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25 SEPTEMBER 2025

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Daily News
Analysis

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THURSDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER 2025

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1. Global South

- **Prelims** - Global South
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- Indian External Affairs Minister urged Global South nations to reduce their dependency on single-source supply chains and advocate for fairer global governance, during a high-level meeting on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly.

Global South

- **What is it?:**
 - The Global South refers to developing, less developed, or underdeveloped countries.
 - These are **primarily located in** Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
 - **Common characteristics of** these countries are higher levels of poverty, income inequality, and challenging living conditions
- **History of Global South**
 - The term was first coined by Carl Oglesby in 1969.
 - It gained momentum after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991,
 - which marked the end of the "Second World."
 - The term "Global South" emerged as a more neutral alternative.
- **Commonality of Global South Countries**
 - The Global South was mostly at the receiving end of imperialism and colonial rule.
- **India's Leadership Role**
 - **Advocacy for Justice:** India promotes climate equity, economic reforms, and inclusive growth.
 - **Economic Power:** As the fifth-largest global economy, India acts as a bridge between developed and developing nations.
- **Major Initiatives**
 - **Climate Justice:** Launched the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to expand renewable energy in the Global South.



→ **South-South Cooperation:**

★ India-Africa Forum Summit to bolster trade, technology, and development ties.

★ The Vaccine Maitri initiative delivered vaccines to over 90 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

→ **Debt Relief:** Extended financial aid and infrastructure loans to struggling nations.

→ **Multilateral Engagements:** G20 Presidency: Prioritized food security, climate finance, and global equity.

→ **BRICS:** Advocated for alternative financial systems to reduce dependency on the West.

→ **UN:** Pushes for reforms in global governance and equitable representation.

• Significance of Global South Countries

→ **Economic Side:** The 'Global South' is significant because of its large population (which provides manpower to the world economy), rich cultures, and abundant natural resources (which provide raw material to the world economy for the production of goods). By 2030, major economic players from the Global South will be China, India, the U.S., and Indonesia.

→ **Political Side:** The major role played by Global South countries in solving political issues

★ China's brokering of Iran and Saudi Arabia's peace deal

★ Brazil's attempt to push a peace plan to end the war in

★ The African Union attempts to solve the Russia-Ukraine Conflict.

• Issues in Global South Countries

→ **Political Instability:** African countries like Niger (a previous colony of France) are subject to coups.

→ **Economic Issues:** Spread of economic inequality among people that further trigger conflicts and spread of neo-colonialism. For example- Western Companies exploit African resources.

→ **Climate Change:** Spread of desertification in adjacent Saharan countries that further drags them to poverty.

→ Limited effective human power and infrastructure facilities in Ukraine.

2. ECINet Portal

- **Prelims** - ECINet Portal
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- The Election Commission (EC) has launched a new e-sign feature on its ECINet portal and app that requires those seeking to register as voters, or applying for deletion and corrections, to verify their identity using their Aadhaar-linked phone numbers.

ECINet Portal

- **What is it?**: ECINet is a unified digital platform being developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- **Aim**: It aims to integrate and subsume over 40 existing mobile and web-based applications related to electoral services — like Voter Helpline, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham, and KYC App.
- **Features:**
 - **Single sign-on / unified login**: Users won't need separate logins for multiple ECI apps.
 - **Data entry by authorized officials only**: The platform ensures that only ECI-recognized officials input or update critical electoral data.
 - **In case of conflict, statutory forms prevail**: If there's any discrepancy between data on ECINet and legally filled forms, the statutory (legally recognized) form data will take precedence.
 - **Cross-platform access**: ECINet is expected to be usable on both desktops and smartphones.
 - **Rollout in live elections/by-elections**: ECINet has already been operationalized in some recent by-elections to test functionality.

3. Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

- **Prelims** - Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- Protests erupt in Ladakh demanding the inclusion of the region into Sixth Schedule and for statehood.

Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

- **Constitutional Provisions:** The Sixth Schedule (Articles 244(2) and 275(1)) provides for autonomous administrative arrangements in certain tribal areas of the North-East.
- **Aim:** It seeks to protect the distinct culture, customs, and governance practices of tribal communities while ensuring their integration within India.
- **Applicability:**
 - **States covered:** Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram.
 - Tribal areas within these states are declared Autonomous Districts.
 - The Governor has the power to:
 - ★ Increase or decrease the area of districts.
 - ★ Create new districts or regions.
 - ★ Alter boundaries.
- **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs):**
 - **Composition:** 30 members (26 elected + 4 nominated by Governor).
 - **Tenure:** 5 years.
 - Regional Councils for smaller tribes.
 - **Powers of District Councils**
 - ★ **Legislative:** Laws on land, forests, agriculture, village administration, customs, marriage/divorce, inheritance. Require Governor's assent.
 - ★ **Executive:** Manage schools, markets, health centres, roads, ferries.
 - ★ **Judicial:** Tribal courts for cases involving tribals.
 - ★ **Financial:** Levy taxes on land, markets, professions, vehicles; get grants from Consolidated Fund of India.

→ **Governor's Discretion:**

- ★ Can modify or annul acts of Parliament or State Legislature in Sixth Schedule areas.
- ★ Has power to assume control of administration in case of breakdown.

→ **Significance:**

- ★ Preserves tribal autonomy and traditional governance.
- ★ Balances integration with autonomy, reducing alienation.
- ★ Acts as a conflict-management mechanism in a sensitive region.

→ **Challenges:**

- ★ Demand for inclusion/exclusion: Some tribal groups outside Sixth Schedule (e.g., Arunachal, Manipur tribes) demand inclusion.
- ★ Conflict of jurisdiction: Overlaps between ADCs and state government powers create administrative friction.
- ★ Elite capture: Benefits often cornered by tribal elites rather than grassroots communities.
- ★ Governance deficits: Limited administrative and financial capacity reduces effectiveness.

4. State of The Rhino Report

- **Prelims** - State Of The Rhino Report
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The latest edition of State of the Rhino Report was published by the International Rhino Foundation (IRF).

State Of The Rhino Report

- **What is it?:** The **State of the Rhino** is the annual signature report of the International Rhino Foundation (IRF), released each September. It compiles the latest population estimates, trends, threats, and conservation developments for the **five surviving rhino species** in Africa and Asia.
- **Key Features:**
 - The 2025 report draws from data reported by governments, the IUCN/TRAFFIC rhino assessments, specialist groups, and IRF's on-the-ground partners.
 - It also highlights policy contexts (e.g. CITES CoP20, World Conservation Congress) where rhino conservation may be debated.
- **Key Findings:**
 - Uptick in the populations of Black Rhino of Africa and One Horned Rhino of India and Nepal.
 - White Rhino and Javan Rhino showed a decline in their population.
 - Africa hosts most of the world's rhinos (both black and white).
 - **Poaching** in Africa: **South Africa** remains the epicenter of poaching activity.
 - **Greater one-horned rhino** (India & Nepal) is one of the more hopeful stories. Improved habitats, wildlife corridors, and translocations have aided modest growth.
- **Threats and Concerns:** The 2025 report outlines several major challenges that continue to imperil rhinos-
 - **Poaching & Illegal Horn Trade:**
 - ★ Poaching remains the gravest threat, especially in African range states and parts of Indonesia.

- ★ The demand for **decorative carvings, trinkets, and ornaments** is now surpassing the traditional medicinal demand for rhino horn.
- ★ The report notes emerging trafficking routes, including links between **Mongolia and South Africa**, and identifies **Qatar** as a growing hub for horn smuggling.

→ **Small, Fragmented Populations & Genetic Viability:**

- ★ Many rhino populations are **too small** to maintain long-term genetic health. Small group sizes increase risks of inbreeding, loss of diversity, and local extinction.
- ★ In South Africa, many rhino groups are well below thresholds considered safe for reproductive viability.

→ **Habitat Loss, Fragmentation & Connectivity:**

- ★ Many rhino habitats are isolated fragments, reducing movement, gene flow, and resilience.
- ★ Corridors and habitat restoration are increasingly emphasized as essential complements to anti-poaching measures.

→ **Political, Governance & Enforcement Constraints:**

- ★ Corruption, weak law enforcement, understaffing, and investigative backlogs hamper anti-poaching effectiveness (especially in some African states).
- ★ The burden of response often falls on conservation agencies, but the report argues more holistic government engagement is needed.

→ **Data Gaps & Survey Challenges:**

- ★ Not all range states submit recent population counts; survey methodologies vary, leading to uncertainty in estimates.
- ★ Detecting rhinos in remote or dense terrain is difficult, and cryptic behaviors further complicate accurate counts.

• **Mention of Conservation Responses:**

- **Horn trimming/dehorning:** Some reserves trim horns to reduce the incentive for poaching. The report mentions a *tracking tool* to monitor rhinos whose horns were trimmed.

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- **Advanced monitoring technologies:** Including tracking devices, data analytics, surveillance, and possibly DNA / scat detection methods.
- **Corridors and habitat linkages:** Enabling gene flow, range expansion, and resilience.
- **Policy engagement & global advocacy:** Using venues such as CITES CoP20 and the World Conservation Congress to push for stronger laws, trade restrictions, and funding.
- **Sanctuaries and breeding programs:** Especially in Asia, where species are critically low (e.g., Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary).



5. Ayushman Bharat

- **Prelims** - Ayushman Bharat
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Social Justice

Why in the news?

- Ayushman Bharat marks 7 years of launch.

Ayushman Bharat

- **Launch:** 2018
- **Associated Policy:** Flagship scheme under National Health Policy, 2017.
- **Aim:** Achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by providing financial protection and strengthening primary healthcare.
- **Components:**

→ **Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)**

- ★ Target: 1.5 lakh centres by transforming existing Sub-Centres & Primary Health Centres.
- ★ Services provided:
 - ❖ Maternal & child health,
 - ❖ Non-communicable diseases,
 - ❖ Free essential drugs & diagnostics,
 - ❖ Mental health, palliative care, elderly care.
- ★ Community participation & use of ASHA workers and telemedicine.

→ **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**

- ★ World's largest government-funded health insurance scheme.
- ★ Provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary & tertiary care hospitalization.
- ★ Beneficiaries:
 - ❖ ~10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (≈50 crore individuals).
 - ❖ Identified through SECC (Socio-Economic Caste Census) 2011 data.
- ★ Cashless & paperless access through Ayushman Bharat Health Card.
- ★ Covers 1,500+ procedures including surgeries, medicines, diagnostics, pre/post hospitalization.

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- **Implementation:** National Health Authority (NHA).
- **Achievements:**
 - 5 crore+ hospital admissions authorized under PM-JAY.
 - Over 2 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA IDs) created under ABDM.
 - 1.65 lakh+ HWCs operational across India.
 - Estimated savings of ₹30,000 crore for poor families.
- **Significance:**
 - Provides financial risk protection for poor households against catastrophic health expenditure.
 - Strengthens primary, secondary & tertiary healthcare.
 - Reduces out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) – a major cause of poverty in India.
 - Promotes cooperative federalism – Centre & States share costs.
 - Encourages private hospitals participation in social welfare.
- **Challenges:**
 - **Coverage gaps:** Many vulnerable groups outside SECC 2011 data not covered.
 - **Awareness deficit:** Beneficiaries often unaware of entitlements.
 - **Healthcare infrastructure deficit:** Shortage of doctors, nurses, hospitals in rural areas.
 - **Private sector reluctance:** Many empanelled hospitals not participating actively due to low package rates.
 - **Fraud & misuse:** Fake hospital admissions, misuse of insurance claims.



6. Mission Mausam

- **Prelims** - Mission Mausam
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Why in the news?

- The National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and New Space India Limited (NSIL) signed an MoU to set up two Direct Broadcast Network (DBNet) stations in Delhi/NCR and Chennai under the Mission Mausam project.

Mission Mausam

- **Mission Mausam has a budget of Rs 2,000 crore for the first two years of its implementation.**
- **Aim:** It aims to enhance India's capabilities in weather forecasting, climate modeling, and disaster management.
- **Objectives**
 - **Improved Weather Forecasting:** To enhance the accuracy and lead time of weather forecasts across India, particularly for extreme weather events like cyclones, floods, and heatwaves.
 - **Climate Modeling:** To develop advanced climate models to understand and predict long-term climate variability and change in India.
 - **Disaster Management:** To strengthen India's capacity for disaster management by providing timely and accurate warnings and forecasts.
 - **Research and Development:** To promote research and development in meteorology and climate science.
 - **International Cooperation:** To foster international cooperation in meteorology and climate research.

Direct Broadcast Network (DBNet)

- It is a global operational framework designed for the real-time acquisition of satellite data from Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites.
- It plays a critical role in Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) and supports a wide range of applications, including weather forecasting, cyclone monitoring, and climate research.
- It ensures rapid data availability by directly receiving and processing satellite signals within minutes of transmission.
- It aims to improve the accuracy and timeliness of weather forecasts and related services.