



29.06.2026 NEWS

19 AGREEMENTS SIGNED

- Seychelles, located in the Indian Ocean region, is celebrating its 50th National Day. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is participating as the chief guest.
- Prime Minister Modi was conferred with Seychelles' highest award, the 'Grand Commander of the Order of the Pearl of Seychelles'. The country's President Patrick Herminie presented the award and honored him.
- This award was conferred in recognition of PM Modi's contributions to environmental protection, climate change initiatives, and fostering the development of small nations. Including this award, Prime Minister Modi has received 33 international awards to date.
- India will provide necessary assistance to Seychelles across various sectors, including housing, food security, education, security, and public governance.
- India's Jan Aushadhi Scheme (Makkal Maruthagam scheme) will also be introduced in Seychelles.
- » Importance of Tamils
- The island nation of Seychelles consists of a total of 115 islands. In the year 1770, 15 people from France settled there. Along with them, 7 Africans and 5 Indians were also settled there.
- Subsequently, people from various states of India—including Tamil Nadu, Bihar, and Gujarat—settled in Seychelles.
- People from African nations such as Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, and Mozambique were also brought there.

ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO HUMANITY

- Heat is an unavoidable energy in human life. Only after discovering fire—a thermal energy—did human beings enter the civilized world. Avoiding heat is impossible in human life, but there is a limit to it.
- The same temperature does not prevail across all regions of our Earth.
- Regarding global warming, it needs to be viewed in two aspects: heat energy entering the Earth, and heat energy radiated back from the Earth.
- Science refers to the balance between these two types of heat exchanges as Earth's thermal energy budget. Recent studies have highlighted significant imbalances occurring in this energy budget.
- The Earth's surface temperature has increased to an unprecedented level worldwide.
- Based on an announcement released by the World Meteorological Organization on March 23, the decade from 2015 to 2025 was recorded as the warmest period on record.
- It also highlighted that the Earth's thermal energy budget has remained unbalanced over the past 65 years.
- Regarding the year 2025, it ranked among the second or third hottest years ever recorded in history.
- Furthermore, we can gauge the severity of the impact knowing that this average temperature was 1.43°C higher than the pre-industrial average between 1850 and 1900.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres declared that global climate is in a state of emergency, the planet has crossed its limits, and all climate indicators signal grave danger.

- Considering the gravity of the situation, disclosures regarding Earth's thermal energy imbalance were published for the first time in a report released on World Meteorological Day in Geneva this year.
- Deep oceans are the most affected by rising Earth temperatures. Consequently, the melting of polar ice caps and the subsequent rise in sea levels pose a massive challenge to humanity.
- The area of Arctic sea ice has drastically shrunk. Compared to 1979 data, the ice coverage reduced to 14.19 million square kilometers by 2025.
- Environmental researchers view this as a critical warning signal.
- Compared to sea levels in 1993, average global sea levels rose by 11 cm by 2014, leading to coastal erosion in shoreline land areas.
- Additionally, marine resources are adversely affected, and these impacts extend to increasing groundwater salinity.
- It would be no surprise if, in a few decades, Chennai and its suburban areas turn into regions lacking potable water.
- Ocean acidification is another issue arising from global warming. Over the past 41 years, the acidity of the deep oceans has been continuously increasing due to the increased absorption and mixing of carbon dioxide.
- Human activities were responsible for 29% of the carbon dioxide found in the deep oceans between 2015 and 2024. Consequently, marine ecosystems are altering, and marine life is being adversely affected.
- Another unavoidable consequence of climate change driven by temperature variation is its impact on health. Climate change within the biosphere leads to natural disasters, including floods and storms.
- The resulting waterborne diseases pose another major challenge to humanity. Recent reports by the World Health Organization make it clear that temperature variations serve as an indirect cause of waterborne diseases.
- Furthermore, the World Health Organization has recorded an increase in dengue fever cases worldwide, which spreads through mosquitoes that thrive under these conditions.
- Climate is also among the key factors determining a nation's economy, and the role of global warming in shaping this cannot be ignored.
- Failed monsoons or unseasonal early rains severely impact a country's agriculture, which in turn cripples the national economy.
- Due to heat stress and related temperature impacts, 1.2 billion people worldwide have been affected. As a result, along with the health of workers in the agricultural and industrial sectors, the industries that depend on them are also suffering.
- We must pledge to perform noble, life-preserving actions for this Earth, which accommodates human beings both during life and after death. Only then can our Earth's unquenchable thirst be quenched.

SHAPING THE NATION THROUGH DATA

- » Mahalanobis, who considered statistics as a tool to improve human life
 - When India gained independence in 1947, a major challenge lay before the new nation: What was the standard of living of the country's people? How many people had employment? How widespread was poverty? What were the conditions of people's income, consumption, education, and health?
 - To plan a country's development, one must first know the real ground reality of that nation. P. C. Mahalanobis, the father of Indian statistics, showed India the path to scientifically measure and understand those realities.
- » The Turning Point
 - Born in Kolkata on June 29, 1893, Mahalanobis studied physics. However, recognizing the social utility of statistical science, he took the field of statistics in India to new heights. The belief that a nation's progress should be guided not by opinions and assumptions, but by data and evidence, formed the foundation of his life's work.
 - As a manifestation of this vision, the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) was established in 1931. This institute's contribution in fields like statistics, economics, mathematics, social sciences, and planning is intricately intertwined with India's development journey.

- After independence, the need to understand the country's socio-economic conditions on a scientific basis increased. As a result, the National Sample Survey (NSS) was launched in 1950. It emerged as a national organization to systematically collect information on the living conditions, consumption, employment, education, and social status of people residing across various regions of India.
- This effort became a significant turning point in the history of planning in India. The National Sample Survey laid the foundation for designing government schemes, resource allocations, and development activities based on data.
- » International Recognition
 - India's innovative efforts in statistics, economic planning, and sample survey methods received international acclaim.
 - In 1955, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, and in 1956, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai visited this institute's campus in Kolkata and learned in detail about Indian statistics and data processing work.
 - Mahalanobis did not view statistics merely as a collection of numbers; he saw it as a tool to improve human life. His view that "Statistics must have a clear purpose; it should serve scientific progress and human welfare" remains a guiding principle of the Indian statistical system to this day.
 - His birthday, June 29, is celebrated every year as National Statistics Day.
- » New Light in Statistics
 - For the past seven decades, National Sample Surveys have been recording India's development. Data provided by the National Sample Survey across various domains-including poverty estimates, employment surveys, consumer expenditure surveys, and education-health studies-has served as crucial evidence for government decision-making.
 - Not only central and state governments, but also universities, research institutes, international organizations, and policy researchers have been widely utilizing this data.
 - It continues to stand as one of the most vital data sources for understanding the transformations in Indian society.
 - Over time, the National Sample Survey has also evolved. To regularly monitor the state of the labor market, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was introduced.
 - Similarly, with the introduction of the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) method for direct computer-assisted data recording, the speed, accuracy, and quality of data collection have significantly improved.
 - The National Household Income Survey being conducted this year is expected to provide detailed information regarding the country's income distribution and economic inequality.
 - Likewise, new surveys such as the Time Use Survey have brought to light areas that were not adequately covered in traditional surveys, such as unpaid domestic work, caregiving duties, women's hidden labor, and informal economic activities.
- » Focus on People's Welfare
 - However, the challenges facing India's National Sample Survey have intensified today. The rapidly growing digital economy, e-commerce, new forms of employment, urbanization, artificial intelligence-based industries, and changing consumer habits emphasize the need for new measurement techniques and innovative data collection approaches.
 - In such a scenario, Mahalanobis's emphasis on functioning without compromising scientific precision, alongside his conviction that statistical methods must be continuously updated to meet changing times, serve as guiding principles for the future development of the National Sample Survey.
 - Mahalanobis's contribution in placing data at the center to measure a nation's progress, understand people's lives, and formulate evidence-based policies is truly unique.
 - Today, as India grows into one of the world's major economic powers, the necessity of a robust National Sample Survey system to accurately comprehend this growth and ensure inclusive progress is greater than ever before.
 - P. C. Mahalanobis's vision was never merely about numbers; it was about the people of India. Creating a scientific path to understand their lives, measure their progress, and uplift their welfare stands as his greatest achievement.