

## Today's Prelims Topics

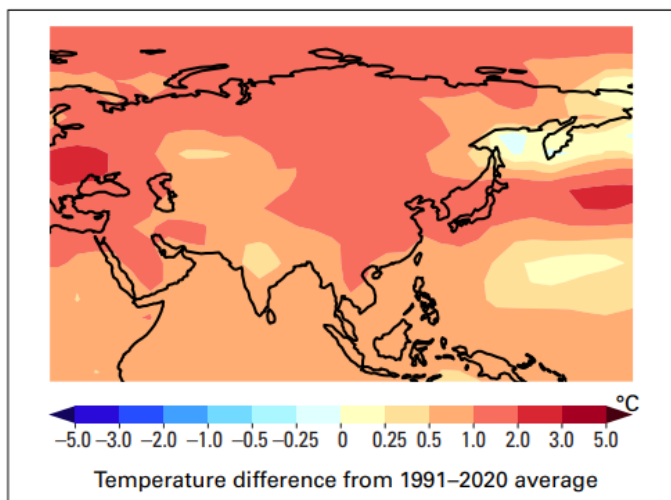
### State of Climate in Asia 2024 report

#### Context

Asia is warming at nearly twice the global average, as per the WMO's State of Climate in Asia 2024 report.

#### About the Report

- **Published by:** World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- **Objective:** To assess and present the current state of climate conditions and trends across Asia.
- **Key Findings:**
  - **Trends Across Asia:**
    - **Average temperature in 2024:** +1.04°C above the 1991–2020 baseline — warmest or second-warmest year on record.
    - Warming trend (1991–2024) is **almost double** the rate seen from 1961–1990.
    - **Heatwaves** lasted **April to November** in East Asia.
      - **Japan** matched its **hottest summer**, with +1.76°C above normal.
      - **Korea, China, Russia** recorded multiple **monthly temperature records**.
  - **India-Specific Highlights**
    - **Extreme heat:** Temperatures neared **50°C** in **Uttar Pradesh** and nearby regions.
    - **Monsoon 2024:**
      - Overall normal (108% of 1971–2020 average).
      - **Above normal rainfall** in South Asia with higher intensity.
    - **Kerala (Wayanad):** Intense rainfall caused **landslides**, resulting in **350+ deaths**.



**Figure 3.** Annual near-surface temperature anomaly (°C, difference from the 1991–2020 average) for 2024

**Source:** This map was taken from <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3783894> in January 2025 and may not fully align with United Nations and WMO map guidance. Data shown are the median of the following six data sets: Berkeley Earth, ERA5, GISTEMP, HadCRUT5, JRA-3Q, NOAA GlobalTemp v6.

#### Sea Surface Temperature (SST) & Sea Level Rise

- **SSTs in Asia:** Highest ever recorded.
- **SST warming rate** in Asia: **0.24°C/decade** (nearly 2× global rate of 0.13°C/decade).
- **Sea level rise** on Pacific and Indian Ocean coasts exceeded global averages.
- Areas with **notable ocean warming:** **Northern Arabian Sea, East China Sea, Yellow Sea**, and parts of the Pacific.
- **Marine heatwaves** (extreme intensity): Largest area affected since 1993.
  - Most severe in **northern Indian Ocean, East China Sea, Yellow Sea**.

#### Glacier Loss

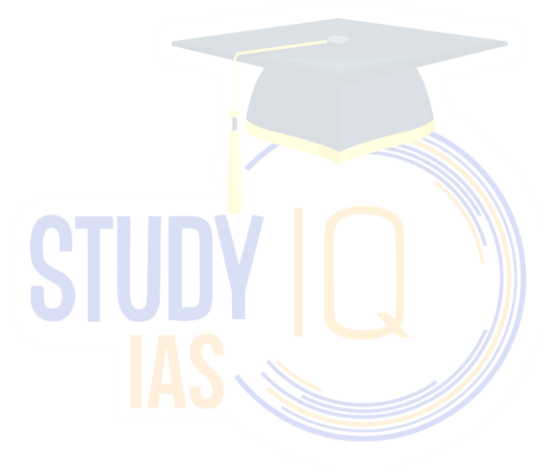
- **23 out of 24 glaciers** in **Central Himalayas** and **Tian Shan** lost mass.

- **Increased risks:**
  - Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)
  - Landslides
  - Threats to water security
- **GLOFs:** Sudden discharge of water from glacial lakes, often dammed by **moraines or glacier ice**.

#### **Cyclonic Activity**

- **Four tropical cyclones** formed over **North Indian Ocean:**
  - **Bay of Bengal:** Cyclones **Remal, Dana, Fengal**
  - **Arabian Sea:** Cyclone **Asna** (only **4th such event** since 1891)
    - **Cyclone Remal:** Impacted in **Bangladesh & West Bengal** (May 2024)
    - **Cyclone Asna:** Hit **Oman**; generated **waves up to 5 meters**
    - **Cyclone Fengal:** Impacted **Sri Lanka** with **rains and landslide**

Source: [TheHindu](https://www.thehindu.com)



## Sustainable Development Report (SDR)

### Context

The Sustainable Development Report 10th edition was released.

### About Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025

- **What it is:** The world's most authoritative annual ranking of progress toward the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** for **193 UN member states**.
- **Released by:** UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- **Focus of 2025 Edition:**
  - **Financing SDGs by 2030.**
  - **Reforming the Global Financial Architecture (GFA)** to address development inequality.
- **Top 3 Countries:**
  - Finland
  - Sweden
  - Denmark

### Key Highlights of SDR 2025

- **Strong Global Commitment:** **190 of 193** UN member states submitted **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**—a sign of high political engagement.
- **Regional Leaders:** **East and South Asia** showed the **fastest progress** since 2015, thanks to economic growth and targeted policy reforms.
- **Top Improvers in Score:** **Benin** (+14.5), **Nepal** (+11.1), **UAE** (+9.9), **Peru** (+8.7)
- **European Dominance:** **19 of the top 20** SDG performers are from Europe, highlighting their investment in welfare, education, and green energy.
- **Global Lag:** None of the 17 SDGs are **fully on track** globally.
  - Only **17% of SDG targets** are currently progressing.
- **Multilateralism Index:** **Barbados** ranked 1st in commitment to UN-led multilateralism.
  - **USA** ranked last (193rd), due to recent withdrawals from key global treaties.
- **Fiscal Space Gap:** Nearly **50% of countries** lack the financial capacity to implement SDG-linked welfare programs.
- **Global Financial Inequality:** The current **Global Financial Architecture (GFA)** disproportionately favors **wealthy nations**, depriving **EMDEs** (Emerging Markets and Developing Economies) of capital.

### India's Performance in SDR 2025

- **Rank:** **99th place** – India enters the **Top 100 for the first time** in SDR history.
- **Score:** Shows **steady improvement**, especially in digital access and social services.
- **Regional Comparison:**
  - **China:** 49th
  - **India:** 99th
  - **Bangladesh:** 114th
  - **Pakistan:** 140th
- **Progress Areas:**
  - **SDG 3 (Healthcare)**
  - **SDG 7 (Electricity Access)**
  - **SDG 9 (Digital Infrastructure)**
- **Key Challenges:**

### Key Global Challenges to SDG Progress

**Geopolitical Conflicts:** Wars and unrest disrupt SDG implementation, especially in fragile states.

**Limited Fiscal Capacity:** Debt and low revenue limit the ability to invest in health, education, and green tech.

**Climate Crisis:** Climate change worsens inequality, food insecurity, and biodiversity loss.

**Unfair Financial Systems:** GFA continues to benefit richer countries while EMDEs face capital shortages.

**Institutional Weaknesses:** Poor governance and lack of data hinder evidence-based SDG planning.

- **SDG 2:** Rising obesity
- **SDG 13:** Weak climate action
- **SDG 16:** Press freedom and institutional transparency

Source: [TheHindu](https://www.thehindu.com)



## B-2 Bomber

### Context

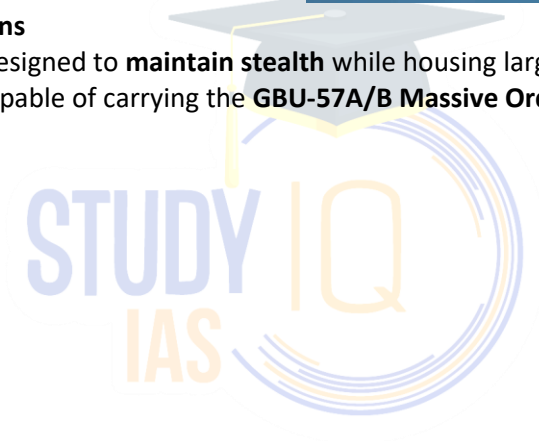
The U.S. conducted a major airstrike on Iran's underground nuclear sites using **B-2 stealth bombers** and bunker buster bombs, targeting facilities in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan.

### About B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber

- **Type:** U.S. long-range, all-altitude **stealth strategic bomber**
- **Manufacturer:** Northrop Grumman Corporation
- **Cost:** Approx. **\$2.1 billion per unit** – world's **most expensive military aircraft**
- **Key Features & Capabilities:**
  - **Low radar observability** due to flying-wing design, radar-absorbent materials, and reduced infrared signature
  - **Global reach** with aerial refueling
  - Can carry both **conventional and nuclear weapons**
  - Internal bays designed to **maintain stealth** while housing large weapons
  - Only aircraft capable of carrying the **GBU-57A/B Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP)**



Source: [TheHindu](https://www.thehindu.com)



## 50 years of Emergency

### Context

50 years ago, on June 25, 1975, a national emergency was declared in India.

### About Emergency Provisions

- Enumerated in **Part XVIII** of the Constitution. It mentions **3 types** of Emergencies;
  - National Emergency - **Article 352**
  - State Emergency (popularly known as President Rule) - **Article 356**
  - Financial Emergency - **Article 360**.
- **Article- 355:** It mandates the Centre to protect states from external aggression and internal disturbances, while ensuring that state governments function according to the Constitution.
- **Article- 356:** It grants Centre the power to impose President's Rule in a state if it fails to comply with **Constitutional norms**.
- **Effects of President Rule**
  - The President is empowered to administer the state under the President's rule as it dismisses the State Council of ministers headed by the Chief Minister.
  - The President can declare that the powers of the state legislature are to be exercised by the Parliament.
  - The President can take all other important steps including the suspension of the constitutional provisions relating to any authority in the state, **except provisions related to the High Court**.
- **Approval of the Constitutional Emergency by the Parliament**
  - Both Houses of Parliament must approve the proclamation of President's Rule within **2 months** of its issue
  - **Required majority:** Simple majority.
  - **Duration of the President Rule:** If approved by both the houses, the President's rule continues for **6 months**.

### Did You Know

- Article 356 was used for the first time while imposing the President's rule in **Punjab in 1951**.
- Laws made by Parliament, President or any other specified authority **continue to be operative** even after the end of the President's Rule. **i.e.,** Laws are not **coterminous** with the duration of President's Rule
  - However such laws can be **altered or repealed** by the state legislature.
- **Borrowed from various sources – Source: Provision**
  - **Germany:** Suspension of Fundamental Rights during the emergency
  - **Government of India Act 1935:** Emergency provisions

Source: [Indian Express](#)

## e-Rakt Kosh

### Context

The Health Ministry is looking at integrating the country's Rare Donor Registry with the e-Rakt Kosh.

### What is e-Rakt Kosh Platform?

- It is a national digital platform that provides comprehensive information on blood banks and blood availability across India.
- **Development:** Developed by C-DAC under the Blood Cell initiative of the National Health Mission, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Purpose:**
  - Serves as the official portal for all blood-related services in India.
  - Aims to consolidate all blood service information under a single platform, promoting the vision of "One Nation, One Platform" for blood services.
- **Key Features:**
  - Offers citizen-centric services with real-time information from blood banks throughout the country.
  - Delivers an end-to-end IT solution for efficient workflow management in blood banks.
  - Accessible via web browsers and mobile applications on both Google Play Store and iOS.
  - Seamlessly integrated with UMANG, e-Hospital, National Health Portal, and flagship C-DAC products such as e-Sushrut and e-Upkaran.

### About Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI)

- **What? National database** of rare blood group donors.
- **Launched by:** ICMR-National Institute of Immunohaematology (NIIH)

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Ambubachi Mela

### Context

Thousands of devotees have arrived in the Kamakhya Temple for the annual Ambubachi Mela.

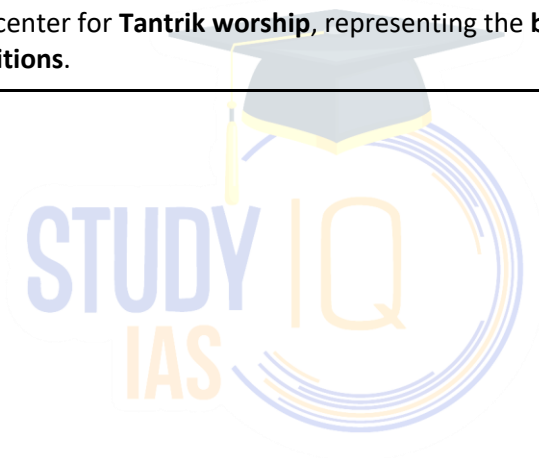
### About Ambubachi Mela

- It is an annual Hindu festival held at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati.
- The event takes place during the **monsoon season**, in the **Assamese month of Ahaa** (mid-June).
- The festival marks the **yearly menstruation cycle of Goddess Maa Kamakhya**.
- It is also referred to as **Ameti or the Tantric fertility festival**, owing to its deep links with the Tantric Shakti cult of eastern India.
- The mela is organized jointly by the Assam government and the Kamakhya Temple Management Committee.

### About Kamakhya Temple

- **Located on:** Nilachal hills (also known as Kamagiri) in Guwahati.
- **Reconstructed:** In the **mid-16th century by the Koch dynasty** after being destroyed by Kala Pahar.
- **Features:** It is regarded as **one of the 52 Shakti Peethas**.
  - Important center for **Tantrik worship**, representing the **blending of Aryan and non-Aryan traditions**.

Source: [Indian Express](#)





## News in Short

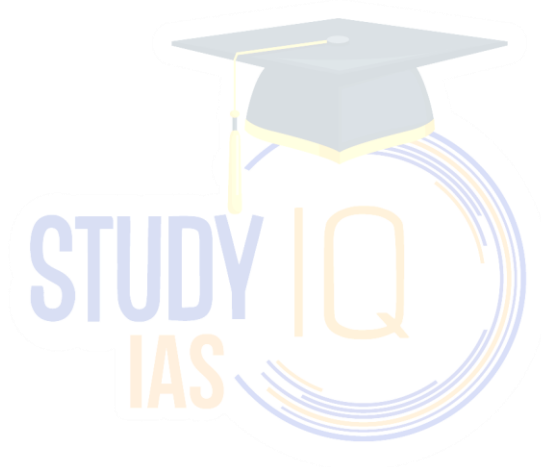
### Tabo Monastery

**News?** Fearing extreme weather events, Tabo Monastery sends SOS to ASI.

#### About Tabo Monastery

- **Location:** Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh
- **Founded in:** 996 CE by Rinchen Zangpo, on behalf of Guge king Yeshe-O;
- **Significance:** One of the oldest monasteries.
- **Other Monastery in Himachal Pradesh:**
  - Shashur Monastery
  - Kye Gompa Monastery
  - Dhankar Monastery
  - Nako Monastery

Source: [The Tribune](#)



## Places & Personality in News

### Mauritius



**News?** Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam to India.

#### About Mauritius

- **Location:** Island nation in the **Indian Ocean**, east of **Madagascar**, off the **eastern coast of Africa**.
- **Capital:** **Port Louis**
- **Geography & Climate**
  - **Type:** **Volcanic island**, formed ~8 million years ago.
  - **Highest Peak:** **Mount Piton** (828 m), southwest plateau.
  - **Main Water Source:** **Lake Vacoas**
  - **Climate:** Maritime **subtropical**, with uniform temperatures year-round.
- **Memberships & Strategic Importance**
  - Member of:
    - **COMESA** (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)
    - **SADC** (Southern African Development Community)
  - **Headquarters Location:**
    - Indian Ocean Rim Association
    - Indian Ocean Commission

Source: [TheHindu](#)

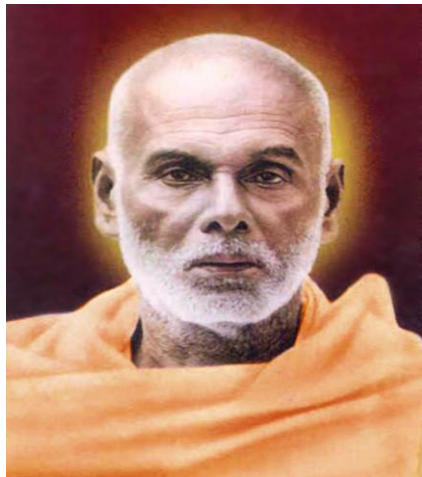
### Algeria



**News?** Algeria's prosecutor general sought an appeal hearing for 10 years in prison for novelist Boualem Sansal.

#### About Algeria

- **Capital:** **Algiers**, located on the Mediterranean coast.
- **Geography:**
  - **Tell:** Fertile coastal plains in the north
  - **Highlands & Saharan Atlas:** Semi-arid area with steppe and rugged mountains
  - **Sahara Desert:** Covers ~85% of the country, featuring dunes (Ergs) and stone plateaus
  - **Climate:** Mediterranean on the coast (hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters); desert in the south with extreme temperature swings.
- **Economy:** A major global exporter of oil and natural gas; hydrocarbon exports underpin ~95%

	<p>of its trade revenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Recently in News:</b> Algeria became the <b>9th Member of New Development Bank (NDB).</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Sree Narayan Guru</b></p>	
	<p><b>News?</b> The Prime Minister recently attended the <b>centenary celebration of the 1925 meeting between Mahatma Gandhi and Sree Narayana Guru at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.</b></p> <p><b>About Sree Narayana Guru (1856–1928)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Identity:</b> Saint, philosopher, spiritual leader, and social reformer from <b>Kerala.</b></li> <li>● <b>Belonged To:</b> <b>Ezhava</b> community – faced severe caste-based discrimination.</li> <li>● <b>Reformer:</b> Led a <b>non-violent revolt</b> against the caste system; transformed Kerala society.</li> <li>● <b>Philosophy:</b> Advocated <b>universal equality</b> – “<b>Oru Jathi, Oru Matham, Oru Daivam, Manushyanu</b>” (<i>One Caste, One Religion, One God for Mankind</i>)</li> <li>● <b>Key Movements &amp; Institutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Aruvippuram Movement (1888):</b> Consecrated a <b>Shiva idol</b> at Aruvippuram—challenging <b>Brahminical temple entry barriers.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Temple Building:</b> Established <b>40+ temples</b> across Kerala for lower castes to worship freely.</li> <li>○ <b>Sivagiri Matha (1904):</b> Founded an <b>ashram at Sivagiri hill</b>, near Varkala—now a spiritual and reformist centre.</li> <li>○ <b>SNDP Yogam (1903):</b> Founded the <b>Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam</b> to uplift backward classes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Guru</b> was the permanent chairman; <b>Kumaran Asan</b> was the general secretary.</li> <li>■ Advocated for <b>education, jobs, and political rights</b> for Ezhavas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Vaikom Satyagraha:</b> Participated in the <b>anti-untouchability protest</b> for temple access and equality.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Literary Works:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advaita Deepika</li> <li>○ Atmavilasam</li> <li>○ Daiva Dasakam</li> <li>○ Brahma Vidya Panchakam</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Source: <a href="#">PIB</a></p>

## Facts, Data or Case Studies for Value Addition

### Child Labour in India- Data

**News?** Recently **Just Rights for Children (JRC)** in collaboration with NGOs and law enforcement published observation related to child labour prevalence in India.

#### Key Findings

- **Child Labour Rescues in India (April 2024–March 2025):**
  - Total rescues: 53,651 children across 24 states/UTs.
  - Top 5 states by rescues:
    - Telangana – 11,063
    - Bihar – 3,974
    - Rajasthan – 3,847
    - Uttar Pradesh – 3,804
    - Delhi – 2,588
- **Trends in Exploitation:** 90% of rescued children (mainly aged 10–14) were in the **worst forms of child labour**:
  - Spas, massage parlours, orchestra troupes, domestic work
  - High risk of **sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution**.
  - Sexual exploitation rescues: 2,971 children; top states—West Bengal (1,005), Bihar (454), Odisha (232), Maharashtra (194), Rajasthan (191).
- **Enforcement & Legal Action**
  - Rescue operations: 38,889 conducted by NGOs in collaboration with law enforcement.
  - FIRs & arrests:
    - 38,388 FIRs registered.
    - 5,809 arrests made, 85% related to child labour.
    - Telangana led in both rescues and arrests, followed by Bihar and Rajasthan.
    - Notable enforcement gaps: UP and MP had many rescues but **fewer arrests**.

#### Policy Recommendations

- **National Mission to End Child Labour** with dedicated funding.
- **District-level Child Labour Task Forces**.
- **Child Labour Rehabilitation Fund** and national rehabilitation policy.
- Make **education compulsory up to 18 years**.
- Implement a **zero-tolerance policy** on child labour in government procurement.
- Expand the list of **hazardous occupations** under law.
- **Extend SDG 8.7** target deadline to 2030

Source: [IndianExpress](https://www.indianexpress.com)