

**PRELIMS MANTRA – 22 (09/03/2025 and 10/03/2025)****Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh is declared as India's 58th tiger reserve:**

- **9<sup>th</sup> Tiger Reserve** in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is part of Ranthambhore-Kuno-Madhav (Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan) Tiger Corridor.
- Located in Shivpuri district in the **Chambal region** of M.P.
- **Sakhya Sagar (Ramsar site) & Madhav Sagar (damming Manihar River)** are two lakes in southern part of the park.
- Park area forms a catchment of the **Sind River which flows along the eastern boundary of the park.**
- **Saharia tribe, a PVTG**, facing displacement and rehabilitation issues.
- **George Castle (Bankhade Kothi)** is located within Park.

**Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Odisha:**

- Located where **Mahanadi River passes** through a 22 km long gorge in **Eastern Ghats mountains.**
- **Meeting point of two biogeographic regions** of India - Deccan Peninsula and Eastern Ghats.
- Forms **part of the Mahanadi elephant reserve.**
- It is the natural habitat of two endangered species, viz., **the freshwater crocodile and the gharial.**

**Types of River Dolphin:**

- **There are two kinds of river dolphin-**
  1. **Facultative river dolphins** occur in both marine and fresh waters (**Euryhaline species**). e.g. In India, **Irrawaddy dolphins** are seen around the Chilika Lake and off the Sundarbans. The smaller **tucuxi** is found in the Amazon and Orinoco rivers, and the Yangtze finless porpoise.
  2. **Obligate river dolphins** are found only in freshwater bodies. e.g. pink Amazon River dolphin, Yangtze River dolphin, Ganges River dolphin, Indus River dolphin.
- **Dolphins and toothed whales** have a **prominent, fatty mass on their fore heads** called **melon**. It acts as a lens that focuses sound and is very **important in echolocation.**
- An **unusual feature of the Ganges and Indus River dolphins is their poor eyesight.** Navigation and feeding is done by echolocation using ultrasound waves.
- These dolphins also show a tendency to **swim on their sides**, using fins on the sides of their bodies to feel along bottom of riverbeds in their search for food.

**Hantavirus:**

- A **family of rodent-borne viruses** that can cause serious illness and death in humans.
- Infected rodents spread the viruses through their urine, faeces, and saliva.
- However, these **viruses do not spread between people.**
- **Haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS)** is another group of illnesses caused by hantaviruses found primarily in Europe and Asia.
- There is **no known cure or treatment.** Early detection and treatment are crucial.

**Daylight Savings Time (DST):**

- It is the **practice of setting clocks forward one hour** from standard time **during summer** and back again in autumn.
- It is **done to make better use of natural daylight** as it extends daylight into the evening.
- **Benefits:** Lower energy consumption, people to spend more time outside, increasing sales for retailers and restaurants, fewer accidents & crimes committed in dark.

- **Problems:** Disrupt sleep pattern, can lead to confusion and inconsistencies across different time zones, problems for businesses, travel, and communication.

**Rubber Board:**

- **Statutory organization** constituted under Section (4) of Rubber Act, 1947.
- Functions under **administrative control of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- Headed by **chairman appointed by Central Government & 28 members** representing interests of rubber industry.
- **Headquarters: Kottayam, Kerala.**
- It is responsible for development of rubber industry.
- Issues "**Rubber Board license/registration,**" to rubber producers, manufacturers, and exporters/traders.

**Flightless birds:**

- **Examples-** Penguins, steamer ducks, Weka, ostrich, kiwi, Kakapo, Takahe, Cassowary.
- **There are two common reasons why birds evolve flightlessness -**
  1. **When birds land on an island with no predators that would hunt them or steal their eggs, they gradually adapt to living on ground.** They gradually lose some features of their skeletons & feathers that help them fly.
  2. **Some birds' bodies change when they evolve semi-aquatic lifestyles. Penguins, for instance, cannot fly, but they swim in a way that is akin to 'flying underwater'.** Their feathers and skeletons have changed accordingly.

**Fuselage:**

- In a first, rear fuselage for light combat aircraft Tejas Mk1A, manufactured by Alpha Tocol Engineering Services Private Ltd., was handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL)
- A **fuselage is part of main body of aircraft**, which holds pilot, passengers and cargo, while the rear fuselage supports the tail section and its associated components.

**Exercise KHANJAR-XII:**

- 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the **India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII** is set to **take place in Kyrgyzstan** from 10 March to 23 March 2025.
- Since **its inception in 2011**, Ex KHANJAR has evolved into an annual training event.
- **Held in alternate venues** between India and Kyrgyzstan.

**Places in the News:**

- **More than 1000 killed in communal violence in Syria:** Clashes between forces linked to new Islamist rulers and fighters from dethroned President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite community.
- **Queensland, Australia: Storm Alfred (tropical cyclone).**

**Koch-Rajbongshis:**

- They are one of six ethnic groups seeking ST status for decades. The others are Adivasis, Ahoms, Chutias, Mataks, and Morans.

**Terms in the News:**

- "**Coalition of the willing**": It refers to a pragmatic ad hoc grouping of countries allied for a common cause, typically a joint military effort.

**Women's contribution in framing of Constitution:**

- **Smt. Ammu Swaminathan** was a vocal advocate for gender equality in constitutional provisions, ensuring that women's rights were duly recognized.

○ **Smt. Annie Mascarene** played a key role in discussions on federalism and state integration, reinforcing India's unity in diversity.

○ **Begum Qudsia Aizaz Rasul**, only Muslim woman in Assembly, stood as a staunch advocate for secularism, arguing for an inclusive national identity.

○ **Smt. Dakshayani Velayudhan**, first Dalit woman in Assembly, fearlessly opposed untouchability and fought for rights of marginalized communities.

○ **Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh** was instrumental in shaping social welfare policies and promoting women's education, contributing to India's early framework for social justice.

○ **Smt. Hansa Jivraj Mehta** played a crucial role in drafting India's fundamental rights, ensuring that gender justice remained at the core of constitutional debates.

○ **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur**, a pioneering stateswoman, was the architect of India's public health policies and laid the foundation for modern healthcare in the country.

○ **Smt. Sarojini Naidu**, called as the "Nightingale of India", was an eloquent advocate for civil liberties, leaving a lasting impact on India's democratic ethos.

○ **Smt. Sucheta Kripalani**, who later became India's first female Chief Minister, was a prominent voice in Assembly and championed labour rights and governance reforms.

○ **Smt. Vijayalakshmi Pandit**, a distinguished diplomat, strongly supported international cooperation and India's role in global governance.

**PRACTICE MCQs**

Q1. Exercise KHANJAR is Joint Special Forces Exercise between India and

- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Russia

**Answer: B**

Q2. Consider the following statements about Gangetic dolphins:

- They are euryhaline species.
- They have poor eyesight and thus require clear, transparent waters.
- They tend to swim on their sides.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 3 only

**Answer: D**

Q3. Consider the following statements about Rubber Board of India:

- It is a statutory body set up under the Rubber Act 1947.
- It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Its headquarters is located in Kochi, Kerala.

How many statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Answer: B**

Q4. Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh is declared as India's 58th tiger reserve. Consider the following statements regarding it:

- It is the eighth tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh.
- Sakhya Sagar and Madhav Sagar are lakes located within the National Park.
- Sind River flows along the eastern boundary of the National Park.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: C**

Q5. Which of the following is common reason behind development of flightlessness among the birds?

- Their body weight increases which does not allow them to fly.
- They find abundant food on the ground which reduces the need to fly from one place to another.
- They develop protection against their predators on the ground which reduces the need to fly.
- When there are no predators that would hunt birds or steal their eggs, they adapt to live on the ground.

**Answer: D**

