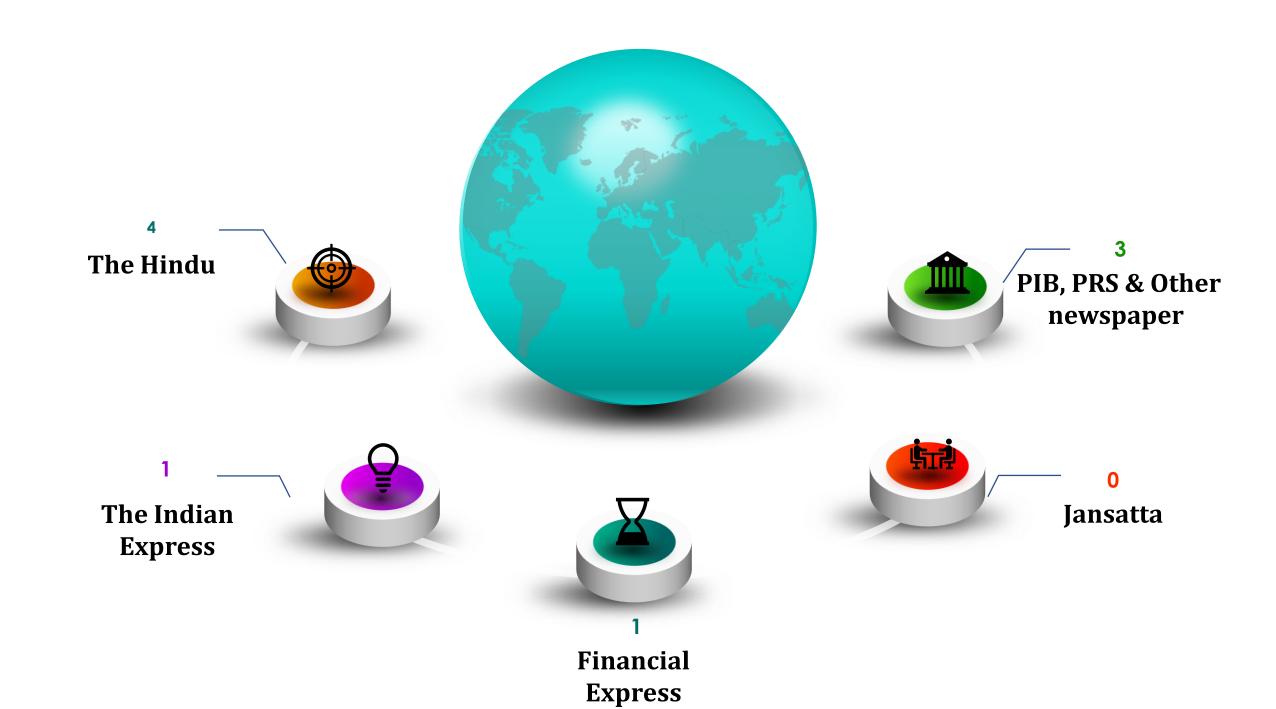
# Daily Current Affairs



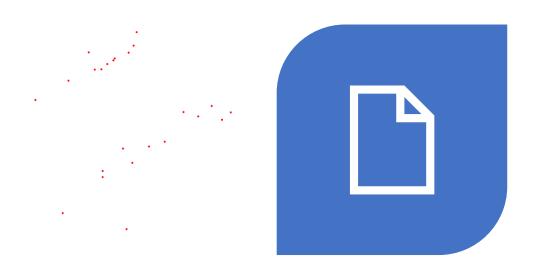








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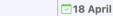












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"We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be."

Kurt Vonnegut, Mother Night



Eight Maoists killed in Jharkhand encounter





EC is 'compromised', says Rahul in U.S.

A time for strategy, not The need for a model of 'competitive coexistenc EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



Gill in form as Titans down Knight Riders



#### Ask BJP to scrap NEET as terms for election alliance

CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K
Stalin, In a heated debate on
NEET in the Assembly on
Monday, challenged AIADMK
leader Edappadi K. scrapping of NEET as a alliance with the BJP. » PAGE :



Protests erunt as WBSSC fails to publish list

Protests broke out outside th West Bengal School Service sion (WBSSC) office in Sait Lake area of Kolkata, on Monday after the agency did not publish a list differentiati between "tainted" and from 2016, to PAGE 4

#### Rabul pushes for Rohith Vemula Act in Telangana

Former Congress president and MP Rahul Gandhi urged Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to enact the Rohith Vemula Act. "So that no child of India has to face what B.R. Ambeddar, Rohith Vemula and a million others have had to endure". I made "I. to endure". 19 PAGE 3

#### dock successfully for second time

BENGALURU The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully executed the second docking of the two satellites that are part of the Space Docking Experiment mission, Union Minister of



murder of former Karnataka DGP

Bengaluru have booked the wife and daughter of forme Karnataka police chief Om Sunday Pallayi and Kriti have

#### Modi, Vance see 'significant progress' in trade talks

PM reviews bilateral ties with U.S. Vice-President, hosts his family for dinner; no new agreements announced as earlier expected; no mention of tariff, visa revocation issues in PMO statement; Modi also discusses India-U.S. road map that seeks to build on Mr. Trump's 'Make America Great Again' slogan and New Delhi's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' plans

elcoming "sig-nificant pro-gress" in talks for a Bilateral Trade Agree-ment (BTA), Prime Minis-ter Narendra Modi and U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance met in Delhi on Monday. and reviewed plans for In-dia-U.S. cooperation, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

(PMO) said. Mr. Vance's office said the two leaders "formally the two leaders "formally announced the finalisation of the Terms of Reference for the negotiations", even as Indian and U.S. officials were set to begin another round of BTA talks in Washington this week.

Mr. Modi met with Mr. Vance along with senior officials from both sides, before beginning Mr. Nova, bis

fore hosting Mr. Vance, his wife, Usha Chilukuri Vance, and their children However, they did not launch the TRUST Technol-ogy Partnership as had been earlier expected.

Trump's visit Mr. Modi said he looked forward to U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to In-dia "later this year", when India will host the U.S.-India-lapan-Australia Ouad Summit.
"The BTA is expected to

create new opportunities of growth for workers, farmers, and entrepre-neurs in both countries," neurs in both countries," Mr. Vance's office said, call-ing the agreement an "op-portunity to negotiate a new and modern trade agreement" to increase "bilateral trade and sup-ply-chain integration".

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U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance and family with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in New Delhi on Monday. REUTERS

ing reducing tariffs in a number of areas. However, tion of a breakthrough on issues like market access in agriculture, and the qual-sation levy and other mea-sures by Intila, so far. wel-comed the significant pro-gress in the negotiations for a mutually beneficial Agreement focused on the

welfare of the people of the two countries," the PMO said in its statement, "They two countries," the PMO said in its statement. "They noted continued efforts to-wards enhancing coopera-tion in energy, defence, to the reason of the con-tonion o administration which may

force many Indians to re-turn without completing their studies.

Mr. Modi also discussed the India U.S. med. man

Trump's "Make America Great Again (MAGA)" slo-gan and New Delhi's plans for "Viksit Bharat (Developed India) 2047", the statement said. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minis ter S. Jaishankar were pre-sent at the talks at the Prime Minister's residence, along with senior U.S. officials, and U.S. Charge d'Affaires Jorgan Andrews.

Regional, global issues
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Mr. Vance, his family and the U.S. delegation consisting of U.S. NSC point-person for South and

in Delhi's Palam airport on

Vivek, and daughter Mirabel off the plane dressed in Indian clothes. Although an earlier plan to visit the Red Fort was cancelled. the Vances went to the Akshardham temple and then shopped at the go-vernment-owned Cottage Emporium for Indian

handicrafts.

