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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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S.NO. TOPIC

1. MAINTAIN STATUS QUO ON WELL NEAR SAMBHAL MOSQUE, DIRECTS SC
2. GRATEFUL FOR INDIA'S HUMANITARIAN AID, SAY AFGHANISTAN'S TALIBAN
3. 2024 WAS THE FIRST YEAR TO BREACH GLOBAL WARMING LIMIT, SHOW DATA
4. FORGING LEADERSHIP WITH INDIA'S YOUTH POWER
5. RUPEE SINKS 18 PAISE TO CLOSE AT A RECORD LOW OF 86.04/\$

MAINTAIN STATUS QUO ON WELL NEAR SAMBHAL MOSQUE, DIRECTS SC

Maintain status quo on well near Sambhal mosque, directs SC



Under watch: Friday prayers happen under tight security at the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal on Friday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that status quo be maintained with respect to a well located near the entrance of the Shahi Jama Masjid at Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh.

A Bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar issued directions to private respondents and local authorities at Sambhal on an application filed by the mosque's

management committee.

The court directed the respondents to file their counter-affidavits and status reports within two weeks. It posted the case on February 25.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, for the mosque committee, said the well held historical significance and its water has been used since time immemorial.

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- ❖ The Supreme Court directed maintaining the status quo on a well near the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal,
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, citing its historical significance.
- ❖ The mosque management committee claimed the well is partly within mosque premises and raised concerns over its reclassification as "Hari Mandir" for religious activities.
- ❖ The Court instructed the respondents, including local authorities, to file counter-affidavits and status reports within two weeks and restrained any activity at the site without court permission.





- ❖ The case follows earlier violence in Sambhal over claims that the mosque was built on a 16th-century temple, prompting the Court to stay local civil proceedings and ensure administrative neutrality.
- ❖ The matter is scheduled for hearing on February 25, 2025.



What is the controversy around the Sambhal mosque?

- ❖ A petition filed in Sambhal claims the **16th-century Jama Masjid, built by Babur's general Mir Hindu Beg**, was constructed over an ancient **Hari Har Mandir**, echoing disputes in Varanasi, Mathura, and Dhar.
- ❖ Despite the **Places of Worship Act, 1991**, which prohibits altering the religious character of places of worship as of August 15, 1947, the petitioners demand a reassessment of the site.
- ❖ Initial surveys of the mosque led to violent clashes, with allegations of police misconduct and deaths of unarmed civilians.
- ❖ The mosque, a protected national monument with architectural significance, has historically seen peaceful coexistence among communities.



GRATEFUL FOR INDIA'S HUMANITARIAN AID, SAY AFGHANISTAN'S TALIBAN

Grateful for India's humanitarian aid, say Afghanistan's Taliban



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri meets Afghanistan Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai on Wednesday. ANI

- ❖ The **present day Afghanistan “does not pose a threat to any nation”**, the Taliban administration in Kabul said on Thursday.
- ❖ Indian Foreign Secretary **Vikram Misri** met with the **Foreign Minister of the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan**.
- ❖ **The regime expressed gratitude for Indian humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.**
- ❖ Informed that the **Iranian port of Chabahar was discussed between the two sides.**

India has not recognised the Taliban regime in Kabul.

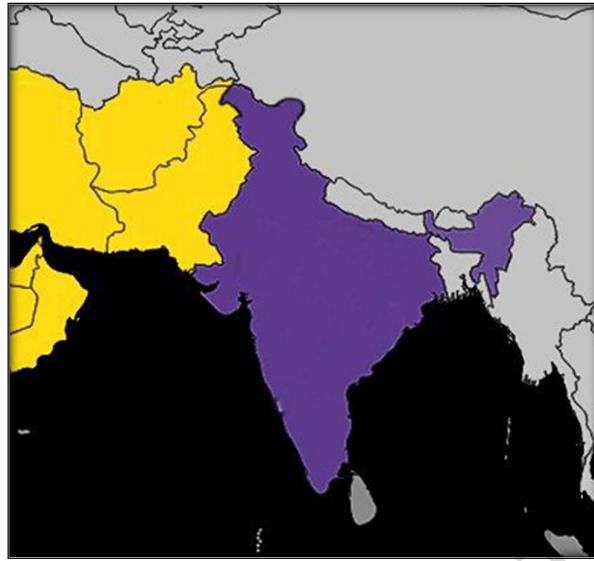
- ❖ **India's Strategic Engagement with the Taliban:**
 - The focus includes **countering China's growing presence**, maintaining **historical ties**, and **leveraging trade routes like Chabahar and the International North-South Transport Corridor, TAPI Project.**
 - India continues providing humanitarian aid while refraining from formally recognizing the Taliban regime, particularly in light of its repression of women and internal challenges.

