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COMMUNITY**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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2026



-By the CLAT community team with love

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Human Development Index (HDI) – 2025 Report

India has been ranked 130th out of 193 countries and territories in the 2025 Human Development Report (HDR) titled "*A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI*", released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The HDI was originally developed by economists Mahbub ul Haq (Pakistan) and Amartya Sen (India) in 1990 and is now globally used by the UNDP to assess human development.

LEADERBOARD

HDI ranking and value (2023)

Rank	Country	HDI value
1	Iceland	0.972
2	Norway	0.970
2	Switzerland	0.970
4	Denmark	0.962
5	Germany	0.959
5	Sweden	0.959
7	Australia	0.958
8	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.955
8	Netherlands	0.955
17	United States	0.938
130	India	0.685

HDI: Human Development Index

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2025

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Global Highlights from the HDR 2025

- **Stalled Global Progress:** The 2025 report records the smallest increase in global HDI since its inception in 1990 (excluding COVID-affected years). Had pre-pandemic trends continued, most countries would have reached very high development levels by 2030—this achievement is now delayed by decades.
- **Top and Bottom Performers:**
 - Iceland ranks first with an HDI score of 0.972.
 - South Sudan is the lowest-ranked nation, with an HDI of 0.388.

India's HDI Performance

- **Current Ranking:** India ranked 133rd in 2022, improving to 130th in 2023, with an HDI value rising from 0.676 to 0.685.
- India remains in the “medium human development” category but is nearing the threshold for “high human development” ($\text{HDI} \geq 0.700$).
- Inequality remains a persistent challenge despite gains in education, income, and health indicators.

Regional Comparison

- Countries ranked above India: China (78th), Sri Lanka (89th), Bhutan (125th)
- On par with: Bangladesh (130th)
- Countries ranked below India: Nepal (145th), Myanmar (150th), Pakistan (168th)

Progress in Key Human Development Indicators

- **Life Expectancy:** Increased from 58.6 years (1990) to 72 years (2023), the highest ever for India.
- **Education:** Mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling have improved from 8.2 years (1990) to 13 years (2023).
- **Gross National Income (GNI):** GNI per capita rose from USD 2,167 (1990) to USD 9,046 (2023), based on 2021 PPP values.

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- **Multidimensional Poverty:** Between 2015–16 and 2019–21, around 135 million Indians escaped multidimensional poverty.

About the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- **Established:** 1965 by the UN General Assembly.
- **Headquarters:** New York, USA
- **Mandate:** UNDP provides expert guidance, training, and grants to developing countries, with a special focus on the least developed nations.
- **Governance:** Operated under the UNDP Executive Board, which includes representatives from 36 rotating countries.
- **Funding:** Entirely voluntary contributions from UN member states.
- UNDP is a key player in the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), which brings together 40 UN entities in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across 165 countries.

India's upward trend in the HDI demonstrates resilience and ongoing efforts in education, health, and income growth, but sustained focus on tackling inequality will be critical to crossing into the high human development category.

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Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh

The 106th birth anniversary of Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh was commemorated with the unveiling of his bust at Astha Senior Citizen Home, Delhi.

About Air Force Marshal Arjan Singh

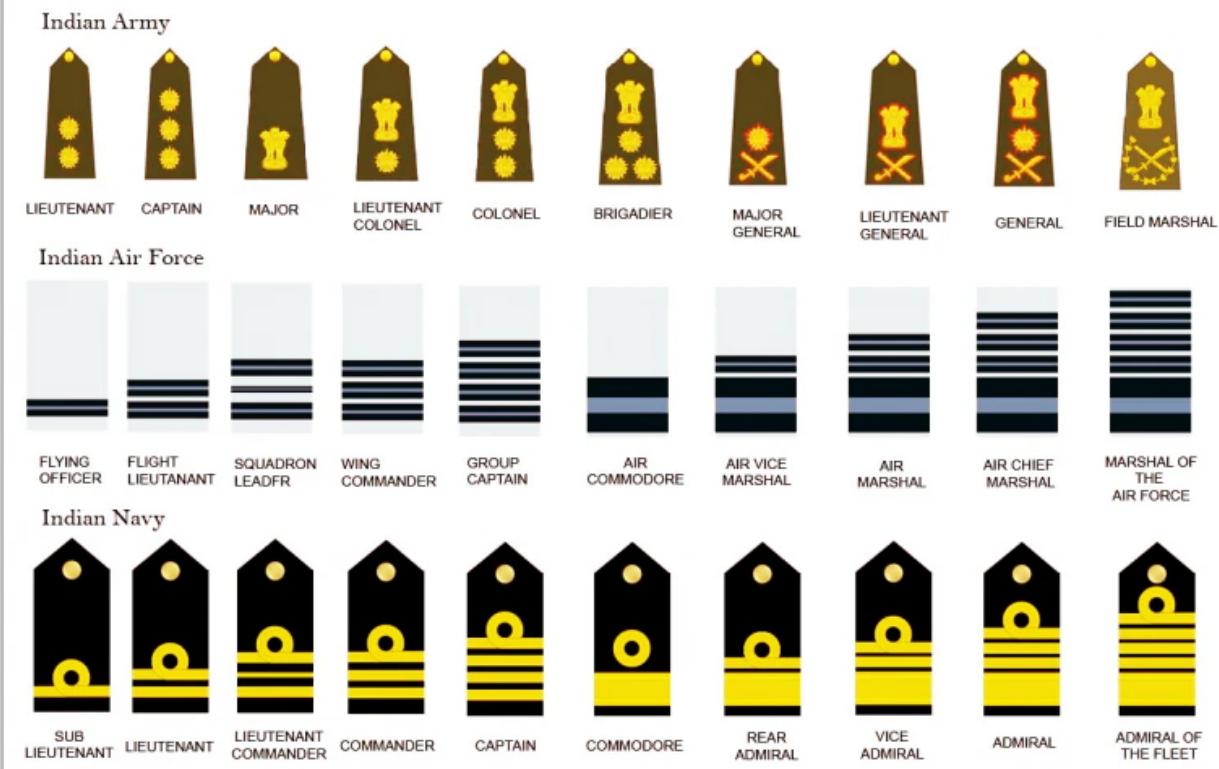
- Born in 1919 in Lyallpur (now in Pakistan), he was commissioned into the Royal Indian Air Force in 1939.
- He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his service in the Burma Campaign during World War II.
- Became the Chief of Air Staff in 1964 at the age of 44.
- Played a crucial role in the 1965 Indo-Pak war, leading the Indian Air Force in repelling Pakistan's offensive in Akhnoor. For his leadership, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan.
- In 2002, he became the only IAF officer to be conferred the Five-Star rank of Marshal of the Air Force.
- After retirement, he served as ambassador and Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

Five-Star Ranks in Indian Armed Forces

- **Field Marshal (Army):** Awarded to K.M. Cariappa and Sam Manekshaw.
- **Marshal of the Air Force (Air Force):** Awarded only to Arjan Singh.
- **Admiral of the Fleet (Navy):** Not yet awarded.
- These ranks are held for life and considered active until death.

