

● POLITY

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ECOLOGY

Unrestrained Poaching Plays Big Role in Decline of Odisha's Leopards

CONTEXT: Between 2018 and 2022, Odisha experienced a significant decline in leopard population by one-fourth due to rampant poaching, as per a recent report.

BACKGROUND: The 'Status of Leopards India' report highlights a stark decline in Odisha's leopard population, dropping from 760 to 568. However, leopard densities have increased notably within tiger reserves, indicating concentrated conservation efforts. Leopard occupancy is now confined to protected areas, emphasizing the need for broader conservation strategies.



News Highlights

- Threats: Main dangers to leopards include poaching for skins, prey, habitat loss, and road accidents.
- Poaching Crisis: 59 skins seized by Odisha police, 57 by STF, totalling 116 leopards killed for skins.
- Extent of Poaching: Leopards targeted for tiger and leopard skins, also used for bush meat.
- Habitat Loss: Mining and human activities contribute to habitat degradation, further endangering leopard populations.
- Unnoticed Trafficking: Some skins may go undetected, indicating a larger scale of trafficking beyond seizures.

The leopard census report urges Odisha to enhance patrolling and conservation efforts outside tiger reserves, where 55% of the leopard population resides. J.N. Pankaj emphasizes the need to downplay the value of leopard skins to deter wildlife crime. With significant forest cover, effective law enforcement is vital for Odisha's conservation efforts.

LEOPARDS

- IUCN Status: Leopards are listed as "Vulnerable" by the IUCN due to habitat loss and poaching.
- CITES Appendix: They are listed in CITES Appendix I, prohibiting international trade for commercial purposes.
- 1972 Schedule: Leopards are in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, affording them strictest protection.
- Common location in India: Leopards are found in various habitats across India, including forests and semi-arid regions.
- Threats: Leopards face habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, poaching for their skin, and illegal wildlife trade.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Decoding the Script

CONTEXT: The Genome India Project, funded by the Department of Biotechnology, completed sequencing 10,000 Indian genomes to establish a reference Indian human genome.

BACKGROUND: The creation of a 'reference' Indian human genome involved analysing complete genomes from 10,000 individuals, akin to mapping India in detail for the first time. While not fully representative of over a billion people, it provides a crucial template for further insights into genetic variations among Indians.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Immediate Application: Geneticists in India identified a correlation between MYBPC3 protein aberration and heart failure risk.
- Genetic Diversity: India's diverse population groups harbor rare

- genetic variants, including harmful ones, due to endogamy and caste lines.
- Genomic Research: Despite promises of personalized medicine from the Human Genome Project, only a fraction of diseases are monogenic.
- Complexity Revealed: Genome sequencing revealed new complexities in disease causation beyond single genes.
- Challenges: Discovery of rare genes doesn't always lead to accessible medicines due to cost constraints.
- Genome India: Aims to expand genomic research beyond 10,000 genomes with a focus on democratization and collaboration.
- Accessible Findings: Research should involve diverse stakeholders, not confined to academia, to advance India's understanding of genetics.
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Involving scientists, students, tech companies, ethicists, and social scientists is crucial for progress.

Advances in understanding rare, inherited diseases through genome sequencing have been hindered by expensive medicines, highlighting a complexity beyond mere genetic analysis. Genome India's expansion beyond 10,000 genomes must prioritize inclusivity and collaboration across disciplines to ensure democratic access to findings and propel India's self-understanding.

Genome India Project (GIP)

- Genome India Project (GIP): Aims to sequence 10,000 Indian genomes by 2023 for understanding unique genetic variations and disease causes.
- Department of Biotechnology: Has sequenced 7,000 genomes, with 3,000 available for public access.
- Population Diversity: India's 4,600+ population groups with endogamous practices harbor unique genetic variations.
- Database Creation: Creating an Indian genome database aids in understanding unique mutations and developing personalized therapies.
- International Context: Comparable to genome sequencing efforts in the UK, China, and US, aiming for larger datasets.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Centre Signs Five Contracts to Procure Arms and Ammunition for ₹39,125 Cr.

CONTEXT: The Union Ministry of Defence signed five major contracts worth ₹39,125.39 crore, involving HAL, L&T, and BrahMos Aerospace, for various military procurement purposes.

HIGHLIGHTS: The Union Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth ₹39,125.39 crore to strengthen indigenous capabilities and reduce dependency on foreign equipment manufacturers. The contract with HAL for RD-33 aero engines for MiG-29 aircraft, costing ₹5,249.72 crore, aims to increase indigenous content for future maintenance, sustaining operational capability of the IAF's MiG-29 fleet.



DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL

- DAC's Role: Highest decision-making body in Defence Ministry for policies and capital acquisitions for armed forces and Coast Guard.
- Chairmanship: Minister of Defence serves as Chairman of the Council.
- Formation: Established in 2001 following Kargil War, based on Group of Ministers' recommendations.
- Scope: Decides on new policies and capital acquisitions for Army, Navy, Air Force, and Indian Coast Guard.
- Significance: Essential for national security system reform and strategic decision-making in defence matters.

About the Contract

- Contracts with L&T: CIWS contract worth ₹7,668.82 crore and HPR contract worth ₹5,700.13 crore.
- CIWS System: Provides terminal air defense, generating 2,400 jobs/year for five years.
- HPR Systems: Modernize IAF's long-range radars with phased array-based technology, creating 1,000 jobs/year for five years.
- Contracts with BAPL: Missile procurement contract worth

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- ₹19,518.65 crore and ship-borne BrahMos system worth ₹988.07 crore.
- Navy Enhancement: Missiles for combat outfit and training, expected to generate nine lakh man-days in JV entity

ECOLOGY

India to Establish International Alliance to Protect Big Cats

CONTEXT: The Union Environment Ministry is set to establish the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), akin to the International Solar Alliance, approved by the Cabinet.

BACKGROUND: The Union Environment Ministry's initiative to establish the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), akin to the International Solar Alliance, aims to lead global efforts in big cat conservation. Recognizing India's leadership in tiger conservation, the IBCA, headquartered in India, will promote best practices and receive a commitment of ₹150 crore over five years.



International Alliance to Protect Big Cats

- **Big Cat Diversity:** India houses five out of seven big cat species: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, and Cheetah.
- **Formation of IBCA:** International Big Cat Alliance aims to unite 96 range and non-range countries, organizations, and businesses for conservation.
- **Objectives:** Centralize successful practices, personnel, and financial support to halt decline and boost big cat populations.
- **Governance Structure:** Includes Assembly of Members, Standing Committee, and Secretariat headquartered in India, following the model of the International Solar Alliance.
- **Leadership:** Ministerial-level Assembly chaired by President, HMEFCC, Government of India, demonstrating high-level commitment to big cat conservation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Absence of International Body:** No global entity addresses big cat conservation challenges across various habitats worldwide.
- **Formation of IBCA:** India proposes International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to replicate successful conservation practices globally.
- **Membership and Support:** 16 countries already joined, with opportunities for more, including conservation organizations and businesses, to contribute.
- **Advantages of Membership:** Offers a common repository of knowledge, funding, and strengthens existing platforms for conservation efforts.
- **Key Initiatives:** Focus on training frontline staff, engaging local communities, and promoting eco-tourism for big cat conservation.

ECOLOGY

Elephants Take Dead Calves to be Buried in Untrodden Paths: Study

CONTEXT: A recent study reveals elephants in the eastern Himalayan floodplains bury their calves with legs upright and avoid paths where carcasses are buried.

BACKGROUND: Researchers studying Asian elephants observed their peri-mortem and post-mortem behaviour, noting that herds tend to avoid paths where carcasses were buried and take parallel routes. Carcasses were carried by trunks and legs before burial in a 'legs upright' position, as detailed in the latest issue of the Journal of Threatened Taxa.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Elephant Behavior:** Environmental changes force Asian and African elephants to explore human areas, leading to novel behaviors for fulfilling needs.
- **Calf Burial:** Rarely documented in Asian context, a study in northern Bengal reveals elephants burying calves in irrigation drains.
- **Study Details:** Conducted in fragmented forests, tea estates, and agricultural lands near Gorumara Wildlife Division and Buxa Tiger Reserve.
- **Burial Strategy:** Elephants dragged calves to preferred locations, with marks suggesting care and affection in the process.

