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G7 SUMMIT

The Prime Minister of India attended the 52nd **G7 Summit** Outreach Session (2026) at Évian, France, held under the theme *"Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity."*

- The summit brought together G7 nations, and provided India a key platform to champion the priorities of the **Global South**, address the global trust deficit, and undertake key bilateral engagements with Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to strengthen strategic partnerships and advance mutual interests.



What was India's Core Message at the G7 Outreach Session?

- **Addressing the Global Trust Deficit:** India emphasized that mutual trust is the world's most critical strategic asset, arguing that global challenges stem more from a shortage of trust than a shortage of resources.
- **Reforming the Development Paradigm:** India called for moving beyond the traditional donor-recipient model towards partnerships based on equality, mutual respect, and shared responsibility.
- **Amplifying the Voice of the Global South:** India reiterated that developing and middle-income countries seek equitable participation in global governance and development frameworks rather than mere financial assistance.
- **Showcasing India-Africa Cooperation:** India highlighted its development partnership with Africa through targeted, high-impact initiatives based on South-South cooperation.

What Were the Major Outcomes of India's Bilateral Diplomatic Outreach During the G7 Summit 2026?

India-Canada

- **CEPA:** Both sides are expediting negotiations to conclude the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** by the end of 2026 to double two-way trade by 2030 (In 2024, India was Canada's 7th largest trading partner, with two-way trade worth USD 30.9 billion).
- **GSOIA:** Agreed to launch negotiations on a **General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA)** to deepen defence and intelligence cooperation.
- **Raisina Americas:** Announced the establishment of "**Raisina Americas**," a new geopolitical platform (mimicking the **Raisina Dialogue model**) designed to enhance dialogue and track-1.5 diplomatic exchanges.

- **IORA Backing:** India officially expressed support for Canada becoming a **Dialogue Partner** of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**.
- **The Nuclear Energy Partnership:** Recognizing Canada as an essential energy exporter, the two nations advanced their **Security Energy Partnership**, highlighted by a **CAD \$2.6 billion commercial agreement between Canada's Cameco and India's Department of Atomic Energy** for a long-term uranium supply spanning 2027–2035.

India-United Kingdom

- **Vision 2035:** The leaders reviewed the progress of bilateral relations under the **India-UK Vision 2035 framework**.
- **Trade Pact:** Reaffirmed commitment toward the early implementation of the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**, focusing on technology, defence, and education partnerships.

India-UAE

- **Maritime Security:** Both nations expressed mutual concern over disruptions in global trade networks, specifically calling for free and unimpeded navigation through the **Strait of Hormuz** amidst **West Asian conflicts**.
- **BRICS Summit 2026:** The Indian PM formally invited the UAE President to attend the 18th **BRICS Summit**, which **India will host** later in 2026.

What are the Key Facts About G7?

- **Genesis and Evolution:** Formed in 1975 in response to the **1973 oil crisis**, it began as an informal forum of **six industrialised democracies (G6)** (France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Japan, and the US)
 - Canada joined in 1976 to form the G7. **Russia was integrated in 1998, temporarily making it the G8**, but was expelled in 2014 following its annexation of Crimea.
 - The **European Union (EU)** also actively participates as a "non-enumerated" member, represented by the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission.
- **Core Objectives:** The bloc convenes to coordinate policy on global economic governance, international security, trade, and energy, heavily anchored in shared democratic values and human rights.
- **Institutional Structure:** Unlike the UN or NATO, the G7 is an informal bloc. It is **not based on a treaty** and has **no permanent secretariat** or formal administrative headquarters.
- **The Presidency:** The **presidency rotates annually** among member states. The country holding the presidency is responsible for setting the agenda, organizing ministerial meetings, and hosting the annual leaders' summit.
- **Economic Weight:** While G7 nations represent only about 10% of the global population, they account for approximately 43% of the world's nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a significant share of global wealth.
- **Outreach Sessions:** To counter criticisms of being an exclusive club that ignores the developing world, the host nation routinely invites guest countries (such as India, Brazil, and South Africa) and international organizations to participate in **specific "Outreach Sessions"** to discuss pressing transnational issues.

ABOUT RAISINA DIALOGUE

It is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the international community.

It is modeled on the lines of the Munich Security Conference and Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue. It is held annually since 2016 in New Delhi.

It is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers, and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media, and academia.

The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

This effort is supported by a number of institutions, organisations, and individuals who are committed to the mission of the conference.

Raisina Dialogue 2026



It is the 11th edition of the dialogue.

Theme: "Saṁskāra - Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement".

Around 2700 participants from 110 countries will be joining the dialogue in person.

Over the course of three days, decision makers and thought leaders of the world will engage each other across conversations in various formats over six thematic pillars:

Contested Frontiers: Power, Polarity, and Periphery;

Repairing the Commons: New Groups, New Guardians, New Avenues;

White Whale: The Pursuit of Agenda 2030;

The Eleventh Hour: Climate, Conflict, and the Cost of Delay;

Tomorrowland: Towards a Tech-topia;

Trade in the Time of Tariffs: Recovery, Resilience, Reinvention.

BLOOMBERG GLOBAL AGGREGATE BOND INDEX

India is currently executing major capital market reforms to secure the inclusion of its government bonds within the prestigious Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index.



Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index

About Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index:

What It Is?

- The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index is a flagship international fixed-income benchmark that tracks the performance of investment-grade, fixed-rate bonds globally. Just as the Nifty 50 or Sensex benchmarks monitor the equity performance of listed corporate entities, this index acts as the definitive global tracking ledger for the multi-trillion-dollar sovereign and corporate debt markets.

Developed By: The index is constructed, maintained, and managed by **Bloomberg Index Services Limited**.

Aim:

- The objective of the index is to provide institutional fund managers with a highly transparent, multicurrency, and comprehensive macro-measurement tool.
- It serves as a passive investment blueprint for Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and index funds, while simultaneously functioning as a rigorous performance scorecard for active global asset managers.

Key Features of the Index and India's Inclusion Status:

- **Categorical Scale and Reach:** The index is one of the world's largest bond benchmarks, covering sovereign and supranational debt across multiple currencies.
 - It is widely tracked by sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, insurers, and global asset managers.
- **Target Asset Base (FAR Bonds):** India's inclusion is based on **FAR-designated Government Securities (G-Secs)**. Under the **Fully Accessible Route (2020)**, FPIs, NRIs, and OCIs can invest in these bonds without investment caps.
- **Estimated Weight and Capital Inflows:** Analysts estimate India could receive a **7-1.0% index weight**. This may attract **\$20-25 billion** in passive foreign investment into Indian government bonds.
- **Reasons for Bloomberg's Deferral:** Global investors cited operational challenges such as lengthy registration procedures, limited post-trade automation, settlement delays, and complex tax-related processes.
- **Index Hierarchy Context:** India has already entered the JPMorgan EM Index (2024), Bloomberg EM Local Currency Index (2025), and FTSE Russell EM Index (2025).

FOREIGN CURRENCY NON-RESIDENT (BANK), OR FCNR(B)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a special dispensation allowing commercial banks to mobilize fresh three- to five-year Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank), or FCNR(B).



Foreign Currency Non-Resident

About Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank):

What It Is?

- FCNR(B) deposits are specialized, fixed-term foreign currency bank accounts opened in India by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).
- Unlike standard NRI accounts that automatically convert foreign currency into Indian Rupees, FCNR(B) deposits allow overseas Indians to fully retain their savings in global currencies.

Aim:

- The aim of the FCNR(B) scheme is to provide Indian banks with a stable, large-scale source of low-cost overseas funding to shore up the country's capital account.
- For depositors, it provides an investment route to earn tax-free returns in India without taking on the risk of local currency depreciation.

How It Works & New RBI Swap Mechanism?

1. **Deposit Inflow:** An NRI places funds into an Indian bank in designated currencies like the US Dollar (\$), Pound Sterling (£), Euro (€), Japanese Yen (¥), Australian Dollar (A), or Canadian Dollar (C).

2. **The First Leg (Spot Transaction):** The commercial bank sells these foreign dollars to the RBI once a week in multiples of \$1 million. This exchange takes place at the official daily **FBIL Reference Rate** published by Financial Benchmarks India Private Limited.
3. **The Second Leg (Forward Buyback):** The bank simultaneously agrees to buy back the exact same amount of foreign currency from the RBI at the end of the three- to five-year maturity period.
4. **Concessional Par Pricing:** Because the buyback occurs at par (the exact same exchange rate as the first leg), the RBI absorbs the entire forward premium, eliminating the bank's operational hedging expenses.

Key Features of the FCNR(B) Framework:

- **Complete Income Tax Exemption:** All interest income earned on FCNR(B) deposits is entirely exempt from income tax in India, provided the account holder maintains their legal non-resident status under Indian tax laws.
- **Exemption from CRR and SLR Sops:** To maximize lending margins, fresh deposits accumulated under this window are completely exempted from the Cash Reserve Ratio (minimum liquid cash mandates) and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio.
- **Internationally Linked Interest Caps:** While interest rates are linked to international global benchmarks, they are traditionally 250–300 basis points lower than domestic Rupee fixed deposits. For example, current three-year FCNR(B) rates hover around 3% to 3.65%, whereas normal domestic Indian fixed deposits offer over 6%.
- **Competitiveness vs. Overseas CDs:** Because US banks offer Certificate of Deposit (CD) yields above 4%, Indian banks are expected to raise their FCNR(B) rates by at least 100 basis points to attract global capital.
- **The Macro Deposit Basket:** FCNR(B) constitutes a core part of the \$165.65 billion total NRI deposit base, alongside Rupee-denominated **NRE** (Non-Resident External) accounts and **NRO** (Non-Resident Ordinary) accounts meant for managing local Indian earnings.

PROJECT KUSHA: INDIA'S INDIGENOUS LONG-RANGE AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** described **Project Kusha** as a “game changer” for India's security architecture and stated that its significance had been demonstrated during **Operation Sindoor**.

What is Project Kusha?

- An **indigenous long-range air defence missile system** being developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- Intended to provide a **multi-layered air defence shield** against diverse aerial threats.
- Often viewed as India's indigenous counterpart to advanced systems like the Russian **S-400 Triumph**.

PROJECT KUSHA

INDIGENOUS LONG-RANGE AIR DEFENCE MISSILE SYSTEM



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OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Protect military assets and strategic installations.
- ✓ Defend critical infrastructure and civilian areas.
- ✓ Enhance India's indigenous air defence capabilities.
- ✓ Strengthen strategic autonomy under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

THREATS IT IS EXPECTED TO COUNTER

- Fighter aircraft
- Cruise missiles
- Ballistic missiles
- Drones and UAVs
- Precision-guided munitions
- Stand-off weapons

KEY FEATURES (EXPECTED)

- Long-range interception capability.
- Multi-layered defence architecture.
- Ability to engage multiple targets simultaneously.
- Integration with advanced radar and command networks.
- Indigenous development and production.

MISSION SUDARSHAN CHAKRA

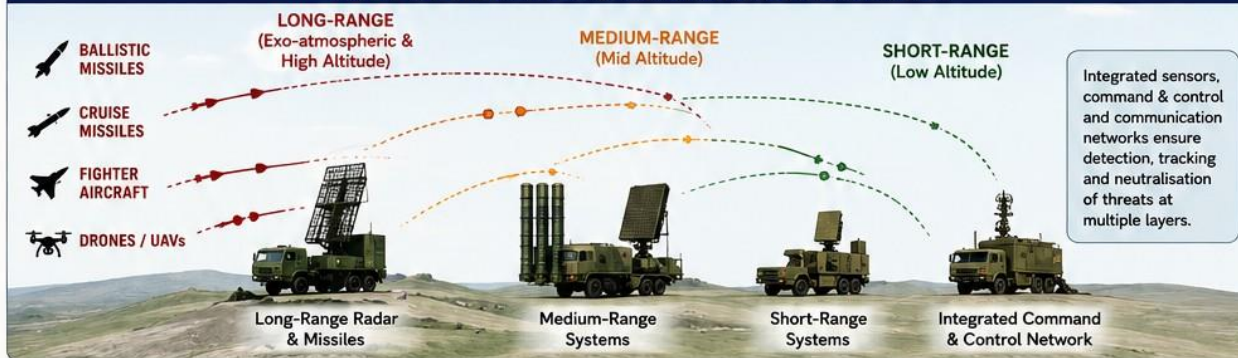


SUDARSHAN CHAKRA

- Announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 2025 Independence Day address.
- Envisages a nationwide multi-layered missile defence shield.
- Aims to protect:
 - Military establishments,
 - Critical infrastructure,
 - Civilian population centres.

Project Kusha is expected to be an important component of this vision.

MULTI-LAYERED AIR DEFENCE ARCHITECTURE (CONCEPT)



PROJECT KUSHA – STRENGTHENING INDIA'S AIR DEFENCE, SECURING THE NATION'S FUTURE.



Objectives

- Protect military assets and strategic installations.
- Defend critical infrastructure and civilian areas.
- Enhance India’s indigenous air defence capabilities.
- Strengthen strategic autonomy under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.

Threats It Is Expected to Counter

- Fighter aircraft, Cruise missiles, Ballistic missiles, Drones and UAVs, Precision-guided munitions, and Stand-off weapons

Mission Sudarshan Chakra

- Announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 2025 Independence Day address.
- Envisages a nationwide multi-layered missile defence shield.
- Aims to protect: Military establishments, Critical infrastructure, and Civilian population centres.
- Project Kusha is expected to be an important component of this vision.

PYQ :

[2018] What is “Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)”, sometimes seen in the news?

- [A] An Israeli radar system
- [B] India’s indigenous anti-missile programme
- [C] An American anti-missile system
- [D] A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea.

INDIA’S ACHIEVEMENT IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The Government of India highlighted recent achievements and policy measures related to biodiversity conservation, governance, and sustainable use under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
Achievements & Policy Measures under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Government of India highlighted recent achievements and policy measures related to biodiversity conservation, governance, and sustainable use under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE
India follows a three-tier biodiversity governance system:

- National Biodiversity Authority at national level
- State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)
- Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at local level

INDIA HAS:

- More than **2,76,653** Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)
- Over **2,72,648** People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)

ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life forms including:

- Plants
- Animals
- Micro-organisms
- Ecosystems

IMPORTANCE
Supports:

- Food security
- Climate resilience
- Pollination
- Soil fertility
- Water purification
- Livelihoods

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002













India's principal law for:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable use
- Fair and equitable benefit sharing

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2023

Promotes:

- Research and innovation
- Traditional knowledge-based practices
- Community participation

IMPORTANT CONCEPTS				
<p>PEOPLE'S BIODIVERSITY REGISTER (PBR)</p>  <p>Local biodiversity database prepared by BMCs.</p> <p>Records:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological resources • Traditional knowledge • Local species and habitats 	<p>ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING (ABS)</p>  <p>Ensures benefits from biological resources are shared with local communities.</p>	<p>NAGOYA PROTOCOL</p>  <p>Supplementary agreement under CBD adopted in Nagoya, Japan in 2010. Focuses on fair sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.</p>	<p>KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (KMGBF)</p>  <p>Adopted during CBD COP-15 in Montreal in 2022.</p> <p>Global target: Halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.</p>	<p>NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NBSAP 2024-2030)</p>  <p>Aligns India's biodiversity goals with KMGBF.</p> <p>Promotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole-of-government • Whole-of-society approach
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS				
<p>FORESTS AND PROTECTED AREAS</p>  <p>Forest and tree cover: 8.27 lakh sq. km (25.17% of geographical area).</p>  <p>Protected areas: More than 1,134 protected areas covering 1.88 lakh sq. km.</p>	<p>SPECIES CONSERVATION</p>  <p>Tiger population increased from 2,226 (2014) to 3,682.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION</p>  <p>National campaign underway for digitisation of PBRs into e-PBRs.</p>	<p>ABS ACHIEVEMENTS</p>  <p>₹145 crore released to beneficiaries till May 2026.</p> <p>Benefited around 11,000 BMCs.</p>	
 <p>India remains committed to the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits of biodiversity for a resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.</p> 				

Biodiversity Governance Structure

- India follows a three-tier biodiversity governance system:
 - National Biodiversity Authority at national level
 - State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)
 - Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at local level.
- India has:
 - More than 2,76,653 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)
 - Over 2,72,648 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).

Note: Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are **local-level statutory bodies** in India, mandated by the Biological Diversity Act of 2002.

About Biodiversity

- Biodiversity refers to the variety of life forms including:
 - Plants
 - Animals
 - Microorganisms
 - Ecosystems.

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- India's principal law for:
 - Biodiversity conservation
 - Sustainable use
 - Fair and equitable benefit sharing.

Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023

- Promotes:
 - Research and innovation
 - Traditional knowledge-based practices
 - Community participation.

Important Concepts

People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

- Local biodiversity database prepared by BMCs.
- Records:
 - Biological resources
 - Traditional knowledge
 - Local species and habitats.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

- Ensures benefits from biological resources are shared with local communities.

Nagoya Protocol

- Supplementary agreement under CBD adopted in Nagoya, Japan in 2010.
- Focuses on fair sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

- Adopted during CBD COP-15 in Montreal in 2022.
- Global target:
 - Halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2024-2030)

- Aligns India's biodiversity goals with KMGBF.
- Promotes:
 - Whole-of-government
 - Whole-of-society approach.

Key Achievements

Forests and Protected Areas

- Forest and tree cover: 8.27 lakh sq. km (25.17% of geographical area).
- Protected areas: More than 1,134 protected areas covering 1.88 lakh sq. km.

Species Conservation

- Tiger population increased from: 2,226 (2014) to 3,682.

Community Participation

- National campaign underway for digitisation of PBRs into e-PBRs.

ABS Achievements

- ₹145 crore released to beneficiaries till May 2026.
- Benefited around 11,000 BMCs (Biodiversity Management Committees).

[2023] Consider the following statements:

1. In Biodiversity the India, Management Committees are key to the realization of the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.
2. The Biodiversity Management Committees have important functions in determining access and benefit sharing, including the power to levy collection fees on the access of biological resources within its jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- [A] 1 only
 [B] 2 only
 [C] Both 1 and 2
 [D] Neither 1 nor 2

RIGHT TO WALK AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

The Supreme Court, in a landmark judgment authored by Justice P. S. Narasimha, held that the **right to walk safely on demarcated and well-maintained footpaths is a Fundamental Right**, which takes precedence over the privilege of motorized vehicles.



SUPREME COURT RECOGNISES RIGHT TO WALK AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT
 “PEDESTRIANS FIRST, VEHICLES NEXT”

In a landmark judgment authored by Justice P. S. Narasimha, the Supreme Court held that the right to walk safely on demarcated and well-maintained footpaths is a **Fundamental Right**, which takes precedence over the privilege of motorized vehicles.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUDGMENT

- 1 RIGHT TO WALK AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT**
 Derived from **Article 19(1)(d)**: Right to move freely throughout the territory of India.
 Also linked with:
 Article 21: Right to life and personal liberty
 Article 19(1)(a): Freedom of expression
 Article 19(1)(b): Right to assemble peacefully
 Article 19(1)(c): Right to form associations
- 2 COURT'S OBSERVATIONS**
 Walking is the most basic form of human movement and is intrinsically connected to **life and dignity**.
 Public spaces cannot become **monopolies** of motorized vehicles.
 If a road exists, authorities have an **enforceable duty** to provide and maintain footpaths.
Pedestrian rights must override the convenience of motorized traffic.
- 3 DIRECTIONS TO GOVERNMENT**
 The Court directed the Government to:
 Create a **statutory framework** recognizing the right to walk.
 Establish a dedicated **regulatory body** for:
 • Planning pedestrian infrastructure
 • Enforcement and monitoring
 • Providing remedies for violations
- 4 CASE BACKGROUND**
 The ruling arose from the death of a five-year-old child who was run over by a truck while walking to school with his father.
 The Court awarded compensation exceeding **₹11 lakh**.

SIGNIFICANCE

- ✓ Affirms dignity and equality of pedestrians.
- ✓ Promotes inclusive, safe and sustainable urban spaces.
- ✓ Builds the foundation for pedestrian-friendly and people-centric mobility.

THE TAKEAWAY

“Streets are for all, not just for vehicles.”
 Right to walk is a Right to live with dignity.

A historic step towards a pedestrian-friendly India where **people walk safely, freely and with dignity**.

Right to Walk as a Fundamental Right

- Derived from **Article 19(1)(d)**: Right to move freely throughout the territory of India.
- Also linked with:
 - **Article 21**: Right to life and personal liberty.
 - **Article 19(1)(a)**: Freedom of expression.
 - **Article 19(1)(b)**: Right to assemble peacefully.
 - **Article 19(1)(c)**: Right to form associations.

Court's Observations

- Walking is the most basic form of human movement and is intrinsically connected to life and dignity.
- Public spaces cannot become monopolies of motorized vehicles.
- If a road exists, authorities have an **enforceable duty** to provide and maintain footpaths.
- Pedestrian rights must override the convenience of motorized traffic.

Directions to Government

- Create a statutory framework recognizing the right to walk.
- Establish a dedicated regulatory body for:
 - Planning pedestrian infrastructure.
 - Enforcement and monitoring.
 - Providing remedies for violations.
- Judgment sent to Ministries of:
 - Housing & Urban Affairs
 - Rural Development
 - Road Transport & Highways

Case Background

- The ruling arose from the death of a five-year-old child who was run over by a truck while walking to school with his father.
- The Court awarded compensation exceeding **₹11 lakh**.

[2018]

Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement?

