

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelim Bits 20-02-2025

### OPEC+

#### Why in News?

*Brazil's government recently approved joining OPEC+, rising status as a key oil player.*

- **OPEC** - Stands for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.
- It is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization refers to a group of 12 of the world's major oil-exporting nations.
- **Founded in** - Baghdad in 1960.
- **Founding members** - Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- **Headquarters** - Vienna, Austria.
- **OPEC Members** - Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.
- It will meet on every year to discuss their joint oil production policy
- **Aim** - To control the global oil supply and price.
- **Objectives** - It is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.
- To give an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- OPEC membership is open to any country, substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

### OPEC+

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia are known collectively as OPEC+.
- **Formed in** - 2016.
- **Members**



- **Significance of Brazil** - Brazil was officially invited to join in 2023.

- Brazil is currently the ***world's 7<sup>th</sup>-largest oil producer***, pumping around 4.3 million barrels per day, or 4% of global output.
- In 2024, crude oil overtook soy as the country's top export, making up 13.3% of total foreign sales.

## References

1. [Times of India | OPEC+](#)
2. [OPEC | About](#)

# International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA)

## Why in News?

*India is elected to the vice presidency of the International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA) in Singapore.*

- **Established in - 1957**, as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and a non-profit making international technical association.
- **NGO to IGO** - It officially changed its status from an NGO to an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) based on a *convention ratified by 34 states* on 2024.
- It is previously known as ***International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)***.
- **Motto** - Successful Voyages, Sustainable Planet.
- **Aim** - To foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels, through,
  - Improvement and harmonization of aids to navigation worldwide
  - Other appropriate means, for the benefit of the maritime community and the protection of the environment.
- **Membership** - 200 members, 80 of which are national authorities and 60 are commercial firms.
  - **India** - Member ***since 1957***.

*India will host the IALA Council meeting, December 2025 and IALA Conference & General Assembly, September 2027 in Mumbai.*

- **Collaborated member states** - It encourages its members to work together in a common effort to harmonize aids to navigation worldwide.
- It ensures that the movements of vessels are safe, expeditious and cost effective.
- It also encourages co-operation between nations to give developing countries the opportunity to make use of new aids to navigation techniques.
- **Support SDGs** - It recommends its members and other marine aids to navigation authorities responsible for the provision of Marine Aids to Navigation endeavour to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## References

1. [PIB| India Elected to Vice Presidency of IALA](#)
2. [IALA| About the Organization](#)
3. [Irishlights| IALA Members](#)

## Killer Whales

### Why in News?

*Australian authorities are euthanizing approximately 90 false killer whales that survived a mass stranding on a remote Tasmanian beach.*

- It is a **toothed whale** and the **largest member** of the oceanic dolphin family.
- It is also known as Orcas.
- **Scientific Name** - Orcinus orca.
- **Type** - Mammals.
- **Weight** - Up to 6 tons.
- **Appearance** - They are immediately recognizable by their distinctive black-and-white coloring.
- **Distribution** - Though they often frequent cold, coastal waters, orcas can be found from the Polar Regions to the Equator.
- Orcas are highly intelligent and able to coordinate hunting tactics.
- These are extremely fast swimmers and have been recorded at speeds of **up to 54kph**.
- Whales are **highly social mammals** and are well known for stranding in groups because they travel in large, close-knit communities which rely on constant communication.
- **Diet** - Carnivores.
- They use echolocation to communicate and hunt, making sounds that travel underwater until they encounter objects, then bounce back, revealing their location, size, and shape.
- **Conservation Status**
  - **IUCN** - Data Deficient.



### References

1. [BBC | Killer Whales](#)
2. [Times of India | Killer Whales](#)

## One Liners 20-02-2025

### Sea Ice, Iceberg, Glacier, Ice Sheet, Ice Shelves

- **Sea ice** - It refers to the *free-floating ice* in the Polar Regions.
- **Iceberg** - It is a *large piece of floating ice* that has broken off from a glacier or ice shelf.
- **Glacier** - It is an *accumulation of ice and snow* that slowly flows over land.
- **Ice sheet** - It is a *mass of glacial ice* more than 50,000 square kilometres (19,000 square miles).
- **Ice shelves** - They are *large floating platforms of ice* that extend from the land to the ocean.

### Polity & Governance

#### Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

- **PLFS** - It is the primary source of *data on employment and unemployment* situation in India.
- **Released by** - National Statistics Office (NSO).
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **Objectives** - To estimate the employment and unemployment indicators in the *short time interval of 3 months* for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS).
- Indicators in both usual status (principal status+subsidiary status) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.
- **Data usage** - Planning, policy formulation, decision support, etc.

#### National eVidhan Application (NeVA)

- **Launched in** - 2022.
- **Umbrella scheme** - Mission Mode Projects (MMPs).
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MPA)
- **NeVA** - It is a work-flow system deployed on NIC Cloud, MeghRaj helps the chair of the house to conduct the proceedings in a paperless manner.
- **Aim** - To bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.

#### Aravali Safari Park Project

*Aravali Safari Park Project still faces opposition ever since it mooted.*

- It is an ambitious project proposed by the Haryana government.
- It will be the *world's largest safari park*.
- **Area** - 3,858 hectare.
- **Coverage** - 17 villages in Gurugram and Nuh.
- **Transferred to** - Forest department and an expert committee to oversee the project's set up.

### Economy

## Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Deposit Scheme

Overseas Indians into NRI deposit schemes rose by 42.8% in April, 2024.

- **NRI scheme** - It is for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)/Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)/ Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) that allows them to transact in the secondary markets in India with foreign funds deposited in their NRE accounts.
- **Non-Resident Rupee (NRE) Account** - It is an Indian rupee (INR) denominated account in the form of savings, current, recurring, or fixed deposits. The foreign currency deposited into the account is converted to INR.
- It includes foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposits, non-resident external (NRE) deposits, and non-resident ordinary (NRO) deposits.

## National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)

- **Established in** - 2018, under section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Functions & Duties** - Recommend accounting and auditing policies & standards to be adopted by companies for approval by the central government.
- Monitor and enforce compliance with accounting standards and auditing standards.
- Oversee the quality of service of the professions associated with ensuring compliance with such standards and suggest measures for improvement in the quality of service.

## Agriculture

### National Horticulture Fair 2025

- **Organized by** - ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR-IIHR).
- **Theme** - Horticulture for Viksit Bharat - Nutrition, Empowerment and Livelihood.
- **Premier event** - To bring together the best in horticulture, featuring innovations that promise to transform the industry and improve the lives of farmers across India.
- **Focus** - To improve nutrition through the promotion of nutritionally rich crops and varieties.

## Environment

### Lithium

- It is a chemical element of Group 1 in the alkali metal group of periodic table.
- **Properties** - It is the *lightest* of the solid elements and the metal is soft, white and lustrous.
- **Usage** - Pharmaceutical, electronics, automobile, ceramics & glass, rubber & plastics, aluminium.
- **Lithium triangle countries** - Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.
- **Largest producers** - Australia, Chile and China.

## Miscellaneous

## **1<sup>st</sup> edition of SOUL Leadership Conclave**

- **SOUL** - School of Ultimate Leadership.
- It is an *upcoming leadership institution in Gujarat* to enable authentic leaders to advance public good.
- **Aim** - To broaden the landscape of *political leadership* in India through formal training.
- To include those who rise through merit, commitment, and passion for public service and not just from political lineage.

## **World Day of Social Justice**

- **Observed on** - *20<sup>th</sup> February* annually by the United Nations.
- **Theme 2025** - Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps Of Social Justice.
- **Objectives** - It serves as a global call to action for addressing poverty, exclusion, unemployment, gender inequality, and human rights.
- It promoting solidarity, harmony, and equality of opportunity within and between societies.

