DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 21-11-2025

GS-1

1. Vrindavani Vastra
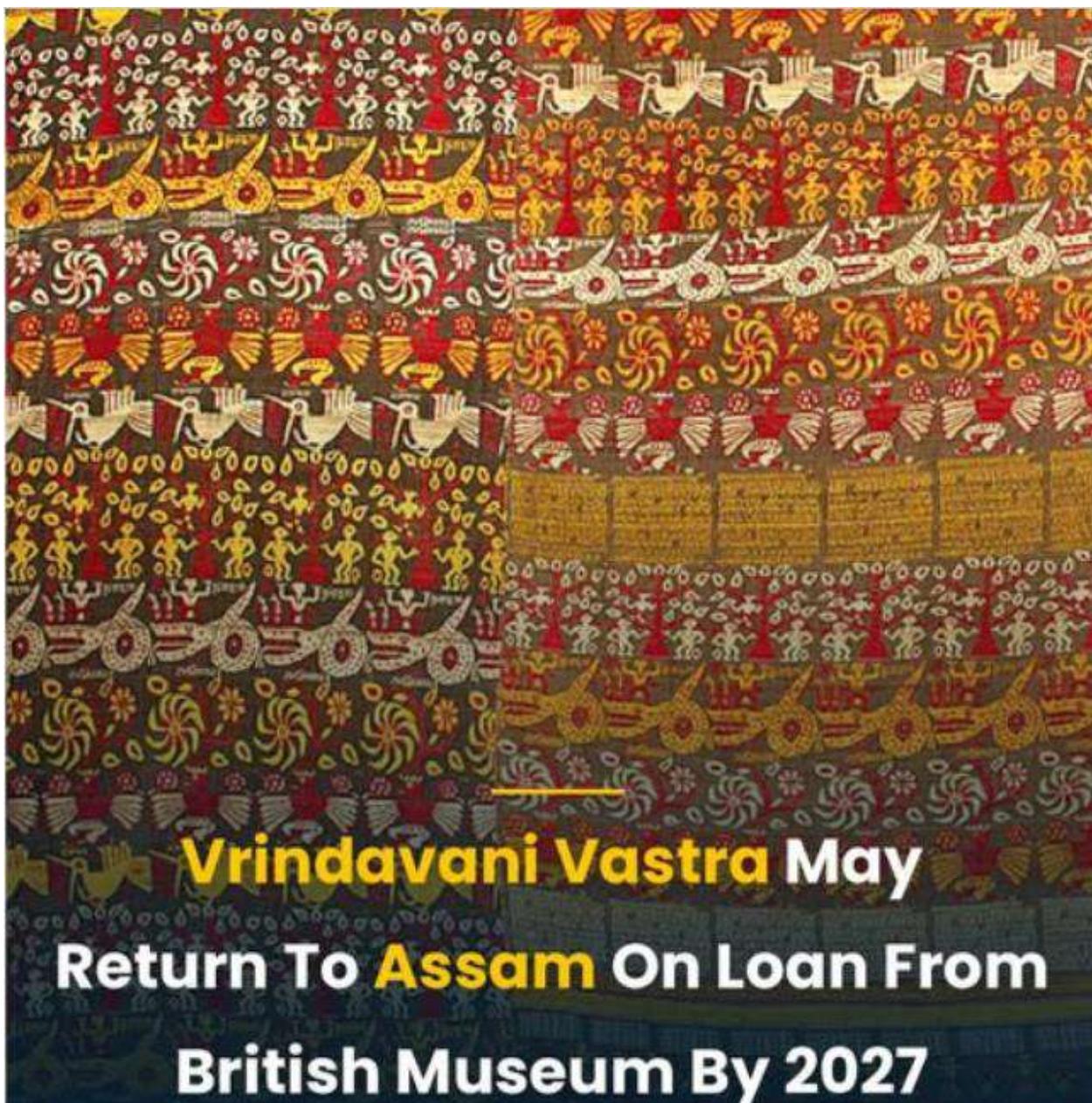
GS-2

2. e-Jagriti Platform

GS-3

3. Tungsten

4. Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade

5. Operation Midas

Vrindavani Vastra

Syllabus: GS-1; Art & Culture

Context

- ➢ The **Assam Chief Minister has left for London** to begin the formal process of **bringing back the 400-year-old Vrindavani Vastra** from the **British Museum**.
- ➢ The textile has been preserved in the museum since **1904**, after travelling from Assam → Tibet → British collection.

About Vrindavani Vastra

1. Historical & Cultural Significance

➢ A **400-year-old sacred textile** from Assam.
➢ Depicts **Krishna's childhood exploits**, divine pastimes, and scenes from **Vrindavan**.
➢ Regarded as a **masterpiece of Assamese Vaishnavite art**.

2. Creator & Patron

➢ Created under the direction of **Srimanta Sankardeva**, the 15th–16th century Bhakti saint and founder of **Ekasarana Dharma**.
➢ Commissioned by **Koch King Nara Narayan**.
➢ Nara Narayan sheltered Sankardeva after he was targeted by the Ahom kingdom under pressure from Brahmin priests.

3. Weaving Technique

➢ Made of **woven silk** using the complex **Lampas technique**:
  o Requires **two weavers working simultaneously**.
  o Incorporates **multiple coloured threads** – red, white, black, yellow, green, etc.

4. Artistic Features

➢ Originally consisted of **15 separate silk pieces**, later stitched together.
➢ The piece held by the British Museum is **nine and a half metres** long.
➢ Blends styles from various artistic traditions, showcasing Assam's weaving excellence.

5. Journey Abroad

➢ Travelled from **Assam to Tibet**, and eventually acquired in **1904** by the **British Museum**.
➢ Present efforts aim at **repatriation** due to its sacred and historical significance.

e-Jagriti Platform

Syllabus: GS-2: e-Governance

Context:

e-Jagriti platform crossed **2.75 lakh users**, including **1,388 NRIs**, with **record disposal efficiency in 2025** surpassing 2024 performance.

What is e-Jagriti?

➢ A **unified, AI-enabled digital grievance-redressal portal** for consumer disputes.

➢ Integrates all **consumer redressal systems** under the **Department of Consumer Affairs, GoI**.

➢ Promotes **paperless, transparent, accessible** consumer justice across India and abroad.

Objective

➢ To provide **timely, transparent, technology-driven, and inclusive consumer dispute resolution**, especially for **MSME consumers, households, and NRIs**.

Key Features

➢ **Unified Digital Court System**

  o Single portal integrating all legacy platforms.

  o Enables **e-filing, digital scrutiny, virtual hearings, electronic notices** and secure case records.

  o Role-based dashboards for **judges, advocates & litigants**.

➢ **Global Accessibility (NRI-Friendly)**

  o Allows overseas users to **file, track & participate remotely**.

  o Secure login, virtual courts, encrypted documentation & digital payments.

➢ **AI-Powered, Multilingual Interface**

  o Includes **chatbot, voice-to-text, real-time tracking, smart case routing**.

  o Enhanced accessibility for **elderly & visually impaired**.

➢ **High Disposal Efficiency**

o Several states showed **disposal > filing** (e.g., **27,545 disposed vs 27,080 filed, July–Aug 2025**).

o Helps in **backlog reduction** and faster justice delivery.

➢ **Integrated Communication System**

o Automated dissemination: **2 lakh+ SMS**&**12 lakh+ emails** sent for updates, notices, OTPs & deadlines.

➢ **Secure Digital Payment**

o Supports **PayGov& Bharat Kosh** with traceable e-transaction records.

Significance

➢ **Democratization of Consumer Justice**Overcomes physical, procedural & geographic barriers, enabling rural and NRI access.

➢ **Speed & Efficiency**Digital workflows and automation reduce **pendency and delays** in consumer courts.

➢ **Inclusivity & Accessibility**Multilingual, user-friendly interface for **low-literacy, elderly, & differently-abled** citizens.

Tungsten

Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Technology

Context

➢ Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) has received a licence to explore and mine a tungsten block in Andhra Pradesh.

About Tungsten

> **Symbol:** W   **Atomic No.:** 74
> A naturally occurring **transition metal**, classified as a **Critical Mineral** in India.
> **Top producers:** China (dominant), Vietnam, Russia, North Korea.

Occurrence

> Never found as pure metal; occurs in minerals like **wolframite** and **scheelite**.

Key Properties

> **Highest melting point** among metals: 3410 °C.
> **Very low vapor pressure** and **high tensile strength** (>1650 °C).
> Strong, flexible, electrically conductive; solid at room temperature.

