theIAShub

the IAS hub
Be Your Dream.

MAY
4

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place

THE HINDU
ET
BS
TOI
The Indian EXPRESS
livemint
pib
DownToEarth
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
Science Reporter
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मन्त्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. INCOIS
2. Eta Aquariids Meteor Shower
3. World Press Freedom Day 2024
4. Codex Standards and FSSAI
5. Oxytocin
6. Garo Hills
7. Section 498A of Indian Penal Code
8. Climate Finance
9. Sustainable Development Goals
10. Cyclone Hidaya

THE HINDU

Page 5

INCOIS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management)

Swell waves likely to strike coastal areas over weekend: INCOIS

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on Friday alerted the coastal States of Goa, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, of the possibility of high-energy swell waves over the weekend.

It also urged "total suspension of operational/recreational activities at beach/nearshore regions" on Saturday and Sunday.

Fishermen and coastal populations have been advised to be cautious about a possible surge of waves, such as gushing of sea water intermittently in the nearshore or beach regions, particularly in low-lying areas.

Senior scientist and Group Director T. Balakrishnan Nair said high-period swells had started approximately 10,000 km away from the Indian coast on April 26 in the southern Atlantic Ocean. This had caused "high-energy swell propagation" towards the Indian coastal regions which is expected to hit the southern tip of India in the early hours of Saturday. These long-period swells combined with high tide conditions can cause coastal flooding in low-lying areas, he said.



Hyderabad-based INCOIS has issued an alert to coastal States on the possibility of swell surges and rough sea conditions. FILE PHOTO

Small vessels should not be plying nearshore and boats may be anchored at a fair distance from each other to avoid damage, he added.

Meanwhile, coastal communities in Kerala were advised to remain vigilant with State being put on red alert for high-energy swell waves. The phenomenon, known locally as *'Kallakadal'* (rogue sea), is likely to last till 11.30 p.m. on Sunday. Low-lying areas could experience 0.5 metre to 1.7-metre high swell waves.

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) issued directions for suspending recreational activities along the beaches. Coastal residents have also been advised to temporarily evacuate if the need arises. This is the first instance of a red alert being issued for the State in connection with the *Kallakadal* phenomenon, KSDMA member secretary Sekhar Kuriakose said.

Context: INCOIS recently issued a red alert for South Tamil Nadu coastal districts due to anticipated high-energy swell waves, posing a risk of severe inundation, particularly in low-lying areas, starting from the early hours.

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services

- **About:** It operates as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.
- **Establishment**: 1999
- **Headquarters**: Hyderabad, Telangana.
- **Mandate**: INCOIS is mandated to provide ocean information and advisory services.
  - Its services cater to society, industry, government agencies, and the scientific community.

Objectives of INCOIS:

- To provide reliable, timely, and accurate ocean information and advisory services for the benefit of various user communities.
- To establish and maintain a system for monitoring, analyzing, and predicting ocean parameters and providing ocean information services.
- To develop and maintain a comprehensive ocean observational network, data management system, and information dissemination infrastructure.
- To promote capacity building and human resource development in oceanography and related areas.

- **Services and Products**
  - Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) Advisories
  - Ocean State Forecast (OSF)
  - Tsunami Early Warning System
  - Ocean Observing Systems
  - Satellite Oceanography
  - Ocean Data and Information System

ETA AQUARIIDS METEOR SHOWER

(Syllabus GS Paper 1 – Geography)



WHAT IS 'ETA AQUARIID' METEOR SHOWER, SET TO LIGHT UP THE NIGHT SKY THIS WEEKEND?

he Eta Aquariids meteor shower in 2022 near San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.
Wikimedia Commons

HE ETA Aquariid meteor shower, which as been active since April 15, will peak n May 5 and 6.

Comprising burning space debris noving at speeds of around 66 km per econd (2.37 lakh kmph) into Earth's at- nosphere, these showers are seen in May very year, and are best visible to coun- ries such as Indonesia and Australia in he Southern Hemisphere.

What are comets?

Meteor showers come from comets, which are frozen leftovers from the for- nation of our solar system, some 4.6 bil- on years ago. Comets are composed of ust, rock and ice, and orbit around the un in highly elliptical orbits which can, n some cases, take hundreds of thou- ands of years to complete.

According to NASA, a total of 3,910 omets are currently known, although illions more are theorised to be orbiting he Sun beyond Neptune, in the Kuiper elt and even more distant Oort cloud.

Comets come in different sizes, al- hough most are roughly 10 km wide. lowever, as they come closer to the Sun, omets "heat up and spew gases and dust nto a glowing head that can be larger han a planet", according to NASA's web- ite. This material also forms a tail which tretches millions of miles.

low exactly are meteor showers elated to comets?

