theIAShub

the IAS hub
Be Your Dream.

JUNE
11

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place

THE HINDU
ET
BS
TOI
The Indian EXPRESS
livemint
pib
DownToEarth
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
Science Reporter
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मन्त्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. Greater Spotted Eagle
2. Aditya L1
3. India-Maldives Relations
4. Lok Sabha Speaker
5. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Schem
6. Nationally Determined Contribution
7. BRICS
8. Cascadia Subduction Zone
9. Malabar Pit Vipers
10. New Caledonia

DTE June 10

GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Ukraine war forces eagles to shift migratory route, making journey arduous and stressful

Context: The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has forced greater spotted eagles to change their migratory paths, making their journey more arduous and causing them to skip much-needed stopovers.



Greater Spotted Eagle

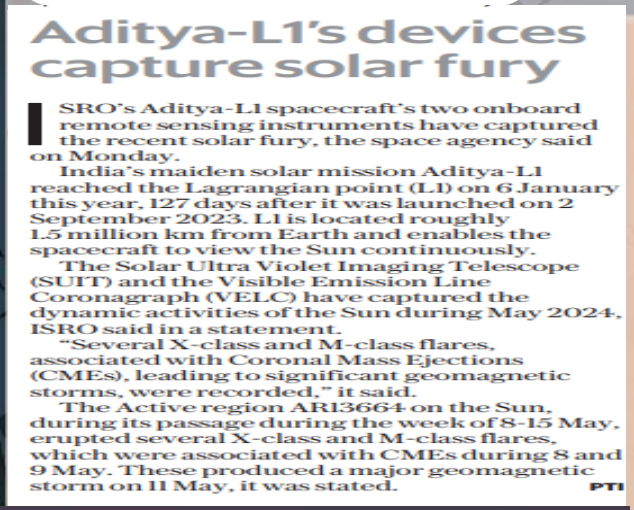
- **About:** It is a large raptor species.
- **Scientific name:** Clanga clanga
- **Habitat**: Open wet forests and forest edges, often adjoining marshes, swampy patches, bogs, or wet meadows, as well as river-valley woodlands and floodplain forests.
- **Distribution**: Eastern Europe, parts of Central Europe, central Russia, central Asia and parts of China.
    - The species has mostly vanished from western and central Europe, with a limited breeding population in Polesia, Belarus.
- **Threatened by**: habitat destruction, collisions with objects, and hybridization with lesser spotted eagles..
- **Conservation Status:**
    - **IUCN:** Vulnerable.

LIVEMINT

Page 9

ADITYA L1

(Syllabus GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)



Aditya-L1's devices capture solar fury

ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft's two onboard remote sensing instruments have captured the recent solar fury, the space agency said on Monday.

India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L1 reached the Lagrangian point (L1) on 6 January this year, 127 days after it was launched on 2 September 2023. L1 is located roughly 1.5 million km from Earth and enables the spacecraft to view the Sun continuously.

The Solar Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) and the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) have captured the dynamic activities of the Sun during May 2024, ISRO said in a statement.

"Several X-class and M-class flares, associated with Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), leading to significant geomagnetic storms, were recorded," it said.

The Active region AR13664 on the Sun, during its passage during the week of 8-15 May, erupted several X-class and M-class flares, which were associated with CMEs during 8 and 9 May. These produced a major geomagnetic storm on 11 May, it was stated. PTI



Context: ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft's two onboard remote sensing instruments have captured the recent solar fury.

Aditya L1

- **About:** It is the country's **first dedicated solar mission**. It is a **fully indigenous effort** with the participation of national institutions.
- **China, Japan, the US and European countries** have similar missions that investigate solar flares, coronal mass ejections and the sun's magnetic fields.
- It is also ISRO's **second astronomy observatory-class mission** after AstroSat (2015).
- **Launched by**: PSLV-XL launch vehicle.
- **Aim:** The mission aims **to study the Sun from a halo orbit around first Sun-earth Lagrangian point (L1**), which is located roughly 1.5 million km from Earth.
    - A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage **of continuously viewing the Sun** without any occultation/eclipses.
- **Payloads:** The spacecraft **carries seven payloads** to observe the **photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers** of the Sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle and magnetic field detectors.

Lagrangian Points

- **About:** It is known as Lagrange points or libration points.
- **Located**: about 1.5 million kms inside Earth's orbit, between the Sun and the Earth.
- These are particular points in space where the gravitational forces between two
- massive objects, like a planet and its moon or a planet and the Sun, create areas of heightened gravitational stability.

INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)



Significance of Maldives' pro-China President Muizzu's New Delhi visit

ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE PRESIDENT of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, was one of seven leaders from India's neighbourhood who attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday evening. Muizzu's presence was significant, given the way he has positioned himself politically *vis-à-vis* India, and the crucial strategic aspect to the India-Maldives relationship.

The 'India Out' candidate

Muizzu came to power on November 17 last year on an 'India Out' plank. The India Out campaign had begun in 2020 as the Maldives opposition's protest against then President Ibrahim Solih's policies that were perceived to be friendly towards New Delhi, but had soon turned into a movement against India's alleged military presence in the archipelago, which both the Solih government and India denied.

During his presidential campaign, Muizzu repeatedly vowed to send back "foreign soldiers". Within hours of being sworn in, he demanded the withdrawal of all Indian military personnel from Maldives.

Consequently, the final batch of Indian soldiers — who were stationed in the Maldives to operate and maintain two helicopters and three Dornier aircraft India had previously gifted to the country — were replaced by civilians in May.

Muizzu's pro-China tilt

Like his mentor, former President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, under whose rule (2013-18) the India-Maldives relationship deteriorated severely, Muizzu has openly aligned his country with China, India's geopolitical rival in the Indian Ocean.

In January, Muizzu broke with a Maldivian tradition to choose Beijing over New Delhi for his first foreign visit as President. He met President Xi Jinping, and signed 20 agreements on various areas ranging from tourism to social housing and e-commerce.

After his swearing-in ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu during a meeting in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

In March, Malé signed an agreement with Beijing to obtain free "non-lethal" military equipment and training from China — the first ever military deal between the two countries.

The Chinese influence in the Maldives has increased steadily over the past couple of decades. The island nation is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, which has led to an influx of Chinese money and a strengthening of the relationship between the two countries — at the expense of India.

Muizzu's presidency and the anti-India sentiment fanned by sections of the Maldivian political class is a culmination of this process.

A historical relationship

For India, the Maldives is a crucial ally, important to secure its maritime periphery and to keep an eye on the larger Indian Ocean region where China is making aggressive moves. The archipelago lies barely 70 nautical miles (130 km) from Lakshadweep's Minicoy Island, and some 300 nautical miles (560 km) from India's west coast. Several important commercial sea lanes run through the islands.

Regardless of Muizzu's pro-China, anti-India posturing, the Maldives cannot simply "let go" of India. It is heavily dependent on Indian imports in almost all important sectors, from food to life-saving medicines, and aircraft used in search and rescue missions.

India has rushed to the Maldives' aid in many crises — from being the first to send in help after the 2004 tsunami to airlifting drinking water to the country after a desalination plant broke down in 2014. During the Covid-19 pandemic, India sent medicines, masks, gloves, PPE kits, vaccines, and other aid.

The Indian Army played a crucial role in thwarting an attempted coup in Malé in 1988. "Across party lines in the Maldives, they don't criticise this operation. They will mention other issues that they have with India, but not this," Maldives expert Dr Gulbin Sultana had told *The Indian Express* in 2021.

