



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

26th December 2024



26th December 2024

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Ken-Betwa river-linking project in Madhya Pradesh's Khajuraho.

About Project

History of the Ken-Betwa interlinking project

- conceptualised in the 1980s
- March 22, 2021, a memorandum of agreement

- 221-km canal with a 2-km tunnel.
- 73.8-meter-high dam on Ken at Daudhan, Chhattarpur

proposed to be implemented in eight years.

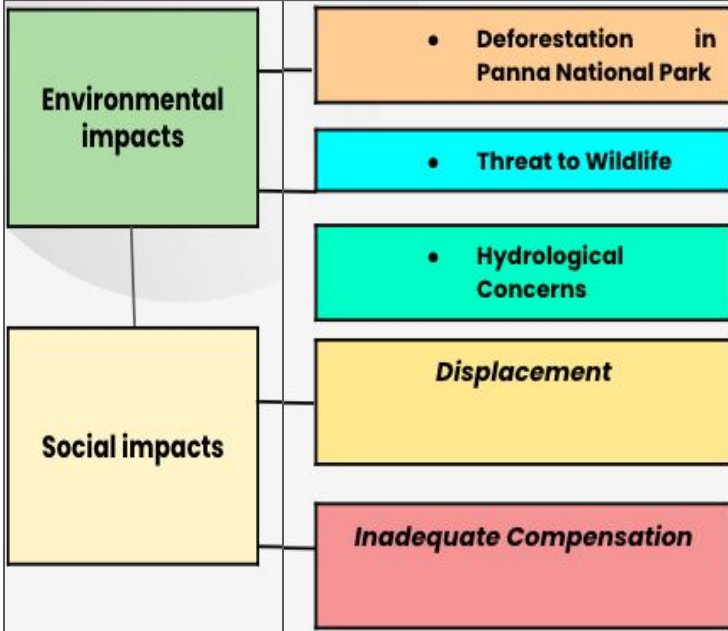


Ken-Betwa Link Project



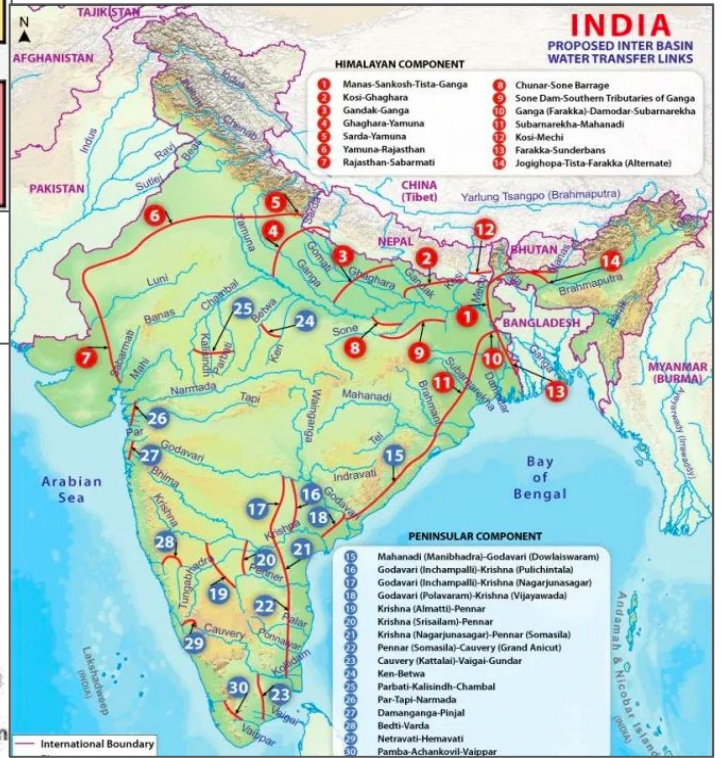
26th December 2024

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Ken-Betwa river-linking project in Madhya Pradesh's Khajuraho.

