



Daily Current Affairs



To The Point by Dhananjay Gautam

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1 5th Global Standards Symposium (GSS-24)

Context: The 5th Global Standards Symposium (GSS-24), held in New Delhi, marked a significant event as the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by India's Department of Telecommunications.

Key Highlights of GSS-24:

1. Theme and Focus:

- The theme was “Charting the Next Digital Wave: Emerging Technologies, Innovation, and International Standards.”
- The symposium focused on how emerging digital technologies like AI, IoT, and 5G can drive the next wave of digital transformation through innovation and the creation of international standards.

2. Key Outcomes:

- **Bridging the standardization gap:** Emphasis on reducing the gap between developed and developing nations in technological standardization. The ITU Bridging the Standardization Gap programme was highlighted as a critical effort.
- **International collaboration for digital technologies:** Strengthened partnerships between Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) to assist developing nations in adopting digital innovation.
- **Global Digital Compact:** Emphasized the role of international cooperation in fostering emerging digital technologies for transformation.
- **Standards for SDGs:** The role of international standards in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), e.g., through the #Standards4SDGs campaign.
- **Smart Sustainable Cities:** The symposium acknowledged initiatives under the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) framework, promoting cities' sustainability goals.

3. United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC):

- Led by ITU, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and UN-Habitat, U4SSC fosters partnerships for empowering cities to align with the UN SDGs.



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Significance of International Standards

- Facilitating **global trade** by ensuring uniformity across borders.
- Ensuring **consumer protection** and product safety.
- Enhancing **efficiency and cost-effectiveness** by reducing complexities.
- Promoting **environmental sustainability** by developing eco-friendly technologies.
- Enabling **global collaboration** to align technological advancements.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, a specialized agency of the United Nations, plays a pivotal role in **information and communication technologies (ICTs)**.
- **Established - 1865**
- **Headquartered - Geneva, Switzerland**
- **Sector: Telecommunications**
- **Member - 194** Member States and more than **1000 companies, universities and international and regional organizations**
- **Is India a member? - Yes, since 1869**
- ITU is the oldest UN agency, initially formed to manage international telegraph communications. Its core mission revolves around enabling global connectivity, managing radio spectrum and satellite orbits, developing **technical standards** to ensure seamless communication across networks, and fostering **digital access** in underserved regions.



Key Functions of ITU:

- **Global Connectivity:** ITU facilitates international communication networks by ensuring compatibility among technologies through global standards.
- **Radio Spectrum and Satellite Orbit Allocation:** It allocates and manages these crucial resources to prevent interference and ensure fair usage.
- **Technical Standards:** ITU develops essential standards to enable seamless interaction between networks, technologies, and devices.
- **Closing the Digital Divide:** The organization works towards universal digital inclusion, aiming to connect the **2.6 billion people** who still lack access to the internet, especially in developing countries.
- **Trusted Multilateral Platform:** ITU brokers international agreements, provides a platform for knowledge sharing, and collaborates with governments, private companies, universities, and international organizations.

Conclusion: This symposium provided a platform for addressing the challenges and opportunities in setting **global digital standards**, enhancing collaboration among nations, and focusing on sustainability in the digital era.

2 eMigrate Project

Context: The eMigrate project is a significant initiative launched by the **Government of India** to facilitate the migration process for Indian workers seeking employment abroad, ensuring their protection and providing a safe framework for international labor mobility. Recently, both the Union External Affairs Minister and the Labour and Employment Minister introduced an upgraded version of the **eMigrate portal and mobile app**, making it even more accessible and efficient for users.

**Key Objectives of eMigrate Portal:**

- 1. Safe and Transparent Migration:** The platform aims to provide a secure system for Indian workers migrating abroad, ensuring their rights are safeguarded throughout the migration process.
- 2. Comprehensive Services:** It offers essential services, such as access to information, streamlined documentation, helpline support, and integration with relevant services.
- 3. Legal and Orderly Mobility:** The portal promotes safe and legal channels for migration, in line with India's commitment to facilitating regulated and responsible migration practices.

