

DAILY NEWS

ANALYSIS

**5th April*****Explained***

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DNA Quiz

Playlist Link:

What to Read: <https://bit.ly/3FYdutC>

Daily News Analysis: <https://bit.ly/4ge9BgF>

EXPLAINED

1. AGASTHYAMALAI BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Relevance: Protected Areas (Environment)

Backdrop: SC directs CEC (central Empowered committee) to survey Agasthyamalai landscape to spot encroachments into forests

In the news

The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) will conduct a survey covering the following protected areas:

- Periyar Tiger Reserve
- Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- Tirunelveli Wildlife Sanctuary

This survey is an interim step aimed at:

- Initiating the restoration of pristine forest areas
- Protecting tiger habitats and other critical wildlife reserves
- Safeguarding sanctuaries located within the Agasthyamalai Biosphere

Agasthyamala Biosphere



2. CSIR-NAL- HANSA TRAINER-PLANES

Relevance: Science and Technology-Developments and their Applications (GS3)

Backdrop: CSIR-NAL signs technology transfer deal with private firm to manufacture HANSA trainer-planes

In the news:

- It would be the first time that aircraft would be

manufactured in India based on technology fully designed and developed indigenously.

- The Hansa-3 NG aircraft is a two-seater aircraft and is the latest iteration of the HANSA planes that have been made by NAL since 1998.
- HANSA-NG is powered by a Rotax Digital Control Engine with features such as a composite light weight airframe, a glass cockpit, a bubble canopy with a wide panoramic view, and electrically operated flaps.

CSIR-NAL

- The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) based in Bengaluru is India's first and largest aerospace research institution established by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Delhi in 1959.
- The company closely operates with HAL, DRDO, and ISRO and has the primary responsibility of developing civilian aircraft in India.

CSIR

- It was established as an autonomous body in 1942 under the aegis of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- It is a research and development (R&D) organisation in India to promote scientific, industrial and economic growth.
- Headquartered in New Delhi,

3. KHELO INDIA

Relevance: Issues of Current Events

Backdrop : Bihar to host seventh edition of the Khelo India Youth Games

Khelo India Programme

- **Launch Year:** 2018
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,
- **Purpose:** To **revive sports culture** at the grassroots level and identify young sporting talent across India.
- **Central Sector Scheme**

Objectives

Twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports.

- Encourage youth participation in sports.
- Identify and nurture sports talent from a young age.
- Create sports infrastructure in rural and urban areas.
- Promote **"Fit India"** through community-level fitness programs.
- Build a **sports ecosystem** focused on excellence and accessibility.



4. PAMBAN BRIDGE

Relevance: GS I Geography

Backdrop : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the New Pamban Bridge during his visit to Tamil Nadu on April 6, on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami.

Pamban Bridge

Feature	Details
Location	Connects Rameswaram Island to mainland India, in Tamil Nadu
Opened	1914
Length	Approximately 2.3 km (1.4 miles)
Type	Cantilever railway bridge (original), now being upgraded to a vertical lift bridge
Significance	First sea bridge in India and second longest after the Bandra-Worli Sea Link
Engineering Marvel	Contains a double-leaf bascule (lift) section that opens to let ships pass
Constructed By	Scherzer Rolling Lift Bridge Company, USA
Named After	The town of Pamban, near Rameswaram

Cultural Importance

- Rameswaram is a **major pilgrimage site**, closely linked to the **Ramayana**.
- The bridge plays a vital role in transporting pilgrims and goods.

Rameswaram Island

Location & Geography

- Rameswaram Island**, also known as **Pamban Island**, is situated in the **Gulf of Mannar**, **between mainland India and Sri Lanka**. Lies in the **Palk Strait**. Area: Approximately **61.8 sq km**.
- Closest point to Sri Lanka from Indian soil – about **30 km** via the **Adam's Bridge (Ram Setu)**.
- Surrounded by the **Bay of Bengal (north)** and **Indian Ocean (south)**.
- The island has **flat terrain**, **sandy soil**, and **coastal vegetation**.

Religious Significance

- One of the **holiest pilgrimage sites** for Hindus.

Ecological & Environmental Significance

- Part of the **Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve**, India's **first marine biosphere reserve**.
- Rich biodiversity: **Coral reefs**, **seagrass beds**, **mangroves**, and **marine species**.
- Important nesting area for **sea turtles** and breeding grounds for **marine life**.
- Fishing is a major livelihood; famous for **dry fish**, **prawns**, **sea cucumbers**, and **lobsters**.

The New Pamban Bridge

- India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge**, a **2.07-kilometre-long** marvel spanning the Palk Strait in Tamil Nadu.
- The New Pamban Bridge was constructed by **Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)**, a **Navratna PSU** under the Ministry of Railways.
- Replaces the original 1914 cantilever bridge**.
- Located in Tamil Nadu, **connecting Rameswaram Island to the mainland**.

Key Features of the New Pamban Bridge:

- The 72.5-meter navigational span can be lifted up to 17 meters, allowing **larger ships to pass underneath**.
- The **new bridge is 3 meters higher than the existing one**, improving sea connectivity.
- The substructure is **designed for two tracks**, with the superstructure initially accommodating a single line.
- Special polysiloxane coating** protects it from corrosion, ensuring longevity in the harsh marine environment.

The New Pamban Bridge is set to ensure:

- Enhanced Transportation:** Accommodating heavier rail traffic and faster trains.
- Maritime Integration:** Allowing larger vessels to pass without disruptions.
- Durability:** Ensuring a lifespan of over 100 years with minimal maintenance.

DECODED

5. BIMSTEC SUMMIT

Relevance: GS II International Relations

Backdrop: 6th BIMSTEC Summit (April 2–4, 2025, Bangkok, Thailand)

About BIMSTEC

BIMSTEC stands for the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**. It is a regional organization that connects countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia along the Bay of Bengal.

Member Countries:

Country	Date of Joining
Bangladesh	June 6, 1997 (Founding Member)
India	June 6, 1997 (Founding Member)
Sri Lanka	August 31, 1998
Thailand	June 6, 1997 (Founding Member)
Myanmar	December 22, 1997
Nepal	February 2004
Bhutan	February 2004

Established

- 6 June 1997 (originally as **BIST-EC: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation**)
- Renamed **BIMST-EC** after Myanmar joined.
- Finally became BIMSTEC when **Nepal and Bhutan** joined in 2004.
- **Headquarters:**
 - Dhaka, Bangladesh

Objectives

Promotes
Promote regional cooperation in various sectors.



Enhance
Enhance connectivity and people-to-people contact.

Facilitate
Facilitate trade and economic integration.



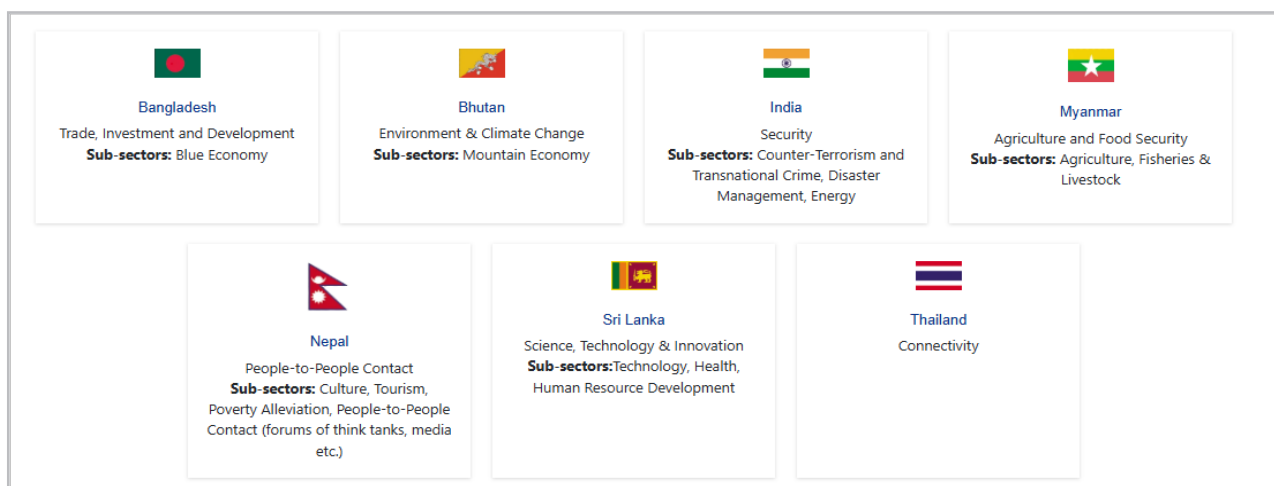
Shared Challenges
Tackle shared challenges like terrorism, climate change, and natural disasters.

Organisational Structure

BIMSTEC is a five-tiered organization:

- The **Summit** comprising the **Heads of State or Government of the Member States**
- The **Ministerial Meeting** comprising the **Ministers dealing with foreign relations** of the Member States
- The **Sectoral Ministerial Meetings** comprising the **Ministers of line ministries** responsible for carrying out the activities of the respective sectors
- The **Senior Officials' Meeting** consisting of the **Foreign Secretaries/ Secretaries/** appropriate Senior officials nominated by the BIMSTEC Member States
- The **BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC)** comprises senior officials of the respective **National Focal Points**.

Priority Sectors: BIMSTEC focuses on **7 key sectors**, each led by a member country:



6th BIMSTEC Summit (April 2–4, 2025, Bangkok, Thailand):

Key Area	Details
Summit Venue & Date	6th BIMSTEC Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand from April 2–4, 2025.
Bangkok Vision 2030	A long-term roadmap adopted to deepen regional integration and cooperation across multiple sectors.
Maritime Transport Agreement	Member states signed an agreement to enhance maritime connectivity, aiming to boost trade and collaboration.
Disaster Management	India to set up BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence for Disaster Management and host a joint exercise later in 2025.
Digital & Economic Collaboration	India proposed linking UPI with BIMSTEC countries' payment systems and suggested trade in local currencies and a BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce.
Rohingya Repatriation	Myanmar confirmed 180,000 Rohingya refugees eligible to return, a key issue for Bangladesh and regional stability.
BODHI initiative,	300 young individuals from BIMSTEC member countries will receive training in India each year.

Note:

- **Bali Jatra** of Odisha, the deep-rooted historical links between Buddhist and Hindu traditions, and the linguistic affinities among us—all stand as powerful symbols of our cultural interconnectedness.
- Bangladesh as the incoming Chair of BIMSTEC.

PM Modi On the Sidelines of BIMSTEC

Bangladesh

- Prime Minister Modi said **“rhetoric that vitiates the environment is best avoided.”** Underlined India's **concerns related to the safety and security of minorities in Bangladesh, including Hindus**, and expressed his expectation that the Government of Bangladesh would ensure their security, including by thoroughly investigating the cases of atrocities committed against them.
- Prime Minister Modi **reiterated India's support for a “democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh”** New Delhi has always attached 'highest priority' to its relationship with Dhaka. And the history of the two neighbours is intricately linked, and it goes back to the birth of Bangladesh.

Myanmar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi pushed for early restoration of the democratic process in the country through **“inclusive and credible elections”** and **called for inclusive dialogue to end the civil war in Myanmar.**
- Offered to ramp up aid in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that killed over 3,000 people.
- India has launched **Operation Brahma** to help relief efforts in the earthquake-hit Myanmar,
- Myanmar is considered a cog in the wheel for the success of BIMSTEC, whose key aim is to promote connectivity between the member nations

Nepal

- The PM said **“India attaches immense priority to relations with Nepal** And discussed different aspects of India-Nepal friendship, especially in **sectors like energy, connectivity, culture and digital technology,”**
- The MEA said **“Nepal is a priority partner of India under its Neighbourhood First Policy.** meeting continues the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries,”.

- Q.** Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation? (2022)

== PRACTICE QUESTION ==

- Q.** BIMSTEC holds immense potential as a regional economic and strategic bloc, bridging South Asia and Southeast Asia. Critically Examine.

DNA QUIZ

- Q1. Which of the following are in Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve? (2019)
- Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
 - Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Silent Valley National Park
 - Kaundinya, Gundla Brahmeswaram and Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Mukurthi National Park
 - Kawal and Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve

- Q2. With reference to the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, consider the following statements:

- It is located in the Western Ghats and spans across the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- It is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- The reserve is known for being a habitat to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr.
- The Kanikkarans, a traditional tribal community, inhabit parts of this biosphere reserve.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

- Q3. Consider the following statements:

- The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) is India's first and largest aerospace research institution, established in 1959 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- NAL is headquartered in New Delhi and primarily works on developing military aircraft for the Indian defense forces.
- CSIR, established in 1942, is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, to promote scientific and industrial growth.
- CSIR-NAL operates closely with HAL, DRDO, and ISRO, with a focus on the development of civilian aircraft in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1, 2, and 3
- 1, 3, and 4
- 2, 3, and 4
- 1, 2, and 4

- Q4. For outstanding contribution to which one of the following fields is Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize given? (2009)

- Literature
- Performing Arts
- Science
- Social Service

- Q5. Consider the following statement

- Khelo India Programme is Central Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,
- It aims to revive sports culture at the grassroots level and identify young sporting talent across India.
- Under the programme scholarships of 10 lakh per annum provided for 8 years to selected athletes.

Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

- Q6. Consider the following statements

- New Pamban Bridge is India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge connecting Rameswaram Island to the mainland.
- Rameswaram Island, also known as Pamban Island is situated in the Gulf of Mannar, between mainland India and Sri Lanka.

Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

- Q7. Which of the following countries are part of BIMSTEC but not the members of SAARC ?

- Myanmar and Thailand
- Sri Lanka and Bhutan
- Myanmar and Nepal
- Thailand and Bhutan

ANSWERS

Q.1 (a)	Q.2 (b)	Q.3 (b)	Q.4 (c)	Q.5 (b)	Q.6 (c)	Q.7 (a)
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