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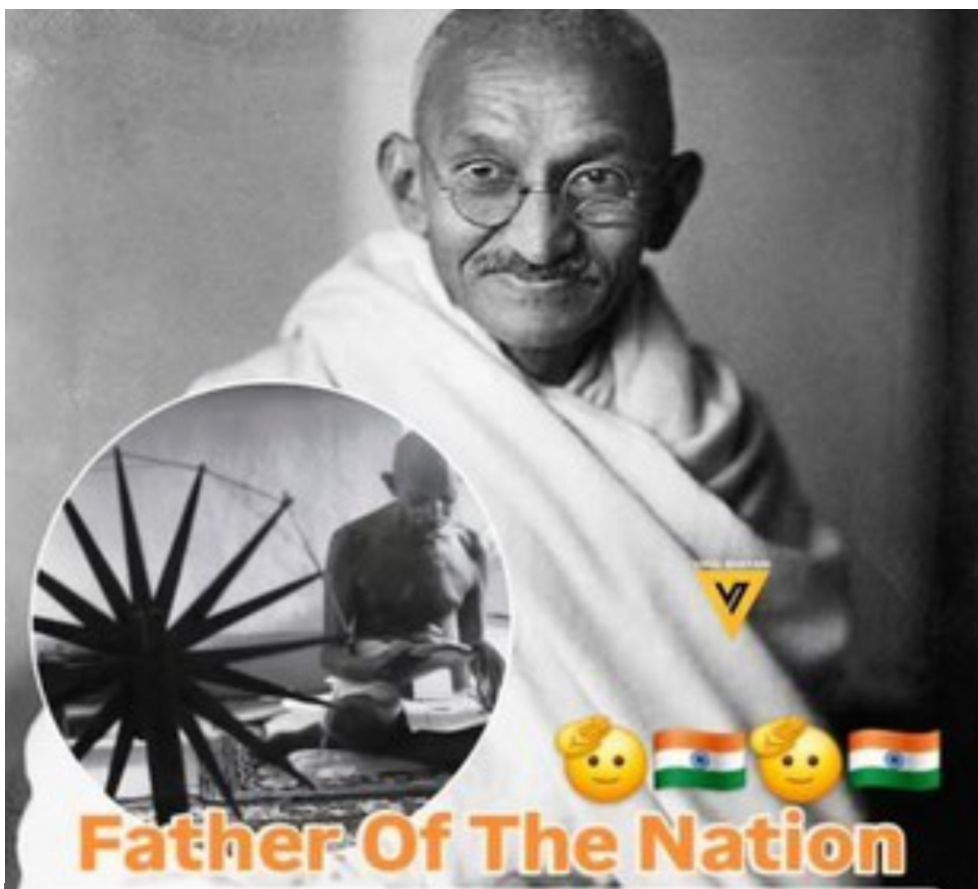
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Remembering Mahatma Gandhi on Gandhi Jayanti



Saluting the custodian of Satyagraha, whose silence resounded louder than empires.

Every year on 2nd October, India pauses for a moment to remember a man whose ideas changed not just our country, but the entire world. Gandhi Jayanti is not only about remembering Mahatma Gandhi as the "Father of the Nation", but also about reflecting on the values he stood for and how relevant they still are in our everyday lives.

Mahatma Gandhi was not a leader who ruled with force or fear. Instead, he led with truth, simplicity, and courage. At a time when violence was considered the fastest way to achieve freedom, Gandhi chose a different path — the path of non-violence and satyagraha. What makes his journey truly inspiring is that he proved that calm determination and moral strength can be more powerful than weapons.

Gandhi Jayanti often reminds us of his famous principles like Ahimsa (non-violence) and Satya (truth), but his teachings go far beyond textbooks and quotes. He believed in simple living, self-discipline, and equality. Whether it was wearing khadi, promoting cleanliness, or standing up for the rights of the oppressed, Gandhi lived the change he wanted to see in society.

In today's fast-paced world, where anger, hate, and impatience are common,

Gandhi's ideas feel more important than ever. Non-violence is not just about avoiding physical conflict; it is also about how we speak, how we react, and how we treat others. Being honest, respectful, and kind — even when it is difficult — is a modern way of practising Gandhian values.

Gandhi also strongly believed that young people are the backbone of the nation. He encouraged self-reliance, critical thinking, and social responsibility. For today's generation, remembering Gandhi can be a reminder that real change starts from within. Small actions like standing up against injustice, being environmentally conscious, or choosing peace over conflict are simple yet meaningful ways to honour his legacy.

Gandhi Jayanti is not just a day to pay tribute with flowers and speeches. It is a day to ask ourselves a simple question: Are we following his values in our daily lives? Even if we take one small lesson from Gandhi — truth, patience, or compassion — we keep his spirit alive. As we remember Mahatma Gandhi today, let us not limit him to history. Let us carry his thoughts forward and try, in our own small ways, to build a more peaceful and honest world.

By Itika Kardam, 4th Semester

Celebrating the Strength of the Indian Air Force



In tribute to celestial custodians, whose strength safeguards the nation's destiny.

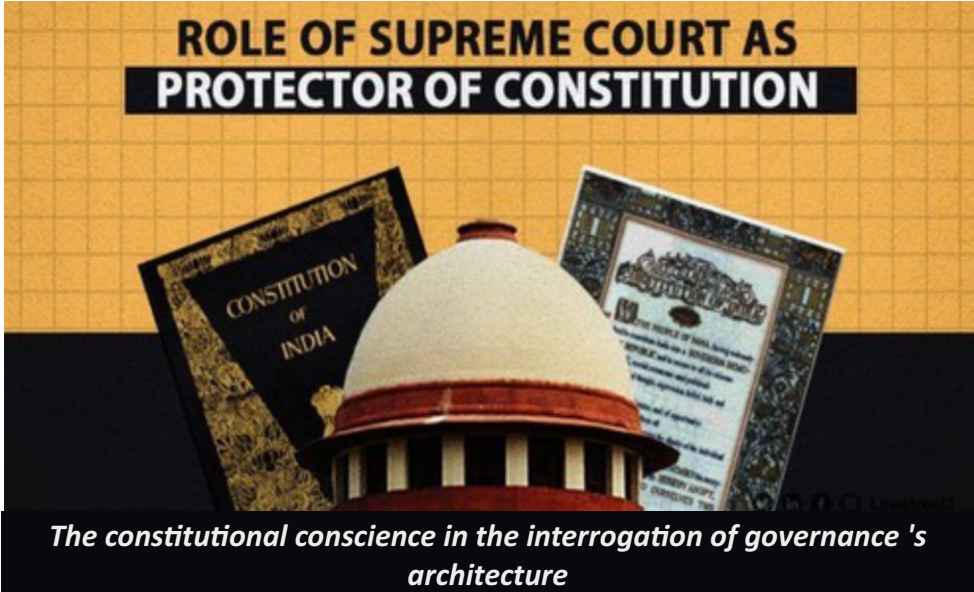
Today, October 8, 2025, marks 93 years of Air Force Day. Air Force Day has been observed on October 8 for the past nine decades. With their courage, strength, incomparable valour, iron resolve, supreme sacrifice and dedication, they have protected and safeguarded India with their lives. Their heroism shows their love for the country. On this Air Force Day anniversary, top military leaders, including Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, and Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, paid tributes to all the martyred air warriors at the National War Memorial, New Delhi. Besides this, Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh delivered a video message on the occasion of Air Force Day and extended his wishes to the nation. Some of his words were: "Namaskar, on the auspicious occasion of the 93rd anniversary of the Indian Air Force, I salute all the countrymen on behalf of all the airwarriors. Air Force Day is dedicated to those air warriors who have protected the nation's sky with sacrifice, dedication and hard work. Starting with the 4 aircraft in 1932, the Indian Air Force is today one of the fourth largest Air Forces in the world, which has made significant contributions to the security of the country in every war and crisis. Today, on this auspicious occasion, all of us air warriors take a pledge that the sovereignty and integrity of India will remain paramount for us, and we will always remain committed to the security of our nation's sky.

Together, we will take our Air Force to greater heights and remain steadfast in our motto: Nabha Sparsham Deeptam" (नभः ृशंदसम्)! Jai Hind!" On Air Force Day, the President, Vice-President and the Prime Minister also wished everyone and shared their messages. The Honourable President Draupadi Murmu extended her heartfelt congratulations to all air warriors, veterans, and their families on this Air Force Day occasion. She also praised the courage, commitment, and outstanding work of all Indian Air Force personnel on social media, who tirelessly serve the nation and protect India's skies, even during disasters and humanitarian missions. The Air Force has this strength and has faced every challenge and made the country proud. The President also wished the Indian Air Force all success for its future. The Honourable Vice President Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan also wished the IAF on its 93rd anniversary. In a social media post, he said, "the Indian Air Force, which has protected the skies of our country during natural calamities, is an example of dedication, discipline and service." He emphasized that their contribution in "Operation Sindoor" and many other missions has been proven to be the most significant. Shri C.P Radhakrishnan heartily thanked the brave Air Warriors for their professionalism, courage and unwavering commitment. The Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended his greetings to the air warriors and their families on the occasion of Air Force Day. In his message on social media, he saluted the bravery, gallantry, discipline and national pride of the Indian Air Force. The Prime Minister said that the commitment and professionalism of the air warriors, even in the most difficult situations, make every Indian feel proud.

Today marks the 93rd Air Force Day. All those air warriors have proven their professionalism, strength, and dedication, from disaster relief to humanitarian missions. Today is a day of pride and glory for India. It is not just a celebration, but a reminder of the sacrifice and dedication of those who stand steadfast for the safety of their nation.

By Sneha Kumari, 4th Semester

Supreme Court's Recent Discussions on Key National Policies



national policy?

The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial body. When it takes up a case, its decision can shape how a law works for the whole country.

That's why its recent hearings on several big-ticket issues are being watched closely. Electoral Rolls and citizenship: The Court is examining the Election Commission's "Special Intensive Revision" (SIR) of voter lists in several states. The Commission says it can check a person's citizenship before adding or removing a name from the roll. Stating its importance, if the Court upholds this power, it could affect who gets to vote and how citizenship checks are done across India. The judges have asked whether a decision by an Electoral Registration Officer can be used by the central government to start deportation proceedings. Prior-sanction requirement for prosecuting public servants. A split verdict has emerged on Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, which requires prior approval before investigating or prosecuting a government official. Justice Nagarathna called the provision "unconstitutional and unequal", while Justice Viswanathan warned that striking it down could lead to "policy paralysis". The outcome will decide how easily corruption cases against bureaucrats can move forward and could change the balance between protecting honest officers and holding them accountable. Transgender athletes in sports: The Court is hearing arguments on state laws that bar transgender girls and

categories. It is important as ruling could set a national standard for inclusion and fairness in school and professional sports, affecting many young athletes.

Great Indian Bustard (GIB) conservation vs. clean-energy projects: The Court has narrowed the "no-go" zones for wind and solar projects to clearly defined core habitats of the endangered GIB in Rajasthan and Gujarat. It also allowed deadline extensions for projects delayed by earlier rulings. Its importance lies in balancing wildlife protection with India's renewable-energy targets, giving developers clearer rules while safeguarding a critically endangered bird. Equality in education: In a judgment, the Court stressed that "equality in society has to start in school." It ordered that children from weaker sections must be admitted to nearby schools, calling it a "national mission". Its importance lies in the proper implementation of the Right to Education Act, which can help bridge social gaps by letting children from different backgrounds learn together. The Supreme Court is currently weighing several high-impact policies: voter-roll citizenship checks, protection for public servants, transgender sports participation, how to protect the Great Indian Bustard while expanding renewable energy, and enforcing equality in schools. Its decisions will shape voting rights, anti-corruption measures, sports inclusion, environmental-energy balance, and social equity across India

By Ananya Sharma, 4th Semester

Massive "Digital Arrest" Cyber Scam Exposed in Maharashtra — ₹58 Crore Fraud Uncovered

M u m b a i , Maharashtra's Cyber Crime authorities have uncovered one of the largest online fraud syndicates in recent history — a ₹58.1 crore "Digital Arrest" scam that targeted unsuspecting victims across the state and



beyond.

How the Scam Worked

The fraudsters posed as law enforcement officials (often claiming to be from the CBI, ED, or other agencies). They contacted victims via spoofed phone numbers and staged video calls, fake court hearings, and forged legal notices. The victims were falsely informed that their bank accounts were involved in money-laundering or criminal activity, and that they would be digitally arrested unless they cooperated. Victims were coerced into transferring their life savings into bank accounts controlled by the scammers under the pretext of "verifying funds" or avoiding arrest.

In one high-profile complaint, a 72-year-old businessman from Mumbai transferred a massive ₹58 crore through 18 different bank accounts before realising he had been defrauded.

Police Action and Chargesheet The Maharashtra Nodal Cyber Police filed a comprehensive 2,500-page chargesheet in the case. So far, dozens of people have been arrested or are wanted in connection with the scam. Authorities revealed more than 10,000 mule bank accounts were opened — using forged KYC documents and fake identities — to receive and launder the defrauded funds. The funds were routed through multiple account layers and then moved overseas, complicating recovery efforts.

Officials say that some of the accused had links stretching to Cambodia, Dubai, and other countries, indicating an international cybercrime network.

Growing Cyber Fraud Threat Across Maharashtra : Fake Birth Registration Cyber Fraud — 27,000 "Births" in Village Records. In another alarming development, authorities discovered that fake birth registrations were entered into official records in a Maharashtra village, showing over 27,000 births in just three months in a locality of only ~1,500 residents. This exposed a large-scale cyber fraud involving bogus government records, triggering an

ongoing probe by cybercrime units.

Statewide and National Context: India's Rising Online Fraud Losses A wider investigation into cyber fraud across major Indian states — including Maharashtra — revealed that more than ₹52,976 crore was lost to various cheating and fraud cases over the past six years. The data highlights how digital scams targeting investment, identity, and banking fraud are exploding nationwide.

Other Major Related Cases in Maharashtra Investment Fraud Arrest: A Maharashtra man was arrested in connection with a ₹5 crore investment scam that defrauded a senior citizen in Goa.

Crypto Scam Crackdown: In Nagpur, the Enforcement Directorate recently busted a ₹4.3 crore cryptocurrency fraud involving a supposed digital trading platform, freezing assets and invoking anti-organised crime laws due to links with violent disputes.

Smaller Cyber Incidents: Police in Pune and other districts continue to receive complaints of individuals losing money to fake challan notifications, work-from-home schemes, and bogus investment apps. What Authorities Are Saying Maharashtra Cyber officials have warned the public about sophisticated cybercriminal tactics that exploit fear, impersonation, and fake digital evidence. They urge people to verify any law-enforcement communication independently and never transfer money solely based on unsolicited calls or digital threats. Victims are advised to contact local cyber cells or use the national cyber helpline before acting.

Impact on Victims and Families: The human toll of these scams is significant: elderly individuals, business owners, and ordinary citizens have seen life savings wiped out, often leaving them financially and emotionally devastated. Recoveries are difficult due to the multi-layered laundering techniques and use of overseas networks by fraud syndicates.

By Muskan Bharti 2nd Semester

Fuel Price Update: Petrol Steady, Commercial LPG Hiked as New Year Begins

Month	FUEL ON FIRE		LPG PRICE HIKES	
	Domestic 14.2 kg	Commercial 19 kg	Domestic 14.2 kg	Commercial 19 kg
May 19, 2022	₹1008.50	₹2361.50	₹0	₹0
May 7, 2022	₹1005.50	₹2353.00	₹0	₹0
Apr 1, 2022	₹955.50	₹2362.50	₹0	₹0
Mar 22, 2022	₹955.50	₹2011.00	₹0	₹0
Feb 2022	₹905.50	₹2019.00	₹0	₹0
Jan 2022	₹905.50	₹2005.50	₹0	₹0
Dec 2021	₹905.50	₹2108.00	₹0	₹0
Nov 2021	₹905.50	₹2007.50	₹0	₹0

An economic juxtaposition : Static petrol prices amid ascending commercial LPG tariffs

As India moves into mid-January 2026, the petrol price has shown stability with no major change in retail rates across key cities in the country. For example, in New Delhi, petrol continues to retail at around ₹94.7 per litre, with daily pricing remaining largely flat in the first half of January under the dynamic fuel-pricing mechanism followed by oil marketing companies. Similar stability is seen in other metro centres such as Mumbai (around ₹104 per litre) and Chennai (about ₹100.8 per litre), reflecting minimal movement in international crude oil rates and exchange-rate effects in recent weeks. In contrast to petrol, commercial Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) prices saw a significant revision from January 1, 2026, affecting industry users. State-run oil marketing companies raised the retail price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by approximately ₹111 nationwide. In New Delhi, the price jumped to around ₹1,691.50 per cylinder, up from about ₹1,580.50 at the end of December. Cities like Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai likewise recorded sharp increases in commercial LPG rates, pushing operating costs higher for sectors like hospitality and catering that rely heavily on LPG for daily operations. Officials and analysts attribute the commercial LPG hike to monthly price revisions linked to international LPG price movements and currency fluctuations, a routine practice by Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum at the start of each month. The current levels mark the highest commercial LPG prices since mid-2025, after previous months of moderation that saw occasional reductions. Household consumers, however, are not directly affected by this revision. The price of the 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder, commonly used in kitchens across Indian homes, has remained unchanged — continuing at around the same rate it has been held at following the last adjustment. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has clarified that domestic LPG prices will stay stable to shield regular consumers from price volatility affecting commercial sectors. The divergent trajectory in fuel cost adjustments underscores broader pressures in the energy market. While petrol prices remain steady on the back of balanced global crude trends and stable exchange rates, commercial LPG users are bearing the brunt of global price pressures, adding to cost burdens for small and medium enterprises in the services industry. Industry watchers warn that extended hikes in commercial LPG could gradually filter into higher service costs for consumers, although household cooking gas affordability remains protected for now.

By Parisha Pathak, 4th Semester

When the Air Becomes a Threat: Delhi's Silent Emergency

Every winter, Delhi wakes up under a familiar grey blanket. The sun struggles to break through the thick smog, buildings fade into shadows, and the air carries a sharp, burning smell. For many residents, checking the Air Quality Index (AQI) has become as routine as checking the weather. But when the numbers cross from "poor" to "dangerous," the crisis stops being just environmental—it becomes deeply personal. In recent weeks, Delhi's air pollution has reached hazardous levels, turning daily life into a health gamble. Children cough their way to school, elderly people avoid morning walks, and hospitals report a surge in patients with breathing difficulties, asthma, and eye irritation. What should be a simple breath has become a source of anxiety. The causes are well known yet stubbornly persistent. Vehicle emissions clog the streets, construction dust rises unchecked, factories release pollutants, and during winter, smoke from crop residue burning in neighbouring states drifts into the city. Add calm winds and falling temperatures, which trap pollutants close to the ground, and Delhi becomes a gas chamber with no easy escape. Behind the statistics are human stories. A street vendor covers his face with a thin cloth, hoping it will be enough to get him through the day. A young mother worries whether letting her child play outside will do more harm than good. Office workers feel their throats burn during the commute, while delivery riders spend hours inhaling toxic air with little protection. For them, pollution is not a headline—it is a daily struggle. The long-term consequences are even more alarming. Prolonged exposure to polluted air increases the risk of heart disease, lung cancer, and



Capital in the stage of quiet calamity — toxicity suspended in the very air of existence

reduced life expectancy. Doctors warn that children growing up in such conditions may face permanent damage to their lungs. Clean air, a basic human right, is slowly turning into a luxury. Efforts have been made—odd-even traffic rules, restrictions on construction, promotion of public transport, and emergency measures during peak pollution days. While these steps offer temporary relief, they often feel like band-aids on a deep wound. What Delhi needs is sustained action: cleaner energy, better waste management, strict enforcement of pollution laws, and cooperation across states. Delhi's air pollution crisis is a reminder that environmental problems are ultimately human problems. Until clean air becomes a priority beyond seasons and politics, the city will continue to choke—one breath at a time.

By Shallu Singh, 4th Semester

Security Alert After Border Infiltration Attempt in J&K



From valleys to vantage points, Jammu & Kashmir amplifies its security apparatus after infiltration provocation.

A high security alert was issued in Jammu and Kashmir after security forces detected an infiltration attempt along the border on Tuesday night. The incident took place near the Line of Control (LoC), where a group of suspected militants tried to cross into Indian territory. According to official sources, the alert Indian Army troops noticed suspicious movement near the border area. Acting quickly, the soldiers challenged the intruders. This led to a brief exchange of fire between the security forces and the infiltrators. Due to strong vigilance and timely action by the forces, the attempt was successfully stopped. After the incident, the entire border area was put on high alert. Extra troops were deployed, and intensive search operations were launched in nearby forests and villages to ensure that no infiltrator managed to escape. Drones, night-vision devices, and surveillance equipment were also used to monitor the area closely. Security officials said that such infiltration attempts are usually made to disturb peace in the region. They added that the situation is under control and there is no need for public panic. However, people living near the border have been advised to remain alert and report any suspicious activity to authorities immediately. The local police and paramilitary forces have also increased checking at key locations, including roads, highways, and public places. Additional checkpoints have been set up to ensure the safety of civilians. Schools and markets in nearby areas remained open, but security presence was clearly visible. Senior officials praised the alertness and bravery of the security personnel. They said that protecting the border is a top priority, and such attempts will be dealt strictly. The government has assured that all necessary steps are being taken to maintain peace and security in Jammu and Kashmir. Residents of the region expressed confidence in the armed forces and said that they feel safe because of their continuous efforts. Many locals cooperated with the forces during search operations. This incident once again highlights the challenges faced by security forces along the border. Despite difficult terrain and harsh weather conditions, they continue to guard the nation day and night to protect citizens and maintain peace in the region.

By Ragini, 4th Semester

Security Tightened During the Religious Procession



Heightened security and public concern mark sensitive religious gathering in Cuttack.

Communal clashes broke out in a sensitive area of Cuttack in Odisha on 4th and 5th October 2025, during the Durga Puja Idol immersion procession, due to which security was tightened there. Both police and civilians were injured in this clash. Curfew was imposed due to this sensitive situation going out of control, and internet services were also shut down for some time. This violence has created a serious issue and concern regarding law and order.

On 4th October 2025, massive violence broke out between 1:30 am and 2:00 am in the early hours of the morning in the Dargah Bazaar area of Hathi Pokhari during the Durga Puja idol immersion procession organised by Jhanjirimangala Bhagabat Puja Committee. According to the police report, during the procession, local people objected to the loud music, following which stones and glass bottles were pelted from the rooftop and a total of 6 people were injured, including Deputy Commissioner of police Rishikesh Khilari Dnyandeo. Meanwhile, another fresh act of violence took place on Sunday, 5th October, in which the police tried to suppress a motorcycle rally in support of a VHP-called bandh. Due to such a clash, 25 people, including 8 police officers, were injured in stone-pelting and arson near Gaurishankar Park. In this violence, authorities imposed Section 144 of India's Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in 13 police station areas, along with shutting down internet services for 24 hours from 7 PM and imposed a curfew for 36 hours from 10 PM to restore peace. There were some political and government responses to this. Odisha's Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi called for peace as Cuttack is known as a "thousand-year-old city known for its brotherhood," And he directly asked the police to take strict action against all those who committed violence during the procession who are responsible for these clashes. Many other political leaders, including BJD Naveen Patnaik and Congress MLA Sofia Firdous, condemned the clash and called for communal harmony. On October 5th, Minister of Law of Odisha Prithviraj Harichandan said that the administration had handled the situation very well and restored normalcy. Meanwhile, Prithviraj Harichandan criticised remarks made by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, which the Odisha government termed "irresponsible". The police arrested a total of 14 criminals who had links with that violence. The situation was brought under control, after 36 hours of peace, the curfew was lifted on October 7, and internet services were also started from the same evening. The police officially said that the curfew and security measures have now improved the situation and helped in restoring order.

By Sneha Kumari, 4th Semester

Chinese Fighter Jets Enter Taiwan Air Zone: A Threat Beyond Taiwan

The repeated entry of Chinese fighter jets into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) marks a serious escalation in East Asian geopolitics. While China claims Taiwan as its own territory, these military incursions are widely viewed as coercive tactics designed to intimidate Taipei and test international resolve. This development is not just a bilateral issue between China and Taiwan; it carries deep implications for regional stability, global order, and countries like India that have a direct stake in the principle of sovereignty.

A principle of international relations: the sovereignty of nations. When the sovereignty of one political entity is threatened through military intimidation, it weakens the very foundations of the international system. For India, this issue is especially sensitive. India has long emphasised respect for territorial integrity and peaceful resolution of disputes. If the world normalises or ignores aggressive actions such as repeated military intrusions into another entity's air defence zone, it sets a dangerous precedent. Today, it may be Taiwan; tomorrow, it could be any smaller or strategically vulnerable nation. In a globalised and interconnected world, instability in one region inevitably spills over into others. The Taiwan Strait is a critical artery for global trade and technology supply chains. Any conflict there would disrupt economies far beyond East Asia, including India's. Thus, a threat to Taiwan's security is, indirectly, a threat to India's strategic and economic interests as well. "China's Assertiveness and the Silence of Global Powers": A widely discussed argument among geopolitical analysts is that China's growing assertiveness has been encouraged by inconsistent or selective responses from major global powers. When powerful nations act



Rising airspace incursions signal growing geopolitical strain and regional uncertainty.

decisively in some regions but appear restrained or silent in others, it creates strategic openings. From this perspective, some critics argue that China may see current circumstances as a kind of strategic reward—a signal that strong actions might not invite equally strong consequences. The perception that global powers are distracted, divided, or unwilling to escalate tensions can embolden a rising power to push its claims more aggressively. This does not necessarily imply a formal agreement or explicit approval from any country. Rather, it highlights how geopolitical behaviour is often shaped by perceived costs and benefits. If the cost of coercion seems low, the temptation to use force or intimidation increases. The Venezuela Analogy and Fears of a Taiwan Takeover. Another controversial but increasingly common comparison is between Taiwan and Venezuela. During the presidency of Donald Trump, the United States pursued aggressive political and economic pressure against Venezuela, openly supporting regime change while asserting its strategic interests in the region. Many observers stress that Taiwan is not Venezuela, and the situations are vastly different in terms of military balance, alliances, and global consequences. However, the analogy is used to make a broader point: powerful states often act decisively when they believe the international environment allows it. From this viewpoint, fears arise that China could attempt a decisive move on Taiwan if it concludes that global resistance would be limited or manageable. The frequent fighter jet incursions can be seen as a form of psychological warfare—testing Taiwan's defences, exhausting its resources, and gradually normalising a heightened military presence. Whether or not China will attempt a full takeover in the near future remains uncertain. What is clear, however, is that these actions are deliberate, calculated, and intended to reshape the status quo.

Why This Matters for India? For India, the implications are strategic and moral: Strategic Balance in the Indo-Pacific. China's actions around Taiwan are part of a broader pattern of assertiveness, from the South China Sea to the Himalayan borders. A successful coercion of Taiwan would significantly tilt the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, directly affecting India's security environment. Precedent for Power Politics. If military pressure becomes an accepted tool to settle political disputes, smaller and mid-sized powers will face increasing risks. India, which has unresolved border issues of its own, cannot afford a world where force routinely overrides diplomacy. Rules-Based International Order India has consistently supported a rules-based global system. The erosion of this system would harm countries that rely on international law and multilateral norms rather than raw power. Conclusion: The entry of Chinese fighter jets into Taiwan's air zone is far more than a regional military manoeuvre. It is a signal about intent, about testing limits, and about reshaping global norms. For India and the wider international community, the lesson is clear: when the sovereignty of one is threatened, the security of all is at risk. Silence, selective outrage, or geopolitical convenience only strengthen the hands of those willing to use coercion. If the world wishes to prevent a future where might consistently makes right, it must recognise that defending sovereignty anywhere is ultimately an investment in stability everywhere

By Neha, 2nd Semester

The Election Commission of India

Election Commission of India: The constitutional authority responsible for administering elections in India has recently announced the schedule for several important state and civic body elections across the country. These announcements set the stage for millions of voters to participate in the democratic process in the coming months. Bihar assembly election 2025: The most significant recent announcement relates to the Bihar legislative assembly elections. The Election Commission of India has officially declared the election dates for Bihar's 2025 assembly polls. Voting will be conducted in two phase first phase on 6 November 2025, and the second on 11 November 2025. The counting of votes will take place on 14 November 2025. This election schedule follows constitutional requirements for the term of the existing assembly and extensive preparation by the commission, including planning the deployment of officers and finalising voter rolls. Mumbai (BMC) elections 2026: Another notable election date announcement involves Mumbai's local civic body elections. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election schedule has been finalised with voting held on January 15, 2026, and results announced shortly after. This



Election preparations highlight strength and scale of India's democracy.

marks the resumption of elections for the City's largest civic body after delays, reflecting the commission's efforts to synchronise and conduct polls efficiently amid administrative challenges. Impact on national events, the release of state election dates also influences other national activities. For instance, the 2026 Indian Premier League IPL schedule preparation has been delayed because the Board of Control for Cricket in India is awaiting the Election Commission's final dates for several state polls.

Why do these dates matter? The election commission's dates are more than just calendar entries; they trigger several procedural and legal steps. The Model Code of Conduct MCC comes into force once states are announced, restricting certain actions by governments and political parties. Government officials begin administrative preparation for polling. Political parties finalise candidates and campaign plans across constituencies. These timelines ensure transparency and fairness while giving voters time to prepare and engage with the democratic process. The election commission's announcement of state election dates sets up a series of critical democratic exercises in India, foremost among them being the Bihar assembly elections in November 2025 and Mumbai civic polls in January 2026. These dates are important milestones in India's electoral calendar and will shape the political campaign, governance focus, and public opinion.

By- Isha Pandey, 2nd Semester

International Oil Prices Rise Sharply: Causes, Impacts, and Global Implications

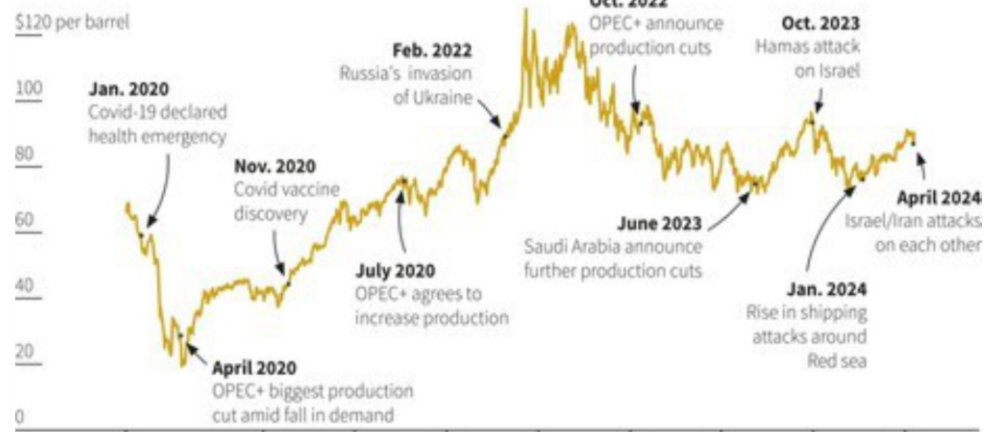
In recent times, international oil prices have risen sharply, creating ripples across the global economy. Crude oil, often referred to as the lifeblood of modern economies, plays a critical role in transportation, manufacturing, power generation, and daily consumer life. Any significant fluctuation in its price has wide-ranging consequences, affecting governments, businesses, and households alike. The recent surge in oil prices is the result of a complex mix of geopolitical tensions, supply-demand imbalances, economic recovery trends, and market speculation. **Reasons Behind the Sharp Rise in Oil Prices**

