



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11th 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



11th August 2025

Mains Manthan

- The difficulty path for Trump's one big budget bet (Page No – 08)
- ECI lack of transparency is worrying (Page No – 09)
- What are new rules for chemically contaminated sites? (Page No – 10)

Prelims Saarthi

- Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (Telangana)
- Asiatic Lion

1. The difficulty path for Trump's "one big budget bet"

Why in News?

- One Big Beautiful Day

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – International Relations
- GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy

The difficult path for Trump's 'one big budget bet'

The most debated government downsizing reform that has been implemented in recent history has been the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) initiative under the Donald Trump administration in its second term. The initiative aims to reduce U.S. federal spending, deficit, debt and interest burden, streamline government operations, and enhance government efficiency. The initiative was much in the news with the appointment of Elon Musk, to advise and guide the government on the initiative, and his declaration that the overall goal is to achieve a leaner government by cutting the deficit and reducing the number of federal agencies from over 400 to 99.

Root cause of deficit and debt

The need for a smaller government was felt by the Trump administration due to enormous government spending and deficits. The size of the U.S. government, measured by public expenditure as a percentage of GDP, on average, was 36.49% from 2001 to 2024. Surprisingly, this was the smallest among the seven major advanced economies (MAE). France (56.53%) had the largest government, followed by Italy (49.81%), Germany (46.64%), Canada (41.24%), the United Kingdom (41.09%), and Japan (37.56%). The size of the government in the U.S. has remained the smallest among the MAE for most of the last 25 years.

Yet, overall fiscal balance and government debt have been higher in the U.S. when compared to the MAE. In the triennium ending (TE) 2024, the U.S. had a fiscal balance and debt burden of (-)6.0% and 119.5% of GDP, respectively, compared to the figures of (-)4.1% and 108.6%, respectively, for the MAE. The underlying reason is the lower revenue collection in the U.S. The total revenue of the U.S. government as a percentage of GDP on an average was the lowest (30.55%) during the period 2001-2022 compared to France (51.48%), Italy (45.93%), Germany (44.93%), Canada (39.92%), and the U.K. (36.63%).



Sthanu R Nair

teaches Economics and Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, Kerala



Pratik Sinha

is a consultant for a multinational firm. He was an Assistant Director, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India

Boosting government revenues is pivotal to reducing America's deficit and debt through DOGE-style expenditure reforms

Between 2001 and 2022, the U.S. has clocked the lowest tax-GDP ratio of 19.27% as against 28.59% for Italy, 28.12% for France, 27.99% for Canada, 26.89% for the U.K., 22.70% for Germany, and 32.74% for OECD countries.

Initiatives and outcomes

The several expenditure reforms the DOGE has implemented are the termination of unused federal government office space leases, cancellation of wasteful contracts, recovery of misallocated funds, federal workforce optimisation involving initiatives such as hiring restrictions, workforce reduction, and offering voluntary buyouts, deregulatory measures aimed at ensuring lawful governance and reducing red tape. There is also Artificial Intelligence-based monitoring of federal employee activity, productivity assessment, and detection of inefficiencies, identifying and consolidating overlapping functions across departments, and cutting down overseas humanitarian and development spending.

DOGE follows a transparent communication strategy by publicly sharing updates (on X or DOGE's portal) on the outcomes. The total estimated expenditure savings from contract/lease cancellations and renegotiations, grant cancellations, fraud and improper payment detection and elimination, asset sales, employee reductions and regulatory changes have been \$190 billion, which amounts to \$1,180 per taxpayer. DOGE has made the distribution of government grants transparent through a payments portal, which allows citizens to see recipient-wise payments of federal grants.

DOGE's Workforce Portal provides information on the agency-wise size of the U.S. government civilian workforce.

To streamline layoffs, it has implemented the "Workforce Reshaping Tool", a modernised version of the Pentagon's Automated Reduction in Force (AutoRIF) software, which assists in terminating federal employees based on criteria

such as seniority and performance. So far, approximately 2,60,000 federal employees have been laid off, retired early, or accepted buyouts. Several federal regulations were repealed and modified, with a cost savings of \$30.1 billion due to reduced regulatory compliance; also, 1.8 million words have been deleted from the rules of several Federal regulations. DOGE publishes a unique unconstitutionality index (UI) measuring the extent of bureaucracy's role in shaping federal policy. As per UI, for every law passed by Congress in 2024, there were about 19 rules created by the bureaucracy.

The path ahead

However, DOGE's journey has seen an unexpected turn after Elon Musk publicly disagreed with U.S. President Donald Trump over the provision incorporated in the much-debated One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB) for removing tax credits offered to purchase electric vehicles. The OB BB is a legislative extension of the DOGE reform, as it aims to embed multiple fiscal priorities and DOGE-style government efficiency reforms into a single federal law. Ironically, by opposing OB BB, Mr. Musk contradicted his initiatives as an adviser to DOGE. However, the bigger challenge facing the DOGE initiative is that its extended form, the OB BB, is unlikely to resolve the U.S.'s deficit and debt problem, as the tax cuts proposed in the OB BB far exceed the spending cuts, leading to an addition of \$3.2 trillion to the U.S. national debt over the next decade.

Currently, the U.S. has the lowest and below-OECD-average corporate tax rates among the MAE, lower effective tax rates on the rich, and tighter secrecy laws that enable tax evasion by wealthy individuals and corporations. Therefore, unless efforts are made to boost government revenues, Mr. Trump's 'One Big Budget Bet' of reducing America's deficit and debt through DOGE-style expenditure reforms is unlikely to pay off.





Key takeaways from Article

The One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB):

The OBBB is a comprehensive legislative package that extends DOGE reforms and incorporates fiscal priorities, including the removal of **tax credits** for electric vehicle purchases.

The **OBBB** faces opposition, especially from **Elon Musk**, who disagreed with the **electric vehicle tax credit cut**, highlighting contradictions in the **DOGE's objectives**.

The **OBBB** may not effectively resolve the deficit and debt problems because it proposes **tax cuts** that could add **\$3.2 trillion to the national debt** over the next decade.

2. The ECI's lack of transparency is worrying

Why in News?

- SIR in Bihar

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Governance

The ECI's lack of transparency is worrying

On June 24, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the commencement of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls of Bihar, entailing the verification of nearly 8 crore voters. This drastic step was taken in secrecy, with no prior public information or consultation. The ECI also declared that the SIR exercise would be extended to the entire country. Lack of transparency has continued to characterise the exercise on the ground, raising concerns about the credibility of the process.

Several concerns
The names of 65 lakh voters have been deleted in Bihar's draft voter list published after the first phase of the SIR – an average deletion of about 27,000 voters per constituency. In a State where most seats are won by a slender margin, this number exceeds the winning margin in two-thirds of seats in the 2020 elections. This scale of deletions could potentially swing the electoral outcome in most Assembly constituencies.

As per the ECI, 22 lakh voters were found to be dead, 35 lakh had permanently shifted from Bihar or were not found, and 7 lakh were enrolled in multiple places. If names are being deleted on this scale, they must be made public to enable meaningful oversight and safeguard electoral integrity. Unfortunately, the ECI has failed to provide the full list of deleted names along with the reasons. In its press release, the ECI has claimed that booth-level lists of deletions have been shared with political parties, but these do not indicate the reasons for deletion. This resistance to disclosure makes it impossible for parties and people to verify whether the deletions are justified or if eligible voters have been disenfranchised. Lack of relevant granular data is a cause for alarm in a context where deletion of names – often disproportionately affecting marginalised communities – can directly



Anjali Rhandwal
Transparency activist associated with Satark Nagri Sangathan and the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information



Amrita Johri
Transparency activist associated with Satark Nagri Sangathan and the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information

By keeping critical information under wraps and failing to publicly justify its actions, the Election Commission of India risks eroding voter trust

impact electoral outcomes and erode trust in the system. Undertaking an SIR across the country is not a routine administrative decision. People have a right to know what triggered the ECI to suddenly undertake this mammoth exercise involving nearly 100 crore voters of the country. Was there evidence of large-scale discrepancies or grave inaccuracies in the electoral rolls that could undermine the integrity of elections? What were the factors that prompted the ECI to begin the country-wide SIR from poll-bound Bihar in such a tearing hurry, during monsoons when many parts are flooded?

