

The Lukmaan Newslines

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Government Policies & Economic Development

PLI Scheme Spurs Job Growth in Select Sectors

The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has generated 5.84 lakh direct jobs till June 2024, with 75% from mobile phones, food processing, and pharma sectors. Textiles and advanced chemical cells lag behind. Private investments under PLI reached ₹1.23 lakh crore, with MSMEs as key participants. Delays due to COVID-19 have hindered progress in some areas.

JOBS CREATED (TILL JUNE 2024)

BEST PERFORMING SECTORS

Mobile Phones
1,22,613 (61.3%)
(3 years, 3 months)

Pharmaceuticals
77,119 (385.6%)
(2 years, 3 months)

Food processing
2.44 lakh (98%)
(3 years, 3 months)

YET TO MAKE A MARK SECTORS

Textiles
12,607 (5%)
(2 years, 3 months*)

Solar
9,521 (4.9%)
(2 years, 3 months)

Auto and auto components
32,081 (22.1%)
(2 years, 3 months)

* including a 2 year gestation period

% of target

Source: The Indian Express



GS Paper II - Ethics

Navigating AI Ethics in Academia

The rise of generative AI (GenAI) in academia raises ethical and evaluative challenges. A Punjab-Haryana HC case highlights misuse concerns. Experts stress transparent institutional guidelines on AI use, balancing assistance and malpractice. Proposals include integrating oral exams, revising publication incentives, and encouraging disclosure of AI usage in academic work to ensure ethical use. Source: The Indian Express

SC Demands Shelter Updates for Delhi's Homeless

The Supreme Court instructed the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board to ensure adequate shelter facilities for the homeless as winter approaches. The right to shelter is emphasized as fundamental.



Source: The Hindu Newspaper

Illegal Export of PDS Rice Prevented

A ship carrying 38,000 metric tons of rice, allegedly sourced from the Public Distribution System, was seized in Andhra Pradesh. Investigations aim to confirm violations.

Economy

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

Taj Mahal Bomb Threat Proves False

An email threat about the Taj Mahal prompted security sweeps. Authorities declared the threat a hoax, but investigations continue.



Source: The Hindu Newspaper

India-China Border Disengagement Progresses

International Relations

Next steps

With disengagement 'fully achieved' at the India-China border, the EAM details the developments to follow as per agreement between the two countries

■ Talks on de-escalation along Line of Actual Control (LAC)

■ Discussions on management of border and confidence-building measures

■ Meeting of Special Representatives Ajit Doval and Wang Yi

■ Meeting of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his Chinese counterpart

We have been very clear that the restoration of peace and tranquillity would be the basis for the relationship to move forward

S. JAISHANKAR
External Affairs Minister



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar informed Parliament that India-China relations are improving due to continuous diplomatic engagement. The recent troop disengagement at Demchok and Depsang marks progress. Future talks aim at troop de-escalation and border management.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



International Relations

South Korea Faces Martial Law Crisis

President Yoon Suk Yeol imposed martial law citing threats from anti-state forces and North Korea. Parliament opposed the move, reflecting political instability. The military has backed Yoon, escalating tensions. Source: The Hindu Newspaper



Economy

Fertiliser Industry Criticizes DAP Pricing, Warns of Nutrient Imbalance

The Fertiliser Association of India seeks a pricing hierarchy reflecting nutrient content, urging higher DAP pricing for balanced fertilisation. DAP sales fell 25% in 2024 but were offset by complex fertilisers' uptake. Experts warn of India's distorted NPK ratio due to urea overuse, highlighting risks to sustainable agriculture. Ideal ratios need policy recalibration. Source: The Indian Express

COP29 Stresses National Climate Action

Environment

Amid slow global progress, COP29 emphasizes localized environmental initiatives showing visible impact. Experts advocate for increased commitment to climate justice and resource management. Source: The Hindu Newspaper

Vizhinjam Port Marks Commercial Milestone

Economy

Kerala's Vizhinjam International Seaport commences informal operations, with official commissioning expected soon. The port is projected to boost India's maritime logistics significantly. Source: The Hindu Newspaper