One of the primary factors driving the increase in international oil prices is geopolitical instability. Major oil-producing regions such as the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and parts of Africa are often prone to political tensions and conflicts. Any disruption or threat to oil supply from these regions immediately triggers concerns in global markets. Even the possibility of sanctions, shipping route disruptions, or military conflict can push prices higher due to fear of reduced supply. Another significant reason is production decisions by oil-exporting nations, particularly groups like OPEC and its allies. When these producers decide to cut or limit output to stabilise markets or protect their revenues, global supply tightens. Reduced supply, when combined with steady or rising demand, naturally leads to higher prices. Production cuts are often strategic, but they can also amplify price volatility in already uncertain global conditions. Rising global demand has also contributed to the surge. As many economies recover from periods of slowdown, industrial activity, travel, and trade increase. This recovery leads to higher consumption of fuel for transportation, aviation, and manufacturing. Emerging economies, with growing populations and expanding infrastructure, are further adding to the demand pressure, pushing oil prices upward.

In addition, currency fluctuations, especially the strength of the US dollar, play an important role. Since oil is traded internationally in dollars, a weaker dollar makes oil cheaper for countries using other currencies, increasing demand. Conversely, a stronger dollar can raise costs for importers. Shifts in currency values often influence investor behaviour and oil price movements. Oil markets are not driven solely by physical supply and demand. Speculation in future markets significantly affects prices. Traders and investors often react to news, forecasts, and geopolitical developments, sometimes exaggerating price movements. Expectations of future shortages or higher demand can push prices up even before actual changes occur on the ground. Moreover, low investment in oil infrastructure over recent years has limited the industry's ability to respond quickly to rising demand. Environmental concerns, policy shifts towards renewable energy, and investor caution have reduced funding for new oil exploration and production. While this supports long-term sustainability goals, it can create short-term supply constraints, contributing to higher prices.

Oil's ups and down since 2020

Brent crude price



Fluctuating oil prices reflect shifting geopolitics and global economic pressures.

Impact on the Global Economy: -The sharp rise in international oil prices has significant economic consequences. For oil-importing countries, higher prices increase import bills, putting pressure on foreign exchange reserves and national budgets. This often leads to higher fuel prices domestically, which then raise transportation and production costs across sectors. Inflation is one of the most immediate effects. As fuel costs rise, the prices of essential goods such as food and manufactured products also increase due to higher transportation and logistics expenses. Central banks may respond by tightening monetary policies, such as raising interest rates, which can slow economic growth.

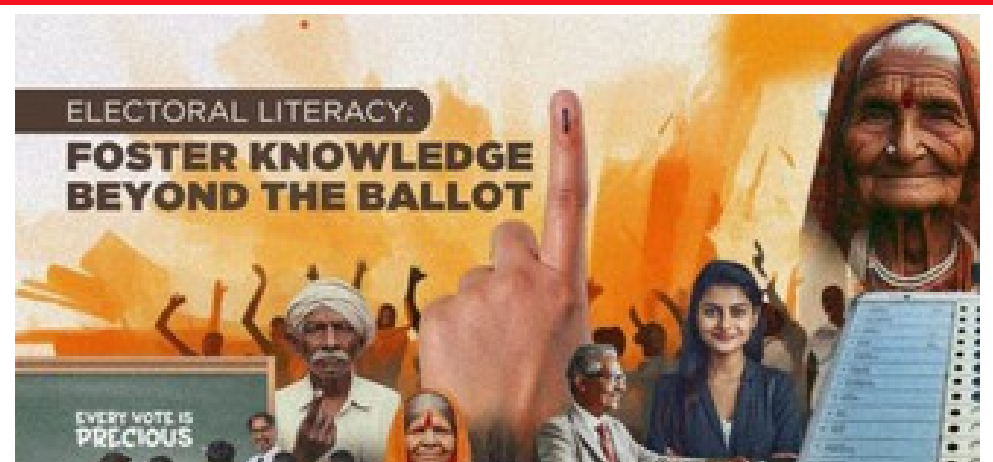
For oil-exporting nations, higher prices can be beneficial in the short term. Increased revenues improve government finances, reduce fiscal deficits, and allow greater spending on development projects. However, excessive dependence on oil income can make these economies vulnerable to future price crashes.

Social and Political Implications: - Rising oil prices can also have social and political impacts. Higher fuel and living costs often lead to public dissatisfaction, protests, and political pressure on governments, especially in developing countries.

Governments may be forced to provide fuel subsidies or tax relief, straining public finances further. At the global level, high oil prices can influence diplomatic relations, as countries seek alternative suppliers, negotiate energy partnerships, or accelerate their transition to renewable energy sources. The sharp rise in international oil prices is the result of interconnected global factors, including geopolitical tensions, production controls, rising demand, and financial market dynamics. While higher prices benefit some producers, they pose serious challenges for oil-importing nations and the global economy as a whole. The situation highlights the world's continued dependence on fossil fuels and the urgent need for energy diversification. In the long run, investing in renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and strengthening global cooperation may help reduce vulnerability to such price shocks and ensure a more stable energy future.

By- Nidhi Lohia, 2nd Semester

Improving Elections and Strengthening Democracy



Greater awareness and fair participation build trust in democratic systems.

Elections are the foundation of a democratic system. They provide citizens with the opportunity to choose their leaders and influence the direction of the country. A strong democracy depends not only on regular elections but also on how fair, transparent, and inclusive those elections are. Improving the electoral process is therefore essential for strengthening democracy and maintaining public trust in governance. One of the key aspects of improving elections is to ensure fairness. Every voter must have equal access to voting, regardless of social, economic, or regional differences. Accurate voter lists, accessible polling stations, and clear voting procedures help reduce confusion and prevent exclusion. When citizens feel that their vote truly matters, their confidence in the democratic system increases. Transparency is another crucial factor. Political parties and candidates should follow clear rules regarding campaign funding and expenditure. The

misuse of money and power during elections can weaken democracy by creating an unfair playing field. Strong monitoring mechanisms and strict enforcement of election laws are necessary to ensure that elections remain free from corruption and manipulation.

Technology has also begun to play an important role in modern elections. Electronic voting machines, voter identification systems, and digital awareness campaigns can make the process more efficient. However, the use of technology must be handled carefully, with strong security measures and regular checks, to ensure reliability and public confidence. Transparency in the use of technology helps reduce doubts and misinformation.

Voter awareness and participation are equally important. Democracy becomes weak when citizens choose not to vote. Educating people about their rights and duties, especially young voters, can increase participation. Schools, colleges, media, and civil society organisations can play a major role in spreading awareness about the importance of voting and democratic values. Finally, strengthening democracy goes beyond elections. Citizens must stay informed, question their leaders, and participate in public discussions. A healthy democracy requires active engagement from both institutions and the people. In conclusion, improving elections is a shared responsibility. When electoral systems are fair, transparent, and inclusive, democracy becomes stronger. Such a system not only reflects the will of the people, but also builds a future based on trust, equality, and active citizenship.

By- Bhairavi Gupta, 2nd Semester

International Football Matches for World Cup

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION (CAF) ROUND 7 FIXTURES

3RD SEPTEMBER, 2025

SEYCHELLES	VS	GABON
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4TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

CHAD	VS	GHANA
ANGOLA	VS	LIBYA
MAURITIUS	VS	CAPE VERDE
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	VS	EQUATORIAL GUINEA
MADAGASCAR	VS	CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.
CAMEROON	VS	ESWATINI
ALGERIA	VS	BOTSWANA
TUNISIA	VS	LIBERIA
MALI	VS	COMOROS
GUINEA-BISSAU	VS	SIERRA LEONE

Qualification battles across nations keep the dream of the World Cup alive

Football is one of the most popular games in the world. People from almost every country love football and support their favourite teams with great excitement. The biggest football tournament in the world is the FIFA World Cup. Every football nation dreams of competing on this global stage and lifting the prestigious trophy. However, entry into the World Cup is not all teams can enter the World Cup directly. First, they have to play qualification matches. International football matches for World Cup qualification are very important games. In these matches, national teams play against other countries to earn a place in the World Cup. These matches are held every year before the actual World Cup tournament. Only the top teams from each region qualify, making the competition extremely tough.

The world is divided into different football regions. Each region has its own qualification matches. Teams play against countries from the same region. For example, Asian countries play qualification matches with other Asian teams, European countries play with European teams, and African countries play with African teams. This system makes the matches fair and organised. In World Cup qualification matches, teams play many games, not just one or two. They participate in both home matches and away matches. Home matches are played in their own country, where fans cheer loudly for their team. Away matches are played in another country, where conditions can be challenging. Teams must perform well in all matches to earn points. Winning a qualification match is very important because it gives points to the team. If a team wins more matches, it moves higher on the points table. Teams that lose many matches slowly move out of the race. At the end of the qualification rounds,

only the top teams get the chance to play in the World Cup. These matches are very emotional for players and fans. Players wear their national jerseys and play not only for themselves but for their whole country. Fans follow these matches with immense passion. Streets, homes, and stadiums come alive with excitement during qualification games.

International football qualification matches also help young players show their talent. Many new players get a chance to play for their country for the first time. If they perform well, they become famous and respected.

These matches help in building the future of football in a country.

By- Tannu Chauhan, 2nd Semester

India's Domestic Cricket Season



Domestic tournaments continue to shape the future of Indian

India's domestic cricket season is the unseen engine that powers the country's global dominance in the sport. While the Indian Premier League (IPL) grabs headlines, it is the domestic circuit—played across dusty grounds, packed stadiums, and every kind of weather—that shapes future stars and keeps Indian cricket competitive year after year. Running broadly from September to March, the domestic season offers a rich mix of formats, tournaments, and talent pipelines that feed directly into the national teams. The Ranji Trophy is the crown jewel of Indian domestic cricket. First played in 1934, it remains the toughest pathway to Test cricket. State teams compete in multi-day matches that demand technique, temperament, and endurance.

Greats like Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, and Virat Kohli all honed their skills in the Ranji system. Even today, national selectors heavily rely on Ranji performances when choosing Test squads. Named after legendary cricketer Vijay Hazare, this 50-over competition reflects the demands of modern ODI cricket. Players are judged on strike rotation, death bowling, and fielding athleticism. Consistent performances here often lead to India A selections and ODI call-ups, making it a crucial tournament for limited-overs specialists. India's domestic T20 championship has become increasingly important in the IPL era. Explosive batters, clever spinners, and death-over specialists use this platform to grab franchise attention. Many IPL discoveries—such as Hardik Pandya and Ruturaj Gaikwad—first made noise in this tournament before breaking onto the international scene. India's domestic cricket season is more than just a feeder system— it is the foundation of Indian cricket's success. From five-day battles in the Ranji Trophy to high-octane T20 clashes, the domestic circuit shapes skills, builds resilience, and identifies the champions of tomorrow. Long before the lights of international stadiums shine on them, India's cricketers earn their stripes on domestic grounds—and that tradition continues to define the nation's cricketing legacy. The Ranji Trophy is the most prestigious and oldest domestic cricket tournament in India. It was introduced in 1934 and is played in the first-class format, similar to Test cricket. State and regional teams participate in this tournament, making it a true test of the player's technique, patience, fitness, and mental strength. Many legendary Indian cricketers such as Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, and Virat Kohli began their careers in the Ranji Trophy. The Vijay Hazare Trophy is India's premier List A (50-over) domestic competition. It prepares players for the demands of One Day International cricket, where balancing aggression with stability is essential.

Performances in this tournament often influence national team selection, especially for the ODI format. The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is the main T20 domestic tournament in India. With the rise of T20 cricket, this competition has gained immense importance.

Players use this platform to showcase explosive batting, innovative shots, and effective bowling variations. Outstanding performances often lead to selection in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The Duleep Trophy is a first-class tournament played between zonal teams such as North Zone, South Zone, East Zone, West Zone, and Central Zone.

It provides high-quality competition and is closely monitored by national selectors, as it features some of the best domestic players in the country. The Irani Cup is played between the Ranji Trophy winners and the Rest of India team. This match serves as a bridge between domestic and international cricket and allows players to prove their readiness for higher levels.

By- Roshani Tiwari, 2nd Semester

Women and Access to Technology



In today's digital age, technology has become a part of almost every aspect of our lives — from education and work to communication and creativity. However, when we talk about access to technology, an important question remains: do women have equal access and opportunities in the tech-driven world? While progress has been made, the journey towards true digital equality is still ongoing. Technology has the power to empower women in powerful ways. With access to smartphones, the internet, and digital tools, women can learn new skills, start businesses, work remotely, and express their voices on global platforms. For many women, especially in developing regions, technology has opened doors that were once closed due to social or geographical barriers. Online education, digital payments, and social media have helped women become more independent and confident. Despite these positives, the gap between men and women in access to technology is still visible. Many women, particularly in rural areas, face challenges such as a lack of digital literacy, limited access to devices, poor internet connectivity, and social restrictions. In some households, men are still given priority when it comes to owning phones or using the internet. These small but significant barriers slow down women's growth in a world that is moving rapidly towards digitalisation. Another major issue is representation. Even today, women are underrepresented in fields like coding, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and engineering. This is not because of a lack of talent, but because of limited encouragement, fewer role models, and stereotypes that suggest technology is a "male-dominated" space. When young girls do not see women leading in tech, it becomes harder for them to imagine themselves in those roles. However, the situation is slowly changing. More initiatives are now focusing on teaching girls digital skills, encouraging women entrepreneurs, and creating safe online spaces. Women-led startups, tech communities, and online learning platforms are inspiring many to step into the digital world with confidence. When women gain access to technology, the impact is not limited to individuals — families, communities, and economies grow stronger. Access to technology is not just about devices and internet connections; it is about opportunity, freedom, and choice. Ensuring that women have equal access to technology means giving them a fair chance to learn, earn, and lead. It means breaking stereotypes and creating environments where women feel supported and safe online. As we move forward in a digital-first world, bridging the gender gap in technology should be a shared responsibility. By promoting digital education, encouraging inclusivity, and challenging outdated mindsets, we can create a future where technology truly works for everyone. When women move forward with technology, society moves forward with them.

By- Itika Kardam, 4th Semester

Women's Rights and Good Governance

Women's rights and good governance are deeply interconnected pillars of a progressive and just society. When women enjoy equal rights, opportunities, and representation, governance systems become more transparent, inclusive, and effective. Similarly, good governance creates an environment where women's rights are protected, promoted, and sustained. Together, they form the foundation for social development, economic growth, and democratic stability. Women's rights refer to the entitlement of women to live with dignity, freedom, and equality. This includes access to education, healthcare, employment, political participation, and protection from violence and discrimination. Despite global advancements, gender inequality remains a challenge in many societies. Cultural norms, economic dependency, and limited access to decision-making positions often restrict women's potential. Ensuring women's rights is not only a moral responsibility but also a necessity for national progress. Good governance, on the other hand, involves transparency, accountability, rule of law, participation, and responsiveness in public administration. A government that practices good governance ensures that all citizens, regardless of gender, have equal access to justice, opportunities, and public services. When governance structures are fair and inclusive, women are more likely to participate in leadership roles, policymaking, and community development. The empowerment of women strengthens governance systems. Studies show that when women hold leadership positions, corruption levels tend to decrease, and social welfare policies improve. Women leaders often prioritise education, healthcare, and family welfare, which directly contribute to sustainable development. Furthermore, women's participation in political and economic decision-



making ensures that policies address the needs of all segments of society. However, achieving women's rights and good governance requires continuous effort. Governments must enforce laws against gender discrimination, support women's education, provide equal employment opportunities, and ensure safety in public and private spaces. Civil society, media, and international organisations also play a crucial role in raising awareness and holding authorities accountable. To achieve "Good Governance," modern states must move beyond passive inclusion to active Gender-Responsive Governance. **This involves:** Gender Budgeting: Analysing how tax and spending policies affect men and women differently. Institutional Reform: Dismantling the "glass ceilings" within public administration and the judiciary. Legal Literacy: Ensuring women know their rights so they can demand better governance. Education is one of the most powerful tools in advancing both women's rights and good governance. An educated woman is more likely to be aware of her rights, participate in civic life, and contribute to economic growth. Likewise, educating society about gender equality promotes respect and cooperation between men and women. In conclusion, women's rights and good governance are mutually reinforcing. A society that values equality and justice creates strong governance systems, while good governance guarantees the protection of women's rights.

By- Bhairavi, 2nd Semester

The Impact of Climate Change on Women



Climate change is one of the greatest global challenges of the modern era. Its effects are visible in rising temperatures, extreme weather events, floods, droughts, and shifting agricultural patterns. While climate change affects all people, its impact is not equal. Women, especially in developing and marginalised communities face greater vulnerability to climate-related challenges due to social, economic, and cultural factors. Understanding the gendered impact of climate change is essential for creating fair and effective solutions. In many parts of the world, women are primarily responsible for managing household resources such as water, food, and fuel. Climate change disrupts these responsibilities by causing water scarcity, reducing crop yields, and increasing the time needed to collect firewood or clean water. For instance, prolonged droughts force women and girls to travel longer distances to fetch water, increasing their physical burden and exposing them to safety risks. This also limits time for education, employment, and personal development. Agriculture is another sector deeply affected by climate change, and women play a major role in farming activities in rural areas. Unpredictable rainfall, soil degradation, and extreme weather conditions threaten food production, which directly impacts women farmers. Many women lack access to land ownership, financial credit, and agricultural training, making it harder for them to adapt to climate challenges. As a result, food insecurity and poverty increase, further deepening gender inequality. Health risks related to climate change also disproportionately affect women. Natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and heatwaves increase the likelihood of injury, malnutrition, and disease. Pregnant women are particularly at risk due to limited access to healthcare during emergencies. Additionally, overcrowded shelters after disasters can expose women to gender-based violence and exploitation. These health and safety concerns highlight the urgent need for gender-sensitive disaster response strategies. Despite these challenges, women play a crucial role in climate action and environmental protection. Many grassroots movements and community-based environmental programs are led by women. Their knowledge of local ecosystems and sustainable resource management makes them valuable contributors to climate adaptation strategies. When women are involved in environmental decision-making, communities develop more effective and inclusive solutions.

By- Isha, 2nd Semester

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

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