# UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelimbits 26-06-2025

## State of the Climate in Asia 2024 report

***Prelims : Current events of national and international importance***

## Why in News?

*The state of the climate in Asia report, 2024, says that Asia's faster warming is fuelling more extreme weather and wreaking havoc on the region's economies, ecosystems, and societies.*

- **Released by -** The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- **Recent Findings** - 2024 was the warmest year on record in Asia, with widespread and prolonged heat waves.
- **Global Mean Temperature -** The global mean temperature in 2024 was the ***highest on record*** for the period 1850-2024, according to all 6 datasets of WMO.
- It beat the previous record of ***1.45 °C*** set in 2023.
- Each of the years from 2015 to 2024 was one of the 10 warmest years on record.
- The warming trend between 1991-2024 was almost double that during the 1961-1990 period.
- Monthly average temperature records were broken in Japan, Republic of Korea, and in China.
- The national mean summer temperature in Japan equalled the hottest on record, matching the 2023 record at ***1.76 °C*** above the 1991-2020 average.
- **Sea surface temperatures –** It were the highest on record, with Asia's sea surface decadal warming rate *nearly double the global average.*
- Sea level rise on the ***Pacific and Indian Ocean sides of Asia*** exceeded the global average.
    - It will heighten risks for low-lying coastal areas.
- **Glacier loss -** Out of the 24 glaciers in the central Himalayas and Tian Shan, 23 suffered mass loss.
    - It leads to an increase in hazards, including glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), landslides, and long-term risks to water security.
- **Extreme weather -** It is already exacting an unacceptably high toll.
    - It wreaked havoc and heavy casualties in many countries in the region, and tropical cyclones left a trail of destruction, drought caused heavy economic and agricultural losses.
- In late September 2024, record-breaking rainfall in Nepal triggered severe floods, killing at least 246 people; the damages exceeded Nepali rupees 12.85 billion.
- **Marine Heatwaves -** In 2024, most of the ocean areas of Asia were affected by marine heatwaves of strong, severe, or extreme intensity, the largest extent since records began in 1993.

- The northern Indian Ocean and the ocean area adjacent to Japan, the Yellow Sea, and the East China Sea were especially affected.
- **Cyclonic activity -** During 2024, three out of four cyclones formed over the ***Bay of Bengal (Remal, Dana, Fengal),*** and one formed over the ***Arabian Sea (Asna).***
- Severe cyclonic storm Remal made landfall near the Mongla and Khepupara coasts in Bangladesh and West Bengal, India.
- In Bangladesh, the highest recorded wind speed was 111 km/h , and the storm surge, accompanied by extremely heavy rainfall, caused flooding of up to 2.5 m in the coastal districts.
- Cyclonic storm Asna developed in August over the Arabian Sea, which is a rare occurrence as it has only happened three times since 1891. The storm's impact on Oman included rough wave heights ranging from three to five metres.
- Cyclonic storm Fengal tracked close to Sri Lanka before making landfall in India.

**Reference**

The Hindu | State of the Climate in Asia 2024 report

## NAVYA Scheme

***Prelims: Polity and governance | Current events of national and international importance***

**Why in news?**

*Recently, new skilling initiative called NAVYA is launched for adolescent girls by Indian Government.*

- **NAVYA** – Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls.
- **Launched by** – Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Target group –** Adolescent girls aged **16 to 18 years**, with focus on Aspirational and tribal districts and potential for girls to **establish small businesses** after training.
- **Objectives:**
- To empower adolescent girls aged 16 to 18 years through vocational training.
- To focus on non-traditional and emerging job roles to prepare them for the future job market.
- To promote confidence, economic independence, and entrepreneurial spirit, especially in Aspirational and tribal districts.
- **Pilot phase coverage** – 27 North-eastern and Aspirational districts across 19 States.
- Each participating district has **designated training centres** offering job-role-specific vocational courses tailored to the needs of adolescent girls.
- **Training & Implementation –** Girls identified by MWCD will be trained through **short-term skill development courses**.
- **Training under** – Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and PM

Vishwakarma Yojana.

- Focus areas for skill training include,
  - Graphic design
  - Telecom and financial services
  - Smartphone and drone assembly
  - Solar PV and CCTV installation
  - Hand embroidery

## Significance

- It supports the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 through inclusive development.
  It promotes skill development among marginalized sections, particularly girls from rural, tribal, and backward regions.
- It facilitates participation of adolescent girls in emerging sectors, including STEM and technology-driven industries.
- It encourages entrepreneurial initiatives by young women, aiding in self-sufficiency and economic empowerment.
- It integrates efforts under Skill India Mission for a future-ready workforce.

**Reference**

PIB| NAVYA Scheme

## Fungicide Driving Candida tropicalis Drug Resistance

***Prelims: Current events of national and international importance***

## Why in news?

*Recently researchers from Fudan University, Shanghai discovered that the use of agricultural fungicide tebuconazole is linked to increasing azole-resistant C. tropicalis infections.*

- **About Candida tropicalis –** It is an important fungal pathogen in India and globally and it can cause **serious illness**, especially in people with weak immunity.
- It causes severe infections with 55-60% mortality rate.
- **Treatment** – It is treated using antifungal drugs from the **azole group**, especially fluconazole and voriconazole.
- **Recent Findings –** Many strains (types) of *Candida tropicalis* are becoming resistant to these medicines.
- This means the medicines are not working as effectively, making the infection harder to treat.
- Tebuconazole is structurally similar to medical azoles and accumulates in the environment, promoting resistant strains.

## Mechanism of Resistance

- A **fungicide** called **Tebuconazole** is widely used by farmers to protect crops.
- This fungicide belongs to the same chemical family (Azoles) as the medicines used for treatment.
- Over time, the fungus gets **used to** this chemical in the environment, and develops **resistance**.
- This resistance makes the fungus stronger and harder to kill with medical drugs.
- When *Candida tropicalis* is exposed to tebuconazole, it undergoes **genetic changes** called **aneuploidy**.

*Aneuploidy means the fungus changes its number of chromosomes (genetic material), which helps it survive the chemicals.*

- These changes make the fungus more resistant to medical drugs like fluconazole and voriconazole and more dangerous and harder to treat.
- **Implications –** Overuse of such fungicides in farming can lead to more drug-resistant infections in humans.
- These infections are harder to treat, can spread, and increase health risks.
- The situation is an example of how what happens in agriculture can affect human health directly.
- Study reinforces the One Health principle where agricultural practices impact human health.
- It highlights need for,
    - Regulating agricultural fungicide use.
    - Monitoring environmental reservoirs of drug resistance.
    - Global cooperation to combat emerging fungal threats.

**Reference**

The Hindu| Fungicide Driving Candida tropicalis Drug Resistance

## Expansionary Policies in a Slowing Economy

***Prelims: Indian Economy | Current events of national and international importance***

### Why in news?

- **Expansionary policies –** Expansionary policy is a macroeconomic policy that seeks to boost aggregate demand to stimulate economic growth.
- It led to increase the availability of funds, which, in turn, leads to increased consumption and greater economic growth.
- It is controlled by Monetary policy and Fiscal policies.
- **Monetary Policy –** Monetary policy refers to the actions undertaken by a central bank to manipulate the money supply and credit conditions to stimulate or restrain economic activity.

| Key Components of Monetary Policy | |
|---|---|
| **Quantitative Tools** | **Qualitative Tools** |

| | |
|---|---|
| • CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio)<br>• SLR (Statutory Liquid Ratio)<br>• Repo Rate<br>• Reverse Repo Rate<br>• Bank Rate<br>• Open Market Operations | • Moral Suasion<br>• Direct Action<br>• Selective Credit Control<br>• Adjustments in loan consumption |

- RBI cut repo rates twice in 2025, April (25 base points) and June (50 base points).

*Repo Rate full form is Repurchase Agreement or Repurchasing Option. Banks obtain loans from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by selling qualifying securities.*

- **Current repo rate** – 5.5%.
- It is justified by low inflation (around 3%, six-year low) and moderate growth forecast (6.5% for 2025-26).
- **Fiscal policy** – Fiscal policy refers to the government's use of spending and taxation to influence the economy.
- It's a key tool for achieving macroeconomic goals like stable prices, full employment, and sustainable economic growth.
- By adjusting tax rates and public spending, governments can manage the overall demand in the economy and steer it towards desired outcomes.
- Significant **income tax cuts** announced in February 2025 aimed at boosting consumption.
- **Need for Policy Coordination –** Fiscal and monetary policies both influence **aggregate demand** and **inflation**.

*Expansionary fiscal policy (tax cuts/spending) + expansionary monetary policy (rate cuts) = Risk of excessive inflation if poorly coordinated.*

- **Current economic concerns –** Signs of **muted growth** despite expansionary policies.
  - **Credit growth** – It is at 3-year low (**9%** in May 2025).
  - **Unemployment** – It increased from **5.1% to 5.6%**.
  - **Global risks –** US tariff wars, Iran conflict and is expected tax cut-driven consumption boost has not materialized yet.
- If growth remains weak, Tax collections fall and Fiscal deficit widens.
- Pressure to cut government spending may affect vulnerable populations.
- Market mechanisms may not sufficiently uplift wages and consumption for the bottom of society.
- Need for **sustained government intervention**, wage growth, and targeted welfare spending.

**Reference**

The Hindu| Expansionary Policies in a Slowing Economy

**Govt Opens Portal for SPMPCI Scheme**

***Prelims: Polity and governance | Current events of national and international importance***

**Why in news?**

*The Government of India has opened an online portal for global and Indian automakers to apply under a new Electric Car Manufacturing Scheme.*

- **Portal** – It is launched to register electric passenger car manufacturers to avail newly launched Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMPCI).
- **Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMPCI**) – It is the scheme launched to boost EV production, reducing import costs, and promoting Make in India.
- **Launched by –** Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India
- **Objectives –** To attract global and domestic investment in the manufacturing of electric passenger cars in India.
- To reduce dependency on imports by promoting Make in India.
- To boost EV adoption and eco-friendly mobility.
- **Key Features of SPMPCI:**
- **Import duty benefit** – Automakers can import up to 8,000 electric cars per year at a reduced import duty of 15%, compared to the existing 70-100% duty.
- This benefit applies only to companies committing to invest in local manufacturing.
- **Minimum investment requirement –** At least Rs4,150 crore must be invested by eligible companies in setting up manufacturing facilities in India.
- **Domestic Value Addition (DVA)** – 25% DVA within 3 years (25% of parts and components made in India) and 50% DVA within 5 years.
- **Timeline for operations** – Companies must set up manufacturing units and commence production within 3 years of approval.
- **Bank guarantee** – Bank guarantee equivalent to either the total duty benefit or Rs4,150 crore, whichever is higher, must be provided.
- **Eligibility criteria –** Global automotive group revenue of at least Rs10,000 crore.
- Global investment in fixed assets of at least Rs3,000 crore, as per latest audited statements.
- Restrictions on investment by companies from land-border sharing countries like China and Pakistan remain in place.
- **Charging infrastructure** – Investment in charging infrastructure allowed up to 5% of committed investment.
- Investment in factory buildings allowed up to 10% of committed investment (excluding land).
- Expenditure on land purchase is not counted under eligible investment.

**Reference**

The Hindu| Govt Opens Portal for Auto-Makers

## One Liners 26-06-2025

### History, Art and Culture

**Sree Narayana Guru's Centenary Commemoration**

The PM will inaugurate the centenary celebration of the historic 1925 conversation between Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi.

• **Sree Narayana Guru (1856–1928) -** Was a revered saint, philosopher, poet, and social reformer from Kerala.

• **Born into** - The discriminated Ezhava community, he became a pivotal figure against India's caste system and untouchability.

• **Freedom Struggle Influence -** His reformist ideals deeply influenced national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi. He significantly contributed to the Vaikom Satyagraha and advocated non-violence and equality, aligning with India's independence movement.

• **Core Philosophies -** Guru propagated universal brotherhood ("One Caste, One Religion, One God for humanity") and emphasized education, spiritual growth, and moral upliftment.

**Major Social Reforms -** He consecrated a Shiva Lingam at Aruvippuram (1888), challenging Brahminical dominance. He founded over 40 temples accessible to all castes.

• **Established -** Sivagiri Mutt and Aluva Ashram, and initiated SNDP Yogam (1903) for lower-caste upliftment.

• **Literary Contributions -** Sree Narayana Guru authored significant works, including *Advaitha Deepika*, *Atmavilasam*, *Daiva Dasakam*, and *Brahmavidya Panchakam*.

**Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA) Launched**

*The Government of India has launched the Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA), the largest tribal empowerment campaign in independent India's history.*

• **Running from** - June 15 to July 15, 2025.

• **Aims to** - Reach over 5.5 crore tribal citizens across 31 States and Union Territories.

• **Honoring Birsa Munda** - Named after Bhagwan Birsa Munda, revered as "Dharti Aaba" (Father of the Earth), DAJA is part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, celebrating tribal heritage and identity.

• **Massive Ground-Level Impact** - In its first nine days, DAJA reached 53+ lakh tribal citizens, held 22,000+ empowerment camps, and facilitated 1.38 lakh Aadhaar enrolments and 1.68 lakh Ayushman Bharat card issuances.

• **Key Registrations** - Over 46,000 tribal farmers were registered under PM-Kisan, 22,000+ women under PM Ujjwala Yojana, and 32,000+ new PM Jan Dhan accounts were opened.

• **Five Pillars of DAJA** - DAJA operates on five pillars: Janbhagidari (People's Participation), Saturation, Cultural Inclusion, Convergence, and Last-Mile Delivery, promoting a new governance model.

• **Vision for Inclusive Governance** - This campaign embodies Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas, led by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for truly inclusive governance.

### Social Issues

## Shaktipeeth Expressway

Maharashtra's Cabinet approved the **Shaktipeeth Expressway** on June 24, 2025.

• **Connecting points** - This 802-km infrastructure project, with an initial budget of Rs20,787 crore (totaling Rs84,000 crore), will connect 12 districts from Wardha to the Maharashtra-Goa border.

• **Project aims to** - Cut Nagpur-Goa travel time from 18 to 8 hours.

• **Project Scope -** The expressway is designed to link 18 key religious shrines, significantly boosting pilgrimage tourism across the region.

• **Funding -** The Maharashtra Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is overseeing the project. A substantial Rs12,000 crore loan from HUDCO is earmarked specifically for land acquisition.

• **Farmer Opposition -** Farmers, led by Raju Shetti, vehemently oppose the land acquisition process, alleging corruption and neglect of their rights.

• **Environmental Status -** The project faced delays due to environmental concerns, but fresh clearances have been granted for certain stretches. Land measurement is anticipated by August 2025.

• **Socio-Economic Impact -** While expected to invigorate the local economy and tourism, the project faces criticism regarding the contentious issues of farmer displacement and compensation.

# Polity & Governance

## NAVYA Initiative Launched

On June 24, 2025, the NAVYA initiative was launched in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh.

• **Collaboration between** – The Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

• **Aims to** - Empower adolescent girls.

• **Core Objective -** NAVYA, or "Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls," will provide vocational training, particularly in non-traditional job roles, to girls aged 16-18 with at least a Class 10 qualification.

• **Pilot Scope -** The pilot phase will cover 27 districts, including aspirational districts and those in the Northeast, focusing on underserved populations.

• **Inter-Ministerial Partnership -** This initiative formalizes a crucial inter-ministerial collaboration, streamlining skill development efforts for young women.

• **Leveraging Existing Schemes -** NAVYA integrates with existing programs like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), building on established frameworks.

• **Empowering Future -** By challenging gender stereotypes and fostering independence, NAVYA aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, aiming to transform young women into catalysts for change.

## India's 1975 Emergency

• On June 25, 1975, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed declared Emergency Rule in India, implemented by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi the next day, significantly impacting India's democratic landscape.
• **Constitutional Foundation** - Article 352 of the Constitution allows for a National Emergency during threats from war, external aggression, or armed rebellion ("internal disturbance" before the 44th Amendment).
• **Presidential Role** - The President proclaims Emergency only upon a written recommendation from the Union Cabinet, ensuring a collective decision, as mandated by the 44th Amendment.
• **Parliamentary Approval** - Parliamentary approval from both Houses, by a special majority, is required within one month for the Emergency to continue.
• **Duration & Revocation** - An approved Emergency lasts six months, extendable indefinitely with repeated parliamentary consent. The President can revoke it, or the Lok Sabha can disapprove it by simple majority.
• **Emergency's Impact** - During this period, most fundamental rights can be suspended (excluding Articles 20 and 21), the Union can direct states, Parliament can legislate on state matters, and the Lok Sabha's term can be extended.

## International Relations and Issues

### Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

India recently rejected comments made by the OIC during its Istanbul meeting, urging the body to refrain from interfering in India’s internal affairs.
• **OIC -** Is an intergovernmental organization established on September 25, 1969, in Rabat, Morocco.
• **Headquartered in** - Jeddah, Saudi Arabia,
• **Membership -** Comprising 57 member states across four continents.
• **Aims to** - Promote Islamic solidarity, safeguard Muslim interests, foster peace, and eliminate discrimination against Muslims globally.
• **Status of India -** Nonmember.
• **Background -** Founded after the 1969 Al-Aqsa incident, its first charter was adopted in 1972, with the current one adopted in 2008 to modernize its role.
• **Functions -** The OIC acts as a collective platform, holds consultative status with the United Nations, and addresses issues like Palestine, counter-terrorism, and human rights.
• **Strategic Plan** - It implements the OIC-2025 Ten-Year Action Plan, focusing on 18 priority areas with 107 specific goals.

## Day of the Seafarer

June 25, marks the Day of the Seafarer, a vital occasion to acknowledge the immense contributions of seafarers to international trade and the global economy. These individuals, often called sailors, work tirelessly to deliver essential goods worldwide.

• **Role** - Seafarers are crucial to the shipping industry, handling approximately 90% of world trade. They transport food, fuel, raw materials, and manufactured goods across oceans.

• **Global Fleet Statistics** - Consider these facts: 50,000 merchant ships carry diverse cargo, registered in over 150 nations, and manned by over a million seafarers of nearly every nationality.

• **Challenges of the Profession** - Their job is arduous, involving long periods away from home, missing significant family events, and navigating perilous weather conditions.

• **Significant Dangers Faced** - Seafarers face numerous dangers, including traversing war zones, encountering pirates, and exposure to various health conditions.

• **Rights and Welfare Concerns** - Alarmingly, some countries deny seafarers basic rights, such as proper insurance and fair compensation for medical treatment, highlighting ongoing welfare concerns.

## World Vitiligo Day

June 25, is World Vitiligo Day, dedicated to raising global awareness about vitiligo and celebrating individuals living with the condition.

• **Vitiligo is** - A skin disease causing the loss of melanocytes, the pigment cells.

• **It affects up to** - 1% of the world's population, impacting all genders and ethnic groups, though it's more noticeable on darker skin. Onset typically occurs between ages 20 and 30.

• **Identifying Symptoms** - Early indicators include premature graying of hair (scalp/eyebrows), loss of color inside the mouth, and changes in eye retina color.

• **Affected Body Areas** - Depigmentation often starts on sun-exposed areas like hands, arms, and face. It can affect just a few areas, one side of the body, or be widespread.

• **Causes and Health** - Vitiligo is not physically sickening but is linked to autoimmune disorders, genetics, and environmental factors.

• **Observing the Day** - Activities include free skin screenings, educational events, and support group gatherings. Sharing #WorldVitiligoDay on social media also helps raise awareness.

# Science

## Favipiravir Shows Good result Against Chandipura Virus

Recent preclinical trials by the National Institute of Virology in Pune suggest **Favipiravir** may treat **Chandipura virus (CHPV)**, reducing viral load and improving survival in animals.

• **About CHPV -** A **sandfly-transmitted Rhabdoviridae** virus, first identified in 1965, causing encephalitis, severe fever, and seizures.

• **Transmission -** Primarily spread by **sandflies**, particularly during early monsoon; *Aedes aegypti* also shows potential in labs.

• **Clinical Impact -** Mostly affects **children under 15**, with rapid onset of neurological symptoms and high fatality rates, as seen in the 2003 Andhra Pradesh outbreak.

• **Current Treatment -** No specific antiviral exists; treatment focuses on **symptomatic management**. Favipiravir is under evaluation.

• **Prevention - Vector control** and personal protection are key. Research continues on a **vaccine** and further Favipiravir evaluation.

**Dangeti Jahnavi: Indian Space Pioneer**

Dangeti Jahnavi from Andhra Pradesh is the first Indian to complete NASA's International Air and Space Program, marking a significant milestone for India in international space exploration and women in STEM.

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