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Current Chiefs of Armed Forces

- **Chief of Defence Staff:** General Anil Chauhan
- **Chief of the Army Staff:** General Upendra Dwivedi
- **Chief of the Air Staff:** Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh
- **Chief of the Naval Staff:** Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi

Major India-Pakistan Wars

First Indo-Pakistani War (1947–1948)

- **Context:** Triggered by Pakistan-backed tribal militias invading Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Outcome:** India responded after the Maharaja acceded to India. A UN-mediated ceasefire in 1949 established the Line of Control (LoC).
- **Significance:** Marked the start of the long-standing Kashmir dispute.

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Second Indo-Pakistani War (1965)

- **Context:** Pakistan initiated Operation Gibraltar to infiltrate Kashmir and incite insurgency.
- **Conflict:** India launched a full-scale retaliation. The war saw extensive tank and air battles.
- **Outcome:** A ceasefire followed by the Tashkent Agreement (1966) restored the pre-war status quo.

Third Indo-Pakistani War (1971)

- **Context:** East Pakistan's struggle for independence.
- **Conflict:** India supported Bengali independence. Coordinated attacks and a **naval blockade** were launched.
- **Outcome:** Over 93,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered, leading to the **creation of Bangladesh**.

Kargil War (1999)

- **Context:** Pakistani soldiers and militants infiltrated Kargil.
- **Conflict:** India launched Operation Vijay to evict intruders.
- **Outcome:** India regained its positions with heavy casualties.

1. Operation Meghdoot (1984)

India pre-emptively occupied the Siachen Glacier and Saltoro Ridge, including Bilafond La and Sia La, securing key high-altitude positions.

2. Operation Vijay (1999)

Name of the military operation during the Kargil War to reclaim Indian territory.

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3. Operation Safed Sagar (1999)

First large-scale **air operation** by the IAF since 1971, targeting enemy positions during Kargil conflict.

4. 2016 Surgical Strikes

Conducted by Indian special forces across the LoC after the Uri attack, targeting terrorist launch pads in PoK.

5. Operation Bandar (2019)

In retaliation to the Pulwama attack, IAF conducted airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot, Pakistan.

Marked the first air strike across the LoC since 1971.

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Caste Census and the 2026 Delimitation Process

Why in News?

The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the inclusion of caste enumeration in the upcoming population census. This marks a major policy shift, aiming to generate detailed caste-wise data for better policy planning.

Historical Context of Caste Data

- The last detailed caste enumeration was carried out in the 1931 Census.
- Although caste data was collected in 1941, it was never published due to World War II.
- Since 1951, India's Census has only recorded data on Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- There is no definitive government data on Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The Mandal Commission (1979) estimated the OBC population to be 52%.
- The 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) attempted to bridge this gap but its caste data remains unpublished, limiting its policy utility.

Caste Survey vs Caste Census

- **Caste Survey:** Conducted by state governments using sample-based data collection to assess social, economic, and educational indicators by caste.
- **Caste Census:** A comprehensive enumeration of the entire population collecting caste-wise demographic and socio-economic data. It is conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Census in India: Legal and Historical Background

- The Census of India Act, 1948 provides the legal basis.
- The first Indian city census was held in 1830 in Dacca by Henry Walter.
- The first nationwide census occurred in 1872.

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- The first synchronised census was conducted in 1881 by W.C. Plowden, establishing the 10-year cycle.
- Though regular, the decennial census is not a constitutional requirement.



Upcoming 2026 Census and Delimitation

The upcoming census, delayed due to the pandemic, is expected to conclude by **2026**, and will influence two critical democratic processes:

1. **Delimitation of Constituencies**
2. **Women's Reservation Implementation**

Delimitation: Explained

- It is the process of redrawing the boundaries of Lok Sabha and state legislative constituencies based on new population data.
- Conducted by an independent Delimitation Commission.

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Historical Context of Delimitation

- Despite seven censuses since independence, delimitation has occurred only four times: 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002.
- The 2002 Delimitation only altered boundaries without changing the number of seats, which remain based on the 1971 Census for the Lok Sabha and the 2001 Census for state Assemblies.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 82:** Mandates readjustment of seats in Lok Sabha and legislative Assemblies post-census.
- **42nd and 84th Amendments:** Froze delimitation until after the first census conducted post-2026.
- Related Articles: **Article 81** (Lok Sabha composition), **Article 170** (State Assemblies), and **Article 55** (President's election).

Expected Changes After 2026

- Based on an estimated population of **1.5 billion**, major readjustments in seats and constituency boundaries are anticipated.

Women's Reservation and Census Dependency

- The 128th Constitutional Amendment mandates 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- The implementation is contingent on the delimitation process post-2026 census.
- In the current 545-member Lok Sabha, 182 seats would be reserved for women.

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50 Years Since the End of the Vietnam War



30th April 2025 marked the **50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War (1954–1975)**. However, the aftermath still haunts millions of Vietnamese citizens, especially due to the long-term effects of Agent Orange, a toxic chemical deployed during the war.

About Agent Orange

- Agent Orange was a blend of herbicides used by the United States military to defoliate trees and shrubs in order to deprive North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops of jungle cover.
- It consisted of two herbicides: 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, and was contaminated with dioxin, a highly toxic substance.

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- Dioxin has a half-life of up to 20 years in the human body and can remain in soil and water for up to 100 years, leading to long-term environmental and health hazards.
- Health effects include cancer, birth defects, skin diseases, and psychological and neurological problems in both Vietnamese populations and U.S. veterans.

What is Half-Life?

- In radioactivity, half-life refers to the time required for half of the atoms in a radioactive sample to decay. In a broader sense, it can also refer to the persistence of chemical contaminants like dioxin in biological and environmental systems.

Overview of the Vietnam War (1954–1975)

- The Vietnam War was a conflict between North Vietnam, led by Ho Chi Minh and backed by communist allies such as the Soviet Union and China, and South Vietnam, supported by the United States and its anti-communist allies.
- The war was rooted in the Cold War rivalry between the U.S. and the USSR and was seen as a crucial battleground in the fight against the global spread of communism.
- The war ended with the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, leading to the reunification of Vietnam under communist rule.

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IMF World Economic Outlook 2025

Why in News?

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s April 2025 World Economic Outlook (WEO) has projected that **India will surpass Japan** to become the **fourth-largest economy** in the world in 2025.

Key Highlights of the World Economic Outlook Report 2025

Global Trends:

- **Global Growth Forecast:** The IMF has revised the global growth forecast **down to 2.8% for 2025**, citing economic slowdown and geopolitical tensions.
- **2026 Projection:** Global growth is projected to rebound slightly to **3.0%**.
- **United States:** Growth is forecast at just **1.8%**, down from previous expectations, due to **policy uncertainty** and **trade tensions**.

India-Specific Forecast:

- **Growth Rate:** India's growth projection has been slightly revised from 6.5% to 6.2% for 2025, yet it remains the fastest-growing major economy.
- **GDP Milestone:** India is expected to reach a nominal GDP of USD 4.187 trillion, overtaking Japan's estimated USD 4.186 trillion.

About IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO)

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- The WEO is a biannual publication released in April and October by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- It offers a comprehensive analysis of the global economy, including macroeconomic trends, inflation dynamics, and financial stability risks.
- It serves as a guide for policy formulation by governments, financial institutions, and international bodies.

Purpose:

- To monitor global economic trends and offer policy advice to foster global economic stability and growth.
- To provide comparative insights into regional and country-level performance metrics.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

- Estd. - 1944 (UN Bretton Woods Conference following Great Depression 1930s)
- Headquarters - Washington, DC, USA
- Functions -
 - » Global financial assistance
 - » Facilitate international trade
 - » Financing for developing countries
 - » Promotion of exchange rate stability
- Member States - 190 (India a founding member)

India's FM is the ex-officio Governor on the Board of Governors of IMF

- Special Drawing Rights (SDR) -
 - » IMF's intl. reserve asset to supplement the official reserves of its member countries (**not a currency**)
 - Currencies in SDR Basket - \$, €, £, ¥ (Yen) and CNY (Renminbi)**
- IMF Quotas -
 - » Reflects a member country's relative position in world economy (**India – 2.75%**)
 - » Denominated in SDRs
- Flagship Publications -
 - » World Economic Outlook
 - » Global Financial Stability Report
 - » Fiscal Monitor
 - » External Sector Report

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Cooperative Societies in India: A Gender Gap in Representation



Despite India being one of the largest cooperative movements in the world with approximately 8.5 lakh cooperatives, women-only cooperatives account for only 2.52% of the total, as per a NITI Aayog 2023 report.

The UN has declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives with the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World", and launched the celebration globally from India in 2024.

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What are Cooperative Societies?

A cooperative society is a voluntary, member-owned organization designed to meet common economic, social, and cultural needs through self-help, mutual assistance, and community welfare. It differs from profit-driven enterprises, focusing on equity and shared benefit rather than capital returns.

Post-Independence Era Developments

Cooperatives were strengthened through Five-Year Plans. Key institutional developments include:

- Establishment of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in 1963.
- Creation of NABARD in 1982, focusing on rural credit and cooperative development.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act (MSCS Act): Passed in 1984, amended in 2023.
- National Policy on Cooperatives: Framed in 2002.
- 97th Constitutional Amendment (2011): Granted constitutional status to cooperatives and added Part IXB to the Constitution.

Recent Initiatives

- Establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation in 2021 signals increased emphasis on strengthening cooperatives.
- Aims include modernizing governance, ensuring transparency, and expanding financial and policy support.

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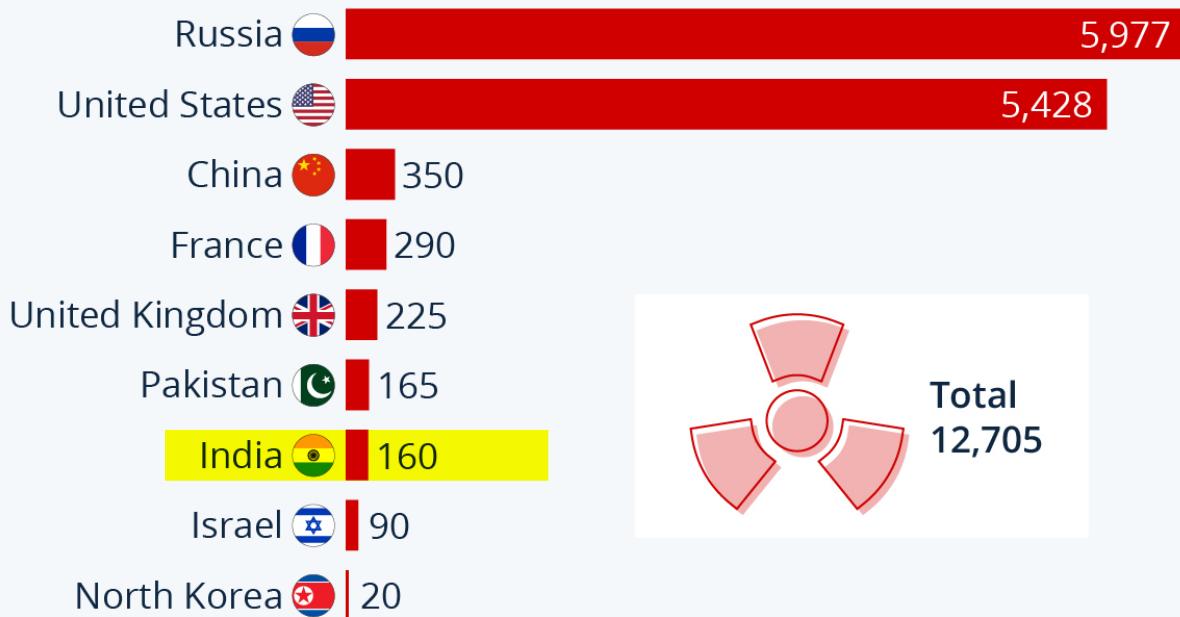
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National Technology Day 2025

National Technology Day 2025 was observed on 11th May 2025 with the theme “YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration”.

The Countries Holding The World's Nuclear Arsenal

Estimated global nuclear warhead inventories (2022)*



* Includes deployed, stockpiled and retired warheads awaiting disarmament
Source: Federation of American Scientists



statista

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About the Theme

- Yugantar signifies India's transformation into a global tech leader.
- YANTRA draws upon India's legacy of scientific innovation and its commitment to scalable, deep-tech, and transformative R&D solutions.
- Celebrations highlighted advancements in precision engineering, deep-tech sectors, and participation from policymakers, scientists, and industry leaders.

Historical Context of the Day

- The day commemorates **11th May 1998**, when India successfully conducted nuclear tests as part of **Operation Shakti** and achieved the **maiden flight of the Hansa-3 aircraft**.
- It was declared **National Technology Day** in **1999** by then Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** to honour these landmark scientific achievements.

India's Nuclear Test Milestones

Pokhran-I (1974)

- **Date:** 18th May 1974
- **Location:** Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan
- **Code Name:** Smiling Buddha
- **Significance:**
 - Described officially as a "peaceful nuclear explosion".
 - Marked India's first successful nuclear test, establishing technological capability.
 - India became the 6th country globally to possess nuclear weapons capability (after the US, USSR, UK, France, and China).

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Pokhran-II (1998)

- **Date:** 11–13th May 1998
- **Code Name:** Operation Shakti
- **Significance:**
 - A sequence of five nuclear tests, firmly establishing India as a nuclear-armed state.
 - Declared as a nuclear weapon state by PM Vajpayee.
 - Reinforced India's nuclear deterrent and strategic defence position.

India's Position on Global Nuclear Treaties-

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 1968

- India has not signed the NPT.
- Reason: Considers the treaty discriminatory, as it recognizes only five countries as legitimate nuclear powers.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

- India has not signed the CTBT.
- Justification: Seeks a time-bound global disarmament commitment, which the CTBT lacks.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), 2021

- India is not a party to the TPNW.

Suppliers Group (NSG)

- India is not a member, though it has been actively seeking entry.

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Wassenaar Arrangement

- India joined in December 2017 as the 42nd member.
- About: A voluntary export control regime focusing on dual-use goods (civil and military use).
- Secretariat: Vienna, Austria.



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SVAMITVA Scheme and India at the World Bank Land Conference 2025

India's flagship SVAMITVA scheme, which aims to digitise rural land records, gained global recognition at the World Bank Land Conference 2025 in Washington D.C., where India was named a Country Champion for its pioneering work in digital land governance.

About SVAMITVA Scheme

- **Full Form:** Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.
- **Launch Year:** 2020
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)

The scheme is designed to give rural residents documented ownership rights to their residential properties, allowing them to leverage these properties for **economic activities** like securing loans.

Key Features and Objectives:

- **Drone-based Surveying:** Utilises drones to map inhabited rural land parcels across India in a phased manner.
- **Legal Ownership:** Empowers rural individuals with legal property titles.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Facilitates the use of property as a **financial asset**.
- **Accurate Land Records:** Aids in planning, taxation, and governance.
- **Property Taxation:** Helps determine property tax, either accruing directly to Gram Panchayats or State exchequers.

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- **Survey Infrastructure:** Builds GIS-based survey systems usable by various departments.
- **Dispute Reduction:** Aims to reduce land-related legal disputes.
- **Support for GPDPs:** Strengthens the Gram Panchayat Development Plans through spatial planning and mapping.



Implementation Framework:

- At the national level, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj acts as the nodal agency.
- At the state level, the Revenue/Land Records Department implements the survey with assistance from the State Panchayati Raj Department.
- Survey of India serves as the technology partner.

India at the World Bank Land Conference 2025

- **Event Theme:** "Securing Land Tenure and Access for Climate Action: Moving from Awareness to Action."
- **India's Role:** Recognised as a **Country Champion**, India showcased its digital land reform efforts through the SVAMITVA scheme.

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About the World Bank Group

The World Bank Group is a global development institution made up of five key entities:

1. **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**
2. **International Development Association (IDA)**
3. **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**
4. **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**
5. **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**

- **Headquarters:** Washington D.C., USA
- **President (2025):** Ajay Banga

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Nicaragua's Withdrawal from UNESCO over Press Freedom Prize

Nicaragua has announced its withdrawal from UNESCO in protest over the awarding of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize to Nicaraguan newspaper *La Prensa*, despite objections from the Nicaraguan government.



UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

- Established in 1997, it is the UN's only journalism award, presented annually on 3rd May, World Press Freedom Day.
- Named after Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano, who was assassinated in 1986 for exposing drug cartels.
- The prize honors individuals or organizations for their significant contributions to defending and promoting press freedom.
- Past recipients include:
 - Myanmar journalists Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone (2019)

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- Belarus' leading independent journalists' association (2022)

About UNESCO

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a UN agency founded in 1945.
- Headquarters: Paris, France.
- Aims to foster peace and equality by promoting education, science, culture, and communication through global cooperation and standard-setting.

About Nicaragua

- **Geography:** Largest country in Central America.
 - Bordered by: Honduras (north), Costa Rica (south), Pacific Ocean (west), Caribbean Sea (east).
- **History:**
 - Colonized by Spain and Britain.
 - Gained independence in 1821, and became fully sovereign in 1838 after a brief stint in the Central American Federation.

India's Position on World Press Freedom Index (2025)

- India ranked 151st out of 180 countries, improving from 159th in the previous year.
- This rise reflects ongoing efforts to enhance media freedom, though challenges remain in ensuring journalistic safety and independence.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

- **Established in:** 1985
- **Founder:** Robert Ménard

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- RSF is an international non-profit NGO headquartered in Paris, advocating globally for freedom of information and journalist safety.

Index Methodology:

- Based on responses from 5,000+ journalists, academics, and policy experts.
- Evaluates countries on political, economic, legal, and social conditions affecting press freedom.

Top and Bottom Rankings (2025):

- Top 3:
 - 1. Norway
 - 2. Estonia
 - 3. Netherlands
- Bottom 2:
 - 179. North Korea
 - 180. Eritrea

About the World Press Freedom Day

- Celebrated on May 3 every year since 1993, **World Press Freedom Day** is a reminder of the universal importance of press freedom and the role of journalism in the defense of democracy, transparency, and human rights.
- It celebrates the **1991 Windhoek Declaration** for the Development of a Free, Independent, and Pluralistic Press.
- The theme for World Press Freedom Day 2025 is "**Reporting in the Brave New World - The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media**".

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Presidential Reference under Article 143

The President of India has invoked Article 143 of the Constitution to refer 14 constitutional questions to the Supreme Court for its advisory opinion. This development follows the 2023 SC ruling in *State of Tamil Nadu v The Governor of Tamil Nadu*, where the Court used Article 142 to impose specific timelines on Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by State legislatures.

What is Article 143 of the Indian Constitution?

About:

- Article 143 deals with the advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- It empowers the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on matters of public importance relating to law or fact.

Types of References:

- **Article 143(1):**
 - The President may refer any legal or factual question of public importance.
 - The Supreme Court may choose to tender or refuse its opinion.
 - *Example:* In 1993, the SC refused to opine on the Ram Janmabhoomi case.
- **Article 143(2):**
 - Applies to questions arising from pre-constitutional treaties, agreements, or covenants.
 - The SC is mandatorily required to tender its opinion.

Nature of the Advice:

- In both types of references, the SC's opinion is advisory in nature and does not have binding judicial effect.

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- However, the opinion often carries strong persuasive value and influences legal and policy decisions.

President's 14 Questions to Supreme Court

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200?• Is the Governor bound by the aid & advice of the Council of Ministers while exercising the options available with him when a Bill is presented before him?• Is the Governor's constitutional discretion under Article 200 justiciable?• Is Article 361 an absolute bar to the judicial review in relation to the actions of a Governor under Article 200?• In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed time limit, and the manner of exercise of powers by the Governor, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders?• Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the President under Article 201 justiciable?• In the absence of a constitutionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are the decisions of the Governor and the President under Article 200 and Article 201, respectively, justiciable at a stage anterior into the law coming into force? Is it permissible for the Courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a Bill, in any manner, before it becomes law?• Can the exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of/by the President /Governor be substituted in any manner under Article 142?• Is a law made by the State legislature a law in force without the assent of the Governor granted under Article 200?• In view of the provision to Article 145(3), is it not mandatory for any bench of the Supreme Court to first decide whether the question before it involves substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution and to refer it to a bench of minimum five Judges?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are the powers of the Supreme Court under Article 142 limited to matters of procedural law or Article 142 extends to issuing directions which are contrary to or inconsistent with existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution or law in force?• Does the Constitution bar any other jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to resolve disputes between the Union Government and the State Governments except by way of a suit under Article 131 of the Constitution of India?	

