



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**22nd January 2025**

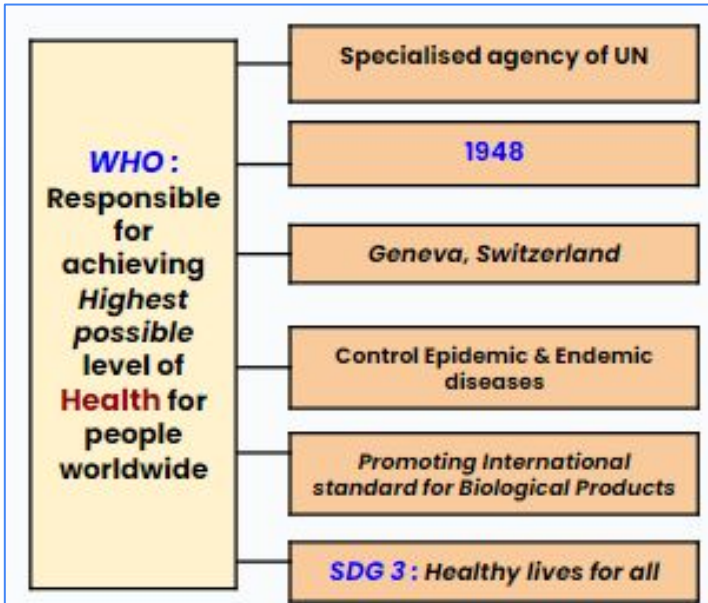


# WHO & Paris Pullouts & its Impact

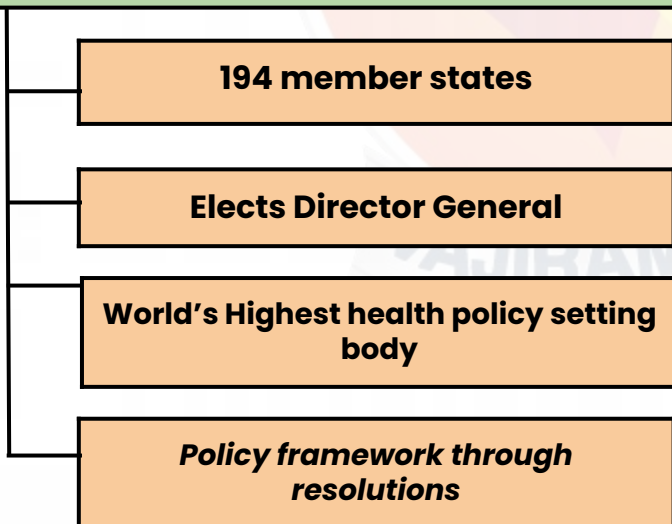


**CONTEXT:** US's newly elected 47th President Donald Trump signed executive order to withdraw from WHO & Paris Agreement on his first day in Office.

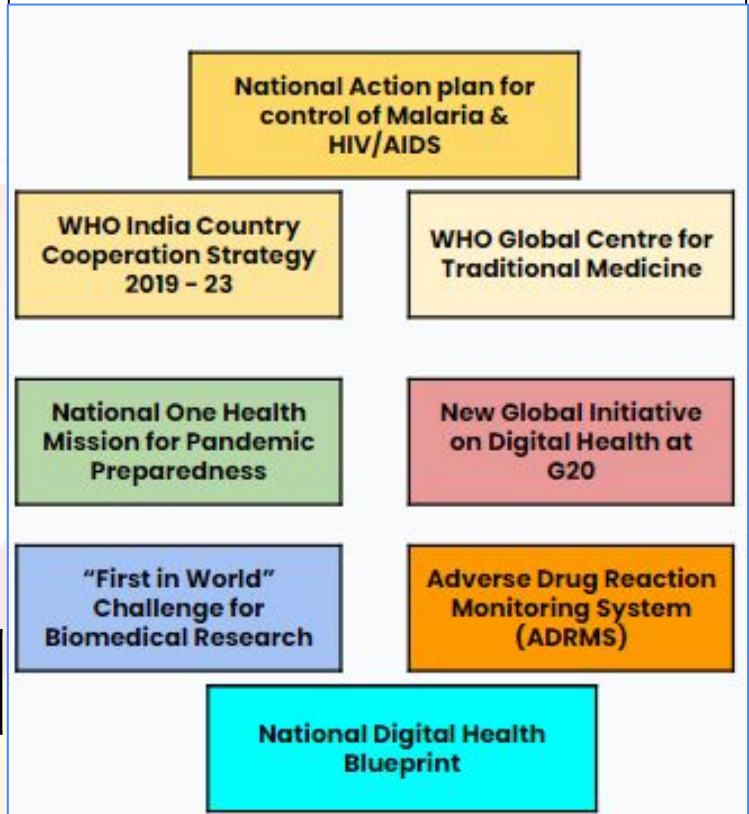
## Prelims Corner : What is WHO?



