August 02 to August 08, 2025

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAGAZINE

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Monthly Current Affairs Magazine

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARDS

The Supreme Court has ruled that Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) have the authority to impose and collect restitutionary and compensatory damages to restore polluted air and waterbodies to their original state.

This power is derived from Sections 33A and 31A of the Water and Air Acts, respectively.

The Court directed that such powers must be exercised only after appropriate subordinate legislation (rules and regulations) is framed, ensuring the principles of natural justice are followed.

The ruling came in response to a Delhi Pollution Control Committee appeal, where the Delhi High Court had earlier ruled that it lacked authority to impose such damages.

Justice P.S. Narasimha emphasized the "polluter pays" principle, noting that restoration should closely resemble the damaged ecosystem.

Justice Manoj Misra added that PCBs hold broad statutory powers and responsibilities under the Water and Air Acts, including the ability to regulate or shut down polluting industries and services.

The judgment strengthens PCBs' role in environmental protection and enforcement actions.

Pollution Control Boards (PCBs):

Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) are statutory bodies established under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to prevent, control, and abate pollution in India. There are two main types:

- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) – Functions at the national level under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) – Function at the state level.
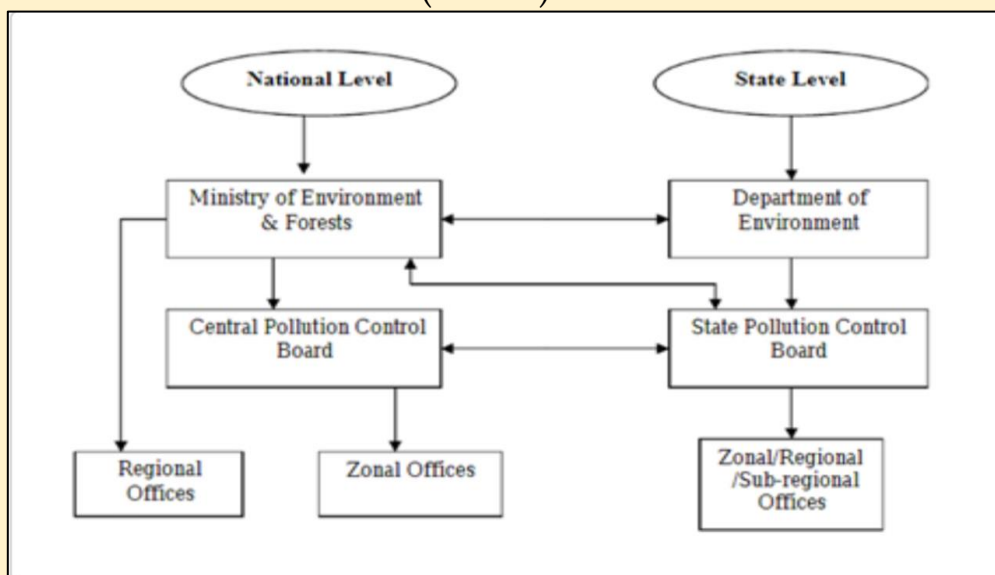
Key Functions:
- Monitor and regulate pollution levels in air and water.
- Grant or revoke consent to industries for discharge of pollutants.
- Enforce environmental laws and standards.
- Promote pollution abatement technologies.
- Advise governments on environmental matters.

ANTI DEFECTION LAW

The Supreme Court has strongly criticized the Telangana Assembly Speaker for delaying the decision on disqualification petitions.

A Bench led by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai stated that anti-defection cases must be resolved within three months to uphold the dignity of the Speaker's office and prevent political defection from going unpunished.

The Court noted that such proceedings often die a "natural death" due to intentional delays by Speakers, making a mockery of the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law).

It criticized the Telangana Speaker for issuing notices only after the matter was brought to the Supreme Court in January 2025, despite a seven-month delay.
Chief Justice Gavai emphasized that no constitutional immunity protects the Speaker from judicial review when acting under the Tenth Schedule, and questioned whether the Speaker acted in an expeditious manner as expected by Parliament.

ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

52nd Constitutional Amendment (Addition of 10th schedule)

Any MP/MLA, Disqualified if

- Independents : if they join a party
- Votes/abstains from voting contrary to party's directions
- Nominated: if they join a party after 6 months of nomination
- gives up membership of his/her political party voluntarily

Exceptions

| If elected as speaker/chairman, one could resign from the party and rejoin if the office is demitted later | If parent party merged into another with 2/3rds of the members voting in favour of the merger |

52nd Amendment Act and Anti-Defection Law:
1. **52nd Amendment Act, 1985:**
- Added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution.
- Aimed at curbing political defections by legislators.
- Enacted during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister.
- Came into effect on 1 March 1985.
2. **Anti-Defection Law (Tenth Schedule):**
- Provides for disqualification of legislators (MPs/MLAs) on grounds of:
    ○ Voluntarily giving up membership of their party.
    ○ Voting/abstaining against party directives (whip) without permission.
- Exceptions:
    ○ Merger provision: If 2/3rd members of a party merge with another, disqualification does not apply.
- Decision Authority:
    ○ The Speaker/Chairman of the House decides disqualification petitions.

