

# NEWS TODAY

## Ministry of Health and Family Welfare sought public comments on Draft National Pharmacy Commission Bill, 2023

- Bill aims to **repeal the Pharmacy Act, 1948** and setting up **National Pharmacy Commission (NPC)** with head office at New Delhi.
- **Key provisions**
  - ⊖ **NPC:** Consist of a **Chairperson (appointed by central government)**, **thirteen ex-officio Members** and **fourteen part-time Members**. Chairperson shall be a
    - ◆ **pharmacy academician and registered pharmacist** having proven administrative capacity,
    - ◆ **possessing postgraduate degree in pharmacy profession** from any University with **experience of not less than fifteen years** in pharmacy field, out of which
    - ◆ **at least ten years shall be as a pharmacy leader** in pharmacy education.
  - ⊖ **Boards:** Central Government shall **constitute three boards** namely **Pharmacy Education Board; Pharmacy Assessment and Rating Board; and Pharmacy Ethics and Registration Board**, which will function under NPC.
  - ⊖ **Pharmacy Advisory Council:** It shall be constituted by Central Government to **advise Commission on measures to enhance equitable access** to pharmacy education, training and research.
- **Significance of Bill**
  - ⊖ **Improve access to quality and affordable pharmaceutical education.**
  - ⊖ **Ensures availability of adequate and high-quality pharmacy professionals.**
  - ⊖ **Promotes equitable healthcare** by making pharmacy services accessible to all citizens.
  - ⊖ **Transparent assessment of pharmacy institutions** and facilitating maintenance of a pharmacy register for India.

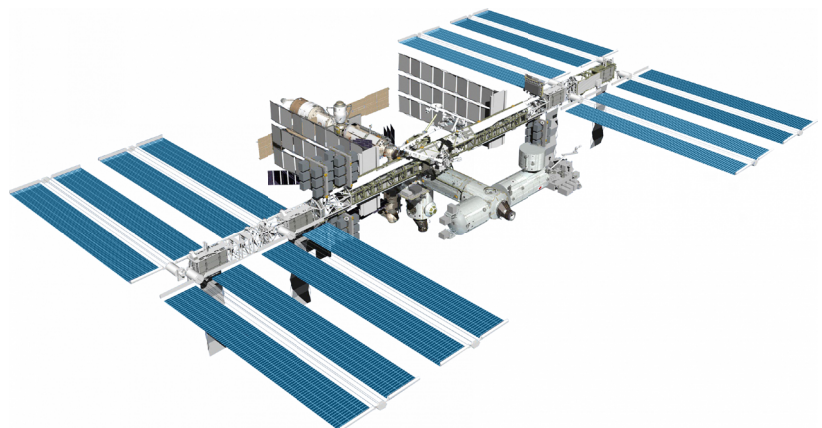


## 25 years of International Space Station (ISS)

- On November 20, 1998, **Zarya (translates to "sunrise")** module launched aboard **Russian Proton rocket** from **Kazakhstan** to form the cornerstone of ISS.
- ISS is a **large spacecraft in orbit around Earth**. It serves as a **home where crews of astronauts and cosmonauts live**. Space station is also a **unique science laboratory**
  - ⊖ It is a **partnership between European countries** (represented by **ESA**), **United States (NASA)**, **Japan (JAXA)**, **Canada (CSA)** and **Russia (Roscosmos)**.
  - ⊖ It **orbits Earth at an average altitude of approximately 250 miles in every 90 minutes**.
  - ⊖ It has been continuously **occupied since November 2000**.
- ISS weighs almost **400 tonnes** and covers an area as **big as a football pitch**. It would have been impossible to build the Space Station on Earth and then launch it into space in one go.
  - ⊖ So, ISS was taken into space **piece-by-piece and gradually built in orbit**. This assembly required more than 40 missions.
- **Significance of ISS**
  - ⊖ Allow crew members to **do research that could not be done anywhere else**.
  - ⊖ Allow for **critical research in fluids, combustion, life support systems and radiation environment**, which is needed for future human space exploration.

### India's space station plans

- ⊖ As per ISRO's chairman, India's proposed space station is envisaged to **weigh 20 tonnes** and **serve as a facility where astronauts can stay for 15-20 days**, and would be placed in an orbit **400 km above earth**.
- ⊖ Prime Minister of India directed that India should now aim for setting up '**Bharatiya Antariksha Station**' (Indian Space Station) by 2035.



## 40 workers trapped in a Tunnel Collapse in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi

- Incident happened in the under-construction **Silkyara-Barkot tunnel** in Uttarakhand due to a landslide that demolished its entrance.
  - ⊖ **Silkyara-Barkot tunnel** will connect **Yamunotri** on the south end to **Dharasu** on the north end.
  - ⊖ It is part of **Char-Dham** all-weather road project.
  - ⊖ Tunnel is being built in an area comprising **limestone** and **other soft rocks** that have a tendency to collapse.
- **Why are Himalayas more prone to landslides?**
  - ⊖ **Natural reasons**
    - ◆ Earthquakes resulting from tectonic activity can trigger landslides
    - ◆ Heavy rainfall can saturate the soil and weaken rock formations.
    - ◆ Climate change-induced warming can lead to permafrost thawing.
  - ⊖ **Anthropogenic**
    - ◆ Construction of dams, roads, and other significant infrastructure changes the natural stability of slopes.
    - ◆ Deforestation, Irrigation, Mining activities etc.

Comparison between Himalayas and Alps		
Features	Himalayas	Alps
<b>Age</b>	Relatively young (formed 40-50 million years ago)	Older (formed around 65 million years ago)
<b>Formation</b>	Result of the collision between Indian and Eurasian plates	Result of the collision between African and Eurasian plates
<b>Tectonic Activity</b>	Ongoing tectonic activity, seismic region	Tectonically active, but less seismic activity
<b>Geological Features</b>	Young, rugged terrain with deep valleys and high peaks	Older, more rounded mountains with U-shaped valleys

## Impact of Social Media on Consumer Behavior

- A recent report titled "**Meta GWI Beauty Report 2023**" highlighted that Facebook, Instagram reels influenced 80% of Indians to purchase beauty products.
- **How Social Media influence consumer behavior?**
  - ⊖ **Discovery of new products:** 47% of surveyed consumers discovered new products through social media reels.
  - ⊖ **Shift in consumer preferences:** 15% increase in online purchases post-pandemic by beauty buyers which currently stands at 68%.
  - ⊖ **Evaluation of alternatives:** Virtual try-outs through Augmented Reality and other related technologies.
  - ⊖ **Buyer socialization:** Consumer interactions shape their psychological, emotional, and behavioral outlooks, ultimately influencing their purchasing behaviors.
  - ⊖ **Electronic word of mouth:** Customer reviews help consumers in their purchasing decisions.
- **Associated Concerns:** Impulsive buying behavior, targeted advertisements, **increased debt** and financial stress, **environmental degradation** due to excessive consumerism, **violation of privacy** through consumer profiling, etc.
- **Way forward**
  - ⊖ **Transparency:** Social Media platforms should provide clear information on content curation, moderation, and algorithms.
  - ⊖ **Strengthen anti-trust rules:** For both platform providers and Social Media influencers.
  - ⊖ **Disclosure of material interests by Social Media influencers:** In January 2023, Department of Consumer Affairs released endorsement guidelines for celebrities and Social Media influencers.

## Oxfam released a report titled "Climate Equality: A Planet for the 99%"

- The report emphasizes on the **Climate Breakdown and Extreme Inequality** as twin challenges facing humanity.
- **Key findings**
  - ⊖ In 2019, **super-rich 1% were responsible for 16% of global carbon emissions**, equivalent to emissions of the **poorest 66% of humanity**.
  - ⊖ Since the 1990s, **super-rich 1% burned through twice as much of the carbon budget as the poorest half of humanity combined**.
  - ⊖ The **emissions of the 1% are set to be over 22 times more than the safe limit** (the emissions allowed to stay below 1.5°C global warming) in 2030.
  - ⊖ The **emissions of the super-rich 1% in 2019 are enough to cause 1.3 million deaths due to heat**.
- **Policy recommendations**
  - ⊖ **Radical increase in equality:** Governments must implement proven policies to dramatically drive down the gap between the richest and the rest.
  - ⊖ **Fast and just transition away from fossil fuels:** Implement a new wave of taxes on the corporations and billionaires to drive down emissions dramatically and fund transition.
  - ⊖ **New purpose for a new age:** Prioritize human and planetary well-being over endless profit, extraction and consumption.

- **Climate Inequality:** Some communities experience disproportionate impact of climate change because of existing vulnerabilities, historical patterns of inequity, socioeconomic disparities, and systemic environmental injustices, etc.
- **Climate Equality:** It ensures just distribution of the benefits of climate protection efforts and alleviates unequal burdens created by climate change.

## UN Environment Programme (UNEP) releases Emission Gap Report 2023

- This is the 14th Emission Gap Report which tracks our progress in limiting global warming well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement.
- Emissions gap is the difference between:
  - ⊕ the estimated global GHG emissions resulting from full implementation of the latest Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and
  - ⊕ those under least-cost pathways aligned with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.
- Key highlights
  - ⊕ 86 days have been recorded with temperatures exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels this year.
  - ⊕ Global GHG emissions increased by 1.2 % from 2021 to 2022 with fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes being main contributors.
  - ⊕ Highly unequal distribution of current and historical emissions: Globally, the 10% of the population with the highest income accounted for 48% of emissions.
  - ⊕ Global warming is estimated to be limited to 3°C if the current policies continue.
  - ⊕ India related findings
    - ◆ GHG emissions across the G20 increased by 1.2% in 2022, with increases in China, India, Indonesia, and the USA but decreases in Brazil, EU and Russia.
    - ◆ India to date has only contributed 5% of warming.
    - ◆ India has 8% implementation gap between Current Policies and NDC pledges.



### United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



**Genesis:** Founded in 1972 under UN General Assembly resolution shortly after Stockholm Conference on Human Environment.

**Objective:** To help humanity foster climate stability, live in harmony with nature, and forge a pollution-free future, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Composition:** UN Environment Assembly is the governing body with universal membership encompassing all 193 UN Member States. India is a member ✓

⊕ It is part of the UN Secretariat and responds to the UN General Assembly.

**Other reports released by UNEP:** Adaptation Gap report, Global Environment Outlook, Environmental Rule of Law Report, etc.

## Also in News



### Nitrogen-9

- Scientists have recently discovered nitrogen-9 nuclei which contains 7 protons and 2 neutrons.
- It is an unusually high proton-to-neutron ratio.
  - ⊕ This disparity has a critical effect on the isotope's stability, influencing its decay processes as well as overall behaviour.
- It only exists for one billionth of a nanosecond.
- Nitrogen -9 is an isotope of nitrogen.
  - ⊕ Atoms with the same number of protons but different numbers of neutrons are called isotopes.
- Scientists are hopeful of expanding our current understanding of nuclear theory and quantum mechanics by this study.



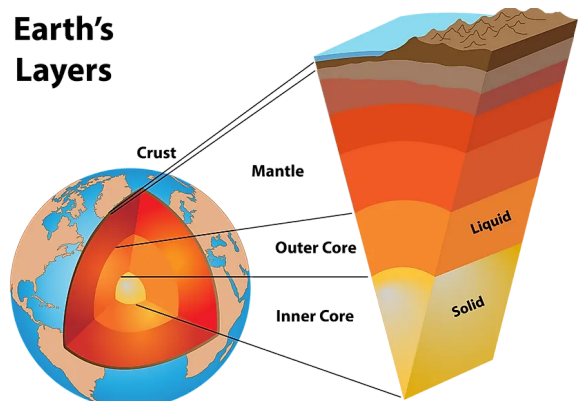
### Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)

- President of India inaugurated EMRS in Odisha.
- EMRS started in 1997-98 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas to enable them to avail opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.
  - ⊕ Each school has a capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII.
  - ⊕ EMRSs are set up in States/UTs with grants under Article 275(1) of Constitution.
  - ⊕ Its nodal ministry is Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
  - ⊕ Minimum of 15 acres of Land is required for establishing EMRSs.



