

8. Short News

1. Tuvalu Becomes 90th IUCN Member

Tuvalu – Island country in west-central Pacific Ocean.

Neighbours – Kiribati (north), Fiji (south).

Size & Population – Fourth smallest country by land (26 km²); low population after Vatican City.

Topography – Very low-lying; max elevation 4.5 m → vulnerable to sea-level rise.

Capital – Funafuti.

Economy – Subsistence farming & fishing; reliant on remittances.

Significance – Official 90th State Member of IUCN, strengthening global conservation network.

2. FAO Report 2025 – Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD-W)

Purpose – Tracks SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) via women's diet quality.

Definition – Proportion of women (15–49 yrs) consuming ≥5 of 10 food groups in a day.

10 Food Groups – Grains, pulses, nuts/seeds, milk/dairy, meat/fish/poultry, eggs, dark leafy greens, vitamin A fruits/veg, other vegetables, other fruits.

Importance

1. Prevents "hidden hunger" (micronutrient deficiencies).
2. Impacts women's and children's health, productivity, and cognitive development.

Global Findings

64.7% women achieve MDD-W globally; 1/3 at risk of malnutrition.

Worst regions – Sub-Saharan Africa (43.6%), Central/South Asia (47.7%).

Better regions – East/Southeast Asia (84%), North America & Europe (~79%).

Causes of Low Diversity – High food costs, lack of nutritious food, conflicts, climate shocks.

Way Forward – Nutrition-specific actions, systemic reforms, women empowerment, data monitoring.

3. Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) – 'WE Rise' Initiative

WEP – Launched 2017 by NITI Aayog; supports women entrepreneurs via Ichha Shakti (aspiration), Gyaan Shakti (knowledge), Karma Shakti (action).

Engagement – 90,000+ women, 47+ partner organizations.

Six Support Areas – Finance, market linkages, training, mentoring, compliance, business development.

WE Rise Initiative – Public-private collaboration under WEP's Award to Reward framework.

1. Global scaling, mentoring 100 high-potential women entrepreneurs.
2. Trade facilitation via DP World.
3. Showcase at Bharat Mart, Dubai → access to international markets.
4. Supports women-led inclusive growth, aligns with Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.

4. Light Pollution in India

Definition – Excessive/misdirected artificial lighting disrupting natural darkness & circadian rhythm.

Causes

1. Unregulated urban lighting (high-intensity LEDs).
2. Architectural illumination (monuments, façades).
3. Policy gaps (not included in Environment Act).
4. Low awareness (57% of Indians unaware).

Impacts

Health – Disrupted circadian rhythm, higher cancer risk, metabolic/immune disorders.

Mental health & productivity – ~20% higher insomnia prevalence.

Biodiversity – Affects birds, insects, turtles.

Way Forward

Regulatory – Include under Environment Act; BIS illumination standards.

Urban design – Warm, downward LEDs, adaptive dimming (Germany model).

Awareness campaigns – "Right to Dark Sky" under Mission LiFE.

Monitoring – Integrate night-sky radiance into Environmental Quality Index; promote Dark Sky Tourism.

Achievements

India's first Dark Sky Reserve - Hanle, Ladakh (2022).

India's first Dark Sky Park - Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra (2023).

International Dark-Sky Association - Global advocacy body headquartered in Tucson, USA.