Meteors are simply grains of dust or ock that burn up as they enter the Earth's tmosphere. This burning also creates a rief tail.

Since most meteors are tiny (the size f a grain of sand) they completely burn p in Earth's atmosphere. However, once n a while, a large enough meteor passes hrough and hits the ground (at which me it is called a meteorite), often caus- ng significant damage.

A meteor shower can be observed hen Earth passes through the clouds of ust left behind in a comet's orbital plane. he sky lights up with small and large me- eor tails as the debris left behind by the comet interacts with Earth's atmosphere.

The Eta Aquariid meteor shower is formed when Earth passes through the orbital plane of the famous Halley's Comet, which takes about 76 years to or- bit the Sun once. While it was observed as early as 240 BCE, it was only in 1705 that astronomer Edmond Halley realised that the periodic appearances were re-ap- pearances of the same comet. Last seen in 1986, Halley's comet is due to enter the inner solar system again in 2061. Like Eta Aquariids, the Orionids meteor shower is also caused by the Halley's Comet, and appears every October.

Why are Eta Aquariids unique?

The Eta Aquariid meteor shower is known for its rapid speed. This makes for long, glowing tails which can last up to several minutes.

According to NASA, about 30 to 40 Eta Aquarid meteors can be seen per hour during the peak of the meteor shower, if observed from the Southern Hemisphere. The number decreases to about 10 mete- ors per hour if being viewed in the Northern Hemisphere.

This is due to the location of the "radi- ant" — the position in the sky where the meteor shower seems to come from. In the Northern Hemisphere, Eta Aquarid mete- ors most often appear as 'Earthgrazers' — long meteors which appear to skim the surface of the Earth. In the South, however, they can be seen higher up in the sky, and hence are more visible.

So, how to catch the Eta Aquariid meteor shower?

The meteor shower is likely to be visible across the sky. More specifically, the shower seems to be originating from the Aquarius constellation — hence 'Eta Aquariid'.

The meteor shower is going to be vis- ible to the naked eye on a clear night sky, provided there is minimum light pollu- tion (from the Moon or artificial lighting from buildings, streetlights on Earth).

Even a basic telescope will signifi- cantly improve chances of catching this night-time spectacle. ENS

Context: The Eta Aquariid meteor shower, recently active since April 15th, features burning space debris hurtling into Earth's atmosphere at speeds of about 66 km per second, best observed in May, particularly from countries like Indonesia and Australia in the Southern Hemisphere.

Eta Aquariids

- **About:** It is linked to Halley's Comet, appearing annually from approximately April 19 to May 28, reaching its peak activity near May 5.
- **Rapid Speed**: Eta Aquariids are distinguished by their rapid speed, resulting in long, glowing tails that endure for several minutes.
- **Varying Visibility**: NASA reports a discrepancy in visibility between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres during the peak of the Eta Aquariid meteor shower.
- **Advantage**: In the Southern Hemisphere, observers may witness around 30 to 40 Eta Aquarid meteors per hour, owing to a more favorable viewing angle.
- **Limitations**: In the Northern Hemisphere typically see only about 10 meteors per hour due to the less optimal radiant position.

Comets

- **About**: These are frozen remnants from the formation of the solar system about 4.6 billion years ago, composed of dust, rock, and ice.
- **Orbital Characteristics**: Comets orbit the Sun in highly elliptical orbits, sometimes taking hundreds of thousands of years to complete a single orbit.
- **Known Comets**: NASA currently recognizes 3,910 comets, with potentially billions more orbiting beyond Neptune in the Kuiper Belt and the Oort cloud.

How exactly are meteor showers related to comets?

- **Nature of Meteors:** These are grains of dust or rock that burn up in Earth's atmosphere, leaving behind a brief tail due to the burning process.
- **Formation of Meteor Showers:** It occur when Earth traverses through clouds of dust left behind in a comet's orbital path, resulting in the illumination of the sky with meteor tails.

DTE May 3

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2024

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Governance)

World Press Freedom Day 2024: 44 environmental journalists have been murdered in last 15 years, UN report finds

Context: World Press Freedom Day, observed annually on May 3rd, recently celebrated the fundamental principles of press freedom, emphasizing their vital importance.

World Press Freedom Day 2024

- **About:** Every May 3, the global community observes Press Freedom Day.
- **Origin**: The concept of World Press Freedom Day originated during a UNESCO conference in Namibia in 1991.
    - It was officially established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993.
- **2024 Theme**: A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis.'
- **2023 Theme**: Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights.
- **Global Significance**: The day underscores the critical importance of press freedom worldwide.
- **Challenges:** It serves to acknowledge and address the various challenges faced by journalists.
- **Tribute:** Press Freedom Day also honors the memory of journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.
- **UN Declaration**: Initially proposed in 1991 at a UNESCO session, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared World Press Freedom Day in 1993.

