

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 20-11-2024

### Table of Content

- The Dangers of High-Altitude Sickness
- India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29
- China Emissions Paradox
- Polio Eradication in India
- 2nd India-Australia Annual Summit
- Impacts of imposing tariffs on Chinese imports

### NEWS IN SHORT

- African Penguins
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023
- Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi
- Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS)
- SANYUKT VIMOCHAN 2024'
- Sebi's New F&O Rule to Come Into Effect
- Russia's New Nuclear Doctrine
- Teesta Valley
- Delay in Delimitation for Northeastern States

## THE DANGERS OF HIGH-ALTITUDE SICKNESS

Rising fatalities from high-altitude sickness in the Himalayas underscore the necessity of implementing effective preventive strategies for tourists.

### What is High-Altitude Sickness?

- High-altitude sickness, medically termed **Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS)**, is a condition that occurs when the body struggles to adapt to **reduced oxygen levels** at elevations above **8,000 feet (2,400 meters)**.
- **Causes:** At higher altitudes, lower air pressure reduces oxygen availability, leading to hypoxia (oxygen deprivation in body tissues).
- **Symptoms of AMS:** Headache, nausea, fatigue, and shortness of breath. If untreated, AMS can develop into;
  - ♦ **High-Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE):** Fluid buildup in the lungs causing breathing difficulty.
  - ♦ **High-Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE):** Fluid accumulation in the brain leading to confusion, hallucinations, and coma.

### Physiological Changes at high altitude

- **Increased breathing rate (hyperventilation)** to compensate for low oxygen levels.
- **Production of more red blood cells** to enhance oxygen transport, thickening blood and increasing strain on the heart.

### Challenges at higher altitudes

- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Regions beyond major towns like Shimla lack specialized healthcare facilities to treat high-altitude sickness.
  - ♦ Leh in Ladakh serves as an exception, having developed robust facilities for high-altitude ailments.
- **Gaps in Preventive Health Measures:** Lack of mandatory health screenings for tourists entering high-altitude areas.
  - ♦ Limited availability of oxygen supplies, hyperbaric chambers, or trained medical personnel in remote regions.

### What are the steps needed?

- **Mandatory Registration System:** Introduce mandatory registration for tourists visiting high-altitude regions to monitor movement and facilitate rapid response during emergencies.
- **Screening:** Conduct preventive health screenings at entry points for tourists.

- ♦ Display health and safety information at checkpoints and on government websites to educate tourists on acclimatization and risks.
- **Gradual Ascent:** Promote gradual ascent schedules to allow time for acclimatization and reduce the risk of AMS.
- **Emergency Response Measures:** Provide supplemental oxygen or portable hyperbaric chambers at major tourist hubs.
  - ♦ Encourage the deployment of **trained paramedics** at high-altitude destinations.
- **Research and Development:** Set up research centers to study the effects of high-altitude conditions on human physiology and develop better treatment methods.
- **Air-Ambulance Services:** Equip Himalayan States with air-ambulance services for rapid medical evacuation from remote regions.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Enhance road connectivity to remote regions to ensure timely access to healthcare facilities.

## INDIA-ITALY JOINT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2025-29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart unveiled the **Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29** as they met on the sidelines of the **G20 Summit**.

### Key Highlights of the Plan

- It is a **five-year strategic action plan** outlining their vision for collaboration in a **range of key sectors**.
- **Defence:**
  - ♦ Holding Joint Defence Consultative meetings, Joint Staff Talks on a yearly basis.
  - ♦ Interactions in the framework of Italy's growing interest in Indo-Pacific region, aimed at increasing interoperability and cooperation.
  - ♦ Enhanced partnerships among public and private stakeholders on technology collaboration.
  - ♦ Negotiate a Defence Industrial Roadmap between the two Nations.
- **Economic:**
  - ♦ Leverage the work of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation and of the Italy-India Joint Working Group on Food Processing, to increase bilateral trade.
  - ♦ Promote industrial partnerships, technological centres and mutual investment, also in

automotive, semiconductors, infrastructure and advanced manufacturing.

