



# **TARGET: PRELIMS 2026**

**NOV., 2025**  
30 pager notes

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## **Polity**

### **Acts/Bills in News**

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Name of Act / Bill / Code	Easy Explanation	Relevance / Example	Status / Issue in News
<b>Code on Wages, 2019</b>	Sets a uniform definition of wages, minimum wages, overtime rules and payment timelines across sectors	Affects workers' income security; introduces National Floor Wage; impacts Centre–State powers on wage fixation	Implementation delayed due to States not notifying Rules
<b>Code on Social Security, 2020</b>	Merges 9 social security laws; extends coverage to gig and platform workers	First legal recognition of gig workers; affects EPFO, ESIC, gratuity norms	Some States (e.g. TN) yet to notify Rules
<b>Industrial Relations Code, 2020</b>	Regulates trade unions, strikes, layoffs and retrenchment	Raises threshold for govt approval for layoffs (100 → 300 workers); impacts right to strike	Trade union opposition; part of labour code rollout
<b>Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020</b>	Consolidates 13 laws on workplace safety and working conditions	Allows women night work with safeguards; mandates appointment letters	Awaiting full operationalisation
<b>Four Labour Codes (collectively)</b>	Simplifies 29 old labour laws into 4 modern codes	Major labour reform; balance between ease of business and workers' rights	Rules notified by most States; Centre re-opening consultation
<b>Draft Seeds Bill (2025)</b>	Updates India's seed regulation laws of 1966 & 1983	Impacts farmers' rights, seed quality, corporatisation fears	Draft stage; farmers' groups opposing provisions
<b>Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Act, 2001</b>	Protects farmers' rights over seeds and plant varieties	Used as benchmark to assess Draft Seeds Bill	Concerns about dilution via new Bill
<b>Biological Diversity Act, 2002</b>	Conserves biodiversity and regulates use of biological resources	Seed sovereignty & access-benefit sharing debates	Cited in criticism of Draft Seeds Bill
<b>Article 200 (Indian Constitution)</b>	Governor's power to assent, return or reserve State Bills	Central to Centre–State friction and federalism	SC advisory opinion widened Governor's discretion
<b>Article 143 (Indian Constitution)</b>	Allows President to seek advisory opinion from Supreme Court	Clarifies constitutional ambiguities without adversarial litigation	Used to seek clarity on Governor's assent powers
<b>Article 142 (Indian Constitution)</b>	SC's power to do "complete justice"	Debate on judicial overreach vs constitutional limits	SC ruled it cannot create "deemed assent"
<b>Article 240 (Indian Constitution)</b>	President's power to make regulations for certain UTs	Raises concerns of democratic deficit in UT governance	In news regarding Chandigarh
<b>US Senate Filibuster Rule</b>	Procedure allowing minority to block legislation unless 60 votes obtained	Shows tension between majority rule and checks	Trump calling for its removal amid shutdown

## Government Schemes in News

Scheme / Programme	Easy Explanation (What it is)	Relevance / Example (Why it matters)
<b>Poshan Tracker</b>	A digital system to track nutrition delivery through Anganwadi centres	Prevents fake beneficiaries, leakage; uses e-KYC and facial recognition
<b>POSHAN Abhiyaan</b>	National nutrition mission to reduce malnutrition among children, women	Poshan Tracker is its tech backbone





<b>e-KYC in Welfare Schemes</b>	Aadhaar-based identity verification of beneficiaries	Stops duplication but raises exclusion risks
<b>Facial Recognition System (FRS)</b>	Biometric verification for welfare delivery	Improves targeting, reduces fraud
<b>MGNREGA</b>	Employment guarantee scheme providing 100 days of rural work	Issues raised about e-KYC excluding workers
<b>ICDS (Anganwadi Services)</b>	Early childhood care, nutrition, health & education	Poshan Tracker implemented through ICDS
<b>EPFO &amp; ESIC (under Social Security Code)</b>	Social security institutions for workers	Coverage expanded to new categories
<b>Gig &amp; Platform Worker Welfare (under Social Security Code)</b>	Social security for app-based workers	Aggregators to contribute to welfare fund
<b>National Floor Wage</b>	Minimum wage benchmark set by Centre	Ensures wage uniformity across States

## Economy

### Sustainable Development

<b>Scheme / Initiative Name</b>	<b>Easy Explanation</b>	<b>Relevance / Example</b>
<b>National Green Hydrogen Mission</b>	A government mission to promote production and use of green hydrogen made using renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.	Helps India reduce carbon emissions, cut import dependence on fossil fuels, and emerge as a global green energy hub. Frequently linked with net-zero targets.
<b>Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)</b>	Government-issued bonds where the money raised is used only for environmentally sustainable projects.	Used to finance renewable energy, clean transport, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Tests India's credibility in green finance markets.
<b>PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana</b>	A rooftop solar scheme providing subsidies to households so they can generate their own electricity.	Promotes decentralised renewable energy, reduces electricity bills, and supports climate mitigation at the household level.
<b>PLI Scheme – Solar PV Modules</b>	Incentive scheme to boost domestic manufacturing of solar photovoltaic modules.	Reduces import dependence on China, supports Make in India, and strengthens India's renewable energy supply chain.
<b>National Carbon Market (India Carbon Market – ICM)</b>	A framework to allow trading of carbon credits generated by emission reductions.	Creates market-based incentives for industries to cut emissions; aligns India with global carbon trading mechanisms.
<b>Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme</b>	Policy to mix ethanol with petrol to reduce crude oil imports and emissions.	Supports farmers (sugarcane, maize), reduces carbon footprint, and enhances energy security.
<b>Climate Finance Taxonomy (proposed)</b>	A classification system to define what counts as “green” or “sustainable” investments in India.	Prevents greenwashing and channels private finance into genuinely sustainable projects. Important for future green bonds and ESG investments.
<b>National Bio-Energy Mission</b>	Promotes energy generation from biomass, biogas, and agricultural waste.	Converts waste into energy, supplements rural income, and reduces pollution from stubble burning.





<b>LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Movement</b>	A behavioural initiative encouraging sustainable consumption patterns.	Shifts focus from only government action to citizen participation in sustainable development. Often cited in climate diplomacy.
<b>Coastal Regulation &amp; Climate Resilience Projects</b>	Projects aimed at protecting coastal areas from erosion, sea-level rise, and climate shocks.	Links economic development with climate adaptation, especially for fishing communities and coastal infrastructure.

## Economic Trends

Trend / Scheme Name	Easy Explanation	Key Sectors Affected	Timeframe / Impact
<b>Widening Merchandise Trade Deficit</b>	India's imports grew faster than exports, mainly due to higher gold and silver imports during the festive season, while goods exports slowed.	Trade, manufacturing, external sector, forex	Short-term spike (Oct); manageable as services exports remain strong
<b>Services-led Export Growth</b>	While merchandise exports fell, services exports (IT, consultancy, finance) continued to grow strongly.	IT services, business services, employment	Medium-term stabiliser for current account
<b>Impact of US Tariffs on Indian Exports</b>	Higher US tariffs reduced India's goods exports, especially in labour-intensive sectors, forcing exporters to offer discounts.	Textiles, engineering goods, MSMEs	Short to medium term; depends on US trade policy
<b>Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Review Phase</b>	RBI's inflation framework (4% $\pm$ 2%) is under review ahead of 2026, focusing on headline vs core inflation.	Monetary policy, banking, consumers	Structural, long-term policy impact
<b>Food Inflation Spillover Effect</b>	Food price increases are no longer purely supply-driven; they now influence wages and core inflation.	Agriculture, FMCG, labour markets	Persistent trend affecting policy decisions
<b>Shift Towards Green &amp; Climate-linked Public Spending</b>	Greater emphasis on forests, clean energy, and resilience as economic assets rather than costs.	Infrastructure, energy, environment-linked industries	Long-term growth strategy
<b>Green Finance Expansion</b>	Increased use of green bonds and climate-linked funding instruments to finance sustainable projects.	Financial markets, infrastructure, renewables	Medium to long term
<b>Agricultural Export Diversification</b>	Growth driven by non-basmati rice, marine products, coffee, fruits, and vegetables after easing restrictions.	Agriculture, logistics, agri-processing	Medium-term positive trend
<b>Climate Stress on Traditional Crops</b>	Rising temperatures and rainfall variability affecting crops like tea, impacting yield and quality.	Plantation economy, rural employment	Long-term structural risk
<b>Industrial Sustainability Reorientation</b>	Movement away from token green compliance toward landscape-level ecological restoration.	Manufacturing, mining, industrial corridors	Long-term competitiveness factor
<b>BRICS-led De-dollarisation Push (Payments)</b>	Efforts to reduce reliance on dollar-dominated systems through local-currency settlements and payment integration.	Banking, international trade, geopolitics	Medium to long term; gradual impact
<b>Fiscal Discipline as Inflation Anchor</b>	Recognition that loose fiscal policy can undermine inflation control despite RBI actions.	Public finance, debt markets	Structural, ongoing





## Economic Developments

Development / Initiative Name	Easy Explanation (What it is)	Relevance / Example (Why it matters)
<b>Review of Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Framework</b>	RBI has initiated a review of India's inflation targeting framework (4% $\pm$ 2%) ahead of its 2026 renewal.	Impacts future monetary policy stance, interest rates, and coordination with fiscal policy. UPSC favourite for economy-polity overlap.
<b>Emphasis on Headline Inflation over Core Inflation</b>	RBI and economists argue that food inflation cannot be ignored because it spills over into wages and other prices.	Strengthens case for tighter monetary response during food inflation episodes; relevant for India-specific inflation dynamics.
<b>Softening of Supreme Court stance on Telecom AGR dues</b>	The Supreme Court allowed reconsideration of interest and penalties on telecom AGR dues.	Provides relief to stressed telecom sector; example of judiciary recognising economic consequences of past rulings.
<b>Expansion of Green Finance Instruments</b>	Continued use and discussion of sovereign green bonds and climate-linked financing.	Signals India's shift toward market-based funding for sustainable infrastructure and climate commitments.
<b>Growth in Agricultural Exports despite Global Slowdown</b>	India's farm exports grew faster than overall exports due to rice, marine products, coffee, fruits, and vegetables.	Shows agriculture as a stabilising sector; relevant for trade diversification and rural income questions.
<b>Festive-season Surge in Gold and Silver Imports</b>	Imports rose sharply during festivals, widening the trade deficit temporarily.	Helps distinguish cyclical vs structural trade deficit—important for prelims elimination techniques.
<b>Services Exports as a Cushion to External Shocks</b>	Strong growth in IT and services offset weakness in merchandise exports.	Reinforces India's services-led growth model; relevant for CAD and forex stability.
<b>Integration of Ecology with Economic Planning</b>	Policy discussions increasingly treat forests, biodiversity, and resilience as economic assets, not costs.	Supports the narrative of sustainable development and green growth; useful for GS-3 answers.
<b>Climate Adaptation entering Economic Policy Discourse</b>	Greater focus on resilience spending (floods, droughts, cyclones) alongside mitigation.	Indicates shift from emission-only focus to adaptation financing—important for developing countries like India.
<b>Strengthening of Domestic Manufacturing in Clean Energy</b>	Continued push for domestic solar, bio-energy, and green technologies.	Reduces import dependence, creates jobs, and supports energy transition goals.

## Crops in News

Crop	When it is Grown (India)	Major Producing Regions (India)	World's Leading Producer	Why in News (Nov context)	Economic / Exam Relevance
<b>Non-Basmati Rice</b>	Kharif (sown Jun–Jul, harvested Oct–Nov); some Rabi varieties	West Bengal, UP, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	India (largest exporter of rice globally)	Export restrictions were eased, leading to a rise in agricultural exports	Affects food inflation, trade balance, farmer incomes; UPSC often links rice exports with domestic price stability
<b>Paddy (Rice – overall)</b>	Mainly Kharif; limited Rabi (boro rice)	Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh	China (largest producer), India (2nd)	Record paddy output in Tamil Nadu led to storage and procurement stress	Highlights post-harvest infrastructure gaps, FCI storage issues, and inefficiencies in food management





<b>Tea</b>	Perennial crop; plucking mostly Mar–Nov	Assam, West Bengal (Darjeeling), Tamil Nadu, Kerala	China (largest), India (2nd)	Climate stress reducing suitability of traditional tea regions	Shows long-term climate risk to plantation economy, export competitiveness, and rural employment
<b>Coffee</b>	Grown year-round; harvested Oct–Jan	Karnataka (largest), Kerala, Tamil Nadu	Brazil (largest), Vietnam (2nd)	Export growth driven by high global coffee prices	Illustrates how global commodity cycles affect Indian farm exports and farmers' income

## Agricultural Practices in News

Practice / Input	Easy Explanation (What it is)	Crops / Regions Linked	Why Relevant Now	UPSC Angle
<b>Climate-Resilient Farming</b>	Farming methods adapted to heat stress, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather.	Tea (Assam, Darjeeling), plantation crops	Climate stress on tea highlighted shift from yield to resilience	Adaptation vs mitigation; climate change & agriculture
<b>Shade-Based Plantation Farming</b>	Use of shade trees to reduce heat stress and moisture loss.	Tea, coffee	Discussed as response to rising temperatures	Sustainable plantation practices; biodiversity co-benefits
<b>Crop Diversification</b>	Moving away from single-crop dependence to multiple income sources.	Tea regions diversifying into fruits, spices, fisheries	Climate risk + income stability	Reduces farm distress; common GS-3 theme
<b>Water-Efficient Practices</b>	Micro-irrigation, mulching, soil moisture retention.	Plantation & diversified farms	Erratic rainfall patterns	Water-use efficiency
<b>Livelihood-Linked Farming</b>	Farming combined with tourism, fisheries, allied activities.	Plantation belts	Income diversification due to climate stress	Allied activities in agriculture

