



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

PRELIMS EDGE 2025

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AGNIPATH SCHEME

Context: Union home ministry has decided to enhance reservation for ex-Agniveers in the Group C posts of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).



About Agnipath Scheme:

- It is a new scheme for recruiting soldiers across three services that was introduced in 2022.
- It is a short service scheme where motivated youth can serve for a period of **4 years**.
- Under this scheme, the youth joining the army will be called **Agniveer**.
- Around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.
- After four years, only **25%** of the batch will be recruited back into their respective services, for a period of **15 years**.
- This is expected to reduce the government's defense pension bill.

Eligibility:

- Only for personnel below officer ranks (those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers).
 - **Commissioned officers** are the army's highest ranked officers.
 - Commissioned officers hold an exclusive rank in the Indian armed forces. They often hold a commission under the president's sovereign power and are officially instructed to protect the country.
- Aspirants between the ages of **17.5 years and 23 years** will be eligible to apply.

Objectives:

- The scheme envisions that, the average age in the forces is **32 years today**, which will go down to **26** in six to seven years.

Benefits for Agniveers:

- Upon the completion of the 4-years of service, a one-time '**Seva Nidhi**' package of Rs 11.71 lakhs will be paid to the Agniveers that will include their accrued interest thereon.
- They will also get a **Rs 48 lakh life insurance cover** for the four years.
- In case of death, the pay-out will be over Rs 1 crore, including pay for the unserved tenure.
- The government will help rehabilitate soldiers who leave the services after four years. They will be provided with **skill certificates** and **bridge courses**.

Source: Govt. to increase reservation for Agniveers in CAPFs to 50% (The Hindu)

ULLAS SCHEME

Context: The Union Education ministry's literacy programme ULLAS has hit a hurdle in Bihar – the state among those with lowest literacy rates.



- **Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS)** is a **centrally sponsored scheme** implemented from 2022-2027 by the **Ministry of Education**.
- It aims to equip **5 crore 'non-literate individuals' over the age of 15** across the country with **foundational literacy and numeracy skills**.
- The scheme, aligned with NEP 2020, aims to empower those adults aged 15 years and above from all backgrounds **who could not get proper schooling** and mainstream them with society to be able to contribute more to the growth story of the country.
- The scheme has five components - **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills** and **Continuing Education**.
- The **ULLAS App** can be used for registration of learners and volunteers either through self-registration or by surveyors.
- The ULLAS App will serve as a digital gateway for learners to engage in diverse **learning**

resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.

Source: Country's '100% literacy by 2030' goal hits Bihar wall (The Indian Express)

TERMS IN NEWS

HIV/AIDS



- **Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)** is a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- **HIV attacks the body's immune system, making a person more vulnerable to other infections and diseases.**
- **If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS.**

Transmission:

- It is a **sexually transmitted infection (STI)**.
- It can also be spread by contact with **infected blood, and from illicit injection drug use, or sharing needles.**
- It can also be spread from **mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding.**

Treatment:

- There is currently **no effective cure.**

- Once people get HIV, they have it for life.
- But with proper medical care, **HIV can be controlled**. People with HIV who get effective HIV treatment (called antiretroviral therapy, or ART) can live long, healthy lives and protect their partners.

Donkey Route



- Indian deportees from the US, arriving in Amritsar, recently shared their harrowing experiences using the "donkey route" for **illegal immigration**.
- The donkey route is the route taken by illegal migrants to **stealthily cross many unknown countries** with the help of agents and human traffickers before entering the country of their choice, like the US or the UK.
- Named after a **Punjabi idiom referring to an arduous, unplanned journey**, it involves crossing multiple international borders, often through treacherous terrain, under false promises of legal entry.
- Donkey routes typically involve **illegal border crossings via indirect routes with multiple stops in different countries**.
- For instance, individuals might obtain a tourist visa for the **European Union's Schengen Area**, allowing free movement across 26 countries, and then illegally enter

the UK with the help of "consultants" or "agents."

- These agents often charge hefty fees for services ranging from fake documentation to smuggling via shipping containers.

PLACES IN NEWS

Aravallis



- It is one of the oldest **fold mountains** of the world.
- It runs approximately 670 km (430 mi) in a south-west direction, starting near Delhi, passing through southern Haryana and Rajasthan, and ending in Gujarat.
- The **highest peak is Guru Shikhar** at 1,722 metres (5,650 ft). Guru is a peak in the **Arbuda Mountains** of Rajasthan.
- **Rivers:** Three major rivers and their tributaries flow from the Aravalli, namely **Banas and Sahibi rivers** which are **tributaries of Yamuna**, as well as **Luni River** which flows into the **Rann of Kutch**.

Formation:

- It is part of the **Aravalli-Delhi orogenic belt**, which is a large and complex geological structure formed due to the collision of tectonic plates during the **Proterozoic era**.
- It is part of the **Indian Shield** that was formed from a series of cratonic collisions.
- In ancient times, Aravalli were extremely high but since have worn down almost completely by millions of years of weathering.
- The range is **rich in mineral resources** like copper, zinc, lead, and marble.
- It is divided into **two sections**: the **Sambhar-Sirohi ranges**, taller and including Guru Shikhar; and the **Sambhar-Khetri ranges**, consisting of three ridges that are discontinuous.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Agnipath Scheme:

1. Recruits under this scheme are called Agniveers.
2. The service period under the scheme is 4 years.
3. 50% of the contingent will be recruited back for a period of 15 years.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Q2. Due to which of the following HIV infection does not occur in humans?

- (a) Due to frequent blood transfusions

- (b) Sharing a toilet with HIV patient
- (c) Sharing syringes when injecting drugs intravenously
- (d) In a child born to an HIV positive mother

Q3. With reference to the ULLAS scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to equip 5 crore 'non-literate individuals' over the age of 15 across the country with foundational literacy and numeracy skills.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Education.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q4. The term 'donkey route' recently seen in news, refers to which of the following?

- (a) An informal trade route used historically for transporting goods across mountainous regions using pack animals
- (b) A refugee resettlement mechanism coordinated by international organisations for conflict-affected populations
- (c) An illegal migration pathway involving clandestine border crossings through multiple countries with the help of human traffickers and agents
- (d) A maritime smuggling route used primarily for transporting undocumented migrants across the Mediterranean Sea into Southern Europe

Q5. Consider the following statements with respect to the Aravallis:

1. The Banas and Luni rivers originate from the Aravalli ranges.
2. The highest peak in the Aravallis is the Guru Shikhar located on the Sambhar-Khetri ranges.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answers:

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