- **Connectivity:** Enhancing collaboration in maritime and land infrastructure also in the framework of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.
- **Science & Innovation:** Expanding cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, forging technology value chain partnerships in both countries in sectors such as telecom, artificial intelligence, and digitalization of services.
- **Space:** Expanding cooperation between the Italian Space Agency and ISRO to include projects of common interest in Earth observation, heliophysics and space exploration with emphasis on lunar science.
- **Energy Transition:** Strengthen the Global Biofuels Alliance and International Solar Alliance.
- **Migration and Mobility:**
  - ♦ Promote legal migration channels, as well as fair and transparent labour training and recruitment procedures.
  - ♦ A pilot will cover training of health professionals in India and their subsequent employment in Italy.

### India-Italy Strategic Partnership

- **Diplomatic relations and Strategic :** India and Italy, both ancient civilizations with rich cultural heritage, established diplomatic relations in 1947.
  - ♦ India and Italy elevated their Relations into **Strategic Partnership in 2023.**
- **Indo-Pacific Region:** Italy is the next country in Europe after France, Germany and The Netherlands, to be taking a keen interest in engagements in the Indo-Pacific region.
  - ♦ The gradual upswing in its ties with India is an **important part of its recent Indo-Pacific pivot.**
- In 2021, the **'India-Italy-Japan' trilateral was launched**, with an aim to work towards the security, stability, prosperity and multilateralism of the Indo-Pacific region.
  - ♦ It is the second trilateral that India has, in the Indo-Pacific region, involving a European country, after the 'India-France-Australia' trilateral.
- **Global Forums:** Italy joined both the significant initiatives, launched on the margins of the G20 Summit, the **'Global Biofuel Alliance'** and the **'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor'**.

- ♦ Italy has also joined the **'International Solar Alliance' (ISA)**, in 2021, which was the year of the Italian Presidency of G20 and co-Presidency of COP26.
- **Economic :** Italy is **India's 4th largest trading partner in the EU**, with bilateral trade reaching \$14.253 billion in 2022-23, including \$8.691 billion in Indian exports. **Italy ranks 17th for FDI inflows** into India between April 2000 and March 2023,
  - ♦ Key sectors attracting FDI include automobiles (29.8%), trading (17.1%), industrial machinery (5.6%), services (5.1%), and electrical equipment (4.6%).
- The two countries are looking forward to strengthening **cooperation in defence technology, maritime security and space**, with similar concerns in the maritime domain.
- **Relations with China:** There is Italy's growing concern about China in the broader European and Indo-Pacific region.
  - ♦ Italy has also **withdrawn from the China's Belt and Road Initiative**, showing a significant policy shift.
  - ♦ Geopolitical necessities are resulting in Italian policy makers, shaping and reshaping their relationships in Asia.
- **Future outlook :** Recent developments show that there is a renewed interest in the relationship from both sides.
  - ♦ India and Italy can leverage their strategic positions in the Indian Ocean and in the Mediterranean, respectively, to promote connectivity, stability, energy security, freedom of navigation in the two maritime geographies, and therefore in the wider Indo-Pacific region.

### CHINA EMISSIONS PARADOX

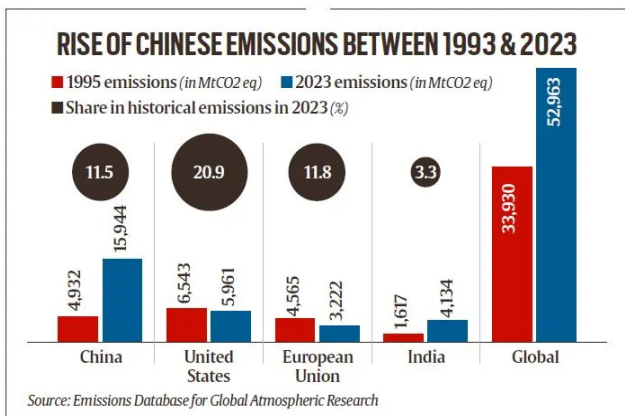
China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases for more than 15 years, faces a significant paradox in its efforts to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability.

#### China Emissions Paradox: Economic Growth vs. Emission Reductions

- China's economic growth over the past few decades has come at a significant environmental cost. The country's **heavy reliance on coal for energy** has made it the largest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) globally, accounting for nearly 30% of annual global emissions.



