



Balalatha's  
**CSB IAS ACADEMY**

The Road Map to Mussoorie...

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## UDAN SCHEME

**Context:** A water aerodrome is being planned in Kerala's Kasaragod under the UDAN Scheme.



UDAN  
SCHEME

**About UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) Scheme:**

- The scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** for regional airport development and regional connectivity enhancement.
- It is a **part of the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016** and is applicable for a period of 10 years.
- Aim: Expand access to **air travel for Tier 2 & Tier 3 cities** and shift traffic pattern away from Metro routes.

**Key Features:**

- Under the scheme, airlines have to **cap airfares for 50% of the total seats at Rs. 2,500 per hour** of flight.
- This would be achieved through:

- Financial stimulus/concessions from Central & State govts.
- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** - A govt grant provided to bridge gap between cost of operations and expected revenue.
- **Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF)** was created to meet VGF requirements of the scheme.

**Phases of the Scheme:**

- **Phase 1** was launched in 2017 to connect underserved and unserved airports in the country.
- **Phase 2** was launched in 2018 to expand air connectivity to more remote and inaccessible parts.
- **Phase 3** was launched in Nov 2018 to enhance air connectivity to hilly and remote regions of the country.
- **Phase 4** was launched in Dec 2019, with a focus on connecting islands and other remote areas of the country.
- **Phase 5** launched in April 2023 with a focus on Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats) aircrafts with no restriction on distance between origin and destination.

**Status of India's Aviation Sector**

- ✓ Among the fastest-growing aviation markets globally - it is a major growth

engine to make India a USD 5 trillion economy by 2028.

- ✓ Over the past 6 years - **domestic passenger traffic has grown annually at 14.5%** and **international passenger traffic has grown at around 6.5%**.
- ✓ Domestic passenger traffic projected to rise to 16 crores in FY 23/24 and to 35 crores by 29/30.
- ✓ Fleet size, which rose from 400 to more than 700 in the last ten years, is set to move upwards of 2,000 by 2035.
- ✓ In 2023 alone, 1,622 commercial pilot licences were issued.
- ✓ **Number of airports has doubled from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024.**
- ✓ In 2020, the FDI policy for civil aviation was amended to allow **100% FDI in automatic route.**

Source: Bids received for Kasaragod water aerodrome project (The Hindu)

## ADICHANALLUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

**Context:** The Madras high court has put an end to mining near the Adichanallur archaeological site.



### About Adichanallur Archaeological Site:

- It is an ancient **Iron-age burial site** located in the **Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu**.
- It is situated along the banks of the **Tamirabarani River**.
- It holds significance in showcasing the **megalithic culture**.
- Additionally, the nearby ancient seaport of **Korkai**, mentioned in Sangam literature, is nearby.
- In 1903-04 British archaeologist **Alexander Rea** unearthed a treasure of over 9,000 objects in Adichanallur.
- Nearly 100 years later in 2004 and 2005 archaeologists found a lot of **iron objects**, and a **few copper objects but no bronze or gold**, as they were more focused on habitations.
- In October 2021 using the **Geological Survey of India (GSI) data** and clues discovered from Rea's report, the ASI team zeroed in on the trenches to be dug.
- The recent excavations have yielded a wealth of materials, including **gold, metals and human remains**.

- Various Materials unearthed include **burial urns, 3000 years old Human skull, Bronze artefacts, Headgear, Spear, Arrowheads, Dog toy, Paddy.**
- Gold was an inland source from the region located north of the present northern borders of Tamil Nadu.
- Several gold workings are reported from the neighbourhood of the **Hutti gold mines**, the present Raichur district of Karnataka. Some of them have been dated to about 3,000 years ago.
- **Sanganakallu**, a Neolithic and Megalithic site near Ballari in Karnataka, has **yielded gold foils** but in small quantities and not from a burial context like at Adichanallur.
- From 1,000 BCE onwards since the beginning of the megalithic or Iron Age in south India, **gold was a traded commodity.** So it is not surprising that it has been found in Adichanallur.
- Adichanallur is the **first archaeological site in Tamil Nadu where gold** was excavated.

#### Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ✓ ASI is the premier organization for the archaeological research, scientific analysis, excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and preservation of protected monuments.
- ✓ It is an attached office under the Department of Culture, **Ministry of Culture.**
- ✓ ASI was founded in 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham** - the first Director-General of ASI.

#### Sangam Age

- ✓ The word 'Sangam' is the Tamil form of the Sanskrit word 'Sangha' which means a **group of persons** or an association.
- ✓ The Sangam literature was largely consolidated from the **third Sangam** and throws information on conditions of life of people **around the beginning.**

Source: Madras HC says 'no' to sand mining near Adichanallur (The Hindu)

## NATIONAL FILM HERITAGE MISSION

**Context:** The Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting said in Lok Sabha that till date 1,469 titles have been digitized under the National Film Heritage Mission.

#### About National Film Heritage Mission:

- It was launched in 2015 by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** for restoring and preserving the film heritage of India.
- **Implementation Agency:** National Film Archive of India, Pune.

