

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelim Bits 01-03-2025

Amir Khusrau

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 25th edition of Jahan-e-Khusrau, the annual music festival that commemorates the Sufi poet-musician Amir Khusrau at Delhi's Sunder Nursery.

- Amir Khusrau, a renowned poet, singer, and musician, is celebrated for his **Sufi Kalams**.
- **Born on** - December 27, 1253, in Patiyali in the present-day Etah district of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Parents** - Khusrau's father came to India from Central Asia in the early 13th century, as the **Mongol hordes** of Genghis Khan ravaged Islamic Transoxiana (ancient region of central Asia).

Transoxiana corresponding to the parts of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

- Khusrau became a professional poet at age 20, and served as one until his death.
- He started out in the service of princes and nobles, before becoming a permanent fixture in the court of the Delhi Sultan.
- **Works** - He is the **first Muslim poet** to incorporate Hindi words into his poetry.
- Khusrau made lasting contributions to Indian classical music and qawwali.
- He is also credited for developing Hindavi, a precursor to modern Hindi and Urdu.
- The poet often referred to himself as an "Indian Turk".
- Khusrau served at least 5 Sultans
 1. Muizuddin Qaiqabad,
 2. Jalaluddin Khalji,
 3. Alauddin Khalji,
 4. Qutbuddin Mubarak Shah, and
 5. Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq and many other powerful patrons over 5 decades.
- He also contributed to the Persian-Hindi lexicon with his *Khalikbari* dictionary.
- **Disciple of** - The Chishti Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya.
- **Titles** - He was affectionately called '**Hind ka Tota**' (The Parrot of India) for his fluency in multiple languages, including Hindi, Hindawi, and Persian.
- Amir Khusrau is also known as the '**father of Hindi Khari Boli**'.
- He is seen as a father figure for North India's syncretic Ganga-Jamuni culture.
- Sultan Jalaluddin Khalji bestowed upon Khusrau the title of 'Amir'.

- The medieval historian Ziauddin Barani wrote in Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi that Jalaluddin held Khusrau “in great esteem”, and Khusrau “served as keeper of the Qur’an” in his court.
- Khusrau’s ghazals and qawwalis are today sung in both sacred and secular contexts, at Sufi dargahs and Bollywood musicals.
- His most popular compositions include Chhaap Tilak, Zehal-e-Maskeen, and Sakal Ban Phool Rahi Sarson.
- **Died in** - 1325, and his tomb is located next to the tomb of his spiritual guru in the **Nizamuddin Dargah** in Delhi.

References

1. [The Indian Express | Khusrau](#)
2. [News 18 | Jahaan-e-Khusrau](#)

‘One Nation, One Port Process’ Initiative

Why in News?

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Recently launched ‘One Nation, One Port Process’ Initiative.

- It is an initiative to standardize and streamline operations across India’s Major ports.
- **Aim** - To remove inconsistencies in documentation and processes that led to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways.
- **Implementation - 1st phase** - It has standardised documentation with Immigration, the Port Health Organisation, and Port Authorities.
 - By reducing container operation documents by 33% (from 143 to 96) and bulk cargo documents by 29% (from 150 to 106).
- **Features** - It will enhance ease of doing business by reducing delays and inefficiencies.
- It will improve global trade competitiveness by standardizing logistics.
- It will reduce carbon footprint through efficient port operations and promote modern, green, and smart port infrastructure.
- It will strengthen India's position in global trade.

References

1. [PIB | ‘One Nation-One Port’](#)
2. [The Hindu | “One Nation, One Port Process” initiative](#)

Neonatal Sepsis

Why in News?

The Lancet Global Health journal recently published in a study that More than a third of newborns diagnosed with sepsis could die.

