

1 राष्ट्रीय गोकुल मिशन (RGM)

- वर्ष 2014 में DAHD द्वारा शुरू।
- स्वदेशी गोवंश नस्लों के संरक्षण और विकास पर केंद्रित।
- दूध उत्पादन व उत्पादकता बढ़ाना।
- प्रमुख उपकरण: IVF, सेक्स-सॉर्टेड सीमन, जीनोमिक चयन।
- गोकुल ग्राम व कामधेनु प्रजनन केंद्र स्थापित किए जा रहे हैं।
- ग्रामीण आजीविका व पोषण सुरक्षा को सशक्त बनाना।



मूल्य संवर्धन: भारत विश्व का सबसे बड़ा दूध उत्पादक देश है।

कीवर्ड: स्वदेशी नस्लें, DAHD, गोपालन, जीनोमिक्स, आजीविका

2 विश्वास योजना (VISWAS)

- पूरा नाम: विवाद से विश्वास I - MSME के लिए राहत।
- MSMEs से जुड़े संविदात्मक विवाद व मुकदमों को कम करना।
- बकाया भुगतान के त्वरित निपटान को सुनिश्चित करना।
- न्यायालयी बोझ कम करना।
- तरलता (liquidity) व व्यवसाय सुगमता (Ease of Doing Business) बढ़ाना।
- आत्मनिर्भर भारत एवं MSME विकास को समर्थन।



तेज़ निपटान
→ बेहतर व्यवसाय पर्यावरण

मूल्य संवर्धन: MSME प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता, निवेश व नवाचार को बढ़ावा।

कीवर्ड: MSME, विवाद निपटान, मुकदमा कम करना, Ease of Doing Business

3 प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना - शहरी 2.0

- वर्ष 2024 में MoHUA द्वारा प्रारंभ।
- लक्ष्य: सभी पात्र शहरी गरीबों को आवास उपलब्ध कराना।
- घटक: BLC, AHP, ISSR, CLSS, किफायती किराया आवास।
- सतत एवं हरित आवास को बढ़ावा।
- प्रौद्योगिकी-आधारित और नवाचारपूर्ण निर्माण को प्रोत्साहन।
- समावेशी एवं नियोजित शहरी विकास में योगदान।



मूल्य संवर्धन: SDG 11 (सतत शहर) से सीधा संबंध।

कीवर्ड: आवास, शहरी गरीब, MoHUA, समावेशन, सतत शहर

4 राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन योजना (NDMP)

- आपदा प्रबंधन अधिनियम, 2005 के अंतर्गत तैयार।
- सभी प्रकार की आपदाओं के लिए व्यापक रूपरेखा।
- रोकथाम, शमन, तैयारी, प्रतिक्रिया, पुनर्वास और पुनर्निर्माण को कवर करती है।
- NDMA द्वारा तैयार।
- केंद्र, राज्य, UTs, लाइन एजेंसियों की भूमिकाओं को स्पष्ट करती है।
- संसाधन अनुकूलन और समन्वय सुनिश्चित करती है।



मूल्य संवर्धन: सैंडर्वा फ्रेमवर्क (2015-2030) से सामंजस्य।

कीवर्ड: NDMA, DMP अधिनियम, शमन, तैयारी, प्रतिक्रिया, पुनर्निर्माण

5 मत्स्य पालन में ब्लू इकोनॉमी

- महासागर संसाधनों का सतत उपयोग आर्थिक विकास हेतु।
- खाद्य सुरक्षा और आजीविका का प्रमुख स्रोत।
- प्रमुख पहल: PMMSY, FIDF, सागर परिक्रमा कार्यक्रम।
- मत्स्य पालन, जलीय कृषि, प्रसंस्करण व वैल्यू चेन को सुदृढ़ करना।
- समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के संरक्षण और सतत उपयोग को बढ़ावा।



मूल्य संवर्धन: भारत का विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र (EEZ) > 20 लाख वर्ग किमी; तटरेखा ~7,500 किमी।

कीवर्ड: ब्लू इकोनॉमी, PMMSY, मत्स्य पालन, स्थिरता, समुद्री अर्थव्यवस्था

6 स्वदेशी हाई-स्पीड वाटरक्राफ्ट (AVEM 5C)

- DRDO द्वारा विकसित हाई-स्पीड शैलो वॉटर क्राफ्ट।
- तटीय एवं नदीय अभियानों में गतिशीलता बढ़ाता है।
- तटीय सुरक्षा और निगरानी में सहायक।
- भारत की स्वदेशी रक्षा तकनीक क्षमता को प्रदर्शित करता है।
- आत्मनिर्भर भारत और नवाचार आधारित R&D को बढ़ावा।



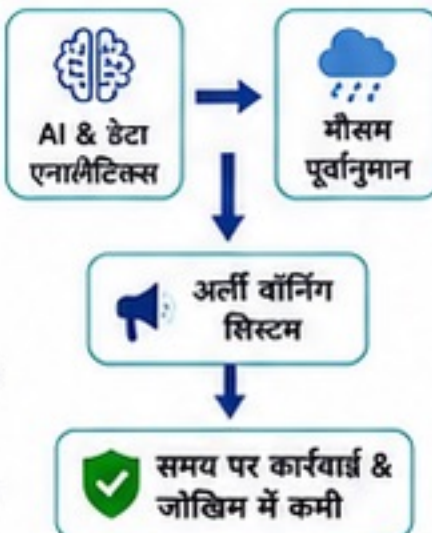
स्वदेशी प्रौद्योगिकी
↓
समुद्री गतिशीलता
↓
संचालनिक बढ़त
↓
आत्मनिर्भर भारत

मूल्य संवर्धन: रक्षा तैयारियों और नदीय अभियानों को मजबूती।

कीवर्ड: DRDO, रक्षा तकनीक, समुद्री सुरक्षा, आत्मनिर्भर भारत, नवाचार

7 NMCG: AI आधारित पूर्वानुमान और अल्टी वॉर्निंग

- NMCG द्वारा AI आधारित मौसम पूर्वानुमान अपनाया गया।
- जिला स्तर पर बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान की सटीकता बढ़ती है।
- GIS, रिमोट सेंसिंग व हाइड्रोलॉजिकल मॉडल का उपयोग।
- निर्णय लेने और आपदा तैयारी में सुधार।
- नमामि गंगे कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत नदी बेसिन प्रबंधन को सशक्त बनाता है।



मूल्य संवर्धन: तकनीक आधारित जलवायु अनुकूलन एवं DRR को बढ़ावा।

कीवर्ड: NMCG, AI, बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान, नमामि गंगे, रिमोट सेंसिंग

8 सिविल सेवा प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों के लिए राष्ट्रीय मानक (NSCSTI)

- प्रशिक्षण की गुणवत्ता और परिणाम सुधारने हेतु मानक तैयार।
- क्षमता आधारित प्रशिक्षण को बढ़ावा।
- मिशन कर्मयोगी के उद्देश्यों के अनुरूप।
- जवाबदेही, पारदर्शिता और सुशासन को सुदृढ़ करना।
- iGOT कर्मयोगी प्लेटफॉर्म का उपयोग।
- सभी प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में एकरूप उत्कृष्टता सुनिश्चित करना।



मूल्य संवर्धन: सिविल सेवा सुधारों का प्रमुख स्तंभ।

कीवर्ड: मिशन कर्मयोगी, iGOT, क्षमता निर्माण, प्रशिक्षण मानक, शासन

9 विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम (FCRA)

- NGOs और संस्थाओं को मिलने वाले विदेशी अंशदान को विनियमित करता है।
- वर्तमान कानून: FCRA, 2010 (2020 संशोधित)।
- प्रशासन: गृह मंत्रालय।
- पारदर्शिता, जवाबदेही और राष्ट्रीय हित की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करता है।
- अनिवार्य आधार, SBI खाता, प्रशासनिक व्यय की सीमा निर्धारित।
- आंतरिक सुरक्षा और सार्वजनिक विश्वास को मजबूत बनाता है।



विदेशी अंशदान
↓
विनियमित उपयोग
↓
पारदर्शिता एवं जवाबदेही
↓
राष्ट्रीय हित

मूल्य संवर्धन: खुलापन और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के बीच संतुलन।

कीवर्ड: FCRA, गृह मंत्रालय, विनियमन, पारदर्शिता, जवाबदेही

अन्य महत्वपूर्ण एक-पंक्तियाँ

भारत विश्व का सबसे बड़ा दूध उत्पादक देश है।

PMAY-U 2.0 का लक्ष्य शहरी क्षेत्रों में सभी पात्र परिवारों को आवास देना है।

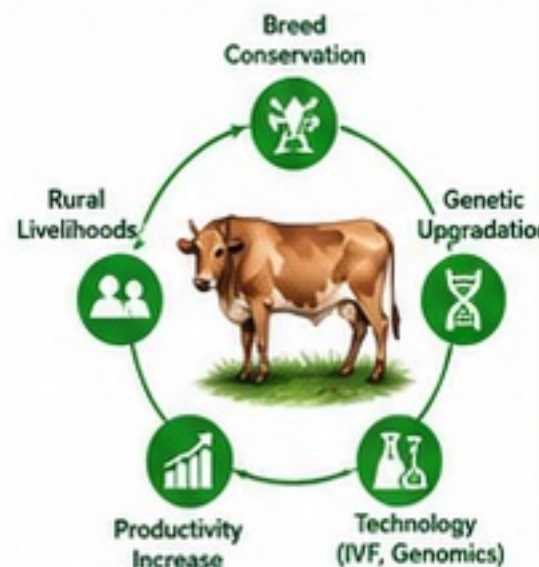
NDMP आपदा चक्र के सभी चरणों—रोकथाम से पुनर्निर्माण तक—को कवर करता है।

ब्लू इकोनॉमी सतत रूप से समुद्री संसाधनों के उपयोग से विकास और आजीविका को बढ़ाती है।

मिशन कर्मयोगी क्षमता निर्माण के माध्यम से सिविल सेवाओं को सशक्त बनाता है।

1 Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)

- Launched in 2014 under DAHD.
- Focus on conservation of indigenous bovine breeds.
- Improves genetic merit & milk productivity.
- Key tools: IVF, sex-sorted semen, genomic selection.
- Supports Gokul Grams & Kamdhenu Breeding Centres.
- Strengthens rural livelihoods & dairy sector.



Value Addition: India is the world's largest milk producer.

Keywords: Indigenous Breeds, DAHD, Livelihoods, Genomics

2 VISWAS Scheme

- Full form: Vivad Se Vishwas I – Relief to MSMEs.
- Aim: Reduce contractual dispute & litigation burden.
- Ensures faster settlement of dues for MSMEs.
- Improves liquidity & ease of doing business.
- Promotes harmony between buyers & suppliers.
- Supports Atmanirbhar Bharat & MSME growth.



Faster Settlement
→ Better Business Environment

Value Addition: Reduces litigation, boosts MSME competitiveness.

Keywords: MSME, Litigation, Ease of Doing Business, Settlement

3 PMAY-Urban 2.0

- Launched in 2024 by MoHUA.
- Goal: Housing for all eligible urban poor.
- Components: BLC, AHP, ISSR, CLSS, Affordable Rental Housing.
- Promotes sustainable & green housing.
- Uses technology-driven & innovative construction.
- Contributes to inclusive & planned urban development.



Value Addition: Linked with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities).

Keywords: Housing, Urban Poor, MoHUA, Inclusion

4 National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)

- Prepared under Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Comprehensive blueprint for all stages of disasters.
- Covers prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery & reconstruction.
- Prepared by NDMA.
- Involves Centre, States, UTs & line ministries.
- Ensures coordination & resource optimisation.



Value Addition: Aligns with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Keywords: NDMA, DMP Act, Mitigation, Response, Reconstruction

5 Blue Economy in Fisheries

- Sustainable use of ocean resources for growth.
- Key driver for food security & livelihoods.
- Initiatives: PMMSY, FIDF, Sagar Parikrama.
- Enhances aquaculture, infrastructure & value chain.
- Promotes conservation of marine ecosystems.
- Strengthens India's maritime economy.



Value Addition: India's EEZ > 2 million sq km; Coastline ~7,500 km.

Keywords: Blue Economy, PMMSY, Fisheries, Sustainability

6 Indigenous High-Speed Watercraft (AVEM 5C)

- Developed by DRDO – high-speed shallow water craft.
- Enhances maritime mobility & riverine operations.
- Supports coastal security & surveillance.
- Showcases India's defence technology capability.
- Promotes self-reliance in critical technologies.
- Boosts Make in India & indigenous R&D.



Indigenous Technology
↓
Maritime Mobility
↓
Operational Advantage
↓
Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Value Addition: Strengthens defence preparedness & riverine capability.

Keywords: DRDO, Defence Tech, Maritime Security, Self-Reliance

7 NMCG: AI-based Forecasting & Early Warning

- NMCG adopts AI-based weather forecasting & early warning.
- Enhances flood prediction at district level.
- Uses AI, GIS, remote sensing & hydrological models.
- Improves decision-making & disaster preparedness.
- Supports Namami Gange Programme.
- Strengthens river basin management.



Value Addition: Technology-driven climate adaptation & DRR.

Keywords: NMCG, AI, Flood Forecasting, Namami Gange

8 National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI)

- Standards to improve training quality & outcomes.
- Promotes competency-based capacity building.
- Supports Mission Karmayogi objectives.
- Strengthens accountability & governance.
- Uses iGOT Karmayogi platform.
- Ensures uniform excellence across training institutions.



Value Addition: Key pillar of civil services reforms.

Keywords: Mission Karmayogi, iGOT, Capacity Building, Governance

9 Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

- Regulates foreign contributions to NGOs & associations.
- Current Act: FCRA, 2010 (amended in 2020).
- Administered by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Ensures transparency, accountability & national interest.
- Mandatory Aadhaar, SBI account, administrative expense limits.
- Strengthens internal security & public trust.



Foreign Contribution
↓
Regulated Use
↓
Transparency & Accountability
↓
National Interest

Value Addition: Balance between openness & national security.

Keywords: FCRA, MHA, Regulation, Transparency, Accountability

Other Important One-Liners



India is the world's largest milk producer.



PMAY-U 2.0 aims at 'Housing for All' in urban areas.



NDMP covers the entire disaster cycle from prevention to reconstruction.



Blue Economy ensures sustainable use of ocean resources for growth & livelihoods.



Mission Karmayogi strengthens civil services through competency building.



लक्षद्वीप (केंद्र शासित प्रदेश)



भारत का कोरल पैराडाइज़ • ब्लू इकोनॉमी • समुद्री जैव विविधता



1. त्वरित तथ्य

राजधानी	: कवरत्ती
गठन	: 1 नवंबर 1956 (केंद्र शासित प्रदेश)
आधिकारिक भाषाएं	: मलयालम, अंग्रेज़ी
प्रचलित भाषाएं	: जेसरी, माहल
राज्य पशु प्रतीक	: बटरफ्लाई फिश
राज्य पक्षी प्रतीक	: सूटी टर्न
राज्य वृक्ष	: नारियल का पेड़
राज्य पुष्प	: कोई घोषित नहीं
जनसंख्या (2011)	: 64,429* (*जनगणना 2011)
क्षेत्रफल	: 32 वर्ग किमी
साक्षरता दर	: 91.85% (*2011)

महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- ★ भारत का सबसे छोटा केंद्र शासित प्रदेश।
- ★ भारत का एकमात्र प्रवाल भित्ति (कोरल एटॉल) द्वीपसमूह।
- ★ कुल 36 द्वीप, जिनमें से 10 पर आबादी रहती है।
- ★ अरब सागर में केरल तट से लगभग 220 से 440 किमी दूर।
- ★ ग्रीक नाम - कोरल पैराडाइज़ ऑफ इंडिया।

2. स्थिति एवं मानचित्र

स्थिति

- अरब सागर में, केरल तट के पश्चिम में स्थित।
- 8° से 12° उत्तरी अक्षांश और 71° से 74° पूर्वी देशान्तर के बीच स्थित।
- तीन द्वीप समूहों का समूह - अमिनदीवी, लक्षद्वीप (लैक्काडिव) और मिनीकोय।

प्रमुख लैंगून

- कवरत्ती लैंगून
- अगत्ती लैंगून
- बंगाराम लैंगून
- मिनीकोय लैंगून



नजदीकी स्थल

- केरल (मुख्यभूमि)
- अरब सागर

3. इतिहास एवं विरासत

- प्राचीन काल**
 - प्राचीन समुद्री व्यापार मार्गों का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा। केरल और अरब दुनिया से सांस्कृतिक संबंध।
- मध्यकालीन काल**
 - कोलाथिरी शासकों और बाद में अरवकल साम्राज्य के अधीन।
- औपनिवेशिक काल**
 - टीपू सुल्तान के पतन के बाद अंग्रेजों का नियंत्रण हुआ।
- आधुनिक काल**
 - 1 नवंबर 1956 को केंद्र शासित प्रदेश बना।
 - 1973 में इसका नाम 'लक्षद्वीप' रखा गया।
 - समुद्री, सांस्कृतिक और रणनीतिक महत्व के कारण महत्वपूर्ण।
- यूनेस्को धरोहर स्थल**
 - लक्षद्वीप में कोई यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल नहीं है।



कवरत्ती मस्जिद



बंगाराम द्वीप



अगत्ती बीच

4. अर्थव्यवस्था

- मुख्य क्षेत्र**
 - मत्स्य पालन, पर्यटन, नारियल आधारित उद्योग, कोयर उत्पाद, समुद्री संसाधन, ब्लू इकोनॉमी।
- मुख्य उद्योग**
 - कोयर, कोप्रा, नारियल तेल, मत्स्य प्रसंस्करण, हस्तशिल्प, नाव निर्माण।
- बुनियादी ढांचा**
 - हवाई और समुद्री संपर्क कोच्चि, मंगलूरु और मुंबई से।
- हवाई अड्डा**
 - अगत्ती हवाई अड्डा (मुख्य), हेलिपैड - बंगाराम।



अगत्ती हवाई अड्डा



टूना मछली पकड़ना

मुख्य तथ्य : लक्षद्वीप में ब्लू इकोनॉमी की दिशा में विकास हो रहा है - विशेषकर टूना फिशिंग और समुद्री पर्यटन में।

7. प्रमुख त्योहार

- ईद-उल-फितर**
 - रमजान के बाद मनाया जाने वाला प्रमुख पर्व।
- ईद-उल-अजहा**
 - बलिदान का पर्व।
- मिलाद-उन-नबी**
 - पैगंबर मोहम्मद साहब का जन्मदिन।
- मुहम्मद**
 - कर्बला की शहादत की याद में।
- ओणम**
 - कुछ द्वीपों पर केरल की तरह मनाया जाता है।



ईद उत्सव - कवरत्ती

8. पर्यावरण एवं जैव विविधता

- राष्ट्रीय उद्यान**
 - लक्षद्वीप में कोई राष्ट्रीय उद्यान नहीं।
- वन्यजीव अभयारण्य**
 - पिट्टी पक्षी अभयारण्य (सबसे महत्वपूर्ण)।
- रामसर स्थल**
 - पिट्टी पक्षी अभयारण्य (रामसर स्थल)।
- समुद्री जैव विविधता**
 - प्रवाल भित्तियाँ, समुद्री कछुए, डॉल्फिन, रीफ फिश, विशाल क्लैम।



पिट्टी पक्षी अभयारण्य



हरी समुद्री कछुआ



डॉल्फिन



प्रवाल भित्ति

9. पर्यटन एवं धरोहर

- प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थल**
 - अगत्ती द्वीप, बंगाराम द्वीप, मिनीकोय द्वीप, कवरत्ती, कदमत द्वीप।
- धार्मिक स्थल**
 - कवरत्ती जामा मस्जिद, स्थानीय मस्जिदें।
- गतिविधियाँ**
 - स्नोर्कलिंग, स्नॉकलिंग, साफ़िंग, सी रॉक, प्लास बॉटम बॉट राइड।
- धरोहर**
 - ठेठ द्वीपीय संस्कृति और नाव निर्माण की पुरानी परंपरा।



अगत्ती द्वीप



मिनीकोय द्वीप



बंगाराम द्वीप



कवरत्ती लाइटहाउस

10. UPSC के लिए महत्व

- प्रिलिम्स तथ्य** : 36 द्वीप, प्रवाल एटॉल, पिट्टी पक्षी अभयारण्य, ब्लू इकोनॉमी।
- मेंस बिंदु** : समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी, जलवायु परिवर्तन, सतत द्वीप विकास, मत्स्य संसाधन प्रबंधन, तटीय संरक्षण।
- वर्तमान घटनाक्रम लिंक** : कोरल ब्लीचिंग, समुद्री स्तर वृद्धि, ब्लू इकोनॉमी पहल, सागरल द्रुति।
- रणनीतिक महत्व** : अरब सागर में सामरिक स्थिति, समुद्री सुरक्षा, SAGAR विजन में भूमिका।

11. त्वरित पुनरावर्तन - 15 महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य

- राजधानी - कवरत्ती
- भारत का सबसे छोटा UT
- गठन - 1 नवंबर 1956
- कुल द्वीप - 36
- आबाद द्वीप - 10
- द्वीप समूह - अमिनदीवी, लैक्काडिव, मिनीकोय
- मुख्य फसल - नारियल
- प्रमुख भाषा - मलयालम
- मुख्य मछली - टूना
- पक्षी अभयारण्य - पिट्टी
- रामसर स्थल - पिट्टी पक्षी अभयारण्य
- हवाई अड्डा - अगत्ती
- मुख्य आर्थिक क्षेत्र - मत्स्य पालन, पर्यटन
- विशेषता - प्रवाल एटॉल, ब्लू इकोनॉमी
- सागर - अरब सागर

12. लक्षद्वीप एक नजर में

भारतीय संघ का सबसे छोटा UT	कोरल एटॉल द्वीपसमूह	समुद्र समुद्री जैव विविधता	ब्लू इकोनॉमी संभावनाएँ	कम जनसंख्या घनत्व
नारियल अर्थव्यवस्था	समुद्री पर्यटन	परंपरागत द्वीपीय संस्कृति	सागरिक महत्व	जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रति संवेदनशील

13. लक्षद्वीप क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?

समुद्री जैव विविधता संरक्षण	ब्लू इकोनॉमी को बढ़ावा	जलवायु परिवर्तन से रक्षा	समुद्री सुरक्षा और रणनीतिक महत्व	सतत द्वीप विकास का मॉडल
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SRIJAN INDIA ONE STATES OF INDIA

22ND JULY 2026

LAKSHADWEEP

CORAL PARADISE OF INDIA • BLUE ECONOMY • MARINE BIODIVERSITY

1. QUICK FACTS

Capital	: Kavaratti
Formation	: 1 November 1956 (UT Status)
Official Languages	: Malayalam, English
Widely Spoken	: Jeseri, Mahl
State Animal	: Butterfly Fish
State Bird	: Sooty Tern
State Tree	: Coconut Palm
State Flower	: Not Officially Declared
Population (2011)	: 64,429* (*Census 2011)
Area	: 32 sq. km
Literacy Rate	: 91.85%* (*2011)

IMPORTANT FACTS

- ★ India's smallest Union Territory.
- ★ India's only coral atoll archipelago.
- ★ Comprises 36 islands, of which 10 are inhabited.
- ★ Nickname – Coral Paradise of India.

2. LOCATION & MAP

- In the Arabian Sea, off the coast of Kerala.
- Situated between 8° to 12° N latitude and 71° to 74° E longitude.
- Consists of 3 island groups – Amindivi, Laccadive and Minicoy.



MAJOR LAGOONS

- Kavaratti Lagoon
- Agatti Lagoon
- Bangaram Lagoon
- Minicoy Lagoon

NEARBY

- Kerala (Mainland)
- Arabian Sea

3. HISTORY & HERITAGE

- Ancient Period**
 - Part of ancient maritime trade routes; cultural links with Kerala & Arab world.
- Medieval Period**
 - Ruled by Kolathiri rulers and later by Arakkal Kingdom.
- Colonial Period**
 - Came under British control after the fall of Tipu Sultan.
- Modern History**
 - Became a Union Territory on 1 November 1956.
 - Renamed Lakshadweep in 1973.
- UNESCO Heritage**
 - No UNESCO World Heritage Site in Lakshadweep.



Ujra Mosque, Kavaratti



Bangaram Island



Agatti Island

4. ECONOMY

- Major Sectors**
 - Fisheries, Tourism, Coconut-based industries, Coir products, Marine resources.
- Industries**
 - Coir, Copra, Coconut oil, Fish processing, Handicrafts.
- Infrastructure**
 - Connected by air and sea to Kochi, Mangalore and Mumbai.
- Airports**
 - Agatti Airport (main), Helipad at Bangaram.



Agatti Airport



Traditional Tuna Fishing

Key Fact: Lakshadweep has huge potential in Blue Economy including tuna fishing and marine tourism.

5. AGRICULTURE

- Major Crops**
 - Coconut, Banana, Breadfruit, Vegetables, Tuber crops.
- Horticulture**
 - Papaya, Mango, Chilli, Coriander (small scale).
- Livestock**
 - Poultry, Goats, Pigs (limited).
- Fisheries**
 - Tuna, Skipjack tuna, Reef fish, Lobsters.



Coconut



Banana



Papaya



Breadfruit



Goats



Lobster

GI Tags: Notified GI products – Nil

6. CULTURE & TRADITION

- Folk Dances**
 - Lava Dance, Kolkali, Parichakali.
- Folk Music**
 - Boat songs, Dweep (traditional songs).
- Handicrafts**
 - Coir products, Coconut shell craft, Canoe building.
- Languages**
 - Malayalam, Jeseri, Mahl, English.
- Cultural Practices**
 - Strong influence of Kerala and Arab culture.



Lava Dance



Coir Handicraft



Canoe Building

7. FESTIVALS

- Eid-ul-Fitr**
 - Celebrates the end of Ramadan.
- Eid-ul-Adha**
 - Important religious festival.
- Milad-un-Nabi**
 - Birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.
- Muharram**
 - Commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussain.
- Onam**
 - Celebrated in some islands.



Eid Celebration in Lakshadweep

8. ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

- National Park**
 - No national park.
- Wildlife Sanctuary**
 - Pitti Bird Sanctuary (Important).
- Ramsar Sites**
 - Minicoy Thundi, Pitti Bird Sanctuary.
- Marine Biodiversity**
 - Coral reefs, Sea turtles, Dolphins, Reef fish, Giant clams.



Pitti Bird Sanctuary



Green Sea Turtle



Dolphins



Coral Reefs

Key Species: Green Sea Turtle, Sooty Tern, Dolphins, Reef Sharks, Giant Clams, Butterfly Fish.

9. TOURISM & HERITAGE

- Major Attractions**
 - Agatti Island, Bangaram Island, Minicoy Island, Kavaratti.
- Religious Sites**
 - Ujra Mosque, Jama Masjid (Kavaratti).
- Activities**
 - Scuba Diving, Snorkelling, Kayaking, Sailing.
- Heritage**
 - Unique island culture, traditional boat building.



Kavaratti Island



Minicoy Island



Agatti Island



Bangaram Island

10. UPSC VALUE ADDITION

- Prelims Facts:** Smallest UT, 36 islands, Coral Atolls, Pitti Bird Sanctuary.
- Mains Points:** Blue Economy, Marine Biodiversity, Climate Change, Coastal Erosion, Sustainable Island Development.
- Current Affairs Linkages:** Coral bleaching, Sea level rise, Sagarmala Project, Sustainable Fisheries, Coastal Regulation.
- Strategic Importance**
 - Located along vital sea lanes in Arabian Sea.
 - Important for maritime security and SAGAR Vision.

11. RAPID REVISION – 15 KEY FACTS

- 1 Capital – Kavaratti
- 2 Status – Union Territory
- 3 Formation – 1 Nov 1956
- 4 Total Islands – 36
- 5 Inhabited Islands – 10
- 6 Island Groups – Amindivi, Laccadive, Minicoy
- 7 Official Languages – Malayalam, English, Widely Spoken – Jeseri, Mahl
- 8 Main Crop – Coconut
- 9 Major Fish – Tuna
- 10 Protected Area – Pitti Bird Sanctuary
- 11 Ramsar Sites – Minicoy Thundi, Pitti Bird Sanctuary
- 12 Main Airport – Agatti Airport
- 13 Main Lagoon – Kavaratti Lagoon
- 14 Coral Atolls – Yes
- 15 Sea – Arabian Sea

12. LAKSHADWEEP AT A GLANCE

Smallest Union Territory	Coral Atoll Archipelago	Rich Marine Biodiversity	Blue Economy Potential	Low Population Density
Coconut Economy	Sea Turtle Habitat	Eco-Tourism Destination	Strategic Location	Vulnerable to Climate Change

13. WHY LAKSHADWEEP MATTERS?

Protects Marine Biodiversity	Supports Blue Economy	Vulnerable to Climate Change	Enhances Maritime Security	Promotes Sustainable Island Growth
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India's ICI gets an updated series: what has changed?

The Centre has released a revised series of the ICI, updating the base year, sectoral coverage and weights.

Here is what has changed and what it means for industrial growth

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

The Union Government has released an updated series of its Index of Core Industries (ICI), which is a key measure of how the main industrial sectors in India's economy are doing. This update now brings the ICI on a par with other recently updated metrics such as the national accounts (Gross Domestic Product and Gross Value Added), inflation, and the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

What are the key changes in the new ICI series?

The previous ICI had a base year of 2011-12, which was significantly outdated. So, the first major update of the new ICI series is the change in base year and base weights. The base year now is 2022-23. This makes the data more reflective of current reality and thus makes it a more useful gauge of industrial activity.

The second major change was to increase the number of sectors covered to nine from the previous eight. The eight sectors earlier covered were coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement, electricity, and fertilisers. Now, the government has added that coking to the intensive use of iron ore in industrial production; it has been added to the list of core industries.

Other sectoral changes include calculating steel production on a gross output basis rather than a net output basis so as to bring this in line with the IIP, which is the other major industrial production metric.

The revised ICI uses updated series weights to calculate the Index. The base weight of 4.905% in the index, leaving that much less of the total share to be distributed among the other sectors.

The next sector has seen its downward revision in its significance, with its weight coming down from 10.33% to 5.36%. The natural gas sector, too, saw a major downward revision from 6.88% to 3.18%. Refinery products saw its weightage reduced from 28.01% to 22.57%.

Some sectors increased in significance. The electricity sector, for example, now makes up 30.39% of the entire index, up from the earlier 19.85%. The fertilisers sector saw its weightage increase marginally to 2.73% from 2.63%.

Which sectors have gained or lost weight in the new ICI?

The inclusion of the iron ore sector and the resultant increase in the total number of sectors to nine would naturally lead to a redistribution of the weights among the sectors. Further, according to the government, it has revised the weights in the new series of the ICI to reflect the weights of the same sectors in the IIP.

But of these factors have led to a significant redistribution of weights

weight of 4.905% in the index, leaving that much less of the total share to be distributed among the other sectors.

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Have these revisions changed the final growth picture?

There is certainly a difference in the data output generated from the old series and the new series for the same periods of time. However, these variations become smaller when scaled up over time and as you move further back. That is, while the May 2025 growth of the ICI has been revised from 0.9% as per the old series to 2.2% in the new series, the full year growth for 2024-25 was only revised from 1.1% to 1%.

Hence, just because the series has been updated, it does not mean the industrial growth picture has been altered.

- ICI is a key indicator of how core industries are performing.
 - Aligns with updated national accounts, inflation, and IIP.
 - Helps assess industrial growth more accurately.

- Base year updated from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
 - More realistic and relevant reflection of current economy.
 - Steel production now measured on gross output basis.

- Eight sectors earlier; now expanded to nine.
 - Iron ore sector added.
 - Other sectors: coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement, electricity, fertilisers, coking.

- Significant change in weightage of sectors.
 - Electricity: 19.85% → 30.39%
 - Refinery products: 28.01% → 22.57%
 - Natural gas: 6.88% → 3.18%
 - Coal: 10.33% → 5.36%
 - Iron ore (new): 4.905%

- Weights now aligned with IIP sectoral weights.
 - Ensures consistency across key industrial indicators.
 - Redistribution due to new sector and updated structure.

- Revisions do not significantly change growth picture.
 - May 2025 growth revised from 0.9% → 2.2%
 - Full year 2024-25 growth revised from 1.1% → 1%
 - Long-term trend remains broadly unchanged.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

When someone sneezes why do people say, “Bless you”? (Mita Paul, Vishakapatnam)

This is based on a superstition. People in the old days believed that whenever someone sneezed, the individual’s soul came out with the sneeze. To prevent the soul from escaping, they sought divine intervention – they called upon the Almighty to “bless” the sneezer and keep his/her soul inside. This is just one of the theories going around. Although people these days do not believe that an individual’s soul will escape along with a sneeze, the expression “Bless you” continues to be used.

How do you pronounce “joie de vivre”? What is its meaning? (B. Sajith, Calicut)

The ‘j’ is pronounced like the ‘s’ in ‘pleasure’, ‘measure’, and ‘treasure’. The next sound is like the ‘w’ in ‘wet’, ‘web’, and ‘wed’. The final sound in ‘joie’ is like the ‘a’ in ‘path’, ‘bath’ and ‘ask’ – the way these words are pronounced in British English. The ‘e’ in the second word ‘de’ sounds like the ‘a’ in ‘China’. The ‘j’ in ‘vivre’ is like the ‘ee’ in ‘meet’, ‘see’, and ‘bee’. The final ‘e’ is once again like the ‘a’ in ‘China’. The main stress is on the first syllable of ‘vivre’. And what does the word mean? It is a French expression which means “joy of living”. Here are a few examples.

Sonya’s joie de vivre was the envy of many of her colleagues.

People tend to say, “the media is”. Shouldn’t it be “the media are”? (Satish Pradhan, Pune)

The word “media” is the plural of “medium” and it is generally used to refer to radio, television, newspapers, etc. – things generally associated with mass communication. Since the word is considered to be plural, it is only logical that the verb that follows it should be plural too. These days, however, “media” can be followed by a singular or a plural verb. In the beginning, we thought of the various media as being separate entities. When we use a singular verb after “media”, we are thinking of the various media as a single entity.

What is the difference between “a few” and “few”? (V. P. Acharya, Timpathi)

Let’s take a hypothetical situation. Suppose there is a ‘bandh’ and you don’t expect anyone to come to work. You go to your office and you find that ten of your colleagues have turned up. You are quite surprised and happy. In this context you would say, “A few people turned up for work”. “A few” means “some”. In this case, your focus is on the number of people who turned up for work. If your focus is more on the people who didn’t turn up for work rather than those who did – then you would say “few”. Few people turned up for work. In this context “few” means “hardly any”.

What is the meaning of the expression “to carry coals to Newcastle”? (D. Sudheer Kumar, Nagarjun Sagar, AP)

Newcastle is a place in the north of England and it is well known for its coal mines! So if you are carrying coals to Newcastle, you are merely wasting your energy; you are doing something unnecessary.

Published in The Hindu on May 8, 2001

- “Bless you” originated from the belief that sneezing caused the soul to escape.
 - People invoked divine blessings to protect the soul.
 - The tradition continues, though the belief is no longer followed today.

- “Joie de vivre” (French) means “joy of living”.
 - Pronunciation guide:
 - ‘j’ = ‘s’ (pleasure)
 - ‘oi’ = ‘wa’ (wet)
 - ‘e’ in ‘de’ = ‘a’ (China)
 - ‘e’ at end of ‘vivre’ = ‘a’ (China)
 - Stress on first syllable of ‘vivre’.

- “Media” is plural of “medium”.
 - Traditionally takes plural verb (media are).
 - Now can take singular verb (media is) when viewed as a collective entity.
 - Usage reflects evolving language with changing perception.

- “A few” = some (positive sense).
 - Used when some quantity is more than expected.
 - “Few” = hardly any (negative sense).
 - Used when quantity is less than expected.
 - Context determines the choice.

- “To carry coals to Newcastle” means doing something unnecessary.
 - Newcastle (UK) is famous for its coal mines.
 - Example: Wasting effort on something already abundant.

- Language reflects culture, beliefs and evolving usage.
 - Understanding word origins and usage enriches communication.
 - Precision in expression depends on context and intent.

What India's young people are saying about families

Ask a grandmother in India what has changed since her time, and she will not talk to you about fertility rates. She will talk about her granddaughter, who finished college, has a city job, and is in no hurry to start a family. She will say it with pride and concern in the same breath, a blend the data reflects too.

The UNFPA survey

On World Population Day this year (July 11), UNFPA released the Demographic Futures Survey, the largest study of its kind, with over 1,08,000 young adults surveyed across 73 countries. It asked a simple question: not whether young people still wanted partnership and family, but what stood between them and it. (This year, India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare set the theme, "Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancies" or HTSP, a reminder that at the heart of every demographic number is a question of choice: whether young people can decide, freely and on their own timeline, when and how to build their families.)

India's fertility rate has settled at two children per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1. Some will hear that and reach for words like "baby bust" or "population crisis". At UNFPA, we see something else entirely. This is not a warning sign but the outcome of sustained government investment across decades, in girls' education, the National Health Mission, and expanding contraceptive choice and maternal health services. The share of young women married before 18 years has fallen from 23.3% to 20.1% in just the last few years. That is a policy achievement India's institutions can rightly take credit for.

But numbers tell more than one story at once, and if we stop at the good news, we miss what young India is trying to say.

Ask young people directly, and most want what generations before them wanted. Across the



Andrea M. Wojnar

UNFPA
Representative in
India and part of
Team UN in India

Young Indians still want families, but the conditions they seek reveal their aspirations, anxieties, and changing realities

country, four in 10 women and a third of men say that two children is their ideal family size. The Demographic Futures Survey found the same pattern across countries: young people are not turning away from family life; they are asking whether the conditions exist to build it. So why the hesitation here? When we ask young couples what stands between them and the life they picture, the answers are almost always practical.

Money comes first, cited by nearly four in 10.

Then housing. Then job security. Then a very simple, human worry: how well can we care for our children?

That last question falls on one set of shoulders far more than another. Young women in India spend over five hours a day on unpaid housework and caregiving; young men spend about half an hour. Only 15 in every 100 young women are in paid work, compared to 55 in every 100 young men. These are not merely statistics. They help explain why so many capable young women feel that they must choose between a career and a family, when no one should have to choose at all.

The climate change issue

There is a newer worry layered on top of the old ones. The survey found that nearly all young people say climate change is disrupting their lives, and about half say it affects their peace of mind. Nearly half of young Indians also report being very worried about conflict, economic insecurity and environmental risk all at once, among the higher rates recorded anywhere. Add high youth unemployment and a mental health conversation that is only beginning in many Indian households, and a fuller picture emerges.

This is not a generation rejecting parenthood. It is a generation asking, quite reasonably, whether the ground beneath it is steady enough to build on.

India is also marked by inter-State disparity. Bihar's fertility rate stands at 2.7, while Sikkim's is

just 1.0. Kerala, Delhi and Tamil Nadu have long settled below the replacement level, while Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are still catching up. These differences show that India's demographic transition is unfolding at different speeds across States, and that no single national policy can fully address every State's realities.

Responding to youth aspiration

The UNFPA's partnership with the Indian government and communities is aimed at translating what young people are telling us into practical support: high-quality, affordable and accessible childcare; families that share caregiving more equally; continued investment in stable, dignified work for young people entering the labour force; and greater attention to youth mental health, including climate anxiety, in conversations about family and the future.

The private sector also has a vital role to play through parental leave, flexible work arrangements and family-friendly workplaces that enable young people to balance work and caregiving. The UNFPA has a unique role in the United Nations development system as a leader in data collection, population dynamics and evidence-based policymaking. The Demographic Futures Survey shows how population data can the ground beneath it is steady enough to evidence-based policymaking. The Demographic Futures Survey shows how population data can and must be deployed to help countries understand, plan for and adapt to demographic shifts.

India is home to 255 million young people aged 15 to 24 years, the largest generation this country, or perhaps any country, has ever raised. This is India's demographic dividend, a window of opportunity that will not remain open indefinitely. The choices we make today will determine whether this generation can fully realise its potential before that window begins to close. Young Indians are not walking away from the idea of family. They are waiting for the conditions that would let them say yes to it fully.

- Young Indians still value family; 4 in 10 women and 1 in 3 men say two children is ideal.
- They are not rejecting family life; they seek the right conditions to build it.

- Money (40%), housing, and job security are top concerns before starting a family.
- Care for children is a major worry.

- Young women do >5 hours of unpaid work daily vs. men ~0.5 hour.
- Only 15% young women are in paid work vs. 55% young men.
- Many women feel forced to choose between career and family.

- Climate change is perceived to disrupt lives; ~50% say it affects peace of mind.
- High worries about conflict, economic insecurity, environment.
- Youth unemployment and mental health issues add to the pressure.

- India shows wide state-wise fertility differences.
- Bihar: 2.7 vs Sikkim: 1.0.
- Demographic transition is uneven; one-size-fits-all policy won't work.

- Support needed: affordable childcare, shared caregiving, stable jobs, mental health support.
- Private sector: parental leave, flexible work, family-friendly workplaces.

- UNFPA's role: data collection, evidence-based policy, and helping countries adapt to demographic shifts.
- Demographic data must guide planning.

- India's demographic dividend: 255 million youth (15–24 years).
- Window of opportunity is limited.

- Young Indians want families.
- They are waiting for secure jobs, support systems, and a sustainable future.

Building an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem

India's philanthropic landscape has changed more in the past decade than many realise. Domestic private giving – through family philanthropy, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and individual donors – has grown rapidly and now far outstrips annual foreign philanthropic inflows. A new generation of entrepreneurs is rethinking differently about giving, while millions of Indians are entering the markets through mutual funds, systematic investment plans (SIP), and Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Against this backdrop, the debate around the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) takes on a different meaning: less a dispute about foreign funding than a chapter in India's move toward a more self-reliant philanthropic future.

The first principle should not be controversial. Every sovereign nation has both the right and the responsibility to regulate foreign capital flowing into organisations that shape public life. This is neither unique to India nor illiberal: the United States requires disclosure under its Foreign Agents Registration Act, and Australia and several European democracies run comparable regimes. The question worth debating is not whether foreign funding should be regulated, but whether that regulation is proportionate, predictable and efficiently run.

There is also a gap between perception and reality. The impression is that tighter FCRA rules have hollowed out Indian development work; the numbers say otherwise. NITI Aayog's portal NGO Darpan portal lists roughly six lakh voluntary organisations, of which only about 14,500 hold active FCRA registration. Foreign contributions have themselves doubled over the decade, from about ₹10,000 crore to around ₹22,000 crore. The sector has not been starved of money from abroad.

The rise of domestic giving

The bigger change lies at home. Domestic private philanthropy now exceeds ₹1.18 lakh crore a year – more than five times foreign inflows – according to the Bain-Dasra India Philanthropy Report 2026.

Family philanthropy is growing at double-digit rates as a new generation of wealth creators comes to see giving as part of wealth stewardship. The centre of gravity of Indian philanthropy has quietly shifted home.

None of this erases the hardship of the transition. A small number of organisations faced delayed renewals, long processing times, or cancelled registrations, disrupting work in



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education, health, livelihoods, and rural development. This was not true of the sector as a whole, but for those affected, the disruption was real and deserves acknowledgement rather than dismissal.

The transition also exposed how unevenly the sector had prepared. Many organisations operate with exemplary governance; others had gone dormant or were well-meaning groups whose documentation had not kept pace with rising expectations.

India's companies went through a similar reckoning over the past three decades: stronger governance initially felt like a burden, but it ultimately became the very thing that won investor confidence and drew in capital. The social sector can follow the same path. If money is the fuel of philanthropy, trust is its currency.

Better, not tighter regulation

The goal should be better regulation, not just tighter regulation. An administrative slip should not carry the same penalty as fraud. A structured path comprising deficiency notices, defined windows to correct errors, opportunities to provide clarification, and an independent appellate body would protect the integrity of the law while sparing genuine organisations avoidable disruption. The newly launched FCRA 2.0 platform offers a real opportunity to simplify compliance and move towards risk-based supervision.

Fixing FCRA's administration, though, is only half the task; the larger prize is to build what we would call an Atmanirbhar ('self-reliant') philanthropy ecosystem. India's giving has moved through three phases: first, a reliance on foreign philanthropy, and second, the transformation wrought by CSR, which now channels over ₹40,000 crore a year into development. The third phase must be powered by Indian families, entrepreneurs and citizens.

The most immediate opportunity sits with India's fast-growing community of high-net-worth individuals, whose giving has lagged well behind the growth in their wealth. This is where the largest pool of new domestic capital can be unlocked over the coming decade, and where policy can help most.

India's tax framework does not yet signal that philanthropy is a national priority. Deductions under Section 80G are usually limited to half the donation and capped at 10% of adjusted gross total income. Few large donors hit those limits, but tax policy is also about signalling intent – and other countries have been emphatic, from

Singapore's 250% deduction to Britain's Gift Aid top-up and America's carry-forward provisions. India need not copy them wholesale. But raising the 80G deduction from 50% to 100%, as is already allowed for some categories, and lifting the ceiling to 25%, would cost the exchequer little while meaningfully improving the flow of long-term social capital.

Expanding the donor base

One mechanism deserves particular mention. Most first-generation entrepreneurs hold their wealth in equity, not cash. A framework allowing donations of appreciated listed shares to eligible charities – with appropriate safeguards and a reasonable disposal window of, say, one to three years so that recipients can sell in orderly fashion – could become one of the most powerful ways to unlock domestic philanthropic capital.

The next frontier, over a longer horizon, is to widen the base. India now has over 220 million demat accounts, widespread SIP investing and UPI in every pocket; the infrastructure for mass participation already exists. If even a fraction of households gave ₹100, ₹500 or ₹1,000 a month through trusted digital platforms, millions of citizens would become active partners in solving the country's social problems. The Social Stock Exchange could do for social capital what India's markets did for financial capital – a trusted national platform linking credible organisations to ordinary citizens through clear disclosure and measurable impact.

The argument runs deeper than the sums involved. Domestic philanthropy creates more than money; it creates ownership. When Indian citizens and businesses fund India's own social challenges, they bring governance, ideas, volunteering and accountability along with their capital, strengthening not just the non-profit sector but also the wider social contract. That is the real case for an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem.

Foreign philanthropy will still matter, particularly in research, innovation and the exchange of ideas. But as India approaches developed-nation status, it should complement India's social development, not shape it. The aspiration, in the end, is not merely to regulate foreign philanthropy well. It is to build a country where the overwhelming share of social transformation is financed, led and owned by Indians themselves.

That is the promise of an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem – and, we believe, the next chapter of India's development story.

- India's domestic private giving now far outstrips foreign philanthropic inflows.
- Driven by CSR, family philanthropy, SIPs, UPI, and a new generation of donors.
- Sovereign right to regulate foreign funding; regulation must be proportionate, predictable and efficient.
- Global precedent: U.S. (FARA), Australia, EU regulate foreign contributions.
- Perception vs reality: FCRA curbs did not hollow out the sector.
- ~6 lakh NGOs on Darpan; only ~14,500 have FCRA. Foreign contributions doubled (₹10,000 cr → ₹22,000 cr).
- Domestic private philanthropy > ₹1.18 lakh crore annually (5x foreign inflows).
- Family philanthropy growing at double-digit rates; giving seen as wealth stewardship.
- Transition challenges: delayed renewals, compliance hurdles.
- Uneven preparedness across organisations; documentation and governance gaps exposed.
- Goal: Better regulation, not tighter rules.
- FCRA 2.0 can enable risk-based supervision, clear correction windows, independent appellate body.
- Build an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem: 3 phases
 - Foreign philanthropy
 - CSR-led transformation (₹40,000 cr+)
 - Powered by Indian families, entrepreneurs, citizens
- Tax reforms needed:
 - Raise 80G deduction to 100%
 - Lift cap to 25% of adjusted gross income
- Global benchmarks: Singapore (250%), UK (Gift Aid), U.S. (carry-forward).
- Unlock equity philanthropy:
 - Allow donations of appreciated listed shares
 - Disposal window (1–3 years) for orderly sale by charities
- Next frontier: Mass participation.
 - Leverage 220M+ demat accounts, SIPs, UPI
 - Small monthly giving via digital platforms
 - Social Stock Exchange as trusted platform for social capital
- Domestic philanthropy creates ownership, governance, volunteering and accountability.
- Aim: Majority of social transformation financed, led and owned by Indians.

India's rarest heron faces a silent end as new dam ignores its home

Once the dam in the Lohit river basin is built, it could alter the water's turbidity and flow, and lead to the local extinction of white-bellied herons; the bird was first described in 1878 based on specimens from the Teesta region, the species does not occur there today; in fact, it has been 'critically endangered' since 2007

Aditya Ansh

The white-bellied heron (*Ardea insignis*) is amongst the world's most elusive birds, nesting along fast-flowing rivers lined with old growth forests.

"India has a population of six to nine individuals distributed in three rivers: Noa-Dehing River, Laham River and Lohit River," Yumlam Benjamin Bida, project manager, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, said. "Out of these three rivers, Laham is a tributary of the Lohit River and the river basin harbours 70% of India's white-bellied herons."

Yet on the Lohit, the Forest Advisory Committee under the Union Environment Ministry has granted in-principle clearance to a 1,200-MW hydroelectric power project that will fell more than 33,000 trees. The environmental impact assessment for the project also omitted white-bellied herons.

Borrowed time

"White-bellied herons have a very unique foraging strategy due to their huge body size" — up to around four-feet-tall, Mr. Bida said. "They hunt in shallow water and their dietary composition is only fish. They wait for the fish to come near and then strike it."

He added that the dam, once it is built, will alter the water's turbidity and flow, which could lead to the bird's "local extinction".

In 1878, the British ornithologist and naturalist Allan Octavian Hume first scientifically described the white-bellied heron based on specimens from the Teesta region in eastern India. The species is not known to occur there today.

According to Mr. Bida, it is not unknown for substantial changes in river conditions to lead to highly specialised species vanishing from that landscape.

Also, "The riparian mature forest plays a critical role for white-bellied herons, both for roosting and nesting. The hydroelectric power project will clear the mature riparian forest and let it get submerged, impacting the breeding of the species."

'No human disturbance'

White-bellied herons are in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, thus enjoying the highest level of legal protection. Even so, their range and population have declined significantly in the last century.

A 2019 review by the Tropical Resources Institute recorded the birds in parts of Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar at the beginning of the 20th century. Today, they are restricted to pockets of Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar.

"The white-bellied heron is known to



A white-bellied heron in Arunachal Pradesh. "White-bellied herons have a very unique foraging strategy due to their huge body size" — up to around four-feet-tall. "They hunt in shallow water and their dietary composition is only fish." RAJKUMAR99 (CC BY-SA)

elevations of about 1,500m above sea level," Murali Krishna, a wildlife ecologist who has worked extensively in the Eastern Himalaya, said.

"Based on my several years of observation in Arunachal Pradesh, the species appears to avoid even minimal anthropogenic disturbance and usually uses tall trees for nesting, in those areas where there is no human disturbance."

Overlooked in assessment

The project is being developed by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation India, Ltd. in partnership with the Arunachal Pradesh government. Its environmental impact assessment was prepared by WAPCOS, Ltd, a consultancy firm under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Although the Lohit River basin harbours most of these birds in India, the species did not feature in the project's impact assessment. According to the minutes of the Forest Advisory Committee meeting on December 19, 2025, State officials told the committee the birds had not been included because they had not been recorded within the project's diversion area.

The project also faced sustained opposition from local communities. Roshman Tawsik, resident of the Nukung Village and president of the District Congress Party Committee, said residents opposed the project since it was first proposed in 2008. "We do not want to sacrifice so much of our land and watch it getting submerged," he said.

During a public hearing in August 2025, community members questioned

variability and diverse forest types, and they form part of a global biodiversity hotspot," he added. So developmental interventions require "careful planning and a strong ecological understanding", and authorities must "move from region specific impact and look into impact at a broader level".

"For a species like white-bellied herons, ... there should be a basin-level approach, which entails assessing Lohit basin as one connected habitat, rather than looking at the site in isolation while assessing impacts on nesting, roosting, and feeding areas for white-bellied herons," Mr. Bida said.

Imon Abedin, a field biologist with Aaranyak, an environmental protection organisation, also said the species faces multiple pressures, including changes in river courses, removal of large river boulders, unregulated tourism, fish poisoning, sand extraction, and pollution.

As a result, "there is often no clear roadmap to adequately compensate for its ecological impacts, especially for species like the white-bellied herons that already exist in extremely precarious conditions."

Mr. Krishna said he believes conservation planning needs to move beyond its narrow focus on charismatic wildlife, like tigers and elephants, and adopt a more informed approach that would treat conservation efforts "like on a war-footing" and giving rare species like white-bellied herons the same level of urgency afforded to better-known conservation priorities.

(Aditya Ansh is an independent media writer in New Delhi. adityaansh30@gmail.com)

● White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*) is among the world's most elusive birds; India has only 6–9 individuals across three rivers: Noa-Dehing, Laham, and Lohit.

➤ Critically Endangered since 2007.

● Lohit river basin (harbouring 70% of India's population) faces threat from 1,200 MW hydroelectric project approved in-principle.

➤ Over 33,000 trees to be felled; environmental assessment omitted the species.

● Herons are fish-specialists, feeding in shallow water; dam will alter flow & turbidity, leading to local extinction.

➤ Depend on undisturbed mature riparian forests for nesting.

● First scientifically described in 1878 from Teesta region; not found there now due to habitat changes.

➤ Found in high-altitude, forested undisturbed river stretches (~1,500 m).

● Legally protected under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, yet populations have drastically declined.

➤ 2019 review: once in Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar; now confined to Arunachal, Bhutan, Myanmar.

● Project by THDC India Ltd with Arunachal Govt; EIA by WAPCOS.

➤ Species excluded from impact assessment as it wasn't "recorded" in diversion area.

● Strong local opposition since 2008; public hearing (Aug 2025) raised concerns over submergence and environmental costs.

➤ Communities fear loss of land, forests, and livelihoods.

● Experts call for basin-level assessment and broader ecological planning.

➤ Multiple threats: river modification, tourism, pollution, sand mining, fish poisoning.

● Conservation needs urgent, science-based, and inclusive planning with focus beyond charismatic species.

➤ Treat rare species conservation with same urgency as tigers/elephants.

1. भारत के सबसे दुर्लभ हेरॉन का मौन अंत?



- व्हाइट-बेलीड हेरॉन पर न्यामजांग छु जलविद्युत परियोजना से खतरा।
- यह पक्षी भारत, भूटान और म्यांमार में मिलता है।
- परियोजना स्थल इसके अंतिम प्रजनन आवासों में से एक पर।
- घोंसला, भोजन और आवाजाही क्षेत्र नष्ट होने का खतरा।
- आवास विखंडन से विलुप्ति का जोखिम बढ़ेगा।
- IUCN: क्लिटिकली एंडेंजर्ड; WPA, 1972: अनुसूची-I।

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2. बीटा पिक्टोरिस बी: हाइड्रेंड सीक

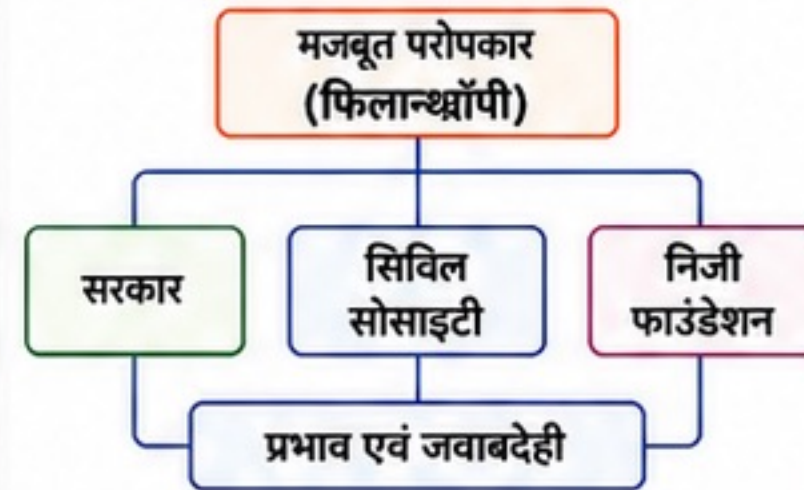


- बीटा पिक्टोरिस बी एक गैस जायंट एक्सोप्लैनेट है।
- यह ~63 लाइट-वर्ष दूर स्थित एक युवा तारा है।
- अपनी कक्षा में यह तारे के पीछे चला जाता है, अदृश्य हो जाता है।
- ऐसे समय में अवलोकन से कक्षा, वायुमंडल और गठन की समझ बढ़ती है।

- प्रत्यक्ष इमेजिंग से ग्रह निर्माण पर महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी मिलती है।
- डिटेक्शन विधियाँ: ट्रांजिट, रेडियल वेलोसिटी, डायरेक्ट इमेजिंग आदि।

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3. आत्मनिर्भर परोपकार इकोसिस्टम का निर्माण



- घरेलू परोपकार को मजबूत करना आवश्यक।
- दान नहीं, प्रभाव आधारित एवं रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोण।
- जलवायु, शोध, नवाचार और संस्थान निर्माण पर ध्यान।
- पारदर्शिता, जवाबदेही और मापनीय परिणाम जरूरी।
- CSR (धारा 135): शुद्ध लाभ का 2% अनिवार्य।
- चुनौतियाँ: संस्कृति, नियमन, क्षमता, मापन, समन्वय।

CSR • परोपकार • सुशासन
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4. भारत के युवा परिवारों के बारे में क्या सौच रहे हैं?



- युवा समानता और स्वायत्तता चाहते हैं।
- विवाह की आयु बढ़ रही है।
- आर्थिक स्थिरता विवाह का महत्वपूर्ण आधार।
- छोटी परिवार प्राथमिकता बन रही है।
- महिलाएँ शिक्षा, करियर और वित्तीय स्वतंत्रता पर जोर देती हैं।
- परिवार संस्था महत्वपूर्ण है, पर अपेक्षाएँ बदल रही हैं।

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5. भारत-यूके व्यापार समझौता: दोनों के लिए जीत



- व्यापार, निवेश और सेवाओं में विधिसनीयता एवं विस्तार।
- कई वस्तुओं पर टैरिफ में कमी, बाजार पहुँच बेहतर।
- भारत को टेक्स्टाइल, इंजीनियरिंग, फार्मा, जेम्स-एवं-ज्वेलरी, IT में लाभ।
- यूके को ऑटोमोबाइल, वित्तीय सेवाएँ, शिक्षा और प्रौद्योगिकी सहयोग में लाभ।
- नियमों की स्पष्टता से दीर्घकालिक निवेश को प्रोत्साहन।
- चुनौतियाँ: मूल नियम, मानकीकरण, गैर-टैरिफ बाधाएँ।

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6. इंडेक्स ऑफ कोर इंडस्ट्रीज (ICI) को नया स्वरूप



- आधार वर्ष 2011-12 से बदलकर 2022-23 किया गया।
- कोर सेक्टर 8 से बढ़कर 9 हुए; आयरन ओर जोड़ा गया।
- स्टील अब ग्राँस आऊटपुट से आँका जाएगा।
- कोयला: केवल कच्चा कोयला गिना जाएगा।
- भार वितरण बदला: बिजली ↑ कोयल, रिफाइनरी, गैस का भार ↓।
- समग्र औद्योगिक वृद्धि कथा लगभग अपरिवर्तित।

ICI • औद्योगिक उत्पादन • आधार वर्ष
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7. क्या भारत की प्लास्टिक नोटें बेहतर विकल्प होंगी?



- RBI ने पायलट आधार पर पॉलीमर नोट जारी करने का प्रस्ताव दिया।
- कागजी नोटों की तुलना में अधिक टिकाऊ और लंबे समय चलती हैं।
- नमी, गंदगी और फटने से अधिक प्रतिरोधी।
- अत्याधुनिक सुरक्षा विशेषताएँ जोड़ना आसान।
- प्रारंभिक लागत अधिक; ATM और मशीनों में बदलाव जरूरी।
- देशों का अनुभव मिश्रित; दीर्घकालिक लाभ अधिक।

मुद्रा प्रबंधन • पॉलीमर बैंकनोट • सुरक्षा
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8. क्या यशवंत वर्मा अब भी न्यायाधीश हैं?



- HC जज लिखित त्यागपत्र राष्ट्रपति को भेज सकते हैं (अनुच्छेद 217)।
- संविधान में राष्ट्रपति द्वारा स्वीकृति अनिवार्य नहीं।
- इस्तीफे के बाद उनकी सूची में बने रहना विधिक रूप से गलत।
- जांच रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत हो सकती हैं; जनहित में पारदर्शिता जरूरी।
- संसद द्वारा हटाने का प्रस्ताव तब अप्रासंगिक जब अधिकारी पद पर न हों।
- सुधार की आवश्यकता: लंबित हटाने प्रक्रिया में इस्तीफे से बचाव न हो।

न्यायपालिका • जवाबदेही • अनुच्छेद 217
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9. स्वच्छ ऊर्जा पर जोर, भारत के संक्रमण की चुनौती का समाधान



- स्वच्छ ऊर्जा भारत के ऊर्जा संक्रमण की कुंजी: UN जलवायु प्रमुख।
- आयात निर्भरता घटती, ऊर्जा सुरक्षा बढ़ती है।
- सेजगार, निवेश और दीर्घकालिक प्रतिस्पर्धा में सहायक।
- संक्रमण न्यायसंगत, समावेशी और सुलभ होना चाहिए।
- भारत का लक्ष्य: नेट जीरो 2070, नवीकरणीय क्षमता वृद्धि, कार्बन सिंक।
- चुनौतियाँ: ग्रिड, भंडारण, वित्त, तकनीक, आपूर्ति श्रृंखला, कौशल।

जस्ट ट्रांजिशन • नेट जीरो 2070 • नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा
GS III • पर्यावरण • जलवायु परिवर्तन

क्विक न्यूज (9)

- 1 सुचियों का मोह
रैंकिंग तभी उपयोगी जब परिणाम आधारित और पारदर्शी हो।
- 2 पहली बार घटे स्नातक नामांकन
AISHE डेटा में पहली बार अंडरग्रेजुएट नामांकन में गिरावट।
- 3 वैश्विक युद्धों से FTA वार्ता में देरी
भूराजनीतिक तनाव से व्यापार वार्ताएं प्रभावित, आपूर्ति श्रृंखला बाधित।
- 4 तेल \$90/बैरल से ऊपर, भारतीय बॉन्ड गिरे
कच्चे तेल की कीमत बढ़ने से बॉण्ड यील्ड बढ़ी, आयात दबाव बढ़ा।
- 5 कमजोर वैश्विक माहौल से IT खर्च दबाव में
S&P की लियॉग: अगले 3 वर्षों तक IT खर्च सीमित रहेगा।
- 6 एड मिलीबैंड विदेश सचिव बने;
कनिष्का नारायण AI की जिम्मेदारी संभालें
यूके कैबिनेट में भारतवंशी कनिष्का नारायण को AI नीति की अहम भूमिका।
- 7 दक्षिण चीन सागर विवाद ASEAN बैठक पर हावी
चीन के दावों और हालिया झड़पों से क्षेत्रीय तनाव बढ़ा।
- 8 भारतीय ऑयल ने हमलों के चलते
इराक से तेल उठाना रद्द किया
हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में जोखिम बढ़ने से आपूर्ति निर्णय प्रभावित।
- 9 भारत-यूके FTA से फर्म्स को निश्चिन्ता
व्यापार, टैरिफ और बाजार पहुँच पर व्यवसाय को पूर्वानुमेयता मिली।

प्रीलिम फैक्ट्स (9)

- 1 व्हाइट-बेलीड हेरॉन क्लिटिकली एंडेंजर्ड है।
- 2 बीटा पिक्टोरिस बी सीधे इमेज किया गया एक एक्सोप्लैनेट है।
- 3 ICI का नया आधार वर्ष 2022-23 है।
- 4 ICI में अब कुल 9 कोर सेक्टर हैं।
- 5 आयरन ओर को ICI में नया जोड़ा गया है।
- 6 प्लास्टिक नोटें अधिक टिकाऊ और सुरक्षित होती हैं।
- 7 उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश त्यागपत्र राष्ट्रपति को लिखते हैं (अनुच्छेद 217)।
- 8 UNFCCC 1992 में अपनाया गया और 1994 में लागू हुआ।
- 9 हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य फारस की खाड़ी और ओमान की खाड़ी को जोड़ता है।

वोकैबुलरी (5)

- 1 प्रूडेंस — दूरदर्शी और सावधान निर्णय क्षमता।
- 2 रिसिलियंस — विपरीत परिस्थितियों से उबरने की क्षमता।
- 3 इन्सूसिडिटी — सबको साथ लेकर चलने की समावेशी प्रवृत्ति।
- 4 सस्टेनेबिलिटी — दीर्घकाल तक टिकाऊ विकास सुनिश्चित करने की क्षमता।
- 5 इंटीग्रिटी — ईमानदारी और नैतिक अखंडता।

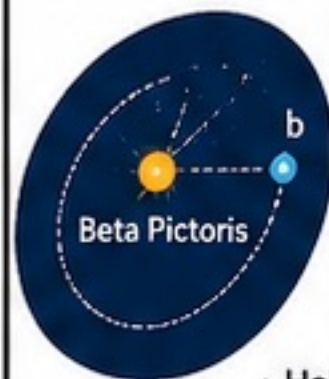
1. RAREST HERON FACES SILENT END



- White-bellied Heron faces threat from Nyamjang Chhu dam in Arunachal.
- Project site overlaps one of its last breeding habitats.
- Scientists warn nesting & feeding areas will be lost.
- River ecosystem vital for breeding, feeding, movement.
- Habitat fragmentation increases extinction risk.
- IUCN: Critically Endangered; WPA, 1972: Schedule I.

Biodiversity • Conservation • EIA
GS III • Environment • Species Protection

2. BETA PICTORIS b: HIDE & SEEK



- Beta Pictoris b is a giant exoplanet ~63 light-years away.
- Periodically moves behind its star; becomes invisible.
- One of the first exoplanets directly imaged.
- Helps refine orbit, atmosphere & planet evolution models.
- Improves understanding of planet formation in young systems.
- Detection methods: transit, radial velocity, direct imaging.

Exoplanet • Direct Imaging • Light-year
GS III • S&T • Space Science

3. BUILDING ATMANIRBHAR PHILANTHROPY ECOSYSTEM



- India needs stronger domestic philanthropy for development.
- Focus beyond charity to strategic, long-term impact.
- More investment needed in climate, research, innovation.
- Transparency, accountability & measurable outcomes vital.
- CSR (Sec 135): 2% of avg net profits on eligible activities.
- Challenges: culture, capacity, regulation, impact measurement.

CSR • Philanthropy • Governance
GS II • Development • Civil Society

4. WHAT INDIA'S YOUNG PEOPLE SAY ABOUT FAMILIES



- Youth value family but seek equality & autonomy.
- Marriage age rising; economic stability key.
- Preference for smaller families.
- Women prioritise education, career & financial independence.
- Shared responsibilities & better work-life balance.
- Families evolving, not disappearing.

Demographic Transition • Care Economy
GS II • Society • Social Change

5. INDIA-U.K. FTA: A WIN-WIN PACT



- FTA offers certainty for businesses in both nations.
- Tariff reduction across several product categories.
- Better access for goods, services & investment.
- India gains in textiles, gems, pharma, engineering, IT.
- U.K. gains in autos, financial services, education, tech.
- Predictable rules encourage long-term investments.

FTA • Market Access • Investment
GS III • IR • Economy • Trade Policy

6. INDIA'S ICI GETS AN UPDATED SERIES



- ICI base year revised from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- Core industries increased from 8 to 9; Iron Ore added.
- Steel now measured by Gross Output.
- Coal: only raw coal counted.
- Weight shifts: Electricity ↑; Coal, NG, Refinery products ↓.
- Broad growth story remains largely unchanged.

ICI • Industrial Growth • Base Year
GS III • Economy • Statistics

7. WILL PLASTIC NOTES BE A BETTER ALTERNATIVE?



- RBI proposes polymer notes on pilot basis.
- Longer life, higher durability than paper notes.
- Better resistance to moisture & difficult to counterfeit.
- Higher initial cost; infra & ATMs need modification.
- Experience: Australia, Canada, UK, Singapore, Malaysia.
- Requires recycling & public awareness.

Currency Management • Polymer Notes
GS III • Economy • Banking & Finance

8. IS YASHWANT VARMA STILL A JUDGE?



- HC judge can resign by writing to the President (Art 217).
- President's acceptance not required; resignation at will.
- Inquiry report can still be submitted (pre-resignation acts).
- Removal motion becomes infructuous after resignation.
- Loophole: resignation may bypass removal process.
- Calls for reforms while ensuring judicial independence.

Judiciary • Accountability • Art 217
GS III • Polity • Constitution

9. CLEAN ENERGY PUSH: UN CLIMATE CHIEF



- Clean energy key to India's transition challenges.
- Improves energy security, reduces import dependence.
- Creates jobs & attracts green investment.
- Transition must be just & inclusive.
- India: Net Zero by 2070; expanding renewables.
- Challenges: grid, storage, finance, critical minerals.

Just Transition • Net Zero 2070
GS III • Environment • Energy

QUICK NEWS (9)

- 1 **Lists of folly**
Rankings must be outcome-based, not compliance-driven.
- 2 **UG enrolments decline in India**
AISHE data show first decline in undergraduate enrolments.
- 3 **Global wars delaying FTA talks**
Conflicts disrupting negotiations, supply chains & trade flows.
- 4 **Indian bonds crumble as oil surges over \$90/barrel**
Higher crude weakens bonds; rises inflation & import bill.
- 5 **Weak macro conditions to limit IT spend for 3 more years**
Global demand slowdown to constrain IT spending.
- 6 **Ed Miliband UK Foreign Secy; India-born Kanishka Narayan handles AI**
New UK Cabinet includes strong India-connect in key roles.
- 7 **South China Sea rivalry looms over ASEAN meeting**
Tensions likely to dominate regional discussions.
- 8 **Indian Oil Corp cancels Iraq oil lifting amid attacks**
Security risks near Strait of Hormuz trigger decision.
- 9 **India-U.K. FTA gives predictability for firms**
Businesses welcome certainty in tariffs & market access.

PRELIM FACTS (9)

- 1 White-bellied Heron is among the world's rarest birds.
- 2 Beta Pictoris b is a directly imaged exoplanet.
- 3 ICI base year updated to 2022-23.
- 4 Core industries in ICI now increased to 9.
- 5 Iron Ore added to the ICI series.
- 6 Polymer notes offer longer life & higher security.
- 7 HC judge can resign by writing to the President (Art 217).
- 8 UNFCCC adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1994.
- 9 Strait of Hormuz connects Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman.

VOCABULARY (5)

- 1 **Salient** — Most important; key
- 2 **Paradigm** — A set of ideas forming a model
- 3 **Inculcate** — Impress gradually
- 4 **Resilience** — Capacity to recover quickly
- 5 **Exigency** — Pressing need or urgency