

The Impact of Climate Change on Education Report

- Released by **World Bank**.
- **Key Findings by the World Bank on Climate Change and Education**
 - **Impact on Education:** Climate change is worsening extreme weather events, which disrupt schooling and lead to significant learning losses.
 - **School Closures:** Between 2005 and 2024, schools were closed during 75% of extreme weather events, affecting over 5 million people.
 - **Learning and Enrollment:** Rising temperatures and food insecurity negatively impact learning outcomes and school enrollment.
 - **Gender Impact:** Climate events particularly harm girls in low-income countries, preventing at least 4 million from completing their education.
- **Adaptation Approaches**
 - **Climate-Resilient Education Management:** Invest in early warning systems like Indonesia's InaRISK app.
 - **School Infrastructure Resilience:** Enhance school buildings' resilience, such as Rwanda's retaining walls project.
 - **Classroom Temperature Management:** Implement bioclimatic designs to manage classroom temperatures, as seen in Kenya's Green Economy Strategy.
 - **Learning Continuity:** Ensure schools remain open and enhance remote learning capabilities, similar to Ghana's nearly 100% re-enrollment rate post-COVID-19.

Moidams – India's 43rd UNESCO World Heritage Site

- The **Moidams** have been inscribed as **India's 43rd** entry on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.
- The announcement was made during the **46th** session of the **World Heritage Committee** held in **New Delhi**.
- This is the **first time India** has hosted a session since joining the **UNESCO World Heritage Convention in 1972**.
- **Significance for Assam:**
 - The **Moidams** are **Assam's third World Heritage site**, following **Kaziranga** and **Manas National Parks**.
 - This is **Assam's first World Heritage site** in the cultural category.
- **Global Standing:**
 - India now ranks 6th globally for the most World Heritage Properties.
- **Ahom Moidams:**
 - Located in **Assam's Charaideo district**, the Moidams are burial grounds for the Ahom kings and queens, often likened to the pyramids of Egypt.
 - In the 13th century, Chau-lung Siu-ka-pha, the founder of the Ahom kingdom, established his first capital at Charaideo, near the Patkai hills.

GROWTH-India Telescope in Ladakh Captures Images of Asteroid

- The **GROWTH-India** telescope in **Ladakh** captured images of a 116-meter, building-sized asteroid during its closest approach to Earth.
- **About GROWTH-India Telescope**
 - **India's First Fully Robotic Optical Research Telescope:** Located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh.
 - **Collaboration:** Set up by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (Bengaluru) and IIT Bombay, with funding from the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum and the Science and Engineering Research Board, India.
 - **Part of an International Network:** It is part of the Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen (GROWTH) network, which aims to study celestial events and gather data about them.
 - **Research Focus:** Studies electromagnetic counterparts to gravitational wave sources, young supernovae, near-Earth asteroids, and other transient celestial events.

RBI's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework for Primary Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a new Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for Primary Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), which will replace the existing Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) and take effect on April 1, 2025.
 - This new framework aligns with similar frameworks for scheduled commercial banks and non-banking financial companies.
- **Key Features of the PCA Framework:**
 - **Objective:** To address the financial health of UCBs with greater precision and flexibility.
 - **Application:** Applicable to all UCBs in tier 2, tier 3, and tier 4 categories, except those under All-Inclusive Directions (AID).
 - **Monitoring Areas:** Capital, asset quality, and profitability of UCBs will be closely monitored.
 - **Criteria for PCA:** UCBs that breach risk thresholds due to financial instability and poor management can be placed under PCA.
 - **Exit from PCA:** Restrictions can be lifted if no risk threshold breaches are observed in four successive quarterly financial statements.
- **Challenges Faced by UCBs:**
 - High gross non-performing assets (GNPA) and dual control.
 - Lack of professional management and intense competition from Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and FinTechs.
 - Geographic concentration, primarily in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.
- **About Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs):**
 - **Definition:** UCBs, though not formally defined, refer to primary cooperative banks located in urban and semi-urban areas.
 - **Dual Control:** Banking-related functions (e.g., licensing, area of operations) are governed by the RBI, while registration, management, audit, and liquidation are overseen by State Governments.
 - **Classification by RBI:**
 - **Tier-1:** Deposits up to ₹100 crore
 - **Tier-2:** Deposits more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore
 - **Tier-3:** Deposits more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore
 - **Tier-4:** Deposits above ₹10,000 crore

Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) draft norms proposal on LCR might reduce banks' earnings by 4-11%.
- **About LCR:**
 - **Purpose:** LCR requires banks to maintain a buffer of high-quality liquid assets to meet potential withdrawal demands over 30 days, helping banks remain solvent during financial crises.
 - **Origin:** LCR was introduced as part of the Basel III agreement.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

- India has taken over the chairmanship of the ADPC from the People's Republic of China for the year 2024-25.
- **About ADPC:**
 - **Autonomous International Organization:** Focuses on cooperation in disaster risk reduction and building climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific region.
 - **Founding Members:** India and eight neighboring countries.
 - **Established:** In 1986 as a regional disaster preparedness center (DMC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

India: 2nd Largest User of NTMs in 2023

- According to the WTO's 'World Tariff Profiles' Report, 2024, India is the second-largest user of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in 2023.
- **About Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs):** Policy measures other than ordinary customs tariffs that affect international trade in goods by altering quantities traded, prices, or both.
 - **Examples:** Quotas, price controls, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade.
 - **Purpose and Impact:** While many NTMs aim to protect public health or the environment, they also impact trade through increased information, compliance, and procedural costs.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

- The Union Government informed the Parliament that under **PMGDISHA**, over **6 crore individuals** have been trained, and **over 4.7 crore** candidates have been certified.
- **About PMGDISHA:**
 - **Launch:** Initiated in **2017** to promote digital literacy in rural India.
 - **Implementing Agency:** CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.
 - **Target Beneficiaries:** One person (**aged 14-60 years**) from each eligible rural household.
 - **Coverage:** Focused on rural areas with a Gram Panchayat-centric approach.
 - **Training:** **20-hour course on digital devices**, internet usage, and cashless transactions in 22 scheduled languages and English.
 - **Certification:** Third-party assessment by recognized agencies, with certificates uploaded to trainees' **Digi-Locker accounts**.

MyGov Platform: Celebrating 10 Years

- The MyGov platform has completed 10 years since its launch in July 2014.
- **About MyGov Platform:**
 - **Purpose:** A citizen-centric platform that enables people to connect with the government and contribute to good governance.
 - **Part of Digital India Corporation:** A Section 8 Company (not-for-profit) under the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT.
 - **Functions:** Engages citizens in policy formulation and seeks public opinion on various issues and topics of interest and welfare.
 - **Engagement Methods:** Utilizes multiple methods such as social media, polls, surveys, and competitions for crowdsourcing ideas like logo designs for government schemes.

Inter Creditor Agreement (ICA)

- The default by the government-owned **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (RINL)** has led lenders to seek protection through an **Inter Creditor Agreement (ICA)**.
- **About ICA:**
 - **Purpose:** Defines the terms and allocation of collateral among common lenders when a borrower defaults.
 - **Borrower's Rights:** Establishes the borrower's rights regarding collateral, payment, and payment priority, along with the hierarchy among various creditors.
 - **RBI Guidelines:** As per the Reserve Bank of India (Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets) Directions 2019, any decision made by lenders representing 75% of the total outstanding credit facilities by value and 60% of lenders by number is binding on all lenders.

NIPUN Bharat Mission

- The **NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat Mission**, initiated by the **Ministry of Education in 2021**.
- It is a significant effort to ensure that every child in India develops essential literacy and numeracy skills. These foundational skills in reading, writing, and basic math are vital for a child's overall growth and future success.
- **Objectives:** The mission aims to achieve **foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN)** for children between the **ages of 3 and 9**.
 - By the time children reach the end of **Grade 3 (around 8 or 9 years old)**, they should have the necessary skills in reading, writing, and basic arithmetic.
- **Significance**
 1. **Alignment with NEP 2020:** The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 prioritizes foundational literacy and numeracy, recognizing that these skills are essential for any further learning.
 2. **Universal Access:** NIPUN Bharat ensures that every child, regardless of socio-economic status or location, has access to quality education.
 3. **Holistic Development:** Mastery of foundational skills not only leads to academic success but also supports a child's overall cognitive, emotional, and social development.