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KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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03 SEPTEMBER 2026

---THURSDAY---



Kolkata Topper

VAISHNA BISWAS

AIR - 367 | CSE 2025

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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



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OUR
MISSION.

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WE ACHIEVE
THE EXTRA
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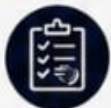


Converting Possibilities into Reality

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Global Coral Reefs Under Stress
2. Semicon 2.0
3. After Q1 Surprise, Economists Hike FY27 GDP Growth Outlook
4. Larak Island

1. Global Coral Reefs Under Stress

Source: Down To Earth

Why in News?

The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) released the 7th Status of Coral Reefs of the World report, highlighting increasingly frequent coral bleaching, a decline in global hard coral cover and shrinking recovery periods between major disturbances.

What is Coral Bleaching?

- Coral bleaching is a physiological stress response caused by sustained thermal or environmental stress.
- Corals expel their endosymbiotic photosynthetic microalgae, called zooxanthellae.
- Loss of zooxanthellae causes corals to lose their colour and primary nutrient supply, turning white.
- Prolonged bleaching can expose corals to starvation, disease and mortality.

Key Data and Statistics

Indicator	Finding
Global hard coral cover	Declined by about 9.5% from the 1980–2009 reference baseline
2023–24 decline	8.9% fall in global hard coral cover
Heat stress in 2024	87% of monitored reefs experienced unprecedented heat anomalies
Extreme mortality thresholds	42.6% exposed in 2024
Recovery interval	Major disturbances now recur every 4–6 years
Repeated heat stress	Over 25% of global reef area experienced >4°C-weeks on at least four occasions during 2019–2025

Major Global Coral Bleaching Events

- 1998–99
- 2010–11
- 2016–17
- 2023–25

Each major cycle resulted in substantial relative losses in global hard coral cover.

Majorly Affected Regions

- **Caribbean Basin:** Hard coral cover has fallen to an average of around 1%.
- **Mesoamerican Barrier Reef:** Major mortality of keystone reef-building Acropora species has been recorded.
- **ROPME Sea Area:** Includes the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman; severe thermal stress caused major coral-cover losses.
- **Indo-Pacific and Great Barrier Reef:** Repeated bleaching has placed major biodiversity hotspots under stress.

Key Drivers

1. Marine Heatwaves and Sea-Surface Warming

- Rising sea-surface temperatures are the primary driver of mass coral bleaching.
- Average sea-surface temperatures across global reef provinces increased by about 0.81°C between 1985 and 2025.

2. Ocean Acidification

- Increased atmospheric CO₂ absorption lowers ocean carbonate saturation.
- This weakens calcium carbonate skeleton formation and reduces coral calcification.

3. Coastal Pollution

- Urbanisation, port dredging, destructive bottom-trawling and untreated municipal runoff add stress to coral ecosystems.
- Nutrient and sediment pollution can encourage macroalgal growth.

4. Ecological Phase Shift

- Following coral mortality, fleshy macroalgae can colonise exposed reef surfaces.
- This can inhibit coral larval settlement and delay reef recovery.

5. Population Fragmentation

- Declining coral populations become increasingly isolated.
- This can reduce successful cross-fertilisation and genetic diversity during spawning.

Ecological Significance

- Coral reefs are major centres of marine biodiversity.
- They support fisheries and coastal livelihoods.
- They provide protection to coastal communities from waves and storm impacts.
- Their degradation can trigger cascading impacts across marine ecosystems.

Way Forward

Global Climate Action

- Strengthen emission reductions and efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
- Reducing marine heat stress is essential because local conservation alone cannot prevent climate-driven bleaching.

Marine Protected Areas

- Expand effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- Align coral conservation with the 30×30 target under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Climate-Resilient Coral Restoration

- Scale coral nurseries, micro-fragmentation and larval propagation.
- Promote research on thermally resilient corals.

Reduce Coastal Pollution

- Control industrial and municipal wastewater discharge.
- Restore mangroves and seagrass ecosystems as natural buffers against sediments and pollutants.

Dynamic Ocean Management

- Use real-time oceanographic and satellite information to manage fishing, shipping and tourism during marine heatwaves.

UPSC Prelims Question

Q. With reference to coral bleaching, consider the following statements:

1. Coral bleaching involves the expulsion of symbiotic photosynthetic microalgae from coral tissues.
2. Ocean warming is an important trigger of mass coral bleaching.
3. Ocean acidification can affect the formation of calcium carbonate skeletons in corals.
4. Coral bleaching always results in immediate death of the coral colony.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

UPSC Mains Question

Q. Coral reefs are increasingly threatened by the combined effects of climate change and local anthropogenic pressures. Discuss the major drivers of coral reef degradation and suggest measures for their conservation and climate resilience.

2.Semicon 2.0

Source: Indian Express

Why in News?

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the operational framework for the ₹1.27 lakh crore Semicon 2.0 programme, aimed at strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem and technological self-reliance.

What is Semicon 2.0?

- Semicon 2.0, or India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, is a comprehensive national policy framework and financial incentive programme.
- It is structured around 6 pillars and 10 categories.
- It covers the semiconductor value chain from chip design and fabrication to packaging, equipment, materials, R&D and skilled manpower.

Nodal Organisations

- **Nodal Agency:** India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), under MeitY.
- **Design & Technical Partner:** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

Aim

- Promote Indian-owned semiconductor IP.
- Encourage fabless chip design.
- Increase adoption of domestically developed chips.
- Localise semiconductor supply chains.
- Strengthen India's position in global electronics manufacturing.
- Build technological self-reliance.

Key Features

1. Chip-Design Tracks

Strategic Track	Commercial Track
C-DAC funds and co-owns IPs/SoCs.	Provides access to EDA tools and MPW services.
Focus on national security, defence, compute, memory, RF and sensors.	Provides milestone-linked seed funding for startups/MSMEs.
Supports strategically important semiconductor technologies.	Seed funding up to ₹15 crore or 50% of project cost.
	Royalty financing for larger firms.
	Eligibility extended to OCI-owned enterprises incorporated in India.

2. Deployment-Linked Incentive (DLI)

- Provides reimbursement of 9% of net sales for 5 years.
- Applies to newly launched Indian IP cores, chips and SoCs.
- Capped at ₹30 crore per application and ₹120 crore per company.
- Intended to help startups overcome barriers to commercial adoption.

3. Fiscal Support for Fabs and Packaging

Activity	Fiscal Support
Large 300-mm silicon wafer fabs	40%
Compound semiconductor, photonics, MEMS, sensor and display fabs	35%
Advanced 2.5D/3D packaging	35%
Legacy ATMP/OSAT units	25%

- Large 300-mm silicon wafer fabs require a minimum investment of ₹20,000 crore.

4. Supply-Chain Localisation

- Provides 30% capex support for manufacturing:
 - Wafers
 - Photomasks
 - Photoresists
 - Substrates
 - Specialty gases
 - Semiconductor equipment
- A tapering 10% to 2% PLI over five years is provided on domestically sourced bills of materials.

5. Talent and R&D Development

- Supports advanced semiconductor R&D and clean-room training infrastructure.
- Provides support of up to 75% of project cost.
- Targets training an additional 1,00,000 semiconductor engineers.
- Universities and tier-II/III technical colleges are included in the expanded talent-development effort.

UPSC Prelims Question

Q. With reference to Semicon 2.0, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented through the India Semiconductor Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

2. It covers only semiconductor fabrication and does not include chip design or packaging.
3. The Deployment-Linked Incentive provides reimbursement linked to net sales of newly launched Indian IP cores, chips and SoCs.
4. The programme provides support for semiconductor R&D and talent development.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 3 and 4 only

UPSC Mains Question

Q. Semicon 2.0 seeks to transform India from a semiconductor consumer into a technologically self-reliant participant across the semiconductor value chain. Discuss its major features and assess its significance for India's strategic and economic security.

3.After Q1 Surprise, Economists Hike FY27 GDP Growth Outlook

Source: The Hindu

Context:

India recorded a stronger-than-expected real GDP growth of 7.8% in Q1 FY2026-27, prompting economists to raise their full-year growth forecasts. The development has implications for investment, monetary policy, inflation and fiscal management.

Why in News?

- India's GDP grew by 7.8% in the April–June quarter of FY2026-27.
- Economists have raised the FY27 growth forecast to around 7.2%, from the earlier 6.7%.
- The growth performance has been stronger than earlier expectations and has increased optimism about India's economic momentum.
- Manufacturing and investment activity have emerged as important drivers of growth.

Key Highlights

- Q1 FY27 GDP growth: 7.8%.
- Revised consensus FY27 GDP growth forecast: 7.2%.
- Earlier forecast: 6.7%.
- RBI's initial FY27 growth projection: 6.7%.
- Strong manufacturing and investment activity supported the growth performance.
- The economy has recorded growth above 7% in recent years, according to the source.

Factors Behind Strong Growth

- Manufacturing activity remained robust.
- Investment activity strengthened, indicating the possibility of a broader capital expenditure cycle.
- Continued domestic economic activity supported overall growth.
- Repeated positive surprises relative to market expectations have improved the growth outlook.

Risks to Growth:

- Unfavourable base effects could moderate the headline growth rate.
- Higher crude oil prices could increase import costs and inflationary pressures.
- Sub-par rainfall may adversely affect agricultural output and rural demand.
- Weak external demand could constrain exports.
- Fiscal consolidation and adherence to the fiscal-deficit target may influence aggregate demand.

Inflation–Growth Policy Dilemma:

- Stronger growth provides greater room for investment and employment generation.
- However, rising retail inflation can complicate monetary policy decisions.
- Retail inflation increased to 4.45% in July, above the RBI's medium-term target of 4%.
- The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee therefore faces the challenge of balancing growth support with price stability.

Capital Expenditure and Growth:

- Strong investment activity may indicate the beginning of a capex up-cycle.

- Public capital expenditure can crowd in private investment by improving infrastructure and reducing logistics and transaction costs.
- Sustained private investment is important for converting short-term GDP momentum into durable economic growth.

Significance for India:

- Higher growth strengthens India's position among major emerging economies.
- Sustained investment can support employment, productivity and manufacturing capacity.
- Strong domestic demand can reduce vulnerability to weak global demand.
- However, high GDP growth needs to translate into broad-based improvements in employment, household incomes and living standards.

Evaluation:

- The 7.8% Q1 growth rate is encouraging, but one quarter's performance should not be treated as evidence of permanently higher potential growth.
- The quality and sustainability of growth matter as much as the headline GDP figure.
- India needs to ensure that investment-led growth is accompanied by employment generation and stronger consumption.
- Maintaining macroeconomic stability requires balancing growth ambitions with inflation and fiscal consolidation.
- External shocks, especially crude oil prices and weak global demand, remain important risks.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question:

Q1. With reference to India's GDP growth, consider the following statements:

1. India's GDP growth in Q1 FY2026-27 was 7.8%.
2. Economists revised India's FY27 growth forecast upward from 6.7% to 7.2%.
3. The RBI had initially projected FY27 GDP growth at 7.2%.
4. Strong manufacturing and investment activity contributed to the recent growth performance.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

UPSC Mains Practice Question:

Q. India's recent high GDP growth reflects strong manufacturing and investment activity, but sustaining this momentum requires balancing growth with inflation control, fiscal consolidation and external-sector risks. Discuss. (15 marks, 250 words)

4.Larak Island

Source: PIB

Context

- The United States carried out precision strikes on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz after detecting IRGC personnel preparing to launch rockets carrying naval sea mines into the waterway.

About Larak Island

- Larak Island, also known as Lark Island, is a small Iranian island located in the Strait of Hormuz.
- It lies off Bandar Abbas, east of Qeshm Island and south of Hormuz Island.
- It is strategically located close to the narrow shipping lanes connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
- The island is governed by Iran and serves as a strategic maritime outpost.



Geographical Features

- Larak is geologically a salt plug or salt diapir, formed through halokinesis, where underground salt deposits rise through overlying sedimentary layers.
- Its terrain is arid and rugged, with hills rising up to about 138 m.
- Major surface materials include rock salt, sandstone and iron oxide.
- The main settlement is Larak Shahri.

Ecological and Historical Features

- The island is surrounded by diverse coral reef ecosystems of the Persian Gulf.
- About 37 species of stony corals have been documented around the island.
- It has historic Portuguese fortifications dating to the 16th century.
- Modern infrastructure includes lighthouses and military installations.

Strategic Importance

- Its location near the narrowest shipping lanes of the Strait of Hormuz gives it major strategic importance for monitoring maritime traffic.
- It can potentially be used to monitor or disrupt oil shipments passing through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The island has been associated with IRGC military infrastructure, including missile systems, anti-ship systems and naval mine-laying capabilities.

Strait of Hormuz

- It is the maritime passage connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- Iran lies to its north, while Oman and the UAE lie to its south.
- It is one of the world's most important maritime chokepoints, particularly for global oil and energy transportation.