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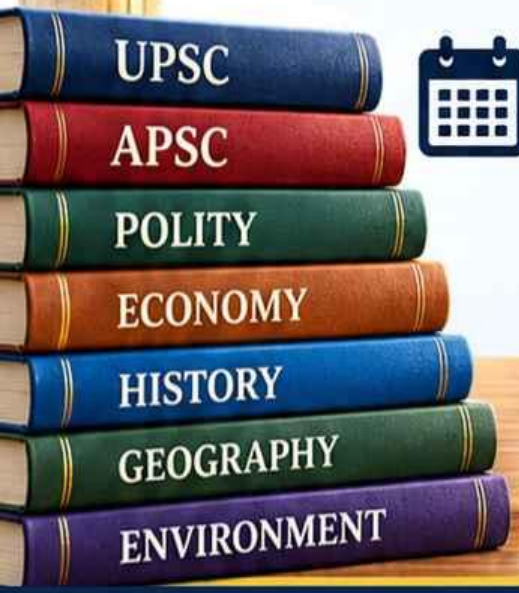
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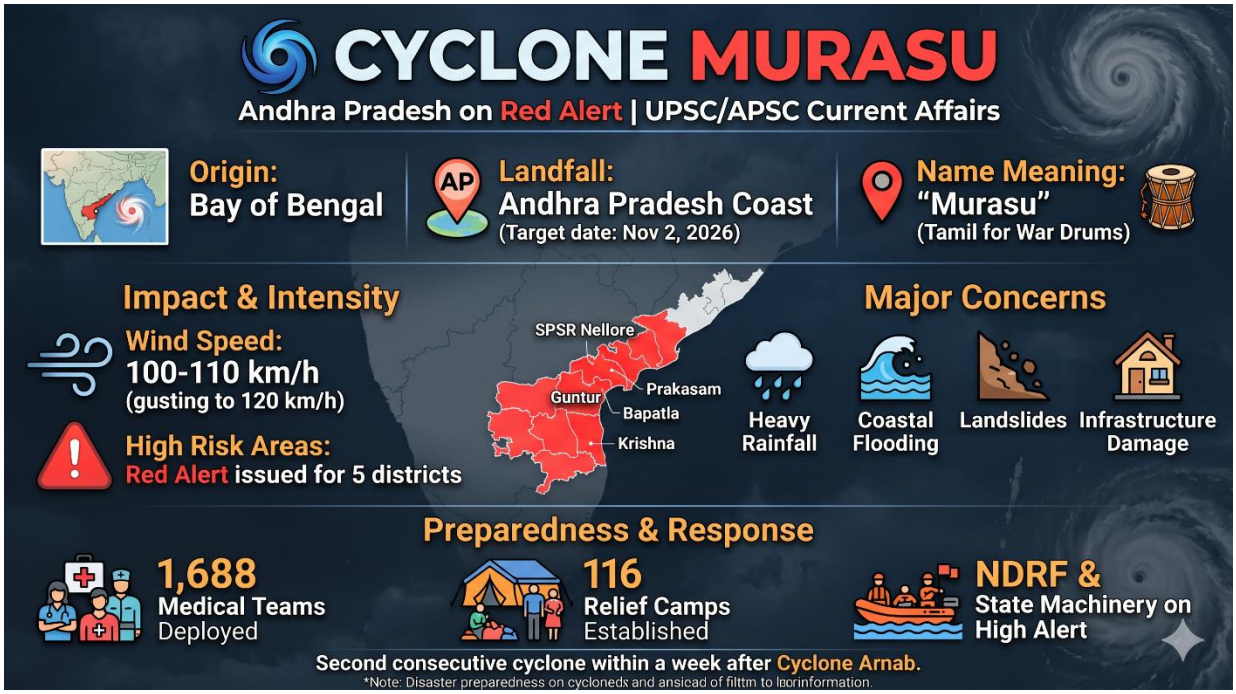




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GS Paper III: Disaster Management

Cyclone Murasu: Andhra Pradesh on Red Alert



Andhra Pradesh is preparing for **Cyclone Murasu**, the second cyclone within a week after Cyclone Arnab. The **IMD issued a red alert for five districts ahead of the expected landfall on November 2, 2026.**

Key Facts

- **Origin: Bay of Bengal.**
- **Expected landfall: Andhra Pradesh coast.**
- **Wind speed: 100–110 km/h, gusting up to 120 km/h.**
- **Red-alert districts: SPSR Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Bapatla and Krishna.**
- **Preparedness: 1,688 medical teams and 116 relief camps established.**
- **Major concerns: Heavy rainfall, flooding, landslides and damage to infrastructure.**
- **Cyclone naming: "Murasu" is a Tamil word meaning war drums.**

Prelims Question

Q1. Consider the following statements about tropical cyclones:

1. Tropical cyclones derive energy primarily from warm ocean waters.

2. The Bay of Bengal is a region prone to tropical cyclones.

3. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues cyclone warnings in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 1 and 2 only

