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— Converting Possibilities into Reality —

KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

🎯 PRECISE | 🧠 RELEVANT | ⌚ EXAM FOCUSED

STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



16 SEPTEMBER 2026

---WEDNESDAY---



Kolkata Topper

VAISHNA BISWAS

AIR - 367 | CSE 2025

★ OUR PROVEN LEGACY ★

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2023



IPS LAXMAN PRATAP
RANK - 597

FORMER ASST. COMMANDANT IN BSF
CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2024



IRS SARLA JAKHER
AIR 593

CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA



IRS TANMAY
AIR 346

IIT KHARAGPUR



YOUR
DREAMS.

OUR
MISSION.

TOGETHER,
WE ACHIEVE
THE EXTRA
ORDINARY.

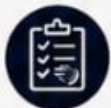


Converting Possibilities into Reality

PRELIMS MAINS | INTERVIEW



DAILY CURATED
NEWS



EXAM ORIENTED
ANALYSIS



SMART NOTES &
INFOGRAPHICS



BOOST YOUR
PREPARATION

“INFORMED TODAY, EMPOWERED TOMORROW.”

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. Peak Water: Himalayan Glacier Melt and India's Water Security
2. Saudi Arabia's Two-Strait Dilemma
3. Decoding India's GDP Base Revision
4. Paniya Tribe
5. Kishau Multipurpose Project

1. Peak Water: Himalayan Glacier Melt and India's Water Security**Why in News?**

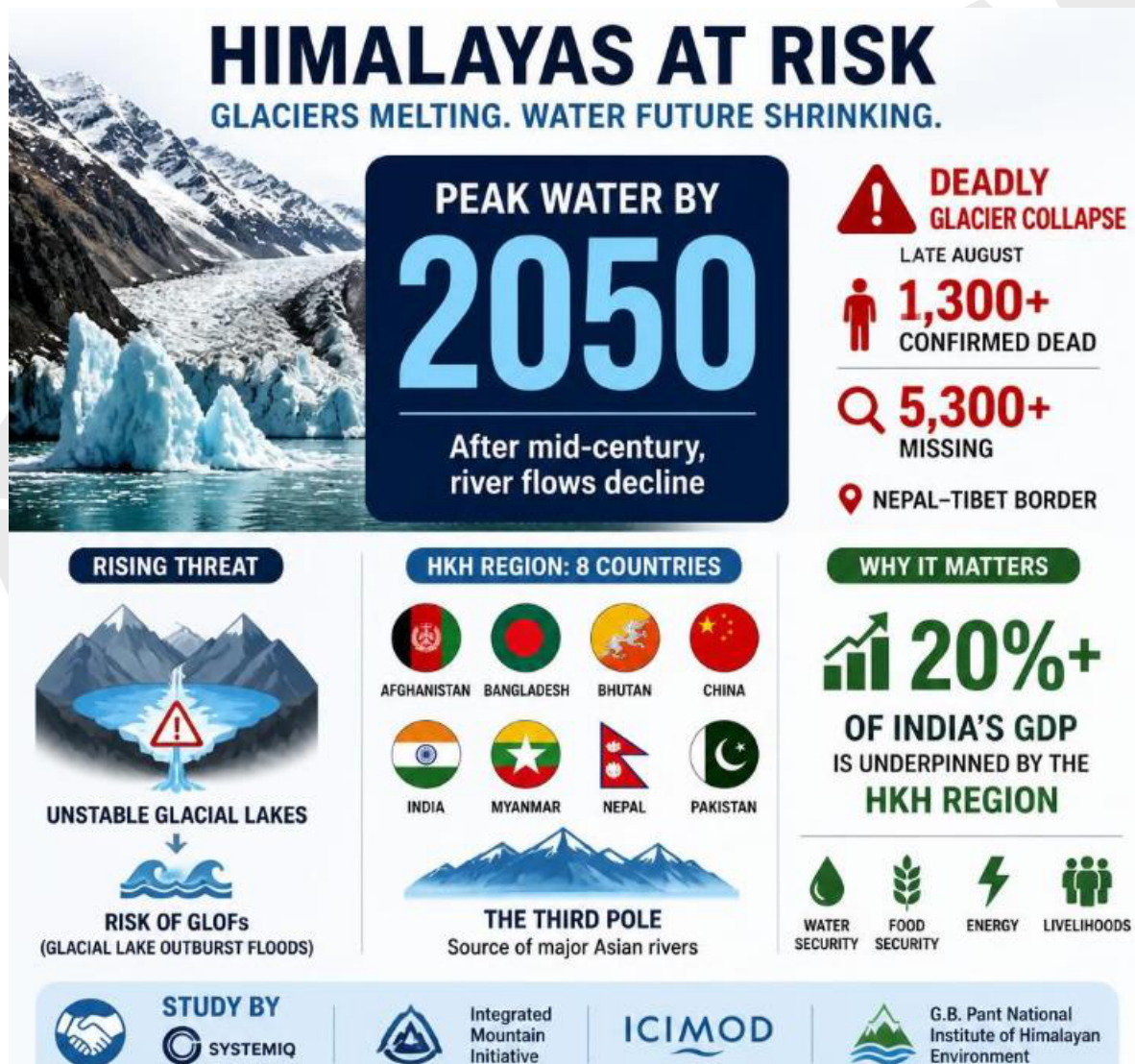
- Accelerated melting of Himalayan glaciers is pushing the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region towards "peak water" by the middle of this century.
- Peak water refers to the point at which glacier-fed river discharge reaches its maximum and subsequently begins to decline as glacier mass diminishes.
- The emerging shift has major implications for water security, agriculture, hydropower and downstream populations across the Himalayan river basins.
- A recent glacier collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border reportedly triggered landslides and flash floods, highlighting the growing risks associated with unstable mountain environments.

Why Himalayan Glaciers Matter?

- The HKH region spans eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.
- It contains an estimated 40,000 glaciers and feeds several major river systems that support large downstream populations.
- The region underpins more than 20% of India's GDP through its contribution to water-dependent agriculture, hydropower, industries and ecosystems.
- The Himalayan region constitutes around 18% of India's geographical area but accounts for approximately 35% of the country's natural disasters.
- Glacier retreat therefore creates a dual challenge:
 - Short term: increased meltwater and flood-related hazards.
 - Long term: declining glacier-fed flows and water scarcity.

Peak Water and GLOF Risk

- Rapid glacier melting initially increases river discharge as additional meltwater enters downstream systems.
- As glacier volume progressively declines, the amount of meltwater available also decreases, eventually producing “peak water” followed by declining river flows.
- Retreating glaciers can leave behind unstable glacial lakes, increasing the probability of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).
- GLOFs occur when water accumulated in a glacial lake is suddenly released due to failure of a moraine dam, landslide, avalanche or other disturbance.
- Such events can produce rapid and destructive floods, landslides and debris flows in downstream valleys.
- Only about 21 of the estimated 40,000 HKH glaciers are currently monitored on the ground, indicating major gaps in systematic observation and early warning.



The Three Types of Peak Water

Water exhibits both renewable and non-renewable characteristics, leading to three distinct thresholds:

- **Peak Renewable Water:** Occurs when the entire renewable flow of a river or watershed is diverted for human use. At this point, any further increase in demand cannot be met by the natural cycle.
- **Peak Non-Renewable Water:** Observed in groundwater aquifers (fossil water) where extraction rates significantly exceed natural recharge rates. Once the "peak" is passed, production inevitably declines because the resource is being mined like a mineral.
- **Peak Ecological Water:** The most critical limit. It is the point where the ecological cost of taking more water exceeds the economic value that water provides to humans. Beyond this, ecosystems (like wetlands or deltas) suffer irreversible damage.

Implications for India

- Reduced long-term glacier runoff can affect:
 - Drinking-water availability.
 - Irrigation and agricultural productivity.
 - Hydropower generation.
 - Industrial water requirements.
 - Riverine ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Changes in seasonal river flows can complicate water management because Himalayan rivers support populations far beyond the mountain region.
- Greater GLOF and landslide risks threaten settlements, roads, bridges, hydropower projects and other infrastructure in fragile mountain terrain.
- The water-security challenge is therefore not limited to glacier loss; it involves the combined effects of climate change, extreme events, infrastructure vulnerability and inadequate monitoring.

Way Forward

- Expand glacier and glacial-lake monitoring using ground observations, remote sensing, satellites and automated sensors.
- Develop basin-level early-warning systems for GLOFs, landslides and flash floods and strengthen last-mile dissemination to vulnerable communities.
- Integrate climate projections and glacier-risk assessments into the planning and design of hydropower, roads, settlements and other Himalayan infrastructure.

- Improve transboundary cooperation among HKH countries for data sharing, disaster preparedness and river-basin management.
- Strengthen climate-resilient water management through watershed conservation, efficient irrigation, groundwater management and demand-side measures.
- Institutions such as ICIMOD, along with national agencies including the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, can support regional research, knowledge-sharing and sustainable mountain development.

2.Saudi Arabia's Two-Strait Dilemma

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

Houthi control of Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait has created a "two-strait dilemma" for Saudi Arabia. The situation threatens both its Red Sea oil-export route and its broader energy-security strategy amid continuing regional conflict.

Key Highlights

- The Houthis gained control of parts of Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, including Perim Island.
- Perim Island provides a strategic vantage point over commercial maritime traffic.
- Bab el-Mandeb connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and provides maritime access towards the Suez Canal.
- Around 12% of global trade passes through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
- Saudi Arabia's oil exports through the Red Sea, particularly from Yanbu, have become vulnerable to disruption.
- Nearly 70% of Saudi oil destined for Asia previously transited through Bab el-Mandeb, according to the source.
- Saudi Arabia had increasingly relied on the Yanbu port and the 1,200-km East-West pipeline to reduce dependence on the Strait of Hormuz.
- Following the Houthi naval blockade and attacks on Saudi tankers and oil facilities, Saudi Arabia rerouted oil shipments and reduced crude production to 6.2 million barrels per day in August, compared with over 10 million barrels per day in January.

Strategic Significance

- Saudi Arabia faces simultaneous vulnerability at two major maritime chokepoints: Bab el-Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz.

- Disruption of Bab el-Mandeb can affect global shipping, oil flows and access to the Suez Canal.
- Control of maritime chokepoints provides significant geopolitical leverage because disruption can increase transportation costs and affect global energy markets.
- The situation also affects Saudi Arabia's strategy of diversifying oil-export routes away from Hormuz.
- The Houthis' reported advance towards Marib, a major centre of Yemen's oil and gas industry, could further strengthen their bargaining position.

The Bab el-Mandeb, whose name translates from Arabic as the "**Gate of Tears**", is a narrow strait located between the **Arabian Peninsula** (Yemen) and the **Horn of Africa** (Djibouti and Eritrea).

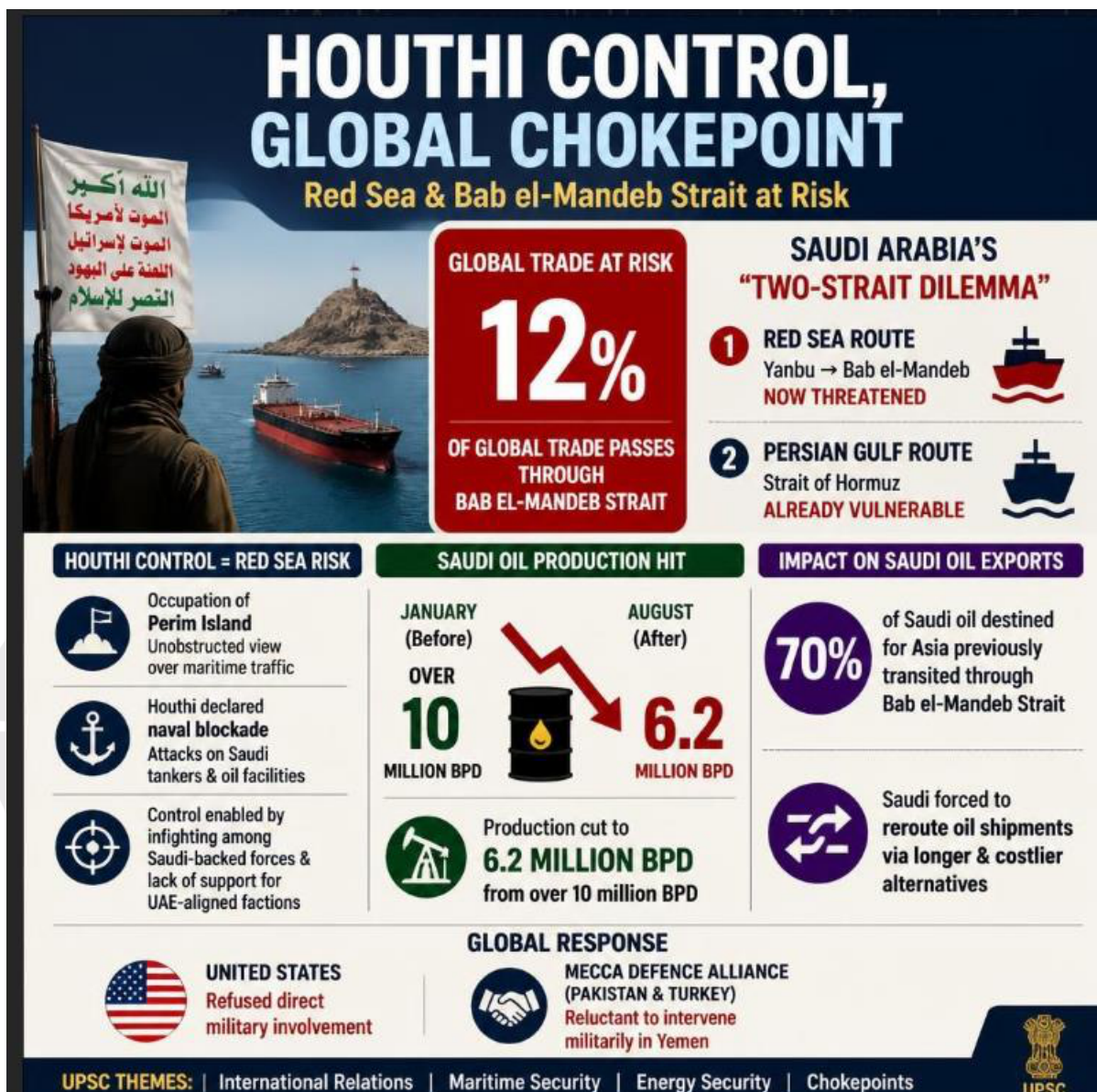
- **Connectivity:** It serves as the southern gateway to the **Red Sea**, connecting it to the **Gulf of Aden** and the **Indian Ocean**. To the north, the Red Sea leads to the **Suez Canal**, forming the shortest maritime route between Asia and Europe.
- **Physical Features:** At its narrowest point, the strait is only about **29 kilometers (18 miles)** wide. It is divided into two channels by **Perim Island** (also known as Mayun Island), which belongs to Yemen. The western channel is the primary route for



large commercial vessels.

Regional & Global Dimensions

- The United States has reportedly avoided direct military involvement to prevent opening another regional front and avoid further pressure on global oil prices.
- Pakistan and Turkey, identified in the source as partners in the Mecca Defence Alliance, have been reluctant to intervene militarily in Yemen.
- Pakistan had earlier declined a Saudi request to join the Yemen war in 2015.
- Iran has leveraged the situation diplomatically, linking the end of the “blockade of Yemen” to a lasting settlement with the US.



Mains Relevance

The Bab el-Mandeb's security is intrinsically linked to the Suez Canal's revenue. Disruption here has a cascading effect on Egypt's economy and global inflationary trends due to supply chain delays.

UPSC Prelims Practice

Consider the following statements:

1. Bab el-Mandeb connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.
2. Bab el-Mandeb provides maritime access towards the Suez Canal.
3. Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline provides an alternative route for transporting oil towards its Red Sea coast.
4. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only.

UPSC Mains Practice

"Control over maritime chokepoints can transform regional conflicts into global economic and energy-security concerns." Discuss with reference to Bab el-Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz. (150 words)

3. Decoding India's GDP Base Revision

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

India revised its GDP series by changing the base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The revised methodology resulted in downward adjustments to nominal GDP estimates for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, largely due to improved measurement of the unincorporated sector.

Key Highlights

- New GDP base year: 2022-23, replacing 2011-12.
- Nominal GDP was revised downward by:
 - 2.7% in 2022-23
 - 3.5% in 2023-24
 - 3.8% in 2024-25

- The new framework was released by the NSO under MoSPI on February 27, 2026.
- 2022-23 was selected as the base year as it represents the first stable post-COVID year, avoiding pandemic-related distortions.
- The revision incorporates improved data sources and methodological changes, particularly for the unincorporated services sector.
- Data from the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) improved measurement of the informal economy.
- The earlier 2011-12 series relied more heavily on proxy indicators and assumed that the informal sector broadly followed formal-sector growth, which proved inaccurate during economic disruptions.



Sectoral Revisions

- Agriculture and allied activities recorded upward revisions of around 3.8%–5.9%.
- Financial services, real estate, professional services and ownership of dwellings recorded upward revisions of 7.8%–9.0%.
- Trade, transport and storage witnessed significant downward revisions of 23%–26%.
- Trade GVA was revised downward by about 36%.
- The revised series indicates less volatile and more broad-based quarterly growth during FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26.

Significance

- Rebasing updates the structure and relative importance of sectors in national income estimates.
- Better coverage of the informal economy can make GDP estimates more representative of actual economic activity.
- Regular revisions improve compatibility with evolving international statistical practices.
- The United Nations System of National Accounts recommends updating base years at regular intervals; India is moving towards a more regular revision cycle.

UPSC Prelims Practice

Consider the following statements regarding India's GDP series:

1. The new GDP series uses 2022-23 as its base year.
2. ASUSE and PLFS provide data relevant to measuring the unincorporated sector.
3. Rebasing GDP can change the estimated size and sectoral composition of the economy.
4. GDP and GVA are identical measures of economic activity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only.

UPSC Mains Practice

“Regular rebasing and improved measurement of the informal economy are essential for credible national income statistics.” Discuss in the context of India’s revised GDP series with 2022-23 as the base year. (150 words)

4. Paniya Tribe

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- The **Kerala State Human Rights Commission** has directed authorities to urgently rehabilitate **Paniya tribal families** living in makeshift **tarpaulin shelters** at Vaniyampuzha, across the Chaliyar River in **Pothukal panchayat, Kerala**.

About / Key Facts

- The **Paniya (Paniyan)** are one of the major **Scheduled Tribes of Kerala**.
- They are predominantly found in **Wayanad** and also in **Kannur, Kozhikode and Malappuram** districts.
- They are also found in the **Gudalur and Pandalur areas of the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu**, and parts of **Kodagu, Karnataka**.
- The Paniya are the **largest single Scheduled Tribe population in Kerala**.
- The name **“Paniyan”** is derived from the Malayalam word **“pani”**, meaning **work**, reflecting their traditional association with labour.
- Historically, many Paniyas worked as **bonded labourers**; today, some own land and cultivate crops such as **rice and ragi**.
- Their language, **Paniya**, belongs to the **Dravidian language family** and is closely related to Malayalam.
- Traditionally, Paniya villages consist of **rows of bamboo huts with thatched roofs**, which may be single- or double-storied.
- The community worships **Kali** and the **banyan tree**; cutting a banyan tree is traditionally avoided due to the belief that it may cause illness.

5.Kishau Multipurpose Project

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- Six States have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for the long-pending **Kishau Multipurpose Project** on the **Tons River**.
- The project, estimated at **₹15,000 crore**, aims to generate **422 MW of hydropower**.
- The **Union Government will bear 90% of the project cost**, while the six States will share the remaining 10%.

About / Key Facts

- The project involves construction of a 232.6-metre-high concrete gravity dam on the border of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- The Tons River is a major tributary of the Yamuna River.
- It is one of the three major storage projects planned in the Upper Yamuna basin, along with Lakhwar and Renukaji projects.
- The project will provide irrigation to 97,076 hectares and drinking and industrial water to Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- It will have a total storage capacity of 1,786 MCM, including 1,324 MCM of actual storage.
- Around 2,950 hectares of land and nearly 5,500 people across 17 villages are expected to be affected by submergence.
- The need for storage projects was identified under the 1994 MoU on allocation of Yamuna waters among basin States.
- Kishau Corporation Ltd. was established in January 2017 as a joint venture between Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- The project faced prolonged delays, mainly due to Himachal Pradesh's concerns over cost sharing and land submerge