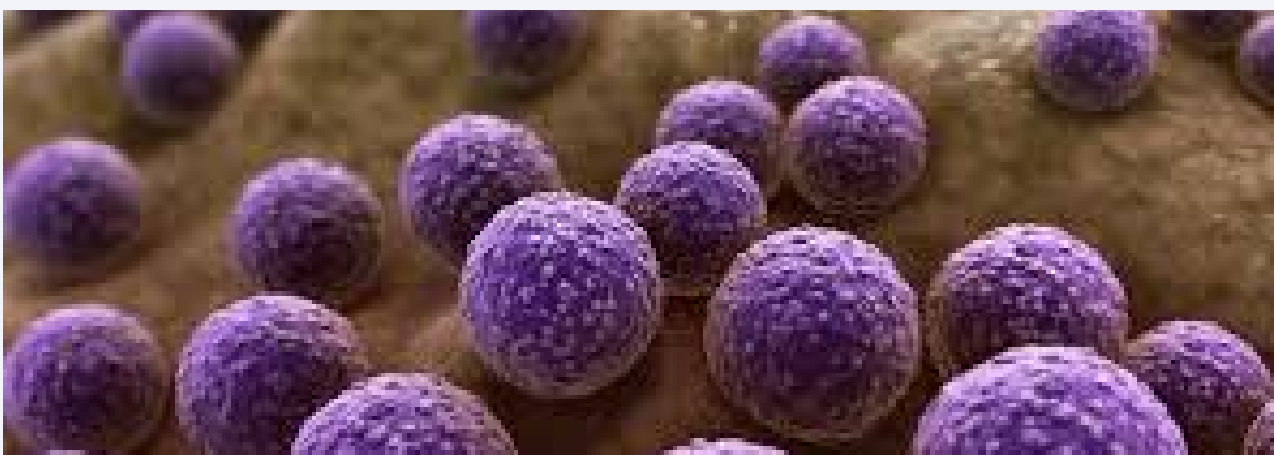
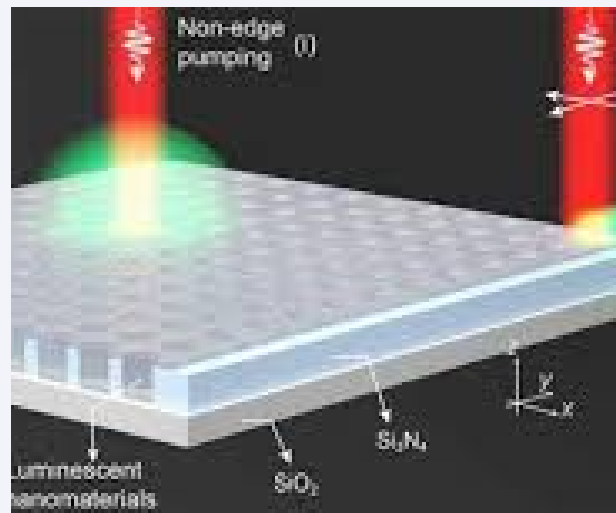


23/06/24 - 29/06/24



CURRENT AFFAIRS



WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2024



Why in News?

- The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently published the World Investment Report 2024.

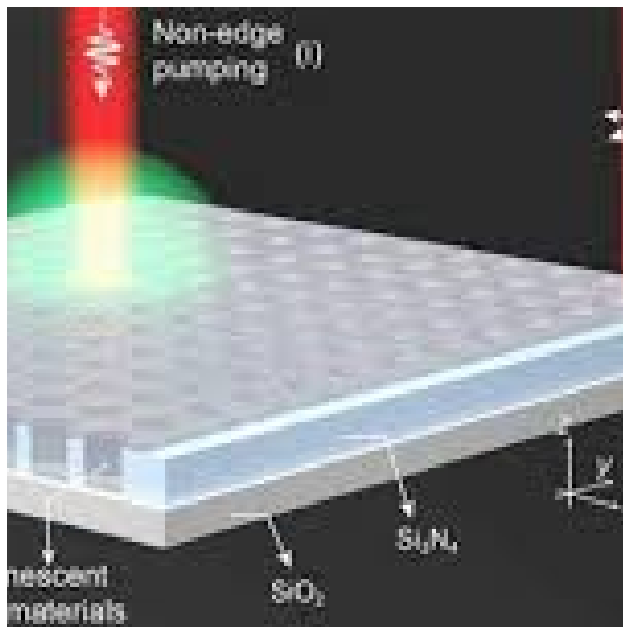
Key Findings:

- Global foreign direct investment (FDI) experienced a 2% decrease, amounting to \$1.3 trillion in 2023, attributed to an economic slowdown and escalating geopolitical tensions.

Europe's FDI flows saw a significant increase, shifting from a negative \$106 billion in 2022 to a positive \$16

- billion, driven by volatility in conduit economies. In contrast, FDI decreased by 3% in Africa, 8% in Asia, and 1% in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Investment in critical minerals nearly doubled, while sectors such as infrastructure and the digital economy saw reduced investments.
- International investment in sectors crucial for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing countries declined in 2023.
- The sustainable finance market continues to expand, but signs of a slowdown are evident, with greenwashing emerging as the most significant challenge.

INNOVATIVE LIGHT UP-CONVERSION DEVICE



visible to us.

- Infrared light, with an even lower frequency, is invisible to the human eye.
- The new device developed by IISc can up-convert short infrared light frequencies, making them visible to the human eye, thus transforming invisible light into visible light.

Why In News?

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has achieved a significant breakthrough by developing a device that converts infrared light into visible light.

Potential Impact:

- This innovation could revolutionize various fields, especially defence and optical communications.
- The Science Behind the Innovation:
- The human eye can only perceive light within the visible spectrum, with red light at the lowest frequency

Technical Details:

- The IISc team utilized a 2D material to create a "non-linear optical mirror stack" for up-conversion and wide-field imaging.
- The design comprises layers of gallium selenide on top, silicon dioxide in the middle, and a gold reflective surface at the bottom.

Traditional infrared imaging methods rely on bulky, inefficient sensors with exotic semiconductors or micro-bolometer arrays,

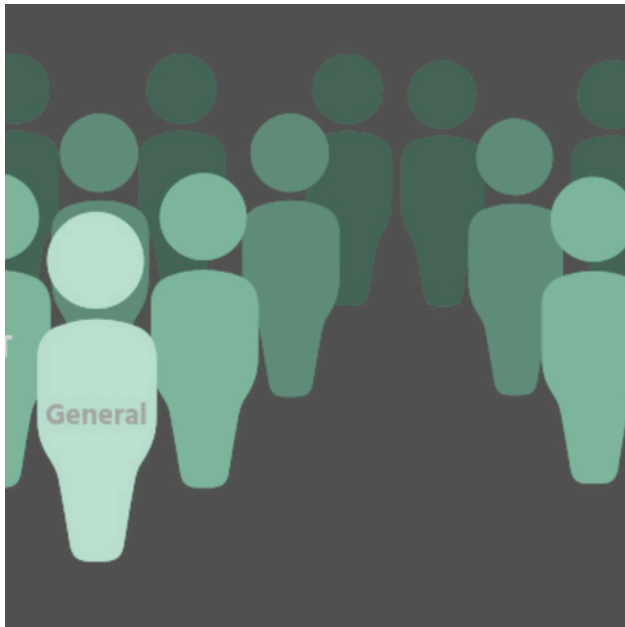
which detect heat or absorption signatures and often face export restrictions.

- *The IISc device offers a more efficient and domestically produced alternative.*

Technical Process:

- *An input infrared signal and a pump beam are directed onto the mirror stack.*
- *The nonlinear optical properties of the stack material cause frequency mixing, resulting in an output beam with an increased (up-converted) frequency.*

THE 50% RESERVATION CEILING



Why in News?

- The Patna High Court recently overturned Bihar government notifications that had increased reservations in government jobs and educational institutions from 50% to 65%.

Debate on the 50% Limit:

- **Critics' Viewpoint:** Critics argue that the 50% reservation cap is arbitrary and restricts the state's ability to address social inequalities effectively.
- **Proponents' Viewpoint:** Supporters believe that exceeding the 50% limit

could undermine the principle of equality, as reservations are meant to be exceptions to the general rule of merit-based selection.

- **Indra Sawhney Case (1992)**
- **Origin of the 50% Limit:** The concept of a 50% cap on reservations originated from the landmark Supreme Court case of *Indra Sawhney v. Union of India* in 1992.
- **Basis for Reservations:** The court held that social and educational backwardness would be the criteria for qualifying for reservations.
- **Reiteration of the Limit:** The court reiterated a previously established 50% limit on the combined total of all reservations for different communities. This limit could only be breached under "exceptional circumstances."

- *Current Challenge: The 50% limit itself is currently under challenge before the Supreme Court.*

EWS Quota Exception

- *Supreme Court's Decision (2022): The 10% quota for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2022.*
- *Reasoning: The court reasoned that the EWS quota operated outside the “backwardness” framework and therefore did not fall under the 50% limit.*
- *Implications: This decision has raised questions about whether the court might revisit the Indra Sawhney ruling entirely.*

Tamil Nadu's Reservation Law

- *76th Constitutional Amendment (1994): The Tamil Nadu reservation law, which exceeds the 50% limit, was placed in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution through the 76th Constitutional Amendment.*
- *Judicial Review Shield: This placement effectively shields the law from judicial review.*

POTTERY FRAGMENTS DISCOVERED DURING DIGGING



Why in News?

- Pottery fragments featuring geometric symbols discovered during digs in Perumbalai, Tamil Nadu.

Key Findings:

- During the archaeological excavations undertaken by the Tamil Nadu government's Department of Archaeology at Perumbalai in Dharmapuri district discovered the "resembling geometric symbols" which were among the potsherds.
- The lowermost level of the site dates back to the 6th Century BCE as per the AMS

- They were carried by A Yuanzheng-1S (Expedition-1S) upper-stage aircraft, attached to a Long March-2C carrier rocket.
- The first and second stages of the rocket operated normally, while the upper stage encountered an abnormality during flight, causing the satellites to fail to enter the preset orbit accurately.
- The relevant disposal work is currently underway, state-run Xinhua news agency reported, citing the launch centre.
- The plan was for the two satellites to head towards the moon and enter a distant retrograde orbit (DRO).
- From there, they would fly in formation and work with DRO-L – a third satellite that was successfully placed into low-Earth orbit by a Jielong 3 rocket last

CHINESE SATELLITES HEADING TO MOON FAIL TO REACH ORBIT AFTER ROCKET FALTERS



- A pair of Chinese satellites failed to reach a planned orbit on their way to the moon after experiencing abnormalities, a rare setback for Beijing's high-profile space programme.

Key Points

- The satellites, known as DRO-A and DRO-B, were launched recently from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province.

dates.

- Most of the excavated early historic sites such as Vallam, Kodumanal, Keeladi, Uraiyur, Karur and many other sites always found Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi)-inscribed potsherds and graffiti-bearing potsherds together.

Pottery assemblage:

- The potteries unearthed from the site at various stratum demonstrate the proper chronological sequences of pottery assemblage. The pottery occurring from the lowermost level is very thin and the fine BRW and black ware are the more dominating types.
- The clay used for making the potteries was fine and well-levigated clay. Undoubtedly, from the shapes and size of the pottery, it belongs to the

Iron Age.

- *Swastik-like symbols were also collected. Interestingly, a fully shaped black-and-red ware bowl containing the swastik sign is exposed. These graffiti marks are confined to the Iron Age and early historic period.*
- *Burnished ware, black and red ware, russet-coated black and red ware, russet-coated red ware, red ware and black ware were unearthed. Among them, russet-coated ware served as table ware, and may be considered the elite ware of the site.*

NUCLEAR STUDY PROVIDES MAJOR UPDATE ON PLUTONIUM ISOTOPE FISSION



Pu-240. They also reported finding signs of 'a smaller contribution from third-chance fission' but added that this 'was difficult to observe in the data directly'

- *A part of the fission energy carried away by neutrons is called the prompt fission neutron spectrum. 'Prompt' stands for neutrons Pu-240 might emit right after it has captured a neutron with the energy to destabilize it*
- *Pu-240 undergoes spontaneous fission, and emits alpha particles. The isotope is considered a contaminant of weapons-grade plutonium, where its composition by weight is restricted to under 7%*

Researchers also reported a higher-than-expected rate of second-chance fission of

THE DUTIES AND ROLES OF A SPEAKER IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LOK SABHA (HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE) IN INDIA



Speaker's Duties and Roles:

- **Presiding Officer:** The Speaker presides over the meetings of the Lok Sabha, ensuring orderly conduct of business and maintaining discipline.
- **Judicial Functions:** Certifying Bills as Money Bills (under Article 110 of the Constitution) and deciding on disqualification petitions under the Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law).

Administrative Functions: Referring Bills to committees for detailed scrutiny, maintaining order during debates, and managing

- *parliamentary procedures effectively.*
- *Representation: Acting as the spokesperson for the Lok Sabha in its relations with the President and the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).*

Speaker pro tem:

- The Speaker pro tem is appointed by the President of India to perform the duties of the Speaker temporarily when a new Lok Sabha is constituted until a full-time Speaker is elected. This ensures continuity in the functioning of the House.
- The Speaker pro tem administers the oath of office to newly elected Members of Parliament and presides over the election of the full-time Speaker.
- Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker and Deputy

- *Speaker of the Lok Sabha are elected by its members. The election of the Speaker is conducted on a date fixed by the President.*
- *Traditionally, the Deputy Speaker's post has been offered to a member of the Opposition to ensure impartiality and balance in the functioning of the House.*

Preserving Impartiality:

- *Political Neutrality: Although the Speaker is usually a member of a political party, upon election to the office, they are expected to resign from their political party and function impartially.*
- *Independence: The Speaker's decisions, especially in certifying Bills and deciding on disqualifications, should reflect a commitment to uphold the Constitution and parliamentary conventions rather than partisan interests.*
- *Constitutional Basis and Conventions:*
- *The roles and responsibilities of the Speaker are primarily outlined in Articles 93 to 95 of the Indian Constitution, supplemented by parliamentary rules and conventions.*
- *Conventions such as the Deputy Speaker being from the Opposition ensure a balanced representation and uphold the principles of parliamentary democracy.*

THE NITI AAYOG'S PROJECT IN GREAT NICOBAR



The Congress party demanded an “immediate suspension” of all clearances granted to NITI Aayog’s mega project on Great Nicobar island in light of “violations of due process, legal and constitutional provisions protecting tribal communities, and the project’s disproportionate ecological and human cost.

In March, 2021, NITI Aayog unveiled a ₹72,000 crore plan called ‘Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island at Andaman and Nicobar Islands’. The project requires the diversion of about 130 sq. km of forest land and the felling of

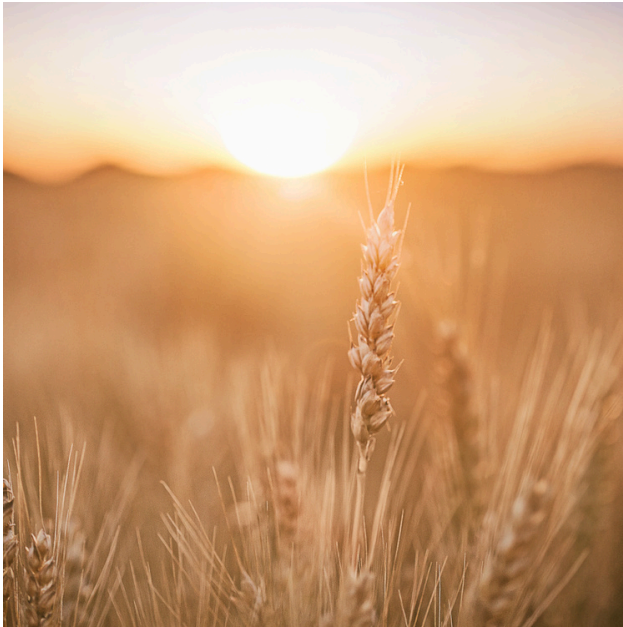
around 10 lakh trees. In January, 2021 the Indian government denotified two wildlife sanctuaries – the Galathea Bay wildlife sanctuary and the Megapode Wildlife Sanctuary – to make way for the project.

The key points related to frequent earthquakes in the context of the Great Nicobar Island:

- **Seismic Activity and Risk:** The Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, including Great Nicobar Island, lies in a seismically active region known as the “ring of fire.” This area is categorized as Zone V, indicating it has the highest seismic hazard.
- **Frequency of Earthquakes:** Over the past decade, the region has experienced nearly 500 earthquakes of varying magnitudes. This frequent seismic activity underscores the geological instability of the area.

- *Risk Assessment Concerns: Researchers and local stakeholders, including the Campbell Bay panchayat and disaster management experts, have expressed concerns about the NITI Aayog's project failing to adequately assess earthquake risks. This omission is critical given the region's susceptibility to seismic events.*
- *Potential Impacts: The proposed infrastructure projects such as the transshipment terminal and the international airport are significant developments that could be adversely affected by earthquakes. Without proper risk assessment and mitigation strategies, these projects may face heightened vulnerability to seismic hazards.*
- *While the NITI Aayog's mega project aims to develop Great Nicobar Island, concerns regarding seismic risks highlight the importance of thorough evaluation and planning to safeguard both infrastructure and the local population from potential earthquake impacts.*

WHEAT STOCK LIMITS TO CURB HOARDING:



- *The Centre, amid concerns of wheat shortage, invoked the Essential Commodities Act.*
 - *A Stock Limit Order, effective June 24, mandates maximum quantities of wheat that can be held.*
 - *The order remains in effect until March 31, 2025.*
 - *Traders and wholesalers are restricted to holding a maximum of 3,000 tonnes of wheat.*
 - *Retailers, including big chains, are limited to 10 tonnes, with big chain depots allowed up to 3,000 tonnes.*
- *Processors can hold up to 70% of their monthly installed capacity multiplied by the remaining months of FY2.*
 - *The Food Ministry emphasized that the measure aims to prevent hoarding, clarifying it does not indicate a wheat shortage.*

SURVEY RESULTS INDICATE THAT A MAJORITY OF INDIANS ARE IN FAVOR OF MORE ROBUST CLIMATE ACTION.



