



12 December, 2023

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Context: Justice Sanjay Kaul suggested establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate reported human rights violations by state and non-state entities in J&K.

- The Supreme Court unanimously upheld the abrogation of Article 370 by the Centre in 2019, stating that Jammu and Kashmir no longer holds special status in the Indian Union.
- **What is a Truth and Reconciliation Commission?**
 - A truth commission, also known as truth and reconciliation or truth and justice commission, is an official body.
 - Its purpose is to uncover past wrongdoing by a government or non-state actors to address unresolved conflicts.
 - States emerging from internal unrest, civil war, or dictatorship with human rights abuses may establish truth commissions.
 - Truth commissions have political implications as they navigate objectives like truth, reconciliation, justice, memory, reparation, and recognition.
 - According to a widely cited definition, a truth commission is focused on the past, investigates a pattern of events over time, engages with the affected population, is temporary, and aims to conclude with a final report.
 - The commission must be officially authorized or empowered by the state under review.
 - In the Australian context of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the term used is "truth telling."
- **Functions:**
 - **Official Truth-Seeking:**
 - Truth commissions, mandated by governments, engage in "official truth-seeking."
 - Their role includes providing evidence against denialism of state terrorism, crimes, and human rights abuses.
 - **"Right to the Truth":** Advocates often assert a "right to the truth," which truth commissions are deemed to facilitate.
 - **Final Reports and Historical Clarification:**
 - Truth commissions issue final reports presenting authoritative narratives of past events.
 - Some commissions focus on "historical clarification," correcting distorted historical narratives.
 - **Restorative Justice:** Within transitional justice, truth commissions generally lean towards restorative justice models, emphasizing reconciliation over retribution.
 - **Reparative Justice:** Reparative justice, including financial reparations, official apologies, and commemorative efforts, is often promoted by truth commissions.
 - **Crucial Role of Reconciliation:**
 - Reconciliation is a crucial aspect of truth commissions, aiming to heal divided societies in the aftermath of conflict.
 - Public hearings provide victims/survivors with a platform to share their stories and sometimes confront abusers.
 - **Integration into Peace Settlements:** Truth commissions are integrated into peace settlements in various countries, fostering unity and reconciliation.
- **Countries with Past Truth Commissions:**
 - South Africa, Australia, and Canada are notable for their consequential truth commissions.
 - In India's neighborhood, truth commissions have been established in Sri Lanka and Nepal.
- **Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC):**
 - Addressed the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools system, hearing from over 6,500 witnesses.
 - Spanning six years, the TRC collected documents, creating a historical record housed at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
- **South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission:**
 - Established in 1995 to uncover human rights violations during apartheid.
 - Focused on gathering information from both victims and perpetrators for reconciliation rather than prosecution.
 - Released five volumes of the report in October 1998, with two additional volumes in March 2003.

Carbon Footprint Disparity

Context: A study by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) indicates substantial carbon emission disparities among residents of developed and developing countries.

- **Carbon Emission Disparities:**
 - Developed countries exhibit significantly higher per capita carbon emissions than the wealthiest 10% in certain developing nations.
 - The top 10% in developing countries, excluding Mexico and South Africa, contribute nearly the same carbon dioxide volume as individuals in the lower deciles of developed nations.
 - Carbon emissions for the poorest in India, Brazil, and the ASEAN region are six to 15 times less than those in the lowest income bracket in Saudi Arabia, the US, or Australia.
- **Income Disparities and Carbon Footprint:** The per capita carbon footprint of the top 1% and top 10% income groups in developed countries is considerably higher, ranging from four to eight times more than their counterparts in developing nations.
- **Study Scope and Data Sources:**
 - The study encompasses 14 countries, the European Union, and the ASEAN region, representing approximately 81% of global emissions.

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- Data from the World Inequality Database and the World Bank were utilized to analyze per capita CO₂ emissions across different income brackets.

➤ **Emissions Divide and Urgent Actions:**

- The report, titled "The Emissions Divide: Inequity across Countries and Income Classes," reveals that the wealthiest 10% in developed countries and China emit 22% more CO₂ than all the developing countries studied combined.
- Advocates for the adoption of low-carbon lifestyles among the affluent, emphasizing potential significant emission reductions.

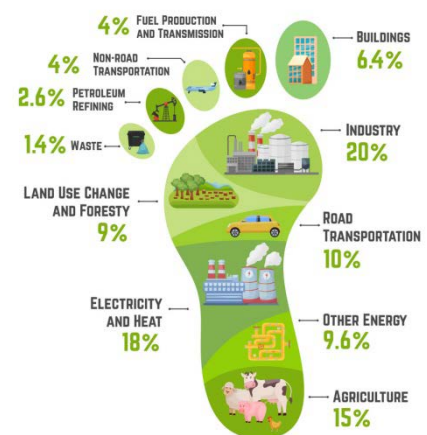
➤ **Potential Solutions:**

- If the richest 10% in developed countries and China halve their carbon footprint, more than 3.4 billion tonnes of CO₂ could be saved annually.
- A proposed carbon tax on the wealthiest 10% could generate \$500 billion, discouraging carbon-intensive consumption and supporting climate change mitigation, research, and development.

➤ **Carbon Footprint:**

- A carbon footprint represents the total Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, predominantly carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane, released into the atmosphere due to human activities.
- It can be associated with individuals, organizations, products, events, etc.
- As per the World Health Organization (WHO), the carbon footprint quantifies the impact of activities on CO₂ production from burning fossil fuels, expressed in tonnes.
- Relation to Ecological Footprint:** The carbon footprint is a subset of the ecological footprint, specifically addressing greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels. In contrast, the ecological footprint compares total resource consumption with the land and water area required for replacement.
- The carbon footprint encompasses six GHGs recognized by the Kyoto Protocol:**
 - Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
 - Methane (CH₄)
 - Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)
 - Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
 - Perfluorocarbon (PFCs)
 - Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)
- Measurement and Equivalent Tons:**
 - Carbon footprints are typically measured in equivalent tons of CO₂ (CO₂e) over a year.
 - CO₂e is calculated by multiplying the emissions of each GHG by its 100-year Global Warming Potential (GWP).
- Energy Generation Impact:** When comparing energy generation, coal has the largest carbon footprint, followed by oil, natural gas, and geothermal energy.
- Types of Carbon Footprints:**
 - Organizational:** Encompasses emissions from all activities within an organization, including energy use, industrial processes, and company vehicles.
 - Product:** Encompasses emissions from raw material extraction and manufacturing to usage, reuse, recycling, or disposal, covering the entire life cycle of a product or service.

CARBON FOOTPRINT



‘AMRIT’ (Arsenic and Metal Removal by Indian Technology)

Context: AMRIT was mentioned by Minister of Jal Shakti Ministry in the Rajya Sabha.

- Developed by IIT-Madras, 'AMRIT' (Arsenic and Metal Removal by Indian Technology) addresses water quality issues, especially arsenic and metal ion removal.
- **Nano-Scale Iron Oxy-Hydroxide:** The technology employs nano-scale iron oxy-hydroxide, selectively removing arsenic when water passes through it.
- **Versatility of Use:** 'AMRIT' is designed for both domestic and community-level water purification.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:**
 - Objective:** The mission aims to provide safe tap water to every rural household in India by the year 2024.
 - Approach:** It follows a community-based approach, emphasizing Information, Education, and Communication as key components of the mission.
 - Nodal Ministry:** Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Jal Shakti Ministry
 - Strategy:**
 - The mission focuses on integrated demand and supply side water management at the local level.
 - Infrastructure development for source sustainability, including rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, is a key aspect.

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- Management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture is also part of the strategy.
- Convergence:** The mission aligns its efforts with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve sustainable water supply management across the country.
- Funding:**
 - Funding is shared in a ratio of 50:50 between the Central and State governments.
 - Himalayan and North-Eastern States benefit from a funding pattern of 90:10.
 - Union Territories receive 100% funding from the Central government.

Property	Value
Atomic number	33
Atomic mass	74.9216 g.mol ⁻¹
Electronegativity according to Pauling	2.0
Density	5.7 g.cm ⁻³ at 14°C
Melting point	814°C (36 atm)
Boiling point	615°C (sublimation)
Vanderwaals radius	0.139 nm
Ionic radius	0.222 nm (-2) 0.047 nm (+5) 0.058 (+3)
Isotopes	8
Electronic shell	[Ar] 3d ¹⁰ 4s ² 4p ³
Energy of first ionisation	947 kJ.mol ⁻¹
Energy of second ionisation	1798 kJ.mol ⁻¹
Energy of third ionisation	2736 kJ.mol ⁻¹
Standard potential	- 0.3 V (As ³⁺ / As)

➤ Arsenic Poisoning:

- Arsenic, a toxic element, enters the body through contaminated water and food.
- Elevated levels of arsenic in drinking water and food can result in **arsenicosis**, a disease with severe health consequences.
- Arsenicosis damages essential enzymes, leading to dysfunction in multiple organ systems and eventual fatality.
- Prolonged exposure to arsenic, primarily from drinking water and food, is associated with various health problems, including cancer, skin damage, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.
- Exposure to arsenic during pregnancy and early childhood is linked to impairments in cognitive development and an increased mortality rate in young adults.
- Addressing arsenic contamination is crucial for safeguarding public health across different age groups.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Navegaon Nazira Tiger Reserve



Recently, data from radio collars reveals that the two translocated tigresses in Navegaon Nazira Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra, are thriving in low-density zones.

