

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS ANALYSIS

HIGHLIGHTS:

- RBI's Concerns on Slow Deposit Growth
- Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site

**GS Subject wise Current affairs
detailed analysis**

ACS Booster Challenge

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GS 1: ART & CULTURE, HISTORY, INDIAN SOCIETY AND GEOGRAPHY

1. Tipu Sultan [Modern India: Important Personalities]

Article: *Tipu Sultan: How history remembers him, why controversy doesn't forget him (The Indian Express, 23 Nov)*

Context:

The birth anniversary of Tipu Sultan was observed on Sunday, bringing his contested legacy to the forefront of political discourse once again.

About Tipu Sultan

- ✓ Tipu Sultan was born Sultan Fateh Ali Sahab Tipu on November 10, 1750 in Devanahalli, present-day Bangalore.
- ✓ He was born to Hyder Ali, who rose through the ranks of the army of the Wodeyars, the then Hindu rulers of Mysore.
- ✓ Hyder Ali ceased power in 1761 with Tipu succeeding his father in 1782.
- ✓ Tipu Sultan died defending his fortress of Srirangapatna against British forces in the Fourth Anglo Mysore War in 1799.
- ✓ His final act of valour and defiance has been glorified by many who see him as a nationalist, anti-colonial icon.

Some of the reforms Tipu Sultan introduced

- ✓ Tipu's fascination with European culture was evident in many of the innovations that can be credited to him and his rule.
- ✓ Most famously, Tipu is credited for the introduction of iron-cased rockets in warfare.
- ✓ While rocket-like weapons had previously been used in War, Tipu's army used what can be termed as the first modern war rockets in the Anglo Mysore Wars (though some sources say that it was his father Hyder Ali who introduced these and Tipu only improved upon existing models).
- ✓ Tipu Sultan also pioneered administrative and economic reforms.
- ✓ He introduced new coins, started a new land revenue system in Mysore, as well as introduced sericulture, which continues to employ many Kannadigas to date.

GS 2: POLITY, GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL JUSTICE & IR

2. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) [IR: Treaties & Regimes]

Article: *The 'India pole' in international politics (Page 6, editorial)*

Context:

"Whose side is India on?" is one foundational question that constantly confronts practitioners, thinkers and commentators of India's foreign policy. The ongoing war in Ukraine on the one hand and the confrontation between Russia (India's traditional partner) and the United States and the West (also India's partners) on the other have increased the frequency/regularity of this question.

About Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

- ✓ The Non-Aligned Movement is a forum of 120 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- ✓ The Non-Aligned Movement was formed during the Cold War, largely on the initiative of then-Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, as an organization of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union, but sought to remain independent or neutral.
- ✓ The basic concept for the group originated in 1955 during discussions that took place at the Asia-Africa Bandung Conference held in Indonesia.

- ✓ The First NAM Summit Conference took place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961.

Treaty Objectives

- ✓ NAM has sought to “create an independent path in world politics that would not result in member States becoming pawns in the struggles between the major powers.”
- ✓ It identifies the right of independent judgment, the struggle against imperialism and neo-colonialism, and the use of moderation in relations with all big powers as the three basic elements that have influenced its approach.
- ✓ At present, an additional goal is facilitating a restructuring of the international economic order.
- ✓ NAM does not have a formal constitution or permanent secretariat, and its administration is non-hierarchical and rotational.
- ✓ Decisions are made by consensus, which requires substantial agreement, but not unanimity.
- ✓ At each Summit, a new Head of State formally becomes the chair, and assumes that position until the next Summit.
- ✓ **Current Chair: Azerbaijan**

Membership criteria

- ✓ The country should have adopted an independent policy based on the coexistence of States with different political and social systems and on non-alignment or should be showing a trend in favour of such a policy;
- ✓ The country concerned should be consistently supporting the Movements for national independence;
 - The country should not be a member of a multilateral military alliance concluded in the context of Great Power conflicts;
 - If a country has a bilateral military agreement with a Great Power, or is a member of a regional defence pact, the agreement or pact should not be one deliberately concluded in the context of Great Power conflicts;
 - If it has conceded military bases to a Foreign Power the concession should not have been made in the context of Great Power conflicts.

- India being a founder and largest member in NAM was an active participant in NAM meetings till 1970s but India's inclination towards erstwhile USSR created confusions in smaller members.
- It led to the weakening of NAM and small nations drifted towards either US or USSR.
- Moreover, NAM continued losing relevance for India in a unipolar world, especially after the founding members failed to support India during crisis.
- For instance, during 1962 War with China, Ghana and Indonesia, adopted explicitly pro-China positions.
- During 1965 and 1971 wars, Indonesia and Egypt took an anti-India stance and supported Pakistan.
- India in particular, but also most other NAM countries, have integrated themselves to varying degrees within the liberal economic order and have benefited from it.

3. Adivasi or Vanvasi [Constitution: Vulnerable Session]

Article: *Adivasi and Vanvasi: Why BJP uses the latter term for tribes, and the row around it (The Indian Express, 23 Nov)*

Context:

Campaigning for the Gujarat Assembly elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Monday questioned the term 'Vanvasi', used by the BJP and its ideologue RSS for the tribal community, contrasting it with 'Adivasi', which the Congress uses for them.

Adivasi or Vanvasi

- ✓ The Constitution of India uses the term **Scheduled Tribes** or “Anusuchit Janjati” to describe tribes.
- ✓ Many tribal people choose to refer to themselves as ‘**Adivasi**’, which means ‘first inhabitants’.
- ✓ The term ‘Adivasi’ was brought in by the British in the 1930s.
- ✓ It is used in public discourse, in documents, text books and in media.
- ✓ ‘**Vanvasi**’, which means forest dwellers, is a term used by the Sangh Parivar, which works extensively in tribal areas “to protect them from the clutches of Christian Missionaries”.
- ✓ With the marginalised tribal community traditionally treated as a unit outside the main caste structure, the term ‘Vanvasi’ was used to convey their distinct identity.

Refer Aryan invasion theory.

4. Loan write-off [Economy: Banking Sector & NBFCs]

Article: *What is a loan write-off and why do banks do it? (The Indian Express, 23 Nov)*

Context:

Banks wrote off more than Rs 10 lakh crore in loans over the last five years, according to RBI data. While public sector banks reported the lion's share of write-offs at Rs 734,738 crore, private sector banks were not far behind in bringing down their non-performing assets (NPAs).

About Loan write-off

- ✓ Writing off a loan essentially means it will no longer be counted as an asset.
- ✓ By writing off loans, a bank can reduce the level of non-performing assets (NPAs) on its books.
- ✓ An additional benefit is that the amount so written off reduces the bank's tax liability.

Why do banks resort to write-offs?

- ✓ The bank writes off a loan after the borrower has defaulted on the loan repayment and there is a very low chance of recovery.
- ✓ The lender then moves the defaulted loan, or NPA, out of the assets side and reports the amount as a loss.
- ✓ After the write-off, banks are supposed to continue their efforts to recover the loan using various options.
- ✓ They have to make provisioning as well.
- ✓ The tax liability will also come down as the written-off amount is reduced from the profit.
- ✓ Public sector banks reported the lion's share of write-offs at Rs 734,738 crore accounting for 72.78 per cent of the exercise.

GS 3: ECONOMY, ECOLOGY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEFENCE, SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

5. India-Australia trade agreement- Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) [Economy & IR: Trade Relations]

Article: *India-Australia trade pact set to open up opportunities: Goyal (Front Page)*

Context:

The trade pact with Australia that was ratified by the Australian Parliament on Tuesday will “significantly open up opportunities” for many Indian business sectors, said Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday.

About Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) between India & Australia

- ✓ The ECTA is guided by a Preamble and is divided into multiple sections that will govern what is hoped to be the most expansive bilateral trade since the two countries established diplomatic ties before India attained independence.
- ✓ The Commerce Ministry underlined that this is the first trade deal signed by India that has a compulsory review mechanism after 15 years of implementation.
- ✓ Under this agreement, Australia will get the opportunity to export certain varieties of agricultural produce like potatoes, lentils, and meat products with some caveats.
- ✓ However, bovine meat is not part of the agreement.
- ✓ Australia may also send machineries that are required for food processing under this agreement.
- ✓ Australian wines costing over \$5 may face lower import duties in the Indian market.
- ✓ A Joint Dialogue for Wine may be created with participation from industry players and government representatives to ensure cooperation and benefits for both countries.
- ✓ The Indian side said Australia will provide ‘preferential access’ to “all the labour-intensive sectors” of export items from India such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, furniture, food, engineering products, medical devices and automobiles.
- ✓ India will also allow Australia to export raw materials under preferential terms like coal and mineral ores.