- Behavior Insight: Strange positioning of carcasses suggests herds prioritize carefully laying calves, reflecting affection and adaptation to space constraints.

Asian Elephants

- Elephant Population: India hosts over 30,000 Asian Elephants, representing more than 60% of the global population of the species.
- Regional Distribution: Karnataka leads with 6,049 elephants, followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054), according to the 2017 Elephant Census.
- Conservation Efforts: Elephants are declared National Heritage Animals and receive protection under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Project Elephant: Launched in 1991-92, a centrally funded initiative aimed at conserving elephants, their habitats, and corridors.
- Alliance and Initiatives: The Asian Elephant Alliance secures 96 corridors across 12 states, while a genetic database for captive elephants aids in preventing illegal transfers.

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

Vulnerable to Criticism

CONTEXT: The ongoing legal dispute in Tamil Nadu concerning the Enforcement Directorate's investigation into alleged illegal sand mining highlights broader concerns about the agency's credibility and jurisdiction, raising questions about potential bias and encroachment on state powers.

BACKGROUND:

ED Summons TN Collectors Over Sand Mining Investigation

- **Allegations:** Illegal sand mining is a concern in Tamil Nadu, potentially causing financial losses.
- **ED's Role:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigates money laundering related to crimes.
- **Summons Issued:** ED summoned District Collectors in Tamil Nadu to probe potential money laundering linked to sand mining.

Controversy:

- **Tamil Nadu Objects:** The state government challenged the ED's authority in the Madras High Court.
- **High Court's Stance:** The High Court stayed the summons, questioning if the ED overstepped its bounds.
- **Supreme Court's Ruling:** The Supreme Court overruled the High Court, stating Collectors must cooperate with the ED investigation.

MAJOR ISSUES

1. The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) summoning of Tamil Nadu (TN) Collectors raises doubts due to its low credibility.
2. The ED's investigation into illegal sand mining in Tamil Nadu under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) prompts

questions about federal principles.

3. The Supreme Court mandates TN's cooperation with central investigations but questions if assessing mining losses falls within the ED's jurisdiction.
4. The Madras High Court's order to stay ED summonses to Collectors is overturned by the Supreme Court.
5. The Court dismisses the TN government's petitions against ED's actions, citing misconceptions of the law.
6. Despite citing PMLA's Section 50, the Supreme Court overlooks concerns that the ED's probe lacks identification of proceeds of crime.
7. The ED's actions are criticized for resembling a "fishing expedition" rather than a focused investigation, contrary to legal precedents.
8. While cooperation with investigations is essential, the ED's perceived bias and lack of independence draw criticism, especially from opposition-led states.

KEY ISSUES:

- **Federalism:** Concerns about central agency overreach into state matters.
- **ED's Credibility:** Questions raised about the agency's motives and potential bias.
- **Money Laundering Investigation:** Unclear if the ED has identified specific evidence of financial crimes.

CONCLUSION: ED's actions highlight concerns about federalism, credibility, and clarity in investigations, warranting scrutiny and transparency to address potential biases and uphold the rule of law.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Change and continuity in India's Palestine policy

CONTEXT: India's historical policy towards Palestine has been evolving, but a permanent fix to the Palestine question should not be lost sight of.



BACKGROUND: India historically supported Palestine while fostering ties with Israel. Recent events, like PM Modi's solidarity with Israel after the Hamas attack and India's UN abstention, suggest a potential shift. Modi's rapport with Netanyahu and

admiration for Israel's security model hint at a recalibrated policy. These indicate a reevaluation of India's stance, signaling a possible paradigm shift in its Israel-Palestine approach.

