

# Topics - MINDS MAPS included (Daily current affairs 8th March 2025



- **Delimitation in India**

- **The US NOAA**

- **INSV Tarini**

- **Women in Science**

- **Djibouti (mapping)**

- **Alawites**

- **Gold coast**

- **Cyclone Alfred**

- **Mains**



**By saurabh Pandey**



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# Join Joint Action Committee on delimitation, Stalin tells CMs

CM seeks representatives from Odisha, Punjab, and Bengal, plus southern States; first meeting set for March 22 in Chennai to 'chart course forward'; we must 'examine the constitutional, legal, and political dimensions of this challenge,' says Stalin

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

**D**rumming up support from Chief Ministers and former Chief Ministers of States likely to be affected by the delimitation process, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin invited them to join a Joint Action Committee (JAC), in a letter on Friday. Despite the gravity of the issue, the Centre has provided "neither clarity nor any concrete commitment" to address States' concerns, Mr. Stalin said.

Besides the southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, Mr. Stalin also hoped to include Odisha, Punjab, and West Bengal in the JAC. As an "initial step towards unified action", the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister proposed an inaugural meeting in Chennai on March 22 to "chart our collective course forward."

"I believe this issue transcends individual State concerns – it strikes at the heart of our federal princi-



ples. Together, we must examine the constitutional, legal, and political dimensions of this challenge. We must jointly develop alternatives that preserve our current representation in percentage terms," Mr. Stalin contended in his letter.

Unified advocacy is needed to secure a delimitation process that "honours our role in nation-building without compromising our current level of representation," Mr. Stalin said, asking each of his invitees to nominate a senior representative from their parties to serve on the JAC.

"This moment demands

leadership and collaboration, rising above political differences, and standing up for our collective good. What is at stake is not any abstract principle – it is our States' ability to secure rightful resources for development, to influence crucial policies, and to ensure our economic priorities receive due attention in the national agenda," Mr. Stalin said.

Recalling an all-party meeting recently held in Chennai, he said the attendees had resolved to stand united in defence of "our constitutional rights, demanding a fair delimita-

tion." They had also resolved to form a JAC and reach out to all States which "potentially face the same threat," he said.

Post 2026, the situation may become drastically skewed if the delimitation exercise is based on the next Census, Mr. Stalin argued. "Those States which controlled their population and achieved superior governance indicators will face an unjust punishment – reduced representation in the very forum where national policies are determined."

## 'Must not be penalised'

Once implemented, this democratic imbalance could persist for decades, leaving these States with diminished capacity to advocate for their people's interests and influence critical national decisions, he said. "For the record, we are not against delimitation itself. What we oppose is its weaponisation against States that fulfilled their national duties, thus punishing progress," he clarified. Citing reports that suggest that two approach-

es are being considered for the delimitation exercise, both based on population, Mr. Stalin said: "In both scenarios, all the States that have successfully implemented population control measures stand to lose significantly if the exercise is based on post-2026 population. We should not be thus penalised for effectively controlling population growth and upholding national development goals."

In the first case, the existing 543 seats could be redistributed among the States, and in the second case, the total number of seats could be increased beyond 800, he said, citing reports.

While the government has provided neither clarity nor a concrete commitment to address concerns, "their representatives have stated delimitation would follow a 'pro rata' basis, without explaining the base used for such pro rata calculation as well as raising an empty rhetoric that no State will face a decrease in its seats," he underlined.

# Introduction to Delimitation in India

Delimitation is an intricate process crucial for the democratic framework of India. It involves redrawing the boundaries of electoral constituencies to ensure fair representation based on population changes. The essence of delimitation lies in its ability to maintain equity in political representation, ensuring that every vote holds equal weight.

**Objective:** To adjust constituencies based on the most recent census data, thus reflecting population shifts.

**Significance:** It plays a pivotal role in shaping the political landscape, influencing election outcomes, and ensuring that governance remains representative of the populace.

## Historical Context

The history of delimitation in India is marked by several significant milestones:

First Delimitation Commission (1952): Established to redraw constituency boundaries post-independence.

Subsequent Delimitation Commissions: Conducted in 1963, 1973, and 2002, each aimed at addressing the demographic changes.

These changes have often sparked political debates, notably with certain states feeling disadvantaged in the process.

### Article 82

The Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census. Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.

### Article 170

The states also get divided into territorial constituencies after every Census.



## **1953**

First delimitation commission based on census 1951 data headed by Justice N Chandrasekhara Aiyar.

Fixed the Lok Sabha Seats at 494.

## **1963**

Second Delimitation commission based on 1961 census.

Increased the Lok Sabha seats from 494 to 522.

## **1973**

Third Delimitation commission based on 1971 census headed by Justice J L Kapur.

Increased the seats of the Lok Sabha from 522 to 543 and assembly seats from 3771 to 3997.

42nd amendment Act 1976 froze any further delimitation of constituencies for elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies until the 2001 Census of India. This was to encourage population control measures of states.

## **2002**

There were no delimitation exercises after 1981 and 1991 census.

Fourth Delimitation commission was based on the 2001 census data headed by Justice Kuldeep Singh.

There was only readjustment of boundaries and no increase in seats of Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

84th amendment 2002 froze any increase in seats till 2026

## Current Developments and Political Reactions

Recent discussions around delimitation have garnered attention, especially from southern states. Here are some pertinent highlights:

**Concerns of Southern States:** As noted in a recent article from *India Today*, southern states express unease about potential losses in representation due to the upcoming delimitation process .

**Political Implications:** With leaders like CM Stalin voicing concerns, the stakes surrounding delimitation are high, as reported by the *Indian Express*

## Impact on Representation and Future Elections

Delimitation significantly influences Lok Sabha elections, as it recalibrates the distribution of seats among states based on the latest population figures.

**Changes in Seat Allocation:** The redistribution may lead to shifts in political power, particularly impacting states with slower population growth.

**Voter Representation:** This process underscores the importance of ensuring that all communities are fairly represented, a concern echoed by political analysts and citizens alike.

## Conclusion

Delimitation remains a contentious yet vital part of India's electoral democracy. As the country prepares for future elections, understanding its implications is crucial for both policymakers and the electorate.

# Redrawing of constituencies

The number of assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir now increases by seven, to 90, as per the final order of the Delimitation Commission released on Thursday

## FIRST STEP TOWARDS ELECTIONS?

This process is crucial because it marks the first step towards holding fresh elections in the region that has been under central rule for three years now

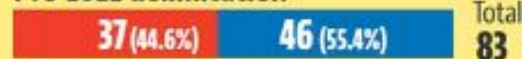


## HOW J&K ELECTORAL NUMBERS CHANGE

Out of the 90 assembly constituencies in the UT, 43 will be in the Jammu region and 47 in Kashmir. Earlier, Jammu had 37 members and Kashmir had 46

Jammu Kashmir

### Pre-2022 delimitation



Jammu's share in total ACs in the region goes from 44.6% to 47.8% after the delimitation, while Kashmir's share drops from 55.4% to 52.2%

### Post-2022 delimitation



# Downsizing at NOAA will impact India, says Congress

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday expressed its concern over the reported downsizing at the U.S.'s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its impact on India.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said on X that the country would have to enhance its own research capacity and capability in earth sciences very significantly.


Sharing a media report claiming that the move to downsize the U.S. meteorological body could hurt its data collection, Mr. Ramesh said, "Right now the Modi government's priority appears to be a trade deal to deal with President Donald Trump's threats on tariffs. But his actions in other areas could have adverse impacts on India."


"The NOAA has been of great importance to our understanding of the monsoon," he said, adding that it collected global data on parameters such as temperature, salinity, and sea levels. Ocean data used for monsoon forecasts since 2009 had come largely from the NOAA, he pointed out, and said it contributed about 40% of the subsurface observations in the Indian Ocean while India contributes around 11%.


"It is not just for India – the NOAA is a global public good essential to monitoring and managing climate change. It faces an uncertain future," Mr. Ramesh noted.


# The US NOAA



 The US NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is a scientific agency within the United States Department of Commerce.


 NOAA focuses on understanding and predicting changes in the Earth's environment, including weather, climate, oceans, and coasts.

 The agency conducts research and provides data to support decision-making in environmental management and disaster response.

 NOAA plays a crucial role in monitoring and addressing climate change and its impacts on ecosystems and communities.

 The agency utilizes satellites, buoys, and other technologies to collect and analyze environmental data.

 NOAA also works on the conservation of marine resources and habitats, promoting sustainable practices.

 Education and outreach are key components of NOAA's mission, aiming to inform the public about environmental issues.

Summary: NOAA is a key US agency focused on environmental science, climate change, and resource conservation



# Rajnath Singh interacts with women crew of *INSV Tarini*

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

On the eve of International Women's Day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday, via videoconference, interacted with the two women Naval officers – Lt. Cdr. Dilna K and Lt. Cdr. Roopa A – undertaking global circumnavigation in sailing vessel *INSV Tarini* under Navika Sagar Parikrama II.