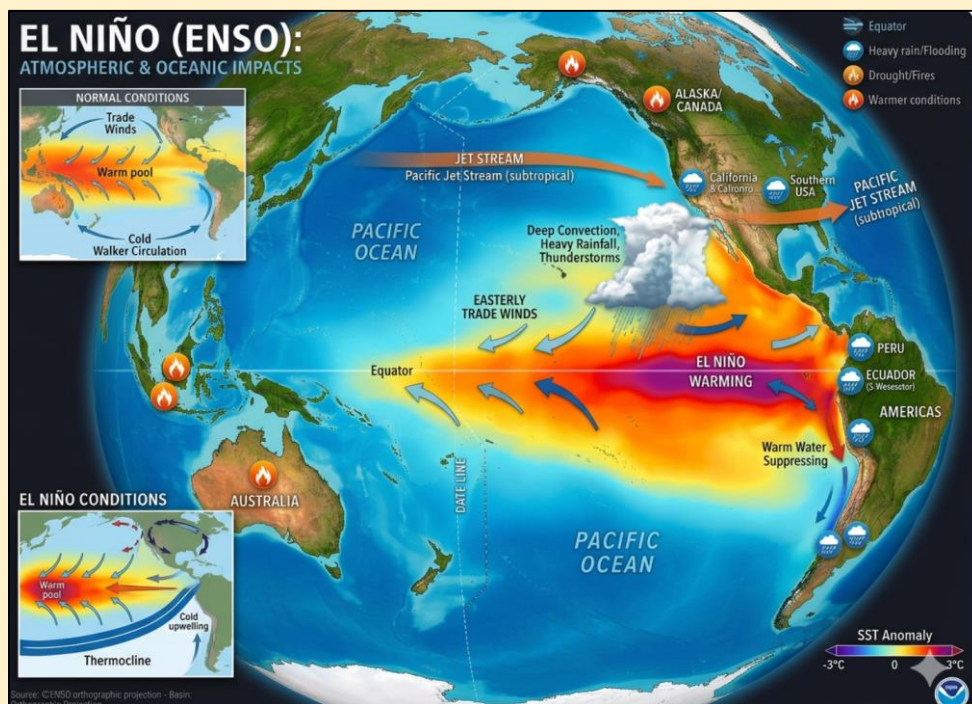
- (a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution.
- (b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV.
- (c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III.
- (d) Article 24 and the provisions under the 44th Amendment to the Constitution.

SUPER EL NIÑO

The emergence of Super El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean has become a major concern because it coincides with India's crucial southwest monsoon season. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has officially confirmed the development of El Niño and warned that it is expected to strengthen further during the monsoon months. This

How Has El Niño Developed During the Current Monsoon Season?

1. **IMD Confirmation:** El Niño conditions have officially emerged in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. **Strengthening Trend:** IMD expects the phenomenon to intensify further during the ongoing southwest monsoon season.
3. **NOAA Assessment:** The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) earlier confirmed El Niño emergence.
4. **Peak Projection:** NOAA projects the event to peak during November-January.
5. **Intensity Forecast:** The event may approach the "very strong" category.



ENSO Threshold

1. **Niño 3.4 Region:** El Niño is declared when sea surface temperature anomalies exceed $+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ in the Niño 3.4 region.
 - o The Niño 3.4 region (5°N - 5°S , 170°W - 120°W) is the primary equatorial Pacific area used by scientists to monitor, define, and predict the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
2. **Current Reading:** Weekly Niño 3.4 Index reached $+0.7^{\circ}\text{C}$.
3. **Eastern Pacific Warming:** Temperature anomalies reached $+2.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ in the easternmost Pacific region.

What Makes the Current El Niño Different from Previous Events?

Emerging “Super El Niño” Concerns

1. **NOAA Forecast:** El Niño has officially formed in the tropical Pacific Ocean and is likely to strengthen significantly in the coming months.
2. **Historical Significance:** Scientists have projected that the current event could rank among the strongest El Niño episodes recorded since 1950.
3. **Probability Estimate:** NOAA estimates a **63% probability** that the event will intensify into one of the largest El Niño events in the historical record.
4. **Transition Phase:** The current event follows the end of La Niña conditions earlier in 2026.
5. **Global Warning:** The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has described the phenomenon as an “urgent climate warning.”

Why is it Being Called a “Super El Niño”?

1. **Exceptional Ocean Warming:** Unusually warm Pacific Ocean temperatures are accelerating ENSO development.
2. **Early Intensification:** Forecast models indicate stronger warming developing earlier than normally expected.
3. **Historical Comparison:** Scientists have compared the event to major El Niño episodes such as 1982-83, 1997-98 and 2015-16.
4. **Global Temperature Impact:** Multiple climate models suggest that 2027 could become the hottest year ever recorded globally.

What is ENSO and How Does It Operate?

El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

1. **Climate Oscillation:** Naturally occurring ocean-atmosphere phenomenon over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. **Recurrence:** Appears every **2-7 years**.
3. **Phases:** El Niño, Neutral, and La Niña.

El Niño

1. **Oceanic Condition:** The abnormal warming of surface waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
2. **Mechanism:** Trade winds weaken, allowing warm water to push east toward South America.
3. **Indian Impact:** Usually suppresses monsoon rainfall.

La Niña

1. **Oceanic Condition:** The abnormal cooling of surface waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
2. **Mechanism:** Trade winds strengthen, pushing warm water toward Asia and pulling cold water up to the surface off South America.
3. **Indian Impact:** Generally supports stronger monsoon rainfall.

Why Could 2027 Become the Hottest Year on Record?

Interaction Between El Niño and Global Warming

1. **Natural Climate Driver:** El Niño releases large amounts of heat from the Pacific Ocean into the atmosphere.
2. **Anthropogenic Warming:** Human-induced greenhouse gas emissions have already raised baseline global temperatures.
3. **Compounding Effect:** El Niño adds temporary warming on top of long-term climate change trends.
4. **WMO Forecast:** Above-average global temperatures are expected between June and August, with effects continuing through November.

Climate Consequences

1. **Temperature Extremes:** Higher likelihood of record-breaking temperatures globally.
2. **Heatwaves:** Increased frequency and intensity across multiple continents.
3. **Hydrological Extremes:** Simultaneous occurrence of droughts and floods in different regions.
4. **Wildfire Risk:** Elevated probability of large-scale forest fires in drought-prone regions.

Why Does the Impact of El Niño Differ Across Regions?

Not Every El Niño Produces the Same Outcomes

1. **Climate Variability:** Every El Niño develops differently in terms of intensity, timing and ocean-atmosphere interaction.
2. **NOAA Observation:** Each El Niño leaves a unique climatic imprint on global weather systems.
3. **Regional Factors:** Local ocean temperatures, atmospheric circulation and other climate oscillations influence outcomes.

Importance of Forecasting

1. **Advanced Monitoring:** Improved ocean observation systems enhance prediction capabilities.
2. **Early Warning Systems:** Better forecasting enables governments to prepare for disasters and agricultural losses.
3. **Climate Preparedness:** Supports adaptation planning and resource allocation.

How Could Super El Niño Reshape Global Weather Patterns?

North America

1. **Atlantic Hurricane Suppression:** Reduced hurricane activity in the Atlantic Ocean.
2. **Pacific Hurricane Intensification:** Increased cyclone activity over the Pacific.
3. **US Winter Impact:** Southern United States may experience wetter conditions and flooding.
4. **Pacific Northwest:** Warmer and drier weather expected.

South America

1. **Flood Risk:** Northern Peru and southern Ecuador face heightened flooding threats.
2. **Heavy Rainfall:** Western South America may experience excessive precipitation.
3. **Temperature Rise:** Greater likelihood of unusually warm summers.

East and Northeast Africa

1. **Weather Whiplash:** Rapid shifts between drought and extreme rainfall.
2. **Flood Hazards:** Increased flood risk in vulnerable regions.
3. **Agricultural Stress:** High uncertainty for rain-fed agriculture.

India

1. **Monsoon Deficit:** Higher probability of below-normal rainfall.
2. **Heatwaves:** Greater frequency and intensity.
3. **Agricultural Losses:** Increased stress on kharif crops and water resources.

Indonesia and Vietnam

1. **Drought Risk:** Rainfall shortages may affect major rice-producing regions.
2. **Food Security Concerns:** Potential reduction in agricultural output.

Australia

1. **Heatwaves:** Higher temperature anomalies.
2. **Wildfires:** Elevated bushfire risk.
3. **Drought Conditions:** Reduced precipitation in several regions.

Why Does El Niño Affect India's Southwest Monsoon?

1. **Walker Circulation Shift:** Alters atmospheric circulation responsible for moisture transport.
2. **Reduced Moisture Transport:** Weakens monsoon winds reaching the Indian subcontinent.
3. **Rainfall Deficiency:** Leads to below-normal precipitation across large parts of India.
4. **Temperature Rise:** Reduced cloud cover increases surface temperatures.

IMD Forecast

1. **Seasonal Deficit:** Rainfall expected to be 10% below normal.
2. **Spatial Distribution:** Most regions likely to receive below-normal rainfall.
3. **Exception:** Northeastern India expected to receive relatively normal rainfall.

How Do Rainfall Patterns Change During El Niño Years?

Regional Variability

1. **Northeastern India:** Often receives normal rainfall.
2. **Extreme Southern India:** May receive near-normal rainfall.
3. **Rest of India:** Usually experiences rainfall deficits.

Temperature Effects

1. **Heat Intensification:** Reduced rainfall contributes to rising temperatures.
2. **Extended Heat Conditions:** Higher risk of heatwaves and moisture stress.

What Role Does the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) Play?

Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

1. **Definition:** Difference in sea surface temperatures between western and eastern Indian Ocean.
2. **Phases:** Positive, Neutral, Negative.

Current Status

1. **Neutral Phase:** Expected to remain neutral during the southwest monsoon.
2. **2026 Outlook:** Neutral conditions expected to continue for most of the year.

Significance

1. **Monsoon Modulator:** Positive IOD can sometimes offset El Niño-induced monsoon weakness.
2. **Current Concern:** Neutral IOD may not provide compensatory support.

What Oceanic Changes Are Being Observed Around India?

Bay of Bengal Warming

1. **Temperature Increase:** Significant positive sea surface temperature anomalies observed.
2. **Impact:** Supports atmospheric instability and temperature rise.

Arabian Sea Warming

1. **Above-Normal Temperatures:** Positive SST anomalies recorded.
2. **Climate Consequence:** Enhances extreme weather variability.

Eastern Indian Ocean

1. **Widespread Warming:** Above-normal SST conditions observed during May

How Could Super El Niño Trigger a Global Food Security Crisis?

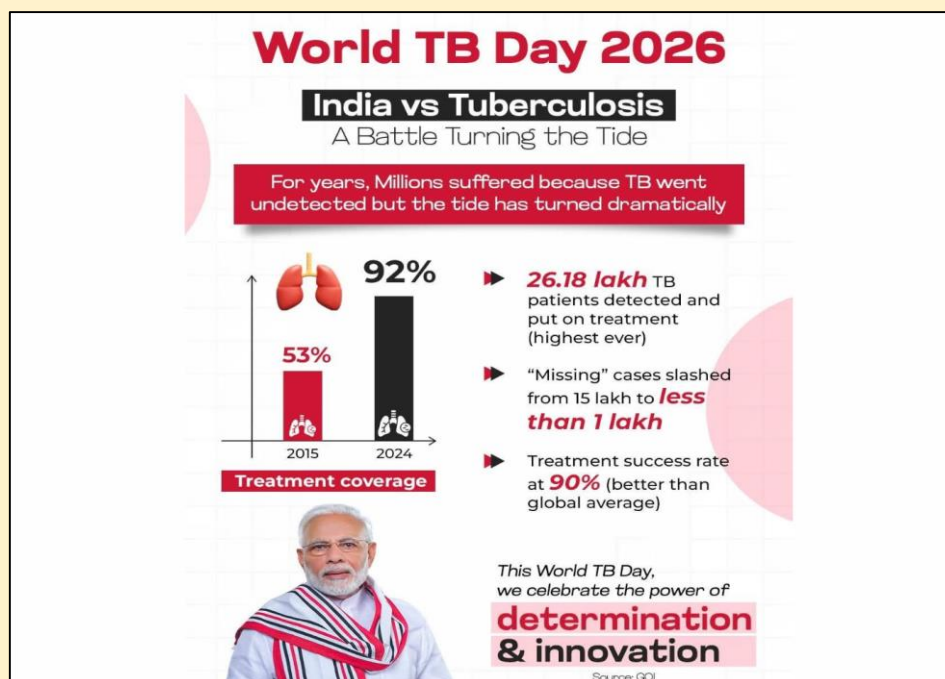
Agricultural Disruptions

1. **Crop Vulnerability:** Maize, rice and several staple crops are highly sensitive to drought conditions.
2. **Production Risks:** Major agricultural regions may experience reduced productivity.
3. **Market Volatility:** Supply shocks can increase global food prices.

INDIA'S FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

India's fight against tuberculosis (TB) has received a major boost with the publication of the ICMR-led PreVenTB Trial. The trial found that the **indigenous vaccine candidates VPM1002 and Immuvac** provide protection against both **pulmonary TB** and the **difficult-to-diagnose extrapulmonary TB (EPTB)**.

The findings are significant as they offer new evidence from a large real-world Indian population at a time when India continues to bear one of the world's highest TB burdens. They also strengthen hopes for achieving TB elimination, even as TB remains the leading infectious disease killer globally.



Why has a "one-size-fits-all" vaccine approach failed in TB control?

1. **Diverse Disease Pathways:** TB infection can remain latent for years, progress to subclinical disease, or develop into active pulmonary or extrapulmonary TB.

2. **Biological Complexity:** Individuals differ in infection status, age, comorbidities, and immune responses.
3. **Vaccine Limitations:** Previous TB vaccine development largely focused on preventing pulmonary TB.
4. **Unrealistic Expectations:** Search for a single vaccine capable of preventing all forms of TB has repeatedly disappointed global TB control efforts.

How severe is the TB burden and why does it demand urgent action?

1. **Global Mortality:** TB continues to kill more people annually than any other infectious disease.
2. **Burden in LMICs:** Incidence in many low- and middle-income countries remains between **200-300 cases per 100,000 population**.
3. **Elimination Threshold:** TB incidence must decline to **10-20 cases per 100,000 population** to approach elimination.
4. **Indian Context:** India carries one of the world's highest TB burdens, requiring sustained public health investments.
5. **Long-Term Challenge:** Elimination demands decades of coordinated interventions rather than a single technological solution.

