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### **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 15-10-2025**

#### **GS-1**

1. Coco Islands

#### **GS-2**

2. AgriEnIcs Programme
3. DRAVYA Portal

#### **GS-3**

4. Unicorn Company
5. Palamau Tiger Reserve

## Coco Islands

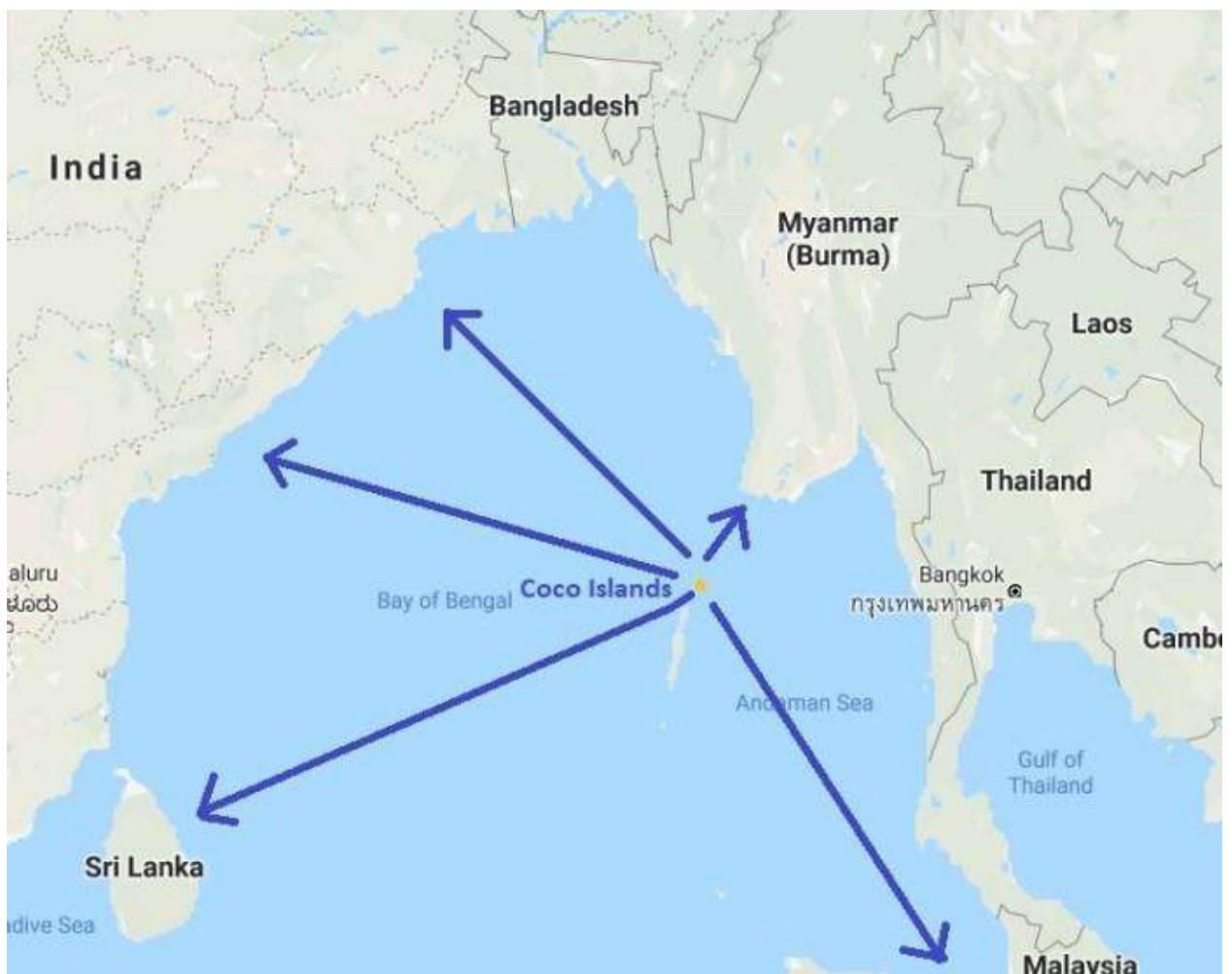
**Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- Mapping, GS-2; International Relations**

### Context

- Myanmar has assured India that there is **no Chinese presence** on the Coco Islands in the Bay of Bengal.

### About Coco Islands

- **Location:** Small group of islands in the **Bay of Bengal**, with **Great Coco Island** being the largest, just 55 km from India's Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- **Administrative Control:** Part of **Yangon Region, Myanmar**.
- **Geography:** Geologically an extension of the **Arakan/Rakhine Mountains**, forming a chain of islands that continues into the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.



### Historical Significance

- Early 19th century: British India used Coco Islands as a **source of food for Andaman penal colony**.
- Initially leased to the **Jadwet family of Burma**, leading to poor governance; control transferred to **Lower Burma administration**.
- **1882**: Officially became part of **British Burma**.
- After 1937, remained a **self-governing crown colony** post separation of Burma from British India.

### Strategic Importance

- Proximity to India's **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** makes it geopolitically sensitive in the Bay of Bengal.
- Any foreign military presence could influence **maritime security and regional balance of power**.

## AgriEnIcs Programme

### Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

#### Context

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the transfer of technology under the **AgriEnIcs Programme** to promote digital precision in agriculture and environmental management.

#### About the Programme:

- **Objective:** Research, development, deployment, demonstration, and commercialization of technologies in **agriculture and environment sectors**.
- **Focus Areas:** AI, IoT, machine vision, and sensor networks to enhance productivity, sustainability, and efficiency.
- **Framework:** Collaborative platform uniting **research institutions, industry partners, and government agencies**.
- **Implementation:** Nodal agency is **C-DAC Kolkata**, with participation from academic institutes, R&D labs, and industry.

### About C-DAC:

- **Full Form:** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
- **Established:** 1988 under MeitY
- **Purpose:** R&D in electronics, IT, and allied areas; building India's supercomputing capabilities.
- **Notable Achievement:** Developed **Param 8000**, India's first indigenous supercomputer, in 1991.

### Significance:

- Strengthens the use of **digital technologies in agriculture**.
- Enhances technology translation from R&D to practical applications for **farmers and communities**.
- Boosts **collaboration between academia, industry, and government** in tech-driven agriculture.

## DRAVYA Portal

### Syllabus: GS-2; Governance

### Context

- The **DRAVYA Portal** has been launched with its first phase aiming to catalogue information on **100 key medicinal substances**.

### About DRAVYA Portal

- Full form: **Digitized Retrieval Application for Versatile Yardstick of AYUSH Substances**.
- It is the **largest database on Ayurvedic ingredients and products**, covering both classical Ayurveda texts and contemporary scientific literature.
- Initiative by the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**.
- The portal is **ever-growing and evolving**, integrating data from field studies, research publications, and traditional texts.

### Key Features

- **AI-ready:** Planned to interlink with **Ayush Grid** and other Ministry initiatives on medicinal substances and drug policy.

- **QR code integration:** Standardised information display in medicinal plant gardens and drug repositories.
- **Open-access database:** Users can search for medicinal substances across AYUSH systems.
- Detailed profiles include **Ayurvedic pharmacotherapeutics, botany, chemistry, pharmacy, pharmacology, and safety information.**

### Significance

- Promotes **research and knowledge dissemination** in traditional and modern medicine.
- Supports **digital integration and standardisation** of medicinal substance data in India.

## Unicorn Company

### Syllabus: GS-3; Economy

#### Context

- Startups are emerging as the new driving force of India's defence innovation ecosystem, according to the Defence Minister.

#### About Unicorn Company

- **Definition:** A unicorn company is a privately owned startup valued at over **\$1 billion**.
- **Origin of Term:** Popularized by venture capitalist **Aileen Lee** in 2013, referring to the 39 startups globally with valuations exceeding \$1 billion.

#### Key Characteristics of a Unicorn Startup

- **Valuation:** Typically **\$1 billion or more**.
- **Private Ownership:** Not publicly traded on stock markets.
- **High Growth Potential:** Demonstrates rapid growth and innovation.
- **Disruptive Technology:** Introduces innovative products or services that disrupt existing industries.
- **Attracts Significant Investment:** Secures substantial funding from venture capitalists and other investors.

- **Valuation Note:** Unicorn valuations are mostly based on growth potential perceived by investors, not current financial performance.
- **Exit Strategies:** Unicorns may:
  - Go public via **IPO**
  - Remain private and continue funding rounds
  - Get acquired by larger companies
- **Global Status:** As of July 2025, there are over **1,200 unicorns** worldwide.

### **Gazelles and Cheetahs in the Startup Ecosystem**

- **Gazelle:**
  - Startup founded after 2000 with potential to become a unicorn in **2 years**.
  - Estimated valuation: **\$500 million – \$1 billion**
- **Cheetah:**
  - Startup likely to become a unicorn in **4 years**.
  - Estimated valuation: **\$200 million – \$500 million**

## **Palamau Tiger Reserve**

### **Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity**

#### **Context**

- During the Wildlife Week celebrations, village hunters near Palamau Tiger Reserve surrendered their weapons, including guns and traps.

#### **About**

- **Location:** Western side of Latehar district, on the Chhotanagpur Plateau, Jharkhand.
- **National Park:** Forms part of Betla National Park.
- **Area:** Approximately 1026 sq. km.
- **Significance:**
  - One of the first 9 tiger reserves created under 'Project Tiger'.
  - First reserve in the world where a tiger census was conducted using pugmark counts, as early as 1932 under J.W. Nicholson.
- **Terrain:** Undulating with valleys, hills, and plains.
- **Rivers:** North Koyal, Auranga, and Burha (only perennial river).

- **Geology & Minerals:** Gneiss formation including granite and limestone; rich in Bauxite and Coal.
- **Flora:** Moist and dry deciduous forests; major components include Sal and bamboo.
- **Fauna:** Keystone and principal species include Tiger, Asiatic Elephant, Leopard, Grey Wolf, Wild Dog, Gaur, Sloth Bear, and Four-horned Antelope.