Uses

> X-ray tubes, light bulbs, welding electrodes, high-speed tools.
> **Tungsten carbide:** extremely hard; vital for mining, metal-working, petroleum industries.
> Other compounds used in **ceramic pigments**, **fire-retardant coatings**, and **color-fast dyes**.

Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade

Syllabus: GS-3: Climate Change related Organisations.

Context

> Formally launched by COP30 Presidency, creating the first **permanent global forum** to address emerging frictions between **climate policies and international trade**.

> Launched at **COP30, Belém (Brazil) on 15 November 2025**.

What is IFCCT?

> A **politically supported, non-negotiating global dialogue platform**.

➢ Focuses on structured engagement over **intersections of climate action and global trade governance**.

➢ Facilitates **policy coherence**, rather than treaty-driven commitments.

Aims

➢ To offer a **sustained, inclusive space** for addressing emerging climate-linked trade challenges.

➢ Enable **coordinated solutions** to avoid fragmentation and protectionism.

➢ Focus on issues such as **carbon border adjustments, green subsidies, industrial decarbonisation, supply-chain shifts, and green-standards-based trade barriers**.

Key Features

➢ **Non-negotiating dialogue model** → free, candid engagement without legal obligations.

➢ **Open-ended consultation process (2025–26)** → participatory agenda-setting by member states.

➢ **Thematic focus on climate–trade coherence**, especially decarbonisation and policy alignment.

➢ High-level representation: **ministers, WTO officials, climate experts, industry alliances**.

➢ **Consultation anchored in Geneva** → aligns with **existing WTO-centred trade system**.

Significance

➢ Addresses rising **policy mismatch** between climate ambition and trade competitiveness.

➢ Provides a platform to deliberate on **EU CBAM, green industrial packages, value-chain reshoring**, etc.

➢ Strengthens **developing-country negotiation capacity** by bridging knowledge and institutional asymmetry.

➢ Supports **predictability, transparency, and interoperability** in global climate-linked trade rules.

➢ May prevent **trade wars, green protectionism, and WTO disputes**, enabling **fair transition pathways**.

Operation Midas

Syllabus: GS-4: Ethics and Integrity.

Context:

➢ Ukraine launched **Operation Midas**, a major **anti-corruption crackdown** targeting bribery and money-laundering within **Energoatom**, the state nuclear energy enterprise.

➢ Seen as **one of the largest governance integrity probes** since the Russia-Ukraine conflict began.

What is Operation 'Midas'?

➢ A **15-month undercover anti-corruption investigation** jointly led by:

  o NABU (National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine)

  o SAPO (Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office)

➢ Focus: **Financial irregularities, bribery, and misuse of office** within Energoatom's procurement and contracting process.

➢ **Named after King Midas**, symbolising **illegal conversion of public contracts into private wealth**.

Key Features

➢ **Bribery syndicate uncovered**: Officials allegedly demanded **10–15% commission** from Energoatom contractors.

➢ **Money laundering scale**: Close to **$100 million siphoned** via shell firms run by politically influential businessmen.

➢ **Evidence corpus**:

  o 1,000 hours of audio surveillance

  o ~70 coordinated raids

    o **Charges filed against 8 top-level officials**, including ex-ministers and bureaucrats.

Major Implications

Political Fallout

➢ Likely **biggest corruption scandal** since the Russia-Ukraine war.

➢ May **dent the credibility** of President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy's anti-corruption promise** and public trust.

Governance Reforms

➢ **Resignations** triggered, including that of Energy leadership.

➢ **Nationwide audit** ordered for all **state-owned enterprises (SOEs)**.

International & Diplomatic Repercussions

➢ Could impact:

    o EU accession negotiations

    o IMF and Western donors' confidence

    o Defense & reconstruction aid conditionalities

National Security Risks

➢ Corruption in **nuclear energy infrastructure** during wartime raises:

    o Energy security concerns

    o Operational vulnerability

    o Potential sabotage or foreign exploitation risks

Conclusion

Operation Midas underscores the importance of **clean, transparent, and accountable governance**, especially within **strategic national sectors during crisis conditions**. It reiterates that **corruption is not only a moral failure but a national security threat** with global diplomatic consequences.