

**WORLD 5** 9 TOP PLA GENERALS OUSTED FROM CHINA'S PARLIAMENT  
**MONEY 6** FM MEETS HEADS OF PSBS, REVIEWS PERFORMANCE  
**SPORT 7** ROHIT FOCUSES ON MUKESH IN NETS, JADEJA GOES FULL TILT

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## Light a diya in every home to welcome Ram: Modi PM unveils new look Ayodhya ahead of Ram Lalla consecration

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
AYODHYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday, urged "Ram Bhakts" to light a diya in every home, much like the Diwali festivities across the country on January 22, when the consecration of Ram Lalla will take place at the newly built Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya. Emphasising the strength of *vikas* (development) and *virasat* (heritage) that will propel the country forward, the PM appealed to people to light special diyas — Shri Ram Jyoti — in their homes to celebrate the day as Deepawali. Modi mentioned that the entire world is eagerly anticipating the historic Ram temple consecration ceremony.

However, he appealed to people not to come to the city for the event, as the occasion will be marked by a mega event, and the holy city may not be able to accommodate their needs.

"Everyone harbours the dream of witnessing Ram Lalla. However, I earnestly request, with folded hands, that you refrain from coming on the Pran Pratishtha day. Devotees are encouraged to plan their visit to Ayodhya from the following day, as the Ram Temple is now a permanent and magnificent structure. God will transition



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the crowd during a roadshow in Ayodhya on Saturday

from his 550 years of tent accommodation to a lasting, grand building," Modi conveyed to a massive crowd in Ayodhya, where he launched several projects, including new airport, railway station, trains, and improvements to road and civic infrastructure. "There was a time when Lord Ram was 'living under a tent', but now he will have a concrete house, much like the four crore poor individuals who have received pucca

houses," he stated. Emphasising that the influx of people from across the country and the world to Ayodhya has begun and will continue indefinitely, the Prime Minister also appealed for a collective commitment to make the town the cleanest in the country. Designating January 22 as a special day, the Prime Minister urged people to initiate cleanliness drives at pilgrimage sites and temples across the country from

Makar Sankranti on January 14 until the day of the temple consecration. The year-end visit by the Prime Minister precedes the "pran pratishtha" or consecration ceremony of the Ram temple by a few weeks. The temple is currently under construction, and the ceremony is scheduled for January 22, with the Prime Minister in attendance.

During the day, the Prime Minister inaugurated the

Maharshi Valmiki airport and the redeveloped Ayodhya railway station. He also flagged off two Amrit Bharat and six Vande Bharat trains, some virtually. Modi further inaugurated and dedicated to the nation, as well as laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth more than Rs 15,700 crore. These include projects worth approximately Rs 11,100 crore for the development of the city and its surrounding

areas, as well as those valued at about Rs 4,600 crore for other initiatives in Uttar Pradesh.

Upon arriving in the temple town earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi conducted a roadshow from the airport to the railway station, warmly greeted by a large number of people gathered along its route. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath received the Prime Minister at the airport. Modi exchanged greetings with people from his car and, at one point, opened the vehicle's door to wave back at them. People showered flower petals, waved BJP flags, and chanted slogans in his praise. The Prime Minister also enjoyed performances by cultural troupes along the route. Modi also visited Lata Mangeshkar Chowk, where a giant-sized Veena has been installed. A devotional song sung by Lata Mangeshkar played during his visit. Despite the biting cold, vibrant performances ranging from the 'Dedhiya' dance of Uttar Pradesh to a colourful presentation of 'Choliya' from Uttarakhand adorned the streets of Ayodhya, showcasing the folk colors of India to welcome the Prime Minister.

Continued on Page 2

### EPOCHAL BLESSING

#### INDIGO PILOT CHANTS 'JAI SHRI RAM' AS FIRST FLIGHT TO AYODHYA TAKES OFF

IndiGo pilot Ashutosh Shekhar chanted "Jai Shri Ram" on the aircraft's public announcement system as the first flight to the temple town of Ayodhya took off from Delhi on Saturday. Addressing the passengers, 43-year-old Shekhar said he felt fortunate that his company entrusted him with the responsibility to fly the first flight to Ayodhya.

#### FOLK COLOURS OF INDIA GREET PM MODI

From the vibrant 'Dedhiya' dance of Uttar Pradesh to a colourful performance of 'Choliya' of Uttarakhand, folk colours of India were laid on the streets of Ayodhya to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the temple town on Saturday.

#### CONSECRATION OF LORD RAM IDOL SIGN OF INDIA'S RISE: SHAH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that the consecration of Lord Ram's idol on January 22 and the beginning of India's 'Amrit Kaal' are not a mere coincidence but a sign that the country will rise to prominence on the world stage in the next 25 years.

#### BABRI LITIGANT ANSARI SHOWERS ROSE PETALS DURING MODI'S ROADSHOW

As residents of Ayodhya lined the streets to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a chilly Saturday morning, among them was Iqbal Ansari, a litigant in Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land suit. "He (Modi) has come to our place. He is our guest and our Prime Minister," said Iqbal after he showered rose petals on Modi's cavalcade as it passed the Paanji Tola area during his roadshow in the temple town.

## Viksit Bharat Calendar chronicles development journey

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In an endeavour to foster transparency and hold itself accountable to its citizens, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur unveiled the official annual calendar for 2024 with the theme of "Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat." This calendar features the development of pilgrimage

centres across the country, including Ayodhya, where the idol of Lord Ram will be consecrated on January 22. Thakur said the calendar showcases the achievements of the Narendra Modi Government thematically in various fields over the past nearly 10 years, aiming to make India a developed country by 2047. Highlighting government's



development initiatives, Thakur said, "2023 is coming to an end, and 2024 is presenting us with new possibilities. The world sees a ray of hope in India and India's leadership. This is attributed to the leadership provided by PM Narendra Modi and the accomplishments of his government over the last nearly 10 years.

Continued on Page 2

## Kerala CM bows down on Pooram rent hike protest

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Taken back by the massive public protest by the Hindus in Kerala over the move to disrupt the Thrissur Pooram festival scheduled for April 2024, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan retracted the government's decision to hike the rental of the venue from ₹40 lakh to ₹2.2 crore for holding the Pooram, the festival of festivals. "Thrissur Pooram is an iconic event, and it should not be disturbed. There will not be any hasty decision to increase the rent of the venue," the CM, who prefers to be addressed as Kerala's 'Karana Bhoothan', told the office bearers of the Thiruvampadi and Paramakkavu Devaswams, the temple administrators entrusted with the holding of Pooram. The CM had a late evening online meeting with the office bearers of the Devaswams on Friday. The decision to hike the rentals had caused widespread resentment across the State, and Hindu organisations accused the CPM-led government was selectively targeting their festivals.

Continued on Page 2

## COVID cases 7 months high

ARCHNA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The number of deaths due to Covid-19 is on the rise, with seven fatalities reported in the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, new infections, totaling 743, were slightly lower compared to yesterday's 797, marking the highest count since May 19 when the figure was 865. Five deaths were reported on Friday, predominantly in cases with co-morbidities. According to ministry data, three deaths were reported in Kerala, two in Karnataka, and one each in Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh. Cases of the JN.1 sub-variant are also increasing, with 178 cases reported from nine states as of Friday. Goa reported the highest count at 47, followed by 41 in Kerala. Other states where JN.1 cases have been detected include 36 in Gujarat, 34 in Karnataka, nine in Maharashtra, and four each in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Additionally, two cases were reported from Telangana, and one from Delhi. As the new year celebrations approach and the winter season heightens concerns of a potential surge in Covid cases, State Governments are cautiously anticipating the situation. The Karnataka health department

has mandated home isolation for Covid-positive patients. Presently, the State has 34 cases of the JN.1 variant. Maharashtra Health Minister Tanaji Sawant has urged people and institutions in the state to stay vigilant for the next 10 to 15 days in light of the resurgence of Covid-19 in the country. "People should strictly adhere to the rules to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. While people are excited to welcome the new year, large gatherings increase the risk of its transmission," he emphasised. "The recent surge in COVID-19 cases across India necessitates immediate and proactive measures to combat any potential escalation in the state. In continuation of the earlier communication, you are requested to implement the action points provided therein and to remain alert to address any exigency," stated Public Health Director Niranjana Mishra in a letter to all medical colleges and CDMOs in the Odisha Government. According to government data, the active Covid-19 tally also witnessed a decrease, with 3,997 cases reported so far, down from 4,091 the previous day. The updated data at 8 am indicated that the total number of cases stood at 4.50 crore (45,01,24,84).

Continued on Page 2

## No let up in dense fog in north India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Satellite images showed the season's largest fog, stretching from Pakistan to Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir to Madhya Pradesh on Saturday morning, kept the sun away for all, leaving people shivering in what was the coldest daytime temperature recorded this winter. Delhi will continue to shiver as the mercury drops further over the eve of the New Year, with the maximum

temperature settling at 20.3 degrees Celsius on Saturday, even though the nighttime temperature, or minimum, settled five notches above normal for this time of the year at 11.8°C. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a layer of moderate to dense fog is likely to blanket the city on Sunday as well. The sky will remain partly cloudy, and the maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to settle around

19 and 11 degrees Celsius, respectively. It said intense fog and slow movement of wind led to a deterioration in the air quality index (AQI) in the national capital, which touched the very poor category. The 24-hour average AQI of Delhi was at 400 at 4 pm, compared to 358 on Friday. AQI stood at 516 at Anand Vihar, 475 at ITI Shahdara, 461 at Sonia Vihar, 418 at Pusa, 398 at Major Dyan Chand Stadium, 388 at the US Embassy, and 362 at

Satyawati College. The IMD issued a red alert, saying that 'very dense' fog is likely to continue over many parts of the plains of Northwest and adjoining Central India and is likely to further extend to East India during the next two days. The IMD predicted the daytime chill to persist since a layer of fog in the higher altitudes that has been blocking the sun is not predicted to lift for another couple of days.

Continued on Page 2

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PM Modi pays surprise visit to Ujjwala scheme beneficiary house, drinks tea



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits a house of an Ujjwala Yojana beneficiary in Ayodhya on Saturday

PTI ■ AYODHYA
The tea is good but it is a little too sweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Meera...

accommodation.
Earlier, I had a kutcha house, but now it has become pucca, she said and expressed her happiness for being able to host Modi at her house.

Light a diya in every home...

From Page 1
The stretch of Ram Path, which was part of Modi's carcade route, was adorned with flowers, particularly at the Lata Mangeshkar Chowk roundabout.

Kerala CM bows down on Pooram rent hike...

From Page 1
The Kerala government is already in the dock for the poor mismanagement of crowd control at the Sabarimala shrine during the November-December festival...

55 foreign terrorists killed in 2023: JK DGP

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU
Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police RR Swain Saturday claimed a total number of 55 foreign terrorists were eliminated in different anti-terrorist operations...

He said Jammu and Kashmir is passing through a very historic phase. To break the cycle of violence we have to stop local recruitment. Earlier a terror incident was reported every third day but now it is reported after every 9th or 10th day in Jammu and Kashmir.

COVID cases...

From Page 1
The death toll has risen to 5,33,358, with seven fatalities reported, resulting in a case fatality rate of 1.18 percent, as stated by the health ministry.

Viksit Bharat Calendar chronicles...

From Page 1
Thakur elaborated on the government's development initiatives in the fields of infrastructure, health, women's empowerment, the economy, sports, education, technology, and other sectors.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्रि लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग मुरैना
स्वात रोड, मुरैना (म.प्र.)
क्रमांक. 4273-74/निविदा/नि.सू.क्र. 21/2023-24
मुरैना दिनांक 26.12.2023
निविदा विज्ञापित
मध्यप्रदेश लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत टेकेदारों से मध्यप्रदेश के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु सड़क एवं पुल कार्यों की दर अनुसूची प्रभावशाली दिनांक 25.03.2022 पर निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना जारी होने के दिनांक तक समस्त संशोधनों सहित ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति द्वारा ऑनलाईन निविदाएं अपेन्डिक्स 2.10 में निहित शर्तों के अनुरूप आमंत्रित की जाती हैं...

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No 17 of 2023-24
1. Name of the Work: i) Laying of pipe line, const. of RCC ESR, Installation of solar dual pump unit with providing 100% FHTC & other ancillary works including 5 (five) years operation and maintenance in connection with piped water supply to Kotagarh and Gadapur Multi villages under Kandhamal District.
2. Total No of work :- 2 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 178.28 Lakhs to 322.26 Lakhs
4. Eligible Bidder :- 'B' & 'A' class Contractor
5. Period of Completion:- 11 (Eleven) months (Refer DTCN available in the Website tendersorissa.gov.in)

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Ground Floor, Ummati Bhawan, H.B. Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
B-1521
1. Name of the work :- 1. Provision for Laying of 900 mm dia DI (K-9) feeder main Pipe line from Sikharchandi Temple square to Magnet square (KIT square) with shifting of 100 & 150mm dia DI pipe line for improvement of road by BDA. Bhubaneswar.
2. Provision for Laying of 600 mm dia DI (K-9) Clear water feeder main Pipe line from KIT square to Nalco square through Damana Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.
3. Provision for Laying of 600 mm dia DI (K-9) Clear water feeder main Pipe line from Sikharchandi ESR to Ekamrakana Road via foot hill pump house & Hatiasuni Pump house & Sikharchandi ESR to WTP Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.

No let up in...
From Page 1
However, both these numbers were yet to meet thresholds for a cold wave or "cold day" temperatures. Low daytime temperatures can exacerbate people's exposure to the cold and generally make the winter feel more intense since this is when people are usually outside the comfort of their homes.
A cold day is when the maximum temperature is 4.5°C or more below normal, and the minimum is below 10°C. While the maximum criteria were met at some stations, the minimum was not. But the shrinking difference between maximum and minimum signals the start of peak winter conditions, which takes place towards the end of December and lasts until mid-January.
As December comes to an end with temperatures higher than usual in Delhi, with no 'cold wave' days or 'cold days', the average maximum and minimum temperatures for December so far this year are higher than they were for the month in recent years. The average maximum temperature of 24.36 degrees Celsius is the highest for the city from 2017 onwards, while the average minimum temperature of 8.36 degrees Celsius is the highest from 2018 onwards.
Intense to moderate fog was witnessed in parts of Delhi, with the lowest visibility recorded at 200 meters at Safdarjung, the capital's main weather station. Visibility at Palam and Ridge remained above 500 meters as compared to previous days. However, the intensity of the fog decreased a bit at several places in Delhi, and visibility improved from 500 m to 600 m. Multiple flights and trains have been delayed in the national capital as dense fog disrupted travel once again on Saturday.
More than 80 flights were delayed due to fog and low visibility in the national capital. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) reported no flight cancellations or diversions on Saturday. The delays, attributed to poor visibility and foggy weather, affected the schedules of several passengers, leading to frustration and inconvenience. Not only air travel but ground transportation also experienced setbacks as some trains in Delhi faced delays due to fog and low visibility.









# AUSTRALIA WOMEN POST 258 DESPITE DEEPTI FIFER

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Off-spinner Deepti Sharma stymied Australia's surge with a stellar five-wicket haul but seven dropped catches by India allowed them to post a challenging 258 for eight in the second Women's ODI here on Saturday. Deepti exploited a dry and turning surface to a fine degree to return with figures off five for 38, but her hard work was undone by the hosts' horrendous fielding. She accounted for Ellyse Perry (50), Beth Mooney (10), Tahlia McGrath (24), Georgia Wareham (22) and Annabel Sutherland (23) for her career's second five-for. Alana King, who was dropped once each by Deepti and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, hammered three sixes to make an unbeaten 28 (17 balls) in a late surge to take Australia past the 250-run mark, which at one stage looked beyond the visitors. Australia looked in complete command until the 22nd over, powering to 117 for one through a 77-run stand

for the second wicket between Perry and Phoebe Litchfield (63, 98 balls, 6x4s). But fortune swung in India's favour when Deepti was introduced, and the senior spinner made an immediate impact. Perry (50, 47 balls, 4x4s, 1x6s) raced to her second fifty in a row and posed India a serious threat during a strong partnership with Litchfield, but Deepti got rid of the former to start her demolition job. In an attempt to pull a short delivery from Deepti over midwicket, Perry could not clear debutant Shreyanka Patil who completed the catch on her second attempt. Deepti troubled Mooney consistently, using the roughness of the pitch to full effect by generating sharp away turn. To counter the turn, Mooney swept from outside the line of the ball but was beaten by a straight one, getting trapped leg-before. Deepti later cleaned up the dangerous McGrath in the 40th over for her third wicket, and then added



Wareham on the first ball of the 46th over. She took a return catch off to get rid of Sutherland to complete the five-wicket haul. In between, Sneh Rana, who had to leave the field following a nasty collision with Pooja Vastrakar, had Ashleigh Gardner (2) caught at long on for her only wicket. But Deepti's exploits notwithstanding, India were simply poor in the field. Litchfield was dropped when she was yet to open her account by Amanjot Kaur in the second over and then on 10 by Yastika Bhatia at first slip. Rana dropped Perry in the 17th over when she was on 30 on her own bowling. Smriti Mandhana spilled a regulation chance in the 44th over when Sutherland was on one off Deepti. India also made an error of judgment when they did not take a DRS call against Alyssa Healy who was pinned in front of the wickets by Vastrakar. Vastrakar eventually sent back Healy when she cleaned up the Australian captain for 13 in the 10th over.

