

THE PALA CIVIL TIMES



Civil Service Institute | Pala | Thiruvananthapuram | South India's Premier Civil Service Coaching Institute | www.civilservicepala.com

Delhi sinking fastest among Indian megacities

The Indian Express: 04/11/2025- Page 3

Great Nicobar project: map ready for denotification of tribal reserve

The Hindu: 04/11/2025- Page 4

What are the challenges with the High Seas Treaty?

The Hindu: 04/11/2025- Page 10

"Can advocates be summoned by agencies? What SC held"

The Hindu: 04/11/2025- Page 10

India trims Russian oil import by 29% in September

The Hindu: 04/11/2025- Page 12

Heavy metals found in Cauvery fish; study advises reducing consumption



Heavy metals are polluting the Cauvery river and its fish, researchers from Tamil Nadu have reported. They have also cautioned against consuming “regular” or “excessive” amounts of fish from here. Scientists from the Bharathidasan university studied the spatial distribution of and ecological risks due to heavy metals in sediments from 18 sites along the river and fish from 10 sites, from August 2023 to February 2024. They focused their analysis on chromium, cadmium, copper, lead and zinc.

The findings have direct implications for public health: while occasional fish consumption may not pose immediate threats, prolonged exposure could lead to cumulative non-carcinogenic and carcinogenic risks, particularly from cadmium and lead. The risk depends on both the amount consumed, the frequency of intake, and the age of the individual. The potential health risk to humans is mainly due to exposure to cadmium and chromium, they added. Industrial effluents, particularly from textile and electroplating units operating near Erode stretch, are major contributors to the region's heavy metal contamination. Other important sources include agricultural runoff, mainly from fertilizers and pesticides, and untreated urban wastewater. This exposes gaps in current environmental management practices and emphasises the need for continuous monitoring of sediments, water, and aquatic organisms, stricter pollution control and regulatory enforcement, policy interventions to manage industrial emissions and unsustainable land-use practices, and enhanced public awareness to mitigate health risks.



A crew of three Chinese astronauts, including the country's youngest-ever, docked at the Tiangong space station, accompanied by four lab mice. The Tiangong space station is the crown jewel of China's space programme, into which billions of dollars have been poured in a bid to catch up with the United States and Russia.



Digital arrest is an emerging form of cybercrime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement officers or government officials and threaten victims over audio or video calls. They virtually detain the victims and coerce them into transferring money. The Supreme Court on Monday said more than Rs.3,000 crore had been scammed by fraudsters from victims, mostly drawn from the elderly population, through “digital arrests”.



STATE

Delhi sinking fastest among Indian megacities

- Delhi is sinking faster than any other Indian megacity, exhibiting the highest maximum rate of land subsidence at 51.0 mm per year.
- The city has the largest number of buildings at high structural risk due to ongoing land subsidence, with about 1.7 million people exposed.
- A total of 2,264 buildings in Delhi have been categorized as being at high risk from subsidence according to the study.

Key Findings of the Study

- Subsidence hotspots have been identified in specific areas such as Faridabad (up to 38.2 mm/yr), Bijwasan (up to 28.5 mm/yr), and Ghaziabad (up to 20.7 mm/yr).
- In some areas, such as Dwarka, the study records a rising rate at 15.1 mm/yr.
- In total, 196.27 km² (17.16% of Delhi's area) is affected by subsidence.

Causes and Drivers

- The main cause of land subsidence in Delhi is attributed to the compaction of alluvial deposits resulting from extensive groundwater withdrawals.
- Climate change, human actions, variable precipitation, and the monsoon variability have compounded the stress on aquifers.
- Demand for groundwater in Delhi critically depends on monsoon precipitation for replenishment, but recent decade trends have led to stress and depletion.

Research Methodology and Data Sources

- The study was authored by researchers from University of California, Virginia Tech, United Nations University (Ontario), and used satellite radar observations (InSAR) from 2015 to 2023.
- It covers five megacities, noting Delhi's third-largest subsidence area after Mumbai (262.36 km²) and Kolkata (222.91 km²).

Projected Future Risks

- In 30 years, 3169, 958, and 255 buildings in Delhi, Chennai, and Mumbai respectively will face very high risk of damage from subsidence.
- In 50 years, this risk rises further with 11,457, 3,477, 112, 8,284, and 199 buildings in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Kolkata respectively at high risk.
- Researchers caution that different rates of subsidence in urban areas may affect future structural damage differently.

