

NEWS TODAY

‘CHILDREN DISPLACED IN A CHANGING CLIMATE’ REPORT RELEASED BY UNICEF

• The report **establishes the critical connection between climate, mobility and childhood** – and its implications for policy and investment.

• Key findings:

- **Floods, Storms, Droughts and Wildfires** are the most common weather-related hazards that lead to the displacement of Children.
- **43.1 million children have been displaced internally** due to weather-related events over the last six years.
 - **Philippines, India and China** are at high risk of weather-related disasters.
 - **6.7 million children are displaced in India** alone.
- Around **20,000 child displacements take place every day**.
- **Floods and Storms alone account for 95% of child displacements**.



• Recommendations

- **Protect** children and young people from the impacts of climate change and displacement by ensuring child-critical services (including education, health etc.) are shock-responsive, portable and inclusive.
- **Prepare** children and young people to live in a climate-changed world by improving their adaptive capacities and resilience.
- **Prioritise** the children and young people in climate, humanitarian and development policy, action and investments.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE: BRIDGING THE GAP IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REPORT LAUNCHED BY UNESCAP


• Sustainable finance refers to the **financing of sustainable activities** as well as **finance that is sustainably managed**.

• Key findings

- There is **sufficient capital and liquidity** to close the global financing gap in sustainable finance.
- Asia-Pacific region is **not on track to meet the SDGs by 2030**.
- **Only 17** of the 51 Asia-Pacific countries party to the UNFCCC have **assessed and reported their financial needs** to meet their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.
- **Average economic losses** resulting from disasters and other natural hazards in the region may **increase to \$1.1 trillion- \$1.4 trillion**.
- **Climate change** under a high emissions scenario could impose **35% GDP losses in India by 2100**.


• **Recommendations:** Action for **policymakers, regulators and private finance** includes:

- Commitments to **net zero pledges for 2050** with **credible transition pathways** including 2030 goals.
- **Policy coherence** and **capacities developed** across key government ministries
- **Reducing sectoral and regional mismatches** between capital and investment needs.
- **Local-currency financing of energy transition projects** as well as **green technologies** and other net-zero investments.
- **Concessional financing and risk-sharing** by multilateral development banks, bilateral development financial institutions, etc.



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific


**United Nation Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**



Genesis: Established as Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in **1947** in **Shanghai** and became ESCAP in 1974

About: ESCAP is an **intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region**. It is one of the five **regional commissions** of the UN (other belongs to Africa, Europe, Western Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean).

Objective: It **promotes cooperation** among members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges.

Members: 53 member States and **9 associate members** 

Reports: SDG Progress Assessment Report, Asia-Pacific Disaster Report.

LEFT WING EXTREMISM WILL BE TOTALLY ELIMINATED FROM THE COUNTRY IN TWO YEARS: HOME MINISTER

- Left-wing extremists (LWE) are commonly referred to as **Maoists globally and as Naxalites within India**.
- The objective of the Naxalites is to **wage an armed revolution**, modelled on the lines of the Chinese Revolution, which they called the New Democratic Revolution (NDR), **and usher in their own form of government**.
- **Status of LWE in India**
 - LWE continue operating in **India's 'Red Corridor'** which includes **central and eastern states** in varying degrees.
 - The States of **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala** are considered LWE affected.
 - LWE-related violence **declined by 77%** from 2009 to **2021**.
 - **24% reduction in the number of districts** reporting violence (**39 districts only**)
- **Initiatives for LWE-affected states**
 - Creation of **LWE Division** in **2006** under **the Home Ministry**.
 - **'SAMADHAN'** was formulated incorporate as a multi-pronged approach to combat LWE.
 - **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** to Districts Most Affected by LWE.
 - **Mobile Tower Project** in LWE-affected areas to improve **mobile connectivity**.
 - **Road Connectivity Project** for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (**RCPLWE**)

S Smart Leadership
A Aggressive strategy
M Motivation and training
A Actionable intelligence
D Dashboard based KPIs
H Harness technology
A Action plan for each theatre
N No access to financing

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MEITY) DIRECTED SOCIAL MEDIA INTERMEDIARIES TO REMOVE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL (CSAM)

- Intermediaries including YouTube, X, Telegram were also directed to **implement content moderation algorithms** and **reporting mechanisms** to prevent **dissemination of CSAM**.
 - Delay in compliance will result in **withdrawal** of the **safe harbour protection** (immunity against third-party content) under **Section 79 of the IT Act**.
 - **Noncompliance** will be deemed a **breach of Rule 3(1)(b) and Rule 4(4) of the IT Rules, 2021**.
- **About CSAM**
 - **CSAM** (like child pornography) are part of **online child sexual abuse and exploitation (OCSAE)** that also incorporates activities such as **luring children into sexual chats, grooming**, etc.
 - **About 4.5 lakh cases** of spread of CSAM have been reported in **2023 in India**.
 - **Key Legal framework:** IT Act (2000), Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012) National Cyber Security Policy (2013), etc.
- **Challenges**
 - **Inadequate knowledge of cyber laws** and **limited enforcement capacities**.
 - **Infrastructure deficits** in cyber forensic labs.
 - **No special or fast-track courts** for cyber offences.
 - **Concentration of facilities** for counselling and rehabilitation in **urban areas**.
- **Way ahead**
 - **Develop a National Framework for Child Online Safety**.
 - Institutionalize **digital safety and literacy**.
 - **Enhance capacities and resources** of police and cyber forensic labs.

RUSSIA INDICATED TOWARDS REVOKING ITS RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT)

- Russia says withdrawal from ratification of nuclear weapons test ban treaty aims to place Russia on 'equal footing' with the US, which has signed but not ratified the pact.
 - The US has not ratified the CTBT by citing the **difficulty in verifying whether or not participant States meet the rules of the Treaty**.
- CTBT is a multilateral treaty which **prohibits any nuclear weapon test explosion** or any other nuclear explosion anywhere in the world.
 - It **bans all nuclear explosions**, whether for **military or peaceful purposes**.
- The treaty was opened for signature in September 1996 and has been **signed by 187 nations and ratified by 178**.
- The treaty cannot formally enter into force **until it is ratified by 44 specific nations**, eight of which have yet to do so: **China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, Egypt, and the United States**.
- **Reasons for India not signing and ratifying CTBT**
 - CTBT did **not insist on a complete disarmament**.
 - As a party to the CTBT, India cannot test and develop nuclear weapons whereas China would retain its arsenal as per the NPT.

IT RULES, 2021

- **Rule 3(1)(b):** Mandates **all intermediaries** to ensure that their platform **does not contain** obscene "harmful to child" content.
- **Rule 4(4):** Mandates bigger Intermediaries (more than 50 lakh users in India) to **proactively identify and take down CSAM** using **technology-based solutions**.

ABOUT OTHER TREATIES FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENTABDM (LAUNCHED IN 2021)





- Treaty on the **Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** entered into force in 1970
- Treaty on the **Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** entered into force in 2021






GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN (GRAP) MEASURES INITIATED IN DELHI AS AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) TURNS 'POOR'

- **Stage 1 of GRAP was imposed in National Capital Region (NCR)** to prevent further deterioration of air quality.
- GRAP for NCR is a set of **graded emergency measures** to reduce air pollution.
 - > Based on the **AQI level of Delhi, it is divided into four stages.**
 - > Being implemented by **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).**
 - **CAQM is established under commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.**
 - Adjoining Area includes areas in states of **Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh adjoining NCR.**

Stages	Measure
Stage I - 'Poor' Air Quality (AQI ranging between 201-300)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce NGT / SC's order on overaged vehicles. • Regular lifting of Municipal Solid Waste, Construction & Demolition waste • Periodic mechanized sweeping, water sprinkling on roads, etc.
Stage II - 'Very Poor' Air Quality (AQI ranging between 301-400)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted action in all identified hotspots • Vacuum sweeping, water sprinkling, use of dust suppressants, etc.
Stage III - 'Severe' Air Quality (AQI ranging between 401-450)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict restrictions on plying of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles. • Govt may discontinue physical classes upto Vth.
Stage IV - 'Severe + Air Quality (AQI > 450)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not permit Light Commercial Vehicles (other than EVs / CNG / BS-VI diese) registered outside Delhi except those carrying essential commodities. • Govt may discontinue physical classes for classes VI – IX, class XI.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Nobel Peace Prize</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian women's rights advocate, won the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize. • She was honoured for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and to promote human rights and freedom for all. • The Nobel Peace Prize is the only Nobel prize that is presented by the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee; the other Nobel prizes are administered by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden. • Kailash Satyarthi (2014) and Mother Teresa (1979) are Indian recipients of the peace prize.
 <p>Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India was reelected as president of AIBD for third successive term. • AIBD, headquartered in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), was established in 1977 under United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UN Development Programme (UNDP) are also its founding organisations. • It has 26 Government Members countries including India represented by their 48 broadcasting authorities. • It envisages to achieve a vibrant electronic media environment in the region. • Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > To establish inter-regional links and cooperation for media and communications development. > A think-tank for the development of regional programming.
 <p>Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI has extended the PIDF scheme by another two years. It will now include beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma scheme. • About PIDF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It was operationalised 2021. > It will incentivise the deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure such as physical Point of Sale (PoS), Quick Response (QR) codes. > Target Geographies: In tier-3 to tier-6 centres, the north-eastern states and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. • Beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi Scheme in Tier-1 and 2 centres were included.
 <p>Permal Rice 126 (PR 126)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punjab Government may ban PUSA44 variety in a push for cultivation of PR126 variety. • PUSA44 is a long-duration variety (taking around 160 days to mature). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Short-duration PR 126 (crop cycle takes only 123 days) will help to conserve one month of irrigation water > It can escape abiotic stresses and incidence of pests and diseases > It has lower cost of cultivation and straw load is also lower. > However, its' average paddy yield is lower (~ 30 quintals/acre) than PUSA44 (~ 34-40 Quintals/acre).

 <p>Card-on-File Tokenization (CoFT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI has introduced new channels for CoFT. • The tokenization process is used to replace card details by a unique token or code. • It allows secure online purchases without exposing sensitive details like card number, card verification value (CVV), etc. • It has been implemented since 2022 and at present, a CoFT token can only be created through merchant's application or webpage • It is now proposed to introduce CoF token directly at the issuer bank level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The new step aims to eliminate the duplication of tokenization process at each app along with increased transaction security, resulting in reduced card-data-related frauds.
 <p>Kolleru lake</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inventory of land use and other activities adjacent to Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary is underway for declaring it an eco-sensitive zone. • Kolleru is the largest freshwater lake in India, and is connected to the Krishna and Godavari systems, Andhra Pradesh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is fed by seasonal Budameru and Tammileru rivers. • It is a Ramsar Site (wetland site of international importance). Aquaculture is practiced here. • Flora: Ipomoea aquatic, Ottelia spp, Prosopis juliflora, etc • Fauna: Grey pelican (Indicator Species), migratory birds like Glossy ibis, Painted storks, etc.
 <p>Arunachal Yak Churpi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arunachal Yak Churpi becomes the first ever Yak milk product to get a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. • Yak Churpi is a naturally fermented cheese prepared from milk of Arunachali yak reared in the high Altitude areas in Arunachal Pradesh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rich in protein, used as a substitute of vegetables or mixed in meat curry or eaten with rice as a staple food. • GI tag is going to serve the cause of yak conservation and yak pastoralists' socio-economic upliftment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arunachali Yaks is reared by tribal yak pastoralists known as Brokpas.
 <p>Hakki Pikki tribe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About Hakki Pikki Tribe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They are a semi-nomadic tribal group from Karnataka. ➤ The community is known as the 'bird catcher,' which is their traditional occupation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The word 'Hakki' stands for 'bird' and 'Pikki' stands for the verb 'to catch'. ➤ After their trade of bird hunting was outlawed, they were rehabilitated in the 1970s. ➤ They are said to be a matriarchal group. ➤ They communicate in 'Vaagri'. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNESCO has listed 'Vaagri' as one of the endangered languages. ▪ They are renowned for their indigenous medicines
 <p>Places in news</p>	<p>Syria (Capital: Damascus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey steps up strikes on militants as conflict escalates in Syria • Political Boundaries: Bounded by Turkey (north), Iraq (east and southeast), Jordan (south), Lebanon and Israel (southwest). • Geographical features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It has a short coastline along the Mediterranean Sea. ➤ Its area includes territory in the Golan Heights that has been occupied by Israel since 1967. ➤ Highest Point: Mount Hermon ➤ Longest River: The Euphrates River ➤ Largest lake: Lake Assad 