- Akhupadar villagers in Nayagarh district, Odisha, guard forests against deforestation.
- 77% of Indians surveyed desire stronger climate commitments for the country.
- Results from the 2024 People's Climate Vote survey, led by UNDP, Oxford University, and GeoPoll, show a global trend towards stricter climate actions.
- 33% of Indian respondents think about climate change daily, with over half expressing increased concern compared to the previous year.
- Only 26% believe India is effectively addressing climate change.
- Recent intense heatwaves in north and central India have underscored climate concerns.
- Uttar Pradesh plans to fell trees for the annual Kanwar yatra, affecting up to 33,776 trees.
- Proposed Upper Ganga Canal Road aims to manage traffic during the yatra, detailing district-wise impacts on plants and trees.
- The ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar Project involves cutting 9.64 lakh trees for infrastructure, risking biodiverse evergreen forests.
- Compensatory afforestation in Haryana is proposed due to limited planting scope in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a move criticized by environmentalists.

SABARI RAIL PROJECT



- Amidst ongoing uncertainties surrounding the long-standing Angamaly-Erumeli Sabari Railway project, the Kerala government has formally urged the Union Ministry of Railways to prioritize it as a crucial connectivity route to the popular Sabarimala hill shrine, instead of the newly proposed Chengannur-Pampa corridor.
 - V. Abdurahiman, the State's Railways Minister, emphasized that the approval of the new line should not come at the expense of the Angamaly-Erumeli Sabari project, which has already incurred expenditures totaling ₹250 crore. The state has already earmarked lands for acquisition along its alignment and allocated ₹100 crore in the current year's budget for its advancement.
 - Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Kerala highlighted several advantages of the Angamaly-Erumeli Sabari line over the Chengannur-Pamba route. Notably, the former offers a more direct route for pilgrims traveling from northern Kerala and neighboring states, who constitute over 80% of Sabarimala visitors arriving by train.
- Moreover, Kerala argued that unlike the seasonal nature of pilgrimages to Sabarimala (lasting 114 days annually), the Chengannur-Pampa line serves primarily as a

- *feeder route with limited connectivity to major towns. In contrast, the Angamaly-Erumeli Sabari line is poised to become central Kerala's third railway corridor, connecting strategically with planned railway projects from Erumeli to Punalur and Punalur to Thiruvananthapuram.*
- *Furthermore, Kerala highlighted the potential connectivity benefits to the upcoming Vizhinjam International Seaport, facilitating international freight movement.*

TAMIL NADU HAS DECIDED TO PERMIT CONTROLLED CULLING OF WILD BOARS IN AGRICULTURAL FIELDS NEAR FORESTED AREAS.



- The Tamil Nadu government has opted to permit the controlled reduction of wild boar populations that pose a threat to farmers in agricultural lands near forested areas.
- According to Forest Minister M. Mathiventhan, this decision follows recommendations from the Farmers' Conflict Resolution Committee. The committee, comprising officials from Forest, Revenue, Agriculture, and Horticulture departments, alongside scientific experts and wildlife advocates, was formed to assess the impact of elephant and wild boar raids on crops.
- During discussions on his department's budgetary demands, Minister Mathiventhan outlined the zoning of areas adjacent to reserve forests into three categories: Zone A (within one kilometer of forest borders), Zone B (one to five kilometers), and Zone C (beyond five kilometers). He emphasized that culling of wild boars would not be permitted within five kilometers of the reserve forest.
- While farmers have long sought government approval for wild boar culling, concerns have been raised by experts regarding the potential for indiscriminate killing.
- Mr. Mathiventhan stressed that any culling activities must adhere strictly to scientific principles, taking into consideration the severity and frequency of conflicts on farmlands situated beyond Zone C.

WATER STRESS CAN HURT CREDIT PROFILE



- India's sovereign credit strength could face negative repercussions due to the country's escalating water scarcity and the increasing frequency of natural disasters driven by climate change. These challenges come amidst heightened consumption and rapid economic expansion.
- India remains vulnerable to mounting water stress. The nation heavily relies on monsoon rains for its water supply, and any shortfall could disrupt operations in factories and agriculture.
- Moody's highlighted that such disruptions could elevate food prices, reduce income for affected businesses and communities, and potentially lead to social unrest.
- India's environmental risks that these factors could heighten volatility in the country's economic growth and diminish its resilience against shocks, particularly given that over 40% of India's workforce is engaged in agriculture. The rating agency specifically identified coal-fired power generation and steel production as industrial sectors most susceptible to water stress.
- India faces significant vulnerabilities in water management compared to other G-20 economies and has the poorest access to essential services such as water. The rapid pace of economic growth, industrialization, and urbanization in India is further

exacerbating water scarcity in the world's most populous nation.

- *According to Moody's, average annual water availability per capita is projected to decline from 1,486 cubic meters in 2021 to 1,367 cubic meters by 2031. This reduction places India under severe water stress, as defined by the Water Resources Ministry, with the threshold for water scarcity set at 1,000 cubic meters per capita.*

MULTI-UTILITY LEGGED EQUIPMENT (MULE)



Why in News?

- *Robotic MULEs (Multi-Utility Legged Equipment) are being inducted into the Indian Army.*

Features

- *Surveillance Capabilities: Equipped with thermal cameras and various sensors, enabling effective surveillance operations.*
- *Communication Range: Operates up to 10 kilometres from its base using Wi-Fi or Long-Term Evolution (LTE).*
- *Combat Integration: Can be armed with small weapons, allowing engagement with*

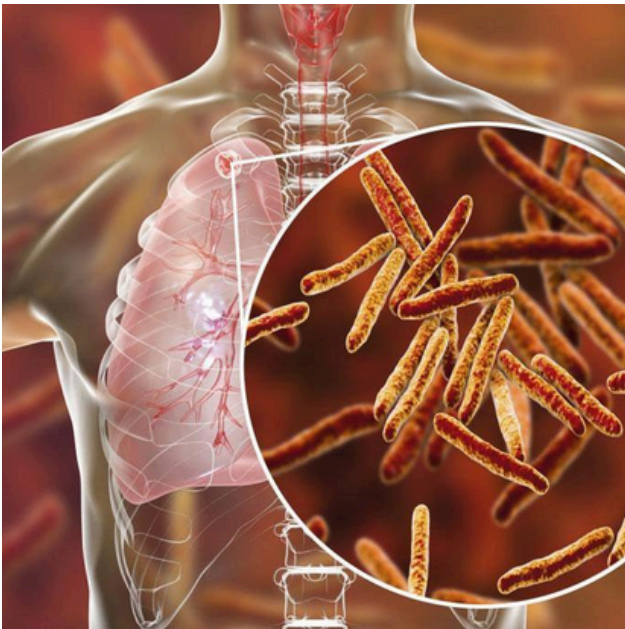
the enemy and reducing human risk.

- *Reconnaissance Support: Remotely controlled, providing real-time footage to military posts for enemy identification.*
- *Terrain Versatility: Capable of operating in diverse terrains such as snow and mountains, with the ability to climb slopes up to 45 degrees and steps up to 18 cm high.*

Similar Developments

- *China: Inducted gun-equipped robotic dogs into its military, demonstrated during a joint military exercise with Cambodia.*
- *United States: Integrated robotic dogs into the military and state police departments.*

MULTI-OMICS IN TRANSFORMING DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF TB AND CANCERS IN INDIA



Why in News?

India's use of genomics has significantly transformed diagnoses, management, and treatment of diseases like tuberculosis (TB) and cancers, driven by advanced technologies and data analytics.

Key Initiatives

- **Genome India Project:** Launched in January 2024, this project involves sequencing 10,000 genomes from 99 ethnic groups to create a reference genome for the Indian population. This helps in identifying

novel genes and understanding inherited disorders and diseases.

- **Consortium for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB):** Focuses on sequencing TB bacteria to identify mutations, correlate treatment outcomes, and develop a sequence-based method to predict drug resistance.
- **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR):** Sequencing 3,000 genomes to understand genetic diseases and create population-specific databases.

Research and Development

- **AI and Machine Learning:** Used to analyze extensive datasets from proteomics, transcriptomics, and epigenomics to develop multi-omics approaches.
- **National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG):** Conducting research to detect mutations and correlate them with treatment outcomes.

- *Scientists are also creating a genetic map for the Indian population.*
- *Genomic Surveillance Consortium (INSaGOG): Sequencing around 32,000 samples to identify genetic patterns in COVID-19 and other diseases.*

Disease-Specific Efforts

- *Tuberculosis: Genomic analysis to understand drug resistance and epidemiology, leading to better treatment and reduced adverse events.*
- *Cancers: The Indian Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC) and other initiatives are using genomics to characterize cancer genomes, identify variants linked to risk and treatment response, and facilitate the discovery of novel biomarkers.*

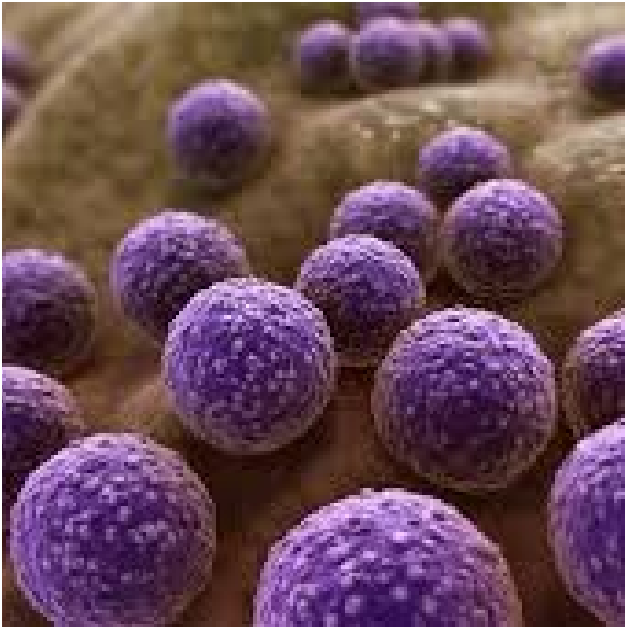
Rare Genetic Disorders

- *Program for Rare Genetic Disorders (PaGeD): Aims to identify genetic causes of rare diseases and develop therapies for children. Newborn screening and family management of genetic disorders are key focuses.*

AI and Multi-Omics

- *Algorithm Development: AI and machine learning algorithms are being developed to enhance genomic analysis, predict diseases, and aid in personalized treatment plans.*
- *Clinical Trials: Genomic profiling is being used to select appropriate drug combinations for patients based on their genetic makeup.*

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE



Metagenomics: Helps analyze antimicrobial resistance by sequencing the genetic material of microbes. This assists in understanding resistance patterns and developing targeted therapies.

Future Directions

- *Population-Specific Genomic Databases: Continued efforts to create comprehensive genetic maps to better understand the genetic basis of diseases in the Indian population.*
- *Integration of Multi-Omics: Combining various omics data to provide a holistic*

- *view of health and disease, leading to personalized and precise medical interventions.*

Prolonged Exposure to Coal Mining: Health Impacts and Economic Implications

Survey Details

- *Conducted by: National Foundation for India.*
- *Sample Size: 1,200 households.*

Health Impacts on Coal Miners

- *Respiratory and Skin Diseases: Prolonged exposure to coal pollutants leads to widespread respiratory issues (chronic bronchitis, asthma) and skin diseases (eczema, dermatitis, fungal infections).*
- *Affected Districts: The survey covers six districts: Koriya and Raigarh (Chhattisgarh), Dhanbad and Ramgarh (Jharkhand), and Angul and Jajpur (Odisha).*

Vulnerable Populations

- *High-Risk Areas:*
 - *Dhanbad and Ramgarh have higher incidences of*

lung and skin diseases due to more people living close to mining zones.

- Populations living closer to mines are more susceptible to health issues.

Economic Implications

- *Shift from Coal:* The global transition away from coal is expected to cause significant job losses and economic downturns in coal-dependent regions.

Renewable Energy:

- India is committed to sourcing nearly 500 GW of electricity from renewable sources by 2030.
- Despite this, coal remains a major source of power, with nearly half of India's installed capacity (205 GW) being coal-powered.
- Renewable energy accounted for 71.5% of the record 13.6 GW power generation capacity added in India in the January-March quarter.

Socio-Economic Disparities

- *Income Disparities:* Social and economic disparities vary across districts, with inconsistent income levels and irregular wage patterns.
- *Affected Communities:* Districts like Dhanbad and Koriya, reliant on coal production, report lower incomes and more economic vulnerability.

Future Outlook

- *Just Transition:* The study emphasizes the need for a "just transition" to ensure that those dependent on coal mining are effectively and sensitively transitioned to new jobs in the renewable energy sector.

PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS NEET, REFERENCES EMERGENCY IN PARLIAMENTARY ADDRESS



President Droupadi Murmu urged MPs to transcend “partisan politics” concerning the controversy over “paper leaks” in medical college admissions and government recruitment exams.

INDIA plans adjournment motion on NEET issue

Opposition parties from the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc plan to move adjournment motions in both Houses of Parliament over alleged irregularities in the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test (NEET) and paper leaks in other public exams.

- An adjournment motion aims to halt all other business in the House to focus on the issue it raises. Both Houses of Parliament are set to debate the Motion of Thanks to the President’s address. While the government is unlikely to accept the adjournment motion, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is prepared to respond to questions about NEET and other public exams and discuss measures to strengthen the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- President Droupadi Murmu affirmed the government’s commitment to investigating recent paper leaks and ensuring that those responsible are punished.

