

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelim Bits 11-01-2025

### Indo-Burmese Pangolin

#### Why in News?

Recently, scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata have identified a new species of Indo-Burmese pangolin.

- **Pangolins** - They are the only mammals wholly-covered in scales and they use those scales to protect themselves from predators in the wild.
- **Indo-Burmese pangolin** - It is a distinct phylogenetic species of Asian pangolin, diverged from the Chinese pangolin around 3.4 million years ago, during the Pliocene Epoch.
  - **Scientific name** - Manis Indoburmanica.

***Phylogenetic species** is the smallest set of organisms that share an ancestor and can be distinguished from other such sets.*

- **Distinct species** - It has a genetic distance of 0.038 and a barcode gap of 3.8% which reinforced its status as a distinct species.
- It is influenced by geoclimatic changes in the Indo-Burma region.

***Genetic distance** is a measure of the genetic divergence between species or between populations within a species, whether the distance measures time from common ancestor or degree of differentiation.*

***Mitochondrial genomes** include mitochondrial DNA are inherited to offspring from their mother.*

- **Distribution** - Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.
- **In India** - Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- It is home to 2 species,
  - **Indian Pangolin** - Found across the subcontinent.
  - **Chinese Pangolin** - Found across a larger area in south Asia.
- Bihar, West Bengal and Assam have both species in their States.
- **Threats** - Pangolins are among the most trafficked wild mammals globally due to poaching and habitat degradation.
- **Conservation Status** -It hasn't yet been concluded.



*World Pangolin Day is observed every year on February 18.*

## Reference

[The Hindu| Scientists Discovered New Species of Indo-Burmese Pangolin](#)

## Kurukop Echo Art

### Why in News?

*A recent study by the researchers in South Africa suggested a distinct echo attracted the ancient artists to one site, Kurukop.*

### Kurukop

- It is an *archaeological site*.
- **Located in** - Nama Karoo region of *South Africa*.
- **Geological formation** - Began to accumulate from about 300 million years ago, before the breakup of super continent Gondwanaland.
- **Historical formation** - It is an *eroded sandstone hill*, transformed by volcanic activity.
- **Signs of human evidence** - It is marked by *112 petroglyphs* and other signs of human presence, such as ostrich eggshell fragments and pottery, dating from c. 11 500 before present.
- **Petroglyphs** - It depicts images of Eland, elephants, zebra, ostriches, wildebeest, rhinoceros and animal-human hybrids.
- The depiction were made by *hunter-gatherer San and Khoe herder people* who visited Kurukop repeatedly.

*Petroglyphs engraved on rocks, have an obvious visual attraction.*

- **Kurukop echo** - This place *provides a distinctive echo* that ensured the hunter gatherers to repeatedly visit this place.
- **Echo Art** - Evidence shows that those people created rock art combined with performances like clapping, singing, dancing, which in this case was enhanced by echoes.

*Echo refers to the repetition of sound caused by the reflection of sound.*

- It also provides a reference point for a mythological story from the region that speaks about the relationship between echo, wind, mountain and breath.
- **Cultural relevance** - Petroglyph distribution data and Echo pattern, shows 60% of the petroglyphs created directly in the echo zone.
- This suggests that Kurukop people were most likely to create images in the area that echoed strongly.



**Reference**

[The Hindu| Kurukop Echoed Art](#)

**Depersonalization and Derealization Disorder (DPDR)**

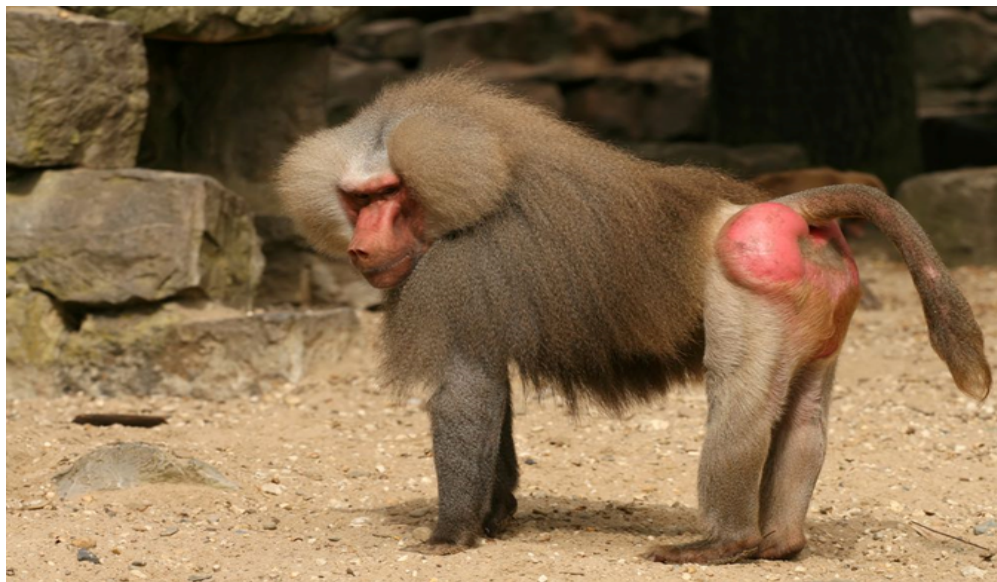
**Why in News?**

Recently, an article described about the Depersonalization and Derealization Disorder (DPDR).

- **A mental health condition** - A state where individuals experience persistent *feelings of detachment from themselves* or their surroundings.

	<b>Derealization</b>	<b>Depersonalization</b>
<b>Conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sense of feeling of detachment from environment, objects &amp; people in it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A feeling of detachment from themselves.</li> </ul>
<b>Symptoms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distortion of the distance from the size or shape of objects</li> <li>• A heightened awareness of surroundings.</li> <li>• Feeling as recent events happened in the distant past.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An inability to recognize or describe emotions.</li> <li>• Feeling unconnected to body, mind and feelings.</li> <li>• Sense of body and limbs are distorted and head is wrapped in cotton.</li> </ul>

- **Susceptible population** - It *affects 1 to 2% of the global population*, predominantly youngsters.



- **Symptoms** - Sensation of being in a dream or fog.
  - The world appears flat, colourless or artificial.
  - *Distortions in visual perception*, with objects appearing either blurred or unusually sharp.
  - Sounds that seem either amplified or muted.
  - An altered perception of time, which may seem to move too fast or too slow.
- The above symptoms can last for hours, days, weeks or even months.
- **Treatment** - It is *treatable* by addressing the root cause, whether it is anxiety, trauma or depression.

## Reference

[The Hindu | Understanding Depersonalization Disorder](#)

### One Liners 11-01-2025

#### Social Issues

##### Drug Trafficking and National Security Conference

- **Conducted in** - in New Delhi.
- **Organized by** - Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- **Aim** - To address the growing concern of drug trafficking and its impact on national security, with a *special focus on 8 states and Union Territories* of northern India.

##### Anti-Narcotics Measures in India

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is implementing a 3-pronged strategy to achieve a *drug-free India by 2047*.
- **MANAS portal** - National Narcotics Helpline.
- **ANTF** - Anti-Narcotics Task Force of States and Union Territories.
- **NCORD** - Narcotics Coordination Mechanism.
- **PIT-NDPS Act** - Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- **Special NDPS courts** - For speedy trial of drug-related cases.
- **Policy** - Zero Tolerance Policy against drug trafficking.

#### Polity & Governance

### **National Financial Reporting Authority**

- **Constituted in** - 2018 under Companies Act, 2013.
- **Functions and Duties** - Recommend accounting and auditing policies & standards to be adopted by companies for approval by the Central Government.
- Monitor and enforce compliance with auditing & accounting standards.

### **Environment**

#### **Cleanliness Measures at Mahakumbh 2025**

- Under - Namami Gange mission.
- Over 28,000 toilets
  - *Fiber Reinforced Plastic (FRP) toilets.*
  - *Prefabricated steel toilets with soak pits*
- 20,000 community urinals.
- 37.75 lakh liner bags - For waste collection and disposal.

### **Miscellaneous**

### **18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention**

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** - It is also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day, is celebrated on January 9.
- **Commemoration day** - Of the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915.
- **1<sup>st</sup> celebrated in** - 2003.
- **Revised in** - 2015, to celebrate the event once every 2 years.
- **Importance** - To mark the contribution of overseas Indian Community towards the development of India.

### **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards**

- **Award** - It is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians.
- **2025 awardees** - It include, among others,
  - President of Trinidad & Tobago
  - Christine Carla Kangaloo in public affairs
  - Baroness Usha Kumari Prashar from the UK in politics
  - Dr Sharmila Ford from the U.S. in community service.

### **National Youth Day (12th January)**

- **Commemoration** - On the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- **Declared in** - 1984.
- Since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.

### **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue**

- Indian PM to interact with 3000 young leaders selected through a merit-based, multi-level selection process from over 30 lakh participants.
- **Aligns with** - Indian PM's Independence Day call to engage 1 lakh youth in politics without political affiliations.
- **Importance** - It provides them a national platform to make their ideas for Viksit Bharat, a reality.

### **World Hindi Day 2025**

- **Day** - It is celebrated every year on January 10.
- It is an important day that celebrates the promotion of the Hindi language at a global level.
- **2025 theme** - A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride.

### **Khelo India ASMITA Women's League**

- **Conducted by** - Sports Authority of India (SAI), in collaboration with National Sports Federations (NSFs).
- **Objectives** - To increase the participation of women in sports by organising leagues in various disciplines.
- To provide competition exposure to women athletes of different age categories across the country.
- **Event** - ASMITA Khelo India Women's Yogasana League 2024-25 sees over 7000 participations.