



KAVISH IAS

— Converting Possibilities into Reality —

KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

🎯 PRECISE | 🧠 RELEVANT | ⌚ EXAM FOCUSED

STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



18 AUGUST 2026

---TUESDAY---



Kolkata Topper

VAISHNA BISWAS

AIR - 367 | CSE 2025

★ OUR PROVEN LEGACY ★

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2023



IPS LAXMAN PRATAP
RANK - 597

FORMER ASST. COMMANDANT IN BSF
CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2024



IRS SARLA JAKHER
AIR 593

CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA



IRS TANMAY
AIR 346

IIT KHARAGPUR



YOUR
DREAMS.

OUR
MISSION.

TOGETHER,
WE ACHIEVE
THE EXTRA
ORDINARY.

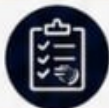


Converting Possibilities into Reality

PRELIMS MAINS | INTERVIEW



DAILY CURATED
NEWS



EXAM ORIENTED
ANALYSIS



SMART NOTES &
INFOGRAPHICS



BOOST YOUR
PREPARATION

“INFORMED TODAY, EMPOWERED TOMORROW.”

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

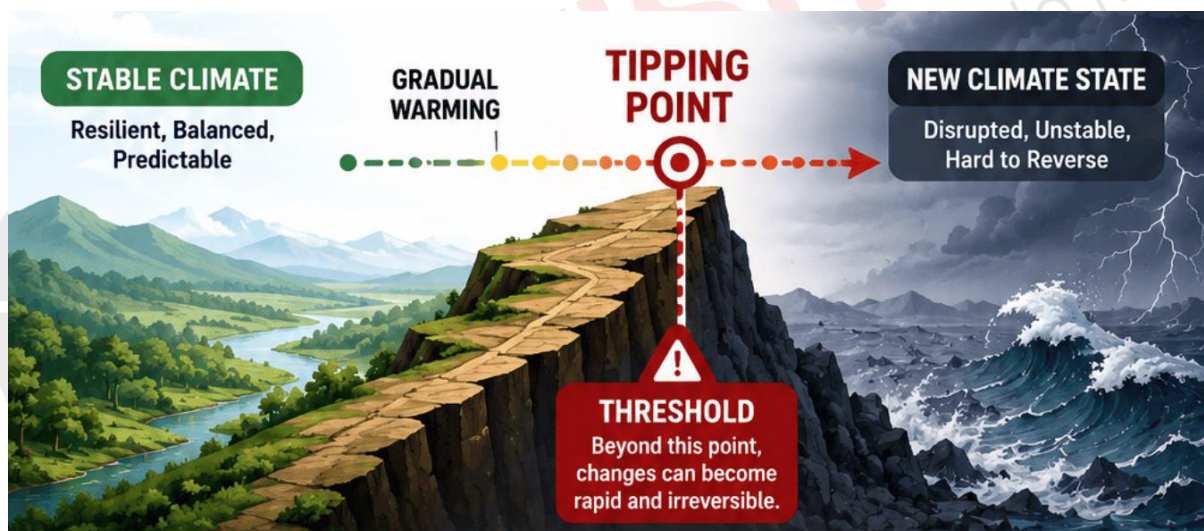
1. Climate Tipping Points: Bonn Climate Talks
2. India's Critical Mineral Acquisition Abroad
3. Elephant Corridors
4. Green India Mission (GIM)
5. Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)

1. Climate Tipping Points: Bonn Climate Talks

Source: The Indian Express

Why in News?

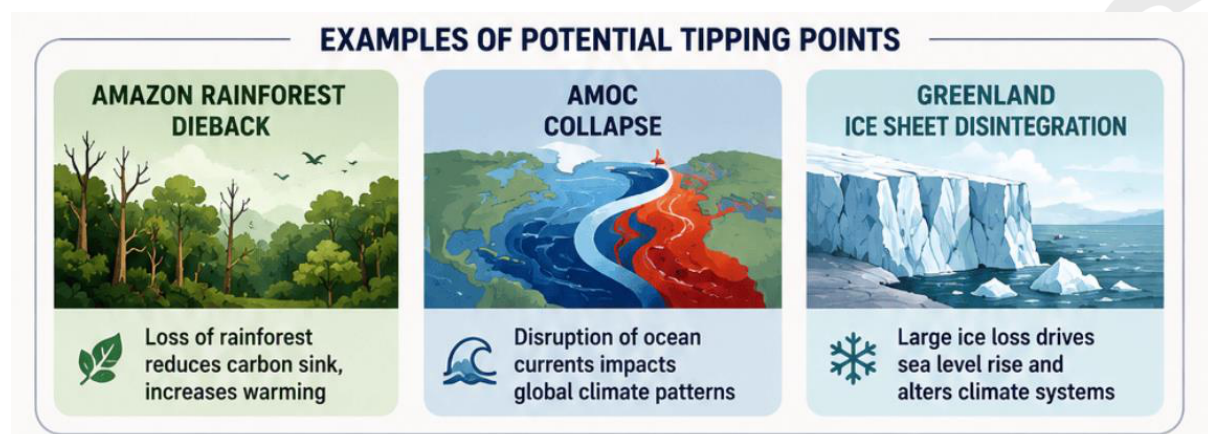
- The **Bonn Climate Change Conference (8–18 June)** witnessed intense debate over the definition and use of “climate tipping points.”
- India urged greater **scientific clarity and caution** in using the term, warning that imprecise definitions could lead to miscommunication and misinformation.
- The **European Union** criticised India's position, raising concerns about obstruction and coordinated misinformation.
- A climate tipping point is a **threshold beyond which a component of the climate system can shift into a new, potentially irreversible state.**



Understanding Climate Tipping Points

- Tipping points involve **non-linear changes**, where a relatively small increase in temperature can trigger a large and self-reinforcing response.
- Major examples include:
 - **Amazon rainforest dieback** → transition from rainforest towards a drier savanna-like ecosystem.

- **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)** → weakening or possible collapse of a major ocean circulation system.
- **Greenland Ice Sheet** → large-scale ice loss with long-term sea-level implications.
- **West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS)** → potential irreversible ice loss due to ocean warming.
- Scientists face uncertainty in determining the **exact temperature thresholds, timing and consequences** of such events because climate systems are highly complex.
- The **1.5°C and 2°C targets** under the Paris Agreement are **political goals informed by scientific evidence**, not tipping points themselves.
- Some researchers caution that the tipping-point framework can oversimplify complex climate processes and should therefore be communicated carefully.



Major Tipping Elements and Concerns

- **AMOC:** Weakening could alter European climate, tropical rainfall patterns and global food security.
- **Amazon Rainforest:** Deforestation and warming can weaken moisture recycling and increase the risk of forest dieback.
- **West Antarctic Ice Sheet:** Deep-ocean warming can destabilise the ice sheet, contributing to long-term sea-level rise.
- The key concern is that crossing certain thresholds could activate **self-reinforcing feedback loops**, making reversal difficult even after temperatures stabilise.

Significance for Global Climate Policy

- The debate highlights the need for **consistent scientific terminology and reliable climate-risk communication**.

- Better understanding of tipping points can help countries strengthen **mitigation and adaptation strategies**.
- International institutions and scientific bodies are working to improve assessment of high-impact climate risks and terminology.
- The UK Met Office's "**An Up-HILL Battle**" project seeks to build greater consensus on terminology related to high-impact climate events and tipping-point risks.
- For India, clearer scientific assessment is important for planning responses to risks such as **Himalayan glacier loss, sea-level rise, extreme weather and changing monsoon patterns**.

2. India's Critical Mineral Acquisition Abroad

Source: The Indian Express

Why in News?

- **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)** is facing difficulties in acquiring critical mineral assets overseas due to **high valuations, volatile prices, financial constraints and geopolitical risks**.
- KABIL has acquired **five lithium brine blocks in Argentina**, but has struggled to expand its presence in countries such as **Australia and Chile**.
- A Parliamentary panel has recommended strengthening KABIL's **financial capacity, manpower and decision-making**, along with greater private-sector participation.

About KABIL

- **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)** was incorporated in **2019** under the **Ministry of Mines**.
- It is a joint venture of:
 - **National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO)**
 - **Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL)**
 - **Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Ltd (MECL)**
- It serves as India's overseas vehicle for acquiring **critical mineral assets**.
- India has identified **30 critical minerals**, including **lithium, cobalt and nickel**, essential for clean energy, digital technologies and defence.

