



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 05-03-2025

GS-1

1. Rushikulya River
2. Juanga Tribe

GS-2

3. Impact of US Reciprocal Tariffs on Indian Manufacturing
4. Obesity

GS-3

5. Pig Butchering Scam

Rushikulya River

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography, GS-3; Biodiversity

Context

- Rushikulya mass nesting site in Odisha sees record arrival of 6.5 lakh Olive Ridleys.



Geographical Features:

- **Origin:** The river originates from the **Daringbadi hills** of the Eastern Ghats in Kandhamal district, Odisha.
- **Length:** Approximately **165 km**.
- **Catchment Area:** Around **8,963 sq. km**.
- **Course:** The river flows through Kandhamal, Ganjam, and Nayagarh districts before draining into the **Bay of Bengal** near Puruna Bandha in Ganjam district.
- **Tributaries:** Main tributaries include **Bada Nadi, Dhanei River, and Bagua River**.

Ecological Significance:

- **Olive Ridley Turtle Nesting:** The river's estuary at **Rushikulya rookery coast** is one of the **largest mass nesting sites** for **Olive Ridley sea turtles** (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) in India.

- **Mangrove Ecosystem:** The river mouth supports mangroves and other coastal biodiversity.

Economic and Social Importance:

- **Agriculture:** The Rushikulya River provides irrigation to the fertile plains of Odisha, especially in the Ganjam district, supporting paddy cultivation.
- **Fishing:** The river supports the local fishing economy, especially near its estuary.
- **Industrial Use:** The river also supplies water to various industries, including **thermal power plants and fertilizer industries.**

Environmental Concerns:

- **Pollution:** Industrial effluents, domestic sewage, and agricultural runoff threaten the river's water quality.
- **Dams and Barrages:** The **Harabhangi Dam** and other irrigation projects affect the natural flow of the river.
- **Climate Change Impact:** Rising sea levels and changing monsoon patterns impact the river ecosystem.

Related Government Initiatives:

- **Conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles:** The Odisha Forest Department and organizations like the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) monitor and protect the nesting sites.
- **National Water Mission (NWM):** Focuses on sustainable water management in river basins, including the Rushikulya.

Olive Ridley Turtles:

- The Olive Ridley Turtle is the **smallest and most abundant** of all sea turtles.
- They are best known for their **synchronized mass nesting**, called **Arribada**.

Distribution & Habitat

- Found in **warm tropical waters** of the **Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans**.
- In India, major nesting sites are located along the **Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra** coasts.
- **Gahirmatha Beach (Odisha)** is the world's largest nesting site.

Unique Phenomenon: Arribada

- A rare mass nesting phenomenon where thousands of female turtles come ashore to lay eggs at the same time.
- Notable sites in India:
 - **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary (Odisha)**
 - **Rushikulya River Mouth (Odisha)**
 - **Devi River Mouth (Odisha)**

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Status: Vulnerable**
- **CITES: Appendix I (Trade restricted)**
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I (Highest protection in India)**

Conservation Efforts in India

- **Operation Olivia:** Launched by the **Indian Coast Guard** to protect turtles during nesting season.
- **Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs):** A mandatory net attachment to prevent accidental capture in fishing nets.
- **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):** Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, Odisha.
- **Community Participation:** NGOs like **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** and **WWF-India** are actively involved.

Juanga Tribe

Syllabus: GS-1; Tribes of India

Context

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) recently sought an action taken report from the district magistrate-cum-collector of Keonjhar on alleged human rights violations of the Juanga tribe, a PVTG in the district.

Demographics & Location

- **State:** Odisha
- **Districts:** Primarily found in **Keonjhar** and **Dhenkanal** districts.
- **Total Population:** Approx. **30,000** (as per the last census).
- **Language:** **Juanga** (belongs to the Munda language family) & Odia.

Classification

- Recognized as a **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** under the Constitution of India.
- Identified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** due to their **low literacy rates, primitive economy, and geographical isolation**.

Cultural & Social Practices

- **Matrilineal elements:** Property inheritance sometimes follows maternal lineage.
- **Tattooing:** Common among women as a cultural practice.
- **Traditional Houses:** Called '**Majang**', made of bamboo and mud with thatched roofs.
- **Dress:** Men wear **loincloths**, while women wear sarees with traditional jewelry.
- **Marriage System:** **Monogamy** is preferred, and widow remarriage is accepted.

Livelihood & Economy

- **Primary Occupation:**
 - Shifting cultivation (**Podu Chasa** – a form of slash-and-burn agriculture).
 - Collection of **minor forest produce** like honey, fruits, and medicinal plants.
 - Some engage in **fishing and hunting**.
 - Increasing participation in **government welfare schemes**.

Religion & Beliefs

- **Animistic Beliefs:** Worship of nature, spirits, and ancestors.
- **Primary Deities:**
 - **Dharam Devta (Sun God)** – Supreme deity.
 - **Basuki Devi** – Earth goddess.
- **Rituals & Festivals:**
 - **Pusha Punji** – Agricultural festival.
 - **Karam Festival** – Celebrated for good harvest and prosperity.

Administrative & Welfare Initiatives

- Recognized as a **PVTG**, they receive **special benefits** under the **Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana**.
- **Odisha Government Schemes for Juanga Tribe:**
 - **Mission Suvidya** – Improving tribal education.
 - **Odisha PVTG Empowerment & Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP)** – Enhancing livelihood.

- **Hostel and education support** for Juanga children under **ST & SC Development Department**.

Challenges Faced

- **Land alienation** and displacement due to mining and deforestation.
- **Health Issues:** High **infant mortality** and **malnutrition**.
- **Low Literacy Rates:** Around **20-25%**, one of the lowest among Indian tribes.
- **Loss of Traditional Culture:** Due to modernization and external influences.

Impact of US Reciprocal Tariffs on Indian Manufacturing

Syllabus: GS-2: India-USA Bilateral Relations & GS-3: Indian Economy - Trade Policies.

Context:

- Indian manufacturing faces challenges from proposed **reciprocal tariffs** by the US.
- Despite '**Make in India**', manufacturing's **GDP share declined** from **15.99% (2014-15) to 15.83% (2023-24)**.
- The **US is India's largest export partner**, and these tariffs could have **severe economic consequences**.

Understanding Reciprocal Tariffs and Their Impact on Indian Exports

- **Reciprocal tariffs:** Imposed when a country charges duties on US exports, prompting **equal retaliation**.
- **Unclear calculation method**, but past tariffs under Trump's presidency indicate **high rates on specific sectors**.
- **Key Indian export industries impacted:**
 1. **Steel and Aluminium** – Already facing a **25% tariff**.
 2. **Pharmaceuticals** – India is a **major supplier of generic drugs** to the US.
 3. **Textiles and Apparel** – Faces competition from **Bangladesh, Vietnam, and China**.
 4. **Electronics** – Tariffs could harm **India's growing electronics exports**.

Consequences of Reciprocal Tariffs

- **Increased export costs** → **Reduced competitiveness**.
- **Shrinking market share** → **Higher competition** from other nations.

- **Supply chain disruptions** → Higher **input costs** for industries like **automobiles**.
- **Job losses** → Manufacturing slowdown, **impacting employment**.

Industry-Wise Impact of US Tariffs

1. Steel and Aluminium Industry

- **Effects:**
 - Higher costs → **Indian exports uncompetitive**.
 - **Declining orders** → Lower revenue.
 - **Job losses** in steel plants and allied industries.
 - **Impact on downstream industries** (automobiles, machinery).

2. Pharmaceutical Sector

- **Consequences:**
 - **Higher production costs** → Lower profit margins.
 - **Shift in sourcing** → US firms may **turn to China or Mexico**.
 - **Slower growth in pharma exports**.

3. Textile Industry

- **Challenges:**
 - Rising costs → **Indian garments less competitive**.
 - Loss of orders to **Vietnam & Bangladesh** (better trade agreements).
 - **Employment crisis** in textile hubs of **Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal**.

4. Electronics Industry

- **Potential impacts:**
 - **Higher tariffs discourage investments**.
 - US companies may **prefer China, Taiwan, or Vietnam**.
 - **Smartphone and semiconductor exports** could suffer.

Impact on India's Domestic Economy

1. Declining Export Revenues

- **Widening trade imbalance** due to reduced exports.
- **Lower forex earnings** → Increased **currency pressure**.

2. Reduced Investments in Manufacturing

- **Trade policy uncertainty** discourages **export-oriented investments**.
- **FDI inflow slowdown** due to tariff concerns.

3. Employment Crisis in Key Sectors

- **Manufacturing is labour-intensive**; job losses expected in:
 - **Steel plants** (Odisha, Jharkhand).
 - **Textile hubs** (Tamil Nadu, Gujarat).
 - **Pharma industries** (Telangana, Maharashtra).
 - **Electronics sector** (Noida, Bengaluru).

Way Forward

1. Reducing Dependence on the US

- Strengthen trade with:
 - **EU** – India's **second-largest trade partner**.
 - **ASEAN nations** – Expand regional market access.
 - **Africa & Latin America** – Explore **emerging markets**.

2. Strengthening Atmanirbhar Bharat

- **Advanced manufacturing** for global competitiveness.
- **Higher R&D investment** in technology-driven industries.
- **Subsidies for domestic firms** to absorb cost hikes.

3. Expediting Trade Deals

- **India-EU FTA negotiations** should be fast-tracked.
- **New markets**: UK, Australia, Canada for **textiles, electronics, and pharma**.

4. Government Incentives for Local Manufacturing

- **Higher tax exemptions** to increase purchasing power.
- **Lower interest rates** for **SMEs**.
- **Support for MSMEs**, which are **major exporters**.

5. Financial Relief Measures

- **Subsidized credit** for export industries.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes** to support exporters.
- **Tax relief** for industries facing tariff hikes.

Conclusion

- **Trump's reciprocal tariffs** pose a **serious threat** to India's **manufacturing and exports**.
- **Strategic economic planning** can help **mitigate trade shocks**.
- **Make in India 2.0** should focus on:
 - **Resilience** (diversified markets).
 - **Technology** (higher R&D investment).
 - **Competitiveness** (cost-effective production).
- This will **position India for long-term growth** in a **volatile global trade environment**.

Obesity

Syllabus: GS-2: Social Sector – Health.

Context:

Lancet study says a third of India will be obese by 2050.

Obesity Epidemic in India: A Growing Concern

Current Scenario

- A new **Lancet study** predicts that by **2050**, India will have:
 - **21.8 crore men** and **23.1 crore women** who are overweight or obese.
 - Totaling **44.9 crore**, nearly **one-third** of India's projected population.
- **Global Perspective:**
 - More than **half of all adults** and **one-third of children** will be overweight or obese by **2050**.

Obesity Trends Among Adolescents (15-24 years)

- **Young Men:**
 - **1990:** 0.4 crore
 - **2021:** 1.68 crore
 - **2050 (Projected):** 2.27 crore
- **Young Women:**
 - **1990:** 0.33 crore

- **2021:** 1.3 crore
- **2050 (Projected):** 1.69 crore
- **India's Position:**
 - India **topped the chart** in 2021, surpassing **China** and the **United States**, which were ahead in 1990.

Why These Numbers Matter

- **Global Concentration:**
 - In **2021**, half of the world's obese and overweight adults lived in just **eight countries**, including **India**.
- **Healthcare System Burden:**
 - Low and middle-income countries face a **dual burden**:
 - Increasing obesity
 - Persistent childhood malnutrition and infectious diseases
- **Health Risks:**
 - Childhood **undernutrition** can lead to **fat accumulation**, increasing obesity risk in adulthood.
 - This raises the likelihood of:
 - **Type-2 diabetes**
 - **Cardiovascular diseases**
 - **Certain cancers**

Obesity Trends Among Children

- **Boys:**
 - **1990:** 0.46 crore
 - **2021:** 1.3 crore
 - **2050 (Projected):** 1.6 crore
- **Girls:**
 - **1990:** 0.45 crore
 - **2021:** 1.24 crore
 - **2050 (Projected):** 1.44 crore

Reasons for Rising Obesity

➤ **Dietary Changes:**

- Increased consumption of **processed foods** high in **salt, sugar, and fat**.
- **Multinational food and beverage corporations** are expanding into **low and middle-income countries** due to:
 - **Growing population**
 - **Higher per capita income**
 - **Weaker regulations**
- From **2009-2019, India, Cameroon, and Vietnam** saw the **largest annual growth** in **ultra-processed food sales**.

➤ **Urbanization and Lifestyle Changes:**

- Reduced **physical activity** due to **longer commutes** and **desk-bound jobs**.
- Increased preference for **calorie-dense, processed foods**.

➤ **Mental and Physical Health Factors:**

- Rising **work-related stress, poor sleep, and mental health disorders** contribute to obesity.

Policy Gaps and Challenges

- Only **40% of countries** have an operational policy to tackle obesity.
- In **low and middle-income countries**, this figure drops to just **10%**.
- Most obesity interventions are designed for **high-income countries**, making them less effective for **developing nations**.

What Needs to be Done?

➤ **Policy-Level Interventions:**

- **Recognize obesity** as a major **Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)**.
- Integrate **obesity prevention and management** into public health policies.

➤ **Comprehensive National Obesity Programme:**

- **Awareness campaigns** to educate the public.
- **School-based interventions** to promote healthy eating and exercise.
- **Workplace wellness programs** to encourage physical activity.
- **Taxation on unhealthy foods** to discourage consumption.
- **Better access to treatment** for obesity-related health issues.

➤ **Data and Monitoring:**

- Establish a **National Obesity Registry** to track:
 - **Trends**
 - **Health outcomes**
 - **Effectiveness of interventions**

Conclusion

The obesity epidemic in India is a **growing public health crisis**. Without **strong policy interventions** and **lifestyle changes**, the increasing obesity rates could **cripple the healthcare system** and lead to a surge in **non-communicable diseases**. A **multi-pronged approach** involving **awareness, regulation, and treatment** is essential to curb this alarming trend.

Pig Butchering Scam

Syllabus: GS-3; Cybersecurity, Technology, Financial Frauds

Context

- The government has issued an alert about a new cyber fraud scheme called the 'pig butchering scam,' which targets unemployed youth, students, and vulnerable individuals. Victims not only lose money but are also forced into cyber slavery

Introduction

- The **Pig Butchering Scam** (also called **Sha Zhu Pan** in Chinese) is a sophisticated financial fraud in which scammers **gradually gain the trust of victims, manipulate them into investing in fraudulent schemes, and then steal their money.**
- The scam is named after the practice of **fattening a pig before slaughtering it**, symbolizing how scammers build relationships with victims before defrauding them.

Modus Operandi

1. **Targeting Victims:**
 - Scammers use social media, dating apps, or random messages to befriend victims.
 - They establish emotional or professional connections over time.
2. **Gaining Trust:**
 - The scammer engages in **regular conversations**, often discussing investment opportunities.
 - They introduce fake but seemingly **legitimate trading platforms** (crypto, forex, stocks).

3. **Fake Profits & Encouragement:**

- Victims initially see **small profits** from their investments, reinforcing their trust.
- The scammer urges them to **invest more money** for higher returns.

4. **Manipulation & Theft:**

- When victims try to **withdraw funds**, excuses are made (e.g., taxes, verification issues).
- Eventually, the **website shuts down**, and the scammer disappears.

Key Characteristics

- **Hybrid Scam:** Involves elements of **romance scams, phishing, and financial fraud.**
- **Fake Trading Platforms:** Often appear legitimate but are manipulated by scammers.
- **Social Engineering:** Uses psychology to manipulate emotions (greed, trust, fear).
- **High Financial Losses:** Victims often lose **their entire life savings.**

Global & Indian Scenario

- **Rise in Cyber Fraud:**
 - The scam originated in **China** and has now spread globally.
 - Countries like **India, the USA, and Southeast Asian nations** report increasing cases.
- **India's Vulnerability:**
 - **Growing digital finance adoption** makes Indian users potential targets.
 - Lack of **financial literacy and awareness** increases susceptibility.
 - Many scams involve **fake cryptocurrency exchanges.**

Government & Legal Response

1. **India's Cybersecurity Measures:**

- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** monitors online scams.
- **CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team - India)** issues advisories.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** warns against unauthorized trading platforms.

2. **International Efforts:**

- **FBI & Interpol** track transnational cybercriminal networks.
- **UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)** monitors financial fraud cases.

3. **Legal Framework in India:**

- **IT Act, 2000** (Cybercrime provisions).
- **IPC Sections 419, 420** (Cheating and fraud).
- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.**