



23.09.2026 NEWS

MULTINATIONAL AIR FORCE EXERCISE IN INDIA: AIRCRAFT FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S. F-35, TO PARTICIPATE

- Aircraft from seven countries, including the United States' advanced F-35 fighter jet, will participate in an international air force exercise beginning on the 26th in Rajasthan.
- The multinational air exercise, named "Tarang Shakti," will be held at the Jodhpur Air Force Station in Rajasthan.
- The Indian Air Force has stated that the U.S. stealth fighter aircraft, F-35, will participate in this exercise for the first time.
- The participation of the United States' fifth-generation fighter aircraft in Indian airspace has made this multinational military exercise a subject of considerable international attention.
- Aircraft from seven countries — the United States, France, Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — will participate in the exercise.
- On behalf of the Indian Air Force, aircraft including the Rafale, Mirage-2000, Jaguar, Tejas, MiG-29 and Su-30MKI will take part in various exercises.
- Aircraft such as France's Rafale, the UAE's F-16 and Bangladesh's C-130J will conduct various exercises in the airspace around the Jodhpur Air Force Station for about two weeks.
- Although the U.S. F-35 had earlier participated in the Aero India 2025 air show, this will be the first time that it is participating in a military exercise on Indian soil.
- The Tarang Shakti exercise was first conducted in 2024 in two phases — at Sullur in Tamil Nadu and Jodhpur in Rajasthan.
- Fighter aircraft from 11 countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany and France, participated in the 2024 edition.

CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT IS THE NEW TARGET? BY 2100, THE WORLD COULD LOSE ONE-FOURTH OF ITS GLACIERS

- A recent massive glacier collapse in the Himalayan region, which turned into devastating floods and severely affected Nepal, once again highlighted the consequences of the Earth warming beyond 1.5°C.
- Only a few days earlier, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had openly acknowledged the worsening global warming situation through a detailed report titled "Overshoot, Peak and Decline."

» The New Target

- About ten years ago, the international community set the goal of limiting the rise in the average global temperature to within 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- The 2015 Paris Agreement was adopted with the objective of combating climate change and preventing global warming from exceeding the 1.5°C threshold.
- However, a recent report released in Nairobi, Kenya, stated that it is now almost impossible to prevent global temperatures from temporarily crossing the 1.5°C level in the coming years.
- Even if every country fully implements its national climate plans and net-zero targets, global temperatures are still expected to increase by around 1.8°C.
- Under the climate policies being followed so far, global temperatures could rise by as much as 2.6°C by 2100.
- Therefore, the new objective is to keep the temperature overshoot as low as possible and to bring global temperatures back below the prescribed limit before the end of this century.

» Collective Action Brings Greater Benefits

- As early as 2025, this reality had begun to be acknowledged, and an official framework was created to prepare the world for such a situation.
- At the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025, an initiative known as the "Global Mutirão Platform" was introduced.
- The term "Mutirão" reflects the tradition of collective community effort associated with the indigenous culture of Brazil. It represents the idea that people can achieve far greater benefits by working together.
- During the conference, participants discussed the fact that, even with major restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions, the Earth may already have reached a stage where returning completely to pre-industrial climatic conditions would be extremely difficult.
- A commitment was therefore made to closely monitor the extent of temperature overshoot and to adopt deep, rapid and sustained measures to reduce carbon emissions.
- Since reducing emissions alone may not be sufficient, large-scale afforestation and forest restoration programmes are also considered essential.
- Ana Toni, a senior official associated with COP30, highlighted the importance of such measures.
- The intense summer heat, increasing forest fires and devastating floods seen around the world are warnings of what could happen in the future.
- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres stated that the period during which global warming remains above 1.5°C must be kept as short as possible.

» Loss of Glaciers

- According to the report "Overshoot, Peak and Decline," the world could lose nearly one-fourth of its glaciers by 2100.

Today News...

- If effective adaptation measures are not implemented, global food production could fall by around 14% within the next quarter-century.
 - In addition, the ice sheets of West Antarctica and Greenland could reach an irreversible state.
 - The report also warns that important systems that regulate the Earth's climate — including the Atlantic Ocean circulation system and the Amazon River basin — could face serious destabilisation.
 - Moreover, once carbon dioxide has already been released into the atmosphere, preventing the warming impact caused by those emissions becomes extremely difficult.
 - With continued high emissions, global temperatures could increase by approximately 0.1°C every five years.
 - At the same time, reducing global temperature by the same 0.1°C could require the removal of nearly 22,000 crore tonnes (about 220 billion tonnes) of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
 - The report reflects continuing uncertainty over whether countries will actually implement sufficient reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions.
 - The United States, historically one of the world's largest carbon dioxide emitters, officially withdrew from the Paris Agreement at the beginning of the year referred to in the report.
 - It also announced its withdrawal from or disengagement with international climate-related institutions and mechanisms including the UN climate framework, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Green Climate Fund, according to the passage.
- » Methane Reduction Target
- For the first time, the report also gives significant attention to methane emissions.
 - At present, methane is estimated to be responsible for approximately 0.5°C of global warming.
 - Human activities such as : fossil-fuel extraction and energy-related activities, livestock farming, rice cultivation, landfills, and wastewater management
 - release approximately 40 crore tonnes (400 million tonnes) of methane every year.
 - Reducing methane emissions can therefore significantly slow the rate of global warming.
 - Under the Global Methane Pledge, participating countries aim to reduce human-caused methane emissions by 30% by 2030 compared with 2020 levels.
 - More than 155 countries have joined the pledge.
 - However, major countries including India, China, Russia and Iran have so far not joined the Global Methane Pledge.