



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 12-06-2025**

### **GS-1**

1. Poson Poya
2. Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple

### **GS-3**

3. Nickel
4. Gangotri National Park

### **Prelims Facts**

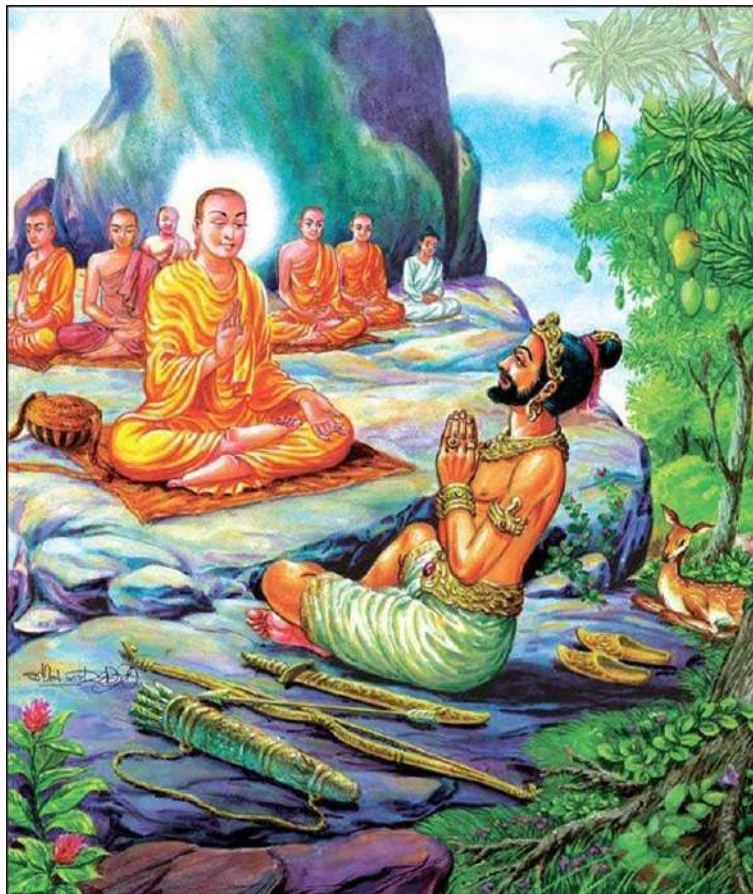
5. ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2025

## **Poson Poya**

Syllabus; GS-1; Buddhism- Art & Culture

### **Context**

- Sri Lanka is celebrating the sacred Poson Poya festival, marking the historic arrival of Buddhism over 2,000 years ago.



### **1. Introduction**

- **Poson Poya** is a major Buddhist festival celebrated in **Sri Lanka** and by Buddhists worldwide.
- It falls on the **full moon day (Poya)** of the **month of June**.
- Marks the **introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka** in the **3rd century BCE** by **Arahat Mahinda**, son of Emperor Ashoka.

### **2. Historical Significance**

- **Arahat Mahinda** met King **Devanampiya Tissa** at **Mihintale** (near Anuradhapura) and preached Buddhism.
- Led to the **establishment of Buddhism as the state religion** under royal patronage.
- **Mihintale** is now a sacred pilgrimage site.

### 3. Cultural & Religious Importance

- **Second most important Poya** after **Vesak** in Sri Lanka.
- Celebrated with **processions (peraheras), lanterns, almsgiving (dana), and meditation.**
- Temples, especially **Mihintale and Anuradhapura**, attract thousands of pilgrims.

### 4. Connection to Emperor Ashoka & India

- Highlights the **cultural and religious ties between India and Sri Lanka.**
- Part of **Ashoka's Dhamma Vijaya** (spread of Buddhism beyond India).
- Reinforces the **historical role of Buddhism in diplomacy and soft power.**

## Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple

### Syllabus: GS-1; Art & Culture

#### Context

- Padmanabhaswamy Temple performs rare '**Maha Kumbhabhishekam**' after 270 years

#### More to know

#### Location

- Located in **Thiruvananthapuram**, the capital of Kerala.

#### Historical Significance

- The temple is mentioned in ancient texts like the **Puranas and Sangam literature.**
- It gained prominence under the Travancore royal family, especially under **Maharaja Marthanda Varma** in the 18th century.
- The Maharaja dedicated the kingdom to Lord Padmanabha (Vishnu) in 1750 and ruled as the deity's 'Padmanabha Dasa' (servant of the Lord).



### Religious Significance

- Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, depicted in the Anantha Shayana posture (reclining on the serpent Ananta).
- One of the **108 Divya Desams** – sacred Vishnu temples mentioned in the works of **Alvar saints**.

### Architectural Features

- Built in **Dravidian style** with Kerala influence.
- The Gopuram (tower) is 100 feet tall and is richly ornamented.
- The sanctum houses a massive idol of Lord Vishnu, reclining on the serpent **Anantha or Adi Shesha, made of salagramams (sacred stones)**.
- Intricate murals and sculptures adorn the temple complex.

### Wealth and Vaults

- Became globally known after the 2011 discovery of immense **hidden treasures in underground vaults (A to F)**.
- Vault B remains unopened, surrounded by religious and legal controversies.
- Estimated wealth includes gold, jewels, and artifacts worth over one lakh crore rupees.



### Legal and Administrative Aspects

- **Supreme Court Judgment (2020):** Restored management rights of the temple to the Travancore royal family, overturning the 2011 Kerala High Court verdict that handed over control to the state.
- Emphasized the religious and historical role of the royal family.

### Cultural and National Importance

- Symbol of Kerala's heritage, devotion, and royal legacy.
- It is under the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.**
- Draws pilgrims and tourists globally.

## Nickel

### Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Technology

#### Context

- A recent development in **sustainable mining and metallurgy** has emerged from **Kashmir**, where **scientist Ubaid Manzoor** (along with international researchers) developed an eco-friendly method for **Nickel extraction**.



## 1. Basic Information

- **Symbol:** Ni
- **Atomic Number:** 28
- **Category:** Transition Metal
- **Properties:** Lustrous, silvery-white, hard, ductile, and corrosion-resistant.
- **Uses:**
  - Stainless steel production (major use)
  - Batteries (Nickel-Cadmium, Lithium-ion)
  - Electroplating & alloys (e.g., Monel, Inconel)
  - Coinage (e.g., Indian ₹10 coin contains Nickel)

## 2. Geographical Distribution (India & World)

### Global Reserves & Production:

- **Top Producers:** Indonesia, Philippines, Russia, New Caledonia (France), Canada.
- **Major Reserves:** Australia, Brazil, Russia.

### India's Scenario:

- **Reserves:** Limited (~189 million tonnes, mainly in Odisha).
- **Production:**
  - **Sukinda Valley (Odisha)** – Largest Nickel deposits.
  - Other regions: Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan.
- **Import Dependency:** India imports most of its Nickel (from Indonesia, Philippines).

## 3. Economic & Industrial Significance

- **Stainless Steel Industry:** 65-70% of Nickel is used here.
- **Electric Vehicles (EVs):** Nickel is crucial for lithium-ion batteries (high demand expected).
- **Defense & Aerospace:** Used in superalloys for jet engines.

## 4. Environmental & Health Concerns

- **Mining Impact:** Deforestation, water pollution (acid mine drainage).
- **Health Risks:** Prolonged exposure can cause lung cancer, skin allergies (Nickel dermatitis).

## 5. Government Policies & Initiatives

- **National Mineral Policy (2019):** Focus on sustainable mining.
- **PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Batteries:** Promotes Nickel-based battery manufacturing.
- **India's Nickel Import Duty:** Fluctuates to protect domestic industries.

**Practice Questions:**

1. **Prelims:** Which Indian state is the largest producer of Nickel?

- (a) Jharkhand
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Karnataka

**Answer: (b) Odisha**

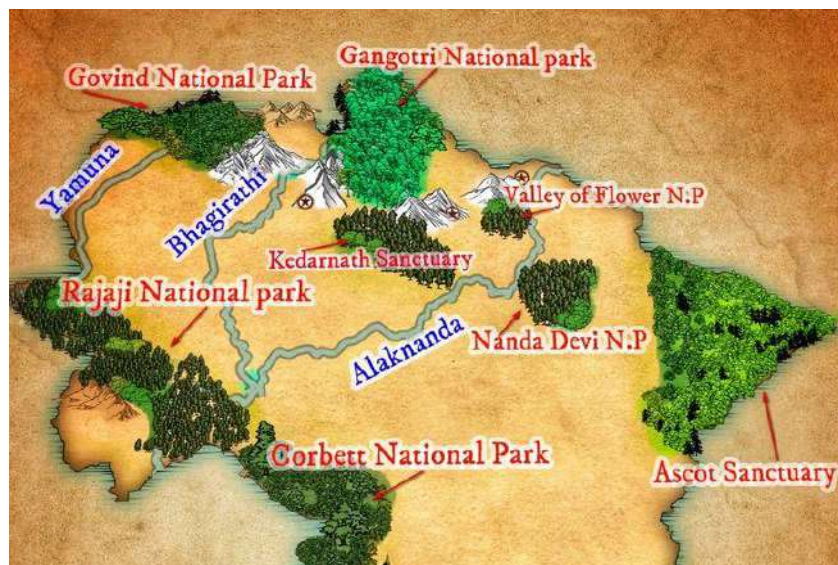
2. **Mains:** Discuss the strategic importance of Nickel in India's push for electric mobility. (150 words)

## **Gangotri National Park**

**Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity**

**Context**

- Uttarkashi residents seek action over emission by waste incinerator in Gangotri National Park.



### 1. Location

- **State:** Uttarakhand
- **Region:** Garhwal Himalayas
- **Nearby Town:** Uttarkashi

### 2. Establishment & Area

- **Established:** 1989
- **Declared a National Park:** Under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- **Area:** 2,390 sq km (includes a significant portion of the Gangotri Glacier)
- **Part of:** Govind Pashu Vihar Wildlife Sanctuary & Gangotri National Park together form a larger protected area

### 3. Importance

- **Ecological Significance:**
  - Protects the catchment area of the **Ganges River** (Bhagirathi River originates from Gaumukh in Gangotri Glacier).
  - Part of the **UNESCO World Heritage Site** (Nanda Devi & Valley of Flowers National Parks along with Gangotri form a biosphere reserve).
- **Biodiversity Hotspot:** Lies in the **Himalayan high-altitude biogeographic zone**.

### 4. Flora & Fauna

- **Flora:**
  - **Alpine & Sub-Alpine Vegetation:** Coniferous forests (Deodar, Fir, Spruce, Oak, Rhododendron).
  - **Medicinal Plants:** Brahma Kamal, Saussurea obvallata (sacred in Hinduism).
- **Fauna:**
  - **Mammals:** Snow Leopard, Himalayan Tahr, Musk Deer, Bharal (Blue Sheep), Black Bear, Brown Bear, Himalayan Monal.
  - **Birds:** Golden Eagle, Himalayan Snowcock, Bearded Vulture.

### 5. Gangotri Glacier & Gaumukh

- **Gangotri Glacier:** One of the largest glaciers in the Himalayas (~30 km long).



- **Gaumukh:** The snout of the glacier (source of Bhagirathi River, a major tributary of the Ganges).

## 6. Conservation Challenges

- **Climate Change:** Retreating glaciers due to global warming.
- **Tourism & Pilgrimage Pressure:** Gangotri Temple (one of the Char Dhams) attracts many visitors, leading to pollution.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict:** Grazing pressures and habitat fragmentation.

## 7. Connectivity & Access

- **Nearest Airport:** Jolly Grant Airport, Dehradun (~250 km).
- **Nearest Railway Station:** Rishikesh (~234 km).
- **Best Time to Visit:** April to October (closed in winter due to heavy snowfall).

## Previous Year Questions (PYQs) Relevance

- **2019:** Discuss the role of Himalayan national parks in conserving biodiversity.
- **2021:** Impact of climate change on Himalayan glaciers.

# ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2025

## Syllabus: Prelims- Paper 1

### Context

- Former India captain MS Dhoni has been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2025, becoming the 11th Indian to receive this global honour.

### What is it?

- A **prestigious honor** by the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** recognizing legendary cricketers for their historic contributions.
  - Celebrates players across **eras, formats (Tests, ODIs, T20s), and genders**.
- **Established: 2 January 2009** (in partnership with **FICA**).
- **Initial Inductees:** 55 players from FICA's earlier list (1999–2003) + 5 new additions in 2009.

## Eligibility & Selection Criteria

- **Retirement Rule:** Must be retired from **international cricket for at least 5 years**.
- **Key Parameters:**
  - Career records (runs, wickets, milestones).
  - Consistency, leadership, and impact on cricket's growth.
  - Open to **men and women** from all ICC member nations.



## Key Features

- **Historic Coverage:** Honors players from **pre-WWII era** (e.g., Sir Don Bradman) to modern stars.
- **Global Representation:** Includes cricketers from all **Test-playing nations**.
- **Annual Inductions:** Announced during **major ICC events**.
- **Symbolic Honor:** Inductees receive a **custom Hall of Fame cap**.

### Indian Cricketers in the ICC Hall of Fame (As of 2025)

Player	Year Inducted	Key Achievements
Bishan Singh Bedi	2009	Legendary left-arm spinner
Kapil Dev	2009	1983 WC-winning captain
Sunil Gavaskar	2009	First to 10,000 Test runs
Anil Kumble	2015	600+ Test wickets
Rahul Dravid	2018	"The Wall," 13,000+ Test runs
Sachin Tendulkar	2019	100 intl. centuries
Vinoo Mankad	2021	Pioneer all-rounder
Virender Sehwag	2023	Dominant opener
MS Dhoni	2025	3-time ICC trophy captain
Diana Edulji (W)	2023	Trailblazer in women's cricket
Neetu David (W)	2023	Leading wicket-taker (India women)

### ICC Hall of Fame 2025 Highlights

- **MS Dhoni** inducted (first Indian wicketkeeper in the Hall of Fame).
- **Potential Future Inductees:**
  - **Men:** Zaheer Khan, Harbhajan Singh, Yuvraj Singh.
  - **Women:** Mithali Raj (eligible post-2027).