

### GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISES (GRFC) 2024

According to the recently released Global Report on Food Crisis (GRFC), nearly 282 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 59 countries in 2023.



- It is released annually by the Food Security Information Network(FSIN) and launched by the Global Network Against Food Crises, a multistakeholder initiative that includes United Nations agencies, the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development and non-governmental agencies working to tackle food crises.
- **Highlights of GRFC 2024:**
  - It analyzed a population of 1.3 billion in 2023 across **59 countries**. Nearly 282 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity.
  - **2023 was the fifth consecutive year of rise** in the number of people suffering **acute food insecurity**, defined as when populations face food deprivation that threatens lives or livelihoods, regardless of the causes or length of time.
  - It identifies **conflicts, extreme weather events and economic shocks** as the **three main drivers** behind the exacerbation of food crises in the world.
  - With food crisis escalating alarmingly in conflict hotspots in 2023, notably Palestine (Gaza Strip) and Sudan, **conflict / insecurity** became the **primary driver in 20 countries**, directly affecting **135 million people**.
    - The **Gaza Strip** became the area with the most severe food crisis in the last eight years of GRFC reporting.
    - **Sudan** is facing one of the worst food crises in the world, with almost a third of the population in need of emergency food aid.
  - Meanwhile, **weather extremes** were the main driver for 18 countries, with over 72 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity because of such extreme weather events.

- The **10 countries** with the world's largest food crisis in 2023 were the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar.
  - On a positive note, the **situation improved in 17 countries** in 2023, including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine.
- 

## KALESAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Supreme Court recently stayed the construction of four proposed dams inside Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary.



**Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated in the **Shivalik foothills** of the Himalayas in Haryana. The **Yamuna River** runs to its east. It derives its name from the **Kalesar Forest**, which is a part of the reserve.

- **Topography:**
  - It varies from plains to hills, interspersed with narrow valleys locally called '**khols**' between the hills.
  - These valleys house seasonal rivulets locally called '**soats**' which remain dry for most of the year.
- The sanctuary houses the **Kalesar Fort**, which is believed to have been built during the reign of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. It is also famous for its **Dak bungalows**, the administrative architectural bungalows built in colonial times.

**Flora:** Mainly, the forest has trees like **sal, khair, shisam, tun, sain** and amla.

**Fauna:**

- It is home to many species of animals, including **leopards, sambar deer, barking deer**, hyenas, jackals, Indian porcupines, Indian pangolins and langurs.
- It is also home to several species of birds, such as the **red junglefowl, grey partridge**, Indian peafowl and white-throated kingfisher.

## COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (CDRI)

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector and academic and knowledge institutions.



- It addresses the challenges of building resilience into infrastructure systems and development associated with it.
- It was launched during the United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019, at New York.
- **Objective:**
  - It aims to promote the **resilience of infrastructure systems** to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.
  - It seeks to rapidly expand the development and retrofit of resilient infrastructure to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals imperatives of expanding universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity and decent work.
  - It functions as **inclusive multi-stakeholder platform** led and managed by national governments, where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster resilience of infrastructure.
  - It brings together a multitude of stakeholders to create a mechanism to assist countries to upgrade their capacities, systems, standards, regulations and practices with regard to infrastructure development in accordance with their risk context and economic needs.

**Members:** Since its launch, **39 Countries, 7 International Organizations** and 2 private sector organizations have joined as members of CDRI.

- **International Organisations are:** Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank Group, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), European Union, European Investment Bank, The Private Sector alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE).
- **Secretariat:** New Delhi, India

## SPICES BOARD INDIA



With certain spices of Indian brands facing ban in Singapore and Hong Kong due to quality concerns, the Spices Board said it will start mandatory testing of such consignments.

