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Time: 45 Min

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PM MODI URGES 10-YEAR NATIONAL PLEDGE TO SHED COLONIAL MINDSET

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged a national resolve to **shed the Macaulay mindset**, launching a **10-year mission** to reverse the **colonial-era impact of the 1835 education overhaul.**

About

- In every country people take **pride in their historical heritage,** while **post-Independence India** witnessed efforts to disown its own legacy.

- PM Modi noted that nations such as **Japan and South Korea** did adopt Western ideas but **remained rooted in their own languages.** This was a balance India's **new education policy also seeks to encourage.**

- PM Modi asserted that the evils and societal afflictions introduced by Macaulay **must be eradicated in the coming decade.**

What is the "Colonial Mindset"?

- The cumulative effect of British rule created a mindset marked by:
  - Admiration for Western norms, governance, knowledge, and lifestyle;
  - Undervaluation of Indian culture, language, scientific traditions;
  - Dependence on external validation;
  - Internalisation of racial and cultural inferiority.

Background

- **Education in pre-colonial India** was characterised by a segmentation along religious and caste lines, under the **Gurukul system.**
  - The Gurukul system favoured **traditional knowledge and spiritual development.**
  - Women, lower castes and other underprivileged people were often barred from accessing education.

- Initially, the East India Company assumed **only minimal responsibility for education in India.**
  - However, individual officials such as **Warren Hastings, Sir William Jones, and Jonathan Duncan** were deeply interested in India's ancient and medieval knowledge systems.

- Their initiatives led to the establishment of early **Oriental institutions**—most notably the **Calcutta Madrasa (1781), the Asiatic Society of Calcutta (1784), and the Sanskrit College at Benares (1791)**. These were personal scholarly efforts rather than a formal educational policy of the Company.

Downward Filtration Theory

- **Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800–1859)** was a British historian, politician, and member of the Governor-General's Council in India.

- **Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education (1835): Macaulay** advocated for the creation of a pool of Indians **capable of serving British interests.**
  - This group would be Indian by blood and colour, but English by tastes, opinions, morals and intellect.
  - Entry into this group would be **limited to only a few Indians,** who would then **educate the rest of the population** according to Macaulay's controversial **Downward Filtration Theory.**

- **Post Direct Crown Rule:** After the British Crown took over from the Company following the **revolt of 1857, Viceroy Lord Mayo** made an assessment of India's educational policy.
  - He found that the British were educating a few hundred Babus at a great expense, who would then do nothing toward extending knowledge to the millions.
  - Viceroy Lord Mayo prioritised the **recommendations of the 1854 'Wood's Despatch,'** which called for the spread of education in both English and vernacular languages.

How British Rule Created a Colonial Mindset in India?

- **Imposition of English Education:** Education promoted Western sciences and humanities while delegitimising Indian knowledge systems, languages, and philosophies.
  - Produced an elite class that saw British culture as superior and Indian traditions as "backward."

- **Undermining of Indian Institutions & Traditions:** Ancient Indian systems of governance, jurisprudence, village self-rule, and indigenous medicine were portrayed as irrational, outdated, or superstitious.

- **Racial Hierarchy and Social Conditioning:** The British propagated the idea of the "White Man's Burden," portraying themselves as racially superior and Indians as incapable of self-rule.
  - Segregation in clubs, rail compartments, and residential areas reinforced racial superiority.
- **Westernized Urban Culture:** Urban Indians began to equate English language, dress, manners, social behaviour with modernity and prestige.
  - Access to jobs, courts, and higher education became linked to English literacy, marginalizing vernacular cultures.
- **Economic Policies Leading to Psychological Dependency:** Deindustrialisation and drain of wealth impoverished India, making British technology, capital, and institutions appear indispensable.
  - Indians began to see economic progress only through Western models, undermining indigenous entrepreneurship.

Government of India's Initiatives

- **Reforming Colonial Laws & Criminal Justice System:** Indian Penal Code was replaced by Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), CrPC as Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Indian Evidence Act to Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).
  - The aim is to shift from colonial "ruler's policing" to citizen-centric justice.
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** It moves away from Macaulay's rote-learning model.
  - Emphasises on Indian knowledge systems (IKS), classical languages, and critical thinking.
  - Promotes mother-tongue/ regional language as medium of instruction.
- **New Curriculum Framework (2023):** It has integrated Indian philosophy, culture, mathematics, sciences into school textbooks.
- **International Yoga Day:** The UN General Assembly in 2014, unanimously adopted a resolution for observing **21st June every year as the International Day of Yoga.**
- **Global Recognition:** The Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization has established the **World's first and the only Global Traditional Medicine Centre** (WHO GTMC) in Jamnagar, India.

- **Promoting Regional Language:** Greater use of Indian languages in Parliament, judiciary, and government administration.
- **Mission Karmayogi (2020):** Moving bureaucracy from colonial command-control culture to citizen-centric service orientation.

Source: **IE**

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON AMR 2.0 LAUNCHED

Context

- Recently, the Union Health Minister launched the **second version** of the **National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) (2025–29).**

About NAP-AMR 2.0 (2025–29)

- It addresses gaps from **NAP-AMR 1.0 (2017–2021)**, including strengthening surveillance, expanding public awareness, enhancing private-sector engagement, and improving regulatory and laboratory capacity.
- It adopts a **strong One Health approach**, involving coordination across human health, animal health, agriculture, food systems, and the environment.
- It involves over **20 ministries** with clear timelines and dedicated budgets.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?

- **Antimicrobials** (including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics) are used to treat infections in humans, animals, and plants.
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when **pathogens no longer respond to** Antimicrobials, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, illness, disability, and death.
- It is a natural process which is accelerated by the **misuse and overuse of antimicrobials** in humans, animals, and plants.

AMR's Burden

- Globally, AMR contributed to **4.95 million deaths in the world** in 2019 and it is expected to reach **10 million** deaths by 2050.
- **In India,** there were **297,000 deaths** attributable to AMR in 2019, and it is expected to reach **2 million** deaths by 2050.
  - A Lancet report added that more than **80% of Indian patients** carry **multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs),** the highest globally.

Challenges Associated with AMR

- **High antibiotic misuse** in humans, livestock, poultry, and aquaculture.
- **Easy 'Over The Counter (OTC)' availability** of antibiotics despite regulations.
- **Weak laboratory networks** for microbiological testing and surveillance in many states.
- **Low prescription audits** and poor implementation of antimicrobial stewardship in smaller hospitals.
- **Environmental contamination** due to pharmaceutical effluents and hospital waste containing antimicrobial residues.
- **Limited public awareness**, especially in rural areas.
- **Fragmented inter-ministerial coordination**, despite the One Health framework.

Related Efforts & Steps

- **2010:** National Task Force on AMR Containment constituted.
- **2011:** National Policy on AMR Containment released.
- **2017:** First **National Action Plan on AMR (2017–21)** launched, aligned with **WHO's Global Action Plan (GAP).**
- **Red Line Campaign:** Prescription-only antibiotics marked with a red line to discourage misuse.
- **ICMR initiatives:** Promotion of **Antibiotic Stewardship Programs (ASPs)** in hospitals.

Source: PIB

WHITE-COLLAR TERRORISM

In News

- The term "white-collar terrorism" has gained sudden popularity in mainstream media and public discourse after the Delhi Red Fort blast by radicalised doctors linked to Jaish-e-Mohammad.

What is White-collar Terrorism?

- White-collar terrorism refers to **terrorist activities carried out by highly educated professionals** — such as doctors, engineers, professors, IT experts who use their expertise, social networks, and trusted societal positions to plan, support, and execute terror operations.
- Unlike conventional militants, these individuals may **operate covertly within professional or academic environments**, facilitating logistics, procurement of materials, radicalization, recruitment, and even operational execution with lower suspicion due to their legitimate professions.

Reasons for Rise in White Collar Terrorism

- **Ideological Radicalization of Professionals:** Increasing numbers of educated individuals are being targeted and radicalized by terror groups through ideological narratives, often via online echo chambers and encrypted messaging platforms.
- **Strategic Shift by Terror Networks:** Terrorist organizations are deliberately recruiting white-collar professionals for their specialized skills, access to sensitive resources (labs, finance, information), and broad social networks.
- **Social and Religious Grievances:** Educated individuals feeling social or religious alienation, humiliation, or perceived injustice are vulnerable to being exploited by extremist ideologies.
- **Weak Institutional Vigilance:** Institutions such as academic centers, hospitals, and corporate offices have traditionally low scrutiny for subversive activities, giving white-collar terrorists easier operational environments.
- **Technological Sophistication:** Cyber forensics and intelligence agencies face challenges keeping pace with rapid tech advances.

India's Counter Terrorism Strategy

- **Specialized Agencies:** Creation of elite counter-terror units and intelligence agencies like the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), and Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS) for focused action.
- **Legal Frameworks:** Enactment and periodic strengthening of anti-terror laws, primarily the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), to empower agencies with preventive detention, investigation, and prosecution powers.
- **Institutional Audits & Capacity Building:** Security audits in hospitals, universities, and IT parks; training staff to identify suspicious activities and radicalization indicators.
- **Cyber Surveillance & Tech Upgradation:** Investment in advanced cyber forensics, AI-driven threat detection, and monitoring of encrypted apps and financial transactions.
- **Community Engagement & Counter-Radicalization:** Initiatives for deradicalization—counselling, awareness programs, and partnerships with civil society to address grievances and foster resilience against extremist narratives.

- **International Cooperation:** Sharing intelligence and best practices with global partners to counter cross-border elements and sophisticated funding channels.
- **Retaliatory Responses**: Like Surgical Strike (2016), and Operation Sindoor (2025).

Source :FP

REMOVING OF INELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES FROM NFSA LIST

Context

- The Union Government has removed **around 2.25 crore ineligible beneficiaries** from the free monthly ration scheme under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** over the past four to five months.

Overview of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- It represents a **shift from a welfare-based approach** to a **rights-based framework,** as the **right to food** is implicit in the **right to life under Article 21** of the Indian Constitution.
- It aims to provide subsidized foodgrains to a large portion of India's population. It amounts to roughly **81.35 crore people** under the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**, based on the **2011 Census** data. It covers:
    - **Up to 75%** of the **rural population;**
    - **Up to 50%** of the **urban population;**
- **Categories of Beneficiaries:** The Act divides beneficiaries into two main groups:
    - **Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Households**: Entitled to **35 kg of foodgrains per month**.
    - **Priority Household (PHH) Individuals:** Entitled to **5 kg of foodgrains per person per month**.
- Currently, **free foodgrains (wheat and rice)** are distributed every month to poor households under these categories.

Scale of Distribution

- India currently has **over 19 crore ration card holders,** and **around 5 lakh fair price shops** operating across States and Union Territories.
    - This vast network plays a vital role in **ensuring food security** for millions of citizens every month.
- It leverages the existing infrastructure of the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** and integrates schemes like the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme** and **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).**

Targeting Only 'Rightful' Beneficiaries

- The government's objective is to make the NFSA more **focused and transparent**, ensuring that only **genuine beneficiaries**—those who truly need assistance—receive the benefits.
- The **Department of Food and Public Distribution** identified ineligible individuals using various criteria and **shared the lists with State governments** for verification and deletion.
    - It used **data triangulation and Aadhaar-based verification** to identify and remove ineligible names.
- **Key reasons for removal included:**
    - Ownership of **four-wheelers;**
    - **High income** above the eligibility threshold;
    - **Company directorships;**
    - **Deceased beneficiaries** still listed under the scheme;

Continuous Verification and Updates

- The **States and Union Territories** are responsible for identifying beneficiaries, issuing ration cards, and conducting regular updates.
    - The deletion of ineligible beneficiaries and inclusion of new eligible ones is a **continuous process**.
- As of **July 2025**, the Union government informed Parliament that against the target of **81.35 crore beneficiaries**, only **80.56 crore** had been identified—leaving scope for the addition of **0.79 crore more beneficiaries**.

Broader Implications

- Reduce fiscal leakage and improve targeting of subsidies;
- Free up resources for other welfare programs;
- Enhance public trust in government schemes.

Source: TH

SC RECALLS ORDER RESTRICTING GOVERNMENT FROM GRANTING RETROSPECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES

Context

- The Supreme Court recalled its May 16 judgment that had **banned ex post facto environmental clearances (EC)** — meaning you cannot start a project first and take EC later.

About

- **The May judgment** had held that **granting retrospective clearances** in any form to regularise illegal constructions was **clearly illegal.**
  - The court had struck down a **2017 notification and 2021 office memorandum (OM)** of the Union government, which in effect **recognised the grant of ex post facto ECs.**
- **Huge public money at stake:** If the May 16 judgment remained many completed/near-complete buildings would have to be demolished then rebuilt after taking EC.
  - The public projects worth Rs 20,000 crore will have to be demolished if the clearance is not reviewed.
- The SC has recalled that judgment, directing that th**e issue be placed before an appropriate bench for fresh consideration.**

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

- EIA can be defined as the **study to predict the effect of a proposed activity/project on the environment.**
- **EIA systematically examines both beneficial and adverse consequences** of the project and ensures that these effects are taken into account during project design.
  - It also **proposes measures to mitigate adverse effects.**
- **Significance:** Protection of environment, optimum utilisation of resources and saving of time and cost of the project.
  - It also lessens conflicts by promoting community participation, informing decision makers, and helping lay the base for environmentally sound projects.

EIA in India

- **1994:** The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF), under the Environmental (Protection) Act 1986**, made Environmental Clearance (EC) mandatory.**
- **EIA 2006 Regime:** It is the governing legal instrument to grant green clearance for establishment or expansion of an industry on the basis of the expected environmental impact of the project.
  - It made it mandatory for various projects such as mining, thermal power plants, river valley, infrastructure and industries to get environment clearance.

- However, unlike the EIA Notification of 1994, the new legislation has **put the onus of clearing projects on the state government** depending on the size/capacity of the project.

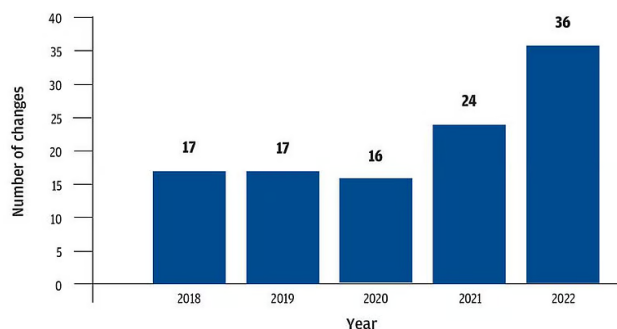**Legal and Institutional Framework**

- **EIA Notifications:** Issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) using powers under the Environmental (Protection) Act 1986.
- **Institutional Authorities:**
  - **Central Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC):** For Category A projects (national level).
  - **State Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs):** For Category B projects (state level).
  - **State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs):** Grant environmental clearance at state level.
- **Categorisation of Projects**
  - **Category A:** National-level projects with significant impacts (e.g., large dams, major highways).
  - **Category B1:** Moderately sized projects with regional impact.
  - **Category B2:** Small-scale projects with less impact.

Concerns

- One positive of the 2006 EIA notification is its **dynamism to accommodate changes in its provisions and processes** as per the requirement of the changing times.
  - However, this characteristic of the legal instrument seems to have been exploited.
- Over 110 changes were made in just 5 years — most of them without public consultation.

TRACK CHANGE
Number of changes introduced in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, in past five years

Source: CSE analysis

- **This flexibility has been misused** and industries get approvals — even if they pollute or harm the environment.

Best Practices to Improve EIA Process

- Create an independent EIA authority to avoid conflict of interest.
- Strengthen public consultation, especially in local languages.
- Ensure scientific and transparent baseline data.
- Regularly update the list of exempted projects based on environmental concerns.

Source: IE

NEWS IN SHORT

MODIFIED UDAN REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY SCHEME

In News

- The government has proposed a 30,000 crore outlay for the **modified UDAN regional air connectivity scheme**, to extend it beyond April 2027.
    - Of this, 18,000 crore is earmarked for new airport development and 12,000 crore for viability gap funding (VGF) to support airlines connecting underserved regions.

About UDAN scheme

- The UDAN scheme was launched in October 2016 under the **National Civil Aviation Policy** with a 10-year tenure.
- It was designed to **make flying affordable and boost regional air connectivity** by incentivising airlines to serve remote routes.
- It aimed to **connect Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities** through a market-driven yet financially supported model.
- The first UDAN flight was launched in April 2017 between Shimla and Delhi.

Progress

- UDAN has operationalised 649 of 915 routes, linking 93 airports, 15 heliports, and 2 water aerodromes, and carried 1.56 crore passengers through over 3.23 lakh flights.
    - However, challenges remain **due to land, technical constraints, and aircraft availability.**

Expansion

- The expanded framework aims to connect 120 more destinations, enable travel for 4 crore passengers in the next decade, and boost access in hilly, aspirational, and North-Eastern districts.

- It will also encourage private participation, address delays in airport development, and strengthen regional aviation through a market-driven bidding model.

Source:BL

EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCES COUNCIL

Context

- **5 institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences** have been formally brought under a **single umbrella** by merging five separate Societies into one single called **"Earth System Sciences Council" (ESSC).**

About

- **Aim:** To **streamline governance** and collectively address the scientific and humanitarian problems posed by the changing climate, erratic monsoons and melting polar regions.
- **Institutes Merged:** Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai, the National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) in Thiruvananthapuram, and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information and Services (INCOIS) based in Hyderabad.
- **Earth System Science Organisation comprises two sub-ordinate offices:** the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).
- **ESSC** formally registered as a body in **2023**, MoES Secretary will head the ESSC and the minister for Earth Sciences will act as the ESSC president.
- It is intended to support the government's broader approach of **"minimum government, maximum governance."**

Source: PIB

'YUVA AI FOR ALL'

In News

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), under the IndiaAI Mission, has launched 'YUVA AI for ALL', a first-of-its-kind free course that introduces the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to all Indians.

About

- It is a short, 4.5-hour self-paced course designed to make students, professionals and other curious learners comfortable with the basics of AI and to show how it's transforming the world.

- It aims to empower 1 crore (10 million) citizens with foundational AI skills - helping bridge the digital divide, promote ethical AI adoption, and prepare India's workforce for the future.

IndiaAI Mission

- IndiaAI is a comprehensive initiative aimed at developing indigenous AI models, expanding computer infrastructure, providing open datasets, nurturing AI startups, and promoting responsible AI practices across sectors.

Source: IE

HANOI CONVENTION

Context

- **72 nations** have signed a **landmark United Nations Convention against Cybercrime treaty** in **Hanoi** aimed at tackling **cybercrime**.

About

- **Aim:** It proposes a legislative framework to boost international cooperation among law enforcement agencies and offer technical assistance to countries that lack adequate infrastructure for combating cybercrime.

- **First Universal Convention:** The Convention establishes the first universal framework for investigating and prosecuting offences against Cybercrime.

- **Legally Binding:** The UN Cybercrime Convention is a powerful, legally binding instrument.

- **Adoption:** It was adopted by the General Assembly in 2024 after five years of negotiation.

    - The signing process is expected to remain open till next year.

- **Key Provisions:** It criminalises the following types of crimes:

    - **Cyber-dependent crimes:** Unauthorized access (hacking), data interference.

    - **Cyber-enabled crimes:** Online fraud, non-consensual dissemination of intimate images.

    - **Child exploitation:** Online sexual abuse, distribution of abuse material, solicitation/ grooming.

    - It facilitates the sharing of electronic evidence across borders and establishes a 24/7 cooperation network among States.

    - It also makes history as the first international treaty to recognise the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images as an offence – a significant victory for victims of online abuse.

- **Enforcement:** It will enter into force 90 days after the 40th State deposits its ratification.

- **Conference of the States Parties:** After entry into force, a Conference of the States Parties will convene periodically to improve the capacity of and cooperation between States Parties.

- **Secretariat:** The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime serves as the secretariat to the Ad Hoc Committee and to the future Conference of the States Parties.

Source: ORF

PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETY AND FARMERS' RIGHTS ACT (PPV&FRA ACT)

Context

- The Union Agriculture Minister said that the Centre will amend the **Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV&FRA Act),** incorporating suggestions from stakeholders.

About

- A committee headed by eminent agriculture scientist R.S. Paroda, **appointed by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA),** has started stakeholder consultations on the amendments.

- The committee will review **various provisions of the Act** in light of inherent deficiencies, present day challenges, and to further bolster farmers' interests.

Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV&FRA Act) 2001

- **Aim:** To provide for the establishment of an **effective system** for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the **development of new varieties of plants.**

- **The legislation recognizes** the contributions of both commercial plant breeders and farmers in plant breeding activity and also provides to implement TRIPs to support the specific socio-economic interests of all the stakeholders.

- **Significance:**
  - Balances innovation and farmers' traditional rights.
  - Promotes agrobiodiversity conservation.
  - Enhances seed industry growth while protecting rural livelihoods.

Reforms

- **Amendments to the definition of 'variety needs'** that could be modified to include 'combination of genotypes' so that it could be at par with the draft Seeds Bill of 2019.

- There is a proposal **to define the term "institution"** occurring in the definition of 'breeder' to include both public and private establishments in the seeds sector.

- There are discussions to define **"abusive act"** so that acts such as producing, selling, marketing, exporting and importing a variety which has the same or an identical denomination of another variety can be made punishable.

Source: TH

INDIA'S DUGONG (SEA COWS) ARE UNDER THREAT

In News

- A recent report released at the IUCN Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi warns of the growing **threat to India's dugong population**.

About Dugongs

- Dugongs (scientific name: Dugong dugon) are marine mammals often called **"sea cows"** because of their slow-moving, gentle nature and **herbivorous diet.**

- Dugongs inhabit warm, **shallow coastal waters ranging from the western Pacific Ocean** through the Indian Ocean to the eastern coast of Africa, including the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

- Dugongs require **healthy seagrass meadows for their food**; these areas also serve as critical habitats for their calving and mating behaviors.

- They are **classified as "Vulnerable"** globally and are protected under Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act.

- India holds key dugong populations along coasts such as the **Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

- Major threats include habitat destruction due to coastal development, fishing net entanglements, boat collisions, pollution, and low reproductive rates.

Conservation Efforts in India

- **Dugong Conservation Reserve:** India established its first dugong conservation reserve in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu, which has been recognized by the IUCN as a global model for marine biodiversity conservation.

- **National Dugong Recovery Program:** Launched in collaboration with Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to protect habitats and promote dugong conservation.

- **International Cooperation:** India's efforts align with global conservation frameworks such as CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

Source :IE

GINKGO-TOOTHED BEAKED WHALES

In News

- A team of scientists has spotted the **rare ginkgo-toothed beaked whales** for the first time in the wild along the coast of Baja California in Mexico.

Ginkgo-toothed beaked whales (Mesoplodon ginkgodens)

- They are one of **24 species of beaked whales**, which are the second most diverse group of cetaceans after dolphins.

- Beaked whales are the **deepest-diving mammals on Earth**. They spend most of their lives in the oceans, only coming to the surface for air for a few minutes at a time, usually far away from coastlines.

- Males are typically **dark blue-black with white spots** and blotches on the belly, while females are mid-grey with paler bellies.

- They are found in the **tropical and warm-temperate waters** of the western Pacific and are thought to occur primarily in deep, offshore waters

- They are **elusive and little-studied**, most knowledge comes from rare stranding records.
- It is listed as **Data Deficient** at IUCN Red classification.

Source :IE

LEADIT

In News

- At COP30 in Belém, Brazil, India's Union Environment Minister addressed the LeadIT Industry Leaders' Roundtable, reaffirming India's role in driving low-carbon industrial transitions.

About LeadIT

- **Launch:** 2019, jointly by India and Sweden, with support from the World Economic Forum at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- **Purpose:** To accelerate the transition of hard-to-abate, high-emitting industries—such as steel, cement, aluminium, chemicals, and heavy transport—towards net-zero by 2050.
  - It was among the first global high-level initiatives focused specifically on industrial decarbonisation.
- **LeadIT 2.0 (2024–2026),** adopted during the LeadIT Summit at COP28 (Dubai). LeadIT 2.0 aims to move from dialogue to implementation.

Source: AIR

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