

Factly Weekly

Compilation

2025

**For UPSC CSE Prelims
Exam**

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Repo Rate Cut

News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.25% on February 7, 2025. This is the first repo rate cut in nearly five years and follows a two-year period of maintaining the rate at 6.50%.

Rationale Behind the Repo Rate Cut

- **Stimulating Economic Growth:** The primary objective is to **encourage borrowing, investment, and spending** to drive economic growth.
- **Inflation Within Target:** With inflation under control, the RBI has room to lower rates without the risk of excessive price increases.
- **Aligning with Global Trends:** Many central banks worldwide have adopted **accommodative monetary policies**, making India's move aligned with global trends.
- **Reducing Lending Costs:** Lower repo rates reduce banks' cost of funds, allowing them to offer **cheaper loans** to businesses and individuals.
- **Boosting Employment:** Increased credit availability can help businesses expand, leading to **job creation and higher employment levels**.

Impact on Interest Rates and Borrowing Costs

- **Reduction in Loan EMIs:** Interest rates on **home, vehicle, and personal loans** will decline, lowering monthly EMIs for borrowers.
- **Lower External Benchmark Lending Rates (EBLRs):** Banks will reduce interest rates on loans linked to the repo rate, making credit more **affordable**.
- **Marginal Cost of Fund-Based Lending Rate (MCLR) Impact:** While banks have not fully passed on past rate hikes, the latest cut may result in **cheaper loans**.
- **Higher Liquidity in the Market:** With lower lending rates, borrowing will increase, boosting **liquidity and consumption** in the economy.

Impact on Investment and Consumption

- **Cheaper Business Loans:** Reduced borrowing costs will encourage businesses to invest in **expansion, technology, and infrastructure**.
- **Boost in Consumer Spending:** Lower interest rates make **consumer credit more accessible**, increasing purchases of homes, cars, and durable goods.
- **Real Estate and Auto Sector Growth:** With **lower mortgage and auto loan rates**, demand in these sectors is expected to rise.
- **Stock Market Sentiment:** Lower rates can improve investor sentiment, potentially leading to **higher stock market activity**.

Concerns and Potential Risks

- **Possibility of Higher Inflation:** Increased money supply and consumer spending could drive up **prices**, posing an inflation risk.
- **Lower Savings Interest Rates:** Deposit rates may decrease, making **savings accounts and fixed deposits (FDs)** less attractive for investors.
- **Rupee Depreciation:** A lower rate environment could lead to **capital outflows**, weakening the Indian rupee further.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

News: The Department of Commerce, through **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)**, has been actively promoting the export of fruits and vegetables under the Agriculture and Processed Foods Export Promotion Scheme for the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).



About Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- APEDA stands for **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority**.
- **Founded:** December 1985, under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India**.
- APEDA serves as the **Secretariat to the National Accreditation Board (NAB)**. It implements accreditation of certification bodies under the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**.
- **Objective:** Promotes and develops the export of Indian agricultural and processed food products.
- APEDA is responsible for export promotion, quality improvement, market and infrastructural development, certification and accreditation.
- **Regional Presence:** APEDA has **15 Regional Offices** located in:

- Mumbai, Bengaluru, Telangana, Kolkata, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Chandigarh, Bhopal, Chennai, Kochi, Tripura, Srinagar, Jammu, and Ladakh.

Article 200

News: The Supreme Court is currently hearing a case involving the Tamil Nadu government and Governor RN Ravi over delays in granting assent to Bills. The ruling in this case will set a precedent for other states facing similar issues.

About Article 200

Article 200 of the Indian Constitution deals with the **Assent to Bills by the Governor**. It outlines the options available to the Governor of a state when a Bill passed by the State Legislature is presented for approval.

When a Bill is passed by the State Legislature and sent to the Governor, the Governor has the following options:

1. **Assent to the Bill** – The Governor may give approval, making the Bill a law.
2. **Withhold Assent** – The Governor may refuse to sign the Bill.
3. **Return the Bill** – The Governor may return the Bill (if it is not a Money Bill) to the State Legislature with a request for reconsideration.
4. **Reserve the Bill for the Consideration of the President** – If the Governor believes that the Bill is against the provisions of the Constitution, is in conflict with a Central law, or affects national interests, s/he may refer it to the President. If the Bill is **reserved for the President's consideration**, the **President has the final authority** to approve or reject it.

Significance of Article 200:

- It ensures a system of **checks and balances** between the State Legislature and the Governor.
- It allows the **Governor and the President** to safeguard Constitutional principles.
- The provision to **return or reserve a Bill** helps prevent hasty or unconstitutional legislation.

Ad-hoc Judges in High Courts

News: To address the increasing backlog of cases in High Courts, the Supreme Court (SC) ruled on **January 30, 2025**, that retired judges can be appointed as **ad-hoc judges** under specific conditions.

About Ad-hoc Judge

- Ad-hoc judges are retired High Court judges who are temporarily **reappointed** to help clear pending cases.
- They have the same powers as sitting judges but serve only for a limited time.
- **Article 224-A of the Constitution** (added in 1963) allows the appointment of retired judges on an **ad-hoc** basis.
- Ad-hoc judges **can hear only criminal appeals**.
- He/ She **must be part of a Bench** led by a sitting judge.
- **Cannot exceed 10% of the High Court's sanctioned strength** (each High Court can appoint **2 to 5 ad-hoc judges**).
- **Term: 2 to 3 years**.
- **Same salary and allowances** as permanent High Court judges, but **no pension**.

- **Accommodation or housing allowance** similar to regular judges.

Appointment Process

1. The **Chief Justice of a High Court** proposes a retired judge's name.
2. The **State's Chief Minister** forwards it to the **Governor**.
3. The **Governor sends it to the Union Minister of Law & Justice**.
4. The **Law Minister consults the Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.
5. The **Prime Minister advises the President**.
6. The **President approves the appointment**.
7. A **formal notification is issued**, completing the process.

Furlough and Parole

News: Recently, the convicts of the Hashimpura massacre have moved the Delhi High Court against a prison rule related to furloughs.

About Parole

Parole is a conditional release of a prisoner who has served part of their sentence, allowing the person to live outside prison under specified conditions. The term originates from the French phrase "*je donne ma parole*" (I give my word), symbolizing trust in the prisoner's adherence to conditions.

Types of Parole

1. **Regular Parole:** Granted for general reasons like family matters (usually up to one month).
2. **Emergency/Custody Parole:** Given for critical situations (death, medical emergencies) under strict supervision.

Conditions for Parole

- Mandatory reporting to authorities.
- No criminal activity, alcohol, or drug use.
- Compliance with court-imposed restrictions.

About Furlough

Furlough is a temporary leave granted to prisoners under legal provisions, not dependent on behaviour.

Purpose of Furlough

- Maintains family and social connections.
- Provides psychological relief from prison monotony.
- Rewards good behaviour.
- Aids reintegration into society.

Duration & Eligibility

- Typically lasts up to 14 days.
- The period spent on furlough counts toward the sentence.
- Prisoners convicted of serious crimes (rape, dacoity, terrorism) may be ineligible.

Key Differences:

Features	Furlough	Parole
Sentence Status	Continues to run	Suspended during release

Granting Authority	Deputy Inspector General of Prisons	Divisional Commissioner
Frequency	Limited	Can be granted multiple times
Reason Needed?	No	Yes

PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana

News: Recently, the Union Government has introduced the PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana which aims at enhancing agricultural productivity.

About the Scheme

- The **PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana** was launched under **Union Budget 2025** by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** to improve agricultural conditions in **100 low-productivity districts** across India.
- The scheme aims to **enhance rural prosperity** by implementing **specialized interventions** and integrating **existing agricultural schemes**.
- It focuses on **boosting farm productivity**, increasing **credit access**, and **modernizing farming practices**.
- The program is expected to benefit **1.7 crore farmers** across the identified districts.
- The scheme draws inspiration from the **Aspirational Districts Program**, which has successfully improved socio-economic indicators in backward regions.

