



WEEKLY

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

17/08/24 to 23/08/24



## ***US RENEWS SUPPORT FOR MYANMAR OPPOSITION AFTER CHINA'S WANG MEETS MILITARY JUNTA***

On Friday, the US pledged continued support for Myanmar's democratic opposition after China's endorsement of the military junta's transition plans. Two senior US officials met virtually with Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government, made up of lawmakers ousted in a 2021 coup, and major ethnic insurgent groups such as the Karen National Union.

### **Commitment to pro-democracy efforts**

The US State Department praised these groups for their collaborative efforts to build an inclusive federal democratic Burma.

The US reaffirmed its commitment to extend direct support to pro-democracy actors aimed at helping them take steps toward a transition to civilian rule that respects the will of the Burmese people.

### **China's support for the junta**

China, a major ally and arms supplier to the Myanmar junta, has recently expressed support for the junta's transition plans, including promised elections, during a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and junta leader Min Aung Hlaing.

---

# CABINET APPROVES THREE METRO RAIL PROJECTS



*The Union Cabinet on Friday approved three major metro rail projects, including the Bengaluru Metro Phase-3, which is expected to cost ₹15,611 crore.*

*Additionally, the Thane Integral Ring Metro Project has been approved at a cost of ₹12,200 crore, while the Pune Metro extension has been approved with a budget of ₹2,954.5 crore.*

## ***New civil enclave for Bihar***

*The Cabinet also gave the green signal to the construction of a new civil enclave at Bihta in Bihar at an estimated cost of ₹1,413 crore. The new facility is designed to address the capacity crunch at the Patna airport.*

*The passenger terminal at the Bihta Indian Air Force base will handle 3,000 passengers during peak hours and serve 50 lakh passengers annually, with expansion to accommodate 1 crore passengers in the future.*

## ***Expansion at Bagdogra IAF Base***

*Further, the Cabinet approved the expansion of the existing civil enclave at Bagdogra Indian Air Force Base.*



# LATERAL ENTRY IN UPSC



## **Context**

UPSC seeks candidates for 45 lateral entry posts in Ministries

About lateral Entry:-UPSC recruits Joint Secretary level officers directly. Selection for these posts is done through interview only. Applications are invited for this by the commission. This recruitment process of UPSC is known as Lateral Entry Scheme.

## **Need of lateral entry:-**

Experienced Persons:-They all recruited person are experienced in their field they did work in many multinational companies which help our bureaucracy like steel frame of our country as sardar patel said.

Innovation: -They all are innovative people in their field and they will be able to connect our policies with new technologies, it helps to make new India.



Selection process; -in civil services selection process is so long periods prelims mains and interview stages, from this process, easily we recommend ambitious people for our country.

### **Arguments against Lateral Entry :-**

Differences in work culture may often come in the way.

The width and depth of field experience which the civil services provide is not available with outside talent.

Interests and motivation vary from person to person. Therefore, short term entry of officers through lateral entry might lead to corrupt practices.

The private sector who ran Air India, Indian Airlines and Vayudoot proved to be failures.

Lack of transparency, honesty and political interference in the selection process. Nobody knows why a particular individual was selected and why others more qualified were left out.

It is difficult to assess the performance of a secretary to the government due to complex nature of the job.

So it would be difficult to measure the performance of lateral entrants. If the selection is politically motivated, it may degrade the system.

### **Way Forward :-**

Lateral entry shouldn't lead to politicisation of bureaucracy.

Government must also allow deputation of its officers to private sector as well so that they get exposure to market practices and fresh ideas.

A good managerial system encourages and nurtures talent from within instead of seeking to induct leadership from outside.

The remedy lies not through lateral induction but through more rigorous performance appraisal and improved personnel management.

# UN REFORM

---

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945.

It is currently made up of 193 Member States. Its mission and work guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter and implemented by its various organs and specialised agencies.



ts activities include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development and upholding international law.

Administrative and financial challenges: -

Development Reform: Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) will require bold changes to the UN Development System (UNDS) for the emergence of a new generation of country teams, centred on a strategic UN Development Assistance Framework and led by an impartial, independent and empowered resident coordinator.

Management Reform: To confront global challenges and to remain relevant in a fast-changing world,

United Nations must empower managers and staff, simplifies processes, increases accountability and transparency and improves on the delivery of our mandates.

---

There are concerns for improving efficiency, avoidance of duplication, and the minimization of waste in the functioning of the entire UN system.

**Financial Resources:** Contributions of the Member States should have, as their fundamental underpinning, the capacity to pay principle. The Member States should pay their contributions unconditionally, in full and on time, as delays in payments have caused an unprecedented financial crisis in the UN system. Financial reforms hold the key to the future of the world body. Without sufficient resources, the UN's activities and role would suffer. **Peace and Security issues Threats to**

**Peace and security:** The range of potential threats to peace and security that UN has to face, are following poverty, disease, and environmental breakdown (the threats to human security identified in the Millennium Development Goals), conflict between states, violence and massive human rights violations within states, terrorism threats from organized crime, and the proliferation of weapons – particularly WMD, but also conventional.

**Terrorism:** Nations that support groups that are widely linked to terrorism, such as Pakistan, are not held accountable specifically for these actions. To this date, the UN still does not have a clear definition of terrorism, and they have no plans to pursue one.

**Nuclear Proliferation:** In 1970, the nuclear non-proliferation treaty was signed by 190 nations. Despite this treaty, nuclear stockpiles remain high, and numerous nations continue to develop these devastating weapons. The failure of the nonproliferation treaty details the ineffectiveness of the United Nations and their inability to enforce crucial rules and regulations on offending nations.

General Assembly membership has expanded considerably. In 1965, the membership of the Security Council was expanded from 11 to 15. There was no change in the number of permanent members. Since then, the size of the Council has remained frozen. This has undermined the representative character of the Council. An expanded Council, which is more representative, will also enjoy greater political authority and legitimacy.



---

India has been calling for the reform of the UN Security Council along with Brazil, Germany and Japan (G-4). The four countries support each others' bids for the permanent seats in the top UN body. Any expansion of permanent members' category must be based on an agreed criteria, rather than be a pre-determined selection.

UNSC Veto power: It is often observed that UN's effectiveness and responsiveness to international security threats depends on judiciously use of the UNSC veto.

Veto Power: The five permanent members enjoy the luxury of veto power; when a permanent member vetoes a vote, the Council resolution cannot be adopted, regardless of international support. Even if the other fourteen nations vote yes, a single veto will beat this overwhelming show of support.

There are proposals on future of Veto power: limiting the use of the veto to vital national security issues; requiring agreement from multiple states before exercising the veto; abolishing the veto entirely; Any reform of the veto will be very difficult: Articles 108 and 109 of the United Nations Charter grant the P5 (5 permanent members) veto over any amendments to the Charter, requiring them to approve of any modifications to the UNSC veto power that they themselves hold.

Non-Conventional Challenges Since its creation, UN is working with goal of safeguarding peace, protecting human rights, establishing the framework for international justice and promoting economic and social progress.

New challenges, such as climate change, refugees and population ageing are new fields it has to work. Climate Change: From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale.

reaching unsustainable levels. Population Ageing: It is poised to become one of the most significant social transformations of the twenty-first century, with implications for nearly all sectors of society,

---

including labour and financial markets, the demand for goods and services, such as housing, transportation and social protection, as well as family structures and intergenerational ties.

**Refugees:** The world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented 65.6 million people around the world have been forced from home by conflict and persecution at the end of 2016. Among them are nearly 22.5 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also 10 million stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

**Conclusion:-** Despite having many short-comings, UN has played a crucial role making this human society more civil, more peaceful & secure in comparison to time of its origin at 2 World War. United Nations, being the world's largest democratic body of all nations, its responsibility towards humanity is very high in terms of building democratic society, economic development of people living in acute poverty, & preserving the Earth's Ecosystem in concern with Climate Change.

# HIGH FIRE RISK IN CENTRAL INDIAN FORESTS: RESEARCH WARNS



A mix of natural and human factors is increasing the risk of forest fires in the forests of Khandwa and North Betul, in Central India. August 14, 2024 saw the publication of a paper that brought attention to this issue.

## Study Synopsis

Vibha Sahu from the Indian Institute of Forest Management led the research. The study discovered a concerning trend by examining 22 years' worth of satellite data from the MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer): North Betul has experienced an increase in annual fires, whereas Khandwa has seen an average rise of three fires annually.

## Evaluation of Fire Risk

According to the study, 50% of the forests in North Betul and roughly 45% of the woodlands in Khandwa are now located in regions with a high or extremely high risk of wildfire. The northern and southeast parts of Khandwa are the most susceptible.



The northwest and northeastern regions of North Betul are primarily high-risk areas.

## **FACTORS CHANGING THE RISK OF FIRE**

These woodlands have higher fire hazards due to a number of causes. Three main factors are the kind of vegetation, the topography of the area, and human activity. For instance, fires are more likely to occur along roads or in woods with extremely flammable plants, such as the teak forests in Khandwa.

## **ACCURATE MODELING**

The Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) is a technique that the researchers utilized to forecast future fire locations. This method divides various regions into five fire risk categories, which aids in concentrating fire prevention efforts where they are most required. Local communities' behaviors increase the risk of fires. For instance, burning bushes to gather tendu leaves and mahua flowers is a common practice that inadvertently raises the risk of fires. This emphasizes how these communities need to be properly educated and made more aware of safer resource management practices.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR PRESERVATION**

The results of this investigation are essential to conservation efforts. Authorities can create efficient fire control plans to save these woods and the populations who depend on them by determining the most fire-prone locations. In order to lessen the risk of forest fires in Khandwa and North Betul, the study highlights the urgent need for focused planning and resource allocation. Lead researcher Vibha Sahu demands that this developing issue be addressed right away.

## **CONCERNING KHANDWA**

Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa is renowned for having a rich cultural history. Historic attractions like the Omkareshwar and Ujjain temples are located there. The city's role in the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny adds to its historical significance. Khandwa has a strong agricultural sector, producing mostly cotton and pulses, and is well-served by Indian Railways. The Narmada River, which is considered sacred, flows close by, further contributing to the region's cultural significance.

## CONCERNING NORTH BETUL

North Betul, a region in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district, is renowned for its woods and abundant biodiversity. The Satpura Range, which offers beautiful scenery and a wide diversity of fauna, is located in the vicinity. In addition to being one of India's leading soybean growers, Betul holds an annual Jain festival honoring the local way of life. In addition, the region is home to ancient landmarks like the Bhimbetka rock shelters, and its tropical environment has an impact on local everyday life and agriculture.

# FIRST CASE OF MPOX STRAIN OUTSIDE OF AFRICA REPORTED IN SWEDEN

On August 15, 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that Sweden was the first nation outside of Africa to record a case of the mpox virus's developing clade I strain. The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to the fast spread of clade 1b, a variant of clade 1. Three sites in the United States, mostly in California and Illinois, have reported finding mpox in their wastewater. These sites are connected to clade II, which was a component of the 2022 outbreak. The United States has not discovered the more hazardous clade I, which is common in Africa.

ta and Distribution: In 2024, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and eleven other nations, including Burundi, Cameroon, and Nigeria, reported 2,100 confirmed cases of mpox and 13 fatalities.



Compared to the previous year, when there were 1,145 confirmed cases and seven deaths, there has been a notable increase.

Vaccine Development: The WHO is expediting the mpox vaccine Emergency Use Listing (EUL) protocol in response to the outbreak. By increasing vaccine accessibility for low-income nations lacking national regulatory approval, this initiative seeks to bolster public health defenses against the problem on a worldwide scale.



About Mpox: The mpox virus, which is a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus, is the cause of Mpox, also known as monkeypox. It was originally discovered in 1958 in study monkeys. Close contact with an infected person's lesions, bodily fluids, or respiratory droplets is the primary way that mpox is transmitted. Fever, rash, and enlarged lymph nodes are among the 2-4 week-long symptoms. Although previously only identified in Africa, instances increased worldwide in 2022. In addition to animals like rats and primates spreading the virus, the smallpox vaccine provides some protection against monkeypox.

# INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



WHO: The Geneva-based World Health Organization was founded in 1948 and is a component of the United Nations.

Members: 194 nations collaborate on global health challenges under this umbrella organization.

HIV Test: The first blood test to diagnose HIV was authorized by the WHO in 1985.

WHO recommendations contributed to the 1980 elimination of smallpox.

World Health Day: The World Health Organization observes April 7 as "World Health Day" each year.

Antimicrobial Resistance: The World Health Organization declared the issue of microorganisms developing medication resistance to be a worldwide health emergency in 2017. Health Rules: WHO oversees guidelines for national responses to hazards to public health.

# K. HEMA COMMITTEE REPORT



## ISSUES IDENTIFIED

Casting couch: -Extensive reports of casting couch practices where sexual favours are demanded by influential industry figures in exchange for roles.

bans and discrimination: -A mafia of male producers, directors and actors exerts control, capable of banning individuals who displease them.

Substance abuse: -Incidents of drugs and alcohol abuse affecting the safety and professionalism on sets.

Wage disparity and inhuman working condition: -Significant discrepancies in pay and work conditions particularly affecting women and junior artists.

Safety concerns: -Many women feel unsafe in accommodations provided during shoots due to harassment by inebriated men.

Pressure to compromise: -New comers are often misled to believe that success in industry requires compromise on their morals.

Fear of trout fission: -witnesses hesitate to speak out due to fear of retaliation affecting their careers and personal safety.



## **Manipulation of industry mechanism:**

Control over casting and movie releases through the film chamber of commerce with product controllers play a key role in enforcing bans.

## **Recommendations: –**

Legal and structural reforms: –Enactment of specific statutes and the establishment of a tribunal to address and redress geosciences.

Internal complain committee enforcement: –strengthening of icc mechanism to operate without influence of intimidations from powerful industry figures.

## **Support and safety for all workers: –**

Introduction of mandatory safety measures, fair working conditions and timely payments specially for junior artist and other vulnerable groups.

Infrastructure improvement: –provision of special facilities like changing rooms and toilets on sets to prevent health issues and ensure dignity.

## **Observations: –**

Impact of testimonies: –Audio clips video evidence and screenshots were provided by some witnesses to substantiate their claims.

Investigation necessity: –legal experts stress on legal investigation into the sexual harassment allegations detailed in the report.

Verification of allegations: –Some witness provided complete evidence such as video and audio clips and screenshots supporting claims of sexual harassment and exploitations.

Privacy and confidentiality: –The committee protected the anonymity of witnesses by not recording their names, address etc.

Legal procedures and recommendation

Government role: –The government must decide to either accept or rejects the findings of the Hema committee report, acceptance would necessitate further legal actions.

Special investigation team(SIT):

Former director general of prosecution Asaf ali advocates for the formation of an sit to investigate on all aspects of sexual harassment.

Supreme court stance: –Already supreme court take stance for transparent and government to investigate it on criminal procedure.

Legal framework: –In this aspect government should take a step and try to make strong law against sexual harassment for any work place.

## **PRIVACY OF ADOLESCENT TODAY**

**Right to privacy: –**

The right to privacy generally refers to the individual's ability to control personal information and to be free from unwarranted intrusion. This right can vary depending on the jurisdiction and the legal framework in place.

