

PRELIMS EDGE 202522-07-2025**TERMS IN NEWS****Meri Panchayat App**

- It is **designed to provide a unified digital governance platform for rural areas, catering to residents, functionaries, and stakeholders of the Panchayati Raj Institution system.**
- This platform integrates and consolidates diverse functions and information currently dispersed across multiple government portals into a single, seamless web-based interface.

- It fosters a more accountable and participatory governance ecosystem for rural communities.
- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj and National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**
- Through Meri Panchayat App, citizens can effortlessly access, on their mobile devices:
 - Real-time Panchayat budgets, receipts, payments and development plans
 - Details of elected representatives and functionaries
 - Information on public infrastructure and civic services in their Panchayat
 - Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs) and track project proposals
 - Weather forecasting at Gram Panchayat level
 - Social audit tools, fund utilization data, and grievance redressal with geo-tagged and geo-fenced features
 - Multilingual interface supporting 12+ Indian

languages to ensure inclusiveness

- The app also enables citizens to propose new projects, review and rate implemented works, and access Gram Sabha agendas and decisions, thereby strengthening participatory democracy and civic engagement

Bedouins



- The Bedouins are **traditionally nomadic, Arabic-speaking tribes who have inhabited the deserts of the Middle East and North Africa for centuries.**
- The word Bedouin derives from the Arabic badawi, meaning **“desert dweller”.**
- These communities historically survived by **herding livestock, primarily camels, sheep, and goats, while navigating seasonal migrations across vast arid landscapes.**
- These tribes have traditionally been classified according to the animal

species that are the basis of their livelihood.

- In Syria, Bedouins have primarily lived in the expansive **Al-Badia desert**, which covers much of the country's south and east, including provinces like Sweida, Homs, and Deir ez-Zor.
- **Society:** Bedouin society is tribal and patriarchal, typically composed of extended families that are patrilineal, endogamous, and polygynous.
- The head of the family, as well as of each successively larger social unit making up the tribal structure, is called sheikh; the sheikh is assisted by an informal tribal council of male elders

PLACES IN NEWS

Tuvalu



- Tuvalu, formerly known as the Ellice Islands, is an island country located **midway between Hawaii and**

Australia in the west-central Pacific Ocean.

- Its **neighbours include Kiribati, to the north, and Fiji, to the south.**
- It comprises nine islands (four reef islands and five coral atolls) scattered in a chain lying approximately northwest to southeast over a distance of some 420 miles (676 km).
- All islands are low-lying, with no point on Tuvalu being higher than 4.5 m above sea level. Thus, the islands are threatened by any future sea level rise.
- There are no rivers and Tuvalu's climate is hot and rainy.
- With the exception of tiny Vatican City, Tuvalu has the fewest inhabitants of any other independent nation.
- **Capital:** Funafuti
- **Languages:** Most people speak a language called Tuvaluan. English is also common.

Economy:

- Most people are subsistence farmers and are aided by remittances from relatives working overseas.
- A small quantity of copra is produced for export, the sale of stamps accounts for modest earnings, and fees are collected from foreign fishing fleets.

Political Overview:

- Tuvalu became independent from the United Kingdom in October 1978.

- It operates as a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy.
- It is part of the Commonwealth Realm, with King Charles III recognized as King of Tuvalu. He is represented by a Governor-General, who is appointed upon the advice of the Prime Minister.
- There are no political parties: the prime minister is chosen by and from the legislature.

Kamchatka Peninsula



- **Location:** It lies in far eastern Russia, between the Sea of Okhotsk on the west and the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea on the east.
- It is one of the world's most concentrated areas of geothermal activity
- It is part of the Kamchatka Krai. Kamchatka, also known as a land of fire and ice, sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire and is home to over 150 volcanoes, including 29 active volcanoes.

- It is about 1,200 km long north-south and about 480 km across at its widest.
- **Area:** Approximately 370,000 square km.
- About the size of New Zealand, it is one of the largest peninsulas in the world.
- **Population:** About 300,000 people live on the peninsula. The population density is one of the lowest in the world, at less than a person per square kilometre.
- **Climate:** Severe, with prolonged, cold, and snowy winters and wet, cool summers.
- **Highest Point:** The Klyuchevskaya Sopka in the Eastern Range is the highest point on the Kamchatka Peninsula.
- **Regional Capital:** Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.
- The Kuril Island chain runs from the southern tip of the peninsula to a short distance from Japan's northern Hokkaido Island

SPECIES IN NEWS

Whale Shark



- It is the largest fish in the world and the largest fish known to have lived on this planet.
- They are one of only three species of filter feeding sharks.
- **Distribution:** They can be found in all temperate and tropical oceans around the world, except the Mediterranean Sea.

Appearance

- They are dark gray on top and light underneath, with a series of light spots or stripes covering the dark parts of their bodies. This helps to camouflage them as they swim.
- Unlike most shark species, its mouth is located at the front of the head (terminal) instead of the underside of the rostrum (subterminal).
- They are filter feeders and can neither bite nor chew. They can process more than 6,000 litres of water an hour through their gills.
- Inside the mouth are specialized flaps called velums. These stop the

backflow of water as the whale shark closes its mouth, preventing the loss of food.

- **Food Habit:** They feed on plankton and travel large distances to find enough food to sustain their huge size, and to reproduce.
- They also eat small and large fish and mollusks, including sardines, anchovies, mackerels, squid, and even small tuna and albacore.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN:** Endangered
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I
- **Threats:** The whale sharks continue to face challenges primarily due to bycatch and accidental capture in fishing nets, illegal hunting and habitat degradation.
- A global study indicates that over the past 75 years, the world's whale shark population has decreased by 50%

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1: It is the largest fish in the world and the largest fish known to have lived on this planet. They are dark gray on top and light underneath, with a series of light spots or stripes covering the dark parts of their bodies. This helps to camouflage them as they swim. They are filter feeders and can neither bite nor chew. They feed on plankton and travel large distances to find enough food to

sustain their huge size, and to reproduce.

Identify the species from the given description

- A. Blue Whale
- B. Whale Shark
- C. Sun Fish
- D. Greenland Shark

Q2: The Kamchatka Peninsula is located near which of the following water bodies?

- A. Sea of Okhotsk
- B. North Sea
- C. Ross Sea
- D. White Sea

Q3 : Tuvalu Group of Islands is located in which of the following regions?

- A. Western Atlantic Ocean
- B. Pacific Ocean
- C. Indian Ocean
- D. North Sea

Q4 : The term Bedouins refers to the indigenous tribal group of which of the following regions?

- A. Australia
- B. New Zealand
- C. Arabian Peninsula
- D. Morocco

Q5: Consider the following statements regarding Meri Panchayat App?

1. It is designed to provide a unified digital governance platform for rural areas, catering to residents, functionaries, and stakeholders of the Panchayati Raj Institution system.

2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

- A. Only Statement 1
- B. Only Statement 2
- C. Both the statements
- D. None of the Above

Answers

- 1. B
- 2. A
- 3. B
- 4. C
- 5. D

