



NAMAN SHARMA
IAS ACADEMY

Daily

CURRENT AFFAIRS

 January 5th, 2026



 **Offline Centre Location:**
SCO 173-174, Sector 17C, Chandigarh

Index

- 1. India's Russian Oil Imports at Six-Month High in November 2025**
- 2. Trial Flight Lands at Bhogapuram International Airport; 96% Work Completed**
- 3. Olive Ridley Turtle Deaths Raise Concern as New Nesting Season Begins in Andhra Pradesh**
- 4. Venezuela Crisis Unlikely to Hit India's Energy Security**
- 5. India 'Concerned' for Well-Being of the People of Venezuela: MEA**
- 6. Air Force Chief Calls for Timely Delivery of Combat Aircraft**
- 7. India Loses 0.4% of its GDP Every Year to Natural Disasters**

1. India's Russian Oil Imports at Six-Month High in November 2025

Why in the News?

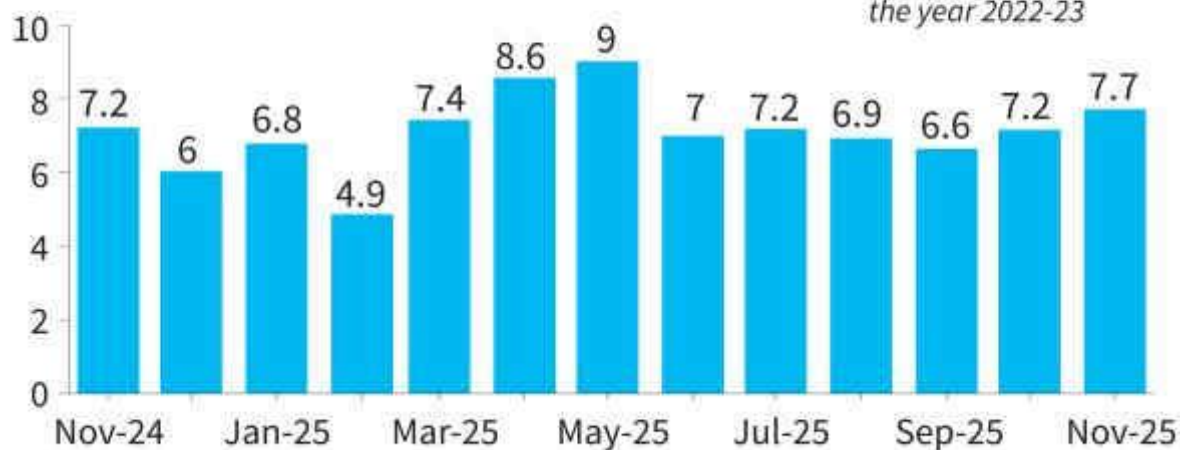
India's crude oil imports from Russia rose to a six-month high in November 2025, accounting for about 35% of India's total oil imports that month. This comes despite rising U.S. trade tensions and higher tariffs imposed by the U.S. on Indian exports allegedly linked to continued Russian oil purchases. Interestingly, U.S. oil exports to India also increased sharply, making Russia and the U.S. together account for nearly half of India's crude oil imports that month.

On the rise

India's imports of Russian oil are going up, coming in at a 6-month high in Nov. 2025

In million tonnes

• Note: The government database does not have relevant data for the year 2022-23



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Background

- Since the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Western sanctions have pushed Russian crude into Asian markets at discounted prices.
- India emerged as one of the largest buyers of Russian crude, citing:
 - Energy security
 - Price stability
 - Strategic autonomy
- However, the U.S. has been critical of India's continued Russian energy engagement.
- In August 2025, the U.S. doubled tariffs on several Indian exports from 25% to 50% as a "penalty" for India's Russian oil imports.
- This was despite India having reduced Russian oil imports year-on-year in most of the months preceding this move.

Feature

Russian crude imports in November 2025

- 7.7 million tonnes
- 35.1% of India's total crude imports
- Highest since May 2025
- 7% higher than November 2024

Import value

- \$3.7 billion
- 34% of the total oil import bill

U.S. crude imports

- Reached a seven-month high
- Accounted for nearly 13% of total crude imports

Combined share of Russia + U.S.

- ≈ 50% of India's crude imports

Official sources indicate frustration within the Indian government over:

- Higher U.S. tariffs
- Limited progress toward resolving trade issues
- India's earlier reductions in Russian oil imports are not being acknowledged

Challenges

Geopolitical Pressure

- Western expectations to align with sanctions regimes
- The U.S. is using tariffs as leverage

Energy Security Concerns

- India remains heavily import-dependent (≈85% crude demand met via imports)
- Volatility in global oil prices impacts inflation & fiscal balances

Trade Relations with the U.S.

- Higher tariffs hurt Indian exporters.
- Strains trade diversification efforts.

Diplomatic Balancing Act

- Strategic ties with Russia (defence + energy)
- Growing strategic partnership with the U.S.

Financial & Shipping Risks

- Compliance costs due to sanctions frameworks
- Insurance & logistics uncertainties

Market Dependence Risk

- Over-reliance on discounted crude may expose India to future supply shocks.

Way Forward

Preserve Strategic Autonomy

- Continue an independent energy policy while engaging diplomatically with partners.

Expand Diversification

- Strengthen energy ties with the Middle East, Latin America & Africa

Strengthen Trade Negotiations with the U.S.

- Seek tariff relief
- Highlight India's gradual shift in sourcing

Leverage Discount Advantage

- Maintain Russian crude where economically beneficial
- Protect domestic consumers from price shocks

Boost Domestic Energy Transition

- Accelerate refining efficiencies
- Expand renewable & biofuel usage

Enhance Strategic Oil Reserves

- Build resilience against geopolitical disruptions.

Conclusion

India's rising Russian oil imports in November 2025 underline pragmatic economic decision-making driven by energy security and price considerations. However, the development also reflects the delicate diplomatic balance India must maintain between strategic autonomy, great-power relationships, and economic interests. Going forward, diversification, diplomacy, and domestic capacity building will remain crucial pillars of India's energy and trade policy.

2. Trial Flight Lands at Bhogapuram International Airport; 96% Work Completed

Why in the News?

A validation (trial) flight successfully landed at the upcoming Bhogapuram International Airport in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district. The Air India aircraft carried Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu and Vizianagaram MP Kalisetti Appala Naidu, marking a major milestone before the airport becomes fully operational. The operator, GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd. (GVIAL), stated that 96% of the project work is complete, with commercial operations expected to begin by June 30.

Background

- The airport is being developed as a greenfield international airport under the PPP model.
- It is located ~50 km from Visakhapatnam city.
- Project developer: GMR Group
- Land area: ~2,200 acres
- Estimated cost: ₹4,725 crore
- It is expected to eventually replace or supplement the existing Vizag airport, which currently operates from a naval airfield with limited expansion scope.
- The region - North Coastal Andhra Pradesh - has growing industrial, tourism and logistics potential.



Features

- Runway length: 3.8 km
- Work completion: 96%
- Target operational date: June 30
- Operator confidence: GMR says work is on schedule

Capacity projections:

- Up to 200 flights per day
- 20,000 tonnes of annual cargo handling

Cargo terminal planned

- To support exports from the region

Expected benefits

- Improved connectivity
- Boost to tourism
- Employment generation

A water salute welcomed the trial flight, symbolising successful validation.

Challenges

Last-mile connectivity

- Need for improved road infrastructure to the airport
- The government has begun widening road links

Environmental & land concerns

- Large-scale land acquisition may continue to face scrutiny. tiny

Operational readiness

- Staffing, security, and air-traffic management finalisation needed

Economic viability

- Passenger traffic must scale up to sustain high flight volumes.

Balancing regional equity

- Ensuring benefits reach local communities and MSMEs

Way Forward

Strengthen transport links

- High-speed road & future rail connectivity

Promote regional industry. hubs

- Food processing, fisheries, pharma, and logistics

Tourism corridor development

- Vizag–Araku–Srikakulam–Odisha circuit

Seamless multimodal cargo integration

- Port–airport–road network linkages

Skill development

- Aviation support jobs for local youth

Sustainable airport planning

- Renewable energy use and eco-friendly design

Conclusion

The successful trial flight at Bhogapuram signals a major leap for aviation infrastructure in North Andhra Pradesh. Once operational, the airport is expected to catalyse regional economic growth, enhance connectivity, promote exports, and strengthen tourism. However, timely completion of infrastructure, inclusive development, and operational efficiency will be crucial for turning Bhogapuram into a major regional aviation hub.

3. Olive Ridley Turtle Deaths Raise Concern as New Nesting Season Begins in Andhra Pradesh

Why in the News?

As the Olive Ridley turtle nesting season begins along the Visakhapatnam–Anakapalli coastline, several turtle carcasses have washed ashore, alarming conservationists. At least three dead Olive Ridley turtles were found at Muthyalammapalem, Thantadi, and Rajanapalem beaches, likely due to entanglement in fishing nets. With the Forest Department planning to set up new nesting zones, concerns have also been raised about the impact of artificial lighting and coastal activity during the nesting period.



Background

- Olive Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) are listed as 'Vulnerable' under the IUCN Red List.
- India hosts one of the largest nesting populations globally — especially along the East Coast.
- Nesting season: December to April
- The Andhra Pradesh coastline is a significant nesting habitat, particularly around Visakhapatnam.
- The turtles migrate long distances and return to sandy beaches to lay eggs.

Key threats include:

- Fishing nets
- Coastal pollution
- Artificial lighting

- Tourism disturbances

Features

Recent incident

- Three dead turtles were found on Visakhapatnam beaches.
- Believed cause: drowning after entanglement in fishing nets.

Biology note

- Turtles need to surface every 40–45 minutes to breathe.
- If trapped underwater, they suffocate.

Legal protection

- Andhra Pradesh Marine Fishing Regulation Act
 - Restricts illegal fishing within 8 km of the coast

Conservation action

- Forest Department to create four nesting zones
- Collaboration with The Tree Foundation
- Four hatcheries to operate along the coast
- Special protection planned during Visakha Utsav (Jan 23–31)

Concern

- Artificial lighting disorients turtles
 - affects nesting females
 - confuses hatchlings who rely on moonlight reflection to reach the sea

Challenges

Bycatch Mortality

- Lack of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in fishing nets
- Non-compliance with coastal fishing regulations

Artificial Lighting & Tourism

- Bright lights disturb nesting behaviour
- Night-time beachfront activity causes stress

Habitat Disturbance

- Beach erosion, vehicles, and littering

Weak Enforcement

- Monitoring gaps in no-fishing zones

Awareness Deficit

- Many fishermen are unaware of the ecological impacts.

Climate Stress

- Rising sea levels and temperature shifts affect hatchling survival.

Way Forward

Strict Enforcement of Coastal Fishing Rules

- Ban mechanised fishing near nesting beaches during the season

Mandatory Use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)

- Training and subsidisation for fishermen

Light Pollution Control

- Shielded, downward-facing lights near beaches
- Night-time illumination restrictions during nesting

Community-Based Conservation

- Engage local fishing communities as partners

Scientific Monitoring

- Track nesting data, mortality causes, and beach health.

Eco-Sensitive Tourism Guidelines

- Restrict beach vehicle movement
- Create silent, dark turtle zones

Education & Outreach

- Awareness programmes for schools & coastal residents

Conclusion

The deaths of Olive Ridley turtles at the onset of nesting season highlight the fragile balance between marine ecology and human activity on Andhra Pradesh's coast. While government initiatives such as hatchery development and nesting zone creation are welcome steps, effective enforcement, community participation, and mitigation of fishing-related mortality are crucial to safeguarding this vulnerable species.

4. Venezuela Crisis Unlikely to Hit India's Energy Security

Why in the News?

Recent U.S. military action and fresh geopolitical volatility in Venezuela have raised global energy security concerns. However, the impact on India's oil supplies is expected to be minimal, as Venezuelan crude currently accounts for only ~0.3% of India's total oil imports (Apr–Nov 2025), according to Commerce Ministry data.

Background

- Venezuela is an OPEC member with the world's largest proven crude reserves, but production has declined sharply.
- Since 2019, India significantly reduced oil imports from Venezuela due to:
 - U.S. sanctions
 - Risk of secondary sanctions
 - Logistical & payment barriers
- India once imported \$13 billion worth of oil from Venezuela in 2013, but this has now fallen drastically.
- Most Venezuelan oil today goes to China.
- Venezuelan crude is heavy & sulfur-rich, requiring specialised refining capacity, which limits its buyers.

Features

India's Venezuelan crude imports (FY 2025-26 up to Nov 2025):

- \$255.3 million
- ~0.3% of total crude imports

Global share

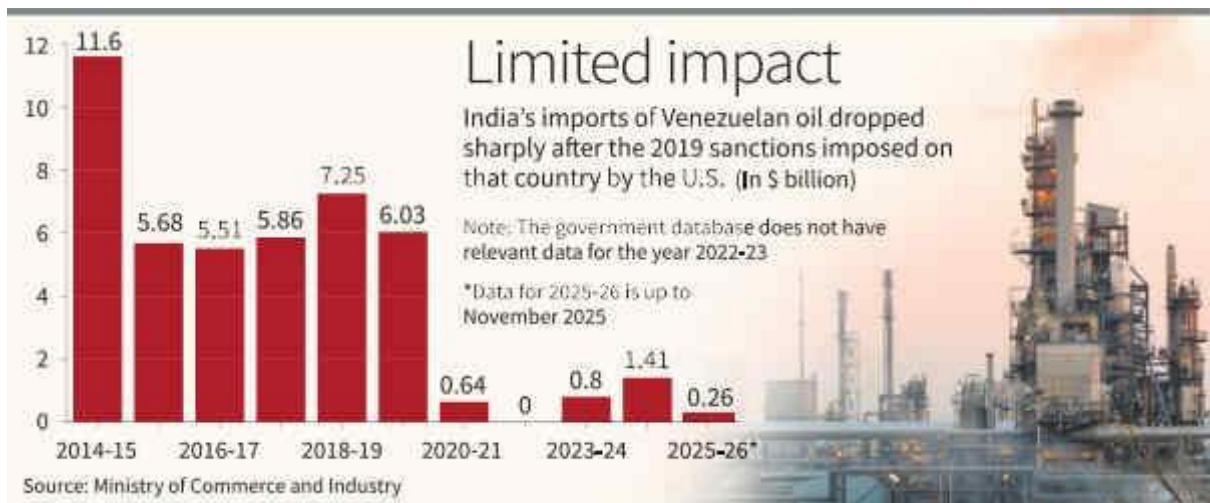
- Venezuela contributes ~3.5% of OPEC exports
- ~1% of global supply

Expert view

- Minimal impact on India due to:
 - Already low trade volumes
 - Existing sanctions are slowing trade
 - Geographic distance

U.S. stance

- The U.S. announced plans to take control of Venezuelan oil operations and rebuild production infrastructure.



Challenges

Indirect Market Effects

- Global price volatility if tensions escalate

OPEC Output Sensitivity

- Supply discipline can tighten markets further. ther

Refinery Compatibility

- Venezuelan crude suits limited refining. ries

Sanction-Driven Uncertainty

- Payment & shipping exposure risks

Geopolitical Signalling

- U.S.–China competition in Latin America may influence energy diplomacy

Why the Impact on India is Limited

- **India already diversified its imports toward:**
 - Middle East
 - Russia
 - U.S.
 - Africa
- Russian crude discounts continue to buffer prices
- Venezuela's export volume itself is small

- India's exposure sharply reduced post-2019

Way Forward

Continue Diversifying Energy Sources

- Maintain a flexible sourcing strategy

Strengthen Strategic Petroleum Reserves

- Build resilience to supply shocks

Advance Refinery Upgrades

- Capability to process diverse crude grades

Promote Renewable & Alternate Fuels

- Biofuels, EVs, gas transition

Energy Diplomacy Engagement

- Keep channels open with OPEC & Latin American producers

Conclusion

While geopolitical tensions in Venezuela are significant globally, India's energy security remains largely insulated due to minimal crude dependence on Venezuela and diversified sourcing strategies. Nonetheless, India must stay alert to indirect impacts via global price movements and OPEC dynamics, while continuing its push toward energy diversification and long-term transition pathways.

5. India 'Concerned' for Well-Being of the People of Venezuela: MEA

Why in the News?

Following U.S. military action in Venezuela and the forcible extraction of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife from Caracas, India has expressed deep concern over the developments. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that India supports the well-being and safety of the Venezuelan people, urging dialogue and peaceful resolution to ensure regional peace and stability.

Background

- Venezuela has been facing political turmoil, economic collapse, sanctions, and internal unrest for several years.

- The U.S. has long opposed the Maduro government, backing opposition leadership.
- The situation escalated after direct U.S. military involvement, leading to Maduro's removal.
- India had earlier issued a travel advisory for Indian nationals in Venezuela, asking them to remain cautious.



Historically, India and Venezuela share cordial diplomatic relations, particularly in:

- Oil trade
- Multilateral cooperation
- Support for India's UNSC membership bid

Features

MEA Statement

- India is closely monitoring the evolving situation.
- Reaffirmed concern for the well-being and safety of Venezuelans.
- Called for peaceful dialogue among stakeholders.

Indian Embassy Role

- The Embassy in Caracas remains in contact with the Indian community.
- Providing assistance and safety guidance.

Travel Advisory

- **Indian citizens advised to:**
 - Exercise extreme caution
 - Restrict movement
 - Stay in contact with the embassy (email & emergency helpline provided)

Diplomatic Context

- Venezuela supports UN reforms
- Backs India's bid for a permanent UNSC seat

Challenges

Regional Instability

- Potential spill-over into Latin America

Global Diplomatic Tensions

- U.S. intervention increases geopolitical friction

Impact on Diaspora Safety

- Indian citizens require monitoring & evacuation readiness.

Economic Repercussions

- Indirect influence on global oil prices & markets

International Law & Sovereignty Debate

- Military intervention questions legitimacy norms.

India's Position

- Neutral, balanced stance
- Non-intervention principle
- Support for dialogue and peaceful resolution
- Focus on humanitarian well-being

This aligns with India's traditional strategic autonomy & multilateral diplomacy approach.

Way Forward

Continue Monitoring & Consular Support

- Ensure the safety of Indian citizens in Venezuela

Diplomatic Engagement

- Support peaceful mediation frameworks.

Energy Security Preparedness

- Guard against market volatility

Reaffirm International Norms

- Peaceful resolution & respect for sovereignty

Strengthen Multilateral Coordination

- Work through the UN & regional group. ings

Conclusion

India's response reflects its principled foreign policy rooted in strategic autonomy, humanitarian concern, and support for peaceful dialogue. While Venezuela remains geopolitically sensitive, India's calibrated stance seeks to safeguard its citizens and uphold regional peace and stability, without aligning with interventionist approaches.

6. Air Force Chief Calls for Timely Delivery of Combat Aircraft

Why in the News?

At a national seminar titled "Aeronautics 2047" in Bengaluru, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, stressed the critical need for the timely delivery of combat aircraft to ensure the Indian Air Force (IAF) remains operationally ready amid evolving security challenges. The event also marked 25 years of flight operations of the LCA Tejas, designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).

Background

- India has been modernising the IAF fleet through programmes such as:
 - LCA Tejas Mk-1/1A
 - Tejas Mk-2
 - Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)
 - Rafale induction
- Delays in indigenous platforms have historically affected squadron strength.

The Government's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Defence Indigenisation policies emphasise:

- Local manufacturing
- Technology development
- Reduced import dependence
- This seminar aimed to outline India's aerospace roadmap toward 2047, coinciding with becoming a developed nation.

Features

Air Chief Marshal Singh's Message

- Timely aircraft delivery is vital for operational preparedness.
- Congratulated ADA on:
 - 25 years of LCA Tejas flight operations

- ~5,600 successful flight trials

LCA Tejas Programme

- Designed by ADA
- Supported by 100+ design centres



Key technologies developed:

- Carbon composites
- Lightweight structures
- Fly-by-wire flight control system
- Digital utility management
- Glass cockpit
- Classified as a 4th-generation fighter

Stakeholder Collaboration

- Government labs
- Industry partners
- Academic institutions

DRDO Chairman Samir V. Kamat

- Emphasised indigenous cutting-edge technology
- Stressed minimising import dependence
- Linked technological self-reliance to the India@2047 vision

Seminar Themes – “Aeronautics 2047”

Focus areas included:

- Next-generation aircraft design & aerodynamics
- Digital & precision manufacturing
- Propulsion technology
- Flight-testing techniques
- Certification & avionics
- Flight-control systems
- Maintainability challenges
- AI in aircraft design

Participants included:

- Domain expert
- Industry
- Academia
- Aerospace professionals and enthusiasts

Challenges

Delivery Delays

- Affect squadron strength & combat readiness

Technology Gaps

- Need sustained R&D investment.

Certification & Testing Timeframes

- Long cycles impact induction schedules

Industrial Ecosystem Maturity

- Supply-chain reliability is still evolving.

Human Capital Requirements

- Advanced skill development is essential. ntial

Way Forward

- Strict Programme Management & Accountability
- Technology Self-Reliance Push
- Indigenous avionics, engines, materials
- Private Sector Participation
- Export Orientation
- Build scale & global competitiveness
- Long-Term Defence Budget Stability

Conclusion

The IAF Chief's call underlines a central reality: operational readiness depends on timely aircraft induction. The LCA Tejas milestone demonstrates India's maturing aerospace capabilities, but future progress will hinge on cutting-edge indigenous technology, robust supply chains, and disciplined execution as India charts its path toward Aatmanirbharta and Aeronautics 2047.

7. India Loses 0.4% of its GDP Every Year to Natural Disasters

Why in the News?

A recent analysis highlights that India loses an average of 0.4% of its GDP annually due to natural disasters (1990–2024). With rising frequency and intensity of climate-linked events, disaster risk finance has emerged as a critical policy priority across emerging Asian economies, including India, China, and ASEAN nations.

Background

Emerging Asia experiences ~100 disasters annually, affecting ~80 million people each year. Key hazards vary regionally:

- India – floods & storms dominate
- Philippines & Vietnam – tropical cyclones
- China & Indonesia – major seismic risk

The economic toll is rising sharply, pushing governments to:

- Improve financial preparedness
- Build climate-resilient infrastructure
- Reduce vulnerability of exposed populations

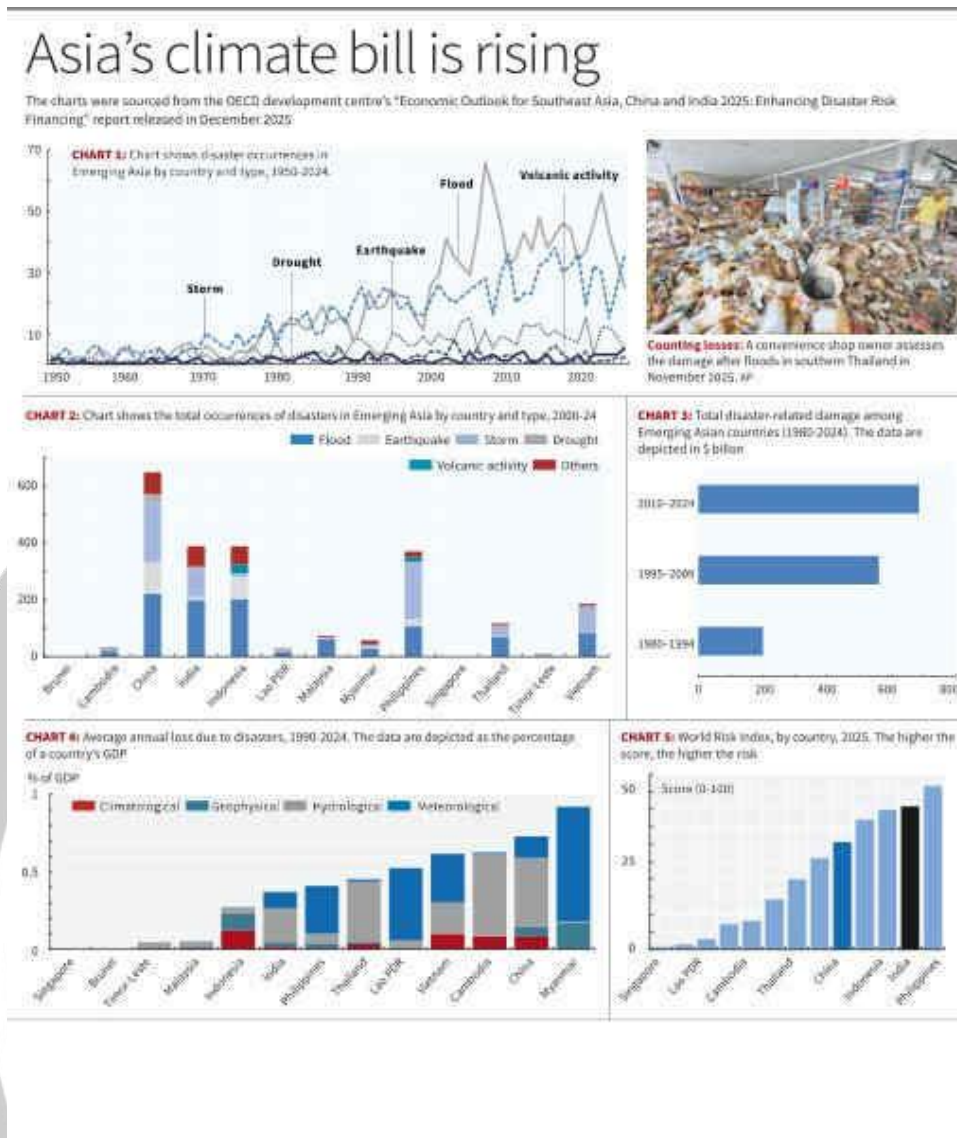
Features

- Average annual loss for India: 0.4% of GDP (1990–2024)
- Primary drivers in India
- Hydrological disasters:
 - Floods (non-storm related)
 - Landslides

Regional disaster categories

- Meteorological: cyclones, extreme heat
- Climatological: drought, wildfire

- Geophysical: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions



Risk ranking

- India is 2nd only to the Philippines in the World Risk Index
- Risk is calculated as the geometric mean of:
 - Exposure (population at risk)
 - Vulnerability (susceptibility + coping capacity + adaptation readiness)

Why Disaster Risk Finance Matters

- Losses are systemic, not episodic
- Recovery spending strains:
 - Fiscal deficits
 - Development budgets

Financial resilience tools include:

- Sovereign risk insurance

- Contingency funds
- Climate bonds
- Risk-layered financing

Challenges

High Population Exposure

- Dense settlement in river basins, coasts, & seismic zones

Urban Vulnerability

- Informal settlements, poor drainage, heat-island effects

Climate Intensification

- Heavier rainfall & extreme events are rising.

Data Gaps

- Event monitoring & loss accounting are inconsistent.

Low Insurance Penetration

- Majority losses uninsured

Fiscal Stress on States

- Disaster relief is often reactive rather than planned.

Way Forward

Adopt a Risk-Layered Financing Strategy

- Reserve funds for frequent small events
- Insurance/cat bonds for rare mega-catastrophes

Strengthen Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

- Flood-proofing, coastal protection, and early warning systems

Integrate Risk into Urban Planning

- Zoning laws, hazard mapping, sponge cities

Expand Social Protection & Insurance

- Crop, property & livelihood insurance

Improve Data Systems

- Real-time hazard tracking and post-disaster audits

Community-Centric Preparedness

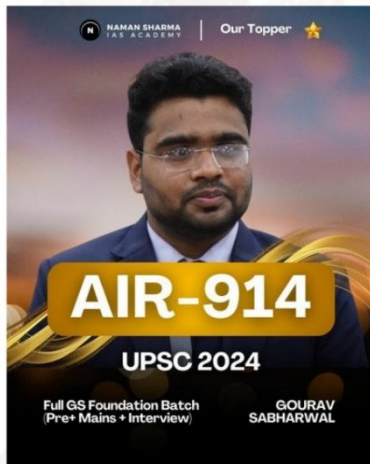
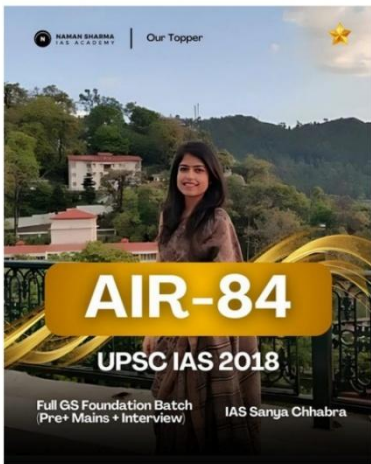
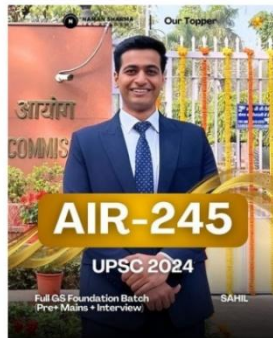
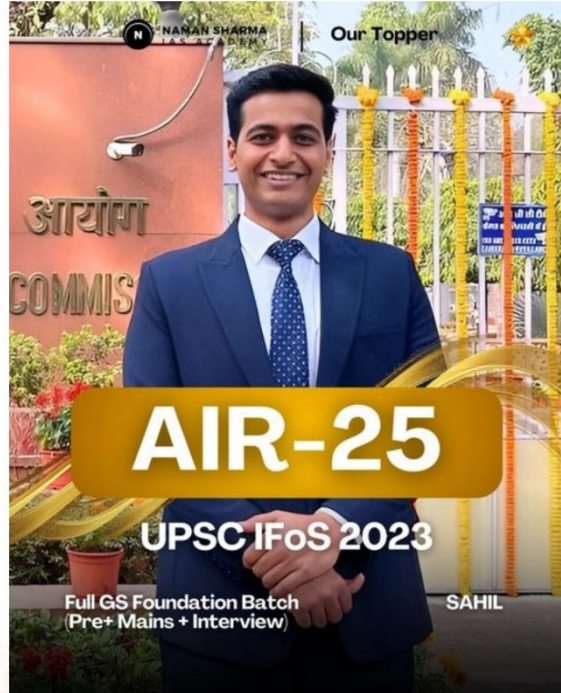
- Local response capacity & awareness programs

Conclusion

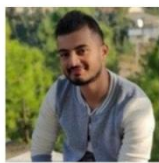
India's recurring 0.4% GDP loss from disasters underscores the economic scale of climate and hazard risks. With high exposure and vulnerability, India ranks among the world's most disaster-prone economies. Forward-looking disaster risk finance, resilient development planning, and community preparedness are essential to safeguard both lives and long-term economic stability.



Our Recent Toppers



Vipin Kumar
AIR-4, HPAS 2022



Anshul Shandil
AIR-7, HPPCS 2019



Arshiya Sharma
AIR-3, HPPCS 2019



Kirti Sharma
AIR-35, PCS 2021



IPS Vineet Ahlawat
AIR-231, CSE 2020



SDM Himani Sharma
AIR-2, HPAS 2024



WhatsApp Now +91-843-768-6541



Offline Centre Location: SCO 173-174, Sector 17C, Chandigarh

Admissions Now Open!



**Saarthi for
UPSC 2027/28**

- ✓ 1/2/3 Years Course with Lifetime access
- ✓ Inclusive of Crash Course + Test Series
- ✓ Full Prelims + Mains
- ✓ Offline + Online + Hybrid Mode

Enroll Now

+91-8437686541
www.namaniasacademy.com

**Enroll
in just ₹2000**

- Mode: Offline/Hybrid/Online
- Medium: Hinglish (Notes in English)
- Timings:

Morning: 9 AM - 1 PM

Evening: 4 PM - 8 PM

Enrollment Process:

- Visit Our Website: **Naman IAS Academy**
- Call us at **+91-843-768-6541**
for Free Seminar

Free UPSC seminar

Saturday, 4PM



Offline Centre Location: SCO 173-174, Sector 17C, Chandigarh