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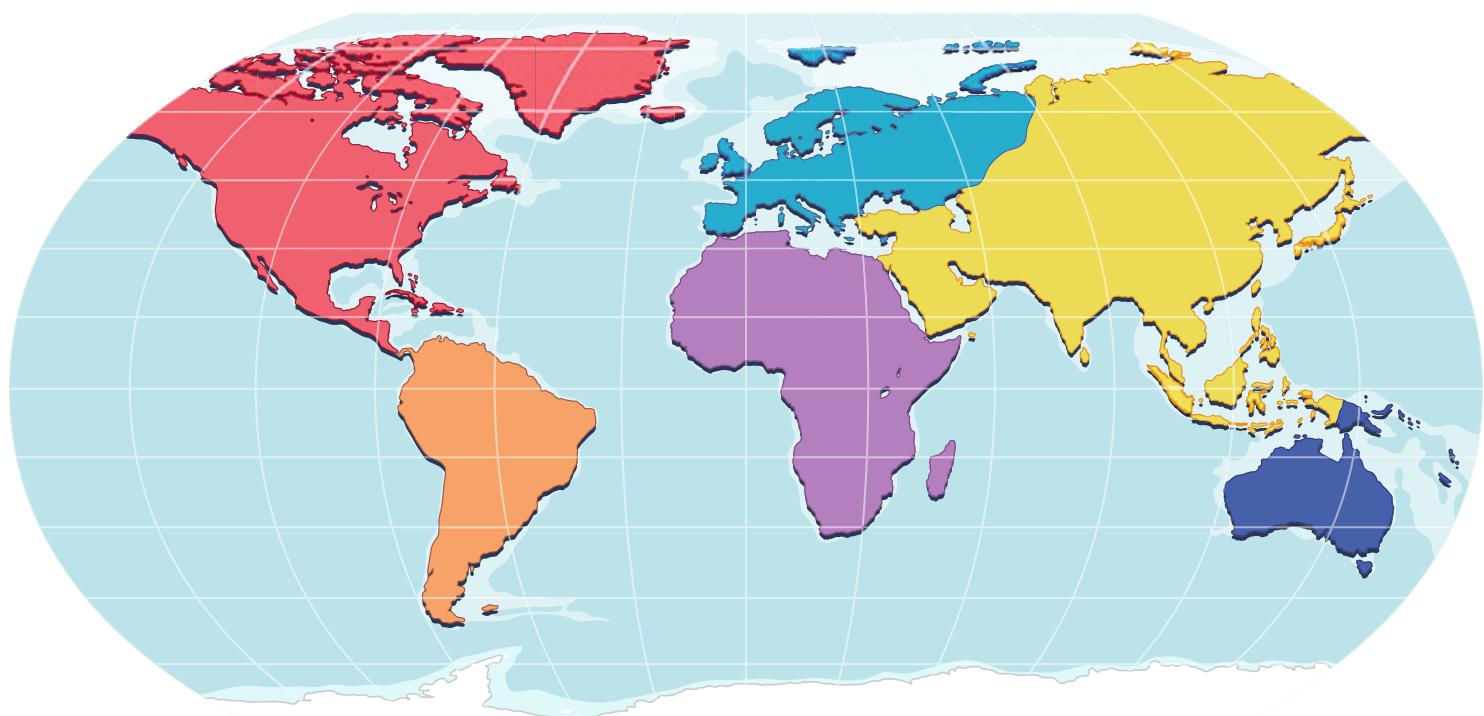
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1. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1.1. India and Neighbourhood

1. Nagorno-Karabakh Region

► **Context:** Russian peacekeepers have begun withdrawing from Nagorno-Karabakh following Azerbaijan's recapture of disputed territory from Armenian separatists.

► **About Nagorno-Karabakh Region:**

- Known as Artsakh by Armenians.
- A landlocked mountainous region officially recognized as part of Azerbaijan.



2. Ukraine (Capital: Kyiv)

► **Context:** Russian missiles attacked **Ukraine's** Snake Island, also known as **Zmiinyi Island**, located in the Black Sea.

► **Location:** Eastern Europe.

► **Land Borders:** Belarus (north), Russia (east), Moldova & Romania (southwest), Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland (west).

► **Water bodies:** The Sea of Azov & Black Sea are located to the south of Ukraine.



3. Nord Stream

► **Context:** New study reveals thousands of tonnes of methane may have dissolved in the **Baltic Sea** after explosions damaged the Nord Stream pipelines.

► **About Nord Stream:** It is a network of offshore pipelines (Nord Stream 1 and 2) supplying natural gas from **Russia** to northern **Germany**.



4. Kursk Region

- **Context:** Russia declared an emergency in the Kursk Region as Ukrainian forces had positioned themselves well into Russian territory
- **Location:** Situated in the central part of the Eastern European Plain, bordering Ukraine.
- **River Basins:** Includes the basins of the Dnieper and Don rivers.
- Also, armed militants launched an attack in **Russia's southern republic of Dagestan**



5. Lebanon (Capital: Beirut)

- **Context:** In recent escalations, Israel has intensified its offensive against Hezbollah by deploying more troops along Southern Lebanon.
- **Location:** Narrow strip of territory along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, situated in the Northern Arabian Peninsula in West Asia.
- **Bordering Countries:** Syria (north and northeast), Israel (south).
- **Maritime Boundary:** Cyprus.



6. Baltic Sea

- **Context:** Reportedly, Russian SU-24 bomber breached Swedish airspace near the strategically vital Baltic Sea Island of Gotland.
- **Baltic Sea** is an arm of the North Atlantic Ocean, connected to it through the Danish Straits.
- The **world's largest inland brackish sea**, with low salinity due to an influx of river waters.



7. Turkiye (Capital: Ankara)

► **Context:** Turkiye launched strikes targeting Kurdish militants in Iraq and Syria.

► **Location:**

► The **smaller northwestern** part of Turkey, including the **city of Istanbul**, lies in **Southeastern Europe** (the Balkan Peninsula). This region is known as **Eastern Thrace**.

► The **larger portion** of Turkey, called **Anatolia** (or **Asia Minor**), is located in **Western Asia**.

► **Borders:** Georgia and Armenia (northeast), Azerbaijan and Iran (east), Iraq and Syria (southeast), Greece and Bulgaria (northwest).

► **Water Bodies:** Bounded by the Black Sea (north), Mediterranean Sea (southwest), and Aegean Sea (west).



8. Gulf of Aden

► **Context:** Pirates' attack in the Gulf of Aden raises concern.

► **Gulf of Aden:** A deepwater basin that forms a natural sea link between the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.



9. Somalia (Capital: Mogadishu)

► **Context:** A suicide bombing and gun attack in Mogadishu resulted in the deaths of many civilians.

► **Location:** Situated on the Horn of Africa, it is the easternmost country in continental Africa.

► **Borders:** Djibouti (northwest), Ethiopia (west), and Kenya (southwest).

► **Water Bodies:** Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.



10. Abu Musa Island

- » **Context:** Iran summoned China's envoy over a China-UAE statement questioning Iran's sovereignty over the disputed Abu Musa Island and two other islands, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb.
- » **Disputes over Islands:** Claimed by both Iran and the UAE but has been held by Iran since 1971.
- » **Strategic Importance:** Located close to the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway through which about a fifth of the world's oil passes daily.

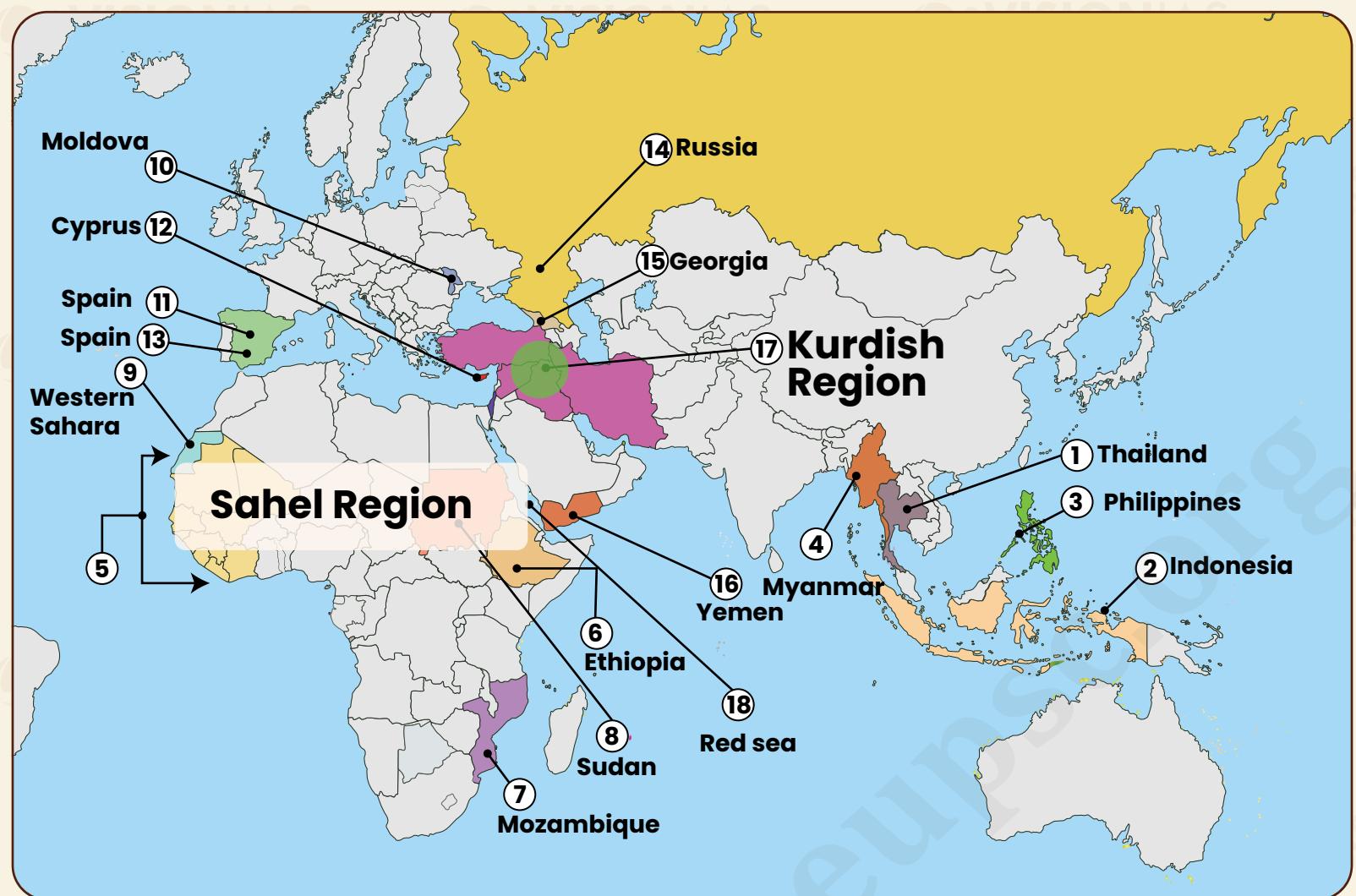


11. Senkaku Islands

- » **Context:** A joint statement by Japan and the USA recently opposed any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo of the Senkaku Islands by China.
- » **About Senkaku Islands:**
 - » Also known as Diaoyu in Chinese.
 - » Located in the East China Sea, approximately 410 km west of Okinawa Island.



1.2. Other Conflict Areas in News



SOUTH EAST ASIA

1.	Southern Thailand (Patani Conflict) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Factions: Thai government vs. Malay-Muslim separatists. ► Reasons: Ethnic and religious tensions, autonomy demands.
2.	West Papua (Indonesia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Factions: Indonesian government vs. Free Papua Movement (OPM). ► Reasons: Independence movement, resource exploitation, and cultural suppression.
3.	Mindanao (Philippines) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Factions: Philippine government vs. MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front). ► Reasons: Autonomy, Islamic governance, and extremism.
4.	Kachin State (Myanmar) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Factions: Myanmar military vs. Kachin Independence Army (KIA). ► Reasons: Ethnic autonomy, resource control.

5.	Sahel Region (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger) ► Factions: Governments vs. jihadist groups, ethnic militias. ► Reasons: Insurgency, ethnic tensions, weak governance.
6.	Tigray (Ethiopia) ► Factions: Ethiopian government vs. Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). ► Reasons: Political power struggle, autonomy demands.
7.	Mozambique (Cabo Delgado) ► Factions: Government vs. ISIS-Mozambique. ► Reasons: Islamist insurgency, resource exploitation.
8.	Sudan (Darfur and Post-Coup Unrest) ► Factions: Military vs. civilians, Rapid Support Forces vs. rebel groups. ► Reasons: Power struggle, ethnic violence.
9.	Western Sahara ► Factions: Morocco vs. Polisario Front. ► Reasons: Independence dispute over territory.

EUROPE

10.	Transnistria (Moldova) ► Factions: Moldovan government vs. Transnistrian separatists (Russian-backed). ► Reasons: Independence declaration in 1990.
11.	Basque Country (Spain) ► Factions: Spanish government vs. Basque Homeland and Liberty. ► Reasons: Basque independence movement.
12.	Cyprus (Greek-Turkish Divide) ► Factions: Greek Cypriots vs. Turkish Cypriots. ► Reasons: Ethnic and political division since 1974.
13.	Catalonia (Spain) ► Factions: Spanish government vs. Catalan independence movement. ► Reasons: Autonomy and independence demand.
14.	Chechnya (Russia) ► Factions: Russian government vs. Chechen separatists. ► Reasons: Independence dispute over territory.
15.	South Ossetia and Abkhazia (Georgia) ► Factions: Georgian government vs. Russian-backed separatists. ► Reasons: Independence declarations, Russian influence.

16. <p>Yemen (Civil War)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Factions: Houthi rebels vs. Yemeni government (Saudi-backed). ► Reasons: Sectarian tensions, political power struggle.
17. <p>Kurdish-Turkish Conflict (Northern Syria/Iraq)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Factions: Turkey vs. Kurdish groups (PKK, YPG). ► Reasons: Kurdish autonomy demands, Turkish security concerns.
18. <p>Red Sea and Houthis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Factions: Houthi rebels: A Shia militant group primarily based in Yemen Vs. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, etc. ► Reasons: Control over the Red Sea as the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, located at the southern end of the Red Sea, is a critical chokepoint for global trade, especially for oil shipments. ► India's Operation Sankalp: The Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' as a measure to assure the safety and security of the Indian vessels.

1.3. Places featuring International Developments

1. Israel (Capital: Jerusalem)

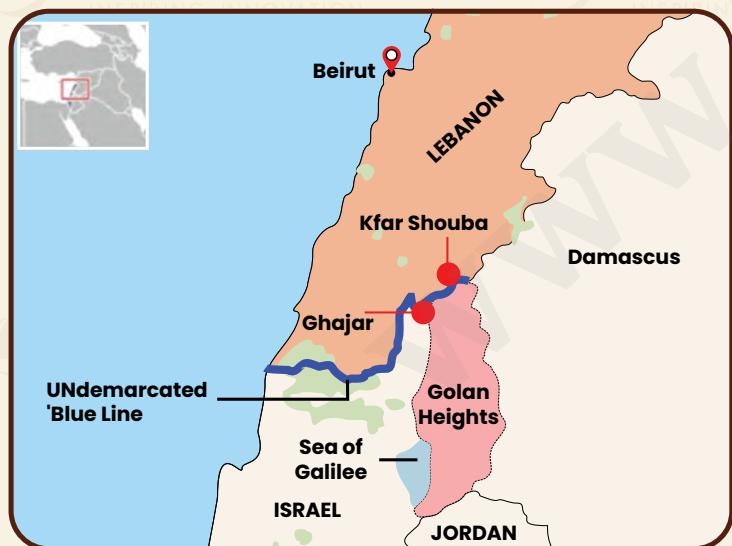
Israel (Capital: Jerusalem) [proclaimed capital; status: Disputed]; many countries recognize **Tel Aviv** as the **diplomatic capital**).

- **Context:** Israel has approved the reopening of the Erez crossing to allow the flow of more humanitarian aid into Gaza.
- **Location:** Israel is a country located in the **Middle East**.
- **Boundaries:** **Lebanon** (north), **Syria** (northeast), **Jordan** (east), and **Egypt** (southwest).
- **Water Bodies:** The Sea of Galilee; the Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba); the Dead Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea
- **It includes East Jerusalem** and the **Golan Heights**, both areas of territorial dispute.

About Erez Crossing: It is a border crossing between **Israel** and the **northern Gaza Strip**.

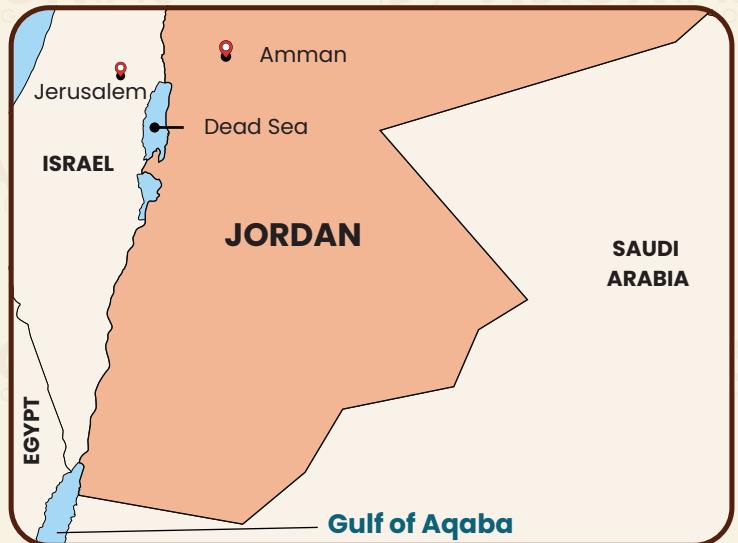
2. Blue Line

- **Context:** UN warns of escalating tensions on Lebanon-Israel 'Blue Line' frontier.
- **About Blue line:**
 - **Israel and Lebanon have no official border** separating them, except the Blue Line.
 - It was **set by the United Nations in 2000**.
 - It is made of **blue barrels** and runs from the **Mediterranean** to the **Golan Heights** to the **east**.



3. Jordan (Capital: Amman)

- **Context:** The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Jordan as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy.
- **Borders:** Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Palestine (West Bank).
- **Water Bodies:** Jordan River, Dead Sea, and Gulf of Aqaba.



4. Armenia (Capital: Yerevan)

- **Context:** Armenia has officially recognized Palestine as a state.
- **Location:** Landlocked country in Transcaucasia, a region south of the Caucasus Mountains.
- **Borders:** Azerbaijan, Turkey, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (an exclave of Azerbaijan), Georgia, and Iran.
- **Nagorno-Karabakh:** A disputed territory between Armenia and Azerbaijan.



5. Iraq (Capital: Baghdad)

- **Context:** UNSC voted to end the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), established in 2003 following the United States-led invasion.
- **Territorial Boundaries:** Türkiye (north), Iran (east), Syria and Jordan (west), Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait (south).
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Opens into the Persian Gulf.



6. Iran (Capital: Tehrān)

- **Context:** Iran's President had died in a helicopter crash.
- **Land Boundaries:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan (north); Afghanistan and Pakistan (east); Iraq (west); Turkey (northwest).
- **Maritime Borders:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.
- **Surrounding Water Bodies:** Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.



7. Uzbekistan (Capital: Tashkent)

- **Context:** The Chief of the Army Staff inaugurated a high-tech IT laboratory at the Academy of Armed Forces in Uzbekistan.
- **Location:** A double landlocked country in Central Asia.
- **Bordering Countries:** Kazakhstan (North), Kyrgyzstan (East), Tajikistan (South-east), Afghanistan (South), Turkmenistan (South-west).



8. United Arab Emirates (Capital: Abu Dhabi)

- **Context:** The UAE successfully completed the Arab world's first nuclear power plant.
- **Neighbors:** Saudi Arabia (west and south), Oman (east and northeast).
- **Maritime Borders:** Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf.



9. Thailand (Capital: Bangkok)

- **Context:** Thailand's senate has approved a bill to legalize same-sex marriage.
- **Land Borders:** Myanmar (northwest), Cambodia (east), Laos (northeast), and Malaysia (south).
- **Water Bodies:** Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand.



10. Lao PDR (Capital: Vientiane)

- **Context:** Prime Ministers of India and Lao PDR held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the East Asia **Summit**.
- **Location:** Landlocked country in Southeast Asia.
- **Borders:** China (north), Vietnam (east), Cambodia (southeast), Thailand (west), and Myanmar (northwest).



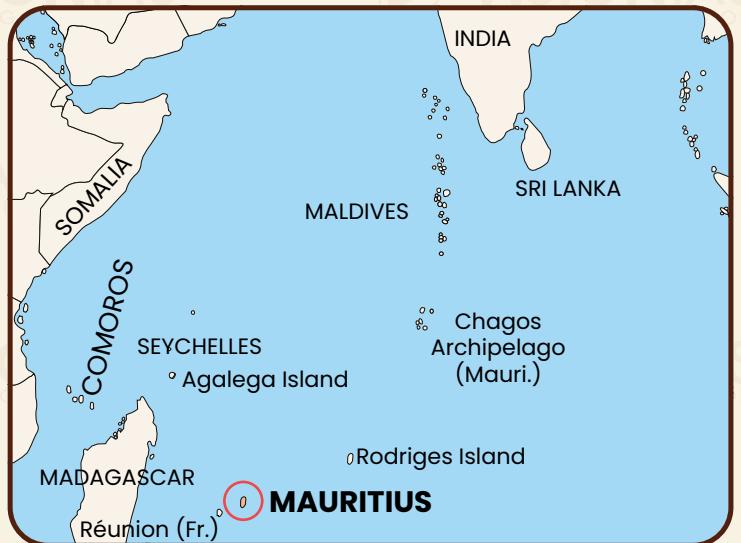
11. Philippines (Capital: Manila)

- **Context:** Recently, the Philippines Ambassador stated that BrahMos missiles offer a "credible defense" for the Southeast Asian country.
- **Water bodies:** Philippine Sea (east), Celebes Sea (south), Sulu Sea (southwest), and South China Sea (west and north).



12. Mauritius: (Capital: Port Louis)

- **Context:** India's first overseas Jan Aushadhi Kendra (JAK) inaugurated in Mauritius.
- **Location:** Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, located to the east of Madagascar and off the southeastern coast of Africa.
- **Neighbouring Islands:** Reunion Island (France) to the west & Seychelles in the northwest.



13. Chagos Islands

- **Context:** U.K. to restore sovereignty of Chagos islands to Mauritius
- **Location:** Island group in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), south of Maldives.



14. Rwanda: (Capital: Kigali)

- **Context:** UK Parliament passed the **Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill** which will give Britain's immigration authorities power to send any asylum seeker entering the UK "illegally" after January 2022 to Rwanda.
- **Location:** Landlocked country in **Central Africa**
- **Border:** Uganda (north), Tanzania (east), Burundi (south), and Democratic Republic of the Congo (west).
- **Lake Kivu**, which forms part of the western border with the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.



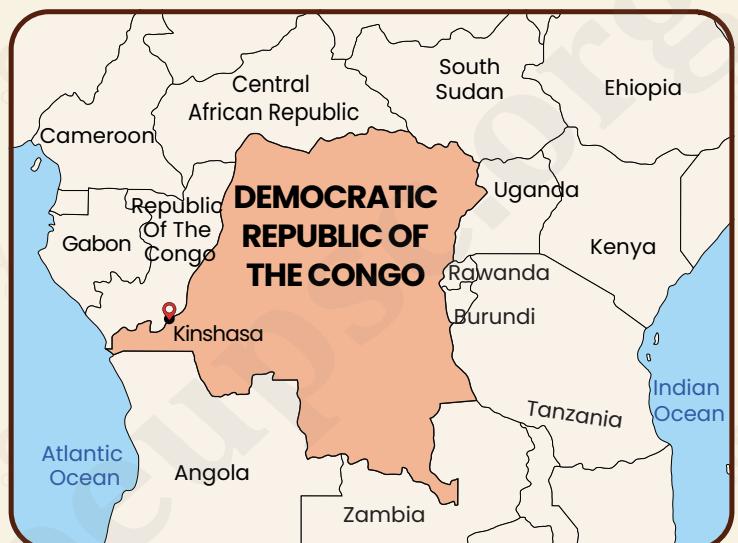
15. Togo (Capital: Lomé)

- **Context:** India and Togo have recently reviewed their bilateral relations.
- **Location:** Western Africa.
- **Borders:** Ghana (west), Benin (east), and Burkina Faso (north).
- **Water Bodies:** Gulf of Guinea (south).



16. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (Capital: Kinshasa)

- **Context:** The first secretary-level meeting between the defence ministries of India and the DRC was held.
- **Location:** Largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa, second largest in Africa (after Algeria).
- **Borders:** Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola.
- **Maritime Boundary:** Access to the Atlantic Ocean.



17. Ghana (Capital: Accra)

- **Context:** India and Ghana agreed to strengthen trade ties at the 4th Joint Trade Committee meeting in Accra.
- **Location:** West Africa, on the Gulf of Guinea.
- **Land Borders:** Burkina Faso (north), Togo (east), Côte d'Ivoire (west).
- **Maritime Border:** Atlantic Ocean (south).



18. Mali (Capital: Bamako)

- **Context:** Mali has banned media from reporting on activities of political parties and associations.
- **Location:** Landlocked country in western Africa.
- **Borders:** Algeria (north), Niger and Burkina Faso (east), Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea (south), Senegal and Mauritania (west).
- **Geographic Zone:** Mostly lies in the Sahel region, a transitional zone between the Sahara Desert (north) and humid savannas (south).



19. Zambia (Capital: Lusaka)

- **Context:** India-Zambia hold 6th Session of Joint Permanent Commission
- **A landlocked country in south-central Africa.**
- **Bordering Countries:** Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania (north), Malawi and Mozambique (east), Zimbabwe and Botswana (south), and Namibia and Angola (west).



20. Mexico (Capital: Mexico City)

- **Context:** Mexico became the first country to approve the popular election of judges.
- Also, Claudia Sheinbaum elected as the first woman president of Mexico.
- **Territorial Boundaries:** USA (north), Guatemala and Belize (southeast).
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Pacific Ocean (west/south), Gulf of Mexico (east), and Caribbean Sea (southeast).



21. Bolivia (Capitals: La Paz [administrative], Sucre [constitutional])

- **Context:** Bolivia is experiencing economic turmoil due to dependence on the U.S. dollar, depleting reserves, and rising debts.
- **Borders:** Brazil (north and east), Paraguay (southeast), Argentina (south), Chile (southwest and west), and Peru (northwest).



22. Panama (Capital: Panama City)

- **Context:** Panama becomes the first nation to evacuate the island community of Gardi Sugdub Island due to climate change impact.
- **Location:** Country of Central America, located on the Isthmus of Panama.
- **Isthmus of Panama:** A narrow bridge of land connecting North and South America.
- **Borders:** Costa Rica (west) and Colombia (east).
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Caribbean Sea (north) and Pacific Ocean (south).



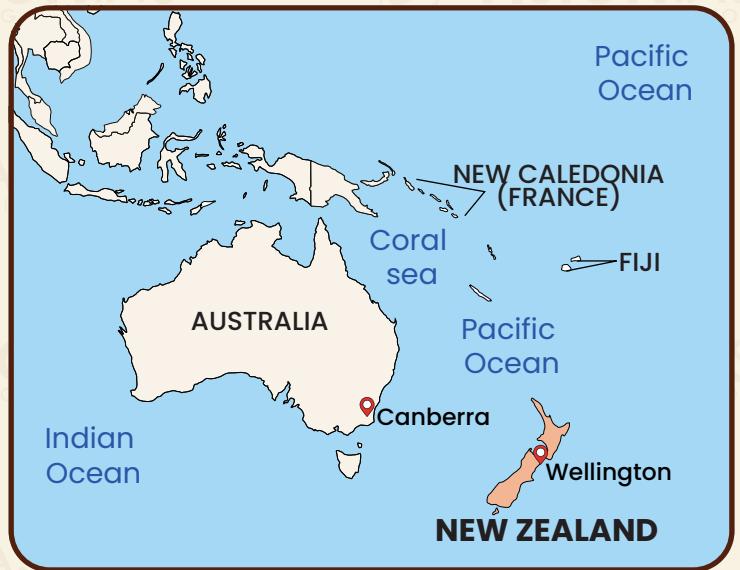
23. Trinidad & Tobago (Capital: Port of Spain)

- **Context:** Trinidad & Tobago has become the first country in the Caribbean region to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform.
- **Location:** Island country in the southeastern West Indies in the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Proximity:** Lies close to South America, northeast of Venezuela, and northwest of Guyana.



24. New Zealand (Capital: Wellington)

- **Context:** New Zealand has recognized India as the 'Country of Honour' for the year 2024.
- **Location:** Island country in the South Pacific Ocean, situated between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Antarctic Circle.
- **Components:** Comprises two main islands, North Island and South Island, separated by Cook Strait.



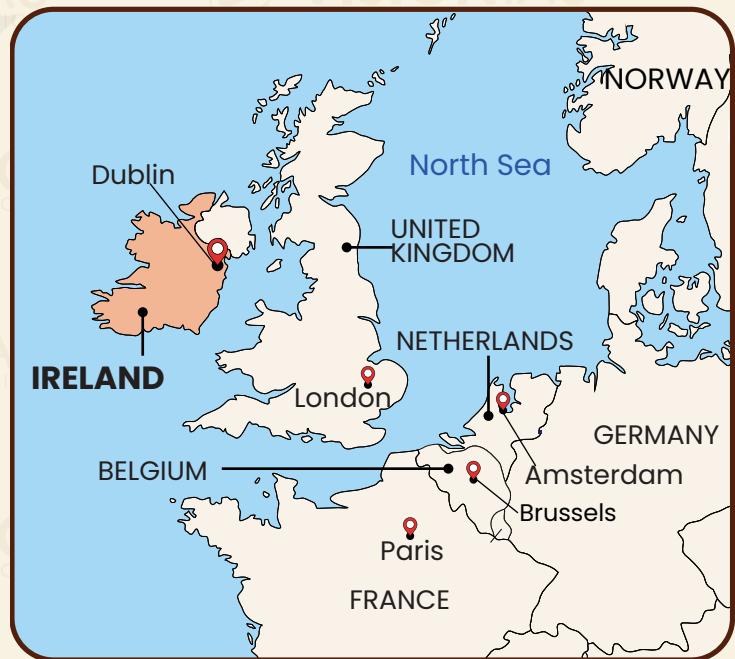
25. Croatia (Capital: Zagreb)

- **Context:** The incumbent Croatian Prime Minister secured office for the third consecutive time.
- **Location:** Southeast Europe, part of the Balkan Peninsula.
- **Boundaries:** Hungary and Slovenia (north), Serbia (east), Bosnia and Herzegovina (south and east), and Adriatic Sea (west).



26. Republic of Ireland (Capital: Dublin)

- **Context:** The Ireland Parliament elects a new Prime Minister.
- **Location:** Occupies most of an island west of Great Britain.
- **Borders:** Northern Ireland (north, part of the United Kingdom).
- **Surrounding Water Bodies:** Atlantic Ocean (west), Celtic Sea (south), Irish Sea (east).



27. Greece (Capital: Athens)

- **Context:** A recent report warns that Greece is facing an alarming population decline.
- **Location:** Southernmost country of the Balkan Peninsula.
- **Borders:** Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Turkey.
- **Surrounding Water Bodies:** Aegean Sea (east), Mediterranean Sea (south), Ionian Sea (west)



28. Netherlands (Capital: Amsterdam)

- **Context:** The 12th India-Netherlands Foreign Office Consultations were held in The Hague, Netherlands.
- **Location:** Northwestern Europe, also known as Holland.
- **Land Boundaries:** Belgium (south) and Germany (east).
- **Water Bodies:** North Sea (north and west). Island and South Island, separated by Cook Strait.



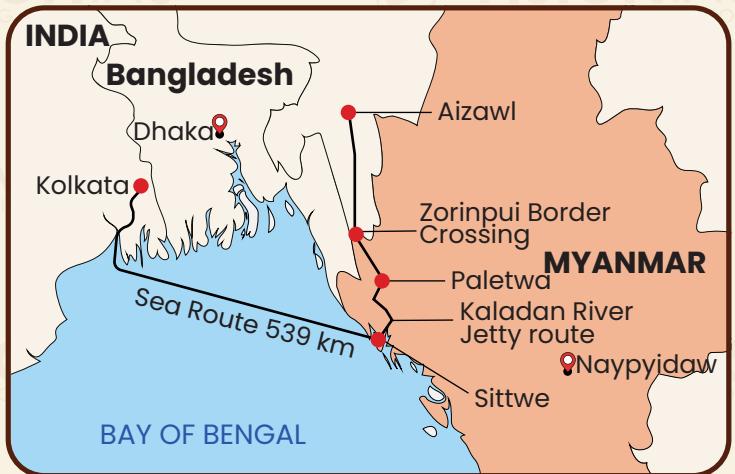
29. Latvia (Capital: Riga)

- **Context:** India has operationalized the new resident mission in Latvia.
- **Member of the European Union (EU) and NATO.**
- **Located** in northeastern Europe.
- **Land Boundaries:** Estonia (North), Russia (East), Belarus (Southeast), and Lithuania (South).
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga.



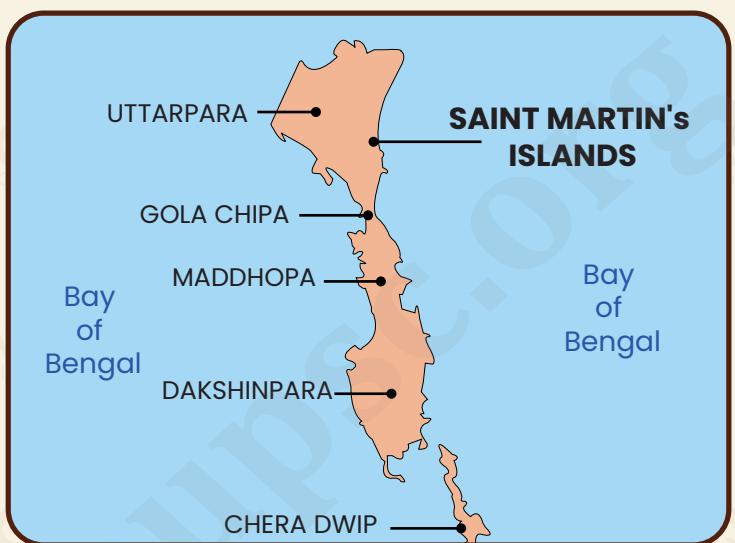
30. Sittwe Port, Myanmar

- **Context:** India has secured the right to operate its second overseas port, Sittwe, after approval from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- **About Sittwe Port:** A deep-water port located at the estuary of the Kaladan River in Rakhine State, Myanmar.
- **Significance:** It will enhance trade and transit opportunities for India's Northeast and improve commerce between India and Myanmar.



31. Saint Martin's Island

- **Context:** Reports have claimed that the US wanted to establish a military base on Saint Martin's Island of Bangladesh.
- **Location:** A small coral island in the northeastern part of the Bay of Bengal.
- **Sovereignty Agreement:** In 1974, Bangladesh and Myanmar agreed that the island would belong to Bangladesh.



32. Guam Island

- **Context:** India's INS Shivalik had visited Guam, an island territory of the United States.
- **Location:** The largest and southernmost island in the Mariana Islands chain, situated in the North Pacific Ocean. Island and South Island, separated by Cook Strait.



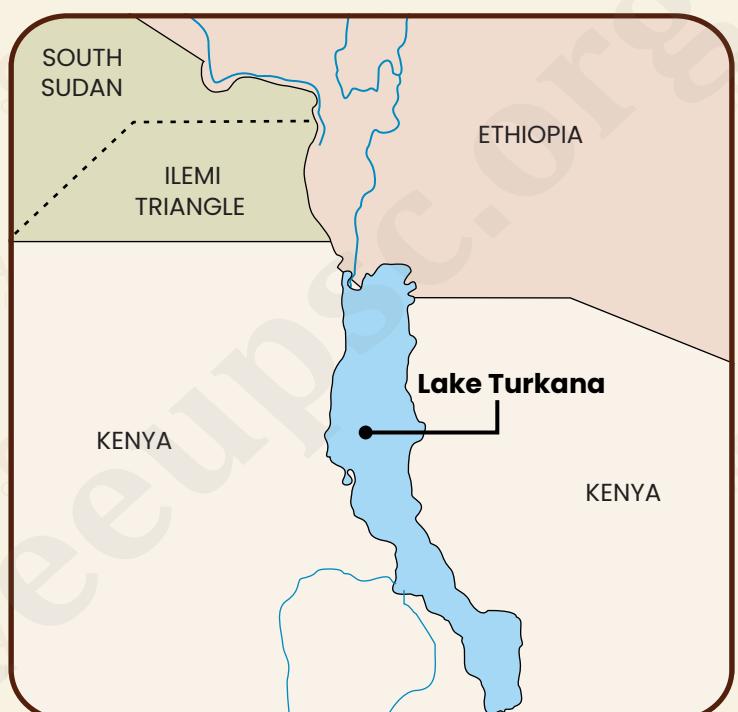
33. The Seine River

- **Context:** Paris mayor took a pre-Olympics dip to prove the Seine is clean ahead of the 2024 Games.
- **Length:** France's second-longest river (after the Loire).
- **Flow:** Flows in a northwesterly direction through Paris before emptying into the English Channel at Le Havre.
- **Origin:** Near Dijon, France.
- **Major Tributaries:** Marne, Aube, and Yonne.



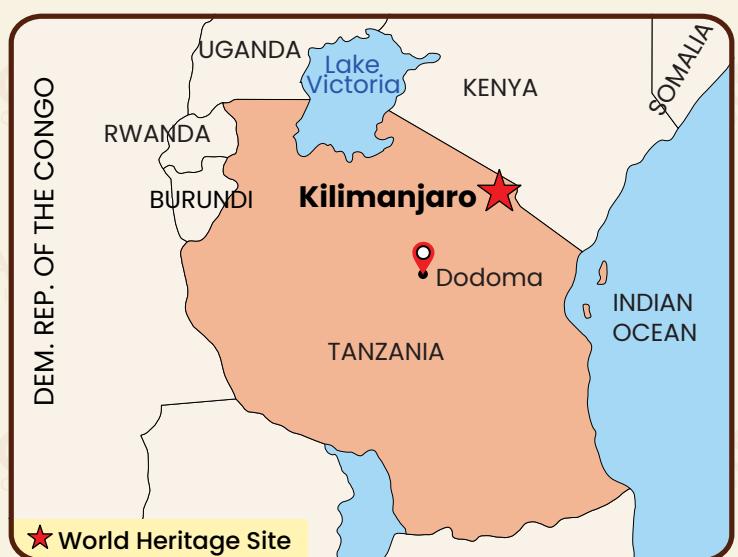
34. Lake Turkana

- **Context:** A comprehensive survey, held for the first time in 50 years, reveals high fish potential in Lake Turkana, led by UNESCO and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- **Location:** Situated in northwestern Kenya and southwestern Ethiopia.
- **Significance:** Africa's 4th largest lake and the largest permanent desert and alkaline lake in the world.
- **Water Source:** Omo River, located in Ethiopia.



35. Mount Kilimanjaro

- **Context:** An expedition team, under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence, unfurled the Indian national flag atop Uhuru Summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.
- **Location:** Tanzania, Africa.
- **Height:** The highest peak of Africa.
- **Significance:** The largest free-standing mountain rise in the world, meaning it is not part of a mountain range.
- **Type:** Stratovolcano, made of ash, lava, and rock.



36. Lipulekh pass

- **Context:** Indian traders are demanding resumption of border trade with China through Lipulekh pass which was closed during Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Location:** Located close to the **tri-junction of India, China (Tibet) and Nepal** and is situated in **Uttarakhand (Pithorgarh district)**.
- It is a major pass of Kumaun region situated in Kali Valley.
- Lipulekh Pass **significantly reduces travel time for Kailash Mansarovar Pilgrimage.**



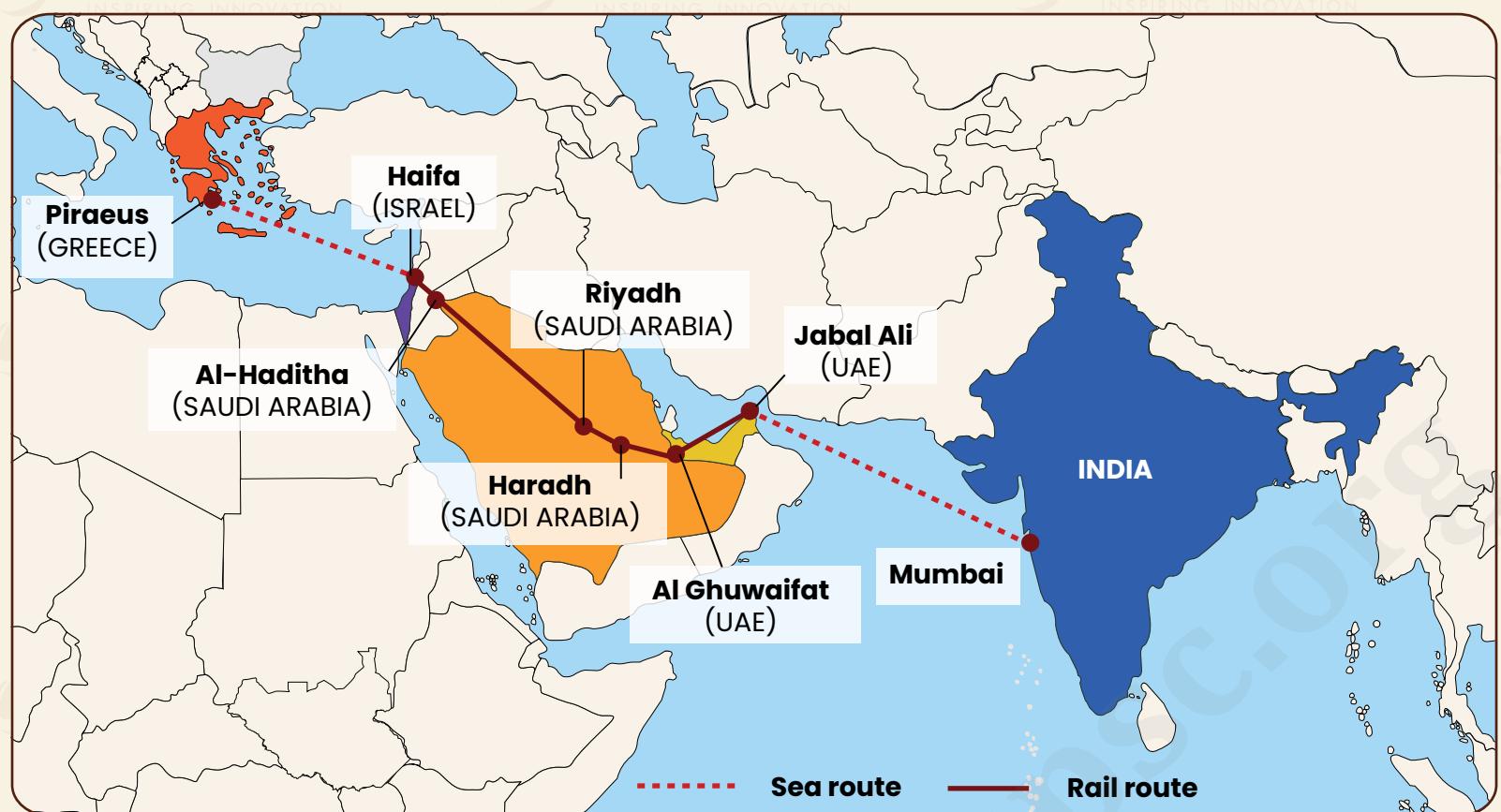
37. Suez Canal Route

- **Context:** India's Fuel Exports to Europe Shifted from Suez Canal to Cape of Good Hope.
- **Location: Egypt.**
- **Suez Canal connects Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea.**
- It's the **shortest maritime route between Asia and Europe.**



38. India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)

► **Context:** Minister of External Affairs, while addressing **CII India Mediterranean Business Conclave**, said that IMEC will be a cornerstone of global connectivity.



1.4. Bilateral Relations

1. India-China Border

- Recently, India and China agreed for disengagement and **resume patrolling in the Depsang Plains and Demchok** areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), as it was before the tensions in May 2020.



2. Pangong Tso

- China completes 400-meter bridge near Pangong Lake: Report
- About Pangong Tso**
 - It is **an endorheic lake situated in Leh district of Ladakh**.
 - World's **highest saltwater lake**.
 - One-third of the lake lies **in India** and the other two-thirds **in China**.
 - Neither a part of the **Indus River basin**, nor a **Ramsar Site**.
- Formerly, **Pangong lake had an outlet to Shyok River** (tributary of Indus) but it was closed off due to natural damming.



3. About China (Capital: Beijing)

- Important features**
 - Important Rivers:** Yangtze River, Yellow River, Mekong River, Amur River.
 - Desert:** Taklimakan Desert is the largest desert in **China** and second largest in the world.
 - Mountain ranges:** Kunlunshan Mountains, Tianshan Mountains.



4. Nepal

- **Context:** Nepal has decided to introduce a new currency note featuring Indian territories.

About Nepal (Capital: Kathmandu)

Important features

- **Boundaries:** Landlocked country between India and Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
- **Open border with 5 Indian states:** Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, and Sikkim.
- **Mountain Peaks:** Kanchenjunga, Dhaulagiri, Mount Everest (Sagarmatha).
- **River basins:** Koshi River Basin & Gandaki River Basin.



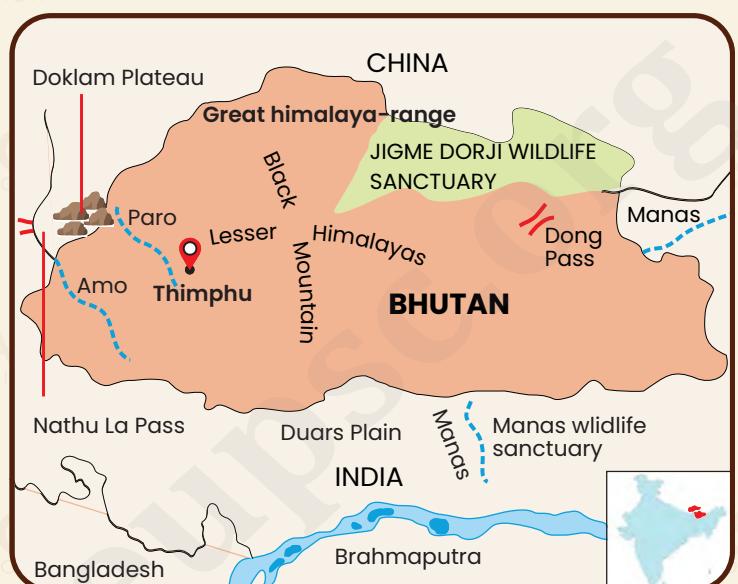
5. Bhutan

- During his visit to Bhutan, the Prime Minister of India was conferred the "**Order of the Druk Gyalpo**", the highest civilian honor in Bhutan.

About Bhutan (Capital: Thimphu)

Important features

- **Shares border with four Indian states:** Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Sikkim.
- **Landforms:** A mountainous country with rugged terrain, part of the Eastern Himalayas.
- **Key rivers:** Amo Chu (Flows into West Bengal and is called Torsa); Manas River (Flows into Assam).
- **Important Peaks:** Gangkhar Puensum.
- **Other Key Facts:**
 - Bhutan is the world's first carbon-negative country.
 - Bhutan was the first to adopt the **Gross National Happiness (GNH)** Index as the development indicator.



6. Bangladesh

- **Context:** After the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus had taken oath as the head of an interim government of Bangladesh.

About Bangladesh (Capital: Dhaka)

Important features

- **Boundaries:** 5 Indian states of **West Bengal** (west and north), **Assam** (north), **Meghalaya** (north and northeast), **Tripura and Mizoram** (east) & **Myanmar** (southeast).
- **Water bodies:** Bay of Bengal (south).
- **River:** The Jamuna - part of the Brahmaputra - is the longest.
- **Forest:** About 60% of the Sundarbans mangrove forest is in Bangladesh.



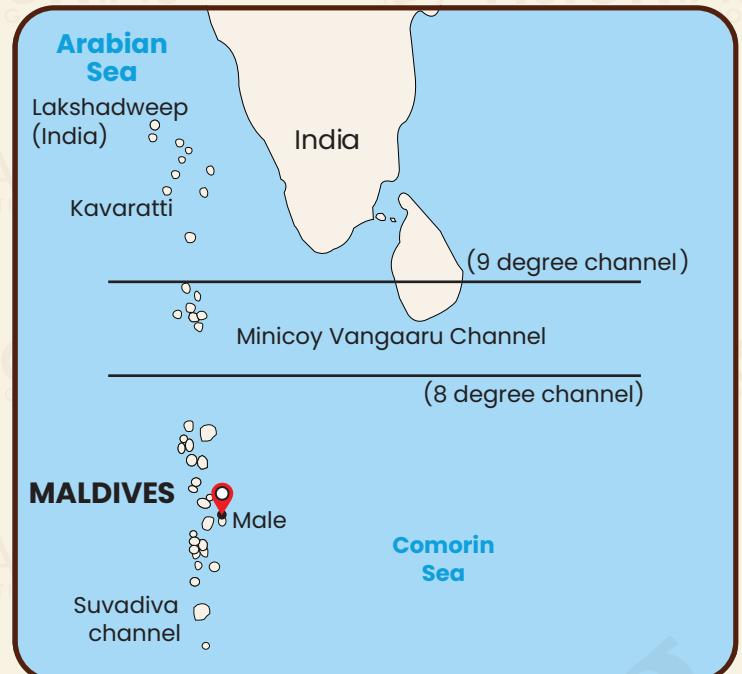
7. Maldives

- **Context:** The president of Maldives made his maiden bilateral state visit to India after winning the presidential elections.

About Maldives (Capital: Male)

Important features

- It is composed of **natural atolls**.
- **Water Bodies:** Indian Ocean (all sides).
- **Channels in Indian Ocean**
 - **8 Degree Channel:** Separates the island of Minicoy from the Maldives
 - **9 Degree Channel:** Separates Minicoy from the main Lakshadweep archipelago
 - **10 Degree Channel:** Separates the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal



8. Russia

- **Context:** Prime Minister of India officially visited Russia in July 2024 for the **22nd India-Russia Annual Summit**.

About Russia (Capital: Moscow)

Important features

- **Landforms:** Ural Mountains (divides Europe and Asia); Caucasus Mountains: Include Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe.
- **Important River:** Volga River (Longest River in Europe)
- **Important Lakes:** Lake Baikal (world's deepest and oldest freshwater lake); **Caspian Sea:** Largest enclosed inland body of water.



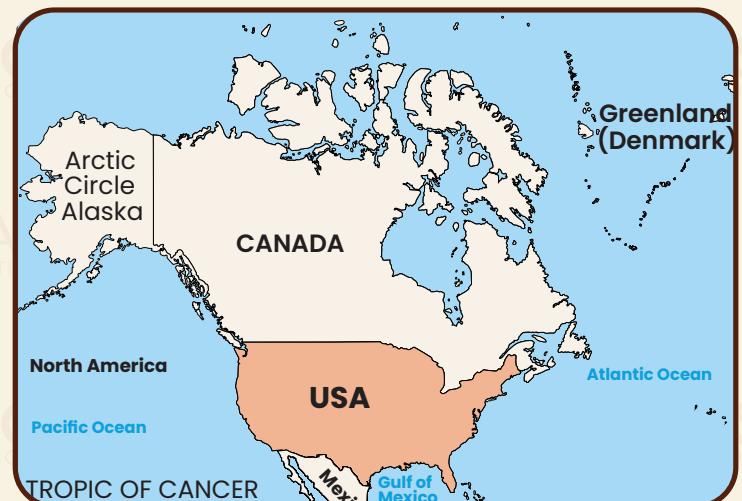
9. USA

- **Context:** India and the US have signed a **Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA)** during the Defence Minister's visit to the US.

About US (Capital: Washington D.C.)

Important Features

- **Important River:** Mississippi (longest).
- **Important Lakes:** Great Lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, Ontario).
- **Notable Mountain Ranges:** Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, Sierra Nevada.
- **Notable Deserts:** Mojave, Great Basin, etc.



10. UK

- **Context:** Recently, India and UK have signed an agreement to strengthen collaboration in Health and Life Sciences

About UK (Capital: London)

Important features

- **It comprises four countries:** England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
- **Land Boundary:** Ireland (west).
- Mountain ranges: The Pennines.



11. Australia

- **Context:** Australian Government in its National Defense Strategy (NDS) 2024 identified India as 'top-tier security partner' in the Indo-Pacific Region (IPR).

About Australia (Capital: Canberra).

Important features

- **Important Rivers:** Murray River (Longest River).
- **Great Barrier Reef:** World's largest coral reef system, located off the northeast coast in the Coral Sea.
- Australia has the **longest national coastline**.
- **Other Key Facts:** Australia is the flattest continent and has the oldest known geological formations.



12. Japan

- **Context:** Prime Minister of India and Japan held a bilateral meeting on the side-lines of the G-7 Summit in Apulia, Italy.

About Japan (Capital: Tokyo).

Important features

- **Island Composition:** Japan is composed of four main islands: **Hokkaido, Honshu (the largest), Shikoku, and Kyushu**.
- Japan lies along the western edge of **the Pacific Ring of Fire**.



13. South East Asia

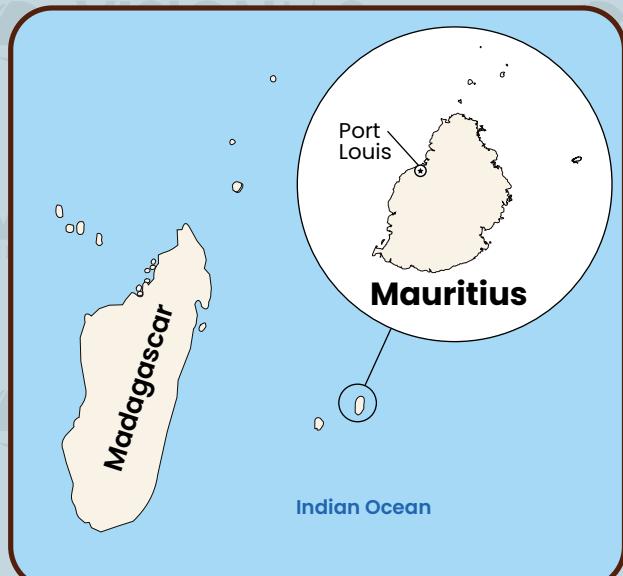
► **Context:** Prime Minister of India paid a state visit to Singapore, Vietnam and Malaysia



2. ECONOMY

2.1. Places in News

1. Mauritius



- ▶ India & Mauritius signed (not yet ratified) a protocol amending the **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)**.

2. Trinidad and Tobago



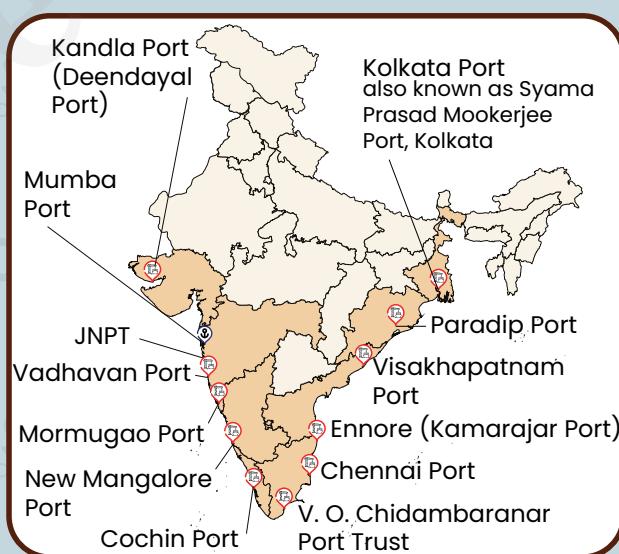
- ▶ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has partnered with **Trinidad and Tobago** to develop a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) like payments system, to advance the **internationalization of UPI**.

3. Zimbabwe



- ▶ Recently, Zimbabwe launched the **gold-backed currency** called **ZiG**.

4. Major Ports in India



- ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for **Vadhvan Port** in Maharashtra's Palghar.

5. UAE



- WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13), Abu Dhabi, UAE concluded without a permanent solution to the public stockholding (PSH) issue.

6. Bihar's first dry port



► Recently, Bihar's first dry port was inaugurated in **Bihta, near Patna**.

7. Petrapole, West Bengal



- Recently a new Passenger Terminal Building developed by **Land Port Authority** of India inaugurated in **Petrapole, West Bengal**.

8. Geneva, Switzerland



- The **Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge** was adopted in **Geneva, Switzerland** at the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

3. ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Biosphere Reserve in India

Cold Desert,
Himachal Pradesh



Panna,
Madhya Pradesh



Kachchh,
Gujarat



Pachmarhi,
Madhya Pradesh

**Achanakamar,
Amarkantak,**
Chhattisgarh



Nilgiri,
Tamil Nadu, Kerala,
Karnataka



Agasthyamalai,
Kerala



Khangchendzonga,
Sikkim



Manas,
Assam

Dibru-Saikhowa,
Assam

Dehang-Dibang,
Arunachal
Pradesh

Nokrek,
Meghalaya



Sundarban,
West Bengal



Simplipal,
Odisha



Seshachalam Hills,
Andhra Pradesh

Gulf of Mannar,
Tamil Nadu



Great Nicobar,
Nicobar Island



3.2 Corals in India



3.3 Wetlands in News

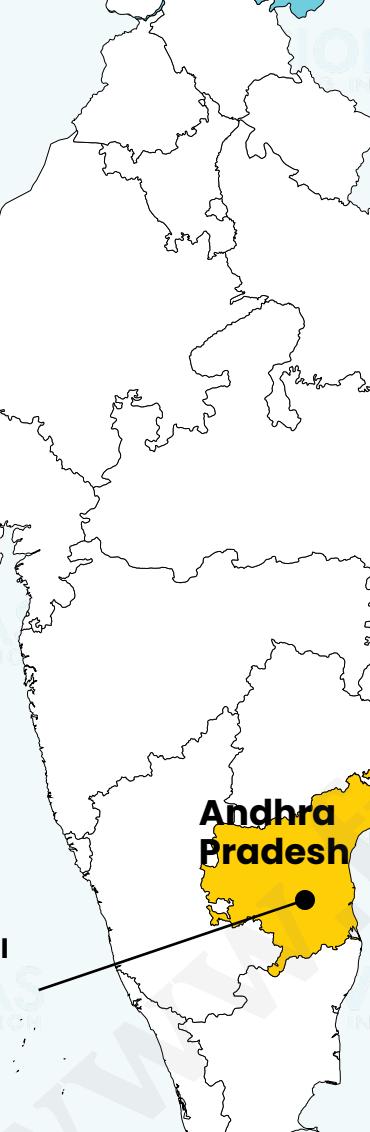
Pangong Tso (Lake)

- ⊕ An **endorheic** lake (landlocked).
- ⊕ World's **highest saltwater lake**.
- **1/3rd of the lake lies in India**
- ⊕ **Changes color** at different times.
- ⊕ Not a part of Indus River basin.



Kanwar Lake (aka Kabartal Wetland)

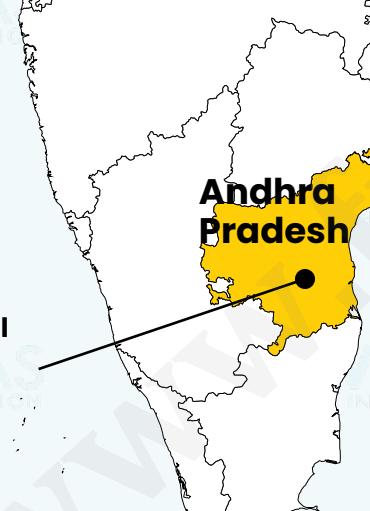
- ⊕ A freshwater **natural wetland**.
- ⊕ Draws water from confluence of **Gandak, Bia and Kereh river**.
- ⊕ Bihar's first **Ramsar site**
- ⊕ Important **stopover along Central Asian Flyway**.



Pulicat Lake

- ⊕ Located at the border of **Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu**.
- ⊕ **2nd largest brackish water lake** in India after Lake Chilika, Odisha.
- ⊕ Sriharikota Island **separates lagoon from Bay of Bengal**.
- ⊕ Fed mainly by **rivers Kalangi and Arani**.
- ⊕ Supports largest congregation of **Flamingos**.

Andhra Pradesh



Sundarban Mangrove

- ⊕ **World's largest mangrove ecosystem**
- ⊕ Named after the species **Heritiera fomes**, known as **Sundri** in Bengali.
- ⊕ Located on **world's largest delta** of the **Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers**.



3.4 Geothermal map of India



LEGEND

- Geothermal Provinces
- Important Thermal Springs
- 76 Heat Flow (mW/m²)
- 90 Geothermal Gradient (C/Km)

3.5 India: Rivers in News



Sharavathi River

⊕ NGT tells Karnataka to curb illegal sand mining here.

» **Origin:** Ambutirthha (Western Ghats) in Karnataka.

» **Tributaries:** Haridravathi, Yennehole, Nagodi, etc.

» **Water Falls:** Jog falls (one of the highest plunge waterfall)

» **PA:** Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Sharavathi River Valley.

» **Dam:** Mahatma Gandhi HEP



Periyar River

⊕ Mass fish deaths were reported here. **Perennial and longest river in Kerala.**

⊕ **Origin:** Sivagiri Hills of Western Ghats. Flows through **Periyar Tiger Reserve** and reaches **Periyar Lake**.

» Flows into **Vembanad Lake** and, finally, into **Arabian Sea**.

⊕ **Tributaries:** Muthirapuzhayar, Mullayar, Cheruthoni, Perinjankutti, and Edamala.

⊕ **Major Dams:** Idukki, Mullaperiyar, Edamalayar etc.



Noyyal River

⊕ Facing issues of **pollution, choking by plastics and sewage**.

» **Origin:** Velliangiri hills (called as South-Kailash), a division of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

» Tributary of Cauvery River



Subansiri

⊕ Agreement for comprehensive Fisheries Management Plan at Subansiri Lower Hydro Electric Project (SLHEP).

» **Origin:** Kangig glacier range in Tibet.

» Enters India in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

» Right bank tributary of **Brahmaputra River**, joins it, in Assam.

» **Major tributaries:** Laro, Nye, Yume, Tsari, Kamla, etc.



Jiadhal River

⊕ Its flow is being **disrupted due to climate change**.

⊕ **North-bank tributary of Brahmaputra**.

⊕ **Origin:** Lower Himalayan ranges (Arunachal Pradesh).

⊕ Flows through Assam. Tributary of

⊕ Brahmaputra, meets near **Majuli Island**.



Tizu and Zungki River

⊕ Inland Waterways Authority of India and Nagaland Government to conduct detailed feasibility study for development of National Waterways 101.

⊕ **Tizu (Origin: Nagaland)**

» Falls into **Chinwin River** (Tributary of Irrawaddy)

» **Main tributaries:** Zungki, Lanye and Likimro.

⊕ **Zungki (Biggest Tributary of Tizu in Nagaland)**



Upper Siang Hydropower Project

⊕ Locals in Upper Siang district are protesting against the Upper Siang Hydropower Project in Arunachal Pradesh.

» **Origin:** Angsi Glacier in Kailash Ranges near Mansarovar Lake (Tibet).

Major tributaries: Lohit and Dibang.

» Meets Dihang and Lohit rivers in Assam and **becomes the Brahmaputra**.

3.6 India: Other Places in News

Unmung La Pass

⊕ NewSpace Research and Technologies successfully tested a **100-kg Max Take Off Weight (MTOW)** Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (**UAV**).

- » **World's Highest motorable road** constructed by **Border Road Organization (BRO)** under **Project Himank**.
- » Umling La is **world's highest motorable pass**.



Lipulekh Pass

⊕ First batch of pilgrims viewed **Mount Kailash** (abode of Lord Shiva) from **Old Lipulekh pass**.

- » Located on **International Mountain pass** in **Vyas Valley, Uttarakhand**.
- » Forms tri-junction between **India, Nepal, and China (Tibet)**.

Inhabited by **Bhutia**



Mullaperiyar Dam

⊕ Tamil Nadu moved to Supreme Court, alleging that Kerala is obstructing in strengthening work of Mullaperiyar Dam.

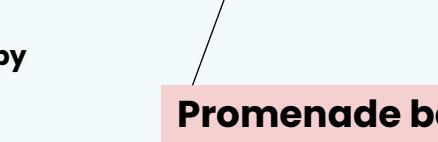
- » Constructed during **1887-1895**,
- » Located within the **Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala**.
- » **Purpose:** To divert the waters of River Periyar eastward to Tamil Nadu (Vaigai basin).
- » **Operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu.**



Siang Valley

⊕ Indian researchers have discovered a new blue-coloured ant species named **Paraparatrechina neila**.

- » Lies primarily in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- » Part of the **Eastern Himalaya**
- » **Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- » **Tribal Groups:** Nyishi, Adi tribes etc.



Promenade beach, Puducherry

⊕ It turned red due to **plankton crash**.

3.7 Water Bodies

Seine River

- Paris mayor took pre-Olympics to prove its cleanliness
 - France's 2nd-longest river (after the Loire). Empties into **English Channel**.

Nile

- Agreement on the equitable use of water resources from the Nile River basin** has come into force.
- Negotiated by 9 countries:** Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- World's longest river.** Originates from rivers that feed Lake Victoria.
- Drains into **Mediterranean Sea**.
- 2 main tributaries:**
 - White Nile** (Originate from Burundi and Rwanda) and **Blue Nile** (originating in Ethiopia).

Humboldt (or La Corona) Glacier

- Venezuela's last standing glacier in the Andes, shrunk to a size that **no longer qualifies it as a glacier**.

Lake Coari

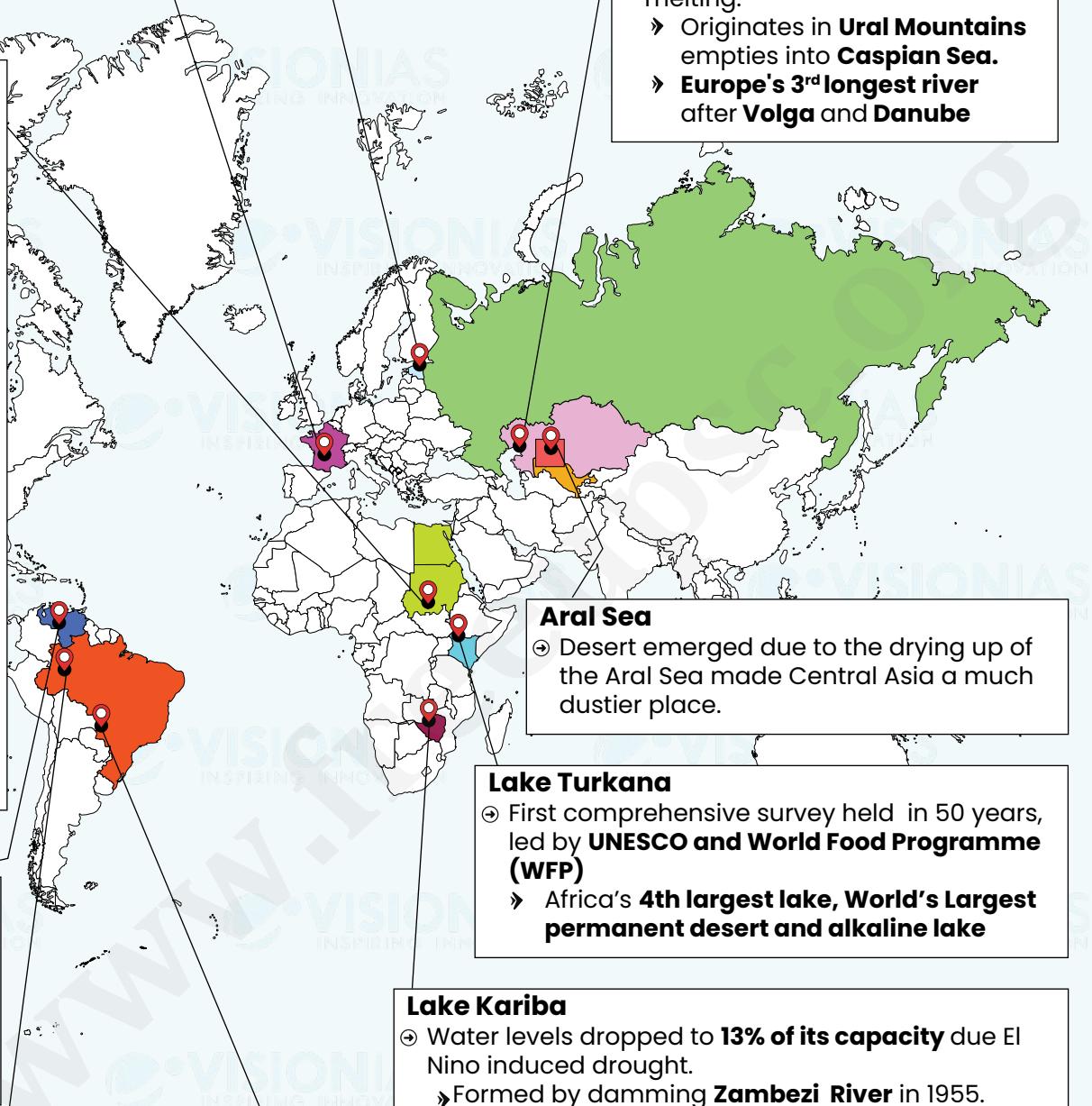
- Faced below-normal water levels causing extreme water temperature.

Narva River

- A new dispute emerged between Russia and Estonia, around the removal of navigation markers on the River.

Ural River

- Rise in water level** due to snow melting.
 - Originates in **Ural Mountains** empties into **Caspian Sea**.
 - Europe's 3rd longest river** after **Volga** and **Danube**



Pantanal Wetland

- Grappling with devastating wildfires.
 - World's largest tropical wetland**
 - Spread across **Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay**.
 - Comprises **UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, Biosphere Reserve and two Ramsar sites**.

3.8 Other Geographical Features

Afar Triangle

- ⊕ Geologists predict emergence of a new ocean here.
- ⊕ Represents the **northernmost portion of the Great Rift Valley**.
- ⊕ One of the most geologically active regions on earth, where **Nubian, Somali and Arabian Plates** converge.

Atacama Desert

- ⊕ Researchers found a **biosphere of extreme microbes, 13 feet below it**.
 - » Between **Andes Mountains and Pacific Ocean**,

Atacama Salt Flat

- ⊕ Research found that Chile's Atacama salt flat sinking due to lithium brine extraction.
 - » Also known as **Salar de Atacama, biggest salt deposit in Chile**.

Mount Erebus

- ⊕ It is expelling pockets of gas containing crystallised gold. (**only one to emit it in a metallic form**)

Ross Ice Shelf

- ⊕ **Antarctica's Ross Ice Shelf** makes sudden jumps (occurring when 2 sections of ice press against each other) twice a day.
 - » Jumps might cause "icequakes" - seismic disturbances within the ice.

Batagay Crater

- ⊕ Newly captured aerial footage revealed its yearly growth as the frozen ground melts.
 - » Known as "Gateway to Underworld" or "Doorway to Hell" World's **biggest permafrost crater**.

Congo Basin

- ⊕ **Cacao farming surged in Congo Basin** due to rising chocolate demand leading to deforestation.
 - » Has World's **2nd tropical forest** after Amazon.
 - » Known as the "lungs of Africa" Largest carbon sink in the world.
 - » Home to the **world's largest tropical peatlands**.

Antarctica

- ⊕ Plant cover is increasing due to climate crisis (**Greening of Antarctica**).

Mercury Island

- ⊕ Documentary film on conservation of Mercury Island premiered in 18th Mumbai International Film Festival.
 - » Recognised as **Important Bird Areas (IBAs)** by Bird Life International.
- ⊕ Note: **New Zealand** also has a group of islands named **Mercury Islands**

3.9 Countries in the News



Panama (Capital: Panama City)

First nation to evacuate island community from island of Gardi Sugdub Island over climate change impact.

China (Capital: Beijing)

Unveiled the world's first dual-tower solar thermal power plant (TPP), which boosts energy efficiency by 24%



UK (Capital: London)

Became the first country to stop electricity production from coal post the closure of its last coal based power plant.

Colombia (Capital: Bogota)

Bogota started water rationing due to low levels of water in its reservoirs.



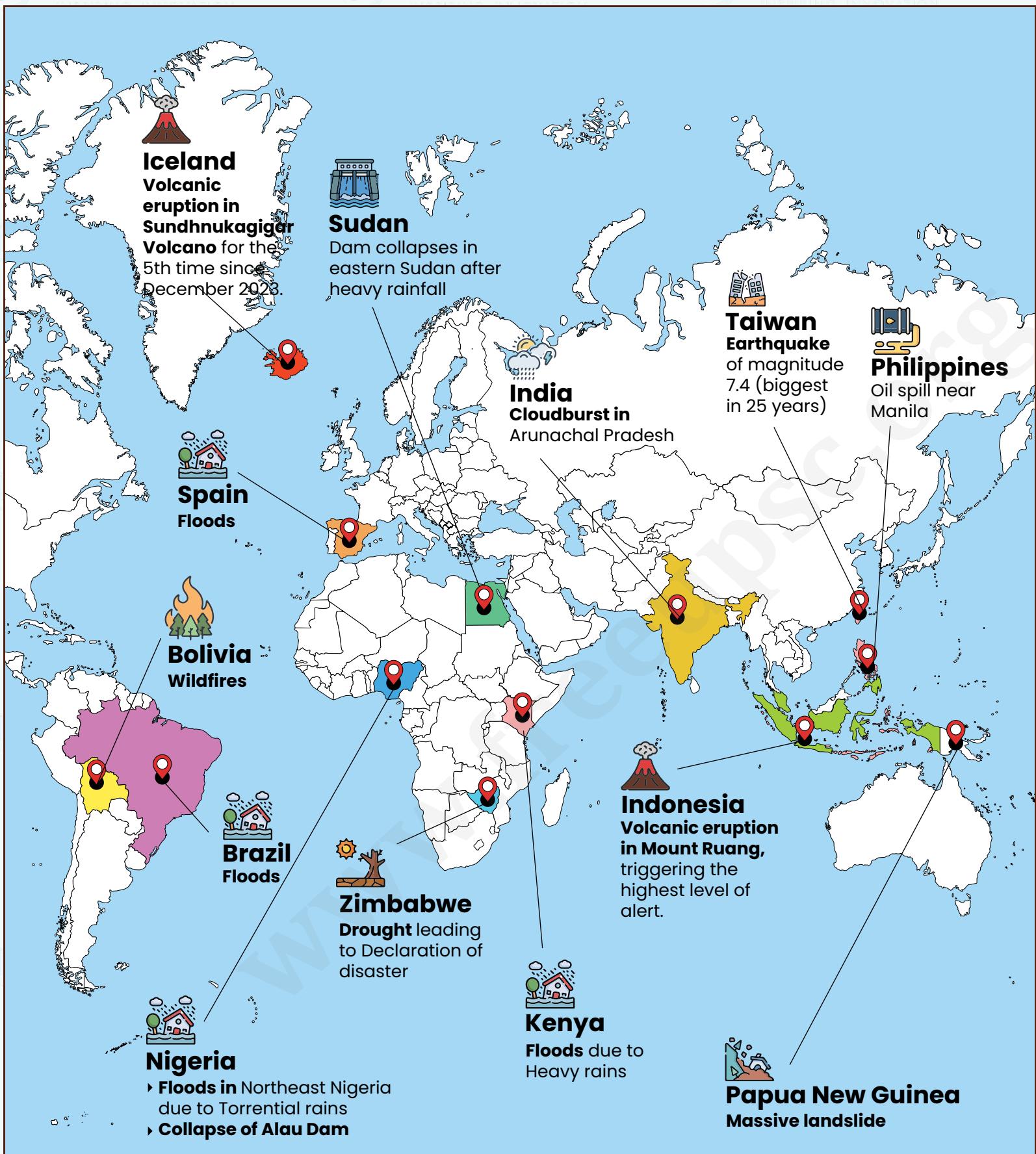
Malaysia (Capital: Kuala Lumpur)

A community of seafaring people in Malaysia, the indigenous Bajau are being evicted to make way for rapid urbanisation in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo.

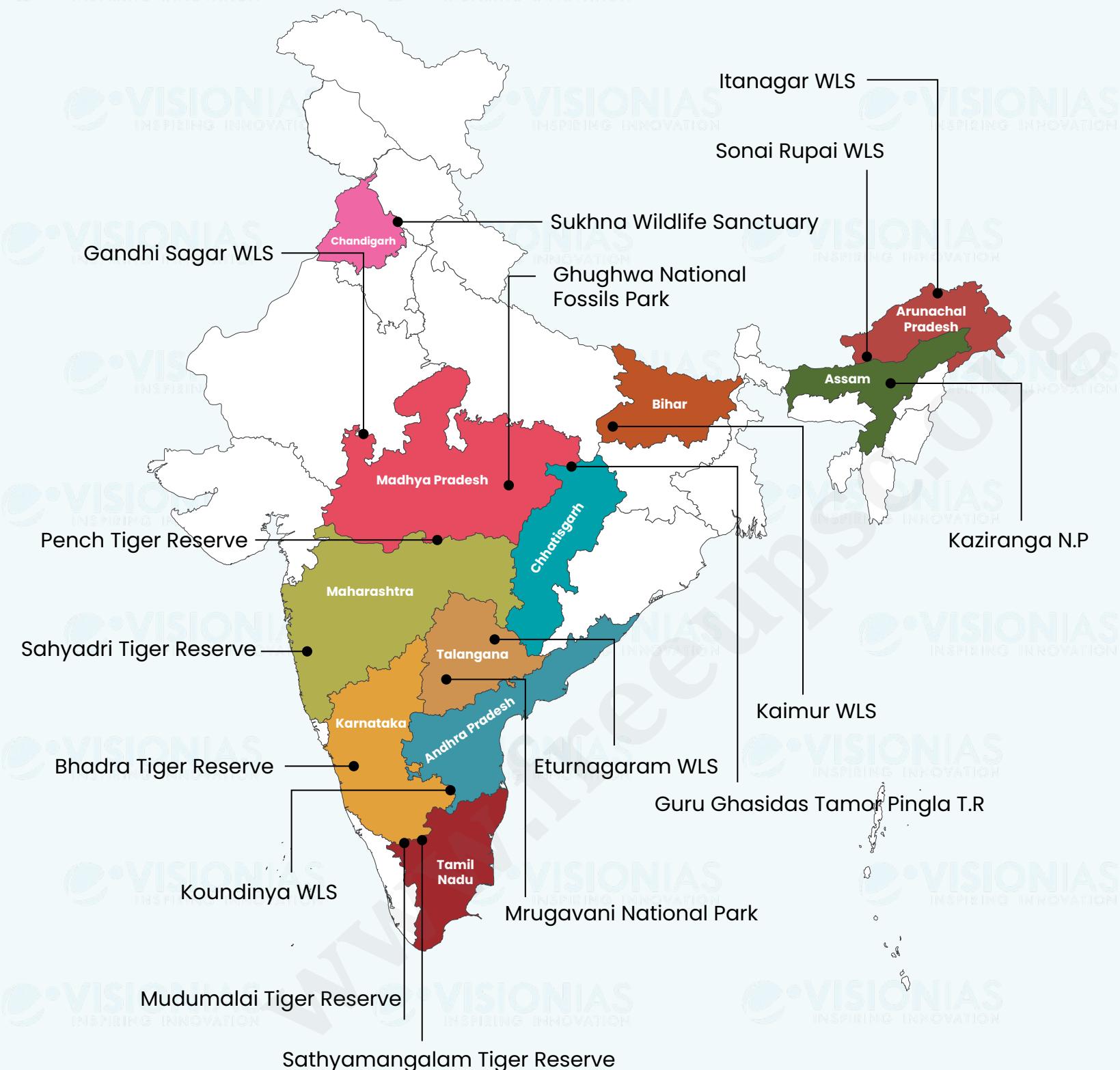
Denmark (Capital: Copenhagen)

Will introduce a tax on livestock carbon-dioxide emissions from 2030, making it the first country to do so.

3.10 Disaster Affected areas



3.11 Protected Areas in News



3.12 Traditional Water storage systems

e•VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

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INSPIRING INNOVATION



Paar, Johad (Rajasthan)



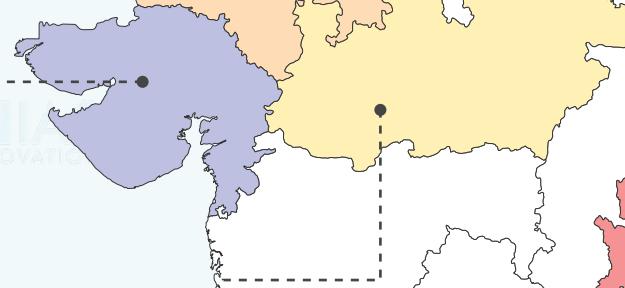
**Khatri, Kuhl
(Himachal Pradesh)**



Dongs (Assam)



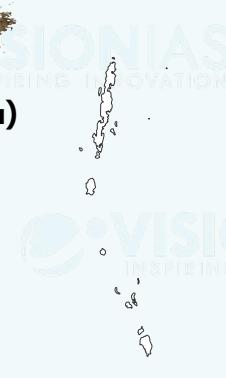
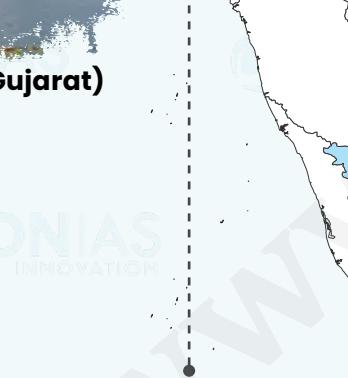
Jal Mandir (Gujarat)



Katas, Bandhas (Odisha)



Zabo (Nagaland)



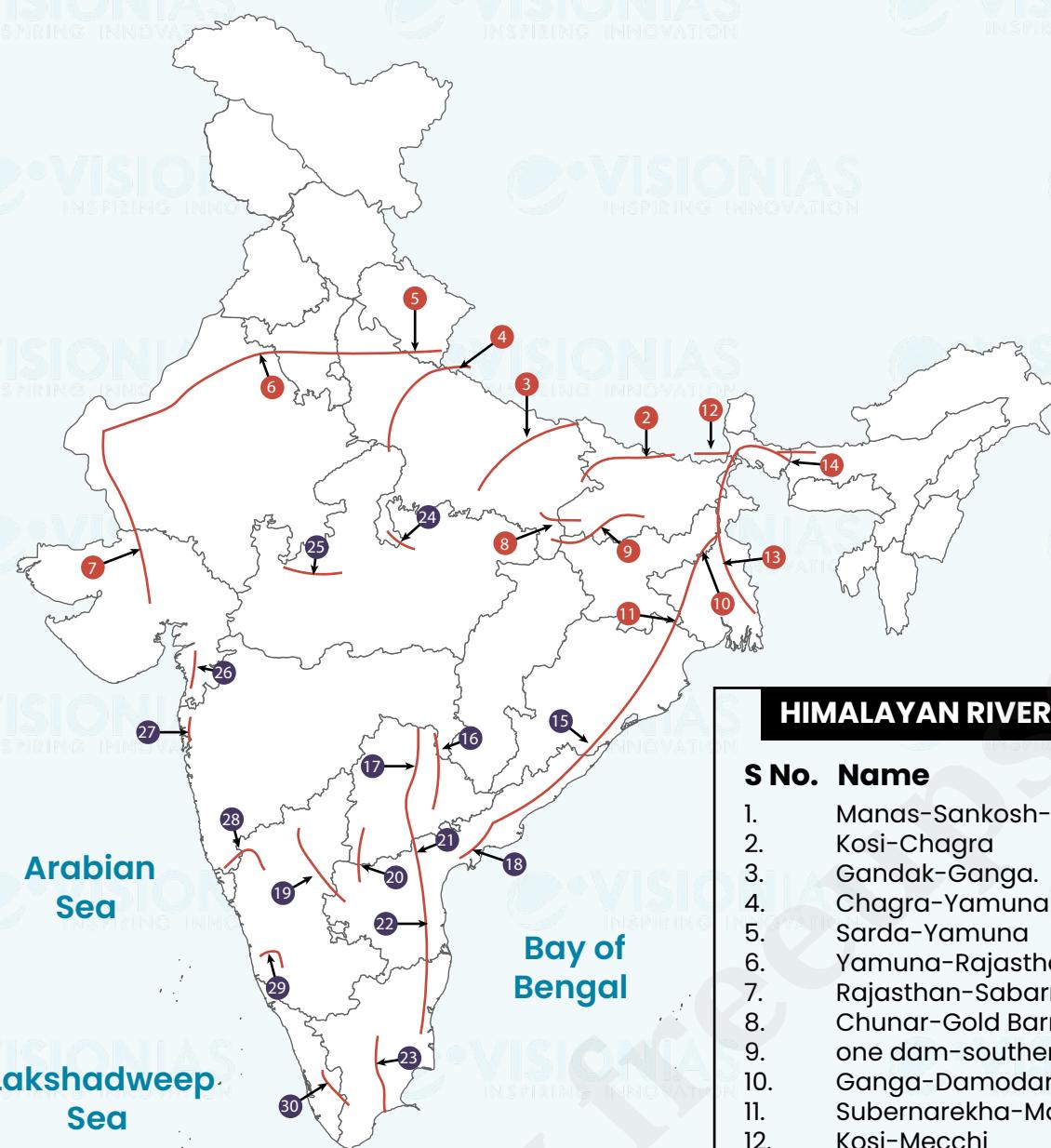
**Pat, Katas, Bandhas
(Madhya Pradesh)**

Eri, Ooranis (Tamil Nadu)

3.13 Major Environmental Movements in India



3.14 National River Linking Projects



PENINSULAR RIVER LINKING SYSTEM

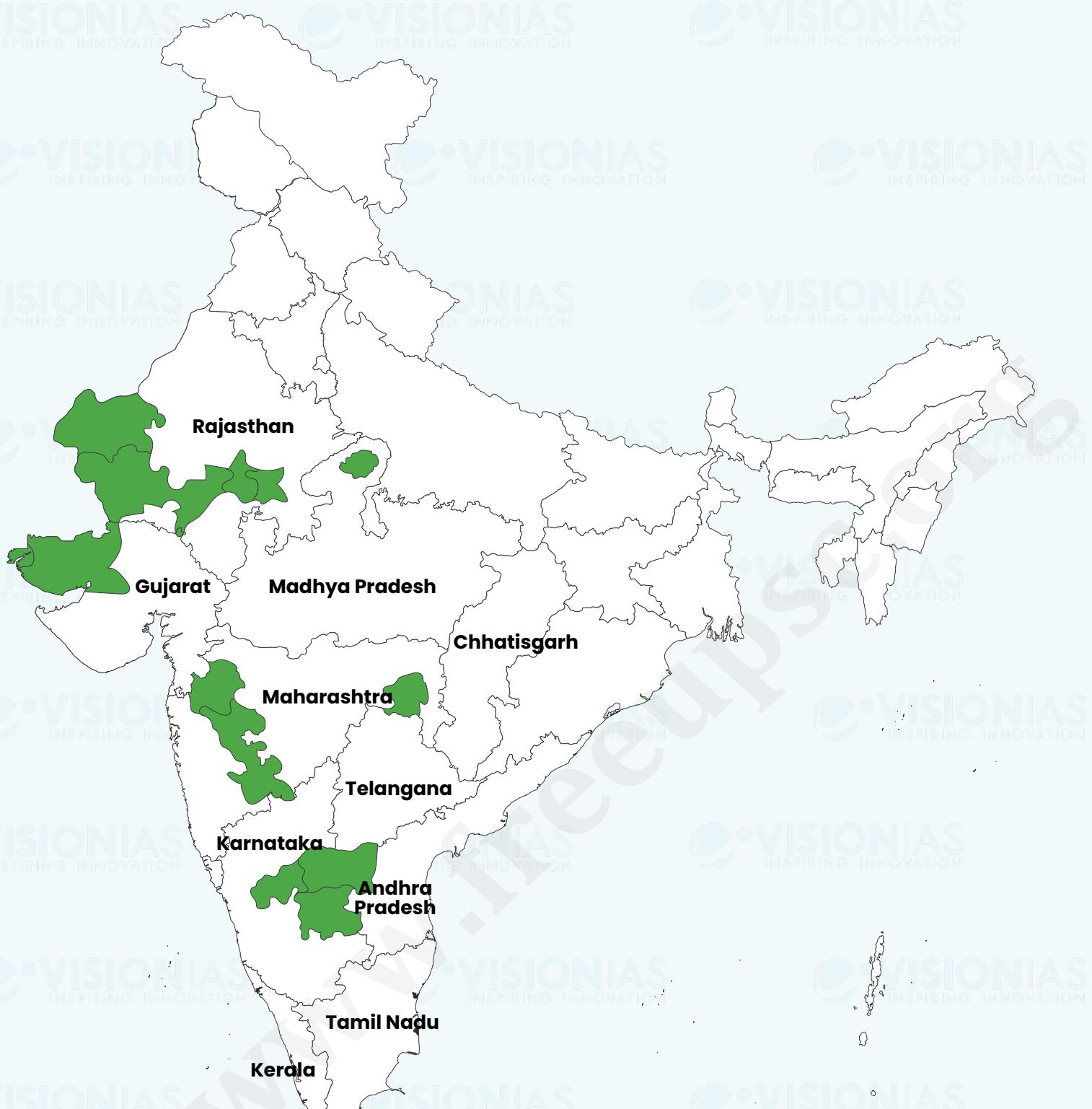
S No. Name

15. Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram)
16. Godavari Inchampalli-Krishna (Pulichintala)
17. Godavari (Inchampall)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)
18. Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijaya)
19. Krishna (Almatti)-Pens
20. Krishna Srisailam)-Pennar
21. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila)
22. Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand)

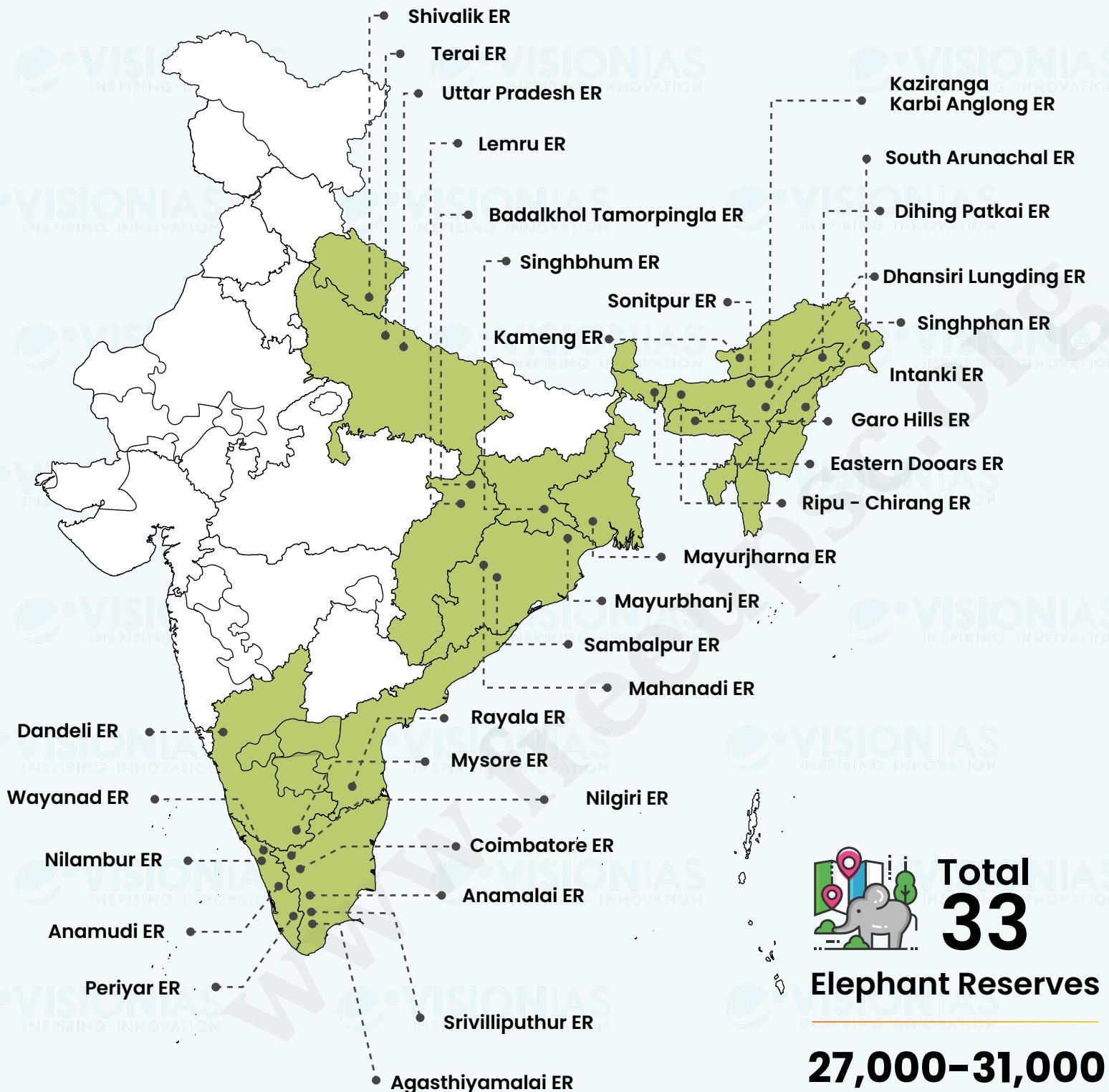
S No. Name

23. Cauvery (Kattalai) Vaigai-Gundar
24. Ken-Betwa
25. Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal
26. Par-Tapi Narmada
27. Damanganga-Pinjal
28. Bedti-Vanda
29. Netravati-Hemavati
30. Pamba-Achankovil-Valppar

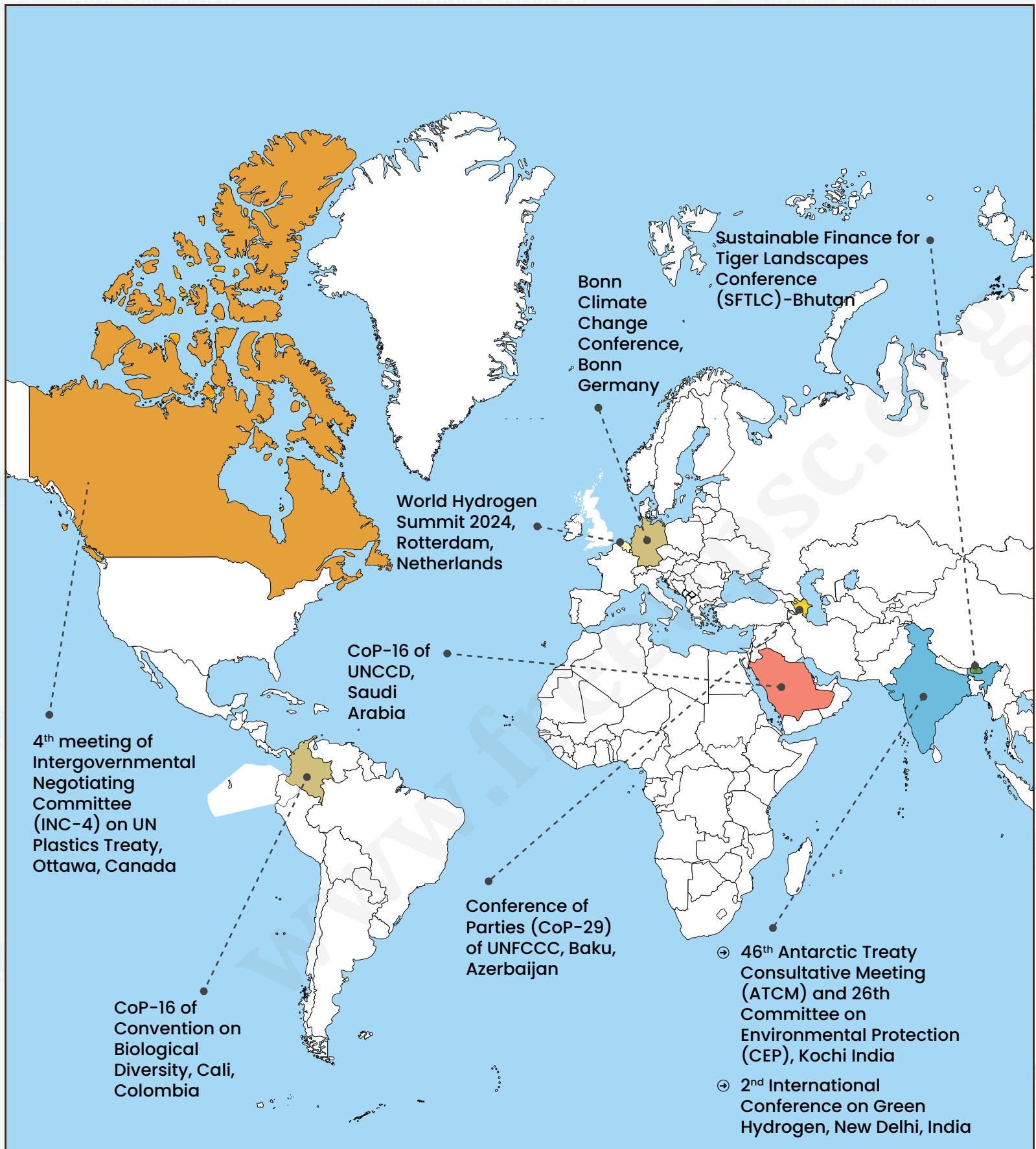
3.15 Great Indian Bustard Presence



3.16 Elephant Reserves in India



3.17 Conventions/Conference in News



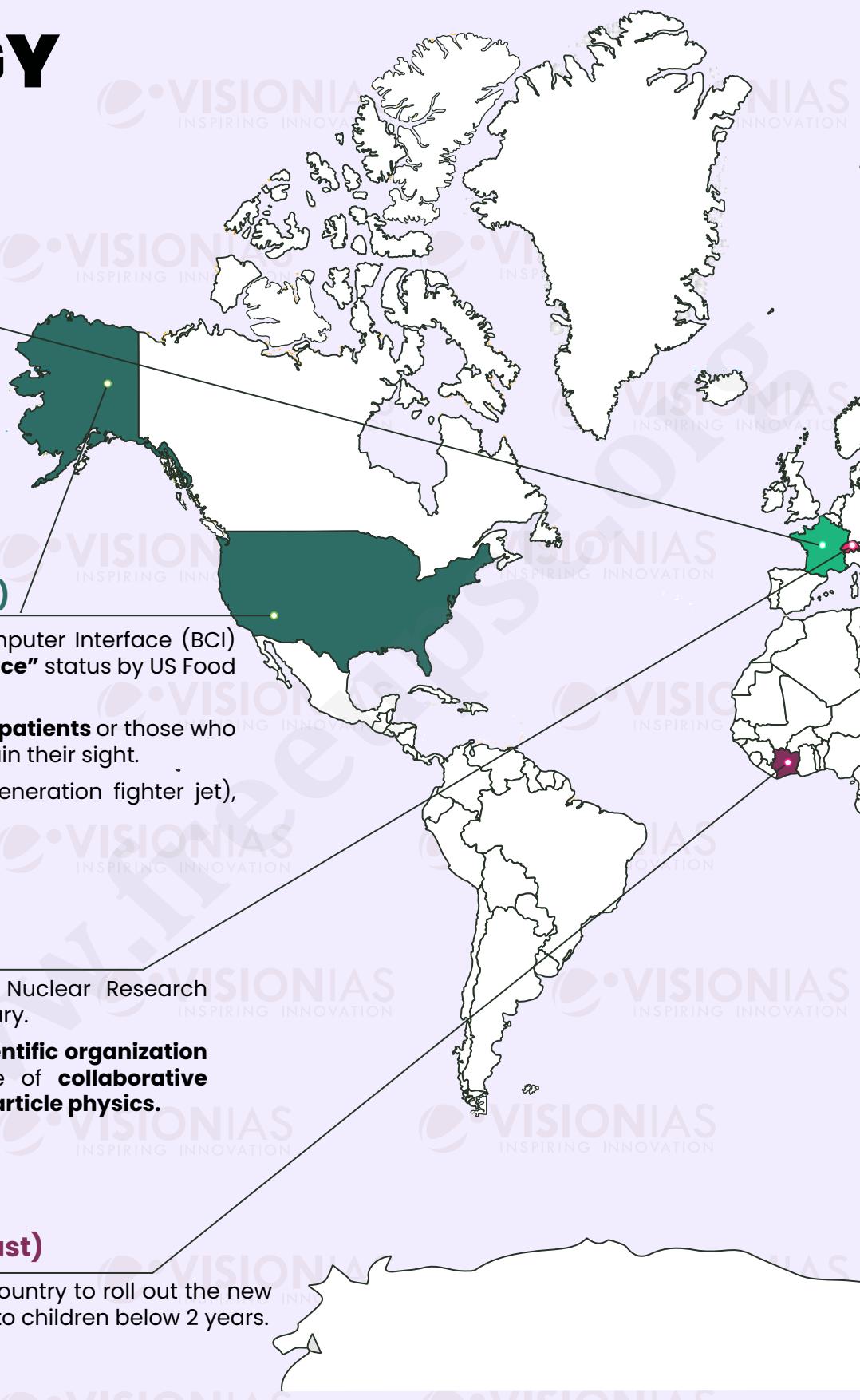
4.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

4.1 World

Iseult (France)

- » World's most powerful **Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner**, Iseult, has captured its first images of human brains.



BLINDSIGHT (USA)

- » Neuralink's '**BLINDSIGHT**', a Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) implant, received "**breakthrough device**" status by US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- » Implant is aimed at **helping blind patients** or those who have been blind from birth to regain their sight.
- » Also, an AI-controlled F-16 (Fourth generation fighter jet), called **Vista**, has been unveiled

CERN (Switzerland)

- » The European Organization for Nuclear Research (**CERN**) celebrated 70th Anniversary.
- » **CERN** is an **international scientific organization** established for the purpose of **collaborative research into high-energy particle physics**.

R21/Matrix-M (Ivory Coast)

- » Ivory Coast became the first country to roll out the new R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine to children below 2 years.

Artemis Accords (Armenia)

» Armenia becomes 43rd country to join Artemis Accords

» Artemis Accords was **established in 2020 by NASA**, these are a non-binding set of principles designed to guide civil space exploration and use in the 21st century.

HH70 (China)

» China has made world's **first high-temperature superconducting Tokamak** device - 'HH70'.

» Also, World's **first thorium molten salt nuclear power station** will be launched in Gobi Desert by China in 2025.

LignoSat (Japan)

» LignoSat, world's **first wooden satellite**, has been launched.

» The satellite will study how wood withstands space's extreme conditions.

KSTAR (South Korea)

» Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (**KSTAR**) fusion reactor reached temperatures **seven times that of the Sun's core** in latest advancement for nuclear fusion.

Heritable Human Genome Editing (HHGE) (South Africa)

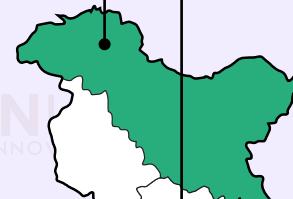
» South Africa becomes first country to allow Heritable Human Genome Editing (HHGE).

» In **HHGE**, unlike somatic cell editing, which affects only individuals, HHGE introduces **changes in germline cells (sperm, eggs, or embryos)**, enabling these alterations to be inherited by offspring.

4.2 India

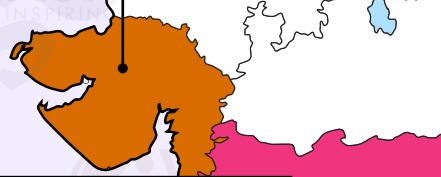
Analog Space Mission (Ladakh)

- » India's first analog space mission launched in Leh (Ladakh) to plan lunar mission experiments.
- » Also, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) inaugurated the **Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory at Hanle, Ladakh**.
- » It is largest imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia and 2nd largest in the world.



Gujarat Declaration (Gujarat)

- » WHO has released the outcome document of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in form of "**Gujarat Declaration**".



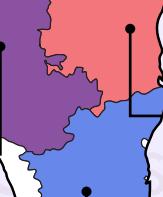
Daksha Project (Maharashtra)

- » IIT Bombay is leading the **Daksha project**.
- » Daksha project is an ambitious proposal to build **two high-energy space telescopes for the study of explosive astrophysical sources**.

VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

Carbon Fiber (Karnataka)

- » Centre for Carbon Fiber and Prepregs at National Aerospace Laboratories in Bengaluru.
- » **Carbon Fiber** is a form of graphite (an allotrope of carbon) consisting of thin, strong crystalline filaments of carbon.
- » Also, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) reported breakthrough in **neuromorphic computing**.
- » **Neuromorphic computing** (or neuromorphic engineering) mimics the human brain's structure and function.

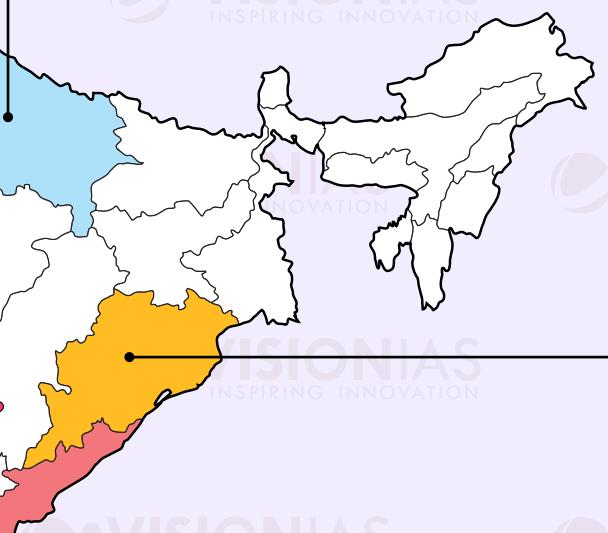


Param Rudra (Delhi)

- » **Param Rudra** Super Computing System has been launched at Delhi for weather and climate research.

Arunika (Uttar Pradesh)

- » **Arunika**, a **High-Performance Computing (HPC)** system launched to enhance accuracy and predictions related to tropical cyclones, heavy precipitation, thunderstorms, etc.
- » Also, HPC system 'Arka' launched at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) at Pune



SMART System (Odisha)

- » **SMART** system was successfully flight-tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- » **SMART** is a Next-generation **missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system**.
- » Also, India's 1st **silicon Carbide manufacturing facility** to be set up in Odisha.
- » Also known as **carborundum**, it is an exceedingly hard, synthetically produced crystalline compound of silicon and carbon.

SPADEX (Andhra Pradesh)

- » ISRO launched SpaDeX spacecraft's using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C60, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- » SPADEX Mission demonstrated **docking (attaching) of two spacecraft** (called Chaser and Target) in orbit.

RHUMI-1 (Tamil Nadu)

- » India's first Reusable Hybrid Rocket, **RHUMI-1**, has been launched.
- » Also, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) granted permission for First Approach to **Criticality** of India's first **indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)**.
- » IIT Madras-incubated space startup Agnikul Cosmos has successfully launched **world's first single-piece 3D printed rocket engine (Agnibaan SOrTeD)**.

5. Culture

5.1. Temples in News

Gandhi Sarovar/ Kedarnath Temple



A massive avalanche hit the Gandhi Sarovar also known as Chorabari Tal located near Kedarnath Temple in Uttarakhand.

Chandravalli Cave Complex, Karnataka

Inscriptions found at Sri Madhava Perumal Temple, which has largely remained submerged by Bhavanisagar dam, revealed a 1000 years old trade route



Virupaksha Temple, Karnataka

A portion of Hampi's Virupaksha Temple in Karnataka collapsed



Sri Madhava Perumal Temple, Tamil Nadu



Situated in the Chitradurga district of Karnataka, the cave complex was in the news due to its need for repair and maintenance.

Jyotirmath or Joshimath, Uttarakhand



The Centre approved the Uttarakhand government's proposal for renaming the Joshimath tehsil in Chamoli district to Jyotirmath

Uttarakhand

Kamakhya temple, Assam



Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya temple in Assam has started.

Assam

Shree Jagannath Temple, Odisha



Ratna Bhandar, the sacred treasury of Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri reopened after 46 years.

Odisha

Sangameshwar Temple, Andhra Pradesh



Sangameshwar Temple is submerged due to flooding in Krishna river.

Andhra Pradesh

Alagar Temple, Tamil Nadu

The procession of the Lord Kallazhagar back from the Vaigai river marked the end of the Chithirai festival



Tamil Nadu

5.2 Paintings in News



Bela Block Printing, Gujarat

Traditional craft Bela Block printing is in danger of dying out with no young takers for it.

Gujarat



Mata ni pachedi paintings, Gujarat

Mata ni pachedi, an ancient art form from **Gujarat** is a **religious textile folk art**, drawing inspiration from the **Kalamkari** style of painting.

VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION



Sohrai painting, Jharkhand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifts Sohrai Painting to Russia's President Vladimir Putin during BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia.

Jharkhand



Kumittipathi rock painting, Tamil Nadu

Miscreants have damaged rock art paintings at the cave at Kumittipathi, Tamil Nadu

5.3 Key Sites in News



Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was named a World Craft City by the World Crafts Council (WCC)



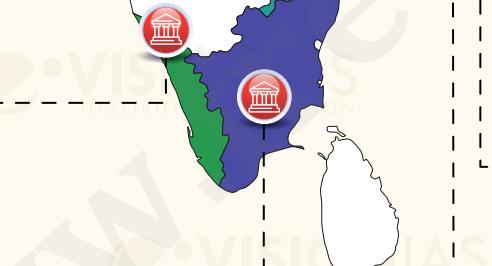
Nalanda University , Bihar

Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir (Bihar).



Padta Bet, Gujarat

Archaeological excavation reveals 5,200-year-old Harappan settlement at Padta Bet in Kachchh, Gujarat



Lothal, Gujarat

Cabinet approves development of **National Maritime Heritage Complex** (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat



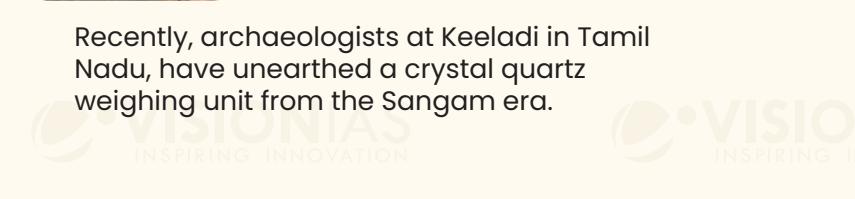
Kozhikode, Kerala

Kerala celebrates Kozhikode's recognition as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.



Keeladi Excavation, Tamil Nadu

Recently, archaeologists at Keeladi in Tamil Nadu, have unearthed a crystal quartz weighing unit from the Sangam era.



Charaideo Moidam, Assam

Assam's Charaideo Moidam was officially inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.



Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh

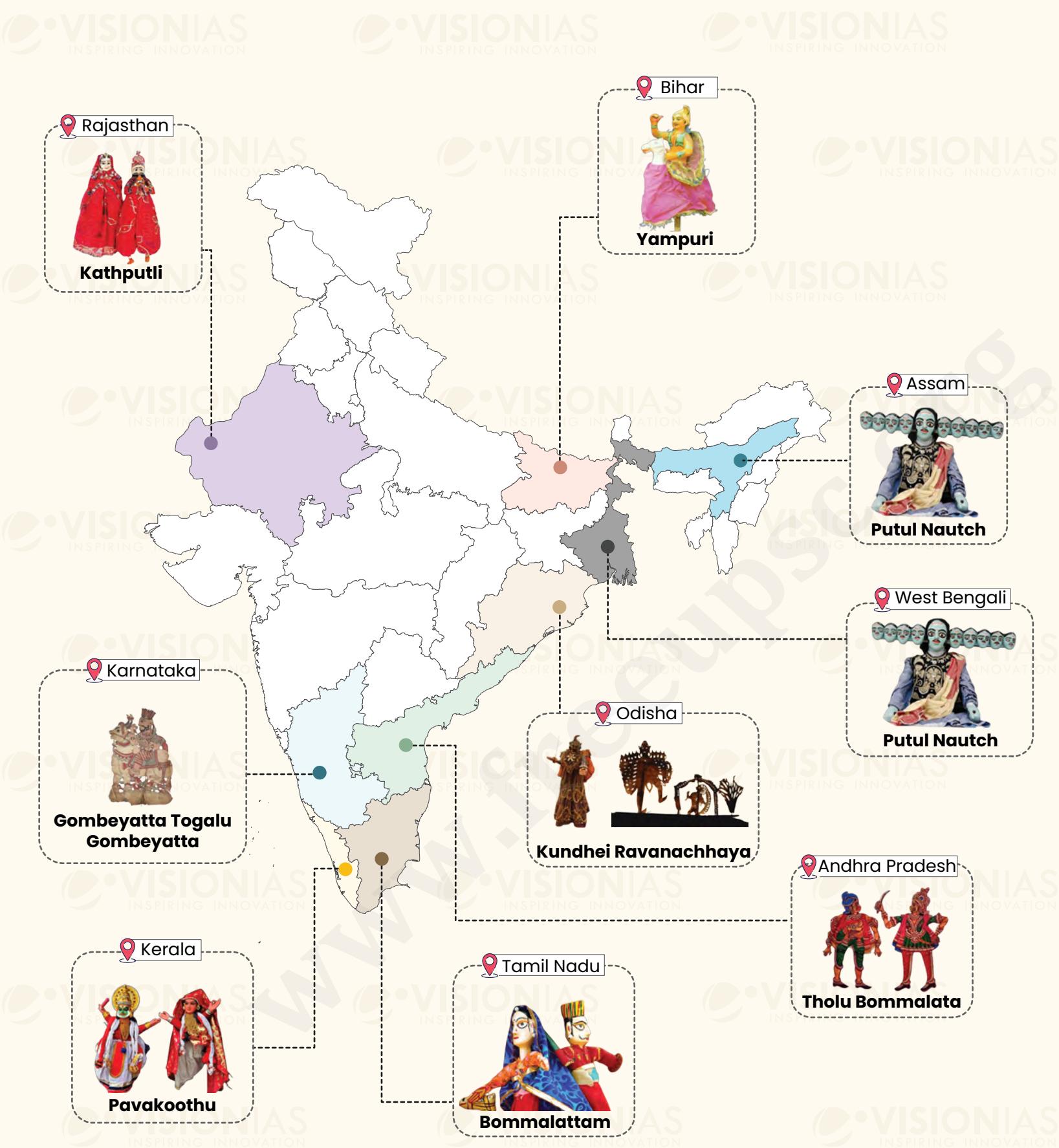
Several scholars have been working to restore **prominence of Srikakulam's forgotten heritage**.



Bavikonda Monastery, Andhra Pradesh

Due to budget constraints in recent years, maintenance and repairs at the site remain suboptimal.

5.4 Puppetry in India



5.5 GI Tags



Bareilly Zari Zardozi
Embroidery with gold and silver threads, adding opulence to fabrics.



Pilkhuwa Hand Block Print
Traditional block printing on textiles and wood using natural dyes



Tharu Embroidery
Embroidery with vibrant threads, reflecting Tharu culture.



Bareilly Cane & Bamboo Craft
Crafting utility and decorative items from cane and bamboo.



Banaras Tirangi Barfi
A tri-colored sweet made from milk, sugar, and saffron.



Banaras Metal Casting Craft
Intricate metalwork art from Banaras, known for its detailed designs.



Uttar Pradesh

Gujarat

Kutch Ajrakh
Block-printed textiles with geometric and floral patterns using dyes



Bodo Narzi

A semi-fermented food prepared with jute leaves (*Corchorus cap-sularis*).



Bodo Gwkha - Gwkhwai

A traditional dish of the Bodo community, made with a variety of herbs and vegetables during the Bwisagu festival.

Bodo Aronai

Traditional Bodo weaving known for its vibrant colors and intricate designs.



Bodo Jou Gishi

A traditionally fermented rice-based alcoholic beverage



Bodo Jou Gwran

A variety of rice beer made by the Bodo community which has the highest percentage of alcohol (about 16.11%).

Bodo Ondla

A rice powder curry flavoured with garlic, ginger, salt, and alkali.



Bodo Napham

A dish of fermented fish prepared anaerobically in a tightly sealed container in two-three months.



Assam

Bodo Maibra Jou Bidwi

Another form of rice beer which is revered and served as a welcome drink by most Bodo tribes. It's prepared by fermenting half-cooked rice (mairong) with less water, and adding a little 'amao' (a potential source of yeast) to it.

Note - The Bodo people believe these rice beers originated from Lord Shiva, and are taken as medicine.

Nicobari Mat

Mats woven from natural fibers, used for sitting and sleeping.



Andaman Karen Musley Rice

A special variety of aromatic rice grown by the Karen community.



Andaman and Nicobar

Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich (Virgin Coconut Oil)

Pure coconut oil extracted traditionally for cooking and health.



Nicobari Canoe Hodi Craft

Traditional canoes from made hollowed-out tree trunks.



Padauk Wood Craft

Craft items from Padauk wood, known for its rich red color.



Nicobari Hut

Traditional huts made from local materials, reflecting indigenous design.



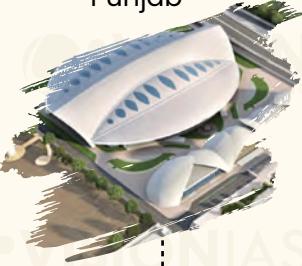
Nguat-Kuk'- 'Khawtha' Coconut

A unique coconut variety with health benefits, grown in Nicobar.



5.6 India's Major Pilgrim Corridor Projects

Sri Kartarpur
Sahib Corridor,
Punjab



Ramraja Lok,
Orchha,
Madhya Pradesh



Kashi-Vishwanath
Corridor,
Uttar Pradesh



Banke Bihari Corridor
(Mathura Vrindavan),
Uttar Pradesh



Maa Kamakhya
Divya Pariyojana,
Assam



Hanuman
Lok Corridor,
Madhya Pradesh



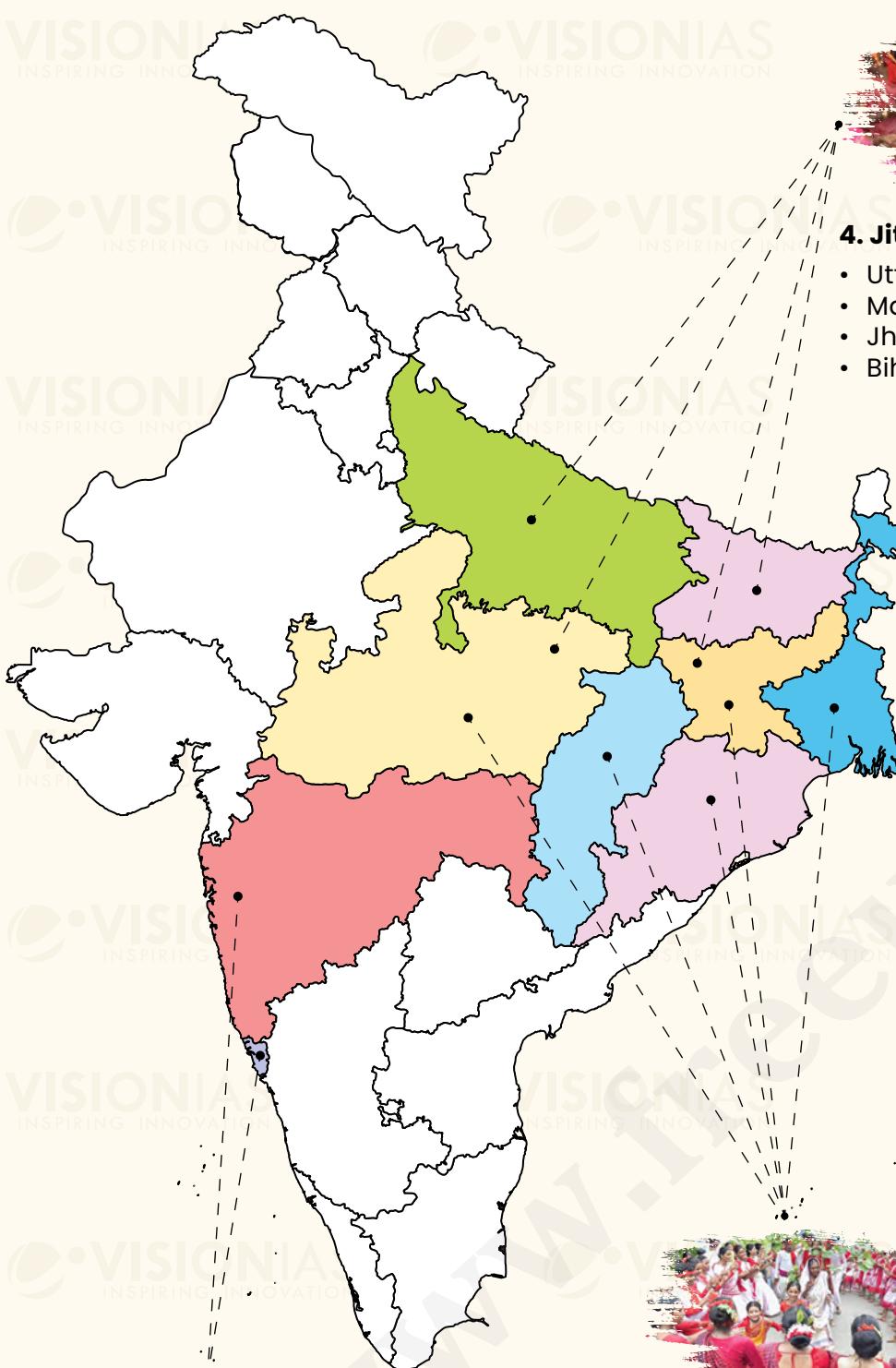
Mahakal Lok
Corridor,
Madhya Pradesh



Shree Jagannatha
Heritage Corridor,
Odisha



5.7 Festivals in News



2. Gudi Padwa

- Goa
- Maharashtra



3. Karma Festival

- West Bengal
- Chhattisgarh
- Jharkhand
- Odisha
- Madhya Pradesh



4. Jitiya or Jivitputrika Festival

- Uttar Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh
- Jharkhand
- Bihar



1. Bohag/Rongali Bihu

- Assam

1. Bohag/Rongali Bihu

Assam celebrates Rongali Bihu.

About Rongali/Bohag Bihu

- Celebrated in middle of April, it marks the beginning of Assamese New Year and onset of spring. It is a **7 day** festival, where first day is called Goru Bihu followed by Manuh Bihu, Guxai Bihu etc.

Similar festival in other states - Baisakhi (Punjab), Puthandu (Tamil Nadu), Vishu (Kerala), and Pohela Baisakh (West Bengal).



2. Gudi Padwa

President conveyed her greetings on eve of Gudi Padwa, and other festivals of welcoming spring season and Indian New Year.

About Gudi Padwa

- Gudi Padwa is observed **on first day of Chaitra month**.
- It indicates **arrival of spring** and marks **start of new year in Maharashtra**.
- **Other Spring festivals across India:**
 - ▷ **Ugadi:** Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana.
 - ▷ **Cheti Chand:** Celebrated by Sindhis.
 - ▷ **Navreh:** celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir.



3. Karma Festival

Karma festival is celebrated in Jharkhand and other easter states of India like Odisha, Chattisgarh, etc.

About Karma Festival

- It is a **harvest festival** popular among **Munda, Ho, Oraon, Baiga, Kharia, and Santhal people**.
- **Karam tree**, traditionally seen as a **symbol of Karam Devta/Karamsani**, is worshipped during festival. Karam tree symbolizes fertility, prosperity, etc.
- During festival, **branch of Karam tree is carried by Karma dancers**, accompanied by singing & dancing.



4. Jitiya or Jivitputrika Festival

Disaster struck in Bihar during participation in Jivitputrika festival in Bihar.

About Jitiya or Jivitputrika festival

- It's a Hindu festival observed primarily in **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Nepal**. It is celebrated by mothers who fast for well-being, long life, and prosperity of their children. This festival lasts for 3 days where first day is known as **nahaye-khaye**.
- The festival is rooted in Hindu mythology, particularly **story of King Jimutavahana**, whose sacrifice for welfare of others is commemorated during this time.

