



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

2nd August 2025



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services



9560300770



www.tathastuics.com



support@tathastuics.com

HEAD OFFICE: 53/1, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BADA BAZAR ROAD,
OLD RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110060



2nd August 2025

Mains Manthan

- The fact is mangrove drive business (Page No - 06)
- Deep ties (Page No - 06)

Prelims Saarthi

- Election process of Vice President
- USA imposed 25 percent tariffs on India

1. The fact is mangrove drive business

Why in News?

- Role of Mangroves in Climate Education

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Environment & Ecology

The fact is mangroves drive business

Mangroves have, historically, been on the margins of planning and policy priorities in spite of their vital role in anchoring coastal economies and protecting millions from climate extremes. Their loss is not just an environmental concern. Their loss erodes natural infrastructure that acts as a buffer for urban coastlines, underpins fisheries, and quietly contributes billions in ecosystem services and avoided damages.

As the world grapples with extreme weather events and rising sea levels, blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves are critical to climate and economic resilience. Yet, their value rarely features in balance sheets or policy frameworks. How can businesses, governments, and communities reimagine these ecosystems as active drivers of sustainable growth and security? Three pillars of our work through the Mangrove Coalition offer ideas for the path forward.

Mapping with technology

First, embracing technology can help us better understand the value of "Natural Capital". Satellite and drone data with advanced geospatial Artificial Intelligence algorithms have improved accurate mangrove mapping and blue carbon quantification. This is crucial for informing policies and restoration efforts. The economic and ecosystem services valuation of mangroves ranges from ₹3,535 million in Pichavaram (Tamil Nadu) to ₹664 billion in the Sundarbans (West Bengal). Carbon sequestration alone is valued at ₹462 million per year in the Sundarbans, reflecting the ecological and economic importance of this habitat. Communities that possess deep knowledge of mangrove ecosystems

Madhav Pai

is the CEO of WRI India

Soumya Swaminathan

is the Chair of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation

Sejal Worah

is the Programme Director of WWF India

It is unfortunate that the value of blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves rarely features in balance sheets or policy frameworks

and rely on them for their livelihoods, must be prioritised and equitably benefited – socially and economically.

Involving communities

Second, community-led conservation efforts are key to strengthening symbiotic and mutually respectful relationships of people and nature. Fisherfolk especially value the role of mangroves as nurseries for juvenile fish. Healthy mangroves often translate into robust fish stocks, ensuring sustainable catch. The livelihoods of these coastal communities are intrinsically linked to the quality of mangrove and estuarine systems.

In dense urban settings such as Mumbai and Chennai, mangroves are often distressed, polluted and degraded. Since they are unable to support flourishing biodiversity, coastal livelihoods and socio-cultural interdependencies are compromised. However, when communities directly experience the benefits (more fish, cleaner air, protected homes) and are empowered to make decisions about their local environment, they become effective and enduring stewards. Mangroves and other coastal ecosystems can also create opportunities for alternative livelihoods such as aquaculture, beekeeping and eco-tourism. Integrated ownership models such as Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) or Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) can be translated for urban mangroves.

Third, citizen science can engage stakeholders to generate wonder and investment in this undervalued ecosystem and mobilise collective action for conservation. When community members from varied backgrounds are skilled to

understand and monitor ecosystems, this can either supplement existing assessment efforts or substitute for formal monitoring. Mangrove health is intertwined with the vitality of associated ecosystems and wetlands, and the health of rivers from source to the sea, as they contribute freshwater, sediments and biota. Regular monitoring can provide a good indication of how the system is faring.

Platforms can play a pivotal role

Key components of a mangrove health tool should include indicators around changes in mangrove area; quantity, quality and timing of freshwater flows; avian, floral, molluscan and fish diversity; and, crucially, community dependence and a perception of the ecosystem services. Such assessments can provide key insights to support management actions. Engagement platforms such as "Mangrove Mitras" or Friends of Mangroves can open avenues for urban citizens and local communities to engage constructively in the conservation of mangroves. This could help to rebuild a people-wetland-river-mangrove connection through an immersive experience on the magical value of mangroves.

