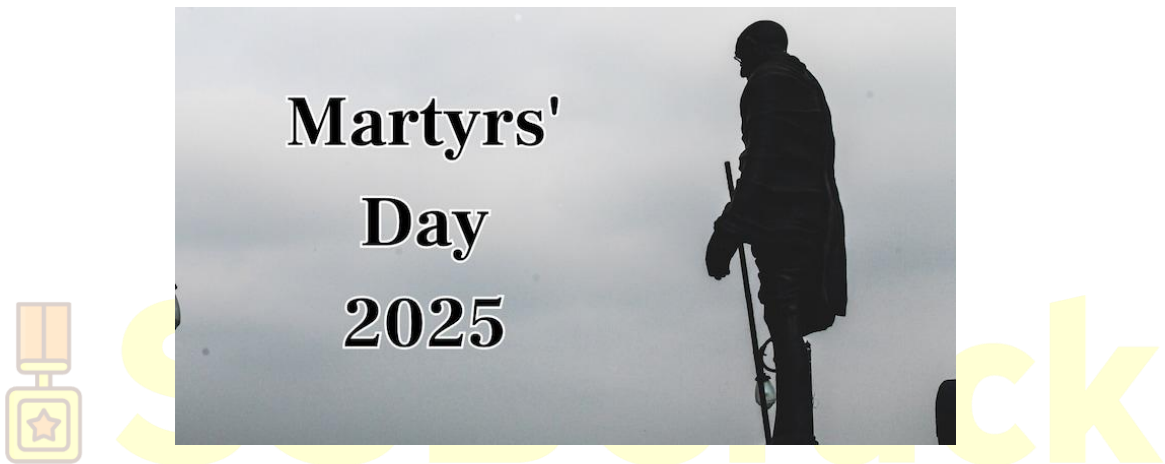


Daily Current Affairs

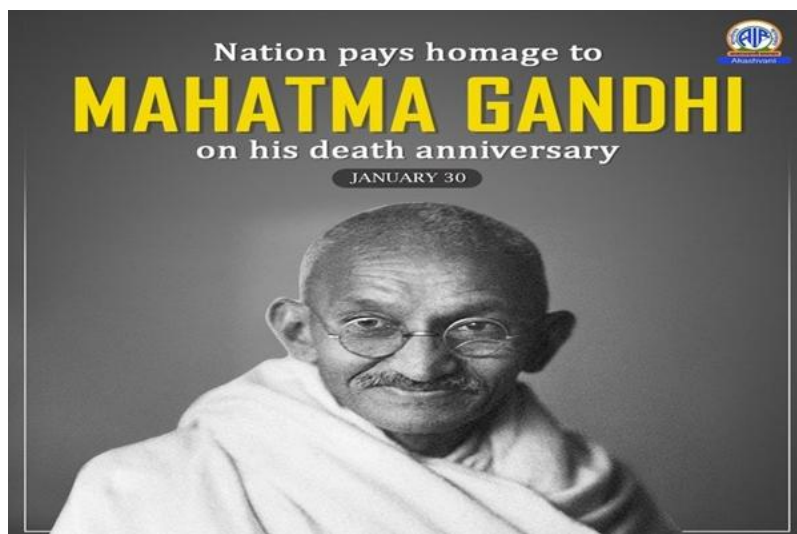
30 January 2025

Mahatma Gandhi's 77th Martyr's Day

- Nation Is Paying Homage To Mahatma Gandhi On His 77th Death Anniversary And Martyr's Day Ceremony. On This Occasion, A Sarva-dharma Prarthana Will Be Held At **Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat** In New Delhi.



- Every Year On 30th January, Nation Honours Life And Legacy Of Mahatma Gandhi, Who Was Guiding Light Of India's Struggle For Independence. Day Is Also Observed As **Martyrs' Day Or Shaheed Diwas**, Which Marks A Moment Of Reflection On The Profound Sacrifices Made In The Pursuit Of Freedom.



UP's Tableau "Mahakumbh 2025"

- Uttar Pradesh's tableau based on the theme 'Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas', has won the best tableau award at the Republic Day Parade held on 26th January at Kartavya Path in New Delhi.



