

**PRELIMS EDGE 2025****25-07-2025**

PLACES IN NEWS

Cambodia



- Cambodia, country on the Indochinese mainland of **Southeast Asia**.
- Its capital is **Phnom Penh**.
- It is bordered **to the west and northwest by Thailand, to the northeast by Laos, to the east and southeast by Vietnam and to the southwest by the Gulf of Thailand**.
- The two dominant hydrological features of Cambodia are the **Mekong River and the Tonle Sap (Great Lake)**.
- **Topography:** The Elephant Mountains and Cardamom Mountain of the southwest and western regions; the Dangrek Mountains of the North adjoining of the Korat Plateau of Thailand and Rattanakiri Plateau and

Chhlong highlands on the east merging with the Central Highlands of Viet Nam.

- The majority of the country **lies within the Tropical savanna climate zone**, as the coastal areas in the South and West receive noticeably more and steady rain before and during the wet season.

Thailand



- **Location:** Centrally positioned in Mainland Southeast Asia, serving as a land and maritime bridge between India and ASEAN countries.
- **Land Borders:** Shares boundaries with Myanmar (NW), Laos (NE), Cambodia (E), and Malaysia (S).
- **Water Bodies:** Bordered by Andaman Sea (SW) and Gulf of Thailand (S) critical for Blue Economy and Maritime Security in Indo-Pacific.
- **Capital:** Bangkok

- **Currency:** Thai Baht (THB)
- **Official Language:** Thai
- **Religion:** Theravada Buddhism is practiced by 95% of the population.
- Thailand is a key pillar in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision.

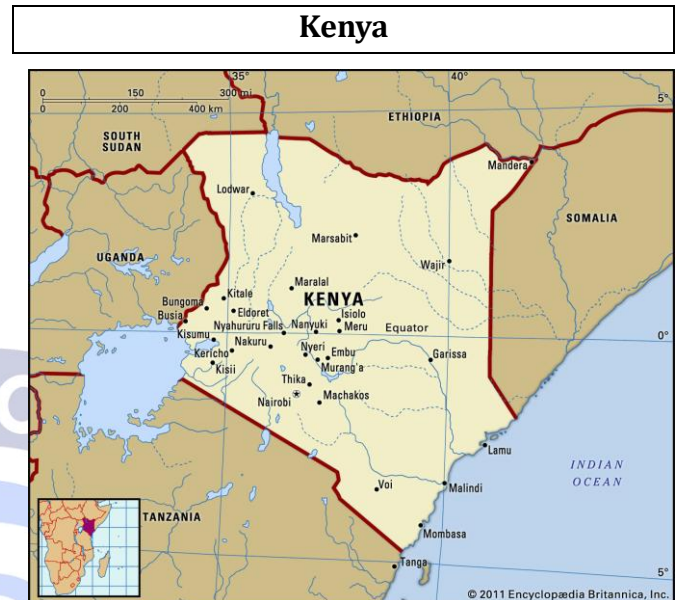
Geography of Thailand

- **Mountains:**
 - Highest Peak: Doi Inthanon (Approx. 2,565 m)
 - Other notable peaks: Doi Chiang Dao, Doi Luang Chiang Dao
- **Major Rivers:**
 - **Chao Phraya River:** Flows through Bangkok, crucial for transportation and irrigation.
 - **Mekong River:** Forms a natural border with Laos; one of the longest rivers in Southeast Asia.
- **Climate:** Influenced by Southwest and Northeast Monsoons
 - The Tropical Wet and Dry (Savanna) Climate (Kappen's classification) dominates most areas.
 - Tropical Monsoon Climate in the south and east; some areas also have a Tropical Rainforest Climate.

Natural Resources

- Major Resources: Rubber, Rice, Tin, Natural Gas, Timber, Tungsten, Tantalum
- Thailand is a leading global exporter of rubber, fruits, vegetables, and rice.
- Other resources include lead, fish, gypsum, fluorite, and lignite.
- World Heritage Sites in Thailand;
 - Historic City of Ayutthaya

- Sukhothai Historical Park
- Wat Pho (Temple of the Reclining Buddha) – iconic Buddhist temple in Bangkok



- It is a Country in East Africa with a coastline on the Indian Ocean
- **Bordered by**
 - South Sudan to the northwest
 - Ethiopia to the north
 - Somalia to the east
 - Uganda to the west
 - Tanzania to the south
 - Indian Ocean to the southeast.
- **Capital:** Nairobi
- **UN-Habitat Headquarters** at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Equator passes through 13 countries, including:**
 - In Africa: Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the

Congo, Uganda, Kenya, and Somalia

- **Refugee Camp: Dadaab Refugee Complex in Kenya** is another large refugee camp that hosts **refugees who fled from the civil war in Somalia**.

Nigeria



- It is a country located on the western coast of Africa. It is often called the “Giant of Africa.”
- **Boundaries:** It is bordered to the north by Niger, to the east by Chad and Cameroon, to the south by the Gulf of Guinea of the Atlantic Ocean, and to the west by Benin.
- It achieved independence from Britain in 1960.
- It covers an area of around 9.24 lakh square kilometers.
- It is also Africa’s most populous country.
- **Capital:** Abuja
- **Language:** English is Nigeria’s official language, although many local languages

such as Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, and Ijaw are also spoken.

- **Money:** Naira
- Nigeria has a diverse geography, with climates ranging from arid to humid equatorial.

Drainage:

- The major drainage areas in Nigeria are the Niger-Benue basin, the Lake Chad basin, and the Gulf of Guinea basin.
- The Niger River, for which the country is named, and the Benue, its largest tributary, are the principal rivers.
- **Major Mountain Range:** Cameroon Highlands
- The country has abundant natural resources, notably large deposits of petroleum and natural gas.

SPECIES IN NEWS

Lantana Camara



- It is an **invasive alien species**.
- It is a pantropical weed species, is native to the tropical and sub-tropical regions of **Central and South America**.

- It is an exotic weed that aggressively proliferates and forms a dense mesh of bushes.
- In India, it was first introduced in the early 18th century, and since then, it has invaded almost all the tropical areas across the country.
- It has been observed that it has been infesting from lower areas towards higher regions.
- **Ecological Impact:** It is known to produce allelochemicals that restrict the growth of other species under its canopy.
- Hence, it replaces native flora, resulting in homogeneous vegetation, significantly contributing to decline in biodiversity.
- Its management can be achieved by using its biomass for socioeconomic purposes — its timber for making furniture and also as fuelwood, etc.
- Its biomass can be used to produce organic compost and vermicompost, which will be better for organic farming and an alternative to inorganic manures available in the market.

Red Eared Slider Turtle



- It is native to the **southeastern USA and Mexico**.
- It is a semi-aquatic turtle from fresh and brackish water ecosystems.
- It spends the majority of its time either in the water foraging or basking on rocks and logs.
- The species is considered **one of the world's 100 worst invasive non-native species**.

Appearance

- It is known for its distinct red stripes behind each ear.
- They range in colour from dark green to brown, with yellowish ribbons all over their green bodies and along the edge of their dark olive-green shell.
- In the wild, red sliders can live from 20 to 50 years.
- **Diet:** These are fed mainly on plants and small animals, such as crickets and fish etc.
- **Conservation status**
 - IUCN: Least Concern

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1: Which among the following is considered as an invasive species in India?

- A. Red Eared Slider Turtle
- B. Leatherback Turtle
- C. Olive Ridley Turtle
- D. Indian Star Tortoise

Q2: Consider the following statements regarding Lantana Camara

1. It is a pantropical weed species, is native to the tropical and sub-tropical regions of Central and South America that is considered as invasive in India.

2. It is known to produce allelochemicals that restrict the growth of other species under its canopy.
3. Its biomass can be used to produce organic compost and vermicompost, which will be better for organic farming and an alternative to inorganic manures available in the market.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All of the Above
- D. None of the Above

Q3: Which among the following countries share borders with Cambodia?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Thailand
- C. Laos
- D. Brunei

Q4: Consider the following East Asian Countries

1. Myanmar
2. Thailand
3. Vietnam
4. Japan

Arrange the above countries from West to East

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

Q5 : Consider the following African countries

1. Ghana
2. Nigeria
3. Chad
4. Kenya

Arrange the above countries from West to East

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

Answers

1. A
2. D
3. D
4. A