C) 2 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

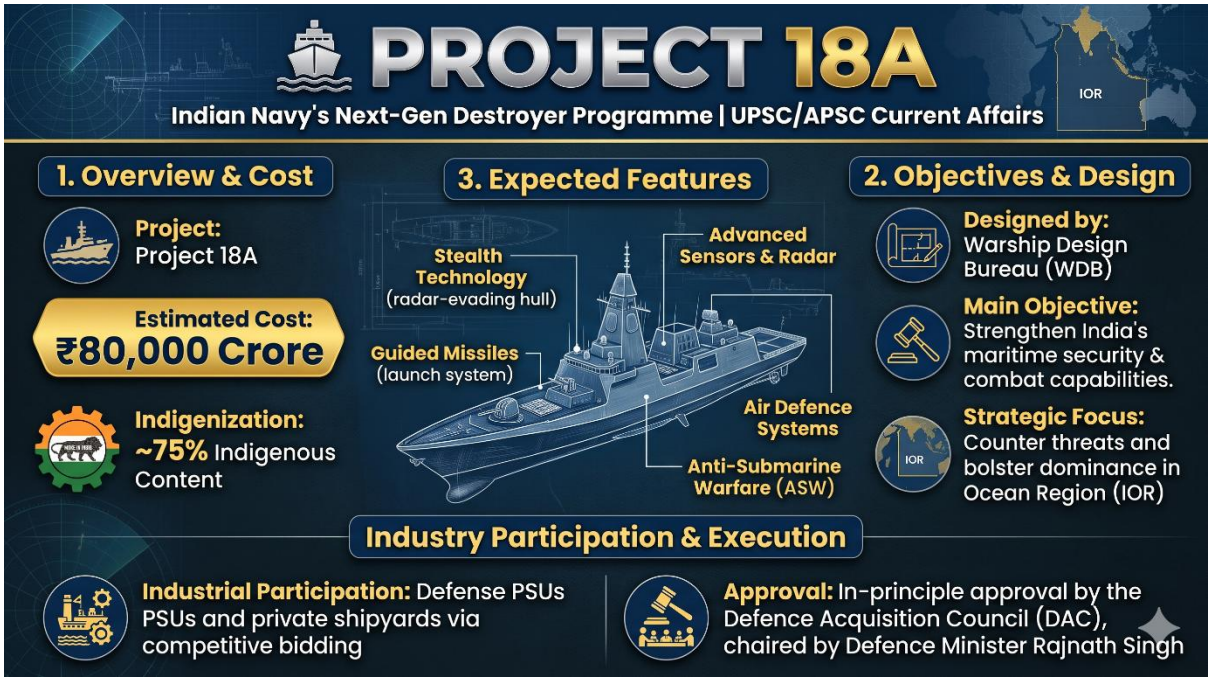
Answer: D) 1, 2 and 3

Mains Question

Q. Discuss the major challenges posed by tropical cyclones in India. Suggest measures to strengthen disaster preparedness and coastal resilience. (150 words | 10 marks)

GS Paper III: Defence and Security

Indian Navy’s 80,000-Crore Project 18A



The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has given in-principle approval to the Indian Navy’s next-generation destroyer programme under **Project 18A, estimated to cost 80,000 crore.**

Key Facts

- **Project: Project 18A.**
- **Estimated cost: ₹80,000 crore.**
- **Indigenous content: Approximately 75%.**
- **Main objective: Strengthen India’s maritime security and combat capabilities.**
- **Expected features: Stealth technology, guided missiles, advanced sensors, air defence and anti-submarine warfare systems.**
- **Design agency: Indian Navy’s Warship Design Bureau.**
- **Strategic significance: Counter emerging maritime threats and strengthen India’s presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).**
- **Industrial participation: Defence PSUs and private companies may participate in competitive bidding.**

Prelims Question

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):

1. It is chaired by the Defence Minister of India.

2. It deals with major defence acquisition decisions.

3. It functions under the Ministry of Defence.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 1 and 2 only

C) 2 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D) 1, 2 and 3

Mains Question

Q. Examine the significance of modernising the Indian Navy in safeguarding India's maritime interests in the Indo-Pacific region. (150 words | 10 marks)

GS Paper II: International Relations

India–Myanmar Military Cooperation



India and Myanmar held the 8th Army-to-Army Staff Talks in Naypyidaw to strengthen bilateral military cooperation through joint training, exercises and capacity building.

Key Facts

- **Meeting: 8th India–Myanmar Army-to-Army Staff Talks.**
- **Location: Naypyidaw, Myanmar.**
- **Key areas: Joint military training, exercises, capacity building and professional exchanges.**
- **Defence assistance: India handed over training simulators to the Myanmar Army.**
- **Defence Cooperation Meeting: The 3rd meeting was held in Guwahati on 7 October 2026.**
- **Operation Brahma: India provided humanitarian assistance to Myanmar following the devastating earthquake.**
- **Strategic significance: Strengthens border security, regional stability and cooperation in India's neighbourhood.**

Prelims Question

Q1. Consider the following statements about India–Myanmar relations:

1. Myanmar shares a land border with India.

2. Myanmar is a member of ASEAN.

3. Operation Brahma was launched by India to provide humanitarian assistance to Myanmar following an earthquake.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 1 and 2 only

C) 2 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

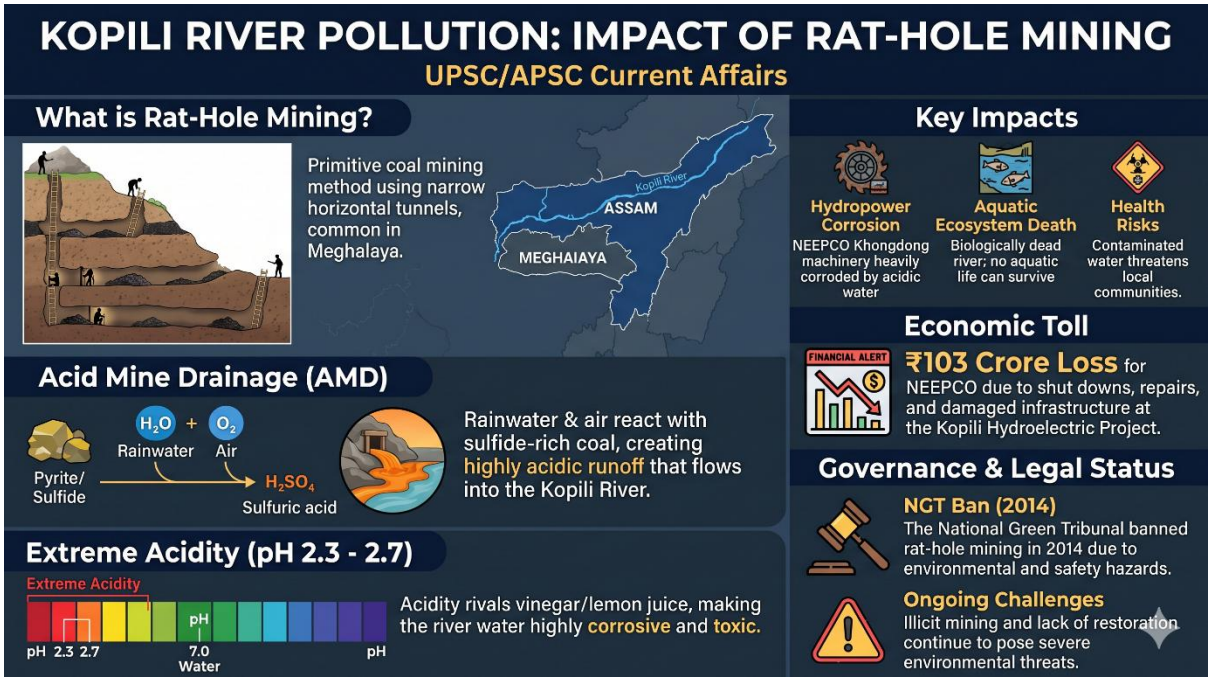
Answer: D) 1, 2 and 3

Mains Question

Q. Discuss the strategic significance of India–Myanmar relations for India's Act East Policy and security in Northeast India. (150 words | 10 marks)

Environment (GS Paper 3)

Adverse Impact of Rat-Hole Mining: Kopili River Pollution



The Kopili River, flowing through Assam and Meghalaya, remains acidic due to sulphuric acid pollution associated with rat-hole coal mining in Meghalaya. Its acidic water has damaged machinery at NEEPCO's Khongdong hydropower project.

Key Facts

- **Cause: Acid mine drainage from coal mining.**
- **pH level: Approximately 2.3–2.7, indicating highly acidic water.**
- **Impact: Corrosion of hydropower machinery, damage to aquatic ecosystems and risks to human health.**
- **Economic loss: NEEPCO reported losses of ₹103 crore due to repeated power plant breakdowns.**
- **Legal development: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining in Meghalaya in 2014.**
- **Current concern: Illegal mining continues despite the ban, and the river has not returned to a neutral pH.**

What Is Rat-Hole Mining?

Rat-hole mining is a form of coal extraction through narrow, horizontal tunnels that are often just large enough for workers to enter.

Acid mine drainage: When sulphide minerals in exposed coal-bearing rocks react with air and water, they can produce sulphuric acid, contaminating nearby rivers and streams.

Prelims Question

Q1. Consider the following statements about rat-hole mining:

1. It involves extracting coal through narrow tunnels.

2. It can cause acid mine drainage and water pollution.

3. The NGT banned rat-hole mining in Meghalaya in 2014.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 1 and 2 only

C) 2 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D) 1, 2 and 3

Mains Question

Q. Discuss the environmental and economic consequences of rat-hole coal mining in Northeast India. Suggest measures for sustainable mining and river conservation. (150 words | 10 marks)