SUDAN'S POPULATION IS FACING SEVERE LEVELS OF FOOD INSECURITY



Sudan's population is facing severe levels of acute food insecurity, significantly worsened by the ongoing conflict. According to a United Nations report, approximately 25.6 million people are affected by this crisis

Here are the key points highlighting the severity of the situation:

1. **Widespread Food Insecurity:** Over 50% of Sudan's population, around 25.6 million people, are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. This is the worst level recorded by the Integrated Food Security

Phase Classification (IPC)

- **Conflict and Displacement:** Sudan has been embroiled in conflict since April 2023, involving forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. This conflict has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and has displaced millions of people.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** The ongoing war has triggered one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. The conflict has led to the collapse of health services, water contamination, and poor sanitation and hygiene conditions, further exacerbating the food insecurity situation
- **Economic Instability:** The conflict has pushed Sudan's economy into a severe crisis, causing widespread cash shortages and inflation. The prices of staple grains are

- *expected to rise by up to 200% compared to last year, making it increasingly difficult for the population to afford necessities.*
- *Agricultural Disruption: Hostilities have significantly disrupted agricultural activities, particularly the production of key crops such as millet, sorghum, and wheat. This disruption, coupled with high production costs, has led to exceptionally high market prices and a bleak outlook for future food production .*

REASI AND THE LONG-STANDING ISSUE OF CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM:



cross-border terrorism in Reasi and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir has been a persistent problem for decades. Since the late 1980s, there have been numerous instances of terrorist activities, including attacks on security forces, civilians, and infrastructure. This long-standing conflict has resulted in significant loss of life and disruption of daily life in the region

1. *Strategic Location and Vulnerability: Reasi, a district in Jammu and Kashmir, is strategically significant due to its proximity to the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan. This makes it a vulnerable target for cross-border infiltration by terrorists. The rugged terrain and dense forests provide cover for militants attempting to cross the border and infiltrate into Indian territory, exacerbating security challenges*
2. *Historical Context of Terrorism: The issue of*

- *Security Measures and Counterterrorism Efforts: To combat the threat of cross-border terrorism, Indian security forces have implemented various measures, including increased surveillance, intelligence operations, and military presence along the LoC. Efforts such as the construction of border fences, deployment of advanced monitoring technologies, and coordination between local and national security agencies have been crucial in addressing the infiltration attempts and ensuring the safety of the residents in Reasi.*

U.S. SUPREME COURT ORDER REDUCES FEDERAL AGENCY POWER



The U.S. Supreme Court, with its conservative majority, struck down a 40-year-old legal precedent on Friday, significantly reducing the regulatory power of federal agencies over critical issues such as air quality and drug safety. In a 6-3 decision, the Court overturned the landmark 1984 ruling in *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, which allowed judges to defer to government experts when interpreting ambiguous laws.

1. Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, stated that the *Chevron* ruling was "fundamentally misguided" and

conflicted with the statutory requirement for courts to independently judge whether federal agencies have exceeded their authority. The decision split the Court along conservative-liberal lines, with the three justices appointed by Democrats dissenting.

The ruling drew swift backlash from lawmakers and non-profits. Environmental group Earthjustice criticized the decision, stating it "paves the way for industries to challenge regulations they oppose before judges who will now be more inclined to second-guess federal agencies.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE REFORM



During a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized the need for the Global South to actively participate in reforming and developing the global governance system to make it more balanced and effective.

“China’s commitment to peaceful development remains steadfast. We will not follow the path of colonial plundering or seek hegemony. Instead, we will pursue the path of peaceful development.

1. His comments were made at an event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the “Five

Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.” Xi highlighted that during the Cold War, newly independent countries aimed to protect their sovereignty and develop their national economies. The five principles were included in the China-India and China-Myanmar joint statements, advocating for their adoption as basic norms for state-to-state relations.

The Five Principles are mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, born in Asia, quickly gained global recognition. The Non-Aligned Movement, emerging in the 1960s, adopted these principles as its guiding norms. Over the past 70 years, they have proven resilient and relevant, becoming universal norms for international relations and fundamental principles of international law.

He emphasized the significant role

of the Global South in promoting human progress and called for greater openness and inclusivity. Xi urged the Global South to lead in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

COAL AND ELECTRICITY BOOST CORE OUTPUT



Output growth in India's eight core infrastructure sectors slowed to 6.3% in May, down from 6.7% in April, as double-digit increases in coal and electricity production offset declines in three sectors, including cement and fertilizers, according to data from the Index of Core Industries (ICI).

Sequentially, the ICI rose 3.7% from April.

Electricity generation surged 12.8% year-on-year, the fastest pace in seven months, while coal production increased by 10.2%, likely driven by higher demand due to the May heatwave affecting much of the country.

Natural gas output increased by 7.5%, and steel production grew by 7.6%.

However, refinery products saw a modest 0.5% rise in May, the slowest increase in four months.

Cement production contracted for the second consecutive month, dropping 0.8% after a 0.5% decline in April, hitting the lowest levels since November.