- Despite this, China has set ambitious targets to **peak its carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.**



### Challenges in Reducing Emissions

- **Dependence on Coal:** Its heavy dependence on coal for energy and industry requires a massive shift to renewable energy, demanding substantial investment
  - ♦ In 2023, emissions rose by 5%, largely due to coal-fired plants and steel factories.
- **Economic Pressures:** As a developing country, China struggles to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability, as rapid industrialization and urbanization increase energy demand.
- **Technological and Financial Constraints:** Additionally, the technological and financial resources needed to transition its energy infrastructure present significant obstacles.

### Global Implications

- The global climate targets, including the **1.5-degree Celsius goal set by the Paris Agreement**, hinge significantly on China's ability to reduce its emissions.
- According to a recent analysis by **Carbon Action Tracker**, China must reduce its emissions by **at least 66% from current levels by 2030** to stay on track with the 1.5-degree Celsius objective.
- It is an extremely challenging target, given the current trajectory of China's emissions.

### Possible Impact of China's Cutting Down Its Emissions

- **Economically**, cutting emissions may slow down manufacturing, disrupting global supply chains.

- **The energy transition** from coal to renewables is complex and costly, potentially leading to energy shortages or price hikes.
- **Reducing manufacturing** in China could **shift production to countries** with less stringent regulations, **increasing global emissions.**
- **Geopolitically**, China's emission cuts might strain international relations, particularly with countries reliant on Chinese exports.

### Scenario and Challenges in India

- The "**Global Carbon Project**" has projected that fossil fuel emissions will rise by 4.6% in India and 0.2% in China in 2024, despite global efforts to reduce them.
- India, the **world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases**, faces a unique set of challenges in addressing [climate change](#), which the global strategy often overlooks.
- While the focus of global climate action is on reducing carbon emissions through renewable energy, India's socio-economic, geographical, and developmental context makes this approach difficult.
- Despite its large population and growing energy demand, India's per capita emissions are much lower than those of developed countries.

### Conclusion and Balancing Act

- **China's climate actions are marked by a paradox:** while it remains a major polluter due to coal use, it is also leading in green technology, reflecting the challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability.
- **China's dual approach highlights** the complexities of its emission reduction efforts, which have significant economic, social, and geopolitical implications. To address these challenges, the global community must collaborate on a balanced, sustainable transition.
- Similarly, India needs a climate strategy that aligns with its development goals, promotes clean energy solutions, and advocates for equitable global policies that hold developed nations accountable.

## POLIO ERADICATION IN INDIA

India's achievement of **polio-free status in 2014** represents one of the most significant successes in global public health.

**About**

- India's participation in the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)** complemented by the robust **national immunization efforts under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** made it successful.

Immunization in India
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) was launched in 1978. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ This program aimed to provide vaccines to children against various diseases.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In 1985, this program was renamed the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), broadening its reach to rural areas beyond urban centers.</li> <li>• The UIP became an integral part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in 2005 to improve the health of rural populations.</li> <li>• Today, UIP is one of the world's largest public health programs, targeting over 2.67 crore newborns and 2.9 crore pregnant women annually, providing free vaccines for 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.</li> <li>• Polio was one of the first diseases targeted under UIP, and its elimination became a key public health milestone.</li> </ul>

**Polio**

- **Polio (poliomyelitis)** is a **highly contagious viral disease** caused by the **poliovirus**.
- It primarily affects **children under the age of 5** and can lead to severe complications such as **paralysis, disability, or even death**.
- **Spread:** Polio spreads mainly through **fecal-oral transmission**.
  - ◆ It can also be spread via **respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing**.
- **Symptoms:**
  - ◆ Most cases are **mild or asymptomatic**.
  - ◆ A smaller percentage of **infected individuals develop paralytic polio**, which can cause paralysis, usually affecting the legs or respiratory muscles.
- **Vaccination:**
  - ◆ There is **no cure** for polio, it can only be **prevented**.
  - ◆ Polio vaccine, given multiple times, can protect a child for life.

- ◆ **There are two vaccines available:** oral polio vaccine and inactivated polio vaccine. Both are effective and safe.

**India's Efforts in Polio Eradication:**

- **Pulse Polio Programme Launch (1995):** It used an **Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) strategy**, reaching over 1 million children and ensuring every child under five was vaccinated.
  - ◆ The campaign became iconic, with the slogan **"Do Boond Zindagi Ki"** (Two drops of life).
- **Routine Immunization and System Strengthening:** The UIP provided free vaccines against polio, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, measles, hepatitis B, and tuberculosis.
- **Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) Introduction (2015):** IPV provides additional protection against polio, especially against type 2 poliovirus, and was gradually expanded nationwide by 2016.
- **Political Will and Community Engagement:** Political leaders at all levels ensured that resources were allocated and the program received the needed attention.
  - ◆ The Pulse Polio campaigns also relied heavily on door-to-door efforts, reaching children in difficult-to-reach areas.
- **Final Leap:** On 27th March 2014, India was officially declared polio-free, a milestone celebrated globally as an example of successful public health intervention.

**Way Ahead**

- **Annual Polio Campaigns:** India continues to conduct National Immunization Days (NID) and Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID) annually to keep immunity levels high and ensure that no child is missed.
- **Surveillance and Border Vaccination:** Continuous surveillance and vaccination at international borders continues to mitigate the risk of polio re-importation from endemic regions.
- **New Vaccines and Expansion:** India has introduced several new vaccines under its immunization program, including Rotavirus, Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV), and Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine, as part of broader efforts to prevent other vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **Mission Indradhanush:** Launched in 2014, it aims to increase immunization coverage to 90%.

## 2ND INDIA-AUSTRALIA ANNUAL SUMMIT

The Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Australia held the second India-Australia Annual Summit on the sidelines of the Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Rio de Janeiro

### Outcomes of India -Australia Summit

- **Bilateral Progress:** Both Prime Ministers acknowledged significant progress in strengthening ties across sectors like climate change, renewable energy, trade, investment, defence, education, and people-to-people relations.
- **Economic Cooperation:**
  - ♦ India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) is boosting trade and market access.
  - ♦ Work toward a more comprehensive Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is underway.
  - ♦ The Australia-India Business Exchange (AIBX) programme extended for another four years to strengthen business connections.
- **Energy and Environment:** Launch of the India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP) for cooperation in solar PV, green hydrogen, energy storage, and renewable energy workforce development.
  - ♦ Progress on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India's Khanij Bidesh Ltd. and Australia's Critical Minerals Office to advance critical minerals for clean energy.
- **Space Cooperation:** Growing space partnership with joint projects, such as support for Gaganyaan missions and the launch of Australian satellites on Indian vehicles in 2026.
- **Defence and Security:** Renewal of Joint Declaration on Defence and Security in 2025, focusing on stronger collaboration.
  - ♦ Increased defence exercises and interoperability under the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement.
  - ♦ Maritime security and reciprocal information-sharing agreements to ensure regional peace and stability.
  - ♦ Indian and Australian defence industries to collaborate further, with participation in defense expos and industry visits.
- **Parliamentary Cooperation:** Emphasis on continued inter-parliamentary cooperation as part of the strategic partnership.
- **Education, People-to-People and Mobility:** Working Holiday Maker visa programme and MATES mobility scheme to enhance people-to-people ties and mobility of professionals.
  - ♦ Opening of new consulates in Bengaluru and Brisbane to strengthen trade and cultural links.
  - ♦ Collaboration in education and sports, including Australian universities establishing campuses in India and joint initiatives for sports science and event management.
- **Regional and Multilateral Cooperation:** Commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, with shared interests in regional peace, stability, and sovereignty.
  - ♦ Support for Quad initiatives in health, security, infrastructure, and climate change.
  - ♦ Reinforcement of ASEAN centrality and cooperation under regional frameworks like the East Asia Summit and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
  - ♦ Commitment to Indian Ocean cooperation, including Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and support for Pacific island countries on climate, health, and education.
- **Counter-Terrorism and Global Issues:** Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism and explored cooperation on terrorism financing and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) initiatives.
- **Looking Ahead:** Both leaders expressed commitment to deepening bilateral ties further and welcomed the 2025 commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
  - ♦ They looked forward to the next India-Australia Annual Summit in 2025.

## IMPACTS OF IMPOSING TARIFFS ON CHINESE IMPORTS

The U.S. plans to impose up to 60% tariffs on Chinese imports to reduce its trade deficit and counter China's industry subsidies.

### Impact of Tariffs on Chinese Imports

- **Higher Domestic Prices:** Tariffs increase the cost of Chinese goods in the U.S., pushing up prices for consumers. This could lead to domestic inflation.

