



# NEWS ANALYSIS

16 JULY 2024


# Prelims Practice Question For Today

Consider the following statements regarding International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

1. IAEA was established as an autonomous organization under the UN Statute.
2. It inhibits the complete use of nuclear technologies and nuclear energy.
3. It reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and United Nations Security Council.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

- 
- The IAEA is the world's centre for cooperation in the nuclear field.
  - **It was set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957.**
  - It was established as an **autonomous organization** in 1957 through its **own international treaty, the IAEA Statute.**
  - **Reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.**
  - **Headquarters** in Vienna, Austria.
  - The IAEA serves as an **intergovernmental forum** for scientific and technical cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology and nuclear power worldwide.

### **Functions:**

- Works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
- Seeks to **promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy**, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

# Today's Prelims Practice Question

Which of the following is a measure that can be used by the Government to combat inflation?

- a) Reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)
- b) Providing more subsidies on exports
- c) Increasing the rate of interest on savings and fixed deposits
- d) Increasing the non-planned expenditure on defence, police etc

# Passing laws as moneybills

## SC to hear petitions against passing laws as Money Bills

Chief Justice Chandrachud says pleas challenging the Money Bill route taken by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in Parliament will be listed when he forms Constitution Benches

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday agreed to list petitions challenging the Money Bill route taken by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in the Parliament.

“I will list when I form Constitution Benches,” the Chief Justice addressed senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who made an oral mentioning on behalf of the petitioners, including Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh.

The Money Bill question was referred to a seven-judge Bench in November 2019 by a five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi in the case of Rojer Mathew vs. South Indian Bank Ltd. The cardinal issue is whether such

### The contentious route

Some of the legislations passed as Money Bills in the Parliament include:

- Amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act
- The Finance Act of 2017
- Aadhaar Act, 2016



A Money Bill is a financial legislation that contains provisions exclusively related to revenue, taxation, government expenditures, and borrowing

amendments could be passed as a Money Bill, circumventing the Rajya Sabha, in violation of Article 110 of the Constitution.

### The provisions

A Money Bill is deemed to contain only provisions dealing with all or any of the matters under clauses (a) to (g) of Article 110(1), largely including the ap-

propriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India and taxation. In other words, a Money Bill is restricted only to the specified financial matters.

The reference includes legal questions concerning amendments made from 2015 onwards in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) through Money Bills, giving the En-

### Cong. welcomes court's decision

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court agreeing to consider a submission for setting up a Constitution Bench to hear pleas challenging the validity of passage of laws as Money Bills. » PAGE 13

forcement Directorate almost blanket powers of arrest, raids, etc. Though the court had upheld the legality of the PMLA amendments, it left the question of whether the amendments could have been passed as Money Bills to the seven-judge Bench.

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» PAGE 12

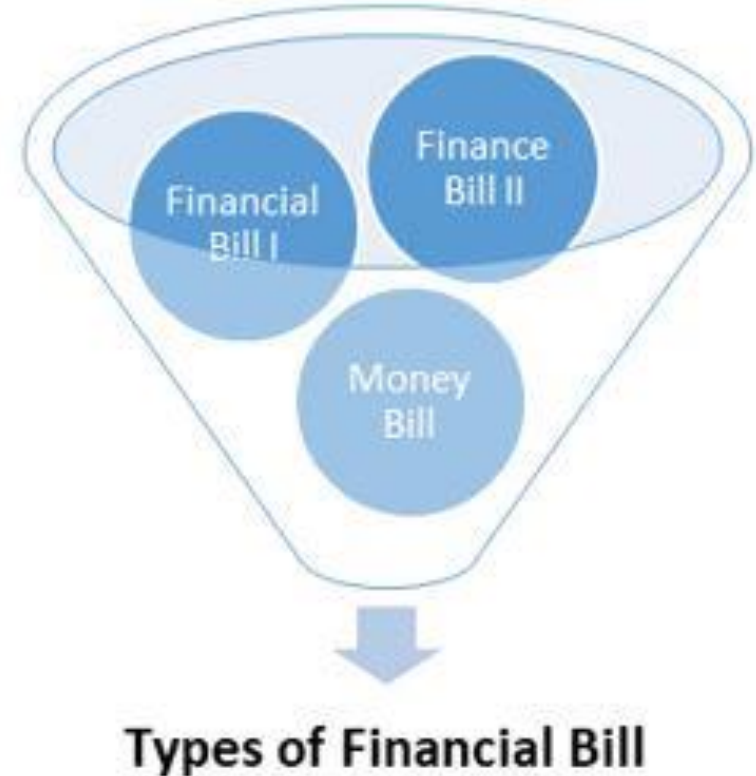
## CONTEXT

- Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday agreed to list petitions challenging the Money Bill route taken by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in the Parliament.