### E Prime layer

- As per new study, a new layer called "E prime layer" at the outermost part of Earth's core is a result of surface water penetrating deep into the planet
  - ⊕ This alters the composition of the metallic liquid core's outermost region proposes.
- This latest research suggests that tectonic plates carrying surface water have transported it deep into the Earth over billions of years.
  - ⊕ This led to the formation of a hydrogen-rich, silicon-depleted layer at the outer core.
- Discovery enhances our comprehension of Earth's internal mechanisms.





### Cyclone Midhili

- According to recent IMD update, the cyclone storm Midhili, after crossing Bangladesh coast, weakened into a deep depression and later into a depression.
- **Cyclonic storm** is cyclonic disturbance in which the maximum average surface wind speed is in range of **34 to 47 knots (62 to 88 kmph)**.
- In **deep depression**, maximum sustained wind speed lies in the range **28 to 33 knots (50 to 61 kmph)**.
- **Depression** is a cyclonic disturbance in which maximum sustained surface wind speed is between **17 and 33 knots (31 and 61 kmph)**.



### Declaration of the Rights of the Child

- World Children's Day is celebrated every year on November 20 to promote international togetherness, and improving children's welfare.
  - ⊖ On this day, UN General Assembly adopted **Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959** and **Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989**.
- Under the declaration, rights of the child are recognized under **10 Principles** i.e.,
  - ⊖ **Right to a name and nationality,**
  - ⊖ **Right to adequate nutrition, housing and medical services,**
  - ⊖ **Right to be among the first to receive relief** in all circumstances, etc.



### International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

- **54th IFFI commenced in Panaji, Goa.**
- Since its inception in **1952**, it provides a **single platform** for filmmakers and industry professionals to have **access to cinema from across the world**.
  - ⊖ It is jointly **organized each year** by National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India and Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG).
  - ⊖ Since 2004, IFFI has moved to its **permanent venue at Goa**.



### Aeronautical Society of India (AeSI)

- International Conference-cum-Exhibition on 'Aerospace & Aviation in 2047' is being organised to **commemorate 75 years of excellence of the AeSI**.
- AeSI is the **principal Society in India** serving the professions in areas of aeronautics, aerospace and aviation.
- It provides **interaction between professionals from all facets of civil and military aviation** as well as the manufacturing/training/maintenance agencies.
- It was inaugurated by **Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in 1948** and he was also the **first Patron-in-Chief of the Society**.
- It has affiliations with AICTE (All India Council For Technical Education); IITs etc.



### Jamdani sari

- At **42nd edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) in New Delhi**, **Jamdani sari** has been showcased.
  - ⊖ IITF Theme: "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - United by Trade**".
- Jamdani (Persian origin) is a **vividly patterned, sheer cotton fabric, traditionally woven on a handloom** by craftspeople and apprentices around Dhaka (Bangladesh).
  - ⊖ This weaving technique has **Bengali Roots**.
  - ⊖ In this technique of handloom weaving, **motif appears same on front and reverse side of sari**.
  - ⊖ It is a **hand woven fabric** that is also known as **muslin**.
- **Uppada Jamdani Sarees (Andhra Pradesh)** is a **registered Geographical indication product** under Geographical registry.



## Places in news



### Argentina (Capital: Buenos Aires)

- Javier Milei won the Argentina's Presidential elections.
- **Political Boundaries**
  - ⊖ **Country of South America**, covering most of southern portion of continent.
  - ⊖ **Bounded by Chile** (south and west), **Bolivia** and **Paraguay** (north), and **Brazil, Uruguay, and Atlantic Ocean** (east).
- **Geographical features**
  - ⊖ **Terrain:** Rich plains of **Pampas** in northern half, **flat to rolling plateau of Patagonia** in south, **rugged Andes** along western border.
  - ⊖ **Highest Point:** Cerro Aconcagua
  - ⊖ **Major rivers:** Parana, Paraguay, Uruguay etc.

