

DATE: 4 JULY 2026

## 1 Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) (Source: The Hindu)

*The DAC is the highest decision-making body of the Defence Ministry on procurement.*

- **Objective:** To ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the armed forces.
- **Formation:** It was formed after the Group of Ministers' recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in 2001, post-Kargil War (1999).
- **Composition:**
  - The defence minister is the chairman of DAC.
  - Its members include the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.



## 2 Ecological Significance of Vultures - Threats, Conservation Measures (Source: The Hindu)



# VULTURES

## Nature's Silent Protectors

Scavengers with a vital role in ecosystem health

**ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF VULTURES**

<p><b>Nature's Clean-up Crew</b> Vultures consume carcasses, preventing buildup of dead animals in the environment.</p> <p><b>Disease Control</b> By quickly disposing of carcasses, vultures reduce the spread of diseases like anthrax, rabies, foot-and-mouth disease, cholera.</p> <p><b>Nutrient Cycling</b> They help in recycling nutrients back to the ecosystem, maintaining soil fertility.</p>	<p><b>Public Health Guardians</b> Vultures act as a natural barrier against zoonotic diseases, protecting human and animal health.</p> <p><b>Economic Benefits</b> They save costs of carcass disposal through man-made methods and reduce healthcare costs linked to disease control.</p> <p><b>Indicator Species</b> Vulture population reflects the overall health of the ecosystem.</p>
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**THREATS TO VULTURES**

<p><b>Diclofenac Poisoning</b> Use of diclofenac (a veterinary painkiller) in livestock leads to kidney failure in vultures. This is the primary cause of drastic decline.</p>	<p><b>Other Toxic Substances</b> Carbofuran, ketoprofen, aceclofenac, lead poisoning and contaminated carcasses also pose serious risks.</p>	<p><b>Habitat Loss &amp; Disturbance</b> Loss of nesting sites due to deforestation, urbanization, wind turbines and power lines.</p>	<p><b>Food Scarcity</b> Decline in availability of carcasses due to improved carcass disposal systems and reduced livestock populations.</p>	<p><b>Breeding Challenges</b> Vultures have low reproductive rates (1 egg/year) and disturbance at nesting sites affects breeding success.</p>	<p><b>Persecution &amp; Myths</b> Myths and superstitions lead to persecution and killing of vultures.</p>
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**CONSERVATION MEASURES**

<p><b>Ban on Harmful Drugs</b> Diclofenac banned in veterinary use in India (2006). Promote safe alternatives like meloxicam.</p> <p><b>Vulture Restaurants</b> Setting up safe feeding stations with drug-free carcasses to ensure food availability.</p> <p><b>Nest Protection</b> Protect and monitor nesting sites to reduce disturbance and improve breeding success.</p>		<p><b>Awareness &amp; Community Involvement</b> Educate communities about the ecological importance of vultures and involve them in conservation.</p> <p><b>Monitoring &amp; Research</b> Regular population monitoring, tracking threats, and research on vulture biology and ecology.</p> <p><b>Strong Policy &amp; Enforcement</b> Strict enforcement of wildlife protection laws and regulation of veterinary drug use.</p>
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**WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT, 1972**

	<p><b>Legal Protection</b> All four species of vultures in India are protected under Schedule I of the Act – highest level of protection. Hunting, capturing, poisoning, selling or trade in vultures or their body parts is strictly prohibited.</p>	<p><b>Penalties</b> Violation of provisions related to Schedule I species is punishable with imprisonment up to 7 years and fine up to ₹1 lakh or both.</p>	<p><b>Key Provisions Used</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sections 9, 39, 49, 51 – Prohibit hunting, trade and transport.</li> <li>Section 50 – Duty of citizens to protect wildlife.</li> <li>Empowered authorities can seize illegal trade and take action.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Enforcement</b> The Act empowers forest departments and wildlife authorities to take legal action against offenders and protect vulture populations and their habitats.</p>
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**CONSERVATION STATUS (IUCN)**

- White-rumped Vulture – Critically Endangered
- Indian Vulture – Critically Endangered
- Slender-billed Vulture – Critically Endangered
- Red-headed Vulture – Critically Endangered

(All four species critically declined in South Asia)



**WHY WE MUST SAVE VULTURES**

Without vultures, carcasses decay, diseases spread, and ecosystems suffer. Saving vultures is saving ourselves.

**LET'S PROTECT TODAY FOR A HEALTHY TOMORROW!**

“Vultures are not just birds, they are nature’s unsung heroes.”

## 3 Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) (Source: The Indian Express)

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is a climatic phenomenon in the Indian Ocean that influences the monsoon season in India. It refers to the difference in sea surface temperatures between the western and eastern parts of the Indian Ocean.

### Impact

- **Positive IOD:**
  - Warmer western Indian Ocean, cooler eastern Indian Ocean.
  - Enhances monsoon rainfall over India.
  - Leads to stronger monsoon winds and better moisture supply.
  - Associated with above-average rainfall.
- **Negative IOD:**
  - Cooler western Indian Ocean, warmer eastern Indian Ocean.
  - Weakens the monsoon and causes below-average rainfall.
  - Can lead to drought conditions in parts of India.

## INDIAN OCEAN DIPOLE (IOD)

A CLIMATE DRIVER IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

