



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 11-10-2025

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GS-3

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Super Moon

Syllabus: GS-1: General Geography.

Context:

- A **rare celestial supermoon** recently illuminated skylines around the world, drawing attention from astronomers and skywatchers.
- Such events occur a few times a year but are considered **rare when coinciding with other astronomical phenomena** (e.g., eclipses or meteor showers).

About Supermoon

- **Definition:**
A **Supermoon** occurs when a **full moon or new moon coincides with the Moon's perigee** — its closest approach to Earth in its elliptical orbit.
- **Key Features:**
 - The Moon's orbit around Earth is **elliptical**, leading to a varying distance of about **50,000 km** during a lunar month.
 - At perigee, the Moon appears:
 - **≈14% larger**
 - **≈30% brighter** than when it is at apogee (farthest point).
 - The term "**Supermoon**" was coined by **astrologer Richard Nolle (1979)** — defined as a full moon within **90% of its closest approach to Earth**.
- **Frequency:**
Typically **3–4 times a year**, but not all are visually dramatic.



Impact of Supermoon

- **On Tides:**
 - Supermoons enhance **perigean spring tides**.
 - Gravitational pull of the Moon aligns with that of the Sun → **higher high tides & lower low tides**.
- **On Coastal Areas:**
 - Normally modest tidal changes.
 - Can **worsen coastal flooding**, especially when coinciding with **storm surges** or heavy rains.
- **Cultural & Astronomical Significance:**
 - Inspires skywatching, photography, and cultural celebrations.
 - Offers opportunities for **astronomy outreach and education**.

Vote of Confidence

Syllabus: GS-2: Parliament – Various Motions and Resolutions.

Context:

Vote of confidence: On the Bihar Assembly Election 2025

Vote of Confidence

- A **Vote of Confidence** is a **parliamentary procedure** that allows the ruling government to **prove its majority** in the legislature.
- It is **initiated by the government itself** to demonstrate that it still enjoys the confidence of the majority of members in the **Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly**.

Constitutional Basis

- Though **not explicitly mentioned** in the Constitution, it is derived from **Article 75(3)** (for Centre) and **Article 164(2)** (for States):

“The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People / Legislative Assembly of the State.”

- This ensures **accountability of the executive to the legislature**, a cornerstone of **parliamentary democracy**.

Types of Confidence Motions

Type	Who Initiates	Purpose
Vote of Confidence (Trust Vote)	Government	To prove majority (often after political crisis or directive from Governor/Speaker).
No-Confidence Motion	Opposition	To test if the government has lost majority.
Composite Floor Test	Court-directed / Governor-directed	Used when majority is disputed between rival claimants for power.

Procedure in the House

- **Motion introduced** by the Prime Minister/Chief Minister.
- **Debate** allowed under Rule 184 (Lok Sabha) or equivalent state rule.
- **Voting** takes place — majority of those present and voting is required.
- If the **government fails** to secure a majority → **it must resign**.

Judicial and Constitutional Interpretations

- **S.R. Bommai vs Union of India (1994):**
 - Majority must be tested **on the floor of the House**, not decided by the Governor or President.
 - Strengthened democratic legitimacy.
- **Rameshwar Prasad Case (2006):**
 - Reiterated that **Governor cannot pre-empt** a floor test based on subjective assessment.
- **Recent Precedents:**
 - Supreme Court often directs **immediate floor tests** in cases of government formation disputes (e.g., Maharashtra 2019, Karnataka 2018, Bihar 2025 context).

Importance in a Parliamentary System

- Ensures **executive accountability** to the legislature.
- Prevents **arbitrary exercise of power** by the Governor or President.
- Acts as a **check on political defections** and instability.
- Demonstrates **legitimacy and continuity** of governance.

Challenges and Issues

- Increasing **politicization of the Governor's office** in recommending floor tests.
- Use of **horse-trading and defections** to manipulate outcomes.
- Frequent trust votes create **policy paralysis** and instability.
- **Judicial overreach** concerns when courts fix the timing of votes.

Recent Context — Bihar Assembly 2025

- The **Governor directed a floor test** after realignment of political alliances.
- Reflects the recurring pattern of **coalition volatility** and the role of constitutional offices.
- Reaffirms that **floor of the House is the only legitimate forum** to test majority.

Conclusion

- The **Vote of Confidence** is an **instrument of democratic accountability**, vital for maintaining the **balance between legislature and executive**.
- Its fair and timely conduct strengthens **constitutional morality** and **public trust** in governance.
- Reforms in **anti-defection laws** and **Governor's neutrality** are needed to prevent misuse.

Foreign Currency Settlement System

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Foreign Currency Management.

Context:

- The Union Finance Minister launched the **Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS)** at the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** in **GIFT City, Gujarat**.

About Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS)

Establishment

- Established under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- **Authorised by:** *International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)*.
- **Operated by:** *CCIL IFSC Limited*, a subsidiary of **Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)**.

Key Features

- **Local Settlement:** Enables **foreign currency transactions** between IFSC Banking Units (IBUs) to be **settled locally** instead of via *correspondent banking* routes.
- **Efficiency & Certainty:** Provides a **structured framework** for cross-border payments with **speed, reliability, and legal certainty**.
- **Reduced Time Lag:** Earlier, transactions involved **Nostro accounts** and intermediaries causing **36–48 hours delay**. FCSS reduces this to **real-time or near-real-time**.
- **Currency Coverage:** Initially supports **US Dollar (USD)** transactions, with plans to include **other major currencies** later.

Significance

- **Boosts GIFT City's Competitiveness:** Positions GIFT IFSC as a **global financial hub** by improving transaction efficiency.
- **Reduces Dependence on Foreign Banks:** Eliminates routing through foreign intermediaries.
- **Strengthens India's Financial Infrastructure:** Enhances **cross-border settlement capabilities** within India's regulatory jurisdiction.
- **Encourages Global Participation:** Creates confidence for **foreign investors and banks** to transact directly in IFSC.

About IFSCA (International Financial Services Centres Authority)

- **Established under:** *International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019*
- **Nature:** *Unified regulator* for financial products, institutions, and services in IFSCs.
- **Objective:**
 - Develop a **robust global financial platform** in India.
 - Align with **international best practices** while serving **Indian economic needs**.
- **Headquarters:** *GIFT City, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)*

Bridgeoporus Kanadii

Syllabus: GS-3: Wildlife Species.

Context:

- Researchers from India have described a **new species of fungus named *Bridgeoporuskanadii*** from the forests of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It represents **the first record of the genus Bridgeoporus in Asia**.



About Bridgeoporuskanadii

- **Scientific name:** *Bridgeoporuskanadii*
- **Discovered in:** Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast India
- **Named after:** Indian mycologist **Dr. Kanad Das**, known for his contributions to Indian macrofungi research.
- **Genus:** *Bridgeoporus*
- **Other known species:** *B. nobilissimus* (found in North America)

Key Features

- **Size:** Exceptionally large fruiting bodies — some measured over **3 meters in radius**, capable of supporting a person's weight.
- **Comparison:** *B. kanadii* is **almost double the size** of *B. nobilissimus* (which reaches ~1.5 meters).
- **Habitat:** Found growing **on dead fir trees** in montane forests.

- **Edibility:** Inedible; offers **no direct economic use**.
- **Ecological Role:**
 - Acts as a **wood-decaying fungus**.
 - Plays a **vital role in forest regeneration** by decomposing dead wood and recycling nutrients.

Ecological and Scientific Significance

- Enhances understanding of **fungal diversity** in the **Eastern Himalayas**, a biodiversity hotspot.
- Highlights the **rich mycological potential** of India's northeastern forests.
- Emphasizes the need for **further exploration and conservation** of fungi species in remote forest ecosystems.

Nilgiri Tahr

Syllabus: GS-3: Wildlife Conservation.

Context:

Nilgiri Tahr Day celebration by Tamil Nadu Forest Department propagates role of wild goat species as saviour of grasslands.

Nilgiri Tahr (State Animal of Tamil Nadu)

Introduction

- **Scientific Name:** *Nilgiritragus hylocrius*
- **Common Name:** Nilgiri ibex or Saddleback Tahr
- **Status:** Endangered (IUCN Red List)
- **Significance:** Only mountain ungulate (goat-antelope) species **endemic to the Western Ghats**, especially the Nilgiri Hills.
- **Cultural Value:** State animal of Tamil Nadu (since 1975).

Distribution & Habitat

- **Geographic Range:**
 - Endemic to the **Western Ghats** (Kerala & Tamil Nadu).
 - Major populations in **Anamalai Hills, Palani Hills, Eravikulam National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Silent Valley, and Grass Hills**.

- **Altitude:** 1,200–2,600 m above sea level.
- **Habitat Type:**
 - **Montane grasslands & shola forests** (unique mosaic ecosystem of the Western Ghats).
 - Prefer steep cliffs, open grasslands for grazing, and rocky terrain for safety.

Physical Features

- **Size:** Adult males 100–120 cm at shoulder; females slightly smaller.
- **Weight:** Males 80–100 kg; females 50–60 kg.
- **Coat:** Short, coarse fur, brown to grey.
- **Distinct Mark:** Adult males develop a **light grey 'saddle patch'** on the back → hence "Saddleback Tahr".
- **Horns:** Curved, backward-pointing horns in both sexes.



Population Status

- **Historic Decline:** Estimated over **50,000 in early 20th century**, dropped to **less than 2,000 by the 1990s** due to hunting and habitat loss.
- **Recent Estimates (2023):** ~3,100 individuals.
 - **Eravikulam NP (Kerala):** Largest single population (~750–800).
 - **Mukurthi NP & Silent Valley (TN):** ~200–300.

Ecological Role

- **Grazers of Montane Grasslands:** Maintain grassland health and prevent shrub encroachment.
- **Prey Species:** For predators like leopards, wild dogs (dhole).
- **Indicator Species:** Reflects health of montane grasslands and shola ecosystems.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN:** Endangered
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I → maximum protection.
- **CITES:** Not listed separately.
- **Tamil Nadu Government:** Declared State Animal.

Threats

- **Habitat Loss & Fragmentation:**
 - Conversion of grasslands into tea, coffee, and eucalyptus plantations.
 - Expansion of tourism and roads.
- **Poaching & Historical Hunting:**
 - Trophy hunting in colonial era severely reduced numbers.
- **Competition with Livestock:**
 - Domestic cattle and goats compete for grazing.
- **Invasive Species:**
 - Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), pine, and eucalyptus replacing native grasslands.
- **Climate Change:**
 - Rising temperatures push species to higher altitudes, reducing habitat range.

Conservation Measures

Government Efforts

- **Protected Areas:**
 - Eravikulam NP (Kerala), Mukurthi NP, Silent Valley NP, Anamalai TR, Mathikettan Shola NP.
- **Nilgiri Tahr Project (2022):**
 - Launched by Tamil Nadu Government.
 - First project dedicated to the species.
 - Focus on **restoration of grasslands, research, community participation, and eco-tourism.**
 - Budget: ₹25 crore.

Community & NGO Participation

- **Awareness & Education:** Local communities engaged for protection.

- **Ecotourism Regulation:** In places like Eravikulam to minimize disturbance.

Success Stories

- **Eravikulam National Park (Kerala):**
 - Once heavily hunted, now a thriving population (~800) due to strict protection.
- **Tamil Nadu Grassland Restoration:**
 - Removing invasive wattle and eucalyptus improved habitat for Tahr.

Challenges Ahead

- Need for **landscape-level conservation** due to fragmented habitats.
- Control of **invasive species** and restoration of native grasslands.
- **Climate-resilient strategies** to counter shrinking habitats.
- Enhanced **genetic studies & monitoring** for small, isolated populations.