

# NEWS TODAY

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA) FINALISED MODEL PRISONS ACT (MPA), 2023

- Centre has prepared a **comprehensive MPA, 2023 to replace pre-independence era 'Prisons Act, 1894'** which focused on keeping criminals in custody and enforcing discipline and order in prisons.
- MPA 2023 **addresses the gaps** in existing 1894 Act with aim of **reforming prison management and ensuring transformation of inmates** into law-abiding citizens and **their rehabilitation in society**.
  - Two other related laws — **The Prisoners Act, 1900 and The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950-** have also been reviewed, and relevant provisions of these Acts have been assimilated in MPA, 2023.
  - **Prisons in country and 'persons detained therein' are a State subject** and MPA 2023 will serve as a **"guiding document"** for States.
- **Key Highlights**
  - **Separate accommodation for women prisoners, transgender** etc.
  - **Grievance redressal, prison development board**, attitudinal change towards prisoners.
  - **Use of technology** to bring transparency in prison administration.
  - **Punishment for prisoners and jail staff** for use of prohibited items like mobile phones etc. in jails.
  - Establishment and management of **high security jail**, open and semi open jails etc.
  - **Legal aid to prisoners, provision of parole, furlough** and premature release to **incentivise good conduct**.

## RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) TO JOIN GLOBAL FINANCIAL INNOVATION NETWORK (GFIN)'S GREENWASHING TECHSPRINT

- RBI has opened the application window for all India based firms and innovators to participate in GFIN's first ever Greenwashing TechSprint.
  - TechSprint will **bring together 13 international regulators** (including RBI) alongside firms and innovators to **address GFIN's priority on Environmental, Social And Governance (ESG) and mitigate risks of greenwashing in financial services**.
- **Greenwashing** is marketing that portrays an organisation's products, activities or policies as producing positive environmental or social outcomes, or avoiding environmental or social harm, **when this is not the case**.
- **ESG framework** helps stakeholders understand how an organization is **managing risks and opportunities** related to ESG criteria.
  - India is gradually moving towards ESG regulations with introduction of **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)** framework by SEBI.
    - BRSR aims to establish links between financial results of a business with its ESG performance.
    - BRSR was made **mandatory for top 1,000 listed entities** (by market capitalisation) **from 2022-23**.



**G F I N**  
GLOBAL FINANCIAL INNOVATION NETWORK

**Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN)**



**Genesis:** Formally launched in **2019** by an **international group of financial regulators** and related organisations.



**Objective:** **Supporting financial innovation** in best interests of consumers and to create a **new framework for co-operation between financial services regulators** on innovation related topics.



**Members:** Over 70 organizations including **RBI from India**.



**Functions:**

- **Focus on emergent technology** at a cross-sectoral level to identify gaps in regulatory ecosystem.
- **Act as a surveillance tool** to spot issues before they can crystallise and cause harm.
- Run **collaborative data focused activities**.
- **Gather insights** from global markets and regulators on emerging technology trends and policy.

# BHOPAL BECOMES FIRST INDIAN CITY TO TRACK PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING SDGS

- Launch of 'Agenda for Action: Sustainable Urban Transformation in Bhopal' has marked the India's first city-level Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- VLR enables cities and regions to **localize SDGs and report their progress.**

- VLR helps **identifying challenges, opportunities and needs going forward**, and offers a practical way towards sustainable development.

- **New York City has become the first city** to present its VLR to **UN's High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2018.**

- Localisation of SDGs (LSDGs) refers to the **process of defining, implementing, and monitoring strategies at local level** to achieve global, national, and subnational SDGs and targets.

- **Localization relates** to how **SDGs can provide a framework** for local development policy and **how local and regional governments can support achievement of SDGs** through action from a **bottom-up approach.**

- **Challenges in localisation of SDGs**

- **Limited availability of finance, data and capacities** to perform subnational monitoring.

- **Lack of policy coherence** and coordination among national and local efforts.

- **Limited awareness** of SDGs at subnational level.

## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTRE (IDMC) RELEASED ITS 2023 GLOBAL REPORT ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT (GRID)

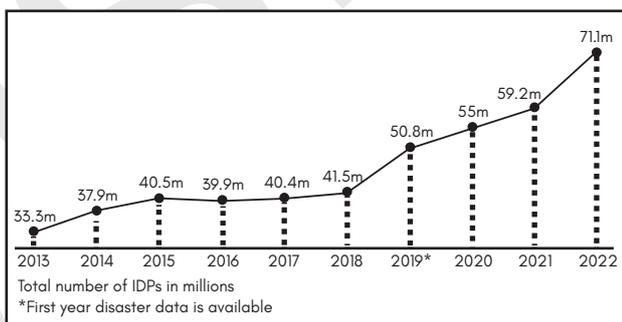
- IDMC's GRID is **world's leading source of data and analysis on Internal Displacement (ID)**. 2023 edition includes a special focus on complex relationships between disasters, conflict and violence, food security and ID.

- IDMC was established in **1998 as part of Norwegian Refugee Council.**

- ID refers to **number of forced movements of people within borders of their country**. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are **individuals/groups forced to leave their places of habitual residence** to avoid conflict or disaster.

- **Key findings**

- Total number of IDPs reached its highest ever with **71.1 million IDPs** across 110 countries and territories at end of 2022, a **20% increase in a year** (refer image).



- Total IDPs in **India** include **6.31 lakh from conflict and violence** while **32 thousand due to disasters.**

- **75% of countries assessed with food security crises have IDPs.**

- **Recommendations**

- **Unconditional cash assistance** for supporting immediate needs of IDPs.

- **Developing IDPs' livelihoods and skills** to facilitate durable solutions by increasing their food security and countries' self-reliance.

- **Investments are needed in anticipatory action and risk reduction measures** that strengthen displaced communities' resilience.



**UN-Habitat: United Nations Human Settlements Programme**



Nairobi, Kenya



**Genesis:** Established in 1978 as an **outcome of First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I)** held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976.



**About:** It is the **United Nations agency for human settlements.**

- It is **mandated by UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities** with the goal of providing **adequate shelter for all.**



**Other related information:** Till now, three conferences were held i.e., UN-Habitat I- (1976), UN-Habitat II- (1996), UN-Habitat III- (2016).

## DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL (DOP) FIXES PRICE FOR DRUGS GOING OFF PATENT

- Exercising the powers conferred under **Essential Commodities Act (ECA) 1955**, DoP, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F) has notified amendment to **Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013.**

- Under MoC&F, **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** has been established to **enforce DPCO provisions and fix/revise prices of medicines** under DPCO.

- **Key Provisions**

- **Retail price of a drug patented under Patents Act, 1970** shall be **revised upon expiry of patent to 50% of current ceiling price.**

- **After one year**, ceiling price will be revised again based on market data.

- In case of **Fixed Dose Combinations (FDC)**, where one component is going off patent, **ceiling price will be revised to 50% of current ceiling price.**

- In case of an **innovative drug, not available in India**, an expert committee would decide the price-cap.

- **Significance**

- Allow **streamlining of prices in line with competition** in market.

- Significantly **reduce the prices of those patented drugs** which are a part of **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).**

- Medicines under **NLEM automatically come under price control under DPCO, 2013.** Every few years, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** draws up a **NLEM.**

Patent is **grant of exclusive rights** for a period (**20 years in India**) which bars others from making, using, selling and importing product or process, based on the patented invention **without one's prior permission.**

# SIXTH INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE (IOC) BEGINS IN BANGLADESH

- Theme of 2023 year conference is **'Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future'**. IOC is being organised by **India Foundation** in association with **Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.
  - Since 2016, IOC has emerged as **"flagship consultative forum"** for countries in the region on regional affairs.
  - IOC provides a **common platform** to deliberate upon prospects of regional cooperation for **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**.
- **India's outlook at IOC**
  - **Improving and enhancing connectivity** should be the **priority of countries in Indian Ocean Regions (IORs)**.
  - **India has shown its commitment to progress of IOR** through dedicated bodies like Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), Neighbourhood First policy etc.
- **Importance of IORs**
  - **Home to 1/3rd of world's population** and falls at crossroads of **global trade**.  
**Rich in natural resources** like fisheries, oil, etc.
  - **Hub of maritime connectivity project** like China's 'String of Pearls' and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and India's International North South Transport Project (INSTP).
- **Challenges in IOR:** Illegal drug trafficking, illegal fishing, Environmental degradation, etc.

