

## REGISTRAR GENERAL OF 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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## Current Affairs - 27 June 2025



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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'**.



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### 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.

- **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.