## Science Tech

### SPACE MISSIONS IN NEWS

Mission Name	Space Agency	Year Launched	Objectives	Special Feature
<b>Sentinel-6B</b>	NASA, NOAA, European Space Agency (ESA)	2025	To precisely measure <b>global sea-level rise</b> , ocean surface height, and ocean temperature for climate and weather prediction.	Works in tandem with <b>Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich (2020)</b> ; provides sea-level measurements accurate to about <b>1 inch for over 90% of Earth's oceans</b> ; completes a continuous sea-level data record started in the 1990s.







<b>Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich</b> (contextual reference)	NASA, NOAA, ESA	2020	Long-term monitoring of sea-level rise and ocean dynamics.	Acts as the <b>twin satellite</b> to Sentinel-6B, allowing cross-calibration and uninterrupted climate data continuity.
<b>International Space Station – Exposed Plant Experiment (Moss Study)</b>	JAXA (Japan) with ISS partners	Experiment conducted in 2024–25; results reported in Nov 2025	To test survival of <b>plant tissues in open space conditions</b> (UV radiation, vacuum, temperature extremes, microgravity).	<b>Moss spores (Physcomitrium patens)</b> survived <b>9 months outside the ISS</b> with up to <b>86–95% germination</b> , showing extreme biological resilience and relevance for <b>future space habitats</b> .
<b>LOFAR Stellar Observation (Exoplanet Space Weather Study)</b>	International LOFAR Telescope Network	Observation reported in 2025	To study stellar activity beyond the Sun by detecting energetic events on other stars.	First-ever <b>coronal mass ejection (CME)</b> detected on a star outside the solar system; eruption was <b>10,000× stronger than solar CMEs</b> , reshaping understanding of exoplanet habitability.

## Diseases in News

Name	Symptoms	Causing Organism	Mode of Infection	Areas Spread	Genetic Material	Treatment	Vaccine
<b>Tuberculosis (TB)</b>	Chronic cough, fever, night sweats, weight loss, fatigue	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Airborne droplets (coughing, sneezing)	Global; high burden in India	Bacterium (DNA)	Long-term antibiotic regimen (6–9 months or more)	<b>BCG</b> (limited protection, especially in adults)
<b>Snakebite Envenomation</b>	Pain, swelling, bleeding, paralysis, organ failure (depending on species)	Snake venom (toxins from snakes, esp. vipers, cobras, kraits)	Bite from venomous snake	Rural India, tropical regions	Not applicable (toxin-mediated)	Anti-snake venom (ASV), supportive care	No
<b>COVID-19 (in children – risk assessment study)</b>	Fever, cough, breathlessness; MIS-C in severe cases	SARS-CoV-2	Respiratory droplets, aerosols	Global	RNA virus	Supportive care; antivirals in severe cases	Yes (COVID-19 vaccines)







<b>Cancer (diet-linked risk reduction study)</b>	Varies by cancer type	Multifactorial (genetic + environmental)	Not infectious	Global	Not applicable	Surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, targeted therapy	No
<b>Diabetes (Type 2 – lifestyle-related)</b>	Increased thirst, frequent urination, fatigue	Metabolic disorder (insulin resistance)	Non-infectious	Global	Not applicable	Lifestyle changes, oral drugs, insulin	No
<b>Heavy Metal Toxicity (from fish consumption)</b>	Neurological issues, kidney damage, gastrointestinal symptoms	Heavy metals (e.g., mercury)	Food chain (contaminated fish)	Cauvery basin (study-specific)	Not applicable	Reducing exposure, chelation in severe cases	No

## Vaccines in News

Name	Type of Vaccine	Used in India?	Effective Till
<b>COVID-19 Vaccine (mRNA – Pfizer-BioNTech)</b>	mRNA vaccine	Yes (approved and used, especially in children/adolescents in limited settings)	Protection against severe disease lasts <b>several months</b> ; booster effectiveness depends on variant circulation and immune status
<b>BCG Vaccine</b> (contextual reference)	Live attenuated bacterial vaccine	Yes (part of India's Universal Immunisation Programme)	Partial protection in childhood; <b>limited effectiveness in adults</b> against pulmonary TB

## Discoveries and Inventions

Name	What It Does	Sector	Applications	Shortcomings
<b>Moss Survival in Outer Space (ISS Experiment)</b>	Demonstrated that moss spores can survive prolonged exposure to vacuum, radiation, microgravity, and extreme temperature outside the ISS.	Astrobiology / Space Biology	Supports feasibility of <b>space farming</b> , closed-loop life-support systems, and long-duration human space missions.	Survival observed in controlled experimental setup; scaling to complex crops still uncertain.





<b>Extra-Solar Coronal Mass Ejection Detection</b>	First-ever detection of a coronal mass ejection from a star outside the solar system using low-frequency radio waves.	Astrophysics / Space Weather	Helps assess <b>habitability of exoplanets</b> and understand stellar radiation threats to planetary atmospheres.	Based on indirect radio signatures; direct imaging not yet possible.
<b>Plant-Based Dietary Shift &amp; Health Outcomes Study</b>	Showed that shifting to minimally processed plant foods reduces risk of lifestyle-related diseases.	Nutrition Science / Public Health	Informs dietary guidelines and preventive healthcare policy.	Observational correlations; long-term controlled trials needed.
<b>Heavy-Metal Bioaccumulation Mapping in River Fish</b>	Identified accumulation of mercury and other heavy metals in fish species due to industrial pollution.	Environmental Science / Ecotoxicology	Aids food safety regulation, river pollution control, and public	

## Green Technology

Name	What It Is	Sector	Purpose / Use
<b>Sentinel-6 Sea-Level Monitoring System</b>	Satellite-based high-precision altimetry system to track global sea-level rise and ocean dynamics.	Climate Science / Earth Observation	Improves climate change assessment, coastal planning, disaster preparedness, and long-term climate modelling.
<b>Plant-Based Food Systems Transition</b>	Shift from animal-based to minimally processed plant foods backed by scientific evidence.	Sustainable Nutrition / Climate Mitigation	Reduces greenhouse gas emissions, land use pressure, and water footprint while improving public health.
<b>Heavy-Metal Pollution Mapping in River Ecosystems</b>	Scientific assessment of mercury and metal accumulation in fish due to industrial effluents.	Environmental Monitoring / Ecotechnology	Supports pollution control, safer food systems, river rejuvenation, and regulatory action.
<b>Community-Centric Tribal Health Models (Melghat)</b>	Low-cost, decentralised health and nutrition interventions with sustainability focus.	Social Sustainability / Public Health	Builds resilient, low-carbon health systems through preventive care rather than resource-intensive treatment.
<b>Biodiversity-Resilient Space Biology Research</b>	Use of hardy plant species (moss) to study ecological survival under extreme conditions.	Green Space Biology / Astrobiology	Supports sustainable life-support systems for space missions and future off-Earth habitats.





# Environment

## Protected Areas in News

Protected Areas	Location	Key Details	Famous for
Galathea Bay (former Wildlife Sanctuary)	Great Nicobar Island, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Earlier notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary; <b>denotified in 2021</b> by the National Board for Wildlife. November 2025 news revealed the Environment Ministry admitted before NGT that the area still has rich ecological features, contradicting earlier claims. Falls under <b>CRZ-IA</b> .	Nesting site of <b>Giant Leatherback Turtle</b> , <b>Nicobar Megapode</b> nesting mounds, rich <b>coral colonies</b> (20,000+).
Aravalli Hills (ecologically sensitive region)	Rajasthan–Haryana–Delhi belt	Highlighted in articles stressing the need for <b>Supreme Court protection</b> against mining, urbanisation, and forest fragmentation. Though not a notified national park, repeatedly treated as a critical ecological region.	Oldest mountain range in India; acts as <b>green lung</b> for NCR, groundwater recharge, biodiversity corridor.

## Animal/Plant Species in News

Name	Why in News?	Important Information	IUCN Status
Rhesus Macaque (Macaca mulatta)	Debate on need for legal protection despite high visibility near humans.	Removed from <b>Schedule II</b> of the Wildlife (Protection) Act in 2022; high human–animal conflict but declining habitat quality; visibility ≠ population security.	<i>Least Concern</i>
Humboldt Penguin (Spheniscus humboldti)	Chile raised alarm over shrinking populations.	Depends on cold Humboldt Current; threatened by <b>overfishing</b> , <b>climate change</b> , and <b>El Niño</b> events reducing fish availability.	<i>Vulnerable</i>
Indian Elephant (Elephas maximus indicus)	Findings referenced alongside habitat fragmentation concerns.	India hosts the largest Asian elephant population; key threats include <b>linear infrastructure</b> , <b>human–elephant conflict</b> , and corridor loss.	<i>Endangered</i>
Indian Dugong (Dugong dugon)	Explained as India’s threatened “seacow”.	Dependent on <b>seagrass meadows</b> ; affected by trawling, coastal pollution, and boat strikes; indicator of healthy coastal ecosystems.	<i>Vulnerable</i>



<b>Physcomitrium patens (Moss spores)</b>	Study showed survival after <b>space exposure</b> outside the ISS.	Spores survived extreme UV, vacuum, heat, and freezing; insights for <b>astrobiology</b> and resilience of early land plants.	Not Evaluated
<b>Snakes of India (multiple species)</b>	High snakebite mortality highlighted.	India records ~58,000 snakebite deaths annually; issues include poor access to antivenom and lack of trained medical response.	Mixed (species-wise)

## Some EVS terms

Theme	What it means
<b>Environment–Public Health Convergence</b>	Rising snakebite deaths are now being indirectly linked to climate variability, altered habitats, flooding, and extreme heat pushing snakes closer to human settlements.
<b>Island Ecology vs Development</b>	Galathea Bay shows how EIAs often underestimate ecological value in islands; once denotified, damage becomes legally “permissible.”
<b>Judicialisation of Environmental Governance</b>	Aravallis, Galathea Bay, CRZ violations — courts stepping in due to absence or weak enforcement of laws.
<b>Legal Vacuum for Ecologically Sensitive Regions</b>	Landscapes like Aravallis lack a single umbrella law despite ecological importance; protection is piecemeal.
<b>Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier</b>	Penguins, dugongs, birds, snakes — climate change amplifies existing threats rather than acting alone.
<b>Visibility ≠ Conservation Security</b>	Rhesus macaque example shows that abundance near humans can mask long-term ecological stress.
<b>Coastal &amp; Marine Neglect Bias</b>	CRZ violations, dugong decline, penguin stress — marine ecosystems remain weaker in enforcement than forests.

## Organizations

### 1. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

**Formed:** 1944 (Bretton Woods Conference)

**Why formed:** To ensure global monetary stability, facilitate international trade, and provide financial assistance during balance-of-payments crises.

**Intro:** A global financial institution that monitors macroeconomic stability and lends to countries facing external payment stress.

**Members:** 190 countries — USA, India, China, Japan, Germany, UK, France, etc.

**Observers:** World Bank, WTO, OECD, regional development banks.



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**Why in News:**

IMF gave India a '**C**' grade for national accounts statistics, citing outdated base years (2011–12) and weak coverage of the informal sector.

**India's Role:**

India is a founding member and advocates IMF quota reforms to reflect emerging economies' real economic weight; government plans to update GDP, CPI, and IIP base years by 2026.

**2. UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**

**Formed:** 1982 (entered into force in 1994)

**Why formed:** To establish a legal framework governing oceans, seas, maritime zones, and marine resources.

**Intro:** Known as the "Constitution of the Oceans," it defines rights and responsibilities of states over maritime spaces.

**Members:** 169 parties — India, China, Russia, EU, Japan, Australia, etc.

**Observers:** USA (has not ratified), Cook Islands, Niue.

**Why in News:**

Cited for **gaps in governing biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction**, which led to the creation of the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ).

**India's Role:**

India is a party to UNCLOS and uses it as the legal basis for deep-sea exploration, EEZ rights, and participation in global ocean governance.

**3. High Seas Treaty / BBNJ Agreement**

**Formed:** Adopted in June 2023; enters into force January 2026

**Why formed:** To protect marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (high seas).

**Intro:** A landmark treaty filling gaps left by UNCLOS regarding conservation and equitable use of high-seas resources.

**Members:** Ratified by 60+ countries (as of Sept 2025); includes India, EU members, several developing countries.

**Observers:** NGOs, research institutions, international marine bodies.

**Why in News:**

Treaty ratified by required countries; detailed discussion on **challenges like biopiracy, benefit-sharing, and enforcement**.

**India's Role:**

India supports equity-based benefit sharing of marine genetic resources and capacity building for developing countries.

**4. International Seabed Authority (ISA)**

**Formed:** 1994 (under UNCLOS)

**Why formed:** To regulate mineral exploration and exploitation in the international seabed ("Area").

**Intro:** Manages deep-sea resources beyond national jurisdiction for the benefit of mankind.

**Members:** 168 countries — India, China, Russia, Japan, Germany, France, etc.

**Observers:** Holy See, Palestine, IMO, IOC-UNESCO.

**Why in News:**

Referenced indirectly through seabed governance and deep-sea resource debates under UNCLOS and BBNJ.

**India's Role:**

India is a pioneer investor with ISA contracts and links seabed exploration to its **Deep Ocean Mission**.





## 5. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

**Formed:** 1988 (by WMO & UNEP)

**Why formed:** To provide scientific assessments on climate change, its impacts, and mitigation pathways.

**Intro:** The world's most authoritative scientific body on climate change science.

**Members:** 195 countries — India, USA, China, EU members, etc.

**Observers:** UN bodies, NGOs, research organisations.

**Why in News:**

IPCC benchmarks cited to show **US climate action falling short of required emission cuts**.