Key Features of the Scheme

- The scheme aims to **bring together multiple existing agricultural schemes** under one umbrella for better efficiency and impact.
- It will introduce **specialized interventions** that cater to the unique challenges faced by each of the **100 identified districts**.
- The government will **leverage technology-driven solutions** to help farmers adopt modern and sustainable agricultural practices.
- The scheme specifically targets **districts with moderate crop intensity, low productivity, and limited access to institutional credit**.
- It aims to **encourage financial inclusion** by strengthening farmer access to government-backed financial programs and microfinance institutions.
- By promoting formal credit channels, the scheme seeks to **reduce farmers' reliance on informal moneylenders** and prevent rural indebtedness.

National Manufacturing Mission.

News: The Union Budget 2025-26 has introduced significant initiatives to strengthen India's manufacturing sector under the "National Manufacturing Mission".

About National Manufacturing Mission

- The National Manufacturing Mission has been introduced in the Union Budget 2025-26 to boost the manufacturing sector across small, medium, and large industries, further advancing the Make in India initiative.
- **Aim:** This mission aims to provide comprehensive policy support, execution roadmaps, and a governance framework for central ministries and states.
- A significant component of the National Manufacturing Mission is its focus on Clean Tech manufacturing.
- The initiative aims to enhance domestic value addition and develop an ecosystem for: Solar PV cells, EV batteries, motors, and controllers, Electrolyzers, Wind turbines, High-voltage transmission equipment and Grid-scale batteries.
- By investing in these technologies, the mission seeks to position India as a leader in clean and sustainable manufacturing.

Key Focus Areas of the Mission

The mission will prioritize five key areas to drive industrial growth and enhance India's global competitiveness:

- **Ease and Cost of Doing Business** – Reducing bureaucratic hurdles and making operations more cost-effective for industries.
- **Future-Ready Workforce** – Preparing a skilled workforce to meet the demands of emerging industries.
- **Dynamic MSME Sector** – Strengthening Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to foster innovation and economic resilience.
- **Availability of Advanced Technology** – Encouraging technological development and adoption to boost production efficiency.
- **Quality Products** – Promoting high-standard manufacturing to ensure global competitiveness.

Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)

News: The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has temporarily suspended penalties totaling Rs 141 crore imposed on telecom companies for spam violations.

About Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)

- TDSAT was established in **2000** by the **Government of India** under the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997** (TRAI Act)
- **Objective:** To adjudicate disputes and hear appeals related to telecom, broadcasting, and information technology services in India.
- **Composition:**
 - **Chairperson** (must be a former Judge of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice of a High Court).
 - **Members** (judicial and technical experts).
- **Jurisdiction:** It handles disputes between:
 - **Service providers and consumers**
 - **Service providers and licensors (Government of India)**
 - **Service providers and other service providers**

- **It has authority over:**
 - **Telecom Sector** – Mobile, landline, and broadband services.
 - **Broadcasting Sector** – Cable TV, DTH, and IPTV services.
 - **Information Technology** – Cyber disputes related to service providers.
- **Powers:**
 - It has powers equivalent to a **civil court** under the **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**.
 - It can **summon** witnesses, demand **documents**, and **review orders**.
 - Appeals from TDSAT can be filed in the **Supreme Court of India**.
- **Significance:**
 - It provides a **specialized dispute resolution** mechanism for the fast-growing **telecom and digital** industries.
 - It helps maintain **fair competition** and protect **consumer interests**.
 - TDSAT has been actively handling cases regarding **5G rollout**, **spectrum allocation**, and **digital broadcasting disputes**.

Marsupials

News: Recently, a team of Australian scientists has successfully created 28 kangaroo embryos using in vitro fertilization (IVF), marking a significant breakthrough in the conservation of marsupials.

About Marsupials



Source: activewild

- Marsupials are a distinct group of **mammals** that give birth to **premature young**.
- Unlike placental mammals, their offspring complete most of their development **outside the womb**.