#### Objectives:

- Condition assessment of film reels to ascertain the remaining life of the film.
- 2K/4K picture and sound restoration of landmark films of India and recording of new picture and sound inter-negatives of each film.
- Digitization of films.
- Construction of archival and preservation facilities called **vaults.**
- Training and workshops for in-house capacity building.

- Web-based end-to-end IT solution

### National Film Archive of India

- It was established in February 1964 as a media unit of the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, Government of India.
- Its primary objective is to **acquire and preserve Indian cinematic heritage**.
- This includes preservation of film and non-film material, including but not limited to celluloid, stills, glass slides, posters, lobby cards, scripts, and song booklets.
- Beyond safeguarding celluloid history, the NFAI actively promotes Indian cinema.
- They organize screenings, film appreciation courses, and research programs, fostering a deeper understanding of Indian film culture.
- It is **headquartered in Pune** with regional centers in Bangalore, Kolkata, and Trivandrum.
- It has been a member of the **International Federation of Film Archives (FIAPF)** since 1969.

Source: *Preserving India's Cinematic Legacy; National Film Heritage Mission Digitized 1,469 Films (PIB)*

## TERMS IN NEWS

### Agentic AI



- Agentic AI is an advanced form of artificial intelligence focused on **autonomous decision-making and action**.
- It consists of AI agents – machine learning models that **mimic human decision-making** to solve problems in real time.
- Unlike traditional AI, which primarily responds to commands or analyzes data, **agentic AI can set goals, plan, and execute tasks with minimal human intervention**.
- "Agentic" indicates agency – the ability of these systems to **act independently**, but in a goal-driven manner.
- At its core, this technology is built on several key components:
  - **Perception:** Agentic AI starts by gathering information from its surroundings and different sources, such as sensors, databases, and user interfaces.
  - **Reasoning:** Using a large language model (LLM), agentic AI analyzes the gathered data to understand the context, identify relevant information, and formulate potential solutions.

- **Planning:** The AI then uses the information it gathered to develop a plan. This involves setting goals, breaking them down into smaller steps, and figuring out the best way to achieve them.
- **Action:** Based on its plan, the AI takes action. This could involve performing tasks, making decisions, or interacting with other systems.
- **Reflection:** After taking action, the AI learns from the results. It evaluates whether its actions were successful and uses this feedback to adjust its plans and actions in the future.
- Agentic AI builds on generative AI (GenAI) techniques by using large language models (LLMs) to function in dynamic environments.
- While generative models focus on creating content based on learned patterns, agentic AI extends this capability by **applying generative outputs toward specific goals**.
- For example, a generative AI model like OpenAI's ChatGPT might produce text, images, or code, but an agentic AI system can use that generated content to complete complex tasks autonomously by calling external tools.

### Champions of the Earth Award



- It was established in 2005 and awarded by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- It is the **UN's highest environmental honour**, recognises trailblazers at the forefront of efforts to protect people and the planet.
- Every year, UNEP honours individuals and organizations working on innovative and sustainable solutions to address **the triple planetary crisis** of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.
- Champions of the Earth are celebrated in **4 categories**:
  - **Policy leadership:** Public sector officials leading global or national action for the environment. They shape dialogue, lead commitments and act for the good of the planet.
  - **Inspiration and action:** Leaders taking bold steps to inspire positive change to protect our world. They lead by example, challenge behavior and inspire millions.

- **Entrepreneurial vision:**  
Visionaries challenging the status quo to build a cleaner future. They build systems, create new technology and spearhead a groundbreaking vision.
- **Science and innovation:**  
Trailblazers pushing the boundaries of technology for profound environmental benefit.
- Recently, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests of Tamil Nadu, Ms **Supriya Sahu**, has won the UN Environment Programme's 2025 Champions of the Earth Award.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the civil aviation sector in India:

1. The UDAN Scheme was launched as part of the National Civil Aviation Policy of 2016.
2. In the last 10 years, the number of operational airports in India have doubled.
3. 100% FDI under automatic route is permitted in the civil aviation sector in India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Adichanallur Archaeological site:

1. It is located on the banks of the river Tamirabarani in Tamil Nadu.
2. A lot of iron and some copper artefacts have been unearthed here but no bronze or gold has been found.
3. It is an iron age burial site with evidences of the megalithic culture.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Film Heritage Mission:

1. It is an initiative by the Ministry of Culture to restore and preserve the film heritage of India.
2. Under this mission, the National Film Archive of India undertakes the construction of preservation facilities called vaults.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q4. With reference to emerging artificial intelligence technologies, consider the following statements:

1. While generative AI focuses more on producing content such as text, images etc., agentic AI can set goals, plan actions, and execute tasks autonomously.
2. Generative AI systems cannot interact with external tools, only Agentic AI can.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q5. The Champions of the Earth award is given by which organization?

- (a) IUCN
- (b) UNEP
- (c) WWF
- (d) Green Peace

**Answers:**

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

