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By- **Nandan Sir**

November 1st Week 2025

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS NOVEMBER 1ST Week 2025

High Seas Treaty Syllabus - Environment

In News

- The High Seas Treaty, ratified by over 60 countries, will take effect in January 2026.

BBNJ Treaty (High Seas Treaty)

- **Objective** - It is a landmark international agreement aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- **Significance** - It is a significant step towards protecting the ocean, promoting equity and fairness, tackling environmental degradation, and preventing biodiversity loss in the high seas.
- **Adopted in** - It was adopted by consensus at the 5th BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference in New York in March 2023.
- **Member countries** - Currently, it has been signed by representatives from more than 80 countries.

India and Bahrain's Bilateral Relations Syllabus: GS2/IR



Context

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Bahrain's Foreign Minister and discussed cooperation in defence and security.

India and Bahrain's Bilateral Relations

- **Bilateral trade**: USD 1.64 billion (FY 2024-25); India among Bahrain's top five trading partners.
- **Gateway to the Gulf**: Bahrain, located near the western shores of the Gulf, serves as a strategic entry point for India into the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
- **Energy Security**: Bahrain, though a smaller oil producer compared to other GCC states, plays a role in India's energy diversification strategy and refined petroleum trade.

Additional Information - Bahrain (Capital: Manama)

Political Features

- Bahrain is the **third-smallest nation in Asia**.
- **Location**: Lies in West Asia, in the Persian Gulf.
- **Border**: It is an archipelago of islands and has no land borders with other countries.
- **Neighbouring Water Bodies**: Persian Gulf.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)



- It is a **political and economic union of six Arabian Peninsula countries**
- **Members:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Establishment:** Founded on **May 25, 1981**, through an agreement signed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- **Objectives:** To achieve unity and coordination among member states in all fields, including economic, security, cultural, and social cooperation.
- **Headquarters:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Maldives Becomes First Nation to Enforce Generational Tobacco Ban

Syllabus: GS2/ Health



In News

- The Maldives has become the first country worldwide to impose a historic generational ban on tobacco and vaping.

Generational Ban

- A generational ban on tobacco refers to a **progressive legal prohibition designed to create a tobacco-free generation** by banning tobacco sales and usage for all individuals born after a specified date.

Additional Information - Maldives

- **Capital:** Male
- **Official language:** Dhivehi (an Indo-European language); Arabic, Hindi, and English are also spoken.
- **Religion:** Islam is the state religion
- **Economy:** Heavily dependent on **tourism**, along with **fisheries** and **foreign aid**.
- **Constitution:** The 2008 Constitution defines a **presidential system with direct elections for a maximum of two five-year terms**.

Geographical Features

- It is home to the **7th largest coral reef system in the world**, contributing 3.14% of global reef area.
- The country has **no rivers or streams** and the average elevation is under 2 meters, making it **highly vulnerable to sea-level rise**.
- The Maldives is an **archipelagic state** consisting of about **1,200 coral islands grouped in 26 atolls**, located in the north-central Indian Ocean.
- It is strategically positioned making it **vital for maritime trade and security in the IOR**.

Encephalomyocarditis Virus (EMCV)

Syllabus: GS2/Health

In News

- Delhi zoo's lone African elephant died from the rare rodent-borne encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV) — the first such case reported in any Indian zoo.

Encephalomyocarditis Virus (EMCV)

- **Pathogen**- It is a small, **single-stranded RNA virus**
- It causes **myocarditis, encephalitis, neurological disorders, reproductive issues, and diabetes** across various mammalian species.
- **Transmission** : Consumption of **food and water contaminated with rodent urine or feces**
- **Occurrence** : EMCV was first identified in 1945 from a gibbon in Florida

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

Syllabus: GS2/ Governance

Context

- **The Supreme Court refused to intervene with an order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) which had allowed Aakash Educational Services Ltd, a subsidiary of Byju's, to proceed with its proposed rights issue.**

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

- **Constituted under - Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013, with effect from 2016.**
- **Legal status** - It functions as a **quasi-judicial body to hear appeals against orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and several other regulatory authorities.**
- It also serves as the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against orders passed by the
 1. National Company Law Tribunal (under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016),
 2. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (under Sections 202 and 211 of the IBC),

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Syllabus: GS3/Economy

In News

- **The Union Agriculture Minister has ordered on-field investigations into extremely low insurance payouts under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.**

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana(PMFBY)

- **Implementation - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**
- **Launched in - It is an insurance service for farmers for their yields, launched in 2016.**

Objectives:

- To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops as a result of natural calamities, pests and diseases.
- To stabilise the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
- To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
- To ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

Key features of the PMFBY

Premium rates

- **There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops (winter sown).**
- **In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.**
- The balance premium will be paid by the Government (to be shared equally by the central and state government).
- The idea is to provide a fully insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities.

Coal India Limited (CIL)

Syllabus: GS3/ Energy and Infrastructure

Context

- **Coal India Limited (CIL)**, is marking the completion of 50 years of its establishment.

Coal India Limited

- It is a **Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking** under the Ministry of Coal.
- It was established in **November 1975**.
- **Headquarters: Kolkata**.
- **Products:** CIL produces coking coal, semi-coking coal, non-coking coal, washed and beneficiated coal, coal fines, and coke.
- **Strategic Relevance:** It contributes to **80% of total domestic coal production** and **75% of total coal based generation**.

Additional Information - Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)

- **Meaning:** These are **government-owned companies or corporations** in which the central or state government holds a **majority stake (51% or more)**.
- **GDP Contribution:** Contributed around **13-14% to India's GDP (Ministry of Finance)**.
- **Role in Job Creation:** **Directly employ about 9-10 lakh individuals**, with a much larger indirect employment impact across core and infrastructure sectors.
- **Total CPSEs:** India has over **250 Central Public Sector Enterprises**, categorized into **Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna**.
- **Core Sector Dominance:** PSUs retain a major role in **energy, mining, defense, and transport**, but private sector presence is rising.

North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster

Syllabus: GS3/Infrastructure

Context

- The Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region inaugurated the North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster at IIT Guwahati.

North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster

- **Mandate** - It will serve as the **centre of the Northeast's innovation ecosystem**, transforming local wisdom into global solutions.

It will focus on four verticals:

1. **Grassroots Innovation**
2. **Semiconductors & Artificial Intelligence**
3. **Bamboo-Based Technologies**
4. **Biodegradable Plastics**.

International Day for Biosphere Reserves Syllabus: GS3/Environment Conservation

Context

- The **International Day for Biosphere Reserves** was observed on **3rd November**.

International Day for Biosphere Reserves Biosphere reserves

- **Definition** - They are the protected areas identified by national governments for **conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development**.
- It includes **terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems**.
- They are **nominated by national governments** and remain under the **sovereign jurisdiction of the states** where they are located.
- **Biosphere reserves in India** - India has **18 Biosphere Reserves** covering **91,425 sq. km**, with **13 recognized by UNESCO**.
- **Note** - In 2025, India's Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in Himachal Pradesh was included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Additional Information - World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

- **Established in** - It was established by **UNESCO in 1971**.

- It covers internationally designated protected areas, known as biosphere reserves.
- They are **created under the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)**.
- **Recognised by** - These are internationally recognized within the UNESCO'S Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB Programme).

Connect with the basics

Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program

- **Launched in** - It is an intergovernmental scientific program launched in 1971 by UNESCO to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.
- **World Network of Biosphere Reserves(WNBR)** - Under the program, UNESCO has established the World Network of Biosphere Reserves(WNBR).
- **12 biosphere reserves of India** - There are 12 biosphere reserves of India which have been recognized internationally under the Man and Biosphere(MAB) Reserve program.

- 1) Nilgiri
- 2) Gulf of Mannar
- 3) Sunderban
- 4) Nanda Devi
- 5) Nokrek
- 6) Pachmarhi
- 7) Similipal
- 8) Achanakmar – Amarkantak
- 9) Great Nicobar
- 10) Agasthyamala
- 11) Khangchendzonga (2018)
- 12) Panna(2020)
- 13)Cold Desert, Himachal Pradesh(2025) - newly added**

Biosphere Conservation

- A scheme called Biosphere Reserve has been implemented by the Government of India since 1986.
- The State Government prepares the Management Action Plan which is approved and monitored by the Central MAB Committee.

Biosphere Reserves in India

- There are 18 biosphere reserves in India
1. Cold Desert, Himachal Pradesh
 2. Nanda Devi, Uttarakhand
 3. Khangchendzonga, Sikkim
 4. Dehang-Debang, Arunachal Pradesh
 5. Manas, Assam
 6. Dibru-Saikhowa, Assam
 7. Nokrek, Meghalaya
 8. Panna, Madhya Pradesh
 9. Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh
 10. Achanakmar-Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh
 11. Kachchh, Gujarat (Largest Area)
 12. Similipal, Odisha
 13. Sundarban, West Bengal
 14. Seshachalam, Andhra Pradesh
 15. Agasthyamala, Karnataka-Tamil Nadu-Kerala
 16. Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu-Kerala
 17. Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu
 18. Great Nicobar, Andaman & Nicobar Island

Torkham Border

Syllabus:International relations



Context

- **The Torkham border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan has reopened after nearly weeks of closure following deadly border clashes.**

Torkham Border

- Location - The Torkham border is a **major crossing point between Afghanistan and Pakistan**, located along the Grand Trunk Road on the international border.
- **Connectivity** - It connects **Nangarhar province of Afghanistan with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.**
- **It is the busiest port of entry between the two nations**, serving as a key hub for transport, trade, and logistics.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Syllabus: GS2/Health

In News

- Investing in healthcare boosts resilience and productivity, helping India achieve affordable universal care and a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

- Universal health coverage (UHC) means that **all people have access to the full range of quality health services they require without any financial hardship.**

Various Steps

- **National Health Mission**—launched in 200 establishes community-owned and **decentralised health systems to provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services** to vulnerable populations.
- **Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** to achieve **universal health care**. It is the **world's largest public healthcare scheme** with crores of vulnerable Indian families enrolled in it.
- **National Health Policy 2017**- It addresses **changing healthcare challenges in India** such as the rise of lifestyle diseases like **non-communicable diseases**,

Blue Cities

Syllabus: GS3/Economy



Context

- **Around the world, leading maritime hubs are transforming into “blue cities”.**

Blue Cities

- It refers to coastal or port cities that **integrate ocean-based economic activities with sustainable urban development.**
- The concept is rooted in the **idea of a “Blue Economy” — using ocean resources for economic growth while preserving the health of marine ecosystems.**

Opportunity for India

- India has a **11,098.81 km coastline**, **13 major ports**, **200+ non-major ports**.

India's Pilot Blue Cities

1. **Mumbai**: Combine port logistics with sustainable finance and innovation.
2. **Vizag**: Naval and shipbuilding expertise.
3. **Chennai**: Tech and advanced manufacturing integration.
4. **Mundra**: Private investment and clean-energy logistics.
5. **Kochi**: Maritime services and offshore renewables.

Additional Information - India's Port Sector

- India has **13 major ports (central government controlled)** and **217 minor ports (state government controlled)**.
- The ports are **managed by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.
- **India's Maritime Sector Overview**: Handles **95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value**, with port infrastructure critical to the economy.
- **Port Ranking Improvement**: India's port ranking improved from **54th in 2014 to 38th in 2023**, with **nine Indian ports now in the top 100 globally**.
- **Maritime Sector's Importance**: **India is the 16th-largest maritime nation**, occupies a key position in global shipping, with major trade routes passing through its waters.

Stablecoins

Syllabus: GS3/Economy

Context

- **Rupee-backed stablecoins regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could revolutionize payments, remittances, and cross-border transactions.**

Rupee Stablecoins

- **Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies designed to maintain a fixed value by being tied to a reserve asset — typically fiat currencies like the US dollar or Indian rupee.**
- A rupee stablecoin aims to be pegged 1:1 to the Indian rupee, offering the benefits of crypto (speed, programmability, global reach) without the volatility.
- Stablecoins are built for utility, not investment unlike speculative crypto assets.

They can be used for:

- Instant domestic and international payments;
- Smart contract-based financial services;
- Reducing transaction costs in remittances;

Connect with the basics

- **Cryptocurrency** - It is a virtual currency used for financial transactions. It uses blockchain technology for various transactions.
- **Blockchain** - The blockchain is an incorruptible digital ledger of transactions that can be programmed to record virtually everything of value. Each list of records in a blockchain is called a block.
- **Bitcoin** - It is a type of Cryptocurrency that enables instant payments to anyone.

National Beekeeping & Honey Mission Syllabus: GS3/Economy

In News

- **India's honey sector is undergoing a structured transformation as the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) continues to scale scientific beekeeping across the country.**

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**

- **Objective** - to promote and **develop scientific beekeeping and the production of quality honey** and other beehive products.
- **Implementation- National Bee Board (NBB).**
- **Significance** - It was launched as a part of the “**Sweet Revolution**”, an ambitious initiative **aimed at promoting apiculture.**
- **Major Indian states producing honey are: Uttar Pradesh (17%), West Bengal (16%), Punjab (14%), Bihar (12%) and Rajasthan (9%).**



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