Features of the Marsupials

- They have a **short-lived placenta**, which nourishes the embryo for only a few days before birth.
- The underdeveloped newborn, often referred to as a **joey**, crawls into the mother's **pouch (marsupium)** for further development.
- The joey remains attached to the **mother's teat**, which provides continuous **milk** for nourishment.
- Some marsupials, like **kangaroos**, can produce **different types of milk** simultaneously to feed joeys at different developmental stages.
- **Ecological Importance:**
 - Marsupials play a vital role in **ecosystems** by controlling insect populations, dispersing seeds, and maintaining balanced food chains.
 - Some, like the **bilby**, help improve soil health through burrowing activities.
- There are more than **330 species of marsupials**, with approximately two-thirds found in Australia and the remaining third primarily in South America.
- Some examples of marsupials are kangaroos, wallabies, possums, bandicoots, quolls, wombats, tree kangaroos, Antechinus, dunnarts, bettongs, koalas, quokkas, sugar gliders, the Tasmanian devil, and the Virginia opossum.
- Many marsupial species face threats such as **habitat loss, climate change, and predation by invasive species** (e.g., foxes and cats in Australia).

Marine Heatwaves (MHWs)

News: The marine heatwaves (MHWs) off the coast of Western Australia have led to the death of over 30,000 fish in January 2025. These heatwaves, which began in September 2024, are still ongoing and have been intensifying over time.

About Marine Heatwaves (MHWs)

- Marine heatwaves (MHWs) are extreme weather events where the sea surface temperature (SST) rises by **3 to 4 degrees Celsius above the average** for at least five consecutive days.
- These events can persist for **weeks, months, or even years**, impacting marine ecosystems.
- According to the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**, marine heatwaves have become more frequent, intense, and long-lasting due to climate change.

Reasons behind Marine Heatwaves Intensification

- The primary driver of intensifying marine heatwaves is **climate change**. As global temperatures have risen by **1.3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels**, oceans have absorbed **90% of the excess heat**.
- As a result, the global mean **sea surface temperature has increased by 0.9 degrees Celsius since 1850** and **0.6 degrees Celsius in the last four decades**, according to the **Copernicus Climate Change Service**.
- A **2018 study** predicted that the number of marine heatwaves will **increase 16 times if global warming reaches 1.5 degrees Celsius** and **23 times if it reaches 2 degrees Celsius**.

Impact of Marine Heatwaves

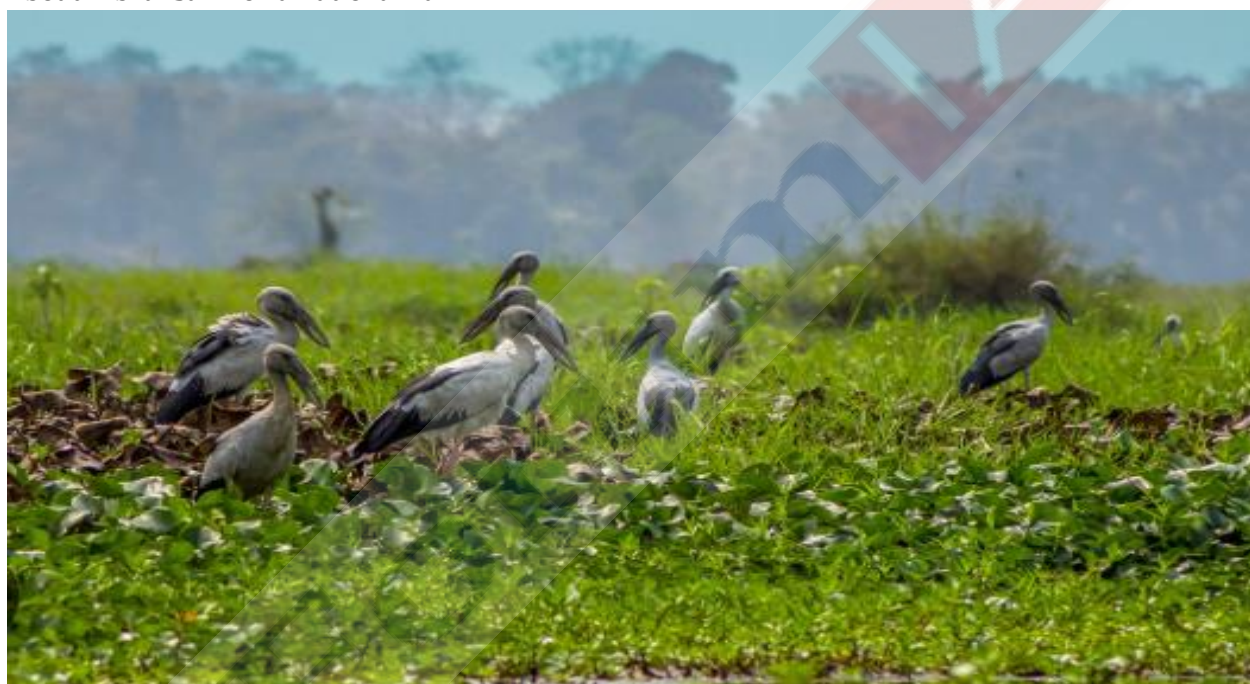
- Marine heatwaves have severe consequences for marine ecosystems.

