



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

14th December 2025



Drone Terror Strikes Again: Insurgent Group Claims Attack on Assam Rifles Camp

CONTEXT: In a first-of-its-kind incident, the banned insurgent group People's Liberation Army (PLA) has released a video claiming a drone attack on a temporary Assam Rifles camp along the Manipur–Myanmar border.

UPSC MAINS EXAM 2023

Q: The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat.

(150 words, 10 Marks)



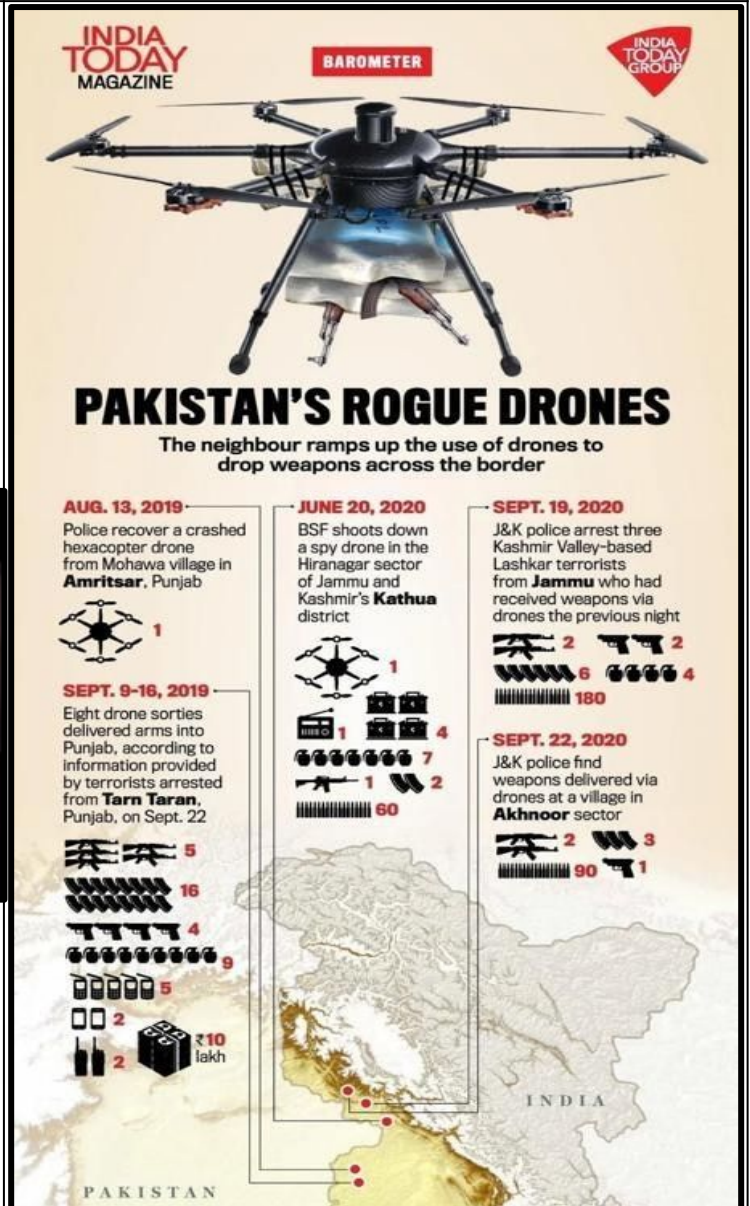
PRELIMS 2025 :

42. With reference to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), consider the following statements :

- All types of UAVs can do vertical landing.
- All types of UAVs can do automated hovering.
- All types of UAVs can use battery only as a source of power supply.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All the three (d) None



Drone Terror Strikes Again: Insurgent Group Claims Attack on Assam Rifles Camp

CONTEXT: In a first-of-its-kind incident, the banned insurgent group People's Liberation Army (PLA) has released a video claiming a drone attack on a temporary Assam Rifles camp along the Manipur–Myanmar border.

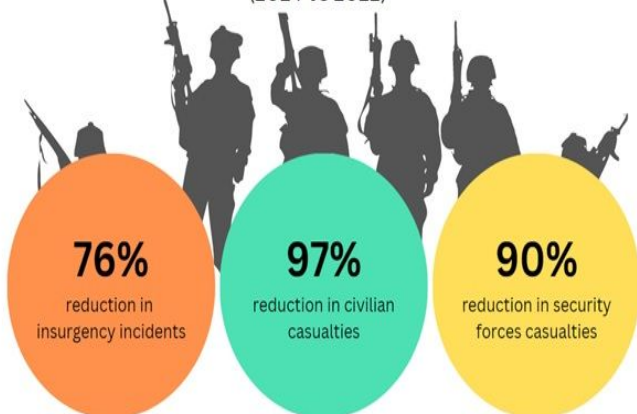
North East Insurgency: Current Status

- **Violence Intensity (2024)**
 - 266 insurgency-related incidents
 - Manipur: 203 incidents
 - Fatalities: 258
 - Displacement: ~60,000 people
- **Assam Peace Trend**
 - Incidents: 246 (2014) → 6 (2024)
 - Sustained counter-insurgency
 - Development-led stabilisation
- **Insurgent Surrenders (Post-2014)**
 - 8,000+ cadres surrendered
 - Rehabilitation policies
 - Peace accords impact
- **AFSPA Rationalisation**
 - Tripura: fully withdrawn (2015)
 - Meghalaya: fully withdrawn (2018)
 - Partial withdrawal: Assam, Nagaland, Manipur
 - Improved security environment
 - Governance normalisation

- **Reduced Human Risk:** No pilot casualties; high-risk missions. **Ex :** *US–Iran (2019) drone shootdown, no retaliation*
- **Persistent ISR:** Long endurance, real-time intelligence, battlefield awareness. **Ex :** *AI-enabled autonomous target identification*
- **Operational Flexibility:** Reconnaissance, surveillance, precision strikes, swarming. **Ex :** *Nagorno-Karabakh: Bayraktar & loitering munitions decisive*
- **Low Logistics Footprint:** Minimal bases, refuelling, crew support.

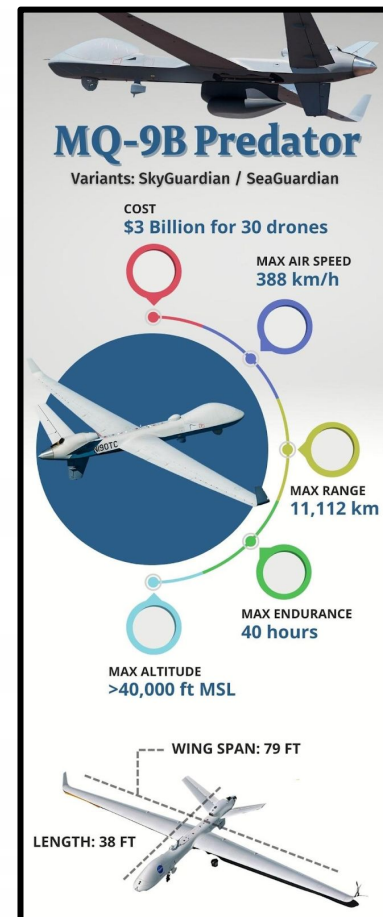
VIOLENCE DOWN IN THE NORTHEAST

(2014 vs 2022)



Advantages of Drones for Military Operations

- **Cost Efficiency:** Low acquisition, fuel, maintenance, logistics. **Ex :** *MQ-9 Reaper ~\$32 mn vs F-35 >\$80 mn*



Drone Terror Strikes Again: Insurgent Group Claims Attack on Assam Rifles Camp

CONTEXT: In a first-of-its-kind incident, the banned insurgent group People’s Liberation Army (PLA) has released a video claiming a drone attack on a temporary Assam Rifles camp along the Manipur–Myanmar border.

Threats Associated with UAV Use

- Lower Threshold for War:** Cheap, low-risk military engagement. **Ex:** Extensive US drone use in Ukraine
- Non-State Actor Empowerment:** Parity with state militaries. **Ex:** Houthis vs Saudi oil facilities; ISIL battlefield drones
- Regional Arms Race:** Rapid proliferation led by China, Turkey, Israel.
- Conflict Prolongation:** Civilian harm, radicalisation cycles.
- Non-State Actor Empowerment:** Parity with state militaries. **Ex:** Houthis vs Saudi oil facilities; ISIL battlefield drones
- Regional Arms Race:** Rapid proliferation led by China, Turkey, Israel.

Drones Used in Recent Attacks

Three of the many kinds of drones available and used in conflicts

Qasef-1 military drone



U.S. Dept. of Defense

Shahed 136



Getty Images

Bayraktar TB2



Getty Images

The Qasef-1/Qasef-2K medium combat drone is a loitering munition with a flight ceiling of 9,843 feet (3,000 meters). It is small and slow enough to evade traditional radar.

The Shahed 136, also known as Geran-2 in Russia, is a suicide drone designed by Iran that can linger over an area in search of a target.

The Bayraktar TB2 UCAV may be flown remotely or autonomously. Ukraine used this drone effectively early in its conflict with Russia until air defenses adjusted.

Notable use:	Al-Houthi attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure.	Russian attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure.	Ukrainian attacks on Russian oil facilities.
Length:	2.88 m (9.4 ft.)	3.5 m (11 ft.)	6.5 m (21 ft.)
Wingspan:	3 m (9.8 ft.)	2.5 m (8 ft.)	12 m (39 ft.)
Weight:	30 kg (66 lbs.)	Total: ~ 200 kg (441 lbs.)	Max.: 700 kg (1,543 lbs.)
Max. speed:	370 km/h (230 mph)	185 km/h (115 mph)	220 km/h (137 mph)
Max. range:	150-200 km (93-124 miles)	2,500 km (1,553 miles)	300 km (186 miles)
Payload:	30 kg (66 lbs.)	30-50 kg (66-110 lbs.)	150 kg (331 lbs.)
Made in:	Yemen or Iran	Iran	Turkey
Cost:	~ \$1,000 to \$3,000	\$20,000 each	~ \$5 million to \$6 million

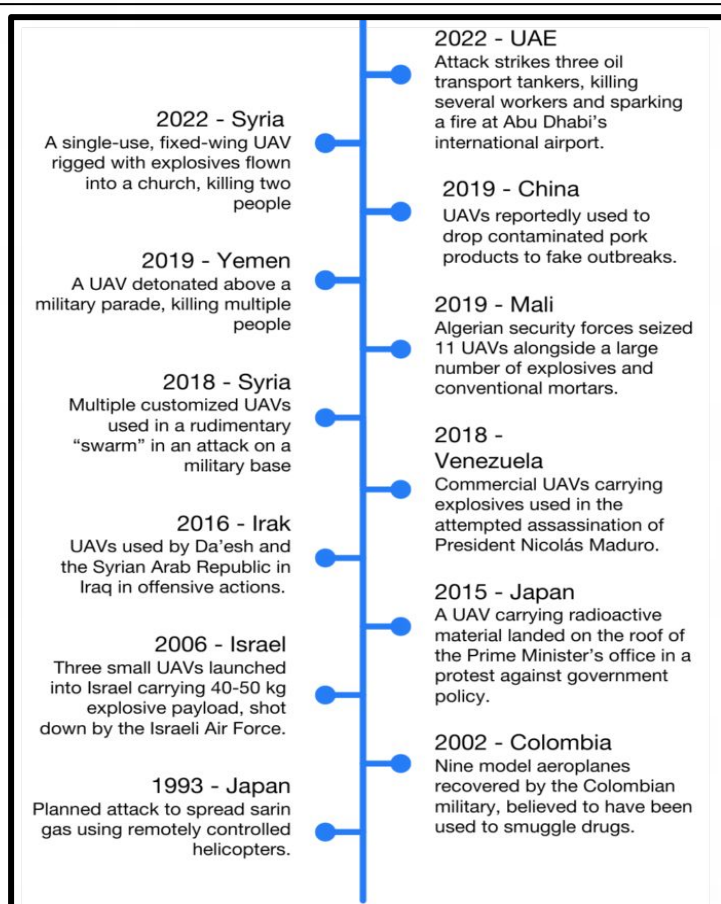
Sources: Military Factory, BBC, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Newsweek

© 2024, The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy



Drone Terror Strikes Again: Insurgent Group Claims Attack on Assam Rifles Camp

CONTEXT: In a first-of-its-kind incident, the banned insurgent group People's Liberation Army (PLA) has released a video claiming a drone attack on a temporary Assam Rifles camp along the Manipur–Myanmar border.



Sudarshan Chakra: INDIA'S NEXT-GEN DEFENCE SHIELD

By 2035, every critical site, from hospitals to railways, temples to military hubs, to be under an unbreachable, tech-driven security cover.

Inspired by Lord Krishna's **Sudarshan Chakra**, this indigenous weapon system will:

Neutralise enemy attacks and strike back with greater force

Predict future threats with advanced AI-led strategy

Deliver precision-targeted action and return safely



The Way Forward : Strengthening India's UAV Capabilities

- **Counter-Drone Systems:** Indrajaal expansion, jamming, spoofing, cyber-kills
- **High-Altitude Adaptation:** Battery efficiency, cold-weather stability (Himalayas)
- **Kinetic & Non-Kinetic Intercepts:** Eagle training, drone nets, directed energy
- **Indigenous Manufacturing:** PPPs, startups, MSMEs, incentives
- **Advanced R&D:** AI, autonomy, swarms, robotics, pilot training, HALE UAVs

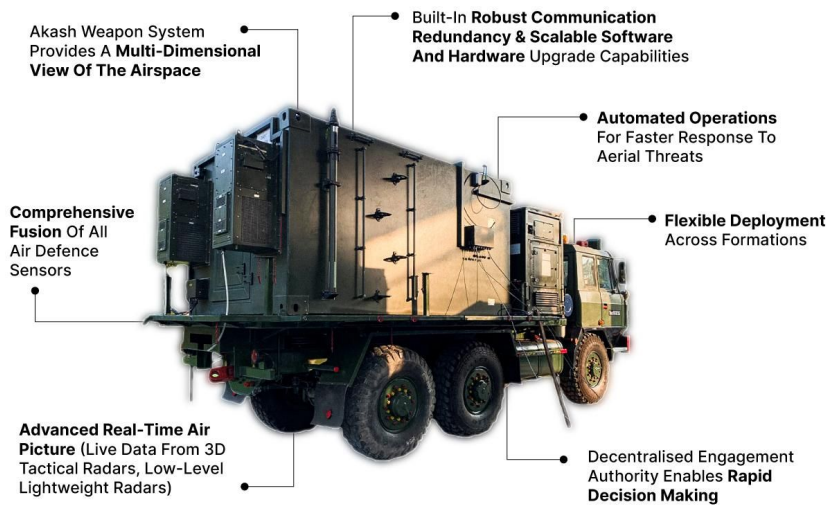


Drone Terror Strikes Again: Insurgent Group Claims Attack on Assam Rifles Camp

CONTEXT: In a first-of-its-kind incident, the banned insurgent group People's Liberation Army (PLA) has released a video claiming a drone attack on a temporary Assam Rifles camp along the Manipur–Myanmar border.

The Bolt Of Akashteer

What India's AI-Powered Air Defence System Brings To The War Room



Source: ANI

Inc42

Mains Practise Question

Q. What are the security challenges posed by the use of UAVs against India? Suggest measures to strengthen India's drone and counter-drone capabilities. (10 marks, 150 words)



Textile Sector in India

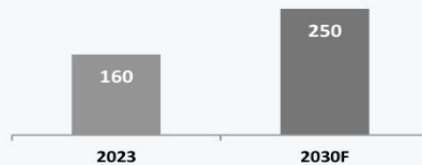
CONTEXT: The textile industry has urged the government to remove import duty on cotton to ease raw material shortages.

Textile Sector in India



MARKET SIZE

Textiles and Apparel Industry (US\$ billion)



Key Facts as of FY24



Contributes 2.3% to India's GDP



Employs over 45 million people

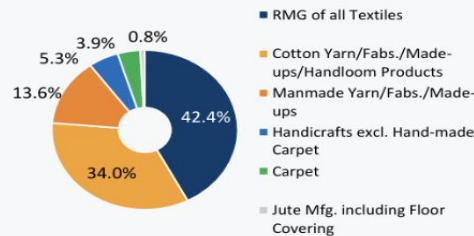


Contributes 10.5% to India's export earnings

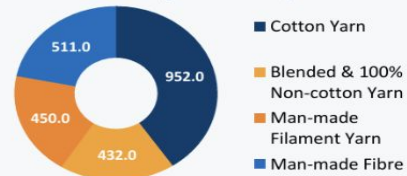


SECTOR COMPOSITION

Share of India's textile exports FY24



Fabric Production in FY24* (million square meter)



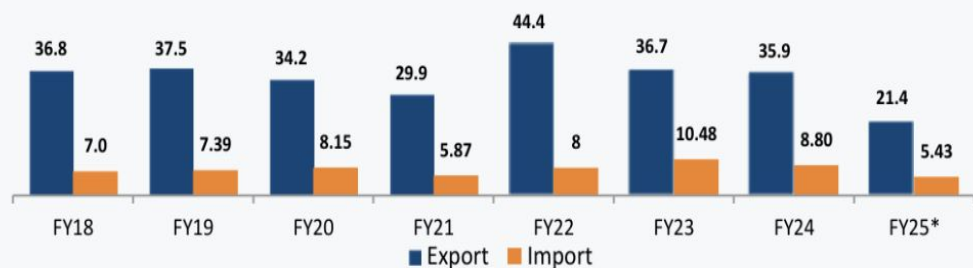
Note: * Until April-June 2023-24

Textile Sector in India



KEY TRENDS

Textiles Trade (US\$ billion)



