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## 1. Bonedi Bari Pujas (Durga Pujas) GS 1 (Art and Culture)

- **Why in News:** The **Bonedi Bari Pujas**, or **Durga Pujas**, conducted in Kolkata's aristocratic households, have gained renewed attention as cultural heritage and tradition face the challenges of modernization and economic pressures

### About the Puja

- **Bonedi Bari Pujas** are among the **oldest Durga Puja** celebrations in Kolkata, with origins dating back over 415 years.

- Bonedi Bari is a Bengali term for the traditional homes of the **upper class, aristocrats, and zamindars of Kolkata**.

- These pujas are held in the **grand houses of Kolkata's elite families (traditional Bengali houses)**
- These rituals are deeply entwined with the history of the **Sabarna Roy Choudhury family (zamindar)** of vast swathes of land in **Mughal Bengal** including the villages **Sutanuti, Gobindapur, and Kalikata** which would later become Kolkata, among others.
  - In 1698, the Sabarna Roy Choudhury family was forced to sell these settlements to the British East India Company; and by 1805, the Company had converted these three settlements into a modern city of the 19th century — Calcutta.
  - The same Sabarna Roy Choudhury family is also credited with hosting the first public Durga Puja in Kolkata in the 1600s. Supposedly over 400-years-old now, the Aat-chala Durga Puja of the Sabarna Roy Choudhury family is said to be older than Kolkata itself.
- These celebrations are not only religious festivals but also a reflection of **Kolkata's rich cultural tapestry**.
  - Traditions such as using old molds for idol-making and maintaining relationships with long-serving artisans highlight the continuity of cultural practices through generations. The involvement of families in these rituals fosters unity and pride, even as many members reside outside the region.

*Bonedi bari pujas of Kolkata bring back annals of the past for younger generations*

Shrabana Chatterjee  
KOLKATA

Bonedi Bari Pujas or the Durga Puja performed at Kolkata's aristocratic households of yesteryear are some of the oldest puja celebrations in the city. Some date back 415 years or more, way before the British set foot in India.

The Sabarna Roy Choudhury family is one of the oldest in Kolkata, dating back to the 15th generation of the family line.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Srabana Roy Choudhury, one of the heirs of this zamindar household, said, "Our Durga Puja started in 1611, we had traditions like the *huffia* and *gaur* sacrifice, but in keeping with the changing times, I myself took the initiative to stop this animal sacrifice. The puja has been in the same courtyard where the deed to Kalikata, Sutanuti, and Gobindapur to the East India Company was signed from where the British era started in India."

The tale of Mr. Choudhury's Durga Puja is very similar to that of north Kolkata's Chatterjee Mitra Bari Pujas, or the Subadhar Rajbari Pujas. They are all hundreds of years old and most of them follow generations of old traditions to keep the heritage alive while sprouting a few modern family tales. Even with many family members residing outside the State or even the country, they take pride in the fact that families unite during the four days of the puja.

Traditions like using old moulds to make the faces of the idols, or *panchalis*, *idol* makers, and *idolists* (devotees) who have been with the family for generations are still kept alive by the current generations.

A few known Durga Pujas have historic ones in the city. One of the oldest is the *Bonedi Bari Pujas* from Sutanuti in South 24 Parganas, the *Beni Bari Pujas*. Started in 1771, this puja is one of the iconic celebrations in the locality. Panchalis, a daughter of the Beni family said, "Traditionally our family were the *suramdas* of this place, so during immersion on Chaitra Navami day, our family was immersed first and then the rest of the locality.



The Durga Puja of Subadhar Rajbari in Gopabandhu Bari that was started in 1678. (Srabana Chatterjee)



The Bonedi Bari Durga Puja of Srabana Roy Choudhury Bari in Sutanuti, which is a female-driven initiative. (Srabana Chatterjee)

Kolkata

Vinayak Choudhury, a bonedi Bari Pujas' true connoisseur from Tollymore Park, who documents the history of these historic Durga Pujas and conducts guided tours, said, "Many a time, the pujas were passed down through male heirs of the family in the bonedi Bari of Kolkata. It needs huge money. Some times involving the upcoming generation also, becomes a challenge. But we have these pujas to such extent, a part of our history will be erased from the lives of our next generations."

our heritage," he said.

Though bonedi Bari Pujas are always considered a women's domain, the male members were never made the in-charge of any major Durga Puja and most traditions were passed down through male heirs of the family in the bonedi Bari of Kolkata.

**Female-driven**  
This age-old tradition was broken and challenged by the Chatterjee Mitra Bari Durga Puja in north Kolkata when the Mitra household did not have a male heir to take over the puja rituals.

The Mitra Bari Puja is now 28 years old and Anurupa Mitra Banerjee and other women in the family take a leading role in managing it.

Ms. Mitra Banerjee points out that on the last day of the puja, *fish* (dussehra) is the women who conduct the *horra* (dussehra) ceremony and in the goddess's throne. This tradition is followed to signify that Durga is a female power, so are the women of the family. While holding pujas, they also do the *gaur* (sacrifice) to give them a hint of a small part of the process.

## 2. The gruelling course of litigation in India GS 2 (Judiciary)

- **Why in News:** President Droupadi Murmu addressed court delays at the National Conference of the District Judiciary, coining the term "black coat syndrome" to describe public reluctance to engage in litigation due to perceived complications and inefficiencies in the judicial process.
- **Judicial System Pressures**
  - **Case Management Issues:** Delays are exacerbated by inconsistent implementation of Case Flow Management Rules. Judges face systemic pressures that force them to prioritize cases based on arbitrary deadlines set by higher courts.
  - **Resource Allocation:** Higher court directives often disrupt district court scheduling, requiring disproportionate resource allocation to expedite certain cases. This misalignment leads to cascading delays in the overall court system.
  - **Performance Evaluation Concerns:** Judges are incentivized to focus on simpler cases to accumulate performance "units," neglecting more complex cases. This skewed focus contributes to prolonged delays for cases requiring substantial judicial attention.





- **Colonial Sovereignty:** The sovereignty of the Chagos Islands shifted during British-French conflicts, ultimately resting with the UK by 1965. The transfer to Mauritius during decolonization lacked justification considering the historical ties to the Maldives.
- **Slave Trade Influence:** In the 1700s, the islands were populated by slaves from Zanzibar, paralleling the Maldivian slave trade from Africa. This shared history likely means that the populations of the Maldives and Chagos have ancestral connections.
- **Fishing Expeditions:** Maldivian sultans historically used the islands for fishing expeditions, with expeditions marking their ownership. This practice established a traditional relationship with the islands, reinforcing claims of sovereignty.
- **Marine Conservation Importance**
  - **Declining Fish Stocks:** The Indian Ocean faces rapid depletion of fish stocks due to industrial fishing practices. Only the Maldives and Chagos currently enjoy full protection from such exploitative activities.
  - **Sustainable Fishing Practices:** Maldivian fishermen utilize sustainable pole-and-line techniques, minimizing bycatch and preserving marine biodiversity. This sustainable approach contrasts sharply with industrial fishing methods employed by external nations.
  - **Collaborative Protection Efforts:** To ensure marine conservation, Great Britain should engage with the Maldives regarding the Chagos Islands' protected status. Joint agreements among Indian Ocean nations, including the Maldives and Mauritius, are crucial for ongoing ecological preservation.

#### 4. Middle-Income Trap GS 3 (Economy)

- **Why in News:** The **World Development Report 2024 (WDR)**, published by the **World Bank**, explores the phenomenon of the **middle-income trap**. This term refers to the stagnation of growth rates that occurs when economies reach a certain level of income but struggle to transition to high-income status. The report highlights that only **34 middle-income economies** have successfully made this transition in the past 34 years.

