

# The Analyst

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

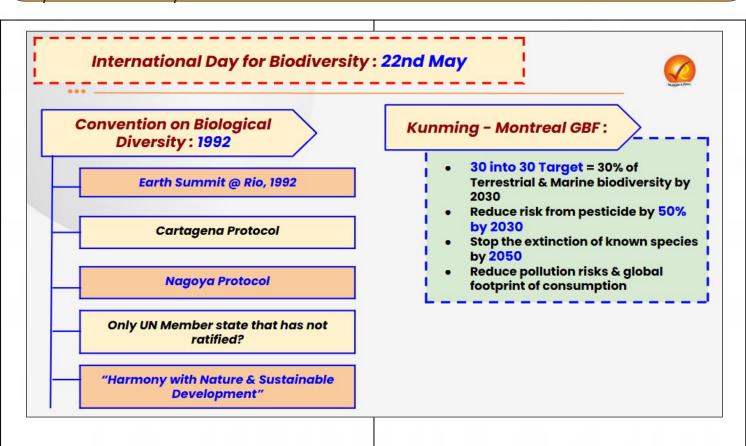
22nd May, 2025

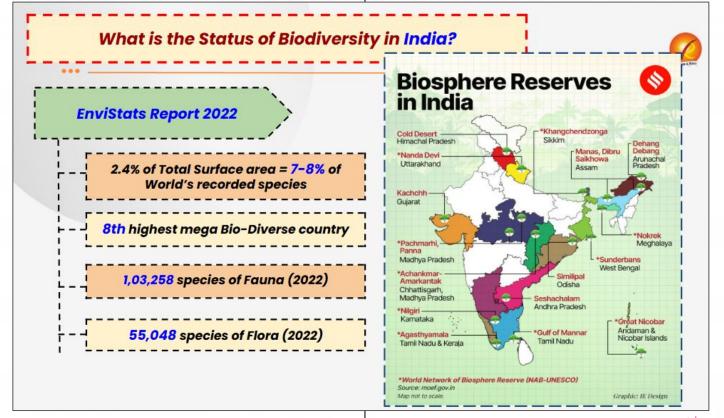


## International Day for Biological Diversity



**CONTEXT:** The editorial highlights the prevailing issue of the Biodiversity loss especially in the Urban areas and provide for the way forward on the International Day for Biodiversity





The Analyst Handout

## International Day for Biological Diversity



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#### What is the Status of Biodiversity in India?



Table 7.2: India's Faunal	Species Diversity	v and Endemism -	2021

Major Groups	Number of Species	No. of Endemic Species	No. of Threatened Species
Protozoans	3,557	645	
Invertebrates	92,741	27,125	135
Chordates, Cephalochordates and Urochordates	6,960	1,178	540
Of which			
Fishes	3,496	500	228
Amphibia	443	296	75
Reptilia	706	255	54
Birds	1,346	81	89
Mammals	432	46	94
Total	1,03,258	28,948	675

#### Table 7.6: Status of different categories of Protected Areas in India

Categories of Protected Area		Number	Area (in Km²)	
Protected Area	National Parks	106	44,372	
	Wild Life Sanctuaries	564	1,22,509	
	Community Reserves	218	1,446	
	Conservation Reserves	99	4726	
	Total	987	1,73,053	
Of Which Marine Protected Areas	National Parks	10	3381	
	Sanctuaries	115	5064	
	Community/ Conservation Reserves	4	272	
	Total	129	8717	

Source: 1. Wildlife Institute of India and K Sivakumar, Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Protected Areas in India: Challenges and Way Forward, K. Venkataraman et al. (eds.), Ecology and Conservation of Tropical Marine Faunal Communities, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2013.

#### What are the causes behind the Biodiversity Loss?



Anthropogenic Factors Invasive Alien Species Adverse impact of Climate Change

Over Exploitation of Resources

Pollutants Discharge

Discharge of untreated effluents into canals pollutes water in borewells in Chennai

Residents say pollution has worsened in the last few days, causing health problems; a councillor calls for better coordination among government agencies to curb pollution of canals.

