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

Index

Development without saving urban biodiversity: a condition of permanent cities

Cities can only be development engines when breathing with lungs of biodiversity. Urbanisation, the identity of modern civilisation, is often observed as a sign of development. With almost half of the population living in cities, estimated that to will affect 70% by 2050, with rapid economic, social and political activity in urban areas. However, this urban spread quickly reaches a severe organic price. Under pressure of unplanned growth and unstable growth, erosion of biodiversity, not only a threat to flora and organisms, but also the very basis for healthy living and sustainable livelihoods.

- This **year's International Day for Biodiversity, celebrated every year on May 22,** bears the subject: **"Harmony with nature and sustainable development"**.
- It resonates with a global need to cover the development goals with environmental protection.
- Since the world looks at the **2030 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** goals and the **UN's goal for sustainable development (SDG),** especially the goal 11 (fixed cities and society), the integration of conservation of biodiversity in urban planning is no longer an alternative - it is mandatory.

Urban biodiversity: quiet development of development

- Biodiversity is not limited to rainforests or rural landscapes; It is rich - or once wealthy - in urban areas.
- From the wetlands to the tree, the plan for the road, from the gardens of the house to the urban lakes, the cities historically coexist with nature. However, this relationship deteriorates rapidly.
- Currently, 25% of global species are prone to extinction, and cities are often seen as concrete forests, appearing as one of the prominent contributors in this crisis. Whether it is the destruction of the wetlands for real estate projects or the removal of a tread for expansion of the road, the pressure to accommodate economic ambitions assumes the ecological basis that supports urban life.

Why does urban biological diversity mean

Ecological and health benefits

- Urban-green locations are not decorative luxury - they are organic requirements. Trees, wetlands and gardens provide important ecosystem services:

- **Climate control:** Trees reduce the effects of the city's heating island, down the temperature in the city, as seen in Frankfurt, where the green belt has reduced the temperature by 3.5 ° C.
- **Pollution control:** Green belts absorb the suspension of particulate matter, trap carbon and reduce noise pollution.
- **Flood restriction:** In the monsoon-exposed regions, such as vegetation aids, Mumbai or Chennai, in water treatment and flood control.
- **Mental and physical health:** By reducing access to green places, improving social health by reducing stress, encouraging physical activity and increasing social harmony.
- **Financial assessment:** According to Professor Theodore Andrane, urban trees offer services priced at $ 967,000 (£ 8 crore) per year. These include energy savings (through shade), stormwater processing, carbon capture and better air quality. Yet, despite such com

Forest Survey of India (FSI) painted a worrying picture of green cover in Indian cities:

- Mumbai: 25.43%
- Delhi and Hyderabad: 12.6%
- Bengaluru: 6.85%
- Chennai: 4.66%
- Ahmedabad: 3.27%
- Between 2021 and 2023, Chennai and Hyderabad alone lost 2.6 km and 1.6 km away in forest cover. These disadvantages are not just statistical; They represent the shrinking lungs in our cities.

Solutions and Strategies for Urban Biodiversity Conservation

- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
- The goal of GBF focuses on increasing urban green and blue spaces directly by 2030. 30% of land and marine biodiversity must be preserved through effective governance. It gives cities a roadmap to integrate biodiversity into urban development. 3-30-300 rules for an-habitat

This urban planning prescription provides simple, action-rich guidelines:

- View of at least three trees from each house or workplace.
- 30%: Minimum three canopy cover in each neighbourhood.
- 300 meters: Close to each house for a green place of at least 0.5 to 1 hectares.
- This model ensures equal distribution of green benefits in socio-economic groups and promotes urban-wide biodiversity.

The city's biological diversity index (CBI)

- The International Council for the Local Environmental Initiative (IICLEI), the index uses 23 indicators to measure biodiversity in three domains:
- Presence of indigenous species
- Ecosystem services provided
- Management and protective efforts

- Cities such as Kochi, Gondia and Nagpur have begun to implement CBI, followed by local biological diversity strategies and action plans (LBSAPS) to guide politics and investments.

Case Studies: Learning from the Field

- **Coimbedu Bazaar, Chennai:** Once a chaotic, crowded area was turned into a biological diversity by Care Earth Trust. Green Initiative LEDs:
- 141 indigenous species
- 35 birds and 27 butterfly species
- This three-story forest model copied natural ecological systems compared to the popular Milwaukee method, which proves the power of indigenous solutions in urban contexts.
- **Pallikaranai Marsh:** When dismissed as a dump, this Quagmire in Chennai has now received the status of a Ramsar site and a reserved forest. This success emphasises the importance of a social lawyer, ecological restoration and legal protection in reviving urban biodiversity.
- **Gundi Lake Change:** An effort is underway to convert the Madras Race Club country into a lake for charging groundwater. Such measures not only restore ecosystems but also protect important urban resources.

Challenges for the preservation of urban biological diversity

- **Interventions:** Wetlands and lake beds, especially in cities such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad, have large illegal constructions.
- **Pollution:** The flow of sewage, plastic waste and industrial discharge reduces the ecological integrity of the water body.
- **Disadvantages of home garden:** When the independent houses cope with multi-floor apartments, coconut, mango, and jackfruit trees disappear.
- **Politics interval:** Urban planning rarely integrates the preservation of biodiversity into core laws or infrastructure projects.

Political recommendations and forward

- **Legal mandate and planning reform:** Mandate Tree Plantation: Urban authorities such as Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) should add permission from the building authorities to the requirements for wooden plantation on large plots.
- **Protect blue-green corridors:** Protect natural water bodies through regulatory rules and legal buffers. Restore the wetlands using nature-based solutions: Instead of engineering-ambitious solutions, use wetlands, biotstreams and phytoramnia.
- **Community engagement and consciousness:** Encourage residents' RWAS to gain ownership of green places. Promote roof gardens and kitchen gardens through supplements and training from horticultural departments. Include students, voluntary organisations and companies in biological diversity surveys, plantation stations and clean-up initiatives.
- **Strengthen control and enforcement:** Strict punishment for illegal tree felling and intervention in the water body.

Regular monitoring is required when using GIS and remote measurement technologies. To build urban biological diversity cells into municipal organs to integrate ecological approaches into each project.

Legal activity as a catalyst

- Recent decisions from the Supreme Court, such as preventing the destruction of trees in the Gachibovali in Hyderabad, reflect the increasing legal concern for urban ecology. Such intervention can catalyze systemic reforms when complemented by executive action.

Conclusion

- The idea that the development and preservation of biodiversity are mutually exclusive, a myth for dividends, is long overdue. When climate change is intensified and multiplied by urban health crises, cities should look inward for solutions. Biodiversity is not a beauty secondary - it is scaffolding in life, even in a metropolis.

Q.."Urban biodiversity is essential not only for ecological balance but also for human well-being and climate resilience."Discuss in the context of India's urban expansion, citing examples of successful urban biodiversity initiatives and evaluating the role of policies like the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. (250 words)

Question About urban biodiversity conservation, consider the following statements:

1. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework mandates that 50% of urban land be reserved for biodiversity by 2030.
2. The 3-30-300 rule aims to ensure that every person can see three trees from their home, live in a neighbourhood with 30% tree canopy cover, and have access to a green space within 300 metres.
3. The City Biodiversity Index evaluates cities based on parameters like native species diversity, ecosystem services, and governance.

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

Statement 1 is incorrect: The GBF sets a 30% conservation target, not 50%.

Heating is likely to make cyclones more disastrous than ever before

Cyclones are not new, but climate change makes them increasingly devastating disasters." Cyclones have always been part of the Earth's natural weather systems, powerful, rotating storms that can provide intense air, rain, and coastal destruction. In the 21st century, however, their intensity, frequency, and impact have been replaced by climate change.

- According to recent studies, the future of cyclones appears significantly more catastrophic than the world, especially as performed by ETH Zurich researchers, under scenarios such as SSP5-8.5.
- These findings have serious implications not only for tropical countries such as India, but also for latitudes, economy-dependent economies and mechanisms for disaster preparations.

New places, new perils: cyclone belt shift rod

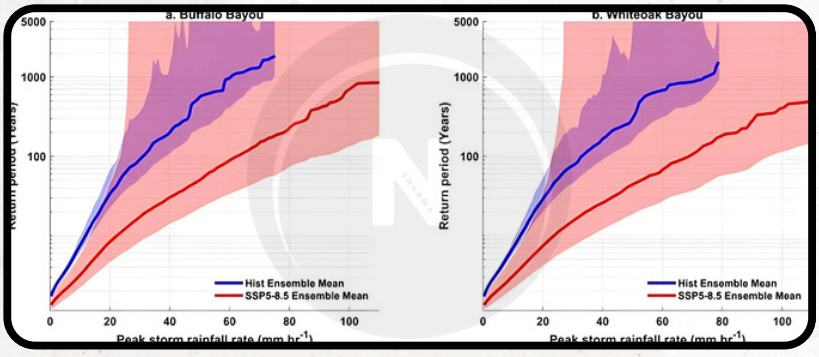
Historically, the tropical cyclone has been limited to specific latitudes due to temperature, humidity requirements and Coriolis force.

However, the warming seas change this geography.

- Climate models are now projecting a great deal of cyclone activity. The high final ecosystem, which has never been exposed to cyclones, can be exposed.
- These areas have natural flexibility or a lack of adaptive symptoms, making improvement and adaptation far more challenging.
- Areas such as Madagascar, East Asia, between America and parts of Oceania are estimated to experience not only more cyclones, but also outstanding intense and frequent.

Climate model and cyclonic future: What is SSP5-8.5?

- To understand the destructive ability of future cyclones, we must understand the climate landscapes that the first researchers have used. Shared socio-economic roads (SSP) provide lectures that explain how global society can develop and how this development will affect greenhouse gas emissions.
- SSP5 imagines the world of rapid economic growth, strong fossil fuel use and minimal climate restriction.
- SSP5-8.5 adds a high level of radical power with 2100 -8.5 W/m AV, creating a "worst state" path in climate modelling.



Cyclonic behaviour in a hot world

- Cyclone depends on hot seawater for energy. When the global temperature rises and increases the temperature of the sea surface, cyclone is expected:
- Excess wind speed and heavy rainfall become more intense.
- In new areas, especially at high latitudes. Show unexpected tracks, make the forecast and withdrawal plan more difficult.
- In the ATH Zurich study, using the Climate Data Platform and the Dataset for Synthetic Store, researchers evaluated how ecosystems that are historically exposed to cyclones, classified as flexible, dependent or weak, will respond to changes in frequency and intensity.
- **Main Search: "In SSP5-8.5, the average withdrawal of high intensity cyclones can be reduced from 1980-2050 from 19 years to 12 years."**

Mangrove crisis:

Mangrove waves act as frontline defenders against cyclones by reducing energy, preventing soil erosion and sequestering carbon on a large scale. Nevertheless, they are one of the most dangerous ecosystems in future cyclone scenarios.

ETH Zurich shows conclusions:

Under SSP5-8.5, up to 56% of global mangrove areas can exceed high risk than high risk.

In Southeast Asia, **97–98% of mangrovers can also be severely affected under low extreme SSP3 - 7.0 landscape.**

- Mangrover is considered weak if they meet:
- A doubling in the frequency of acute cyclones.
- The new increase in storms has occurred.
- Inability to keep up with the increase in sea level of more than 7 mm/year.

Implications for India

- India stands at a significant turning point, along with its huge beaches and cyclone areas in the Gulf of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Sea surface temperature (SST) makes rising cyclones more intense (eg cyclones are dense).
- Coastal towns such as Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata face complex risks due to growth at sea level, urban flood and population density.
- Sundarban, divided between Bangladesh, is the largest mangrove ecosystem in the world and faces existential threats.

Strategic concerns:

- Disaster preparation and initial warning systems must be scalable and modern.
- Urban planning and coastal regulation laws shall integrate cyclone risk.
- Adaptation of the society level is special for fish people and small-scale coastal farmers. India's National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) should keep in mind the future climate landscape.

Highlight :

SSP5-8.5 Scenario projects in outstanding cyclone injuries, both intensity and geographical spread. The polar rounds of the cyclone belt can expose pre-developed ecosystems and regions to extreme storm activity. Mangrove ecosystems are in severe danger: Up to 97% of the serious risk in Southeast Asia can be exceeded. The time between acute cyclones shrinks and reduces the recovery windows for ecosystems and human systems. Assessment of disaster risk requires long-term recovery and reinforcement to mitigate the pattern of the storm.

Q. Which of the following ecosystem types is most vulnerable to increased frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, as per recent studies?

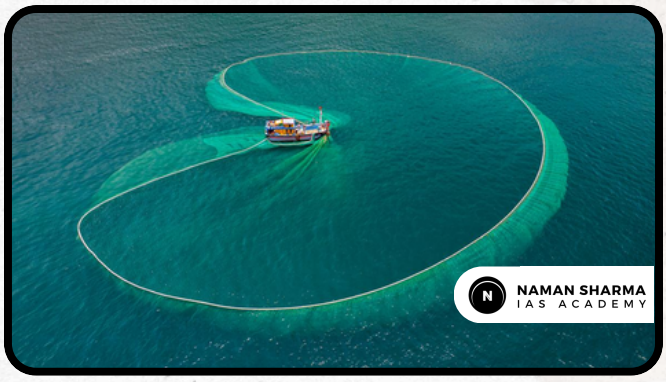
A. Alpine meadows
B. Mangrove forests
C. Temperate grasslands
D. Desert ecosystems

Answer: B. Mangrove forests

Q1. "Climate change is altering the nature, geography, and intensity of tropical cyclones." In this context, discuss how climate change is reshaping cyclone risk globally and evaluate India's preparedness to deal with future storm scenarios. (250 words)

Overfishing: The Silent Threat to Ocean Wealth and Livelihoods

The ocean is the lungs of our planet and is the cornerstone of countless livelihoods, especially in a country like India, with a wide coastline of over 11,000 km. Marine fisheries have been an integral part of India's cultural and economic landscape for centuries, offering food security, employment and economic development. Still, this blue water is under enormous stress. Overfishing, combined with weak regulation, changing climate patterns and the constant threat to increase the demand for seafood, reduces marine biodiversity and cleaved with small-scale fishery communities.



India's marine fisheries

- India is one of the best fishing-producing countries in the world. The sea possession has stabilised around 3-4 million tonnes annually, an indication that the country is likely to have reached its maximum sustainable yield (MSY) - the highest catches that can be maintained without reducing the stock.
- Nevertheless, a deep dive reveals harassment inequalities. While on a small scale and craftsmen fishermen earn 90% of the fish population, they only take 10% of the total catch.
- The pressure to promote catch volume is often a result of catastrophic practices: large boats, more powerful engines, long trips and arbitrary equipment. However, the return is limited, and the costs (fuel, debt, environmental impacts) increase.

loss of biodiversity

- One of the most devastating results of overfishing is the large-scale Bacatch-Fish and sea animals that are caught and abandoned.
- During a recent campaign on a shrimp throat in the Arab sea, for every 1 kg of shrimp, for a by-election of more than 10 kg-I was thrown overboard to teenage fish or non-commercial species, mostly died.

This Surfire Fishing has a multi-dimensional ecological effect:

- Stands of main species, such as sardines and mackerel, destroy biomass.
- Adolescents reduce the population, reducing the possibility of lifting species.
- Coral reefs and benthic ecosystems are damaged.
- Breathe in the food chains and lead to long-term fishing.
- The small being net (<25 mm) is used in trotting, and even reduces the problem by implicating the youngest fish. Since these teenagers are removed from the ecosystem before they can breed, the entire species faces potential decline or collapse.

International lesson: Cost of collapse

The story is filled with examples of fisheries due to overfishing permits.

- The northern cod in Canada crashed in 1992, resulting in a postponement with a great extent with a population below historical levels.
- Away from California, Prashant Sardin Matsya fell in the mid-1900s, which closed for decades and decades.
- India should focus on these warnings. Unlike these countries, India is still dependent on the fisheries for nutritional security and job security and village. A similar collapse here will trigger a broad socio -economic turmoil.

Regulatory Challenge

- The current maritime fishing rule in India is decentralised. Each coastal state and downtown region has their own **maritime fisheries regulation law (MRRom).** This makes fragmentation:
- **Deficiencies in enforcement:** In dishonest operators, it can lead to subordinate or illegal catches in neighbouring countries with Luxor rules.
- **Lack of coordination:** Different gear restrictions, closed weather and size Borders prevent integrated conservation efforts.
- **Washing illegal catch:** The one fish banned in one state can be sold legally in the other. This regulator reduces inconsistency protection, causing uncontrolled bloom.

Global Solution: Learning from New Zealand

- New Zealand's quota management system (QMS) provides a globally recognised model for science policy integration. Since 1986, it has been:
- Adjusted catch quota with strong share assessment.
- Introduce individual transferable quotas to balance financial and ecological requirements. Safe fellowship and usual fishing rights are preserved.
- Use a pilot project of QMS type for India's large mechanised fleet can change the region. Catch the allowance associated with real stock health instead of vessel size or fuel capacity:
- Encourage responsible fishing.
- Sidewalks overcapases.
- Produces high value from small, durable crops.

India's own success stories

- There are promising indications that smart regulation works. In Kerala, after the introduction of MLS for Threadfin Bream, the catch volume increased by 41% in the same season.
- When fishing is allowed to mature before prisoners, both biomass and fisheries income are improved.
- Other states should repeat and build such initiatives, and demonstrate that stability and profitability can go by hand.

Dark side of the fish food industry

- India's growing fish food and fish oil (FMFO) industry is another challenge.
- It thrives with low-value urban choices, especially the adolescents, an age group.
- India's export speed reduction in fish nutrition.

- The waste of protein sources that can otherwise feed millions.
- Artificially, continuously in elections, worsening biodiversity is exacerbated.

Behavior

- **Effective improvement of fisheries requires action on several levels:**
- **National Government**
  - Adapt grants to subsidies and infrastructure.
  - TIE -Licensing and registration to comply with sustainable practice.
  - Invest in scientific assessment of fish stocks.
- **State governments**
  - Increase patrol enforcement, especially in closed seasons.
  - Use real-time reporting tools and GPS monitoring.
  - Penalise the illegal journey through quick legal steps.
- **Community level**
  - Strong cooperative communities and national councils as co-leaders of marine resources.
  - Install the Community-Led Maritime Protected Area (MPAS).
  - Support alternative livelihood in closed seasons.
- **Consumer awareness**
  - Promote continuous sour seafood.
  - Encourage urban markets to confirm catch size and increase.
  - Determined the purchase teens or endangered species.

Climate change: an exaggerated strength

- As the sea temperature rises, strengthens the patterns of the storms, and the erosion of coastal coast accelerates, the marine ecosystem faces compound threats. Fish species are already migrating to cold water and interrupting traditional fishing spots.

Permanent fishing is not just a conservation problem - they are a strategy for climate flexibility. Without intervention, India's fishing villages can face financial extinction.

Conclusion: a conversation about a conversation

- For biodiversity, on this international day, the alternative is clear. India stands by a crossing crossing path for alpha -recovery and risk the future of the empty yarns, or publishes science shoes, justified and durable fisheries.
- Overfishing is not just an environmental problem. This is the question of justice, livelihoods and national food security.
- India's marine money is very valuable for Squander. Through integrated regulation, global best practice and social management, we can ensure that our oceans live for generations to come to lively, life-giving ecosystems.

Q. Overfishing in Indian marine ecosystems is not only an ecological crisis but also a socio-economic challenge. Critically examine the causes and consequences of overfishing in India. Suggest comprehensive policy reforms for sustainable fisheries management in the context of climate change and livelihood security. (250 words)

Q. Which of the following best describes a major ecological impact of indiscriminate shrimp trawling in Indian marine waters?

A. Increase in fish diversity due to selective fishing techniques
B. Enhanced breeding of juvenile species due to protective gear
C. Massive bycatch leading to mortality of juvenile and non-target species
D. Reduction in operational costs and fuel consumption for fisherfolk

Answer: C. Massive bycatch leading to the mortality of juvenile and non-target species

Manipur's flower festival starts on a thorny note,

prelim

Recently, the Shirui Lily Festival has commenced in Manipur after a two-year gap caused by the ongoing conflict in the state

About Shirui Lily Festival

- **Organiser:** The festival is conducted by the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur.
- **Launch:** It was first held in 2017 and is now one of Manipur's two major tourism festivals (the other being the Sangai Festival).
- **Origin:** Named after the Shirui Lily (Lilium mackliniae), the State Flower of Manipur.
- **Location:** The event is held in the Ukhrul district, home to the Tangkhul Naga community.
- **Purpose:** It aims to raise awareness about the Shirui Lily and promote eco-tourism in the hill regions of Ukhrul.
- **Key Activities:** The festival includes cultural performances, music concerts, a beauty pageant, a cooking competition, and a trash collection marathon.

Shirui Lily

- **Habitat:** The Shirui Lily grows only in the upper reaches of the Shirui Hill range in Ukhrul district, at an altitude of 2,673 metres.
- **Local Name:** It is locally known as 'Kashong Timrawon', named after a mythical hill guardian.
- **Discovery:** British botanist Frank Kingdon-Ward identified it in 1946 and named it Lilium mackliniae after his wife Jean Macklin.

Conservation Status: Classified as Endangered by the IUCN. (It is not listed by CITES or the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Shirui National Park is named after it.

- **Threats:** The flower faces threats from climate change, human encroachment, resource exploitation, and invasion by wild dwarf bamboo.

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the Shirui Lily (Lilium mackliniae):

1. It is endemic to the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh.
2. It is the state flower of Manipur.
3. It blooms naturally only in the summer months of May and June.
4. It is classified as an endangered species under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C. 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Shirui Lily is endemic to the Shirui Hills of Ukhrul district in Manipur, not the Eastern Ghats.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is indeed the state flower of Manipur.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It blooms during May and June.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** It is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List due to habitat destruction and overexploitation.

DoT Introduces "Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)" to Strengthen Cyber Fraud Prevention

Recently, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) as a part of the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP).

About Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)

- Purpose: FRI is a risk-based tool that flags mobile numbers as Medium, High, or Very High risk for financial fraud.
- Data Sources: It pulls inputs from the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), DoT's Chakshu Platform, and banking institutions.
- Beneficiaries: Helps banks, NBFCs, and UPI service providers implement added security for high-risk numbers.

PhonePe was one of the first adopters of the FRI system.

- It uses FRI to:
- Block transactions linked to Very High-risk numbers.
- Display alerts using the PhonePe Protect feature.
- For Medium-risk numbers, PhonePe is working on showing proactive user warnings before transactions.
- The tool has proven highly accurate in identifying numbers involved in cyber fraud.

How It Works:

- The Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU) shares a Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) with reasons like cybercrime, failed verification, or excess usage.
- The tool performs multi-dimensional analysis and assigns a fraud risk level.
- Risk status is shared in real-time via DIP, enabling early action before fraud occurs.

Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)

- DIP is developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) as a secure, integrated platform for real-time intelligence sharing.
- **Stakeholders Involved:** It connects Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), law enforcement agencies (LEAs), banks, financial institutions, social media platforms, and identity document issuers.

- **Functionality:** The platform contains information on telecom resource misuse and supports case tracking and coordinated action.
- **Sanchar Saathi Integration:** DIP acts as a backend system for citizen requests submitted through the Sanchar Saathi portal.
- **Access Control:** DIP is available only to authorised stakeholders via secure connections and is NOT accessible to the public.

Conclusion

Technological tools (like DIP and Sanchar Saathi) showcase how digital platforms are being leveraged for citizen safety and efficient governance. Legal and ethical debates around AI and copyright highlight the need for updated frameworks in the face of rapid innovation.

About the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI), consider the following statements: It is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) under the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP).

1. It classifies mobile numbers based on their risk profile for financial fraud.
2. DIP is accessible to the general public through the Sanchar Saathi portal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Statement 1 is incorrect (developed by DoT, not NPCI).
Statement 3 is incorrect (DIP is not accessible to the public).

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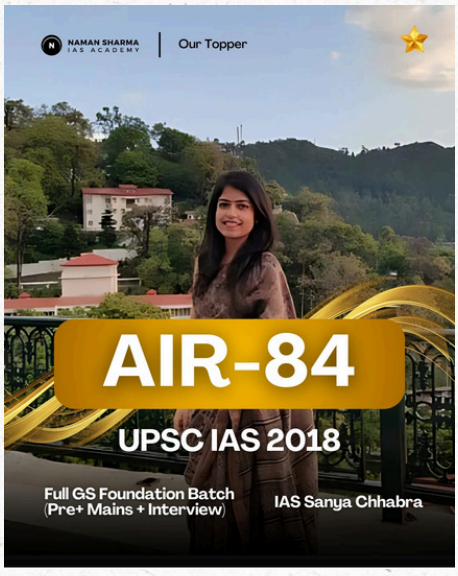

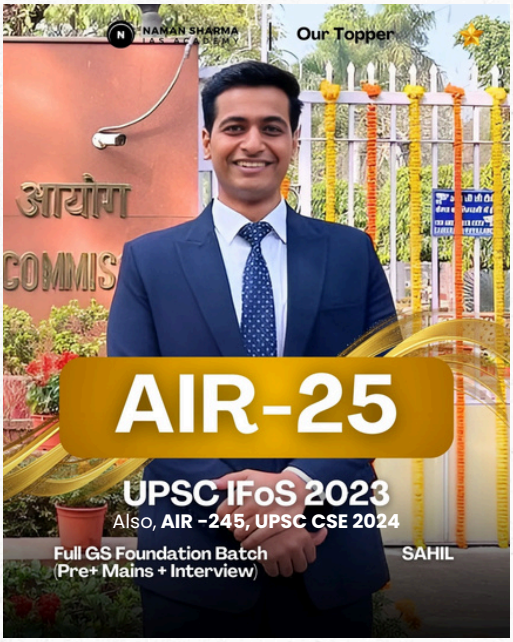

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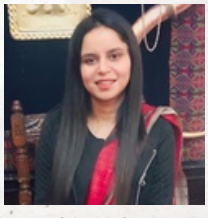

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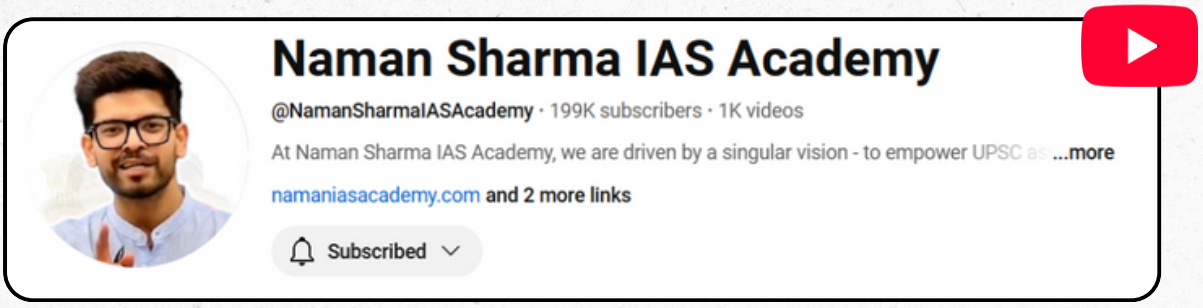

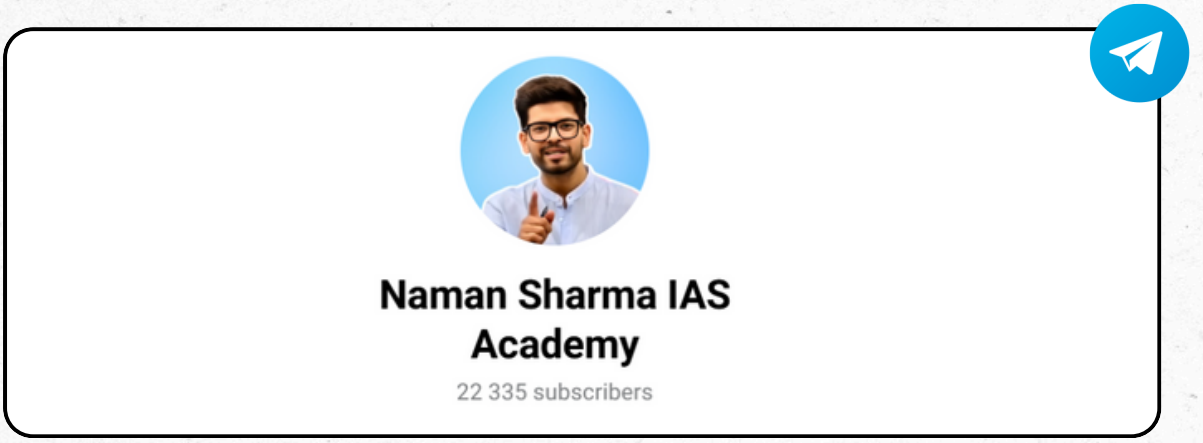

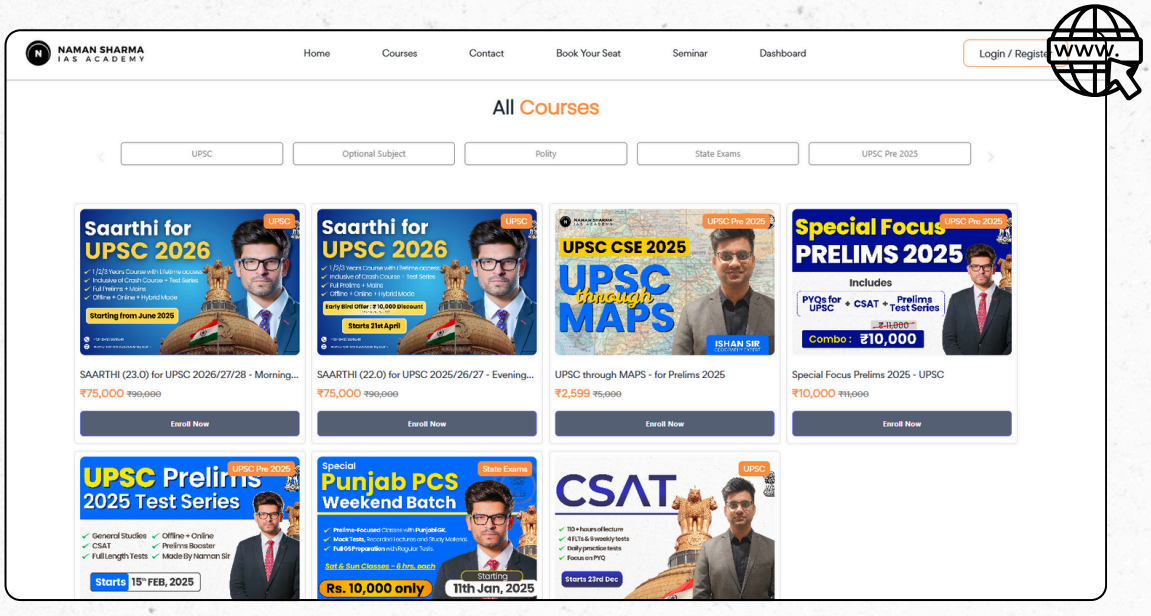

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