

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 27 October, 2025



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RAJASTHAN



Externally Aided Projects in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- Recently, the "Rajasthan Climate Change Response and Ecosystem Services Enhancement" project was launched in Rajasthan with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



Key Points:

- Objective:** The project aims to combat climate change and improve ecosystem services through afforestation, forest conservation, biodiversity protection, and ecological restoration.
- Funding:** The project is funded by an Official Development Assistance loan of ₹26,133 million (approximately ₹1,473 crore) from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Other Key Points:

- Currently, a total of 14 externally aided projects are operating in Rajasthan.

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S.No.	Project	Agency	Description
1.	Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Program RUIDP (Phase-III)	ADB (Asian Development Bank)	Water supply and sewerage works in Tonk, Ganganagar, Jhunjhunu, Pali, Bhilwara. Work is in progress in a total of 12 cities.
2.	Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project (Phase-IV) Tranche-I	ADB	In 14 cities - water supply and sewerage works. Project duration – From January 2020 to November 2028. Running in 13 other cities, while carrying out sewerage, sludge, and septic management works.
3.	Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project, Tranche-I	ADB	Under this project, infrastructure development work is being carried out in 16 cities.
4.	Rajasthan State Highway Investment Program, Tranche-II	ADB	-
5.	Rajasthan State Highway Investment Program, Tranche-III	ADB	-

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6.	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project Phase-2	AFD (Agence Française de Développement)	Strengthening, development, and conservation of natural forests in 13 districts (Eastern Rajasthan).
7.	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Phase-2)	JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)	Construction of water treatment plants and water supply facilities in Jhunjhunu and Barmer.
8.	Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project	JICA	Rehabilitation and restoration of 137 irrigation projects in all districts of Rajasthan.
9.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for Desert Areas (Tranche-I & II)	NDB (New Development Bank)	70% funded by NDB and 30% by the State. Beneficiary districts: Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh, Churu, Nagaur, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer.
10.	Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project – II	World Bank (WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	WB + AIIB – 70% Rajasthan Government – 30%

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11.	Rajasthan State Highway Development Program – II	WB	Financial partnership: ■ World Bank: ₹1779 crore ■ State Government: ₹893 crore ■ Private Sector: ₹323 crore
12.	Strengthening Public Financial Management Project in Rajasthan	WB	■ Financing – World Bank + State Government ■ Project duration – From July 2018 to March 2025
13.	Transmission System Green Energy Corridor Project – II in Rajasthan	KfW Germany	47% KfW loan, 33% Central grant and 20% State share
14.	Rajasthan Climate Change Response and Ecosystem Services Enhancement Project	JICA	Promotion of sustainable ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, and rural development in 19 districts of Rajasthan.

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Exercise 'Trishul': The largest military exercise ever conducted by India's three armed forces.



Why in News?

- Exercise 'Trishul' will commence from the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer on October 30, 2025.



Key Points:

- **Duration:** From October 30 to November 10, 2025
- **Area:** From the India-Pakistan border in Jaisalmer to Kutch (Sir Creek) in Gujarat.
- **Participants:** A total of 30,000 personnel from the Army, Navy, and Air Force will participate. This is the largest joint military exercise ever conducted by India's three armed forces.

Objective:

- To practice synergy and unified operations, deep strikes, and multi-domain warfare among the three armed forces.
- Strengthening regional security capabilities in light of recent border incidents (such as drone and infiltration threats following Operation Sindoor).
- Field-testing of new indigenous weapons and high-tech systems.