**India's Role:**

Indian scientists contribute to IPCC reports; India uses IPCC science to argue for climate equity and adaptation finance.

## 6. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

**Formed:** 1992 (Rio Earth Summit)

**Why formed:** To stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations and coordinate global climate action.

**Intro:** Parent treaty of the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.

**Members:** 198 parties — near-universal membership including India, USA, China, EU.

**Observers:** NGOs, IPCC, regional bodies, research institutions.

**Why in News:**

Referenced due to **COP30 preparations** and debates on global climate leadership.

**India's Role:**

India stresses **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**, adaptation finance, and implementation over rhetoric.

## 7. Conference of Parties (COP30)

**Formed:** Annual meetings under UNFCCC (COP30 in 2025)

**Why formed:** To review climate commitments and negotiate collective action.

**Intro:** Highest decision-making body under UNFCCC.

**Members:** All UNFCCC parties.

**Observers:** NGOs, media, research institutions, business groups.

**Why in News:**

COP30 in **Belém, Brazil** highlighted due to **US absence** and Suriname's ambitious forest pledge.

**India's Role:**

India participates actively, focusing on climate finance, adaptation needs, and Global South concerns.

## 8. World Bank

**Formed:** 1944 (Bretton Woods)

**Why formed:** To support reconstruction and development through long-term financing.

**Intro:** A global development lender focused on poverty reduction and infrastructure.

**Members:** 189 countries — India, USA, China, Japan, Germany, etc.

**Observers:** IMF, UN agencies, regional development banks.



**Why in News:**

Mentioned as part of **US-influenced global financial institutions** shaping climate finance and development priorities.

**India's Role:**

India is a major borrower and increasingly a policy influencer on climate-resilient development.

**9. BRICS**

**Formed:** 2006 (formalised in 2009)

**Why formed:** To promote cooperation among major emerging economies and reduce Western dominance.

**Intro:** A political-economic grouping seeking multipolar global governance.

**Members:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (+ new members like Iran, etc.).

**Observers:** Partner countries and invited states.

**Why in News:**

BRICS efforts to **challenge SWIFT** and dollar dominance through alternative payment systems.

**India's Role:**

India supports financial multipolarity while ensuring BRICS remains development-focused, not bloc-driven.

**10. New Development Bank (NDB)**

**Formed:** 2014 (Fortaleza Summit)

**Why formed:** To finance infrastructure and sustainable development in BRICS and developing countries.

**Intro:** A BRICS-led alternative to World Bank-style lending.

**Members:** BRICS countries and new entrants (e.g., UAE, Bangladesh).

**Observers:** Regional partners.

**Why in News:**

Cited as part of BRICS' challenge to Western financial institutions.

**India's Role:**

India is a founding member and borrower; supports green and infrastructure financing.

**11. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)**

**Formed:** 2014 (BRICS)

**Why formed:** To provide liquidity support during balance-of-payments crises.

**Intro:** A financial safety net for BRICS members.

**Members:** BRICS countries.

**Observers:** None (internal mechanism).

**Why in News:**

Mentioned alongside NDB as a tool to reduce IMF dependence.

**India's Role:**

India contributes to and can draw from CRA during external financial stress.

**12. UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

**Formed:** 1997

**Why formed:** To combat transnational crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism.

**Intro:** UN body tracking organised crime and illicit networks globally.







**Members:** UN member states.

**Observers:** NGOs, INTERPOL, regional bodies.

**Why in News:**

UNODC estimates cited regarding **Southeast Asian scam hubs** generating billions via cybercrime.

**India's Role:**

India cooperates with UNODC on cybercrime, human trafficking, and financial fraud investigations.

## Maps

### ISRAEL

Location: Eastern Mediterranean, West Asia

Land Borders: Lebanon (N), Syria (NE), Jordan (E), Egypt (SW).

Seas/Oceans: Mediterranean Sea (W), Red Sea via Gulf of Aqaba (S)

Enclosed Seas/Lakes: Dead Sea (Israel–Jordan)

Main River: Jordan River (Mount Hermon → Sea of Galilee → Dead Sea)

Map cues:

Mediterranean coast, Gulf of Aqaba, Dead Sea depression, Jordan Valley



### IRAN

Location: West Asia, bridge between Middle East & Central Asia

Land Borders: Iraq, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan

Seas/Oceans: Persian Gulf (SW), Gulf of Oman (S), Arabian Sea access

Enclosed Sea: Caspian Sea (N)

Main Rivers: Karun, Karkheh (SW Iran), seasonal interior rivers

Map cues:

Strait of Hormuz, Caspian Sea, Zagros

Mountains, Persian Gulf coast





## CHINA

Location: East Asia

Land Borders (14): India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, North Korea

Seas/Oceans: Pacific Ocean

Marginal Seas: Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea

Enclosed Sea: Bohai Sea

Main Rivers: Yangtze, Yellow River, Pearl River, Amur

Map cues:

Tibetan Plateau, South China Sea islands, Bohai Gulf, Himalayan border



## SAUDI ARABIA

Location: Arabian Peninsula

Land Borders: Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen

Seas/Oceans: Red Sea (W), Persian Gulf (E)

Gulfs: Gulf of Aqaba, Gulf of Suez

Rivers: None (wadis only)

Map cues:

Arabian Peninsula, Red Sea coast, Persian Gulf oil belt, Rub' al Khali



## QATAR

Location: Small peninsula in Persian Gulf

Land Borders: Saudi Arabia

Maritime Neighbours: Iran, Bahrain

Sea: Persian Gulf

Rivers: None



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Map cues:

Qatar peninsula, Persian Gulf gas fields, proximity to Hormuz



## RWANDA

Location: East-Central Africa

Land Borders: Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, DRC

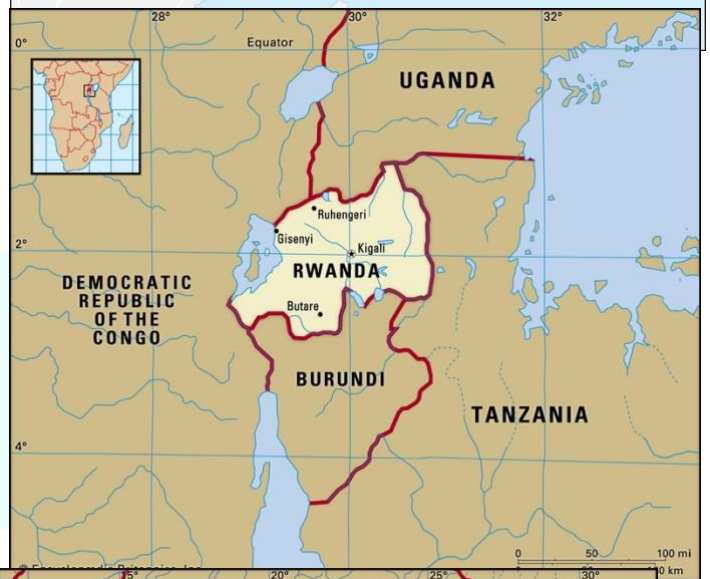
Sea Access: None (landlocked)

Lakes: Lake Kivu

River System: Nyabarongo → Kagera → Nile system

Map cues:

African Great Lakes region, Nile basin source area



## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Location: Central Africa

Land Borders: Republic of Congo, CAR, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Angola

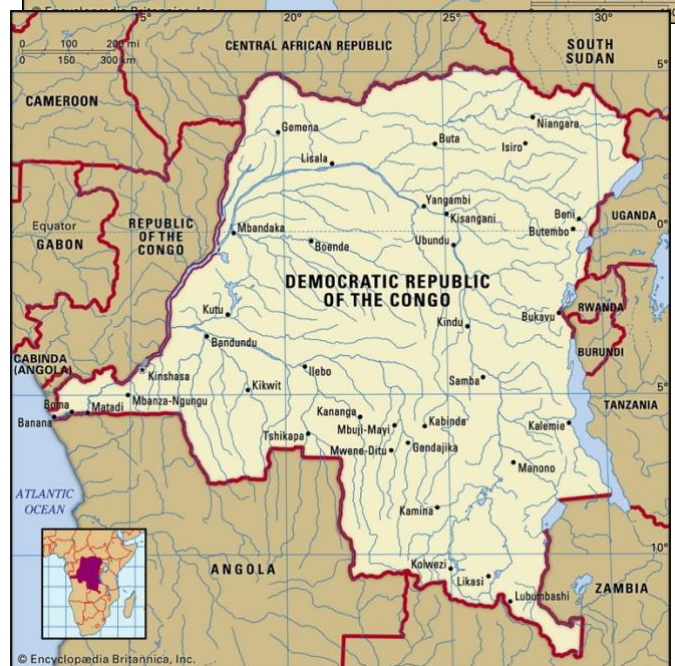
Sea/Ocean: Atlantic Ocean (narrow coastline)

Lakes: Tanganyika, Kivu, Albert

Main River: Congo River

Map cues:

Congo Basin rainforest, Congo River arc, Great Lakes eastern border



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