World Press Freedom Index

- **Origin**: The WPFI was initiated in 2002 by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- **Coverage:** It assesses countries' press freedom performance in the preceding year.
- **Purpose**: The index aims to highlight the status of press freedom globally.
- **Five categories**: Political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and security.
    - Scores for India dropped (worsened) in all but the security indicator.
- **India's rank**: Improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024.

CODEX STANDARDS AND FSSAI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Agriculture)

FSSAI Allows 10 Times More Pesticide Residue in Herbs, Spices

Shambhavi.Anand
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India has diluted its pesticide norms for herbs and spices by increasing the maximum level of a pesticide residue allowed by 10 times, a move that activists say will make Indian spices unworthy of exports to some large markets.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has raised the maximum residue limit (MRL) for a pesticide in herbs and spices to 0.1mg/kg from the earlier 0.01mg/kg. "...if the MRLs are not specified by the codex, then the MRL of 0.1 mg shall apply for spices and culinary herbs and spices," the regulator said in an order issued on April 8. It cited "various representations" for this upward revision in MRL.

Lurking Dangers

- **0.1mg/kg** MRL rise from the earlier 0.01mg/kg
- **FSSAI has** also increased the MRL for pesticides not registered in India



Voice of Concern

- **Move to** make Indian spices unworthy of exports
- **It would** increase consumption of pesticides by consumers

GEETANJALI

With this order, FSSAI has also increased the MRL for those pesticides that are not registered in India, which means they are not allowed to be used in the country, but could be used on imported products.

The move would impact exports and is also a cause of concern for domestic consumers as it would increase consumption of pesticides, activists said.

"This relaxation means Indian spices will face more rejections when exported to some large markets," said Dileep Kumar, CEO of Pesticide Action Network India, a not-for-profit organisation working to eliminate human and environmental hazards caused by the use of pesticides.

The order also facilitates imports of spices with higher levels of pesticides unknown to Indian regulators, which could be harmful for human health, he said.

Also, these MRLs are just for one pesticide and a product may contain multiple pesticides, Kumar pointed out. "Health risks increase many folds due to cumulative and synergistic effects of residues of multiple pesticides and chemicals in spices," he said.

Context: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has raised the maximum residue limit (MRL) for a pesticide in herbs and spices to 0.1mg/kg from the earlier 0.01mg/kg.

Codex

- **About:** It comprises globally acknowledged standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and other recommendations.
- **Issued by**: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning food, food production, food labeling, and food safety.
- **Members:** Currently the Codex Alimentarius Commission has 189 Codex Members made up of 188 Member Countries and 1 Member Organization (The European Union).

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- **Status:** FSSAI is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- **Nodal ministry:** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Regional office:** The authority also has 6 regional offices located in Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin, and Chennai.

Maximum Residue Limit

- **About**: It is the highest level of a pesticide residue that is legally tolerated in or on food or feed when pesticides are applied correctly in accordance with Good Agricultural Practice.
- **Codex Standards**: Codex establishes Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for residues in both food and animal feed.
- **Global Guidelines** These MRLs serve as international standards for residue levels in food products.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 3

OXYTOCIN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Banned Oxytocin still used in Delhi dairies, HC takes note

Court calls for action against its 'rampant usage' in dairy colonies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 3



Its administration amounts to animal cruelty: HC. *Archive*

WHAT'S IN the milk being supplied in Delhi? Oxytocin, says a report filed in the Delhi High Court. The drug was banned by the Centre in April 2018, saying that it was being misused on milch cattle to increase yield, which not only affects the health of the cattle but also humans who consumed the milk.

While hearing a plea over "rampant use of Oxytocin hormone in the dairy colonies" in the national capital, the HC has now called for action against its spurious use in dairy colonies and observed that its administration amounts to "animal cruelty".

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora, in its May 1 order, took note of the Court Commissioner's submission — as per which, one of the issues was the "rampant use of Oxytocin hormone in the dairy colonies, packaged in white plastic bottles with a red or silver cap".

The Centre had decided that only one public sector undertaking, the Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited, would be permitted to produce Oxytocin to meet the needs of the country.

The HC noted the submission that Oxytocin is administered to cattle to "force milk let-down and increase the production of milk". It, thereafter, directed: "Since administering of Oxytocin amounts to animal cruelty, and is a cognisable offence under Section 12 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, consequently, this court directs the Department of Drugs Control, GNCTD, to conduct weekly inspections and ensure that all cases of spurious Oxytocin usage or possession are registered under Section 12 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and Section 18(a) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940."

