



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. Amazon Fires in Brazil Reach Historic Low (2025)
2. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026
3. Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project
4. Nuclear Energy Mission (NEM) for Viksit Bharat
5. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) & Overuse of 'Watch' Antibiotics in India

1. Amazon Fires in Brazil Reach Historic Low (2025)

Why in News?

According to **MapBiomas**, fires in **Brazil's Amazon Rainforest** declined to **3.1 million hectares in 2025**, the **lowest since records began in 1985**. The decline is attributed to **reduced deforestation, delayed rains, and stronger conservation efforts**.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Report	MapBiomas
Burnt Area (2025)	3.1 million hectares (Lowest since 1985)
Main Causes	Reduced deforestation, delayed rainy season, community vigilance
Brazil's Target	Zero Deforestation by 2030

About the Amazon Rainforest

Feature	Details
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Location	Spans 9 South American countries ; Brazil holds ~60%
Area	~6 million sq. km
Major River	Amazon River (Largest by discharge volume)
Climate	Equatorial
Biodiversity	Home to 13% of the world's known species

Ecological Significance

- **World's largest tropical rainforest** and a major **carbon sink**, storing carbon equivalent to **15–20 years of global CO₂ emissions**.
- Generates "**Flying Rivers**" through evapotranspiration, influencing rainfall across South America.
- Regulates the **global carbon and water cycles**.
- Supports rich biodiversity and millions of indigenous people.

UPSC Fact: The Amazon is more important as a **carbon sink and water recycler** than as the "**Lungs of the Earth**."

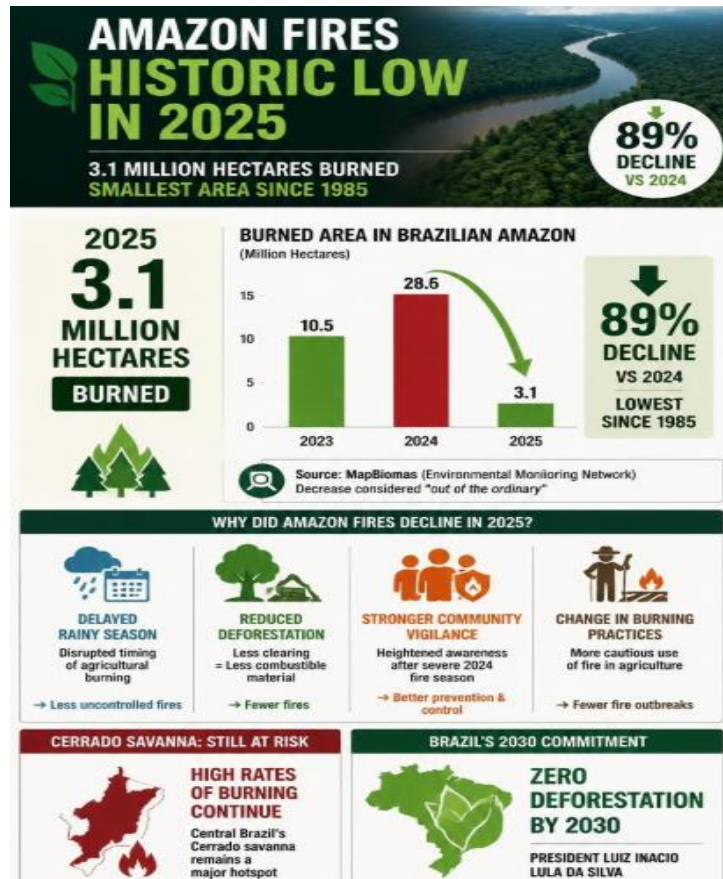
Why Did Fires Decline?

- **Reduced deforestation**, lowering combustible biomass.
- **Delayed rainy season**, disrupting agricultural burning.
- **Improved monitoring and conservation efforts**.
- **Greater community awareness** after the severe 2024 fire season.

Challenges

- Continued **illegal logging and agricultural expansion**.
- Increasing **climate change-induced droughts and fires**.
- High fire incidence in the **Cerrado** (Brazil's tropical savanna).

- Risk of crossing the **Amazon Tipping Point**, where **20–25% forest loss** may irreversibly convert large areas into savanna.



UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Amazon Rainforest:

1. It extends across nine South American countries.
2. The Amazon River is the world's largest river by discharge volume.
3. "Flying Rivers" are generated through evapotranspiration from the Amazon forest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

Discuss the ecological significance of the Amazon Rainforest and examine the major threats to its conservation in the context of climate change. (150 words)

2.Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026

Why in News?

The **Press Information Bureau (PIB)** clarified provisions of the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** after concerns were raised by minority institutions regarding the proposed '**Designated Authority**' for managing assets created through foreign contributions.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Bill	Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026
Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
Introduced	25 March 2026
New Provision	Creation of a Designated Authority
Purpose	Management of assets created from foreign funds when FCRA registration is suspended, cancelled or not renewed

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

- **Enacted: 1976** (replaced by the **FCRA, 2010**).
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Objective:** Regulate the acceptance and utilization of **foreign contributions** to ensure they do not adversely affect **India's sovereignty, integrity, security, public interest, or democratic institutions**.

Key Provisions of the 2026 Amendment Bill

- Establishes a **Designated Authority** to temporarily manage assets created from foreign contributions.
- Applies where an NGO's FCRA registration is **suspended, cancelled, surrendered, or not renewed**.
- The authority has **powers similar to a Civil Court** for management, transfer, or sale of assets.
- **Orders are appealable** before the **District Judge**.
- If FCRA registration is restored, **assets will be returned** to the organisation.
- **Places of worship retain their religious character**; only foreign-funded assets are subject to management.

2026 Rules – Important Changes

- **FCRA registration is valid for 5 years**; renewal must be sought **6 months before expiry**.
- NGOs must demonstrate **reasonable activity** by utilizing at least **₹10 lakh** of foreign contribution during the previous **two financial years**.
- Greater disclosure requirements and stricter compliance norms.

Significance

- Enhances **transparency and accountability** in the utilization of foreign funds.
- Prevents misuse of assets created through foreign contributions.
- Protects public assets while ensuring **judicial review through appeals**.
- Strengthens the regulatory framework governing foreign-funded organisations.

Way Forward

- Ensure **transparent and time-bound implementation** of the new provisions.
- Strengthen safeguards against arbitrary action.
- Balance **national security concerns** with the autonomy of genuine civil society organisations.

UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. With reference to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for implementing the FCRA.
2. The FCRA regulates the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions by specified entities.
3. The FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 proposes a **Designated Authority** to manage assets created from foreign contributions when registration ceases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

Discuss the objectives of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). Examine the significance and concerns associated with the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026.

3. Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project

Why in News?

A **suspected methane gas explosion** inside the **Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project** tunnel in **Sikkim** killed **15 workers**. An earlier **NHPC technical paper (EUROENGEO 2024)** had already documented repeated incidents of **flammable gas and tunnel fires** at the project site.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Project	Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project

Capacity	500 MW (Run-of-the-River Project)
River	Teesta River
Location	Sikkim
Executing Agency	NHPC Ltd.
Incident	Suspected methane gas explosion in July 2026

About Teesta Stage-VI Project

- **500 MW Run-of-the-River (RoR)** hydropower project on the **Teesta River**.
- Originally allotted to **Lanco Teesta Hydro Power Ltd.** and later acquired by **NHPC** under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** in **2019**.
- Sikkim receives **12% free power** for the first 15 years and **15% thereafter** as royalty.

Why are Himalayan Tunnels Vulnerable?

- Young and **geologically unstable Himalayan mountains**.
- Presence of **fractured rocks** such as **quartzite and carbon-rich phyllite**.
- Emission of **methane gas** from rock strata during tunnelling.
- Located in **Seismic Zone IV**, making tunnels prone to collapses and geological surprises.

Prelims Fact: Methane becomes explosive when its concentration exceeds the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) of about 5% in air.

Concerns

- Worker safety due to **flammable gases and tunnel collapses**.
- Inadequate geological risk assessment and monitoring.
- Challenges in rescue operations due to **toxic gases and confined tunnels**.
- Fragile Himalayan ecology and seismic vulnerability affecting infrastructure projects.

Way Forward

- Strengthen **geological investigations** before tunnel excavation.
- Install **real-time methane and toxic gas monitoring systems**.
- Adopt international standards for **mine and tunnel safety**.

- Enhance disaster preparedness and emergency response mechanisms in Himalayan infrastructure projects.

UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project:

1. It is a **Run-of-the-River** hydropower project.
2. It is located on the **Teesta River** in Sikkim.
3. The project is being developed by **NHPC Ltd.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

The Himalayan region presents unique geological challenges for infrastructure development. Discuss with reference to the Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project.

4.Nuclear Energy Mission (NEM) for Viksit Bharat

Why in News?

In a reply to a **Parliament Question**, the Government highlighted the progress of the **Nuclear Energy Mission (NEM)**, which aims to achieve **100 GWe of nuclear power capacity by 2047** and accelerate the deployment of **indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Mission	Nuclear Energy Mission (NEM)

Announced	Union Budget 2025–26
Target	100 GWe nuclear capacity by 2047
Current Capacity	8.78 GWe
Projected Capacity (2031-32)	~22 GWe
Long-term Goal	Support Viksit Bharat & Net Zero by 2070

Key Features of the Mission

- Target to operationalize **at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** by **2033**.
- **SHANTI Act, 2025** provides the legislative framework for expansion of the nuclear sector.
- Enables participation of **Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), State Governments and Private Sector**.
- **NPCIL** will develop **32 GWe** beyond 2032, while the remaining capacity will come through other implementation models.

Indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

SMR	Capacity	Purpose
BSMR-200	220 MWe	Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR)
SMR-55	55 MWe	Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR)
HTGCR	Up to 5 MWth	Hydrogen production through nuclear heat

Proposed Sites: Tarapur (Maharashtra) for **BSMR-200 & SMR-55**; **BARC, Vizag** for **HTGCR**.

Significance

- Enhances **India's energy security** and reduces dependence on fossil fuels.
- Supports the **Net Zero 2070** target through clean baseload power.
- Promotes **indigenous nuclear technology** and innovation.
- Facilitates **green hydrogen production** using nuclear heat.
- Encourages **private sector participation** in nuclear energy.

Safety & Regulatory Framework

- **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** functions as the independent regulator under the **SHANTI Act, 2025**.
- Radioactive waste is managed under the **Atomic Energy (Safe Disposal of Radioactive Wastes) Rules, 1987**.
- Nuclear safety remains a priority from **site selection to plant operation**.

Way Forward

- Accelerate deployment of indigenous **SMRs**.
- Strengthen domestic manufacturing and nuclear supply chains.
- Expand public-private partnerships.
- Maintain robust safety, security and waste management standards.

UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. With reference to the Nuclear Energy Mission (NEM), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to achieve **100 GWe** of nuclear power capacity by 2047.
2. The mission envisages operationalizing at least **five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033**.
3. The **SHANTI Act, 2025** facilitates private sector participation in India's nuclear energy sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

Discuss the significance of the Nuclear Energy Mission in achieving India's energy security and climate goals. Highlight the role of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in this mission.

5. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) & Overuse of 'Watch' Antibiotics in India

Why in News?

A study published in **The Lancet Public Health** found that **India is overusing 'Watch' antibiotics**, increasing the risk of **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**. The study called for greater use of first-line '**Access**' antibiotics and stricter stewardship.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Study	<i>The Lancet Public Health</i>
India's Antibiotic Consumption	18.3 DID (Defined Daily Doses per 1,000 people/day)
Ideal Requirement	14.7 DID
Access Antibiotics	27% of total use (Ideal: 52.3%)
NCDC Survey (2021–22)	55% of hospital prescriptions were 'Watch' antibiotics

WHO AWaRe Classification of Antibiotics

Category	Purpose
Access	First-line antibiotics for common infections; should be widely available and preferred.
Watch	Broad-spectrum antibiotics with higher risk of developing resistance; use should be restricted.
Reserve	Last-resort antibiotics for multidrug-resistant (MDR) infections.

Key Concerns

- Excessive use of '**Watch**' antibiotics accelerates **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**.
- Only **6%** of prescriptions were based on **microbiological evidence**.
- High use of antibiotics for **prophylaxis** rather than treatment.
- Irrational prescribing, duplicate antibiotic coverage and overuse of injectable antibiotics.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

- **AMR** occurs when **bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites** become resistant to antimicrobial medicines.
- Leads to prolonged illness, treatment failure, increased healthcare costs and higher mortality.
- Recognized as a major **One Health** challenge affecting **human, animal and environmental health**.

Government Initiatives

- **National Action Plan on AMR (NAP-AMR) 2025–2029** based on the **One Health** approach.
- **ICMR AMR Surveillance Network** for monitoring resistance patterns.
- **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** antimicrobial surveillance.
- Promotion of **Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)** programmes in hospitals.

Way Forward

- Promote rational prescription of **Access antibiotics**.
- Strengthen **Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)** and microbiological testing.
- Regulate over-the-counter sale of antibiotics.
- Enhance public awareness and surveillance under the **One Health** framework.

UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. With reference to the WHO AWaRe classification of antibiotics, consider the following statements:

1. **Access** antibiotics are recommended as first-line treatment for common infections.
2. **Watch** antibiotics have a higher potential for developing antimicrobial resistance.
3. **Reserve** antibiotics are intended for treatment of multidrug-resistant infections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) has emerged as a major public health challenge in India. Discuss the causes of AMR and evaluate the role of antimicrobial stewardship in addressing the problem.

