

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

10-10-2026

Living Planet Report 2026

 Down To Earth

Global wildlife populations decline by 73%, but India records conservation gains: WWF report

India has recorded increases in several major wildlife species, including tigers, lions and rhinos, but experts warn that conservation...



Why in News: The Living Planet Report 2026, published by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), reported a **73% decline in the average size of monitored vertebrate wildlife populations between 1970 and 2022**.

Key Findings and Biodiversity Trends

- **Global decline:** Monitored vertebrate populations declined by **73% over 52 years**.
- **Ecosystem-wise decline:** Freshwater populations declined by **85%**, terrestrial populations by **69%**, and marine populations by **59%**.
- **Regional decline:** Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the steepest decline at **95%**, followed by Africa (**80%**) and Asia-Pacific (**49%**).
- **Wildlife recovery:** Populations of green turtles, bluefin tuna, tigers and southern African elephants have shown signs of recovery.
- **Tiger population:** Global wild tiger numbers increased from approximately **3,200 in 2010 to 5,700 in 2025**.

Conservation Significance

- The report highlights the importance of habitat restoration, sustainable resource use and ecosystem conservation.
- Its findings reinforce the need to achieve global biodiversity targets under the **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**.

Institutional Framework and Methodology

- **Publisher:** WWF publishes the report biennially, and 2026 marks its **16th edition**.
- **Living Planet Index (LPI):** It measures the average rate of change in monitored vertebrate populations across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- **Major drivers:** Habitat loss, overexploitation, climate change, invasive species, pollution and disease are the principal drivers of biodiversity decline.

Diamondback Terrapin

TOI The Times of India

Volunteers at a protected Cape Cod nesting site found a rare diamondback terrapin hatchling with two head

The 5.2-gram turtle has a rare developmental condition called bicephaly, according to the Cape Wildlife Center. Veterinarians are now watching...



Why in News: A rare two-headed diamondback terrapin hatchling was discovered at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA.

Habitat and Geographical Distribution

- **Scientific name:** *Malaclemys terrapin*.
- **Native range:** It occurs along the eastern coast of the United States, from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to the Florida Keys, and is also found in Bermuda.
- **Habitat:** It inhabits brackish and coastal environments, including estuaries, tidal flats, lagoons, marshes and channels.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** **Vulnerable.**
- The species depends on healthy coastal wetlands, making the protection of estuaries and marshes important for its conservation.

Physical and Ecological Characteristics

- **Shell pattern:** Its name derives from the distinctive diamond-shaped patterns on its shell.
- **Adaptations:** It has large webbed feet and is an efficient swimmer, spending most of its life in water.
- **Behaviour:** It emerges from water to bask and lay eggs, while adults in colder parts of its range hibernate in the mud of creeks and marshes.
- **Diet:** It is carnivorous and feeds on fish, marine snails, clams, mussels and other molluscs.

Trade and Development Report 2026

Why in News: The UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report stated that India accounted for **5.7% of global greenfield investment during 2020–2025**, compared with China's **2.8%**.

 UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Global growth slows to 2.6%, and gaps widen between developing regions

Trade projected to grow 4% in 2026. Economic growth in developing economies is projected to slow to 4% in 2026, while they face new...



Global Economic and Trade Outlook

- **Publisher:** The Trade and Development Report (TDR) has been published annually by **UNCTAD since 1981**.
- **Global trade:** World trade reached a record **US\$35 trillion in 2025** and is projected to grow by **4% in 2026**, compared with 4.4% in 2025.
- **Global growth:** Global economic growth is projected to slow to **2.6% in 2026**, from 2.9% in 2025.
- **Developing economies:** Their growth is projected at **4% in 2026**, down from 4.7% in 2025.
- **Asia's contribution:** Asia is expected to account for **59% of global economic growth in 2026**.
- **Trade realignment:** Trade between China and the United States has declined by more than 20% since 2024, while East Asia has expanded trade with both China and North America.

Greenfield Investment and Strategic Sectors

- **Greenfield investment:** It involves establishing new business facilities or operations in a foreign country rather than acquiring existing assets.
- **Strategic sectors:** Their share of global greenfield investment increased from **16% to 44% between 2020 and 2025**.
- **Investment value:** Global greenfield investment in the identified strategic sectors totalled **US\$845.7 billion** during 2020–2025.
- **Sectoral distribution:** AI infrastructure and related technologies accounted for **12.4%**, the semiconductor value chain for **8.1%**, and energy-transition technologies and services for **7.8%**.
- **Geographical distribution:** Europe accounted for 28.4% and North America for 28% of strategic investment, while developing Asia accounted for 26.5%.

India-Specific Economic Findings

- **Greenfield investment share:** India accounted for **5.7%** of global greenfield investment during 2020–2025, followed by Malaysia (4%), Indonesia (3.8%) and China (2.8%).
- **Industrial policy measures:** India implemented **1,416 measures during 2008–2021**, behind China (4,201) and the United States (4,025).
- **Recent policy measures:** India implemented **707 industrial policy measures during 2022–2025**, fewer than the United States, China, Australia and Brazil.
- **GDP growth:** India's GDP growth is projected at **7.3% in 2026** and **6.8% in 2027**.
- **Household consumption:** Growth is estimated at **6.9% in 2026** and **5.6% in 2027**.

Pong Dam

 The Tribune

Fishermen told to stay out of Pong Dam restricted zone

Alleged movement of fishing boats and laying of nets in the restricted area of the Pong Dam in lower Kangra, including the right-side...



Why in News: Reports of fishing boats and nets entering restricted areas of the **Pong Dam Reservoir** in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh, raised security concerns.

Geographical and Engineering Features

- **Location:** It is constructed on the **Beas River** in the Shivalik foothills of Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Type:** It is an **earth-fill embankment dam**.
- **Construction:** Work began in 1961 and was completed in 1974.
- **Dimensions:** The dam is approximately 133 metres high, with a base width of around 610 metres.
- **Purpose:** It supports hydroelectric power generation and irrigation.



Reservoir and Wetland Significance

- **Artificial lake:** The dam created **Maharana Pratap Sagar**, also known as Pong Reservoir or Pong Dam Lake.
- **Bird sanctuary:** The reservoir was declared a bird sanctuary in **1983**.
- **Ramsar site:** It was designated a **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 2002**.
- **Area:** The lake covers more than 240 sq. km. and also serves as an important fish reservoir and breeding ground.
- **Avifauna:** Important birds include bar-headed geese, red-necked grebes, northern lapwings, common teals, spot-billed ducks, Eurasian coots and black storks.
- **Geographical setting:** The reservoir is surrounded by the Dhauladhar mountain range and receives water from the perennial Beas River.

Security and Ecological Relevance

- The reservoir supports migratory birds, fisheries and freshwater ecosystems.
- Protecting restricted zones is important for dam security, reservoir management and wetland conservation.

Other Important News of the day

Places News

in

Mali



India and Mali commemorate World Cotton Day at United Nations Headquarters in New York

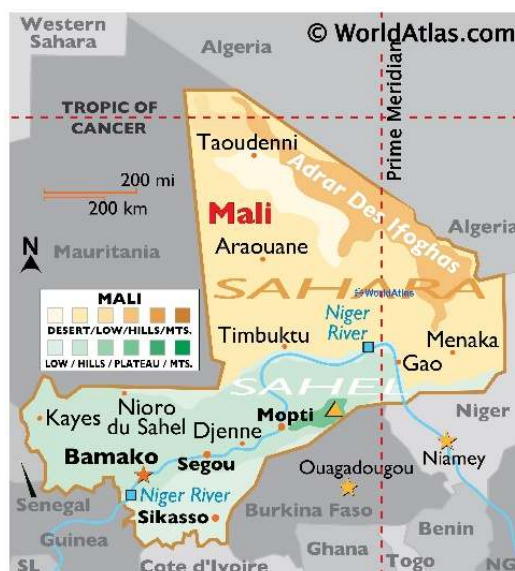
The Permanent Missions of India and Mali to the United Nations jointly organized an event on the theme "Cotton for Sustainability:..."



Why in News: The Permanent Missions of India and Mali commemorated **World Cotton Day** at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Geographical Location and Borders

- **Location:** Mali is a landlocked country in **West Africa**.
- **Capital:** **Bamako**.
- **Neighbouring countries:** Algeria lies to the north; Niger and Burkina Faso to the east; Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to the south; and Senegal and Mauritania to the west.
- **Landscape:** The country transitions from the Sahara Desert in the north through the Sahel to Sudanian savanna in the south.
- **Desert coverage:** Approximately **65%** of its territory consists of desert or semi-desert landscapes.



Physical and Economic Features

- **Climate:** Mali experiences a tropical savanna climate in the south and an arid desert climate in the north.
- **Major river:** The **Niger River** flows through the country and is a key source of water.

	➤ Highest point: Hombori Tondo, approximately 1,155 metres above sea level. ➤ Natural resources: Mali possesses gold, uranium, diamonds, copper, iron ore, zinc, manganese and bauxite.
Environment	Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary
	 Northeast Today  <u>Tripura: Three Royal Bengal Tiger Cubs Born at Sepahijala Zoo, Tiger Count Rises to Seven</u> Agartala, October 08, 2026: Sepahijala Zoological Park has welcomed three new Royal Bengal tiger cubs, taking the zoo's tiger population to... Why in News: Sepahijala Zoological Park, located within Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura, welcomed three Royal Bengal tiger cubs, taking the zoo's tiger population to seven. Geographical and Ecological Features ➤ Location: The sanctuary is situated in Tripura. ➤ Vegetation: It is primarily characterised by moist deciduous forests. ➤ Natural lakes: The sanctuary contains Abasarika and Amrit Sagar. ➤ National park: Clouded Leopard National Park, established in 2007, lies within the sanctuary. ➤ Floral diversity: The sanctuary supports approximately 456 plant species, including Sal, Chamal, Garjan, Kanak, bamboo and several medicinal plants. Faunal Diversity ➤ Primates: Important species include the capped langur, slow loris, rhesus macaque, pig-tailed macaque and spectacled monkey. ➤ Other mammals: Leopards, clouded leopards, civets, barking deer and wild pigs occur in the sanctuary. ➤ Avifauna: The birdlife includes storks, whistling teal and white ibis. Conservation Significance ➤ The sanctuary contributes to the conservation of tropical forest biodiversity and threatened wildlife in Northeast India. ➤ The presence of the clouded leopard makes the landscape important for regional carnivore conservation.

	➤ Crab-eating mongoose: The species, reportedly last seen in the area in the 1930s, has been recorded again in the sanctuary.
Defence	SAREX-2026
	 PIB  RRM Inaugurates SAREX-2026 as 24th NMSAR Board Meeting Reviews Maritime SAR Preparedness Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth inaugurated the Multinational Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) on October 07, 2026,... Why in News: The Indian Coast Guard conducted the 12th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) off Paradip, Odisha, to strengthen maritime safety and emergency response capabilities. Operational Framework ➤ Conducting agency: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducts the exercise. ➤ Theme: “Leveraging Technology to Strengthen SAR Preparedness and Maritime Safety.” ➤ Strategic alignment: The exercise supports India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and MAHASAGAR visions. ➤ International participation: The exercise involved 32 observers from 30 countries, promoting cooperation and interoperability in maritime rescue operations. Assets and Emergency Response ➤ Deployed assets: The exercise involved 15 Coast Guard ships, three Dornier aircraft, three Advanced Light Helicopters, one Chetak helicopter, IAF C-130J and Mi-17 aircraft, and two Indian Navy ships, alongside civil and state resources. ➤ Simulated emergency: The drill simulated a passenger aircraft carrying 228 persons ditching at sea near Paradip Port and colliding with the container vessel MV Zumba, causing structural damage and fire. ➤ Rescue operations: Activities included firefighting, helicopter evacuation, life-raft deployment, rescue baskets, scramble nets, Jason Cradle and Gemini recovery, and remotely operated vehicle (ROV) demonstrations. Maritime Security Significance ➤ The exercise strengthens multi-agency coordination, mass-rescue preparedness and maritime emergency management.

	➤ It enhances India's role as a reliable regional partner in maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.
Science and Technology	Plan Bee System
	 The Indian Express  <u>AI Alerts to 'Plan Bee': How Railways saved 255 elephants from train collisions in northeast</u> Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has used AI-based alerts, speed restrictions, enhanced patrolling and its 'Plan Bee' system to prevent... Why in News: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has deployed AI-based alerts, speed restrictions, enhanced patrolling and the Plan Bee system to prevent train-elephant collisions. Technology and Working Mechanism ➤ Developer: The Northeast Frontier Railway developed this innovative acoustic deterrent system. ➤ Working principle: The device emits amplified honeybee buzzing sounds to discourage elephants from approaching railway tracks. ➤ Audible range: The sound can be heard from approximately 400 metres away. ➤ Installation: The system has been installed at 56 locations under NFR jurisdiction where railway lines pass through forests or elephant habitats. Geographical and Institutional Facts ➤ Headquarters: NFR is headquartered at Maligaon, near Guwahati, Assam. ➤ Jurisdiction: It operates across the Northeastern states, seven districts of West Bengal and five districts of north Bihar. ➤ Complementary measures: AI-based alerts, speed restrictions and enhanced patrolling supplement the acoustic deterrent. Conservation Significance ➤ The system seeks to reduce elephant mortality, railway accidents and human-wildlife conflict. ➤ It represents the use of technology-assisted wildlife conservation along transport infrastructure corridors.

Uttar Pradesh in News

RMLIMS Introduces Advanced Laser System for Diabetic Retinopathy

 The Times of India

RMLIMS inaugurates advanced laser system for diabetic retinopathy

RMLIMS Lucknow launches pattern-scanning retinal laser and OCTA for faster, precise diabetic retinopathy diagnosis and treatment;...



Why in News: The **Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS), Lucknow**, inaugurated a pattern-scanning retinal laser system and **Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography (OCTA)** facility for improved diagnosis and treatment of diabetic retinopathy.

Key Facts

- **Prevalence:** A 2025 study in parts of **Lakhimpur Kheri and Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh**, found diabetic retinopathy in **22.8%** of people with diabetes, with **5.8%** having its sight-threatening form.
- **Diabetic retinopathy:** It is damage to retinal blood vessels caused by diabetes and can lead to irreversible blindness.
- **OCTA:** It provides non-invasive imaging of retinal blood vessels without injected contrast dye.
- **Early detection:** Regular retinal screening is essential because the disease may remain symptomless in its early stages.
- **Significance:** The facilities aim to improve retinal care and strengthen specialised eye treatment in Uttar Pradesh.

 **Note:** The study findings are limited to the surveyed areas and do not represent statewide prevalence.