

Supreme Court upholds West Bengal's suit accusing Union of using CBI without State consent

In suit, State accused the Union of **constitutional overreach** and **violation of federalism** by unilaterally employing the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** without the **State's prior consent**.

- The suit was filed under **Article 131** of the Indian Constitution.
 - ⊕ **Article 131** deals with the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction in a dispute between the Centre and one or more states.

CBI needs to obtain the **consent of state governments** before it can investigate a crime in a particular state.

- The power of consent is governed as per the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act of 1946**.

The consent of the state can be either **general or case-specific**.

- In **General consent**, the CBI is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case.

- ⊕ **West Bengal** had withdrawn its general consent in 2018. And, many other states such as Punjab, etc. have also withdrawn their general consent.

⊕ Exception to general consent

- ◆ Supreme Court and High Courts **can order CBI to investigate a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the state.**
- ◆ Consent does not apply in cases where **someone has been caught red-handed taking a bribe.**

- In **case Specific consent**, CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case.



India sends humanitarian aid to Papua New Guinea after a devastating landslide

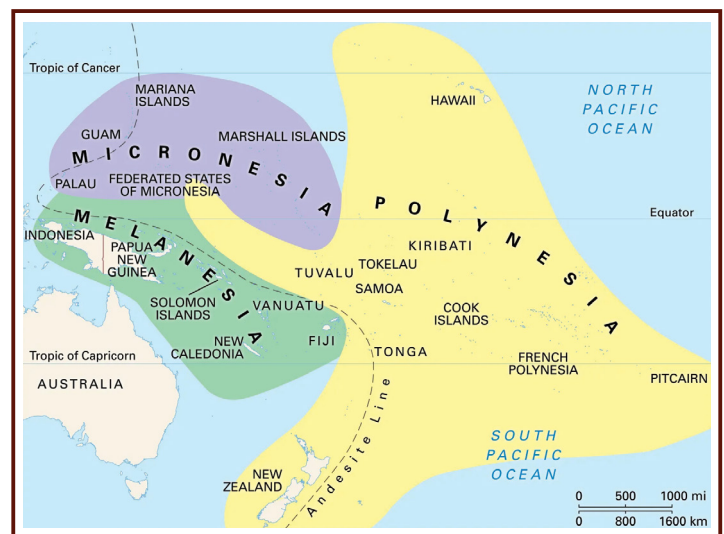
Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to Papua New Guinea showcases India's commitment to the **Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)** partnership

About Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)

- A multinational grouping formed in 2014 for cooperation between **India and 14 Pacific Islands**.
 - ⊕ 14 Pacific Islands nations include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
 - ⊕ These Islands are **Part of three major groups of islands** namely Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.
- **Objectives:** Facilitation of **Trade and Investment** through business exchanges, etc.
- FIPIC is a manifestation of India's **Act East Policy, Indo-Pacific policy and South-South Cooperation**.
 - ⊕ Also, it is driven by presence of sizeable Indian Diaspora in Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Significance of FIPIC for India

- **Economic Interests:** Large **Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)** of these Islands are sources of natural and mineral resources like natural gas.
- **Geostrategic Interests:** Expanding influence in the **Indo-Pacific region** in line with vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, countering **China's influence** etc.
 - ⊕ India with its rising naval capabilities has begun to look beyond the east of Malacca. These Islands would become inevitably significant in India's broader maritime strategy.



IUCN updates the Red list of Threatened Species

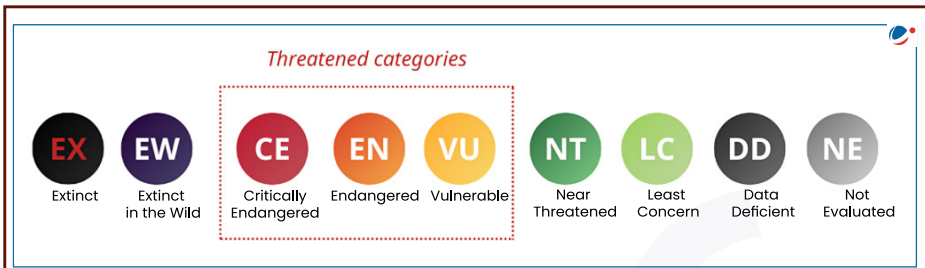
IUCN Red List provides information about animal, plant, and fungus species which are at risk of extinction into nine categories. (Refer to the infographic below).

- List now includes Approx. **163,000 species**, of which Approx. **45,000 are threatened with extinction**.
- Update shows, biodiversity faces increasing pressures, from **poaching, climate change & invasive species**.

Key Updates:

Species with Improved status:

- **La Gomera giant lizard (Gallotia bravoana)**: Its status improved from Critically Endangered to Endangered and is found in **Canary islands**.