- While, Tripura's 'Eternal Reverence: The worship of 14 Deities in Tripura – Kharchi Puja' themed tableau has been adjudged 2nd and Andhra Pradesh's tableau depicting 'Etikoppaka Bommalu – Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys' won the 3rd prize. Amongst the Central Ministries and Departments, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs 'Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh' won the best tableau award.



- Meanwhile, the **best Marching Contingent award was won by the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Contingent among Services**, while the Delhi Police Marching Contingent won the award among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces.
- The **Central Public Works Department and 'Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam'** Dance Group were conferred with the Special Prize: (75 years of the Constitution of India).



- In addition, **Gujarat won the best tableau award for its 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas' tableau in the Popular Choice Category**, after an online poll was conducted on the MyGov portal for citizens to vote for their favourite tableau and Marching Contingents.
- **Uttar Pradesh was the runner-up, while Uttarakhand's 'Cultural Heritage and Adventure Sports' tableau won the 3rd spot.** The Signals Contingent won the Best Marching Contingent among Services, and the CRPF Marching Contingent won among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces.

National Critical Mineral Mission

- Government has approved the **National Critical Mineral Mission with an outlay of more than 34 thousand crore rupees**. The decision has been taken to build a resilient value chain for **critical mineral resources essential** for promoting green technologies.
- Briefing media in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting **Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted the importance of critical minerals** for the development of the economy. He said critical mineral technologies are vital for energy

transition, agriculture, defence, electronics, telecommunications, transport, aerospace, nuclear and other sectors.

MINISTRY OF MINES

NATIONAL CRITICAL MINERAL MISSION

A PATH TO VIKSIT BHARAT

BOOSTING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

Accelerating Critical Mineral Auctions

- 23 Blocks for critical minerals auctioned in 2024
- 15 Blocks for critical minerals put up on auction in January 2025
- 100 Blocks to be auctioned by 2031

- He said the Mission has been approved with the aim of increasing the country's potential for **exploration of critical minerals, acquiring critical mineral blocks** and reducing dependence on import of minerals. The government has also approved the price for ethanol procurement from sugarcane feedstock.
- The **sugarcane feedstock includes C-heavy molasses, B-heavy molasses, sugarcane juice, sugar, and sugar syrup.**
- The **cabinet approved the price of 57.97 rupees per litre** for C-heavy molasses, 60.73 rupees per litre for B-heavy molasses, and 65.61 rupees per litre for sugarcane juice, sugar, and sugar syrup.
- The Minister said ethanol blending has **helped the country's economy, resulting in saving one lakh thirteen thousand crore rupees** worth of foreign exchange. He said farmers have also benefited from the ethanol blending programme, and over forty thousand crore rupees have been paid to farmers in the last ethanol supply year.

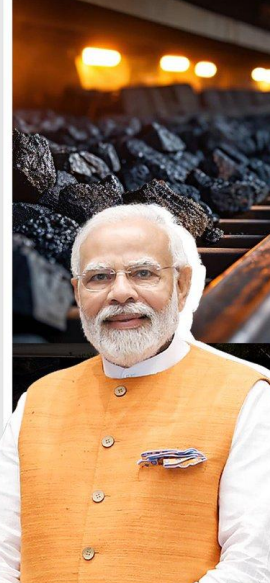
Cabinet Decision

Cabinet approves National Critical Mineral Mission

Mission to establish an effective framework for India's self-reliance in the critical mineral sector

Outlay: **Rs.34,300 crore**
over 7 years

- Mission will encompass all stages of the value chain
- Intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas.
- Aims to create a fast track regulatory approval process for critical mineral mining projects.
- Offer financial incentives for critical mineral exploration and promote the recovery of these minerals from overburden and tailings.



Critical minerals are essential for economy

- **Energy Transition:** Green technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, and electric vehicles are integral to the transition toward clean energy and a low-carbon economy.
- **Economic Development:** Industries such as high-tech electronics, telecommunications, transport etc heavily rely on these minerals.
- **National Security:** These minerals are vital for defence, aerospace, nuclear, and space applications, necessitating the use of high-quality and reliable materials.
- **Agriculture:** Fertilizer minerals like phosphorite, glauconite etc are important for agriculture sector.

Waqf (Amendment) Bill

- **Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024** adopted its draft report. **Chairman of the 31-member panel, Jagdambika Pal**, said the Committee has **adopted amendments to 14 clauses** related to the Bill.
- He added that the report of the Committee will be submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla . Mr Pal highlighted that there were **detailed deliberations on the bill in the last six months**.



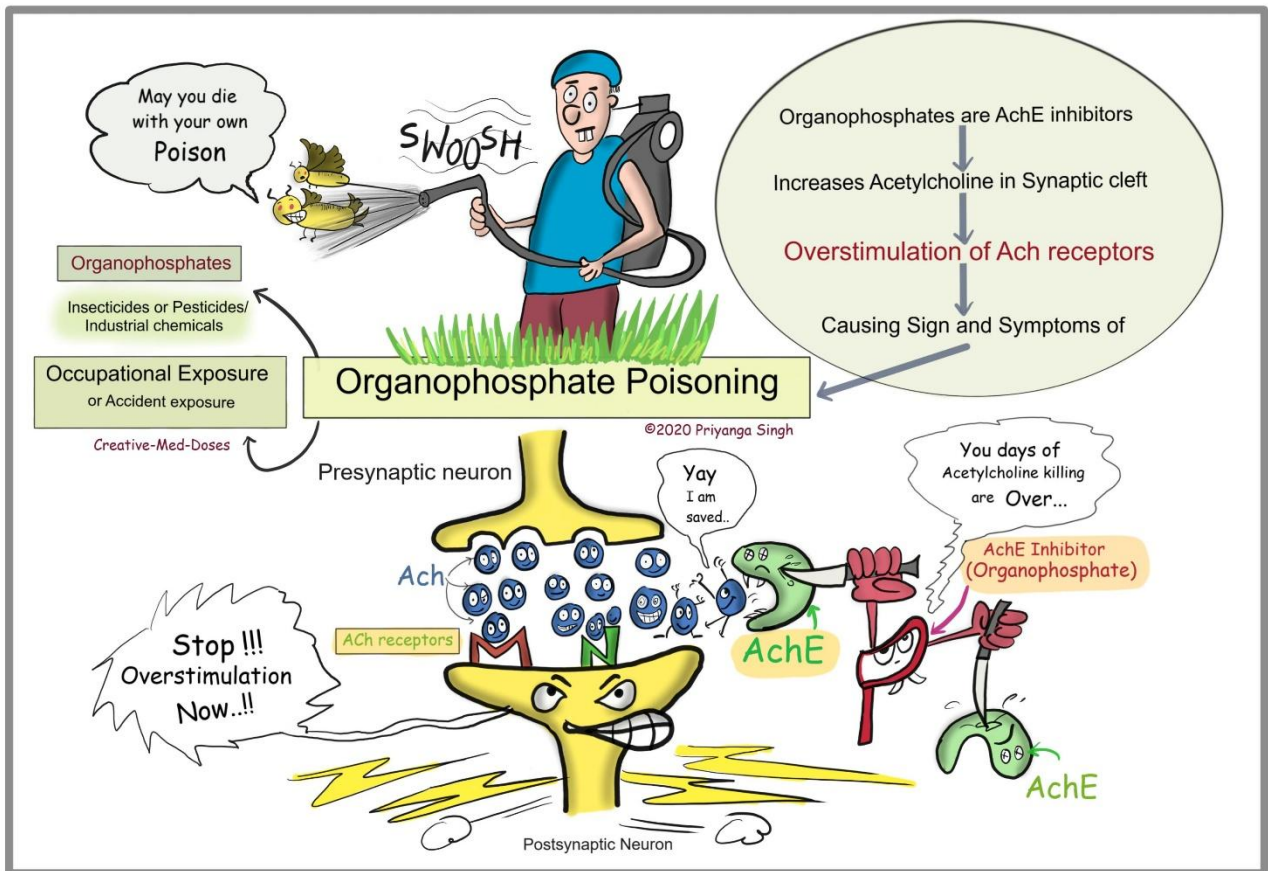
- **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024** aims to bring significant reforms, including digitisation of records, stricter audits, increased transparency and legal mechanisms to **reclaim illegally occupied Waqf properties**.
- The Bill is aimed at reforming the management and regulation of Waqf properties across the country. Meanwhile, opposition members in the panel questioned the adoption of the report.
- DMK MP, A Raja said, the report was adopted hurriedly. **Naseer Hussain of Congress said several objections** and suggestions made by them have not been included in the report. TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee, Shiv Sena UBT MP Arvind Sawant other opposition MPs said that they have submitted their dissent note.

Organophosphate Poisoning In Baddal

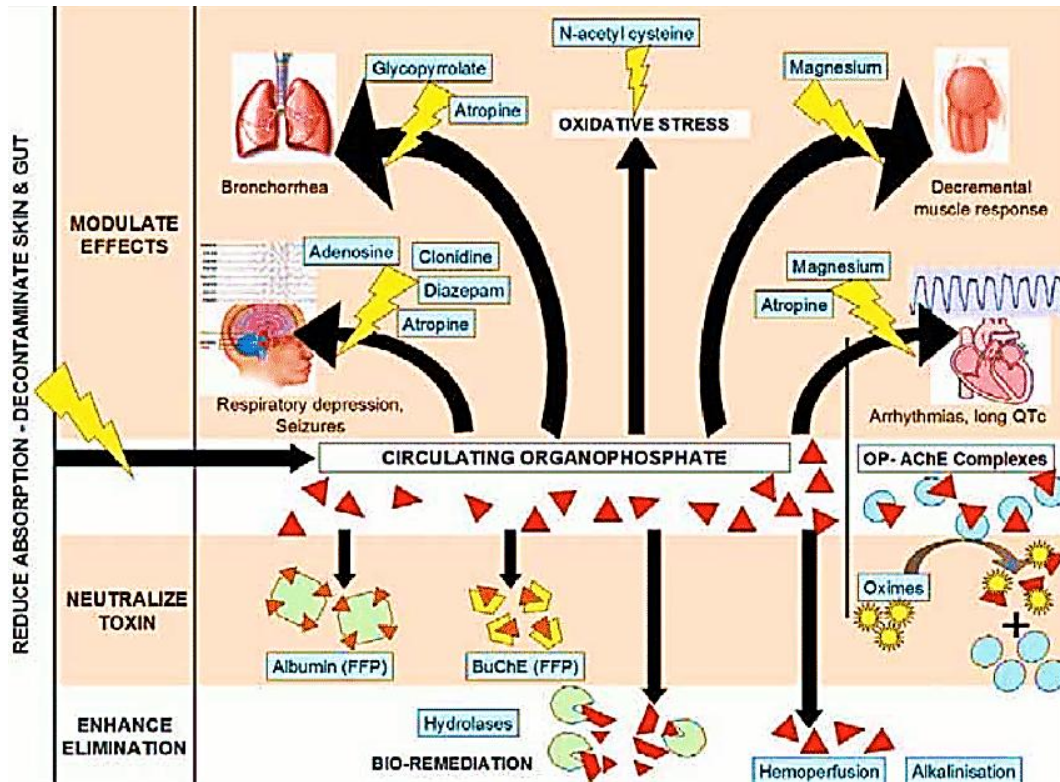
- Recent events in Baddal village, Jammu and Kashmir, have raised serious health concerns. **Seventeen residents died under mysterious circumstances.** Initial symptoms included **fever and respiratory issues.** Doctors suspect **organophosphate poisoning** as the likely cause.



- Medical teams have responded swiftly to this crisis, treating patients with atropine, a known **antidote for organophosphate toxicity.** Organophosphates are **synthetic chemicals.** They were **first created in the 1850s.**
- Initially used for **medical purposes, their agricultural applications** became widespread by the 1930s. These chemicals work **by inhibiting the enzyme cholinesterase.** This inhibition leads to a build-up of **acetylcholine,** causing overstimulation of the nervous system.
- Organophosphates are effective in pest control but** pose serious health risks to humans and animals. They disrupt nerve signal transmission, leading to severe health effects. **Symptoms of poisoning can vary.**



- Common signs include headaches, dizziness, nausea, and respiratory distress. Severe cases may lead to convulsions or death. In Baddal, patients exhibited fever, sweating, and breathing difficulties. The rapid onset of symptoms in multiple individuals raised alarm among health officials.
- The presence of organophosphates in the village's water and food sources has been investigated. Following the deaths, medical teams were deployed to Baddal.
- **Doctors administered atropine injections**, leading to improvements in some patients. Investigations are ongoing. Health officials have collected samples from patients, food, and water for analysis.



- A containment zone was established to prevent further exposure. The J&K administration is collaborating with national health experts to determine the cause of the outbreak.
- Organophosphates have a complex history. **Initially developed for military use** as nerve agents, they were later adapted for agricultural purposes. Various brands of **organophosphate pesticides have been widely used**. Regulatory bodies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitor their usage. Some organophosphates have been phased out due to health concerns, particularly for vulnerable populations like children.

Georgia Declared Malaria Free

- World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that **Georgia has officially been certified as malaria-free, marking** a significant milestone in the country's nearly century-long battle against the disease.
- Georgia becomes the **45th country and the first in the WHO European Region** to achieve this status. The certification process requires a country to demonstrate that no indigenous malaria cases have been reported for at least three consecutive years.



- **Georgia achieved this milestone in 2015, after successfully interrupting the transmission of the three main malaria parasite species: *P. falciparum*, *P. malariae*, and *P. vivax*.**

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which State Government Recently Dissolved Three Divisions Named Banswara, Pali And Sikar

- A. Gujarat
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: C

2. Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: A

3. The Territorial Army Recently Established A New Task Force For Rejuvenation And Protection Of Which River

- A. Gomti
- B. Gandak
- C. Kosi
- D. Son

ANSWER: A

4. Umred-Pauni-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state

- A. Odisha
- B. Gujarat
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Jharkhand

ANSWER: C

5. Which State Launched Four Beneficiary Schemes, Including Rythu Bharosa And Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Telangana
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: C

6. Which State/ Union Territory Emerged As The Winner Of The 5th Khelo India Winter Games 2025

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Ladakh
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: B

7. Which City Hosted The Inaugural International Pashmina Festival

- A. Pokhara
- B. Thimphu
- C. Kathmandu
- D. Dhaka

ANSWER: C

8. Who Won A Seventh Term As President Of Belarus In A Controversial Election

- A. Alar Karis
- B. Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya
- C. Gitanas Nauseda
- D. Alexander Lukashenko

ANSWER: C

9. Which Country Is Set To Launch Its First Human- Operated Underwater Submersible As Part Of The Deep Ocean Mission

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

ANSWER: D

10. Which Organization Was Honoured For Its Voter Awareness Campaign During The 2024 Lok Sabha Elections

- A. Doordarshan
- B. BBC
- C. NDTV
- D. CNN

ANSWER: A

11. Which City Has Witnessed A Surge In Guillain- Barre Syndrome Cases

- A. New Delhi
- B. Noida
- C. Pune
- D. Bangalore

ANSWER: C

12. Which Country Has Declared 2025 As The 'Year Of Community'

- A. United States
- B. UAE
- C. Qatar
- D. United Kingdom

ANSWER: B

13. Who Won The Men's And Women's Singles Titles At The Senior National Table Tennis Championships 2025

- A. Jash Modi and Yashaswini
- B. Manush Shah and Diya Chitale
- C. Payas Jain and Sreeja Akula
- D. Akash Pal and Syndrela Das

ANSWER: B

14. Namdapha Tiger Reserve Is Located In Which State

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Assam
- C. Mizoram
- D. Manipur

ANSWER: A

15. Which Organization Has Launched The Enhanced Certificate Of Origin 2.0 System

- A. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B. Export Promotion Council (EPC)
- C. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
- D. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)

ANSWER: C

16. What is "WASP-127b"

- A. Synthetic Drug
- B. Exoplanet
- C. Invasive weed
- D. Newly discovered species of Bee

ANSWER: B

17. Nagoba Jatara Festival Celebrated In Which State

- A. Odisha
- B. Karnataka
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: B

18. What Kind Of Rock Is Soapstone

- A. Igneous Rocks
- B. Sedimentary Rocks
- C. Metamorphic Rocks
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: C

19. Which City Is The Host Of Pratistha Dwadashi Festival

- A. Ayodhya
- B. Varanasi
- C. Mathura
- D. Saharanpur

ANSWER: A

20. Where On The Earth Is Located The Sirohi Point

- A. North Pole
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Caribbean Sea
- D. Antarctica

ANSWER: D