



Balalatha's
CSB IAS ACADEMY
The Road Map to Mussoorie...

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TERMS IN NEWS

Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL)

- The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has granted operational licences to NPCIL for two indigenous 700 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (Units 3 & 4) in Gujarat.
- Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is a Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India.
- The Company was registered as a Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 1956 with the objectives of operating atomic power plants and implementing atomic power projects for generation of electricity in pursuance of the schemes and programmes of the Government of India.
- India's nuclear sector is governed by the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, under which only government-owned entities such as NPCIL can generate and supply nuclear energy.
- NPCIL is responsible for design, construction, commissioning and operation of nuclear power reactors.

- There has been no private sector involvement in India's nuclear power sector so far but this will be gradually changed over time with the involvement of private players in Small Modular Reactors' construction and operation.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)



- It was established in 2019 under the leadership of the Government of India and with the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- It is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions.
- It aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.
- It seeks to rapidly expand the development and retrofit of resilient infrastructure to

respond to the Sustainable Development Goals imperatives of expanding universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity and decent work.

Mission

- By 2050, to drive US\$10 trillion of new and existing infrastructure investments and services to be resilient to natural hazards and climate change.
- Improving environmental quality, livelihoods, and overall well-being for more than 3 billion people worldwide.

Governance Structure

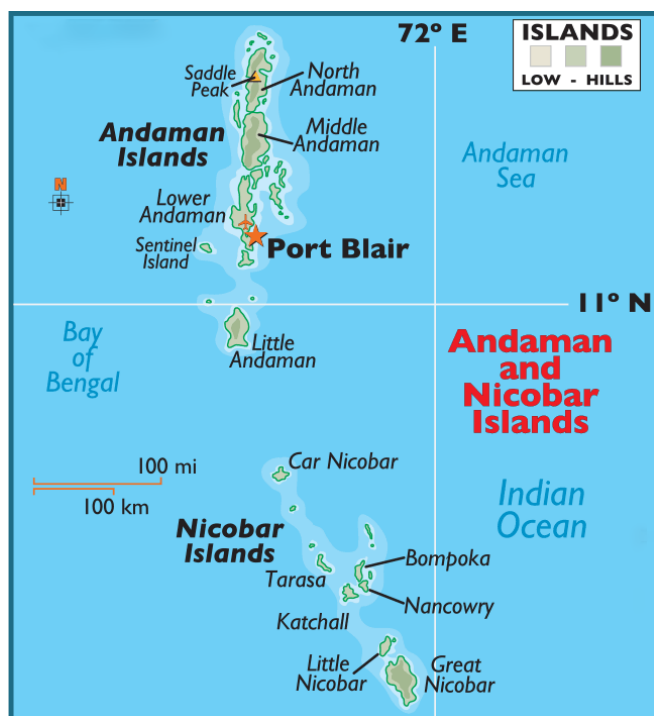
- **Governing Council:** Includes all member countries and organisations, meets yearly.
- **Executive Committee:** Oversees programmes and decisions, meets twice a year.
- **Secretariat:** Led by the Director General, runs day-to-day operations.
- **Funding:** It is funded by voluntary contributions from member countries and organisations.
- **Members:** It consists of 46 member countries and 8 partner organizations.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India.

Tuberculosis

- **About:** TB is a bacterial infection (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) affecting the lungs, spreading through the air.
- It is preventable and curable with antibiotics.
- About 25% of the global population is infected, but only 5–10% develop symptoms.

- **Risk Factors:** Weak immune system, diabetes, malnutrition, tobacco, and alcohol use.
- **Diagnosis:** WHO recommends rapid molecular diagnostic tests as initial tests for people showing signs and symptoms of TB. Other diagnostic tools can include sputum smear microscopy and chest X-rays.
- **Prevention:** The **Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine** is given to infants to prevent TB.
- **Transmission:** TB spreads through the air when an **infected person coughs, sneezes, or spits, releasing germs that others can inhale.**
- **Treatment:** Standard TB treatment lasts 4-6 months. Incomplete treatment leads to drug-resistant TB.
- **Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB):** It is resistant to isoniazid and rifampicin (medicines used to treat TB), treatable with costlier alternatives.
- **Extensively Drug-Resistant TB:** It is more severe, with limited treatment options.
- **Bedaquiline** is an anti-tuberculosis medication primarily used to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB), including multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)
- **TB and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV):** HIV patients are 16 times more vulnerable to TB, a leading cause of their deaths.

Great Nicobar Project



- The Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project, **launched in 2021**, is a mega project **to be implemented at the southern end of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- It involves **developing a trans-shipment port**, an international airport, township development, and a **450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant on the island**.

Features:

- The project was implemented after a report by NITI Aayog which identified the potential to utilise the advantageous position of the island, which is approximately equidistant from Colombo in Sri Lanka to the southwest and Port Klang (Malaysia) and Singapore to the southeast.

- The mega infrastructure project is **being implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO)** and is proposed to include an International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT), a **greenfield international airport**.
- It is **close to the Malacca Strait, the main waterway that connects the Indian Ocean to the Pacific**, and the ICTT is expected to allow Great Nicobar to participate in the regional and global maritime economy by becoming a **major player in cargo transshipment**.
- The site for the proposed ICTT and power plant is **Galathea Bay on the southeastern corner of Great Nicobar Island**, where there is no human habitation.

Strategic Importance:

- The upgrade is aimed at facilitating the **deployment of additional military forces**, larger and more warships, aircraft, missile batteries, and troops.
- Close surveillance of the entire area around the archipelago, and the building up of a **strong military deterrence at Great Nicobar is of vital importance to India's national security**.
- The island is **close to the Malacca Strait, the main waterway that connects the Indian Ocean to the Pacific**, and the ICTT is expected to allow Great Nicobar to participate in the regional and global maritime economy by becoming a **major player in cargo transshipment**.

- The Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean regions are **extremely important for India's strategic and security interests**. This is because the Chinese military (the **People's Liberation Army Navy**) is **trying to increase its presence and influence in this entire region**.
- India is particularly concerned about the possibility of China building up its naval forces at **important choke points** in the **Indo-Pacific area, such as the Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok Straits**.
- China is attempting to expand its foothold in this region by building a **military facility on the Coco Islands**, which are located just 55 km north of India's Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- This raises concerns for India, as the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are **strategically very important for India's maritime security in the region**.
- They are inhabiting **Little Andaman Island**, the most southerly island in the Andaman archipelago.
- They are **semi-nomadic tribes** and fully dependent on the food provided by nature.
- The religion of the Onges is simple **animism**. Neither ceremonial worship nor any kind of propitiation is practiced by them. They believe in different classes of spirits-spirits of the wood, the sea, disease, storm, and ancestors.
- The Onge speak their own language, which **has no script**.
- The colour of the teeth has a unique interpretation among Onges, who consider pearly white teeth a symbol of death. **They continue to chew the bark to impart a red colour to their teeth**.
- They decorate their bodies and their faces with white and ochre clay. On special occasions, they place a greater emphasis on body ornamentation.

Onge Tribe



- Onges are one of the most primitive tribes in India. They belong to the **Negrito racial stock**.

- Until the 1940s, the Onge were the sole permanent inhabitants of Goubalambabey (the Onge name for Little Andaman).
- They now share the 732 sq km island with around 17,000 settlers from India, Bangladesh, and the Nicobar Islands. ‘
- The Onge population was also decimated following contact with British colonists and Indian settlers; it fell from 670 in 1900 to only 96 members by the early 2000s.
- In 1976, the Onge were settled in order to have ‘the basic facilities for hygienic living and protection against elements of nature’.
- They now live in a reserve in **Dugong Creek (Little Andaman)** that is a fraction of the size of their original territory.

- The Onge tribe is also one of the **world's least prolific and infertile communities.**
- Infertility affects somewhat more than 40% of married couples.

3 by 35 Initiative



- Recently, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched a "3 by 35" initiative
- **It is an initiative urging countries to raise real prices on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks by at least 50 per cent by 2035.**
- The initiative has an ambitious goal of raising **US \$1 trillion over the next 10 years.**
- It aims to revitalize health taxes as a powerful tool to reduce harmful consumption, save lives, and generate vital public revenue.
- By implementing well-designed and effectively enforced taxes on these products, countries can mobilize significant domestic resources while advancing public health.

The 3 by 35 Initiative has three key actions

- **Mobilizing countries** – WHO and partners will engage heads of state, finance and health ministries, and civil society to build political momentum. Countries participating in the Initiative will benefit from peer learning, strategic support, and global recognition.
- **Supporting country-led policies** – Countries requesting assistance will receive direct support to develop tailored, evidence-based health tax policies. Others will benefit from a shared knowledge platform offering guidance, tools, and best practices.
- **Building commitment and partnerships** – Through inclusive dialogue and collaboration, the Initiative seeks to shift public and political perceptions, foster cross-sector alliances, and strengthen the role of civil society in advocating for sustainable health financing.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1 : Which among the following organizations launched the 3 by 35 initiative recently?

- A. WTO
- B. WHO
- C. IUCN
- D. WWF

Q2 : They are one of the most primitive tribes in India. They belong to the Negrito racial stock. The colour of the teeth has a unique interpretation among them, who consider pearly white teeth a symbol of death. They continue to chew the bark to impart a red colour to their teeth. They now live in a reserve in Dugong Creek (Little Andaman) that is a fraction of the size of their original territory. This tribe is also one of the world's least prolific and infertile communities.

Identify the tribal group from the above description

- A. Onge
- B. Jarawa
- C. Toto
- D. Agami

Q3 : Consider the following islands in the Bay of Bengal

1. Great Nicobar
2. Car Nicobar
3. Little Andaman
4. Middle Andaman

Arrange the following Islands from North to South

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

D. 1-4-1-3

Q4 : Which of the following countries with the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- A. India
- B. USA
- C. Japan
- D. China

Q5 : The term Bedaquiline often seen in news is a potent antibiotic used against which of the following diseases?

- A. Tuberculosis
- B. HIV infection
- C. Covid-19
- D. Nipah Virus

Answers

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. A