



2024_10_21 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

- 1. Bomb threats against civil aviation continue; 25 Sunday flights affected**
- 2. Let Union govt. Carry out caste survey in Karnataka: Lingayats (GS Paper-I: Art and culture)**
- 3. PM opens 3 airports in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh under UDAN scheme (GS Paper-II: Government Scheme)**
- 4. U.P. Dalit teen assaulted and forced to say 'Jai Shri Ram'**
- 5. First international marathon in Kashmir attracts 1,700 runners (PCS)**
- 6. Tribal woman in A.P. injured as gaur attacks her in forest (GS Paper-III: Environment/GS Paper-I: History)**
- 7. Odisha braces for Cyclone Dana's likely arrival on Thursday (GS Paper-I: Geography)**
- 8. Quad group of countries take part in back-to-back naval war games (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)**
- 9. Karva Chauth significance (GS Paper-I: Art and culture)**
- 10. What do the Atlantic Ocean hurricane forecasts foretell for India? (GDS Paper-III: Climate Change)**
- 11. Pollution balls: ick in the blue (GDS Paper-III: Pollution)**
- 12. India's choices in a world becoming bipolar again (GDS Paper-II: Global World Order)**
- 13. On climate finance to developing nations (GS Paper-III: Environment)**
- 14. What does the new 'lady justice' statue signify? (GS Paper-II: Justice system in India)**
- 15. Gateway at Galathea Bay: the new major port can be a game changer (GS Paper-III: Port)**
- 16. Bangladesh court rules that Parliament cannot remove judges (PCS)**
- 17. Pakistan constitutional amendment Bill caps Chief Justice's tenure to three years (PCS)**
- 18. The White Ferns on top of the world as South Africa crumbles yet again (PCS)**



Marg

- The term "Marg" originates from the Kashmiri language, meaning **meadow** or **pasture land**. In the context of **Sonamarg** and **Gulmarg**, two famous tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir, "Marg" refers to the beautiful, expansive alpine meadows in the Kashmir Valley.

Sonamarg (Meadow of Gold)

- **Glaciers:** Some of the important glaciers in this region are **Thajiwas Glacier** and **Kolhoi Glacier**.
- **Passes and Peaks:** Sonamarg serves as a base camp for trekking routes leading to **Amarnath Cave** and **Baltal**, and it is also close to **Zoji La Pass**, one of the major passes connecting Kashmir with Ladakh.

Gulmarg translates to "Meadow of Flowers"

- The term **Gulmarg** translates to "Meadow of Flowers" and refers to the vast, rolling meadows adorned with wildflowers during spring and summer. It is part of the **Pir Panjal Range** of the western Himalayas.
- **World's Highest Golf Course:** Gulmarg is home to the world's highest **18-hole golf course**, adding to its tourism appeal.
- **Sonamarg:** It served as a key route for ancient trade caravans traveling between **Kashmir and China**.
- **Gulmarg:** During the British era, Gulmarg was developed as a hill station and summer retreat. It was also a favorite holiday destination for Indian royalty.

Important Dates:

- **Z-Morh Tunnel Completion:** The construction of the **Z-Morh Tunnel**, a 6.5 km tunnel near Sonamarg, will make the region accessible year-round. Expected to be operational in **2025**, providing year-round access to Sonamarg.
- **Winter Games 2021:** Held in Gulmarg as part of the **Khelo India Winter Sports Initiative**.



Bomb threats against civil aviation continue; 25 Sunday flights affected

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

As many as 25 flights received bomb threats on Sunday, causing hardship to hundreds of passengers and forcing authorities to move aircraft to isolation bays at airports for detailed checks.

On Saturday, more than 30 flights received bomb threats. This week, nearly 100 flights received threats, sending security agencies into a tizzy.

Six flights each of IndiGo, Vistara, Air India, and Akasa Air, and at least one flight of Air India Express received the threats on Sunday, sources said.

An IndiGo spokesperson said the airline was cognisant of a situation involving flights 6E 58 (Jeddah to Mumbai), 6E 87 (Kozhikode to Dammam), 6E 11 (Delhi to Istanbul), 6E 17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E 133 (Pune to Jodhpur) and



On their toes: Security personnel keep a watch after a flight made an emergency landing at the Jodhpur after a bomb hoax. PTI

6E 112 (Goa to Ahmedabad).

Vistara said it got security threats for UK 25 (Delhi to Frankfurt), UK 106 (Singapore to Mumbai), UK 146 (Bali to Delhi), UK 116 (Singapore to Delhi), UK 110 (Singapore to Pune) and UK 107 (Mumbai to Singapore).

“In line with the protocols, all relevant authorities were immediately notified, and security procedures, as directed by

them, are being carried out,” a Vistara spokesperson said in a statement.

Security alerts

Security alerts were received for six Akasa Air flights: QP1102 (Ahmedabad to Mumbai), QP 1378 (Delhi to Goa), QP 1385 (Mumbai to Bagdogra), QP 1406 (Delhi to Hyderabad), QP 1519 (Kochi to Mumbai) and QP 1526 (Lucknow to Mumbai).

“Following defined pro-

cedures and thorough inspections of six aircraft, they have been released for operations,” an Akasa Air spokesperson said in a statement.

The sources also said there were threats for at least six Air India flights. There was no comment from the airline.

An Air India Express flight IX481 from Kochi to Dammam received the bomb threat and the flight landed safely at Dammam, the sources said.

On Sunday, a handle on social media platform X that had issued bomb threats was blocked. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security held a meeting with representatives of airlines on Saturday.

The Civil Aviation Ministry plans to put in place strict norms to prevent incidents of hoax bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators on the no-fly list.

Bomb threats against civil aviation continue; 25 Sunday flights affected (21 October)





- On Sunday, 25 flights received bomb threats, causing hardship for hundreds of passengers.
- Authorities moved aircraft to isolation bays for detailed checks.
- On Saturday, over 30 flights also received bomb threats.
- Nearly 100 flights received threats this week, prompting action from security agencies.
- Six flights each from IndiGo, Vistara, Air India, and Akasa Air received threats on Sunday.
- Specific IndiGo flights affected: 6E 58 (Jeddah to Mumbai), 6E 87 (Kozhikode to Dammam), 6E 11 (Delhi to Istanbul), 6E 17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E 133 (Pune to Jodhpur), 6E 112 (Goa to Ahmedabad).
- Vistara flights affected: UK 25 (Delhi to Frankfurt), UK 106 (Singapore to Mumbai), UK 146 (Bali to Delhi), UK 116 (Singapore to Delhi), UK 110 (Singapore to Pune), UK 107 (Mumbai to Singapore).
- Vistara confirmed relevant authorities were notified and security procedures were implemented.
- Akasa Air flights with threats included: QP1102 (Ahmedabad to Mumbai), QP 1378 (Delhi to Goa), QP 1385 (Mumbai to Bagdogra), QP 1406 (Delhi to Hyderabad), QP 1519 (Kochi to Mumbai), QP 1526 (Lucknow to Mumbai).
- Akasa Air stated that all aircraft were released for operations after thorough inspections.
- There were also threats for at least six Air India flights, with no comment from the airline.
- Air India Express flight IX481 from Kochi to Dammam received a bomb threat but landed safely.
- A social media handle that issued bomb threats was blocked on Sunday.
- The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security held a meeting with airline representatives on Saturday.
- The Civil Aviation Ministry plans to implement strict norms to prevent hoax bomb threats, including placing perpetrators on a no-fly list.

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)



- The **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** is the **aviation security regulator** in India, tasked with **safeguarding civil aviation operations against unlawful interference**. It functions under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- Established as a separate department in January 1987, BCAS was originally a wing under the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- However, after the **hijacking of an Indian Airlines aircraft in 1986**, BCAS was separated to intensify aviation security measures in India.

Historical Background and Legal Framework:

- The security framework is based on the **Aircraft Act, 1934** and the **Aircraft Rules, 1937**. Post-1986, in response to the increasing threat of hijackings and terrorist activities, the BCAS emerged as a dedicated body.
- BCAS draws its authority from guidelines set by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, of which India is a signatory.

Key Functions and Mandate:

1. **Framing Aviation Security Regulations:** BCAS is responsible for developing and implementing security standards and procedures for airport security, aircraft security, and passenger safety.
2. **Oversight and Compliance:** It ensures compliance with **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** standards by conducting regular audits and inspections at airports.
3. **Coordination:** BCAS coordinates between various aviation stakeholders including the **CISF (Central Industrial Security Force)**, **DGCA**, and airport operators to enhance the effectiveness of security measures.
4. **Security Training:** BCAS provides specialized training programs for aviation security personnel to maintain high-security standards.
5. **Technology Upgradation:** The bureau also focuses on incorporating modern technology, such as **biometric screening**, **baggage scanners**, and **CCTV surveillance**, to tighten security at airports.

Recent Updates:

- **Implementation of Body Scanners:** In 2020, BCAS mandated the installation of **body scanners** at all Indian airports, replacing manual frisking.
- **COVID-19 Response:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, BCAS introduced special guidelines to ensure secure yet contactless passenger travel, involving the use of **Aarogya Setu App** and social distancing protocols at airports.





- **Drone Policy:** BCAS has also been actively involved in drafting the drone policy for civil aviation to prevent unauthorized drone activities near airports and sensitive zones.
- **International Collaborations:** BCAS frequently collaborates with foreign aviation security agencies and participates in global aviation security exercises for capacity building and knowledge sharing.

PATRIOTIC IAS



Let Union govt. carry out caste survey in Karnataka: Lingayats

GS Paper I: Art and Culture

The Hindu Bureau

BELAGAVI

Some **Veerashaiva Lingayat** leaders have urged the Karnataka government to reconsider the **H. Kantharaj report on Socio-Economic and Educational Survey** saying that the commission did not employ scientific tools in carrying out the caste census. They demanded that the Union government do it instead, along with the all-India census in the coming years.

The former MLC Mahantesh Kavatagimath and other leaders told reporters that they have **several reasons to doubt the authenticity of the Kantharaj report**. “The **survey report, also called the caste census 2015, was commissioned by the State government and was conducted by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission** when Mr. Kantharaj was its chairman. That is because the surveyors did not go door to door, as is the standard practice employed by census enumerators, Mr. Kavatagimath said.

“They seem to have collected opinions of groups or collated data from sample surveys. This does not reflect the true state of af-

fairs. The tools employed are not scientific and can in no way help collect real data,” he added.

He clarified that he and other leaders are not opposed to a caste census.

Mr. Kavatagimath urged the State government to reconsider it and drop plans of publishing or implementing it. He demanded instead that the Union government take up a caste census along with the general census.

“In a meeting in September 2024, the Union government approved plans for a national census. A sum of ₹75,000 crore has been set aside for this. We urge the Union government to add caste as a factor to be enumerated in the census,” Mr. Kavatagimath. “The Kantharaj report was prepared in 2016 itself. However, then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah did not favour its implementation as he felt it contained some ambiguities. Successive Chief Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy, B.S. Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai also did not implement it. Mr. Siddaramaiah should not venture into implementing it, without throwing its contents open to the public,” he said.

PATRIOTIC IAS



Let Union govt. Carry out caste survey in Karnataka: Lingayats (21 October)

- Some Veerashaiva Lingayat leaders are urging the Karnataka government to reconsider the H. Kantharaj report on the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey.
- They claim the commission did not use scientific tools for the caste census.
- Leaders demand that the Union government conduct the caste census alongside the all-India census in the coming years.
- Former MLC Mahantesh Kavatagimath and others expressed doubts about the authenticity of the Kantharaj report.
- The survey, also known as the caste census 2015, was commissioned by the State government and conducted by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission under Mr. Kantharaj.
- Kavatagimath stated that surveyors did not go door to door, which is standard practice for census enumerators.
- He suggested that data was collected from groups or sample surveys, which do not accurately reflect the true situation.
- The tools used for the survey are deemed non-scientific and inadequate for collecting real data.
- Kavatagimath clarified that they are not opposed to a caste census.
- He urged the State government to reconsider and not publish or implement the report.
- He requested the Union government to conduct a caste census alongside the general census.
- In September 2024, the Union government approved plans for a national census with a budget of ₹75,000 crore.
- Kavatagimath emphasized the need to include caste as a factor in the census.
- The Kantharaj report was prepared in 2016 but was not implemented by then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah due to ambiguities.
- Successive Chief Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy, B.S. Yediyurappa, and Basavaraj Bommai also chose not to implement it.
- Kavatagimath cautioned Siddaramaiah against implementing the report without public disclosure of its contents.



