

Current Affairs 11th February 2024 by Saurabh Pandey Sir

Defence Partnership-India (DP-I) Overview Key Initiatives and Agreements

- Launch of DP-I: The United Kingdom has initiated the "Defence Partnership-India" to bolster defense ties with India.
- Dedicated Cell: A special unit within the U.K. Ministry of Defence is established to enhance bilateral defense collaboration.
- Defense Agreements: Signed at Aero India, focusing on the production of MANPADS and Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM).
- ASRAAM Facility: An Advanced Short-Range air-to-air missile assembly and test facility will be set up in Hyderabad, India.
- Statement of Intent: Signed to design and develop an Integrated Full Electric Propulsion system for Indian Navy ships

Thales U.K. and BDL Collaboration: Contracted to deliver Laser Beam-Riding MANPADs and collaborate on LMM production. Partnership Goals: Address mutual security concerns, create jobs, and enhance interoperability between Indian and U.K. armed forces. Summary The U.K. has launched a dedicated defense partnership with India, focusing on various missile systems and collaborative projects to enhance bilateral security and industry ties.

The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

The ITER project, often dubbed the world's largest scientific collaboration, aims to demonstrate the feasibility of nuclear fusion as a large-scale and carbon-free source of energy. What is ITER?: It's a colossal fusion reactor located in France, designed to replicate the energy production process of the sun. The Tokamak Design: ITER employs a toroidal (doughnut-shaped) design known as a tokamak,

which uses powerful magnetic fields to contain hot plasma

Current Challenges Facing ITER Despite its ambitious goals, ITER faces a multitude of challenges that threaten to derail its timeline: Delays and Budget Overruns: Recent reports indicate a substantial delay in the project's timeline, with costs ballooning by approximately €5 billion. Technical Hurdles: The complexity of the tokamak design presents ongoing engineering challenges that must be addressed Commercialization of Fusion Energy: If successful, ITER could pave the way for commercial fusion power plants, revolutionizing energy production. International Collaboration: ITER symbolizes global collaboration, uniting scientists from over 35 countries in the pursuit of sustainable energy.

Hindustan Jet Trainer (HJT)-36

Yashas Overview Renaming: The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's Hindustan Jet Trainer (HJT)-36 has been renamed to Yashas during Aero India. Previous Name: Formerly known as Sitara, the aircraft has undergone extensive modifications to enhance its performance. Enhancements: Significant changes have improved the trainer's capabilities, establishing it as a modern military aviation training system

Capabilities and Features Training Design: The HJT-36 is crafted for Stage II pilot training, counter-insurgency, and counter-surface force operations. Versatility: Supports armament training and aerobatics, highlighting its adaptability in military applications. Key Features: Stall and spin capabilities Aerobatics Armament carriage up to 1000 kg Single-point ground refueling and defueling Performance Improvements: Modifications have enhanced departure characteristics and spin resistance across the aircraft's operational envelope.

Summary The HJT-36 trainer, now named Yashas, has undergone significant modifications to enhance its capabilities for modern military training.

Global Heat and Climate Change:

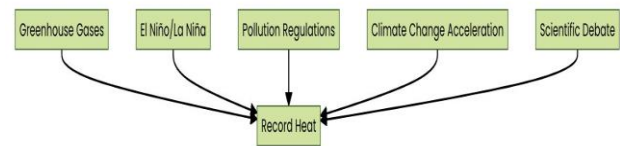
January 2025 Overview Record Heat: January 2025 set a new global heat record, being 0.09°C warmer than January 2024 and 1.75°C above pre-industrial levels. **Climate Change Acceleration:** A study by former NASA scientist James Hansen suggests that global warming is accelerating, sparking debate among researchers. **Greenhouse Gases:** The primary cause of record heat is the accumulation of greenhouse gases from fossil fuel combustion. **El Niño and La Niña:** The natural climate cycle, particularly the transition from a substantial El Niño to a newly started La Niña, influences global temperature trends

Temperature Trends: The last 15 years have warmed at approximately twice the rate of the previous 40 years, according to Hansen's study. **Pollution Regulations:** Recent shipping regulations have reduced sulfur pollution, which may contribute to increased warming by allowing more sunlight to reach the Earth. **Diverging Opinions:** While some scientists agree on the acceleration of climate change, others argue that current temperature increases may be within expected variability. **Key Factors Influencing Global Temperature Record Heat:** January 2025 was notably warmer than previous years, highlighting a significant rise in global temperatures. **Climate Change Acceleration:** Research indicates a potential acceleration in global warming, though this is a topic of scientific debate. **Greenhouse Gases:** The increase in global temperatures is largely attributed to greenhouse gas emissions from human activities

Natural Climate Cycles: The transition between El Niño and La Niña plays a crucial role in influencing global temperature patterns.

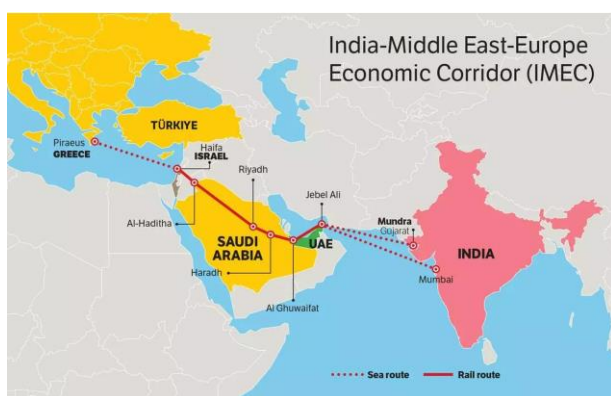
Temperature Trends: Recent studies show a marked increase in warming rates over the past 15 years compared to the previous four decades. **Pollution Regulations:** Changes in shipping regulations have reduced sulfur emissions, potentially affecting global warming by increasing solar radiation reaching the Earth's surface. **Scientific Debate:** There is ongoing discussion among scientists regarding the extent and causes of recent temperature changes

Global Temperature Influences:



A New Era for West Asia





India's Role in Amplifying the Voice of the Global South

In recent years, India has taken significant strides in positioning itself as a leader in the Global South. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphatic statements at various international forums, the country is not just asserting its interests but is also amplifying the voices of developing nations. Introduction The global landscape is shifting, and India is at the forefront of this change. As the world grapples with challenges like climate change, economic disparity, and geopolitical tensions, India's role as a bridge between the Global North and South is becoming increasingly vital. The Context of Modi's Address In January 2025, during the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PM Modi highlighted India's commitment to the Global South. His remarks were not just rhetoric; they signified a

strategic pivot towards fostering inclusive global governance

Significance of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas This convention serves as a platform for the Indian diaspora to connect with their roots and engage in discussions about India's global role. Modi's address here underscores the importance of the Indian community in amplifying the voices of developing nations. The 3rd Voice of Global South Summit Similarly, at the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit in August 2024, Modi reiterated India's aspiration to lead reforms that would benefit developing countries. This summit was a testament to India's commitment to fostering a more inclusive global governance structure. Factors Influencing India's Renewed Enthusiasm So, what's driving India's newfound enthusiasm? It's a mix of strategic interests, historical context, and a desire to reshape global narratives. Beyond Non-Alignment Movement Unlike the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM), which was rooted in decolonization, India's current approach is more about collaboration and partnership. It's about asserting its identity as an emerging power while engaging with both the Global North and South

Strengthening Ties with Traditional Partners India is not shying away from its relationships with traditional partners like the U.S. and Europe. It's deepening these ties while simultaneously reaching out to the Global South. The U.S. Connection The visit of Jake Sullivan, the former U.S. National Security Adviser, in January 2025, reflects the strengthening of Indo-U.S. relations. This partnership is crucial for India as it navigates its role in the Global South. New Alliances in Europe Modi's visit to Poland in August 2024 signifies India's intent to forge new alliances in Europe, further solidifying its position on the global stage. The China Factor Many view India's actions as a counter to China's growing influence

Competing with China's Influence Trends in foreign direct investments in Africa suggest that India is indeed in a race with China, particularly in regions where China has a significant presence. India's Unique Position However, India is not merely reacting to China; it's carving out its own identity as a leader in the Global South, addressing the disillusionment many countries feel towards existing economic paradigms. Steps India Must Take To truly become a global development partner, India must take concrete steps. Promoting Equal Partnerships First and foremost, India needs to emphasize equal partnerships with other developing countries. This means moving away from a top-down approach and fostering genuine collaboration. Emphasizing Human-Centric Development A human-centric approach is essential. Initiatives like Mission LiFE, which promotes sustainable lifestyles, are a step in the right direction

Mission LiFE and Sustainable Practices By encouraging low-consumption lifestyles, India can lead by example and inspire other nations to adopt similar practices. Capacity Building Initiatives India's capacity-building strategies, such as the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program, should focus on long-term engagement rather than short-term fixes. The Goal Ahead Looking ahead, India must advocate for more inclusive global governance. Advocating for Inclusive Global Governance By championing the inclusion of the African Union in the G-20, India has shown its commitment to a more representative global governance structure. : Building Domestic Capacity However, it's not enough to facilitate changes in international institutions; India must also build its own domestic capacity for international cooperation. Conclusion In conclusion, India stands at a pivotal moment in its history. By amplifying the voices of the Global South and fostering genuine partnerships, it can reshape the global narrative. The journey ahead is filled with challenges, but with the right strategies,

India can emerge as a leader in global development

Wayang: A Cultural Heritage of Indonesia Overview

- Wayang is a traditional puppet theater from Indonesia.
- Recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.
- Performances include music, singing, and storytelling, often based on ancient epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- Puppets are crafted from materials such as leather and wood, with intricate designs.
- Skilled puppeteers, known as "dalang", manipulate the puppets and narrate the stories.
- Performances are common during cultural festivals, religious ceremonies, and community gatherings.
- The tradition has evolved, incorporating modern themes while maintaining its historical roots.