

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 24 April 2025

INDUS WATER TREATY



- The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between **India and Pakistan** on **September 19, 1960**, with the **World Bank** acting as a mediator.

- The treaty was designed to ensure cooperation and information-sharing between the two countries regarding water use from the **Indus River system**, which includes six rivers: **Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej**.
- The treaty allocated the **three western rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab—to Pakistan for unrestricted use**, while India retained the **three eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej—for its exclusive use**.
- India was allowed limited, non-consumptive uses of the western rivers for domestic, agricultural, and hydroelectric purposes, under strict conditions.
- This arrangement meant that **around 80% of the total water volume was granted to Pakistan**, while India received the remaining 20%.
- To manage the treaty's implementation, both nations agreed to establish a **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)**, which is required to **meet annually** to discuss technical matters and facilitate data exchange.

INDIA'S 5-POINT ACTION AGAINST PAKISTAN AFTER PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

India's Response to the Pahalgam Terror Attack

- **Suspension of Indus Waters Treaty**
 - India has suspended the **Indus Waters Treaty** with Pakistan, which governs river water sharing, until Pakistan stops supporting cross-border terrorism.
 - This marks a major diplomatic shift since the treaty was signed in 1960.
- **Closure of Attari-Wagah Border Check Post**

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 24 April 2025

- India has closed the **Attari Integrated Check Post**, halting all cross-border movement of people and goods.
- Those already in India with valid documents may return by **01 May 2025**.
- **Cancellation of SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES)**
 - India has suspended the **SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme** for Pakistani nationals.
 - All existing SVES visas are cancelled, and Pakistani nationals in India under the scheme must leave within **48 hours**.
- **Expulsion of Pakistani Military Advisors**
 - India has **expelled all Pakistani military, naval, and air advisors** from the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi, declaring them **Persona Non Grata**.
 - Indian military advisors in Islamabad will also be withdrawn.
- **Reduction of Diplomatic Personnel**
 - India will **reduce its diplomatic staff in Pakistan** from 55 to 30 by **01 May 2025**, significantly scaling down bilateral diplomatic engagement.

Geopolitical Isolation of Pakistan

- **Loss of US Leverage**
 - Post-US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, Pakistan **lost strategic importance**.
 - The **US no longer provides economic support**, unlike in previous years.
- **Declining Gulf Support**
 - **Gulf nations have refused financial aid**, showing frustration with Pakistan's lack of reciprocity and repeated bailouts.
- **Strained China Relations**
 - Despite China's major investments under the **Belt and Road Initiative**, projects are stalled due to:
 - **Corruption**

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 24 April 2025

- **Insecurity**, including attacks on Chinese personnel
- China's trust and enthusiasm for Pakistan have **declined**.
- **Afghanistan Turns Hostile**
 - Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, once expected to offer Pakistan “**strategic depth**”, has become a **security threat**.
 - Increased attacks along the **Afghan-Pakistan border**.
- **Tensions with Iran**
 - **Baloch militants** killed Pakistani workers in Iran recently.
 - Both countries have engaged in **cross-border strikes** targeting militant camps.

ALH DHRUV, FEATURES, SIGNIFICANCE, LATEST NEWS



- Advanced Light Helicopter or ALH-DHRUV is an **indigenously developed utility aircraft** by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** with a twin-engine. It has a multi-role, multi-mission dimension to it.
- Even though its development started in 1984, and was initially **designed with Germany's assistance**, Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm (MBB), the helicopter was first flown in 1992 but entered service after certification in 2002.
- According to HAL, the aircraft is “**type-certified**” for **military operations** by the Centre for Military Airworthiness Certification and civil operations by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The major variants of Dhruv are classified as Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV.
- HAL has bagged orders for 73 ALH in 2017 from the Indian Army, Coast Guard, and Navy for ALH Mk-III & Mk-IV variants. It has also been supplied to the Nepal Army, the Mauritius Police, and the Maldives.
- **Features:**
 - Twin-engine configuration
 - Glass cockpit with advanced avionics

