

# NEWS TODAY

## Rising flood frequency in High Mountain Asia (HMA) since 2000 due to climate change: Study

Study analyzed flood events in HMA from 1950 to 2023 and confirms that **temperature rise is the key driver of increased flooding.**

- Since 1950, HMA has been warming at **0.3°C per decade.**

### Other Key Observations

- **Rising unpredictability in floods timing**, while most events continue to occur during monsoon, there is increase in floods happening outside these times.
- **Planetary heating from burning of oil, coal, and gas** is driving the rise in all four types of floods seen in Asian region.

### Four Types of Floods in HMA

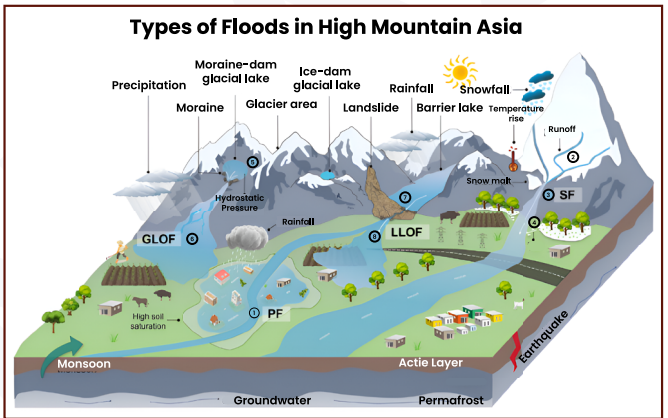
- **Rain/Pluvial Floods (PF):** Triggered by extreme rainfall, leading to surface runoff and flash floods, common in **Himalayas.**
- **Snowmelt-induced floods (SF):** Rising temperatures accelerate snowmelt, increasing river discharge, most frequent in **Tien Shan.**
- **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs):** Caused by glacial lakes breaching due to melting glaciers or landslides, common in **Karakoram and Himalayas.**
- **Landslide-Dammed Lake Outburst Floods (LLOFs):** Occur when landslides block rivers, forming temporary lakes that later breach, mostly in **Hengduan Mountains.**

### Recommendations

- Prioritise **real-time flood monitoring** in vulnerable valleys.
- **Strengthen data-sharing agreements** between HMA nations to address transboundary threats.
- **Promoting community-based flood mitigation efforts** including locally-led construction of protective infrastructure etc.

### About High Mountain Asia

- HMA, also called the 'Asian Water Tower', is an **important source of freshwater** since it holds **largest reservoir of frozen water outside the polar regions.**
- It **feeds 10 major rivers** and supporting more than 2 billion people.
- It consists of **Tibetan Plateau**, surrounded by **mountain ranges of Tien Shan, Pamir, Hindu Kush, and Karakoram** in west, **Himalayas** in south and southeast, and **Qilian Shan** in east.



## Prime Minister calls for 10% cut in Edible Oil Consumption to Fight Obesity

Recently Prime Minister stated that in 2022, **one in eight people globally is living with obesity** with cases among children and adolescents (5 to 19 years) **quadrupled.**

### About Obesity

- Defined as an **abnormal or excessive fat accumulation** that presents a risk to health (World Health Organization).
- ⊕ **Body Mass Index (BMI)** is used to classify obesity. It is calculated by **dividing a person's weight in kilograms by their height in meters squared (kg/m<sup>2</sup>).**
- ⊕ **BMI of 25 or above** is considered **overweight** and **30 or above** is classified as **obese.**
- **Health Consequences:** Rising cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers, neurological disorders, chronic respiratory diseases, etc.

### Status of obesity in India as per NFHS-5 (2019-2021)

- Overall, **24% of women** and **23% of men** are overweight or obese.
- At all India level, Child (under 5 years) overweight rate **increased from 2.1% to 3.4% between 2015-16 and 2019-21.**

### Factors Driving Obesity in India

- **High-Calorie, Low-Nutrient Diets:** Increased consumption of refined carbohydrates, saturated fats and **easy access to processed foods.**
- **Sedentary Lifestyles:** Long sitting hours, excessive screen time, minimal movement in daily routines etc.
- **Use of Genetically modified crops:** Altered food composition, impacting metabolism and weight gain.






### India's Strategic Framework for Obesity Prevention

<p><b>POSHAN Abhiyaan</b></p> <p>Improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers</p>	<p><b>Fit India Movement</b></p> <p>Promotes active lifestyles and encourages individuals to incorporate fitness into daily routines</p>	<p><b>National Programme for Prevention and Control of NCDs</b></p> <p>Promote health through behaviour change by engaging communities, civil society, media</p>	<p><b>Eat Right India</b></p> <p>Ensuring safe, healthy, and sustainable food for all</p>	<p><b>RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) Initiative</b></p> <p>Safely repurposes used cooking oil.</p>
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## Supreme Court (SC) sets aside High Court (HC) order due to Judicial Overreach

- In the **Man Singh Verma case**, Allahabad HC directed **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** to compensate for alleged wrongful confinement.
  - SC overturned the order citing judicial overreach as the Code of Criminal Procedure does not authorize courts to grant compensation for illegal detention.

### Judicial Activism and Overreach

	 <b>Judicial Activism</b>	 <b>Judicial Overreach</b>
<b>Definition</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refers to the <b>proactive standpoint</b> that the court takes in <b>defending citizen rights and advancing justice in society</b>.</li> <li>E.g., <b>Public Interest Litigation</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An <b>extreme form of judicial activism</b> when a court <b>acts beyond its jurisdiction and interferes</b> in the <b>executive and/or legislature's jurisdiction</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Basis</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Judiciary as the final interpreter of the Constitution</b>.</li> <li>E.g., Courts, under <b>judicial review (Articles 32 &amp; 226)</b>, can invalidate laws or executive actions that contravene constitutional provisions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Violation of the doctrine of separation of powers:</b> Courts taking on functions of <b>law enforcement, policy making</b> encroaches on functions of the legislature/executive.</li> <li>E.g., Courts using Article 142 to modify Arbitral awards risk judicial overreach.</li> </ul>
<b>Important Judgements</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan (1997):</b> SC guidelines for the protection of women at workplace.</li> <li><b>Maneka Gandhi (1978):</b> Court interpreted 'procedure established by law', by placing it as 'due process of law'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Anthem Case- Shyam Narayan Chouksey v. Union of India (2018).</b></li> <li><b>Liquor ban near national and state highways.</b></li> </ul>

Courts must exercise **judicial restraint** to maintain **the separation of powers**, ensuring that, as **Dr. Manmohan Singh noted**, "the dividing line between judicial activism and judicial overreach is a thin one."

## India's poverty measurement framework needs urgent revision to reflect rising living standards: Study

The study compares 2022-24 **Household Consumer Expenditure Survey** data with 2011-12, highlighting poverty and inequality changes.

### Key Findings

- Poverty headcount ratio (HCR):** Poverty HCR, at the \$1.90 PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) the **poverty line**, has **dropped from ~ 12% in 2011-12 to 1% in 2023-24**.
  - Poverty HCR:** Percentage of a population living below defined poverty line.
- Poorest households:** Saw significantly higher growth in consumption expenditures than wealthier households.
- Existing official poverty lines (Tendulkar and Rangarajan):** Are outdated and don't reflect current deprivation.





### The Study Proposes Two New Relative Poverty Thresholds:

- Relative Poverty Line Based on the 33rd Percentile of Consumption:** Instead of using a fixed poverty line, Poverty is defined based on the spending of the **bottom 33% of the population**.
- Relative Poverty Line Based on Income:** In Europe, poverty is defined as **60% of the median income** (Middle income level when all incomes are arranged in order).
  - Applying this method to India, **16.5% of the population** was below this **threshold in 2023-24**.

### New Poverty Line Significance:

- Reflects updated consumption patterns**, addressing current deprivation.
- Ensures poverty thresholds adjust** automatically with economic growth.
- Provides a more accurate measure** of poverty in modern India.

### TYPES OF POVERTY MEASUREMENT

	<b>ABSOLUTE POVERTY</b>		<b>RELATIVE POVERTY</b>
Poverty based on a fixed income threshold necessary to meet basic needs  World Bank's \$2.15/day for low-income, \$3.65/day for lower-middle-income countries		Compares an individual's income to the overall standard of living  Common in developed countries	
	<b>MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY</b>		<b>SUBJECTIVE POVERTY</b>
Includes health, education, and living standards  UNDP's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)		Based on self-assessment where people report whether they feel poor  Based on personal and societal expectations	
Understanding different measures helps create more effective poverty reduction strategies			

## Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) becomes 1st Urban Local Body to include separate Climate chapter in its Budget

For chapter titled 'Sustainable and climate budget', AMC has earmarked one-third of its budget for Climate Action for 2025-26 focusing on implementing Net-zero Climate Resilient City Action Plan aligned with India's 2070 target.

- Earlier, unlike AMC, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) unveiled Climate Budget consisting 33% capital expenditure for climate-related projects.

### About Climate Budgeting

- It is a governance system mainstreaming climate commitments into decision-making on policies, actions and budget.
- This means integrating climate targets from city's Climate Action Plan into city's budgeting process and assigning responsibility for implementation and monitoring across city government.
- Importance of Climate Budgeting for Cities
  - ⊕ Foster climate-resilient development; curb emissions and aid in achieving global and national climate targets.
  - ⊕ Aids in estimating climate finance gap by analysing expenditures and promote innovative financial models mobilising climate finance.

### Role of Local Administration in Climate Action

- Varied localized climate action: Impact of climate change is geographically and socio-economically varied, making local actions more effective.
  - ⊕ E.g. In 2024-25, Mumbai (BMC) allocated ~30% of its capital budget to tackle urban flooding.
- First Responder to climate change induced extreme weather events. E.g. Landslides
- Access to local and traditional knowledge for climate adaptation and mitigation. E.g. Kundi rainwater harvesting in Rajasthan.

### Mechanisms for Local Government Climate Finance

- Green and Sustainability-linked Bonds E.g. Vadodara Green Muni Bond.
- Performance-based fiscal transfers to Local Governments for climate action E.g. UNCDF's (UN Capital Development Fund) Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL).
- Pollution and congestion charges E.g. London Congestion Charge and Low-Emission Zones.

## Union Government Approves Funding for Project Lion to Enhance Conservation Efforts

For the project around ₹2,927.71 crore approved, including establishing a National Referral Centre for wildlife (NRC-W) in Gujarat's Junagadh district.

### About NRC-W

- The Centre aims to track wildlife diseases, especially those transmissible to humans.
    - ⊕ E.g.: Babesiosis (targets red blood cells in lions) outbreak in 2020 killed 23 lions in Gujarat's Gir National Park.
  - Focus on four principles: surveillance, response, prevention, and preparedness.
  - Nodal Agency: Central Zoo Authority
- ### Conservation Efforts
- Project Lion: Launched in 2020 & aim to secure Asiatic lions through habitat improvement and advanced monitoring with radio-collars and cameras.
  - Conservation Status: IUCN: Vulnerable; Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: Schedule I and IV; CITES: Appendix I.
  - Other Initiatives for Lions: International Big Cats Alliance (2023); Greater Gir Concept: Involves creating new lion habitats beyond Gir National Park and Sanctuary.
    - ⊕ Barda Wildlife Sanctuary has emerged as a "second home" for lions.

### About Lion

- Lions live in prides in grasslands and plains.
- Males patrol and proclaim their territory through scent marking.
- Females and sisters stay together for life; males leave at maturity.
- Lions rest or sleep 20 hours daily and hunt at night for easier prey capture.
- Lions do not have a specific breeding season, and their gestation period lasts approximately 100 to 119 days.

Aspect	Asiatic Lion (Panthera leo persica)	African Lion (Panthera leo)
Size	Smaller, males weigh 350-450 lbs	Larger, males weigh 330-500 lbs
Mane	Shorter, sparser, darker mane	Fuller, longer, covers entire head
Skin Folds	Long skin fold under belly	No skin fold
Pride Size	Smaller prides, usually 2-5 females	Larger prides, up to 6 females

## Also In News



### Electors Photo Identification Card (EPIC) Number

Election Commission has clarified that duplication in EPIC number does not imply duplicate/fake voters.

- Clarification was in response to issue of presence of identical EPIC numbers in 2 different states due to manual decentralized process, used before shifting all State/UT electoral roll databases to ERONET platform.

### About EPIC Number

- 10-digit voter ID card number issued by ECI to electors registered in electoral roll.

### About ERONET (Electoral Roll Management) Platform

- Web-based platform developed for election officials to handle all processes pertaining to registration, migration, and deletion of names from electoral roll.
- Features: Unified database for all states/UTs; Reporting system to monitor performance of electoral officials etc.



### Ferrihydrite

A new study reveals that Martian red colour is due to ferrihydrite than previously thought, hematite, present in the planet's dust.

- Unlike hematite, Ferrihydrite forms quickly in presence of cool water, meaning its presence on Mars is direct evidence of the planet's wetter past.

### About Ferrihydrite

- It is a widespread hydrous ferric oxyhydroxide mineral at Earth's surface.
- It is a precursor to other minerals, e.g. hematite, goethite.
- It occurs in soils undergoing rapid weathering, and in soils containing soluble silicate or organic anions which inhibit the formation of more crystalline iron oxides.
- Properties: Nano-particulate size and poor crystallinity.
- It is used in sequestration of heavy element contaminants.





### Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)

Kurdish group PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) declares ceasefire with Turkey.

#### About Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)

- The group launched an armed insurgency against the Turkish state in the early **1980s**, originally seeking independence for the Kurds.
- It is banned as a terrorist group in **Turkey, the EU, the UK and the US**.

#### About Kurds

- **Kurds are an ethnic group** of roughly 40 million people.
- Mainly concentrated in **Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey**.
- They speak multiple dialects of **Kurdish**, a language **not directly related to Turkish or Arabic**.
- **Most are Sunni Muslims**.



### Sri Lankamalleswara Sanctuary

Archaeological Survey of India has discovered ancient rock art and inscriptions within Sri Lankamalleswara sanctuary.

#### About Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- It forms the **catchment for river Pennar**.
- Sanctuary is the **only home for critically endangered bird Jerdon courser** (nocturnal bird).
- **Flora: Red sanders and Sandalwood** are important species.
- **Fauna: Panther, Jackal, Chinkara, Chowsingha, Sloth bear, etc.**
- **Forest Type:** Southern tropical dry deciduous forest in hills, scrub forest in plains, Southern dry mixed deciduous forest, Tropical thorn forests and Tropical dry evergreen forest.



### Initiative for Lake Tanganyika Basin

**UN Environment Programme led initiative** focuses on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and enhanced water security in Lake Tanganyika Basin.

- **Funded by:** Global Environment Facility.
- **Aim: Enhance transboundary cooperation** among the four countries bordering Lake Tanganyika.

#### Lake Tanganyika Basin:

- **Shared by four countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia.**
- **One of Africa's Great Lakes** and the world's second-largest freshwater lake by volume.
- Internationally recognised as a **global biodiversity hotspot**.



### Selenium

**Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** report links high levels of selenium in wheat to hair loss.

#### About Selenium

- Selenium is a natural element needed in small amounts for health.
- **Harmful:** If consumed in amounts just double what the body needs.
- **Causes:** Human activities like fossil fuel waste disposal and irrigation of selenium-rich soils.
- Selenium occurs **naturally in soil**, affecting the selenium content in plant-based foods.



### Exercise Desert Hunt 2025

Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 was conducted by Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur.

#### About Exercise Desert Hunt 2025

- It is an **integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise**.
- It involved elite units from all three services, **Para (Special Forces)** of Indian Army, **Marine Commandos (MARCOS)** of Indian Navy and **Garud Special Forces** of Indian Air Force.
- It focused on **interoperability, synergy, and rapid response** in simulated combat scenarios.



### Swavalambini

**Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** in collaboration with **NITI Aayog** have launched Swavalambini— Women Entrepreneurship Programme.

#### About Swavalambini— Women Entrepreneurship Programme

- It is a movement towards **gender inclusive entrepreneurship**.
- **Objective:** Empower female students in **Higher Education Institutions** with entrepreneurial **skills, resources, and mentorship**.
- **Structure:** Includes **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme**, Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme, mentorship, and faculty training.
- **Implementation:** By **National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development**.
- **Impact:** Aims for **10% of trained participants to establish enterprises**, fostering women-led economic growth in India.

### Place in News



### Uruguay (Capital: Montevideo)

Yamandú Orsi took office as Uruguay's new President.

#### Political Features:

- It is South America's **second-smallest country** (after Suriname).
- **Boundaries:** Brazil (North) and Argentina (West); **Maritime boundary:** Atlantic Ocean (East).

#### Geographical Features:

- **Climate:** Warm temperate.
- **Terrain:** Uruguay's landscape is influenced by the **Pampas**, a vast region of fertile lowlands in southeastern South America.
  - ⊕ The term "Pampa" originates from the Quechua word meaning "flat plain."
- **Major Rivers:** **Rio de la Plata/ Parana River, Uruguay river** (forms border between Uruguay and Argentina).
- Uruguay's coastal waters are influenced by the **Brazil Current (warm, northward)** and **Malvinas Current (cold, nutrient-rich, southward)**.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI