



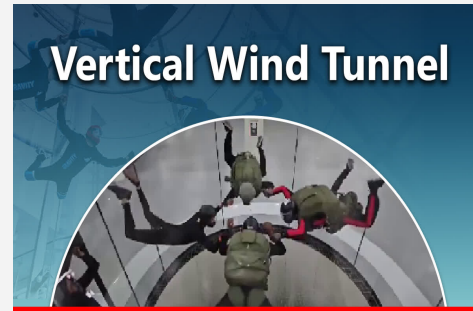
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28 October 2023

International & National News

Army gets vertical wind tunnel to train special forces



Context

- The Army has installed its **first vertical wind tunnel (VWT)** at the **Special Forces Training School (SFTS)** at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.
- This is done **to augment the training infrastructure of special forces** and combat free-fallers.

Key Points

- The state-of-the-art wind tunnel is set to **refine the combat free fall (CFF) skills** of armed forces personnel
- Functioning as a freefall simulator, the VWT creates a column of air at specific velocities, orchestrating different CFF conditions.
- The system **offers a controlled environment**, enabling trainees to enhance their skills by simulating real-life freefall conditions.

India-Canada Relations facts



- According to the **Census of Canada 2021**, **Canada** is home to over 1.86 million people of Indian origin, i.e., about **5% of the country's 36.99 million population**, and **5.8% of the 32 million** strong global Indian diaspora.
- According to **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)** data, 225,940 or over 40% of 549,260 total study permits to international students were issued to Indians in 2022.
- In 2022, India was Canada's **10th largest bilateral trading partner** (exceeding \$13.7 billion).
- Canada was **India's ninth largest partner, with exports up to \$5.3 billion**.
- Similarly, visitors from India comprised Canada's fourth-largest international air travel market. Many of these traders and investors are members of the Indian diaspora in Canada.
- In 2021, Canadians visiting India spent **\$93 million**, and tourists from India exceeding 89,500, the highest from any single country, **spent \$3.4 billion** in Canada.

Mitigating tragedies in the Himalayan region

Key Facts

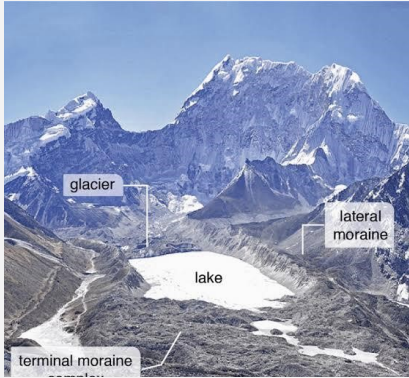
- A **study published in Nature** indicates that **90 million people across 30 countries live in 1,089 basins** containing glacial lakes.
- Of these, **one-sixth** live within 50 km of a glacial lake and 1 km of potential GLOF runoff channels.

Issues

- The Himalayan Region is susceptible to a range of hydro-meteorological, tectonic, climate and human-induced mountain hazards.



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- The enormity of the challenge is seen in the **National Remote Sensing Centre's (NRSC) Glacial Lake Atlas of 2023**.
- Three major river basins of the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra, are host to 28,000 glacial lakes greater than 0.25 hectares in area, in five countries.
- Of these, 27% are in India, in six States and Union Territories.

Multi-disciplinary effort for Mitigation

- **NRSC's atlases** have provided high-resolution data via remote sensing, which allows for monitoring spatial change.
- The **Central Water Commission** is conducting hydro-dynamic assessments of high-risk lakes, mapping water flow, height and routing simulations using digital elevation models.
- The **NDMA's national guidelines (2020)** provide States with a technical overview of the hazard and risk zonation and suggest strategies for monitoring, risk reduction and mitigation.

Unhealthy urban India



Context

- India's urban population is estimated to reach **675 million in 2035**, the second highest in the world.
- Although there is widespread recognition that cities have been fuelling India's rapid rise to economic superpower status, almost all are failing their inhabitants in terms of delivering on health, environmental and equity targets.

Issues

- India's urban inhabitants experience:-
 - **multi-scalar health risks** including the world's highest levels of air and noise pollution, limited greenery,
 - **lack of access to sidewalks and parks** that limit active lifestyles,
 - **archaic modes of transport** that contribute to air pollution,
 - pernicious **access to nutritionally dense unhealthy foods** and
 - **unprecedented exposure to toxic chemicals** and heavy metals.
- Unhealthy diets, reduced physical activity and air pollution in cities in India pose a greater risk of morbidity and mortality than most other risk factors combined including drugs, tobacco, alcohol and accidents.

Head coach of India women's cricket



Context

- **Amol Muzumdar**, the domestic stalwart-turned-coach, has been appointed as the head coach of **India women's cricket team**
- He was appointed by the **BCCI**.

About BCCI

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** is the national governing body of Cricket in India.
- Its headquarters is situated at the **Cricket Centre in Churchgate, Mumbai**.
- The BCCI is the **wealthiest governing body of cricket in the world**.



The gender gap in earnings

Context

- The **Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS)** have been monitoring the gender earnings gap across various forms of employment from **April-June 2019 to 2023**. The gender gap in earnings is still a persistent phenomenon.

Key Facts

- Men earn more than women across all forms of work, the gap is greatest for the self-employed.
- In 2023, male self-employed workers earned **2.8 times** that of women.
- In contrast, male regular wage workers earned **24% more** than women and male casual workers earned **48% more**.
- The gender gap has increased for self-employed workers while falling for regular wage workers.
- Male regular wage workers earned **34% more than women from 2019 to 2022**, with the gap falling to **24% in 2023**.

Income gap

Women tend to work fewer hours per week than men, influenced by various factors, including social expectations and personal choices, although these factors aren't always easily separable

Table 1: Male-Female ratio of weekly earnings

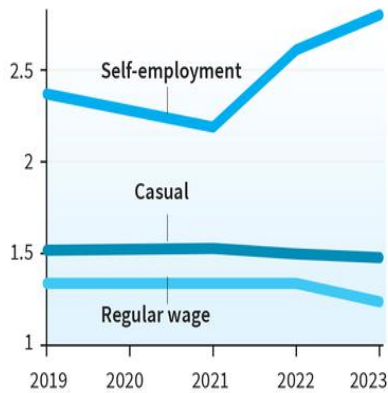


Table 2: Male-Female ratio of hours worked

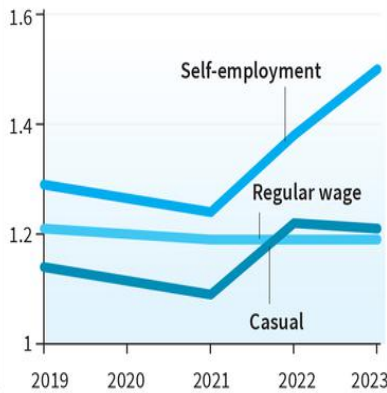
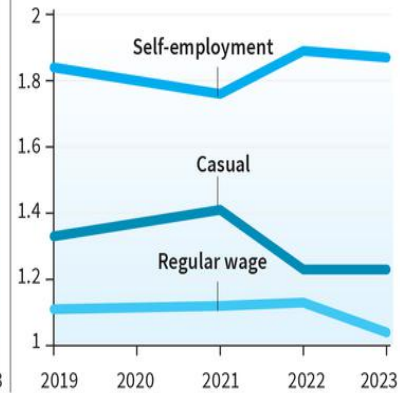


Table 3: Male-Female ratio of hourly earnings



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