- The Money Bill question was referred in the case of **Roger Mathew vs. South Indian Bank Ltd.**
- The cardinal issue is whether such amendments could be passed as a Money Bill, circumventing the Rajya Sabha, in **violation of Article 110 of the Constitution.**

### The provisions


- A Money Bill is deemed to contain only provisions dealing with all or any of the matters under **clauses (a) to (g) of Article 110(1)**, largely including the appropriation of money from the **Consolidated Fund of India and taxation.**
- Money Bill is restricted only to the specific financial matters.



- Amendments made from 2015 onwards in the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** through Money Bills, giving the Enforcement Directorate almost blanket powers of arrest, raids, etc.

## Money bill

- In India, a Money Bill is a type of legislation that relates to the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India, which is the main fund of the government.
- Money Bills are typically related to financial matters such as taxation, public expenditure, and public debt.



**WHAT'S A MONEY BILL?**

Act, 2016, and the recent amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, as money bills

➤ Generally, for a bill to be enacted, the approval of both houses of Parliament is required. But a money bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject it, only suggest amendments, and it's up to the Lok Sabha to accept or reject these

➤ If a dispute arises over whether a bill is a money bill or not, the LS speaker's decision is final. However, the Supreme Court in 2018 stated that this decision is subject to judicial scrutiny


➤ According to Article 110 of the Constitution, a bill is deemed to be a money bill if it deals "only" with matters specified in Article 110 (1)(a) to (g)—taxation, borrowings by the government and appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India, etc.

➤ Article 110(1)(g) adds that "any matter incidental to any of the matters specified in Articles 110(1)(a)–(f)" can also be classified as a money bill

➤ The government has cited this clause to introduce legislations such as the Aadhaar

## criteria that a bill should fulfill to become a money bill

- According to the Constitution of India, a bill is considered a Money Bill if it contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters:
- The imposition, abolition, remission, alteration, or regulation of any tax.
- The regulation of the borrowing of money or the giving of any guarantee by the Government of India.
- The custody of the Consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund of India, the payment of money into or the withdrawal of money from any such fund.
- The appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

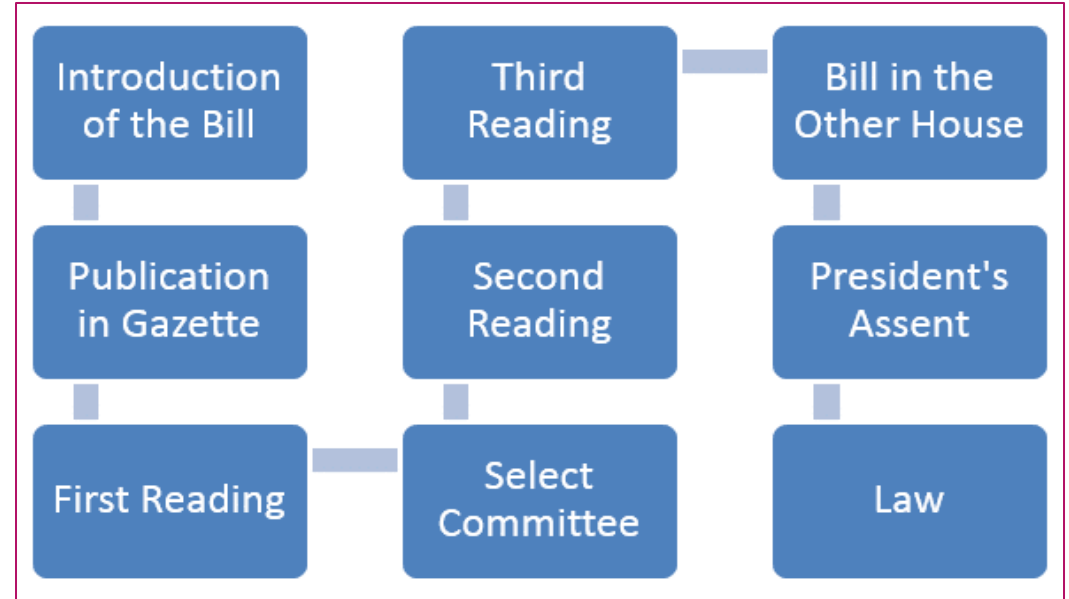
<b>CRITERIA FOR BEING A MONEY BILL</b>	
<b>Article 110 of the Constitution defines the Money Bill</b>	
<b>Money Bills</b> are those Bills which contain "only" provisions dealing with all or any of the matters specified in <b>Article 110 sub-clauses</b> :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Imposition, abolition, remission, alteration, regulation of any tax</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Appropriation of moneys out of Consolidated Fund of India</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Regulation of borrowing of money or the giving of any guarantee by govt</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Declaring of any expense to be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or the increasing of the amount of any such expenditure</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Custody of the Consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of moneys from any such fund</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Receipt of money on account of Consolidated Fund of India or Public Account of India or the custody or issue of such money or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a State</li></ul>
	