## World Health Assembly (WHA):

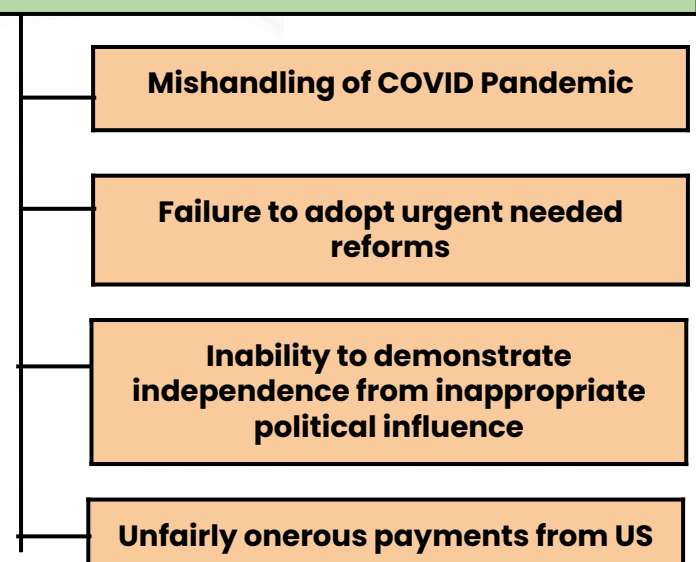


## India - WHO Partnerships



## Perspective 1 : Why US has withdrawn from WHO?

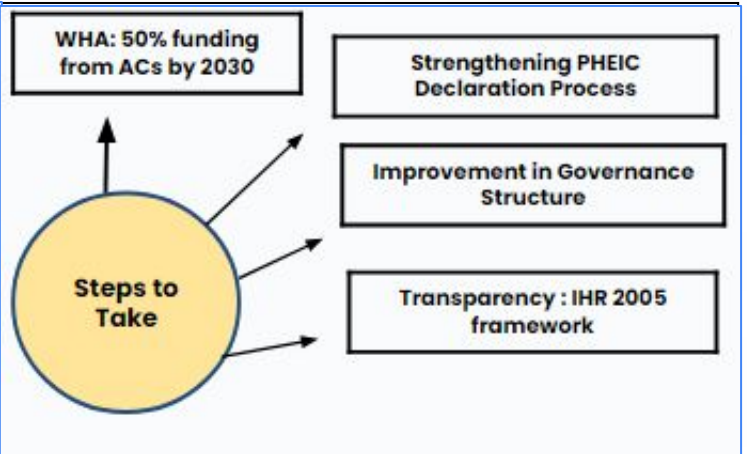
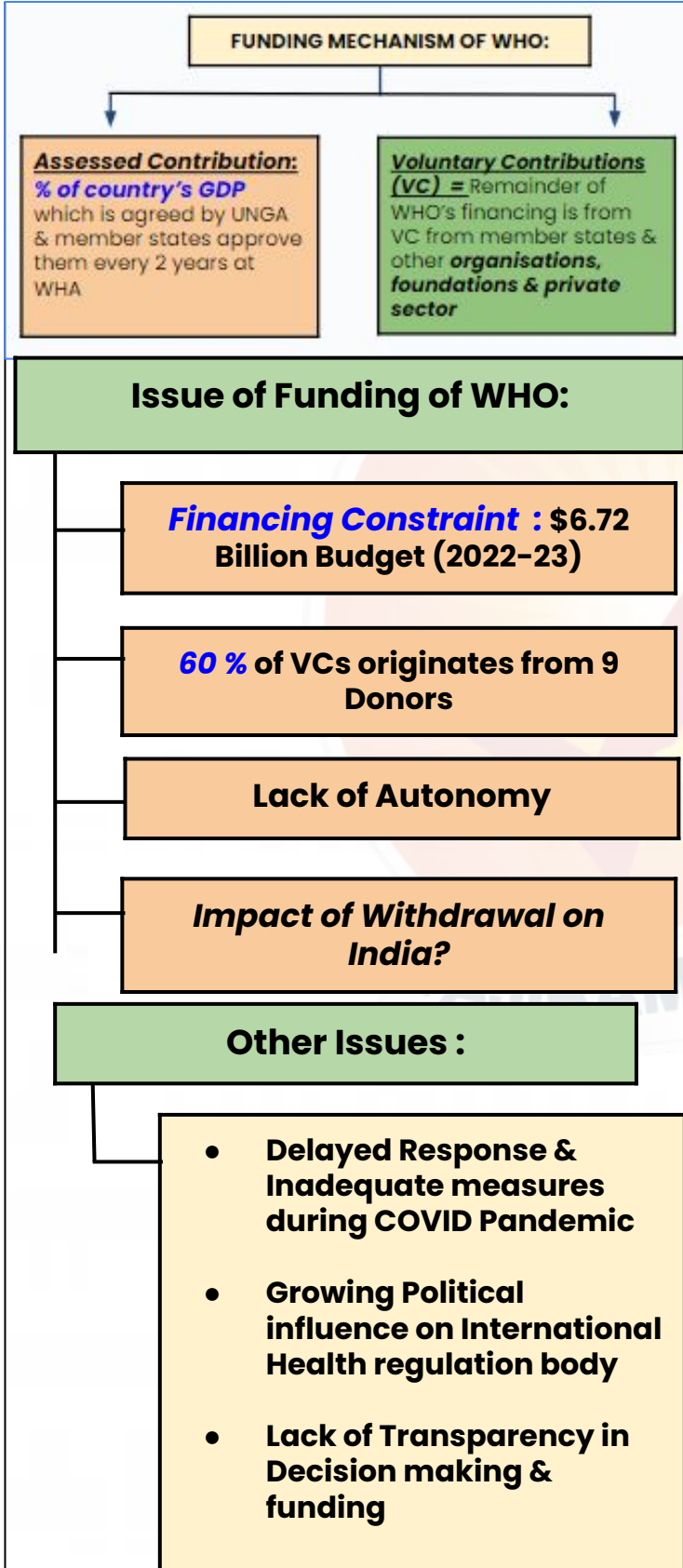
### Listed Reasons in Executive Order:



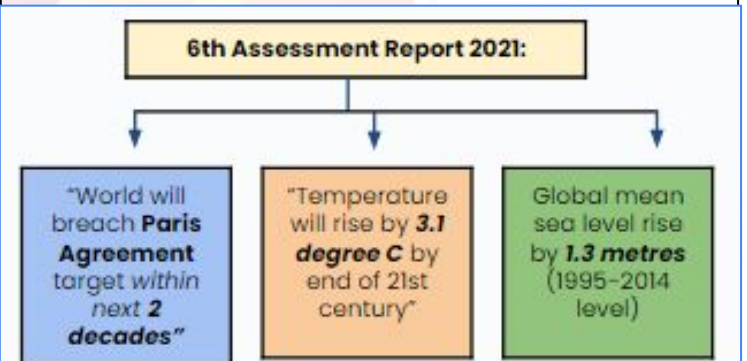
# WHO & Paris Pullouts & its Impact



**CONTEXT:** US's newly elected 47th President Donald Trump signed executive order to withdraw from WHO & Paris Agreement on his first day in Office.