The Vances will spend
ate engagements and cultural events, as well as a visit to the Amer Fort and
give a public address at the
Rajasthan International
on Wednesday, they will
visit the Taj Mahal monument in Agan before reday and flying back to the
U.S. on Thuraday.

#### Uphill task



#### Bengal violence: SC debates limits of power in issuing directions on plea

The Supreme Court on Monday answered a plea to direct the Union government to invoke emergency powers and "protect" the State of West Bengal from violence with a question on whether such a measure would amount to a

Judicial incursion into the domains of the Executive and Legislature. The Judge's remark from the Bench came in from the Bench came in response to a plea by advo-cate Vishnu Shankar Jain to hear his application to in-voke Article 355 of the Con-stitution, mentioning the communal violence and deaths in West Bengal during protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act,

2025. Article 355 mandates it the "duty of the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance and to ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution." 2025, Article 355 mandates

You want us to issue a writ of mandamus to the Union government to deploy paramilitary forces... Will it not be interfering with the Legislative and Executive domains? As it is, we are being accused of interfering with parliamentary and Executive JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI

Mr. Jain pleaded for an urgent hearing of his plea on Tuesday. The court told him to file the plea. Justice B.R. Gavai, who has been recommended to be appointed as the next Chief Justice of India, obliquely referred to criti-cism about the Judiciary in-cism about the Judiciary in-

and parliamentary terrains following an April 8 judg-ment in the Tamil Nadu wernor case. The court, in its verdict,

had issued timelines to the for clearing Bills Dhankhar had later criti

Dhankhar had later criticised the judiciary for acting like "super-Parliament" saw with of mandamus to the Union government to deploy paramilitary forces... Will it not be interfering with parliamentary and Esceutive func

#### Pope Francis, a cheerful reformer who stood for open Church, dies at 88

Agence France-Presse

Pope Francis, an energetic reformer who inspired wi-despread devotion from Catholics but riled tradi-tionalists, died on Monday aged 88, just a day after greeting delighted wor-shippers after Easter Mass. The death of the Argen-tine pontiff, leader of the Catholic Church since March 2013, came less than

a month after having been released from hospital fol-lowing a 38-day battle with double pneumonia. The Pope died of a stroke, caus

Pope died of a stroke, causing a coma and "irreversible" heart failure, according to his death certificate

"Dearest brothers and sisters, it is with deep sorrow that I must announce or Francis, "said Cardinal Kevin Farrell in the statement published by the Vatican on its Telegram chan-Francis, returned to the Francis, returned to the home of the Father. His en-tire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and His church," said the statement.

and entritual leadership

and spiritual leadership and countries began preparations to mark his death. Some visitors to St. Peters Square – where a frail-test of the state of

that will culminate in the gathering of a conclave of cardinals to choose a successor. In the next four to six

days, the Vatican's cardi-nals will decide on the Pope's funeral date, at which point his coffin will be transferred to St. Peter's Basilica. In the meantime the day-to-day running o the tiny Vatican City state will be handled by the Ca-merlengo, a senior cardi-nal, currently Dublin-born

nal, currently Dublin-born Cardinal Farrell.

Pope Francis had con-firmed in his final testa-ment that he wished to be buried in Rome's Basilica of Saint Mary Major and not at St. Peter's Basilica in

the Vatican unlike many

who met Pope Francis dur-ing a state visit earlier this month, said the pope had "served with such devotion". Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said "a great man has left us" in a

### Modi, Vance see 'significant progress' in trade talks

PM reviews bilateral ties with U.S. Vice-President, hosts his family for dinner; no new agreements announced as earlier expected; no mention of tariff, visa revocation issues in PMO statement; Modi also discusses India-U.S. road map that seeks to build on Mr. Trump's 'Make America Great Again' slogan and New Delhi's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' plans

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

elcoming "significant progress" in talks for a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance met in Delhi on Monday, and reviewed plans for India-U.S. cooperation, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Mr. Vance's office said the two leaders "formally announced the finalisation of the Terms of Reference for the negotiations", even as Indian and U.S. officials were set to begin another round of BTA talks in Washington this week.

Mr. Modi met with Mr. Vance along with senior officials from both sides, before hosting Mr. Vance, his wife, Usha Chilukuri Vance, and their children for dinner at his residence.

However, they did not

launch the TRUST Technology Partnership as had been earlier expected.

#### Trump's visit

Mr. Modi said he looked forward to U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to India "later this year", when India will host the U.S.-India-Japan-Australia Quad Summit.

"The BTA is expected to create new opportunities of growth for workers, farmers, and entrepreneurs in both countries," Mr. Vance's office said, calling the agreement an "opportunity to negotiate a new and modern trade agreement" to increase "bilateral trade and supply-chain integration".

Talks for a BTA, that were announced during Mr. Modi's meeting with Mr. Trump in February, are discussing the first tranche of the agreement due to be announced during Mr. Trump's India visit, includ-



U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance and family with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in New Delhi on Monday, REUTERS

ing reducing tariffs in a number of areas. However, there has been little indication of a breakthrough on issues like market access in agriculture, and the revocation of the digital equalisation levy and other measures by India, so far.

"[The leaders] welcomed the significant progress in the negotiations for a mutually beneficial India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement focused on the

welfare of the people of the two countries," the PMO said in its statement. "They noted continued efforts towards enhancing cooperation in energy, defence, strategic technologies and other areas." The statement, however, made no mention on whether the leaders discussed more testy issues, including U.S. tariffs and a crackdown on student visas by the Trump administration which may

force many Indians to return without completing their studies.

Mr. Modi also discussed the India-U.S. road map that seeks to build on Mr. Trump's "Make America Great Again (MAGA)" slogan and New Delhi's plans for "Viksit Bharat (Developed India) 2047", the statement said. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar were present at the talks at the Prime Minister's residence, along with senior U.S. officials, and U.S. Charge d'Affaires Jorgan Andrews.

#### Regional, global issues

"The two leaders also exchanged views on various regional and global issues of mutual interest and called for dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward," the statement said, but did not mention specifically whether the Ukraine war or the conflict in Gaza were discussed.

Earlier, the visit had some uncertain moments as news came in of Pope Francis' sudden demise in the Vatican, leading to questions about whether Mr. Vance, a Catholic, who had met the Pope only on Sunday after Easter mass, would curtail his plans, or whether the Prime Minister would put off the official dinner. However, the visit proceeded as scheduled, with Mr. Vance writing a post on X just after learning of the Pope's passing. "I was happy to see him yesterday, though he was obviously very ill," Mr. Vance said, expressing condolences.

Mr. Vance, his family and the U.S. delegation consisting of U.S. NSC point-person for South and Central Asia Ricky Gill, Pentagon and State department officials had landed in Delhi's Palam airport on

Monday morning, where he was received by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. Mr. Vance and Ms. Usha Vance then brought their two sons, Ewan and Vivek, and daughter Mirabel off the plane dressed in Indian clothes. Although an earlier plan to visit the Red Fort was cancelled. the Vances went to the Akshardham temple and then shopped at the government-owned Cottage Emporium for Indian handicrafts.

The Vances will spend Tuesday in Jaipur at private engagements and cultural events, as well as a visit to the Amer Fort and the U.S. Vice-President will give a public address at the Rajasthan International Centre in the afternoon. On Wednesday, they will visit the Taj Mahal monument in Agra before returning to Jaipur the same day and flying back to the U.S. on Thursday.

