

REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA



India.

- In 1949, the Government of India established a permanent organisation under the Ministry of Home Affairs, headed by the **Registrar General and Ex-Officio Census Commissioner of India**.
- This position's role is mainly to ensure a **systematic collection of statistics** related to India's **population size, growth and distribution**.
- The RGI is also responsible for implementing the **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**.
- The Registrar General is typically a civil servant of **Joint Secretary rank**.
- The office also conducts **demographic and linguistic surveys** in addition to the **decennial Census**.
- **Key Functions of the RGI**
 - **Conducting the Census of India:** The Census of India offers detailed data about the demographic, socio-economic and geographic characteristics of the population.
 - **Linguistic Survey of India (LSI):** Conducted alongside the **decennial Census**, this survey provides a comprehensive picture of the linguistic diversity in India.
 - The first Linguistic Survey was completed by George Abraham Grierson in 1928.
 - **Civil Registration System (CRS):** It is a mandatory system for birth and death registration in India.
 - It serves as a real-time, continuous population data collection mechanism.
 - A birth certificate is issued by the registrar in accordance with Section 12 of the **Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969**. The RBD Act, 1969 which was amended in 2023, mandates registration of all births and deaths on the Centre's portal from October 1, 2023.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING 2025

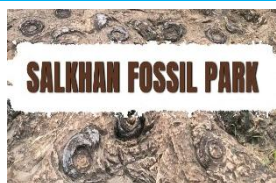


- The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or **World Drug Day**, is marked on **26 June** every year, to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving the goal of a world free of drug abuse.
- **History:**
 - It was **established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1987**, following the **recommendation of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**.
 - The observance was created to strengthen global action and cooperation to combat drug abuse and trafficking.
 - Each year, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** selects a **theme** for the day, focusing on specific aspects of the global drug problem and promoting strategies to address it effectively.
- **The theme for 2025, "Break the cycle. #StopOrganizedCrime,"** highlights the need for coordinated long-term action to break the cycle of organized crime and drug trafficking by addressing root causes, investing in prevention, and building stronger health, education, and social systems.
- **Every year, UNODC issues the World Drug Report**, full of key statistics and factual data obtained through official sources, a science-based approach, and research.
- **Following is the Drug Use Statistics 2025:**
 - **Over 300 million people aged 15-64 worldwide have used drugs in the past year.**
 - **Cannabis use has increased by 25% in the last decade**, with rising concerns over synthetic opioids like fentanyl and methamphetamine.

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- 1 in 8 people with substance use disorders receive treatment, highlighting the urgent need for improved healthcare access.
- The global drug trade generates over \$400 billion annually, fueling organized crime, corruption, and violence.

SALKHAN FOSSIL PARK



- It is also known as **Sonbhadra Fossils Park** located in the **state of Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is nestled amidst the verdant embrace of the **Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary** and within the **Vindhyan mountain range**.
- It is home to a rich repository of fossils dating back **approximately 1.4 billion years**, making it one of the oldest and most well-preserved fossil sites in the world.
- The site's fossil assemblage, scattered across various formations, primarily features an exceptional **collection of stromatolites**, i.e. formations created by communities of **cyanobacteria or blue-green algae**.
- It is home to **Prehistoric stromatolites** and **living relics of the Mesoproterozoic**.
- Salkhan is much older than sites like Shark Bay in Australia and Yellowstone the USA.
- The site's Proterozoic stromatolites illustrate a critical watershed in the early history of life on Earth: **The Great Oxidation Event**.
- **Significance:** The diversity of **stromatolite morphologies** at the park—ranging from domal to columnar structures—reflects dynamic environmental conditions in the Proterozoic, including variations in **water depth, sedimentation, and wave activity**.
- It falls under one of the key geo-heritage interest categories indicated by IUCN – **‘Evolution of life’** - in the 2020 **‘Guidelines for geoconservation in protected and conserved areas’**.

INDIA LAUNCHES PILOT SCHEME TO TACKLE HUMAN-TIGER CONFLICT OUTSIDE RESERVES

- In response to the rising incidence of human-tiger conflict in several parts of India, the Union Ministry of Environment has approved a pilot scheme focused on “tigers outside of tiger reserves.”
- This scheme, with **an outlay of Rs. 88 crore until 2026-27**, aims to enhance the protection, monitoring, and conflict management capabilities in regions where tigers roam outside officially designated tiger reserves.
- The executive committee of the **National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** has given in-principle approval for a year of pilot implementation.
- This decision follows data-driven identification of forest divisions with high conflict zones, where ~30% of India’s tiger population resides.

Scope and Implementation of the Pilot Scheme

- Initially, **80 forest divisions across 10 states have been shortlisted for funding under the scheme.**
- These divisions were identified based on the frequency and severity of human-tiger conflicts in recent years.
- **Key objectives of the pilot scheme include:**
 - Strengthening monitoring systems through technology.
 - Capacity building of forest staff to manage conflict.
 - Partnering with civil society organisations and expert veterinarians.
 - Supporting prey base augmentation to reduce livestock predation.
- The scheme will be implemented at the ground level by the Chief Wildlife Wardens of state forest departments in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

- The NTCA is currently finalising the list of eligible divisions and has been asked to submit revised, year-wise financial estimates before final approval by the CAMPA governing body.

Underlying Causes of Human-Tiger Conflict

- Tigers outside designated reserves often inhabit agricultural landscapes or forest fringes near human settlements.
- These areas lack the dedicated protection mechanisms available within official tiger reserves.
- Being apex predators and territorial in nature, tigers often push other predators like leopards into human spaces, escalating conflict risk.
- Notably, some of the major conflict hotspots include:
 - Chandrapur near Tadoba Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra
 - Sugarcane fields around Dudhwa and Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh
 - Forest divisions near Ranthambore, Rajasthan
 - Wayanad, Kerala
- **Between 2020 and 2024, 382 people were killed in tiger-related incidents, with 111 deaths recorded in 2022 alone.** These numbers underscore the urgent need for proactive and well-resourced intervention outside traditional protected zones.

Government Support and Future Outlook

- Speaking at the India Conservation Conference held at the Wildlife Institute of India, Union Environment Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to tackling man-animal conflict.
- Citing personal visits to conflict-prone areas like Dudhwa and Kabini, he acknowledged the complexity of managing tiger populations that venture outside reserves.
- The minister emphasised the importance of adopting a region-specific approach, recognising that the dynamics of conflict and coexistence differ significantly between forest types and human settlements.

INDIA'S GIANT LEAP - HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT AND THE EXPANDING HORIZON OF ISRO

- The participation of Indian astronaut **Shubhanshu Shukla** in the **Axiom-4 mission** to the International Space Station (ISS) marks a historic moment in India's space journey.
- It represents the **dawn of India's human spaceflight era** and signals a strategic leap in ISRO's ambitions and global collaborations.

The Milestone Moment - Shubhanshu Shukla at the ISS:

- **A symbol of a new era:**
 - Shubhanshu Shukla's presence aboard the ISS is symbolic not just of individual achievement but of a **national milestone in space exploration**.
 - Though not part of an indigenous mission, this represents the **operational beginning of India's human spaceflight programme**.
- **More than a first flight:** His journey is not an isolated feat but a **strategic stepping stone towards ISRO's Gaganyaan mission**, India's first crewed space mission, now scheduled for **2027**.

Strategic Importance of the Axiom-4 Participation:

- **Bridging the gap to Gaganyaan:**
 - Originally selected for the Indian crewed mission, Shubhanshu Shukla's participation in Axiom-4 **allows ISRO to gain first-hand exposure** to launch operations and astronautics.
 - It helps India **refine protocols, safety procedures, and training modules**.
- **International collaborations and learning:** ISRO sent a team to assist in launch operations, emphasizing India's active and competent role in global space ventures.

Global Context - Human Spaceflight Capability:

- **India joins the big league:**
 - Only three countries—**USA, Russia, and China**—have independent human spaceflight capability.

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- India is on course to become the fourth, bolstered by increasing cooperation with global agencies like NASA.
- **Strategic autonomy in space:**
 - Without this capability, India would remain **dependent on foreign platforms** for critical space research and missions.
 - Human spaceflight is **essential for planetary exploration**, especially for Moon and Mars missions.

Evolving Space Ecosystem and India's Role:

- **Rise of the private sector and LEO activity:**
 - The Lower Earth Orbit (LEO), ranging from 200–2,000 km altitude, is **increasingly crowded with commercial satellites**.
 - Private players, especially from the US, are driving innovation, **allowing national agencies to shift focus to deep space missions**.
- **India's vision beyond the ISS:**
 - The ISS, a model of international cooperation, is slated for **decommissioning by 2030**.
 - India, not a part of the current ISS consortium, plans to launch its **own space station by 2035**—possibly becoming a **critical player in the next global space platform**.

Conclusion:

- Shubhanshu Shukla's flight is **more than a symbolic success**—it's the launchpad of a new era in Indian space exploration.
- As India sets sights on the Moon, Mars, and its own space station, **human spaceflight capability is emerging as a strategic asset**, enabling scientific advancement, national prestige, and global collaboration.
- This event marks a **significant inflection point** in India's transformation from a space-faring nation to a **space-power**.

UNMASKING POVERTY IN INDIA

- A poverty line is the income threshold used to determine who is considered poor in a given economy.
- The poverty line varies with time and location. Income sufficient in 1975 may be inadequate today, and lifestyles differ across regions.
- There is no universal poverty line. Different benchmarks can be set based on context and purpose, allowing for more accurate analysis.

Reasons Behind India Using the World Bank's Poverty Line to Estimate Poverty

- India's last recognised poverty line was based on the **2009 Tendulkar Committee formula, using 2011–12 data.**
- In 2014, the Rangarajan Committee proposed a new method, but it was never formally adopted.
- Due to data gaps and outdated methods, India now relies on NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index or the World Bank's poverty line.
- In the absence of updated national metrics, the World Bank's poverty line is increasingly used to estimate poverty trends in India.

About World Bank's Poverty Line

- The World Bank's poverty line reflects the cost of basic living, adjusted to each country's purchasing power parity (PPP), to allow fair comparisons.
- **Origins of the \$1-a-Day Benchmark**
 - In 1990, researchers used PPP exchange rates to compare national poverty lines of the poorest countries, establishing the first global standard: \$1/day (1985 prices).
- **Adjustment for Inflation and Global Context**
 - As global prices rose, the World Bank updated its poverty line—most recently raising it to \$3/day in June 2025.
 - At the 2025 PPP rate (₹20.6/USD), India's extreme poverty line equals ₹62/day. For comparison, the PPP rate is 0.67 for the UK and 3.45 for China.

India's Own Domestic Poverty Lines

- **Pre-Tendulkar (2009):** ₹17/day (urban), ₹12/day (rural)
- **Tendulkar Committee (2009):** Raised to ₹29/day (urban), ₹22/day (rural)
- **Updated for 2011–12:** ₹36/day (urban), ₹30/day (rural)
- **Rangarajan Committee (2014):** Recommended ₹47/day (urban), ₹33/day (rural)

Poverty in India: A Matter of Perspective

- Despite India's history of poverty research, defining who is poor varies widely. Estimates range from 5.75% to 66%, depending on the benchmark used.
- **Multiple Measures, Conflicting Realities**
 - 5.75% live below the World Bank's \$3/day (₹62) poverty line.
 - 24% is the poverty benchmark for lower middle-income countries.
 - 20% voluntarily offer labour for minimal wages.
 - 66% receive free food under government schemes.
 - These diverse indicators present a conflicting picture of poverty.
- **Policy vs Reality: Income Tax Benchmark**
 - The 2024 Union Budget waived tax for those earning up to ₹12 lakh/year (₹3,288/day), contrasting sharply with the ₹62/day poverty line — highlighting the vast income spectrum.
- **Two Ways to Interpret WB Data**
 - First, celebrate the reduction in extreme poverty.
 - Second, reflect on broader economic hardship, as 83% of Indians live on just ₹171/day — a figure that includes total income or expenditure.
- **The Bigger Question: What Truly Defines Poverty?**
- The variation in definitions and data prompts a deeper inquiry into India's actual economic well-being and whether poverty is being accurately understood or just statistically managed.