

## Prelim Bits 31-01-2024 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Haji Malang Dargah

Recently, Chief Minister of Maharashtra said that he was committed to the liberation of the Malangad dargah which Hindus claim to be a temple.

- **Haji Malang Dargah** - A **300-year-old shrine** dedicated to **Baba Abdur Rehman Malang, a Sufi saint** who arrived in India from the Middle East in 12th century AD.

#### History of Malangad Fort

- **Location** - It is built on 3 small parts of the hill located in Kalyan in Maharashtra's Thane district.
- **Constructed by** - King Naladev of the Maurya Dynasty in the 7th century.
- Some say that King Naladev married off his daughter to Sufi saint.
- **Shift of control** - It later fell into the hands of the Marathas in the 17<sup>th</sup> century before being conquered by the British.

- **Controversy** - Over identity of the sacred site atop Malangad.
- **Muslim community** - It is the final resting place of Baba Abdur Rehman Malang.
- **Hindu community** - It is **Machindranath Samadhi**, an incarnation of Navanath as per Nath Sampraday tradition.
- **Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency** - 1882 data corroborate the existence of Haji Abd-ul-Rahman's tomb in Malangad but there is no mention of Machindranath's tomb in these records.
- **Supreme Court of India** - In **1968**, SC referred to the site as a dargah.
- **Name change** - In **1996**, local Hindus with backing of a political party succeeded in officially changing the name **from Haji Malang to Malangad**.
- **Syncretic tradition** - Despite this, it still continues to be a shared space where, traditionally, both a Hindu vahivatdar (priest) and a Muslim mutavalli (caretaker) officiated at religious ceremonies.

**Sufism** is a way of life that outwardly rejected the religion and emphasized love and devotion to God and compassion towards all fellow human beings. The 4 main Sufi orders practiced in India are Chisti, Qadiriyya, Suhrawardiyya and Naqshbandi order.

### Reference

[India Today | Efforts to liberate Haji Malang Dargah](#)

## Kalpasar Project

Local fishers of Gujarat's Baruch district suffer from lack of fish catch due to Bhadbhut barrages and others dams across River Narmada.

- It is known as 'The ***Gulf of Khambhat Development Project***'.
- **Mission** - To make a sustainable water state where there is 'water for all, water forever and more crops per drop'.
- **Vision** - To ***store Gujarat's 25% average annual surface water*** by 30 km long dam across the Gulf of Khambhat.
- It will be the ***world's largest fresh water reservoir in sea***.
- **Benefits** - It will improve irrigation facility including rejuvenation of rivers and will help in reduction of soil salinity.



## Bhabbhut barrage

- **Foundation stone in** - ***2017, part of Kalpasar project.***
- **Location** - About ***25 km before Narmada River merges with sea.***
- **Aim** - To ***stop the ingress of salinity along the Narmada River*** during high tide, ***prevent floods*** as well as to meet the water requirement of industrial units
- **Benefits** - It will create water reservoir and will provide water supply for drinking, agriculture and industrial purposes.
- It will prevent erosion of cultivable land.
- **Challenges** - ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute's 2021 annual report states that

- Cut off of the flow of sea water in Narmada River has *affected the availability of hilsa fish* in the estuary and thereby *reduced the income of fishermen*.

## Background

- **Narmada River** - It is the *5th largest river in India* and is also one of the only few *westward-flowing ones*.
- **Gujarat's Bharuch district** - A spot where *Narmada River meets the Saline water Gulf of Khambhat* forming an estuary.
- **Gulf of Khambhat** - An *inlet of the Arabian Sea*, and it marks the *highest tidal waves of India* (11 metres).
- **Dams on Narmada River** - *Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar, Maheshwar and especially Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD)*.
- **Sardar Sarovar Dam** - It is a *gravity dam* built across river Narmada in Gujarat and *Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan* are 4 Indian states that receive water and electricity from the dam.

## References

1. [Down To Earth| Limitations of Bhadbhut Barrage](#)
2. [Kalpasar| Gulf of khambhat Development Project](#)

## Economic Survey

Recently, the Ministry of Finance released a report titled "Indian Economy - A Review" as Economic Survey was not be released at this time.

*The report 'Indian Economy - A Review' gives the top highlights in the Indian economy from the past 10 years.*

- **ES** - A comprehensive **annual report** which displays the *performance of the Indian economy* in the past fiscal year.
- **Prepared by** - Department of Economic Affairs, ministry of Finance.
- **Presented in** - Parliament, normally on 31<sup>st</sup> January, a day before the presentation of the Budget.