## ALSO IN NEWS

 <p><b>London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued an advisory to banks and other RBI- regulated entities to take steps to ensure a complete transition away from LIBOR from July 1.</li> <li>• LIBOR is a benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another in international interbank market for short-term loans.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>It is administered by the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE).</b></li> <li>➤ <b>It is published daily across five currencies including US dollar, Euro, British pound, Japanese yen, and Swiss franc.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCPA has issued orders against the top five e-commerce platforms for selling car seat belt alarm stopper clips.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Selling of such items is in violation of Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 2019. CPA 2019 provides for <b>protection of interests of consumers</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div data-bbox="861 1198 1540 1500" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>About CCPA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Genesis:</b> Established under CPA, 2019 in 2020.</li> <li><b>Objectives:</b> To promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.</li> <li><b>Role:</b> Regulating matters relating to <b>violation of rights of consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements.</b></li> </ul> </div>
 <p><b>Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance has conducted a <b>review meeting</b> of financial performance of RRBs.</li> <li>• RRBs were formed under <b>RRB Act, 1976 to provide credit and other facilities to small farmers, agricultural labourers and artisans in rural areas.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ RRBs are <b>regulated by RBI and supervised by NABARD.</b></li> <li>➤ RRBs' capital is contributed by <b>Government of India, State Government and Sponsor Bank</b> in proportion of <b>50:35:15.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>One Station One Product (OSOP) scheme</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Railways has launched <b>OSOP scheme over Indian Railways</b> to promote <b>'Vocal for Local' vision</b> and create additional income opportunities for marginalised section.</li> <li>• Under the scheme, <b>OSOP outlets at railway stations are allotted</b> for showcasing, selling and giving high <b>visibility to indigenous /local products.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ These <b>OSOP stalls</b> are designed by the <b>National Design Institute for uniformity.</b></li> <li>➤ OSOP are <b>specific to that place and include artefacts made by indigenous tribes, handlooms by local weavers, etc.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

 <p><b>Wild Life Protection (WLP) Act, 1972</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the notification to amend WLP Act, 1972.</li><li>• Now, all persons <b>engaged in breeding in captivity or artificially propagating any scheduled specimen listed in Appendix I of Schedule IV</b> of the Act are requested <b>to make an application for a license.</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Appendix 1 of Schedule IV</b> is endangered exotic animals (<b>Red Panda, various species of dogs, wolves, cats, apes, chimpanzees, gibbons</b>) and plants, and import rules are stricter for them.</li><li>➤ <b>Earlier, Captive breeding of exotic species protected</b> under CITES was not regulated.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Carbon Dating</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allahabad High Court ordered carbon dating of a structure at a disputed site in Varanasi.</li><li>• Carbon dating is a widely-used method <b>to establish the age of organic materials</b>, things that were once living.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Carbon-14 (C-14)</b>, an isotope of carbon, is <b>radioactive</b>, and <b>decays at a well-known rate (Half-life of 5,730 years).</b></li><li>➤ <b>Most abundant</b> isotope of carbon in atmosphere is C-12. Ratio of C-12 to C-14 in atmosphere is almost static, and is known.</li><li>➤ Also, <b>age of things that are more than 40,000-50,000 years cannot be arrived</b> at through carbon dating.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) or POSH Act, 2013</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supreme Court issued a slew of <b>directions to ensure its effective implementation of POSH Act, 2013.</b></li><li>• PoSH Act was enacted for <b>making workplaces safer for women by preventing, prohibiting and redressing acts</b> of sexual harassment against them in workplace.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Act is <b>based on Vishakha guidelines</b> laid down by SC in 1997.</li><li>➤ Act defines sexual harassment at workplace and <b>creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.</b></li><li>➤ It mandates establishment of Internal Complaints Committee <b>in every organisation that has 10 or more employees.</b></li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Semi-cryogenic Engine</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ISRO tested an <b>intermediate configuration of its 2000 kN semi-cryogenic engine</b> at newly commissioned <b>Semi-cryogenic Integrated Engine &amp; Stage Test facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Newly commissioned testing facility at IPRC boasts a remarkable <b>thrust capability of up to 2600 kN.</b></li><li>➤ It was first of a series of tests planned to validate design of propellant feed system, including low-pressure and high-pressure turbo-pumps, gas generator, and control components.</li></ul></li><li>• Unlike a cryogenic engine, a semi-cryogenic engine uses <b>refined kerosene instead of liquid hydrogen.</b> Liquid oxygen is used as an oxidiser.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Semi-cryogenic engine is <b>more powerful, eco-friendly and cost effective as compared to a cryogenic engine.</b></li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Places in news</b></p>	<p><b>Cambodia (Capital: Phnom Penh)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• INS Delhi and INS Satpura made a port-call at <b>Sihanoukville in Cambodia.</b></li><li>• <b>Political Boundaries</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Country on <b>Indochinese mainland of Southeast Asia.</b></li><li>➤ Bordered by <b>Thailand</b> (west and northwest), <b>Laos</b> (northeast), <b>Vietnam</b> (east and southeast), and <b>Gulf of Thailand</b> (southwest).</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Geographical features</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Major River:</b> Mekong.</li><li>➤ <b>Major Lake:</b> Tonle Sap.</li><li>➤ <b>Major Mountain Ranges:</b> Dangrek, Kravanh, Damrei.</li><li>➤ <b>Highest Peak:</b> Phnom Aural.</li><li>➤ <b>Famous World Heritage Site:</b> Angkor Wat, largest religious monument in world.</li></ul></li></ul> 