



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 07-10-2025**

### **GS-1**

1. Mud Volcano

### **GS-2**

2. Parliamentary Committees

### **GS-3**

3. Compressive Asphyxia
4. Painted Stork
5. Pulicat Lake

## **Mud Volcano**

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography

### Context

- India's only **mud volcano** at *Baratang Island* in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** has **erupted again** after a period of dormancy.



### About Mud Volcanoes

- **Also known as:** *Mud Domes*
- **Formation:** Eruptions of **mud, water, and gases** (mainly methane, sometimes CO<sub>2</sub> or nitrogen) caused by **subsurface geological processes**.
- **Difference from Lava Volcanoes:**
  - Do **not eject molten lava**.
  - Are **sedimentary in origin**, not igneous.
- **Structure:** Can range from **1-2 meters** to **700 meters in height** and **1-10 km in width**.
- **Global Occurrence:** Found in regions with **subduction zones** or **hydrocarbon deposits**—examples include Azerbaijan, Indonesia, and the Caspian Sea region.
- **Ecological Impact:** Can **release methane**, affect **soil chemistry**, and sometimes **alter local topography** by forming **islands or mounds**.

### About Baratang Island

- **Location:** North and Middle Andaman district; around **150 km from Port Blair**.
- **Tourism:** Famous for its **limestone caves, mangrove creeks, and mud volcano**.
- **Tribal Area:** Inhabited by the **Jarawa tribe**, one of the indigenous tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Previous Eruption:** The last major eruption occurred in **2005**, following **seismic activity caused by the Indian Ocean earthquake**.

## **Parliamentary Committees**

### **Syllabus: GS-2; Polity**

#### **Context**

- Centre may extend tenure of parliamentary committees by 2 years

#### **About**

- Parliamentary Committees are small groups of Members of Parliament (MPs) appointed or elected by the House (or both Houses jointly) to perform specific functions.  
They **scrutinize legislation, budgets, and administration** in greater detail than is possible in open Parliament sessions.
- They operate under the **direction of the Speaker (Lok Sabha) or the Chairman (Rajya Sabha)**.

#### **Constitutional Basis**

- **Article 105** – Provides privileges to MPs.
- **Article 118(1)** – Allows each House to make rules for its own procedure, including the creation of committees.
- Thus, committees are **not constitutional bodies** but derive authority from **Rules of Procedure and Parliamentary conventions**.

#### **Need for Parliamentary Committees**

1. Parliament meets for limited days; cannot examine all issues in detail.
2. Technical matters require expert, non-partisan discussion.
3. Ensure **accountability of the executive** beyond floor debates.
4. Enable **in-depth scrutiny** of bills, expenditure, and policy implementation.
5. Strengthen **parliamentary democracy** by enhancing transparency and efficiency.

## Types of Parliamentary Committees

Broadly classified into:

### 1. Standing Committees

- **Permanent and regular** committees, reconstituted every year.
- Deal with routine or ongoing matters.

#### (a) Financial Committees

##### 1. Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

- Examines **CAG reports** on government expenditure.
- Ensures money is spent as authorized by Parliament.
- **Chairperson:** From **Opposition** (by convention).
- **Composition:** 22 members (15 LS + 7 RS).

##### 2. Estimates Committee

- Examines **budget estimates** and suggests economies & efficiency.
- Works to improve organizational and administrative efficiency.
- **Chairperson:** Always from **Lok Sabha (ruling party)**.
- **Composition:** 30 members (Lok Sabha only).

##### 3. Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU)

- Examines reports of **CAG** on **PSUs**.
- Evaluates **autonomy, efficiency, and accountability** of PSUs.
- **Composition:** 22 members (15 LS + 7 RS).

#### (b) Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs)

- Introduced in **1993** (expanded to 24 in 2004).
- Examine **Demands for Grants, Bills, and policy performance** of ministries.
- Each DRSC oversees one or more ministries.
- **Composition:** 31 members (21 LS + 10 RS).
- **Reports are advisory**, not binding.

#### (c) Other Standing Committees

- **Committee on Petitions**
- **Committee on Privileges**
- **Business Advisory Committee**
- **Rules Committee**
- **Committee on Subordinate Legislation**

- **Committee on Government Assurances**
- **Committee on Welfare of SCs/STs**
- **Committee on Empowerment of Women**, etc.

## 2. Ad Hoc Committees

- **Temporary committees** constituted for a specific purpose.
- **Cease to exist** once their task is completed.

### Examples:

- **Select Committee on a Bill** – Formed to examine a specific Bill in detail.
- **Joint Committee on a Bill (JPC)** – Includes members from both Houses for major or controversial bills.
- **Inquiry Committees** – Formed for special investigations (e.g., 2G scam, stock market scam).

### Differences: Standing vs. Ad Hoc Committees

Feature	Standing Committee	Ad Hoc Committee
Tenure	Permanent (reconstituted annually)	Temporary
Purpose	Regular business of Parliament	Specific issue or Bill
Example	PAC, DRSCs	JPC, Select Committee

### Significance of Parliamentary Committees

1. **Legislative scrutiny** – Improves quality of laws.
2. **Financial accountability** – PAC and COPU check executive spending.
3. **Expertise infusion** – MPs get domain knowledge.
4. **Non-partisan environment** – Work is more collaborative than in open debates.
5. **Transparency and efficiency** – Strengthen checks and balances.

### Limitations

1. Recommendations **not binding** on government.
2. **Limited public access** to committee proceedings.
3. Lack of **expert staff** and research support.
4. **Political bias** may affect objectivity.

## **Compressive Asphyxia**

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

### **Context**

- At least **41 people** have died following a **stampede** at **Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam's (TVK) rally** held in **Velusamypuram, Tamil Nadu**. According to medical reports, **most fatalities were caused by compressive asphyxia** — a condition resulting from a **crowd crush** where chest expansion becomes impossible.

### **What is Asphyxia?**

- **Asphyxia** (or *asphyxiation*) refers to a state in which the body is deprived of oxygen, leading to **unconsciousness or death**.
- Normally, oxygen enters the body through breathing and is transported by blood to all tissues, while carbon dioxide is expelled.
- When this oxygen exchange is interrupted, **cells fail to function**, and vital organs—especially the **brain and heart**—are damaged rapidly.

### **Compressive Asphyxia – Mechanism**

- A form of **physical or mechanical asphyxia**.
- Occurs when **external pressure on the chest and abdomen** prevents normal breathing movements.
- The person cannot **expand the lungs** to draw in air due to pressure from surrounding people, debris, or objects.
- Common in:
  - **Crowd crushes** (stadium, concert, or rally stampedes)
  - **Vehicle or building collapses**
  - **Police restraints or accidents** where a person's chest is compressed for an extended period

### **Medical Consequences**

- **Rapid oxygen deprivation (hypoxia)**
- **Loss of consciousness within minutes**
- **Death** within 3–5 minutes if pressure persists
- Postmortem signs: facial congestion, petechial hemorrhages, and cyanosis (bluish skin)

## **Painted Stork**

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

### **Context**

- Recently, after a **four-year hiatus**, a pair of **Painted Storks** has been spotted in **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR)**, Assam.

### **About Painted Stork**



- **Scientific Name:** *Mycteria leucocephala*
- **Family:** Ciconiidae (Stork family)
- **Type:** Large wading bird

### **Distribution**

- Found across the **plains of tropical Asia**, from the **Indian Subcontinent to Southeast Asia, south of the Himalayas**.

### **Habitat**



- Prefers **freshwater wetlands, marshes, and shallow lakes**.
- Also found near **irrigation canals** and **flooded agricultural fields**, especially during the **monsoon** season.

### Migration

- **Non-migratory species** — undertakes **local, short-distance movements** in response to weather, food availability, or breeding conditions.

### Diet

- **Carnivorous (Piscivore):** Feeds mainly on **small fish**, and occasionally on **crustaceans, amphibians, insects, and reptiles**.

### Distinctive Features

- Only stork species in the genus *Mycteria* with a **black pectoral band**.
- **Males and females appear similar**, though **males are slightly larger**.
- Adults have **pink tertial feathers**, giving them the name “painted.”

### Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** *Near Threatened (NT)*
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, wetland degradation, pollution, and disturbance during breeding.

### Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR), Assam

- **Location:** Assam, along the **Brahmaputra floodplains** in northeastern India.
- **Established:** 1905 (as a reserve forest), **National Park status in 1974**, and **Tiger Reserve in 2007**.
- **Biodiversity:**
  - Famous for **Indian one-horned rhinoceros**.
  - Home to **tigers, elephants, swamp deer, water buffalo**, and numerous bird species.
- **Wetlands & Water Bodies:** Provides crucial habitats for **migratory and resident waterbirds**, including storks, herons, and cranes.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site:** Recognized in **1985** for its **exceptional natural habitat and biodiversity**.

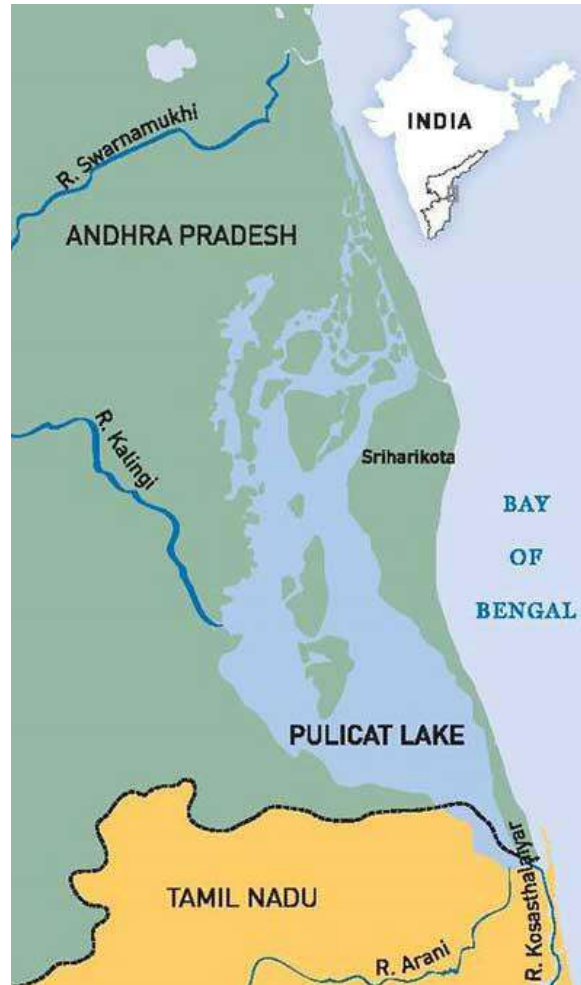


## **Pulicat Lake**

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

### Context

- Recently, Pulicat lake fishermen have demanded a long-term solution as heavy siltation threatens the livelihoods of local communities dependent on the lake.



### About Pulicat Lake

- Pulicat Lake is a vast coastal, shallow, **brackish water lagoon** along the coast of the **Bay of Bengal** into which several streams drain.
- It is the **second largest brackish water lagoon in India** after Chilika Lake, sprawling across **Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**.
- The lagoon is **separated from the Bay of Bengal by the Sriharikota Island**, which also houses the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR)**.

- It is **fed by the Aarani River** at the southern tip and the **Kalangi River** from the northwest, while the **Buckingham Canal**, a navigation channel, passes through it.
- **Designated as a Ramsar Site in 2002**, recognizing its international importance as a wetland ecosystem.

### Biodiversity

- Acts as a **unique ecotone**, supporting diverse aquatic and terrestrial life.
- Home to **mudskippers, seagrass beds, oyster reefs**, and more than **200 avian species**.

### Flora

- About **132 plant species** are found here, including *Walsura piscida*, *Manilkara elengi*, *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Spinifex littoreus*, and *Calamus viminalis*.

### Fauna

- Hosts **migratory birds** such as **Eurasian curlews, oystercatchers, bar-tailed godwits, sand plovers, and greater flamingos**, m