<b>A Bill which has any provision other than money provision (as mentioned in sub-clauses) is not a Money Bill</b>	
<b>Constitution gives power to the Lok Sabha Speaker to take a final call if any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not</b>	
<b>Speaker's decision is final and cannot be challenged in any court of law</b>	
<b>RS has limited powers with respect to Money Bills</b>	
<b>Lok Sabha has supreme power in terms of Money Bills</b>	



- The declaring of any expenditure to be expenditure charged on the **Consolidated Fund of India** or the increasing of the amount of any such expenditure.
- The receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money.

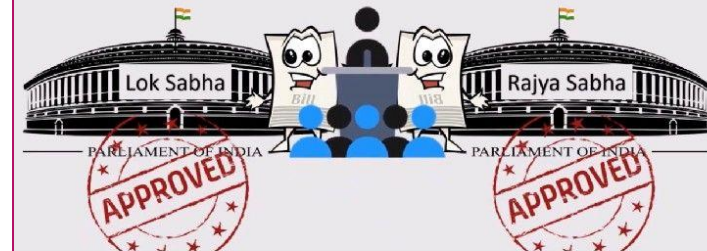
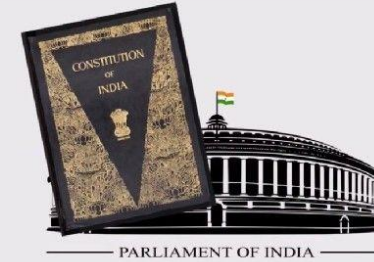
### Procedure for the passage of the Money Bill

- Money bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and only with the recommendation of the **President**.
- Money bills are considered government bills and can only be introduced by a minister.



- After a money bill is passed by the Lok Sabha, it is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for consideration. The Rajya Sabha has limited powers with regard to money bills and can only make recommendations and cannot reject or amend the bill.
- The Rajya Sabha must return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, with or without recommendations. The Lok Sabha can accept or reject any recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha.
- If the Lok Sabha accepts any recommendations, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the modified form.
- If the Lok Sabha does not accept any recommendations, the bill is deemed to have passed by both Houses in the form originally passed by the Lok Sabha without any change.

## How are decisions made in Parliament? | Types of Bills in Indian Parliament



There are four types of bills-

1. Money Bill,
2. Financial Bill,
3. Constitutional Amendment Bill
4. Ordinary bill.

- If the Rajya Sabha does not return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form originally passed by the Lok Sabha.
- **The Lok Sabha has more powers than the Rajya Sabha with regard to money bills.**
- When a money bill is presented to the President, he may give or withhold his assent to the bill but cannot return the bill for reconsideration.
- The President normally gives assent to a money bill as it is introduced in the Parliament with his prior permission.



# Nepal - India reset

## 'Big brother' to 'Brother', a Nepal-India reset

Relations between India and Nepal have dipped severely since 2015 when Narendra Modi and Khadga Prasad Oli were both Prime Ministers. There is now opportunity to upgrade the relationship to 'positive' and 'stable' with Mr. Modi having reclaimed the top post a third time and as Mr. Oli too comes out on top, in a unique collaboration between his CPN-UML and the Nepali Congress.

The bilateral turbulence started with adoption of the new Constitution by Nepal's Constituent Assembly in 2015, which New Delhi had wanted reworked. Some politicians seem to have made promises to Mr. Modi in their New Delhi visits, but in the end they promulgated the draft unamended.

While perfunctorily pointing the finger at Madhesi activists of the Tarai plains, New Delhi slapped a devastating blockade on Nepal that lasted nearly six months and generated enough bad blood to last a generation. Mr. Oli reacted sharply and on the rebound signed 10 agreements with Beijing, extending from trade, transit to power and transport.

The two Prime Ministers did meet after the blockade was lifted, but the effervescent Mr. Oli would not hold back from suggesting that the true historical Ayudhya was within present-day Nepal, or that India's aggressive bent called for replacing the national motto 'Satyameva Jayate' with 'Singhameva Jayate'. Following an updated political map published by India in October 2019, Nepal's Constitution was amended to add the Limpiyadhura-Kalapani triangle to its own map on the northwest.

Even as relations soured, New Delhi became more involved in Nepali governance and politics. Beyond politico-diplomatic pressures and above-ground activities of undercover personnel, New Delhi began fielding Hindutva advocates in the plains and hills. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wanted to convert Nepal into their own image of India.

### Power and progress

Conjecture is rife in Kathmandu on what Mr. Modi's third innings portends, given the legacy of the blockade, Hindutva activism, economic stifling and geopolitical coercion. With his foreign policy and national security teams unchanged, will he mellow or become more adventurous to make up for the BJP's domestic deceleration?

The two Prime Ministers must use the opportunity of their elevation in Delhi and Kathmandu to clear the logjam. With his 'Neighbourhood First' initiative battered on all quadrants, Mr. Modi may want to start with policy corrections on Nepal as the nearest and closest neighbour. Indian exceptionalism having long preceded Mr. Modi, going back to Jawaharlal Nehru's dilators to Kathmandu's bickering politicians, New Delhi should have known by now that manufacturing consent in Nepal is a lost cause.

India's relentless engagement with Nepal's politics and governance goes against the principle of non-interference that is part of the Panchsheel



**Kanak Mani Dixit**  
the Founding Editor  
of the Himal  
Southasian magazine  
and lives in  
Kathmandu

The Prime Ministers of India and Nepal, who were in power when bilateral ties collapsed, must rebuild trust as they are back in power once again

doctrine. New Delhi should also understand that a hands-off policy will, ipso facto, lead to a politically stable and economically energised Nepal, which will in turn benefit India's own national security and the economy of its Hindi heartland.

Nepal is not the basket-case neighbour as perceived by many in India. It is the seventh largest remittance-sending country to India, helping provide for livelihoods in its poorest parts, from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, all the way to Odisha. Seen in this light, New Delhi's overbearing attitude seems based on power, not prowess.

### Playing the system

Amidst unrelenting political chaos, the ability of Kathmandu's political class, civil society, the bureaucracy and even security forces to speak on equal terms with Indian counterparts stands severely eroded. Over the decades, Nepal's political leadership has had its share of weaklings and quidlings, but the worst dip came in the just-ended prime ministerial run of Pushpa Kamal Dahal ('Prachanda'), the Maoist chieftain, who early on had disclosed his wish to be "comfortable" for New Delhi.

Returning from an official visit to New Delhi in June 2023, Mr. Dahal conceded that he had refrained from bringing up issues that would spoil Mr. Modi's mood and "ruin the atmosphere". During the trip, he failed to raise each and every pending bilateral matter, including air routes for Nepal's stillborn international airports at Bhairahawa and Pokhara, the festering territorial dispute over Limpiyadhura-Kalapani, and a report of the Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) collecting dust. To please the RSS, he and his entourage shed their official attire to don saffron robes at the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Dahal concluded a power trade agreement that allows New Delhi to refuse import from hydel plants built with Chinese loans or Chinese contractors under international bidding. He has allowed the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu to independently disburse grants of up to Nepal rupees 20 crore, a facility not available to any other embassy. Meanwhile, New Delhi is on a campaign in Kathmandu to persuade delinking Nepal's hydropower from its water resource, so that bilateral agreements do not require two-thirds ratification by Parliament.

In June 2024, Mr. Dahal exuded confidence after attending Mr. Modi's swearing-in, believing that his meagre 32 seats in the Lower House combined with New Delhi's backing gave him the "magic formula" to remain in power. This was not to be, and New Delhi may now see the limits to its ability to play the system in Kathmandu.

As Mr. Oli takes over the reins in Kathmandu, he must discard the lethal diffidence of his predecessor, standing up for Nepal and speaking for South Asia. All bilateral matters that are hanging fire must be brought confidently to the table for airing and resolution. He must also convince Mr. Modi of the importance of reviving the South Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation, for the sake of a South Asia that holds a fourth of the global population.

New Delhi must understand that while Nepal's friendship with Beijing is non-negotiable, it will never be at the cost of India. Nepal cannot afford for it to be otherwise. Meanwhile, it is incongruous that New Delhi pressures Kathmandu on China-linked hydropower, airports and airlines even as China emerges as India's largest trading partner.

It was Mr. Modi and Mr. Oli who together nominated the eight-member India-Nepal Eminent Persons' Group back in 2017. The team finalised its consensus report the following year, whose implementation is expected to lift bilateral relations towards a transparent, confident and equal partnership. If Mr. Modi and his team continue to stall on the release of the report, as is the case, informal means have to be sought to access its content.

Up ahead, the Nepal-India relationship must be calibrated outside the two poles of imperious New Delhi and subservient, obsequious Kathmandu. The latter must find its voice, and New Delhi must reflect on how the failed policy of interference in politics and governance has left Nepal flailing.

### A South Asia at peace

The 'default setting' of the Nepal state and people is cordiality towards India and Indians, but New Delhi seems unconvinced. A continuing 'Himalayan paranoia', with its origins in the 1962 debacle with China, fuels geo-strategic insecurity in New Delhi think-tanks. Hence, they are far from considering Nepal as the future connectivity gateway to the Chinese mainland via railways and roadways breaching the Himalayan rampart.

Nor do New Delhi economists care to note the enormous savings in military expenditure represented by the very presence of Nepal as a benign buffer along the central stretch of the Himalaya – even more relevant amidst the ongoing concern over the Indian exchequer's inability to bear military costs and pensions.

The open Nepal-India border is the prototype for a future South Asia at peace, even though New Delhi analysts constantly harp on the insecurity it represents for India.

In fact, it is Nepal which has suffered, with the Maoists using shelters across the unregulated frontier during their decade of insurrection against the Nepali state. Every summer, the Indian media goes to town about Nepal 'releasing' monsoon waters into the Ganga plain, but there are no significant storage dams in Nepal and the two barrages on the Gandaki and Kosi are controlled by New Delhi.

'Nepal studies' does not exist as an academic discipline in India, which is one reason Indian citizens think of Nepal as a poor, ungrateful and even malevolent neighbour. It is Kathmandu's job to reach out, erase misconceptions and suggest possibilities. Exasperated Nepalis would like to see India convert from the 'big brother' avatar to simply being 'brother'. New Delhi's policymakers can do their part by accepting that Nepal is, after all, a separate country.

## Context

- There is an opportunity to upgrade India-Nepal relations with Narendra Modi reclaiming the Indian Prime Minister position for a third term and Khadga Prasad Oli becoming the Prime Minister of Nepal.

## Historical Challenges and Recent Turbulence:

- **Constitutional Controversy:** Bilateral relations deteriorated since 2015 due to India's opposition to Nepal's new Constitution and subsequent economic blockade.
- **Inflammatory Statements:** Controversial statements by Oli, including claims about **Ayodhya's location and India's aggressive stance**, further strained relations.
- **Territorial Disputes:** Territorial disputes arose following **India's updated political map in 2019**, leading to Nepal amending its Constitution to include the **Limpiyadhura-Kalapani triangle**.

Land-locked himalayan kingdom just got alternate trade routes, **but will it help?**



- ❖ According to the Transit and Transport Agreement between Nepal and China. Nepalese traders can use rail or road to access seaports.
- ❖ China to give permit to trucks and containers ferrying Nepal bound cargo to and from Xigatse in Tibet.
- ❖ Nepal to access Chinese territory from six check points.

### ROADBLOCKS

- ❖ Distance an issue as nearest Chinese port is more than 2,000km away from Nepal.
- ❖ Traders say lack of proper roads and customs infrastructure on the Nepalese side is a challenge.

## India's Involvement and Hindutva Influence:

- **Political Interference:** Increased Indian involvement in Nepal's governance and politics, including covert activities and promotion of Hindutva ideology.
- **Ideological Reshaping:** RSS and BJP attempts to reshape Nepal in their vision of India.
- **Future Concerns:** Concerns in Kathmandu about Modi's third term and its implications for bilateral relations.



## Opportunities for Resetting Relations:

- **Policy Recalibration:** Need for policy corrections in India's **'Neighbourhood First'** initiative, starting with Nepal.
- **Non-Interference Approach:** Importance of adopting a hands-off policy to promote political stability and economic growth in Nepal.
- **Economic Recognition:** Recognition of Nepal's economic significance, including its status as the seventh-largest remittance-sending country to India.



# Toll that extreme heat takes on women

## *The toll that extreme heat takes on women*

**E**xtrême heat is our planet's norm for now and perhaps for years to come. The warmest year on record was 2023. Temperatures in several parts of India during May-June 2024 were reported to be record-breaking. Women are disproportionately harmed by extreme heat, largely because of unequal power dynamics, gender norms, and unequal access to resources, as reflected in the Global Gender Gap Index that places India at 18th rank from the bottom. Perhaps we should be alarmed by the numbers – India is home to more than one-in-six women in the world – and extreme heat is now their reality.

### Hidden toll

A recent report by the ADB (Rising Above the Heat) highlights the unequal impact of extreme heat on women in Asia and the Pacific. For instance, women living in informal settlements in cities (also at the margins and in slums) face multiple challenges due to rising temperatures. Their homes could turn into heat chambers since the material used in informal, urban neighbourhoods, such as tin, asbestos, and plastic, trap heat. Women also toil in poorly ventilated kitchens, experiencing scorching temperatures while cooking. Rising temperatures are compounded by extreme time poverty and care burden for them.

Due to lower productivity stemming from heat stress, women work considerably longer hours to complete their share of unpaid work at home. According to Arshat-Rock's 'Scorching Divide' report, the productivity loss due to heatwaves translates to 90 more minutes of care work per day in India. This adds to the pre-existing gender differences in time-use pattern; in doing unpaid work like cooking, cleaning, and fetching water and fuel, women spend two and a half times minutes more per day than men (National Statistical Office 2019 data). Intriguingly, more than two-third of women's productivity



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Women are disproportionately harmed by extreme heat, largely because of unequal power dynamics, gender norms, and unequal access to resources

loss from heat strain occurs in the domain of unpaid labour in India. The loss also reflects opportunity costs associated with heat stress – that women could have earned extra income, acquired skills, or rested enough.

### Worryingly pervasive

Urban female informal labourers face harsh weather, whether working in marketplaces, streets, construction sites, landfills, or even their employers' homes. Due to their occupational settings, these casual-wage workers – street vendors, paid domestic helpers, construction workers, and sanitation workers – are vulnerable to climatic extremes, reports the International Labour Organization ('Work in a Changing Climate'). The situation worsens with energy poverty – living without cooling facilities such as ventilated spaces, fans, air conditioners, or coolers. Greenery and other natural forms of cooling are also becoming increasingly unavailable for public consumption in dense urban areas. Furthermore, water scarcity and power fluctuations raise the challenge of being hydrated and staying comfortable.

The situation in rural India is equally severe. Consider the daily routine of a woman in a heatwave-affected rural area: she begins her morning cooking using biomass over a hot stove, bearing the brunt of ensuing disease burden. Since 56.8% of rural Indian families cook on biomass (NFHS-5), acknowledging the extent of this public health hazard is essential. Women's days also involve longer working hours under heat stress. If she does home-based work inside the living area with asbestos or tin roofing, temperatures could become unbearable, making labour increasingly unsafe. Also, if she faces restrictive gender norms on mobility and clothing, she could be forced to stay indoors and follow dressing styles that are not heat friendly. Conversely, if she works outdoors in the field,

MGNREGA, for example, it is under the scorching sun. Additionally, prolonged exposure to heatwaves adversely affects crop yields; for poor rural women, heat may decide whether they live in hunger and poverty or not.

### Unequal health strain

The incidence of heat-related diseases is also on the rise with increasing temperature. Heat stress puts the body under a great deal of strain, making it harder for it to regulate its temperature, leading to several illnesses, including heat cramps, severe heat stroke, and hyperthermia. Women are at greater risk because of their physiological makeup – their body fat percentage and water content levels affect heat tolerance and hydration, while hormonal changes associated with menstrual cycles and pregnancy affect body temperature regulation. Women have a dual burden from heat-related health issues since they are more susceptible to its effects and also shoulder majority of the care-giving responsibility that follows. Additionally, heat stress has a pronounced impact on maternal and child health. The data on heat strain's effects translating to a rise in preterm delivery, miscarriage, and stillbirths is especially worrying in India, given its higher maternal mortality rates.

The burden on women becomes evident as India grapples with soaring temperatures. Millions continue to face worse heat-related losses, with no respite in sight. Strengthening their resilience to heat strain is the need of the hour – climate-friendly urban planning, development of and access to sustainable cooling technologies, fair division of care work, and public provisioning of essential services should be our immediate concerns. And we cannot talk about adaptation and resilience without addressing the social power gradient that determines women's capacity to face the crisis we are experiencing.

## Context

- The warmest year on record was 2023. Temperatures in several parts of India during May-June 2024 were reported to be record-breaking. Women are **disproportionately harmed by extreme heat, largely because of unequal power dynamics, gender norms, and unequal access to resources**, as reflected in the **Global Gender Gap Index** that places India at 18th rank from the bottom.
- India is home to more than one-in-six women in the world and extreme heat is now their reality.



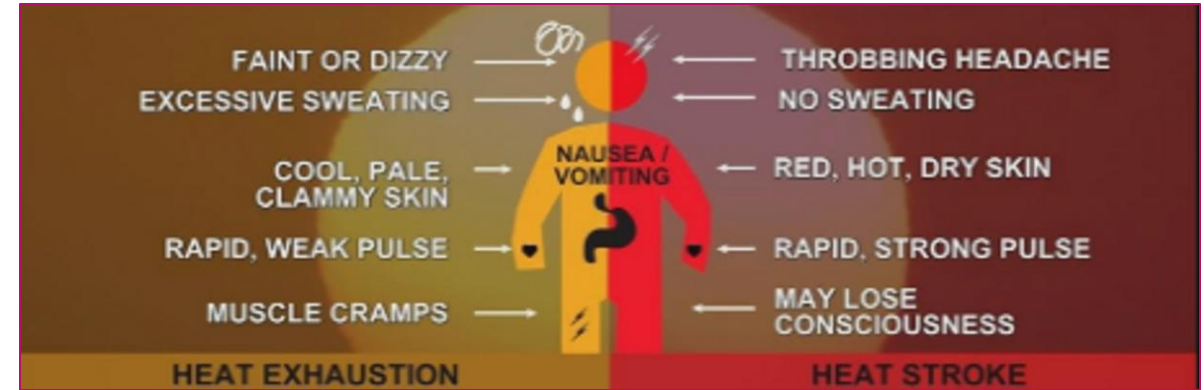
## Urban female

- Informal labourers face harsh weather, whether working in marketplaces, streets, construction sites, landfills, or even their employers' homes.
- Due to their occupational settings, these casual-wage workers — street vendors, paid domestic helpers, construction workers, and sanitation workers — are vulnerable to climatic extremes.
- water scarcity and power fluctuations raise the challenge of being hydrated and staying comfortable.
- Greenery and other natural forms of cooling are also becoming increasingly unavailable for public consumption in dense urban areas.



## Rural women

- using biomass over a hot stove, bearing the brunt of ensuing disease burden. Since 56.8% of rural Indian families cook on biomass (NFHS-5).
- works outdoors in the field, MGNREGA.
- Prolonged exposure to heatwaves adversely affects rural women, heat may decide whether they live in hunger and poverty or not.
- Heat stress puts the body under a great deal of strain, making it harder for it to regulate its temperature, leading to several illnesses, including heat cramps, severe heat stroke, and hyperthermia.



- Women are at greater risk because of their physiological makeup .
- Heat stress has a pronounced impact on **maternal and child health**. The data on heat strain's effects translating to a rise in **preterm delivery, miscarriage, and stillbirths** is especially worrying in India, given its higher maternal mortality rates.

### Way forward

- Strengthening their resilience to heat strain is the need of the hour. **climate-friendly urban planning, development** of and access to **sustainable cooling technologies**, fair division of care work, and public provisioning of essential services should be our immediate concerns.
- We cannot talk about adaptation and resilience without addressing the social power gradient that determines women's capacity to face the crisis we are experiencing.



# ICAR to release 323 new varieties of 56 crops

## ICAR to release 323 new varieties of 56 crops today

Council to launch 'one scientist, one product' programme for its 5,500 scientists to come up with a product, technology, model or publication every year; plan afoot for 100 seed varieties in 100 days

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) will launch its "one scientist, one product" programme on Tuesday to improve research in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry.

The council will formally announce the release of 323 varieties of 56 crops, including cereals, oilseeds, forage crops, and sugar cane, at a function here on Tuesday as part of its 96<sup>th</sup> foundation day.

These crops include 289 climate-resilient varieties and 27 bio-fortified varieties.

The "one scientist, one product" programme will be inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister Shivrak Singh Chouhan.

### Five-year plan

Explaining the programme, ICAR Director-General Himanshu Pathak told presspersons here on Monday that the ICAR had given a target to all 5,521 scientists under the institution to come up with a product, technology, model, concept or good publica-



**Expanding fruit bowl:** A glimpse of the exhibition of the technologies and products developed by ICAR, on the sidelines of its 96th Foundation Day and Technology Day in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

tion. At the beginning of every year, the scientist or a group of scientists will have to identify the product, and the ICAR will map the work. "We will monitor it at the institute level every three months and at the headquarters level every six months. This is a long plan," he said. The scheme will work for five years.

"This year, we are prioritising seed hubs for high-yielding oilseeds and pulses varieties," he said.

Dr. Pathak said the ICAR was also working to deve-

lop 100 new seed varieties and 100 farm technologies in 100 days as part of the Centre's 100-day action plan. He said the council would request Prime Minister Narendra Modi's time to launch these programmes by mid-September.

### Production boost

The ICAR said in a release that with the help of breeder seeds, about 16 million hectares (mha) are under bio-fortified varieties of different crops, including wheat (13 mha), rice (0.5

mha), pearl millet (1.5 mha), lentil (0.5 mha) and mustard (1 mha) during 2023-24. "Deployment of climate-resilient technologies led to enhanced production even during the abnormal years," the ICAR said.

It said that from 2014-15 to 2023-24, a total of 2,593 high-yielding varieties were released.

These include 2,177 climate-resilient (83% of total) varieties with biotic and abiotic stress resistance, and 150 bio-fortified crop varieties.

## CONTEXT

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) will launch its "one scientist, one product" programme on Tuesday to improve research in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry.

- **323 varieties of 56 crops**, including cereals, oilseeds, forage crops, and sugar cane, introduced at a function here on Tuesday as part of its 96th foundation day.
- These crops include 289 **climate-resilient varieties** and 27 **bio-fortified varieties**.
- Prioritising seed hubs for high- yielding oilseeds and pulses varieties.”
- ICAR was also working to develop 100 new seed varieties and 100 farm technologies in 100 days as part of the Centre’s 100-day action plan.
- With the help of breeder seeds, about 16 million hectares (mha) are under **bio-fortified varieties** of different crops, including wheat (13 mha), rice (0.5 mha), pearl millet (1.5 mha), lentil (0.5 mha) and mustard (1 mha) during 2023-24.



- **“Deployment of climate-resilient technologies** led to enhanced production even during the abnormal years.”
- From 2014-15 to 2023-24, a total of 2,593 high-yielding varieties were released.
- These include 2,177 climate-resilient (83% of total) varieties with biotic and abiotic stress resistance, and 150 bio-fortified crop varieties.

### About ICAR

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an **autonomous body responsible** for coordinating agricultural education and research in India.
- It reports to the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture**. The Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president. It is the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world.



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## WORK OF ICAR

- To plan, undertake, aid, promote and coordinate education, research and its application in agriculture, agroforestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, home science and allied sciences.





# Thank you

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