- It is the **statutory organization** constituted under the **Spices Board Act 1986**. It was formed with the merger of the erstwhile Cardamom Board and Spices Export Promotion Council.
- It functions as an international link between the Indian exporters and the importers abroad and it has been involved in various activities which touch upon every segment of the spices sector.
- **Main functions:**
  - It is responsible for the overall **development of cardamom** (small and large) in terms of improving production, productivity and quality.
  - It is also implementing post-harvest improvement programmes for improving quality of the **52 scheduled spices** for export. The various development programmes and post-harvest quality improvement programmes of the Board are included under the head 'Export Oriented Production'.
  - Promotion of organic production, processing and certification of spices
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

## KHANIJ BIDESH INDIA LIMITED (KABIL)



**KABIL**  
खनिज बिदेश इंडिया लिमिटेड  
KHANIJ BIDESH INDIA LTD.

- It is a **Joint Venture Company** formed with the participation of National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL) in August, 2019. The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in the ratio of 40:30:30.

- It is mandated to identify, acquire, develop, process and make commercial use of **strategic minerals** in overseas locations for supply in India. It is focusing on identifying and sourcing battery minerals like Lithium and Cobalt.
  - **Functions:**
    - It helps in **building partnerships** with other mineral rich countries like Australia and those in Africa and South America, where Indian expertise in exploration and mineral processing will be mutually beneficial bringing about new economic opportunities.
    - The KABIL would carry out identification, acquisition, exploration, development, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas for commercial use and meeting country's requirement of these minerals.
  - **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Mines
- 

## IMPLICATIONS OF TIK-TOK BAN

### Why in News?

US senate has passed a bill that could ban Tik-tok. The proposed law would allow TikTok to continue to operate in the US only if Bytedance sells it within nine months as the government is afraid that Chinese government can force domestic companies like Bytedance to share sensitive personal data of over 170million American users, or be abused to spread pro-Chinese propaganda.

### Response to Bill:

Many in the US see this move as an attack on free speech of 170 million Americans. As per Tiktok, this move could devastate seven million businesses, and shutter a platform that contributes \$24 billion to US economy, annually. It is also being seen as a foreign policy tool under which Chinese tech companies are being targeted.

### What Could Be the Consequences?

There could be legal challenges, Beijing can also make retaliatory moves if the Bill were to become law. Earlier when Huawei was banned, Beijing introduced new guidelines aimed at blocking Intel and AMD chips in government PCs and servers.

## Is This the First Attempt at Banning TikTok?

No, under former President Trump, Bytedance was forced into selling TikTok's American operations to an American company. Many companies had shown interest including Oracle and Microsoft.

## Repercussions of Tech Bans-

Such tech sanctions could be a double edged sword. They might slow down the progress of a country by having no access to cutting edge tools available across the world and such sanctions may also force them to develop their own technology which could reduce dependence on foreign companies and boost domestic tech. For example, Huawei had to develop its own smartphone operating system and chip after being banned from accessing US-made components and technology, including Android.

---

## WHAT IS INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (INC) ON PLASTIC POLLUTION?



- In 2022, at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, a historic resolution was adopted to develop an **International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution**, including in the marine environment.
- The **resolution requested** the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to **convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop "the instrument,"** which is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, including its production, design, and disposal.
- The objective of the global plastics treaty is to **set a global framework of standards** around accountability, responsibilities, financing, material/chemical standards, import/export restrictions, targets.
- An **INC** meets five times to develop the specific content of the new ILBI by the end of 2024. The first session of the INC (**INC-1**) took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 28 November to 2 December 2022, followed by a second session (**INC-2**) from 29 May

to 2 June 2023 in Paris, France, and a third session (**INC-3**) from 13 to 19 November 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

- **INC-5**, scheduled for 25 November to 1 December 2024 in Busan, Republic of Korea, is intended as the end of the INC process.

## TIGER CONSERVATION COALITION

Recently, at the Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference, Bhutan and the Tiger Conservation Coalition Commit to Catalysing US\$1 billion for tigers.



**Tiger Conservation Coalition** is a group of NGOs that has worked for many years with partners to **conserve tigers**. Its vision is for a long-term presence of viable and ecologically functional populations of wild tigers **secure in protected habitats**, with representation and links across their indigenous range.

- It brings together leading tiger biologists and experts in wildlife crime, human-wildlife coexistence, policy, finance, development and communications with unprecedented alignment on achieving tiger conservation at scale.
- The eight non-governmental organisations (NGOs) includes the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Fauna & Flora, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Panthera, **TRAFFIC**, **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**.

The members co-developed **Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0**, an integrated **habitat modelling system** to measure and monitor changes in tiger habitat at range-wide, national, biome and landscape scales in near real-time.

- This work serves as a model for objective, range-wide, habitat monitoring as countries work to achieve the goals laid out in the 30x30 agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## CAN THE GOVERNMENT REDISTRIBUTE PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTY

### Why in News?

As wealth distribution dominates news headlines in India, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court commenced the process for interpretation of **Article 39(b)** of the Indian Constitution.

This to determine whether this directive principle of state policy (DPSP) provision allows the govt to treat and redistribute privately owned properties under the garb of "**material resources of the community**" for greater common good.

### What is Article 39(b) of the Constitution?

- **It falls under Part IV** of the Constitution titled "Directive Principles of State Policy" (DPSP).
- **It places an obligation on the state** to create policy towards securing the ownership and control of the material resources of the community that are so distributed as best to subserve the common good.
- **DPSP are meant to be guiding principles** for the enactment of laws, but are not directly enforceable in any court of law.

### What are the Different Case Laws Interpreting Article 39(b)?

83 CASE RELIED ON DISSIDENTING VIEW	
<p><b>1977:</b> In <b>Ranganatha Reddy case</b>, a five-judge SC bench, by 4-1 majority, had clarified that privately-owned resources did not come under 'material resources of the community' under Article 39(b). However, Justice Krishna Iyer said in his dissenting opinion that it would include private property</p> <p><b>1983:</b> In <b>Sanjeev Coke case</b>, a 5-judge bench relied on Justice Iyer, ignoring it was a minority view, and said private property was included in 'material resources of the community'</p> <p><b>1997:</b> <b>Mafatal judgment</b> said interpretation of Article 39(b)</p>	<p>should be referred to a 9-judge bench</p> <p><b>1997:</b> <b>Mumbai-based Property Owners Association</b> filed appeal in SC challenging Chapter 8 provisions of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority Act which allows taking over properties for redevelopment (based on Article 39(b) mandate)</p> <p><b>Feb 2002:</b> Seven-judge bench, hearing <b>Property Owners Association case</b>, referred interpretation of Article 39(b) to 9-judge bench, which took up case on Tuesday</p>

### Why is the Apex Court Interpreting Article 39(b) Now?

- **Since 1977**, the apex court has weighed in on the interpretation of Article 39(b) on multiple occasions - most notably, in **State of Karnataka v Shri Ranganatha Reddy (1977)**.
- The interpretation by a (9-judges) bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud stems from **Justice V R Krishna Iyer's dissenting view** in Ranganatha Reddy case of 1977.
  - According to Justice V R Krishna Iyer, community resources included private properties.



- After subsequent judgements, confusion over this interpretation led to the matter being referred to a nine-judge bench in 2002.
- Though the question is old, it is reverberating in the current politically-surcharged atmosphere after Rahul Gandhi 's promise to conduct a financial and institutional survey.
  - This survey will take up the historic assignment **to distribute the wealth of India, jobs and other welfare schemes** to vulnerable sections based on their population.

## Why Article 39(b) Needs a 9-Judge Bench Interpretation?

- **CJI explained why Article 39(b) needed to be interpreted by a nine-judge bench.**
  - The majority in the Ranganatha Reddy case in 1977 clarified that material resources of the community do not include private property.
  - However, a five-judge bench in **Sanjeev Coke in 1983** relied on Justice Iyer ignoring that it was a minority view.
  - In the meantime, SC in **Mafatlal Industries case in 1997** opined that Article 39(b) needed interpretation by a nine-judge bench.
-