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- UNESCO SITE IN KARNATAKA
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- IR IN NES
- Core sector
- Mount Bromo
- Asteroid Belt
- Maurya and Davana (Dayana) species
- Mains



By saurabh Pandey



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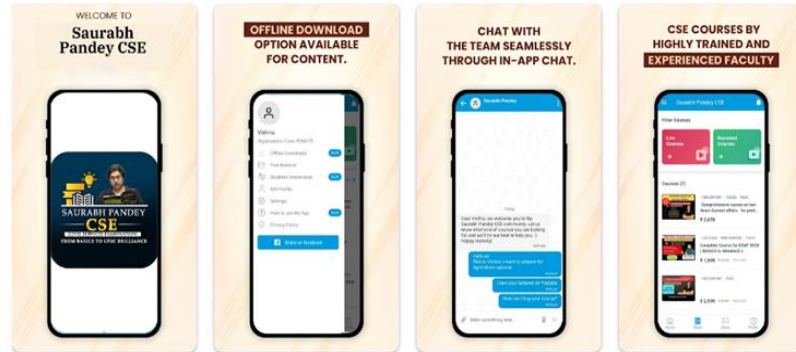
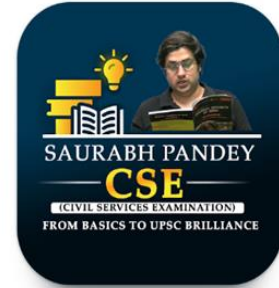
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## Bringing to light



**Smart move:** The Tourism Department in Karnataka is planning to promote the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Somanathapur as part of Mysuru tourism circuit before Dasara this year. This will be through cross-promotion of the 13th-century heritage site at popular places of tourist interest such as the Mysuru Palace, zoo and the Chamundi Hills so that visitors can plan a visit. M.A. SRIRAM

# UNESCO SITE IN KARNATAKA



- **The Hoysala temples at Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapur in Karnataka were declared as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in a move that will bring global recognition with prospects of increase in international tourism to these places.**
- **The Chennakeshava temple at Belur and the Hoysaleshwara temple at Halebidu both in Hassan district have been on the UNESCO's tentative list since 2014.**



- **The Keshava temple at Somanathapur in Mysuru district was appended to the other two monuments under the tentative list and all three were officially nominated by the Centre as India's entry for 2022-23 in February 2022.**



# India achieves ‘outstanding outcome’ in FATF evaluation

**Devesh K. Pandey**

NEW DELHI

India has achieved an outstanding outcome in the mutual evaluation conducted during 2023-24 by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the government said on Friday.

The Mutual Evaluation Report of India, which was adopted at the FATF plenary held in Singapore from June 26 to 28, places India in the “regular follow-up” category, a distinction shared by only four other G-20 countries.

“This marks a significant milestone in the nation’s efforts to combat money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF),” read a Press Information Bureau release.

In a statement, the FATF said the plenary concluded that India had reached a high level of technical compliance with its requirements. The country’s anti-



The report was adopted at the FATF plenary held in Singapore.

countering the financing of terrorism (CFT), and counter-proliferation financing (CPF) regime was achieving good results, including international cooperation, access to basic and beneficial ownership information, use of financial intelligence, and depriving criminals of their assets.

However, the FATF observed that improvements were needed to strengthen the supervision and implementation of preventive measures in some non-fi-

needs to address delays relating to concluding ML and TF prosecutions, and to ensure that CFT measures aimed at preventing the non-profit sector from being abused for TF are implemented in line with the risk-based approach, including by conducting outreach to NPOs [Non-Profit Organisations] on their TF risks,” it said.

Among other things, the FATF has recognised the efforts made by India on the issue of mitigating the risks arising from ML/TF, including the laundering of proceeds from corruption, fraud, and organised crime, and the effective measures implemented by India to transition from a cash-based to a digital economy to reduce ML/TF risks. “This recognition is a testament to the rigorous measures implemented over the last 10 years to safeguard the financial system from ML/TF threats.” the





# FATF

- **India has achieved an outstanding outcome in the mutual evaluation conducted during 2023-24 by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the government.**
- **The Mutual Evaluation Report of India, which was adopted at the FATF plenary held in Singapore from June 26 to 28, places India in the “regular follow-up” category, a distinction shared by only four other G-20 countries**

- **The country's antimoney laundering (AML), countering the financing of terrorism (CFT), and counter-proliferation financing (CPF) regime was achieving good results, including international cooperation, access to basic and beneficial ownership information, use of financial intelligence, and depriving criminals of their assets**

## What is the FATF?

- **The Financial Action Task Force is an international watchdog for financial crimes such as money laundering and terror financing.**
- **As per the official definition, it is an inter-governmental body that sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.**
- **The FATF was established at the G7 Summit of 1989 in Paris, over concerns of the member countries about growing money laundering activities.**
- **The heads of G7 countries and the president of the European Commission brought together a Task Force after addressing loopholes in the global financial system.**
- **Later, in the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attack on the United States, FATF also added terror financing as a main focus area.**

- **This was broadened In 2012, to include restricting the funding of weapons of mass destruction.**
- **The FATF currently has 39 members.**
- **The decision making body of the FATF is known as its plenary, which meets thrice a year.**
- **Its meetings are attended by 206 countries of the global network, including members, and observer organisations, such as the World Bank, some offices of the United Nations and regional development banks.**

## How does the FATF do its work?

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- **The FATF conducts regular peer-reviewed evaluations called Mutual Evaluations (ME) of countries, starting with member countries, to check their performance on standards prescribed by it.**
- **The reviews are carried out by FATF and FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), which then release Mutual Evaluation Reports (MERs).**
- **For the countries that don't perform well on certain standards, the FATF and FSRBs draw up time-bound action plans to fight financial crimes.**
- **The FATF recommendations for countries range from assessing risks of crimes to setting up legislative, investigative and judicial mechanisms to pursue cases of money laundering and terror funding**

## What are FATF's 'grey' and 'black' lists?

- ~~Grey countries are those that are~~ “actively working” with the FATF to counter criminal financial activities.
- In their cases , the watchdog does not tell other members to carry out due-diligence measures vis-a-vis the listed country but does tell them to take into account the risks such countries possess.
- Currently, there are 23 countries on the grey list, with one new addition and one removal.
- The United Arab Emirates was added to the list at the end of this plenary meet while Zimbabwe was taken off it.
- Besides, some of the other countries on the list are Pakistan, Myanmar, Morocco, Philippines, Panama, Senegal, Albania, Jamaica and Turkey.



- **As for the black list, it means countries designated by the FATF as 'high-risk jurisdictions subject to call for action'.**
- **In this case the countries have considerable deficiencies in their AML/CFT regimens.**
- **For such countries, the body calls on members and non-members to apply enhanced due-diligence and in the most serious cases, apply counter-measures such as sanctions.**
- **Currently, two countries- North Korea and Iran are on the black list.**
- **Being listed under the FATF's two lists makes it difficult for countries to get aid from organisations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union.**



# IR IN NEWS

- **Kenya - economic crisis/ tak hike protest**
- **Bolivia - coup attempt**
- **the crisis is reverberating in Kenya, Bolivia and other middle-income nations bearing the brunt of a surge in inflation and the rapid global interest rate rises that followed the pandemic. Borrowing costs soared and Russia's war in Ukraine exacerbated a rise in prices of fuel and food.**

# Coal, electricity buoy core output

May's heatwave likely spurred output at the two energy sectors, Index of Core Industries (ICI) data show; production of cement contracted for the second consecutive month to hit the lowest level since November; ICI growth eased to 6.3%

**Vikas Dhoot**

NEW DELHI

Output growth in India's eight core infrastructure sectors eased to 6.3% in May, from April's 6.7%, with a double-digit rise in coal and electricity production offsetting contractions in three sectors, including cement and fertilisers.

Sequentially, the Index of Core Industries (ICI) rose 3.7% from April.

Electricity generation rose year-on-year at a seven-month high pace of 12.8%, while coal production grew 10.2%, both like-

## Heatwave spurred

Coal production, electricity generation rose in double digits in May, helping prop up overall core sector output growth to 6.3%



■ Electricity generation rose YoY at a seven-month high pace of 12.8%, while coal production grew 10.2%

■ Index of Core Industries (ICI) growth eased from an upwardly revised 6.7% pace in April

■ Sequentially, the ICI rose 3.7% from April

ly triggered by higher demand amid the heatwave in most parts of the country through May.

Natural gas output rose 7.5% while steel produc-

tion increased 7.6%.

However, refinery products saw a mere 0.5% uptick in May, the slowest rise in four months.

Cement output con-

tracted for the second successive month, dipping 0.8% following a 0.5% fall in April. However, in absolute terms, cement production levels were the lowest since November.

### 'Upward revision'

The Commerce and Industry Ministry revised April's ICI, reflecting a 6.7% rise, higher than 6.2% estimated earlier.

The revision was driven by upgrades to electricity and steel, which are now reckoned to have grown 10.2% and 8.8%, respectively, compared with 9.4% and 7.1% estimated earlier.

The eight core sectors constitute just over 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). IIP growth had slowed to a three-month low of 5% in April, and ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said she expects May's IIP to rise in the range of 4% to 5%.

"A combination of factors including the heatwave over parts of the country and the phased Parliamentary elections could have curtailed activity and execution in some sectors, even as the heatwave boosted demand for coal and electricity," noted Ms. Nayar.

## Core sector

The core sector in India comprises eight key industries: coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement, and electricity.

Industry	Weight (In percentage)
Petroleum & Refinery production	28.04
Electricity generation	19.85
Steel production	17.92
Coal production	10.33
Crude Oil production	8.98
Natural Gas production	6.88
Cement production	5.37
Fertilizers production	2.63



# Spiritual climb



Tenggerese Hindu worshippers and villagers climb Mount Bromo and gather at its top during the Yadnya Kasada festival in Probolinggo, East Java, Indonesia. The festival is held to express their devotion and gratitude to their ancestors and gods. REUTERS

# Mount Bromo



- **The Bromo, or Mount Bromo is an active somma volcano and part of the Tengger mountains, in East Java, Indonesia.**
- **At 2,329 meters it is not the highest peak of the massif, but is the most active and famous.**
- **The name Bromo comes from the Javanese pronunciation of Brahma, the Hindu god of creation.**
- **At the mouth of the crater, there is an idol of Ganesha, the Hindu god of wisdom which is being worshipped by the Javanese Hindus.**
- **Mount Bromo is located in the middle of a plain called "Sea of Sand" , a nature reserve that has been protected since 1919.**





NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter captured by Mars Perseverance rover. FILE PHOTO

## Meteorites strike Mars far more often than thought: probe

**Agence France-Presse**

PARIS

Mars is bombarded with basketball-sized meteorites on a nearly daily basis, five times more often than previously estimated, seismic recordings from a NASA spacecraft have revealed.

Before the new study was published on Friday, the best guess for how many meteorites strike Mars was made by looking at images taken by orbiting spacecrafts or models based on craters on the Moon. But NASA's InSight probe, which landed on a Martian plain called Elysium Planitia in 2018, has allowed scientists to listen to the internal rumblings of the red planet for the first time.

Mars is roughly twice as big as the Moon and is much closer to our solar system's main asteroid belt, making it a prime target for large rocks hurtling through space. Most meteorites taking a shot at Earth break apart in our atmosphere. But the Martian atmosphere is 100 times thinner than Earth's, giving it little protection.