The right to privacy for adolescents is an evolving area of law and policy. Generally, it encompasses several aspects:

**Personal Information:** Adolescents have the right to control their personal data, including how it's collected, used, and shared. This includes privacy in digital communications and social media.

**Medical Records:** In many jurisdictions, adolescents have the right to confidential medical care, including access to certain health services without parental consent or notification.

**Educational Records:**– Privacy protections also extend to educational records, which are usually governed by laws like FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) in the U.S.

**Legal Protections:** The extent of privacy rights can depend on the age of the adolescent and local laws. For example, laws may vary on whether parental consent is required for certain activities or decisions.

**Balancing Interests:** While adolescents have privacy rights, these are often balanced with parental rights and responsibilities. Schools, for example, might need to navigate between respecting student privacy and ensuring safety. The right to privacy for adolescents is intended to protect their development and autonomy while recognizing the need for parental guidance and intervention.

## **IMPACT: –**

A breach of privacy for adolescents can have several significant impacts:

**Emotional and Psychological Effects:** Exposure of private information can lead to anxiety, depression, and a feeling of betrayal. Adolescents may experience a loss of trust in others, leading to issues with self-esteem and mental health.

**Social Consequences:** Privacy breaches can lead to bullying, harassment, or social ostracism, especially if sensitive information is made public. This can affect an adolescent's social relationships and reputation.

**Academic Impact:** If privacy breaches occur within an educational context, they can disrupt an adolescent's academic performance due to stress or distraction.

**Long-Term Effects:** Early breaches of privacy can have lasting consequences, affecting future opportunities and relationships. Personal data misused or disclosed may impact an adolescent's future digital footprint and professional life.

**Legal and Financial Implications:** In some cases, breaches can lead to legal disputes or financial costs, especially if sensitive information is used maliciously.

Ensuring strong privacy protections and educating adolescents about safe practices online can help mitigate these risks.

Recommendation: –

Recommendations that might advocate against the right to privacy for adolescents often center around concerns about safety and oversight, including:

**Parental Oversight:** Advocates might suggest increased parental access to digital communications or social media accounts to protect adolescents from online dangers, such as cyberbullying or predatory behavior.

**Monitoring and Surveillance:** Schools or institutions might recommend monitoring of educational activities or communications to prevent harmful behavior and ensure compliance with regulations.

**Disclosure for Safety:** In situations where there are concerns about safety or legal issues, recommendations may include allowing certain disclosures of private information to authorities or guardians.

**Educational Transparency:** Advocates may support greater transparency in educational settings to monitor and address behavioral issues or academic performance.

Balancing these recommendations with respect for the adolescent's autonomy and privacy is crucial.

# OEKO TEX

## OEKO-1 CONFIDENCE IN STANDARD

Oeko-Tex certification ensures that textiles are free from harmful substances and are safe for human health. The ultimate goal is to ensure that products meet strict environmental and safety standards, which are assessed through various tests. There are different Oeko-Tex certifications, such as Standard 100, which focuses on harmful substances, and others that address specific aspects of sustainability.

Impact: -

Environmental impact: -

Oeko-Tex certification impacts products by ensuring they meet high safety and environmental standards.

Consumers impact: - It helps consumers make informed choices about the safety of textiles they use, promotes responsible manufacturing practices.

Brand capability: -enhance a brand's credibility and marketability by demonstrating a commitment to quality and safety.



Sustainability: - it creates a sustainable society which creates a well-being of all aspects of present and expected demand.

## **SIGNIFICANCE: -**

The significance of Oeko-Tex certification lies in several key areas:

**Consumer Trust:** It provides assurance to consumers that the products they purchase are free from harmful substances and are safe for human use.

**Safety Standards:** It ensures that textiles meet stringent safety criteria, reducing the risk of exposure to toxic chemicals and allergens.

**Environmental Impact:** By adhering to Oeko-Tex standards, manufacturers often implement more sustainable and eco-friendly practices, contributing to reduced environmental impact.

**Market Differentiation:** Products with Oeko-Tex certification can stand out in the market, offering a competitive edge by demonstrating a commitment to quality and safety.

**Regulatory Compliance:** It helps manufacturers comply with various regulations and industry standards related to product safety and environmental impact.

Overall, Oeko-Tex certification supports both consumer health and environmental sustainability, while also enhancing brand reputation and market appeal.

# PENSION PORTAL



## पेंशनर्स पोर्टल Pensioners' Portal



### Bhavishya

**Pension Sanction & Payment Tracking System**

An initiative of Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare

#### **Features: -**

New features and upgrades: Many countries are introducing new features to their pension portals to improve user experience, such as real-time tracking, enhanced security, and better accessibility.

Policy Changes: Governments might be updating pension policies or regulations, which could impact how people manage their retirement savings through these portals. Cyber security

**Concerns:** As pension portals handle sensitive financial information, there are ongoing discussions about how to safeguard against cyber threats and data breaches.

To get the most current and relevant news, you might want to check recent updates from financial news websites or official announcements from pension regulatory bodies.

# BHAVISHYA PORTAL



The Bhavishya portal is an online platform managed by the Government of India for pension-related services. It aims to streamline and digitize the process of managing pension accounts for central government employees. Here are some key aspects:

**Features:** The portal offers functionalities such as pension account tracking, application for pension, and accessing pension-related information and services.

**Updates:** Look out for recent updates on new features, improvements in user interface, or changes in the portal's functionality.

**User Support:** Check for any new guidelines or support systems for users to address issues or queries related to their pension accounts.

For the latest updates on the Bhavishya portal, you can visit the official website or check news releases from the Ministry of Finance or other relevant government departments.

[gaganthedeservingindia](http://gaganthedeservingindia)

# SUPREME COURT FORMS TASK FORCE TO ENSURE DOCTORS SAFETY

**Background of the initiative: -**

**Supreme court action: -**  
Supreme court of India led by chief justice D.Y. Chandrachud had constituted National task force in response to the rape and murder of junior doctor at R. G. kar medical college and hospital in Kolkata.

**Reason for action: -**The court described this incident as a systematic failure in ensuring the safety of medical professionals and indicated that this horrific crime highlighted the urgent need for enhanced security measures.



**Objectives of the national task force: -**

The objective of a national task force generally involves addressing specific issues or challenges that require coordinated efforts across different sectors or levels of government. The goals typically include:

**Problem Identification and Assessment:** Analyzing the scope and impact of the issue at hand.

**Strategy Development:** Formulating actionable plans and policies to address the problem effectively.



**Coordination and Collaboration:** Facilitating cooperation among various stakeholders, including government agencies, organizations, and community groups.

**Implementation and Oversight:** Overseeing the execution of strategies and ensuring adherence to plans.

**Evaluation and Reporting:** Assessing the outcomes of the actions taken and reporting progress or recommending further actions.

The specific focus of the task force can vary widely, from addressing public health crises to managing economic challenges or responding to natural disasters.

### **Supreme court directives**

In the Kolkata rape case, the Supreme Court of India has issued various directions to ensure justice and proper handling of the case. Generally, such directions may include:

**Ensuring Fair Investigation:** Directing authorities to conduct a thorough and unbiased investigation into the allegations.

**Protection of Victim's Rights:** Ensuring that the victim's rights are protected, including confidentiality and safety.

**Timely Proceedings:** Mandating swift legal proceedings to avoid delays in justice.

**Monitoring by Higher Authorities:** Instructing higher judicial or administrative bodies to monitor the progress of the case.

For specific details about recent directions or rulings, you would need to refer to the latest news updates or official court orders, as these can change based on the case's progress.

# MALAYSIA ENTRY INTO BRICS

Context-After many years impasse india, Malaysia raise strategic partnership, discuss entry to BRICS.

About BRICS: - BRICS is an acronym for an association of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It was originally known as BRIC before the inclusion of South Africa in 2010. The group aims to enhance cooperation and coordination among its member countries across various domains, including economic, political, and cultural areas.



## **Objectives and Goals:**

**Economic Cooperation:** To promote trade and investment among member countries and advocate for a more balanced global economic system.

**Political Coordination:** To work together on global issues and reform international institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

**Cultural and Educational Exchange:** To foster closer cultural ties and collaboration in education and research.

**Development and Innovation:** To support and share best practices in development and innovation.

## **Key Initiatives**

**BRICS Summits:** Annual meetings where leaders discuss and coordinate on global and regional issues.

**New Development Bank (NDB):** Established to fund infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS countries and other emerging economies.

**Contingent reserve Arrangement(CRA) :-**A financial safety net to provide support to member countries in case of balance of payments problems.

**BRICS seeks to amplify the voice of emerging economies in global affairs and promote a multipolar world order.**

# GROSS ENVIRONMENT PRODUCT INDEX



The Gross Environment Product (GEP) Index is an indicator designed to measure the economic value of environmental protection and conservation activities. It aims to account for the benefits that arise from maintaining and improving environmental quality, complementing traditional economic metrics like Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

## Key Features of the GEP Index

**Environmental Value:** It quantifies the contribution of environmental conservation to economic welfare, capturing the value of ecosystem services and environmental improvements.

**Complement to GDP:** Unlike GDP, which measures economic activity and output, the GEP Index focuses on the benefits derived from environmental quality and sustainability efforts.

**Holistic Assessment:** It includes various factors such as pollution reduction, resource conservation, and ecosystem health, providing a more comprehensive view of the economic impact of environmental policies.

Policy Tool: The GEP Index can be used by policymakers to assess the effectiveness of environmental regulations and investments in green technologies.

The GEP Index aims to integrate environmental considerations into economic planning and decision-making, highlighting the importance of sustainable development.

## **BENEFITS OF GREEN ENVIRONMENT PRODUCT INDEX**

The Green Environment Product (GEP) Index, or similar environmental metrics, offers several benefits:

**Holistic Assessment:** Provides a comprehensive measure of environmental quality and the economic value of conservation efforts, integrating environmental health into economic assessments.

**Informed Decision-Making:** Helps policymakers and businesses make more informed decisions by considering the economic benefits of environmental protection alongside traditional economic metrics.

