

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelim Bits 21-02-2025

### Advocates-on-Record (AoRs)

#### Why in News?

*The Supreme Court (SC) has held that Advocates-on-Record (AoRs) bear full responsibility for the accuracy of petitions filed before the Court, even if the drafts are prepared by other advocates.*

- It is a special category that involves special persons who have been officially sanctioned to practice and represent their clients in the Supreme Court of India.
- It is specified under Supreme Court Rules, 2013 under **Article 145(1)**.
- It states that the SC may, from time to time, make rules for regulating the practices and procedures in the court.
- Only such title holders can submit motions and other request petitions to the Supreme Court.
- The AORs serve as a liaison between the clients and the Court, ensuring that all procedural formalities are satisfied.
- **Qualifications** - The Advocate is required to be enrolled with any State Bar Council.
- The Advocate is required to have a prior experience of **at least 4 years**.
- The Advocate has undergone a training under a senior AoR of 1 year.
- The Advocate has appeared for the SC examination.
- The Advocate is required to have **an office in Delhi** within a radius of 10 miles from the SC house.
  - Give an undertaking to employ a clerk, who shall be a registered clerk, within one month of being registered as an AoR.
- AOR is issued a **unique identification number** that must be used on all documents filed in the SC.
- **Roles and Responsibilities** - Only an AoR is authorised to file a Vakalatnama on behalf of a client in the SC.

*The Vakalatnama is a crucial document that grants the advocate the authority to represent the client.*

- The AOR, with the help of a registered clerk, must complete all procedural aspects, including drafting and filing legal documents, and is personally liable for paying court fees and charges.
- Any SC notices are sent to the AoR.

#### Reference

## Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

### Why in News?

*Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated annually on February 19 to mark the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji.*

- Chhatrapati Shivaji was the ***founder of the Maratha Empire.***
- **Born on** - February 19, 1630, in Pune, Maharashtra.
- **Parents** - Shahaji Bhonsle and Jijabai.
- **Teachers** - Dadoji Kondadev and Jijabai.
- He is a great military administrator and tactician, fought and won several wars against the Mughals.
- He was crowned as the "***Chhatrapati (Emperor)***" in 1674 at Raigad Fort.
- He established Hindavi Swarajya, declaring independence from Mughal and Deccan Sultanates.
- He developed ***Guerrilla Warfare tactics.***
- He established a robust naval force, recognizing the importance of naval supremacy in safeguarding the coastlines.
- His administrative reforms included the creation of a disciplined military structure, the introduction of revenue reforms, and the promotion of trade.
- He also emphasized religious tolerance and supported a diverse society, ensuring justice for all his subjects.
- He introduced ***Ashta Pradhan Mandal***, a Council of 8 Ministers for governance.
- Established revenue policies such as ***Kathi & Chauth system*** to ensure stable economy.
- Shivaji was in constant conflict with the Mughal Empire and other neighboring states.
- His escape from Agra in 1666 after being imprisoned by Aurangzeb showcased his ingenuity and determination. This daring escape solidified his reputation as a cunning and resilient leader.
- Shivaji Maharaj passed away on April 3, 1680, at Raigad Fort.

### Reference

[NDTV | Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti](#)

## Baboons

### Why in News?

*Recently, #JusticeForRaygun widely shared on social media due to encounters between baboons and people in Pretoria.*

A young male baboon named **Raygun** burned to death by the teenagers in Africa.

- **Scientific name** - Papio.
- **Baboons** - They are ***world's largest monkeys***, and there are 5 different species of baboons.
  - **5 species** - Olive, Yellow, Chacma, Guinea, and Sacred baboon
- **Habitat** - Savanna, woodlands, bushlands, mountains, tropical forests and semi-arid regions.
- **Distribution** - Dry regions of *Africa and Arabia*.
- **Morphology** - Long bodies, not including substantial tails of varying lengths, large head, cheek pouches, dog-like noses and powerful jaws.
- Long snout, sharp canines, red (or black) backside, thick fur and its colour varies depending on the species.
- **Sexual Dimorphism**
  - **Males** - They are largest species, but females are only half this size.
  - They have a thick coat of fur, especially around their chest and head, where they have thick manes.
- **Uniqueness** - It doesn't have a prehensile (gripping) tail, meaning their tails are not used as a hand.
- **Behavior** - Highly social, intelligent, travel in large noisy troops, and communicating by calls
- **Diet** - They are *omnivorous* feed on fruits, grasses, seeds, eggs, insects, bark, roots, birds, rodents, antelopes and sheep.
- **Threats:**
  - Hunted for their skins
  - Overgrazing
  - Agricultural expansion
  - Irrigation projects
  - Overall human settlement growth.
- **Conservation status**
  - **IUCN status** - Least concern.
  - **CITES** - Appendix II.

## References

1. [Down to Earth| Baboons and Human Fear](#)
2. [National Geographic| Baboons](#)
3. [AFW| Baboons](#)

### **Prime Minister Internship Scheme**

- **Launched in** - 2024.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- **Aim** - To provide 1 crore young individuals with *12 month paid internships* in the country's top 500 companies.
- **Target groups** - *21-24 years*, who are currently not enrolled in any full-time academic program or employment.
- **Sectors covered** - 24.
- **Monthly stipend** - Rs.5,000.

### **National Consumer Helpline (NCH)**

- **Launched in** - 2005.
- **Launched by** - Department of Consumer Affairs.
- **NCH** - It is a web portal with an integrated Grievance Redress Mechanism (INGRAM) to bring all Stakeholders into a single platform.
- It witnesses remarkable growth in North-Eastern States.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** - It is a *top performer* in recording the consumer grievance registrations and resolutions.

### **National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP)**

- **Launched in** - 2024.
- **Umbrella scheme** - Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana ([PM-MKSSY](#)), a sub-scheme of *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampda Yojana (PMMSY)*.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
- **NFDP** - It is a centralized hub for real-time information sharing, access to government schemes, weather forecasts, market trends, and sustainable fishing practices.
- **Aim** - At formalization of these sectors through creation of a database of work-based identities for all fisheries' stakeholders.

### **Intensified Special Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Screening Drive**

- It is a campaign launched to prevent NCDs, *Diabetes, Hypertension, and 3 common cancers*.
- **3 common cancers** - Oral, Breast, and Cervical.
- **Launched by** - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- **Under** - National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD).
- **Aim** - To achieve *100% screening* of all individuals *aged 30 years and above*.

### **State Support Mission (SSM)**

- **Launched in** - 2022.
- **Launched by** - NITI Aayog.
- **Aim** - At fostering structured and institutionalized engagement with States and Union Territories.
- **Objectives** - To assist them in achieving their *socioeconomic goals by 2047*.
- To support States/UTs in developing a roadmap aligned with national priorities and their core strengths.

### **Electronic Personnel License (EPL) in Civil Aviation**

India becomes **2<sup>nd</sup> country** to launch EPL in civil aviation globally.

- **EPL** - It is a digital version of a personnel license that will *replace traditional physical licenses for pilots*.
- **Approved by** - International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- **Launched by** - Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- **Objective** - To modernize and enhance the safety, security and efficiency of India's civil aviation sector.

### **Article 101(4)**

- **Article 101(4)** - It is a constitutional provision of a *Member of Parliament (MP)* asked to vacate seat in case of prolonged absence from Parliament.
- **Constitutional provision** - If for a period of **60 days** a member of either House of Parliament is *absent without permission* of the House from all meetings and the House declare his seat vacant.
- **60 days** - It doesn't account for any period during which the House is prorogued or is adjourned for *more than 4 consecutive days*.

### **Agriculture**

#### **Millet**

- India is the **largest producer** of millet in the world with a share of 41% in 2020, as per FAO.
- **Millet** - It is a species of cereal grasses, cultivated for their small edible seeds.
- **Leading producer states** - Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- **MSP coverage:**
  - **3 millet crops** - Bajra (pearl millet), Jowar (sorghum) and Ragi (finger millet).

### **Environment**

#### **Myrmecia Pyriformis and Myrmecia Midas**

Scientists found that 2 ant species find its way by polarised moonlight.

- These are 2 *nocturnal bull ant species* which make their way at night with the help of polarised moonlight.
- **Nocturnal bull ant** - They are *active at night* and use polarized light to navigate.
- While being dimmer even than moonlight, contains unusual patterns that can point the way.
- They are known as an **Australian ant**.

**Myrmecia Pyriformis**



**Myrmecia Midas**



#### **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)**

STPI launched a new incubation facility at Salt Lake, Kolkata.

- **Established in** - 1989.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **STPI** - It is a premier Science & Technology organization engaged in promoting IT Industry, innovation, R&D, start-ups, product creation in the field of emerging technologies.
- To become the largest technology startup ecosystem in the country envisaged in *National Policy on Software Products (NPSP), 2019*.
- **Objectives** - To promote the development and export of,
  - Software, software services, statutory & other promotional services, data communication services and micro, small & medium entrepreneurs.



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