Note: Imports include textile yarn fabric and made-up articles; Exports include RMG of all textiles, cotton yarn/fabs./made-ups/handloom products, man-made yarn/fabs./made-ups, handicrafts excl. handmade carpets, carpets, jute mfg. including floor coverings, *- April-September 2024



ADVANTAGE INDIA

- Robust demand:** India's textiles sector, driven by a strong policy framework, saw 11% YoY growth in ready made garment exports in August 2024 and is expected to reach US\$ 350 billion by 2030.
- Competitive advantage:** Abundant availability of raw materials such as cotton, wool, silk and jute. India enjoys a comparative advantage in terms of skilled manpower and in cost of production relative to other major textile producers.
- Policy support:** 100% FDI (automatic route) is allowed in the Indian textile sector. In October 2021, the government approved a scheme worth Rs. 4,445 crore (US\$ 594.26 million) to establish seven integrated mega textile parks and boost textile manufacturing in the country. The government is planning to set up 12 new industrial parks and 5-6 mega textile parks, announced by Minister of Commerce and Industry Mr. Piyush Goyal. The Union Budget 2025-26 allocated Rs. 5,272 crore (US\$ for the Ministry of Textiles, a 19% increase from the previous year.
- Increasing Investments:** In June 2023, Government approved R&D projects worth US\$ 7.4 million (Rs. 61.09 crore) in textile sector. Total FDI inflows in the textiles sector stood at US\$ 4.56 billion between April 2000-September 2024.

CONTEXT: The textile industry has urged the government to remove import duty on cotton to ease raw material shortages.

Key Challenges in India's Textile Industry

Lack of Trade Agreements

- **No FTAs** with major textile-consuming regions like the **US**.
- Competitors like **Vietnam & China** benefit from preferential market access, making their exports cheaper.

Stagnant Growth & Export Decline

- **Textile sector growth (FY20–FY24): –1.8% CAGR**
- **Apparel sector contraction: –8.2% CAGR**
- **Apparel exports fell from USD 15.5 bn (FY20) to USD 14.5 bn (FY24).**

High Raw Material Costs

- **Quality Control Orders (QCOs)** restrict synthetic fibre imports.
- **Polyester fibre: 33–36% costlier than China**
- **Viscose fibre: 14–16% more expensive**

Key Challenges in India's Textile Industry

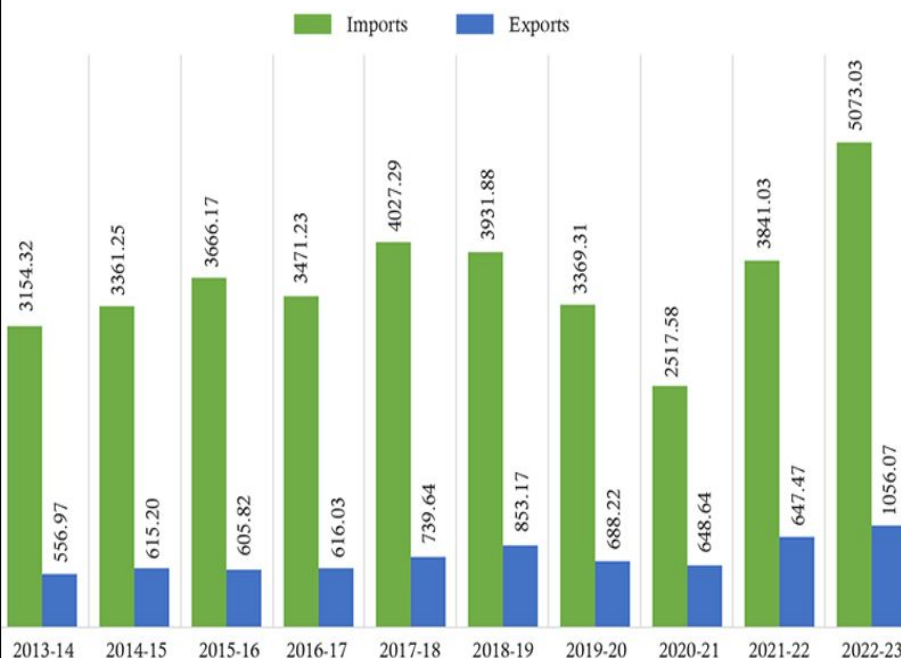
Low Export Competitiveness

- **Fragmented supply chain:** Spread across states, increasing **logistics & customs costs**.
- **China & Vietnam:** Operate **vertically integrated models**, reducing costs.
- **Bangladesh:** Enjoys **duty-free market access** as an **LDC**, undercutting Indian exports.

Sustainability & Environmental Compliance

- **Global brands** demand higher **renewable energy use, recycling, and raw material traceability**.
- **EU regulations (2021–2024)** affect **~20% of India's textile exports**.

India's Textile Machinery Trade Trend



CONTEXT: The textile industry has urged the government to remove import duty on cotton to ease raw material shortages.

Government Initiatives

Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles

CABINET DECISIONS : 08 SEPTEMBER 2021

- ▶ **Incentives worth Rs. 10,683 crore** to be provided over five years
- ▶ **Investment of above Rs 19,000 crore** in five years
- ▶ **Additional production turnover of over Rs.3 lakh crore** in five years
- ▶ **Additional employment of over 7.5 lakh** people directly and several lakhs more for supporting activities
- ▶ Will help Indian companies to emerge as Global Champions
- ▶ Will also pave the way for **participation of women in large numbers**
- ▶ Higher priority for investment in Aspirational Districts & Tier 3-4 towns

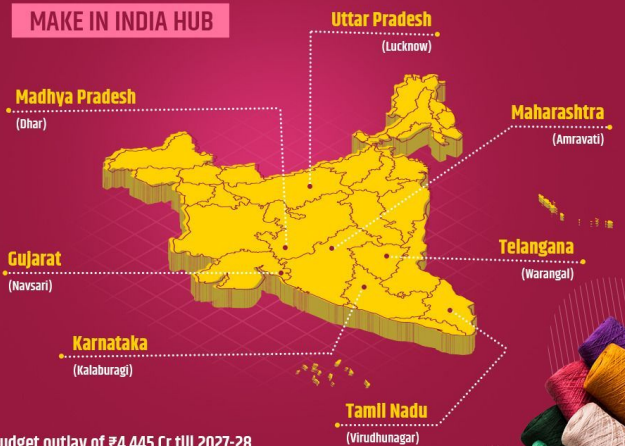


PM MITRA

7 PM Mega Integrated Textile

Regions & Apparel Parks approved

MAKE IN INDIA HUB



PM MITRA

7 PM Mega Integrated Textile

Regions & Apparel Parks approved

Inspired by PM Modi's 5F vision

World class plug and play infrastructure

Boost to exports by strengthening competitiveness of sector

Hub for training, research, innovation

Help achieve economies of scale, attract FDI and global manufacturers



Almed at making India a global textile manufacturing hotspot



Textile Sector in India

CONTEXT: The textile industry has urged the government to remove import duty on cotton to ease raw material shortages.

What should be done?

Labour & Infrastructure :
PM MITRA
Expansion (UP, Bihar, MP)
Worker Housing
(China Model)

Supply Chain Integration :
Vertically Integrated
Textile Parks,
Fibre-to-Fashion Hubs

Trade & MMF Push
FTAs with EU, US
MMF Production Incentives

Green Manufacturing for MSMEs :
Textile Recycling

Circular Economy Focus :
Fast Fashion Waste Management
5Fs

Mains Practise Question

Question : What are the key challenges faced by India's textile sector and suggest measures to enhance its global competitiveness.
(10 Marks, 150 words)



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Conservation, Environmental Pollution
Newspaper The Hindu Page Number : 12

Divya Gandhi

Saltwater would kill most plants, but it cannot felled the ancient mangroves species distinct for their giant stilt roots. So how do they survive on brine? International researchers and authors of a new paper in *Current Biology* have delved into their cells and discovered what makes mangrove shrubs and trees so different from all other terrestrial plants.

The scientists identified

cell traits that are critical to tolerating a surge in saltwater as climate change raises sea levels. And this could also help create plants, especially agricultural crops, to survive in salty water.

"This work reveals that just a few simple cell traits are critical to tolerating the extreme conditions experienced by some of the most distinctive and resilient plants in the world," said Adam Roddy, a co-author and assistant professor in New York University's department of environmental studies.

Mangroves have evolved 30 times over the last 200 million years as they adapted to saltwater.

The scientists analysed 34 mangroves species and across 17 plant families and found that, compared to their inland relatives, mangroves do not exhibit smaller or more stomata to enable higher photosynthetic rates. Mangroves however have unusually small leaf epidermal pavement cells and thicker cell walls, which together give them more mechanical strength to tolerate low osmotic potentials.

'Variety of mechanisms' Different groups of mangroves use a variety of mechanisms. To exclude salt, some species have roots with a waxy layer inside that's able to filter out most of the salt, Dr. Roddy told *The Hindu*. "This requires them to create a lot of tension to essentially 'pull' the

water out of solution and into their bodies. Other species will take up a lot of salt, but then they concentrate the saltwater and secrete it out of their leaves through specialised tissues."

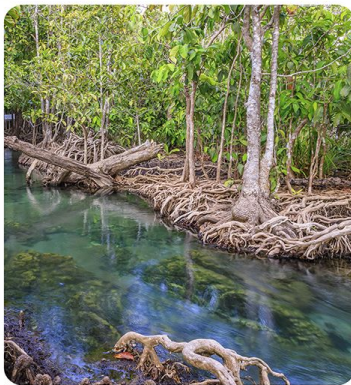
Mangroves are special as they're able to tolerate high amounts of salt and live along coasts, also protecting them against erosion, and they provide habitats for both sea animals and birds. Given so much of the world's population lives along coasts, these functions directly benefit humans, Dr. Roddy said.

The study offers strategies to engineer salt-tolerant plants by manipulating cell size and cell wall properties.

"If we want to manipulate plants," Dr. Roddy said, "then focusing on ones of particular economic importance that would also be threatened by increasing salinity would be the way to start."

Prelims Pointers

What is a MANGROVE?



Mangroves are coastal ecosystems found in tropical and subtropical regions.

They are composed of trees and shrubs adapted to living in saline soils flooded by seawater. These trees, such as mangroves, have aerial roots that enable them to survive in challenging conditions.

Mangroves are vital for the environment as they act as natural barriers against storms and floods, protect coastlines from erosion, and are home to a wide diversity of species, including fish, birds, and crustaceans. They are also important for fishing and tourism.

India's Mangrove Cover (ISFR-2023)

- Total mangrove cover: **4,991.68 km²** (**0.15%** of India's geographical area).
- State-wise share: **West Bengal (42.45%), Gujarat (23.66%), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (12.39%).**
- **Gujarat's mangroves increased by 253.06 km² (2001–2023).**

Features of Mangroves



Salt Tolerance

Excrete salt via leaf glands or shed salt-laden leaves.



Aerial Roots (Pneumatophores)

Enable oxygen intake in waterlogged, low-oxygen soil.



Prop & Stilt Roots

Anchor trees in soft, unstable coastal mud.



Vivipary

Seeds germinate on the parent tree and disperse via tides



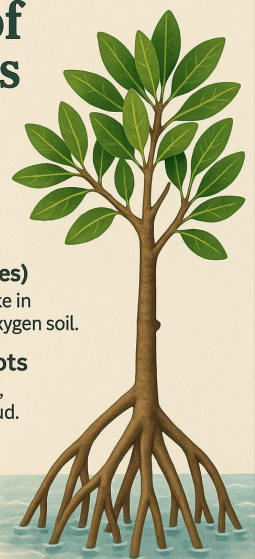
Coastal Shield

Reduce storm impact, tidal surges, and shoreline erosion.



Biodiversity Habitat

Support fish nurseries, migratory birds, reptiles, and crustaceans.



Thalassemia Patients Hail New Transfusion Bill

SYLLABUS : GS 2 Health

Newspaper The Hindu Page Number : 14

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Thalassaemia patients have welcomed the introduction of the National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025, in Parliament on Friday.

The proposed legislation seeks to create a dedicated National Blood Transfusion Authority, set uniform national standards for the collection, testing, processing, storage, distribution, issuance and transfusion of blood and blood components, mandate registration of all blood centres, promote voluntary blood donation, and introduce strict penalties for unsafe or non-compliant practices.



The Thalassemia Patients Advocacy Group says the provisions address long-standing concerns. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

“These provisions directly address long standing concerns faced by patients, caregivers, and clinicians due to fragmented regulation and inconsistent quality,” the Thalassemia Patients Advocacy Group (TPAG) said.

It added that the reform

The former ICMR chief says the Bill is an evidence-based framework to improve care

offers hope for a safer, more accountable and more efficient blood eco-

system. N.K. Ganguly, former Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, said, “Strengthening the governance of blood transfusion services is essential for ensuring safety and public trust.”

The proposed Bill provides a science-based framework to streamline standards and improve patient outcomes, he added.

Anubha Taneja Mukherjee, member secretary, TPAG, said, “For thousands of thalassaemia patients, blood is not a treatment. It is a lifeline. The Bill recognises the urgency of building a strong and unified national framework to ensure safe and equitable access to quality blood.”

WHAT IS THALASSEMIA?

Everything you should know about THALASSEMIA



Thalassemia is a genetic blood disorder in which the body makes an abnormal form of haemoglobin. Haemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. The disorder results in the body not producing enough haemoglobin and red blood cells making them dependent on lifelong blood transfusions. The severity of the disorder may range from mild to severe, depending upon the number of genes affected.

Causes

If you're missing two genes, you have **alpha thalassemia trait** (also called **alpha thalassemia minor**). You may have mild **anemia**. If you're missing three genes, you likely have hemoglobin H disease (which a blood test can detect). This form of thalassemia causes moderate to severe **anemia**.



Thalassemia Patients Hail New Transfusion Bill

SYLLABUS : GS 2 Health
Newspaper The Hindu Page Number : 14

PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP DURING TREATMENT



Maintain normal
haemoglobin levels



Ensure white
blood cells are filtered
out by using filters



Be sure that the
blood does not have
blood-borne infections



Regular doctor
visits and monitoring

PREVENTION



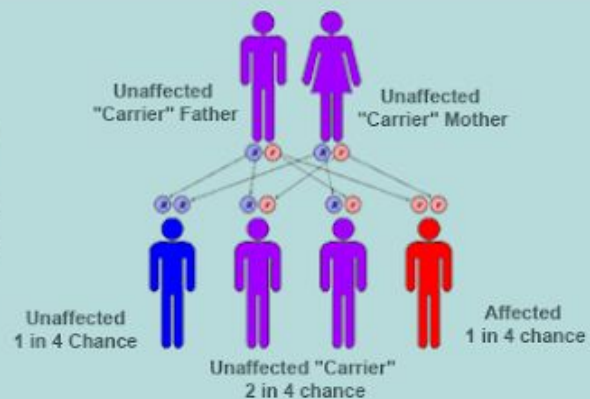
Get tested to know
if you are a carrier
of Thalassemia



Get antenatal test to
know if the foetus has
Thalassemia major

What is Thalassemia trait?

It means that an individual carries genetic trait for Thalassemia but do not usually experience any related health problems.



Symptoms of thalassemia

The symptoms of thalassemia can vary. Some of the most common ones include:



Bone
deformities,
especially in
the face



Dark
urine



Delayed
growth and
development



Excessive
tiredness
and fatigue



Yellow or
pale skin



Iron
overload and
need for iron
chelation



SYLLABUS : GS 2 Health

Newspaper The Hindu Page Number : 11

Rahul Karmakar

GUWAHATI

The 'Demow Model' from eastern Assam's Sivasagar has been chosen as one of the successful systems of snakebite prevention and management to be scientifically studied and potentially scaled up across the country, under a project sanctioned by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The ICMR sanctioned

the four-year research project worth ₹13.5 crore to "tackle the devastating public health challenge of snakebite envenoming" in India. The project, called the Zero Snakebite Death Initiative: Community Empowerment and Engagement for Mitigation of Snakebite Envenoming, aims to develop a unified and replicable national model for snakebite prevention.

The research, spearheaded by Jaideep Menon

of Kerala's Amrita Institute, will span seven States – Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, and West Bengal.

The project will analyse and integrate proven regional strategies, topped by the 'Demow Model', which focuses on robust community engagement and referral networks, and involves community awareness, volunteers, and participation.

"The research will be conducted under the banner of SARPA (Snakebite Awareness, Response, Prevention, and Action). This integrated approach seeks to bridge the gap between affected communities and formal health systems, ensuring victims receive treatment within the crucial golden hour," an ICMR spokesperson said. The research and community study are scheduled to begin in January 2026.

Prelims Pointers

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

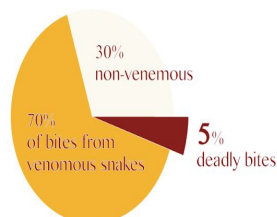
- **Nature:** Apex national body for biomedical research in India
- **Established:** 1911 (as IRFA); renamed ICMR in 1949
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Mandate & Functions

- Formulates and coordinates **biomedical & health research**
- Advises the Government on **disease control, public health policy, and clinical guidelines**
- Conducts research through a **network of 25+ national institutes** and field units
- Sets **ethical guidelines** for biomedical and health research

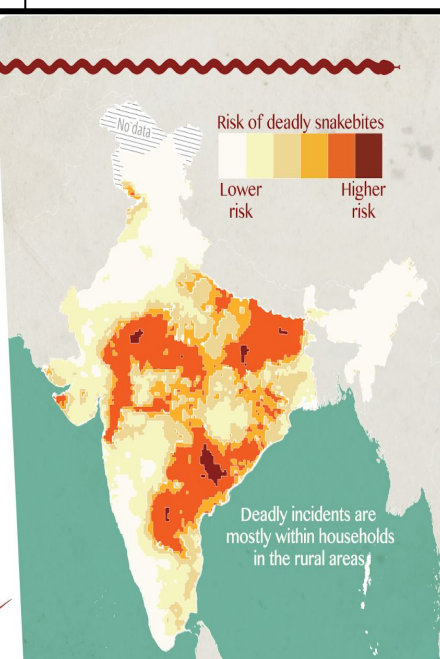
Snakebites in India

Every year roughly **58,000** people are bitten by snakes in India.



The chance of an Indian dying from snakebite is about **1 in 250**

Source: Suraweera et al. (2020)



MONGABAY
INDIA



Ratle Hydropower Project

SYLLABUS : GS 3 Infrastructure

Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 08**

A TOP official of Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) has alleged interference by a local BJP MLA, warning that continued disruptions could force the company to pull out of the 850-megawatt Ratle Hydroelectric Project in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

Harpal Singh, chief operating officer of MEIL and the person in charge of the Ratle Hydel Power Project, said that the project — slated for completion by September 2026 at a cost of Rs 3,700 crore — is now delayed by two years, attributing this chiefly to the continued disruptions allegedly caused by BJP MLA Shagun Parihar.

All terms agreed upon by the company and the government when the contract was awarded in 2022 have failed “due to continued interference by local politicians and indiscipline by their supporters”, he claimed.

UPSC Civil Services Exam – 2021 Prelims

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



Ratle Hydropower Project



SYLLABUS : GS 3 Infrastructure

Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number : 08**

Prelims Pointers

Ratle Hydroelectric Project

Type: Run-of-the-River Scheme

River: Chenab

Location: Kishtwar District, Jammu & Kashmir

Installed Capacity: 850 MW

Chenab River :

- **Source Region:** Upper Himalayas, **Lahaul & Spiti district**, Himachal Pradesh
- **Formation:** Confluence of **Chandra** and **Bhaga** rivers at **Tandi**, ~8 km southwest of **Keylong**
- **Bhaga Origin:** **Surya Taal** lake, west of **Bara-lacha La Pass**
- **Chandra Origin:** Glaciers east of Bara-lacha La Pass, near **Chandra Taal**
- **Flow Path:** Jammu region of **Jammu & Kashmir** → **Punjab (Pakistan)** → **Indus River**.

Other Hydropower Projects in the Chenab Basin

- **Kiru Hydroelectric Project**
Installed Capacity: 624 MW
River: Chenab
Location: Kishtwar District, Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Pakal Dul (Drangdhuran) Hydroelectric Project**
River: Marusudar (main right-bank tributary of Chenab)
Location: Kishtwar Tehsil, Doda District, Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Salal Power Station**
Type: Run-of-the-River
Installed Capacity: 690 MW
River: Chenab
Location: Reasi District, Jammu & Kashmir.



14th December 2025

APAAR ID

SYLLABUS : Government Policies Interventions
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

Decoding the News

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Orissa High Court has ruled that consent forms for the Education Ministry's APAAR ID scheme, which issues unique identities linked to Aadhaar to each student, do not provide parents with an option to opt out of giving consent.

A Bench of Justice Sashikanta Mishra has directed the government to consider amending the consent forms so that such an option is made available to parents.

The High Court was hearing a petition filed by an elementary school student from Bhubaneswar and his parents, who said that the consent forms distributed by the school under the APAAR ID scheme did not provide an option to decline sharing Aadhaar details at the outset.

The petitioners noted that a clause in the consent form mentioned that consent could be withdrawn at any time. However, they argued that the clause, by its structure, required consent to first be given and only then withdrawn.



The form said consent could be withdrawn, but only after it was first given.

sent under the APAAR ID scheme was "entirely voluntary", the court observed that the consent forms had "not been worded strictly in consonance with the avowed objective of making the scheme voluntary".

"In other words, the model consent form does not appear to have been happily worded in this respect at all," the court ruled. "If it is intended to be a voluntary act, appropriate provisions clearly specifying such fact ought to have been incorporated in the form by providing option to the parents to refuse to submit their consent or to opt out of it entirely," it added.

Privacy concern

In its December 12 order, the High Court said, "The withdrawal of consent as per the last paragraph of the consent form cannot be treated as giving an effective right to the parent to protect his privacy because by such time the consent would already have been given."

While noting the submissions of the Union Education Ministry that con-

sent under the APAAR ID scheme was "entirely voluntary", the court observed that the consent forms had "not been worded strictly in consonance with the avowed objective of making the scheme voluntary".

"In other words, the model consent form does not appear to have been happily worded in this respect at all," the court ruled. "If it is intended to be a voluntary act, appropriate provisions clearly specifying such fact ought to have been incorporated in the form by providing option to the parents to refuse to submit their consent or to opt out of it entirely," it added.

The Bench noted that the petitioners had shared a model consent form incorporating an option for parents to refuse consent at the beginning, and said State authorities should consider this sample while amending the consent forms.

The High Court said it would take up the matter again after two months, when "necessary orders" would be passed.

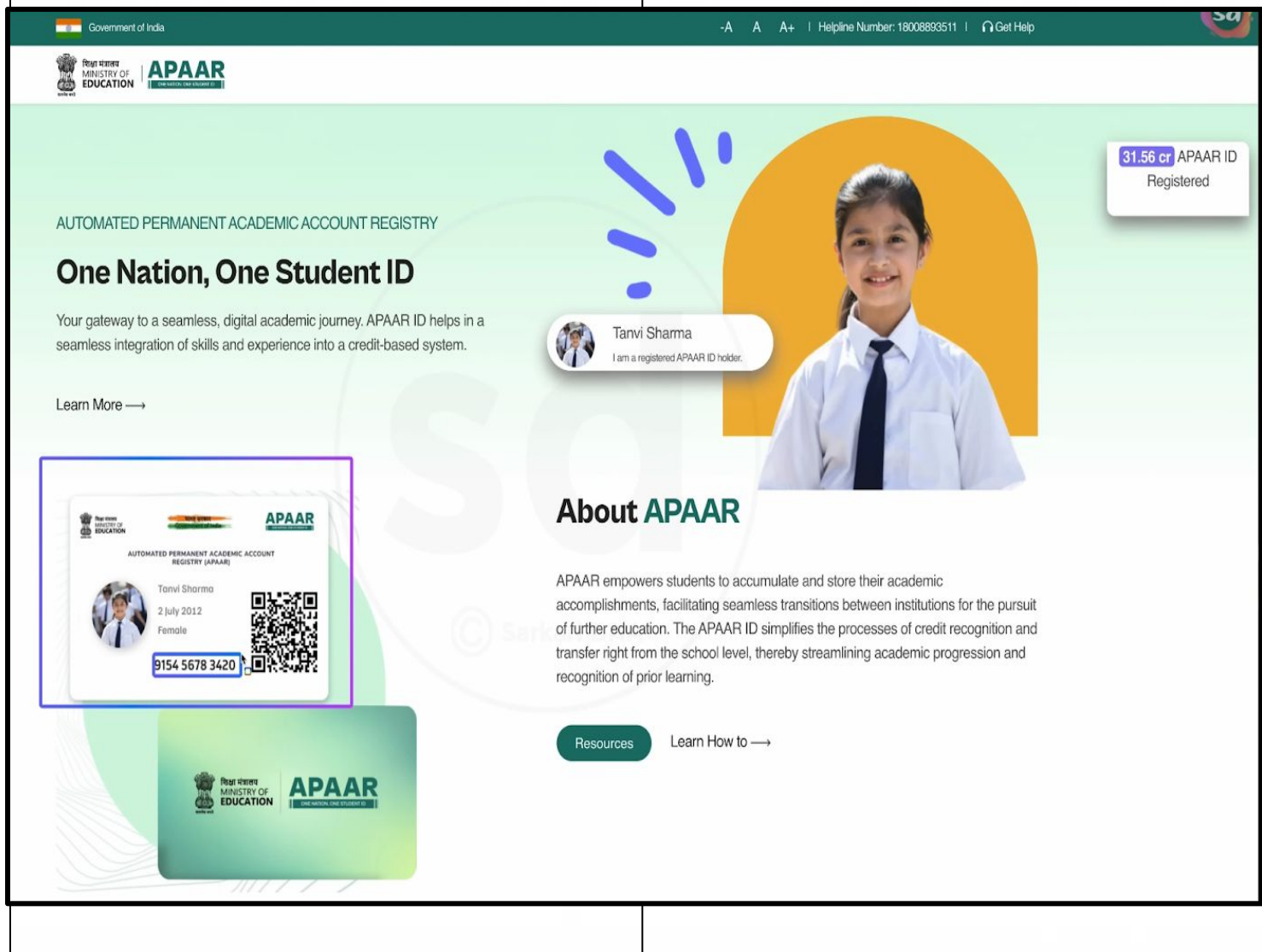


SYLLABUS : Government Policies Interventions
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number :** 11

Prelims Pointers

With APAAR ID:

- Access to a digital repository of all **academic documents**
- Seamless sharing of records for **admissions or employment**
- Enhanced security and permanence of **academic achievements**



The screenshot displays the official website for the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR). The header includes the Government of India logo and the Ministry of Education. The main banner features a young girl, Tarvi Sharma, with her APAAR ID (31.56 cr) and a 'Registered' status. The text 'One Nation, One Student ID' is prominently displayed. Below this, a description of the system is provided, along with a 'Learn More' link. A sample APAAR ID card is shown, featuring a QR code and the ID number 3154 5678 3420. The 'About APAAR' section explains the system's purpose in accumulating and storing academic accomplishments. At the bottom, there are links for 'Resources' and 'Learn How to'.

Government of India

Ministry of Education

APAAR

AUTOMATED PERMANENT ACADEMIC ACCOUNT REGISTRY (APAAR)

One Nation, One Student ID

Your gateway to a seamless, digital academic journey. APAAR ID helps in a seamless integration of skills and experience into a credit-based system.

Learn More →

31.56 cr APAAR ID Registered

Tarvi Sharma
I am a registered APAAR ID holder.

About APAAR

APAAR empowers students to accumulate and store their academic accomplishments, facilitating seamless transitions between institutions for the pursuit of further education. The APAAR ID simplifies the processes of credit recognition and transfer right from the school level, thereby streamlining academic progression and recognition of prior learning.

Resources Learn How to →



Q.1 As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, which one of the following States/UTs has the highest share of mangrove cover in India?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Answer: c

Q 2. With reference to *Thalassemia*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a genetic blood disorder in which the body produces an abnormal quantity of haemoglobin.
2. It usually requires lifelong blood transfusions for balancing the red blood cell production in the body.

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

Q.3 With reference to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), consider the following statements:

1. It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Science and technology.
2. It primarily acts as a regulatory body for medical education in India.
3. It conducts research through a network of national institutes and field units.

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

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

Answer: a

Q.4 The Chenab River originates in which one of the following regions?

- a) Glaciers near Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh
- b) Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh
- c) Zaskar Range in Ladakh
- d) Pir Panjal Range in Jammu region

Answer: b

Q.5 With reference to the APAAR ID (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry), consider the following statements:

1. It enables individuals to access a digital repository of their academic documents in a secure and permanent manner.
2. It facilitates seamless sharing of academic records for purposes such as admissions and employment.
3. It is intended exclusively for higher education institutions and does not cover school-level academic records.

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

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

Answer: b





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