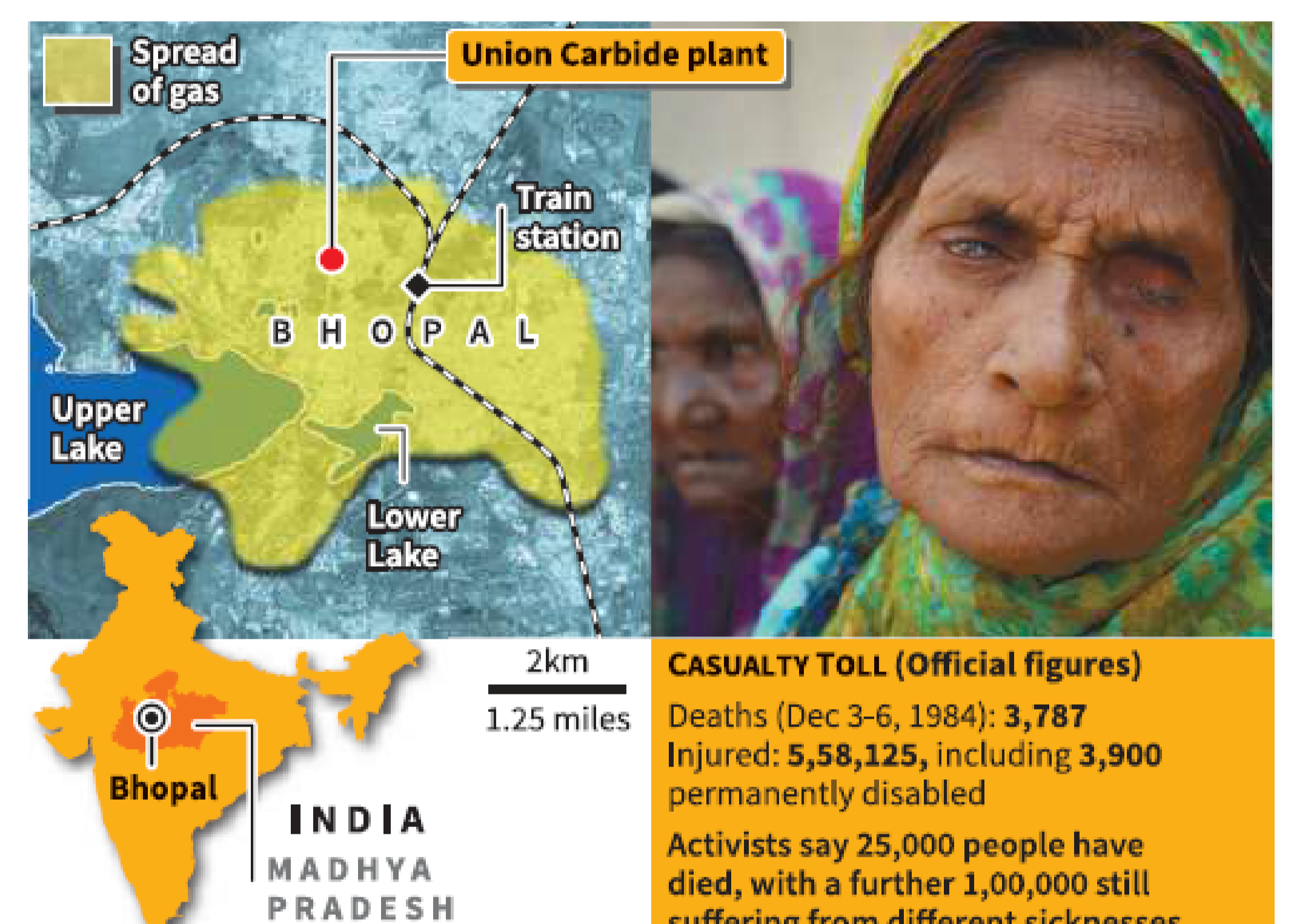


Toxins of the 1984 Bhopal Disaster

The Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984 primarily involved the release of **Methyl Isocyanate (MIC)**, a highly toxic gas that reacts with water to produce heat and harmful vapors, causing respiratory failure and eye damage. Possible traces of **hydrogen cyanide** were also noted. Decades later, 340 tonnes of toxic waste, including mercury, lead, chromium, and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), remain at the site, contaminating soil and groundwater, and leading to severe health issues like cancer and organ damage. Cleanup efforts remain slow, with ongoing judicial interventions.

Toxins linger 40 years on

Chemical analyses of soil, air, and water samples collected from the area around the ill-fated Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh have revealed the presence of toxic compounds at elevated concentrations. Several hundred tonnes of toxic waste still lie around the plant



CASUALTY TOLL (Official figures)
Deaths (Dec 3-6, 1984): 3,787
Injured: 5,58,125, including 3,900 permanently disabled
Activists say 25,000 people have died, with a further 1,00,000 still suffering from different sicknesses

RESPONSIBILITY
The Indian government argues that slack management and deferred maintenance caused the disaster. Then-plant owner, the U.S. firm Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), blamed sabotage
In 2010, eight former managers of the plant were convicted of negligence and sentenced to short prison terms

UCC chairman Warren Anderson, who left India soon after the disaster, was sought by the Indian government, which had called for his extradition from the U.S. He died in September 2014, aged 92

COMPENSATION
In 1989, UCC paid \$470m to the Indian government to settle litigation stemming from the disaster
But India is now backing a new court case to secure greater compensation - Dow Chemical, which bought UCC in 2001, denies liability
Payouts by the Indian government to Bhopal claimants over the years reportedly average \$550 apiece

CONTAMINATION
Environmentalists say the toxic chemicals remaining in the abandoned plant continue to leak, causing health problems
Dow says contamination is the responsibility of Indian authorities who took control of the site in 1998

Sources: Indian government, Madhya Pradesh government

Picture: AP © GRAPHIC NEWS

Key Details

- MIC and hydrogen cyanide identified as primary toxins.
- Persistent toxic waste includes heavy metals and POPs.
- Health effects include cancers, organ damage, and immune disorders.
- Cleanup efforts face resistance due to concerns of secondary contamination.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

Centre Proposes 95% Govt. Job Reservation for Locals in Ladakh

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) proposed a 95% reservation in government jobs for locals in Ladakh. Other key proposals included one-third reservation for women in hill councils and constitutional safeguards to preserve Ladakh's land and culture. The Centre also suggested recognizing Urdu and Bhoti as official languages and reviewing pending laws to address local concerns. These measures aim to address demands following Ladakh's loss of special status under Article 370 in 2019. Source: The Hindu Newspaper

China Sputters as Engine of Global Oil Demand Growth

China, once the key driver of global oil demand, is slowing down due to weaker economic growth, declining transport fuel demand, and the rise of electric vehicles (EVs). EV sales now surpass traditional vehicles. Oil demand is shifting to the petrochemical sector, with China's crude imports expected to peak by 2025. Source: The Hindu Newspaper

