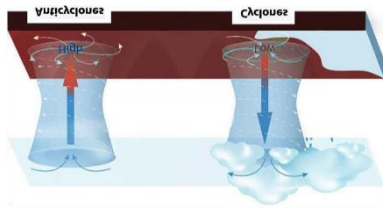


WHAT ARE ANTICYCLONES?



An anticyclone is a weather phenomenon defined as a large-scale circulation of winds around a central region of high atmospheric pressure. It is clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and counterclockwise in the Southern Hemisphere as viewed from above (opposite to a cyclone).

What Generates Anticyclones over the Indian Ocean and the Indian Subcontinent?

The persistence of the anticyclones over the Indian ocean and the Indian subcontinent is **not an unusual phenomenon**.

During the **pre-monsoon season**, the upper-level **Indian Easterly Jet (IEJ)** at around the 10 degrees N latitude and a **strong westerly jet** at around 30 degrees N can together generate an anticyclonic pattern.

How Anticyclones Impacts the Weather Conditions of the Indian Subcontinent?

During the pre-monsoon season, a **strong anticyclone can bring dry and hot weather over many parts of India**. The heat wave season this year is **the combination of three factors** - persistence of anticyclones, the waning phase of El Niño and global warming.

How India Deals with these Heat Wave Situations?

India is part of the so-called '**Subseasonal-to-Seasonal Predictions**' project of the World Climate Research Program under the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). It takes a three-step approach called the '**ready-set-go**' system. The '**ready**' step provides a seasonal outlook and allows the NDMA to ready their disaster response systems. The '**set**' step includes resource allocations by identifying potential hotspots. The '**go**' step means managing a disaster, including rescue efforts, hydration centres, heat shelters, etc.

WHAT IS GREEN TAXONOMY?

The RBI and the Finance Ministry could take inspiration from the developing world, especially the ASEAN region, where a layered green taxonomy as a living document keeps getting updated with sectoral views of possible sustainable trajectories.



- A green taxonomy is a **framework for defining** what can be called **environmentally sustainable investments**.
 - It is a **classification system** that defines which economic activities and assets are “green” or environmentally sustainable.
- It is a useful instrument and has several complementary purposes:
 - help prevent greenwashing;
 - help investors make informed investment decisions; and
 - channel investment toward sustainable or green economic activities and assets.
- Structurally, all taxonomies are similar. So far, they all **include the goals of climate mitigation and adaptation** and some also include other environmental objectives such as biodiversity conservation, for example.
- To be considered green, an activity must substantially contribute to at least one of the environmental objectives.
- **Often, taxonomies also include “do no significant harm” criteria** (i.e., an activity that substantially contributes to one environmental objective should not harm another environmental objective) and **social safeguards** (i.e., compliance with human rights).
- **Some taxonomies only define what is green and others**, such as the recently launched Indonesian taxonomy or the proposed Singaporean taxonomy, **use a “traffic light” approach**, where the **economic activities are split into different categories** (i.e. green, amber, or red) to classify their environmental sustainability.

What is Greenwashing?

- It is the process of **conveying a false impression** or misleading information about how a company’s products are environmentally sound.

- It involves making an unsubstantiated claim to **deceive consumers** into believing that a company's products are environmentally friendly or have a greater positive environmental impact than they actually do.
- In addition, greenwashing may occur when a company attempts to **emphasize sustainable aspects** of a product to overshadow its involvement in environmentally damaging practices.
- Companies can also greenwash initiatives with vague claims that don't provide real data or scientific validation for the claims.

CRITICAL MINERALS SUMMIT

The Ministry of Mines will hold a two day “Critical Minerals Summit: Enhancing Beneficiation and Processing Capabilities” in New Delhi.



Critical Minerals Summit is organised by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, in collaboration with the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (Shakti), the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and the Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD).

- It is designed to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and drive innovation in the field of critical mineral beneficiation and processing.
- It will bring together a diverse array of **Indian and international stakeholders**, including industry leaders, startups, government officials, scientists, academics and policy experts.
- It will address the increasing demand for **Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)** required for renewable energy systems and electric vehicles as part of India's strategic development goals.
- The **Ministry of Mines** has **identified eight key minerals for focus** at the summit, including Glaucosite (Potash), **Lithium – Rare Earth Elements (Laterite)**, **Chromium**, Platinum Group, Graphite, Tungsten associated with Graphite, **Rare Earths (RE)** and Vanadium associated with Graphite.

Key Facts about Critical Minerals:

- It is a **metallic or non-metallic** element that has two characteristics.
 - It is essential for the functioning of our modern technologies, economies or national security and
 - There is a risk that its supply chains could be disrupted.
- The '**criticality**' of minerals changes with time as supply and society's needs shift.

Applications:

- They are used to manufacture **advanced technologies**, including mobile phones, computers, fibre-optic cables, semiconductors, banknotes, and defence, aerospace and medical applications.
- Many are used in **low-emission technologies**, such as electric vehicles, wind turbines, solar panels, and rechargeable batteries.
- Some are also crucial for **common products**, such as stainless steel and electronics.

Examples: antimony, beryllium, bismuth, cobalt, copper, gallium, germanium, lithium, vanadium, etc.

Top Producers: Chile, Indonesia, Congo, China, Australia and South Africa.

Critical Minerals in India:

- Government has released a **list of 30** critical minerals for India.
- These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium, and Cadmium.

WHO WAS RAJA RAVI VARMA?



The first true copy of the painting Indulekha by Raja Ravi Varma will be unveiled at the Kilimanoor Palace, Kerala.

Raja Ravi Varma was an **Indian painter** and artist. He is considered one of the greatest painters in the history of Indian art.

- He was born as Ravi Varma Koil Thampuran of Kilimanoor palace, in the erstwhile **princely state of Travancore** (Thiruvithankur) in Kerala.
- He is known for his amazing paintings, which revolve mainly around the Puranas (ancient mythological stories) and the great Indian epics, the Mahabharata and Ramayana.
 - In addition to incidents in Hindu mythology, Varma painted many portraits of both Indians and British in India.
- His most **famous works** include Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta, Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair and Shantanu and Matsyagandha.

Features of his work:

- Before Raja Ravi Varma's paintings, the paintings of Indian artists were greatly influenced by the Persian and Mughal schools.
- Varma was the **first Indian to use Western techniques** of perspective and composition and to adapt them to Indian subjects, styles and themes.
- His works are one of the best examples of the **fusion of European academic art** with a purely **Indian sensibility and iconography**.
- He was one of the **first Indian artists to use oil paints** and to master the art of **lithographic reproduction** of his work.
- He was notable for making affordable lithographs of his paintings available to the public, which greatly enhanced his reach and influence as a painter and public figure.

- His paintings often **depicted mythological characters and Indian royalty** in a realistic style, challenging traditional artistic norms.

Recognitions:

- He received widespread acclaim after he won an award for an exhibition of his paintings at Vienna in 1873.
 - His paintings were also sent to the **World's Columbian Exposition** held in **Chicago in 1893** and he was awarded two gold medals.
 - **In 1904**, Viceroy Lord Curzon, on behalf of the King Emperor, bestowed upon Raja Ravi Varma the **Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal**. At this time, his name was mentioned as "Raja Ravi Varma" for the first time.
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BOOTH CAPTURING



Booth Capturing during elections in India is a 'Corrupt Practice' Under the Representation of People Act, 1951 (RPA).

- Booth-capturing, defined in **Section 135A of the RPA**, includes all or any of the following activities by any person or persons:
 - **Seizure of a polling station**, affecting the conduct of elections;
 - **Taking possession of a polling station**, allowing only his or their supporters to vote;
 - Intimidating or threatening any elector and preventing him from going to the polling station;
 - Seizure of a counting place affecting the counting of votes;
 - Involvement of any person in government service in any of the above activities.
- It is **punishable** for a term of **not less than one year**, which may extend to three years for lay people and not less than three years, extending to **five years for government servants**.
- In such cases the Election Commission of India, based on the material facts, may

- Declare the poll at that polling station to be void and **direct a fresh poll** on a new date; or
 - Countermand the election in the constituency in case booth capturing has taken place in a large number of polling stations, or if it has affected the counting of votes.
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GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS



The meeting of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the UN-recognised Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) worldwide will be held on May 1.

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions was established in 1993 as the **International Coordinating Committee** of National Institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (ICC).

- It has been known as the **Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions** (GANHRI) since 2016 and is a **member-based network organization** that gathers NHRIs from all around the world.
- **Members:** It has **120 members**: 88 “A” status accredited NHRIs and 32 “B” status accredited NHRIs.

Accreditation by the GANHRI:

- In a unique peer-review-based accreditation process, GANHRI ensures individual NHRIs’ compliance with internationally recognised standards – **the Paris Principles**– to ensure their independence, pluralism and accountability.
 - The Paris Principles set out internationally agreed minimum standards that NHRIs must meet to be considered credible.
 - The six principles require a country’s human rights agency to be independent from the government in its structure, composition, decision-making and method of operation. The principles were adopted by the **UN General Assembly in 1993**.

- GANHRI, through the **Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA)**, is responsible for reviewing and accrediting NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles.
 - An NHRI is reviewed by the SCA when:
 - It applies for initial accreditation
 - It applies for **re-accreditation** every **five years**
 - The circumstances of the NHRI change in any way that may affect its compliance with the Paris Principles.
 - NHRIs that are assessed as complying with the Paris Principles are accredited with ‘**A status**’, while those that partially comply are accredited with ‘**B status**’
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NATIONAL CENTRE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

There are bilateral discussions regarding renewal of MoU between National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) India and Bangladesh Ministry of Public Administration for the period 2024-2029.



National Centre for Good Governance

An autonomous & apex-level institution of Government of India

National Centre for Good Governance is an **autonomous institute** under the aegis of **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances**, Government of India.

- It has been set up to assist in bringing about **governance reforms** through studies, training, knowledge sharing and promotion of good ideas.
- It seeks to carry out policy relevant research and prepare case studies; curate training courses for civil servants from India and other developing countries.

Background:

- It traces its origin to the **National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR)**. NIAR was set up in 1995 by the Lal Bahadur Shastri National

Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) the Government of India's apex training Institute for higher civil services.

- NIAR was subsequently renamed with an expanded mandate, as National Centre for Good Governance, which was inaugurated on February 24th, 2014.

Objectives:

- To function as a national repository on information on best practices, initiatives and methodologies that **promote Good Governance**, e-Governance etc.
- To advise on key issues in governance and develop synergy across various Ministries/ Departments of GoI and State Governments;

Governing Body:

- The affairs of the NCGG are managed under the overall superintendence and direction of the Governing Body, which is **headed by the Cabinet Secretary**.
- It has Secretaries of 9 ministries/departments and 5 eminent persons viz. academicians, eminent administrators, specialists, eminent innovators, heads of reputed institutions as members.
- The **Director General**, who is the Chief Executive of NCGG acts as the Member–Secretary of the Governing Body.

Head office: Its head office is at New Delhi and branch office at Mussoorie.
