

ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Context

- Last week, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) announced that **global temperatures are likely to surge to record levels in the next five years**, fuelled by heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHGs) and an El-Niño event.
- The WMO warned that **the economic cost of extreme weather, climate and water-related events has been rising.**

What is Climate Change?

- Climate change refers to **long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns.**
- Such shifts can be natural, **due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions.**
- But since the 1800s, **human activities have been the main driver of climate change**, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.
- As per current standing, close to 12,000 climate change induced disasters/extreme weather events have been reported between 1970 and 2021, resulting in over **2 million deaths and \$4.3 trillion in economic losses.**
- For perspective, **the total losses are roughly 25% more than India's annual GDP.**

Economic Vulnerability

- The structure of Indian economy has evolved since independence.
- Bulk of **economic activity now happens in the services sector as against the agriculture and allied sectors.** This has implications for carbon emissions.
- According to the RBI, 'Services' are **globally considered to be emission-light with relatively lower energy intensity of output.**
- A sectoral break-up shows that the highest emission-intensive sectors — metal industries, electricity, and transports (air, land, and water)— together **account for around just 9% of India's total GVA (gross value added) in 2018-19.**
- This implies that the **sectoral composition of the Indian economy helps reduce its carbon emissions.**

The Macroeconomic Impact

- **Can affect supply and Demand:** Climate change can adversely impact both the supply side as well as the demand side. It can **stroke inflation, reduce economic output, trigger uncertainty and change consumer behaviour.**
- **Employment Loss:** In 2020, the World Bank said that **India could account for 34million of the projected 80 million global job losses** from heatstress-associated productivity declineby2030.
- **Coastal floods due to Sea Level Rise**
 - In 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that India is one of the **most vulnerable countries globally in terms of the population that would be affected by the sea level rise.**
 - By the middle of the present century, **around 35 million people in India could face annual coastal flooding, with 45-50million at risk by the end of the century.**

Government's Policies to Fight Climate Change

- On 30th June 2008, the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released.** It is a national strategy of 8 sub-missions to help adapt and magnify ecological sustainability in India's development path.
- These are:
 - National Solar Mission (NSM),
 - National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE),
 - National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH),
 - National Water Mission (NWM),
 - National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE),
 - National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC),
 - National Mission for a Green India (GIM), and
 - National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
- On 3 August 2022, the Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister passed the **updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** for consideration by the UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement, **to reach India's goal of net zero emissions by 2070.**

E-MALKHANA

All the 23 police stations under the Visakhapatnam Police Commissionerate are likely to get e-Malkhana.



What is e-Malkhana?

- e-Malkhana is a scientific way of storing property and evidence recovered from crime scene.
- The facility was first commissioned in July 2021 at Narsipatnam Police Station (presently in Anakapalli district).
- **Need:** According to police officers, earlier recovered properties and evidence used to be stored in storerooms and it was difficult to find them.
- **How it works?**
 - The property seized and evidences collected from the crime scene can be stored in standard size cardboard boxes, which will be numbered with other details. A dynamic QR code will be generated and pasted on the box.
 - A dedicated website is also hosted and all details pertaining to the case and property will be uploaded. All one has to do is to scan the code to get the details.

OPERATION DHVAST

Under Operation Dhvast, National Investigation Agency (NIA) recently arrested three in multi-state raids.



About:

- The massive crackdown — codenamed ‘Operation Dhvast’ — had seen simultaneous, day-long raids by NIA, Punjab police and Haryana Police at 324 locations across Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan etc.
- The NIA has arrested three persons in connection with the multi-state raids conducted on in three cases relating to the **nexus among terrorists, gangsters and drug dealers.**

- The nexus has been linked to **targeted killings, extortion and terror funding of pro-Khalistan outfits** with earnings from smuggling of drugs and weapons.
- NIA investigations have so far revealed that **conspiracies were being hatched in jails of different states** and executed by an organized network of operatives based abroad.

META FACES RECORD \$1.3B FINE FOR EUROPEAN DATA PRIVACY VIOLATIONS

Why in news?

- The European Union has slapped Meta's business in Ireland with a record fine of \$1.3 billion for transferring the personal data of Facebook users to the U.S.
- As per EU, this transfer of personal data was in breach of the General Data Protection Regulation, or European Union law on data protection and privacy.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- GDPR is a legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information from individuals of the European Union (EU).
 - The law was approved in 2016 but did not go into effect until May 2018.
- It imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.
- Its aim is to give consumers control over their own personal data by holding companies responsible for the way they handle and treat this information.
- The law makes it difficult for companies to mislead consumers with confusing or vague language when they visit their websites.

GDPR compliance

- Under the terms of GDPR, not only do organisations have to ensure that personal data is gathered legally and under strict conditions, but those who collect and manage it are obliged to protect it from misuse and exploitation.
- Companies are also required to respect the rights of data owners - or face penalties for not doing so.

What is the significance of this ruling?

- **The right of the individual over his/her data**
 - The outcome of the case buttresses the overarching theme of the EU's GDPR:
 - the right of the individual over her data; and
 - the need for a person to give explicit consent before their data can be processed.
- **Meta will have to change its permission seeking mode**
 - The DPC's decision could imply that Meta would have to tweak its apps to ensure that they do not leverage personal data for advertising or transferring to third countries.
- **Likely ripple effect**
 - Given that the EU is the de facto global technology regulator, the rulings based on the GDPR's broader tenets could have resonance across geographies, including India.
 - In India, the government is currently working on a policy framework for the tech sector, which includes:
 - the new personal data protection bill,
 - a comprehensive digital India Act that would eventually replace the existing IT Act, and
 - the new telecom Bill.

ISO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER POLICY (COPOLCO)

India is hosting the 44th edition of the coveted annual ISO COPOLCO Plenary from 23-26 May 2023 in New Delhi.



About Event:

- This event is being **organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, the national standards body of India.
- It is anticipated that the ISO COPOLCO Plenary is **an event that has a significant impact on the global economy** and on the lives of people.
- ISO COPOLCO is reckoned as the major international event that brings together representatives from ISO member countries to **discuss and develop strategies for accelerating the development of standards for the world.**

What is Committee on Consumer Policy?

- It is a **committee** of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) responsible for **promoting consumer interests in the standardization process** and for **ensuring that standards are developed** with the needs of consumers in mind.
- COPOLCO members are **ISO members**.
- **Objectives:**
 - To study means of helping consumers to benefit from standardization, and means of improving consumer participation in national and international standardization.
 - To provide a forum for the exchange of information on the experience of consumer participation in the development and implementation of standards in the consumer field.
 - To advise ISO Council as to the consolidated viewpoints of consumers on matters relevant to ISO's current and potential standardization and conformity assessment work.
 - To advise ISO Council on the need for new or revised policies or actions within ISO as they relate to consumers' needs.

About International Standards Organisation (ISO):

- ISO is an **independent, non-governmental international organization** made up of members from the **national standards bodies of 168 countries**.
- Central Secretariat is in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **India** is one of the **founding members** of ISO.
- It **develops standards for the world** impacting a diverse range of business and social sectors.

[NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION: GUIDELINES IN MEDICAL ADMISSION FOR THE DISABLED: FROM PROGRESSIVE TO RESTRICTIVE](#)

Why in News?

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) is currently developing new guidelines that will be used to determine whether candidates with disabilities can enroll in medical programs and if they can avail benefit of quotas.

- A 16-member expert panel was set up after the Delhi High Court directed the NMC to explore the possibility of candidates with disability pursuing some disciplines (if not all) of medical education.

National Medical Commission (NMC):

• About the NMC:

- The NMC is a **statutory body** constituted (in 2020) by an act of Parliament known as the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.
- **It regulates medical education** and medical professionals in India and has replaced the Medical Council of India (MCI, constituted under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956).

• Organisational structure of NMC:

- **Medical Advisory Council:** It provides the platform through which the states or UTs can put forth their views and concerns before the NMC and advises the NMC on measures to determine and maintain minimum standards of medical education.
- **Four autonomous boards:**
 - Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (sets norms for undergraduate (UG) courses),
 - Post-Graduate Medical Education Board (sets norms for post-graduate courses),
 - Medical Assessment and Rating Board (inspects and rates the medical education institutes), and
 - Ethics and Medical Registration Board (regulates professional conduct of the doctors and registers them).

The Existing Guidelines of NMC:

- It says that anyone with more than 40% disability will be eligible for medical course and quota if their disability can be brought below the 40% mark with aids.

Recommendations of the Panel:

- It ranges from a -
 - **“Progressive outlook”** for those with mental illness - suggesting that anyone who can complete all course requirements be allowed to study medicine
 - To **“extremely restrictive”** requirements for locomotor disabilities, suggesting wheelchair-bound people or those using two crutches be disqualified.

What are the Concerns?

- Despite the mandate, much of the recommendations **do not talk of advancements in assistive devices or treatments.**
 - **Lack of objective method** to establish that disability is equal to or more than 40%.
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WHAT IS NVS-01?

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch the navigation satellite 'NVS-01' onboard its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.



Why in news?

- The GSLV-F12/NVS-01 mission is designed to **deploy the NVS-01 navigation satellite into a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO).**

About NVS-01:

- It is the **first in the series of second-generation navigation satellites built by ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru.**
- **At present, India uses its Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) series of satellites** for civilian and defence navigation in the Indian mainland and even 1500 kms beyond India's borders.
- **NVS series of satellites will sustain and augment the NavIC with enhanced features.**
- This series **incorporates L1 band signals** additionally to widen the services.
- **For the first time, an indigenous atomic clock** will be flown in NVS-01.

What is Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC):

- It is a **regional navigation satellite system established by the ISRO to meet the positioning, navigation and timing requirements of the nation.**
- NavIC was **erstwhile known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).**
- It is a **constellation of seven satellites** that work with a 24X7 network of ground stations while orbiting above Earth.
- **Three satellites are placed in geostationary orbit and four in inclined geosynchronous orbit.**



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- **Coverage:** The NavIC coverage area includes **India** and a region up to **1,500km** beyond the nation's boundary.
- **Services offered:**
 - It offers **two services** -- **Standard Position Service** for civilian users and **Restricted Service** for strategic users.
 - The system is **used in terrestrial, aerial, marine transportation**, location-based services, personal mobility, resource monitoring, surveying and geodesy, scientific research etc.

What is Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)?

- To attain geosynchronous (and also geostationary) Earth orbits, a **spacecraft is first launched into an elliptical GTO.**
 - There on, the satellite will independently use its onboard propulsion systems to perform orbit-raising manoeuvres and reach its intended orbit.
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