

NEWS TODAY

'Choosing Our Future: Education for Climate Action' report released by World Bank Group

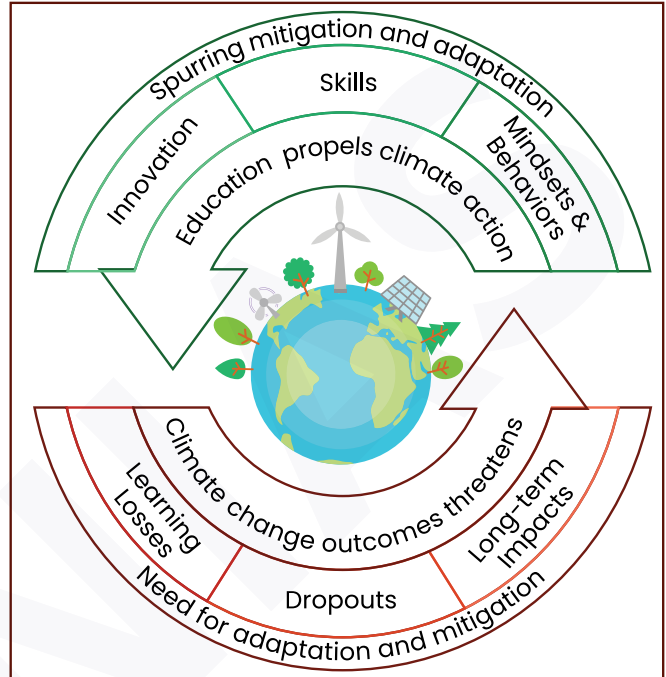
The report states that **climate change induced heat and extreme weather events are significantly disrupting learning** and emphasizes that **education system can empower, equip, and skill young people for climate mitigation and adaptation.**

Key Highlights of the Report

- **Impact of climate change on schooling and learning:** Countries lost on average 11 days of instruction per year in affected schools due to climate-related school closures, with higher impact in low-income countries.
- **Information gap on climate awareness:** Climate change awareness is still at **only about 65% in low- and middle-income countries.**
- **Need of skilling/ re-skilling/ up-skilling:** Global green transitions would require skilled workers for an estimated 100 million new jobs, up-skilled workers for most existing jobs, and re-skilled workers for another 78 million jobs which will disappear.
- **Education can help with climate action today:** In India, **climate-related outreach to children** not only increased their pro-climate behavior but also increased the pro-climate behavior of parents by nearly 13%.

Recommendations for the Government

- **Harness school education for pro-climate behavior-change** by investing in foundational skills and STEM education, delivering well-designed climate education, etc.
- **Harness tertiary education for green skilling and innovation** by fostering student adaptability through strong foundations, flexible pathways, and information flows.
- **Protect education systems** by making them more adaptable and resilient to a changing climate.



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Global Matchmaking Platform for Industrial Decarbonisation Launched

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) & Climate Club launched 'Global Matchmaking Platform' (GMP) for industrial decarbonization at COP29.

- **UNIDO** is a specialized agency of UNs with a mandate to **promote, dynamize & accelerate industrial development.**
- **Climate Club** is an intergovernmental forum for exchange on **accelerating climate action & industry decarbonisation.**

About GMP

- **Aim:** To boost international climate cooperation & partnerships to enable developing & emerging economies to leap-frog into climate-friendly industrial development.
- **Secretariat:** GMP is a **support mechanism of Climate Club**, with **secretariat hosted by UNIDO.**
- **How it works?**
 - ⊕ It **connects country-specific needs with global technical & financial assistance** to reduce emissions in energy & emissions-intensive industrial sectors.
 - ⊕ It's accessible to **all emerging & developing economies.**

What is Industrial Decarbonisation?

- **Defination:** It's the process of focusing on energy-efficient & sustainable projects that reduce industries' overall carbon footprint.
- **Key Strategies:** low-carbon technologies, Decarbonizing End-Use Energy through renewable sources, Carbon Capture, Utilisation, & Storage etc.
- **Need:** Decarbonizing industrial sector is critical for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
 - ⊕ Industrial activities alone are responsible for a quarter of global energy systems CO₂ emissions.

Initiatives Undertaken

Global

- **Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative (2021):** Co-led by UK & India, it is global coalition of public & private organisations to stimulate global demand for low carbon industrial materials.
- **Alliance for Industry Decarbonization:** Coordinated by International Renewable Energy Agency, aims to **decarbonize industrial value chains.**

India

- **Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme:** Energy efficiency credit trading scheme for industries.
- **Ministry of Steel is working to decarbonize steel sector**, with a focus on renewable energy, green hydrogen etc.

UNHCR Launched Global Appeal 2025 to Address Global Refugee Crisis in 2025

UNHCR has launched a **\$10 billion appeal for 2025** to meet critical needs & implement sustainable solutions for millions of **refugees, displaced persons & stateless people** worldwide.

- It highlights UNHCR's plans for 2025 & funding it needs to protect, assist & empower refugees, & to help them find solutions to their situations.

Global Refugee Crisis

- A refugee is someone who has been **forced to flee conflict/persecution & has crossed an international border** to seek safety.
 - 117.3 million People worldwide are forcibly displaced & 40% are children (UNHCR's Global Trends Report 2023).
- Reasons:** Conflict & violence (e.g. Syria), persecution (e.g. Myanmar), climate change impact etc.

Challenges

- Refugees:** Lacks basic necessities like food, shelter etc.; discrimination & exclusion from mainstream society; vulnerable to trafficking etc.
- Host Countries:** Sudden increase in population; strain on local resources like healthcare; unemployment & social tensions, etc.

Initiatives Undertaken

- Global Compact on Refugees (2018):** Provides framework to help refugees & their host countries etc.
- Global Refugee Forum:** Held every 4 years to discuss & find solutions for challenges faced by refugees & their host communities.
- United Nations Relief & Works Agency:** Established in 1949 to provide assistance & protection to **Palestine refugees**.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- HQ:** Geneva, Switzerland
- Genesis:** Established by General Assembly of United Nations in 1950.
- Purpose:** Protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.
 - UNHCR works in 136 countries.
- Achievement:** It Received Noble Peace prize in 1954 and 1981.

UNGA adopts a Resolution paving way for negotiations of a Treaty on Crimes against Humanity

Recently, **Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)** approved '**United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity**'.

- Sixth Committee** of the UNGA is the **primary forum for the consideration of legal questions** in the General Assembly.
- Crime against Humanity** is defined as **specific criminal acts** including murder, rape, torture, apartheid, deportation, and persecution, **when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack** directed against any civilian population **according to a state or organizational policy**. (Rome Statute)

Need of a Treaty on Crimes against Humanity

- Absence of dedicated international treaty:** Existing International Humanitarian Laws (the laws of war such as Geneva Convention) do not adequately **proscribe potential crimes** that can be committed in non-armed conflict situations.
- To provide comprehensive framework for countries:** It would offer new pathways for victims of crimes against humanity and provide framework for countries to incorporate these crimes into their national legal systems.
- Global cooperation:** It would also foster cooperation with other states, for example through mutual legal assistance.

Existing Mechanisms to prevent Crimes against Humanity

- International Humanitarian Laws**
 - 4 Geneva Conventions (1949),
 - Biological Weapons Convention (1972),
 - Chemical Weapons Convention (1993),
 - Rome Statute for International Criminal Court (1998), etc.
- Framework in India:** Article 51 directs the state to promote international peace and security and foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, etc.

COP29 of the UNFCCC concludes with the Baku Climate Unity Pact

The Pact includes **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance**, the **Global Goal on Adaptation**, and **Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme**.

Key Highlights of the Pact

- **NCQG on Climate Finance:** Provides a new finance goal to help countries to protect their people and economies against climate disasters, and share in the vast benefits of the clean energy boom.
- **Global Goal on Adaptation**
 - ⊕ **Baku Adaptation Roadmap:** For advancing implementation of adaptation action in line with **Article 7 of the Paris Agreement**.
 - ◆ **Article 7, paragraph 1:** Establish the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity with a view to contributing to sustainable development.
 - ⊕ **Recognizes both incremental and transformational adaptation approaches:** For protecting the well-being of people, and for implementing the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.
- **Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme**
 - ⊕ **No 'one size fits all' approach:** Owing to the diversity of national and local circumstances.
 - ⊕ **Collaboration:** Between cities, subnational authorities, local communities and national Governments on mitigation actions.
 - ⊕ **Discussion for creation of a digital platform:** To facilitate implementation of mitigation actions.

COP29 Adopted New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)

The NCQG set a new **finance goal** to help countries to protect their people and economies against climate disasters, and share in the vast benefits of the clean energy boom.

- **NCQG** is a key element of **Paris Agreement**, designed to set a **new financial target** to support developing countries in their **climate actions post-2025**.

Climate Finance Goals Set by NCQG

- **Baku Finance Goal:** Sets new global target to channel **\$1.3tn of climate finance** to developing countries by 2035.
- **Triple finance to developing countries:** It set a target for developed countries to mobilize at least **\$300 billion per year for developing countries by 2035**.
 - ⊕ In 2009 parties to UNFCCC had decided to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 which was subsequently extended to 2025.

India's Stand

- India has **rejected NCQG for climate finance** during the COP29 conference on the following grounds.
 - ⊕ **Insufficient Financial Commitment:** India criticized proposed goal of mobilizing \$300 billion annually by 2035 as "too little and too distant".
 - ⊕ **Lack of Inclusivity in Decision-Making** and thus it doesn't reflect the priorities of the Global South.
- India's rejection resonated with other developing countries, including Nigeria and Malawi.

Also in News



Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement

Recently, the Commerce Secretary visited Norway for implementation **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement** between **India and European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**.

- **EFTA**, set up in 1960, is an **intergovernmental organisation** of **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland**, to promote free trade and economic integration.

About India-EFTA TEPA (signed in March 2024)

- **Objective:** To increase the stock of foreign direct investments by USD 100 billion and 1 million direct jobs in India in the next 15 years.
- Agreement emphasized on market access related to goods, rules of origin, trade facilitation, trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, market access on services, intellectual property rights, etc.



Guidelines for identification of posts for persons with disabilities

Centre issues guidelines for concerning identification of posts for persons with disabilities in line with **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**.

- It aims to ensure inclusivity, fairness, & uniformity in employment of persons with disabilities.

Key Highlights

- **Identification of Posts:** Mandate a **periodic review and identification of posts** suitable for individuals with at least 40% disability.
- **Reserved promotional posts:** if a post is deemed suitable for them, all subsequent promotional posts will also be reserved for persons with disabilities.
- **Formation of Committees:** Ministries and departments to form committees to assess all posts for their suitability.



National Cooperative Development Corporation

91st General Council Meeting of National Cooperative Development Corporation - (NCDC) held in Delhi.

About NCDC

- **Genesis:** It was established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 as a statutory Corporation under Ministry of Cooperation.
- **Functions:**
 - ⊕ **Planning, promoting & financing programmes** for production, marketing, storage, export and import etc. of agricultural produce.
 - ⊕ **Finance projects in rural industrial cooperative sectors** & for certain notified services in rural areas like water conservation, irrigation etc.
 - ⊕ **Loans & grants are advanced to State Governments** for financing primary & secondary level cooperative societies.



International Cooperative Alliance

International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Global Cooperative Conference is being organised in India for the first time in the 130 year long history of ICA.

- **Theme "Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All"** aligns with the Indian Government's vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation).

About ICA

- **Founded:** In 1895, London.
- It is a **global organization that unites, represents, and serves cooperatives around the world.**
- **Members:** 306 member organizations across 105 countries.
- It serves as the **apex body** for the cooperative movement, providing a global platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and coordinated action.



ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement

Recently, 6th meeting of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee was held in New Delhi.

About AITIGA

- **Entered into force on January 01, 2010** (signed in August 2009), it paved the way for the creation of one of the world's largest free trade areas in South and South-East Asia.
- **Members:** India and all ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand & Vietnam).
- **Significance:** ASEAN as a group is **one of the major trade partners of India** with about 11% share in India's global trade.



Quantum Tunneling

Recently, researchers achieved a controlled transfer of atoms from one place to another via **quantum tunneling** between optical tweezers.

- Also known as **laser traps**, Optical tweezers utilize focused laser beams to trap & manipulate **microscopic objects** (such as cells).

About Quantum Tunneling

- It is a phenomenon in **quantum mechanism** where a particle is able to **penetrate through a potential energy barrier** that is higher in energy than the particle's kinetic energy.
- This behavior is a direct consequence of the **wave-like nature of particles** at the quantum level.



Baalbek & Tyre

Lebanon's UNESCO Cultural Heritage sites Baalbek, Tyre, and Anjar are being endangered by recurrent assaults.

About Baalbek, Tyre, and Anjar

- **Baalbek:** Baalbek, with its colossal structures, is one of the finest examples of **Imperial Roman architecture** at its apogee.
- **Tyre:** This great **Phoenician city** ruled the seas and founded prosperous colonies such as Cadiz and Carthage, but its historical role declined at the end of the Crusades.
 - ⊕ According to legend, **purple dye was invented** in Tyre.
- **Anjar:** The city of Anjar was founded by **Caliph Walid I** at the beginning of the 8th century. The ruins reveal a very regular layout, reminiscent of the palace-cities of ancient times, and are a unique testimony to **city planning under the Umayyads.**



Project Veer Gatha

Over 1.76 crore school students from all States, Union Territories participated in Project Veer Gatha 4.0.

About Project Veer Gatha

- **Ministry:** It is a joint initiative by the **Ministry of Defence** and the **Ministry of Education.**
- **Started:** Organized since 2021.
- **Objective:** Disseminate the inspiring tales of valour, selfless sacrifice and courage of the Gallantry Awardees and the life stories among the students to inculcate the spirit of patriotism.
- **Scope:** The Project is open for all schools in all states and Union Territories as well as all schools affiliated to CBSE.

Personality in news



Raja Raja Chola (985 CE – 1014 CE)

The birth anniversary of the legendary Chola emperor **Raja Raja Chola** celebrated during Sadhaya Vizha in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

- **Sadhaya Vizha festival** is observed in Tamil month of Aippasi, which runs from mid-October to mid-November at Brihadeshwara Temple.

About Raja Raja Chola (985 CE – 1014 CE)

- Chola power reached its peak during reign of **Arumolivarman**, who assumed title Rajaraja I.
- **Rajaraja** defeated Chera ruler Bhaskararavivarman in **naval battle of Kandalursalai.**
- He also **invaded Sri Lanka (annexing its northern part)** and led a conquest to **Maldives.**
- He completed construction of famous **Rajarajeswara/Brihadeeswara temple at Tanjore** in 1010 A.D

