



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**28th September 2025**



28th September 2025

**CONTEXT:** At the 80th session of UNGA in New York, the External Affairs Minister stated that lack of resources & terrorism had left UN gridlocked & called for expansion of UNSC

## Chapter 1: Historical Backdrop of UNSC:

### United Nations : 24th Oct, 1945

<b><u>General Assembly:</u></b> Main policy making & representative body with 193 members	<b><u>Security Council:</u></b> Maintenance of International peace & security with 15 members	<b><u>Economic &amp; Social Council:</u></b> Coordination & Policy review on Economic & Environment issues
<b><u>Trusteeship Council:</u></b> Provide International supervision for "11 Trust territories" under 7 states	<b><u>International Court of Justice:</u></b> To resolve disputes among the member states	<b><u>Secretariat:</u></b> Secretary - General & staff members who carry out day - day work as mandated by UNGA

### Evolution of UNSC :

#### Failure of League of Nations (1919-1939)

14th August 1941: **Atlantic Charter**  
"Global Cooperation for better socio-economic conditions for all"

#### London Declaration 1942

Oaks Conference in Washington DC, 1944 :  
**Creation of Big 5**

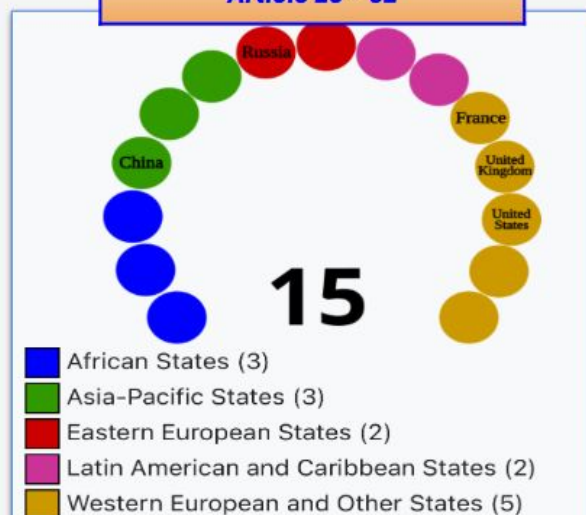
**Yalta Conference, 1945 :**  
Big "5" can VETO any decision by council

## Chapter 2: Composition of UNSC:

### A "Non - Permanent" member:

- Elected by **UNGA**
- Candidate : Must receive at least **2/3rd of all votes cast**
- In case of Tie :
  - 1979 : Cuba - Colombia withdrew for Mexico as "compromise candidate"
  - 2016 : Italy & Netherland shared the term for 1 year each
- Term : **2 years** starting from 1st January
- **5 members** are replaced every year
- A retiring member is **NOT eligible** for immediate re - election

### Chapter V : Article 23 - 32





# UN gridlocked, needs Reform

**CONTEXT:** At the 80th session of UNGA in New York, the External Affairs Minister stated that lack of resources & terrorism had left UN gridlocked & called for expansion of UNSC

## Chapter 3 : **Functioning** of UNSC :

### Important functions of UNSC

#### Chapter 6 Article 33-38

- Empowers the council to act as **"Mediator"** in International dispute
- Seek solution through mediation, negotiation & **"arbitration"**

#### Chapter 7 Article 39-51

- **"Enforceable action"** to determine any threat to existence of peace
- Imposing sanctions or authorising **"Military forces"**

#### Chapter 8 Article 52-54

- Peace settlement of local disputes through regional organisations like NATO, African Union of Arab League

#### Resolution 1674

- Responsibility to protect populations from **genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity**

### How does "Voting" works?

**Article 27:**  
Affirmative vote of  
**9 (60%)** of the  
members

Abstention is not  
regarded as a  
veto though **all 5  
PM** must vote for  
adopting any  
amendment of  
the UN Charter

**Procedural  
matters can  
NOT be vetoed**

## Chapter 4 : **India's prominent role** at UNSC :

### India's Journey at UNSC :

**Non-permanent member of the UNSC 8 times :**  
**Last Term : 2021 -22**

**1953 : Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit** was elected as  
first woman President of the UNGA

**Non - Aligned Movement :** Support to Egypt  
during Suez Crisis 1956

**1971 :** Strongly advocated for **Bangladesh's  
recognition & Inclusion in UN**

**Strong voice against Apartheid & independence of  
Namibia in 1990 from S. Africa**



Prime Minister Nehru talks with Carlos P. Romulo, President of the General Assembly, 1949

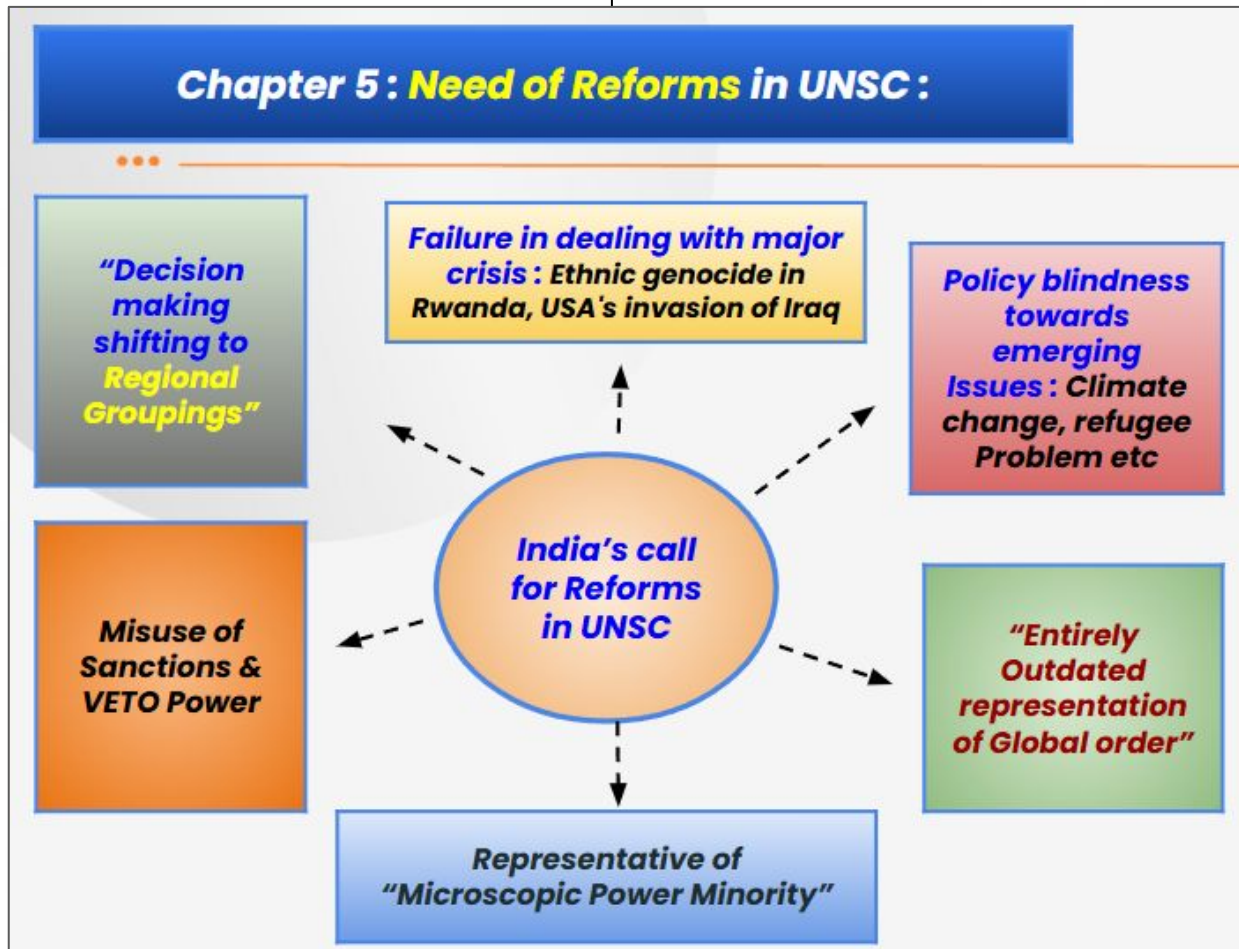


Prime Minister Nehru and V. K. Krishna Menon, chairman of the Indian delegation to the United Nations, 1956



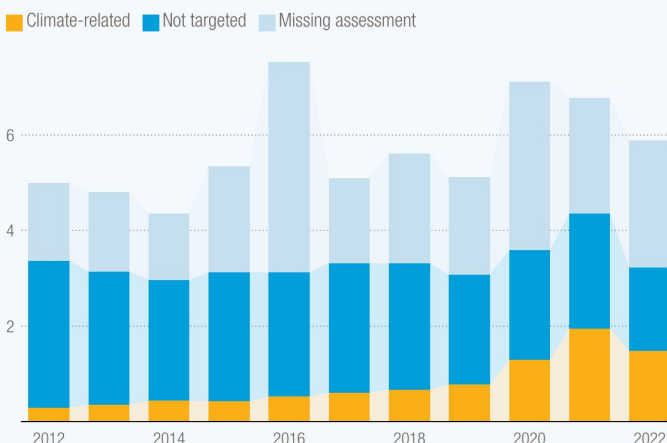
28th September 2025

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## Aid to small islands declines even as climate change intensifies

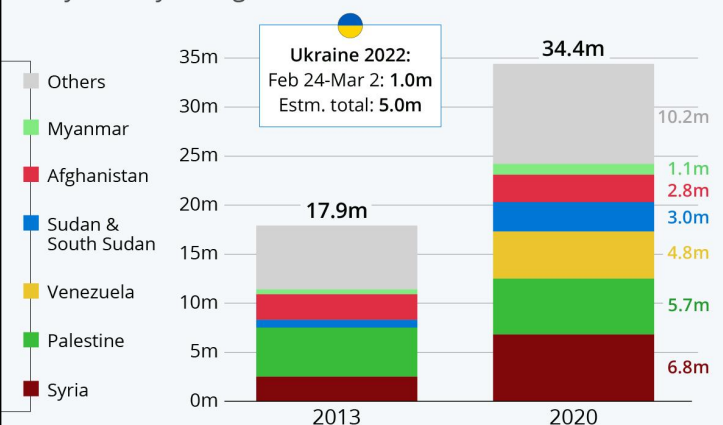
Official Development Assistance disbursements to small island developing states by climate marker in billions of US dollars at constant 2021 prices



Source: UN Global Crisis Response Group based on OECD (December 2023).  
Note: Climate-related aid comprises ODA marked for climate mitigation and/or adaptation as principal or significant objective.

## The World's Refugee Crises

Number of internationally displaced people by country of origin\*



\* includes refugees, asylum-seekers and Venezuelans abroad  
Sources: UNHCR, U.S. Mission to the UN



statista



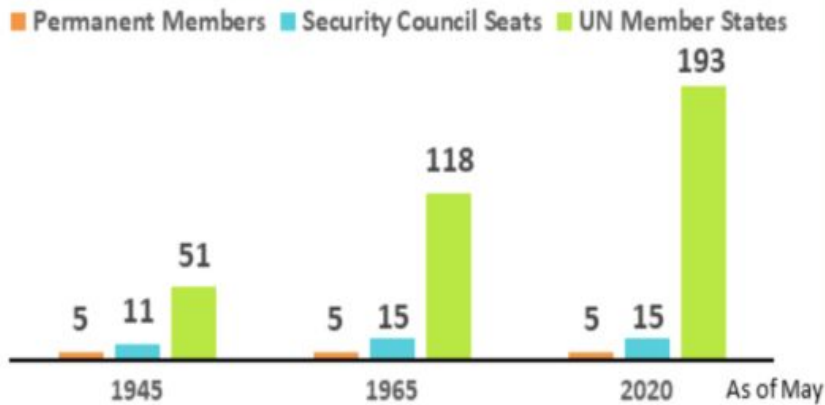
# UN gridlocked, needs Reform

**CONTEXT:** At the 80th session of UNGA in New York, the External Affairs Minister stated that lack of resources & terrorism had left UN gridlocked & called for expansion of UNSC

## Chapter 5 : Need of Reforms in UNSC :

**"No longer represents the World":**

### Number of UN Member States



## India's Rationale for Reforms :

A Council that is more reflective of the contemporary geopolitical realities of the world = A more effective Council

A more representative Council = A more effective Council

A more democratic Council (incorporating inclusive and participatory decision-making) = A more effective Council

A Council with a membership that includes regional powers will be more capable = A more effective Council

Source: United Nations University, A reformed UNSC that is more representative, democratic and inclusive will be a more effective UNSC.

## Chapter 6 : Strong case for India's Inclusion :

**Inclusion of World's largest democracy & 4th largest economy**

**Advocate for India's Inclusion**

**Emerged as voice of "Global South"**

**Fostered Multilateral platforms for global engagement on key issues**

**"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam": NOT showed unilateral aggression against any country**

**Immense contribution to Humanitarian aid & UN Peacekeeping mission**

## "Thorns in Roses" :

- **Polarisation of world : Russia-China Nexus v. G-7 countries**
- **Labelling of India as "Laundromat" country**
- **Conflicting models of Reform: G-4 grouping led by India vs Coffee Club**
- **Vehement opposition by China**

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## Chapter 7 : Proposed Structure of Reform :

	G4 (Group of Four) (※position presented in the IGN document in 2015)	AU (African Union) (※position presented in the draft resolution by Africa in 2005)	CARICOM (Caribbean Community )	L69	UFC (Uniting for Consensus)
Member	Brazil, Germany, India and Japan	54 African countries	14 CARICOM member states	India, Jamaica, PNG, Saint Vincent, etc.	Italy, Republic of Korea, Mexico, etc.
Permanent Seats	11 (+6) Africa(2), Asia-Pacific(2), Latin America and Caribbean(1), Western Europe and other(1)				5 (status quo)
Non-Permanent Seats	14 or 15 (+4 or +5) Africa(1 or 2), Asia-Pacific(1), Eastern Europe(1) Latin America and Caribbean(1)	15 (+5) Africa(2), Asia-Pacific(1), Eastern Europe(1) Latin America and Caribbean(1)	16 (+6) Africa(2), Asia-Pacific(1), Eastern Europe(1) Latin America and Caribbean(1), SIDS(Small Island Developing States)(1)	Up to 21 (+11) increase of non-permanent seats and creation of new category of membership based on longer term non-permanent seats	
Veto	The new permanent members shall not exercise the veto-right until a decision has been taken during a review (15 years after the reform)	The veto should be abolished but so long as it exists, it should be extended to all members including the new permanent members	Same as the left In addition, efforts must be made to limit its use	Ready to consider formulas on how to best limit its use	

※G4 expressed its support to the Common African Position (CAP) in the G4 Ministerial Joint Press Statement (September 2021).

