and Suriname in the field of the regulation of medicines i.e for Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) in Suriname.
- **Land borders: French Guiana** (east), **Brazil** (south), and **Guyana** (west).
- **Water bodies**: Atlantic Ocean.
- **Other fact:** It is **one of the top producers of Bauxite** in the world.

Argentina (Capital: Buenos Aires)

- **Contexts:**
  - Argentina signs **letter of intent with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** to buy helicopters.
  - India signs **Agreement for Lithium Exploration and Mining Project** in Argentina.
- **Land borders:** Chile (south and west), Bolivia and Paraguay (north), and Brazil, Uruguay (east)
- **Water bodies:** Atlantic Ocean (east)

Trinidad and Tobago (Capital: Port of Spain)

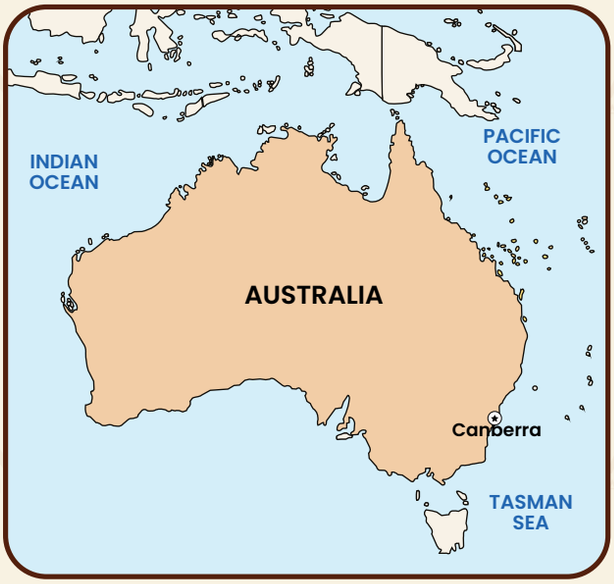
- **Context:** India Signs MoU with Trinidad and Tobago on sharing India Stack(set of open APIs (Application Program Interface) and digital public goods).
- **Land borders:** island country consisting of two main islands—Trinidad and Tobago—and several smaller islands.
- **Water Bodies:** Caribbean Sea and separated from Venezuela by the Gulf of Paria.

Venezuela (Capital: Caracas)

- **Context: India** set to **resume import of oil from Venezuela** after 3 years as US sanctions on Caracas ease.
- **Land borders:** Guyana, Brazil, and Colombia.
- **Water bodies:** Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Other facts: Home to** Lake Maracaibo (largest lake in South America).

Australia (Capital: Canberra)

- **Context:** Cabinet approves Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) between India and Australia.
- **Water bodies: Pacific and Indian ocean**s
- **Other fact:** It is the **smallest continent** and **one of the largest countries on Earth** lying between the in the **Southern Hemisphere.**

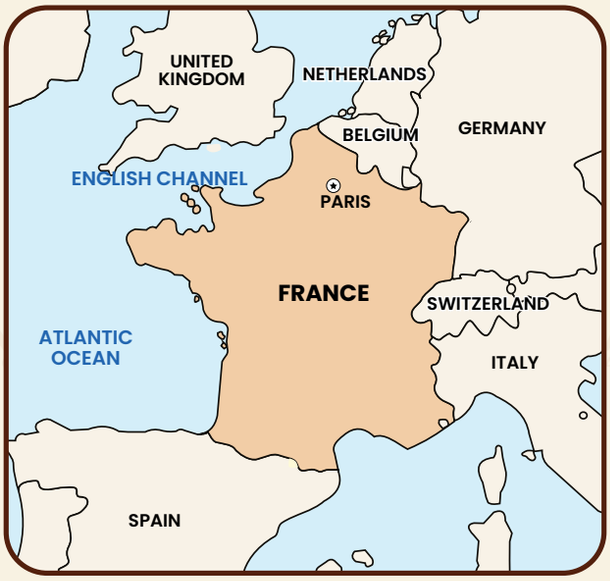


South Korea (Capital: Seoul)

- **Context:** 2023 marks **50th anniversary** of diplomatic relations between India and South Korea (Republic of Korea or RoK).
- **Land borders:** North Korea
- **Water bodies:** Sea of Japan (east), East China Sea (south), Yellow Sea(west); Korea Strait (southeast) which separates it from the Japanese island of Tsushima.

France (Capital: Paris)

- **Context: Marking 25 years of their strategic relations,** India and France, launched the Horizon 2047 framework.
- **Land borders:** Germany and Belgium (north); Spain (south), **Alps, Switzerland** and **Italy** (east).
- **Water bodies:** Atlantic Ocean (west); and Mediterranean Sea (south)
- **Other fact:** France is home to Europe's tallest peak -Monte Blonc.



UK (Capital: London)

- **Context:** Recently, **inaugural India-UK 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue** was held in New Delhi **to discuss and review all aspects of India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.**
- **Land borders: Ireland**
- **Water bodies:** English Channel(south), North Sea (east), Irish Sea (west) and the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Other facts:**
  - UK includes England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
  - **Greenwich Meridian** passes through it.

Italy (Capital: Rome)

- **Context:** India and Italy signed pact to deepen defence cooperation.
- **Land borders: France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia**
- **Water bodies: Mediterranean Sea, Adriatic Sea** (northeast), **Ionian Sea** (southeast), **Tyrrhenian** Sea (southwest), and **Ligurian Sea** (northwest).

Lithuania (Capital: Vilnius)

- **Context:** India and Lithuania held a meeting to strengthen maritime bilateral relations.
- **Land borders:** Latvia(north), Belarus(east and south), Poland and the detached Russian oblast of Kaliningrad (southwest).
- **Water bodies:** Baltic Sea(west).
- **Other facts:**
  - It is the largest of the three Baltic states **(other two Estonia, and Latvia).**
  - Lithuanian is considered the oldest surviving Indo-European language in the world.

Egypt (Capital: Cairo)

- **Context:** 2023 witnessed Indian PM's first State visit to Egypt.
- **Land borders:** Libya, Gaza Strip, Sudan, and the Asian Sinai Peninsula.
- **Water bodies:** Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea

Tanzania (Capital: Dodoma)

- **Context: IIT Madras** establishes first international campus in Tanzania's Zanzibar.
- **Land borders: Uganda,** and **Kenya** (north), **Mozambique** and **Zambia** (south and southwest), and **Burundi,** and **Rwanda** (west).
- **Water Bodies:** Indian Ocean, Lake Tanganyika (west), Lake Victoria (north), and Lake Malawi (aka Lake Nyasa) and River Congo.

Guinea-Bissau (Capital: Bissau)

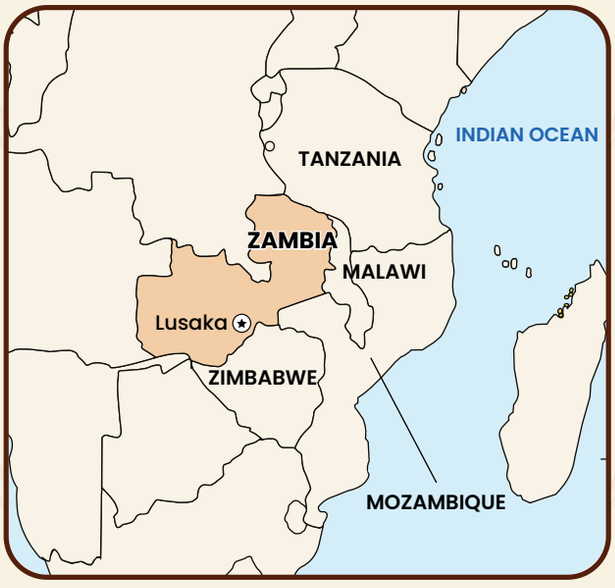
- **Context:** Guinea-Bissau exports almost the entire cashew crop (around 98 percent) to India for processing.
- **Land borders:**
  - **Senegal** (north), **Guinea** (east and south).
  - It **includes Bijagós (Bissagos) archipelago** and other islands that lie off the coast.
- **Water Bodies:** Atlantic Ocean

Malawi (Capital: Lilongwe)

- **Context:** Parliamentary delegation from Malawi is visited India.
- **Land borders: Tanzania** (north), **Lake Malawi** (east), **Mozambique** (east and south), **and Zambia** (west).
- **Water Bodies:** Lake Malawi (aka Lake Nyasa in Tanzania) (largest), Lake Chilwa.

Zambia (Capital: Lusaka)

- **Context:** Indian Defence Secretary held a meeting with Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Zambia.
- **Land borders: Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique,** Malawi, Tanzania **and DRC.**



Benin (Capital: Porto-Novo)

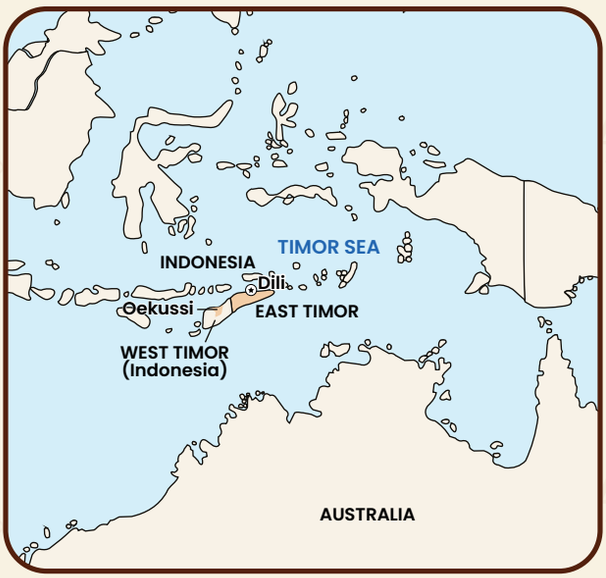
- **Context:** MEA said India is Benin's largest trade partner and significant investor.
- **Land border:** Burkina Faso (northwest), Nigeria (east), Togo (west), Niger (North).
- **Water Bodies: Niger River,** Atlantic Ocean

Uganda (Capital: Kampala)

- **Context:** Minister of External Affairs visited Uganda.
- **Land borders: South Sudan** (north), **Kenya** (east), **Tanzania** and **Rwanda** (south), and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (west).
- **Water bodies:** Lake Victoria

Timor-Leste (Capital: Dili)

- **Context:** India has announced the opening of an embassy in Dili.
- **Land borders: Western Timor** (part of the Indonesian province, in southwest).
- **Water Bodies: Timor Sea** (southeast), the Wetar Strait (north), the Ombai Strait (northwest).



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How to Prepare Current Affairs

Current affairs forms the cornerstone of civil services exam preparation, permeating all its phases - **Prelims, Mains, and the Interview.** Staying updated with current affairs equips aspirants to navigate the evolving landscape of the civil services exam. With the right resources and approach, candidates can transform this vast section into a strong advantage.

What is PT 365?

PT 365 document comprehensively covers the important and relevant current affairs of the last 1 year in a consolidated manner to aid Prelims preparation. It is devised as a revision document of the current affairs.

Features of PT365

Comprehensive Coverage

- Entire year's current affairs coverage.
- UPSC relevant subjects like Polity, Economy, S&T, Environment, IR, etc.
- Emphasis on topics likely to appear in upcoming prelims exam.

Clear and Concise Information

- Clear, concise presentation focusing on key issues.
- Information from credible sources.
- Appendices for rapid revision.

QR based Smart quiz

- Interactive feature to assess aspirant's learning and comprehension.

Infographics

- Aids in understanding and retention.
- Techniques, methods, and processes displayed.
- Strategic use of maps to enhance learning.

Government Schemes and Policies

- In-depth coverage of key government schemes, policies, and initiatives.

New Elements

- Tailored to reflect the pattern of previous year's questions.

Scan this QR code to watch video

Significance of PT 365

Ease of Revision: Content categorisation is based on subjects or topics to make it easier for aspirants to locate and revise specific areas

Value Addition: Includes infographics, related developments, or news, ensuring comprehensive coverage of important information.

Crisp Material: Crisp points have been used in the articles. It allows aspirants to easily do multiple revisions in limited span of time.

Integrated Approach: Covers basic concepts and information of all current affairs in a lucid manner, in line with previous trends of UPSC questions. Also helps in integrating key current affairs with static knowledge.

Scan this QR code to **Know More**

PT 365 is a time and tested document. In the previous years, it has helped lakhs of candidates to cover current affairs in a holistic way. It's impactful features make it easier for aspirants to understand current affairs and excel in the UPSC Civil Services examination.

1.3 Global summits in news

New Delhi, India

18th G20 summit

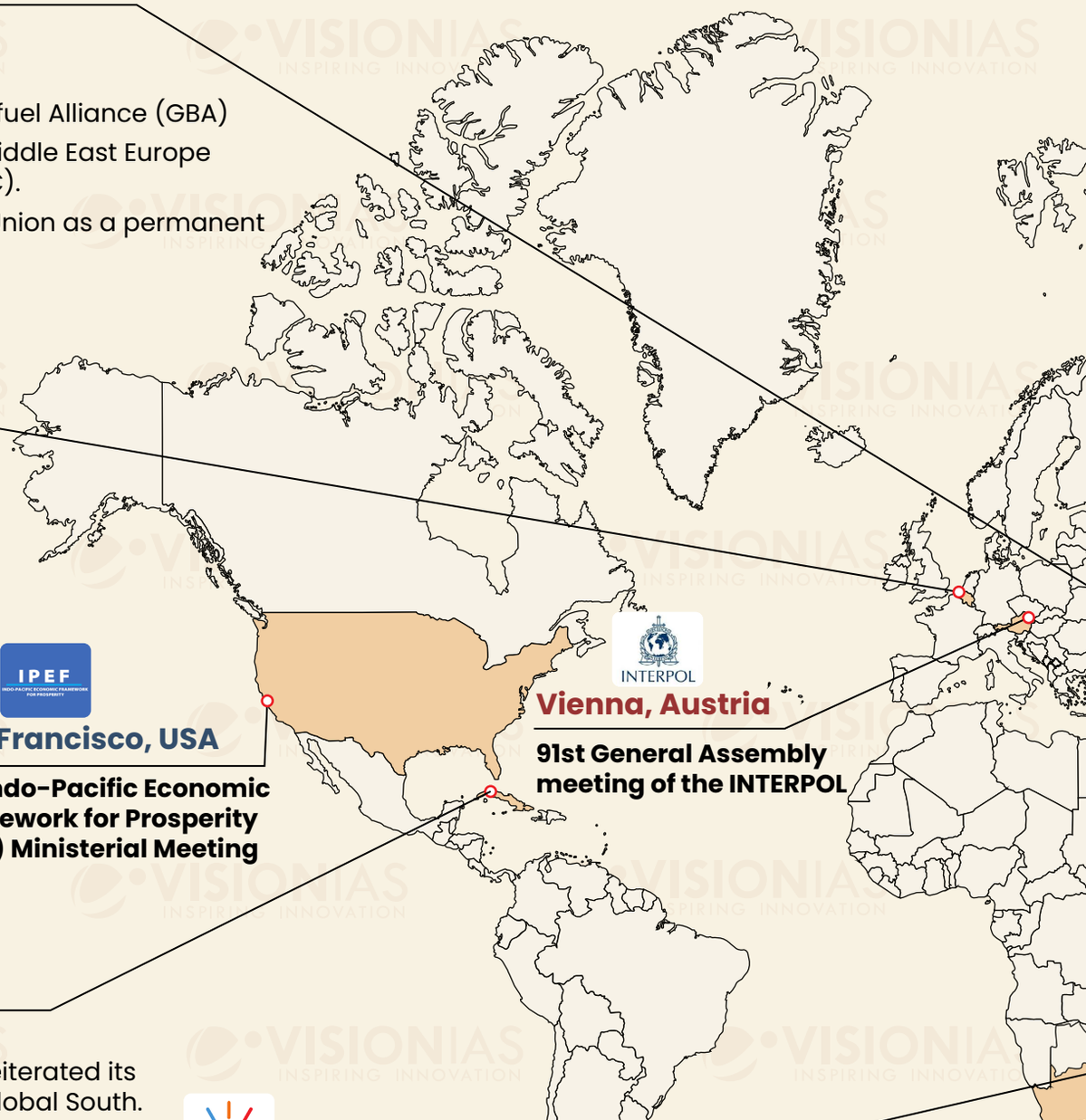
Major Outcomes:

- Launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)
- MoU to establish India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- Inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20.

Ostend, Belgium

2nd North Sea summit

Major Outcome: Aim to make North Sea the largest powerhouse of Europe by 2050 by taking its offshore wind capacity to 120 GW by 2030 and 300 GW by 2050.



San Francisco, USA

3rd Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial Meeting

Vienna, Austria

91st General Assembly meeting of the INTERPOL

Havana, Cuba

G77+China Summit

Major Outcome: India reiterated its commitment towards Global South.