Challenges in Overseas Acquisition

- **High asset valuations:** Competition from global companies drives up the cost of mineral assets.
- **Price volatility:** Fluctuations in lithium and other mineral prices make overseas investments financially risky.
- **Limited financial capacity:** KABIL has relatively constrained capital compared with major global mining companies.
- **Domestic value-chain gaps:** India lacks adequate processing and manufacturing capacity for some minerals such as **spodumene concentrate**.
- **Geopolitical and regulatory risks:** Resource-rich countries may have complex political, regulatory and investment environments.
- **Slow decision-making and limited manpower:** Delays can cause India to miss time-sensitive acquisition opportunities.

Recent Cases and Way Forward

- An Indian consortium involving KABIL, CIL, OIL and OVL made a bid for Australia's **Mt Marion and Wodgina lithium mines**.
- The assets were eventually acquired by **POSCO for \$765 million**, substantially above India's revised offer of **\$233 million**.
- KABIL also missed an opportunity in Chile because partnering companies had **insufficient time for due diligence**.
- A Parliamentary panel recommended:
 - Strengthening KABIL's **capital base**.
 - Expanding specialised **human resources**.
 - Faster institutional decision-making.
 - Greater **private-sector participation**.
 - Developing domestic processing and value chains.
- Secure access to critical minerals is important for India's **energy transition, strategic autonomy, defence and technological security**.

3. Elephant Corridors

Source: Indian Express

Why in News?

- The **Supreme Court** directed the Centre to conduct a **fresh nationwide survey of elephant corridors**.
- It stated that States cannot block or obstruct elephant corridors merely because of concerns over **crop damage**.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has been asked to submit a comprehensive report on preventing obstructions.
- The Court also raised concerns over aggressive methods used to drive away elephants, including **firearms, fireballs, mashaal and "Hulla parties"**, as well as construction of walls.

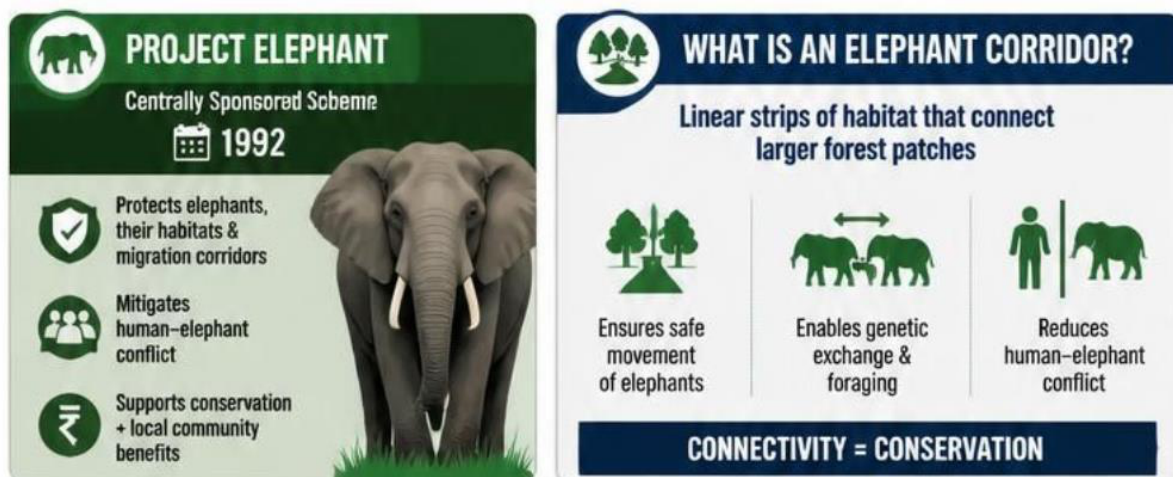
Elephant Corridors and Current Status

- Elephant corridors are **linear habitats connecting larger forest patches**, enabling elephants to move between feeding, breeding and seasonal habitats.
- They facilitate **genetic exchange**, access to resources and reduce human-elephant conflict by maintaining traditional movement routes.
- The **Elephant Corridors of India 2023** report identified **150 ground-validated corridors across 15 elephant-range States**, compared with 88 identified in 2010.
- **West Bengal** has the highest number of corridors, with **26**.
- Major regional concentration:
 - East-Central Region – **52**
 - North-East Region – **48**
 - Southern Region – **32**
 - Northern Region – **18**

Legal Protection and Conservation

- Elephants are listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, providing the highest level of protection.
- Project Elephant, launched in 1992, is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at protecting elephants, their habitats and corridors and reducing human-elephant conflict.

- Elephant corridors can receive legal protection as Conservation Reserves under Section 36A or Community Reserves under Section 36C of the Wildlife (Protection) Act.
- The Supreme Court has recognised the “Right of Passage” of elephants, including in the Sigur Plateau corridor case in Tamil Nadu.



Challenges and Way Forward

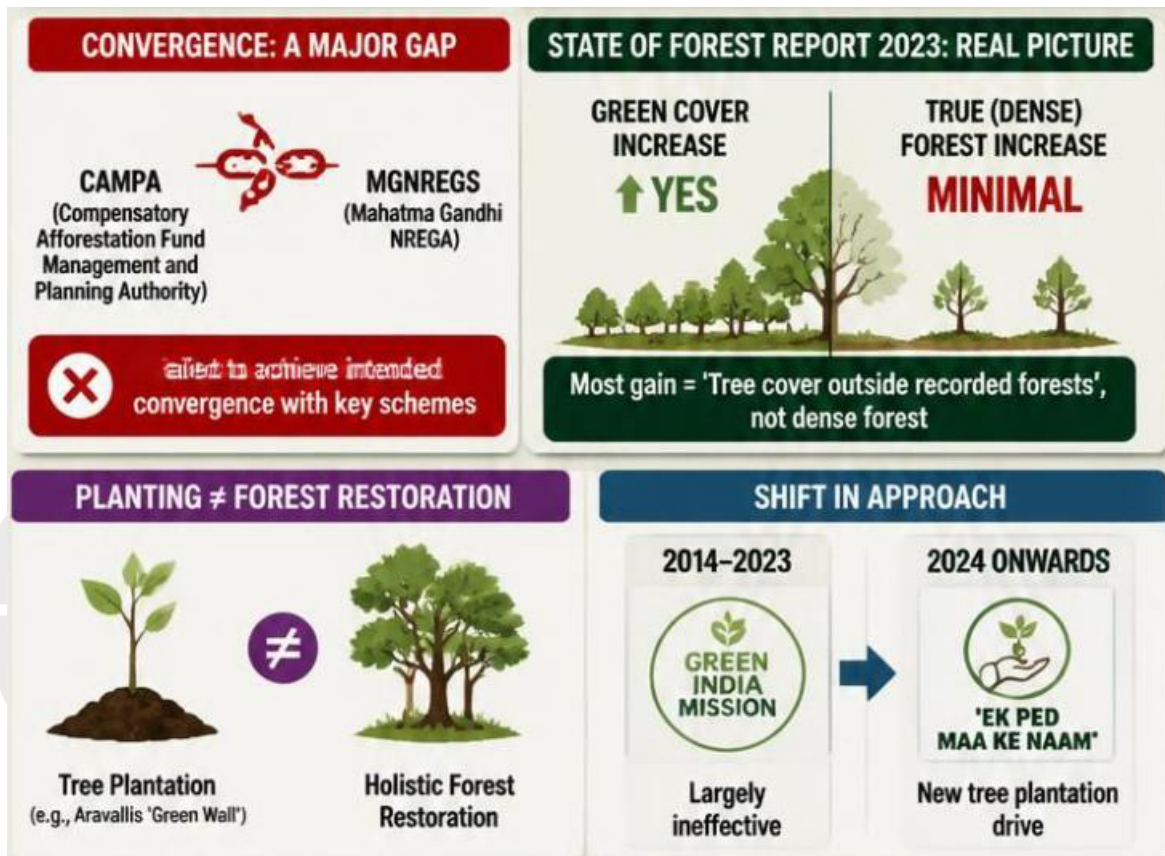
- Major threats include **railways and roads, agricultural expansion, habitat fragmentation, encroachment and electric fencing.**
- Human-elephant conflict causes significant losses of **human lives, crops, property and elephant populations.**
- Conservation requires maintaining **unobstructed corridors**, wildlife-friendly infrastructure and effective habitat connectivity.
- **Surakshya** supports real-time monitoring of human-elephant conflict.
- **Gajah Suchana** supports genetic database management of captive and wild elephants.
- **DNA-based monitoring** using dung samples is increasingly being used for more accurate elephant population assessment.
- The Supreme Court’s intervention reinforces the principle that **elephant movement corridors cannot be sacrificed solely to address short-term crop-damage concerns.**

4.Green India Mission (GIM)

Source: The Indian Express

Why in News?

- A CAG performance audit found major gaps in the implementation of the Green India Mission (GIM) over the past decade.
- The mission improved forest quality over only 0.11 million hectares, far below its target of 1.4 million hectares.
- The findings highlight the gap between tree plantation targets and actual forest ecosystem restoration.



About Green India Mission

- Officially called the National Mission for a Green India, it is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- Launched in 2014 and implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

- It adopts a landscape-based and community-oriented approach rather than focusing only on plantation.
- Key objectives include:
 - Increasing forest and tree cover by **5 million hectares**.
 - Improving the quality of existing forest cover over another **5 million hectares**.
 - Enhancing **biodiversity, water security and carbon sequestration**.
 - Supporting forest-based livelihoods of around **3 million households**.
- It contributes to India's Paris Agreement commitment to create an additional **carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030**.

CAG Findings and Key Concerns

- The CAG reported a 97.57% shortfall in increasing forest cover, with only 0.034 million hectares achieved against the 1.4 million hectare target for 2015–25.
- Forest quality improved over only 0.11 million hectares, representing a 91.87% shortfall.
- Around ₹1,019.26 crore had been released as of March 2026, indicating significant financial constraints.
- About 70% of sampled sites showed no noticeable changes attributable to GIM in GIS analysis.
- Poor convergence with schemes such as CAMPA and MGNREGS limited the mission's effectiveness.
- The audit highlights excessive focus on quantitative plantation rather than long-term ecosystem restoration.

Way Forward

- Forest restoration should focus on native biodiversity, ecosystem health and ecological connectivity, rather than simply increasing tree numbers.
- Improve convergence between GIM, CAMPA and MGNREGS and ensure adequate funding.
- Strengthen community participation through Gram Sabhas and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs).
- Use GIS, geo-tagging and remote sensing for transparent monitoring and outcome-based evaluation.

- Distinguish between forest cover and tree cover: forest cover generally refers to land over 1 hectare with tree canopy density above 10%, while tree cover includes smaller tree patches outside recorded forests.
- The broader focus should shift from “planting more trees” to restoring functioning forest ecosystems.

5.Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM))

Source: The Indian Express

Recent Development

- Kerala’s Health Department has issued an alert in Kozhikode following three consecutive cases of **Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)**.
- PAM is a rare but severe infection affecting the brain and the membranes surrounding it.

Cause and Transmission

- PAM is caused by **Naegleria fowleri**, commonly known as the “brain-eating amoeba”.
- It is a free-living amoeba found mainly in **warm freshwater and soil**.
- Infection occurs when contaminated water enters the body through the **nose**, particularly during swimming, diving or jumping into freshwater.
- The amoeba can travel through the nasal passages to the brain and meninges.
- Potential sources include warm shallow freshwater, poorly maintained swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

Types of Amoebic Encephalitis

- **Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM):** Mainly caused by *Naegleria fowleri*. It progresses rapidly and can become fatal within days.
- **Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis (GAE):** Usually associated with *Acanthamoeba* species and *Balamuthia mandrillaris*. It generally develops more slowly but can also be fatal.

Symptoms and Treatment

- Common symptoms include headache, high fever, nausea, vomiting, sore throat, forehead pain and hallucinations.
- PAM has a mortality rate of more than 95% and predominantly affects young, otherwise active individuals.

- Early diagnosis and rapid treatment with appropriate antimicrobial combinations may improve the chances of survival, although recovery remains rare.

Prelims Fact

- **Naegleria fowleri → PAM**
- **Acanthamoeba / Balamuthia mandrillaris → GAE**
- **Transmission → Water enters through the nose**
- **It is not generally transmitted by drinking contaminated water.**

