

India announced a plan to develop a National Platform for Climate and Nature Finance

India, along with 13 other developing countries and regions, announced plans to establish country- or region-specific platforms during a ministerial event at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

- The initiative includes regional bodies such as the **African Islands States Climate Commission (AISCC)** and participating countries like Cambodia, Colombia, and others.

About the Platform

- **Support:** Supported through the **Green Climate Fund's (GCF)** Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme.
 - ⊕ **Readiness Programme** supports country-driven initiatives to strengthen their institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning towards a transformational long-term climate action agenda.
- **Purpose:** Strategic, country-driven mechanisms that translate climate priorities into programmatic investment approaches.
 - ⊕ It will replace a fragmented project approach based climate finance mobilisation.
 - ⊕ And, provides platform for better coordination between the different public and private, international and local stakeholders.

About Green Climate Fund

- It is the **world's largest climate fund**.
- **Genesis:** COP 16, UNFCCC Cancun, 2010.
 - ⊕ It serves the **Paris Agreement in accordance with Article 9**.
- **Mandate:** To support developing countries in raising and realizing their Nationally Determined Contributions ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways.
- **Governance:** Fund is governed by the GCF Board and it is accountable to and functions under the guidance of the COP, UNFCCC.
- **HQ:** Songdo, Incheon City, Republic of Korea.

Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security, 2025 Report by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Along with highlighting the role of disasters in disrupting food production, the report identifies digital transformation as a game-changer for **agricultural disaster risk reduction**.

Key Highlights of the Report

- **Financial Loss:** Disasters have inflicted **~USD 3.26 trillion** in agricultural losses over 33 years (1991–2023), with cereal crops bearing the heaviest burden.
 - ⊕ **Asia** accounts for largest share of losses amounting 47% owing to high scale of agricultural production and its high exposure to floods, storms, etc.
- **Disruption in Nutritional Requirements:** Disasters correspond to a **reduced availability of 320 kcal per person per day globally**.
- **Livelihood Impact:** Marine heatwaves caused \$6.6 billion losses between 1985 and 2022, affecting 15% of global fisheries, impacting the dependent populations.

Key Role of Technology in Agriculture

- **Resilience of Agrifood System:** Data platforms **bridge infrastructure gaps** allowing for timely and at-scale deployment of risk transfer mechanism.
- **Shift from a reactive response to proactive risk reduction:** Improved access to real-time and actionable intelligence. E.g., Early warning systems, like Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), etc.
- **Economic Benefits:** E.g., **Agrometeorological advisory services** benefitted farmers in India with reduced input costs by USD 29.65 per hectare for wheat.

India's Adoption of Technology in Agriculture

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT):** Kisan e-Mitra, an AI Chatbot; **National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS)** uses AI to detect pest attacks, etc.
- **Space technology:** FASAL (Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agrometeorology and Land based observations) Project.
- **Drones:** Namo Drone Didi Scheme, SVAMITVA Scheme, etc.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Governance

AI analyzes large datasets for evidence-based policymaking, improving transparency and policy effectiveness.



Applications of AI in Governance

Sector	Potential Applications/Benefits	Govt Initiative/Example
Healthcare	AI diagnostics, personalised treatment, imaging analysis, early pandemic warning, etc.	NITI Aayog with Department of Bio- Technology (DBT) aims to build database of cancer related radiology and pathology images for effective use of AI in cancer management.
Agriculture	Crop advisory, pest detection, etc.	Krishi AI Platform, use of AI in pest management (National Pest Surveillance System).
Smart Mobility & Transport	Intelligent Transportation Systems, Travel route/flow optimisation, etc.	ASTraM (Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management) in Bengaluru, etc.
Smart Cities	Smart Homes, AI-driven service delivery, etc.	Integrated Command and Control Centres using tech like AI for better city management.
Education & Skilling	Personalised learning, automated administration, early dropout prediction, vocational guidance.	Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) Programme.
Justice & Legal	Case-management, smart scheduling, etc.	e-Courts Project Phase III (integrates integrates advanced AI solutions).
Disaster Management	Providing early warnings and supporting evacuation, search, and rescue operations during emergencies.	Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is developing a Generative AI-Enhanced Chatbot for Customer Support in Disaster Early Warning and Emergency Communication.

Recent Terror Incident in Delhi brought the New Trend of 'White Collar' Terrorism to Light

In **White-collar terrorism**, professionals and educated individuals like doctors, engineers, etc., **weaponize their professional legitimacy, academic networks and access to financial and institutional resources for violent ends.**

- It is in contrast to the long held notion where **terror outfits radicalise unemployed**, vulnerable individuals.

Key Reasons for the Emergence of White Collar Terrorism

- Relative Deprivation Theory:** In this, extremism is driven by a perceived sense that a group needs to **assert itself**, not just by extreme poverty.
- Social Identity Theory:** Grievances can be channelled into a search for an **all-encompassing identity**. E.g., Professional designation might be subordinated to an **extremist 'higher-purpose' identity**.
- Rise of Digital Technology:** **Digital Insulated Platforms** require technical skills, where professionals act as a **strategic asset**.

Other Emerging Forms of Terrorism

- Lone Wolf Terrorism:** It involves **like-minded individuals to "act alone"** to commit violent crimes. E.g., Christchurch, New Zealand.
- Suicide Bombings:** It uses a terrorists as a **human bomb**, who is certain to die. E.g., Pulwama Attack.
- Sleeper Cells:** Operatives who live quietly in a country, blending into society until they are told to act.
- Over Ground Workers (OGWs):** People who provide logistic support to militants and assist them.



India's Counter Terrorism Strategy

- Investigation and Intelligence Agencies:** National Investigation Agencies, National Security Guards, Intelligence Bureau, etc.
- Legal Regime:** Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- Preventing Terror Financing:** Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell (TFFC) under NIA; Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Cell under Ministry of Home Affairs, etc.
- Retaliatory Responses:** Surgical Strike (2016); Operation Sindoor (2025) etc.

Also In News



Senkaku Island

Recently, a formation of China Coast Guard ships passed through the waters around the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands.

- Japan and China have long-running disputes over these islands.

About Senkaku Island

- Located in the East China Sea.
- They are part of Okinawa Prefecture.
- Also known as Diaoyu in Chinese.



Anegada Passage

Fighter jets and guided-missile destroyers, transited the Anegada Passage as a part of USA's Operation Southern Spear against Narco Terrorism in the Caribbean.

About Anegada Passage

- Location:** Channel in the West Indies, connecting the Atlantic Ocean with the Caribbean Sea.
- It is 65 km wide and separates the British Virgin Islands (west) from the Leeward Islands (southeast).
- It is one of the two passages through which subsurface water enters the Caribbean (other being the Windward Passage).



Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade (IFCCT)

Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade (IFCCT) launched at COP30

About the Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade (IFCCT)

- Aim:** To create a permanent, politically supported space where countries can address the increasingly contentious intersection between trade policies and climate action.
- It will be institutionally independent of both the WTO and the UNFCCC
- The Forum will be co-chaired by Brazil and a developed country partner, and is open to all parties to the UNFCCC.
- Forum will not Negotiate binding outcomes or interpret existing agreements or adjudicate disputes or evaluate specific national measures.



ESCAPE Mission

NASA's ESCAPE (Escape and Plasma Acceleration and Dynamics Explorers) spacecraft launched aboard a Blue Origin New Glenn rocket.

About ESCAPE Mission

- Objective:** To investigate how the solar wind interacts with Mars' magnetic environment and how this interaction drives the planet's atmospheric escape.
 - Mars' magnetosphere is made up of leftover magnetic fields from an ancient core and a weaker magnetic field in its upper atmosphere.
- The spacecraft launched into a "loiter" orbit that loops around Earth's Lagrange point 2.
 - At Lagrange points, the gravitational pull of two large masses precisely equals the centripetal force required for a small object to move with them.
 - These points in space can be used by spacecraft to reduce fuel consumption needed to remain in position.



Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

The progress of the India-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Free Trade Agreement negotiations has been reviewed.

About EAEU

- Overview:** It is an international organization for regional economic integration.
- Genesis:** Established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union (signed in 2014).
- Members:** Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.
- Feature:** Enables free movement of goods, services, capital and labour, supported by coordinated, harmonised and unified policies.



Ambaji Marble and Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

Recently, Ambaji Marble received the GI Tag.

About Ambaji Marble

- Production:** Banaskantha district, Gujarat.
- Key Feature:** Milky white colour, natural beauty and durability, used widely in temples, memorials and grand buildings.

About GI Tag

- Meaning:** Certification given to products that originate from a specific region and have inherent qualities, reputation, and characteristics contributing to their origin.
- Granted Under:** Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- Validity:** 10 years.
- Nodal Department:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

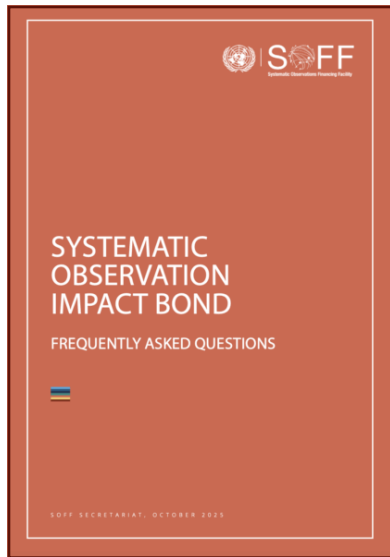


Systematic Observation Impact Bond (SOIB)

Systematic Observation Impact Bond, World's first impact bond on weather and climate data recently opened for contributions.

About Systematic Observation Impact Bond

- To be announced as part of COP30 (UNFCCC) Action Agenda.
- **Aim:** Finance instrument to **strengthen resilience and early warnings worldwide**.
 - ⊕ Seeks initial capitalization of **USD 200 million by end of 2026**.
- **Pioneered by:** **Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)**, a United Nations fund created by UN Environment Programme (UNEP), World Meteorological Organization, and UN Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Significance:** Help 30 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) meet **Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)** standards.



Food Waste Breakthrough (FWB)

FWB was launched at **COP30** in **Belem** as a 2030 Climate Solution under **Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action**.

Key Highlights

- **About:** Unites governments, cities, and civil society to act on an issue striking at the **heart of global hunger and climate change**.
- **Target:** **Halving global food waste** and **Up to 7% reduction in methane emissions by 2030**.
- **Funding Support:** **Global Environment Facility** commits **US\$3 million**.
- **Participation:** Country champions include **Brazil, Japan** and the **United Kingdom**, along with **multiple global cities and private-sector partners**.



Raulane Festival

Himachal Pradesh's **Raulane Festival** preserves its ancient faith and tradition.

About Raulane Festival

- **Overview:** **Ancient 5,000-year-old festival of Kinnaur, HP** that honours **mystical celestial fairies known as Saunis**.
- **Key Ritual:** Two men act as a symbolic groom and bride (**Raula and Raulane**), fully covered in **Kinnauri woollens**, representing a link to the divine.
- **Procession:** The pair walks to the **Nagin Narayan Temple** and performs a slow devotional dance.

Personality in News



Kartar Singh Sarabha (1896 - 1915)

Eminent freedom fighter **Kartar Singh Sarabha** was remembered on his death anniversary.

About Karatar Singh Sarabha

- He was an **Indian revolutionary** born in Punjab.
- **Key Contributions**
- He became a **member of Ghadar at young age**.
 - ⊕ He played key role in publishing **Punjabi issue of the Ghadar newspaper**.
 - ⊕ In 1913, **Gadar Party** was formed by the Indians in **Oregon (US)** with the aim to oust the British from India
- On returning to India, he **focused on mobilising Indian soldiers to revolt** and set up a **small scale arms manufacturing unit** in Ludhiana.
- He was **charged with sedition** in **Lahore Conspiracy Case** and was executed in 1915.

Values

- **Bravery, Courage, Commitment, etc.**



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI