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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





DAILY CURATED NEWS | EXAM ORIENTED ANALYSIS | SMART NOTES & INFOGRAPHICS | BOOST YOUR PREPARATION

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Electoral Rolls
2. Tokamak: How Does It Make Nuclear Fusion Possible?
3. DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Pralay Missile
4. Indians' Overseas Investments May Reach Record $4 Billion in FY27
5. Golden Jackal
6. NVS-03 Navigation Satellite: Fully Healthy

1.Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Electoral Rolls

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the annual Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in six States and Union Territories.

States and UTs Covered

- Arunachal Pradesh
- Mizoram
- Odisha
- Sikkim
- Chandigarh
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

- Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is an intensive verification of electoral rolls conducted by the Election Commission of India. It differs from routine summary revision because it involves extensive field level enumeration and verification.... Read more at: https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/special-intensive-revision-of-electoral-rolls/
- SIR (Special Intensive Revision) has historical roots in earlier intensive electoral roll revisions. The current nationwide exercise gained importance from demographic changes, migration, urbanisation and the need to improve electoral roll accuracy.
-
- Earlier revisions: Intensive revisions were conducted in 1952-56, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2002, 2003 and 2004 in different parts of India.
- Nationwide expansion: The ECI subsequently expanded SIR through multiple phases, covering progressively larger groups of States and Union Territories.
- Participatory structure: Political parties participate through Booth Level Agents. During the first two phases, nearly 59 crore electors were covered with over 6.3 lakh BLOs and 9.2 lakh BLAs involved at different stages.... Read more at:

https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/special-intensive-revision-of-electoral-rolls/

Key Features

- Objective: Enrol eligible voters, particularly young and first-time electors, and facilitate advance applications for future eligibility.
- Timeline:
    - Draft electoral rolls: 30 November 2026.
    - Final electoral rolls: 21 January 2027.
- Aadhaar: Providing Aadhaar details is voluntary. Applications cannot be rejected solely because Aadhaar details are not provided.
- No citizenship documentation: Unlike the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), SSR does not require voters to submit documents proving citizenship or establish links with earlier electoral rolls.
- No house-to-house visits: Booth-Level Officers (BLOs) will not conduct house-to-house visits. Draft and final electoral rolls will be displayed at polling booths.

New Measures for Transparency

- Contesting candidates will receive alphabetically arranged, readable PDF versions of electoral rolls on electronic storage devices.
- The PDFs will be digitally searchable, indexable and easier to verify.
- Political parties will also receive supplementary voter lists, which were previously maintained only for official records and future use.

SSR vs SIR

Basis	Special Summary Revision (SSR)	Special Intensive Revision (SIR)
Nature	Annual revision of electoral rolls	Intensive revision exercise
Citizenship documents	Not required under the current exercise	Documentation and verification requirements apply as prescribed
Previous electoral roll mapping	Not required	Mapping with earlier electoral rolls is part of the process

House-to-house visits	Not included in the current exercise	Involves field-level verification

2.Tokamak: How Does It Make Nuclear Fusion Possible?

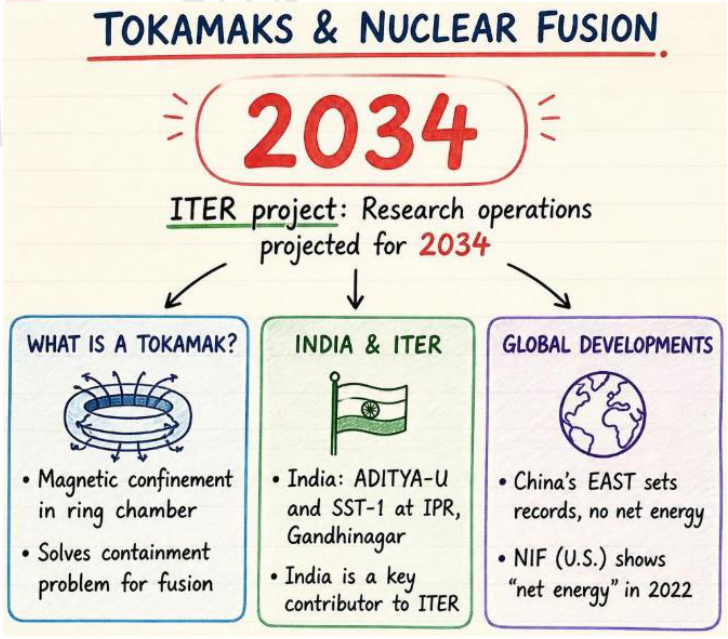
Source: IE

Why in News?

- Tokamaks are gaining attention as a promising technology for achieving controlled nuclear fusion.
- The global ITER project and India's indigenous fusion research highlight efforts to develop fusion as a potential source of clean energy.

What Is a Tokamak?

- A tokamak is an experimental device that uses powerful magnetic fields to confine extremely hot plasma inside a doughnut-shaped (toroidal) vacuum chamber.
- It aims to achieve controlled nuclear fusion by maintaining the temperature, density and confinement time required for fusion reactions.
- The concept was developed in the early 1950s in the Soviet Union, primarily by physicists Igor Tamm and Andrei Sakharov.
- It addresses the major challenge of fusion research: containing plasma at temperatures hotter than the Sun's core without allowing it to touch physical walls.



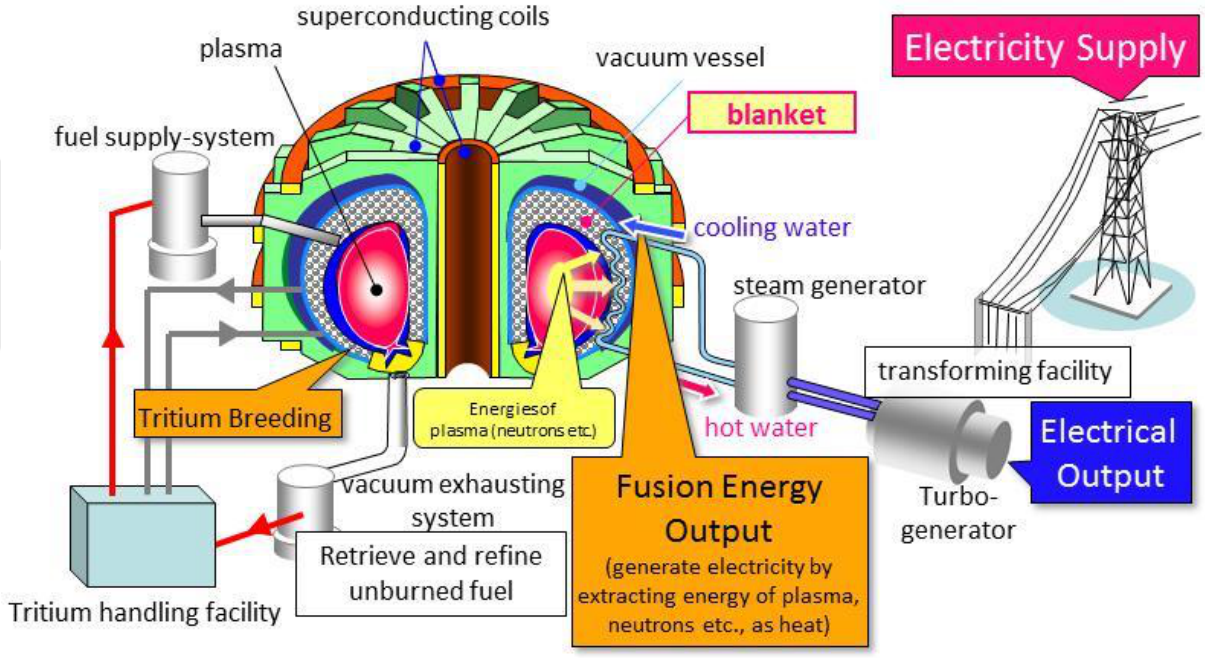
How Does a Tokamak Work?

1. Fuel injection: Hydrogen isotopes, mainly deuterium and tritium, are introduced into a vacuum chamber.
2. Plasma formation: The gas is heated to extremely high temperatures until atoms become ionised, forming plasma.
3. Magnetic confinement: Powerful external magnetic coils generate a magnetic field that confines the charged plasma.
4. Electric current: A strong electric current driven through the plasma creates an additional magnetic field.
5. Helical magnetic field: The combination of magnetic fields produces twisted, helical magnetic-field lines that help prevent plasma from touching the chamber walls.
6. Fusion reaction: Under suitable temperature, density and confinement conditions, deuterium and tritium nuclei combine to produce helium, a neutron and energy.

Fusion reaction:

$$ {}_{1}^{2}D + {}_{1}^{3}T \rightarrow {}_{2}^{4}He + n + 17.6\,MeV $$

How Can Fusion Generate Electricity?



- In a future fusion power plant, high-energy neutrons escape the magnetic confinement region and strike a surrounding blanket.
- The blanket absorbs neutron energy and converts it into heat.

- Lithium in the blanket can be used to breed tritium, helping replenish the fusion fuel.
- The heat can be transferred to a coolant to generate steam.
- Steam drives a turbine connected to an electricity generator.

ITER: India's Role and Global Significance

- ITER is one of the world's largest international scientific collaborations.
- India is a member and contributes major components and technologies, including cryostat sections, cooling systems, in-wall shielding and other engineering systems.
- It is intended to demonstrate sustained fusion performance and test technologies needed for future fusion reactors.
- As stated in the supplied article, research operations are projected for 2034 and deuterium-tritium operations for 2039.
- ITER has faced engineering challenges, funding delays and cost escalations.
- Its objective is to demonstrate a fusion energy gain factor of 10, not to directly generate electricity for the grid.

Conclusion

Tokamak technology represents a major pathway towards controlled nuclear fusion. Although commercial fusion power is not yet available, projects such as ITER and India's ADITYA-U and SST-1 strengthen scientific capabilities and may contribute to long-term clean-energy security.

3.DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Pralay Missile

Source: PIB

Why in News?

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed quasi-ballistic missile Pralay on 5 November 2026.
- The test was conducted from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast as part of user evaluation trials.

Key Highlights

- The missile was developed by DRDO laboratories and produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- All test objectives were achieved successfully.
- Performance data was recorded through range instruments deployed by the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.

- The successful trial indicates progress towards the missile's induction into the armed forces.

About Pralay Missile

- Pralay is an indigenously developed quasi-ballistic missile.
- It is designed to strengthen India's defence capabilities.
- Its advanced technologies are intended to enhance the operational preparedness of the armed forces against emerging threats.

Comparison: Pralay vs. Other Systems

Feature	Pralay	BrahMos
Type	Quasi-Ballistic Missile	Supersonic Cruise Missile
Flight Path	Flatter trajectory, maneuvers	Stays within atmosphere, follows terrain
Speed	Supersonic (faster terminal speed)	Mach 2.8 - 3.0
Primary Goal	High-precision battlefield destruction	Surgical strikes with high accuracy

4.Indians' Overseas Investments May Reach Record $4 Billion in Fy27

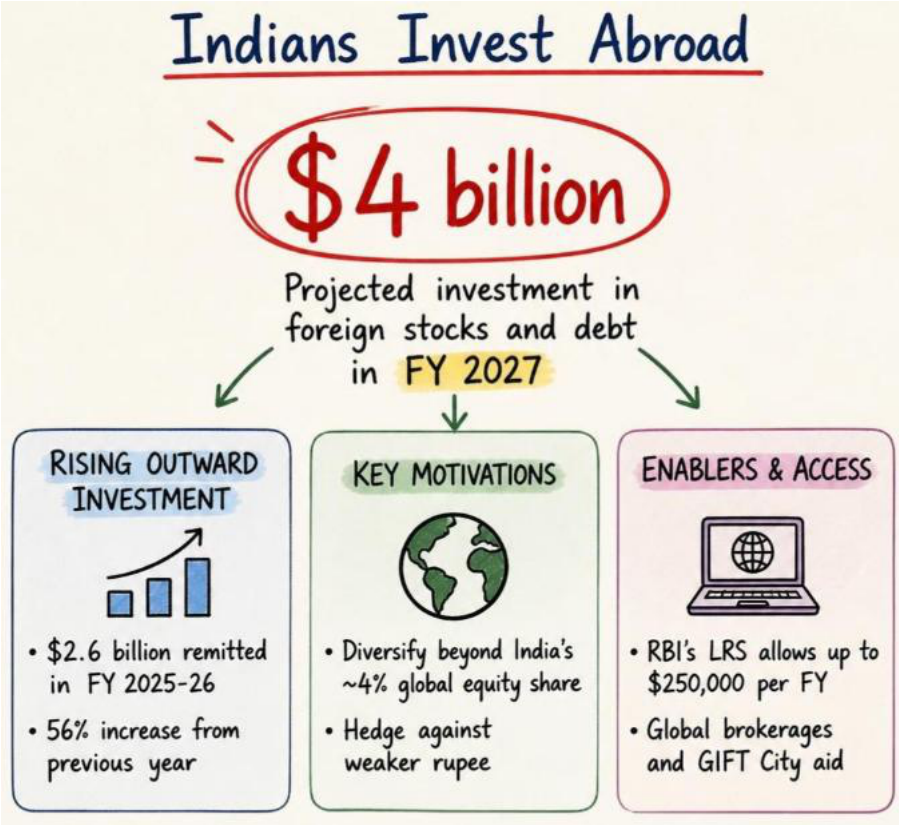
Source: The HIndu

Why in News?

- Indian residents are projected to invest a record $4 billion in foreign stocks and debt instruments in FY 2026–27, driven by portfolio diversification and the search for higher returns.

Key Highlights

- Overseas investment by Indian residents has increased significantly:
  - FY 2025–26: $2.6 billion remitted for investments.
  - This represented a 56% increase over the previous financial year.
  - FY 2026–27: Investment is projected to reach $4 billion.
- Domestic equity market underperformance, particularly the Nifty 50, has encouraged investors to explore international markets.
- Investors are increasingly interested in global technology companies and potential opportunities such as Anthropic.



Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)

- Introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2004.
- Allows resident individuals to remit up to $250,000 per financial year for permitted current and capital account transactions.
- Overseas investment in foreign stocks and debt instruments is facilitated through this scheme.

Major Reasons for Overseas Investment

- Portfolio diversification: Access to international markets beyond Indian equities.
- Higher returns: Opportunities in global markets, particularly the US.
- Currency hedging: Investment in foreign assets can provide a hedge against rupee depreciation.
- Global opportunities: Access to international companies, including emerging technology firms.
- Ease of access: International brokerage platforms and GIFT City have simplified overseas investment.

Significance

- It Reflects increasing integration of Indian individual investors with global financial markets.
- It Provides opportunities for geographical and sectoral diversification.
- It May increase outward remittances and demand for foreign currency.

5.Golden Jackal

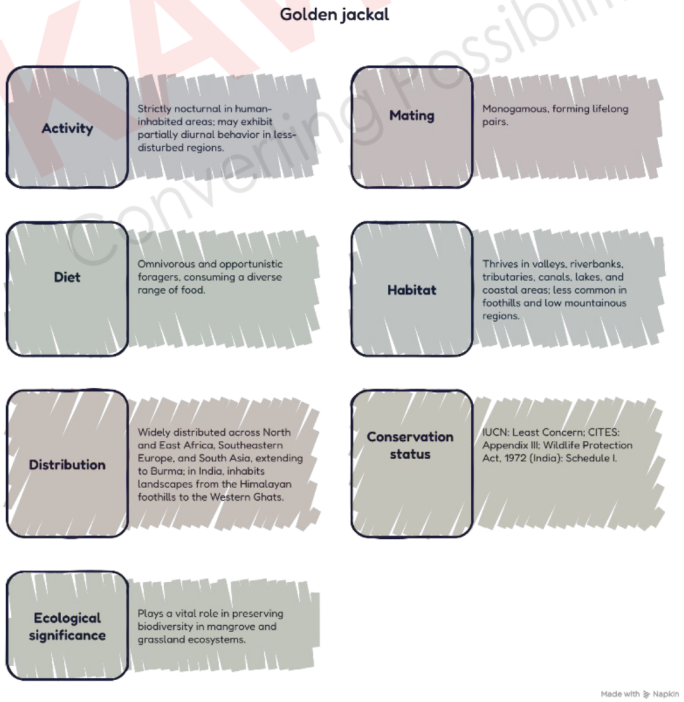
Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- The Tamil Nadu government is undertaking conservation measures for golden jackals, which play an important role in maintaining ecological balance in their habitats.

About Golden Jackal

- Scientific name: Canis aureus.
- Also known as the common jackal or reed wolf.
- It is a medium-sized, wolf-like member of the dog family (Canidae).



Habitat and Distribution

- Habitat: Commonly found in valleys and along rivers, tributaries, canals, lakes and seashores.
- Rarely found in foothills and low mountains.
- Global distribution: North and East Africa, Southeastern Europe and South Asia extending to Myanmar.
- India: Widely distributed from the Himalayan foothills to the Western Ghats.

Key Characteristics

- Activity: Strictly nocturnal in human-inhabited areas; may be partly diurnal elsewhere.
- Shelter: Uses underground dens, rock crevices and abandoned burrows.
- Social behaviour: Lives in mated pairs and is strictly monogamous.
- Diet: Omnivorous and an opportunistic feeder, consuming a diverse range of food.

Ecological Significance

- Helps maintain ecological balance through its role as an opportunistic feeder.
- Contributes to ecosystem functioning through its feeding habits.

Conservation Status

FRAMEWORK	STATUS
IUCN RED LIST	Least Concern
CITES	Appendix III
WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972	Schedule I

6.NVS-03 Navigation Satellite: Fully Healthy

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed that India's next-generation navigation satellite NVS-03 is fully healthy following successful orbit-raising manoeuvres after its launch on 30 October 2026.

Key Highlights

- NVS-03 was successfully placed in a circular orbit after transitioning from an elliptical orbit.
- Its onboard engine operated for approximately 6,400 seconds during the orbit-raising process.
- The satellite will strengthen India's regional navigation system, NavIC.
- It carries an indigenously developed rubidium atomic clock and introduces the L1 frequency band for improved civilian navigation services.

About NVS-03

- It is a next-generation satellite of India's Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system.
- Key features include:
    - Indigenous rubidium atomic clock for precise timekeeping.
    - L1, L5 and S-band navigation signals.
    - Improved positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) services.
- It will enhance the continuity and reliability of NavIC services.

Other Important ISRO Developments

- Axiom-4 Mission: ISRO played a critical role in ensuring mission safety during the countdown by addressing a potential issue involving a liquid oxygen leak.
- Shubhanshu Shukla: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla piloted the Axiom-4 mission and is an astronaut-designate for India's Gaganyaan programme.
- Kulasekarapattinam Spaceport: Under construction in Tamil Nadu; it will be India's second spaceport and primarily support Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) missions.
- Yuri Gagarin: A statue of the first human to travel into space was inaugurated at the Periyar Science and Technology Centre in Chennai.

Significance

- It Strengthens India's independent satellite navigation capabilities.
- It Improves civilian navigation services through the L1 signal.
- It Supports strategic autonomy in positioning, navigation and timing services.
- It enhances India's capacity in satellite launches and human spaceflight