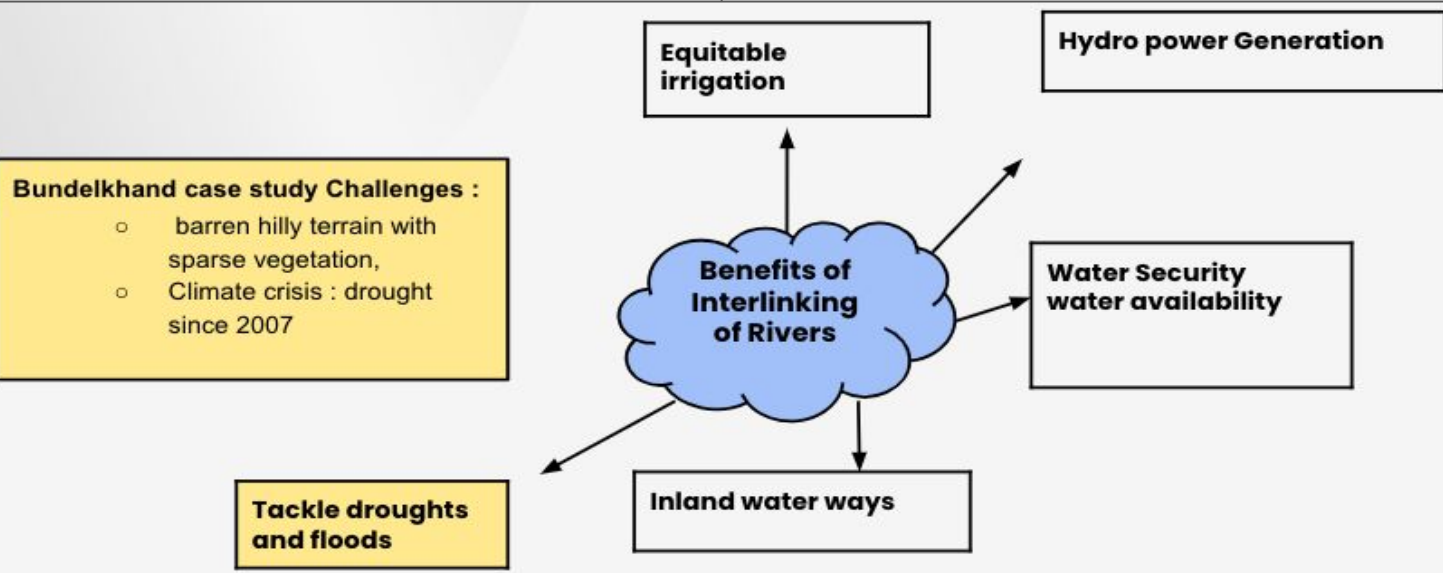
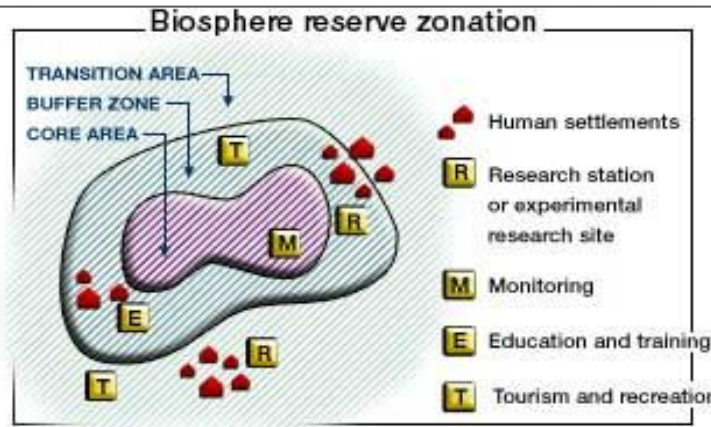


National Interlinking Project

- National Perspective Plan (NPP)
- Ministry of Irrigation
- 1980.
 - National Water Development Agency identified 30 links
- 2021
- Union Cabinet approved the implementation of Ken Betwa



Other Related Disputes



Ken-Betwa Link project launched

26th December 2024

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Ken-Betwa river-linking project in Madhya Pradesh's Khajuraho.

Controversies ?

- **Wildlife and Environmental Clearance:** The Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee (CEC) questioned the wildlife clearance and the project's economic viability.
- **Violation of Precedents:** The Union Environment Ministry approved **construction within the core of the Panna Tiger Reserve**, despite no precedent for such heavy infrastructure in national parks or tiger reserves.

Mains Practice Question

The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Examine. (250 words)



26th December 2024

CONTEXT: Reflections on the progress and gaps in response and strategy on 20th Anniversary of Indian Ocean Tsunami

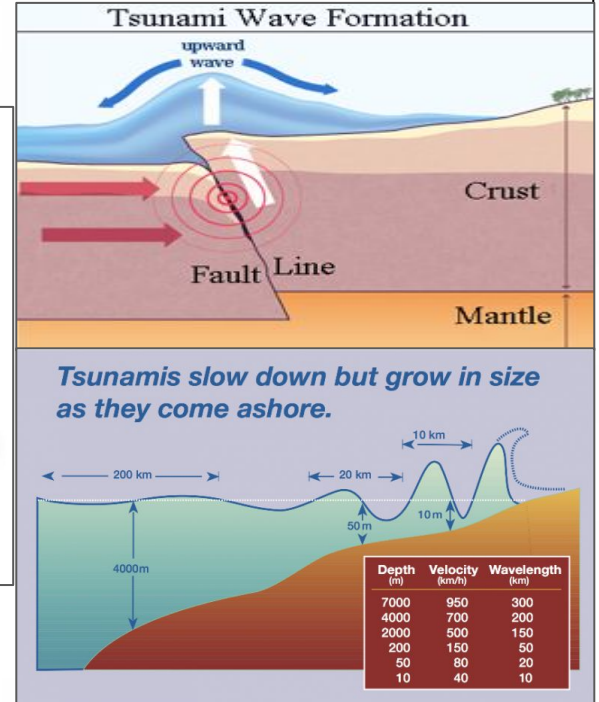
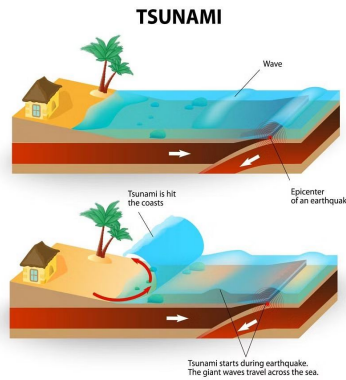
Tsunami: Points to Remember

series of waves of extremely long wavelengths and long periods

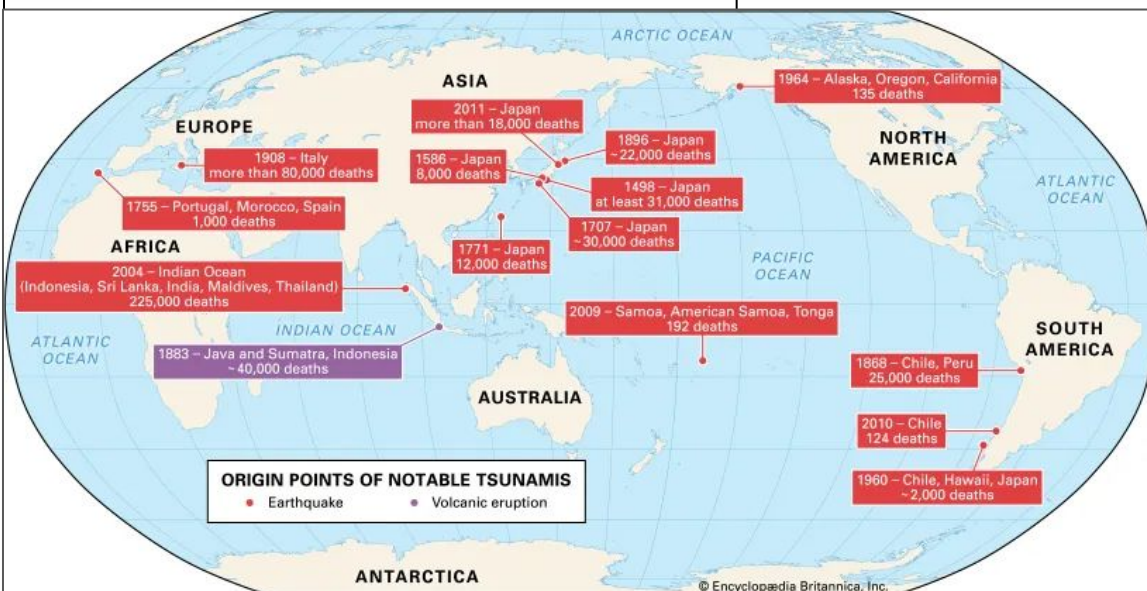
speed of the tsunami is related to the water depth : HLT Ratio

“shoaling” effect

frequency of tsunami is highest in the Pacific Ocean.



Wave Feature	Wind-Generated Wave	Tsunami Wave
Wave Speed	8-100 kmph	800-960 kmph
Wave Period	5 to 20 seconds apart	10 minutes to 2 hours apart
Wavelength	100-200 mts apart	100-500 kms apart



26th December 2024

CONTEXT: Reflections on the progress and gaps in response and strategy on 20th Anniversary of Indian Ocean Tsunami

Case study : Nagapattinam

A Watershed Moment: The Tsunami and Nagapattinam's Response

- **Impact on Nagapattinam**
- **Response Strategies**
 - Area-specific rescue teams
 - preventing disease outbreaks
 - temporary shelters
 - infrastructure
- **Holistic Rehabilitation**
 - 55,000 multi-hazard-resistant
 - Livelihood revival programs
 - efficient resource allocation
 - community involvement.

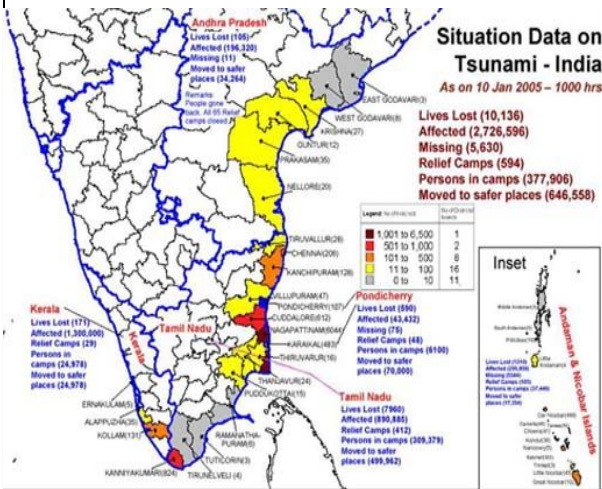


Diagram prepared by WRO India based on SITREP-XXVIII, 10 Jan 05, GOI, Min. of Home Affairs

Maps not to scale

Challenges and Learnings

Persistent Challenges:

Vulnerability and Inequalities

- Casualties
- Coastal Destruction
- Economic Losses
- Disease Spread
- Environmental Damage
- Psychological effects
- Disproportionate Impact on Marginalised Groups
- Gender-Specific Issues
- Social Structures and Relief Efforts

Building Long-Term Resilience

- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policy and Institutional Reforms**

Global Contrasts: Lessons from Haiti, Chile, and Japan

- **Haiti (2010 Earthquake)**
- **Chile**
- **Japan**

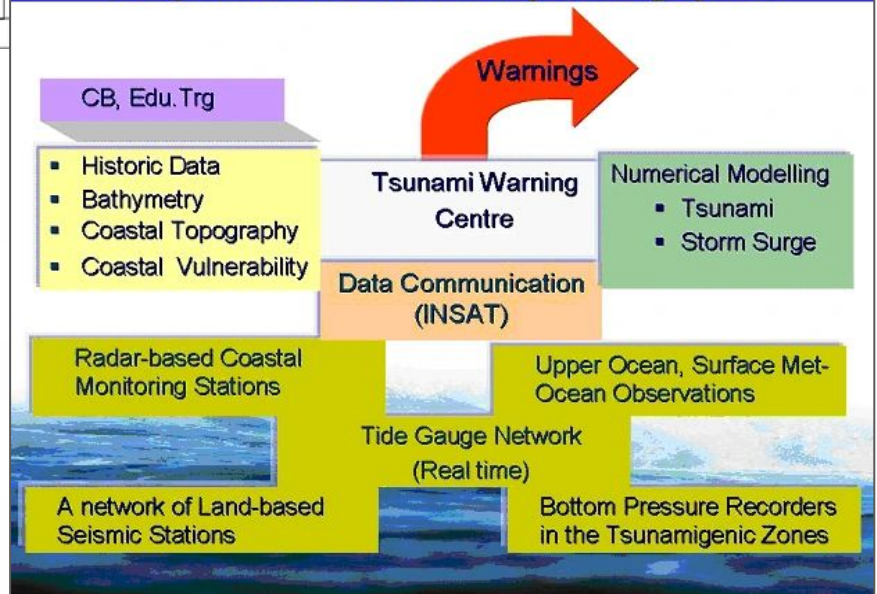
Social and Environmental Lessons from the Tsunami

- Environmental Protection
- Economic Impact:
- Privatisation and Social Change

The Path Forward: Towards a Resilient Future

- Empowering Vulnerable Communities
- Leveraging Technology and Knowledge Sharing
- Addressing Social Inequalities
- Environmental Conservation

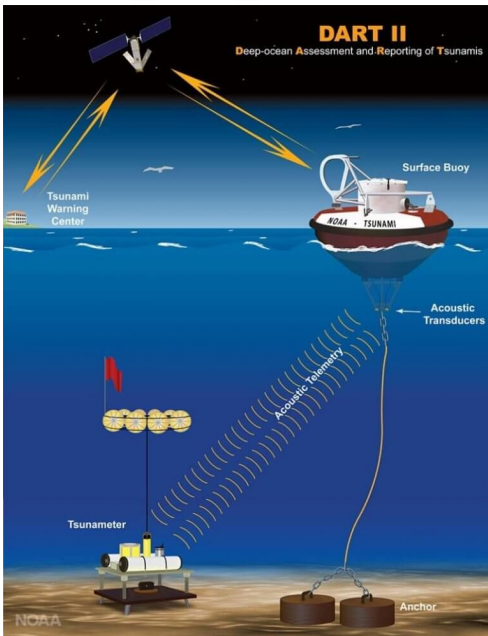
Components of the Indian Early Warning System



CONTEXT: Reflections on the progress and gaps in response and strategy on 20th Anniversary of Indian Ocean Tsunami

Global Tsunami Preparedness Measures

- **Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART)**
- **UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)**
- **Tsunami Management under Hyogo Framework**
- **Sendai Framework** for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030



Mains Practice Question

"The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was a watershed moment for disaster management in India. Examine the lessons learned from this disaster and evaluate the progress India has made in disaster preparedness and mitigation since then."
(250 words)



26th December 2024

Syllabus: GS 3: Border management; Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 10

Months after announcing that the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Myanmar border has been entirely suspended, the Union Home Ministry has brought in fresh protocol to regulate the movement of people living within 10 kilometres on either side of the largely unfenced international border.



Dividing line: The 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar runs along Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram. FILE PHOTO

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the notification ending the FMR, which involves a bilateral agreement with Myanmar, is yet to be notified by the External Affairs Ministry.

Home Minister Amit Shah had announced on February 8 that the FMR had been scrapped to ensure internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of the northeastern States. However, the new guidelines indicate that the regime has not been done away with but stricter regulations, such as reducing the range of free movement to 10 km from the earlier 16 km, have been introduced.

"There have been verbal

Manipur border said, "MHA, Government Of India has recommended for scrapping the FMR to MEA, GoI and a formal order in this regard is awaited."

The scrapping of the FMR was opposed by Nagaland and Mizoram. The Nagaland government, led by the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, an ally of the BJP, has passed a resolution in the Assembly against scrapping the FMR.

In Manipur, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has attributed the ongoing ethnic violence, which has claimed more than 250 lives since May 2023, to the unregulated movement of people from across the border. On September 23, 2023, he urged the Home Ministry to cancel the FMR

the "Instructions for regulation of cross-border movement of people of border area across the Indo-Myanmar Border" from 43 designated entry and exit points, instead of entirely scrapping the regime.

Familial and ethnic ties
The FMR came into existence in 1968 as people on either side of the border have familial and ethnic ties. The territorial limit of free movement then was 40 km, which was reduced to 16 km in 2004, and additional regulations were enforced in 2016.

According to the new guidelines, a resident crossing the border from India to Myanmar will be given a "border pass" by the Assam Rifles for stay up

(398 km) and Mizoram (510 km).

New rules

For entry into India from Myanmar, individuals will have to report at the designated border crossing points and fill a form.

The Assam Rifles will conduct the document inspection followed by a security and health check by the State police and health department officials, respectively.

The Assam Rifles will upload all the forms on the Indo-Myanmar Border portal, record biometrics, and issue a border pass with a photograph of the applicant and a QR code. The pass will have to be deposited on return at the same crossing point before completion of seven days.

The protocol stated that the police will do physical checks to verify the visit of Myanmar nationals as per the details provided in the border pass and anyone violating the conditions will face legal action.

Eight pilot entry and exit points will be made functional immediately on stabilisation of software and deployment of staff. Another



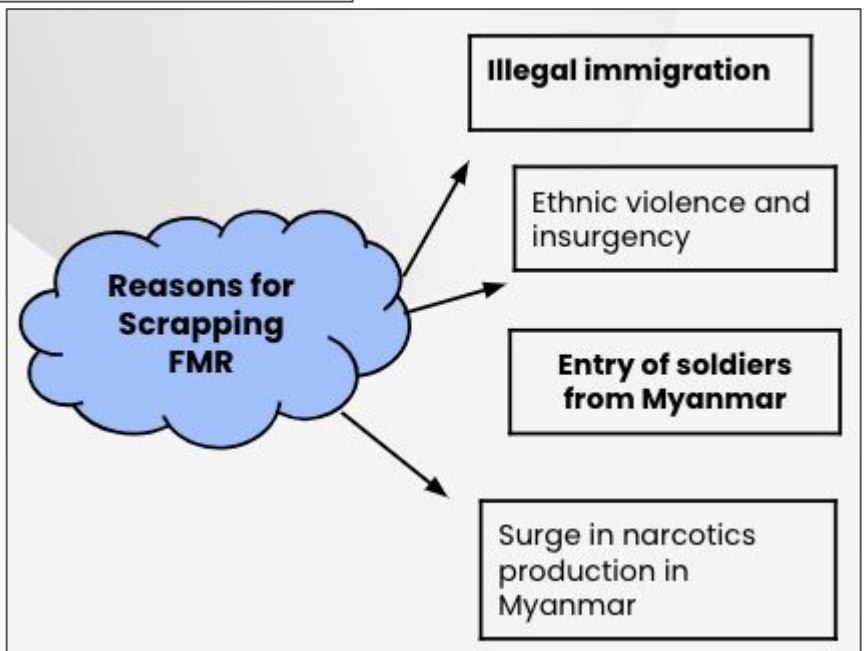
About

- within a 16 km radius of the border to traverse freely
- normalized in 2018 as part of India's Act East Policy.

Rationale

Strong ethnic and familial ties across the border

Local trade and business



REER soars all time high!

26th December 2024

Syllabus: Prelims: Indian Economy; Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 1

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

THE RUPEE is hitting fresh lows against the US dollar each day, yet its exchange rate has scaled an all-time-high in "real effective" terms.

