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TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC PRELIMS

Date: 31.10.2025

Source: The Hindu

TODAY'S DROPS OF NEWS:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>IN NEWS</u>
POLITY	---
ECONOMY	---
GEOGRAPHY	---
HISTORY AND ART & CULTURE	---
ENVIRONMENT	Fully aware of Great Nicobar project's impact, says Centre.
SCIENCE & TECH	---
MISCELLANEOUS	---

ENVIRONMENT

In news: Fully aware of Great Nicobar project's impact, says Centre.

Bio-diversity Hotspot:

- Biodiversity Hotspots refer to biogeographic regions that are both a significant reservoir of biodiversity and are threatened with destruction.

- In other words, they are regions that are both rich in biodiversity and significantly threatened by human activities.
- These areas are critical for conservation efforts due to their high levels of endemic species, which are species found nowhere else on Earth.

Criteria:

To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must fulfil the following two strict criteria:

- Endemism: It must have at least 1,500 vascular plants as endemics ($> 0.5\%$ of the world's total) — i.e. it must have a high percentage of plant species found nowhere else on the planet.
- A hotspot, in other words, is irreplaceable.
- Threat Level: It must have lost 70% or more of its original natural vegetation.
- In other words, it must have only 30% or less of its original natural vegetation.

Biodiversity Hotspots in India:

There are 4 biodiversity hotspots in India, as mentioned below.

- The Eastern Himalayas,
- Western Ghats & Sri Lanka,
- Indo-Burma, and
- Sundaland.

MENTOR

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