



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 February 2025

FISHERY SURVEY OF INDIA (FSI)



A deep-sea fishing expedition by the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) recently revealed several highly productive, potentially untouched fishing grounds in the Arabian Sea.

- The FSI, under the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying**, is the **nodal fishery institute in India**.
- **Primary Responsibility:** Survey and assessment of fishery resources in the **Indian exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and adjoining areas** for their optimum utilization and sustainable development.

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

History:

- It was **established** in the year **1946** as **Deep Sea Fishing Station** with the objective of augmenting food supply through the **development of deep-sea fishing**.
 - It graduated to the **status of a survey institute in the year 1974** under the name **Exploratory Fisheries Project**, with bases known as Offshore Fishing Stations in all the maritime states.
 - The objectives of exploratory fishing and charting of fishing grounds, training of fishing operatives, and testing commercial possibilities of deep-sea fishing were assigned to it.
 - **In 1983** it was reorganized and **upgraded as a national institute, the FSI**.
 - It was **recognised as a Science & Technology Institute** in the year 1988.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 February 2025

SAFTA



- It is the free trade arrangement of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- The agreement came **into force in 2006**, succeeding the 1993 SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement.
- **SAFTA signatory countries:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- SAFTA recognizes the need for special and differential treatment for LDCs in its preamble.
- The objectives of this Agreement are to promote and enhance mutual trade and economic cooperation among Contracting States by, inter-alia:
 - **Eliminating barriers to trade** in, and facilitating the cross-border movement of goods between the territories of the Contracting States;
 - **Promoting conditions of fair competition** in the free trade area, and ensuring equitable benefits to all Contracting States, taking into account their respective levels and pattern of economic development;
 - **Creating effective mechanism** for the implementation and application of this Agreement, for its joint administration and for the resolution of disputes; and
 - Establishing a framework for **further regional cooperation** to expand and enhance the mutual benefits of this Agreement.

UK-INDIA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SCHEME



- It was conceived as part of an **India-U.K. Migration and Mobility MoU** signed in May 2021 and was announced in November at

Current Affairs - 12 February 2025

the 2022 G20 summit in Bali.

- It was formally **launched in February 2023**.
- **Features:**
 - It allows Indian citizens between **18 and 30 years** old to live and work in the UK for up to 2 years.
 - It will enable **candidates to enter the UK at any time** while their visa is valid and leave and return anytime during their stay.

Eligibility to get Visa under this initiative:

- One has to be an Indian national **aged between 18 and 30 years**.
- One must have a bachelor's degree or above.
- One must have 2,530 pounds in savings.
- One **must not have any children under the age of 18** who live with you or whom you are financially supporting.
- A person must be selected in the India Young Professionals Scheme ballot before s/he can apply for a Young Professionals Scheme visa.
- S/he cannot apply if already been in the UK under this scheme or the Youth Mobility Scheme visa.
- In case the applicant is issued a visa, s/he must enter the UK within six months of the date on which the visa was issued.

Once in the UK, the applicant can:

- **Study -for certain degree programs**, such as post-graduation or research in sensitive subjects in the UK, an additional certificate under the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) needs to be applied before starting the course or research.
- **Be self-employed and set up a company** - as long as the premises are rented, equipment is not worth more than £5,000 and does not have any employee



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 February 2025

DEVOLUTION INDEX



- It is a result of meticulous research and empirical analysis, providing insights into the progress of decentralization across States and Union Territories.
- The Index **evaluates six critical dimensions:** Framework, Functions, Finances, Functionaries, Capacity Building, and Accountability of the Panchayats
- The Index specifically examines how ‘free’ Panchayats are to make and implement independent decisions, reflecting the true spirit of **Article 243G of the Constitution.**
 - This article empowers State legislatures to devolve powers and responsibilities to Panchayats across **29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule.**
- It serves as a tool for strengthening cooperative federalism and local self-governance, enabling States to identify areas for improvement and adopt best practices for more empowered and effective Panchayats.
- What sets this Index apart is its practical utility for multiple stakeholders.
 - **For citizens,** it provides **transparency in tracking** Panchayat functioning and resource allocation.
 - **For elected representatives,** it offers **data-driven insights** for advocacy and reform.
 - **For government officials,** it serves as a **roadmap for implementing** effective decentralization policies.
 - **Policymakers** can use it to assess the overall health of local governance and identify where reforms are most urgently needed.
- **Significance:** The initiative aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat, where Panchayats serve as the foundation for rural transformation, driving inclusive growth and sustainable development at the grassroots level.

Current Affairs - 12 February 2025

GROSS DOMESTIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT

- The GDKP is a proposed metric to supplement Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by capturing the contribution of **knowledge-driven sectors, intellectual assets, and innovation** to the economy.
- Unlike GDP, which primarily measures economic output through production and consumption, GDKP aims to assess the impact of knowledge on economic and social development.

Need for GDKP in India

- The government recognizes that in an era of rapid technological advancements and digital transformation, traditional economic indicators may not fully reflect the value generated by intellectual capital, research, and innovation.
- **Capturing the Knowledge Economy**
 - India is experiencing growth in research, patents, software development, AI, digital services, and intellectual property.
 - These knowledge-driven sectors significantly contribute to economic progress but are not fully accounted for in GDP measurements.
- **Beyond Traditional Economic Indicators**
 - GDP focuses on tangible goods and services but does not adequately reflect knowledge creation, education, and digital transformation.
- **Aligning with Global Trends**
 - Many advanced economies are working on alternative indicators that measure intangible assets, digital innovation, and intellectual capital.
 - India aims to develop a framework that aligns with these international efforts.
- **Policy and Investment Decisions**
 - A well-defined GDKP could help the government formulate better policies for sectors like education, research, technology, and entrepreneurship. It could guide investment in knowledge infrastructure and skill development.

Current Affairs - 12 February 2025

Challenges in Implementing GDKP

- **Data Collection Issues**
 - Unlike GDP, which relies on well-established economic indicators, GDKP requires new methodologies to measure knowledge output.
 - Data on intellectual property, research output, digital innovation, and human capital development is fragmented and difficult to quantify.
- **Integration with GDP**
 - Since some aspects of knowledge contribution are already captured in GDP (e.g., Intellectual Property under Gross Fixed Capital Formation), integrating GDKP with GDP without duplication is a challenge.
- **Subjectivity in Measurement**
 - The National Statistical Commission earlier noted that defining and quantifying knowledge parameters is highly subjective and requires extensive refinement.
 - MoSPI has acknowledged the need for a proper methodology to ensure accuracy and avoid perception-based estimations.

Conclusion

India's move to explore GDKP reflects its ambition to shift from a production-based economic model to a knowledge-driven one.

While challenges exist in defining and measuring knowledge contributions, a well-structured GDKP could provide valuable insights for policymaking, investment, and long-term economic planning in an increasingly digital and innovation-led economy.

ADDRESSING THE GROWING THREAT OF FOREST FIRES

- **Forest fires are a growing global crisis**, exacerbated by human activities and climate change. Recent wildfires in Los Angeles highlighted the devastating consequences of these disasters, bringing attention to the urgent need for preventive measures.

Current Affairs - 12 February 2025

The Rising Threat of Forest Fires in India

- **India's forests**, vital for biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods, **are increasingly vulnerable to fires**. Reports suggest that **over 36% of the country's forest cover is at risk**.
- Alarmingly, **incidents of forest fires have surged tenfold in the past two decades**, even as **overall forest cover has increased by a mere 1.12%**.
- States such as **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Karnataka are among the worst affected**, facing frequent and intense fires.
- Human activities are a primary cause of these fires, with **nearly 90% attributed to practices such as land clearing, slash-and-burn agriculture, and unattended campfires**.
- **Climate change further worsens the situation**, with rising temperatures and prolonged dry spells creating ideal conditions for wildfires to spread uncontrollably.

The Devastating Consequences of Forest Fires

- **Environmental Damage**
 - **The loss of trees and biodiversity disrupts ecosystems and threatens endangered species.**
 - **Fires contribute significantly to carbon emissions**, worsening global warming.
- **Economic Losses**
 - **The destruction of timber and non-timber forest products affects communities** reliant on forests for their livelihoods.
- **Social Disruptions**
 - **Fires force wildlife into human settlements**, increasing human-animal conflicts.
 - Health hazards from smoke and air pollution **exacerbate respiratory illnesses, particularly among vulnerable populations.**

Current Affairs - 12 February 2025

A Multi-Faceted Approach to Forest Fire Management

- **Strengthening Financial and Policy Support**
 - Policies must **prioritise long-term solutions**, including afforestation and sustainable land management practices.
 - **Leveraging Technology for Early Detection and Response**
 - **Implementing predictive modelling** using climatic and geographic data can help identify high-risk areas.
 - **Drones equipped with thermal imaging cameras can assist in fire detection**, damage assessment, and targeted firefighting efforts.
 - **Enhancing Community Involvement**
 - **Early warning systems can be strengthened** by equipping local communities with mobile applications, toll-free helplines, and SMS-based reporting tools.
 - **Educating and Training Local Populations**
 - **Awareness campaigns can help change behaviours** that contribute to fire risks.
 - Training local youth as **forest fire scouts can create a dedicated workforce** for early detection and prevention.
-

BRAHMAGIRI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



- It is nestled in the **Western Ghats** in the Kodagu district of **Karnataka**.
- It covers an area of about 181 sq.km.
- The sanctuary gets its name from the highest point, the **Brahmagiri peak**, which is 1607 m in height.
- **Rivers:** The **Lakshmana Tirtha River** originates in the sanctuary and is a **tributary of the Cauvery River**.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 12 February 2025

Terrain: The area is generally of undulating terrain with several steep valleys and hillocks.

Flora:

- The primary vegetation of the sanctuary includes **evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, shoal forest patches in grasslands, and bamboos.**
- It is **surrounded by coffee and cardamom plantations.**

Fauna:

- It is the home of the **lion-tailed macaque**, which is a rare and endangered species.
 - **Tiger, elephants, bonnet macaque, common langur**, barking deer, mouse deer, Malabar giant squirrel, **giant flying squirrel**, and Indian Gaur are the big mammals commonly found here.
-