





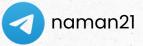
# Daily **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

🛗 May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025



**Offline Centre Location:** SCO 173-174, Sector 17C, Chandigarh





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- 1. Lairai Devi Temple
- 2. Angola
- 3. Western Disturbances

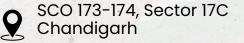
4. Water sharing dispute between Punjab and Haryana

5. Repairability Index (RI) in Mobile and Electronic Sector

6. Port economy will drive India's growth

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 In a tragic turn of events, at least six people died, and over 70 others were injured after a stampede at wee hours of Saturday in Shirgaon village in North Goa's Bicholim, during the annual Lairai Jatra procession at Shree Lairai Devi temple.

### About Lairai Devi Temple

The Lairai Devi Temple is a revered spiritual site located in **Shirgao village**, **Bicholim taluka**, North Goa. **Dedicated to Goddess Lairai**, who is believed to be an incarnation of Goddess Parvati, the temple holds immense **cultural and religious significance** for the local community.



- The temple's architecture reflects traditional Goan design, with intricate carvings and vibrant interiors that add to its sacred charm.
- The temple is a symbol of religious harmony, with local Hindus and Catholics regarding Lairai Devi and the Virgin Mary of Mapusa as sisters.
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- It is best known for hosting the annual Lairai Devi Jatra (Shirgao Jatra), where the dramatic firewalking ritual (Agnidivya) is performed by devotees called "dhonds."
- The festival begins with processions, devotional dances, and drumming. At midnight, a massive bonfire is lit, and in the early hours, the fire-walking ritual commences.

Devotees chant the goddess's name as they cross the embers, believing the **righteous will remain unharmed.** 

#### Q. About the Lairai Devi Temple and the associated annual Jatra in Goa, consider the following statements:

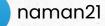
- 1. The Lairai Devi Temple is architecturally influenced by Dravidian temple design, featuring gopurams and granite vimanas.
- 2. The festival's central ritual, Agnidivya, symbolises the purification of the soul and is performed by "dhonds" who walk barefoot over burning embers.
- 3. The Lairai Jatra exemplifies interfaith syncretism, with a local belief that Lairai Devi and the Virgin Mary of Mapusa are sisters.
- 4. The festival begins with the lighting of the bonfire, followed by religious processions and fire-walking on the following night.

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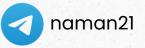
# Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1, 3 and 4 only D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: B. 2 and 3 only

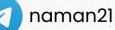






### **Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The temple reflects traditional Goan architecture, not Dravidian.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The firewalking ritual (Agnidivya) by dhonds is indeed a purification act.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The festival is known for religious harmony, with Lairai Devi and Virgin Mary regarded as sisters.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: The bonfire is lit at midnight, and then the fire-walking begins in the early hours, not the other way around.



# Angola

 Recently, President Droupadi Murmu hosted Angolan President João Lourenço at Rashtrapati Bhavan during his first State visit to India.



### **About Angola**

 Location: Angola is a country situated on the west coast of Southern Africa, with a strategic Atlantic Ocean coastline to the west.

#### **Capital: Luanda**

• Borders: It is bordered by Namibia to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, Zambia to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

#### **Major Rivers:** The **Cuango and Cuanza** rivers are vital for hydropower generation and inland water transport.

• Highest Peak: Mount Moco, located in Huambo Province, is the highest point in Angola.

# Q. Consider the following statements regarding Angola:

1. Angola's exclave province of Cabinda lies north of the Congo River and does not share a border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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- The Cuango River, one of Angola's major rivers, flows through the diamond-rich Lunda Norte province.
- Mount Moco, the highest peak in Angola, is located in a region known for both its biodiversity and colonialera coffee plantations.

# Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

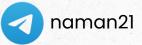
- A.1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

#### Answer: B. 2 and 3 only

#### **Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The province of Cabinda is an exclave of Angola, located north of the Congo River, but it does share a border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Cuango River runs through Lunda Norte, a major diamond-producing area.
- Statement 3 is correct: Mount Moco, located in Huambo Province, is not only the highest point but also noted for its bird biodiversity and former coffee plantations established during Portuguese rule.