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 24 April 2025

- Crashworthy airframe and landing gear
- Composite interchangeable main rotor blades
- Chaff and flare dispenser
- Helmet Pointing System
- Integrated self-protection suite
- On-board inert gas generation system
- Capability to operate in diverse terrains, including high-altitude regions

FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION IN INDIA - A PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE

- In India, **food safety and nutrition** are often **overshadowed by socio-political considerations**, despite alarming public health indicators like widespread child malnutrition and rising non-communicable diseases.
- **Rampant food adulteration** - ranging from milk and paneer to spices and oils - not only **endangers health** but also **undermines** the country's **economic credibility** and **regulatory framework**.

Nutritional Status and Policy Apathy:

- **NFHS-5 (2019–21) findings (among under five children):**
 - **Stunting:** 35.5%
 - **Wasting:** 19.3%
 - **Underweight prevalence:** 32.1%
- **Lack of nutritional prioritization:** Despite such indicators, public health and nutrition continue to be low on the policy agenda.

Public Health Implications:

- **India's health crisis:**
 - Referred to as the "**Diabetes Capital**" with 77 million adults (above 18) suffering from this non-communicable disease.

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 24 April 2025

- A recent study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has attributed this to the **dietary patterns**, including **ultra-processed** and **fried food consumption**.
- **Lack of public awareness:** Adulterated food leads to **food poisoning** and even death in severe cases.

Regulatory and Institutional Gaps:

- **Role of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):**
 - Conducts raids, tests sample, cancels licenses.
 - Urges the public to be cautious - **a shift of responsibility** from the state to individuals.
- **Challenges in implementation:**
 - **Weak state infrastructure** hampers effective food regulation.
 - **Need for capacity building** among food producers and vendors.

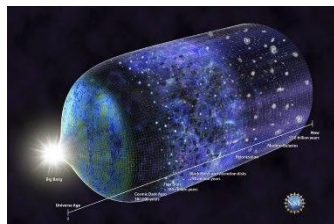
Way Forward - Reforms and Recommendations:

- **Stricter FSSAI enforcement:** Nationwide standardization and compliance.
- **Improved food supply chain:** Focus on farming, processing, and packaging hygiene.
- **Food literacy:** Promotion of awareness regarding safe and nutritious food consumption.
- **Review of pesticide permissibility:** Update safety norms to align with global standards.
- **Empowering citizens without abdicating state responsibility:** Balanced accountability framework.

Conclusion:

- **Food safety** is not just a health concern - it is a **governance issue** with socio-economic and international ramifications.
- **Ensuring clean, nutritious, and unadulterated food** must be a state priority backed by institutional strength, regulatory vigilance, and public engagement, especially in a country **facing dual burdens** of undernutrition and non-communicable diseases.

DARK MATTER, MEANING, SIGNIFICANCE, DARK ENERGY



- **Dark matter** is a hypothetical form of matter that does not emit, absorb, or reflect light, making it invisible and detectable only through its gravitational effects.

- It constitutes about 27% of the universe's total mass-energy content, while **visible matter** accounts for only about 5%.
- Dark matter is **essential for explaining the observed structure** and formation of galaxies, galaxy clusters, and the overall large-scale structure of the universe.
- It **acts as a cosmic "scaffolding,"** holding galaxies together and influencing their rotation and movement.
- Unlike ordinary (baryonic) matter, dark matter **does not interact with electromagnetic forces, only gravity.**

Dark Energy

- Dark energy makes up **approximately 68% of the universe** and appears to be associated with the **vacuum in space**. It is distributed evenly throughout the universe, not only in space but also in time – in other words, **its effect is not diluted as the universe expands.**
- The even distribution means that **dark energy does not have any local gravitational effects,** but rather a global effect on the universe as a whole. This leads to a repulsive force, which tends to accelerate the expansion of the universe.
- The **rate of expansion and its acceleration** can be measured by observations based on the Hubble law.
- These measurements, together with other scientific data, have confirmed the existence of dark energy and provide an estimate of just how much of this mysterious substance exists.