What are the key pillars of a layered TB elimination strategy?

1. Better Detection

1. **Advanced Diagnostics:** Enables identification of subclinical TB before progression to active disease.
2. **Risk-Based Screening:** Supports early detection among vulnerable populations.
3. **Public Health Impact:** Reduces transmission and disease progression.

2. Preventive Therapy

1. **Latent TB Treatment:** Prevents inactive infection from progressing to active disease.
2. **Targeted Intervention:** Particularly relevant for household contacts and high-risk populations.

3. Vaccination

1. **Critical Tool:** Complements diagnostics and preventive therapy.
2. **Population Protection:** Reduces progression from infection to disease.
3. **Integrated Strategy:** Most effective when combined with nutrition and case management.

What are the major findings of the PreVenTB Trial?

1. **Institution:** Conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
2. **Scale:** Conducted at multiple sites across India.
3. **Participants:** More than **12,700 household contacts** of TB patients.
4. **Target Group:** Individuals aged **six years and above**, including those with comorbidities and varying infection status.
5. **Vaccines Evaluated:** VPM1002 and Immuvac.

1. Efficacy of VPM1002

1. **Extrapulmonary TB Protection: 50.4% efficacy** against EPTB.
2. **Pulmonary TB Protection: 21.4% efficacy** against pulmonary TB overall.

2. Efficacy of Immuvac

1. **Overall Protection: 64.6% efficacy** against all forms of TB.
2. **Children Protection:** More than **60% efficacy** among children aged **6–10 years**.
3. **Progression Prevention:** More than **60% efficacy** against progression to disease among individuals with latent infection.

Significance

1. **First-of-Its-Kind Evidence:** Demonstrates efficacy against both pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB.
2. **Real-World Conditions:** Large Phase III trial conducted in an Indian population.
3. **Broad Coverage:** Includes multiple age groups and disease forms.

Why is extrapulmonary TB an important policy concern?

Extrapulmonary tuberculosis (TB) is an active Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection occurring in organs other than the lungs. It accounts for 15% to 40% of all TB cases and primarily affects lymph nodes, pleura, the spine, and the central nervous system.

1. **Hidden Burden:** Harder to diagnose than pulmonary TB.
2. **Missed Cases:** Frequently underreported and undetected.
3. **Higher Morbidity:** Associated with severe complications and mortality.
4. **Clinical Impact:** A reduction of over **50%** in EPTB cases would significantly lower patient suffering and healthcare costs.
5. **Novel Evidence:** Current findings provide rare vaccine efficacy data against EPTB.

What opportunities do the findings create for children and adolescents?

1. **Strong Signal:** Vaccine efficacy exceeded **60%** among school-age children and adolescents.
2. **Policy Gap:** India currently lacks a structured TB vaccination strategy beyond infancy.
3. **Booster Potential:** Findings may support future booster-dose vaccination programmes.
4. **Disease Prevention:** Offers protection before transition to adulthood, when disease burden increases.

Why is nutrition emerging as a critical component of TB control?

1. **Low BMI Impact:** Reduced vaccine efficacy observed among individuals with low Body Mass Index.
2. **Immune Function:** Nutritional status influences vaccine effectiveness and disease resistance.
3. **Integrated Approach:** Vaccination must be aligned with nutritional interventions.
4. **Policy Relevance:** Supports strengthening nutrition-TB convergence programmes.

What operational advantages does VPM1002 offer?

1. **Single-Dose Vaccine:** Simplifies deployment.
2. **Modified BCG Platform:** Uses an established vaccine platform.
3. **Manufacturing Ease:** Can be produced at scale.
4. **Cost Effectiveness:** Suitable for large population programmes.
5. **LMIC Relevance:** Practical for resource-constrained settings.

What lessons can India draw from previous vaccine decisions?

1. **TrueNat Example:** Indigenous molecular test adopted by the National TB Elimination Programme before WHO qualification.
2. **COVID-19 Response:** Covaxin received approval under a “clinical trial mode” during the pandemic to accelerate access while evidence accumulated.
3. **Rotavirus Vaccine:** Indigenous vaccines were introduced despite early uncertainty and later demonstrated significant reductions in severe disease and child mortality.
4. **Policy Lesson:** Timely deployment based on credible evidence can yield substantial public health gains.

What should India’s future TB strategy look like?

1. **Targeted Vaccination:** Deployment of VPM1002 and Immuvac among household contacts and high-risk groups.
2. **School-Based Vaccination:** Focus on adolescents and school-going children.
3. **Preventive Therapy:** Integration with latent TB treatment programmes.
4. **Nutritional Support:** Strengthening nutrition interventions for vulnerable populations.
5. **Case-Based Management:** Improved diagnosis and treatment adherence.
6. **Public Health Investment:** Sustained funding and surveillance systems.
7. **Combination Approach:** Multiple interventions rather than reliance on a single vaccine breakthrough.

The PreVenTB Trial offers a promising pathway for strengthening India’s TB elimination efforts through indigenous vaccines and targeted interventions. Achieving the goal of a TB-Mukt Bharat by 2025 and contributing to SDG 3’s target of ending the TB epidemic by 2030 will require a combination of vaccination, nutrition, early detection, and sustained public health action.

Tuberculosis (TB): Key Facts

1. **Causative Agent:** Mycobacterium tuberculosis
2. **Transmission:** Airborne droplets
3. **Types:** Pulmonary TB and Extrapulmonary TB
4. **Latent TB:** Infection without symptoms; can later progress to active disease
5. **SDG Target:** End TB epidemic by 2030

National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)

1. Formerly Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP)
2. Based on National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination
3. Uses molecular diagnostics and universal drug susceptibility testing
4. Provides free diagnosis and treatment

