



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 20-12-2025

GS-1

1. Dandami Madia Tribe

GS-2

2. BharatNet Project

GS-3

3. Annatto
4. Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary
5. MANPADS

Dandami Madia Tribe

Syllabus: GS-1; Indian Society & Culture

Context:

Members of the Dandami Madia tribe performed the traditional Bison Horn Maria dance during village festivals in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.



Key Features:

- **Location:** Chhattisgarh
- **Other Names:** Bison Horn Maria, Khalpati Maria
- **Cultural Link:** Part of the Gond tradition

Social & Cultural Practices:

- Bison Horn Maria dance (men and women)
- Agriculture-based economy with hunting and fishing
- Belief system: Hinduism + Animism
- Divorce and widow remarriage permitted

Unique Institution:

- **Ghotul:** Youth dormitory for unmarried boys and girls

Language:

- Dandami Maria
- Gondi dialects (oral, Dravidian origin)

BharatNet Project

Syllabus: GS-2; Governance, e-Governance, Infrastructure

Context:

Government reaffirmed phased implementation of BharatNet for broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats.

About BharatNet:

- Approved in 2011
- One of the world's largest rural telecom projects
- Implemented by **BBNL** (incorporated in 2012)

Objective:

- Broadband access to all GPs
- Enable e-health, e-education, e-governance

Phases:

- **Phase I:** 1 lakh GPs (completed, 2017)
- **Phase II:** 1.5 lakh GPs (ongoing)
- **Phase III:** 5G integration & future-proofing

Amended BharatNet Programme (2023):

- OF connectivity to 2.64 lakh GPs in ring topology
- IP-MPLS network, RFMS, power backup, 10-year O&M

Annatto

Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Technology / Food Processing

Context:

CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru undertook four Grant-in-Aid projects on annatto.



About Annatto:

- Natural food colouring and flavouring agent
- Derived from seeds of *Bixa orellana*
- Native to tropical Americas
- ~70% of natural food colours globally

Uses:

- Cheese, butter, yogurt, sausage, smoked fish, ice cream, baked goods

Scientific Basis:

- Colour due to **carotenoids**

Health Benefits:

- Antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory
- Supports eye, heart, bone, and skin health

Safety:

- Safe in normal quantities
- Possible allergies in sensitive individuals

Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary

Syllabus: GS-3; Environment & Ecology

Context:

Community-led conservation initiatives at Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary have successfully restored wild honeybee colonies, leading to revival of associated biodiversity.

Key Facts:

- **Location:** Kokrajhar and Dhubri districts, Assam
- **Area:** ~45.5 sq. km
- **Terrain:** Hilly landscape with dense forests
- **Establishment:**
 - Reserve Forest – 1966
 - Wildlife Sanctuary – 1994

Ecological Features:

- **Lakes:** Dheer Beel, Diplai Beel
- **Flora:** Tropical moist deciduous, mixed deciduous, semi-evergreen forests
- **Dominant tree:** Sal

Fauna:

- Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Gaur
- Sambar deer, Barking deer
- Birds: Bengal Florican (endangered), Great Hornbill, White-winged Wood Duck

Significance:

- Second protected habitat of the **Golden Langur**
- Endemic to the Indo–Bhutan border region

MANPADS

Syllabus: GS-3; Defence & Security

Context:

Indian Army is repurposing MANPADS to counter the rising threat of sub-sonic cruise missiles.



About MANPADS:

- **Full Form:** Man-Portable Air Defence Systems
- **Nature:** Shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles
- **Weight:** 10–20 kg
- **Length:** < 2 metres
- **Range:**
 - Up to 8 km (horizontal)
 - Up to 4.5 km (altitude)

History:

- First deployed in the 1960s
- USA: Redeye | USSR: Strela

Global Status:

- Operated by ~105 countries
- Produced by only 12 countries (including India)

Famous Systems:

- Stinger (USA)
- SA-7 Strela-2 (USSR)
- FN-16 (China)

Types:

1. Command Line-of-Sight
2. Laser-guided
3. Infrared (heat-seeking)

India's MANPADS Arsenal:

- **Igla-S:** Russian origin, range ~6 km
- **VSHORADS:** Indigenous (DRDO), successful drone-neutralisation trials