



कौटिल्य एकेडमी

www.kautilyaacademy.com IAS • IPS • MPPSC • CJ-II

CURRENT AFFAIR

20th JULY 2023



1. Orkney Islands
2. Sahara Refund Portal Launched
3. Cloud System Configuration
4. Rock art on Rudragiri Hill

Orkney Islands

- Britain's **Orkney Islands** want to separate from it. These islands want to join **Norway**. In fact, the Orkney Islands have been part of **Norway** for 500 years. Its leaders have accused Britain and Scotland of economic neglect.
- Orkney is a group of about 70 islands located in the North Atlantic Ocean to the northeast of Scotland, of which only 20 are inhabited by humans.
- This archipelago has been formed by glacial erosion of sandstone and limestone. **It is separated from the Scottish mainland by the Strait of Pentland Firth.**
- It was under Norwegian and Danish rule until the end of the 15th century. Presently it is under Scotland.
- **The archipelago is home to four UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Skara Brae, the Ring of Brodgar, the Standing Stones of Stenness and the Meshowe Tomb.

→ Orkney was a part of Norway for 500 years.

- Orkney has historical links with Norway, which is why council leaders are considering joining. These islands were part of Norway for about 500 years until the year 1472. James Stocken states that the Orkadians always talk about returning to Norway because of the shared cultural commonality.

→ What are the options other than joining Norway?

- Money disputes between the Orkney Islands and Scotland have made matters worse. James Stocken has put forward a motion for the council to explore an alternative model of governance that provides greater fiscal security and economic opportunity. Councillors have recently had to decide whether to support it or not. In this alternative model, several options have been given, apart from joining Norway. This includes crown dependency, the system of government in the Channel Islands, modelled on the Faroe Islands, becoming a self-governing part of Denmark.

→ Britain's denial

- The British government has rejected any such proposal. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesperson said that first and foremost there is no system in place to grant Crown Dependency or Overseas Territory status to any part of the UK. He said that fundamentally we are strong as the UK. We have no plans to change this.

→ Scotland's refusal to secede from England

- In 2014, Scotland refused to secede from England in a referendum. Scotland has been with England for the last 300 years. Orkney has since focused on consolidating its autonomy. Leader Stocken said Britain's North Sea oil has been continuously processed on the Orkney Islands since the late 1970s, but the island group did not get enough benefit from it. We want that the people here should get the benefit of this. Stocken did not specify how Orkney would join Norway, 250 miles away. On the other hand, no statement has come from Norway on this. They say that this is an internal matter of Britain.

ORKNEY ISLANDS

*North
Atlantic
Ocean*

Isle of Rousay

Midhowe

Skara Brae

**Mainland
Orkney**

Ring of Brodgar

Stenness

Maeshowe

Kirkwall

*North
Sea*

Dwarfie Stane

**Isle of
Hoy**

Old Man of Hoy

Shetlands

Orkneys

Scotland

Sahara Refund Portal Launched

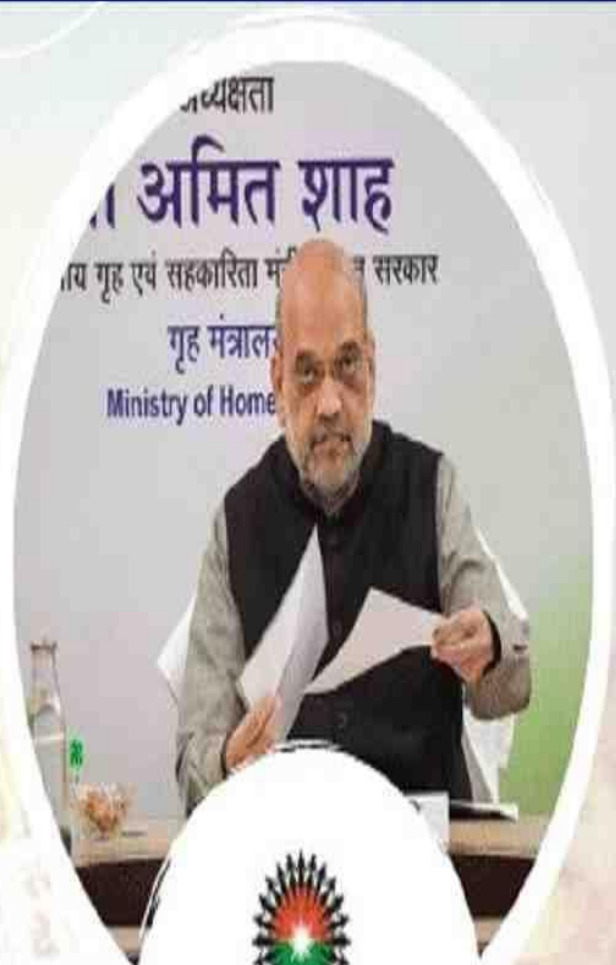
- **Sahara Refund Portal** has been launched for investors whose money is stuck in Sahara schemes for years. It was recently launched by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**.
- Through this, the way has been opened for the return of those investors whose money has been stuck in Sahara's schemes for years. About Rs 5000 crore will be returned to the investors through this portal.
- Sahara Refund Portal has been launched for these investors whose money is stuck in Sahara schemes for years. It has been prepared by IFCI.
- The Sahara refund portal has been launched after the Supreme Court order, which said that investors' money has to be returned before December. The effort of the government is to return the money to the investors in a transparent manner through this portal.
- Each depositor is eligible to claim a **maximum of Rs 10,000 during this phase**.

