

# MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

1. INDIA-MALDIVES RELATION



GS-2

2. UNREST IN MYANMAR AFFECTS ACT EAST POLICY

IMPLEMENTATION



GS-2

3. CHILIKA LAKE



PRELIMS

4. PRERANA PROGRAM



PRELIMS

Competition Care®

# APSC PRELIMS CRASH COURSE

Online mode



- Regular online class
- Study materials (soft copy)
- Current affairs yearly compilation
- Sectional mock test
- Weekly test based on the topics covered

- Special emphasis on Assam section
- Sunday doubt clearing sessions
- PYQ analysis
- Test Series
- Special class on PYQ

**8 FREE  
MOCK TEST**

Competition Care®

# APSC CCE PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2024

Online mode

Starting from 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2024



## JOIN NOW!

- Total 30 Tests: Sectional & Full Length Tests.
- 4 Tests Specifically for Assam based topics.

+91 7099094244, 7002355399

[www.competitioncare.com](http://www.competitioncare.com)

**5 CSAT  
TESTS FREE**

# PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

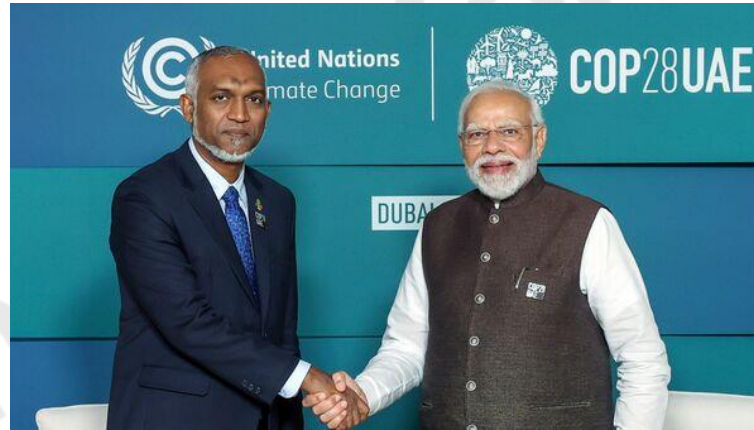
Q. Consider the following statements with regards to sun:

- 1) The Sun rotates faster at its equator than it does at its poles.
- 2) Sunspots are darker and hotter than other regions of the Sun.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

# INDIA-MALDIVES RELATION



# CONTEXT

- The **Maldives government** suspended three deputy ministers for making derogatory remarks on **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** recent visit to **Lakshadweep** on social media.



# RECENT SHIFTS IN INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS

- Following his inauguration, the President of Maldives opted for **Turkey** as his **initial foreign destination** instead of **India**, a departure from the practices of previous Presidents.
- The newly elected Maldivian President had officially urged India to remove military personnel from the islands as part of the "**India Out**" initiative.

- In contrast to India, Sri Lanka and Mauritius, the Maldives abstained from participating in the NSA-level Colombo Security Conclave.
- Upon the expiration of the hydrography cooperation agreement with India in June 2024, the Maldives has decided against its renewal.



## CURRENT SITUATION

- The **Maldives government** has expressed concerns about the **promotion of tourism** in **Lakshadweep**, which it perceives as an attempt to draw tourists away from the Maldives, whose economy is heavily dependent on tourism.
- The controversy has led to calls for an Indian boycott of Maldives tourism, with some Indian holidaymakers canceling their trips to the island chain.

# MAJOR AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND MALDIVES

➤ **Defence and Security:** Defence and security has been a **major area of cooperation** between India and Maldives since 1988 and it was further consolidated after the signing of the **Action Plan for Defence** in April 2016.



➤ **Trade and Commerce:** India and Maldives signed a trade agreement in 1981, which provides for export of essential commodities. Bilateral trade is not commensurate with their potential, but it has been growing steadily. In 2021, India became Maldives' third-largest trade partner.

- **Infrastructure Projects:** India is working on the **Greater Male Connectivity Project**.
- **Tourism:** In 2023, **India** is the **leading source market** for **Maldives** due to **Open skies agreement**.

# GREATER MALE CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

- The **Greater Male Connectivity Project** (GMCP), also known as the Thilamalé Bridge or Malé-Thilafushi Bridge, is a significant infrastructure project in the Maldives aimed at **linking** the **capital, Malé**, with the **islands** of Villingili, Gulhifalhu, and Thilafushi.

# TOURISM POTENTIAL IN LAKSHADWEEP

- **Lakshadweep**, an **Indian island chain** in the **Laccadive Sea** has immense **potential** for **tourism** and the Indian government is actively working on **enhancing** the **tourism infrastructure** in the region.



# SOME OF THE ASPECTS THAT MAKE IT AN ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION

- **Natural Beauty:** The **islands** are known for their **unspoiled beaches**, **crystal-clear lagoons** and **tranquil surroundings**, making them an ideal location for a peaceful and scenic getaway.
- **Water Sports and Marine Life:** The **lagoons** surrounding the islands offer **excellent potential** for **water sports** such as swimming, wind-surfing, diving, snorkeling, and kayaking.

- **Tourist Attractions:** The islands are home to various tourist attractions such as the **Kavaratti Island Lagoon**, **Pitti Bird Sanctuary**, **Kadmat Islands** and **Thinnakara**, which offer unique experiences for visitors.
- **Tourism Infrastructure Development:** The Indian government is actively working on enhancing the tourism infrastructure in Lakshadweep.

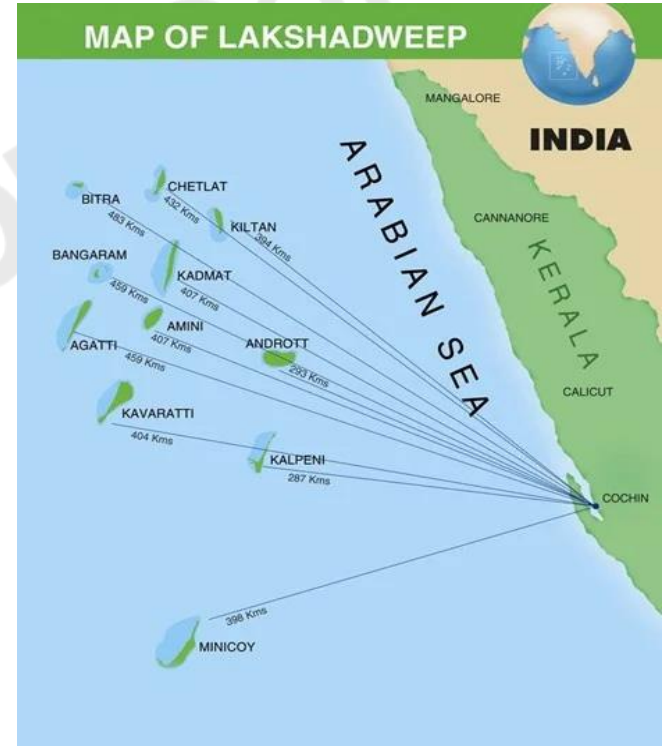


➤ **India's smallest Union Territory**

**Lakshadweep** is an **archipelago** consisting of **36 islands** with an area of 32 sq km.

➤ It is a **uni-district Union Territory** and the islands were constituted a **union territory** in **1956**.

➤ The **principal islands** in the territory are **Minicoy** and those in the **Amindivi group**.



# CULTURE & HERITAGE

- **Kolkali** and **Parichakali** are the two **popular folk art forms** in the territory.
- They are an **integral part** of the cultural milieu except in **Minicoy** where “**LAVA**” is the most popular dance form.
- Some of the folk dances have a **resemblance** with those in **North Eastern India**.

## PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection (KLI-SOFC) project.

1. The project involves extending submarine cable connectivity from the mainland (Kochi) to eleven Lakshadweep Islands.
2. It has been funded by the Universal Services Obligation Fund.

Select the correct codes.

- A. 1 only.
- B. 2 only.
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither of them.

# UNREST IN MYANMAR AFFECTS ACT EAST POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

## Unrest in Myanmar hits Act East Policy implementation

**R DUTA CHOUDHURY**

GUWAHATI, Jan 7: Implementation of the much talked about Act East Policy of the Government of India has hit a major roadblock due to the ongoing war-like situation in Myanmar and there is no hope of completion of the ongoing projects till the situation in the neighbouring country improves.

Official sources admitted before *The Assam Tribune* that the Act East Policy implementation would be a difficult proposition till the situation in Myanmar im-

proves. The Prime Minister has been declaring time and again that through the Act East Policy, the North East region would be the gateway of India towards the East as the Government is planning to improve trade and commerce with the ASEAN through the implementation of the Policy. But now no one is sure when the situation in Myanmar will improve and under the present war-like situation, it will be impossible to reach out to the ASEAN through Myanmar.

Sources pointed out that two of the major components

of the Act East Policy are the trilateral highway connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand and the Kaladan project. Both projects are nearing completion but the current situation in Myanmar makes it difficult to predict when the situation will be conducive for the operation of the projects.

Sources said that the four-lane 1,360-km Trilateral Highway was approved in 2002 and the construction started in 2012. The Highway, which starts from Moreh in India and goes via Myanmar to touch Mae Sot in Thailand, is nearing completion. But the problem is

that the major portion of the Highway is in Myanmar and it will be difficult to complete it and make it operational till the situation in Myanmar improves.

The main aim of the construction of the Highway is to open up the North East region of India to reach out to the ASEAN and the Government was hoping that it would give a major boost to trade and commerce. The other objective of the construction of the Highway is to improve regional cooperation.

» SEE PAGE 3

# CONTEXT

- **Act East Policy** of India faces setbacks due to conflict in **Myanmar**, delaying projects until stability returns.



# KEY ASPECTS OF THE ACT EAST POLICY

- Aim: The policy is designed to promote **economic cooperation**, **cultural ties**, and develop **strategic relationships** with countries in the **Indo-Pacific region**. It adopts a **proactive** and **pragmatic approach**, aiming to boost the economic development of the **North Eastern Region (NER)** of India, which serves as a gateway to **Southeast Asia**.

# ORIGIN & EVOLUTION

- The **Look East Policy** was initiated in **1992** by former Prime Minister **P.V. Narasimha Rao**, post the **Cold War**, to enhance relationships with the **USA** and **Southeast Asian** countries.
- The **Act East Policy**, announced in **November 2014**, is a more comprehensive and strategic version, focusing not just on ASEAN countries but also on broader **economic integration**, **security cooperation**, and extending to East Asian countries.

# DIFFERENCES FROM LOOK EAST POLICY

- While the Look East policy was primarily centered on ASEAN countries and economic integration, the Act East Policy expands its focus to include East Asian nations and emphasizes security cooperation.
- It also introduces the 4C's: Culture, Commerce, Connectivity, and Capacity building.



# SECURITY DIMENSION

- Given the rising **assertiveness** of **China** in the **South China Sea** and the **Indian Ocean**, securing freedom of **navigation** and establishing **India's role** in the Indian Ocean are key elements of the **Act East Policy**.
- This is aligned with India's engagement in the **Indo-Pacific narrative** and the **Quad informal grouping**.

# CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVES

- **Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link with Bangladesh:** A project to enhance connectivity between India and Bangladesh.
- **Intermodal Transport Linkages through Bangladesh:** Developing various modes of transport across Bangladesh to improve regional connectivity.
- **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project:** A project focusing on multiple modes of transport to facilitate trade and connectivity.

- **Trilateral Highway Project**: A highway connecting Northeast India with Myanmar and Thailand, promoting regional integration.
- **India-Japan Act East Forum** (established in **2017**): An initiative to identify and develop specific projects aimed at the **economic modernization** of India's **North-East region** under the broader policy.

# CURRENT CHALLENGES

- The current instability in Myanmar is hindering the progress of important **connectivity initiatives**.
- The construction of a major highway spanning from **Moreh** in India to **Mae Sot** in Thailand via Myanmar is being delayed due to the unrest.
- The development of a new sea route linking Kolkata with Northeast India through Myanmar is also facing setbacks.

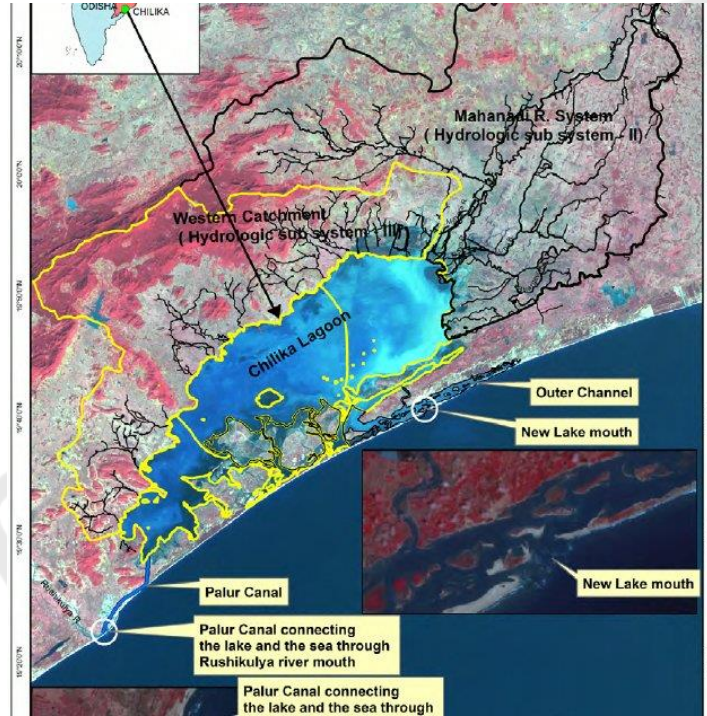
- These projects are vital for improving India's links with countries in the ASEAN region.
- The ongoing conflict in Myanmar creates uncertainty about the timely completion and activation of these projects.

# MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. "Act East policy will help to develop the economy and infrastructure of Assam" Support the statement and leave your comments

Competition Care®

# CHILIKA LAKE



# CONTEXT

- The **Ministry of Tourism** organizes training programs at **Chilika Lake** as part of the **Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme**.





# AMRIT DHAROHAR CAPACITY INITIATIVE

- The Amrit Dharohar Capacity Initiative aims to boost the economic well-being of **local communities** by tapping into the potential of **nature-based tourism** at **Ramsar Sites** nationwide.
- This approach not only promotes **sustainable tourism** but also underscores the ecological significance of these **wetlands**, fostering a harmonious balance between **economic development** and **environmental conservation**.

# ABOUT CHILLIKA LAKE

- Located on the **eastern coast** of **Odisha**, India.
- A significant **brackish water lagoon**.
- India's largest coastal lagoon and the world's second largest after the **New Caledonian barrier reef**.

- A **shallow water body**, separated from the sea by narrow strips of landforms like reefs or barrier islands.
- Recognized for its ecological importance, designated as a Ramsar Site and a tentative **UNESCO World Heritage site**.
- Gained prominence in **1981** as the **first Indian wetland** of international importance under the **Ramsar Convention**.

# PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Consider the following statements about Chilika Lake:

1. It is a Sweet Water Lake situated in Odisha
2. Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

# PRERANA PROGRAM



एक अनुभवात्मक ज्ञान कार्यक्रम

# CONTEXT

- The **Indian Ministry of Education** has introduced '**Prerana: An Experiential Learning Program**' to offer a distinctive and enriching experience for selected students in grades **IX to XII**.



# FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM

- Prerana' is a **week-long** residential program at a **Vernacular School**, with mentorship from experts from renowned institutions.
- The curriculum includes **yoga, mindfulness, meditation, hands-on learning, thematic sessions**, and **heritage site tours**, based on nine value-driven themes.
- The program promotes the ethos of “**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,**” encouraging contributions towards India's development.

By the Officers,  
For the Officers

Competition Care®