



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 31-03-2025**

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## **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**

### **Syllabus: GS-2; International Relations**

#### **Context**

- NATO Clarifies Statement on Missing U.S. Soldiers in Lithuania

#### **About**

- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is a military alliance established in 1949 to provide collective defense against security threats. It plays a key role in global security, crisis management, and cooperative defense efforts.

#### **Objectives of NATO**

1. **Collective Defense** – Based on **Article 5** of the NATO Treaty, an attack on one member is considered an attack on all.
2. **Crisis Management** – NATO intervenes in conflicts to maintain peace and security.
3. **Cooperative Security** – It works with partner countries to enhance global stability.
4. **Deterrence and Defense** – It ensures the security of member states against military and hybrid threats.

#### **Key Articles of NATO Treaty**

- **Article 1:** Members resolve disputes peacefully.
- **Article 4:** Members consult each other when their security is threatened.
- **Article 5:** Collective defense principle – invoked only once after the 9/11 attacks.

#### **Structure of NATO**

- **North Atlantic Council (NAC):** Main decision-making body.
- **Military Committee:** Highest military authority.
- **Allied Command Operations (ACO):** Responsible for operational missions.
- **Allied Command Transformation (ACT):** Focuses on military training and innovation.

#### **NATO's Enlargement & Membership**

- **Original Members (1949):** 12 countries (USA, UK, France, Canada, etc.)
- **Current Members:** 32 (latest: Sweden in 2024)
- **Open Door Policy:** New members must meet political, military, and economic criteria.

## NATO & India

- India is **not a NATO member**.
- India engages with NATO through diplomatic channels but follows a **non-aligned** foreign policy.
- Concerns over NATO's presence in Asia due to QUAD, AUKUS, and Indo-Pacific security dynamics.

## Challenges Faced by NATO

- **Russia-Ukraine Conflict (2022-present)** – NATO supports Ukraine, leading to tensions with Russia.
- **Internal Divisions** – Differing priorities among members (e.g., US vs. European members).
- **Cybersecurity Threats** – Increasing cyberattacks on NATO infrastructure.
- **China's Rise** – NATO has shifted focus to counter China's influence in global security.

## Tackling Regional Economic Imbalances in India

**Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Growth and Development.**

### Context:

The **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** has highlighted **deep-rooted economic inequalities** among Indian states in its recent report. While **western and southern states** have surged ahead due to better infrastructure, private investments, and access to export markets, **northern and eastern states** lag due to weak governance, poor infrastructure, and low investor confidence.

### Key Drivers of Disparities

- **Post-Liberalization Imbalance (1991 Onwards)**
  - Coastal and urban states (e.g., Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra) benefited from globalization, FDI, and export-oriented industries.
  - Inland states (e.g., Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha) struggled due to **lack of infrastructure, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and lower human capital**.
- **Investment Divide**

- **Private capital flows to high-growth states**, creating a self-reinforcing cycle of development.
- **Public sector investment decline** post-liberalization worsened regional gaps.
- **Urban Concentration of Wealth**
  - **Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai** act as economic hubs, but their prosperity does not evenly spread to hinterlands.
  - **Vidarbha (Maharashtra) vs. Mumbai** exemplifies intra-state inequality.
- **Governance & Policy Bias**
  - **Crony capitalism** and policy favoritism towards developed states exacerbate disparities.
  - **Weak state capacity** in poorer regions deters investment.

### Threats to Federalism

- **Richer states (e.g., Karnataka, Tamil Nadu) resist fund-sharing**, arguing they contribute more to central taxes but receive less in return.
- **Political tensions rise** as poorer states demand equitable resource distribution.

### Policy Recommendations

- **Improve Governance & Reduce Corruption** in lagging states to attract investors.
- **Boost Social Infrastructure** (education, healthcare) to enhance productivity.
- **Support Informal Sector** (which dominates poorer states) to stimulate local demand.
- **Balanced Regional Industrialization** – Encourage manufacturing & services in eastern/northern states.
- **Fiscal Federalism Reforms** – Ensure fairer devolution while incentivizing state-level reforms.

### Conclusion

The report underscores the **urgent need for inclusive growth strategies** to prevent India's economic divide from destabilizing federal harmony. **Empowering lagging states through better governance, infrastructure, and equitable policies** is crucial for long-term national unity and prosperity.

## **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatic**

**Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Tech**

### **Context**

- The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India** recently signed an agreement with **BISAG-N** to leverage **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing technologies** for auditing and governance.

### **About BISAG-N**

- **Establishment:** Autonomous scientific society under the **Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)**.
- **Location:** Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **Objective:** Promote **geospatial technology, satellite communication, and geo-informatics** for governance and development.

### **Key Functions & Services**

- 1. Geographic Information Systems (GIS):**
  - Database design, map creation/updates, data migration, and software customization.
  - Enterprise-level GIS solutions for government and industries.
- 2. Remote Sensing Applications:**
  - Crop monitoring, watershed management, forest fire mapping, and environmental resource management.
- 3. Satellite Communication & Geo-spatial Tech:**
  - Supports **central & state governments** in planning and development using space tech.
- 4. Photogrammetry & Cartography:**
  - High-precision mapping, imaging, and utility management solutions.

### **Collaborations & Impact**

- Works closely with **Government of India (GoI) ministries and state agencies**.
- Acts as a **national hub** for integrating **space tech and geo-spatial data** into policymaking.

BISAG-N plays a crucial role in advancing **India's digital governance** through cutting-edge geospatial and satellite technologies.

## **Channa nachi**

**Syllabus: GS-3; Environment & Ecology**

### **Context**

- A new species of snakehead, named *Channa nachi*, was recently discovered in Meghalaya.



### **Discovery of Channa nachi**

- **Location:** Found in a shallow, slow-flowing stream feeding into the **Simsang River system** near **Chokpot village, Meghalaya**.
- **Habitat:** The stream has a substrate of **sand, leaf litter, and pebbles**, supporting diverse aquatic life.
- **Co-existing species:** Shares its habitat with fish like *Schistura reticulofasciata*, *Dario kajak*, *Pseudolaguvia sp.*, and *Barilius bendelisis*.

### Distinctive Features of *Channa nachi*

- **Medium-sized** snakehead with a **bicolor body**.
- **Slender body** with **creamish-yellow to greyish-blue** coloration.
- **Pale-blue marbling** on the ventral side.
- **10–12 pale brown saddles** on the dorsal half.
- **No spots, blotches, or transverse markings** on the caudal fin.

### Significance

- Adds to India's rich biodiversity, particularly in Meghalaya's freshwater ecosystems.
- Highlights the need for conservation of lesser-known aquatic species in the region.

## Indian Coastal Crisis

**Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – Ecosystem conservation.**

### Context:

India's coastal crisis: How light fishing threatens marine life and traditional livelihoods.

### Introduction

India's 7,500 km coastline spans **9 states and 4 Union Territories**, serving as a hub for **trade, biodiversity, and livelihoods**. However, rising **climate risks, overexploitation, and weak governance** threaten these fragile ecosystems.

### Significance of India's Coastline

- **Economic Contribution (4% of GDP):** Major ports like **Mumbai and Chennai** handle **70% of India's trade**, while fisheries and tourism generate billions.
- **Biodiversity Hotspots:** Home to the **Sundarbans mangroves, Gulf of Kutch coral reefs, and Olive Ridley turtles**.

- **Carbon Sequestration:** Mangroves store **4x more carbon** than terrestrial forests (e.g., Bhitarkanika in Odisha).
- **Natural Barriers:** Coral reefs and sand dunes **reduce erosion** (e.g., Gulf of Mannar protects Tamil Nadu's coast).
- **Livelihoods:** **16 million fishers** depend on coastal waters, which supply **70% of India's fish**.

### Key Challenges

- **Illegal Fishing:** Mechanized boats using **LED lights** deplete fish stocks (e.g., Maharashtra & Andhra Pradesh).
- **Coastal Erosion:** **48.4% of Dakshina Kannada's coast** lost in 30 years due to rising seas and sand mining.
- **Pollution:** Plastic waste and industrial effluents choke marine life (e.g., Versova Beach cleanup)