### Issues to be discussed:

- Categories of Membership
- Regional Representation
- Question of the Veto
- Size of an Enlarged Council and Working Methods of the Council
- Relationship between the Council and the General Assembly

## Mains Practise Question

**Question : What is the structure & functions of the UNSC? Why India has demanded for reforms in UNSC? Present a strong case for India's inclusion in UNSC as a future diplomat. (15 Marks, 250 words)**





28th September 2025

**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of landslides in the Western Ghats and suggests for the implementation of Eco - Sensitive Zone & "Disaster Tourism"

## Pillar 1: What happened in Wayanad?

### Context of News :

Over a year after the cloud-burst tore down the Mundakkai-Chooralmala valley in Kerala's Wayanad district late on July 30, 2024, flattening human settlements and splitting the river into two, ground zero is the first place the locals take the tourists to now.

"There's a memory of what we were. We will build on that. The stream will become a river, the trees will grow back, but this time, we won't cut them. They hold the soil," Hamsa says, pointing to the timber logs that the boulders brought down with them, a visible sign of how de-

"Tourist hub for misty blue hills & forests"

"Declared as **"fragile eco-zone"** by State since landslide

**"No human settlements allowed anymore"**

**Gadgil Report 2011 : Entire Wayanad as Eco - Sensitive Zone**

**No State policy for "Disaster Tourism"**

## Pillar 2: Importance of "Western Ghats":

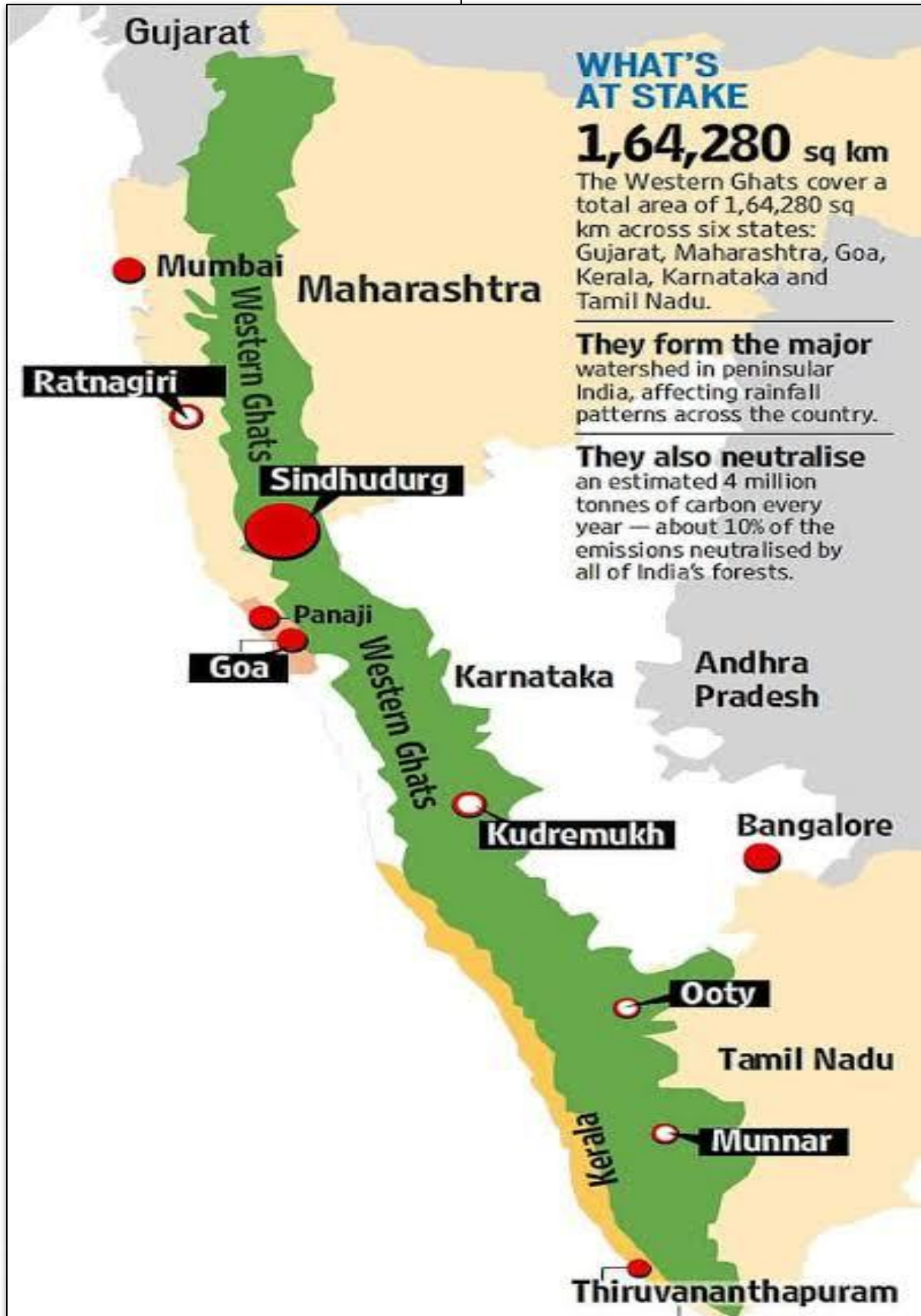
### Western Ghats

- **6 states :** Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka (Longest), Tamil Nadu & Kerala
- **1600+ km long**
- **Tapi Estuary to Kanyakumari**
- **Gaps :** Goa, Palghat & Shencottah
- **1 out of 43 UNESCO WHS**
- **1 out of 36 Biodiversity Hotspots**
- **What is importance of Western Ghat?**



28th September 2025

**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of landslides in the Western Ghats and suggests for the implementation of Eco - Sensitive Zone & "Disaster Tourism"





28th September 2025

**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of landslides in the Western Ghats and suggests for the implementation of Eco - Sensitive Zone & "Disaster Tourism"

## Pillar 3: Why Western Ghats are prone to Landslide?

### Landslide Atlas of India - ISRO

#### Conditioning Factors:

- Soil Topography
- Rock Geomorphology
- Slope Angle

#### Triggering Factors:

- Extreme Weather Events
- Land use changes
- Unscientific construction
- Mining activities
- Blockage of Stream networks
- Large scale Hydropower projects

Published: 13 July 2022

The tale of three landslides in the Western Ghats, India: lessons to be learnt



## Pillar 3: Why Western Ghats are prone to Landslide?

### Issue of Deforestation

- Commercial exploitation due to "growing economic hunger"
  - Iron
  - Bauxite
  - Manganese

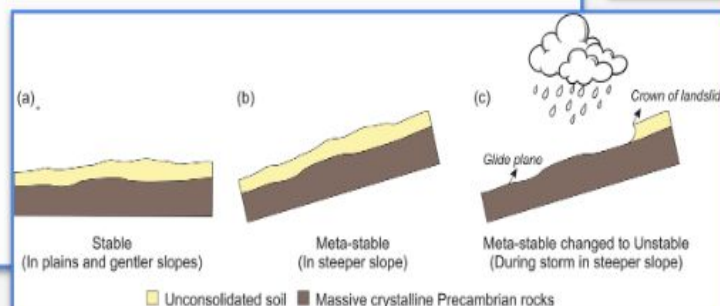
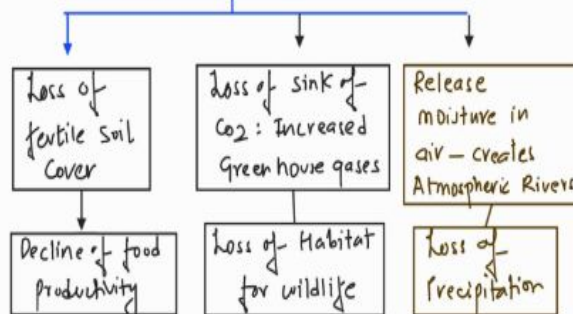
Illegal mining

- Plantation of Commercial crops & unchecked livestock grazing

+

- Anthropogenic pressure: Urbanisation, Dams, Infrastructure

### Impact of Deforestation



## Why Karnataka rejected the Kasturirangan report on the Western Ghats

State cites economic concerns and political pressure from local representatives, despite growing ecological threats to the biodiversity-rich region.

Published : Oct 09, 2024 17:16 IST

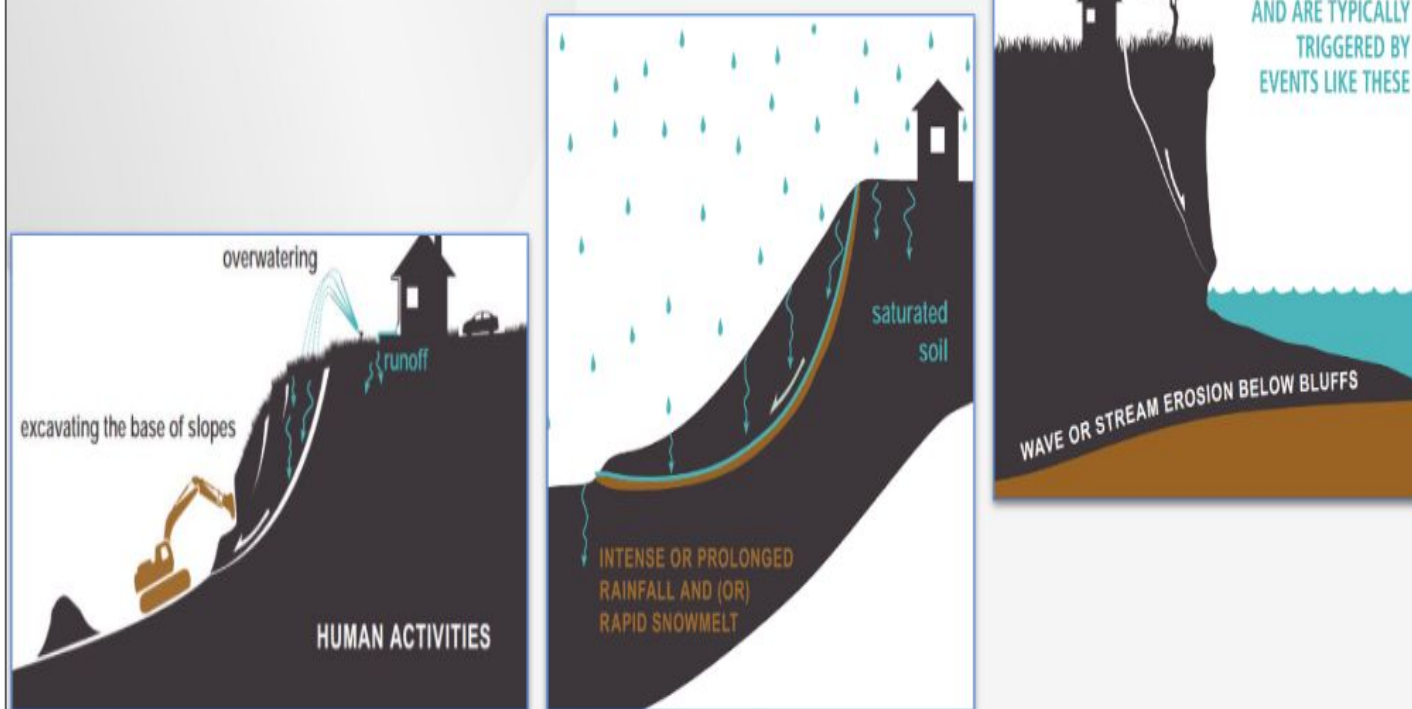
VIKHAR AHMED SAYEED



Personnel from the Mysuru Division of South Western Railway at work on the Hassan-Mangaluru line, near Kadagaravalli, Karnataka, on July 28, 2024. | Photo Credit: By Special Arrangement

**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of landslides in the Western Ghats and suggests for the implementation of Eco - Sensitive Zone & "Disaster Tourism"

## Pillar 3: Why Western Ghats are prone to Landslide?



## Pillar 4: Government appointed Committees:

### Gadgil Committee 2011

- Convert entire Western Ghats into Eco - Sensitive Zone (ESZ)
- Each state responsible for their share of WGs
- Demarcation of ESZ: Inputs from local communities
- WG Ecological Authority as Statutory body
- No new environmental clearance for mining
- Phase out mining completely by 2015
- No new Red & Orange industries

### Kasturirangan 2013

- 90% of Natural landscape shall be protected
- 37% Western Ghats: Eco - Sensitive Zone (ESZ)
- Business shall continue: Provide incentive to move towards "Greener practise"
- Ban on all new "polluting industries"
- Projects allowed only after consent of Gram Sabhas
- Forest Rights Act 2006

### Status check

The table shows State-wise physical progress under the Green India Mission. It lists the targeted increase in tree cover, achievement and shortfall for select States



**Green cover:** A view of a forest in Andhra Pradesh.

State	Target	Achievement	Shortfall
Uttarakhand	6,446	1,505	-4,941
Madhya Pradesh	5,858	1,882	-3,976
Kerala	1,686	616	-1,070
West Bengal	558	175	-383
Maharashtra	1,316	933	-383
Andhra Pradesh	186	75	-111

All figures are in hectares





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**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of landslides in the Western Ghats and suggests for the implementation of Eco - Sensitive Zone & "Disaster Tourism"

## Pillar 5 : Affirmative action taken by GOI :

### ESA under Section 3 of EPA 1986

#### Prohibited Activities

- Commercial Mining
- Commercial use of Timber
- Polluting Industries
- Major Hydroelectric Projects
- Discharge of Solid wastes

#### Regulated Activities

- Felling of Trees
- Establishment of Recreational Infrastructure
- Commercial use of Natural water
- Underground cables
- "Drastic" change in cropping patterns

### Forest & Tree Cover

- Total F & T Cover : **25.17%**
- NFP 1988 : **33%** of area under Forest Cover
- Increase in Forest Cover : **156.4 Km<sup>2</sup>**

### Largest decrease in Forest Cover

- Madhya Pradesh
- Karnataka
- Ladakh
- Nagaland

## Pillar 5 : Affirmative action taken by GOI :

### Green India Mission

### Concept of Agro - Forestry

What to do?