GLOBAL PLASTIC TREATY

Over 190 countries are meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, for the 5th round of talks (INC-5) under the UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to finalize a legally binding Global Plastics Treaty.
- **Objective**: To address plastic pollution at every stage—production, usage, and disposal—including capping production, reducing harmful chemicals, and improving recycling.

- **Context**:
    ○ Talks follow a breakdown in Busan (Dec 2023) due to disagreements on production limits and chemical additives.
    ○ A resolution to create this treaty was passed in Nairobi (2022) at the UN Environment Assembly.

- **Plastic Crisis**:
    ○ Global plastic production has doubled in two decades.
    ○ Plastic waste rose from 156 MT (2000) to 353 MT (2019).
    ○ OECD warns production may triple by 2060.
    ○ Health impacts include links to cancer, infertility, and cardiovascular diseases, costing the world $1.5 trillion annually.

- **Significance**: If adopted, the treaty could become the most impactful global environmental agreement since the Paris Climate Accord (2015).

Global Plastics Treaty

The Global Plastics Treaty is a proposed legally binding international agreement under negotiation by the United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to address the full lifecycle of plastics—from production to disposal.

Background:
- Initiated by a resolution at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi (2022).
- Aims to tackle the growing plastic pollution crisis, which threatens ecosystems, human health, and economies.
- The process is being coordinated through a series of negotiation rounds called INC-1 to INC-5.

Objectives:
- To cap and reduce plastic production.
- Eliminate harmful chemicals in plastic products.
- Strengthen recycling and waste management systems.
- Promote a circular economy and sustainable alternatives.
- Hold producers accountable through extended producer responsibility (EPR).

Global Significance:
- Plastic waste has more than doubled in two decades.
- Production is projected to triple by 2060 under a business-as-usual scenario (OECD).
- The treaty is considered as significant as the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement for its potential environmental impact.

Challenges:
- Disagreements on binding commitments, especially production caps.
- Divergence between developed and developing countries on responsibility and financing.
- Influence of the petrochemical and plastics industry.

OPEC +

OPEC+ has agreed to significantly increase oil production by 547,000 barrels per day (bpd) starting September 2025

Key highlights:
- The total output hike, including a separate increase for UAE, totals around 2.5 million bpd, covering about 2.4% of global demand.
- This move marks a reversal of previous output cuts, aiming to stabilize global oil markets.
- A virtual meeting of eight OPEC+ members also discussed U.S. pressure on India to halt Russian oil imports.
- President Donald Trump wants progress on this issue by August 8.
- Despite increased output, oil prices remain high, with Brent crude nearing $70/barrel, up from $58 in April.
- OPEC+ may meet again on September 7 to consider reinstating cuts if necessary.
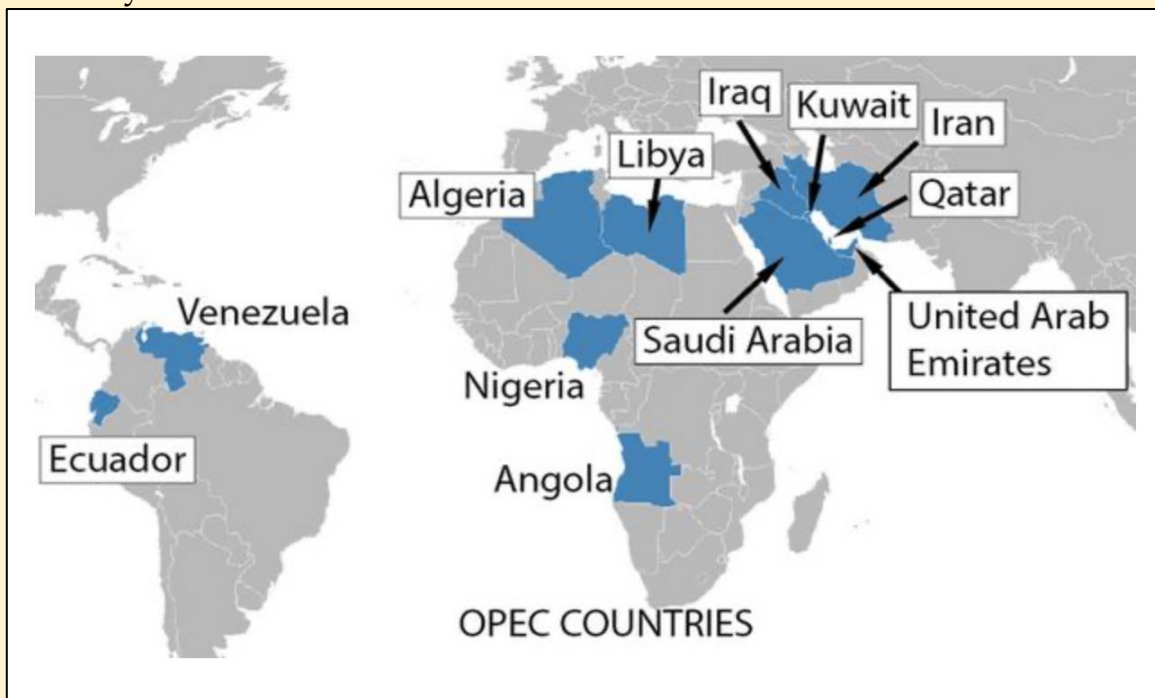
OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)
- **Established:** 1960
- **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria
- **Founding Members:** Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela
- **Current Members (13 countries)** include:
  Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, UAE, Venezuela, Nigeria, Libya, Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.

Objectives:
- Coordinate and unify petroleum policies among member countries
- Ensure stable oil markets and fair prices for producers and consumers
- Regulate oil production to balance global supply and demand

OPEC+
- **Formed:** 2016 (informal coalition)
- **Members:** All 13 OPEC members + 10 non-OPEC oil-producing countries
- **Key non-OPEC members:** Russia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Oman, Azerbaijan, etc.

Purpose:
- Cooperate on oil production decisions to stabilize global oil markets
- Respond jointly to market crises (e.g., COVID-19 demand collapse, Russia-Ukraine conflict)

Key Differences:

Feature	OPEC	OPEC+
Members	13 (Only OPEC countries)	23 (OPEC + 10 non-OPEC countries)
Formation Year	1960	2016 (as a coordinated alliance)
Main Driver	Long-termoilpolicy coordination.	Short-term cooperation on production levels.

RED PANDA

The recent birth of red panda cubs at the Himalayan Zoological Park near Gangtok marks achievement. After seven years without successful births, this event revives hopes for the endangered species' conservation in the region.

Conservation Programme

The Red Panda Conservation Programme began in 1997. It faced severe setbacks due to two canine distemper outbreaks, which nearly wiped out the captive population.

The breeding programme initially involved individuals from Rotterdam Zoo and Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. Later, wild-origin red pandas were introduced to enhance genetic diversity.

Red Panda Biology and Adaptations

Red pandas (Ailurus fulgens) have a distinct ruddy coat that camouflages them in fir tree canopies. They possess unique physical traits such as dense fur, bushy tails for balance and warmth, and semi-retractable claws. Their flexible ankles enable them to climb down trees headfirst. They have robust dentition and a pseudo-thumb to grasp bamboo, their main food source.

Distribution

Found in forests of **India, Nepal, Bhutan,** & northern mountains of **Myanmar** & **southern China.**

- Nepal
- China
- India
- Myanmar
- Bhutan

- In India, found in :

Arunachal pradesh

Sikkim

State Animal

Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of **West Bengal.**

Two subspecies

Himalayan red panda (A. f. fulgens) are present in Sikkim, Darjeeling-Kalimpong districts of West Bengal, Nepal, Bhutan and Southern Tibet.

Yarlung Zangbo River is actual geographical barrier between the distributions of these two species.

Chinese red panda (A. f. styani) are found in southeastern Tibet, Northern Myanmar and the Sichuan and Yunan provinces of China.

Diet

- Though they belong to a **carnivorous** group of mammals, they **mostly eat :**
Bamboo shoots

Occasionally Eat :

Insects   **Fruits**

Bird Eggs   **Small Lizards**

Conservation Status

IUCN STATUS

< ENDANGERED >
EN

**CITES
Appendix I**

**WPA, 1972:
Schedule I**

Taxonomy and Species Variations

Once classified with raccoons or bears, red pandas now belong to their own family, Ailuridae. Genetic studies identify two species – Ailurus fulgens fulgens and Ailurus fulgens styani. The latter is larger and darker. Red pandas are ancient carnivores closely related to skunks, raccoons, and weasels.

Habitat and Distribution

Red pandas inhabit temperate forests with bamboo understories across the Himalayas, including parts of India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, and Tibet. They live at high altitudes, often in dense, cool forests.

Diet and Feeding Habits

Bamboo constitutes 95% of their diet. They prefer leaf tips and tender shoots. Occasionally, they eat fruits, insects, and small animals. Their feeding method involves grasping bamboo with forepaws and stripping leaves with their mouths.

Behaviour and Reproduction

Red pandas are solitary except during breeding seasons, which vary by hemisphere. Females give birth to litters of typically two cubs after a gestation of about five months. Cubs remain with the mother for over a year and reach sexual maturity at 18 months. They communicate through subtle vocalisations and scent marking.

PINGALI VENKAYYA 149TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Pingali Venkayya on his birth anniversary, lauding his significant role in designing India's national flag, the Tricolour.

In a social media message, the Prime Minister highlighted that Pingali Venkayya is remembered for giving India its Tricolour, which stands as a symbol of the country's pride and unity.

The tribute underscores Venkayya's invaluable contribution to India's freedom movement and his lasting legacy in the nation's history.

Brief Note on Pingali Venkayya
- **Born:** 2 August 1876, near Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- **Died:** 4 July 1963

Key Contribution:
- Designer of the Indian National Flag (Tricolour).
- Presented the first version of the flag to Mahatma Gandhi in 1921 at the Indian National Congress session in Bezwada (now Vijayawada).

- The original design had two colors (red and green) representing Hindus and Muslims; Gandhi suggested adding white (for other communities) and the spinning wheel (charkha) as a symbol of self-reliance.

Background:
- A freedom fighter, Gandhian, and a polymath with interests in geology, agriculture, languages, and history.

- Also worked as a lecturer and served in the British Indian Army during the Boer War in South Africa.

FAKE ARYA SAMAJ SOCIETIES

The Allahabad High Court recently directed the Uttar Pradesh government to investigate the rise of "fake Arya Samaj societies"
Key Points:
- Arya Samaj Marriages: Based on reformist Hindu values, they are quick, paperwork-light, and popular among interfaith or eloping couples. Established in 1875, Arya Samaj promotes "shuddhi" or reconversion to Hinduism.

- Legal Framework: The Arya Marriage Validation Act, 1937, protects such marriages even across castes and sub-castes. However, it does not bypass procedures under state anti-conversion laws or marriage registration rules.

- Concerns Raised: Courts and governments have flagged cases where Arya Samaj weddings were used to:
  - Avoid scrutiny under Special Marriage Act (SMA), which mandates a 30-day public notice.

  - Circumvent anti-conversion laws, especially when conversion rituals are incomplete or rushed.

  - Marry minors or without valid consent, especially in interfaith cases.
- Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021: Requires pre- and post-conversion declarations, verification of voluntariness, and penalizes coercive or fraudulent conversions.
- Court Observations: The judiciary noted misuse of Arya Samaj temples to issue fraudulent marriage certificates without proper documentation, particularly in interfaith unions.

TEN PRINCIPLES OF ARYA SAMAJ

1. The First efficient cause of all true knowledge and that is known through knowledge is Parameshvara.

2. Ishvara is existent, intelligent and blissful. He is formless, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, just, merciful, unborn, endless, unchangeable, unaging, immortal, fearless, eternal, holy and the maker of all. He alone is worth being worshipped.

3. Vedas are the scriptures of true knowledge. It is the first duty of the Aryas to read them, teach, recite them and hear them being read.

4. One should always be ready to accept truth and give up untruth

5. One should be everything according to dictates of Dharma, i.e., after due reflection over right and wrong.

6. Doing good to the whole world is the primary objective of this society, i.e., to promote its physical, spiritual and social welfare.

7. Let the dealing with all be regulated by love and justice in accordance with the dictates of dharma.

8. One should promote Vidya (realisation of subject and object) and dispel Avidya (illusion).

9. One should not be content with one's welfare alone, but should look for one's own welfare in the welfare of all.

10. One should regard oneself under restriction to follow altruistic rulings of society while in following rules of individual welfare all should be free.
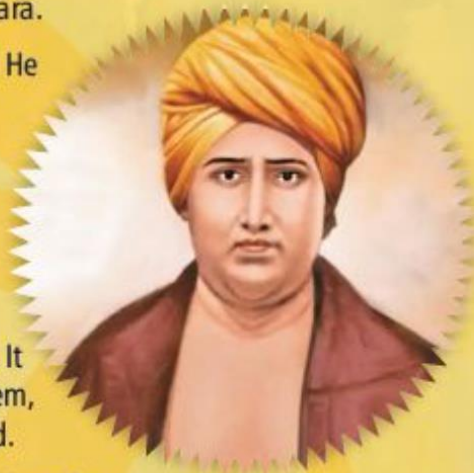
Arya Samaj

The Arya Samaj was a Hindu reform movement founded by Swami Dayananda Saraswati in 1875 in Bombay (now Mumbai). It aimed to revive the Vedic way of life, rejecting superstitions, caste discrimination, and idol worship, and promoting rationalism, equality, and education.

Key Objectives:

- Return to the Vedas: Emphasized the authority of the four Vedas as the true source of knowledge.
- Opposition to orthodoxy: Rejected rituals, priestcraft, and idol worship.
- Promotion of social reforms:

- ○ Women's education and widow remarriage
- ○ Abolition of child marriage and untouchability
- National awakening: Encouraged self-reliance, swadeshi, and national pride.
- Shuddhi Movement: Re-conversion of non-Hindus back to Hinduism.

Key Contributions:
- Established Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (DAV) schools and colleges to combine Vedic values with Western education.
- Promoted Hindi in Devanagari script as a unifying national language.
- Influenced leaders like Lala Lajpat Rai and played a role in freedom struggle.

NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

The National Film Awards were established in 1954 by the Government of India to honor artistic and technical excellence in Indian cinema. Instituted under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the awards aim to encourage the production of films of aesthetic, cultural, and educational value.

Key Milestones:
- 1954: First National Film Awards presented; initially known as the "State Awards for Films." Only a few categories existed, and "Shyamchi Aai" (Marathi) was the first winner of the President's Gold Medal for the All India Best Feature Film.
- 1967: The awards were renamed as National Film Awards, and regional films were officially included in competitive categories.
- 1973: The Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) was established to organize the National Film Awards and the International Film Festival of India.
- Over time, the awards expanded to include categories for feature films, non-feature films, and best writing on cinema, encouraging excellence in cinema across India's diverse linguistic and cultural landscape.
- Awards are given by the President of India at a formal ceremony in New Delhi, and they hold the highest prestige among Indian film honors.

Present Structure:
- Divided into three sections: Feature Films, Non-Feature Films, and Writing on Cinema.
- Includes Golden Lotus (Swarna Kamal) and Silver Lotus (Rajat Kamal) trophies with cash prizes.
- Open to films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in the previous calendar year.

BHASKAR (BHARAT STARTUP KNOWLEDGE ACCESS REGISTRY)

The BHASKAR (Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry) platform is a comprehensive digital ecosystem designed to strengthen collaboration and innovation across India's startup landscape.
Key Features:

- Centralized Networking: Connects startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and policymakers on a single platform, enabling seamless collaboration across sectors and regions.

- Personalized BHASKAR ID: Users receive a unique ID linked to verified, complete profiles—enhancing credibility, searchability, and secure interaction.

- Multi-Stakeholder Access: Open to diverse roles including entrepreneurs, investors, mentors, and support organizations, ensuring inclusivity.

- Enhanced Discoverability: Advanced search tools help users find partners, funding opportunities, programs, and schemes quickly and efficiently.

- Resource Hub: Offers centralized access to startup-related resources, events, and knowledge-sharing tools, eliminating system fragmentation.

- Digital & On-Ground Engagement: Facilitates both online collaboration and physical events to build relationships and market presence.

- Large-Scale Reach: With around 200,000 startups registered as of August 2025, BHASKAR is among the largest startup registries in the country.

Conclusion:
BHASKAR acts as a secure, inclusive, and scalable digital backbone for India's startup ecosystem, accelerating innovation, connectivity, and growth.

RHISOTOPE PROJECT

Context: Attempt to Save Rhinos by Giving Them Radioactive Horns
To combat rhino poaching, scientists in South Africa have begun injecting radioactive isotopes into rhino horns as part of the Rhisotope Project.

Developed by the University of the Witwatersrand and supported by the IAEA, this method makes horns detectable at borders and toxic for human use without harming the animals.

Key Points:

- Low-dose radioactive isotopes are injected non-invasively, detectable by radiation scanners at airports and borders.
- The procedure is safe for rhinos and renders horns "useless" and "poisonous" for illegal use.
- Successfully tested on rhinos in the Waterberg Biosphere, with no negative health impact.
- Targets international wildlife trafficking by leveraging radiation detection infrastructure.
- Tackles rampant poaching: Over 27,000 rhinos killed since 2008, driven by illegal horn trade.

This innovative approach represents a scientific and security-based strategy to protect endangered rhinos by reducing the commercial value of their horns.

Rhinos

Rhinoceroses (Rhinos) are large, herbivorous mammals known for their thick skin and prominent horns. They are native to parts of Africa and Asia and are among the world's most endangered animals due to habitat loss and poaching for their horns, which are falsely believed to have medicinal value.

Key Species:

1. **African Rhinos:**
   - White Rhino (Ceratotherium simum) – Larger, with a broad mouth for grazing.
   - Black Rhino (Diceros bicornis) – Smaller, hook-lipped for browsing shrubs.
2. **Asian Rhinos:**
   - Indian Rhino (Rhinoceros unicornis) – Also called the Great One-Horned Rhino, mostly found in Kaziranga National Park, Assam.

○ Javan Rhino – Critically endangered, found in Indonesia.
○ Sumatran Rhino – Smallest and most endangered, with only a few dozen individuals left.

Conservation Status:

- Most species are endangered or critically endangered (IUCN Red List).
- Protected under CITES Appendix I, banning international trade in rhino horns.
- Conservation efforts include habitat protection, anti-poaching laws, and rhino translocation programs.

Threats:

- Poaching for horns, primarily driven by demand in Asia.
- Loss of habitat due to agriculture and urban development.
- Weak law enforcement and illegal wildlife trade networks.

Rhinos play a crucial ecological role by maintaining grassland and forest balance, and their protection is vital for broader biodiversity conservation.

Radioisotopes

Radioisotopes, or radioactive isotopes, are atoms that have unstable nuclei and emit radiation as they decay into more stable forms. These isotopes can be naturally occurring or artificially produced in reactors or particle accelerators.

Key Features:

- Unstable nucleus emits alpha (α), beta (β), or gamma (γ) radiation.
- Decay occurs at a predictable rate (half-life).
- Used in medicine, industry, research, and now even in wildlife conservation.

Major Applications:

1. **Medical:**
   - Diagnosis (e.g., Technetium-99m in imaging).
   - Treatment (e.g., Cobalt-60 for cancer radiotherapy).
2. **Industrial:**
   - Detecting leaks in pipelines.
   - Gauging thickness of materials.
3. **Agriculture:**
   - Improving crop varieties via mutation breeding.
   - Tracing nutrient pathways.
4. **Research:**
   - Tracing chemical and biological processes.
5. **Wildlife Conservation:**
   - As seen in the Rhino isotope tagging project, low-dose radioisotopes are used to make horns detectable at borders and less valuable for poachers.

Safety & Regulation:

- Handled under strict guidelines due to health and environmental risks.
- Regulated by bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and national atomic regulatory boards.

INDIA-UN GLOBAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

India recently launched the first four projects under the India-UN Global Capacity Building Initiative. This programme aims to help Global South countries achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The initiative builds on India's expertise in capacity building and strengthens South-South cooperation.
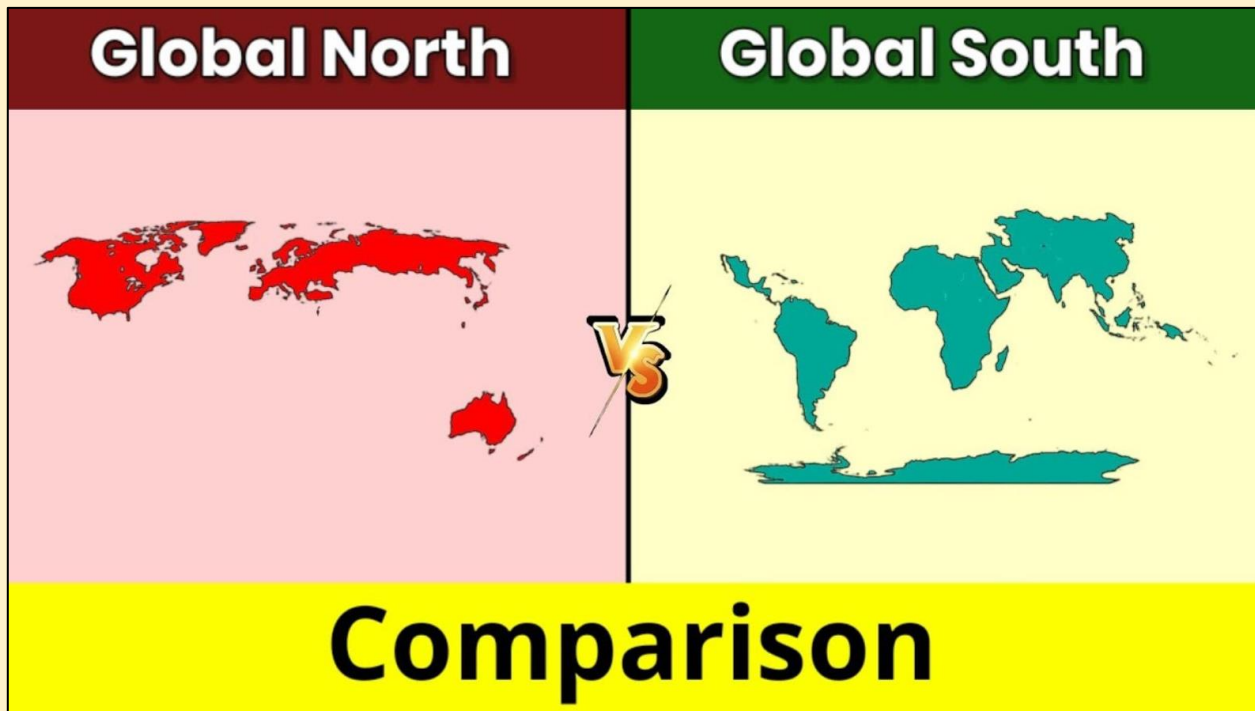
Background
The initiative was announced in September 2023 during the 78th UN General Assembly. It extends India's development partnership efforts. The MEA leads the programme in collaboration with several UN agencies.

Core Framework and ITEC Role
The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme underpins the initiative. ITEC offers over 12,000 training slots annually to nearly 160 countries. More than 225,000 professionals have been trained through over 400 specialised courses. Under the new initiative, UN agencies identify SDG-focused projects with host governments. Training is delivered through Indian institutes linked to ITEC.

First Phase Projects
The initial four projects cover diverse sectors and countries. In Nepal, the World Food Programme supports rice fortification and supply chain management. Zambia and Lao PDR receive digital health platform development assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Census preparedness training is planned for Belize, Barbados, St Kitts & Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago, in partnership with the UN Population Fund. UNESCO supports vocational training in South Sudan.

Implementation and Timeline

Training courses for these projects will start in September 2025. The courses will be conducted by designated Indian training institutes under the ITEC framework. The initiative aims to build human resource capacity in partner countries. It focuses on practical skill development aligned with SDG priorities.

Significance for South-South Cooperation

This initiative marks India's role in global development cooperation. It leverages India's experience to support developing nations. The collaboration with UN agencies ensures alignment with global development goals. It strengthens diplomatic ties and promotes sustainable progress in partner countries.

AI-POWERED ANGANWADI CENTRE

The Maharashtra government inaugurated the nation's first AI-powered Anganwadi centre in Waddhamna village, Nagpur district.

This pilot project under Mission Bal Bharari introduces advanced digital tools to early childhood education in rural India. It aims to bridge the rural-urban education divide by offering immersive and technology-driven learning experiences to underprivileged children.

Anganwadi Centres

Anganwadi centres are grassroots childcare and preschool units. They serve children aged 0–6 years, especially in rural and underprivileged areas. Traditionally, these centres focus on healthcare, nutrition, and early education. They play important role in holistic child development across India's rural landscape.

Introduction of AI and VR Technologies

The Waddhamna Anganwadi integrates artificial intelligence dashboards and virtual reality headsets. These tools create interactive and immersive learning environments. Children engage with poems, songs, and foundational curriculum through AI-guided content. This technology transforms routine lessons into joyful and effective learning experiences.

Training Anganwadi Workers

Anganwadi workers received extensive training to operate AI-enabled smart systems. This ensures smooth classroom management and maximises learning outcomes. The training empowers educators to deliver adaptive, high-quality education tailored to each child's needs.

Bridging the Digital Divide in Rural Education

The initiative addresses the rural-urban gap in access to quality education. It brings premium learning tools, previously limited to elite urban schools, to rural children. This move promotes equity in early childhood education and nurtures curiosity and confidence among village learners.

Expansion Plans

Following the successful pilot, Maharashtra plans to establish 40 more AI-powered Anganwadi centres across Nagpur district. This expansion aims to scale inclusive, technology-driven education for rural children. The project sets a precedent for other states to adopt similar innovations in public education.

Significance for Early Childhood Development

By combining technology with traditional Anganwadi services, the centre enhances early learning and development. It encourages creativity, participation, and joyful learning. The model promises a transformative shift in how India supports its youngest learners, especially in marginalised communities.

MAHANADI RIVER WATER-SHARING DISPUTE

Recent developments have brought hope to the decade-old Mahanadi river water-sharing dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Both states have expressed willingness to resolve the issue through negotiations.

The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal has granted additional time for talks and scheduled the next hearing for September 6, 2025. This marks shift from prolonged legal battles to political dialogue.

Background

The dispute centres on water sharing from the Mahanadi river, which flows from Chhattisgarh to Odisha. Odisha alleges that Chhattisgarh's construction of upstream dams and barrages restricts water flow. This affects agriculture and livelihoods in Odisha's lower basin, especially outside the monsoon season. The conflict has persisted for nearly ten years with limited progress.

Legal Proceedings

Odisha approached the Supreme Court in 2016 seeking a tribunal under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. The Centre formed the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal in 2018. The tribunal's work involved data submissions, inspections, and hearings. However, progress has been slow, with only one witness examined by 2024 and many issues unresolved
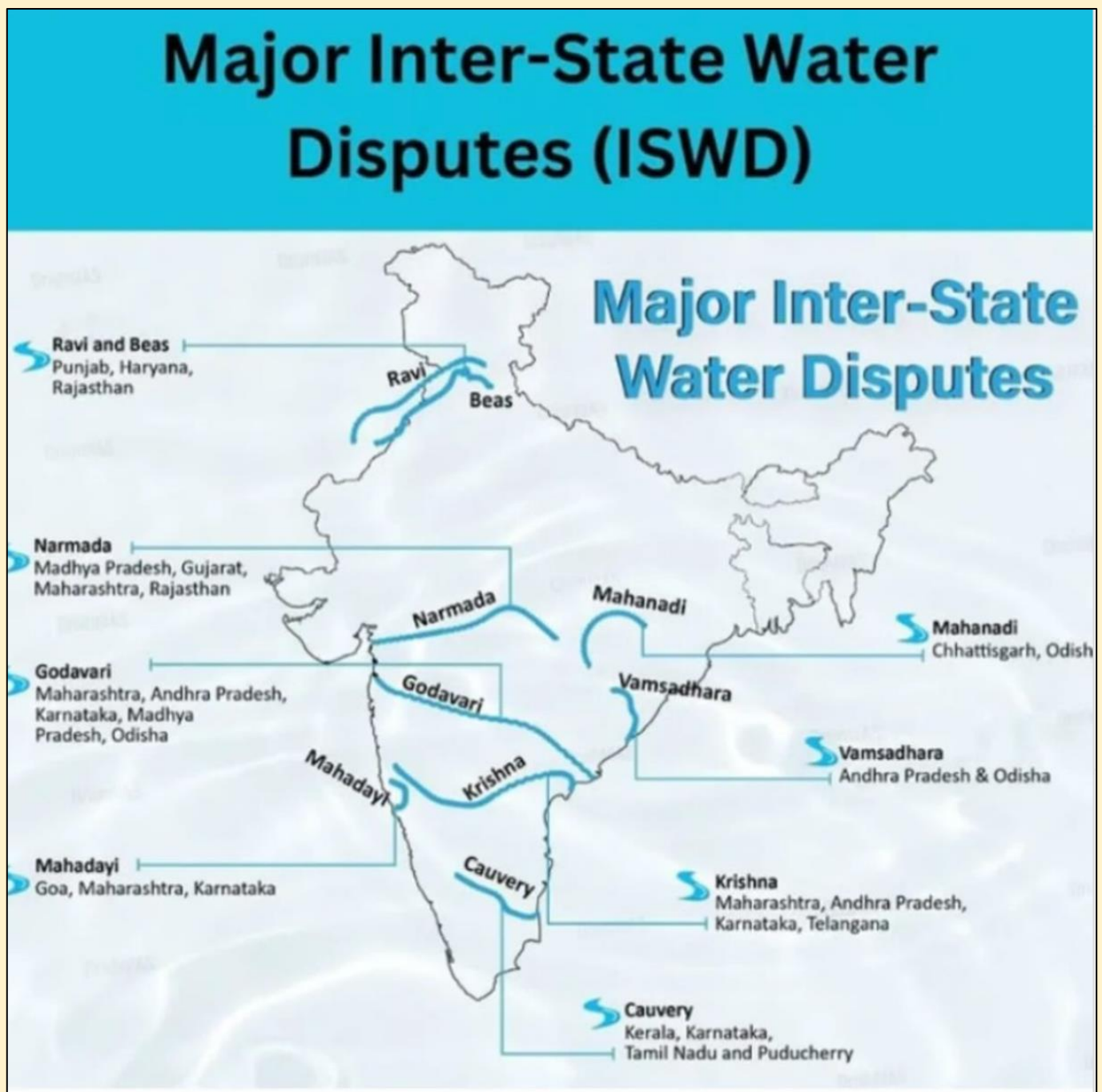
About Mahanadi River

- Mahanadi is a prominent eastward-flowing river in peninsular India
- Renowned for its heavy silt load, frequent historical floods, and its agricultural significance.
- Name derived from Sanskrit: **"Maha"** = Great, **"Nadi"** = River → "**Great River**".
- States Covered by the River Basin are
    - **Chhattisgarh –** Covers the upper and middle basin
    - **Odisha –** Hosts the lower basin and delta
    - **Marginal regions**: Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh
- **Total Length**: Around 900 km
- **Source and Course**
    - **Origin**: Near Pharsiya village, Nagri Sihawa Hills, Dhamtari district, Chhattisgarh
    - **Drains into**: Bay of Bengal near Paradip, Odisha, through a network of distributaries
- **Drainage Basin Area**: Roughly 32 lakh sq. km
- **Left-Bank Tributaries:** Seonath (Shivnath), Hasdeo, Mand and Ib
- **Right-Bank Tributaries:** Ong, Tel and Jonk

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KERALA STATE CIVIL SERVICE ACADEMY

Established under Centre for Continuing Education Kerala (CCEK)

NURTURING YOUNG MINDS TOWARDS TOMORROW'S CIVIL SERVICE

COURSES

▶ Prelims Cum Mains Regular Batch
Course Fee: : ₹ 49,200 (₹ 40,000 + 18% GST ₹ 7,200 + Caution Deposit ₹ 2,000)

▶ Prelims Cum Mains Weekend Batch
For the Working Professionals & students who are doing their UG/PG
- ◆ Course Fee: Ongoing Degree/PG students: ₹ 41,300 (₹ 35,000 + 18% GST ₹ 6,300)
- ◆ Course Fee: Working Professionals : ₹ 49,200 (₹ 40,000 + 18% GST ₹ 7,200 + Caution Deposit ₹ 2,000)

▶ Civil Service Foundation Course
For Higher Secondary School Students
Course Fee: ₹ 5,900 (₹ 5,000 + GST ₹ 900)

▶ Talent Development Course
For High School Students
Course Fee: ₹ 4720 (₹ 4,000 + 18% GST ₹ 720)

▷ REHEARSE- Prelims Test Series
38 Test papers including 3 exclusive current affairs tests and 5 CSAT papers

▷ RESILIENCE- Mains Test Series
17 Tests including compulsory papers

▷ REKINDLE- PCM REPEATERS BATCH
Mentorship, Weekly Current Affairs classes, Bi Weekly CSAT classes, Prelims Test Series, Revision classes, Extensive Answer Writing class / Practices

▷ REPHRASE- Mains Answer Writing Programme
This answer writing exercise will cover Essay, General Studies - I, General Studies - II, General Studies -III & General Studies -IV papers

REHEARSE
RESILIENCE
REKINDLE
REPHRASE

KEY HIGHLIGHTS
- Prelims & Mains test series with All Kerala rank list.
- Expert faculties.
- Library facility across the centres.
- Instalment facility for fee payment available to BPL category students.

Optional Subjects
Geography, History, Malayalam, Political Science & International Relations, Public Administration and Sociology
Course Fees : Rs. 11,800/– (Fees Rs 10,000/- + GST Rs.1,800/-).

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