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Current Affairs - 19 October 2025

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION



- It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations (UN)** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- It is the oldest permanent specialized agency of the UN, **established in October 1945**.

Mandate: To **improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity**, raise the standard of living in rural populations, and contribute to global economic growth.

Functions:

- The FAO coordinates the efforts of governments and technical agencies in programs for developing agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and land and water resources.
- It leads **international efforts to fight hunger**.
- It is both a forum for **negotiating agreements between developing and developed countries** and a source of technical knowledge and information to aid development.

Members: It currently has **195 members** - 194 countries and the European Union. (India is a founding member of FAO)

Funding: FAO receives its funding from its **member countries**.

Reports published by the FAO: The **State of the World's Forests (SOFO)**, The **State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)**, The **State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)**, The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)**.

Headquarters: Rome, Italy.



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WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)?



- It is the **United Nations' specialized agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.**

- With **176 Member States** and three Associate Members, IMO is **based in London.**
- IMO is the **global standard-setting authority** for the safety, security, and environmental performance of international shipping.
- Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted, and universally implemented.

The IMO **formulates regulations** on shipping safety, maritime security, and environmental protection but **does not enforce them.**

- Once a member state adopts a regulation, it becomes part of that country's domestic law.
- It contributes directly to **UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14**, which focuses on the **conservation and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources.**
- The organisation also **deals with legal matters such as liability, compensation, and facilitation of maritime traffic.**

Organisational Structure:

- The **Assembly** is the **supreme governing body**, comprising all member states. It **meets every two years** to approve the work programme, budget, and elect members to the Council.
- The Council acts as the Executive Organ, overseeing IMO's work in between Assembly sessions.



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- The IMO has five major committees, which are responsible for policy development and regulation formulation, including the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).
- **Funding** is sourced through **mandatory contributions by member states** and also from **voluntary donations and commercial revenue**.

WE RISE INITIATIVE



- The **Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises (We Rise)** initiative was launched by **NITI Aayog and DP World**.

- It was launched under the aegis of **WEP's Award to Reward (ATR) initiative**.

Aim: It aims to **help women entrepreneurs** in India to scale their **businesses globally** through trade facilitation, mentorship, and strategic partnerships.

- As part of this effort, WEP and DP World have joined hands **to empower product centric women entrepreneurs**.
- It is unique **public-private collaboration** focused on expanding trade access and unlock opportunities for women businesses to grow exponentially.

What is a Women Entrepreneurship Platform?

- It was **incubated in NITI Aayog in 2018** as an aggregator platform, transitioned into a public-private partnership in 2022.
- It serves as a **national aggregator to strengthen India's women entrepreneurship** ecosystem and make women-led development a reality.
- **Function:** WEP functions as an enabler, addressing **six key ecosystem needs** — access to finance, market linkages, training and skilling, mentoring and networking, compliance and legal assistance, and business development services.



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NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK (NDB)



- The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly known as the BRICS Development Bank, is a **multilateral development bank** established by **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS)**.

Objective: NDB aims to mobilize resources for infrastructure and **sustainable development projects in BRICS countries and other emerging economies and developing countries.**

- The idea of setting up NDB was first conceived in 2012 during the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, India.
- The agreement for establishing the NDB was signed during the BRICS Summit held in Fortaleza on July 15, 2014, and the Bank **started operations on July 21, 2015.**
- The bank is **headquartered in Shanghai, China, with regional offices in South Africa and Brazil.**

Membership in NDB is **open to any member of the United Nations.**

- NDB's key areas of operation include clean energy and energy efficiency; transport infrastructure; water and sanitation; environmental protection; social infrastructure; and digital infrastructure.

Capital: The NDB has an **initial authorized capital of USD 100 billion** and an **initial subscribed capital of USD 50 billion**, which was **equally distributed among the five founding members (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).**

- Unlike in the case of the World Bank or ADB, **each member** in the NDB has an **equal voting power.**



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Governance Structure:

- The Bank is governed by a **Board of Governors** made up of the **finance ministers** of the five BRICS countries, and a Board of Directors.
- **Both the presidency and vice-presidency** of the NDB are **rotated among BRICS founding members**.

KEY FACTS ABOUT TUVALU



- Tuvalu, formerly known as the **Ellice Islands**, is an **island country** in the **west-central Pacific Ocean**.
- It is the **4th smallest country in the world** with 26 sq.km. of land.
- It sits about **halfway between Australia and Hawaii**.
- Its **neighbours** include **Kiribati, to the north**, and **Fiji, to the south**.
- It is a collection of small islands and atolls largely made out of coral reefs and volcanic rock.
- **All islands are low-lying**, with no point on Tuvalu being higher than 4.5 m above sea level. Thus, the islands are **threatened by any future sea level rise**.
- There are **no rivers**. Tuvalu's **climate is hot and rainy**.

With the exception of tiny Vatican City, Tuvalu has the fewest inhabitants of any other independent nation.

Capital: Funafuti

Languages: Most people speak a language called **Tuvaluan**. **English** is widely used.

Currency: Tuvalu dollar (equivalent to the Australian dollar)



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Political System:

- Tuvalu became independent from the United Kingdom in October 1978.
- It operates as a **parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy**.
- It is part of the Commonwealth Realm, with King Charles III recognized as King of Tuvalu. He is represented by a Governor-General, who is appointed upon the advice of the **Prime Minister**.
- There are **no political parties**: the prime minister is chosen by and from the legislature.

Economy:

- Most people are subsistence **farmers** and are aided by **remittances** from relatives working overseas.
- A small quantity of **copra** is produced for export, the **sale of stamps** accounts for modest earnings, and **fees are collected from foreign fishing fleets**.

BATHOU RELIGION



- It is the **traditional faith of the Bodos**, the largest plains tribe of
- The word 'Bathou' is derived from the **Bodo language**, where 'Ba' means 'five' and 'thou' means '**deep philosophical thought**'.
- The faith system is based on **five elements**: Bar (Air), San (Sun), Ha (Earth), Or (Fire), and Okhrang (Sky).

Beliefs of Bathousim

- The community worships **Bwrai Bathou** as the supreme god. In the Bodo language, the word 'Bwrai' refers to the '**eldest**' man concerning power or knowledge.
- The Bathou faith is **centred on the Sijou plant** (Euphorbia splendens).



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- The plant is **planted in the Bathou altar** at the centre as the symbol of Bathou religion of the Bodos.
- It has an important place and has been widely accepted as the **symbol of life** or soul by the Bodo people since time immemorial.
- This plant is the living symbol of **Bathoubwrai, the supreme God of the Bodos**.
- Bodos plant the sijou tree on an elevated altar **encircled with a bamboo** fencing of eighteen pairs of posts weaved with five pieces of bamboo split.
- The five bamboo strips signify the five bindings of Bathou, viz. (i) birth, (ii) marriage or procreation, (iii) sorrow, (iv) happiness and (v) death.

NAFITHROMYCIN



(BIRAC).

- It is an **antibiotic** which has been developed with the support of “**Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council**” (BIRAC).
- It has been brought to market under the **trade name “Miqnaf”**.
- It is the **first molecule entirely conceptualized**, developed and clinically validated in India.
- It is the country’s first indigenously developed antibiotic aimed at **tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**.
- It is effective against **resistant respiratory infections**, particularly useful for cancer patients and poorly controlled diabetics.
- This innovation is designed to treat **Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP)**.
- Nafithromycin’s efficacy stands out as it targets **both typical and atypical pathogens**, offering a potent solution where no new antibiotic in this class has been developed worldwide for over three decades.



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What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?

- It occurs when **bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites** no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines.
 - As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become **ineffective** and infections become difficult or impossible to treat.
 - It increases the risk of disease **spread, severe illness, disability and death.**
 - AMR is a natural process driven by genetic changes in pathogens over time, its spread is significantly accelerated by human activities.
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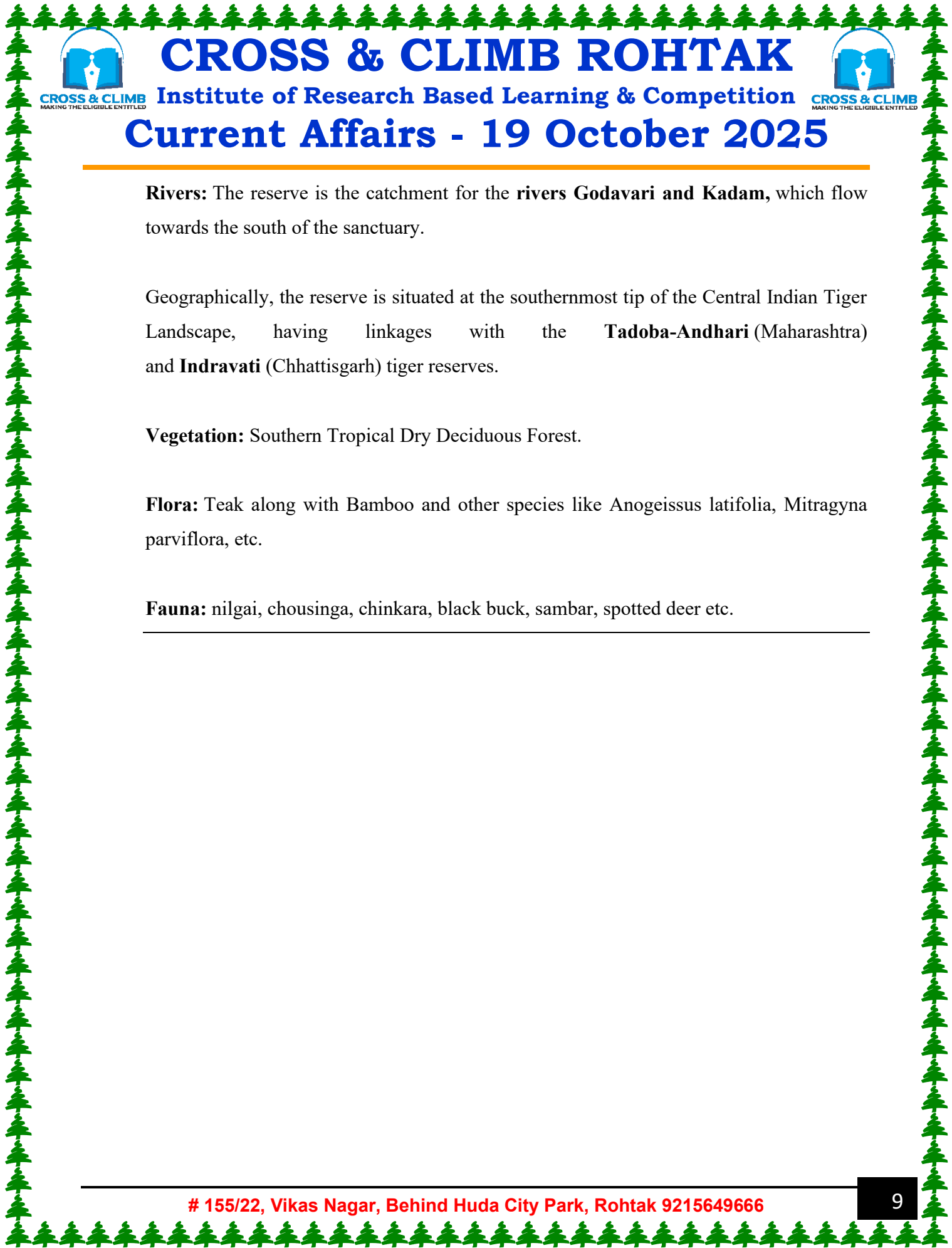
HYGROCYBE PELLUCIDA



- It is a **fungi species** characterised by their bright, waxy and often vividly coloured fruiting bodies.
- **Habitat:** It is typically found in unimproved grasslands, mossy forest floors and other nutrient-poor habitats and commonly known for wax cups.
- It was described as a new species in the **Hygrophoraceae family from Kerala during 2024.**
- The genus **Hygrocybe** is a well-known genera of agarics with **350 listed species and distributed worldwide.**

Key Facts about Kawal Tiger Reserve:

- **Location:** It is located in the **Telangana State** along the banks of river Godavari, forming part of the Deccan peninsula-central highlands.
- The reserve is nestled in the **Sahyadri Mountain Ranges.**
- The government of India declared Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary a Tiger Reserve in 2012.



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Rivers: The reserve is the catchment for the rivers **Godavari and Kadam**, which flow towards the south of the sanctuary.

Geographically, the reserve is situated at the southernmost tip of the Central Indian Tiger Landscape, having linkages with the **Tadoba-Andhari** (Maharashtra) and **Indravati** (Chhattisgarh) tiger reserves.

Vegetation: Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest.

Flora: Teak along with Bamboo and other species like *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Mitragyna parviflora*, etc.

Fauna: nilgai, chousinga, chinkara, black buck, sambar, spotted deer etc.