### **≠ 2. Key Outcomes:**

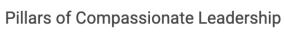
Topic	Key Points
> Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)	Terms of Reference for BTA finalized; next round of talks to happen in Washington
🤵 Trade & Economy	Aim to create new opportunities for workers, farmers, entrepreneurs; BTA to boost supply chain integration
Strategic Cooperation	Focused on <b>energy, defence, digital tech, agriculture</b> ; no mention of sensitive topics like <b>tariffs or visa restrictions</b>
Geopolitical Dialogue	General agreement on need for <b>global stability, regional cooperation</b> ; Ukraine-Gaza not discussed openly
	India–U.S. cooperation roadmap aligned with PM Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision and Trump's MAGA slogan

# Pope Francis Passes Away

Attribute	Details
Full Name	Jorge Bergoglio
Nationality	Argentinian
Position	266th Pope of the Catholic Church (since 2013)
Age at Death	88
Cause of Death	Stroke leading to coma and heart failure
Date of Death	Day after Easter Mass, 2025
Special Firsts	1st Jesuit Pope, 1st Pope from the Americas

### 3. Legacy & Reform Agenda:

Focus Area	Reform/Impact
Church Governance	Decentralization of power from Vatican to local churches
Inclusivity	Promoted dialogue with atheists, Muslims, LGBTQ+
Social Issues	Vocal against war, poverty, and environmental damage
Church Outreach	Emphasized grassroots connections; "Shepherd smell of the sheep" approach
Internal Modernization	Financial transparency, anti-corruption efforts in Vatican





#### Humility

Demonstrated humility in leadership and personal conduct.



#### **Social Justice**

Advocated for social justice and equality.



#### **Migrant Rights**

Championed the rights and welfare of migrants.



#### **Simplicity**

Embraced simplicity in lifestyle and governance.



#### **Open Church**

Promoted an open and inclusive Church environment.



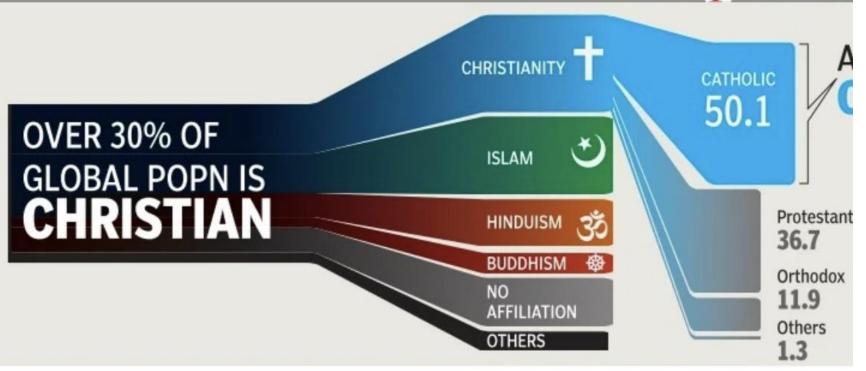
#### **Environmental Protection**

**Emphasized environmental** protection and sustainability.

### TIMES Special

### POPE LEADS LARGEST CHRISTIAN GROUP

Christianity, at 2.4 billion followers, is the world's largest religion and Roman Catholics, with the pope in Vatican as their religious head, make up its biggest sub-denomination, followed by Protestants



50.1

Protestant

Orthodox

36.7

11.9

Others

1.3

# AND HALF OF THEM ARE CATHOLIC

BRAZIL HAS THE LARGEST CATHOLIC POPULATION

Country No. of Catholics (millions)		
Brazil		133
Mexico		96
Philippines		75
US		74
Italy		50

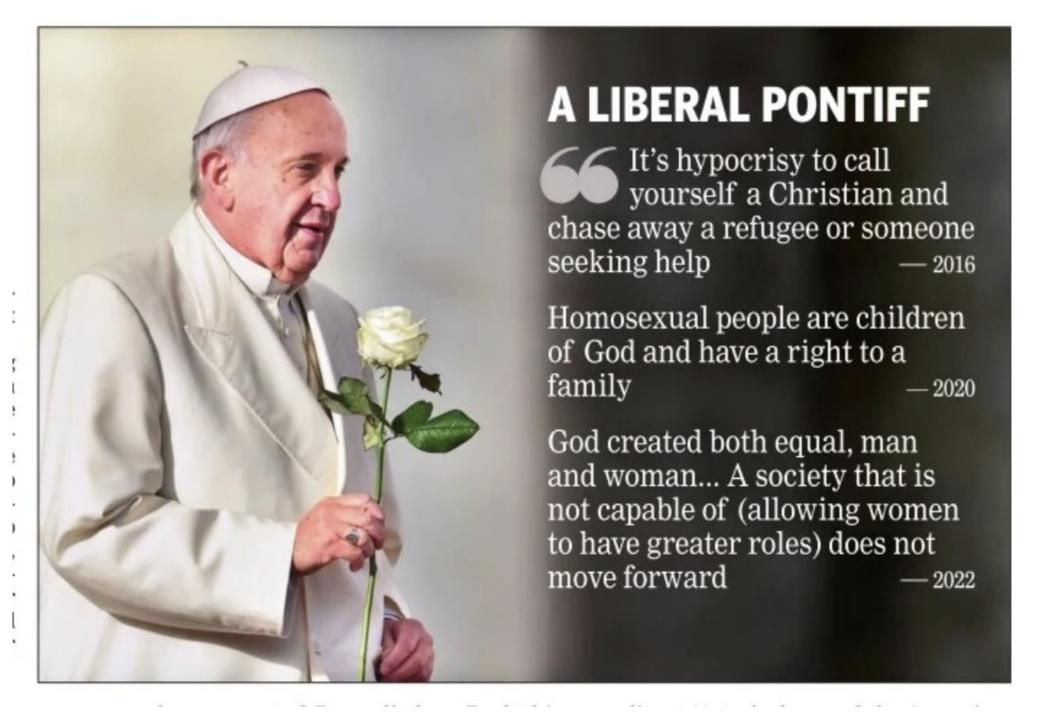


### 18.5 Million

Christians in India, that's 2.4% of the population. Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram have majority Christian populations

US has the largest Christian population at over 250 million while Russia's orthodox church counts over 100 million followers

> Source: Pew Research Centre (figures based on 2010 baseline estimates); Census 2011





# The Smallest Countries in the World



#### The Pope's Enduring Influence

#### **Global Influence**



Shaping global perspectives through religious leadership.

#### Spiritual Leadership



**Papal Authority** 

Guiding the Roman
Catholic Church with
spiritual wisdom.

Exercising supreme authority as the Bishop of Rome.

#### The Pope's Role and Authority

#### Vatican City Residence



Resides in Vatican City, center of Catholic power.

#### **Bishop of Rome**



Bishop of Rome, spiritual leader of Catholics.



# College of Cardinals Election

Elected by College of Cardinals through conclave.



#### **Supreme Pontiff**

Supreme Pontiff, highest religious authority.

#### The Unique Sovereignty and Governance of Vatican City

#### Governance

The Pope's supreme authority and independent operation of the city.

#### **Economy**

The city's financial structure and revenue sources.

#### **Sovereignty**

Vatican City's independent status as the world's smallest sovereign state.



#### **Cultural Heritage**

The city's rich cultural and historical landmarks.

### Tatholic vs Protestant Christianity: Key Differences

Aspect	Catholics	Protestants
Origin	Originated after the time of Jesus, became formal with the Roman Empire	Emerged in the 16th century during the Reformation led by Martin Luther
Authority	Bible + Church Tradition + Pope	Bible alone (Sola Scriptura) is the ultimate authority
Pope	Accepted as the supreme leader and representative of Christ on Earth	Rejected; no central earthly authority
Church Hierarchy	Strong hierarchy: Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, Priests	Less formal structure; pastors or elders lead congregations
Sacraments	7 Sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Holy Orders	Generally 2 Sacraments: Baptism and Eucharist (some may vary)
Salvation	Faith + Good Works + Church Sacraments	Faith Alone (Sola Fide)

Virgin Mary and Saints	Venerated and prayed to as intercessors	Honored but not prayed to; direct relationship with God
Confession	Confession to a priest required	Direct confession to God
Communion (Eucharist)	Transubstantiation: bread and wine become actual body and blood of Christ	Symbolic: bread and wine represent Christ's body and blood
Language of Worship (historically)	Traditionally in Latin (now local languages too)	Local/vernacular languages
Images and Statues	Widely used for devotion	Some groups (like Calvinists) reject images; others may allow
Church Building Style	Ornate, with statues, stained glass, and altars	Simpler and less decorative in design

Aspect	Description
95 Theses (1517)	Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. These were arguments against the sale of indulgences (paying money to the Church for forgiveness of sins). This act sparked the Protestant Reformation.
Challenge to Church Authority	He rejected the authority of the Pope and claimed that the <b>Bible alone</b> (Sola Scriptura) should be the final authority for Christians.
Doctrine of Justification by Faith (Sola Fide)	Luther emphasized that salvation comes through faith alone, not by works or Church rituals.
Translation of the Bible	He translated the <b>Bible into German</b> , making it accessible to the common people and promoting literacy.
Founding of Lutheranism	His teachings formed the basis of the <b>Lutheran Church</b> , the first Protestant denomination.
Excommunication	In 1521, he was <b>excommunicated</b> by the Catholic Church and declared an outlaw at the Diet of Worms.
Hymn Writing	He also wrote hymns; the most famous is <b>"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"</b> .

#### News

#### INBRIEF



#### PM to flag off Namo Bharat intercity train in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to flag off Bihar's second Amrit Bharat train, connecting the State to Maharashtra, and inaugurate a new Namo Bharat train service (in picture) between Jaynagar and Patna on April 24. The new Amrit Bharat service will operate The new Amrit Bharat service will operate between Saharas in Bihar and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai. The train, manufactured at Perminus in Mumbai. The train, manufactured as peed of 150 km per hour. Its route includes Hajipur, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhya junction near Varanasi, and Bhusavai. Namo Bharat trains have engines on both ends, which helps in cutting huramound time during intercity travel.

#### SC dismisses plea for allowing JEE-Advanced candidature

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea cleared their Class 12 exams in 2023, to participate in the JEE-Advanced 2025 for securing admissions in the IITs. The court observed that the matter was in the policy domain and courts should be slow in interfering in matters of academia. The petition, filed by 18 IIT aspirants, had said though they were eligible to appear for a final attempt at the IEE-Mains in 2025, they were

#### Nature's fury leaves behind a trail of destruction in J&K

It will take around three days to restore traffic on Jammu-Srinagar highway, says CM; Jammu Divisional Commissioner says departments instructed to expedite restoration of public utilities

ammu and Kash-mir's Ramban dis-trict offered scary images of nature's fury on Monday.

Monday. Scores of trucks with perishable goods, including poultry and vegetables, and passenger vehicles re-mained either stranded along the Jammu-Srinagar highway or buried under the debris for more than 12 hours.

hours.

The authorities launched a massive exercise to restore the critical highway, which saw a major disruption on Sunday following cloudbursts, landslips, and flash floods triggered by increasers rain. triggered by incessant rain for the past three days. "We are trying to make

the highway at least one-way to restore traffic of vehicles carrying essen-tials. We are hopeful to restials. We are hopeful to res-tore it by Tuesday even-ing," Baseer-ul-Haq, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, said. However, official sourc-es said it will take many days to fully restree traffic



24 hours. I dumped them on the roadside to ensure others survive," Kiran Sham, a truck driver said. Officials said over 140 stranded vehicles were allowed to move to safer

They said about 10 to 12 villages, including Seri, Bagna, Panote and Khari, had suffered varying degrees of damage.

"Teams are already deputed to conduct compre-

sure that genuine losses are recorded and compen-sated accordingly," Divisional Commissioner, Jam-mu, Ramesh Kumar said. He said the departments have been instructed to ex-pedite restoration of water supply, power supply, and other public utilities.

other public utilities.
Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also visited Ramban district on Sunday evening.
"We have to restore traffic as several vehicles remain

'Civil services should get credit for

have to realign the high-way. It will take around three days to restore traffic on the highway. The administration is assessing the damage and relief will be provided. The lief will be provided. The administration is working on a war footing to ensure the highway is reopened at the earliest," he said. The authorities have re-

#### Two ISRO satellites dock successfully for the second time

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully executed the second docking of the two satellites – SDXOI (Chaser) and SDXO2 (Target) – that are part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said on Monday.

"Glad to inform that the second docking of satel-lites has been accom-plished successfully. As in-PSLV-C60 / SPADEX mis-sion was successfully launched on 30 December 2024. Thereafter the satel lites were successfully docked for the first time on 16 January 2025 at 06:20 AM and successfully un-docked on 13 March 2025 at 09:20 AM. Further experiments are planned in the next two weeks," the Minister posted on X.

Docking satellites Earlier this year, India be-came the fourth country came the fourth country after the U.S., Russia, and China to conduct the dock-ing experiment. The SpaDeX mission is an important project by



Tuesday, April 22, 2025

the ISRO. It is designed to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for docking, and undocking susing two small satellites. The demonstration of the technology is essential for the technology is essential sending an Indian astro-naut to the moon, return-ing samples from the and operation of an Indian and operation of an Indian craft, which is essential for

#### Railways plans to fence tracks to curb trespassing

#### The Hindu Bureau

The Railways has proposed to fence tracks across the country to avoid hazards of trespassing. As a pilot mea-sure, more than 3,500 km of tracks have already been fenced, the Southern Rail-

way said in a note.
Responding to the report "Vande Bharat has
weak defences against even cows: Safety Report" published in The Hindu on fonday, the zone said the trains were designed with modern coupling design, which transmitted the imfety, there was a cattle guard at the front to deflect

anything that came on the track.
It said Vande Bharat trains had 'Kavach' and other built-in safety devic-es. The braking system was modern and fully integrat-

#### EPFO adds 4.27 lakh members in 18-25 age group in February

2024. The EPFO said the data signify increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness

and heightened awareness of employee benefits.

A noticeable aspect of the American appear of the 18-25 age group, 4.27 lakh new subscribers added in the 18-25 age group, scribers added in the 18-25 age group, scribers added in Pebruary 2025; the EPFO said in a decident of the 18-25 age group for the month is approximately 6.78 lakh, re-

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELISI
NEW DELISI
The Employees' Provident
Fund Organisation on
Monday said it has enMonday said it has enScribers in February.
The pension fund authof 16.10 lakh members in
the month, adding 3.99%
In net payroll additions
2024. The EPPO said the
EPPO in February, a
work of the Company of the Company of the Company
to the month, adding 3.99%
In the payroll additions
with the corresponding per
wit with the corresponding pe-riod last year. "Further, the

net female payroll addition during the month stood at around 3.37 lakh, a signifiaround 3.37 lakh, a signifi-cant year over year growth of 9.23% compared to Fe-braary 2024; it said. Maharashtra, Tamili Na-distribution of the said of the Haryana, Delhi, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh added more than 5% of the total net payroll. "Of the total net payroll addition, around 41.72% addition is said.

### smooth transfer of power in India

Cabinet Secretary T.V. So-manathan said on Monday that unlike other countries in the neighbourhood that have seen military coup and violent overthrow of governments, India has al-ways seen a smooth transf-er of power for which the er of power for which the credit should go to the All India Services (AIS) and the civil services officials.

He said it was the duty of the civil services to pre-serve the constitutional order such as democracy, rule of law, national unity and the federal structure.

The Indian Administra-tive Service (IAS) officer said that in a democracy, it is the elected government is the elected government which has the mandate, and it is the duty of the civil servant to assist the go-vernment in carrying out its policies. He said the of-ficers should be politically neutral "because we don't



long to some particular

"I think without the All

Need for competence

Need for competence Speaking on the occasion of Civil Services Day, Mr. Somanathan added that lateral entry will be a ne-cessity in future and there was a need for greater competence and subject matter expertise among ci-vil servants as the era of the good generalist was over.

India Services and the cen-

### tral services, free and fair elections would not be pos-sible. Governments have been defeated both at the bown the foundation of the foun

been defeated both at the Centre and in the States in elections conducted by ci-vil servants. We have smooth transfer of power whenever a government changes. We don't have tanks on the streets when there's a change of govern-ment. We also have imposi-tion of President's Rule, which passes off with no problem at all... That is be-

cause of the civil services. So, this is an unqualified success," the country's top bureaucrat said during an interactive session on Civil Services Reforms - Chal-lenges and Opportunities. He said that ever since

He said that ever since transparency was intro-duced in the Annual Per-formance Assessment Re-port system for the AIS officers, it had become use-less. "And particularly in IAS, this is a disease. Every-body is between 9 and 10 (rating)... There are crooks

### appear before

10," Mr. Somanathan asked while responding to an Ut-tar Pradesh cadre IAS offic-er who suggested transpa-rency in empanelment process of officers at joint secretary rank and above. When Bidur Kant Jha, an officer appointed in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways through the lateral entry mode, asked about the low salary structure, the Cabinet Secretary remarked, "Pay is not part

of today's discussion you give it to the Pay Com-mission when it comes, but we are not talking about pay and benefits. So, if we are underpaid, we have alternative careers. have alternative careers. We can pursue them." Earlier, while inaugurat-ing the conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India's bureaucra-cy and policymaking can-not operate on outdated

#### Delhi Police The Hindu Bureau

SC asks Puja

Khedkar to

tice B.V. Nagarathna direct-ed Ms. Khedkar to appear before the police on May 2 at 10.30 a.m. and on any

### To solve this puzzle online, great by 0r. x) To solve this puzzle online, great by 0r. x) To solve this puzzle online, great by 0r. x) To solve this puzzle online, great by 0r. x)







- 19 Wild at first, son in band becomes mature (5,2) 21 Starts to observe very unusually mutated egg cell (4) 22 Fling with lady in control turned more delightful (10)
- 25 Tireless nurse is out, frantically saving patient at centre (9) 27 Making out with stunning redhead slyly when he's away (13)
- 2 Recover from cold, tucking into celery salad (7) 3 Checks firm involved in swindles (10) 4 Try technique to master slang (5)
- Loves wearing lace, making an impression on people? (9)
   Charged about 500 for ancient aromatic ointment (4) Ego hurt easily? Becoming more resilient (7) Impressive in sack? Gossip is mostly true (11)
- 10 Explosive in the tempo, built by revolutionary (3-8) 13 Appreciated medley of disco genre (10) 15 Most contemptible person consuming ecstasy with songstress
- 18 New running route close to town it's free of charge (7) 20 Bowled over by model stealing money bag in retreat (7)
- 23 Panorama in Kiev is tantalising (5)

#### SUDOKU



#### FAITH

#### Listening to Bhagavatham

Sri Damodara Dishittar said in a discourse that as not even a superior of the control of the con narrates more about these things and the bliss

narrates more about these things and the bliss.
Sage Vedd Vasa thought about the easiest way for peoSage Vedd Vasa thought about the easiest way for peofer the control of the Vedas or listening to Godly
deeds and His qualities. The sage chose the last medium,
and keeping this in mind, he composed the Bhagavatham
so that ordinary people could listen easily and derive

so that ordinary people could listen easily and derive God's blessian old Veda Vyasa that he was an ordinary. Sage Narada Old Veda Vyasa that he was an ordinary. Sage Narada Old Veda Vyasa that he was an ordinary control of the abermans of various rishts. His mother used to take him along with her. Listening to the good stories about God marrated by the rishis, he was destined to be everyone lauded him. He tendered advice to Prahlada as well as to the demon Kamsa. He blessed Valmiki with several control of the demon Kamsa. He blessed Valmiki with Sage Narada was blessed to travel anywhere in the universe. In practice, the Bhagwardham is rectifed for seven days, a system called "Sagihaham." Sage Sukha told Bhagwardham is Ching Parkibalt for seven days.

# Two ISRO satellites dock successfully for the second time

#### The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

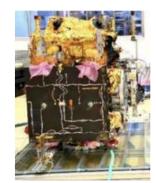
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully executed the second docking of the two satellites – SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target) – that are part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said on Monday.

"Glad to inform that the second docking of satellites has been accomplished successfully. As informed earlier, the PSLV-C60 / SPADEX mission was successfully launched on 30 December 2024. Thereafter the satellites were successfully docked for the first time on 16 January 2025 at 06:20 AM and successfully undocked on 13 March 2025 at 09:20 AM. Further experiments are planned in the next two weeks," the Minister posted on X.

#### **Docking satellites**

Earlier this year, India became the fourth country after the U.S., Russia, and China to conduct the docking experiment.

The SpaDeX mission is an important project by



The ISRO has executed the second docking of the two satellites Chaser and Target.

the ISRO. It is designed to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for spacecraft rendezvous, docking, and undocking using two small satellites.

The demonstration of this technology is essential for future missions, such as sending an Indian astronaut to the moon, returning samples from the moon, and the building and operation of an Indian space station. The other aims of the mission include demonstration of the transfer of electric power between the docked spacecraft, which is essential for future applications, such as in-space robotics, composite spacecraft control, and payload operations after undocking.

#### **ISRO Space Docking Experiment**

#### **Launch SDX01**

The Chaser satellite is launched into space.

#### Launch SDX02

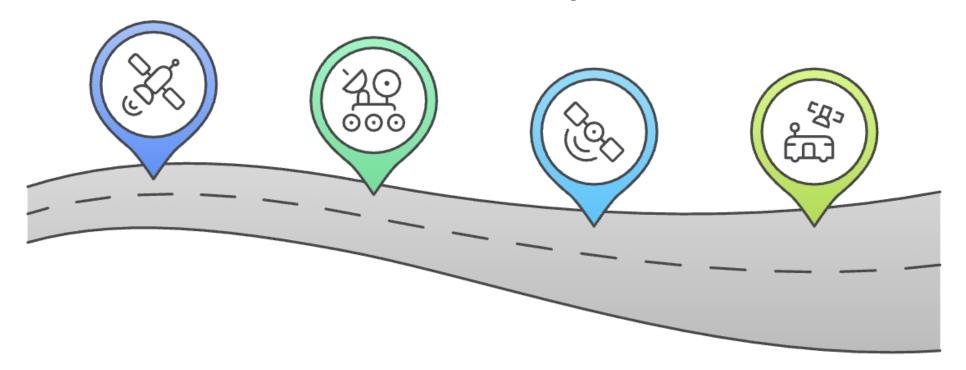
The Target satellite is launched into space.

# SDX01 Approaches SDX02

The Chaser satellite maneuvers towards the Target satellite.

### SDX01 Docks with SDX02

The Chaser satellite successfully docks with the Target satellite.



#### **India's Satellite Docking Achievement**









### India's Achievement

India successfully demonstrates satellite docking capability

### United States' Precedence

The United States was the first to achieve this feat

### Russia's Contribution

Russia followed as the second country to achieve this

#### **China's Entry**

China became the third country to demonstrate this capability

Country	Historic Milestone
<b>USA</b>	First successful docking in 1966 (Gemini 8 mission)
<b>USSR</b>	1969: First automatic docking (Soyuz 4 & 5)
China	2011: First docking by Tiangong-1 and Shenzhou-8
<b>™</b> India	2025: ISRO joins the elite group through SpaDeX

### Q. Consider the following statements regarding India's Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission:

- 1.India became the third country in the world to demonstrate satellite docking capability.
- 2. The SpaDeX mission involved two satellites known as SDX01 and SDX02.
- 3. The docking and undocking process was demonstrated successfully by ISRO in 2025.
- 4. Satellite docking is a prerequisite technology for in-space robotic repairs and crew transfer between space stations.

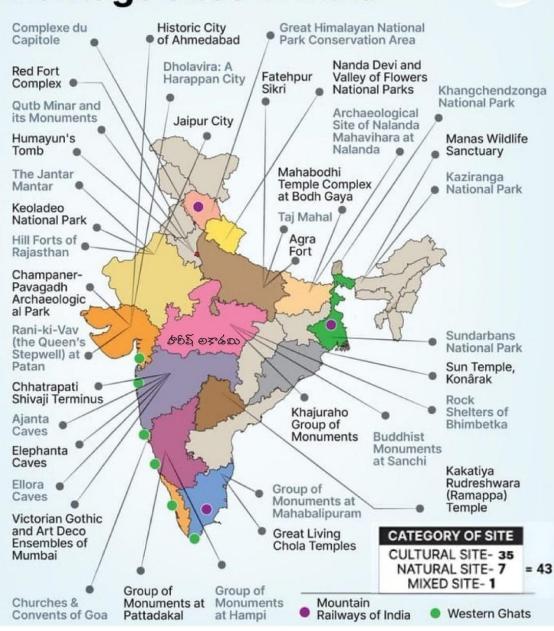
Which of the above statements are **correct**?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

# World Heritage Day 2025



## List of UNESCO world heritage sites in India



#### Celebrating Cultural Heritage



Archaeological Survey of India

ASI declares free entry to protected monuments.



International Day for Monuments

Celebrates cultural heritage with free monument access.

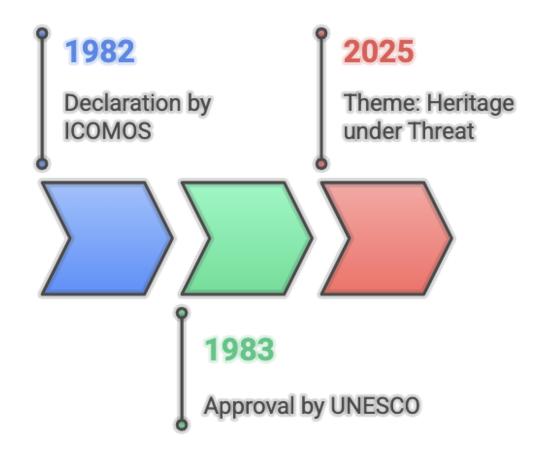


World Heritage Day

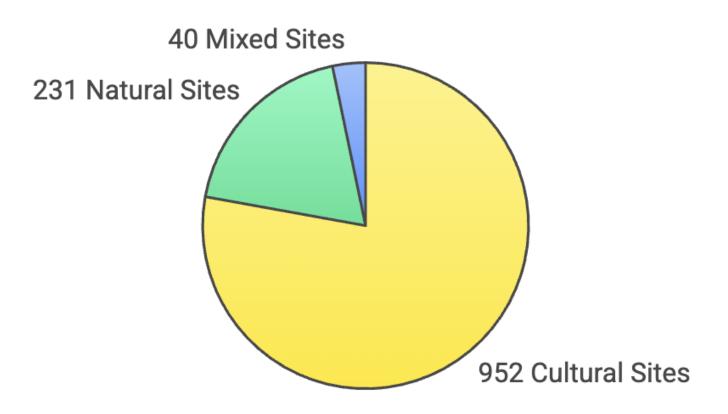
Promotes awareness and preservation of world heritage.



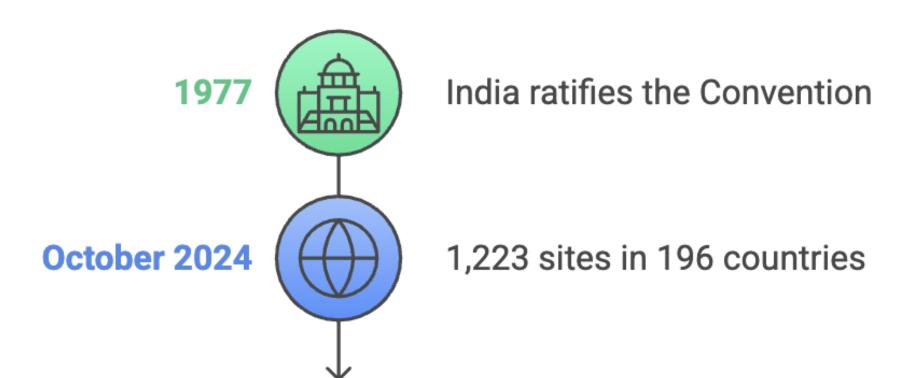
### Celebrating World Heritage Day: A Journey Through Time



# Distribution of World Heritage Sites by Type (sites)

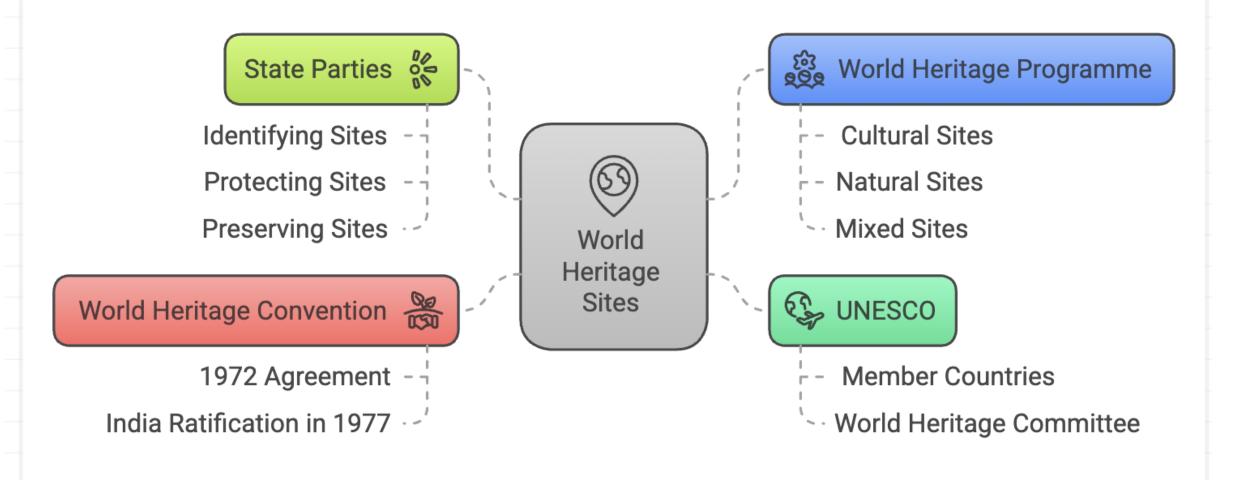


### India's Journey with the World Heritage Convention

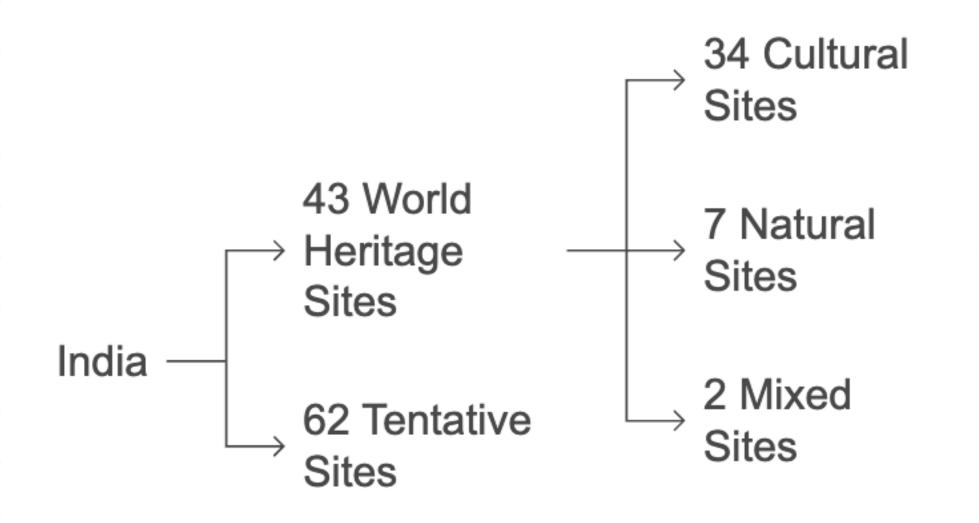




### World Heritage Sites: Protection and Preservation



# World Heritage Sites in India



# Exercise Desert Flag-10

### Indian Air Force's Participation in Exercise Desert Flag-10



### Global Air Forces Unite for Exercise Desert Flag

### **Aim Annual** Complex fighter Exercise Desert Flag engagements and hosted by UAE Air knowledge Force exchange This year Participation of 12 nations

Kerala's Intellectual Property Rights policy to be revised after 17 years

### **Kerala IPR Policy Revision Process**

### Formation of Drafting Committee

A six-member committee is formed to revise the policy.