About Navegaon Nazira Tiger Reserve:

- The Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) is located in the **Gondia** and **Shandara** districts of **Maharashtra**.
- It is the **fifth tiger reserve** in Maharashtra.
- It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in **1970**.
- It was notified as the **46th tiger reserve of India on December 12, 2013**.
- It is connected to prominent tiger reserves across Central India, including **Kanha** and **Pench** in Madhya Pradesh, **Pench** and **Tadoba-Andhari** in Maharashtra, **Indravati** in Chhattisgarh, and **Kawal** and **Nagarjunsagar** in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Flora: The reserve boasts a diverse flora with plant species, featuring **Teak**, **Tendu**, **Ain**, **Garari**, **Bamboo**, **Arjun**, **Dhawada** and **Haldu** among its prominent vegetation.

Fauna: It houses a variety of wildlife, including **Tigers**, **Panthers**, **Civets**, **Wolves**, **Sloth Bears**, **Giant Flying Squirrels**, **Gaurs**, and **Pangolins** among others.

Koya Tribe



Recently, the Koya tribe have replaced the use of bison horns in their traditional flute, **Permakore**, with an eco-friendly, palm leaves to conserve Indian Bison.

About the Koya Tribe:

- The Koya tribe is an **Indian tribal community** found in the states of **Telangana**, **Andhra Pradesh**, **Odisha** and **Chhattisgarh**.
- They are mainly settled **cultivators** and **artisans**.
- They primarily **speaks Gondi** as their mother tongue (a **Dravidian language**) and also converses in **Odia** and **Telugu** languages.
- The **Medaram Jatara** is a festival celebrated by the Koya tribe of Telangana.
- The festival is celebrated once every two years in the month of **Magha** (February) on the full moon day.
- They perform a dance called **Permakok** or **(Bison horn dance)** during festivals and weddings.
- They practice their own ethnic religion, but also worship **Hindu gods and goddesses**.

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Mummified Baboons

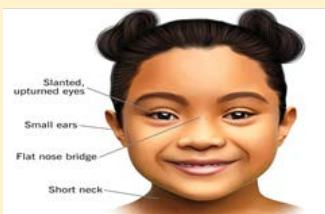


Recently, a non-native red quartzite statue of mummified baboons discovered in Egypt have puzzled researchers about their origins.

About Mummified Baboons:

- In **1905**, Egyptologists Louis Lortet and Claude Gaillard discovered mummified baboons in Gabbanat el-Qurud, also known as the "**Valley of the Monkeys**".
- Scientists used mitochondrial **DNA (mt DNA)** to trace the origins of the mummified baboons.
- Olive baboons were brought from the south (**now Sudan**), while hamadryas baboons were imported from mountainous regions along the **Red Sea**.
- The **Egyptian god Thoth** was represented by a baboon, which is odd because baboons aren't native to Egypt.

Down Syndrome



Recently, an incident came into light that a 21year old man with Down Syndrome averted a robbery bid as he flashed a toy gun at two robbers who broke into his house in Delhi.

About Down Syndrome:

- Down syndrome is a **genetic disorder** that causes **physical** and **mental** disabilities.
- It occurs when a person has an **extra copy of chromosome 21**.
- This extra genetic material changes how a baby's body and brain develop.
- It manifests with symptoms such as mental retardation, **cognitive impairment**, **tilted eyes**, **a fold of skin above the eye** and **cardiac weaknesses**.
- Down syndrome occurs in three variations: **Trisomy 21 (95%)**, **Translocation Down syndrome (3%)** and **Mosaic Down syndrome (2%)**.
- There is no cure for Down syndrome.
- Although, **physical therapy**, Occupational therapy, **Speech therapy** and Early intervention Special education, etc. can help.

Place in News

South Korea

Recently, a U.S. F-16 fighter jet crashed in South Korea during a routine training exercise after experiencing "an in-flight emergency".

South Korea (Capital: Seoul)

Location: South Korea is located in East Asia, on the southern part of the **Korean Peninsula**.

Boundaries: It shares borders with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) to the north, the East Sea (**Sea of Japan**) to the east, the East **China Sea** to the south, the **Yellow Sea** to the west and the **Korea Strait**, which **separates it from Japan's Tsushima island**.

Physical Features:

- **Hallasan** is the **highest mountain** peak in South Korea.
- The **Taebaek Mountains** and the **Sobaek Mountains** are both mountain ranges in South Korea.
- The **Han River** in South Korea is the fourth longest river on the Korean peninsula.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ In which city is the inaugural Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 being hosted? - **New Delhi**
- ❖ The 'HaritSagar' Guidelines were launched by which Union Ministry? - **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
- ❖ According to S&P ranking, which is the largest insurer in the world? - **Germany's Allianz SE**
- ❖ Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES) is a new data exchange system between which countries? - **India and South Korea**
- ❖ Who has become the first Asian man to receive a nomination for the International Tennis Hall of Fame? - **Leander Paes**

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