



Trash Skimmer Machine | Uttar Pradesh | 14 Feb 2025

Why in News?

To realise the dream of a **clean India** and to keep **the Triveni Sangam** clean and pure , trash skimmer machines have been installed in Prayagraj , which are removing 10 to 15 tonnes of garbage from **the Ganga** and **Yamuna** rivers every day.

Key Points

- Trash skimmer machines have been installed in 2021 before **the Maha Kumbh** to keep the **Triveni Sangam clean and pure.**
- **Trash Skimmer Machine:**
 - It is a machine that collects floating debris from the surface of water.
 - This machine picks up **all the items like flowers, leaves, floating garbage, plastic, bottles etc. from the river** in various ways and brings them to the shore, which are later disposed of in proper ways.
 - This machine is used **to clean rivers, ports and seas .**
 - It also helps in removing **aquatic weeds (water hyacinth).**

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UPPCS Mains Course



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Water Hyacinth



- **Water hyacinth**, scientifically known as **Eichhornia crassipes Mart. (Pontederiaceae)**, is an **aquatic weed common in waterbodies across South Asia, including India.**
- This is **not an indigenous species** but was **introduced to India during the British colonial rule** as an **ornamental aquatic plant from South America.**
- The plant **produces beautiful purple flowers** that have **high aesthetic value.**

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

- The Government of India laid the foundation of the Swachh Bharat Mission on **2 October 2014 (Gandhi Jayanti)**. This mission covers all rural and urban areas.
- The urban component of this mission is **implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and the rural component is implemented by **the Ministry of Jal Shakti.**

Indian Art History Congress | Uttar Pradesh | 14 Feb 2025

Why in News?

The **32nd Indian Art History Congress** was held from 8 to 10 February 2025 at **Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida**.

Key Points

- **About the Conference:**
 - The theme of the conference was **“Rendering Indian Epics in Art and Culture”.**
 - **It aimed** to highlight the diverse forms of artistic expressions **based on the epics.**
 - **The Mahabharata and Ramayana**, with their teachings on duty, righteousness, and justice, have shaped the way of life for many.
 - Their ideals resonate across cultures, both in India and beyond.
 - It was organised by **Indian Heritage Institute, Noida under the Ministry of Culture**
- **Importance:**
 - The conference **highlighted the varied forms of artistic expressions** based on the epics through oral, textual and visual media.

- Discussion on the influence of epics and their various artistic forms from ancient to contemporary times.
- To promote interest in Indian art and to work for its **preservation and protection**.
- To make efforts to protect the tangible and intangible **cultural heritage** .

Indian Art History Congress (IAHC)

- It is an **all-India institution** that **studies Indian art heritage**.
- It aims to **encourage in-depth research** and discussion **on various aspects of Indian art history and culture**.
- This organization works for the **preservation of Indian cultural heritage, tangible and intangible art forms**.
- It provides a platform for experienced and young scholars to exchange their art related research and ideas.
- Its **headquarters** is located in Guwahati.

Exercise Cyclone- III | Rajasthan | 14 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Recently, the Joint Special Forces **Exercise " Cyclone-III"** between **India and Egypt** began from 10 February 2025 at Mahajan Field Firing Range **in Rajasthan**.

Key Points

- **About the Cyclone-III:**
 - It is an annual exercise, held alternately **in both countries** .
 - Its last edition was held **in Ansas, Egypt in January 2024** .
 - The Indian team will have 25 soldiers, who will be represented by soldiers of two **special forces battalions**.
 - The Egyptian team will also have 25 soldiers, who will be represented by soldiers of **Egypt's Special Forces Group and Task Force**.
- **Objectives:**
 - **To strengthen military ties** between the two countries .
 - Paying special attention to physical fitness, joint planning and tactical exercises.
 - To rehearse and validate tactical exercises for **counter-terrorism operations** in **desert and semi-desert areas** .
 - It will also include a demonstration of indigenous military equipment by Egypt and an inspection of **the defence manufacturing industry** .

RAS Mains Course

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RAS Mains Series

20 Mains Test Series

Admissions Open

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Egypt



▪ About:

- Egypt is a transcontinental country in northeastern Africa and the Sinai Peninsula in Western Asia (Middle East).
- **Cairo** is the capital of Egypt.
- **Boundaries:**
 - **North:** Borders the Mediterranean Sea.
 - **East:** Bordered by the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea.
 - **West:** Shares a land border with Libya.
 - **Northeast:** Borders the Gaza Strip (Palestinian territory) and Israel.
 - **South:** Shares a border with Sudan.
- **Maritime Borders:**
 - **Mediterranean Sea:** Shares maritime borders with Cyprus, Turkey, and Greece.
 - **Red Sea:** Shares maritime borders with Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
- Egypt gained modern **independence in 1922**.
- The official language is **Modern Standard Arabic**.
- The commonly spoken dialect is **Egyptian Arabic (Masri)**.
- **Islam is the dominant religion**, with 85-90% of the population being Sunni Muslim.
- **Major River:**
 - **The River Nile** is the only year-round flowing river in Egypt.
 - Around 98% of the population lives in **the Nile River Valley**.

New Policies Approved by Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | 14 Feb 2025

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved more than **10 policies related to various industrial sectors** in the cabinet meeting held in Bhopal.

Key Points

▪ Key Policies:

- The state government has approved several policies to bring investment and increase employment opportunities in the state ahead of the hosting of the new **Global Investors Summit (GIS)**.
- The cabinet approved **the Industrial Promotion Policy-2025** to make the state developed and prosperous .
- Under this, 10 sector specific policies have been approved:
 - Agriculture, Dairy and Food Processing Policy
 - Textile Policy
 - Apparel, Footwear, Toys, and Accessories Policy
 - Aerospace and Defence Production Promotion Policy
 - Pharmaceuticals Policy
 - Biotechnology Policy
 - Medical Device Policy
 - EV Manufacturing Policy
 - Renewable Energy Equipment Manufacturing Policy
 - High Value-Add Manufacturer Policy

MPPSC Foundation Course

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Admissions Open

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◦ Objectives of Industrial Promotion Policy-2025 :

- Promote industrial development across the state.
- Raise the sector's share in GDP from Rs 2.9 lakh crore (2023-24) to Rs 6 lakh crore by 2030.
- Build a strong industrial ecosystem to attract investors.
- Promote environmentally sustainable and regionally balanced industrial development.
- Generate 20 lakh new jobs in the next five years, focusing on employment-intensive

- sectors.
- Streamline investor facilitation and simplify business processes.
 - **Investment-Based Incentives:**
 - Industries investing Rs 50 to Rs 150 crore will receive up to 40% incentives.
 - Investments up to Rs 200 crore will receive 32% incentives along with additional concessions.
 - **Electricity Discounts:**
 - Investors will benefit from special discounts on electricity.
 - **Financial Support for Management & Infrastructure:**
 - Rs 10 crore will be provided for management support.
 - Rs 5 crore will be allocated for infrastructure development.
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Dokra Artwork | Chhattisgarh | 14 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Recently, the Indian [Prime Minister](#) gifted **French President Emmanuel Macron** a meticulously crafted [Dokra artwork](#) of musicians adorned with **studded stonework**, showcasing **India's rich tribal artistry**.

- He also **presented France's First Lady** with an exquisite **silver hand-engraved table mirror featuring floral and peacock motifs**.



Key Points

- **About Dokra:**
 - Dokra, a centuries-old metal-casting craft from Chhattisgarh, uses the **lost-wax**

technique to create intricate [brass and copper sculptures](#).

- The gifted piece portrays traditional musicians in dynamic poses, highlighting the deep **cultural significance of music in tribal life**.
- [Lapis lazuli and coral accents](#) enhance the artwork's visual appeal, showcasing India's rich indigenous craftsmanship.

▪ **Silver Table Mirror:**

- **The silver table mirror** features detailed **floral and [peacock engravings](#)**, representing India's legacy of fine metalwork.
- Its intricate design merges **artistic elegance with cultural symbolism**, making it a treasured keepsake.

Dokra



- Dokra is a **form of ancient bell metal craft** practiced by the Ojha metalsmiths living in states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Telangana.
 - However, the style and also the workmanship of this artisan community varies in different states.
 - Dhokra or Dokra, is also known as **bell metal craft**.
 - The name '**Dhokra**' comes from the **Dhokra Damar tribes**, who are the traditional metal smiths of West Bengal.
 - Their technique of lost wax casting is named after their tribe, hence Dhokra metal casting.
 - The Dokra artifacts are **made in brass and are unique in that the pieces do not have any joints**.
 - The method is **combining metallurgical skills with wax techniques** employing the lost wax technique, a unique form where mould is used only once and broken, making this art the only one-of-its-kind in the world.
 - The tribe **extends from Jharkhand to Orissa to as far ahead to Chattisgarh, Rajasthan and even Kerala**.
 - Each figurine takes about a month to make.
 - The dancing girl of [Mohenjo-Daro \(Harappan Civilization\)](#) is one of the earliest dhokra artefacts that is now known.
 - Dokra Art is **still used to craft artefacts, accessories, utensils and jewellery**.
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Central Mosque Closed on Shab-e-Baraat | Jammu & Kashmir | 14 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Authorities closed Srinagar's central mosque, [Jama Masjid](#), to prevent nightlong prayers on [Shab-e-Baraat](#).

Key Points

- **Chief Cleric Under House Arrest:**
 - It is alleged that the authorities placed Kashmir's chief cleric under house arrest, preventing him from carrying out his religious duties.
- **Criticism of the Decision:**
 - The decision was criticized, stating that **repeated restrictions on religious gatherings hurt public sentiments** and infringe upon **fundamental religious rights**.
 - It lamented that worshippers frequently find the grand mosque forcibly closed during significant religious occasions.
 - Jammu and Kashmir **Chief Minister** termed the sealing of Jama Masjid on Shab-e-Baraat as unfortunate.
 - He argued that the decision reflected a lack of confidence in both the people and law enforcement, asserting that Srinagar's residents deserved better.

Shab-e-Barat

- It is also known as the '**Night of Emancipation**' and is observed on the night falling between the **14th and 15th day of the month of Shaban**.
- The **destiny of every person is determined on this night**.
- **Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi**, the twelfth imam is credited with ridding the world from oppression and injustice.

Homage to Heroes of Pulwama Attack | Jammu & Kashmir | 14 Feb 2025

Why in News?

[The Prime Minister](#) paid homage to the courageous heroes of **Pulwama terror attack of 2019**.

Key Points

- **Pulwama Terror Attack:**
 - A **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** convoy of 78 vehicles, carrying over 2,500 jawans, was targeted in a deadly attack.

- The Pakistan-based **terror group [Jaish-e-Mohammad \(JeM\)](#)** claimed **responsibility for the attack**.
 - A lone JeM suicide bomber carried out the attack by ramming a car loaded with approximately 350 kg of explosives into a CRPF bus.
- **JeM's Involvement in Past Attacks:**
 - JeM has been linked to several major attacks, including:
 - The 2001 Indian **[Parliament](#)** attack.
 - The 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, which killed seven security personnel.
 - The **2016 [Uri attack](#)**, which resulted in the deaths of 20 soldiers.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

▪ About:

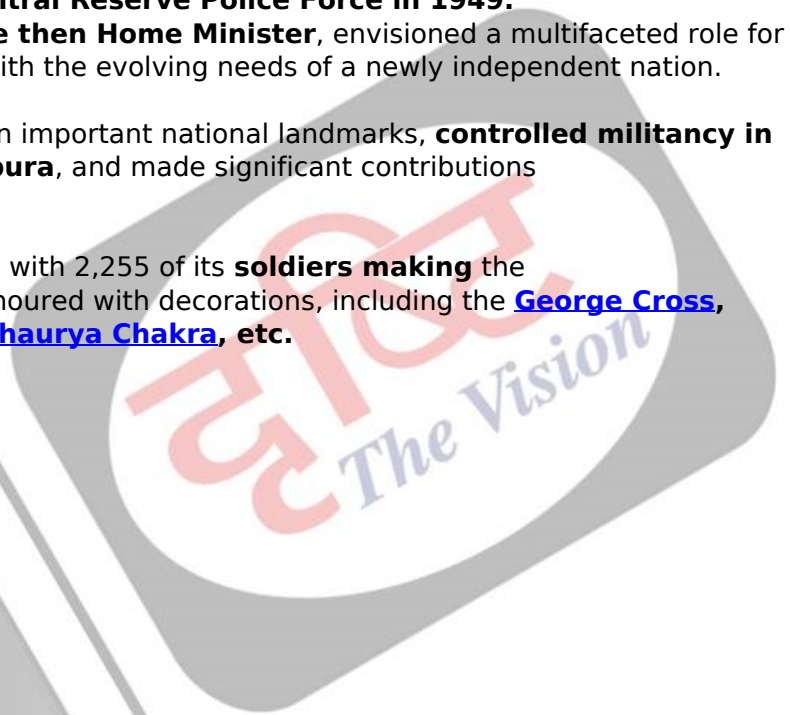
- The CRPF was initially **established as the Crown Representatives Police in 1939** in response to political turmoil and unrest within the princely states.
- The force was **renamed the Central Reserve Police Force in 1949**.
- **[Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel](#), the then Home Minister**, envisioned a multifaceted role for the CRPF, aligning its functions with the evolving needs of a newly independent nation.

▪ Achievements and Contributions:

- The force has thwarted attacks on important national landmarks, **controlled militancy in Punjab and insurgency in Tripura**, and made significant contributions to **eradicating [Naxalism](#)**.

▪ Honouring the Bravehearts:

- The CRPF has paid a heavy price, with 2,255 of its **soldiers making** the supreme **sacrifice** and being honoured with decorations, including the **[George Cross](#), [Ashok Chakra](#), [Kirti Chakra](#), [Shaurya Chakra](#), etc.**



CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (CAPF)

The CAPF includes the seven security forces in India functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Assam Rifles (AR)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1835, as militia called 'Cachar Levy'
- ↳ **Erstwhile objective:** To protect British Tea estates
- ↳ **Current Objectives:**
 - ↳ Conducting anti-terrorist operations in NER
 - ↳ Ensuring security at India-China and India-Myanmar borders
- ↳ **Imp Role in:**
 - ↳ Sino-India War 1962
 - ↳ Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka (1987)

Due to long association with tribal belts, Assam Rifles are also called 'Friends of the North East'

Border Security Force (BSF)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1965
- ↳ **Objectives:**
 - ↳ Securing land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh
 - ↳ Also performing Anti-Infiltration in Kashmir Valley
 - ↳ Counter Insurgency in NER
 - ↳ Anti-Naxal Operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- ↳ **Wings:** Air wing, marine wing, an artillery regiment, and commando units

BSF is India's First Line of Defence and the world's largest border guarding force

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- ↳ **Pre-Independence Origin:** 1939 (Crown Representative's Police)
- ↳ **Post Independence:** 1949 - under CRPF Act, became Central Reserve Police Force
- ↳ **Objective:** Crowd control, riot control, counter militancy/insurgency operations, etc.

CRPF is the principle central police force for internal security

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1962
- ↳ **Objectives:**
 - ↳ Deployed on border from Karakoram Pass (Ladakh) to Jachep La (Arunachal Pradesh) (~3488 km of Indo-China Border)
 - ↳ Manning Border Outposts on altitudes 9000 ft - 18700 ft in Western, Middle and Eastern sectors of Indo-China Border

ITBP is India's specialised mountain force & the first responder to natural disasters

National Security Guard (NSG)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1984 (came into being in 1986), following Operation Blue Star
- ↳ **Objectives:** Counter-terrorism unit/Federal Contingency Force
- ↳ **Task-oriented Force - Two complementary elements:**
 - ↳ Special Action Group (SAG)
 - ↳ Special Ranger Groups (SRG)

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1963
- ↳ **Objectives:**
 - ↳ Guarding Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders
 - ↳ Enhance border security, curb trans-border crimes, prevent unauthorised entry/exit, halt smuggling, etc.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- ↳ **Origin:** Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968
- ↳ **Objectives:** Ensuring security of major critical infrastructure installations

CISF is the sole CAPF unit with a specialised fire wing



Drishti IAS

Waste Crisis in Gurugram | Haryana | 14 Feb 2025

Why in News?

A 2024 survey by the **Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG)** identified around **100 illegal dumping spots in the city**, with **the Aravallis** along the Gurugram-Faridabad Road among the worst affected.

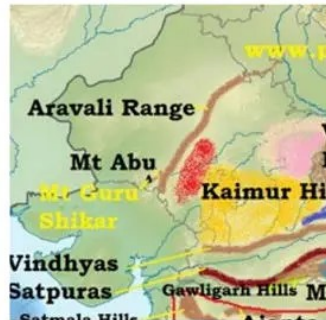
- Despite declaring a waste crisis in 2024, authorities have failed to appoint a dedicated waste collection agency since 2021.

Key Points

- **About the Issue:**
 - Despite being discussed during **Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections**, the issue of illegal dumping failed to gain significant attention.

- With conditions worsening, residents are now demanding clear solutions from leaders.
- Environmentalists criticized the lack of action, stating that Gurugram has turned into a massive concrete dumpyard.
- Unchecked debris dumping is **clogging green belts**, empty spaces, and roads, leading to **severe waterlogging**.

Aravali Mountain Range



- The Aravallis, is the **oldest fold mountains on Earth**. Geological studies indicate that it is three billion years old.
- It spans over **800 km from Gujarat to Delhi** (through Rajasthan and Haryana).
- The **highest peak** in the Aravalli Range is **Guru Peak on Mount Abu**.
- **Influences Climate:**
 - The Aravallis have an impact upon the climate of northwest India and beyond.
 - During monsoons, the mountain range gently guides the monsoon clouds eastwards towards Shimla and Nainital, thus **helping nurture the sub-Himalayan rivers and feeding the north Indian plains**.
 - During the winter months, it **shields the fertile alluvial river valleys of the Indus and Ganga** from the harsh **cold westerly winds** blowing in from Central Asia.