Why It Matters | India lost 668,400 ha of forest cover in the last 30 years

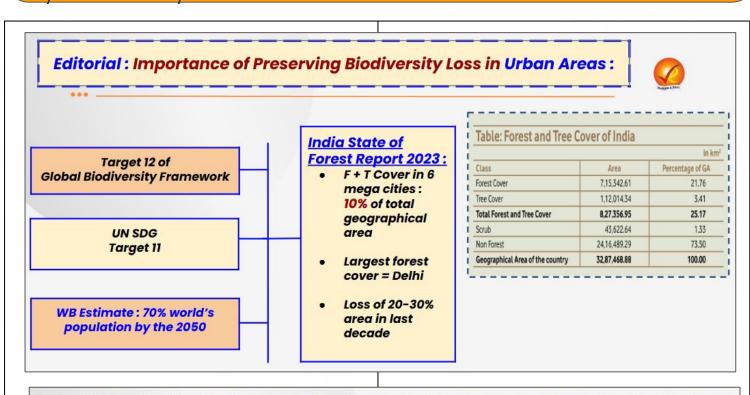
India clocked in the second highest rate of deforestation among countries worldwide between 1990 and 2020.



## International Day for Biological Diversity



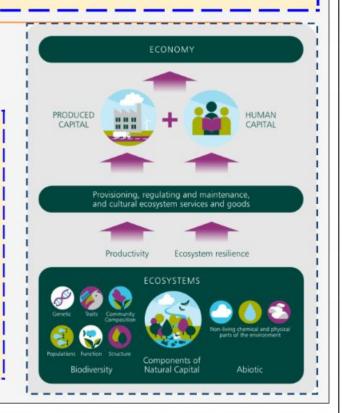
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### Editorial: Importance of Preserving Biodiversity Loss in Urban Areas:

#### Benefits offered by Urban Biodiversity:

- Provisional Services = Food, Fibre & Water
- Minimise Urban Heat Island Effect
- Help in Flood Control & Water conservation
- Pollution Abatement & Carbon sequestration
- Concrete Jungles v. Spaces for recreational activities
- New York College Study = Value of Annual services = ₹8 crore

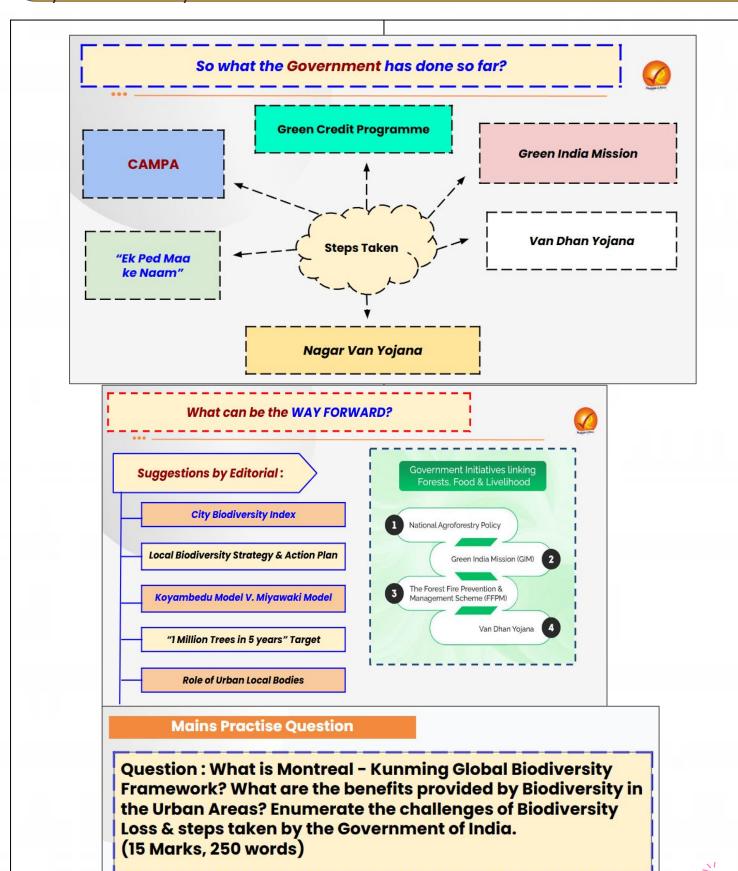




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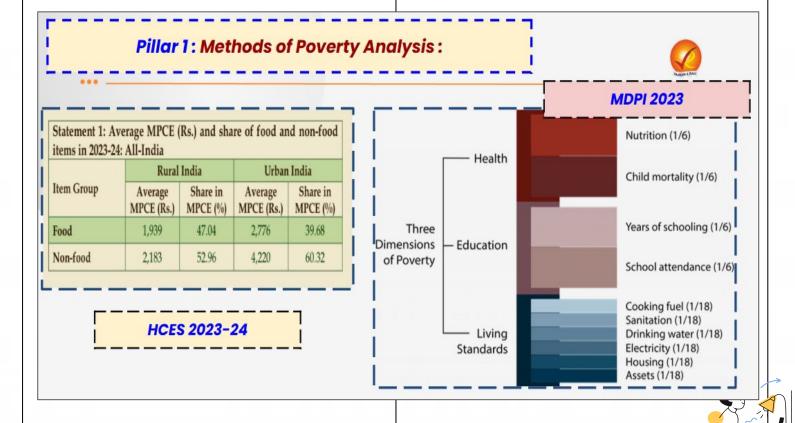


## Analysing Poverty Levels in India



**CONTEXT:** The article reflects on the statement popularised by environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna: "Ecology is the permanent economy."

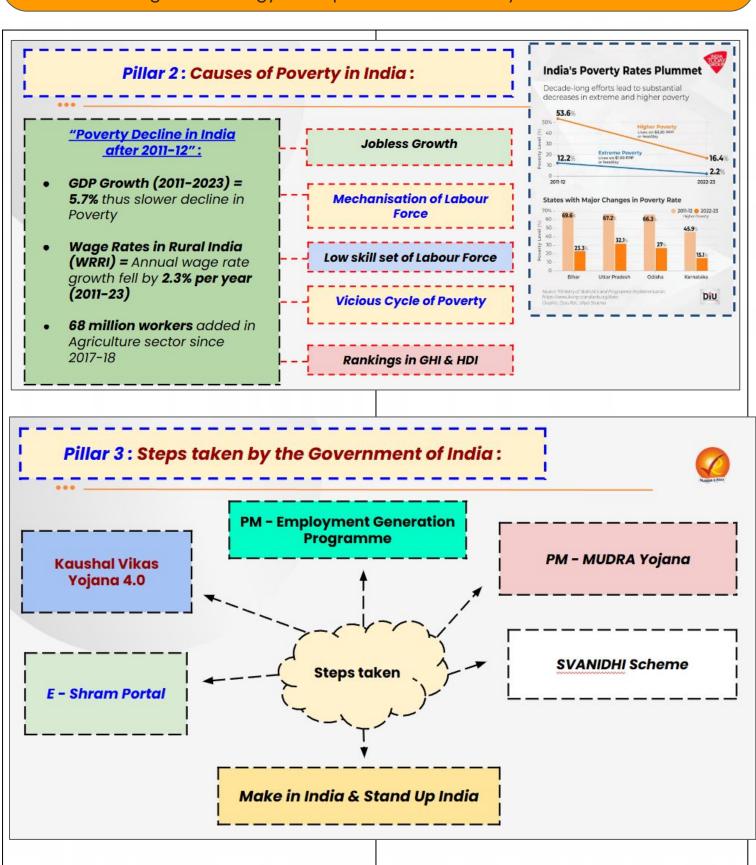
#### Pillar 1: Methods of Poverty Analysis: Tendulkar **HCES MDPI 2023** "Poverty Decline in Committee 2011 2023-24 India after 2011-12": Consumption **MPCE** in UNDP India has no expenditure on Rural area official poverty basket of Goods estimate since : ₹4,122 18% of **Population is Including private Poverty levels MPCE** in MDP expenditure on fallen from 37% in Urban Health & 2004 to 18% by Education ~ 23 crore area: ₹6,996 people Rural: ₹27/ day Urban: ₹33 / day 2011: 21% of **Population**



## Analysing Poverty Levels in India



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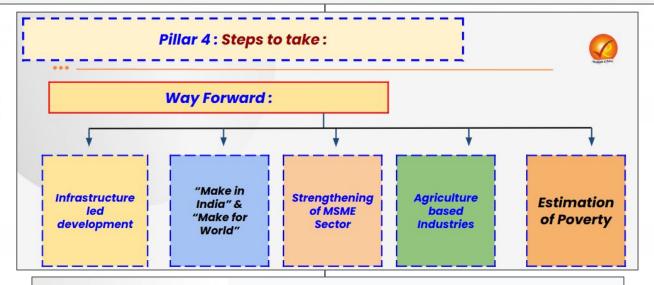


## Analysing Poverty Levels in India



**CONTEXT:** The article reflects on the statement popularised by environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna: "Ecology is the permanent economy."

#### Pillar 3: Steps taken by the Government of India: Budget 2024: Employment Linked Incentive Scheme Scheme C Scheme A Scheme B Monthly wage to all Wage subsidy for 1st Additional employee entering in timers employment in all formal sector only sectors **Additional** Salary eligibility : ₹1 ₹3000 / month employment in Lakh / month **Manufacturing sector** reimbursement to employer for Compulsory online 8-24% incentive to providing jobs Financial literacy both employer & course employee



#### **Mains Practise Question**

Question: What is the level of poverty in India as per various methodologies? What are the causes behind prevailing Poverty in India? What steps you will take as a future bureaucrat to deal with the issue of Poverty?

(15 Marks, 250 words)

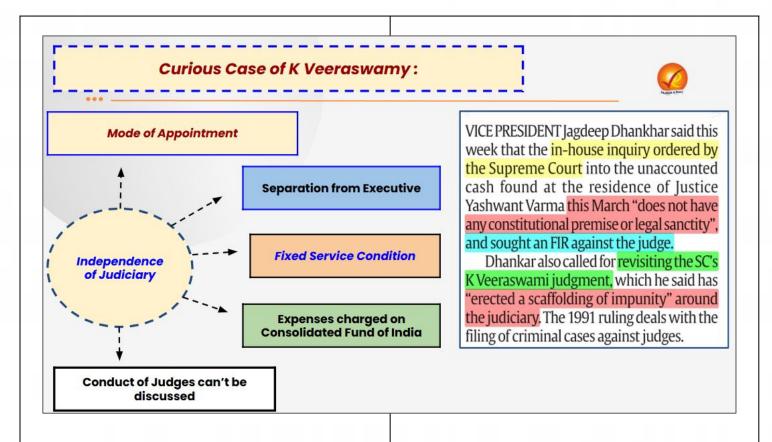


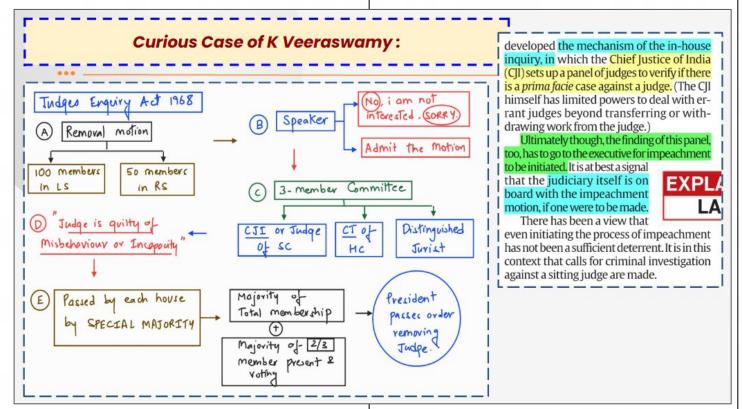
## Curious Case of Veeraswami



**SYLLABUS:** GS 2 Paper: Judiciary & associated challenges

Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: EXPLAINED



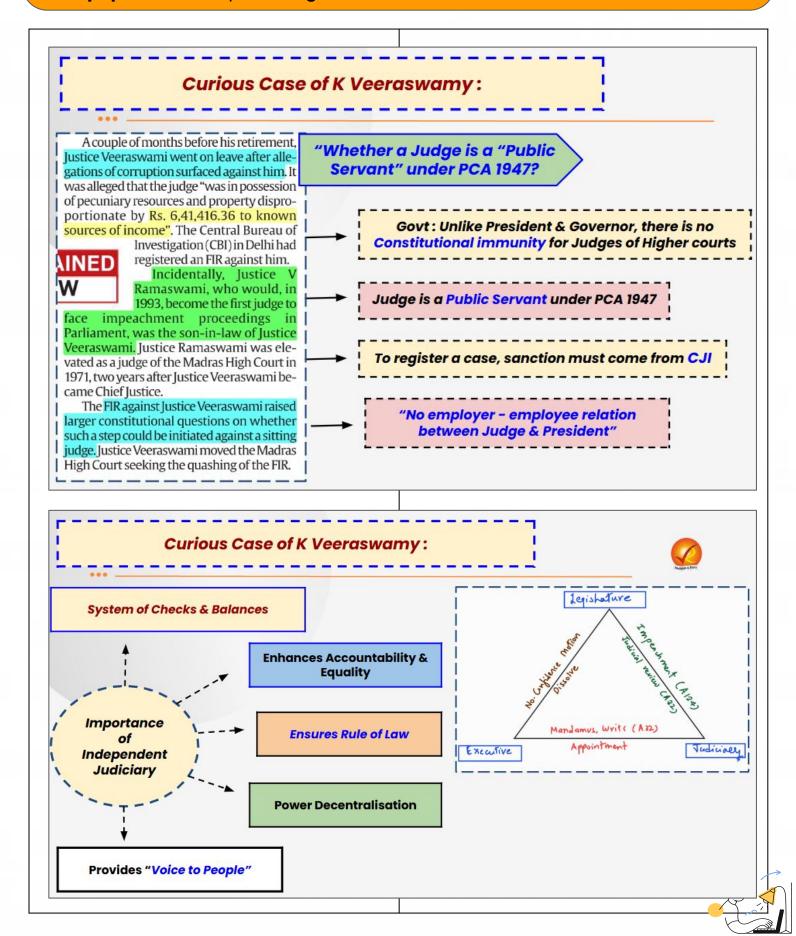


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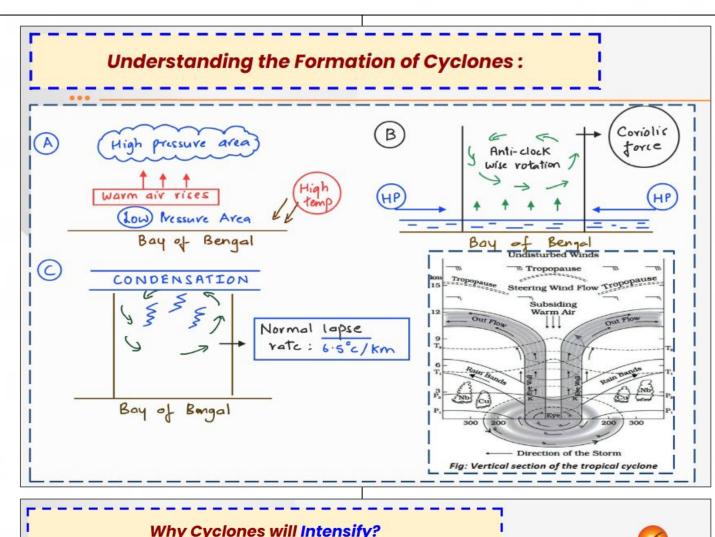
Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: EXPLAINED



## Intensification of Cyclone



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: GS 1 Paper: Geophysical Phenomenons Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: SCIENCE



#### Why Cyclones will Intensify? A follow-up study published by the **Conditions for** same team plus two more researchers Reasons as per Article: formation of Cyclones: ialso reported that roughly half of the world's mangroves will be at high to severe risk by 2100. Coastal ecosystems protect inland areas from storms, reduce Large sea surface with Isoil erosion, and store carbon. Mangroves temperature above 27 degree in particular can also store four- to Celsius five-times more carbon per unit area than Radiative force of 2.6 W/ m2 is required to keep Iterrestrial forests. Presence of Coriolis force global warming as per The two studies show the effects of Paris Agreement Target climate change on tropical cyclones could thave far-reaching and multifaceted Current extra energy consequences around the world, not just being added = 2.7 W / m2 Small variation in Vertical in the tropics. Wind speed Socio - Economic Pathway 5 = Burning fossil fuel & depleting Weak LP area & Upper natural resources Divergence above the sea

## Intensification of Cyclone



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: GS 1 Paper: Geophysical Phenomenons Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number: SCIENCE

### Why Cyclones will Intensify?

#### New places, new perils

The models found that of the world's 844 ecoregions, 290 are already affected by tropical cyclones. The models revealed 200 more can be considered vulnerable and 26 to be resilient.