- ➔ In order to make a successful claim, depositors must meet two conditions. First of all their **Aadhaar** should be linked with their mobile number and bank account.
- ➔ They have to provide their deposit receipts and fill up a specified form. Once the form is filled and uploaded on the portal, further processing of the refund will take place.
- ➔ Their refund will be credited to their bank accounts **within 45 days** from the date of filing the claim on the portal. **Amit Shah** has expressed his commitment to ensure timely disbursement of funds.
- ➔ After the successful completion of the initial phase, follow-up action will be taken to resolve the issues of depositors holding large amounts of money in cooperatives of the Sahara group.



'सहारा रिफंड पोर्टल' लॉन्च, फंसा लोगों का पैसा अब वापस मिलेगा.

SAHARA INDIA PAYMENT

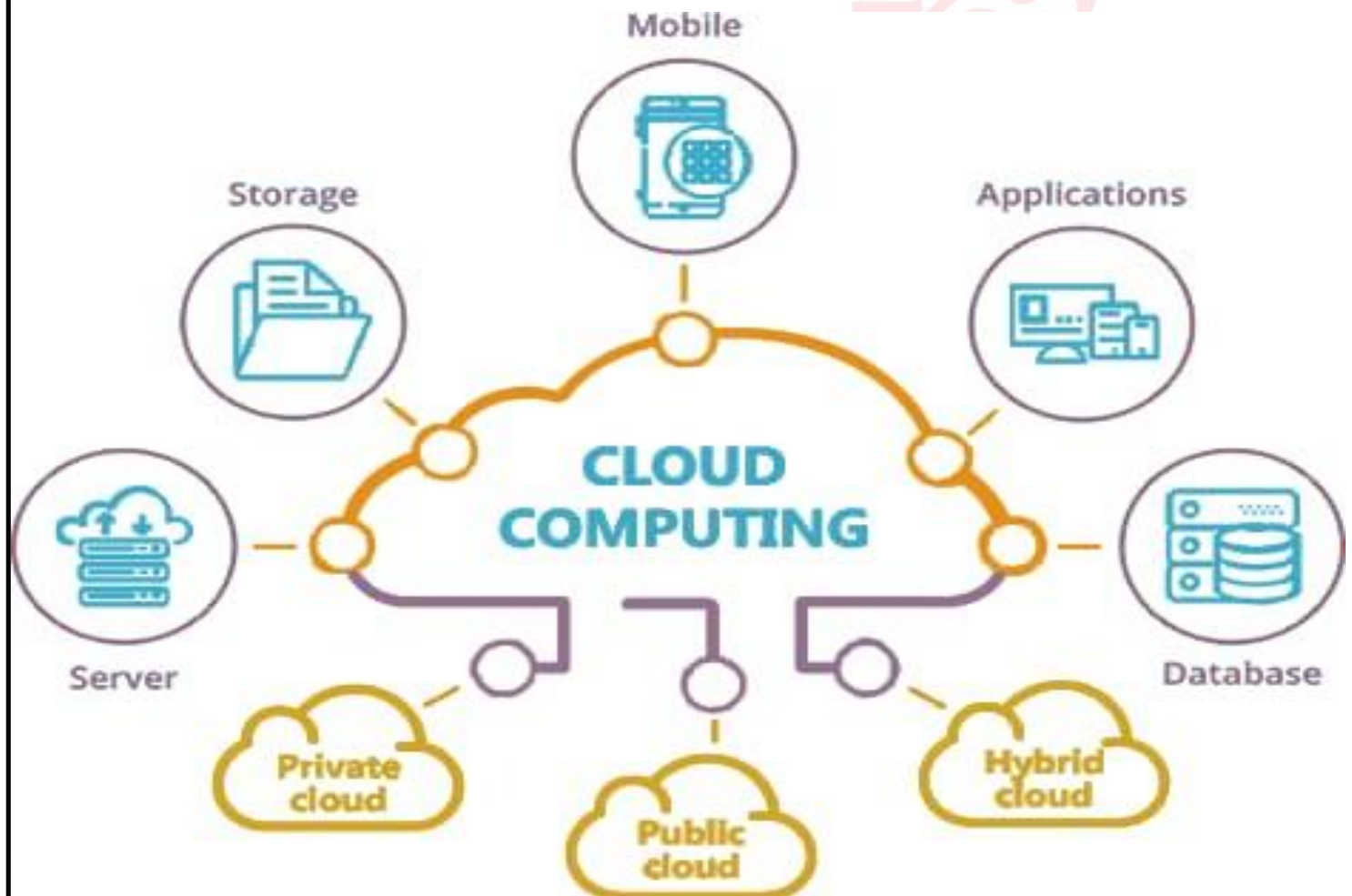


Cloud System Configuration

- According to Thales Cloud Security's 2023 survey, 35% of organizations in India noted that their data in cloud storage had been breached in 2022.
- 68% of businesses in India said that more than 40% of data stored in the cloud is classified as sensitive.
- Cloud storage is a method through which digital data including files, business data, videos or images are stored on servers in off-site locations.
- These servers may be maintained by the companies themselves or by third-party providers responsible for hosting, managing and securing the stored data.
- Depending on the nature of the data, these servers can be accessed through public or private internet connections.
- Companies use cloud storage to store, access, and maintain data so that they do not need to invest in the operation and maintenance of data centres.
- An additional advantage of cloud storage is its scalability – organizations can increase or decrease their data footprint based on their needs.

- ➔ Most cloud providers provide security features such as physical security at data centres in addition to zero-trust architecture, identity and access management, and encryption to ensure the security of data on their servers.
- ➔ **Risks:** Deployment of incompatible legacy IT systems and third-party data storage architecture.
- ➔ Data stored in the cloud faces risks due to insecure APIs, poorly designed or inadequate security controls, internal threats due to human error, and insufficient encryption during transfer or storage.
- ➔ The onus is on companies to ensure data security, even if they provide access to data to vendors and partners.
- ➔ If the data is sensitive, it is the responsibility of the Company to ensure that the selected vendor has carried out all due checks.
- ➔ This includes cloud compliance checks, such as password authentication, database monitoring, encryption and firewalls so that access is only allowed through certain locations and certain departments.

- ➔ **Data encryption** is seen as one of the most effective ways to protect sensitive information in the cloud.
- ➔ However, it has challenges, such as encryption before storing the data, changing the encryption key periodically to ensure the safety and security of the encryption key, etc.



Rock art on Rudragiri Hill

- ➔ Recently rock art was discovered at **Rudragiri Hill** in Andhra Pradesh. Most of its paintings appear to be inspired by the Ramayana.
- ➔ The site unveils a combination of prehistoric rock paintings from the Mesolithic period and exquisite artwork from the **Kakatiya dynasty**.
- ➔ **Rudragiri** is nestled among the **Eastern Ghats**, with five naturally formed rock shelters at its western foot.
- ➔ These shelters served as living quarters for people during the Mesolithic era around 5000 BC, and they bear witness to the bright rock paintings of that era.
- ➔ The first cave, starting from the southern end of the hill, presents a narrative fresco depicting an intense battle between the monkey brothers – **Bali** and **Sugriva**.
- ➔ In the middle cave, a grand drawing of Hanuman can be seen along with the sacred symbols of conch shells and fire altar (yajna vedi).
- ➔ Hanuman is depicted carrying the **Sanjivani hill** in his hand, symbolizing his mission to save **Lakshmana's** life.

- ➔ The third cave has **prehistoric rock paintings** from the Mesolithic era.
- ➔ The figures of **Ramayana** neither dominate the Mesolithic paintings nor reduce their natural beauty.
- ➔ **Mesolithic (Mesolithic) Age (10,000 BC-8000 BC):**
 - The transition from the Pleistocene to the Holocene period and favourable changes in climate are the main features of this era.
 - The early Mesolithic period is marked by hunting, fishing and food gathering.
 - The work of domesticating animals started in this era.
 - The tools/tools called microliths were small in size but they were geometrically sophisticated as compared to the Palaeolithic age.

