

NEWS TODAY

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 7th issue of the "EnviStats India 2024: Environment Accounts"

EnviStats (Environment Statistics) have been compiled in accordance with the **SEEA (System of Environmental- Economic Accounting) Framework**.

- EnviStats provide **information about environment**, its most important **changes** over time and across locations and **main factors** that influence them.
- **Publication includes Four areas-** Energy Accounts, Ocean Accounts, Soil Nutrient Index and Biodiversity.

Key Highlights of EnviStats India 2024

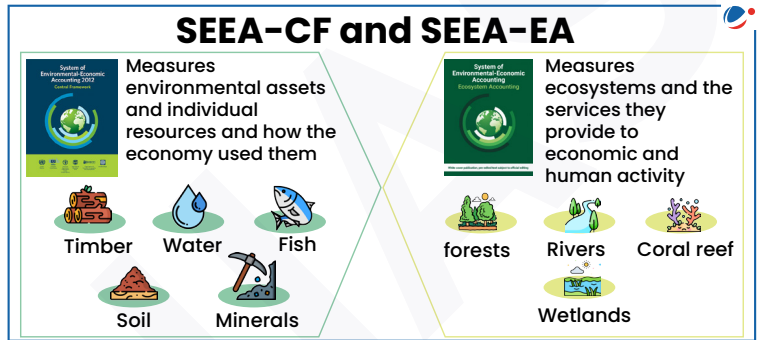
- India emerged as **world leader in energy transition**.
- Around **72% increase in number and around 16% increase in area** for **Total Protected Area** during 2000 to 2023.
- Coverage of **Mangroves has increased around 8%** during 2013 to 2021.

Significance of EnviStats

- Sustainable management of natural resources, key to long-term development.
- **Balance economic growth with environmental sustainability.**
- Provide alternate means of measuring prosperity and progress and go **beyond GDP**.
- **Data-driven policymaking.**

About System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

- It is an agreed international framework for the **compilation of the Environment Economic accounts**.
- It describes the **interaction between the economy and the environment**, as well as the stocks and changes in stocks of environmental assets.
- **There are two sides of SEEA-** SEEA-Central Framework (SEEA-CF) and SEEA-Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA) (refer infographic).



Environment Accounts in India

- **National Statistical Office** under MoSPI is mandated with the "Development of Environment Statistics and methodology of National Resource Accounts for India".
 - ⊖ MoSPI released the '**Strategy for Environmental Economic Accounts in India: 2022-26**'.
- **India also participated in 'Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem services (NCAVES)'**.
 - ⊖ NCAVES was launched by United Nations Statistics Division (**UNSD**), **UNEP** and **Secretariat of CBD** in 2017.
- **First EnviStats** were released in 2018 on **recommendations of Sir Partha Dasgupta Committee**.

Demand for inclusion of Ladakh in Sixth Schedule of the Constitution

There is an increased demand for **inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule** of Indian Constitution.

Sixth schedule

- Sixth Schedule, under **Article 244(2)**, provides for administration of **tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, & Mizoram**.
 - ⊖ It resulted from **Bardoloi Committee's recommendations**.
- It empowers Governor to create **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) & Autonomous Regional Councils (ARCs)** in these four states.
 - ⊖ **ADCs:** Consist of not more than **30 members** (4 nominated by Governor & 26 elected).
 - ◆ At present, there are **10 such ADCs** in four states.
 - ⊖ **ARCs:** Covers a specific tribe within a region of autonomous district.
- ADCs and ARCs have the power to **make laws** on subjects like forest management, agriculture, inheritance, marriage, social customs etc.
 - ⊖ They also have the **power to collect** land revenue, impose taxes, regulate trading, collect royalties from mineral extraction etc.