## Rohit focuses on Mukesh in nets, Jadeja goes full tilt



PTI ■ CENTURION

It was an optional session at the Supersport Park but for India skipper Rohit Sharma, skipping the nets wasn't an option. Outfoxed by South African pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada in both innings of the opening Test, Rohit was present as skipper and batter in equal measure during a two-hour session. The Indian captain was focussed on facing Mukesh Kumar, who bowled only to Rohit for at least 45 minutes. While the fit-again Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin also bowled in the same nets, the Indian skipper's complete attention was on the one Test old Bengal seamer. Occasionally, Dayanand Garami, the throwdown specialist kept his deliveries fast and full on off stump channel. He actually wanted Mukesh to bowl one that comes in with the angle from length. "Hawa mein andar aa raha hai. Par koshish kar angle se andar laane ka," the skipper told his younger colleague. Rohit specifically wanted Mukesh to pitch in between 4-6 metre length and the seamer seemed to have impressed the skipper. There were times when he beat Rohit's bat and earned appreciation from the senior pro. When batting coach Vikram Rathour asked him, "Tu is net pe aayega" (would you like to use this one), pointing at the nets exclusively kept for throwdowns, the skipper replied: "Nahi yehin

pe aur 10 minute bat karonga" (No I will bat here for another 10 minutes). The skipper devoted extra time for Mukesh and it seemed he was giving tips on wrist position and the length that he needs to hit on a regular basis. Mukesh has been consistently playing domestic cricket and is one of the biggest reasons for Bengal featuring in two Ranji Trophy finals in three years. On the day, he did ask a few probing questions of the Indian captain and certainly made a case for himself for the Newlands game. **MHAMBREY WORKS ON PRASIDH'S LENGTH:** It will be a huge surprise if Prasidh Krishna, after his forgettable debut, gets a chance to play in the next Test. Far from being Test match ready, it was time for him to get back to the drawing board. Prasidh didn't bowl to any batters at the nets as the lanky man from Bengaluru sought to figure out what's the right length to hit in South African conditions. Bowling coach Paras Mhambrey paid singular attention to Prasidh during the 75 odd minutes that he bowled at the nets. Mhambrey kept three lengths for the pacer. First, two horizontal blue strips on 10 metre length (short), then two red chip type on 6-8 metre length (back of length) and two parallel yellow strips on good length (around 4 metre). Prasidh was asked to hit each of those lengths on a regular basis. He wasn't always successful and

it was evident that he is not ready for the big test yet. **JADEJA LOOKED FULLY FIT:** Ravindra Jadeja looked completely fit as he bowled and batted comfortably for a considerable amount of time, allaying fears about whether he can take part in the must-win second Test. Jadeja bowled for close to 45 minutes alongside Ashwin. He seemed to be bowling quick as he made Rohit defend a few deliveries hurriedly. While batting, he looked nice and upright while playing some punchy drives. **SHARDUL INJURY SCARE, JAISWAL SCRATCHY:** Shardul Thakur while batting got a nasty hit on the left shoulder while facing throwdowns from fielding coach T Dilip. While he completed the session, he was seen wearing an ice pack sling to lessen the bruise. He might not need scans as it was learnt that it's not very serious but it will be interesting to see how long the pain takes to subside. Meanwhile, Yashasvi Jaiswal looked a bit scratchy and at times seemed annoyed, loudly admonishing himself after being beaten once. At another time, he couldn't deal with Raghu's searing pace while facing throwdowns as the bat came down late and the stumps went for a toss. His closest competitor Abhimanyu Easwaran looked better in the nets but he is unlikely to pip Jaiswal to the opening slot.



### Shardul gets hit on shoulder at net practice

PTI ■ CENTURION

The Indian team on Saturday received an injury scare after seam bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur suffered a blow on his shoulder at nets while batting. There is the possibility of him missing the second Test in Cape Town beginning on January 3, but the extent of the hit could be ascertained through scanning if required. At this moment, it couldn't be confirmed if his injury warrants scans. But Thakur was in considerable discomfort and couldn't bowl during the net session. Thakur, who was the first player to enter the throwdown nets, was hit on the left shoulder while facing throwdowns from fielding coach T. Dilip. It happened around 15 minutes into the net session when Rathour delivered a throwdown that kicked up from length. It had Thakur in a tangle like it happened in the second innings of the first Test when pacer Kagiso Rabada generated an edge for David Bedingham to complete a catch. Here too, Thakur couldn't fend the short ball that hit his leading shoulder (left) and he immediately shrieked in pain. A reliable source within the PCB said its head Zaka Ashraf had a conversation with team director Mohammed Hafeez, who conveyed some points to him about the umpiring and the use of technology during the Melbourne Test which they lost by 79 runs. Now, the PCB is all set to raise those points with the global governing body. All rules and regulations governing cricket and the use of technology on the field is approved by the ICC Executive Board after being vetted by the MCC Cricket Committee and ICC Cricket Committee. Hafeez was visibly upset during the post-match press conference at the MCG on Friday, while stressing on the need to highlight inconsistent umpiring and the challenges of technology which

## Warner is not selector, we will consider Green for opening slot: Aussies coach

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

David Warner might have endorsed Marcus Harris as his successor for opening slot in Tests, but Australia head coach Andrew McDonald said they are considering a lot more options and Cameron Green is also in contention. Warner will retire from Test cricket after the third match against Pakistan at Sydney beginning on January 3. There have been a lot of debates as to who should replace Warner at pole position with the names of Harris, Green, Matt Renshaw and Cameron Bancroft doing the rounds. "Davey's not a selector. I remember back to when Davey endorsed Matt Renshaw so I think the next one will probably be Cam Bancroft and then Cameron Green and he'll have all bases covered. "But it's great when a fellow player endorses someone else internally. It means that they've probably excluded other players as well, but he was asked his opinion and we're happy with him expressing that," McDonald was



quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. Australia's next Test assignment is against West Indies and T20Is against the Windies in early February in order to play for the Dubai Capitals in the ILT20 in the UAE. He said Cricket Australia has been looking into the NOC (No-Objection Certificate) request of Warner. around who are the best six batters, has definitely been in the conversation," McDonald said. McDonald also confirmed that Warner will miss the ODIs and T20Is against the Windies in early February in order to play for the Dubai Capitals in the ILT20 in the UAE. He said Cricket Australia has been looking into the NOC (No-Objection Certificate) request of Warner.



### Pacer Coetzee ruled out of 2nd Test Vs India

PTI ■ CENTURION

South African pacer Gerald Coetzee has been ruled out of the second Test against India starting January 3 in Cape Town after suffering from pelvic inflammation. The 23-year-old developed the inflammation during the opening Test here and the discomfort only worsened as he gradually bowled further in the match which ended within three days. "Fast bowler Gerald Coetzee will miss the second Betway Test against India after developing pelvic inflammation during the first Test at SuperSport Park," Cricket South Africa wrote on X'. Coetzee could bowl only five overs during the second innings, giving away 28 runs before his side dismantled India by an innings and 32 runs. He finished with figures of one for 74 during the first innings. The pacer had gone for scans on Friday, which showed the extent of the injury. Although no replacement has been announced yet by Cricket South Africa, head coach Shukri Conrad has deemed Coetzee's rest "as a precautionary measure". Coetzee is the second South African cricketer to be ruled out of the series after skipper Temba Bavuma suffered the same fate, picking up a hamstring injury here. Dean Elgar, who is playing his final international series, will be leading the side in Cape Town. As for Coetzee's replacement, South Africa can go to fellow pacers Lungi Ngidi and Wiaan Mulder. South Africa's win in the opening Test allows it to lead the World Test Championship 2023-25 table with a 100% record.

## PCB to take up Rizwan dismissal during Melbourne Test with ICC

PTI ■ KARACHI

After the controversial dismissal of Mohammed Rizwan in the second Test against Australia, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to take up issues pertaining to umpiring and use of technology with the International Cricket Council (ICC). On Friday, the on-field umpire refused to give Rizwan out after Australian captain and pacer Pat Cummins appealed for a caught behind, but the home side managed to overturn the decision through the DRS. However, the Pakistan camp was less than happy about the reversal of the decision after the 'Snickometer' showed a spike on it when the ball was just above the wrist of Rizwan. A reliable source within the PCB said its head Zaka Ashraf had a conversation with team director Mohammed Hafeez, who conveyed some points to him about the umpiring and the use of technology during the Melbourne Test which they lost by 79 runs. Now, the PCB is all set to raise those points with the global governing body. All rules and regulations governing cricket and the use of technology on the field is approved by the ICC Executive Board after being vetted by the MCC Cricket Committee and ICC Cricket Committee. Hafeez was visibly upset during the post-match press conference at the MCG on Friday, while stressing on the need to highlight inconsistent umpiring and the challenges of technology which



had influenced the outcome of the Test. "If you look at the entire game, there were very inconsistent decisions by the umpires. We play this beautiful game of cricket with natural instinct, and we all know the basics of the game. However, at times, it feels like the focus is more on technology than on the actual cricket being played. I believe this is an area that needs to be addressed," he Hafeez had said. The former also reiterated the need for clarity and certainty in the sport. "I am not against technology in the game. But if it brings doubt and confusion, it is not acceptable. Some decisions were not understandable. The ball hitting the stumps is always out. I will never understand why there is an umpire's call," he detailed.

## No climate for cricket: How global warming putting heat on NZ summer game

THE CONVERSATION ■ AUCKLAND (NEW ZEALAND)

The recently concluded men's Cricket World Cup in India reached record audiences. But there was one thing the organisers did not want the viewers to see (other than India's defeat by Australia in the final): cricket's own climate crisis. Along with battling heat and humidity, players were forced to contend with unhealthy air created by pollutants from vehicles, factories and construction, and aggravated by increased temperatures in 20 of the 47 matches. As Indian captain Rohit Sharma remarked, "It is not ideal and everyone knows that." The United Nations describes the threat more forcefully. Secretary-General António Guterres has warned the world is on a "catastrophic path" to a "hellish future". It is a future that threatens the very viability

of cricket. **CRICKET AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS:** As an outdoor summer game in which the natural environment plays a unique role, cricket is perhaps the pitch sport most at risk from a changing climate. Increased temperatures and heat waves threaten the safety of players and spectators, as well as the preparation and maintenance of playing surfaces. Equally, cricket is vulnerable to higher risks of drought and flooding. Air pollution, especially in the Indian subcontinent, continues to cloud the game. The threat is compounded by the precarious regions in which cricket is played. Bangladesh and Pakistan — where New Zealand's Black Caps played their past two overseas Test series — are ranked seventh and eighth respectively for vulnerability on the Climate Risk Index. At the same time, cricket is not mere-

ly a potential victim of the climate crisis, it is a contributor to it. While it lags behind other sports in calculating its environmental impact, cricket is a resource-heavy game. Preparation of a cricket field requires around 60,000 litres of water a day. An expanding international touring schedule means regular long-haul flights. One of the few existing studies estimated an Indian Premier League match produced about 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Overall, cricket's carbon footprint is substantial. **SPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY:** For a game facing a potential existential crisis, cricket's sustainability efforts have been slow by comparison with other sports. In line with the Paris Agreement, the International Olympic Committee has committed to a 50 per cent reduction in direct and indirect carbon emissions by 2030, and promised the 2032 Brisbane



Olympics will be "climate positive". Both FIFA and World Rugby have sustainability plans, as do Formula One and most American sports leagues, including the NBA. Sail GP even has an "Impact League" that measures environmental mitigation efforts.

While some scepticism might be warranted — FIFA held a World Cup in oil-rich Qatar, and the 2030 men's tournament will be held across two continents — at least the intent is clear. By contrast, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has not published a

sustainability strategy. Of its full members, only the England and Wales Cricket Board has such a plan. Of the more than 200 sporting organisations to sign up to the UN's Sports for Climate Action Framework — which requires participants to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2040 — only six are cricketing entities, and most are in England. **INACTION IN NEW ZEALAND:** New Zealand Cricket (NZC) is as silent on climate as many of its global counterparts. Environmental sustainability does not appear in NZC strategy documents. At the same time, its 2022-23 annual report laments that less than half of all scheduled recreational fixtures could be played in some areas due to rain and flooding. It also notes the "cyclones, floods and related civil emergencies" that caused these cancellations were "well beyond its control".

New Zealand's 2023-24 cricket season could be the hottest yet. Following the devastating floods in Auckland in early 2023, a drought is possible this summer. Heat waves are becoming more persistent and more dangerous. Cricket is not made for such extremes. At a time when game is struggling to attract participants, climate change is making it harder for recreational cricketers to play. New Zealand Cricket's mission statement states: "We think ahead and pay it forward. It's about doing the right things for the best reasons. Leading the way, and following our own path. We never give up, give in, or say die." It may be time to apply those admirable sentiments to its response to the climate crisis. The first step would be to sign up to the UN Sport for Climate Action Framework — and get some sustainability runs on the board.

# Happy New Year 2024



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**Afzal Hussain Fauji**  
Nainital

The celestial beauty of Nainital reaches its zenith during the winter-time when columns of puffy, white clouds, found floating in the sapphire-blue sky, seem eager to kiss and embrace the lush green valleys stretched along the horizon. Nainital with its bewitching charm beckons tourists all the year round, but the chill in the air felt in the winter days makes the picturesque Nainital even more invit-

ing. If it showers a little the air is freshened up, adding to the alluring beauty of the lake town. One may get lost in the transcendental beauty lying in the snow-capped landscapes. Snow View and Tiffin Top seem to take on different hues during the wintertime. There are a host of sites worth seeing for tourists like the Raj Bhavan, Cave Garden, Himalaya Darshan, Hanumangarhi and Lovers' Point. Boating in the Naini Lake during the day and sauntering on the Mall Road in the evening are quite popular with the tourists. The major shrines,

yearning of the people. Winter tourism has other advantages too for the visitors as they can enjoy considerable rebate in hotel charges and tax rates, particularly during the Christmas and New Year's Eve, as compared to other times. Further, the place is not as crowded as it is during the summer days. Among the hotels in Nainital, Shervani Hilltop, Manu Maharani, Vikram Vintage, Alka Hotel, Naini Retreat, Primrose, Welcome Park and Channi Raja offer their own specialties. Considering all these aspects, those looking for a good time in



a good place should visit Nainital in this winter-time. The State government along with the hospitality fraternity has taken all possible measures to ensure a perfect environment for the visitors to celebrate the New Year's advent amidst the Himalayan serenity.



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# REDESIGN YOUR INNER HOME

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**W**hat is home? Home is a place where you are at rest. Where you can be yourself and feel comfortable. For me, the entire world is my home. Wherever I go, I feel the same belongingness with the people. The whole world is my family, my home. I want every home to be like an ashram. Ashram means where there is no shram (effort); where all the efforts, all the strains of the mind, heart and body drop. All the fears, insecurities, stress, everything drops and you experience deep rest. Every home should be like an ashram. People dream of beautiful homes. They spend so much time, money and energy decorating and re-designing their houses; or they keep changing homes. Yet they are not at rest. You can be at rest only when you are comfortable first within yourself. The first step is to relax and the last step is to relax as well! The most relaxing or comfortable place is right within you. Repose in that peaceful, cool, calm, serene depth of your being - this is immensely valuable and precious. Book yourself in this most beautiful, most comfortable home in the whole universe. Bring the mind which is all over the place, back to its source. Welcome home! It is only when you come home to yourself that every place looks beautiful and you feel that every place is your own home. Then wherever you go, you add beauty and bring comfort to others. When you are unhappy or tired, even sweet things are nauseating, music is disturbing, and the moon is irritating. When you are calm and centred, clouds are magical, rain is liquid sunshine and even noise is music. So it is important to take proper rest. But when can you rest? Rest is possible only when you have stopped all other activities. When you stop moving around, when you stop working, thinking, talking, seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, when all these voluntary activities stop, then you get rest. In sleep, you are left with only involuntary activities like breathing, the heartbeat, digestion and blood circulation. But this is not total rest. When the mind settles down, it has come back home. That is when one gets deep rest and this happens in meditation. Right now you are on the doorstep. You are locked out of your own house. Bang on your inner door. Do not delay a moment. All wealth is within you. When your inner door opens, there is love, joy, peace and comfort. As long as desires linger in your mind, you cannot be at total rest. You cannot be at home. Sri Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, “You cannot get into Yoga unless you drop the



**WHEN YOU ARE CALM AND CENTRED, CLOUDS ARE MAGICAL, RAIN IS LIQUID SUNSHINE AND EVEN NOISE IS MUSIC. SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE PROPER REST**



desires or hankering in you”. You can see this from your own experience; if you go to bed with some restlessness or agitation you will not get deep sleep. Very ambitious people cannot have deep sleep because the mind inside is not free. Every desire or ambition is like a sand particle in the eye. One way is to extend your desire or make it so big that it doesn't bother you. A big stone or a rock can never get into your eyes. The other way is to remove it. Dispassion is removing this particle of dust or sand from your eye. Just let go of everything. The best way to do this is to feel that “the world is disappearing or dissolving...and feel that you are dead!” Unless you feel that, you cannot meditate or feel complete rest. For many, the mind doesn't settle even after death. Wise are those who can settle their minds while alive! And

for this, you have to merely come home to yourself. Among all the planets in the solar system, the earth is privileged to host life in so many forms and among all the species, humans are the most privileged as they can host the knowledge. Again and again remember that you are peace and love and that you are hosting the creator. Like birds returning to their nests, come back to your source. Come back home. Make your home Divine's home and there will be light, love and abundance. Make your body Divine's abode and there will be peace and bliss. Feel your mind as a toy of the Divine and you'll watch and enjoy all its games. See this world as play and as a display of Divine Himself and you will repose in the non-dual self, which is your home!





# Stateless and homeless in Kurdistan

The history of Kurdistan is deeply intertwined with the geography, polity, and economy of West Asia, especially the sovereign countries of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. The Kurdish people are largely scattered across these four countries in the region. For centuries, people belonging to numerous ethnicities have migrated, settled, and many have naturally inhabited West Asia, such as Persians, Arabs, Turks, Armenians, Azeris, Chechens, etc. Unfortunately, the Kurds are the only ones who have remained stateless to date.

The Kurds are sometimes regarded as the largest nation without its own independent country. About 25-35 million of them live in the mountainous regions that straddle the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Armenia. The Kurds are probably the fourth largest ethnic group in the West Asian region without a state. They are one of the most widely known indigenous peoples belonging to the ancient Mesopotamian Plains and Highlands. Today, they are mainly scattered over Southeastern Turkey, Northeastern Syria, Northern Iraq, Northwestern Iran, and Southwestern Armenia. As a result, they lay claim to all these territories currently under the occupation of five sovereign nations.

The history of Kurdistan traces back to the historic Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916, under which West Asia was divided into separate zones of British and French influence. After the First World War, the Treaty of Sevres was signed in 1920, proposing the creation of an autonomous Kurdish state as part of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. However, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the new leader of Turkey, outrightly rejected the Treaty of Sevres and the demand for an

independent Kurdistan. This treaty was replaced by the Treaty of Lausanne, negotiated with the Turkish Government, which made no mention of the Kurdistan state. Since then, Kurds across the five nation-states of Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Armenia have raised the banner of revolt for an independent homeland.

By January 22, 1946, Kurds in Iran established the Republic of Mahabad during the Second World War when it was under the control of the USSR. After the withdrawal of Soviet troops, Iran took control of Mahabad in December 1946. Mustafa Barzani, considered the “Father of Kurdish nationalism”, established the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq on August 16, 1946, while in exile in Mahabad. Later, it was renamed the Kurdistan Democratic Party, becoming the most dominant political party among Kurds until the 1970s in Iraq.

By 1961, under Barzani's leadership, Iraqi Kurds began their rebellion against the Baathist regime of Baghdad for not fulfilling the demand for autonomy. In 1962, Syria stripped 120,000 Kurds of their citizenship. Hafez al-Assad's regime established an Arab Belt along the border of Turkey in 1973 by displacing thousands of Kurds. In 1974, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) was established under the leadership of Abdullah Ocalan. It is a Marxist organisation aiming to establish an independent Kurdistan in the southeastern part of Turkey. Since 1984, the PKK has been using violent tactics to fight the Turkish state. Thereafter, the Kurds found themselves in a disadvantageous position with the signing of the Algiers Accord between Iraq and Iran in 1975. As US funding came to an end and Kurdish territory in Northern Iraq was occupied, the Kurdish

rebellion suffered a significant setback. Following the collapse of the rebellion, Kurdish fighters were divided into two groups: the original group under Barzani remained, but branding him as a reactionary, Jalal Talabani formed the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in Sorani-speaking areas of Central Iraq. From 1970 to 1990, the Kurds fought in both Iraq and Iran, but they could hardly force the respective regimes to yield to their demands. The worst came in Iraq when Saddam Hussein launched the “Kurdish Genocide” in 1988, resulting in the killing of more than



1,80,000 Kurds. On March 16 of the same year, he unleashed a mustard and sarin gas attack on the Kurds in the town of Halabja, killing about 5,000 of them. Even after the Iranian Revolution of 1979, under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Kurds were tortured and completely sidelined in Iran. With the US-led Operation Provide Comfort and later Operation Northern Watch against Saddam's regime in Iraq, nearly a million fleeing Kurds came back home from Turkey and Iran. They elected their first Kurdistan Regional Government and National

Assembly in 1992. Since then, until the rise of the Islamic State in 2014, Kurdish parties and groups underwent massive changes and faced upheavals in Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey but failed to achieve their independent homeland. Interestingly, the US fully supported the Kurds in its war against the Islamic State in West Asia, particularly in Syria and Iraq. However, once the war came to an end and President Assad regained control over the major war zones of Syria with support from Iran and Russia, the Kurds found themselves still fighting an endless war with the hope

that someday, they will have an independent land. The recent attack by Kurdish rebels and the killing of nearly 12 Turkish soldiers in northern Iraq have again highlighted the continued threat from the outlawed PKK. In response to the killings, the Turkish Army launched massive airstrikes and neutralised around 26 PKK fighters. Subsequently, dozens of pro-Kurdistan opposition activists were affected. The PKK has been designated as a terrorist group by Turkey, the US, and the European Union (EU). Almost anyone visiting and meeting the Kurds will hear

them quip that they are “no man's land” today. They are the largest group of inhabitants, numbering almost 40 million to date, without having a permanent state. Shockingly, the four major states where the Kurds particularly live — Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria — all of them have either failed or not genuinely shown interest in conducting an apolitical census of the Kurd population. It is a matter of critical political contestation in all these states, and the successive regimes in Ankara, Baghdad, Tehran, and Damascus have simply ignored the persistent attempts of the Kurds to establish themselves as a single political community for decades now. Who is responsible for making the Kurds stateless? Can there be a permanent solution? Frankly, the Kurdish dream of an independent state needs support and compromise from Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. It is a very intricate issue because all these countries don't have a consensus on the demands of the Kurdish people and their leaders over the decades. The Kurds have remained homeless simply because of the initial division of West Asia by the European colonial powers and subsequent neglect by the regional rulers of their demands. Furthermore, the Kurds have enough factions in all these countries, and they do not have a coherent strategy to fight the respective regimes. Today, they are seen as a threat to the territorial integrity of Turkey, Iraq, and Syria, though they have been living there for decades. So, the road ahead is long and arduous for the Kurds to attain their homeland in the days to come.

*(The writer is currently the President of the Global Research Foundation)*

**The history of Kurdistan is intricately woven into the fabric of West Asia, encompassing Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. Home to the Kurds, the region's largest stateless ethnic group, they number around 35 million, dispersed across the aforementioned nations. Despite their significant presence, Kurds remain without a sovereign state, facing a complex history marked by geopolitical agreements, uprisings, and the enduring quest for autonomy.**

MAKHAN SAIKIA



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# Rising tide of climate refugees

In the wake of escalating climate change, a looming crisis unfolds as millions face displacement, transforming them into ‘climate refugees’. From the perilous US-Mexico border crossings to the sinking Small Island Developing States, the impact reverberates globally, WRITE CHITRANGADA AND YASUDHARA

Climate change is real, and humanity is facing a potential threat. It has the power to reshape the planet Earth in the days to come, and we, as humans, are solely responsible for these unnatural changes. In April 2021, when the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released data, it highlighted that the number of people displaced by climate change-related disasters since 2010 has increased to 21.5 million. Furthermore, the Ecosystem Threat Register (ETR) released in September 2018 by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), an Australian think tank, stated that by 2050, around 1.2 billion people will be displaced by these climate-related threats. In 2018, when the UN adopted the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, it clearly stated that one of the factors causing large-scale migration of people is the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. Again, in March 2018, the UN Human Rights Council adopted an outcome document that strongly focused on cross-border movement of people brought about by climate crises from the angle of human rights protection.

