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## TUESDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER 2025

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## 1. Two-Factor Authentication(2FA)

- **Prelims** Two-Factor Authentication
- Mains GS 3 Internal Security

## **Two-Factor Authentication**

## • What is it?:

- → A cybersecurity mechanism requiring users to provide two different types of credentials to verify identity.
- → Provides an extra security layer beyond simple password authentication.

## • Common Methods of 2FA:

- → SMS/Email OTPs: One-time passcodes sent to a user's registered device/email.
- → Authenticator Apps: Apps like Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator generate time-based codes.
- → Hardware Tokens: USB keys, smart cards.
- → **Biometrics:** Aadhaar-based authentication, device fingerprint scanners.

### • **Importance:**

- → Protects against phishing, credential theft, brute-force attacks.
- → Reduces risk of identity theft, financial fraud, data breaches.
- → Enhances trust in digital services.
- → Essential for **critical sectors**: banking, defence, e-governance, health, etc.

### • 2FA in India:

- → RBI Guidelines (2011 onwards): Mandated 2FA for online banking and card-not-present transactions.
- → Aadhaar Authentication: Combines UID with biometrics/OTP.
- → Government Portals (e.g. Income Tax e-filing, DigiLocker, GST portal) increasingly use 2FA.
- → UPI Payments: Mobile security, UPI PIN and OTP framework.

## • Challenges:

- → User inconvenience (extra step may reduce adoption).
- → SIM-swap frauds compromise SMS OTPs.







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- → **Dependence on devices:** OTP delays due to network issues.
- → **Digital divide:** Biometric or smartphone-based 2FA may exclude rural/elderly populations.

## • Way Forward:

- → Promote **multi-factor authentication (MFA)** combining biometrics, tokens and OTP.
- → Encourage passwordless authentication (FIDO2 standards).
- → Public awareness campaigns on **safe digital practices**.
- → Integration with **Digital India initiatives** to secure citizen data.

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## 2. Israel

- Prelims Location of Israel
- Mains GS 1 Geography

## Israel



## Why in the news?

 India and Israel signed a Bilateral Investment Agreement.

### Israel

- · Location: West Asia
- · Capital: Jerusalem.
- Border Countries: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt.
- Palestinian Territories: West Bank along the east and the Gaza Strip along the southwest.
- Bordering Waterbodies: Eastern Mediterranean, Red Sea, Sea of Galilee and Dead Sea.
- · River: Jordan River
- Climatic Type: Mediterranean climate, Desert climate.



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## 3. Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

- Prelims Great Indian Bustard
- Mains GS 3 Environment

## **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**



### Why in the news?

 The Union Environment Ministry's expert appraisal committee (EAC) for the non-coal mining sector has given its nod to carry out an environment impact assessment (EIA) study for Birmania Rock Phosphate mine proposed in the potential Great Indian Bustard (GIB) area.

## **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**

- State bird of Rajasthan
- · Ecological Habitat Grasslands
- Threats
  - · Electrocution with power transmission lines
  - Hunting
  - Habitat loss
- · Protection Status:
  - International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List: Critically Endangered
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix1
  - · Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix
  - · Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule 1



#### Great Indian Bustard Project (Regional Effort)

- Rajasthan government has established the 'Great Indian Bustard Project' to construct breeding chambers for the bird.
- Government also developed infrastructure to decrease human pressure on the going-to-be-extinct species habitats.

#### **Houbara Bustard**

- Habitat Northeast Asia, across central Asia, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula to reach the Sinai desert (Egypt).
- Reasons for Decline: Poaching, unregulated hunting, along with degradation of its natural habitat.
- IUCN Status- Vulnerable



#### **Desert National Park**

- · Location Thar Desert
- · One of the largest national parks in India.
- Park has the fragile desert ecosystem with sand dunes, rocky outcrops, salt lakes, intermittent streams, and fixed dunes.
- · IUCN Protected Species
  - Great Indian Bustard Critically Endangered



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## 4. Papua New Guinea

- **Prelims** Location of Papua New Guinea
- Mains GS 1 Geography

# **Papua New Guinea**



## Why in the news?

• Indian Navy Band participated in the 50th independence day celebrations of Papua New Guinea.

## **Papua New Guinea**

- **Location:** It is a country in Oceania that comprises the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and its offshore islands in Melanesia.
- · Capital Port Moresby
- · Land Border Indonesia.
- Maritime Border Solomon Island and Australia.
- · Features:
  - · Highly prone to Earthquakes and Tsunamis.
  - Mostly comprised of Mountains and Tropical Rain forests.
  - Is a member of Commonwealth.
- · Volcano: Rabaul Caldera



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## 5. RNA and Amino Acids

- Prelims RNA and Amino Acids
- Mains GS 3 Science and Technology

## Why in the news?

 Researchers at University College London successfully demonstrated that amino acids can spontaneously and selectively attach to RNA molecules.

## **RNA Molecule**

• What is it?: RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) is a nucleic acid that plays a central role in coding, decoding, regulation, and expression of genes.

### • Features:

- → It is usually single-stranded (unlike double-stranded DNA).
- → Composed of ribose sugar, phosphate backbone, and nitrogenous bases (Adenine, Uracil, Cytosine, Guanine).

## • Types of RNA:

- → mRNA (Messenger RNA):
  - ★ Carries genetic information from DNA to ribosomes.
  - ★ Acts as a template for protein synthesis.

## → tRNA (Transfer RNA):

- ★ Transfers specific amino acids to ribosomes.
- ★ Decodes mRNA codons into amino acids.

## → rRNA (Ribosomal RNA):

- ★ Structural and functional components of ribosomes.
- ★ Catalyzes peptide bond formation (acts as a ribozyme).

## → Other RNAs (Regulatory RNAs):

- ★ snRNA (small nuclear RNA): Involved in RNA splicing.
- ★ miRNA, siRNA: Regulate gene expression (RNA interference).
- ★ IncRNA (long non-coding RNA): Chromatin modification & transcriptional regulation.

## • Key Concepts regarding RNA:

→ Central Dogma of Molecular Biology: DNA → RNA → Protein.



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- → Reverse Transcription: Some viruses (e.g., HIV, retroviruses) use RNA as genetic material, converting RNA → DNA via reverse transcriptase.
- → RNA World Hypothesis: Suggests early life on Earth may have relied solely on RNA for both genetic information storage and catalysis.

## • Significance of RNA:

- → Medical: Target for therapies (RNAi, mRNA vaccines).
- → Evolutionary Biology: Provides clues to life's origin (RNA World).
- → **Biotechnology:** CRISPR, synthetic biology, genetic engineering.

## **Amino Acids**

## • What are they?:

- → Amino acids are **organic compounds** containing an **amino group** (-NH₂), a **carboxyl group** (-COOH), a **hydrogen atom**, and a variable **R-group** (side **chain**) attached to a central carbon (α-carbon).
- → They are the **building blocks of proteins**, essential for growth, repair, metabolism, and signaling in living organisms.
- Classification: Based on Nutritional Requirement;
  - → Essential Amino Acids (9 in humans): Must be obtained from diet
  - → Non-Essential Amino Acids: Synthesized in the body
  - → Conditionally Essential: Required in stress/illness

## • Functions of Amino Acids:

- → Structural: Form proteins (collagen, keratin).
- → **Metabolic:** Involved in enzymatic reactions, hormones (e.g., thyroxine from tyrosine).
- → Energy: Serve as energy source during fasting/starvation.
- → **Signaling:** Neurotransmitters (e.g., glutamate, GABA derived from glutamate).
- → Immune role: Glutamine, arginine critical for immunity.