



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 31-10-2024

GS-1

1. Sardar Patel
2. Arugam Bay

GS-2

3. Bima Sugam
4. US Announces Semiconductor Partnership With India

GS-3

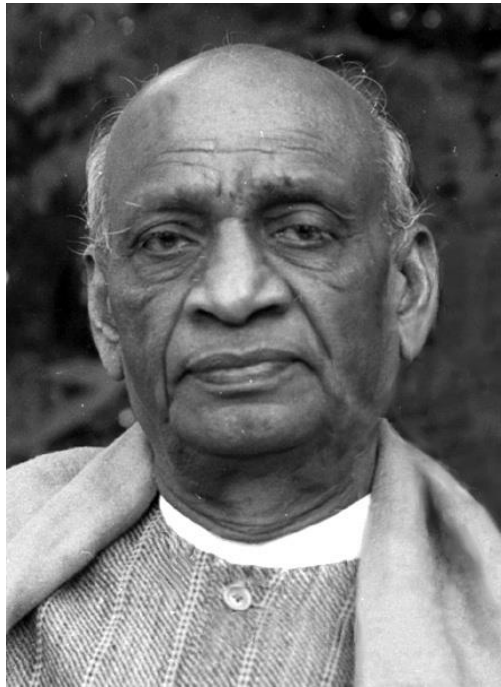
5. Nandankanan Zoological Park

Sardar Patel

Syllabus: GS-1; Modern & Post Independence History- Important Personalities

Context

- On 31 October, the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, the eleventh edition of National Unity Day will be celebrated at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, with the youngest entrants to the civil service reaffirming their commitment to the values enshrined in the Constitution.



More to know

Early Life and Background

- **Full Name:** Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel
- **Born:** October 31, 1875, in Nadiad, Gujarat
- **Family Background:** Hailed from a middle-class family, he initially pursued law, training in England and later practicing in India.

Role in Freedom Struggle

- **Influence of Mahatma Gandhi:** Patel was deeply influenced by Gandhi's principles, particularly non-violence and Satyagraha.

- **Kheda and Bardoli Satyagraha:** Patel's leadership in these peasant movements earned him the title "**Sardar**". The Bardoli Satyagraha (1928) was especially notable for its successful resistance against high tax rates imposed by the British.
- **Quit India Movement:** He played a crucial role in mobilizing people during this movement, despite facing imprisonment multiple times.

Key Contributions

- **Iron Man of India:** Known for his strong leadership and steadfast resolve, he was termed the "Iron Man" for his role in unifying India.
- **Role in Integration of Princely States:** As India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, he was instrumental in the integration of over **560 princely states** into the Indian Union. Patel's diplomacy, along with the use of the Indian Army when necessary, was critical in unifying the country.
- **Instrument of Accession:** He utilized this legal framework to enable princely states to join India willingly. His strategy was diplomatic but also firm, ensuring both persuasion and pressure where necessary.

Role in Modernizing India

- **Institution Building:** Patel played a key role in establishing the **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** and **Indian Police Service (IPS)** to create a stable administrative framework for the country.
- **Architect of Modern Indian Administration:** He is often credited as the architect of the civil services and modern administration in independent India.

Legacy

- **Statue of Unity:** In 2018, the **Statue of Unity**, the tallest statue in the world, was inaugurated in Gujarat as a tribute to Patel's legacy and his contributions to Indian unity.
- **National Unity Day:** October 31, Patel's birth anniversary, is celebrated as **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** (National Unity Day) to commemorate his efforts toward national integration.

Personality and Philosophy

- **Advocate of a Strong Central Government:** Patel believed in a powerful central government, essential for India's unity and stability.