Rather than scouring through images taken from far away, the international team of researchers behind the new study in Nature Astronomy were able to listen in on meteorites smashing into Mars. "Listening for impacts seems to be more effective than looking for them if we want to understand how often they occur," study co-author Gareth Collins of Imperial College London said in a statement.

The researchers used the data from InSight's seismometer to estimate that every year Mars is hit by between 280 to 360 meteorites, which all blast craters bigger than eight metres (26 feet) wide.





# Asteroid Belt

- **Mars is bombarded with basketball-sized meteorites on a nearly daily basis, five times more often than previously estimated, seismic recordings from a NASA spacecraft have revealed**
- **Mars is roughly twice as big as the Moon and is much closer to our solar system's main asteroid belt, making it a prime target for large rocks hurtling through space.**
- **Most meteorites taking a shot at Earth break apart in our atmosphere.**
- **But the Martian atmosphere is 100 times thinner than Earth's,**

## **Insight mission**

- **The Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) was a NASA Discovery Program mission that placed a single geophysical lander on Mars to study its deep interior.**
- **But InSight was more than a Mars mission. It addressed one of the most fundamental issues of planetary science: understanding the processes that shaped the rocky planets of the inner solar system (including Earth) more than four billion years ago.**
- **The mission ended in December 2022 after more than four years of collecting unique science on Mars.**



**Launched: May 5, 2018 (4:05 a.m. PT/7:05 a.m. ET)**

**Launch Vehicle: Atlas V-401**

**Launch Location: Vandenberg Air Force Base, California**

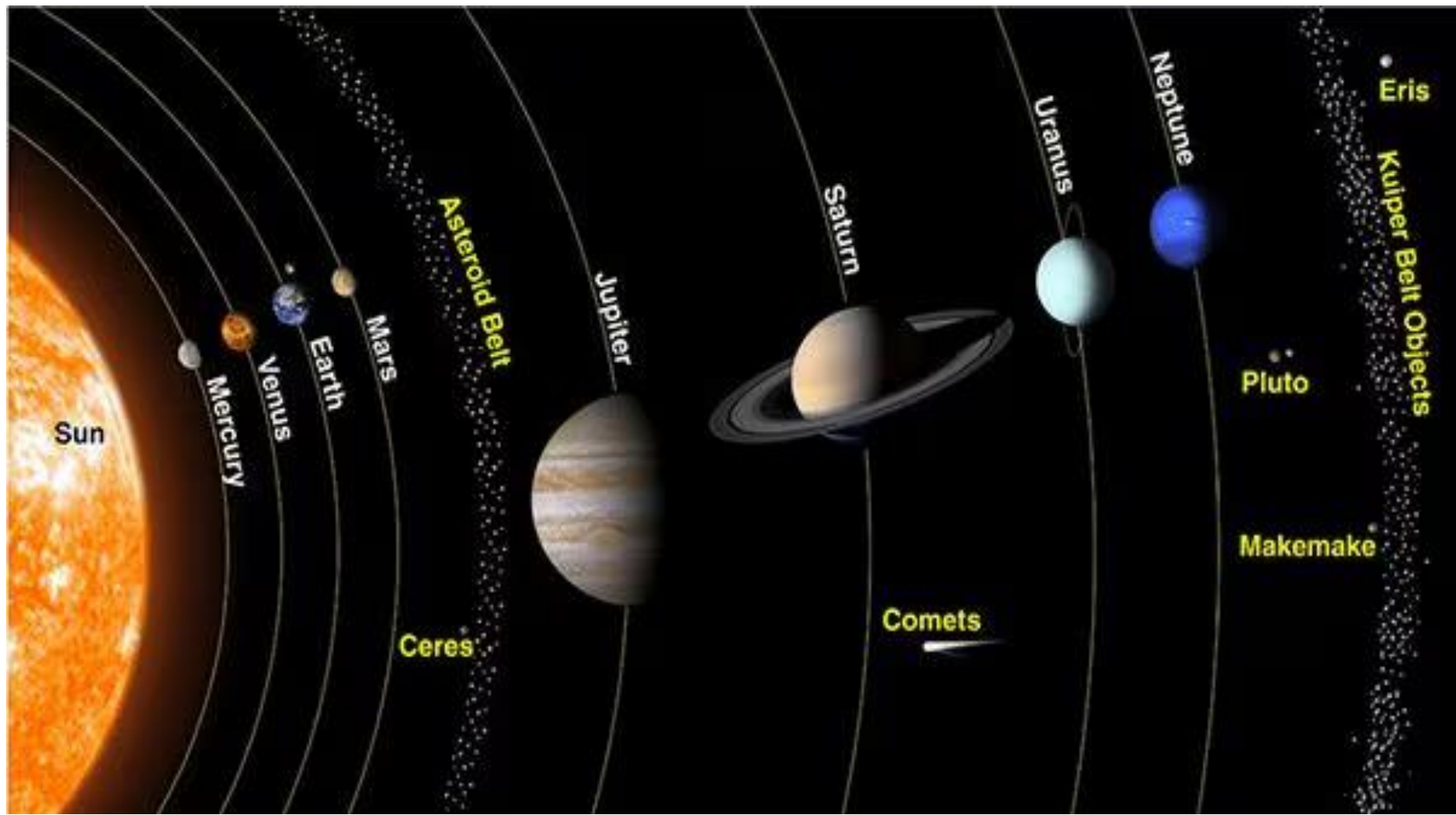
**Landed: Nov. 26, 2018, at 11:52:59 a.m. PT (2:52:59 p.m. ET)**

**Landing Site: Elysium Planitia, Mars**

**End of Mission: Dec. 15, 2022**

## Asteroid Belt

- The majority of known asteroids orbit within the asteroid belt **between Mars and Jupiter**, generally with not very elongated orbits.
- The belt is estimated to contain between **1.1 and 1.9 million** asteroids larger than **1 kilometer (0.6 miles)** in diameter, and millions of smaller ones.



Sun

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Asteroid Belt

Ceres

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

Pluto

Makemake

Eris

Kuiper Belt Objects

Comets





## Trojans:

- These asteroids share an orbit with a larger planet, but do not collide with it because they gather around two special places in the orbit (called the L4 and L5 Lagrangian points).
- There, the gravitational pull from the Sun and the planet are balanced by a trojan's tendency to otherwise fly out of orbit.
- The Jupiter trojans form the most significant population of trojan asteroids. It is thought that they are as numerous as the asteroids in the asteroid belt.
- There are Mars and Neptune trojans, and NASA announced the discovery of an [Earth trojan in 2011](#).



**Near-Earth Asteroids: These objects have orbits that pass close by that of Earth. Asteroids that actually cross Earth's orbital path are known as Earth-crossers.**

# Botanical institute sets out to revive rare flowers used in Jagannath Temple



**Satyasundar Barik**  
BHUBANESWAR

Lucknow-based National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) institution, has set out to revive endangered flower species used in the 12th century Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha.

A year after NBRI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), to cater to the needs of flowers, the country's premier botanical research institute (NBRI) has supplied *Maurya* and *Davana* (Dayana) species flowers for the temple.

"We are studying various scriptures that detail the practices of the Shree



The National Botanical Research Institute has already supplied rare *maurya* and *davana* flowers to the temple. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jagannath Temple. The temple's rich traditions involve the extensive use of flowers and leaves, each selected for specific rituals performed in the temple. However, many of these plant species are rare and difficult to procure," said Ajit Kumar Shasany, Director, CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow.

Dr. Shasany said, "We have undertaken a mission

to ensure the availability of these sacred flowers. Through this endeavour, we also aim to revive endangered floral species, preserving both the temple's traditions and the biodiversity of these plants."

As per the demand, quality planting materials of marigold, tuberose, tulsi, jasmine, davana (Dayana) were supplied and in-

troduced in the Matitota garden of the temple for raising these plants for their use for worshipping purposes.

