



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 23-08-2025

GS-1

1. Mithi River

GS-2

2. Quality Council of India

GS-3

3. GIAHS Programme
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Mithi River

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- Rivers, Mapping, GS-4; Ethics

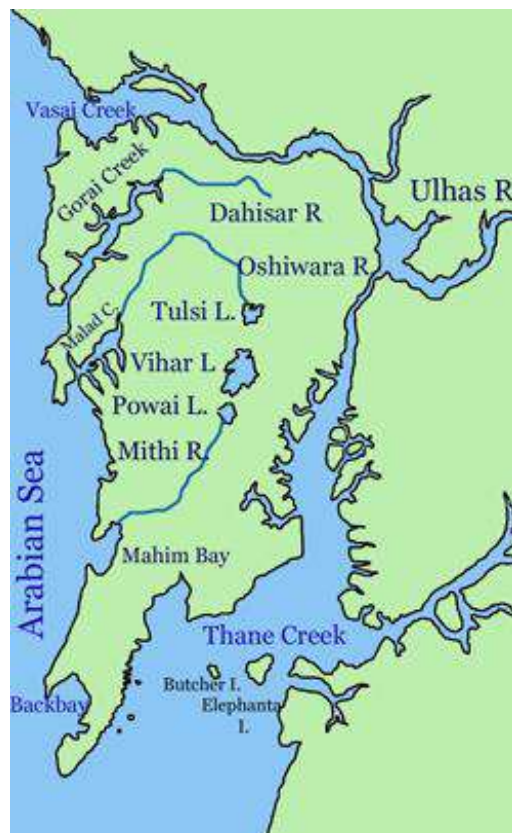
Context

- The most significant recent development concerning the Mithi River is the ongoing investigation into a major financial scam related to its desilting (dredging) work.

Background: The Mithi River

Origin and Path:

- It originates from the overflow of **Vihar Lake** and is joined by the overflow from **Powai Lake**.
- It flows for **18 km** through the heart of Mumbai's suburbs and industrial areas (Powai, Saki Naka, Kurla, BKC, Dharavi) before meeting the Arabian Sea at **Mahim Creek**.



- **The 2005 Deluge:** The river was tragically infamous during the July 26, 2005, floods, where it overflowed catastrophically. One major reason was that its channel had been severely constricted by illegal encroachments and was choked with silt and garbage.
- **Post-2005 Measures:** After the disaster, the BMC and other agencies undertook massive work to **widen and deepen** the river's channel to improve its carrying capacity and prevent future flooding. The width was increased from 5m to up to 70m in some stretches.
- **A Seasonal River:** Being seasonal, it remains dry for most of the year but carries a tremendous volume of water during the monsoon. **Annual desilting before the rains is absolutely critical** to maintain its capacity and prevent it from overflowing its banks.

Ethics Perspective regarding Context

- **Flood Risk:** Inadequate desilting reduces the river's capacity to carry water, significantly increasing the risk of overflow and urban flooding during Mumbai's heavy monsoon rains.
- **Corruption:** It highlights deep-rooted corruption in civic projects and the misuse of public money.
- **Accountability:** The investigation is ongoing, and more arrests, potentially including BMC officials, are expected.

Quality Council of India

Syllabus: GS-2: Statutory bodies.

Context:

- The **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**, a constituent board of QCI, has launched a **new Medical Application Portal** to streamline accreditation services for medical laboratories.

About QCI

- **Established:** 1997
- **Nature:** Non-profit autonomous organisation.
- **Legal status:** Registered under **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- **Setup:** Jointly by Government of India and Indian Industry (ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI).

- **Administrative control:** DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Functions of QCI

- **National Accreditation Body**
 - Provides accreditation through boards like:
 - **NABL** – Testing & Calibration Laboratories.
 - **NABCB** – Certification Bodies.
 - **NABH** – Healthcare Organisations.
 - **NABET** – Education & Training.
 - **NBQP** – Quality Promotion.
- **Independent Assessment**
 - Ensures **third-party evaluation** of products, services, and processes.
- **Promotion of Standards**
 - Encourages adoption of **ISO standards, Food Safety, Quality Management Systems**, etc.
- **Quality Movement**
 - Runs the **National Quality Campaign** for public awareness.
 - Supports initiatives like **Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED)**, **Ayushman Bharat empanelment**, etc.

Governance

- Governed by a **Council of 38 members**.
- Equal representation from:
 - **Government**
 - **Industry**
 - **Other stakeholders** (academia, consumer organisations, etc.).
- Functions through **executive boards and committees**.

GIAHS Programme

Syllabus: GS-3: Traditional Agriculture

Context:

Recently, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare informed the Lok Sabha that India currently hosts three Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

Background

- **Launched by:** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002).
- **Objective:** To safeguard and support traditional agricultural systems threatened by **climate change, biodiversity loss, and displacement of communities.**
- **Approach:**
 - Multistakeholder model.
 - Promotes conservation + sustainable adaptation + socio-economic development.
 - Provides **technical assistance, market promotion, and agrotourism opportunities.**

India's Recognized GIAHS (3 sites)

- **Koraput Region, Odisha**
 - Known for **subsistence paddy cultivation** on highland slopes.
 - Rich diversity of **paddy landraces & farmer-developed varieties.**
 - Repository of **medicinal plants** + tribal traditional knowledge.
- **Kuttanad System, Kerala**
 - Unique **below-sea-level farming system.**
 - Comprises **wetlands (paddy + fish), coconut garden lands, inland water bodies.**
 - Integrates agriculture, fishing, and shell collection.
- **Saffron Park of Kashmir**

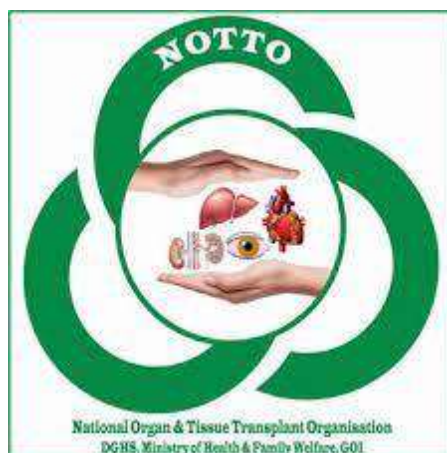
- Traditional **saffron cultivation system**.
- **Intercropping, organic farming practices**, and agro-pastoral livelihood.
- Helps maintain **biodiversity and soil health**.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)

Syllabus: GS – 3: General Science – Health Science.

Context:

- NOTTO issued a **10-point advisory** (Aug 2025).
- Key Highlight: **Priority to women patients and relatives of deceased donors** awaiting organ transplants.



About NOTTO

- **Established under:** Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- **Mandated by:** Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Act, 2011.
- **Location:** New Delhi.
- **Role:** Apex body for coordination and networking on organ procurement, distribution, and transplantation.

Divisions

- National Human Organ and Tissue Removal and Storage Network
- National Biomaterial Centre

Key Functions

- Formulates **policies, guidelines, and protocols** for organ transplantation.
- Maintains **National Organ & Tissue Donation and Transplant Registry** (compiling state/regional data).
- **Coordinates** procurement, allocation, and transportation of organs across states.
- **Awareness generation** on deceased organ donation.
- Provides **legal and technical consultancy** on transplantation.
- **Training programs** for medical and paramedical staff.
- Ensures **surveillance and monitoring** of transplant activities nationwide.

Significance

- Promotes **equity, transparency, and accountability** in organ allocation.
- Helps tackle **organ shortage crisis** in India (demand far exceeds supply).
- Supports “**One Nation – One Organ Sharing**” approach for efficiency.

INS Aridhaman

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Defence Technology.

Context:

- India is set to induct **INS Aridhaman**, its **third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, strengthening the country’s **nuclear triad** and second-strike capability.
- The submarine is nearing completion and will join **INS Arihant**, already in service, to enhance India’s strategic deterrence.

About INS Aridhaman

- **Type:** Arihant-class SSBN (2nd of the class).

- **Project:** Built under the **Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project** at the Ship Building Centre, Visakhapatnam.
- **Role:** Designed for **nuclear deterrence patrols** with long-range ballistic missiles.

Features

- **Dimensions:**
 - Length – ~112–125 m
 - Beam – 15 m
 - Draft – 10 m
- **Displacement:** ~7,000 tonnes
- **Crew:** ~95 (officers + sailors)
- **Missile Capability:** Can carry **K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs)** with a range of ~3,500 km, along with K-15 (Sagarika) missiles.
- **Sonar Systems:**
 - **USHUS** (for detection and tracking, developed for Kilo-class but adapted).
 - **Panchendriya** (integrated sonar & tactical system – passive, active, surveillance, ranging, intercept).
- **Other Features:**
 - Underwater communication system.
 - Twin flank-array sonar.
 - Rafael broadband expendable anti-torpedo countermeasures.

Strategic Significance

- Enhances **second-strike capability**, completing India's **nuclear triad** (land, air, and sea-based delivery).
- Boosts India's position as only a handful of nations (US, Russia, China, UK, France, India) with operational SSBNs.
- Strengthens India's **credible minimum deterrence** posture under its nuclear doctrine.