

## Global Wetland Outlook 2025 released by Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention

### Key Highlights

- **Coverage:** Inland freshwater, coastal, and marine wetland extend over **1,800 million hectares**.
- **Wetland Degradation:** **22 per cent of the world's wetlands have been lost** since 1970.
- **More wetlands are reported as being in poor condition** for lower income/lower middle income countries (LICs/LMICs).
  - ⌚ Africa's wetlands are among the most degraded globally.
- The Ramsar Convention's strategic goals align with the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)** Targets.
- **Threats faced by Wetlands** includes unplanned urbanisation, rapid industrial and infrastructure development.

### Best Case Studies

- **Regional Flyway Initiative**, a US\$3 billion partnership across Asia, is restoring more than 140 wetlands critical to migratory birds and nearly **200 million people**.
- **Seychelles** issued the world's first sovereign **"blue bond"**.

### Way Forward

- **Integrating wetlands into national planning:** Embedding wetlands into good natural capital accounting.
- Recognising their **central role in the global hydrological cycle**.
- **Embedding and prioritising wetlands in innovative financial solutions:** Like debt instruments (such as green bonds, blue bonds) results-based financing instruments.

### Ramsar Convention, 1971

- **Intergovernmental treaty** that provides the framework for the **conservation and wise use of wetlands** and their resources.
- India ratified it in 1982.

### Important Services by Wetlands



#### Provisioning services

- Food
- Water
- Raw materials
- Genetic resources
- Ornamental resources



#### Regulating services

- Air quality regulation
- Waste treatment
- Climate regulation
- Erosion prevention
- Moderation of extreme events
- Biological control
- Water flow regulation

## President of India confers Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 awards

Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 (Theme - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) marks the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual edition** of the **world's largest urban cleanliness survey**.

### Key highlights of Awards( 2024-25)

- **Five tier population based classification:** Million Plus cities (>10lakh), Big cities (3-10 lakh), Medium Cities (50000-3 lakh), Small Cities (20000-50000), Very Small Cities(<20000).
- **Awards:** A total of **78 Awards** was presented **across following 4 categories:**
  - ⌚ **Super Swachh League Cities (New Category Introduced):** Cities that demonstrate extraordinary performance, based on their previous Swachh Survekshan Ranking.
    - ◆ **Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai** entered the premier Super Swachh League.
  - ⌚ **Top 3 Cities in five tier population categories:** **Ahmedabad, Bhopal and Lucknow** emerged as top Swachh Shehar.
  - ⌚ **Special Categories:** Ganga Towns, Cantonment Boards, SafaiMitra Suraksha, Mahakumbh.
  - ⌚ **State level awards: Promising Clean Cities Awards to 34 cities** of States/UTs.
- **New Initiatives Launched at Awards Ceremony:**
  - ⌚ **Swachh City Partnership:** 78 top performing cities will adopt & mentor 1 poor performing city each from the respective States.
  - ⌚ **Accelerated Dumpsite Remediation Program:** One year special program to remediate legacy waste and boost scientific waste processing capacity.

### About Swachh Survekshan

- **Launched:** In 2016 under ambit of **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**.
- **Institutions involved:** Survey is conducted annually by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
  - ⌚ Field Assessment of Data submitted by ULBs will be verified by **third party agency**.
- **Objective:** To encourage large-scale citizen participation and create awareness about the importance of making towns and cities a better place to live.
- **Components:** **Swachh Survekshan**(Data provided by ULBs, Documents assessment & Field assessment) and **Certification** (Based on ODF+/ODF++/Water+ status) with **80% and 20% weightage**.

## CARA issues directions to states for strengthening counseling support at all stages of Child adoption

These directions are given to State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARAs) under **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** (amended 2021) and in line with **Adoption Regulations, 2022**.

### Key Directions given to SARAs:

- Reinforce psychosocial support framework for all key stakeholders **prospective adoptive parents (PAPs), adopted children, and biological parents**.
- SARAs instructed to **designate/ empanel qualified counsellors** at District and State Levels.
- Provisions for psychosocial intervention in any other circumstances as **assessed by the Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) or District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)**.

### Child adoption In India

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development
- **Primary legislation:** Adoption in India is governed by the **Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956** and the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2000**.
- **Nodal Central Agency:** Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), established under the JJ Act, regulates domestic and intercountry adoptions.
- **Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (1993)** ensures ethical, legal, and transparent international adoptions while preventing child trafficking.
- **Responsibility of States/UTs:** states and UTs implement the JJ Act through institutions like
  - ⊕ State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARA)
  - ⊕ local Child Welfare Committees
  - ⊕ District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)

### Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

- CARA is a statutory body under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- **Monitors:** In-country (domestic) adoption and Inter-country (international) adoption
- **Designated as Central Authority:** To deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with provisions of Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993 (Ratified by India in 2003).