Veerashaiva-Lingayat

- The **Veerashaiva-Lingayat** community has its roots in the socio-religious movements in Southern India, particularly in the present-day states of **Karnataka** and **Maharashtra**.
- The community consists of two closely related, but distinct groups—**Veerashaivas** and **Lingayats**—who follow the teachings of **Basava** (also known as **Basaveshwara**), a 12th-century philosopher and reformer, who played a crucial role in shaping Lingayatism.

Historical Background:

- The **Veerashaiva** tradition dates back to at least the **8th century**, where they followed the **Shaivism** sect of Hinduism, worshipping **Lord Shiva** as the supreme deity.
- **Lingayatism**, however, emerged as a separate movement under the influence of **Basava** in the 12th century, promoting a distinct philosophy centered around the **Linga** as the representation of the divine, and focusing on a monotheistic worship of **Shiva**.
- **Basava** rejected the caste system and rituals such as Brahmanical priesthood and **Vedic sacrifices**, advocating for equality, women's rights, and a more inclusive society.

Key Philosophical Differences:

1. **Veerashaivas** traditionally follow Shaiva Agamas and Vedas, identifying as part of the broader Hindu tradition.
2. **Lingayats**, under Basava's influence, rejected Vedic authority and emphasized the worship of the **Ishtalinga** (a personal form of God, carried on one's body). They also reject caste distinctions and post-death rituals like cremation, preferring burial.

Religious Practices:

- **Lingayats** emphasize individual devotion to the **Ishtalinga**, a small stone symbolizing Shiva, worn around the neck.
- **Veerashaivas** also worship Shiva but tend to incorporate more traditional Hindu practices.
- Lingayats traditionally consider themselves a separate religion and seek legal recognition as such.

Important Data and Facts:

1. **Population:** As of 2020, the Lingayat community is estimated to comprise around **15-17%** of the population in Karnataka.
2. **Political Influence:** The Lingayat community plays a significant role in Karnataka's political landscape, with many political leaders from the community, particularly in the



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress.

3. **Demand for Separate Religion Status:** In **2018**, the Karnataka State Government led by **Siddaramaiah** recommended granting Lingayats the status of a **separate religion**. However, this recommendation is still under consideration by the central government.
4. **Recent Developments:** As of **2023**, the demand for a separate religion status for Lingayats remains a politically sensitive issue, influencing electoral politics in Karnataka.

The main difference between **Veerashaivas** and **Lingayats** lies in their religious practices, beliefs, and philosophical orientation, even though both are linked to the worship of **Lord Shiva**.

Veerashaivas:

1. **Origin and Philosophy:** Veerashaivas are an ancient sect of **Shaivism** that originated around the 8th century. They follow traditional **Shaiva Agamas** and the **Vedic** scriptures.
2. **Religious Practices:** Veerashaivas adhere to the **Vedas** and practice rituals and customs similar to mainstream Hinduism, including the concept of caste hierarchy and Brahmanical priesthood.
3. **Beliefs:** They see **Shiva** as the supreme being and focus on **Panchacharas** (five codes of conduct) and **Ashtavarana** (eight shields of protection) as part of their religious practices.
4. **Relationship to Hinduism:** Veerashaivas consider themselves a part of the broader **Shaiva** (Hindu) tradition and accept **Vedic** rituals.

Lingayats:

1. **Origin and Philosophy:** Lingayats are followers of the 12th-century philosopher **Basava**. They arose as a reformist movement challenging **Vedic** authority, Brahmanical dominance, and the caste system.
2. **Religious Practices:** Lingayats reject the Vedas, caste hierarchy, idol worship, and traditional Brahmanical rituals. They emphasize devotion to **Ishtalinga**, a personal form of **Shiva** worn on the body.
3. **Beliefs:** Lingayats believe in **monotheism**, focusing on a personal relationship with **Shiva** through the **Ishtalinga** and emphasize equality among all human beings.
4. **Relationship to Hinduism:** Lingayats, unlike Veerashaivas, reject Vedic authority and have often sought recognition as a separate religion from mainstream Hinduism.

Key Difference:

- **Veerashaivas** follow **Shaivism** within the broader Hindu tradition, while **Lingayats** emerged as a distinct sect emphasizing social reform, rejection of Vedic practices, and opposition to the caste system.



PM opens 3 airports in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh under UDAN scheme

GS Paper II: Government Scheme

RAIPUR/BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday virtually inaugurated three airports across the country – in Chhattisgarh's Surguja, Madhya Pradesh's Rewa, and Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur. The airports have been developed under the regional connectivity scheme - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) – of the Central government. Flight operations are expected to begin shortly.

Flights from the airport in Chhattisgarh will connect



Narendra Modi

Surguja to cities such as Raipur, Jagdalpur, Jabalpur, Kolkata, and Delhi.

Madhya Pradesh CM, Deputy CM Rajendra Shukla, who hails from Rewa, and

Deputy CM Jagdish Devda attended the inauguration ceremony from Rewa.

The airport in Madhya Pradesh, expected to improve connectivity in the State's Vindhya region, will operate with 19-seater aircraft with two flights initially. One flight from Singrauli will connect Rewa to Bhopal via Khajuraho, while another will fly to Jabalpur.

The authorities are planning to conduct an auction for 72-seater flight operations in November, the State Government said, adding that a flight will soon be operated from Bhopal.

The sixth airport licensed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in Madhya Pradesh, it was built by the Airports Authority of India in about one and a half years at a total cost of ₹450 crore.

The airport in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur has been built next to the Airforce Station as the civil airport does not have its own runway. The local administration is reportedly yet to receive a flight operation schedule in Saharanpur and no aviation company has yet offered to begin services at the airport.

PM opens 3 airports in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh under UDAN scheme (21 October)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated three airports on Sunday in Chhattisgarh's Surguja, Madhya Pradesh's Rewa, and Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur.
- The airports were developed under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) of the Central government.
- Flight operations are expected to begin shortly at all three airports.
- Flights from the Chhattisgarh airport will connect Surguja to Raipur, Jagdalpur, Jabalpur, Kolkata, and Delhi.
- Madhya Pradesh CM and Deputy CMs attended the inauguration ceremony from Rewa.
- The Madhya Pradesh airport aims to improve connectivity in the Vindhya region, operating with 19-seater aircraft and initially offering two flights.



- One flight will connect Rewa to Bhopal via Khajuraho, while another will fly to Jabalpur.
- Authorities plan to auction 72-seater flight operations in November, with a flight to be operated from Bhopal soon.
- This is the sixth airport licensed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in Madhya Pradesh, built by the Airports Authority of India at a cost of ₹450 crore over one and a half years.
- The Uttar Pradesh airport in Saharanpur is located next to the Airforce Station and lacks its own runway.
- The local administration has not yet received a flight operation schedule for Saharanpur, and no aviation company has offered to begin services at the airport.

UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme

- The **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)** scheme is a flagship program launched by the Government of India under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** to make air travel affordable and accessible to the common people in India.
- It focuses on enhancing regional connectivity by developing underserved and unserved airports and providing low-cost air travel. This scheme is a vital part of the **National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016**.

Key Objectives of the UDAN Scheme:

1. **Affordable Air Travel:** The core objective is to make air travel affordable for the common people, with the scheme capping airfare for a one-hour flight at **₹2,500**.
2. **Regional Connectivity:** UDAN aims to connect **tier-2 and tier-3 cities** to metro cities, improving access to air services across India.
3. **Development of Airports:** The scheme focuses on reviving unserved and underserved airports and airstrips. **RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme)** airports are crucial in enhancing connectivity in smaller towns.
4. **Economic Growth:** By fostering aviation, UDAN helps stimulate economic activity in remote regions and provides employment opportunities.

Historical Background and Milestones:

- **Launch:** UDAN was launched in **October 2016** as part of the National Civil Aviation Policy.



- **Implementation:** The scheme operates through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and involves subsidies from the central government to lower airfares for underserved routes.
- **Phases:** The scheme has seen multiple phases—**UDAN 1.0** (2017), **UDAN 2.0** (2018), **UDAN 3.0** (2019), and **UDAN 4.0** (2020)—with each phase focusing on expanding the coverage and number of operational airports.

Important Data and Facts:

1. **Airports Operationalized:** As of **2023**, **74 airports** (including heliports and water aerodromes) have been operationalized under UDAN. These include small airports like **Kishangarh, Belgaum, Jalgaon, Darbhanga, and Hubli**.
2. **Airlines and Routes:** Around **1000+ routes** have been awarded under the UDAN scheme, of which about **450 routes** have been operational.
3. **Financial Support:** The Government provides a **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** to make the flights viable. Airlines are reimbursed for offering lower prices.
4. **Environmental Impact:** The development of regional airports has contributed to lesser emissions compared to longer road journeys, aligning with the Government's **Green Aviation** initiatives.

Recent Developments:

- **UDAN 5.0:** Launched in **2023**, the latest phase focuses on enhancing the coverage of routes to remote areas and northeastern states. It includes the introduction of **seaplanes** and **heliports** for better connectivity in difficult terrains.
- **Heliports and Water Aerodromes:** The government has expanded the scheme to include **water aerodromes** and **heliports**, enhancing connectivity to island and mountainous regions.
- **Performance:** According to the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**, the UDAN scheme has benefited **over 1 crore passengers** as of 2023.

Economic and Social Impact:

1. **Employment Generation:** The construction of airports and associated infrastructure has created **direct and indirect employment** opportunities, particularly in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
2. **Boost to Tourism:** UDAN has significantly boosted **domestic tourism** in previously inaccessible regions, such as the **Northeast, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep**.
3. **Economic Inclusion:** The scheme ensures that even the remotest parts of the country are included in the national aviation network, fostering regional development.





Challenges:

1. **Infrastructure Constraints:** Many smaller airports require significant investments in **infrastructure and technology**.
2. **Sustainability:** Despite the VGF, some routes face challenges related to the sustainability of operations due to **low passenger demand**.
3. **Environmental Concerns:** While shorter flights reduce emissions compared to long-distance road travel, aviation still contributes to **carbon emissions**, which the government is addressing through **sustainable aviation fuel** research.

PATRIOTIC IAS



First international marathon in Kashmir attracts 1,700 runners

PCS

Peerzada Asimq
SRINAGAR

Kashmir earned another distinction on Sunday when more than 1,700 runners from across the country and 12 foreign nations participated in the first-ever international marathon in Srinagar.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah joined the athletes and completed a 21-km half marathon with them. The event was flagged off at 6.20 a.m. from Srinagar's Polo View area.

Fifty-nine international athletes had registered for the marathon. In all, at least 469 had registered for the 42-km full marathon and 666 for the half marathon. Officials said runners from nations such as Kenya, Denmark, Norway and the UAE participated in the event.

The first prize for the full marathon was ₹25 lakh, followed by ₹20 lakh (2nd), ₹18 lakh (3rd), ₹15 lakh (4th), and ₹12 lakh (5th prize) for both men and women. For the half marathon, the cash rewards ranged from ₹3 lakh to ₹15 lakh. The athletes ran along the scenic Dal Lake with the Zabarwan mountain on the backdrop, crossing multiple Mughal gardens on the way before reaching the Dargah Hazratbal shrine. Mr. Abdullah, who completed the half marathon, said he had never run more than 13 km in his life. "Today I just kept going, propelled by the enthusiasm of other amateur

runners like myself. No proper training, no running plan, no nutrition. Picked up a banana and a couple of *khajoor* along the way. The best part was running past my home with family and others to cheer me on," he said.

He said participants of this groundbreaking event included long-distance runners from India, gold medallists from Asia, and top runners from Europe and Africa. "Their presence truly exemplifies our preparedness to host international competitions and highlight our distinctive culture," he said.

'Promoting heritage'

Mr. Abdullah said the athletes would play a crucial role in promoting J&K's rich heritage, exquisite handicrafts, and renowned cuisine around the world. "This event not only showcases our sporting prowess but also serves as a platform to celebrate the beauty and diversity of Kashmir," he said. J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha felicitated the winners. Terming the occasion another historic moment for the Union Territory, the L-G expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Prime Minister's decisive leadership and restoration of peace and normalcy in J&K has ensured people can enjoy international cricket matches, Formula-4 races, and feel proud by hosting global events like the G20 summit and International Yoga Day," Mr. Sinha said.

PATRIOTIC IAS



First international marathon in Kashmir attracts 1,700 runners (21 October)

- Kashmir hosted its first-ever international marathon on Sunday, with over 1,700 runners from India and 12 foreign nations participating.
- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah completed a 21-km half marathon alongside the athletes.
- The marathon was flagged off at 6:20 a.m. from Srinagar's Polo View area.
- Fifty-nine international athletes registered for the event, with a total of at least 469 participants for the 42-km full marathon and 666 for the half marathon.
- Runners from countries such as Kenya, Denmark, Norway, and the UAE took part in the marathon.
- The first prize for the full marathon was ₹25 lakh, with subsequent prizes of ₹20 lakh (2nd), ₹18 lakh (3rd), ₹15 lakh (4th), and ₹12 lakh (5th) for both men and women.
- Cash rewards for the half marathon ranged from ₹3 lakh to ₹15 lakh.
- Participants ran along the scenic Dal Lake, passing multiple Mughal gardens before reaching the Dargah Hazratbal shrine.
- Abdullah noted he had never run more than 13 km before, emphasizing the enthusiasm of fellow runners during the event.
- He mentioned picking up a banana and khajoor during the run and enjoyed the support from family and friends.
- The event attracted long-distance runners from India and gold medallists from Asia, Europe, and Africa, showcasing Kashmir's ability to host international competitions.
- Abdullah highlighted the marathon's role in promoting J&K's rich heritage, handicrafts, and cuisine globally.
- J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the winners and called the event a historic moment for the Union Territory.
- Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership in restoring peace and normalcy in J&K, enabling the hosting of international events.



Tribal woman in A.P. injured as gaur attacks her in forest

GS Paper III: Environment

GS Paper I: History

MAREDUMILLI

A gaur attacked a tribal woman engaged in farm work in the protected forest near Maredumilli in Alluri Sitarama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh, forest officials said on Sunday. The gaur, classified as a vulnerable species, is endemic to the Papikonda National Park.

The woman, Matla Chandrakantamma, belonged to the Konda Reddi

tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group in the State. She is being treated at the local government hospital for minor injuries and is said to be "out of danger".

"An Indian gaur is reported to have attacked the victim three days ago. It occurred inside the protected forest area. We are investigating the attack," T. Anusha, Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Rampachodavaram, told *The Hindu*.

Tribal woman in A.P. injured as gaur attacks her in forest (21 October)

- A gaur attacked a tribal woman engaged in farm work in the protected forest near Maredumilli in Alluri Sitarama Raju district, Andhra Pradesh.
- The gaur is classified as a vulnerable species and is endemic to Papikonda National Park.
- The victim, Matla Chandrakantamma, belongs to the Konda Reddi tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group in the state.
- She is being treated at a local government hospital for minor injuries and is reported to be "out of danger."
- The attack occurred three days ago inside the protected forest area.



- T. Anusha, Sub-Divisional Forest Officer in Rampachodavaram, confirmed that an investigation into the attack is underway.

Indian Gaur

- The **Indian Gaur** (scientific name: *Bos gaurus*), also known as the **Indian bison**, is the largest wild cattle species in the world.
- It is native to South and Southeast Asia, including countries like India, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Physical Characteristics:

- **Size and Appearance:** The Indian Gaur stands at a shoulder height of up to 1.7 to 2.2 meters and weighs between 650 to 1,000 kg.
- **Color:** The coat of the Gaur is dark brown or black, with white or yellowish stockings on the legs, and a prominent dewlap.
- **Horns:** Both males and females have horns, which are curved and can grow up to 90 cm.



Habitat and Distribution:

- The Indian Gaur is found primarily in **forested regions**, including **deciduous and evergreen forests**.
- Its distribution spans across the **Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats**, parts of **Central India**, and **Northeastern India**. Significant populations are found in states like **Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh**, and parts of the **Himalayan foothills**.
- It is also prevalent in various protected areas like **Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park**, and **Kaziranga National Park**.

Diet:

- The Gaur is a herbivore, feeding on grasses, leaves, and fruit.
- Its diet also includes bamboo shoots and shrubs.

Conservation Status:



- The Gaur is listed as **Vulnerable** under the **IUCN Red List**, mainly due to habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict. Deforestation and encroachment on forest land have led to the shrinkage of its habitat.
- In India, it is protected under **Schedule I** of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, which provides it the highest level of protection. Efforts are being made to conserve the Gaur by protecting its habitat through various national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Conservation Efforts:

- **Project Elephant, Project Tiger**, and other national initiatives indirectly support the conservation of the Gaur by preserving its natural habitats.
- **Translocation Programs:** In 2019, a significant translocation effort took place to restore Gaur populations in **Bandhavgarh National Park**, Madhya Pradesh.

Recent Updates:

- The population of Gaur in some parts of India is stable due to increased conservation measures.
- In **Kerala's Periyar Tiger Reserve**, for instance, the Gaur population has shown a steady rise.
- **Karnataka** and **Tamil Nadu** have also been successful in maintaining Gaur populations in their forest reserves.
- The government of India, in collaboration with **state wildlife departments**, continues to focus on strengthening anti-poaching laws and promoting eco-friendly tourism to protect habitats.

Alluri Sitarama Raju

Alluri Sitarama Raju was a prominent Indian revolutionary and freedom fighter who played a key role in the **Rampa Rebellion (1922–1924)** against British colonial rule.

Early Life:

- **Birth:** Alluri Sitarama Raju was born on **4 July 1897** in Pandrangi, a village in the **Visakhapatnam district** of Andhra Pradesh.

Rampa Rebellion (1922-1924):



- **Background:** The tribal communities of the **Eastern Ghats** (primarily Koyas, Kondareddis, and others) were subjected to exploitative policies under British rule.
- The **Madras Forest Act of 1882** restricted the tribal population's access to their traditional forest lands, severely affecting their livelihood. Additionally, the British-imposed taxes and bonded labor added to their hardships.
- **Outbreak:** Alluri Sitarama Raju led the **Rampa Rebellion** in response to these oppressive policies.
- He inspired the local tribal population to rise against the British, calling for a return to their lands and rights.
- **Guerrilla Warfare:** Alluri's rebellion involved **guerrilla warfare tactics** against British forces.
- He and his followers, using traditional weapons such as bows, arrows, and the occasional rifle, attacked British outposts and police stations.
- His campaign was mainly carried out in the **Godavari Agency** region.
- **Notable Incidents:** One of the most famous acts of rebellion was the attack on **Chintapalle Police Station** in August 1922, where the rebels seized arms and ammunition.

Capture and Execution:

- The rebellion continued for two years until Alluri was captured by British forces in May 1924. He was **executed on 7 May 1924** by the British near the village of Koyyuru.

Legacy:

- Alluri Sitarama Raju is considered a symbol of **tribal resistance** and a key figure in India's freedom struggle, particularly in South India.
- **Government Initiatives:** In **2022**, to commemorate the **125th birth anniversary** of Alluri Sitarama Raju, the Government of India launched various programs and events.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Alluri in **Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh**, in a significant tribute to his contributions.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** are a sub-category of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India, recognized by the Government of India as having a greater vulnerability in terms of demographic, social, and economic indicators.
- The Government of India identified PVTGs based on their pre-agricultural level of



technology, stagnant or declining population, extremely low literacy, and a subsistence-level economy.

Historical Background:

- The concept of PVTGs was first introduced by the **Debhar Commission (1960-61)**, which recommended identifying the most backward tribes based on specific indicators of vulnerability.
- In **1975**, the Government of India initiated the identification of PVTGs and classified **52 groups** as PVTGs.
- This was expanded to **75 PVTGs** across 18 states and 1 union territory in 1993 based on recommendations from the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Key Characteristics of PVTGs:

1. **Pre-Agricultural Technology:** These tribes are largely dependent on primitive means of subsistence, such as hunting, gathering, and fishing.
2. **Low Literacy Levels:** PVTGs have much lower literacy rates compared to the general Scheduled Tribes.
3. **Declining Population:** Many of these groups have stagnant or declining populations.
4. **Geographical Isolation:** PVTGs are often found in remote, difficult-to-reach areas with little access to infrastructure or government services.

Government Schemes and Support:

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched several initiatives aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of PVTGs. Key programs include:

- **Development of PVTGs:** This scheme focuses on **housing, education, health, and income generation** for PVTGs. Under this, each state prepares a plan for the development of PVTGs, which is then implemented with financial support from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY):** This scheme focuses on tribal welfare, with a specific emphasis on improving the human development indices (HDI) of PVTGs. The Ministry aims to create a “gap-free” society where the disparities in development between tribals and non-tribals are addressed.
- **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST):** The NCST was set up under **Article 338A** of the Indian Constitution.
- It oversees the planning and implementation of social development programs for tribes, including PVTGs.



Recent Updates:

- **Budget 2023-24:** The Union Budget for 2023-24 saw an increase in the allocation for the **Development of PVTGs Scheme**. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs received a substantial budget increase to ensure the effective implementation of programs targeted at these groups.
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN):** Goal: To improve the socio-economic conditions of PVTGs
- **Interventions:** 11 interventions across existing schemes, including building homes, laying roads, and bringing piped water
- **Budget:** A total outlay of over ₹24,104 crore over three years, with the central government funding ₹15,336 crore and state governments funding ₹8,768 crore
- **Launched:** Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 15, 2023
- **Targeted villages:** 22,544 villages with a population of about 28 lakh PVTGs
- **PM PVTG Development Mission:** Recently, in **2023**, the Prime Minister launched the **PVTG Development Mission**, focusing on a targeted intervention for 75 PVTGs across the country. This initiative aims to provide better healthcare, education, and livelihood options for these communities.

Examples of PVTGs:

1. **Great Andamanese** (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)
2. **Konda Reddi** (Andhra Pradesh)
3. **Cholanaikkans** (Kerala)
4. **Birhor** (Jharkhand)
5. **Sahariya** (Madhya Pradesh)

Each of these groups faces distinct challenges due to their geographical isolation and lack of access to modern education and healthcare.

Important Data:

- **Literacy Rate among PVTGs:** As per the 2011 Census, the literacy rate among PVTGs is far below the national average. For instance, the literacy rate for the **Birhor tribe** of Jharkhand is only **32%**.
- **PVTG Population:** According to estimates, around **28.5 lakh people** belong to PVTGs across the country, making them one of the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of the population.



Odisha braces for Cyclone Dana's likely arrival on Thursday

GS Paper I: Geography

The Hindu Bureau

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has started preparing for a possible impact from **Cyclone Dana** in the coastal areas on Thursday, with the India Meteorological Department forecasting wind speeds to reach **100 to 120 kmph**.

The IMD said an **upper air cyclonic circulation lay over the north Andaman Sea on Sunday**. "Under its influence, a low pressure area is very likely to form over the east-central Bay of Bengal and the adjoining north Andaman Sea during the next 24 hours. It is very likely to move west north-westwards and intensify into a depression by October 22 morning and into a cyclonic storm by October 23 over the east-central Bay of Bengal," it said. "Thereafter, it is very likely to move northwestwards and reach the **northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts by October 24 morning**."

'Fully prepared'

The Odisha government has decided to deploy **disaster response forces** in the coastal districts.

The **IMD has issued a yellow warning for Wednesday in the coastal districts** such as Balasore,

Collectors have been asked to identify people in vulnerable pockets and shift them to shelters

Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Cuttack. **A red warning** has been sounded for Thursday morning for Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, and Ganjam, where rainfall could range between 7 cm and 20 cm.

Fishermen have begun moving their vessels to safer locations and have halted deep-sea fishing.

"We are fully prepared to face the cyclone. People should not unnecessarily panic over cyclone prediction," said Suresh Pujari, State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister. The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department warned unscrupulous traders against hoarding. The District Collectors have been asked to identify people living in vulnerable pockets and shift them to shelters. Women due to be delivered of babies this week have been asked to move to hospitals.

Qatar has given the name Dana, meaning a beautiful, precious pearl in Arabic.

CLAS



Odisha braces for Cyclone Dana's likely arrival on Thursday (21 October)

- Odisha is preparing for the possible impact of Cyclone Dana in coastal areas, with wind speeds expected to reach 100 to 120 kmph.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported an upper air cyclonic circulation over the north Andaman Sea on Sunday.
- A low-pressure area is likely to form over the east-central Bay of Bengal and the adjoining north Andaman Sea within the next 24 hours.
- The system is expected to move west-northwest and intensify into a depression by October 22 morning, then into a cyclonic storm by October 23.
- The cyclone is likely to move northwest and reach the northwest Bay of Bengal off the Odisha-West Bengal coasts by October 24 morning.
- The Odisha government plans to deploy disaster response forces in coastal districts.
- The IMD has issued a yellow warning for Wednesday in several coastal districts: Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Cuttack.
- A red warning has been issued for Thursday morning for Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, and Ganjam, with expected rainfall between 7 cm and 20 cm.
- Fishermen have started moving their vessels to safer locations and have halted deep-sea fishing.
- Suresh Pujari, State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister, stated that the government is fully prepared and advised people not to panic.
- The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department warned against hoarding by unscrupulous traders.
- District Collectors have been instructed to identify vulnerable populations and shift them to shelters.
- Pregnant women due to deliver this week have been advised to move to hospitals.
- Qatar has named the cyclone Dana, meaning "a beautiful, precious pearl" in Arabic.



Quad group of countries take part in back-to-back naval war games

GS Paper III: Internal Security

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

The Quad group of countries – India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. – have held back-to-back naval war games, deepening interoperability and honing, in particular, their anti-submarine warfare skills.

“Exercise Malabar” by the four countries concluded on Friday off the coast of Visakhapatnam. Earlier, they were part of the multi-lateral “Exercise Kakadu” hosted by the Royal Australian Navy from September 9 to 20.

The Indian Navy termed “Exercise Malabar”, held from October 8 to 18, as the “most comprehensive” of all editions so far. The harbour phase was held in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase in the Bay of Bengal.

“Malabar 2024 Sea Phase serves as a testa-



Strategic waves: The harbour phase of ‘Exercise Malabar’ was held in Visakhapatnam, and the sea phase in the Bay of Bengal. ANI

ment to the commitment of participating nations towards enhancing understanding, collaboration and engagement in the maritime domain as the world grapples with increasingly complex maritime security challenges,” the Indian Navy said in a statement on Saturday.

“Exercise Malabar”, which began in 1992 as a bilateral naval drill between India and the U.S., has

evolved into a key multilateral event aimed at “enhancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding, and addressing shared maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region,” it noted.

Anti-submarine warfare and undersea domain awareness have emerged as major focus areas among the Quad partners as all of them have con-

cerns over the rapid expansion of the Chinese Navy and its increasing forays into the Indian Ocean Region.

Units participated in complex and advanced exercises in the domains of surface, sub-surface, and air warfare. Major exercises included surface weapon firings, anti-air shoots, air defence exercises, anti-submarine warfare exercises, extensive operations of ship-borne helicopters, the Navy said.

Exercise Kakadu

Exercise Kakadu brought together nearly 3,000 personnel from 30 nations, ships from 10 countries, and aircraft from five nations, all converging in the north Australian exercise area, underscoring Canberra’s commitment to “regional maritime security and international partnerships”.

Quad group of countries take part in back-to-back naval war games (21 October)





- The Quad group (India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S.) conducted back-to-back naval war games to enhance interoperability and antisubmarine warfare skills.
- "Exercise Malabar" concluded on Friday off the coast of Visakhapatnam, held from October 8 to 18.
- Prior to Malabar, the Quad nations participated in "Exercise Kakadu," hosted by the Royal Australian Navy from September 9 to 20.
- The Indian Navy described "Exercise Malabar" as the "most comprehensive" edition to date, with a harbour phase in Visakhapatnam and a sea phase in the Bay of Bengal.
- The Indian Navy stated that the sea phase highlighted the commitment of participating nations to enhance maritime understanding, collaboration, and engagement amid complex security challenges.
- "Exercise Malabar" began in 1992 as a bilateral naval drill between India and the U.S. and has evolved into a multilateral event focused on interoperability and addressing shared maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific regions.
- Anti-submarine warfare and undersea domain awareness are major focus areas for the Quad partners, driven by concerns over the Chinese Navy's expansion and activities in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Participants engaged in advanced exercises covering surface, sub-surface, and air warfare, including surface weapon firings, anti-air shoots, air defense drills, antisubmarine warfare exercises, and operations of ship-borne helicopters.
- "Exercise Kakadu" involved nearly 3,000 personnel from 30 nations, ships from 10 countries, and aircraft from five nations, emphasizing Australia's commitment to regional maritime security and international partnerships.

Exercise Kakadu

- **Exercise Kakadu** is a biennial, multilateral naval exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)**.
- The exercise takes place in **Darwin, Northern Australia**, and its adjacent waters. It is one of the largest regional maritime engagements conducted by Australia and plays a crucial



role in enhancing defense diplomacy and strengthening regional partnerships.

Historical Background:

- **First Held in 1993**, Exercise Kakadu has grown in size and complexity. It began as a small-scale naval exercise involving only four nations, but it has now evolved into a significant event on the global maritime calendar.
- The exercise is named after **Kakadu National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Australia, symbolizing Australia's commitment to environmental and global partnerships.

Purpose and Objectives:

- **Interoperability:** Exercise Kakadu aims to enhance the interoperability among participating navies, which is essential for combined maritime security operations.
- **Capacity Building:** It provides a platform for capacity building through simulated maritime warfare training, surface combat exercises, and seamanship drills.
- **Strengthening Regional Ties:** The exercise emphasizes the importance of collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly in ensuring the security of sea lanes and promoting peace.

Key Participants:

- The 2024 iteration of **Exercise Kakadu**, held from **September 9 to 20**, included participation from **19 countries**, including the **United States, Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea**, and others.
- The Indian Navy has regularly participated in Exercise Kakadu, reflecting the growing maritime ties between India and Australia under the larger framework of the **Indo-Pacific partnership**.

Recent Updates (2024 Edition):

- The **Indian Navy** participated with its warships, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.
- This follows the broader context of India's increasing maritime engagements under the **QUAD alliance** (India, Japan, Australia, and the US).
- The exercise included **air, surface, and underwater drills**, alongside exercises focused on counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief (HADR).
- **RAN's HMAS Canberra** (an amphibious assault ship) was a key participant, along with advanced **frigates and destroyers** from various nations, showcasing the growing complexity of modern naval warfare.



Strategic Importance for India:

- Participation in **Exercise Kakadu** reflects India's strategy to increase engagement with the Indo-Pacific and strengthen maritime ties with Australia and other nations.
- India views the Indo-Pacific as a region of strategic importance and works towards ensuring open sea lanes, which are vital for the country's economic and energy security.

Karva Chauth significance

GS Paper I: Art and Culture especially those hailing from the northern parts of the country, Karva Chauth is a significant event in the devotional and festival calendar, said Prof. Kumool Abbi. Celebrated on Chaturthi tithi of Krishna Paksha in the Karthik month, its significance lies in the belief of married women that prayers and fasting ensures the longevity of their husbands. Elaborate rituals are part of the observance of Karva Chauth. Married women observe complete *nirjala* fast from sunrise to moonrise, after partaking of a predawn meal, called *sargi*. Women congregate and listen to Karva Chauth katha.

The festival culminates with the sighting of the moon and offering water to the moon *argya* using an earthen pot. The water is offered through a sieve as the moon rises and the fast is broken with water offered by the husband who is seen through the same sieve. The important kathas associated with the festival of Karva Chauth are those of Satyavan and Savitri, a woman who got her dead husband back to life from Yama, the God of death. Similarly, popular is the story of Karwa, who with her devotion, was able to get her husband back from the jaws of death.

The most narrated legend is that of Queen Veeravalli, who fainted during her first Karva Chauth. Moved by her plight, her loving brothers installed a mirror on the peepal tree, creating an illusion of the moon. Veeravalli broke her fast and at the same time, news of her husband's death reached them. As she ran out in agony, Goddess Parvati appeared before her and advised her to fast again and pray with devotion, which she did. Seeing her dedication, Yama agreed to restore her husband back to life.

Karva Chauth significance (21 October)

- Karva Chauth is a significant event observed by millions of married women, particularly in northern India.
- The festival is celebrated on the Chaturthi tithi of Krishna Paksha in the Karthik month.
- Its significance lies in the belief that prayers and fasting ensure the longevity of husbands.
- Married women observe a complete *nirjala* fast from sunrise to moonrise, following a predawn meal called *sargi*.





- Women gather to listen to Karva Chauth katha during the festival.
- The festival culminates with the sighting of the moon and the offering of water to the moon (argya) using an earthen pot.
- Water is offered through a sieve as the moon rises, and the fast is broken with water offered by the husband seen through the sieve.
- Important legends associated with Karva Chauth include Satyavan and Savitri, and the story of Karwa, who revived her husband from death through devotion.
- A popular legend is that of Queen Veeravalli, who fainted during her first Karva Chauth.
- Her brothers created an illusion of the moon using a mirror on a peepal tree, allowing her to break her fast.
- After learning of her husband's death, she ran out in agony, and Goddess Parvati advised her to fast again with devotion.
- Impressed by her dedication, Yama agreed to restore her husband to life.



What do the Atlantic Ocean hurricane forecasts foretell for India?

Countries along the rim of the Indian Ocean are vulnerable to both the chronic and acute stressors of climate change. Warming, rising seas, and the increasing incidence of extreme rainfall are chronic stressors; they happen in the background. Acute stressors ride on top of the chronic stressors and exacerbate their effects

Raghu Murtugudde
GDS Paper III: Climate Change

Meteorologists had previously forecast a historic hurricane season for 2024 based on the expectation that a strong La Niña would emerge this winter. But while the hurricanes Helene and Milton may seem consistent with this forecast, 2024 has evolved to be a year with a summer with no major hurricanes.

One important reason is that the strong La Niña has played truant thus far. In fact, weather agencies are currently downgrading their La Niña forecasts.

The 2023 hurricane season was history's fourth-most active despite the strong El Niño that year. Meteorologists expect a subdued hurricane season during an El Niño and an earnest one during a La Niña. Now, are they to assume that the record warming during 2023-2024 has flipped the hurricane season on us or that the link between hurricanes and El Niño/La Niña has flipped? They'll need to wait and watch.

Forecasting seasonal cyclone activity is a challenging task, but hurricane forecasts have overall become more accurate, especially in terms of narrowing the cone of uncertainty of the storms' landfall. Some major challenges remain vis-à-vis forecasting the intensities, however.

The more worrisome fact is that the forecasting community has acquired hardly any skill in terms of the aftermath of a hurricane, i.e., after it makes landfall. Post-landfall rain and winds wreak considerable damage to property and lead to the loss of lives.

The challenge of forecasting cyclones

A shortcoming in any forecast automatically raises the stakes for how well people and governments can plan for hurricanes and, in India's part of the world, cyclones. The climate models used to develop projections don't explicitly resolve cyclones. Any projections for the future are based on other resolved metrics that indirectly indicate cyclonic activity and its potential intensity.

Historical analyses of global cyclones suggest there hasn't been a detectable increase in the total number of cyclones. However, the number of strong cyclones has increased. Cyclones draw the energy they need from the upper ocean, and the upper oceans are warming in all cyclone-producing regions of the planet. This has led to many instances of rapid intensification: when the maximum cyclone wind speed increases by 55 km/hr or more within a 24-hour period. Rapid intensification has proven hard to predict.

The North Indian Ocean is also



Tropical Storm John along Mexico's Pacific coast and Hurricane Helene over the Gulf of Mexico on September 25, 2023. NASA

reported to be experiencing an increasing number of cyclones, especially in the Arabian Sea. The fact that the last few years have been unusually quiet only underscores the challenge of predicting seasonal cyclone numbers, cyclones as individual events, how they react to global warming, and of course their post-landfall effects.

Good, bad, and ugly

India has made impressive progress in forecasting cyclones together with a disaster management plan that has been equally effective at reducing the loss of lives. More good news for the North Indian Ocean is that the typical stretch of ocean where cyclones intensify is relatively small, over both the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, thus limiting the size and strength of the cyclones. Most cyclones over the Arabian Sea also tend to be steered northwestward, away from India.

The bad news is that the Indian subcontinent and other countries along the rim of the Indian Ocean are highly vulnerable not only to the chronic stressors of climate change but also to the acute stressors. The chronic stressors refer to the warming, rising sea levels, and the increasing incidence of rainfall extremes and dry spells, all of which happen in the background. The acute stressors ride on top of the chronic stressors and exacerbate their effects. These include heavy rainfall events, flash droughts, and cyclones. For example, inundation from a cyclone will get worse as sea levels rise. Or a heatwave that

The worrisome fact is that the forecasting community has acquired hardly any skill in terms of the aftermath of a hurricane. Post-landfall rain and winds wreak considerable damage to property and lead to the loss of lives

co-occurs with a drought will make water scarce, wilt crops, and disrupt power supply (because power plants need water, too).

A few days ago, parts of Tamil Nadu suffered heavy rain and flooding. This has become an annual event because warming in the Indian Ocean, especially the Bay of Bengal, has been extending the southwest monsoon into the northeast monsoon and delivering both excess and extreme rainfall. Forecasting woes are also on full display: a low-pressure system predicted to cause flooding in Chennai veered north and completely missed the city.

Now, imagine a city has to evacuate thousands of people when a cyclone is predicted. Forecasts will continue to get better, but our expectations will also continue to rise.

From nation to region

Our region needs critical advances in the quality of the predictions of rapid intensification and landfall and of the cyclones post-landfall. Additional efforts are also required to project the cyclone

risk in the coming years at hyperlocal scales.

India remains an economically developing country, and any increments in its ability to manage its financial and human resources will be critical for the foreseeable future. This is essential context for why hyperlocal risk maps can make a big difference: it will be too expensive for us to cover all regions for cyclone risk. India has also started to bring mitigation and adaptation actions into its mainstream fiscal policies and budgetary processes by investing in renewable energy, electric vehicles, weather and climate forecasting, early warning systems, and disaster management.

The ugly news is that India's dreams of sustained economic development can never materialise unless the entire subcontinent is resilient.

India's (and the Indian subcontinent's) vulnerabilities to chronic and acute climate stressors aren't only India's socio-economic vulnerabilities: they are also India's national security issues. The country's strategies for building cooperation, trade, and stability in the region have to now include the constituent countries' climate risks as well.

This can start by establishing subcontinent-wide weather and climate networks and improving forecasts and projections for all parts of India's wider neighbourhood.

(Raghu Murtugudde is professor, IIT Bombay, and emeritus professor, University of Maryland. mahatma@umd.edu)

THE GIST

The 2023 hurricane season was history's fourth-most active despite a strong El Niño. Meteorologists now have to consider if the record warming of 2023-2024 flipped the season or if the link between hurricanes and El Niño/La Niña has flipped

There has been no increase in the total number of cyclones. However, the intensity and strength have increased. The warming of upper oceans has led to instances of rapid intensification, which has proven hard to predict

India's vulnerabilities to climate are also national security issues. The country's strategies for building cooperation, trade, and stability in the region have to now include the constituent countries' climate risks as well



What do the Atlantic Ocean hurricane forecasts foretell for India? (21 October)

Countries along the rim of the Indian Ocean are vulnerable to both the chronic and acute stressors of climate change. Warming, rising seas, and the increasing incidence of extreme rainfall are chronic stressors; they happen in the background. Acute stressors ride on top of the chronic stressors and exacerbate their effects

- Meteorologists initially forecast a historic hurricane season for 2024 due to expectations of a strong La Niña this winter.
- Hurricanes Helene and Milton align with this forecast, but 2024 has seen no major hurricanes thus far.
- The strong La Niña has not materialized as expected, leading weather agencies to downgrade their forecasts.
- The 2023 hurricane season was the fourth-most active in history despite a strong El Niño that year.
- Meteorologists anticipate a subdued hurricane season during an El Niño and a more active one during a La Niña.
- There are questions about whether record warming in 2023-2024 has altered the typical hurricane patterns or if the El Niño/La Niña relationship has changed.
- Forecasting seasonal cyclone activity is challenging, but hurricane forecasts have become more accurate, especially regarding landfall predictions.
- Challenges remain in forecasting the intensity of hurricanes.
- There is a lack of skill in predicting the aftermath of hurricanes after landfall, which can lead to significant property damage and loss of life.
- Shortcomings in forecasts impact how well people and governments can prepare for hurricanes and cyclones, especially in India.
- Climate models used for projections do not explicitly resolve cyclones; future projections rely on indirectly related metrics.
- Historical analyses show no detectable increase in the total number of cyclones, but the number of strong cyclones has increased.





- Cyclones derive energy from the upper ocean, which is warming in cyclone-producing regions, leading to rapid intensification events.
- Rapid intensification, where cyclone wind speeds increase by 55 km/h or more in 24 hours, has proven difficult to predict.
- The North Indian Ocean, particularly the Arabian Sea, is experiencing an increasing number of cyclones.
- Recent years of unusual quiet underscore the difficulty of predicting seasonal cyclone numbers, individual cyclone behavior, their reactions to global warming, and post-landfall effects.

Good, bad, and ugly

- India has made significant advancements in cyclone forecasting and disaster management, effectively reducing loss of life.
- The typical area where cyclones intensify in the North Indian Ocean is relatively small, limiting the size and strength of cyclones over the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
- Most cyclones in the Arabian Sea are steered northwestward, away from India.
- The Indian subcontinent and countries along the Indian Ocean rim are highly vulnerable to both chronic and acute stressors of climate change.
- Chronic stressors include warming, rising sea levels, and increasing rainfall extremes and dry spells.
- Acute stressors, such as heavy rainfall events, flash droughts, and cyclones, exacerbate the effects of chronic stressors.
- For example, cyclone inundation worsens with rising sea levels, and heatwaves during droughts lead to water scarcity and crop wilting.
- Tamil Nadu recently experienced heavy rain and flooding, becoming an annual occurrence due to warming in the Indian Ocean affecting monsoon patterns.
- A low-pressure system that was expected to cause flooding in Chennai veered north, illustrating forecasting challenges.
- Evacuating thousands during a predicted cyclone underscores the need for accurate forecasts, as expectations for improvements continue to rise.

From nation to region





- The region needs significant improvements in predicting rapid intensification, landfall, and post-landfall cyclone effects.
- Additional efforts are required to project cyclone risk at hyperlocal scales.
- As an economically developing country, India must enhance its ability to manage financial and human resources for effective cyclone management.
- Hyperlocal risk maps can significantly impact resource allocation, as covering all regions for cyclone risk would be too costly.
- India is integrating mitigation and adaptation measures into fiscal policies and budgetary processes, including investments in renewable energy, electric vehicles, weather and climate forecasting, early warning systems, and disaster management.
- India's aspirations for sustained economic development depend on the resilience of the entire subcontinent.
- Vulnerabilities to climate stressors are not just socio-economic issues but also national security concerns for India.
- Strategies for cooperation, trade, and stability in the region must incorporate climate risks faced by neighboring countries.
- Establishing subcontinent-wide weather and climate networks can enhance forecasts and projections for all parts of India's wider neighborhood.



India's choices in a world becoming bipolar again

GS Paper II: Global World Order

Last month, when India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, a possibility was born anew. Is our diplomatic engagement with China, strained since the horrific June 2020 Chinese incursion into Galwan Valley that claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers, about to improve? India faces this question at a time when its relations with the United States have been thriving, with the U.S. regarding India as a useful partner to counter Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific. So, must India again face a crucial choice in a bipolar world?

Two nations at odds but still connected

My answer would be a qualified yes. Yes, because two major powers, the U.S. and China, are again vying for global hegemony; but qualified, because this is not the bipolarity we knew during the Cold War. After all, the U.S. and China have multiple connections with each other that the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. did not: the U.S. is the largest investor in China's economy, China owns more U.S. Treasury Bonds than any other country, the U.S. sends more tourists to China than to any other Asian country, and there are more Chinese students in the U.S. than those of any other nationality. These are two powers at odds, but with multiple avenues of diplomatic dialogue and economic co-operation that simply did not exist during the Cold War.

That was an era when the U.S. and the Soviet Union marshalled their satellite states into their respective camps, sundered by the "iron curtain", and competed to enlarge their nuclear arsenals. The end of this bipolarity coincided with the advent of globalisation, heralding "the unipolar moment", which lasted a couple of decades and in which Washington enjoyed untrammelled global dominance in spheres political, military, economic, and technological.

But the U.S. did not remain uncontested in any of these spheres for long. Around the 2008-09 financial crisis, the spectre of Beijing began to rise. China's "peaceful rise" over the last quarter of a century, fuelled by American investment in its industries and a booming export trade in manufactured goods, has rehailed the global order.

China has supplanted the U.S. as the world's leading manufacturing and industrial giant, rivalling it in economic size and exceeding its surpluses, alongside challenging it in such new technologies as 5G. So, after decades of unchallenged American hegemony, another aspiring hegemon has emerged, with the resources to challenge American dominance across the board and deploying a new assertiveness under Xi Jinping. The U.S. is evolving a strategy to counteract China, much as the U.S. deployed "containment" during the Cold War to stem the spread of communism. Yet, just as today's Sino-American rivalry is starkly



Shashi Tharoor

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different from the Cold War's bipolarity, so must the contours of such a strategy – and India's reaction to it – differ from the past.

The U.S. and China are intertwined economies, unlike the total economic separation between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. during the Cold War. Moreover, China's economic might makes its claim to global hegemony greater than the Soviet Union's ever was. China's indispensability to global supply chains and, therefore, to the world economy is precisely why some observers choose not to use the label "cold war" to describe the Sino-American bipolarity, preferring instead such terms as "competitive coexistence", "cold coexistence", or "conflictual coexistence". It was in recognition of this that American rhetoric shifted from "decoupling" from China – suggesting severance of ties – "to de-risking", which implies curbing risks while avoiding a hostile estrangement.

What is more, as superpowers rising from the ashes of the Second World War, the U.S. and U.S.S.R. were nearly equal militarily. But China is nearing parity with, and now, in some areas, threatens to outstrip the U.S. According to the Pentagon, the Chinese navy has surpassed America's in the number of battle-force ships over the past decade, owing to China's status as the world's top ship-producing nation by tonnage. Senior U.S. Air Force officials have also acknowledged the potential of the People's Liberation Army Air Force to become the world's largest air force. Yet, military commentators believe that at least till the PLA's centenary in 2027, there will remain a significant gap between China and the U.S. Unlike in the Cold War, proxy wars between the two rivals do not litter our world today. Nor is there much appetite for any in either Beijing or Washington. Positing a Cold War-level bipolarity then, overstates both the status quo and the threat China poses to the global order.

Not about ideology

In tussling with the U.S.S.R., America also aimed to establish the primacy of capitalism over communism and liberal democracy over single-party authoritarianism. The Sino-American competition, however, is not about ideology, much though Americans like to portray it otherwise. An ideological zeal to convert the world to communism does not galvanise China, which is really only interested in securing global hegemony for itself. Since 2021, Washington has futilely experimented with the Summit for Democracy, hoping to conflate its desire for subduing its foremost political and economic rival with championing democracy. But even Europeans are not buying into U.S. President Joe Biden's "democracy versus autocracy" binary. America's instinct to package all its vested interests as a crusade for democratising the globe has proven unsuccessful. So, instead of playing this game, China is glibly choosing to deride it as "Western-style democracy," which, Beijing argues, serves not ordinary citizens but the forces

of capitalism.

What also makes the Sino-American rivalry distinctive is that Russia, the successor state to the U.S.S.R., is never far from the action. Russia can play a menacing role in today's brewing bipolarity; given its size, abundant natural resources, and immense stockpile of nuclear weapons, it outranks most middle powers. Many, therefore, argue that America's bipolarity is not with China but the axis of China and Russia. Professor Josef Joffe, for instance, defines our world as a "Two-and-a-Half Power World", where Russia "is held back from full parity with the US and China by its lack of 'usable power.'" Moscow, with an economy smaller than Italy's and a military budget that is only one-quarter of China's, is far from a third pole: but it is Beijing's junior partner, a fact manifest in China's support of Russia's Ukrainian misadventure, which demonstrates President Xi Jinping's resolve not to be intimidated by the West. Though China has no allies, only clients, its emerging nexus with Russia, North Korea and Iran could yet pose challenges from Taiwan to the South China Sea.

The new canvas of the Indo-Pacific

The greatest consequence of this geopolitical churn has been the creation of an entirely new canvas: the Indo-Pacific, a term encompassing three overlapping developments. These are China's goal of creating a blue water navy – a formidable naval force capable of operating and projecting power on the high seas – and becoming a transcontinental economic giant, India's emergence as a possible counterbalance to China, and the role that the U.S. will play in shaping the contours of the seemingly inevitable shift in power from the west to the east: from the Atlantic to the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The vaunted Quad, comprising the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia, is driven by the vision of a "free and open Indo-Pacific", and has, more recently, been augmented by the "Squad" of the U.S., Japan, Australia, and the Philippines. Added to this is AUKUS, the trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the U.S., through which the U.S. and the U.K. assist Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines. The Indo-Pacific arena symbolises the realignment of traditional alliances and geopolitical theatres.

With the Indo-Pacific emerging as a crucible of clashing Chinese and American ambitions, India's deepening ties with the U.S. and the Quad bristle with both challenges and opportunities. We cannot forget that only we, and not the other members of Quad, face a land threat from China. So, we must not be deterred from safeguarding our sovereignty by restoring the status quo ante along the China-Indian border, engaging with the Chinese economically where we must, bolstering our military deterrence, and promoting our geopolitical and economic interests on our own terms. India cannot allow itself to be reduced to a pawn in this renewed bipolar contest.

India cannot allow itself to be reduced to a pawn in the renewed contest between China and the U.S.





India's choices in a world becoming bipolar again (21 October)

- India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- The meeting raised questions about the potential improvement of strained diplomatic relations between India and China since the June 2020 Galwan Valley incursion.
- India is currently enjoying thriving relations with the United States, which views India as a key partner against Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific.
- The situation poses a crucial choice for India in a world that may be moving toward bipolarity.
- The current U.S.-China dynamic is different from Cold War bipolarity due to their multiple connections:
 - The U.S. is the largest investor in China's economy.
 - China holds more U.S. Treasury Bonds than any other country.
 - The U.S. sends more tourists to China than to any other Asian country.
 - There are more Chinese students in the U.S. than those from any other nationality.
- During the Cold War, the U.S. and the Soviet Union had rigid camps, divided by the "iron curtain," and focused on nuclear arms competition.
- The end of Cold War bipolarity coincided with globalization, leading to a "unipolar moment" dominated by U.S. influence for a couple of decades.
- The U.S. faced challenges to its dominance, particularly following the 2008-09 financial crisis, with China's rise becoming more prominent.
- China's "peaceful rise" has transformed the global order, supported by American investment and a strong export trade in manufactured goods.
- China has become the world's leading manufacturing and industrial power, rivaling the U.S. in economic size and exceeding its surpluses.
- The emergence of China as an aspiring hegemon challenges U.S. dominance, particularly under Xi Jinping's assertive leadership.





- The U.S. is developing a strategy to counteract China, similar to the "containment" strategy used during the Cold War against communism.
- Today's Sino-American rivalry differs significantly from the Cold War's bipolarity, necessitating a different strategic approach and response from India.
- The economies of the U.S. and China are intertwined, contrasting with the total economic separation between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. during the Cold War.
- China's economic strength supports its claim to global hegemony, exceeding that of the Soviet Union.
- Observers prefer terms like "competitive coexistence" or "conflictual coexistence" over "cold war" to describe the Sino-American dynamic.
- U.S. rhetoric has shifted from "decoupling" from China to "de-risking," indicating a focus on managing risks without complete estrangement.
- The U.S. and U.S.S.R. were nearly equal militarily after World War II, whereas China is approaching parity with the U.S. in some military areas.
- The Pentagon reports that the Chinese navy has surpassed the U.S. in battle-force ships, aided by China's position as the top ship-producing nation by tonnage.
- U.S. Air Force officials acknowledge the potential for the People's Liberation Army Air Force to become the world's largest air force.
- Military experts believe a significant gap between China and the U.S. will remain until at least 2027, the PLA's centenary.
- Unlike the Cold War, there are currently no proxy wars between the two rivals, and neither Beijing nor Washington shows interest in such conflicts.
- Framing the current Sino-American relationship as a Cold War-level bipolarity overstates both the current status quo and the threat China poses to the global order.

Not about ideology

- During the Cold War, the U.S. aimed to establish capitalism over communism and liberal democracy over authoritarianism.
- The Sino-American competition is not primarily ideological; China seeks global hegemony rather than promoting communism.





- Since 2021, the U.S. has attempted the Summit for Democracy to link its political interests with democracy, but this has been largely unsuccessful.
- Many, including Europeans, are skeptical of the U.S. framing of "democracy versus autocracy."
- China dismisses the U.S. narrative as "Western-style democracy," claiming it benefits capitalism rather than ordinary citizens.
- Russia, as the successor state to the U.S.S.R., plays a significant role in the current geopolitical landscape.
- Some argue that the U.S. faces not just China but an axis of China and Russia.
- Professor Josef Joffe describes the world as a "Two-and-a-Half Power World," with Russia lacking full parity due to limited "usable power."
- Russia's economy is smaller than Italy's, and its military budget is only one-quarter of China's, preventing it from becoming a third pole.
- Russia is seen as China's junior partner, particularly evident in China's support of Russia's actions in Ukraine.
- Despite lacking formal allies, China's connections with Russia, North Korea, and Iran could present challenges in various geopolitical areas, including Taiwan and the South China Sea.

The new canvas of the Indo-Pacific

- The geopolitical changes have created a new framework known as the Indo-Pacific.
- Key developments include:
 - China's aim to establish a blue water navy for high-seas operations.
 - China's ambition to become a transcontinental economic giant.
 - India's emergence as a potential counterbalance to China.
 - The U.S.'s role in the shift of power from the west to the east (Atlantic to Indian and Pacific Oceans).
- The Quad (U.S., India, Japan, Australia) promotes a "free and open Indo-Pacific."
- The "Squad" (U.S., Japan, Australia, Philippines) has recently joined the strategic dialogue.





- AUKUS (Australia, U.K., U.S.) focuses on security partnerships and supports Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines.
- The Indo-Pacific represents a realignment of traditional alliances and geopolitical dynamics.
- India faces challenges and opportunities as its ties with the U.S. and Quad deepen amidst clashing Chinese and American ambitions.
- India uniquely faces a land threat from China, necessitating a focus on sovereignty.
- India must:
 - Restore the status quo along the China-Indian border.
 - Engage economically with China where necessary.
 - Strengthen military deterrence.
 - Promote its geopolitical and economic interests independently.
- India should avoid becoming a pawn in the renewed bipolar competition.



On climate finance to developing nations

Why are developing countries more vulnerable to climate change? How does the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change define climate finance? Why have the figures mentioned in the OECD report been called into question? Does India need climate financing?

GS Paper III:
Environment

EXPLAINER

Arjun Dutt
Gagan Sidhu

The story so far:

The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the UNFCCC to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22 is expected to be a "finance COP" as key climate finance issues feature at the top of its agenda.

Are developing states more at risk? Economically developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change's effects. This is because of geographical factors and, because their economies rely more on sectors like agriculture, which are particularly sensitive to climate change.

Despite being among the most vulnerable, developing countries have contributed relatively little to the cumulative emissions that cause climate change. According to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, developed countries account for 57% of cumulative global emissions since 1850 despite hosting smaller populations than the developing world. Developing countries also face competing developmental needs, vexing their ability to take climate action by themselves. The 2009 Copenhagen Accord had developed countries commit to providing \$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing countries by 2020, later also made applicable through 2025. A new mobilisation target for the post-2025 period is on the agenda at COP29.

What is climate finance?

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate finance as "local, national, or transnational financing – drawn from public, private, and alternative sources – that seeks to support mitigation and



Bleak waters: A sunrise over the polluted waters of Yamuna laden with foam on October 17. AFP

adaptation actions addressing climate change." This specifies two aspects of climate finance: sources (public or private, and flowing either domestically or across borders) and end-uses (climate mitigation or adaptation). The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes reports on climate finance flows from developed to developing countries. They cover flows from four sources, including international public finance and the private finance mobilised by it. International public climate finance is composed of commercial and concessional loans, grants, equity and other instruments. Loans typically constitute the largest share (69.4% in 2022), followed by grants (28%). However, developing countries and observers such as Oxfam have noted several shortcomings with the OECD's reports. They have argued they should represent

actual disbursements and not simply commitments to provide climate finance; that a flow should be new and additional and not simply a reclassification of existing aid; and that only grants, or grant-equivalents of concessional finance, should be counted, not finance provided on a commercial basis.

Who needs climate finance?

Developing countries require external financing for climate action. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), 675 million people in the developing world didn't have access to electric power in 2021. Developing countries need to universalise access and increase electricity consumption.

Developing countries also have smaller domestic financial systems relative to their GDPs and face higher costs of capital. For instance, the cost of capital for solar photovoltaic and storage

technologies is about twice as high in developing economies than in developed ones, according to the IEA. Therefore, if developing countries are to balance development and climate action, external finance should be made available.

How much does India need?

India has both short-term and long-term climate targets. By 2030, India aims to install 500 GW of generating capacity from non-fossil-fuel sources; five million metric tonnes per annum of green hydrogen (GH₂) production capacity; and differentiated levels of penetration for various Electric Vehicle (EV) categories. The authors have estimated (as part of a co-authored report) that achieving 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 will require an additional ₹16.8 lakh crore investment. Per the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India's GH₂ target will need ₹8 lakh crore. Consumers will also need to spend around ₹16 lakh crore to purchase EVs to achieve this vision. A long-term perspective reveals a greater requirement: ₹850 lakh crore in investments between 2020 and 2070 to achieve net-zero emissions.

What should the NCQG quantum be?

Determining a new annual climate finance mobilisation target – called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) – is a top priority. The NCQG should include flows that are (i) actual disbursements, not just commitments; (ii) new and additional (iii) public capital in the form of direct grants; and (iv) private capital that is mobilised by public capital. However, organically flowing private finance to developing countries should not be counted. An independent high-level expert group constituted by the presidencies of COP26 and COP27 has already determined that developing countries (excluding China) will require around \$1 trillion in external finance by 2030.

Arjun Dutt and Gagan Sidhu are, respectively, senior programme lead and director of the CEEW Centre for Energy Finance.

THE GIST

▼ Economically developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change's effects because of geographical factors that expose them to more climate risk.

▼ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate finance as "local, national, or transnational financing – drawn from public, private, and alternative sources – that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions addressing climate change."

▼ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes reports on climate finance flows from developed to developing countries.

On climate finance to developing nations (21 October)

Why are developing countries more vulnerable to climate change? How does the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change define climate finance? Why have the figures mentioned in the OECD report been called into question? Does India need climate financing?

- The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the UNFCCC will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22.
- COP29 is expected to focus on key climate finance issues.





- Economically developing countries are highly vulnerable to climate change due to:
 - Geographical factors.
 - Economies reliant on agriculture, which is sensitive to climate impacts.
- Despite vulnerability, developing countries contribute relatively little to cumulative emissions.
- Developed countries account for 57% of global emissions since 1850, despite having smaller populations than developing nations.
- Developing countries face competing developmental needs, hindering their ability to take independent climate action.
- The 2009 Copenhagen Accord committed developed countries to provide \$100 billion annually in climate finance to developing countries by 2020, extended to 2025.
- A new mobilization target for post-2025 is on the agenda at COP29.
- Climate finance is defined by the UNFCCC as financing that supports mitigation and adaptation actions against climate change, sourced from public, private, and alternative channels.
- Key aspects of climate finance include:
 - Sources: public or private, domestic or cross-border.
 - End-uses: climate mitigation or adaptation.
- The OECD publishes reports on climate finance flows from developed to developing countries, covering four sources, including international public finance and private finance mobilized by it.
- International public climate finance includes:
 - Commercial and concessional loans, grants, equity, and other instruments.
 - Loans accounted for the largest share (69.4% in 2022), followed by grants (28%).
- Developing countries and organizations like Oxfam have criticized OECD reports for several reasons:
 - They should reflect actual disbursements, not just commitments.
 - Flows should be new and additional, not reclassifications of existing aid.





- Only grants or grant-equivalents should be counted, excluding commercially provided finance.

Who needs climate finance?

- Developing countries need external financing for climate action.
- In 2021, 675 million people in the developing world lacked access to electric power (International Energy Agency).
- These countries need to universalize access and increase electricity consumption.
- Developing countries have smaller domestic financial systems relative to their GDPs and face higher capital costs.
- The cost of capital for solar photovoltaic and storage technologies is about twice as high in developing economies compared to developed ones (IEA).
- To balance development and climate action, external finance should be made available to developing countries.
- India has both short-term and long-term climate targets:
- By 2030, aims to install 500 GW of generating capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.
- Plans to produce five million metric tonnes per annum of green hydrogen (GH₂) capacity.
- Seeks differentiated levels of penetration for various Electric Vehicle (EV) categories.
- Achieving 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 will require an additional ₹16.8 lakh crore investment (co-authored report).
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission estimates India's GH₂ target will need ₹8 lakh crore.
- Consumers will need to spend around ₹16 lakh crore to purchase EVs to meet these targets.
- Long-term investments required for net-zero emissions from 2020 to 2070 are estimated at ₹850 lakh crore.
- A new annual climate finance mobilization target, called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), is a top priority.

The NCQG should include:



- Actual disbursements, not just commitments.
- New and additional funding.
- Public capital in the form of direct grants.
- Private capital mobilized by public funding.
- Private finance flowing organically to developing countries should not be counted.
- An independent expert group has determined that developing countries (excluding China) will require around \$1 trillion in external finance by 2030.

What does the new 'lady justice' statue signify?

What is the symbolism behind the change? How many cases are pending before courts in India?

GS Paper II: Justice System in India

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

Last week, the Chief Justice of India unveiled the 'new lady justice' statue in the Supreme Court premises that replaced the 'original lady justice'. The new statue is clothed in a saree, has shed the blindfold and holds scales on one hand and the Indian Constitution on the other.

What is the background?

It is believed that the origin of the modern-day 'lady justice' is Justitia, the goddess of Justice in Roman mythology. 'Lady justice' is depicted with a blindfold, scales, and a sword. The blindfold was added during the Renaissance period (14th century) probably as a satire on the corrupt state of legal systems with judicial institutions turning a blind eye. It was only during the enlightenment period (17th-18th century) that it was reinterpreted as representing impartiality. It signifies that justice should be

administered without bias regardless of wealth, power and social status. The scales represent balance. It emphasises that courts must weigh both sides of an argument before delivering a judgment. Finally, the sword symbolises the power and authority of the law, signifying that the law can both protect and punish.

Why the change?

When the British established their control over India, they introduced their legal system. The hierarchy of courts from lower courts to the Supreme Court is a relic of the British system. It was during British rule that the 'lady justice' became a prominent symbol in India and was placed outside courtrooms.

The new statue is an attempt at decoloniality, with an aim to shed colonial symbols. The saree replacing the western attire brings the statue closer to Indian tradition. The removal of the blindfold and having eyes open is significant in the Indian context. It conveys that the law is not blind and it 'sees' everyone equally.

More importantly our social diversity, the discrimination faced by underprivileged sections, constitutional provisions and laws made for their upliftment require a nuanced approach of 'viewing' every case appropriately and delivering justice. The sword being replaced with the Constitution symbolises the supremacy of the Constitution and its value in our jurisprudence. The preserving of the scales goes on to show that the courts will continue weighing evidence impartially and hearing both sides before delivering its final judgment.

What urgent actions are needed?

The Supreme Court last week dismissed a Public Interest Litigation which sought a time frame of three years for disposal of over five crore cases pending in all courts of the country. The Supreme Court held that while the demand was desirable, it is practically impossible considering the flood of litigation faced by the justice delivery system. However, 'justice delayed is justice denied' and there are some

urgent actions needed in this regard with respect to the institution that delivers justice.

Firstly, the revised Memorandum of Procedure that deals with appointment of judges by the collegium has not been finalised for the past eight years. This needs to be finalised by the government and judiciary without any further delay to bring transparency and accountability to the process of appointment.

Secondly, the representation of backward classes, scheduled castes, schedule tribes, and religious minorities is less than 25% in the higher judiciary and women constitute less than 15%. The appointments to higher judiciary should reflect the social diversity of our country. Third, the High Courts invariably operate at only 60-70% strength thereby contributing to the huge pendency of over 60 lakh cases at present. The government needs to appoint collegium recommendations for High Courts without dragging its feet. The vacancies in lower courts, where 4.4 crore cases are pending, should also be filled by the States without backlog. Finally, cases dealing with the constitutional validity of amendments/laws and individual liberty should be heard on a priority basis by the higher judiciary. These measures would ensure that the new symbol is not just symbolic but reflects the actions taken for the delivery of fair and prompt justice.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.



What does the new 'lady justice' statue signify? (21 October)

What is the symbolism behind the change? How many cases are pending before courts in India?

- The Chief Justice of India unveiled the 'new lady justice' statue in the Supreme Court premises, replacing the original statue.
- The new statue is clothed in a saree, has shed the blindfold, and holds scales in one hand and the Indian Constitution in the other.
- The modern-day 'lady justice' is believed to originate from Justitia, the goddess of Justice in Roman mythology.
- Traditionally, 'lady justice' is depicted with a blindfold, scales, and a sword.
- The blindfold was added during the Renaissance period (14th century) as a satire on corrupt legal systems.
- During the Enlightenment period (17th-18th century), the blindfold was reinterpreted as a symbol of impartiality.
- The blindfold signifies justice administered without bias, regardless of wealth, power, or social status.
- The scales represent balance, emphasizing that courts must weigh both sides of an argument before delivering a judgment.
- The sword symbolizes the power and authority of the law, indicating that the law can both protect and punish.
- The change to the new statue reflects an attempt at decoloniality, aiming to shed colonial symbols.
- The saree replaces the western attire, aligning the statue with Indian tradition.
- The removal of the blindfold and having open eyes conveys that the law is not blind and sees everyone equally.



- This change acknowledges India's social diversity and the discrimination faced by underprivileged sections.
- The statue emphasizes the need for a nuanced approach to justice, considering constitutional provisions and laws for upliftment.
- The sword's replacement with the Constitution symbolizes the supremacy of the Constitution in Indian jurisprudence.
- The preservation of the scales shows that courts will continue to weigh evidence impartially and hear both sides before delivering judgments.

What urgent actions are needed?

- The Supreme Court dismissed a Public Interest Litigation seeking a three-year time frame for disposing of over five crore pending cases in all courts.
- The Court acknowledged the demand as desirable but deemed it practically impossible due to the overwhelming litigation burden.
- Urgent actions are needed regarding the justice delivery system to address the issue of delayed justice.
- The revised Memorandum of Procedure for appointing judges by the collegium has not been finalized for the past eight years.
- Finalization of this memorandum is necessary to bring transparency and accountability to the appointment process.
- Representation of backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and religious minorities in the higher judiciary is less than 25%, while women constitute less than 15%.
- Appointments to the higher judiciary should reflect the social diversity of India.
- High Courts typically operate at only 60-70% of their strength, contributing to the pendency of over 60 lakh cases.
- The government needs to promptly appoint judges based on collegium recommendations for High Courts.
- Vacancies in lower courts, which account for 4.4 crore pending cases, should also be filled by the States without backlog.
- Cases involving the constitutional validity of amendments/laws and individual liberty should be prioritized in the higher judiciary.





- Implementing these measures would ensure that the new symbol of justice reflects actions taken for fair and prompt justice delivery.

PATRIOTIC IAS



Gateway at Galathea Bay: the new major port can be a game changer

GS Paper III: Port

T.E. Raja Simhan

A quarter century after Kamarajar Port was named the country's 12th major port, the mega international container transshipment port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay – in the Great Nicobar island in the Bay of Bengal – has been notified as the 13th major port.

This paves the way for the development of the port, which could prove a game changer for maritime trade in the region.

The ICTP, with a 20 metre natural draught, will be strategically located on the East-West international trade and shipping route in proximity to transshipment terminals like Singapore, Klang and Colombo.



It is also a part of the rapidly evolving Indo-Pacific geopolitical region. As a gateway to the region, it will capture transshipment cargo from Indian east coast ports, as also Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The Great Nicobar island, part of the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands, is 40

nautical miles from Malacca Strait – the international shipping channel catering to about 35% of the annual global sea trade. Currently, nearly 75% of India's transshipped cargo is handled at overseas ports. Colombo, Singapore and Klang cumulatively handle more than 85% of this cargo, with 45% going to Colombo port. The ICTP can save Indian ports \$200-220 million each year in transshipment charges.

Eco-sensitive zone

However, the port's development faces several challenges, since it is in an ecologically sensitive region.

As per a government source, "Consultants will have to plan without affect-

ing the region's eco-sensitivity. That is the mandate. They will accordingly seek proposals from contractors and implement these in a phased manner."

The ICTP is envisaged to be developed in four phases at an estimated cost of ₹41,000 crore. Phase 1 is expected to be commissioned in 2028 with a handling capacity of around 4 million TEUs, which will go up to 16 million TEUs in the final stage of development. The estimated cost for phase 1 is ₹18,000 crore, which covers dredging, reclamation, construction of breakwaters, berths, storage areas and buildings among other things.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Gateway at Galathea Bay: the new major port can be a game changer (21 October)

- The mega international container transshipment port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay in the Great Nicobar island has been notified as India's 13th major port.
- This development could significantly impact maritime trade in the region.
- The ICTP features a 20-meter natural draught and is strategically located on the East-West international trade route.
- It is in proximity to transshipment terminals like Singapore, Klang, and Colombo.





- The port aims to capture transshipment cargo from Indian east coast ports, as well as from Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- Great Nicobar island is 40 nautical miles from the Malacca Strait, a crucial international shipping channel that accommodates about 35% of global sea trade.
- Currently, approximately 75% of India's transshipped cargo is handled at overseas ports, with Colombo, Singapore, and Klang managing over 85% of this cargo.
- The ICTP could save Indian ports \$200-220 million annually in transshipment charges.
- The port's development is challenged by its location in an ecologically sensitive region.
- Consultants will plan development without impacting the region's ecological sensitivity, implementing proposals in a phased manner.
- The ICTP is planned to be developed in four phases at an estimated cost of ₹41,000 crore.
- Phase 1 is expected to be commissioned in 2028, with a handling capacity of around 4 million TEUs, increasing to 16 million TEUs in the final stage.
- The estimated cost for Phase 1 is ₹18,000 crore, covering dredging, reclamation, construction of breakwaters, berths, storage areas, and buildings.



Bangladesh court rules that Parliament cannot remove judges

PCS

Press Trust of India

DHAKA

Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Sunday reinstated the Supreme Judicial Council with authority to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct, while upholding its previous ruling that declared the 16th constitutional amendment, which transferred the power of removing judges to parliament, as "illegal".

"The order was passed by a six-member Bench of the Supreme Court's apex Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed," Supreme Court lawyer Ruhul Kuddus told reporters after the apex court announced its judgement.

Mr. Kuddus, who was present in the hearing, said the ruling reinforced the original constitutional provisions.

The verdict also meant scrapping of the 16th constitutional amendment, passed during deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's regime, giving the task of impeaching judges to Parliament instead of the Supreme Judicial Council comprising apex court judges.

The 16th Amendment

was passed in January 2014, relieving the Supreme Judicial Council of its authority of removing judges for incompetence or misconduct.

However, a three-member High Court bench in May 2016 declared the 16th Amendment unconstitutional, which was challenged by the state in January 2017.

Led by then Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, a seven-judge Appellate Division bench upheld the High Court's ruling in July 2017, declaring the 16th constitutional amendment as "illegal". Following the judgement, the Hasina government filed a petition asking the apex court to review its decision, which was settled with the Sunday's judgment of the top court.

The 2017 Supreme Court ruling on the matter brought Justice Sinha into clear conflict with the then government, eventually leading to his forced resignation while he was abroad, and he has remained outside Bangladesh since.

A student-led mass uprising ended Hasina's nearly 15-year rule, forcing her to leave the country on August 5.



The 16th constitutional amendment was passed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's regime that was overthrown in protests. AP

PATRIOTIC IAS





Bangladesh court rules that Parliament cannot remove judges (21 October)

- Bangladesh's Supreme Court reinstated the Supreme Judicial Council to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct.
- The court upheld its previous ruling that declared the 16th constitutional amendment, which transferred the power to remove judges to parliament, as "illegal."
- The order was passed by a six-member Bench of the Supreme Court's apex Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed.
- The ruling reinforced the original constitutional provisions regarding judicial accountability.
- The 16th Amendment, passed during the regime of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, assigned the task of impeaching judges to Parliament instead of the Supreme Judicial Council.
- This amendment was passed in January 2014, relieving the Supreme Judicial Council of its authority to remove judges for incompetence or misconduct.
- In May 2016, a three-member High Court bench declared the 16th Amendment unconstitutional, leading to a state challenge in January 2017.
- A seven-judge Appellate Division bench, led by then Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, upheld the High Court's ruling in July 2017, declaring the amendment "illegal."
- Following this judgment, the Hasina government filed a petition for a review, which culminated in the recent judgment.
- The 2017 ruling caused a conflict between Justice Sinha and the government, resulting in his forced resignation while abroad; he has since remained outside Bangladesh.
- A student-led mass uprising subsequently ended Hasina's nearly 15-year rule, forcing her to leave the country on August 5.



Pakistan constitutional amendment Bill caps Chief Justice's tenure to three years

PCS

PCS Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

The Senate on Sunday passed the controversial 26th Constitution Amendment Bill, capping Pakistan's Chief Justice's tenure for three years, amid opposition from jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party.

The upper house of parliament voted 65-4 to approve the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill with the required two-thirds majority. The government needed the support of 64 members.

The Bill, approved by the Cabinet earlier in the day with the consensus among the ruling coalition partners, was presented in



Shehbaz Sharif

the Senate by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar.

"I... wish to introduce a bill further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Constitution 26th Amendment Bill, 2024," Tarar said as he presented the bill in the upper house.

"Is it opposed?" asked

Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani, to which he received no response from the Senate members.

The Bill included 22 clauses of amendments. The upper House passed the Bill clause-wise and all clauses got the support of 65 senators.

The magic number was achieved after Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's five senators and two lawmakers of Balochistan National Party-Mengal voted in favour of the Bill. The BNP-M favoured the amendment despite, violating the party line to abstain during the process.

"Sixty-five members are in favour of the motion regarding the bill and four oppose the bill....and con-

sequently the bill has been passed," Gilani said, announcing the result.

The Bill set up a 12-member commission to appoint the chief justice who will be appointed for three years.

The Bill will now go to the National Assembly, where it needs a two-thirds majority to clear the hurdle. Finally, it should receive the nod of the president to become part of the constitution.

Earlier in the day, the Cabinet approved the proposed draft of the controversial bill during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after seeking consensus from the coalition partners, his office said.

Pakistan constitutional amendment Bill caps Chief Justice's tenure to three years (21 October)

- The Senate passed the 26th Constitution Amendment Bill, limiting Pakistan's Chief Justice's tenure to three years.
- The vote was 65-4, achieving the required two-thirds majority with support from 64 members.





- The bill was presented by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and had been approved by the Cabinet earlier that day.
- The bill contains 22 clauses of amendments and was passed clause-wise with unanimous support from 65 senators.
- Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's five senators and two lawmakers from the Balochistan National Party-Mengal voted in favor of the bill, despite a party line to abstain.
- Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani announced the result, confirming the bill's passage.
- The bill establishes a 12-member commission responsible for appointing the Chief Justice for a three-year term.
- Next, the bill will be sent to the National Assembly, where it also needs a two-thirds majority to pass.
- Finally, the bill requires the president's approval to be added to the constitution.
- The Cabinet had previously approved the draft during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.



The White Ferns on top of the world as South Africa crumbles yet again

PCS

WOMEN'S T20 WC

Lavanya L

DUBAI

After the heartbreak of falling short in two finals in 2009 and 2010 and many failures that have followed since, the **Kiwis finally took flight in the desert skies.**

Sophie Devine's New Zealand clinched its maiden Women's T20 World Cup crown with a 32-run win over South Africa in the final at the Dubai Stadium on Sunday.

Old guard

Through the tournament, the old guard – Devine, Suzie Bates and Lea Tahuhu – focused on passing the baton of propping up New Zealand cricket to the next generation of stars coming through, Amelia Kerr leading this refreshing bunch of youngsters.

The 'grandmas' of the team were vindicated as their illustrious resumes finally got a champion's star.

Chasing 159, openers Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits matched the Kiwis with an explosive PowerPlay. They stitched a 51-run stand before Fran Jonas took out Brits in the se-

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Suzie Bates b Mlaba 32 (31b, 3x4), Georgia Plimmer c Luus b Khaka 9 (7b, 2x4), Amelia Kerr c Brits b Mlaba 43 (38b, 4x4), Sophie Devine lbw b de Klerk 6 (10b), Brooke Halliday c Bosch b Tryon 38 (28b, 3x4), Maddy Green (not out) 12 (6b, 1x6), Isabella Gaze (not out) 3 (3b); Extras (lb-2, w-10, nb-3): 15; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 158.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-16 (Plimmer, 1.5 overs), 2-53 (Bates, 7.4), 3-70 (Devine, 10.2), 4-127 (Halliday, 17.2), 5-141 (Kerr, 18.5).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Kapp 4-0-25-0, Khaka 4-0-44-1, Tryon 4-0-22-1, Mlaba 4-0-31-2, de Klerk 2-0-17-1, Luus 2-0-17-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

Laura Wolvaardt c Bates b Kerr 33 (27b, 5x4), Tazmin Brits c Green b Jonas 17 (18b, 1x4), Anneke Bosch c Gaze b Kerr 9 (13b, 1x4), Marizanne Kapp c Plimmer b

venth over, with Maddy Green taking a clean catch at long-on.

Kerr, who was off the field due to crippling cramps, made her way back to dismiss Wolvaardt and Anneke Bosch in the same over. Much rested on the shoulders of a largely unchallenged Proteas middle-order, but what followed was a slow and pain-

Carson 8 (8b, 1x4), Nadine de Klerk c Kerr b Mair 6 (7b), Chloe Tryon c Green b Mair 14 (16b, 1x4), Sune Luus c Bates b Halliday 8 (9b), Annerie Dercksen c Bates b Kerr 10 (9b), Sinalo Jafta b Mair 6 (4b, 1x4), Nonkululeko Mlaba (not out) 4 (5b), Ayabonga Khaka (not out) 4 (4b); Extras (b-2, w-5): 7; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 126.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-51 (Brits, 6.5), 2-59 (Wolvaardt, 9.1), 3-64 (Bosch, 9.6), 4-77 (Kapp, 11.6), 5-77 (de Klerk, 12.1), 6-97 (Luus, 15.1), 7-111 (Dercksen, 17.3), 8-117 (Tryon, 18.1), 9-120 (Jafta, 18.5).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Mair 4-0-25-3, Carson 4-0-22-1, Jonas 4-0-28-1, Tahuhu 3-0-21-0, Kerr 4-0-24-3, Halliday 1-0-4-1.

Toss: South Africa.

PoM & PoS: Kerr.

New Zealand won by 32 runs to clinch the title.

ful collapse that would see South Africa's World Cup dreams crumble in the final for the third time in under a year.

Earlier, Wolvaardt put New Zealand in to bat and the Kiwis channelled the best version of themselves as they kept the Proteas at bay with 36 in the PowerPlay.

This despite losing Geor-

gia Plimmer in the second over, who led the charge with some audacious shot-making.

Kerr takes over

Kerr made her intentions clear and began by pulling Ayabonga Khaka to the boundary off her very first ball. Suzie Bates eased Kerr in, but was felled by Nonkululeko Mlaba in the 8th over, much like how she was dismissed in the semi-final against West Indies. Nadine de Klerk took out captain Devine, trapping her leg before - a dismissal vindicated by a review in the dying minutes of the timer by Wolvaardt.

New Zealand's next generation, which has been the priority of the senior group in the side and the largely untested part of the batting order, stepped up. Brooke Halliday was involved in a 57-run stand with Kerr to set up an above-par total. The side even denied veteran pacer Marizanne Kapp the joy of a wicket in this final. Kerr missed out on a fifty, holing out to Brits off Mlaba's bowling for a 38-ball 43.

There were 15 wides in the final, but history will remember the wide smiles of the White Ferns more.





The White Ferns on top of the world as South Africa crumbles yet again (21 October)

- New Zealand won its first Women's T20 World Cup title, defeating South Africa by 32 runs in the final at Dubai Stadium.
- Sophie Devine led the team, supported by veteran players Suzie Bates and Lea Tahuhu, who focused on mentoring younger talents like Amelia Kerr.
- Openers Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits of South Africa had a strong start, scoring 51 runs in a PowerPlay partnership.
- Fran Jonas dismissed Brits in the seventh over, leading to a collapse of the South African middle order after Kerr returned from cramps to take two wickets.
- New Zealand batted first, scoring 159 runs, and started solidly with 36 runs in the PowerPlay despite losing Georgia Plimmer early.
- Kerr aggressively scored 43 runs off 38 balls, and was involved in a 57-run partnership with Brooke Halliday.
- New Zealand's batting showed depth, denying South Africa's Marizanne Kapp a wicket in the final.
- The match included 15 wides, but New Zealand's triumph overshadowed those details, marking a historic win for the team.

