



TATHASTU
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	India abstains from the UNHRC vote for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza
2.	RBI keeps repo rate unchanged
3.	Fighting forest fires
4.	Stay by Supreme Court on Allahabad High Court's Ruling on Madrasa Education Act

INDIA ABSTAINS FROM THE UNHRC VOTE FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **International Relations, Important International Institutions.**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ This article discusses India's abstention on a UNHRC resolution calling for a Gaza ceasefire, citing past votes and concerns about Hamas condemnation.

Additional Information on the News:

- ❖ The resolution was proposed by Pakistan on behalf of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation.
- ❖ India supported three other resolutions criticizing Israel's actions against Palestinians and supporting Palestinian rights..
- ❖ The United States, Germany, and four other countries voted against the resolution, while India was among the 13 countries that abstained.
- ❖ Bangladesh, China, Maldives, UAE, Indonesia, and others voted in favor of the resolution.
- ❖ India also supported resolutions concerning Palestinian self-determination, human rights in the Syrian Golan, and Israeli settlements.

What is UNHRC?

- ❖ It is a part of the United Nations and is responsible for promoting and safeguarding human rights worldwide.

Mandate:

- ❖ Its aim is to promote universal respect for human rights and address situations where these rights are violated, including severe and widespread violations, and provide recommendations.

Establishment:

- ❖ Established in 2006, it replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR).

Functions:

- ❖ It investigates reported human rights violations in UN member states.
- ❖ The council deals with significant human rights issues such as freedom of speech, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.
- ❖ The UNHRC collaborates closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Membership:

- ❖ Comprising 47 Member States, they are elected by the UN General Assembly through a direct and confidential vote.
- ❖ Membership is distributed fairly across geographical regions: African and Asia-Pacific states have 13 seats each, Latin American and Caribbean states have 8 seats, Western European and other states have 7 seats, and Eastern European states have 6 seats.
- ❖ Members serve for three years and cannot be immediately re-elected after two consecutive terms.



RBI KEEPS REPO RATE UNCHANGED

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **Indian Economy.**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India has kept the repo rate unchanged with concerns over food price spikes despite moderated overall inflation.

Additional Information:

- ❖ Despite a decrease in overall inflation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) remains worried about food prices.
- ❖ The RBI's MPC chose to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for the seventh consecutive time with commitment to consistently meeting inflation targets.
- ❖ The MPC plans to gradually reduce accommodation while still supporting economic growth.
- ❖ MPC has acknowledged uncertainties in food prices impacting inflation, but pointed out the record rabi wheat production as a positive factor.
- ❖ Optimistic outlook due to early signs of a regular monsoon for the upcoming kharif season has been projected.
- ❖ Favorable growth-inflation dynamics since the last policy have influenced the MPC's decision to keep the current policy unchanged.

What is Monetary Policy Committee?

- ❖ The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a legal entity entrusted with the task of determining the policy interest rate, commonly known as the repo rate, in India.
- ❖ It was established in 2016 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, with the aim of enhancing transparency and accountability in monetary policy determinations.
- ❖ Comprising six members, the MPC consists of three individuals appointed by the Government of India and three by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The Governor of RBI serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the MPC, while a Deputy Governor of RBI also holds a position within the committee.
- ❖ The primary responsibility of the MPC is to maintain price stability and promote economic growth through its decisions on monetary policy.

What is Repo Rate?

- ❖ The repo rate is the interest rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks for a short period, usually up to 14 days.
- ❖ Changes in the repo rate affect interest rates across the economy, which impacts how much people borrow and lend money.
- ❖ If the repo rate is high, it makes borrowing money more expensive, which can slow down inflation but might also slow down economic growth.
- ❖ On the other hand, if the repo rate is low, it makes borrowing cheaper, encouraging people to spend more and boosting economic activity. However, it might also lead to inflation going up.
- ❖ The MPC has regular meetings to look at economic signs and decide whether to change the repo rate based on how inflation is behaving, forecasts for economic growth, and other big-picture economic factors.
- ❖ The MPC's choices about the repo rate are very important because they shape how India's monetary system works and affect the overall state of the economy.



FIGHTING FOREST FIRES

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper III- **Environment – Environmental Pollution and Degradation.**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The article discusses about Kerala's readiness for forest fires, the involvement of volunteers, and efforts to restore ecosystems, all contributing to fewer fire incidents and greater community participation.

Forest Fire Readiness in Kerala:

- ❖ A volunteer group promptly responded to a wildfire alert in the Vellikulangara Forest Range, showcasing the state's preparedness for forest fire emergencies.
- ❖ Despite facing fewer forest fires compared to other states, Kerala remains vulnerable due to soaring temperatures, reaching up to 40-41 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ Since January, Kerala has reported 163 wildfire incidents, resulting in the burning of 230 hectares of forest, indicating a decrease from previous years.
- ❖ Global Forest Watch data reveals 97 VIIRS fire alerts in Kerala between March 15 and 22, with only 5.2% being high-confidence alerts, underscoring the necessity for continuous vigilance.
- ❖ Essential preparedness measures, including biomass removal, creation of fire-lines, and engagement of fire watchers, are imperative despite limited financial resources allocated.

Strategies for Firefighting:

- ❖ Implementation of drone surveillance and satellite-based fire alert systems aids in the early detection and monitoring of forest fires, thereby enhancing response efficiency.
- ❖ Groundfires, commonly experienced in Kerala, mainly consume grass, dry leaves, and undergrowth, posing a threat to reptiles like snakes, while larger animals have a better chance of escaping.
- ❖ Notable incidents such as the 2017 fire at Parambikulam Tiger Reserve underscore the challenges posed by the gregarious flowering of bamboo clumps, which can lead to crown fires.
- ❖ Awareness campaigns targeting farmers have contributed to a reduction in incidents caused by burning grasslands for cattle grazing and agricultural purposes

Importance of Community Engagement:

- ❖ Volunteer groups are recognized for their conservation efforts and active participation in firefighting and ecological restoration endeavors, underlining the importance of community engagement.
- ❖ These groups consist of individuals trained in disaster management and basic life support, prioritizing the prevention and mitigation of forest fires.
- ❖ Collaboration between forest authorities and local communities is essential for raising awareness and ensuring timely interventions, particularly during festivals and dry seasons.
- ❖ Eco-restoration initiatives, including the distribution of seed balls containing various tree species, play a vital role in promoting forest regeneration and biodiversity conservation.



STAY BY SUPREME COURT ON

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT'S RULING ON MADRASA EDUCATION ACT

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **Governance – Government Policies.**

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The Supreme Court's recent stay on the Allahabad High Court's order, which declared the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004, unconstitutional.

Additional Information:

- ❖ The bench disagreed with the High Court's idea that making the Board is against secularism.
- ❖ The bench asserted that the rules don't automatically mean teaching religion using government money.
- ❖ The bench pointed out that according to Article 28(1) of the Constitution, there's a difference between teaching religion and giving good education in schools funded by the government.

What is Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004?

- ❖ The legislation was designed to regulate and govern madrasas, Islamic educational institutions, in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ It established a framework covering the establishment, recognition, curriculum, and administration of madrasas across the state.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education was created under this Act to oversee and supervise the activities of madrasas statewide.

Concern Regarding the Act:

a) Constitutional Violation:

- ☛ The Allahabad High Court has ruled the Act unconstitutional because it promotes religiously segregated education, which goes against India's secularism principles and fundamental rights.
- ☛ Criticism has been directed at the Act for not ensuring the provision of quality compulsory education up to the age of 14 years, as mandated by Article 21 A of the Constitution.
- ☛ There are concerns about excluding madrasas from the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which could potentially deny students access to universal and quality school education.

b) Limited Curriculum:

- ☛ Analysis of madrasa syllabi revealed a heavy focus on Islamic studies, with minimal attention given to modern subjects.
- ☛ Students are required to study Islamic teachings to advance, while modern subjects are often offered as optional or with minimal coverage.

c) Conflict with Higher Education Standards:

- ☛ The Act's provisions have been found to clash with Section 22 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, raising doubts about its compatibility with higher education norms.