Historical Context (1947-1948):

- India, along with Pakistan and the Arab bloc, opposed the UN resolution to partition Palestine.
- Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru compared settler Zionists to the Muslim League, opposing the partition due to India's own experience with Partition.
- Despite recognizing Israel in 1950, India refrained from establishing full diplomatic relations.
- **Cold War Era (1950s-1980s):**
 - India, advocating Third World autonomy, staunchly supported the Palestine cause.
- **Shift in Policy (1992):**
 - India established full diplomatic relations with Israel, leading to deepening bilateral ties.
 - Despite this, India publicly supported a negotiated solution for a sovereign Palestine state with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on 1967 borders.
- **Under Prime Minister Modi (2014-Present):**
 - Modi's visit to Ramallah in February 2018 signaled a further evolution in India's stance.
 - India calls for dialogue for a permanent solution but refrains from explicitly addressing issues like Jerusalem's status and borders.
 - While not supporting Israel's claim over Jerusalem (India voted against the U.S. decision), India avoids discussing contentious issues while remaining an Israel partner and supporting the two-state solution.
- **Realpolitik vs. Moral Content:**
 - India's Palestine policy increasingly reflects pragmatic considerations over moral imperatives.

INDIA'S POST-OCTOBER 7 POSITION AT THE UN:

- India maintains a balanced stance, neither strongly criticizing Israel nor enabling its actions.
- It refrains from moral criticism akin to Brazil or South Africa, yet avoids being a passive observer or supporter like the U.S. or the U.K.

Statements by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA):

- Following Prime Minister Modi's tweet expressing solidarity with Israel, the MEA reaffirmed India's support for "a sovereign, independent viable state of Palestine."

UN Voting Record:

- **November 12, 2023:** India voted for a resolution condemning Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan.
- **Two weeks later:** India supported another resolution expressing "deep concern" over Israel's occupation of Syria's Golan Heights.
- **December 12:** India backed a resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.
- **December 19:** India voted in favor of the Palestinian right to self-determination.

Support for Diplomacy and Two-State Solution:

- India's voting pattern aligns with supporting a two-state solution, emphasizing the need for an immediate end to violence, dialogue, condemnation of settlements, and backing the Palestinian right to self-determination.
- Unlike the U.S., which claims support for the two-state solution but votes against relevant UN resolutions and refuses to back ceasefire calls, India's actions reflect a commitment to diplomatic efforts for resolution.


INDIA'S INTERESTS

- India's support for the Palestinian cause, albeit limited, stems from tangible national interests, particularly in light of Israel's offensive in Gaza, resulting in a significant humanitarian crisis.
- Despite international condemnation, Israel has largely avoided accountability, benefiting from unwavering support from the United States.
- Strong reactions against Israel's actions have emerged from countries in the Global South, including South Africa and Brazil, with calls for justice and accountability.
- India, aspiring to lead the Global South, cannot disregard these sentiments and voices, as evidenced by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's criticism of Israel's civilian casualties in Gaza.
- The October 7 attack and subsequent conflict have disrupted the strategic dynamics in the region, impacting India's plans for cooperation with Arab states, Israel, and the U.S.
- Further Arab-Israeli reconciliation efforts have been stalled, affecting initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- Continued conflict and instability in the region pose economic risks for India, including threats to maritime trade routes in the Red Sea.
- The escalation of the Gaza conflict increases the potential for a broader regional conflict involving Iran, Israel, and the U.S., all key partners of India.
- India's interests align with the restoration of peace and stability in West Asia, emphasizing the need for a permanent resolution to the Palestine question as a cornerstone of its Act West policy.

CONCLUSION:


India seeks a permanent solution to the Palestine issue, but its approach is increasingly shaped by pragmatic considerations alongside its commitment to the two-state solution.

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

India's Burgeoning Death Penalty Crisis

CONTEXT: Death penalty sentencing reform initiated by the Supreme Court of India has failed to percolate to trial courts.

BACKGROUND: India faces a crisis with its death penalty. The number of prisoners on death row reached a record high of 561 in 2023, while the Supreme Court acquitted over half of those reviewed, raising concerns about the fairness of sentencing. While a recent initiative seeks to reform death penalty sentencing, the high acquittal rate suggests deeper issues in the legal system, prompting the question of whether broader reforms are necessary to truly address the crisis.

