



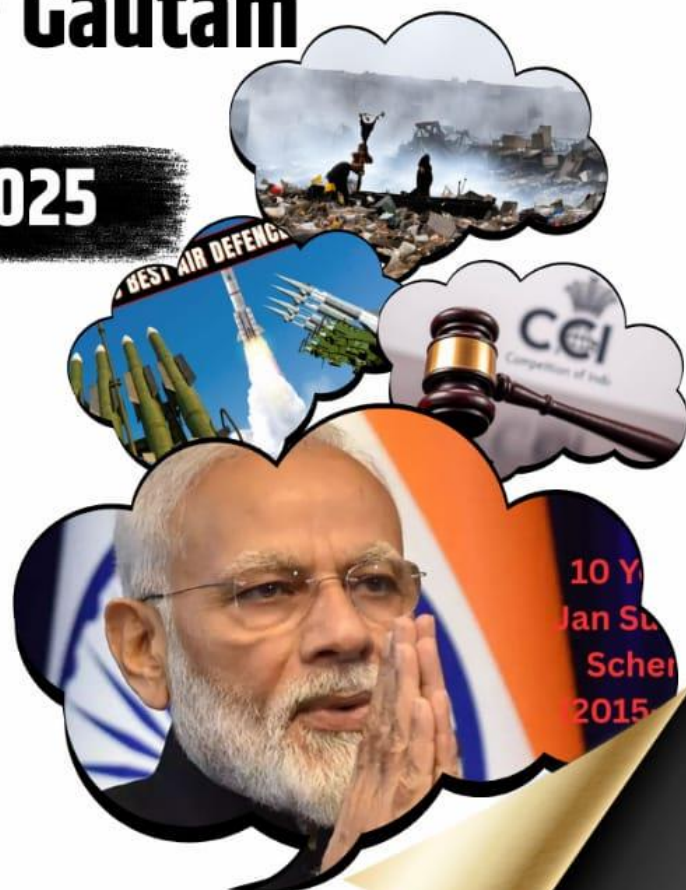
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To The Point by Dhananjay Gautam

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1 Air Defence Systems: Safeguarding the Skies of India and the World

Context: In a significant demonstration of military preparedness, **India recently repelled aerial attacks** launched from Pakistan along the western front. In a strategic counteroffensive, **Indian forces successfully neutralized an enemy air defence installation** near Lahore. These events underscore the crucial role played by **air defence systems** in ensuring national security and deterrence.



Understanding Air Defence Systems:

Air Defence Systems form the backbone of a nation's aerial security, tasked with the detection, tracking, and elimination of hostile aerial threats such as **enemy aircraft, missiles, and drones**. These systems are typically composed of a **layered defensive architecture**, incorporating cutting-edge technology like **radars, missile interceptors, electronic warfare systems, and command-control networks**.

Core Components of Air Defence Mechanisms:

1. Detection and Surveillance:

- **Radar Systems:** Utilize high-frequency electromagnetic waves to **identify incoming targets**, even at long distances.
- **Satellite and Infrared Sensors:** Provide **high-resolution imaging** and **thermal tracking** to spot **stealth aircraft** and **hypersonic threats**.
- **Tracking and Threat Classification:** Algorithms assess object **speed, altitude, and flight path** to determine whether the intruder is a **fighter jet, drone, or missile**.

2. Command and Control:

- **Combat Operation Centers:** Evaluate threat levels and coordinate a **multi-layered response**, including missile interception or electronic warfare.

3. Engagement and Elimination:

- **Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs):** Serve as the primary tool to destroy aerial threats at various ranges.
- **Electronic Warfare Systems:** Include **signal jammers** and **spoofers** to confuse or disable enemy radars and communications.
- **Anti-Aircraft Artillery:** Offers **close-range defensive firepower**, crucial during **saturation attacks** or when SAMs are not feasible.

Classification of Air Defence Systems:

Short-Range Air Defence (SHORAD):

- Designed for **low-altitude, close-proximity threats** like drones and cruise missiles.
Example: Barak-8 Missile System

Medium-Range Air Defence (MRAD):

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- Provides protection over **broader zones**, effective against **fighter aircraft and tactical missiles**.
Examples: Patriot Missile System, S-400 Triumph

Long-Range Air Defence (LRAD):

- Capable of intercepting threats over **hundreds of kilometers**, including **intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)**.

Examples: THAAD, Aegis BMD

India's Air Defence Arsenal:

Akash Missile System:

- Indigenous **Surface-to-Air Missile** system.
- Can engage multiple airborne targets with **command-guided precision**.
- Effective against **aircraft, cruise missiles**, and UAVs.

S-400 Triumph (From Russia):

- Among the world's most advanced LRAD systems.
- Intercepts threats at distances up to **400 km**.
- Capable of engaging **stealth aircraft, ballistic missiles, and drones**.
- Also deployed by **China and Turkey**.

Barak-8 Missile System (India-Israel Collaboration):

- **Quick-reaction interceptor** for aerial targets.
- Deployed on naval vessels and land-based launchers.
- Offers **360-degree coverage** against **supersonic threats**.

Integrated Counter-UAS Grid:

- Specialized system against **unmanned aerial threats (UAVs)**.
- Combines **radar detection, electronic jamming**, and **kinetic weapons** for neutralization.
- Deployed along **sensitive borders**, including the **Line of Control (LoC)**.

Notable Global Air Defence Systems:

Patriot Missile System (USA):

- Multi-role air and missile defence system.
- Used by **USA, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia**.
- Capable of intercepting **ballistic and cruise missiles**.

Iron Dome (Israel):

- Designed for **short-range interception**, highly effective against **rockets and artillery**.
- Widely used to **defend urban areas and military bases**.



- Demonstrated over **90% success rate** in combat situations.

THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) – USA

- Intercepts **ballistic missiles in terminal phase**.
- Operates at **exosphere altitudes**, enhancing strategic coverage.
- Deployed in **South Korea, Japan, and Guam** for **regional deterrence**.

Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (USA):

- Sea-based missile defence system installed on **Aegis-class destroyers**.
- Utilizes **Standard Missile-3 (SM-3)** for high-altitude interception.
- Integral to **NATO and Indo-Pacific** security strategies.

Additional Insights and Emerging Trends:

- **Hypersonic Threats:** Nations are now developing countermeasures against **hypersonic glide vehicles (HGVs)**, which travel at speeds exceeding **Mach 5** and can evade traditional radar.
- **AI in Defence:** **Artificial Intelligence** is increasingly used for **threat assessment, radar signal processing, and autonomous targeting**.
- **Multi-Domain Integration:** Modern air defence is moving towards **integration with space, cyber, and naval assets** for real-time threat coordination.

Conclusion:

As aerial threats evolve—from **swarms of drones** to **stealth bombers** and **hypersonic missiles**—nations must continually upgrade their air defence capabilities. **India's robust and modernizing air defence network**, integrated with **indigenous systems** and **global technology partnerships**, plays a pivotal role in maintaining national sovereignty and strategic deterrence.

2

CCI Overhauls Cost Regulations to Tackle Predatory Pricing in Digital Markets

Context: In a significant regulatory shift, the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has issued the “**Determination of Cost of Production Regulations, 2025**”, replacing the older 2009 framework. This new regulation marks a critical update in India's antitrust oversight, specifically targeting **predatory pricing and deep discounting**, particularly in **e-commerce and quick-commerce sectors**.



Understanding the Context: Predatory Pricing and Market Fairness

Predatory pricing refers to the strategy of **selling goods or services at prices below production cost** with the intent to **undermine competition or drive rivals out of the market**. Under **Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2002**, such conduct is considered an **abuse of dominant position** and is subject to strict scrutiny by the CCI.

The now-superseded **Cost Regulations, 2009**, were developed in a pre-digital era and struggled to address the **complex economics of modern, platform-based markets**, where **cross-subsidies, free services, and non-cash value** have become common.

Highlights of the 2025 Cost Determination Framework:

1. Adaptive and Sector-Neutral Design:

- Moves away from the rigid **one-size-fits-all** structure.
- Allows **case-specific evaluations**, recognizing the **distinct dynamics of digital, retail, telecom, and tech-driven platforms**.

2. Focus on Internal Production Cost:

- Establishes **internal cost of production** as the benchmark for pricing analysis.
- **Rejects the use of market value** as a benchmark due to its reliance on **consumer perceptions, subsidies, or branding**, which may not reflect actual cost.

3. Aligned with Global Best Practices:

- Incorporates insights from **international competition authorities** and **modern economic theory**.
- Builds on evolving jurisprudence on **platform economies, network effects, and dynamic pricing models**.

4. Clear Framework for Evidence-Based Investigations:

- Offers the CCI a **standardized yet flexible approach** to assess pricing practices.
- Enables deeper scrutiny of **pricing algorithms, subscription bundles, and freemium models**.

Why This Matters: Implications for India's Competition Ecosystem

Legal and Regulatory Clarity:



- The 2025 regulations provide a **more objective and economically sound method** to determine cost benchmarks.
- Enhances legal certainty for firms operating in **highly competitive and tech-driven sectors**.

Digital Economy Focus:

- The framework explicitly considers **cross-subsidization, high fixed costs, and non-linear pricing strategies**—hallmarks of **startups and digital giants**.
- Enables CCI to effectively assess **zero-price markets**, like those offering **free apps or services**.

Level Playing Field for MSMEs:

- Protects **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** from being priced out by **loss-leading strategies** of dominant players.
- Encourages **fair competition** and **innovation** by ensuring **market access** for smaller businesses.

Better Enforcement Capacity:

- Empowers CCI to conduct **more precise, consistent, and data-driven investigations** into alleged anti-competitive pricing.
- Strengthens India's regulatory readiness in the face of **rapidly evolving digital business models**.

Global Context and Comparative Insight:

- **European Union** and **United States** regulators have also faced similar challenges in defining cost metrics in platform economies.
- Countries like **Australia and Japan** have adopted **dynamic tools** to regulate pricing in sectors such as **ride-sharing, e-retail, and online food delivery**.
- India's 2025 regulation brings it in line with **mature jurisdictions**, reinforcing its role as a **progressive antitrust authority** in the **Global South**.

Conclusion:

The **2025 Cost of Production Regulations** represent a forward-looking approach to **maintaining fair competition** in a rapidly digitizing economy. By modernizing its toolkit, the **CCI is better equipped to curb exploitative practices**, preserve consumer welfare, and protect **India's competitive digital landscape** from monopolistic abuse.

3 Invisible Scars: The Growing Threat of Gully Erosion

Context: A recent study published in *Scientific Reports* warns that **gully erosion**, a severe form of land degradation, poses a direct threat to the achievement of at least **nine out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It particularly endangers efforts related to **Zero Hunger (SDG 2)**, **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)**, and **Climate Action (SDG 13)**. Despite its devastating impact, this form of erosion remains **largely invisible in mainstream environmental policy and discourse**.



What is Gully Erosion?

Gully erosion occurs when **runoff water** aggressively cuts through the soil, creating **deep, narrow channels (gullies)** in the landscape. These gullies grow in size over time, often turning into ravines that can stretch for kilometers.

What makes gully erosion especially dangerous is its:

- **Depth and speed of land degradation**
- **Unpredictable progression**
- **Extremely high soil loss per unit area**, surpassing other erosion types

Unlike sheet or rill erosion, gully erosion is **difficult to reverse** and leaves **permanent scars** on the land.

The Global and Indian Landscape:

Worldwide Impact:

- **51 countries** have reported disasters directly linked to gully formation.
- **Nigeria** stands out, with **15 major locations** severely affected by this hazard.

India's Erosion Hotspots:

- Gully-affected areas span across **19 states and the National Capital Territory of Delhi**.
- **Severely impacted states:** Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.
- In regions like **Bundelkhand**, expanding gullies are turning once-arable land into barren badlands.

What Drives Gully Erosion?

1. Loss of Vegetation Cover:

- **Tree felling** and degradation of grasslands weaken soil structure.
- Without plant roots to bind the soil, intense rainstorms quickly carve gullies.

2. Erratic Weather Patterns:

- **Prolonged droughts** followed by **heavy downpours** create ideal conditions for runoff-induced erosion.
- Climate change is amplifying this cycle, particularly in **semi-arid and sub-humid regions**.

3. Poor Waste Management:

- Dumping of **solid waste into natural drainage channels** causes blockages, diverting water flow and creating **high-pressure zones** that deepen gullies.

4. Fragile Soil Types:

- Regions with **sandy, loose, or lateritic soils**, like those in **Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**, are especially prone to erosion under water pressure.

The Devastating Impacts:

1. Loss of Fertile Topsoil:

- The topmost layer of soil, rich in nutrients, is washed away—**crippling agricultural productivity**.
- Once lost, it may take **hundreds of years to regenerate**, threatening **food security and farmer livelihoods**.

2. Water Scarcity and Drought:

- Erosion **reduces groundwater recharge** and increases **surface runoff**, worsening water shortages and disrupting **local hydrological cycles**.

3. Ecological Damage:

- Gullies **fragment habitats**, reducing biodiversity and disturbing **native flora and fauna**.
- Leads to **decline in pollinator species** and the spread of **invasive plants** in degraded lands.

4. Sediment Overload in Rivers:

- Displaced soil ends up clogging **rivers, lakes, and reservoirs**, leading to **siltation, reduced water storage, and flooding risks** downstream.

The Way Forward: Strategies for Resilience:

1. Reforestation and Vegetative Barriers:

- Planting native species** in erosion-prone catchments helps **stabilize soil and reduce runoff**.
- Vetiver grass**, with its deep root system, has proven highly effective in controlling gully spread.

2. Sustainable Land Use Practices:

- Promote **terracing, agroforestry, contour bunding, and cover cropping** to adapt land management to **terrain and soil characteristics**.

3. Structural Interventions:

- Constructing **check dams, gabion walls, and gully plugs** helps to **slow down water flow**, allowing **sediment deposition and soil recovery**.

4. Community Involvement and Education:

- Involving **local communities**, especially **tribal and farming populations**, in **watershed management** enhances long-term impact.
- Awareness programs about the **economic and ecological costs of gully erosion** can change local land-use behavior.

A National Call to Action:

India has pledged to restore **26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030** under its commitment to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**. Addressing **gully erosion** must become a **central pillar of this restoration mission**.

This land degradation challenge is **invisible only until it is irreversible**. By integrating both **preventive and restorative approaches**, India can not only protect its landscapes but also secure **food, water, and livelihoods** for future generations.

4 A Decade of Jan Suraksha: Strengthening India's Social Security Fabric

Context: India marks the **10th anniversary** of three path-breaking social security initiatives—**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**, **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, and **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**. Launched in 2015 by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, these schemes have significantly advanced the goal of **universal financial protection**, especially for those in the **unorganised and economically vulnerable sectors**.



1. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):

Empowering Families Through Life Insurance

- **Nature of Scheme:** A **one-year renewable life insurance scheme**, covering **death due to any cause**—natural or accidental.
- **Eligibility:** Open to individuals aged **18 to 50 years** who hold a **bank or post office account**.
 - Once enrolled before 50, coverage continues **until age 55**, subject to regular premium payments.
- **Benefits:**
 - **2 lakh** life cover
 - Annual premium: **436 only**
- **Impact:** With low premiums and broad eligibility, this scheme has become a **lifeline for low-income households**, ensuring **financial stability after the breadwinner's death**.
- **Fact Add-on:** Over **16 crore people** have enrolled in PMJJBY since its inception.

2. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):

Safeguarding Lives from Accidental Shocks

- **Nature of Scheme:** A **one-year renewable accidental insurance policy** providing coverage for **death or disability due to accidents**.
- **Eligibility:** Available to account holders aged **18 to 70 years**.
- **Benefits:**
 - **2 lakh** cover for accidental death or full disability
 - **1 lakh** for partial disability
 - Annual premium: **20 only**
- **Significance:** PMSBY ensures **quick financial assistance** in case of unforeseen accidents, especially vital for **daily-wage earners, farmers, and those in hazardous occupations**.
- **Fact Add-on:** PMSBY has seen **more than 34 crore enrollments** over the past decade.

3. Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

Pension for All: Security in Golden Years

- **Objective:** To provide a **guaranteed monthly pension** post-retirement to workers in the **unorganised sector** who lack formal pension coverage.

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- **Administered by:** Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension System (NPS) framework.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Bank account holders aged **18 to 40 years**
 - Applicants must **not be income tax payers** (as per current norms)
- **Pension Benefits:**
 - Fixed monthly pension of **1,000 to 5,000** starting at age **60**, based on age and contribution amount.
 - **Spouse receives the pension** after the subscriber's death.
 - On the death of both, **the nominee receives the accumulated pension corpus**.
- **Flexibility on Early Death:** Spouse can continue contributions if the subscriber dies before 60, to retain pension eligibility.
- **Women-Centric Impact:** A notable proportion of APY subscribers are **women**, highlighting its role in **women's financial empowerment**.
- **Fact Add-on:** As of 2024, **over 6 crore subscribers** have joined APY, with **more than 45% being women**.