- The **2010–11 heatwaves in Western Australia** caused large-scale fish deaths and destroyed **kelp forests**, which serve as critical habitats for marine life.
- These heatwaves also contribute to **coral bleaching**, which weakens corals, reduces their reproductive ability, and makes them more vulnerable to diseases.
- In **2024**, the **Great Barrier Reef** experienced **catastrophic coral bleaching**, marking its **seventh mass bleaching event**, due to prolonged exposure to marine heatwaves.

Dibru- Saikhowa National Park

News: After Oil India Limited's (OIL) permission to explore and extract oil and natural gas was rejected in Dibru- Saikhowa National Park, it has applied for carrying out a Research and Development Study in the same well.

About Dibru- Saikhowa National Park



Source- incredibleindia.gov.in

- It is a ***national park and biosphere reserve*** located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam.
 - The park is bordered by the ***Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north*** and ***Dibru river in the south***.
- It is the ***largest salix swamp forest in north-eastern India*** with a tropical monsoon climate, marked by hot and wet summer and cool and dry winter.
- **Conservation History:**
 - **1890-** The area was declared as Dibru Reserved Forest.
 - **1997-** Dibru- Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve was declared.
 - **1999-** The sanctuary area was declared as a National Park.

- **Flaura:** It consists of moist mixed semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, canebrakes and grasslands.
- **Fauna:** It houses Bengal tiger, clouded leopard, dhole, hoolock gibbon, Ganges dolphin, hog deer, water buffalo etc.
 - It has been identified as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** by BirdLife International given the avian biodiversity it supports.
 - The park is known for its **majestic feral horse population**.
- Several **indigenous tribal communities and tribes** like Mishings, Sonowal Kacharis, Deoris inhabit the national park and its surrounding areas.

Makhana

News: The Union Budget 2025 announced the establishment of a **Makhana Board** in Bihar, bringing renewed attention to Makhana.

About Makhana

- **Makhana (Fox Nut)** is the **dried seed** of the **prickly water lily plant (Euryale ferox)**.
- It grows in **freshwater ponds, lakes, and wetlands** across **South and East Asia**.
- The **outer seed coat is black**, which is why it is often called '**Black Diamond**.'
- **Mithila Makhana** received a **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag in **2022**.
- **Production:** Bihar produces 90% of India's makhana, mainly in **nine districts:** Darbhanga, Madhubani, Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Supaul, Araria, Kishanganj, and Sitamarhi.
- Makhana is also grown in **Assam, Manipur, West Bengal, Tripura, Odisha**, as well as in Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Japan, and Korea.
- **Climatic condition for Makhana Cultivation:**
 - **Temperature:** 20-35°C
 - **Rainfall:** 100-250 cm and
 - **Humidity:** 50-90%

About Makhana Board

- The board has been allocated **₹100 crore** to develop the Makhana industry.
- The **key objectives** of the Makhana Board are:
 - Train farmers in export-oriented production and support Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
 - Attract investments in food processing units
 - Develop export infrastructure (cargo facilities at Bihar's airports)
 - Ensure farmers get access to government schemes
 - Increasing production and processing
 - Improve farming techniques to increase production.

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

News: The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** has formally become a full-fledged treaty-based intergovernmental organization as of January 23, 2025.



About International Big Cat Alliance

- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** is a **treaty-based intergovernmental organization** dedicated to the conservation of **seven big cat species** – tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards, pumas, jaguars, and cheetahs.
- It was launched in **April 2023** during the **50th anniversary of Project Tiger** in India.
- IBCA is **headquartered in India**, which serves as the **depository for instruments of ratification**.
- On **January 23, 2025**, IBCA officially became an **intergovernmental treaty-based organization** following the ratification of its **framework agreement**.
- There are four founding members: **India, Nicaragua, Eswatini, and Somalia**. **Liberia** recently ratified on **January 8, 2025**.
- As of now, **27 countries** have agreed to join IBCA.
- IBCA aims to:
 - **Protect and conserve** the seven big cat species.
 - **Support research, training, and funding** for conservation programs.
 - **Collaborate with global and national organizations** for wildlife protection.
 - **Combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade**.

Four New Ramsar Sites in India

News: Recently, four more wetlands have been recognized as Ramsar sites, increasing the total number in the country to 89.

About Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu

- **Location:** The Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary is situated in the Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu.
- **Area:** The sanctuary covers an area of 230.495 hectares.
- **Ecological Importance:**
 - It functions as an irrigation tank, which stores water for agricultural purposes in the region.
 - The wetland is recharged by the northeast monsoon, particularly between October and January.
 - The sanctuary provides a breeding and foraging ground for 42 bird species, including the Spot-billed Pelican, Grey Heron, Little Cormorant, and Black Kite.
 - It is strategically located along the Central Asian Flyway, making it an essential stopover site for migratory birds.
- **Environmental Benefits:**
 - The sanctuary plays a crucial role in climate regulation by stabilizing the local microclimate.
 - It helps in groundwater recharge, ensuring water availability for nearby communities.
 - It supports irrigation and agriculture, benefiting local farmers and enhancing food security.

About Therthangal Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu

- **Location:** The Therthangal Bird Sanctuary is also located in the **Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu.**
- **Area:** It spans 29.295 hectares.
- **Ecological Importance:**
 - The sanctuary is a freshwater ecosystem, which provides an important breeding ground for waterbirds.
 - It supports a diverse avian population, with 96 recorded bird species across 18 orders and 44 families.
 - Some of the notable bird species found here include the **Oriental Darter, Black-headed Ibis, Asian Woolly-necked Stork, and Spot-billed Pelican.**
- **Environmental Benefits:**
 - The wetland contributes significantly to climate regulation by maintaining local temperature and humidity levels.
 - It plays a vital role in groundwater recharge, ensuring water sustainability for the surrounding regions.
 - The sanctuary also supports irrigation and agriculture, benefiting local livelihoods.

About Khecheopalri Lake, Sikkim

- **Location:** Khecheopalri Lake is located near Khecheopalri village in West Sikkim.
- **Cultural and Ecological Significance:**

- The lake is considered sacred by both Buddhists and Hindus and is popularly known as the wish-fulfilling lake.
- It is believed to be blessed by Guru Padmasambhava and the Goddess Tara, making it an important spiritual site.
- The lake is part of a Himalayan peatland ecosystem and is surrounded by broad-leaved mixed temperate forests.
- **Biodiversity:**
 - The wetland supports a **rich variety of macrophytes, phytoplankton, and zooplankton.**
 - It is home to several fish species, **including Cyprinus carpio (Common Carp) and Danio aequipinnatus (Giant Danio).**
 - It serves as a resting site for migratory birds from the Trans-Himalayan region, making it an ecologically significant habitat.

About Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary, Jharkhand

Location: The Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary is located in the **Sahibganj district of Jharkhand.** The sanctuary consists of two interconnected water bodies, namely **Pataura Lake (155 hectares) and Berhale Lake (410 hectares).** These lakes are linked by a water channel, forming a continuous wetland ecosystem.

Ecological Importance:

- The sanctuary is situated on the floodplain of the Ganga River, making it an essential part of the region's water cycle.
- It is recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA) due to its significance for avian conservation.
- The sanctuary is home to 83 bird species, including the Near Threatened Black-necked Stork.
- Additionally, it supports 22 commercially valuable fish species, contributing to local fisheries and the regional economy.

Growth in India's Tiger population

News: Recently, a study has revealed that India's **tiger population has grown by 30% in the last 20 years.**

Findings of the study



Figure 1. Source- The Hindu

Findings of the study has highlighted that there are various reasons due to which this growth has been seen such as:

- **Effective Conservation Strategies:** India has implemented a **balanced approach** combining **land-sharing**

(where tigers coexist with humans) and **land-sparing** (protected areas without human interference).

- **85% of breeding tigers** are found in these protected areas, which serve as safe zones for tiger reproduction.
- **Legislative Protection:** Strong laws have played a key role, including:
 - **Wildlife Protection Act** – Ensures legal protection for tigers.
 - **Forest Conservation Act** – Prevents destruction of tiger habitats.
 - **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** – A dedicated body overseeing conservation efforts.
- **Socio-Economic and Cultural Factors**
 - Regions with **better economic conditions and lower dependence on forests** have seen **higher tiger recolonization**.
 - However, **poverty, armed conflict (e.g., in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand), and habitat destruction** have caused a decline in tiger populations in certain areas.

Future Challenges and Recommendations

- **Expanding Protected Areas and Corridors:** **157,000 sq km** of potential tiger habitat remains unoccupied due to habitat destruction and socio-political instability. Increasing **protected areas and creating habitat corridors** can help tigers move safely across regions.
- **Strengthening Anti-Poaching Efforts:** Increased surveillance and law enforcement can help **prevent illegal hunting** of tigers.
- **Sustainable Livelihoods for Communities:** Providing **alternative income sources** to people living near tiger habitats can **reduce dependence on forests**, minimizing human-wildlife conflicts.
- **Improving Human-Tiger Conflict Management:** **Early warning systems and rapid response teams** can help prevent conflicts between tigers and humans, ensuring safety for both.

About NTCA:

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Objectives of NTCA:

- Providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives become legal.
- Fostering accountability of Center-State in the management of Tiger Reserves by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
- Providing for an oversight by Parliament.
- Addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves.

Powers and Functions of NTCA:

- To approve the tiger conservation plan prepared by the State Government.
- To evaluate and assess various aspects of sustainable ecology and disallow any ecologically unsustainable land use such as, mining, industry and other projects within the tiger reserves;

- To provide for management focus and measures for addressing conflicts of man and wild animals
- To provide information on protection measures including future conservation plan, estimation of population of tiger among others among others.

TROPEX-25 Exercise

News: TROPEX-25 Exercise is currently being conducted in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) from January to March 2025.



About TROPEX-25

- The **Theatre Level Operational Exercise (TROPEX)** is the Indian Navy's flagship biennial operational exercise.
- This large-scale exercise involves the active participation of the **Indian Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard**, ensuring a coordinated and integrated approach to maritime security.
- **Goal:** To **validate the core warfighting skills** of the Indian Navy while ensuring an integrated and synchronized approach to maritime security.
- **Aim:** The exercise aims to strengthen India's ability to respond to a **contested maritime environment** by preparing for:
 - **Conventional threats** posed by enemy naval forces.
 - **Asymmetric threats** such as piracy, terrorism, and unconventional warfare.

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- **Hybrid threats** that combine traditional and non-traditional security challenges.
- Additionally, the exercise seeks to enhance joint operations and interoperability among the Indian Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard, ensuring a seamless and effective response to potential threats.
- TROPEX-25 is structured into multiple phases, each designed to simulate different aspects of warfare and military operations:
 - **Harbour Phase:** This phase focuses on strategic planning, training, and coordination among participating units before commencing operations at sea.
 - **Sea Phase:** In this stage, naval forces engage in real-time operations, testing their combat readiness in a contested maritime environment.
 - **Cyber and Electronic Warfare Operations:** TROPEX-25 incorporates modern warfare elements, including cyber defense and electronic warfare measures to enhance resilience against digital threats.
 - **Live Weapon Firings:** During this phase, naval units conduct live-fire exercises to test the accuracy and efficiency of their weapon systems.
 - **Amphibious Exercise:** This phase involves coordinated land-sea operations, where naval forces work alongside Army troops to conduct **amphibious landings and coastal defence exercises**.

Strategic Importance

- TROPEX-25 plays a crucial role in **enhancing India's maritime dominance and regional security** in the Indian Ocean.
- The exercise prepares the Indian Armed Forces for **joint operations in real-world combat scenarios**, ensuring their ability to respond effectively to security challenges.
- It also reinforces India's ability to **project power, safeguard maritime trade routes, and counter emerging threats** in the region.