

Sanskriti IAS Daily Current Affairs

02-08-2026

Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026

 Down To Earth

'Wake-up call', say experts as India gets second lowest global ranking on Yale's environment performance index: also raise questions on methodology



India's second-lowest global rank in Yale's 2026 Environmental Performance Index is being called a wake-up call by experts, who warn that...

Why in News

- Experts have described India's performance in the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026** as a wake-up call for strengthening environmental governance.

Index Framework

- The **Environmental Performance Index (EPI)** is a **biennial** global ranking of countries based on environmental performance.
- It is developed by the **Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy (YCELP)**, **Columbia University's Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)** and the **Yale Center for Geospatial Solutions**.
- The index assesses countries using **47 indicators** grouped under **12 issue categories**.
- The indicators are organised around three policy objectives: **Environmental Health**, **Ecosystem Vitality**, and **Climate Change**.

EPI 2026 Highlights

- Estonia** secured the **1st rank** in **EPI 2026**.
- The other top-performing countries are **Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Finland** and **Netherlands**.
- Laos** ranked last among the evaluated countries.
- India** ranked **176th out of 177 countries**.
- India's overall **EPI score** was **22.46**, against a regional average of **31.81**.

Global Significance

- The index serves as a data-driven benchmark for measuring environmental sustainability.
- It evaluates progress towards the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **Paris Climate Agreement**.
- Governments use the index to identify policy gaps and improve environmental governance.

Pamba River

M Mathrubhumi English

Moozhiyar Dam may be opened anytime as rising Pamba puts Aranmula on high alert

Water level in the Pamba River is rising to dangerous levels. A red alert has been issued for the Moozhiyar Dam, and authorities have warned...



Why in News

- Heavy rainfall caused the **Pamba River** to overflow, triggering widespread flooding across **Pathanamthitta district, Kerala**.

River Profile

- **Pamba River**, also known as **Pampa River**, is the **third-longest river in Kerala** after the **Periyar** and **Bharathappuzha** rivers.
- It is popularly known as the "**Dakshina Bhageerathi**" or "**Ganga of Kerala**."
- The river holds immense religious significance because of the **Sabarimala Temple**.



Geographical Features

- The river originates from **Pulachimalai Hill** on the **Peerumedu Plateau** in the **Western Ghats** at an elevation of about **1,650 metres**.
- The river basin lies entirely within the state of **Kerala**.

- The basin is bounded by the **Western Ghats** in the east and the **Arabian Sea** in the west.
- The river ultimately drains into the **Arabian Sea** through multiple distributary channels.

Drainage System

- Major tributaries include **Kakki Ar**, **Azhuta Ar**, **Kakkad Ar**, **Kallar**, **Manimala** and **Achenkovil**.
- The river forms one of Kerala's most important west-flowing drainage systems.

Lohagad Fort

Why in News

- A viral video showing tourists allegedly smoking inside

Lohagad Fort has renewed concerns regarding responsible tourism and protection of heritage monuments.

India Today

[Local man confronts tourists for smoking at Lohagad Fort, video sparks debate](#)

A video showing a local resident confronting a group of tourists for allegedly smoking cigarettes at Maharashtra's historic Lohagad Fort has...



Location and Physical Features

- **Lohagad Fort (Iron Fort)** is situated near **Lonavala** in **Pune district, Maharashtra**.
- The fort stands at an elevation of about **1,033 metres** in the **Western Ghats (Sahyadri Hills)**.
- It overlooks the **Pavana Reservoir**, while **Visapur Fort** lies to its east.
- It is recognised as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.



Historical Importance

- The fort was originally established during the **Lohtamia Dynasty** in the **10th century CE**.
- It was successively controlled by the **Chalukyas**, **Rashtrakutas**, **Yadavas**, **Bahamanis**, **Nizams**, **Mughals** and **Marathas**.

- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** captured the fort in **1648 AD** owing to its strategic importance.
- Under the **Treaty of Purandar (1665)**, the fort was ceded to the **Mughals**.
- Shivaji Maharaj recaptured it in **1670 AD** and used it to store the wealth acquired from the **Surat campaign**.
- During the **Peshwa** period, **Nana Phadnavis** strengthened the fort by constructing tanks and step-wells.

Architectural Significance

- The fort has four principal gateways: **Ganesh Darwaja**, **Narayan Darwaja**, **Hanuman Darwaja** and **Maha Darwaja**.
- These gateways display remarkable masonry and defensive architecture.
- Its most distinctive feature is the **Vinchukada (Scorpion's Tail)**, a long fortified spur resembling a scorpion's sting.
- The fort offers commanding views of the surrounding **Sahyadri** landscape, reflecting its historical military importance.

Clean Slate Doctrine under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

 Bar and Bench

The Clean Slate Doctrine: Does Ujaas Energy add an Asterisk?

An in-depth analysis of the Supreme Court's judgment in *Ujaas Energy Ltd. v. West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd.*



Why in News

- In the **Ujaas Energy** judgment, the **Supreme Court** clarified that the **Clean Slate Doctrine** extinguishes claims but not necessarily every legal consequence arising from underlying facts.

