



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 16-12-2025

GS-1

1. Project Mausam
2. Bharat Rambhoomi Darshan

GS-3

3. Artemisinin
4. Black-Capped Capuchin Monkey
5. Exercise Ekatha 2025

Project Mausam

Syllabus: GS-1; Culture and History

Context

- The Archaeological Survey of India organised a national workshop under Project Mausam focusing on maritime networks in the Indian Ocean.



About Project Mausam

- Project Mausam is a cultural diplomacy and maritime heritage initiative launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Culture.
- It explores historical, commercial, and cultural interactions across the Indian Ocean world.

Key Objectives

- The project aims to document maritime heritage and promote transnational **UNESCO World Heritage** nominations.
- **Thirty-nine Indian Ocean countries** are included under the project.

Institutional Framework

- The project has two components, a research unit and a **World Heritage** nomination unit.
- It is implemented by the **Archaeological Survey of India** with support from **IGNCA and the National Museum**.

Mission Mausam

- Mission Mausam was launched in 2024 by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- It focuses on improving weather forecasting, climate services, and cloud physics research.
- India's first cloud chamber is being established at **IITM Pune** under this mission.

Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan

Syllabus: GS-1 & GS-3: Culture, Tourism, Internal Security

Context

- The Chief Minister of Sikkim has opened **Cho La and Dok La** for tourists under the Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan initiative.



About Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan

- It is a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Tourism** launched in 2025.
- The initiative promotes border and battlefield tourism while strengthening infrastructure and improving livelihoods in border villages.

Objectives

- It aims to **enhance connectivity, promote tourism, and support socio-economic development in remote border regions.**
- The Indian Army collaborates with civil authorities while maintaining operational readiness.

Key Features

- The initiative offers virtual tours of border areas and battlefields along with historical narratives and interactive content.
- Key sites **include Galwan Valley in Ladakh and Doklam, the tri-junction of India, Bhutan, and China.**
- Seventy-seven additional forward areas along the Line of Actual Control and Line of Control have been identified.

Significance

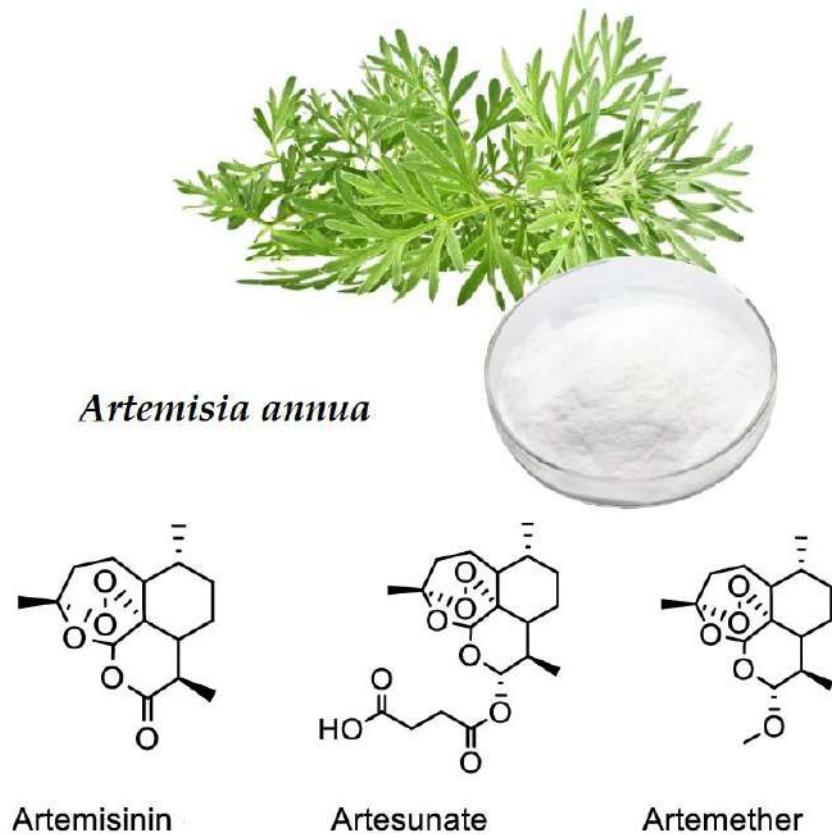
- The initiative strengthens national integration by **connecting citizens** with border regions of strategic importance.
- It promotes patriotism by highlighting the sacrifices and valor of the Indian Armed Forces.
- By opening border areas to **tourism**, it generates **employment** and supports livelihoods in remote villages.
- Improved **infrastructure** for tourism also enhances border **connectivity and logistics**.
- It contributes to **soft power** and strategic messaging by reinforcing India's presence in sensitive border regions.
- The initiative helps counter misinformation by presenting authentic historical narratives.
- It supports **civil military cooperation** while maintaining high operational readiness.

