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## Current Affairs - 09 January 2025

### FUTURE OF JOBS REPORT 2025



- It has been published by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- It is a result of **data gathered from more than 1,000 leading global**

**companies**, collectively representing over 14 million workers across 22 industry sectors and 55 economies from across the world.

#### **Highlights:**

- **Job disruption will equate to 22 percent of jobs by 2030.**
- It says 170 million new jobs will be created and 92 million jobs will be displaced, resulting in a **net increase of 78 million jobs by 2030.**
- Technological change, geoeconomics fragmentation, economic uncertainty, demographic shifts, and the green transition, individually and in combination, are among the major drivers expected to shape and transform the global labour market by 2030.
- **AI and machine learning, software and application developers, and FinTech engineers** figured among the **fastest-growing jobs in percentage terms.**
- Meanwhile, **frontline job roles** are predicted to **witness the largest growth in absolute terms** of volume.
  - These **include farmworkers, delivery drivers, construction workers**, salesperson, food processing workers, care economy jobs like nursing professionals, social work, etc.
- However, **traditional roles** such as **graphic designers and administrative assistants** **face steep declines** due to automation.
- It stated that the **skill gap** is the **most significant hurdle** for business transformation in these companies.
- Nearly **40% of the skills required for future jobs will be new or evolving**, requiring workers to adapt to a rapidly changing environment.



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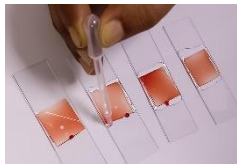


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- The WEF emphasises that **59% of the global workforce will need reskilling or upskilling by 2030** to remain competitive.
- It mentioned the **top 10 fastest-growing skills by 2030**. It said **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data** will emerge at the top of the list, followed by **networks and cybersecurity**.
  - Technological literacy will be the third fastest-growing skill by 2030, followed by creativity in the fourth spot and resilience, flexibility, and agility in the fifth position.

### WHAT IS ANEMIAPHONE?



- It is a technology developed by **Cornell University (United States)** researchers to accurately, quickly and cheaply **assess iron deficiency**.
- It has been transferred to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for **integration into its programmes** for anemia alleviation, women's health, and maternal and child health.
- AnemiaPhone would enable access to rapid screening and diagnosis of iron deficiency at the point of need.
- **Iron deficiency** is a leading cause of anemia, which affects 50% to 70% of pregnant women in India.

#### How it Works?

- The technology requires a **small finger stick, a drop of blood on a test strip** similar to a COVID-19 home test, and **a few minutes for the reader to assess**.
- The **information is uploaded to a clinical database** via mobile phone, wireless tablet, or computer.
- **Healthcare workers** can interpret the test and **provide guidance**, triage and referral, or intervention on the spot.



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### WHAT IS GRAVITATIONAL LENSING?



- It occurs when a massive celestial body, such as a galaxy cluster, causes a **sufficient curvature of spacetime** for the path of light around it to be visibly bent, as if by a lens. The body causing the light to curve is accordingly called a gravitational lens.

**Theory:** It was **first predicted in 1915 by Albert Einstein**, through his **General Theory of Relativity**.

- According to this theory, time and space are fused together in a quantity known as **spacetime**. Massive objects cause **spacetime to curve**. **Gravity** is simply the **curvature of spacetime**.
- **As light travels through spacetime**, the theory predicts that the **path taken by the light will also be curved by an object's mass**.
- Thus, gravitational lensing is a dramatic and observable example of Einstein's theory in action.

#### **Application:**

- It can **make an object shift its apparent position** in the sky over Earth, or it can **cause a single object to appear at multiple points** in the sky, occasionally giving rise to spectacular formations like rings and crosses made from the same object.
- Astronomers can use the gravitational lensing arising from galactic clusters as **natural cosmic magnifying glasses**.
- Thus, it is an important tool for the investigation of the universe when it was in its infancy, making **light from the earliest galaxies** that would usually be too faint to see observable by instruments like the James Webb Space Telescope and the Hubble Space Telescope.



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### SOAPSTONE



- Also known as **Steatite**, it is a **metamorphic rock made of talc**, a naturally occurring mineral.
- It is used in construction and design for countertops, sinks, hearths, and sculptures.
- Depending on the quarry from which it is sourced, this natural stone also contains varying amounts of other minerals such as micas, chlorite, amphiboles, quartz, magnesite, and carbonates.

#### How Does Soapstone Form?

- Soapstone, most often, forms at **convergent plate boundaries** where broad areas of Earth's crust are subjected to heat and directed pressure.
- Peridotites, dunites, and serpentinites in this environment can be metamorphosed into soapstone.
- On a smaller scale, soapstone can form where **siliceous dolostones are altered by hot**, chemically active fluids in a process known as **metasomatism**.
- **Properties:** It is a relatively soft, very dense, highly heat-resistant material.
- **Major producing countries:** China, India, Brazil, USA and Finland
- **Major reserves in India:** According to the Indian Bureau of Mines, the **states of Rajasthan (57%) and Uttarakhand (25%)** boast substantial reserves of soapstone in India.
- **Applications:**
  - Soapstone in powdered form, often combined with corn starch, is used as baby powder.
  - This mineral is used as a **thickening agent and lubricant**; is an ingredient in ceramics, paint, and roofing material; and is a main ingredient in many cosmetics.
  - Talc is used in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and other industries.



