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- 
- 
- Home
- UPSC
 - Current Affairs IAS
 -     
 - Quiz IAS
 -     
 - UPSC News Editorial (/Eng)
 - Answer Writing ( /Eng)
 - UPSC Essay (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS 1 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-2 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-3 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-4 ( /Eng)
 - Kurukshetra ( /Eng)
 - Yojana ( /Eng)
 - IAS Strategy for Prelims
 - General Studies
 - CSAT
 - IAS Strategy for Mains
 - IAS GS 1
 - IAS GS 2
 - IAS GS 3
 - IAS GS 4
 - IAS Test Series
- Himachal HPAS
 - Himachal Daily Current Affairs
 -   
 - Daily Himachal GK Quiz

- Himachal HPAS
- Himachal News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
- Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (Hindi/Eng)
- Giriraj
 - Magazine
 - Giriraj Quiz
- Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- HP Government Schemes
- Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- Syllabus Prelims Himachal HPAS
 - GENERAL STUDIES
 - CSAT
 - English
 - Hindi
- Syllabus Mains Himachal HPAS
 - English,Hindi,Essay & One Optional
 - HPAS GS 3
 - HPAS GS 2
 - HPAS GS 1
- Himachal HPAS Test Series
- All You need to Know about Himachal HPAS
- HARYANA HCS
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
 - HCS Quiz
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
 - Haryana News Editorial (Hindi/Eng)
 - Answer Writing (Hindi /Eng)
 - Haryana Essay (Hindi/Eng)
 - HR Government Schemes
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
 - Syllabus Mains Haryana HCS
 - Syllabus Prelims Haryana HCS
 - HCS Prelims Test Series

- [Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab PCS Current Affairs](#)
- [Daily Quiz Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab News Editorial \(Eng\)](#)
- [Answer Writing \(Eng\)](#)
- [Punjab Essay \(Eng\)](#)
- [All you need to know about Punjab PCS Exam 2021](#)
- [Syllabus Prelims Punjab PCS](#)
 - [General Studies](#)
 - [Prelims GS 1](#)
- [Syllabus Mains Punjab PCS](#)
 - [PCS GS 1](#)
 - [PCS GS 2](#)
 - [PCS GS 3](#)
 - [PCS GS 4](#)
 - [Online PUNJAB PCS TEST SERIES 2020](#)
- [CSAT](#)
 - [CSAT English](#)
 - [Punjab PCS CSAT](#)
- [Concept Mindmaps](#)
 - [Polity \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Geography \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Environment \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [History \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Economics \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Science and Technology \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [CSAT Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Maps \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Art and Culture \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [International Affairs \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Punjab PCS Concepts](#)
 - [Himachal HPAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Haryana HCS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Rajasthan RAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
- [Concept Quiz](#)
 - [Polity Quiz \(Hindi/Eng\)](#)

- Geography Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Environment Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- History Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Economics Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Science and Technology Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- CSAT Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Maps Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Art and Culture Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Punjab PCS Concepts Quiz
- Himachal HPAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Haryana HCS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Rajasthan RAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Mains
 - UPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - HPPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Haryana HCS Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Punjab PCS Answer Writing
- Exam Blogs
 - UPSC Exam Blogs
 - Himachal Exam Blogs
 - Punjab exam Blogs
 - Haryana Exam Blogs
 - Rajasthan Exam Blogs
 - E-Magazine
 - E-Magazine for HPAS
 - हिमाचल प्रदेश प्रश्न-उत्तर-संग्रह
 - E-Magazine for Punjab PCS
- UPCOMING EXAMS
 - National Exams
 - Himachal Pradesh Exams
 - Punjab Exams
 - Test Series Planner
- About US
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Click on Drop Down for Current Affairs

February 3, 2020

Topic: Biodiversity.

News:- Threats to the biodiversity of Kanji wetland.

- The wetland is spread across 1.83 square kilometres.
- It is the smallest and the most neglected Ramsar site in the state.

According to a research conducted by a forestry student Bageshwar Singh, the wetland is threatened by 16 invasive species of plants.

In his research paper for Forest Research Institute of Dehradun, Bageshwar asserts that –

- Out of 109 species of vascular plants observed in the study area, 16 are included in the list of invasive alien species.
- Bio invasion, which is invasion and expansion by an

alien exotic species at the cost of the native ones, is a great cause of species extinction.

- As per the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, invasion of the alien species is the second-worst cause of loss of biodiversity in the world.

The invasive species in Kanji wetland are:-

- Alligator weed.
- Galinsoga.
- Common Cocklebur.
- Oriental false Hawksbeard.
- Congress grass.
- Goatweed.
- Link coffee senna.
- Subabool.
- Mesquite/ Vilayati kikar.
- Caesar weed.
- Broomweed.
- Common wireweed.
- Creeping woodsorrel.
- Water Hyacinth.
- Big sage.
- Aak.

About Kanji Wetland:-

- It is a man-made lake constructed in 1870.
- It was made by constructing the headworks across the perennial Bien River, a tributary of the Beas River to provide irrigation facilities to the hinterland.
- It was declared a Ramsar site in 2002.
- This year, this wetland saw a marginal rise in the number of migratory birds arrived in the wetland.

(Source: -The Tribune)

Topic: Education and Infrastructure.

News:- The enrolment of students in polytechnic college drops.

- The drop in the enrolment has seen a decline of 48% since 2017.
- Private polytechnic colleges have seen a decline of 60 % since 2017 whereas the government ones have seen a fall of 10 %.
- Out of 226 polytechnic colleges in the state, only 28 are the state ones.

The reasons for such a fall are:-

- Lack of industry-driven courses.
- The poor performance of the teaching staff.
- Strictness on the front of the attendance and anti-copying measures.
- Polytechnic courses run by private Universities are also attracting various students of this discipline.
- The misappropriation and misuse of funds for building the infrastructure of the colleges and hostels are also a great issue.
- Illogical deployment of teaching staff has also come to light as teachers have been appointed for the courses not approved by the All India Council of Technical

Education (AICTE).

- Also, Private Colleges have been barred from visiting government schools for awareness.
- Also, a rising wave of migration to foreign countries is a concern.

(Source: -The Tribune)

Please visit Regular Quiz Section for important questions.

Punjab PCS —> See Second (Regular Quiz)

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- National Current Affairs
- UPSC Quiz
- Editorials
- Mindmaps
- E-Magazine
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संसाधन

- संसदीय प्रणाली का परिचय
- संसदीय प्रणाली का विकास
- संसदीय प्रणाली
- संसदीय प्रणाली का विकास
- सं-संसदीय प्रणाली
- संसदीय प्रणाली का विकास
- संसदीय प्रणाली का विकास

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- HPAS Quiz
- HP Editorials
- HP Mindmaps
- HPAS E Magazine
- HPAS Free Mock Test
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- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ

Punjab PCS

- Punjab Current Affairs
- PPSC Quiz
- Punjab Mindmaps
- Punjab Editorial
- Punjab E-Magazine
- PPSC Free Mock Test
- PPSC Prelims Test Series

Haryana HCS

- Haryana Current Affairs
- HCS Quiz
- HCS Editorials
- HCS Mindmaps
- HCS E-Magazine
- HCS Free Mock Test
- HCS Prelims Test Series

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼

- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਕੋਸ਼ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ

- [आपका जमाना -आपका जमाना](#)
- [आपका जमाना आपका जमाना](#)
- [आपका जमाना आपका जमाना](#)

Useful Links

- [UPSC](#)
- [आपका जमाना](#)
- [Himachal HPAS](#)
- [आपका जमाना आपका जमाना](#)
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