### Can India escape middle-income trap?

How does the World Bank define the threshold for middle-income economies? Why is state intervention considered crucial for breaking the middle-income trap? What lessons can be drawn from South Korea and Chile? What challenges does India face in balancing state intervention with democratic values?

**ECONOMIC NOTES**

**Rahul Mishra**

The World Development Report 2024, authored by the World Bank, calls attention to the phenomenon of the "middle-income trap," or the slowing down of growth rates as income increases. The World Bank estimates a stagnation of income per capita when economies reach a level of per capita income 10% of that of the U.S., hindering their journey to high-income status. Over the last 34 years, only 34 middle-income economies – defined as economies with per capita incomes between \$2,136 and \$13,845 – have transitioned to higher income levels.

The WDR details the policies and strategies necessary to break out of the trap based on the development experiences of those countries that did manage the transition. It highlights the importance of the "3i" approach: investment, infusion, and innovation. Economies must invest, ensure the infusion of new global technologies, and develop an environment conducive to domestic innovation. This is no easy task and requires nimble and responsive state policy. In the modern economy, there are plenty of roadblocks that India must overcome to successfully navigate the middle-income trap.

**Role of the state**  
Most countries that broke the trap were part of the European Union which facilitated growth and mobility of capital and labour for its members. Such institutions that aid free factor mobility are not available for most countries, for whom capital inflows are liberalised – largely flowing into their economies – with restrictions on the movement of labour. An important non-European country that managed to escape the trap

is South Korea. The South Korean state was heavily interventionist, often directing the private sector's activities and ensuring their participation in an export-driven growth model. Successful companies were rewarded with access to new technologies and other supportive measures, while firms that did not perform were allowed to fail. This was no pure free market, but one where a powerful state intervened to bring about developmental goals, disciplining local elites and ensuring they followed the dictates of the state's economic plan.

Another economy that broke the middle-income trap was Chile. But it too, saw state intervention in ensuring the success of natural resource exporting sectors. The salmon industry, for instance, succeeded in Chile due to the targeted intervention of the state on multiple fronts to ensure that the industry flourished.

The South Korean government's approach carries significant lessons for India today. The state must be seen as being central amongst private players and ensuring those who do not make the mark are allowed to fail. The benefits firms receive from the state must be based on their performance instead of closeness

to power. The presence of powerful business houses can promote growth, provided they invest, ensure the adoption and infusion of new technologies, and innovate. South Korean business houses, or chaebols, are among the leaders in innovation today.

**The pitfalls**  
South Korea's success was built on manufacturing exports; such a strategy is not possible in today's economic scenario. World export growth has slowed, with demand from large economies slowing down following the multiple shocks of the last few years. Several countries have seen a slow turn to protectionism. The employment losses in developed economies caused by free trade have made it more difficult for countries such as India to access foreign markets. Moreover, several countries have been hit by what economist Karl Rodrik terms "premature deindustrialisation". Modern economies face a reduction in the income share of manufacturing at much lower levels of GDP compared to previous economies. Manufacturing is no longer an engine of growth for developing economies, and it remains to be seen whether the service sector is strong enough to break the trap.

**Challenges facing India**  
The power of billionaires in the Indian economy has increased, and they are seen as being close to the state, with the state unable – or unwilling – to ensure high rates of investment from domestic capital. The manufacturing sector has stagnated, and there has been a reversal of the process of structural transformation, with employment increasing in agriculture and in low-productive firms following the pandemic.

The growth of the aggregate economy is not being reflected on the ground. While the government estimates a real GDP growth of around 7% in recent years, wages have not kept up. According to the PLFS, nominal wages for regular wage workers at the all-India level between April and June 2023-24 has only grown at around 5%, and that of casual workers at roughly 7%. With an inflation rate of roughly 7% during this time, this implies that wage earners have seen little to no real wage growth. In economy cannot break a middle income trap if workers are unable to partake in the growth process, as reduced consumption demand will become a drag on the economy.

Most importantly, the question of democracy looms large. South Korea's export strategy was overseen by a military government that ruled till the 1980s. The government frequently quashed labour unions to aid the accumulation process of capital. Chile deposited the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende by a military coup, installing General Augusto Pinochet as the head of state. It is vital not to take the wrong lessons from these countries, and think that democracy is an acceptable price to pay for higher growth. The challenge for policy is to promote state intervention to ensure growth while maintaining the sanctity of the democratic ethos.

**Rahul Mishra is Associate Professor in the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy at O.P.J.S. Global University**

**THE GIST**

The middle-income trap refers to the slowdown of growth as economies reach middle income status, with only 34 countries successfully transitioning to high-income levels in the last 34 years.

Breaking the middle-income trap requires policies focused on investment, infusion of global technologies, and ensuring nimble, responsive, supported by flexible and responsive state policies.

India's challenge is to foster growth through strategic state intervention while preserving democratic principles and ensuring inclusive participation in the growth process.

- **What is the Middle-Income Trap?**
  - The middle-income trap is characterized by stagnation in income per capita when economies reach about **11% of U.S. per capita income**.
  - **Current Status:** Middle-income countries, defined as those with per capita incomes between **\$1,136 and \$13,845**, often face challenges in sustaining growth.
  - **Strategies to Escape the Trap:** The WDR emphasizes a **"3i" approach** for countries aiming to overcome the middle-income trap:
    - **Investment:** Capital must be allocated efficiently to foster growth
    - **Infusion:** Introduction of new global technologies is crucial
    - **Innovation:** Encouraging domestic innovation can drive progress.
- **Role of the State (Case Study)**
  - **Successful Models:** Countries that have successfully escaped the middle-income trap, such as **South Korea** and **Chile**, demonstrate the importance of state intervention:
  - **South Korea:**
    - Utilized a heavily interventionist state to direct private sector activities.
    - Supported successful companies with access to technologies and allowed underperformers to fail.

- **Chile:**
  - The government actively supported natural resource sectors, such as the salmon industry, through targeted interventions.
- **Lessons for India**
  - For India to break the middle-income trap, the government must:
    - Act as a neutral facilitator among private enterprises.
    - Base support on performance rather than political connections.
    - Encourage powerful business entities to innovate and invest in new technologies.
- **Challenges Facing India**
  - **Increased Power of Billionaires:** The concentration of wealth can create barriers to equitable growth and investment.
  - **Stagnation in Manufacturing:** The manufacturing sector has been underperforming, and many jobs are returning to low-productive agriculture post-pandemic.
  - **Wage Growth Issues:** Despite an estimated GDP growth of **7%**, real wages for workers have not kept pace, with nominal wage growth around **5-7%** compared to an inflation rate of about **5%**.
  - **Premature Deindustrialization:** Many economies are experiencing a decline in manufacturing share of income at much lower GDP levels than before, raising questions about the potential of the service sector to lead growth.
  - **Democratic Concerns:** Historical examples from South Korea and Chile show that growth can come at the expense of democracy. It is essential to ensure that India maintains its democratic ethos while pursuing state-led growth initiatives

