

Raja Raja Chola (985 CE – 1014 CE)

The birth anniversary of the legendary Chola emperor Raja Raja Chola celebrated during Sadhaya Vizha in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

- Sadhaya Vizha festival is observed in Tamil month of Aippasi, which runs from mid-October to mid-November at Brihadeshwara Temple.

About Raja Raja Chola (985 CE – 1014 CE)

- Chola power reached its peak during reign of Arumolivarman, who assumed title Rajaraja I.
- Rajaraja defeated Chera ruler Bhaskararavivarman in naval battle of Kandalursalai.
- He also invaded Sri Lanka (annexing its northern part) and led a conquest to Maldives.
- He completed construction of famous Rajarajeswara/Brihadeeswara temple at Tanjore in 1010 A.D

‘Choosing Our Future: Education for Climate Action’ report released by World Bank Group

[The report](#) states that climate change induced heat and extreme weather events are significantly disrupting learning and emphasizes that education system can empower, equip, and skill young people for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Key Highlights of the Report

- Impact of climate change on schooling and learning: Countries lost on average 11 days of instruction per year in affected schools due to climate-related school closures, with higher impact in low-income countries.
- Information gap on climate awareness: Climate change awareness is still at only about 65% in low- and middle-income countries.
- Need of skilling/ re-skilling/ up-skilling: Global green transitions would require skilled workers for an estimated 100 million new jobs, up-skilled workers for most existing jobs, and re-skilled workers for another 78 million jobs which will disappear.
- Education can help with climate action today: In India, climate-related outreach to children not only increased their pro-climate behavior but also increased the pro-climate behavior of parents by nearly 13%.

Recommendations for the Government

- Harness school education for pro-climate behavior-change by investing in foundational skills and STEM education, delivering well-designed climate education, etc.
- Harness tertiary education for green skilling and innovation by fostering student adaptability through strong foundations, flexible pathways, and information flows.
- Protect education systems by making them more adaptable and resilient to a changing climate.

Global Matchmaking Platform for Industrial Decarbonisation Launched

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) & Climate Club launched 'Global Matchmaking Platform' (GMP) for industrial decarbonization at COP29.

- UNIDO is a specialized agency of UNs with a mandate to promote, dynamize & accelerate industrial development.
- Climate Club is an intergovernmental forum for exchange on accelerating climate action & industry decarbonisation.

About GMP

- Aim: To boost international climate cooperation & partnerships to enable developing & emerging economies to leap-frog into climate-friendly industrial development.
- Secretariat: GMP is a support mechanism of Climate Club, with secretariat hosted by UNIDO.
- How it works?
 - It connects country-specific needs with global technical & financial assistance to reduce emissions in energy & emissions-intensive industrial sectors.
 - It's accessible to all emerging & developing economies.

What is Industrial Decarbonisation?

- Definition: It's the process of focusing on energy-efficient & sustainable projects that reduce industries' overall carbon footprint.
- Key Strategies: low-carbon technologies, Decarbonizing End-Use Energy through renewable sources, Carbon Capture, Utilisation, & Storage etc.
- Need: Decarbonizing industrial sector is critical for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
 - Industrial activities alone are responsible for a quarter of global energy systems CO₂ emissions.

Initiatives Undertaken

Global

- Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative (2021): Co-led by UK & India, it is global coalition of public & private organisations to stimulate global demand for low carbon industrial materials.
- Alliance for Industry Decarbonization: Coordinated by International Renewable Energy Agency, aims to decarbonize industrial value chains.

India

- Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme: Energy efficiency credit trading scheme for industries.

- Ministry of Steel is working to decarbonize steel sector, with a focus on renewable energy, green hydrogen etc.

UNHCR Launched Global Appeal 2025 to Address Global Refugee Crisis in 2025

UNHCR has launched a \$10 billion appeal for 2025 to meet critical needs & implement sustainable solutions for millions of refugees, displaced persons & stateless people worldwide.

- It highlights UNHCR's plans for 2025 & funding it needs to protect, assist & empower refugees, & to help them find solutions to their situations.