The real effective exchange rate (REER) index of the rupee touched a record 108.14 in November, strengthening by 4.5 per cent during this calendar year, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

The REER measures the rupee's value vis-à-vis not only the dollar, but other global currencies as well. In this case, it is a weighted average of the rupee's exchange rate against a basket of 40 currencies of countries that account for about 88 per cent of India's annual exports and imports. The REER also adjusts for inflation differentials between India and each of these trading partners.

The rupee's REER — an index

EXPLAINED
Why this hurts exports

RUPEE VALUE above 100 as per REER signifies overvaluation and exchange rate not falling enough to offset higher domestic inflation. To that extent, it is overvalued, making imports cheaper but exports less cost competitive.

similar to that for consumer prices or industrial production, with 2015-16 as the base year and currency weights derived from the shares of the individual countries in India's total foreign trade — fell from 105.32 in January 2022 to 99.03 in April 2023. But since then, it has been on an appreciating trajectory, climbing to 107.20 in October and 108.14 in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Real Effective Exchange Rate



One Currency

Vs.



Basket of Currencies

WallStreetMojo

Effective Exchange rates

NEER	REER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A nominal exchange rate is essentially the relative prices between two currencies. It only describes whether a currency is weak or strong, or weakening or strengthening, compared to foreign currencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an indicator of the international competitiveness of a nation in comparison with its trade partners. An increasing REER indicates that a country is losing its competitive edge.

$$NEER = \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{S_i}{S_i^*} \right)^{w_i}$$

$$REER = \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{S_i}{S_i^*} * \frac{P_i}{P_{MD}} \right)^{w_i}$$



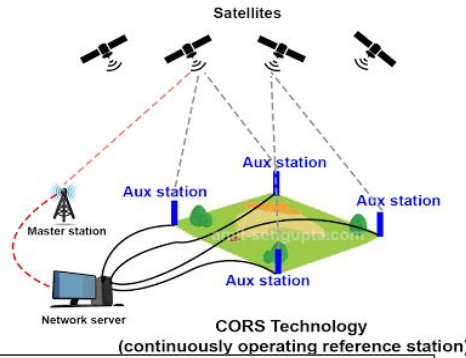
Syllabus: GS Paper 2 : Government policies and interventions;
Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 10

SVAMITVA Scheme *launched on April 24th 2020 "National Panchayati Raj day"
(Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas)



Drone Technology

1. help in infrastructure planning
2. revenue collection in terms of property tax
3. creating better quality Gram Panchayat development plans



SVAMITVA Scheme



Why in the News?

- India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities.

About SVAMITVA Scheme

- SVAMITVA stand for - Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas
- It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Panchayati Raj Departments, State Revenue Departments and Survey of India.
- It was nation-wide launched on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2021.
- This Scheme is a reformative step towards establishment of clear ownership of property in rural inhabited areas. It does so by:
 1. Mapping of land parcels using drone technology
 2. Providing 'Record of Rights' to village household owners with issuance of legal ownership cards (Property cards/Title deeds) to the property owners.

Four years after the Union government launched the Svamitva scheme to digitise property records in rural areas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute 58 lakh property cards providing a "record of rights" to owners in over 50,000 villages across 12 States on Friday at a virtual event, officials of the Panchayati Raj Ministry said on Wednesday.

event, officials of the Panchayati Raj Ministry said on Wednesday.

At least 13 Union Ministers will address events in different States where the property cards will be distributed, officials added.

The Svamitva scheme of the Panchayati Raj Department was launched in

April 2020 with the objective of recording property rights. The scheme is aimed at facilitating monetisation of properties, helping the owners get bank loans, reducing property disputes and aiding in village-level planning. The officials said that the property cards were now being

recognised by banks for providing loans. In many cases, it has also helped women establish their ownership.

The scheme has also aided in identifying open spaces, facilitating better planning for community development.

Panchayati Raj Secre-



26th December 2024

Syllabus: Prelims: Places in News;
Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 1



Kazakhstan officials said 38 people died after an Azerbaijani airliner with 67 passengers crashed near the Kazakhstani city of Aktau on Wednesday. Deputy Prime Minister Kanat Bozumbaev disclosed the death toll while meeting with Azerbaijani officials, the Russian news agency Interfax reported.

The plane was en route from the Azerbaijani capital of Baku to the Russian city of Grozny in the North Caucasus.

Kazakhstan's Emergency Ministry said in a Telegram statement that those on board included five crew members. A total of 29 survivors, including two



Red Panda

Syllabus: Prelims: Species in News;
Newspaper: Indian Express Page No: 12

RED PANDA

the fire-colored cat

The scientific name of this rare and beautiful species literally means 'The coloured cat'. Its striking red fur is thought to help to blend in with the reddish-brown moss that grows on the branches of the trees in which it lives. Their lifespan is 8 to 12 years in captivity but up to 15 years in the wild. Red pandas are the state animal of the Indian state of Sikkim and the official mascot of the National Zoological Park, New Delhi.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE ADORABLE CREATURES BELOW!

GEOGRAPHY

DIET

REPRODUCTIVE CYCLE

ENDANGERED STATUS

Region	Male	Female	Unknown
Africa	0	0	0
Asia	10	10	0
North America	50	50	0
Europe	100	100	0
Australia	10	10	0

body: 56-63cm
tail: 56-63cm

SIZE RELATIVE TO A 6FT MAN

JUN CHOU // 2019
 SOURCES: Red Panda Network, National Zoo, World Wildlife Foundation

Distribution

Found in forests of **India, Nepal, Bhutan, & northern mountains of Myanmar & southern China.**

- In India, found in:
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Sikkim
 - Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal.

Two subspecies

Himalayan red panda (A. f. fulgens) are present in Sikkim, Darjeeling-Kalimpong districts of West Bengal, Nepal, Bhutan and Southern Tibet.

Yarlung Zangbo River is actual geographical barrier between the distributions of these two species.

Chinese red panda (A. f. styani) are found in southeastern Tibet, Northern Myanmar and the Sichuan and Yunnan provinces of China.

In 1825, 48 years before the giant black-and-white panda was cataloged, French zoologist Georges-Frédéric Cuvier examined a red panda. He said it was the most beautiful animal he had ever seen.

lbs
t: 8-12 pounds

Georges-Frédéric Cuvier

Q. With reference to the Red Panda, consider the following statements:

- Red Pandas are native to the Himalayan and Eastern Himalayan forests.
- They are classified as "Critically Endangered" under the IUCN Red List.
- Habitat destruction and poaching are major threats to their population.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 1 and 3 only
 (c) 2 and 3 only
 (d) 1, 2, and 3

26th December 2024

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Ken-Betwa Interlinking Project:

1. The project aims to transfer water from the Betwa River to the Ken River.
2. The project is expected to benefit the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.
3. The project area includes parts of the Panna Tiger Reserve.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Q2. Regarding tsunamis, consider the following statements:

1. Tsunamis are primarily caused by gravitational interactions between the Earth, Moon, and Sun.
2. The speed of a tsunami wave decreases as it approaches shallow coastal areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar:

1. The Free Movement Regime allows tribal communities residing along the India-Myanmar border to travel up to 16 kilometres across the border without a visa.
2. The Free Movement Regime is applicable only in the northeastern states of India that share a border with Myanmar.
3. The FMR is intended to facilitate cross-border trade and cultural exchanges among communities living in the border areas.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: c

Q4. Regarding the Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) and Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER), consider the following statements:

1. NEER is a weighted average of a country's exchange rates with its trading partners, without adjusting for inflation.
2. REER accounts for both exchange rate fluctuations and differences in inflation between the domestic economy and its trading partners.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Q5. Regarding the SVAMITVA Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to provide rural landowners a property card through drone mapping technology.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the Survey of India.
3. The scheme covers both agricultural and residential properties in rural areas.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: a





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com