The term “climate refugees” refers to climate-related migration. However, it is not adequately defined by global governance agencies like the UN or migration-related forums in the true sense of the term. The term was first coined to describe the growing large-scale migration and cross-border mass movement of people affected by natural disasters. Climate refugees are now the world's forgotten victims, so to

speak. They are not receiving what they urgently deserve. One of the real dangers emerging from environmental chaos is the problem of “climate refugees” in many parts of the globe. It is affecting people from Mongolia to Mexico and from Iceland to South Africa. No one is left untouched. It has become a pandemic by now. The impact of climate change on migration is evolving each year. One such region experiencing significant changes is the US-Mexico border, where thousands of migrants arrive after traversing the “Darién Gap”, risking their lives in the journey from Central America to the US. This route is considered one of the world's most perilous migration paths, where many migrants, including the weak, elderly, children, and women, lose their lives due to treacherous pathways and various natural hazards. Consequently, many of these migrants find it challenging to realise their coveted “American Dream” in reality. Media reports and migration experts have been issuing warnings about the substantial increase in migrants to the US from poor, impoverished, and rapidly climate-changing Central American nations. The trend since 2010 is particularly alarming. In 2022, almost 2,50,000 people made the crossing, driven by economic and humanitarian disasters — nearly double the figures from the previous year and 20 times the annual average from 2010 to 2020. Early data for 2023 indicates a six-fold increase, with 87,390 people making the trek from January to March compared to 13,791 the previous year (Walsh et al., 2023).

This underscores the serious consideration of the Darién Gap by migrants seeking a brighter future in their homeland. Another group of nations especially vulnerable to climate change is Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Fiji, etc. These countries face a daunting task in adjusting to the dynamics of climate change, particularly during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic slowdown in SIDS is compelling more people to migrate or abandon their native places, exacerbated by changing environmental conditions. Therefore, the 38



member states and 22 associate states designated as SIDS by the UN constitute a unique crisis, termed a “sink or swim” paradox, unlike other poor developing nations. Environmental scientists and climate experts note that these states collectively contribute to less than one per cent of global carbon emissions. Despite their minimal contribution, the catastrophic effects of abnormal environmental changes render them virtually uninhabitable. Therefore, SIDS are seeking avenues to raise awareness of their plight and gain global support, particularly financial assistance to urgently combat

the climate crisis. Indeed, the recent call for a “loss and damage” fund established at the COP-27 summit in 2022 could be one way to address climate disasters in developing nations, including SIDS. The issue of loss and damage is crucial for many developing nations, as they bear the brunt of environmental damages caused by advanced or developed nations. Loss refers to irretrievable losses such as human lives or the loss of species, while damages indicate things that are harmed but can be repaired or restored, such as roads and sea walls. This fund is expected to have a significant impact on climate refugees and their rehabilita-

tion in the future. What kind of policies could alleviate this issue? The realistic solution is to ensure that we no longer pollute and produce goods and services. However, this is not entirely feasible. What we can collectively do is reduce the level of consumption and, ultimately, our greed in all aspects of life. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been working with a long-term vision to address the issue of refugees, especially climate-displaced people. Currently, the UNHCR is engaged in 130 country operations, with regional wings spread across the world and its

headquarters in Geneva. It is also focusing on 22 countries of high concern until 2026. To tackle the climate refugee issue, the UNHCR is working towards a vision for the year 2030. This vision is firmly rooted in the UNHCR's Strategic Directions of 2022-26 and aligned with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The vision states: “By 2030, an increasing number of forcibly displaced and stateless people, fleeing from climate-fueled crises and/or living in climate-vulnerable countries, find solutions, are protected and resilient to the impacts of climate change, and have the means to live self-sufficient lives.” This vision is based on the Strategic Action for Climate Action launched in 2020 by the UNHCR itself. However, the new Strategic Plan for Action 2024-30 provides a clear roadmap to address the issue of climate refugees. These objectives are:

A. People who are compelled to flee across borders due to persecution, violence, and human rights violations arising from the adverse effects of climate change disasters are protected and safe. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) aligns with governments, civil society organisations, academia, regional bodies, etc, to safeguard individuals who are victims of climate change.

B. Forcibly displaced and stateless people, along with their hosts, should have access to services promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and a clean, healthy environment. The primary objective here is

to encourage governments and other entities to invest in environmentally sustainable public services for these displaced individuals. C. People forced to flee, stateless individuals, and their hosts should be able to prepare for, withstand, recover from, and be protected against the impacts of climate change. This underscores that the UNHCR collaborates with host nations to ensure the protection and well-being of climate refugees, enabling them to lead safe lives. D. The UNHCR aims to minimise its own negative impacts on the environment. To reduce carbon footprints, the UNHCR utilises solar panels at its offices and endeavours to make its fleet entirely green. Its use of renewable energy resources aligns with the UN's broader commitment to “Greening the Blue”. Thus, the UNHCR is taking numerous steps to mitigate the impact of climate change on environmentally displaced people worldwide. However, joint action is crucial, as the UNHCR alone cannot achieve this. Migration is a global phenomenon, with climate-related displacement being the most tragic. People leave their native lands and indigenous resources to go to either completely unknown distant lands or, again, to some inhabitable lands. It is certain their future is not secure. They are more vulnerable than before. It is time to shift our focus from reaction to action. Climate change is making our lives vulnerable.

*(The writers are Research Assistants at GRF)*

