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Headlines:

- Cyclone Murasu: Cyclone Vulnerability and Disaster Management in Coastal Andhra Pradesh
- Public Accounts Committee (PAC): Strengthening Legislative Oversight of Public Expenditure
- Myanmar Crisis: Balancing India's Strategic Interests with Democratic Values
- Emerging West Asian Security Architecture: Makkah Agreement and Iran's Strategic Calculations
- COP31: India's Push for Climate Finance and an Equitable Energy Transition



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1. Cyclone Murasu: Cyclone Vulnerability and Disaster Management in Coastal Andhra Pradesh

GS Paper – I and III

Why in news?

- Cyclone Murasu struck the south coastal region of Andhra Pradesh, making landfall near Ongole in Prakasam district. It caused two reported deaths, damaged standing crops across 52,459 hectares and affected houses and power infrastructure. Over 12,000 people were shifted to rehabilitation centres.

1. Tropical Cyclone: Formation and Conditions

Tropical cyclones are intense low-pressure systems characterised by strong winds, heavy rainfall and associated coastal hazards.

Favourable conditions for formation:

- **Warm Sea Surface Temperature (SST):** Generally above 26.5°C, providing heat and moisture. This is a favourable threshold, not an absolute condition.
- **Coriolis Force:** Usually requires formation at least 5° away from the Equator, where sufficient rotational force exists.
- **Atmospheric Instability:** Promotes the vertical movement of warm, moist air.
- **High Humidity:** Supports cloud formation and sustained convection.

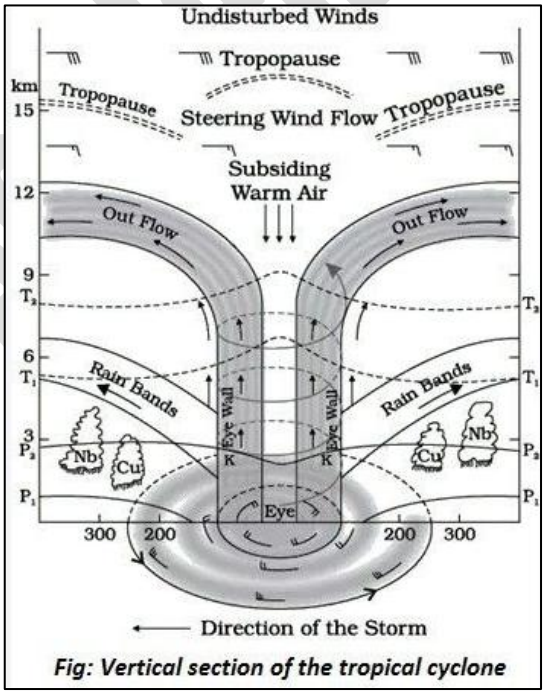


Fig: Vertical section of the tropical cyclone

- **Low Vertical Wind Shear:** Prevents disruption of the developing storm.
- **Pre-existing Disturbance:** An initial low-pressure system and upper-level divergence support intensification.

Formation Process: Warm ocean water increases evaporation. Moist air rises, creating a low-pressure area. Condensation releases latent heat, strengthening convection and intensifying the system.

2. Cyclone Naming and Classification

- Tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean are named under the WMO/ESCAP framework.
- Thirteen member countries contribute names to the approved list.

- Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC), New Delhi, operated by IMD, assigns names to qualifying cyclonic storms.
- IMD classifies cyclonic systems based on maximum sustained surface wind speed.

3. IMD Classification of Cyclonic Disturbances

System	Maximum sustained wind speed
Depression	31–49 kmph
Deep Depression	50–61 kmph
Cyclonic Storm	62–88 kmph
Severe Cyclonic Storm	89–117 kmph
Very Severe Cyclonic Storm	118–165 kmph
Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm	166–220 kmph
Super Cyclonic Storm	221 kmph or more

4. Disaster Management: Warning and Response Mechanism

A. IMD Cyclone Warning Stages

Warning stage	Time before expected landfall
Pre-Cyclone Watch	72 hours
Cyclone Alert	48 hours
Cyclone Warning	24 hours
Post-Landfall Outlook	12 hours

B. Colour-Coded Weather Warnings

Colour	Meaning
Green	No warning
Yellow	Be aware
Orange	Be prepared
Red	Take action

C. Disaster Management Measures

- **Early Warning:** Forecast cyclone track, intensity, rainfall and expected landfall.
- **Evacuation:** Relocate vulnerable populations to cyclone shelters and rehabilitation centres.
- **Preparedness:** Strengthen embankments, power networks, communication systems and critical infrastructure.
- **Emergency Response:** Deploy NDRF, SDRF, police and emergency medical teams.
- **Recovery:** Restore essential services, provide compensation and support farmers through crop-loss assessment and insurance.

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5. Institutional Framework

- **NDMA:** Formulates national disaster management policies and guidelines.
- **NDRF:** Provides specialised disaster response and rescue operations.
- **IMD:** Provides meteorological forecasts, cyclone tracking and early warnings.
- **State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA):** Coordinates preparedness, response and mitigation at the State level.

6. International Framework: Sendai Framework (2015–2030)

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted in 2015, provides a global framework for reducing disaster risks and losses.

Four Priority Areas:

1. Understanding disaster risk.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance.
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and building back better during recovery.

7. Way Forward

- Develop cyclone-resilient infrastructure and strengthen coastal protection.
- Improve last-mile early-warning dissemination.
- Promote mangrove conservation as a natural coastal defence.
- Strengthen community-based disaster preparedness and evacuation planning.
- Encourage climate-resilient agriculture and effective crop insurance.
- Integrate disaster risk reduction into coastal development planning.

2. Public Accounts Committee (PAC): Strengthening Legislative Oversight of Public Expenditure

GS Paper II – Indian Polity and Governance | Parliamentary Committees | Financial Accountability

Why in News?

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla emphasised the role of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) in ensuring efficient utilisation of public funds at a conference of PAC chairpersons from 25 States in Thiruvananthapuram. He advocated using Artificial Intelligence (AI), technology and data analytics to address delays in examining audit reports and identifying financial irregularities.

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1. About Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

- **Established:** 1921 under the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms framework.
- **Nature:** Parliamentary financial committee responsible for legislative oversight of public expenditure.
- **Constitutional Status:** It is a parliamentary committee, not a constitutional body.
- **Composition:** 22 members – 15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha.
- **Election:** Members are elected annually through proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.
- **Tenure:** One year.
- **Chairperson:** Appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha; conventionally from the Opposition since 1967. This is a parliamentary convention, not a constitutional requirement.
- **Restriction:** Ministers cannot become members of the committee.

2. Major Functions of PAC

- **Examination of Accounts:** Examines Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Union Government.
- **CAG Reports**: Scrutinises selected CAG reports relating to government expenditure and other matters referred to it.
- **Financial Regularity:** Examines whether expenditure was legally authorised and incurred in accordance with parliamentary approval.
- **Propriety of Expenditure:** Examines whether public funds were used for authorised purposes and whether expenditure was justified.
- **Excess Expenditure:** Examines cases where expenditure exceeds the amount authorised by Parliament.
- **Executive Accountability:** Ensures financial accountability of the executive to Parliament.
- **Important:** PAC primarily conducts post-facto scrutiny of expenditure. Its recommendations are generally recommendatory and not legally binding.

3. Role of CAG and Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 148:** Establishment and independence of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- **Article 149:** Duties and powers of the CAG.
- **Article 150:** Form of accounts of the Union and States.
- **Article 151:** Submission of CAG audit reports to the President or Governor, who causes them to be laid before the respective legislature.
- PAC examines relevant CAG reports and recommends corrective action.

4. Comparison of Parliamentary Financial Committees

Committee	Primary function
Public Accounts Committee (PAC)	Examines expenditure already incurred and CAG reports.
Estimates Committee	Examines budget estimates and suggests economies and improvements in public expenditure.
Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU)	Examines reports and accounts of public sector undertakings.

5. Key Challenges and Reforms

- **Delayed Reports:** Some PAC reports remain pending for 15–20 years, weakening timely legislative scrutiny.
- **Technology Integration:** Use AI and data analytics to identify financial irregularities and analyse large expenditure databases.
- **Limited Enforcement:** PAC recommendations are not legally binding, making follow-up action by ministries essential.
- **Information Asymmetry**: PAC depends significantly on CAG audit findings and departmental responses.
- **Strengthening Follow-up:** Ministries should submit Action Taken Notes (ATNs) within prescribed timelines.
- **Strengthen Auditing:** Increase scrutiny of flagship government schemes and public expenditure.

6. Way Forward

- Strengthen PAC's research and technical support.
- Establish time-bound examination of CAG reports.
- Improve coordination between CAG, PAC and government departments.
- Ensure transparency and non-partisan functioning of parliamentary committees.
- Promote technology-enabled financial scrutiny and accountability.

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3. Myanmar Crisis: Balancing India's Strategic Interests with Democratic Values

GS Paper II – International Relations | India's Neighbourhood Policy | Act East Policy | ASEAN

Why in News?

Myanmar's military leadership under Min Aung Hlaing is seeking greater international engagement following military-backed elections. Despite continued armed conflict, civilian casualties and humanitarian concerns, countries including India, China and the U.S. are exploring strategic and economic engagement with Myanmar.



1. Background: Myanmar Political Crisis

- **Military Coup (2021):** Myanmar's military (Tatmadaw) overthrew the elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi.
- **Political Transition:** Following the military-backed elections, Min Aung Hlaing assumed the presidency, while military influence continues to dominate the political system.
- **Armed Resistance:** People's Defence Forces (PDFs) and Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) continue to resist military rule.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** Civilian casualties, internal displacement and destruction of infrastructure have intensified.

2. India's Strategic Interests in Myanmar

Myanmar is strategically important for India's Act East Policy and connectivity with Southeast Asia.

- **Geographical Significance:** Myanmar shares an approximately 1,643-km-long land border with India, adjoining Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.
- **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project:** Connects Kolkata with Sittwe Port in Myanmar through a sea route, followed by inland waterway connectivity along the Kaladan River and road connectivity to Mizoram.
- **India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway:** Aims to connect Moreh (India) with Mae Sot (Thailand) through Myanmar, including the Bagan–Mandalay region.

- **Border Security:** Cooperation against insurgency, arms smuggling, drug trafficking and cross-border criminal networks.

Relevant Indian Policies:

- **Act East Policy (2014):** Strengthens economic, strategic and cultural engagement with Southeast Asia.
- **Neighbourhood First Policy:** Promotes regional connectivity and cooperation with neighbouring countries.
- **SAGAR Vision (2015):** Security and Growth for All in the Region; promotes maritime cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean region.

3. China's Strategic Interests in Myanmar

- **Indian Ocean Access:** China seeks strategic access to the Indian Ocean through Myanmar.
- **China–Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC):** Part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), connecting China's Yunnan province with Myanmar's strategic economic and coastal regions.
- **Energy Security:** Oil and gas pipelines connect Myanmar's coast with China's Yunnan province, reducing dependence on the Strait of Malacca route.
- **Critical Minerals:** Access to rare earth elements, jade and other strategic resources.
- **Geopolitical Influence:** Strengthening its strategic presence in the Bay of Bengal region.

4. ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus (2021)

ASEAN adopted this framework to address Myanmar's political crisis:

1. Immediate cessation of violence.
2. Constructive dialogue among all parties.
3. Appointment of an ASEAN Special Envoy.
4. Humanitarian assistance through ASEAN.
5. Visit by the Special Envoy to Myanmar to meet all concerned parties.

Challenges: Continued violence, limited political dialogue and lack of cooperation from Myanmar's military leadership have weakened the implementation of the consensus.

5. India's Internal Security Concerns

- **Insurgency:** Myanmar's border areas provide operational space for some Northeast Indian insurgent groups.
- **Drug Trafficking:** Narcotics trafficking and synthetic drug production linked to the Golden Triangle pose serious security challenges.
- **Arms Smuggling:** Porous borders facilitate illegal arms movement and cross-border criminal activities.

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- **Refugee Influx:** Political instability has resulted in people crossing into India's northeastern States, particularly Mizoram and Manipur.

6. India's Border Management Initiatives

- **Free Movement Regime (FMR):** Historically facilitated cross-border movement of people living near the India–Myanmar border under specified conditions. India announced its decision to scrap the regime in 2024, citing national security concerns.
- **Border Fencing:** India announced plans to fence the entire India–Myanmar border to strengthen border security.
- **Border Infrastructure:** Improve surveillance, border roads, intelligence coordination and technological monitoring.

7. Challenges and Way Forward

- **Strategic Dilemma:** Balance democratic values and human rights with national security and economic interests.
- **Calibrated Engagement:** Maintain diplomatic engagement with relevant stakeholders while encouraging an inclusive political transition.
- **Humanitarian Diplomacy:** Support displaced populations and strengthen humanitarian assistance.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Strengthen ASEAN-led diplomatic efforts and peaceful conflict resolution.
- **Connectivity Protection:** Ensure the timely completion and security of strategic connectivity projects.

4. Emerging West Asian Security Architecture: Makkah Agreement and Iran's Strategic Calculations

GS Paper II – International Relations | Regional Groupings | India's Foreign Policy | West Asian Geopolitics

Why in News?

Senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan visited Tehran on October 26, 2026, to discuss regional security and de-escalation amid tensions involving Iran, the U.S., Israel and Yemen's Houthis. The visit followed the Makkah Agreement for Joint Defence, signed by the three countries on August 7, 2026.

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1. Makkah Agreement for Joint Defence (2026)

- **Members:** Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan.
- **Objective:** Strengthen collective defence, deterrence and regional security.
- **Collective Defence:** An armed attack against one member is treated as an attack against all three.
- **Significance:** Reflects an attempt to develop a regional security framework with greater regional ownership rather than exclusive dependence on external powers.

2. Iran's Strategic Calculations

- **Regional Influence:** Seeks a greater role in shaping West Asian security arrangements.
- **Asymmetric Warfare:** Uses missiles, drones and regional partnerships to counter militarily stronger adversaries.
- **IRGC:** The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has gained prominence in Iran's wartime power structure.
- **Houthi Connection:** Iran's political, military and material support to Yemen's Houthi movement provides it with regional strategic influence, although the Houthis retain their own decision-making autonomy.
- **Diplomatic Leverage:** Iran's participation in the Tehran quadrilateral dialogue provides an opportunity to reduce regional isolation and engage with neighbouring powers.

Note: Iran participated in the Tehran dialogue but is not a member of the Makkah defence agreement.

3. Strategic Interests of Regional Powers

- **Saudi Arabia:** Prevent escalation with Iran and the Houthis, protect oil infrastructure and safeguard economic interests.
- **Türkiye:** Expand diplomatic and security influence in West Asia.

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- **Pakistan:** Strengthen military diplomacy, regional influence and its role in mediation between Iran and the U.S.

4. India's Strategic Interests and Policies

- **Energy Security:** Protect crude oil and natural gas supplies from West Asia.
- **Maritime Security:** Safeguard shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb.
- **Indian Diaspora:** Ensure the safety of millions of Indians working in Gulf countries.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Maintain balanced relations with Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the U.S.

Major Indian Policies and Initiatives:

- **SAGAR Vision (2015):** Security and Growth for All in the Region; promotes maritime cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean.
- **MAHASAGAR Vision (2025):** Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions; expands India's maritime engagement and development-oriented cooperation.
- **Chabahar Port:** Provides India connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia while bypassing Pakistan.
- **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):** Multimodal transport corridor connecting India with Iran, Russia and Central Asian markets.

5. Changing West Asian Security Architecture

- **Regional Security Arrangements:** Growing efforts by regional powers to develop independent defence and diplomatic frameworks.
- **Changing External Influence:** Potential reduction in exclusive dependence on traditional U.S.-led security arrangements.
- **Strategic Competition:** Rivalry among regional powers for political, military and economic influence.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Possibility of diplomatic cooperation despite continuing geopolitical rivalries.

6. Challenges and Way Forward

- **Regional Escalation:** Prevent military confrontation and encourage sustained diplomatic dialogue.
- **Energy Disruptions:** Protect global oil supplies and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb.
- **Inclusive Security:** Promote regional security arrangements involving all relevant stakeholders.

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- **Maritime Cooperation:** Strengthen international coordination to protect critical sea lanes.
- **Indian Diplomacy:** Pursue multi-alignment and strategic autonomy while safeguarding India's economic and security interests.

5. COP31: India's Push for Climate Finance and an Equitable Energy Transition

GS Paper III – Environment and Ecology | Climate Change | Climate Finance | Sustainable Development

Why in News?

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav outlined India's priorities ahead of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), scheduled from November 9–20, 2026, in Antalya, Türkiye. India will emphasise predictable climate finance, technology transfer, climate justice and an equitable energy transition.

1. India's Key Priorities at COP31

- **Climate Finance:** Developed countries must fulfil their financial obligations towards developing nations.
- **Technology Transfer:** Ensure affordable access to clean technologies by addressing barriers relating to technology costs, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and trade.
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):** Climate mitigation and adaptation targets should reflect national circumstances and developmental priorities.
- **Party-driven Negotiations:** Mitigation processes and the Global Stocktake should remain Party-driven, facilitative and non-punitive, without imposing uniform top-down targets.
- **Just Transition:** Continue the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP), ensuring an inclusive shift towards a low-carbon economy.
- **Fossil Fuel Transition:** India emphasises equitable energy transition rather than externally imposed uniform fossil-fuel reduction targets.

2. Climate Finance: India's Position

Article 9.1 of Paris Agreement: Developed countries shall provide financial resources to assist developing countries in climate mitigation and adaptation.

India demands climate finance that is:

- Predictable and largely public.
- Concessional and affordable.

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- Accessible without increasing developing countries' debt burden.

Climate Finance Work Programme: India seeks a decision to initiate a dedicated work programme to strengthen climate finance discussions.

3. Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

- **Article 7 of Paris Agreement:** Establishes the Global Goal on Adaptation.
- Aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- India supports voluntary adaptation indicators that should not become conditions for accessing climate finance.
- India highlighted the reduction of proposed indicators to 59 from nearly 1,000, while advocating their voluntary nature.

4. India's Negotiating Alliances

India works with developing-country coalitions to strengthen collective bargaining in international climate negotiations.

- **G-77 and China:** Coalition representing developing-country interests in international negotiations.
- **LMDC:** Like-Minded Developing Countries; advocates equity, climate justice and CBDR-RC.
- **BASIC:** Brazil, South Africa, India and China; coordinates positions on climate finance and mitigation responsibilities.

5. Relevant Global Principles and India's Domestic Climate Policies

- **CBDR-RC:** Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities; recognises differences in historical emissions and national capacities.
- **Paris Agreement (2015):** Provides the framework for NDCs, mitigation, adaptation and climate finance.
- **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):** India's domestic climate framework comprising eight National Missions.
- **Panchamrit Commitments (COP26, 2021):** India's climate commitments, including achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
- **Renewable Energy Expansion:** Scaling up non-fossil energy capacity, improving energy efficiency and promoting sustainable development.

6. Challenges and Way Forward

- **Climate Finance Gap:** Bridge the gap between international financial commitments and actual delivery.
- **Technology Barriers:** Ensure affordable technology transfer and address IPR-related constraints.

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- **Equitable Transition:** Balance decarbonisation with energy security, poverty reduction and developmental needs.
- **Carbon Markets:** India opposes making participation in carbon markets compulsory.
- **Climate Justice:** Ensure that developing countries are not subjected to disproportionate mitigation burdens.
- **Adaptation:** Strengthen climate-resilient infrastructure, agriculture and disaster preparedness.