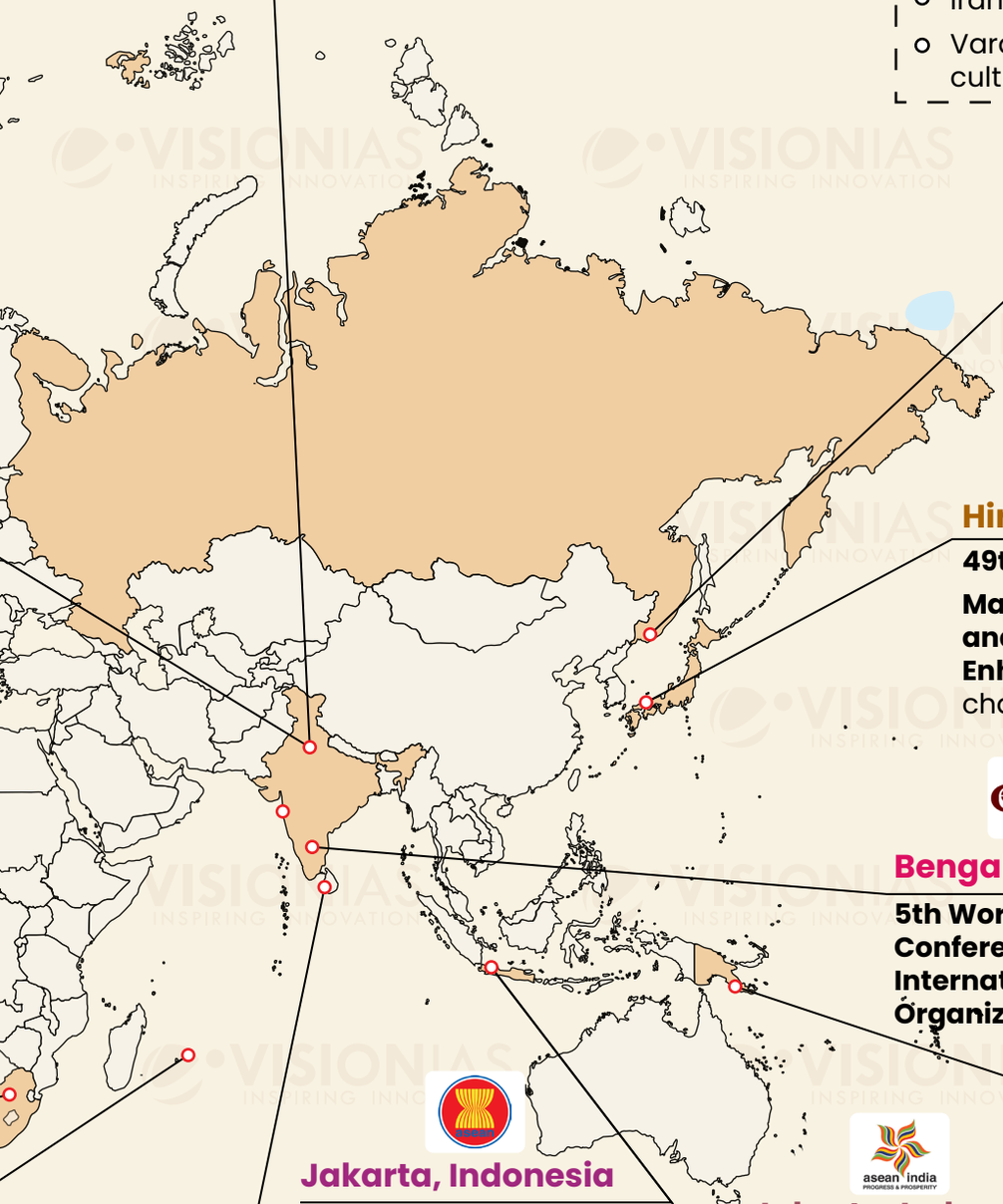
Johannesburg, South Africa

15th BRICS summit

Major Outcome: Expansion of BRICS with five new members- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Mauritius, Africa

6th National Security Adviser level meeting of Colombo Security Conclave.



New Delhi, India

1st United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) South Asia Conference

India (Virtual host)

23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit

Major Outcomes:

- Iran joined as the 9th permanent member
- Varanasi declared as the first tourism and cultural capital of SCO.

Vladivostok, Russia

8th Eastern Economic Forum Meeting

Hiroshima, Japan

49th G-7 Summit

Major Outcome: Partnership for **Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement (RISE)** to diversify supply chains for clean energy products.

Bengaluru, India

5th World Coffee Conference of International Coffee Organization (IOC)

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

3rd Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit

Major Outcome: India announced a 12-point development plan for the Pacific Island nations.

Jakarta, Indonesia

18th East Asia Summit

Jakarta, Indonesia

20th ASEAN-India Summit

Major Outcome: India's 12-point proposal for strengthening India-ASEAN cooperation.

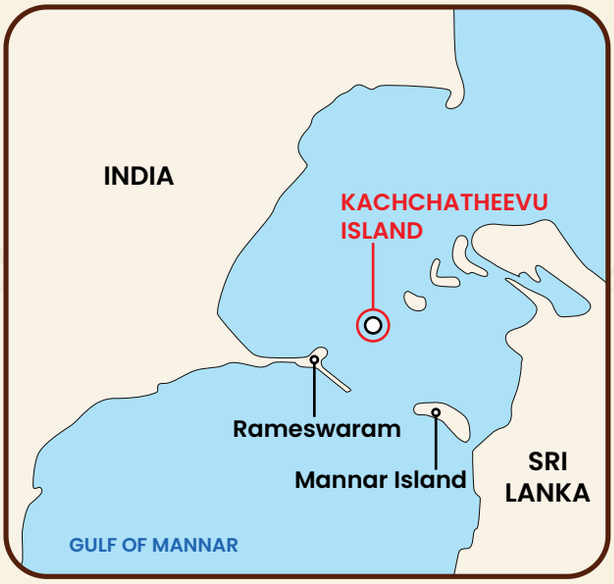
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Foreign Ministers (CoM) meeting

1.4 Conflicts in News

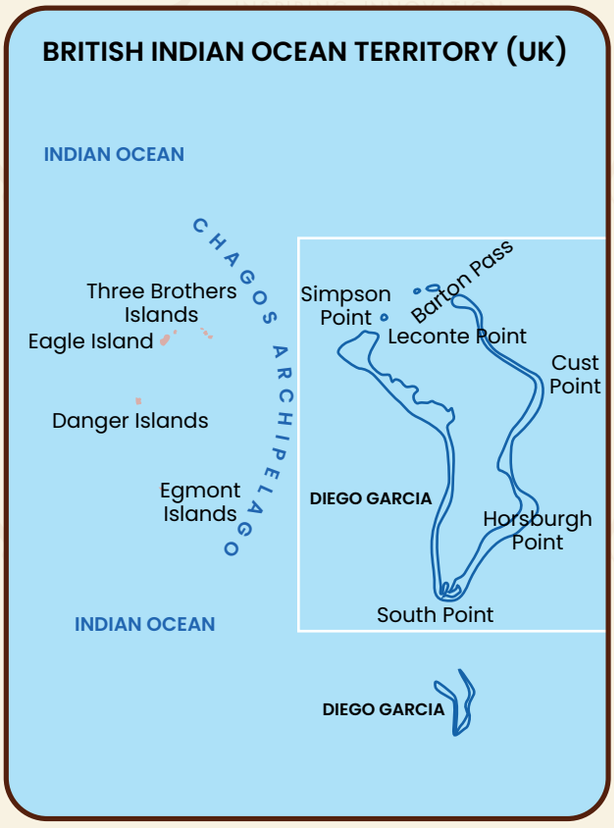
Katchatheevu Island

- **Context**: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister revived the debate over Katchatheevu, by reiterating the demand for retrieval from Sri Lanka.
- **About Katchatheevu**
  - Katchatheevu is an **uninhabited speck**, between **India and Sri Lanka in the Palk Strait**.
  - It **lies northeast of Rameswaram** (India) and **southwest of Jaffna** (Sri Lanka).
  - It is **important to the fisherfolks** of the two countries who have been **traditionally using the islet for fishing**.
  - In 1974, **as part of 'Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement',** India **ceded Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka**.



British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)

- **Context: 32 Indian fishermen have been detained by the British Navy** for trespassing into the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) while fishing in the high seas.
- **About BIOT**
  - BIOT is the **overseas territory of the United Kingdom in the central Indian Ocean**, established in 1965.
  - Since 1976 it has been **coterminous with the Chagos Archipelago.**
  - It **constitutes a semicircular group**:
    - comprising the Salomon Islands, Peros Banhos atoll, Nelsons Island, the Three Brothers Islands, the Eagle Islands, Danger Island, the Egmont Islands, and Diego Garcia atoll.
    - Diego Garcia Atoll, is the largest and southernmost landmass in the group and the location of a significant U.S. military base.



Israel (Capital: Jerusalem)

- **Context**: Israel declared war on Palestine militant group Hamas under **Operation Iron Swords**, following their unprecedented attack under **Operation Toofan Al-Aqsa** (Al-Aqsa Flood).
- **Land Borders**:
  - Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt.
- **Water Bodies**: Mediterranean Sea, Dead Sea, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee

Syria (Capital: Damascus)

- **Context: Turkiye** steps up strikes on militants as conflict escalates in Syria.
- **Land Borders**:
  - **Turkey** (north), **Iraq** (southeast), **Jordan** (south), **Lebanon and Israel** (southwest).
  - Its area includes territory in the **Golan Heights** that has been occupied by **Israel since 1967**.
- **Water Bodies**: Mediterranean Sea

Nagorno-Karabakh Region

- **Context**: India supports **OSCE Minsk Group** for a peaceful resolution of the **conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan** over **Nagorno-Karabakh region**.
  - **OSCE** is the **world's largest regional security organization** with **57 participating states**.
  - The **Minsk Group was created in 1994** to address the dispute and is co-chaired by the United States, France, and Russia.
- **Land Borders**: It is a **landlocked mountainous area** in South Caucasus.
- **Other Facts**:
  - The region is referred to as **Artsakh** by Armenians and was claimed by both Azerbaijan and Armenia after the fall of the Russian Empire in 1917.
  - The territory is recognised as part of Azerbaijan, but its inhabitants are predominantly ethnic Armenians.

Senegal (Capital: Dakar)

- **Context**: Recently witnessed clashes.
- **Land borders: Mali** (east); **Guinea and Guinea-Bissau** (south) Gambia (west)
- **Water bodies: Sénégal River** (north and northeast), **Atlantic Ocean** (west).
- **Other fact**: It lies in **depression known as Senegal-Mauritanian Basin**.

Ethiopia (Capital: Addis Ababa)

- **Context:**
  - Ethiopia's government has declared **a state of emergency** in its second-largest region, Amhara.
- **Land borders: Eritrea** (north), **Djibouti** (northeast), **Somalia** (east), **Kenya** (south), **South Sudan** and **Sudan** (west).
- **Other facts**:
  - **Landlocked country on Horn of Africa**.
  - **Largest and most populated country** in Horn of Africa.

Nigeria (Capital: Abuja)

- **Context:**
  - Indian Defence Minister attended the swearing in ceremony of Nigerian President.
  - Nigeria has declared a **State of Emergency over Food Security.**
- **Land borders**: **Niger** (north), **Chad and Cameroon** (east), **Benin** (west).
- **Water bodies**: **Gulf of Guinea**
- **Other fact**: Often called as **Giant of Africa.**

Sudan (Capital: Khartoum)

- **Context**: Heavy fighting raged across Khartoum.
- **Land borders**: Egypt, Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- **Water bodies**: Red Sea.

Niger (Capital: Niamey)

- **Context**: Military seized power in Niger.
- **Land borders**: Algeria (northwest), Libya (northeast), Chad (east), Nigeria and Benin (south), Burkina faso and Mali (west).
- **Water Bodies**: Niger River (3rd-longest river in Africa after the Nile and Congo rivers).

Libya (Capital: Tripoli)

- **Context**: Clashes between two leading armed groups in Tripoli, only civilian airport, have led to its closure.
- **Land borders**: **Egypt** (east), **Sudan** (southeast), **Niger and Chad** (south), and **Tunisia and Algeria** (west).
- **Water Bodies**: **Mediterranean Sea**
- **Other Facts**: **Ghibli** - a **hot arid wind blows** from south over entire country.

Gabon (Capital-Libreville)

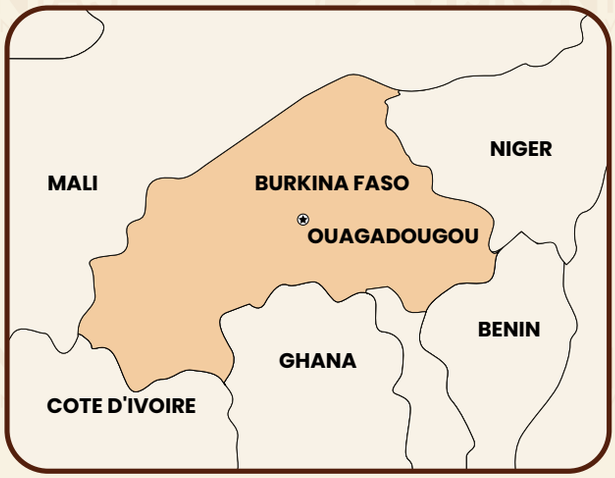
- **Context**: Gabon military **officers declare coup** after president wins disputed election.
- **Land borders**: **Equatorial Guinea**, Cameroon, and the Republic of the Congo.
- **Water Bodies**: **Atlantic Ocean (west)**
- **Other Facts** : It is a country at the Equator.

Sahel Region

- **Context**: **Three Sahel nations-Mali**, Burkina Faso and Niger- **have signed a defence pact** to cooperate against **threats of armed rebellion or external aggression**.
- **About Sahel Region**
  - It is a **semi-arid region of western and north-central Africa** that stretches from **Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea** along Sahara desert's southern rim.
  - **Countries**: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.
  - It forms a **transitional zone between Sahara desert** to the north and **savannas to the south**.

Burkina Faso (Capital: Ouagadougou)

- **Context**: Burkina Faso orders the French embassy's defense attache to leave.
- **Land borders**: **Mali**(north and west), **Niger**(northeast), **Benin**(southeast), and **Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo**(south).



Canada (Capital: Ottawa)

- **Context**: Diplomatic tensions flared between Canada and India following the Canadian PM's accusation that Indian agents were involved in the murder of Sikh separatist leader in Canada.
- **Land borders**: **United States** (south), **Greenland** (northeast) and the **U.S. state of Alaska** (west).
- **Water bodies**: Pacific Ocean(west), Arctic Ocean (north) Atlantic Ocean (east).
- **Other facts**:
  - Canada is the **second largest country in the world in area** (after Russia).
  - Largest of Canada's physiographic regions is the **Canadian Shield**.

Ecuador (Capital: Quito)

- **Context:** Emergency has been imposed due to the assassination of a political leader.
- **Political Boundaries: Colombia** (north), **Peru** (east and south)
- **Water bodies: Pacific Ocean** (west).

Other facts:

- **Galapagos Islands** come under its jurisdiction.
- **Occupies part** of the **Amazon basin** and is **situated on the Equator.**

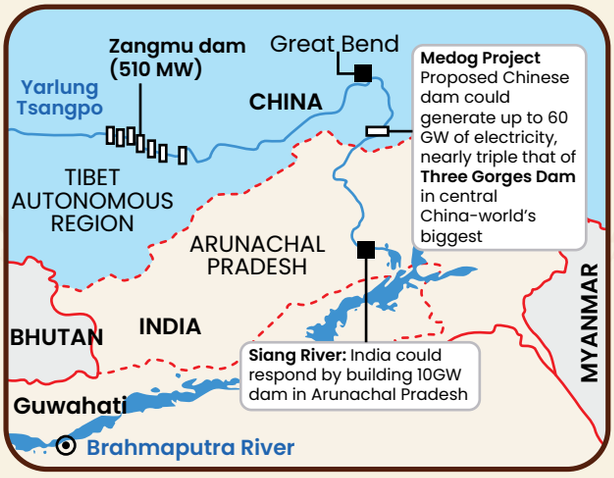
Guyana (Capital: Georgetown)

- **Context:** Venezuela and Guyana saw tensions over a border dispute around the **Esequibo river,** and an offshore area.
- **Land borders:** Suriname (east), Brazil (south), and Venezuela (west).
- **Water bodies:** Atlantic Ocean (north)

1.5 Global Water Bodies in News

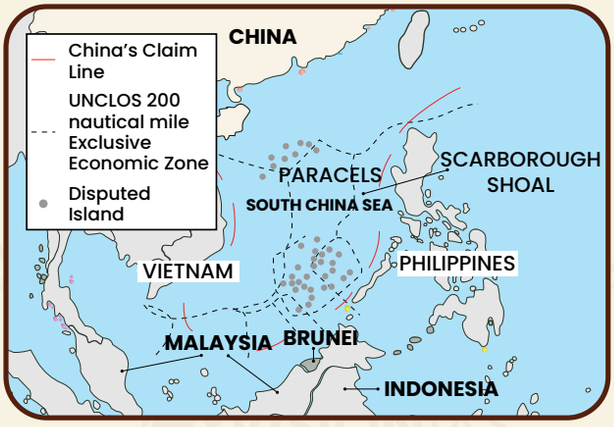
Siang River

- **Context:** India to Counter China's dam with Barrage in Siang River.
- Known as **Yarlung Tsangpo** in China.
- **Principal constituent** river of Brahmaputra.
- Enters **Arunachal Pradesh after the Great Bend** and joins **Lohit and Dibang**.



South China Sea

- **Context**: Philippines removed China's floating barrier in the Scarborough Shoal which blocked Philippines fishing boats.
- **Littoral states** are Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.
- **China claims around 90% of the region as its EEZ based on the Nine-dash lines**.
- **Nine-dash lines** was introduced in 1947 through China's historical claims over the **Paracel and Spratly Islands**.
- **Till 1952, it was Eleven dash lines** and the Communist China gave up its claim on **Gulf of Tonkin**.



Red Sea

- **Contexts**:
  - US have deployed new forces and warships to Red Sea.
  - **India-bound cargo ship hijacked** by Houthi rebels **in Red Sea**.
- An **inlet of Indian Ocean between Africa and Asia**.
- **Boundary countries** are **Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti**.
- Occupies a **part of Great Rift Valley** (Afro-Arabian Rift Valley).
- **One of the saltiest bodies** of water in world.

East Sea (Sea of Japan)

- **Contexts**: China and Russia will start joint **air and sea drill (Northern/Interaction-2023).**
- Marginal **sea of western Pacific Ocean**.
- **Bounded by Japan and Sakhalin Island** and Russia and Korea.

