





Adaptation Gap Report 2023 released by United Nations Environment Programme

- Adaptation is a process of **reducing countries and communities' vulnerability to climate change** by increasing their **impact absorption ability**.
- Adaptation gap is the difference between **implemented adaptation** and societally set goals.
 - ⊖ It is **determined by preferences related to climate change impacts, and reflecting resource limitations and competing priorities**.
- **Key highlights of the report**
 - ⊖ **Adaptation finance needs** are 10-18 times higher than current public flows.
 - ⊖ **Adaptation finance gap** is expanding, now at **US\$194-366 billion annually**.
 - ⊖ Action plan on **loss and damage** has **overlooked non-economic losses** like **cultural heritage** and indigenous knowledge.
 - ⊖ Only **2% of gender-tagged international adaptation finance** is gender-responsive.
- **Recommendations**
 - ⊖ **Developed countries** should double their **climate finance for adaptation** from 2019 levels by 2025.
 - ⊖ Increase and **improve budget tagging and tracking for integrating adaptation** into budget planning
 - ⊖ **Mobilize private investments**, by methods like **resilience bonds, and insurance**.
 - ⊖ **Leverage remittances** which often **contribute significantly to Gross Domestic Product**.
 - ⊖ **Financing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**, stimulating them to offer adaptation-relevant products and services.
 - ⊖ **Implementation of article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement**, making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development.



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



About:	It is leading environmental authority in United Nations system.
Genesis:	Founded in 1972 following UN Conference on the Human Environment .
Objectives:	To contribute to the building of a culture of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication, and information.
Mandate:	To find solutions to triple planetary crisis i.e., climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.
Members:	193 ( )
Other	Emission Gap report, The Global Environment Outlook.

Eruption of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai Volcano Potentially Impacts Ozone Layer

- **Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai** is a **submarine volcano** in the **Tonga archipelago** located in the **Southern Pacific Ocean**, that erupted in January 2022.
- **How volcanic eruptions impact ozone layer?**
 - ⊖ **Eruption triggers massive stratospheric water vapor plume**, potentially enhancing early- season Antarctic ozone-depletion reactions.
 - ⊖ Volcanic eruptions **inject large quantities of sulphur dioxide** into the stratosphere facilitating the **chemical conversion** of **chlorine** into more **reactive** forms that destroy ozone.
 - ⊖ Volcanoes significantly contribute **atmospheric bromine, and hydrogen chloride**, a common volcanic gas that efficiently destroys ozone.
 - ⊖ Particles generated by **volcanic eruptions provide surfaces for chemical reactions**, for ozone-depleting substances.
- **Volcanic eruption** can cause about 1-5% of atmospheric ozone damage.
- Earlier, **1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo** in the Philippines led to significant ozone loss in the stratosphere.
- **About the Ozone hole:**
 - ⊖ **Ozone hole** refers to regions in the stratosphere over Antarctica where the **Ozone (O₃) layer** significantly depletes during the Southern Hemisphere's spring season.
 - ⊖ It denotes areas **where ozone levels drop below 220 Dobson Units**.
 - ◆ The average thickness of the ozone layer over Earth is about **300 Dobson Units**.
 - ⊖ **Ozone depletion** is due to the **chemical action of pollutants** known as ozone-depleting substances (ODS).
 - ⊖ **Major ODS** include chlorine, bromine, Chlorofluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, halons, etc

Ozone protection conventions:

- **Vienna Convention on Protection of Ozone Layer** was adopted in 1985
- **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** signed in 1987
- **Kigali Agreement**, for the amendment to 1987 Montreal Protocol, signed in 2016.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) releases report on Crowdfunding for Terrorism Financing (TF)

Key highlights

- ⊖ **Terrorist organisations are resorting to Crowdfunding** to support their operations.
 - ⊖ **Methods used by terrorists in crowdfunding.**
 - ◆ **Humanitarian, charitable and non-profit causes:** They serve as effective covers for financial solicitation and can be abused for TF.
 - ◆ **Dedicated crowdfunding platforms:** The volume and variety of activity on crowdfunding platforms make it difficult to detect illicit activity.
 - ◆ **Social media platforms and messaging apps:** Allow extremists to amplify their messages, reinforcing extremist beliefs and leading users to specific fundraising causes.
 - ◆ **Interaction of crowdfunding with virtual assets (VA):** VAs such as Bitcoin, privacy coins, etc. can also be used to conceal origin and destination of funds linked to TF.
 - ⊖ **Challenges in crowdfunding ecosystem in deterring TF:** Proving that fund is used for TF, use of anonymous techniques, Complexity of crowdfunding networks, etc.
 - ⊖ **Recommendations:**
 - ◆ Including crowdfunding in **national risk assessments.**
 - ◆ Making **Crowdfunding platforms accountable.**
 - ◆ **Fully implement the FATF Standards** relevant to VA, Non-Profit Organisations, etc.
- FATF established in 1989 is **global money laundering and TF watchdog** and India is its member.
- ⊖ Countries which repeatedly fail to adhere to FATF Standards can be placed on its **Grey list or Black list.**

About Crowdfunding

- In crowdfunding, the "crowd" funds the idea or project through an **online platform**, i.e., the internet, social media, etc.
- **Traditional fundraising** consists of asking for a sum from a **limited set of sources.**
- It is an **entirely legitimate way of soliciting and obtaining funding** and the vast majority of crowdfunding is legitimate.
- It can be used for a variety of purposes, including **disaster relief, supporting community causes and organisations, and political campaigns.**

Russia revokes ratification of Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

- Russia withdrew from ratification of CTBT to bring itself **in line with the US.**
 - ⊖ US has not ratified the CTBT by citing **difficulty in verifying whether or not participant States meet rules of Treaty.**
- **CTBT bans all nuclear explosions**, whether for military or peaceful purposes.
 - ⊖ It seeks to establish **CTBT Organization (CTBTO) to verify the ban worldwide.**
 - ⊖ Its **verification regime** includes:
 - ◆ **International Monitoring System**
 - ◆ **International Data Centre**
 - ◆ **On-Site Inspections**
 - ⊖ It was **opened for signature in 1996**, and has been **signed by 187 nations** and **ratified by 178.**
 - ⊖ It is yet to **formally enter into force** as it requires **ratification by 44 specific nations** 8 of which yet to do so.
 - ◆ These included **US, India China, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, Egypt.**
 - » India has **neither signed nor ratified CTBT** because it considers the treaty discriminatory.
 - » India calls for **universal and complete nuclear disarmament** in a **time-bound manner.**
 - ⊖ Compared to more than 2000 nuclear tests between 1945 and 1996, **less than a dozen nuclear tests have been conducted following its adoption.**

Other nuclear weapons control treaties

- **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) 2017:** includes a **comprehensive set of prohibitions** on participating in any nuclear weapon activities (**India did not sign**)
- **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) 1968:** To avert the danger of nuclear war through the **prevention of the wider dissemination** of nuclear weapons and other measure (**India did not sign**).
- **Partial Test Ban Treaty 1963:** Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water (**India signed and ratified**).

Energy Efficiency Services Limited Launched National Efficient Cooking Programme and Energy Efficient Fans Programme.

- These initiatives are aimed to enhance energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprints in Indian households.
- **National Efficient Cooking Programme**
 - ⊕ Aims to deploy 20 Lakh induction cook-stoves across India.
 - ⊕ Focuses on Non-Solar/Electricity-based Induction Cookstoves, aligning with the Go- electric initiative by the Ministry of Power.
 - ⊕ It is a subset of the Clean Cooking Scheme.
- **Energy Efficient Fans Programme**
 - ⊕ Aims to distribute 1 crore energy-efficient fans that can reduce nearly 20% of total residential electricity consumption.
- **About Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**
 - ⊕ Founded in 2009, EESL is promoted by Ministry of Power, as a Joint Venture of 4 public- sector undertakings, viz.,
 - ◆ National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC),
 - ◆ Power Finance Corporation Limited,
 - ◆ REC Limited, and POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited.
 - ⊕ It is one of the main implementation arms of National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency- a mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.
- **Flagship programs of EESL:**
 - ⊕ Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme distributed LED bulbs across the country.
 - ⊕ Street Lighting National Programme
 - ⊕ Smart Meter National Programme
 - ⊕ Buildings Energy Efficiency Programme

After Punjab and Tamil Nadu, Kerala moves Supreme Court (SC) against Governor

- Kerala government has claimed inaction on the part of Governor to eight Bills passed by the Assembly many of which involve immense public interest.
 - ⊕ Similar concerns have been raised by other states who moved to SC.
- The governor's assent is a prerequisite for any Bill to become law in the state.
 - ⊕ Governor is the Head of State and also part of the legislature under Article 168 of the Constitution.
- According to Article 200 of the Constitution, when a bill is passed by a State's Legislative Assembly or both Houses of its Legislature (in the case of a Legislative Council) is presented to governor:
 - ⊕ He can either give assent, withhold assent, or reserve it for consideration of the President.
 - ⊕ He can also return the bill for reconsideration along with suggestions for amendments if the bill is not a money bill
 - ◆ if the Bill is passed again by House(s) with or without amendment, the Governor is bound to give assent.
- However, there is no set time frame within which the governors must take a decision which may lead to inordinate delay.

- In *Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab* (1974) SC conveyed that the governor is bound to act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers of the state.
- M.M. Punchhi commission, highlighted that the governor does not exercise any discretion of his own and is bound to act by the advice of the State.

Also in News



Legal Identity and Rights-Based Return Management Conference

- It was organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Copenhagen (Denmark).
- It discussed globally, that a billion people lack a legal identity, becoming state-invisible, restricting service access and mobility.
- It was organized within framework of IOM's Global Programme Enhancing Readmission and Legal Identity Capacities (RELICA), launched in 2022.
 - ⊕ RELICA Global Programme uses an evidence-based approach to working with selected countries on readmission and legal identity, to enhance efficient migration management, etc.
- **About IMO**
 - ⊕ Established in 1951,
 - ⊕ It is a part of the United Nations System.
 - ⊕ **Mandate:** promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.
 - ⊕ It has 175 member states (including India)



Hunger Hotspots report

- The report is launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- **Highlights**
 - ⊕ **Hunger hotspots** comprise a total of 22 countries or territories including 2 regional clusters
 - ◆ These hotspots have populations that are experiencing or are expected to experience critical levels of acute food insecurity.
 - ⊕ For November 2023 to April 2024:
 - ◆ Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan and Sudan remain at the highest concern level.
 - ◆ Pakistan and Afghanistan are included as Hotspots of very high concern.

SVEEP | **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)**

- Election Commission of India (ECI) signed MoU with Ministry of Education to introduce electoral literacy into the curriculum for classes 6 to 12 in all schools.
- This is in line with ECI's flags for programme SVEEP.
- SVEEP was launched for spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India.
- Its objective is:
 - ⊖ to increase voter turnout to 75% in Lok Sabha elections 2024
 - ⊖ to enhance the quality of electoral participation in terms of informed and ethical voting



White hydrogen

- Scientists have discovered a large reservoir of white hydrogen in France.
- White hydrogen is also referred to as "natural," "gold" or "geologic" hydrogen.
- It is naturally generated within the Earth's crust through water-rock reactions.
 - ⊖ Process involves interactions between water molecules and iron-rich minerals, such as olivine, at high temperatures and pressures.
- Potential Applications: in industries like aviation, shipping, and steel production.



Zika virus

- Zika virus was detected in mosquito samples near Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- About Zika
 - ⊖ Zika virus is transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes, which bite mostly during the day.
 - ◆ Same mosquito transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
 - ⊖ Zika virus infection is associated with Guillain-Barré syndrome, neuropathy and myelitis particularly in adults and older children
 - ⊖ First identified in Uganda in a Rhesus macaque monkey.
 - ⊖ It is transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, through sexual contact, transfusion of blood, etc.
 - ⊖ No vaccine is yet available for its prevention.



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

- OCHA has warned about rise in intimidation, and settler violence in the West Bank.
- About OCHA
 - ⊖ It is part of United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies.
 - ⊖ Genesis: In 1998, United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs became OCHA.
 - ⊖ Mandate: Mobilize aid, share information, support humanitarian efforts, and advocate for crisis-affected communities.
- HQ: Has two headquarter locations, Geneva and New York, which act as centres of global operations.



Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

- Apple has joined CERT-In probe over i-Phone snooping alert.
- CERT-In under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - ⊖ CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents
 - ⊖ Under the Information Technology (Amendment) Act 2008, CERT-In is mandated to provide Incident Prevention, Response and Security Quality Management Services.
 - ⊖ It can also issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and whitepapers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, etc.



e-cigarettes

- Study finds that 85% of youngsters in Australia, China, India, UK see e-cigarette advertisements.
- About e-cigarettes
 - ⊖ Also Referred to as "e-cigs," "vapes," and "electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) they are considered alternatives of Cigarettes.
 - ⊖ It consists of a heating element, a battery, and a place to hold a liquid containing nicotine, which produces an inhalable aerosol on heating.
 - ⊖ its aerosol contains nicotine, Volatile Organic Compounds, ultra fine particles, Heavy metals etc.
- It is currently banned in India under Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act 2019.

Places in News



Bahrain (Capital: Manama)

- The Kingdom of Bahrain has recalled its ambassador from Israel.
- Bahrain is an archipelago consisting of Bahrain Island and some 30 smaller islands on the southwestern coast of the Persian Gulf.
 - ⊖ Its name is from the Arabic term al-bahrayn, meaning "two seas."
 - ⊖ Boundary: Shares maritime borders with Iran, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. The King Fahd Causeway links Bahrain to Saudi Arabia.
 - ⊖ Highest point: Al-Dukhān Hill (Jabal Al-Dukhān)