## Perspective 2 : Why US has withdrawn from Paris Agreement?



## KEY MESSAGES

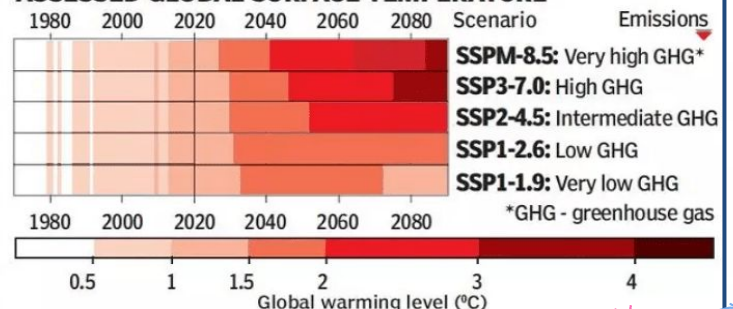
### Temperature

- Globally, the planet will warm up by 1.5°C in the next two decades over pre-industrial (1850-1900) level
- Even in the most ambitious emissions pathway (drastic reduction), it'll overshoot to 1.6°C

before temperature declines to 1.4°C at the end of the century

- Under existing emissions trajectory (total ambition of climate pledges to date), it'll be on track for global average temp rise of at least 2.7°C by 2100

### ASSESSED GLOBAL SURFACE TEMPERATURE





# WHO & Paris Pullouts & its Impact



**CONTEXT:** US's newly elected 47th President Donald Trump signed executive order to withdraw from WHO & Paris Agreement on his first day in Office.

### TARGETS FOR PARIS AGREEMENT

INDIA	CHINA	USA	EU (28)
Emission intensity of GDP 33-35% below 2005 levels by 2030, Power capacity to be 40% non fossil fuel based	Emission intensity of GDP 60-65% below 2005 levels by 2030. Peak emissions around 2030. Non-fossil fuel to be 20% of primary energy consumption by 2030	Absolute emissions 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025	Absolute emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030

Source: uefcc.int

**2nd largest emitter of GHG**

**Following Capitalist Economy model**

**4 Billion tonnes of CO2 (2025-2029)**

**Paris Targets will remain unfulfilled**

### COP 29: "Disappointment for Developing Nations":

- Demand of Climate Finance Mobilisation : **\$ 1.3 Trillion / year** by 2035
- To meet targets of **Paris Agreement**

- Developed Nations : **\$ 300 Billion / year**
- Global North : **82%** of Carbon Budget

### US NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

in million cubic feet per day

Trump first term, Jan 2017-Jan 2021

### US CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

in thousands of barrels per day

Trump first term, Jan 2017-Jan 2021

Source: US Energy Information Administration (EIA)

### The Countries Benefitting Most From Climate Funds

Top 10 recipients of international climate finance over the past decade (in million U.S. dollars)

Morocco	\$606.96m
Mexico	\$591.11m
Brazil	\$533.46m
South Africa	\$466.47m
India	\$463.69m
Turkey	\$401.36m
Indonesia	\$364.92m
Ukraine	\$292.35m
Philippines	\$217.47m
Thailand	\$181.33m

Source: Overseas Development Institute

## Mains Practise Question

Question : Assess the impact of US's withdrawal from WHO & Paris Agreement on India's interests and ambitions. Provide suggestive measures which India shall adopt in this regard. (10 Marks, 150 words)



# Status of Smart Cities Mission

**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issues plaguing the Smart Cities Mission which was launched in 2015 to tackle the growing challenges posed by Urbanisation.

## Prelims Corner : Status of Urbanisation

### Status of Global Urbanisation

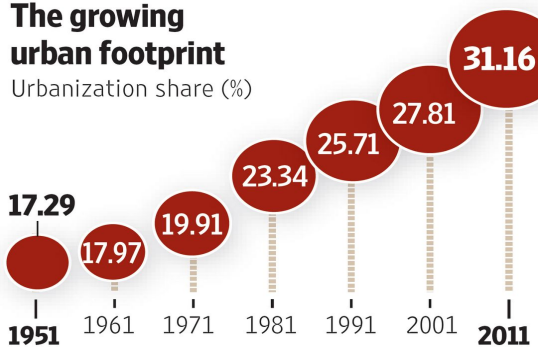
- World Cities Day : 31st October
- "Youth Climate Changemakers : Catalysing Local Action"
- 4.7 Billion (2024)
- Double by 2050
- 50% Growth in 9 cities

### WB : "40% Population in 9000+ statutory towns":

	Statutory towns	Census towns	Total towns
2001	3,799	1,362	5,161
2011	4,041	3,894	7,935

### The growing urban footprint

Urbanization share (%)



Source: Census of India

- **Statutory Towns :** Municipality, Corporation, Cantonment Board etc
- **Census Towns :**
  - > 5000 Population
  - 75% Male working population in "Non - Agri" activities
  - Population Density = > 400 / Km<sup>2</sup>

## Issues of Rampant Urbanisation

### "Push & Pull Factors":

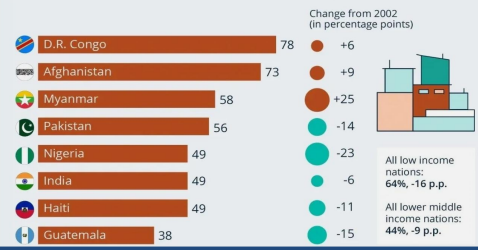
**Health Dynamic of India 2023 :** ">40% Rural health centres do not have buildings"