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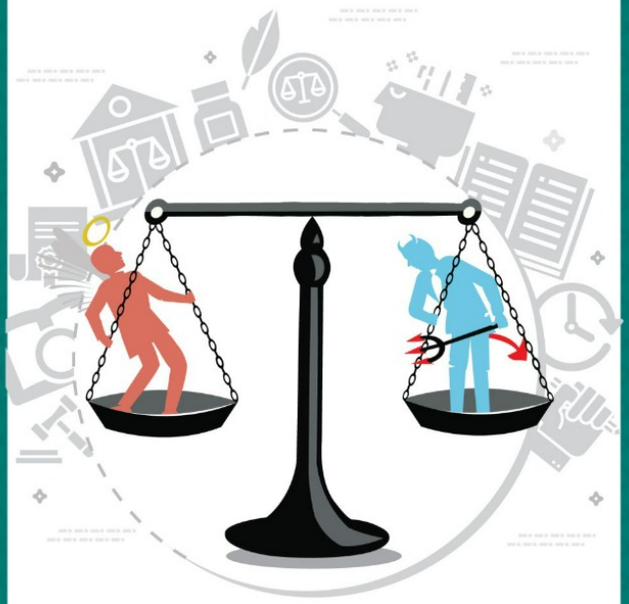

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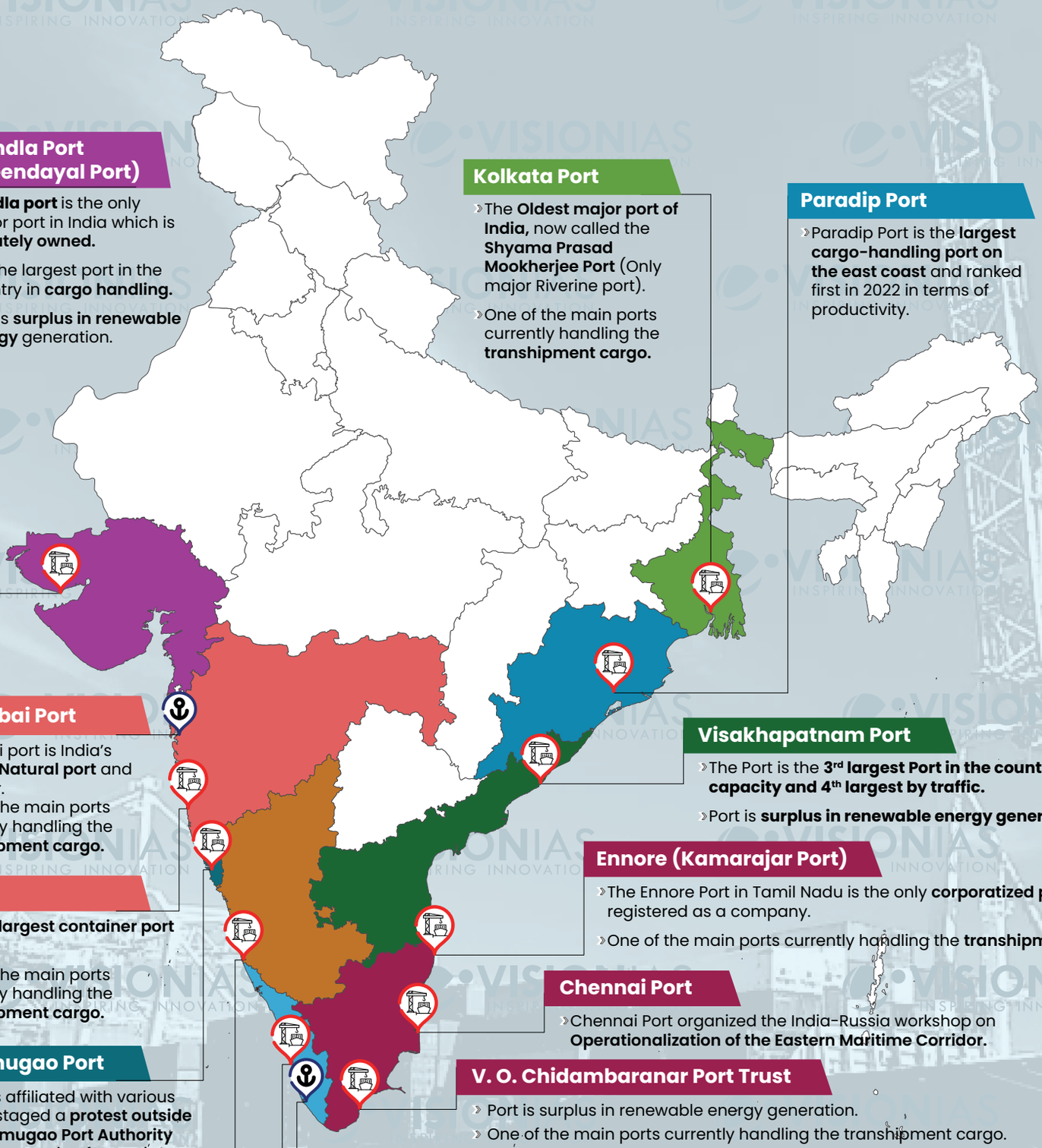
2. ECONOMY

2.1 Ports



Kandla Port (Deendayal Port)

- **Kandla port** is the only major port in India which is **privately owned.**
- It is the largest port in the country in **cargo handling.**
- Port is **surplus in renewable energy** generation.

Kolkata Port

- The **Oldest major port of India,** now called the **Shyama Prasad Mookherjee Port** (Only major Riverine port).
- One of the main ports currently handling the **transhipment cargo.**

Paradip Port

- Paradip Port is the **largest cargo-handling port on the east coast** and ranked first in 2022 in terms of productivity.

Mumbai Port

- Mumbai port is India's **largest Natural port** and harbour.
- One of the main ports currently handling the **transhipment cargo.**

JNPT

- It is the **largest container port** in India.
- One of the main ports currently handling the **transhipment cargo.**

Mormugao Port

- Workers affiliated with various unions staged a **protest outside the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA),** expressing frustration over the prolonged delay in settling the wage negotiation.

New Mangalore Port

- Port is **surplus in renewable energy** generation.

Visakhapatnam Port

- The Port is the **3rd largest Port in the country by capacity and 4th largest by traffic.**
- Port is **surplus in renewable energy generation.**

Ennore (Kamarajar Port)

- The Ennore Port in Tamil Nadu is the only **corporatized port** registered as a company.
- One of the main ports currently handling the **transhipment cargo.**

Chennai Port

- Chennai Port organized the India-Russia workshop on **Operationalization of the Eastern Maritime Corridor.**

V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust

- Port is surplus in renewable energy generation.
- One of the main ports currently handling the transhipment cargo.

Vizhinjam Port, Kerala

- Union Minister of Fisheries launched a project for **Artificial Reefs under Pradhan Mantri Matasya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).**

Cochin Port

- One of the main ports currently handling the **transhipment cargo.**

Major Ports

Ports

2.2 Livestock Sector

WOOL PRODUCTION ↓ 16.84%

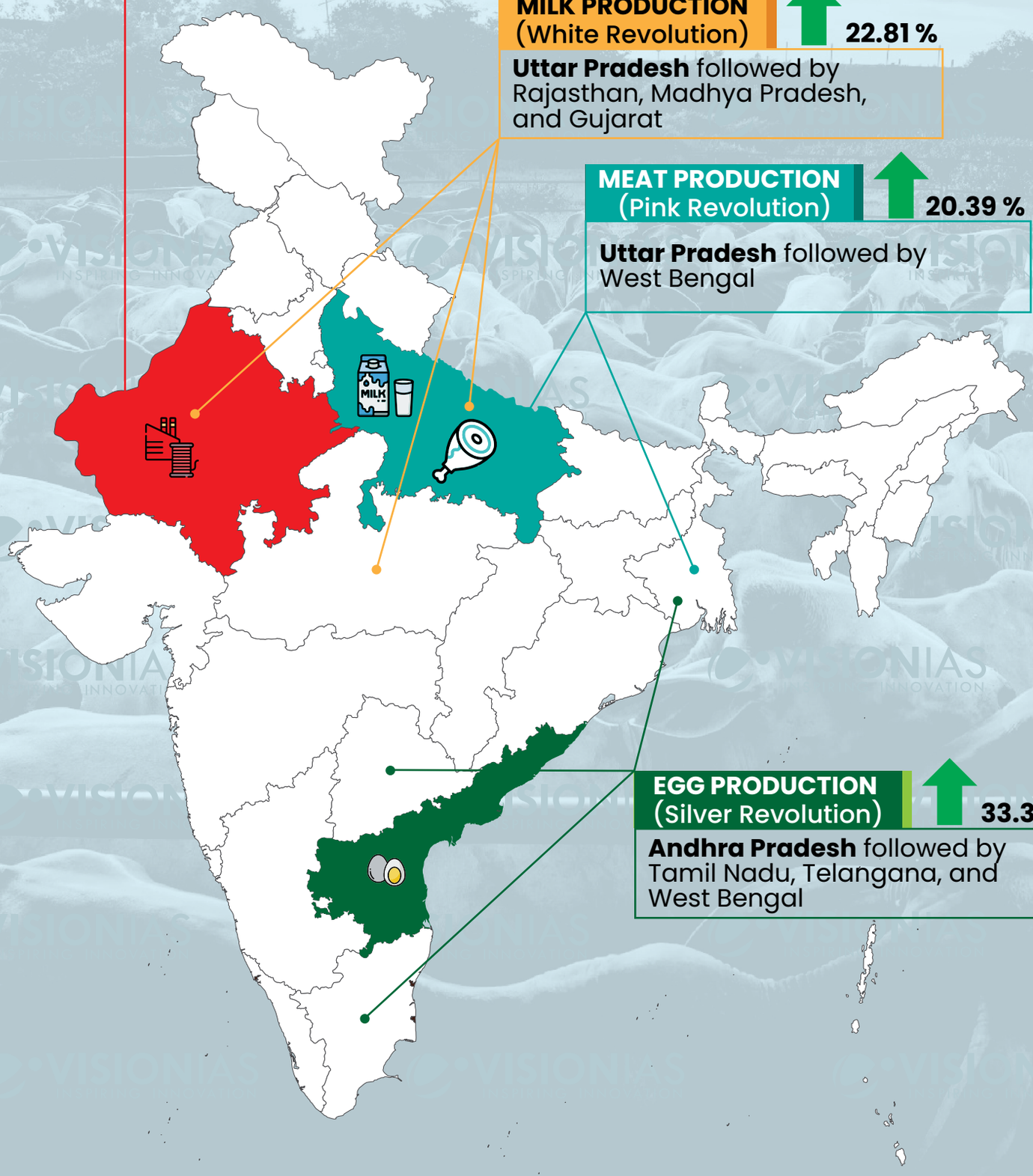
Rajasthan followed by Jammu & Kashmir

MILK PRODUCTION (White Revolution) ↑ 22.81 %

Uttar Pradesh followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat

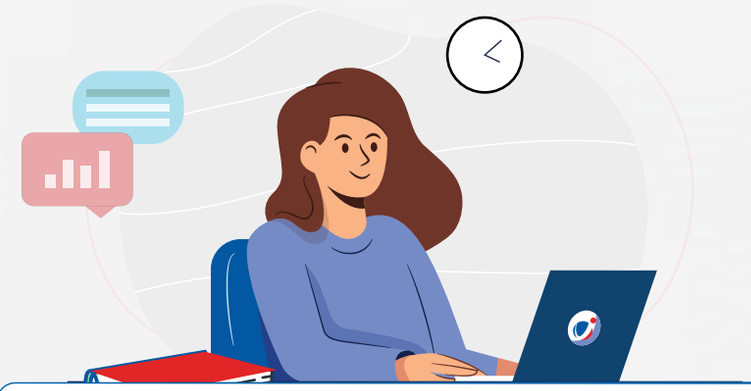
MEAT PRODUCTION (Pink Revolution) ↑ 20.39 %

Uttar Pradesh followed by West Bengal



EGG PRODUCTION (Silver Revolution) ↑ 33.31 %

Andhra Pradesh followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal



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Strategic Framework for CSAT Preparation

Initial Self-Assessment: Begin with a self-evaluation using the previous year's CSAT papers to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Study Plan: Develop a structured study plan, focusing on high yielding areas and selecting reliable study sources.

Regular Practice and Post-Test Analysis: Solving and analyzing previous year papers and mock tests to familiarize with the exam format and question types, ensuring a strategic approach to covering the comprehensive syllabus effectively.

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Reasoning: Sharpen your logical and analytical reasoning by practicing diverse question types from Clocks, Calendars, Series & Progression, Direction, Blood Relation, Coding-Decoding, Syllogism, and so on.

Focus on understanding patterns and building a step-by-step approach to solving problems.

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Comprehension: Improve your reading speed and comprehension by regularly reading newspapers.

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3. ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Environmental Summits

Bonn, Germany

- 5th **International Conference on Chemicals Management** (ICCM) (2023)
- **Major Outcome:** Agreement on a new UN framework to protect environment from harmful chemicals

Paris, France

Summit for a **New Global Financing Pact** (2023)

Geneva, Switzerland

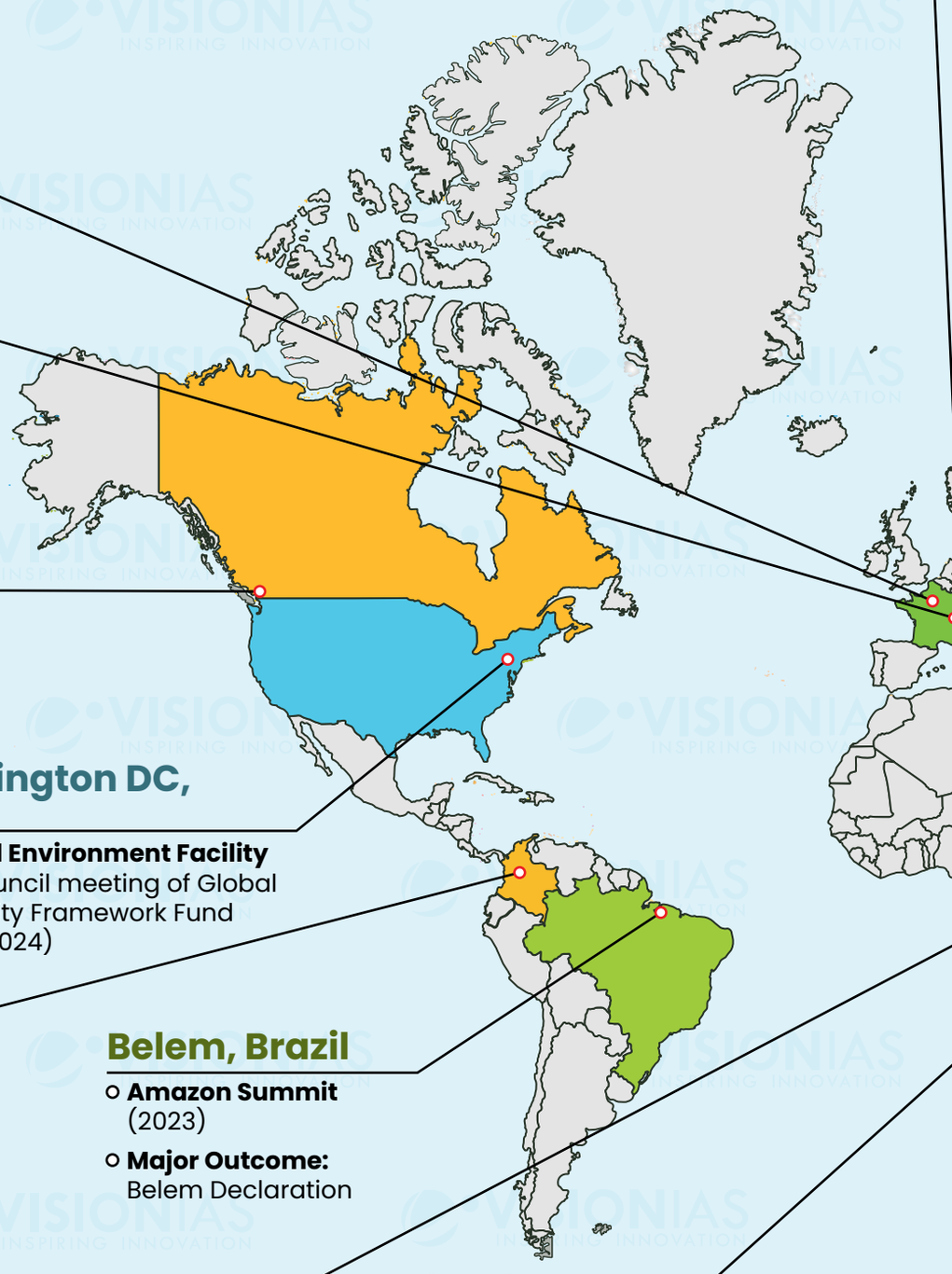
- COP-5 of the **Minamata Convention** (2023)
- **Major Outcome:** Agreement on a threshold for mercury waste

Vancouver, Canada

- 7th Assembly of the **Global Environment Facility** (2023)
- **Major Outcome:** Launch of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

Washington DC, USA

1st **Global Environment Facility** (GEF) Council meeting of Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) (2024)



Bogota, Colombia

- Meeting of 11 Asian and South American River **dolphin range countries** (2023)
- **Major Outcome:** 1st of a kind Global declaration of River Dolphins by 2030

Belem, Brazil

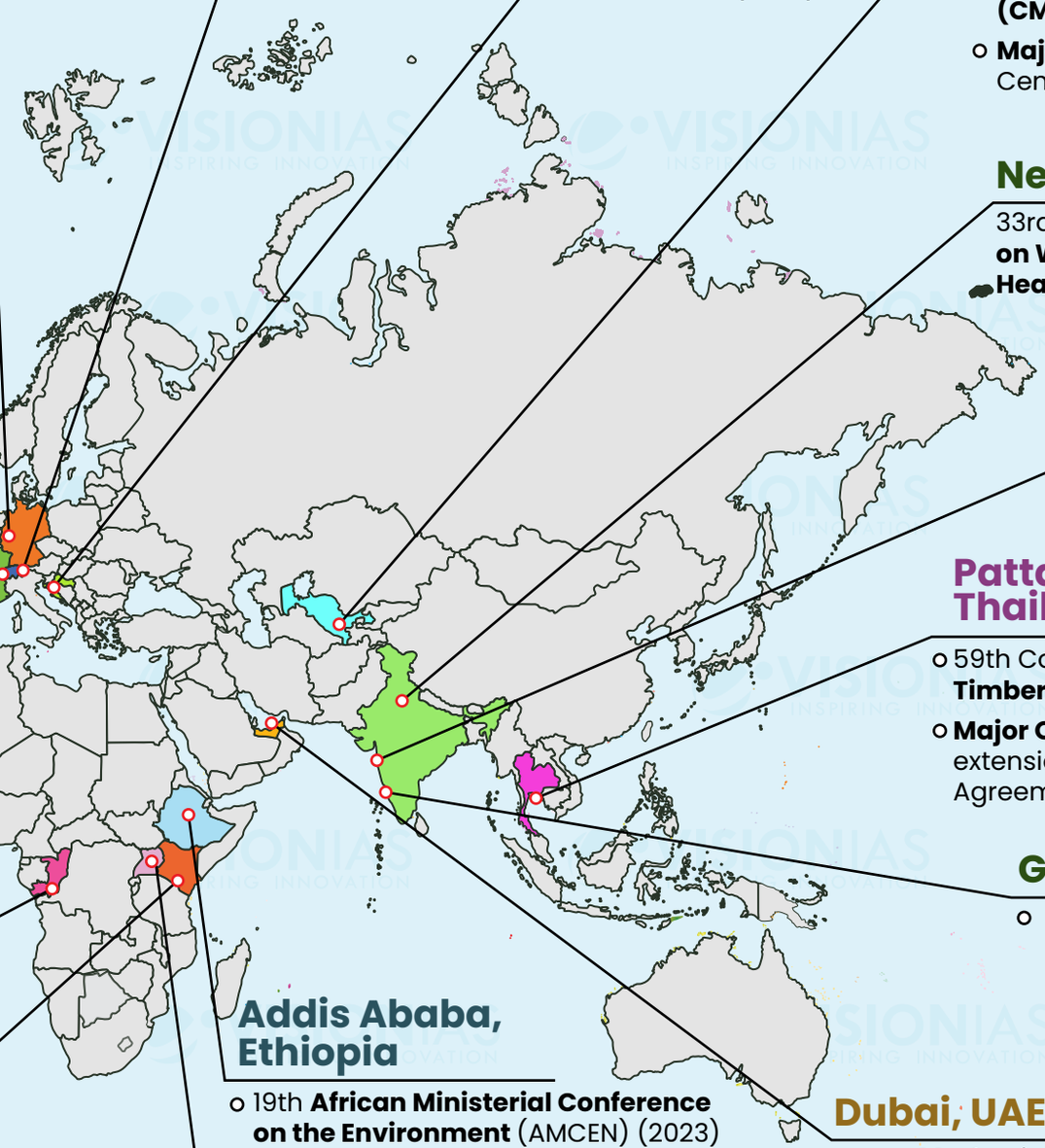
- **Amazon Summit** (2023)
- **Major Outcome:** Belem Declaration

Brazzaville, Congo

- **Three Basins Summit** (2023)
- Founding Summit of the Amazon – Congo – Borneo – Mekong – Southeast Asia, Summit of the Three Basins, Biodiversity Ecosystems, and Tropical Forests (S3B EBFT)

Nairobi, Kenya

- 1st **Africa Climate Summit** (2023)
- **Major Outcome:** Adopted 'Nairobi Declaration'



Davos, Switzerland

First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting of the World Economic Forum (2023)

Portorož, Slovenia

COP 23 of **Barcelona Convention** (2023)

Samarkand, Uzbekistan

- COP14 to **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** (2024)
- **Major Outcome:** Initiative for Central Asian Flyway

New Delhi, India

33rd **Conference on World Animal Health** (2023)

Mumbai, India

G20 4th **Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group** (ECSWG) meeting (2023)

Pattaya, Thailand

- 59th Council session of **International Tropical Timber Organisation** (ITTO) (2023)
- **Major Outcome:** Timeline for decision on extension of the International Tropical Timber Agreement

Goa, India

- 4th **Clean Energy Ministerial** (CEM14) and 8th **Mission Innovation** (MI-8) meeting (2023)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- 19th **African Ministerial Conference on the Environment** (AMCEN) (2023)
- **Major Outcome:** Addis Ababa Declaration

Dubai, UAE

- COP28 of **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) (2023)
- **Major Outcome:** Loss and Damage fund operationalized

Kampala, Uganda

- High-Level Inter-Ministerial Conference on **Migration, Environment, and Climate Change** (MECC) (2022)
- **Major Outcome:** Adopted 1st Regional Kampala Ministerial Declaration on MECC

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3.2 PROTECTED AREAS IN INDIA

3.2.1 TIGER RESERVES

Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve (DKTR), Rajasthan

Context: NTCA accords final approval to DKTR.

- 5th TR from Rajasthan
- **River:** Chambal

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh

Context: Female Tiger found in its buffer zone.

- Located along **India-Nepal border**
- **CA|TS recognized**
- **Important Bird Area**

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan

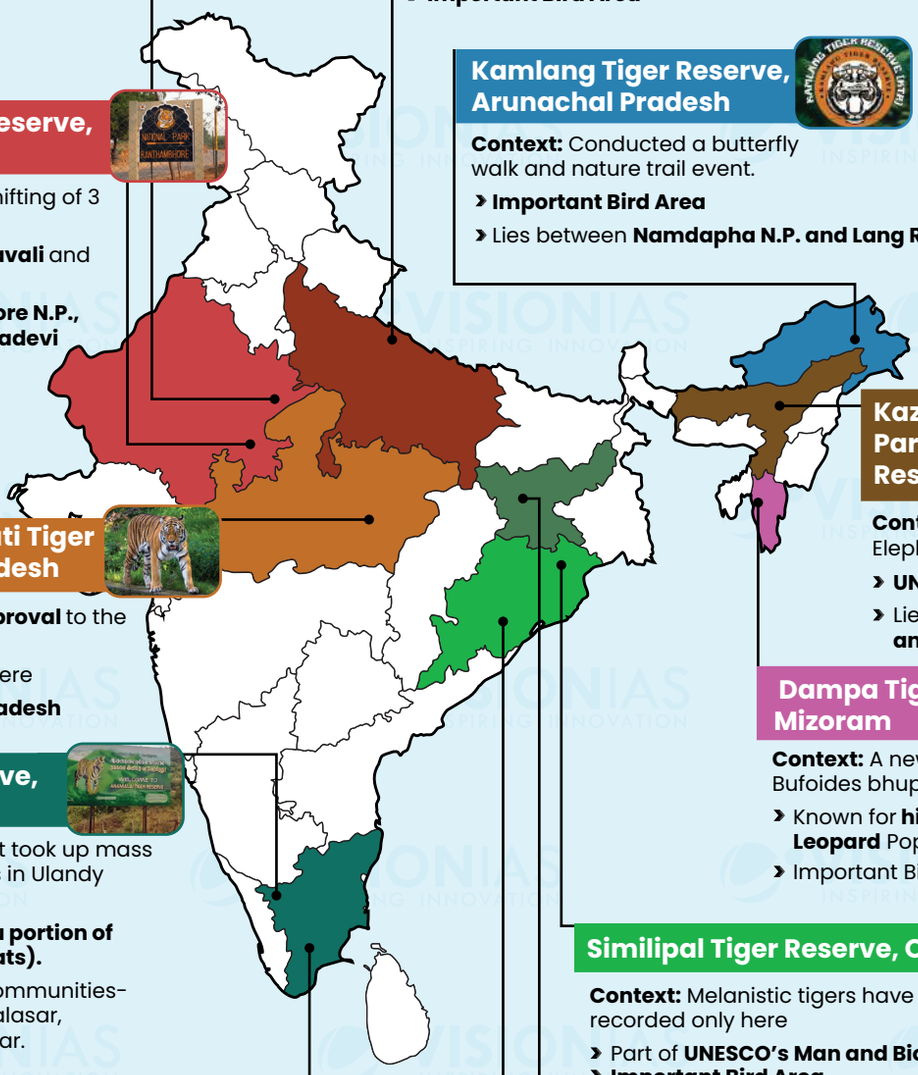
Context: NTCA approved shifting of 3 tigers

- Located at junction of **Aravali** and **Vindhya hill** ranges.
- Comprises of **Ranthambore N.P., Sawai Mansingh** and **Keladevi W.S.**

Kamlang Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh

Context: Conducted a butterfly walk and nature trail event.

- **Important Bird Area**
- Lies between **Namdapha N.P. and Lang River**



Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam

Context: 30 years of Project Elephant commemorated here.

- **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- Lies between **Brahmaputra and Karbi Anglong hills**

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

Context: NTCA accords **approval** to the Tiger reserve.

- Singorgarh Fort located here
- To be **7th TR in Madhya Pradesh**

Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mizoram

Context: A new species of toad Bufoides bhupathyi was found

- Known for **high density of Clouded Leopard** Population
- Important Bird Area

Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu

Context: Forest Department took up mass removal of invasive species in Ulandy range in its core area

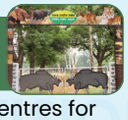
- Carved out of **Tamil Nadu portion of Anamalais (Western Ghats).**
- Home for **6 indigenous** communities- Malai Malasars, Kadar, Malasar, Muduvan, Pulayar, Eravallar.
- **CA|TS recognized**

Similipal Tiger Reserve, Odisha

Context: Melanistic tigers have been recorded only here

- Part of **UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program**
- **Important Bird Area**

Palamau Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand



Context: Four soft-release centres for Cheetals are under construction.

- **Part of Betla N.P.** and **Palamau W.S.**
- **Important Bird Area**

Kalakad TR or Kalakad Mundanthurai TR, Tamil Nadu

Context: Plea in Madras high court to restrict entry of outsiders inside KMTR

- Forms part of the **interstate (Kerala and TN) Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.**
- Established primarily for **conservation of Lion Tailed Macaque**
- **Important Bird Areas**

Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Odisha

Context: Tigers from Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves (Madhya Pradesh) relocated here.

- **River:** Mahanadi
- Part of Mahanadi Elephant Reserve

3.2.2 OTHER PROTECTED AREAS

Dachigam National Park, Jammu & Kashmir

Context: Entry suspended for 3 weeks on account of Hangul rutting season.

- Occupies almost half of the catchment zone of **Dal Lake**
- **Flagship Species:** Hangul

Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand

Context: : Decided to transfer approximately 50 Ha of land to Army and Indo-Tibetan Border

- Runs along the **India and China border**
- **Important Bird Areas**
- **Gaumukh glacier** (origin of river Ganga) located inside park

Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh

Context: Local Idu Mishmi tribes are opposing proposal of a tiger reserve here

- **River:** Dibang River (tributary of Bhramaputra)
- Part of **Dibang B.R.,** one of world's major bio-diversity hotspots

Lemru elephant reserves, Chhattisgarh

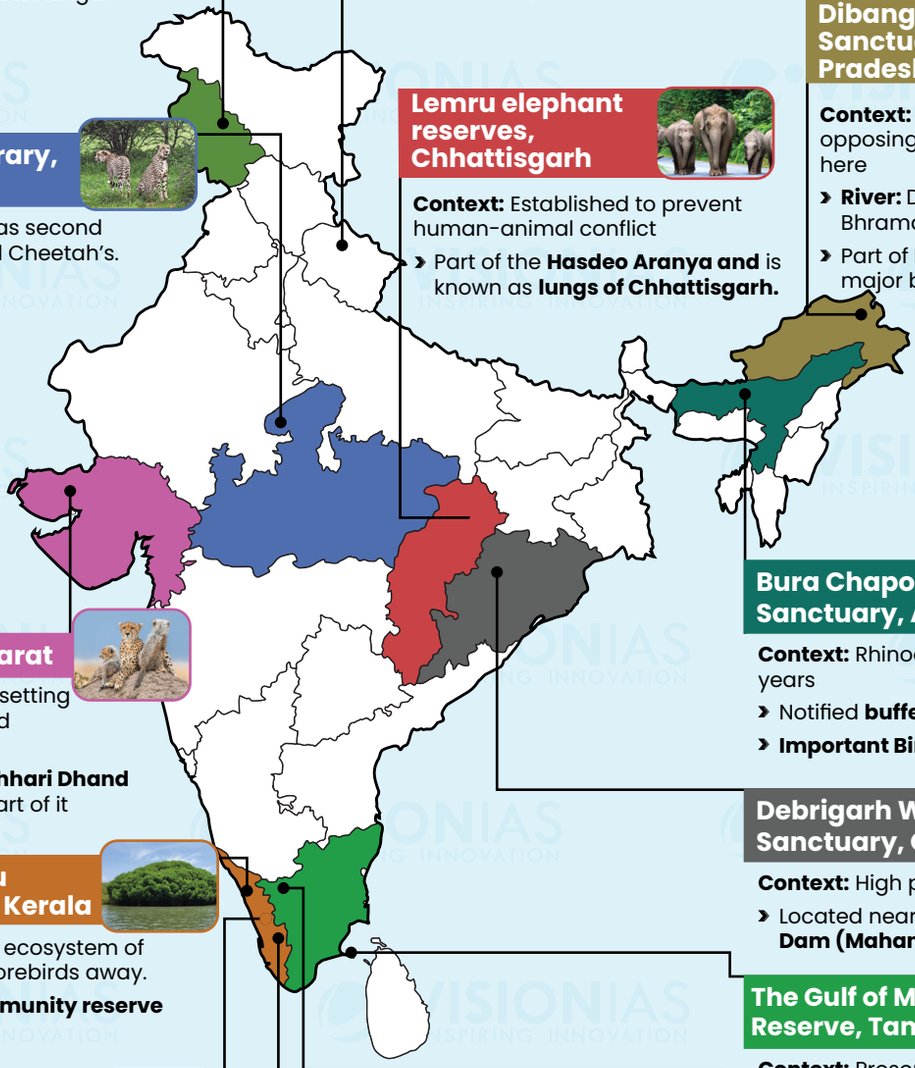
Context: Established to prevent human-animal conflict

- Part of the **Hasdeo Aranya and** is known as **lungs of Chhattisgarh.**

Gandhisagar Sancturary, Madhya Pradesh

Context: To be developed as second home for the trans-located Cheetah's.

- **River:** Chambal



Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam

Context: Rhinoceros returned after 40 years

- Notified **buffer zone of Kazairanga T.R.**
- **Important Bird Area**

Banni Grassland, Gujarat

Context: Centre approved setting up a cheetah breeding and conservation centre.

- **Kutch Desert W.S.** and **Chhari Dhand Conservation Reserve** part of it

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha

Context: High prey density recorded

- Located near **reservoir of Hirakud Dam (Mahanadi River)**

Kadalundi Vallikunnu Community Reserve, Kerala

Context: Shrinking mudflat ecosystem of Kadalundi river keeping shorebirds away.

- India's 1st **river front community reserve**

The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, Tamil Nadu

Context: Prosopis Chilensis (invasive species) threatening native vegetation

- **1st Marine Biosphere Reserve** in South and South-East Asia.
- Has 3 distinct Coastal ecosystems i.e. **coral reef, seagrass bed and mangroves**

Parambikulam reserve, Kerala

Context: Kerala HC ordered translocation of wild tuske here.

- Lies between Anamalai and Nelliampathy hills
- Houses **one of world's largest and oldest teak** tree- Kannimara

Eravikulam National Park, Kerala

Context: Got its first fernarium.

- **Anamudi peak** (South India's highest peak) situated on its south
- Houses special **Neelakurinji flowers** (blooms once every 12 years)

Mukurthi National Park, Tamil Nadu

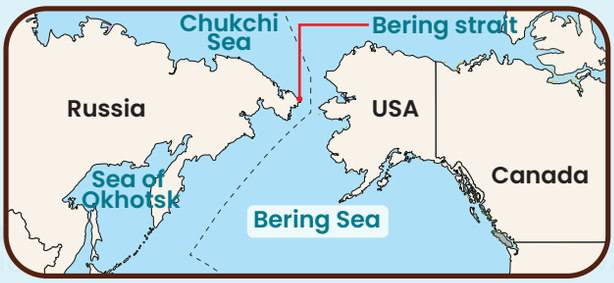
Context: Police increased vigil to curb poaching.

- Shares borders **with Mudumalai N.P. and Silent Valley N.P.**
- **Important Bird Area**

3.3 Water Bodies (Global)

Bering Sea

- **Context**: Decline in Sea ice
  - Marginal sea in **North Pacific Ocean**
  - Separates Asia and North America.
  - Boundary between **USA and Russia** passes through it.
  - Has about **16 submarine canyons**



Kawah Ijen Crater lake, Indonesia

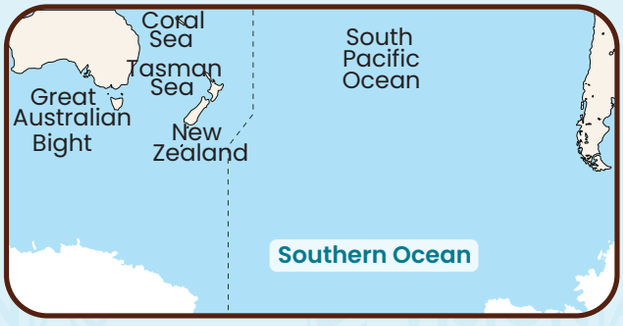
- **Context:** Optical images taken (Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission)
  - A **volcanic crater lake** (Turquoise coloured)
  - Part of larger Ijen volcano complex
  - **World's Largest acidic lake.**

Lake Victoria

- **Context:** Extreme Climatic events to intensify
  - **Largest lake in Africa**
  - **World's 2nd largest fresh water** lake
  - Shoreline sha red by **Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.**

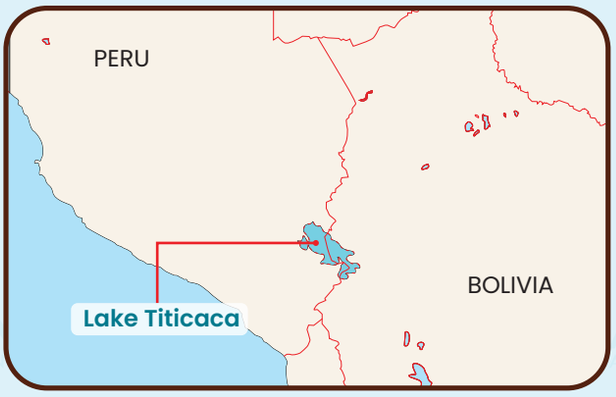
Southern Ocean

- **Context:** Commercial interests in the region are thwarting protection around Antarctica.
  - Only ocean that **touches three other ocean** (Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans)
  - Dominated by **Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC):** Longest, strongest, deepest-reaching current on earth.



Lake Titicaca

- **Context:** Shrinking due to climate change
  - **World's Highest navigable** water body
  - Located in **Andes Mountain** Ranges
  - Designated **Ramsar Site**



Panama Canal, Panama

- **Context:** Hit by a severe drought
  - Connects the **Atlantic and Pacific** ocean
  - Divides North and South America

Lake Retba, Senegal

- **Context:** On verge of disappearance
  - Also known as **Lac Rose** or **Pink Lake**
  - Pink in colour due to **algae Dunaliella salina.**
  - Devoid of life, except few algae and bacteria

Mekong River

- **Context:** A dam project on the river threatens World Heritage Site status of a downstream town in Laos
  - World's **12th longest river**
  - **Longest river in S.E Asia.**
  - Flows through **China, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia** and **Vietnam**

3.4 NATIONAL WATER BODIES

3.4.1 Lakes and other wetlands

Dal lake, Jammu and Kashmir

Context: Mass fish deaths due to temperature variations at different depths of lake

- Referred as **"Jewel in the Crown of Kashmir"**
- Famous for its floating gardens- **"Raad"**

Pangong Tso lake, Ladakh

Context: Both India and China are ramping up infrastructure on its north bank

- **World's highest salt water lake**
- **1/3rd Lake lies in India** and other 2/3rd in China

Kareri lake, Himachal Pradesh

Context: Tourists stranded due to heavy rain.

- High altitude, shallow, **freshwater lake**
- Lies **South of Dhauladhar range**

Kanwar lake (or Kabartal Wetland), Bihar

Context: Threat of running dry.

