

A hollow victory

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As of today, the Russia-Ukraine war has surpassed 865 days, with May alone witnessing an average of 1,000 Russian soldiers injured daily. Meanwhile, the ongoing conflict in Gaza has displaced 90% of its population, adding them to the 114 million people who have been rendered homeless due to wars. The devastation extends beyond human suffering, as nature—the silent casualty—bears the brunt of the conflict, with its elements enduring severe collateral damage.

PRITHVI

From a safe haven to a dangerous battlefield

Scarred by the footsteps of conflict, there is nothing left but a weeping land. Military training,

War's Impact On The Elements Of Earth

consuming 1-6% of the global surface, transforms ecologically vital areas into battlegrounds. Military activities disrupt ecosystems, leading to a loss of biodiversity and permanent changes in landscapes. According to a study conducted by UNEP, use of explosive devices, heavy machinery, and military chemicals during conflicts, result in severe long-term soil degradation and has so far affected more than 10 million hectares of land.

VAYU

From breathing with ease to each breath a wheeze

Military vehicles alone are responsible for 5.5% of the total greenhouse emissions globally. Research from the Stockholm Environmental Institute reveals that an estimated 270 million metric

tons of CO₂ is released annually due to military activities, while another study reveals the annual emission of 15 million metric tons of methane gas. In a war zone, air pollution is likely to result in more deaths than bombs. The impact of war on air quality extends beyond the immediate conflict period, in some cases affecting the local populations for generations.

JAL

From deep blue seas to a battered odyssey

Water faces the worst scars of any conflict. Underwater battles release oil and introduce hazardous depleted uranium. A 2011 World Bank report highlights the struggles conflict-ridden countries face in providing clean water and sanitation. The consequences are especially severe for vulnerable residents, with children in these areas twice as likely to be denied access to clean water. The radiation from the Chernobyl Nuclear Dis-

aster crippled almost 1/10th of Ukraine's land and, even today, Ukraine releases harmful chemical-laden water, heavy metals, and oil-related compounds into the Black Sea.

AGNI

From providing heat to the greenhouse mistreat

Wars necessitate a substantial mobilisation of energy resources, signifying a concentrated and devastating release of destructive power. One widespread consequence is the considerable disruption of energy supplies in regions or countries affected by combat. Militaries are known to be the world's biggest consumers of fuel, with the US military alone consuming over 85 million barrels of oil annually. Data like this underscores the need for sustainable practices in military operations.

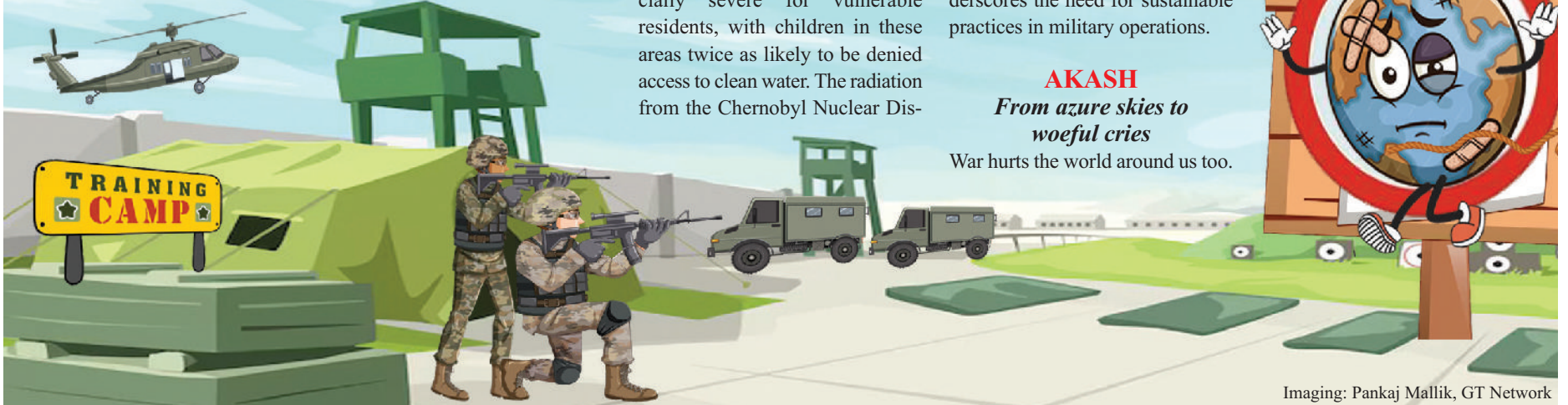
AKASH

From azure skies to woeiful cries

War hurts the world around us too.

A study from the Nature Conservation Foundation of India found that from 1989 to 2018, 78% of land animals and 85% of birds in conflict areas were affected. In the Israel-Palestine conflict, over 800,000 trees have been uprooted since 1967, altering the landscape. In the Vietnam War, a harmful spray called Agent Orange was used by the US to remove forest cover, traces of which can still be found in the soil and water.

Nature's dance with war has always been a losing battle, deeply affecting its five elements. With irreversible damage at the elemental level, the pivotal question remains: has fighting for humanity truly made a change or are we stuck in a cycle of conflicts with no winners?



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THE GT @ POLL

Will Kohli, Jadeja, and Rohit Sharma's retirement from T20I cricket bring a major setback for Indian team in the T20 format?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can't say

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A take on intuition

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Leading the charge

A tête-à-tête with Raspreet Sidhu, former Captain of the Indian Women's National Basketball team and a trailblazer in Indian sports.

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What's inside



The cat cadre

From sleek Siamese to arcane Abyssinian, embark on a journey through the captivating yet cute world of myriad varieties of felines.

...more on page 7



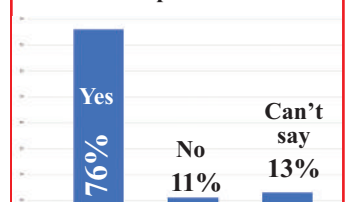
Dyslexia decoded

A dialogue on dyslexia shatters myths about the subject. Read excerpts from the discussion organised by YP team of AIS Gur 46 (2023-24).

...more on page 10

POLL RESULT for GT Edition July 1, 2024

Does the attendance of only 813 out of 1,563 students for the NEET retake indicate a loss of faith in the examination process?



Result as on July 6, 2024