



## Current Affairs of the Day

### More cyclones in the Arabian Sea recently, Minister tells RS

1. The frequency of “very severe cyclonic storms” has increased in recent years over the Arabian Sea. However, this has not measurably increased the threat to India's western coast, as most of these cyclones were making landfall in Oman and Yemen.
2. A very severe cyclone is defined as one with wind speeds touching 220 kmph. It is the fourth highest category of cyclones, just below “extremely severe cyclones”.



Cyclone Category	Wind Speed in Km/h	Damage Capacity	Type of Disturbances	Wind Speed in Km/h
01	120-150	Minimal	Low Pressure	Less than 31
02	150-180	Moderate	Depression	31-49
03	180-210	Extensive	Deep Depression	49-61
04	210-250	Extreme	Cyclonic Storm	61-88
05	250 +	Catastrophic	Severe Cyclonic Storm	88-117
			Very Severe Cyclone	118-221
			Super Cyclone	More than 221

### Coastal vulnerability

1. However, the eastern coast remained far more vulnerable to “extremely severe cyclones” than the western coast, but there was nevertheless “no significant trend” in the frequency of extremely severe cyclonic storms (ESCS).



2. On average, 60%-80% of the cyclones developing over the North Indian Ocean (NIO), comprising the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, made landfall causing loss of life and property.
3. Low-lying coastal belts of West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and Puducherry were more prone to the impact of these systems.

The number of deaths due to cyclones has decreased significantly, as a result of the improvement in the early warning skill of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), and effective mitigation measures and response actions by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Still, there is a huge loss to property, his statement added.

## Rising income inequality is the cause of concern

Increasing GDP pie, enabling access to education, healthcare can help resolve the issue



**India among most unequal nations;  
top 1% of population holds 22%  
of national income**



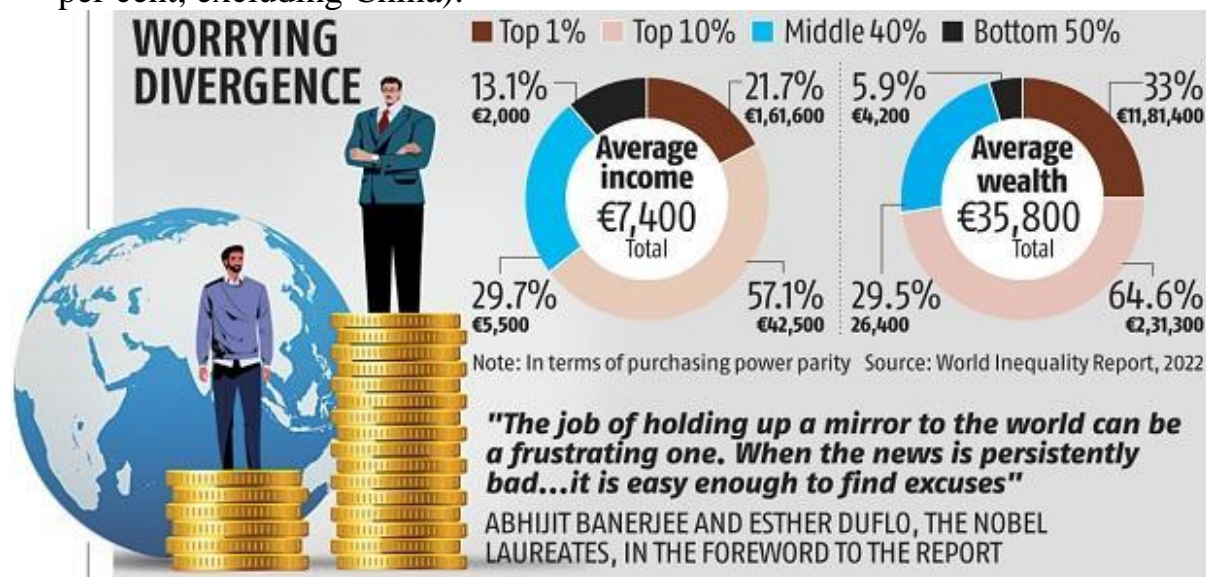
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## Inequality on the rise:

1. The latest World Inequality Report makes for a sobering read. It details the rising levels of income and wealth inequality across countries.
2. As far as income is concerned, the richest 10 per cent of the global population currently takes 52 per cent of global income, whereas the poorest half of the population earns 8.5 per cent of it. The picture is worse when it comes to wealth inequalities.

## Inequality in India:

1. India is one of the worst performers. "India stands out as a poor and very unequal country, with an affluent elite," states the report.
2. While the top 10 per cent and top 1 per cent hold respectively 57 per cent and 22 per cent of total national income, the bottom 50 per cent share has gone down to 13 per cent.
3. It is not just the inequality in income and wealth that plagues India. The report also points to extreme gender and carbon inequality.
4. For instance, at 18 per cent the female labour income share in India is one of the lowest in the world — only slightly higher than the average share in the Middle East (15 per cent) and significantly lower than the average in Asia (21 per cent, excluding China).





## Causes and remedies:

1. Alarming as these findings are, they are not entirely surprising. That's because in India's case the primary instrument — that is, fast economic growth — to reduce poverty and counter inequality has been faltering for a while.
2. GDP growth has been rather iffy since the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 and has completely lost its momentum since the start of 2017.
3. For a relatively poor country such as India, the most durable and dependable way to reduce inequality is to increase the size of the GDP pie. That is the first policy lesson for the government.
4. However, as evidence from across the world has shown, fast GDP growth alone doesn't help, especially when it comes to tackling inequalities in accessing education and health. That is the second key policy lesson.
5. A good starting point in this regard would be for the government to improve the quality of data on inequality within the country.

## MAINS DAWP

Q1. Discuss the rationale for creating the post of Chief of Defence staff in India.

## MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements

1. The frequency of "very severe cyclonic storms" has increased in recent years over the Arabian Sea
2. Almost all cyclones that originated in the Arabian sea make landfall on the Indian west coast

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2