



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 04-02-2025**

### **GS-1**

- 1. Lezim Dance**

### **GS-2**

- 2. Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024**
- 3. Guantánamo Bay**

### **GS-3**

- 4. Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)**
- 5. Indian squid**

## Lezim Dance

**Syllabus: GS-1; Art & Culture**

### **Context**

- The makers of 'Chhaava' - an upcoming autobiography on the life of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Sambhaji - confirmed that they would remove the 'Lezim' dance scene from the film after objections from politicians like Maharashtra minister Uday Samant and MNS leader Raj Thackeray.



### **Origin:**

- **State:** Maharashtra, India
- **Type:** Folk dance
- **Name Derivation:** The dance is named after the "Lezim"—a small, handheld musical instrument with jingling cymbals.

### **Historical Background:**

- Traditionally performed during **village festivals, religious processions, and cultural events.**
- Believed to have **martial origins**, used as a **physical training exercise** to improve stamina and coordination.

### Key Features:

- **Instrument:** The *Lezim* (or *Lazium*), made of a wooden stick with iron chains and jingling discs.
- **Formation:** Performed in **rows or circles**, with dancers moving in synchronized steps.
- **Movements:** Fast-paced, vigorous, and energetic, combining **rhythmic footwork, acrobatics, and martial art stances**.
- **Accompaniment:** Often includes **dhol, halgi, and cymbals** to maintain rhythm.

### Purpose:

- **Fitness-oriented:** Incorporated into **physical education programs** in Maharashtra schools.
- **Cultural Significance:** Showcases **valor, discipline, and unity**, often linked to **Maratha warrior traditions**.

### Variants:

- **Military Lezim:** Focuses on martial art drills.
- **Traditional Lezim:** Performed during festivals like **Ganesh Chaturthi, Gudi Padwa, and Shivaji Jayanti**.

## Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024

**Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Governance.**

### Context:

Parliament's Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 adopted its report by a majority vote on Wednesday, clearing the deck for the government to move the Bill during the upcoming Budget session of Parliament.

### **Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024: Key Issues and Opposition Concerns**

#### **1. Overview of the Bill**

- The Joint Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 adopted its report by a majority vote.
- The Bill is set to be introduced in the upcoming Budget session of Parliament.

- All 11 Opposition members submitted dissent notes, arguing that the Bill could:
  - Open new disputes.
  - Endanger Waqf properties.

## 2. Key Provisions and Opposition Criticism

### A. Removal of "Waqf by User"

- **What is "Waqf by User"?**
  - A provision that has existed since the time of Prophet Mohammed.
  - Recognized statutorily under the 1995 Act.
  - Allows properties used for religious purposes (e.g., mosques, dargahs) to be classified as Waqf.
- **Opposition Concerns:**
  - Argued that removing this provision weakens the defence of Muslim claims in disputes over ancient mosques and dargahs.
  - Removing this provision would eliminate such Waqfs in India.

### B. Inclusion of Non-Muslims in Central Waqf Council

- **Opposition Concerns:**
  - Criticized the provision for diluting exclusive Muslim control over Waqf properties.
  - Compared it to Hindu and Sikh religious endowment laws, which restrict governing bodies to members of the respective communities.
  - Argued that this raises questions about whether other religious endowment acts should also include practitioners of other religions.
  - Warned that such a precedent could lead to impractical and undesirable changes across all religious laws.

### C. Restriction on Dedication of Property to Waqf

- **Proposed Provision:**
  - Only individuals practising Islam for at least five years can dedicate property to Waqf.
- **Opposition Concerns:**
  - Called the provision "unreasonable, irrational, and manifestly arbitrary."
  - Argued that it violates constitutional rights, as no person can be compelled to practice their religion.

- Highlighted that no other law restricts an adult's right to deal with their property as they see fit.

#### **D. Government Interference in Waqf Disputes**

➤ **Proposed Provision:**

- Grants district Collectors the power to arbitrate disputes over whether a government property has been declared as Waqf.

➤ **Opposition Concerns:**

- Argued that such disputes should be treated as civil matters and adjudicated in courts.
- Criticized the provision for allowing the government to act as a trespasser and legalize unauthorized acts.

#### **3. Broader Implications**

➤ **Threat to Waqf Properties:**

- Opposition members fear the Bill could lead to the loss of Waqf properties and weaken the legal standing of Muslim religious institutions.

➤ **Precedent for Other Religious Laws:**

- Amendments could set a precedent for similar changes in laws governing Hindu, Sikh, and other religious endowments.

➤ **Communal Tensions:**

- The Bill could exacerbate existing disputes over religious properties, particularly in the context of divisive claims about ancient mosques and dargahs.

#### **5. Conclusion**

- The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 has sparked significant opposition due to its potential to:
  - Endanger Waqf properties.
  - Dilute Muslim control over Waqf management.
  - Set a problematic precedent for other religious laws.
- The Bill's provisions on "Waqf by User," inclusion of non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council, and government interference in disputes are particularly contentious.

## Guantánamo Bay

**Syllabus: GS-2; International Relations, GS Paper IV (Ethics): Human rights, rule of law, justice**

### Context

- US President Donald Trump unveiled a surprise plan to detain thousands of undocumented migrants in Guantánamo Bay.



### About

- **Location:** Southeastern coast of **Cuba**, in the Caribbean Sea.
- **Control:** Leased by the **United States** since 1903 under the **Platt Amendment**; Cuba disputes U.S. control.
- **Significance:** Known for the **Guantánamo Bay Naval Base** and the controversial **detention camp** established in 2002.

### Historical Background

- **Spanish-American War (1898):** U.S. gained control after defeating Spain.
- **1903 Lease Agreement:** Cuba granted the U.S. a perpetual lease for a naval base.
- **Cuban Revolution (1959):** Post-revolution, Fidel Castro's government opposed U.S. presence, but the U.S. refused to leave.

## Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp

- **Established:** 2002, post-9/11 during the **War on Terror**.
- **Purpose:** Detain suspected terrorists, primarily from Afghanistan and the Middle East.
- **Legal Controversies:**
  - **Human Rights Violations:** Allegations of **torture**, **indefinite detention without trial**, and violation of the **Geneva Conventions**.
  - **Legal Loopholes:** Located outside U.S. mainland to avoid certain legal protections for detainees.

## Key Legal Cases

- **Rasul v. Bush (2004):** U.S. Supreme Court ruled detainees could challenge their detention in U.S. courts.
- **Boumediene v. Bush (2008):** Recognized detainees' right to **habeas corpus**.

## Geopolitical & Ethical Issues

- **International Criticism:** UN and human rights groups demand its closure.
- **Diplomatic Tensions:** Strains U.S.-Cuba relations and affects America's global human rights image.
- **Current Status:** Despite promises by various U.S. Presidents to close the facility, it remains operational with fewer detainees.

## Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)

### Syllabus: GS-3; Science an Technology

#### Context

- India to build foundational AI model in months, GPUs to be made available to start-ups, academia at subsidised rates: IT Minister

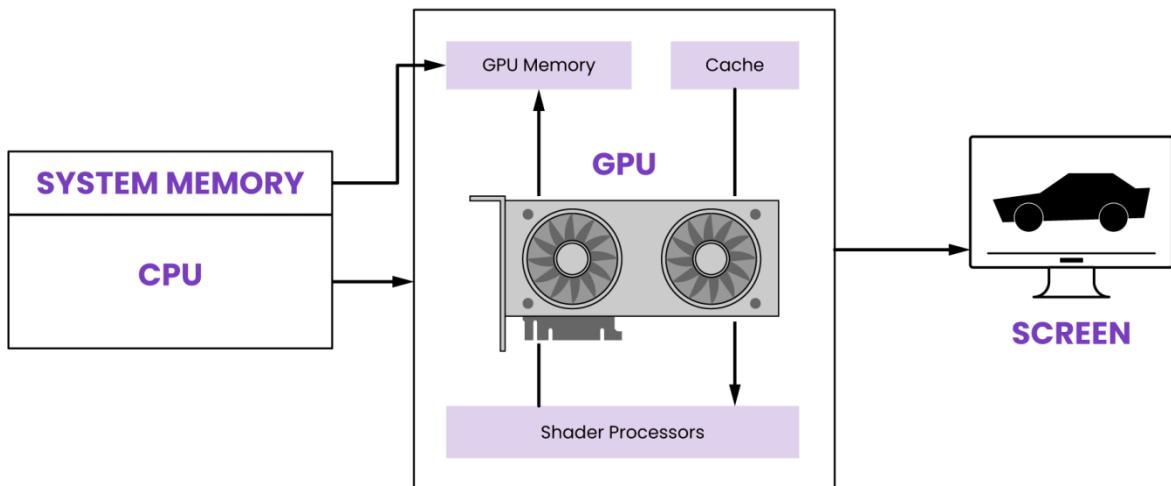
#### Technology and Innovation

- **Definition and Purpose:**
  - GPUs are specialized circuits designed to accelerate image and video rendering.

- They offload graphic rendering tasks from the CPU, improving performance in graphic-intensive applications like gaming, video editing, and simulations.

➤ **Development and Trends:**

- Modern GPUs have evolved beyond graphics to handle large-scale computational tasks such as AI and machine learning.



## Economic Significance

➤ **Market and Industry:**

- Key players in the GPU market include companies like NVIDIA, AMD, and Intel.
- GPUs have created new industries in gaming, AI, and cryptocurrency mining.

➤ **Implications:**

- The rise of GPUs has had significant economic impacts, from market competition to job creation in the tech sector.

## National Security (Defence and Technology)

➤ **Applications in Defense:**

- GPUs are used in defense technologies like simulations, AI for drones, and data processing for surveillance.

➤ **Dual Use Technology:**

- GPUs are considered dual-use technologies with both civilian (e.g., gaming, video editing) and military (e.g., autonomous systems, data processing) applications.

## Environmental Impact

- **Energy Consumption:**
  - GPUs, especially in data centers and cryptocurrency mining, consume a significant amount of energy.
- **Sustainable Computing:**
  - There is increasing focus on developing energy-efficient GPUs to reduce their environmental impact, aligning with global sustainability goals.

## The IndiaAI Mission: India's Leap into the Future of Artificial Intelligence

- **Investment Overview:** In 2024, the Indian government approved an investment of over Rs 10,300 crore for the IndiaAI Mission, a five-year initiative to develop India's AI ecosystem.
- **Focus on AI Infrastructure:** A major component of the mission is the creation of a cutting-edge AI computing infrastructure, including the deployment of over 10,000 GPUs through public-private collaborations.
- **Total Budget Allocation:** Of the total Rs 10,300 crore, Rs 5,000 crore is specifically earmarked for the AI computing infrastructure initiative.

## Indian squid

### Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Technology

#### Context

The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) said that it has successfully decoded the gene expression pattern of Indian squid (*Uroteuthis duvaucelii*) which will have major implications for various fields ranging from neuroscience to environmental science.



## Scientific Classification

- **Kingdom:** Animalia
- **Phylum:** Mollusca
- **Class:** Cephalopoda
- **Order:** Teuthida
- **Family:** Loliginidae
- **Genus:** Uroteuthis
- **Species:** duvaucelii

## Physical Characteristics

- **Size:** The Indian squid can grow up to 40 cm in length, with a relatively long, cylindrical body and a pair of large, prominent eyes.

## Habitat and Distribution

- **Geographical Range:** Uroteuthis duvaucelii is predominantly found in the coastal waters of the Indian subcontinent, extending from the eastern coast of Africa to the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.
- **Depth Range:** These squids are typically found in shallow waters, from 30 to 150 meters, but they can also inhabit deeper regions.

## Behavior and Ecology

- **Feeding Habits:** As carnivorous mollusks, Indian squids feed on smaller fish, crustaceans, and other marine invertebrates.
- **Reproduction:** Squid reproduction involves the laying of eggs, with females depositing their eggs in clusters in shallow waters.

## Economic Importance

- **Fisheries:** Uroteuthis duvaucelii is a key target species for commercial and artisanal fisheries along India's coasts. It is a valuable source of food, with its meat being a popular delicacy in Indian cuisine.
- **Export:** The squid is exported to various countries, particularly in the Asian and European markets. Its importance is growing due to the demand for seafood globally.

### Conservation Status

- **Threats:** Overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change are some of the primary threats to the squid population. While not listed as endangered, overfishing could lead to declines in population, especially if fisheries management practices are not implemented effectively.
- **Conservation Measures:** The Indian government and various environmental organizations focus on sustainable fishing practices to preserve the squid population. Measures include regulating fishing seasons and using environmentally friendly fishing gear.