# Appointment of Chairman

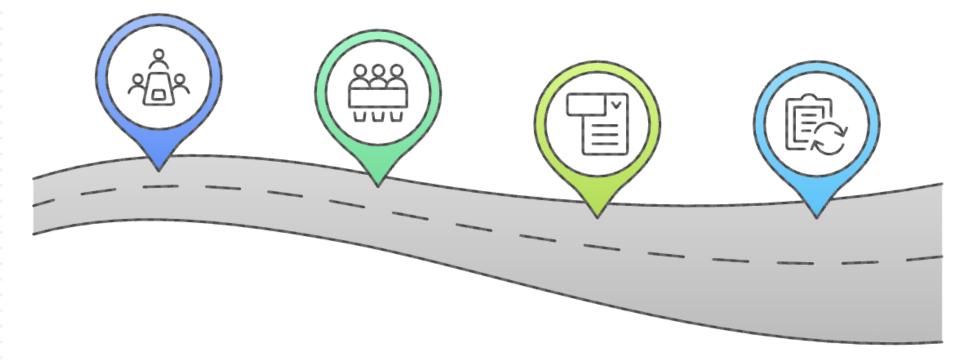
The Chairman of the Biodiversity Board leads the committee.

# Initial Policy Formulation

The first IPR policy was created in 2008.

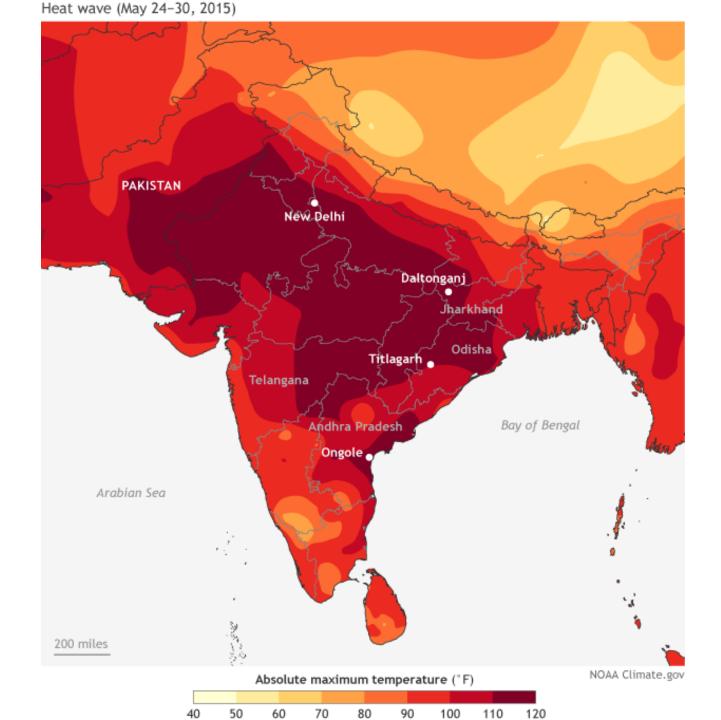
# Comprehensive Revision

The policy undergoes a thorough update.

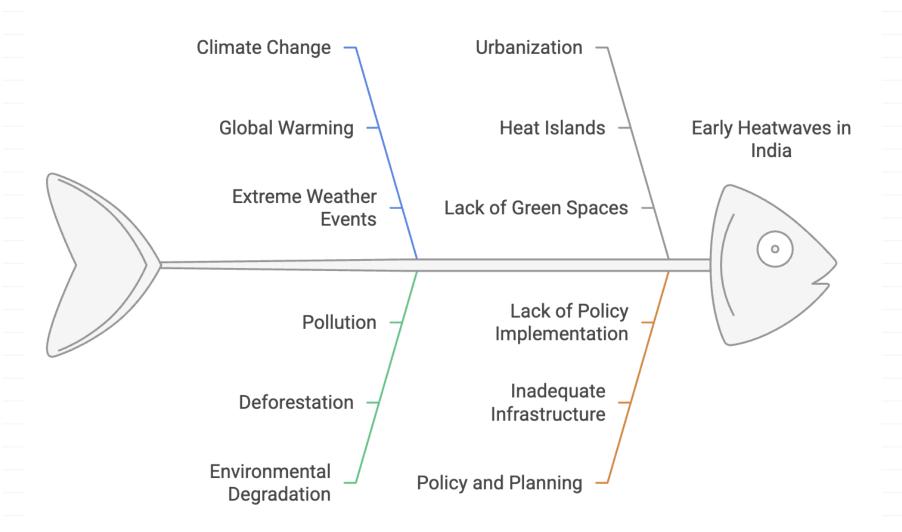


Form of IPR	What it protects	Criteria	Duration
PATENTS	Inventions	Novelty Inventive Step Industrial Application	20 years from the date of filing the Patent
COPYRIGHTS	Expression of Ideas (Literary, Dramatic, Musical works, Computer Program per se, etc.)	Originality Fixation	Literary works: Lifetime of author + 60 years Cinematography films/records/ photographs/government works : 60 years Broadcasting : 25 years
TRADEMARKS	Identification symbols, logos, slogans, words/ letters	Distinctive Graphically representable Not deceptive	Indefinite Renewal after every ten years
INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS	External appearance of an article	Novel Original Significantly distinguishable	Initially for 10 years Renewal for 5 more years (maximum protection : 15 years)
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS	Goods of specific geographical origin	Quality Reputation Unique characteristics which are essentially attributable to the geographical area of origin	Indefinite Renewal after every ten years
LAYOUT DESIGN OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS	Lay out of components in the integrated circuits	Original Distinctive Capable of distinguishing from any other lay-out design.	10 years
PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES & FARMERS' RIGHTS	New varieties Farmers' varieties Extant varieties Essentially derived varieties	Novelty Distinctiveness Uniformity Stability Denomination	Trees and vines : 18 years Extant varieties &others : 15 years

# Heatwaves in India



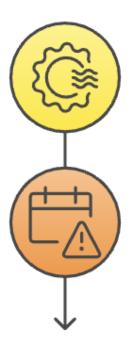
### Analyzing the Causes of Early Heatwaves in India



### Rising Heatwaves in India: A Timeline of Urgency

**March 2024** 

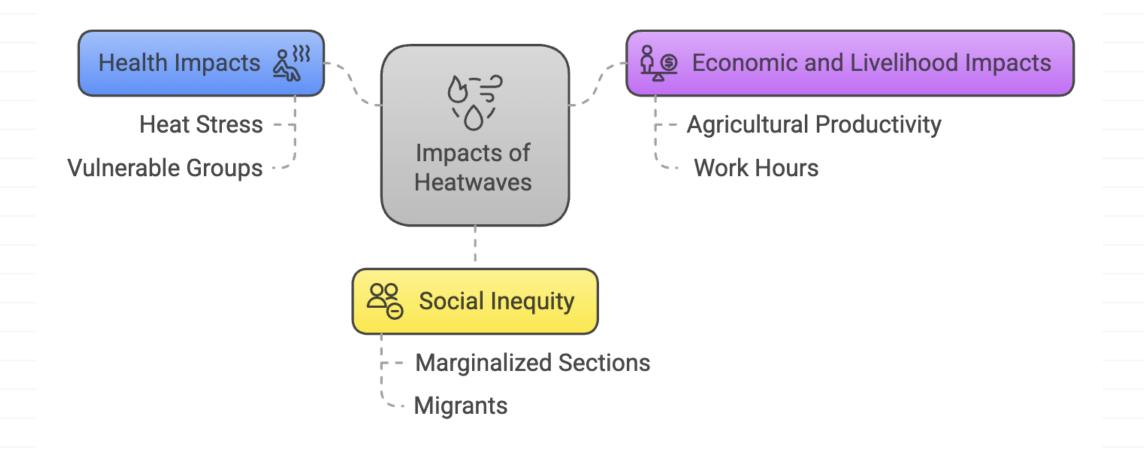
Severe heatwaves in India



**March 2025** 

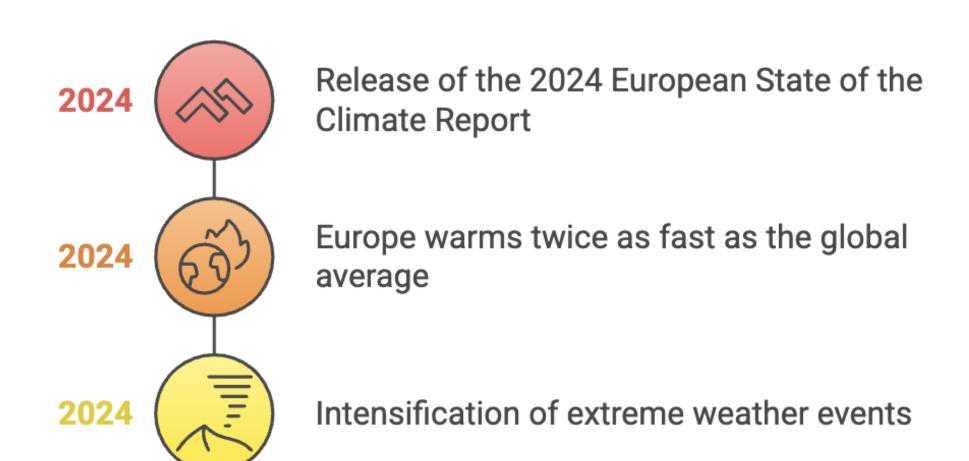
Heatwaves arrive 20 days earlier

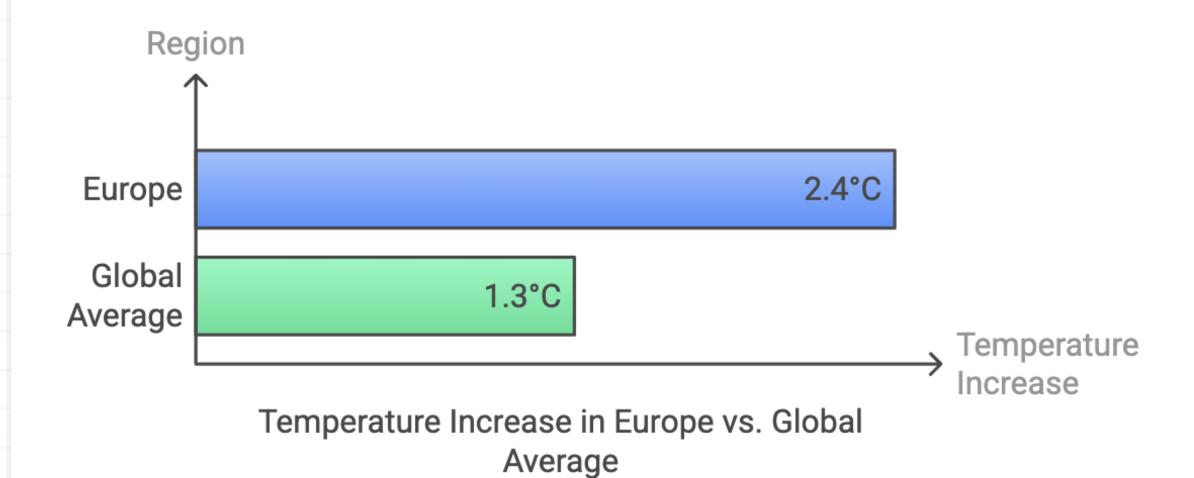
### Impacts of Heatwaves on Health, Economy, and Society



# Europe is Warming Faster

### Europe's Climate Crisis: Key Events and Trends





### Factors Driving Europe's Warming

## Urban Heat



Urban areas trap heat, intensifying local temperature extremes.

### Atmospheric = Circulation



Shifts in circulation cause more frequent heatwaves.

### Arctic **Proximity**



Arctic warming accelerates Europe's temperature rise.



### Melting Glaciers

Glacier melting enhances heat absorption in Europe.



### Sea Surface Temperatures

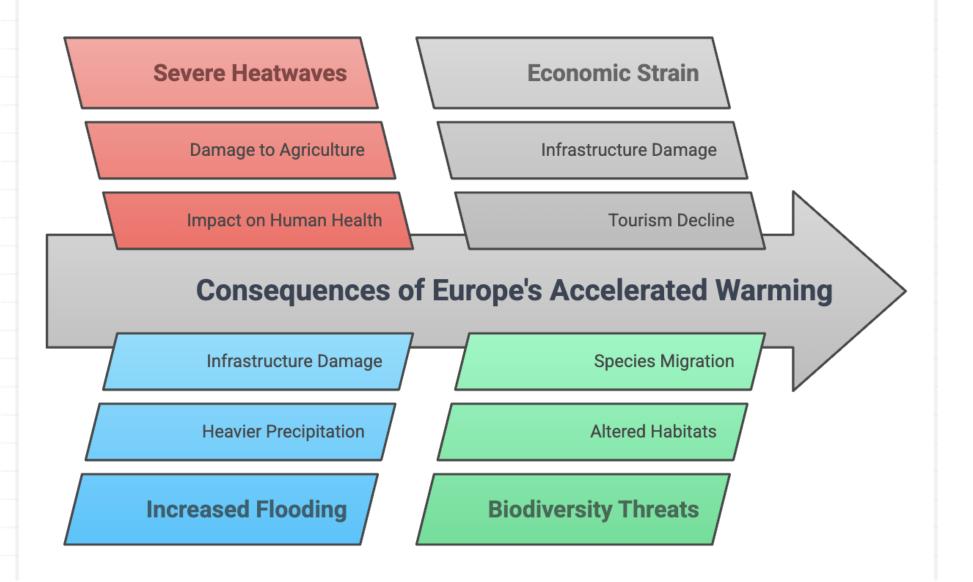
Warmer oceans contribute to atmospheric temperature rise.



### Reduced Aerosols

Cleaner air increases solar energy absorption.

### **Consequences of Europe's Accelerated Warming**



### Words of the day

#### Whimsical:

determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason

Synonyms: capricious, impulsive

**Usage:** She thought mini marshmallows were a whimsical way of adding desserts to one's meal.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/whimsicalpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈwɪmzɪkəl/

### **Sanctimonious:**

excessively or hypocritically pious

**Synonyms:** self-righteous, holier-than-thou, pharisaic

**Usage:** He dropped his sanctimonious act when his colleagues learnt to ignore him.

**Pronunciation:** newsth.live/sanctimoniouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌsæŋk.trˈməʊ.ni.əs/

