



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**



**28<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

53/1, Upper Ground Floor, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi -110060

[www.tathastuics.com](http://www.tathastuics.com)

9560300770, 9560300554

[enquiry@tathastuics.com](mailto:enquiry@tathastuics.com)



S.NO.

TOPIC

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | INDIA -RUSSIA RELATIONS                    |
| 2. | SUO-MOTU POWERS OF NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL |
| 3. | PRELIMS POINTERS                           |

## INDIA -RUSSIA RELATIONS

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)






### WHY IN NEWS?

- In a meeting with **Russian President Vladimir Putin** in Moscow, **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** emphasized the robust and **enduring nature of India-Russia relations**.
- Both leaders expressed confidence that the **annual India-Russia leadership summit**, skipped for the past two years, would resume in 2024.
- Russian President Putin welcomed the **prospect of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia**, discussing bilateral ties and the **situation in Ukraine during the meeting**.

### INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS:

#### ➤ Historical Background:

- ✓ India's relationship with Russia traces back to the mid-1950s during the Cold War era, where the then-Soviet Union became a pivotal ally.
- ✓ The foundation of this alliance was strengthened significantly as India faced conflicts, particularly with Pakistan.
- ✓ During the 1965 war over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir, the Soviet Union played a crucial role in mediating a cease-fire between India and Pakistan.
- ✓ This demonstrated early Soviet support for India in regional conflicts.
- ✓ The partnership reached a turning point in December 1971 during India's war with Pakistan.
- ✓ The Soviet Union exercised its veto power at the United Nations in support of India, while the U.S. took a contrasting stance by deploying a task force into the Bay of Bengal in support of Pakistan.

19TH CENTURY	STALIN ERA	1965	1971	POST FALL OF USSR	2010
Tsarist threat to British Indian Empire	No bonhomie due to Indian Non-Aligned posture	Soviets mediated to end Indo-Pak war through Tashkent Agreement	India-Soviet Treaty of Peace and Friendship	After initial hiccups, the relationship continued	Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership (SPSP) signed
					

#### ➤ Formalization of Ties:

- ✓ In August 1971, India and the Soviet Union formalized their relationship by signing a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation.
- ✓ This treaty solidified the strategic alliance between the two nations during a crucial period in South Asian geopolitics.
- ✓ With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the partnership evolved, and in January 1993, the Treaty of Indo-Russian Friendship and Cooperation replaced the earlier agreement.
- ✓ This demonstrated the commitment of both nations to maintain the historical bond established during the Cold War.

#### ➤ India's Current Stance on Russia:

- ✓ Despite historical ties, India navigates a complex landscape, carefully balancing its historical alliance with Russia and evolving geopolitical dynamics.
- ✓ The partnership remains significant, especially in areas of defense, oil, nuclear energy, and space exploration.



- ✓ However, India must contend with the **changing dynamics in global politics**, particularly Russia's **ties with China** and its actions in **Ukraine**.

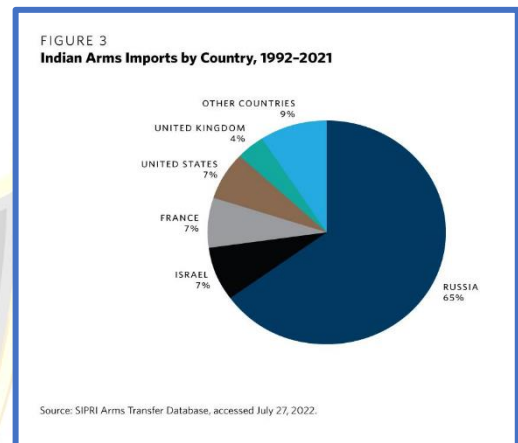
**Bilateral Ties Between India and Russia:**

➤ **Historical Foundations (Cold War Era):**

- ✓ **Arms Sales:** During the Cold War, the Soviet Union **became India's prime arms supplier**, with Soviet-designed **weapons dominating India's military**.
- ✓ **Economic Cooperation:** The Soviet Union played a **substantial role in building India's public sector**, fostering economic ties in **steel, power generation, and heavy industry**.
- ✓ **Geopolitical Alignment:** The Sino-Soviet split and shared **concerns about China** led to a **close alignment between the Soviet Union** and India against common adversaries, including the United States.

➤ **Post-Cold War Dynamics:**

- ✓ **Arms Sales Remain Central:** Despite the end of the Cold War, **arms sales continued as a crucial element of Russian-Indian relations**, with Russia supplying a significant portion of India's weaponry.
- ✓ **Economic and Technical Aid Shifts:** The **economic and technical assistance provided by the Soviet Union diminished in importance post-Cold War**, while trade remained a less influential pillar in the relationship.
- ✓ **Geopolitical Shifts:** The geopolitical landscape changed, with **Russia's diminished global standing and India's increasing engagement with the United States** altering the dynamics of their partnership.