Why These Schemes Matter: Transformative Impact:

1. **Affordable Protection for All:** The schemes offer **life, accident, and pension coverage** at **minimal premiums**, making them **accessible to even the poorest households**.
2. **Deepening Financial Inclusion:** By leveraging the **Jan Dhan bank account ecosystem**, these schemes have expanded the **reach of formal financial services** in **rural and underserved areas**.
3. **Boosting Insurance Penetration:** India's insurance landscape, once limited to urban elites, now includes **crores of rural workers and homemakers**, contributing to **inclusive financial resilience**.
4. **Gender Empowerment:** Schemes like APY have seen **higher participation from women**, helping them **secure their future** and build **economic independence**.

Looking Ahead: Strengthening the Social Safety Net:

As India celebrates a **decade of Jan Suraksha**, the journey so far showcases the power of **policy-driven inclusion**. However, to ensure these schemes reach every eligible citizen:

- **Awareness campaigns** must be expanded in remote areas.
- **Premium collection mechanisms** should be streamlined.
- Digital integration can reduce **claim settlement delays**.
- Focus must also shift to **increasing contribution rates** in APY to ensure higher pension payouts.

Conclusion: The **Jan Suraksha schemes** are more than just insurance and pension programs—they are a **shield against life's uncertainties** for millions. Over ten years, they have laid the foundation of a **robust social protection architecture** for India's working class, especially in the unorganised sector.

As the nation moves forward, the goal must be to **consolidate achievements, address operational bottlenecks**, and **deepen coverage**, ensuring that **no citizen is left without a basic social safety net**.

5

Methane: The Silent Accelerator of Global Warming

Context: According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) **Global Methane Tracker 2025**, the global **energy sector** released around **145 million tonnes (Mt)** of methane in **2024**. Of this, **oil and gas facilities alone contributed over 80 Mt**, making them the largest culprits in energy-related methane emissions.



What is Methane?

Methane (CH₄) is a **colourless, odourless, and highly flammable gas**, commonly referred to as **marsh gas**. Although it stays in the atmosphere for only about **10 years**, it is **over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂)** in terms of **global warming potential (GWP)** over a 20-year period.

Key Characteristics:

- **Short atmospheric lifespan:** ~10 years
- **Global Warming Potential:** ~80x more than CO₂ (over 20 years)
- **Primary sources:** ~60% from human activity, ~40% from natural sources like **wetlands, permafrost thawing, and volcanic activity**

Anthropogenic Sources of Methane Emissions:

1. Energy Sector – A Leading Contributor:

The **energy industry** accounts for **over 35%** of human-induced methane emissions, making it the **largest industrial source**.

Breakdown within the Energy Sector:

- **Oil production:** ~45 Mt
- **Natural gas operations:** ~35 Mt
- **Coal mining activities:** Over 40 Mt, including 4 Mt from **abandoned mines**
- **Abandoned oil & gas wells:** ~3 Mt
- **Bioenergy (traditional biomass):** ~18 Mt — largely from **wood, dung, and charcoal** in developing countries
- **Modern bioenergy (like biogas, biofuels, and biomethane):** ~2 Mt
- **End-use equipment leakage:** Contributes an extra ~2 Mt

2. Agriculture – Livestock and Rice Cultivation:

Agriculture is another **major emitter** of methane, primarily through:

- **Enteric fermentation** in livestock (especially cattle)
- **Manure management**
- **Flooded rice fields**, which produce methane due to anaerobic conditions

India and China are among the **top agricultural methane emitters**, given their large livestock populations and extensive rice cultivation.

3. Waste Sector – Landfills and Wastewater:



- Organic waste in **landfills** and **wastewater treatment plants** decomposes anaerobically, emitting significant amounts of methane.

Methane's Role in Climate Change:

Methane is responsible for nearly **30% of global warming** since the **Industrial Revolution**. Its **atmospheric concentration is now 2.5 times higher** than pre-industrial levels and continues to **increase at an alarming rate**.

Studies show that methane concentrations are **rising faster than any other greenhouse gas**, underscoring its critical role in near-term climate action.

Tackling the Methane Challenge:

Mitigation Potential:

The IEA emphasizes that:

- ~70% of fossil fuel-related methane emissions can be **prevented using existing technologies**.
- In the **oil and gas sector**, ~75% of emissions could be cut by **fixing leaks**, improving infrastructure, and **plugging abandoned wells**.

Top Emitters from Fossil Fuels:

- China
- United States
- Russia
- Iran
- Turkmenistan
- India

Global Response:

- Global Methane Pledge:** Over 150 countries, including India, have committed to collectively **reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030**, relative to 2020 levels.
- Technological Interventions:** Satellites like **GHGSat** and **Copernicus Sentinel-5P** are now being used to **track methane hotspots** and **support enforcement efforts**.