# Western Disturbances

Heavy rainfall and strong winds disrupted life. in Delhi due to a fresh splash of Western Disturbances over North India

#### What are Western Disturbances?

- Western Disturbances are a series of Western Disturbances are a series of cyclonic storms that originate in the Mediterranean region and Black Seas, travel over 9,000 km to bring winter rains to northwest India.
- A Western Disturbance collects moisture from the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea and traverses over Iran and Afghanistan before hitting the western Himalayas.
- While the storm systems occur throughout the year, they travel to India mostly between December and April because the trajectory of the subtropical westerly jet stream, which transports them, shifts during the winter months to the rim of the Himalayas
- For the rest of the year, the jet stream travels from above the Himalayas to the Tibetan Plateau and China.
- Its trajectory changes as per the **position of the Sun.**

#### **Permanent Winds**

• The winds that blow constantly throughout the year are called Permanent Winds. They also blow constantly in a particular direction.

# There are types of permanent winds:

- Trade Winds These are permanent winds flowing from east to west. It flows in the Earth's equatorial region (between 30°N and 30°S latitudes).
- Easterlies It is a prevailing wind blowing from the east. The trade winds in tropical regions and the prevailing winds in the polar regions are easterlies.
- Westerlies These are prevailing winds that flow from the west towards the east. It flows in the Earth's middle latitudes between 30 and 60 degrees latitude.
- Also called anti-trades, these winds originate from the highpressure areas in the horse latitudes and trend towards the poles and steering extratropical cyclones in this general manner.

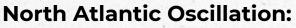
How are Western Disturbances Affected by Other Climatic Phenomena?

### La Nina Event:

- For the past three years, the world has been in a **La Niña phase**, which refers to the cooling of the ocean surface temperature in the Pacific Ocean.
- It weakens the temperature gradient for the formation of Western Disturbances as it reduces the temperature of the hot tropical air.

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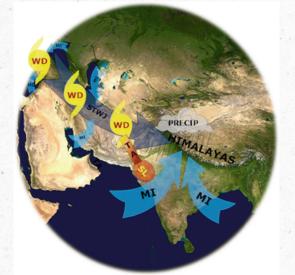




- Western Disturbances are also influenced by the North Atlantic Oscillation, a random fluctuation of air pressure over the North Atlantic Ocean due to a high-pressure region above the Azores Islands in the central North Atlantic and a lowpressure region over Iceland.
- Due to this, the weather system is currently in a negative phase, as both low- and high-pressure systems are weak, and it makes Western Disturbances 20% less frequent and 7% less intense than a positive phase.

Impact of Western Disturbances on India:

- Winter Rainfall & Snow:
  - Primary source of winter precipitation in North India, crucial for Rabi crops in **Punjab, Haryana,** and western UP.
- Moderate Heatwaves:
  - Frequent WDS reduce summer heat intensity across northwest and central India.
- Triggers Extreme Weather:
  - Causes hailstorms, flash floods, and landslides, especially in Himalayan states like J&K and Himachal. Overlapping WDs during pre-monsoon and monsoon months disrupt rainfall patterns and intensify precipitation. In 2025, WDS caused hailstorms in Bihar, Himachal, Vidarbha, and flooding in Telangana and Delhi, as per IMD warnings.

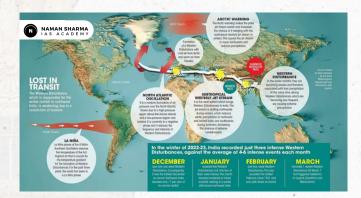


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### Climate Change Impact on Western Disturbances:

 Increased Frequency: More WDs observed post-January 2025, especially in March–April.WDs now occur in May–July, beyond their usual Dec–Mar peak. (e.g. Weather and Climate Dynamics journal (2024)

**Stronger Jet Streams:** Climate change has intensified subtropical westerly jet streams, allowing

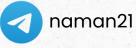


WDs to travel wider and deeper. (e.g. this causes more meridional oscillations, leading to erratic rain and snowfall.

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NAMAN SHARMA IAS ACADEMY



Moisture Surge from Arabian Sea: Rapid warming (1.2°C–1.4°C rise in SST) increases moisture availability. E.g. Heavier rainfall and flash floods across North and Central India.

#### Interaction with Southwest Monsoon:

- The warming of the Arctic region makes the polar front jet wavier, causing Western Disturbances to visit India more frequently during summers.
- Western Disturbances during summer, monsoon, and postmonsoon periods increase the chances of them interacting with the southwest monsoon and other associated local convection systems, such as tropical depressions that travel northward from either the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea.

#### Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macroclimatic changes. (UPSC 2016)

#### Question: UPSC 2015] Consider the following statements:

1. The winds which blow between 30° N and 60° S latitudes throughout the year are known as westerlies. 2. The moist air masses that cause winter rains in the North-Western region of India are part of the westerlies.

#### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Chandigarh

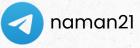
#### **Explanation:**

#### Statement 2 is correct:

- The moist air masses that cause winter rains in the North-Western region of India are indeed part of the westerlies.
- These winds flow from the west towards the east between 30° and 60° latitudes, bringing moisture from the Mediterranean Sea and other sources.

#### Statement 1 is incorrect

- The winds that blow between 30° N and 60° S latitudes are known as the trade winds, not the westerlies.
- The westerlies blow between 30° and 60° latitude in both hemispheres. The trade winds blow from east to west.





# Water sharing dispute between Punjab and Haryana

• Recently, the Bhakra Beas Management Board has ordered the release of an additional 8,500 cusecs of water for Haryana.

# About the Punjab-Haryana Water Dispute:

 The dispute dates back to 1966 when Haryana was created from
 Punjab and was promised a share of the river waters from the Ravi and Beas rivers.



• The **Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL)** canal was proposed to deliver Haryana's share, but remains incomplete due to Punjab's resistance.

The current issue involves Punjab and Haryana over the release of additional water from the Bhakra dam, managed

by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).On April 30, 2025, BBMB ordered the release of **8,500** cusecs of water to Haryana for drinking needs, which Punjab opposed, claiming Haryana had already withdrawn **104% of its annual** share.

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SCO 173-174, Sector 17C Chandigarh  Water levels in the Bhakra, Pong, and Ranjit Sagar dams are low due to poor snowfall in the Himalayas. Punjab argues that BBMB's decision is unilateral and has refused to open the Nangal dam sluice gates.

# Inter-State Water Dispute Resolution in India:

- Article 262 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to legislate on inter-state river water disputes and bars courts from intervening in such matters.
- The River Boards Act, 195,6 allows creation of boards for inter-state river management, but no such board has ever been constituted.

# The Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 provides for:

- Conciliation by the Centre among aggrieved states.
- Tribunal formation if conciliation fails.

#### The 2002 amendment mandates:

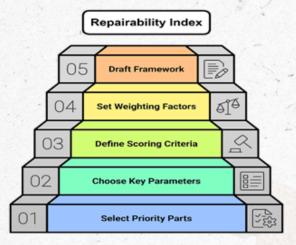
- Formation of a tribunal within 1 year.Tribunal decision within 3 years.
- The Supreme Court cannot question the award of a tribunal, but can examine procedural issues.





The Committee constituted for the Framework on Repairability Index (RI)

in Mobile and Electronic Sector has submitted its Report to, Department of Consumer Affairs, **Government of India.** 



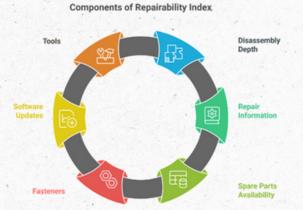
#### About Repairability Index (RI):

- The RI is a standardised label that indicates how easily a product can be repaired by assessing multiple parameters.
- It is designed to empower consumers to make informed decisions and promote sustainable consumption.
- The RI applies initially to smartphones and tablets and uses a 5-point numeric scale for scoring.

# The six key parameters used to calculate RI are:

- Disassembly Depth
- Repair Information
- Spare Parts Availability
- Software Updates
- Tools Required
- Fasteners Used

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The scoring covers priority components such as battery, display, cameras, charging port, microphone, speaker, and hinge mechanism.

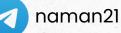
RI labels must be displayed at the point of sale, on e-commerce platforms, and via QR code on packaging.

#### Recommendations of the RI Framework:

- The RI framework must align with global best practices while maintaining ease of doing business for manufacturers. Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) will self-declare RI scores based on standard criteria, with no extra compliance burden.
- A clear scoring methodology has been developed, with weightages assigned to each parameter for key parts.

The committee identified smartphones and tablets as the initial focus under the RI framework.

