



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

12th January 2025



QUAD : A strategic Minilateral



CONTEXT: In context of absence of a Leader-level Summit in 2025, a look at the continuous relevance of QUAD in current times.

What is QUAD ?

- Officially - **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**
- Strategic forum for consultation
- Quad brings together four democratic countries - **India, Australia, Japan, and the United States**, with a commitment to work as a force for global good.
- **Aim** : Free, open and Inclusive Indo - Pacific that is prosperous and Resilient

Brief History -

- **2004 tsunami** – India, US, Japan, Australia
- **Idea** : to coordinate response and assistance to countries in the region.
- **Philippines in May 2007** : The first meeting :
- **Manila in November 2017** on the margins of the East Asia Summit for consultations on
 - Connectivity issues;
 - Maritime security
 - Shared principles for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific
 - Proliferation threats in Asia
- First Quad Leaders' Summit taking place in **virtual format on 12 March 2021**
- **2023** : Vision : Enduring Partner for Indo- Pacific

Significance : Security of Indo -pacific

- Anchors a **Free, Open, Inclusive and Rules-Based Indo-Pacific**
- Enhances **maritime security** through joint exercises , HADR coordination and information sharing

- Acts a **deterrence-through-presence** mechanism without forming a formal military alliance
 - Eg. FONPS
- Supports **ASEAN centrality** while balancing unilateral coercion in the region
- Strengthens **interoperability** among four major naval powers across the Indian and Pacific Oceans
 - Eg. **Malabar**
- Promotes **norms of international law**,
 - Eg. UNCLOS compliance .

Economic Significance of QUAD

- **Trade**
 - India – USA Trade 131bn \$, 40bn \$ Surplus- 2024-2025
 - ECTA 2022 – Bilateral trade with Aus = \$32Bn
 - CEPA 2011 with Japan, Bilateral Trade 22.8bn \$ 2023-24, 12 BN\$ deficit
- **Strategies** – China+ 1 strategy
- **Initiatives** : Supply Chain Resilient Initiative



QUAD : A strategic Minilateral



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Disputed claims in the South China Sea

Claims

- China
- Philippines
- Malaysia
- Brunei
- Vietnam

Area:
South China Sea covers more than 3 million sq km

Trade:
Over \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes through the sea annually

Oil and gas:
Major unexploited oil and gas deposits are believed to lie under the seabed

Approximate locations

Scarborough Shoal*

Philippines EEZ** claim

Paracel Islands

Spratly Islands

TAIWAN (Claims Spratly islands)

PHILIPPINES

VIETNAM

BRUNEI

MALAYSIA

*Under Chinese control since 2012
**Exclusive Economic Zone

Sources: CSIS/AMTI/D.Rosenberg/MiddleburyCollege/HarvardAsiaQuarterly/Phil gov't/ChinaMaritimeSafetyAdministration © AFP

‘चतुर्भुजीय सुरक्षा संवाद (क्वाड)’ वर्तमान समय में स्वयं को सैनिक गठबंधन से एक व्यापारिक गुट में रूपान्तरित कर रहा है – विवेचना कीजिये। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिये)

‘Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)’ is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Multi pronged working of QUAD : Governed by : 6 Working groups



Climate - QCHAMP

Critical and Emerging Technologies
Eg. Open RAN development

Cyber security - Quad joint Principles



QUAD Health Security Partnership
Eg. Quad Cancer Moonshots

Infra Partnership
Eg. QUAD partnership for Cable connectivity

Space Cooperation for Peaceful use of Outer space



QUAD : A strategic Minilateral



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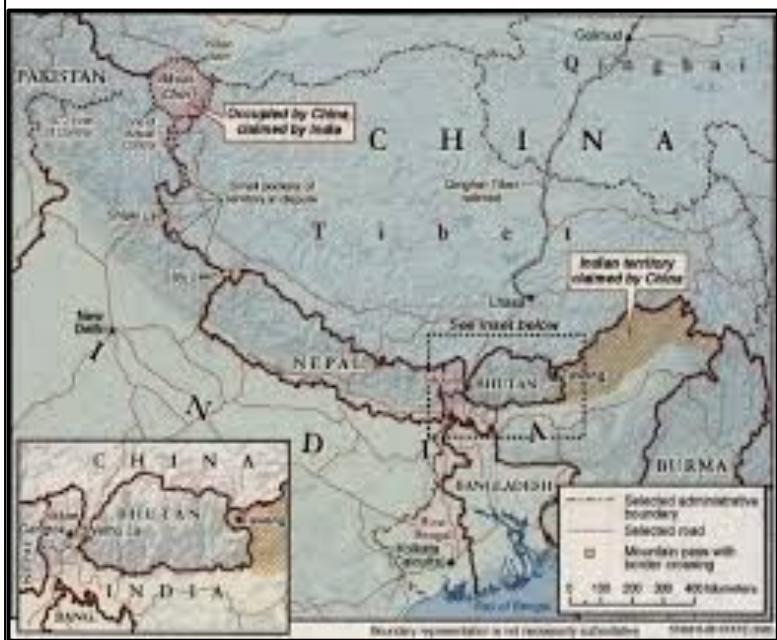
Challenges for QUAD :

Structural Challenges :

- **Lack of Institutional Anchor**
- **Periodic Slumps**
 - Eg. 2007-2012
-Australia
- **Conflicting partnerships**
 - Eg. BRICS, SCO
- **Geopolitical Reality**
 - Eg. India's
continentality problem

Global headwinds

- **US's NSS** – Softening position on China
- **Policy focus on Other Geographies**
 - Venezuela, Russia- Ukraine, Middle East
- **The Trump Factor** – Fall of Multilateralism, Unilateral transactional policies



Way Forward for QUAD :

- Earliest Convening of Leaders Summit
- Aligning Policy goals of members
- Economic revitalisation by
 - identifying alternative sources for critical products such as semiconductors and pharmaceuticals
 - Joint research and development (R&D) and
 - co-financing manufacturing projects could further enhance resilience and reduce dependency on single-source suppliers.
- Securing Resilient infra - creating Quad-backed investment vehicles.

Mains Practise Question

Practise Question : Examine the strategic and economic importance of the QUAD for India. Also analyse the major constraints that limit its effectiveness as a regional grouping. (15 Marks, 250 words)

WORLD | CHINA

Trump's National-Security Strategy Softens Language on China

White House document maintains some tough talk on Taiwan but drops references to Beijing as America's main challenger



CONTEXT: Recent unearthing of Buddhist Stupas at Zehanpora in Kashmir casts a spotlight on the Ancient and Rich Buddhist Heritage

History of Buddhism in Kashmir

- Home to many Sites - **Kanishpora, Zehanpora, Harwan, Ushkur**
- Early Trend by kalhana -

Stacked with history

- Spread over 10 acres in a village in Baramulla, the mounds are estimated to be more than 2,000 years old.



Excavation work at the mounds in Zehanpora. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Council	Place	Year/Period	Patron (Ruler)	President (Monk)	Key Outcome(s)
First	Rajagriha	c. 483 BCE	Ajatashatru	Mahakassapa	Compiled the Sutta Pitaka (Teachings) and Vinaya Pitaka (Rules).
Second	Vaishali	c. 383 BCE	Kalashoka	Sabbakami	Disputes over monastic discipline; First major schism into Sthaviras and Mahasanghikas.
Third	Pataliputra	c. 250 BCE	Emperor Ashoka	Moggaliputta Tissa	Compiled the Abhidhamma Pitaka. Sent missionaries (e.g., to Sri Lanka) to spread Buddhism.
Fourth	Kashmir (Kundalavana)	c. 72 CE	Kanishka	Vasumitra	Formal division into Hinayana and Mahayana

