

THINK IAS

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For UPSC CSE

22 August 2024

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 **SAMYAK IAS, NEAR RIDDHI-SIDDHI, JAIPUR**

Geography

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2. What Justice Hema Committee report says, why its release was delayed - Indian Express

World Affairs

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Sci and Tech

7. Centre says Meghalaya polio case is vaccine-derived - The Hindu
8. Scientists discover liquid water on Mars for the first time: What a new study says - Indian Express

Defence

9. Shaheen-II Ballistic Missile - The Hindu

Geography

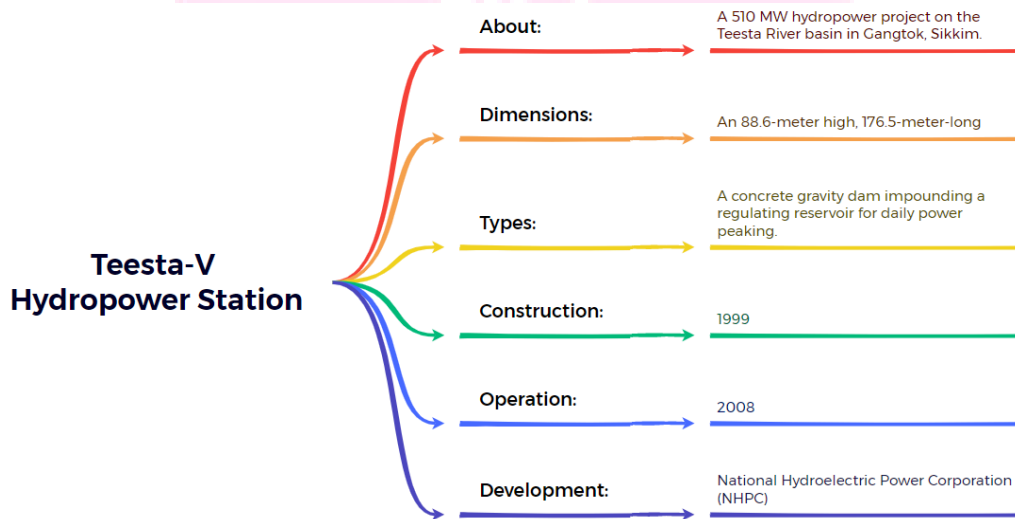
1. Sikkim landslide damages NHPC power project building - The Hindu

Relevance: Salient features of India's Physical Geography

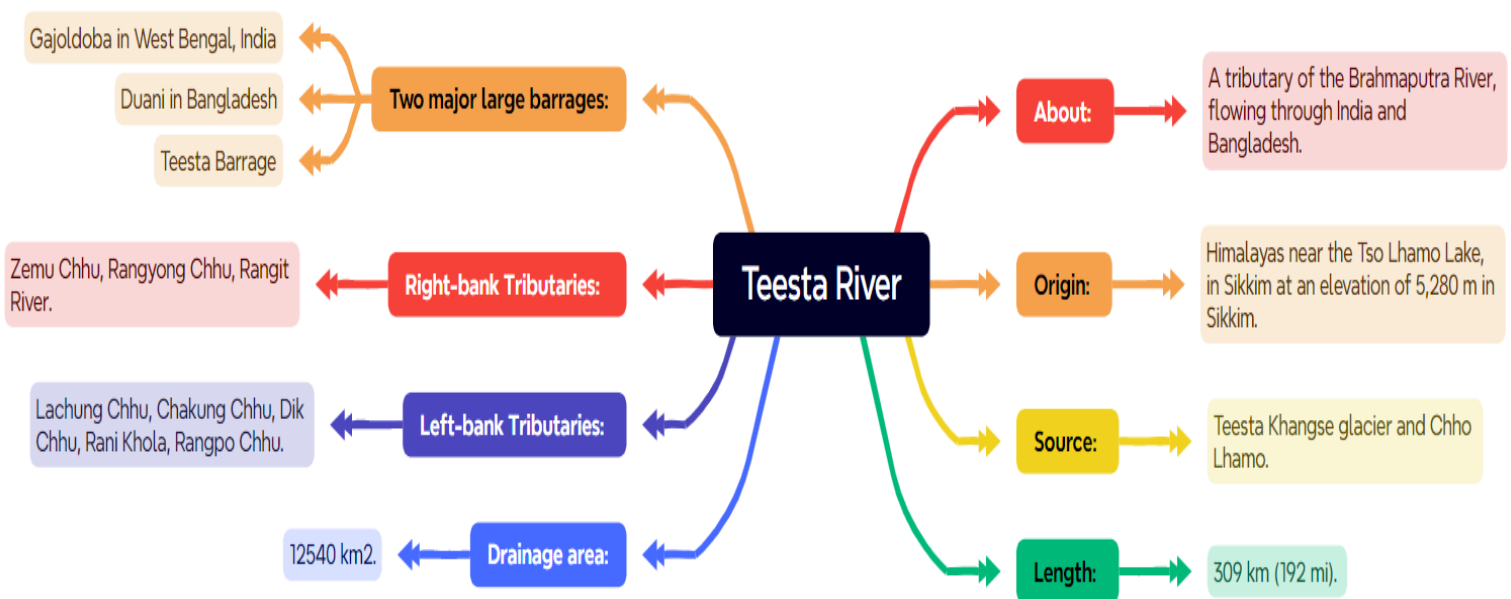
Context

A landslide damaged six houses and a building of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at the site of its Teesta-V hydropower station in Sikkim's Gangtok district recently. The power station, damaged by the glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in October 2023, has been under construction.