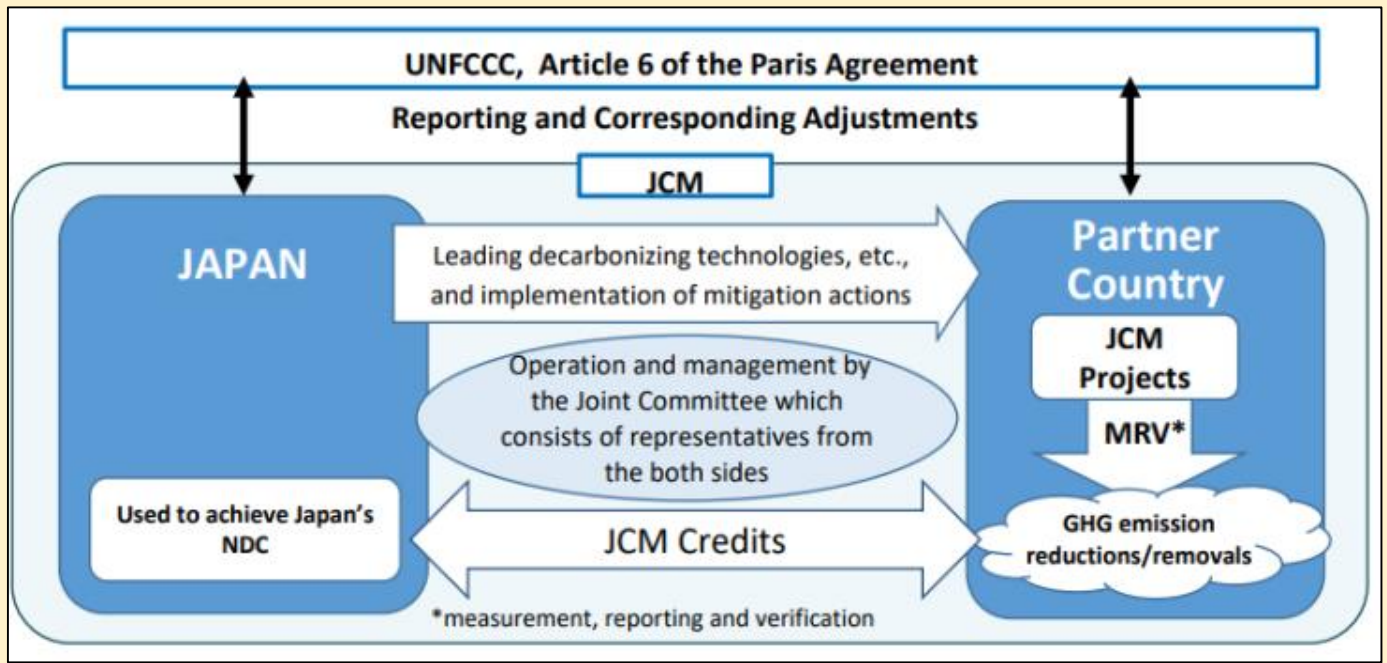
Major Government Initiatives

1. **Ni-kshay Portal:** Facilitates digital tracking of TB patients.
2. **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana:** Provides nutritional support to TB patients.
3. **TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan:** Supports community participation in TB elimination.
4. **PM TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan:** Encourages adoption of TB patients through Ni-kshay Mitras.

JOINT CREDITING MECHANISM (JCM)

Why in News?

India and Japan signed the implementation framework for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), a bilateral carbon crediting mechanism aimed at promoting decarbonization technologies and facilitating emission reduction projects. The agreement strengthens climate cooperation while supporting India's transition towards a low-carbon economy.



What is the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)?

- A bilateral carbon-crediting mechanism initiated by Japan in 2013.
- Enables the transfer and deployment of advanced low-carbon and decarbonization technologies in partner countries.
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions achieved through approved projects are quantified and credited.
- The generated carbon credits are shared between Japan and the partner country.

India-Japan JCM Framework

- India became one of the partner countries under the JCM framework.
- Supports projects involving:
 - Renewable Energy
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Waste Management
 - Industrial Decarbonization
 - Clean Technologies
- Contributes to India's climate mitigation efforts and sustainable development goals.

Institutional Mechanism

- Operates through a **Joint Committee** comprising representatives from both countries.
- Responsible for project approval, methodology development, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of emission reductions.

INS TARKASH

Why in News?

INS Tarkash, a frontline warship of the Indian Navy, visited Port Victoria, Seychelles, during its operational deployment in the South-West Indian Ocean Region. The visit aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation, enhancing interoperability, and reinforcing India's strategic outreach under its SAGAR vision.



Key Facts

What is INS Tarkash?

- INS Tarkash is a **Talwar-class stealth frigate** of the Indian Navy.
- Commissioned in **2012** and built at **Yantar Shipyard, Russia**.
- Operates under the **Western Naval Command**.
- Designed for multi-role operations including:
 - Anti-surface warfare
 - Anti-submarine warfare
 - Anti-air warfare

Technical Features

- Equipped with advanced stealth technology to reduce radar, acoustic, and infrared signatures.
- Carries sophisticated sensors, surveillance systems, missiles, torpedoes, and naval guns.
- Based on the Russian **Krivak-III class** frigate design.

Strategic Significance

- Deployed in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**, a crucial maritime trade corridor.
- Supports India's **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** initiative.
- Enhances maritime domain awareness, regional stability, anti-piracy operations, and naval diplomacy.

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

A recent study by the **British Geological Survey (BGS)** and the **Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI)** revealed that the volcanic activity responsible for the formation of the **Giant's Causeway** occurred over **5.5 million years**, significantly shorter than the previously estimated 13.5 million years. The research linked the site to the **North Atlantic Igneous Province (NAIP)**, a globally significant volcanic event that occurred around 60 million years ago.



About Giant's Causeway

- Located on the **Antrim Plateau coast, Northern Ireland (United Kingdom)**.
- Consists of approximately **40,000 interlocking basalt columns** extending into the sea.
- Formed by the cooling and contraction of **basaltic lava**, producing characteristic **hexagonal columnar joints**.
- Dates back to the **Paleogene Period (about 50–60 million years ago)**.
- Designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986**.

North Atlantic Igneous Province (NAIP)

- Massive volcanic province formed during the opening of the **North Atlantic Ocean**.
- Extends across:
 - Northern Ireland
 - Scotland
 - Greenland
 - Faroe Islands
 - Iceland region.

MANAS NATIONAL PARK

Manas National Park in Assam recorded **zero rhino and tiger poaching for three consecutive years**, marking a significant conservation achievement. The success highlights the effectiveness of anti-poaching measures and habitat protection efforts in one of India's most important biodiversity hotspots.

Key Facts



About Manas National Park

- Located in **Assam**, along the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas and adjoining Bhutan.
- Named after the **Manas River**, a major tributary of the Brahmaputra.
- Declared a **National Park in 1990**.
- Recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site (1988)**.
- Also designated as:
 - **Tiger Reserve** (Project Tiger)
 - **Elephant Reserve**
 - **Biosphere Reserve**

Biodiversity Significance

- Habitat of several endangered species:
 - Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros
 - Bengal Tiger
 - Asian Elephant
 - Wild Water Buffalo
 - Golden Langur
 - Pygmy Hog
 - Hispid Hare
- Forms part of the larger **Manas Conservation Area** extending into Bhutan.

Conservation Achievement

- Zero poaching of rhinos and tigers reported for the last three years.
- Success attributed to strengthened surveillance, anti-poaching patrols, technological monitoring, and community participation.

GRAPES-3 TELESCOPE

Scientists working with the **GRAPES-3 Telescope** have reported new findings on the influence of atmospheric temperature and solar magnetic activity on cosmic-ray-generated muons reaching Earth. The study has enhanced understanding of space weather and high-energy cosmic phenomena.



What is GRAPES-3?

- **GRAPES-3 (Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV Energies Phase-3)** is one of the world's leading cosmic-ray observatories.
- Located at **Ooty, Tamil Nadu**, under the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai**.
- Operational since **2000**.
- Designed to study high-energy cosmic rays and their interaction with Earth's atmosphere.

Major Components

- Consists of a large array of particle detectors spread over a vast area.
- Houses one of the world's largest **muon telescopes**, capable of detecting secondary particles generated by cosmic rays.
- Measures variations in cosmic-ray intensity and solar activity.

Key Scientific Concepts

- **Cosmic Rays:** High-energy charged particles originating from outer space.
- **Muons:** Elementary particles produced when cosmic rays collide with atmospheric molecules.
- Helps study:
 - Solar storms
 - Space weather
 - Geomagnetic disturbances
 - Astrophysical phenomena

■ KNOB-BILLED DUCK

The **first-ever sighting of the Knob-Billed Duck** at the Pong Dam wetland in Himachal Pradesh has attracted attention among ornithologists and birdwatchers. The unusual occurrence has raised questions regarding changing migration patterns, habitat shifts, and the ecological significance of wetlands.



