



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	EV PRODUCTION
2.	PMAY-U SCHEME
3.	HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN INDIA
4.	NILGIRI THARS
5.	EXPANSION OF GLACIAL LAKES

## EV PRODUCTION

**TAG:** GS Paper II- **Governance.**

### Why in the News?

- ❖ India's new policy aims to attract global Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturers, boosting EV production and addressing domestic market challenges.

### Introduction:

- ❖ The Indian government approved a policy to position India as an Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing hub, requiring a minimum investment of ₹4,150 crore.

### Key Provisions of the Policy:

- ❖ The policy targets global EV giants like Tesla and BYD to enter India and localize production.
- ❖ Import duty on EVs imported as Completely Built Units (CBUs) valued at \$35,000 will drop to 15% for five years if a manufacturing unit is established within three years.
- ❖ A total duty waiver of ₹6,484 crore or proportional to the investment, capped at 40,000 units annually, applies to imported EVs.
- ❖ Manufacturers must achieve 25% localization by year three and 50% by year five, with revoked bank guarantees for non-compliance.

### Impact on Domestic Players:

- ❖ Tata Motors opposes the policy, fearing harm to the domestic industry, while it offers opportunities for OEMs targeting high-end consumers.
- ❖ The policy benefits global EV players and Indian joint ventures (JVs), encouraging sales and manufacturing expansion in India.

### Indian Markets:

- ❖ Global players must consider local factors like environmental conditions, road quality, and usage patterns.
- ❖ Limited EV penetration in passenger vehicles due to challenges like charging infrastructure, range anxiety, and affordability issues.
- ❖ A CII report suggests the need for 13 lakh charging stations by 2030 to support EV adoption.

### Building an EV Ecosystem:

- ❖ Reliability, durability, and service support are crucial for the EV ecosystem.
- ❖ Enhanced control in business partnerships can spur import growth, emphasizing sustainable product and system designs.
- ❖ Domestic demand should drive product and system designs, with exports complementing, not replacing, foreign investment.



**Conclusion:**

- ❖ The EV manufacturing policy seeks to lure global players, foster localized production, and tackle Indian EV market hurdles, fostering sustainable sector growth.





## PMAY-U SCHEME

**TAG:** GS Paper II- **Governance — Government Policies.**

### Overview of PMAY Scheme:

- ❖ Initiated in 2015, PMAY set out to accomplish Housing for All by 2022 across urban and rural landscapes.
- ❖ Goals encompassed slum redevelopment, economical housing for vulnerable demographics, and empowering beneficiaries in construction.

### Progress of the Scheme:

- ❖ Despite a two-year extension, the ambitious target of Housing for All remains unmet.
- ❖ Shortfall includes an estimated deficit of 20 million homes in rural regions and three million in urban areas.
- ❖ Urban housing shortage surged to over 6 million homes by 2023, witnessing a 54% increase from 2012 to 2018.
- ❖ Current deficit stands at approximately 4 million houses despite sanctioned and completed segments.
- ❖ Insitu Slum Rehabilitation (ISSR) managed to sanction only 210,552 homes, covering just a quarter of the housing shortage.

### Challenges:

- ❖ Reliance on the private sector led to vertical expansion, escalating utility expenses, and designs unsuitable for residents.
- ❖ Land availability issues, especially concerning areas registered under airports or railways, impeded ISSR progress.
- ❖ A dichotomy exists between city master plans favoring market dynamics and PMAY's objectives.

### Financial Dynamics:

- ❖ The central government contributes a mere 25% of the total investment expenditure, with beneficiary households (60%) and state governments (15%) bearing the bulk.
- ❖ The government's role is notably limited, with 62% of sanctioned houses under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) category, wherein government involvement is minimal.
- ❖ Beneficiaries under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) receive interest subsidies, with land ownership vested in them.
- ❖ ISSR beneficiaries constitute a mere 2.5% of the total, indicating a meager focus on slum rehabilitation.

### Conclusion:

- ❖ Despite substantial investments, PMAY grapples with challenges arising from private sector reliance, land availability constraints, and inconsistencies with city plans, thereby curtailing its effectiveness in mitigating housing shortages.



## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN INDIA

**TAG:** GS Paper II- **International Relations.**

### Context:

- ❖ The 2023 U.S. State Department Human Rights Report (HRR) highlights numerous human rights violations in India, encompassing extrajudicial killings, ethnic tensions, suppression of activists, and persecution of minorities.

### Additional Information:

- ❖ Specifics from the report include instances of extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, coerced confessions through torture, and frequent internet shutdowns.
- ❖ Ethnic clashes, notably between the Kuki and Meitei communities, have resulted in significant human rights abuses.
- ❖ Criticism is directed at the government for its perceived failure to take adequate action against officials implicated in such abuses.
- ❖ The report documents over 800 cases of extrajudicial killings between 2016 and 2022, with Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh reporting the highest numbers.
- ❖ Allegations of transnational repression include claims of the government targeting journalists, activists, and members of the diaspora.
- ❖ Instances of the government allegedly orchestrating reprisals against individuals abroad, such as the case of a Sikh Canadian citizen, are cited.
- ❖ The report highlights the cancellation of registration certificates for numerous nonprofit organizations under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) provisions.
- ❖ Threats and violence against human rights defenders are also documented.
- ❖ Reports of militant groups targeting Muslims and Dalits over issues related to cattle transportation or slaughter persist despite Supreme Court guidelines issued in 2018 to curb such vigilantism.

### Possible Impact on India-U.S. Relationship:

- ❖ **Diplomatic Strain:** The report's public disclosure of human rights concerns could strain diplomatic ties between India and the U.S., potentially leading to friction during bilateral discussions.
- ❖ **Trust Deficit:** India may perceive the report as an intrusion into its internal affairs, resulting in a trust deficit between the two nations.
- ❖ **Policy Adjustments:** India might recalibrate its foreign policy to counter the negative portrayal, potentially distancing itself from certain U.S. initiatives or forging closer relations with other countries.
- ❖ **Public Perception:** The report could influence public sentiment in both nations, shaping attitudes towards each other and impacting domestic political discourse.
- ❖ **Trade and Investment:** Considerations of human rights may influence trade and investment decisions, prompting investors and businesses to reassess their involvement with India.
- ❖ **Multilateral Cooperation:** India may seek to bolster its collaborations with other nations or international organizations to mitigate the repercussions of the report.
- ❖ **Dialogue and Engagement:** Diplomatic discussions between India and the U.S. may be initiated to address the raised concerns and identify areas of mutual cooperation.



- ❖ Long-term Relations: How human rights issues are managed could shape the future trajectory of the India-U.S. relationship, influencing the dynamics of their strategic partnership.





## NILGIRI THARS

**TAG:** GS Paper III- **Environment and Ecology.**

### Why in the News?

- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Kerala have initiated a synchronized census to gauge the population of the Nilgiri tahr, which is Tamil Nadu's state animal.

### Additional Information:

- ❖ The census, involving 700 participants, commenced on April 29 and will span three days.
- ❖ Various methods, including bounded count and double observer methods, will be employed to estimate the population accurately.
- ❖ This marks the first large-scale, well-organized, and scientifically driven survey for the Nilgiri tahr.
- ❖ The survey will cover Eravikulam and Silent Valley National Parks in Kerala, contiguous with the tahr habitats in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Nilgiri tahrs typically inhabit montane grasslands situated at altitudes ranging from 300 to 2,600 meters.
- ❖ A 2015 study suggested that there were slightly over 3,100 Nilgiri tahrs scattered across fragmented habitats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ WWF-India, Wildlife Institute of India, and Nature Conservation Foundation have collaborated to formulate the census technique.

### Nilgiri Tahr Overview:

- ❖ Species: Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*)
- ❖ IUCN Status: Endangered
- ❖ Habitat: Indigenous to the Nilgiri Hills in the Western Ghats of southern India, residing in montane grasslands and shola forests.
- ❖ Description: A medium-sized ungulate, resembling a diminutive antelope, characterized by a slim body, short legs, and a distinctive dark brown coat.
- ❖ Diet: Mainly herbivorous, consuming grasses, herbs, and shrubs found in its habitat.
- ❖ Status: Categorized as Endangered by the IUCN due to habitat degradation, fragmentation, and hunting.
- ❖ Population: Estimated to be fewer than 3,000 mature individuals, with a downward trend.
- ❖ Conservation: Protected under Indian legislation, conservation measures include habitat restoration, anti-poaching initiatives, and community engagement.
- ❖ Challenges: The fragmentation of its habitat due to human activities such as farming, infrastructure expansion, and illegal hunting.
- ❖ Ecological Importance: Plays a crucial role in preserving biodiversity and ecological equilibrium in its habitat through grazing and browsing.
- ❖ Research: Ongoing studies concentrate on population dynamics, habitat requirements, and conservation approaches to safeguard this unique species.



## EXPANSION OF GLACIAL LAKES

**TAG:** GS Paper I- **Geography**, GS Paper III- **Environment and Ecology**.

### Why in the News?

- ❖ ISRO has unveiled findings regarding substantial expansions of glacial lakes in Indian Himalayan river basins spanning from 1984 to 2023, facilitating flood risk assessment and climate adaptation efforts.

### Additional Details:

- ❖ Analysis of ISRO's satellite imagery spanning nearly four decades highlights significant transformations in glacial lakes within Indian Himalayan river basins.
- ❖ Among the 2,431 lakes larger than 10 hectares identified during the 2016-17 period, 676 glacial lakes have notably expanded since 1984.
- ❖ Within this expansion, 130 lakes are situated in India, with 65, seven, and 58 in the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra River basins, respectively.
- ❖ A substantial 89% of the expanding lakes have increased by more than double, with 10 lakes expanding between 1.5 to 2 times and 65 lakes expanding by 1.5 times.
- ❖ Elevational analysis reveals 314 lakes within the 4,000 to 5,000 meters range and 296 lakes above 5,000 meters elevation.
- ❖ Glacial lakes are classified into categories such as Moraine-dammed, Ice-dammed, Erosion, and others.
- ❖ The majority of the expanding lakes fall under the Moraine-dammed category (307), followed by Erosion (265), others (96), and Ice-dammed (8).
- ❖ ISRO underscores the significance of utilizing satellite-derived change analyses to comprehend glacial lake dynamics, which is vital for effectively managing flood risks and adapting to climate change in glacial environments.