

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 2nd 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.



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering