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IBSA DIALOGUE FORUM AND EQUITABLE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Context

- The Prime Minister of India, at the **India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Leaders' Summit**, emphasized that the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reforms** are no longer a matter of choice but a **global imperative.**

  - It coincided with the **first G20 Summit held** in **Johannesburg, Africa.**

IBSA Dialogue Forum

- It was established in **2003 via** the **Brasilia Declaration**, as a platform for **South-South cooperation** and a collective voice for the **Global South**.

- It comprises **India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA troika)**, and they reaffirmed their commitment to **multilateralism, democratic values, and inclusive development.**

- It can **act as a bridge** between Asia, Africa, and South America.

- Key Initiatives include **IBSA Trust Fund (operationalised in 2006)** to enhance South-South cooperation and **IBSAMAR multinational maritime exercise.**

Key Highlights of IBSA Summit (2025)

- **Strengthening Security Cooperation: India** proposed the **institutionalization of an IBSA National Security Advisers (NSA)-level meeting** to deepen trilateral security cooperation.

  - It stressed the need for **close coordination** among member nations on terrorism.

- **Technology and Human-Centric Development:** India announced the proposal for an **IBSA Digital Innovation Alliance** recognizing technology's transformative power.

  - It aims to facilitate the sharing of **digital public infrastructure** such as Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Health platforms like CoWIN, Cybersecurity frameworks, and Women-led technology initiatives.

- **IBSA Fund for Climate-Resilient Agriculture:** India proposed the creation of a **Fund for Climate-Resilient Agriculture** acknowledging the success of the **IBSA Fund**, which has supported over **40 development projects** across various countries in **education, health, women empowerment, and solar energy**.

  - It seeks to strengthen **South-South cooperation** and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

  - It further encouraged cooperation in **millets and natural farming, disaster resilience, green energy, traditional medicine and health security**.

- **Inviting IBSA Leaders to AI Impact Summit:** India **invited the IBSA leaders** to the **AI Impact Summit** to be **hosted in India next year,** emphasizing the grouping's potential to shape **safe, trustworthy, and human-centric AI norms**, fostering responsible innovation.

- **UNSC Reform:** India strongly **pitched for reforms in UNSC** as felt by many developing nations.

  - It fails to represent the growing influence of countries like **India, Brazil, and South Africa** in global affairs.

UNSC

- It is **one of the principal organs** of the UN, responsible for **maintaining international peace and security.**

- It was established in **1945 as part of the UN Charter** and is **composed of 15 member state**s, including **five permanent members (P5)** with veto power, and **ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms** by the General Assembly.

- It is **headquartered in New York City.**

Why Is UNSC Reform Urgent?

- The UNSC was established in the **aftermath of World War II**, with **five permanent members (P5)**—the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China—holding veto power.

- It reflects a geopolitical reality that **no longer aligns with the 21st-century world order**, and has often been criticized for its **lack of inclusivity, transparency, and responsiveness** to global crises.

- India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) have **consistently advocated for UNSC reform.**

  - **India:** It has long argued for a permanent seat on the UNSC with its vast population, growing economy, and active role in peacekeeping.

    - It emphasizes the need for the Council to reflect the aspirations of the Global South.

  - **Brazil:** As Latin America's largest economy and a key regional power, it has pushed for an expansion of the Council's permanent membership to include more developing

countries, advocating for a more democratic and representative UNSC.

- **South Africa**: It underscores the historical exclusion of the continent from permanent membership and calls for equitable representation, representing Africa's interests.

Key Roadblocks to India's UNSC Aspirations

- **Resistance From P5 Members:** Particularly those wary of diluting their influence, especially China, has stalled progress.

- **Lack of Consensus Among UN Members:** There is no broad consensus on the structure of a reformed UNSC while many countries support India's bid. Disagreements persist over:

  - The number of new permanent members;
  - Whether new members should have veto power;
  - Regional representation, especially from Africa and Latin America.

- **Geopolitical Shifts and Competing Claims:** India's bid is often entangled with those of other aspirants like **Brazil, Germany, and Japan (G4 nations)**.

