DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 26-06-2025

GS-1

1. **Rare antique lamp found in Perdoor Anantapadmanabha temple in Udupi district**

2. **Enhanced Rock Weathering**

GS-2

3. **NAVYA Initiative**

4. **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

GS-3

5. **Digital Payment Intelligence Platform**

Rare antique lamp found in Perdoor Anantapadmanabha temple in Udupi district

Syllabus: GS-1; Art & Culture

Context

➢ This discovery of a 15th-century antique lamp at the **Perdoor Anantapadmanabha Temple** in **Udupi district, Karnataka**, is a significant archaeological and cultural find.

Key Details of the Lamp:

1. **Historical Donation**:
   a. The lamp was donated to the temple in **1456 A.D.** by **Basavannaras Banga**, as recorded in a stone inscription inside the temple's inner prakara.

b. This inscription confirms its **15th-century origin**, making it a valuable artifact from the late medieval period.

2. **Unique Artistic Blend**:

   a. The lamp features **rare Shaiva (Shiva-related) and Vaishnava (Vishnu-related) sculptures**, symbolizing a syncretic tradition where both deities are revered.

   b. This reflects the **coexistence of Shaivism and Vaishnavism** in the region during that era.

3. **Narrative Sculptures**:

   a. **First Face (Shiva's Pralaya Tandava)**:

      i. Depicts **Shiva as Nataraja** (cosmic dancer) with Parvati, Ganapati, and other deities.

      ii. Includes **Khadga Ravana** (a fierce form of Ravana) seated on Goddess Mari, a local deity still worshipped in the temple.

   b. **Second Face (Vishnu's Intervention)**:

      i. Shows **Anantapadmanabha (Vishnu)** with Brahma, Indra, Agni, and Varuna.

      ii. The scene narrates how Vishnu calms Shiva's destructive dance, protecting the universe.

   c. **Garuda (Vishnu's mount)** is prominently featured at the base.

4. **Cultural and Religious Significance**:

   a. The lamp's iconography suggests a **harmonious integration of Shaiva and Vaishnava traditions**, possibly indicating a **localized form of worship** where both sects coexisted.

   b. The depiction of **Khadga Ravana and Goddess Mari** highlights the influence of **folk and tribal deities** in temple worship.

Expert Analysis:

➢ **T. Murugeshi**, a retired archaeology professor, notes that the lamp is a **rare artifact** combining **Puranic stories with local traditions**.

➢ The **dual-faced design** serves as a **visual narrative** of Shiva's destructive power and Vishnu's protective role.

Why This Discovery Matters:

➢ **Historical Insight**: Provides evidence of **religious syncretism** in 15th-century Karnataka.

➢ **Artistic Value**: The intricate carvings offer a glimpse into **medieval sculptural techniques**.

> **Temple Heritage**: Strengthens the **Anantapadmanabha Temple's historical significance** as a center of Shaiva-Vaishnava worship.

Enhanced Rock Weathering

Syllabus: GS-1: Physical Geography – weathering & GS-3: Environment – CO2 capture.

Context:

> Tech giants, airlines, and fast fashion companies are increasingly purchasing **carbon credits from Enhanced Rock Weathering projects** as part of their climate mitigation strategies.

> These credits are part of the growing **carbon removal market**, aiming to achieve net-zero targets.

What is Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW)?

> **Definition**: ERW accelerates the natural process of rock weathering to **remove CO_2 from the atmosphere** and store it long-term.

> **Mechanism**:

  o Naturally, rainwater combines with **CO_2 to form carbonic acid**.

  o This acid breaks down rocks, forming **bicarbonate**, which later settles as **limestone** in oceans.

  o ERW uses **finely ground basalt or other silicate-rich rocks** to **turbocharge** this process.

How ERW Works

Process	Description
Grinding Rock	Basalt and other silicate rocks are finely crushed to increase surface area.
Spreading on Land	Powder is spread over agricultural fields or grasslands.
Reaction	CO_2 in soil water forms weak carbonic acid which reacts with rock particles.

Process	Description
Sequestration	Forms stable bicarbonate ions → transported to oceans → forms carbonate minerals.

Geographic Spread

➢ Active projects across **Europe, North America, Latin America, and Asia**.

Benefits of ERW

➢ **Carbon Removal**:

    ○ Captures and stores **atmospheric or soil CO₂** as stable carbonate compounds.

➢ **Soil Health**:

    ○ **Increases alkalinity** of soil → improves **crop yield**, **nutrient availability**, and **soil structure**.

➢ **Climate Resilience**:

    ○ Prevents **acidification of oceans**, which could otherwise release CO_2.

➢ **Economic Viability**:

    ○ Uses **abundant, low-cost basalt**, often a byproduct of **quarrying**.

Factors Influencing Effectiveness

➢ **Rock Type and Grain Size**

➢ **Climate**: Wetter and warmer climates accelerate weathering.

➢ **Soil Type**: Affects rate of acid-rock reactions.

➢ **Land Management Practices**: Affect integration and absorption.

Concerns & Challenges

Issue	Explanation
Heavy Metals	Some rocks used (e.g., olivine) may contain toxic **heavy metals** like nickel or chromium.
Verification	Quantifying **actual carbon sequestration** is scientifically complex.

Issue	Explanation
Scalability	Logistics of mining, crushing, and transporting large volumes of rock.

Key Takeaways

➢ **Enhanced Rock Weathering = Nature-based Carbon Removal + Soil Health Booster**

➢ Offers **multi-sector benefits**: agriculture, environment, and economy.

➢ Still in **experimental to early deployment phase**; long-term impacts and safety require monitoring.

NAVYA Initiative

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

Context

➢ The Government of India has launched **NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls)**, a pilot initiative under the **Viksit Bharat@2047 Vision**.

About

➢ The program aims to equip girls aged **16–18 years** with vocational skills to enhance their employability, self-reliance, and social participation.

Key Ministries Involved

➢ **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**
➢ **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**

Launch Details

Pilot Launch in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh

- ➢ **Date**: June 24, 2025
- ➢ **Location**: Sonbhadra (a tribal-dominated aspirational district)
- ➢ **Launched by**:
  - o **Jayant Chaudhary** (Union MoS for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship)
  - o **Savitri Thakur** (Union MoS for Women & Child Development)

Why Sonbhadra?

- ➢ Rich in **tribal heritage and natural resources**
- ➢ Represents the government's focus on **reaching marginalized regions**

Key Features of NAVYA

Target Beneficiaries

- ➢ Girls aged **16–18 years** who have passed **Class 10**.
- ➢ Initially targets **27 aspirational districts** across **19 states**, including North-Eastern regions.

Implementation Strategy

- ➢ Leverages existing schemes:
  - o **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**
  - o **PM Vishwakarma Yojana**
- ➢ Provides **industry-recognized certifications** to enhance employability.

Training Focus Areas

- ➢ **Market-relevant vocational skills**
- ➢ **Non-traditional job roles** (breaking gender stereotypes)
- ➢ Entrepreneurship training to encourage **self-employment & small businesses**

Objectives & Significance

Key Goals

> **Economic Empowerment**: Make girls self-reliant through skill development.
> **Gender Parity**: Promote women's participation in non-traditional sectors.
> **Social Upliftment**: Enhance dignity, confidence, and career aspirations.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Syllabus: GS-2: International Organisations.

Context:

India strongly rejected references to its internal affairs made by the OIC during its 2025 meeting in Istanbul.

About the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Type:

> Intergovernmental organisation representing the collective voice of the Muslim world.

Established:

> 25 September 1969 (Rabat, Morocco), after the Al-Aqsa Mosque fire.

Headquarters:

> Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Members:

> 57 countries across 4 continents.

> **India is *not* a member.**

Objectives

> Promote Islamic solidarity.

> Safeguard Muslim interests globally (Muslim Ummah).

➢ Eliminate discrimination against Muslims.

➢ Support peaceful resolution of disputes in member states.

➢ Foster global peace and harmony.

Key Historical Milestones

➢ **1970**: 1st Foreign Ministers' meeting, Jeddah; permanent Secretariat established.

➢ **1972**: First Charter adopted.

➢ **2008**: Current Charter adopted at Dakar (11th Islamic Summit).

Functions & Roles

➢ Platform for Muslim-majority countries to coordinate positions on global issues.

➢ Consultative status with the **United Nations**.

➢ Engages in issues like:

  o Palestine

  o Counter-terrorism

  o Human rights

  o Poverty & climate change

OIC-2025: Ten-Year Action Plan

➢ Adopted to guide actions till 2025.

➢ Focus on **18 priority areas** with **107 strategic goals**.

Digital Payment Intelligence Platform

Syllabus: GS-3; Economy

Context

➢ RBI-led initiative to curb digital frauds gains momentum, banks roped in to set up DPIP.

About

➤ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is spearheading the **Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP)** to combat the rising menace of **digital payment frauds** in India.

➤ This **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** will enable **real-time intelligence sharing** among banks and financial institutions to detect and prevent fraudulent transactions.

Key Developments

1. **RBI & Banks Collaborate**

   a. Major **public and private sector banks** are working with RBI to develop DPIP.

   b. **RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH)** is building a **prototype** in consultation with 5-10 banks.

   c. A **high-level meeting** was held in June 2025 to finalize the platform's structure.

2. **Fraud Statistics Highlight Urgency**

   a. **FY25 fraud value surged to ₹36,014 crore** (up from ₹12,230 crore in FY24).

   b. **Public sector banks** reported frauds worth **₹25,667 crore** (71% of total).

   c. **Private banks** saw more **card/internet frauds**, while PSBs faced **loan-related scams**.

3. **AP Hota Committee Overseeing Implementation**

   a. Formed in **June 2024** to examine DPIP's framework.

   b. Aims to make DPIP **operational within months**.

How DPIP Will Work

➤ **Real-Time Data Sharing**: Banks will pool fraud intelligence instantly.

➤ **AI & Advanced Analytics**: Detect suspicious patterns and block scams proactively.

➤ **Unified Fraud Database**: Centralized system to track and prevent recurring fraud tactics.

Why DPIP is Needed

➤ **Explosion in Digital Payments** – UPI, cards, and online transactions have grown rapidly, attracting fraudsters.

- ➢ **Gaps in Current Systems** – No real-time coordination between banks to block scams quickly.
- ➢ **Rising Financial Losses** – Fraud cases increased from **11.5 lakh to 15.51 lakh** in just six months (as of March 2024).

Expected Impact

- ➢ **Reduced Fraud Losses** – Early detection through shared intelligence.
- ➢ **Stronger Consumer Trust** – Safer digital transactions boost adoption.
- ➢ **Global Benchmark** – Could set a precedent for other countries battling payment fraud.

Challenges Ahead

- ➢ **Data Privacy Concerns** – Balancing fraud detection with customer confidentiality.
- ➢ **Implementation Speed** – Banks must integrate systems quickly for DPIP to be effective.
- ➢ **Adapting to New Fraud Tactics** – Scammers constantly evolve; DPIP must stay ahead.