Species with Declined Status

Species	Updated status	Location & Other specification	Threat
Copiapoa cacti	82% of species are at risk of extinction	Ornamental Cacti, endemic to Atacama coastal desert in Chile	Illegal trade and oceanic fog which hinders its reproduction.
Gran Canaria giant lizard	Critically Endangered (Previously Least Concern)	Endemic Reptile in Canary Island (Spain)	Prey to the invasive California kingsnake
Gran Canaria skink	Endangered (Previously Least Concern)		
Ibiza wall lizard	Endangered (Previously Near Threatened)	Islands of Ibiza and Formentera (Spain)	Threat from invasive horseshoe whip snake
Bornean Elephant	Endangered	Smallest Elephant with wider face found in Borneo and Sumatra Island	Anthropogenic Activities

Digital Economy Report 2024 Released by UN Trade and Development

Report highlights urgent need for **sustainable strategies throughout life cycle of digitalization** for environmentally sustainable and inclusive digital future.

- As per report, internet users have increased from 1 billion in 2005 to 5.4 billion in 2023.

Environmental footprint of Digitalization

- **GHG emission:** ICT sector is estimated to have accounted for 1.5– 3.2 % of global GHG emissions in 2020.
- **Surge in e-waste:** Increase in online shoppers has led to a 30 % rise in **digital-related waste** from 2010 to 2022, reaching 10.5 million tonnes globally.
- **Water footprints:** Data centres not only have considerable electricity needs but also require water for cooling.
 - ⊕ In 2022, Global data centres alone consumed 460 terawatts hours (expected to double by 2026).
- **Ensuring supply of Critical minerals:** Demand for minerals required for digitalization like graphite, lithium, and cobalt could surge by 500 % to 2050.
 - ⊕ In an effort to **secure mineral**, countries **may encourage hoarding and overcapacity in production of minerals**. This may result in less efficient processes and large environmental footprint.

Key Recommendations

- **Adopting Circular economy models**
- **Strengthen regulations** by enforcing tougher environmental standards
- **Invest in renewable energy**, support R&D of energy-efficient technologies
- Incentivize and promote new sustainable business models (e.g., electronic products as a service)

About UN Trade and Development

- **Genesis:** Established as a permanent intergovernmental body by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- **Objective:** To aid developing countries, particularly the least developed ones, and transitioning economies, in integrating effectively into the global economy.
- **Members:** 195 nations (including India)
- **Flagship Reports:** Trade and Development Report, World investment Report, etc.
- **HQ:** Geneva, Switzerland

Assam floods affected more than 2 million people

The recent Assam flooding and its magnitude have highlighted North East India's vulnerability to flood.

Reasons for flood vulnerability of North East India

- **River instability:** The Brahmaputra and the Barak rivers are braided and unstable in their reaches due to **high sediment charges, steep slopes and transverse gradients.**
- **Geology:** The entire area is part of a seismic zone and periodic **severe earthquakes** are also a factor of river instability.
- **Hydrometeorology:** The drainage area of Brahmaputra, and Barak in India is subjected to **cyclonic storms** originating in the Bay of Bengal, particularly in the latter part of the monsoon season.
- **Climate change:** Although overall rainfall is decreasing in North East, in some areas intensity of rainfall has increased (CSE).
 - ⊕ For example, in Assam, districts north of the Brahmaputra show an increasing trend in rainfall in the last 30 years (CSE).
- **Drainage congestion:** Due to **heavy rainfall of short duration** coupled with **high flow levels** in the main river rainwater is prevented from draining quickly into the riverbed.
- **Anthropogenic:** Construction, encroachment of river bodies, embankments obstructing natural flows, etc. also induce drainage congestion.

Recommendations for enhancing flood resilience of North East India

- Increase the river water-holding capacity by **dredging.**
- **Flood Zoning** of a river according to flood frequencies.
- Set up **modern weather stations** in the upstream catchment of all dams in the North East.
- **Strengthen flood protection structures** (currently most are very old).
- **Afforestation** and rejuvenation of wetlands

Telecom equipment production surpasses ₹50,000 crore; exports reach ₹10,500 crore

This success of the telecom sector is attributed primarily to the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Telecom and Networking Products.**

About the scheme

- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Communications**
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Objectives:** Enhancing domestic manufacturing capabilities and **making India a global hub** for telecom equipment production.
- **Eligibility:** **Global** companies; **Domestic** companies or **MSMEs** fulfilling specified **Global Manufacturing Revenue** criteria.
- **Benefits:** Financial incentives to manufacturers based on their **incremental sales from base year for products manufactured in India.**
- **Financial incentive**
 - ⊕ **Base Year: FY 2019-20**
 - ⊕ **Rate of incentive: 4-7% for MSMEs and 4-6 % for others**
 - ◆ **Additional 1% incentive under Design-led PLI** for products that are **both designed and manufactured** in India.
- **Products eligible for financial incentive:** Core Transmission Equipment; 4G/5G, Next Generation Radio Access Network (RAN) and Wireless Equipment; Switches, Routers, etc.
- **Tenure:**
 - ⊕ **For making investments:** April 2021 up to FY 2024-2025
 - ⊕ **For availing financial Incentives:** FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26
- **Project Management Agency:** Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

Background of PLI Scheme

- Centre announced PLI schemes in **2021 to enhance India's Manufacturing capabilities and Exports.**
- **PLI schemes cover 14 sectors:** Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components; Automobiles and Auto Components; Pharmaceuticals Drugs; Specialty Steel; etc.
- Schemes have been notified by the **concerned Ministries/ Departments.**

Also in News



Section 125

Supreme Court upholds divorced Muslim women's right to maintenance under **Section 125 Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973**, against her former husband.

- It affirms that a parallel remedy under a **secular law** cannot be foreclosed by existing personal laws.
- Currently, the maintenance claim is governed under the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.**

About Section 125 CrPC

- It is the law that governs maintenance for destitute wives, children, and parents.
- Under it, magistrate may order a person has to pay monthly allowance for the maintenance of his wife in case of divorce.

Note: CrPC has been replaced by the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**



Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with Taiwan

Recently, MRA for organic products between India and Taiwan has been implemented.

About MRA for Organic products

- It is a landmark achievement as it is the **first bilateral** agreement for organic products.
- **Implementation agencies from India:** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- Under it, products produced and handled organically in conformity with the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)** are allowed for sale in Taiwan.
 - ◆ **NPOP** provides an institutional framework for Accreditation of certification bodies and certification of organic products.
- **Significance:** Promotes export of major Indian organic products such as Rice, Processed Food, Green/Black etc.



Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)

Recently, CSC officially included **Bangladesh** as its **fifth member**.

About CSC:

- A regional security grouping.
- **Aim:** To make **maritime security**, marine pollution response and maritime search & rescue priorities for the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- **Genesis:** Formed in **2011** as a **trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives**. Later joined by **Mauritius**.
 - ⊕ It was Re-branded as the CSC in 2020.
- **Seychelles** is an observer member.



FishMIP initiative

According to the FishMIP, **global projections of exploitable fish biomass** show a **more than 10% decline**.

About FishMIP initiative

- **Genesis:** Fisheries and Marine Ecosystem Model Intercomparison Project was launched in 2013.
- **Global Network:** It is an **international network** of more than 100 marine ecosystem modellers and researchers around the world.
- **Relations with UN:** It is **working with FAO** to understand the **long-term impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems and fisheries** through a set of state-of-the-art numerical models
- **FishMIP2.0:** Established in 2024 to increase the **reliability of modelling projections**.



MeDeVIS (Medical Devices Information System)

The MeDeVIS platform is recently launched by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

About MeDeVIS

- **First global open access clearing house** for information on medical devices.
- **Replaces paper-based literature search** across multiple publications with non-standard device names which can add to the complexity.
- MeDeVIS also aims to help make the **naming of medical devices simpler**.
- **MeDeVIS references:** It has two international naming systems for medical devices
 - ⊕ **European Medical Device Nomenclature (EMDN):** Mostly used in European countries
 - ⊕ **Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN):** Used in Australia, Canada, USA and other member countries.



Umlingla Pass

NewSpace Research and Technologies successfully tested a **100-kg Max Take Off Weight (MTOW) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** at the **Unming La pass**.

About Unming La Pass:

- Located at 19,024 ft. in the **Eastern Ladakh along the Ladakh Range**.
- Also, it is renowned for being the **highest motorable road in the world**.
 - ⊕ Constructed by the **Border Road Organization (BRO)** under **Project Himank**.
- **Geostrategic importance of Road-** Improves connectivity to the Line of Actual Control (LAC)
 - ⊕ Also, improves **local connectivity in Chisumle-Demchok sector to Leh** and also **boosts tourism in Ladakh**.

Other important passes in Ladakh: Khardung La, Chang La, Tanglang La, etc.



Hydrogen Line (21 cm line)

Recently the hydrogen line was in the news.

About Hydrogen Line or 21 cm Line:

- It is a spectral line **emitted by atomic hydrogen**.
- It happens when an electron that **orbits the nucleus of a hydrogen atom**, jumps from a **higher energy level to a lower one**.
 - ⊕ This jump **releases energy in the form of light**, specifically with a **wavelength of about 21 centimeters**.
- **Applications in Radio Astrophysics:**
 - ⊕ **Studying composition and evolution of solar system & Universe.**
 - ⊕ **Mapping of Hydrogen** in Milky way galaxy
 - ⊕ To demonstrate the **presence of dark matter**



Salvinia molesta

An exotic host-specific **beetle** named **Cyrtobagus salvinia** (imported from Brazil) has successfully **eradicated** the invasive weed **Salvinia molesta** from Sarani reservoir (Satpura dam) in Betul district, Madhya Pradesh.

- This reserve is located on the **Tawa River** (a tributary of the Narmada River).

Salvinia molesta

- A **free-floating aquatic fern**
- Native to **Brazil**.
- commonly known as "Water Fern" or 'Chinese Jhalaar'
- Ecology of **Kerala, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra** are also adversely affected by it.

Place in News



Austria (Capital: Vienna)

Indian Prime Minister visited Austria.

Political features

- **Location:** Largely mountainous **landlocked country of south-central Europe**.
- **Bordering countries:** Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland and Lichtenstein (eight countries).

Geographical Features

- **Mountain range:** Alps
- **Largest lakes:** Lake Constance, Neusiedler Lake
- **Major River:** Danube