## Centre to form panel to resolve Polavaram Banakacherla Link Project (PBLP)

Centre has decided to constitute a **high-level technical committee** to examine concerns around **pending inter-state water issues** between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

### About Polavaram project

- The Polavaram Project is on **the river Godavari near Ramayyapeta village of Polavaram Mandal of Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Objective:** Development of **irrigation, hydro power, drinking water supply** and **diversion of water to Krishna river basin to provide relief to a drought-prone Rayalseema region**.
- **Issue with Project:** Telangana has accused Andhra of violating the **inter-state river water sharing agreement** agreed to in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

### Mechanism for Inter-State River Water Disputes Resolution

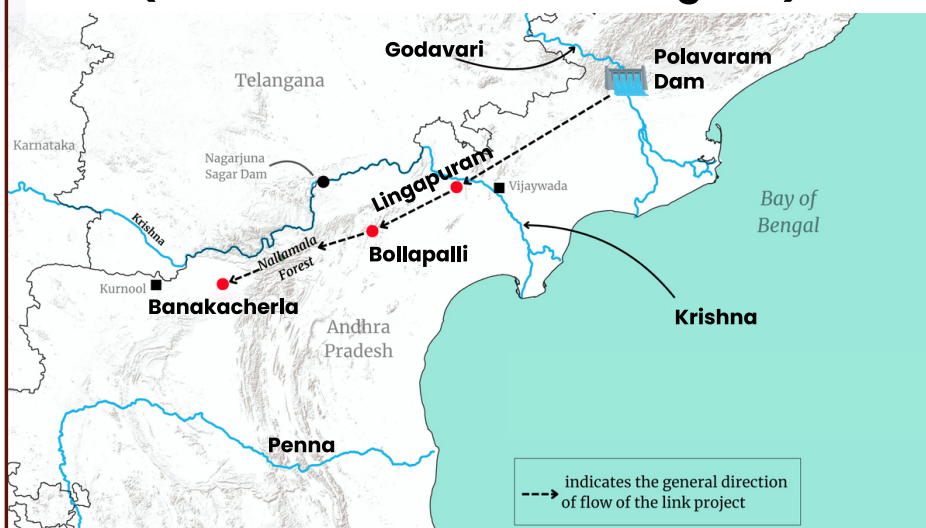
#### Statutory Provisions

- ⊕ **Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956** provides for the constitution of a Water Disputes Tribunal by the Central Government for **adjudication of water disputes**.
- ⊕ **River Boards Act, 1956**, provides for establishment of **River Boards for regulation and development of inter-state rivers** and river valleys by Centre.

#### Constitutional provisions

- ⊕ **Article 262:** It empowers Parliament to make laws for the adjudication of disputes concerning inter-state river waters.
  - ◆ **Act bars the Supreme Court or any other Court** from exercising jurisdiction in respect of any water dispute referred to a tribunal.
- ⊕ **Entry 56 of the Union List:** Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys

## Polavaram – Banakacherla Link Project (Andhra Pradesh vs. Telangana)



## Supreme Court Allows Tribal Women Equal Succession Rights As Men

The verdict in **Ram Charan & Ors. vs. Sukhram & Ors.** arose from an appeal denying female inheritance based on tribal customs.

### Key Highlights of the Judgment

- Exclusion of tribal women from inheritance **violates Articles 14 and 15** of the Constitution.
  - ⌚ Read together with **Articles 38 and 46**, they point to the **collective ethos of the Constitution** in ensuring that there is no discrimination against women.
- Even though the **Hindu Succession Act 1956 does not apply to Scheduled Tribes**, it doesn't imply automatic exclusion of tribal women from succession.
- In the absence of a proven customary bar, courts must apply **principles of justice, equity, and good conscience**.
- **Precedents Cited:**
  - ⌚ **Mst. Sarwango v. Mst. Urchamahin (2013)**: Directed inheritance to daughters based on equity.
  - ⌚ **Tirth Kumar v. Daduram (2024)**: Upheld female inheritance rights in tribal property.

### Custom as a Source of Law

- **Customs** are one of the **oldest sources of law**. It regulates **human behavior** and becomes **legally binding when recognized by courts**.
- To be recognized as a **binding law**, custom must fulfil criteria like **reasonableness, morality etc.**
- **Some customs can lead to suppression of reason** and obscurantism such as **Sati practice, Child marriage, triple talaq etc.**

**Significance:** The verdict advances **gender justice in tribal communities**, marking a shift from court's earlier cautious stand on tribal women inheritance rights.

## Also in News



### National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed a new chief of NFRA.

#### About NFRA

- NFRA was constituted in 2018 by the **Government of India** under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Functions and Duties:**
  - ⌚ Recommend **accounting and auditing policies** and standards to be adopted by companies.
  - ⌚ **Monitor and enforce compliance with accounting standards** and auditing standards.
  - ⌚ Oversee the **quality of service of the professions associate**.
  - ⌚ **Perform such other functions and duties** as may be necessary or incidental to the aforesaid functions and duties.