- **Boost to Domestic Production:** By making imported goods more expensive, tariffs incentivize consumers to shift to domestically produced alternatives, potentially increasing domestic industrial output and employment.
- **Effect on Trade Deficit:** Reduced reliance on Chinese goods may help narrow the U.S. trade deficit, potentially strengthening the dollar and moderating inflation in the long run.

#### Do you know?

- Tariffs are taxes imposed on imports to make foreign goods more expensive, reducing their attractiveness to domestic consumers.
- While the tariff primarily impacts the importing country, it also affects the exporting country.

#### Global Impact

- **Retaliatory Tariffs:** If China or other affected nations impose counter-tariffs on U.S. goods, it could escalate into a global trade war.
- **Global Inflation:** Trade wars could raise global commodity prices, worsening inflation in both developed and developing economies.
- **Shift in Trade Patterns:** Rising costs of Chinese goods might encourage nations to diversify supply chains, benefiting emerging economies.

#### Opportunities for India

- **Boost to Exports:** Indian manufacturers could gain market share in sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, and electronics as global buyers seek alternatives to Chinese goods.
- **Geopolitical Leverage:** India's neutral stance in global trade conflicts can strengthen its position in multilateral forums and enhance its trade ties with both the U.S. and China.
- **Attracting Investments:** Trade tensions between the U.S. and China could push global manufacturers to relocate supply chains to India.

#### Concerns for India

- **Impact on Inflation:** Higher global commodity prices due to trade wars can lead to imported inflation in India, increasing costs for essential goods like crude oil and fertilizers.
- **Supply Chain Disruptions:** India's heavy reliance on Chinese imports for components and machinery could face challenges if tariffs raise costs or restrict availability.

#### Way Forward

- **Diversification of Imports:** India must reduce dependency on Chinese imports by fostering domestic production under initiatives like Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Trade Agreements:** Strengthening regional trade partnerships like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and signing bilateral agreements can secure alternative supply chains.
- **Strengthening Infrastructure:** Enhancing port connectivity, logistics, and digital infrastructure to make India an attractive destination for global supply chains.

#### Concluding remarks

- While imposing tariffs on Chinese imports may address short-term trade imbalances for countries like the U.S., it risks global trade disruptions and inflationary pressures.
- By strategically positioning itself as a reliable manufacturing hub and fostering domestic capabilities, India can mitigate risks and capitalize on the shifting global trade dynamics.

## FACTS IN NEWS

### AFRICAN PENGUINS

#### Context

- The African penguin became the first penguin species in the world to be listed as **critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.

#### African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*)

- It is one of the **smallest penguin species**, commonly referred to as "jackass" penguins due to their donkey-like braying calls. Males are generally slightly larger than their female counterparts.
  - ♦ African penguins are **monogamous**, meaning they have one partner throughout their life.
- **Characteristics:** African penguins can be recognized by the **pink patches** of skin above their eyes, which are used to regulate body temperature.
- **Habitat:** They are found only in **Namibia and South Africa**. Their numbers have been **declining since the 1800s** and at present there are fewer than 20,000 birds left in the wild.



- **Threat:** Predators, such as Cape fur seals and kelp gulls, rising ocean temperatures, and lack of prey (small fish like sardines and anchovies).
- **Protection:** They have been protected under South Africa's Sea Birds and Seals Protection Act since 1973 (and more recently under the Marine Threatened or Protected Species Regulations since 2017).
  - ♦ These laws and regulations ban the capture of penguins or their eggs and any intentional harm done to them.

### Do you know?

- Penguins are a family of **17 to 19 species** of birds that live primarily in the Southern Hemisphere.
- They include the tiny blue penguins of Australia and New Zealand, the majestic emperor penguins of Antarctica, and the **Galápagos penguin** (the only penguin to be found north of the equator).
- Although penguins are birds, they have flippers instead of wings and are **unable to fly**.

## INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE 2023

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023 was presented to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad.

### About

- **Abu Awwad** is an eminent **Palestinian peace activist** who has been working for a peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.
- **Barenboim**, an Argentine-born distinguished **classical pianist**, is known for his endeavour in using music to foster harmony in West Asia.

### Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- Instituted in **1986**, the award is given annually by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust and consists of a monetary award of **Rs 25 lakh** along with a citation.
- The award is named after Indira Gandhi, the **first and only woman** Prime Minister of independent India.
- It aims to honor women, men and institutions that have done exemplary work in the service of humanity and the planet Earth.
- Recipients are chosen from a pool of **national and international nominees**.

- ♦ Last year it was jointly awarded to the **Indian Medical Association (IMA)** and the **Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI)** as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in the country.

## RANI LAKSHMIBAI OF JHANSI

PM Modi has paid tributes to Rani Lakshmbai on her Jayanti.

### About

- **Early Life:** Rani Lakshmbai, born on **November 19, 1828**, in Varanasi, was named **Manikarnika Tambe** and lovingly called Manu.
  - ♦ She was trained in martial arts, horsemanship, and sword fighting, showcasing an early inclination towards bravery.
- **Marriage:** was married to **Maharaja Gangadhar Rao Newalkar of Jhansi**, after which she became known as Rani Lakshmbai.
- **Conflict with the British:** The British, under the **doctrine of Lapse**, ordered the merger of Jhansi into the British Empire and assured the queen of pension.

### Role in the Freedom Struggle

- Rani Lakshmbai was a **key figure in the Indian Rebellion of 1857** and is considered one of India's greatest freedom fighters.
- British forces led by **Sir Hugh Rose** laid siege to Jhansi and Rani Lakshmbai joined forces with **Tantia Tope** and other freedom fighters.
- **Battle of Gwalior:** She fought her last battle in Gwalior and was martyred on June 18, 1858.

## ARMY TACTICAL MISSILE SYSTEM (ATACMS)

Russia's Ministry of Defense said that Ukraine used six ATACMS

### About ATACMS

- The ATACMS, developed by Lockheed Martin in the 1980s, is a short-range ballistic missile designed to target high-value enemy positions up to 300 km.
- Unlike artillery rockets, ATACMS fly much higher and farther, returning to the ground at high speeds due to gravity. Initially created to target Soviet assets, it was one of the few guided weapons at a time when the U.S. used mostly unguided munitions.



- The Pentagon currently holds two versions: one with a cluster warhead and another with a single explosive charge.

## SANYUKT VIMOCHAN 2024'

The Indian Army successfully conducted the Sanyukt Vimochan 2024 in Gujarat.

### About

- It is a Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise
- It showcased India's disaster response readiness and involved various Indian armed forces, disaster management agencies, and foreign delegations.
- The exercise began with a **Table Top Exercise (TTX)**, simulating a cyclone scenario in Gujarat's coastal region.
- 
- The second day featured a **Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration at Porbandar's Chowpatty Beach**, where coordinated logistics, rapid response, and disaster management operations were practiced by the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and other agencies.
  - ♦ The demonstration included rescue operations, casualty evacuation, and the rehabilitation of affected citizens.

### Importance

- Aligned with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the event also featured an Industrial Display to showcase indigenous disaster response technology.
- Foreign delegates from nine countries participated, emphasizing international collaboration in disaster management.
- The exercise strengthened India's national preparedness and showcased its leadership in global disaster relief.

## SEBI'S NEW F&O RULE TO COME INTO EFFECT

The key measures proposed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), shall take effect from November 21, 2024.

### About

- SEBI released a set of **six measures** to strengthen the equity index derivatives.
- Of those, **three measures** will come into effect;

- ♦ **Increasing the contract size for index futures and index options** to Rs 15 lakh from the present contract size between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh,
- ♦ **Rationalization of weekly index derivatives products** by allowing each exchange to provide a contract for only one of its benchmark index with weekly expiry,
- ♦ **Increase in tail risk coverage**, or the chance of a loss occurring due to a rare event, on the day of options expiry.
- **The other measures include;**
  - ♦ Upfront collection of option premium from options buyers,
  - ♦ Intraday monitoring of the position limit,
  - ♦ Removal of calendar spread treatment on the expiry day.

### Futures and Options (F&Os)

- F&Os are derivative contracts that derive their value from underlying assets that include stocks, commodities, currencies etc.
- Based on their expectation of future price movement, investors enter into a contract to buy or sell the asset in 'lots' (a lot has multiple units of the asset) by paying a small margin amount.

