

CURRENT AFFAIRS (30-10-2026)
FOR
COMPETITIVE EXAMS
(UPSC, APPSC, TGPSC)

[Study material by EKAM IAS Academy]

Articles

- ASEAN
- Samarth app
- PM KISAN
- Buxa Tiger Reserve
- Rimona national park

Q1. Which Article of the Constitution vests the ECI with superintendence, direction and control of elections?

- A. Article 320
- B. Article 324
- C. Article 326
- D. Article 328

Answer: B

Q2. Consider the following statements about PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It will be implemented during 2026–27 to 2030–31.
3. It aims to strengthen Gram Panchayats through integrated planning, capacity building and digital governance.
4. It is implemented exclusively in states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B

Ready to provide counterterrorism expertise to ASEAN countries: India

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

India is committed to collective regional security and the eradication of terrorism in all its forms and is ready to share its battle-tested counterterrorism expertise with ASEAN partners to strengthen joint capabilities, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

Addressing the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Cebu, Philippines, Mr. Singh said India's counterterrorism experience was not theoretical knowledge but had been acquired through decades of confronting complex security challenges, including cross-border terrorism.

He said India's strategies had been tested and refined through real-world operations, with Operation



Collective approach: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' meeting in Cebu, Philippines. PTI

Sindoor demonstrating the country's proactive counter-terrorism doctrine.

During the operation, India dismantled terrorist infrastructure and enforced a firm red line against state-sponsored terrorism, he said. Emphasising that terrorism knows no borders, Mr. Singh said India was prepared to share its operational experience with ADMM-Plus

partners through joint exercises, capacity-building programmes and intelligence sharing.

Counterterrorism remains an important area of cooperation under the ADMM-Plus framework, with India and Malaysia co-chairing the Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism for the 2024-2027 cycle.

In a significant proposal

to deepen regional engagement, Mr. Singh called for the establishment of a dedicated defence 'Youth Bridge' to strengthen institutional people-to-people connectivity between India and ASEAN countries. The ASEAN members appreciated the move. The initiative would promote digital innovation and capacity building, while providing greater opportunities for young people to contribute to regional peace and security.

Highlighting the importance of maritime security, Mr. Singh said India had designated 2026 as the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation and had conducted the second ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise. He reiterated India's commitment to freedom of navigation, international maritime law and the security of global sea lanes.

ASEAN

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

One Vision | One Identity | One Community

1. About ASEAN

- Full form:** Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
- Established:** 8 August 1967 (Bangkok Declaration).
- Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Purpose:** Promote regional cooperation, peace, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia.
- Motto:** One Vision, One Identity, One Community.
- Official language:** English.
- Type:** Intergovernmental organisation (not a United Nations body).

2. Member Countries (10)

- Brunei
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Vietnam

ASEAN Member Countries (Geographical Location)

3. ASEAN's Objectives

- Economic growth and regional integration.
- Peace, stability and security in the region.
- Cooperation in social, cultural and educational fields.
- Sustainable development and environmental protection.
- Narrowing development gaps among member countries.

4. ASEAN Bodies / Institutions

- ASEAN Summit** (Heads of State/Government) – supreme body
- ASEAN Coordinating Council** (Foreign Ministers)
- ASEAN Community** (political-security, economic, socio-cultural pillars)
- ASEAN Secretariat** (Jakarta)
- Sectoral Bodies** (e.g., AHA Centre, AMRD, SEAMEO, etc.)

5. ASEAN Community

Formed in 2015, it has three pillars:

- Political-Security Community** (Peace, security, rule of law)
- Economic Community** (Free trade, connectivity, regional economic integration)
- Socio-Cultural Community** (People-to-people contact, education, culture, disaster management)

6. Key Agreements & Initiatives

- ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)** – 1992
- ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)** – 1994 (security dialogue)
- ASEAN-India FTA** – 2010 (Trade & Investment)
- RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership)** – 2020 (ASEAN + 5 partners)
- ADMM-Plus** – Defence cooperation
- East Asia Summit (EAS)** – 2005 (ASEAN + 8)

7. Important Facts

- ASEAN is the 3rd largest economy in Asia (after China and India).
- Total population:** ~684 million (2024 est.).
- GDP (nominal):** ~US\$ 3.8 trillion (2024 est.).
- Largest economy:** Indonesia.
- Smallest economy:** Brunei.
- Largest population:** Indonesia.
- Smallest population:** Brunei.

8. Challenges

- Territorial disputes in the South China Sea.
- Great Power rivalry (China-US).
- Non-traditional security threats (terrorism, cyber, climate change, pandemics).
- Economic disparities among members.
- Political instability and regime changes in some countries.
- Dependence on external trade and investment.

9. India and ASEAN

- India became a Sectoral Dialogue Partner in 1992.
- Upgraded to a Full Dialogue Partner in 1996.
- Strategic Partnership in 2012.
- India-ASEAN FTA launched in 2010.
- Act East Policy – key driver of India-ASEAN ties.
- Focus areas:** trade, connectivity, defence, maritime security, digital economy, health, education, people-to-people ties.

10. Quick Revision Points

- Established: 1967, Bangkok.
- 10 members (Brunei to Vietnam).
- Headquarters: Jakarta.
- Motto: One Vision, One Identity, One Community.
- 3 pillars: Political-Security, Economic, Socio-Cultural.
- Key initiatives: AFTA, RCEP, EAS, ARF, ADMM-Plus.
- India: Dialogue Partner (1992), Full Dialogue Partner (1996), Strategic Partner (2012).

UPSC Prelims Possible Question

Consider the following statements regarding ASEAN:

- ASEAN was established in 1967 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.
- The ASEAN Secretariat is located in Singapore.
- India is a founding member of ASEAN.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one
B) Only two
C) All three
D) None

(Answer: B)

"Stronger ASEAN | A More Inclusive and Sustainable Region"

Q1. Which of the following connectivity projects is/are a part of cooperation between India and the ASEAN member countries?

1. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project
2. IMT Trilateral Highway
3. Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line

Select the answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 2 only

PM-Kisan funds to be released today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 24th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) on Friday in Gujarat.

Over ₹18,690 crore will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of more than 9.34 crore farmers.

Full Name: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN).

Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

Type: Central Sector Scheme.

Officially launched: February 2019.

Objective: To supplement the financial needs of eligible landholding farmer families for purchasing agricultural inputs and meeting certain domestic requirements.

Continuation: The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of PM KISAN from 2026–27 to 2030–31, with a total financial outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore.

PM KISAN Features

PM KISAN combines direct income support with digital beneficiary identification, land-record verification, Aadhaar authentication and DBT to improve transparency.

- Income support: Eligible farmer families receive ₹6,000 annually.
- Three instalments: The annual amount is divided into three instalments of ₹2,000 each.
- Four-monthly payment: Instalments are generally released at four-month intervals.
- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): Money is transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.
- Aadhaar-linked payments: The scheme uses Aadhaar-based authentication and Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts as part of its verification and payment framework.
- Landholding-based eligibility: Cultivable landholding is the primary eligibility criterion, subject to prescribed exclusions.
- Digital platform: The PM KISAN portal facilitates registration, beneficiary verification, status checking and payment-related services.
- E-KYC: e-KYC is mandatory for registered PM KISAN beneficiaries.
- Mobile application: The PM KISAN mobile application provides facilities including registration, status tracking and e-KYC.
- Kisan-eMitra: An AI-enabled chatbot provides information relating to registration, payments and eligibility.

Bapatla police launch Samarth app to strengthen security for local elections

The Hindu Bureau
BAPATLA

Real-time tracking of police personnel, instant transmission of instructions, SOS alerts and rapid deployment of forces to sensitive locations are among the key features of the Samarth mobile application, which was launched by Bapatla Superintendent of Police B. Umamaheswar on Thursday to strengthen security for the upcoming local body elections.

The application enables the police control room to monitor the locations of officers and personnel through Google Maps, identify sensitive polling stations and coordinate the deployment of additional forces wherever necessary. Mobile patrol teams, striking forces and special striking forces can be directed to trouble spots for an immediate response.

The SOS facility allows personnel to alert authorities during emergencies, while direct communication with the control room facilitates coordinated action.



Bapatla Superintendent of Police B. Umamaheswar launches the Samarth mobile application at his camp office in the district headquarters on Thursday. THE HINDU

The district police headquarters' IT wing will oversee the application and coordinate with field officers

A single notification can simultaneously convey instructions to police officers and personnel across the district.

Addressing a press conference at his camp office, Mr. Umamaheswar, along with Additional SP L. Sudhakar, demonstrated the application's features and explained its operational benefits.

The platform also provides officers' names and contact numbers for quick communication. Notifications can reach users even when mobile internet connectivity is unavailable, he said.

The district police headquarters' IT wing will oversee the application and coordinate with field officers to facilitate information sharing, monitor security arrangements and ensure the efficient deployment of personnel.

The SP said the initiative aimed to leverage technology to ensure peaceful and transparent local body elections.

About Samarth App

Launched by: Bapatla District Police, Andhra Pradesh.

Launched by: Superintendent of Police (SP) B. Umamaheswar.

Purpose: To strengthen security and maintain law and order during upcoming local body elections.

Main objective: Technology-enabled policing for peaceful, transparent and secure elections.

2. Important Features of Samarth App

Feature	Significance
Real-time tracking	Tracks police personnel through Google Maps
SOS alerts	Enables emergency alerts by police personnel
Instant instructions	Sends instructions to police teams simultaneously
Location monitoring	Identifies sensitive polling stations
Force deployment	Enables rapid deployment of additional forces
Direct communication	Connects field officers with the control room
Offline notifications	Notifications can reach users even when mobile internet is unavailable
Contact details	Provides officers' names and contact numbers

Significance for Andhra Pradesh

- Strengthens election security.
- Promotes technology-based policing.
- Enables quick emergency response.
- Improves coordination between control rooms and field personnel.
- Helps identify sensitive polling stations.
- Reduces response time during law-and-order disturbances.
- Supports peaceful and transparent local body elections.

Q2. Which of the following is the primary objective of the Samarth App?

- A) Digital land registration
- B) Agricultural monitoring
- C) Strengthening police security during local elections
- D) Online delivery of government services

Female tiger relocated to Bengal reserve on Oct. 2 moves to Assam

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

A three-year-old female tiger which had been relocated to the Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal from Bihar on October 2 has crossed into the Raimona National Park in Assam, officials say.

According to the officials, the female tiger, BTR-TF-1 (T-138), crossed the Sankosh river and a road in Gosaigaon in Assam to enter Raimona on Sunday, mostly in search of a suitable habitat.

"Once relocated, it takes a tiger a few times to explore its surroundings and establish its own territory. This female Royal Bengal tiger is also just exploring," West Bengal Forest Minister Manoj Oraon said.

Forest officials from Assam and West Bengal,



The tigress crossed the Sankosh river and a road in Assam likely in search of a suitable habitat.

along with a team from the National Tiger Conservation Authority, are monitoring its movement through the radio collar. The Minister said there was no plan yet to tranquilise it and bring back to Bengal. "It is a tiger's natural habit to explore. We don't want to disturb the tiger or restrict its movement immediately," he said. Buxa was declared a tiger reserve in 1983, but over the past few years there was no tiger presence in the region.

Buxa tiger Reserve

- Buxa Tiger Reserve is one of the most important protected areas of North Bengal and the second major tiger reserve in the state.
- Buxa Tiger Reserve is located in the Alipurduar district of West Bengal in the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas.
- It lies within the Indo-Malayan biodiversity region, which is known for high species richness and ecological sensitivity.
- The reserve was notified under Project Tiger in 1983 as the 15th tiger reserve in India.
- It occupies a strategic transboundary position by sharing its northern boundary with Bhutan and connecting to Assam through forest corridors.
- The reserve is drained by rivers such as Raidak, Sankosh and Jayanti, which originate in Bhutan. These rivers carry heavy sediment loads, frequently causing flooding and habitat alteration.
- Buxa Tiger Reserve is covered mainly by moist tropical forests with very high species diversity. The forest is dominated by Sal, Champa, Gamar and Simul trees.
- It supports diverse wildlife including elephants, gaur, sambar, chital, wild boar, leopards, clouded leopards and dhole.
- The avifauna includes hornbills, vultures and endangered species such as the Bengal florican.

About Raimona National Park

- Location: It is located in the state of Assam.
- The park lies along the India-Bhutan border and is situated at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas.
- It is connected with Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park.
- Topography: The Park has diverse terrain and vegetation.
- Major Rivers: The Sankosh River flows along the western boundary, Saralbhanga River lies on the eastern side and Pekua River forms the southern boundary.
- Vegetation: It mainly consists of Moist sal forests, Sub-Himalayan semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, savannah forests and riverine and khoir-sisoo forests
- Flora: Many orchid species, riverine grasslands and about 380 species of plants.

- Fauna: It is famous for the Golden Langur, Asian Elephant, Bengal Tiger, Clouded Leopard, Wild Water Buffalo and Spotted Deer.

Q3. Consider the following National Parks:

1. Kaziranga National Park
2. Manas National Park
3. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
4. Kuno National Park
5. Orang National Park
6. Raimona National Park

How many of the above are located in Assam?

- A) Only 5
- B) Only 6
- C) Only 7
- D) All 8