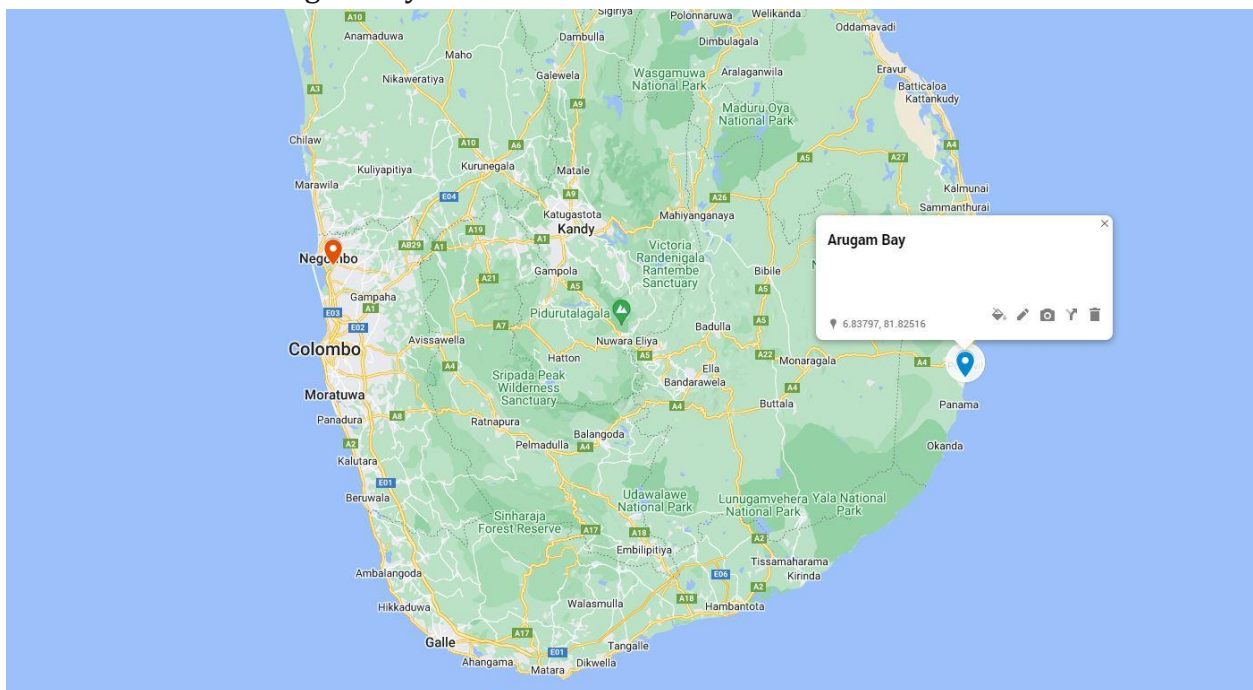
- **Political and Social Views:** Known for his pragmatism, Patel focused on stability and security, often advocating a balanced approach between liberal values and strong governance.

Arugam Bay

Syllabus: GS- 1; Geography- Mapping

Context

- Sri Lanka's Arugam Bay in shock after terror threat to Israeli tourists.



More to know

- **Arugam Bay** is a popular coastal town in the eastern province of Sri Lanka, renowned for its scenic beauty, surf spots, and ecological significance.

Geographical Significance

- **Location:** Located in the Ampara District of Sri Lanka's Eastern Province, on the southeastern coast along the Indian Ocean.
- **Climate:** Characterized by a tropical climate, with significant rainfall from the northeast monsoon. Best known for a dry season from May to September, making it an ideal destination during these months.

Environmental and Ecological Aspects

- **Marine Biodiversity:** Arugam Bay supports rich marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, sea turtles, and various fish species, contributing to both tourism and local fishing.
- **Lagoons and Wetlands:** Surrounded by lagoons and wetlands which host migratory birds and other wildlife, Arugam Bay's ecosystem supports biodiversity conservation.
- **Surfing and Coastal Tourism:** One of the top surf destinations in Asia, it attracts surfers from across the globe and contributes significantly to Sri Lanka's tourism revenue.

Economic Impact

- **Tourism Industry:** Tourism, driven largely by surfing, plays a vital role in the local economy, generating employment opportunities and promoting the local hospitality and service sectors.
- **Fishing:** Many locals engage in fishing, which provides food and livelihood, alongside tourism.

Cultural and Historical Significance

- **Local Communities:** Home to a mix of Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim communities, reflecting Sri Lanka's ethnic diversity.
- **Historical Sites:** The area around Arugam Bay has ancient temples and ruins, such as the nearby **Muhudu Maha Viharaya and Magul Maha Viharaya**, which are culturally significant Buddhist sites.

Bima Sugam

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions, GS-3; Insurance

Context

- Bima Sugam, a digital insurance platform, is all set for launch, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India IRDAI chairperson Debasish Panda informed.

Introduction

- Bima Sugam is a digital platform aimed at revolutionizing India's insurance sector by simplifying access, purchase, and management of insurance policies for individuals and entities.
- It is a part of the broader digital transformation in the insurance sector, aligning with India's Digital India goals.

Objective

- To offer a unified, digital platform where customers can explore, compare, purchase, and manage various insurance products in one place, streamlining insurance services for policyholders and companies.
- Enhances transparency, ease of transactions, and reduces paperwork.

Development and Implementation

- Spearheaded by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- Developed in collaboration with insurers, intermediaries, and the government to integrate insurance processes seamlessly and securely.

Features and Services

- **Comparison and Purchase:** Users can compare insurance policies from different providers based on features, premiums, and coverage.
- **Policy Management:** Allows policyholders to manage multiple policies under one platform, with easy access to renewals, updates, and claims.
- **Claims Processing:** Facilitates digital claims processing, reducing claim turnaround times and enhancing customer satisfaction.
- **KYC and Payment Gateways:** Integrated KYC verification and secure digital payment options to ensure safe transactions.

Benefits

- **For Policyholders:** Offers a one-stop solution for all insurance needs, making it easier for individuals to find policies that best meet their needs.
- **For Insurers:** Helps in reducing the cost of distribution, automating processes, and accessing a wider customer base.
- **For Intermediaries:** Offers a regulated marketplace to serve clients efficiently with better access to information.

Relevance for Financial Inclusion

- Promotes financial inclusion by making insurance services more accessible to underserved sections of the society.
- Expected to boost insurance penetration in India, which has historically been low compared to global averages.

Challenges

- Requires robust digital infrastructure and cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive data.
- There may be resistance to change among traditional intermediaries and agents.

US Announces Semiconductor Partnership With India

Syllabus: GS-2: India – US Bilateral Relations.

Context:

- The US and India announced a partnership to strengthen the semiconductor supply chain.
- Focuses on assessing India's semiconductor manufacturing capabilities.
- Highlights the global importance of the semiconductor industry.

What is the Semiconductor Ecosystem?

- **Definition:** Semiconductors are essential components found in products like cars, computers, and medical devices.
- **Key components of the ecosystem:**
 - **Regulatory framework:** Laws and policies supporting the industry.
 - **Workforce skills:** Availability of skilled labor.
 - **Infrastructure:** Facilities, power, and resources needed for semiconductor production.
- The partnership will evaluate India's infrastructure, workforce, and regulatory framework to support semiconductor manufacturing.

The Role of the CHIPS Act

- **Signed by President Biden in August 2022:** The CHIPS Act provides \$52 billion to boost US semiconductor production.
- **International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) Fund:**
 - A component of the CHIPS Act.
 - Focuses on securing supply chains by collaborating with allies like India.
 - Aims to reduce dependence on semiconductor suppliers from Taiwan and China.
- **Significance:** The pandemic and geopolitical tensions with China have exposed vulnerabilities in global semiconductor supply chains.

India's Semiconductor Mission

- **Launched in 2021:** A government initiative to build a domestic semiconductor industry.
- **Key aspects:**
 - **Financial incentives:** Large subsidies and grants to attract global manufacturers.
 - **Partnerships:** Deals with companies like Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation.
- **Goal:** Create a sustainable semiconductor sector in India.

