



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Doomsday Clock - 2026

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In News: The **Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS)** has moved the **Doomsday Clock** to **85 seconds to midnight (January 2026)** — the **closest ever** to global catastrophe, reflecting heightened global risks.

What is the Doomsday Clock?

- A **symbolic representation** of how close humanity is to a **global catastrophe**.
- **Midnight** represents **annihilation or "doomsday."**
- The **minute/second hand** moves closer to or farther from midnight based on expert assessment of global threats.

Threats Considered

The clock reflects combined risks from:

- 1 **Nuclear weapons** – arms races, erosion of arms control treaties.
- 2 **Climate change** – extreme weather, failure of mitigation efforts.
- 3 **Disruptive technologies** – artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, biotechnology, misinformation.

Historical Background

- **Created:** 1947
- **Created by:** Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
- **Initial setting:** 7 minutes to midnight
- **Total resets:** 27 times since 1947
- **Closest ever:** 85 seconds to midnight (2026)

Why 85 Seconds in 2026?

- Intensifying **geopolitical conflicts** and nuclear brinkmanship
- Weakening of **global arms-control regimes**
- Inadequate response to **climate emergency**
- Rapid advances in **AI and emerging technologies** without global governance

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