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EN-BUZZER

Daily News Analysis

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1. Saudi Arabia

- **Prelims** - Location of Saudi Arabia
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography

Saudi Arabia



Why in the news?

- A high-level Saudi Arabia delegation met the Secretary, Union Ministry of Textiles, to advance bilateral cooperation in the textile sector.

Saudi Arabia

- **Location:** Saudi Arabia is a west Asian country locate in Arabian Peninsula.
- **Capital:** Riyadh
- **Border Countries:** Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen.
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Red Sea, Persian Gulf.
- **Maritime Border**
 - Bahrain is an island country off its east coast.
 - The Gulf of Aqaba in the northwest separates Saudi Arabia from Egypt and Israel.
- **Fact:** Saudi Arabia is the only country with a coastline along both the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
- **International Relations** - Saudi Arabia joined the UN in 1945 and is a founding member of the Arab League, Gulf Cooperation Council, Muslim World League, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation,





2. Egypt

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

Egypt



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Why in the news?

- Sharm el-Sheikh city in Egypt hosted Israel - Hamas peace deal.

Egypt

- **Location:** Egypt is a transcontinental country spanning the northeast corner of Africa and southwest corner of Asia via a land bridge formed by the Sinai Peninsula.
- **Capital:** Cairo
- **Bordering Countries:** Gaza Strip of Palestine, Israel, Sudan, Libya.
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea.
 - The Gulf of Aqaba in the northeast separates Egypt from Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
- **River:** Egypt is known for **Nile delta and Aswan Dam**.
- **Climate:** Egypt has both mediterranean type climate and desert type climate.



International Relation

- Egypt is a major non-NATO ally of the United States.
- The permanent headquarters of the Arab League are located in Cairo
- Egypt is a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations.

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3. Indian Wolf

- **Prelims** - Indian Wolf
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has for the first time evaluated the Indian wolf.

Indian Wolf

- **About:** Indian grey wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) is a subspecies of grey wolf found across Southwest Asia and the Indian subcontinent.
- **Distribution in India:** It is mainly found across central, western, and northern India, spanning sixteen states with major populations in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Karnataka.
- **Habitat:** It is an apex predator in India's scrublands, grasslands and semi-arid agro-ecosystems.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, persecution, and human-wildlife conflict.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN Status: Vulnerable.
 - CITES: Appendix I.
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.



4. Coups in Africa and Impact on India

- **Prelims** - Location of Countries Witnessed Coups in Africa
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- The African Union suspended Madagascar “with immediate effect” after a coup saw an elite Army unit seize power following President Andry Rajoelina’s impeachment.

Coups in Africa and Impact on India

- **Countries Recently Witnessing Coups:** Mali (2020 & 2021), Guinea (2021), Chad (202), Sudan (2021 (renewed conflict in 2023)), Burkina Faso (2022 two coups), Niger (2023), Gabon (2023) and Madagascar (2025).
- **Causes Behind the Coups:**
 - **Weak Institutions:** Fragile democracies and poor constitutional enforcement.
 - **Economic Hardship:** Inflation, unemployment, and lack of basic services.
 - **Security Vacuum:** Jihadist and separatist insurgencies in the Sahel.
 - **Foreign Influence:** Rivalries among France, Russia, China, and the US.
 - **Anti-Colonial Sentiment:** Resentment toward continued Western control.
 - **Climate Stress:** Desertification and conflict over scarce resources.
 - **Elite Corruption and Governance Fatigue:** Popular frustration with failed leadership.
- **Impact on India:**
 - **Diplomatic and Strategic Impact:**
 - ★ **Reduced Democratic Leverage:** India promotes democratic cooperation in Africa; coups weaken that alignment.
 - ★ **UN Peacekeeping Challenges:** India’s troops in Congo, South Sudan, and Mali face risks as mandates change or missions collapse.
 - ★ **Geopolitical Competition:** China deepens economic control through debt and infrastructure. Russia expands via arms deals and private military firms.
 - ★ **Regional Instability:** May expand terror networks (Boko Haram, ISIS affiliates) that destabilize Indian missions and UN peacekeepers.



→ **Economic and Energy Impact:**

- ★ **Trade Disruptions:** Africa accounts for nearly 9% of India's global trade. Instability delays infrastructure, telecom, and energy projects.
- ★ **Critical Minerals Risk:** Niger (uranium), Mali (gold), and DRC/Zambia (cobalt, lithium) are vital for India's energy transition and semiconductor manufacturing.
- ★ **Energy & Logistics:** Instability near the Gulf of Guinea or Red Sea raises shipping costs and marine insurance rates.



5. Netherlands

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

Netherlands



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Why in the news?

- Netherlands is to host the NATO's annual nuclear deterrence exercise "Steadfast Noon".

Netherlands

- **Location:** North-western Europe.
- **Capital:** Amsterdam
- **Border Countries:** Germany and Belgium.
- **Maritime Border:** North Sea in the western and northern side
- **Climate:** Temperate maritime climate with cool summers and mild winters, influenced by the North Sea.
- **Features:**
 - Around **26% of the land lies below sea level**.
 - **Rivers:** Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt form a **deltaic network** in the south and west.
 - The Netherlands is often called "**the land of water**".



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6. Fare se Fursat Fixed Airfare Scheme

- **Prelims** - Fare se Fursat Fixed Airfare Scheme
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- Union Civil Aviation Minister inaugurated Alliance Air's "Fare Se Fursat" Fixed Airfare Scheme, offering passengers relief from fluctuating ticket prices and fostering affordable, predictable air travel in line with the UDAN vision.

Fare se Fursat Fixed Airfare Scheme

- **What is it?:**
 - Fare Se Fursat is a first-of-its-kind fixed airfare initiative launched by Alliance Air, India's government-owned regional airline.
 - It introduces a single, fixed ticket price that remains constant irrespective of booking time, season, or demand, even for last-minute travel.
- **Aim:**
 - To **democratize air travel** and make it:
 - ★ **Affordable** for middle-class and first-time flyers.
 - ★ **Transparent** by removing hidden fare variations.
 - ★ **Stress-free** by ending dynamic pricing fluctuations.
 - Promotes **inclusive aviation** and bridges the connectivity gap between major cities and smaller towns.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Fixed Pricing:** One constant fare per route—unchanged even on the day of departure.
 - **Passenger Friendly Approach:** Removes uncertainty due to dynamic ticket prices.
 - **Inclusive Focus:** Designed to attract passengers from **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**.
 - **Aligns with UDAN:** Supports the vision of "Naye Bharat ki Udaan"—viewing aviation as a **public service** rather than purely profit-oriented.
- **Significance:**
 - Promotes Regional Connectivity, Tourism, and Balanced Regional Development.
 - Reinforces the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) objective—"Let the common citizen of the country fly."
 - Serves as a model for fare transparency in India's aviation sector.



7. Corals and Tipping Point

- Prelims - Corals and Tipping Point
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- Warm-water coral reefs have been identified as the world's first climate tipping point, according to the Global Tipping Points Report 2025.

Corals

- What is it?:
 - Corals are **calcareous rocks**, formed from the skeletons of minute sea animals, called **polyps**.
 - The polyps extract calcium salts from seawater to form hard skeletons which protect their soft bodies.
 - The corals live in colonies fastened to the rocky seafloor.
 - Corals are examples of **symbiotic relations** which live with **algae** called **zooxanthellae**.
- Conditions for Growth of Corals:
 - Corals thrive in tropical waters-between 30°N and 30°S latitudes.
 - The **ideal depths for coral growth are 45 m to 55 m** below sea surface, where there is abundant sunlight available.
 - The **temperature** of water should be **around 20°C**.
 - Clear salt water is suitable for coral growth.
 - Adequate supply of oxygen and microscopic marine food, called plankton, is essential for growth and existence.
- Reasons for Degradations of Corals:
 - **Ocean Warming:** Causes coral bleaching by expelling symbiotic algae.
 - **Ocean Acidification:** Weakens coral skeletons due to lower pH.
 - **Coastal Pollution:** Sewage, agricultural runoff, and sediments smother corals.
 - **Overfishing:** Disrupts reef food chains and ecological balance.
 - **Coral Mining:** Extraction for construction and lime destroys habitats.
 - **Tourism Pressure:** Anchoring, trampling, and waste degrading reefs.
 - **Marine Debris:** Plastic and nets entangle and suffocate corals.



→ **Diseases:** Microbial and fungal infections increase with stress.

→ **Climate-Induced Storms:** Cyclones and hurricanes physically break coral structures.

Tipping Point

- **Definition:** A climate tipping point refers to a threshold beyond which a small change in global temperature can trigger a self-reinforcing and potentially irreversible shift in a natural system.
- **In the Context of Corals:**
 - For coral reefs, this threshold is estimated to lie between 1°C and 1.5°C of warming.
 - Once exceeded, reefs can rapidly degrade, leading to bleaching, coral death, and transformation into algae-dominated ecosystems.



8. United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- **Prelims** - United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- India has been elected unopposed to the Human Rights Council for the seventh time for a three-year term (2026-28) starting next year.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- **What is it?:** The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is the principal inter-governmental body within the UN system responsible for promoting and protecting human rights globally.
- **Formation:** It replaced the former UN Commission on Human Rights in 2006 through UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Members:** 47 States, elected by the UN General Assembly through secret ballot.
- **Term:** 3 years (eligible for only two consecutive terms).
- **Functions:**
 - Promotion and protection of human rights across the world.
 - Addressing human rights violations through dialogue, investigation, and resolutions.
 - Universal Periodic Review (UPR): A peer-review mechanism where each UN member's human rights record is reviewed every 4–5 years.
 - Special Procedures: Appointment of Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts on thematic or country-specific issues.
 - Advisory Committee: Provides expert research-based advice to the Council.
 - Complaint Procedure: Enables individuals or groups to bring consistent patterns of human rights violations to attention.