  - The **Coffee Club (Uniting for Consensus Group),** including countries like **Pakistan, Italy, South Korea, and Argentina**, opposes the expansion of permanent membership and instead advocates for increasing non-permanent seats.

Way Forward

- The IBSA countries have pledged to intensify their diplomatic efforts, leveraging platforms like the G20, BRICS, and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to build momentum for reform. Their strategy includes:

  - Forging alliances with other developing nations to present a united front.
  - Engaging in sustained dialogue with P5 members to find common ground.
  - Highlighting the risks of inaction, including the erosion of the UNSC's credibility and effectiveness.

Source: TH

SOUTH AFRICA G20 SUMMIT CONCLUDED

In News

- The 2025 G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa is the **first-ever G20 summit** held on African soil under the **theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability."**

Key Highlights of the Summit

- **Adoption of the G20 Leaders' Declaration** reaffirming commitments to climate action (focusing on adaptation finance and renewable energy), debt sustainability, and supporting vulnerable developing countries.

- **Emphasis on institutional reforms** including **UN Security Council reform** and stronger multilateral cooperation rooted in shared humanity (Ubuntu).

- Strong focus on **empowerment of women and girls and condemning terrorism.**

- Recognition of Africa's developmental priorities, **bolstered by the African Union's permanent membership in the G20.**

India's Stand/Initiatives

- Proposed the **Global Traditional Knowledge Repository** to harness collective human wisdom.

- Launched the **G20-Africa Skills Multiplier** to create one million certified trainers to skill African youth.

- Advocated for a **Global Healthcare Response Team for rapid health crisis intervention.**

- Initiated the **Open Satellite Data Partnership for agriculture, fisheries, and disaster management data sharing.**

- Pitched the **Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative** promoting recycling and sustainable supply chains.

- Proposed a **global initiative to counter the Drug-Terror Nexus**, focusing on combating narcotics financing terrorism.

- Launched the **ACITI trilateral framework** with Australia and Canada for cooperation in critical technologies, AI, supply chains, and clean energy.

Challenges

- **US boycott** reflecting geopolitical tensions weakened unity among the major economies.

- Disagreements on ambitious fossil fuel phase-out language, mirroring COP30 failures.

- Persistent divisions regarding the war in Ukraine fractured transatlantic consensus.

- Developing countries stressed inequities in the global financial system including debt burdens and limited climate finance availability.

- Diplomatic protocol disputes, such as over G20 presidency handover between South Africa and the US, highlighted geopolitical sensitivities.

Way Ahead

- Strengthening multilateral consensus-building to insulate the G20 from great-power politics and enhance global crisis response.

- Prioritization should be given to climate finance, debt relief, and operationalizing commitments on adaptation finance, loss & damage, and concessional lending aimed at the Global South.

- Reforming the global financial architecture through restructuring of the IMF, World Bank, and development banks to ensure fair financing, inclusive representation, and transparent debt mechanisms.

Conclusion

- The 2025 Johannesburg G20 Summit marks a historic milestone by centring Africa and the Global South on the global economic agenda, showcasing new models of solidarity and sustainable development despite geopolitical divisions.

- India's multifaceted initiatives underscore its growing role as a bridge between emerging economies and global governance, promoting inclusive growth, climate resilience, and technological cooperation.

Know About Basics of G20 Grouping

- The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 individual countries(Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the USA), the European Union, and since 2023, the African Union—a total of 21 members.

- These members represent the world's major economies, accounting for about 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the global population.

- The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis to improve global economic governance.

- The annual G20 Summit is held under a rotating presidency supported by a troika of previous, current, and next presidencies to ensure continuity.

Source: TH

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHAIRPERSONS OF STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONS (PSCS)

In News

- The 2025 national conference of chairpersons of the State Public Service Commissions (PSCs) is being hosted by the Telangana State Public Service Commission on December 19 and 20.

Historical Linkages

- Public Service Commissions (PSCs) in India emerged from the Independence struggle, rooted in the demand for merit-based civil services and self-rule.