**AISHE 2023 :** 43% Universities & 61% colleges in rural areas

**CMIE :** Unemployment Rate in Rural area = 7.8% vs Urban Areas = 8.7%

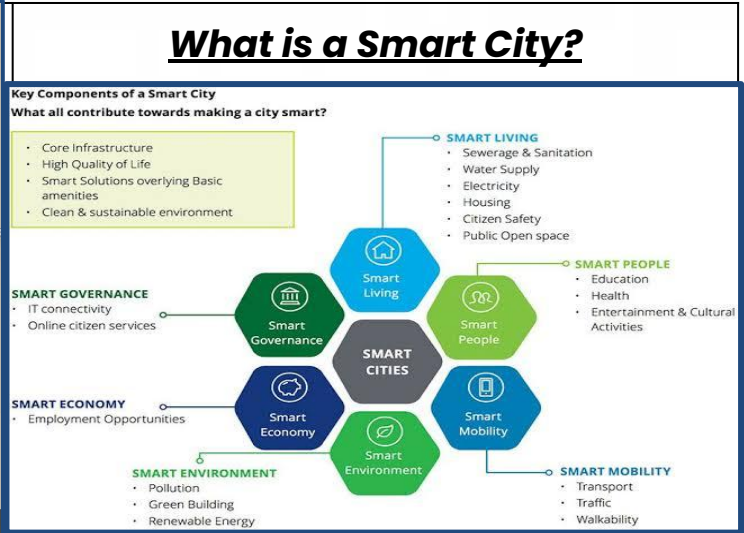
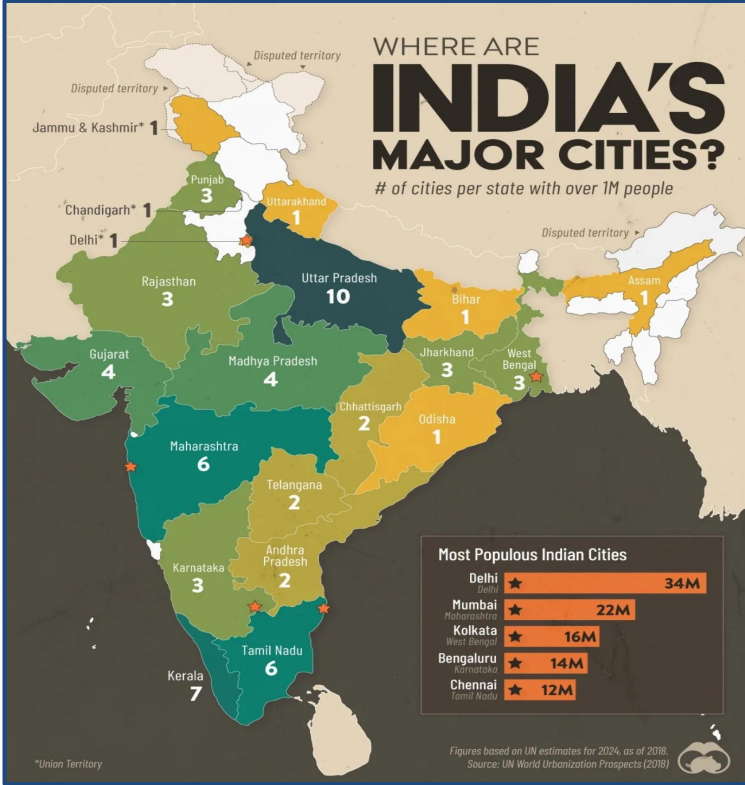
### Fewer People Live in Slums But Progress Is Slow

Share of the urban population living in slums in selected countries in 2020 (in percent)

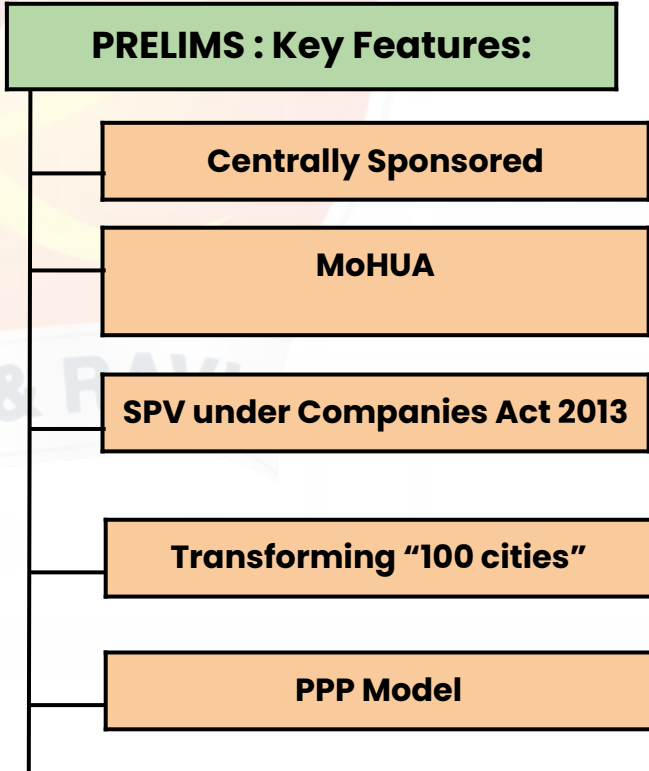


# Status of Smart Cities Mission

**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issues plaguing the Smart Cities Mission which was launched in 2015 to tackle the growing challenges posed by Urbanisation.



## Smart Cities Mission : Response of GOI



### Unplanned "Cities" of India:

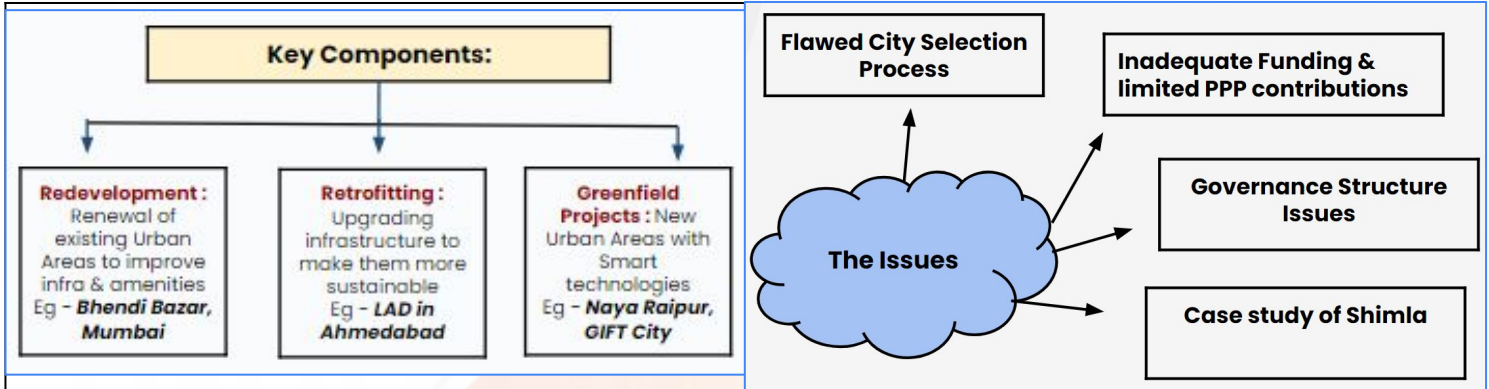
- NITI Aayog : 65% of Statutory towns do not have master plan
- Archaic Laws & Outdated Models
- Web of Bye Laws & Development Regulations
- Pollution & Urban Heat Island Effect



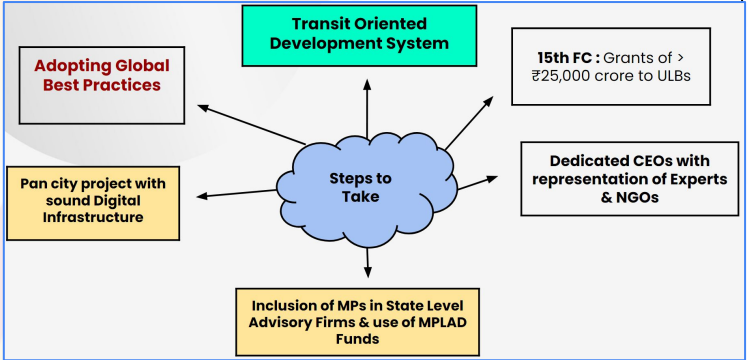


# Status of Smart Cities Mission

**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issues plaguing the Smart Cities Mission which was launched in 2015 to tackle the growing challenges posed by Urbanisation.



plan included two key components – pan-city proposals which includes IT-enabled services like mobility and waste management; and Area-Based Development (ABD) which was restricted to specific zones within a city, focusing on retrofitting, redevelopment, and greenfield projects. Additionally, governance of these projects bypassed local governments, relying instead on Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) registered under the Companies Act, and managed like private companies. City councils were excluded, based on the assumption that private company-like structures could deliver better results.



**Mains Practise Question**

Question : How far Smart Cities Mission has been successful to deal with growing challenges related to Urbanisation? What are the steps which Government of India shall take to tackle the issue of “Underperforming Smart Cities”?

(15 Marks, 250 words)



# Rules for DPDP Act 2023

**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Government policies & Interventions

**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 8

**The story so far:**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on January 3, 2025, released the draft rules for implementing the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 – 16 months after the law was notified in August 2023. The Union government is currently soliciting feedback on the draft rules through a fiduciary framework that effectively precludes both public disclosure and the submission of counter-comments. “The draft rules, coupled with the existing legislation, are inadequate for establishing a comprehensive data privacy framework... Moreover, the government should consider submitting the rules to a parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny,” Amar Patnaik, advocate and former MP, told *The Hindu*.

## Justice BN Srikrishna Committee

## To whom it is applicable?

## What are the Rights for Citizens?

## Data Protection Board of India (DPBI)

## What are the Penalties?

## KEY TERMS IN DATA PROTECTION

**DATA PRINCIPAL:** The person to whom the data in consideration belong

**DATA PROCESSOR:** A person, state, company or any other entity which processes data on behalf of someone else

**DATA FIDUCIARY:** A person, state, company or any other judicial entity, which control the various aspects related to data storage and defines how it can be processed

**PERSONAL DATA:** Any data set that may contain information that can reveal personal traits of a human

being, and can be used to single out the person

**NON-PERSONAL DATA:** Data sets which do not contain any personal information and instead have information detailing the larger trends such as the income group of a town, the average age, the male-to-female-population ratio, etc

**DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITY:** A regulatory body for the Act which can have adjudicating powers and pass executive instructions in cases of conflict between two parties under the Data Protection Act

## What is the data localisation mandate?

The draft rules introduce a data localisation mandate that extends beyond the original scope of the legislation. Data localisation refers to measures that restrict the flow of data within a jurisdiction's borders. While the DPDP Act permits the government to limit personal data transfers, it confines such restrictions to specific notified countries.

In contrast, the rules propose the creation of a government-appointed committee to define which classes of data cannot be exported from India. This mandate will apply to significant data fiduciaries (SDFs), as designated by the government based on the volume and sensitivity of the personal data they process. Major tech companies, such as Meta, Google, Apple, Microsoft, and Amazon, are expected to fall within this classification. The localisation provision likely stems from the challenges law enforcement agencies face in accessing

## WHAT IT MEANS FOR CONSUMERS

- **DATA** can be processed or shared by any entity only after consent.
- **SAFEGUARDS**, including penalties, introduced to prevent misuse of personal data.
- **ALL** data to be categorized under three heads— general, sensitive and critical.

## THE GOVERNMENT & REGULATORY ROLE

- **GOVT** will have the power to obtain any user's non-personal data from companies.
- **THE** bill mandates that all financial and critical data has to be stored in India.
- **SENSITIVE** data has to be stored in India but can be processed outside with consent.

## WHAT COMPANIES HAVE TO DO

- **SOCIAL** media firms to formulate a voluntary verification process for users.
- **SHARING** data without consent will entail a fine of ₹15 crore or 4% of global turnover.
- **DATA** breach or inaction will entail a fine of ₹5 crore or 2% of global turnover.

Source: Mint research

**Challenges faced by Law Enforcement agencies in accessing Cross Border Data**

**RBI : Payment data operators shall localise data within country**

**Financial, payment & insurance data must be stored domestically**

**Restrict Business operations & High Operational Cost**



# Rules for DPDP Act 2023



**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Government policies & Interventions

**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 8

## What is Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023?

### Executive Overreach:

Section 36 of DPDP Act 2023

- Govt = Demand any information from "Data Fiduciary"
- Interest of India's **Sovereignty, Integrity or National Security**

Digital Media Ethics Code Rules 2021

- WhatsApp - compel to compromise "**End to End**" encryption
- Or disclosing any information
- Enabling Surveillance or **suppression of dissent**

## Obligations on Data Fiduciary:

Security safeguards to prevent data breach

Erase personal data when no Longer needed

Grievance Redressal System

Data Protection Impact Assessment



# Indus Water Treaty



**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Important International Agreements

**Newspaper:** Indian Express **Page Number:** 9

## Indus River & its Tributaries

### Facts related to Indus River

- **Bokarchu Glacier** - NE of Mount Kailash in Tibet
- **3180 Kms**
- **Major Tributaries** - Zaskar, Ghaggar, Shyok, Hunza, Gilgit & Gomal
- **Antecedent River**
- Economy of Pakistan & India

RIVER	SOURCE	JOINS
<b>Jhelum</b>	Verinag spring, Pir Panjal Mountains	Chenab at Trimmu, Pakistan
<b>Chenab</b>	Chandra & Bhaga streams near Baralacha La Pass	Satluj after receiving Jhelum & Ravi
<b>Ravi</b>	Kull hills near Rohtang Pass	Chenab in Rangpur, Pakistan
<b>Beas</b>	Beas kund near Rohtang Pass	Crosses Dhauladhar range & meets Satluj river in Punjab
<b>Satluj</b>	Mansarovar - Rakas Lake in Tibet	Joins Indus in Mithankot, Pakistan

## Indus Water Treaty 1960



### Provisions of Treaty :

**Western Rivers : ICJ to Pakistan**

**“Unrestricted use barring agricultural & domestic use by India”**

**80% water share to Pakistan**

**Eastern Rivers : RBS**

**Permanent Indus Commission to meet annually**

**World Bank appointed Neutral Expert (NE)**



# Indus Water Treaty

**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Important International Agreements

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## The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

■ The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

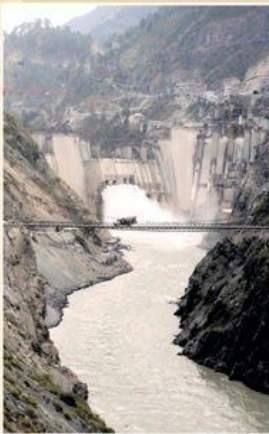
■ Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after eight years of negotiations.

■ Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.

### Western rivers

#### Chenab, Jhelum, Indus

India's rights over these rivers: Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions

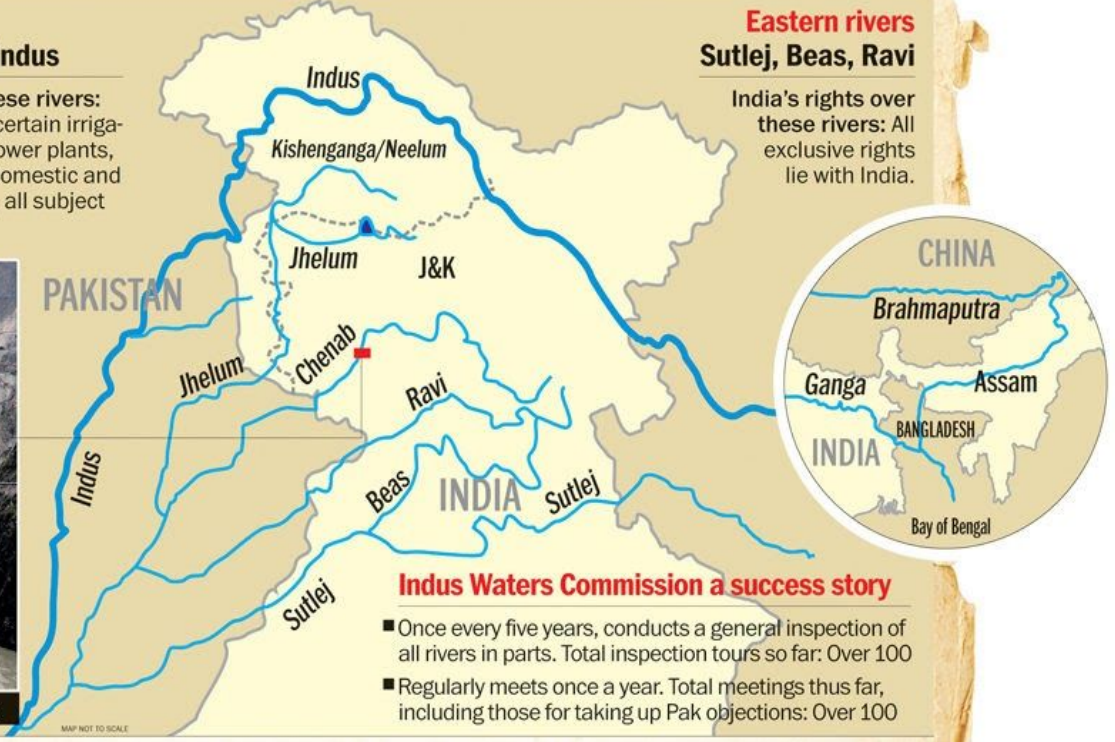


Baglihar dam on Chenab

### Eastern rivers

#### Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.



### Indus Waters Commission a success story

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

<b>Uri Hydroelectric Project</b>	<b>Jhelum</b>
<b>Kishanganga Hydroelectric project</b>	<b>Jhelum</b>
<b>Ratle Dam</b>	<b>Chenab</b>
<b>Pong Dam</b>	<b>Beas</b>
<b>Bhakra Nangal Dam</b>	<b>Satluj</b>

53. With reference to the Indus river system, of the following four rivers, three of them pour into one of them which joins the Indus direct. Among the following, which one is such river that joins the Indus direct?

- (a) Chenab
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Ravi
- (d) Sutlej





# Accessibility of Anti - Venoms

**SYLLABUS:** PRELIMS: Important Fauna species in the News  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 9

## What are Antivenom & how they are made?

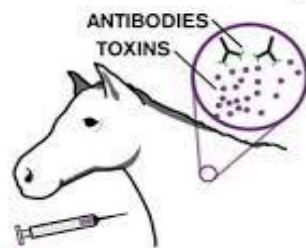
### What are antivenoms?

Antivenoms, or antivenins, are life-saving medicines used to treat snakebites. They are produced by injecting small amounts of venom into animals, usually horses, which then produce antibodies as part of their immune response. These antibodies become antivenoms.

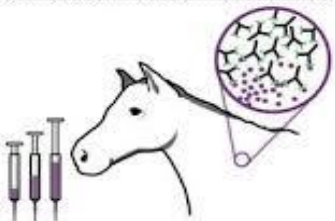
Snake venom is one of nature's most lethal weapons, a complex cocktail of toxic proteins, each tailored by evolution to immobilise, and in some cases to digest, prey and defend against threats. When a sufficient quantity of venom is injected during a snakebite, the toxins wreak havoc on the human body in multiple ways. **Haemotoxins destroy blood cells and disrupt clotting.** **Neurotoxins block nerve signals and paralyse.** **Cytotoxins dissolve tissue at the bite site.** The effects are often fatal without medical intervention.



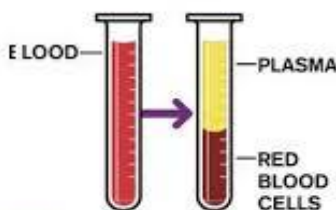
**1** A technician extracts and later purifies venom from the species for which scientists want to make an antivenom.



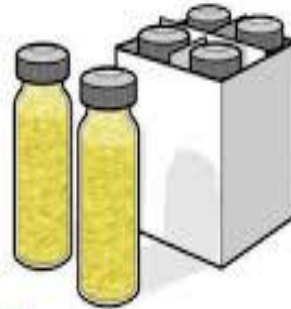
**2** A ranch hand injects a small, harmless dose of venom into a horse. The toxins in the venom trigger the horse's immune system to produce antibodies that neutralize those particular toxins.



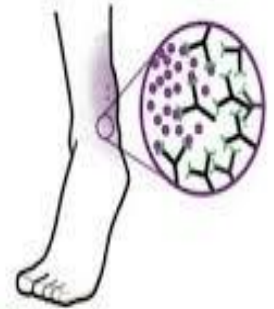
**3** Over the next year, the horse receives several booster shots with increasing amounts of venom. Eventually, the horse produces so many antibodies that it's immune to the venom.



**4** A ranch hand draws blood from the horse. A machine extracts the plasma, the part of the blood that contains the antibodies. The rest of the blood is returned to the horse.



**5** The plasma is sent to a lab, where chemists purify it and package it as a liquid or freeze-dried powder. It is then shipped in vials to hospital pharmacies.



When a patient comes in with a bite or sting, doctors use an IV line to inject the antivenom into the patient's veins. The antibodies circulate through the body and neutralize the toxin molecules.

## Issue of availability of Antivenoms

### Why are antivenoms hard to get?

India is the world's largest producer and consumer of antivenoms in the world. However, access to timely medical care remains a significant challenge for many Indians. People in remote areas often undertake long journeys to reach a healthcare facility equipped with antivenoms.

Even when antivenom is available, improper administration and inadequate facilities exacerbate the crisis. Logistical issues, unequal access to care, superstitious beliefs, and cultural practices often delay proper treatment in many parts.

Antivenoms often need to be transported in cold storage, however, India's rural parts lack the supporting infrastructure and power supply. Facilities that 'make do' with the resources available can cause the antivenoms to degrade in storage and become ineffective.

The high cost of manufacturing antivenom limits accessibility for the economically-disadvantaged. This mismatch highlights the need for tailored solutions, underscoring the importance of targeted research and innovation.

Recombinant DNA technology

Lab engineered synthetic Antivenoms

Optimising antibodies through Computer designed proteins

AI to design Antivenoms

Mapping toxin compositions through AI



**SYLLABUS:** PRELIMS: Important Fauna species in the News  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 9

**Issue of Snakebites in India**

**How common is snakebite in India?**

India is home to more than 300 species of snakes, of which more than 60 are venomous, ranging from mild to high. The so-called Big Four – Indian cobra (*Naja naja*), common krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*), Russell’s viper (*Daboia russelii*), and the saw-scaled viper (genus *Echis*) – account for most snakebite deaths. The venom extracted from these four species is used to produce PVAs in India.

On the flip side, this means other venomous snakes – including the king cobra, monocled cobra, banded krait, Sochurek’s saw-scaled viper, hump-nosed viper, and several species of pit vipers – are not covered by existing PVAs and continue to pose significant risks. As a result, victims bitten by these species often receive ineffective treatment, leading to poor outcomes.

<b>Indian Cobra</b>
<b>Common Krait</b>
<b>Russell's Viper</b>
<b>Saw scaled Viper</b>

**LURKING DANGER**

- 5.4 million** Global total estimate of snakebite cases
- 2.8 million** Snakebite cases in India a year, world's highest
- 100,000** Worldwide deaths every year due to snake bites
- 45,900** Deaths in India from snake bite and related mortality annually, estimated by Million Death Study
- 300** Snake species in India
- 62** Venomous species

Source: WHO





# Poll Ban on Criminals

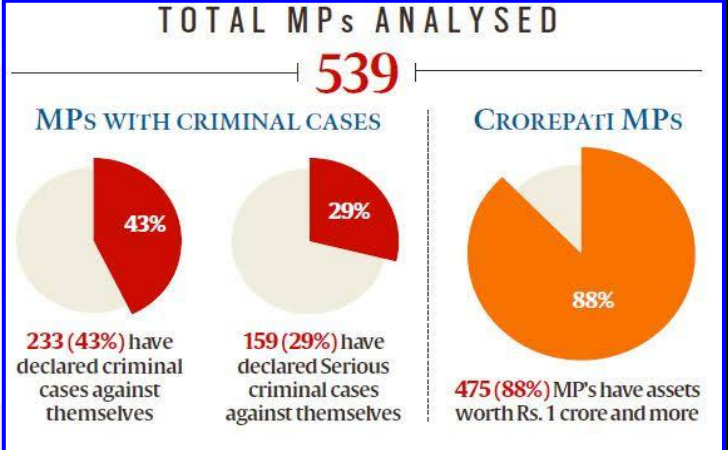
**SYLLABUS:** PRELIMS: Indian Polity  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu **Page Number:** 10

## What does the Rules say?

- **Section 8 of RPA 1951 :** Disqualifies electoral candidate once they are convicted of Criminal charges
- This ban does not apply to a **candidate undergoing a criminal trial**
- Can a Criminal vote though? **Section 62 of RPA 1951:**
  - Individual in lawful custody of police
  - Serving sentence of imprisonment after conviction
  - Undertrial prisoner
  - **Preventive detention is exception**

## Public Interest Foundation v. UOI 2020:

- **PIL in 2011 :** “Prevent individuals against whom criminal charges have been framed from contesting elections”
- **Supreme Court :**
  - **Parliament’s prerogative** to disqualify such candidates
  - Election Commission shall widely **publicise candidates’ criminal antecedents.**
  - *Political Parties shall publish entire criminal history of Candidates in local & national newspapers*



**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked whether a ban on persons charged with heinous offences such as murder and rape from contesting elections will lead to irreversible damage if they are later found innocent after trial.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh said there were also reliefs in law if elected persons were later found guilty of serious crimes.

Petitioner-advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay submitted that the right to campaign and contest were not fundamental rights.

“There are only 5,000 seats up for election and over a billion people... Can we not find honest people to contest in elections?” Mr. Upadhyay asked the court.

Justice Kant asked how many honest people come forward to contest, stressing national introspection.

Mr. Upadhyay said honest souls did not enter electoral politics as the system had collapsed.

The exchange happened when Mr. Upadhyay made an oral mentioning of his petition. The court agreed to list it for further hearing on January 27.

The petition will be






**SYLLABUS:** PRELIMS: Statutory bodies

**Newspaper:** Indian Express Page Number: 12

## What is NTCA?

Statutory Body

WPA 1972

Chairperson :  
Minister of  
Environment &  
Forest

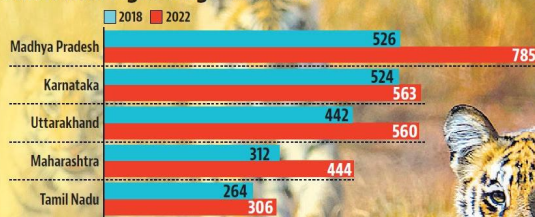
Project Tiger 1973

## Decoding the key tiger report

The upper limit of the tiger population is now estimated to be 3,925 and the average number is 3,682

Big cat numbers in the country  
2,967 (2018) 3,682 (2022)

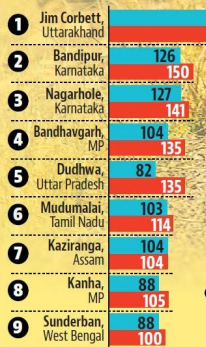
### States with highest tiger numbers



### States with lowest tiger numbers

State	2018	2022
Nagaland	0	0
Mizoram	0	0
Jharkhand	3	1
Goa	3	5
Arunachal	29	9

### Reserves with highest tiger population



### Reserves with no tigers

Dampa, Mizoram, Kamlang, Arunachal Pradesh, Kawal, Telangana, Satkosia, Odisha, Sahyadri, Maharashtra

## Relocation Issue under FRA

Minimum Core area of 800-1200 km<sup>2</sup> is required

Further ESZ of 1000-3000 Km<sup>2</sup> around the core area

WPA 2006 empowers Tiger Reserves Officials to create "People free, inviolate spaces"

RELOCATING VILLAGES to create spaces for tigers in tiger reserves should be taken up on priority while taking care of the needs of forest dwellers during the process, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said during the National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA's) meeting in Dehradun last month, minutes of the meeting reviewed by *The Indian Express* show.

The deliberations on village relocations from tiger reserves assume significance in light of recent representations sent to Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, alleging violations of Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, during relocation process. Villagers inside Veerangana Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary had written to MoTA alleging forced evictions and non-recognition of

Voluntary Village Relocation Guidelines : 15 Lakh Rs / family

273 Villages in 28 Tiger Reserves

19,125 families in Core areas

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the World Health Organization (WHO):**

1. WHO's primary function is to set international health standards but does not provide financial assistance to countries.
2. The Director-General of WHO is appointed for a 6-year term, with a possibility of reappointment.
3. The WHO headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Smart Cities Mission:**

1. All Indian cities are eligible for funding under the mission.
2. The mission encourages cities to adopt the Public-Private Partnership model for implementation.

**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 Data Localisation:**

1. Data localisation mandates that all data generated within a country must remain stored exclusively within its borders.
2. The Reserve Bank of India mandates data localisation for all payment system operators in India.
3. Data localisation policies are globally governed by the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Q4. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Indus River originates from the Bokhar Chu glacier in Tibet.
2. Jhelum, a tributary of the Indus, flows through the Wular Lake in Kashmir.
3. The Ravi and Beas rivers meet before joining the Indus.
4. The Sutlej river originates in India and flows through the Bhakra Nangal Dam

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

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

**Answer: a**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding antivenom:**

1. Antivenom is prepared by injecting small doses of venom into animals like horses to stimulate antibody production.
2. It is effective against all types of snake venoms without requiring species-specific formulations.
3. Its administration can cause hypersensitivity reactions in some patients.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None

**Answer: c**







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## **Institute for IAS Examination**

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

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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](http://www.vajiramandravi.com)