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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Page 1

INDIA-FRANCE TIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)



India, France sew up pact for defence production

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, January 26

INDIA AND FRANCE have firmed up a road map for defence-industrial partnership that would provide for co-development and co-production of key military and civilian hardware, foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra said on Friday.

Among the key collaborations finalised during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India was a pact between Tata Group and France's Airbus to jointly manufacture civilian helicopters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Macron on a wide spectrum of areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Kwatra said, "Production itself is the focus and priority of (India-France) defence cooperation... This road map is to identify opportunities for partnership in the defence industrial sector that prioritises co-designing, co-development and co-production. The whole idea and also building the defence supply chains between two countries..."

He said the roadmap will provide for collaboration in the spheres of air, space, underwater domain awareness, land warfare, robotics, cyber defence, artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicles.

In July last year, India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) gave approval for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighters to operate off the aircraft carriers and three additional Scorpene-class diesel-electric submarines from the European country.

"Industrial partnership (has been signed) between Tata and Airbus helicopters for production of H125 helicopters with a significant indigenous and localisation component," Kwatra said.

Tata and Airbus are already cooperating to make the C-295 transport aircraft in Gujarat.

Discussions were also held on the possibility of French engine maker Safran assisting in the manufacture of fighter jet engines in India.

Continued on Page 9

DEEPENING TIES

- Agreement inked between New Space India and Arianespace for cooperation in satellite launches
- Schengen visas with five-year validity for Indian postgraduate alumni; exchange of professionals in 18-35 age bracket
- Talks on for financing mechanism and localisation for Jaitapur nuclear project

EMMANUEL MACRON
FRENCH PRESIDENT

30,000 INDIAN STUDENTS IN FRANCE IN 2030. IT'S A VERY AMBITIOUS TARGET, BUT I AM DETERMINED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Context: India and France recently firmed up a road map for a defence-industrial partnership that would provide for the co-development and co-production of key military and civilian hardware.

France

- **About**: It is a country located primarily in Western Europe.
- **Borders with**: Belgium and Luxembourg to the north,
  - Germany to the north east,
  - Switzerland to the east,
  - Italy and Monaco to the south east,
  - Andorra and Spain to the south,
  - and a maritime border with the United Kingdom to the north west.
- **Extend from**: Rhine to the Atlantic Ocean and from the Mediterranean Sea to the English Channel and the North Sea.
- It is the third-largest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

India France Relations

- **India's Nuclear Test: France was one of the first countries** to support India's nuclear tests in 1998, and the two countries signed a strategic partnership in the same year.
- **Defence Supplier: France has become India's second-largest** defence supplier in the past five years, cementing its position as a key defence partner for the country.
  - Exercise Shakti (Army), Exercise Varuna (Navy), Exercise Garuda (Air Force).
- **Collaboration across sectors**, such as manufacturing, infrastructure, and technology.
  - Bilateral trade was USD 13.4 billion in 2022-23, France is one of the top 11 foreign investors in India.
- **Civil Nuclear Agreement**: France was the first country after the USA to sign a civil nuclear agreement with India in 2008.
  - **France has been a strong supporter of India's** bid for permanent membership in the UN Security Council and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
- **Stable Indo-Pacific:** Both adopted the **Joint Strategic Vision of India-France Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region** in 2018.
  - Both will work on setting up the **Indo-Pacific Triangular Cooperation (IPTDC) Fund** aimed at supporting climate and SDG focused innovations and Start-ups from third countries of the Indo-Pacific.

THE HINDU

Page 1

GOLDEN TIGER

Syllabus GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Rare golden tiger snapped in Kaziranga

The encounter in the wild might never happen again, says wildlife photographer from Coimbatore

Wilson Thomas
COIMBATORE

While the photograph of a golden tiger, shared by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on X (formerly Twitter) on National Tourism Day (January 25), has left nature enthusiasts spellbound, the man behind the image feels that the rare encounter in the wild might never happen again.

Wildlife photographer Gaurav Ramnarayanan from Coimbatore snapped the tiger with the golden coat on a safari in Assam's Kaziranga National Park on January 24.

"The male adult golden tiger was sighted around 3.30-4 p.m. when I was taking guests from Australia on a safari. Initially, it was around 800 metres away and then it walked towards the safari vehicle, as close as about 80 metres, while moving along its path," said Mr. Ramnarayanan, who runs a travel photography company, The Wildside.



Unusual sighting: The golden tiger photographed in Kaziranga National Park, Assam, on January 24. GAURAV RAMNARAYANAN

Exact count unknown

According to him, more than one tiger with the golden coat are believed to be in Kaziranga, but the exact count is not known.

The photograph of a golden tiger, said to be taken in 2019, is of a different tiger.

Professor Uma Ramakrishnan of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, whose team studied the black or pseudomelanistic tigers in the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha, is conducting a study on the golden phenotype of Kaziranga using scat samples.

"This tiger looks golden because it has a mutation or a genetic variant. Basically, tigers have three colours: black, orange, and white. In this tiger, the black colour is missing, and it is slightly faded. Even the orange is faded," said Ms. Ramakrishnan.

Context: Assam Chief Minister recently posted a picture of the rare golden tiger spotted in Kaziranga National Park on the occasion of National Tourism Day.

Golden Tiger

- **About**: It is essentially a Bengal tiger displaying a distinctive coloration due to a recessive gene. This unique variant, like white and black tigers, is a color form rather than a distinct subspecies.
- **Distinctive Coloration**: The hallmark of a golden tiger is its remarkable blonde or pale-golden fur accompanied by red-brown stripes, in contrast to the typical black stripes found in other tiger variants.
- **Recessive Trait**: The golden tiger's unique coloring is a result of the "wideband" recessive trait, affecting the expression of black pigment. This trait plays a pivotal role in determining the tiger's overall appearance and distinguishes it from its orange-with-black-stripe counterparts.
- **Not a Separate Subspecies**: It is crucial to note that, akin to white and black tigers, the golden tiger is not a separate subspecies but rather a captivating manifestation of genetic diversity within the Bengal tiger population.

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Located at Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam.
- **Flora:** Tall elephant grass, marshland, and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests.
- **Fauna:** One-horned rhinos; Elephant; Royal Bengal tiger and Asiatic water buffalo.
- **River:** Located on the edge of Brahmaputra River and Diphlu River flows through the National Park.

Conservation status:

- National Park in 1974.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.
- Tiger Reserve in 2007.
- Recognized as an **Important Bird Area** by Birdlife International.

PIB

Jan 26

AYODHYA BYPASS PROJECT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Infrastructure)

PM GatiShakti spurs project planning and implementation of Ayodhya Bypass Project

Context: PM GatiShakti spurs project planning and implementation of Ayodhya Bypass Project.

Ayodhya Bypass Project

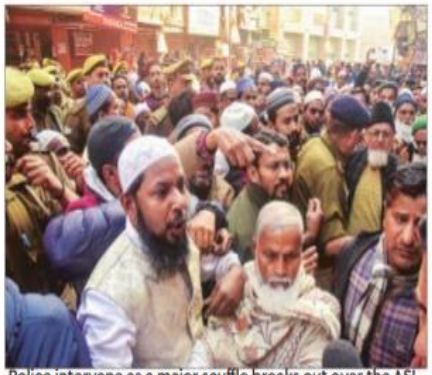
- **About**: It is a significant Greenfield initiative covering a total length of 67.57 kms.
- **Consist of**: 4/6 Lane Northern Ayodhya Bypass (35.40 kms) and a 4/6 Lane Southern Ayodhya Bypass (32.172 kms).
- **Aim**: To enhance connectivity across key districts like Lucknow, Basti, and Gonda.
- **Economic Impact**: Ayodhya, strategically located between Lucknow and Gorakhpur, serves as a crucial passage for commodities such as leather, engineering goods, and building materials.
- **Freight Movement**: It will facilitate seamless transportation, reduce travel time to critical national highways, and benefit around eight influence areas surrounding Ayodhya.
- **Integration with National Highways**: This Project aligns with national highways like NH-27 (Lucknow–Ayodhya-Gorakhpur), NH-330A (Raebareli-Ayodhya), NH-330 (Sultanpur-Ayodhya-Gonda), and NH-135A (Akbarpur-Ayodhya), contributing to enhanced connectivity and reduced travel time.
- **Synergies with Proposed Projects**: Prayagraj–Raibareili Project, Gorakhpur-Siliguri Corridor, and Gorakhpur-Bareilly Corridor, fostering regional development and connectivity.
- **Significance**: Ayodhya's regional infrastructure plays a vital role in the overall development and connectivity of the surrounding areas. The Ayodhya Bypass Project is a crucial component contributing to the region's growth and prosperity.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Page 3

ASI report is not verdict: Gyanvapi mosque panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Varanasi, January 26



Police intervene as a major scuffle breaks out over the ASI survey report, outside the Gyanvapi mosque on Friday PTI

THE GYANVAPI MASJID committee on Friday said the ASI survey of the mosque, which Hindu side lawyers claim was built on the remains of a pre-existing temple, is just a report and not a judgment.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masajid Committee said they are studying the ASI survey report, after which they would make comments.

Mohd Yasin, secretary of the committee which manages the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, said, "This is just a report and not a 'faisala' (judgment). There are several kinds of reports. It is not the final word on the issue." He said they would present their views when the Supreme Court hears the matter relating to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

The Act mandates that the "religious character" of a place, except the Ram temple in Ayodhya, cannot be changed from what existed on August 15, 1947.

Responding to the latest developments, BJP leader and Union minister Giriraj Singh on Friday said Muslims should hand over the Gyanvapi mosque site to Hindus, and said no statements should be made that can disrupt communal harmony.

Lawyers of the Hindu petitioners in the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi case on Thursday claimed that the report of a scientific survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) suggests the mosque was built on the remains of a pre-existing temple.

Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing four women petitioners in the case, said the 839-page report makes it clear that the mosque, which stands adjacent to the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir, was built on the remains of a grand Hindu temple after it was demolished in the 17th century during the reign of Aurangzeb.

He further claimed that the survey report has sufficient evidence of the existence of a temple at the place where the mosque now stands.

Madan Mohan Yadav, a lawyer representing one of the Hindu petitioners, Rakhi Singh, said during the survey, evidence has been found at 32 places suggesting the existence of a temple there.

Jain claimed debris of the statues of Hindu gods had been found in two basements during the survey. Some parts of the pre-existing temple including pillars were used in the construction of the Gyanvapi mosque, he added.

He claimed the order and the date of demolition of the temple are inscribed on stone in Persian language. A stone with "mahamukti" inscribed on it has also been found.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Context: Recently, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducted a survey indicating the existence of a large Hindu temple before the construction of the Gyanvapi Masjid in Varanasi.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- **About:** It is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Culture.
- **Founded in**: 1861.
- **Father of Indian Archaeology**: Alexander Cunningham.
- **Function**: The organization is responsible for the management and preservation of over 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and national heritage.
- **Heritage Preservation**: Engaging in a range of activities, the organization conducts surveys of antiquarian remains, explores archaeological sites, and undertakes excavation projects.

ALL INDIA RADIO

Jan 26

RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Scheme)

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala interacts with beneficiaries of Rashtriya Gokul Mission & Fisheries Dept in New Delhi

Context: Recently, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala interacted with beneficiaries of Rashtriya Gokul Mission and Fisheries Department.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- **Launched**: In 2014 under the National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBD).
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying
- **Aim:** To conserve and develop indigenous breeds in a focused and scientific manner.
- **Two Major Components**: Research and development of **high-quality semen to increase the chances** of female calf births.
- The **setting up of semen stations to ensure easy access** to high-quality semen for livestock rearers across the country.
- **Objective of Mission**
  - **Development and preservation** of native breeds.
  - Implement a program for the **enhancement of indigenous cattle breeds** to elevate their genetic characteristics and boost their population.
  - **Augment milk output** and efficiency.
  - Elevate common cattle by **introducing superior indigenous breeds** such as Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, and Red Sindhi.

PIB

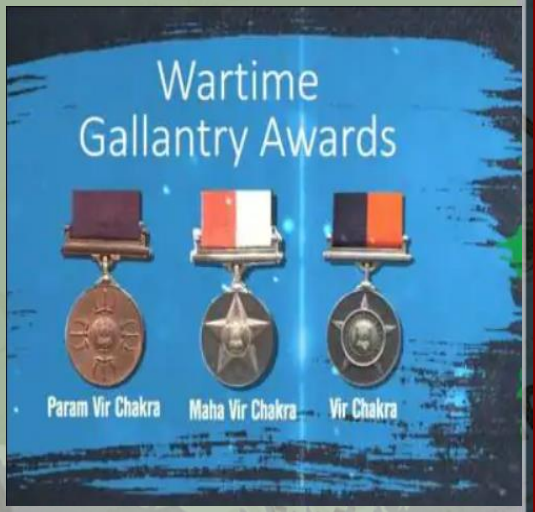
Jan 26

GALLANTARY AWARDS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Art and Culture)

LIST OF GALLANTRY AWARD TO INDIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL APPROVED BY SMT. DROUPADI MURMU ON THE EVE OF REPUBLIC DAY 2024

Context: President of India has approved gallantry awards to 80 military personnel, including 12 posthumous, on the eve of 75th Republic Day.





Gallantry Awards

- **About**: Gallantry Awards are a recognition of acts of courage and self-sacrifice performed by members of the Armed Forces, legally constituted forces, and civilians.
- **Ministry**: Ministry of Defence.
- **Announced**: Twice in a year.
- **Categories of Awards**: Wartime Gallantry Awards and Peacetime Gallantry Awards.
  - **Wartime Gallantry Awards**: Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Mahavir Chakra (MVC), and Vir Chakra
  - **Peacetime Gallantry Awards**: Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra
- **Other Recognitions**: Sena Medal, Nao Sena Medal, and Vayu Sena Medal.
- **Order of precedence:** Param Vir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra.
- **Major facts:**
  - All the gallantry awards may be awarded posthumously.
  - Persons recommended for the award shall not be involved in any adverse report or should not have been conveyed any displeasure or censure or given any punishment in a court martial proceedings or through administrative action.

DTE

Jan 26

MOUNTAIN GOATS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Mountain goats in Alps are turning nocturnal due to climate impact, making them more vulnerable to predators



Context: Warmer temperatures caused by climate change are changing the lifestyles of mountain goats in the European Alps, according to research.

Alpine ibex

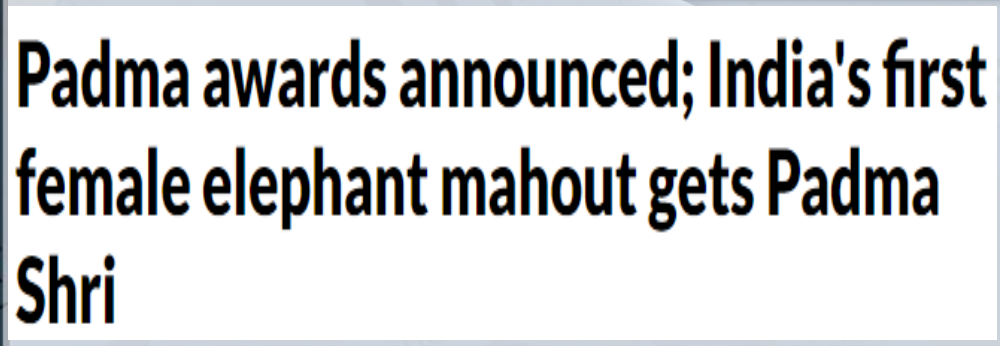
- **About**: It is a distinctive species of goat thriving in the mountainous regions of the European Alps.
- **Scientific name**: Capra ibex
- **Taxonomy:** Belonging to the genus Capra, the Alpine ibex is one among the ten recognized species. Its closest living relative is identified as the Iberian ibex.
- **Size and Horns**: This species exhibits sexual dimorphism, with males being larger in size and sporting longer horns compared to their female counterparts.
- **Characteristics**: The Alpine ibex is characterized by a coat with a brownish-grey coloration, contributing to its adaptability in the alpine environment.
- **Habitat**: Predominantly inhabit steep and rough terrains, as well as open alpine meadows.
- **Altitudinal Range**: These goats are known to dwell at impressive elevations, reaching up to 3,300 meters (10,800 feet) above sea level, showcasing their remarkable adaptability to high-altitude living.
- **Adaptive Hooves**: Equipped with sharp hooves, the Alpine ibex adeptly navigates its mountainous habitat, showcasing remarkable agility and climbing capabilities.

HINDUSTAN TIMES

Jan 26

PADMA AWARDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Art and Culture)


Padma awards announced; India's first female elephant mahout gets Padma Shri

Context: The Centre recently announced Padma Shri awards on the occasion of the Republic Day eve.

- India's first woman elephant mahout Parbati Baruah famously known as 'Hasti Kanya', and tribal environmentalist Chami Murmu, are among the 34 people who have been awarded the Padma Shri.

Padma Shri Awards

- **About**: It is the fourth-highest civilian award of the Republic of India after the Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, and the Padma Bhushan.
- **Recognition**: contributions in various spheres of activity including the arts, education, industry, and social service, among others.
- **Eligibility**: All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position, or sex.
- **Not Eligible**: Government servants including those working with PSUs.

Padma Awards

- **About**: These Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
- **Categories**: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- **Who decide**: All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee.

THE HINDU Page 1

CITIZENSHIP IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

Union govt. makes it clear that Aadhaar card no proof of citizenship, birth date

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

New Aadhaar cards and PDF versions of the identity document have started including a more explicit disclaimer that they are "a proof of identity, not of citizenship or date of birth", signalling to government departments and other organisations not to use it for those purposes.

Aadhaar card has never been proof of citizenship as foreign nationals are also eligible to obtain one if they have been living in India for 180 days. However, different government departments accept it for purposes reserved for citizens or adults.

For instance, the Election Commission of India explicitly accepts Aadhaar as a proof of date of birth for enrolling people to vote. These new clarifications, prominently printed on the document, may challenge such allowances.

The IDs also include a warning that authenticating them offline needs to be done by scanning the QR code on the reverse side of the document, or by using an XML file issued to residents by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which administers Aadhaar.



The EPFO does not accept Aadhaar as proof of birth date.

At least one organisation has stopped accepting Aadhaar as a proof of date of birth: the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), which administers the mandatory retirement fund for salaried employees in India.

The EPFO issued a circular on January 16, deleting Aadhaar from the list of documents acceptable as a proof of date of birth.

2018 memorandum

This invalidity of Aadhaar for use in determining the date of birth and citizenship has been the case for years – the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology clarified in a 2018 memorandum that Aadhaar is "per se... not a proof of date of birth", as the date of birth is based on a different document given by applicants.

A Bombay High Court judgment last year that emphasised this was cited in a December 2023 circular that UIDAI issued, which reminded organisations of the fact. But now the warning is imprinted on the face of all Aadhaar cards and digital copies issued to all Indian residents.

This new warning initially only mentioned last year that it was not a proof of citizenship, but now clarifies that Aadhaar is not a proof of date of birth too.

The 12-digit ID is a proof of uniqueness and residence, but different government agencies accept it – often on a stand-alone basis – for any citizen establishing their identity.

Context: New Aadhaar cards and PDF versions of the identity document have started including a more explicit disclaimer that they are "a proof of identity, not of citizenship or date of birth", signalling to government departments and other organisations not to use it for those purposes.

Citizenship in India

- **Union List**: Citizenship is listed in the Union List under the Constitution and thus is under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament.
- **Constitutional articles**: The Constitution of India in Article 5 to 11, only talks about who was a citizen till 26 January 1950.
- **No definition of Citizen**: The Constitution does not define the term 'citizen' but details of various categories of persons who are entitled to citizenship are given in Part 2 (Articles 5 to 11).
- **Acquisition And Determination Of Indian Citizenship:** There are **methods of Acquiring Citizenship of India prescribed in the Citizenship Act, 1955**, for becoming a citizen of India. They are:
  - By Birth
  - By Acquisition or Incorporation of Territory
  - By Descent
  - By Registration
  - By Naturalisation
- **Loss of Citizenship:** By Renunciation, By Termination, and By Deprivation

DTE Jan 26

BLACK TIGER
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Mixed reactions from wildlife experts after 'black tiger' safari announced by Odisha government

Context: There have been mixed reactions from wildlife experts and activists after the Odisha government decided to set up a black tiger safari, the first of its kind in the world, near the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR).

Black Tiger

- **About**: A black tiger is a rare colour variant of the tiger, and is not a distinct species or geographic subspecies.
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered
- **Population in India**: Similipal reported 16 tigers, with 10 being melanistic.
- **Reason of black colour**: So-called black tigers are due to pseudo-melanism. Pseudo-melanistic tigers have thick stripes so close together that the tawny background is barely visible between stripes.
- **Presence**: Melanistic tigers have been recorded only in the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha. As per the 2022 cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation, 16 individuals were recorded at Similipal Tiger Reserve, out of which 10 were melanistic.

Similipal Tiger Reserve

- **About:** Similipal is a tiger reserve in the Mayurbhanj district in the Indian state of Odisha covering 2,750 km2 (1,060 sq mi).
- **Located**: In the Mayurbhanj District of Odisha's northernmost region.
- **Declared as**: Tiger Reserve in the year 1956 under Project Tiger in May 1973.
- **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**: Declared in 1994 by the government of India\.

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