Features of the Updated eMigrate Portal:

- 1. 24/7 Multilingual Helpline:** The platform provides round-the-clock support for migrant workers, particularly for those facing challenges abroad. This helpline is available in multiple languages to cater to diverse populations, especially those in the **Gulf region**, where many Indian workers are employed.
- 2. Digilocker Integration:** The revamped portal integrates with **Digilocker**, allowing users to submit documents digitally, ensuring a **paperless**, secure, and efficient documentation process.
- 3. Collaboration with Common Service Centres (CSCs):** The platform is now linked with CSCs, which extends immigration services to **rural areas** in local languages. This partnership enhances accessibility for migrant workers, particularly those from remote regions.
- 4. Overseas Job Marketplace:** The eMigrate portal offers a **one-stop marketplace** for Indian job-seekers to explore and apply for overseas employment opportunities in a safe and reliable manner.

Alignment with SDG 10:

The enhanced portal aligns with the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 10**, which aims to reduce inequality within and among countries. It supports **orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration**, thereby contributing to inclusive growth and reducing socio-economic disparities.

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3 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Context: World Food Day is celebrated annually on **October 16** to commemorate the establishment of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**. This day serves as a reminder of the vital role that food and agriculture play in global health and sustainability.

About Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

The **Food and Agriculture Organization** is a specialized agency of the **United Nations (UN)** dedicated to combating hunger and promoting food security worldwide.



Key Points About FAO

- **Establishment:** Founded in **October 1945**, FAO is the oldest permanent specialized agency of the UN, laying the groundwork for international efforts in food security and agricultural development.
- **Mandate:** The organization focuses on several critical objectives:
 - **Improving Nutrition:** Ensuring that all people have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.
 - **Increasing Agricultural Productivity:** Promoting sustainable practices to boost crop yields and agricultural output.
 - **Raising Living Standards:** Enhancing the quality of life for rural populations and farmers.
 - **Contributing to Global Economic Growth:** Supporting economic development through agriculture and food systems.

- **Establishment:** Founded in 1945 in Quebec City, Canada, as a specialized UN agency.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
- **Membership:** Comprises 195 members (194 countries + the European Union).
- **Global Reach:** Operates in over 130 countries worldwide.
- **Mission:** Aims to defeat hunger and achieve food security for all.
- **Goal:** Ensures access to high-quality food for active, healthy lives.
- **Call to Action:** Invites collaboration for a world without hunger and poverty.

Key Functions of FAO: The FAO plays a crucial role in coordinating international efforts in various agricultural sectors:

- **Research:** Conducting studies to inform policy and practice in food and agriculture.

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- **Technical Assistance:** Offering support for agricultural projects tailored to the needs of individual countries.
- **Education and Training:** Running seminars and training centers to build capacity among stakeholders in agriculture.
- **Information Services:** Maintaining databases and statistics on global agricultural production, trade, and consumption.
- **Publications:** Producing periodicals, yearbooks, and research bulletins to disseminate knowledge.

Headquarters and Membership:

- **Headquarters:** The FAO is headquartered in **Rome, Italy**, a hub for international dialogue on food and agriculture.
- **Members:** The organization currently has **194 Member States** plus the **European Union**, reflecting its global reach and influence.

Funding: FAO is funded entirely by its member countries, ensuring that its operations align with the priorities and needs of its diverse membership.

Role in Crises: In situations of food scarcity or conflict, the FAO generally refrains from direct intervention in food relief operations. Instead, these responsibilities are typically handled by the **World Food Program**, which operates within the UN system.

Key Reports Published by FAO:

The FAO regularly releases important reports that provide insights into various aspects of food and agriculture, including:

- **The State of the World's Forests (SOFO)**
- **The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)**
- **The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)**
- **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)**

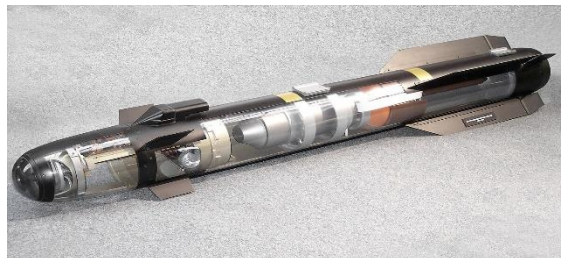
Conclusion: The Food and Agriculture Organization stands at the forefront of global efforts to eradicate hunger, enhance nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. As we celebrate World Food Day, we are reminded of the critical work FAO does in fostering a world where everyone has access to enough nutritious food.

4 Hellfire Missile

Context: India recently finalized a deal with the United States for the procurement of **170 AGM-114R Hellfire missiles**, enhancing its defence capabilities.

Overview of Hellfire Missile

The **AGM-114 Hellfire missile** is a highly regarded short-range air-to-ground (and occasionally air-to-air) laser-guided tactical missile. It has been extensively utilized by the **United States military** and over **30 allied nations**, making it one of the most versatile and widely used missiles in modern warfare.



Targeting Capabilities

- Armoured vehicles (e.g., tanks)
- Bunkers
- Radar systems
- Communications equipment
- Soft targets (e.g., personnel)
- Hovering helicopters

- **Development Background:** The development of the AGM-114 Hellfire began in **1972** to meet the Army's demand for a helicopter-launched anti-tank missile. The goal was to effectively counter Soviet Armor formations during the Cold War.

Key Features:

- **Dimensions:**
 - **Length:** 1.62 meters
 - **Diameter:** 17.7 centimetres
 - **Wingspan:** 0.71 meters
- **Weight:** Each Hellfire missile weighs between **45.4 kg to 49 kg**, which includes a warhead weighing between **8 kg to 9 kg**.
- **Propulsion:** The missile is powered by a **single-stage solid-propellant rocket motor**, enabling efficient flight.
- **Velocity:** It has a maximum speed of **950 mph** (approximately 1,530 km/h).
- **Range:** The effective operational range of the Hellfire missile is between **7 to 11 kilometres**.

AGM-114R Hellfire Missile: The **AGM-114R**, also known as **Hellfire Romeo**, is the latest addition to the Hellfire II missile family. This variant integrates features from all previous Hellfire II models, making it a multipurpose missile capable of various applications.

- **Launch Platforms:** The AGM-114R can be launched from:
 - Various fixed-wing aircraft
 - Helicopters
 - Surface ships
 - Military ground vehicles
- **Guidance System:** It employs a **semi-active laser guidance system**, which allows it to accurately engage targets. The missile also features an integrated **blast fragmentation sleeve warhead**, enabling it to destroy targets that previously required multiple Hellfire variants.

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5 Doctrine of Lis Pendens

Context: The **Supreme Court** recently clarified that the **non-applicability** of provisions in **Section 52** of the **Transfer of Property Act, 1881** (TPA) does not impede the applicability of the principles of **Lis pendens**, which are founded on justice, equity, and good conscience.

Overview of the Doctrine of Lis Pendens:

The term **Lis pendens** translates to “a pending legal action.” This legal doctrine asserts that during the pendency of litigation regarding a property, no new transactions or transfers should occur that might affect the parties involved in the lawsuit. The guiding principle is to maintain the **status quo** and prevent any actions that could impact the rights of the parties engaged in the legal dispute.



- **Legal Foundation:** The doctrine is encapsulated in **Section 52** of the **Transfer of Property Act, 1882**, which stipulates that any transfer of immovable property during the pendency of litigation shall not affect the rights of the parties concerning that property. The outcome of the litigation, decided by a court of competent jurisdiction, will bind any purchaser who acquires the property while the litigation is ongoing.
- **Purpose:** The doctrine aims to protect the rights and interests of the parties involved in litigation over a specific property, ensuring that no third party can acquire an interest that would undermine the court's decision.

Effects of the Doctrine of Lis Pendens:

The key effect of Lis pendens is not to invalidate a transfer but rather to make it **subject to the outcome of the ongoing litigation**. According to this rule:

- Any person purchasing property while a suit is pending is bound by the judgment rendered against the original titleholder, even if the purchaser was not part of the litigation and had no knowledge of it.

Conditions for Applicability:

The Supreme Court has outlined the necessary elements for the applicability of the Lis pendens doctrine under **Section 52**:

1. **Suit Must Be Pending:** There should be an ongoing legal proceeding.
2. **Competent Jurisdiction:** The suit must be filed in a court that has the authority to adjudicate the matter.

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3. **Directly Affects Title:** The right to title of the immovable property in question must be directly and specifically contested.
4. **Impact on Rights:** The suit must directly affect the rights of the involved parties.
5. **Transfer of Property:** The property in question must be subject to transfer by either party involved in the litigation.
6. **Non-Collusive Nature:** The suit must not be collusive, meaning it should not involve fraudulent agreements to manipulate outcomes.

Non-Applicability of the Doctrine:

The doctrine of Lis pendens does not apply in certain scenarios, including:

- **Sales by Mortgagers:** Transfers made by mortgagers exercising their rights under a deed.
- **Effect on Transferor Only:** Situations where only the transferor's rights are affected.
- **Collusive Proceedings:** Cases that involve collusion or deceit to obtain a favourable decree.
- **Unidentifiable Property:** Situations where the property is inadequately described and cannot be clearly identified.
- **Indirectly Affected Rights:** Instances where the rights to the property are not directly in question and where alienation is permissible.

What is the Transfer of Property Act, 1882?

The Transfer of Property Act, 1882, is an essential piece of legislation in India that governs the transfer of movable and immovable property between individuals. This law is vital as it upholds the integrity of property transactions, ensuring that sales and purchases are conducted fairly. Its primary objective is to provide a robust legal framework for transferring ownership and to outline the procedures necessary for these transfers to be recognized by law. This Act simplifies the process of property conveyance for individuals, corporations, and non-profit organizations. Additionally, it protects the rights of all parties involved in real estate transactions, from sellers to buyers.

Conclusion: The doctrine of Lis pendens serves as an essential legal principle to safeguard the interests of parties involved in litigation concerning immovable property. By ensuring that ongoing legal actions remain undisturbed by external transactions, it upholds the integrity of the judicial process and prevents unjust enrichment during legal disputes. Understanding its conditions and limitations is crucial for legal practitioners and individuals involved in property transactions.

6 What is Mechazilla?

Context: Recently, **SpaceX** achieved a remarkable milestone in space exploration by successfully landing its **Starship** rocket using an innovative structure known as **Mechazilla**.

About Mechazilla:

Mechazilla is the nickname for SpaceX's impressive 400-foot rocket-catching structure located at the company's Starbase in Texas. This groundbreaking technology represents a significant leap in the methods used for rocket recovery and reuse.



Features:

- **Mechanical Arms:** Mechazilla is equipped with two enormous mechanical arms, often referred to as "chopsticks." These robust arms are engineered to catch the **Super Heavy** booster in midair during its return to Earth.
- **Height:** Standing at 400 feet, Mechazilla is one of the tallest structures in the world specifically designed for rocket recovery.

Working of Mechazilla:

1. **Launch and Ascent:** The SpaceX Starship rocket, along with its Super Heavy booster, is launched from the ground.
2. **Booster Separation:** After reaching a predetermined altitude, the Super Heavy booster separates from the upper stage of the rocket.
3. **Controlled Descent:** The booster begins its descent back to Earth, utilizing precision thrusters to control its trajectory and speed.
4. **Catching the Booster:** As the booster approaches the landing site, Mechazilla's massive arms position themselves to intercept it. The booster hovers briefly, allowing the arms to secure it safely, ensuring a controlled and gentle landing.

Significance:

- **Reusability:** Mechazilla's innovative method of rocket recovery is a game changer for space missions. By catching the booster midair, it facilitates quick refurbishment and reusability, significantly enhancing operational efficiency.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** This approach greatly reduces launch costs, as the need for extensive recovery and refurbishment processes is minimized. The ability to reuse boosters rapidly contributes to the sustainability of space exploration efforts.

Conclusion: **Mechazilla** is a cutting-edge advancement in rocket recovery technology, reflecting SpaceX's commitment to innovation in space travel. By improving the reusability and cost-effectiveness of its rockets, SpaceX is paving the way for a new era in space exploration, making it more accessible and sustainable for future missions. The successful operation of Mechazilla marks a significant step forward in SpaceX's ambition to revolutionize the aerospace industry.

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7 What is an Ossification Test?

Context: Recently, a **Mumbai court** ordered an ossification test to determine the age of one of the individuals accused in the murder case of a political leader, aiming to establish whether the accused is a minor.

About Ossification Test:

An **ossification test** is a medical procedure that evaluates the state of bone development to ascertain an individual's age. This method is particularly relevant in legal and forensic contexts, where age determination can have significant implications.

How It Works:

- **X-Ray Examination:** The procedure involves taking X-rays of specific bones in the body, such as the **clavicle**, **sternum**, and **pelvis**. These bones are selected due to their susceptibility to growth changes as a person matures.
- **Bone Development:** As individuals age, certain bones undergo a process called ossification, where they harden and fuse at specific developmental stages. By analysing these changes, medical professionals can estimate the age of the individual.

Key Bones Involved:

- **Clavicle:** This long bone connects the shoulder blade to the sternum and is critical in assessing age since it experiences gradual fusion of growth plates during maturation.
- **Sternum and Pelvis:** These bones also exhibit significant changes that correlate with age progression.

Importance of the Test:

- **Age Determination:** The ossification test serves as a reliable method for determining age, especially in legal scenarios where an individual's minority can affect legal outcomes.
- **Skeletal Maturity:** In medical settings, this test is valuable for assessing skeletal maturity in children and adolescents, particularly those with growth disorders or other health conditions.

Applications:

- **Forensic Science:** Commonly used in legal contexts to accurately establish the age of individuals, when necessary, especially in criminal cases involving minors.
- **Medical Assessment:** Employed in paediatric medicine to monitor growth and development in children, ensuring that they are on track for their age group.

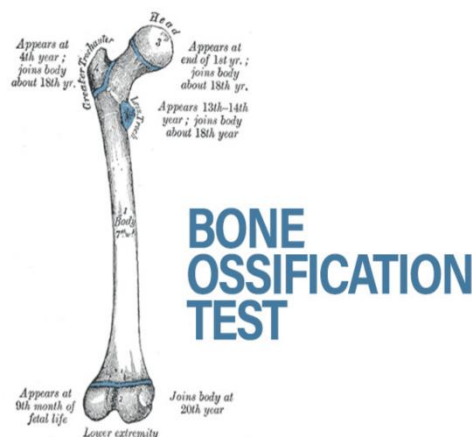
Conclusion: The ossification test is a vital tool in both forensic science and medicine, providing crucial insights into bone development and age determination. Its application in legal cases, such as the recent court order in Mumbai, highlights its significance in addressing issues of age and responsibility in criminal matters.

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8 Heavy Reliance on AI Could Pose Risks in the Financial Sector: RBI Governor

Context: In a recent address at the **90th High-Level Conference** organized by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in New Delhi, **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** raised important concerns regarding the growing reliance on artificial intelligence (AI) within the financial sector. He warned that this heavy dependence could allow a small number of technology providers to dominate the market, potentially creating systemic vulnerabilities in the financial ecosystem.



Current Applications of AI in the Financial Sector: AI technologies are increasingly being integrated into various aspects of the financial system, including:

- **Algorithmic and High-Frequency Trading:** Utilizing AI algorithms to execute trades at high speeds based on real-time market data.
- **Credit Scoring and Approvals:** AI systems are employed to assess creditworthiness and streamline loan approvals, making the process faster and more efficient.
- **Customer Service:** Tools like chatbots are enhancing customer engagement and support through automated responses and assistance.
- **Predictive Analytics:** AI is used to analyse market trends for improved risk management and investment strategies.



Risks Posed by AI to Banking and Financial Services: Despite the potential benefits, the growing reliance on AI presents several significant risks:

1. **Concentration Risks:**

- If multiple financial institutions utilize similar AI models for trading or risk assessment, a failure in these algorithms can lead to widespread repercussions across global financial markets.
- For example, AI trading systems can amplify market volatility, triggering mass sell-offs during market downturns.



2. Algorithmic Biases:

- AI systems trained on historical data may perpetuate existing biases, leading to unfair lending practices and discriminatory credit decisions.
- For instance, an AI-driven loan approval system might inadvertently deny loans to certain demographic groups based on biased training data.

3. **Data Security and Privacy:** Breaches or misuse of sensitive data can result in identity theft, fraud, and significant financial losses for both institutions and their customers.

4. Lack of Transparency:

- The '**Black Box**' problem, where the decision-making process of AI systems is opaque, complicates accountability and trust in automated systems.
- Potential misleading information due to **AI hallucinations**, where AI systems generate inaccurate or nonsensical outputs.

Measures to Address These Risks: To mitigate these risks, the RBI Governor recommended several proactive measures:

1. Comprehensive AI Regulation:

- Encourage industry-wide collaboration with researchers, security experts, and policymakers to create a robust regulatory framework.
- Learning from global best practices, such as the **Algorithmic Accountability Act of 2023** in the United States, can provide valuable insights.

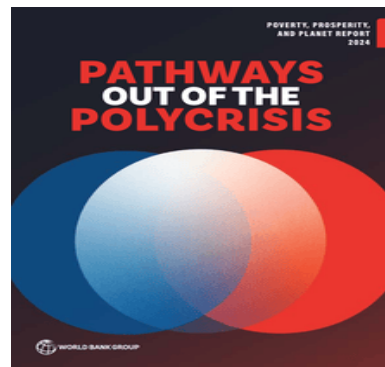
2. **Maximize Defence Capabilities:** Adopt a '**Security by Design**' approach, incorporating robust security features at every stage of the AI development lifecycle to ensure the foundational integrity of AI systems.

3. **Learning and Adaptation:** Implement advanced threat detection mechanisms that analyse vast data sets in real-time to uncover patterns and anomalies indicative of cyber threats, ensuring a proactive response to potential risks.

Conclusion: As AI continues to reshape the financial landscape, it is crucial for stakeholders to remain vigilant about the associated risks. The RBI Governor's insights highlight the need for a balanced approach that harnesses the benefits of AI while safeguarding against its vulnerabilities. By prioritizing comprehensive regulation and enhancing security measures, the financial sector can navigate the complexities of AI integration and ensure a resilient and equitable financial ecosystem.

9 Pathways out of the Polycrisis: Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024

Context: The **World Bank Group** has recently released its **2024 report**, titled *Pathways out of the Polycrisis: Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet*. This report aims to provide a comprehensive framework to navigate the intricate trade-offs among three crucial aspects of economic development: **Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet**.



Key Findings of the Report

1. Stalled Global Poverty Reduction:

- The report highlights that global poverty reduction has come to a near standstill over the past five years due to a condition referred to as the “**polycrisis.**”
- The polycrisis encompasses simultaneous challenges such as slow economic growth, increased fragility, climate risks, and heightened uncertainty, complicating national development strategies and international cooperation.

2. Non-attainment of Targets:

- The global population living in extreme poverty is projected to be **7.3% by 2030** (up from **8.5% in 2024**).
- This figure is significantly above the **World Bank’s target of 3%** and falls far short of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at eliminating extreme poverty.

3. Global Prosperity Gap:

- The report notes a **stagnation in inclusive income growth** since the pandemic, highlighting a widening prosperity gap.
- The **Prosperity Gap** represents the average factor by which incomes need to be multiplied to elevate everyone globally to a standard of **\$25 per person per day**.

4. India's Progress:

- In 2024, approximately **129 million Indians** are projected to live in extreme poverty, defined as living on less than **\$2.15** (around **Rs 181**) per day.
- This marks a significant reduction from **431 million** individuals living in extreme poverty in **1990**, demonstrating a notable decrease over the decades.





- When considering a higher poverty threshold of **\$6.85** (approximately **Rs 576**) per day, more Indians are estimated to be living below the poverty line in **2024** than in **1990**. This highlights the challenges of rising living costs and economic pressures that impact a larger segment of the population.
- The increase in the number of people living in poverty, particularly above the **\$6.85** threshold, can be largely attributed to **population growth**. As the population expands, the number of individuals affected by poverty also rises, complicating efforts to combat poverty effectively.
- In **2021**, the World Bank reported a decline in extreme poverty levels, noting a reduction of **38 million** individuals, bringing the total to **167.49 million**. This fluctuation indicates that poverty levels in India are influenced by a variety of **social and economic factors**.

Proposed Pathways and Priorities: To address these challenges, the report proposes several pathways and priorities:

1. **Faster and Inclusive Growth:** The report emphasizes the need to increase **labour productivity**, income, and employment opportunities to stimulate economic growth that is both rapid and inclusive.
2. **Climate Resilience:** Enhancing climate resilience is essential to protect communities from climate shocks. This can be achieved by improving risk management and mitigation strategies, and synergizing policies that balance income growth with emissions reduction.

Priorities from a Global Perspective: The report outlines tailored strategies for different income groups of countries:

- **Low-Income Countries:** Focus on poverty reduction through investments in **human, physical, and financial capital**.
- **Middle-Income Countries:** Emphasize income growth that reduces vulnerability, while also pursuing synergies, such as improving air quality.
- **High-Income and Upper-Middle-Income Countries:** Accelerate mitigation efforts to combat climate change while effectively managing the associated transition costs.

Conclusion The *Pathways out of the Polycrisis* report by the World Bank Group serves as a critical call to action, outlining the urgent need for cohesive strategies that balance economic development with environmental sustainability. By focusing on inclusive growth and resilience, the report aims to pave the way for a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

10 Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Greenwashing, 2024

Context: The **Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Greenwashing and Misleading Environmental Claims, 2024**, issued by the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**, aim to promote honest practices regarding environmental claims. These guidelines were established under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, in response to the rise in misleading advertisements for "green" products, which not only confuse well-meaning consumers but also detract from broader environmental initiatives.

**Key Highlights of the Guidelines:**

- **Definition of Greenwashing:** Greenwashing is described as any deceptive or misleading practice, including:
 - Concealing, omitting, or hiding relevant information.
 - Exaggerating, using vague, false, or unsubstantiated environmental claims.
 - Utilizing symbols or imagery that emphasize positive environmental aspects while downplaying harmful attributes.
- **Applicability:** The guidelines apply to all environmental claims made by businesses.
- **Transparency Requirements:**
 - Prohibits the use of generic terms like "eco-friendly," "green," and "sustainable" without providing adequate, accurate, and easily accessible evidence.
 - Requires detailed information on the methodology and data supporting such claims.
- **Third-Party Certifications:** Mandates statutory or independent third-party verification to substantiate claims regarding product attributes such as compostable, degradable, recyclable, or climate-positive.
- **Aspirational or Futuristic Claims:** Such claims can only be made if there are clear, actionable plans outlining how these goals will be achieved.

Conclusion: These guidelines are designed to ensure that environmental claims are both truthful and meaningful, ultimately helping consumers make informed choices and supporting genuine environmental efforts.