In its affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court, the ECI stated that several parties had raised concerns about inaccuracies in voter lists and upon an independent appraisal of the matter, the Commission was of the view that a nation-wide SIR was needed. Strangely, however, the 800-page ECI affidavit does not contain the "independent appraisal" on the basis of which the Commission is set to ask every voter in the country to prove their eligibility to vote. In a democracy, citizens have the right to know not just the decisions taken by public authorities, but also why a decision impacting them was made. By not sharing the methodology and findings of the independent appraisal, the ECI is violating people's fundamental right to information. Without evidence, the rationale for the SIR is unclear, raising the spectre of arbitrariness and possible pressures influencing the decision to undertake the exercise.

Although the ECI has wide latitude in conducting roll revisions for ensuring accurate voter lists, its decision to exempt only those registered in the 2003 Bihar electoral rolls from stringent requirements of producing proof of citizenship has triggered a debate. The ECI's rationale is that the last intensive revision in the State was carried out in 2003 and all those who made it to the list

would have satisfied the eligibility criteria, including that of being an Indian citizen. A natural question that arises is, did the ECI ask voters to produce documents in 2003 to prove citizenship?

Many people, including former Election Commissioners, have said that the ECI has never before asked every voter in a State to prove their citizenship through production of prescribed documents such as passports and birth certificates of self/parents to ascertain place and date of birth. In fact, the ECI's insistence on production of documents to prove citizenship has led to suspicion that the SIR is a move to bring the National Register of Citizens through the backdoor.

The ECI's defence has been that the current exercise mirrors what was done in 2003. Unfortunately, the records which would put this controversy to rest – orders and guidelines of the intensive revision of electoral rolls carried out in 2003 in Bihar – are missing from the public domain. The relevant documents are not available on the ECI website, nor were they annexed with the affidavit filed in Court by the ECI. As per reports, when journalists explicitly asked officials of the ECI claimed that they could not be traced.

The risks of opaqueness
The significance of ensuring transparency in the SIR of voter lists cannot be overstated, since failing to prove one's citizenship could result in repercussions far graver than the mere loss of voting rights. Election officers have wide powers, including referring cases of suspected foreign nationals to competent authorities under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Lack of transparency in the SIR process in Bihar has real and potentially grave implications for electoral democracy. Such disenfranchisement not only undermines the legitimacy of elections but also weakens faith in institutions that are meant to safeguard the democratic process.





Key Takeaways from Article

Initiation of the SIR Exercise:

June 24: The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** announced the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, starting with **Bihar**, aiming to verify nearly **8 crore voters**.

The exercise has now been extended nationwide, but concerns have emerged due to its **lack of transparency** and the **secrecy** surrounding the process.

- **Deletions in Bihar's Draft Voter List:**

- In the first phase, 65 lakh voter names were deleted from Bihar's draft list.
- The deletions disproportionately affected constituencies where margins of victory are slim, raising concerns that such deletions could potentially **swing electoral outcomes**.
- The **ECI's explanation** for deletions included **22 lakh deceased voters**, **36 lakh permanent movers**, and **7 lakh duplicate registrations**. However, the **lack of detailed disclosure** on who exactly was deleted and why makes it impossible for political parties and citizens to verify the justification for these deletions.

Concerns about the National Register of Citizens (NRC):

The ECI's demand for voters to **prove their citizenship** during the SIR process has raised fears that this could be a backdoor attempt to implement the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**.

The 2003 **Bihar voter list** revision process is not publicly documented, and the **ECI's justification** for asking voters to provide proof of citizenship remains unclear.

Impact of Lack of Transparency:

Disenfranchisement: The **SIR** risks disenfranchising vulnerable groups, particularly **marginalized communities**, who may face difficulties proving citizenship.

Legal Consequences: Those unable to prove their citizenship could face further repercussions, including being referred to authorities under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.

The **lack of transparency** could severely undermine public trust in the electoral process and institutions responsible for safeguarding democracy.





3. What are new rules on chemically contaminated sites?

Why in News?

- New rules under EPA 1986

Syllabus

- GS Paper 3 – Environment & Ecology

What are the new rules on chemically contaminated sites?

What were the tasks under the Capacity Building Program for Industrial Pollution Management Project?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

The Environment Ministry has notified new rules under the Environment Protection Act that lays out a process for addressing sites with chemical contamination. Called the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025, they give a legal structure to a process of addressing chemical contamination, that until now was missing despite several such sites already identified across the country.

What are contaminated sites?

Contaminated sites, according to the Central Pollution Control Board, are those where hazardous and other wastes were dumped historically, and which has most likely resulted in contamination of soil, groundwater and surface water that pose a risk to human health and the

environment. Some of the sites were developed when there was no regulation on management of hazardous wastes. In some instances, polluters responsible for contamination have either closed down their operations or the cost of remediation is beyond their capacity. These may include landfills, dumps, waste storage and treatment sites, spill-sites, and chemical waste handling and storage sites. There are 103 such sites identified across the country. Only in seven sites has remedial operation commenced, which involves cleaning the contaminated soil, groundwater, surface water and sediments by adopting appropriate technologies.

Why were these rules necessary?

The Environment Ministry had, in 2010, initiated a Capacity Building Program for Industrial Pollution Management Project to formulate the National Program for Remediation of Polluted Sites. This

consisted of three broad tasks – creating an inventory of probable contaminated sites; developing a guidance document for assessment and remediation of contaminated sites; and developing a legal, institutional and financial framework for the remediation of contaminated sites. While the first two steps have been in place, the last step, regarding a legal codification, remained unfulfilled. The rules that were made public on July 25 were part of this legal codification process.

Under these rules, the district administration would prepare half-yearly reports on “suspected contaminated sites.” A State board, or a ‘reference organisation’ would examine these sites and provide a “preliminary assessment” within 90 days of being thus informed. Following these, it would have another three months to make a detailed survey and finalise if these sites were indeed ‘contaminated.’ This would involve

establishing the levels of suspected hazardous chemicals – there are currently 189 marked ones under the provisions of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. If these sites exceed safe levels, the location of these sites would be publicised and restrictions placed on accessing it. Then, the ‘reference organisation’, which would basically be a body of experts, would be tasked with specifying a remediation plan. The State board would also have 90 days to identify the person(s) responsible for the contamination. Those deemed responsible would have to pay for the cost of remediation of the site, else the Centre and the State would arrange for the costs of clean-up. “Any criminal liability, if it is proved that such contamination caused loss of life or damage would be under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (2023),” an official told *The Hindu*.

Are there any exemptions?

Contamination resulting from radioactive waste, mining operations, pollution of the sea by oil, and solid waste from dump sites would not be dealt with under the provisions of these laws as they are governed by a separate legislation. Another major omission from the rules is the lack of a defined timeline whereby once a contaminated site is identified, a deadline is set by which it must be returned to safe levels.

THE GIST

Contaminated sites, according to the Central Pollution Control Board, are those where hazardous and other wastes were dumped historically.

There are 103 such sites identified across the country.

Contamination resulting from radioactive waste, mining operations, pollution of the sea by oil, and solid waste from dump sites would not be dealt with under the provisions of these laws.

What are Contaminated Sites?

Contaminated sites are areas where hazardous and other wastes were historically dumped, leading to contamination of **soil, groundwater, and surface water**, posing risks to **human health** and the **environment**.

These sites could include **landfills, dumps, waste storage, and treatment sites, spill sites, and chemical waste handling locations**.

There are **103 identified contaminated sites** across the country, with only **7** undergoing remediation so far.





Why are the New Rules Necessary?

Prior to the new rules, India lacked a **legal framework** to manage contaminated sites, even though the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** had identified numerous such sites.

In 2010, the **Capacity Building Program for Industrial Pollution Management Project** was initiated to create the **National Program for Remediation of Polluted Sites**. The three tasks under this program were:

- **Inventory creation** of contaminated sites.
- **Development of a guidance document** for assessment and remediation.
- **Creating a legal, institutional, and financial framework** for remediation, which was until now not codified.

The new rules complete this **legal codification** by formalizing the process of managing these contaminated sites.

4. Kaleshwaram Project (Telangana)

What is Telangana's Kaleshwaram project?

Where has the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project been built? Why was the location of the project suddenly shifted from Tummidihatti to Medigadda? Why did the piers of the Sundilla barrage sink? Who did the one-man judicial commission question regarding the project?

EXPLAINER

M. Rajeev

The story so far:

The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), billed as the lifeline of Telangana by the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government, is mired in controversies over the manner in which it has been executed. A barrage forming a major component of the project suffered damages within three years of its inauguration, while two others constructed upstream developed cracks resulting in the charge that the KLIP was a colossal waste of public money.

What is the KLIP?

The KLIP is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari river in Kaleshwaram of Bhupalpally in Telangana. Billed as the world's largest multi-stage irrigation project, Kaleshwaram's upstream influence is at the confluence of Pranahita and Godavari. It utilises a canal network of more than 1,800 km. The project was conceived by the BRS government, headed by K. Chandrasekhar Rao, to provide irrigation facilities to over 16 lakh acres in 13 districts of Telangana, besides stabilising the existing ayacut. It aims at storing and distributing 240 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) of Godavari water of which 169 tmc ft is proposed to be allocated for irrigation, 30 tmc ft for drinking water to Hyderabad, 16 tmc ft for miscellaneous and industrial uses and another 10 tmc ft for drinking water to villages en route.

Where was it built?

The government has constructed barrages across Godavari at Ramadugu, Medigadda, Sundilla and Annaram. The water is stored there to cater to drinking water and irrigation needs. The project was conceived at a cost of ₹71,000 crore initially. The cost escalated to close to over ₹1 lakh crore over a period of time.



Bad planning: Water levels of the Medigadda barrage of the Kaleshwaram project in 2024. FILE PHOTO

Finishing works is likely to take few more thousands of crores.

What is the controversy?

The project has been mired in controversies right from the beginning as the then government shifted the location from Tummidihatti to Medigadda even after reportedly receiving hydrology clearance for the former location. The shifting of the site was made on the pretext of non-availability of water at Tummidihatti, but an inquiry revealed that the Central Water Commission had estimated the water availability at Tummidihatti to be over 200 tmc ft.

A major allegation that has surfaced in the construction of the project was that the barrages were constructed on

permeable foundations rather than strong foundations that can withstand the inflow of heavy quantum of water. The shifting of location, from Tummidihatti to Medigadda, too came under criticism as almost 30% of the works at Pranahita Chevella Sujala Savanti (PCSS) project, started in united Andhra Pradesh in 2008, at Tummidihatti costing over ₹11,000 crore were completed by then. Another major charge against the BRS Government was that the decision to go ahead with the project was taken solely by Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao. It was alleged that he had not obtained the consent of the State Cabinet before launching work on the project.

The faults in the Kaleshwaram project were exposed during the BRS regime

when the piers of the Sundilla barrage sunk, substantiating the claims that the barrage was constructed on permeable foundation. Two other barrages, Annaram and Sundilla, too developed cracks as the government impounded and stored huge quantities of water against technical advice.

Was an inquiry ordered?

The constitution of a judicial commission to probe the lapses in the Kaleshwaram project was an election promise of the Congress. Subsequently, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy constituted a one-man judicial commission headed by Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose for a thorough inquiry into the process. Justice Ghose examined over 110 witnesses during the course of his 15 month inquiry and those examined included former CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao, former Ministers T. Harish Rao (Irrigation) and Eatala Rajender (Finance) of BRS government, the latter especially for releasing funds adopting a "negligent and indifferent attitude". The judicial commission submitted its report on July 31, and subsequently the Telangana government decided to take up a discussion on the Kaleshwaram project in the legislature during the monsoon session. The government plans to explain the lapses to the people in detail and to elicit views of all political parties, including the BRS, on the future course of action.

How has the BRS reacted?

The BRS on its part appears to be guarded in its response to the accusations. Mr. Harish Rao, however, defended the project claiming that the project received approvals from several statutory bodies, including the CWC. It also had the approval of the Cabinet, the papers of which have not been revealed by the government. The project was also ratified by the Assembly when Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao had made a power point presentation, the first of its kind, on the Kaleshwaram project, elaborating on its salient features.

THE GIST

▼ The KLIP is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari river in Kaleshwaram of Bhupalpally in Telangana.

▼ A major allegation that has surfaced in the construction of the project was that the barrages were constructed on permeable foundations rather than strong foundations that can withstand the inflow of heavy quantum of water.

▼ The constitution of a judicial commission to probe the lapses in the Kaleshwaram project was an election promise of the Congress.





4. Kaleshwaram Project (Telangana)

The **KLIP** is a multi-stage irrigation project designed on the **Godavari River** at **Kaleshwaram, Telangana**, with the goal of irrigating over **16 lakh acres** of land and providing water to **Hyderabad** and nearby villages. The project aims to store **240 TMC** ft of water, with allocations for **irrigation, drinking water, and industrial uses**.

Which one of the following statements is not correct ? (2006)

- (a) Mahanadi River rises in Chhattisgarh
- (b) Godavari River rises in Maharashtra
- (c) Cauvery River rises in Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Tapi River rises in Madhya Pradesh

5. Asiatic Lion

India has set an example in lion conservation: Minister

The rise in population of Asiatic lion shows India's intimate relationship with nature and wildlife, says Bhupender Yadav; praises 'coexistence' of the pastoralist Maldhari community and big cats

Abhinav Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Sunday said the rise in the Asiatic lion population in Gujarat reflected India's intimate relationship with nature and wildlife.

"India has given a commitment to the world to work for nature's conservation through the rehabilitation of wildlife," Mr. Yadav said at a World Lion Day function at Timbdi village in the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat.

As per the census conducted in May, the estimated population of Asiatic lion has increased to 891 from 674 five years ago.

"The growth of India's lion population since 1889 (when the last Asiatic lions were seen) shows our intimate relationship with nature and wildlife," Mr. Yadav said.

He said the resolution made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year to boost Gujarat's lion population and develop the Barda Sanctuary as a new habitat had been fulfilled.

Mr. Yadav said climate change had brought chal-



Increased count: As per the 2025 census, the estimated population of Asiatic lion increased to 891 from 674 five years ago. VIJAY SONEJI

lenges such as heavy rain and cyclones.

To address these, Mr. Modi had initiated multiple global efforts such as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the International Solar Alliance.

"In addition, the International Big Cat Alliance has been established. Conservation work has been undertaken for five of the seven big cat species found in India. Asiatic lions are only found in India, and that too in Gir, and Gujarat gets 100% of the pride for

their conservation," he said.

The Minister praised the unique bond between the pastoralist Maldhari community and lions as a model of coexistence.

"If one wants to see the example of wildlife conservation, they should visit Gir, observe the work of the State government, and witness the lifestyle of the Maldhari and other local communities," he said.

Mr. Yadav said the number of tiger reserves in India had risen to 58 from 47 during Mr. Modi's tenure,

and they host 70% of the global tiger population. Snow leopard conservation efforts continue, with their population in India currently at 714.

On cheetah reintroduction, he said, "Bringing African cheetahs to India was a challenge, but we successfully rehabilitated them."

He also mentioned ongoing projects such as Project Lion, Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Project Dolphin, and Project Great Indian Bustard, which are reinforcing India's conservation leadership.

Mr. Yadav said two more species of big cats – jaguar and puma – are found in Latin America, and quoted Mr. Modi's call for global cooperation in conserving all seven big cat species found across 97 countries, especially in Africa and Asia, through knowledge sharing, artificial intelligence, and technology.

CM launches projects

On the occasion, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched 11 eco-development projects worth ₹189 crore, including a new safari park, interpretation centre, and breeding centre at Barda.





Lion Population Increase:



Asiatic lion population in **Gujarat** increased to **891** in 2025 from **674** five years ago (2020).



This increase demonstrates **successful wildlife conservation efforts** in India, especially in the **Gir Forest** region, the only natural habitat of the Asiatic lion.



Conservation Efforts:



The **Prime Minister's commitment** to boost Gujarat's lion population has been fulfilled with the development of the **Barda Sanctuary** as a new habitat for the lions.



Climate change challenges, such as heavy rain and cyclones, were acknowledged, but conservation projects like **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and the **International Solar Alliance** are addressing these issues.



Coexistence with Local Communities:

Maldhari community, a pastoralist group in Gujarat, has played a key role in **coexisting** with lions, providing a **model of peaceful coexistence** between humans and wildlife.

The **Barda Sanctuary** and efforts around **Gir** showcase the **successful integration** of human communities and wildlife conservation.

Other Big Cat Conservation:

International Big Cat Alliance: Efforts for the conservation of **five out of seven big cat species** found in India have been initiated, with lions being a significant part.

Project Lion, Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Project Dolphin, and Project Great Indian Bustard are some of the key conservation initiatives spearheaded by India.

India hosts **70% of the global tiger population**, and conservation efforts for **snow leopards** continue, with the population at **714**.

- **Developmental Projects in Gujarat:**
- On **World Lion Day**, the Gujarat **Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel** launched 11 eco-development projects worth **₹189 crore**, which include a **new safari park, interpretation centre, and breeding centre** at the **Barda Sanctuary**.

Q. Consider the following statements: [2019]

1. Asiatic lion naturally found in India only
2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only
3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only

Which one of the statement given above is/are correct?

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