Chance of a fresh start

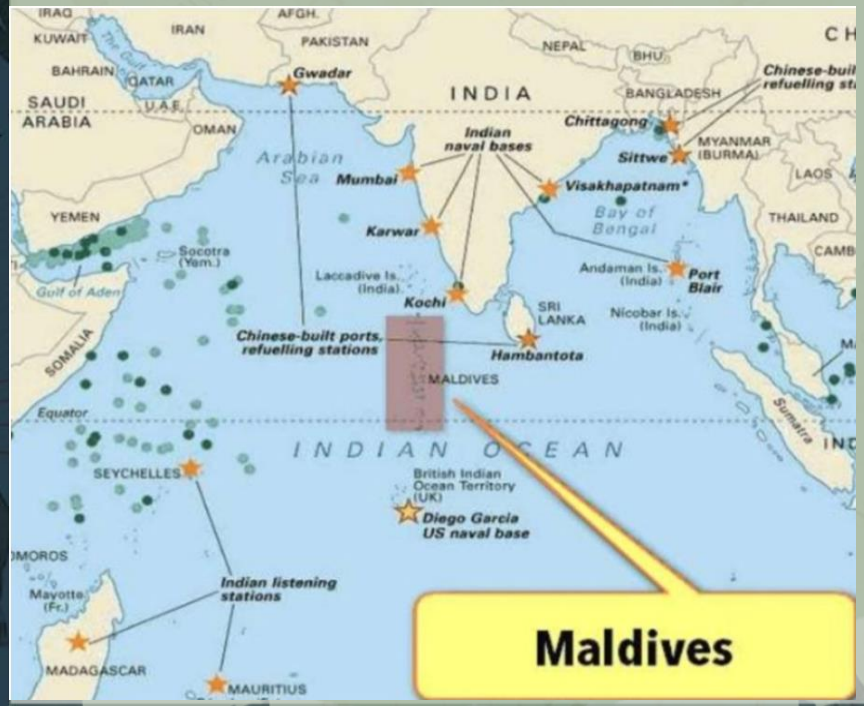
At a time when relations between India and the Maldives are at a low, Muizzu's visit sends an encouraging signal. Some groundwork for a reset in the relationship has been done over the past couple of months.

In April, India approved the highest-ever export quotas for essential commodities — eggs, potatoes, onions, sugar, rice, wheat flour and pulses, river sand and stone aggregates — to Maldives for 2024-25 under a unique bilateral mechanism that has been in effect since 1981.

On May 9, Maldives Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi — the first high-level visit since Muizzu came to power. The two leaders had "extensive discussions" on "bilateral relationship" and "regional security issues".

After a meeting with Muizzu on Monday, Jaishankar, on X, said, "Look forward to India and Maldives working together closely".

Context: Recently, the President of Maldives joined six other leaders from India's neighborhood at the swearing-in ceremony of India's Prime Minister at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



India-Maldives Relations

- **Strategic Importance**: The Maldives, located just 70 nautical miles from Lakshadweep's Minicoy Island, is strategically positioned to secure India's maritime borders.
  - **Location Between Busy Trade Routes**: Maldives is positioned between the world's busiest trade routes, including the Strait of Malacca and the Suez Canal.
- **Economic:** Trade agreement signed between India and Maldives in 1981. India is Maldives' 4th largest trade partner.
  - India becomes Maldives' second-largest trading partner in 2021, experiencing a 31% growth in bilateral trade despite the pandemic.
  - **Essential Supplies**: The Maldives relies heavily on imports from India, encompassing vital sectors such as food, medicine, and aircraft for search and rescue missions.
- **Defence**: India offers the highest number of training opportunities for the Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF), fulfilling approximately 70% of their defence training needs.
  - **Role in National Security**: The Indian Army's intervention in thwarting a coup attempt in Malé in 1988 underscores the depth of military cooperation between the two nations and the enduring trust it has fostered.
- **Developmental Cooperation**: India implements notable development projects in the Maldives, such as the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Maldives Institute of Technical Education, and the National College for Policing and Law Enforcement (NCPLE).

INDIAN EXPRESS Page 15

LOK SABHA SPEAKER

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)



Powers of the Speaker

The Speaker's role is especially important in a coalition government, or when rival parties or factions seek to break each other in the House. The SC has underlined the supremacy of the Speaker's powers in such cases

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

AS THE 18th Lok Sabha prepares to meet, the TDP and JD(U), key allies of the BJP in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), are said to be jockeying for the post of Speaker. With a pro tem or temporary Speaker administers the oath to new members, the Speaker is chosen to be the Presiding Officer of the House.

What are the powers of the Speaker and why is the post crucial for the BJP, its allies, as well as the opposition?

Constitutional mandate

The Speaker has a key role in parliamentary democracy. The Constitution of India provides for the offices of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker who, according to Article 93, are to be elected "as soon as may be" after the commencement of the House.

The Speaker is elected by a simple majority in the House. The term ends with the dissolution of the House, unless the Speaker resigns or is removed from office before that. A motion of no-confidence can be moved against the Speaker with notice of 14 days as per Article 94 of the Constitution. Separately, the Speaker, like any other member of the House, can face disqualification.

There are no specific qualifications for becoming Speaker, which means any member is entitled to be considered. However, the post of Speaker is distinct from other members in the House.

From the placement of the Speaker's chair in the House to his having a casting vote, from effectively being in charge of the functioning of the House to having crucial constitutional functions in dealing with disqualification of members — the Speaker is evidently perched as the Presiding Officer of Lok Sabha.

The salary of the Speaker is drawn from the Consolidated Fund of India unlike for other MPs, which flow from a statute voted on by the House itself.

Powers of the Speaker

CONDUCTING THE HOUSE: The Speaker, with a vantage view of the House, decides how it is conducted. The conduct of government business is decided by the Speaker in consultation with the Leader of the House. Prior permission of the Speaker is required for members to ask a question, or to discuss any matter.

There are Rules and Procedure for the functioning of the House, but the Speaker has vast powers in ensuring these Rules are followed, and in choosing procedures. This makes the impartiality of the Speaker a crucial check and balance for the Opposition to have its say in the House.

QUESTIONS & RECORDS: The Speaker decides the admissibility of a question raised by a member, as well as how the proceedings of the House are published. The Speaker has the power to expunge, in full or in part, remarks that she may consider to be unparliamentary. Critical remarks against the ruling party may not be published if the Speaker decides to expunge them.

VOICE VOTES, DIVISION: When the treasury benches seem thin in the House, the Speaker can disregard a request for division and push a Bill through by voice vote.

As per the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha*, if the Speaker is of the opinion that it is "unnecessarily claimed", simply ask the members who are for 'Aye' and those for 'No' respectively to rise in their places and decide.

In such a case, the names of the voters shall not be recorded. Vote by division is important as a record for posterity. An MP gets a chance to record dissent and show the mandate of her constituents.

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION: One of the most important times when a Speaker's impartiality impacts the Opposition is when a motion of no-confidence is moved against the government. In 2018, when the YSRCP and TDP gave notices for a motion of no-confidence, then Speaker Sumitra Mahajan adjourned the House several times before admitting the motion and putting it to vote.

CASTING VOTE: Although it is rare that a Speaker is required to give her casting vote, it is a crucial function. According to Article 100 of the Constitution, which talks about voting in the Houses, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha or Speaker of Lok Sabha, or any person acting as such, "shall not vote in the first instance, but shall have an exercise a casting vote in the case of any equality of votes".

Conventionally, the Speaker votes in favour of the government.

Disqualification of members

For the Opposition, the realities of the power of the Speaker under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution are perhaps more significant than how the House is conducted.

The Tenth Schedule or the anti-defection law, introduced to the Constitution through the Fifty-Second (Amendment) Act, 1985, gives the Speaker of the House the power to disqualify legislators who 'defect' from a party. In the landmark case *Kihoto Hollohan versus Zachillhu* in 1992, the Supreme Court upheld the power vested in the Speaker and said that only the final order of the Speaker will be subject to judicial review.

Defections can alter numbers in the House and cause a government to fall. If the Speaker acts in a timely manner and disqualifies such members, then the new government may not have a majority. However, a delay in deciding the disqualification petitions can vitiate the Tenth Schedule.

In 2023, the Supreme Court had directed the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar to initiate disqualification proceedings against MLAs of the Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde factions of the Shiv Sena at the earliest. At that time, the petitions were pending for over a year and a half, allowing the Uddhav-led government to collapse.

In 2020, the Supreme Court had ruled that Speakers of Assemblies and Lok Sabha must decide disqualification pleas within three months except in extraordinary circumstances.

SPEAKERS OF THE COALITION ERA: *(From left)* Somnath Chatterjee, the late GMC Balayogi, and Purno A Sangma. *Archive*

SPEAKERS OF LOK SABHA

Name	Tenure	Party	Ruling Coalition
Rabi Ray	Dec 1989 – July 1991	Janata Dal	National Front
Shivraj Patil	July1991 – May 1996	Cong	Cong
PA Sangma	May 1996– Mar 1998	Cong	United Front
GMC Balayogi*	Mar 1998 –Oct 1999 Oct 1999 – Mar 2002	TDP	NDA
Manohar Joshi	May 2002 – June 2004	Shiv Sena	NDA
Somnath Chatterjee	June 2004 – June 2009	CPI(M)	UPA
Meira Kumar	June 2009 – June 2014	Cong	UPA
Sumitra Mahajan	June 2014 – June 2019	BJP	NDA
Om Birla	June 2019 – June 2024	BJP	NDA

*Died in office

Context: As the 18th Lok Sabha convenes, key allies of the ruling party are reportedly vying for the position of Speaker.

Constitutional Provisions of Speaker

- **About**: The Constitution of India specifically delineates the roles of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker in parliamentary proceedings.
- **Article 93**: It mandates the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, outlining the formal procedure for their selection.
- **Election Process**: The Speaker is elected by a simple majority within the House.
- **Term Duration:** The Speaker's term extends until the dissolution of the House, unless resignation or removal occurs prior to that.
- **No-Confidence Motion**: A motion of no-confidence against the Speaker can be initiated with a 14-day notice period, as stipulated in Article 94 of the Constitution.
- **Disqualification**: Similar to any other member of the House, the Speaker is subject to disqualification under relevant constitutional provisions.
- **Salary**: It is drawn from the Consolidated Fund of India unlike for other MPs, which flow from a statute voted on by the House itself.

Powers of the Speaker

- **Conducting the House**: The Speaker holds the authority to conduct the proceedings of the House, including deciding on the conduct of government business and granting permission for member interventions.
- **Impartiality in Procedure**: Despite established Rules and Procedures, the Speaker wields significant power in ensuring adherence and selecting procedures, crucially ensuring impartiality for all members.
- **Voice Votes & Division:** In situations of sparse attendance, the Speaker can bypass division requests and pass Bills through voice votes, a decision vital for maintaining legislative efficiency.
- **Money Bill**: The Speaker determines whether a bill is a money bill, and their decision is final.
- **Disqualifying Members**: The Speaker decides on disqualification of members based on defection under the Tenth Schedule, subject to judicial review.

THE HINDU

Page 13

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Policies)

PMAY to assist construction of three crore houses

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge of his office for the third straight time on Monday, the new Union Cabinet took its first decision – to provide assistance for construction of three crore more rural and urban houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

"It has been decided in the Cabinet meeting today to provide assistance to three crore additional rural and urban households for the construction of houses," said a government official.

Context: Recently, the Indian Prime Minister initiated the construction of three crore additional rural and urban houses through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, marking the new Cabinet's first decision.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Scheme

- **About:** The PMAY is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- **Funding**: Both the Union and the State governments are supposed to financially contribute to it.
- **Objectives**:
  - Rehabilitation of slum dwellers with private developers' participation.
  - Promotion of affordable housing for the weaker sections through Credit Linked Subsidy Schemes (CLSS).
  - Affordable housing in partnership with public and private sectors.
  - Subsidy for Beneficiary-led Construction (BLC).
- **Extension Granted**: The government approved an extension of PMAY-Urban (PMAY-U) up to December 31, 2024, to complete houses sanctioned till March 31, 2022.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin

- **Launched**: In 2016 to address the housing gaps existing in the rural areas.
- **Ministry Involved**: Ministry of Rural development.
- **Aim**: To provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families who are homeless or living in kutcha or dilapidated houses by 2022.
- **Beneficiaries**: SCs/STs, former bonded laborers, non-SC/ST populations, widows or the next-of-kin of defense personnel who died in action, ex-servicemen and retired paramilitary members, disabled individuals, and minorities.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U)

- **Launched**: 2015
- **Ministry involved**: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- **Objective**: The mission's overarching goal is to provide "pucca" (durable and permanent) houses to all eligible urban households by 2022.
- **Beneficiaries**: The Mission addresses urban housing shortage among the EWS/LIG and MIG categories including the slum dwellers.

DTE June 10

NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

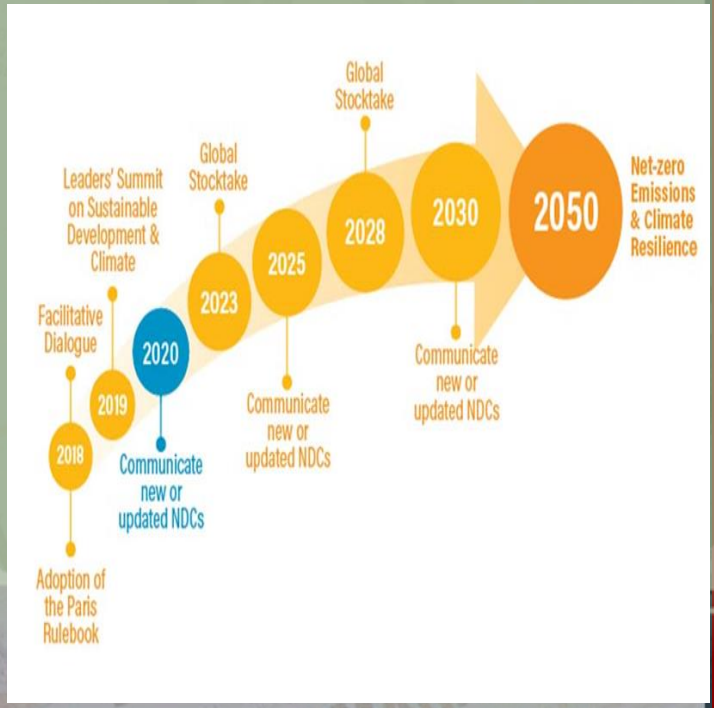
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

UN Report finds countries far from reducing deforestation, have no concrete plans

Context: The UN's latest report, "Raising Ambition, Accelerating Action," highlights significant gaps in forest protection, management, and restoration within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

- **About:** It is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts.
  - It is not a legally binding or enforceable commitment.
- **Paris Agreement Requirement**: Each Party to the Paris Agreement is required to establish an NDC and update it every five years.
- **Objective:** To reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as part of climate change mitigation.
- **Targets**: NDCs are where countries set targets for mitigating the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and for adapting to climate impacts.
- **Climate Finance**: Since climate finance is key to implementing the plans, NDCs ideally also detail a financing strategy.



India's Updated First Nationally Determined Contribution

- India aims for a 33 to 35% reduction in emissions intensity (or emissions per unit of GDP) from 2005 levels by 2030.
- **Renewable Energy Generation:** India targets at least 40% of total electricity generation to come from non-fossil renewable sources by 2030.
- **Increase in Forest Cover**: India plans to increase forest cover to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030.

THE HINDU Page 16

BRICS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2– IR)

India welcomes Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining BRICS

Press Trust of India
MOSCOW

India on Monday welcomed Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining the BRICS as their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping hosted by Russia.

Senior diplomat Dammu Ravi led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, in western Russia.

"A significant meeting in the format of expanded BRICS family. India wholeheartedly welcomes the new membership," the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal said.

The meeting on Monday was the first ministerial meeting following BRICS expansion in 2023 when Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE joined Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa as full-fledged BRICS members.

Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) in MEA, led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, it said.

The ministers reiterated their commitment to multilateralism and upholding the international law. They voiced their support for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient.



United front: India's BRICS Sherpa Dammu Ravi, left and Foreign Ministers of member countries at the meeting in Russia. REUTERS

Context: India warmly received Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia joining BRICS, as their representatives participated for the first time in a significant meeting hosted by Russia.

BRICS

- **About** : It is a grouping of the world's leading emerging economies**.**
- **Headquarters**: Shanghai.
- **Members:** Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- **Five New Members**: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates
- **Origin:**
  - The term was originally coined in 2001 as "BRIC" by the Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill in his report**, Building Better Global Economic BRICs.**
  - Foreign ministers of these countries began meeting informally in 2006, which led to more formal annual summits beginning in 2009.
  - In 2010, **South Africa** joined the informal group and changed the **acronym to BRICS.**
- **First BRIC Summit:** Held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in June 2009.
- **Economic Significance** : It contribute to around **23%** of the global GDP and around **18%** of Global Trade.
- **Demography**: It represents around **41% of** global Population.
- **Territory:** It comprise 30% of the world's territory.

BRICS Initiative

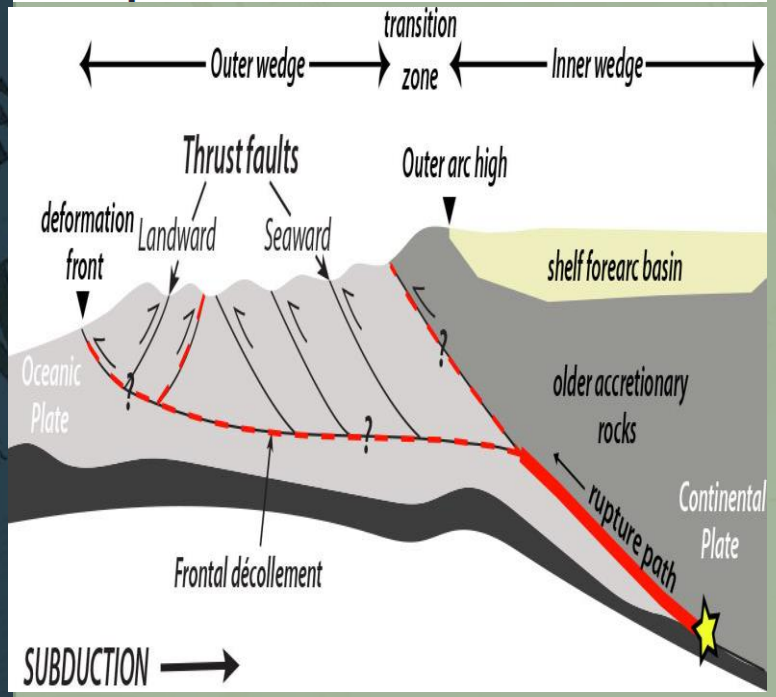
- **New Development Bank:** It finances projects and innovates tailored solutions to help build a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for the planet**.**
- **Members:** BRICS members + Bangladesh , UAE , Egypt.
- **Shareholding**: Brazil , Russia , India , China , South Africa each have equal and larger share of 18.98% than other member country.
- **Contingent Reserve Arrangement:** It is a framework for the provision of support through liquidity and precautionary instruments in response to actual or potential short-term balance of payments pressures.

PHY.ORG June 10

CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

Cascadia Subduction Zone, one of Earth's top hazards, comes into sharper focus



Context: The Cascadia Subduction Zone, considered one of Earth's top hazards, is gaining increased attention.

Cascadia Subduction Zone

- **About**: It is a 1,000 km long dipping fault that stretches from Northern Vancouver Island to Cape Mendocino California. It separates the Juan de Fuca and North America plates.
- **Convergent Boundary**: It is where the Juan de Fuca Plate subducts beneath the North American Plate, an active convergent boundary.
- **Seismic Implications:** This subduction process significantly impacts seismic activity in the region.
- **Earthquake and Tsunami Risks**:
  - **Massive Earthquakes**: The CSZ can generate massive earthquakes, possibly reaching magnitude 9.0 or greater.
  - **Tsunami Potential**: These earthquakes can trigger tsunamis with heights exceeding 100 feet, posing significant risks to coastal areas.
  - **Historical Precedent**: A similar fault off Japan caused the devastating 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Subduction Zone

- **Plate Collision**: It occurs when two tectonic plates collide, with one plate subducting beneath the other.
- **Tectonic Plate Movement:** Tectonic plates are pieces of the Earth's rigid outer layer that slowly move across the planet's surface, driven by underlying forces.
- **Plate Tectonics Theory**: Subduction is a fundamental aspect of plate tectonics, where portions of Earth's shell move over the lower mantle, including continents.

NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

June 10

MALABAR PIT VIPERS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Mapping the hiss story of Malabar Pit Vipers

Context: Researchers have taken up a detailed radio telemetry study of the Malabar Pit Vipers to understand their habitat and activity patterns and to find their antidote.

Malabar Pit Vipers

- **About:** It is native to the Western Ghats, typically induces moderate pain and swelling with no reported fatalities.
- **Range:** Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa & Maharashtra.
- **Habitat:** Tropical Evergreen Forests.
- **Scientific Name**: Craspedocephalus malabaricus (formerly Trimeresurus malabaricus).
- **Features**
  - Nocturnal, arboreal, and Ovoviviparous (give birth to live young).
  - Triangular head much broader than the neck, heat sensing pits between eyes and nostrils.
  - Spots in various zigzag patterns across the body.
  - Variable color, often green, brown, or yellow with patterns.
  - Heat-sensing pits to detect warm-blooded prey.
- **Conservation Status**
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**: Schedule-2.

THE HINDU Page 10

NEW CALEDONIA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 –IR)

What is happening in French territory of New Caledonia?

What does the new amendment bill on voters' list stipulate? Why are Kanaks against it?

Padmashree Anandhan
Neha Tresa George

The story so far:

On June 3, the Socialist Kanak National Liberation Front (FLNKS) of the south pacific French territory of New Caledonia called for French President Emmanuel Macron to abandon the plan to modify the electoral reform.

What happened?

Widespread protests and riots erupted in New Caledonia in response to the French parliament's decision to amend the voters' list. The new amendment bill will pave the way for incorporating citizens who were either born or lived in the territory for at least 10 years. Kanaks, the indigenous community of the territory, opposed this on claims that it diluted their electoral power thus marginalising them. The Kanaks comprise 43% of the 1,45,000 population, while the European (French loyalists), Wallisians and Futunians comprise 37%. The new voting amendment will give majority to the loyalists undermining the Kanaks' future towards decolonisation. This would also mean an alteration of the internal political environment towards French settlers.

What is history of the archipelago?

New Caledonia had Kanaks as the original inhabitants. France gained control of the territory in 1853 and governed the Kanaks with reservations. After the Second World War, colonial laws were abolished and the Kanaks were granted French citizenship. In the 1960s, increased migration from France turned the Kanaks into a minority in New Caledonia. Angered by their deteriorating socio-economic status and lack of economic and political involvement, an independence movement grew along with the emergence of the FLNKS in 1984. Thus, tensions soared between the Kanaks and loyalists between from 1984 to 1988 which ended with the signing of the Matignon agreements in 1988 and the Nouméa Accord in 1998 between the Kanaks and the French government. This allowed the transfer of powers from Paris to local authorities along with three referendums to decide the territory's independence.

The independence referendums held in 2018 and 2020 were in favour of France, and against an independent New Caledonia. Kanaks requested to postpone the third and final referendum due to COVID-19 in 2021, but the French disregarded the request. A lower turnout ensured a 96% result against an independent state. This infuriated the Kanaks who then opposed talks with the French government.

Why do Kanaks want independence?

Post World War II, after the granting of French citizenship and transforming the French colonies into overseas territories, New Caledonia's migration pattern increasingly reflected that, of what the Kanaks call, "settler colonialism."

Under this new model, social inequalities widened leading to the



Context: The Socialist Kanak National Liberation Front (FLNKS) in New Caledonia's south Pacific French territory urges President Emmanuel Macron to drop proposed electoral reform modifications.

New Caledonia

- **About:** It is a French overseas collectivity with significant autonomy under the terms of the 1998 Nouméa Accord.
- **Geographical Location**: Located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, about 900 miles (1,500 km) east of Australia.
- **Origin**: Unlike many Pacific islands, New Caledonia is an ancient fragment of the Gondwana supercontinent.
- **Composition**: It comprises the main island of Grande Terre, the four Loyalty Islands, the Belep archipelago, the Isle of Pines, and some remote islands.
- **Capital:** Noumea
- **European Union Status**: New Caledonia is one of the European Union's Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) but is not part of the EU, the Euro, or Schengen zones.
- **Citizenship and Voting Rights**: New Caledonians are French and European citizens with the right to live anywhere in France. They can participate in territorial and French national elections.

FREE Download PDF

Login to theiashub.com

- Aaj Ka Quality Enrichment (Toppers' Favourite PDF)
- News-CRUX-10 (10 News. 10 Sources. One Place)
- Monthly Editorials (The Hindu & Indian Express)
- Daily Quiz (Prelims)
- Government Schemes & Ministry Wise Year End Review
- Free Enrichment PDFs (Tailor Made Crisp Study Material)



Log On To Our Unique
Free Answer Writing Sessions with Toppers (FAST) Portal
& Start Practicing!

SCAN HERE

9560082909

t.me/theiashub

/mkyadav

www.theiashub.com

www.theiashub.com