Miyawaki Method

Accredited Compensatory Afforestation in FCA 2023

Recommendation of Gadgil Committee

2BT Programme in Canada

- Launched in 2014
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- Increased forest cover on **5 million hectare** of forest & Non - Forest land
- Improve quality of Forest cover on additional 5 million hectare of forested land
- Enhance CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration by **60 million tonnes** by 2030

28th September 2025

**CONTEXT:** The article highlights the issue of landslides in the Western Ghats and suggests for the implementation of Eco - Sensitive Zone & "Disaster Tourism"

## Mains Practise Question

**Question :** What do you understand by the term Ecologically Sensitive areas? Illustrate the need of application of Ecologically Sensitive areas in the Western Ghats.  
(10 Marks, 150 words)





28th September 2025

**SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper :** Emerging Diseases & Health Sector  
**Newspaper The Hindu Page Number :** SCIENCE

## Lingering Threat of Malaria

### Transmission, disrupted

In malaria control, mass drug administration aims to reduce the size of the human reservoir

- Global malaria deaths remain high with Africa the worst affected; India has achieved reductions but struggles with transmission
- Ivermectin has emerged as a promising systemic insecticide after discoveries showed it could kill malaria-carrying mosquitoes
- The BOHEMIA trial in Kenya found monthly ivermectin doses could cut malaria cases by 26% in children, the most vulnerable
- A similar trial in Mozambique was disrupted while results from Guinea-Bissau showed no added benefit over extant drugs
- While both trials reaffirmed

ivermectin's safety, insect resistance remains a concern given the drug's veterinary overuse

- Researchers are exploring higher doses, longer-lasting formulations, combinations with vaccines to strengthen ivermectin's effects

Ivermectin kills mosquitoes from the inside after they bite humans. SHUTTERSTOCK



Momentum against Malaria declined : 2015-24

2023 : Malaria claimed **6 Lakh lives** : 95% in African region

India : **80% drop** in cases (2014-2024)

Persistent transmission : **Odisha, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand etc**

Use of "**Endectocides**" : Insecticides that work from "inside the human body"

## Lingering Threat of Malaria

### Disease caused by Mosquito :

#### "Lingering Threat"

Increasing threat to global health due to rapid urbanisation, extreme weather events & water logging issues

#### Prelims Facts about Malaria :

Malaria : **Parasitic infection** transmitted by Mosquitoes

"**Only female Anopheles** mosquitoes can spread Malaria"

"Seizures, fluid in lungs, organ damage & death"

**WHO** : "Kills 4 Lakh people annually"

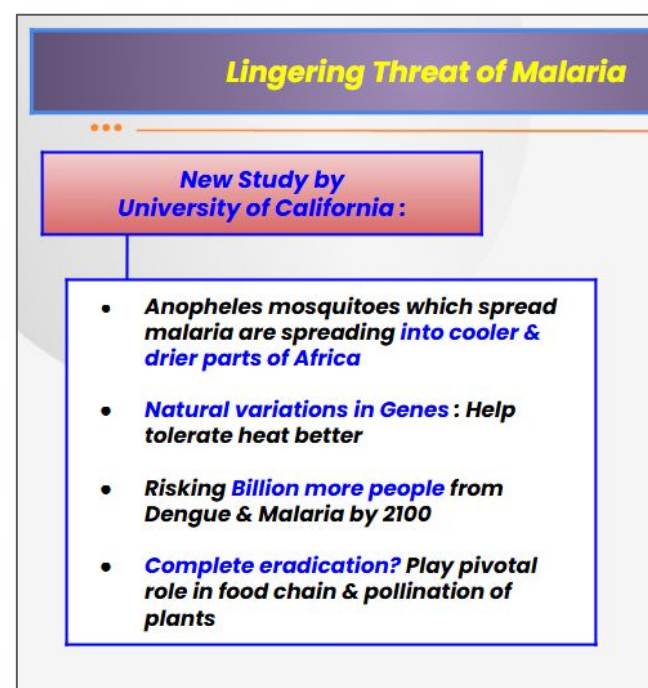
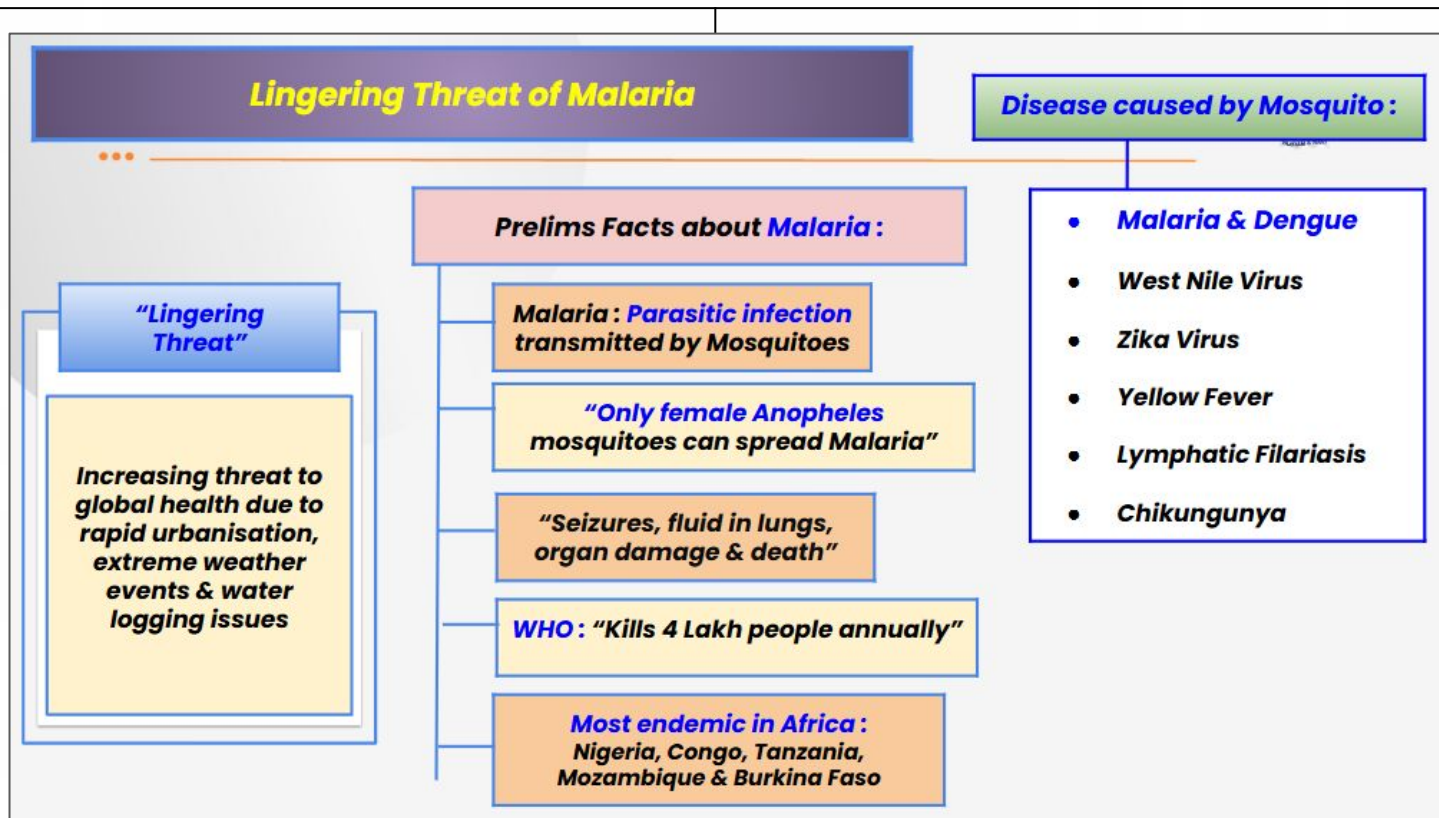
**Most endemic in Africa** : Nigeria, Congo, Tanzania, Mozambique & Burkina Faso

- **Malaria & Dengue**
- West Nile Virus
- Zika Virus
- Yellow Fever
- Lymphatic Filariasis
- Chikungunya

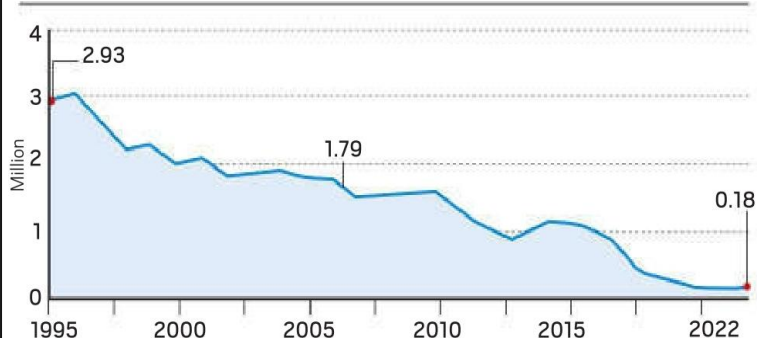


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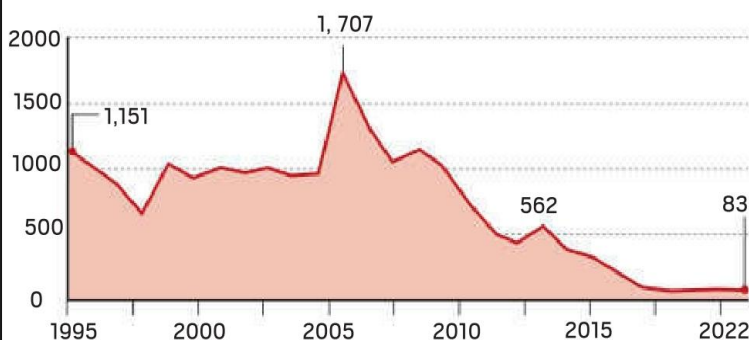
**SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper :** Emerging Diseases & Health Sector  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number :** SCIENCE



**REPORTED MALARIA CASES IN INDIA (1995-2022)**



**REPORTED MALARIA DEATHS IN INDIA (1995-2022)**

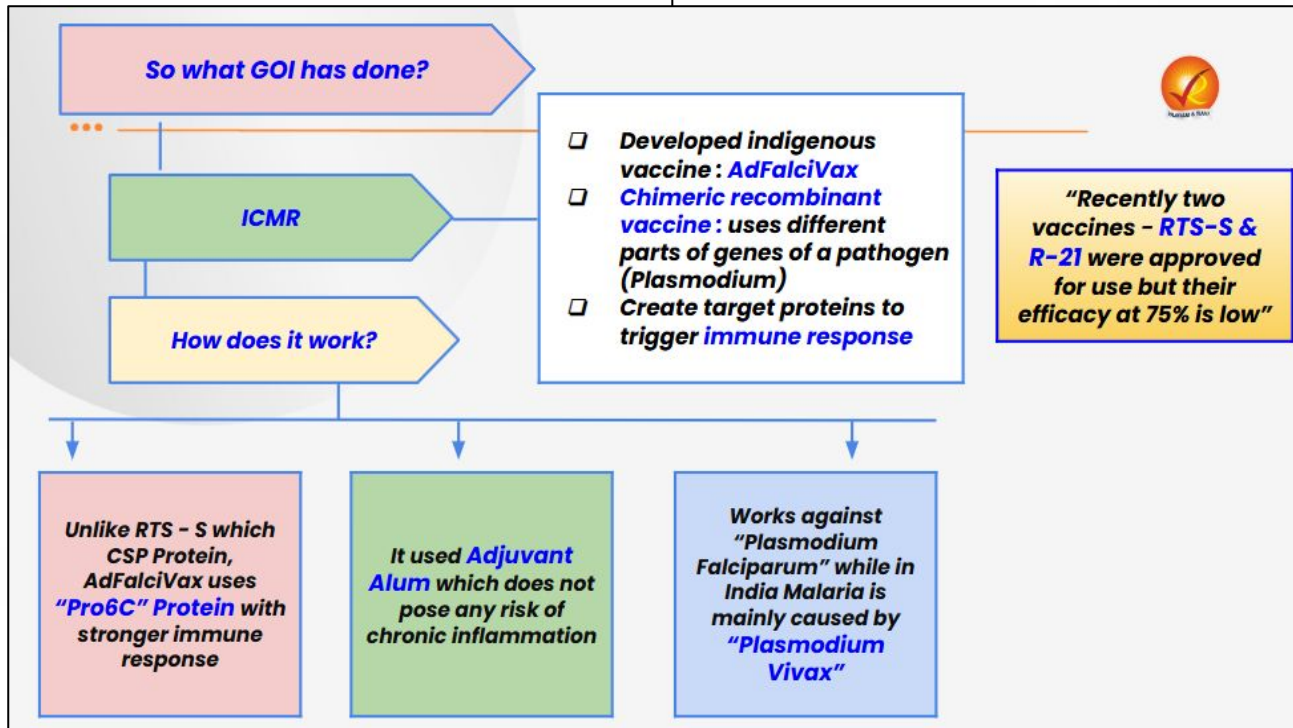


Source: National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme

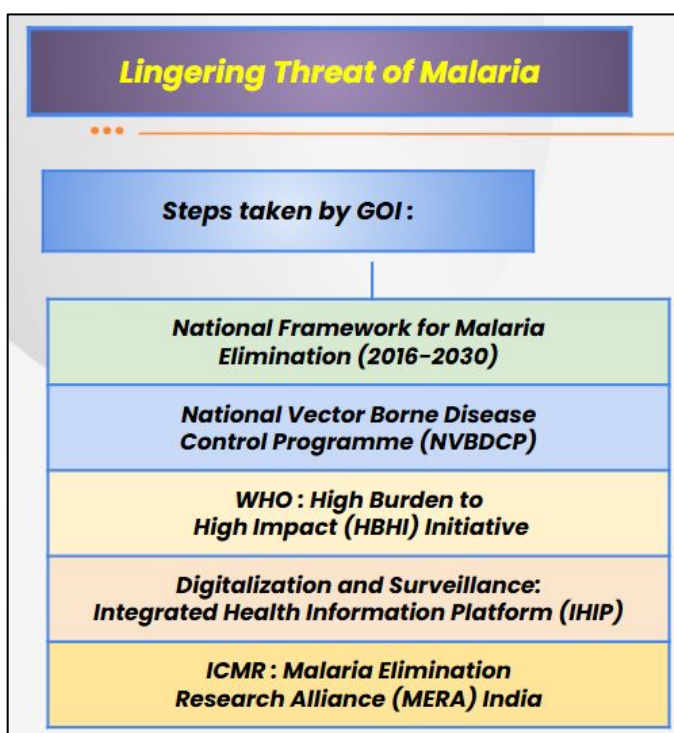


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**SYLLABUS : GS 2 Paper :** Emerging Diseases & Health Sector  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number :** SCIENCE



## Centre grants licences to five firms to manufacture its first indigenous malaria vaccine



### THE GIST

The *Aedes* mosquito adapts well to human settings. It feeds indoors during the day, and at night under artificial light. Methods like outdoor fumigation, vaporizers, and bed nets are thus ineffective against them

Municipal corporations and resident welfare associations should stop depending only on fogging. By using a strategy with top-down and bottom-up features, a 100-200-metre safe zone can be created around vulnerable people

Loose clothing that covers as much of body as possible, safe non-insecticides, community action to remove larval breeding sites are some strategies that can be used



# New Entry in UNESCO Biosphere List



**SYLLABUS : Prelims :** Important International Recognition  
**Newspaper** The Indian Express **Page Number :** 06

## New Entry in UNESCO Biosphere List

### Context of News :

THE COLD Desert Biosphere Reserve (CDBR) in Himachal Pradesh, along with 25 other biosphere reserves across several countries, has been included in World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) by the UNESCO, a global recognition that places the 7,770-sq km area spread across the state's Lahaul-Spiti district on the international conservation map. With this addition, India now has 13 biospheres listed in WNBR.

26 new BR across 21 countries  
: Highest in 20 years

Total WBNR sites : 785 sites in  
142 countries

37th Session of UNESCO's ICC of  
MAB Programme in Paris

India : 13 WBNR sites

Gulf of Mannar was  
excluded in 2020

## New Entry in UNESCO Biosphere List

### What is MAB Programme?

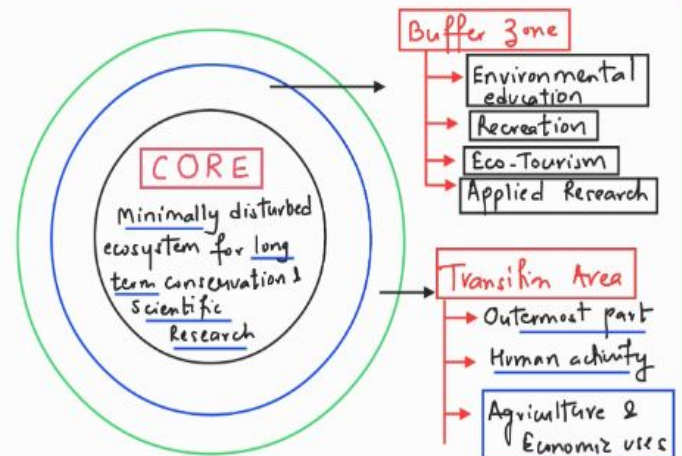
Areas of fragile & unique "Terrestrial, Marine & Coastal ecosystem" designated by MAB programme started in 1971

Reserves are treated as "Natural Laboratories" for sustainable development

Human activities are NOT excluded

Permanent Status? NO

1st BR in 1976 : Island of Zvenigorod BR in Russia





# New Entry in UNESCO Biosphere List



**SYLLABUS: Prelims** : Important International Recognition  
**Newspaper** The Indian Express **Page Number** : 06

## New Entry in UNESCO Biosphere List

<b>Nilgiri</b>	Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Nagarhole, Bandipur & Silent Valley NP & Wayanad & Sathyamangalam WS	Lion Tailed Macaque (EN), Nilgiri Tahr (EN), Malabar Giant Squirrel (LC), Nilgiri Langur (VU)
<b>Nanda Devi</b>	Nanda Devi National Park & Valley of Flowers NP	Snow Leopard (VU), Musk Deer (EN), Bharal Or Blue Sheep (LC)
<b>Nokrek</b>	Highest peak of Garo Hills in Meghalaya	Red Panda (EN), Hoolock Gibbons (EN), Red Giant Flying Squirrel (LC)
<b>Sundarbans</b>	Sundarbans NP, Sajnekhali & Lothian WS	Habitat for threatened Royal Bengal Tiger

## Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

- Pin Valley NP, Kibber WS, Chandratat Wetlands & Sarchu plains
- Windswept plateaus, glacial valleys, alpine lakes & high altitude deserts
- **Flora** : 655 herbs, 41 shrubs, 17 tree species & 47 medicinal plants
- **Flagship species** : Snow Leopard 🐅, Blue sheep 🐐, Ibex & Himalayan wolf 🐺

## New Entry in UNESCO Biosphere List

<b>Manas</b>	North of Brahmaputra river, contiguous to Royal Manas NP in Bhutan	Assam Roofed Turtle (EN), Hispid Hare (EN), Golden Langur (EN) & Pygmy Hog (EN)
<b>Great Nicobar</b>	Campbell Bay National Park & Galathea NP	Dugong (VU) & Saltwater Crocodile (LC)
<b>Khangchendzonga</b>	Third highest mountain peak & India's first "Mixed World Heritage Site"	Red Panda (EN), Snow Leopard (VU), Musk Deer (EN), Great Tibetan Sheep (Argali – NT)
<b>Agasthyamala</b>	Shendurney, Peppara, Neyyar WS & Kalakad Mundanthurai TR	Nilgiri Tahr (EN)



# New Entry in UNESCO Biosphere List

**SYLLABUS: Prelims:** Important International Recognition  
**Newspaper** The Indian Express **Page Number:** 06

## Biosphere Reserves in India

**Cold Desert**  
Himachal Pradesh

**\*Nanda Devi**  
Uttarakhand

**Kachchh**  
Gujarat

**\*Pachmarhi,  
Panna**  
Madhya Pradesh

**\*Achankmar-  
Amarkantak**  
Chhattisgarh,  
Madhya Pradesh

**\*Nilgiri**  
Karnataka

**\*Agasthyamala**  
Tamil Nadu & Kerala

**\*Khangchendzonga**  
Sikkim

**Manas, Dibru  
Saikhowa**  
Assam

**Dehang  
Debang**  
Arunachal  
Pradesh

**\*Nokrek**  
Meghalaya

**\*Sunderbans**  
West Bengal

**\*Similipal**  
Odisha

**Seshachalam**  
Andhra Pradesh

**\*Gulf of Mannar**  
Tamil Nadu

**\*Great Nicobar**  
Andaman &  
Nicobar Islands

**\*World Network of Biosphere Reserve (NAB-UNESCO)**

Source: moef.gov.in

Map not to scale.

Graphic: IE Design





**SYLLABUS : Prelims : Modern History**  
**Newspaper The Indian Express Page Number : 10**

## UPSC @ "100"

### Context of News :

WHEN THE Constitution came into effect in India on January 26, 1950, so did some institutions that enabled the foundation of a newly democratic nation. One such institution was the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), located at Dholpur House on Shahjahan Road in New Delhi.

At the time it was founded on October 1, 1926, under the Government of India Act, 1919, the UPSC was known as the Public Service Commission. Before its current name, between 1937 and January 26, 1950, it was called the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC). On October 1 this year, the highest recruiter of officials to the Indian government will enter its centenary year.

Employees of EIC acted as  
"Mercantile servants"

Warren Hasting : Appointment of  
"Revenue Collectors"

1855 : Civil Service  
Commission in Britain

1858 : Jurisdiction extended  
To "Indian Civil Services"

Lee Commission 1924 :  
Establishment of PSC

## UPSC @ "100"

### Further Reforms:

### Covenanted Civil Services:

Method for appointment of Officers  
by Court of Directors (COD)

Raised salary of Civil Servants

Strict enforcement of Rules  
against Private Trade

Promotion on the basis of seniority

Superior Race Theory

Lord Wellesley  
(1798-1805)

- 1800 : Fort William College in Calcutta
- 1806 : East India College, Haileybury

Charter Act  
of 1833

"No Native of India shall be disabled from holding Public offices due to reasons of Religion, Birth or colour"

Charter Act  
of 1853

Open competition system for Indians & took away power of COD to appoint Officers

Indian Civil  
Services Act  
1861

Examination will be held in London in English & Classical languages of Latin & Greek & permissible age was kept at max 22 years



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**SYLLABUS : Prelims : Modern History**  
**Newspaper The Indian Express Page Number : 10**

## UPSC @ "100"

### Further Reforms:

#### Lord Lytton (1876-80)

- Reduced Maximum age to **19 years**
- Statutory Civil services (SSC): **1/6th** posts to be filled by **high positioned Indian families**

#### Atchison Committee on Public services 1886

- Imperial Indian Services (IIS) = London
- Provincial Civil Services (PCS) = India
- Age limit = **23 years**

#### Montford Reforms 1919

- Simultaneous exams to be held in India & London
- **33% recruitment** by Indians

### Prelims Question 2020 :

34. Wellesley established the Fort William College at Calcutta because

- he was asked by the Board of Directors at London to do so
- he wanted to revive interest in oriental learning in India
- he wanted to provide William Carey and his associates with employment
- he wanted to train British civilians for administrative purpose in India

## UPSC @ "100"

Service Commission. Sir Ross Barker served as its chairperson till 1932.

A new proposal under the Government of India Act, 1935, established a Commission for both the federation and each province or group of provinces. By the time this new format – the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) – rolled out in on April 1, 1937, and Sir Eyre Gordon took over from Sir David Petrie as its chairperson, India was merely a decade away from Independence.

When India became independent on August 15, 1947, the FPSC was headed by its first Indian chief, H K Kripalani. After him, R N Banerjee headed the Commission from 1949 to 1955. During his tenure, the Constitution came into effect, as did two change of names – the FPSC was now the UPSC, while the ICS was renamed as the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

Various commissions and committees – the first Administrative Reforms Commission of 1966 (headed by Morarji Desai, and later by K Hanumanthaiah), the Thorat panel of 1967 (headed by Lt Gen SP Thorat), the Kothari panel of 1976 (headed by Daulat Singh Kothari), the Satish Chandra panels of 1989 and 1990, the Alagh Committee of 2001 (headed by Y K Alagh), the P C Hota panel of 2004 and the Arun Nigavekar panel of 2012 – too have shaped the UPSC's current recruitment pattern.



28th September 2025

**SYLLABUS : Prelims** Art & Culture  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number : 07**

## Context of News :

A consortium led by the architectural firm Arcop Associates has emerged as the best bidder pending further approval from competent authorities to provide design consultant services for the upcoming Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum which is being built at North and South Blocks, the government buildings that flank Rashtrapathi Bhavan in the national capital.

To be the **largest Museum** in the world

**Cooperation with France :**  
Louvre in Paris

**National Museum : Established on**  
15th August, 1949

**On recommendation of**  
Gwyer Committee 1946

'Dancing Girl' Replica Stolen From Delhi's National Museum; FIR Filed Against Ashoka University Professor

## Art & Culture at National Museum :

Dancing Girl Bronze Statue

Skeleton from Rakhigarhi

Terracotta image of Mother Goddess

Pashupati Seal

Toy Cart of Banawali

## Pashupati Seal:

- Mohenjodaro
- Made up of **Steatite**
- **Necklace & Bangles**
- **Fauna** - Elephant, Tiger, Rhino, Buffalo & 2 Antelopes
- **Horned Deity - Kot Dji & Kalibangan**



**SYLLABUS : Prelims** Art & Culture  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number : 07**

## Art & Culture at National Museum :

Barhut's railings from Stupa

Sage Asita visit

Gandhara & Mathura school of Art

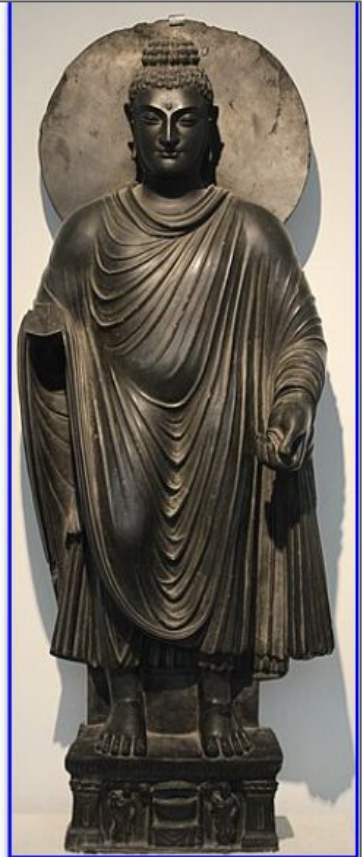
Kushana period artefacts



Railig from Barhut Stupa showing the Last Episode  
of Buddha's Life



Asita visiting King Suddhodana (Satvahana period)





28th September 2025

**SYLLABUS : Prelims** Important International Institutions  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number : 14**

## Context of the News :

The BRICS group of countries, a club of 11 emerging markets, called out protectionism and tariff volatility at a Foreign Ministers meeting on the fringes of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly. The statement comes as countries are navigating the upheaval to global trade following U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policies this year – which have seen both higher tariffs and repeated changes to rates.

## WHEN WAS BRICS FORMED?



### Brazil, Russia, India, and China

came together to form BRIC in 2006. Russia initiated the creation of this bloc. At the time, South Africa wasn't a member.



**2001**

The Acronym BRIC was coined by **Jim O'Neill**, then Chief Economist of Goldman Sachs, spotlighting the growth potential of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.



**2006**

The leaders of BRIC countries met for the first time in **St. Petersburg, Russia**. A few months later the countries formed an informal group as allies.

## WHEN WAS BRICS FORMED?



**2011**

**South Africa** joined the group, and so the acronym became BRICS.



**2009**

The **1st BRIC summit** was held in **Yekaterinburg, Russia**.

BRICS operates by consensus, and its significance extends beyond economic cooperation. **All member nations are also part of the Group of 20 (G20)**, a forum of major economies.

The bloc was established as a counterbalance to the prevailing world order dominated by the United States and its Western allies. Spearheaded by Russia, BRICS was envisioned as an informal club rather than a formal multilateral organisation, setting it apart from entities like the United Nations or the World Bank.



28th September 2025

**SYLLABUS : Prelims** Important International Institutions  
**Newspaper** The Hindu **Page Number : 14**

## ECONOMY

### BRICS admits six new members

Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are set to join the core group of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. These 11 countries have a combined population of 3.7 billion.



The expansion of the group is part of its plan to build dominance and reshape global governance into "multipolar" world order that puts voices of the Global South at the centre of the world agenda.



Source: brics2023.gov.za | August 24, 2023

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28th September 2025

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Western Ghats:**

1. The Western Ghats stretch across six Indian states, including Gujarat and Kerala.
2. The total length of the Western Ghats is over 1600 km, running from the Tapi estuary to Kanyakumari.
3. The entire range has no natural gaps, making it a continuous mountain chain.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Answer: a**

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Malaria:**

1. Malaria is a viral infection transmitted by female Aedes mosquitoes.
2. Malaria is most endemic in countries like Nigeria, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b**

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (CDBR):**

1. It is located in the Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.
2. It was recently included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) by UNESCO.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: c**

**Q4. Which of the following Acts introduced open competition for civil service positions in India?**

- a) Regulating Act of 1773
- b) Pitt's India Act, 1784
- c) Charter Act of 1853
- d) Indian Councils Act, 1861

**Answer: c**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Pashupati Seal:**

1. The seal was discovered at the Indus Valley site of Mohenjodaro and is made of steatite.
2. It depicts a horned deity surrounded by animals like the elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, and buffalo.
3. Similar depictions of the horned deity have been found at Kot Diji and Kalibangan.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: c**





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