HEAT WAVES, MEANING, CRITERIA, IMPACTS



- Heat Waves are a period of unusually high temperatures as compared to what is normally expected over a region. Therefore, the temperatures at which heat waves are declared **differ from place to place based on the temperature climatology** (historical temperatures) of that region.
- Heat wave is considered if the **maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C** or more for the plains and **at least 30°C or more for the Hilly regions**.
- **Based on Departure from Normal**
 - Heat Wave: Departure from normal is 4.5°C to 6.4°C
 - Severe Heat Wave: Departure from normal is >6.4°C
- **Based on Actual Maximum Temperature**
 - Heat Wave: When the actual maximum temperature $\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}$
 - Severe Heat Wave: When the actual maximum temperature is $\geq 47^{\circ}\text{C}$
- When maximum temperature **departure is 4.5°C or more from normal, a heat wave may be described**, provided the actual maximum temperature is 37°C or more.
- Heat waves typically occur in India from March to June, sometimes extending into July.
- The core heatwave zone covers **central, northern, and peninsular India**, including Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, West Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Vidarbha (Maharashtra), Gangetic West Bengal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ALLIED AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS



(NCAHP)

- NCAHP is a **statutory body** established under the NCAHP Act 2021 to **regulate and maintain standards of education** and services

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 24 April 2025

of allied and healthcare professionals.

- It aims to enhance the quality of healthcare services by **ensuring that all practitioners in the allied health fields meet established national standards.**
- By **focusing on both education and practical competencies**, the NCAHP plays a significant role in safeguarding public health and enhancing the overall effectiveness of healthcare systems.

The key objective of the NCAHP is to **oversee the registration, training, and accreditation** of various **allied healthcare practitioners.**

- This **encompasses a broad range of professions**, including but not limited to, **psychologists, medical technologists, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists.**
- By **providing a framework for the evaluation** of educational institutions and training programs, the NCAHP ensures that practitioners are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality patient care.
- Another critical aspect of the NCAHP's role is to **facilitate ongoing professional development.**
 - The commission **promotes continuous learning** among allied healthcare professionals, encouraging them to **update their skills** in accordance with the latest advancements in the healthcare industry.
 - This commitment to **lifelong learning** not only benefits the individual practitioners but also leads to better patient outcomes and a more proficient healthcare system overall.
- It also functions as a **central repository for information on professional standards, educational pathways, and regulatory requirements** for practitioners.
- Moreover, the NCAHP contributes to the overall improvement of healthcare services by engaging in **research and policy-making activities** that influence health sector reforms.

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 24 April 2025

VATICAN CITY



- It is the **world's smallest fully independent nation-state**.
- It covers an area of only 0.49 sq. km.
- It is located in the **south-central** region of **Europe**, on the west **banks of the Tiber River** on a low hill known as the **Vatican Hill**.
- It is situated **both in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres** of the Earth.
- The territory of Vatican City is **completely surrounded by Rome (Italy)**. It is thus an enclave of Italy.
- The country **lacks any rivers or lakes**.
- It is the **residence of the spiritual leadership of the Roman Catholic Church**.
 - The **Holy See** is the name given to the **government of the Roman Catholic Church**, which is **led by the pope** as the bishop of Rome.
 - As such, the Holy See's **authority extends over Catholics** throughout the world.
 - **Since 1929** it has **resided in Vatican City**, which was established as an **independent state** to enable the Pope to exercise his universal authority.
 - As the Holy See, it **derives its income from the voluntary contributions of more than one billion Roman Catholics worldwide, as well as interest on investments and the sale of stamps, coins, and publications**.
- The **most imposing building** in Vatican City is **St. Peter's Basilica**, built during the **4th century** and rebuilt during the 16th century.
 - Erected over the tomb of **St. Peter the Apostle**, it is the **second largest religious building** (after Yamoussoukro Basilica) in **Christendom**.
- The **Vatican Palace** is the **residence of the pope** within the city walls.
- The **Vatican Swiss Guard** is the **oldest, continuously operating military force in the world**, responsible for the security of the pope.