India's Strategic Engagement with the Taliban:

- ❖ **Leveraging Taliban-Pakistan Strains:**
 - The **Taliban's deteriorating relationship with Pakistan**, due to cross-border terrorism and Pakistani airstrikes, offers India an opportunity to strengthen ties with Afghanistan.
 - **India aims to ensure Afghan soil is not used for anti-India activities**, contrasting Pakistan's militaristic approach in the region.
- ❖ **India as a Stabilizing Regional Player:** By adopting a pragmatic and cautious approach, India positions itself as a stabilizing force in Afghanistan.



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2024 WAS THE FIRST YEAR TO BREACH GLOBAL WARMING LIMIT, SHOW DATA

2024 was the first year to breach global warming limit, show data

It is the first time that mean temperature crossed the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, says global body; experts say that given the high rate of carbon emissions, the 2024 temperatures represent a point of no return

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Humanity has stepped into a future that climate scientists for decades have warned about. Temperature data made public on Friday by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), an authoritative source on historical trends in climate, show that 2024 was the first year in history when mean global temperature went 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.

Annual climate conferences, or the Conference of Parties convened by the United Nations, are about getting world leaders to agree on measures to curb emissions to keep temperatures from going over 2 degrees Celsius above the temperature in the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period and "as far as possible" keeping it below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Consistent rise

The way climatological boundaries are determined, a single year in the red doesn't by itself spell catastrophe. Only when temperatures consistently



Scorching heat: Each of the past 10 years was one of the 10 warmest years on record. FILE PHOTO

breach the 1.5 degrees Celsius mark for a decade or two would a boundary considered to have been breached. However, experts say that given the high rate of carbon emissions at present, the 2024 temperatures represent a point of no return.

"While there may be year to year variability, an El Nino in some years or a major volcanic eruption in others might influence temperatures, this suggests that there is no going back and that we are on a trajectory on exceeding 2 degrees Celsius by 2050," Roxy Mathew Koll, climate scientist, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, told *The Hindu*.

At an average temperature of 15.1 degrees Celsius, 2024 was the warmest year in global temperature records, which go back till 1850, and was 0.72 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average. It was 0.12 degrees Celsius above the average of 2023, the previous warmest year on record. It was also 1.6 degrees Celsius above an estimate of the 1850-1900 temperature designated to be the 'pre-industrial' level. Each of the past 10 years (2015-2024) was one of the 10 warmest years on record.

For 11 months in 2024, the monthly global average temperature exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius above

pre-industrial levels.

In 2024, the annual average sea surface temperature (SST) over the extra-polar ocean reached a record high of 20.87 degrees Celsius, 0.51 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average.

The average extra-polar SST was at record high levels for the time of year from January to June 2024. From July to December 2024, the SST was the second warmest on record for the time of year, after 2023.

Among the reasons for the record-breaking temperatures in 2024 was the El Nino, which is warming of the Central Equatorial Pacific, that began in June 2023 with effects lasting well into 2024.

'Serious implications'

"A single year with temperatures 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels does not mean we've reached 1.5°C of global warming. However, it does mean we're getting dangerously close. Every fraction of a degree – whether 1.4, 1.5, or 1.6°C – brings more harm to people and ecosystems, underscoring the continued need for ambitious emis-

sions cuts," Professor Joeri Rogelj, Director of Research at the Grantham Institute - Climate Change and Environment, Imperial College London, said in a statement.

Other experts referred to the latest, failed talks at Baku, Azerbaijan, where countries couldn't bring themselves to agree on a financial package that would realistically account for the costs of mitigating runaway carbon emissions.

"The year on year increase in average global temperature has serious implications for developing economies reeling under frequent climate disasters. This, coupled with the failure of COP29 to deliver on meaningful finance, only implies that developing economies will have to allocate more funds to deal with climate impacts and disasters in the future. Mitigation ambition of the developing world would be hit hard, unless fast and meaningful action happens on the carbon markets front," said Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, Council of Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

- ❖ **Humanity has stepped into a future that climate scientists for decades have warned about.**
- ❖ **Temperature data made public by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), a show that 2024 was the first year in history when mean global temperature went 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.**
- ❖ **We need to curb emissions to keep temperatures from going over 2 degrees Celsius above the temperature in the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period and "as far as possible" keeping it below 1.5 degrees Celsius.**
- ❖ **At an average temperature of 15.1 degrees Celsius, 2024 was the warmest year in global temperature records, which go back till 1850.**





- ❖ For 11 months in 2024, the monthly global average temperature exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- ❖ Among the reasons for the record-breaking temperatures in 2024 was the **El Nino**, which is **warming of the Central Equatorial Pacific**, that began in June 2023 with effects lasting well into 2024.

Implications:

- ❖ A single year with temperatures **1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels **does not mean we've reached 1.5°C of global warming**.
- ❖ However, it does mean we're getting dangerously close.
- ❖ This, **coupled with the failure of COP29** to deliver on meaningful finance, only implies that **developing economies will have to allocate more funds to deal with climate impacts** and disasters in the future.
- ❖ Mitigation ambition of the developing world would be hit hard, unless fast and meaningful action happens on the **carbon markets front**.





FORGING LEADERSHIP WITH INDIA'S YOUTH POWER

Forging leadership with India's youth power

Every year, January 12 is celebrated across the length and breadth of India as 'National Youth Festival', a day which is also the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue is an innovative one, launched with the vision of engaging India's youth in the developmental journey of the nation. The programme seeks to harness the collective energy, creativity and leadership potential of young minds to contribute towards realising a Viksit Bharat, i.e., a Developed India.

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's belief that the youth of the country are central to India's growth, the dialogue provides a platform for young leaders to engage in discussions, exchange ideas, and collaborate on solutions to the nation's challenges. The competition and its stages are designed to inspire the youth to think critically and contribute in a proactive way towards India's progress.

A dialogue, its competitive nature

The dialogue is a dynamic, multi-stage initiative, designed to engage and empower India's youth in the country's developmental journey. The competition has four stages, the first being a Viksit Bharat quiz held digitally on the My Bharat platform. This stage tested a participant's knowledge about India's achievements, challenges, and vision for a developed future, covering areas such as sustainable development, technology, and national policies. The top scorers moved on to the second stage, i.e., essay and blog writing, where they had to write on themes such as tech for Viksit Bharat and empowering youth for Viksit Bharat, reflecting on their vision for India's future. These submissions were evaluated for originality.

In the third stage, the Viksit Bharat Vision Pitch Deck, participants at the State level presented innovative ideas for India's development through a compelling pitch deck. The best teams from each State advanced to the fourth and last stage of the Viksit Bharat National Championship, which will be held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on January 11-12, 2025.

In the finale, the selected teams will pitch their visionary solutions to the Prime Minister. This in itself is a unique opportunity to influence national policy and contribute to India's vision of a Viksit Bharat. The competition is structured to



Raksha Khadse

Union Minister of
State for Youth Affairs
and Sports,
Government of India

test not only a participant's knowledge and creativity but also their leadership and communication skills.

The features this year

The National Youth Festival is an annual celebration of India's youth, fostering a spirit of national integration and promoting the ideals of youth empowerment and creativity. However, this year's festival stands out in several ways.

The focus this year is on Youth for Sustainable Development, a theme that resonates with growing recognition of young people as the drivers of global change. In line with India's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the festival has incorporated workshops, seminars and cultural activities that align with the vision of a greener, more inclusive, future. Additionally, there is a greater emphasis on the role of technology and innovation in achieving national goals, with specific sessions dedicated to Tech for Good and Innovation for India's Development.

Another unique feature this year is expanded virtual participation. With digital platforms having been integrated into the festival, young people from remote corners of the country can participate in discussions, workshops, and showcase their talents and ideas online. This inclusivity broadens the festival's reach and ensures that youth, regardless of location, has the chance to contribute.

The 2025 National Youth Festival will feature: workshops and panels on leadership and innovation. With a focus on topics such as youth leadership, digital entrepreneurship, and sustainable living, these sessions will equip participants with the skills necessary to drive change in their communities.

Second, cultural programmes. The festival will celebrate India's rich cultural heritage through music, dance, theatre, and folk art performances. These will provide youth with opportunities to express themselves creatively and appreciate the diverse cultural landscape of the nation.

Third, tech and innovation showcases. With the theme, Tech for Viksit Bharat, the festival will include exhibitions and presentations from young tech innovators and entrepreneurs who are building solutions to real-world problems in sectors such as health, education, agriculture, and urban development.

Fourth, engagement with leaders. The festival will facilitate direct engagement between youth and key leaders as pathbreakers from various sectors, which include government, business and academia. These interactions will provide participants with insights into leadership, governance, and the path to national progress.

Fifth, recognition of youth contributions. Awards and recognitions will be presented to young individuals and organisations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation and service. This will motivate others to take active roles in shaping India's future.

The role of MY Bharat

The Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, plays an instrumental role in shaping and guiding the direction of the National Youth Festival. As a platform that empowers youth by promoting engagement, knowledge sharing, and participation in nation-building activities, it is crucial in curating the festival's programmes and ensuring that they align with the aspirations of India's youth. Through MY Bharat, young people can gain access to resources, mentorship, and opportunities that will enhance their ability to contribute meaningfully to the country's development.

In this year's festival, MY Bharat will facilitate the digital integration of youth, enabling participation from across the country. It will also actively support youth-led initiatives, helping them navigate the complexities of social and technological challenges and encouraging them to find innovative solutions for a better India.

In totality, India's youth is indeed its most precious asset. As the country progresses towards its vision of becoming a Viksit Bharat, it is the boundless energy, the ideas and the ambition of young people that will power the nation's transformation. The initiative of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue will not only open a new chapter but will also shape the mobilisation of the political leadership.

The future of India is bright, and it rests in the able hands of its youth. This resonates with the belief expressed by Swami Vivekananda in unlimited possibilities in youth energy when he had said, 'Give me one hundred 'believing' young men... I will transform India as the number one nation in the entire world....'

The Viksit
Bharat Young
Leaders
Dialogue is
designed to
inspire the
youth of India
to think
critically

- ❖ Every year, **January 12** is celebrated across the length and breadth of India as '**National Youth Festival**', a day which is also the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**.
- ❖ The **Department of Youth Affairs**, is organizing the **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (January 10-12, 2025)** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ❖ The dialogue provides a platform for young leaders to engage in discussions, exchange ideas, and collaborate on solutions to the nation's challenges. The competition and its stages are designed to inspire the youth to think critically and contribute in a proactive way towards India's progress.





The competition has four stages

First:

- ❖ **Viksit Bharat quiz**
 - Held digitally on the My Bharat platform.
 - To test knowledge about sustainable development, technology, and national policies.

Second:

- **Essay and blog writing**, on themes such as **tech for Viksit Bharat** and empowering youth for Viksit Bharat,

Third:

- The Viksit Bharat Vision Pitch Deck

- ❖ In the finale, the **selected teams will pitch their visionary solutions to the Prime Minister**. This in itself is a unique opportunity to influence national policy and contribute to India's vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Role of MY Bharat

- ❖ **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, plays a vital role in shaping the **National Youth Festival** and empowering India's youth.
- ❖ This year, MY Bharat is facilitating:
 1. **Digital Integration:** Enabling participation from youth across the country through virtual platforms.
 2. **Support for Youth-Led Initiatives:** Guiding young minds in addressing social and technological challenges while fostering innovative solutions for a better India.





RUPEE SINKS 18 PAISE TO CLOSE AT A RECORD LOW OF 86.04/\$

- ❖ The Indian rupee fell 18 paise, breaching the 86-mark against the U.S. dollar for the first time, closing at 86.04.
- ❖ This decline was driven by a **stronger U.S. dollar, rising crude oil prices, and negative sentiment in domestic equity markets.**
- ❖ **Foreign institutional investor (FII)** outflows also added pressure on the rupee.
- ❖ The strengthening of the dollar was influenced by expectations of restrictive trade measures under the incoming U.S. administration.
- ❖ Forex experts predict that continued market weakness, strong U.S. dollar, and persistent FII outflows may further weaken the rupee.

PYQ's

Q.1 Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue?

1. The event includes **digital participation** to engage youth from remote areas of India.
2. The event only focuses on traditional cultural performances and does not involve workshops or panel discussions.
3. The **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** platform supports youth-led initiatives and helps them navigate challenges.

Select the correct answer from the options given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) None

