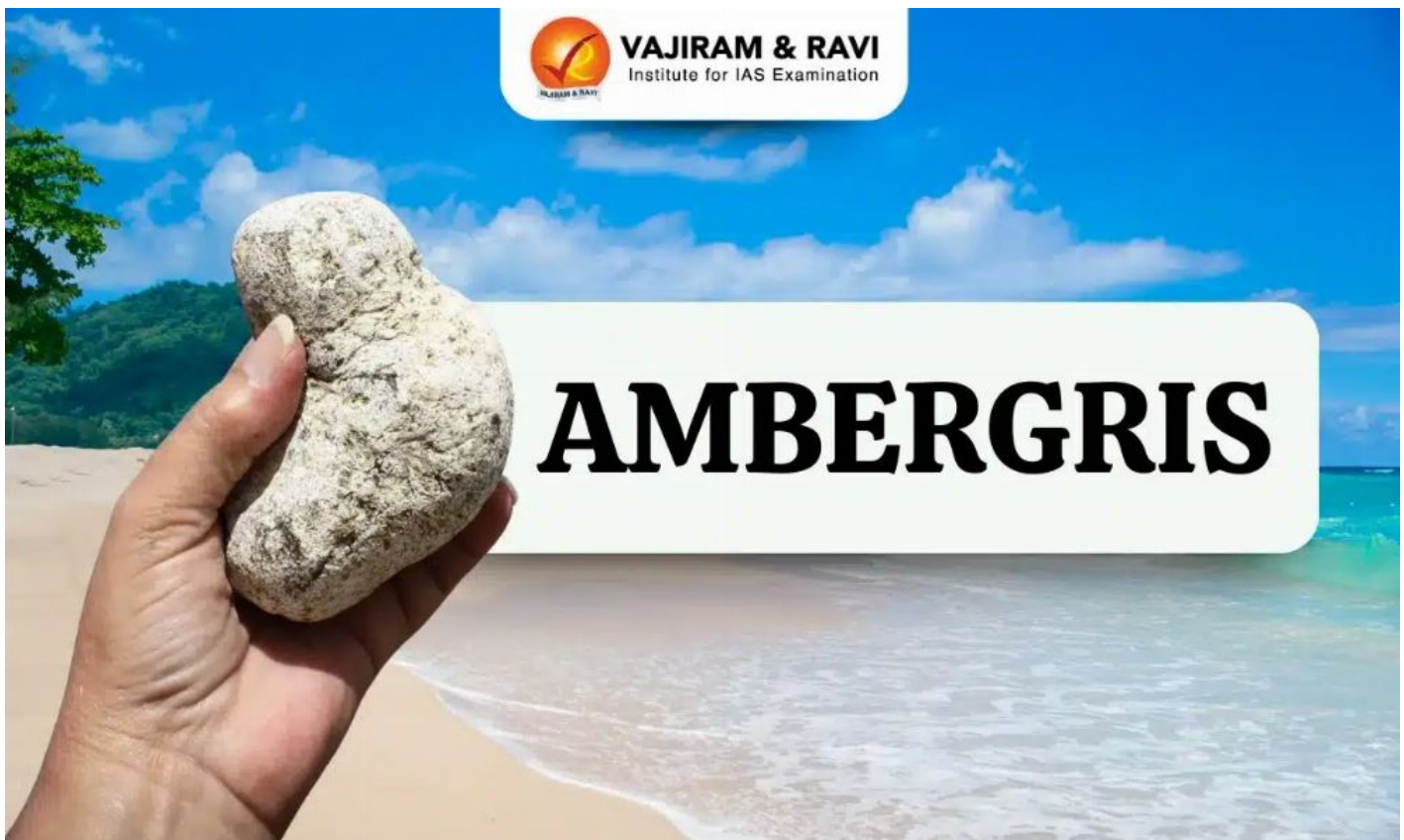


Ambergris

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Ambergris Latest News

The Ahmedabad Rural Special Operations Group (SOG) recently seized 2.97 kg of ambergris, commonly known as sperm whale vomit, worth nearly ₹2.97 crore in the international market and arrested two people.

About Ambergris

- Ambergris, also known as '**whale vomit**' is a **solid, waxy substance produced** in the **digestive system of sperm whales** (Physeter macrocephalus).
- It is **extremely valuable** and has been called the '**treasure of the sea**' and '**floating gold**'.
- It is highly **valued in the perfume industry** as a fragrance enhancer.
- It is also **used in traditional medicines** and sometimes even as a **spice in eastern cultures**.
- There is a **ban on the possession and trade** of ambergris **in countries like the USA, Australia, and India**.
- **In India**, the sale and trade of ambergris are strictly **prohibited under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

Ambergris Formation

- It is formed in the **intestine of the whale to cover the indigestible objects** from the animals **on which it feeds (mostly the beaks of squid)**.
- **Once released, it initially floats** on the ocean's surface and is **black and sticky**.
- Exposure to sun, air, and salt water oxidizes it, and **eventually it becomes grey and waxy**, often still embedded with small squid beaks. and **losing its unpleasant odour**.
- Ambergris is found in lumps of various shapes and sizes, ranging from 15 grams up to 420 kilograms.

Source: **TH**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-ambergris/>

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