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12 SEPTEMBER 2025

EN-BUZZER

Daily News Analysis

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1. Swachh Vayu Survekshan(SVS) 2025

- **Prelims** - Swachh Vayu Survekshan(SVS) 2025
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has announced Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards 2025.

Swachh Vayu Survekshan(SVS) 2025

- **What is it?:** It is an annual survey conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**.
- **Goal:** Encourage cities to reduce air pollution by creating healthy competition among them, and to evaluate their performance in terms of air quality and pollution control interventions.
- **Coverage:** 130 cities under NCAP are covered- grouped into 3 categories based upon population.
- **Parameters:** The survey evaluates cities on **eight key parameters**, with a total score of 200 marks.
 - The evaluation includes self-assessments by cities, scrutiny by local and central bodies (CPCB etc.), and quantitative measures.
- **Key Findings:**
 - **Indore** secured the 1st rank, followed by **Jabalpur**, Agra and Surat in the million plus population category.
 - Among cities with population 3–10 lakh, **Amravati** came first.
 - Among under-3 lakh population cities, **Dewas (MP)** ranked first.
 - PM10 saw a decline in **103 out of 130 cities**. For example, **Mumbai** saw about 44% decline in PM10 compared to 2017-18 baseline.
 - Out of 130, **22 cities** reported annual average PM10 concentrations below 60 µg/m³, i.e. meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
 - **Chennai** ranked last (41/41) among million-plus cities, with a low score.



2. Mauritius

- **Prelims** - Location of Mauritius
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Mauritius

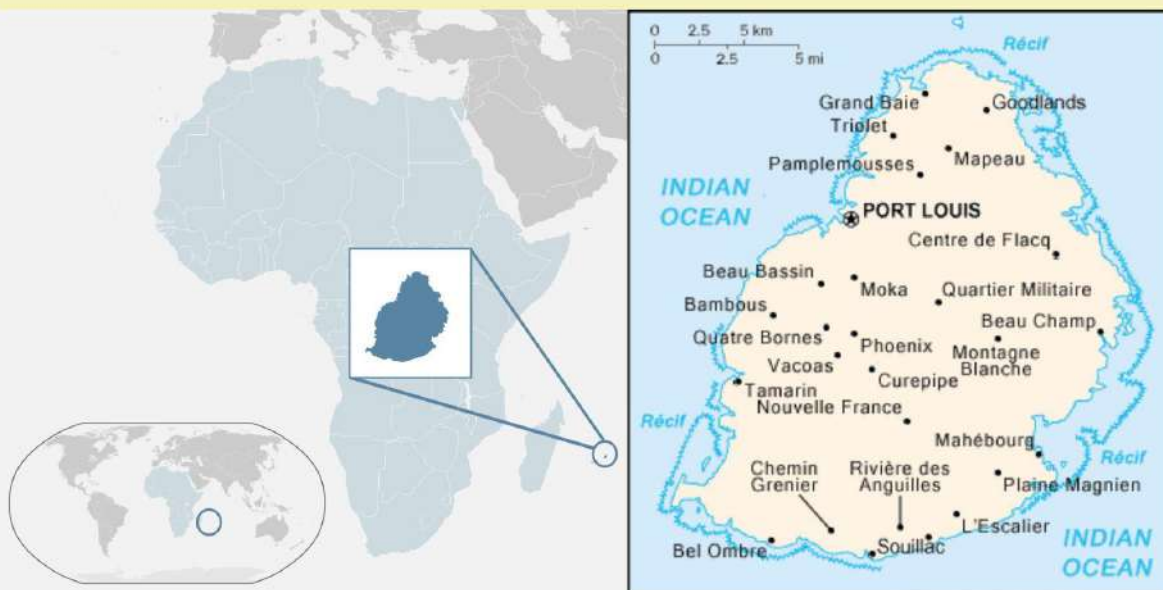


Why in news?

- Mauritius Prime Minister visited India and signed MoUs.

Mauritius

- **Location:** Mauritius is an Indian Ocean island country.
- **Capital:** Port Louis.
- **Maritime Border:** It shares a maritime border with Madagascar and Reunion Island.
- **Groupings:** Member of the African Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association.



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3. Paraguay

- Prelims - Location of Paraguay
- Mains - GS 1 - Geography

Paraguay



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Why in the news?

- Paraguay, in a submission at the WTO, have questioned India's decision to raise Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rice in 2025.

Paraguay

- **Location:** Paraguay is a landlocked nation in south-central South America.
- **Capital:** Asunción
- **Bordering Countries:** Bolivia, Brazil, and Argentina.
- **Major River:** Paraguay
- **Major Landforms**
 - Eastern Paraguay is part of the Brazilian Plateau.



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4. Scarborough Shoal

- Prelims - Scarborough Shoal
- Mains - GS 2 - International Relations

Scarborough Shoal

Why in the news?

- The Philippines raised concern over China's plan for a "nature reserve" on the disputed Scarborough Shoal.

Scarborough Shoal

- **What is it?:** The Scarborough Shoal is an oceanic coral atoll that developed on top of a seamount into a triangle shape in the eastern part of the South China Sea.
- **Fact:** It is the largest atoll in the South China Sea.
- **Significance:** The deep waters around the shoal make it a productive fishing area, rich in marine life.
- **Dispute:** Dispute between the China and the Philippines.

China and Taiwan
Malaysia
Vietnam
Brunei
Philippines

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5. Sariska Tiger Reserve and Critical Tiger Habitat

- Prelims - Sariska Tiger Reserve and Critical Tiger Habitat
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

Sariska Tiger Reserve



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Why in news?

- "The Supreme Court has directed that any proposal to redraw the boundaries of the Critical Tiger Habitat in the Sariska Tiger Reserve must undergo public consultation before a final decision is made."

Sariska Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Aravalli hills, Rajasthan
- **Facts:** It is the first reserve in the world which successfully relocated tigers.
- **Vegetation:** Grasslands, dry deciduous forests
- **Fauna:** Leopard, sambhar, chital, nilgai, four-horned antelope, wild boar, rhesus macaque, langur, hyena and jungle cats.




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Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)

- **Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)**, also known as core areas of tiger reserves, are identified under the Wild Life Protection Act (WLPA), 1972.
- These are based on scientific evidence that "such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purpose of tiger conservation, without affecting the rights of the Scheduled Tribes or such other forest dwellers".
- **The notification of CTH is done by the state government in consultation with the expert committee constituted for the purpose.**
- **Inviolate Status:** These areas are kept inviolate (free from human activities) for the purpose of tiger conservation.
- The forests peripheral to CTH are notified as buffer areas, which act as a transition between CTH and non-tiger reserves.



6. Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)

- **Prelims** - Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy

Why in the news?

- The Union Home Minister launched the FTI-TTP at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode, and Amritsar airports.

Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)

- **Aim:** Designed for faster, smoother, and safer immigration clearance.
- **Ministry:** The Ministry of Home Affairs collaborated with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Bureau of Immigration for the FTI-TTP.
- **Similar One:** It is modeled on global best practices (e.g., US Global Entry, EU Registered Traveller).
- **Objectives:**
 - Provide a seamless, technology-driven immigration process.
 - Reduce congestion and waiting time at airports.
 - Facilitate ease of travel for business leaders, professionals, and tourists.
 - Enhance security screening efficiency through pre-verification of travellers.
- **Features:**
 - Indian citizens and eligible foreign nationals can apply.
 - Background check & biometric verification by security agencies.
 - Dedicated counters / e-gates at airports for fast-track immigration.
 - Valid for multiple years, subject to renewal and security clearance.
 - Integration with e-passport and DigiYatra platforms.
- **Benefits:**
 - Time-saving for frequent travellers.
 - Boosts business and tourism by making India a more travel-friendly destination.
 - Aligns with global practices, improving India's aviation competitiveness.
 - Enhances border management efficiency using technology.
- **Challenges:**
 - Ensuring data security & privacy of biometric/immigration records.
 - Need for a robust vetting mechanism to prevent misuse.
 - High cost of infrastructure (automated e-gates, biometric scanners).
 - Limited initial coverage (likely major airports first).



7. Vultures

- Prelims - Vultures
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

Vultures				ENLITE IAS
Why in news? - Vultures are reported to help mitigate the risk of disease spill overs and occurrences of Pandemics. Vultures What are they?: - Vultures are medium- to large-sized birds of prey. - They are known for eating carrion (the bodies of dead animals). - They act an important function as nature's garbage collectors and help to keep the environment clean of waste. Protected Status: CITES: Appendix II Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I Conservation Initiatives: - National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has approved an Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025. Key highlights of the plan include, - Vulture Conservation Centre - Vulture Safe zone - Toxic Drugs: A system to automatically remove a drug from veterinary use if it is found to be toxic to vultures with the help of the Drugs Controller General of India. - Ramadevarabetta Vulture Sanctuary in Karnataka is India's first and only dedicated vulture sanctuary. Threats Faced by Vultures Use of Diclofenac: A veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) in 2004 found in the carcass of cattle the vultures feed on. - Lack of Nesting Trees - Electrocution by power lines - Food Dearth and Contaminated Food	1.	Oriental White-backed Vulture (Gyps Bengalensis)	Critically Endangered	
	2.	Slender-billed Vulture (Gyps Tenuirostris)	Critically Endangered	
	3.	Long-billed Vulture (Gyps Indicus)	Critically Endangered	
	4.	Egyptian Vulture (Neophron Percnopterus)	Endangered	
	5.	Red-Headed Vulture (Sarcogyps Calvus)	Critically Endangered	
	6.	Indian Griffon Vulture (Gyps Fulvus)	Least Concerned	
	7.	Himalayan Griffon (Gyps Himalayensis)	Near Threatened	

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8. Cryptocurrencies in India

- Prelims - Cryptocurrencies in India
- Mains - GS 3 - Economy

Why in the news?

- An RBI document shows that it is difficult to contain the risks of cryptocurrencies through regulations.

Cryptocurrency in India

- **Definition:** Cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency secured by cryptography, operating independently of a central authority. For example - Bitcoin.
- **Legal Status:**
 - **No Ban, But Unregulated:** Cryptocurrency is not illegal in India, but there is no comprehensive legal framework governing its use.
- **Challenges:**
 - **Regulatory Uncertainty:** Lack of a clear legal framework creates confusion for investors and businesses.
 - **Risks of Misuse:** Concerns over money laundering, terrorism financing, and tax evasion.
 - **Market Volatility:** High price fluctuations deter risk-averse investors.
 - **Lack of Awareness:** Limited understanding among the general public about crypto investments.
 - **Banking Restrictions:** Limited support from traditional banking systems for crypto exchanges.
- **Opportunities:**
 - **Investment Potential:** A rapidly growing crypto market offers high returns for investors.
 - **Technological Advancements:** Blockchain technology, the backbone of cryptocurrencies, can enhance transparency and efficiency in various sectors.
 - **Financial Inclusion:** Cryptocurrencies can provide banking solutions for unbanked populations.
 - **Economic Growth:** Boosts innovation and entrepreneurship in fintech.
- **Government Approach:**
 - **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is piloting the Digital Rupee, a centralized digital currency.
 - India has a flat 30% tax on Crypto gains.



9. First Overseas Atal Innovation Centre and Atal Innovation Mission

- **Prelims** - First Overseas Atal Innovation Centre and Atal Innovation Mission
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- The Union Education Minister of India inaugurated India's first overseas Atal Innovation Centre at IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi campus during his UAE visit.

First Overseas Atal Innovation Centre

- **What is it?**: A premier innovation hub established outside India under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- **Focus Area**: Key areas of focus included opening more Indian curriculum schools to serve the diaspora, promoting two-way student exchanges from school level upwards, curriculum development, teacher exchange programs, mutual recognition of qualifications, and alignment with new education policy priorities.
- **Significance**:
 - It's the first time an AIC is located *outside* India, so it represents a geographic expansion of India's innovation ecosystem.
 - This strengthens India-UAE educational, research, and innovation ties- helps in sharing knowledge, talent, and tech across borders.
 - It gives UAE students/local innovators access to India's innovation frameworks, and vice versa, enabling cross-border start up building, collaboration, exposure to global markets.
 - It aligns with India's goals under AIM, and also its international policy of deepening cooperation in education & technology.



Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)



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Why in news?

- Union Education Minister of India inaugurated India's first overseas Atal Innovation Centre at IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi campus as part of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- What is it?:** It is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country and was set up in 2016.
- Objective:** To create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.
- Implementing Agency**
 - NITI Aayog
 - All the initiatives of AIM are currently monitored and managed systematically using real-time MIS systems and dynamic dashboards.



- Some of the Components of AIM:** Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Atal New India Challenge, Mentor of Change Program, Atal Community Innovation Centre and Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE)

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