Artemisinin

Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Technology, Health

Context

- A recent study warns that extensive use of artemisinin could lead to increased malaria resistance in parts of Africa.



About Artemisinin

- Artemisinin is an **antimalarial drug** derived from the **sweet wormwood plant** *Artemisia annua*.
- It was discovered in the 1970s and revolutionized malaria treatment when resistance to older drugs emerged.

Mechanism of Action

- It targets the malaria parasite during the blood stage and disrupts its replication in red blood cells.
- The drug acts rapidly but is eliminated from the body within hours.

Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy

- Due to its short half-life, artemisinin is combined with longer-acting drugs.

- The **World Health Organization** recommends ACTs for treating *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria.

Artesunate

- Artesunate is the most effective derivative and is the only one administered intravenously, making it ideal for severe malaria cases.

Black-Capped Capuchin Monkey

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity and Conservation

Context

- Bannerghatta Biological Park has imported eight Black-capped Capuchin Monkeys from South Africa under an animal exchange programme.



About Black-Capped Capuchin Monkey

- Black-capped capuchin monkey, scientifically known as **Sapajus apella**, is also called the **tufted capuchin**.
- It is native to South America and is widely distributed across **the Amazon River Basin**.

Habitat

- It inhabits tropical forests, subtropical forests, dry forests, savannahs, mangroves, and sub-montane regions.

Behaviour and Lifestyle

- The species is **arboreal and diurnal** in nature.
- Communication occurs through vocal sounds, body language, touch, and olfactory cues.

Diet

- It is omnivorous and feeds on fruits, seeds, nuts, insects, lizards, eggs, and crustaceans.

Ecological Role

- By feeding on fruits, the species plays a key role in **seed dispersal**.

Conservation Status

- IUCN Red List status is **Least Concern**.

Bannerghatta Biological Park

- Bannerghatta Biological Park is part of Bannerghatta National Park and became an independent establishment in 2002.
- It is located about 22 kilometres south of Bengaluru in Karnataka.
- The park includes a zoo, safari, butterfly park, and a rescue and rehabilitation centre.
- It is the first biological park in India to have a fenced forested elephant sanctuary.

Exercise Ekatha 2025

Syllabus: GS-3; Defence and Security

Context

- The Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy attended the closing ceremony of Exercise Ekatha 2025 in Maldives.



About Exercise Ekatha

- Exercise Ekatha is an annual bilateral maritime exercise between the **Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force**.
- It was established in 2017 and the 2025 edition marks the eighth edition.

Key Activities

- The exercise includes technical and combat diving, boarding operations, firing drills, demolition and explosive handling, asymmetric warfare tactics, and heli-borne operations.

Maldives at a Glance

- Maldives is an island nation in the **north-central Indian Ocean** consisting of around 1200 coral islands grouped into atolls.
- It is **Asia's smallest country** by land area and is highly vulnerable to sea-level rise. **Capital is Male** and the **official language is Dhivehi**.
- Islam is the state religion and tourism is the backbone of the economy.