Key Facts

About the Knob-Billed Duck

- Scientific Name: **Sarkidiornis melanotos**
- Commonly known as the **Comb Duck**.
- A large waterfowl species belonging to the family **Anatidae**.
- Named after the prominent black knob on the bill of adult males.
- Distributed across:
 - Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Madagascar
 - South Asia, including parts of India

Habitat and Characteristics

- Prefers freshwater wetlands, marshes, floodplains, lakes, and riverine habitats.
- Feeds on aquatic vegetation, seeds, insects, molluscs, and small aquatic organisms.
- Often found in small flocks near shallow water bodies.
- Not considered a long-distance migratory bird but exhibits local and seasonal movements.

Conservation Status

- Listed as **Least Concern** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Protected under India's wildlife conservation framework through habitat protection measures.

MOHENJO-DARO BRONZE FIGURINE

The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** restored the original image of the iconic **Mohenjo-daro bronze figurine** in a Class 9 textbook after an earlier version had shaded its bare torso, reviving debates over cultural representation and historical interpretation.

About the Figurine

- A bronze statuette discovered at Mohenjo-daro (1926), dating to the Indus Valley Civilization (c. 2500 BCE).
- About 10.5 cm tall, created using the lost-wax casting technique.
- Depicts a young female figure adorned with numerous bangles and ornaments.



Dancing Girl

Why is its Identity Contested?

- Archaeologist **John Marshall** identified it as a “**nautch girl**” (**dancing girl**) based on posture and appearance.
- However, scholars argue there is **no archaeological evidence** that she was a professional dancer.
- Historian **Upinder Singh** notes that the figure “may not have been dancing at all.”
- Archaeologist **Gregory L. Possehl** also questioned the dancer interpretation.

Partition and Ownership Debate

- After Partition, around **12,000 Harappan artefacts** in Delhi became subjects of dispute between India and Pakistan.
- Both countries agreed to a **50:50 division** of artefacts from Mohenjo-daro and Chanhu-daro.
- Pakistan chose the “**Priest King**” figurine over the Dancing Girl, reportedly due to concerns over the latter’s nudity.
- The Dancing Girl remains in India and is viewed by many scholars as part of the **shared heritage of South Asia**.

Significance

- Demonstrates the advanced **metallurgical skills** of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- Highlights how **colonial interpretations and contemporary moral values** shape our understanding of the past.
- Reflects debates on **heritage ownership, gender, modesty, and cultural identity**.

Value Addition

- **Lost-Wax Casting Technique:** A metal casting process in which a wax model is covered with clay; molten metal replaces the melted wax to create the final sculpture.
- The Dancing Girl is one of the **most iconic artistic representations of the Indus Valley Civilization**.

[2025]

The famous female figurine known as 'Dancing Girl', found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of

- [A] carnelian
- [B] clay
- [C] bronze
- [D] gold

THE 10TH THAILAND-INDIA DEFENCE DIALOGUE

The 10th Thailand-India Defence Dialogue was held in Bangkok, to review bilateral defense ties and discuss evolving security developments in the Indo-Pacific region.


India and Thailand reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral defence cooperation and agreed to deepen collaboration in defence manufacturing, research, innovation, and capability development during the **10th Thailand-India Defence Dialogue** in Bangkok, reaffirming their commitment to peace, stability, and prosperity in the **Indo-Pacific region**.




- Both sides explored opportunities to build **mutually beneficial partnerships between their defence ecosystems**. The dialogue reviewed cooperation under **ASEAN-led defence and security mechanisms** and other multilateral frameworks.
- **India and Thailand elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership in 2025**, providing a stronger foundation for defence and security collaboration.
- **Strategic Geography and Alignment:** Thailand holds a strategic geo-location in the **South-East Asian region** and shares common maritime borders with India (specifically between India's **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** and Thailand's **western coast/Mu Ko Similan islands**, delineated by the **1978 and 1993 Maritime Boundary Agreements**) in the **Andaman Sea**, driving steady structural growth in bilateral ties.

- **Policy Synergy:** The defence partnership gained robust momentum through the institutional convergence of **India’s Look East Policy (upgraded to Act East Policy)** and **Thailand’s Look West Policy**, boosting comprehensive engagement across political, security, and economic landscapes.
- **Institutional Architecture:** Structural security dialogues are managed via the **Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation (initiated in May 2003)**, which prioritizes military cooperation, alongside regular **service staff talks** and multi-level exchanges.
- **The Anchoring Agreement:** Bilateral defence frameworks operate primarily under the umbrella of the definitive **MoU on Defence Cooperation signed in 2012**, providing a long-term roadmap for joint initiatives.
- **Defence Industrial Cooperation:** Industrial synergy has scaled up through reciprocal active engagement in major sector expositions including **Aero India, DefExpo, and Thailand’s Defence & Security exhibitions** facilitating the successful export of reliable Indian military equipment to the Royal Thai Armed Forces.

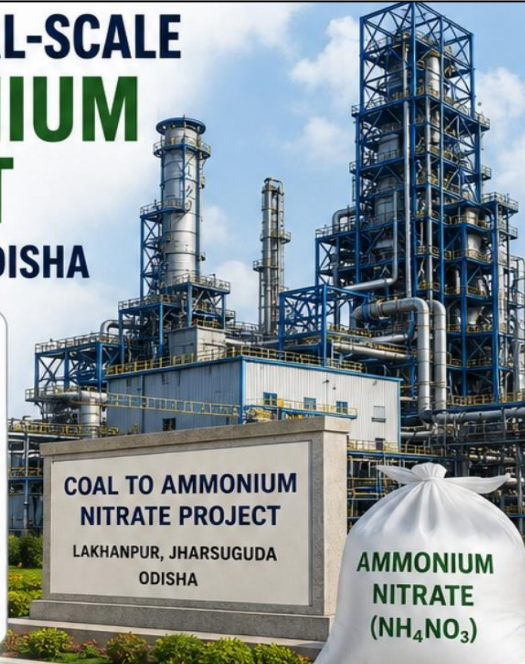
INDIA’S FIRST COMMERCIAL-SCALE COAL-TO-AMMONIUM NITRATE PROJECT AT LAKHANPUR, JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA



The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of India’s first commercial-scale **Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project** at Lakhanpur, Jharsuguda district, Odisha.








The project, worth **₹25,016 crore**, is a major step towards **energy security, import substitution, and industrial self-reliance.**



COAL TO AMMONIUM NITRATE PROJECT
LAKHANPUR, JHARSUGUDA
ODISHA

AMMONIUM NITRATE (NH₄NO₃)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

 <p>FIRST OF ITS KIND India’s first commercial-scale Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project.</p>	 <p>LOCATION Lakhanpur, Jharsuguda district, Odisha.</p>	 <p>PROJECT COST ₹25,016 crore (Approx.)</p>	 <p>STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthens energy security • Reduces import dependence • Promotes Atmanirbhar Bharat • Boosts indigenous capability in key chemicals 	 <p>BENEFITS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports agriculture, defence, mining and infrastructure sectors • Generates employment and regional development
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