Teesta-V Hydropower Station



Teesta River



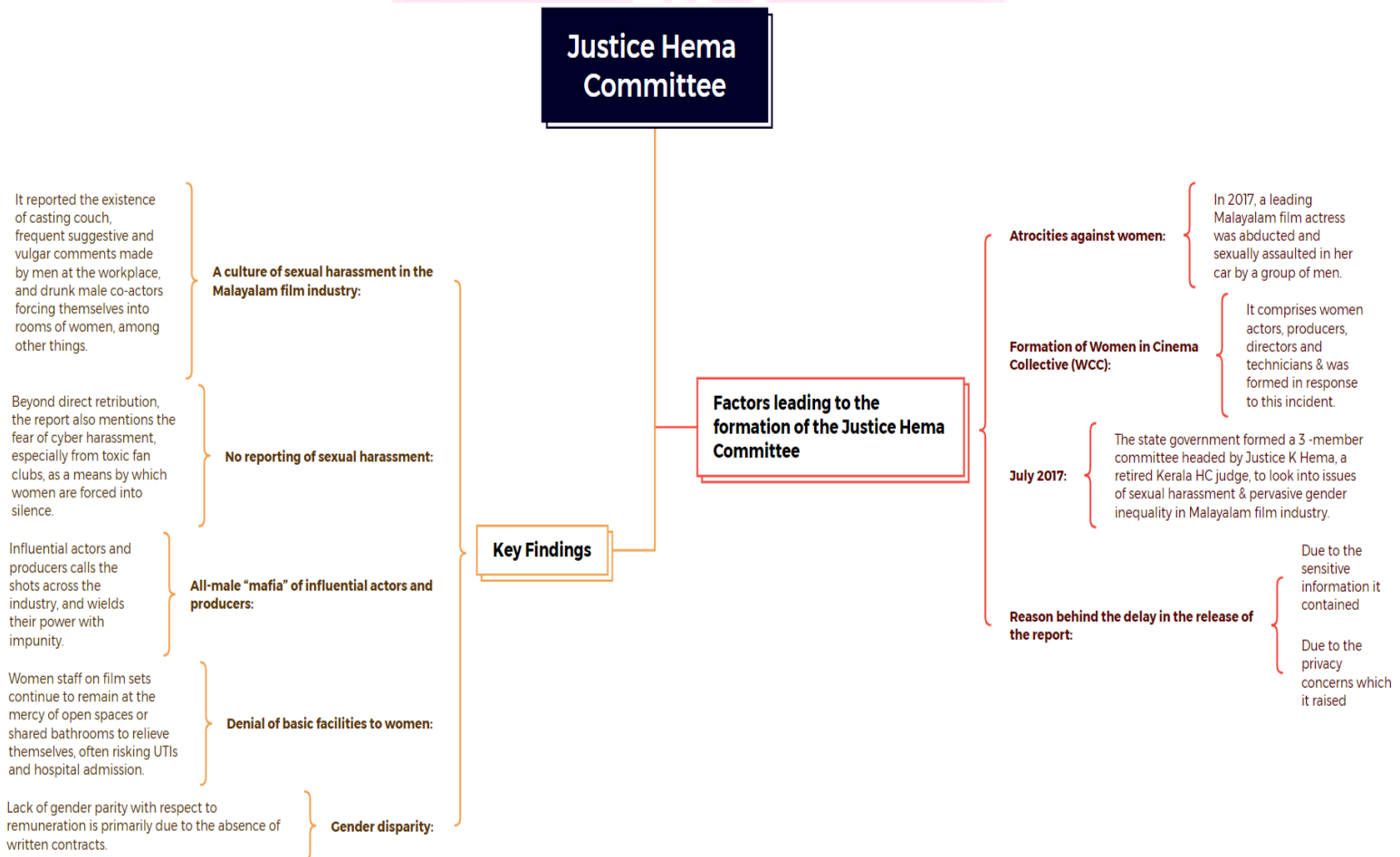
Society

2. What Justice Hema Committee report says, why its release was delayed - Indian Express

Relevance: Salient features of Indian Society

Context

The Kerala High Court recently ordered the state to place before it in a sealed cover the entire Hema Committee report, including sections redacted for confidentiality. This order comes while the court considers a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) demanding the initiation of criminal proceedings against the offenders named in the report.



World Affairs

3. WHY MALAYSIA CHANGED TACK ON ITS 'ORANGUTAN DIPLOMACY'? - Indian Express

Relevance: India and its Neighborhood- Relations

Context

Malaysia's Plantation and Commodities Minister recently tweaked his earlier proposal of sending critically endangered orangutans as gifts to palm oil-purchasing countries. According to the latest proposal, importers of Malaysian palm oil will be offered to "sponsor" one or more orangutans and the funds will be used for their conservation within Malaysia — instead of sending the adopted primates aboard.

'Orangutan diplomacy'

- **About:** The policy to gift orangutans to palm oil-buying countries said to be inspired by China's "panda diplomacy" - the practice of sending pandas from China to other countries as a tool of diplomacy & wildlife conservation.
- **Reason:** Malaysia (world's 2nd -largest palm oil producer) is under immense pressure to make its palm oil industry sustainable as it has been linked to deforestation, causing the loss of habitat for orangutans.
- **Criticism of the Policy:** A hypocritic move to destroy forests (for palm oil production) where orangutans live and give them as gifts in exchange for "getting favours" from trading countries does not make any sense.

4. PM begins Poland visit, says it will help forge more vibrant relations - The Hindu

Relevance: International Relations

Context

Prime Minister recently arrived in Warsaw, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Poland in 45 years. He expressed confidence that the visit will serve as a "natural continuation of extensive contacts" between the two countries and help create the foundation for stronger and more vibrant relations in the years ahead. He will visit Ukraine next.

Poland

- **About:** A country in central Europe.
- **Neighboring countries:** Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia.
- **Capital:** Warsaw
- **Official Language:** Polish
- **Currency:** Zloty

- **Area:** 312,685 sq. km.
- **Mountain Ranges:** Carpathians, Sudetens
- **Rivers:** Vistula, Oder
- **Polity:** A

parliamentary republic with a Prime Minister who is the head of government and a president who is the head of state.

- **Groupings:** A member of both NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and the European Union (EU).

- **Historical background:**

- **1795:** Poland was conquered and divided among Russia, Germany, and Austria. It ceased to exist as a country for 123 years.
- **1918:** After World War I, Poland was restored as a country.
- **1939:** Germany and the Soviet Union attacked to divide Poland between them due to which World War II began. With the fall of Nazi Germany, Poland became a communist satellite state of the Soviet Union.
- **1989:** Polish government fell along with communist regimes throughout eastern Europe, beginning Poland's rapid transformation into a democracy.