Global Refugee Crisis

- A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee conflict/persecution & has crossed an international border to seek safety.
 - 117.3 million People worldwide are forcibly displaced & 40% are children (UNHCR's Global Trends Report 2023).
- Reasons: Conflict & violence (e.g. Syria), persecution (e.g. Myanmar), climate change impact etc.

Challenges

- Refugees: Lacks basic necessities like food, shelter etc.; discrimination & exclusion from mainstream society; vulnerable to trafficking etc.
- Host Countries: Sudden increase in population; strain on local resources like healthcare; unemployment & social tensions, etc.

Initiatives Undertaken

- Global Compact on Refugees (2018): Provides framework to help refugees & their host countries etc.
- Global Refugee Forum: Held every 4 years to discuss & find solutions for challenges faced by refugees & their host communities.
- United Nations Relief & Works Agency: Established in 1949 to provide assistance & protection to Palestine refugees.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland
- Genesis: Established by General Assembly of United Nations in 1950.
- Purpose: Protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.
 - UNHCR works in 136 countries.
- Achievement: It Received Noble Peace prize in 1954 and 1981.

COP29 Adopted New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)

The NCQG set a new finance goal to help countries to protect their people and economies against climate disasters, and share in the vast benefits of the clean energy boom.

- NCQG is a key element of Paris Agreement, designed to set a new financial target to support developing countries in their climate actions post-2025.

Climate Finance Goals Set by NCQG

- **Baku Finance Goal:** Sets new global target to channel \$1.3tn of climate finance to developing countries by 2035.
- **Triple finance to developing countries:** It set a target for developed countries to mobilize at least \$300 billion per year for developing countries by 2035.
 - In 2009 parties to UNFCCC had decided to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 which was subsequently extended to 2025.

India's Stand

- India has rejected NCQG for climate finance during the COP29 conference on the following grounds.
 - **Insufficient Financial Commitment:** India criticized proposed goal of mobilizing \$300 billion annually by 2035 as "too little and too distant,".
 - **Lack of Inclusivity in Decision-Making** and thus it doesn't reflect the priorities of the Global South.
- India's rejection resonated with other developing countries, including Nigeria and Malawi.

COP29 of the UNFCCC concludes with the Baku Climate Unity Pact

The Pact includes New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme.

Key Highlights of the Pact

- **NCQG on Climate Finance:** Provides a new finance goal to help countries to protect their people and economies against climate disasters, and share in the vast benefits of the clean energy boom.
- **Global Goal on Adaptation**
 - **Baku Adaptation Roadmap:** For advancing implementation of adaptation action in line with Article 7 of the Paris Agreement.
 - **Article 7, paragraph 1:** Establish the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity with a view to contributing to sustainable development.
 - **Recognizes both incremental and transformational adaptation approaches:** For protecting the well-being of people, and for implementing the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.
- **Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme**
 - **No ‘one size fits all’ approach:** Owing to the diversity of national and local circumstances.
 - **Collaboration:** Between cities, subnational authorities, local communities and national Governments on mitigation actions.
 - **Discussion for creation of a digital platform:** To facilitate implementation of mitigation actions.

UNGA adopts a Resolution paving way for negotiations of a Treaty on Crimes against Humanity

Recently, Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) approved 'United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity'.

- Sixth Committee of the UNGA is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly.
- Crime against Humanity is defined as specific criminal acts including murder, rape, torture, apartheid, deportation, and persecution, when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population according to a state or organizational policy. (Rome Statute)

Need of a Treaty on Crimes against Humanity

- Absence of dedicated international treaty: Existing International Humanitarian Laws (the laws of war such as Geneva Convention) do not adequately proscribe potential crimes that can be committed in non-armed conflict situations.
- To provide comprehensive framework for countries: It would offer new pathways for victims of crimes against humanity and provide framework for countries to incorporate these crimes into their national legal systems.
- Global cooperation: It would also foster cooperation with other states, for example through mutual legal assistance.

Existing Mechanisms to prevent Crimes against Humanity

- International Humanitarian Laws
 - 4 Geneva Conventions (1949),
 - Biological Weapons Convention (1972),
 - Chemical Weapons Convention (1993),
 - Rome Statute for International Criminal Court (1998), etc.
- Framework in India: Article 51 directs the state to promote international peace and security and foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, etc.