- The **Montagu-Chelmsford Report (1918)** proposed a politically independent office, leading to the creation of the first Union PSC in 1926.

- The **Government of India Act, 1935** extended this to provinces, and the Constitution continued these provisions.

- Today, India has the **UPSC at the Union level and State PSCs, primarily tasked with recruitment.**

Structure at Union and State Level

- The UPSC operates in a politically neutral environment, with members appointed on merit, experience, and broad regional representation, usually senior and apolitical. It benefits from the Union government's vast manpower needs, financial resources, and a dedicated Ministry of Personnel (est. 1985), ensuring regular recruitment cycles and timely examinations.

- State PSCs function in politically influenced settings, often bypassing conventional eligibility norms.

- With limited, unplanned manpower needs, financial constraints, and no dedicated personnel ministry, states frequently delay recruitment, extend retirement ages, and conduct exams irregularly.

How do they work and Related Issues

- The UPSC ensures credibility through periodic expert committees to update syllabi, nationwide talent for paper-setting, robust score moderation, and swift systemic reforms balancing transparency with confidentiality, reducing litigation.

- In contrast, State PSCs rarely revise syllabi, rely on limited local resources, struggle with moderation, and face complex reservation calculations, leading to frequent legal disputes, delays, and declining trust.

- Many aspirants express preference for UPSC to conduct exams, underscoring the need for time-bound structural and procedural reforms in State PSCs.

Key reforms proposed for strengthening State PSCs

- State PSC recruitment exams are frequently marred by controversies and legal challenges, causing delays and eroding trust.

- Major Reforms should include systematised manpower planning through a dedicated personnel ministry with a five-year recruitment roadmap.

- Constitutional amendment fixing member age limits at 55–65 and stipulating qualifications (senior civil service experience for official members, 10 years in recognised professions for non-officials), with Opposition consultation to ensure integrity.

- Periodic syllabus revision aligned with UPSC, incorporating public consultation, objective testing for state-specific subjects, mixed exam formats, accurate translation, and safeguards against AI misuse.

- Appointment of a senior officer as Secretary for effective supervision.

  - By balancing transparency with confidentiality, these measures would make State PSCs vibrant and credible, on par with the UPSC.

Source : TH

ASSAM ACCORD (1985)

Context

- Recently, the Assam government has announced that a broad consensus has been reached on most of the recommendations made under **Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, 1985.**

About the Assam Accord (1985)

- It was signed on **August 15, 1985,** between the Government of India, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP).

- It marked the **end of a six-year-long anti-foreigner agitation** in Assam (1979–1985), which was driven by concerns over large-scale illegal immigration from Bangladesh and its impact on the state's demography, culture, and economy.

Key Provisions of the Accord

- **Cut-off Date for Citizenship:** All foreigners who entered Assam before January 1, 1966 were to be granted citizenship.

  - Those who came between January 1, 1966, and March 24, 1971 would be detected and allowed to stay after registering as foreigners for 10 years.

  - Those who entered after March 24, 1971, were to be detected and deported.

- **Clause 6 of the Assam Accord:** It promised '**constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards'** to protect the '**cultural, social, and linguistic identity'** of the **Assamese people.**

- **Border Security:** The Accord called for the **sealing and fencing of the India-Bangladesh border** to prevent further illegal immigration.

- **Detection and Deportation Mechanism:** A mechanism was to be established for the detection and deportation of illegal immigrants, including the updating of the **National Register of Citizens (NRC).**

Concerns & Challenges

- The **definition of 'Assamese people'** under **Clause 6** remains unresolved, complicating the provision of safeguards.

- The **NRC update,** completed in 2019, excluded over 1.9 million people, leading to legal and humanitarian challenges.

- The **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019**, has further complicated the situation by offering a path to citizenship for non-Muslim immigrants from neighboring countries, which many in Assam view as a violation of the Accord.

Source: TH

ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

Context

- Recently, the **Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025** was unveiled to reform the electricity sector in India.

Key Features of the Bill

- **Structural Reforms:** Bill aims to facilitate regulated competition in electricity distribution, allowing multiple licensees to operate in the same area using shared and optimized infrastructure.

  - It mandates **Universal Service Obligation (USO)** for all licensees, ensuring non-discriminatory access and supply to all consumers, while **enabling SERCs to make Distribution licensees free from USO**, in consultation with State Governments, for large consumers eligible for Open Access (more than 1 MW).

- **Tariff and Cross-Subsidy Rationalisation:** Bill promotes cost-reflective tariffs while protecting subsidised consumers (e.g., farmers, poor households) through transparent budgeted subsidies.
  - It seeks **elimination of cross-subsidy** for the Manufacturing Industry, Railways, and Metro railways within five years.
- **Infrastructure and Network Efficiency:** Bill empowers **Appropriate Commissions** to regulate wheeling charges and prevent duplication of distribution networks.
  - Introduces provisions for **Energy Storage Systems (ESS)** and defines their role in the electricity ecosystem.
- **Governance and Regulatory Strengthening:** Bill aims to establish an **Electricity Council for Centre-State** policy coordination and consensus-building.
  - It empowers **State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs)** to enforce standards, penalise non-compliance, and determine tariffs suo moto if applications are delayed.
- **Sustainability and Market Development**: Bill aims to strengthen obligations for non-fossil energy procurement, with penalties for non-compliance.
  - It promotes power market development, including new instruments and trading platforms.
- **Legal and Operational Clarity:** Bill introduces detailed provisions for the **Electric Line Authority,** including compensation, dispute resolution, and coordination with local authorities.
  - The **power of the Electric Line Authority** will be the **same as the Telegraph Authority under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.**

Electricity Sector in India – Overview

- Electricity is one of the eight core industries of an Indian economy having a weightage of 19.85% only after the refinery sector.
- **Constitutional Status:** Electricity is in the **Concurrent List**, enabling both Centre and States to legislate.
- **Global Standing:**
  - India is the **3rd largest producer and consumer** of electricity.
- **Installed Capacity (June 2025): 476 GW**
- **Rising Consumption:**
  - FY25 consumption: **1,694** billion units, **33%** higher than FY21.

- Peak demand in FY26 projected: **277 GW**
- Expected **6–6.5% annual energy demand growth** next five years

Challenges Facing Electricity Sector in India

- **High AT&C Loss:** Persistent financial losses in distribution companies (discoms) due to poor billing efficiency, high aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses.
- **Lack of Competition in Electricity Supply:** Consumers tied to a single discom, limiting service quality and innovation.
- **Cross-subsidisation Distortions:** Industrial users pay inflated tariffs to subsidise other categories, making Indian manufacturing less competitive.

Related Steps Taken

- **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS):** Approximately 20.33 crore smart meters have been sanctioned in 28 States/ UTs, smart meters help the distribution utilities in improving their billing efficiency.
- **Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS)**: It was built on shared infrastructure. Both public and private Transmission Service Providers (TSPs), including Powergrid (a CPSU), compete to develop ISTS assets under the oversight of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).
- **Renewable Energy Push:**
  - **National Solar Mission**: Targets for large-scale solar capacity.
  - Growth in **wind, small-hydro, biomass, and green hydrogen** sectors.
  - Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) for distribution companies.
  - Solar parks, rooftop solar schemes, and incentives for storage solutions
- **Improving Transmission Infrastructure:**
  - **Green Energy Corridor** to transmit renewable power efficiently.
  - Strengthening inter-state & intra-state transmission networks.
  - Greater grid reliability with **National Grid integration**.
- **Universal Electrification Initiatives:**
  - **DDUGJY**: Rural electrification and feeder separation.
  - **Saubhagya Scheme**: Achieved universal household electrification.

- ◆ Smart prepaid meters to reduce billing inefficiencies.
- **Promoting Clean & Efficient Energy:**
  - ◆ Shifting from older inefficient coal plants to **supercritical technologies**.
  - ◆ Increased emphasis on **energy efficiency** via:
    - ▪ Standards & Labelling Programme
    - ▪ Perform, Achieve & Trade (PAT) Scheme
    - ▪ LED distribution under UJALA Yojana
- **Innovation & Future Technologies:**
  - ◆ **Smart Grids**, battery storage, and EV charging infrastructure.
  - ◆ Push for **Green Hydrogen Mission** to decarbonize future power demand.
- **Attracting Investments:**
  - ◆ FDI in the power sector including renewables.
  - ◆ Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) in transmission & generation.

Source: PIB

NEWS IN SHORT

GEORGIA

In News

- India's strengthening of textile and sericulture cooperation with Georgia, including participation in the 11th BACSA International Conference (CULTUSERI 2025).

About Georgia (Capital: Tbilisi)

- **Georgia is a Transcaucasian country** located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, making it a significant geopolitical bridge between the two continents.
- It lies in the South Caucasus region at the eastern end of the Black Sea, bordered by Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, and the Black Sea itself.

- Geographically, Georgia is dominated by mountainous terrain, including the Greater Caucasus in the north and the Lesser Caucasus in the south.
- The country's climate ranges from humid subtropical in the western regions to dry subtropical and alpine in the central and eastern parts.
- Georgia is covered by over one-third forest land, rich in biodiversity with various oak, beech, fir, and alpine vegetation types.

Source: TH

ARTICLE 240

In News

- The Union Home Ministry clarified that no **Constitutional Amendment Bill** in the upcoming winter session would bring **Chandigarh under Article 240.**

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025

- It proposes to bring Chandigarh under Article 240, grouping it with Union Territories that lack legislatures, thereby empowering the President to frame regulations for it.
- It will open the door to an independent administrator in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
  - ◆ The Punjab Governor is currently the Administrator of Chandigarh.
- The move is aimed to simplify the Central Government's law-making process for Chandigarh.
- It aims to ensure uniformity in governance across Union Territories without legislatures.
- It aims to empower the President to frame regulations for Chandigarh, equivalent to Acts of Parliament.

Opposition and Concerns

- The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 has triggered sharp opposition in Punjab.
- Parties argue it undermines Punjab's claim over Chandigarh, which holds a unique status as the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana under the 1966 Reorganisation Act.
- Critics fear it could allow an independent administrator, ending the tradition of the Punjab Governor overseeing Chandigarh.

Article 240 of the Constitution

- It grants the power to the President to make regulations for the peace, progress and effective governance of certain Union territories, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Source :TH

AURAMINE IN INDIAN FOOD

In News

- India continues to face recurring episodes of chemical adulteration in food, particularly through the use of **non-permitted synthetic dyes like auramine O.**

About

- Auramine O is a **synthetic, odorless yellow dye** extensively used in industry, including textile and leather processing, printing inks, paper manufacturing, and certain microbiological staining procedures.
- Auramine O is **not approved for use as a food colour** in India, the European Union, the United States, or most other regulatory jurisdictions.
  - Other dyes such as **metanil yellow, rhodamine B, and malachite green** appear in certain samples of sweets that are also not approved.
- It has a **range of health risks**, including liver and kidney damage, enlargement of the spleen, mutagenic effects that can alter genetic material, and potential carcinogenic outcomes.

Source: TH

SERIOUS FRAUD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (SFIO)

In News

- The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has introduced new technical and procedural safeguards to prevent impersonation and misuse of its summons and notices.

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

- Established under the **Companies Act, 2013**, SFIO functions under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** and is intended as a specialized body for **white-collar crime investigations** rather than routine company law violations.
- It brings together experts from accountancy, forensic audit, banking, law, IT, capital markets, taxation and company law to handle serious and complex corporate frauds.
- It investigates complex corporate frauds under **Section 212 of the Act**, while summons issued during investigations are governed by Section 217.
- It is **headed by a Director** who holds a rank not below Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Source: ET

EXTRAORDINARY RESILIENCE OF MOSS (PHYSCOMITRIUM PATENS)

Context

- A recent study revealed that **moss spores exposed to outer space** for nine months survived and retained their ability to reproduce once brought back to Earth.
  - The team measured **chlorophyll levels** — vital for photosynthesis — and found only a **20% reduction in chlorophyll.**

About Mosses

- Mosses are **non-vascular plants** that have **evolved to survive** in some of Earth's harshest environments—arctic tundras, deserts, and high-altitude regions.
- Their spores are particularly **hardy**, capable of **withstanding desiccation**, **UV radiation, and temperature extremes.**
- Mosses could play a vital role in **oxygen generation, humidity regulation, and soil formation** in extraterrestrial environments.
  - These traits likely contributed to their survival in space.

Why Does Recent Study Matters?

- **Astrobiology and the Search for Life:** The ability of space survival supports the **theory of panspermia** — the idea that **life could travel between planets** via meteoroids or other celestial bodies.
  - If moss can survive space, it raises the possibility that microbial life might exist or have existed elsewhere in the universe.
- **Space Farming and Sustainability**: Moss is among the **earliest land plants** and is known for thriving in extreme environments on Earth.
  - Its resilience in space suggests it could be a **viable candidate for space-based agriculture**.

- **Biological Shielding and Terraforming:** Moss could potentially be used to create **biological shields against radiation** or to help generate oxygen and recycle water in closed-loop life support systems.
  - Its ability to colonize barren environments makes it a candidate for terraforming efforts on other planets.

Source: IE

BHARAT NEW CAR ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (BHARAT NCAP)

In News

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has released a revised draft of **Bharat New Car Assessment Program (Bharat NCAP 2.O)**.

More About the News

- Under Bharat NCAP 2.0, the overall rating of the vehicle will be composed of **five assessment areas**: Safe Driving (10%), Accident Avoidance (10%), Crash Protection (55%), Vulnerable Road User Protection (20%) and Post-Crash Safety (5%).

Bharat NCAP

- Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) provides safety ratings for vehicles based on crash testing and evaluation criteria.
- The programme was first implemented in October 2023, which laid down the detailed procedure for vehicle manufacturers or importers to get their vehicles tested as per Automotive Industry Standard (AIS)-197.
- The programme is voluntary in nature.
- Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT) in Pune is the designated agency for issuing the Bharat NCAP ratings.

Source: IE

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)

Context

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police force is establishing **10 all-woman Border Outposts** along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), marking a significant step toward gender inclusion in border security.

About the ITBP

- **Raised:** 24 October 1962, after the India-China war.
- **Status:** A Central Armed Police Force under the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- **Motto:** "Shaurya-Dridhata-Karma Nishtha"
- **Operational Roles:** Guarding the **3,488 km-long India-China border** from the **Karakoram Pass (Ladakh)** to **Jachep La (Arunachal Pradesh)**.
  - Counter-insurgency operations (e.g., in **Chhattisgarh**).
- **Legal Framework**: In 1992, the ITBPF Act was enacted; in 2004, the entire India-China border was assigned to ITBP for border guarding duties.

Source: TH

AFRICAN GREY PARROT

In News

- According to state forest departments, there are no officially registered breeders or authorized pet shops for African grey parrots in India, despite their widespread availability in markets.

African Grey Parrot

- The African grey parrot (Psittacus erithacus) is a **medium-sized, highly intelligent parrot** regarded as the best mimic among bird species, often **nicknamed "The Einsteins of the Bird World."**
- It is native to West and Central Africa, inhabiting savannas, coastal mangroves, woodland edges, and forest clearings.
- There are **two main subspecies:** the Congo African Grey (CAG), known for its bright red tail, and the Timneh African Grey (TAG), with a darker maroon tail.
- African greys are notable for their exceptional talking and comprehension abilities, capable of large vocabularies and contextual speech.
- The species is **classified as Endangered by the IUCN**, mainly due to habitat loss and heavy international pet trade capture.

Populations Threats

- India's domestic market sees widespread illegal and unreported trade of African grey parrots due to lack of proper registries and breeder authorization, with states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka being major trade hubs.

Source :TH