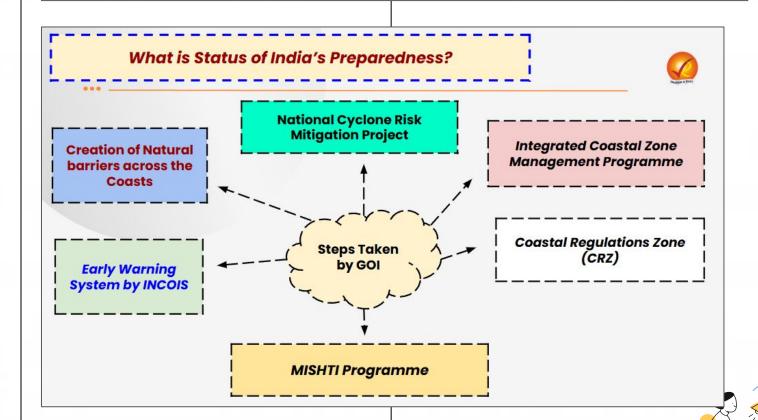
However, in the resilient ecoregions, the models showed that the time available to recover between storms could drop from 19 years in the 1980-2017 period to 12 years in the 2015-2050 period for high-intensity storms.

The bulk of these shifts are expected to occur in East Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean because these places are abundant in resilient or dependent ecoregions. The models also found that Madagascar and parts of Oceania are increasingly at risk.

According to Kropf, whether the world ends up in the SSP5-8.5 scenario hinges on how long it banks on fossil fuels and how committed countries remain to the Paris Agreement.

In the meantime, the authors suggest including long-term recovery time in risk assessments in addition to damage caused by cyclones and risk-sensitive conservation planning, including decision-making processes that explicitly consider shifting disturbance regimes.

"We're underestimating the scale of what's coming," Kropf said. "The changing cyclone patterns could have enormous consequences."



### **USA's Golden Dome**



**SYLLABUS:** GS 3 Paper: Internal Security

**Newspaper:** Indian Express **Page Number:** EXPLAINED

rockets

uninhabited areas

fired

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Tuesday said he had shortlisted a design for the "Golden Dome" missile defence shield, and made General Michael Guetlein of the US Space Force in-charge of the project.

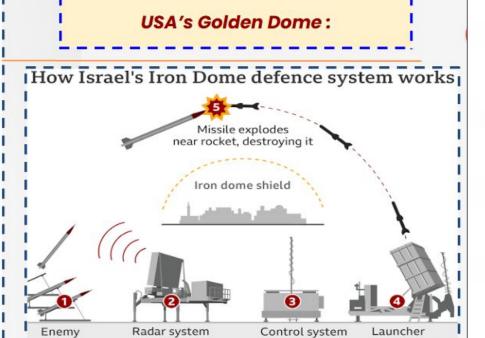
First floated by Trump this January, the Golden Dome is inspired by Israel's Iron Dome air defence system. But it is far more ambitious in scale and scope, and seeks to integrate "next-generation" technologies.

#### Making 'space wars' a reality

Trump said the system would comprise, among other things, space-based sensors and interceptors. This would make the Golden Dome the very first truly space-based weapon system.

Currently, the use of space technology in defence has largely been restricted to reconnaissance. Satellites provide crucial targeting and other data for Earth-based weapon systems such as long-range missiles, guided munitions, etc.

The proposed Golden Dome will introduce interceptors that will be launched from space itself. According to the initial plans, the system will comprise thousands of small satellites orbiting Earth, which will intercept an enemy missile moments after it is launched, NPR reported.



estimates

impact point

The Iron Dome is a short-range, ground-based aerial defence system that primarily relies on radars — not satellites—to identify and track enemy targets.

Golden Dome will likely comprise radar and other ground-based targeting systems as well. But its main selling point is the deployment of space-based systems.

■Unlike the short-range defence that the Iron Dome provides against relatively smaller and slower targets, the Golden Dome must be able to defend against Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), technology which both China and Russia — Washington's two main geopolitical rivals — possess.

ICBMs can be launched from tens of thousands of kilometres away, and travel to space as a part of their flight trajectory. Tracking ICBMs necessitates the use of satellites. And while they can be neutralised using ground-based interceptors, space-based weapons have long been thought to be more effective for this task given that they re-enter Earth's atmosphere at hypersonic speeds. Note that ICBMs can carry nuclear warheads.

#### **USA's Golden Dome:**

Iron Dome system ignores incoming threats it determines will land in

detects rocket

and tracks

Source: Rafael Advanced Defense Systems



fires missile

to intercept

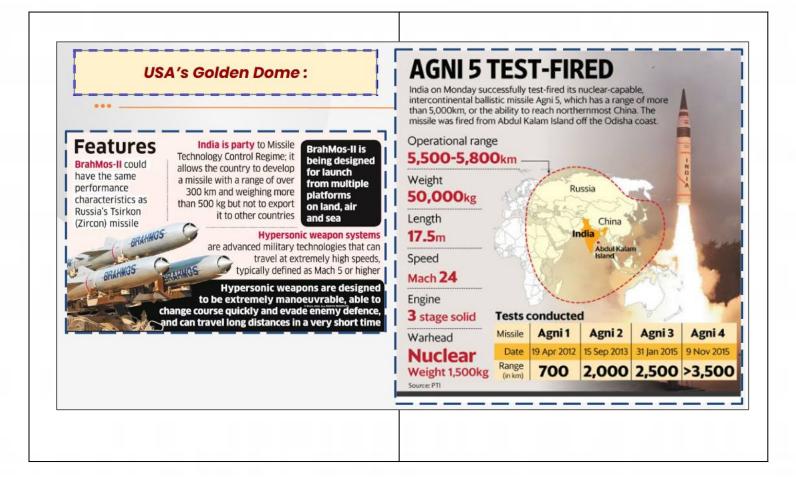
Cruise Missile	Ballistic Missile	
Powered by Jet Engine	Rocket powered for initial boost phase	
Relatively low altitude	Ballistic trajectory	
Combination of GPS & Inertial Guidance	Satellite & GPS powered	
Harder to detect but easier to intercept	Easier to detect but harder to intercept due to high speed	
Brahmos Missile	Prithvi & Agni Missiles	

### **USA's Golden Dome**



**SYLLABUS:** GS 3 Paper: Internal Security

Newspaper: Indian Express Page Number: EXPLAINED





## **INSV Kaundinya**



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: GS 1 Paper : Art & Culture
Newspaper Indian Express Page Number 11

#### Context of the News:

THE STORY goes that over 2,000 years ago, an Indian merchant vessel was sailing along the Mekong Delta (Southern Vietnam). On board was an Indian merchant, Kaundinya, and a crew of Indians. The ship came under attack from pirates, and while Kaundinya fought them off, the ship was damaged and had to be beached for repairs.

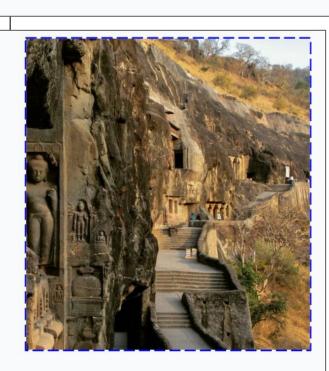
That's when a local clan, led by warrior queen Soma, surrounded the crew. The Indian crew was outnumbered and faced certain defeat, even as

#### **INS Kaundinya**

- Funan: Cambodia, Thailand & Vietnam
- Ministry of Culture & Indian Navy
- Constructed using traditional methods of stitching of Ships
- Based upon model of ships depicted in Ajanta Caves
- Ancient sculptures:
   Gandabherunda & Simha Yali

#### **Ajanta Caves**

- UNESCO WHS
- 2nd century BCE 5th CE
- Chatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra
- Waghora river
- 34 caves: Buddhism
- Patronage:
  - Vakataka King Harishena (480-510 CE)
  - Prime Minister Varahadeva
  - Local King Upendragupta (Cave 17)
  - Buddhabhadra (Cave 26)
  - Mathuradas (Cave 4)
- Influence of Vengi & Vidarbha sculptures
- Mentioned by Faxian (399 412 CE) & Xuanzang (629-645 CE)

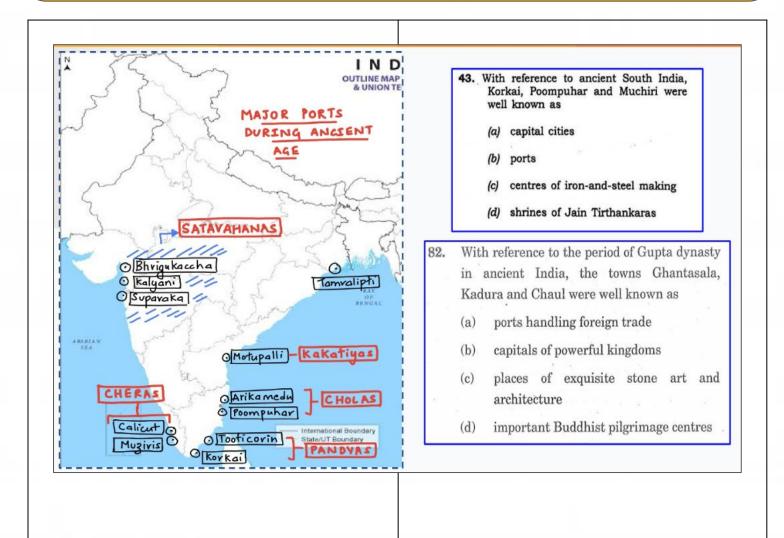


## **INSV Kaundinya**



<u>SYLLABUS</u>: GS 1 Paper: Art & Culture

Newspaper Indian Express Page Number 11





## **Heart Lamp: Booker Prize**



**SYLLABUS: GS Paper: PRELIMS** 

Newspaper: The Hindu Page Number 1

#### Context of the News: **Booker Prize** Kannada writer, lawyer, and activist Banu Mushtaq, 77, began writing about her people, their joys, sorrows Established in UK in 1969 and anxieties, over five decades ago. Awarded annually to the "Best On Tuesday, Heart Lamp, a collection of 12 Work of Fiction" short stories selected from her work written between Open to writers worldwide and 1990 and 2023 and trannot only Commonwealth slated by Deepa Bhasthi, Nations won the International Booker Prize for 2025 from a shortlist featuring books Must be written in English & in French, Italian, Danish, Published in UK and Japanese. It's a first win for Kanna-£50,000 prize for winning title da, and the first time in the history of the prize that a collection of short stories "In a Free State" by VS Naipaul has been honoured. in 1971 The award for an Indian writer comes three years after Geetanjali Shree won the prestigious literary prize for Tomb of Sand,



### The Analyst Handout

## **Daily Quiz**



22nd May, 2025

## Q1. Consider the following statements regarding International Biodiversity Governance:

- 1. The Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted during the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.
- 2. The Nagoya Protocol deals with biosafety related to genetically modified organisms.
- 3. The Cartagena Protocol focuses on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

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

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

#### Answer: a

#### Q2. Consider the following statements:

- 1. India has not released any official poverty estimate since 2011.
- 2. The latest poverty estimates in India are based on the Rangarajan Committee methodology.

## Which of the statements given above is/are NOT 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 independence of the judiciary in India:

- 1. Judges have fixed service conditions to ensure impartiality and security of tenure.
- 2. The conduct of judges cannot be discussed in Parliament or any legislature except during impeachment proceedings.
- 3. Salaries and allowances of judges are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

## Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

#### Answer: d

## Q4. Consider the following conditions necessary for the formation of tropical cyclones:

- 1. Sea surface temperatures above 27°C
- 2. Presence of the Coriolis force
- 3. Strong vertical wind shear
- 4. A low-pressure area with upper-level divergence

## Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

#### Answer: a

## Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Booker Prize:

- 1. It was established in the United Kingdom in 1969.
- 2. It is awarded annually to the best non-fiction book published globally.

## 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: a





## **VAJIRAM & RAVI**

## Institute for IAS Examination

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