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NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	Newly appointed Vice Chancellors of the State's Major Universities ■ Dr. Vimal Dukwal - Agricultural University, Kota ■ Dr. Virendra Singh - Agricultural University, Jodhpur ■ Professor Pushpendra Singh - Shri Karan Narendra Agricultural University, Jobner ■ Dr. Pratap Singh - Maharana Pratap Agricultural University, Udaipur ■ Professor Pawan Kumar - Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur ■ Professor Govind Sahay - Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Ayurveda University, Jodhpur ■ Professor Nimit Ranjan - Rajasthan Technical University, Kota
2.	New Post of Jaipur Director General (Special Operations) Created ■ Recently, the Rajasthan government appointed Sachin Mittal as the new Police Commissioner, replacing Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph. ■ Also, a new post of Jaipur Director General (Special Operations) has been created, with Anand Srivastava as its first Director General. ■ The anti-terrorism squad formed to take action against extremism has been named the Anti-Extremism Squad, with Dinesh M.N. entrusted with the responsibility.

3.

Hariyalo Rajasthan Tree Plantation Campaign

- **Launch of the program:** August 7, 2024 (on the occasion of Hariyali Teej)
- **Location:** Inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma from Sapotra, Karauli.
- This program was inspired by the Prime Minister's initiative, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Abhiyan'.
- **Goal:** To Plant 50 crore saplings in the next 5 years.
- **Achievements:** By 2024-25, 7 crore saplings have been planted in the state.
- A target of planting 10 crore saplings in 2025 was set, under which 11.50 crore saplings have been planted.

4.

Digitization of Manuscripts

- The Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy in Jaipur is digitizing manuscripts dating from the 15th to the 18th centuries.
- Previously, under the "Veda Sanrakshan Yojana," the Academy digitized audio-visual recordings of the entire Samhita of the Atharvaveda and Samaveda.
- The objective of this project is to spread the spirit of public welfare and preserve the vanishing tradition of Veda recitation.
- It is worth noting that the "Gyan Bharatam Mission" was launched by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, with the aim of identifying, documenting, preserving, digitizing, conserving, and promoting India's vast manuscript heritage.

5.

Padma Shri Professor Dr. D.K. Bhargava

- Recently, Professor D.K. Bhargava has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 50th Convocation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
- This honor was presented to him by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda.
- Professor D.K. Bhargava is a renowned gastroenterologist, who has been awarded the Padma Shri for his contributions to the medical field.

6. **New Secretary of Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB), Jaipur**

- Recently, Dinesh Kumar Sharma has been appointed as the new Secretary of the Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB), Jaipur by the Rajasthan government.
- Also, Gajendra Singh Rathore has been appointed as the Secretary of the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education (RBSE), Ajmer.

7. **First Discom in Rajasthan to Launch Consumer Feedback System**

- Recently, Jaipur Discom has launched a consumer feedback system through the 'Bijli Mitra App'.
- Jaipur Discom has now become the first Discom in Rajasthan to launch a consumer feedback system.

8. **IIT Jodhpur and IdeaForge Technology Limited MoU**

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur and IdeaForge Technology Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint research and development on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and deep-tech innovations.
- The partnership aims to develop indigenous drone and UAV engines, as well as advanced technologies for defence and civilian use.



Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS)



Why in News?

- Recently, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), by order under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, banned the use of the term ORS on all beverages that do not comply with World Health Organization (WHO) standards.



Key Points:

ORS

- ORS is a solution of salt and sugar, dissolved in clean water and consumed. It is useful in treating dehydration caused by severe diarrhoea, heat stroke, or any other illness.

The prescribed formula for ORS (approved by WHO and UNICEF):

- **Sodium chloride:** 2.6 g/L
- **Glucose (anhydrous):** 13.5 g/L
- **Potassium chloride:** 1.5 g/L
- **Trisodium citrate, dihydrate:** 2.9 g/L
- It was first developed in 1971 by Indian public health expert Dilip Mahalanobis.

Kurinji Flower



Why in News?

- Purple Kurinji flowers have recently bloomed in the Gudalur Hills of Tamil Nadu after a gap of eight years. Gudalur has been recently notified as a Forest Reserve.



Key Points:

Kurinji Flower

- Kurinji plants bloom only once in their lifetime.
- The more famous Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthus kunthiana*) blooms once every 12 years at relatively higher altitudes (above 1,300 meters).
- **Key Location:** Shola Forests of the Western Ghats.

Significance:

- Kurinji blooms are a sign of healthy grasslands, but degradation disrupts flowering.
- This flower serves as an indicator of biodiversity and climate change.

Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (Regulation) Order, 2011



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution amended the Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (Regulation) Order, 2011 (VOPPA Order).



Key Points:

Key Amendments

- Registration will be mandatory for all stakeholders involved in the edible oil processing chain (such as production, processing, distribution, etc.).
- All registered entities will be required to upload their monthly production and stock information on the government's designated online portal.

India's Edible Oil Sector

- India ranks fourth in the world in the edible vegetable oil market, after the United States, China, and Brazil.
- India contributes approximately 5–6% of the world's total oilseed production.
- India meets 57% of its edible oil needs through imports.



INTERNATIONAL



UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)



Why in News?

- India has been elected as the co-chair of the UN Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP).



Key Points:

UN-GGIM-AP:

- It is one of the five regional committees under UN-GGIM.
- **Establishment:** It is an inter-governmental organization of the United Nations. It was established in 2011 under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to coordinate global geospatial data management.
- It is responsible for decision-making on geospatial information policy, aiming at addressing global challenges through the improved use of geospatial data and technologies.

Mercosur



Why in News?

- India and Brazil have agreed to expand the scope of the existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and the Mercosur bloc.



Key Points:

- **Inception:** In 1991
- **Headquarters:** Montevideo (Uruguay)
- It is a trade bloc of South American countries that promotes free trade and economic cooperation.
- **Member countries:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- Venezuela's membership has been suspended.
- **Role:** It functions as a customs union. It has a common external tariff, facilitating regional economic integration.

Japan's First Female Prime Minister



Why in News?

- Japan has elected Sanae Takaichi as the country's first female Prime Minister.



Key Points:

Similarities Between the Indian and Japanese Political Systems

- **Written Constitution:** India's Constitution is the world's longest constitution, while Japan's Constitution is short, consisting of a maximum of 5,000 words.
- **Parliamentary Democracy:** Both are parliamentary democracies, with the Prime Minister as the de facto executive head.
- **Bicameral Legislature:** Japan's National Diet consists of the House of Representatives (Lower House) and the House of Councillors (Upper House), while India's Parliament consists of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Fundamental Rights:

- Chapter III (Articles 10–40) in Japan guarantees equality, liberty, and human dignity while Part III (Articles 12–35) in India guarantees six fundamental rights.
- **Other similarities:** Independent judiciary, universal adult franchise, constitutional supremacy etc.

EU-India Strategic Agenda



Why in News?

- The European Council approved the EU-India Strategic Agenda. It identifies five priority pillars to address emerging opportunities, challenges, and threats in the geopolitical context.



Key Points:

Five Priority Pillars

1. **Prosperity and Sustainability:** It focuses on economic growth, job creation, decarbonization, and strengthening supply chains.
2. Finalization of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and an Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) are its central goals.
3. **Technology and Innovation:** It focuses on deepening cooperation on critical emerging technologies and digital infrastructure.
4. **Security and Defense:** It addresses global security threats, geopolitical tensions, and technological change. For example, coordination in the Indo-Pacific region and promoting a rules-based maritime order.
5. **Connectivity and Global Issues:** It will strengthen regional connectivity, global governance, and cooperation with third countries. Such as strengthening initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the Global Gateway.

- **Enabler across pillars:** It will facilitate skills mobility, knowledge exchange, business engagement, and institutional cooperation to support all four core pillars.

India-EU Relations

- **Diplomatic Relations:** India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community in 1962. The relationship was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership in 2004.
- **Bilateral Trade:** Trade in goods between India and the EU is projected to reach 120 billion euros in 2024. The EU is India's largest trading partner.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** Cumulative FDI inflows from the EU between April 2000 and December 2023 amounted to US\$107.27 billion.

Sevilla Forum on Debt



Why in News?

- The Sevilla Forum on Debt has been launched at the 16th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD16).
- Its objective is to address the debt crisis in developing countries.