➤ **Leaders' Engagements:**

- ✓ **Annual Summits** between the **Prime Minister of India and the President of Russia**, with the latest in **December 2021**.
- ✓ Regular telephone conversations to **review bilateral cooperation and discuss global issues**.
- ✓ The encounter between President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the **September 2022 summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan**, captured the change that is occurring in the partnership between Russia and India.

➤ **Ministerial Engagements:**

- ✓ Regular meetings between **Foreign Ministers and Defence Ministers**.
- ✓ Institutionalized dialogue mechanisms such as the **India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC)**.

➤ **Inter-Governmental Commission:**

- ✓ IRIGC-TEC focuses on **trade, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural cooperation**.
- ✓ Efforts to address trade deficit and market access issues.

➤ **Multilateral Engagement:**

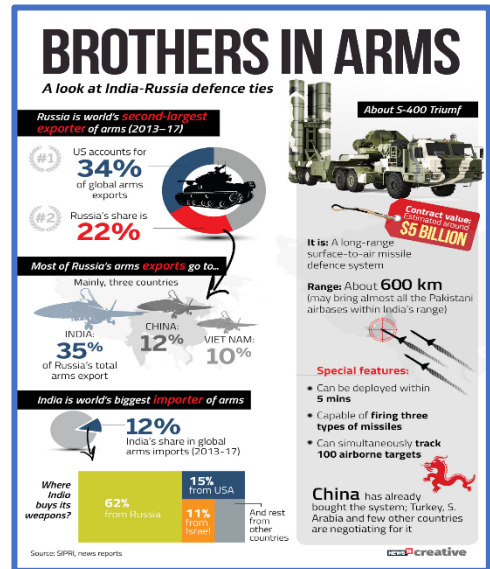
- ✓ Active collaboration at **UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO**.
- ✓ **India's Presidency of G20 & SCO in 2023** facilitated meetings between officials and ministers.

➤ **Trade & Economic Relations:**





- ✓ Bilateral trade at an **all-time high of \$45 billion in April-December 2022.**
- ✓ Targets to increase **bilateral investment to \$50 billion and bilateral trade to \$30 billion by 2025.**
- **Defence & Security Cooperation:**
  - ✓ Longstanding cooperation in defence, guided by the **Agreement on the Programme for Military Technical Cooperation.**
  - ✓ Bilateral projects include **S-400, T-90 tanks, Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Kamov helicopters, and BrahMos missiles.**
- **Parliamentary Cooperation:**
  - ✓ Bilateral visits of Parliamentarians, with a focus on strengthening ties.
  - ✓ Presence of **India-Russia Friendship Groups in the State Duma** and the Federation Council.
- **Science & Technology Cooperation:**
  - ✓ Historical collaboration in key areas like **space, nuclear energy, and cutting-edge technologies.**
  - ✓ New roadmap signed during the 21st Annual Summit in 2021 **to boost innovation-related engagements.**
- **Education:**
  - ✓ **Around 25,000 Indian students** studying in Russia.
  - ✓ Emphasis on the study of Indology, and collaboration on innovations at school level.
- **Cultural Cooperation:**
  - ✓ Rich cultural relations predating India's independence.
  - ✓ Collaboration on contemporary initiatives, including a **Festival of India in Russia.**
- **Diaspora & People-to-People Ties:**
  - ✓ Strong historical **ties dating back to the 15th century.**
  - ✓ Gradual increase in bilateral **tourism and exchange of state honours.**



**Russia's Importance to India: A Strategic Partnership**

- **Global Standing:**
  - ✓ Russia holds a **prominent position internationally as a nuclear and energy power.**
  - ✓ Maintaining a permanent seat in the **UN Security Council underscores Russia's significance.**
- **Multipolar World Dynamics:**
  - ✓ In an evolving multipolar world, **India strategically aligns with both Russia and the United States.**
  - ✓ A robust partnership with **Russia provides India with diplomatic leverage for international engagements.**
- **UNSC Permanent Seat:**
  - ✓ Russia publicly expresses **support for India's quest to secure a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.**
- **Countering Chinese Aggression:**

**SPECIAL & PRIVILEGED STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**  
CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

**CELEBRATING A LONG-TERM FRIENDSHIP**

Ambassador of Russia to India, Nikolay R Kudashov, shares an insight into the 10th anniversary of elevating the Russian-Indian Strategic Partnership to the special and privileged status

In year 2020 is indeed remarkable - the Russian-Indian strategic partnership crossed the 20th anniversary and nearly 10 years ago (on December 21, 2010) was elevated to the special and privileged status, which means a deep convergence of our bilateral and international interests, as well as a great scope of good will to combine efforts to deal with various challenges.

Our countries promote just and equal multipolar world order with greater role of major developing countries and emerging economies in the global governance. India we pay a lot of attention to the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the establishment of the United Nations, which is the center of international relations. In this regard, we highly appreciate the visit of Defense Minister Rajnath Singh to Moscow this week despite COVID-19 pandemic to participate in the celebrations dedicated to the victory in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945).

We stand for collective approach to the issues of peace and security, unacceptability of unilateral sanctions, promotion of an inclusive and unified agenda. Russia consistently supports the permanent membership of India in the UN Security Council. India's joining this body as a non-permanent member in 2021-2022 will provide new opportunities for our cooperation.

The Coronavirus pandemic did not stop our interaction since March 2020. President Putin and Prime Minister Modi have held several videoconferences and jointly participated in a number of videoconferences, including at the BRICS and SCO summits under the Russian Chairmanship as well as the G20 Summit.

We support each other to fight against the COVID-19 in the world through joint initiatives, such as the production of the Sputnik V vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine, which is undergoing clinical trials in India. Russia implemented the second vaccine in October - Sputnik Vaxina, and the third one is coming soon.

Our ties became an integral part of development strategies of each other. Russia as of now is the only foreign country so deeply involved in the Indian nuclear power sector, contributing to the national energy security. Our successful cooperation based on real exchange of technologies and joint ventures helps India to advance local production and enhance local production and energy security.

Rightly project is the Russian designed Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jet in India. Our organized defence cooperation based on real exchange of technologies and joint ventures helps India to advance local production and enhance local production and energy security.

Russia's military export potential. We are working on co-development and co-production of equipment, components and spare parts, improving the air defence system and designing localization programmes. Looking forward to participating in the New India - 2021 where Russia intends to be one of the biggest exhibitors.

As the new Year is approaching, we would like to wish all our Indian friends the best of health and every success.

The special and privileged strategic partnership means that relations between our two friendly nations are limitless, and they remain broad, strong and coherent despite the current global turbulence.

As the new Year is approaching, we would like to wish all our Indian friends the best of health and every success.

**THE HIGHLIGHTS OF RUSSIA-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

- Both the countries promote just and equal multipolar world order
- Both the countries stand for collective approach to the issues of peace and security
- Both the countries support each other to fight against the Covid-19
- The ties between the two nations became an integral part of development strategies of each other



- ✓ India navigates a **delicate balance with the U.S. and Russia to manage tensions with China.**
- ✓ **Russia's strained relations with the West keep it watchful of China,** aligning with India's interests.
- **Energy Security:**
  - ✓ **Russia's substantial oil reserves** make it a crucial player in India's energy security strategy.
  - ✓ Amid escalating **concerns in the Middle East,** India views **Russia as an alternative energy source,** reducing dependence on volatile regions.

## CHALLENGES IN INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS: NAVIGATING GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS

- **Rapid Expansion of India-US Relations:**
  - ✓ Tensions arise **due to the swift expansion of India's defense cooperation** with the United States since 2008.
  - ✓ The **U.S. surpasses Russia as India's primary arms supplier in 2014.**
  - ✓ India's agreements with the U.S., including **LEMOA, COMCASA, and BECA,** contribute to a strategic realignment.
- **Shift in Russian Arms Supply:**
  - ✓ Russia adjusts its policy and supplies advanced weaponry, like **Sukhoi-35 and the S-400 missile system, to China.**
  - ✓ This move is perceived as a **response to India's deepening ties with the U.S.,** altering the dynamics of India-Russia defense cooperation.
- **Deepening Russia-China Ties:**
  - ✓ **Russia proposes the Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers' Forum,** but India's unresolved issues with China limit diplomatic success.
  - ✓ Sino-Russian relations strengthen, driven by shared **interests against the United States.**
  - ✓ Geopolitical competition in the region intensifies, leading Russia, with a hostile stance toward the **U.S., to align more closely with China.**
- **Russia's Alignment with Belt and Road Initiative:**
  - ✓ Russia's collaboration with China in initiatives like the **Belt and Road reflects a strategic partnership against perceived U.S. influence.**
  - ✓ The alignment **challenges India's position,** creating complexities in its relations with both **Russia and China.**
- **Contemporary Challenges:**
  - ✓ While historically strong, the **India-Russia partnership has encountered complexities** in recent times.
  - ✓ Moscow's growing **closeness with India's main rival, China,** adds a layer of complication to the relationship.
  - ✓ The situation is exacerbated by **Russia's involvement in the conflict in Ukraine,** leading to **nuanced considerations in India's stance.**



## WAY FORWARD IN INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS: STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIONS

- **Reinvigorating Leadership Summits:**
  - ✓ The **commitment to resume the annual India-Russia leadership summit in 2024** reflects a positive step forward.
  - ✓ Both nations **should prioritize these high-level engagements** to address key bilateral and global issues, **fostering stronger diplomatic ties.**
- **Enhancing Economic Collaboration:**



- ✓ The numerous agreements on **trade, connectivity, nuclear energy, and military technology** underscore the potential for deeper economic collaboration.
- ✓ Both India and Russia **should focus on implementing and expanding these agreements**, fostering a more robust economic partnership.
- **Navigating Geopolitical Challenges:**
  - ✓ Acknowledging the **geopolitical complexities**, India and Russia must navigate the **challenges arising from Russia's ties with China and the situation in Ukraine**.
  - ✓ Diplomatic finesse is crucial to **maintain strategic convergence** while addressing contemporary geopolitical shifts.
- **Diversifying Trade and Investment:**
  - ✓ Beyond traditional sectors, **both nations should explore diversification in trade and investment**.
  - ✓ This involves identifying new areas of collaboration, encouraging innovation, and adapting to evolving global economic trends.
- **Addressing Payment Mechanism Challenges:**
  - ✓ **While trade has crossed \$50 billion**, resolving the **rupee-rouble payment mechanism is crucial**.
  - ✓ Both sides should work towards **finding solutions that circumvent challenges posed by Western sanctions on Russia**, ensuring the sustainability of trade relations.
- **Strategic Regional Partnerships:**
  - ✓ India's intention to **host governors from Russia's Far East at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit** presents an opportunity to strengthen regional partnerships.
  - ✓ Collaborative initiatives can be **explored to enhance connectivity, trade**, and cultural exchanges between different regions of both countries.





## SUO-MOTU POWERS OF NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The **ammonia gas leak from the Coromandel International Limited fertiliser manufacturing unit in Ennore** has prompted the **southern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to take Suo Motu cognisance of the incident.**
- The NGT acted in response to media reports highlighting the **adverse effects of the leak on residents in Periakuppam, Ernavur, and Burma Nagar, who experienced breathlessness, eye irritation, and skin irritation.**
- Expressing concern over the environmental impact, the NGT issued **directions to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) to submit a detailed report on the ammonia gas leak incident.**

### NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (NGT):

- **About:**
  - ✓ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established on **October 18, 2010, under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.**
  - ✓ It serves as a **specialized judicial body** dedicated to the **effective and expeditious disposal of cases related to environmental protection, conservation of forests, and natural resources.**
  - ✓ The NGT operates **independently of the procedures laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and instead follows the principles of natural justice.**
- **Composition:**
  - ✓ **The NGT has a presence in five zones:** North, Central, East, South, and West.
  - ✓ The **Principal Bench is located in Delhi**, with additional benches in **Bhopal, Kolkata, Chennai, and Pune.**
  - ✓ The Tribunal is headed by a **Chairperson and comprises judicial and expert members.**



### FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (NGT):

- **Jurisdiction:**
  - ✓ The NGT has jurisdiction over **civil cases** involving **substantial environmental questions** and disputes related to statutes listed in **Schedule I of the NGT Act, including acts like the Water Act, Air Act, and Environment Protection Act.**
- **Relief and Compensation:**
  - ✓ Individuals seeking **relief and compensation** for environmental damage falling under the specified legislations can approach the NGT.
- **Legislative Coverage:**
  - ✓ The NGT covers cases related to laws such as the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, Forest (Conservation) Act, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, and more.**
- **Enforcement:**
  - ✓ **The Tribunal's orders are binding**, and it has the **power to grant relief in the form of compensation and damages.**
  - ✓ Its decisions are **enforceable similar to a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.**
- **Review and Appeal:**
  - ✓ The NGT has the **authority to review its own decisions.**
  - ✓ If necessary, decisions can be **challenged before the Supreme Court within ninety days.**



➤ **Current Functioning:**

- ✓ The **Principal Bench in Delhi is remotely hearing applications from other jurisdictions through video conferencing to address the needs of litigants**, especially in regional benches where the full strength of members may be lacking.

**BACKGROUND: GAS LEAK INCIDENT AND NGT'S ACTION**

➤ **Suo Motu Action:**

- ✓ The NGT, acting on its own accord, has taken notice of the ammonia gas leak incident, highlighting **the severity of the environmental concern**.

➤ **Affected Areas:**

- ✓ Residents in Periakuppam, Ernavur, and Burma Nagar experienced health issues such as **breathlessness and irritation in their eyes and skin due to the ammonia leak**.

➤ **Ammonia Levels:**

- ✓ During the TNPCB's inspection, the ammonia level in the air was recorded at **3 ppm or 2,090 microgram/m<sup>3</sup>**, significantly exceeding the allowed 24-hour average of **400 microgram/m<sup>3</sup>**.

➤ **Evacuation and Impact:**

- ✓ In response to the leak's effects, many families near the **site have evacuated their homes**.
- ✓ The incident has **raised concerns about the health and well-being of the affected locals**.

➤ **Statutory Tribunal's Nature:**

- ✓ A **statutory tribunal, like the NGT, is a quasi-judicial body with limited powers** within its statutory jurisdiction, **not a general-purpose constitutional court**.



**LEGAL CHALLENGE: NGT'S SUO MOTO POWERS:**

➤ **SC Directive:**

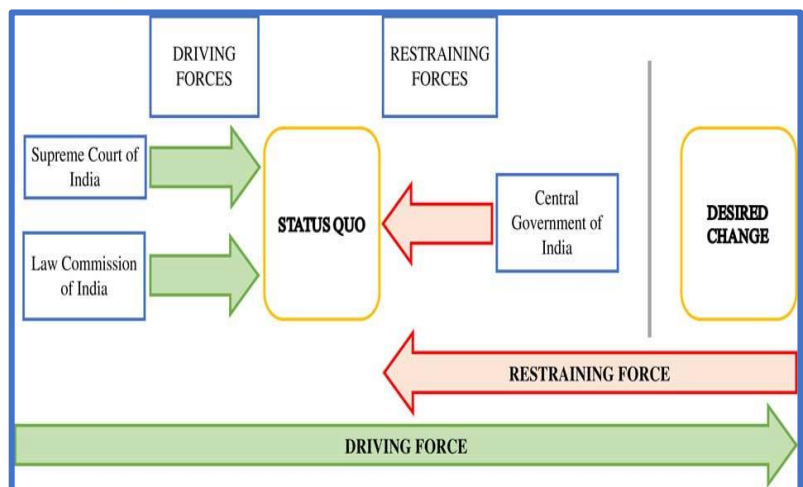
- ✓ In gas leak in Visakhapatnam incident in May 2020 LG Polymers, appealed the NGT's order at the Supreme Court, **challenging the NGT's suo moto powers**.
- ✓ The SC directed **LG Polymers to present its argument before the NGT first**.

➤ **NGT's Stand:**

- ✓ On June 6, 2020, the NGT asserted its **suo moto powers under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (NGT Act)**, justifying it **based on fulfilling the NGT Act's purpose**.

➤ **NGT's Justification:**

- ✓ The NGT highlighted the **NGT Act's objective of providing relief and compensation for environmental damage**, asserting that **Section 19 allows regulating its own procedure**, thereby conferring suo moto powers.







**Legal Precedents and Interpretation: Suo Moto Powers**

- **Express Grant of Powers:**
  - ✓ Some statutes expressly **grant suo moto powers to tribunals**, like the **Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961**, which mentions it in **Section 122A**.
- **Interpretation in Absence of Express Powers:**
  - ✓ **Other tribunals**, like the **Debt Recovery Tribunal**, have **denied suo moto powers** when not expressly granted in the governing statute, as seen in the **Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal's** decision.

**SUPREME COURT AFFIRMS SUO MOTU POWER FOR NGT:**

The Supreme Court, in a **landmark judgment**, has **upheld the suo motu power of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)** in discharging its functions under the NGT Act. The court **emphasized that the NGT, as a specialized forum for environmental matters, cannot afford to be a passive observer, especially in the absence of external complaints.** **Key Highlights of the Judgement:**

- **Suo Motu Jurisdiction:**
  - ✓ The Supreme Court **affirmed that the NGT possesses suo motu power to initiate actions** in the interest of environmental protection.
  - ✓ This authority **enables the NGT to proactively address environmental concerns** without waiting for specific complaints.
- **Constitutional Mandate:**
  - ✓ The court **emphasized that the right to a healthy environment is integral to the right to life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.**
  - ✓ The NGT, being **established under constitutional mandate**, plays a crucial role in **enforcing Article 21** in the context of environmental protection.
- **Rejecting Statutory Limitations:**

The argument that the **NGT is a creature of statute and cannot exercise Suo motu powers** was rejected by the Supreme Court.

  - ✓ The judgment highlighted that procedural provisions **should align with the substantive rights** invoked in environmental matters, ensuring a broader interpretation.
- **NGT's Role and Responsibility:**
  - ✓ The NGT was recognized as a specialized forum, **inheriting a broad conception of environmental concerns.**
  - ✓ The court emphasized that the **NGT's functions must not be narrowly construed**, and it should be empowered to take necessary actions to protect the environment in the larger public interest.
- **Flexible Mechanism:**
  - ✓ Considering the **looming dangers of environmental disasters** and climate change, the court stressed the need for a flexible mechanism.
  - ✓ The NGT was encouraged to address urgent **environmental issues effectively, leaving a positive environmental legacy for future generations.**
- **Effective Procedure:**
  - ✓ The judgment emphasized that the **NGT's role should not be mechanical or ornamental.**
  - ✓ Instead, **it should have a meaningful and effective procedure** to address urgent environmental concerns, avoiding unnecessary procedural hindrances.



## PRELIMS POINTERS:

TOPIC	DISCRIPTION
<b>PM JANMAN scheme</b>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <i>The Union Cabinet's recent approval of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) has brought attention to the government's initiative aimed at the holistic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).</i></li> <li>❖ <i>The scheme focuses on addressing the basic needs of PVTG households and habitations and is part of the Pradhan Mantri-PVTG Development Mission outlined in the 2022-23 Union Budget.</i></li> </ul>
	<p><b>PM JANMAN: INNOVATIVE FEATURES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Proper Identification:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ Addresses concerns about outdated criteria for identifying PVTGs.</li> <li>☛ Aims for accurate recognition and creation of a Human Development Index for PVTGs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Participatory Approach:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ Abandons the one-size-fits-all approach, involving PVTGs in decision-making, focusing on land rights, social inclusion, and cultural preservation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Livelihood Promotion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ Emphasizes skills training, resource provision, and securing land titles under the Forest Rights Act for sustainable livelihoods.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Health, Nutrition, and Education:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ Implements targeted health outreach, incorporates cultural contexts into education, and incentivizes personnel working in PVTG areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Infrastructure Development:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ Relaxes guidelines for infrastructure schemes, adopting a tola-based approach for development planning to meet specific community needs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>KEY OBJECTIVES OF PM JANMAN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Provide basic facilities to PVTG households.</li> <li>❖ Ensure saturation for various government schemes.</li> <li>❖ Address challenges through a participatory and community-based approach.</li> </ul> <p><b>ABOUT PVTGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Origin and Evolution:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ Initially identified as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) in 1960-61, later renamed Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in 2006.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Geographical Distribution:</b></li> </ul>





- ☛ **Spread across 18 states** and **one Union Territory**, with a total population of around **28 lakh individuals**.
- ☛ Concentrated in states like **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu**.
- ❖ **Socio-economic Traits:**
  - ☛ Characterized by **pre-agricultural lifestyles, low literacy rates**, small populations, and subsistence economies.
  - ☛ Face challenges of **social discrimination**, limited access to basic services, and vulnerability to displacement.

#### EXISTING SCHEMES FOR PVTGS

- ❖ **PVTG Development Plan:**
  - ☛ Provides **education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities** while preserving traditional knowledge.
- ❖ **PM Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM):**
  - ☛ Focuses on **market linkages and Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** procurement at Minimum Support Prices.
- ❖ **Other Initiatives:**
  - ☛ **Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana, Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Forest Rights Act 2006, and more.**

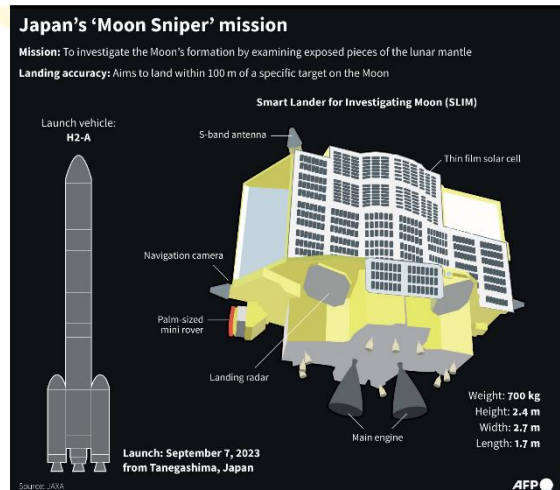
## Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **On December 25, Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) achieved a significant milestone by entering lunar orbit, setting the stage for its planned moon-landing attempt on January 19.**
- ❖ **SLIM's success or failure will impact the upcoming Chandrayaan-4 mission, making it a mission of global interest.**

#### ABOUT SLIM: JAPAN'S LUNAR EXPLORATION

- ❖ **Launched by JAXA:**
  - ☛ Built and launched by the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** on September 7, 2023, from the **Tanegashima spaceport**.
- ❖ **Compact Size:**
  - ☛ **Weighing only 590 kg** at launch, SLIM is significantly lighter compared to **Chandrayaan-3**, which weighed **3,900 kg**.
- ❖ **Elliptical Lunar Orbit:**





- ☛ Entered an elliptical orbit around the moon with an **apogee (farthest point) of 4,000 km** and a **perigee (closest point) of 600 km** above the lunar surface.

❖ **Fuel-Efficient Journey:**

- ☛ Followed a **longer but fuel-thrifty route**, taking **four months to reach the moon**.
- ☛ Utilized the **weak-stability boundary theory** to optimize fuel consumption.

**SLIM'S LUNAR LANDING ATTEMPT: "MOON SNIPER"**

❖ **Unique Landing Approach:**

- ☛ **SLIM is known as the "moon sniper"** due to its **unprecedented landing precision**.
- ☛ It **aims to land within 100 meters** of its chosen landing site on January 19.

❖ **Record-Breaking Attempt:**

- ☛ SLIM's landing attempt **sets a record for the smallest-ever area tolerance** for a moon landing mission.
- ☛ The chosen site is **near the Shioli Crater**.

❖ **Mission Objectives:**

- ☛ SLIM will study the lunar surface, collect **temperature and radiation readings**, and explore the moon's mantle.
- ☛ Two small rovers, **Lunar Excursion Vehicle (LEV) 1 and 2**, will be deployed for additional studies.

**'VIKSIT  
BHARAT'  
@2047: VOICE  
OF YOUTH**

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' via video conferencing, aiming to actively involve the youth in shaping India's developmental vision.*
- ❖ *Workshops Across the Nation: The initiative involves workshops organized at Raj Bhawans nationwide, bringing together Vice-Chancellors, Heads of Institutes, and faculty members to kickstart the initiative.*

**ABOUT 'VIKSIT BHARAT @2047'**

❖ **Visionary Goal:**

- ☛ Aims to **make India a developed nation by 2047**, coinciding with the 100th year of independence.

❖ **Role of Educational Institutions:**

- ☛ Emphasizes the **crucial role of educational institutions** in shaping personalities and contributing to national development.

❖ **Historical Context (Amrit Kaal):**

- ☛ PM Modi draws **parallels with historical periods**, identifying the current time as an **"Amrit Kaal"** for exponential development.





- ❖ **Quantum Leap Opportunity:**
  - ☛ Urges utilizing every moment in this **period for India to take a quantum leap** in its development journey.
- ❖ **Youth as Change Agents:**
  - ☛ **Recognizes the youth as both agents and beneficiaries of change**, highlighting their pivotal role.
- ❖ **Ideas Portal Launch:**
  - ☛ Announces the **launch of the Ideas Portal for suggestions on key themes**, with prizes for the top 10 ideas.

#### OBJECTIVES OF 'VIKSIT BHARAT @2047'

- ❖ Stresses the **importance of personality development** for individuals and the nation.
- ❖ Calls for **citizen alertness for national interest and civic sense**, addressing issues like resource preservation and lifestyle.
- ❖ Urges **universities to be role models**, suggesting degree holders possess at least one vocational skill.
- ❖ Acknowledges India's leadership in the **working-age population**, emphasizing **youth empowerment** as drivers of change.
- ❖ **Sabka Prayas (Public Participation):** Stresses the importance of public participation, citing examples of successful campaigns.
- ❖ Emphasizes the **role of scholars in shaping the vision of the country's development** and channelizing youth power.
- ❖ **Transformation into Jan-Andolan:** Envisions the transformation of Amrit Kaal Vimarsh into a people's movement.
- ❖ **Aims to inspire the "Amrit Peedhi"** and citizens toward the goal of a developed India through collective efforts.

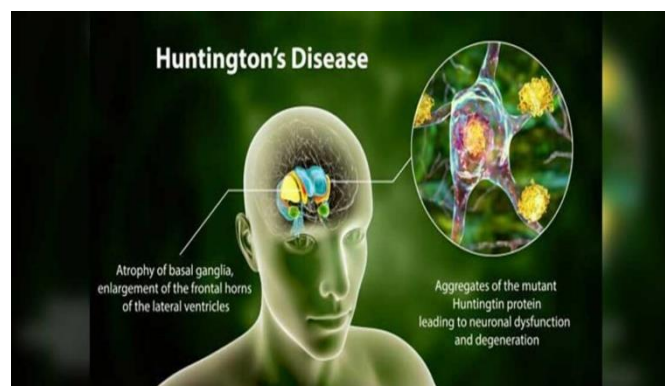
## HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ **A recent study from the University of Szeged, Hungary, uses genetically modified fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) to understand Huntington's disease progression at the molecular level.**

#### HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE -OVERVIEW:

- ❖ **Nature of Disease:**
  - ☛ Huntington's disease is a **severe genetic disorder** causing **progressive symptoms like forgetfulness, loss of balance, and motor issues.**
  - ☛ **It has no cure, and affected individuals face a high risk of passing it to their children.**





**KEY FINDINGS IN RECENT RESEARCH:**

- ❖ **Genetic Mutation:**
  - ☛ **Linked to a mutated HTT gene**, resulting in the production of **abnormal huntingtin (Htt) proteins**.
- ❖ **Glutamine Repeats:**
  - ☛ Mutation involves **abnormal repetitions of the amino acid glutamine**, leading to **neuronal destruction**.
- ❖ **Dominant Inheritance:**
  - ☛ Even one mutated HTT **gene copy triggers the disease**, and there's **currently no cure**.
- ❖ **Toxic Fragments:**
  - ☛ **Mutant proteins create toxic fragments**, interfering with **cellular processes** and causing neuronal degeneration.
- ❖ **Fruit Fly Model:**
  - ☛ Researchers used **genetically modified fruit flies** to study the disease's molecular progression, **identifying the Yod1 gene as a potential therapeutic target**.

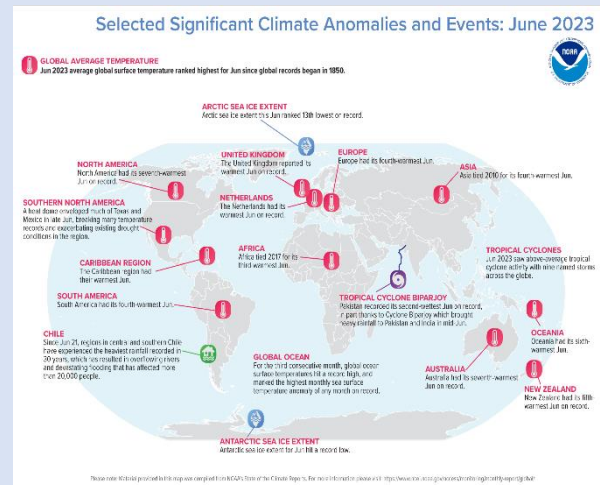
**SIGNIFICANT CLIMATE MILESTONES OF 2023**

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *The **climate-related milestones of 2023** have gained **global attention** due to their **unprecedented nature**, marking **extremes in temperature, sea conditions, and human responses to climate challenges**.*

**KEY REASONS FOR THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE EVENTS INCLUDE**

- ❖ **Hottest Year:**
  - ☛ **2023 is poised to be declared the hottest year in recorded history, surpassing the 2016 record.**
  - ☛ Copernicus Climate Change Service notes a **0.1°C increase** over the 10-month 2016 average.
- ❖ **Unprecedented Sea Surface Temperatures:**
  - ☛ **Widespread marine heat waves in 2023, with 48% of global oceans** experiencing them in August.
  - ☛ **Global sea surface temperatures** remained at **record highs** from April to July, defying the usual peak in March.
- ❖ **Antarctic Sea Ice Minimum:**
  - ☛ **Lowest Antarctic sea ice extent recorded, reaching 16.96 million sq. km** on September 10, 2023 – **1.03 million sq. km below** the previous 1986 record.
  - ☛ **Significant ice loss since April.**





**CONGRESS  
FOUNDATION  
DAY**

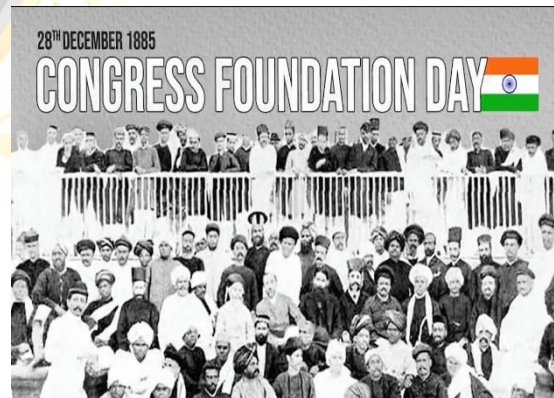
- ❖ **Record Carbon Dioxide Levels:**
  - ☛ Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions expected to reach a **new high in 2023, up 1.1% from 2022.**
  - ☛ The **Global Carbon Budget Report** notes a plateau in emissions due to a slight drop in deforestation.
- ❖ **Loss and Damage Fund:**
  - ☛ **COP28 climate talks in December 2023** marked the creation of the **world's first loss and damage fund** for climate change impacts.
  - ☛ With **pledges totaling \$792 million**, it falls short of the required funds for its intended purpose, **managed independently at the World Bank.**
- ❖ **Food Industry Climate Pledge:**
  - ☛ In a historic move, **134 countries at COP28 committed to addressing the climate impact of the food industry.**
  - ☛ While representing a significant portion of **global food systems and emissions**, the pledge lacks specific **quantitative targets.**

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ **Founding Date:**
  - ☛ *The Indian National Congress (INC) was founded on December 28, 1885.*
- ❖ **Founder:**
  - ☛ *English bureaucrat Allan Octavian Hume founded the INC with the initial aim of **advocating greater self-governance for India.***
- ❖ **Early Objectives:**
  - ☛ *In its early years, the INC aimed to influence British policies favorably towards Indians and served as a platform for social reformers, journalists, and lawyers.*

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF INC:**

- ❖ **Defined by W. C. Bonnerjee:**
  - ☛ The **first INC President, W. C. Bonnerjee**, outlined the objectives, including **promoting personal intimacy, eradicating prejudices,** consolidating national unity, recording educated opinions, and planning future courses of action in public interest.
- ❖ **Dominance of Lawyers:**
  - ☛ Congress was often **criticized for being dominated by lawyers.**
  - ☛ It **did not attract significant support from the old aristocracy, peasants, or artisans.**



**THEORIES RELATED TO INC'S FOUNDATION**

- ❖ **Safety Valve Theory:**



- ☛ **Allan Octavian Hume** founded INC as a "safety valve" to address rising discontent among Indians.

- ❖ **Conspiracy Theory:**

- ☛ **Rajani Palme Dutt** proposed the **conspiracy theory**, suggesting INC's creation to quash a potential uprising.

- ❖ **Lightning Conductor Theory:**

- ☛ **Gopal Krishna Gokhale's theory** viewed Hume as a "**lightning conductor**," uniting nationalist forces.

#### IMPORTANT INC SESSIONS

- ❖ **1885 - Mumbai:** Formation of **INC with 72 delegates**. Initial focus on influencing British policies.
- ❖ **1905 - Banaras:** Resentment against **Bengal Partition** and proclamation of **Swadeshi movement**.
- ❖ **1916 - Lucknow:** **Unification of moderates and extremists**, closing ranks with All India Muslim League.
- ❖ **1929 - Lahore:** Passage of the historic '**Purna Swaraj**' resolution, declaring total independence.
- ❖ **1931 - Karachi:** Adoption of **fundamental rights and socio-economic principles**. Approval of **Irwin-Gandhi Pact**.
- ❖ **1938 - Haripura:** **National Planning Committee** established, commitment to **Poorna Swaraj**.
- ❖ **1939 - (No Place):** **Subhas Chandra Bose's presidency**, disagreements, and resignation.
- ❖ **1946 - Meerut:** Acceptance of **Cabinet Mission Plan**, participation in **Constituent Assembly**, National Planning Committee formation.
- ❖ **1948 - Jaipur:** **Homage to Mahatma Gandhi**, adoption of **Objectives Resolution**, decision for general elections.