



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**



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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS
2.	BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL,2023
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

## SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

### WHY IN NEWS?

- In September, the Union Government **initiated a six-member panel** to explore **the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, State assemblies, and local bodies.**
- This panel is tasked with proposing specific amendments to the Constitution and other legal changes required for such an endeavour.

### UNDERSTANDING OF SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS:

- **About:**
  - ✓ Normally understood to mean that **Elections to all the three tiers of Government – Lok Sabha, State Assemblies (Vidhan Sabha) and Panchayats/Urban Municipal Bodies** happen at **the same time.**
  - ✓ This means that a **voter casts his vote for electing members for all tiers of the Government** on a single day, normally **once every five years.**
  - ✓ Though, for logistics, **elections can be conducted in a phase-wise manner nationwide** as per the existing practice provided voters in a particular constituency **vote for Lok Sabha + Vidhan Sabha + Third Tier on the same day (the day polling is scheduled in his/her constituency).**
- **History of Simultaneous Elections in India:**
  - ✓ Simultaneous elections to the **Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas in India were initially held in 1951-52, 1957, 1962, and 1967.**
  - ✓ However, **the schedule for simultaneous elections could not be maintained thereafter,** leading to a misalignment in subsequent years.
  - ✓ The **subsequent General Election to the Lok Sabha** was scheduled for 2019, while elections for Vidhan Sabhas in different states were planned for various years, **ranging from 2017 to 2021.**



### Precedent of Simultaneous Elections in Other Countries:

- **South Africa:**
  - ✓ In South Africa, elections **to national and provincial legislatures are held simultaneously for a five-year term.**
  - ✓ Municipal elections are conducted two years later.
- **Sweden:**
  - ✓ Sweden conducts elections to its **National Legislature (Riksdag), provincial legislature/county council (Landsting), and local bodies/municipal assemblies (Kommunfullmaktige) on a fixed date.**
- **United Kingdom (U.K.):**



- ✓ In the U.K., the **Fixed-term Parliaments Act, 2011**, governs the term of the Parliament.
- ✓ This act establishes a **fixed term for parliamentary elections**, contributing to a predictable election schedule.

### Constitutional and Legal Provisions on Election Terms: RPA, 1951

- **Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly Terms:**
  - ✓ **Article 83(2)** of the Constitution stipulates a **standard term of five years for the Lok Sabha**.
  - ✓ **Article 172(1)** establishes a similar **tenure for State Legislative Assemblies** from the date of their first sitting.
- **Flexibility in Terms:**
  - ✓ **Neither Lok Sabha nor State Assemblies have fixed terms** and can be **dissolved earlier than the stipulated period**.
- **Limitations on Term Extension:**
  - ✓ Despite flexibility, the terms of **both Lok Sabha and State Assemblies cannot be extended beyond five years**, except in emergency situations.
- **Election Commission's Authority:**
  - ✓ The Election Commission of India holds the **authority to notify elections for both Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies**.
  - ✓ This notification occurs **six months before the normal terms of the Houses conclude**.
- **Jurisdiction of State Election Commissions:**
  - ✓ Elections to the third tier, encompassing **Panchayats and Urban Municipal Bodies**, fall under the jurisdiction of State Subjects.
  - ✓ Therefore, these elections are **overseen by State Election Commissions**.

### ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS:

- **Model Code of Conduct (MCC):**
  - ✓ During general elections to Lok Sabha or State Assemblies, **the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is applicable nationwide or in entire states, respectively**.
  - ✓ MCC suspension of routine **administrative activities, development programs, welfare schemes, and capital projects**, leading to substantial suspension periods.
  - ✓ NITI Aayog's analysis **suggests an average MCC period of 2 months for State Assembly elections**, causing an **estimated applicability of MCC for about 4 months** or more annually in various regions.
- **Recurring Expenditures:**
  - ✓ Frequent elections **lead to substantial recurring expenses** for the Indian government (**bears 100% cost of Lok Sabha and 50% of Vidhan Sabha**) and state governments (**50% of Vidhan Sabha and 100% of third-tier elections**).
  - ✓ While **individual election costs may not be exorbitant**, the cumulative effect is significant.
  - ✓ Simultaneous elections **offer optimization opportunities, reducing costs**.
  - ✓ The **need for continuous fundraising by political parties** to sustain the constant cycle is a concern.

**Reviving an old debate**

Centre has said a committee has been formed to explore the possibility of simultaneous polls for LS and state assemblies

**PANEL FORMED** While the panel is likely going to be headed by former PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND, its composition and the terms of its functioning will be announced soon

**WHAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE IDEA**

NITI AAYOG	STANDING COMMITTEE	LAW COMMISSION
<p>A 2016 paper, co-authored by Bibek Debroy and Kishore Desai, noted....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate elections lead to massive recurring expenditures as well as prolonged deployment of forces</li> <li>• It suggested holding elections in two cycles with an interregnum of 30 months</li> <li>• It pegged cost of simultaneous polls at ₹4,500 crore, while the cost of 2014 Lok Sabha polls alone was ₹3,870 crore</li> </ul>	<p>In 2015, the House panel on personnel, public grievances, law and justice said...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elections could be held in two phases</li> <li>• Polls to some assemblies can be held in Lok Sabha midterm and remaining assemblies could be held at the end of Lok Sabha term</li> </ul>	<p>In 1999, the Law Commission in its 170th report on Reform of Electoral Laws said...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding simultaneous polls would be ideal, but a workable formula is required to be in the Constitution</li> <li>• The holding of a separate election to assemblies should be an exception and not the rule</li> <li>• Another law panel report, in 2018, said simultaneous polls don't alter balance of power between Union and the states</li> </ul>

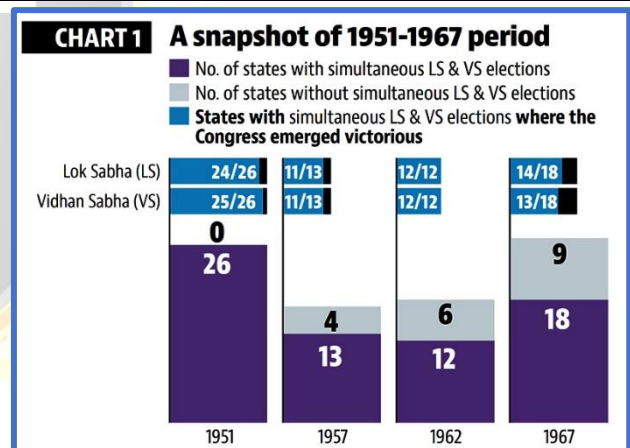


- ✓ The 2019 Lok Sabha elections reportedly **cost around INR 60,000 crores**, almost **twice the amount spent in 2014**, contributing to **concerns about corruption and black-money** in elections.
- **Prolonged Engagement:**
  - ✓ Conducting elections **involves a complex and time-consuming process**, requiring **significant government officials and security forces**.
  - ✓ In 2019, the Lok Sabha election **stretched for over 75 days** with a **vast number of polling booths**.
  - ✓ **More than 1 crore government officials**, including **armed forces**, were engaged, taking away resources that could be better deployed for **other internal security purposes**.
  - ✓ Frequent elections strain the capabilities of these forces developed for broader security responsibilities.
- **Impact on Policy Making and Governance:**
  - ✓ Frequent elections keep governments and **political parties in perpetual "campaigning" mode**.
  - ✓ Electoral compulsions **shift focus from long-term structural reforms to short-sighted and populist measures**.
  - ✓ This **hinders optimal governance** and **affects policy design and delivery**.
  - ✓ Governments **become risk-averse, opting for safer approaches** instead of pursuing transformational measures.
  - ✓ Simultaneous elections could **offer a structural change, allowing governments to focus on long-term measures without constant electoral concerns**.

#### ARGUMENT IN AGAINST OF SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS: CHALLENGES

##### ➤ Political Motivation and Voter Influence:

- ✓ Critics argue that simultaneous elections **may be politically motivated**, potentially influencing voter behaviour.
- ✓ Concerns that **voters might end up voting on national issues** even for state elections, favoring **larger national parties over smaller regional ones**.
- ✓ Critics suggest that voters are mature enough to **differentiate between voting choices for state and national elections**, citing instances like **the Delhi Elections in 2019** where different outcomes occurred for Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.



- ✓ **Over-simplifying the complex factors influencing voter behavior and underestimating the maturing of the Indian electorate** are key criticisms against this argument.

##### ➤ Operational Feasibility:

- ✓ Simultaneous elections are **not operationally feasible, raising several questions:**
  - ✓ How to **synchronize the terms of Assemblies and Lok Sabha** initially?
  - ✓ Feasibility of extending or **curtailing existing terms of some State Assemblies**.
  - ✓ Handling scenarios **where the ruling party loses majority mid-term** in either Lok Sabha or State Assemblies.
  - ✓ **Whether terms should be fixed**.
  - ✓ Operational challenges for the Election Commission of India (ECI) in **conducting elections on such a massive scale, considering logistics, security, and manpower resources**.