Difference Between Fifth and Sixth Schedule

Parameter	Fifth schedule	Sixth Schedule
Applicability	Certain Scheduled Areas declared by President in any state of India. (Currently in 10 states)	Tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
Administration Body	Tribes Advisory Councils (TAC)	ADCs & ARCs
Powers	TAC being the creation of Legislative Assembly of the States has limited powers which are mostly executive.	Extensive powers, including executive, legislative and judicial powers, all derived from the Constitution.
PESA Act 1996	Applicable	Not applicable

ILO Released Regional companion report for Asia and the Pacific

This Asia and the Pacific regional companion report complements the ILO's **World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Universal social protection for climate action and a just transition.**

➤ It highlights **key developments, challenges, and priorities** for social protection in Asia and the Pacific.

Key Findings

- **Social Protection:** 53.6% of the population in the region is covered by at least one social protection benefit.
- **Climate Change Resilience:** Social protection programs like **India's MGNREGA** help people adapt to and cope with a changing climate by protecting their incomes, and jobs.
- **India Specific Findings**
 - ⊕ **48.8% of India's population** is covered by at least one social protection benefit.
 - ⊕ **Total expenditure on social protection** (including health) is 5.1% of GDP.

Challenges for Universal Social Protection: Informal economy, rapid demographic aging, financial gap, emerging environmental challenges, etc.

Recommendations given in the report

- **Strengthen social protection systems** to enhance resilience, climate adaptation & mitigation.
- **Extend social protection coverage** to workers in all types of employment.
- **Reforming fossil fuel subsidies to create fiscal space** for social protection.
- **Utilize technology** to improve delivery & effectiveness of social protection programs.

India's Initiatives

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005:** Guarantees 100 days of wage employment to rural households.
- **National Food Security Act, 2013:** Provide subsidized food grains to approximately two-thirds of the country's 1.4 billion people.
- **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):** It is a welfare programme for the elderly, widow, etc.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:** Provides a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to poor and vulnerable families.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified Ecomark Rules, 2024

Ecomark labeling system will **promote eco-friendly products** in categories like food, cosmetics, soaps, and electronics, etc.

➤ It aligns with the **principle of LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, focusing on sustainability and resource efficiency.

Rules notified

- **Granting Criteria:** To a product that has a licence or a certificate of conformity with **Indian Standards** granted under the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act and/or a mandate of the Quality Control Orders** and that fulfills the criteria as prescribed in the rules.
 - ⊕ According to rules, the Ecomark may be granted to products that meet **specified environmental criteria** with respect to **resource consumption and environmental impacts.**
- **Application Process-** Manufacturers must apply for Ecomark through the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- **Duration-** mark will be valid for three years.
- **Oversight and Implementation-** By Steering Committee, headed by the Environment Secretary.

Significance

- It enables consumers to **make informed purchase decisions** as well as encourage manufacturers to **transition to production of environment-friendly products.**
- It will lead to **circular economy and prevent misleading information** on environmental aspects of products.
- It will promote **lower energy consumption, resource efficiency and conservation.**



Other Environmental Certification in India

- **Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme**
 - ⊕ It offers **voluntary third-party certification** designed to **promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.**
 - ⊕ It includes **forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.**
 - ⊕ It **provides market incentives** to various entities that adhere to responsible forest management and agroforestry practices in their operations.

Swachh Bharat Mission completes 10 years

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched on October 2, 2014, coinciding with birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

About SBM

Two Components:

- ⊕ **SBM (Gramin)** aimed to ensure cleanliness in rural areas through **Solid and Liquid Waste Management** activities and make India Open Defecation Free (ODF).
 - ◆ Aim now is to transform all villages from **ODF to ODF plus model**.
 - ◆ Implemented by **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- ⊕ **SBM (Urban) 2.0** aims to make all cities garbage free, change public behaviour, ensure **grey and black water management**.
 - ◆ Implemented by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.

➤ **Key Initiatives:** Swachh Bharat Kosh, Swachh Survekshan, Swachhta Hi Seva campaigns, Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan etc.

Impact of SBM

- **Improved health:** Averted 60,000–70,000 infant deaths annually by reducing waterborne diseases.
- **Women Empowerment:** Improved safety for women and women SHGs led waste management initiatives.
- **Economic Benefits:** Achieving ODF status saves households about ₹50,000 yearly by lowering medical costs and travel time.

Challenges to SBM

- **Lack of water supply**, especially in rural areas.
- Improper faecal sludge management, inappropriate toilet technologies, and inadequate human resources **endanger sustaining ODF status**.
- **Remediation challenge of legacy landfills** in municipal waste management.

Way Forward

- **Sustainability of ODF Status:** Create a system for regular checks and maintenance of toilets, involving community participation.
- **Integration with Solid Waste Management:** Create a plan that integrates sanitation and waste management with investments in waste segregation infrastructure.
- **Use of Technology:** Utilize technology for data collection on sanitation access and invest in innovative solutions like smart toilets.

Army Chief General cautioned against Chinese “grey zone” warfare tactics

The observation was made during assessment of the ongoing situation along the **line of actual control (LAC)** with China in eastern Ladakh.

About Grey Zone warfare

- It involves use of **unconventional tactics and strategies** that fall below the threshold of traditional warfare.
 - ⊕ It is the **area between peace and war**.
- It aims to **harm an adversary without them feeling threatened** or realizing they are under attack.
- Key activities include **cyber attack operations, support to non-state actors, economic coercion, information warfare**, etc
- **E.g. Salami slicing practice of China.** It is a strategy that involves taking over territory in a very gradual manner.
 - ⊕ It has been allegedly used by **China for territorial expansion in the South China Sea**.

Why Grey Zone warfare is preferred?

- It is **difficult to counter or garner international support** to take action against.
 - ⊕ It exploits weaknesses in the **rules-based order**.
- The cost of **conventional conflict in the nuclear era has grown too steep**, and the risk of escalation too profound. E.g., **Russia’s takeover of Crimea**.
- Nations which do not have **access to massive resources or power**, prefer it.

India’s measures to Tackle GZW

- **Chief of Defence Staff:** Improved coordination, tri-service effectiveness, combat capabilities integration.
- **Modernization:** Infusion of technology in war-fighting systems, leveraging iDEX initiative.
- **Self-reliance in Defence Manufacturing:** Initiatives like Defence Procurement Procedure (DAP) 2020.
- **Cooperation with like-minded countries:** Agreements like General Security of Military Information Agreement with the US.
- **Other:** Establishment of CERT-In for cyber security, FCRA regulation for foreign NGOs funding, etc.

Also in News



European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

The European Commission has proposed to **extend the implementation of the EUDR, by one year**.

About EUDR

- It aims to ensure that a set of key goods placed on the EU market will no longer contribute to **deforestation and forest degradation in the EU and elsewhere in the world**.
- Applies to a wide range of products **including palm oil, soy, beef, cocoa, and timber**.
- This requires companies to **verify the origin of the products** and ensure that they are produced in a sustainable manner.
- It will act as a barrier for countries who **export to the EU**.



Monetary Policy Committee

Government notifies reconstitution of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

About MPC

- **Constitution:** Under Section 45ZB of the amended (in 2016) RBI Act, 1934, the **central government is empowered** to constitute a MPC.
- **Objective:** To maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
- **Composition:** 6 members with RBI Governor as its ex officio chairperson and 3 members to be nominated by the central government for a period of four years.
- **Voting:** Each MPC member has one vote; in case of a tie, the Governor casts the deciding vote.

PM E-DRIVE Scheme

Ministry of Heavy Industries launched the **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme**.

About PM E-DRIVE

- **Objective:** To accelerate Electric Vehicles (EV) adoption and establish essential charging infrastructure across the country, promoting cleaner and more sustainable transportation.
- **Major Component:**
 - ⊕ **Subsidies/Demand Incentives** for e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging EVs.
 - ⊕ **E-Voucher** for EV buyers to avail demand incentives.
 - ⊕ Promote Deployment of **E-Ambulances, E-Buses and E-Trucks**.
 - ⊕ **EV Public Charging Stations** in selected cities with high EV penetration.
 - ⊕ **Test Agency Modernization**.
- **Financial Outlay:** ₹10,900 crore over a period of two years.

Jan Yojana Abhiyan

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the **People's Plan Campaign (Jan Yojana Abhiyan)**.

About Jan Yojana Abhiyan

- It is themed as '**Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas**', launched for preparation of **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs)** for 2025-26.
 - ⊕ As part of this campaign, **special Gram Sabhas are being organized** in over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats.
- **Aim:** Strengthening grassroots democracy and promoting inclusive development in Grameen Bharat.
- **Significance:** Empower rural citizens to take an active role in shaping the future of their villages.

Little Prespa Lake

Little Prespa Lake, on the **Albanian-Greek border**, is **slowly dying** due to rising temperatures and increasingly mild winters with little snowfall and a scarcity of precipitation.

About Little Prespa Lake

- It is located in the **Balkan Peninsula**, spans both **Greece and Albania** and is part of the **larger Prespa Lake system**.
 - ⊕ **Lake Prespa** is located on tripoint of North Macedonia, Albania and Greece. It is a system of two lakes – Great Prespa Lake and Little Prespa Lake – separated by an isthmus.
- The lake is part of the **Prespa National Park** and designated as a **Ramsar Site**.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for 2022 to be conferred on eminent actor Mithun Chakraborty.

About Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is **India's highest award in the field of cinema**.
- It is presented annually by the **Directorate of Film Festivals**.
- It was instituted in **1969** in honour of the **birth centenary year of Dadasaheb Phalke**, considered the father of Indian cinema.
- The recipient receives a **Golden Lotus (Swarna Kamal)** medallion, a shawl, and a **cash prize** (currently ₹10 lakhs).
- Some notable winners: **Satyajit Ray (1985), Amitabh Bachchan (2018), Rajinikanth (2021), and Waheeda Rehman (2023)**.

Sahibi River

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has successfully traced the flow of the Sahibi river.

About Sahibi River

- It **originates in Rajasthan** and flows through **Haryana and Delhi**.
- It is a tributary of the **Yamuna River**.
- In ancient times, it was known as **Drishadvati River**.
- Due to **pollution and encroachment**, the river's **natural flow has been significantly reduced**.
- It is now bracketed into various **canals and nullahs and flows only when it rains heavily in the catchment areas**.

Geographical Indications tag to 8 Assam Products

The **Geographical Indications Registry** in Chennai has granted the GI tag to **eight products from Assam**.

About Products

- **Traditionally fermented rice-based alcoholic beverage (3):** Bodo Jou Gwan, Bodo Jou Gishi & Maibra Jou Bidwi.
- **Traditional Dishes (4):**
 - ⊕ **Bodo Napham:** Dish of fermented fish.
 - ⊕ **Bodo Ondla:** A rice powder curry.
 - ⊕ **Bodo Gwkha:** Locally also known as 'Gwka Gwkhī', prepared during the Bwisagu festival.
 - ⊕ **Bodo Narzi:** a semi-fermented food prepared with jute leaves.
- **Bodo Aronai:** a traditional **shawl or scarf**.

Personality in News Lal Bahadur Shastri

The birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri was observed on October 2.

About Lal Bahadur Shastri

- Lal Bahadur Shastri served as **India's Prime Minister** from 1964 to 1966.
- **Contributions**
 - ⊕ **Pre-Independence:** Participated in Non-cooperation movement, Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement.
 - ◆ He led many campaigns and **spent seven years in British jails**.
 - ⊕ **Post independence:**
 - ◆ He led the **1965 India-Pakistan war** and inspired Indian soldiers and farmers facing a food crisis with the slogan "**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**."
 - ◆ During his tenure, the **National Dairy Development Board** and **Food Corporation of India** were established.
- **Values-**Integrity, Simplicity, Courage etc.