### Futures Contracts

- A futures contract is a standardized agreement between two parties to **buy or sell an asset at a specific future date** for a predetermined price.
- Both buyer and seller are obligated to execute the contract on the specified future date.
- Investors pay only a margin (a fraction of the total value) upfront, not the full cost of the underlying asset.
- **Underlying Assets:** Stocks, commodities, currencies, etc.

### Options Contracts

- An options contract **gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation**, to buy (call option) or sell (put option) an asset at a pre-set price before or on the contract's expiration date.
- The buyer of the option has the flexibility to exercise the contract if it benefits them, or let it expire if not.
  - ♦ The buyer pays a premium for this right.

## RUSSIA'S NEW NUCLEAR DOCTRINE

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a revised nuclear doctrine, setting out new conditions under which the country would consider using its arsenal.

### About:

- The new nuclear deterrent policy comes on the **1,000th day** of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and follows the US President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with US-supplied **longer-range missiles**.

### Key Features

- **Nuclear Response to Aerial Attacks:** The doctrine states that a massive aerial attack on Russia could trigger a nuclear response, signaling Russia's readiness to use its nuclear arsenal to deter the West.
- **Increased Scope for Nuclear Use:** The doctrine now states that an attack by a nonnuclear power, supported by a nuclear power, will be considered a joint attack. It also allows for nuclear retaliation in response to a conventional attack threatening Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- **Vague Terms:** The document uses vague language, including "critical threat to sovereignty" and leaves room for interpretation on when nuclear weapons might be used.
- **NATO Reference:** The doctrine declares that aggression against Russia by a military bloc or coalition, such as NATO, is seen as aggression by the entire bloc.
- **Conditions for Nuclear Use:** The updated doctrine specifies conditions for nuclear use, including massive air attacks involving missiles, aircraft, drones, or other flying vehicles.
- **Broader Triggers for Nuclear Use:** Compared to previous versions, this doctrine significantly broadens the conditions under which nuclear weapons might be used, including a wide range of potential conventional attacks.

## TEESTA VALLEY

Two community-based green Himalayan organisations have warned the government of the **serious threats posed by the Teesta River to both Sikkim and West Bengal each monsoon season**.

### About

- With **only six months** remaining before the **2025 monsoon**, there is an urgent need to implement **mitigation measures throughout the Teesta Valley**.

- The implementation of effective measures in **Sikkim and West Bengal** now can significantly reduce the impact of future floods.

### Teesta Valley

- It is a **biologically rich area** located in the **northeastern region of India, primarily in the state of Sikkim**.
- The valley is named after the **Teesta River**, which flows through it.
  - ♦ The river originates in the **Tibetan Plateau** and flows **southward**, passing through the Indian states of **Sikkim and West Bengal** before joining the **Brahmaputra River in Bangladesh**.
- **Khecheopalri Lake**, often referred to as a sacred lake, is located near the valley and attracts many pilgrims and trekkers.

## DELAY IN DELIMITATION FOR NORTHEASTERN STATES

The Supreme Court has questioned the delay in **delimitation for Northeastern states after the 2020 Presidential order**.

### What is Delimitation?

- It is the act or process of **fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies** in a country or a province having a legislative body for electoral purposes.
- **Delimitation Commission:** The job of delimitation is assigned to the Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission.
  - ♦ The Delimitation Commission in India is a **high-power body whose orders have the force of law**.
  - ♦ Its **orders cannot be called in question before any court**.
  - ♦ These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the **President of India on this behalf**.
  - ♦ The copies of its **orders are laid before the House of the People** and the State Legislative Assembly concerned.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - ♦ **Article 82:** This provides the Parliament with the authority to enact a Delimitation Act after every Census.
  - ♦ **Article 170:** This provides for the States to get divided into territorial constituencies as per the Delimitation Act after every Census.

- **Functions:**
  - ♦ To determine the **number and boundaries of constituencies** in a way that the population of all seats, so far as practicable, is the same.
  - ♦ **Identifying seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** wherever their population is relatively large.
- **Composition:** The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the **President of India** includes following members:
  - ♦ Retired Supreme Court judge
  - ♦ Chief Election Commissioner
  - ♦ Respective State Election Commissioners.
- **Frequency:** In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times:
  - ♦ In 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952
  - ♦ In 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962
  - ♦ In 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972
  - ♦ In 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.