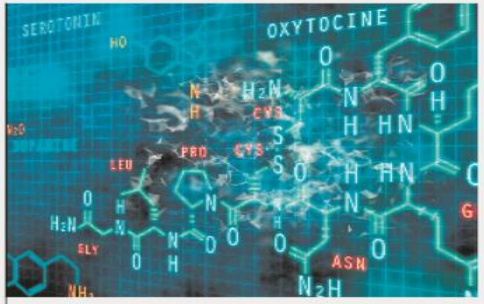
"Delhi Police's Intelligence Department is directed to identify sources of such spurious Oxytocin production, packaging, and distribution and take action in accordance with the law," it said.

The court was of the view that dairies should be "relocated" in areas having proper drainage, biogas plant, sewage, open space for the cattle to move around and graze. It noted that as per the Court Commissioner, the condition of all the nine designated dairy colonies in Delhi — Kakrola Dairy, Goela Dairy, Nangli Shakrawati Dairy, Jharoda Dairy, Bhalaswa Dairy, Ghazipur Dairy, Shahbad Daulatpur Dairy, Madanpur Khadar Dairy and Masoodpur Dairy — was "bad". It, however, said that there was an "urgent need to rehabilitate and relocate the Ghazipur Dairy and Bhalaswa Dairy forthwith" as they were located next to the Sanitary Landfill Sites (SLFs).

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

What is oxytocin

- Oxytocin in a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland
- It plays a role in reproduction, child birth and lactation, apart from social interaction
- Oxytocin is used both for humans and animals, to accelerate normal labour
- It is supposed to act directly on the uterus to induce rhythmic contractions



- In certain animals, especially farm animals, it is used to achieve 'milk let down'
- Oxytocin is believed to stimulate the mammary gland and induce milk production in farm animals, provided the udder is prepared to do so

Context: The Delhi High Court has ordered State authorities to take action against the spurious use of oxytocin on cattle in dairy colonies in the Capital.

Oxytocin

- **About:** Also known as the love hormone,' is a naturally occurring hormone produced by the pituitary glands in mammals.
- **Natural Functions**: It is released during various physiological events such as sexual activity, childbirth, lactation, and social bonding.
- **Synthetic Production**: Apart from its natural production, oxytocin can also be synthesized chemically and is manufactured by pharmaceutical companies.
- **Administration Methods**: It is commonly administered either through injections or as a nasal solution.
- **Roles:** Oxytocin plays crucial roles in contracting the uterus during childbirth, controlling bleeding postpartum, and facilitating the release of breast milk.
- **Preventing Complications:** Its use is particularly vital in preventing complications such as postpartum hemorrhage, which significantly contributes to maternal mortality rates.
- **Current Data**: According to a sample registration scheme survey in India conducted from 2001 to 2003, postpartum hemorrhage accounted for 38 percent of maternal deaths, highlighting the importance of interventions like oxytocin administration.

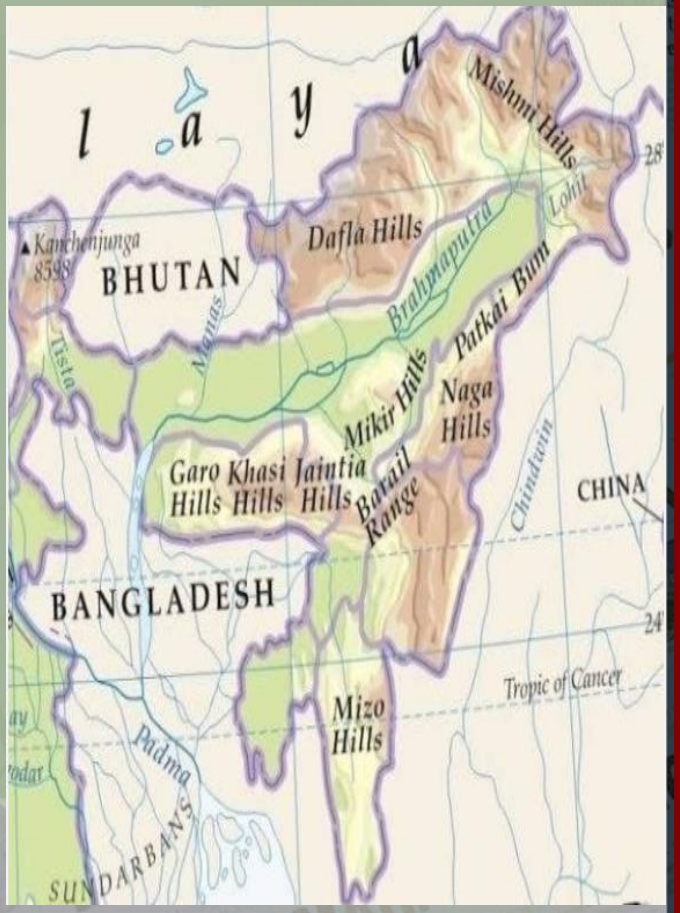
GARO HILLS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

Meghalaya: GSI unearths 40-million-year-old fossils in South Garo Hills

Context: Recently, Geological Survey of India (GSI) explorers uncovered ancient fossils in Tolegre, South Garo Hills of Meghalaya, marking a significant breakthrough.

Garo Hills

- **Location**: Western Meghalaya state, northeastern India.
- **Geographical Features**
  - **Eco-region**: Part of the Meghalaya subtropical forests eco-region, situated near the Indo-Bangladesh border.
  - **Patkai Hill Range**: Garo Hills are part of the Patkai hill range, extending across the Indo-Myanmar border.
  - **Drainage and Climate:** The region is drained by various tributaries of the Brahmaputra River and experiences exceptionally high rainfall.
- **Biodiversity and Resources**: Garo Hills is densely forested, with notable flora such as rice, cotton, sal (genus Shorea), bamboo, and lac.
  - It is rich in natural resources including coal, limestone, and petroleum.
- **Mountain Ranges**: Arabella range and Tura range traverse Garo Hills, forming the Balpakram valley..
- **Highest Point**: Nokrek Peak, reaching 1412 m, covered in dense forests.
- **National Park:** Nokrek National Park, situated in the western part of Garo Hills, safeguards a remarkably diverse plant and animal ecosystem.
- **Recognition**: Designated as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 2009.



HINDUSTAN TIMES

Page 9

SECTION 498A OF INDIAN PENAL CODE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

SC asks govt to consider changing dowry sections

Abraham Thomas

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to consider making changes to the dowry harassment provisions of the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), raising serious concerns about the misuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) proceedings against the husband and in-laws by the wife.

Section 498A of the IPC prescribes a prison term of up to three years for "whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty".

Section 85 of the new criminal code BNS has the same provision. Section 86 expands the definition of "cruelty" to encompass both mental and physical harm to a woman.

A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said it looked into sections 85 and 86 of the new criminal code, which is set to take effect from July 1, so as to ascertain whether the legislature has seriously looked into the suggestions of the court, but found it to be "nothing but ver-



The apex court set aside a 2022 verdict of the Punjab and Haryana high court.

batim reproduction of Section 498A of the IPC".

The existing provision had faced criticism by the top court in Preeti Gupta versus State of Jharkhand (2010) where the legislature was asked to take a "serious relook" on 498A as in several cases, exaggerated versions of the incident would be presented by the wives with a view to drag husbands and his family members to face trial and the ignominy attached with it.

In its judgment passed on Friday, the bench said: "We request the legislature to look into the issue as highlighted above taking into consideration the pragmatic realities and consider making necessary changes in Sections 85 and 86 of the BNS, 2023, before both the new provisions come into force."

The court directed the registry to send a copy of the judgment to the Union law and home secretaries for placing the matter before Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Union home minister Amit Shah for necessary action.

The order was passed in a petition filed by one Achin Gupta, challenging a decision of the Punjab and Haryana high court refusing to quash a criminal case under 498A lodged against him by his wife in Hisar, Haryana.

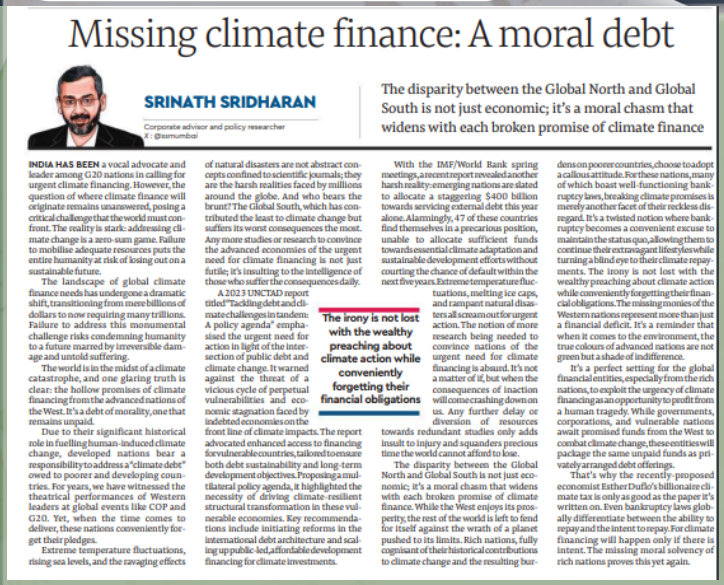
The court set aside the high court judgment of April 5, 2022 and said, "In all cases, where wife complains of harassment or ill-treatment, Section 498A of the IPC cannot be applied mechanically....Every matrimonial conduct, which may cause annoyance to the other, may not amount to cruelty. Mere trivial irritations, quarrels between spouses, which happen in day-to-day married life, may also not amount to cruelty."

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court urged the Centre to review the dowry harassment provisions in the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), citing concerns over the potential misuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) by wives against their husbands and in-laws.

Section 498A of Indian Penal Code

- **About:** It deals with the criminal offense of "cruelty by husband or relatives of husband" towards a married woman.
- **Introduced in:** 1983 as an amendment to address domestic violence and harassment against married women in India.
- **Legal Provisions**:
  - Offenders, including husbands or their relatives, can face up to three years in jail for subjecting the wife to cruelty.
  - Applies specifically to married women.
  - Text of Section 498A: "Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine".
- **Definition of Cruelty**: "Cruelty" includes conduct likely to drive the woman to suicide or cause grave injury, as well as harassment aimed at coercing her or others related to her.
- **Bail Under Section 498A**: Enacted in 1860, Section 498A is a non-compoundable and cognizable offense.
  - Bail can only be granted by the Magistrate after an FIR has been filed based on a complaint by the aggrieved party.
- **Judicial Guidance:** The Supreme Court emphasizes sparing use of Section 498A, reserving it for cases with genuine evidence of cruelty.
  - It should not be misused for personal vendettas or to settle scores.

CLIMATE FINANCE
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)



Missing climate finance: A moral debt

SRINATH SRIDHARAN

Corporate advisor and policy researcher
X : @srinumbai

The disparity between the Global North and Global South is not just economic; it's a moral chasm that widens with each broken promise of climate finance

INDIA HAS BEEN a vocal advocate and leader among G20 nations in calling for urgent climate financing. However, the question of where climate finance will originate remains unanswered, posing a critical challenge that the world must confront. The reality is stark: addressing climate change is a zero-sum game. Failure to mobilise adequate resources puts the entire humanity at risk of losing out on a sustainable future.

The landscape of global climate finance needs has undergone a dramatic shift, transitioning from mere billions of dollars to now requiring many trillions. Failure to address this monumental challenge risks condemning humanity to a future marred by irreversible damage and untold suffering.

The world is in the midst of a climate catastrophe, and one glaring truth is clear: the hollow promises of climate financing from the advanced nations of the West. It's a debt of morality, one that remains unpaid.

Due to their significant historical role in fuelling human-induced climate change, developed nations bear a responsibility to address a "climate debt" owed to poorer and developing countries. For years, we have witnessed the theatrical performances of Western leaders at global events like COP and G20. Yet, when the time comes to deliver, these nations conveniently forget their pledges.

Extreme temperature fluctuations, rising sea levels, and the ravaging effects of natural disasters are not abstract concepts confined to scientific journals; they are the harsh realities faced by millions around the globe. And who bears the brunt? The Global South, which has contributed the least to climate change but suffers its worst consequences the most. Any more studies or research to convince the advanced economies of the urgent need for climate financing is not just futile; it's insulting to the intelligence of those who suffer the consequences daily.

A 2023 UNCTAD report titled "Tackling debt and climate challenges in tandem: A policy agenda" emphasised the urgent need for action in light of the intersection of public debt and climate change. It warned against the threat of a vicious cycle of perpetual vulnerabilities and economic stagnation faced by indebted economies on the front line of climate impacts. The report advocated enhanced access to financing for vulnerable countries, tailored to ensure both debt sustainability and long-term development objectives. Proposing a multilateral policy agenda, it highlighted the necessity of driving climate-resilient structural transformation in these vulnerable economies. Key recommendations include initiating reforms in the international debt architecture and scaling up public-led, affordable development financing for climate investments.

The irony is not lost with the wealthy preaching about climate action while conveniently forgetting their financial obligations

With the IMF/World Bank spring meetings, a recent report revealed another harsh reality: emerging nations are slated to allocate a staggering $400 billion towards servicing external debt this year alone. Alarmingly, 47 of these countries find themselves in a precarious position, unable to allocate sufficient funds towards essential climate adaptation and sustainable development efforts without courting the chance of default within the next five years. Extreme temperature fluctuations, melting ice caps, and rampant natural disasters all scream out for urgent action. The notion of more research being needed to convince nations of the urgent need for climate financing is absurd. It's not a matter of if, but when the consequences of inaction will come crashing down on us. Any further delay or diversion of resources towards redundant studies only adds insult to injury and squanders precious time the world cannot afford to lose.

The disparity between the Global North and Global South is not just economic; it's a moral chasm that widens with each broken promise of climate finance. While the West enjoys its prosperity, the rest of the world is left to fend for itself against the wrath of a planet pushed to its limits. Rich nations, fully cognisant of their historical contributions to climate change and the resulting burden on poorer countries, choose to adopt a callous attitude. For these nations, many of which boast well-functioning bankruptcy laws, breaking climate promises is merely another facet of their reckless disregard. It's a twisted notion where bankruptcy becomes a convenient excuse to maintain the status quo, allowing them to continue their extravagant lifestyles while turning a blind eye to their climate repayments. The irony is not lost with the wealthy preaching about climate action while conveniently forgetting their financial obligations. The missing monies of the Western nations represent more than just a financial deficit. It's a reminder that when it comes to the environment, the true colours of advanced nations are not green but a shade of indifference.

It's a perfect setting for the global financial entities, especially from the rich nations, to exploit the urgency of climate financing as an opportunity to profit from a human tragedy. While governments, corporations, and vulnerable nations await promised funds from the West to combat climate change, these entities will package the same unpaid funds as privately arranged debt offerings.

That's why the recently-proposed economist Esther Duflo's billionaire climate tax is only as good as the paper it's written on. Even bankruptcy laws globally differentiate between the ability to repay and the intent to repay. For climate financing will happen only if there is intent. The missing moral solvency of rich nations proves this yet again.

Context: India has been a vocal advocate and leader among G20 nations in calling for urgent climate financing.

Climate Finance

- **Definition:** It refers to financial resources provided by developed countries to support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing nations.
- **Importance:** of climate finance in addressing global climate change challenges and promoting sustainable development.
- **Global Mechanism**: The UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement call on Parties with larger financial resources (Developed Countries) to provide financial support to those who are less wealthy and more vulnerable (Developing Countries).

G20

- **Origin**: Formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular.
- **Aim and objective:** To secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
- **Members**: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.

Global Financial Mechanisms

- **Global Environmental Facility**: The GEF, established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, is a catalyst for action on the environment.
  - Through its strategic investments, the GEF works with partners to tackle the planet's biggest environmental issues.
- **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF):** The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) was established in 2001 to support a work programme to assist Least Developed Country Parties (LDCs) carry out, inter alia, the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs).
- **The SCCF, or Special Climate Change Fund:** It was created in 2001 to address the specific needs of developing countries under the UNFCCC to adapt to the impact of climate change and increase resilience.

THE HINDU

Page 6

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

This is the year to get the SDG goals back on track



Srikumar Chattopadhyay

is a retired scientist and was Head, Resources Analysis Division, Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. He is a former National Fellow of the Gulati Institute for Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram

2024 is an election year across the world and newly elected governments need to focus on the all-important sustainability issue

The United Nations summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), that was held in New York (September 18-19), assessed progress towards achieving the SDGs. The Agenda-2030, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, identified 17 SDGs with 169 specific targets to be achieved by 2030. The programme is internationally non-binding, but all countries have committed to work towards these goals as transiting to sustainable development is a common global endeavour.

Slow progress

Progress, according to available reports, is off track. From 2015 to 2019, there were some improvements, although grossly insufficient to achieve the goals. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises have virtually halted progress. Apart from slow progress, and little or no attention towards the goals related to the environment and biodiversity (including responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, and life on land), it is a matter of great concern that the current practice of pursuing SDGs defies the integrated and indivisible nature of SDGs. We are far from the overarching target of balancing human well-being and a healthy environment. The present trend, if it continues, will lead to accelerated environmental degradation and the purpose of transiting towards sustainability defeated.

Given this emerging scenario, the UN SDG Report, 2023 identified five key areas for urgent action: Commitment of governments to seven years of accelerated, sustained and transformative actions to deliver on the promises of SDGs; concrete, integrated and targeted government policies and actions to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and to end the war on nature with a focus on advancing the rights of women and girls and empowering the most vulnerable; strengthening of national and subnational capacity, accountability, and public institutions to deliver accelerated progress; recommitment of the international community to deliver and mobilise resources to assist developing nations, and continued strengthening of the UN development system.

World leaders took cognisance of the situation, reaffirmed their commitments and agreed to step-up efforts to deliver SDGs, our global road map out of the crisis, by 2030. But how far these global pronouncements are operative at the ground level remains a big question.

Results that deserve deliberation

A team of 64 scholars analysed 3,000 studies, mostly peer-reviewed published articles across the world to examine 'Scientific evidence on the political impact of the sustainable development goals' within national and global governance to address pressing challenges of poverty eradication, social justice and environmental protection. The results, which were published in the journal, *Nature Sustainability*, September 2022 issue (under the leadership of Professor Frank Biermann of the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands), deserve wide deliberations, especially in the context of Agenda 2030 implementation.

The authors look at five dimensions: global governance, domestic political systems, the integration and coherence of institutions and policies, the inclusiveness of governance from local to global level, and the protection of ecological integrity. They concluded that 'the SDGs thus far have had mainly discursive effects but also have led to some isolated normative and institutional reforms.

However, effects are often diffuse, and there is little evidence that goal setting at the global level leads directly to political impacts in national and local politics. Overall, our assessment indicates that although there are some limited effects of the SDGs, they are not a transformative force in and of themselves'.

In this context, another UN report, 'Future is Now' (2019), perhaps provides some guidelines for action. It emphasised that 'The true transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda can be realised through a systemic approach that helps identify, manage trade-offs while maximising co-benefits.' By co-benefit the stress is on the activities that, while addressing one SDG, will help address others at the same time. The report suggests adopting locally best suited entry points following regional and national priorities and applying four levers – governance, economy and finance, individual and collective action, and science and technology to propel our actions along the entry points.

Actors from these levers must develop partnership and establish novel collaboration to design and rapidly implement integrated pathways to sustainable development corresponding to the specific needs and priorities of the country. This will ultimately contribute to global transformation. In the prologue to this report, Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway and renowned for the famous Brundtland report, 'Our Common Future", expressed the hope that politicians and policymakers will take note of the suggestions advanced in this report and steer the world towards sustainable development.

An important year

The year 2024 is an election year across the world. At least 64 countries, both developed and developing, accounting for 49% of world population, will go to the polls. Perhaps, it is important for all the newly elected governments to ponder over the sustainability issue and align their national policies accordingly.



Context: The recently held United Nations summit in New York evaluated progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sustainable Development Goals

- **About**: It is the universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- **Adopted by**: United Nations in 2015
- **Vision:** To achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.
    - The 17 SDGs **came into force with effect from 1st January 2016** as a part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
    - India is one of the signatory countries that has committed to achieving these goals by 2030.
    - SDGs are **not legally binding.**
- **UN SDG Report, 2023**: It identified **five key areas for urgent action**: Commitment of governments to seven years of accelerated, sustained and transformative actions to deliver on the promises of SDGs; concrete, integrated and targeted government policies and actions to eradicate poverty.

DTE May 3

CYCLONE HIDAYA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

Cyclone Hidaya to slam into Tanzania south of Dar es Salaam; Ruto puts Kenya on alert

Context: According to the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), Cyclone 'Hidaya', a severe storm, is anticipated to make landfall on the Tanzanian coast south of Dar es Salaam from the Indian Ocean recently.

Cyclone Hidaya

- **Geographical Formation**: It emerged over the South Indian Ocean.
- **Location**: It developed east of Tanzania and north-northeast of the Comoros archipelago.
- **Naming by**: The designation 'Hidaya' was assigned to the cyclone by Meteo France's center in the Indian Ocean French Overseas Department.
- **Flood Devastation in East Africa**:
    - **Extent of Damage**: Kenya, Tanzania, and Burundi have faced severe flood havoc since March this year.

Cyclone

- **About**: A cyclone is a large, rotating storm system with low pressure at its centre. Cyclones can form in any ocean basin, but they are most common in the tropics.
- **Impacts**: Cyclones can cause a variety of hazards, including strong winds, storm surges, and heavy rainfall.
- **Types of Cyclones**
    - **Tropical Cyclones:** These are the most common type of cyclones. They form over warm, tropical oceans and are characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges.
    - **Extratropical Cyclones:** These cyclones form over cooler waters and are not as strong as tropical cyclones. They are characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfall, and snow.
    - **Mid-latitude Cyclones**: These cyclones form in the midlatitudes and are characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfall, and snow.

FREE Download PDF

Login to theiashub.com

- Aaj Ka Quality Enrichment (Toppers' Favourite PDF)
- News-CRUX-10 (10 News. 10 Sources. One Place)
- Monthly Editorials (The Hindu & Indian Express)
- Daily Quiz (Prelims)
- Government Schemes & Ministry Wise Year End Review
- Free Enrichment PDFs (Tailor Made Crisp Study Material)



Log On To Our Unique
Free Answer Writing Sessions with Toppers (FAST) Portal
& Start Practicing!

SCAN HERE

9560082909

t.me/theiashub

/mkyadav

www.theiashub.com

www.theiashub.com