INDIA'S DEATH PENALTY CRISIS:

1. Failures in Sentencing Reform:

- **Data:** 2023 statistics from Project 39A show courts continue to disregard Supreme Court directions in "Manoj vs The State Of Madhya Pradesh" (May 2022) regarding mandatory information about the accused in sentencing.
- **Impact:** 86.96% of death sentences in 2023 lacked required information, raising concerns about fairness.

2. High Court Reluctance to Confirm Sentences:

- **Trend:** Only one death sentence was confirmed by High Courts in 2023, while the Supreme Court confirmed none.
- **Historical Context:** Death Penalty India Report (2016) found only 4.9% of trial court sentences were confirmed at the appellate level between 2000-2015.
- **Commutations:** The Supreme Court frequently commutes death sentences to life imprisonment, highlighting concerns about the original sentencing.

3. Rising Acquittals by the Supreme Court:

- **Significance:** 2023 saw a significant increase in acquittals of death row prisoners, highlighting potential systemic issues.
- **Causes of Acquittal:** Fabricated evidence, manipulated reports, and tampered forensic evidence were cited in these cases.
- **Systemic Issues Ignored:** While the Court reprimands specific parties in acquittals, broader systemic problems are not addressed.

4. Urgency for Broader Reform:

- **Risk of Error:** The growing number of acquittals exposes the high risk of errors within the criminal justice system.
- **Need for Re-evaluation:** Repeated death row acquittals necessitate a reevaluation of the death penalty's application in India.

5. Plight of Death Row Prisoners:

- **Psychological Impact:** Constant fear of execution, violence, and dehumanizing conditions in prisons cause lasting psychological harm.
- **Case of Suicide:** A death row prisoner in Yerwada jail tragically committed suicide in 2023 after six years awaiting confirmation.
- **Ethical Concerns:** Subjecting individuals to dehumanizing punishment and unreliable processes raises ethical questions for society.

6. Ineffectiveness of Current Approach:

- **Supreme Court's Initiative:** Convening a Constitution Bench to address sentencing reform is unlikely to be sufficient.
- **Limited Scope of Reform:** Focusing solely on sentencing reform ignores the wider issues in the entire death penalty process.
- **Project 39A Report:** Data highlights the disconnect between the Court's focus and the true scope of the crisis across various stages of the criminal justice system.

CONCLUSION:

India's death penalty crisis requires a comprehensive approach beyond just sentencing reform. Addressing systemic issues across the entire criminal process, from police investigations to prison conditions, is crucial to ensure a fair and just system.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

With China Out, Indian Firm to Build Sri Lanka Power Project

CONTEXT: Three years after objecting to a Chinese energy project in northern Sri Lanka, barely 50 km off Tamil Nadu's coast, India is set to implement a hybrid power project in three islands off Jaffna peninsula with a \$11-million grant.



BACKGROUND: INDIA-SRI LANKA ENERGY PROJECT IN JAFFNA ISLANDS

Initial Situation:

- Sri Lanka planned renewable energy projects in Delft, Nainativu, and Analaitivu islands near India's coast.
- Chinese firm Sino Soar-Etechwin was chosen through a competitive bid backed by the Asian Development Bank.

India's Objection and Offer:

- India expressed concern about the project's proximity to its coastline and offered a grant for a similar project through U-Solar Clean Energy Solutions.
- Sri Lanka accepted India's offer.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA-SRI LANKA RELATIONS:

Positive:

- Strengthens economic cooperation through Indian investment

and project execution.

- Addresses Sri Lanka's energy needs in the region.
- Demonstrates India's commitment to Sri Lanka's development and its role as a regional partner.

Potential negatives:

- May raise concerns in Sri Lanka over increasing Indian influence.
- Could be perceived as India attempting to exert undue pressure or limit Sri Lanka's foreign policy options.

Implications for Wider Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific:

- **Strategic competition:** Reflects the ongoing strategic competition between India and China for influence in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly in Sri Lanka, which occupies a strategically important location.
- **Security concerns:** India's initial objection likely stemmed from security concerns about a Chinese project near its coastline.
- **Economic considerations:** India's project secures access to a potential market for its renewable energy expertise, while China potentially loses an economic opportunity.

Additional Considerations:

- While India claims its project is purely developmental, China's criticism suggests it may view India's actions through a geopolitical lens.
- The project's success in addressing Sri Lanka's energy needs and fostering deeper India-Sri Lanka cooperation will be crucial in shaping the long-term implications.
- Balancing strategic interests with a sensitive approach to Sri Lanka's sovereignty will be vital for both India and China in navigating this complex situation.

CONCLUSION: The project highlights the multifaceted nature of India-Sri Lanka relations, influenced by development cooperation, security concerns, and the broader geopolitical competition in the Indo-Pacific.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Challenges in Housing Scheme Implementation for Tribal Groups

CONTEXT: The central government's initiative to provide housing for tribal communities under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyaan (PM-JANMAN) faces significant hurdles due to inaccurate data on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).



Lorem ipsum

Data Discrepancies Hamper Progress

- The government's reliance on the PM Gati Shakti portal for estimating the total PVTG population has led to discrepancies.
- Three different estimates of the PVTG population have been reported, complicating the planning process.

Slow Progress in Housing Component

- Despite setting a target to sanction 2.5 lakh houses by February 15, only 1.59 lakh houses could be sanctioned due to data collection delays.
- State governments, pressed for time, began surveys with incomplete data to meet deadlines.

Concerns Raised by States

- States like Madhya Pradesh and Tripura have highlighted concerns about the exclusion of eligible beneficiaries due to discrepancies in data.
- The dynamic nature of PVTG populations, including migration in search of employment, adds to the complexity of the situation.

Government Response and Way Forward

- Efforts are underway to reconcile data discrepancies between the Tribal Affairs Ministry and state governments.
- The government aims to ensure coverage of every eligible household under the scheme despite challenges.
- With a total outlay of ₹24,104 crore over three years, the scheme emphasizes housing and road construction for tribal communities.

Despite challenges, the government remains committed to providing housing and infrastructure support to tribal communities under PM-JANMAN.



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GEOGRAPHY

Warmer Start To Summer Predicted By IMD

CONTEXT: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts a warmer start to the summer season in India this year, attributing it to the continuation of El Nino conditions.

Temperature Outlook

- Above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures are anticipated across most parts of India from March to May.
- Heatwave days are expected to be more frequent than usual in northeast peninsular India, including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, north interior Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Odisha.

Rainfall Expectations

- March is forecasted to witness above-normal rainfall, exceeding 117% of the long-period average of 29.9 mm.
- However, heatwave conditions are not expected over north and central India during March.

Long-Term Climate Trends

- El Nino conditions are projected to persist throughout the summer season, contributing to the warmer temperatures.
- Following the summer, neutral conditions are expected to develop, with La Nina conditions likely to emerge in the latter half of the monsoon season.

Upcoming Events and Considerations

- With Lok Sabha polls anticipated in April-May, the IMD's forecasts become particularly relevant for planning and preparedness.

India braces for a warmer summer start amidst ongoing climate phenomena, emphasizing the importance of adaptive measures and preparedness for changing weather patterns.

EL NINO AND LA NINA

Aspect	El Niño	La Niña
Oceanic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warmer than average sea surface temperatures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colder than average sea surface temperatures
Atmospheric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaker trade winds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger trade winds
Weather Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drier conditions in Southeast Asia and Australia • Wetter conditions in South America, including flooding in Peru • Warmer and drier conditions in the southern United States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased rainfall in Southeast Asia and Australia • Drier conditions in South America, potentially leading to droughts • Colder and wetter winters in the northern United States
Impact on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced fish stocks due to disrupted ocean currents • Increased hurricane activity in the Pacific Basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger fish stocks due to nutrient-rich waters • Reduced hurricane activity in the Pacific Basin
Global Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warmer global temperatures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colder global temperatures
Climatic Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular and typically occurs every 2-7 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular and typically follows El Niño events

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