

Current Affairs 30th July 2025 by Right IAS**Pralay missile test flights**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted back-to-back test flights of the Pralay missile. Key Features of Pralay Missile Indigenously developed by DRDO. Propulsion: Solid-propellant system. Type: Quasi-ballistic missile (less predictable trajectory to evade interception). Guidance: Advanced inertial navigation and state-of-the-art precision guidance systems.

Warhead capability: Can carry multiple types of warheads suited for different mission needs. Operational flexibility: Designed for high precision strikes on a variety of targets, including strategic infrastructure.



The Hindu

**Kaziranga Tiger Reserve's (KTR)
tiger population**

Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR), Assam now has the third highest tiger density in India. It follows: Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka (19.83 tigers per 100 sq. km) Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand (19.56 tigers per 100 sq. km) Tiger Population Statistics (2024) Total tigers in KTR: 148 tigers recorded. Area covered: 1,307.49 sq. km Tiger density: 18.65 tigers per 100 sq. km



Importance and Conservation Impact
The rise in tiger numbers attributed to: First-time inclusion of Biswanath Wildlife Division. Restoration of tiger habitats. Better anti-poaching efforts and protection measures. KTR is traditionally known for the one-horned rhinoceros, but now emerges as a key tiger stronghold.



Facts → The spatially explicit capture-recapture (SECR) method is a technique used to estimate animal population density and related parameters by combining capture-recapture data with spatial information about the locations of detectors (like traps) and the detected individuals. It addresses limitations of traditional non spatial capture-recapture methods by explicitly accounting for the spatial distribution of both the animals and the sampling effort.

Fact → NASA-funded scientists claimed discovery of a microbe GFAJ-1 in Mono Lake, California, that could substitute arsenic for phosphorus in its DNA a radical departure from known biochemistry.

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Rediscovery of the Barbados thread snake

After nearly 20 years of absence, the Barbados thread snake the world's smallest-known snake has been rediscovered.

Physical Characteristics Scientific name: *Tetracheilostoma carlae* (named by S. Blair Hedges in 2008 after his wife). Size: Fully grown, it reaches up to 10 cm in length. Appearance: Has pale yellow dorsal lines, eyes on the sides of the head. Often mistaken for the

flower pot snake, which is slightly longer and lacks dorsal lines



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Inequality in India

Wealth Inequality There is a stark wealth gap: e.g., luxury cars driven by chauffeurs earning a fraction of the car's cost. A 2023 study (Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922–2023) found: Top 1% earned 22.6% of national income in 2022–23.

Wealth data is difficult to track due to: Widespread informal employment. Low-income levels. High non-taxable income thresholds. Only 10% of adults are represented in income tax data—pointing to the hidden wealth gap.



Gender Inequality Women form only 35.9% of the working population. In leadership roles (senior/mid-level management), women make up just 12.7% (as of 2024). In the startup ecosystem: India ranks 3rd globally. But only 7.5% of active startups are female-led. Social norms limit resource allocation to girls and hinder women's inheritance rights.



Digital Inequality Access to digital infrastructure is essential in modern life (banking, education, jobs). Despite improvements, India still faces a deep digital divide: Only 52.7% of schools have functional computers. Internet is available in just 53.9% of schools. Students from poorer backgrounds lack access to these tools, impacting: Education quality. Digital skill development. Employment opportunities. Only 41.8% of households (urban + rural) have broadband access.



Educational Inequality Worsened by Technology Gaps With increasing online education, those without digital access are left behind. Example: Schools in Delhi often switch to online classes due to pollution; only students with internet continue learning. Lack of access to digital tools leads to: Poor academic outcomes. Entry into low-skill jobs. Perpetuation of inter-generational inequality.



5. Intersectionality: Overlapping Inequalities



Inequalities in one domain spill into others (e.g., income digital → education). Women in rural India face dual burdens: Only 25% have internet access vs. 49% of rural men. This limits women's ability to: Use internet banking. Apply for jobs. Gain financial independence. Digital exclusion reinforces both economic and gender inequality.



Critique of Gini Index & Final Message Gini Index does not capture the full reality especially informal sectors and social inequalities.

Real equality can only be claimed when: A large share of the population has access to equal opportunities. All structural divides wealth, gender, digital are actively bridged. Conclusion: Much groundwork

remains for India to truly become an equal society



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ICJ's advisory opinion on climate obligations

Background of the ICJ Advisory Opinion: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion on July 23, 2025, regarding: States' obligations to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The legal consequences of failing to fulfill these obligations. The opinion is significant amid concerns of weakening global climate governance, especially post the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement



Positive Aspects for the Global South
ICJ reaffirmed the entire climate regime UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement, not just the Paris Accord. Rejected the developed countries' view that only the Paris Agreement is binding. Emphasized developed countries' obligations under UNFCCC Articles, including: Climate finance Technology transfer Capacity building for developing nations.



Reasserted the importance of Annex I and Annex II countries, holding them to higher obligations. Strongly upheld the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR&RC). Identified CBDR&RC as the core guiding principle for interpreting climate obligations, including beyond

climate treaties (e.g., biodiversity). Recognized that the term “developing country” can evolve over time due to national circumstances.

ICJ's View on the Paris Temperature Goal Article 2.1(a) of Paris Agreement: “Well below 2°C, with efforts towards 1.5°C.” ICJ prioritized 1.5°C as the binding global goal by citing decisions from COP-26 and COP 28.

However, this interpretation is controversial: Treats implementation decisions as amendments to treaty goals. Ignores that 1.5°C is close to being breached, without addressing post-breach implications. Based on selective reading of IPCC AR6 reports without equity considerations



Implications and Limitations Global civil society sees hope in the opinion's potential to aid national and regional climate litigations. Possibility of compensation/reparations for small island states. Requires proving attribution, wrongfulness, and causation a legal challenge.

At the level of international climate negotiations, the opinion is unlikely to: Shift positions of major developed

countries. Break deadlocks or introduce new legal tools. Many judges' separate opinions suggest it is a missed opportunity, not a breakthrough.

What Is a Goldilocks Economy?

A Goldilocks economy is not too hot nor too cold but just right, to steal a line from the popular children's story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears". The term describes an ideal state for an economic system. There's full employment, economic stability, and stable growth in this perfect state. The economy isn't expanding or contracting by a large margin.

Mapping

The glaciers of Mount Cilo (Turkey), which rises to 4,135 meters in the province of Hakkari on the Iraqi border, are the second largest in the country behind those of Mount Ararat. As global temperatures rise amid human-caused climate change, new sections of the mountains that were once capped in ice are melting fast year after year.

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