##### ➤ Cost effective challenges:

- ✓ The ECI acknowledges **the need for a substantial investment in EVMs and VVPAT machines**.



- ✓ Estimated cost for procuring these machines is around Rs 9,284.15 crore.
- ✓ Replacement of machines every fifteen years adds to the expenditure.
- ✓ Storing machines between elections increases warehousing costs.
- ✓ Financial implications underscore the challenges of implementing simultaneous elections on a large scale.



#### ➤ Accountability:

- ✓ Facing the electorate frequently, not just every five years, boosts politicians' accountability.
- ✓ Regular interactions with voters keep politicians vigilant and responsive to public concerns.
- ✓ Elections contribute to job creation, especially at the grassroots level.
- ✓ Increased economic activity during elections stimulates the local economy.
- ✓ The accountability and economic benefits highlight the positive aspects of facing the electorate more frequently.

### SUSTAINING SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS IN INDIA: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

#### ➤ ECI Recommendations for Stability:

- ✓ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has put forth specific suggestions to enhance stability:
- ✓ **No-Confidence Motion:** Proposes that any 'no-confidence motion' should also include a 'confidence motion' for a named Prime Minister simultaneously.
- ✓ **Preventing Premature Dissolution:** In case of a situation where dissolution cannot be avoided, options include the President administering the country or holding fresh elections.

#### ➤ Legislative Stability Measures:

- ✓ **Enhanced Stability:** ECI's recommendations aim to make premature dissolutions rare by linking confidence and no-confidence motions.
- ✓ **Legal Safeguards:** The Anti-Defection Act of 1985 and the Supreme Court judgment in the S. R. Bommai vs. Union of India case further discourage premature dissolution.

#### ➤ Past Instances of Concern:

- ✓ Acknowledging past instances of unstable governments and premature dissolutions, the Law Commission of India highlights the negative impact on governance and the economy.

#### ➤ Addressing Inevitable Dissolutions:

- ✓ Recognizing the possibility of inevitable premature dissolutions, a two-phased simultaneous election approach has been proposed:
  - **Tweaking ECI Recommendations:** Adjustments have been suggested to the ECI's recommendations to fit the two-phased model.
  - **Conceptual Solutions:** The proposal envisions addressing unforeseen events by leveraging the two-phase electoral approach.

### Way Forward for Simultaneous Elections in India:

#### ➤ Political Responsibility:

- ✓ Acknowledges the responsibility of the political class to provide an effective governance framework, especially given India's young and demanding population.
- ✓ Highlights the Prime Minister's emphasis on rapid transformation rather than gradual evolution.

#### ➤ Structural Change Necessity:



- ✓ Argues that the current system of **frequent elections hinders the focus on transformative measures** due to **perpetual campaigning**.
- ✓ Proposes simultaneous elections as a **structural change to break the cycle** and enable governments **to concentrate on long-term development**.
- **Flexibility of the Constitution:**
  - ✓ **Stresses the flexibility of the Constitution to adapt to changing times**, urging governments to **provide the best governance systems** for citizens.
- **Compelling Reasons for Simultaneous Elections:**
  - ✓ **Enumerates the compelling reasons in favour of simultaneous elections**, including the **suspension of development programs, excessive expenditures, and the impact on policy making and governance**.
- **Feasible Implementation Solutions:**
  - ✓ Proposes workable solutions for implementing simultaneous elections, addressing issues related to the starting date, synchronization of terms, fixing terms of Assemblies/Lok Sabha, and ensuring continuity.
- **Operational Feasibility:**
  - ✓ Affirms the operational feasibility of simultaneous elections, highlighting that while there would **be incremental pressure on resources, the implementation is clearly viable**.
- **Call for Consensus:**
  - ✓ Stresses the need for consensus **among key stakeholders, including constitutional experts, think tanks, government officials, and political party representatives**.
  - ✓ Emphasizes that **without a broad consensus, the intent and efficacy of simultaneous elections** could be compromised.
- **Short-Term Pain for Long-Term Gain:**
  - ✓ Recognizes that implementing simultaneous elections **may cause short-term disruptions** but **asserts that it is a crucial step toward improved governance** and broader electoral reforms.
- **Urgent Need for Reform:**
  - ✓ Underlines the **urgent need for reform**, positioning simultaneous elections as a **critical measure to revitalize Indian polity and governance**.



## BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL, 2023

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The recently released **Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill** is part of a series of attempts to regulate broadcasting comprehensively.
- This analysis explores the **key propositions and concerns within the bill**.
- Traces the historical context, **noting previous attempts in 2007 and 1997 to establish an integrated regulatory framework for broadcasting**.
- Highlights the recent efforts following a pre-consultation paper on 'National Broadcasting Policy' by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

### OVERVIEW OF BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL, 2023:

- **Introduction of the Bill:**
  - ✓ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting releases the **draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, on November 10**.
  - ✓ Aims to replace the **Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act of 1995**, regulating broadcasting, **OTT, Digital Media, DTH, IPTV**.
- **Government's Vision:**
  - ✓ The Bill aligns with the Prime Minister's vision for "**ease of doing business**" and "**ease of living**."
  - ✓ Raises concerns about potential **control and regulation**, considering the **controversy around the IT Rules 2021**.
- **Digitization Impact:**
  - ✓ Technological **advancements, including DTH, IPTV, and OTT platforms**, have transformed the broadcasting sector.
  - ✓ The existing regulatory framework **needs restructuring for ease of business and improved adherence to codes by broadcasters and Distribution Platform Operators**.



### KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL, 2023:

- **Consolidated Framework:**
  - ✓ Introduces a **unified framework for regulating broadcasting services**.
- **Expansion to OTT Content:**
  - ✓ **Extends regulatory purview to cover Over-the-Top (OTT) content and digital news**.
- **Contemporary Definitions:**
  - ✓ **Updates definitions and provisions to align with emerging technologies**.
- **Self-Regulation:**
  - ✓ **Proposes Content Evaluation Committees and a Broadcast Advisory Council for broadcasters to self-regulate**.
- **Diversity in Codes:**

#### Decoding the legislation

##### WHAT IS THE BROADCASTING BILL?

- The proposed Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, seeks to directly regulate streaming platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Disney+Hotstar as over-the-top broadcaster, in addition to regulating terrestrial channels, radio, local cable operators, etc.

- Anybody who broadcasts news and current affairs programmes online as a "systematic business, professional or commercial activity" is liable to attract the same obligations as OTT streaming services

##### WHO IS EXCLUDED?

- A physical newspaper and its e-replica
- Online users who occasionally post news are excluded. For instance, a civilian who decides to stream a riot live will not be covered

There is no change in the status of how online news publishers are governed. If they are governed under the IT Rules, they [textual news websites] will continue to be governed here.  
— a senior govt official familiar with the matter



- ✓ Introduces **different program and advertisement codes** for various Broadcasting Network Operators.
- **Accessibility Measures:**
  - ✓ Includes provisions for accessibility measures **for persons with disabilities.**
- **Statutory Penalties:**
  - ✓ **Establishes statutory penalties for non-compliance.**

#### THE ADVANTAGES OF THE BROADCASTING SERVICES REGULATIONS BILL 2023:

- **Facilitating Business Transactions:**
  - ✓ **Emphasizes Dispute Resolution mechanisms** to enhance **ease of doing business** in the broadcasting sector.
- **Digital India Boost:**
  - ✓ Supports **technological advancements and service evolution**, contributing to the '**Digital India**' initiative.
- **Streamlining 'Right of Way':**
  - ✓ Simplifies the **process for cable operators to obtain permissions for network expansion** in new areas.
- **Encouraging Infrastructure Sharing:**
  - ✓ **Promotes benefits similar to telecom operators**, fostering infrastructure sharing among broadcasters.
- **Self-Regulation Empowerment:**
  - ✓ **Establishes Content Evaluation Committees for self-certification**, providing autonomy to the broadcasting industry.
- **Advancing Accessibility:**
  - ✓ **Enhances accessibility for persons with disabilities** through **subtitles, audio descriptors, and sign language**, contributing to ease of living.
- **Consumer Empowerment:**
  - ✓ Provides **consumers with a transparent and accountable** grievance redressal mechanism, empowering them.
- **Fostering Content Diversity:**
  - ✓ Encourages the **creation of a diverse and inclusive content ecosystem** that reflects India's rich cultural tapestry.

#### CONCERNS OF THE BROADCASTING SERVICES REGULATIONS BILL 2023:

- **Inclusion of OTT Content Suppliers:**
  - ✓ Raises concerns about the **bill including Over-the-Top (OTT) content suppliers** in the definition of **broadcasting services, overlapping with discussions initiated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY).**
- **Impact on News Media:**
  - ✓ Expresses concerns about the **bill's expanded definition of broadcasting affecting journalists and news outlets outside large television networks.**
- **Content Evaluation Committee:**
  - ✓ Questions the necessity of a '**Content Evaluation Committee**' for **self-certification of news programming**, emphasizing the role best left to individual news outlets.
- **Silence on Ownership Issues:**







- ✓ Highlights the **bill's silence on cross-media and vertical ownership, essential aspects impacting media diversity.**
- **Lack of Independent Broadcast Regulator:**
  - ✓ Notes the **absence of an independent broadcast regulator**, proposing a '**Broadcast Advisory Council**' instead, raising **autonomy and capacity concerns.**
- **Government Empowerment:**
  - ✓ Expresses concerns over **government empowerment to inspect broadcasters** without prior notice, **impound equipment**, and **curtail broadcasting in undefined "public interest."**

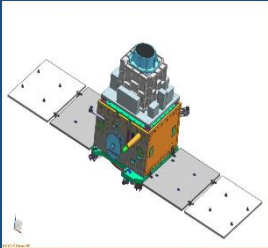
#### WAY FORWARD:

##### Proposals for Advancing Broadcasting Regulations:

- **Legislative Overhaul:**
  - ✓ **Propose a new broadcasting law** that consolidates and **modernizes the existing regulatory framework.**
  - ✓ Address the **convergence of traditional broadcasting and online streaming services.**
  - ✓ **Clearly define roles and responsibilities for stakeholders**, including **broadcasters, cable operators**, and content aggregators.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:**
  - ✓ Establish **consistent and meaningful consultations** with industry stakeholders such as **broadcasters, content creators, civil society organizations**, and consumer groups.
  - ✓ Solicit feedback on **proposed regulations to ensure a well-informed** and balanced approach.
  - ✓ Encourage collaboration **to tackle emerging challenges** and leverage opportunities in the broadcasting sector.
- **Technology Adaptability:**
  - ✓ **Develop a flexible regulatory framework** that adapts to rapid advancements in broadcasting technologies.
  - ✓ **Create monitoring mechanisms to assess the impact of new technologies** on the broadcasting landscape.
  - ✓ **Ensure regulations support innovation and facilitate** the growth of new media services.
- **Content Classification and Ratings:**
  - ✓ Implement a **robust content classification and rating system** to safeguard minors and vulnerable audiences from harmful content.
  - ✓ **Establish clear guidelines for content producers** and broadcasters to ensure compliance with standards.
  - ✓ **Empower viewers with informed choices regarding the content** they choose to consume.
- **Independent Regulatory Oversight:**
  - ✓ Strengthen the independence and autonomy of the **broadcasting regulatory authority.**
  - ✓ **Ensure the regulator possesses adequate resources** and expertise for effective mandate execution.
  - ✓ Promote **transparency and accountability** in the regulatory process.



## PRELIMS POINTERS:

TOPIC	DISCRIPTION
<p><b>India set to launch X-ray Polarimeter Satellite, says ISRO</b></p> 	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ The <b>Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)</b> has unveiled plans for its <b>maiden X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)</b>, aiming to <b>explore the polarization</b> of intense X-ray sources.</li><li>❖ This initiative signifies a <b>significant advancement in India's space-based X-ray astronomy capabilities</b>, introducing a novel dimension to the study of X-ray sources.</li></ul> <p><b>ABOUT THE SATELLITE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ The XPoSat is scheduled for launch via the <b>Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle</b> from the <b>Satish Dhawan Space Centre</b> in <b>Sriharikota</b>, although the <b>specific date remains undisclosed</b>.</li><li>❖ Designed for observation from a <b>low Earth orbit</b>, the satellite will <b>orbit</b> at an <b>altitude of 650 km</b> with a <b>low inclination of approximately six degrees</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>FEATURES OF THE SATELLITE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Scientific Payloads:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>☛ The XPoSat carries <b>two scientific payloads</b> for simultaneous studies of <b>temporal, spectral, and polarization features of bright X-ray sources</b>.</li></ul></li><li>❖ <b>Mission Objectives:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>☛ Measurement of <b>X-ray polarization in the 8-30 keV energy band</b>.</li><li>☛ <b>Long-term spectral and temporal studies of cosmic X-ray sources</b> in the <b>0.8-15 keV energy band</b>.</li></ul></li><li>❖ <b>Mission Life:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>☛ Anticipated <b>mission life is approximately five years</b>.</li></ul></li><li>❖ <b>Primary Payload (POLIX):</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>☛ <b>Measures polarimetry parameters</b>, specifically the <b>degree and angle of polarization</b>.</li><li>☛ Operates in the <b>medium X-ray energy range of 8-30 keV photons</b>.</li><li>☛ <b>Developed by the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru</b>, with ISRO support.</li></ul></li><li>❖ <b>Secondary Payload (XSPECT):</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>☛ Provides spectroscopic information <b>within the energy range of 0.8-15 keV</b>.</li><li>☛ Developed by the <b>U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, ISRO</b>.</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>2023 will be hottest year ever recorded, says UN body</b></p>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ The United Nations' <b>World Meteorological Organization (WMO)</b> has declared <b>2023 as the hottest year</b> ever recorded, sounding an urgent alarm for <b>immediate action to combat global warming</b> and its catastrophic consequences.</li><li>❖ The WMO highlighted a <b>multitude of shattered climate records in 2023</b>, accompanied by extreme weather events that have left a <b>"trail of devastation and despair."</b></li></ul>

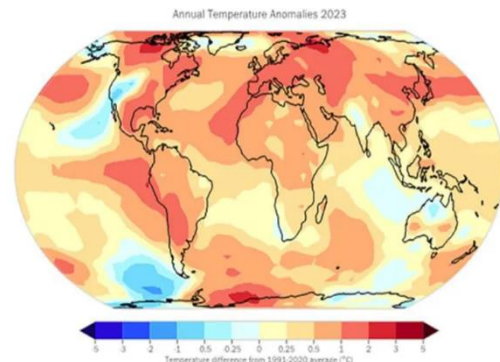


### WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

- ❖ The **WMO is an intergovernmental organization** comprising **192 Member States** and Territories.
- ❖ Originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), **established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.**
- ❖ Formally established by the ratification of the **WMO Convention on March 23, 1950.**
- ❖ Recognized as the **specialized agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate)**, operational hydrology, and related geophysical sciences.
- ❖ **India holds membership in the WMO** as one of its 192 Member States and Territories.
- ❖ The WMO is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.**

### UNPRECEDENTED CLIMATE RECORDS BROKEN:

- **Greenhouse Gas Levels:**
  - ☛ Reached record-high levels, contributing to the intensification of the greenhouse effect.
- **Global Temperatures:**
  - ☛ Marked as record-high, indicating a sustained and worrisome trend of rising temperatures worldwide.
- **Sea Level Rise:**
  - ☛ Recorded at an all-time high, posing threats to coastal areas and vulnerable communities.
- **Antarctic Sea Ice:**
  - ☛ Plummeted to a record low, signifying alarming changes in polar ice dynamics.



### Loss and Damage Fund cleared on Day One of COP-28 summit

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **COP-28 witnessed a historic moment** as member countries **unanimously agreed to operationalize a Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund**, addressing the impacts of climate change.

#### ABOUT LOSS AND DAMAGE FUNDS:

- ❖ **Structural Framework:**
  - ☛ Loss and Damage Fund **based at the World Bank**, managed **independently**, agreed upon **after transitional committee meetings.**
- ❖ **Financial Commitments:**
  - ☛ **Pledges total nearly \$250 million**, including significant contributions from the **UAE, Germany, U.S., U.K., Japan, and the European Union.**
- ❖ **Interim Host and Eligibility:**



- ☛ **World Bank serves as interim host for four years; open to applications from all developing countries, with voluntary contributions encouraged.**

❖ **Allocations for Specific Categories:**

- ☛ **Designated percentage for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.**



**RECENT ACTIONS ON LOSS AND DAMAGE IN COP-28:**

- ❖ **Positive Start and Momentum:**
  - ☛ **Initiation of fund on COP-28's first day seen as positive, setting a favorable tone for conference discussions.**
- ❖ **Climate Change Cost Insights:**
  - ☛ **University of Delaware study reveals \$1.5 trillion cost of climate change in 2022, impacting developing nations.**
- ❖ **Sustainability Concerns:**
  - ☛ **While a milestone, concerns raised about long-term sustainability without a defined replenishment cycle.**
- ❖ **Acknowledgment from India:**
  - ☛ **India acknowledges UN Presidency's role, expresses gratitude for facilitating fund initiation, and highlights its contributions during committee meetings.**