CONTEXT: Recent unearthing of Buddhist Stupas at Zehenpora in Kashmir casts a spotlight on the Ancient and Rich Buddhist Heritage

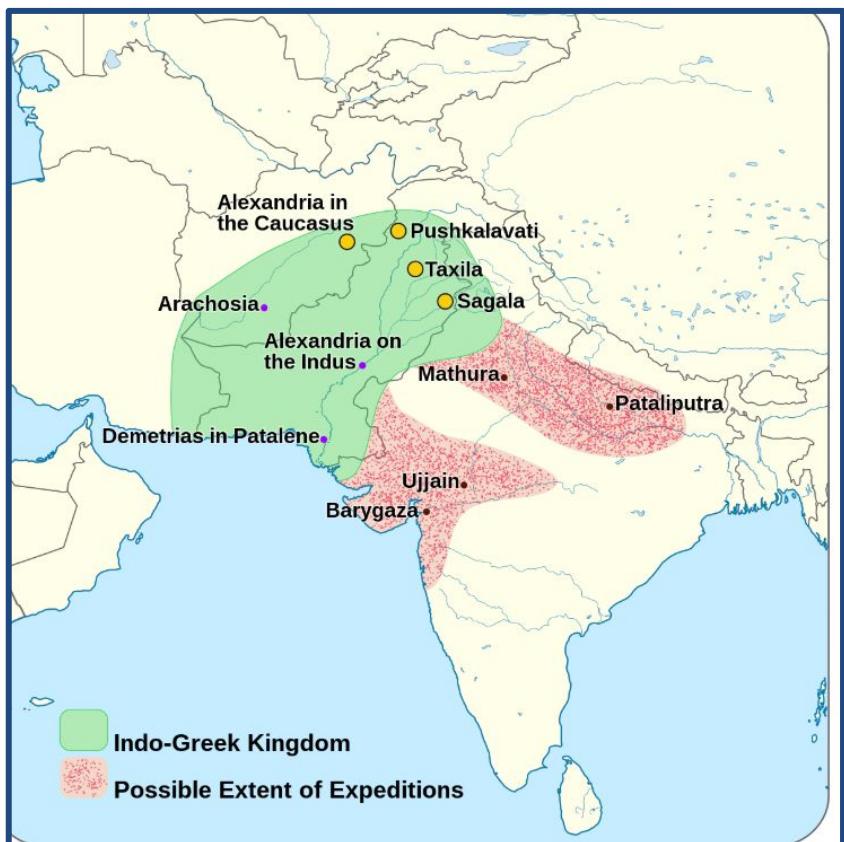
History of Buddhism in Kashmir

- Home to many Sites - **Kanishpora, Zehanpora, Harwan, Ushkur**
- Early Trend by Kalhana -
- Monk **Majjhantika** promoter of Buddhism in Kashmir, Sent post 3rd Buddhist Council.
- **Sarvastivadin Sect** migration from Magadha to northward
- King **Menander** - Indo Greek, discussion with **Nagasena** at **Harwan**
- **Kashmir at the head of Silk Route**
- **Kanishka** - 1st CE ruled from purushapura, 4th Buddhist Council
- **Nagarjuna** - lived during Kanishka rule
- **Huen Tsang** on Kanishka - "Gift of Kashmir to Buddhist Sangha"



Threats to Buddhism in Kashmir

- Mihirakula - Huna Invasion
- **Karkota Dynasty** (630-855 AD) - majorly patronised Shaivism though, protected Buddhism despite invasions.
- Weak **Utpala and Lohar Dynasty** in early 14th century - witnessed economic decline
- Conversion of a Buddhist **Rinchan** to Islam, later establishment of **Shah Mir** dynasty started downward trend
- Persecution - Sikandar Shah Butshikan - Jonaraja .



CONTEXT: Recent unearthing of Buddhist Stupas at Zehenpora in Kashmir casts a spotlight on the Ancient and Rich Buddhist Heritage

Facts for Prelims : Types of Stupas

Classification Based on Form and Function	
Relic stupas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built to bury bodily relics of Buddha or enlightened monks. Example: Sanchi Stupa.
Object stupas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contain objects used by Buddha or his disciples. Example: Vaishali Stupa with Buddha's ashes.
Commemorative stupas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark significant events in Buddha's life. Example: Anuradhapura Stupa, commemorates Buddha's visit.
Symbolic stupas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represent Buddhist theology and the path to enlightenment. Example: Swayambhu Stupa in Kathmandu, Leh's path symbolism.
Votive stupas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructed to commemorate visits or gain spiritual merit. Often left as offerings by devotees. Example: Miniature stupas at pilgrimage sites in metal, stone, or glass.



Mains Practise Question

Practise Question : Trace the origin, growth and eventual decline of Buddhism in Kashmir.

Examine the political, economic and socio-religious factors that shaped its rise as a major centre of Buddhist learning and its subsequent decline.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

42. With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements :

1. The concept of Stupa is Buddhist in origin.
2. Stupa was generally a repository of relics.
3. Stupa was a votive and commemorative structure in Buddhist tradition.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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



The Weed threat to Mustard

SYLLABUS: Prelims Important Crops **GS 3** Agriculture
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number:** Explained

- Mustard is India's largest edible oilseed crop but is facing a **serious threat from parasitic weed Orobanche (broomrape)**
- About Mustard Crop :**
 - Mustard is a rabi oilseed crop
 - Optimum temperature: 20–25°C for growth, 10–15°C for germination
 - Requires low rainfall (25–40 cm)
 - Sensitive to frost at flowering stage
 - Grown mainly in Rajasthan, Haryana, MP, UP
- Numbers largely stagnant
- But high Import dependency
- Around **60 percent of edible oil demand** is met through imports, making mustard productivity strategically important
- Expanding Income and demand need better production.

About GM Mustard DMH -11

- DMH-11 is a genetically modified hybrid mustard** developed by **Delhi University**
- Uses **barnase-barstar system** for hybridisation
- Confers **tolerance to glufosinate herbicide**
- Aims to improve **yield and weed management**
- Approved by **GEAC for environmental release (2022)**
- Yield advantage reported over national checks
- Criticised for **biosafety, herbicide use and farmer dependence**
- Important for **edible oil self-sufficiency debate**

IT IS India's largest indigenous edible oil source farmed in nearly nine million hectares—mainly Rajasthan, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and West Bengal.

But mustard is also a crop increasingly susceptible to infestation by *Orobanche aegyptiaca*. This is a parasitic weed that attaches to the roots of mustard plants and extracts nutrients, carbon and water from them. By depriving the host crop of these, it causes wilting, yellowing and stunted growth of the plants and, thereby, lower mustard seed yields.

“Till three years ago, there was no *mar-gaja* (the local name for the root parasite) and my average yield was 9 quintals per acre. In good years with no disease, *ola* (hail) or *pala* (frost), it could be 12 quintals,” says Kokchand Sahu, a farmer from Gigo-rani village in Natusari Chopta tehsil of Haryana's Sirsa district.

● Edible Oil Supply: Indigenous vs. Imported

(lakh tonnes)

	2023-24	2024-25
Mustard	40.75	40.69
Soyabean	18.53	15.6
Groundnut	12.58	16.18
Cottonseed	11.75	10.7
Rice Bran	11	10.5
Palm	3.5	4
Coconut	3.9	2.93
Maize Germ	1.5	1.5
Sesame	0.74	1.46
Sunflower	0.71	0.87
Total Indigenous*	106.04	105.47

	2023-24	2024-25
Palm	90.16	75.83
Soyabean	34.41	54.69
Sunflower	35.06	29.37
Total Imported**	159.63	160.11

Note: Figures are for Oil Year (November-October);

*Includes Tree-borne and other oils;

**Includes Rape and other oils.

Source: The Solvent Extractors' Association of India.



The Weed threat to Mustard

SYLLABUS : Prelims Important Crops **GS 3** Agriculture
Newspaper The Indian Express **Page Number :** Explained

Prelims pointers : Soaring Import Dependence for oil seeds :

- Over the past 11 years, India's **vegetable oil imports** have doubled—
 - from 7.9 (mt) in 2013–14
 - to 16.4 mt in 2024–25.
- In **value terms**, imports rose from \$7.2 billion to \$20.8 billion, driven partly by the Russia-Ukraine war's supply disruptions.

Heavy Reliance on Imported Oils :

- In 2024–25, India imported:
- 7.9 mt of **palm** oil (Indonesia, Malaysia)
- 4.8 mt of **soyabean** oil (Argentina, Brazil)
- 3.5 mt of **sunflower** oil (Russia, Ukraine, Argentina)
- Meanwhile, domestic oil production (including cottonseed, rice bran, maize) remains stagnant at ~10 mt, resulting in an import dependency of over 60%.

63. With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, ~~at the IARI~~ following statements :

- GM mustard has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
- GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
- GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- 1 and 3 only
- 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3



Forest Management Committees



SYLLABUS : Prelims Institutions and Acts for Environment **GS 3** Conservation
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number :** 12

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is in talks with the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change for funding the management of community forest resources, for which rights have been vested in gram sabhas of tribal communities and other forest-dwellers across the country under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), government officials said.

Officials of both Ministries met over it recently, and the Tribal Affairs Ministry is also planning to write to the Environment Ministry formally on this matter, a top official told *The Hindu*, adding that this was necessary to "correct the perception" that the forest bureaucracy was at odds with the goals of community-led forest resource management.



Officials of the Tribal Affairs and Environment Ministry are discussing the funding issue recently. FILE PHOTO

For the last 20 years, the FRA has recognised the historical rights of Scheduled Tribe communities and other forest-dwellers on the forests they have lived in and around and vested these rights in them through FRA titles for specific sets of rights. Under the FRA, gram sabhas are entitled to include community forest resource rights (CFR) over areas "they have been traditionally protecting, regenerating, conserving and managing for sustainable use".

- **Variety** - Forest products such as fruits, flowers and medicinal plants. 70 per cent of India's rural population depends on fuel wood to meet domestic energy needs.
- **HABITAT** Half of India's 89 million tribal people live in forest fringe areas.
- **Change in the management objectives** : revenue generation to Environmental and ecological security.
- It releases **restoration of bond** between people and forests. Most important aspect is that it provides legal support.
- JFM Committee represents a village level democratic Institution.
- **The General Body of the Committee** consists of all willing adult members of villages and is chaired by the President who is elected by consensus on majority vote.
- For day-to-day functioning of JFMC, the members elect an **Executive Body**.
- known by different names in different States such as Forest Protection Community (FPC), Village Forest Committee (VFC), Van Sanrakshan Samiti (VSS) etc.

Prelims Pointers : Importance of Forest Resources

- Forestry represents the **second largest land** use in India after agriculture.
- It covers 774,770 Sq kilometers, which represents **23.57 per cent** of the total land use.
- The sector contributes a little more than 1 per cent to **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
- About 275 million rural poor people in India depend on forests for at least part of their subsistence.
- The rural people earn from fuel wood, fodder, poles and a range of non-timber

Prelims Pointers : Success story of JFMC :

- **Sukhomajhari Project and Chuharpur Herbal Nature Park in Haryana,**
- **Jogimati Reserve Forests in Chitradurg range, Karnataka, Angul**
- **Ghumsar and Bhanjanagar in Orissa, Chandel Kalan and Bhanpur Kalan in Rajasthan,**



SYLLABUS : Prelims Institutions and Acts for Environment **GS 3** Conservation
Newspaper The Hindu **Page Number :** 12

Forest Rights Act 2006 Objectives

The main objective of the Forest Rights Act 2006 is to correct historical injustices faced by tribal and forest-dwelling communities. It provides them legal rights over forest land, access to forest produce, and the authority to manage and protect the forest resources they depend upon. The key objectives are:

- To recognize the rights of forest dwellers over forest land and produce.
- To ensure livelihood security for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs).
- To empower local communities in forest governance.
- To promote sustainable use and conservation of forests.
- To strengthen the link between environmental protection and social justice.

Forest Rights Act 2006 Types of Rights

The Forest Rights Act 2006 provides a wide range of rights to forest-dwelling communities. These rights can be broadly divided into four categories:

- **Individual Forest Rights (IFR)**
 - Ownership rights over forest land cultivated prior to December 13, 2005.
 - Limited to 4 hectares per family.
 - Heritable but non-transferable.
- **Community Forest Rights (CFR)**
 - Rights to use and manage forest resources like timber, bamboo, medicinal plants, and minor forest produce (MFP).
 - Empower communities to conserve and protect forest areas.
- **Rights of Habitat and Settlement**
 - Special rights for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and pastoral communities to access traditional habitats.
- **Rights to Rehabilitation and Development**
 - Protection from eviction without proper resettlement.
 - Rights to basic facilities such as schools, healthcare, and roads in forest areas.

How villages and communities are reviving India's drylands, one watershed at a time

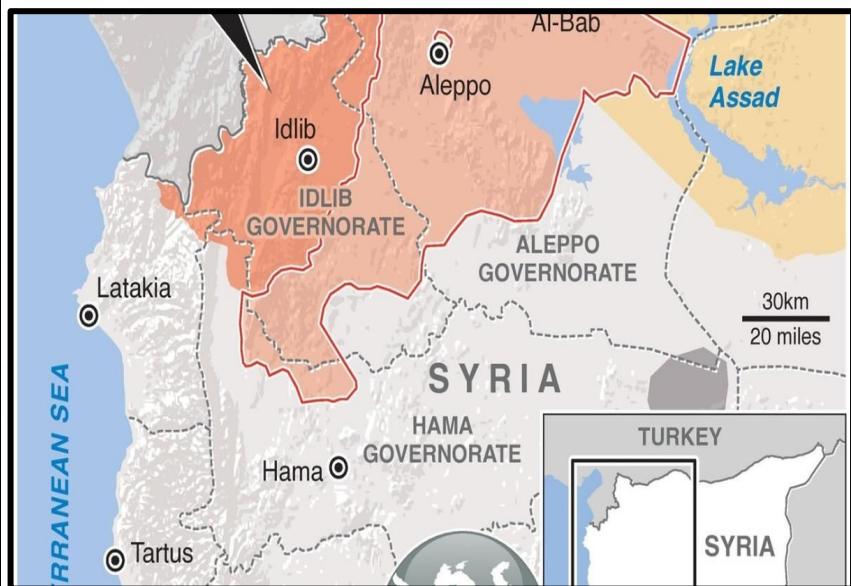
Indian communities lead watershed projects, rejuvenating landscapes and improving livelihoods with sustainable agriculture practices.



The US strikes ISIS in Syria



SYLLABUS: Prelims Places in News **GS 2** International Relation
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number:** The World



Prelims Pointers : Syria

- Location:** It is located on the east coast of the **Mediterranean** Sea in southwestern Asia.
- Bordering Countries:** It is bordered by **Turkey** in the north, **Lebanon** in the west, **Iraq** in the east, **Jordan** in the south and **Israel** in the southwest.
- Capital City:** **Damascus**

Geographical Features of Syria

- Syria's geography offers two major regions, a western and an eastern part.
 - The western region features narrow, fertile coastal plains along the eastern Mediterranean Sea.
 - The eastern part of the country is the **realm of the Syrian Desert** which is a mixture of dry steppe and true desert landscape.
- **Rivers:** Euphrates River flows across Syria before entering Iraq.
- **Lakes:** Lake al-Assad (a man-made reservoir) created by a dam on the Euphrates River.
- **Desert:** Southern and eastern Syria are part of **the northern Syrian Desert**.
- **Highest Point:** Mt Hermon (2,814 m)

37. Consider the following pairs :

Towns sometimes mentioned in news	Country
1. Aleppo	— Syria
2. Kirkuk	— Yemen
3. Mosul	— Palestine
4. Mazar-i-sharif	— Afghanistan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched ?

(a) 1 and 2
 (b) 1 and 4
 (c) 2 and 3
 (d) 3 and 4

77. Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does **not** open out to the Mediterranean Sea?

(a) Syria
 (b) Jordan
 (c) Lebanon
 (d) Israel

Kurdish fighters leave Aleppo after days of violent clashes
 The last Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighters left the Syrian city of Aleppo on Sunday, state-run Suriya TV said, following a ceasefire deal that allowed evictions after days of deadly clashes.



National Youth Day

SYLLABUS: Prelims Important Days in News **GS Paper 1:** Modern History
Newspaper: The Indian Express **Page Number:** 05

- **World Youth Day - 12 august -**
St. John Paul, UNGA Resolution 1999
- Celebrated First in 2000
- **National Youth Day - 12 January** - since 1984
- The National Youth Festival began in 1995 as a major activity under the programme of National Integration Camp (NIC).
- In collaboration with one of the States and institutions like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the National Service Scheme (NSS), the Government of India conducts this programme every year.

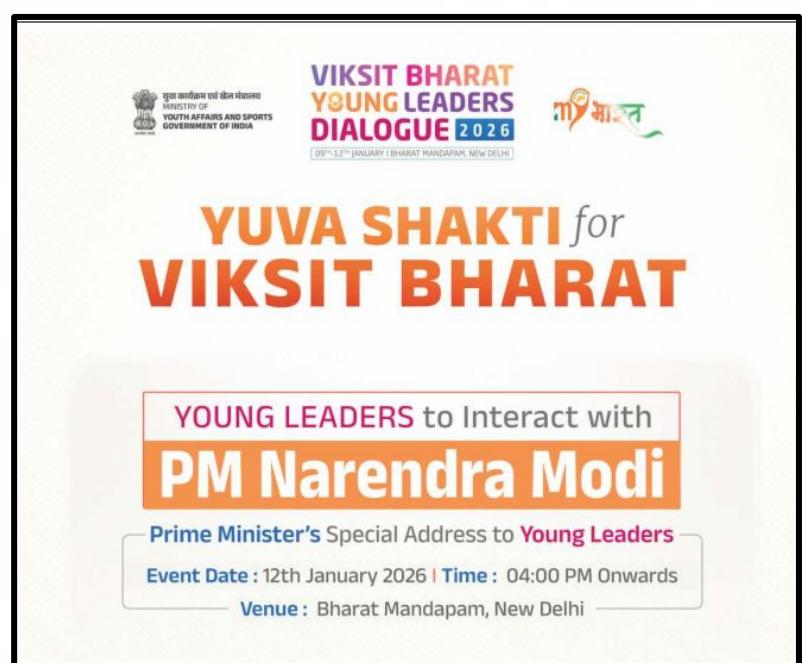
Prelims Pointers : About swami Vivekananda

Swami Vivekananda was born as **Narendranath Datta** in 1863 at **Kolkata**

- Chief disciple of **Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa**
- Founded **Ramakrishna Mission in 1897**
- Represented India at the **Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago (1893)**
- Famous for the address beginning with **"Sisters and Brothers of America"**

Propagated **Vedanta and Yoga** in the West

- Emphasised **practical Vedanta** and service to humanity
- Advocated **religious tolerance and universalism**
- Viewed **service to the poor as service to God** -



VIKSIT BHARAT
YOUNG LEADERS
DIALOGUE 2026
09th-12th JANUARY | BHARAT MANDAPAM, NEW DELHI
गृह भारत

YUVA SHAKTI for VIKSIT BHARAT

YOUNG LEADERS to Interact with
PM Narendra Modi

Prime Minister's Special Address to Young Leaders
Event Date : 12th January 2026 | Time : 04:00 PM Onwards
Venue : Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Author of **Raja Yoga, Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga, Bhakti Yoga**

- Inspired Indian national movement through cultural nationalism
- Established **Belur Math** as Ramakrishna Mission headquarters



Bhairav Battalion



SYLLABUS: Prelims Defence Forces & Modernisation **GS 3** Security forces and their mandate
Newspaper: The Hindu **Page Number:** 10

The Army's newly raised modern warfare force, the Bhairav Battalions, will participate in the Army Day parade for the first time in Jaipur on January 15.

A senior Army officer confirmed that two Bhairav Battalions will participate in this year's parade—Southern Command's 2 Bhairav Battalion, known as the 'Desert Falcons', and South Western Command's 4 Bhairav Battalion. The war cry of the 2 Bhairav Battalion is *Raja Ramchandra ki Jai*.

On Sunday, the Army shared a video on its official X handle, showcasing the Bhairav battalions. Highlighting the Army's focus on unmanned warfare, the officer said, "We are creating a pool of over one lakh drone operatives across the force. These operatives are capable of handling drones and employing them in real operations



Bhairav Battalions are high-speed executing Special Forces' tasks a

to target bases and formations inside the enemy territory."

Raised by Army headquarters by drawing lessons from global conflicts as well as India's own operational experience, including the recent Operation Sindoora, the Bhairav Battalions are designed as high-speed, offensive units capable of executing Special Forces' tasks at multiple levels, depending on operational requirements, the officer added.

So far, the Army has



Bhairav Battalions are high-speed, offensive units capable of executing Special Forces' tasks at multiple levels. ANI VIDEO GRAB

What it is

- Newly raised light commando battalion of the Indian Army
- Part of Army's force restructuring and modernisation

• Purpose

- Bridge gap between regular infantry and Para Special Forces
- Provide quick-reaction offensive capability at tactical level – **Drone operations** – **1 lakh such operatives.**
- Posted at **northern Borders**

• Force Structure

- Smaller than conventional infantry battalions
- Personnel drawn from experienced infantry soldiers
- High physical and tactical training standards

Force Size and Expansion

- 15 Bhairav Battalions raised so far
- About 25 such battalions planned in the near future
- Personnel drawn from serving soldiers, officers and JCOs



Daily Quiz



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad):

1. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is an officially institutionalised military alliance among its member countries.
2. Its members include India, Australia, Japan, and the United States.
3. One of the stated aims of the Quad is to promote a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific that is prosperous and resilient.

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

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

Answer: b

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Buddhist Councils:

1. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajagriha during the reign of Ajatashatru and led to the compilation of the Sutta Pitaka and Vinaya Pitaka.
2. The Second Buddhist Council resulted in the first major schism within Buddhism into Sthaviras and Mahasanghikas.
3. The Abhidhamma Pitaka was compiled during the Third Buddhist Council held under Emperor Ashoka.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d

Q3. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Mustard is a rabi oilseed crop grown mainly during the winter season.

Statement II: Mustard requires high rainfall and is well-suited to humid climatic conditions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II explains Statement I.
- b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
- c) Statement I is correct, and Statement II is not correct.
- d) Statement I is not correct and Statement II is correct.

Answer: c

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. Swami Vivekananda was born as Narendranath Datta in 1863 at Kolkata.
2. He founded the Ramakrishna Mission in the year 1897.

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. Consider the following statements regarding the Bhairav Battalion:

1. They are designed to provide quick-reaction offensive capability at the tactical level.
2. Drone operations form an important component of their operational capability.
3. Personnel are recruited directly from civilian candidates through a separate examination.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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,
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