Key Points:

Sevilla Forum on Debt

- It is led by Spain and supported by UNCTAD and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- The forum will bring together all stakeholders, including lenders, borrowers, international financial institutions, and the academic community, to discuss debt sustainability, management, and innovative solutions.



ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY



Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)



Why in News?

- The CAQM implemented Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across the NCR. The CAQM's Sub-Committee on GRAP directed the implementation of measures prescribed under Stage II due to the deteriorating Air Quality Index (AQI) in the NCR.



Key Points:

- The use of coal and wood has been banned under GRAP-2. Diesel generators have also been restricted, with some exceptions.

GRAP

- It is an emergency response system based on Delhi's AQI level. It is divided into the following four stages based on AQI levels:
 - o Stage 1: Poor Category (AQI 201 to 300)
 - o Stage 2: Very Poor Category (AQI 301 to 400)
 - o Stage 3: Severe Category (AQI 401 to 450)
 - o Stage 4: Very Severe Category (AQI above 451).
- The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in Delhi-NCR and Adjoining Areas monitors the implementation of GRAP.
- The CAQM was established under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.

National Air Quality Index (AQI):

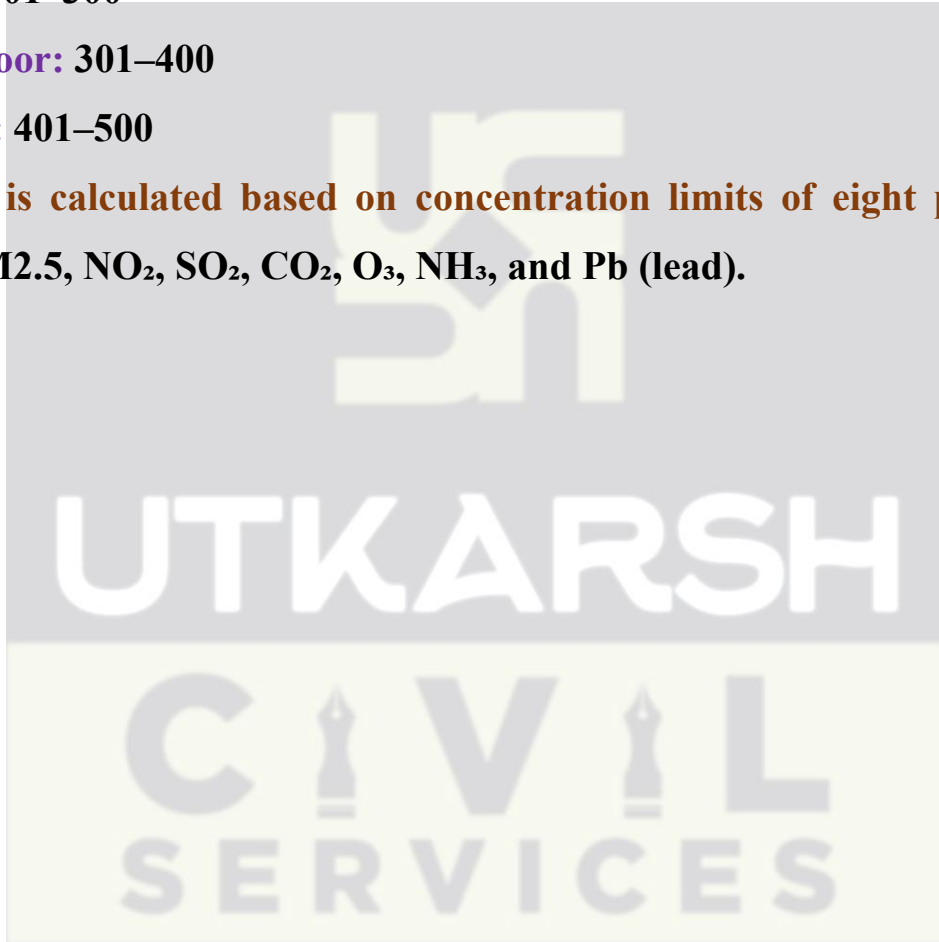
- The government launched it in 2014. Its purpose is to measure air pollution levels and inform the public about its dangers.

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- **The AQI is divided into six categories:**
 - o **Excellent: 0–50**
 - o **Satisfactory: 51–100**
 - o **Moderately polluted: 101–200**
 - o **Poor: 201–300**
 - o **Very poor: 301–400**
 - o **Severe: 401–500**
- **The AQI is calculated based on concentration limits of eight pollutants—PM10, PM2.5, NO₂, SO₂, CO₂, O₃, NH₃, and Pb (lead).**



Saranda Forest



Why in News?

- Recently, the Supreme Court ordered the Jharkhand government to notify a new wildlife sanctuary in Saranda.



Key Points:

- Located in Jharkhand, it is Asia's largest sal forest. Sal trees are a type of moist deciduous tree.
- Saranda means 'land of seven hundred hills'.
- **Fauna:** Endangered species like flying lizards and elephants are found here.
- **Flora:** Sal, safflower, mushrooms, mahua, etc.
- About 80% of the human population here belongs to the Ho, Munda, Oraon, and some other primitive tribes.



SCHEMES



Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar (SITAA)



Why in News?

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar (SITAA).



Key Points:

- **Objective:** To strengthen India's digital identity ecosystem and address new security threats such as deepfakes, spoofing, and presentation attacks.
- **Implementing Agency:** UIDAI under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.



ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Fiscal Autonomy of States: GST



Why in News?

- Recently, the GST compensation cess was abolished under the latest changes to the Goods and Services Tax (GST). This has raised concerns about revenue loss and fiscal autonomy for states.



Key Points:

- The purpose of the GST compensation cess is to compensate states for revenue loss after the implementation of GST.

Trends Related to Fiscal Autonomy of States

- **Decline in Fiscal Autonomy of States:** GST has transferred taxation powers from states to the GST Council, while the GST Council is further dominated by the central government.
- **Fiscal Imbalance:** States have key responsibilities for matters such as law and order, health, and education. Since the implementation of GST, the central government has shifted most of the tax collection power to the central government. Consequently, while states retain the responsibility to spend, their revenue generation power has diminished. This is leading to fiscal imbalance.
- **Declining share in financial resource allocation:** States' share as a percentage of gross tax revenue has declined.
- **Finance Commission:** The Finance Commission's tax sharing criteria have also been questioned, often disadvantaging progressive states.
- **Dependence on central transfers:** Central transfers contribute 44% to state revenue, with some states, such as Bihar, having a higher dependence, at 72%. This impacts liquidity management and could lead to political tensions in states governed by political parties opposed to the ruling party at the Centre.

RBI's Gold Reserves



Why in News?

- India's gold reserves crossed the \$100 billion mark for the first time. According to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data on foreign exchange reserves, India's gold reserves have reached \$102.3 billion.



Key Points:

- This has increased the share of gold in India's foreign exchange reserves to nearly 15%, compared to around 7% a decade ago.

Why is the RBI's gold reserve increasing?

- **To diversify reserves:** Foreign exchange asset sources are being diversified and dependence on the US dollar is being reduced. These efforts are steps towards de-dollarization.
- **To mitigate risk:** This will help in avoiding the risk of currency exchange rate volatility and the resulting fluctuations in the value of foreign exchange reserves.
- **Helpful in combating inflation:** Gold reserves are accumulated as a hedge against inflation. This does not reduce the purchasing power of India's foreign exchange reserves.
- **Safe-haven asset:** Gold is considered a safe-haven asset during economic and geopolitical crises, acting as a buffer against financial crises.

Risks

- **Low liquidity or low supply:** Due to low supply, converting gold into cash is slow and expensive.
- **Zero returns:** Depositing gold earns no interest, while currency deposits earn interest.

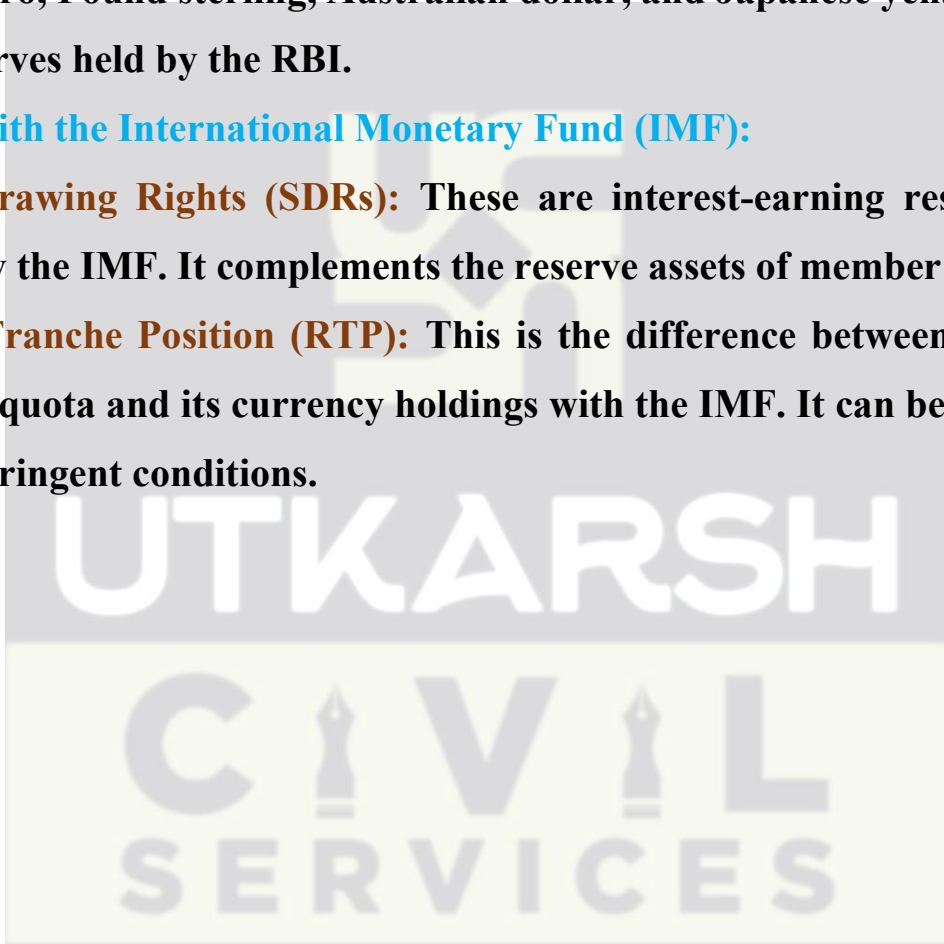
- **Higher storage and security costs:** Storing gold in the form of metal requires more security, increasing costs.

Components of India's foreign exchange reserves:

- **Foreign currency assets (FCAs):** These are held in currencies such as the US dollar, Euro, Pound sterling, Australian dollar, and Japanese yen.
- Gold reserves held by the RBI.

Storage with the International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs):** These are interest-earning reserve assets created by the IMF. It complements the reserve assets of member countries.
- **Reserve Tranche Position (RTP):** This is the difference between a member country's quota and its currency holdings with the IMF. It can be withdrawn without stringent conditions.



Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER)



Why in News?

- The rupee has reached a record low, and the real effective exchange rate (REER) is indicating continued depreciation.



Key Points:

REER:

- **Definition:** REER measures the value of a country's currency against a basket of currencies of its major trading partners, and then adjusts for relative inflation.
- It is derived by adjusting the nominal effective exchange rate (NEER) for relative consumer prices.

Trade Impact:

- A high REER makes exports more expensive and imports cheaper, reducing a country's trade competitiveness.
- A low REER indicates that the currency is undervalued, which could potentially boost exports.



INDEXES AND REPORTS



State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI)



Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Mines has released the State Mining Readiness Index.



Key Points:

- **Objective:** The objective of this index is to measure the relative contribution of states to the development of the country's mining sector, encourage reforms in the mining sector, and evaluate the performance of states.
- **Basis:** This index evaluates states based on their performance in auctions related to minerals other than coal, prompt mining operations, emphasis on exploration, and sustainable mining practices.
- **Classification:** States have been classified into three categories based on their mineral reserves.
- **The top-performing states in all three categories are:**
 - **Category A:** Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat
 - **Category B:** Goa, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam
 - **Category C:** Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Tripura.

State of Finance for Forests, 2025



Why in News?

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released its first 'State of Finance for Forests 2025' report. This report provides the global status of forest financing from public and private sources.



Key Points:

Key Points of the Report

- **Financing Gap:** An annual gap of US\$216 billion exists between current financing and the investment needed to achieve global forest targets by 2030.
- **Investment:** Annual investment in forests needs to be tripled from US\$84 billion in 2023 to US\$300 billion by 2030 and sixfold by 2050.
- Governments were the primary source of forest financing in 2023, accounting for 91% of total financing.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 2025



Why in News?

- The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 2025 report was released. It has been released annually since 2010 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHDI).



Key Points:

- **Global Poverty:** 1.1 billion (18.3%) people out of 6.3 billion people in 109 countries live in extreme multidimensional poverty.
- **Multidimensional Poverty in India:** The rate in India has declined from 55.1% in 2005–06 to 16.4% in 2019–2021. Approximately 414 million people have been lifted out of poverty.
- **Methodology:** The index is based on 3 dimensions and 10 indicators.

Key Indicator Parameters of MPI

Health

- **Nutrition:** Anyone under 70 years of age for whom 'nutritional imbalance information' is available is classified as malnourished.
- **Child mortality:** The number of deaths under 18 years of age in the surveyed household in the five-year period preceding the survey.

Education

- **Years of schooling:** No eligible household member has completed six years of schooling.
- **School attendance:** No school-going child is attending school by the age they should have completed Grade 8.
- **Standard of living:** Access to clean energy, sanitation, drinking water, etc. is not available.

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Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025 Report



Why in News?

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released the "Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025 Report." This report is released every five years. It has been published during the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) Plenary in Bali, Indonesia.



Key Points:

- GFOI is a flagship program of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). GEO is a network of governments, academic institutions, organizations, civil society, and the private sector. Its objective is to harness the potential of Earth intelligence.
- India is a member of GEO.

Key Points of the Report

- **Forest Cover:** Forests cover about 32% of the global land area.
- Nearly half of the world's forests are located in tropical regions, followed by boreal, temperate, and subtropical regions. Europe has the largest forest cover, accounting for 25% of the world's total forest area.
- **Forest extent in India:** India has moved up one place to 9th place in terms of total forest area globally. Thus, India has 2% of the global forest cover. India ranks 5th in terms of rubber plantations.

🏆 AWARDS 🏆

Sundarbans Aquaculture Model



Why in News?

- The Sundarbans Aquaculture Model has received the FAO Global Recognition Award. The Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) model has received global technical recognition from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The SAIME model was developed by the Nature Environment and Wildlife Society.



Key Points:

Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) Initiative

- SAIME is a multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) initiative. It aims to strengthen transformative processes in the shrimp trade to ensure the conservation of mangrove ecosystems in South Asia.
- SAIME aims to build a robust ecosystem in the Sundarbans. A standardized brackishwater aquaculture process is being developed, primarily using the local black tiger shrimp. This is a holistic ecosystem-based approach. Additionally, farmers practicing brackishwater aquaculture are being trained in this standardized process.
- **Funding:** It is funded by the Global Nature Fund (GNF) in collaboration with Naturland e.V. and Mercedes-Benz.

Sundarbans

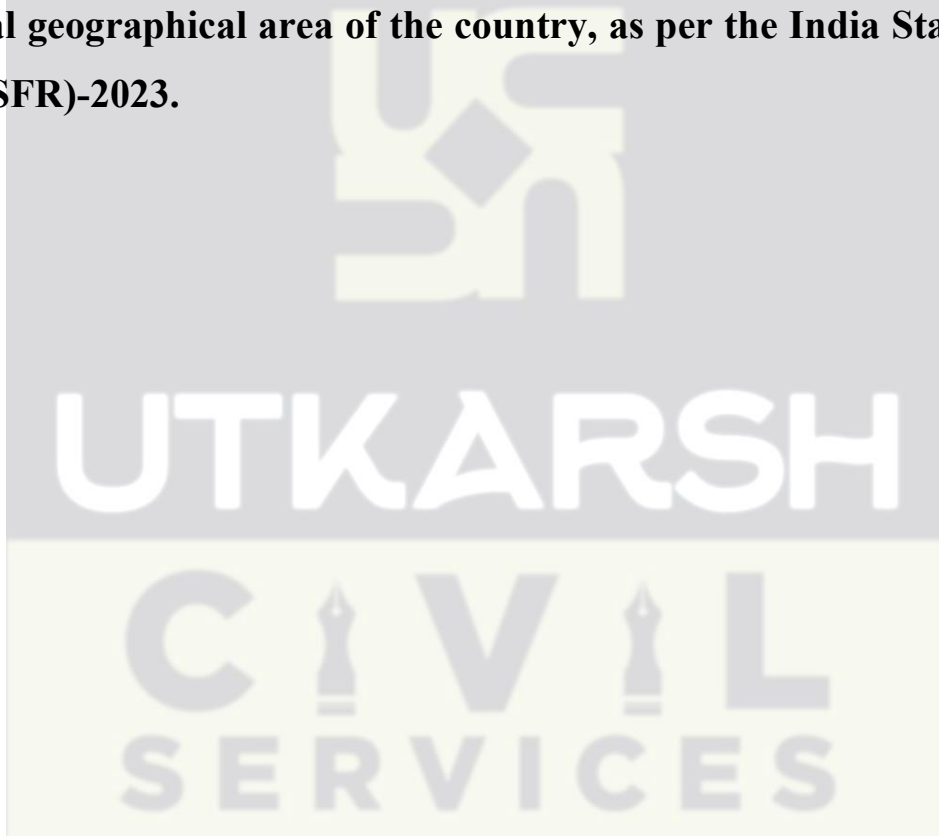
- The Sundarbans mangrove forest is located in the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers in the Bay of Bengal.

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- It is surrounded by a complex network of tidal channels, mudflats, and small islands rich in saline-tolerant mangrove forests, providing a prime example of ecological processes.
- West Bengal has the largest mangrove cover in India (42.45%), followed by Gujarat (23.66%) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (12.39%).
- Overall, India has a total mangrove cover of 4,991.68 sq km, which is 0.15% of the total geographical area of the country, as per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2023.



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Gallantry Awards



Why in News?

- The Central Government has issued a gazette notification listing gallantry award citations for defence personnel.



Key Points:

- **Purpose:** These are awards given for acts of bravery, valour, or self-sacrifice, both during war and peace.
- **Background:** The first three gallantry awards, the Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, and Vir Chakra, were instituted by the Government of India on January 26, 1950.
- The Ashoka Chakra Class I, Ashoka Chakra Class II, and Ashoka Chakra Class III were instituted in 1952.
- In January 1967, the Ashoka Chakra Class I, II, and III were renamed the Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra, respectively.
- These awards are announced twice a year (On Republic Day and Independence Day).

SPORTS

Commonwealth Games



Why in News?

- The city of Ahmedabad has been proposed to host the centenary edition of the Commonwealth Games in 2030.



Key Points:

Commonwealth Games:

- The first Commonwealth Games were held in Hamilton, Canada, in 1930.
- **Last Commonwealth Games:** In 2022, Birmingham.
- **Next Commonwealth Games:** In 2026, Glasgow.
- **Headquarters:** London
- **Governing body:** Commonwealth Sport
- **Members:** 72 countries
- **Event:** Held every four years