## 5. India's 10-point plan to strengthen India-ASEAN relations **GS 2 (International Relations)**

- **Why in News:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a **10-point plan** at the **21st India-ASEAN Summit** to strengthen **India-ASEAN comprehensive partnership**.
- **What Is PM Modi's 10-Point Plan To Strengthen ASEAN-India Comprehensive Partnership?**
  1. The 10-point plan is focused on strengthening the **India-ASEAN partnership** and proposes to celebrate the year 2025 as the **ASEAN-India Year of Tourism**, for which India will make available USD 5 million towards joint activities.
  2. It also includes doubling the number of scholarships at **Nalanda University** and providing **new grants for ASEAN students at Agricultural Universities in India**.
  3. The plan proposed a celebration of the **decade of Act East Policy** through several people-centric activities including a youth summit, start-up festival, hackathon, music festival, ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks and Delhi Dialogue.
  4. It also proposed to organise an **ASEAN-India women scientists conclave** under the **ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund**.
  5. Under the plan, India would make available **USD 5 million for enhancing disaster resilience**.
  6. The plan proposes to initiate a **new Health Ministers' track** towards building **Health Resilience**.
  7. It also proposes the review of the **ASEAN-India Trade and Goods Agreement by 2025**.
  8. Under the plan, a regular mechanism of the **ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue** will be initiated to strengthen digital and cyber resilience
  9. It also proposes to organise a workshop on **Green Hydrogen**.
  10. PM Modi also invited all ASEAN leaders to join the **'Plant a Tree for Mother' campaign** towards building climate resilience.

**'TIES KEY IN TIMES OF CONFLICT'**

### PM unveils 10-point plan to strengthen India-ASEAN relations

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

ANNOUNCING A 10-point plan while underlining that dialogue and cooperation between India and ASEAN are of utmost importance at a time of conflict and tension in many parts of the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday flagged "respect" for "each other's national integrity and sovereignty" at the ASEAN-India leaders' summit in Laos capital Vientiane.

Modi met Shigeru Ishiba, the new Prime Minister of Japan, on the sidelines of the summit.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 21st ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane, Laos, on Thursday. AP

In a post on X, Modi said, "Had a very productive meeting with PM Ishiba. I'm happy to  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



- **Significance of ASEAN Countries**

- PM Modi stressed that he believes that the **21st century is the 'Asian Century'**-- a century for India and ASEAN countries, and noted that India-ASEAN trade had doubled to over USD 130 billion in the past decade.
- India is celebrating a decade of its Act East Policy and ASEAN is its central pillar of the policy.
- **India-ASEAN cooperation** began in the 1990s, driven by shared economic and strategic interests, particularly in response to China's growing influence.
- India reiterated its full **support for ASEAN Centrality**, ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), and Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship's priorities and deliverables under their theme **"ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience"**.
- **Trade and investment:** India and ASEAN have signed a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, significantly boosting trade and investment.
  - ASEAN is India's 4th largest trading partner
- **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway:** Towards its east, India is part of a push to develop a highway connecting the country to Myanmar and Thailand.
  - The 1,400-km highway, first proposed in 2002, is expected to link India to the two SEA nations by land.
- **Potential market:** ASEAN constitutes the 3rd largest market in the world. This can help India utilize its export potential.
- **Convergence with Indo-Pacific strategy:** ASEAN is a crucial component of India's "Act East" policy and its "Indo-Pacific" strategy, reflecting the convergence of interests in the region.
- **Countering China's influence:** Strengthening relations with ASEAN countries can serve as a counterbalance to China's influence in the region.
- **Connectivity with North East:** Connectivity initiatives with ASEAN can boost economic development in India's northeastern states by positioning them as a hub for regional trade and commerce.
- **Important for rule-based order:** ASEAN plays a central role in promoting a rules-based security architecture in the Indo-Pacific region, which is essential for the region's stability and prosperity.

- **About Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

- ASEAN is a **regional intergovernmental organization**.
- **Establishment:** 08 August 1967 – in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the **ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)**
- **Founding Fathers of ASEAN:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Today, ASEAN nations include **Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos and Singapore**.
- Its primary aim is to promote **political, economic, and social cooperation and stability** among its member countries.
- The **East Asia Summit** comprises the **10 ASEAN countries**, and eight partners – **Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States**. Timor-Leste has the observer status at the EAS.

## 6. National Agriculture Code (NAC) in India

### GS 3 (Agriculture)

- **Why in News:** The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is taking a significant step toward improving agricultural practices in India by formulating a **National Agriculture Code (NAC)**. This initiative aims to establish a comprehensive framework for agricultural standards, similar to existing codes for buildings and electrical systems.

- **Why is the NAC Needed?**

- **Current Gaps in Agricultural Standards**

- While the BIS has set standards for agricultural machinery and inputs like fertilizers and pesticides, many essential practices remain unregulated.
    - Areas such as field preparation, irrigation methods, and overall agricultural practices lack standardized guidelines, which can lead to inefficiencies and inconsistencies in farming.

- **Need for a Comprehensive Framework**

- Policymakers have long recognized the necessity of a unified standards framework to enhance productivity and sustainability in agriculture.
    - The NAC will provide guidelines covering the entire agricultural cycle, aiding farmers, agricultural universities, and officials.

- **Key Features of the NAC**

- **Structure of the Code:** The NAC will consist of two main parts:

- **General Principles:** Applicable to all crops.
    - **Crop-Specific Standards:** Targeting specific crops like paddy, wheat, oilseeds, and pulses.

- **Areas Covered:** The NAC will encompass a wide range of agricultural practices, including:

- Crop selection
    - Land preparation
    - Sowing and transplanting
    - Irrigation and drainage
    - Soil health management
    - Plant health management
    - Harvesting and post-harvest operations
    - Input management (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.)
    - Storage and traceability

- **Inclusion of Emerging Practices:** The code will address modern agricultural practices such as:

- Natural and organic farming
    - Utilization of Internet-of-Things (IoT) in agriculture

- **Objectives of the NAC**

- **The NAC aims to**

- Create a **national code** that considers agro-climatic zones and socio-economic diversity.
    - Promote a **quality culture** in Indian agriculture by providing a reference for policymakers and regulators.
    - Serve as a **guide** for the farming community to make informed decisions.
    - Integrate Indian Standards with recommended agricultural practices.
    - Address critical areas such as **sustainability, traceability, and documentation**.
    - Support capacity-building programs through agricultural extension services and civil society organizations.

- **Proposed Timeline and Implementation**

- The BIS has outlined a plan with **working panels** to draft the NAC, targeting completion by **October 2025**.

## Why govt wants to formulate standard National Agriculture Code

HARISHANSHARMA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 10

THE BUREAU OF Indian Standards (BIS) has begun the process of formulating a National Agriculture Code (NAC), on the lines of the existing National Building Code and National Electrical Code.

**What is the NAC?**

The BIS is the national body which sets standards for different products across various economic sectors. In agriculture, it has already set standards for machinery (tractors, harvesters, etc.) and various inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.). However, many areas are not covered under BIS standards. For example, there is no standard for practices like the preparation of fields, micro irrigation water use. This is why for a long time, policymakers

have felt the need for a comprehensive standard framework, similar to those now being formulated. The NAC will cover the entire agricultural cycle, and will also contain a guidance note for future standardisation. It will serve as a guide for farmers, agricultural universities, and officials in the sector.

The code will have two parts. The first will contain general principles for all crops, and the second will deal with crop-specific standards for paddy, wheat, oilseeds, and pulses.

**What will the NAC cover?**

In addition to standards for agriculture machinery, the NAC will cover all agriculture practices and post-harvest operations, such as crop selection, land preparation, sowing/transplanting, irrigation/drainage, soil health management, plant health management, harvesting/threshing, primary processing, post-harvest, sustainability, and record maintenance. It will also include stan-

dards for input management, like use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and weedicides, as well as standards for crop storage and traceability.

The NAC will also cover emerging areas in agriculture such as the use of Internet-of-Things (IoT). Essentially, it is a network of physical objects – “things” – that are embedded with sensors, software, and other technologies for connecting and exchanging data with other devices and systems over the internet. In agriculture, this would include technologies like precision farming, in which farmers get real-time soil, crop, and weather information that can be used to adjust their inputs.

**What are the stated objectives of the NAC?**

According to the BIS, the objectives are: ■ To create an implementable national code covering recommendations for agricultural practices taking agro-climatic zones, crop type, socio-economic diversity of the country and all aspects of agribusiness chain into consideration. ■ To act as an enabler of quality culture in Indian agriculture by providing the required reference policy makers, agricultural departments and regulators for incorporating the provisions of NAC in their schemes, policies, or regulations. ■ To create a comprehensive guide for the farming community to use effective decision-making in agricultural practices. ■ To integrate relevant Indian Standards with recommended agricultural practices. ■ To address the horizontal aspects of agriculture such as SMART farming, sustainability, traceability and documentation, and ■ To aid in the capacity building program organized by agriculture extension services

**EXPLAINED POLICY**

■ To create a comprehensive guide for the farming community to use effective decision-making in agricultural practices. ■ To integrate relevant Indian Standards with recommended agricultural practices. ■ To address the horizontal aspects of agriculture such as SMART farming, sustainability, traceability and documentation, and ■ To aid in the capacity building program organized by agriculture extension services

and civil society organizations.

**What is the proposed timeline?**

The BIS has already formulated a strategy to standardize practices. It has formed working panels for 12-14 specifically identified areas, which will include university professors and BIS organizations. These panels will draft the code, with a tentative deadline for the NAC set at October 2025.

After this, the BIS plans to provide training to farmers on the NAC and its standards. “We have requested universities to organize training programs for farmers. The BIS will provide whatever financial assistance is needed for that,” Prasad Kumar Tiwari, Director General, BIS, told the Indian Express.

**What are Standardized Agriculture Demonstration Farms?**

Apart from drafting the NAC, the BIS has also taken initiative to set up Standardized Agriculture Demonstration Farms (SADFRs) involved agricultural institutions in the country. SADFRs will serve as experimental sites for testing and implementing various agricultural practices and new technologies, in accordance with the NAC. For the development of these specialized farms, the BIS plans to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with premier agricultural institutions. “We have identified 10 prominent agricultural institutions, and will sign MoUs with them for the development of SADFRs. These MoUs have been drafted, and are currently being finalized. Two MoUs have already been signed,” Tiwari said. According to officials, the BIS will provide financial assistance to institutions for setting up the SADFRs, where anyone, including officials responsible for extension activities, farmers or industry people can come and learn. Tiwari said China has already successfully demonstrated the working of such SADFRs.

- ## 7. Impact of Climate Change on the Antarctic Peninsula
- ### GS 3 (Environment)

- **Key Findings of the Study**

- **Vegetation Growth:** The study found that the extent of vegetation, primarily consisting of mosses and lichens, has increased **14 times over** the past 35 years.
- In **1986**, vegetation covered less than **1 square kilometer** of the Antarctic Peninsula, while by **2021**, it had expanded to nearly **12 square kilometers**.
- **Rate of Greening:** The rate of greening has accelerated, with an increase of over **30% between 2016 and 2021**.
- **Warming Trends:** The Antarctic Peninsula is warming **five times** faster than the global average, with temperatures nearly **3 degrees Celsius** higher than in **1950**.
- A **2023** study indicated that Antarctica is warming at a rate of **22 to 0.32 degrees Celsius** per decade.

- **Implications of Increased Vegetation**

- **Positive Effects:** The colonization of bare rock by mosses may enhance soil formation by adding organic matter, potentially improving soil quality
- **Concerns**
  - **Invasive Species:** Increased plant life could attract non-native species, posing a threat to indigenous flora and fauna. These species might be introduced by eco-tourists or researchers.
  - **Albedo Effect:** A darker surface due to vegetation absorbs more solar radiation, reducing the Antarctic Peninsula's ability to reflect sunlight. This could further increase ground temperatures, contributing to a feedback loop of warming.
- **Environmental Changes in Antarctica**
  - **Ice Loss:** Antarctica has lost **280% more ice mass** in the **2000s and 2010s** compared to the **1980s and 1990s**. This loss contributes to rising global sea levels.
  - **Record Heatwaves:** The continent has experienced unprecedented heatwaves, with temperatures in some areas reaching **39 degrees Celsius** above normal.

# As green patch spreads in Antarctica, here's what is worrying scientists

**PLANT CHAOS**  
Antarctica, circa 1970

ANTARCTIC CHAOS across the Antarctic Peninsula, a long, mountainous extension of the continent, has increased more than 100 times over the past five decades. The warming temperatures, a new study says.

"In the beginning, the Antarctic Peninsula was a barren, rocky landscape," says Jennifer "Jenny" Bartlett, a climate-smarting specialist at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, and one of the authors of the new study. "Now, the Antarctic Peninsula is covered in the green patches of moss and lichens."

The analysis, published last week in the journal *Antarctic Science*, was carried out by researchers at the University of Victoria and the University of Exeter in England, and the British Antarctic Survey.

**How quickly is Antarctica warming?**  
The 2012 study published in the journal *Nature* found that the Antarctic Peninsula is warming faster than any other region on Earth. The temperature there has risen by 3.9 degrees Celsius (7.1 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1957, according to a study by the British Antarctic Survey.

average, at a rate of between 0.2 degrees Celsius and 0.3 degrees Celsius per decade (roughly 0.4 degrees Fahrenheit per decade). The Antarctic Peninsula, which is the southernmost part of the continent, has warmed more than any other region on Earth. The temperature there has risen by 3.9 degrees Celsius (7.1 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1957, according to a study by the British Antarctic Survey.

**EXPLAINED CLIMATE**

Antarctica has been experiencing record-blowing between the 1990s and the 2000s, which is the warmest summer in the northern hemisphere since 1957. The warming temperatures in the southern hemisphere are the result of the continent's position in the Southern Ocean, which is the warmest part of the world's oceans. The warming temperatures in the southern hemisphere are the result of the continent's position in the Southern Ocean, which is the warmest part of the world's oceans.

in cover is astonishing, according to the researchers. Study co-author Thomas Bruneau, a climate-smarting specialist at the University of Victoria, told CNN, "Our findings suggest that the warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is not just a local phenomenon, but a global one. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world."

The researchers also found that the warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world.

species that could threaten the continent's biodiversity.

Study co-author Bartlett told CNN, "We're seeing a real change in the Antarctic Peninsula. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world."

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Researcher used satellite imagery and ground-based data to show that the warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world. The warming of the Antarctic Peninsula is a clear sign of global climate change, and it is a warning sign for the rest of the world.

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**MCQ Current Affairs**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2024**

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- 1. What is the primary objective of the Humsafar Policy, recently seen in the news?**
    - a) To promote eco-friendly tourism in coastal regions.
    - b) To promote telemedicine services in remote locations
    - c) To promote digital banking in rural areas
    - d) To enhance facilities along national highways
  
  - 2. Which one of the following is the best description of 'Ardeosaurus viator', that was in the news recently?**
    - a) A newly discovered marine reptile
    - b) An ancient crocodile species
    - c) A newly discovered species of sauropod dinosaur
    - d) None of the above.
  
  - 3. Where is the Katkari Tribe primarily found in India?**
    - a) Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
    - b) Maharashtra and Gujarat
    - c) Odisha and West Bengal
    - d) Kerala and Tamil Nadu
  
  - 4. Living Planet Report, recently in news, is published by:**
    - a) World Wide Fund for Nature
    - b) World Bank
    - c) United Nations Environment Programme
    - d) World Economic Forum
  
  - 5. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, recently in news, is located in:**
    - a) Assam
    - b) Telangana
    - c) Gujarat
    - d) Kerala
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**Answers Current Affairs**  
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1. d
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. d