“During the interaction, the Defence Minister lauded the courage, dedication, and resilience of the NSP-II crew, who have embarked on this challenging voyage as part of India's continued efforts to showcase Nari Shakti in high-endurance missions,” the Navy said in a statement. He congratulated the crew for the remarkable milestones of crossing Point Nemo – the world's most isolated waters – and sailing through the Drake Passage, one of the most treacherous water bodies, it stated.

# INSV Tarini



Vessel Type: INSV Tarini is a cruising sloop designed for sailing.



Construction: Built at the Aquarius Shipyard located in Divar, Goa.



Commissioning Date: Handed over to the Indian Navy on 18 February 2017.



Name Origin: Named after the Tara Tarini temple, reflecting cultural significance.



Hull Composition: Constructed with a wood-core and fibreglass sandwich design for durability.



Sail Configuration: Equipped with six sails, including mainsail, genoa, stay, downwind, and storm sail.



Performance: Capable of sailing in extreme weather conditions, showcasing its robustness.

**Navika Sagar Parikrama** is the name of **expedition** for **circumnavigation** the **globe** on INSV Tarini by Indian Navy's Women Naval Officers. The six-member all-woman team, led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi

# An equitable future for women in science, in India



**W**omen in science navigate a minefield of challenges that often start early. Educational barriers, such as limited access to quality schools and gendered societal norms, can discourage girls from pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). For those who persist and are fortunate to get past these early hurdles, cultural expectations frequently demand that they prioritise family over careers, severely jeopardising professional growth. Gender stereotypes further restrict opportunities, affecting hiring, promotions and funding. Harassment and discrimination in academic settings add another dimension of hostility that push many women out of the field.

## A study of STEM scientists

Globally, as well as in India, we see similar patterns. A study of STEM scientists across 38 countries reveals higher attrition rates for women, driven by non-inclusive workplaces, work-life balance struggles, and limited access to high-impact research.

These barriers slow career progression and reduce access to senior roles and professional networks, increasing dropout rates. The postdoc-to-faculty transition is especially challenging for women, with familial responsibilities, low confidence, and a lack of female role models cited as key factors, as highlighted by research from the National Institutes of Health.

These barriers compel us to consider why it is vital to prioritise the retention of women in science. Diverse teams drive creativity and innovation, leading to breakthroughs by integrating multiple perspectives. More women in science also results in role models for future generations, inspiring girls to pursue STEM. Promoting equity ensures that women can contribute fully to scientific progress, enriching society with a more inclusive workforce.

This conversation has progressed little over the centuries. The “Matilda Effect” – named after 19th-century feminist Matilda Joselyn Gage – describes the tendency to downplay or overshadow women’s scientific contributions in favour of their male colleagues, highlighting the



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**Kamini Walia**

is a Senior Scientist at the Indian Council of Medical Research

With India continuing to push the boundaries of scientific and technological advancement, it must ensure the full inclusion of women in this journey

historic struggle for proper recognition of women’s innovations. Nearly 200 years later, gender inequity in STEM persists. Jacob Clark Blickenstaff’s “leaky pipeline” metaphor describes women dropping out of STEM due to biased pedagogy, a lack of role models, and hostile workplaces. Critiqued as somewhat simplistic, this model does not consider systemic power dynamics. A more recent “Chutes and Ladders” model focuses on broader structural and environmental barriers, highlighting how mentorship, access to hidden knowledge, and career disruptions disproportionately hinder women, minorities, and marginalised groups, emphasising the need to address inequities within academic systems.

## A survey across India

Examining these concepts is particularly valuable in the context of India, where conservative attitudes abound. In an extensive survey across 98 institutions across India conducted in 2020-21, the proportion of women faculty members across all the fields was a mere 17%, ranging from 23% in biology to 8% in engineering. The proportion was even lower within higher-ranked institutions, with dwindling ratios within senior career faculty. The data showed that women scientists were vastly under-represented at conferences and often overlooked in career-enhancing activities.

Addressing these challenges demands a reimagined approach that embraces diverse career paths and involves policymakers, institutions, and the scientific community in fostering inclusivity, particularly for underrepresented and economically disadvantaged women. Approaches vary based on the timing of intervention. Early intervention, engaging parents, educators, and the broader social environment, is key to lasting impact.

We propose three key recommendations to improve the retention of women in STEM at the early- and mid-career levels. First, institutional changes such as flexible work options, affordable childcare, and policies supporting work-family integration are essential. Second, public

recognition of both triumphs and obstacles is crucial. Showcasing successful women in science challenges stereotypes, inspires the next generation, and reinforces the need for greater visibility and representation. At the same time, calling out setbacks, as exemplified by BiasWatchIndia, can drive incremental progress by exposing gender inequities in academia. Finally, a nuanced approach across career stages is crucial, eliminating age restrictions on grants, fostering mentorship networks, supporting career re-entry after a break for family or personal reasons, and amplifying senior women’s voices in leadership and decision-making.

## Interventions

The Indian government has taken significant steps to advance gender equity in science and technology. The Department of Science and

Technology (DST) launched the Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) pilot in 2020 to foster an inclusive environment for women and gender-diverse individuals in STEM, supporting participation-boosting initiatives such as the Women in Science and Engineering Knowledge

Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing, or WISE-KIRAN, and the Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) programmes. Noteworthy efforts include the Department of Biotechnology’s Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation (BioCARE) programme, which supports women scientists returning to research after career breaks.

Additionally, the Indian Council of Medical Research spearheads several programmes promoting women’s health and training for women scientists. While these initiatives reflect progress, they must scale into broader reforms to ensure that women scientists are recognised, empowered, and valued.

As India continues to push the boundaries of scientific and technological advancement, the full inclusion of women in this journey is not only a matter of fairness but also an example of true progress that can set a powerful example for the world to emulate.



# Women in Science: Navigating Challenges

## Overview of Challenges

### Educational Barriers

- Limited access to quality schools

- Gendered societal norms discouraging STEM pursuit

### Cultural Expectations

- Family prioritization over careers

- Professional growth jeopardized

### Gender Stereotypes

- Impact on hiring, promotions, and funding opportunities

### Hostility in Academia

- Harassment and discrimination affecting retention

# Global Patterns

## Study Findings

- Higher attrition rates for women in STEM across 38 countries
- Non-inclusive workplaces and work-life balance struggles
- Limited access to high-impact research

## Importance of Retention

### Diversity in Teams

- Drives creativity and innovation
- More role models for future generations

### Equity in Contribution

- Ensures full contribution to scientific progress



# Historical Context

## Matilda Effect

Downplaying women's contributions in science

## Leaky Pipeline Metaphor

Women dropping out due to biased pedagogy and lack of support

## Chutes and Ladders Model

Broader structural barriers affecting women and minorities

# Indian Context and Data

## Survey Insights

Women faculty members at merely 17% in all fields

Under-representation at conferences and career-enhancing activities

# Recommendations for Improvement

## Institutional Changes 🏢

Flexible work options and affordable childcare

Work-family integration policies

## Public Recognition 🌟

Showcasing successful women in STEM

Addressing setbacks to drive progress

## Nuanced Approach ↻

Eliminate age restrictions on grants

Foster mentorship networks and amplify women's voices

# Government Interventions

## GATI Pilot

Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions

## WISE-KIRAN and WOS (Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN)

Initiatives supporting women in STEM

## BioCARE Programme

Aiding women scientists returning to research

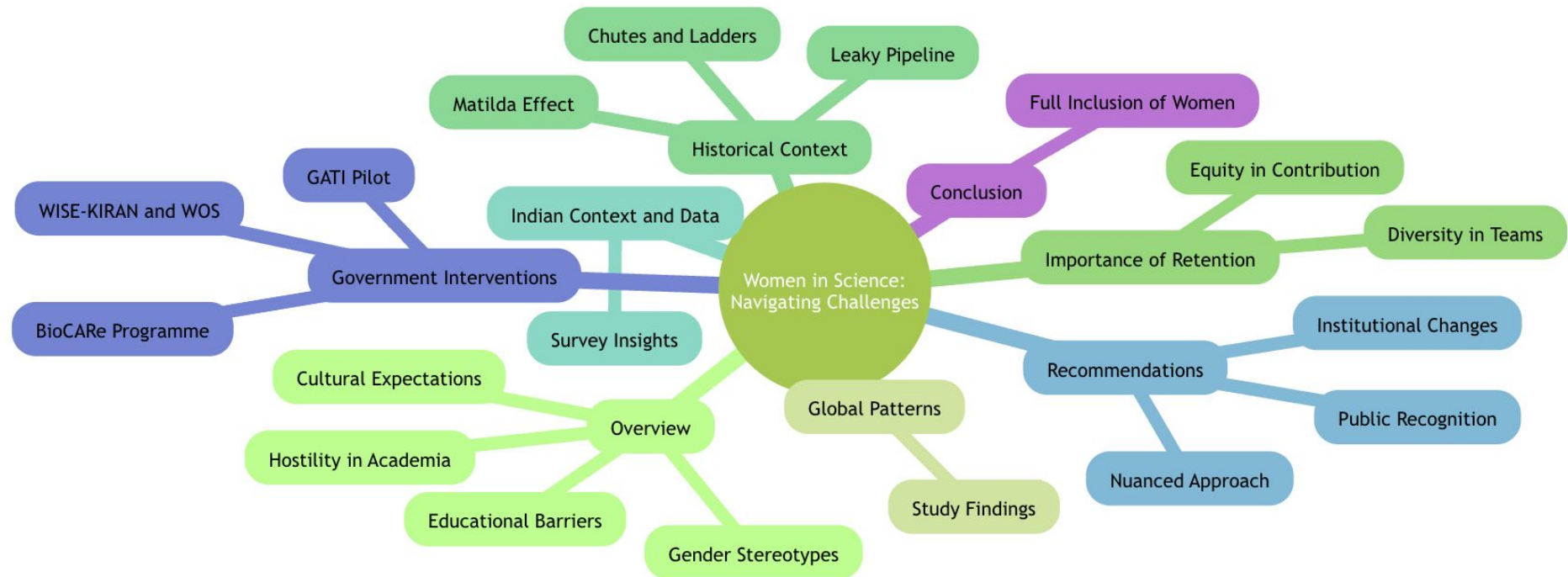
## Conclusion: A Call for Inclusivity

### Full Inclusion of Women

Essential for true progress in science and technology

A model for global equity and advancement

figures 1.1: mindmap



**ADDIS ABABA**

## One dead, 180 missing after boats sink off Yemen, Djibouti, says IOM

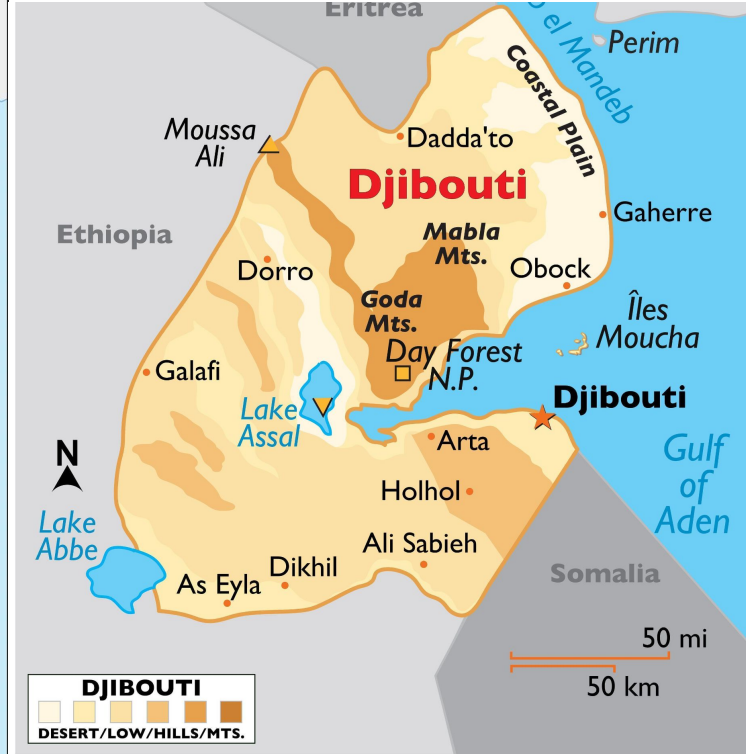


AP

Four boats carrying migrants have sunk off Djibouti and Yemen killing at least one person and leaving more than 180 missing, the International Organization for Migration said. The sinkings occurred on Thursday along a route that is increasingly used by Ethiopians hoping to find work in Gulf countries or escape conflict. AFP







**BEIRUT**

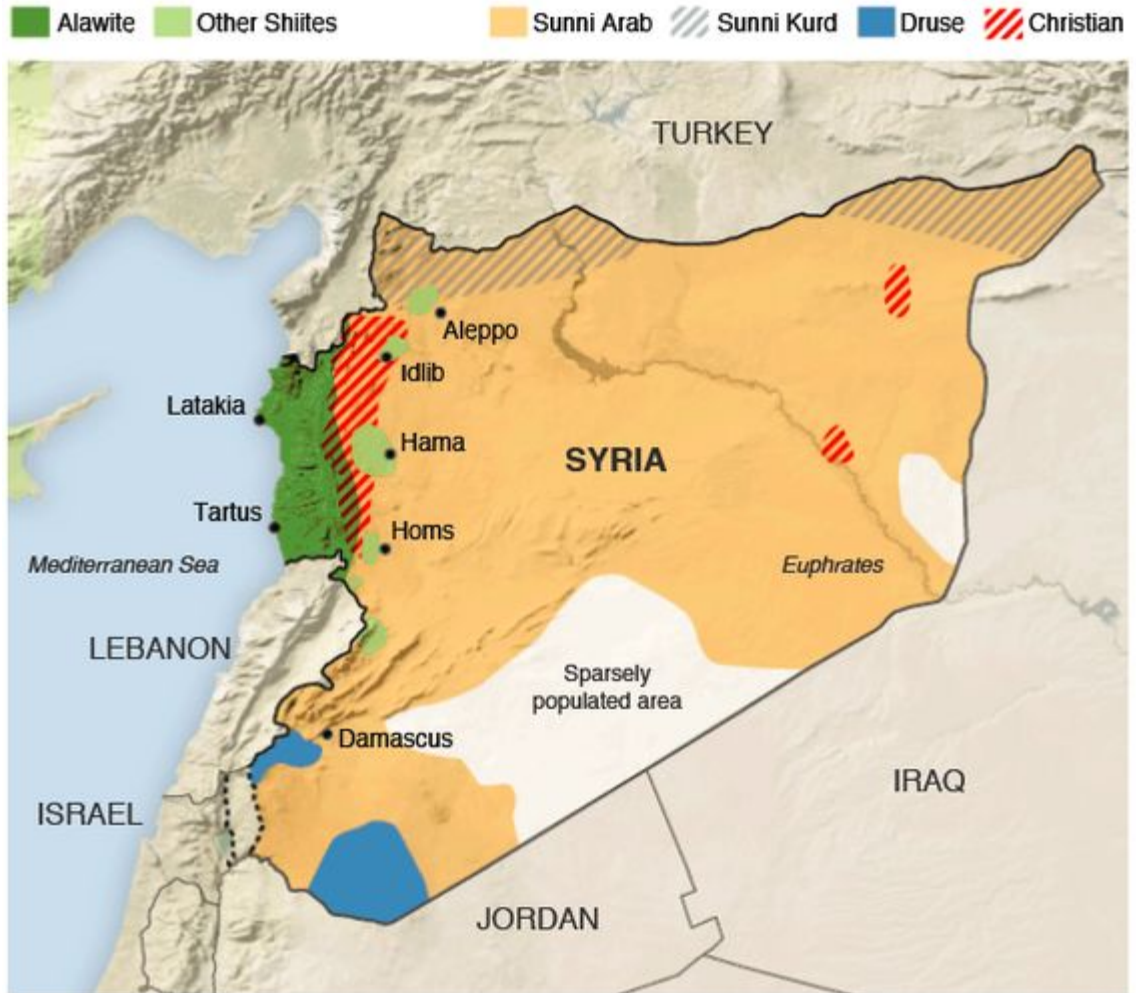
## Monitor says Syria security forces 'executed' 52 Alawites in Latakia



REUTERS

A Syrian war monitor said security forces “executed” 52 members of the Alawite minority in Latakia province, while the interior ministry referred to “individual violations”. Fierce clashes broke out on Thursday in Latakia province, the heartland of the Alawite faith, an offshoot of Shiite Islam to which the Assad clan belongs. AFP

**Alawites are an Arab  
ethnoreligious  
group who live  
primarily in the  
Levant region in  
West Asia and follow  
Alawism**



## Philippines set to sign agreement for troop deployment with Canada



AP

▲ The Philippines and Canada have negotiated a deal for the deployment of troops, Manila said on Friday. While the two parties held talks, no timetable was given for the deal. Manila already has similar pacts with the United States, Australia and Japan, against a backdrop of China's actions in the disputed South China Sea. AFP





..... Estimated maximum exclusive economic zone claims

Source: Maritime Awareness Project







## *Nature's wrath*



A lifeguard tower is surrounded by water on Main Beach that has been damaged by record-breaking waves caused by the outer fringe of Tropical Cyclone Alfred on the Gold Coast, Australia, on Friday. AFP

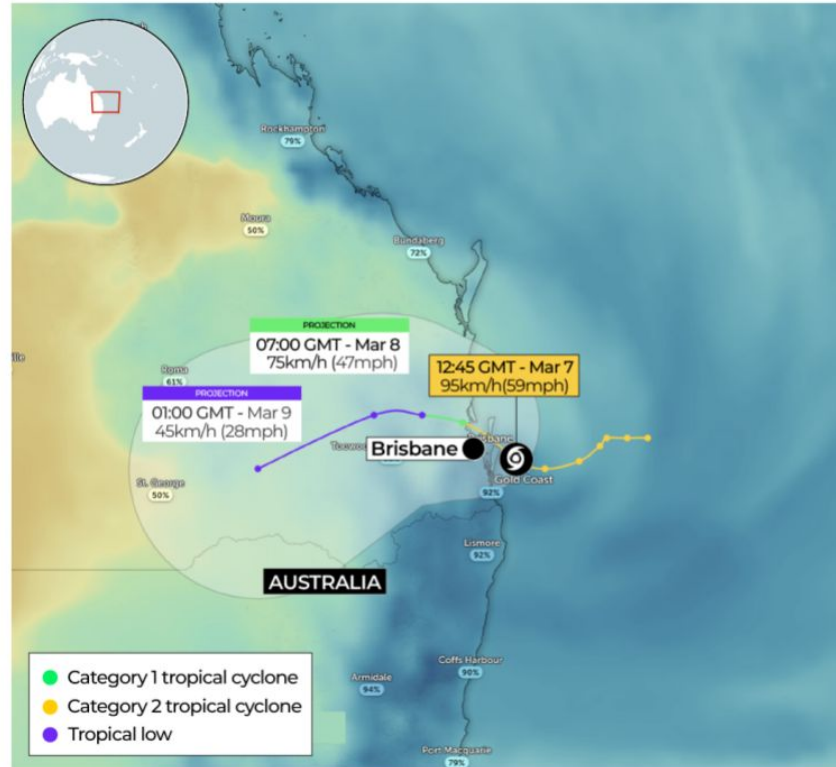


## WEATHER

# Bracing for Tropical Cyclone Alfred

Australians are told to 'prepare for the worst' as Cyclone Alfred nears landfall.

Violent winds prompt evacuation orders and cut off electricity to 80,000 homes across Queensland and New South Wales.



# **Introduction to Tropical Cyclone Alfred**

**Tropical Cyclone Alfred formed unexpectedly in the Coral Sea, rapidly escalating to a Category 3 cyclone before making landfall on the coast of Queensland. The cyclone's path has raised significant alarms among meteorologists and residents alike, as its trajectory posed a threat to populated areas.**

**The cyclone was first detected on March 5, 2025.**

**Rapid intensification led to severe weather warnings.**

**Residents were advised to prepare for potential disasters.**

# Overview of Tropical Cyclones in Australia:

Tropical cyclones, also known as hurricanes or typhoons in other parts of the world, are intense storm systems that form over warm ocean waters. Australia is particularly susceptible to these phenomena, particularly in its northern regions. Here's why:

**Geographical Location:** Australia's position in the Southern Hemisphere makes it a prime target for cyclones that form in the warm waters of the Coral Sea and Indian Ocean.

**Seasonality:** The Australian cyclone season typically runs from November to April, coinciding with the warmer months, which are conducive to cyclone formation.

**Climate Factors:** Increased sea surface temperatures, influenced by climate change, have been shown to intensify cyclone activity.

# Understanding Cyclones

Cyclones, often referred to by different names depending on their location—hurricanes in the Atlantic and typhoons in the Northwest Pacific—are powerful storm systems characterized by low-pressure centers and spiraling winds. Understanding these tempestuous phenomena requires delving into their scientific classification:

**Tropical Cyclones:** Form over warm ocean waters, typically between  $5^{\circ}$  and  $30^{\circ}$  latitude.

**Extratropical Cyclones:** Develop in temperate zones and are influenced by atmospheric fronts.

**Subtropical Cyclones:** Share characteristics of both tropical and extratropical systems.

Cyclones arise from a complex interplay of atmospheric conditions, including warm sea surface temperatures, moisture in the atmosphere, and favorable wind patterns. As these elements converge, they give birth to these swirling giants.

# The Lifecycle of a Cyclone

Cyclones undergo several distinct stages before reaching their full potential:

**Tropical Disturbance:** The initial phase where clusters of thunderstorms develop.

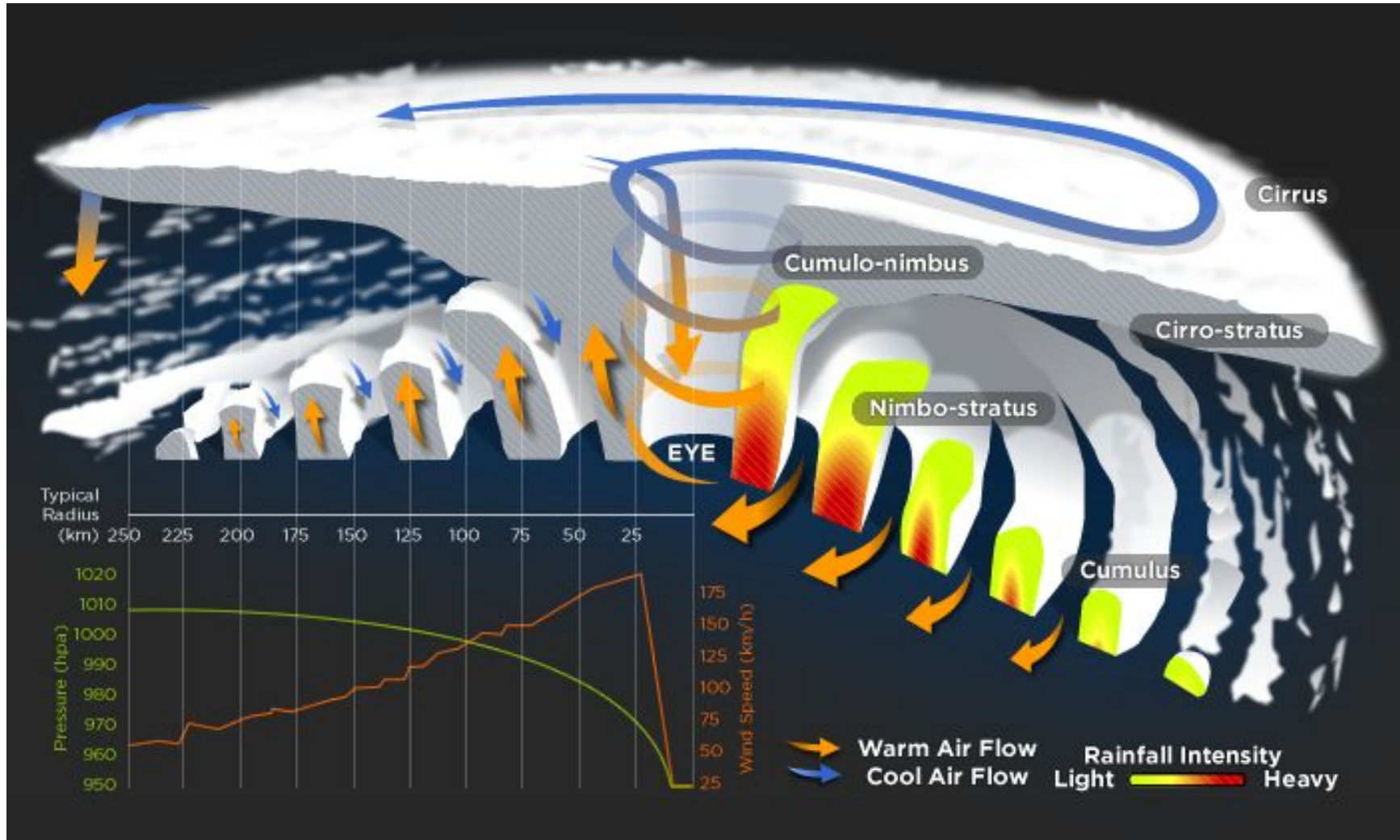
**Tropical Depression:** Characterized by sustained winds of up to 38 mph (61 km/h).

**Tropical Storm:** When winds reach 39 to 73 mph (63 to 118 km/h), the system is given a name.

**Hurricane/Cyclone/Typhoon:** At winds exceeding 74 mph (119 km/h), the storm is classified as a full-blown cyclone.

Understanding these stages allows meteorologists to predict the storm's trajectory and potential impact on surrounding areas.





Category	Wind gusts	Ocean swells	Damage
1 — tropical cyclone	Up to 125kph (Gales)	1.2 - 1.6m	Negligible house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans.
2 — tropical cyclone	126 - 164kph (Destructive)	1.7 - 2.5m	Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops.
3 — severe tropical cyclone	165 - 224kph (Very destructive)	2.6 - 3.7m	Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failures likely.
4 — severe tropical cyclone	225 - 279kph (Very destructive)	3.8 - 5.4m	Significant roofing and structural damage. Airborne debris, widespread power failure.
5 — severe tropical cyclone	Winds above 280kph (Very destructive)	More than 5.5m	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction. Houses flattened, cars overturned

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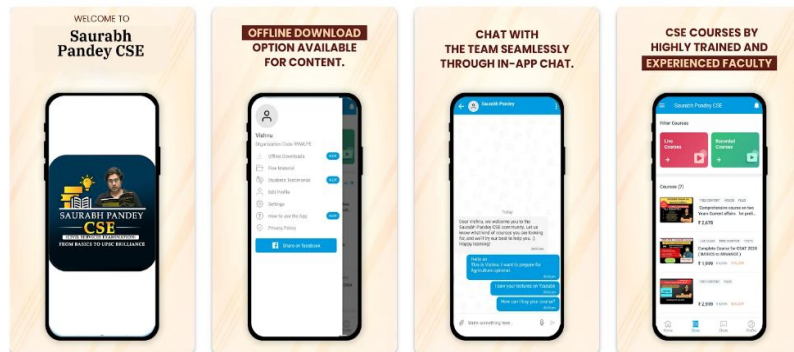
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