# UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelim Bits 20-02-2025

## OPEC+

### Why in News?

*Brazil's government recently approved joining OPEC+, rising status as a key oil player.*

- **OPEC** - Stands for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.
- It is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization refers to a group of 12 of the world's major oil-exporting nations.
- **Founded in - *Baghdad in 1960***.
- **Founding members -** Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- **Headquarters -** Vienna, Austria.
- **OPEC Members -** Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.
- It will meet on every year to discuss their joint oil production policy
- **Aim -** To control the global oil supply and price.
- **Objectives -** It is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.
- To give an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- OPEC membership is open to any country, substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

### OPEC+

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia are known collectively as OPEC+.
- **Formed in –** 2016.
- **Members**




- **Significance of Brazil -** Brazil was officially invited to join in 2023.

- Brazil is currently the ***world's 7th-largest oil producer***, pumping around 4.3 million barrels per day, or 4% of global output.
- In 2024, crude oil overtook soy as the country's top export, making up 13.3% of total foreign sales.

**References**


1. Times of India | OPEC+
2. OPEC | About


# International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA)

### Why in News?

*India is elected to the vice presidency of the International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA) in Singapore.*

- **Established in** – ***1957***, as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and a non-profit making international technical association.
- **NGO to IGO** – It officially changed its status from an NGO to an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) based on a *convention ratified by 34 states* on 2024.
- It is previously known as ***International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).***
- **Motto** – Successful Voyages, Sustainable Planet.
- **Aim** – To foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels, through,
  - Improvement and harmonization of aids to navigation worldwide
  - Other appropriate means, for the benefit of the maritime community and the protection of the environment.
- **Membership** – 200 members, 80 of which are national authorities and 60 are commercial firms.
  - **India** – Member ***since 1957***.

***India*** *will host the IALA Council meeting, December 2025 and IALA Conference & General Assembly, September 2027 in Mumbai.*

- **Collaborated member states** - It encourages its members to work together in a common effort to harmonize aids to navigation worldwide.
- It ensures that the movements of vessels are safe, expeditious and cost effective.
- It also encourages co-operation between nations to give developing countries the opportunity to make use of new aids to navigation techniques.
- **Support SDGs** – It recommends its members and other marine aids to navigation authorities responsible for the provision of Marine Aids to Navigation endeavour to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**References**

1. PIB| India Elected to Vice Presidency of IALA
2. IALA| About the Organization
3. Irishlights| IALA Members

# Killer Whales

### Why in News?

*Australian authorities are euthanizing approximately 90 false killer whales that survived a mass stranding on a remote Tasmanian beach.*

- It is a ***toothed whale*** and the ***largest member*** of the oceanic dolphin family.
- It is also known as Orcas.
- **Scientific Name -** Orcinus orca.
- **Type** – Mammals.
- **Weight** - Up to 6 tons.
- **Appearance** - They are immediately recognizable by their distinctive black-and-white coloring.
- **Distribution -** Though they often frequent cold, coastal waters, orcas can be found from the Polar Regions to the Equator.
- Orcas are highly intelligent and able to coordinate hunting tactics.
- These are extremely fast swimmers and have been recorded at speeds of ***up to 54kph.***
- Whales are ***highly social mammals*** and are well known for stranding in groups because they travel in large, close-knit communities which rely on constant communication.
- **Diet –** Carnivores.
- They use echolocation to communicate and hunt, making sounds that travel underwater until they encounter objects, then bounce back, revealing their location, size, and shape.
- **Conservation Status**
    - **IUCN -** Data Deficient.



**References**

1. BBC | Killer Whales
2. Times of India | Killer Whales

## One Liners 20-02-2025

### Sea Ice, Iceberg, Glacier, Ice Sheet, Ice Shelves

• **Sea ice** – It refers to the *free-floating ice* in the Polar Regions.
• **Iceberg** – It is a *large piece of floating ice* that has broken off from a glacier or ice shelf.
• **Glacier** – It is an *accumulation of ice and snow* that slowly flows over land.
• **Ice sheet** – It is a *mass of glacial ice* more than 50,000 square kilometres (19,000 square miles).
• **Ice shelves** – They are *large floating platforms of ice* that extend from the land to the ocean.

## Polity & Governance

### Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

• **PLFS** – It is the primary source of *data on employment and unemployment* situation in India.
• **Released by** – National Statistics Office (NSO).
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
• **Objectives** – To estimate the employment and unemployment indicators in the *short time interval of 3 months* for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS).
• Indicators in both usual status (principal status+subsidiary status) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.
• **Data usage** – Planning, policy formulation, decision support, etc.

### National eVidhan Application (NeVA)

• **Launched in** – *2022.*
• **Umbrella scheme** – Mission Mode Projects (MMPs).
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MPA)
• **NeVA** – It is a work-flow system deployed on NIC Cloud, MeghRaj helps the chair of the house to conduct the proceedings in a paperless manner.
• **Aim** – To bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.

### Aravali Safari Park Project

*Aravali Safari Park Project still faces opposition ever since it mooted.*
• It is an ambitious project proposed by the Haryana government.
• It will be the *world's largest safari park*.
• **Area** – 3,858 hectare.
• **Coverage** – *17 villages* in Gurugram and Nuh.
• **Transferred to** – Forest department and an expert committee to oversee the project's set up.

## Economy

## Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Deposit Scheme

*Overseas Indians into NRI deposit schemes rose by 42.8% in April, 2024.*

• **NRI scheme** – It is for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)/Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)/ Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) that allows them to transact in the secondary markets in India with foreign funds deposited in their NRE accounts.

• **Non-Resident Rupee (NRE) Account** – It is an Indian rupee (INR) denominated account in the form of savings, current, recurring, or fixed deposits. The foreign currency deposited into the account is converted to INR.

• It includes foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposits, non-resident external (NRE) deposits, and non-resident ordinary (NRO) deposits.

## National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)

• **Established in** – *2018*, under section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013.

• **Functions & Duties** – Recommend accounting and auditing policies & standards to be adopted by companies for approval by the central government.

• Monitor and enforce compliance with accounting standards and auditing standards.

• Oversee the quality of service of the professions associated with ensuring compliance with such standards and suggest measures for improvement in the quality of service.

# Agriculture

## National Horticulture Fair 2025

• **Organized by** – ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR-IIHR).

• **Theme** – Horticulture for Viksit Bharat - Nutrition, Empowerment and Livelihood.

• **Premier event** – To brings together the best in horticulture, featuring innovations that promise to transform the industry and improve the lives of farmers across India.

• **Focus** – To improve nutrition through the promotion of nutritionally rich crops and varieties.

# Environment

## Lithium

• It is a chemical element of Group 1 in the alkali metal group of periodic table.

• **Properties** – It is the *lightest* of the solid elements and the metal is soft, white and lustrous.

• **Usage** – Pharmaceutical, electronics, automobile, ceramics & glass, rubber & plastics, aluminium.

• **Lithium triangle countries** – Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.

• **Largest producers** – Australia, Chile and China.

# Miscellaneous

## 1st edition of SOUL Leadership Conclave

• **SOUL** – School of Ultimate Leadership.
• It is an *upcoming leadership institution in Gujarat* to enable authentic leaders to advance public good.
• **Aim** – To broaden the landscape of *political leadership* in India through formal training.
• To include those who rise through merit, commitment, and passion for public service and not just from political lineage.

## World Day of Social Justice

• **Observed on** – *20th February* annually by the United Nations.
• **Theme 2025** – Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps Of Social Justice.
• **Objectives** – It serves as a global call to action for addressing poverty, exclusion, unemployment, gender inequality, and human rights.
• It promoting solidarity, harmony, and equality of opportunity within and between societies.

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