- It is a blood infection that occurs in an infant ***younger than 90 days old***.
- **Symptoms** - Fever, Respiratory distress, Jaundice, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Abdominal distention, Seizures, Jitteriness, Reduced sucking, and Lethargy.
- **Causes** - Streptococcus agalactiae (GBS), Escherichia coli, Herpes simplex virus (HSV), Enterovirus infections, and Yeast.
- Viruses, fungi and parasites can also lead to the condition.
- Group B streptococcus (GBS) has been a major cause of neonatal sepsis.
- **Categories**
 - **Early-onset neonatal sepsis** - Develops ***within the first 72 hours*** of life.
 - **Late-onset neonatal sepsis** - It develops ***after 3 days*** of life.
- **High -risk group**
 - Have a low birth weight.
 - Have a low Apgar score (Standard method to determine if baby needs immediate medical care).
 - Are male.
 - Have a mother with an infection during pregnancy.
- **Treatment** - Sepsis in newborns is ***curable***. Many newborns who develop sepsis recover completely and don't have any other issues.
- Treatments include Intravenous (IV) fluids, IV antibiotics, Antiviral medication, Heart and/or blood pressure medications, and Extra oxygen and other forms of respiratory support.
- **Prevalence** - Neonatal sepsis results in more than 5,50,000 deaths globally every year.

India accounts for nearly 1/4th of the global burden of infection-related deaths.

- Sepsis remains a major hurdle to lowering neonatal mortality rates in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- **Antibiotic resistance** was a major challenge in managing sepsis.

References

1. [The Hindu | Neonatal sepsis](#)
2. [Cleveland Clinic | Sepsis in Newborns](#)

Triple Cyclones in South Pacific Ocean

Why in News?

Satellite imagery has recently revealed a rare meteorological event in the South Pacific Ocean, with three tropical cyclones being simultaneously active in the region.

- Cyclones, named ***Rae, Seru, and Alfred***, developed within a span of 5 days.
- They are currently swirling in waters off the ***eastern coast of Australia*** and extending approximately 8,000 kilometres into the Pacific Ocean.
- **Unusual Phenomenon** - The occurrence of 3 such storms simultaneously is especially unusual this season, as the planet is currently experiencing a ***La Nina phase***.

- La Nina climate phase usually ***cools ocean temperatures***, reducing the energy available to fuel tropical storms.
- As a result, scientists had predicted fewer than average tropical cyclones for the region this year.
- **Influencing Factors** - The climate crisis is playing a role in intensifying such weather events, as rising ocean temperatures provide additional energy for tropical storms.
- The year 2024 has already recorded the highest ocean temperatures in history.
- While global warming is not increasing the overall number of storms, it is contributing to a rise in the frequency and intensity of higher-category cyclones.
- **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** - It is also pointed to the presence of a phenomenon known as the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO).
- This atmospheric fluctuation creates a zone of rising air and increased rainfall that moves around the globe, lasting for 30 days or more.
- MJO appears to be moving across the south-western Pacific in a manner that could amplify cyclone activity.
- Research also suggests that these storms are moving more slowly over land, increasing their potential for destruction.
- This rare event highlights the complexity of atmospheric systems and the challenges in forecasting extreme weather patterns.

Reference

[Down to Earth | Triple cyclones in south pacific](#)

Mahabaleshwar cricket frog

Why in News?

A team of researchers has recently discovered a new species of cricket frog in the northern Western Ghats.

- It is a ***new species of endemic frog*** found in Mahabaleshwar region in the Northern Western Ghats, Maharashtra.
- **Scientific Name** - *Minervarya Ghatiborealis*.
- **Nomenclature** - This species is named after the Sanskrit word 'Ghati' western and Latin word 'Borealis' meaning northern region, thus meaning 'from the north western Ghats'.
- **Genus** - It has been included in the genus *Minervarya*, commonly known as the 'Cricket frog'.
 - Frogs of the *Minervarya* genus are distinguished by the parallel lines on their abdomens.
 - They nest near standing water or small springs and make noises similar to that of nightingales.
 - The breeding vocalization of males differ from other species of the genus.
- **Appearance** - It is ***a large-sized cricket frog***, reaching about 2.5 inches in length.
- It has thin fingers, long legs, and distinctive ***golden-yellow eyes*** that are darker at the edges and lighter in the center.
- The frog's coloration varies from blotchy brown to orange, with pale cream bellies and

yellow-tinted sides.