Economy

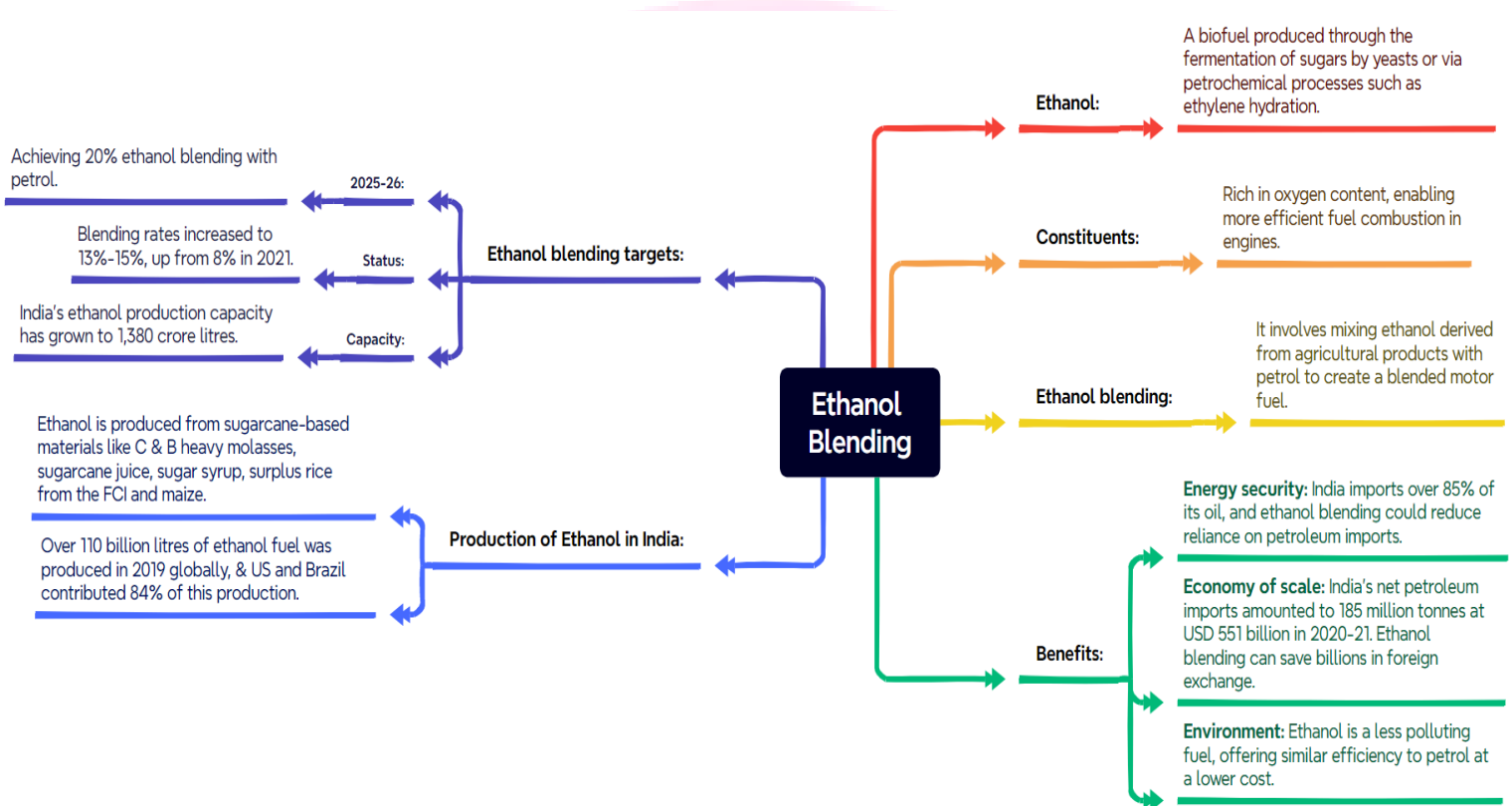
5. Ethanol blending - The Hindu

Relevance: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc

Context

India is on its way to achieve its target of blending 20% of petrol with ethanol by 2025-26, going by the milestones on blending percentages crossed so far and the increase in ethanol production capacity.

Ethanol Blending



According to India's National Policy on Biofuels, which of the following can be used as raw materials for the production of biofuels? (2020)