Conclusion: Urgency for Action

Methane may be invisible, but its impact on our climate is immense. With its **high warming potential** and **short lifespan**, cutting methane is one of the **fastest and most cost-effective ways** to slow down global warming in the near term.

To meet global climate goals, particularly the **1.5°C target** of the **Paris Agreement**, **governments, industries, and communities** must act swiftly to **monitor, regulate, and reduce methane emissions** across sectors.

6

Manas National Park: A Jewel of the Eastern Himalayas

Context: In a disturbing development, **three individuals have been arrested** for their alleged involvement in the **killing of three wild elephants** inside **Manas National Park**, Assam. The incident has sparked serious concern among conservationists, given the park's status as a critical wildlife habitat and UNESCO site.

Where Nature Meets Conservation: An Overview

Nestled in the **foothills of the Eastern Himalayas** in **Assam**, **Manas National Park** covers a sprawling area of **950 sq.km** and shares its northern boundary with **Bhutan's Royal Manas National Park**. The seamless ecosystem across international borders makes it a vital transboundary conservation zone.

The park derives its name from the **Manas River**, a major tributary of the **Brahmaputra**, which not only nourishes the ecosystem but also serves as the **international boundary between India and Bhutan**. As the river flows into the plains, it splits into the **Beki** and **Bholkaduba** rivers.

Unique Conservation Designations:

Manas is one of the **most prestigious protected areas in India**, having earned multiple conservation titles:

- **UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site** (since 1985)
- **Project Tiger Reserve** (since 1973)
- **Elephant Reserve**
- **Biosphere Reserve**
- **Important Bird Area (IBA)**

It is part of a vast **tiger conservation landscape**, interconnected with other reserves like **Buxa, Nameri, Pakke, and Namdapha**, along with Bhutan's and Myanmar's protected forests — forming a cross-border wildlife corridor.

Topography and Biodiversity:

The park's **altitude ranges from 60 to 1,500 meters**, creating a highly diverse landscape. From lush **tropical forests** to **riverine grasslands**, the variety of ecosystems supports an astonishing range of flora and fauna.

Flora:

Manas is botanically rich, featuring:

- **Sal forests** (*Shorea robusta*)
- **Semi-evergreen forests**
- **Deciduous forests**
- **Riparian vegetation**
- **Interspersed grasslands and scrublands**

Prominent tree species include **Hoolong, Amari, Dewa Sam, Garjan, and Himolu**. The buffer zones also contain patches of older plantations.



Fauna: A Sanctuary for Endangered Species

Manas is renowned for hosting **rare and endemic wildlife**, some of which are **critically endangered**:

- **Hispid Hare**
- **Pygmy Hog** (world's smallest and rarest pig species)
- **Golden Langur** (found only in Bhutan and Assam)
- **Asiatic Buffalo**
- **Indian Rhinoceros**
- **Clouded Leopard**
- **Sloth Bear**
- **Leopard Cat**
- **Bengal Florican** (critically endangered bird)
- **Tiger** (flagship species of the park)

It also supports over **450 bird species**, making it a haven for bird watchers and ornithologists.

Cultural Ties: Indigenous Communities and Conservation:

The park is home to **indigenous communities**, especially the **Bodo people**, who have long-standing ties with the forest. Their traditional knowledge and practices play a key role in **community-based conservation**. Efforts have been made to integrate local participation through **eco-tourism, anti-poaching units, and forest stewardship programs**.

Challenges and Conservation Efforts:

Despite its prestige, Manas has faced **poaching, encroachment, and militancy-related disruption**, particularly in the early 2000s. However, significant conservation efforts since then have **revived wildlife populations**, especially tigers and rhinos.

Recent Initiatives:

- Deployment of **smart patrolling systems**
- Collaboration with **WWF and local NGOs**
- Use of **camera traps** for monitoring tigers
- **Translocation of rhinos** from Kaziranga to Manas as part of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020

Conclusion: A Living Legacy That Must Be Protected

Manas National Park is more than just a biodiversity hotspot — it is a **symbol of India's conservation ethos and transboundary ecological cooperation**. As threats like **poaching and habitat degradation** continue to loom, it's crucial to strengthen community-led conservation, enhance patrolling, and implement stricter protection protocols.

Safeguarding Manas is not just about saving wildlife — it's about preserving the **ecological integrity of the Eastern Himalayas** for future generations.