



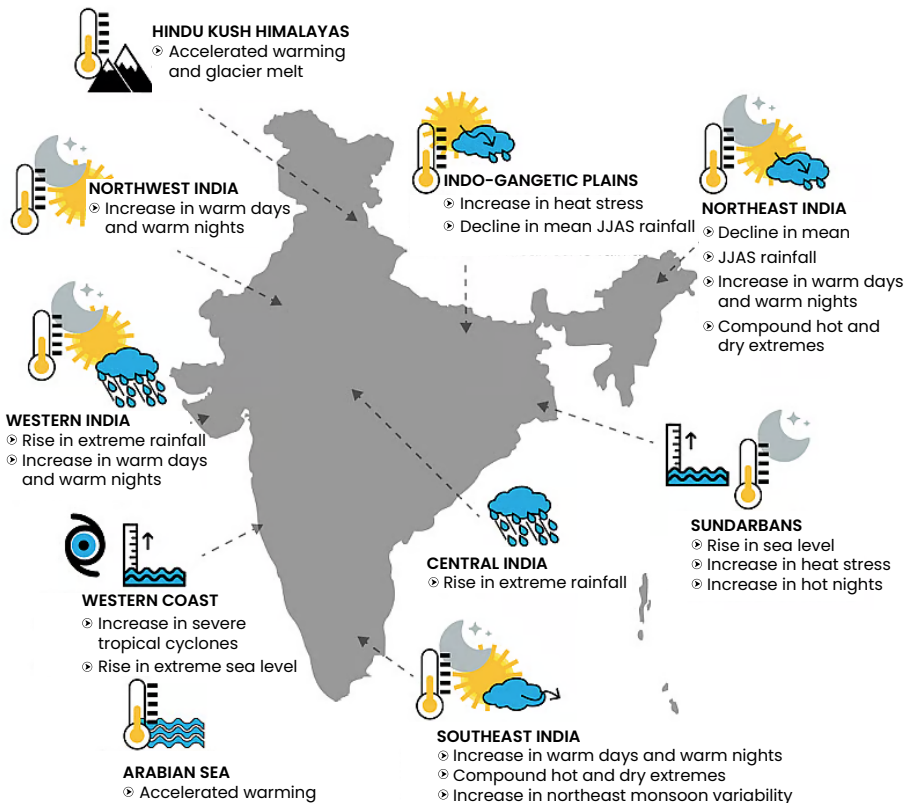
NEWS TODAY

A Post-AR6 (Assessment Report) update on Climate Change in India

A recent study offers a comprehensive assessment of India's observed and projected climate changes.

 Components	 Observations and Projections
Rising Temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India warmed 0.89°C (2015–24 vs 1901–30); projected +1.2–1.3°C by mid-century.
Ocean Warming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Ocean warming 0.12°C/decade since 1950; projected 0.17°C/decade by year 2100. Marine heatwaves will rise from 20 to ~200 days/year by mid-century. Sea levels at north Indian ocean rose at 3.3 mm year (1993–2017).
Monsoon Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mean Southwest Monsoon rainfall declined over the Indo-Gangetic plains/Northeast while extreme precipitation events intensified. Projected 6–8% increase in all-India mean monsoon rainfall by mid-century with high spatial variability.
Cryosphere (Hindu Kush Himalayas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerated warming 0.28°C per decade (1950–2020) causing accelerated glacier mass loss. 30–50% reduction in glacier volume projected by 2100 (at 1.5–2°C global warming).
Cyclones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arabian Sea pre-monsoon cyclone intensity increased by 40% (1982–2019). Historical 1-in-100-year extreme sea level events projected to become annual occurrences along the Arabian Sea coastline by mid-century.

Regional hotspots of observed climate change in India






India must adopt **region-specific, data-driven adaptation strategies** to strengthen resilience across agriculture, cities, and public health systems in the face of escalating compound climate risks.



Central government implements four new labour codes, rationalising 29 existing labour laws

The historic reform streamlines compliance, modernizes outdated provisions, and creates a simplified, efficient framework that promotes ease of doing business while safeguarding workers' rights and welfare.

 Labour Code	 Laws it Subsumed	 Key-Provisions
Code on Wages, 2019	Code replaces the following four laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment of Wages Act, 1936. Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a statutory right to minimum wages for all employees across both organized and unorganized sectors. Employers shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, including transgender identity, in recruitment, wages. Provisions ensuring timely payment and preventing un-authorized deductions will apply to all employees, irrespective of wage limits.
Industrial Relations Code, 2020	Subsumes 3 labour acts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade Union Act, 1926; Industrial Employment (Standing orders) Act, 1946; Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed Term Employment (FTE): Allows direct, time-bound contracts with full parity in wages and benefits; gratuity eligibility after one year. Higher Threshold for Lay-off/Retrenchment /Closure: Approval limit raised from 100 to 300 workers; States may enhance the limit further. Expanded Worker Definition: Covers sales promotion staff, journalists, and supervisory employees earning up to ₹18,000/month.
Code on social security	Subsumes 9 Labour Acts like Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All workers including gig & platform workers to get social security coverage. Expanded ESIC (Employees' State Insurance) Coverage: ESIC now applies pan-India, eliminating the criteria of "notified areas."
Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020	Subsumes 13 Labour Acts like Factories Act, 1948, Plantation Labour Act, 1951, Mines Act, 1952 etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers must provide all workers above the age of 40 years with a free annual health check-up. Extension to Hazardous Work: Government can extend the Code's provisions to any establishment, even with one employee, engaged in hazardous or life-threatening occupations.

Ultra-processed foods (UPF) driving surge in obesity and diabetes globally: Lancet Report

The report highlights that rising **UPF consumption is damaging public health, fuelling chronic diseases, and worsening inequalities.**

➤ UPF consumption in **India saw a 40 fold increase from 2006 to 2019.**

⊕ During the same period obesity almost doubled in India in both men and women.

What is UPF?

➤ They are heavily industrially processed foods high in **fat, sugar, and salt, containing additives like emulsifiers, colours, and artificial flavors.**

➤ They include items like **noodles, biscuits, chips etc.** designed to be **hyper-palatable and highly marketed.**

➤ Their increased consumption may lead to **various health issues** including hypertension, renal failure, obesity, fatty liver disease, metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular diseases, etc.

Reasons behind increased use of UPF

➤ **Aggressive Marketing:** Heavy advertising and digital targeting push UPFs to all age groups.

➤ **High Corporate Profits:** UPFs are cheap to make and highly profitable due to its Hyper-Palatable Design (repeated consumptions).

➤ **Weak Regulations:** Loose rules on **labeling, advertising, and school sales.**

➤ **Lifestyle Changes & high availability:** Fast urban living increases dependence on ready-to-eat processed foods.

Policy Recommendations to curb UPF

➤ **Increase Taxes on UPFs:** To reduce consumption and fund subsidies for healthier foods.

➤ **Regulate Corporate Influence:** Replace industry **self-regulation with mandatory rules** and stronger competition oversight.

➤ **Front-of-Pack Warning Labels:** Showing **high salt, sugar, and fat** to inform consumers.

➤ **Restrict UPFs in Public Institutions:** Disallow UPFs in schools, **hospitals, childcare centers, and government facilities.**

Indian Initiatives to curb UPF consumption:

➤ **Eat Right India Campaign** by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to ensure safe and wholesome food.

➤ **FSSAI limits trans fatty acids (TFA)** in food products to 2% by mass of the total oils and fats.

➤ **All Aerated beverages** containing sugar or flavouring in India are taxed at 40% GST.

➤ **Revised (2024) Dietary Guidelines** for Indians by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

UN Women says 44% of the world's women and girls lack legal protection against digital Violence

Digital abuse is “spreading at alarming speed”, fuelled by AI, anonymity, and weak laws.

What is digital violence against women?

It refers to acts of digital abuse generated and spread by AI technology, resulting in physical, sexual, psychological, social, political, or economic harm, or other infringements of women's rights and freedoms.

Emerging challenges intensifying violence against women

- **Anti-rights actors:** They are increasingly using online spaces to push back against women's rights. E.g., cyberbullying, harassment, and threats of violence.
- **Growth of AI:** By facilitating the spread of **targeted disinformation** as well as the proliferation of **image-based abuse and deepfake pornographic videos**. E.g. 90–95% of online deepfakes are non-consensual porn, with ~90% depicting women.
 - ⊖ New AI-powered abuses against women include **AI-driven impersonation and sextortion (blackmail)**, and **sophisticated doxing (personal data exposure)** escalating psychological harm.
- **Expansion of the manosphere** : an ecosystem of misogynistic content that is seeping into mainstream culture, shaping public attitudes towards women, and fueling violence.
- **Legal Gaps:** Current laws (such as UK's Online Safety Act, Mexico's Ley Olimpia , EU's Digital Safety Act) struggle to keep up with fast-evolving generative AI.

Wayforward

- **Global cooperation** to ensure digital platforms and AI tools meet safety and ethics standards.
- **Support for survivors** of digital violence by funding women's rights organizations.
- **Investments in prevention and culture change** through digital literacy and online safety training for women and girls, and programmes that challenge toxic online cultures.
- **Use of technology to usher in positive social change.** E.g: French Tech firm **Bodyguard**. AI app filters out online abuse.

Technology Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls (TFVAWG)

- TF VAWG prevalence: 16–58%.
- Misinformation & defamation (67%) constitutes most prevalent forms of online violence against women
- 73% of women journalists reported experiencing online violence.

Source: UN Women 2024

Also In News



Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

CISF has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for seaports under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code.