- Stakeholder consultations included manufacturers, consumer groups, academic bodies, and government departments.
- The framework complements the existing Right to Repair Portal (launched in 2022), which provides repair-related information across four sectors.
- The committee emphasised the need for a robust **post-sale ecosystem** for both **urban and rural consumers.**







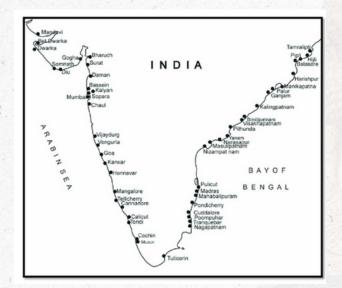
# PORT ECONOMY WILL DRIVE INDIA's GROWTH

# "From garlands of ports to garlands of growth"

Relevance - Mains: GS3 Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways Prelims : Geographical Locations ports and factual information

Context - launch of the ₹8,800 crore Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport in Kerala's capital.

### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE



### **PRELIMS PYQ**

Q. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom? [2017]

(a) Kakinada

(b) Motupalli

(c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam) (d) Nelluru

Ans: (b)

Q. With reference to ancient South India, Korkai, Poompuhar, and Muchiri were well known as: [2023]

a) Capital cities

b) Ports

c) Centres of iron- and- steel making d) Shrines of Jain Tirthankaras Ans : (b)

### INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE : 13 MAJOR AND 200 MINOR PORTS MAJOR PORTS

(1) Managed by the Central Government.

(2) Falls under the Union List.
(3) Major Ports Authorities Act 2021
(Repealed the earlier Major Ports Trust Act, 1963). The Government of India appoints a Board of Trustees to oversee each major port. Their responsibilities include port development, management and operations.

### **MINOR PORTS**

 Managed by the State governments through the State Maritime Board (Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu).
 Falls under the Concurrent List.
 Comes under the jurisdiction of respective State Governments but the Union Government has overriding legislative and executive powers.

(3) All the Non-Major Ports (minor ports) are governed under the Indian Ports Act of 1908.

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### STATUS OF PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

(1) Over 95% of India's trade by volume and 65% by value is done using maritime transport facilities at ports.

(2) India's key ports had a capacity of 1,598 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) in FY22.

(3) Turnaround time( time that is taken between the arrival of a vessel and its departure) has reduced to 62.16 hours in FY21

(4) Non-major ports accounted for 45% of the total cargo traffic at Indian ports in FY22.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF PORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN INDIA

#### 1. Economic Growth & Trade Facilitation:

• 95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value is maritimebased (Ministry of Ports, 2023).

#### 2. Strategic Maritime Dominance:

- SAGAR Doctrine: Enhances India's role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean.
- Countering China: Development of Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a naval hub and Chabahar Port (Iran), operationalized in 2024, bypassing Pakistan to access
   Central Asia.

#### 3. Employment & Regional Development:

• Sagarmala Programme: Aims to create 10 million jobs by 2035 through port-led industrialization.

• Example: Vizag Port's expansion generated 50,000 jobs in Andhra Pradesh, boosting local MSMEs.

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 Data: Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs) under Sagarmala could add \$500 billion to GDP by 2035 (NITI Aayog).

#### 4. Reducing Logistics Costs:

 Current Logistics Cost: ~14% of GDP (vs. global avg. of 8%). Port modernization aims to cut this to 10% by 2030.

#### 5. Regional Connectivity & Global Partnerships:

- Eastern Maritime Corridor: Chennai-Vladivostok route reduced transit time to Russia by 16 days(trial shipment in 2023).
- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF): India's collaboration with Japan on the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor enhances supply chain resilience.

#### 6. Environmental Sustainability:

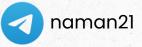
 Green Port Initiatives: Cochin Port, India's first fully solarpowered port, saves 3 lakh tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

### **PRELIMS SPECIAL**

 Artificial port - Tuticorin, Chennai, Mangalore, Visakhapatnam
 Largest container transshipment port and first transshipment- Kochi
 Largest container and largest artificial port and largest cargo- JNPT
 Second largest container port and largest port in Bay of Bengal-Chennai

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6. Only riverine port - Shyama Prasad Mukherjee port, Kolkata
7. Largest port by volume of cargo-Kandla
8. Landlocked harbour-Visakhapatnam
9. India's first deep water transshipment port - VIZHINJAM PORT (Kerala)

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM NCERT**

Types of port on the basis of specialised functions:

(i) Oil Ports: These ports deal in the processing and shipping of oil. Some of these are tanker ports and some are refinery ports. Maracaibo in Venezuela, Esskhira in Tunisia, Tripoli in Lebanon are tanker ports. Abadan on the Gulf of Persia is a refinery port.

(ii) Ports of Call: These are the ports which originally developed as calling points on main sea routes where ships used to anchor for refuelling, watering and taking food items. Aden, Honolulu and Singapore are good examples.

(iii) Packet Station: These are also known as ferry ports. ferry ports. These packet stations are exclusively concerned with the transportation of passengers and mail across water bodies covering short distances. These stations occur in pairs located in such a way that they face each other across the water body, e.g. Dover in England and Calais in France across the English Channel. **(iv) Entrepot Ports:** These are collection centres where the goods are brought from different countries for export. Singapore is an entrepot for Asia. Rotterdam for Europe, and Copenhagen for the Baltic region.

(v) Naval Ports: These are ports which have only strategic importance. These ports serve warships and have repair workshops for them. Kochi and Karwar are examples of such ports in India.



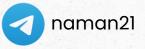
### **PRELIMS PYQ**

Q. Consider the following pairs: [2023]

PORT	Well Known as
1. Kamarajar Port	First major port in India registered as company
2. Mundra Port	Largest privately owned port in India
3. Visakhapatnam Port	Largest container port in India







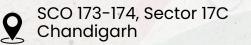
# How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

a) Only one pair b) Only two pairs

- c) All three pairs
- d) None of the pairs

### MAINS PRACTICE

"Port infrastructure is not merely an economic asset but a geopolitical lever for India in the Indo-Pacific region.". Discuss the challenges in achieving world-class port infrastructure and suggest innovative solutions to address them. (15 marks, 250 words)

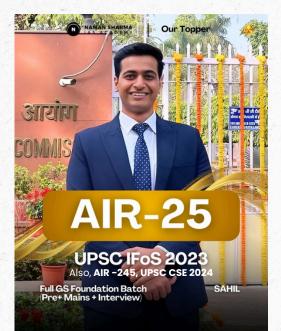




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IRS Rudraksh Ravi AIR-617, CSE 2021



Anshul Shandil AIR-7, HPPCS 2019



Arshiya Sharma AIR-3, HPPCS 2019



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IPS Vineet Ahlawat AIR-231, CSE 2020



SDM Himani Sharma AIR-2, HPAS 2024



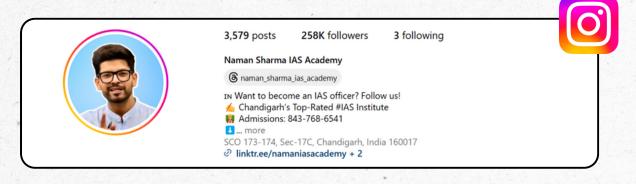
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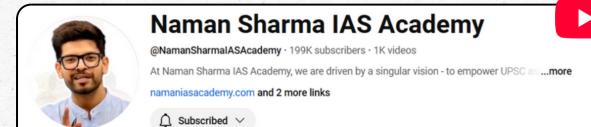


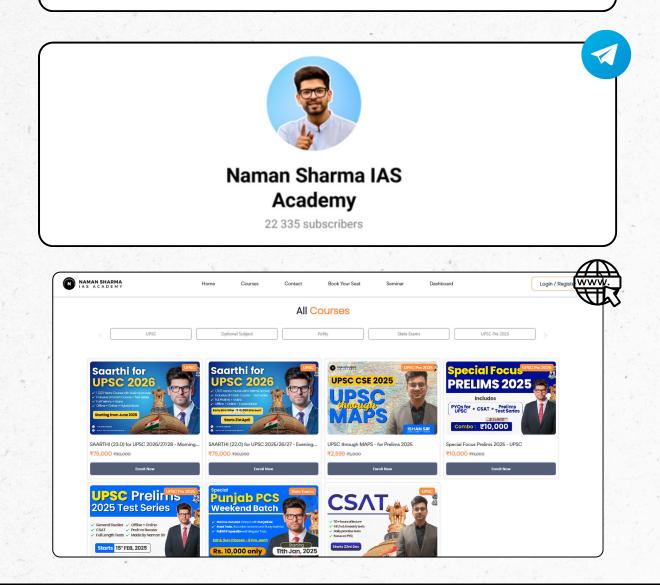
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