





# MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

1. FIVE WETLANDS TO RAMSAR SITES  PRELIMS
2. CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI), 2023  PRELIMS
3. STARTUP SHALA  PRELIMS
4. DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT (ED)  **The Indian EXPRESS** GS-2,  
PRELIMS

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## PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The e-court Mission Project is monitored by-

- A. Department of Economic Affairs
- B. Department of Justice
- C. Department of Home
- D. None of the above

## PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The last capital of Ahom Kingdom-

- A. Garhgaon
- B. Rangpur
- C. Charaideo
- D. Jorhat

# FIVE WETLANDS TO RAMSAR SITES



## CONTEXT

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment Shri Bhupender Yadav said on the eve of **World Wetlands Day 2024**, India has increased its tally of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) to **80** from existing 75 by designating five more wetlands as Ramsar sites.

- With the addition of these wetlands, the total area covered under Ramsar sites in India is **now 1.33 million hectares**.  
Tamil Nadu continues to have the maximum number of Ramsar Sites (**16 sites**), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).
- India, as one of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention **since 1971**.



- World Wetlands Day is celebrated globally on **February 2nd**, commemorating the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971. India ratified this convention on February 1, 1982.
- The theme for World Wetlands Day 2024 is '**Wetlands and Human Wellbeing**,' highlighting the crucial role wetlands play in enhancing human lives.

**FIVE NEWLY  
DESIGNATED  
RAMSAR  
SITES**

- **Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Karnataka**
  - Total area: 98.76 hectares
- **Aghanashini Estuary, Karnataka**
  - Total area: 4801 hectares
- **Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve, Karnataka**
  - Total area: 54.38 hectares

- **Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu**
  - Total area: 453.72 hectares
  
- **Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, Tamil Nadu**
  - Total area: 116.007 hectares

## PRELIMS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q. Aghanashini Estuary is located at-

A. Assam

B. Telangana

C. Andhra Pradesh

D. Karnataka

# CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI), 2023



## CONTEXT

- India ranked **93** out of 180 countries on Corruption Perceptions Index 2023.

- Released by: **Transparency International**
- Ranks countries and territories by their perceived levels of **public sector corruption**, on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- In 2023, **Denmark ranked first**, followed by Finland, New Zealand, and Norway.
- India was ranked 85 in 2022

## ABOUT CPI

## PRELIMS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q. Corruption Perceptions Index is released by-

- A. Oxfam International
- B. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- C. Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- D. Transparency International



# STARTUP SHALA



## CONTEXT

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched 'StartupShala' - Startup India's flagship accelerator program.

## ABOUT STARTUPSHALA

- Sector-specific initiative for existing entrepreneurs to provide them access to knowledge, network, funds, and guidance required to scale up.
- **Three month long** accelerator program.
- 2 Cohorts - Clean Technology and Deep Technology.
- **20 startups** will be selected from each cohort.

## PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Startup India was launched in the year-

- A. 2024
- B. 2019
- C. 2014
- D. 2016

# DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT (ED)



## CONTEXT

- As of February 1, 2024, the ED has reportedly arrested **Hemant Soren** in connection with a money laundering case.

- The ED is a domestic law enforcement and economic intelligence agency.
- It operates under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance,** Government of India.
- It focuses on enforcing economic laws and combating economic crimes such as money laundering, foreign exchange violations, and other economic offenses.

- The Enforcement Directorate was formed on **May 1, 1956**.
- It is headquartered in **Delhi** and is headed by a **Director of Enforcement**, who is a **Legal Service Officer**.



- The primary objective of the ED **is to curb the generation and circulation of black money.**
- It aims to ensure compliance with laws related to foreign exchange and prevent money laundering.
- The Directorate has **five regional offices** located in Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata, and Delhi.

- The Director of Enforcement currently holds a fixed **two-year tenure**.
- An ordinance allows the President of India to grant three annual extensions to the Director.

By the Officers,  
For the Officers