Cooperation in different sectors

- ✓ Australia has “offered wide ranging commitments” in around 135 sub-sectors and Most Favoured Nation in 120 sub-sectors which cover key areas of the Indian services sector like IT, ITES, business services, health, education and audio-visual services.
- ✓ Indian chefs and yoga teachers will get specific entry quotas into Australia, while Indian students in Australia will be able to secure work visas for periods ranging from 18 months to four years on a ‘reciprocal’ basis.
- ✓ India and Australia have agreed to enable fast track approval for patented, generic and biosimilar medicines.
- ✓ Under Article 13.5, both parties have agreed to hold consultations — and make “every effort” to find a solution — in case of disputes that may emerge in the course of trade in goods or services.
- ✓ They have also recognised that in case they have to resort to international arbitration, they may opt for an organisation (i.e, World Trade Organization) where both are members.

Rules of origin included in the agreement

- ✓ The rules of origin are based on the principle that they should be “wholly obtained or produced in the territory of one or both of the parties”.

- ✓ This section ensures that waste material will not be exported by either side unless they contribute to the production of any of the items listed in the ECTA.

6. RBI's Concerns on Slow Deposit Growth [Economy: Monetary Policy]

Article: *RBI's concerns on slow deposit growth (Page 8, Text & Context)*

Context:

The Governor, Deputy Governor and a few other senior officials of apex banking regulator, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), met MD and CEOs of public and certain private sector banks on November 16. Acknowledging the role played by private commercial banks in supporting economic growth during the pandemic and in the ongoing financial market turmoil, the Governor advised that banks "remain watchful" of the evolving macroeconomic situation, including global spillovers. Discussion points included the lagging growth in deposits in relation to credit growth, asset quality and adoption of new-age technology solutions among other things.

About Global Economic Condition

- ✓ Global headwinds at present are emanating from three sources; Russian actions in Ukraine impacting energy supplies and prices (especially in Europe), economic slowdown in China because of frequent lockdowns due to its zero-COVID policy, and the increased cost-of-living because of resulting inflationary pressures.
- ✓ Thus, monetary policies across the globe, especially of advanced economies, are being tightened, spurring concerns about financial stability risk in emerging and developing economies.
- ✓ The 'drag' occurs in two broad ways.
- ✓ Firstly, lower external demand drives down export demand obligating economic growth to be solely driven by domestic demand which might not be sufficiently strong.
- ✓ Second, higher global inflation and interest rates impact the flow of capital into the economy, putting downward pressure on domestic currency and in certain circumstances, higher imported inflation.

Deposit growth vis-a-vis credit growth

- ✓ Banks' credit-disbursing bandwidth is determined by its in-house reserves.
- ✓ More importantly, demand for credit increases with greater economic activity.
- ✓ As per the RBI bulletin, aggregate demand domestically bears an "uneven profile" at present.
- ✓ Urban demand appears robust and rural demand which was muted has also started acquiring some strength recently.
- ✓ Commercial bank credit growth too has been surging, led by services, personal loans, agriculture and industry, in that order.
- ✓ This reflects the growing preference for bank credit for meeting working capital requirements.
- ✓ As per the RBI's latest weekly data for scheduled commercial banks, aggregate deposits have grown 8.2% in comparison to 11.4% on a year-over-year basis whereas credit off-take has jumped 17% in comparison to a 7.1% increase on a YoY basis.
- ✓ During the pandemic, owing to lower economic activity credit growth was on a lower trajectory.
- ✓ Now with economic activity returning to normalcy, the credit growth has picked up — especially in the previous three quarters.
- ✓ Analysts have also pointed to deposit rates not going up as another reason for slower deposit growth.
- ✓ While banks passed on higher rates through loan portfolios, most of which were at floating rates, the approach was much measured with respect to deposit rates.

- ✓ Though this helped banks' net interest margins, it did not bolster their bandwidth to disburse further credit.

About banks' asset quality

- ✓ RBI's November bulletin informed that gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) have consistently declined, with net NPAs sliding down to 1% of total assets.
- ✓ Liquidity cover is robust and profitability is shored up.
- ✓ However, market participants have raised concerns with respect to corporates in light of the macroeconomic situation.
- ✓ Corporate NPAs are expected to come down in the current and upcoming fiscals due to the setting up of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd which is expected to take over some of the legacy corporate loan NPAs which are still with banks.

7. India's National Action Plan on Climate Change 2008 [Climate Change]

Article: *Think local climate action, think Meenangadi* (Page 6, editorial)

Context:

In today's age of rapid technological advancements and digital transformation, India's rural local bodies are silently contributing their strength to ensuring the global target of carbon neutrality, as envisaged in the UN conference on climate change.

About India's National Action Plan on Climate Change 2008

- ✓ The National Action Plan on Climate change was formally launched on June 30th, 2008.
- ✓ The NAPCC identifies measures that promote development objectives while also yielding co-benefits for addressing climate change effectively.
- ✓ As part of the Climate Change Action program the scheme has been extended upto 2025-26.
- ✓ It consists of eight broad sub-components:
 - The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) coordination
 - State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC)
 - National Institute on Climate Change Studies & Actions
 - National Carbonaceous Aerosols Programme (NCAP)
 - Long Term Ecological Observations (LTEO)
 - International negotiations and capacity building.
- ✓ There are eight "National Missions" which form the core of the NAPCC.
- ✓ They focus on promoting understanding of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation.
 1. National Solar Mission
 2. National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
 3. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
 4. National Water Mission
 5. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
 6. National Mission for a Green India
 7. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
 8. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change



Clean and Green Village

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has focused its attention on localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on a thematic basis.
- ‘Clean and Green Village’ has been identified as the fifth theme where panchayats can take up activities on natural resource management, biodiversity protection, waste management and afforestation activities.

Examples on the role of rural local bodies in contributing towards carbon neutrality

Carbon neutral Meenangadi

- In recent years, many panchayats have come forward with the concept of carbon neutrality, a prominent example being Meenangadi gram panchayat in Kerala’s Wayanad district, which serves as a model to emulate.
- In 2016, the panchayat envisaged a project called ‘Carbon neutral Meenangadi’, the aim being to transform Meenangadi into a state of carbon neutrality. There were campaigns, classes and studies to begin with.
- An awareness programme was conducted initially. A greenhouse gases emission inventory was also prepared. The panchayat was found to be carbon positive.
- An action plan was prepared by organising gram sabha meetings. Socio-economic surveys and energy-use mapping were also carried out.
- Several multi sector schemes were implemented to reduce emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and preserve the ecology and bio-diversity.
- ‘Tree banking’ was one of landmark schemes introduced to aid carbon neutral activities which encouraged the planting of more trees by extending interest-free loans.
- Interestingly 1,58,816 trees were planted which have also been geo-tagged to monitor their growth.
- The entire community was involved in the process, with school students, youth, and technical and academic institutions given different assignments.
- Five years have passed and the changes are visible.
- Local economic development was another thrust area where LED bulb manufacturing and related micro-enterprises were initiated.

Palli gram panchayat, Jammu and Kashmir

- There is also the example of Palli gram panchayat in Jammu and Kashmir that has followed the same people-centric model, with specific local activities.
- The panchayat has prepared a climate-resilient plan where villagers have been made aware of climate change Mitigation factors such as reducing energy consumption, cutting down on the use of fossil fuels, the use of solar energy, abandoning plastics and promoting plantation and water conservation measures were given prominence.
- Bio-gas plants and solar panels were also introduced. A solar plant (500KW) has been installed to power 340 households.
- A Gram Panchayat Development Plan for 2022-23 is being prepared by integrating a climate-resilient plan.

- There are many other panchayats that have also initiated carbon neutral programmes.
- In Seechewal gram panchayat, the Kali Bein river was rejuvenated with people's involvement.
- Odanthurai panchayat in Tamil Nadu has its own windmill (350 KW).
- Tikekarwadi gram panchayat in Maharashtra is well known for its extensive use of biogas plants and green energy production.
- Chapparapadavu gram panchayat in Kerala has several green islands that have been nurtured by the community. Many more panchayats are coming forward in this regard.

8. Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site [Biodiversity: Conservation]

Article: *Tamil Nadu gets its first biodiversity heritage site (Page 4)*

Context:

The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday issued a notification declaring Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.

About Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site

- ✓ Arittapatti, known for its ecological and historical significance, houses around 250 species of birds, including three important raptors — the Laggar Falcon, the Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle.
- ✓ It is also home to wildlife such as the Indian pangolin, slender loris and pythons.
- ✓ The area is surrounded by a chain of seven hillocks or inselbergs, that serve as a watershed, charging "72 lakes, 200 natural springs and three check-dams",
- ✓ The Anaikondan tank, built during the reign of the Pandiyan kings in the 16th century, is one of them.
- ✓ Several megalithic structures, rock-cut temples, Tamil Brahmi inscriptions and Jain beds add to the historical significance of the region.



Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

- ✓ Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems – terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or more of the following components: richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories, high endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties, past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them.

Identification and Declaration of BHS

- ✓ State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) may invite suggestion (or consider those already coming from communities) for declaration of BHSs, through the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and other relevant community institutions.
- ✓ As per Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, the **State Governments are empowered to notify** in the official gazette, in consultation with 'local bodies', areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

- ✓ Under sub section (2) of Section 37 of the BD Act, the State Government in consultation with the Central Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS.

India has 12 Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

Nallur Tamarind Grove in Devanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka
Hogrekan in Chikmagalur, Karnataka
University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka
Ambaraguda in Shimoga, Karnataka
Glory of Allapalli in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra
Tonglu Biodiversity Heritage Site under the Darjeeling Forest Division, West Bengal
Dhotrey Biodiversity Heritage Site under the Darjeeling Forest Division, West Bengal
Dailong Village in Tamenglong, Manipur
Ameenpur Lake in Sangareddy, Telangana
Majuli in Assam
Gharial Rehabilitation Centre in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Chiligarh Kanak Durga in Jhargram, West Bengal

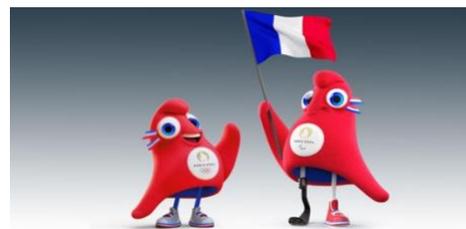
PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE

9. Paris Olympics 2024- mascot [Sports Events in News]

Article: *History of the red cap of liberty, which inspired the 2024 Paris Olympics mascots, Les Phryges (The Indian Express, 23 Nov)*

About Paris Olympics 2024- mascot

- ✓ The Phrygian cap, the symbol of the French republic but wearing sneakers as a nod to the present, was unveiled as the mascot for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ The Olympic Phryge ((pronounced fri-jee-uhs) is a bit smaller, the Paralympic Phryge is a bit slimmer and has a blade on his right leg because it is a Phryge with an impairment.
- ✓ Phryges are small Phrygian caps, which represent a strong symbol of liberty, inclusivity and the ability of people to support great and meaningful causes.
- ✓ They are kitted out in a red, white and blue colourway, with the golden Paris 2024 logo emblazoned across their chests.
- ✓ They also have a mischievous and expressive eye made of a 'cockade of France', a knot of ribbons that is the French national ornament.



Important Articles to Read- for MAINS

National Suicide Prevention Strategy

- *Strategy to save (Page 6, editorial)*

Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022

- *A Bill protecting state surveillance (Page 7)*

No	Important Topics in News	Article	Current Affair Date
1	MGNREGS	<i>Govt. said to grant more funds for rural schemes to ease pain (Page 14)</i>	14 October 2022
2	Over-the-Top (OTT)	<i>Over-the-top services must be licensed, says COAI (Page 14)</i>	26 October 2022
3	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	<i>Europe to be hit hardest in global slowdown, says OECD (Page 14)</i>	27 Sept 2022