1. Cassava
2. Damaged wheat grains
3. Groundnut seeds
4. Horse gram
5. Rotten potatoes
6. Sugar beet

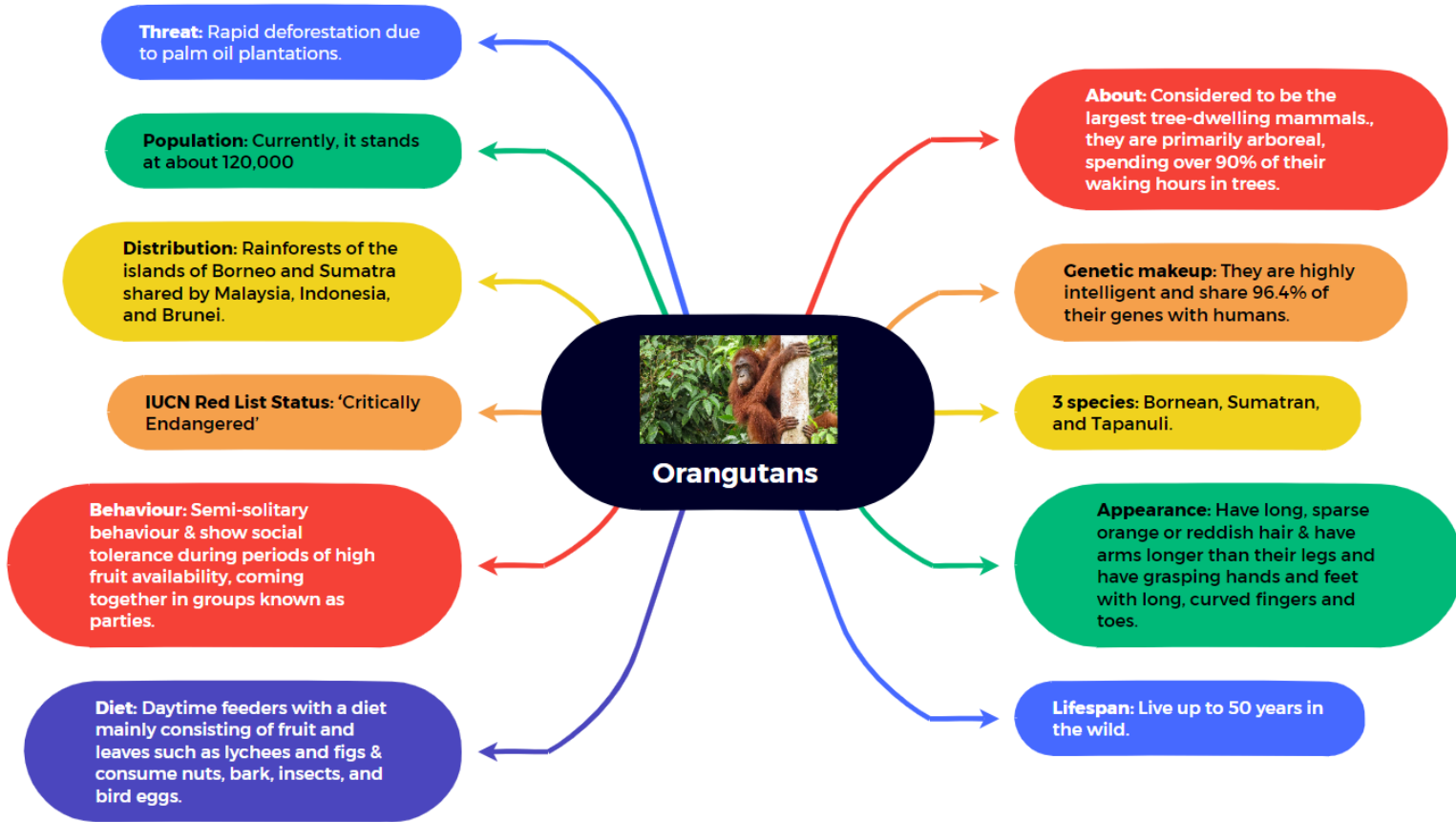
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, 5 and 6 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 6 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Environment

