



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 09-06-2026

Mapping Perspective

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Prelims Perspective

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Barren Island

Syllabus: GS-1 , Physical Geography – Volcanoes

Context

Barren Island continues to be the only confirmed active volcano in South Asia and India's only active volcano.

About Barren Island

- A volcanic island located in the **Andaman Sea**.
- Part of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Union Territory.
- Situated approximately 138 km northeast of Port Blair.

Geological Significance

- Formed above the subduction zone between the **Indian Plate and Burmese Plate**.
- Represents the exposed summit of a submarine volcano.
- Volcano rises nearly 2,250 metres from the sea floor.
- Highest point reaches about 354 metres above sea level.

Key Features

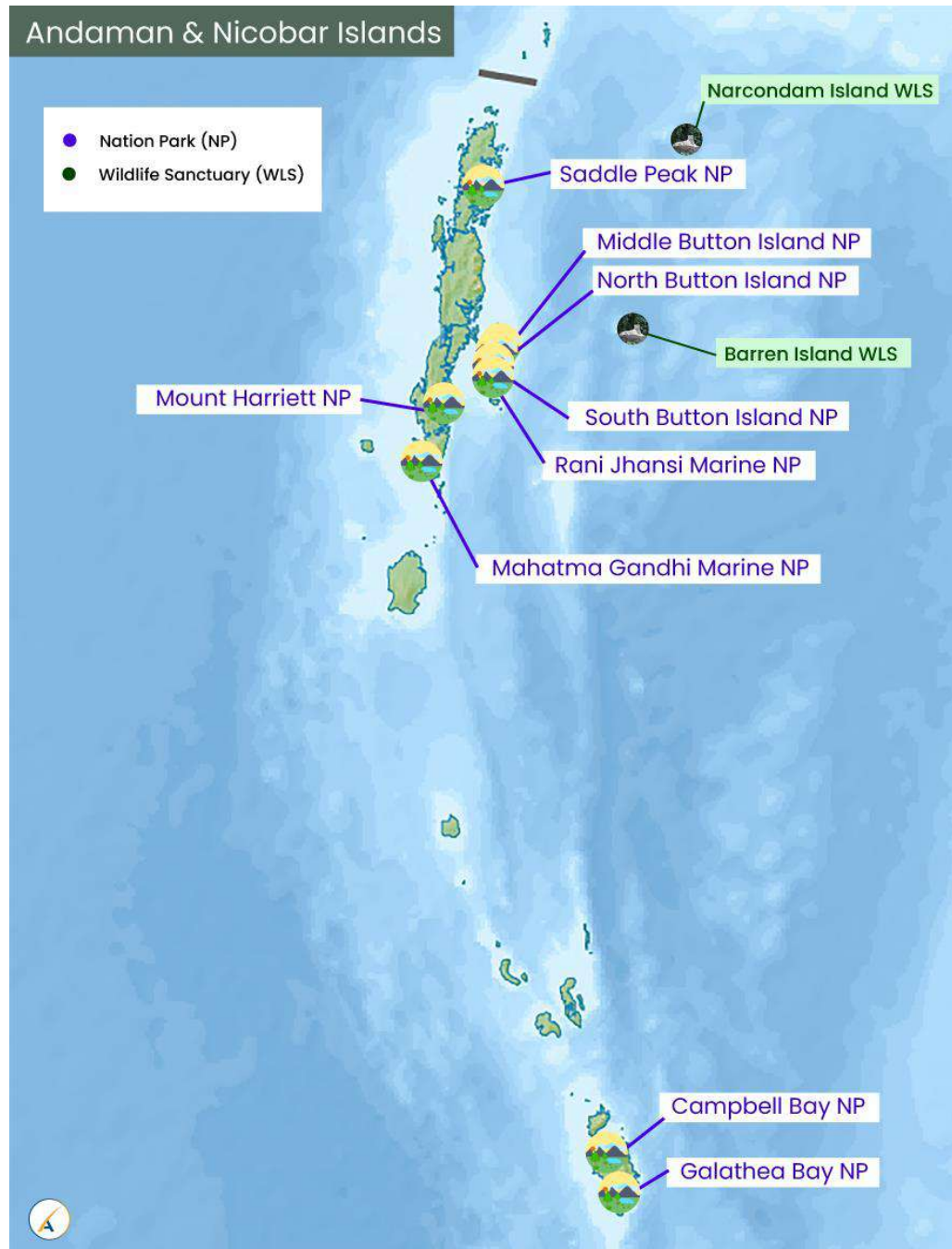
- Diameter: Approximately 3 km.
- Contains a central **volcanic crater**.
- Classified as a **stratovolcano**.
- Composed of:
 - Lava
 - Volcanic ash
 - Rock fragments

Volcanic Activity

- **Only active volcano** in:
 - India
 - South Asia
- Only active volcano in the island arc stretching from Myanmar to Sumatra.
- Has witnessed several eruptions in recent decades.
- Major recent eruption recorded in 2017.

Ecology

- Largely barren due to volcanic activity.
- Covered with basaltic rocks.
- Sparse vegetation.
- Remains largely uninhabited due to its remote location and active volcanic nature.



Pyroprocessing

Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Technology

Context

Pyroprocessing is increasingly being utilized across several industrial sectors globally.

About Pyroprocessing

- Pyroprocessing is a high-temperature industrial process used to bring about physical and chemical changes in materials.
- It is a dry and energy-intensive process.
- Major sectors using pyroprocessing:
 - Cement Industry
 - Metallurgical Industry
 - Nuclear Industry

Applications

1. Cement Manufacturing

- Raw materials such as limestone, clay, and iron ore are fed into a rotary kiln.
- Around 900°C:
 - Limestone undergoes calcination and releases carbon dioxide.
- Around 1450°C:
 - Materials partially melt and form clinker.
- Clinker is ground to produce cement.

2. Metallurgical Industry

- Used in:
 - Roasting
 - Smelting
- Helps extract metals from ores.
- Example:
 - Zinc sulphide is roasted to form zinc oxide.

3. Nuclear Industry

- Used for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel.

- Fuel fragments are placed in molten salt mixtures.
- Electrochemical separation helps recover reusable elements.
- Considered a promising technology for advanced nuclear fuel cycles.

Jhajjar-Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary

Syllabus: GS-3, Environment & Biodiversity – Protected Areas

Context

The Punjab Forest Department has prepared a ₹5.36-crore development plan for the Jhajjar-Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary in Rupnagar district.



About Jhajjar-Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary

- Located in the Rupnagar district of Punjab.
- Situated near the Sutlej River in the foothills of the Shivalik Range.
- Forms an important wildlife habitat in northwestern India.

Vegetation

- Predominantly dry deciduous forests.

Flora

Important plant species include:

- Eucalyptus
- Khair
- Neem
- Shisham
- Amla

Fauna

Mammals:

- Leopard
- Sambar Deer
- Barking Deer
- Nilgai
- Jackal
- Jungle Cat
- Pangolin
- Wild Boar

Reptiles:

- Indian Python
- Cobra
- Monitor Lizard

Recent Development

- In January 2026, the Punjab State Board for Wildlife approved renaming it as **Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Ordinances in India

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Governor.

Context:

The Supreme Court Collegium's acceptance of an Ordinance creating four additional judges' posts has raised significant questions about judicial independence, security of tenure, and the appearance of detachment from the executive.

What is Ordinance?

- An Ordinance is a temporary law promulgated by the President of India under **Article 123** of the Constitution.
- It is an **extraordinary legislative power** exercised when Parliament is not in session and immediate action is necessary.

Key Features of Ordinances

Constitutional Basis

- **Article 123:** Empowers the President to promulgate ordinances when Parliament is not in session.

Legal Status

- **Force of Law:** Ordinance has the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament during its operation.

Duration & Validity

- Ceases to operate **six weeks after Parliament reassembles**, unless approved by both Houses.
- **Withdrawal:** President may withdraw an ordinance at any time.
- **Disapproval:** Both Houses may disapprove it through resolution.
- **Re-promulgation:** Constitutionally permissible, but repeated re-promulgation has been held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Judicial Pronouncements on Ordinances

D.C. Wadhwa vs State of Bihar (1986)

- Repeated re-promulgation of ordinances amounts to a **“fraud on the Constitution.”**
- Ordinance-making power cannot substitute regular legislation.

Krishna Kumar Singh vs State of Bihar (2017)

- Seven-judge Bench ruled that ordinance-making power cannot be used as a **parallel source of legislation.**
- Ordinances are intended only for **exceptional circumstances.**

Judicial Independence as a Basic Feature

Constitutional Framework

- **Article 124(1):** Supreme Court shall consist of the Chief Justice and such other judges, not exceeding the number prescribed by Parliament through law.

- Strength of Supreme Court judges has been increased periodically through legislation.

NJAC Judgment (2015)

Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association vs Union of India

- Struck down the **99th Constitutional Amendment** and **NJAC Act**.
- Key observations:
 - Judicial independence is part of the **Basic Structure**.
 - NJAC enabled the Law Minister and one eminent person to potentially veto appointments.
 - This undermined the judiciary's primacy in judicial appointments.
 - Judicial independence includes both **freedom from executive influence** and the **appearance of detachment** from the executive.

News Summary: Ordinance Increasing Supreme Court Strength

Ordinance of May 16, 2026

- President promulgated an Ordinance increasing Supreme Court strength from **34 to 38 judges**.
- Consequences:
 - Five judges took oath.
 - Two filled existing vacancies (Court functioning with 32 judges against sanctioned strength of 34).
 - Three judges occupy posts created solely through the Ordinance.

Constitutional Concerns

1. Security of Tenure

- Three judges occupy positions created by an Ordinance that:
 - Can be withdrawn by the President.
 - May be disapproved by Parliament.
 - Ceases after six weeks unless replaced by an Act.
- Raises concern that judicial positions exist at the **executive's sufferance**.

2. Judicial Independence

- Question arises whether judges can function free from perceived obligations to the executive.

- Dependence on conversion of Ordinance into law may affect perceptions of institutional independence.

3. Appearance of Bias

- Union Government may appear before judges whose positions depend upon parliamentary regularisation.
- Perception of detachment from the executive may be weakened.

Possible Constitutional Scenarios

If Parliament Passes the Bill

- Ordinance replaced by statute.
- Judges' positions regularised.
- Constitutional concerns substantially resolved.

If Parliament Does Not Pass the Bill

- Supreme Court strength reverts to 34.
- Re-promulgation would violate principles laid down in **D.C. Wadhwa**.
- Status of judges appointed to Ordinance-created posts becomes uncertain.

Related Legal Issues

Validity of Judgments

Gokaraju Rangaraju vs State of Andhra Pradesh (1981)

- Protected through the **De Facto Doctrine**.
- Acts of officials exercising authority under colour of office remain valid even if appointment is later found defective.

Removal Question

- Whether a judge appointed to an Ordinance-created post automatically loses office after lapse of the Ordinance remains **constitutionally untested**.

Broader Implications

For Judicial Independence

- May weaken structural independence of the judiciary.
- Creates precedent for altering court composition through executive action before parliamentary scrutiny.
- May affect public perception of judicial impartiality.

For Constitutional Governance

- Raises questions regarding proper limits of ordinance-making power.
- Tests the scope of principles laid down in **D.C. Wadhwa** and **Krishna Kumar Singh**.
- May trigger future constitutional litigation.

For the Collegium System

- Collegium's acceptance may be viewed as a calculated institutional risk.
- Reputation of the institution becomes linked to subsequent legislative approval.
- May influence future judiciary-executive interactions.

Concerns Raised by Experts

- **Security of tenure** is a cornerstone of judicial independence.
- **Appearance of detachment** from the executive is essential for public confidence.
- Historical examples such as the court-packing attempts of Franklin D. Roosevelt illustrate risks of executive influence over court composition.
- Supreme Court jurisprudence in **D.C. Wadhwa** and **Krishna Kumar Singh** cautions against treating ordinances as a parallel legislative route.

India Oman Bilateral Relationship

Syllabus: GS-2: International Relations – Bilateral

Context:

- India and Oman share one of the oldest maritime and commercial relationships in the Indian Ocean region.
- The partnership has evolved into a comprehensive strategic relationship encompassing trade, energy, defence, connectivity, and people-to-people ties.
- The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), signed in December 2025, has come into force amid disruptions in West Asia caused by the continuing Strait of Hormuz crisis.

Political and Strategic Relations

- Oman is India's oldest strategic partner in the Gulf region.
- Both countries maintain close diplomatic engagement through regular high-level visits and institutional dialogue mechanisms.
- Cooperation in maritime security and counter-piracy operations.

- Oman provides logistical access to the strategically important Duqm Port, enhancing India's presence in the western Indian Ocean.
- Both countries support regional stability and freedom of navigation along maritime routes.

Economic and Trade Relations

- Oman is among India's important trading partners in the Gulf region.
- Bilateral trade reached USD 11.18 billion in FY 2025–26.
- India imports: Crude oil, LNG, fertilisers, methanol, and ammonia.
- India exports: Machinery, petroleum products, iron and steel goods, rice, ceramics, and engineering products.

Indian Community in Oman

- Nearly 700,000 Indians live and work in Oman.
- Largest expatriate community in the Sultanate.
- Acts as an important bridge between the two nations.

India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

Key Provisions

- Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement aimed at deepening economic integration and expanding bilateral trade.
- Oman has granted zero-duty access on 98% of tariff lines, covering approximately 99% of India's exports.
- Improved market access for engineering products, petroleum products, textiles, machinery, and chemicals.
- Enhances investment flows and strengthens supply chain integration.
- Seeks diversification of trade beyond traditional energy cooperation.
- Expected to significantly improve the competitiveness of Indian exports in the Omani market.

News Summary: CEPA Amid Strait of Hormuz Crisis

Strategic Significance

- Implementation of CEPA coincides with disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, raising concerns regarding global trade and energy supplies.
- Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important maritime chokepoints through which a substantial share of global oil and gas trade passes.

- Continuing regional conflict has increased freight costs and disrupted trade flows across West Asia.
- In this context, Oman has emerged as a strategically important partner for India.

Geostrategic Advantage of Oman

- Unlike many Gulf countries whose ports depend heavily on access through the Strait of Hormuz, a significant portion of Oman's coastline lies outside the strait along the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- Major ports such as Salalah and Duqm remain accessible even during disruptions in the strait.
- Enhances trade continuity and supply chain resilience for India.

Declining Trade with UAE

- Crisis has adversely affected India's trade with several Gulf countries, particularly the UAE.
- India-UAE trade, which crossed \$100 billion in the previous financial year, reportedly declined by around 35% in April 2026 due to operational disruptions at regional ports.

Energy Security Benefits

Importance for India

- CEPA strengthens India's access to critical energy and industrial inputs:
 - Crude Oil
 - Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
 - Fertilisers
 - Methanol
 - Ammonia
- These imports were valued at more than \$7.2 billion in FY 2025–26.
- Stable access to Omani supplies can reduce vulnerabilities arising from geopolitical tensions.
- Strengthens India's energy security amid dependence on imported fuel and industrial inputs.

Export Opportunities for India

Benefits from Tariff Elimination

- Prior to CEPA, some Indian products faced duties of up to 100% despite generally low tariff levels.

- Elimination of tariffs is expected to improve the competitiveness of Indian products.

Sectors Likely to Benefit

- Machinery and engineering goods.
- Petroleum products.
- Steel and iron products.
- Rice and agricultural products.
- Consumer goods and personal care products.
- Electronics and electrical equipment.

Electronics Sector Potential

- Oman's electronics imports are estimated at around \$3 billion annually.
- India's exports in this segment remain relatively modest.
- Indicates considerable scope for expansion of Indian exports.