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### INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE



- It is one of the **Central Armed Police Forces of India**.

#### **Background:**

- It was raised in **1962**, in the wake of the **Sino-Indian War of 1962** for deployment along India's border with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.
- ITBP was initially raised under the CRPF Act. However, the Parliament enacted the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992** and the rules under it were framed in 1994.
- In 2004, ITBP was declared as a full-fledged central armed police force under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The motto of the Force: “**Shaurya-Dridhata-Karma-Nishtha**” (Valour – Determination – Devotion to Duty).
- This force guards 3,488 km long India-China border through 197 BOPs situated at altitudes ranging from 9,000 ft to 18,750 ft from **Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It is a specialized mountain force and most of the officers and men are professionally trained mountaineers and skiers.
- **Headquarter:** New Delhi

### PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

The **18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** is scheduled for **January 8-10, 2025**, in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.



- It is the flagship event of the **Ministry of External Affairs** since **2003**. It is held in different cities, to showcase the diversity and progress of different regions of India.





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- Since 2015, it has evolved into a biennale event, with theme-based conferences held in the intervening years.
- Held on **January 9th**, it commemorates the day when **Mahatma Gandhi** returned to India from South Africa in **1915**.

The primary goals of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas are:

- To recognize the **contributions of the Indian diaspora** to India's development
- To create a better **understanding of Indians abroad**
- To **support India's causes** and work for the welfare of local Indian communities worldwide
- To provide a **platform for overseas Indians** to engage with the government and people of their ancestral land
- These conventions have proven instrumental in fostering connections between India and its vast overseas community, enabling the sharing of experiences, knowledge, and skills across various fields.
- The theme for this year is the **“Diaspora's contribution to a Viksit Bharat”** (Developed India).

### GARUDAKSHI



areas.

Recently, the Karnataka Forest Department has launched the ‘Garudakshi’ online FIR system to curb forest encroachments, illegal tree-felling, poaching, and unauthorised entry into forest

- It is **software modelled** on the online FIR system to curb wildlife and forest crimes.
- It will be implemented on a pilot basis in the Bengaluru Urban, Bhadravathi, Sirsi and Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary divisions of Karnataka.

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- Once the software is implemented, registering FIRs using the Garudakshi portal will be made compulsory.
- It will enable the **online handling of forest crime cases** under the Forest and Wildlife Protection Acts.
- The portal will auto-generate formats for various reports and complaints.

### Features:

- The software consists of a **Legacy Case Registration Module, Online Forest Offence Registration, Investigation Module and Reporting and Analytics Module.**
  - The portal will also allow the **public to register complaints on forest offences** using mobile phones or email addresses.
  - It is developed in collaboration with the **Wildlife Trust of India (WTI).**
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### INDIA, AFGHAN TALIBAN GOVERNMENT HOLD KEY MEET IN DUBAI

- **India's Stance on Taliban Governance**
  - India, like other major powers, does not officially recognize the Taliban regime due to its lack of inclusivity and treatment of women and girls.
  - However, India's engagement aims to strengthen ties with the Afghan people and support humanitarian and developmental needs.
- **Evolution of India-Taliban Engagement**
  - **Initial Contact (2021):** Indian Ambassador Deepak Mittal met Taliban leaders in Doha days after the Taliban seized power.
  - **Subsequent Meetings:** Indian officials maintained low-key engagements, including Joint Secretary J P Singh's meetings with Taliban leaders in 2022.
  - **Increased Engagement:** A technical team was stationed at the Indian embassy in Kabul to ensure continuity in projects.
- **The Current Meeting**



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- The meeting occurred against the backdrop of Afghanistan's strained ties with Pakistan over the activities of the Pakistan Taliban and retaliatory airstrikes.
- Dubai was chosen as a neutral venue for this high-level meeting, facilitated by the UAE government, which maintains strong ties with both India and the Taliban.
  
- **Key Discussion Areas**
  - **Security Concerns**
    - India emphasized the importance of preventing anti-India terror groups from operating on Afghan soil.
    - India raised concerns about Pakistan-based terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).
    - The Afghan side acknowledged and expressed sensitivity to India's security concerns.
  - **Development and Humanitarian Aid**
    - India pledged to evaluate development projects in Afghanistan alongside ongoing humanitarian assistance.
    - India has already dispatched significant aid, including food, medicines, vaccines, and earthquake relief materials. Additional support for healthcare and refugee rehabilitation was agreed upon.
  - **Chabahar Port for Trade and Aid**
    - Both sides agreed to promote the use of Iran's Chabahar port to facilitate trade and humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.
    - India's use of the port has received a reprieve from US sanctions.
  - **Strengthening Sports Ties**
    - Enhanced cooperation in cricket was discussed, with India supporting Afghan players in training and providing facilities in Noida.

### Challenges and Opportunities





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- **Challenges:**
    - Suppression of women's and minority rights by the Taliban.
    - Security threats from groups like Islamic State Khorasan Province.
  - **Opportunities:**
    - Increased stability in Afghanistan.
    - Taliban's willingness to safeguard Indian interests and collaborate on development initiatives.
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