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Economic Survey of India was presented in 1950-51 as a part of the Union Budget. However, since 1964, it has been decoupled from the Budget presentation.*

- **ES in 2024** - Since the Lok Sabha elections are due in April, only interim budget will be presented before it.
- Thus, a complete budget and the Economic Survey will be presented only in July 2024, after the results are declared.
- **Presented by** - The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).
- **Features** - It summarises the performance of government's initiatives and provides an

outlook of the prospects of the Indian economy in the short to medium term.

- **Part A** - Major economic developments in the year as well as a broad review of the economy.
- **Part B** - It covers specific topics such as social security, poverty, education, healthcare and human development.
- **Importance** - It helps the government in *analysing the performance* of various sectors, *identifying the major impediments* to economic growth and in *formulating economic strategies* for the coming year.

	Economic Survey	Union Budget
Content	It deals with <i>economic policies</i> and demonstrates forthcoming economic plans.	It deals with yearly <i>expenditures and income</i> .
Presented on	<i>31<sup>st</sup> January</i> on non-election years.	<i>1<sup>st</sup> February</i> on non-election years.
Presented by	Chief Economic Advisor	Union Finance Minister

## References

1. [The Indian Express| Delaying of Economic Survey in 2024](#)
2. [Business Standard| Basis of Economic Survey](#)

## Communities & Crisis in Meghalaya

Recently, Meghalaya has released an official state anthem on its statehood day that has led to a controversy over the state's Jaintia tribe.

*Meghalaya celebrates its statehood day every year on January 21<sup>st</sup> and 2024 marks its 52<sup>nd</sup> statehood day. It got its statehood status in 1972.*

- **Boundaries** - It is surrounded by **Assam** to the north and northeast and by **Bangladesh** to the south and southwest.
- **Communities in Meghalaya** - **Garo, Khasi and Jaintia** are 3 major matrilineal communities while other communities are Khyntiam, War, Bhoi and Lyngnam.
- **Population** - State's total population is 29.7 lakh (Census 2011).
  - Garos are around 8.21 lakh.
  - Jaintias, Khasis along with tribes War, Bhoi and Lyngngam make a total of about 14.1 lakh.
- **3 Autonomous District Councils** - Khasi Hills, the Jaintia Hills and the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council are created under the provisions of the 6th **Schedule** of the Indian Constitution.
- It is for the *administration of tribal areas in certain states*.



- **Crisis** - *The 2-minute-long anthem* features segments in **3 languages namely English, Garo and Khasi**.
- It led to controversy as it had **left out the Jaintia or Pnar language**.
- **Government's response** - It has followed the Meghalaya State Language Act and has used languages that are recognised by the act.
- **Meghalaya State Language Act of 2005**
  - **State's official language** - English
  - **Associate Official Language** - Khasi and Garo

*U Kiang Nangbah is an Jaintia freedom fighter who led an uprising against the British in the Jaintia Hills in the 19th century after the annexation of the Jaintia Kingdom.*

## Reference

[The Indian Express| Controversy over Meghalaya's State Anthem](#)

## Corruption Perceptions Index 2023

*India slipped on the corruption perceptions index (CPI) for 2023 to 93 as against 85 it scored for 2022.*

- **Released by** - Transparency International.
- **Rankings** - It ranks **180 countries and territories** by their *perceived levels of public sector corruption* according to experts and business people.
- **Scale** - 0 to 100

- **0** - Highly corrupt
- **100** - Very clean.

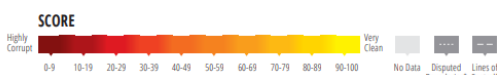
## Key Findings of the 2023 Report

- Over *two-thirds of countries score below 50* out of 100, which strongly indicates that they have serious corruption problems.
- **Global average** - It is stuck at *only 43*, while the vast majority of countries have made no progress or declined in the last decade.
- *23 countries fell to their lowest* scores to date this year.
- **Top positions** - It includes countries like *New Zealand (3) and Singapore (5)* with continued high score.
- **Bottom positions** - It includes fragile states with authoritarian regimes, including *North Korea and Myanmar*.
- **Asia Pacific region** - For 5 years in a row, the average CPI score for the region *stagnates stubbornly at 45* out of a possible 100.
- 71% of the countries have a CPI score below the regional average and the global average.
- **In South Asia** - Both Pakistan and Sri Lanka grapple with their respective debt burdens and ensuing political instability.
- **India** - Its overall *score was 39 while in 2022, it was 40*.
- It shows score fluctuations small enough that no firm conclusions can be drawn on any significant change.
- **Reason for weak scores** - *Lack of delivery by elected officials* on anti-corruption agendas, *crackdowns on organised civil society* and *attacks on freedoms* of press, assembly and association.



## CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2023

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries/territories around the world.



#CPI2023  
www.transparency.org/cpi

## References

1. [The Hindu| Key findings of Corruption Perception Index 2023](#)
2. [Transparency| Corruption Perception Index](#)

## Other Important Topics

### Ratle Hydro Electric Project

*Govt diverts Chenab River water to expedite hydroelectric project in Jammu and Kashmir.*

- The Ratle Hydroelectric Project is an 850 MW hydroelectric power project under construction on the **Chenab River** in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The project is scheduled to open in **2026**.

### Women participation in workforce

*The latest results of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), released by the Labour Bureau had shown considerable increase in the women participation.*

- In 2017-18, the participation rate was 23.3% and in 2022-23, it was 37%.
- The survey is being taken to assess the spread of women employee-friendly practices in the country like creche facilities for children and equal pay for equal work.

### Computerization of Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (ARDBs)

*Union Home Minister launched the computerization scheme for the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCSs) and Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) of the states in New Delhi recently.*

- Agricultural and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) are banks that play a significant role in improving land productivity.
- In the 1960s and 1970s, ARDBs helped develop minor irrigation and farm mechanization.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** is an **apex development bank** that supports and promotes agriculture and rural development.

### C-BOT

*The director general of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) launched C-Bot recently.*

- C-Bot is a coral monitoring and surveillance robot **underwater unmanned vehicle** indigenously developed by the NIO.
- The underwater vehicle will help in studying temperature, humidity and climate and will help collect samples and take photos, study growing biology in extreme environment.

### EV batteries

*A new study has found that Coal can inject some extra life into chargeable batteries for electric vehicles (EV) without burning.*

- An Electric Vehicle Battery (EVB) is a rechargeable battery that powers the electric motors of a hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) or battery electric vehicle (BEV).
- EV batteries are also known as **traction batteries**.
- EV batteries store electricity for transmission to an alternating or continuous current engine.

### Sheen-e She

- The mascot and logo of Khelo India Winter Games, 2024 were launched recently.
- In keeping with the tradition and bio-diversity of the region, the mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is a **snow leopard**.
- It has been named '**Sheen-e She' or Shan in Ladakh region**.

### Best marching contingents and tableaux awards

The Ministry of Defence announced the winners of the 2024 Republic Day Parade marching contingents and tableaux awards recently.

- The government selects one marching contingent and one tableau as the best each year.
- An Expert Committee of the Ministry of Defence makes the selection.
- In addition to the committee's selection, a popular choice award is also given to the marching contingents and tableaux based on public votes.

<b>Best Marching Contingent among the 3 services</b>	Indian Air Force
<b>Best Marching Contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces</b>	CRPF
<b>Best 3 Tableaux (States/UTs)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> - Gujarat (Clean-Green energy efficient Gujarat) <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> - Odisha's tableau, themed "Woman Empowerment in Viksit Bharat" <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> - Culture Ministry's tableau themed ' <b><i>Bharat: Mother of Democracy</i></b> '

### Agasthyagama edge

Scientists discover new kangaroo lizard species, a diminutive dragon from Western Ghats, Kerala recently.

- Agasthyagama edge or the northern kangaroo lizard, which belongs to the ***Agamidae*** family, is known to have a maximum snout-vent length of 4.3 cm.
- The species is the 2<sup>nd</sup> one of the *Agasthyagama* genus after ***A. beddomii*** or ***Indian kangaroo lizard*** that has been previously reported from Sivagiri hills in Tamil Nadu.
- The lizard may resemble the *mythical fire-breathing creatures* of legends.
- **Habitat** - These lizards do not climb trees like other lizards & they are mostly terrestrial and found in areas with dense leaf litter cover.



### Rotational Monarchy of Malaysia



Malaysia welcomes new king Sultan Ibrahim in unique rotating monarchy recently.

- 9 of Malaysia's 13 states practices a unique rotational form of monarchy, in which the heads of the country's **9 royal families** take turns to be king for a **5-year reign** through a **secret ballot**.

- It is headed by a traditional ethnic **Malay ruler, mostly known as the sultan**, in one of the **world's largest monarchy systems**.

- The order of rotation among the sultans was originally determined by seniority, based on how long they had been ruling.

### Members of 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission

- The Government has appointed 4 members of the newly-constituted **16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission** recently.

- Former Expenditure Secretary - Ajay Narayan Jha,
- SBI Group Chief Economic Advisor - Soumya Kanti Ghosh,
- 2 other members - Annie George Mathew and Niranjana Rajadhyaksha have been appointed as members.