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Global Report on Food Crises 2025

The Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2025 has revealed that over **295 million people across 53 countries** are experiencing **acute hunger**, marking an alarming increase of **13.7 million people** compared to 2023.

About the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC)

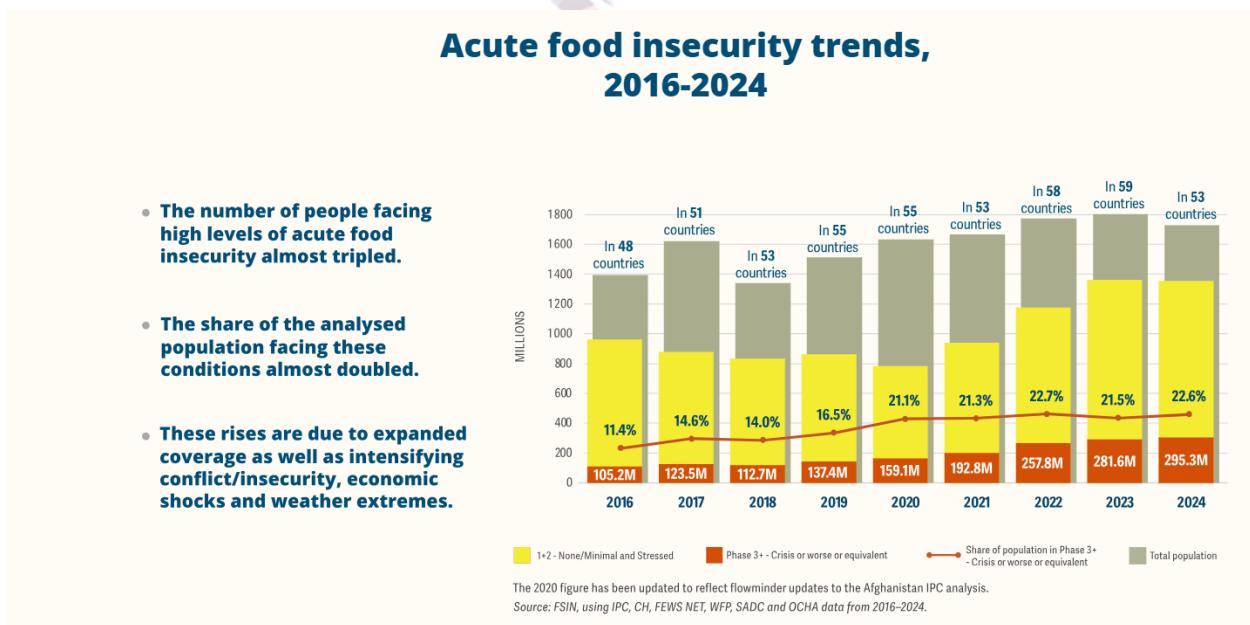
- The GRFC is published by the **Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)** in collaboration with the **Food Security Information Network (FSIN)**.
- It provides a yearly overview of the most severe food crises globally, focusing on populations facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

Key Highlights of the 2025 Report

- **Conflict & Displacement:**
 - Conflict remains the **primary driver** of food insecurity in **20 countries**, affecting **139.8 million people**.
 - The **majority of Catastrophe (IPC-5) cases**—indicating **starvation, death, or severe malnutrition**—occur in **Nigeria, Sudan, and Myanmar**.
- **Global Acute Malnutrition:**
 - Acute malnutrition cases in the top 10 affected countries increased from **26.9 million in 2023** to **30.4 million in 2024**.
 - **The worst-affected regions include Sudan and Gaza.**
- **Climate and Economic Disruptions:**
 - Severe weather events, climate change, and economic instability continue to exacerbate food insecurity, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected regions.

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India in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024

- According to the 2024 GHI report published by **Concern Worldwide** and **Welthungerhilfe**, India falls under the category of "serious" hunger with a GHI score of **27.3**.
- This indicates ongoing challenges related to **nutrition, child wasting and stunting, and access to food**, despite economic growth.

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World Food Prize 2025

Brazilian microbiologist Mariangela Hungria has been awarded the World Food Prize 2025 for her groundbreaking work in Biological Nitrogen Fixation (BNF) and the development of microbial technologies that drastically reduce chemical fertilizer usage.

Key Achievements

- Mariangela pioneered the use of rhizobia-based nitrogen fixation in legumes.
- Her innovations significantly cut down chemical fertilizer dependency, saving Brazilian farmers USD 40 billion annually.
- Soybean production in Brazil surged from 15 million tonnes in 1979 to an estimated 173 million tonnes by 2025.
- Her work catalyzed Brazil's "Micro Green Revolution", promoting sustainable and low-cost microbial agricultural technologies.

Biological Nitrogen Fixation (BNF)

- BNF is a natural process in which specific microorganisms convert atmospheric nitrogen (N_2) into ammonia (NH_3), a form usable by plants.
- This enhances soil fertility and reduces the reliance on synthetic fertilizers.

World Food Prize

- Founded in 1986 by Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug.
- Recognizes individuals making exceptional contributions to improving global food quantity, quality, accessibility, and agricultural practices.
- Carries an award of USD 500,000.

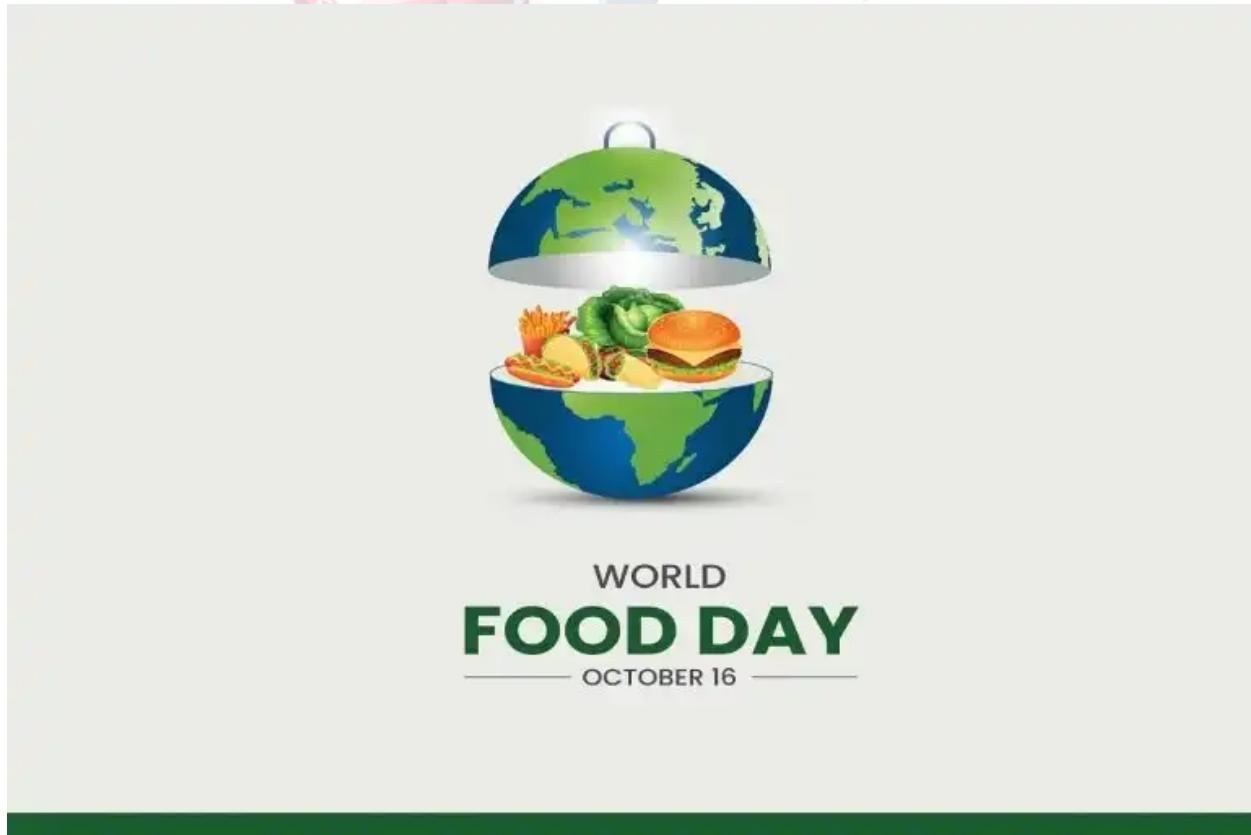
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- The first laureate was M.S. Swaminathan (1987), the father of India's Green Revolution.

World Food Day

- Celebrated annually on October 16.
- Marks the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945.



About FAO

- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations focused on ending hunger, improving nutrition, and enhancing food security.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
- **Director-General:** Qu Dongyu

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Yala Glacier

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) held a ceremony to commemorate the rapid retreat of Nepal's Yala Glacier in Langtang Valley, which is threatened to vanish by 2040 due to climate change.

This tribute forms part of Nepal's leadership in the UN International Year for Glaciers Preservation 2025, and was also a highlight of the inaugural Sagarmatha Sambad (mountain dialogue) summit 2025.

About Yala Glacier

- **Location:** Langtang Valley, Nepal, in the **Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH)** region.
- It is the first glacier in Nepal to be declared "dead", having shrunk by 66% since the 1970s.
- A glacier is termed "dead" when it no longer exhibits flow under its own weight.
- **Climate Memorial Plaque:** Yala Glacier is the first glacier in Asia to receive such a plaque, featuring messages in English, Nepali, and Tibetan.



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Global Glacier Context

- **Distribution:**
 - 91% of the world's glaciers are in Antarctica.
 - 8% in Greenland.
 - Less than 1% are spread across Asia, North America, Europe, Africa, New Zealand, and Indonesia.
 - Australia has no glaciers.
- **Ice Loss (2000–2023):**
 - Glaciers have lost 6,542 billion tons of ice.
 - This caused a sea level rise of 18 mm, exposing 2–3 lakh more people to flooding per millimeter rise.
- **Contribution to Sea-Level Rise:**
 - Glacier melt is the second-largest contributor, after ocean warming.

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Asiatic Lion Census 2025

The population of the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) in Gujarat has increased from 674 to 891 over the past five years, according to the **16th Asiatic Lion Census 2025** conducted by the Gujarat Forest Department.

Key Highlights from the 16th Census: Asiatic lions, once confined to the Gir Forest, have seen a substantial rise in their numbers and geographical distribution:

- **Total Population:** 891 lions recorded in Gujarat, marking a **32.2% increase** from 2020.
- **Habitat Distribution:**
 - 384 lions live within protected forests and sanctuary areas.
 - 507 lions now inhabit non-forested regions, up from 340 in 2020.

This distribution highlights successful conservation but also underscores emerging challenges of human-wildlife conflict due to lion presence outside protected zones.

About Project Lion

Launched in 2020, Project Lion is a national initiative focused on conserving Asiatic lions through habitat improvement, advanced monitoring, and conflict mitigation.

Key aspects of the project include:

- Ecosystem restoration and corridor connectivity in the Gir landscape.
- Radio-collaring, camera trapping, and satellite telemetry for effective lion tracking.
- Community engagement and rapid response teams to manage human-lion interactions.

The **Gujarat Forest Department** continues to spearhead these efforts, conducting regular censuses to assess the population's health and trends.

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ASIATIC LION Or INDIAN LION

Scientific Name: *Panthera leo persica*

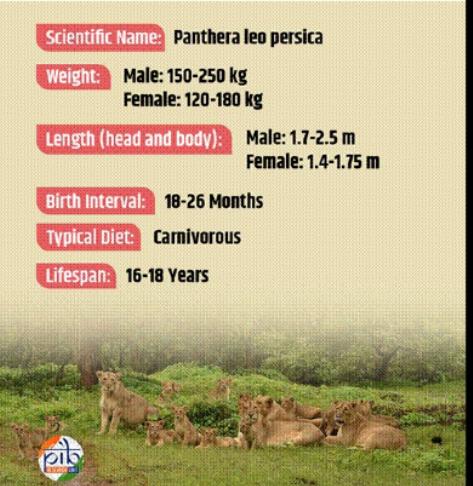
Weight: Male: 150-250 kg
Female: 120-180 kg

Length (head and body): Male: 1.7-2.5 m
Female: 1.4-1.75 m

Birth Interval: 18-26 Months

Typical Diet: Carnivorous

Lifespan: 16-18 Years





FUN FACTS

- Lions live in large groups called prides.
- Male lions can weigh over 500 pounds and grow up to eight feet in length.
- Known as the “King of the Jungle,” lions live in grasslands and plains, not jungles.
- Female lions and their sisters live together for life, while males stay with the pride until they reach maturity.
- A lion’s roar can be heard from up to five miles away.
- Lions spend about 20 hours a day resting or sleeping.
- Male lions patrol their territories regularly.
- Lions prefer to hunt at night, making it easier to catch prey.

IUCN Green Status Assessment for Lions (2025) In a parallel development, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released its first Green Status Assessment for lions in 2025. This framework assesses species recovery and conservation outcomes rather than just extinction risks.

- Lions have been placed in the “Largely Depleted” category.
- While still listed as “Vulnerable” on the IUCN Red List, the Green Status provides a roadmap for species recovery and highlights needed conservation actions.

Unlike the Red List, which evaluates extinction risk, the Green Status identifies stages of recovery and the effectiveness of past and current conservation measures across global lion populations.

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Mizoram: India's First State to Attain Full Functional Literacy



Mizoram has become the first Indian state to achieve full functional literacy by surpassing the 95% literacy benchmark. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24, the state has recorded a literacy rate of 98.20%, meeting the Ministry of Education's criteria under the ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme.

Previously, Ladakh was the first Union Territory to be declared fully functionally literate.

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Note: Functional literacy means the ability of an individual to use reading, writing, and arithmetic skills effectively **in daily life**, enabling personal development and civic engagement.

What is ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme)?

- **About:** ULLAS is a centrally sponsored scheme operational from 2022 to 2027, designed to provide educational opportunities to adults aged 15 years and above who did not receive formal schooling. It aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Implementation Mechanism:** It emphasizes volunteerism to cultivate social responsibility and the concept of 'Kartavya Bodh' (sense of duty).
- **Key Components:**
 - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
 - Critical Life Skills
 - Basic Education
 - Vocational Skills
 - Continuing Education
- **Key Features:**
 - Educational resources are made available through the DIKSHA platform and the ULLAS mobile/web portal, with support for regional languages.
 - The Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) is conducted biannually or as needed at local schools to assess and certify learners.

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World Hydrogen Summit 2025

At the World Hydrogen Summit 2025 in Rotterdam, Netherlands, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) presented India's roadmap to becoming a global hub for green hydrogen (GH₂) production.

What is Green Hydrogen (GH₂)?

Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water (H₂O) into hydrogen (H₂) and oxygen (O₂) using electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources like solar or wind, or through biomass gasification. Unlike grey or blue hydrogen, it does not emit carbon dioxide during production.

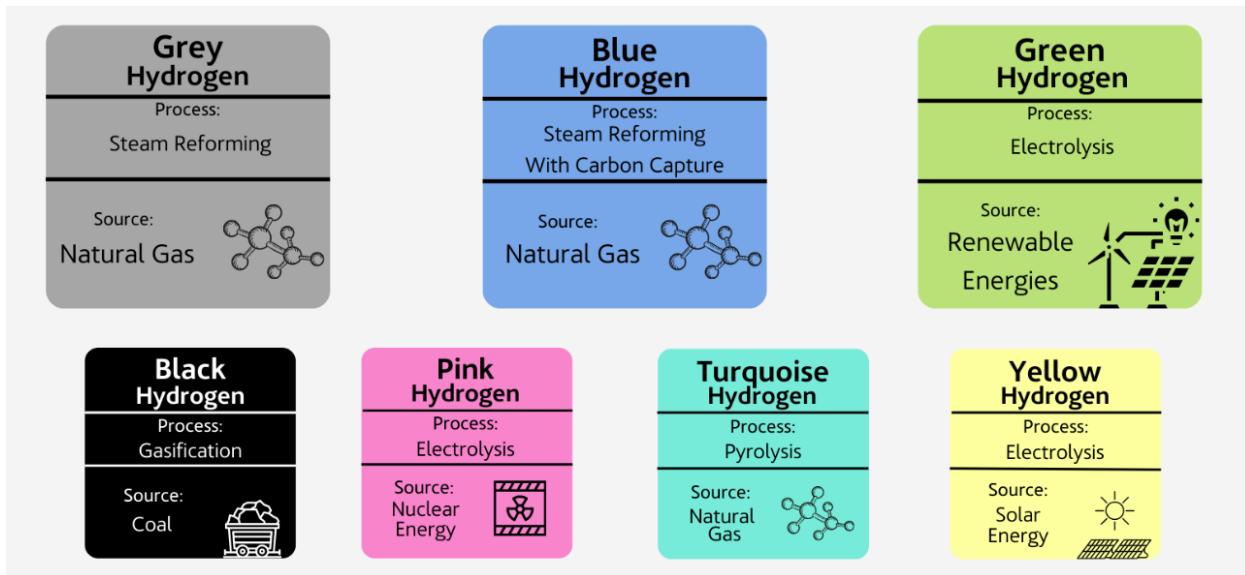
Applications:

- Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs)
- Industrial use in **fertilizer production and refineries**
- Decarbonization of **road and rail transport**

Other Types of Hydrogen:

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India's Green Hydrogen Initiatives

National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM):

- Launched in **January 2023** by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- Aims to establish a production capacity of **5 million tonnes** of green hydrogen annually by **2030**
- **Phase I:** 2022-23 to 2025-26
- **Phase II:** 2026-27 to 2029-30

SIGHT Programme (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition):

- Provides incentives for manufacturing electrolyzers
- Supports production of green ammonia

Why Hydrogen Matters

Hydrogen is the lightest and most abundant element in the universe. It is a colorless, odorless, and highly flammable gas at room temperature.

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Need for Hydrogen-based Fuels in India:

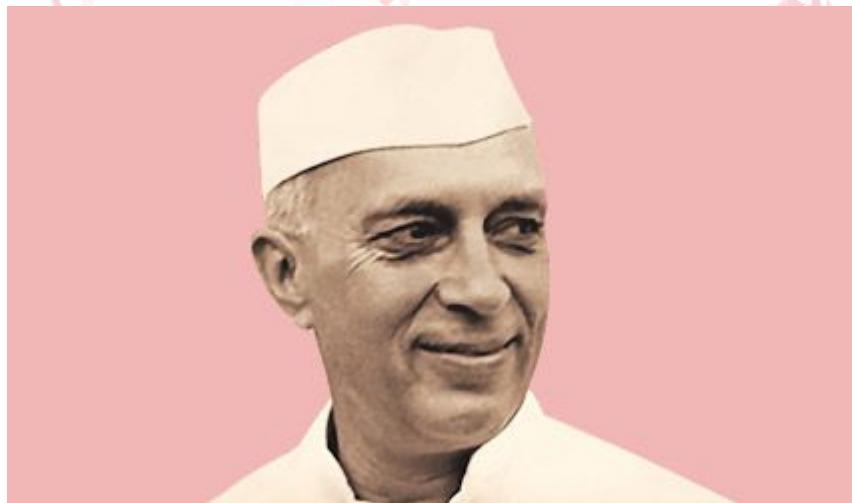
- Enhances energy independence by reducing fossil fuel imports
- Enables stable local energy production from renewables
- Biomass-based hydrogen production offers extra income for farmers and supports rural economies



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Tribute to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on His Death Anniversary



On 27th May 2025, the Prime Minister paid homage to India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who passed away on 27th May 1964. He is fondly remembered as the "Architect of Modern India."

About Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

Early Life:

- Born on 14th November 1889 in Prayagraj.
- Attended his first Congress session in 1912 at Bankipore (Patna) as a delegate.
- Joined Annie Besant's Home Rule League in 1916 and became its Allahabad Secretary in 1919.

Contribution in Freedom Struggle:

- Elected Congress President at the historic 1929 Lahore session where the Purna Swaraj resolution for complete independence was passed.

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- Presided over the 1936 Lucknow and 1937 Faizpur sessions, promoting socialism within the Congress.
- Drafted the Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy resolutions (1929–31), later adopted at the 1931 Karachi Session under Sardar Patel.
- Advocated legal defence for Indian National Army (INA) soldiers.
- Headed the Interim Government formed in 1946.

Post-Independence Contributions:

- Established the States Reorganisation Commission in 1953 to reorganize states on linguistic lines.
- Championed industrialisation and national development through the implementation of Five-Year Plans.
- Spearheaded India's role in the Non-Aligned Movement, maintaining neutrality during the Cold War.

Honours and Awards:

- Awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in 1955.
- Posthumously conferred the **World Peace Council Prize** in 1970.

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India Abstains from IMF Vote on \$2.3 Billion Aid to Pakistan



India abstained from voting on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board's approval of a \$2.3 billion loan package to Pakistan in May 2025. While not a direct vote of opposition, India's abstention served as a strong diplomatic signal reflecting its deep concerns over Pakistan's growing debt dependency, military dominance in the economy, and continued support for cross-border terrorism. During the meeting, India formally recorded its objections without violating the procedural limitations of the IMF, which does not allow a formal 'no' vote.

Background

The IMF approved two major loans for Pakistan:

- \$1 billion under the **Extended Fund Facility (EFF)**
- \$1.3 billion under the **Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)**

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These funds are intended to help Pakistan manage its external financing challenges, promote climate resilience, and push through key structural reforms. The aid comes at a time when Pakistan's economy is under severe stress, and its international credibility is being questioned.

India, as one of the 25 members of the IMF Executive Board, exercised its influence by abstaining. The IMF's decision-making is based on **weighted voting power**—not on a one-country-one-vote basis—making India's abstention a diplomatically significant move.

India's Position Explained

India's abstention reflected a balancing act: signaling disapproval without formally blocking the aid package. New Delhi cited serious issues with Pakistan's recurring bailout cycles, the entrenched economic influence of the Pakistani military, and Pakistan's continued harboring of terrorist groups. By abstaining rather than voting in favor, India conveyed its opposition diplomatically within the limits set by IMF voting norms.

About the IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was established in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference and became operational in 1945. Headquartered in Washington D.C., USA, the IMF currently has 190 member countries (as of 2025). Its primary objective is to ensure global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty.

- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva (term extended to 2027)
- **Deputy Managing Director:** Gita Gopinath

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ICAR Launches World's First Genome-Edited Rice



On May 5, 2025, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) announced the release of the world's first genome-edited (GE) rice varieties—DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa DST Rice.

1. These pioneering rice lines were officially unveiled by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at ICAR's NASC Complex in New Delhi. Both varieties have been developed using CRISPR-Cas genome editing technology, signaling a major step in climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture.

DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)

- **Developed by:** ICAR–Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad
- **Parent Variety:** Samba Mahsuri (BPT-5204), widely cultivated on over 5 million hectares

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- **Targeted Gene:** *Cytokinin oxidase 2 (Gn1a)* — influences grain count per panicle
- **Genome Editing Tool:** CRISPR-Cas12 (SDN-1)

Key Features:

- Yield increased by **19%**, with an average of **5.37 tonnes/ha** and potential of **9 tonnes/ha**
- Matures **15–20 days earlier** (130 days vs parent variety)
- Retains **cooking quality and grain type** of the parent
- Shows **enhanced nitrogen-use efficiency** and **drought tolerance**

Pusa DST Rice 1

- **Developed by:** ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
- **Parent Variety:** MTU-1010 (*Cottondora Sannalu*), known for early duration and slender grains
- **Targeted Gene:** *DST (Drought and Salt Tolerance)*
- **Genome Editing Tool:** CRISPR-Cas9 (SDN-1)

Performance Under Stress Conditions:

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- **Inland Salinity:** 3,508 kg/ha (vs 3,199 kg/ha in parent)
- **Alkaline Soils:** 3,731 kg/ha (vs 3,254 kg/ha)
- **Coastal Salinity:** 2,493 kg/ha (vs 1,912 kg/ha)
- Demonstrates **strong resilience** to **salinity and drought**

Policy and Funding Support

The Union Budget 2023–24 allocated ₹500 crore to promote genome-editing research in key crops such as pulses and oilseeds. Indian institutions like the University of Delhi have also contributed with genome-edited mustard varieties. These innovations align with India's broader agricultural strategy to ensure climate-resilient farming systems through cutting-edge biotechnology.

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Miscellaneous

1. Supreme Court Ruling on Digital Inclusion (Amar Jain v. Union of India & Ors., 2025)

The Supreme Court (SC) of India in the case Amar Jain v. Union of India & Ors, 2025 ruled that inclusive digital access to e-governance and welfare systems is an integral part of the fundamental right to life and liberty, and issued directions to make the digital Know Your Customer (KYC) process more accessible for persons with disabilities (PwDs).

2. Bhutan Launches Crypto Tourism Payment System

Bhutan has become the first country to launch a national cryptocurrency tourism payment system in partnership with Binance Pay and DK Bank, enabling fully cashless travel using cryptocurrencies.

3. Operation Olivia: Olive Ridley Turtle Protection

Indian Coast Guard (ICG)'s annual operation, 'Operation Olivia' has achieved major success by protecting over 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles nesting at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha.

4. Maharashtra and Gujarat Formation Day

On 1st May 2025, Maharashtra and Gujarat celebrated 65 years of their formation, commemorating the historic reorganization of Bombay State along linguistic lines in 1960.

5. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

What is Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana? About: Launched in 2016, PMFBY is a Central Sector Scheme designed to offer financial protection to farmers against crop losses caused by natural disasters, pests, or diseases. As of 2023–24, PMFBY became the world's largest crop insurance scheme in terms of the number of farmers enrolled and land area covered.

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6. Launch of e-Zero FIR Initiative

The Union Home Minister has launched the e-Zero FIR initiative as a pilot project in Delhi under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to improve the efficiency of investigating cyber financial frauds, supporting the vision of a Cyber Secure Bharat.



"This compendium isn't just a collection of facts—it's a roadmap for your CLAT journey. GK isn't about cramming; it's about understanding patterns and making connections. The CC Master Compendium guides you to think critically and predict what matters. If you're holding this, you're preparing smartly.

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CLAT COMMUNITY

*EVERY SETBACK IS JUST A SETUP FOR A
GREATER COMEBACK. KEEP PUSHING
FORWARD – YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS
CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.*

