

# DAILY PT POINTERS

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### Issues in India-Bangladesh row over fencing of international border

NEHA BANKA  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 14

INDIA AND Bangladesh summoned each other's envoys following a disagreement over the construction of fences by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the border between the two countries.

On Sunday, the Bangladesh foreign ministry summoned India's High Commissioner to Dhaka, Pranay Verma, to express "deep concern" over "recent activities of the BSF", especially "the unauthorised attempt to construct barbed wire fencing" that it said violated an agreement between the countries.

The following day, New Delhi called in the Bangladesh Acting High Commissioner to convey that "India [had] observed all protocols and agreements between the two governments and... between the Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh".

India has a 4,096.7-km border with Bangladesh, the longest among its neigh-

bours. India intends the fence to prevent illegal migration and cross-border crime.

#### The recent incidents

On January 6, Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) tried to obstruct the construction of a barbed wire single row fence (SRF) by the central Road Works Department in Kaliachak No 3 block in Malda district.

DG (South Bengal Frontier) NK Pandey said, "Our counterpart had raised some objection, we replied to them." Work on the fence was stopped temporarily, but resumed the following day.

On January 10, the BGB objected to villagers, who were facilitated by the BSF, erecting an improvised 4-foot barbed wire fence around portions of the Bangladeshi enclave of Dahagram-Angarpota in Mekhliganj, Cooch Behar. The villagers said the fence was to stop stray cattle from entering their lands.

#### Border in Bengal

According to the 1975 Joint India-

Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities, no defence structure can be constructed within 150 yards of the zero line or the international boundary by either side.

"India doesn't consider wire fencing to be defence structures, but Bangladesh and Pakistan do," S K Sood, a retired Additional DG of the BSF, who served for 38 years with the force, including as frontier commander in North West Bengal, said.

Several villages along the 2,217-km border in West Bengal lie within the fencing line. At places, villages and houses stand on the international border.

"At several places, the fence cannot be constructed at 150 yards or beyond from the international border, because the border is marked by villages or rivers. And Dahagram-Angarpota is a Bangladeshi enclave inside India, with fences on the zero line," Sood said.

Wherever villages and houses lie within the fencing line, gates are provided at specific places to facilitate the movement of

residents. The timings for their opening and closing are determined after discussions with villagers and the local administration. The BSF opens the gates even at other times in case of emergencies.

"Where due to reasons of terrain and population, fencing cannot be constructed under the 1975 border guidelines, we inform Bangladesh that we need to build fencing near the border," Sood said. In these cases, negotiations are held with the BGB. After the fencing is mutually agreed upon, the BSF begins construction.

#### The disagreement

Bangladesh has essentially two objections to SRF, Sood said: about the 1975 agreement on no-fencing within 150 yards of the border; and that erecting a fence is inconvenient to residents along the border.

Surjeet Singh Guleria, a retired Inspector General of the BSF, said the purpose of the SRF is mainly to stop animal movement and

check trans-border crimes, and does not have any defence potential.

"Structures considered to have defence potential include concrete walls/bunkers/concrete pill boxes, steel towers, ditch-cum-barricade (or DCB, which is built on plain land to create a canal with depth and hidden bunkers alongside), or bunkers where soldiers are stationed. These can be considered a threat to their national security by Bangladesh, but not an SRF. We have been trying to convince them in every flag meeting, but they are not amenable," Guleria, who spent 37 years with the BSF, including at the BSF's Eastern Command HQ in Kolkata, looking after operations and intelligence, said.

Guleria said the BGB also has problems with "smart fencing", which has CCTV cameras and electronic surveillance gadgets.

"They objected to its presence within 100 yards of the international border, saying it gives India the ability to look into their territory. This fencing was for villages within 150 yards of the border or on the interna-

tional boundary. It is estimated that about 60% of trans-border crimes take place where there is no fencing, and where villages are on the international boundary," he said. The issue has been under discussion for the past five years, Guleria said.

#### Status of fencing

According to Home Ministry data, 3,141 km of border (in all states) have been fenced.

In 2023, the Centre had told the Supreme Court that the border fencing project had been hindered by non-cooperation from West Bengal, and pending land acquisition in the state. About 81.5% of the border in Bengal had been fenced at the time.

"There are small patches of unfenced land, which are pending due to objections from villagers, the terrain, or ongoing negotiations with Bangladesh. More than 900 km of the border along the five eastern states, including West Bengal, is riverine. Fencing is not possible on water, so these parts are guarded by BSF's water wing," Sood said.

- India summoned the Bangladesh Acting High Commissioner, Nural Islam, on January 13 over issues related to border security and fencing.
- The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated that India had adhered to all agreements between India and Bangladesh regarding border security and fencing.
- **Recent Incidents:** In Malda, West Bengal, Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) attempted to stop the construction of a barbed wire fence by BSF on the India-Bangladesh border.
- **Border Guidelines:** According to the 1975 Joint India-Bangladesh Guidelines, no defense structures, including fences, can be built within 150 yards of the international border.
  - India doesn't consider wire fencing as a defense structure, unlike Bangladesh and Pakistan
- **Fencing Progress:** India has completed 3,141 km of fencing along the 4,156 km India-Bangladesh border.

**EXPLAINED CLIMATE**

# Why India is warming slower

In 2024, average temperature over India was 1.2 degrees Celsius higher than average of 1901-1910. This is lower than 1.6 degrees Celsius over global land surface from pre-industrial times.

**AMITABH SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

THE WORLD Meteorological Organization (WMO) last week declared 2024 as the warmest year on record. The average annual mean temperature of the Earth's surface during the year was more than 1.5 degrees Celsius higher than pre-industrial levels (average of the 1850-1900 period). 2024 was the warmest for India as well, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced earlier this month. However, the extent of warming over India is very different from the world as a whole. The IMD said 2024 was 0.65 degrees Celsius higher than normal. The normal, in this case, is the average for the 1991-2020 period.

The two pieces of data that represent the

**TEMPERATURE DEVIATIONS IN INDIA AND WORLD**

10-year running averages. For example, temperature rise plotted against the year 1960 is actually the average of temperature rise between 1950 and 1960

levels of warming being experienced in different parts of the country. The nature and impact of temperature rise in the Himalayas, for example, is very different from that in coastal regions. India's vulnerability to climate change is very high, not the least because of its large population.

Global climate models do not reflect the changes over the Indian region. The same is true for global assessments of the impacts of climate change. As a result, India needs to strengthen its capabilities in climate observation and impact assessment. The first India-specific climate change impact assessment in 2020 filled a big gap in the understanding of threats from climate change. But this has to be an ongoing exercise – like the IPCC's global assessment every few years. Expanding the weather observation network, and strengthening computing and

**2024:** Warmest year globally and for India.

Global Temperature: Over 1.5°C higher than pre-industrial levels.

- **India's Temperature:** 0.65°C higher than the 1991-2020 average.
- **Comparison Challenges :** Baselines: Different baselines used; IMD data from 1901, not 1850-1900.
- **Land vs. Global Temperature:** India's temperature rise is only land-based, while global rise includes land and oceans.
- **Specifics of Warming:** Land vs. Ocean: Land warms more than oceans.
- **India's Warming:** 1.2°C higher than the 1901-1910 average.
- **Regional Differences :** Tropical Location: Less pronounced warming in India compared to higher altitudes.

### Factors Impacting India's Warming

- **Aerosols:** Cooling effect from dust and air pollution.
- **Non-uniform Landmass:** Different warming levels in regions like the Himalayas and coastal areas.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB –GS3(Economy)

Ministry of Commerce & Industry



Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal launches National Turmeric Board

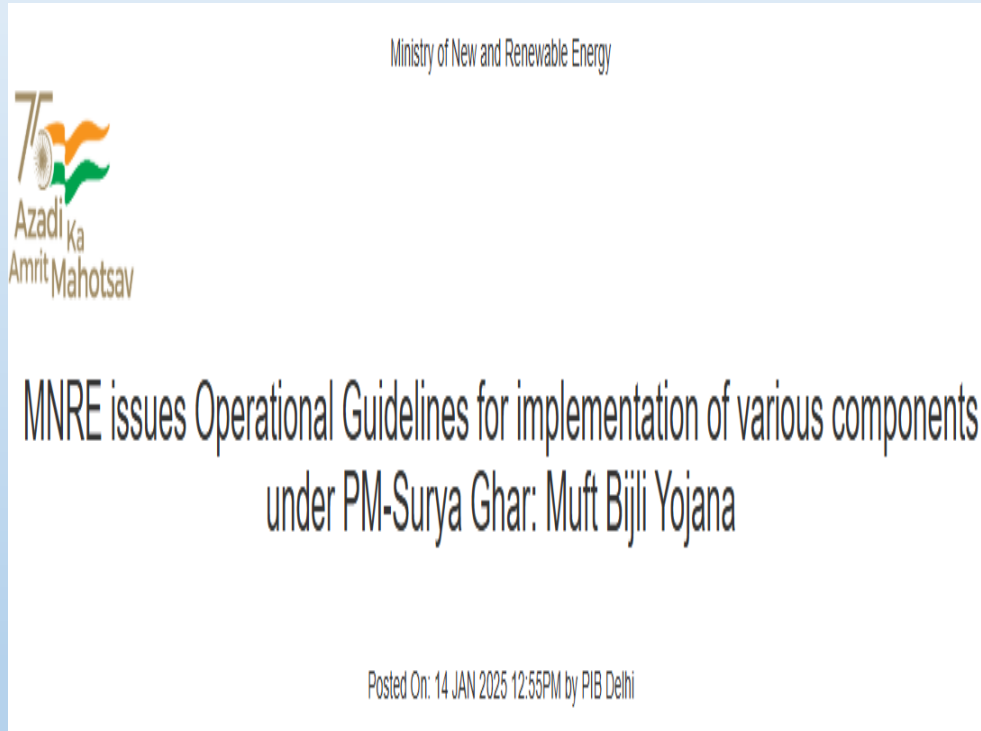
National Turmeric Board established at Nizamabad

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, inaugurated the National Turmeric Board in New Delhi, appointing Shri Palle Ganga Reddy as its first Chairperson. The Board's headquarters will be in Nizamabad,
- The Board will promote research, development, and value addition of turmeric products, boost exports, enhance logistics, and set quality standards. It will also raise awareness about the health benefits of turmeric. India, which produces over 70% of the world's turmeric, aims to increase production and trade, particularly in global markets where the demand for turmeric is growing due to its medicinal properties.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB- Environment(GS3)



- Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has notified Scheme Guidelines for implementation of ‘Payment Security Mechanism’ Component and ‘Central Financial Assistance’ Component for RESCO Models/ Utility Led Aggregation Models under PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.
- PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana is a Central Scheme that aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India, who opt to install roof top solar electricity unit. The households will be able to get 300 units of electricity free every month. It was approved by the Union Cabinet on February 29<sup>th</sup>, with an outlay of Rs.75,021 crore.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Geography

### PM Modi Launches 'Mission Mausam' To Make India Weather-Ready And Climate-Smart On IMD's 150th Foundation Day



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched Mission Mausam to make the country a weather-ready and climate-smart nation. The launch took place during the celebrations of the 150th Foundation Day of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- Mission Mausam aims to achieve its target by developing cutting-edge weather surveillance technologies and systems. The initiative will implement high-resolution atmospheric observations, next-generation radars and satellites, and high-performance computers. It will also focus on improving the understanding of weather and climate processes and providing air quality data, which will help in strategizing weather management and intervention in the long run.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Defence(GSIII)

### 77th Army Day Celebrated With Grand Parade In Pune



The Army Day is celebrated on January 15 every year to commemorate the achievements of the first Commander in Chief of the Indian Army General (later Field Marshal) KM Cariappa. On this day in 1949, Gen Cariappa, who led Indian forces to victory in the 1947 war, took over the command of the Indian Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Independent India.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Culture(GSI)

Telangana Celebrates Kanuma With Cattle Worship, Processions, Rural Sports



- In Telangana, people are celebrating Kanuma today, the festival of cattle, on the third day of Sankranti festival. In rural areas, people worship cattle and agricultural tools
- cattle processions will be held at many places as farmers showcase their bulls and adorned cattle in their village streets. Cattle competitions and rural sports for youth will be held to mark the festival. The cattle will be worshipped in most of the rural areas as the farming community considers the importance of the cattle in the nourishment and development of society.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## DD News -Health(GSII)

### Why Are Autism Rates Rising?



- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental condition that affects behavior, communication, interaction, and learning.
- Diagnosis: No objective tests like blood tests; diagnosis is based on observations and interviews. Symptoms vary widely, with some individuals being verbal while others may be nonverbal.
- The exact cause is unclear, but factors may include:
- Genetic: Gene variations and genetic disorders like Fragile X syndrome and Prader-Willi syndrome.
- Environmental: Maternal factors, exposure to air pollution during pregnancy, birth complications.
- Treatment: No cure or reversal; early intervention is key:
- Supportive therapies like speech therapy, occupational therapy, social skills training, and individualized education plans.