Sustainable stewardship is not a top-down mandate but a symbiotic relationship where mangrove health and people's well-being are mutually reinforcing. Policymakers and businesses must recognise mangroves as vital climate and economic infrastructure rather than mere biodiversity zones. Protecting and restoring these ecosystems demands a coalition where science, business and community voices work in harmony – each bringing unique strengths to secure their future.





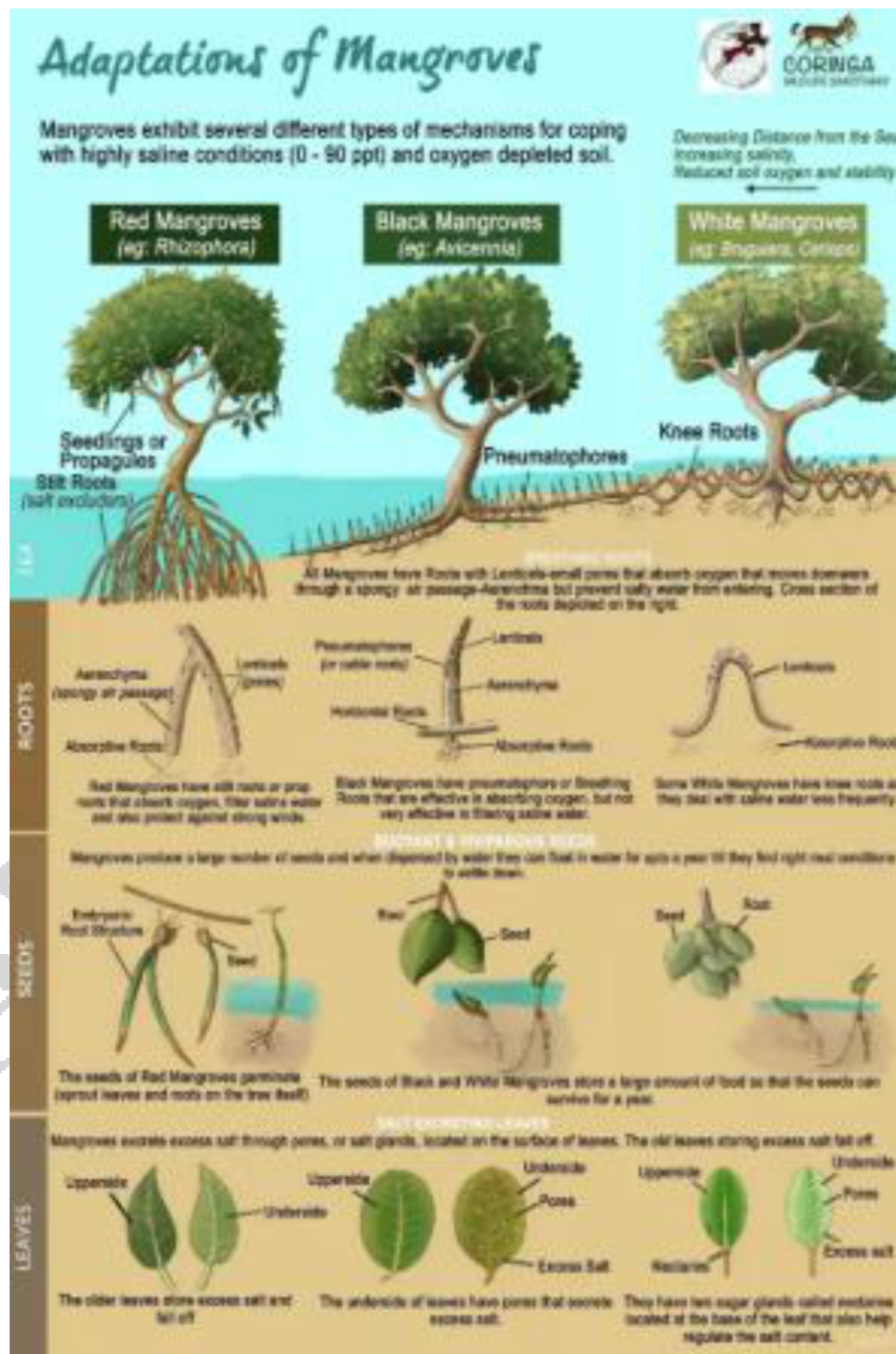
Key Takeaways from the Article

- **Ecological and Economic Importance of Mangroves:**
 - ◆ Mangroves are essential in **coastal protection**, providing a buffer against **sealevel rise**, **storm surges**, and **climate extremes**.
 - ◆ They contribute significantly to **biodiversity**, acting as **nurseries** for fish and other marine species. They also generate billions in **ecosystem services** and **avoided damages**.



● **Technology in Mangrove Conservation:**

- ◆ **Satellite and drone mapping** using **AI algorithms** have improved the ability to quantify **blue carbon** and assess the value of mangroves, with specific examples from **Pichavaram** and **Sundarbans**.
- ◆ The **carbon sequestration potential** in regions like the **Sundarbans** is valued at **₹462 million per year**, underscoring their importance for both the environment and the economy.





• Community-Led Conservation:

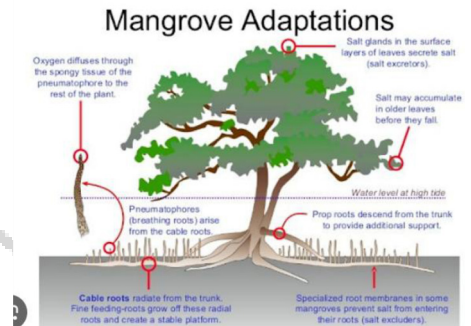
- ♦ **Fisherfolk** are central to mangrove health, as **mangroves** serve as critical habitats for **juvenile fish**.
- ♦ Communities must be **empowered** to manage their local ecosystems, especially in **urban mangroves** that are often **polluted** and **degraded**.
- ♦ **Alternative livelihoods** like **aquaculture**, **beekeeping**, and **eco-tourism** can be promoted to sustain both mangrove ecosystems and coastal communities.

• Citizen Science for Conservation:

- ♦ **Citizen engagement** in mangrove monitoring can supplement formal assessments, increasing the participation of **local communities** in **ecosystem health monitoring**.
- ♦ Tools like **Mangrove Mitras** and platforms for **community-based monitoring** can foster **collective action** and support sustainable stewardship of mangroves.

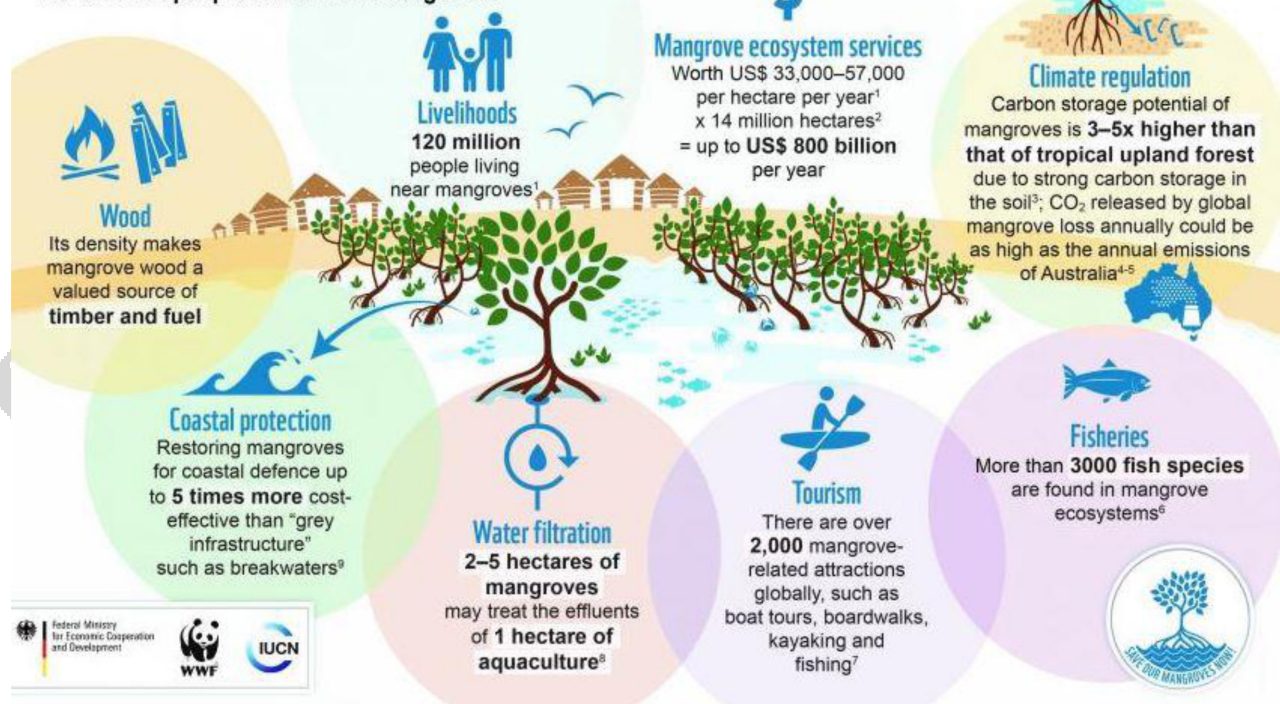
• Policy and Business Engagement:

- ♦ **Mangroves** should be recognized not only as **biodiversity zones** but also as **climate and economic infrastructure** that support broader societal goals.
- ♦ Policymakers and businesses should integrate mangroves into **climate action plans** and **economic models**, recognizing their dual value as **ecosystem protectors** and **economic assets**.



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The benefits people derive from mangroves





Prelims PYQs (2023)

Q. Which one of the following is the best example of repeated falls in sea level, giving rise to present-day extensive marshland?

- (a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
- (b) Marakkanam Salt Pans
- (c) Naupada Swamp
- (d) Rann of Kutch

Prelims PYQs (2013)

Q. Which one of the following is the correct sequence of ecosystems in the order of decreasing productivity? (2013)

- (a) Oceans, lakes, grasslands, mangroves
- (b) Mangroves, oceans, grasslands, lakes
- (c) Mangroves, grasslands, lakes, oceans
- (d) Oceans, mangroves, lakes, grasslands

Prelims PYQs (2017)

Q. If you want to see gharials in their natural habitat, which one of the following is the best place to visit? (2017)

- (a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
- (b) Chambal River
- (c) Pulicat Lake
- (d) Deepor Beel

Prelims PYQs (2011)

Q. The 2004 Tsunami made people realize that mangroves can serve as a reliable safety hedge against coastal calamities. How do mangroves function as a safety hedge? (2011)

- (a) The mangrove swamps separate the human settlements from the sea by a wide zone in which people neither live nor venture out
- (b) The mangroves provide both food and medicines which people are in need of after any natural disaster.
- (c) The mangrove trees are tall with dense canopies and serve as an excellent shelter during a cyclone or tsunami
- (d) The mangrove trees do not get uprooted by storms and tides because of their extensive roots

2. Deep ties

Why in News?

- India & its neighbourhood policy

Syllabus

- **GS Paper 2** – International Relations





Deep ties

India needs to engage its neighbours more closely

P rime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Maldives last week, after an invitation by Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu to be a special guest for the country's 60th Independence Day, signalled the full return of relations to the closeness they held during the previous Ibrahim Solih government. Although the two leaders had not gotten off to the best start in 2023, after Mr. Muizzu's surprise win, backed by an "India Out" campaign – this was followed by a "Boycott Maldives" social media campaign in India – they have been on the mend for the past year. During Mr. Muizzu's 2024 state visit to India, India had announced measures including lines of credit and a currency swap arrangement to support the Maldives during its economic troubles. Mr. Muizzu reflected gratitude when he described India's role in the Maldives as "pivotal" and Mr. Modi reciprocated the warmth. India announced a line of credit worth \$565 million (₹4,850 crore) and reduced the annual debt burden for Maldives on previous Indian lines of credit by 40%. There was also the launch of India-Maldives Free Trade Agreement negotiations, which will be a significant driver of future engagement. There was the signing too of MoUs for cooperation in fisheries, meteorological sciences, digital solutions and pharma, as well as a digital and rupee-rufiyaa national currency payments agreement. Over the past six decades, India has cultivated a strong security partnership with the Maldives, including trilateral national security consultations with Sri Lanka, and it is significant that after Mr. Modi's visit, Mr. Muizzu welcomed Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake for a state visit.

The Maldives visit was also a reaffirmation of the importance of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, at a time when Indian foreign policy is facing headwinds linked to the U.S.'s trade tariffs and the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. The conflict with Pakistan after the Pahalgam attacks, and tensions with Bangladesh have engaged the government's attention. New Delhi has also been preoccupied with reaching out to different countries, following Operation Sindoor, but did not send delegations to neighbouring countries. It is heartening that New Delhi is preparing to welcome Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, who has not been invited to India since he took office a year ago. A commemorative stamp by the Maldives for its national day celebrations showed traditional Indian and Maldives boats, which Mr. Modi described as a reflection of India and the Maldives being not just neighbours "but also fellow voyagers on a shared journey". In a time of global economic turmoil, a closer engagement with the neighbours – one that shores up their economic needs and supports their plans for development where possible – is essential.

Key Takeaways from the Article

- **India-Maldives Relations:**
 - ◆ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited the **Maldives** as a **special guest** for the 60th Independence Day celebrations after the recent **political shift** in the Maldives with **President Mohamed Muizzu's** win.
 - ◆ **India's** engagement included a **\$565 million line of credit** for the Maldives, **debt reduction** on previous credits, and **new agreements** for cooperation in **fisheries, meteorological sciences, digital solutions, and pharmaceuticals**.





A significant milestone was the **launch of India-Maldives Free Trade Agreement** negotiations to bolster future economic relations.



- **Geopolitical Context:**

- ◆ Despite **tensions** post Muizzu's win, India-Maldives relations have **mended** over the past year, with both countries reaffirming the **pivotal role** of India in the Maldives' economic recovery.
- ◆ **Security cooperation** between India and the Maldives, including **trilateral national security consultations** with **Sri Lanka**, has been a long-standing aspect of their partnership.





- **India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy:**

- ◆ Prime Minister Modi's visit underscores India's commitment to its **Neighbourhood First** policy at a time when India faces challenges such as **trade tariffs** with the U.S. and **tensions in Ukraine and Gaza**.
- ◆ India's foreign policy is focusing on improving relations with **South Asian neighbors**, with **Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli** set to visit India soon after a year of strained ties.

- **Symbolic Significance:**

- ◆ During the Maldives National Day celebrations, a **commemorative stamp** depicted traditional Indian and Maldivian boats, symbolizing their shared history and future together, a sentiment echoed by Prime Minister Modi.





- **Importance of Regional Engagement:**

- ◆ With global **economic uncertainties**, India's engagement with its **neighbors**, especially in terms of supporting their **economic development** and **addressing regional challenges**, is crucial for ensuring long-term stability and cooperation in South Asia.



Prelims PYQs (2014)

Q. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the 'Ten Degree Channel'? (2014)

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar
- (b) Nicobar and Sumatra
- (c) Maldives and Lakshadweep
- (d) Sumatra and Java

Key Takeaways from the Article

- ◆ Election Process of Vice President

Vice-Presidential poll to be held on Sept. 9; counting same day

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The election to the post of Vice-President will be held on September 9, and the counting of votes will take place the same day, the Election Commission (EC) announced on Friday.

The notification will be issued on August 7, and the last date for filing nomination papers will be August 21. The date for the scrutiny of nominations will be August 22 and the last date for withdrawal of candidatures is August 25.

September 9 is the date on which polling, if necessary, will be held, the EC said in a statement. The polling shall take place in Room No. F-101, Vasudha, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

The election has been

necessitated due to the sudden resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar on July 21.

The Vice-President is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of Parliament.

For the election this year, which would be the 17th Vice-Presidential polls, the electoral college consists of 233 elected members of the Rajya Sabha (five seats are now vacant), 12 nominated members of the Rajya Sabha, and 543 elected members of the Lok Sabha (one seat is vacant).

The electoral college comprises a total of 788 members, out of which 782 will be able to vote. Since all the electors are members of Parliament, the value of the vote of each MP would be the same: one.





Prelims PYQs (2013)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2013)

1. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha are not the members of that House.
2. While the nominated members of the two Houses of the Parliament have no voting right in the presidential election, they have the right to vote in the election of the Vice President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Key Takeaways from the Article

- ♦ US has imposed 25 percent tariffs on India