Urban and Policy Implications

- Land subsidence poses a significant threat to urban infrastructure, building safety, and millions of residents.
- There is an urgent need for adaptation and mitigation strategies that address groundwater management and climate resilience.

“Rare rodent-borne virus killed African elephant at Delhi Zoo: Autopsy”

- In what officials described as the first such case reported from any Indian zoo, Shankar, the lone African elephant at the National Zoological Park in Delhi, died in September due to the rare rodent-borne virus — encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV).
- The findings have been revealed in an autopsy report from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), based out of Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh.
- The 29-year-old bull elephant — brought from Zimbabwe in November 1998 — was a diplomatic gift to former President of India Shankar Dayal Sharma. After spending 13 years in solitary confinement, the elephant died on September 17 in its enclosure.
- Encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV)- is a very rare disease. It is an acute disease with no visible symptoms.
- There have been some cases previously found in European zoos and other zoos globally. Generally, it infects pigs, but a wide variety of zoo animals can be affected including big cats and several lesser-known species.
- A source in the Delhi zoo said that rodent menace is among the biggest issues yet to be fully tackled, which has been raised over the recent years. Studies suggest that African elephants are particularly susceptible to the virus, with outbreaks reported worldwide in captivity and in the wild.
- The virus can be transmitted by food or water contamination caused from feces or urine of a rodent species.
- EMCV is transmitted through rodents, controlling them in open enclosures remains a challenge.
- Rodent control in open enclosures is challenging but can be managed with a combination of physical barriers, habitat modification, biological control, and targeted trapping.



Great Nicobar project: map ready for denotification of tribal reserve

Project Preparation and Official Steps

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration has prepared a map for the denotification and renotification of tribal reserve land for the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) mega-infrastructure project.
- Construction of transit accommodation for project staff has been completed, to be used during the early phases of the GNI project.
- A "Comprehensive Tribal Welfare Plan" is in the final stages and slated for completion next month.

Scope and Components of the Project

- The GNI mega-infrastructure project, valued at ₹92,000 crore, includes the development of a transshipment port, airport, power plant, and new township on Great Nicobar Island.

Oversight, Approval, and Legal Challenges

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation's (ANIIDCO) Monitoring Committee is overseeing tribal matters related to the project.
- Forest and environment clearances required for the project are under legal challenge in courts and tribunals due to concerns about land rights and environmental impact.

Mapping and Consultation Processes

- A Geographic Information System (GIS) map has been prepared to assist with the denotification and renotification process, with support from the Forest Department.
- Sites for essential infrastructure (like towers) will be finalized after consultations with the Assistant Commissioner of Campbell Bay and the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti, representing the Shompen people (the major indigenous community of the island).

Legal and Policy Context

- Denotification of tribal reserve land for the GNI project can only proceed if forest rights are settled under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- This notes pending cases in the Calcutta High Court, where the administration's prior claim about settling forest rights is under judicial scrutiny.

Implications

- The move to denotify tribal reserves and proceed with large-scale infrastructure on Great Nicobar raises complex issues related to indigenous rights, environmental clearances, and legal compliance with national laws.
- Finalization of maps and tribal welfare planning is occurring amidst ongoing court challenges and the need for extensive stakeholder consultation.

India's IT dream is at a crossroads

Sector Overview and Historic Role

- India's IT sector has been a cornerstone of economic transformation, global credibility, and middle-class growth, contributing about 7% to GDP but employing only 7% of the workforce.
- The sector historically provided upward mobility for engineers from Tier-II towns, with companies like TCS and Infosys being aspirational destinations.

Current Challenges and Layoffs

- Major IT firms, including TCS, have announced mass layoffs (e.g., 20,000 jobs in a single quarter) and are quietly reducing jobs through mechanisms like voluntary resignations and performance-linked exits ("silent layoffs").
- The shift is structural, not cyclical, as automation, AI, and changing global trends diminish demand for many traditional IT jobs.

Transformation Drivers

- AI-driven automation is substantially reshaping routine tasks such as reporting, coordination, and basic coding, reducing demand for roles focused on repetition.
- Companies like OpenAI and Anthropic are deploying autonomous systems capable of managing and executing multi-step tasks, shifting the industry toward higher-value functions.