- An RSO acts as a **regulator for seaport security**.
- ISPS Code is a **comprehensive set of mandatory measures to enhance maritime security**, implemented through IMO via the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)

About CISF

- **Ministry** - Part of central armed police force(CAPF) under the Union Home Ministry
- **Legal backing and origin** - Act of Parliament i.e Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968
- **Headed by:** Indian Police Service officer with the rank of Director-General
- **Role** - Provides security to Airport, Government Building, Monuments, during Disaster, VIP and critical installations like Delhi Metro, Department of Space, the Department of Atomic Energy, etc. in addition to traditional role of providing industrial security.

⊖ CISF can offer **Consultancy Services** in the field of Security and Fire Protection to public as well as private sector.



Brain-eating amoeba (Naegleri fowleri)

Karnataka issued safety advisory after cases of “brain-eating amoeba” infection were reported in Kerala.

About Brain-eating amoeba

- It lives throughout the world in **warm and shallow bodies of fresh water, such as lakes, rivers and hot springs and soil**.
- People who become infected by this amoeba **develop a condition called primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM)**.
 - ⊖ It is a very **serious infection of the central nervous system** that's almost always **fatal**.
- Most common way of being infected by this type of amoeba happens when infected **water goes into the nose**.
 - ⊖ Infection does not spread **from person to person or by drinking contaminated water**.



Mount Semeru

Mount Semeru, the most active of Indonesia's live volcanoes, erupted recently.

About Mount Semeru

- **Location:** East Java Island
 - ⊖ Currently the **highest volcano on Java island**.
 - ⊖ **Part of the Pacific Ring of Fire**, a highly seismically active belt.
- **Type:** Stratovolcano
- **Other recent volcanic eruptions in Indonesia:** Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki, Merapi Volcano etc.



UAE Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP)

Recently, COP30 Presidency released a draft of the UAE JTWP under the Paris Agreement.

About UAE JTWP

- **What is it** - It is a work programme under **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** for just transition.
 - ⊖ JTWP **promotes climate resilience** while **reducing inequality and establishing quality jobs**.
- **Background:** COP27 to UNFCCC established a work programme on just transition in 2022.
 - ⊖ It was operationalized at COP28 as United Arab Emirates JTWP in 2023.
- As part of JTWP 2 dialogues and one ministerial meeting are held each year.



Meerut Bugle

Meerut Bugle has earned a GI tag.

About The Meerut Bugle

- It dates back to the late **19th century** and is closely linked with India's evolving **military tradition**.
- **Material:** Handcrafted using **high-quality brass** and is known for its **durability and tonal accuracy**.
- **Uses:** regimental bands, military academies, and ceremonial events nationwide.

Benefits of GI Tag: provides **legal protection to the producers of the product** by preventing others from using the name or reputation of the product without permission, enhances market value and brand equity etc.



Sagar Kavach

Recently Sagar Kavach exercise was conducted along the Maharashtra & Goa coastline.

About Sagar Kavach

- **About** - it is a **Biannual coastal security exercise** conducted by the **Indian Coast Guard**.
- **Objective:** to assess preparedness of in handling coastal security emergencies, preventing attacks on vital coastal installations and strengthening the multi-layered Coastal Security Network
 - ⊖ It also sought to enhance synergy among central and state stakeholders responsible for coastal and maritime security.



UPI-TIPS Interlinkage

RBI Announces UPI-TIPS (TARGET Instant Payment Settlement) Interlinkage to Enhance Cross-Border Payments with Euro Area.

About UPI-TIPS Interlinkage

- TIPS is the **instant payment system operated by the Eurosystem**.
- The proposed interlinkage aims to facilitate cross-border remittances **between India and the Euro Area** and is **expected to benefit users of both jurisdictions**.
- It is in alignment with the G20 Roadmap for enhancing cross-border payments, with a focus on cheaper, efficient, more transparent and more accessible remittances.



Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

SFIO has instituted safeguards to prevent impersonation or misuse of its Summons/Notices, requiring officers to issue them digitally except in exceptional circumstances.

About SFIO (HQ- New Delhi)

- It is a **multi-disciplinary investigating agency** which investigates and prosecutes complex **corporate frauds**.
- **Status:** granted **Statutory** status under **Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Ministry** - Ministry of Corporate affairs
- **Headed by:** Director (not below the rank of **Joint Secretary to the government of India**).
- **Note:** If a case is assigned to **SFIO**, no other agency of the Central or State Government shall proceed with its investigation.



National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture 2025

India launched "National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture 2025"

- It is developed under **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)**
 - ⊖ PM-MKSSY is a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada for formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises.
- **Objective:** To **establish a national digital traceability system** that enhances food safety, sustainability, and global market access.
- Unify fragmented traceability practices by integrating digital tools such as blockchain, IoT, QR codes and GPS.
- It will enable **real-time, end-to-end tracking** of Seafood products from '**farm to plate**' and '**catch to consumer**'.