

### NATIONAL

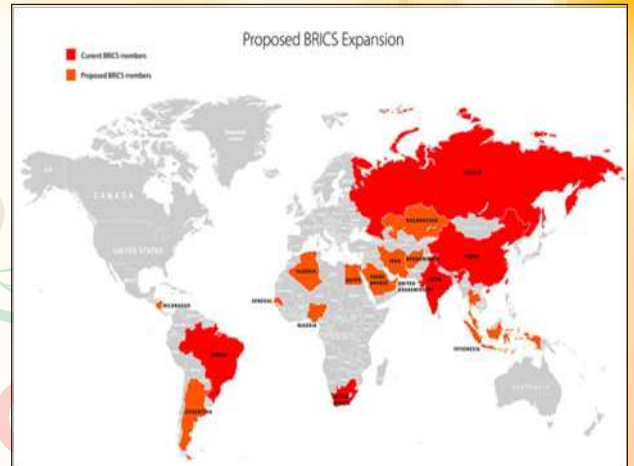
#### 1. Amitabh Kant panel

**Why in news** - A 14-member committee chaired by Amitabh Kant submitted its report on August 21.

#### Key Points –

- It was constituted to examine stalled real estate projects and recommend ways to complete them.
- It was set up in March 2023 by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.
- Amitabh Kant is former NITI Aayog CEO and India's G20 Sherpa.

- India and Brazil are not interested in reducing their influence in BRICS.



### INTERNATIONAL

#### 1. Universal Pension Scheme

**Why in news** - Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina rolled out Universal Pension Scheme.

#### Key Points –

- Aim - to bring the citizens, aged above 18, under pension coverage.
- Four different packages- Pragati, Surokha, Samata and Prabashi.

#### 2. BRICS expansion

**Why in news** - BRICS expansion is the top agenda of the BRICS nations summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.

#### Key Points –

- 23 countries including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran, Argentina, and Ethiopia are interested in joining the bloc.
- Current members - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- For China, anti-Americanism is drawing many countries in the Global South closer to China.
- Russia wants to bring its allies — like Belarus and Venezuela — into the club.

### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

#### 1. BHARATNCPAP

**Why in news** - Nitin Gadkari launched Bharat New Car Assessment Programme.

#### Key Points –

- By - Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- Commencement date - October 1, 2023.
- **Aim –**
  - a) to improve safety and quality of the vehicles.
  - b) provide a tool to customers to make a comparative assessment of crash safety of motor vehicles.
- It is based on Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.
- Anchored by - Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT), Bhosari, Pune.

#### 2. Green Hydrogen Standard

**Why in news** - India announced definition of Green Hydrogen.

#### Key Points –

- By - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- Emission Standard - Not more than 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent/kg H<sub>2</sub>.
- Emission thresholds must be met for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i.e., from renewable sources.
- It encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods.
- Nodal authority for accreditation of agencies for Green Hydrogen production projects - Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

### SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

#### 1. CPA's 9th India Region Conference

**Why in news** - Om Birla inaugurated the 9th India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Udaipur (RJ) on August 21, 2023.

#### Key Points –

- Theme - Strengthening Democracy and Good Governance in the Digital Age.
- India Region comprises 31 legislatures across India and has the 2nd largest number of member branches after the African Region.
- Rajasthan is hosting the conference for the first time.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### 1. Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS)

**Why in news** - National Green Tribunal (NGT) addressed the issue of mining activities taking place in the eco-sensitive zone of KWS.

#### Key Points –

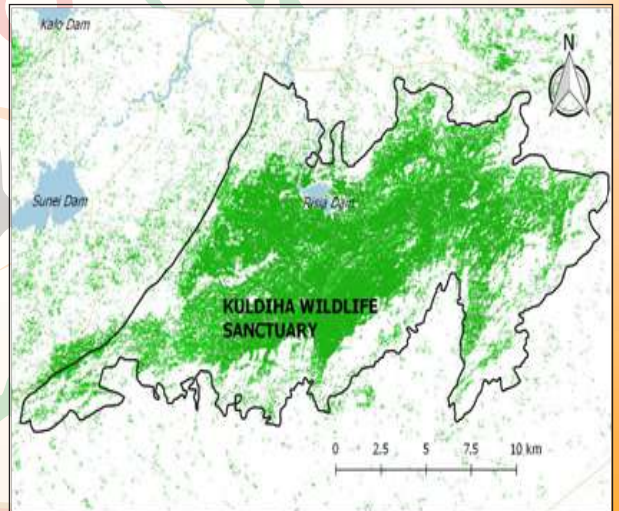
- Location – Balasore, Odisha (Chota Nagpur Plateau region).
- It is connected with Simlipal Reserve via Nato and Sukhupada Hill ranges.
- Part of the Eastern Highlands moist

deciduous forests ecoregion.

- Flora - Mixed deciduous forest (dominant - Sal tree).

#### Value Addition –

- Binay Kumar Dalei & Others vs. State of Odisha & Others - Supreme Court held that mining activities could only be permitted after implementing a comprehensive wildlife management plan and declaring the traditional elephant corridor as a conservation reserve.



### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### 1. Madras Day

**Why in news** - August 22 is celebrated as Madras Day.

#### Key Points –

- August 22, 1639 – Foundation stone of Madrasapatnam was laid.
- Founder - Francis Day (grant for the land was given by Damarla Venkatapathy Nayak, the deputy of the Raja of Chandragiri).
- In 1969, the state was renamed Tamil Nadu and in 1996, the capital city of Madras became Chennai.

### SPORTS

#### 1. FIFA Women's World Cup 2023

**Why in news** - Spain beat England by a margin of 1-0 in the final.

##### Key Points –

- The goal was scored by Olga Carmona.
- Venue - Sydney, Australia.
- Spain has won its first Women's World Cup title.
- With this win, Spain also became only the 2nd nation to clinch both the men's and the women's World Cups after Germany.

#### 2. FIDE World Cup 2023

**Why in news** – Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa became the 1st Indian to reach the finals of chess World Cup after Viswanathan Anand.

##### Key Points –

- R. Praggnanandhaa defeated Fabiano Caruana (world number 3) in the tiebreaks to reach the final.
- In the final, he has to face Magnus Carlsen (world number 1).
- Final venue - Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Viswanathan Anand had won the first two World Cups back in 2000 and 2002.

##### Key Points –

- Aim - to connect all tribal villages in 17 districts of the state with main roads.
- Estimated cost - Rs 5,000 crore.
- Nearly 6,838 km of roads will be constructed as part of the scheme.

### BIHAR

#### 1. JP Ganga path

**Why in news** – The JP Ganga path will be of 90 kilometers.

##### Key Points –

- **Extension –**
  - a) West - Digha to Koilwar.
  - b) East - Didarganj to Bakhtiyarpur (till Karjan).
- One lakh saplings will be planted on 7 kilometer stretch of JP Ganga Path from Digha to Gandhi Maidan.
- Almost 90% of this stretch would be developed as 'green area while the remaining 10% would be used for developing basic amenities.

#### 2. Mahila ITI

**Why in news** – The state government has successfully built "Mahila ITI" institutes in 21 districts.

##### Key Points –

- Aim - to build "Mahila Industrial training institutes" in each district.
- Women empowerment - to give technical training to the women and not let them go outside for such training.

### STATES/UTS

#### 1. Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme

**Why in news** – Maharashtra to implement the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme.



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## ➤ CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS ◀

- Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services has launched which app for seafarers - **SAMUDRA (Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories)**.
- Which state government has decided to provide free 'Onam Kits' – **Kerala**.
- As per the latest reports submitted by banks the total number of Jan Dhan accounts has crossed how many crores - **50 crores (August 9, 2023)**.
- An MoU between India and which country on cooperation in the field of oil has been approved by the cabinet – **Australia**.
- Center has imposed what percent export duty on onions to check price rise and improve supplies in the domestic market till December 31, 2023 - **40%**.
- Which state has announced the “Abua Awas Yojana” – **Jharkhand**.
- Which Indian athlete has been banned for 4 years for doping - **Dutee Chand**.
- What is the percentage increase in the consumption of petroleum products in the financial year 2022-23 as compared to the previous financial year - **10%**.
- United States has approved sending F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine from which countries to defend against Russia - **Denmark and the Netherlands**.
- Who has been honored with the first Udyog Ratna Award by the Maharashtra State Government - **Ratan Tata**.

**PATNA CENTRE:** NEW BATCHES FOR **BPSK ENGLISH MEDIUM** STARTING FROM 23RD AUGUST 2023.  
NEW BATCHES FOR **UPSC ENGLISH & HINDI MEDIUM** IS STARTING FROM 13TH SEPTEMBER 2023.

**DELHI CENTRE:** NEW BATCHES FOR **BPSK ENGLISH & HINDI MEDIUM** STARTING FROM 23RD AUGUST 2023.  
NEW **UPSC FOUNDATION BATCH** IS STARTING FROM 16TH AUGUST 2023.