Legal Foundation

- The doctrine is embedded in the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**.
- It is primarily based on **Section 31 of the IBC**.
- After approval of a **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)**, the successful resolution applicant acquires the corporate debtor free from liabilities excluded from the approved resolution plan.
- The doctrine aims to provide the company with a genuine **fresh start**.

Governance Significance

- The doctrine improves investor confidence in distressed asset acquisition.
- It ensures certainty and finality in the insolvency resolution framework.
- It strengthens the objective of timely corporate resolution under the **IBC, 2016**.

Judicial Interpretation

- **Committee of Creditors of Essar Steel v. Satish Kumar Gupta (2020)** held that liabilities outside the approved resolution plan stand extinguished.
- **Arun Kumar Jagatramka v. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (2021)** reaffirmed the clean slate principle after approval of the resolution plan.
- **Ghanashyam Mishra and Sons Pvt. Ltd. v. Edelweiss ARC (2021)** held that even **government authorities** cannot pursue excluded claims.
- **Ebix Singapore Pvt. Ltd. v. CoC of Educomp Solutions Ltd. (2021)** ruled that approved plans bind all stakeholders.
- **Vaibhav Goel v. DCIT (2025)** reaffirmed that belated claims cannot be introduced after **NCLT** approval.

Scheme of Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes



Venture Capital Fund Empowered Thousands of Farmers through Khemanand Dudh and Krishi Producer Company Limited



A Success Story. Access to modern post-harvest infrastructure and efficient market linkages has become essential for enhancing farmers'...

Why in News

- The Scheme of Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes is promoting technology-driven enterprises established by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs, supporting employment generation and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Scheme Overview

- The scheme was launched in 2014–15 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It provides concessional finance to Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs, with priority for women and persons with disabilities.
- The initial corpus of the fund was ₹200 crore.

Socio-economic Relevance

- The scheme promotes innovation-driven entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes.
- It aims to improve financial inclusion and wealth creation.
- It encourages direct and indirect employment generation across the country.

Institutional Framework

- The fund is registered under the SEBI Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Regulations, 2012.
- The Government of India acts as the Anchor Investor.
- IFCI Ltd. functions as the Sponsor Investor.
- Assistance ranges from ₹10 lakh to ₹15 crore.

Funding Pattern

- For projects up to ₹5 crore, assistance may cover up to 75% of project cost.
- Promoters must contribute the remaining 25% for projects up to ₹5 crore.
- For projects above ₹5 crore, assistance is limited to 50% of project cost.
- At least 25% of project cost must be financed by banks or financial institutions in larger projects.
- Promoters contribute the remaining 25% in projects above ₹5 crore.

Broad Peak

... BBC

Two bodies found during search for 10 missing climbers after Pakistan avalanche

The avalanche occurred on Pakistan's Broad Peak, one of the world's highest mountains.



Why in News

- An avalanche recently struck the slopes of Broad Peak in the Karakoram Range, trapping a team of mountaineers.

Geographical Characteristics

- Broad Peak is the 12th-highest mountain in the world with an elevation of 8,051 metres.
- It is located in the Karakoram Range, spanning Gilgit-Baltistan and China's Xinjiang.
- It lies about 8 km southeast of K2.
- It is part of the Gasherbrum Massif.
- The local Balti name is Falchan Kangri, meaning "Broad Mountain."

Geological Features

- The mountain was formed due to the ongoing collision of the **Indo-Australian Plate** and the **Eurasian Plate**.
- It mainly consists of **plutonic granite** and **metamorphic rocks**.
- Its glaciers contribute to the **Godwin-Austen Glacier** and **Baltoro Glacier** systems.

Physical Attributes

- The mountain possesses a distinctive **five-peak structure**.
- Three peaks exceed **8,000 metres**, namely the **Main Summit (8,051 m)**, **Rocky Summit (8,028 m)** and **Central Peak (8,011 m)**.
- The present English name was coined by **Sir Martin Conway** in **1892** due to its broad summit ridge.

Other Important News of the day

Persons in News

Justin Greaves Creates Test Cricket History



Five wickets, zero runs: Historic first for West Indies pacer

West Indies all-rounder Justin Greaves created history on Monday when he became the first bowler in Test cricket since records are freely...



Why in News

- **West Indies** pacer **Justin Greaves** became the first bowler in Test cricket to bowl **five consecutive wicket maidens**.

Key Highlights

- The feat was achieved against **Pakistan** in an **ICC World Test Championship** Test in **Trinidad**.
- He also claimed his **maiden five-wicket haul** in Test cricket.
- He surpassed **Stuart Broad's** previous record of **four consecutive wicket maidens (2016)**.

Places in News	Nathu La Pass
	Why in News - Border trade through Nathu La Pass resumed after remaining suspended for six years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and India–China border tensions. Strategic Location Nathu La Pass is situated in Sikkim, about 54 km east of Gangtok. - It connects Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region. - The pass is located at an altitude of 4,310 metres above mean sea level. - It forms part of the historic Silk Route and is among the world's highest motorable roads. Trade and Connectivity - It is one of only three operational India–China trading border posts. - The other two trading passes are Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh) and Lipulekh (Uttarakhand). - India closed the pass after the 1962 Sino-Indian War. - It was reopened in 2006 following bilateral trade agreements. - Trade is presently limited to selected commodities such as silk, clothes and yak hair and tail. Security Dimensions - The pass is guarded by Indian and Chinese security forces. - Indian citizens require a permit issued at Gangtok to visit the pass.



	The pass remains strategically significant for border management and bilateral engagement.
Environment	Dhauladhar Wildlife Sanctuary Why in News - Recently, a Snow Leopard (Panthera uncia) was photographed for the first time in Dhauladhar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh. Geographical Profile Dhauladhar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh. - It was established in 1994. - It extends over an altitudinal range of 1,600–4,500 metres above sea level. - The sanctuary is dominated by the Dhauladhar and Bara Bhangal Ranges. - The terrain comprises granite rocks, steep slopes and snow-covered peaks. Ecological Significance - The sanctuary supports predominantly Western Mixed Coniferous Forests. - The major flora includes Deodar, Fir, Spruce, Blue Pine, Oaks and Alpine Pastures. - Important mammals include Snow Leopard, Musk Deer, Himalayan Black Bear, Serow, Himalayan Weasel and Himalayan Palm Civet. - Prominent bird species include Western Tragopan, Cheer Pheasant and Speckled Wood Pigeon. 

	Conservation Importance • The first photographic record of the Snow Leopard strengthens evidence of high-altitude biodiversity in the sanctuary. • The sanctuary forms an important habitat for several Himalayan endemic and threatened species.
Defence	Exercise ROTOR CLAP III  The Times of India IAF concludes counter-drone exercise ROTOR CLAP III in Rajasthan JAISALMER: The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday concluded the week-long Exercise ROTOR CLAP III at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in...  Why in News • The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully concluded Exercise ROTOR CLAP III at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Exercise Overview • Exercise ROTOR CLAP III is a specialised helicopter exercise conducted by the Indian Air Force. • It is the third edition of the IAF's rotary-wing counter-drone exercise series. • The theme of the exercise is "Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (Counter-UAS)." Operational Features • The exercise validates operational concepts against emerging aerial threats. • It enhances helicopter force readiness for dynamic battlefield operations.

	• Missions included precision strikes, battlefield support, reconnaissance, troop insertion, casualty evacuation and coordinated combat operations. • The exercise focused on countering both aerial and ground-based threats. Participating Platforms • Combat helicopters included AH-64 Apache, Mi-25/35 and the indigenous LCH Prachand. • Transport and utility helicopters included Chinook, Mi-17 and Dhruv (ALH). • The exercise demonstrated the integration of indigenous and imported helicopter platforms.
Science and Technology	Suspension Polyvinyl Chloride (S-PVC)  The Indian Express Small firms flag price hike in projects using PVC pipes as Centre curbs input imports Big local producers of S-PVC say floor price justified, China, others dumping resin cheap.  Why in News • The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has imposed a six-month restriction on imports of Suspension Polyvinyl Chloride (S-PVC) resin, a key raw material used in pipe manufacturing. Material Characteristics • Suspension Polyvinyl Chloride (S-PVC) is a polymer manufactured from Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM). • It is produced through polymerisation of VCM in an aqueous medium using initiators and additives. • The process ensures controlled molecular weight and desired particle morphology.

Manufacturing Processes

- **PVC** resins are manufactured through **Suspension, Emulsion, Bulk** and **Solution Polymerisation** processes.
- **Suspension PVC** is granular, relatively dust-free and has variable particle porosity.
- **Emulsion PVC** consists of fine powder particles containing very little free monomer.
- **Bulk PVC** resembles suspension PVC but generally has more porous particles.
- **Solution PVC** has smaller, highly porous particles with almost no free monomer.

Industrial Importance

- **S-PVC resin** is widely used in the manufacture of **irrigation pipes, conduits, electrical wires, doors** and **windows**.
- It is an essential raw material for the **construction** and **infrastructure** sectors.
- Import restrictions may influence domestic manufacturing and supply chains.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Jagdish Aphale Appointed First Secretary of Ayodhya Ram Temple Trust

 The Hindu

[IIT alumnus Jagdish Aphale appointed secretary of Ayodhya Ram Temple trust](#)

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has appointed Jagdish Aphale as the secretary to oversee the daily administration,...



Why in News

- **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust** appointed **Jagdish Aphale** as its **first Secretary** to strengthen administrative and financial transparency.

Key Highlights

- **Jagdish Aphale** is an **IIT Bombay** graduate and former honorary project engineer of the **Ram Temple**.
- He supervised the temple construction after the **2019 Supreme Court verdict** without remuneration.
- He will serve as **Joint Signatory** for the Trust's financial operations alongside **Krishna Mohan**.
- His appointment follows the resignation of **Champat Rai** and **Anil Mishra** amid an **SIT** probe into donation irregularities.