- **Distinction** - Large, robust body and distinct morphological features like sub-elliptical snout, rudimentary webbing, and highly ridged glandular skin.
- DNA analysis found the new species had at least *6% genetic divergence* from other related frog species.
- **Similar species** - Similar-sized species was discovered from Bamburde village, Pune, in 2019, which was named '*Minervarya Marathi*'.

References

1. [Times of India | Minervarya ghatiborealis](#)
2. [Miami Herald | Mahabaleshwar Cricket Frog](#)
3. [My Pune Pulse | 'Golden-Eyed' Frog](#)

One Liners 01-03-2025

Polity & Governance

National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025

- **Formulated by** - Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
 - **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).
- A jetty is a man-made structure that extends from the land into the water.*
- **Objectives** - To *attract private sector investment* in setting up terminals and operate jetties, streamline processes and promote efficient use of India's vast waterways network.
 - To open up new opportunities for investment, trade, and economic growth, which improving logistical efficiency.

Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0

- **Launched in** - 2021.
- **Launched by** - Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It is an *Integrated Nutrition Support Programme*.
- **Objective** - To *address the challenges of malnutrition* in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content.
- **Duration** - 2021-2026.

Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)

- **Launched in** - 2016.
- **Umbrella scheme** - Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- **Nodal Ministry** - NITI Aayog.
- **ATL** - It is a *workspace where young minds can give shape to their ideas* through hands on do-it-yourself mode and learn innovation skills.
- **Objective** - To cultivate an innovative mindset among school students.

Sagar Ankanan

- **About** - It is the *Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI)* for FY 2023-24.
- It *evaluates all major and non-major ports* under Bulk (Dry & Liquid) and Container categories.
- **Aim** - To benchmark port performance, drive operational excellence, and strengthen India's trade connectivity. **Launched in** - 2025.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).
- **Indicators** - Cargo handling, turnaround time, berth idle time, container dwell time and ship berth-day output.

MAITRI (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface) App

- **Launched in** - 2025.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).
- **Aim** - To *streamline trade processes*, reduce bureaucratic redundancies and expedite clearances, reinforcing India's commitment to ease of doing business.
- It is set to *redefine international trade*, positioning India as a leader in global logistics and trade facilitation.
- **Role** - Operationalising the *Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC)* between India & United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **Significance** - It aligns with India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) and is expected to expand *BIMSTEC and ASEAN nations*.

Bharat Global Ports Consortium

- **Launched in** - 2025.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).
- **Aim** - To *develop ports overseas* and looks to improve competitiveness of its own harbors to grow trade and widen its maritime footprint.
- **MoU** - Was signed between Indian Ports Global, Indian Ports Rail & Ropeway Corporation and Sagarmala Development Company to form the Bharat Ports Global Consortium.

Bilateral Relations

College of Commissioners of European Commission

- **About** - The College of Commissioners meets once per week to debate and adopt legislative proposals and to discuss current developments.
- **Principle of collegiality** - Decisions are taken collectively by the College of Commissioners based on the principle of collegiality.
- **Composition** - The College is composed of Commissioners from 27 EU countries.
- **Term** - 5 years.
- **The President** - Of the Commission assigns responsibilities for specific policy areas to each Commissioner.

Economy

Core Sectors

Core sector output growth slowed from 4.8%-4.6% in January 2025.

- **Released by** - Ministry of commerce and industry.
- **8 key industries** - Constitute the core sectors of an Indian economy.
- **8 core sectors** - Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.
- The core sectors contribute 40.27% to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which measures overall industrial growth.

India's GDP Growth in Q3 of FY 25

- India's GDP growth accelerated to 6.2% in the 3rd quarter (Q3) of fiscal year 2024-25.
- **Released by** - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **Reasons for the Growth:**
 - Increase in the rural demand.
 - Good monsoon.
 - Increased government spending on infrastructure.
 - Revival in consumer-centric sectors during the festive season.

Ibex Brigade

- **IBEX Brigade** - It is a unit of Army that guards the treacherous snow bound Himalayan terrain of Middle sector training to master the skills of Survival and combat skiing.
- **Significance** - It is the only independent mountain brigade of the Indian Army.
- **Recent Uttarakhand avalanche** - The search and rescue operation is being led by the Army's Ibex Brigade, working alongside the ITBP and BRO.