

# Current Affairs (2023): Union Territories of India At a Glance

## A. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- \* **Island Coastal Zone Regulation (ICRZ)**- The Union Environment Ministry has approved an exemption to the laws governing the regulation of coastal zones and has paved the way for gas-powered plants to be set up on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Island Coastal Zone Regulation (ICRZ), 2019, limits infrastructure development on vulnerable coastal stretches. The National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) has recommended that gas-based power plants be permitted within the Island Coastal Regulation Zone area only on islands with geographical areas greater than 100 sq. km. Following visits by the NTPC personnel, a dual-fuel power plant that runs on both diesel and LNG is expected to be commissioned.
- \* **Andaman and Nicobar Tribes**- In a first-of-its-kind bid to showcase the heritage of tribal communities, especially those of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has recreated the huts of several communities at its different regional centres. Andaman and Nicobar Islands which have originally been the abode of six aboriginal tribes i.e., the Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens. Except Nicobarese, the rest of the 05 tribes are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The tribes of the Islands belong to two different races

## B. Chandigarh

- \* **Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary**- At least six megaprojects came into existence within the radius of 10 km of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary and City Bird Sanctuary without obtaining the Wildlife Clearance Certificate (WCC) between 2017 and 2023, as per recent findings.  
**Location:** At the foothills of the Shivalik range in Chandigarh. It forms part of the Sukhna Lake catchment area falling in the Shivalik Hills.  
**Area:** Spanning over an area of 2600 hectares, the place is quite unstable geographically and becomes prone to soil erosion by surface runoff during rains.  
**Vegetation:** It is characterised by a mix of forests, grasslands, and wetlands, with the Sukhna Lake forming an important part of the ecosystem.  
**Flora:** The common flora of the sanctuary includes Khair, Phulai, Kikar, Shisham, Moonj, Amaltas, Jhingan, Amla, Rati, Vasaka, and many more.  
**Fauna:** Squirrel, Common-Mongoose, Indian Hare, Porcupine, Jungle Cat, Jackal, Wild boar, etc are the mammals found in the sanctuary. Peacock, Hill myna, Jungle crow, Black drongo, Parrots, Doves, and others are the common birds of this region. Migratory birds also flock around this place.

## C. Delhi

- \* **AMRITPEX 2023**- The Minister for Communications recently inaugurated AMRITPEX 2023 in New Delhi. It is a National Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications.
- \* **Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023**- Recently, the President of India presented the Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 and graced the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain -2023 in New Delhi.

## D. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

- \* The Union Cabinet approved the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Tenancy Regulation, 2023. It aims to balance the interests and rights of both the landlord and the tenant.

## E. Jammu and Kashmir

- \* **Kishtwar Saffron Earns Coveted GI Tag**- The premium-quality saffron was granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, signifying its unique origin and exceptional attributes.
- \* **Jammu and Kashmir's Pashmina Craft Receives GI Tag**- The exquisite Pashmina craft of Jammu and Kashmir has been recognized with a prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition is a testament to the state's rich heritage and craftsmanship.

## F. Lakshadweep

- \* **Kochi**-Lakshadweep islands submarine optical fibre connection project- Recently, the Prime Minister of India in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, inaugurated this project. It is the submarine cable connectivity project from Mainland (Kochi) to eleven Lakshadweep Islands namely, Kavaratti, Agatti, Amini, Kadmat, Chetlet, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Androth, Kiltan, Bangaram and Bitra has been extended.

## G. Ladakh

- \* **High-Power Ladakh Committee**- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a high-powered committee for the Union Territory of Ladakh.

**Why was the committee formed?** - After the unique status of the formerly-existing State of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was read down by Parliament on August 5, 2019, civil society organisations in Ladakh have been calling for the protection of land, resources, and jobs for the previous three years.

**The committee will discuss measures to:** Protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance; Ensure protection of land and employment for the people of Ladakh; Strategies inclusive development and discuss issues related to the empowerment of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Councils of Leh and Kargil.

- \* **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**- India-China plans to de-escalate in eastern Ladakh. The Indian PM and Chinese President agreed on the sidelines of the 15th BRICS Summit to intensify efforts for expeditious disengagement and de-escalation along the LAC in eastern Ladakh. The LAC is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.

## H. Pondicherry

- \* **Science 20(S-20) Inception Meeting**- The science 20 Inception Meeting was held on 30 January 2023 at Puducherry. Indian National Science Academy (INSA) President Dr. Ashutosh Sharma was the country's chair of the deliberations. The theme of the meeting is "disruptive science for innovative and sustainable development".
- \* **Red Tide**- National Green Tribunal (NGT) inspected the Kuruchikuppam drain and beach to analyse the cause behind the recent phenomenon of red tide in Puducherry. It is a common term used for a harmful algal bloom. Harmful algal blooms, or HABs, occur when colonies of algae—plant-like organisms that live in the sea and freshwater—grow out of control. The name "red tide" comes from the fact that overgrowth of algae can cause the colour of the water to turn red.