"The gardeners are periodically trained about the agro-practices for raising these plants. A polyhouse has been raised in this garden for continuously raising the plants throughout the year," NBRI said.

## Lotus variety

"Besides, Namoh 108 variety of lotus, released by CSIR-NBRI, was also introduced in the Koili Baikuntha garden of the temple. All these aromatic flower and foliage plants are in much demand in the temple as these plants are in use in daily rituals," the institute said.



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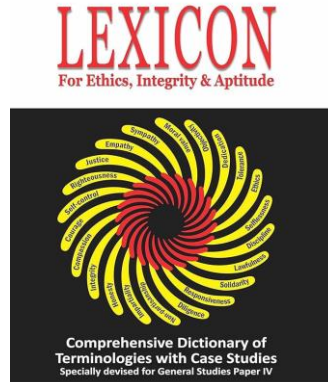
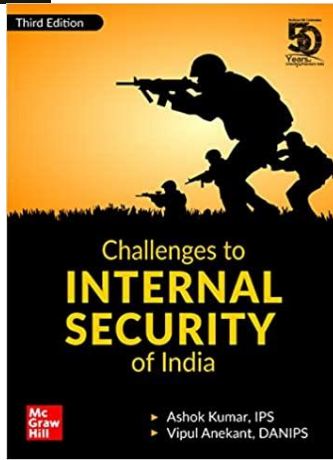
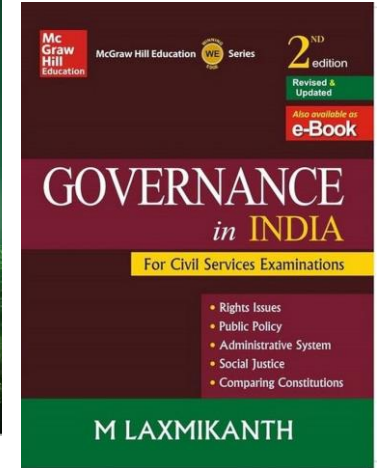
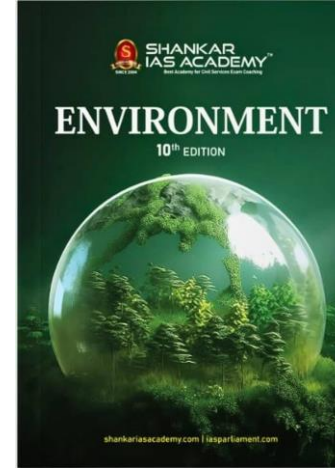
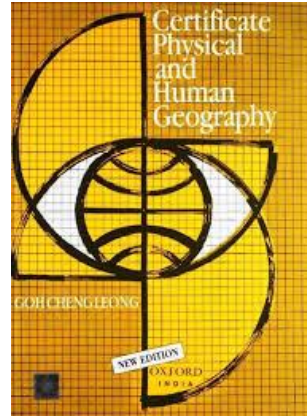
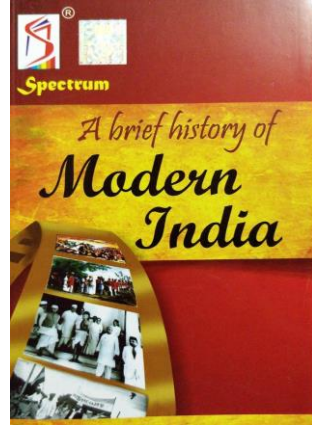
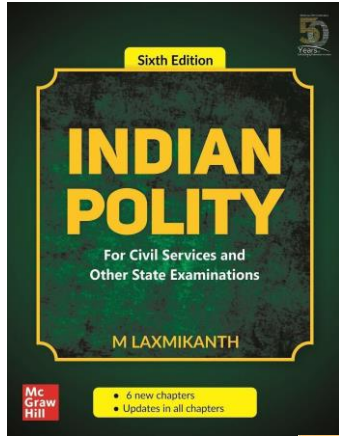
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