

World Inequality Report 2026 Released

This is the 3rd edition of the report after 2018 and 2022, prepared by the **World Inequality Lab**.

Key Findings of the Report

- **Global Wealth Concentration:** Top 1% control 37% and top 10% share 75% of all global wealth.
 - ⊕ **India:** Top 1% holds about 40% and top 10% hold around 65% of total wealth.
- **Global Income Concentration:** Top 10% share 53% of global income.
 - ⊕ **India:** Top 1% earns around 23% and top 10% capture 58% of national income.
- **Wealth Growth:** Since the 1990s, the wealth of billionaires has grown (at 8%) nearly twice the rate of bottom half of the population.
- **Climate Inequality:** Top 10% account for 77% of carbon emissions, while the poorest half accounts for only 3%.
- **Structural Imbalance:** Each year Global South transfer more than 1% of world GDP to Global North through debt service, profit repatriation, and financial flows (3 times more than development aid).

Policy Recommendations in the Report

- **Progressive Taxation and Tax Justice:** Global minimum tax on billionaires and international anti-evasion coordination to fund public goods and cut inequality.
- **Public Investment:** Fund free high-quality education, healthcare, childcare, and nutrition to reduce early disparities and boost opportunities.
- **Redistributive Programs:** Use cash transfers, pensions, and unemployment benefits to shift resources downward.
- **Gender Equality Measures:** Provide affordable childcare and parental leave, enforce equal pay, and protect against discrimination to redistribute unpaid care work.
- **Climate Policy Focused on Ownership:** Climate subsidies with progressive taxes and green investments by public sector (instead of private) to reach net-zero without wealth concentration.
- **International Financial Reform:** Introduce global currency, centralized credit systems, and surplus taxes to aid social investment in developing countries.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman underlines AI's growing role in parenting

The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is raising questions regarding the potential **benefits and risks** associated with using **AI in Parenting**.

Benefits of AI in Parenting

- **Enhanced Cognitive skills:** AI can help provide **personalized education** as opposed to "one-size-fits-all" education.
 - ⊕ E.g. **AI-powered toys** like COSMO help boost children's creativity and **problem-solving skills**.
- **Reduces parent's burden:** As AI can share **parenting responsibilities** (e.g. language learning, story-telling) alongside their household and job commitments.
- **Child's monitoring:** including physical safety and digital well-being.
 - ⊕ E.g. **Cubo Ai smart baby monitor**, sends alerts on the parent's phone about the baby.

Risks associated with AI in Parenting

- **Erosion of critical thinking:** By creating **dependency on AI**.
 - ⊕ E.g. creation of **thought filter bubbles** (content suggestion), limit children's **self-expression**.
- **Social isolation:** Due to reducing **face-to-face bonding time**, potentially impeding **emotional regulation and empathy development**.
- **Privacy concerns:** Poorly designed or regulated, misused or hacked AI systems pose questions about **parental autonomy and digital exploitation** with the rise of "data-assisted" parenting.
- **Algorithmic Bias & Misinformation:** E.g. AI may favor **Western, middle-class parenting** while **undervaluing other cultural approaches** as it is trained on biased internet data.

Conclusion

AI tools offer **benefits to both parents and children**; however, they also **pose risks and may create dependency** that weakens essential skills. Hence, they **should be used only as enablers** that **enhance the parent-child relationship**, never replace it.

India's Nuclear Power Generation reaches Record High in FY 2024-25

As per **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) crossed **50 billion Units (BUs)** generation in **financial year 2024-25**, **first time** in its operation history.

➤ This helped avoid nearly **49 million tonnes** of carbon dioxide emissions.

Nuclear Power in India

➤ India adopted a **three-stage nuclear power programme** (see infographic).

➤ **Status:** It contributes about **3% to total electricity generated**. (July 2025).

➤ **Target:** **100 GW** of Nuclear Power Capacity by **2047**.

Key Initiatives to advance Nuclear Power in India

➤ **Nuclear Energy Mission:** Launched in **Union Budget 2025-26** focussing on **Research and Development (R&D)** of **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**.

⊕ SMRs are **advanced nuclear reactors** with power capacity of up to **300 MW(e)** per unit, about **one-third** of generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors.

➤ **Developing Bharat Small Reactors:** BSRs are **220 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)** with a proven safety and performance record.

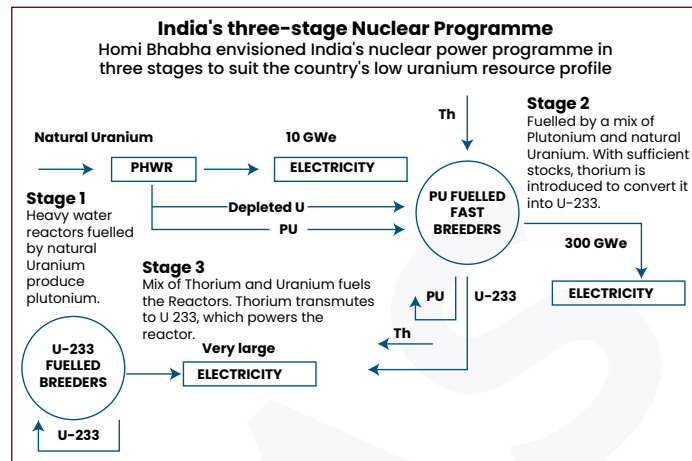
⊕ PHWR is a **heavy water cooled** and **heavy water moderated natural uranium** based fuel reactor.

➤ **Key Achievements towards Enhancing Capacity:**

⊕ First two units of indigenous **700 MWe PHWR** at **Kakrapar, Gujarat (KAPS - 3 & 4)** began commercial operation in **FY 2023-24**.

⊕ **Launch of Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (MBRAPP)**, a **4 x 700 MWe PHWR**.

⊕ **Rawatbhata Atomic Power Project (RAPP)** Unit 7 –3rd indigenous **700 MWe PHWR**, started commercial operation in **2025**.



Deepavali inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

The announcement came during **20th Session of Intergovernmental Committee** in Red Fort, New Delhi, it is the **first time** India is hosting a session of the UNESCO panel.

➤ With Deepavali's inclusion, India now has **16 elements** in the list (see infographic).

About Deepavali/Diwali

➤ Celebrated on **Kartik Amaavasya**, in October/November symbolising prosperity, renewal, and abundance for all individuals.

➤ It is an **annual festival**, spanning **over 5 days**.

⊕ It includes **Dhanteras** (buying metalware as a symbol of prosperity); **Naraka Chaturdashi** (lighting lamps to dispel negativity); **sacred Lakshmi-Ganesha Puja**; **Bhai Dooj** (brother-sister bond).

➤ **Legends Concerning Deepavali:**

⊕ **Ramayana:** Signifies **return of Lord Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana** to Ayodhya after **14 years of exile** and their victory over Ravana.

⊕ **Mahabharata:** Marks the **return of Pandavas** after exile.

About UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity

➤ **Genesis:** Adopted on **17th October 2003**, during **UNESCO's 32nd General Conference** in Paris.

➤ **Purpose:** Safeguard ICH, referring to practices, representations, expressions, and knowledge, **transmitted over generations within communities**.

⊕ ICH as defined in the Convention includes **oral traditions and expressions**; **performing arts**; **social practices, rituals and festive events**; **knowledge and practices concerning nature and universe**; **traditional craftsmanship**, etc.

➤ **General Assembly of the State Parties:** Sovereign body that **meets every two years in ordinary session**.

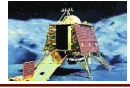
➤ **Responsibility of State Parties:** Safeguarding of ICH is the **prime responsibility** of the State.



UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage, India

| | |
|------|---|
| 2008 | Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre; Tradition of Vedic chanting; Ramlila. |
| 2009 | Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas. |
| 2010 | Chhau dance; Kalbelia folk songs and dances, Rajasthan; Mudi yettu, Kerala. |
| 2012 | Buddhist chanting of Ladakh. |
| 2013 | Sankirtana, Manipur. |
| 2014 | Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among Thatheras, Punjab. |
| 2016 | Yoga; Navroz |
| 2017 | Kumbh Mela |
| 2021 | Durga Pooja, Kolkata |
| 2023 | Garba, Gujarat |
| 2025 | Deepavali |

Also In News



RAMBHA-LP

The **Chandrayaan-3** lander payload, **RAMBHA-LP's** data has revealed that the **Moon's south polar region** has an **active plasma environment**.

- **Plasma** is electrically neutral and is often called the **4th state of matter**, consisting of a **mixture of charged particles, including ions and free electrons**.

About **RAMBHA-LP** (**Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive ionosphere and Atmosphere - Langmuir Probe**).

- **Design:** Uses a **hypersensitive Langmuir probe** mounted on a boom to avoid lander interference.
- **Objective:** Measures **electron density** and **electron temperature** in the near-surface plasma environment around the Moon's South Pole.



Great Barrier Reef

A new study has found that **three-quarters of Goniopora colonies** at a site on the **Great Barrier Reef** were wiped out due to **extreme heat stress** and a **rare coral disease**.

About **Great Barrier Reef**

- **Location:** Coast of Queensland, Australia, in the Coral Sea.
- **Biodiversity:** It contains the **world's largest collection of coral reefs** (visible from space), with 400 types of coral, 1,500 species of fish and 4,000 types of mollusc.
 - ⊕ Including **species such as the dugong** ('sea cow') and the **large green turtle**, which are threatened with extinction.
- It is also a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.



National Hub for Quantum Communication

IIT Madras inaugurated **India's National Hub for Quantum Communication** at its campus under the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)**.

About **National Hub for Quantum Communication**

- **AIM:** To accelerate national capabilities in **quantum secure communication**, thereby **safeguarding India's digital infrastructure** against potential threats from advanced quantum computers.
- The hub will focus on **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) networks**, **post-quantum security**, **quantum memory and repeaters**, and **satellite-based quantum communication**.
- It will also drive **co-development programs**, large-scale testbeds, and deep-tech startup support.



Yellow Line

The Israeli military chief called the **Yellow Line between Israel and Gaza** as the new border.

About the **Yellow Line**

- The **Yellow Line** marks the **zone to which Israeli forces have withdrawn** under the **2025 US backed ceasefire**.
- It divides **Gaza into two parts** i.e. **Israeli-controlled eastern areas** and **Palestinian-administered western areas**.

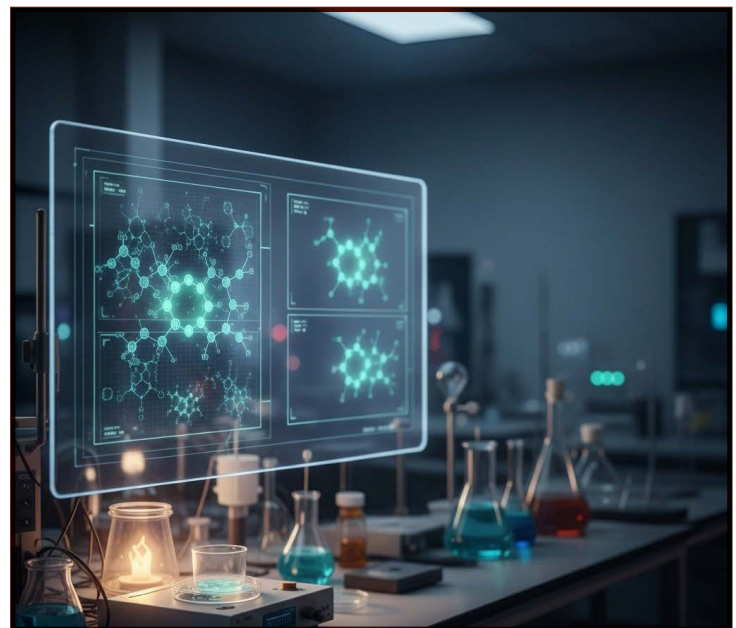


GlowCas9

Indian scientists have developed **GlowCas9**, a **CRISPR protein** that **glows** while performing **gene editing**.

About **GlowCas9**

- It is a **bioluminescent version of Cas9** formed by fusing **Cas9** with an enzyme derived from **deep-sea shrimp proteins**.
- The glowing allows **monitoring CRISPR operations** in living cells, tissues, etc. without harming them.
 - ⊕ **CRISPR/Cas9** is a **gene-editing technology** that enables **removing, adding or altering** sections of the **DNA sequence**.
 - ⊕ The **Cas9 enzyme** acts as a pair of '**molecular scissors**' to cut strands of DNA.





Contempt of Court

Recently, **Supreme Court (SC)** observed that power to punish for **criminal contempt** is not a “personal armour” for judges to stifle criticism.

- SC emphasised that authority to punish necessarily carries the **power to forgive**.

About Contempt of Court

- **Legislative Framework: Contempt of Courts Act 1971** which classifies it into two types.
 - ⊕ **Civil Contempt:** Wilful disobedience of court orders or undertakings.
 - ⊕ **Criminal Contempt:** Publishing or doing anything (spoken, written, signs, etc.) that lowers court's authority, interferes in proceedings, etc.
- **Related Constitutional Provisions: Article 129** (SC, a 'court of record' with power to punish for contempt of itself); **Article 215** (For High Court).



Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Asian Development Bank (ADB) raised India's growth forecast for FY26 to 7.2%, from 6.5%.

About ADB (Hq: Manila, Philippines)

- **Genesis: Founded in 1966** as a leading multilateral development bank supporting sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth across **Asia and Pacific**.
- **Members: 69 members** (50 from Asia and Pacific region).
 - ⊕ **India** is a founding member.
- **ADB's 5 largest shareholders: Japan and United States (each with 15.6%), China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).** [as of May 31, 2025].



Delhi Ridge

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change reconstituted the **Delhi Ridge Management Board (DRMB)** with statutory powers.

About Delhi Ridge

- A **dry deciduous forestland** in the heart of Delhi and an extension of **1,500 million years old Aravalli range**.
- Spread over approx. 8,000 hectares, divided into **4 zones** (Northern Ridge, Southern Ridge, Central Ridge and South Central Ridge).
- **Significance: Protects Delhi** against the hot winds of Rajasthan deserts (hence nicknamed as '**Lungs of Delhi**'); home to more than **100 avian species**.

Personality in News

C. Rajagopalachari

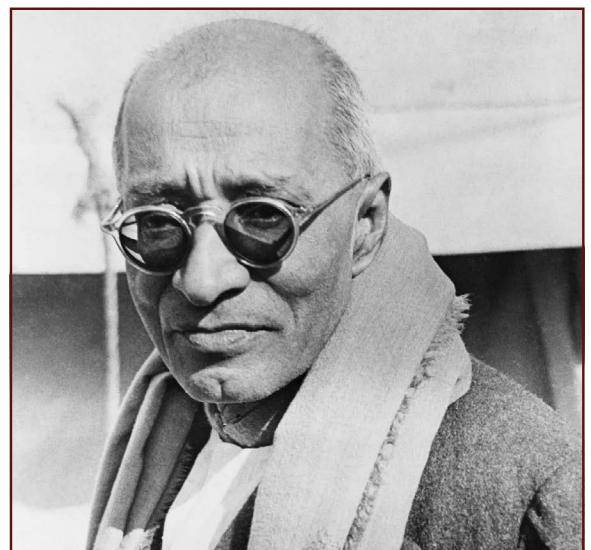
Chakravarti Rajagopalachari was remembered on his birth anniversary.

C. Rajagopalachari (1878-1972)

- Popularly known as **Rajaji**, born on **10th December** in **Thorapalli, Tamil Nadu**.
- He was a **renowned lawyer, social reformer** and an **able administrator**.

Key Contributions

- Quit his legal profession post his interaction with **Gandhiji (1919)** to work for India's freedom struggle.
 - ⊕ Gandhi called him the '**keeper of my conscience**'.
- Participated in **Rowlatt Act, Non-Cooperation movement, Vaikom Satyagraha, and the Civil Disobedience Movement**.
 - ⊕ Led **Vedaranyam March** to break the salt law in 1930.
- **Post-independence:**
 - ⊕ **Last and only Indian Governor-General of India** till 1950.
 - ⊕ **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu (1952-54)**.
 - ⊕ Formed **Swatantra Party**.
- **Accolades: Bharat Ratna in 1954.**
- **Key writings: Ramayana – Chakravarti Thirumagan (Tamil).**
- **Values: Patriotism, Integrity, Dignity etc.**



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI