

# MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

- ANNUAL STATUS OF EDUCATION REPORT 2023 

GS- 5, PRELIMS

- INDIA SIGNS LITHIUM EXPLORATION & MINING DEAL IN ARGENTINA 

PRELIMS, GS-2

- 9TH PAKKE PAGA HORNBILL FESTIVAL  PRELIMS

- SHANKARACHARYAS  PRELIMS, GS-1

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# ANNUAL STATUS OF EDUCATION REPORT 2023

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Annual Status of Education Report

AGE 14-18 **असर** **2023** RURAL  
ASER

Facilitated by PRATHAM

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# CONTEXT

- **The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023** provides crucial insights into the educational status in Assam for the **14-18** age group, emphasizing the need for immediate intervention in several areas.



# KEY FINDINGS

- **Reading Skills:** Only 56.9% of 14-16-year-olds can read at a Standard II level, with a gender split of 49.1% males and 62.7% females. This slightly improves in the 17-18 age group, with 63.8% overall reading proficiency.
- **Arithmetic Proficiency:** A mere 19.1% of 14-16-year-olds can perform basic division. This figure is slightly better in the 17-18 age group at 21.2%.

- **Smartphone Access vs. Ownership:** While over 90% of adolescents have access to smartphones at home, actual ownership is significantly lower, especially among females.
- **Digital Literacy and Safety:** There is a notable lack of knowledge regarding smartphone safety features, particularly among younger adolescents.
- **Use of Smartphones:** The majority of smartphone usage is for entertainment rather than educational purposes, indicating a need for guidance on productive technology use.

- **Remedial Action Required:** The report highlights the critical need for targeted remedial educational programs focusing on foundational reading and arithmetic skills.
- **Survey Details:** The ASER 2023 survey in Assam was based on data from 1,320 youths across 60 villages in **Kamrup** district.
- **Broader Implications:** Nationally, the report reveals that a significant proportion of adolescents struggle with basic reading and English comprehension, along with widespread smartphone access.



# WHAT IS ASER ?

- The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a nationwide household survey that captures the status of children's enrollment and learning outcomes in rural India.
- It has been conducted since 2005 by the NGO Pratham.

# INDIA SIGNS LITHIUM EXPLORATION & MINING DEAL IN ARGENTINA



# CONTEXT

- **India** and **Argentina** signed an agreement for the **exploration** and development of five **lithium blocks** in the **Catamarca region**. The agreement was signed between **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)** and **Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN)**.

- Argentina is the part of “**Lithium Triangle**” along with **Chile** and **Bolivia** with more than half of world’s total lithium resources and having the distinction of having **2nd largest lithium** resources, **3rd largest lithium** reserves and **4th largest** production in world respectively.



# SIGNIFICANCE

- This will not only **boost** its **quest** for **sourcing lithium** for **India** but will also help in bringing in technical & operational experience for Brine type lithium exploration, exploitation and extraction.
- This strategic move not only **strengthens** the **bilateral ties** between **India** and **Argentina** but also contributes to the **sustainable development** of the **mining sector**, ensuring a resilient and diversified supply chain for critical and strategic minerals essential for various industries.

# PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION<sup>®</sup>

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina are collectively referred to as the Lithium Triangle.
2. The US currently controls 77% of the global lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity.
3. Lithium is also referred to White Gold.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

# 9TH PAKKE PAGA HORNBILL FESTIVAL



# CONTEXT

- A three-day environmental festival, known as **PAKKE PAGA HORNBILL FESTIVAL (PPHF)**, recently commenced in Arunachal Pradesh.





- This event is dedicated to wildlife preservation, with a particular focus on the protection of hornbills.
- Initiated in 2015, the festival celebrates the Nyishi tribe's efforts in conserving hornbills.
- The Nyishi are the largest tribe in Arunachal Pradesh and play a vital role in protecting these birds in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR).

- PTR is home to four hornbill species: Wreathed, Great Indian, Oriental Pied, and the endangered Rufous-necked.
- The **Nyishi tribe**, once **hunters** of **hornbills**, have transformed into committed conservationists.

# SHANKARACHARYAS



## CONTEXT

- The four shankaracharyas, heads of Hindu monasteries founded by Adi Shankara, will not attend the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on January 22.
- The seers oversee mathas in Dwarka, Joshimath, Puri and Sringeri.



- **Shankaracharya** is a **religious title** used by the heads of amnaya monasteries called **mathas** in the **Advaita Vedanta** tradition of **Hinduism**.
- The title derives from **Adi Shankara**, who was an **8th-century Indian Vedic scholar** and teacher (acharya) and the most **renowned exponent** of the **Advaita Vedanta school of philosophy**.



# ADVAITA SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY

- The **Advaita Vedanta tradition** is a school of **Hindu philosophy** that espouses **non-dualism**, emphasizing the **unity** of the **individual soul** (atman) with the **ultimate reality** (brahman).
- It is based on the **teachings** of the **Upanishads** and was most notably expounded by **Adi Shankara** in the **8th century**.
- It is considered one of the **major philosophical systems** in **Hinduism** and has had a profound influence on Indian thought.

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