**Sustainable Development:** Promotes sustainable practices by highlighting the value of preserving natural resources and reducing pollution, encouraging investments in green technologies and practices.

**Policy Effectiveness:** Allows evaluation of the effectiveness of environmental policies and initiatives, guiding adjustments to improve outcomes.

**Public Awareness:** Raises awareness of the economic benefits of environmental conservation, potentially increasing public support for green initiatives and sustainable practices.

**Economic Incentives:** Provides a basis for creating economic incentives and investments in environmental protection by demonstrating its financial value.



# HAKKI PIKKI TRIBES



The Hakki Pikki tribe, also known as the Hakki Pikki or Hakki Pikki, is a tribal community predominantly found in the southern Indian states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Here are some key aspects of the Hakki Pikki tribe:

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS

**Lifestyle:** Traditionally, the Hakki Pikki are known for their semi-nomadic lifestyle. They often engage in activities like hunting, gathering, and trading in forested areas. In recent times, many have transitioned to more settled forms of livelihood.

**Occupation:** Historically, the tribe was involved in hunting and gathering, but they are also known for their skills in traditional medicine, using herbs and natural remedies.

**Cultural Practices:** They have a rich cultural heritage, including unique rituals, music, dance, and traditional crafts. Their cultural practices are closely tied to their environment and natural surroundings.

**Language:** They speak a dialect of the Dravidian language family, which is influenced by the languages of their surrounding regions.

**Social Structure:** The tribe has a distinct social structure with traditional leaders and a system of governance that reflects their customs and practices.

**Challenges:** Like many indigenous groups, the Hakki Pikki face challenges related to modernization, land rights, and preservation of their traditional way of life. Efforts are ongoing to address these issues and support their rights and development.

The Hakki Pikki tribe's unique cultural and social practices contribute to India's rich diversity of indigenous communities.

# LAWMAKERS WITH DECLARED CASES CRIME AGAINST WOMEN



Scope of the report: -The report analyzes 755 out of 776 affidavits of MP'S and 3938 out of 4033 affidavits of MLA across all 28 States and eight union territories over the past five years.

## **Factors behind crime against women by politician: -**

Crimes against women by politicians can stem from a combination of factors, including:

**Power Dynamics:** Politicians often hold significant power and influence, which can lead to abuse of that power. The imbalance in power may be exploited to perpetrate crimes against women with a reduced fear of consequences.

**Impunity:** There may be a perception of impunity among some politicians, believing they are shielded from legal repercussions due to their status or political connections.

**Corruption:** In some cases, political and legal systems may be corrupt or compromised, leading to inadequate responses to crimes and a lack of accountability for perpetrators.

**Cultural Attitudes:** Deep-seated patriarchal and sexist attitudes can contribute to a culture where women's rights are not respected, and crimes against them are minimized or ignored.

**Lack of Legal and Institutional Support:** Inadequate legal frameworks, weak enforcement mechanisms, and insufficient support for victims can make it difficult to address and prevent such crimes effectively.

Addressing these issues requires systemic change, including strengthening legal institutions, promoting gender equality, and ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their position, are held accountable for their actions.

## **WAY FORWARD: -**

Addressing crimes against women by politicians in India requires a multifaceted approach:

**Strengthening Legal Frameworks:** Ensure that laws related to sexual harassment, assault, and abuse are robust and clearly defined. Implement and enforce stricter penalties for perpetrators, including politicians.

**Independent Investigations:** Establish independent bodies to investigate allegations against politicians to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure impartiality.

**Judicial Accountability:** Enhance the accountability of the judiciary to ensure swift and fair trials. Special fast-track courts for such cases can help expedite justice.

**Support Systems for Victims:** Develop comprehensive support systems for victims, including counseling, legal aid, and protection services, to encourage reporting and assist survivors throughout the legal process.

**Transparency and Anti-Corruption Measures:** Increase transparency and reduce corruption within political and legal institutions to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their status, face consequences for their actions.

**Public Awareness and Education:** Promote awareness about women's rights and gender equality to challenge cultural norms and attitudes that perpetuate violence against women.

**Political Will and Ethical Standards:** Encourage political parties to adopt and enforce ethical standards for their members and support zero-tolerance policies towards any form of abuse.

These measures require collaboration between the government, civil society, and the legal system to create a more equitable and safe environment for women.



# MIYAWAKI METHOD

Context: -To combat urban heat island and pollution create mini forest with miyawaki method

The Miyawaki method is a technique for creating dense, native forests quickly. Developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, it focuses on planting a variety of indigenous species in a compact area to achieve rapid growth and biodiversity. Key aspects of the method include:  
Selection of Native Species: Use a mix of native plants that are well-adapted to the local environment. This increases resilience and supports local wildlife.

Soil Preparation: Prepare the soil by enriching it with organic material to enhance fertility and structure.

Dense Planting: Plant trees and shrubs closely together to create competition, which encourages them to grow upwards quickly and form a dense canopy.

Maintenance: Regularly maintain the forest by watering, mulching, and managing weeds to support the initial growth phase.



**Minimal Intervention:** After the initial establishment phase, minimal intervention is required, as the forest becomes self-sustaining.

The Miyawaki method is praised for its ability to restore ecosystems rapidly, improve urban green spaces, and combat climate change.

## BENEFITS OF MIYAWAKI METHOD

The Miyawaki method offers several benefits for urban and rural areas:

**Rapid Growth and Development:** Trees grow faster and create a dense forest canopy within a few years, compared to traditional methods of afforestation.

**Biodiversity Enhancement:** By using a mix of native species, the method promotes local biodiversity and provides habitat for wildlife.

**Climate Benefits:** Dense forests help in carbon sequestration, reducing the urban heat island effect, and improving air quality.

**Soil Improvement:** The method enriches the soil through the decomposition of organic matter from plants, improving soil health and water retention.

**Water Management:** Dense forests help in better water infiltration and reduced runoff, which can mitigate flooding and erosion.

**Aesthetic and Recreational Value:** The creation of green spaces enhances urban aesthetics and provides recreational areas for communities.

**Reduced Maintenance:** Once established, Miyawaki forests require minimal maintenance as they become self-sustaining.

Overall, the Miyawaki method is effective for ecological restoration and enhancing green infrastructure in both urban and rural settings.



# PM MODI VISIT TO POLAND

Key points: -

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Poland, key points included:

**Strengthening Bilateral Relations:**

The visit aimed to enhance diplomatic and economic ties between India and Poland, focusing on expanding cooperation in various sectors.



**Trade and Investment:** Discussions centered on increasing trade and investment flows between the two countries, with a focus on sectors like technology, defense, and energy.

**Strategic Partnerships:** The visit reinforced strategic partnerships, particularly in defense and security, and explored collaboration on regional and global issues.

**Cultural and Educational Exchanges:** Promoting cultural and educational exchanges to build mutual understanding and strengthen people-to-people connections was a key aspect of the visit.

**Regional and Global Issues:** Dialogue included regional and global issues, including security challenges and climate change, to align on common interests and objectives.

These points reflect the broader goals of deepening relations and fostering collaboration between India and Poland.



## **OBJECTIVE WITH POLAND: -**

Poland and India aim to achieve several objectives in their bilateral relations:

**Economic Cooperation:** Boost trade and investment flows, focusing on sectors such as technology, defense, energy, and infrastructure.

**Strategic Partnership:** Enhance collaboration in areas of mutual interest, including defense, security, and regional stability.

**Cultural and Educational Exchange:** Foster people-to-people connections through cultural, academic, and educational exchanges to build mutual understanding and cooperation.

**Scientific and Technological Collaboration:** Promote joint research and innovation, particularly in fields like IT, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy.

**Regional and Global Coordination:** Align on regional and global issues such as climate change, security challenges, and international diplomacy to strengthen their positions on global platforms.

**Development Cooperation:** Explore opportunities for development aid and technical assistance in areas where Poland and India can complement each other's strengths.

These objectives aim to create a robust and multifaceted relationship that benefits both countries across various domains.

## **Way forward: -**

To advance India-Poland relations, several strategies could be pursued:

**Strengthening Trade and Investment:** Enhance economic ties by exploring new investment opportunities and trade agreements. Focus on sectors like technology, pharmaceuticals, and green energy where both countries have mutual interests.

**Expanding Strategic Cooperation:** Deepen collaboration in defense and security, including joint exercises and technology sharing. Address regional and global security challenges through coordinated policies.

**Enhancing Cultural and Academic Exchanges:** Increase scholarships, academic partnerships, and cultural programs to foster people-to-people connections and mutual understanding.

**Collaborating on Innovation and Technology:** Promote joint research initiatives and innovation projects, especially in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and biotechnology.

**Strengthening Diplomatic Engagement:** Maintain high-level dialogues and regular consultations to address global and regional issues, ensuring alignment on key international matters.

**Developing Infrastructure and Development Projects:** Collaborate on infrastructure projects and development initiatives that leverage both countries' expertise and resources.

These approaches aim to build a robust and mutually beneficial partnership between India and Poland, leveraging their strengths to address shared challenges and opportunities.

# BHIMA RIVER



Context: -Two youth drawn in bhima river

The Bheema River, also spelled Bhima, is a significant river in India, flowing through the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Telangana. Here are some key points about the river:

**Source and Course:** The Bheema River originates in the Western Ghats, specifically from the Bhimashankar range in Maharashtra. It flows southeastward through the Deccan Plateau, eventually merging with the Krishna River near the town of Afzalpur in Karnataka.

**Length:** The river spans approximately 800 kilometers (about 500 miles) in length.

**Tributaries:** Major tributaries of the Bheema include the Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, and Tungabhadra rivers.

**Significance:** The Bheema River is vital for irrigation in the Deccan region, providing water to agricultural lands and supporting local economies.

**Historical and Cultural Importance:** The river is mentioned in various historical and cultural contexts, including ancient texts and local folklore.

**Environmental Concerns:** The river faces challenges such as pollution and over-extraction, impacting its health and sustainability.

**Efforts to manage and conserve the Bheema River** are crucial for maintaining its ecological balance and supporting the communities that depend on it.



# **IIA DISCOVERS A NEW WAY TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERIES OF THE SUN BY STUDYING SOLAR MAGNETIC FIELDS**

Astronomers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have developed a new method to unravel the mysteries of the Sun by analysing the magnetic fields in different layers of its atmosphere. The research used data from the Kodaikanal Tower Tunnel Telescope.

## **MAGNETIC FIELDS AND SOLAR DYNAMICS**

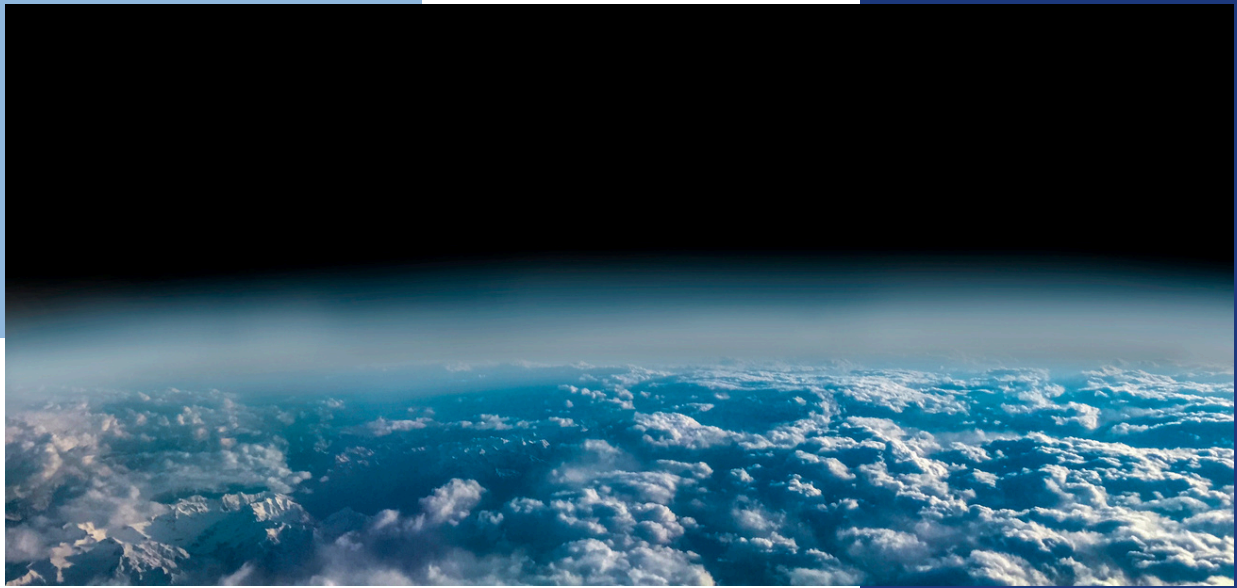
The Department of Science and Technology explains that different layers of the solar atmosphere are interconnected through magnetic fields. These fields are essential for transferring energy and mass from the inner layers of the Sun to the outer layers, which is a key factor in the coronal heating problem and the formation of the solar wind.

## **KEY OBSERVATIONS**

IIA scientists have studied a sunspot with complex features using simultaneous observations in hydrogen-alpha and calcium II spectral lines.

Their analysis provided valuable insights into the stratification of the magnetic field at different atmospheric heights, enhancing our understanding of solar dynamics. The study highlights the importance of advanced telescopic techniques in solar research.





# OVERVIEW OF CURRENT INDIAN SPACE MISSIONS

## Success after Chandrayaan 3

India's space programme did not remain quiet despite the peace at the Sriharikota spaceport after the successful landing of Chandrayaan 3's Vikram lander on the Moon. Prime Minister Modi had declared August 23 as India's National Space Day, marking this achievement.

## Key Missions and Milestones

ISRO launched the Aditya-L1 solar mission on September 2, 2023, reaching its orbit around the Earth-Sun Lagrange point by January 2024. The Gaganyaan mission demonstrated crew protection systems, moving ahead with its first abort test on October 21, 2023.

## Research and Future Plans

ISRO also launched ExpoSat, an X-ray polarimeter satellite, and INSAT-3DS, a meteorological satellite, while finalizing the development of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

The focus is now on long-term research, with plans for a Gaganyaan roadmap extending to 2047, including a new launch vehicle (NGLV) and a possible lunar mission. Meanwhile, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) continues to handle commercial missions.

## **WHAT IS VACCINE-DERIVED POLIO?**

A two-year-old child in Tikrikilla, Meghalaya has been diagnosed with vaccine-derived polio, a rare condition caused by a mutated strain of poliovirus found in the oral polio vaccine (OPV).

The case, confirmed by the Union Health Ministry, is not related to the wild poliovirus, but has raised concerns in the West Garo Hills district, where authorities are on high alert.

## **HOW DOES VACCINE-DERIVED POLIO OCCUR?**

Vaccine-derived polio can develop when the weakened poliovirus in OPV mutates and regains its ability to cause paralysis, especially in individuals with low immunity or in areas with poor vaccination and sanitation.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported a rise in vaccine-derived type 2 poliovirus outbreaks since the global shift from trivalent to bivalent OPV in 2016.

## **GLOBAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT POLIO**

To reduce the risk of vaccine-derived polio, the WHO has authorised a genetically modified type 2 oral polio vaccine, which is less likely to cause the disease.