6. Orangutans - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation



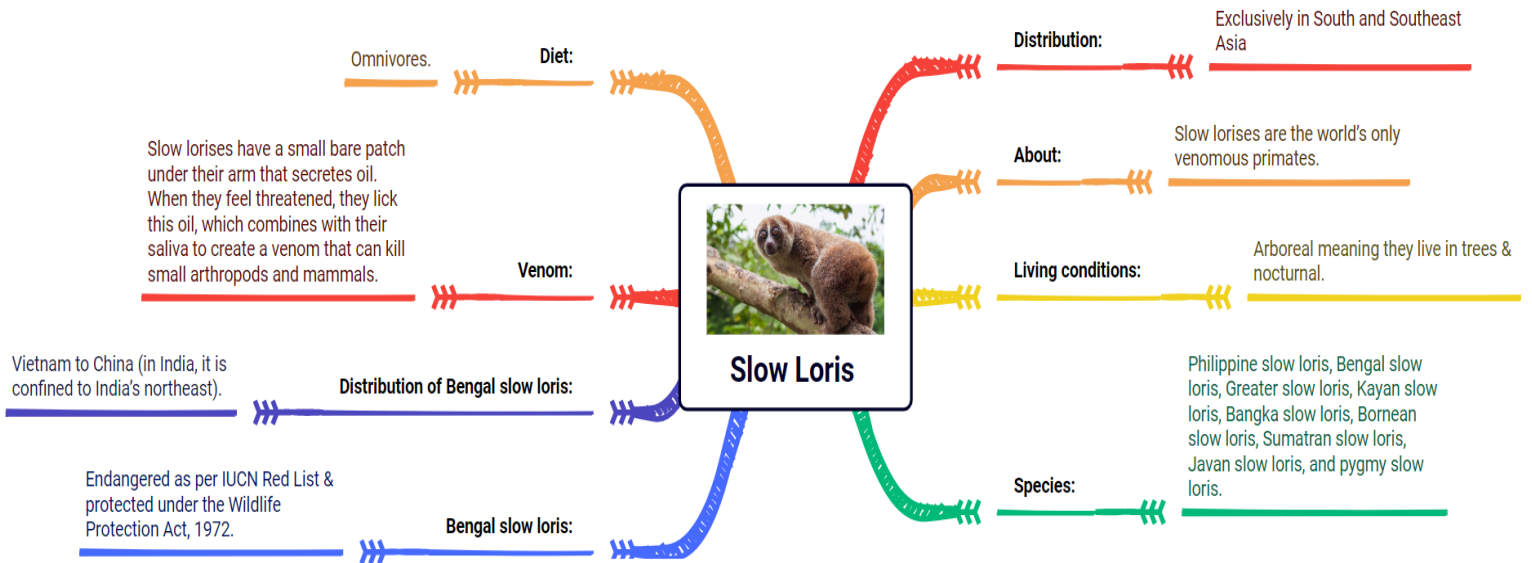
7. Endangered primate Slow Loris rescued by villagers in Chirang - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

Context

Villagers in Shimlabagan, located in the Shantipur area on the Indo-Bhutan border in Chirang, have reported the sighting of a rare species of the endangered primate Slow Loris. This marks the first known instance of this elusive primate being spotted in the region, particularly near the Jauhoulao National Park within the newly designated Chiknazha area.

Slow Loris



Sci and Tech

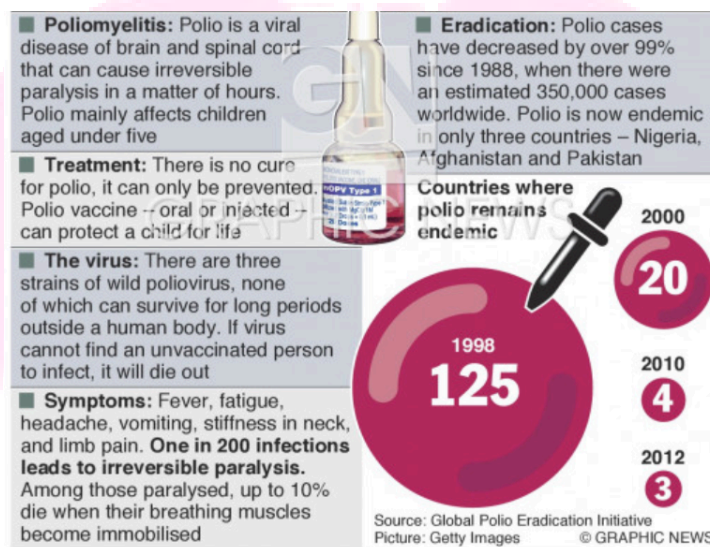
8. Centre says Meghalaya polio case is vaccine-derived - The Hindu

Relevance: Science and Technology- Developments

Context

A case of vaccine-derived polio has been confirmed in a two-year-old child from Tikrikilla in Meghalaya. A senior official emphasised that this is not a case of wild polio, but an infection that presents in some people with low immunity.

Polio



Polio in India



9. Scientists discover liquid water on Mars for the first time: What a new study says - Indian Express

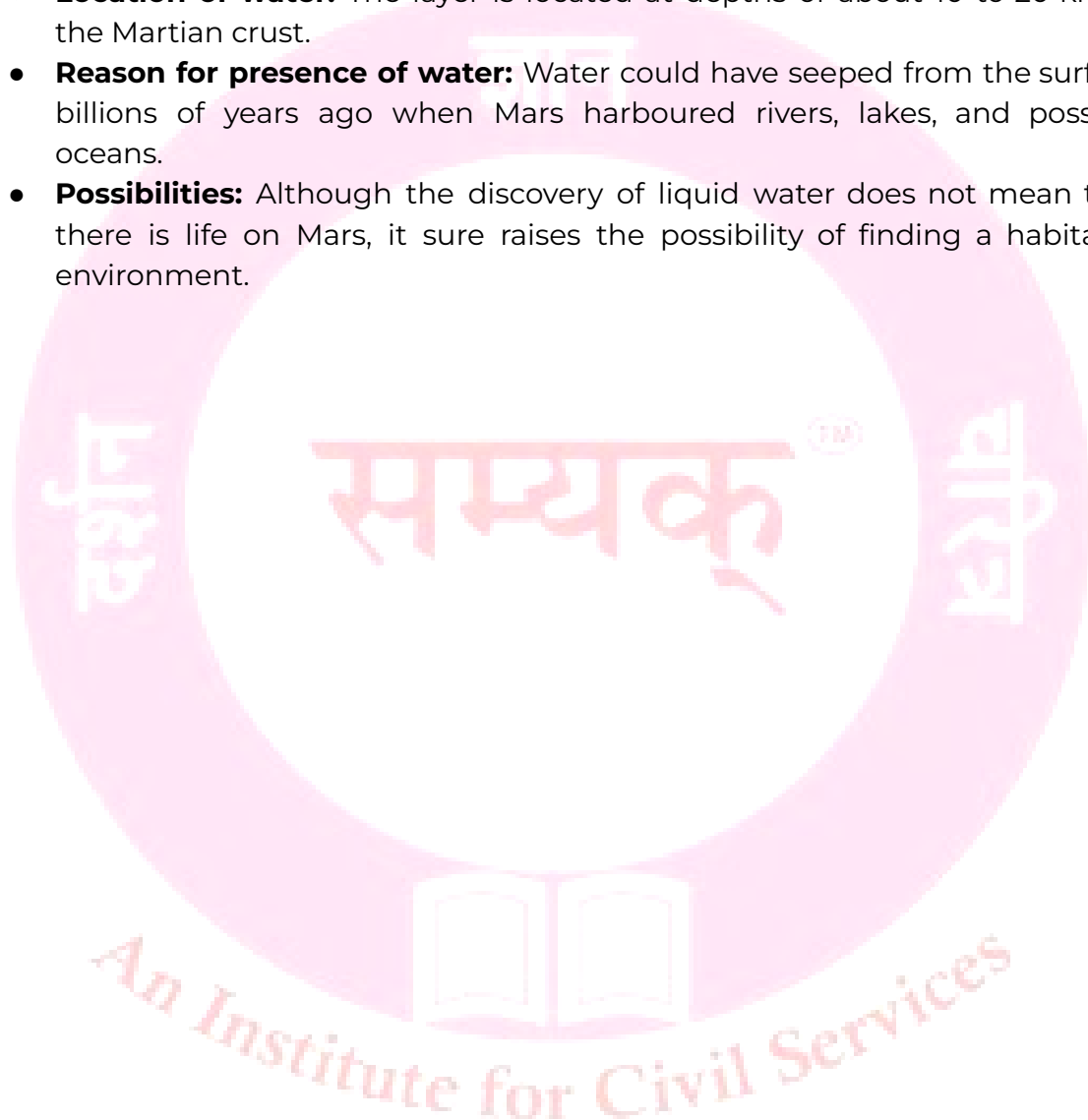
Relevance: Science and Technology- Developments

Context

According to a new study, there could be oceans' worth of liquid water deep in the rocky outer crust of Mars. While scientists have known about water ice at the Martian poles for a long time, this is the first time they have discovered liquid water on the planet.

Findings

- **Location of water:** The layer is located at depths of about 10 to 20 km in the Martian crust.
- **Reason for presence of water:** Water could have seeped from the surface billions of years ago when Mars harboured rivers, lakes, and possibly oceans.
- **Possibilities:** Although the discovery of liquid water does not mean that there is life on Mars, it sure raises the possibility of finding a habitable environment.



Defence

10. Shaheen-II Ballistic Missile - The Hindu

Relevance: Science and Technology- Developments

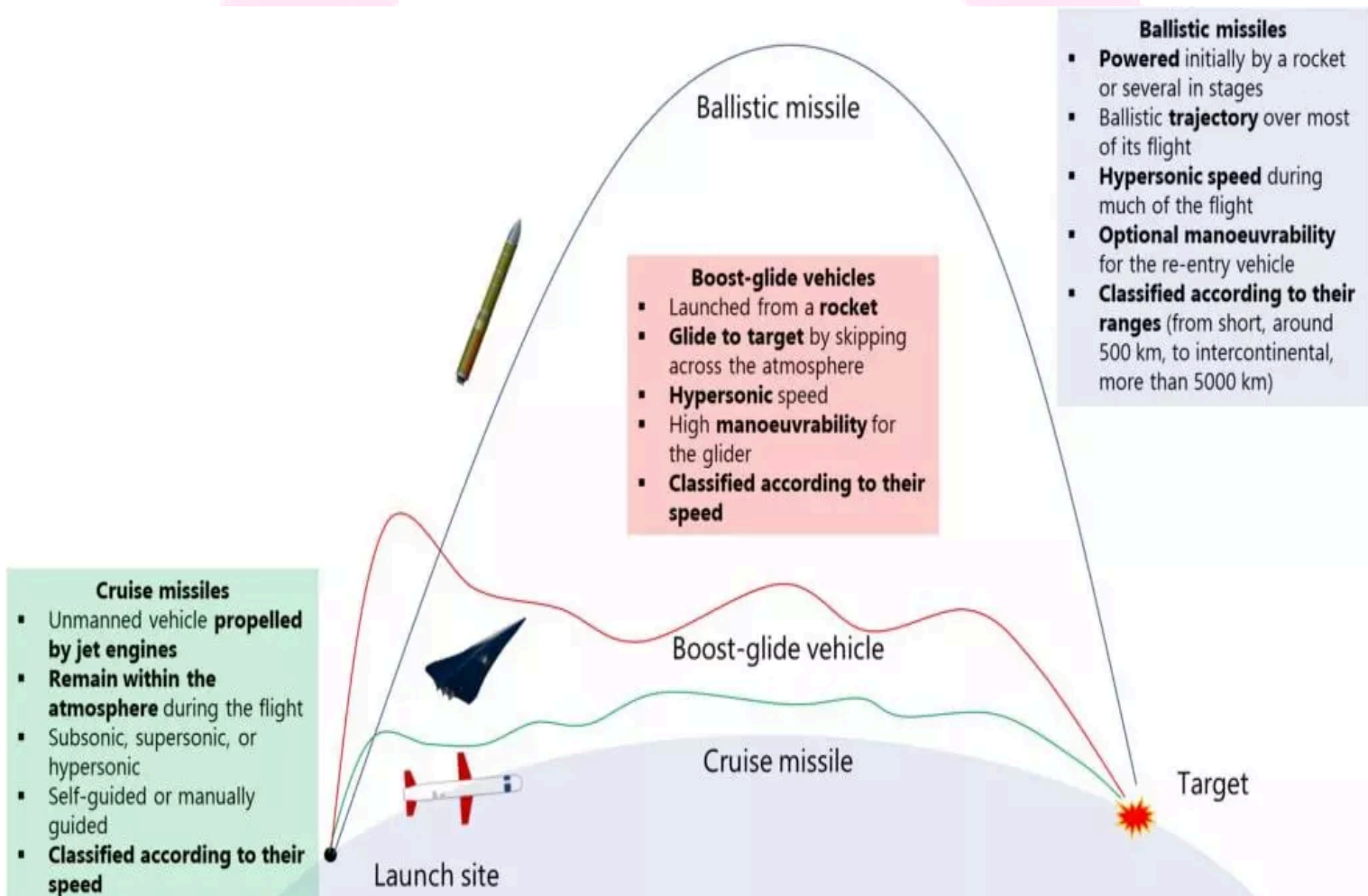
Context

The Pakistani military recently conducted the successful training launch of its surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-II.

Shaheen-II Missile

- **About:** A Pakistani medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- **Feature:** A solid-fueled, two-stage missile with an estimated range of 1,500–2,000 km.
- **Dimensions:** 17.2 m long, 1.4 m in diameter
- **Weight:** 23,600 kg at launch
- **Capabilities:** Designed to carry conventional or nuclear payloads.
- **Accuracy:** Estimated at 350 m circular error probable (CEP).
- **Launch:** By a 6-axle transporter erector launcher (TEL).

Types of Missiles



Consider the following statements: (2023)

1. Ballistic missiles are jet-propelled at subsonic speeds throughout their flights, while cruise missiles are rocket-powered only in the initial phase of flight.
2. Agni-V is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile, while BrahMos is a solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