### Economic Census

MoSPI Urges Integration of 8th Economic Census Preliminary work with 16<sup>th</sup> Population Census

#### About Economic Census:

- **Conducted by:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- **Objective:** Complete enumeration of entrepreneurial activities operating within India at a given point of time
- **Census provides disaggregated data on:** Ownership patterns, Number of persons engaged, Geographical spread of economic activities etc.
- **Previously conducted in:** 2019, 2013, 2005, 1998, 1990, 1980, 1977.



### SIMBEX Exercise

Indian Navy to participate in 32nd Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) exercise in Singapore.

#### About SIMBEX Exercise

- **Genesis:** It began as **Exercise Lion King in 1994**.
- It is an **annual exercise** held between the **Indian Navy** and the **Republic of Singapore Navy**.
  - ⌚ One of the **longest uninterrupted maritime drills** for India.
  - ⌚ It aligns with India's Vision **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** and **Act East Policy**.



### Pradhan Mantri Virsat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)

Skill Training and Women Entrepreneurship Development project launched under PM VIKAS

- Projects have been launched at **IIIT Kottayam** for the training of minority candidates.

#### About PM VIKAS

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Minority Affairs
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- It **converges five erstwhile schemes** viz. Seekho Aur Kamao, Nai Manzil, Nai Roshni, USTTAD and Hamari Dharohar.
- **Objective:** **Upliftment of six notified minority communities** through skill development; entrepreneurship and leadership of minority women; and education support for school dropouts.
  - ⌚ Six officially recognized minority communities in India are: **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians**.
- **Implementation** in convergence with the **Skill India Mission**.



The Global 2025  
Findex Database

## Global Findex 2025

The World Bank report titled '**Global Findex 2025**' released reflecting achievements in digital and financial inclusion.

### India specific Highlights

- India has **account ownership at or close to 90 percent**.
- **16 percent of account owners do not have an active account**, the average for all other low- and middle-income economies is 4 percent.
- The **share of both women and men** with only inactive accounts **decreased** between 2021 and 2024.
- The **primary barrier to mobile phone ownership** is the **cost of the device**, and **lack of reliable mobile network coverage**.



## Urban Wind Stilling Effect

A study has found that Urban Wind Stilling Effect Creates Urban Aerosol Clean Islands in North India.

- **43% cities** in northwest and northern Indo-Gangetic Plain had **lower aerosol levels** than nearby rural areas.
  - ⊕ These cities are termed **Urban Aerosol Clean Islands**.
  - ⊕ **Aerosols** are **colloids** where liquid or solids are dispersed in a gaseous dispersing medium.
    - ◆ E.g. Fog, Cloud, Smoke etc.

### About Urban Wind Stilling Effect

- **Caused by weakened surface winds** due to urban structures.
- **Creates invisible barriers** that slow long-range dust and pollutant entry.



## Akash Prime

India has successfully destroyed two Aerial High Speed Unmanned targets at high-altitude in Ladakh by Akash Prime.

### About Akash Prime

- **Developed by DRDO**
- It is a hard and rugged version of the **indigenous Akash Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM)** system of India.
- This missile system is designed to **operate in very extreme weather in cold areas, high altitude (Above 4500 meter) and low-oxygen environments**.



## Matter–Antimatter Asymmetry

A major milestone in understanding the **matter-antimatter asymmetry** in the universe as CERN's scientists have observed **CP violation in baryons** for the **first time**.

### About Matter–Antimatter Asymmetry

- It refers to the observed imbalance between matter and antimatter in the universe.
- According to modern physics, the Big Bang **should have produced equal amounts** of matter and antimatter, yet the observable universe **consists almost entirely of matter**, with antimatter nearly absent.

### About CP Violation:

- **C (Charge conjugation)**: Swapping particles with their antiparticles.
- **P (Parity)**: Flipping spatial coordinates (mirror image).
- **CP symmetry**: Implies laws of physics should remain unchanged if particles are swapped with their antiparticles and viewed in a mirror.
- **CP violation**: Matter and antimatter **behave differently**, violating CP symmetry.

## Place in News



## Bolivia

India has sent 3 Lakh Measles-Rubella Vaccine Doses to Bolivia Amid Outbreak.

### About Plurinational State of Bolivia (Sucre and La Paz)

- **Geographical Features**
  - ⊕ **Location**: West-central South America
  - ⊕ Landlocked country
  - ⊕ **Bordered Nation**: Brazil (N, E), Paraguay (SE), Argentina (S), Chile (SW), and Peru (NW).
- **Physiographic Features**
  - ⊕ Dominated by **Andes Mountains (Cordillera Ranges)**
  - ⊕ **Lake Titicaca**:
    - ◆ On the border with Peru.
    - ◆ World's **highest navigable lake**.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI