



Most Trusted Learning Platform



Which of the following correctly describes the objective of the Lightweight Payment System?

- a. It aims to provide hassle-free online payment for small businesses
- b. It aims to provide a payment system that can work without the internet for common users
- c. It is expected to process transactions that are critical to ensure the stability of the economy in exigencies
- d. None of the above

Consider the following statements with respect to PM SVANidhi Scheme:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with equal funding from the Union as well as the state government. ✗

2. It aims to provide a working capital up to Rs 10,000 to street vendors. ✓

3. It can be availed by all street vendors in notified areas of all panchayats and municipalities. ✗

How many statements given above is/are correct?

a. Only one ✓

b. Only two

c. All three

d. None

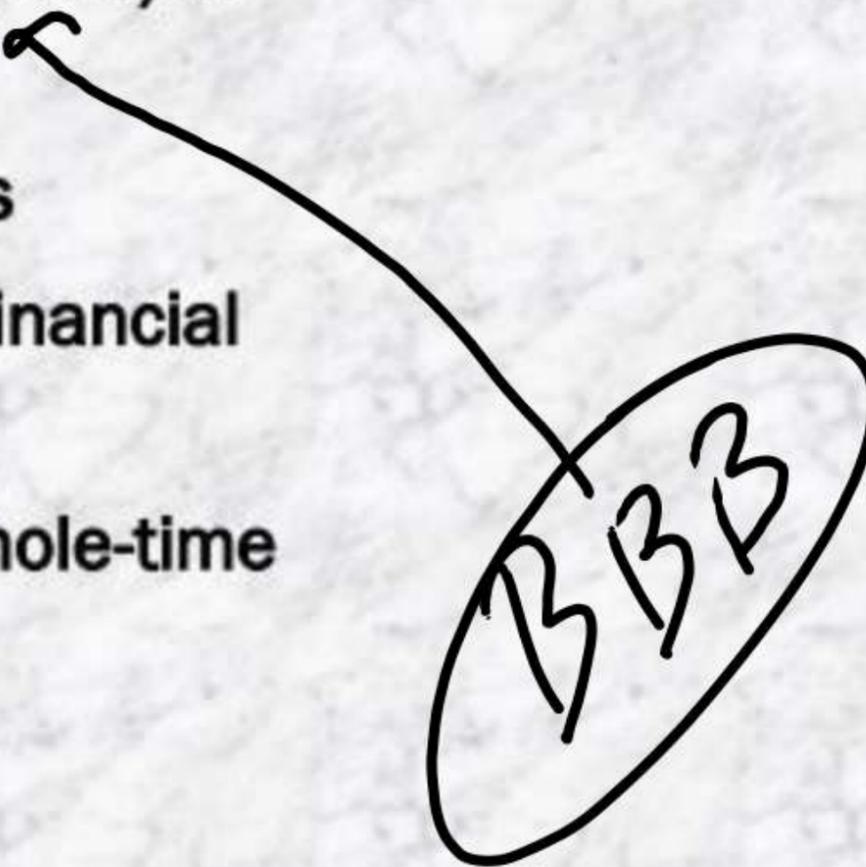
→ Central Sector

✗ Urban

The FINANCIAL SERVICES INSTITUTION BUREAU (FSIB) is responsible for:

- a. Recommending the tax devolution to the states
- b. Keeping an eye on corruption in public sector financial institutions
- c. Recommending persons for appointment as whole-time directors in financial services institutions ✓
- d. None

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Consider the following statement with respect to the Global Environment Facility:

1. It was established at the Stockholm convention in 1972. X
2. It is managed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). ✓
3. It provides funding and support only to the government agencies for implementation of environmental protocols. X

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- a. Only one ✓
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Rio Convention
1992

How many of the following are initiatives of the United Nation Environment Program?

1. Emission Gap Report
2. Global Environment Outlook
3. Champions of Earth Award
4. Billion Tree Campaign

Code

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. Only three
- d. All four ✓

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list

The Convention stipulates the obligation of States Parties to report regularly to the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of their World Heritage properties.

India ratified it on Monday, 14 November 1977

Today, 191 countries (called States Parties) have ratified the Convention, making it an almost universally accepted set of principles and framework of action.

There are 42 properties from India that are inscribed on the World Heritage List

Two New site added from India

a. Shantiniketan

It was established in rural West Bengal in 1901 by the renowned poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore

Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries.

A 'world university' was established at Santiniketan in 1921, recognizing the unity of humanity or "Visva Bharati".

Shantiniketan was distinct from the prevailing British colonial architectural orientations of the early 20th century and of European modernism

Santiniketan represents approaches toward a pan-Asian modernity, drawing on ancient, medieval and folk traditions from across the region.



Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas

The Hoysala temples at Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapur in Karnataka were declared as UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- Chennakeshava temple at Belur
- Hoysaleshwara temple at Halebid
- The Keshava temple at Somanathapur in Mysuru district

The Hoysala temples are known for evolving a distinct style that is ornate with temple architecture following a stellate plan built on a raised platform.

The material used in temple construction is chloritic schist which is also known as soapstone that are soft and amiable to carving.



Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas

The construction of the Chennakeshava temple at Belur in commenced during the period of King Vishnuvardhana in 1117 CE and took 103 years to complete

The Hoysaleshwara temple was commissioned in 1121 CE

The Keshava temple at Somanathapur in Mysuru district was commissioned by Somanatha Dandanayaka during the regime of Narasimha III in 1268 CE.



Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Context: The government has decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to 75 lakhs more consumers by providing them with LPG connections over three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households

The government will shortly start the distribution of PMUY connections to 75 lakh women from poor households who do not have an LPG connection.

As on 1st March 2023 there are 9.59 crore PMUY beneficiaries.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- Target Beneficiary
- Under the scheme, an adult woman belonging to any of the following categories is an eligible beneficiary under the expanded scheme.

→ women
→ 18 yrs
→ LPG

SC Households

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

Forest Dwellers

SECC Households (AHL TIN)

Applicant must have attained 18 years of age. There should not be any other LPG connections in the same household.

ST Households ✓

Most Backward Classes ✓

Tea and Ex-Tea Garden tribes

People residing in Islands and River Islands

Poor Household as per 14-point declaration

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

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Islands

**Poor Household as per 14-point
declaration**

Applicant must have attained 18 years of age. There should not be any other LPG connections in the same household.

Release of LPG connection under this Scheme shall be in the name of the women belonging to the BPL family.

Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance

- The 'Five Eyes' is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network shared by over 20 different agencies of five English-speaking countries — Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- It is both surveillance-based and signals intelligence (SIGINT). Intelligence documents shared between the member countries are classified 'Secret—AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US Eyes Only,' which gave the group its title 'Five Eyes.'
- The alliance between the U.S. and the U.K. evolved around the Second World War to counter the Cold War Soviet threat.

Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance

- The two countries, which had successfully deciphered German and Japanese codes during the World War, forged a collaboration to share intelligence related to signals such as radio, satellite and internet communications.
- In the aftermath of the war in 1946, the alliance was formalised through an agreement for cooperation in signals intelligence.
- The five partner countries share a broad range of information and access to their respective intelligence agencies.
- The Five Eyes have become involved in ocean and maritime surveillance, scientific and defence intelligence analysis, medical intelligence, geospatial intelligence, counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and the continuous sharing of intelligence products via a secret collective database known as 'Stone Ghost'.

Global Innovation Index 2023

- India retains 40th rank out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings published by the World Intellectual Property Organization.
- India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.
- Switzerland – for a 13th year – ranks first in the index. Sweden is now second and the United States on third, followed by the United Kingdom (4th) and Singapore (5th)
- It is made up of around 80 indicators, including measures on the political environment, education, infrastructure, and knowledge creation of each economy
- The GII was created in 2007 by Cornell University (INSEAD) and WIPO to measure global innovation

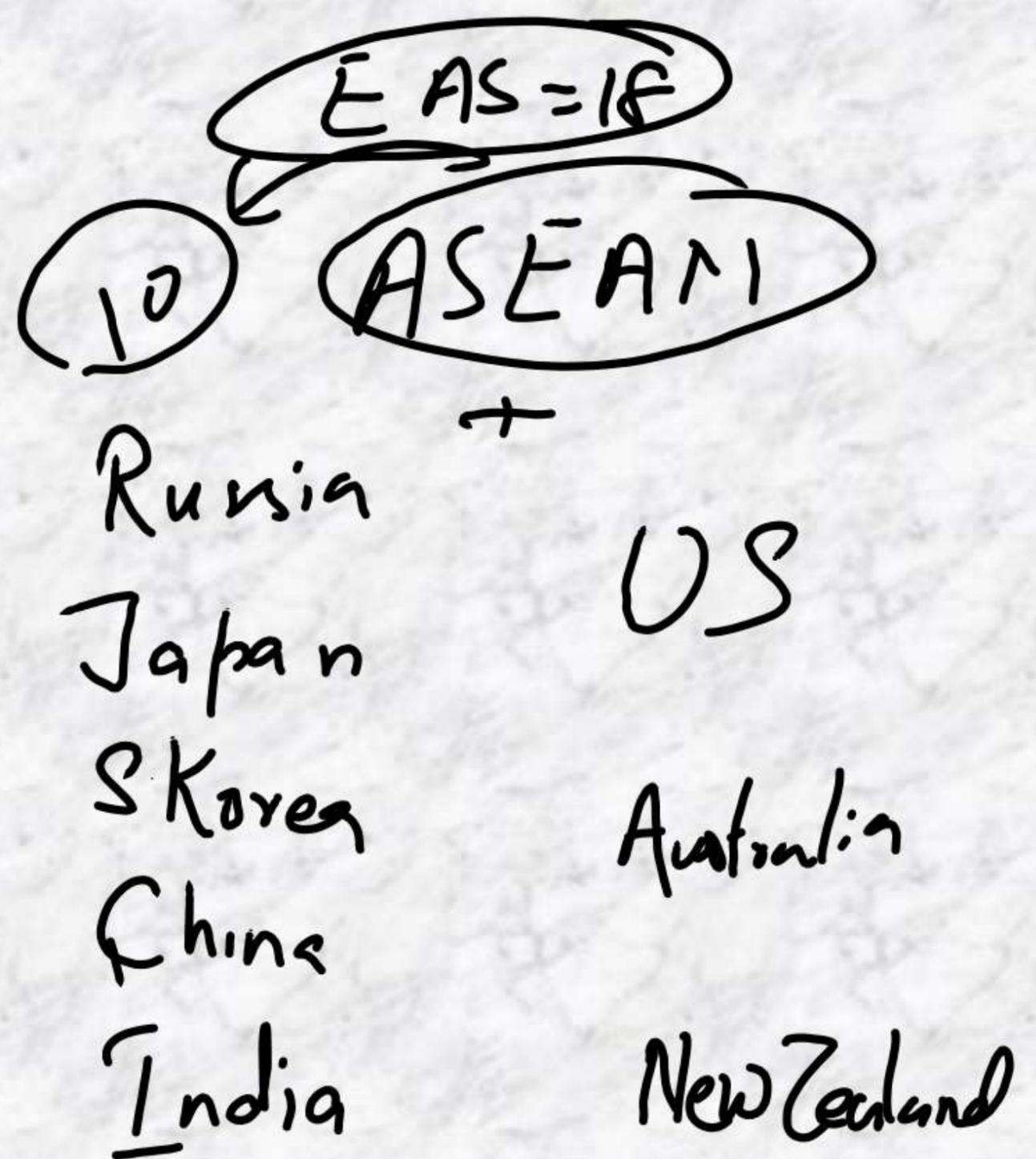
East Asia Summit

- The East Asia Summit (EAS) process was initiated in 2005 with the convening of the 1st East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- At its inception, the East Asia Summit comprised 16 participating countries, namely ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea.
- The East Asia Summit refers to the Meeting of Heads of States/Governments of the EAS participating countries which is convened annually.
- It is a major platform to discuss the political, security, and economic priorities and challenges being confronted by the region



East Asia Summit

- The membership of the EAS has increased from the original 16 to 18 countries comprising the ten ASEAN countries, along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United States, and Russia.
- The East Asia Summit has identified six priority areas of cooperation, namely environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management, and ASEAN Connectivity.



Agri Reforms

- The government has launched Kisan Rin Portal, a door-to-door Kisan Credit Card (KCC) campaign and a manual of the Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS)
- Kisan Rin digital platform offers a comprehensive view of farmer data, loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims, and scheme utilisation progress, fostering seamless integration with banks for more focused and efficient agriculture credit.
- To extend the benefits of KCC, the door-to-door campaign will reach non-KCC holders of beneficiaries of the central scheme PM-KISAN, under which Rs 6,000 per annum is given to each identified beneficiary farmer's bank account.

Agri Reforms

- This campaign aims to achieve universal financial inclusion, ensuring that every farmer has unhindered access to credit facilities that drive their agricultural pursuits.
- For KCC Ghar Ghar Abhiyaan, NABARD has been identified as the Primary Executing Organization, vested with the responsibility of overall execution and monitoring of the programme.

Agri Reforms

- Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual
- The WINDS Manual, set to be unveiled during the event, extends the impact of the Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) initiative.
- The WINDS system, an instrumental innovation, leverages advanced weather data analytics to provide stakeholders with actionable insights on weather.
- This comprehensive manual also provides stakeholders with an in-depth understanding of the portal's functionalities, data interpretation, and effective utilization, empowering farmers, policymakers, and various agricultural entities to make well-informed choices.

Agri Reforms

- **The Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) initiative stands as a pioneering effort to establish a network of Automatic Weather Stations & Rain Gauges at the taluk/block and gram panchayat levels. This initiative creates a robust database of hyper-local weather data, supporting various agricultural services.**

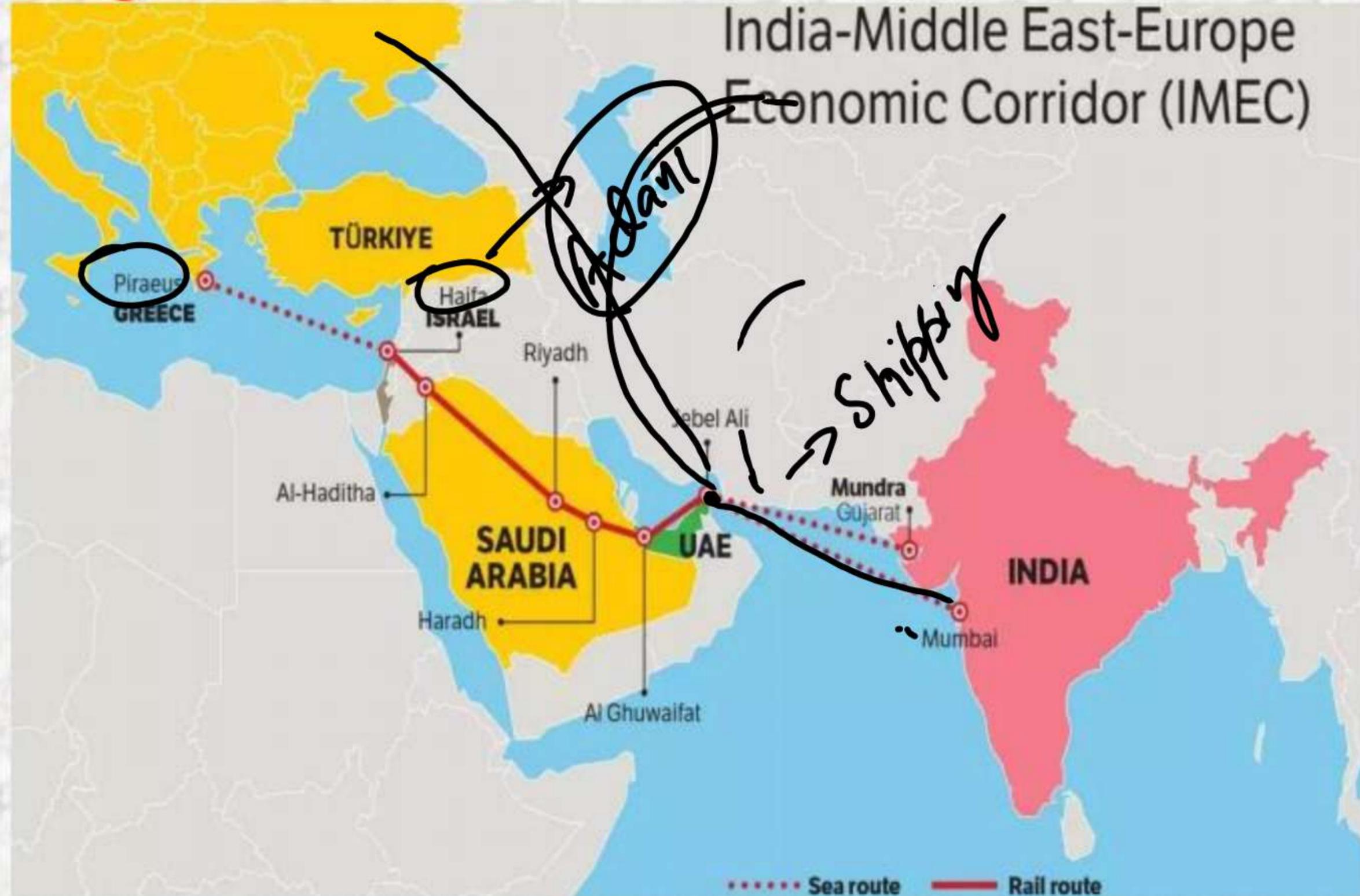
India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor

- The India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is a transnational rail and shipping route spread across two continents Asia and Europe
- The rail and shipping corridor is part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII) — a collaborative effort by G7 nations to fund infrastructure projects in developing nations.
- For the project, a MoU has been signed between Saudi Arabia, European Union, India, the UAE, France, Germany, Italy and the US.
- It is expected to stimulate economic development through improved connectivity and economic integration between Asia, Arabian Gulf and Europe.
- The IMEC will include two separate corridors — the east corridor connecting India to the Arabian Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Arabian Gulf to Europe.

India
Saudi Arabia
UAE
Italy
Germany
France
+ US

India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor

- The project will also help link energy grids and telecommunication lines through undersea cables to expand access to electricity, Internet, etc



Abraham Accords

- The Abraham Accords are a series of agreements signed in 2020 between Israel and several Arab states.
- The accords include a general declaration and bilateral agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco
- The Abraham Accords are based on the idea that diplomacy and communication can lead to greater stability, prosperity, and hope.
- The accords' Declaration states that the undersigned recognize the importance of maintaining peace based on mutual understanding and respect for human dignity and freedom

iGOT Karmayogi

- It is a comprehensive online platform to guide individual civil service officials in their capacity building journey.
- It is not merely a learning platform; it is a solutioning space that combines five functional hubs for online learning, competency management, career management, discussions, and networking.
- This will enable officials to deliver more effectively, eventually enhancing government execution capabilities.
- Through these hubs, the platform will enable online, face-to-face, and blended learning; facilitating discussions through topical forums, managing career paths, and enabling reliable assessments that credibly signal competencies of officials.
- Karmayogi Bharat shall own, manage, maintain and improve the digital platform, iGOT Karmayogi, on behalf of Government for the implementation of National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) - Mission Karmayogi

The Bharatkosh Portal (Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP))

- The Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP) or BHARATKOSH is the initiative of O/o Controller General of Accounts, M/o Finance, and Government of India
- It aims to provide one stop services to deposit any fees/fine/other money into the Government Account. It converges all the Civil Ministries/Departments of Government of India.
- It aims to provide 24X7 year-round electronic services to deposit the money into Government Account using internet-based payment technologies to the users at the door step through the web-based portal.
- It thus leverages the e-Governance commitment of the Government to provide e-efficient, e-effective, e-excellent government anywhere anytime.

Species in News: Walking Leaf, Batillipes Kalami

- Walking Leaf:
- Walking leaves are insects that look very similar to leaves.
- Most of them live in the tropical regions of Southeast Asia.
- In accordance with their habitat, walking leaves are mostly brown or green, some slightly speckled or have serrated edges like nibbled leaves.
- Even their legs look like little leaves.



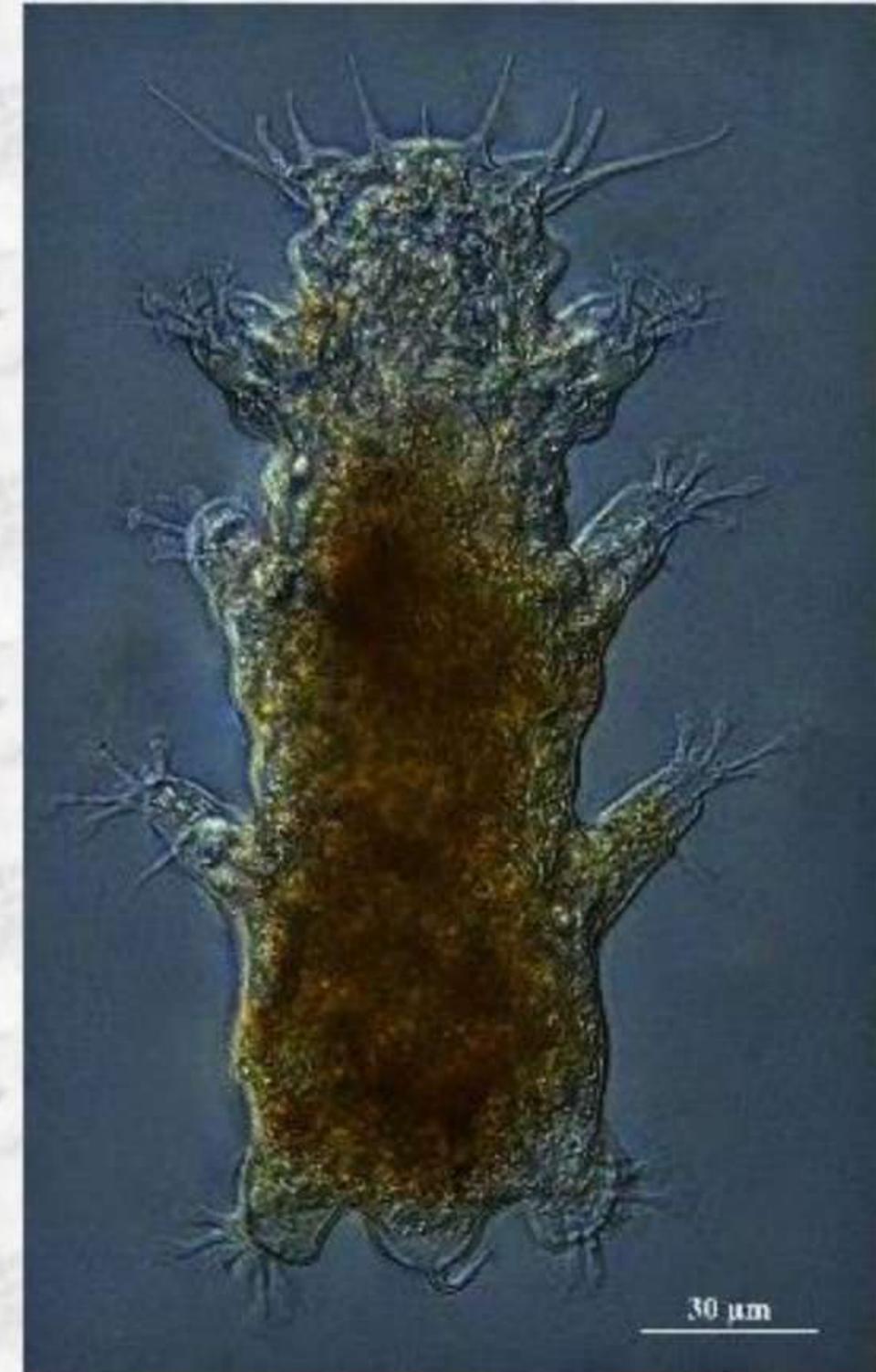
Species in News: Walking Leaf, Batillipes Kalami

- When moving they sway to and fro like leaves in the wind. Yet, they spend most of the day just motionlessly sitting on a branch. They only get active during the night
- The arms and legs of walking leaves can regenerate. As soon as the animals have shed their skin, new little legs (or arms) will show up. After a short while they will have grown to their full length again.
- Naturally found in islands of Indian Ocean, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, etc.



Species in News: Batillipes Kalamii ✓

- Tardigrades, often referred to as water bears, are eight-legged micro-animals found in the water.
- They are known for extraordinary resilience and survival abilities in extreme environmental conditions.
- They are considered to be one of the toughest organisms on earth, having survived all five mass extinctions, and are also the first known animal to survive in space.
- Ecologically, they act as pioneer species by inhabiting new developing environments, attracting other invertebrates to colonise the space.



Species in News: Batillipes Kalamani

- The newly-discovered species is approximately 0.17mm long and 0.05mm wide, characterised by four pairs of legs.
- Batillipes kalamani is the 37th species under the genus Batillipes
- This is the second time a marine tardigrade is described from Indian waters – the first time from the east coast.
- In 2021, the same research team had discovered a marine tardigrade from southwest coast and named it 'Stygarctus keralensis' after the state of Kerala.



Two new 'shy' spider species found in Desert National Park

- Two new spider species, the Palpimanus Godawan and Palpimanus Maldhok, have been found in the conservation sites of the Rajasthan Desert National Park and Solapur
- 'Godawan and 'Maldhok' are named in honour of the local name of the GIB
- The spiders are particularly shy, hiding under rocks or in crevices when disturbed.
- They are maroon in colour.
- They are ground species and have heavier bodies, their ability to disperse as spiders do by ballooning, shooting their web, and traipsing from one place to another is limited. As a result, they stay confined to an area.



Two new 'shy' spider species found in Desert National Park

- The Maldhok palp-footed spider is about 0.25 inches in length with females being slightly larger than males, the study said. It has eight eyes, a hairy body, claws on the end of its legs and a “balloon-like” female reproductive organ.
- The Godawan palp-footed spider is about 0.3 inches in length with males being slightly larger than females, the study said. The spider is “thickly” covered in white hairs. It has eight eyes, a wrinkly body and claws on the end of its legs





KHAN GLOBAL STUDIES

Most Trusted Learning Platform

THANKS FOR WATCHING

