



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 07-07-2025**

### **GS-1**

1. Tokara Islands
2. Onge Tribe

### **GS-2**

3. Code of Conduct

### **GS-3**

4. Gini Index
5. National Turmeric Board

## **Tokara Islands**

**Syllabus: GS-1: World Geography –Earthquakes.**

### **Context:**

- Over **1,000 earthquakes** have struck the **Tokara Islands** over the **past two weeks**, marking an **unprecedented seismic event**.
- **Significance:** The islands lie in a **highly seismically active zone**, and such intense seismic swarms raise concern about potential **volcanic activity** or **larger earthquakes** in the region.
- **Response:** Japanese meteorological and disaster management authorities are closely monitoring the situation; evacuation plans and alerts have been reinforced in inhabited areas.

### **About Tokara Islands**

- **Location:**
  - An island chain in **southern Japan**, situated **south of Kyushu** and **north of the Amami Islands**.
  - They form part of **Kagoshima Prefecture**.
- **Alternate Name:**
  - Also known as the **Toshima Islands**.
  - The name continues in **Toshima-mura**, the administrative unit overseeing the islands.

### **Constituent Islands**

- **Inhabited Islands (7)(North to South):**
  1. Kuchinoshima
  2. Nakanoshima – *Largest by area and population*
  3. Suwanosejima – *Volcanically active*
  4. Tairajima
  5. Akusekijima
  6. Kodakarajima
  7. Takarajima

➤ **Uninhabited Islands (5):**

1. Gajajima
2. Kogajajima
3. Kojima
4. Kaminonejima
5. Yokoatejima

**Geological & Seismic Features**

- The Tokara Islands lie in one of the **most seismically and volcanically active zones** on Earth.
- **Suwanosejima** is among the most active volcanoes in Japan.
- Earthquake swarms and volcanic activity are **frequent phenomena** due to the **complex tectonic setting**.

**Prominent Physical Features**

- **Mount Otake:**
  - Located in **Nakanoshima**.
  - **Elevation:** 979 meters – **highest peak** in the archipelago.
  - A central feature for **geological monitoring** and ecological significance.

**Climate**

- Lies between the **subtropical** and **temperate** climatic zones.
- **Average Annual Temperature:** ~20°C.
- **Frost-free conditions** prevail across most of the islands.
- **Annual Rainfall:** ~2,700 mm – supports lush vegetation and diverse ecosystems.

**Administrative & Human Geography**

- Governed under **Toshima Village (Toshima-mura)**.
- Referred to as **“Japan’s longest village”**, spanning about **160 km** from north to south.
- Sparse population distributed among seven inhabited islands.

## Onge Tribe

**Syllabus: GS-1; Tribes, GS-2; Government Policies and Interventions**

### **Context**

- Onge Tribe Dives into Entrepreneurship Under VDVK Initiative, Launches Sale of Cold-Pressed Coconut Oil



### **1. About**

- **Location:** Little Andaman Island (Dugong Creek & South Bay).
- **Population:** ~120–150 individuals (critically low).
- **Language:** Onge (Ongan language family).
- **Livelihood:** Traditionally **hunter-gatherers**; now venturing into **sustainable commerce** (e.g., cold-pressed coconut oil).
- **Classification:** **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** under India's Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

### **2. Socio-Cultural Highlights**

- **Nomadic Past:** Relied on hunting (wild pigs, turtles) and gathering (honey, fruits).
- **Religion:** Animism—nature and ancestor worship.

- **Unique Practices:** Body decoration with **red ochre**, monogamous clan-based marriages.
- **Recent Shift:** Transitioning from subsistence living to **community-led economic activities** (e.g., coconut oil production).

### 3. Historic Economic Initiative

- **Milestone:** Onge tribe launched **cold-pressed coconut oil** for sale on **29th June 2025**, under:
  - **PM JANMAN Mission** (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan).
  - **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK):** A scheme promoting tribal entrepreneurship.
- **Significance:**
  - First structured economic activity by the Onge, aligning with **JanJatiya Gaurav Varsh** (150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda).
  - **Empowerment:** Balances tradition with self-reliance; product marketed as **natural/sustainable**.
  - **Visibility:** Promoted by Andaman's Tribal Welfare Department on social media.

### 4. Threats & Challenges

- **Population Decline:** Due to diseases, habitat loss, and low birth rates.
- **Cultural Erosion:** Modernization risks traditional practices.
- **Dependency:** Historically reliant on government aid for food/healthcare.
- **2004 Tsunami:** Displacement and fatalities.

### 5. Government Interventions

- **Legal Protections:**
  - **Andaman & Nicobar Aboriginal Tribes Regulation (1956):** Restricts outsider access.
  - **Forest Rights Act (2006):** Ensures land rights.
- **Welfare Schemes:** Free housing, healthcare, and food subsidies.
- **Economic Push:** **PM JANMAN** and **VDVK** to foster livelihoods (e.g., coconut oil initiative).

## 6. Andaman PVTGs

Tribe	Location	Population	Key Feature
Onge	Little Andaman	~120–150	New coconut oil enterprise (2025)
Jarawa	Middle Andaman	~400	Hostile to outsiders
Sentinelese	North Sentinel Is.	~50–150	Uncontacted, highly isolated
Great Andamanese	Strait Island	~50	Nearly extinct

## Code of Conduct

**Syllabus: GS-2: Governance – Rules and Regulations & GS-4: Code of conduct.**

### Context:

Tamil Nadu's Higher Education Department has released a **draft Model Code of Conduct** for college teachers.

Focus areas include:

- Social media behaviour
- Political neutrality
- Ethical classroom conduct

### What is a Code of Conduct?

- A **Code of Conduct** is a framework of **ethical and professional standards** guiding individual behaviour in institutions.
- It outlines **acceptable vs. unacceptable behaviour**, aiming to uphold:
  - Integrity
  - Professionalism
  - Respect

- Accountability

### Code of Ethics vs. Code of Conduct:

Code of Ethics	Code of Conduct
Value-driven	Rule-based
Based on moral philosophy (e.g., virtue ethics)	Actionable and enforcement-oriented
Encourages ethical thinking	Specifies required behaviour and consequences

### Types of Code of Conduct:

Type	Description	Ethical Base
<b>Compliance-Based</b>	Legal/policy adherence, rule-following	Deontological ethics
<b>Value-Based</b>	Based on values like fairness and equity	Virtue ethics

### Key Features of the Code of Conduct:

Feature	Description	Example
<b>Defines Acceptable Behaviour</b>	Sets professional norms for ethical behaviour	<i>TANSCHÉ: Respectful online presence</i>
<b>Guides Teacher-Student Interaction</b>	Promotes mutual respect, privacy, and inclusivity	<i>DU: Professional boundaries with students</i>
<b>Social Media Usage</b>	Advocates responsible digital behaviour	<i>No reels with personal/political agendas</i>
<b>Political Neutrality</b>	Restricts political activism that affects academic impartiality	<i>Tamil Nadu: No affiliation with disruptive groups</i>
<b>Inclusivity</b>	Prohibits discrimination on caste, gender, or religion	<i>NEP 2020: Inclusive, bias-free campuses</i>

Feature	Description	Example
<b>Research Integrity</b>	Enforces academic honesty	<i>UGC: Anti-plagiarism tools mandatory</i>

### Implementation Mechanisms:

Strategy	Description
<b>Institutional Adoption</b>	Customization of state model by individual universities
<b>Ethics Training</b>	Regular workshops for ethical awareness
<b>Leadership Modelling</b>	Senior staff to demonstrate ethical values
<b>Feedback Loops</b>	Inputs from teachers and students to refine policy
<b>Ethics Committees</b>	Panels to investigate and advise on violations

### Limitations of the Code of Conduct:

Issue	Explanation
<b>Weak Enforcement</b>	Without checks, code may remain symbolic
<b>Over-standardization</b>	One-size-fits-all approach ignores local context
<b>Academic Chill</b>	Restrictive rules may hamper academic freedom
<b>Ambiguity</b>	Vague language may lead to misapplication
<b>Resistance to Change</b>	Long-tenured faculty may resist new reforms

### Conclusion:

A robust Code of Conduct can promote:

- Ethical standards
- Academic inclusivity
- Professional accountability



However, its **effectiveness** depends on:

- Clear guidelines
- Participatory enforcement
- Respect for academic freedom

Balancing **regulation and autonomy** is essential to sustain ethical and vibrant higher education environments.

## **Gini Index**

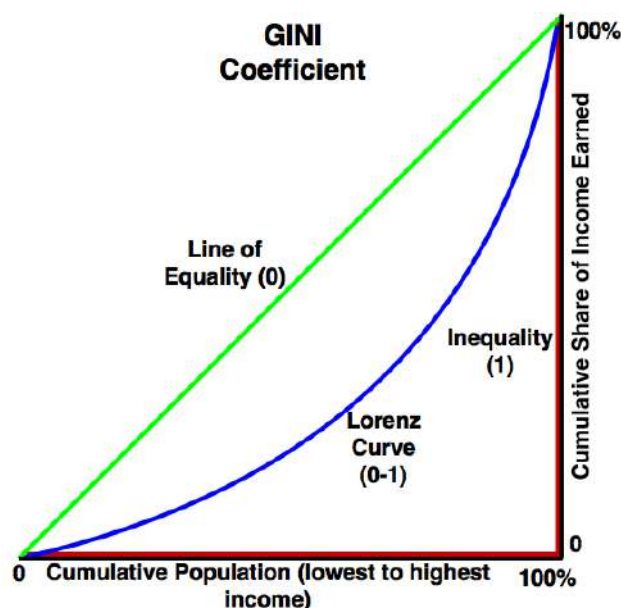
**Syllabus: GS-3; Economy**

### **Context**

- Inequality in India has come down significantly between 2011-12 and 2022-23, making it the fourth-most equal country globally, according to a World Bank report.

### **1. What is the Gini Index?**

- Measures **income/wealth inequality** on a scale of **0 (perfect equality) to 1 or 100% (absolute inequality)**.
- Derived from the **Lorenz Curve** (graphical income distribution).



## 2. India's Recent Progress (World Bank 2023 Report)

- **Gini Index dropped to 25.5 (2022-23)** from 28.8 (2011-12), making India the **4th most equal country** globally.
  - **Top 3:** Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Belarus.
  - **Better than:** China (35.7), USA (41.8), UK.
- **Poverty Reduction:** Extreme poverty fell from **16.2% (2011-12) to 2.3% (2022-23)**; 171 million lifted out of poverty.

## 3. Key Factors Behind India's Improved Equality

- **Welfare Schemes:**
  - **Financial Inclusion:** PM Jan Dhan Yojana (banking access).
  - **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Reduced leakages in subsidies.
  - **Healthcare:** Ayushman Bharat (universal health coverage).
  - **Livelihoods:** PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Stand-Up India.
- **Economic Policies:** Progressive taxation, rural employment (MGNREGA), and agricultural support (PM-KISAN).

## 4. Global & India-Specific Data

- **Global Inequality Trends:**
  - **Low Inequality (Gini <30):** European nations (Norway, Finland), UAE.
  - **High Inequality:** South Africa (63%), Brazil (53%).
- **India's Position:** Now in "**moderately low inequality**" category (Gini 25–30).

## 5. Criticisms & Limitations

- **Multidimensional Poverty:** Gini ignores health/education disparities (use **MPI**).
- **Data Debates:** Some argue poverty is underestimated (e.g., informal sector exclusion).

## Mains Practice Questions

1. "India's falling Gini Index reflects successful welfare policies but masks regional disparities." Critically examine.

## National Turmeric Board

Syllabus: GS-3; Agriculture

### Context

- Recently, In a major boost to India's turmeric farming sector, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the headquarters of the National Turmeric Board in Nizamabad, Telangana.

### About Turmeric

- **Scientific Name:** *Curcuma longa* (belongs to the ginger family, *Zingiberaceae*).
- **Key Component:** **Curcumin** (provides yellow color and medicinal properties).

### Historical & Cultural Significance

- **Ancient Use:** Used in Ayurveda, Siddha, and traditional medicine for over **4,000 years**.
- **Religious Importance:**
  - Used in Hindu rituals (e.g., *Haldi ceremony* in weddings).
  - Applied as a sacred mark in some cultures.
- **Global Spread:** Introduced to Europe via the spice trade; called "**Indian Saffron**."

### Cultivation of Turmeric in India

#### A. Major Producing States

Rank	State	Key Districts
1	Telangana	Nizamabad, Karimnagar
2	Maharashtra	Sangli, Kolhapur
3	Tamil Nadu	Erode, Salem
4	Karnataka	Mysuru, Belagavi
5	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur, Kurnool

## B. Climatic & Soil Requirements

- **Climate:** Tropical (20–30°C), requires **moderate rainfall (1000–2000 mm)**.
- **Soil:** Well-drained **loamy or black soil** (pH 4.5–7.5).
- **Harvesting:** After **7–9 months** of planting.

## C. Varieties of Turmeric

Variety	Special Feature	State
Alleppey Finger	High curcumin (6–7%)	Kerala
Erode Turmeric	Bright yellow color	Tamil Nadu
Nizamabad	Known for export quality	Telangana
Lakadong	Highest curcumin (7–8%)	Meghalaya

## Economic & Export Importance

### A. India's Turmeric Trade

- **Production:** ~11 lakh tonnes (75% of global output).
- **Export Value:** **\$207 million** (1.5% of global spice exports).
- **Top Importers:** Bangladesh (50%), UAE, USA, Malaysia, UK.

### B. Value-Added Products

- **Turmeric Powder** (for cooking & medicine).
- **Curcumin Extract** (used in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics).
- **Turmeric Oil** (used in perfumes, Ayurveda).

## National Turmeric Board (NTB)

### A. Why was NTB Formed?

- India dominates production but lacks **branding, quality control, and export competitiveness**.
- Farmers face **low prices, middlemen exploitation, and lack of processing units**.

- Need to meet **global standards (EU, USA MRL regulations)**.

## B. Functions of NTB

1. **Boost Exports:** Target **\$1 billion in turmeric exports** by 2030.
2. **Farmer Support:** Training, subsidies, and market linkages.
3. **Quality Control:** Ensure compliance with **FSSAI, APEDA, and global standards**.
4. **Research & Development:** Partner with **ICAR, CSIR, and Ayush Ministry**.
5. **Branding:** Promote **"Indian Turmeric"** as a premium global product.

## C. Challenges Addressed by NTB

- **Pesticide Residue Issues** (bans in some countries).
- **Lack of Processing Infrastructure** (most turmeric exported raw).
- **Competition from Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand.**

## Government Schemes Related to Turmeric

Scheme	Ministry	Objective
One District One Product (ODOP)	Commerce & Industry	Promote turmeric in key districts (e.g., Nizamabad).
Spices Board India	Commerce Ministry	Export promotion & quality certification.
PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)	Food Processing	Supports turmeric-based MSMEs.
Ayush Mission	Ministry of Ayush	Promotes turmeric in herbal medicine.

## Medicinal & Health Benefits of Turmeric

- **Anti-inflammatory:** Used in arthritis treatment.
- **Antioxidant:** Fights free radicals, delays aging.
- **Antiseptic:** Heals wounds & infections.
- **Digestive Aid:** Helps in bloating & liver detox.
- **Cancer Research:** Curcumin studied for anti-cancer properties.