Global and Domestic Constraints

- International migration policies have become more restrictive, limiting opportunities for Indian professionals abroad, while wage levels for Indian firms have not kept up with global expectations.
- Economic uncertainty in regions like the US and Europe is constraining IT spending, affecting outsourcing models reliant on cost arbitrage.

Skills and Employment Restructuring

- The sector's foundations—the "digital assembly line" model—is now less relevant; companies need fewer basic coders and more advanced, adaptable professionals.
- Demand has shifted toward managerial and specialized skills, such as SAP ECC and cloud platforms, rather than routine technical work.

Policy and Education Reform

- Industry survival depends on major reforms: large-scale upskilling, development of advanced curriculum in engineering colleges, and fostering skills beyond rote coding—such as critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.
- Public-private partnerships and government incentives must support the retraining of over 550,000 employees in basic IT and 100,000 in advanced skills.

What are the challenges with the High Seas Treaty?

Background and Purpose

- The High Seas Treaty, formally called the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, was ratified by over 60 countries in September and will be enforced from January 2026.
- The treaty aims to set rules for sustainable use and conservation of marine biodiversity in international waters, addressing overfishing, pollution, and climate change.

Key Features of the Treaty

- It establishes Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs) as the "common heritage of humankind," insisting on fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs), including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), are to be created and monitored to conserve biodiversity and address cumulative threats.
- The treaty encompasses Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for maritime activities, aiming for science-driven decision-making.

Major Challenges and Issues

- **Ambiguity in Principles:** The "common heritage of humankind" principle suggests shared access and benefits for all but is mostly confined to MGRs, while the "freedom of the high seas" allows states unrestricted navigation and resource use. This limits the practical scope of benefit-sharing and leads to compromise and ambiguity.
- **Governance of MGRs:** Earlier, ambiguity in handling MGRs led to concerns over "biopiracy" and unfair profit allocation to developed nations, prompting fears among developing countries about exclusion from benefits.
- **Benefit-Sharing Issues:** The treaty outlines both monetary and non-monetary benefits but lacks clear mechanisms for calculation or sharing, discouraging active participation by major powers.
- **Non-Participation and Fragmentation:** Key nations like the US, China, and Russia have not ratified the treaty, and reluctance from major powers restricts global engagement.
- **Interaction with Institutions:** The treaty must align with existing bodies like the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to avoid institutional conflicts and fragmentation in ocean governance.

Implementation and Future Directions

- The treaty emphasizes clearer UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) guidelines, focusing on evidence-based EIAs, ABMTs, and benefit-sharing.
- Despite improving clarity, the ambiguous language around MGRs and the heritage principle complicates execution. Dynamic management strategies and robust marine-multilateralism, linking BBNJ with other ocean governance frameworks, will be essential for success.

"Can advocates be summoned by agencies? What SC held"

Supreme Court Ruling Overview

- The Supreme Court issued directions barring police and prosecuting agencies from summoning legal professionals to reveal client communications made while advising them.
- The judgment was passed by a three-judge bench led by the Chief Justice, addressing questions of when lawyers can be summoned in their professional capacity and if judicial oversight is required when their legal advice is under scrutiny.

Law on Attorney-Client Privilege

- Communications between lawyers and their clients are privileged under Section 132 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, replacing the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- Lawyers cannot be compelled to disclose client information except in three scenarios: with the client's consent, communications for illegal purposes, or if the lawyer is aware of ongoing crime during employment.
- This privilege is meant to protect the client's right to effective legal representation and maintain trust in the legal profession.

Context: Case That Prompted SC Action

- The case concerned a loan dispute, where a judicial magistrate ordered the summoning of the borrower's legal adviser; this was challenged and upheld by the Gujarat High Court, based on the lawyer's "non-cooperation".
- Separately, the Enforcement Directorate summoned Supreme Court senior advocates in an ESOP probe, but the move drew condemnation from legal associations, arguing that it eroded the right to legal representation.

Arguments and Legal Reasoning

- The Bar argued that summoning lawyers would violate constitutional rights to practice a profession (Article 19(1)(g)) and life and liberty (Article 21).
- Section 132 of the BSA was cited as protecting clients from forced disclosures without statutory safeguards.
- The state contended that the BSA did not protect lawyers involved in illegal acts, though agreed that lawyers can't be summoned merely for giving legal advice.
- The court rejected a proposal for a committee to pre-approve summons, stating that sufficient safeguards already exist in law.

Court's Directions and Ruling

- The SC answered whether advocates can be summoned for professional advice with an emphatic "NO"—privilege under the BSA must be protected.
- Judicial oversight is adequate due to existing provisions (Section 528 BNSS), allowing any accused—including advocates—to challenge a summons in court.
- Breaching confidentiality without a valid legal exception undermines lawyers' rights under Articles 19(1)(g) and 21, and could violate protections against self-incrimination under Article 20(3).
- In-house legal advisers, classified as employees of companies, fall outside the full shield of attorney-client privilege, though they do get limited protection.

PRELIMS CORNER :

1.The Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) was launched by India in which of the below summit?

- (a) COP21 Paris Climate Conference**
- (b) COP26 Glasgow Conference**
- (c) COP27 Sharm el-Sheikh Conference**
- (d) COP22 Marrakech Conference**

2.The Quito Adjustment is related to which of the following convention/protocol

- (a) Montreal Protocol**
- (b) Kyoto Protocol**
- (c) Nagoya Protocol**
- (d) Vienna Convention**

3.Which of the following is correct regarding Micro forests ?

- (a) Small-scale forests are grown in urban areas to promote biodiversity.**
- (b) Traditional forests with minimal tree coverage.**
- (c) Artificial forests created through genetic engineering.**
- (d) Miniature trees grown in bonsai gardens.**

4.Which of the following conventions is related to the elimination or restriction on the production and use of persistent organic pollutants?

- (a) Basel Convention**
- (b) Stockholm Convention**
- (c) Rotterdam Convention**
- (d) Vienna Convention**

DETAILED ANSWER KEY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE CHRONICLE PAGE

India trims Russian oil import by 29% in September

Key Statistic and Trigger

- India's petroleum crude imports from Russia fell sharply by 28.9%—from \$4,675 million in September 2024 to \$3,322 million in September 2025.
- This reduction follows a new 25% tariff imposed by the U.S. on purchases of Russian oil, which came into effect on August 27, 2025.

Overall Import Trends and Market Impact

- India's total crude oil import bill dropped 6.66% year-on-year from \$11,476 million in September 2024 to \$10,712 million in September 2025.
- Besides Russian oil, India's imports from Iraq decreased by 16%.

Diversification and New Suppliers

- India is actively sourcing crude from other countries to compensate for the reduction in Russian oil, increasing imports from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the U.S., Angola, and Colombia.
- Additional sources in September 2025 included Nigeria, Türkiye, Libya, and Egypt.

Changing Market Shares

- Russia's dominance in Indian crude imports dropped below one-third for the first time in two years, with market share slipping from 40.74% in September 2024 to 31.02% in September 2025 (down 9.72 percentage points).
- The collective share of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait increased significantly—from 26.6% to 31.3%.

Price Trends and Costlier Imports

- Russian crude was the cheapest at about \$500 per tonne in September 2025, but alternative imports from the UAE (\$543/tonne), Saudi Arabia (\$560), the U.S. (\$549), and Libya (\$602) were significantly higher.
- The shift toward more expensive suppliers may exert upward pressure on refinery margins, the trade deficit, and retail fuel inflation in India.

Strategic and Policy Implications

- India's move away from dependence on discounted Russian crude signals strategic supply diversification in response to Western sanctions and volatile global markets.
- The balancing act between cost-effective sourcing and geopolitical alignment with the West is becoming tighter and more complex, as highlighted by rising import costs and narrowing flexibility.
- This foretells that such developments could also limit India's room to maneuver in global energy markets given reduced reliance on a single, cheaper supplier.

INTERNATIONAL

"What makes Afghanistan so prone to earthquakes?"

Frequency and Impact of Earthquakes

- Afghanistan, surrounded by rugged mountains, experiences frequent and deadly earthquakes, with over 560 fatalities on average each year.
- At least 355 significant earthquakes (magnitude >5.0) have affected Afghanistan since 1990, causing annual damages estimated at \$80 million.

Geological Reasons for High Seismic Activity

- Afghanistan lies on the edge of the Eurasian tectonic plate, sharing a transpression zone with the Indian plate, and is also influenced by the Arabian plate—making it one of the world's most tectonically active regions.
- The northward movement of the Indian plate and interaction with the Eurasian plate is the primary driver of Afghanistan's frequent tremors.

Vulnerable Regions and Increased Risks

- Central and northeastern Afghanistan, especially provinces bordering Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Pakistan, are particularly prone to earthquakes.
- Kabul, which hosts heavy populations and fragile infrastructure, suffers significant damage and financial losses estimated at \$17 million per event.
- Remote regions such as hillsides are also vulnerable, where rescue efforts are delayed and damage to property can be severe.

Historic Earthquake Events

- Afghanistan has recorded nearly 100 "damaging" quakes since 2000, with one of the most destructive—the 2022 quake—killing over 1,000 people.
- Major earthquakes in recent years have killed thousands, with the worst being the twin shocks of 1998 that claimed 5,000 lives (2,300 in the first shock, 4,700 in the second).
- The 2015 quake claimed 399 lives across Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India.

Steps for Resilience and Risk Reduction

- Studies recommend retrofitting housing and infrastructure to reduce risks and better withstand earthquakes.
- Developing early warning systems, improved seismic monitoring, disaster mapping, and better evacuation protocols are needed to enhance national resilience.
- Relocation of people in vulnerable areas and strengthening local disaster response are also crucial.

UAE to have India House, set to declare yoga a competitive sport

Key Developments

- Almost two years after opening a Hindu temple, the UAE is set to inaugurate an India House in Abu Dhabi, marking another major cultural milestone.
- The India House will serve as a centre for strengthening India-UAE ties in culture, history, student exchanges, and will highlight shared heritage.
- The Gulf nation also plans to declare yoga a competitive sport, making it the first country in the Gulf to grant yoga full sporting recognition.

Diplomatic and Cultural Engagement

- The initiatives were discussed during the second Joint Steering Committee Meeting of the India-UAE Cultural Council in Abu Dhabi, involving ministries of Tourism, Culture, Youth Affairs, National Archives of India, and Nalanda University.
- The UAE delegation, led by MoS Noura Al Kaabi, focused on expanding cooperation in arts, sports, education, tourism, and archival collaboration, reaffirming the value of culture in the strategic partnership.

Foundation for Long-Term Collaboration

- The meeting builds on efforts since 2022, including PM Modi's visit, the India-UAE virtual summit, and the establishment of the India-UAE Cultural Council Forum.
- Academic and cultural leaders from NYU Abu Dhabi and the Louvre Abu Dhabi have also been involved in ongoing conversations for collaboration.

India House: Objectives and Impact

- India House will be a platform to showcase India's artistic heritage and contemporary creativity, serving as a hub for yoga training and cultural exhibitions.
- It aims to increase opportunities for artists and audiences to meet, share, and collaborate, strengthening the cultural ties between the two countries.
- The House is envisioned as a symbol of the creative partnership between India and the UAE.

Formalising Yoga as a Competitive Sport

- UAE is developing a national framework for competitive yoga through its Ministry of Sports, aiming to make yoga a formal sporting discipline with full recognition.

Broader Significance

- While trade remains central to India-UAE relations, these cultural initiatives underscore the importance of soft power, mutual understanding, and deeper strategic alignment.
- This positions cultural diplomacy as an essential pillar in the bilateral partnership, enriching the relationship beyond economic ties.

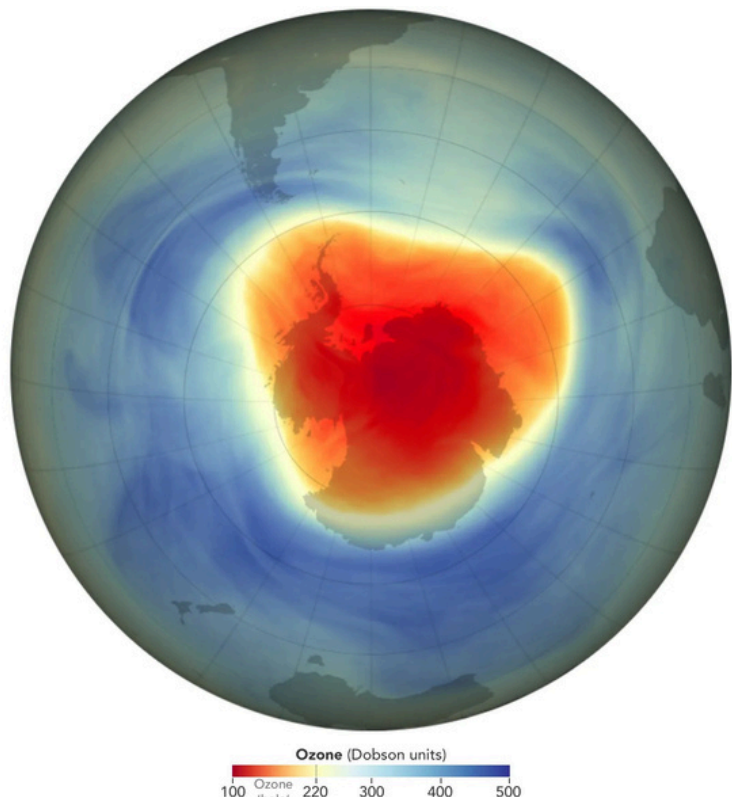
Prelims Corner: Explanations

Q1. Ans c

Under the terms of the Paris Agreement, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) are determined by the countries themselves and communicated to the UNFCCC. In keeping with this, India submitted its updated NDCs on 26 August 2022 and its long-term low-carbon development strategy on 14 November 2022 during COP27 Sharm el Sheikh Conference. These documents lay out India's vision and approaches toward reaching net zero by 2070, which are expected to evolve as necessary over time. As per LT-LEDS, India's vision of low-carbon development is based on the need to ensure India's high energy needs for development, including poverty eradication, achieving Sustainable Development Goals and economic growth. Further, it is necessary that the plan for the country's energy security is based both on the expansion of non-fossil fuel sources for power generation and the rational utilization of fossil fuel resources.

Q2. Ans a

In 2018, the Quito Adjustment is the adjustment made to the Montreal Protocol. It aims high to avoid 1°C of future warming. In this, the decision to strengthen enforcement mechanisms of this accord in response to an unexpected rise in global emissions of the banned chemical trichlorofluoromethane or CFC-11 was adopted. Practical arrangements were made to implement the Kigali Amendment by approving technologies for destruction of substances controlled under the Protocol & adopting new data reporting requirements.



Q3. Ans a

A micro forest is a dense, tiny forest with high biodiversity. The technique is a form of Afforestation or planting a forest where there wasn't one before. This is different than reforestation, which restores an existing forest. Microforests are planted densely and become hotspots for insects and small animals. Forest patches improve health, cool cities more effectively than ornamental vegetation in urban areas, and remove pollutants. Urban forests also have other benefits, including creating a buffer against disasters like tsunamis or hurricanes.



Q4. Ans b

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Stockholm, Sweden and entered into force on 17 May 2004; Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are organic chemical substances, that is, they are carbon-based. POPs are highly toxic, and exposure can occur through diet, environmental exposure, or accidents. They negatively affect humans, plant and animal species and natural ecosystems both in close proximity and at significant distances away from the original source of the discharge. Among others, the provisions of the Convention require each party to Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention (Article 3).

Case Study:



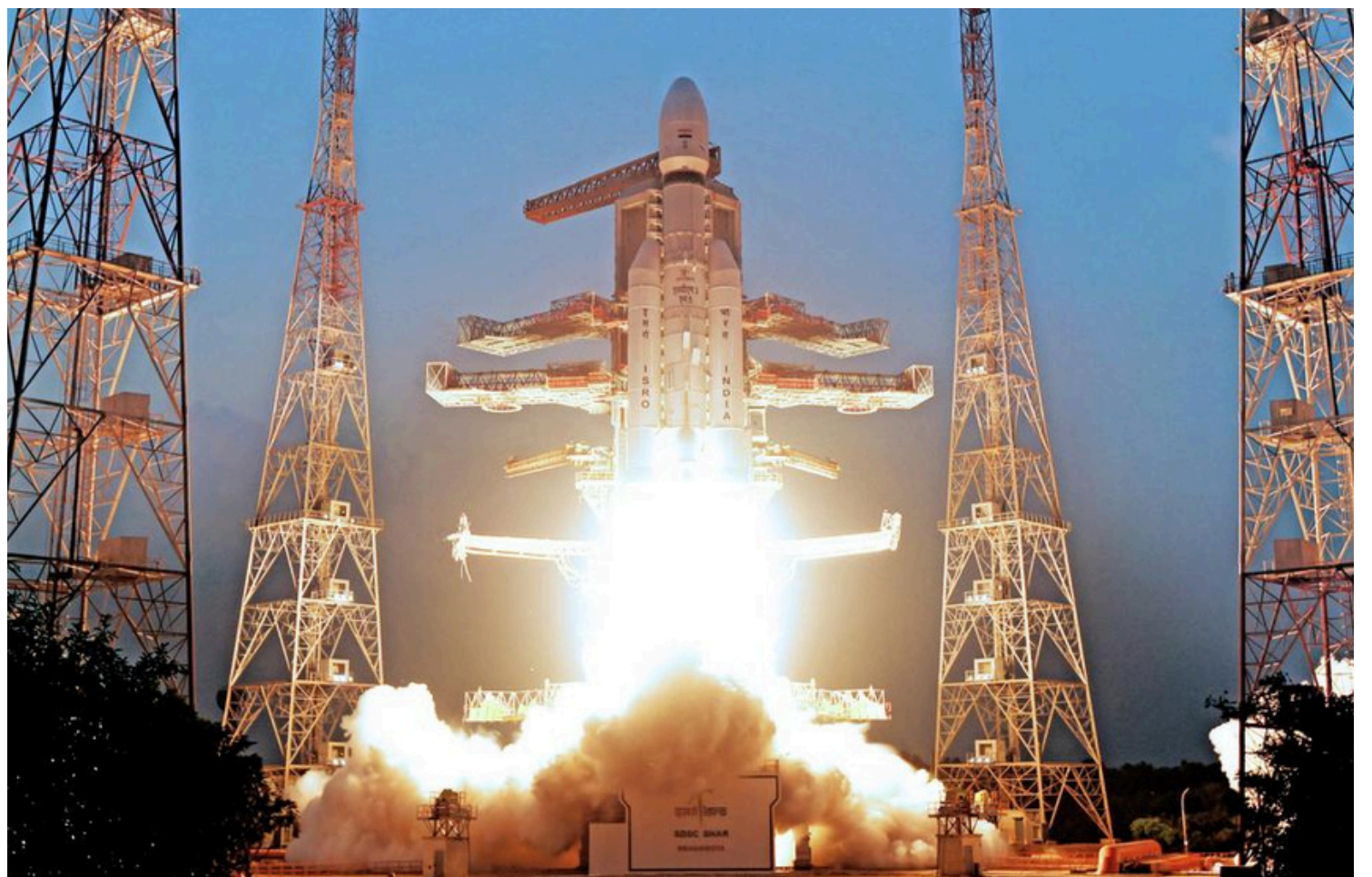
Life in death: funerals become a growing business in ageing, lonely South Korea

Rows of coffins line a university classroom in the South Korean port city of Busan, ready for use in training the funeral directors of the future in a rapidly ageing country. Growing numbers are finding work in the business of death as South Korea undergoes massive demographic change, with birth rates among the lowest in the world and almost half the population aged 50 or older. Students at the Busan Institute of Science and Technology carefully draped a mannequin in traditional Korean funeral cloth, smoothing the fabric as if over real skin, before gently lowering it into a coffin. More and more South Koreans are also living – and dying – alone. Single-person households now account for around 42% of all homes in Asia's fourth-largest economy. South Korea has the highest suicide rate among developed nations, and these "lonely deaths" include those who died alone by their own hand. A new profession has emerged reflecting that statistic: cleaners who are called in to tidy up homes after their occupants, most of whom lived alone, have died.

Gogabeel Lake in Bihar Declared Newest Ramsar Site



India has expanded its network of internationally recognised wetlands with the inclusion of Bihar's Gogabeel Lake as the country's 94th Ramsar site. The announcement marks another milestone in India's ongoing commitment to wetland conservation under the global Ramsar Convention. The oxbow lake, located in Katihar district between the Ganga and Mahananda rivers, is Bihar's first community reserve and a vital ecological habitat managed by local communities. As Bihar's sixth Ramsar site, Gogabeel joins Gokul Jalashay and Udaipur Jheel – both recently designated – highlighting the state's growing role in India's wetland conservation efforts.



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the country's heaviest communication satellite CMS-03. The launch took place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, in Andhra Pradesh. The CMS-03 is a multi-band military communication satellite, also known as GSAT-7R, and was launched aboard the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3) – the country's most powerful rocket. Launched into the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), it will eventually settle into Geostationary Orbit (35,786 kilometers above Earth).