Importance of the US-India Partnership

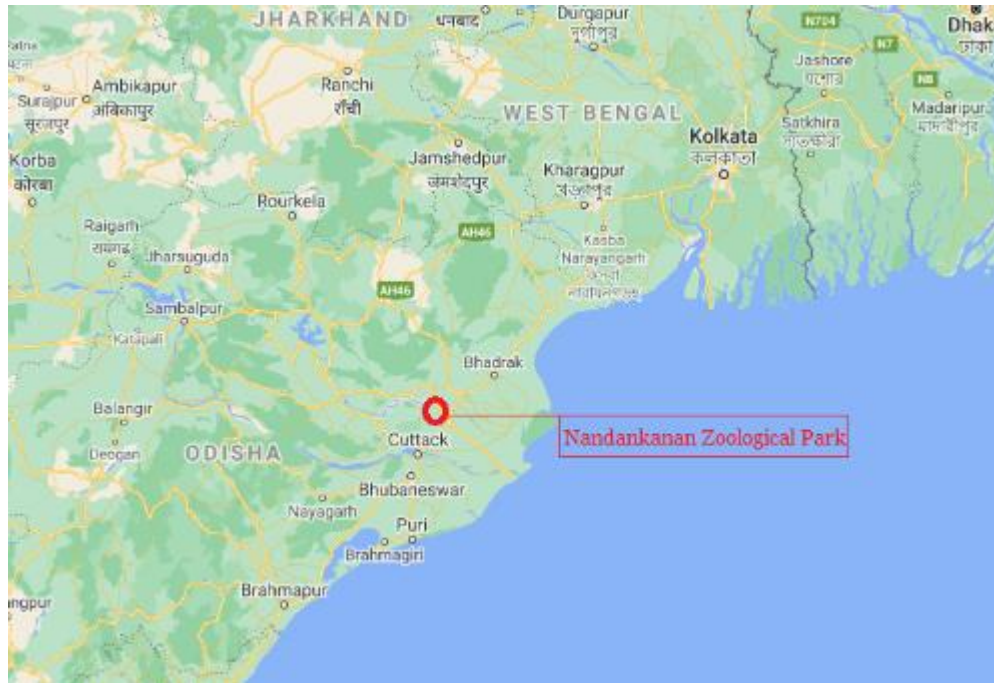
- **Strategic objectives:**
 - Strengthen India's economy through semiconductor development.
 - Secure and stabilize global semiconductor supply chains.
- **Benefits:**
 - Reduces reliance on major suppliers like Taiwan and China.
 - Addresses supply chain vulnerabilities exposed by the pandemic.
- **Future potential:** Lays the groundwork for future collaborations between the two countries.

Nandankanan Zoological Park

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

Context

- Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) and State Botanical Garden in Odisha capital here will be reopened for visitors.



About

- **Location:** Situated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, within the Chandaka Forest.
- **Established:** 1960; opened to the public in 1979.

Key Features

- **Fauna:** Houses over 150 species, including rare and endangered animals like white tigers, Indian pangolins, and gharials. It's the first zoo to breed White Tigers in captivity.
- **Flora:** Includes a rich collection of indigenous flora within the botanical garden, making it an important center for biodiversity conservation.
- **Safari Rides:** Known for Asia's first white tiger safari, along with a lion safari, bear safari, and herbivore safari, offering close-up experiences of the animals in naturalistic settings.

Conservation Efforts

- **Captive Breeding Programs:** Recognized internationally for breeding and conserving endangered species, notably the gharial (Indian crocodile), white tigers, and Indian pangolins.
- **Rehabilitation and Rescue:** Functions as a rehabilitation center for animals rescued from the wild, contributing to wildlife conservation efforts.
- **International Collaboration:** Engages in animal exchange programs with other zoos globally to diversify gene pools and enhance breeding success rates.

Recognition and Achievements

- **Conservation Breeding Center:** Accredited by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) of India, playing a significant role in breeding programs for endangered species.
- **Innovative Practices:** First Indian zoo to join the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), contributing to global conservation knowledge and practices.

Other Highlights

- **Kanjia Lake:** A large freshwater lake within the park, providing a natural habitat for migratory birds, and offering boat rides for visitors.
- **Educational Programs:** The park organizes wildlife education, awareness programs, and conservation initiatives, especially for school and college students.
- **Eco-Tourism:** Draws visitors worldwide due to its diverse wildlife, natural setting, and focus on eco-tourism practices.

Challenges

- **Climate Change Impact:** Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall affect the flora and fauna, making conservation efforts challenging.
- **Funding and Resources:** Limited financial and logistical resources sometimes impact the park's conservation activities and animal care programs.