- **Ramsar site**
- **Oxbow lake,** formed from **Gandak river** (tributary of Ganga)

Harike wetland, Punjab

Context: Migratory birds arrived in significant numbers

- Lies at **confluence of Sutlej and Beas** rivers
- **Ramsar site**
- **Important bird area**

Deepor Beel, Assam

Context: Water sports and tourism-related activities being intended.

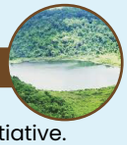
- **Permanent freshwater lake** formed in former channel of Brahmaputra
- **Ramsar Site**
- **Important bird area**

Bhoj Wetland, Madhya Pradesh

Context: NGT banned the operation of cruise boats

- Consists of 2 contiguous human-made reservoirs- **Bhojtal and Chhota Talaab**
- **Ramsar Site**
- **Important Bird Area**

Palak Lake, Mizoram



Context: Nature walk organized as part of LiFE initiative.

- Largest lake in Mizoram
- **Ramsar site**
- **Important bird area**

Vembanad Kole Wetland, Kerala

Context: Pink Bloom, an invasive alien species, flowering massively.

- **Ramsar Site**
- Kerala's famous **Annual Boat race** held here

Chilika Lake, Odisha

Context: 88 Bird species were found during annual summer survey

- Brackish water lake
- **Largest lagoon in India**
- **Ramsar Site**
- **Nalabana Bird Sanctuary** in the lake- an Important Bird Area

Pulicat lake, Andhra Pradsh

Context: Lesser flamingos found after 6 years.

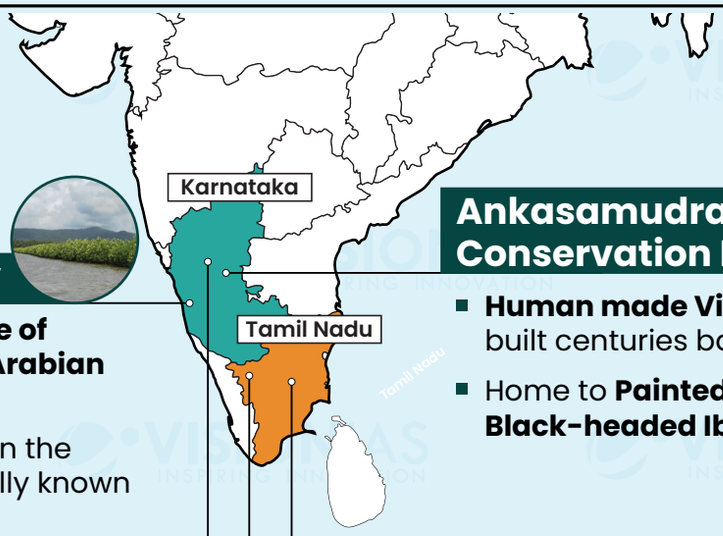
- Lies between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
- **Sriharikota island** separates it from Bay of Bengal
- **Annual Flamingo festival** celebrated here

Kolleru Lake, Andhra Pradesh

Context: Steps taken to declare eco-sensitive zones around lake.

- Located between Krishna and Godavari deltas
- **Ramsar site**
- **Important bird area**

3.4.2 New Ramsar sites in India



Aghanashini Estuary

- Formed **at the confluence of Aghanashini River with Arabian sea.**
- **Traditional fish farming** in the estuarine rice fields (locally known as ***Gazni rice fields***).

Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve

- **Human made Village Irrigation Tank** built centuries back.
- Home to **Painted Stork and Black-headed Ibis.**

Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve

- **Human-made wetland** constructed **to store rainwater** for irrigation purposes.
- One of the **largest wintering grounds** for the **Bar-headed goose in Southern India.**

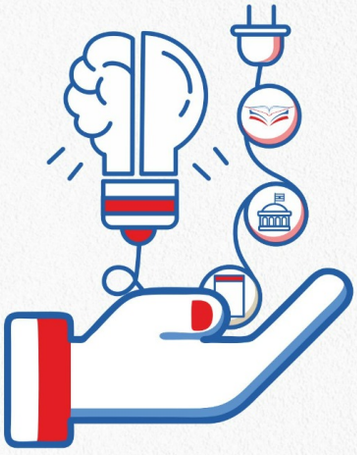
Karaivetti Bird sanctuary

- Home to **Pin-tailed duck,** Garganey, **Northern Shoveler,** Common Pochard, **Eurasian Wigeon,** Common teal and Cotton teal.
- Important Bird Area

Longwood Shola Reserve Forest

- **Forested wetlands** serve as habitats for **Black-chinned Nilgiri Laughing thrush, Nilgiri Blue Robin, Nilgiri Wood-pigeon.**
- Important Bird Area

OPTIONAL SUBJECT CLASSES



» Anthropology
» Geography
» Philosophy
» Sociology
» Public Administration
» Political Science and International Relations

Starts : 2 JULY, 5 PM

3.4.3 Dams and other river projects

Pong Dam, Himachal Pradesh

Context: Draft notification issued **for Eco-Sensitive Zone**

- Constructed across **Beas river.**
- Highest earth fill dam in India

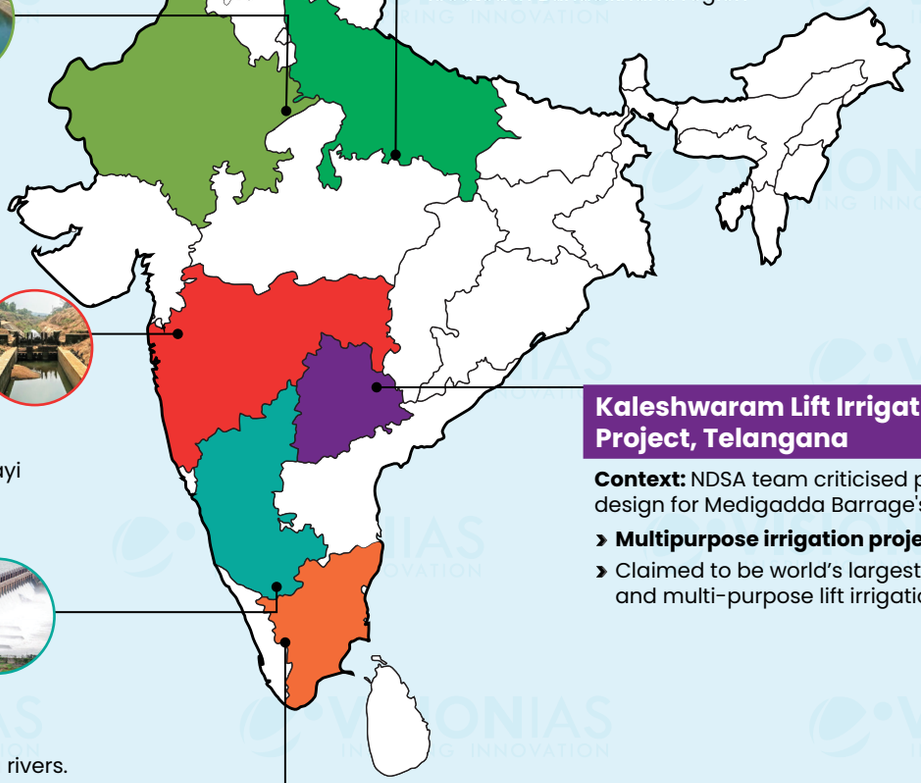
Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)

Context: Secured final forest clearance.

- **India's 1st river linking project** located in Bundelkhand region

Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal-Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (PKC-ERCP)

Context: MoU signed for its implementation



Kalasa-Banduri project

Context: Tenders floated for project without obtaining clearances

- Aims to divert water from Mahadayi River (Goa) to Malaprabha Rive (Karnataka)

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, Telangana

Context: NDSA team criticised project's design for Medigadda Barrage's failure.

- **Multipurpose irrigation project** on **Godavari River**
- Claimed to be world's largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation project

Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam, Karnataka

Context: Karnataka HC, bans mining neat KRS dam

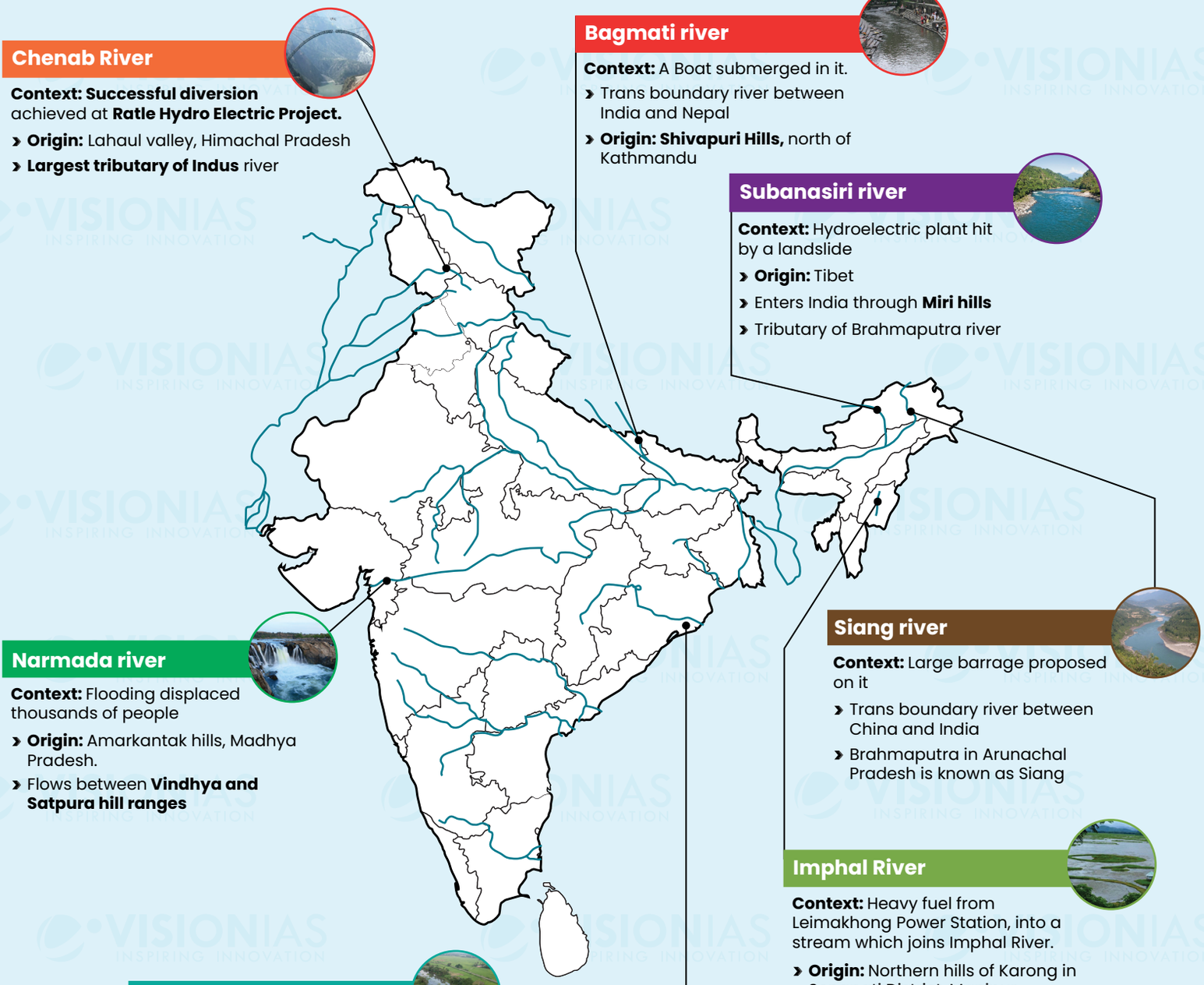
- Built near confluence of Cauvery, Hemavathi and Lakshmana Tirtha rivers.

Mullaperiyar Dam

Context: Survey of India to determine encroachment against Periyar Lake Lease Agreement (1886)

- Diverts waters to Tamil Nadu
- Lies in Kerala but operated & maintained by Tamil Nadu

3.4.4 Rivers



Chenab River

Context: Successful diversion achieved at **Ratle Hydro Electric Project.**

- **Origin:** Lahaul valley, Himachal Pradesh
- **Largest tributary of Indus** river

Bagmati river

Context: A Boat submerged in it.

- Trans boundary river between India and Nepal
- **Origin: Shivapuri Hills,** north of Kathmandu

Subanasiri river

Context: Hydroelectric plant hit by a landslide

- **Origin:** Tibet
- Enters India through **Miri hills**
- Tributary of Brahmaputra river

Narmada river

Context: Flooding displaced thousands of people

- **Origin:** Amarkantak hills, Madhya Pradesh.
- Flows between **Vindhya and Satpura hill ranges**

Siang river

Context: Large barrage proposed on it

- Trans boundary river between China and India
- Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh is known as Siang

Imphal River

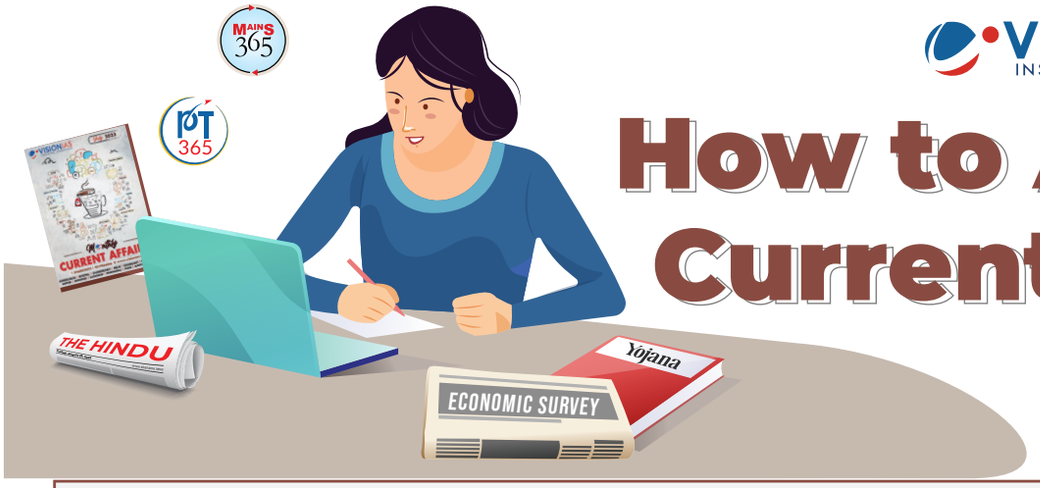
Context: Heavy fuel from Leimakhong Power Station, into a stream which joins Imphal River.

- **Origin:** Northern hills of Karong in Senapati District, Manipur
- Contributes to formation of **Loktak Lake**

Sukapaika river

Context: State government has decided to rejuvenate it.

- Distributary of **river Mahanadi**
- River dried due to development of Taladanda Canal System



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How to Approach Current Affairs?

Current affairs form the cornerstone of civil services exam preparation, permeating all its phases - Prelims, Mains, and the Interview. Exam questions are increasingly drawn from dynamic sources, intertwining directly with current occurrences or bridging static content with present events. In this context, staying updated with current affairs equips aspirants to navigate the evolving landscape of the civil services exam. Candidates can transform this vast section into a strong advantage with the right resources and a strategic approach.

Scan this QR code to watch video

A Dual-Layered Strategy for Current Affairs

Strengthening Your Foundation

Newspaper Reading: The Foundation
Devote an hour daily to reading newspapers for a comprehensive understanding of global and national events.

News Today: Context Simplified
Complement daily newspaper reading with News Today, offering a concise overview of current affairs in 180 or 80 words. This resource aids aspirants in identifying crucial news, understanding technical terms, and grasping phenomena.

Monthly Current Affairs Magazine: In-Depth analysis
Dive into the Monthly Current Affairs Magazine for comprehensive coverage and detailed analysis of events. This facilitates understanding the context, significance, and implications of various events across diverse areas.

Mastering the Preparation & Revision

Weekly Focus: Strengthening Foundations
Refer to Weekly Focus to solidify your understanding of a topic, covering static and dynamic components along with various aspects and dimensions of a major issue.

Highlights & Summary Documents of Economic Survey and Budget
Gain key insights from summary documents of the Economic Survey and Union Budget, distilling complex information into a compact format for easy comprehension.

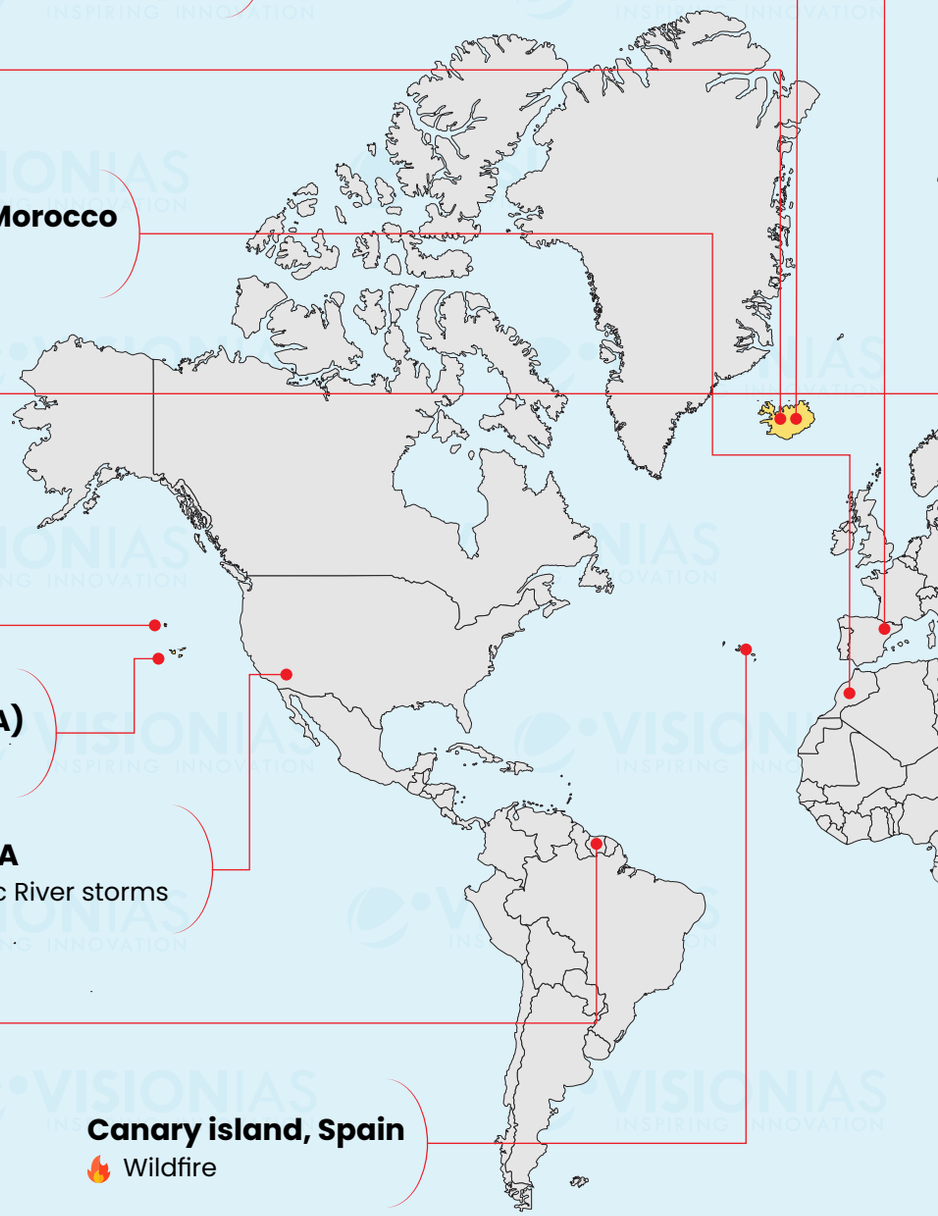
PT 365 & Mains 365: Enhancing performance in the examination
Utilize PT 365 and Mains 365 for continuous current affairs coverage throughout the year, aiding in revision for both Prelims and Mains examinations.

The Quarterly Revision Document of Vision IAS is useful resource for students who have missed reading monthly updates for 2-3 months. It supports on going learning by providing a summary of key developments.

Scan this QR code to read brochure

"Remember, Current Affairs is not just about memorisation but understanding the broader implications and interlinkages of events. Approach it with curiosity; over time, it becomes less of a chore and more enlightening experience.

3.5 Disasters (Global)



Iceland
Earthquake Swarms

Catalonia
Drought

Reyjkanes peninsula, Iceland
Volcanic eruption

Atlas Mountains, Morocco
Earthquake

Mt.Etna Volcano, Italy
Volcanic eruption

Kilauea volcano, Hawaii (USA)
Volcanic eruption

Maui, Hawaii (USA)
Wildfire

California, USA
Atmospheric River storms

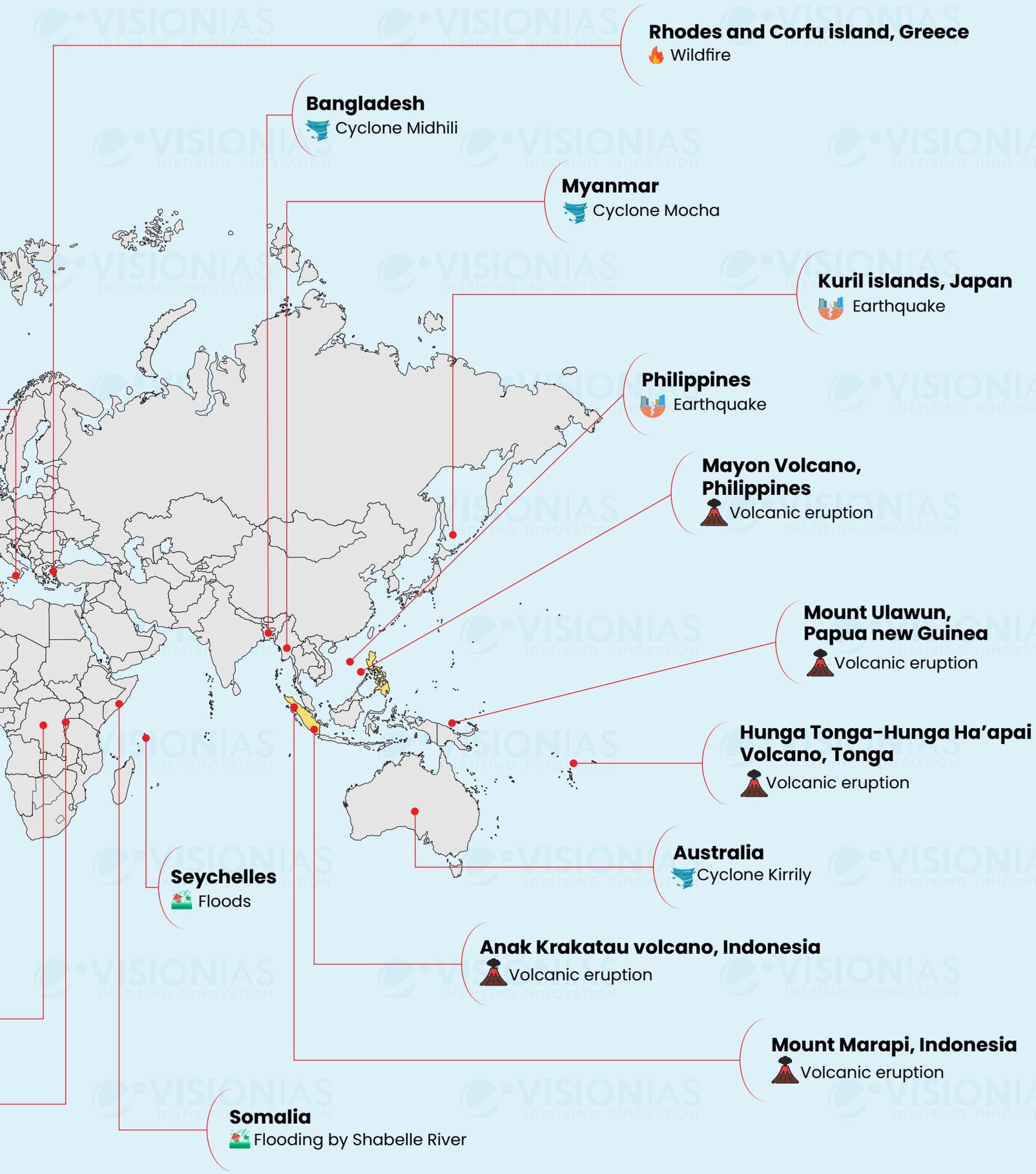
Suriname
Illegal gold Mine collapse

Canary island, Spain
Wildfire

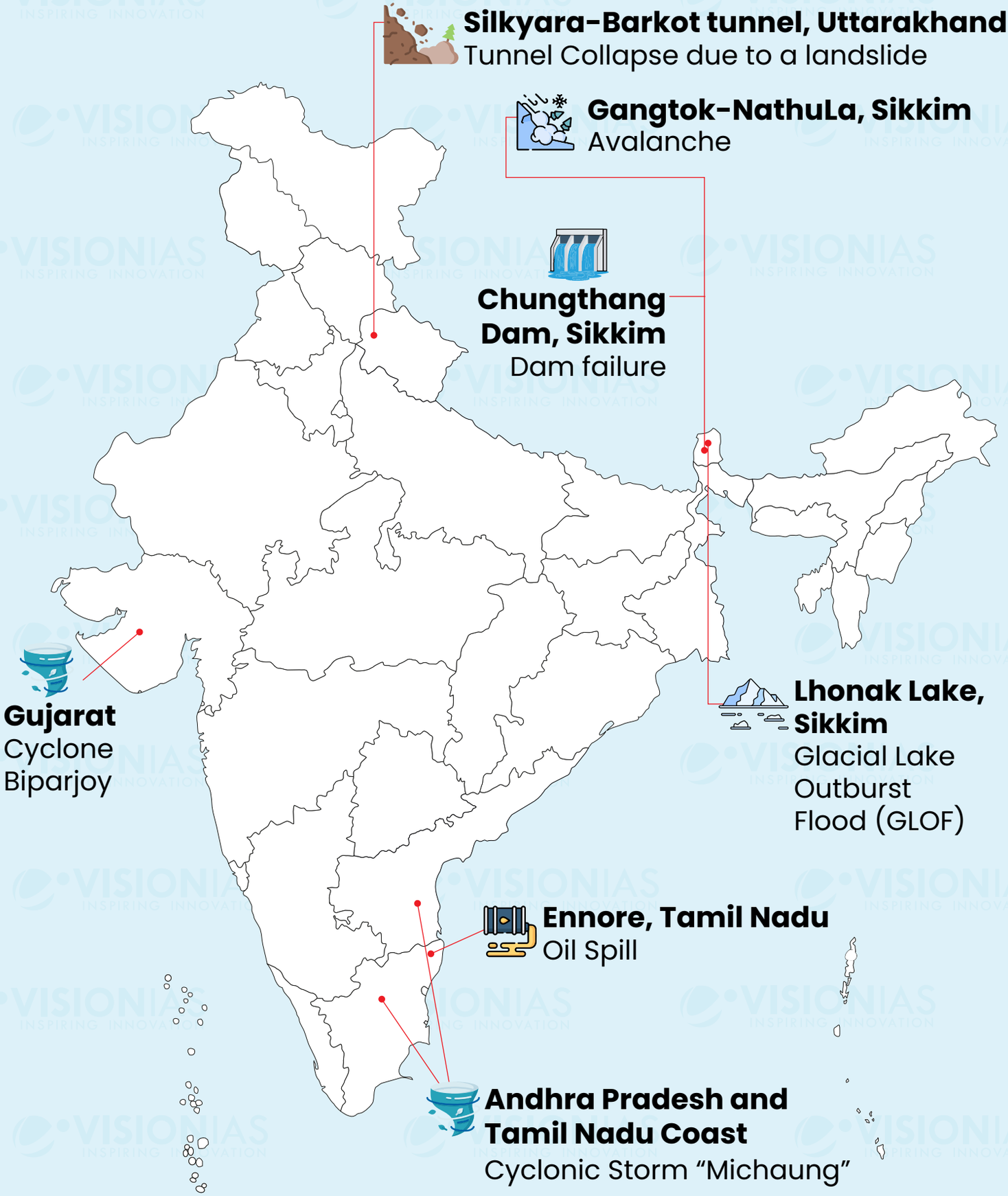
Earthquake	Cyclone
Volcanic eruption	Floods
Illegal gold Mine collapse	Atmospheric River storms
Wildfire	Drought

Democratic Republic of Congo
Floods

Rwanda
Floods


Rhodes and Corfu island, Greece
Wildfire
Bangladesh
Cyclone Midhili
Myanmar
Cyclone Mocha
Kuril islands, Japan
Earthquake
Philippines
Earthquake
Mayon Volcano, Philippines
Volcanic eruption
Mount Ulawun, Papua new Guinea
Volcanic eruption
Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai Volcano, Tonga
Volcanic eruption
Australia
Cyclone Kirrily
Seychelles
Floods
Anak Krakatau volcano, Indonesia
Volcanic eruption
Mount Marapi, Indonesia
Volcanic eruption
Somalia
Flooding by Shabelle River

3.6 Disaster affected areas (India)



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Smart and Effective Notes Making for UPSC CSE

Principles and Strategies

Why Notes Making?

Note-making for the UPSC exam is a strategic tool that significantly enhances an aspirant's ability to understand, retain, and revise the vast curriculum effectively. This personalized study aid helps in breaking down complex topics into digestible pieces, facilitating easier recollection and efficient last-minute revisions.

Principles of Notes Making

- **Personalize Notes:** Understand your learning style for effective customization which should be prepared in an integrated manner for both Prelims and Mains examination.
- **Format Choice:** Opt for digital, handwritien, or a hybrid approach based on learning ease.
- **Summarization and Organization:** Condense passages, use bullet points for clear organization.
- **Current Affairs Integration:** Enhance note relevance by integrating current affairs with static topics.
- **Language Precision:** Emphasize keywords, concepts, and examples; avoid complete sentences.

Scan to access Essential Learning **Resources.**

Smart Strategies for Effective Notes Making

Reliable Sources
Choose reputable sources that meet the demands of the examination.

Summarize and Organize
Highlight or underline important points while reading, then summarize these in your own words.

Link to the UPSC Syllabus
To ensure easy referencing of subject, topic, and subtopic for efficient exam preparation.

Integrate Visual Aids
Use diagrams, flowcharts, and mind maps to visualize complex relationships between topics.

Current Affairs
Create a dedicated section and link it to corresponding static topics for a comprehensive understanding.

Regular Revision
Frequently revisit your notes to reinforce your memory and improve your retention.

Use bullet points, headings, and subheadings to structure your notes clearly.

VisionIAS Smart Quality Content

Designed and developed for smooth understanding, learning, retention, and reproduction of content in the UPSC Examination. Further, it also facilitates smart and efficient note-making.

- **Simplified Complex Topics:** Makes tough subjects easier and more digestible for better understanding.
- **Up-to-date Information:** Offers latest, relevant study materials aligned with current exam requirements.
- **Analytical Skills Development:** Boosts essential critical and analytical thinking through quizzes.
- **Resource Optimization:** Uses infographics & smart presentations for more efficient time and resource utilization.
- **Enriched Presentation:** Utilizes thematic colors and tables for fast information identification and recall.

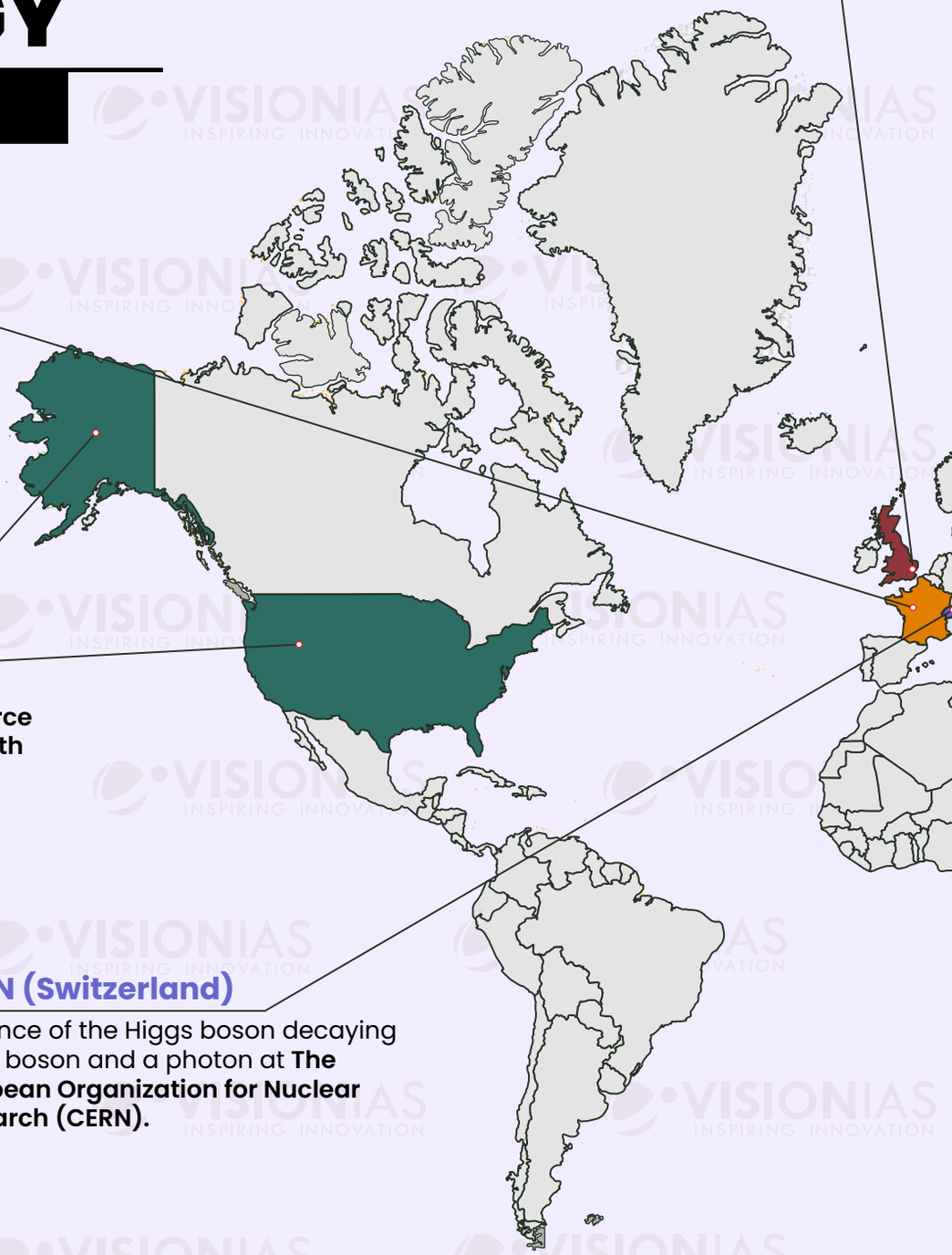
Scan to know more, **explore,** and **integrate the Smart Quality Content** in your learning.

4. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

4.1 World

Bletchley Declaration (United Kingdom)

Adopted at World's **first-ever AI Safety Summit,** recognises AI's potential to enhance human well-being as well as risks posed by AI including frontier AI.



White Hydrogen (France)

Large reservoir of **white hydrogen** has been **discovered. It** is also referred to as **"natural," "gold" or "geologic" hydrogen.**

OSIRIS-REx (US)

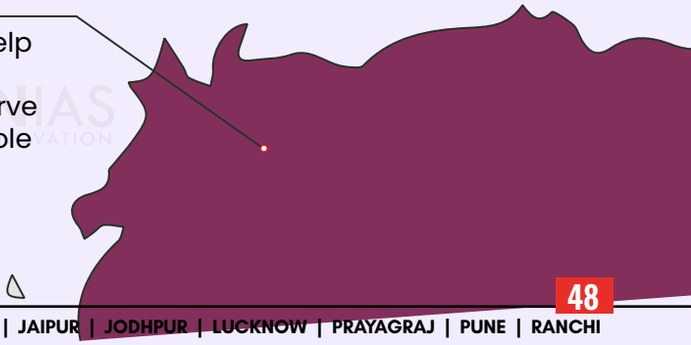
NASA's OSIRIS-Rex **(Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security- Regolith Explorer)**, asteroid samples capsule **from asteroid Bennu lands on Earth.**

CERN (Switzerland)

Evidence of the Higgs boson decaying into Z boson and a photon at **The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).**

IceCube Neutrino Observatory (Antarctica)

Neutrinos have been observed with the help of **IceCube Neutrino Observatory.** It is the **first detector** of its kind, designed to observe the cosmos from deep within the South Pole ice and searches for neutrinos.

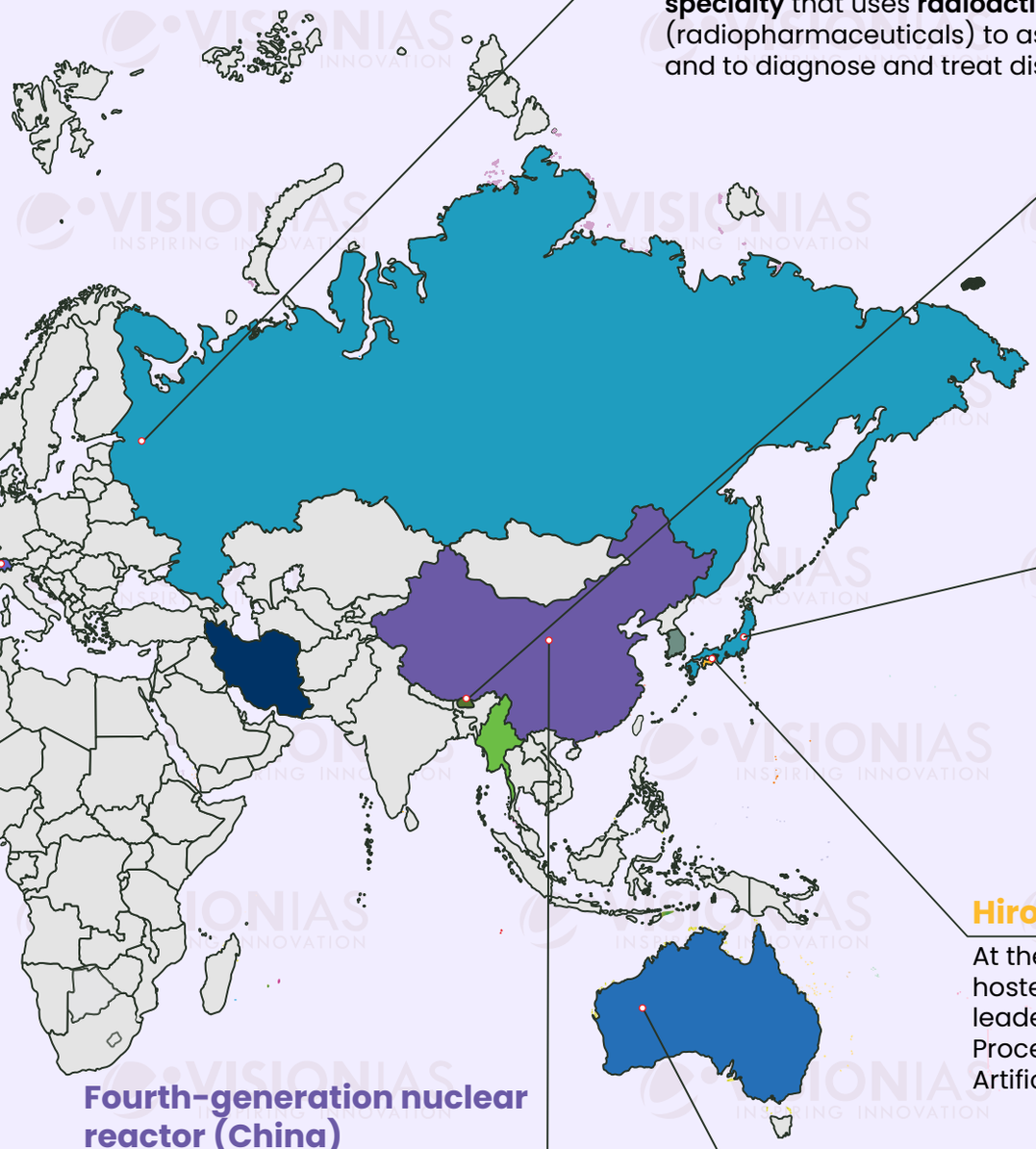


Nuclear Medicine (Russia)

Russia undertook an initiative **Nuclear Medicine** for BRICS collaboration. Nuclear Medicine a **medical specialty** that uses **radioactive tracers** (radiopharmaceuticals) to assess bodily functions and to diagnose and treat disease.

Crypto mining operations(Bhutan)

Bhutan and Singapore-based Bitdeer have announced plans to **raise $500 million to set up crypto mining operations in the Himalayas,** tapping into Bhutan's abundant hydroelectric power.



JT-60SA (Japan)

World's biggest experimental nuclear fusion reactor, forerunner for under-construction **International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).**

Hiroshima (Japan)

At the recent G7 summit, hosted by Japan, leaders-initiated Hiroshima AI Process (HAP) to regulate Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Fourth-generation nuclear reactor (China)

China starts world's first **fourth-generation nuclear reactor (small modular reactors, or SMRs).** SMRs are advanced nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit.

Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) (Australia)

India decided to **procure doses of Monoclonal Antibody from Australia.** Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) are **artificial antibodies** that **mimic the activity of our immune systems.**

4.2 India

Vanadium (Gujarat)

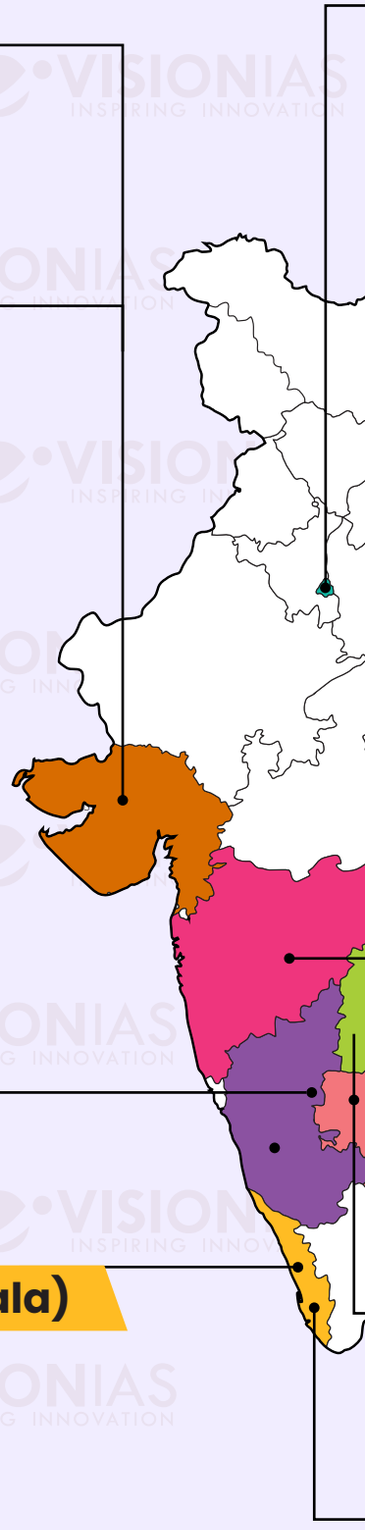
- Vanadium has been found in sediment collected from **Gulf of Khambhat,** Gujarat. Vanadium is a scarce element, hard, silvery grey, ductile and malleable transition metal.

Kakrapar-4 (Gujarat)

- Kakrapar-4 nuclear reactor attained criticality.
  - Criticality refers to a condition in nuclear reactor operations where the number of neutrons produced by fission reactions is sufficient to sustain a self-sustaining chain reaction.

3D printed Post Office (Karnataka)

- **India's first 3D printed post office** has been inaugurated in Bengaluru. 3D printing is an **additive manufacturing (AM) process** that involves printing small layers of material and then fusing them together to form a physical product.



India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG) (Kerala)

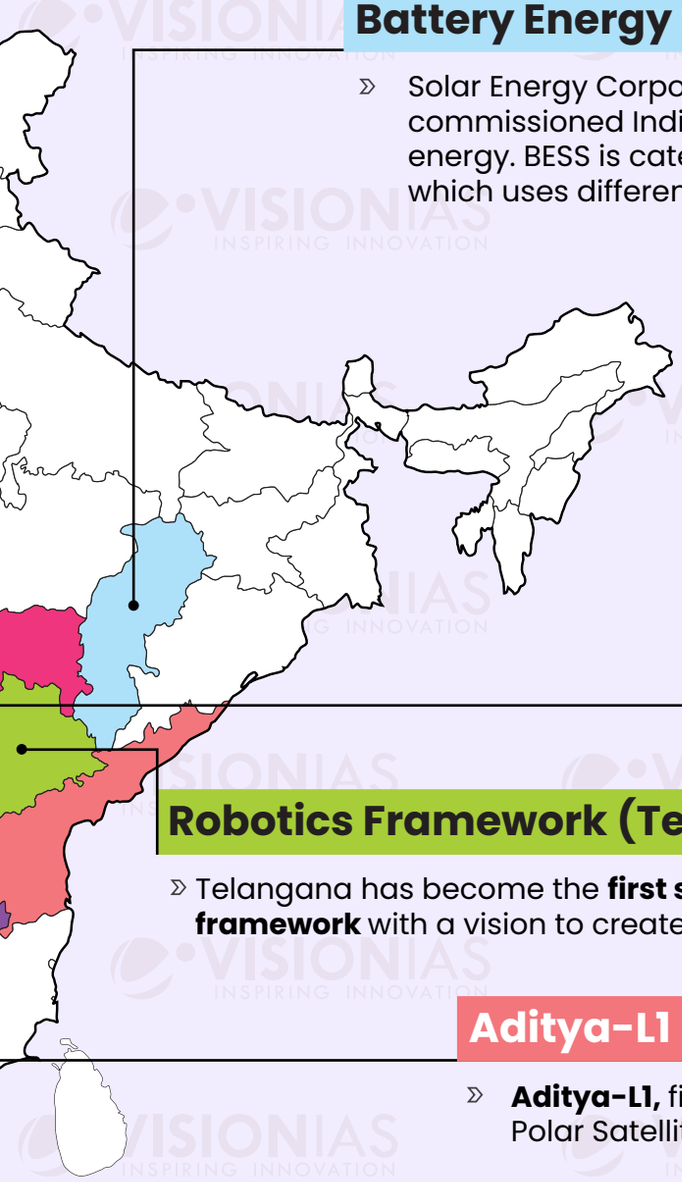
- **India's first** Graphene Centre "India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG) has been set up in Kochi. **IICG** aims to foster R&D, product innovation and capacity building in the area of Graphene and 2D material systems.

New Delhi Declaration (New Delhi)

- At the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) summit, New Delhi Declaration was adopted. Declaration aims **to mitigate risks** (unemployment, lack of transparency etc.) arising from **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** systems.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (Chhattisgarh)

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) successfully commissioned India's largest **BESS,** which stores energy using solar energy. BESS is categorized under the electrochemical storage system which uses different electrochemical reactions to store electricity.



LIGO-India (Maharashtra)

- Cabinet approved **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatories (LIGO)-India, gravitational-wave detector** to be built in Hingoli.

Robotics Framework (Telangana)

- Telangana has become the **first state** in the country to launch **a state robotics framework** with a vision to create a sustainable robotics ecosystem.

Aditya-L1 (Andhra Pradesh)

- **Aditya-L1,** first Indian **space mission to study sun,** was launched by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) - C57 from Sriharikota.

Nipah Virus (NiV) (Kochi, Kerala)

- Kerala has witnessed outbreak of NiV.
  - NiV is a zoonotic virus (transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.

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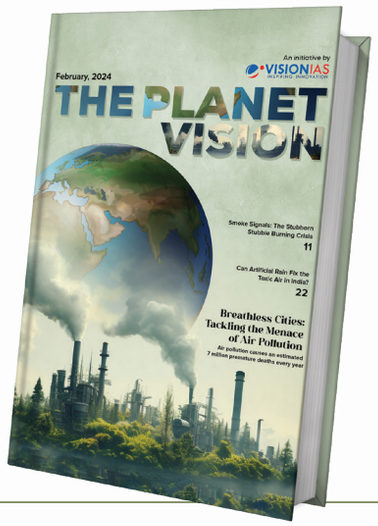
THE PLANET VISION



In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges, staying informed and empowered is more crucial than ever. VisionIAS brings you **'The Planet Vision'**, a simplified, informative, and interactive magazine to delve into the complexities of the environment.

With the belief, that individual efforts and awareness are the key to a sustainable future, the magazine seeks to inspire and educate people to **develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the environment, nature & planet.**

Objectives of 'The Planet Vision'

- **Sensitise the young generation:** Highlighting pressing environmental issues and their multifaceted impacts.
- **Inspire Action and Promote Sustainable Lifestyle:** Inspiring stories and case studies to motivate readers to make environmentally conscious choices.
- **Bridge Environmental Science and Public Understanding:** Presenting complex scientific concepts in a simple and interactive manner.
- **Showcase Solutions:** Spotlight innovative technologies, projects, and initiatives that offer solutions to environmental challenges.
- **Highlight Local Efforts:** Showcase local conservation efforts, community initiatives, and grassroots projects that make a positive impact on the environment.

Who is the magazine for?

The Magazine is designed for students, eco-conscious individuals, educators, environmentalists, and anyone who cares about the health of our planet.

Key elements of the 'The Planet Vision'

- **Cover Stories:** Thought-provoking articles about a critical ongoing environmental issue, along with the mitigation strategies adopted at the national and international levels.
- **Briefing and Developments:** Stay informed about the latest environmental news, trends, and solutions.
- **Protect and Preserve:** Inspirational stories of local conversation efforts.
- **Environment and You:** Illustrating ways to make environmentally conscious choices in everyday life.
- **Green Tech:** New and emerging technologies in the field of environment.
- **Interactive elements:**
  - **Snapshot:** Telling a story through capturing images.
  - **Quizzes and crosswords:** To test your understanding and knowledge as a reader.

> "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."
>
> -Albert Einstein

Scan the QR code, to download and read the Magazine:

5. CULTURE

5.1 Temple in News

Sharda Devi Temple

Navratri puja was held at the newly built Sharda Devi Temple close to the **Line of Control (LoC)** in Teetwal village in the Kupawara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Tungnath Temple

The world's highest Shiva temple, Tungnath, is tilting by 5 to 6 degrees, reveals ASI report.

Jageshwar Temple

Prime Minister visited Jageshwar Temple

Trimbakeshwar Temple

Devotees from different parts of the country visited the trimbakeshwar temple **to celebrate Mahashivratri.**

Konark Sun Temple

The mural of the iconic Konark Sun Temple wheel was showcased **to the World Leaders at the G20 Summit.**

Thirunelly Temple

The **temple dedicated to Vishnu** is being renovated.

Hoysaleshwara temple (Halebidu)

Keshava temple (Somanathapur)

Chennakeshava temple (Belur)

The Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalasin Karnataka, has been declared as **42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS).**

5.2 Key Cultural Sites

Sundargarh Natural Arch

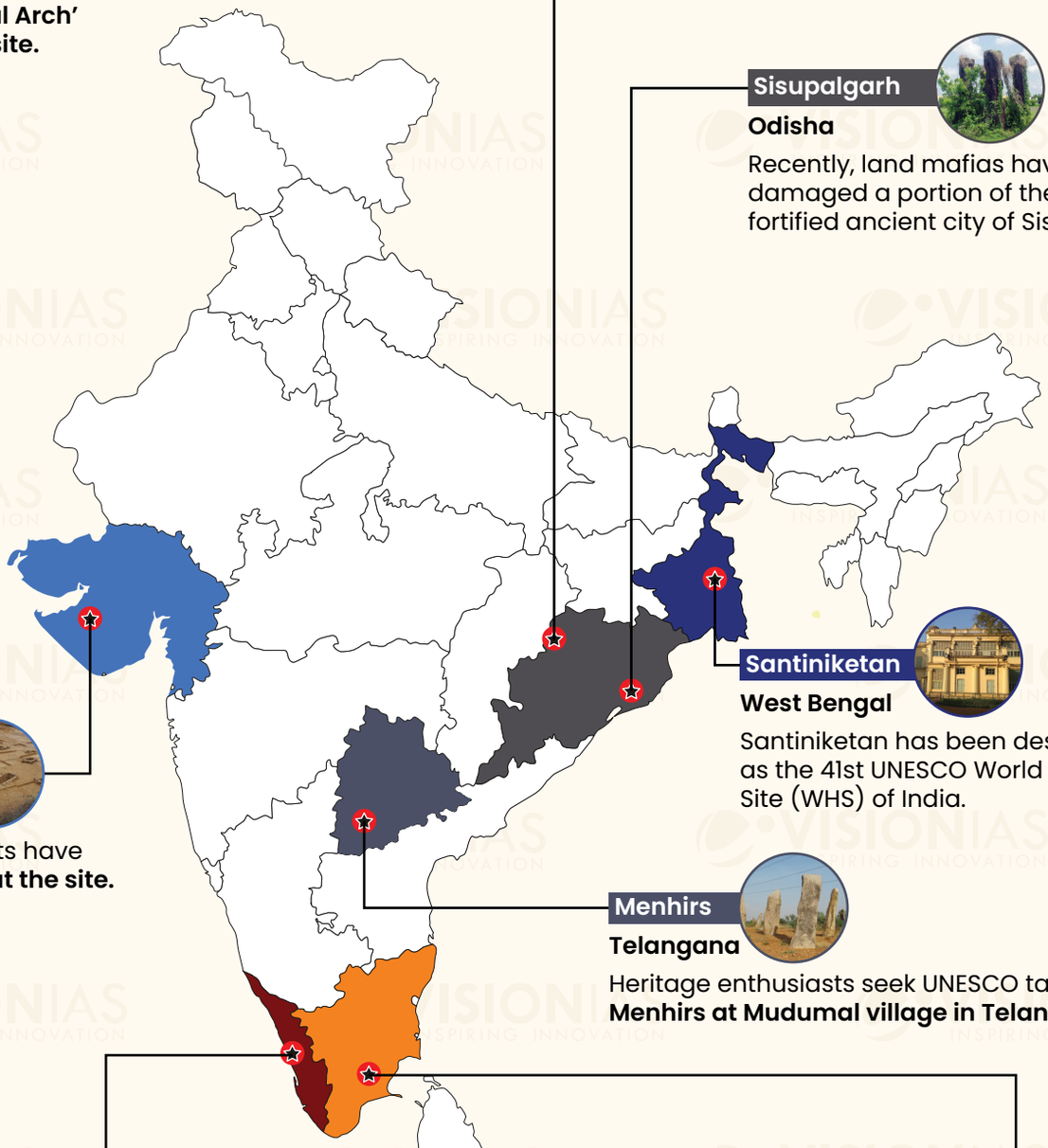
Odisha

Geological Survey of India (GSI) has proposed to declare the **'Natural Arch'** as **a Geo Heritage site.**

Sisupalgarh

Odisha

Recently, land mafias have damaged a portion of the wall of the fortified ancient city of Sisupalgarh.



Juna Khatiya Site

Gujarat

Since 2018, archaeologists have **discovered 500 graves at the site.**

Santiniketan

West Bengal

Santiniketan has been designated as the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) of India.

Menhirs

Telangana

Heritage enthusiasts seek UNESCO tag for **Menhirs at Mudumal village in Telangana.**

Thoppikkallu or Hat Stones

Kerala

A large number of **megalithic hat stones** were found at **Nagaparamba, near Thirunavaya in Malappuram district**

Keeladi Excavation

Tamil Nadu

Recently, archaeologists at Keeladi in Tamil Nadu, have unearthed a crystal quartz weighing unit from the Sangam era.

5.3 Festivals in News

Pushkaralu Festival

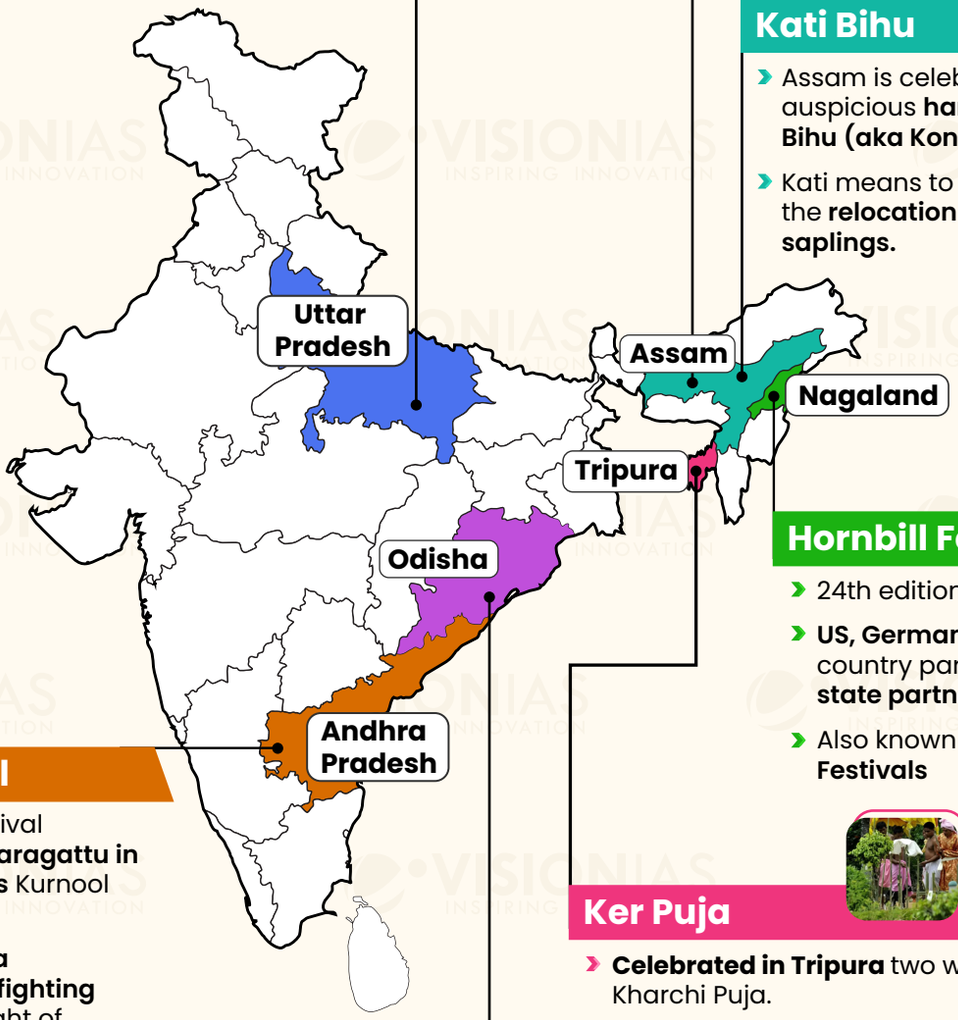
- **12-day Pushkaralu festival of Telugu-speaking people** commenced in Varanasi.
- Pushkaralu refers to the **worship of the 12 sacred rivers in which the god Pushkar appears every 12 years.**

Ambubachi mela

- Four day annual fair, at Kamakhya temple (one of 52 Shaktipeeths) located a top the **Nilachal hills,** Assam to mark the annual **menstruation of Goddess Kamakhya (reigning deity).**
- It is also considered as one of the prime seats **of Tantric rituals.**

Kati Bihu

- Assam is celebrating the auspicious **harvest festival of Kati Bihu (aka Kongali Bihu).**
- Kati means to cut and this marks the **relocation time of rice saplings.**



Hornbill Festival

- 24th edition started in Nagaland.
- **US, Germany and Columbia** are country partners **and Assam is state partner.**
- Also known as **Festivals of Festivals**

Banni Festival

- Annual Banni festival witnessed at **Devaragattu in Andhra Pradesh's** Kurnool district.
- **Banni Festival is a traditional stick-fighting festival** on the night of Vijayadasami.

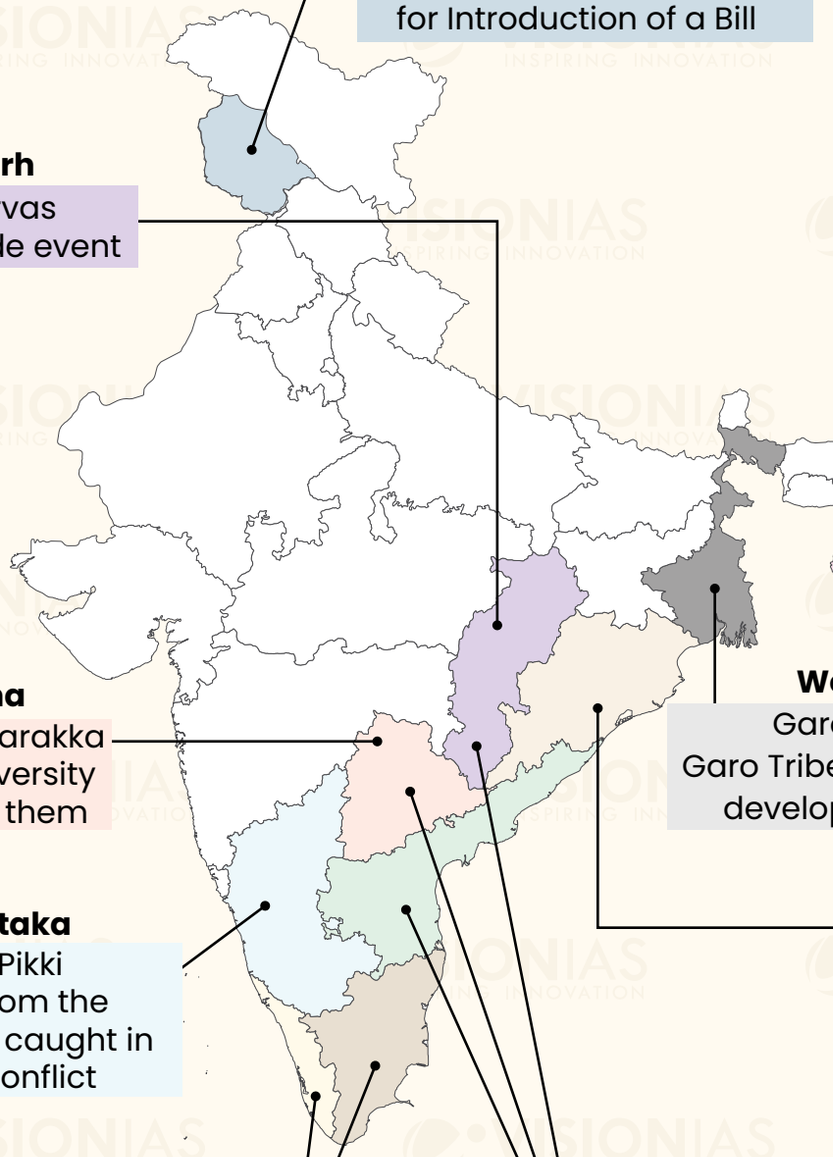
Ker Puja

- **Celebrated in Tripura** two weeks after Kharchi Puja.
- **People are not allowed to light fires,** dance, sing or even wear shoes.

Raja Parba

- **It** is a **3-day festival in Odisha to celebrate womanhood.**
- **It remarks the worship** Bhudevi **(wife of Lord Jagannath)**

5.4 Tribal Art and Culture



Jammu and Kashmir
Paharis and Paddaris Tribe
for Introduction of a Bill

Chattisgarh
Pahadi Korvas
for mass suicide event

Arunachal Pradesh
Idu Mishmi for
Dibang Tribal Reserve

Tripura
Borok
for Kokborok
Language

Telangana
Sammakka-Sarakka
for a new university
named after them

West Bengal
Garo Tribe (WB)
Garo Tribe in WB are facing
developmental issues

Odisha
Kondh/ Kandha Tribe
for Kui Language

Karnataka
Hakki Pikki
People from the
community caught in
Sudan conflict

Tamil Nadu and Kerala
Muthuvan Tribe
for Project Tiger

**Andhra Pradesh,
Odisha and Chhattisgarh**
Koya Tribe
for Permakore flute

5.5 GI Tags

Uttar Pradesh

Baghpat Home Furnishings

Sambhal Horn Craft

Jalesar Metal Craft

Mainpuri Tarkash

Traditional Attar Production

Kalpi Handmade Paper

Amroha Dholak

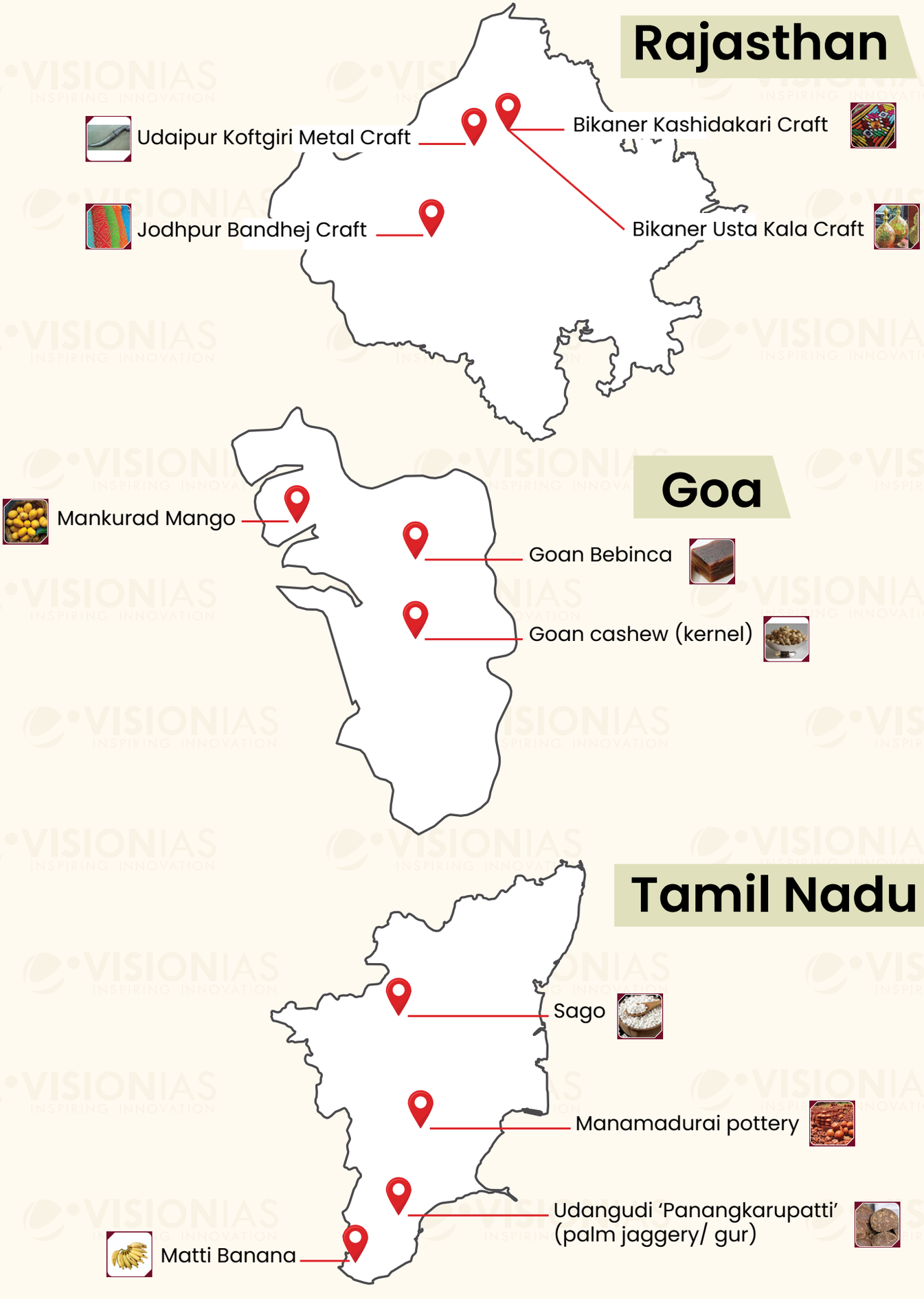
Barabanki handloom

Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastshilp

Karnataka

Lambani Embroidery Patches

Kari Ishad Mango


Rajasthan
Udaipur Koftgiri Metal Craft
Bikaner Kashidakari Craft
Jodhpur Bandhej Craft
Bikaner Usta Kala Craft
Goa
Mankurad Mango
Goan Bebinca
Goan cashew (kernel)
Tamil Nadu
Sago
Manamadurai pottery
Udangudi 'Panangkarupatti' (palm jaggery/ gur)
Matti Banana

Chhattisgarh

Assam

Telengana

Meghalaya

Ladakh

Ladakhs wood carvings

Sea Buckthorn

Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Yak Churpi

Handmade Carpets

Adi Kekir (Ginger)

Wancho Wooden Craft

Uttarakhand

Chamoli Wooden Ramman mask

Pahari toor Dal

Lal chawal

Chaulai (ramdana)

Burans

Ramgarh Nainital Aadu

Malta fruit

Ramnagar Litchi

Mandua

Likhai

Gahat

Rangwali Picchoda of kumaon

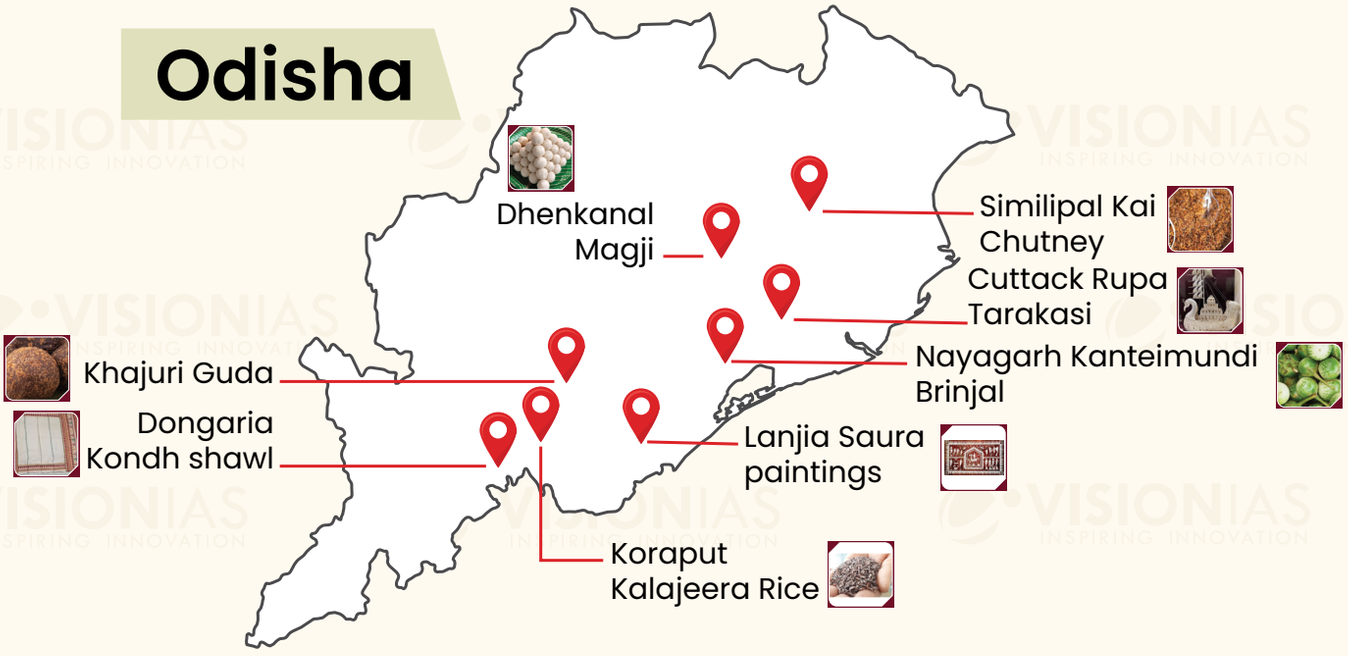
Berinag Tea

Bichhu buti fabrics

Kala Bhat

Mombati

Odisha



West Bengal

Gujarat

Jammu and Kashmir

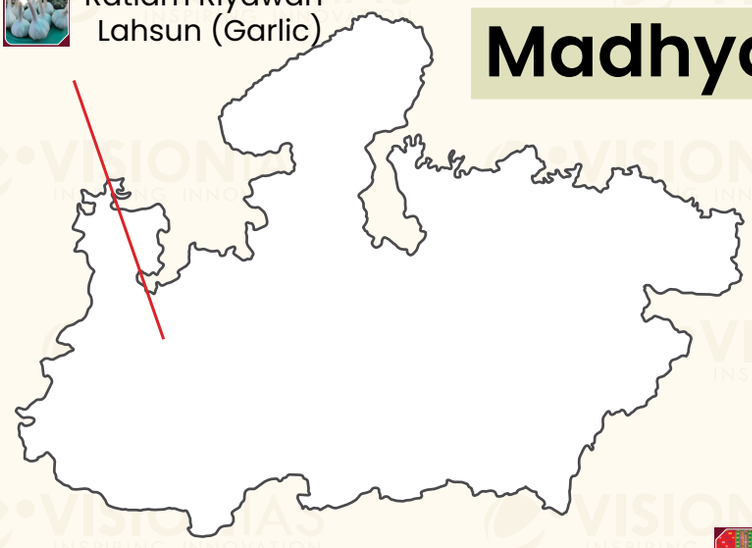
Ramban Anardana

Andhra Pradesh

Narasapur cro lace products

Ratlam Riyawan Lahsun (Garlic)

Madhya Pradesh



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