



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 22-07-2025

GS-1

1. Gangaikonda Cholapuram
2. Earthquake
3. Eretria

GS-2

4. Vice President of India

GS-3

5. Pale-Capped Pigeon

Gangaikonda Cholapuram

Syllabus: GS-1; Art & Culture

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to participate in a function in Tamil Nadu on July 27, 2025 being organised to commemorate the **1000th anniversary (millenary) of the conquest of the Gangetic plains by King Rajendra Chola I, who established the city of Gangaikonda Cholapuram and constructed the Brihadeesvara Temple**, in Ariyalur district.



1. Historical Background:

- Built by **Rajendra Chola I** (son of Rajaraja Chola I) around **1025 CE**.
- The city served as the **capital of the Chola dynasty** for over 250 years, succeeding Thanjavur.
- "Gangaikonda Cholapuram" means **"The city of the Chola who conquered the Ganga"**, commemorating Rajendra I's successful northern expedition up to the Ganga river.

2. Architectural Significance:

- The main temple, **Brihadeeswarar Temple**, is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and part of the "Great Living Chola Temples".

- Inspired by the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur, but with **softer and more refined sculptures**.
- Features a massive **Shiva Lingam** and intricate carvings of **Shaivite, Vaishnavite, and Shakta deities**.

3. Architectural Features:

- **Dravidian style of architecture.**
- Temple tower (Vimana) is about **55 meters high**, slightly shorter than Thanjavur's but more ornate.
- Built using **granite**, and shows the **Chola mastery in temple construction and sculpture**.
- Important structures include:
 - Vimana (temple tower)
 - Mandapams (pillared halls)
 - Sculpted doorways
 - Bronze and stone sculptures

4. Cultural & Religious Importance:

- Served as a major **religious, cultural, and administrative center** of the Chola Empire.
- Center for **Shaivism**, although depictions of other Hindu sects are also found.
- Temples played a key role in **promoting Tamil art, literature, and education**.

5. Present Status:

- Protected by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.
- Part of the **UNESCO World Heritage Site** group under "**Great Living Chola Temples**", along with temples at Thanjavur and Darasuram.

Earthquake

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography-Earthquake

Context

- Tremors In Delhi As 3.2 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Haryana
- **About**

An earthquake is a sudden shaking of the Earth's surface caused by the release of energy in the lithosphere, usually due to tectonic movements.

Causes of Earthquakes

1. Tectonic movements (most common – movement along fault lines)
2. Volcanic activity
3. Anthropogenic causes like mining and dam construction
4. Plate boundaries:
 - Convergent (example Himalayas)
 - Divergent
 - Transform

Seismic Waves

- P-Waves or Primary Waves are the fastest and travel through solids and liquids
- S-Waves or Secondary Waves are slower and travel only through solids
- Surface Waves cause the most damage on the ground

Measurement

- Richter Scale measures magnitude or energy released
- Modified Mercalli Scale measures intensity or damage

Focus and Epicenter

- Focus or Hypocenter is the origin point inside the Earth
- Epicenter is the surface point directly above the focus

Important Zones in India

India lies in the seismically active Alpine-Himalayan belt. Major seismic zones:

- Zone V has the highest risk including Northeast India, Kashmir, and Himalayas
- Zone IV has high risk including Delhi, parts of Bihar, and Gujarat
- Zones III and II have moderate to low risk

Major Earthquakes in India

- 2001 Gujarat Earthquake in Bhuj, approximately 7.7 magnitude
- 2005 Kashmir Earthquake in Muzaffarabad region
- 2015 Nepal Earthquake with tremors felt across northern India

Preparedness and Mitigation

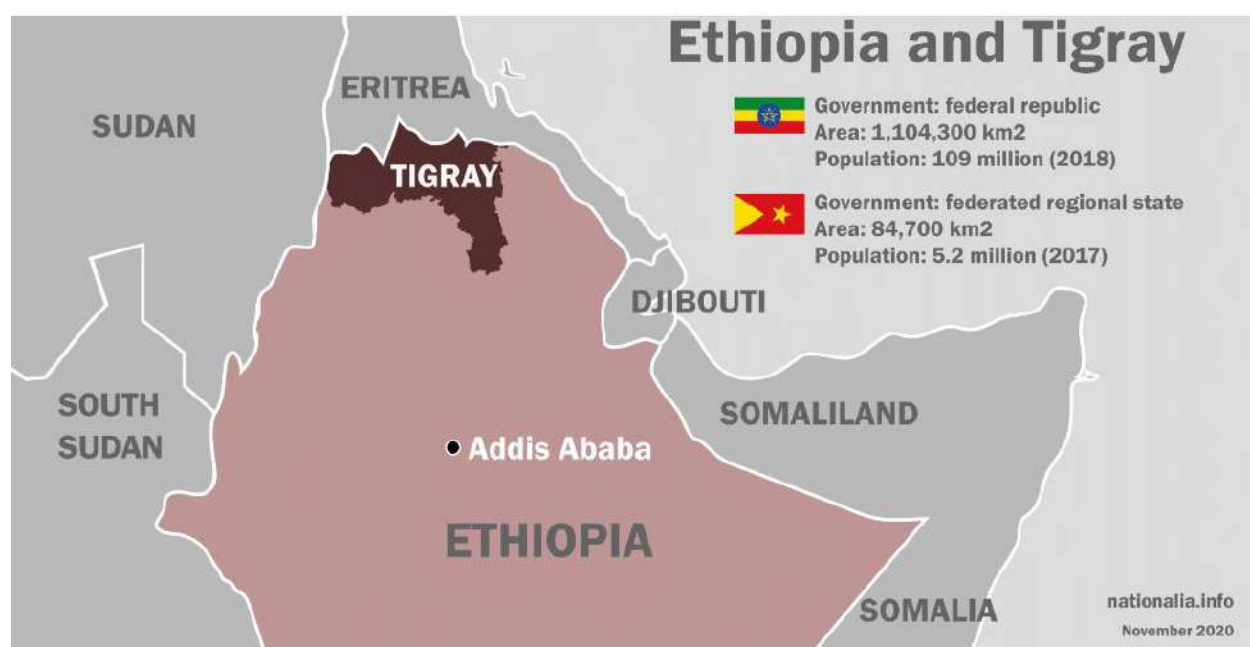
- NDMA and IMD are responsible for monitoring and mitigation
- Building codes such as BIS seismic codes guide construction
- Early warning systems, regular drills, and public awareness are key strategies

Eretria

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography, GS-2; International Relations

Context

- Tensions between Eritrea and Ethiopia has surged



Geographical Location

- Located in the **Horn of Africa, Eastern Africa**
- Bordered by:
 - Sudan to the west
 - Ethiopia to the south
 - Djibouti to the southeast
 - Red Sea to the east (strategic access to Bab el-Mandeb Strait)
- Importance: Red Sea coast makes Eritrea geopolitically important for maritime trade and naval access between Europe and Asia

- **Capital: Asmara**
- **Form of Government: One-party presidential republic (authoritarian regime)**
- **President: Isaias Afwerki (in power since independence in 1993)**
- **Independence: Gained from Ethiopia in 1993 after a 30-year war**

Historical Background

- Was an Italian colony from 1890 to 1941
- Later became a British protectorate, then federated with Ethiopia in 1952
- Eritrean War of Independence (1961 to 1991)
- Gained de facto independence in 1991, de jure independence in 1993 after a UN-supervised referendum

International Relations

- **Tense relations with Ethiopia:** War from 1998 to 2000 over border dispute (Algiers Agreement)
- Peace agreement with Ethiopia signed in 2018 under PM Abiy Ahmed
- Member of **African Union (AU)**, United Nations, and IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development)
- Has limited diplomatic ties with many Western nations due to human rights concerns

Economy

- Agriculture-based economy: Livelihood for most population
- Rich in mineral resources like **gold, copper, zinc**
- Heavily sanctioned and aid-dependent
- Remittances from Eritreans abroad form a major source of income

Human Rights Concerns

- No national elections since 1993
- Mandatory and indefinite national service
- Restricted freedom of press, expression, and movement
- Often compared to North Korea in terms of repression

Vice President of India

Syllabus: GS-2; Polity- Vice President

Context

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned on July 21 2025, opening the contest for his successor.



Constitutional Provisions

- The **Vice President of India** is the **second-highest constitutional office** in the country, governed by **Articles 63 to 71** of the Constitution.
- As per **Article 64**, the Vice President is the **ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**.
- In the **absence or vacancy** of the Vice President, **Article 91** empowers the **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** to perform the duties of the Chairman temporarily.
- The **Speaker** is the presiding officer of the **Lok Sabha**.

Recent Development: Resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar

- **Jagdeep Dhankhar**, who assumed office in **August 2022** as the 14th Vice President, **resigned mid-term** in July 2025, citing **Article 67(a)**.
- His resignation came amidst political developments, including the **submission of a motion in Rajya Sabha** to remove a High Court judge.

- His tenure, marked by **frequent confrontations with opposition parties**, ended three years earlier than scheduled (2027).

Who Performs VP's Duties Now?

- In the absence of the Vice President, **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Harivansh Narayan Singh** (JD(U)), will act as the **Chairman of the Upper House**, as per constitutional mandate.
- He will serve in this capacity **until a new Vice President is elected**.

Election of the Vice President

- The **Vice-President (Election) Rules, 1974**, along with **Articles 63–71**, govern the election process.
- A new election **must be held within 60 days** of the resignation, i.e., **before September 19, 2025**.
- The **electoral college** includes **788 Members of Parliament** (543 Lok Sabha + 245 Rajya Sabha).
- Voting is by **proportional representation** using the **single transferable vote (STV)** system with a **secret ballot**.
- The **Election Commission of India** will announce the poll schedule.

Eligibility Criteria for Vice President

- Must be a **citizen of India**
- At least **35 years old**
- Qualified to be elected as a **member of Rajya Sabha**
- Must not hold any **office of profit** under the Union or State government (exceptions: President, Governor, Minister)
- Must be a **registered voter** anywhere in India

Pale-Capped Pigeon

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

Context

- Rare pale-capped pigeon sighted in Assam's Dehing Patkai National Park.



About

- **IUCN Status:** *Vulnerable*
- **Habitat:** Tropical and subtropical dry forests, mangroves, evergreen forests.
- **Distribution:** Found in parts of **northeastern India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia.**

Key Features:

- Large pigeon with a pale whitish crown and maroon-brown body.
- Prefers **dense forest canopy** and often seen near fruiting trees.
- Rarely observed in large numbers; habitat loss and hunting are major threats.

Conservation Concerns:

- Declining population due to **deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and hunting for food and sport.**
- Protected under **Schedule IV** of the **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**